

RESEARCH NOTES (from Personal Ancestry File) for JAMES HENRY SMITH

(With thanks to Ray Smith)

?? ???? 1807 BIRTH

Year worked back from Death date

Wendy Baker - Iron-Acton was a village, a parish and also a sub-district in Chipping-Sodbury district in Gloucester. In the early 1870's it covered an area of 2,930 acres and carried a population of close to 1300 people in just over 300 houses. The "Iron" prefix to the name of Acton was given due to the huge amount of iron ore dug out since Norman times. The village had fairs on 25th April and 13th September and was about a mile and a half from Yate railway station. Further information can be found:

Vision of Britain website: <http://www.visionofbritainorg.uk/place/10308>

South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group: <http://www.sgmrg.co.uk/iron.php>

SOURCE: RAY SMITH <http://www.rwsenie.com>

James Henry Smith

Baptised 8 February 1807

Iron Acton, Gloucestershire, England

James Henry Smith was born in Iron Acton, Gloucestershire, England, which was his home town until he emigrated with his family to South Australia in 1852. Little is known about his parents and how the family lived during his childhood. We do know that his father was a carpenter, the trade James Henry entered on completing his education in Iron Acton. It appears he was quite literate and had a reasonable grasp of maths because of appointments he held as the postmaster in Iron Acton and Town Clerk with the Brighton Council, South Australia.

The family probably attended St James The Less Church at Iron Acton because this is where James Henry was baptised. That the family were church attendees is attested to by the involvement of James Henry in the St Jude's Anglican Church at Brighton, South Australia, where he is reported as having a 'robust voice' and played a cornet.

James Henry was declared insolvent c.1844 and, as was the case with insolvents, he was imprisoned at Bristol for about two years. During this time his father altered his will to exclude James Henry as a beneficiary. It could be interpreted as his father imposing a penalty on James but this is unlikely since he left the share James had been due to receive to his wife and children. Probably to circumvent creditors from claiming any proceeds from the father's estate because the wife and not James was the beneficiary.

James Henry married Mary Chaplain Strode on 19 October 1828 at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England. Six children were the product of the union: Mary Jane 1831, Thomas James 1833 (died 1 September 1846 at Iron Acton), Louisa Elizabeth 1835, John Henry 1837, Nelson 1839 and Amelia 1840. Mary died at Iron Acton on 20 January 1843 leaving James Henry to care for six youngsters. The matter of care was resolved by again marrying, this time to Hester Gainer on 13 May 1843 at Bristol. Hester had been born in 1805 at Kingswood, Wiltshire, England. Another three children joined the family: Sarah Ann 1844 (died 1844), Esther Emily 1845 and Samuel James 1848.

Possibly it was Hester Smith, nee Gainer, who purchased the fares for the family to emigrate to South Australia in 1852. Her father-in-law, James Smith, had died at Iron Acton in 1845 leaving her with the family share of proceeds from his estate.

James Henry and Hester Smith and their children Mary Jane, Louisa Elizabeth, John Henry, Nelson, Amelia Ann, Esther Emily & Samuel James left England on the 'Surge' early in 1852 arriving at Adelaide, South Australia, Australia on 02 June 1852. Neither James nor Hester returned to England.

On arrival at Adelaide, South Australia, James Henry and Hester Smith and their family remained in Adelaide(city). They did not stay long because the South Australian 1855 Garran Directory lists "James Henry Smith, wheelwright, Brighton".

The two eldest girls did not waste time in finding soul mates. Louisa Elizabeth was married to George Levason George in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1853, and Mary Jane married Alfred James Walker Keen in Melbourne, Victoria, in 1855.

All other members of the family removed to Brighton, South Australia, where John Henry married Sarah Hinde in 1857. Sometime between 1857 and 1862 three of the children moved from Brighton to the Kingston/Robe district in South Australia. Making the move were John Henry with his wife Sarah, Nelson and Amelia Ann. Possibly the move was because of the perceived opportunity to establish a wheelwright and blacksmithing business at the port town where hopeful gold miners were arriving by ship prior to making the overland trek to the new Victorian goldfields. John had visited the goldfields around 1858 and had an idea as to the wants and needs of people arriving for the mad dash. Amelia probably had the role of setting up house for her brothers. However Nelson soon snared a wife marrying Alice O'Donnell in 1864 at Kingston (Lacepede Bay). It was not until 1867 that Amelia married Edmund Eager, a government works supervisor.

Meanwhile back in Brighton, Esther Emily had died in 1861 and was buried in the St Jude's Anglican Church cemetery.

James Henry set up a business as a carpenter/blacksmith in Brighton. In 1863 he was appointed Town Clerk, Brighton Council, an enumerated part-time position. The work included collecting rates and surveying works. He was discharged from his position in 1866 and by October 1868 was in the Adelaide Insolvency Court with debts amounting to one hundred and twenty six pounds. Following examination he received a second class certificate without suspension.

James Henry lived a full life. Newspaper articles located on the Trove website record his participation in community life, including being the secretary of the fledgling Brighton Cottagers' Horticultural and Floriculture Society in 1865. In 1856 he was vergar and clerk at his church. He was also secretary of the Masonic, Oddfellowship and Loyal Brighton Lodge, I.O.O.F. M.U. in 1864 when he hosted an anniversary dinner. In his position of Town Clerk, in 1863, he posted a sign at Brighton beach "It is requested that all males bathe north and all females south of this sign".

James Henry Smith died 13 June 1878. He was buried in Brighton St. Jude's Cemetery. The grave is marked by a memorial recognising his role as Brighton Town Clerk and has been photographed by Wendy Baker. James' son John Henry married Sarah Hinde; they had four daughters, the second being Annie Jane McEwen Smith, who married Wendy's great-grandfather Robert William Clark. Wendy's grandfather was Robert William Clark's son Herbert Hinde Clark.

SOURCE: The Vanishing Sands, by Averil G. Holt, City of Brighton 1991 printed by Gillingham Printers Pty. Ltd.:

James Henry Smith succeeded William Jemson as Town Clerk of Brighton and took over occupancy of a little cottage in the vicinity of Murray Street, owned by Mary Ann Bard. He was Town Clerk from December 1862 - 1867. J. H. Smith was a wheelwright in Gloucestershire and was born about 1808. He and his wife Hester had seven children and arrived on the ship "Surge" in 1852. They lived in Brighton from 1855 where he farmed and held a slaughterer's licence. He died in 1878 and is buried in St Jude's Cemetery, Brighton.

1864 COUNCIL LISTING

The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889) Mon 23 May 1864 Page 4

MUNICIPAL BODIES

"The following is a list of the municipal institutions of the Colony, of the Colony, corrected to the present date by the

Clerks of the various Councils.

Brighton.

Town Clerk - James Henry Smith, Sandhill Cottage,

Brighton.

Auditors - John Whyte, Somerton; Henry Highet

Brighton.

Proclaimed 25 Nov., 1858. Rates £3,400."

Family Snippets

James Henry Smith had a brother Horatio Nelson Smith who was seven years his senior. Horatio married Jane Strode born 1808, at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, the younger sister of Mary Chaplain Strode, born 1806, at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. James and Mary were also to marry.

Horatio and Jane were married in Shepton Mallet in 1826 and James and Mary tied the knot in Shepton Mallet in 1828 to make it two brothers marrying two sisters.

Was it Horatio Nelson Smith's work as a surveyor that initially took him to Shepton Mallet? Did attendance by James at the wedding between Horatio and Jane lead to a romance between James and Mary?

A descendant of Horatio and Jane Smith started the pharmaceutical supplies company 'Smith and Nephew'. He was Thomas James Smith born 1828 at Whitfield, Northumberland, England. Thomas never married. Shortly before his death at Hull, Lincolnshire, in 1896 he made his nephew Horatio Nelson Smith a business partner who took over the business on his uncle's death in 1896 and expanded it into the international company known for inventing the Bandaid.

Samuel James Smith and Marion Emily Johnson, who married at Emerald Hill, Victoria, Australia, in 1872 had a son named Arthur Samuel Smith. When Arthur was old enough to strike out without his family he followed mining rushes to Broken Hill, New South Wales and the Western Australian goldfields at Boulder. His time in Broken Hill was short, possibly closer to a visit to a family member or friend. He went to Adelaide and used a coastal steamship to travel to Fremantle, Western Australia, and thence a train to Boulder around 1908.

His future wife, Caroline Cook, was already in Boulder with some of her brothers and sisters. She had left her daughter Mary (who was born out of wedlock) in Moonta, South Australia, where the family had lived since 1871, to be able to go to Boulder. A regular mailing of postcards to the daughter, and kept as a collection, now reveals that she had met Arthur Smith and they were courting. Marriage followed at Boulder in 1910. They had a son in 1911 who was named Arthur Samuel Smith after his father. Fate was to deal a tragic hand for Caroline when her husband was killed in a horrific rock fall on the Great Boulder Gold Mine in 1914. She was expecting their second child at the time. He was born five months later and called William Henry Smith.

1841 ENGLAND CENSUS (Ancestry) (WITH WIFE NO. 1)

Wendy Baker SAGHS 2013-03-05

Name: James Henry smith

Age: 30 yrs

Est. birth yr: abt 1811

Gender: Male

Where born: Cloucestershire, England

Civil parish: Iron Acton

Hundred: Slaughter (Upper division)

County: Gloucestershire

Country:England

Reg. Dist: Chipping Sodbury

Sub-Reg. dist: Iron Acton

Piece: 368

Bk: 2

Folio: 6

Page Number: 7

Place: Acton Street

Parish: Iron Acton

James Henry Smith

Age: 30, Carpenter, born same parish

Mary Smith (wife) age 30 (not born same parish)

Thomas Smith age 6

John Smith age 4

Nelson Smith age 2

Amelia Smith age 6 mths

TBV - Found on Ancestry, public member photos & scanned documents, James Henry Smith 1807-1878, there is a scan of a marriage certificate:

entry no. 695. Solemnized by Banns in the Parish of Temple in the county & city of Bristol May 13 1843; James Henry Smith, full age, condition - widower - residence at time of marriage, Temple Street - father: James Smith, Wheelwright

Esther Gainer, full age, spinster, Temple Street, Father - Samuel Gainer, occupation, dyer. Dated 4th April, Bristol, ?96.

Ref. No. G 006377. So after Mary died, leaving James with Mary Jane Smith b. 1831, Louisa Elizabeth Smith, b. 1835, John Henry Smith, b. 1837, Nelson Smith, b. 1839, he remarried to Esther. The marriage certificate, incidentally, was written by a clerk (all in same handwriting including signatures) and shows Esther under name and "Hester" in the "marriage solemnised between us ..." The witnesses appeared to be Mary Gainer and ? Smith. I have not attempted to put these details into the PAF tree yet. (as at 2013-03-06) as these details came from the internet and need to be verified properly.

13 MAY 1842 MARRIAGE TO WIFE NO. 2

Source Citation: Place: Bristol, Gloucestershire, England; Collection: Temple; Date Range: 1842-1842:

Film Number: 1597126

Source info: England & Wales Marriages, 1538-1940 Database online Ancestry.com Wendy Baker
2014-93-04

Name: James Henry Smith

Gender: Male

Father's Name: James Smith

Spouse's Name: Esther Gainer

Spouse's Father's Name: Samuel Gainer

Marriage Date: 13 May 1842

Marriage Place: Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

13 MAY 1843 MARRIAGE TO WIFE NO. 2

Source info: England, Select Bristol Parish Registers, 1538-1900 Wendy Baker Ancestry.com SAGHS
2014-03-04

Name: James Henry Smith

Gender: Male

Marital status: Widowed

Marriage Date: 13 May 1843

Marriage Place: Bristol, Temple, Gloucestershire, England

Father: James Smith

Spouse: Esther Gainer

FHL:Film Number: 4247380

1851 ENGLAND CENSUS (Ancestry) (WITH WIFE NO. 2)

Source Citation: Class: HO107; Piece: 1956; Folio: 650; Page: 13; GSU roll: 87356

Name: James Henry Smith

Age: 44

Est. birth Yr.: abt 1807

Relation: Head

Gender: Male

Where born: Iron Acton, Gloucestershire, England

Civil Parish: Iron Acton

County: Gloucestershire

Country:England

Occupation of father: Carpenter

Reg. Dist: Chipping Sodbury

Sub-reg. dist: Chipping Sodbury

ED: 4a

Household schedule no.: 60

Piece: 1956

Folio: 650

Page No.: 13

H/hold members:

James Henry Smith age 44 head, occupation carpenter

Hester Smith, age 44, wife

John Henry Smith, son, 14, occupation carpenter

Nelson Smith, age 12
Amelia Ann Smith, age 10
Hester Emily Smith, age 5
Samuel James Smith, age 3

30 MAR 1851 GLOUCESTERSHIRE CENSUS (WITH WIFE NO. 2)

The Genealogist

Image ref. HO107/1956/~F652

S&N File Ref: CD5 HO_1956b.pdf p.454

Wendy Baker SAGHS 3 Jun 2014

Address: Iron Acton

Parish: Iron Acton

Reg. District: Chipping Sodbury

James Henry Smith, married, age 47, born 1804, head, carpenter, born Iron Acton, Gloucestershire

Hester Smith, wife, married, age 44, born 1807, wife, born in Kingswood, Wiltshire

John Henry Smith, son, 14, carpenter, born I.A. Gloucestershire

Nelson Smith, son, age 12, born I.A. Gloucestershire

Amelia Ann Smith, daughter, age 10, born I.A. Gloucestershire

Hester Emily Smith, daughter, age 5, born I.A. Gloucestershire

Samuel James Smith, son, age 3, born I.A. Gloucestershire

1 JUN 1852 ARRIVAL FROM UK

Source: Migrant ships for SA 1836-1866 by Ronald Parsons, Gould Books, Gumeracha, 1999

Ship "Surge" 550 tons, 3 mast ship built 1843 Sunderland

Dimensions 116.0 x 28 x 19.7

Owner: Phillips. Reg. London

Sailed from London - 22 Jan 1852

Gravesend - 25 Jan 1852

Plymouth - 13 Feb 1852

Arrived Port Adelaide North Arm 1 Jun 1852

Captain, W.E. Maurice.

Shipping intelligence Register 2 June 1852.

28 single women and children

44 single men

37 families

7 died on voyage, causes unknown, all buried at sea.

The *South Australian Register* on Thursday 03 June 1852 reported as follows:

“Tuesday, June 01, 1852:- The ship *Surge*, 550 tons, Maurice Master, from London 22nd January, Gravesend 25th January and Plymouth 13th February 1852 – 8th ship from England to S.A. with government passengers for 1852; two births and seven deaths on the passage, - ? - , surgeon-superintendent.

The South Australian Government Gazette 1866 p.79:

[Under the heading “Families” the Smith family was listed] :

Smith James Henry Age 44 Occupation Wheelwright B-index 1506/1 Birthplace

Hester	45
Nelson	12
Amelia Ann	10
Hester Emily	6
Samuel James	3
John Henry	14
Mary	20
Louisa	16

Iron Acton,
Gloucestershire

1863-1866 TOWN CLERK

J.H. SMITH

Town Clerk Brighton District Council

Source: History of Brighton South Australia by H.A.F. Taylor, compiled on the occasion of the centenary of the corporation of the town, November 1958.(SAGHS Library 2nd copy 12337)

13 JUN 1878 DEATH

(Wendy Baker SAGHS Feb 2012)

S.A. Death Index of Registrations 1842-1915 (N-S Vol.4)

SMITH, James Henry (M) 71 y of Brighton d. 13 Jun 1878 at Brighton, relative not recorded, dist. Ade b.88 p.171

13 JUN 1878 DEATH

Wendy Baker SAGHS 2013-03-05

State Death Registrations Index - District of Adelaide, Bk. 88 p.171

Transcription of Certificate of Death from microfiche as above:

June 15th 1878, District of Adelaide

Date of Death: 13 June 1878

Name: James Henry Smith

Sex: Male

Age: 71 yrs

Rank: Wheelwright

Usual Residence: Brighton

Cause of death: Paralysis

Place of death: Brighton

Informant : Wm Prouse

Entered in District Register of Adelaide 17th June 1878

13 JUN 1878 Notes re burial - FACTS RE TOWN CLERK etc. TBV (2013-05-30)

Source: julie_mainstone, family tree, internet

"R5169 added this on 26 Oct 2012

Julie Lawrie is correct in saying that James Henry is buried in South Australia. There is a Brighton in both Victoria and South Australia. James is buried at St Jude's Anglican Church, Brighton, SA. I have a photograph of the memorial on his grave. He was Town Clerk in Brighton, SA, for several years before being declared insolvent. During his time he had erected at the beach a sign requiring women to swim to the right and men to the left of the sign."

familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard.../UHP-0956.htmlý

<javascript:launch(956);>James Henry Smith (b. 1 January 1807, d. 13 June 1878)

James Henry Smith (son of James Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0145.html>> and Amelia Smith (Willis) <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0146.html>>) was born 1 January 1807 in Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, and died 13 June 1878 in Brighton South Australia. He married (1) Mary Smith (Chaplin) <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0132.html>> on Abt. 1831 in Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, daughter of James Chaplin <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0133.html>> and Amelia Chaplin (Willis) <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0134.html>>. He married (2) Hester Smith (Gainer) <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0954.html>> on Aft. 1843 in Iron Acton Gloucestershire England.

Notes for James Henry Smith:

Buried 15/6/1878 Arrived at Pt. Adelaide South Australia 2/6/1852 on the 'Surge'. Arrived with wife, Mary Jane, Louisa Elizabeth, John Henry, Nelson, Amelia Ann, Samuel James & Esther Emily. Town Clerk. Was Post Master at Iron Acton.

More About James Henry Smith:

Baptism: 8 February 1807, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England.

Occupation: Carpenter, wheelwright, Post Master.

More About James Henry Smith and Mary Smith (Chaplin):

Marriage: Abt. 1831, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England.

More About James Henry Smith and Hester Smith (Gainer):

Marriage: Aft. 1843, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England.

Children of James Henry Smith and Mary Smith (Chaplin) are:

- i. Mary Jane Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0135.html>>, b. 1831, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. date unknown.
- ii. Louisa Elizabeth Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0137.html>>, b. 1835, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. date unknown.
- iii. +John Henry Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0959.html>>, b. 1837, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. 25 October 1876, Kingston SE South Australia.
- iv. +Nelson Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0138.html>>, b. 1839, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. date unknown.
- v. Amelia Anne Eager (Smith) <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0140.html>>, b. 1840, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. date unknown.

Children of James Henry Smith and Hester Smith (Gainer) are:

- i. Esther Emily Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0142.html>>, b. 1845, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. 1 February 1861, Brighton South Australia.

ii. +Samuel James Smith <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/s/Richard-Laslett-West-Lakes/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0143.html>>, b. 1848, Iron Acton Gloucestershire England, d. date unknown.

SOURCE ; RAY SMITH'S FACEBOOK PAGE 2016

James and Amelia Smith (nee Willis) are the earliest direct line Smith ancestors confirmed by Ray Smith through research conducted over 35 years. The family line started in Iron Acton, Gloucestershire, England around 1774 and remained in that town for about 90 years.

The last of their sons, James Henry Smith, together with his second wife Hester (nee Gainer), and the children by both of his marriages left England in 1852 to settle in the young South Australian colony. A small coastal community called Brighton became their home and is where the remains of James and Hester are buried.

Their children who survived into adulthood moved to Kingston, South Australia and to Richmond in Victoria. It is from the latter place that events spice up the history of the family.

A grandson named Arthur Samuel Smith left Victoria, to investigate the Broken Hill, New South Wales, silver mines before deciding that the Coolgardie Goldfields was where he wanted to be. Two generations later Ray Smith was born in Boulder (Western Australia).

This page is the story of that family from Iron Acton and the descendants who live in Australia.

SOURCE;

James Henry Smith first married Mary Chaplain Strode in 1828 at Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Their children were Mary, Thomas, Louisa, John, Nelson and Amelia. Following the death of Mary he married Hester Gainer in 1843 at Bristol, Gloucestershire. Their children were Sarah, Esther and Samuel. All children were born at Iron Acton.

In 1844 James was insolvent resulting in him be jailed in Bristol Jail. This occurred around the time his father prepared his will in which he cut James Henry from benefiting from his assets and estate. His elder brother Horatio Nelson was the executor. James died in 1845.

James Henry and Hester with eight children arrived in Adelaide on the "Surge" in 1852. A few years later the family was living at Brighton, South Australia, a seaside suburb south of Adelaide.
