

Mortlock Encyclopaedia

An East Anglian Clan

All Mortlocks are probably related; although the name is derived from Mortlake in Surrey, it is markedly local to East Anglia, with families distributed roughly along the axis of the Icknield Way.

In the tables which follow there is the tantalising hint of linkage from the Frost family of Hundon, whose descendant in Brinkley married a Mortlock. The Frost/Mortlock link can be seen in the 'China' Mortlocks table. The Frost villages of Hundon and Weston Colville are also early 'Mortlock' villages. The Brinkley Mortlocks seem to have had land in Brandon which links to the Lakenheath Mortlocks; and not only is it probable that a Mildenhall Mortlock sired the Mundford sept in Norfolk but one of these married a Frost from Poslingford which brings the wheel back to Hundon again. The early landholdings in Haverhill and on both sides of the Suffolk/Essex border already suggest links between the Mortlocks of those two counties; thanks to the Frosts it is not only logical but genealogically plausible that all the Mortlock trees that follow have some hidden ancestral link. Unfortunately the Civil War and the Commonwealth period have compromised the vital record data and wills that might have elucidated this.

Early wills use "Mortlake" as the surname, and also "Mortlack" which is perhaps how the place-name was pronounced. John Evelyn uses this spelling for the place-name in his diary, and it is the spelling (as well as Mortlock itself) used in some newspapers as late as the nineteenth century. An example of the rarity of the Mortlock name is that in the 36,716 entries in Stuart Tamblin's three Pronames databases (albeit some individuals have more than one entry) there is only ONE Mortlock. In 1881 there were fewer than a thousand Mortlocks in the whole of the world. Of the 175 heads of household in England, 136 were born in East Anglia and several of the remainder can be traced back there in earlier generations, as can nearly all those Mortlocks known to have emigrated before 1881 (to Jamaica, Canada, the USA, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand).

It therefore seemed containable to attempt a one-name study on Mortlock. The notes that follow indicate its depth. To be fair, a Douglas Mortlock strove to do just this thirty years ago - but he did not have centralised microfilmed records to work from, let alone the internet. It is ironic that his own personal Mortlock tree bottled out in the eighteenth century in London without his finding the East Anglian roots he was seeking. It had to wait for a contribution from David Scott Mortlock, based on his father's research, to unlock this puzzle.

In spite of a couple of apparent Mortlock probate records in London, Tudor records in Limehouse and a few seventeenth-century mentions in Fleet Street, it does appear that the Mortlock name radiated from East Anglia and not thither from the Metropolis. An argument for this is the 1695 tax 'census' where the list of *London Inhabitants Within the Walls* identifies ONLY Henry the printer and his wife as Mortlocks (in fact, 'Mortclacke'). A probable brother of Henry lived in Nottingham; as will be seen the candidate counties of origin for them have to be either Suffolk or Essex. The Nottingham connection was probably Richard, who gained some land in that region following Cromwell's victory, but who need not have had any earlier connection with that area. Richard is the only visible candidate for Henry and John's father; but see the separate section on

this family.

The earliest holders of the surname seem to be Ivo de Mortilak in Garboldisham, Norfolk in 1262 and a Walter de Mortlake in the Hundred Roll for Kent for 1273 (reported by Dr Helen Cam as Cambridgeshire, but not so found by me). Confusingly there is also a Simon Morlack in Kent at the same time, although there is no modern evidence for aboriginal Mortlocks in that county. By the time parish records and provincial will records survive, there are definitive Mortlock families in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Essex, London, the family in Nottingham explained above, and Mortlocks in Norfolk, although the main group later in that county seems to represent a later migration from Suffolk. It is unlikely that these separate lines can ever be formally connected, but the coincidence of the absolute non-existence of the surname anywhere else emboldens me to assert that the validity of a fundamental concept of "Clan Mortlock". The Mortlock name crops up in some unlikely circumstances - as the endangered Mortlock fruit bat, *pteropus phaeocephalus*, and as a name for a variety of oat for instance.

My own interest was triggered by discovering that John Mortlock III (1755-1816), Cambridge banker and politician, was one of my great-great-great-great-grandfathers. He was descended from another John Mortlock who was probably born in the village of Pampisford, Cambridgeshire, in the third quarter of the fifteenth century. His tree opens the pages of charts that follow. The story of his family and descendants is available on www.mortlock.info and in a (now somewhat dated) hardcopy in Cambridgeshire County Records Office.

The original baseline of the study was the 1881 census, now available on the internet and thus in slightly greater detail than when I started on this task when it was, albeit brilliantly presented, only available on microfiche. This has been, as far as possible, cross-related to the national probate record and national registration data, and to other records which from time to time came serendipitously to hand such as Army lists, alumni volumes, and so forth, so as to construct trees linking the various 1881 heads of households back to their parent roots. This process of repatriation may be difficult to link into so I have tried to remember to put pointers in London, Kent, Yorkshire, Buckinghamshire etc back to relevant citations.

The 1881 census has now been back-related to those for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 1901 and 1911 using contributions from others and the internet, particularly the census presentations of Ancestry.co.uk and findmypast.com and also the 2007 (very incomplete) emigrants database. A further opportunity came in 2016 when the 1939 Register (albeit incomplete) became available on findmypast.co.uk. As remarked elsewhere, a number of Mortlocks (and presumably others), who were otherwise demonstrably alive, escaped the census taker in some or all of those years. I would like to think that I have managed to trap all the Mordlucks and Mordlecks and so forth as well. However, and for instance, there are two Leslie Mortlocks (one male, one female) in TNA's presentation of the 1901 census that don't paint on Ancestry's, one of them because he's not actually a Mortlock anyway. And so forth.

This hugely enjoyable exercise, which had started in the 1990s, dragged on so long that it continued into the (long awaited) appearance of the 1901 census, as eventually made available on the internet, and at parish level in the associated CCROs, and later on still the 1911 offering. This gives a useful termination as it, at least theoretically, includes all males eligible for active service during the First World War. It has therefore produced several matches to the military medal records although neither source is exhaustive. The 1901 census transcription exercise was shot through with a plethora of errors, ranging from simple spelling mistakes to a clear want of

understanding of English geography. Indeed the level of errors far exceeds that in the Mormons' 1881 presentation. It has therefore been a not wholly successful exercise to find and position all the 1901 Mortlocks - please bear with this, as I had to bear with the gibbering incompetence of the actual transcription. Much of the problem may lie with the decision to do that on the cheap, using incarcerated criminals who perhaps wanted in zeal and commitment. *Burm* St Edmunds indeed, even *Norf* for North.

At about the time of the emergence of the 1901 census data the internet began to be really useful. I have used the Mormons' databases including their transcriptions of the 1880/1 Canadian and US censuses, their 'Vital Records' database which parallels IGI and death records held by the US Social Security authorities, the War Graves Commission website, the Cosford (Suffolk) genealogical database, leads to CCRO items from 'Access to Archives' (A2A), 'curiousfox', 'cyndislist', 'deadfred' and 'genuki'. Later, Ancestry's presentation of Canadian and US census and US passenger list and enlistment records has tied up several loose ends relating to Mortlocks in North America, and several instances of adoption of the name there by non-Mortlock immigrants.

The online availability via the public library service of several runs of 19th century newspapers yields a rich haul on the Mortlocks. While very many of the over four thousand entries are for the China firm's regular advertising, the routine BMD entries provide valuable collateral and extra detail for many of the General Register entries. However more interesting are the reports that throw light on the career and character of a few individual Mortlocks. Besides frequent assaults on policeman Samuel there are Lloyd's reports relating to navigator James Mortlock and particularly his death; a great deal about the Thomas who ran the Henley on Thames workhouse; numerous reports relating to portraitist Ethel's artistic activities; entries relating to coiner Benjamin's criminal career; and almost a case by case chronicle from Hull of Sarah's descent into alcoholism. The content of these reports has been included as appropriate in charts and narratives.

An on-line index to *The Times* (one on the internet, another - oddly, providing a slightly different selection - in Chichester and Portsmouth public libraries, for which my thanks) has provided chapter and verse for all sorts of bankruptcy and villainy. The villainy ranges from Mary Mortlock's murder (in 1828) through various assaults on Mortlock police officers and fraud, counterfeiting and straightforward theft to the discovery by Bessie Mortlock in January 1851 of a man locked in her cellar, given away by his coughing. He was her maid's boyfriend, shoved out of the way when she heard her mistress returning. In 1853 a Mortlock was involved in his Islington tobacconist employer's practice of adulterating his product. As a civil try-on, in 1895 another servant girl sued her Mortlock mistress over a bad reference - she won her case but clearly only on a technicality; the farthing damages awarded by the jury would have done little to pay her costs. Bankruptcy (also listed in the *London Gazette*) seems not seldom to have been the precursor of emigration; I have been able to link back some of the American and other immigration data now on the internet.

The London Metropolitan, Essex and Norfolk Records Offices now have useful internal computer access to their records, thus yielding clues to long-forgotten legal disputes, felonies and other matters; Norfolk (NOAH) is now on-line on the internet, as is Essex (SEAX). Fundamental contacts have come from postings to Tony Mortlock's Mortlock family history website. Search engines such as Google have turned up all sorts of Mortlock oddities such as a burial in Florence that elucidated the probable ancestry of our two famous sailors. As I was writing the 2008 edition of this, Tony turned up a picture of a cigarette lighter engraved 'FG Mortlock'.

An additional and highly useful resource was 'FreeBMD' (its records now available through Ancestry.co.uk). This allowed an exercise in discovering spouse names, which could then be tried for a match in the 1881 or 1901 census as appropriate (freebmd commonly turns up more than one spouse candidate) This exercise only produces a proportion of results since the suggested spouses cannot always be differentiated, and not all couples seemed to have featured in the next subsequent census. Useful parish registers, particularly for London, on Ancestry.co.uk have facilitated 'homing' a number of Mortlock 'orphan' vital records.

Another useful source on the internet is the London Gazette which, to my surprise, not only identifies Mortlocks commissioned and decorated in the Armed Forces, but also all those appointed to posts at all levels in the Post Office and elsewhere in the Government service.

Although I have formally cut off the study with those Mortlocks who were alive in 1911, I have added later ones whose data came readily to hand, for instance tracing the line to various living correspondents, and back from public obituary notices, and in some cases backward chaining from Facebook and LinkedIn.

I should attach a fundamental health warning attached to the analysis. While many of the linkages shown are indubitable, others are unavoidably circumstantial or perhaps even speculative, constructed because of coincidences of place, Christian name and so forth. I have used Occam's Razor in several cases to select the most straightforward and obvious alternative as the most likely. Of the fact that this process can let one down, I am acutely aware. Even a multiplicity of distinctive Christian names is no certain security. As an example of the process, two of the three male Mortlocks in the Portsmouth Kelly's for 1920 were Henry Edward R of 17 Stanley St (There was a "Mrs" at 43 Stanley St) and Harry E R at 20 Malvern Rd. In the Registrar-General's records are Henry Edward R born 4Q70 in Chelsea, and identifiable via the census records as Harry, son of Samuel born in Hawstead, Suffolk etc, and Henry Edward Romeril born 7.10.1884 in Richmond, Surrey, visible in IGI and put there by his collateral descendant Douglas along with the rest of his tree going back to a Southwark ancestor. The probabilities of such a collision are surprisingly high but I am reasonably confident of my attribution of the two Portsmouth street addresses. As it happens, Hawstead, with its sister hamlets of Great Whelnetham and Lawshall, has an apparent corner on early use of the Christian name of Michael. Therefore, and with less certainty, I would link to it (but you might not) the three Michaels (1) who died in "Surrey" in 1763 (PCC will), (2) who married in St Pancras in 1815, and (3) born in Wandsworth 4Q1856. There were two other Michaels associated with Chippenham, Cambs, thirteen miles away, of whom I suspect the senior of marrying into the village rather than being born there. It is more difficult to put such constructions on the very few uses of "David" although there are even fewer Davids than there are Michaels; but tempting circumstantial games are possible for "Peter" and "Philip". Nobody should assume that because they are descended from someone at the most recent end of a tree, the chain shown truly leads all the way back. It is their call to check out the chain using original data. The page they are looking at should however materially guide them towards likely sources for that.

Matching for ages is worth a mention. The age given at death often does not match that given earlier in a census; in either or both cases (certainly in the first!) it has been given by a third party; also there may well be transcription errors, particularly where it is derived from a weathered gravestone. It is also evident in several cases of young female servants that their age in the 1901 census appears to be overstated, by as much as two years. I suspect this relates to their

inflating their age to enhance their credibility, when originally seeking employment; or the employer was in denial over exploiting a juvenile!

A curious but limited source for Mortlocks is the London A-Z. You will find a Mortlock Court in Manor Park, probably named for a successful dairyman. There is also a Mortlock Close in Peckham, but for whom that is named I have no idea. It succeeded a Mortlock Gardens built in 1869; and there was a Mortlock Terrace in nearby Harders Road. The Mortlock river in Western Australia was probably named by Henry Mortlock Ommaney, a surveyor and at one point Acting Governor there in its infant years, and a grandson of Sarah, sister of John Mortlock the banker.

Earlier data from IGI has been cross-related to parish records where these exist in a conveniently usable form. Post-1837 the (patchy) Registrar-General's records are reproduced, interpolated so far as may be, but a Registration District can comprise many parishes, and access to a finer-grain picture is mostly blocked because the necessary data can only be obtained in the form of formal copies of certificates. At £9.50 a throw this would cost hundreds of pounds and so I have had to forgo this last step. As a result many family lines have to left hanging in the air so to speak; my apologies. In particular, the trend for country girls to be sent into service in the metropolis naturally leads to the conundrum of one being unable to trace back to their origins many of the females who married in London.

Where dates are shown, in general full dates are taken from parish records or IGI, and will commonly be baptisms rather than births. Dates of death in full are taken from probate records (marked '#') and monumental inscriptions ('*'). Dates by quarter ("1Q57" = Jan-Mar 1857) are taken from the indexes to the Registrar-General's records. Birth dates showing just a year have been worked back from monumental inscriptions, Registrar-General's death records, or census data, in which last case they should be read as some time in the last nine months of the year given or the first four of the next. In general if the death is in the first half of a year the birth is assumed to be the age subtracted from the year before; if in the second half, subtracted from the year actually given. Unqualified place-names are parishes; in square brackets [], they are Registration Districts. The place-name qualifying a quarter-date may be a Registration District but if an origin from a census record was available that has been preferred. Old style years (e.g. 1656/6) have been brought up to date to show the year according to modern usage. E&OE!

The charts can be used to elucidate the monographs on William the Surrey and England cricketer, on the Mortlock Islands and their discoverer, on Commander Lewis Mortlock and his gallant fight, Thomas Mortlock the transported Essex burglar, Samuel the workhouse master, the families of Mortlock blacksmiths and the Mortlock china firm in Oxford Street, London, and the collateral branches of that family worldwide.

The main analysis closes with service data from Armageddon, the 1914-18 war in which the most puissant Mortlock males were literally decimated. This is based on the PRO card index of medal rolls, the lists of War Graves website, and various PRO and anecdotal sources. Some later Service data has been added to this. There is also an appendix listing Mortlock wills.

A cautionary note about the quality of the underlying data may not come amiss. Everyone in the census states - or it was stated for them - their place and date of birth. Lo and behold, in his other capacity the Registrar-General has never heard of some of them. There are some whom IGI lists as baptised of whom he has not heard either; and IGI is not infallible; I have tripped over at least two entries which are flatly contradicted by the associated parish register. Clearly in the early

years of public registration some people regarded it as an optional and costly extra. Equally possibly not all records found their way back to London, or if they did, they escaped the public indexes. The possibility of this is demonstrated by the odd manuscript addition on some pages of those indexes. In any case not everybody was born in England and Wales, although for pre-Twentieth Century Mortlocks this is a vanishingly low probability; the only Mortlock in Scotland in 1881 gives his place of birth as "England". As to the census, some census books never found their way back to London or perhaps missed out on being filmed - concrete instances are the entire set of records for the Newmarket area for 1851 and the book for a group of streets in Brighton which is completely missing from the 1851 census microfilm. Per contra, in 1881 the nonagenarian Sarah Elizabeth Mortlock seems to be in twice, in London and in Cambridge. Probably some housekeeper filled in the return. So, apparently, is Louisa in Cumberland, listed at home and also, seemingly, at her employment. For others, the place of birth may be misspelled or assigned to the wrong county, or some - usually old - person's age may be wrong. Gussed on the doorstep with the census taker standing in the rain? When *was* Granny born? Someone in the household from a far away county of which we know nothing? Bear with the practicalities and use common sense sometimes when science fails. Earlier, parish records can be misspelled (probably by the incumbent, writing after the event), illegible, or just plain missing. And I have seen on one microfilm in Yorkshire a be-ringed female hand resting on top of the microfilmed page - try reading through that. This is not to denigrate the enormous effort by so many people that has gone into making our past records so accessible - it is just to explain that the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which is that nature is lossy, is alive and well in genealogy. What a blessing when one strikes genealogical oil, when someone leaves five shillings to every known relative and *names* them.

The same problems beset the death records. I initially pursued these up to 1943 inclusive, so as to match to the published Probate Indexes, and later extended this exercise by a few years. In a couple of cases this could not be done; the date of death on the probate entry was definitively not echoed by the Registrar-General. Death entries from 1866 onwards give the age of the deceased and this enables one to achieve closure on a number of individuals, often, particularly with the later entries, to establish patterns of migration. There was a rash of problems connected with ages being incorrectly given. One does wonder if some people had lied through their lives and to the census-taker, only to be found out in death. Particularly with infants there was a rich crop of people who died without first, apparently, being born. Similarly, there were a number of men who were allegedly born well before, and who died after 1881, but who do not seem to be listed in the census of that year. The Williams, and to a lesser extent the Johns and Thomases, present a special problem because there are so many of them. William seems by far the most popular Christian name for a Mortlock, and the numbers of them born, or allegedly born between say 1850 and 1870 makes reliable matching often impossibly elusive. With females the problem is more diffuse, since, in the absence of a conclusive parish record, it is not possible to do otherwise than to assume that, if the age fits and they are not in the census, then they are somebody's wife married after 1881. In a few cases I have bowed to the weight of circumstantial evidence to match people up. For several women their decease at a relatively early age is too often accompanied by, on the same or an adjacent entry, the demise of a new-born infant. A silent commentary on the difficulties of life a hundred years ago. At the end of this exercise there were, by now predictably, a number of individuals for whom closure could be achieved neither through marriage (in the case of females), a registered death, emigration, or a probate record. In a few cases, formal records apart, there was anecdotal (thank you, my many correspondents) relating to emigration. Rather obviously, infants who were born and died between censuses tend to escape attribution, but I have recorded their little lives and in some cases made assumptions to fit them

into the birth order of their more formally identifiable siblings.

It is of course not only modern records that give problems. The legibility of older parish records and deeds is not helped by the warble flies which have drilled into the underlying sheep (our forebears not having the benefits of organophosphate sheep-dip) leaving grace notes easily confused on microfilm as stray vowels. I have absorbed most instances of variant spelling without comment, assuming them to be transcription errors where descendants uniformly harmonised on 'Mortlock'. However in some cases where the variant spelling is consistent across generations and different transcribers I have tried to note this.

Some other lessons learned in the course of my work may be worth passing on. One is that not all official records are veracious. A birth certificate returned the father's occupation as bookmaker. As he is in various directories as a shoemaker, this is obviously a mistranscription for bootmaker. The difficulties of deciphering someone else's handwriting - albeit a registrar, who should not have been in the job if he did not write a legible hand - came home to roost. Also, it is tempting to assume that those who sign a record with a cross are illiterate. Lord Campbell in 1859 remarked that he knew of several instances where people who could write perfectly well merely made their mark¹. Perhaps making a mark, indeed the sign of the cross, was thought the better thing to do, particularly if an officiating minister had already written the name into the register.

Letters carved in stone are also too easy to believe. Samuel Johnson famously said that no man is on oath on his own tombstone; he might have added that heirs can often be mistaken about the age of the very old; great-granny was not on oath when she told her descendants how old she was. Both men and women may have secret (but rather obvious) reasons for knocking a few years off their age at one time and another, and it may be just too difficult to go back to the truth. In some cases it is clear that the transcriber has been misled by the weathering of the stone.

In reading the cross-references scattered through this work the reader will come across numerous entries for the "China Mortlocks". This relates to the family covering numerous Mortlock lines, all related to one another, of whom the most prestigious is arguably that of the Mortlocks who ran a prominent china and glass business in Oxford Street, London. Their family roots were in Cambridgeshire (but their ultimate origin probably Brandon in Suffolk). So, to distinguish them from the banking family of Cambridge (Banking Mortlocks), "China Mortlocks".

The broad scheme of the work is, after dealing with the bankers, to flow geographically north-west from Essex, through Suffolk - picking up migrations to Cambridgeshire on the way - to Norfolk, and then to consider what is left in London and other counties. The records for the Midlands and North I believe could be related to East Anglia if their particular descendants undertook specific research on them. I have not been able to consult every individual parish record in extenso; however I have covered as many as possible in East Anglia, some by proxy where Mr David Holland (whom you will find at the foot of the Mildenhall tree) kindly copied me on Mortlock entries from the registers of a number of Suffolk parishes which had not been captured by IGI; and so did Bill Sale and Mrs Mary Marsh. In Greater London I have used available printed extracts or hints in other places, and have looked up those registers which seemed likely to be fruitful. With regard to all sorts of other lists of names, I always jotted down any Mortlocks who happened to pop up in those pages. I have scoured all the PCC wills, and those regional wills that were readable and available to my various travels; Simon Mynott and

¹quoted from *First with the News*, C Wilson, Cape 1985

others have kindly copied me on data for several Sudbury and other wills. Modern wills are £5 (2010) a throw, and there are many dozens of those, so I have generally made do with whatever data the Probate Index fiches threw up, except in Suffolk where that county has microfilm of Probate Registry wills post-1857 for its own people (what a pity that isn't true of other counties). If it's *your* forebear, send for the wills - one at a time, to save cost, in case the chain breaks. Anyway who wants off-the shelf genealogy? The FUN is in the research, particularly when one stumbles across the odd rogue or bad apple. This is where the real reward comes - breaking out from data into at least an anecdotal understanding of the character of people long departed, often otherwise unsung.

In East Anglia the Mortlock families were probably cross-related otherwise than solely through their own patronymic - the surnames Ambrose, Coe, Day, Jarman, Lucas, Manning, Nunn and Peachey for instance keep recurring as Mortlock marriage partners. In some villages the registers so echo the same few names that the population must have been quite inbred. Where the census shows the population of a village to be relatively small, choice of spouse must have been quite limited, particularly for those whose only transport was their own feet. Cobbett records a countrywoman of the 1820s who did not know the way to the very next village, as she had never been there.

Once the data are netted out there is much to interest one. The Mortlocks faithfully represent, in microcosm, society at large; their spread of employment broadly represents the society in which they lived. There is a broad base of agricultural labourers, a few relatively more prosperous farming dynasties, and seeming hereditary lines of ironmongers, blacksmiths, clockmakers, carpenters, coach painters and other skilled trades, particularly in Clare, Suffolk (the blacksmiths, along with the use of the Christian name Michael, as above, seem to be concentrated on Hawstead and Great Whelnetham and Freckenham). There are some occupations which have wholly vanished, for instance, for women, horsehair weaver and straw plaiter; for men, peruke-maker. I have been unable to find a pure-finder. With such a small sample many occupations are of course not represented but within that there seem to be disproportionate numbers of butchers, and of innkeepers, with a couple of policemen to keep them in order. Unsurprisingly for people with a rural background, trades such as gardener, carman and coachman are followed by some who move away from their roots.

Until 1914 the Mortlocks were NOT noticeably military in spite of what must often have been beat of drum in the country villages. William took the shilling and died on service as a Gunner at Dum Dum (Calcutta) aged 24 in January 1834. Frederick, probably born in Norfolk, was a private in the Army in 1881. So was Samuel, born in Hawstead, Suffolk in 1838, possibly a Guardsman for his first three children were born in Chelsea and the fourth in the Tower of London. A real chocolate soldier was Simon of Melbourn who served for 48 years, first with the Royal Horse Guards and then with the Life Guards, apparently taking such good care of George III that Simon never had to serve away from London. John Henry, born in Aldershot in 1862, also became a Gunner in the Royal Artillery; his father, another Simon, of Swavesey, had enlisted in the 43rd Foot (later Ox & Bucks Light Infantry) and served in the Kaffir wars in South Africa and then in India where during the Mutiny he was at the recapture of Kirwe and on operations in the Bundelkund before transferring to, and coming home with, the 64th (later Staffordshires). Another soldier was the Benjamin born in Clare, Suffolk, who in 1851 was a 17-year-old private in barracks at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight. James of Lawshall, born in 1844, rose only to Corporal in the Royal Engineers but in civilian life settled on the outskirts of Southampton where one son became an optician and another, mechanically skilled, became a Warrant Officer in the RASC in

the First World War.

The Army was not the only avenue to advancement. England has ALWAYS been a land where a man could get on, given sufficient merit. There was also the Church - Canon Charles Bernard Mortlock was celebrated in architectural circles and had served with as an Army chaplain in the First World War. He comes across to us as a Londoner but his family came from Suffolk, where his grandfather was a carpenter. The prize for social mobility must go to Doris Aileen ("Nina") Mortlock, who said she was the daughter of a Dr Mortlock of London; she married the Earl of Shrewsbury, Britain's premier earl, after a stupendously messy 1959 divorce suit which cost him the family seat, Ingestre Hall. Aileen, Dowager Countess of Shrewsbury died in Switzerland in 1993; she was a member of the banking family.

Proverbially it takes three generations to make a gentleman. The essential fluidity of English society can again be exemplified. William, coachman to the Vane family of Hatton Hall, Cumbria, died when his two sons were only 15 and 9, but they qualified in medicine and the son of one of them was sent to Public School (Epsom) and held his King's Commission in 1918. This brings us back to the Army again. The Kaiser's War sucked over a hundred and fifty Mortlocks - including presumably all the able-bodied ag. labs - into khaki; of whatever origin nearly a dozen were commissioned and Percy George, a subaltern in 26th Royal Fusiliers, and many others, paid with their lives. Others collected a DCM and three Military Medals. In Hitler's war the same thing happened although to smaller numbers. Six spent their war behind the wire, in the bag; one of these went on to become a Lieutenant Colonel in the RAOC. The lists in this study reflect the fact that a complete medal record is only available for the Army and the Royal Air Force, and for the First World War only; naval and Second World War service has had to be picked up piecemeal and is grossly incomplete.

One Mortlock was on the technical side in the infant Royal Air Force and two joined that service during the jet age, one retiring as a Flight Lieutenant and the other as a Group Captain. As to the Senior Service, the star was undoubtedly Commander Lewis M Mortlock, Royal Navy, who gave his life in most gallant circumstances in a fight with the French while in command of HMS *Wolverine* in 1799.

There was another sailor much earlier on - Thomas who served in HMS *St Michael*, a 90-gun ship which had fought at Barfleur in 1692 and had earlier briefly been the Duke of York's flagship at the battle of Sole Bay. He died in 1693 in St Thomas' hospital, where quarters had been reserved by Order in Council in 1664 for the use by the Navy Sick and Hurt Board for injured Royal Navy seamen. His will tells us of his sister Mary, married to Thomas Page, carpenter of Fleet Street, and urges her to recover Prize Money due to him, particularly from some event on 23rd May 1689, shortly after the battle of Bantry Bay. Thomas is clearly above the run of sailors, having property on shore; he shipped in merchantmen as well as serving his King. Given his brother-in-law's status he may have been a ship's carpenter rather than a common seaman. As a contrast, the William who was serving in the Jamaica Guardship HMS *Urgent* as a 45-year-old Leading Seaman - the only Mortlock in the naval section of the 1881 census - was a grandson of Frederick Cheetham Mortlock of the banking family.

Two Mortlocks were commissioned into the Royal Marines during the second World War. One was Richard David Mortlock who had started as a sailor in the RNVR, and later joined the Commandos, presumably because he found two years of Atlantic convoy battles insufficiently stimulating. His brother, like him an old Tonbridgian, a banker in Hong Kong, was interned by

the Japanese in 1942. Their nephew, whose father was a banker in Shanghai, eventually retired as a Commodore, Royal Navy; this line was basically a family of bankers but Richard David's grandfather was a baker - social mobility again. Harry Mortlock, of the New Zealand branch associated with the Cambridgeshire China Mortlocks, served in the Royal Kenyan Navy during the Second World War and participated in the capture of Mogadishu.

Two Mortlocks served at sea with the East India Company. Charles, of Cambridge, was at sea for upwards of thirty years, for thirteen of these in command of Indiamen. James, ex Royal Navy Lieutenant, his senior in age and no immediate relation - indeed his original surname was Lawson although his mother was a Mortlock from Suffolk - was master of a merchantman and on what was probably his only trip for Hon. Company discovered the two sets of Pacific islands named after him. He and his gallant brother Lewis, above, were actually the illegitimate sons of a Scottish nobleman. I have included a separate narrative about this. By 1881 there were a few Mortlock sailors in the coastal trade and this may relate to a small colony establishing itself in Hull. Two Mortlocks lost their lives in wartime activities in the trawler fleet. But by and large pre-WW1 Mortlocks aren't web-footed and they don't fish, with the exception of one family in Hull and another in Grimsby, both of which originate from Suffolk, and a few others - annoyingly the nature of their calling means that they often escape the census-taker. However the names of several Mortlocks who served in the Royal Navy will be found in the 'Military' section of this encyclopaedia, other RN service being noted against name in the charts. A few merchant seamen will be found at various points in the tables, but unfortunately the data for them as presented cannot usually distinguish between the deep-sea sailor and a deckhand on the Isle of Wight ferry.

There were however a handful of other Mortlocks in the Royal Marines, including Thomas of Clare who went to pension as a Colour Sergeant after serving thirteen years afloat of 23 years with the colours and who, aboard HMS *Asia*, was present at the siege of Acre. He was the only Mortlock to qualify for the Naval General Service Medal in the whole of the Napoleonic wars and for twenty-five years thereafter. His son James Tucker followed him into the Royal Corps at the age of 14 but was "Discharged Dead" sixteen years later, still a private, and leaving behind on his official record nothing, beyond his personal description, save that he had once been sentenced to a month Confined to Barracks for being found in the Alhambra public house "contrary to orders". Another sorry blow for Thomas came four years later when Thomas William, probably also Thomas' son, died of yellow fever in naval service. Victorian discipline was exacting and one blot on one's copybook could have serious repercussions. William of Clare was invalided in 1859 after sixteen years of service including eight years afloat in eight different ships, but on conviction for stealing two boots and six shoes in 1856 his then thirteen and a half years' service were struck off the books. And his felony was not forgotten; in 1871, for reasons unknown, details of this transgression were copied to the Deputy Adjutant General. For these and other early Mortlock servicemen I have put the PRO reference to their records against their names in the accompanying charts.

The story of the gallant Lewis may be read in full in the *Mariner's Mirror* for May 1998. Our naval hero was descended from the Mortlocks of Denham, Suffolk, where this unusual Christian name was in use across at least five generations, from a Lewis (or Lewes) who married there in 1617, to a Lewis born there in 1734; there are nine of them in IGI altogether; the earliest served as bailiff of Clare in 1601 and was probably born about 1540. The Lewis, ag. lab., of Weeley, Essex, born in 1770 may also be related together with others of his name and station from St Osyth and nearby. However I have not been able to identify the Commander Mortlock, who, in 1755 according to one of my most valued informants, Peter Mortlock Batchelor, "while on leave

from his ship was charged with putting a simple village girl in the family way and had to pay 1s.6d plus a shilling a week for her to live in the poor house". All I can say is that he's not in the Navy List.

Some go up, but some go down. Dotted about are sad entries - "Workhouse Infirmary", "Asylum", "inmate" and in one woeful case a girl forced into the oldest calling of all, caught in hospital by the census taker. Spare a prayer for those who didn't make it in the harsh society of Victorian England. Bleak evidence of this is the, to our minds appalling, infant mortality. Reading the parish records is salutary. Some contain runs of entries for deaths from scarlet fever or cholera. It is reasonable to suggest that all Mortlock children born between 1867 and 1880 inclusive who are not traceable in the 1881 census have perished - and there is a very large number of them. However for several there is no direct evidence of this in the published General Register Office record (which does however contain death records for several infants for whom no birth record has been posted - perhaps an intimation that their short life was over before the birth could be registered). Before that, the women may have married but axiomatically any male for whom there is a Registrar-General's birth record, who is not in the 1881 census, may by that time be presumed to have died unless exceptionally he was out of the country *OR* the record never got as far as the Mormons who compiled their most useful analysis. Confusingly, however, I have noticed several (mostly female) birth records from before 1881, with appropriate marriage entries after that date, which I cannot match to the census of that year. Many of the families identified from earlier times seem to have died out, at least in the male line. Many of the youngsters in 1881 list humble occupations but today's 14-year-old van-boy may be tomorrow's tycoon. Early in the century some were transported. The 1851 census record for one Essex village closes with 'persons not in houses' - two labouring men in late middle age sharing a 'shed' and four families, with tiny children, living in tents. These have come into the parish from all over East Anglia. Mercifully none of them are Mortlocks.

A cause of a false start can often be seen to be illegitimacy. The Mortlocks of the past are no different from the people of the present in this respect, particularly when the sukebind is in bloom - it flowers as well in Suffolk as in Stella Gibbons' Sussex. The Poor Laws often record the result, and if they do not, then many parsons have made sure that sin is not forgotten, writing *base* or *baseborn* with triumphant rectitude, or sometimes with such fury that such sin should erupt in their parish that they seem to have crossed their nib and almost gone through the paper in their anger². It will be seen how often the 'base born' offspring fails to thrive; one might assume that this is showing us how a disowned and disgraced mother might be turned out with no support and probably no money, and the child paid with its tiny life, and all too frequently the mother also.

In spite of earlier evidence of land-holding, by the nineteenth century many of the Mortlock septs - particularly, say, in Chevington, Hundon, Peldon, or Shimpling - were bumping along the bottom of the social scale as agricultural labourers. For many their plight was dire indeed. William Cobbett, touring through East Anglia in 1830 reported that the labourers were, everywhere, miserable. Many had to move about to find work, although if unsuccessful they would be smartly led back to where they came from. A worked example can be seen in James of Shimpling. He marries and settles in Hartest, where he and his Arney have three children; but this

²for a deeper look at the condition of the agricultural and industrial labourer, besides the obvious history books, the reader may like to seek out

(1) *The Village Labourer*, JL & Barbara Hammond, Guild Books 1948 (first published 1911)

(2) *A History of Savings Banks*, Oliver Horne, OUP 1947

doesn't do; and he has to move to Stanstead where seven more follow. Somehow, on his wage of twelve shillings a week and maybe contributions from his older children, and betimes his wife, she and he raise at least eight of these to maturity. It would be a wonder if his family ever tasted the meat of the animals he helped to raise. Had he landed on the parish he would have had to make do with less subsistence than was expended on felons in jail. Small wonder, then, that some Mortlocks took ship for other worlds.

Some Mortlocks also, driven by the Industrial Revolution and either desperation or opportunity, and facilitated by the spread of railways, begin to radiate from their East Anglian roots, and to found families elsewhere in England, typically but not exclusively in the Home Counties. Following the changes to the Poor Law in the 1830s 'migration agents' appeared in East Anglia offering guaranteed jobs in the burgeoning industrial cities further north, and transport via London and the Grand Union canal. This enabled some to avoid the dreaded new workhouses, but too often it was a case of out of the frying pan .. Children under 12 might have to be left behind, as employers had no use for them once the new Factory Act prevented them working longer than 48 hours a week. In this connection we should also note that in the decade before the 1881 census there was an eventually (for them) disastrous strike by Suffolk agricultural labourers, at the end of which hundreds either migrated within the UK or emigrated altogether. Matters were worsened in the countryside by the three successive wet summers of 1877-9, which coincided with the first major imports of prairie-grown transatlantic grain. However only one Mortlock seems to have gone directly into the new industrial life; James of Wickhambrook, Suffolk, became an ironworker in Yorkshire. Force majeure; Shimpling in particular seems to have had to shed Mortlocks.

One thing the tables show is how unevenly distributed is biological success. A large proportion of all the 1881 Mortlocks trace back to rather a small number of male progenitors. Other families can be seen to have died out completely in the male line. The banking family has only two legitimate descendants (father and son) in the male line, although on the wrong side of the blanket it gave rise to all the Mortlocks in Jamaica.

A word on religion may not be out of place. With the exception of the Frederick of Lawshall who converted, and some members of his family; and a family from London that migrated to Sunbury on Thames who seem to have given their sons rather RC Christian names and who ended up in Vancouver; there seem to be almost no Roman Catholic Mortlocks before 1901; one, possibly two, married in an RC church in 1901 itself. However several lines, in Hundon, Clare, Swavesey, Meldreth and Colchester for instance, appear to have been or become non-conformist. Otherwise the Mortlocks are overwhelmingly Anglican.

Now let us look at the charts. As above, they open with the banking Mortlocks, then restart in Essex, proceed to Suffolk (the most Mortlock-populous county), and on to Norfolk; then via London around the rest of the Kingdom, with limited coverage of Mortlocks elsewhere in the world. For those who pick up the different sections piecemeal from the internet, let the page numbering be your guide.

Except for the genealogically separate Pampisford banking family, Cambridgeshire records have been interpolated into the Suffolk tables in logical sequence to those Suffolk Mortlock families with which they are connected. This brings in the family of William the chapel clerk whose Cherry Hinton family came from Hundon; the China Mortlocks, who seem to come from Brandon; and Lewis Mortlock, who moved to Kirtling in Cambridgeshire in the eighteenth

century from Denham. Annoyingly I have been unable to place the Elizabeth Mortlock being had up for being a witch in 1566, said to “heale children with unlawful means”. She was at pains to point out that she was only exploiting the power of Christian prayer, which seems to have saved her from a rather warm finish. She is referenced via an Ely Diocesan record and these records (which include all Ely marriage licences), instead of being lodged in a publicly accessible manner in Cambridgeshire CRO, are kept in the Cambridge university library.

Essex has some of the earliest Mortlock connections, with Robert, as below, appointed to an office in Colchester in the reign of Philip and Mary. By the time Bloody Mary appointed Robert to the life wardenship of the hospital in Colchester Mortlocks were flourishing in Birdbrook. The early records for Birdbrook are connected to those for Haverhill, which sits astride the border of that county and Suffolk. There are eight wills in Haverhill between 1560 and 1634 which is so near Birdbrook that a marriage there in 1565 and a death in 1600 may well relate to the same, or a closely linked, branch of the family. Seventeenth century records are dotted about Essex with some from the north bank of the Thames. These last seem to have left no lasting male lines but perhaps they have been swallowed up, untraceably, in an expanding London.

Records in Suffolk go back to the 1524 Lay Subsidy rolls of which a printed version can be seen in the PRO (six Mortlocks) and similarly “Able Men of Suffolk” (1638) (five Mortlocks) and the 1674 Hearth Tax (nine). In all these cases only financially or militarily significant males are featured. The tax man doesn’t bother with people in the poor house and the Lord Lieutenant doesn’t want the halt or the senile.

Norfolk seems to kick off much later. The apprenticeship of William of Mildenhall to a tailor in Mundford, Norfolk in 1748 or so is probably the start of the largest group of Norfolk Mortlocks although there are hints of others pre-dating him. In that county, only Mundford, Hilgay, Hingham and Attleburgh host historic Mortlock colonies of any size or continuity, and the Hingham ones all seem to chain back to Attleburgh. The Lincolnshire families trace back to London, Suffolk via Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk.

The main group of Hertfordshire Mortlocks trace back to Suffolk via Cambridgeshire, but there is also a possible link to Lincolnshire.

This classification by county is in a sense arbitrary because so many Mortlocks lived on a rough arc around the Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex borders of Suffolk, and in many of those towns such as Brandon, Newmarket and Haverhill where the county boundary actually passes through a settlement. I have commented on this in specific instances in order to put readers on their guard. London is also an arbitrary case in the sense that some types of record comprise the whole of Greater London whereas others use “London” as just a substitute for Middlesex. In a contrary sense many of the census records for Essex, Surrey and Kent are for places we should think of as part of London. Engage brain before swallowing the data whole.

Eventually the wheel turned full circle for some. Robert Mortlock was married near Southwold in 1540. Four hundred years later there were three Mortlock brothers living in Southwold, one the bottling manager of Adnams’ brewery, another an electrician who served several terms as Mayor. But they regarded themselves as Londoners!

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I must also acknowledge the ever-helpful staff and vital facilities at the County Records Offices at Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Chichester, Colchester, Hertford, Huntingdon, Ipswich, Lewes, Maidstone, Norwich, Portsmouth, Saffron Walden, Winchester and Woking. The same goes for the Family Records Centre, both in its second location and in its previous incarnation at Chancery Lane, the Guildhall Library, the London Metropolitan Archive in succession to the Greater London Records Office, the City of Westminster Archive, the Oriental and India Studies section of the British Library and its predecessor the India and Oriental Studies Library in Blackfriars Road, the library and its volunteer helpers at the Society of

Genealogists, and the Public Record Office itself at Chancery Lane and later, now, as The National Archives, at Kew; and for the local studies and genealogical sections of public libraries in Brighton, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Chichester, Saffron Walden, Portsmouth and Worthing. Portsmouth deserves a special mention, not just for its excellent collection of basic resources, but also for the eclectic cornucopia of genealogical bric-a-brac which lines its shelves, which was a frequent source of serendipitous revelation. I am grateful also to the many selfless compilers of transcripts, indexes and abstracts, some as far back as the gentleman who recorded the monumental inscriptions in West Suffolk churchyards in 1831, and many organised by all those Family History groups who beaver away across the country bringing their local records to light in an organised and digestible fashion. I should mention the Riverside Parishes series covering certain parishes (broadly) along the Thames. Every index I could find, such as Boyds, Pallot's and other marriage and baptism indexes and the National Burial Index have been combed through. No disrespect is meant to the many who are not acknowledged by name if I record my gratitude to AJ Camp for his will indexes and to, for instance in Essex, Jack H Baxter and his team who transcribed Essex marriages and burials in extenso, and FG Emmison for his many works on Essex wills and other documents. I am also indebted to the many people who have produced monographs on individual villages; they do not always mention Mortlocks but they always provide a valuable background to understanding. The starting point for the whole exercise was of course IGI and one would be remiss if one did not acknowledge the work of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, and their many contributors, for this seminal work and for their 1881 census analysis which (as above) was the original baseline for identifying many of the family links which follow, and latterly for their Vital Records database and their transcription of the 1880/1 US and Canadian censuses. On all these shoulders did I stand to peer back across the centuries. The LDS has now raised its game with a search facility that can identify all its records world wide and this has yielded a number of parish records not available to, say, Ancestry.

I ought also to thank the project itself, which took on a life of its own and led me deeper into East Anglia, an area in which I had previously lived at times during my childhood but had not understood or known nearly so well as I do now. Following up this or that trail, besides teaching me a lot of geography, led me to villages and backwaters which are still a delight to the eye and balm to the soul; many still contain features and buildings which will have been familiar to the Mortlocks of centuries past.

Prosecution of the study also required intensive revision of the history of our island so as to understand the events that shaped the lives of the Mortlocks; for instance the combination of the abrupt collapse of the war economy that followed the defeat of Napoleon, and the bad harvests that aggravated the ensuing problems in the countryside, caused by volcanic pollution emanating on the other side of the world. Indeed it has been salutary to see how the swirl of major world events impacted the lives of individuals even at the most humble level. Enclosure Acts, the Corn Laws, the Poor Laws, all filtered down from the Westminster Olympus to the Mortlocks in the fields. So did the march of technology; most obviously in the shape of mechanisation on the farm itself; but also, as rail communication united the economy, the subsistence crop of wheat gave way, in dry Suffolk, to barley for malting and then brewing, and in came sugar beet, on the back of increased prices for cane sugar as cash wages replaced slavery far away.

Bona fide Mortlock connections are welcome to contact me with their questions (s.a.e. please, if using snail-mail!). I have no objection to people copying my material on a not-for profit basis for circulation among their own kin (except that if you freeze a copy you won't pick up on later amendments and additions). Enjoy.

Annotations and abbreviations used throughout the tables:

PCC or post-1857 or other will
\$ Sudbury will
% Essex will (Chelmsford or Middlesex Archdeaconry)
' mentioned in will or probate record
* plaque/slab/gravestone/monumental inscription
+ buried (date of death if available)
= married
1,2,3,4Q first etc (March, June, September, December) quarter of the year
+(-)~.pp go forward (back) so many pages
botp both of this parish
ch. children
d.inf died in infancy
LG London Gazette
(NBI) National Burial Index
o.s. other spouse
-s.-d sons and daughters
TNA The National Archives
(PRO, Public Record Office as was, for some entries)
unm unmarried
=> Grantee of probate
< before a death indicates a burial or cremation.
The death is likely to be within a week of the date given.
Before a birth it indicates a baptism.

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