

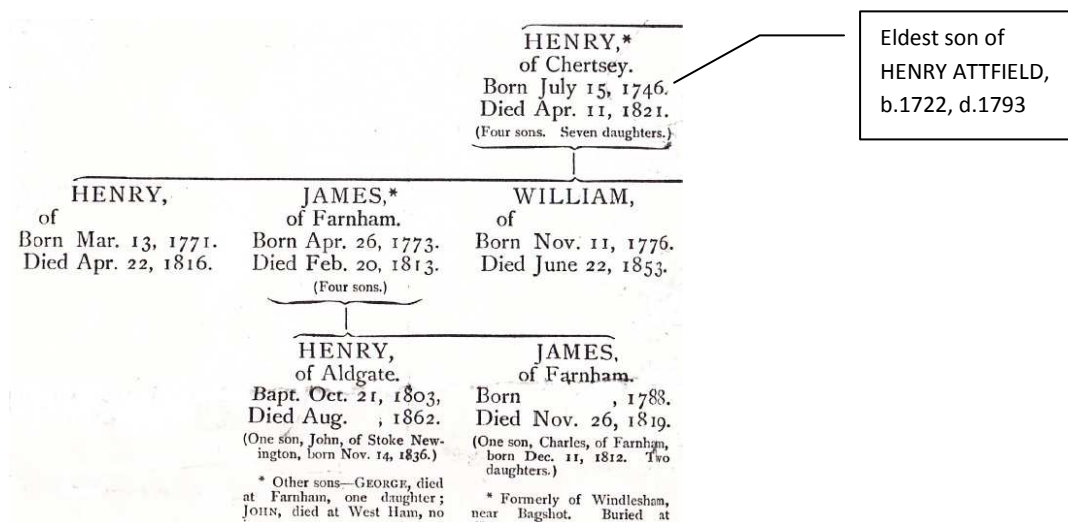
# The Mystery of the Two James Attfields...

By John Attfield

(Revised 17 Sept 2012)

## 1. The Original Problem

Here is a section of the Attfield family tree compiled and circulated by Professor John Attfield of Watford in 1889:



Much of the information in Prof. Attfield's tree evidently comes from family sources – perhaps a family bible (now lost) or the recollections of then-living relatives. It contains facts that are not to be found in surviving parish records. Where verifiable, the tree has proved to be highly accurate in almost all respects – including most of the data in this essay.

But one section is doubtful, namely the line illustrated above: **Henry → "James of Farnham" → Henry & James**. There are several reasons for doubt:

- 1) Two James Attfields were buried in 1813 within 6 weeks of each other, one at Chertsey on 25 Feb (aged 39) and the other at Farnham on 10 April (aged 55). Let's call them "James 1" (Chertsey) and "James 2" (Farnham). The grave inscription for "James 1" – see the image on p.4 below – states his age (39) and date of death (20 Feb 1813) in line with the family tree, and clearly refers to the son of Henry because he is buried in the same vault. Why should "James of Farnham" be buried at Chertsey? It looks like a case of mistaken identity.
- 2) James's children's birth dates don't seem to fit. A son, James, was born in 1788. The only baptism of a James Attfield with a similar date is on 6 Jun 1789 at Windlesham, parents James & Mary. But there is also a baptism of William Attfield, with apparently the same parents, on 23 Jul 1785, i.e. when "James 1" was only 12 – a good reason to doubt!
- 3) None of James's children are mentioned in Henry Attfield's will, written in 1819 and proved in 1821, although he mentions various other grandchildren.  
[http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/Will\\_of\\_Henry\\_Attfield\\_of\\_Chertsey\\_1821.pdf](http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/Will_of_Henry_Attfield_of_Chertsey_1821.pdf)

- 4) The will of James Attfield of Farnham, dated 3 Feb 1813 and mentioning Henry and various other children, describes him as a “victualler”. In the Farnham burial register, “James 2” is described as a “publican” – so it seems to be the same person who wrote the will. The will would appear to have been written by “James 2” and not “James 1”, even though the date would allow both possibilities.

These arguments persuaded me that Prof. Attfield’s identification of “James of Farnham” as Henry’s son was a mistake, or at least open to serious doubt.

Recently, comparative DNA results for a male descendant of “James of Farnham” and for me put our most recent common ancestor six generations back. This fact lends support to Prof. Attfield’s version and re-opens the whole question.

## 2. The Facts

### Birth & Parents

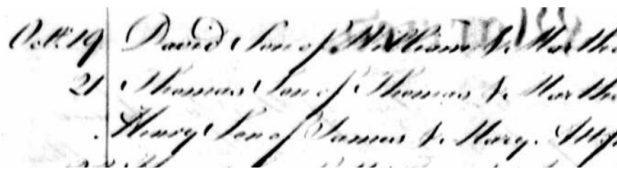
- “James 1” was born 26 Apr 1773 and baptised 2 May 1773 at Chertsey, parents Henry Attfield & Mary, formerly Dee.
- “James 2” was aged 55 at burial in 1813, therefore born c.1758.
- There are no definite candidates for “James 2”, but two reasonable possibilities:
  - o A James Attfield was baptised at Windlesham on 24 Aug 1760, parents William & Elizabeth [Collyer?], and last seen alive in 1783 when mentioned in his father’s will. (see p.6).
  - o Another James, son of Joseph Attfield and his wife Anne, formerly Gilbert, was baptised at Winkfield on 4 Nov 1757 but leaves no further trace. DNA results also show a very close proximity between male descendants of “James of Farnham” and of Joseph & Anne in Winkfield, so this James cannot be excluded.

### Marriage

- There is no evidence to indicate whether “James 1” married or not. His grave inscription at Chertsey gives no clue one way or the other.
- James Attfield’s will (Farnham 1813) mentions 3 children (see below), at least two of them with clearly identifiable baptisms at Farnham with parents James & Mary, so there must be a James/Mary marriage somewhere. In fact there are at least four...
  - o James Attfield & Mary Colburn, 8 May 1785, St George Hanover Square
  - o James Atfield & Mary Martin, 29 May 1785, St Peter, Woking
  - o James Atfield & Mary Wheeler, 6 Apr 1793, Ash
  - o James Attfield (of Farnham) & Mary Elkins, widow, May 1794, probably at Reading (source: Reading Mercury 26 May 1794)
- Any of the above four marriages could be “James 2”, but the 1785 marriages cannot be “James 1” because he would have been too young.
- It is not impossible that one or both Jameses could have married twice. And of course there were numerous other James Attfields living at the same time.

### Children

- Prof. Attfield’s tree gives James four sons: Henry, James, George & John (the professor wasn’t interested in daughters!).

- The will of James Attfield at Farnham in 1813 mentions 3 children: John, Henry & Jemima (in that order, i.e. probably from eldest to youngest).
- The following eight Attfield baptisms between 1785 & 1813 with father James & mother Mary come into question:
  - o William, 23 Jul 1785 at Windlesham (*possible burial 20 Jun 1788 at Windlesham*)
  - o James, 6 Jun 1789 at Windlesham
  - o George, 4 Mar 1792 at Windlesham
  - o Harriott, 19 Apr 1794 at Windlesham
  - o Charlotte, 18 Jun 1796 at Windlesham
  - o John, 14 Apr 1799 at Chertsey (*father = James, mother not named in baptism register*)
  - o Henry, 21 Oct 1803 at Farnham
  - o Jemima, 11 Jul 1810 at St Mary le Strand, Westminster (*married Jesse Ayling, on 28 Aug 1831 at St James Paddington; died 1887*)
- At least Jemima is easy to identify because the name is rare! Henry is also fairly clear. The list could also account for James, George & John.
- Henry: This is Henry Attfield of Aldgate, butcher, who married Elizabeth Clowsley on 26 Jun 1831 at St Mary Newington and died on 29 Jun 1862. They had 6 children, all born in London.
 
- James: The tree gives his dates as 1788-1819 and gives him one son (Charles) and two daughters. He must be the James who married Mary Chase on 24 Jul 1809 at St Martin in the Fields and had 3 children, Charles (1812), Mary (1815) & Harriet (1818) baptised at Farnham.
- George: No positive identification, but he could be the George Attfield who married Martha Turner on 6 Jan 1809 at St Anne Soho and died in 1847 at Farnham aged 55. The tree gives him one daughter, which would be Susannah (b.1815 in Ireland). They also had a son, William, baptised in 1809 at Farnham, who may have migrated to the USA.
- John: The tree says he “died at West Ham, no issue”, so this would be the John Attfield, builder aged 40, who was living at the same address in Aldgate as Henry & Elizabeth in the 1841 census. He died on 31 Dec 1848 and was buried at All Saints, West Ham, on 8 Jan 1849, aged 44 according to the burial register although this entry was probably wrong. If he was born in 1799 he would have been aged 49 at death.
- The fates of Harriott & Charlotte are unclear. But a Harriott Attfield married William Jenkins on 8 Jan 1811 at Whitechapel, and a Charlotte Attfield married William Jenkins on 2 Oct 1816 at St Martin in the Fields. Moreover, a Harriott Jenkins was buried at St Katherine Creechurch, London, on 17 Dec 1815, aged 22. So it appears that Harriott died and William then married her sister (unfortunately the marriage register entries give no clues). Subsequently, William and Charlotte had several children baptised at Newcastle upon Tyne. A Charlotte Jenkins with the right age was buried at St Mary, Gateshead, on 4 Feb 1821, aged 25.
- The family members were strikingly mobile and all the children’s marriages were in London, not in West Surrey.

## Death, Burial, Will

James Attfield	Chertsey	Feb 25 1813	Geo. Webbinger Clerk
No. 15			

- "James 1" died 20 Feb 1813 and was buried 25 Feb 1813 at Chertsey, aged 39 (see grave inscription and burial record). His "abode" is given as Chertsey.

Interment Beneath Trellis  
Remains of JAS ATTFIELD  
Son of HENRY and MARY  
ATTFIELD who died 20<sup>th</sup> Feb  
1813 Aged 39 Years.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Farnham</i> in the County of <i>Surrey</i> in the Year 1813				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
James Attfield Publican No. 17	Farnham	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	55 Years	W. Jones

- "James 2" was buried 10 April 1813 at Farnham, aged 55, "Publican".

- Will of James Attfield at Farnham, "Victualler" dated 3 Feb 1813 (so theoretically it could be either James); proved on 23 Mar 1814.

This is the last Will and Testament  
of me James Attfield of Farnham in the County  
of Surrey Victualler whereby I dispose of such Temporal  
Estate as I am blest with in manner following.

- Frustratingly, a note on the will states: "The Testator ... died on the \_\_\_ day of March 1813". This seems like a mistake, but should it be February ("James 1") or April ("James 2")?

The Testator was late  
as above described and  
died on the \_\_\_ day of  
March 1813.

- The will only mentions 3 children: John, Henry & Jemima. Presumably James only left legacies to care for his younger children – who would have been aged 13, 10 and 3 – and the older ones, some of whom were already married, were not provided for. Unfortunately no other relatives are mentioned. But one of the witnesses is John Turner who could be the father of Martha Turner (wife of George, see above).

## Occupation

- There is no information as to the occupation of "James 1". His father was a draper (1791) and grocer (1793). He had three brothers, of which Henry was apprenticed as a cordwainer (a kind of upper-class shoe maker), India William was a cooper and Richard was a tailor. No doubt "James 1" also learned a trade, but unfortunately we don't know which one.
- "James 2" was a publican, and "James of Farnham" was also a publican or victualler, as mentioned above.
- The register of Surrey licensed victuallers, held at the Surrey History Centre, records James Attfield as a licensed victualler in Chertsey in 1798, and then – after a three-year gap – in Farnham in 1802, 1803 and 1804. The Farnham licence is dated 2 December 1802.

- These dates indicate that James moved from Chertsey to Farnham sometime between 1798 and 1802, and therefore tend to corroborate his identification as the father of the eight children listed above.
- Unfortunately, this information does not help us to positively distinguish between “James 1” and “James 2”, because it could fit to either of them. James Attfield was never registered as a licensed victualler in Windlesham.

### 3. Conclusion

DNA results confirm that the “James of Farnham -> Henry of Aldgate” line is indeed closely related to that of Henry of Windlesham (1722-1793) and his descendants, as Professor Attfield’s tree suggests. But the two James Attfields who died in 1813 still cause difficulty.

The evidence does not prove conclusively whether “James 1” or “James 2” was the father of Henry, Jemima and the other siblings. But the DNA narrows down the options considerably. For example it rules out the possibility that “James 2” could have been descended from any of the other – more distantly related or unrelated – Attfield lines such as Farnham’s main “Nathaniel line” or the “Attfield alias Ripley” clan of Worplesdon.

#### **Theory No.1**

This theory says that Prof. Attfield’s tree is correct and “James 1” was the father of Henry and the other siblings, although the children were baptised at Farnham and “James 1” was buried at Chertsey. This would make “James 1” the author of the Farnham will – and the dates would allow this – while “James 2”, buried at Farnham, was somebody else entirely.

The professor was usually right. But in this case there is still a doubt. The 1813 will says that James was a victualler which matches the Farnham burial record. And the will of Henry Attfield of Chertsey in 1819 doesn’t mention any of James’s children although he mentioned the children of his other sons and daughters. It is hard to get round these facts.

#### **Theory No.2**

According to this alternative theory, Prof. Attfield’s tree is slightly inaccurate and the actual connection is one generation further back. This could work as follows:

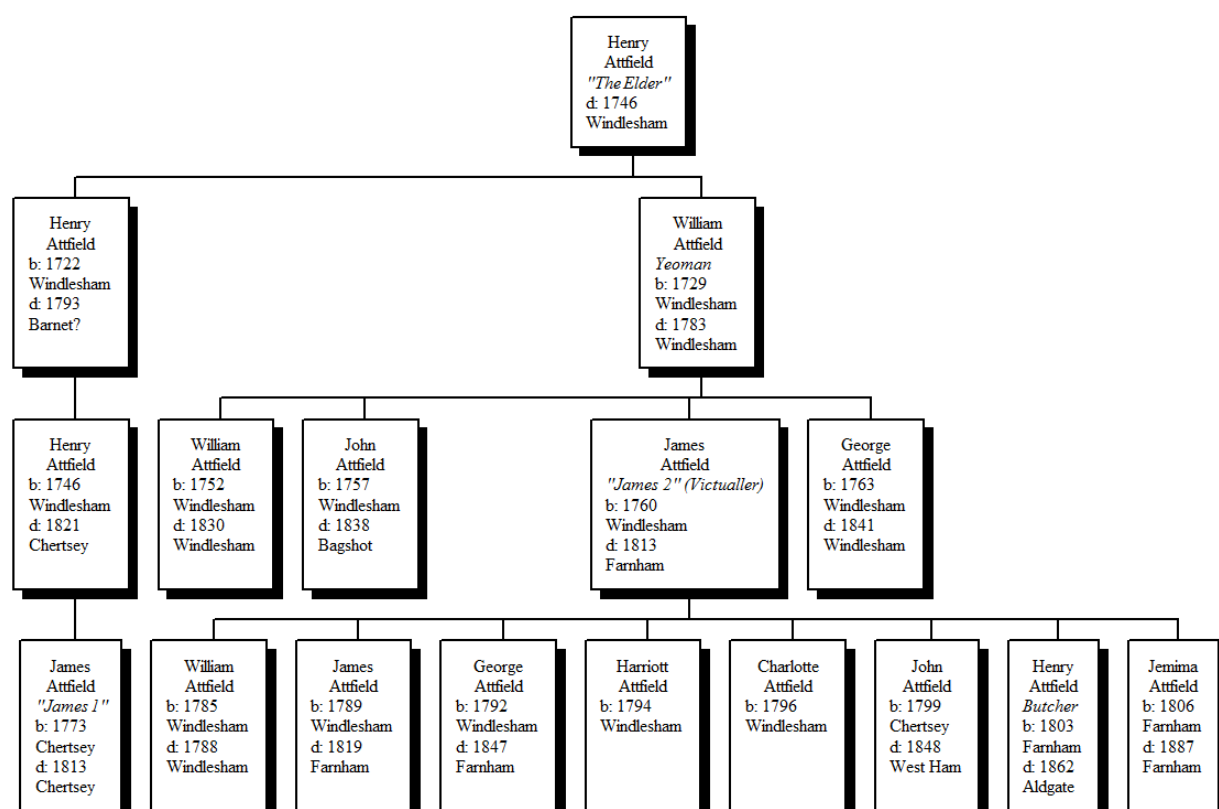
- Henry (1722-1793) is thought to be the son of “Henry Atfeild the Elder” of Windlesham, yeoman, who died in 1746 (*not definitely proven but a nice theory*), see this essay about him: [http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/Henry\\_the\\_elder.pdf](http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/Henry_the_elder.pdf)
- Henry the Elder had another son, William, baptised at Windlesham on 9 Jun 1729. This William is probably the one who married Elizabeth Collier at Windlesham on 30 Mar 1752 and was buried at Windlesham on 24 Dec 1783. His will, dated 14 Jul 1783 and proved on 16 Jan 1784, mentions four sons (William, James, George and John) and two daughters (Mary and Jane).
- William’s son James was baptised at Windlesham on 24 Aug 1760. He is mentioned in William’s will in 1783 but has not been traced after that.

Here is William's will of 1783 mentioning his son James. Unfortunately it gives no clue to where James lived or what he did.

*...into my son William Attfield fifty pounds to be paid him within six months after my death I also give unto my daughter Mary wife of William Colburn ten pounds and unto my son James and George Attfield fifty pounds apiece and unto my daughter Sarah thirty pounds within four calendar months after my death all to be paid unto them respectively within six*

Could James, son of William, be "James 2", the victualler of Farnham? The baptism date (1760) would almost fit to the age of 55 at death in 1813. And if William was the brother of Henry of Windlesham, making "James 2" Henry's nephew, then the DNA results would fit.

James could have used his £50 legacy to set himself up in a trade, and then married Mary Colburn at St George Hanover Square in 1785; they could have had the various children listed above, starting with William in 1785 and finishing with Jemima in 1810. Then the tree would look like this...



We still know too little about any of the Jameses to be sure. But it's tempting to take the similar name sets (William, James, George, John, etc.) as further circumstantial evidence.

Of course this theory is still speculative, but nothing in it contradicts any known facts. And Theory No.2 would still be consistent with the DNA results.

## Appendix, September 2012

The fascinating correspondence reproduced in this Appendix took place between Professor John Attfield of Watford and John Attfield of Stoke Newington during the years 1888 to 1890. It was recently discovered among family papers by John's great-grandsons, John & Henry Attfield, and kindly made available for publication here.

John Attfield of Stoke Newington was a grandson of James Attfield of Farnham, and the correspondence between the two Johns – who were almost exact contemporaries – sheds important light on the “Two James Attfields Mystery”. It also gives us an insight into Professor Attfield's work processes while he was compiling the Attfield family tree which he circulated in 1889.

Note: All the letters from John Attfield to the professor are drafts only. The letters actually sent to the professor have not survived.

With grateful acknowledgements to Henry Cecil Attfield and John Walton Attfield for sharing this invaluable material.

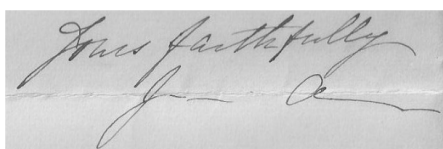
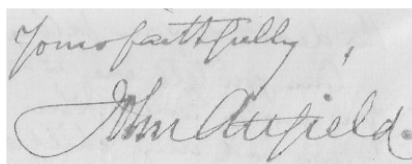
The Correspondents...



John Attfield  
Stoke Newington  
(1836-1909)



John Attfield  
Watford  
(1835-1911)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Yours faithfully J. Attfield".A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Yours faithfully J. Attfield".



## Letter 1

*Professor John Attfield of Watford -> John Attfield of Stoke Newington*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD

May 31, 1888,

The Attfield Ancestors

Dear Sir – Can you add to the enclosed notes<sup>1</sup> on your and my ancestors? Can you give me the name, town, etc, etc, of your grandfather, great-grandfather, or more remote ancestors – or any other information?

Yours faithfully,

John Attfield

To

John Attfield, Esq

Stoke Newington

Note in margin:<sup>2</sup>

Mr Ward curate Bramley near Wonersh

Elder branch of family Black Heath near Wonersh

Younger at Lords Hill Common Wonersh

Three lived at Albury

Mr Bird Publican Wonersh

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## Letter 2

*John Attfield of Stoke Newington -> Professor John Attfield of Watford*

59 Cazenove Road

Stoke Newington, N

Oct 18th, 1889

My dear Sir,

In answer to yours of the 13th inst<sup>3</sup>, respecting the Christian names of my father and his brothers and also my grandfather and his brothers;

I can only give you the names of my father and uncles and grandfather commencing at the top

Grandfather James Attfield, sons Henry, John, George and James;

I will now give you the reason I cannot go farther back than this – my father Henry Attfield being the youngest of the family left when young the town where he was born, Farnham, Surrey, and coming up

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<sup>1</sup> We do not know what these notes refer to; presumably an early draft of the Attfield Lineage Table. Probably this was Professor Attfield's initial contact with John Attfield, and he may have sent the same request to other Attfields as well.

<sup>2</sup> John Attfield (Stoke Newington) had evidently visited Wonersh in search for evidence of the family's origins (see Letter 2).

<sup>3</sup> This letter from Professor Attfield has not survived.



to London lost sight of his uncles which I have heard say lived at Bagshot<sup>4</sup>, a place I think about 10 miles from Farnham. My cousin Charles Attfield told me my grandfather came from a village called Wonersh near Guildford.<sup>5</sup> I visited that place some time since but could not find any trace in the registry there of the (\*) marriage or baptisms of James & Mary Attfield, or their children, but there were entries of the baptism of the children of William & Milly Attfield<sup>6</sup> subsequent to the year 1803 for which I enquired. It was my intention of paying another visit as I found several families living there of our name and thought perhaps I might find a Solomon amongst the family.<sup>7</sup>

Note written below:

(\*)

? Marriage at St Martin in the Fields<sup>8</sup>

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### Letter 3

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD

Nov. 14, 1889.

My dear Sir,

Your letter of Oct. 21 proved of much interest to me.<sup>9</sup>

Your father, Henry, had brothers George, John, and James. My father, John, also had brothers James, Henry and George.

Again your father had an uncle at Bagshot. My father had an uncle at Windlesham near Bagshot.

All this looks very much as if you and I were cousins.

Now for some tests:-

My father also had brothers Richard (drowned at 18) and William of Hadley, Middx (near Barnet). Did your father only have the brothers you named?

You say your father was born at Farnham, where did he die? The tradition in our family is that our Uncle Henry died at sea.

Of course the apparent connection may be explained by a relationship between our grandfathers, or even our great-grandfathers – for the Christian names now mentioned are met with in quite other branches of the family.

However, I am now correcting a printed table of the Lineage or Genealogy or Pedigree of the Attfields; but before sending it for copies to be struck off (of which I will of course send you one) will wait to find whether you can give me any further information by which I can join on your branch. Can you give me

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<sup>4</sup> The fact that James had uncles living at Bagshot is very important new information. It supports the theory that James is indeed the son of William & Elizabeth (née Collyer), baptised in 1760. That James had three brothers living at Windlesham or Bagshot.

<sup>5</sup> This is new information. We believe that James lived in Windlesham and Chertsey in the 1780s and 90s, and he settled in Farnham in 1802. Perhaps he lived in Wonersh for a short time before moving there.

<sup>6</sup> A red herring! William & Milly belong to the Albury Attfields.

<sup>7</sup> John is referring here to a curious anecdote about a certain "Solomon Attfield" at Dover in the 12th century, which had been circulating in the press.

<sup>8</sup> John's uncle James married Mary Chase at St Martin in the Fields in 1809. John subsequently obtained a copy of the marriage register entry. Here, he is evidently speculating whether his grandparents James & Mary also married there.

<sup>9</sup> This must refer to John's draft of Oct 18. Presumably the version he actually sent was dated Oct 20th.

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the residential towns or district of your Uncles George, John and James – the dates of birth and death of your father and his brothers and of your grandfather and his brothers – and any such information, and the Christian name, of your great-grandfather?

An early reply will oblige,

Yours faithfully

John Attfield

Mr. John Attfield  
59, Cazenove Road,  
Stoke Newington, N.

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#### Letter 4

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD  
Nov. 22, 1889.

Mr. John Attfield, Stoke Newington

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for your note of the 20th<sup>10</sup>. I herewith return the Certificate of Baptism (not birth) of your father.

Can you give me the date of the death of your father?

Can you tell me whether your uncles George, John and James had any children – especially any sons?

There was once a James in the Farnham district who was at one time a soldier.<sup>11</sup> Might that have been your grandfather?

If you answer these questions at once, so as to be in time for the printing of our “Lineage”, I should be much obliged.

Yours faithfully,

John Attfield

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#### Letter 5

*John -> Professor*

My dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry about the date of my father’s death, it occurred in August 1862.

To your other enquiries, my uncle George had only one daughter, my uncle John was never married and my uncle James had one son and three daughters.<sup>12</sup> The son is still living at the Bourne, near Farnham, his name is Charles Attfield.

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<sup>10</sup> This letter has not survived, but John had obtained a baptism certificate of his father, Henry Attfield, which is among the surviving papers.

<sup>11</sup> It is not known which James this refers to. There are several possible candidates in Farnham.

<sup>12</sup> We only know of two daughters, Mary & Harriet. The Lineage Table also only mentions two daughters, so John (or his cousin Charles) must have corrected this statement in a subsequent letter.

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I have never heard that my grandfather was a soldier, but he may probably have been such in his younger days. He died when my father was quite a child, and my father being so young he of course would not remember much about him.

I shall be interested in knowing if you can trace any relationship between your family and mine.

I remain

Yours faithfully

John Attfield

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## Letter 6

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD

Nov. 25, 1889.

Dear Sir,

The Attfield Lineage

I ought to have asked you before for the date of your own birth. Kindly forward it, by return, on a postcard.

Yours faithfully,

John Attfield, of Watford

Mr. John Attfield, of Stoke Newington

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## Letter 7

*Professor -> Charles Attfield of Farnham<sup>13</sup>*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD

Nov. 25, 1889.

Mr. Charles Attfield,

The Bourne, nr Farnham

Dear Sir – I am compiling a Table of the Attfield Lineage, of which I shall be happy to present you with a printed copy when completed. You will find it to be of great interest to you. Your cousin John Attfield, of Aldgate & Stoke Newington, has much helped me with information.

Your father was, I am told, Mr. James Attfield, of Farnham. Would you kindly tell me the date of his birth and death, and the date of your own birth.

An early reply will oblige, for the Table is in type and I am anxious to get copies printed off.

Yours faithfully,

John Attfield

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<sup>13</sup> John's cousin, see Letter 5.

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Your father and I must have been second cousins; therefore you and I must be second cousins once removed.  
J.A.

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## Letter 8

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD  
Dec 7, 1889.

Mr. John Attfield,  
59 Cazenove Road, Stoke Newington, N  
& 159 F Avenue, Central Meat Market, E.C.

Dear Sir, - You will be much interested in the enclosed Lineage Table.<sup>14</sup> It seems that your grandfather was the James Attfield, of Farnham, who was born April 26, 1773, and died on Feb 20, 1813. Henry of Chertsey, now living, gives me these dates from a register.<sup>15</sup> But either your uncle James was born later than 1788 (the date given me by Charles, when your grandfather would only be 15!) or else there were two "James of Farnham".<sup>16</sup> I hope you may be able to get hold of some dates which will clear up these points. There seem to be indications of three distinct branches of Attfields of Surrey besides all the Attfields of my Table. Probably these three come from brothers or uncles of the Henry in my Table, that is to say, besides the Henry who was born in 1722 and died in 1793. In the light given you by this Table you may perhaps be reminded of some more facts about some Attfields (a single fact – a name, a date, a town – will be welcome) or you may be able to obtain more information; and so aid in promoting the genealogical welfare of all having our name.

Yours faithfully,  
John Attfield, of Watford

Who is the "J. Attfield, 9B Foreign Cattle Market, Deptford, S.E." ?

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## Letter 9

*John -> Professor*

Dec 10th 1889

Dr. John Attfield  
"Ashlands", Watford

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<sup>14</sup> This is the Lineage Table as printed, which the professor circulated to many living Attfields on this date.

<sup>15</sup> These birth and death dates refer to "James 1", son of Henry of Chertsey. This letter tells us that the professor obtained his information from a living relative – another Henry – who had looked up the dates in a register. Thus the information about James did not come from internal family lore.

<sup>16</sup> This is exactly the question at issue. John and the professor hit upon this contradiction – unfortunately too late for the printed Lineage Table – and thus anticipated the subject of this essay by over 100 years!

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Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the Lineage Table you have been kind enough to send me, and in which I am much interested. I will try to obtain more information about my grandfather.

Possibly the dates may be wrong which Charles Attfield has given you, or as you say there may have been another James Attfield of Farnham.

I see from the Table that I omitted to tell you that my father had other children besides myself. I have two brothers and one sister living now, and there were also a brother and sister who died young, and who were both older than myself; those living are all younger than myself and would not be able to afford you any information about our family.

I have also two sons and two daughters.

The J Attfield of 9B Foreign Cattle Market Deptford is myself.

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## Letter 10

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD

Dec. 15, 1889.

Mr. John Attfield, Stoke Newington

Dear Sir, - Thanks for yours of the 11th.<sup>17</sup> I should be glad to have the Christian name, town & date of birth (& death in the cases of the two) of each of your brothers and sisters. Also the addresses of your two surviving brothers.

Will you please send me this information?

Yours faithfully,

John Attfield

I can ask your brothers for any dates you do not happen to possess. J.A.

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## Letter 11

*John -> Professor*

Jan 1, 1890 (?)

I should have replied to your letter earlier, but have been waiting to get the dates of the birth and death of any brothers and sisters. I can only get the date of the years in which they were born and died, and which I am sending to you with the names of my brothers and sisters now living.

Henry Attfield born in London in 1832 and died 1839

Ann Attfield born in London 1834 and died in 1853

John Attfield, myself, born Nov 14th 1836

Louisa Attfield, now Louisa Ashdown, born May 5th 1838 – now living

James Attfield, born 12 Nov 1840 – now living – address not known to my family

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<sup>17</sup> Draft was dated the 10th (Letter 9). Probably John re-wrote the final letter on the 11th.

William Attfield born Oct 5th 1843 – now living at High Cross, Tottenham

The date of my father's death was June 29th 1862, not August 1862 which date I gave you in a former letter. He was a freeman of the City of London and sometimes Overseer of the Parish of St Botolph Aldgate.

The enclosed extract is taken from an article in this month's "Cornhill" which possibly you have not seen. Solomon de Dover is evidently our ancestor Solomon Attfield.

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## Letter 12

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD

Jan 3, 1890.

Mr. John Attfield,  
59 Cazenove Road, Stoke Newington, N.

Dear Sir, - I thank you much for yours of the 1st. I have inserted the names in my Lineage Table, have altered the date of your father's death, and have added a note of his City position.<sup>18</sup> I shall be very anxious to hear what you ascertain respecting your grandfather – as to whether he was the James of Farnham of my Table or another James of Farnham (there were three, at least) – for it will probably set right several links.

Thanks, too, for the Cornhill extract. I shall certainly follow it up. I had not seen it.

Yours faithfully,  
John Attfield, of Watford

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## Letter 13

*John -> Professor*

Jan 16, 1890 (?)

Dear Sir,

I am now able to inform you that my grandfather James Attfield (Publican) died at Farnham aged 55 years, & was buried there on April 10th 1813.<sup>19</sup>

Counting backwards 55 years gives us the date of his birth.

I have not yet been able to find out the place where he was born; it does not appear to have been at Farnham, nor at Womersley from whence he removed to Farnham.

Possibly as he had a brother (or brothers) at Bagshot it may have been there.

Any other information I can obtain I will send on to you.

My grandfather cannot be the James of your "Table", for if the dates given you by C.A. are quite correct he would be quite 14 years older than the eldest brother.

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<sup>18</sup> Unfortunately, as far as we know this amended version was never printed.

<sup>19</sup> This information came from a copy of James's burial register entry which John had just obtained from the rector of Farnham and which is among the surviving papers.

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## Letter 14

*Professor -> John*

ASHLANDS, WATFORD  
Jan 17, 1890.

Mr. John Attfield, Stoke Newington

My dear Sir,

I thank you very much for your note of the 16th. For it removes an error and establishes a truth and therefore is a distinct contribution to our Lineage.<sup>20</sup> But until you or your cousin Charles can find out and tell me something about your grandfather's brothers (if any) and about his father (yours and your cousin's great grandfather) I am afraid I shall not be able to make further connections between your family and the other Attfield families. I have now no less than nine groups of Attfields similar to yours, besides the one forming my printed Table; yet I cannot, at present, link either with the other because, at present, neither runs far back into last century. What is wanted, of course, is good searches of registers. However, many, like yourself, promise help, so we must hope.

Yours faithfully,  
John Attfield, of Watford

John Attfield, Buchholz, Germany, July 2012  
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<sup>20</sup> I take this sentence to mean that Professor Attfield is agreeing that the identification of James in his printed Attfield Lineage is wrong.