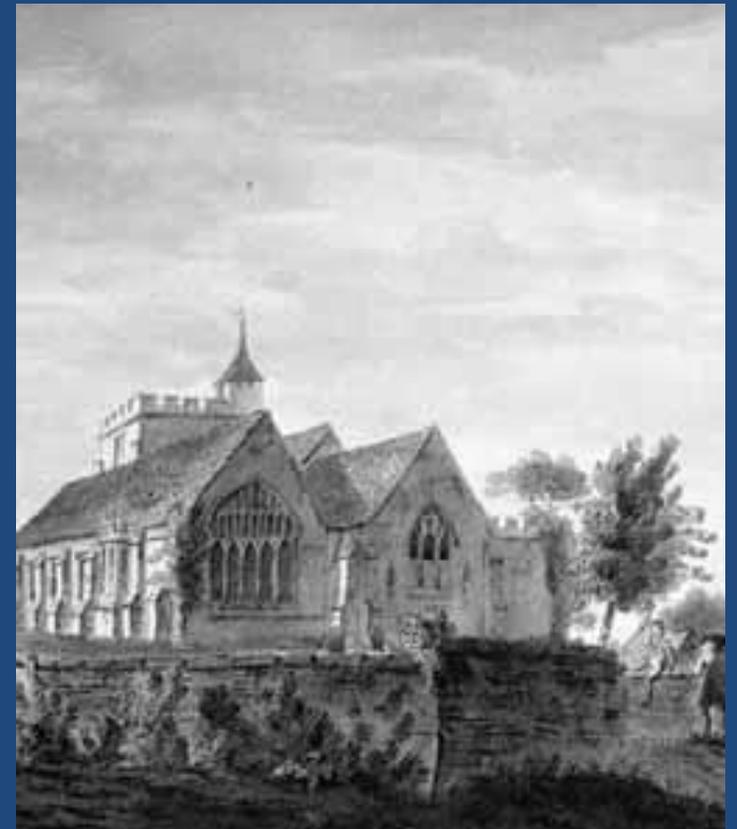


Samuel Bromley (~1736–1803)

& Martha Love (~1740–1821)



The grandparent of the Cranbrook Samuel Bromley in Emily's life story were Samuel Bromley and Martha Love. They were married at All Saints Church, Staplehurst, on 15 November 1768, and had at least five children who survived into adulthood and who are mentioned in their father's will. Only one of the children appears to have been baptised shortly after birth, as tended to be the tradition in those days, and two others were baptised as adults. The order in which the surviving sons are listed in Samuel's will (Samuel Jr, John, Stephen) is probably the order in which they were born. Samuel's will is also helpful in giving the married names of his daughters.

Emily Langridge says that the Bromley family were farmers and while most of the vast numbers of people working the land in this period were agricultural labourers, it seems that the Bromley family – at least at this time – were middle-class farmers who owned and managed the land on which they worked. As well as Samuel's will, two others have been found from this time (John Bromley, Chapter 1; Winifred Bromley, see below). The mere fact that they made wills at all is an indication that they were a family with money; one of these wills involves quite substantial sums. The genealogical records are, however, incomplete and there are some anomalies, but the information in this chapter has been pieced together from what is available from the more easily accessible public documents.

To begin with, this is what is known about Samuel and Martha's five children:

Martha (bap. 1794 as an adult)

There is no birth date for Martha but as she was named after her mother she is likely to have been the eldest daughter and therefore born in the late 1760s or early 1770s. She was baptised with her sister Ann (she is shown as 'adult' in the parish records) on 5 March 1794, but no year of birth is given. She married John Lewin Marshall of Erin (a 'printer and cutter') at St Mary's church in Goudhurst on 28 January 1800.

In his will, her father Samuel makes a bequest to 'John Marshall the late husband of my late daughter Martha Marshall deceased' which meant in a rather convoluted way that he was no longer her husband because she had died. The death of Martha (before the will was made in 1803) has not been located, and if John was still alive in 1841 (a possibility), the name is too common to identify him in the census.

John Marshall went on to marry Elizabeth Ann Kibble in 1807 and they had at least one son, John, in 1812.

Ann (bap. 1794 as an adult)

Samuel's will refers to his daughter Ann Crisp but the parish records show no marriage between Ann Bromley and anyone called Crisp. There was, however, an Ann Bromley who married John Springate, widower, in 1798 in Goudhurst and a witness at the wedding was Dorcas Ward.



Goudhurst church in the 18th century.

John & Mary		Stephen & Martha	
Samuel Bromley Born: 5 Dec 1736 Staplehurst, Kent Died: 17 Jan 1804 Staplehurst, Kent		Martha Love Born: 1738 Staplehurst, Kent Died: 26 Apr 1821 Staplehurst, Kent	
Marriage: 15 Nov 1768 in Staplehurst, Kent			
Children: #	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
Martha	F	5 Mar 1794 in Staplehurst, Kent	
Ann	F	5 Mar 1794 in Staplehurst, Kent	
John Henry	M	9 Dec 1807 in Staplehurst, Kent	
Samuel	M	4 Jun 1776 in Staplehurst, Kent	3 Oct 1835 in Goudhurst, Kent
Stephen	M	Jul 1774 in Staplehurst, Kent	11 Oct 1822 in Staplehurst, Kent

Samuel & Martha Bromley and their children. Given their marriage year of 1768, only Samuel was baptized as a child; the rest were baptized as adults but Stephen's birth month and year are given on the baptismal record.

 **Chapter 3**

There is a clue here because Dorcas Ward was a sister of Winifred Ward, the future wife of Ann's brother Stephen (see Chapter 3). The connection is confirmed because Ann Springate married Thomas Crispe in Maidstone in 1802, so Ann's first husband, John Springate, must have died – mystery solved!

Ann probably had a child with John, also called Ann, because there is a burial of a child with this name aged '0' on 28 September 1800 in Cranbrook. (The Springate family can be found in the Cranbrook area together with the alternative spelling of Springett.)

Thomas and Ann had a number of children in Maidstone: Eliza (1803), Clement and Louise (both baptised on the same day in 1806, possibly twins), Ann (1807) and Thomas Edward (1810). Of these:

Eliza married Sprigg Homewood in Maidstone and lived in East Malling. Sprigg died in 1848 and in 1851 Eliza is shown as a housekeeper at the West Kent Infirmary. She may have died in 1859.

Louisa was still a spinster in 1861 where she is shown in the census as living with an uncle called Edward Crispe in Maidstone.

Clement married Indiana Maxwell Moxon and had two children in England: Thomas Bagnold (1833) and Georgiana (1835). They moved to South Australia in 1836, the very start of the period of emigration to Australia (according to a member of Ancestry) where they had other children: Indiana (1837), Alfred C (1840), Anne (1842), Eliza (1845), Edward (1847) and Percy (1850).

Further information on the family can be found on the Ancestry website. Why they went to Australia is not clear but they would have benefited from the assisted passage scheme that began in 1832 and, like many others, responding to the increase in unemployment due to the Industrial Revolution.

John Henry (bap. 1807 as adult)

John is mentioned in his father's will, and there was a John Henry Bromley baptised on 9 December 1807 in Maidstone with the parents being Samuel and Martha Bromley. He was presumably born in Staplehurst and was baptized as adult possibly prior to getting married. Unfortunately, there is no record of that marriage.

Samuel (bap. 1776)

Samuel was baptised in St Sepulchre, London on 14 September 1803, the day before his wedding. His birth date is shown as 4 June 1776, and although it does not say where he was born, his parents are shown to be Samuel and Martha Bromley.

Samuel married Mary Emmott on 15 September 1803 at the church of St Michael Bassishaw in what is now the Barbican area of London (the Wren church was demolished in 1900 because of structural problems). Both were literate as there are signatures on the marriage record. They had at least two sons, both born in Goudhurst: another **Samuel** (bap. 1806) and **James Emmott** (bap. 1812). Given the 6-year gap, there may have others but they were not baptized in Goudhurst nor are they to be found in the on-line baptismal records.

James Emmott Bromley, Esq, married Sophia Newman in 1839 in Islington, near where she hailed from in Hatton Garden. James is shown as living in Staplehurst at the time of his marriage, and his father is one Samuel Bromley, gentleman. James and Sophia appear on the 1841 census in Staplehurst where his occupation is given as 'farmer'.

According to the tithe awards and schedules, compiled 1830–40, James owned and worked 16 acres of arable farmland call Halstow Ash Grounds in High Halstow, Kent, which is north of the Medway and a long way from Staplehurst. He paid a 'rent' of £6 1s 6d to the rector for this land. He also farmed a much larger area of mixed farmland in Staplehurst owned by his father at a place called Spix Hill Court (see right). This mixed farmland comprised a number of different crops and totalled just over 100 acres (0.16 square miles). For the privilege, James paid the rector £20 a year.

James and Sophia had just one child, a daughter called Helen who was born in Staplehurst around 1842. The later family moved to Lincoln where they appear in the 1861, 1871 and 1881 censuses with James' occupation given as solicitor. Helen was living at home in all of these censuses as an unmarried music teacher. James died in 1885 aged 72 and Sophia in 1892 aged 89. Helen appears in the 1891 census but was alone in the 1901 and 1910 censuses living at 31 Yarborough Road, Lincoln. She died a spinster in 1924 in Lincoln aged 82 but left no will.

Samuel Sr died in 1835 and was buried on the 3 October in Goudhurst; no will has been found for him.

Stephen (b 1774)

Stephen is likely to have been the eldest surviving son, being born in July 1774. He was not baptised until 16 February 1805 in Staplehurst where it is noted that he was an adult and his birth month and year given. He is the subject of Chapter 3.

Samuel Sr died in 1803 aged 67, and Martha in 1821 aged 81, and their burials were recorded in the Staplehurst parish records. This means that their ages at the time of their marriage would have been about 32 and 28, respectively. In the 19th century it was common for couples to marry in their late 20s or early 30s, preferring to wait until they were sufficiently well off to start a family.

Samuel's will makes for interesting reading, not least because of the amount of money he left. The executors were his three sons, together with James Walter* of Marden. Samuel put £600 into trust for his wife's benefit, paying her an allowance from this fund. At today's value, based on average earnings, this would amount to about £480,000.

Other bequests made by Samuel were:

£10 to John Marshall, husband of his late daughter, Martha

£100 to Ann Crisp, his daughter

£400 to John

£400 to Samuel, but noting that he had borrowed £1,500 from his father and that this amount should be deducted from what he still owed. This presumably funded the land holding that he had

£400 to Stephen, noting that he too had borrowed money – £800 – with the same terms applying

Spixhill hop garden	Hops
Shaw	Wood
Way field	Arable
White field	Hops
Orchard	Meadow
Occupation road	---
Homestall	---
Garden	---
Pond	---
Pigeonhouse hop garden	Hops
Pond	---
Pigeonhouse field	Arable
Triangle field	Arable
Upper Marlings	Arable
Lower Marlings	Meadow
Well meadow	Wood
Shaw	Meadow
Coneyburroughs	Wood
Hassock	Arable
Little field	Arable
Great banky field	Arable
Little banky field	Arable
Six acres field	Arable
Seven acres field	---
Pond	Wood
Shaw	Wood
Shaw	Arable
Wall field	Wood
Shaw	---
Half the river	Meadow
River meadow	

From the Kent tithe awards and schedules, 1830–40, showing the holdings for Spix Hill Court.

The remainder of the estate was split between the three sons, with James Walter being given a sum for his help in acting as executor. A codicil to the will, made the same day as the will itself, gave Martha £30 (about £24,000) within one month of his death.

So who was James Walter? According to an Ancestry member, he was the son of James Amherst Walter and distantly related to the Ward family by marriage (see below). The name Walter features prominently in later generations of the family (as Walter Ward) and one wonder whether James was the origin since he was entrusted to oversee the distribution of his estate.

THE LOVE FAMILY

According to information on the Internet, Martha was the third child of Stephen Love and Martha Vane, who were married in 1732 in Smarden. Martha Vane may herself have been the daughter of Mathew Vane and Martha Bowes. This is what is known about Stephen and Martha's four children:

Stephen (son of Stephen Love and Martha Vane), was buried in Smarden on 05 June 1732. He is not shown on all family trees on Ancestry but would have been the first child.

Mary was probably born about 1735. She married Richard Southon a miller in Cranbrook on 14 August 1755. There do not appear to have been any children baptized but the spelling of the surname may have changed over the years. Richard probably died in 1794 in Marden.

Elizabeth (bap. 1737) was married in Staplehurst on 8 November 1760 to Iden Walter, a collar maker of Staplehurst. Elizabeth and Iden had a total of 9 or 10 children between 1762 and 1778, all baptised in Staplehurst. Elizabeth was buried in Staplehurst on 02 November 1784 and was said to be the wife of Iden Walter aged 47 years which gives us an approximate birth year of 1737. The Walter Family Line on ancestry provides the details of Iden and his family.

Martha (bap. 1738) was married in Staplehurst on 15 November 1768 by license to Samuel Bromley, a husbandman of Staplehurst. Samuel and Martha are likely to have been non-conformist (as was Stephen Love) because three of their children were not baptised in the parish church until they were adults. When Martha was buried in Staplehurst on 26 April 1821 at the age of 81 she was said to be 'of Goudhurst', as was Samuel when he was buried in 1804.

Unknown & Unknown		Mathew & Martha	
Stephen Love Born: 1700 Staplehurst, Kent Died: 1771 Staplehurst, Kent		Martha Vane Born: 1700 Died: 9 Sep 1784 Staplehurst, Kent	
Marriage: 1 Mar 1732 in Smarden, Kent			
Children: #	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
Stephen Love	M		7 Jul 1732 in Smarden, Kent
Mary Love	F	1735	1816 in Marden, Kent
Elizabeth Love	F	1737 in Staplehurst, Kent	29 Oct 1784 in Staplehurst, Kent
Martha Love	F	1738 in Staplehurst, Kent	26 Apr 1821 in Staplehurst, Kent

Stephen & Mary Love, the parents of Martha.

Stephen Love was buried in Staplehurst on 12 April 1771. According to a website on the Love family of Staplehurst* Stephen left a will dated 21 January 1771 and proved on 08 May 1771. Stephen is identified as Stephen Love of Staplehurst, yeoman. Apparently, the lack of the normal preamble about commending the soul confirms that the family were non-conformist. The will makes the following bequests:

Martha 'my dear wife' received £10 and 'as much of my household goods not exceeding in value the sum of twenty pounds as she shall choose to take to be paid and delivered unto her within fourteen days next after my decease'. Martha also received an annuity of £12 per year, free and clear of all taxes and deductions. The annuity is to be paid from two properties in Smarden which are leased to Robert Bridge (about 10 acres) and John Mondand (about 13 acres).

Stephen names his three daughters as: Mary wife of Richard Southon of Cranbrook, miller; Elizabeth wife of Iden Walter of Staplehurst, collar-maker; Martha wife of Samuel Bromley of Staplehurst, husbandman. They all inherited his real estate to have as tenants in common, while the remainder of his personal estate, after payment of any debts, was divided between them. The executors of the will are Stephen's brother, Thomas Love, sons-in-law Iden Walter, Richard Southon and Samuel Bromley.

Stephen's widow, Martha, was buried in Staplehurst 09 September 1784 at the age of 84.

* http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~staplehurst/Love_family.htm