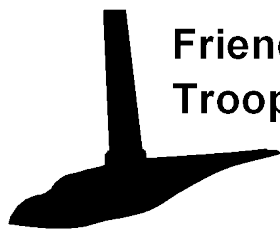
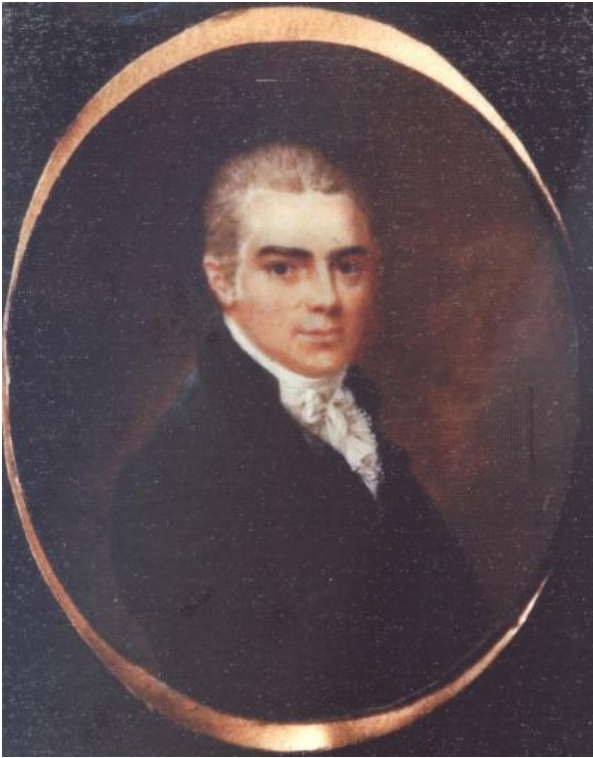


# A Country Parson & His Family Residents of St George 1809 - 1842

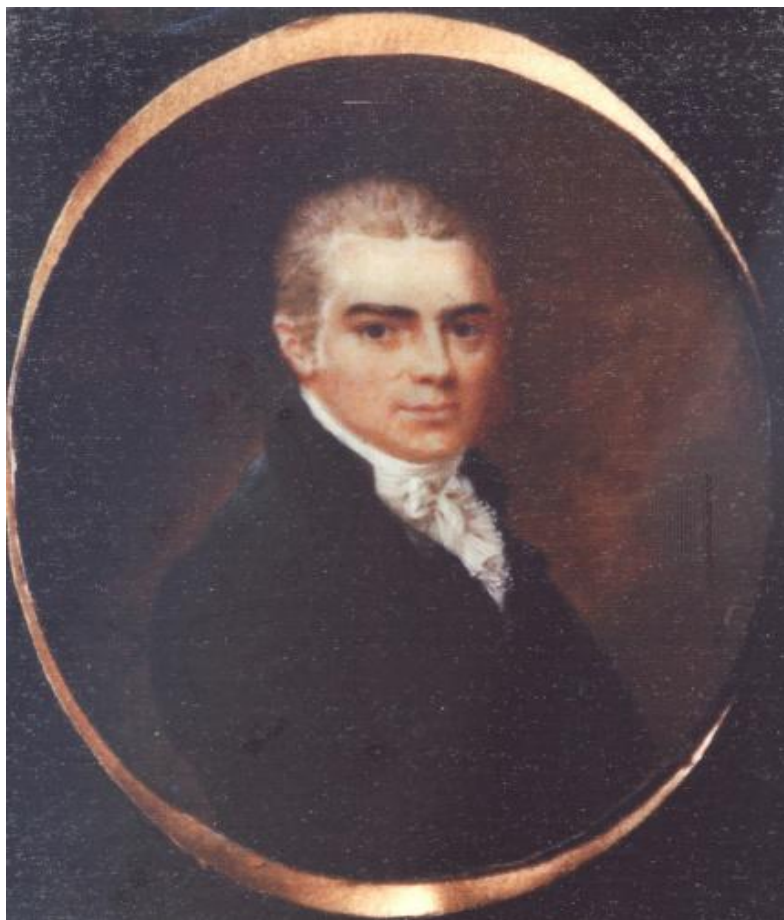


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## Rev John Emra and Little Elizabeth



**Rev John Emra**

**Vicar of St George 1809-1842**

*(Portrait shared by Martin, who received this some years ago. It is taken from hand-painted miniature held by a member of the Emra family. A note on the back of the miniature confirms that this is Rev John Emra of St George, it gives him the nickname of "The Silver Throated Parson")*

Rev John Emra was the father of 'Little Elizabeth' - Elizabeth Holmes, née Emra - who wrote 'Scenes in our Parish' part one of which was first published in 1830 under the pseudonym of 'A Country Parson's Daughter'. The book gives a fascinating insight into life in the 1830s in St George. It describes many of those who lived in the Parish who Elizabeth visited and tried to help and comfort in her role as the Parson's daughter.

Elizabeth also invites her readers to *"Sit down with me amongst the beautiful purple heath, visited by the wild bees, and the blue butterflies; and breathe the fresh air of our rugged hill, and look on the fair extended prospect"* – something you can still do on Troopers Hill today, almost two hundred years after these words were written about the same area.

It was this book that first brought the Emra family to the attention of Friends of Troopers Hill. You can read more about Elizabeth Emra and her writing here:

[www.troopers-hill.org.uk/emra/](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/emra/)

## Elizabeth's Sisters' Records

After her death in 1843, Elizabeth's oldest sister, Martha, wrote a description of Elizabeth's life, published as ['A sister's record, or, Memoir of Mrs. Marcus H. Holmes'](#). While this gives us many details of Elizabeth's life, little is said about the family history of their parents.

However, Martha, had also published a book in 1840, ['Recollections of Childhood or Sally the faithful nurse'](#) ('Recollections'). An original copy of this book purchased from the USA ('Bristol copy') includes this photograph of Martha in her later years, probably taken in the early 1860s.

As with Elizabeth's 'Scenes in our Parish' Martha was careful not to mention the names of people then living and disguising most place names (for example using 'Y-----' for Yatton, though she does mention Cadbury Hill as being near the village); she also used a pseudonym 'Primogenita' – reflecting the fact that she was the oldest child.

Martha's books confirm details of much of the family's life that can be put together from official documents and other sources and through these the identities of the places she describes also become clear. The books give us some insight into the Emra family life and adds some details not found elsewhere.

A further book, written by another sister, Lucy, ['Onward and Upward'](#) published in 1853, adds some details of their parents' final days.

A copy of an extra-illustrated version of 'Recollections' is held by South West Heritage Trust in the Somerset Archive ([ref DD/UK/58](#)) ('Somerset copy') the image titles confirm the identities of some of the people described. The provenance of this book and the images it contains are unknown, as is the location of the original, but it was presumably put together by a member of the family, possibly Lucy, who certainly put together another extra-illustrated copy of this book as described below. It is also likely that some of the watercolours and sketches were produced by members of the family; Rev John Emra and some of his daughters were said to be accomplished artists. Some of the images from this book are used in this document (as it is a copy the Archive did not charge us to reproduce these images as they would for original documents).



**Martha Rouch (née Emra) 1860s**

(included in Bristol copy of 'Recollections')

The second known illustrated copy is held by Princeton University Library ([ref 2012-0463N](#)) ('Princeton copy'). The library digitized the book in 2022, so that you can now view it via the above link, or download it as a pdf.

It is described as *'Enlarged by inlaying printed leaves in larger (24 cm.) blank leaves, and extra-illustrated with drawings, watercolors, and ms. poems and letters'*.

It also has a note on the leaf before title leaf: *'Presented to Mrs. Elizh. Pople by Miss Frances Emra, in memory of her sister, Mrs. Lucy Croggan, who compiled this book with the marginal notes. And given by the said Mrs. Elizh. Pople to her cousin Mrs. Elizh. Tabitha Thomas'*.

This copy differs from the one copied and given to the Somerset Archive, but it is possible that Lucy was involved in producing both.

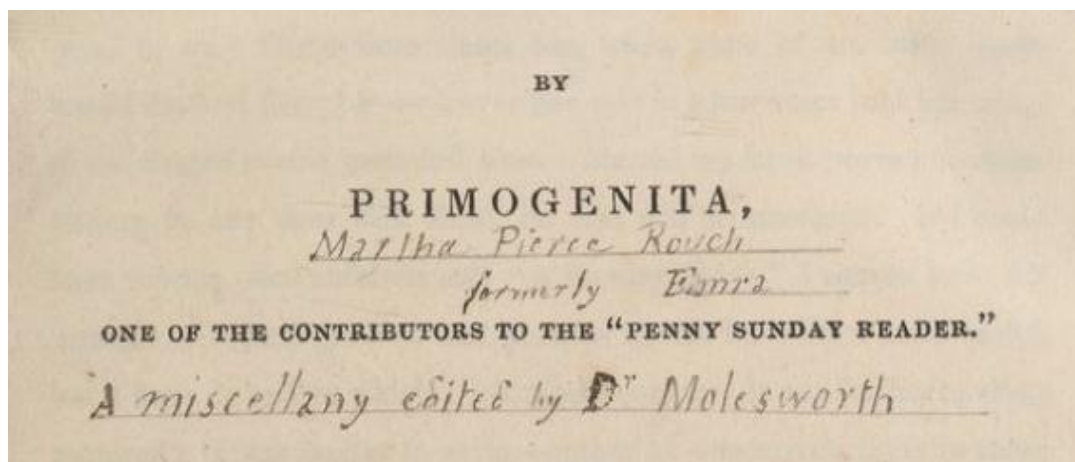
The hand-written notes in the margin give names to some of the friends and acquaintances of the Emra family and confirm some of the details that can be deduced from the books and official records.

A note on the title page also states that Martha contributed to the 'Penny Sunday Reader' and Lucy notes this as 'A miscellany edited by Dr Molesworth'.



**Lucy Emra**

(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')



There a more detailed description of the copies of 'Recollections' in Appendix D, which also explains the relationship of Mrs. Elizh. Pople to the Emra family.

So who was Rev John Emra and what is his life story?

## The Island of St Christopher or St Kitts

According to a biographical sketch of Elizabeth Emra's second son (John, the author 'Emra Holmes') [first published in 1877](#) 'the Rev. John Emra, vicar of St George's, Bristol, was the son of a slave-owner, a native of the Island of St Christopher [St Kitts], West Indies and the family was supposed to be of Spanish extraction'.

St Christopher, also known as St Kitts, and its nearby island of Nevis are in the Leeward Islands in the West Indies. The [Federation of St Kitts and Nevis](#) is the smallest sovereign state in the Western Hemisphere. Its population is around 52,000 with over 90% being Afro-Caribbean. The largest town in St Kitts is Basseterre.



The islands have been inhabited for perhaps 3,000 years but this native population of 'Arawaks' and 'Caribs' was decimated by the arrival of Europeans, led by the Spanish, from the sixteenth century onwards (one estimate is that their numbers across the Caribbean were reduced by 90% in the 50 years after the Spanish arrival). The British and the French divided St Kitts between them in 1627 and the British took over all of the island in 1713. The British controlled the island until St Kitts and Nevis achieved full independence on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1983.

St Kitts was found to be very fertile and the Europeans soon found that it was ideal for the growing of sugar cane. This was grown in vast plantations worked by huge numbers of imported African slaves. This industry, which had [strong links to Bristol](#), thrived throughout the 1700s, with many of the plantation owners spending most of their time in Britain, leaving the plantations in the hands of 'overseers'. Bristol traders both supplied slaves and purchased sugar as part of the [triangular trade](#). The ongoing slave trade from Africa meant that slaves who died could easily be replaced.

While the vast majority of the slaves worked in the plantations some were also used as household servants and the wills of the rich British land owners often included slaves as some of the property to be inherited by relatives. The infant John Emra was given slaves by his mother's wealthy aunts.

### Life of Rev John Emra (abt 1769 – 1842)

John Emra was aged 73 when he died in the Vicarage at St George on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1842. I have found no record of his birth, but based on his age it would have been 1768 or 1769, he was most likely born in St Kitts. A note on the back of the miniature with his portrait, says he was baptised in 1769.

It is not certain exactly when the young John Emra came to England but he was probably still in St Kitts in February 1780 when, in her will, his mother's aunt, Rebecca Manning, left him 'negro slave William, son of negress Stella'. There is more about the Manning family below in the description of John's mother's life.

It is clear though, that John Emra went to school in England, in fact Lucy tells us its location, in 'Onward and Upward' she says:

*"One of the most delightful days of my life was the one on which I rode with him to Stoke Bishop ; he had been at school there, and wished to see the old familiar place once more. It was a most beautiful day in autumn; he paused to admire the glorious rocks and woods at Clifton and Leigh; and the water and the clouds all attracted his admiration; but the very house where he had been at school was looked upon with the deepest interest".*

In 'Recollections', Martha describes 'the very dearest guest we ever had' who 'came from a distance, and but seldom; we loved him next to our father and mother' and was 'my father's schoolfellow'. In the Princeton copy of the book Lucy confirms that this was Edward Henry Keasberry, whose portrait is included in the Somerset copy of Martha's book. In 'Onward and Upward' Lucy refers to a visit just before her father's death in 1842 of 'dear Mr. Keasberry, his friend for sixty - two years'. From this, he must have met Mr Keasberry in 1780 when he was around 11 years old, so it seems John Emra came to England at around the time of his great-aunt's death.



**Edward Henry Keasberry**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

### **"Grandpapa" and "Grandmamma"**

When John Emra came from St Kitts to school in England, his parents did not travel with him. It seems that Bristol merchant Worthington Brice and his wife Martha (born Pearce) looked after the young John. Certainly they were important in John's life as he named his first daughter and later his first son after them (Martha's name as recorded at her baptism was 'Martha Pierce Emra', at her marriage and later it was written 'Martha Pearce'). Worthington and Martha Brice were also witnesses at John Emra's wedding.



**Worthington Brice**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

Worthington Brice was involved in estates in Trinidad and it is probable that he would have known members of John's (and perhaps his wife's) family as a result. The Brice family were from Dinnington in Somerset but Worthington Brice is recorded as having married Martha Pearce in Bristol on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1767. Worthington Brice died in 1826 and the Rev John Emra is mentioned in his will along with his nephew James Smith and his natural son John Oland.

In 'Recollections', Martha describes the couple, who did not have children of their own, in some detail (without naming them) along with their farm near Bristol, where she was sometimes 'a guest for days, and even weeks together'. She says 'They had to some measure supplied the place of parents to our dear father, and "Grandpapa" and "Grandmama" were the names of fond familiarity we had learnt to bestow on them'. It seems unlikely that had John Emra arrived in England as a young adult rather than as a child that this would have been the case.



### Martha at the Brice Farm

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

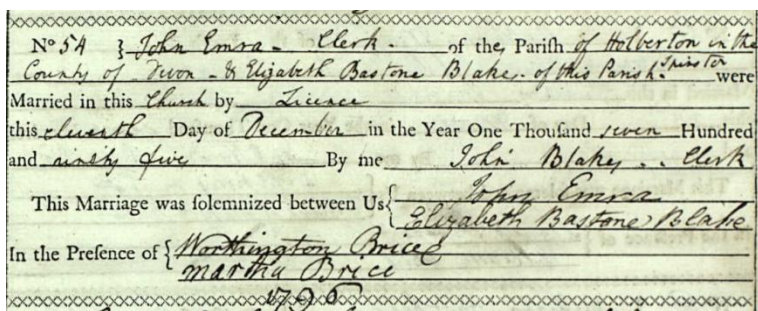
*'Grandpapa, then, was a tall and portly man, assiduous in business, and of some standing among the merchants of the city; full of kindly feeling to all'. "Grandmama" 'was large and tall, with strongly marked and expressive features: her hair was more than grey.'* Martha says *'Certainly I most dearly loved that kind old couple. I wonder I was not completely spoiled by them, for though Grandmamma (for I must call her so) often repressed the injudicious indulgence of her husband towards me, yet I think in her way, she was little better'.*

Martha also refers to 'later and more discerning years' producing 'painful doubts' 'if there were darker shades in the character of that kind old man, it would little become me to dwell on them.' Perhaps she is referring to the appearance in the will of his 'natural son'.

### Religious Studies & Marriage

For his religious studies John Emra studied at St Alban Hall Oxford and was ordained as a Deacon in November 1794 and as a priest in September 1795. His clerical appointments are [recorded](#) in the 'The Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835'. His record states: 's. of John, of Isle of St Christopher, gent. ST ALBAN HALL, matric 10 Dec 1794, aged 25; BA 1798; curate of St Pauls, Bristol and of Yatton, Somerset, died vicar of St George's, Bristol, 19 Sep 1842'.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1795 Rev John Emra married <sup>[1]</sup> Elizabeth Bastone Blake, in Minehead, Somerset; he was described as being 'of Halberton, Devon'.



'Recollections' was published only 3 years after her mother's death, something that Martha mentions in the opening pages saying that her best memorial is in her children's hearts so that 'there will be but slight and incidental mention of her in these pages'. She does though say that 'for many long years she ruled with wise and gentle government'.



**Elizabeth Bastone Emra with village children at Halberton**

(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')

Elizabeth's parents are also described in 'A Sister's Record':

*'It is quite impossible to trace her [Elizabeth's] onward course, without a reference to those blessed parents, mercifully spared through a long course of years to their loving children, and devoting themselves unreservedly to their care. The large and happy circle of which they were the centre, the home of comfort that mother's care provided, her neat arrangements, her fond untiring anxiety for every one of her numerous family, her exertions beyond her own immediate home, among her husband's poor, and in his parish school, these could not but have their effect upon the minds of her children; while their father, with untiring love, devoted the energies of his high and intellectual mind more immediately to their improvement, leading them on with a cheerful and almost playful zeal from one pursuit to another, delighting in their progress, and ever ready with that fond interest and those tones of kind encouragement which render every labour light'.*

### **Halberton, Devon (1795 – 1797)**



### **Halberton, Devon**

*(View down Pond Hill, from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

Halberton isn't listed as one of Rev John Emra's appointments, perhaps because he had not completed his training; it is written in 'Recollections', as 'H-----'. Martha says *'it was my childish boast that I was the only one who had been at H-----, my triumph was often repressed by the rejoinder, "Ah! but you were only six months old, so you cannot remember it!"*'. She does though describe seeing sketches of the village drawn by her father, who was apparently a competent artist and certainly held an interest in art and continued to sketch throughout his life (perhaps the image above is one of his).

In 'Recollections', Martha also describes how her father would have been then *'young, lively, intelligent, with a sparkling eye, and a deep toned silvery voice, and a kind and courteous word for all'*.

The image of 'Halburton Parsonage' below, from the Princeton copy of 'Recollections', was apparently provided to 'dear Martha' after the book was written.



*(from Princeton copy of 'Recollections')*

A new vicarage to replace the above building was built in Halberton in 1847.

Why Halberton?

Prior to studying in Oxford, John Emra's home was with Worthington & Martha Brice in Bristol and, as described below, his career in the clergy was also centred around Bristol, so it seems strange that his first appointment was in Devon. However, as noted by the [Halberton History Group](#), in about 1160 William Fitz Robert gave the Church of Halberton with the land to the Abbey of St Augustine in Bristol. Following Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries the land in the possession of the Abbey was passed to Bristol Cathedral who still controlled it at the time the Emra family were there. So, it seems likely that this link to Bristol was the reason for the young John Emra being appointed to this small Devon village.

John and Elizabeth's first child, Martha Emra was born on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1796 and both she and her sister Anne, born in 1798 in Bristol, were [baptised in Minehead](#) where Elizabeth Bastone's family lived.

### St Paul's, Bristol (1797 – 1805)

For Martha to have been 6 months old, the family must have moved to Bristol in around April 1797. John Emra formally became Lecturer (assistant curate) at St Nicholas in August 1798 and was listed as living at Wilson St, near St Paul's church in Matthew's Directory for 1798. Lucy also gives Wilson Street 'Near Portland Square' as their address in the Princeton copy of 'Recollections', she also notes '*Bishop Street in now built parallel to Wilson Street*'.

In February 1804 Rev John Emra was officially appointed Curate of St Paul's.

As well as Anne; Elizabeth (b 1804), and her older sisters Lucy (b 1799) & Sarah Grey (b 1802) were born while the family was in Bristol, though the baptism of 'these my three daughters' wasn't recorded until 1815 in St George.

Ashmead's map of 1828 shows Wilson Street to be at the edge of the City and on Bristol City Council's mapping system you can see a [drawing of St Paul's Church](#) as it was



**St Paul's Church, Bristol**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

in 1825. In 'Recollections' Martha describes the house '*whose narrow slip of ground behind, scarcely deserved the name of garden*'. But she goes on to say that '*although in a street, there were no houses opposite, but instead, a large and pleasant bowling green, where many a man of wealth and consequence repaired on summer afternoons*'. '*Then on the other side of the house, the windows commanded a pleasant and extensive view of hill and dale, there being no streets beyond ours, the access to the country was short and easy*'.

Martha goes on to describe walks with nurse Sally, which included routes through 'pleasant fields shadowed by lofty elms' and then 'by a mill-stream over a high gate, and through a broad gravelled road, till we came to the Asylum for Orphan Girls, with its simple but pretty chapel, and its row of tall poplars'. [The chapel](#) was at Hook's Mills, on the site of what is now Ivy Church at the junction of Ashley Hill and Sussex Place - the orphanage was in the adjacent old Manor House.

This house was also within walking distance of the farm belonging to Worthington Brice described earlier. *'It was with my dear father mostly, that I took this long walk through the very midst of the city to its other extremity'* (See also Appendix C).

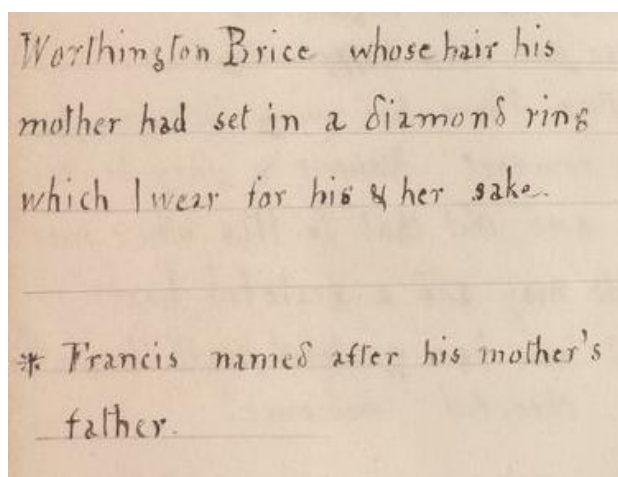


### The Way to the Farm

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

As well as their daughters Rev John and Elizabeth Bastone had two sons while in Bristol, but both died as infants. Worthington Brice Emra was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1801 aged 4 months and Francis Blake Emra died age only 1 month old in 1803 both were buried at St Pauls. In 'Recollections' Martha describes the loss of these *'two little angel brothers'* and, perhaps strangely while she says she *'aimed at nothing more than an innocently entertaining book for children'*, she describes seeing one of her baby brothers in his coffin.

In the Princeton copy Lucy gives the names of these two brothers – *'Worthington Brice whose hair his mother had set in a diamond ring which I wear for his and her sake. Francis named after his mother's father'*



By 1802, Sally although described as a 'nurse' was acting as a nanny with responsibility for four girls. No other servants are mentioned in 'Recollections' at this time, but there certainly were others *'doing their duty humbly and heartily, in that state of life in which it has pleased God to place them'* as Martha makes clear they should on the first page of the book. Later there is mention of a 'man-servant', 'maids' and a 'governess' also an "Ironer" *'The ironer finished her day's work, (as ironers do) and went away'* no doubt there was also a cook. The impression is given of a reasonably well off family with the girls having *'neat white bonnets*

*of glazed muslin, all alike, our gingham frocks, with tippetts and sleeves of the same'. Martha reports that 'Our dear parents, I rather think for our sakes, entered little into society'.*

Martha gives a little insight into the Emra daughters' day to day life and their relationship with their father while living in St Paul's when talking about how Sally's *'cares and responsibility increased as one after another was added to her little charge.'*

*'Our kind parents gave up the drawing room for a nursery, and this airy and pleasant apartment was the scene of many a game of hearty play. We were very happy; Sally's authority was generally sufficient to keep us in good order, but in case of any very heinous offence, a reference was made to our parents, for as dear Sally once said, - "I never once gave you a slap in my life my dears" - Then the kind father, who mostly looked so cheerful, put on a dark grave look, and commanded the little culprit to follow him to his study, - no trifle this, for the study was a small room at the very top of the house, - he walked very slowly up, and an awful thing it was, as we followed, to reflect on what might occur, beyond a long grave lecture on the one hand, and a copious flood of tears and earnest promises of amendment on the other.'*

### **The Faithful Nurse**

'Sally the Faithful Nurse' from the full title of Recollections, was John Emra's *'housekeeper, cook and waiting maid'* in Halberton before he was married and then served in the same role for the newly married couple for the first year or so of their married life. Her role then changed with the *'birth of the welcome baby, the first of a train of children that Sally loved so well'*.

A portrait of Sally in later years in the Somerset copy of Recollections gives her name as Sally Kent; this was her married name. Lucy notes in the Princeton copy that she was *'Sally Horn, afterwards Sally Kent'*.

It was while the family was in St Paul's that Sally the faithful nurse left Rev John Emra's employment to get married to George (named in Recollections) who was a blacksmith.

George and Sally lived in a cottage on the Holnicote Estate near Selworthy, a drawing of which is included in the printed copy of Recollections as the frontispiece. [It is still there](#), though no longer thatched.



**Sally Kent (née Horn)**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*



(Frontispiece in published edition of 'Recollections')

In 'Recollections', Martha describes frequent return visits by Sally to the Emra family. At Yatton she came with 'her baby in her arms'. 'He was a little smiling fellow then; prettier and more amusing, we children perversely thought, than our own baby of the same age. After this he came again, and again, with Sally to see us, and grew to be quite a favourite'.

Later some of the Emra sitters visited George and Sally in their cottage "The substantial porch, the Gothic windows with their stone mullions, the ornamented chimney; the tasteful garden fence, make almost a "cottage orné" of Sally's dwelling."

In Martha's description of the cottage in Recollections she says that she 'saw it no more' after the visit she described, but Lucy adds a note in the Princeton copy of a later visit – "No more" at the time this was written, but in March 1845 Martha & Lucy went together once more to see Sally. She was old and very feeble; & one could not fail to think of such a prayer as this. "O let me catch one smile from THEE And drop into Eternity"

"No more" at the time this book was written; but in March 1845 Martha & Lucy went together once more to see Sally. She was old & very feeble; & one could not fail to think of such a prayer as this.  
 'O let me catch one smile from THEE And drop into Eternity"

In the notes in the Princeton copy of Recollections, Lucy tells us that Sally's landlord was Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, who was indeed owner of the Holnicote Estate at that time, it is now held by the National Trust.

Sally is a common nickname for Sarah and Sally's given name was in fact Sarah. Sarah Horn was born in May 1773 and died on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1849 aged 76, she was [buried in Selworthy](#) with her husband George Kent who had died in 1841. George and Sarah had [married on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1804](#). Sarah Horn was born in Minehead, so it is possible that she knew, or perhaps even worked for, the Blake family before Elizabeth Bastone Blake married Rev John Emra.

Sally's son, John Kent (named in the Princeton copy of Recollections), was born in October 1804 just a month before Elizabeth Emra. Sadly, Martha goes on to describe that John died after a long illness, in fact John and died aged only 29 in 1834.

In Recollections Martha also refers to Sally having a baby named after her who died as an infant. Martha puts this before the birth of John, but the records show that Martha Kent, 'Infant d. George/Sarah' was [buried at Selworthy on 23 Nov 1806](#).

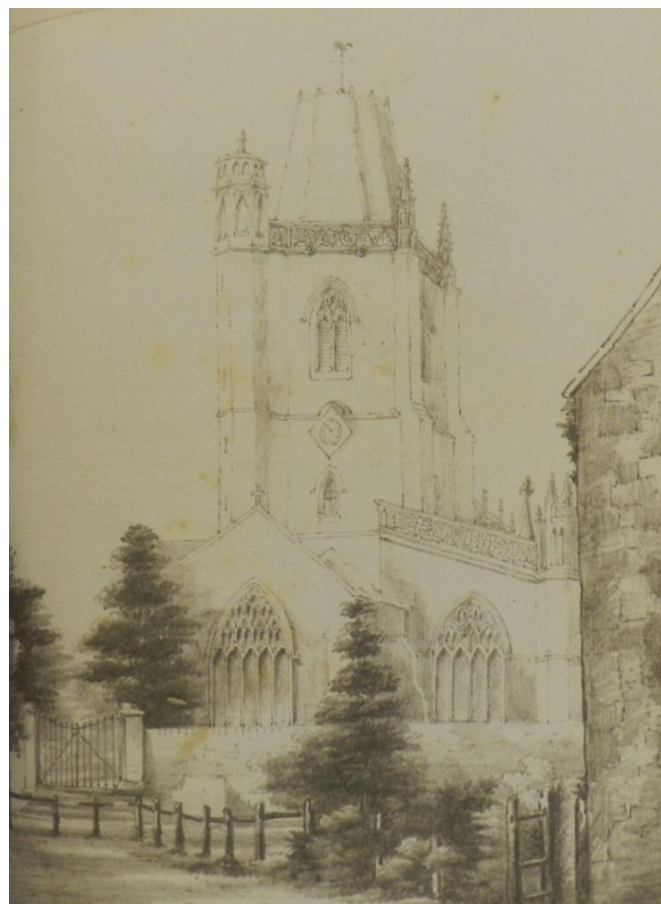
### **Yatton, Somerset 1805 - 1809**

Rev John Emra's next appointment was as Curate at Yatton, the official appointment is recorded as being in August 1806, but Lucy, in her memoir of Elizabeth, says Elizabeth would have only been a few months old at the time they moved so this would have been 1805. Martha confirms this by recording that they were in Yatton for about 4 years.

It was in Yatton that Elizabeth's brother John and sister Susannah were born and [baptised in 1806 & 1808](#). Martha and the family were pleased to move out of the city.

Martha says, *'Our residence in the city terminated, and to our great delight we went to live in the country' 'I must introduce you to the pleasant village of Y-----'* The family's house there was *'the pretty parsonage, with its lime trees in front, and rows of sweet peas trained along under the parlour windows, and its large garden behind, its ponds, and its orchard and field'*. Sally had left the family by then, but there were other nurses or governesses and James was the gardener.

Rev John Emra appears to have been well liked in the village (at least by his daughter's account) *'Their pastor knew them well, and they knew him, and loved him. His gentle bearing, his affectionate remonstrances, his liberal hand, his playful kindness to the young, were not ill requited among his simple and respectful people'*.



**Yatton Church**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

It seems that Rev John was also developing a reputation as a preacher, in one passage Martha describes a visit by *'the Mistress Mores'* – [Hannah More](#)'s sisters, who had apparently come some distance to hear him. Martha later visited Hannah More (at her home at Barley Wood) with her father *'whom she was ever pleased to receive'* and was presented with two copies of one of her books. Lucy also visited Hannah More after she had moved to Windsor Terrace, Clifton.

In *'Onward and Upward'* Lucy says: *'the beauty of his voice and the impressiveness of his manner, will never be forgotten ; this opinion must not be attributed to a daughter's partiality, for his reading was universally admired'. 'with whatever other voice it was contrasted, it still appeared the most'*.

One of the highlights of their life in Yatton was *'the fair, which always took place on the first Tuesday in May, and was looked forward to all year round'. 'A very unpretending fair it was'. 'The best booths I think were clustered round the village Inn' 'There was more space too just here, for the Inn, a substantial building of grey stone, lay back from the road, the space in front affording room for several picturesque objects: the stone well, the indispensable "upping stock" and a sort of rough branching post, nameless I believe, but very common in dairy counties, on which the honest housewife hangs her snowy pails, and sieves to dry in the sunshine'*.



The "upping stock" (for mounting horses) outside the Prince of Orange Inn, Yatton – now a private house.

### St George, Gloucestershire 1809 - 1842

Rev John Emra became vicar of St George on 11th January 1809, at the time St George was outside the Bristol City boundary (in Gloucestershire) but it was less than 3 miles from their earlier home in St Paul's. In *'Recollections'* Martha reports that when asked, their man-servant described it as a *"main outlandish place"*.

Martha describes the entertainment of moving house *'I fear we liked the whole affair the better, from the necessary interruption to lessons and business. Our school-room was the last to be dismantled in the house we left and the first to be set in order in the one to which we were going'*. This was to be the family's last move; they were taking a house where the last inhabitant had resided for half a century - it was described as gloomy. but that changed.



Milestone in St George

*'Make a vicar of your curate, and you shall soon see how much of liberal taste, and happy contrivance was latent in the mind, and only wanted opportunity to display itself. Our house soon assumed a light and pleasant aspect. Contemplating it (if such were the gracious will of God) as their abode for many years; our dear parents spared no expense, either in its fitting up or in its furniture'.*



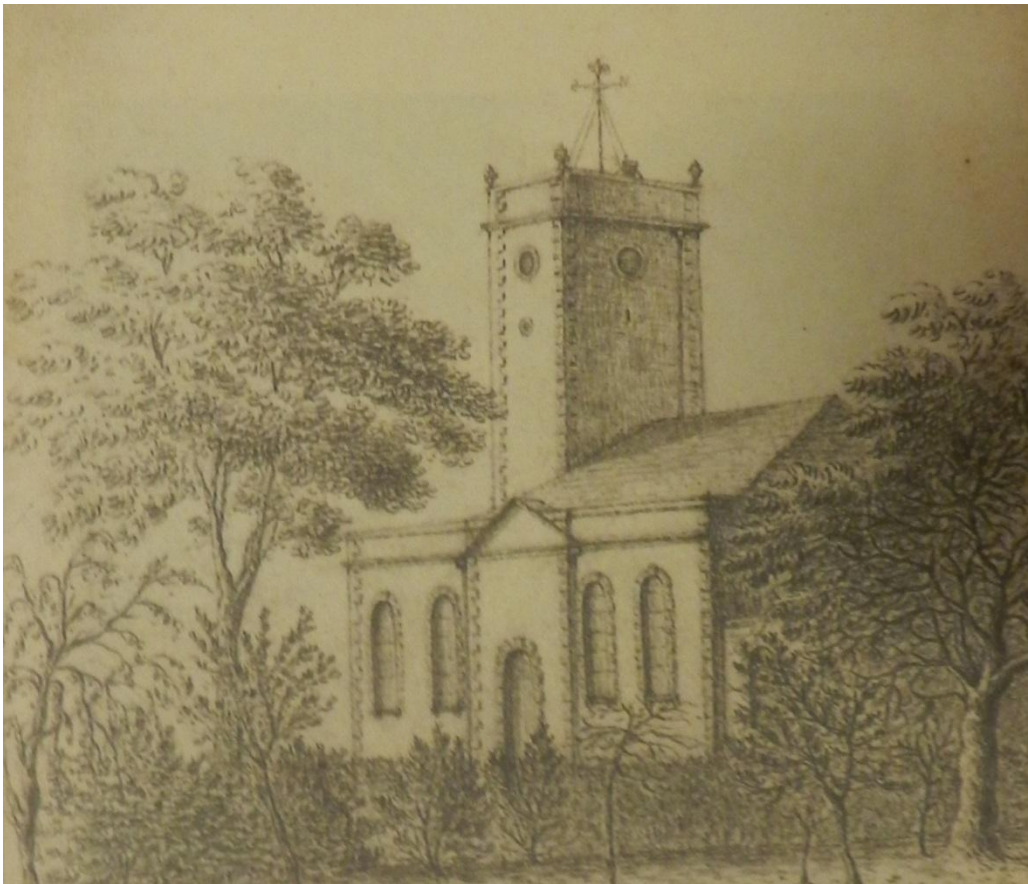
### **St George Church & Vicarage**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

*'In our garden, the change effected was still greater than in our house; but of course it was more gradual. In fact the entire transformation which took place there was the work of years. The straight wall and hedge were done away with. The orchard and kitchen-garden became part of the pleasure ground. Clematis and creeper, twined around the apple-trees which were allowed to remain, and climbed up to festoon the rough branches of the old cherry-tree; and winding paths, and bowers and shrubs, so arranged as not to interfere with peeps of the distant country, made our pleasure ground the prettiest for many mile around.'*

Another daughter, Frances (b 1809) and a son Henry (b 1811) meant that the vicarage and its garden was soon home to nine children - two sons and seven daughters.

Martha enjoyed walking into the City with her father *'and ever was he pointing out objects of interest; picturesque bits; fine effects; and, lingering at his side in the print and picture shops, we early became familiar with all his favourites; learned to admire the depth of shadow in the "Jew Rabbi"; and the majesty of Salvator's Wilderness. Then he had acquaintances and friends, among the professors of art he dearly loved; and as our native artist, Bird [[Edward Bird](#)], produced one and another of his finished pictures, we were sure of a kind reception at his house'.*



### St George Church

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

*'Thus passed many years, till we numbered nine brothers and sisters; and the elder ones among us were growing up into womanhood'.*

John and Elizabeth's second daughter, Anne, died in 1814, aged 16 years and their youngest son, Henry, died in a boating accident at Oxford in 1829, aged 18, it appears that he drowned while *'amusing himself on a skiff upon the river Isis, near Worcester college [Oxford], of which he had recently entered as a member'*.

The ordered life of the family in St George was interrupted by the [Bristol Riots](#) of October 1831. In the final chapter of her book 'Scenes in our Parish' Elizabeth describes the night of Sunday 30th October that year and the day following in some detail.

The fires in the centre of Bristol could be seen from St George and the family gathered in the vicarage heard reports that the rioters intended to burn down their church and their home.

*'We were sitting thus in feverish and anxious expectation, when a little after one the bell was rung violently, and the door shaken as if it would be broken down. We sprung from our seats "There they are! Come!"'*

However, *'Whoever they were that, at such a moment, thought it worth their while to add to the terrors of an almost defenceless family we know not'. 'They were gone on, before the door was opened'*

The next day the family heard reports (later proved to be false) that Bristol Cathedral was burning and still expected the worst *'This time tomorrow a heap of ruins may lie here'*. The day was spent hiding valuables, clothes and books into *'the wet pit of the dirty fowl's court'*.

The family received messages as the rioters as the mob approached from the city and as they neared the *'female part of the family'* left through the garden to safety at Betsy's home. The mob got into the house and caused *'irreparable mischief'* but *'did not accomplish the worst of what those who had incited them could have desired'*. Elizabeth suggests that in part this was because *'they were in number not above a fifth part that we had been told to expect; their party had thinned at the very numerous public houses on their way'*. So the family escaped relatively unscathed from riots that destroyed a large part of Bristol City Centre and are estimated to have cost over 120 lives.



### Base of Don John's Cross in the Vicarage Garden

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

As shown above, the base of Don John's Cross was at this time in the Vicarage garden (it is marked as being there on early Ordnance Survey maps). It is now (2026) in the car-park of St George Library, looking very unloved. Elizabeth mentions it in *Scenes in our Parish* it as the hiding place she chose for her manuscript as the rioters approached.

*"you, my poor manuscript, bear on the very page on which I am writing, a soiled mark to tell of your adventure, for you found a picturesque and appropriate place of refuge in the hollow bank under the foot of the old cross."*

By the time of the riots though, the Emra children were growing up and starting to leave home, indeed Martha had already done so and had moved to Canterbury with her husband, Rev Frederick Rouch after their marriage in February 1825.

John married Maria Lydia Symes in October 1832 and Elizabeth married Marcus Holmes in July 1833, but when their mother Elizabeth Bastone died on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1837 at the age of 67, there were still four Emra daughters living at home (and Elizabeth and her family were neighbours), there is more about their and their mother's life below.

The Emras were friends of the Phillips family of Couldshill House (see also 'Who was Elizabeth Pople?' under the description of the Princeton copy of 'Recollections' in Appendix D). In his [1842 diary](#) Capt John Willway Phillips describes them as '*a fine plump family*' [Emra has been mis-transcribed as 'Emma']. This must have been a reference to the four sisters.

Rev John Emra, who was still serving as Vicar of St George after 33 years, died at the age of 73 on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1842. Lucy describes his long weeks, indeed years, of illness in some detail, while we don't know what ailed the reverend it was clearly something that recurred. Lucy mentions that he was very unwell in November 1838 and that '*his opinion for many years was that he had a disease of the heart*'.

Lucy comments on how his voice became weaker as his illness progressed:

*'I have thought his voice most beautiful as it sounded from the Communion table at the time of administering the Lord's Supper; with whatever other voice it was contrasted, it still appeared the most beautiful; but month after month, the voice seemed to become weaker; and as I remembered how often I had heard him speak with pleasure of standing at the Communion table at St. Mary -Redcliff, and hearing his voice roll; all down the spacious building. I grieved to think the voice now must become more and more feeble'*

*'I think Whit-Sunday, 1842, must have been the last time he performed that solemn service; and the last time he officiated in church at all was on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>'*

In his final weeks both John and Martha were able to visit their father (with Martha staying until his death with her four sisters), other visitors mentioned were '*his beloved friend for thirty years, and brother in the ministry, the Rev. John Hall*' and '*dear Mr. Keasberry, his friend for sixty-two years*'.

Lucy describes his final hours:

*'He uttered the name of an old valued friend, for a long time his curate; "The Rev. John Latey; the reverend brother in the Lord Jesus Christ." I think that was the last sound I ever heard from the lips of my deeply -beloved and ever-blessed father.'*

A copy of Rev John Emra's will is available online and there is a transcript at Appendix A. He left a total of £13,194.30 held in trust to his children, at today's prices that is the equivalent to over £1.5m Most of this wealth had come from Elizabeth Bastone's father, Francis Blake, but there was also a significant sum left by his mother, Lucy Earle. In the census returns after Rev John Emra's death, his spinster daughters listed their occupations as 'fundholders'.

Rev Emra continued to have contacts in St Kitts through to his death. Apart from his children, the only other beneficiary mentioned in his will (dated 20th Nov 1837) was Jane Osborne. "*I give and bequeath unto Jane Osborne of the town of Basseterre in the Island of Saint Christopher Seamstress the sum of one hundred pounds sterling money for her*

*absolute use and benefit*" A codicil, written less than a month before his death in September 1842 revoked the bequest *"having made an advance in favour of Jane Osborne"*

There is a Jane Osborn Emra recorded as having received £50 4s 3d in slave compensation for 3 enslaved people in St Kitts in October 1835<sup>3</sup>. I assume this is the same Jane Osborne, but I have been unable to find how Jane was related to Rev John Emra. There is no record of any of his known close relatives receiving slave compensation, though the wider Manning family were involved in several claims.

The people of St George having lost a long-standing vicar set up a collection, as reported in the Bristol Mercury on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1842

**ST. GEORGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

**T**HE Churchwardens and Friends, being desirous to perpetuate the memory of their much lamented and greatly respected Vicar, the late Rev. JOHN EMRA (who for a period of 83 years has laboured in the parish in the sacred office, in addition to his labours in the parish of St. James and St. Paul, in the city of Bristol, and thereby not only endeared his memory to his Parishioners, but to a large circle of friends), do most earnestly solicit the Vestry, Parishioners, and Friends of the deceased to a Subscription for the erection of a Monument to his memory in the parish church, showing forth their deep sense of obligation to this faithful Minister of the Gospel.

Subscriptions will be received at Mr. NORFON's, Corn-street; Mr. OLDLAND's, Corn-street; or either of the Churchwardens.

NAMES ALREADY RECEIVED:--

Rev. W. Laxton ... ..	£1	0	0
The Churchwardens ... ..	2	0	0
W. Emblin... ..	1	0	0
Rev. John Gaskin... ..	1	0	0
J. Stone, Summer Hill ... ..	1	0	0
Thos. D. Eyre ... ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Taylor ... ..	1	0	0
Robert Dix ... ..	1	0	0
Rev. G. Salt ... ..	1	0	0

The death of the Rev John Emra of course meant the Emra sisters lost their home as well as their father. A new vicar, Rev G Salt, was appointed and would move into the Vicarage. They moved to Westbury Hill (the Redland / Westbury-on-Trym area) probably to Eastfield Villa, which was certainly their residence by 1861. Elizabeth and her family also moved from the adjacent 'Homefield' to that area in December 1842.

The new vicar also brought changes to St George church, the church in which Rev John Emra had preached (and is shown in the drawings of St George church above, which were presumably by members of the family) was apparently deemed "not very ecclesiastical" The church was demolished and a new church built to the designs of J.Hicks in 1846. It lasted some 32 years only, as a large fire consumed it in 1878. A third church was then built, which was itself [demolished in 1976](#) after becoming unsafe.

Following the demolition of the third church, the site was redeveloped and the remains buried in the grave yard were apparently reinterred in nearby Avon View Cemetery. The

graves of the Rev John Emra and other members of the family buried at St George have therefore been lost.

Below is a painting of the second St George church which is titled '*current church*' but there is no indication of who painted it, perhaps Lucy, Frances or one of her other sisters visited from their new home.



### **“The Current Church”**

**The second St George Church built 1846, destroyed by fire 1878**

**(artist unknown)**

*(from Somerset copy of ‘Recollections’)*

## Rev John Emra's wife – Elizabeth Bastone Blake (b1769 d1837)



**Elizabeth Bastone Emra (née Blake)**

*(Portrait shared by Martin received this some years ago from a descendant of the Emra family)*

Elizabeth Bastone Blake was the only child of Francis Blake of Minehead (b1741 d1803). Elizabeth was baptised on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1769. She died on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1837.

Francis Blake was obviously wealthy, at the time of John & Elizabeth's marriage, in 1795, he gave the sum of £2,000 to be invested in trust with the interest to be paid to the couple (£2,000 in 1795 is equivalent of over £300,000 today). He also left John & Elizabeth a significant inheritance in his will, which has been [transcribed here](#).

The family claimed to be descendants of [Admiral Robert Blake](#) but there seems to be no firm evidence of that. Elizabeth Bastone Blake's grandfather was Andrew Blake (Junior) (b1725 d1786) who married Ann Bastone in Porlock in 1740. So, it seems that Elizabeth Bastone Blake's second name came from her grandmother. Other members of the Bastone family witnessed Francis Blake's will.

There is no record of how Elizabeth came to know John Emra, but there may have been a link to Worthington Brice, who as we have seen seems to have acted as John Emra's father.

The Brice family were from Somerset and may well have had trading or other links with the Blake family.

As with her father, Lucy describes the last weeks of Elizabeth's life in St George in some detail. Her illness seems to have started in around February when she was able to go to a physician and *'and we seemed to have reason to hope that she would be restored'*. But whatever treatment she was given did not succeed and her health seems to have quickly deteriorated. A letter was sent to Martha and she returned from Canterbury much to Elizabeth's *'delight and gratitude'* only the day before her mother finally died.

A drawing of Francis Blake's house in Minehead is shown in the illustrated copy of Martha's book held in Somerset. A note on the drawing says that it is 'my mother's birthplace', but that may have been added by the sister that put the book together, rather than the artist. So the artist could have been any member of the family and the drawing could date from any time from John & Elizabeth's marriage to the mid 1800s.



**Francis Blake's house, birthplace of Elizabeth Bastone Blake**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

The house is still standing (see Google Streetview image). 'Townend House' is now used as a community centre – [townsendhouse.weebly.com](http://townsendhouse.weebly.com)

Their website lists known occupants at certain dates; Francis Blake is listed as the occupier in 1787, the previous occupier is listed at 1768 and the next at 1803, so Francis Blake may have been in occupation for any period between those dates.



## Rev John Emra's Children

As described above Rev John Emra and his wife Elizabeth had 11 children in a period of 16 years after they married, below is a brief description of their lives.

### Martha Pearce (b1795 d1869) "Primogenita"

The oldest of the Emra children, Martha was also the first of John and Elizabeth's children to marry; in 1825 to Rev Frederick Rouch who had been appointed as curate in St George in 1823.

Frederick was born in about 1799, the son of Thomas Rouch (abt 1756-1840), a timber merchant who lived in St James's Square. This was not far from St Paul's Church and it is likely that Martha and Fred met as children when the family were in St Paul's. In 'Recollections', Martha describes a friend who she first visited 'more than thirty years' before and Lucy's notes in the Princeton copy tell us that this was Mrs Bonville and that she was a neighbour of Mr & Mrs Rouch.



The Rouch's house in the square backed on to the timber yard, which was on the corner of Barrs Lane and Milk Street and can be seen on the 1828 Ashmead map of the City. While Frederick made the church his life, his brother Isaac joined their father's business. Isaac married Anna Allies and her brother, John Allies, along with Martha's brother John 'John Emra the younger' were made executors in Thomas Rouch's will.

According to his will dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1832, Thomas Rouch also owned 'five cottages together with the workshops yards premises and appurtenances thereto belonging called Woodall's premises situated in the lower end of Queen Street and in the adjoining street called Passage Street in the castle precincts in the said City of Bristol'. This is where the Central Health Clinic now stands, on the 1874 Ashmead map buildings here are named 'Rouch's Court'.



Extract of 1874 Ashmead Map

The University of Pennsylvania Penn Libraries hold a copy of 'A remembrancer of old friends' a handwritten notebook which belonged to Eliza Maria Dalton. Eliza Maria (b1807 née Allies) was a niece of Isaac Rouch's wife Anna (son of her brother William Allies). The remembrancer is handwritten and includes poems and texts attributed to members of the Emra family, some of which are unpublished. This has been digitised, a link and more details can be found in Appendix E.

Frederick Rouch became Rector of the churches of St Mary Magdalen and St. George the Martyr in Canterbury to where they moved in 1828 prior to his formal appointment in 1829.

Martha lived in Canterbury for the rest of her life. She and Fred had two children, Charles born in 1827 in Bristol and then Ellen in Canterbury in 1828. Ellen had a long period of illness as a child and it is to her that 'Recollections' is dedicated.

They lived in the Cathedral precincts and were at Green Court for the census in 1851.

The photograph of Martha with an elaborate bonnet was taken in a photographer's studio in Canterbury, other photos can be found on the web taken in the same studio.

Lucy recalls in one of her handwritten notes in the Princeton copy of 'Recollections' – *"I fancy her once kneeling up on the window seat (in the room where we had slept together at St George's) that she might catch the early morn's light, making a doll's bonnet for me. She made also, among these many bonnets, my wedding bonnet as she had made that of dear Elizabeth."*

Martha's son, Charles Rouch, died in 1855 aged only 27, he never married. Nor did his sister who died in 1874, 11 years before the death of her father in 1885 at the age of 87.



**Green Court, Canterbury**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

Martha's Published Works (links are to online copies):

1840 - [Recollections of childhood; or Sally, the faithful nurse](#) by 'Primogenita'

1844 - [A Sister's Record, Or, Memoir of Mrs. Marcus H. Holmes](#) This memoir is often attributed to her sister Lucy, but it concludes with 'CANTERBURY January 1844' which is where Martha was living at that time.

1847 - [Cathedral rhymes, suggested by passages in the liturgy and lessons](#) by the author of 'Recollections of childhood', 'A Sister's Record' &c. This further confirms Martha as the author of 'A Sister's Record'.

'A remembrancer of old friends' by Eliza Maria Dalton (see Appendix E) includes two works by Martha - 'A Sisters Dream' and 'To the Memory of Mr John Willis (late of Bristol)' - which we believe to be otherwise unpublished. The notebook also includes works by Martha which were published in 'Cathedral Rhymes'; these include 'The Harvest' which has some additional introductory lines mentioning the Isle of Thanet.

### **Anne (b1798 d1814)**

Anne died on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1814 aged 16 years. Lucy says that the anniversary of her death was still remembered even in her father's final days.

In the Princeton copy of 'Recollections' Lucy includes a drawing of Yatton Church, drawn by Anne Emra in 1812



*(from Princeton copy of 'Recollections')*

## Lucy (b1799 d1867)

Lucy was the most prolific author of the Emra sisters. She also put together the copy of 'Recollections' now at Princeton and most probably the original extra-illustrated version of which Somerset Archives have a copy.

Lucy married Wesleyan Minister, Walter Oke Croggan, in 1845 (after her father's death). She was Walter's second wife and he had a daughter Marianne from his first marriage.

Lucy and Walter lived in Dublin for a time and later at Tunbridge Wells where she was able to see her sister. Walter died in 1854 less than 10 years after their marriage and is buried at St Michael Church, Sittingbourne. Lucy then seems to have returned to Bristol and lived in Clifton.



### Lucy's Published Works:

1829 - Laurence the Martyr by The Daughter of a Clergyman. Attributed to Elizabeth in various obituaries in 1843/44, but 'A Sister's Record' states 'Scenes in Our Parish' as Elizabeth's first published work in 1830. A Cradle Hymn from this work was set to music by [Rev William Henry Havergal](#) whose daughter, [Frances Ridley Havergal](#), was Lucy's god-daughter.

1831 - Scenes in the life and death of a missionary, and original poems

1832 - Heavenly Themes, a Selection of Original Poetry

1836 - Thoughts by the Wayside

1837 - [Short sermons and hymns for children. Arranged for every Sunday in the year](#) by A Sunday School Teacher

1839 - [Things New and Old, or recollections, in prose and verse](#) by A District Visitor

1841 - [Words from a Teacher](#)

1844 - Things Seen and Known

1846 - [Attempts at Sketching](#)

1847 - Seanmoirighe gairid agus abharáin diaga do leanbhuighe (translation into Gaelic Short sermons and hymns for children)

1849 - Transcripts from my Tablets

1850 - Selection of Hymns

1853 - [Onward and Upward](#)

'A remembrancer of old friends' by Eliza Maria Dalton (see Appendix E) also includes one of Lucy's works - 'A Prayer for a Student' - which we believe to be otherwise unpublished.

### **Worthington Brice (b1801 d 1801)**

Worthington Brice Emra was buried on 25th October 1801 aged only 4 months. He was John and Elizabeth's first born son and the fact that he was named after Worthington Brice shows his importance in John Emra's life.

### **Sarah Gray (b1802 d1877)**

Sarah Gray Emra, named after her great grandmother, remained a spinster and moved to Eastfield Villa with her sisters, Susanna and Frances, after her father's death.

### **Francis Blake (b1803 d1803)**

Died as an infant aged only 1 month old.

### **Elizabeth (b1804 d1843) "The Country Parson's Daughter" "Little Elizabeth"**

A Bristol Civic Society Blue Plaque to commemorate Elizabeth Holmes (née Emra) was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Bristol on 14th January 2026.

The plaque can be seen in Harveys Lane BS5 8HP, which runs between the site of the now demolished Vicarage and the site of Elizabeth's home, after her marriage, at Homefield.

Young Elizabeth survived contracting smallpox but otherwise appears to have had a happy and healthy childhood. As she grew up she increasingly involved herself with trying to help the poor of the Parish.

Following the publication of the family's most well-known work "Scenes in our Parish" Elizabeth married artist Marcus Holmes on 12th July 1833. Marcus had been born in Bristol in 1803, he was educated at Bristol Grammar School and then became a student at the Royal Academy. A note in the back of the Bristol copy of 'Recollections' tells us that Marcus was 'a tall jolly very ugly man'.

Marcus Holmes's father was also an artist, George Holmes. George and his wife were Irish, they had moved to Bristol in 1802. Marcus's mother died shortly after his birth, but his father later remarried, to a Miss Anstey of Devizes and had three more children.

After their marriage Elizabeth and Marcus lived in 'Homefield Cottage' next to the Church and the vicarage; "*the shadow of my father's trees Fall on my husband's home*". Here they were tenants of the Phillips family of Cloudshill House.

Elizabeth's first child, a girl, was born on 6th July 1834. One of Elizabeth's children, John, died at only 2 days old in August 1838, but by the time of the 1841 census she and Marcus



were living at Homfield with five children, Ann (aged 6), Henry (5), Agnes (3), John (2) & Herbert (5 months).

Following her father's death, Elizabeth and her growing family no longer had access to the vicarage and its garden next to their house - Elizabeth wrote a poem '*On Laying Aside My Latch Key of the Vicarage Garden*'. In December 1842, Elizabeth and her family (now 6 children, Marian was born earlier that year) moved to Westbury Hill (Redland/Westbury-on-Trym), 'within a short walk of her sisters' new residence'.

Within a year of the move, on 10th October 1843, Elizabeth died just a few days after the birth of her own 'little Elizabeth' her eighth child. Elizabeth was laid to rest 'in her father's tomb, beside her loving mother, and the young brother who had found his early sepulchre there so many years before'.



**' And the shadow of my father's trees  
Falls on my husband's home.'—Page 26.**

**From the published copy of 'A Sister's Record' title page**

Elizabeth's husband, Marcus Holmes, continued to live in Westbury with their children and is recorded there with his four daughters and youngest son in the 1851 census. Marcus died in January 1854, at Minehead (though his will written in September 1853 has his residence as Westbury). After their father's death the youngest children continued to live in Westbury with Elizabeth's sisters.

Given the fact that her father and sisters were talented artists and that her husband was an art teacher and artist, it is surprising that so far we have found no drawings or paintings of Elizabeth. St George historian Dave Stephenson (a member of Barton Hill History Group) suggests that this was perhaps due to the effects of her childhood smallpox on her appearance.

As mentioned in the description of Elizabeth's father's life above, the church at St George that Elizabeth knew was soon rebuilt by the new Vicar, Rev George Salt. This second St George Church was designed by John Hicks (see drawing on p23).

The opening of the rebuilt church in 1846 was less than three years after the death of Elizabeth and her life was remembered with a memorial in the new church.

*"A carved freestone font has been presented to the church by Mr Marcus Holmes, as a memento of his amiable and talented lady, the daughter of the lamented Rev John Emra, the late Vicar of St George."*

It is likely that this font was lost when the second church was destroyed by fire in 1878, but if it survived, then it was certainly lost when the third church was demolished in 1976.

Read more about the lives of Holmes family:–  
[troopers-hill.org.uk/history/HolmesFamily.pdf](http://troopers-hill.org.uk/history/HolmesFamily.pdf)

Elizabeth's Published Works:

1830 - [Scenes in our Parish First Series](#)

1830 - [The Snowdrop's Call](#) (Poem in For-Get-Me-Not, literary annual)

1832 - [Scenes in our Parish Second Series](#)

1832 - Scenes in our Parish First & Second Series (together in one book)

1833 - [Scenes in our Parish, New York, USA edition](#), (republished in 1851, [1852](#), 1855 & [1860](#) with an edited version of a 'Sister's Record')

1834 – Scenes in our Parish, Philadelphia edition

1836 - [A Mother's Offering to the younger members of the Church of England](#)

1838 - Realities of Life (published as Old Hetty and other Realities of Life in 1842 with additional material)

1844 – Some of Elizabeth's works were included in 'A Sister's Record' written by Martha, these included some short verses and some longer poems in the text as well as a short story and other poems by Elizabeth in a separate section.

Longer poems in the text of 'A Sisters Record':

- The Power of Nature (p9)
- The Chevalier Bayard and His Mother (p10)
- A Vision Raised by the Notes of a Musical Snuff Box
- We All Do Fade as a Leaf (p16)
- An Invitation to the Birds That I Feed at My Parlour Window (p41)
- On Laying Aside My Latch Key of the Vicarage Garden (p61)

Hope & Disappointment (short story p79 to p131 of 'A Sister's Record')

Miscellaneous Pieces (p135 to p176 of 'A Sister's Record'):

- Men's Immortality
- Easter
- Hymn for All Saints' Day
- The Nurse's Story
- The Gallina Hen's Cry to Her Mate
- The Guerilla
- The Pirate to the Zenaida Dove
- Berkeley Castle
- Lines Occasioned by Seeing Chalon's Portrait of The Queen
- The Advent
- An Invitation
- Bossington Green, Selworthy
- King Charles's Child
- Birth Day Verses
- The Pilgrim's Invitation
- The Missionary's Blessing
- Communion Service
- The Guest Chamber
- Christ Received into the Ship
- Gen. XXXVIII. 16
- A Free Version of the Twenty-ninth Psalm
- A Prayer for My Child
- Thoughts on the Evening of My Child's Baptism
- A Child's Question
- A Daughter's Thoughts

1855 - Hark! To the Old Bells' Chime (poem published as sheet music, composer Rev W.H. Havergal)

'A remembrancer of old friends' by Eliza Maria Dalton (see Appendix E) includes six works by Elizabeth which we believe to be otherwise unpublished. Eliza Maria was only 3 years younger than Elizabeth, so they may indeed have been friends.

These works are:

- A monument in Westbury Church, Gloucestershire..
- Lines occasioned by reading the description of the cot purchased for the Royal Infant November 20th 1840
- Charles the 1st after many pious exhortations...
- A District Visitors Recollections in St Georges'
- The Carrier Pigeon to the ...
- The Heliotrope

The last of these works is dated September 1842.

### **John (b1806 d1886)**

Rev John's son John also became a vicar. He married Maria Lydia Symes in 1832, for a short time he served as curate at St George under his father as the vicar but in around 1834 moved to Downton, Wilts where he was the perpetual curate of St Mary, Redlynch. Maria died in 1835. John then married again to Frances Anne Atkinson and at the time of the 1841 census they were living in Redlynch Parsonage in Downton with John's daughter, Maria, from his first marriage and 7-month-old Arabella, his first child with Frances. In 1864 John became Rector and Vicar of Biddeston, Wiltshire where he served until his death in 1886.

In the Princeton copy of 'Recollections', Lucy comments on the fact that John had '7 daughters & 2 sons living at one time' the same as 'the largest number of my parents' family liv<sup>d</sup> at one time'.

Lucy lists the names of John's children: Maria Anne, Arabella Frances, Charlotte Elizabeth, William Henry Atkinson, Lucy Earle, John Newton, Alice, Blanche Ellen and Kathleen Hamilton alongside those of her own sisters and brothers to highlight the similarity.

John's Published Works:

1844 – [The Second Temple: a Dramatic Poem and Other Poems](#) This was attributed to John's father in 'People and Houses of Old St George' by William Sanigar (published 1936) but the dedication 'To Countess Nelson' and 'compiled for the benefit of Redlynch Schools' 'John Emra, Redlynch Parsonage, November 1844' makes it clear it is by the younger John.

'A remembrancer of old friends' by Eliza Maria Dalton (see Appendix E) includes 'Long Live Nelson's Heir' by John - which we believe to be otherwise unpublished. The notebook also includes 'Young Minister' which is included in 'The Second Temple' and has 'Thoughts on the Baptism of Lord Trafalgar' which is attributed to 'MAE 1854' – we believe this to be by John's daughter Maria Anne Emra.

### **Susanna (b1808 d1880)**

Also known as Susan she was another of the three sisters who moved to Westbury when they left St George.

After the death of Elizabeth's husband Marcus in 1854, some of his younger children were looked after by their aunts, the two youngest, Marion and Elizabeth are recorded as living with them in the 1861 census.

### **Frances (b1809 d1888)**

Also known as Fanny, Frances outlived all her siblings.

In 'People and Houses of Old St George' William Sanigar includes a description of Frances in the section about John Emra:

*"A friend of his daughter Frances says that she was possessed of a tender and delicate imagination; that when she painted, it was no violent standard of "high art" that she*

*emulated, for she was always true to nature; and even in her embroideries of needle-work it was the same; she could by no means make a servile copy, but always originated her own charming designs from the wild flowers that were blossoming at her door. Her niece records that by her painting and fine needle-work she actually built two infant schools in her native parish. One of the treasured possessions of Marcus Holmes, a relation of the family, himself an artist, is two sketch books of charming water-colours by Frances Emra. A collection of her verses, with a memoir, was printed for private circulation in 1890. In this volume she is said to have had a passionate love for the poor, and a sort of divine compassion that beautified her face, made her daily life one of personal self-denial that bordered on asceticism which no-one could mitigate – because whatever was devised for her to that end found its ultimate destiny elsewhere. The book is fittingly entitled Frances Emra. A Succourer of Many.”*

In ‘Recollections’ Martha describes the events around the birth of one of her sisters, which Lucy’s note confirms to be Frances. Martha goes on to say:

*“Where is that baby now? Oh how altered! Intelligence has dawned on those features, and broke upon that mind; that wailing voice has strengthened into the tones of strong sense, and deep affection; the pencil and pen have become familiar to those tiny hands, and those feet so helpless then, speed now on errands of mercy to the sick and poor.”*

Frances is buried at Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym.

The wording on her grave says:

*Here rests in peace*

*Frances Emra  
Daughter of  
Rev<sup>ne</sup> John Emra*

*of the Island of St Christopher, WI  
and Vicar of St George's.  
Born Dec 21st 1809  
Interred into rest March 20th 1888*

*She hath done what she could  
To me to live is Christ and to die is Cain*



**Frances Emra's grave December 2024**

(photo by Rob Acton-Campbell)



**Frances (Fanny) Emra**

*(from Somerset copy of 'Recollections')*

**Henry (b1811 d1829)**

Henry, died in a boating accident at Oxford in 1829, aged 18.

It appears that he drowned while 'amusing himself on a skiff upon the river Isis, near Worcester college [Oxford], of which he had recently entered as a member'.

**Bristol Mirror - Saturday 04 April 1829**

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<p>Bishop, the Alfred, Sum- indalk : the Limerick ; the Vulcan, Egan, from the Pearl, an, O'Neill, Cundy, the Elizabeth and</p>	<p><b>DEATHS.</b> March 21, at Oxford, aged 18, Henry, youngest son of the Rev. John <b>Emra</b>, Vicar of St. George's, Gloucestershire, near this city. The family of this lamented youth have been thrown into deep distress by the melancholy accident which caused his death.—He was amusing himself in a skiff upon the river Isis, near Worcester college, of which he had recently entered a member, and when in the act of quitting the boat, from the motion given to it by his companion springing ashore, he was precipitated into the water, and sank immediately. March 27. in his 93d year. Mr. John Newall. cabinet-maker.</p>
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## Rev John Emra's Mother - Lucy Earle (1748-1819)

Lucy Catherine Earle  
 previously Emra  
 previously Grey  
 She was a native of Boston.  
 in America

In the Princeton copy of 'Recollections' Lucy adds two notes about her grandmother on the pages referring to her arrival at Yatton.

First giving her name as 'Lucy Catherine Earle, previously Emra, previously Grey'.

She then adds 'She was a native of Boston in America'.

These two items of additional information confirm details deduced in autumn 2021 before the digitised version of the Princeton book was available.

Rev John Emra's mother, Lucy Earle, was buried in St George on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1819<sup>[2]</sup>, at the time she had been living in Park Street, Bristol. At her burial (at her son's church) she was recorded as being 70 years old, so was born in either 1748 or January 1749.

Rev John Emra and his sister, Lucy, were her children from her first marriage to John Emra Snr.

John Emra Snr died in 1787 and Lucy then married John Earle and had a further son, Charles John Earle.

[ Page 59 ]

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>St George</i> in the County of <i>Gloucester</i> in the Year 1819				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Elizabeth Price</i> No. 465	<i>near George Lane</i>	<i>1819 10<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>.</i>	<i>5 Months</i>	<i>John Lacey Off Min</i>
<i>George Jones</i> No. 466	<i>Bath road</i>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>.</i>	<i>54 years</i>	<i>John Lacey Off Min</i>
<i>Lucy Earle</i> No. 467	<i>Park Street Bristol</i>	<i>22<sup>nd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>.</i>	<i>70 years</i>	<i>John Lacey Off Min</i>

As with many families parents' names were often used for their children, this can cause confusion, but can also confirm links. The Rev John Emra had a father John and a son John. He also had a mother, sister and daughter all named Lucy.

'Caribbeana' is a collection of 'Miscellaneous papers relating to the history, genealogy, topography and antiquities of the British West Indies edited by Vere Langford Oliver MRCS' It was published in six volumes in 1916 and is available [online](#). It contains excerpts of wills and other documents which were transcribed from original sources by various contributors, and is invaluable in piecing together the life story of Lucy Earle.

In volume 3 of *Caribbeana* there is a section titled 'The Cayon Diary' which is 'Compiled by John Earle, born 20 February 1747-8, died 3 October 1807, aged 60, son of John Earle, who was born 14 May 1722 and died 10 November 1771, aged 49'. This is the John Earle who was the second husband of Lucy and therefore the information can be considered to be accurate.

The information is arranged in more or less alphabetic order by surname as a list of events, below

are those that are relevant to Lucy Earle's story, presented in chronological order:

- Earle, sen<sup>r</sup>, John, born 14 May 1722.
- Earle, John (Father of John), mar<sup>d</sup> to Eliz<sup>a</sup> Burt 20 Dec. 1745.
- Earle, jun<sup>r</sup>, John, born 20 Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1747-8.
- Earle, Haliburton Barbara, was born in London 27 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1755.
- Earle, John, died of an Apoplexy 10 Nov. 1771, aged 50
- Earle, John, mar<sup>d</sup> to Miss Barbara Haliburton Mathie in the Parish Church of Saint Margaret Pattius, Rood Lane, near Fenchurch Street, London, ye 9<sup>th</sup> April 1778.
- Earle, Haliburton Barbara, landed in St. Kitts 24 Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1779.
- Earle, Haliburton Barbara, deliver'd of my da. Mary Elizth 23 Nov. 1779.
- Earle, Haliburton Barbara, deliver'd of my da. Barbara Haliburton Marg<sup>t</sup> 23 Feb<sup>y</sup>. '81.
- Earle, Haliburton Barbara, died 15th March 1781, aged 25. 10.17, child-bed
- Emra, Mrs (mother of John Emra), died 16 Dec. 1786, aged 59; decline.
- Emra, Sen<sup>r</sup>, John, died 11 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1787, aged 42 : gout
- Earle, John, mar<sup>d</sup> to Mrs Lucy Emra 15 Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1789
- Earle, Lucy, M<sup>rs</sup>, deliv<sup>d</sup> of a da. (still born) 8 Dec. 89, afternoon
- Earle, Charles John, born 28 June 1791, on Tuesday Evening 50 minutes past 9 o'clock
- Emra, John, mar<sup>d</sup> to Miss Blake, Bristol, early in 1790
- Altrey, Dr , married to Lucy Emra 21 August 1794
- Emra, John, his 1<sup>st</sup> child Martha born
- Emra, John, his 2<sup>nd</sup> child born 1798.

It can be seen that both John Earle and the then Lucy Emra lost their spouses (in 1781 & 1787 respectively) before they married each other in 1789.

The Lucy Emra who married Dr Altrey [Altree] in 1794 was Rev John Emra's sister, John Earle's step-daughter, and he also recorded his step-son John's marriage and the birth of his first two children.

Earle, Haliburton Barbara, died 15<sup>th</sup> March 1781, aged 25. 10. 17, child-bed, born 27 Apl. '55.  
 England, Mary (widow of John), died 4 April 1787; decline.  
 Estridge, Frances, Madam, died 12 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1768.  
 Earle, George, died 5<sup>th</sup> May 1769, about 50; Fever.  
 England, M<sup>rs</sup> (widow of W<sup>m</sup>), died 14 Jany. 1793, aged 65; decline.  
 Estridge, John, died in Engl<sup>d</sup> in July or Augt. 1794.  
 Earle, Lucy, M<sup>rs</sup>, deliv<sup>d</sup> of a da. (still born) 8 Dec. '89, afternoon.  
 Earle, Charles John, born 28 June 1791, on Tuesday Evening 50 minutes past 9 o'clock.  
 Earle, Haliburton Barbara, was born in London 27 Ap<sup>l</sup> 1755.  
 Earle, Eliz<sup>th</sup>, born 16 May 1726.  
 Emra, John, mar<sup>d</sup> to Miss Blake, Bristol, early in 1796.  
 Estridge, Aretas, mar. to Miss Julius in Eng<sup>d</sup> 1796.  
 Esdaile, Arch<sup>d</sup>, died 25 Sept. '96, aged 63; \* gout.  
 England, Polly, died at Cayon 22 Oct. 1791; decline.  
 England, Mary Caroline, b. 4 Mar. 1787.  
 Earle, sen<sup>r</sup>, John, born 14 May 1722.  
 Earle, jun<sup>r</sup>, John, born 20 Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1747-8.  
 Elliot, John, killed at St. Vincents by the Charibbs.  
 Esdaile, Rich<sup>d</sup>, marr<sup>d</sup> to Miss Wharton 4 Octo. '98.  
 England, Caroline (da. of Polly England, a Mustee woman), died at Cayon on Saty. eve ab<sup>t</sup> 10 o'clock the 12 Jany. '99, aged 11 yrs. 10 m<sup>s</sup> & 9 days.  
 Emra, John, his 1<sup>st</sup> child Martha born  
 Emra, John, his 2<sup>d</sup> child born 1798.

The above then details Rev John Emra's mother's, second marriage (to become Lucy Earle); for details of her birth and her first marriage (to John Emra) it is necessary to look in Caribbeana Vol 1.

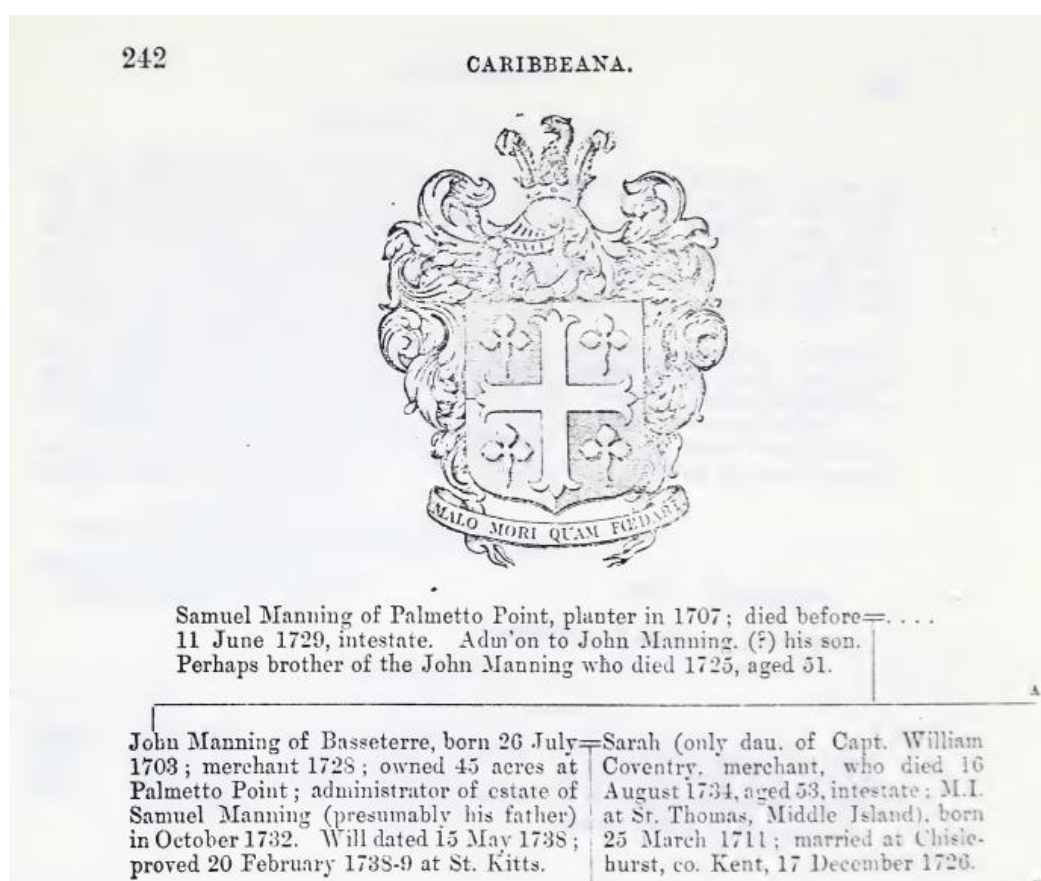
Lucy was related to the Manning family in St Kitts and there is a lot of information about this wealthy and influential family in Caribbeana including a Manning family tree.

On ancestry.com there are many family trees featuring the Emra family which list Lucy as being born 'Lucy Manning'; this is wrong. The link is further confirmed as in the Princeton copy of 'Recollections' Lucy's daughter's full name is given as 'Lucy Manning Emra'.

The branch of the Manning family with which we are concerned is that of Samuel Manning of Palmetto Point, planter who died before 1729.

Samuel had six children – John Manning; Battery Manning; Catherine Lucy Manning; Mary Manning; Sarah Manning and Rebecca Manning.

John Manning, his son William Coventry Manning and grand-son, William Manning became very wealthy merchants, plantation and slave owners.



Grandson William Manning became bankrupt in 1831 when sugar prices collapsed following the loss of the monopoly for sugar production in the British Empire which meant that plantations on St Kitts and other British Colonies had to compete in the British market with producers from outside the Empire. Added to this the land in St Kitts had become less fertile due to years of over production and the end of the slave trade meant the days of an unlimited and 'expendable' work force were over.

Prior to his bankruptcy William Manning had become an MP and Governor of the Bank of England, [William Manning's Wikipedia entry is here](#). William Manning's son, [Henry Edward Manning](#) became Archbishop of Westminster, head of the Catholic Church in England.

So how does Lucy Emra / Earle fit into this family tree?

The clue lies in the wills and gifts of her aunts, recorded in Caribbeana.

First we have a deed of gift recorded 29<sup>th</sup> February 1776.

*"Lucy Manning, Spinster, to John Emra the younger and Lucy Emra, infants, son and dau. of Nephew and Niece, John Emra the elder and Lucy his wife —negroe Flora and her three children, Charlotte, Clorinda, and Hannah, with her future issue".*

Rebecca Manning also details gifts:

*"Rebecca Manning, spinster, of the Parish St. George, Basseterre. In consideration of natural love and affection for her Niece Sarah Gray, spinster, conveys a negroe girl called Sukey. Recorded 22 Jan. 1772."*

*"Deed of Gift. Rebecca Manning to James Fraysse, Gent., negroe boy called James—cons<sup>nd</sup> nat. love and affection. Recorded 30 Sept. 1775"*

Then there is the will of Rebecca Manning of St. Christopher, spinster, dated 23 February 1780:

*"To Nephew William Manning of the City of London, mercht, 15 gs for mourning ring, same to beloved Niece Sarah Savage. Nephew Edwd' Manning Gray of St. Christopher, mercht, £100 c. To Lucy Emra, daughter of John Emra and my niece Lucy Emra his wife, negroe wench Bell with her progeny and 15 gs for mourning ring. To niece Sarah Fraysse, widow, £200 c. and 25 gs and wearing apparel, also negress Jenny and her children Sally and Franchon -with their issue. Manumit Mulatto girl Peggy, dau. of said Jenny, and request Sarah Fraysse to permit said Jenny to nurse Peggy until Peggy's father shall send for her. To John Emra, son of above, negro slave William, son of negress Stella. Manumit Stella and child she now goes with and all her future issue. To niece S. F. silver table spoons and household furniture except bed and bedstead. To Mrs Frances Neale, wife of Wm Neale of St. Vincent, Planter, as testimony of regard for her and the civilities shewn me, 25 gs. Rest and Residue to Niece Harriet Collins, wife of John Collins of St. Vincent, Esq,*

*Ex'ors : Wm Neale, Ed. Manning Gray, and Nicholas Richards, Esquires, St. Christopher.*

*Probate 23 October 1780 at St. Kitts."*

Note – 'Manumit' is to release from slavery, set free; so Rebecca is instructing her executors to free her slaves Peggy and Stella on her death.

'Lucy Manning, spinster' was Catherine Lucy Manning, daughter of Samuel Manning and Rebecca was her sister. Both refer to Lucy Emra, wife of John Emra and mother of John and Lucy Emra, as their niece.

So Lucy Emra must have been the daughter of one of the other children of Samuel Manning.

Their brother, John Manning's children were William Coventry, Rebecca Sarah, John Battery and John Brooks. John Battery died age 1 and John Brooks died in 1762; so 'Nephew William Manning' and 'Niece Sarah Savage' from Rebecca Manning's will are his two surviving children in 1780, with Rebecca Sarah being the wife of John Savage by this date.

Battery Manning and Mary Manning were both mentioned as brother and sister in John Manning's will in 1738 but they are not mentioned in later documents in Caribenna. A Battery Manning married Elizabeth Powers on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1733 at Charlestown, nr Boston, New England.

The other daughter of Samuel Manning was Sarah. John Manning's will of 1738 refers to her as '*sister Sarah, now the wife of \_\_\_\_ Grey in Boston*' he leaves her '*one negress Pauline with her increase and 15 pistoles, equal to £21c These to be remitted to Boston*'

Rebecca Manning's 1780 will mentions four nephews or nieces who are not children of John Manning – Edward Manning Gray, Lucy Emra and Sarah Fraysse in the section giving specific legacies and then '*Niece Harriet Collins, wife of John Collins of St. Vincent, Esq*'. I have not yet tracked down Harriet Collins.

Given the earlier gifts to 'Niece Sarah Gray, spinster' and 'James Fraysse' then it could be that Sarah Gray married James Fraysse. Given the propensity at the time to name children after their parents, Sarah Gray is very likely to be the daughter of Sarah wife of \_\_\_\_ Grey (spellings were very variable at that time and Gray / Grey were interchangeable).

'Edward Manning Gray' is presumably Sarah's brother and given that Lucy is listed between the two of them then she is most likely also a child of Sarah Grey/Gray (né Manning).

This would mean that Lucy Emra / Earle's maiden name was Lucy Grey or Gray – which fits with the note in the Princeton copy of 'Recollections'.

Sarah Grey, was in Boston with her husband by the time of John Manning's will in 1738, so it is possible that we should be looking there for records of the birth of her children. At that time of course Boston, New England was as much part of the British Empire as St Kitts.

Via ancestry.com it is possible to find the Connecticut, Church Records Index from the Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut. In 'Volume 057 Lebanon' baptisms are listed, on p84 & 85 of the index under Gray, Grey are:

- Cattern Lucy, bp. Dec 25, 1748
- Edward Manning, bp. Oct. 27, 1745
- Sarah, bp. Sept 29, 1754

There are also the Connecticut, U.S., Town Birth Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection); which contains an index to vital record information for individuals born primarily before 1870, abstracted from Connecticut town vital records, and recorded in the multi-volume set known as the Lucius Barnes Barbour Collection.

It lists on p92 under Gray:

- Edward Manning, s Edward & Sarah, b Oct 21, 1745
- Katherine Lucy, d Edward & Sarah, b Dec 19, 1748

As noted above, Aunt Lucy Manning, daughter of Samuel Manning had the full name of Catherine Lucy Manning but was later always referred to as Lucy. It seems her niece was given the same name, the spelling variations (Cattern / Katherine) being expected as they were transcribed from original hand written documents. This also fits with the note in the Princeton copy of 'Recollections' giving Lucy Catherine Earle as her name.

At some point Lucy Grey must have moved to her mother's family's home island of St Kitts as it seems likely that she met John Emra, her first husband, there; this must have been before 1769 when their son was born. The fact that her son, Rev John Emra, named one of his daughters Sarah Grey lends further support to the theory that Sarah Grey was his maternal grand-mother.

Lucy Earle's move to England was mentioned by Martha in 'Recollections'. It was while the Emra family were living in Yatton, which was about 1805 to 1809, so it was almost certainly soon after the death of her second husband in October 1807.

*'I think the event of most consequence which occurred during our residence at Y-----, was the arrival in England of our Grandmamma; not the old friend, of course, whom we called by that familiar name, at the Farm; but our real Grandmamma, - our dear father's own mother. We had never seen her for her life had been passed in a distant land'.*

While the children had never met her, Martha makes clear that they knew her through letters and gifts she had sent *'so she had established herself in our affections, long before the well remembered summer-day, when the carriage stopped at our garden-gate: when the son from whom she had been so long separated, welcomed her with dutiful regard, to his pleasant home; and the glad children were summoned from their distant school-room to see their Grandmamma'.*

Martha confirms that Lucy Earle had lived in Basseterre (in St Kitts) and also implies that she had not been born there. Lucy's note confirms her as a *'native of Boston'*

*'it must have involved no slight sacrifice of old habits, and associations, to leave the sunny Island which had been her home so long. - To leave it too for ever; for I do not think she ever contemplated a return to it'*

*'I readily believe it must have been in mournful mood, that her eye rested for the last time on the soft and cultivated Vale of Basseterre, rich with its cane fields, and its lofty palms; and on the cloud-capped mountain of her lovely island. It was not her native place, but she had lived there long, and was familiar with its scenes and its productions.'*

Following this initial visit Lucy Earle became a regular visitor to the Emra family - *'visits always paid in the summer; - in the warm summer; for she shrank from the cold, to which she had been little accustomed.'*

Lucy Earle's son by her second marriage, John Charles Earle, probably travelled to England with his mother. He was married in Yatton by his half-brother in 1813 to Mary Britton.

The above leads to the following timeline for the life of Lucy Grey / Emra / Earle.

- Born Catherine Lucy Grey 19 Dec 1748, Lebanon, Connecticut, New England to Edward Grey and Sarah Grey (born Sarah Manning, daughter of Samuel Manning)
- Baptised Catherine Lucy Grey 25 Dec 1748, Lebanon, Connecticut, New England
- Unknown date married John Emra of St Kitts
- Abt 1769 birth of son John Emra (future vicar of St George)
- Abt 1774 birth of daughter Lucy Manning Emra
- 11 Nov 1787 Death of husband John Emra
- 15 Feb 1789 Married John Earle
- 8 Dec. 1789 Birth of daughter (still born)
- 28 June 1791 Birth of son Charles John Earle
- 21 August 1794 Marriage of daughter Lucy to Dr John Turnpenny Altrey
- 11 November 1795 Marriage of son Rev John Emra to Elizabeth Bastone Blake
- 1804 Death of daughter Lucy Atree (buried Wolverhampton 3 Dec 1804)
- 3 October 1807 Death of husband John Earle
- 1808/09 moved to England
- 1 June 1813 Marriage of son John Charles Earle to Mary Britton by Rev John Emra in Yatton
- January 1819 Died, while living at Park St Bristol
- 22 January 1819 Buried at St George, Gloucestershire at the church where her son was the vicar
- 19 September 1842 Death of Son Rev John Emra (buried St George 24 Sept 1842)
- 17 January 1843 Death of son John Charles Earle (buried, St George 23 Jan 1843)

A copy of Lucy Earle's will is available online and there is a transcript at Appendix B

## **Rev John Emra's Father – John Emra (abt 1744-1787)**

Very little is known about the Rev John Emra's father.

There are two relevant entries in the Cayon Diary compiled by John Earle and described above.

- Emra, Mrs (mother of John Emra), died 16 Dec. 1786, aged 59; decline.
- Emra, Sen<sup>r</sup>, John, died 11 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1787, aged 42 : gout

Given John Emra's age of 42 at his death in 1787, then he would have been born in 1745 or late 1744. Rev John Emra would have been aged about 18 when his father died.

Caribbeana Vol 6 in the Register for the Parish of Trinity, Palmeto Point lists:

Baptisms

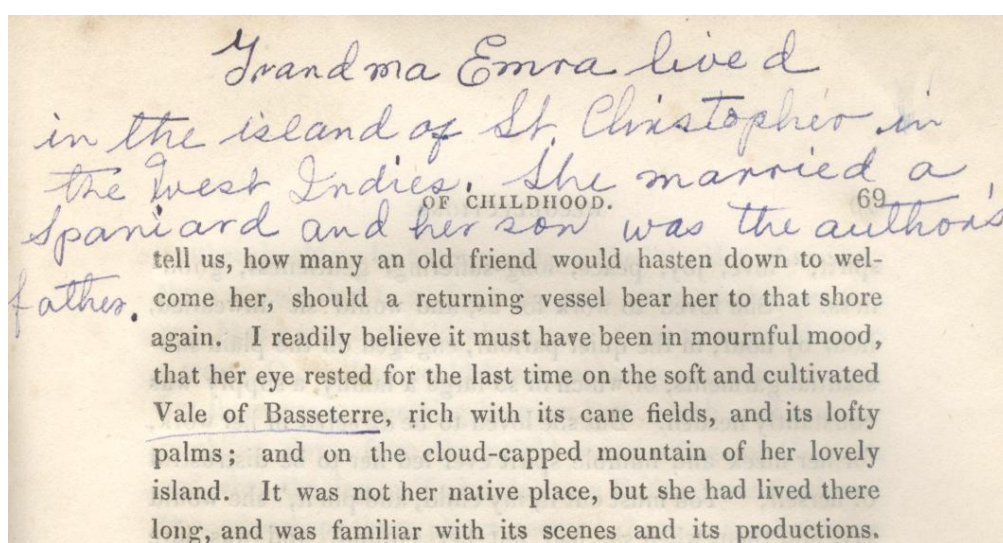
1746 April 29, John s of Richard Emery & Elizth his wife b 27<sup>th</sup>

Emra / Emery could be interchangeable but any link to our John Emra would be speculation. While Emra is not a common name there are several Emras recorded on both St Kitts and Nevis and any of them could be linked to John Emra – further research is needed.

As mentioned earlier, a biographical sketch of Elizabeth Emra's second son says '*the Rev. John Emra, vicar of St George's, Bristol, was the son of a slave-owner, a native of the Island of St Christopher [St Kitts], West Indies and the family was supposed to be of Spanish extraction*'.

We have seen that Rev John Emra's mother was certainly from a slave owning family and it is certain that the Emras would have been also if they owned land in St Kitts. But what of the 'Spanish extraction'?

The image below is from the Bristol Copy of 'Recollections'



From other inscriptions in the book (see Appendix D) it appears that this note was written by a member of the family. The note clearly implies that Rev John Emra's father was a 'Spaniard', though of course, if this is true, the family may have moved to St Kitts before his father was born.

Rob Acton-Campbell, Friends of Troopers Hill

Updated January 2026

## Notes / Sources

1. Somerset Heritage Service; Taunton, Somerset, England; *Somerset Parish Records, 1538-1914*; Reference Number: *D\P\m.st.m/2/1/6*

Retrieved via <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

2. Bristol Archives; Bristol Church of England Parish Registers; Reference: P/St.G/R/4/b

Retrieved via <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

3, 'Jane Osborn Emra', Legacies of British Slavery database, <http://wwwdepts-live.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/25739> [accessed 12th November 2021]

Thank you to my wife, Susan Acton-Campbell and other [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) members for their past research which has helped with the above.

Also to Susan for her searches of the British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)) © 2020 Findmypast Newspaper Archive Limited - Proudly presented by Findmypast in partnership with the British Library.

Also to Margaret for transcribing John Emra's and Lucy Earle's wills from the online hand written copies.

Dates in this document are taken from various documents available on the internet. If you believe any of the information contained here is wrong or if you have further information you can add please email [friends@troopers-hill.org.uk](mailto:friends@troopers-hill.org.uk)

The document was originally written in November 2021 and then updated in March 2023 with additional information, primarily from the notes in the Princeton copy of 'Recollections'. In December 2024 to March 2025 further updates corrected some minor errors / typos and added information about the family of Martha's husband Frederick Rouch and also the 'Remembrancer of Old Friends' by Eliza Maria Dalton (Appendix E).

In July 2025, information was added about Townsend House in Minehead (p25) and the memorial font in the second St George Church (p32).

A reference to the Bristol Civic Society Blue Plaque for Elizabeth was added in January 2026. Also a link to further information about the Holmes family (p32) and information about Elizabeth Pople and the diary of Capt John Willway Phillips (Appendix D).

## Appendix A – Transcript of the Will of Rev John Emra

The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Series PROB 11; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 1979

Retrieved via <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/5111/images/40611\\_309618-00265?pId=64881](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/5111/images/40611_309618-00265?pId=64881)

Prior to 12 January 1858, wills in England and Wales were proved in ecclesiastical courts. The largest one was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1384–1858.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/wills-1384-1858/>

Name           The Reverend John Emra  
Residence      St George, Gloucestershire, England  
Probate Date   31 May 1843

I The Reverend John Emra ~

vicar of Saint Georges in the County of Gloucester Clerk do hereby revoke all former wills codicils and other testamentary dispositions made by me at any time or times heretofore and do publish and declare this to be and contain my last will and testament whereas I am the survivor in a joint account in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England with Francis Bastone late of Minehead Somerset Attorney deceased for the sum of three thousand, three hundred and forty seven pounds five shillings and nine pence three per cent consolidated bank annuities being the trust stock of the settlement made upon my marriage with my late wife (before our marriage Elizabeth Baston Blake) and which stock is held by me upon the trusts of the said settlement being trusts for the benefit of my children after my decease now I do hereby direct my executors after my decease to hold the said three thousand three hundred and forty seven pounds five shillings and nine pence three per cent consolidated bank annuities and the dividends interest and income thereof upon and for the trusts and interests and purposes and with under and subject to the powers provisos declarations and agreements expressed declared and contained of and containing the same in and

Page 2

by the said settlement or such of them as after my decease shall be subsisting and capable of taking effect and whereas I am the survivor in a joint account in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England with John Blake ... deceased and the said Francis Bastone Attorney deceased both of Minehead for the sum of eight thousand six hundred and seventy three pounds twelve shillings and eight pence three per cent consolidate bank annuities being the trust stock under the last will and testament of Francis  
*Rob Acton-Campbell, Friends of Troopers Hill*                      Page 46 of 67                      Updated January 2026

Blake late of Minehead aforesaid merchant deceased who was the father of my said late wife and which stock is held by me upon the trusts of the said will being trusts for the benefit of my said children after my decease now I do hereby direct my executors hereinafter named after my decease to hold the said eight thousand six hundred and seventy three pounds twelve shillings and eight pence three per cent consolidated bank annuities and the interest dividends and income thereof upon and for the trusts interests and purposes and with under and subject to the powers provisoes declarations and agreements in the said will contained or such and so many of the same trusts ends interests and purposes powers provisoes declarations and agreements as after my decease shall be subsisting and capable of taking effect I give and bequeath unto Jane Osborne of the town of Basseterre in the Island of Saint Christopher Seamstress the sum of one hundred pounds sterling money for her absolute use and benefit and I direct that such legacy shall be paid by my executors free and clear from any deduction or amount or in respect of the legacy duty and whereas under and by virtue of the last will and testament of my late mother Lucy Earle I am entitled to retain parts or proportions of the sums of three hundred and thirty three pounds six shillings and eight pence three per cent consolidated bank annuities and eight hundred and forty pounds with three and a half per cent now standing in the names of John Emra and John Charles Earle exportant upon the determination of certain courts therein mentioned now I do hereby will and direct that the sum or sums of money to which I am so entitled shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate and as to all and singular the rest residue and remainder of my freehold leasehold copyhold and customary estates lands tenements hereditaments and also all my monies securities for money debts stock in trade household and other furniture goods chattels plate linen china and all my estate and effects both real and personal whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature sort or kind soever the same may be or consist or whether in possession ... remainder or exportancy of which I shall be seized possessed or entitled to or which shall be due owing or belonging to me or over which I may have a disposing power at the time of my demise I give devise and bequeath the same and every part thereof respectively unto and to the use of the Reverend John Latey Rector of the parish of Doynton in the County of Gloucester Clerk and the Reverend John Hall? Rector of Saint Werburgh in the City of Bristol Clerk their being executors and administrators and assigns according to the different natures and terms of the same provisos respectively upon the Trusts and for the interests and purposes hereinafter expressed (that is to say) in trust with all convenient speed after my decease to convert into money all such part of parts of my personal estate and effects as shall not consist of money in such manner as the said Trustees or Trustee for the time being shall think fit and in trust to lay out and invest as well the product of such conversion as all other my personal estate and effects in the names of name of the said Trustees or Trustee for the time being in or upon some of the Government stocks funds or securities of Great Britain or upon real securities in England or Wales and from time to time to vary and change the Trust stocks funds or securities for others of the like nature as the said Trustees or Trustee shall think fit and I direct that the said Trustees or Trustee for the time being of this my will shall stand seized and be possessed of the said real chattel real and customary estates and

the writs and profits thereof and also of the said personal estate and effects and the stocks funds and securities in or upon which the same may be invested and the dividends interest and income thereof in trust for such of my children as shall be living at my decease together with such of the issue of any or either of my children then dead having issue as being a male or males shall attain the age of twenty one years or being a female or females shall attain that age or marry and their his or her heirs executors administrators and assigns such child children and issue objects of this present trust to take as tenants in common but do nevertheless that the issue of my child or children dying in my life time as aforesaid shall take equally among them the share or respective shares only which the parent of respective parents of such issue would have taken if living at my decease per stirpes and not per capita provided always and I direct that in case any or either of the objects of the trust hereinbefore contained shall at the time of my death be under age then that it shall be lawful for the Trustees or Trustee for the time being to apply all or any part of the rents and profits dividends interest and income of the share or portion shares or portions of every or any such child or children or issue during his her or their minority respectively in or towards his her or their maintenance duration schooling ... or advancement in such manner as the said Trustees or Trustee shall think fit and that so much of the said rents and profits dividends interest and income of the portion or share or portions or shares of each child or issue respectively as shall not be applied for his or her maintenance duration advancement or benefit as aforesaid shall from time to time be improved at interest in the same amount as I have hereinbefore directed concerning my said personal estate and effects and shall follow and be subject to all the trusts and dispositions hereinbefore expressed concerning the same portion or share respectively out of which the said rents and profits dividends and interest and income shall have arisen until the same portion or share respectively shall become absolutely vested under the trusts hereinbefore contained provided always and I do hereby further will and declare that in case either of them the said Trustees hereby appointed or any new or other Trustee or Trustees to be nominated and appointed as next hereinafter mentioned shall happen to die or decline to accept enter upon and act in the trusts hereby ... or after an ... thereof be desirous of being discharged of and from the same trusts hereby in them reposed or shall neglect or refuse or become incapable by sickness or absence going abroad or otherwise howsoever to act the execution of the same trusts at any time or times before the same trusts shall be fully executed completed and performed or otherwise determined then and in any or other of such cases and when and as soon as and as often as the same shall happen it shall and may be lawful to and for the accepting surviving continuing or acting Trustee or Trustees his her or their executors or administrators by any writing or writings under their his or her hand and seal or hands and seals attested by one two or more credible witness or witnesses to next nominate and appoint some other fit and proper person or persons to be a Trustee or Trustees for the purposes of this my will in the place or stead of the Trustee or Trustees for the time being as shall so happen to die decline to accept or be desirous of being discharged of and from or neglecting refusing or becoming incapable to act in the execution of the aforesaid Trusts and so from time in like manner when and as often as during the continuance or subsistence of the aforesaid Trusts or any of them the like case shall happen and thereupon all and singular the said Trust estate and premises shall with all convenient speed be conveyed assigned and transferred so and in such manner as that the same shall and may become

legally and effectually vested in the joint of the names of the accepting surviving or acting Trustee or Trustees if any such there be and of such newly appointed Trustee and Trustees upon and subject to the Trusts or contents and purposes aforesaid or such of them as shall be then subsisting or capable of taking effect and such person or persons to be vested nominated and appointed to be a Trustee or Trustees as aforesaid shall and may from thenceforth act in the management carrying on and execution of the aforesaid trusts or such of them as shall be then subsisting as aforesaid and effectually in

Page 4

all respects and to all intents and purposes and with the like indemnification and he or they might could or would have done in case he or they had been originally in and by this my will nominated and appointed a Trustee or Trustees for the purposes aforesaid provided also and I do hereby will and declare that they the said Trustees hereby appointed or other the Trustee or Trustees for the time being of the said Trust estate and premises before mentioned and described or any or either of them or the executors or administrators of this or any or either of them shall not be charged or chargeable with or accountable or ascribable for any more of the said trust estate monies and premises than he or they shall respectively actually ... or such as shall actually come to his or their hand or hands under in pursuant or by virtue of this my will notwithstanding he or they may join in scripts acts or deeds pro forma or for the further or better satisfaction of the person or persons paying or delivering of such trust estate or otherwise requiring such scripts acts or deeds nor with or for any loss or losses which shall or may happen or arise to the said trust estate monies effects and premises or any part thereof so that the same happen or arise without his or their absolute or wilful neglect and default and that the one of them shall not be responsible or accountable for the other or others of them or for the acts deeds scripts neglects defaults or disbursements of the other or others of them but each of them for himself and for his own acts deeds scripts neglects defaults and disbursements only and that it shall and may be lawful to act for the said Trustees hereby appointed and other the Trustee and Trustees so to be named and appointed as aforesaid and for the time being acting in the management of the said trust estates monies and premises and each and every of them in the first place by and out of the said trust effects monies and premises to deduct ... to and allow himself and themselves respectively and allow each other all such losses costs charges damages and expenses which he or they or any or either of them shall or may pay sustain bear at or put into for or by reason or ? or an amount of the trusts hereby in them reposed or in or about the management or execution thereof or any and every part thereof or any other matter or thing in any wise relating thereto the allowance of which said costs charges and expenses to be regulated by the methods practiced between attorney and client and not as between party and party anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding and I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said John Latey and John Hall Executors of my said will in witness thereof I the said John Emra the testator have hereunto set my hand and seal to wit my hand to the bottom of each of the five preceding sheets of paper this twentieth day of November one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven. John Emra (*signed*). Signed sealed published and declared by the said John Emra the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of

us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses. Cha<sup>s</sup> Grevile Sol<sup>r</sup> Bristol – Henry Heath – William Davies his clerks

I declare this to be a codicil to my before written will having made an advance or in favour of Jane Osborne named in my said will I hereby revoke the bequest to her of one hundred pounds I shall otherwise adopt and confirm my said will *Witness* this twenty second day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty two. *John Emra* signed and published by the said John Emra as and for a codicil to his will in the presence of us and attested by us in his presence. *Agnes Grevile Cha<sup>s</sup> Greville Sol<sup>r</sup> Bristol*

## Appendix B – Transcript of the Will of Lucy Earle

The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Series PROB 11; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 1613

Retrieved via <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>

[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/5111/images/40611\\_310848-00232?pld=22479](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/5111/images/40611_310848-00232?pld=22479)

Name Lucy Earle

Residence Bristol

Probate Date 10 Feb 1819

This is the last Will and Testament

**of me** *Lucy Earle* of Park Street in the City of Bristol widow made whilst I am of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding I direct that all my just debts funeral and testamentary charges and expenses be in the first place paid by my executors hereinafter named by and out of my personal estate and effects including a debt of one hundred and fourteen pounds eighteen shillings and three pence sterling due from me to the personal representative of my late daughter Lucy Atree deceased I give and bequeath unto my two sons the Reverend John Emra Vicar of the parish of Saint George in the County of Gloucester and John Charles Earle of Pritchard Street in the City of Bristol surgeon the sum of one hundred pounds in the five pounds per centum Navy Annuities being part of the capital stock in the said public fund or security now standing in my name or in the name of the said John Emra in trust for me in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England upon trust to receive the dividends or interest as the same shall arise and become due upon or for the said One hundred pounds Navy Annuities and as often as the same shall amount to a competent sum to lay out and invest the same in their joint names or in the name of the survivor of them in the purchase of fresh stock in the same fund until my grandson William Turnpenny Atree shall attain the age of twenty five years and upon his attaining that age then upon trust to transfer or assign the said one hundred pounds Navy Annuities and all accumulations of dividends or interest thereon unto him my said grandson and in case he shall depart this life before he shall attain the said age of twenty five years then upon trust that they my said trustees and the survivor of them and the Executors and Administrators of such survivor shall and do stand possessed of and interested in the said one hundred pounds Navy Annuities with all accumulations of dividends and interest thereon for the benefit of all and every the child and children of the said William Turnpenny Atree lawfully begotten which shall be living at the time of his decease as aforesaid to be equally divided between or amongst them the said children if more than one share and share alike and if there shall be but one such child then for the benefit of such only child and in case there shall not be any child or children of my said grandson living at such the time of his death as aforesaid then I direct that the said One hundred pounds Navy Annuities and all

accumulations of dividends and interest thereon shall sink into and become part of my residuary personal estate *Provided nevertheless* and I do hereby

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authorise and empower my said trustees and the survivor of them if they or he shall deem it a prudent measure from time to time or at any time to advance and pay all or any part of the said dividends or interest of the said one hundred pounds Navy Annuities for the necessary support and maintenance of my said grandson notwithstanding he shall not then have attained the said age of twenty five years I give and bequeath unto the said John Emra and John Charles Earle the sum of eight hundred pounds Navy Annuities being the remainder of my capital stock in the said public fund or security and also the sum of three hundred and thirty three pounds six shillings and eight pence capital stock in the consolidated three pounds per centum annuities now also standing in my name or in the name of the said John Emra in trust for me in the books of the Governor of the Bank of England upon trust to pay the dividends or interest arising from the said Navy Annuities and consolidated annuities to my good friends Mrs Mary Kelly and her sister Miss Mary Ann Isard to be by them and the survivor of them applied for the support maintenance and education or otherwise for the benefit of my granddaughter Mary Ann Atree until she shall attain the age of twenty one years or be married which shall first happen upon trust to pay the said dividends or interest unto my said granddaughter for and during the term of her natural life for her separate use and benefit apart from any husband with whom she may intermarry and not to be subject to his debts contract or engagements and that the receipts of my said granddaughter above from time to time sufficient discharges to the said trustees and the survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor for the same dividend or interest and from and after her decease upon trust to pay or transfer the said two principal sums of capital stock unto all and every the child and children of my said granddaughter lawfully to be begotten to be equally divided between them if more than one share and share alike and if there shall be but one such child then unto such only child the portions or shares of such children to be paid unto and become vested and transmissible interests in them respectively on their attaining their respective ages of twenty one years with benefit of survivorship and (*indecipherable*) to between and among them in case of the death of any of them in his her or their minority and if there shall not be any child or children of my said granddaughter or being such all and every one of them shall die without having attained the said age of twenty one years then upon trust to pay or transfer the sum of one hundred pounds Navy Annuities to the said Mary Kelly to and for her own use and benefit and to pay or transfer the further sum of one hundred pounds Navy Annuities to the said Mary Ann Isard to and for her own use and benefit and I direct that the residue and remainder of the said eight hundred pounds Navy Annuities and three hundred and thirty three pounds six shillings and eight pence consolidated three pounds per centum consolidated annuities shall sink into and become part of my residuary personal estate. I give and bequeath unto my said granddaughter my evening apparel I give and bequeath unto the said Mary Kelly and to her mother Mrs Isard and to her sister the said Mary Ann Isard and to Martha Brice wife of Worthington Brice of the City of Bristol merchant the sum of ten pounds each I give and bequeath unto my said sons John Emra and

John Charles Earle all the residue and remainder of my goods chattels monies securities for money and personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever to be equally divided between them share and share alike and I do hereby constitute and appoint the said John Emra and John Charles Earle joint executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me at any time made and I do hereby direct that my said trustees and execs and their respective executors and administrators shall and may in the first place by and out of the said trust monies and promises which shall come to their hands reimburse themselves respectively all such losses costs charges and expenses as they or any of them shall or may be at or put into in the execution of the trusts hereby in them respectively reposed and that they shall not be answerable for or chargeable with any more of the said trust money and promises than they shall respectively actually service notwithstanding they may join in any receipt nor the one of them for the acts deeds receipts default misapplication or payments of the other of them but each for his own only *In witness thereof* I have to this my last will and testament contained in three sheets of paper to the first two sheets set my hand and to this last sheet my hand and seal the twenty ninth day of April in the year of our Lord One

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thousand eight hundred and sixteen. *Lucy Earle. LS.* Signed sealed and published by the testatrix Lucy Earle as and for her last will and testament in the presence of us *Mary Evans Edward Arthur clerk to Mr Vowles Solr Bristol*

**I leave** to my dear friends Mrs Kelly and Miss Ann Isard four volumes of scripture and character and beg the favour of them to instruct my dear grandchild Mary Altree in reading them and also leave my dear son Mr John Charles Earle my large bible 1 volume, Stotts Sermons which I greatly recommend to him to read with the greatest attention the language being so good I think my dear son will be much gratified in reading 1 volume the Invitation of Jesus Christ also the weeks preparation I leave my dear granddaughter Mary Ann Altree also 1 book of prayers Benjamin (*indecipherable*) letters written by John Renton May God of his infinite mercy and goodness grant that my dear children and grandchildren and all my fellow creatures may do that which is right and pleasing in his heavenly sight through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour Amen. The fervent wishes of your ever affectionate mother *Lucy Earle*. I give my dear Mrs Kelly Nelson's Fast and Festivals.

**Appeared Personally** *Worthington Brice* of the City of Bristol Esquire and *Sarah Juliana Susannah Armstrong* of the same city spinster and jointly and severally made oath that they respectively knew and were acquainted with Lucy Earle late of the city of Bristol widow deceased for several years before and down to the time of her death and that having during such their acquaintance with the said deceased frequently seen her write and subscribe her name to writings they have thereby become severally well acquainted with the manner and character of her handwriting and subscription and the paperwork having now respectively carefully viewed and perused the paper writing ? ? purports to be and contain a codicil to the last will and testament of the said deceased which said codicil begins thus "I leave to my dear friends Mrs Kelly and Miss Ann Isard" ends thus "the fervent wishes of your ever affectionate mother" and is thus subscribed "Lucy Earle" and which said codicil has the

following addition thereto "I give my dear Mrs Kelly Nelson's Fast and Festivals" they lastly jointly and severally made oath that they verily and in their consciences believe the whole body series and contents of the said codicil together with the said written subscription and addition thereto to be all of the own proper handwriting and subscription of the said deceased. *Worth<sup>n</sup> Brice – Sarah Julia Susannah Armstrong* on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 1819 the said Worthington Brice and Sarah Julia Susannah Armstrong was duly sworn to the truth of the aforegoing affidavit by virtue of the commission hereto annexed by me. *John Latey Commissioner*

***Proved*** at London with a codicil 10<sup>th</sup> February 1819 before the judge by the oaths of the Reverend John Emra Clerk and John Charles Earle the Executors to whom administration was granted being first sworn by Commissioner duly to administer

## Appendix C – Worthington Brice’s Farm

In addition to the two images shown in the main text (p5 & p9) there is the further image of the exterior of the Farm in the Somerset copy of ‘Recollections’ book shown below.



### The Brice Farm

*(from Somerset copy of ‘Recollections’)*

These raise the question of where the Farm was located.

Martha describes it as being a ‘long walk through the very midst of the city to its other extremity’ from their house in St Paul’s. She also remembers that ‘I loved to wander farther than the garden into the pleasant quiet fields around’.

The memories were from the family’s time in St Paul’s prior to their move to Yatton in 1805, though there were occasional visits later.

From the Newspaper Archives we have found that in December 1810 ‘A message or dwelling house, gardens, and outbuildings, late the residence of Worthington Brice Esq’ was for sale. The lot had a ‘frontage of 347 feet towards the Floating Harbour’ and was 4 acres, 3 roods and 14 perches.

The image of Martha at the Farm on p5 clearly shows a boat sail, and the glass cone, chimneys and large church tower in the image above could be the City of Bristol and its cathedral. The image on p9, suggests the view towards Clifton Gorge from the Floating Harbour.

Putting these pieces together then land near Baltic Wharf could fit. Over the page is an image taken from the [Council’s mapping system](#) showing an area highlighted that appears to fit.



## Appendix D – Copies of ‘Recollections’

‘Recollections of childhood; or Sally, the faithful nurse’ by ‘Primogenita’ was published in 1840 in London, Canterbury and Bristol. As far as we are aware there is only one published edition. There are two known ‘extra-illustrated’ copies.

Descriptions of the known copies are given below:

### Google Books Copy – from Bodleian Library

This copy digitised by Google can be seen via the following link:

[Google Books - Recollections of childhood; or Sally, the faithful nurse](#)

There is a note on one of the front pages saying ‘*Bought from Dene Bookshop, Abingdon*’

### Somerset Copy

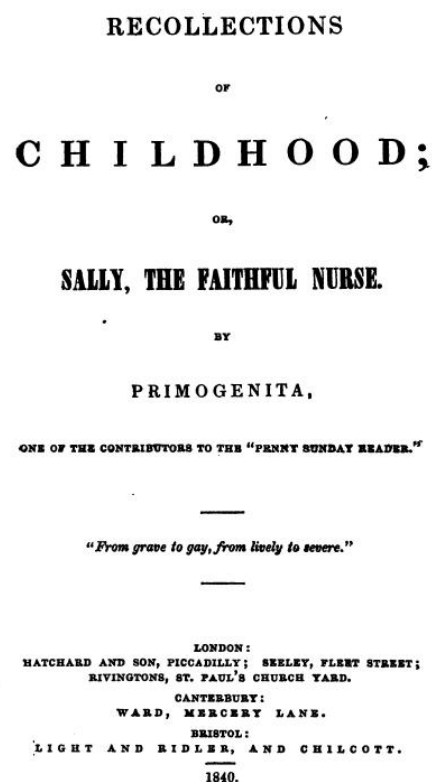
A copy of an extra-illustrated version of the book is held by South West Heritage Trust in the Somerset Archive ([ref DD/UK/58](#)). It is free to [visit the Archive](#) and view the copy.

It is a good quality copy, the original book has been interleaved with pages with the illustrations the image titles confirm the identities of some of the people described. The whole has then been copied. Other than the illustrations there are no added notes.

The original was presumably put together by a member of the family, probably Lucy (who certainly put together another extra-illustrated copy of this book as described below) and must have been created in the 1850s or 1860s.

It is likely that some of the watercolours and sketches were produced by members of the family; Rev John Emra and some of his daughters were said to be accomplished artists. Some of the images from this book are used in this document and we asked the Archive for their permission, this is the reply we received:

*‘The copy which we hold of Recollections of Childhood or Sally the faithful nurse by Primogenita (our ref. DD/UK/58), is a copy and unfortunately we do not know where the original is held. The text has been widely reproduced, but we are unsure of the provenance of the images, and therefore on this*

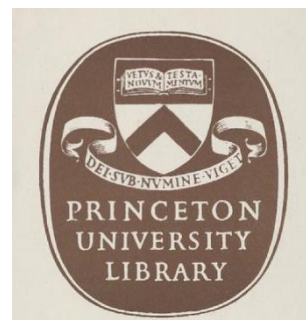


occasion we are unable to grant or decline permission for the reproduction of images online. It would up to your discretion if you choose to use the images and if you do so it would be useful if you could cite the reference number, however no formal acknowledgement to us would be required. There will be no charge on this occasion.'

Other documents stored with the copy imply that it may have belonged to descendants of Anges Holmes, daughter of Elizabeth, the Country Parson's Daughter.

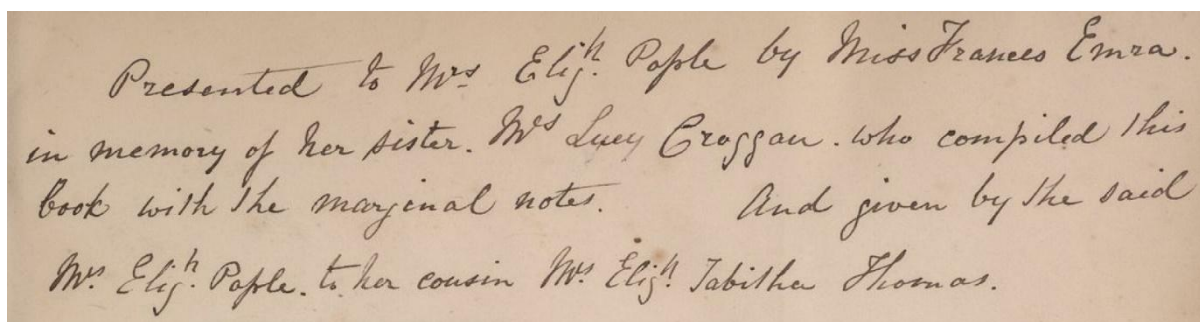
### Princeton Copy

A second illustrated copy is held by Princeton University Library ([ref 2012-0463N](#)) ('Princeton copy'). The library digitized the book in 2022, so that you can now view it via the above link; or download it as a pdf.



The copy has a note that there is *"No Known Copyright. Princeton University Library reasonably believes that the Item is not restricted by copyright or related rights, but a conclusive determination could not be made."*

The book has note on leaf before title leaf: *"Presented to Mrs. Elizh. Pople by Miss Frances Emra, in memory of her sister, Mrs. Lucy Croggan, who compiled this book with the marginal notes. And given by the said Mrs. Elizh. Pople to her cousin Mrs. Elizh. Tabitha Thomas."*



At the end of the copy there is also a copy of the letter from Frances Emra to Mrs Pople presenting the book and referring to the death of her sister Lucy on Good Friday 1867, the letter is dated April 28<sup>th</sup> 1867.

A second letter to Mrs Pople is also included, this from Sarah Gray Emra and dated May 8<sup>th</sup> 1867.

The notes in the margins added by Lucy, identify many of the friends and acquaintances of the Emras. They also confirm some of the information that could be gleaned from other records, most notably the names of Rev John Emra's mother.

### Who Is Elizabeth Pople?

The identity of Mrs Elizabeth Pople is given to us by an [article on Capt John Willway Phillips](#) of Cloudhill House, St George written by Deborah & Peter Klein.

Capt Phillips (1783 – 1846) was a merchant sea-captain skippering cargo ships out of Bristol until he retired due to ill health around 1839.

*“While confined to his room due to ill-health, Captain John Willway Phillips kept a diary to help him pass the time, and the part covering the period from Thursday April 7th to Friday 22nd July 1842 has survived.”*

At the time he lived in the house with his mother, Sarah Phillips (née Willway) (1760-1847) his younger brother, William (1790-1852) (also a mariner) and his younger sister Elizabeth Phillips (1796-1877). Elizabeth was referred to as ‘Betsey’ in the diary.

The tithe records for St George (which date from around 1846) show John and his mother owning several properties in St George, including Homefield Cottage across Harveys Lane from the Vicarage, where Marcus and Elizabeth Holmes lived from 1833 to 1842 – so the family was landlord to the Holmes family. Given that John was often at sea and Sarah Phillips was 73 years old when Elizabeth and Marcus got married and moved to Homefield, it is likely that Elizabeth (or Betsey) Phillips would have been their contact in the family.

It is also likely that Betsey was living at Homefield herself in 1831 and that this is where the female members of the Emra family sheltered during the Bristol riots (p20).

Following the death of her mother in 1847, Elizabeth sold Cloudshell House to Josiah Pople, who she then married in 1850 to become Elizabeth (or Betsey) Pople. The article also confirms that Elizabeth had a younger cousin Elizabeth Tabitha Thomas (née Willway).

There are mentions of the Emra family in Capt John Phillips’ diary, but (understandably, given the small size of the original script) the name has been mis-transcribed as ‘Emma’ in [the article](#).

The Emras are described as *“a fine plump family’ of friends”* and on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1842 *“Betsey is intended to go to Town if she could get a lift in with the Emmas [Emras]”* There is also a reference to Capt Philip’s relative 4-year old Henry Phillips Willway meeting one of the Emra family *“Betsey had taken Henry out and met Mrs J Emma [Emra], who’s baby daughter had pushed Henry over while trying to kiss him – ‘and she is not ½ his age”*. This is June or July 1842, Mrs J Emra would have been the second wife of Rev John Emra’s son, John, Frances Anne Atkinson, the daughter would have been Arabella Frances Emra, born 1840.

The Holmes family also get a mention when *“Anne and Agnes Holmes”* come to Cloudshell House for a party with young Henry.

*“The Holmes girls lived at Homefield Cottage, near to St George’s Vicarage just down the road; Agnes was about 4 and Anne about 7. They and their 3 brothers and sisters were the children of Elizabeth and Marcus Holmes, described as an Artist and a tenant of the Phillipses. Sadly both parents were dead by 1854, leaving a young family to shift for themselves.”*

Elizabeth Holmes' daughter Ann was born in 1834 and Agnes was born in 1837.

## Bristol Copy

This original 1840 copy is privately owned having been purchased from a book seller in the United States.

The front pages inscribed by members of the family and has a photo of Martha attached.



The earliest inscription (second on the right-hand page) is by 'S G Emra' [Sarah Gray Emra, daughter of Rev John Emra] she says:

*"This copy which Martha sent her dear father, and, from which he made the remarks which he sent to her in a series of letters" dated "Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1843"*

Below is an inscription by 'Marion Chandler' [second youngest daughter of Elizabeth & Marcus Holmes, she married Libert Chandler]

*"Aunt Martha wrote this simple little book and I wish Fred to have it"* [Fred has been crossed out and then rewritten and arrowed, Fred was Marion & Libert's son]

A further note below this says *"(Marion Holmes Chandler Liberts grandmother)"* [Fred's son was Libert]

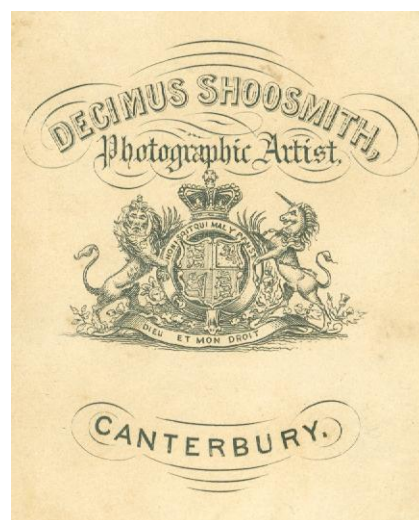
The note at the top of the page says "Written by Martha Emra about her childhood. Aunt Martha was Grandma Holmes sister"

On the left the photo is labelled as 'Aunt Martha  
"Primogentita" and "Libert's great great aunt"

The rear of the photograph of Martha shows it to be by  
Decimus Shoosmith 'Photographic Artist' of Canterbury.

Other examples of Decimus Shoosmith's work can be seen  
on the [Historic Canterbury website](#), at least one clearly  
taken in the same studio.

There are very few other notes in this copy , there is one  
mentioned in the text describing Rev John Emra's mother  
and another from Marion Chandler, noting the school  
teacher mentioned as being "my father Marcus Holmes"



On the last page, though, is description of Marcus Holmes:

*"Marcus Holmes was a portrait painter of the Royal Academy. His father fled from Ireland during a rebellion to Bristol England there his wife died leaving the baby Marcus. Marcus Holme's mother's name is unknown. He was a tall jolly very ugly man so tradition says. All this was told me by Mrs Emra Holmes in 1925.*

*A.M.Peel*

*Marcus Holmes, the father of Marion Holmes wife of Libert Chandler"*

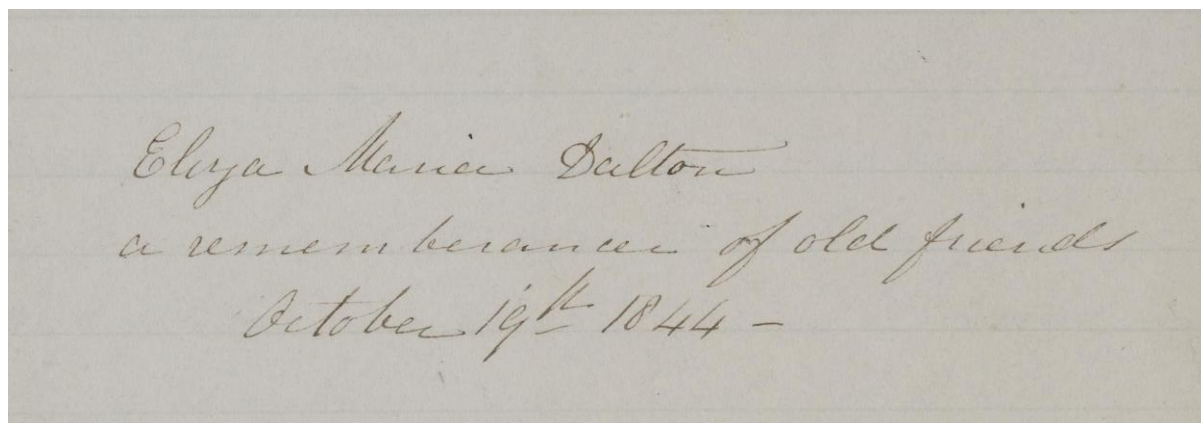
## Appendix E - A Remembrancer of Old Friends

The University of Pennsylvania Penn Libraries hold in their collection 'A remembrancer of old friends' a handwritten notebook which belonged to Eliza Maria Dalton.

The book is described as: A slim ruled volume with a plaid green and gold paper cover comprising copied poems and elegies with Christian themes. Written on the first page of the volume is "Eliza Maria Dalton a remembrancer [sic] of old friends, October 19th 1844."

This book has been digitised and included in the 'Colenda Digital Repository'.

<https://colenda.library.upenn.edu/catalog/81431-p3251g682>



Eliza Maria (b1807 née Allies) was a niece of Isaac Rouch's wife Anna (daughter of her brother William Allies). Isaac being the brother of Frederick Rouch, husband of Martha Pearce Emra.

The remembrancer is handwritten and includes poems and texts by members of the Emra family, some of which are unpublished. Although digitised the book had not been transcribed and is the script is difficult to read.

Susan Acton-Campbell, Chair of Friends of Troopers Hill has transcribed the works in the notebook that are otherwise unpublished:

[www.troopers-hill.org.uk/emra/RemembrancerTranscribed.pdf](http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/emra/RemembrancerTranscribed.pdf)

Below is full list of the contents, their attribution and details whether the works have been published elsewhere.

The works are generally only attributed by initials, but the fact that many of them have been published and the links between the Allies, Rouch and Emra families make it clear who the authors were. The date of 19<sup>th</sup> October 1844 must have been when Eliza Maria stated writing the note book, this was just over a year after Elizabeth Emra's death.

Eliza Maria Allies married John Neale Dalton at Westbury-on-Trym on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1838. Their oldest son, Canon John Neale Dalton KCVO CMG (24 September 1839 – 28 July 1931), was a Church of England clergyman and author. He was a chaplain to Queen Victoria, a Canon of Windsor, and tutor to the future King George V and his brother Prince Albert Victor. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Neale\\_Dalton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Neale_Dalton)

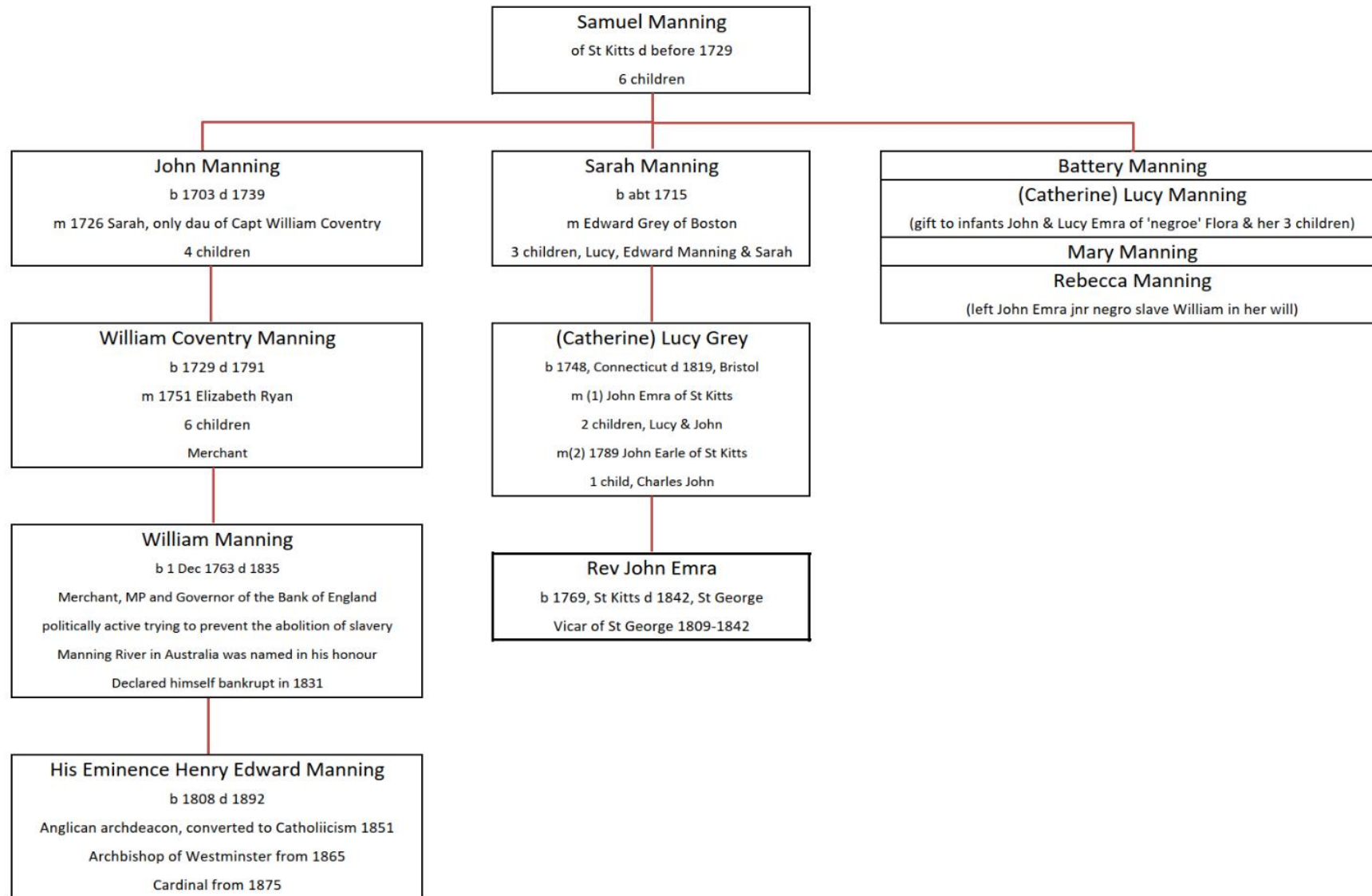
## Contents of a Remembrancer of Old Friends

Scan Page	Title	Attribution	Author	Published
1	Cover			
2	Inside cover, blank			
3	Eliza Maria Dalton a remembrancer [sic] of old friends, October 19th 1844.			
4	Blank			
5 to 8	A monument in Westbury Church, Gloucestershire..	EH	Elizabeth Holmes	} Transcribed by Susan Acton-Campbell
8 to 9	Lines occasioned by reading the description of the cot purchased for the Royal Infant November 20th 1840	EH	Elizabeth Holmes	
9 to 11	Charles the 1st after many pious exhortations...	EH	Elizabeth Holmes	
11 to 14	A District Visitors Recollections in St Georges'	EH	Elizabeth Holmes	
14 to 15	The Carrier Pigeon to the Aeronauts	EH	Elizabeth Holmes	
16 to 17	The Heliotrope	EH, Sept 1842	Elizabeth Holmes	
17 to 19	A Memorial	None		
20 to 22	The Harvest	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p115-118 - but with extra introduction.
23 to 26	A Sisters Dream	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	} 1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p86-87
27 to 28	Hours of Waking	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	
28 to 30	Violets by Post on New Years Day	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p95-97
30 to 33	The Charity School Girl	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p88-91
33 to 36	The Record in the Family Bible	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p70-73

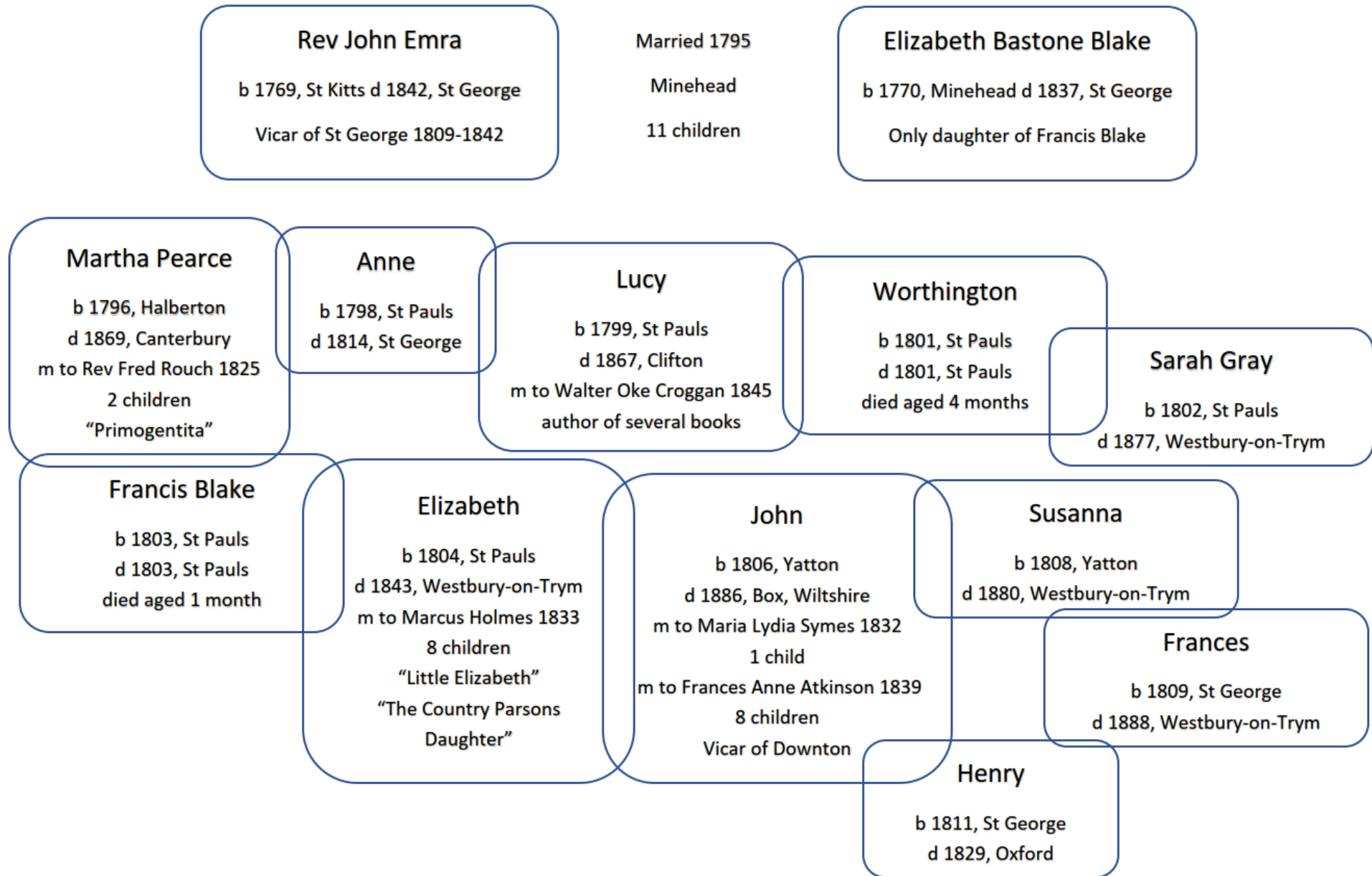
36 to 37	Confirmation	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p54-56
38 to 42	The Treasured Flower	MPR	Martha Pierce Rouch	1847 Cathedral Rhymes.. p74-78
42 to 45	A Prayer for a Student	Lucy E	Lucy Emra	} Transcribed by Susan Acton-Campbell
45 to 47	Long Live Nelson's Heir !	John Emra 1854	John Emra	
47 to 48	Thoughts on the Baptism of Lord Trafalgar	MAE 1854	Maria Anne Emra (daughter of John)	
49	Inside back cover, blank			
50	Back Cover			
The following are on loose papers included in the notebook				
51 to 52	To the Memory of Mr John Willis (late of Bristol)	MR Jan 1848	Martha Pierce Rouch	Bristol Mirror, Sat 05 February 1848
53 to 56	Somebody's Darling	Copied from the Peoples Magazine 1869		<a href="https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/65470557">https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/65470557</a>
57 to 58	Mr Herbert preached last Sunday...	Copied from dear Mrs Herbert's letter of Nov 66 to dear Mary		
59 to 60	Lines suggested by an old man's engraving for a infant. "Young Minister"	Redlynch, JE	John Emra	1844 The Second Temple

# Appendix F – Emra Family Tree and Charts

## Family Tree Showing Rev John Emra’s Links to the Manning Family of St Kitts



**The Family of Rev John & Elizabeth Emra**



## The Family of Elizabeth & Marcus Holmes

