

COPY

of a letter to
Horatio Malings

28.7.79

7, KEMEYS ROAD,
RHOOSE, BARRY
South Flam.
CF6 9 DW

Dear Mr. Malings,

Many thanks for your letter, with cutting which I return. There seem to be a few I didn't know about! The Samuel Frederick would not, I think, be a descendent of my Samuel who was born about 1820, but could go back to an earlier one. My Samuel's great-grandfather, who was born around 1750 was a Samuel, and is buried in Oxfordshire.

Our direct ancestors were farmers, up to and including my father who died in 1916 when I was 6 years old. I spent all my life in the Cement Industry, for 20 years in Oxfordshire, until we moved to Wales where I did another 27 years with a local Cement Company. We have two girls, one of whom lives near Bristol and has given us two grandchildren.

The other, Elizabeth is also married and has recently moved to Kent. Her husband is at Dungeness Power Station, and Elizabeth is at the new Ashford Hospital. I am passing your kind invitation and hope you will be able to meet.

Next year, if all goes well we would hope to visit Kent and look forward to seeing you.

I retired in 1973, I have one sister living in Essex - we are the last of my father's children. Father had two sons by his first marriage (both dead) but one of these sons had a son Frank, now living Epsom, and Frank has a son William, so there are still a few about.

I am Churchwarden at our local Church, and captain of the Bellringers. Much of my time is spent teaching youngsters to ring to maintain our band, plus gardening which I enjoy. My wife was from the Oxfordshire village where our ancestors lived.

Regarding your note about the entries in the General Register Office - Samuel registered at Bicester would be one of ours, I think. The Samuel born about 1820 farmed just by Bicester. William registered at Woodstock ~~was there~~ would be another, as Woodstock was the local Registry for the Deddington births which is where most of the direct ancestors farmed.

I have a couple of interesting Wills, one of William born 1794 who left about £5,000, and one of my father's grandfather, John Fortnam, who left about £11,000 when he died in 1874. John Fortnam's will was a masterpiece of legal jargon and was so complex that his estate was not cleared up until nearly 60 years after his death by which time I, as the youngest great-grandchild, was 21. My share had shrunk by then, and I received £349!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L.J. Malings (signed)