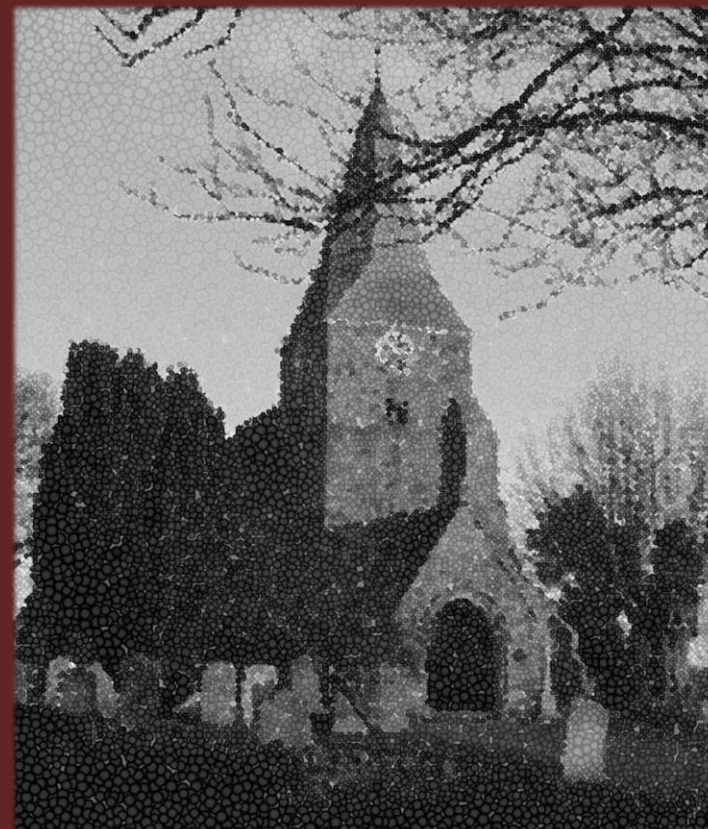


The Early Coppards

of Burwash & Dallington



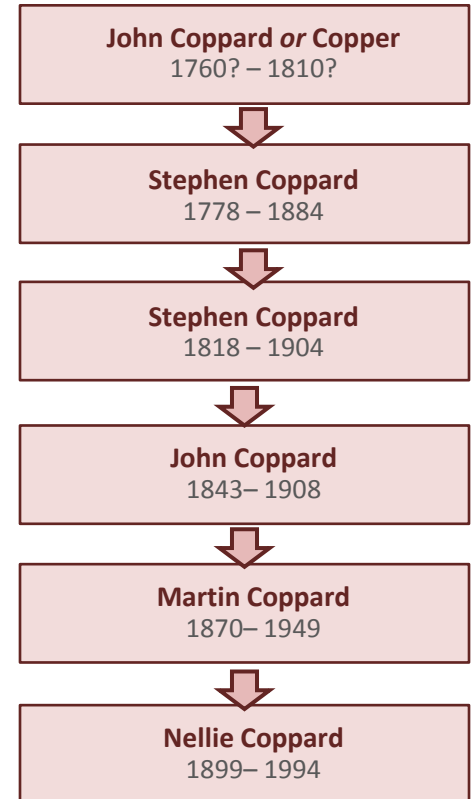
When I began researching the Coppard family history there was little to go on except that I was told the family came from Newhaven and that Nellie's mother, Mary Rhodes, was part of a seafaring family who had various adventures and went to far-flung places. There was no equivalent to Emily Langridge who had put it all down on paper and by the time I began Nellie had died and the memories that remained were very sketchy. Nevertheless, the Coppards have been easy enough to trace back to their Sussex roots and with help from others on Ancestry I have been able to piece together a fair amount of detail. Unfortunately, there are only a few photographs of the family, particularly from the early years, nowhere near as many as the Bromley family managed to accumulate.

In the same way that the Bromleys had an association with a specific area of Kent, the origins of Coppards can be found in the heart of Sussex, around the villages of Cuckfield, Dallington and Burwash. In fact, Coppard is a Sussex surname and, although not especially common, most towns and villages in Sussex in the 19th century seem to contain at least one Coppard household. A fair amount has been pieced together from public record and from information available on the Internet from distant relatives, particularly the Vidler family who have researched the parish records back to the mid-1700s.

The starting point of the family history – according to the Vidler family tree – is one John Coppard, born in the 1750s. Assuming he was born in Cuckfield, like his children, there is a likely match in one John *Copper*, son of John and Mary Copper born in 1760. A John Coppard was buried in Cuckfield in 1810 and his birth year is shown as 1760 so this may be the same person. The surnames seems to have been fairly interchangeable at that time. Whatever the facts, John married Jenny Martin (or Marten) from Linfield, near Haywards Heath, in 1778 and they had at least eight children. One of these children was Stephen Coppard (b 1778) from whom Nellie and my family are descended.

John and Jenny had 7 other children: John, George, Sarah Martin, Jenny, Mary, William, and Martin (see tree below). The name Martin recurs several times in later generations, including Nellie's father, and my own father's middle name.

Apart from Stephen, little is known about the fate of John and Jenny's other children; the Vidler family tree does not give any details either. Sarah may have married someone called Michael Michael (or possibly Mitchell), and Martin almost certainly married someone called Hannah and they had at least four children. The latter family are in the censuses for 1841 and 61 with four children all born in various places in and around London but not in the Burwash area. Martin was a bookbinder in 1841 and a painter in 1861.



John & Mary		George & Jane	
John Coppard or Copper Born: 13 Mar 1760 Cuckfield, Sussex Died: 21 Mar 1810 Cuckfield, Sussex		Jenny Martin Born: 8 Jun 1756 Lindfield, Sussex Died: Unknown	
Marriage: 10 Feb 1778 in Lindfield, Sussex			
Children: 8	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
Stephen Coppard	M	14 Oct 1778 in Cuckfield, Sussex	28 Dec 1844 in Burwash, Sussex
John Coppard	M	25 May 1780 in Cuckfield, Sussex	
George Coppard	M	17 Apr 1782 in Cuckfield, Sussex	
Sarah Martin Coppard	F	1 May 1784 in Cuckfield, Sussex	
Jenny Coppard	F	27 Jan 1786 in Cuckfield, Sussex	
Mary Coppard	F	22 May 1787 in Cuckfield, Sussex	
William Coppard	M	23 Oct 1789 in Cuckfield, Sussex	
Martin Coppard	M	21 Apr 1797 in Cuckfield, Sussex	

⇒ Next tree

John & Jenny Coppard and their family. The Vidler family tree on Ancestry.com shows a number of generations back in Jenny's family.

Things get rather clearer with Stephen. He was born in Cuckfield 1778 and became a tailor. In 1802 he married Elizabeth Cruttenden in Brightling, Sussex and they had nine children in Brightling and Dallington, as shown on the next page. The IGI database shows the complete list and it seems probable that they are all the same family because the marriage certificate of three of the later children shows their father to be a Stephen Coppard.

In the 1841 census Stephen Sr was living in Burwash where he appears aged 60 (aged were rounded down to the nearest 5 years in this first national census), without a wife. He was living in the same household as his son, Stephen (aged '20'), an agricultural labourer, and Thomas Coppard (13), together with William and Elizabeth Sellings.

The relationship between members of a household was not recorded in the 1841 census but the Sellings were Stephen Sr's daughter and son-in-law. Thomas, on the other hand, is something of a mystery, although one can assume he was likely to have been a grandson or nephew.

John & Jenny		Thomas & Sarah	
Stephen Coppard Born: 14 Oct 1778 Cuckfield, Sussex Died: 28 Dec 1844 Burwash, Sussex		Elizabeth Dorothy Cruttenden Born: 30 Jan 1778 Brightling, Sussex Died: Before 1841	
Marriage: 7 Jun 1802 in Brightling, Sussex			
Children: 8	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
Sarah Coppard	F	26 Jun 1803 in Brightling, Sussex	
John Coppard	M	22 Jul 1804 in Brightling, Sussex	
William Coppard	M	11 May 1806 in Brightling, Sussex	
Eliza Coppard	M	12 Jun 1808 in Dallington, Sussex	
Jane Martin Coppard	M	28 Aug 1810 in Dallington, Sussex	Dec 1889 in West Hampstead district
Mary Coppard	F	6 Dec 1812 in Dallington, Sussex	
Stephen Coppard	M	29 Mar 1818 in Dallington, Sussex	26 Mar 1904 in Beckley, Sussex
Elizabeth Coppard	F	9 Dec 1821 in Dallington, Sussex	

Stephen & Elizabeth Coppard and their nine children. The Cruttenden family appear on Ancestry where more information can be found about them.

 **Next tree**

The presence of Thomas Coppard (aged 13) in the 1841 census suggests that he is related, but Elizabeth would have been too old (she was 43 when she gave birth to Elizabeth).

Stephen Sr died in 1844 in Burwash, but the fate of his wife Elizabeth is not known, although she presumably died before 1841 as she is not present in the census return.

Nothing has been found on Sarah, William, Eliza or Mary but there is further information on the other three children of Stephen and Elizabeth:

John (bap 1804)

John married a woman call Mary. This was probably Mary Dale* and they were wed in Dallington, close to Burwash. The date also fits in with the birth of the first of their 11 children in 1827 in Dallington although the rest were all born in Burwash. All are recorded on the censuses of 1841 to 1871 and some of the later children were registered.

*There was another marriage for a John Coppard in 1827 to Mary Anscombe but that was in Wivelsfield which is a long way from Mary's birthplace of Crowhurst, as shown in the censuses.

John & Jenny		Thomas & Sarah	
Jane Martin Coppard Born: 28 Aug 1810 Dallington, Sussex Died: Dec 1889 West Hampstead district		Edwin Henry Hone Born: Abt. 1815 Greenwich, London Died: Sep 1879 Kingston district	
Marriage: 25 Dec 1838 in Greenwich, London			
Children: 5	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
Jane Elizabeth Hone	F	7 Sep 1839 in Southwark, Surrey	
Edwin Henry Hone	M	10 Jul 1841 in Lambeth, Surrey	Mar 1877 in Lewisham district
Alfred Hone	M	Jun 1849 in Kensington district	
Harriet Ann Hone	F	Mar 1853 in Eton district	
Daniel Hone	M	Mar 1854 in Stepney district	

Stephen & Mary Coppard with their three known children. There may have been others who died in childhood.

In the 1861 census John was referred to as a 'woodreef' and collector of taxes but in 1871 he was a farmer of 120 employing five men and two boys. Not surprisingly, when he died in 1873 he left a will, with an estate worth 'under £2,000' and his sons John (a farmer) and William (a stationer) as executors. Mary presumably predeceased him but the will would be needed to confirm that. This is what is known about his executors:

John (bap 1827) married Ann and by 1871 he was a farmer of 80 acres employing 4 men and one boy. His wife came from East Grinstead so she was probably Ann Miles and they were married in Uckfield in late 1862.

William (b ~1830) married Hellen Thompson in 1854 but had no children, or at least none appear in the censuses. William was a solicitor's clerk and stationer and sometime hemp oil distiller.

The other children have not been traced at this time.

Jane Martin (bap 1810)

Jane married Edwin Hone, a waterman from Greenwich, in 1838, an event verified by a marriage certificate. Jane and Edwin appear in the 1851 census with three children, all of whom are listed by their initials – JE, EH and A – something which the enumerator did in error as all of the children on the page are listed in this way.

Stephen & Elizabeth		William & Martha	
Stephen Coppard Born: 29 Mar 1818 Dallington, Sussex Died: 26 Mar 1904 Beckley, Sussex		Mary Ann Pankhurst Born: 29 Mar 1824 Burwash, Sussex Died: 22 Feb 1896 Hawkhurst, Kent	
Marriage: 9 Jul 1842 in Burwash, Sussex			
Children: 3	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
John Coppard	M	26 Sep 1843 in Burwash, Sussex	7 Oct 1908 in Uckfield, Sussex
William Coppard	M	8 Apr 1848 in Burwash, Sussex	4 Sep 1852 in Burwash, Sussex
Elizabeth Ann Coppard	F	15 Dec 1852 in Burwash, Sussex	

Jane & Edwin Hone and their children.
This may not be completely accurate as a tree on Ancestry.com show another son call Frederick.

→ **Chapter 9**

They were Jane Elizabeth (1839) and Edwin Henry (1841) as shown on their birth certificates, and Alfred (1849); there were two more after 1851: Harriet (1853) and Daniel (1854). The first three children were born in Southwark, Lambeth, and Stepney, respectively, and the last two in the Eton and Stepney registration districts, showing that Edwin and his family moved around due to his job. The family were not in the 1861 census (although their eldest daughter Jane was a school teacher living in Tower Hamlets with her sister Harriet), Jane and Edwin reappear in 1871 in St Mary at Hill in the City of London. Edwin died in 1879 and in 1881 Jane was an annuitant lodging in Hackney. Jane died in 1889.

Elizabeth (bap 1821)

Elizabeth married William Sellings in 1841 and again there is a marriage certificate. As mentioned earlier, Elizabeth and William were living in the same house as her father and brother in Burwash in the 1841 census, but there is no trace of them after that.

Stephen (bap 1818)

Stephen married Mary Ann Pankhurst on 6 July 1842 in the Parish Church at Burwash. The certificate confirms that he was the son of one Stephen Coppard, tailor. The witnesses to the marriage were William Pankhurst (probably Mary's father who had the same name) and Frances Pankhurst. Stephen and Mary appear to have had just three children, all born in Burwash, as noted on the censuses and confirmed by their birth certificates:

John (b 1843), from whom my family is descended, is described in the next chapter.

William (b 1848) who died in 1852 of croup.

Elizabeth Ann (b 1852) who married Thomas Vidler on 16 April 1870 – hence the link with the Vidler family on the Internet. They had 11 children between the year 1870 and 1895, all in either Hurstgreen or Brede in Sussex.

In the 1851 census in Stephen was an agricultural labourer, living in Ham Lane, Burwash with Mary and their first two children. Ten years later, they were still living in Burwash, in the 'Main street of the Village of Burwash, North side' with their third child, Elizabeth. Stephen was still an agricultural labourer while Mary was charwoman.

Their lives seemed to have changed after the marriage of their daughter Elizabeth to Thomas Vidler in 1870, because in the 1871 census Stephen was a gamekeeper in Salehurst, living in an annexe of the same house as the Vidlers where Thomas was also a gamekeeper. By 1881 Stephen and Mary were living in Pipsden, near Hawkhurst in Kent, where he was still a gamekeeper, but by 1891 they had moved to a different location in Hawkhurst and Stephen is shown as an agricultural labourer and bailiff. Their 23-year-old grand-daughter, Charity (John & Charity's daughter – see Chapter 9), at the time a milkmaid, was living with them.

Mary died in at the age of 73 in 1896 of stomach cancer, and Stephen moved to live with Elizabeth and Thomas Vidler in Hawkhurst where he appeared on the 1901 census. He died in 1904 aged 86 of 'senile decay'.

THE PANKHURST FAMILY

Mary Ann Pankhurst was my 3x great grandmother and although born early in the 19th century when the records were less than complete, a fair amount of information has been found out about the family.

Mary married Stephen Coppard when she was under 21 and her father was William Pankhurst, labourer, as stated on the marriage certificate. The censuses for Stephen and Mary after they were married consistently show a birth year for Mary of 1823 or 1824, and her death certificate confirms this. Her birth place was Burwash, so looking at the parish records, online family trees on Ancestry, and the census record, her parents are identifiable with a considerable degree of certainty as being William Pankhurst and Martha King.

The uncertainty lies in the fact that she was baptised Mary and there was another daughter called Ann, so why she became Mary Ann is a little puzzling. However, there are no other Pankhurst families in Burwash who fit the bill. In addition, there are clues that support the connection, such as the witnesses at Mary Ann's marriage to Stephen Coppard being William and Frances Pankhurst, the same names of her eldest brother and his wife.



Burwash High Street, 1907

Thomas & Ann		Thomas & Mary	
William Pankhurst Born: 15 Nov 1795 Burwash, Sussex Died: 25 Aug 1872 Burwash, Sussex		Martha King Born: 20 Jan 1799 Burwash, Sussex Died: 1877 Burwash, Sussex	
Marriage: 4 Dec 1816 in Burwash, Sussex			
Children: 9	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
William Pankhurst	M	14 Apr 1819 in Burwash, Sussex	
Thomas Pankhurst	M	1821 in Burwash, Sussex	
Mary Ann Pankhurst	F	29 Mar 1824 in Burwash, Sussex	22 Feb 1896 in Hawkhurst, Kent
Ann Pankhurst	F	1827 in Burwash, Sussex	
John Pankhurst	M	1833 in Burwash, Sussex	
James Pankhurst	M	1835 in Burwash, Sussex	
Edmund Pankhurst	M	1837 in Burwash, Sussex	1914?
Edwin Pankhurst	M	1840 in Burwash, Sussex	30 May 1844 in Burwash, Sussex
Frances Pankhurst	F	1843 in Burwash, Sussex	1900

William & Martha Pankhurst and their children.

William and Martha definitely had the nine children shown above, as confirmed by the website of another researcher of this family's history* but they may have had others as there are reasonable gaps between some of the children, particularly between Ann and John.

Only two or three of the children were born after registration began in 1837 but none of the birth was registered. However, the death of one of Edwin from scarlet fever at the age of three did result in a death certificate. Furthermore, all of the marriages of William and Mary's children were registered and their father's name and occupation are given.

Going back one generation, according to the IGI Martha King was baptized on 20 January 1799 in Burwash and her parents were Thomas and Mary King. If that is so, Mary's maiden name was Stoneham and she married Thomas King on 1 May 1781 in Burwash.

*www.mandywillard.co.uk

Thomas & Ann		Henry & Sarah	
Thomas King Born: 30 Apr 1749 Burwash, Sussex Died: 5 Mar 1843 Burwash, Sussex		Mary Stoneham Born: 19 Dec 1756 Ticehurst, Sussex Died:	
Marriage: 1 May 1781 in Burwash, Sussex			
Children: 6	Sex	Birth/baptism	Death/burial
Sarah King	F	9 Dec 1781 in Burwash, Sussex	
Jesse King	M	9 Nov 1788 in Burwash, Sussex	
George King	M	6 Jan 1794 in Burwash, Sussex	
John King	M	15 Feb 1795 in Burwash, Sussex	
Edmund King	M	9 Feb 1797 in Burwash, Sussex	
Martha King	F	20 Jan 1799 in Burwash, Sussex	1877 in Burwash, Sussex

Thomas & Mary King, with their daughter Martha, my 4x great grandmother.

Martha was Thomas and Mary's youngest child. Her elder siblings are shown above, although the gaps in the birth years suggest that there were probably other children who did not survive. The name Edmund is a more unusual name of the period and it is interesting that Martha gave one of her sons the same name.

Many of Thomas and Mary's family lived near each other in Burwash, around Fishers Farm. Their son Edmund appears in the 1841 census with five children in Baisdens, Fontridge Lane in Burwash, with Jesse King and his wife Lucy (née Relph) and their children. Edmund had married Mary Gilbert in February 1821 but was probably a widower by 1841. In 1851 he was a lodger in the 'village' in Burwash, while he is missing from the 1861 census his son, also called Edmund, was living at 2 Chambers Cottage. Edmund Sr reappears in 1871 living with Edmund Jr and his family at the same address and this confirms him to be a widower.

There are probably many other connections in the area yet to find.