

# BIRKIN OF GREAT COGGESHALL AND INWORTH, ESSEX

SAMUEL BIRKIN of C., cordwainer;  
bur. at C. 19 Feb. 1837, aged 77.  
Will dtd. 28 Mar 1832 pr. Arch. Co. 14 Mar 1837

CHARLOTTE ANTHONY of Kelvedon;  
m. at Kelvedon 20 Aug 1781; bur. at C.  
22 Jan 1837 aged 75

C. = Great Coggeshall, Co. Essex  
I. = Inworth, " "  
Arch. Co. = Archdeacon of Colchester's Court

JOHN KING, of Wellington St, London, shopkeeper

ANN b. at C. 21 Nov 1781, bap. 23 Dec 1781

SAMUEL BIRKIN b. at C. 23 Jan. 1784, bap. 22 Feb. 1784; later of Peckham, Surrey, shoemaker

JOHN BIRKIN b. 1 Dec 1785 at C., bap. 30 Dec. 1785; shoemaker at C.

EBENEZER BIRKIN b. 19 Oct 1787 at C., bap. 23 Nov. 1787; later of Peniton Row, Walworth, shopkeeper

MATTHEW BIRKIN b. 24 Dec. 1789 at C., bap. 17 Jan 1790; later, of Bermondsey Sq, London Tide, waiter

WILLIAM BIRKIN b. 25 Mar 1792 at C., bap. 22 Apr. 1792; later, of I., shoemaker; d. Oct-Dec 1878

CHARLOTTE b. 6 Jan 1794, at C., bap. 2 Feb, 1794; m. James Dalton, jeweller, of Johnson St, Somerstoun, London

HARRIET b. 30 Aug 1800 at C., bap. 27 Sep 1801; m. James sermons, of St Michael Brussels, marchant

SARAH, da. of WILLIAM and ALICE APPLETON, of I., bap. at I. 1 May 1803; m. at I. 6 Dec 1820; d. Jul-Sep 1878

EMMA M. JAY b. 1824/5 in Essex

CHARLOTTE bap at I. 9 Aug 1829 aged 2 1/2 yrs; m. widowed by 30 Mar 1851

ELIZABETH bap at I. 9 Aug 1829

WILLIAM BIRKIN b. 1832/3 in Essex

SAMUEL BIRKIN b. 15 May 1835 at I., bap privately 11 Mar 1845

ALFRED BIRKIN b. 1836/7/8 at I.

HENRY BIRKIN b. 18 Sep. 1840 at I.; farm labourer in 1861; brickmaker in 1871; grocer and gardener in 1881; farming at Brook Hall, Tiptree Heath late 1890's & early 1900's

EMMA b. 1842/3 at Leyston (in Suffolk?); m. a tailorress in 1871

JOSIAH BIRKIN b. 1842/3/4 at I.

WILLIAM JAY b. 1841/50 at I.

HENRIETTA bap. 19 Sep. 1852 at I.  
HENRY A. BIRKIN b. 1861/2 at I.

ALFRED G. BIRKIN b. 1864/5 at I.

ALICE A. BIRKIN b. 1866/7 at I.; grocer shop assistant in 1881

LAURA EMILY b. 28 Nov 1870 at I. d. 18 Nov 1945  
WILLIE E. b. 1872/3 at I.

KATE L. b. 1874/5 at I.

FRED b. 1878/9 at I.

GIRL ALICE b. 29 Mar 1888 at I.

\* (bower, then  
blacksmith,  
grocer & gardener

farmer - of Brook Hill, Tiptree Heath, late 1890s & early 1900s.  
Sweet Birch's House, Tiptree

N.B. Their eldest  
child (not William)  
born 1699

William Birkin = Sarah  
buried 27 Dec. 1730  
(at Sibthorpe Hedengham)

buried 28 Jan. 1733  
(at S.H.)

William Birkin = Mary Newman  
m. 4 Nov 1730

(Shoemaker) Matthew Birkin = Elizabeth JEGGON  
bap. 26.9.1731 m. 21 July 1752

(Shoemaker) Samuel Birkin = Charlotte ANTHONY  
b. 28.2.1759 m. 20 Aug. 1781

William Birkin = Sarah APPLETON  
(shoemaker) b. 1792 (25 March)

Henry Birkin\* = Emma CLOUGH (tailoress)  
b. 18.9.1840 b. 4.1.1862

Laura Emma Birkin = Mark Moss

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BIRKIN FAMILY TREE

15 September 1983

Dear *William*

Please find enclosed your personal copy of the Birkin family tree, which reflects the state of my research into the family's history as at September 1983. The research was carried out by myself during the Summers of 1982 and 1983. Places of search have included the General Register Office, Public Record Office and Guildhall Library in London and the Essex Record Office at Chelmsford. The primary documents consulted have included census returns, parish registers and wills.

The Tree necessarily reflects only those facts which are certain. Thus it will be seen that many dates of birth which are yet to be ascertained are indicated by two or sometimes three years (divided by a stroke: / ). I have arrived at these years by extrapolation backwards on the basis of the evidence contained in the census returns. These figures - which appear weak in your copy - are in pencil in my master copy of the Tree. It is anticipated that you will be able to snopake over these dates or otherwise amend them when definite dates have been established.

Standard genealogical abbreviations have been used. Thus b.=born; bap.=baptized; m.=married; bur.=buried; d.=died; da.=daughter; dtd.=dated; pr.=proved.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you think any detail of the Tree is incorrect.

One of the most interesting documents I have discovered is the will of Samuel Birkin (died 1837). From it I was able to confirm that he was the father of William Birkin and to discover the details - including, in some cases, the trades - of the latter's siblings.

I have recently been researching Samuel Birkin's parentage.

There are many useful clues and I am well on the way to pushing back the family history by at least one more generation. In this connection, there is some evidence that the spelling 'Burkin' was in parallel use as an alternative to 'Birkin' in the second half of the eighteenth century. One example is from the records of Samuel Birkin's marriage to Charlotte Anthony of Kelvedon. The entry in the Great Coggeshall Parish Register recording the marriage uses the spelling 'Burkin'. In the Kelvedon Parish Register (they were married at Kelvedon), however, we find 'Birkin'. Certainly, Samuel wrote 'Samuel Birkin' as his signature in the Kelvedon register entry.

It may well be that you will be able to assist me in my research by letting me know all you can about earlier members of the family. In particular, you may know of the existence of some of the following:

Family Bible, giving dates of baptism, marriage, burial etc.  
 Family pedigree or written account or notes of the family.  
 Any copies of wills, any diaries, note books, birthday books, old receipt books, account books, tontine or stock and share certificates, old deeds relating to property, estate maps, bank books, life assurance policies, apprenticeship indentures, family samplers, funeral cards or bookplates.

Baptism, marriage, death or burial certificates.

Deeds relating to freehold or leasehold property; receipts for the upkeep of graves.

Letters of past members.

The name of the family lawyer, and any marriage settlements.

Old family portraits, miniatures or photographs.

Medals and decorations, certificates of service in the Army, Navy or East India Company. Any family traditions of service in these forces, any particular regiments with which they have been connected.

Any family traditions of any sort whatsoever, e.g. that they came from such and such a place or county, that they were

engaged in a particular trade or occupation.

While on the subject of trade or occupation, the 1851 census return records that Charlotte and Elizabeth Birkin (Henry Birkin's elder sisters) were "tam bor workers." I believe this to mean "tambour workers" ("tambor" apparently being an alternative spelling). They would therefore appear to have been engaged in embroidery/lace-making. There seems to be a family tradition that one of Henry Birkin's brothers went north (to Nottingham?) to start the (machine-made) lace industry there. You may have specific knowledge of or information on this subject.

I would also mention that some of the unascertained dates can be readily established (where they are after July 1837) by reference to civil registration records. However, certificates of birth, marriage and death now cost over four pounds each. It may well be that you will wish to make a small contribution - say a couple of pounds - to defray expenses of this kind. I would add that obtaining copies of documents such as wills from the Essex Record Office has proved particularly expensive as they can often only be photographed (by a special machine) from microfilm copies on account of the fragile condition of the originals.

I would hope to be able to call in to see you of a weekend, by arrangement, with a view to showing you these extremely interesting early documents and discussing our family's history. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

With Best Wishes,

*Steven*

STEVEN P. SCHWITZER