

Susanna Hollomby Head (née Carter)

(18 November 1860 – 28 March 1909)

Her Parents, Grandparents, and their Families

Susanna Hollomby Head (née Carter)

Susanna was one of my great grandmothers. She married Charles **HEAD** at the church of Sts Peter and Paul, West Mersea, Essex on 14 April 1881.

Censuses: Regular censuses have taken place every ten years in the United Kingdom since 1801. The first four censuses (1801-1831) were mainly headcounts with no personal information. The 1841 census was the first to intentionally record names in households, and ages were supposed to be rounded down to multiples of five years but this was haphazard. Ages on any census may not be accurate. Also for the 1841 census and other censuses children having attained the age of 14 years, daughters in particular, may not be with their parents because they are in domestic service in other households.

Names: a person may have been given a first and middle name and called by either on subsequent censuses.

Spelling: there are various spellings on different documents for first and family names, but for consistency I have opted for particular spellings, for example, "Susanna" and "Hollomby" (for my great grandmother) and "Susannah" for Susanna's grandmother and aunt.

Villages: Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, and West Mersea

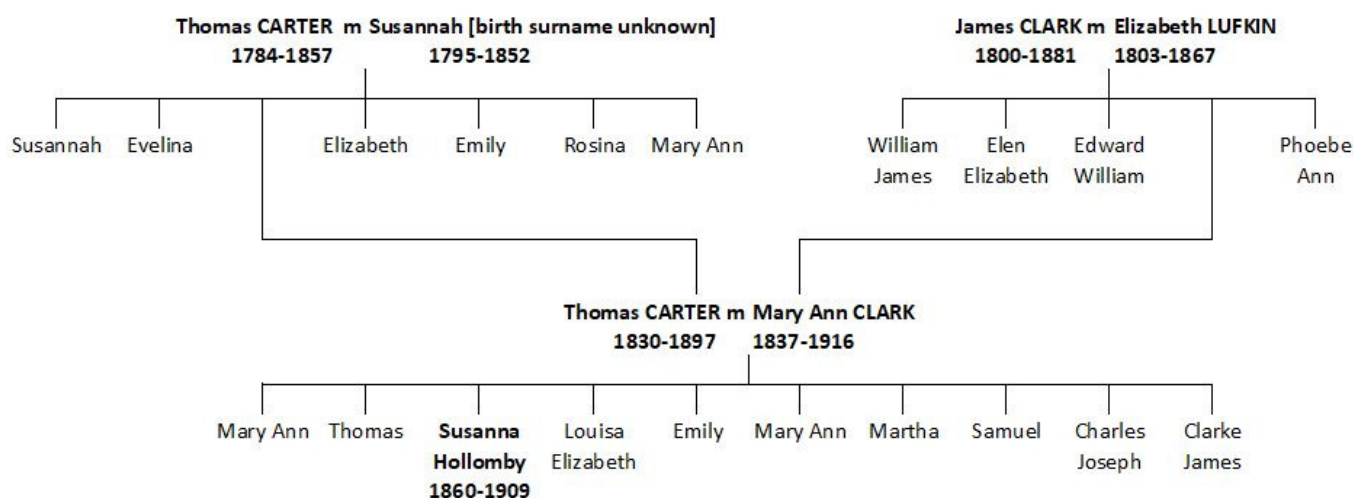
These three villages are to the south of Colchester. Tollesbury is a village in Essex at the mouth of the River Blackwater. For centuries the village relied upon agriculture and fishing. Tolleshunt D'Arcy is a village west of Tollesbury. West Mersea is part of Mersea Island and also relied on fishing. The coastal area near these villages is famous for its oysters.



Susanna Hollomby Carter

FAMILY OF SUSANNA HOLLOMBY CARTER

Dates are not confirmed in every case



Susanna was born in West Mersea, Essex, on 18 November 1860. Her parents were Thomas **CARTER** and Mary Ann née **CLARK**. Susanna's birth certificate records her father's occupation as an oyster dredger.

1855 Marriage of Thomas Carter and Mary Ann Clark

Thomas and Mary Ann married on 16 November 1855 in the church of St Mary the Virgin, Tollesbury, Essex. Thomas signed with a cross as did Edward Clark, one of the witnesses (indicating that they were illiterate). Mary Ann and witness Rosina Carter signed their names.

Thomas and Mary Ann's Family

The 1911 census records that Mary Ann had eleven children but I can trace only 10, four sons and six daughters. The census also records that four of Mary Ann's children had predeceased her - one of these would have been Susanna who died in 1909. At least one child, the first Mary Ann, died as an infant and was not on any of the censuses.

The (ten) children, as traced, were:

- * Mary Ann, born c1856, baptised 23 December 1856, buried 1 January 1857
- * Thomas, born c1858, baptised 26 December 1858
- * Susanna Hollomby, born 18 November 1860
- * Louisa Elizabeth, born c1863, baptised 5 February 1863
- * Emily, born c1865
- * Mary Ann, born c1867
- * Martha, born c1870
- * Samuel, born c1872
- * Charles Joseph, born c1876
- * Clarke James, born c1878

(So far I have traced only three baptisms.)

1861 Census

Thomas Carter, aged 30, and his wife Mary Ann, aged 24, are visitors at Mary Ann's parents at *Dear Lovis* in *Tollesbury*. (I presume that *Dear Lovis* is the name of the house.)

The Carters' children, Thomas and Susanna, are with them too, Thomas aged 2 years and Susanna aged 4 months (*not 11 months as on the census?*).

1871 Census

On the Coast, West Mersea. (It appears that "On the Coast" describes the location.) This census records that parents Thomas, aged 39, and Mary Ann, aged 34, had six children: Thomas, aged 12; Susanna, aged 10; Louisa, aged 8; Emily, aged 6; Mary Ann, aged 4; and Martha, aged 1.

1881 Census

West Mersea. By the time of the 1881 census Susanna and three other daughters are no longer with their parents and three younger sons have appeared. The parents Thomas, aged 49, recorded as a mariner, and Mary A, aged 45, have five children at home: Thomas, aged 22, a gardener, Martha J, aged 11, Samuel, aged 9, Charles J, aged 5, and Clark J, aged 3. Susanna, aged 20, is a general servant at *Stone House, West Mersea*, with a married couple both aged in their 70s. Louisa, aged 19, and Mary Ann, aged 14, are domestic servants, cook and nursemaid respectively, at the home of John and Mary Thomas at *6 Cuthbert Terrace, Minster-in-Thamet, Kent.*

1891 Census

Thomas, age 59, is a Watchman on the vessel "*Willie*" in Thorn Creek (otherwise called Thorn Fleet or Virley Channel or Deeps), West Mersea. Meanwhile, Mary Ann is at home at *The Square* with her four sons: Thomas, aged 32; Samuel, aged 19; Charles Joseph, aged 15; and Clarke James, aged 13. Thomas junior is still a gardener, Samuel is a mariner, and Charles and Clarke are both apprentice mariners.

1897 Thomas Carter's Death

Thomas CARTER, died on 29 Sep 1897, aged 65, registration informed by his son, Samuel Carter.

1901 Census

Barnfield, West Mersea. Mary Ann, widow, aged 63, is living with her son Thomas, aged 41, a gardener. (Mary Ann's son, Samuel Carter, and his wife are in a neighbouring property.)

1911 Census

1 Emerald Terrace, West Mersea (Emerald Terrace consists of three houses, now part of the High Street). Mary Ann, aged 73, recorded as a widow, and Thomas, aged 52, is a gardener.

1916 Mary Ann Carter's Death

Mary Ann CARTER died on 15 January 1916, registration informed by C J Carter, son, which would have been either Charles Joseph or Clarke James.

Susanna's Maternal Grandparents and their Family

Susanna's mother, Mary Ann, was born c1837/38. Her father was James Clark and her mother Elizabeth née **LUFKIN**. James, Elizabeth, and Mary Ann and her siblings were all born in Tollesbury, Essex.

1828 James and Elizabeth's Marriage

James Clark and Elizabeth Lufkin married on 5 April 1828 at St Mary the Virgin church, Tollesbury.

The Clark children, as traced, were:

- * William James, baptised 19 July 1829, Tollesbury
 - * Ellen Elizabeth, baptised 13 April 1835, Tollesbury
 - * Edward, baptised 13 April 1835, Tollesbury
 - * Mary Ann, baptised 4 March 1838, Tollesbury
 - * Phoebe Ann, baptised 25 July 1841, Tollesbury
- (So far I have traced only three baptisms.)

1841 Census

Tollesbury. James Clark, age 40, an agricultural labourer, and Elisabeth, age 38, have four children: James, aged 12; Elisabeth and Edward both aged 10; and Mary Ann aged 3. (Were Edward and Elisabeth twins?)

1851 Census

Tollleshunt D'Arcy Road, Tollesbury. The 1851 census is more detailed than the 1841 census. James, aged 55, is now an agricultural machine and drill man, as are his two sons, and farms five acres of land. James's wife, Elizabeth, is aged 48. Their children are: James William, aged 21; Edward William, aged 20; Elen Elizabeth aged 20, a dress maker and milliner; Mary Ann aged 13; and Phoebe aged 9.

1861 Census

Dear Lovis, The Street, Tollesbury. James, aged 64, is recorded as a landowner of four acres, and his wife Elizabeth is aged 58. Thomas Carter, aged 30, his wife Mary Ann, aged 24, and their two children (as above) are visitors. Phoebe, aged 20, now married to John Beacham, aged 23, are shown as lodgers. John is a blacksmith and was born in Polstead about 9 miles north of Colchester.

1867 Elizabeth Clark's Death

This still needs verifying with a death certificate but I believe that Elizabeth, James's wife, died on 13 December 1867.

1871 Census

Private House. James is now stated as aged 72 and is a widower. He is recorded as a drill man with 5 acres of land. The others in the household are John Beacham, blacksmith, aged 35, and Phoebe his wife, aged 31, and their children: Sarah, John, Emily, Emma, and William with ages from 9 years to 2 years.

1881 Census

Blacksmith Shop, Tollesbury. John Beecham, aged 44, is now head of the household. Other members are his wife, Phoebe, aged 40, and children: John, aged 18; Emma, aged 14; William, aged 12; Harry, aged 9; and Robert, aged 5. James Clark(e), father-in-law, aged 82, farmer of 10 acres is added.

1881 Death of James Clark

James Clark died on 23 July 1881, aged 82, drill man, registration informed by William James Clark, of Tollleshunt D'Arcy, son, who signed with his mark.

Susanna's Paternal Grandparents and their Family

Susanna Hollomby Carter's paternal grandparents, Thomas and Susannah, had seven children:

- * Susannah
 - * Evelina
 - * Thomas, born 8 November 1831, baptised 5 May 1833
 - * Elizabeth, baptised 5 May 1833, West Mersea
 - * Emily, baptised 31 July 1836, West Mersea
 - * Rosina, baptised 22 March 1840, West Mersea
 - * Mary Ann, baptised 20 November 1844, West Mersea
- (So far I have traced only five baptisms.)*

1841 Census

Parish of West Mersea. Susanna's father, Thomas, was aged 10 on the 1841 census. Her father's father was another Thomas, reported as aged 55 on the same census. Susanna's grandmother was another Susannah, aged 40. Thomas senior's occupation was recorded as "Navy" (although probably a coast guard). Six children are recorded: Susannah and Evelina, both aged 15; Thomas, aged 10; Elizabeth, aged 7; Emily, aged 5; and Rosina, aged 1.

1851 Census

West Mersea. Susanna's grandparents are shown as age 67 for Thomas and 56 for Susannah. Their son, Thomas, is now aged 19 and a fisherman. Elizabeth and Emily, aged 18 and 14, are seamstresses. Rosina and a seventh child, Mary Ann, are aged 11 and 9 respectively and at school. The children, with the exceptions of Susannah and Evelina (below) were born in West Mersea. Susannah (junior), aged 28, is now married, the wife of a seaman, surname Dudley, with two sons, William and George; they are in the same household as Thomas and Susannah (senior), and Susannah (junior) is recorded as being born in the county of Wexford, Ireland. Evelina is also married, to James Pullen, and records her place of birth as Kilmore, Ireland. Thomas senior is recorded as a superannuated coast guard and was born in Harwich. Susannah senior was born in Monk Soham, Suffolk.

1852/3 Susannah Carter's Death & 1857/8 Thomas Carter's Death

Subject to further evidence that the deaths were of the correct people, Susannah was buried on 5 January 1853 at the church of Sts Peter and Paul, West Mersea, and Thomas was buried on 3 January 1858 at the same church.

1861 Census

Rosina Carter, aged 22, is recorded as a servant for the Hudson family in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Evelina Pullen had died in 1854; two daughters are recorded on the 1861 census: Susanna, aged 10, and Evelina aged 7.