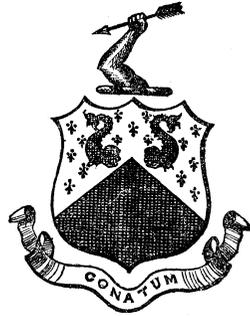


THE ATTFIELD CREST AND COAT OF ARMS



*Mad 'Atters Tea Party
Albury, 24 May 2012*

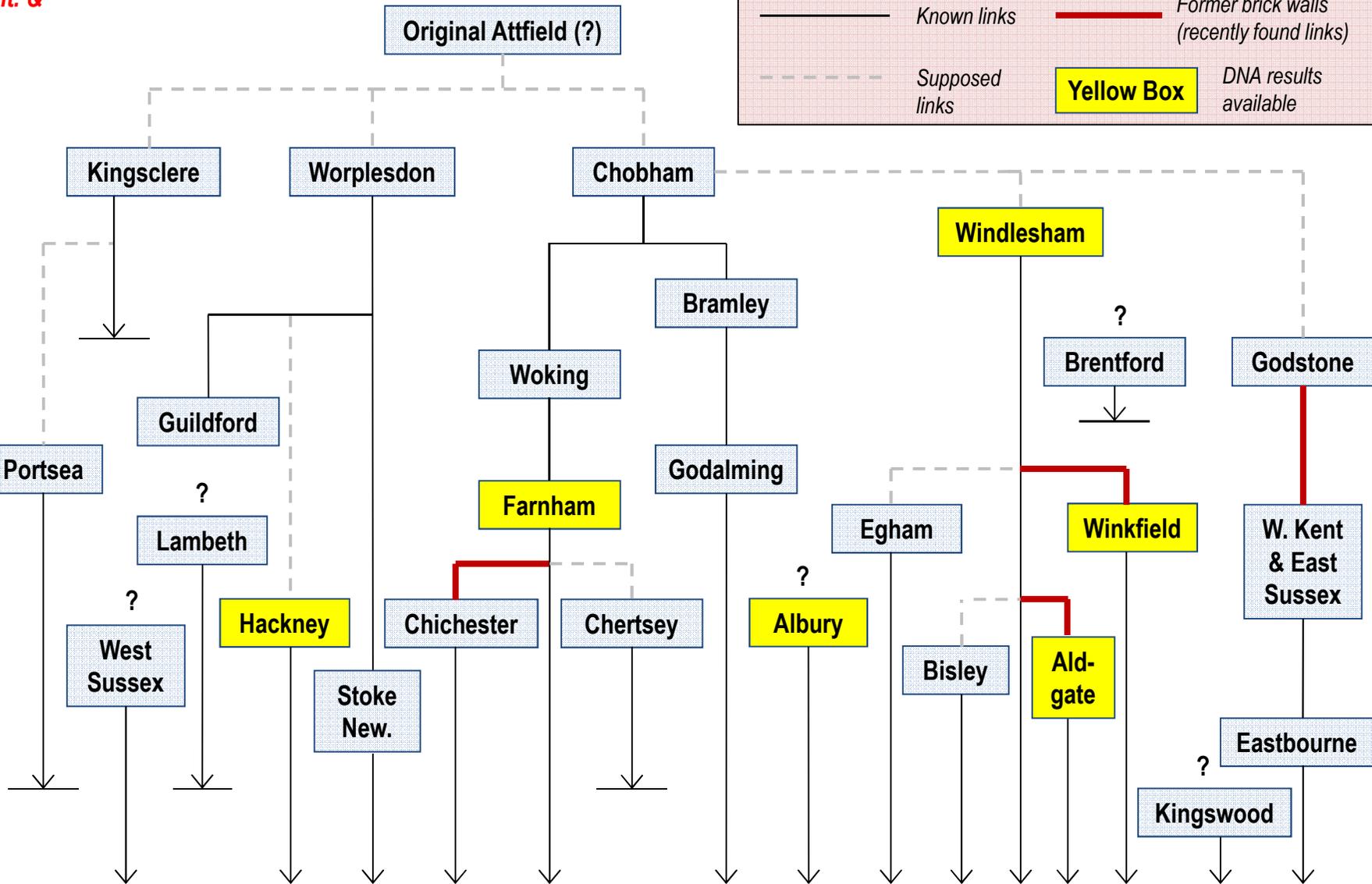
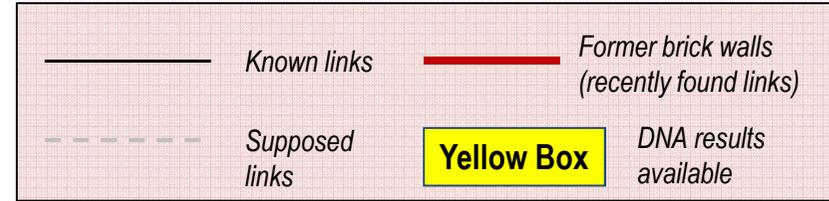


Introduction

- The names Atfield & Attfield are heavily concentrated in West Surrey
- The further back we go in time, the more localised the names become, i.e. more focused on fewer locations...
- ...and the more we research, the more the lines connect!
- This data is mainly based on listing all Attfields in the 1901 census and tracing their ancestry back as far as possible
- **The remarkable conclusion:**
 - **All Attfields living in 1901 trace back to no more than 30 original families in just a handful of towns – almost all in West Surrey**
- Each of these 30 families represents a brick wall...
- ***...if there were no brick walls, maybe there would only be one original family. Who knows...???***

A Possible Attfield Family Tree...!

15th Cent. & earlier



The Main Attfield Lineages

The Main Chobham / Farnham Line

Earliest known ancestor: Nicholas Attfield (living around 1600, probably in Chobham)

- Line traced back by 11-12 generations from living Attfields to this Nicholas (thanks to Roger White & Merion Burt). No major brick walls here...!
- **Generations:**
 1. *Nicholas died after 1623, known from various wills*
 2. *“Hedge” Field or Attfield, victualler, died at Woking in 1667*
 3. *Nathaniel, yeoman of Woking & Chobham, 1647-1733*
 4. *Nathaniel, yeoman of Woking, 1674-1758 – moved to Farnham c.1700*
 5. *Nathaniel had 10 children in Farnham, at least 6 of whom also had children, including Nathaniel (Chertsey, 1698-1733), George (Aldershot, 1713-1791) & Richard (Farnham, 1718-1793)*
- This single family almost certainly accounts for nearly all later generations of Attfields in Farnham
- Earlier origins seem to be in Chobham, where the modern “Attfield” name may have first emerged
- Many 16th century references to Attfields in Chobham: in the Chobham Park work report of 1545, Queen’s Lottery of 1567, Lay Subsidy list of 1571, etc. 16th century Chobham Attfields left more than a dozen wills
- The generations before Nicholas can be surmised by not proved for certain

The Attfields of Windlesham

Earliest ancestor: John Attfield, living in the 1550s (but no unbroken lineage)

- Windlesham's Attfield associations go back to the mid 16th century. Earliest records are in 1558 and 1559 when a John Attfield witnessed three wills
- The Attfields were evidently an important yeoman family. In 1561 John Attfield acquired a moiety in the manor of Freemantle. In 1588 John Attfield, yeoman, presented a rector to the church as patron, and in the Lay Subsidy return of 1593-4 he was the highest valued taxpayer
- According to an indenture of 1674, John Atfeild, yeoman, had "*lately erected a faire new messuage called Hall Grove House*" in Bagshot. Hall Grove later came into the possession of Charles Rackett, half-brother of the poet Alexander Pope.
- Another 17th century representative was William Attfield of Hatton Hill, Windlesham. The Hatton Hill House property remained in the family's possession for several generations
- The earlier origins of the family are not known for certain but presumably related to the Attfield families of neighbouring Chobham

Later Attfield families with lineages into the 20th century:

- Henry (1722-1793): Descendants moved to Barnet, Bath, Lewisham and elsewhere
- William (c.1730-1780): Children incl. John (1757-1838, married Elizabeth Chitty), Richard (1767-1849, married Sarah Honer) & Henry (1776-1841, married Ann Field) farmed in Windlesham and had large families
- William (1799-1874): Migrated to Worcestershire and had numerous descendants, some "Attfield" and some "Hatfield"

Worplesdon (The “Attfield alias Ripley” Line)

Earliest known ancestor: Henry Ripley alias Attfield of Burpham Court, lived around 1600

- Henry died 1614 and left a will. Probably born around 1550. Wife Elizabeth, brother Thomas, children Henry, John, Thomas, Agnes, Mary
- About 10 generations separate Henry from descendants alive in 1901, e.g. Edwin Inkerman Attfield (1855-1909) who emigrated to the USA and worked as a copper miner
- The family stayed in Worplesdon for centuries, but later generations moved to Guildford and elsewhere
- How the name “Attfield alias Ripley” came about is a complete mystery. All we know is that it was extremely early and extremely long-lived (still in use in 19th century!)
- The earliest reference to the name is a marriage between Henry “Attfield alias Ripley” and Gillian Payne in 1571. This Henry died in 1578. Guildford Borough Records contain an even earlier mention of a “Henry Ripley alias Fylde” in 1546
- The 16th century individuals cannot all be connected up with certainty, but must have been from one family – parents, children, siblings and cousins
- We know quite a lot about the original Henry because he and his brother Thomas (d.1626) left wills. It was evidently a substantial yeoman family, so maybe there is more documentary evidence to discover
- Is this family connected with the Attfields of Chobham & Windlesham? There is no evidence of communication between them. Perhaps DNA may come to our aid...???

**Brick Walls:
17th Century & Earlier**

17th century and earlier brick walls:

Kingsclere, Hampshire

Earliest ancestor: John Attfield or Atfylde

- **What is known:** The main Kingsclere line starts with John Atfylde, buried at Kingsclere in 1568, and his wife Elizabeth who survived until 1601
- Earlier burials: Thomas (1541), John (1546), Thomas (1549). These are among the earliest Attfield references anywhere
- It was a wealthy family with substantial property in Kingsclere. Descendants include 17th century celebrities: Dr. Ambrose Atfield (Prebendary of St Pauls) & his brother Dr. John Atfield (Fellow of the College of Physicians)
- The family left numerous 16th & 17th century wills
- **Descendants in 1901:** Later generations lived in Basingstoke, Newbury, etc.
- The family vanishes completely after the late 17th century and cannot be traced further
- **The brick wall:**
 - The Attfields of Kingsclere are well documented. But where did they come from?
 - The fact that there only appears to have been one family at Kingsclere implies that an Attfield originally moved there from elsewhere. But where? Chobham? Worplesdon?
 - And where did they go? There are numerous male descendants in the period 1650-1700 but they completely disappear. Did they change their name?

17th century and earlier brick walls: **Bramley / Godalming**

Earliest ancestor: Christopher Field or Attfield

- **What is known:** Wheelwright of Bramley, married Ann Stevens at Wonersh in 1628, died 1650
- Succeeded by several generations of Christopher & Thomas, originally also wheelwrights. Main line of descent moved to Godalming c.1700
- Unconnected 19th century lines starting with George (b.1804, son of Ann, married Elizabeth Lucas in 1835) & Lucina (b.1803, daughter of Hannah) probably linked to main Godalming line. Ann and Hannah could be the same person
- **Descendants in 1901:** Several 6th or 7th generation descendants of the original Christopher were alive in 1901, and there are probably some male descendants alive today
- George Attfield & Elizabeth Lucas also have numerous descendants
- **The brick walls:**
 - Brick Wall 1) Where did Christopher come from?
 - Will of William Steavens of Wonersh, 20.3.1678/79 mentions “*My cousins Christopher Field of Bramley and William Atfeild of Chobham*” – evidence that Christopher’s family originated in Chobham. One candidate is son Christopher mentioned in will of Henry Atfeild of Heathside, Chobham, 9 Jun 1640 (but there is no proof!)
 - Brick Wall 2) Who was/were Ann & Hannah? Are they the same person?
 - A remote possibility is Ann, daughter of Christopher Attfield & Hannah (Tickner), baptised at Stoke d’Abernon in 1756. But again no proof. DNA won’t help here, of course!

17th century brick walls:

Godstone / Kent / East Sussex

Earliest ancestor: Edward Atfield of Godstone

- **What is known:** Mark Hatfield (1797-c.1838), born at Leigh, near Tonbridge, married Jane Neller in 1819. Their daughter Ann had illegitimate son “Edward Edwards Hatfield” in 1842. When he married in 1863 he had become “Edward Attfield”
- Mark’s other descendants kept the name “Hatfield”
- Astonishingly, Mark’s line traces back – through 3 further generations of Hatfields – to Edward Atfield who married Elizabeth Potter at Godstone, Surrey, on 15 Jun 1697
- Alfred John Atfield (1868-1949), professional cricketer born at Ightham in Kent, is related to this line; James Attfield (c.1798-1848), police officer at Fletching, Sussex, may also be
- **Descendants in 1901:** Edward Attfield lived at Worthing & Eastbourne and had at least 15 children. The clan is still flourishing today
- James of Fletching has several children but no later male descendants
- **The brick wall:**
 - It was surprising to discover that this Kent/Sussex line, which mainly used the name “Hatfield”, originated in Surrey and was originally “Atfield”
 - Mystery: Why did some revert to “At(t)field” a century later? Did they know...?
 - Where did the original Edward Atfield come from? Did he move to Godstone from West Surrey?
 - DNA is urgently needed in order to shed light

17th century and earlier brick walls: **Southwark/Lambeth**

Earliest ancestors: John & James Atfield, gardeners

- **What is known:** In 1696, John & James Atfield of Southwark – presumably brothers – were members of the Gardeners Company (Association Oath Rolls)
- James was married by 1686, and John married Priscilla Richards on 15 Jan 1681/82. Their descendants – James (1694-1753), James (1727-1751) and John (1756-1791) – were mostly also gardeners in Southwark or Lambeth
- They always spelled their name “Atfield”, never “Attfield”
- **Descendants in 1901:** John Atfield who died in 1791 had several children who survived into the 1850s and beyond
- But no descendants still living in 1901 as far as known
- **The brick wall:**
 - John & James were presumably born around 1660 or so
 - Where did they come from? Did they migrate from West Surrey? Or did they change their name from “Hatfield”?
 - Various John & James At(t)fields in Surrey who would fit, e.g. James (bapt 1656) & John (bapt 1658) sons of James Attfield of Send mentioned in his will dated 1680. But more evidence would be needed for positive identification
 - *Incidentally, another of James’s sons – William – married a woman from Albury*

17th century and earlier brick walls:

Brentford

Earliest ancestors: John & James Atfield, clockmakers

- **What is known:** James Atfield of Old Brentford, clockmaker, married Jane Adams at St Martin Vintry on 19 Nov 1691, and died in 1736
- Mentioned in various sources incl. Brian Loomes, *"Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World"*
- Son John, baptised at Old Brentford on 15 May 1693, was also a clockmaker
- John Atfield owned the Isleworth Brewery (later Watneys)
- Both spellings used: "Atfield" & "Attfield"
- **Descendants in 1901:** None – no later descendants at all, as far as one can tell
- **The brick wall:**
 - This family is intriguing because they must have been well known as clockmakers, as well as owning a brewery!
 - Documented in various sources including the Ealing Court Rolls (at LMA)
 - But no idea where James Atfield came from, or when he was born
 - Presumably related to Surrey Attfields, but hard to find suitable candidates
 - How did he become a clockmaker? Is there an apprenticeship record somewhere...?

Brick Walls: 18th Century

18th century brick walls:

Albury

Earliest ancestor: James Attfield (or Atfield or Adfield)

- **What is known:** James was born c.1755, married Ann Harris at Albury in 1776, buried at Albury in 1813
- “Of Bookham” in marriage register
- James & Ann had many children born between 1779 and 1799
- **Descendants in 1901:** ALL of James & Ann’s children married, and most had children – an astonishing survival rate for those days !!!
- More than 50 descendants in the 2nd generation
- I’ve lost count of the number of descendants (male & female) alive in 1901
- **The brick wall:**
 - Try as we might, we can’t find any likely baptism record for James (Ann Harris, by contrast, causes few problems)
 - What, if any, is James’s connection with Thomas Attfield and “Attfield’s Field” in Albury? And which Thomas was this?
 - Was James an adopted or illegitimate son? DNA evidence suggests this possibility
 - Does the children’s name-set give any clues?
 - Why Bookham? Or was it really Barkham, or Burpham, or...???
 - This is why we’re here today !!!

18th century brick walls:

Chertsey

Earliest ancestor: William Attfield the Ironmonger

- **What is known:** Married Mary Roake at St. Botolph Bishopsgate on 30 Nov 1784
- Ironmonger in Guildford Street, Chertsey, since at least 1781 (fire insurance policy)
- Had 5 children – William, Richard, James, Nathaniel, John – between 1786 and 1795
- Buried at Chertsey in Dec 1808
- **Descendants in 1901:** One son, Richard (1787-1849) had an upholstery business in Lower Brook Street, London (“Tratt & Attfield”). Some of his 10 children, had “good marriages”
- Youngest son, John Sutton Attfield (1832-1905) was a railway engineer in India and had six children. Descendants may still be living today, but definitely no males
- **The brick wall:**
 - One of the most frustrating Attfield brick walls! William and his descendants were very prosperous and left many documentary traces, but nothing before 1781. We don’t even know how old he was (wife Mary was born in 1766, but William could have been older)
 - The name-set (Nathaniel, etc) points strongly to the “Nathaniel” line, i.e. Nathaniel Attfield of Farnham (1674-1758) and his descendants. Some did settle in Chertsey, e.g. his sons William (d.1759) & Nathaniel (d.1733). William’s son William, born 1738, was mentioned in an uncle’s will in 1763. Is this “William the ironmonger”?
 - It must be possible to break through this brick wall. But DNA can’t help. Hopefully more documents about William will turn up

18th century brick walls:

Farnham (a branch line)

Earliest ancestor: James Attfield, victualler

- **What is known:** Buried at Farnham on 10 Apr 1813, aged 55, so born c.1858
- His will mentions three children: John, Henry (bapt 1803) and Jemima (bapt 1806), but he is also believed to have had some older children
- Wife Mary. Marriage not identified with certainty but possibly Mary Colburn at St George Hanover Square on 8 May 1785
- **Descendants in 1901:** Numerous descendants via son Henry (1803-1862), butcher of Aldgate, who married Elizabeth Clowsley in 1831
- A descendant, Henry Cecil Attfield, has kindly contributed DNA
- **The brick wall:**
 - The Attfield Lineage compiled by Prof. John Attfield in 1889 shows this line as descending from Henry Attfield of Windlesham, 1722-1793, but I believe the documentary evidence contradicts this
 - DNA indicates that James's line is more closely connected with Windlesham than with other Farnham lines
 - James might be the one who was baptised at Windlesham on 24 Aug 1760, son of William Attfield. William might be the brother of Henry Attfield (both mentioned in will of "Henry the Elder", 1746). But this remains speculative
 - It would be great to break through this brick wall. We may be getting close...!

18th century brick walls:

Egham

Earliest ancestor: John Attfield & wife Mary

- **What is known:** The main modern line traces back to John & Mary who had five children baptised at Egham: Henry (1755), Mary (1758), William (1760), John and Elizabeth (both 1766). John was buried at Egham on 17 Oct 1780
- Elizabeth Attfield of Stroud, Egham – born c.1787 and not clearly connected to the above line – married William Godfrey at Horsell in 1806
- **Descendants in 1901:** Henry (1755-1839) had 4 sons who married and produced families:
 - *John (1790-1882) married Hannah Field and had 10 children*
 - *William (1792-1873) married Maria Wye and had 12 children*
 - *Henry (1797-1878) married Ann Pickett and had 6 children*
 - *Daniel (1801-1879) married Maria Pickett and had 8 children*
- So there must be lots of [male] descendents living today. Candidates for DNA..!
- **The brick wall:**
 - Not enough evidence to identify John Attfield or his ancestors
 - Several potential candidates born between 1721 & 1731. Best fit may be John Attfield or Field, bapt at Windlesham 2 Dec 1726, parents William & Ann
 - Best marriage fit = John Atfield & Mary Slyfield, 19 Jul 1752 at New Windsor
 - Name-set (Henry, William, John, etc) suggests link to Windlesham

18th century brick walls:

Bisley / Horsell

Earliest ancestor: Richard Attfield, agricultural labourer

- **What is known:** Married Mary Elson at Bisley on 3 Dec 1822
- At least 12 children, baptised at Bisley or Chobham, most of whom married and had families
- Buried at Bisley on 2 Dec 1866, reportedly aged 74. But he was unclear about his age and it fluctuated wildly from census to census!
- **Descendants in 1901:** Several of Richard & Mary's children were still living in 1901
- Son Henry (1831-1888) moved to London and had 5 children
- Henry's son William Henry (1860-1936, Hackney, boot maker) had 6 children
- **The brick wall:**
 - Richard was so hazy about his age (anywhere between 1791 and 1801) that he is hard to pin down
 - He always reported his place of birth as Brentford
 - Best guess: Richard Attfield born 26 Sep and baptised 17 Oct 1798 at St Mary, Ealing, son of James & Elizabeth
 - This couple may be James Attfield & Elizabeth Dickman who married at Reading on 25 May 1784. They were removed from Reading to Horsell in 1786 which means that James had settlement there, but he cannot be identified further
 - Maybe originally from Windlesham or Chobham

18th century brick walls:

Stoke Newington

Earliest ancestor: William Attfield

- **What is known:** William Attfield married Jane Butt in 1769 at Farnham. Children mostly settled in Stoke Newington, Middlesex. William was definitely alive in 1807 (exec. to son John's will)
- The family was quite prosperous and left several wills. Some used the name "Ripley", indicating a link to the "Attfield alias Ripley" clan of Worplesdon
- A Joseph Attfield was born at Stoke Newington in 1797, parents William & Frances. William (buried in 1811) was a labourer. Is this the same William or a different one?
- **Descendants in 1901:** Some descendants of the William/Jane marriage may have been alive in 1901, but no male lines
- By contrast, the William/Frances -> Joseph line produced many descendants. There are certainly male Attfield descendants living today
- **The brick wall:**
 - A double problem: (1) Is it one William or two? (2) Where did he/they come from?
 - William No.1: The use of "Ripley" suggests a link to Worplesdon, but no clear-cut candidates. One possibility is William, son of Henry Attfield & Sarah Fenn, baptised at Worplesdon on 13 Sep 1739 and still living in 1799 when mentioned in father's will
 - William No.2: No William/Frances marriage has been found. It could be a second marriage (if Jane Butt died), but William No.1 is unlikely to have been a "labourer"
 - DNA would be helpful, but won't tell us if it is one William or two...!

18th century brick walls:

Winkfield

Earliest ancestor: Joseph Attfield

- **What is known:** Born c.1723 (based on age at death), married Anne Gilbert 1748 at Winkfield, buried 1780 at Winkfield
- They had 6 children, of whom Joseph (1755-1824) and John (1761-1845) had large families
- Winkfield is adjacent to Windlesham, and some earlier Attfield families owned property in both places (*e.g. John Attfield who died in 1749, and Edmund Attfield who died in 1766*)
- **Descendants in 1901:** Many male descendants – 3rd or 4th generation – living in 1901
- Many descendants of Joseph & Anne are living today. Some lines adopted the surname “Hatfield”
- **The brick wall:**
 - It has so far proved impossible to fix Joseph’s ancestry
 - Winkfield parish registers contain no earlier Attfield references at all
 - A Joseph Attfield was baptised at Byfleet in 1723, son of William & Susannah (Clements), but no evidence to indicate if it is the same person or not
 - A Joseph Field or Attfield, son of James, was baptised at Windlesham in 1729, another theoretical possibility
 - DNA evidence indicates close link to Windlesham. But the precise relationship remains to be uncovered. Windlesham parish registers have many gaps

18th century brick walls:

Woking / Hackney / Stepney / Canada

Earliest ancestor: James Attfield, carpenter

- **What is known:** Carpenter; named on son William's marriage certificate in 1850. Nothing else known about him
- William's birthplace recorded as Woking in 1851 census
- William was a London police officer and later coal merchant at Dalston (Hackney)
- **Descendants in 1901:** William's son, William Hutson Attfield, had 6 children, mostly born in Stepney
- One of these, William John Attfield (1847-1917) had 7 children and migrated with most of them to Canada in the 1900s
- Many descendants living in Canada, including Doug Attfield who has contributed DNA
- **The brick wall:**
 - We know a lot about William Attfield (c.1789-1955) but nothing at all about his father
 - We know from Doug Attfield's DNA that this line is related to other Attfield lines, e.g. Farnham, Windlesham, but apparently far in the past
 - Presumably this also means that the information about James the carpenter and Woking is correct
 - Numerous James Attfields would fit in terms of dates, but none were carpenters (as far as I know) and none were in Woking, so the mystery remains

18th century brick walls:

Ockham

Earliest ancestor: George Atfield, labourer

- **What is known:** Apparently born c.1795, married Mary Cripps, buried 17 Jul 1840 at Ockham, aged 45
- Children baptised at Ockham: George (1821), Sarah (1828, married William Howard 1852), Eliza (1831, married Henry Edes 1851), James (1833), Emily (1835, married Charles Barr 1860), William (1837, married Maria Berry 1862)
- No marriage found. Wife's surname only known from birth certificate of youngest son William
- Always "Atfield", not "Attfield"
- **Descendants in 1901:** Probably various, but none in male lines
- **The brick wall:**
 - No positive identification of George, but presumably related to other At(t)field lines in Surrey
 - Closest match: George Attfield son of Thomas & Elizabeth, bapt 4 Dec 1791 at Godalming – but no proof this is the right person
 - Ockham is near Woking, in the heart of "Attfield country". It would be nice to connect him!

18th century brick walls:

Portsmouth & Portsea

Earliest ancestor: John Atfield, ropemaker

- **What is known:** John was “first layer” at Portsmouth Ropeyard in 1738
- Buried at Portsea in 1747
- Wife Mary; at least 9 children, but only one (William, 1738-1805) married and had a child, another William – merchant of Cosham House & J.P. for Hampshire (1790-1846)
- **Descendants in 1901:** William the merchant married Ann Brouncker in 1812; they had 6 daughters, some of whom had “good marriages” (one of them to an Admiral of the Fleet!)
- Numerous descendants in 20th century but no male line
- **The brick wall:**
 - No clue where the original John Atfield came from
 - No baptism or marriage found, but first child born 1727 so he was probably born c.1700
 - A Sarah Atfield was baptised at Portsea 15 Feb 1700/01, parents John & Sarah. This Sarah may have been John’s sister
 - But no relevant John/Sarah marriages found
 - No indication of connection (if any) with At(t)field families in Surrey, or with the Kingsclere line



William Atfield (1790-1846), merchant of Cosham House, the earliest Atfield portrait we have.

18th century brick walls:

Pulborough, West Sussex

Earliest ancestor: Edward Field or Atfield

- **What is known:** An Edward Field, *“a young man born in 1739”*, received an adult baptism at Billingshurst in 1765. He and wife Mary had at least 7 children in the period to 1789, some baptised as “Field” and others as “Alfield”
- A Henry Atfield, born c.1741, married Sarah Newell at Woolavington in 1770. They settled in Pulborough, having at least 9 children
- The cluster of Atfield/Adfield families in and around Pulborough in the 19th century can all be traced back to either Edward or Henry – Edward’s descendants mostly becoming “Atfield” while Henry’s became “Adfield”
- **Descendants in 1901:** Numerous “Atfield” and “Adfield” descendants, mostly still living in West Sussex or along the south coast. Doubtless many descendants still living today
- **The brick wall:**
 - Edward and Henry may have been siblings. An Edward Atfield, “pauper”, buried at Billingshurst in 1790, may have been their father, but his earlier origins are unknown
 - It’s great that this line can be traced as far as c.1740, and it seems to confirm that only one family is involved, but where did it come from? Did someone migrate south from Surrey?
 - Why “Atfield/Adfield”? Did a “Field” change his name, or were they always Atfields?
 - DNA would definitely help here – if only to confirm whether the family came from Surrey

Brick Walls: 19th Century

19th century brick walls:

Kingswood, near Reigate, Surrey

Earliest ancestor: John Attfield

- **What is known:** First recorded (as John Thomas Atfield) when marrying Fanny Weller at Kingswood, Surrey, 27 Sep 1885. Moved to Beckton (East London) as a stoker in the gas works; died 1913
- Apparently known in the family as “Ike”
- **Descendants in 1901:** John & Fanny had 9 children all of whom married and had families – so there are lots of living descendants. All used the “Attfield” spelling
- First child, John William (Jake) Attfield, born 5 Jan 1885, birth registered as “John Ingray Weller”. So the real father may have been called Ingray but no candidates found
- **The brick wall:**
 - John’s father named on marriage certificate as “James Atfield, iron worker”
 - No such person found, and nothing else known
 - John’s birthplace recorded as Kingswood in later censuses, but no relevant birth/baptism found and no trace in any census before 1891
 - Age on marriage certificate 27 (c.1858), age at death 60 (c.1853)
 - A real mystery. Was he born At(t)field or did he adopt the name? Why?
 - Several descendants have researched the family. Is there hope for DNA contributor?

19th century brick walls:

The Midlands

Earliest ancestors: Alexander Atfield / George Atfield / William Atfield

- **What is known:** Alexander Atfield married Emily Chalker at Portsea on 26 Apr 1842. Father named on marriage certificate as James Atfield, labourer. Alex, a “contractor”, had several children born at Rouen in France who settled around Birmingham. He died before 1871
- George Atfield (c.1861-1921) married Gertrude Powell in 1886 at Hereford. Father named at William on marriage certificate. Born in Birmingham according to censuses. Son George William (1892-1975) gave his name to the Atfield Theatre, Oswestry
- William Atfield & wife Annie has 2 children (Mildred & William) born in Pennsylvania, USA, in 1890s. William died, and widow Annie (born in Wolverhampton) + children were living in Smethwick in 1901 & 1911. Son William died in WW1
- **Descendants in 1901:** See above
- But probably no male At(t)field descendants of any of these individuals still living today
- **The brick wall:**
 - All these individuals are complete mysteries
 - Someone called “Alexander” ought to be findable but no further traces anywhere. He pops up from nowhere. Children born in France are not registered as overseas births. What was he doing in Portsea in 1842? No trace in 1841 or any later censuses
 - The others, George & William, may be “Hatfield” but not identified for certain