



FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

For: Michael Agelastos, USA
Prepared by: Peter J. Tipton
Date: 6 February 2010
Subject: ZIZINIA and LONG families

Background:

The initial inquiry was to locate children of Thomas ZIZINIA and Matilda LONG in parish records on the YLH site. Google search indicated we have the baptism listed but (luckily for us) the applicant could not access site using either IE or Firefox. Richard Johnston replied with the information:

Baptism Yateley 16 Sep 1866 Thomas Alexander, son of Thomas and Matilda Zizinia of Yately, Occupation of parent: importer
and gave our standard response that we would appreciate further information etc.

The applicant replied that the ZIZINIA family were merchant Greeks from the island of Chios, forced to flee after the 1822 massacre. After living in France and the UK, this branch ended up in the USA. They were in the cotton trade. He has Thomas Alexander ZIZINIA's birth occurring in the USA, but that may be an error. The father's passport application says he arrived in the USA from Liverpool in Nov 1861. The applicant suspects the father, himself, was not at the baptism ceremony. The father, who would have certainly been born Greek Orthodox, defied Orthodox tradition in naming his son Thomas, after himself, and at that time he suspected a Greek Orthodox church would not have baptised the son as Thomas. Such naming is permitted only in the case where the father dies between the son's conception and his baptism, in which case he would have been baptized Thomas Thomas ZIZINIA. If the Greek Orthodox tradition was followed the name of the child baptised at St Peter's (Thomas Alexander ZIZINIA) would imply the father's name was Alexander. The applicant suspects that the baptism was in Yateley since his information is that Thomas Alexander's maternal grandparents, the William LONGs, lived in Yateley. He suspected also that Thomas and Matilda maintained only a postal address in the UK, rather than living there. He had checked the UK census but could not find Matilda, the mother, in the England census, His present information is that Matilda was about 15 years old when she had her first child. He comments "A bit young even back then."

The applicant thus implies that, if the US passport application is correct and Greek Orthodox

tradition were followed then the Yateley baptism could have taken place during a return visit to the UK by the mother to visit her parents.

Initial Research:

Searching the St Peter's parish registers revealed seven baptisms to Joseph & Maria LONG including one for Matilda 4 Mar 1849, their first child baptised in Yateley. The father was a labourer until 1851 and then from 1853 a railway platelayer. There were two LONG marriages in the period but not of Thomas & Matilda ZIZINIA. Louisa LONG, the last child baptised (22 Jul 1860) to Joseph and Maria, was buried at St Peter's 14 Jul 1861. The YatSoc Census Database revealed Joseph & Maria LONG were living with 4 children at Darby Green in 1851, and with 7 children in the Yateley Poor House (Yateley Common) in 1861. Occupation of the father in each census was railway labourer. Ages and birth places for the LONG family did not show a good correlation between the two censuses. However Matilda LONG is given in each census with calculated birth year 1846 and place of birth St George and London respectively.

Print-outs from the Census Database and the Baptismal Registers were emailed to the applicant, who updated his family website commenting that he had found no census records for members of this LONG family for the years 1841 or 1871. He speculated that perhaps these LONGs left England since it's not unusual for parents to follow their particular child who makes socially advancing marriages, as did their daughter Matilda who married the merchant ZIZINIA.

Detailed Research:

This is an intriguing case: the first Greek in our parish records. Thomas ZIZINIA seems to have been a man of some substance. It seems improbable, on the face of it, that a reasonably wealthy Greek trader would have married the daughter of a railway platelayer from Yateley, who might be on parish poor relief.

The applicant's family website states that having arrived in London from Marseilles, Thomas ZIZINIA worked for a family business in the UK with offices in London & Liverpool. Having emigrated to the States he started his own cotton trading company in New York, recorded as senior partner, Thomas Zizinia & Co in 1867. He was a founder member of the New York Cotton Exchange. Thomas ZIZINIA later worked for Ralli Bros., cotton exporters, Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia from 1888-91, returning to New York in 1891. His obituary was in the New York Tribune, 10 Jul 1896.

And yet Thomas ZIZINIA married the daughter of a platelayer from Yateley. Their marriage appears not to be recorded in the General Registry, and the only identifying record seems to be the single baptism of their son in the Yateley records, which defies Greek Orthodox tradition in naming conventions, and may have taken place 5 years after the couple emigrated.

Matilda Long's siblings and death of her father

There is an entry in FreeBMD for Farnborough Registration District for Joseph LONG, Matilda LONG's father, for June quarter 1868 (2a 63). If he died in Yateley then the registration

district should have been Hartley Wintney. In view of the fact that the 1861 census gives his address as the Yateley Poorhouse I am wondering therefore whether the actual certificate may reveal that Joseph LONG died in the Farnborough Union Workhouse. It was closed in 1868. FreeBMD gives the births of 7 LONG children. All of them except one correspond with the names and birth dates of the children of Joseph and Maria LONG on the Yateley parish records:

Birth Qtr	Surname	Given names	Vol	Page	Baptism
Mar 1849	LONG	Joseph	4	172	4 Mar 1849
Sep 1851	LONG	Rosina	4	161	24 Aug 1851
Dec 1853	LONG	John William	2a	75	27 Nov 1853
Mar 1856	LONG	Charlotte Ann	2a	79	6 Apr 1856
Mar 1858	LONG	William	2a	89	14 Mar 1858
Sep 1860	LONG	Louisa	2a	89	22 Jul 1860
Dec 1863	LONG	Mary Georgena	2a	111	no record

Was Joseph Long on parish poor relief?

The fact that Mary Georgena is not recorded in our parish records but is registered in Farnborough may be added evidence supporting my hypothesis that Joseph was on poor relief, and the family may have been removed from Yateley poorhouse to Farnborough Workhouse shortly after the 1861 census.

However my poor relief hypothesis could be a completely false. Yateley people on poor relief had been catered for by the Farnborough Union Workhouse since the 1840s when Yateley Poor House (located at the property now known as Silver Fox Farm) was sold to private owners (the Harris family). So families living there in the 1850s and 1860s may or may not have been on parish poor relief, living in the Poor House as a local 'overflow' for the Farnborough Workhouse. Investigation of the LONG family may help researchers to answer this question. Families living at what was once the Yateley Poor House may have been poor -- but not necessarily on poor relief. Furthermore, as a railwayman, Farnborough Registry Office may have been more convenient to Joseph LONG than Hartley Wintney's -- even though he was supposed to register at the latter.

I shall provide a copy of this report to the researcher from North East Hampshire Heritage & Archaeological Society (NEHHAS) who is researching Farnborough Workhouse and has the records. She may be able to provide further information.

Joseph & Maria Long in the 1841 census

What of the LONG family before they are recorded in Yateley in the 1851 census? Matilda LONG's baptism is recorded in Mar 1849 but her birth is not registered locally. It is difficult to find Joseph LONG on the search engine of www.ancestry.co.uk. His son Benjamin LONG is shown in the 1851 Yateley Census as 11 years old. So he was 0,1,2 or possibly 3 years old in 1841. Searching for Benjamin in www.ancestry.co.uk gave an immediate result. The 1841

census states that he was 2 years old living with his father Joseph and his mother Maria at Grosvenor Cottages in the parish of St George's Hanover Square -- likely then to be the same 'St Georges' stated as the birth place for Matilda in the Yateley census. None of Joseph, Maria or Benjamin are given as born in the county (Middlesex).

Marriage of Joseph & Maria Long

A FreeBMD search for the marriage of Joseph LONG before 1841 finds a Joseph LONG married in Bath. This would appear to be a good fit bearing in mind the Yateley census data that either Joseph or Maria or both gave their place of birth as Bath. Clicking on the FreeBMD 'page number' reveals the list of persons on that page of the original register (Dec 1838 11 8). One of them is Maria NEWMAN.

GRO Certificates for more information

Purchasing this marriage certificate from the General Registry Office would reveal the fathers of both Joseph and Maria and thus push family history research back one generation. Purchasing Mary Georgena's birth certificate would confirm where the family was living in 1863 -- Yateley or Farnborough, confirm that Maria's maiden name was NEWMAN and thus that the Bath marriage for Joseph and Maria is their marriage. Similarly Joseph LONG's death certificate will show where he lived at time of death, and who was the informant.

The Long family after 1866

It seems that Matilda's father Joseph LONG died in 1868. In the 1871 census her mother Maria was living at 43 Bolton Street, Vauxhall, Lambeth, with 4 of her children. She gave her occupation as "supported by children," and her birthplace as Tiverton, Somerset. Her son Benjamin aged 30 gave the same birthplace, and his occupation as labourer. John William was then a candlemaker aged 17, and Charlotte and William were still scholars. Blackwater was stated to be the birthplace of the three youngest children. Blackwater was the railway station in the parish of Yateley where their father probably worked. The boundary between Blackwater and Darby Green is still confusing to many local residents.

Maria LONG was still living aged 60 at the time of the 1881 census. She was a lodger in the household of Frederick BIRDSEY, a butcher. She again gave her place of birth as Tiverton and her occupation as needlewoman. None of the other occupants of the house at 46 Upper Kennington Lane, Lambeth appear to be related to her in any way. By the time of the 1891 census Maria LONG appears to have died. There is an entry in FreeBMD for a Maria LONG aged 71 who died in St Saviour parish in Southwark (Mar 1890 1d 118). This may be the mother of Matilda, but the stated age is 2 years older than ages given in most of the census records.

Matilda Long's missing birth and marriage certificates

I have been unable to locate a reference to either Matilda's birth or marriage certificate. Her birth appears to have been in the parish of St George's, Hanover Square, possibly in 1847, but her baptism was in Yateley on 4 Mar 1849. It was uncommon, but not exceptional, to have such a big gap between birth and baptism. It is possible that the civil registration of Matilda's birth in London was forgotten since it was followed very closely by the move from London to Yateley. On the other hand her elder sister Eliza's civil registration (calculated

from census records as ca. 1844) also seems to be missing --unless it was that for Eliza Ann LONG registered Dec 1842 (1 16) at St George's Hanover Square. There is a possibility that Matilda's civil registration was duly made, but has been missed out in the indexes created by the General Registry. This could account for one missing certificate, but not two. It is more likely therefore that I just haven't found it yet, particularly as all the younger siblings were properly registered in Farnborough and the eldest child Benjamin appears to have been properly registered in Bath in Jun quarter 1839 (XI 43).

The fact that I have been unable to find Thomas & Matilda ZIZINIA's marriage certificate might be explained by the fact that neither can I find the civil registration of their son Thomas Alexander ZIZINIA. I have looked at all the Thomases registered in both Hartley Wintney and Farnborough between 1861 and 1871 and none could have been mistranscribed. There was a Demetrius ZIZINIA registered in Great Boughton registry district in Jun quarter 1866 (8a 372). Demetrius is normally anglicised by Americans as James, not Thomas or Joseph. Since Great Boughton is near Chester and near enough to Liverpool to commute to the office maintained there by the trading company for which Thomas ZIZINIA worked, this certificate should be investigated.

However if there remains no registration for Matilda's son's birth and no marriage certificate then my hypothesis is that these events were so close to the date of emigration that the couple did not have time, or perhaps saw no point in civil registration in England. This though might seem strange in that, for the immigration procedures in the US, the couple would have no marriage certificate and no birth certificate for the wife. It seems probable therefore that they did have some official paperwork. I conclude therefore that they must have been married in a Greek Orthodox church in London (which provided it own certificate), but that church was not licensed by the Registrar General, and so did not pass on its marriages to the civil administration.

Although Thomas ZIZINIA can be found in the household of his brother-in-law in Leinster Gardens, Bayswater, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia had not yet been built in Bayswater. So Thomas and Matilda may have been married in the Greek Church of Our Saviour in London Wall. If this chapel was not registered for civil registration of births, marriages and deaths then a separate civil ceremony would have to be made. Perhaps, in view of their imminent emigration Thomas and Matilda thought this unnecessary. The records of the Greek Orthodox church may be available.

However there is another possible explanation: that Matilda the wife of Thomas ZIZINIA was not Matilda LONG from Yateley.

Conclusion

At the beginning of this report I stated that it seems improbable that a reasonably wealthy Greek trader from London would have married the daughter of a platelayer from Yateley, who may or may not have been on poor relief. One can only speculate as to how two persons of such disparate backgrounds could have met. In this report I have shown how the circumstances of the lack of documentary evidence in England could have come about. That Matilda LONG was the wife of Thomas ZIZINIA and the mother of Thomas Alexander ZIZINIA is a reasonable working hypothesis since Matilda LONG was the only Matilda listed in the

Yateley census in 1851 and 1861. Furthermore there is a good fit between the calculated year of birth of Mrs Matilda ZIZINIA and the calculated year of birth of Matilda LONG.

However there are other possible scenarios which might explain the identity of Matilda, mother of Thomas Alexander ZIZINIA, recorded in the 1866 baptism. This Matilda may have been just a weekend visitor to Yateley, perhaps a relation of, or visitor to, one of Yateley's big houses. In the 17th century the incumbent, not then constrained by prescribed forms for entering baptisms, noted events which involved visitors to Yateley. Indeed the circumstances of the baptism could be quite involved: Matilda could have been on a trip back to England to show off her new baby to her parents and friends when the baby became ill. She could have been a close relation or friend of Rev F. W. Vinter, the minister who presided at the baptism, but then actually a lecturer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and, desiring the Rev Vinter to perform the rite, actually had no other connection with Yateley whatsoever. So we have to be cautious when selecting Matilda LONG as the mother of the child on the basis that she was the only Yateley resident and 'a good fit'.

The Yateley Society maintains a requirement for Local History research that three independent items of documentary evidence are required to establish a 'fact'. Typically the three documents demonstrating evidence of a wife's maiden name could be a marriage certificate, the birth certificate of a child, and a census record in which the mother-in-law is living with the family. Alternatively the evidence could be an entry in the manorial court books or a will.

In this case we have a single baptismal record which names Thomas ZIZINIA as the father, states his wife's first name is Matilda, and indicates a link to the Greek trading community by stating Thomas' occupation was an importer. The family website tells us of evidence that the child Thomas Alexander ZIZINIA died three years later in New York, thus linking him to the Yateley baptism. But there appears to be no documentary evidence on this side of the Atlantic which states that Matilda's maiden name was LONG.

I wonder therefore if the family has other documentary evidence of Mrs Matilda ZIZINIA's maiden name -- perhaps a passport application, a newspaper article, her own memoirs, a family bible or even a marriage certificate from the Greek Church in London. . . ?

However one thing is sure: if it is proved that it was indeed Matilda LONG who married Thomas ZIZINIA and emigrated to the United States, then she was a very remarkable lady.