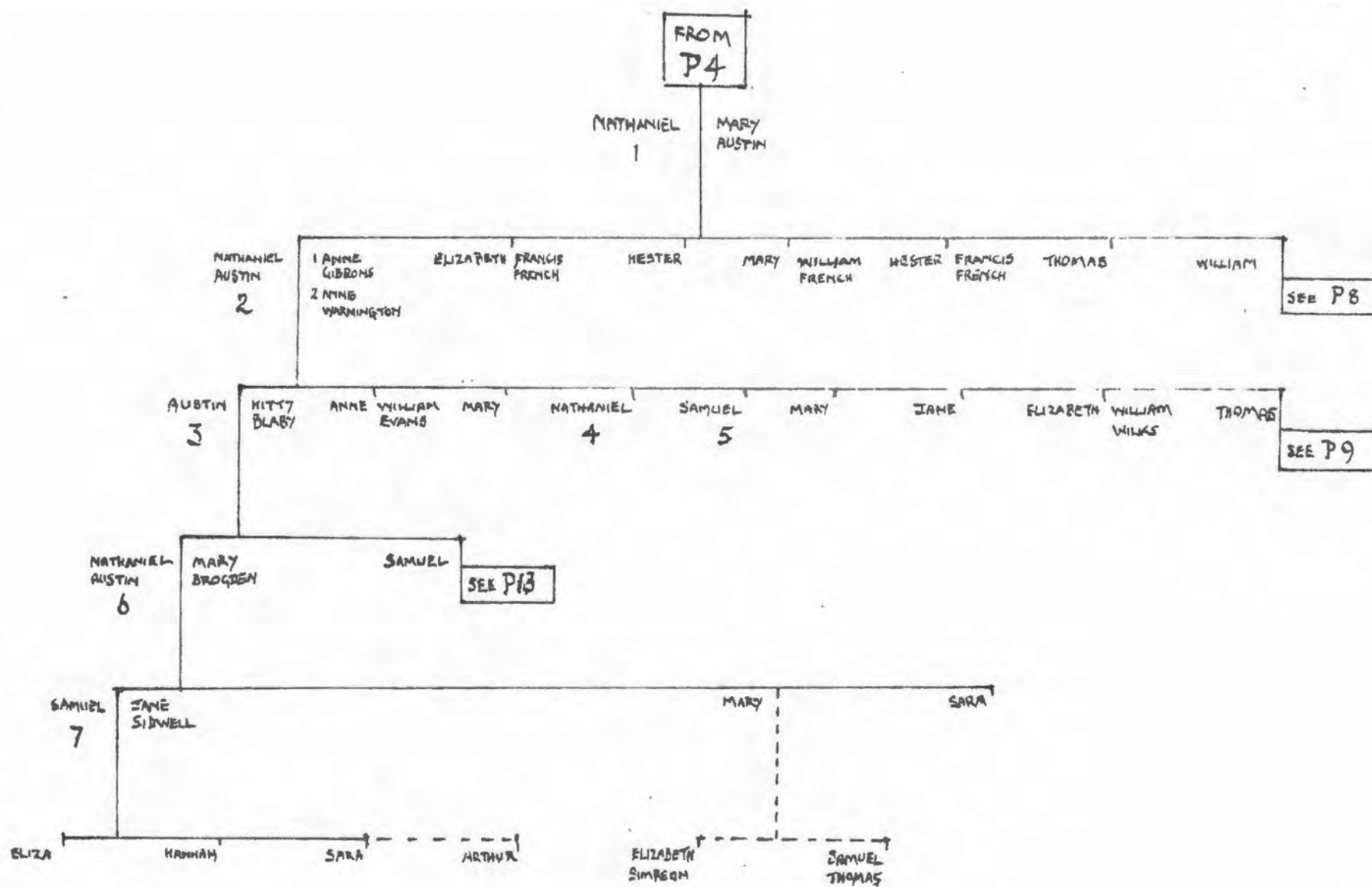




The other children of John 7 were Anna Maria born in 1719 at Banbury and who died at St. James Clerkenwell 1732; Letitia born in 1720 and buried at Banbury in 1721; Hester who married Thomas Usher at Banbury in 1740 when she was 18. They had two sons Thomas Usher and John Apletree Usher; Hephzibah who was born at Banbury in 1726 married William Newell (to whom her brother Robert West was apprenticed) at St. James Clerkenwell in 1751. They had a daughter Bridget who married Mr. Bonnycastle the mathematics master at the Royal Academy of Woolwich. After the death of her husband Hephzibah married David Henry in 1762. He was the Printer and Editor of the Gentleman's Magazine. They had a son Richard Henry who became a major in the East India Company and a daughter Hephzibah who married M.F. Hommery of Charlton. David Henry died in 1729 and his wife Hephzibah, after a lingering illness, died at Charlton in 1808. They were both interred in the family vault at Lewisham. John's youngest child James probably died shortly after his birth for the Deddington registers state that "James the son of John was buried on 15 February 1734".

P.7.

Nathaniel 1

Nathaniel the son of Nathaniel P4(5) and Elizabeth was baptised at Deddington on 6 August 1706. He was married by licence at Wigginton Church to Mary Austin of Hook Norton on 2 August 1728.

Deddington Parish Registers show a string of baptisms, Nathaniel Austin in 1731, Elizabeth in 1734 (she married Francis French in 1754), Hester in 1737 (who died within a year), Mary in 1740 (married to William French in 1767), Hester in 1744 (she married her dead sister's husband Francis French about 1770), Thomas in 1747 (who died when he was only 19) and William in 1751. (see P8)

It is not known where Nathaniel studied law but he certainly practised as an attorney at law in Deddington and his signature appears on many legal documents of local residents as well as the family.

In 1738 an unexpected legacy changed his life completely. The Austin family were wealthy landowners in Hook Norton. One of them, George Austin, left a large farm and property to his children Antony, Anne and Mary. Anthony died without issue and Anne, who had married Henry Grey of Cavendish in Suffolk, also died without issue leaving her half share of the estate to her sister Mary. Now George Austin had an elder brother John whose son Nathaniel had a son John and a daughter Mary. It was this daughter Mary who married Nathaniel Apletree. In 1738 Mary Austin the daughter, of George Austin, died and left the whole of the Hook Norton estate which she had inherited to Nathaniel Apletree in trust for his son Nathaniel Austin Apletree when he attained 25 years of age.

As usual when there was a likelihood of valuable property moving out of the possession of a family a legal battle erupted that lasted for two years. John Austin, Nathaniel Apletree's brother-in-law, contested the will claiming Mary Austin was not of sound mind and that the will was not properly witnessed and signed. When that failed he said that she had no power to dispose of the property in the first place.

Although Nathaniel succeeded in beating off this attack it was a costly process.

In time his increased affluence enabled him to buy land and long leases. He also lent money on the security of property. One of these was outstanding and overdue at the time of his death and Mary would have foreclosed on Hugh Stilgoe's house in New Street had he not been able to borrow sufficient money

from Nathaniel Jarvis of Deddington.

Nathaniel lived at Blunts Farm in Deddington which he leased from Christ Church, Oxford at a rental of £4.6.8d.p.a., part of which had to be paid in corn. After his death in 1773 his widow Mary renewed it to 1793. He also rented the Plough Inn in New Street from the College.

His Will dated 20 November 1767 says that "being well in body and of sound and perfect mind but considering the uncertainty of this life do make my last will and testament". Was this because he had lost his teenage son Thomas earlier in the year.

To his son Nathaniel Austin he devised a house, orchard and four and a half yard lands in Milcombe which he had purchased from John Watson and a half yard land in Milcombe purchased from John Dean.

When son William was 22 years of age he was to have 1 yard land in Adderbury and 2 cow commons in Great Barford purchased from James Tims, a cow common and a horse common in Deddington fields purchased from Nathaniel Hiorns and the residue of lands and leases not otherwise disposed of. The rents of these properties were to be used for his maintenance until he was 22.

His daughter Hester was to have £800, secured on the Milcombe property, within two years plus interest at 3 per cent p.a. and a further £200 within one year after his decease.

For some unknown reason he describes his daughter Mary as "undutiful". She was given a life interest in a house and cow common which he had purchased from James Lustie and thereafter to her children from her marriage to William French.

Francis and Elizabeth French the children of his late daughter Elizabeth French were to share £300 when they reached 21 years of age.

To his loving wife Mary he devised the lease of Blunts Farm and all his goods and chattels and appointed her his executrix.

Finally he writes "I do hereby charge all my children to be loving and dutiful to their mother".

Mary his wife made her will on 10th December 1792 and died six months later. Other than legacies to her grandchildren by her daughters Hester, Mary and Elizabeth she left her estate to her son William. She specifically refers to her holding of £125 of South Sea Annuities. The South Sea Company had been formed in 1717 to liquidate the National Debt. By the end of 1719 it had negotiated contracts with various South American States. Rumour and public anticipation of enormous profits pushed the price of a £100 share up and up. By August 1720 it had reached £1,000 per share, by November they were virtually worthless, The South Sea Bubble had burst. One wonders who had bought them originally and at what price and why Mary still hopefully retained them.

#### Nathaniel Austin 2

Nathaniel Austin was baptised at Deddington on the 25th October 1731. On the 4th November 1753 he married Ann Gibbons of Deddington at the Charterhouse Chapel in London. Their son Austin was baptised on 5 January 1755 but for some reason unknown they moved to Bletchington (about 10 miles north of Oxford). Bletchington Parish Register records the baptism of Anne in 1756, Mary in 1758, Nathaniel in 1760, Samuel in 1762, Thomas in 1763 and Mary in 1765, the first mentioned Mary having presumably died in infancy, although the register

makes no mention of such a death.

Nathaniel Austin should have entered into possession of his Hook Norton inheritance in 1756 but obviously he did not move to the Manor House in Hook Norton until after 1765.

In 1768 he was fined £5 at the Oxford Quarter Sessions for joining with others and expelling Thomas Mackinnes from his lodging at William Harris's house in Hook Norton. In 1770 he was again fined and ordered to keep the peace with William Treadwell. That cost him £10. In 1776 he was sued by Susan Hancock for a debt of £14.50.

In 1767 he became a Churchwarden, a duty carried out again in 1781 and in 1782 and for which he had to submit accounts. A typical one (1781) lists his expenditure which is recovered out of the Church rate levy of 2 pence per yard land the balance being handed over and signed for by the next Churchwarden.

|                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Spent when the old churchwarden gave up the account               | 1. 6.    |
| Paid for a Proclamation and Prayer                                | 2. 0.    |
| A bill at Mr. Bignell's                                           | 11. 6.   |
| Thomas Phipps a bill                                              | 4. 6.    |
| Green's bill for paveing                                          | 2.10. 6  |
| Richard Webb's bill for clock and chimes                          | 1.11. 6  |
| Thomas Kench a bill                                               | 3. 8. 9. |
| Mat Beck a bill                                                   | 3. 4. 5  |
| Mr. Taylor's bill                                                 | 14. 8    |
| Bread and wine at five sacraments and two bottles to the Minister | 1.18. 4. |
| Spent at Easter                                                   | 1. 0.    |
| When the levy was granted                                         | 2. 0.    |
| Horse hire at two Visitations                                     | 2. 0.    |
| For writing ye transcript                                         | 3. 6.    |

|                                                            |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Horse hire to Banbury to fetch parchment and for parchment | 4. 6.           |
| Paid Mr Welch at Visitation                                | 4. 6.           |
| Four dinners and extra at Visitation                       | 16. 0.          |
| Spent at Meeting in order to give up accounts              | 2. 0.           |
| To writing these accounts                                  | 2. 0.           |
| For making the levy                                        | 4. 0.           |
|                                                            | <u>16.11.2.</u> |

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Received of John Toms | 4.16.4         |
| By levy               | <u>18.16.5</u> |
|                       | 23.12.9.       |
| Disbursements         | <u>16.11.2</u> |
| In hand               | <u>7. 1.7.</u> |

On many occasions he was one of the committee that nominated the next church warden.

In 1773 Nathaniel Austin purchased for £900 1 yard land in Hook Norton and a half yard land in Southrop from William Bateman.

In January 1774 he leased to Francis French a life interest in the Home Close in Hook Norton one house, a cottage, 3 barns, 2 stables, 4 curtilages, 2 gardens, 2 orchards, 100 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 50 acres of pasture, 20 acres of furze and heath and common of pasture for all manner of cattle.

In September 1774 the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to enclose the common fields of Hook Norton and Southrop awarded him 18 acres in the commonfields on the south side, 8 acres on the west side and 79 acres on the north side and a further 85 acres in one plot, 21 acres in another plot and 4 acres in another all in the north side field, all in exchange for his 6½ yard lands and sundry several plots of land in the commonfields.

Two further children were born in Hook Norton. Jane in 1768, who died in 1770 and Elizabeth in 1769. The death of Mary in 1769 was recorded in the Register making the third child to die in infancy.

On 2nd January 1773 his wife Anne was buried. Two years later he married Anne Warmington a widow who owned Magdalene Lodge in Hook Norton.

When Nathaniel Austin died in 1786 he was buried in a vault in St. Peters Church (under the now War Memorial window). On a pillar in the nave is a memorial tablet which says:-

"To the memory of Anne the wife of Nathaniel Austin Apletree gent and daughter of Mr. Samuel Gibbons who died the 31st December 1772 aged 45 years."

"With patience to the last she did submit,  
and murmured not at what the Lord thought fit  
She with a Christian courage did resign  
Her Soul to God at his appointed time."

Also to the memory of three daughters who died in their infancy.

To the memory of Nathaniel Austin Apletree gent who died November 30th 1786 aged 56 years.

"He was but room won't let me tell you what  
Name what a friend should be and he was that."

His Will dated 28th February 1786 devised his real estate to Trustees - his brother William, James Wilmot and William Hitchcox. To his eldest son Austin he left an annuity of £50 p.a. secured on the Home Farm and one of £10 secured on

the Lower Farm. They were payable quarterly and, if they fell in arrear, then Austin had a right of distress. They were payable only to Austin and if he sold or mortgage the annuity then payments should terminate. After Austin's death a legacy of £500 was to be paid to his children.

Son Nathaniel was to have 8/- payable weekly during the natural life of his wife Anne. After her death Nathaniel was to have the Milcombe property which was secured to Anne for life under her marriage contract and therefore freed as there was no issue of the marriage. The Trustees were to sell the Great Barford and Hempton property and out of the proceeds pay the debts of Nathaniel and any residue to be paid to him for his own use.

Daughters Ann and Elizabeth were devised 100 acres in the North side of Hook Norton field and 29 acres at Sharps Hill called the Lower Farm as tenants in common, but Elizabeth could only have a half share of rents and profits for her maintenance until she became 21 or married.

To son Thomas went the Home Farm, garden and orchard South Hill grounds, Brown Meadow and the Coombs and all the equipment and appurtenances.

The Trustees were to sell his grain, crops and cattle and the proceeds used to meet his debts and funeral expenses. Any residue was to be shared between Anne and Elizabeth.

His wife Anne was left the house, close and orchard in the occupation of Thomas Kench for life and then to go to daughter Anne and Elizabeth absolutely, but they were then required to pay his niece Mary French a legacy of £40.

His silver he spread around the family, a pint cup to his

wife Anne, a two handled cup to Austin, the other cup to Ann his daughter, a dish to Elizabeth and a tankard, salts, six spoons and a set of casters to Thomas.

His wife had the use of all his household goods for life and then she was to share them out amongst his children. If she neglected to do so then he devised his household chattels to his children and to this end he required two appraisors to make an inventory of his property immediately after his death.

His Will covered ten large closely written sheets of paper and is evident of the care and considerationn he gave to providing for his two wayward sons Austin and Nathaniel and in protecting the life style and maintenance of his daughters. But why was his wife only left with the rent of Thomas Kench's house and the Milcombe rents. There is no indication that she could reside at the Home Farm for life and even his household goods were only "on loan". And why did he think that she might neglect to share them out eventually. In any event they had a long wait for she survived Nathaniel Austin by thirteen years. When she died in February 1799 she left her house Magdalene Lodge to Anne and Elizabeth. The two girls immediately scandalised Hook Norton.

Anne, six months pregnant, married William Evans the curate at Hook Norton Church on 27th February 1800. On 20th May she gave birth to a son Edward William, but by 29th June poor Anne was no longer amongst the living.

In the same year Elizabeth ran off with the gardener William Wilks to Ilmington in Warwickshire, where they were later married. By 1801 he had set up as a thread namufacturer in Heads Field on Lambeth Marsh. William Wilks purchased the late Anne's share of the Lower Farm from her son Edward

William Evans in 1821 and sold the whole property in 1829. Vera Wilks the last direct descendant of William and Elizabeth died at her cottage called Apletre's Piece in Kirby Road, Frinton-on-Sea in 1968.

### Austin 3

Austin was Baptised at **Deddington** on 5 January 1755. According to a family story he was an inveterate gambler and lost his commission in the Army when he was cashiered for indulging in this vice. It must be admitted that the Army lists show no record of his commission in the regular army.

However the Annuity legacy by his father does indicate a feckless nature. Two years after his father's death he married Kitty Blaby at Hook Norton on 12 June 1788. His son Nathaniel Austin was born in 1789 and Samuel (See P.13) in 1790 at Hook Norton. The family moved to Moreton-in-the-Marsh where Robert was baptised on 5 April 1798 but who died in infancy. Austin died in 1807 and his wife then left Moreton-in-the-Marsh and went to Little Heath, Foleshill near Coventry where she taught in the village school until her death in 1848.

### Nathaniel 4

Apart from his baptism on 18th February 1760 at Bletchington and his burial at Hook Norton on 8th September 1793 all that is known of Nathaniel is his attempt by his father to curb his extravagance and limit his spending money by a legacy of 8 shillings a week. He never lived long enough to enjoy the rents of the Milcombe property as his step-mother out-lived him.

Samuel 5

Even less is known of Samuel. He was baptised at Bletchington in 1762 and died at Hook Norton in 1785 a year before his father Nathaniel Austin made his Will in which otherwise there might have been a clue to Samuel's character.

According to the census of 1871 daughter Mary was living at 92 Courthouse Green and was a silk weaver. Although unmarried she had a daughter Elizabeth Simpson then aged 12 and described as a 'silk weaver' and a son Samuel Thomas aged 9 a scholar. Daughter Sara was more of a conformist for she got married at Foleshill in 1859 to a William Compton.

Samuel 7

Samuel was baptised on 26 August 1827 at Foleshill and on 5 November 1848 married Jane Sidwell age 20 also a silk hand-loom weaver. They lived at 53 Court House Green. Eliza was born in 1849, Hannah in 1851 and Sarah in 1854. In that year Samuel died of Typhoid like his parents.

The 1871 census shows widow Jane living at 14 Stoney Stanton Road with her two unmarried daughters Eliza and Hannah, all silk weavers but she now has a son Arthur born in 1860.

Nathaniel Austin 6

Nathaniel Austin the eldest of Austin's three children was baptised at Hook Norton on 13 July 1789.

In 1825 he is described as a weaver living at Longford, on the outskirts of Coventry when he sued, in partnership with his brother Samuel (see P.13), for the legacy of £500 due to them on the death of their uncle Thomas (see P.9). In 1826 the Court decreed that the Hook Norton farm should be sold and the proceeds paid into Court out of which the legacy would be paid. The sale took place in 1828 and the legacy satisfied.

About 1826 he married Sarah Brogden and moved to Courthouse Green in Foleshill near Coventry. Their children were Samuel, born in 1827, Mary in 1831 and Sarah in 1838.

The 1851 census describes him as living at 28 Church Lane, Bell Green in Foleshill. He was then aged 63 a hand-loom weaver but a sick man. His wife Mary aged 53 was unable to work. Mary the daughter aged 20 was described as a hand-loom weaver whilst Sara aged 12 was a nurse girl.

Nathaniel and his wife both died of Typhoid in June 1854

P.8

William 1

William the youngest child of Nathaniel and Mary Austin was baptised at Deddington on 20 April 1752.

At the age of 16 he was apprenticed to Joshua Burnham of Aylesbury for a consideration of £100.

When he was 22 he took over the management and rents of the 1 yard land in Adderbury, the 2 commons in Great Barford and 2 common fields in Deddington left to him by his father. He lived at Blunts Farm with his mother the lease of which became his in 1793, on her death.