

CHAPTER

B3

The PEACHEY Family

“Bricklayers from Cambridgeshire “

Our Grandmother was a PEACHEY – Lucy Mary Peachey to be precise. She was the daughter of John William Peachey, a Bricklayer. In fact, the occupation of bricklaying seems to go back a long way in this line – to the Cambridgeshire origins of the family. Lucy was born in 1886 and died in 1949, the year before Keith was born. Our Dad always described her as “having a heart of gold – she would give anyone her last ha’penny “.



LUCY MARY PEACHEY
1886 - 1949

Our Peachey family originated from Cambridgeshire and there appears to have been a fairly large concentration of them in the village of Soham and surrounding areas. In the rest of the country it is not a common name at all. There are many spelling variants - Peachey, Peachy, Pechey, Pechy, Petchey, Petchy, etc - but they all derive from the same family. We have been able to trace the family back over 150 years in the Soham area. However, it is believed that the Peachey name probably goes back to Norman times and the invasion of William the Conqueror. French noblemen who had been loyal to King William were given lands in the newly-occupied Britain and the name of de Pechy appears to have become established around the area of Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk. After some decades of occupation, most of these French nobleman dropped the

“de” from their names, so de Pechy became Pechy. It is likely that the Peacheys in subsequent centuries originated from this same line. Anyway, let's start with the early beginnings of the Peacheys which we have been able to trace ...

William Peachey (b. circa 1700)

Our earliest known Peachey ancestor is our our 6G-Grandfather, **William Peachey**. He was born circa 1700 and married **Elizabeth Rumbelow** at Soham, Cambridgeshire on 28th Aug 1727. Little is known of them other than they had 8 children :

Elizabeth Peachey	b.1728, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
William Peachey	b.1731, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Robert Peachey	b.1732, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
John Peachey	b.1733, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
John Peachey	b.1738, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Ann Peachey	b.1741, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Samuel Peachey	b.1744, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Edward Peachey	b.1746, at Soham, Cambridgeshire

The only ones of the above for which we have been able to discover further information are ...

Robert Peachey (b.1732) worked as a staymaker and died in 1794 at Soham.

John Peachey (b.1733) died as an 8-month infant in 1734.

Samuel Peachey (b.1744) was our 5G-Grandfather. Details of him are given below.

Edward Peachey (b. 1746) married **Ann Reader** on 19th March 1770 at Soham and died in 1795 in the same village. They produced 10 children in Soham, although most of them did not survive beyond childhood. They were Edward (1771-71), Edward (1772-1801), Elizabeth (b.1774), Ann (b.1776), Martha (1778-79), Robert (1780-81), William (1782-1802), Robert (1785-86), Samuel (1788-88) and Ellis (b.1794).

Samuel Peachey (1744 - 1823)

Our 5G-Grandfather was **Samuel Peachey**, born 1744 in Soham, Cambridgeshire. We don't know much about his wife except that she was called **Sarah**. They had three known children :

Samuel Peachey	b.1771, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Isaac Peachey	b.1773, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Charlotte Peachey	b.1776, at Soham, Cambridgeshire

Samuel Peachey (b.1771) was our 4G-Grandfather (see below).

Isaac Peachey (b.1773) married Mary Martin on 31st May 1798 at Soham and it is believed that they had three children - Charlotte (b.1798), Samuel (d.1804) and William (d.1804).

Charlotte Peachey (b.1776) married Philip Cray, but nothing else is known of her.

Samuel Peachey (1771 - 1844)

Samuel Peachey, born 1771 in Soham, Cambridgeshire, was our GGGG-Grandfather. On 3rd March 1791 he married **Ann Fuller** at Soham. Ann was born about 1766 in the nearby village of Burwell and was the daughter of William Fuller and the widow of John Reader. Samuel died in 1844 at Soham & he and Ann had 6 children :

Isaac Peachey	b.1791, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Samuel Peachey	b.1792, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
George Peachey	b.1795, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
William Peachey	b.1797, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
William Peachey	b.circa 1807, at Soham, Cambridgeshire
Sarah Peachey	b.circa 1808, at Soham, Cambridgeshire

Isaac Peachey (b.1791) died in 1848 at Soham. Nothing further is known of him.

It seems that likely that either Samuel & Ann took their family to live in Wainfleet, Lincolnshire (on the coast, just north of Boston) for a period in the early 19th century, or at least two of the sons went there as some of the subsequent events in the family took place at Wainfleet.

Samuel Peachey (b.1792) married **Jane Goy** (b.1803, Wainfleet) and they had 4 children, all at Wainfleet : Mary (b.circa 1822), William (b.circa 1827), John (b.circa 1832), Ann (b.circa 1845). It appears that Samuel spent the remainder of his life at Wainfleet as he is listed in the 1851 census, living with his wife and children at 21 Hope Street, Wainfleet. He died sometime during the next decade as Jane was listed as a widow in 1861. Samuel worked as a bricklayer, which seemed to be the prevalent occupation in the family. Also, the 1851 census indicated that he was either deaf, dumb, or blind (probably not the latter if he worked as a bricklayer).

George Peachey (b.1795) was our GGG-Grandfather (see details below).

William Peachey (b.1797) was an infant mortality and died in 1798.

William Peachey (b.circa 1807) married **Annis Hitch** on 29th Nov 1833 at Soham. He was a bricklayer and seems to have spent his entire life in the village as he is listed in the census records for 1841, 1851 & 1861, living at Qua Fen Common, Soham, with his wife and children. William and Annis had 9 children in Soham : Caroline (1835-37), Sally (b.1836), Mariot (1838-38), Mary (b.1840), Caroline (b.1842), Harriet (b.1844), John (b.1847), George (b.1849) and Thomas (b.1851).

Sarah Peachey (b.circa 1808) remained a spinster and was living with her brother (George) in 1871.

George Peachey (1795 - 1870s)

George Peachey was born in 1795 in Soham, Cambridgeshire and was our GGG-Grandfather. In common with other family members, he became a bricklayer. During the early part of the 19th century, he moved from Soham to Wainfleet, Lincolnshire and it was here that he married **Anne Fox** and had most of his children. Ann was born at Wainfleet in 1798 and was the daughter of Robert Fox and Anne. George and Anne married on 13th May 1819 at Wainfleet St.Mary. Most of their children were born in Wainfleet, although the youngest was born in Soham, so George probably moved the family back to Soham sometime between 1830 & 1832.

In 1841, George was listed in the census records, living with his family at Cocks Lane,

Soham. By the time of the 1851 census, the family had moved to 34 Pratt Street, Soham and in 1861 & 1871, they were at East Fen Common, Soham.

George & Anne had the following children :

Azuba Peachey	b.1820, at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire
Eliza Peachey	b.circa 1822, at Soham, Cambridgeshire ?
Elias Fox Peachey	b.1825, at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire
Sarah Peachey	b.1826, at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire
William Fox Peachey	b.circa 1827, at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire
Harriot Peachey	b.circa 1830, at Wainfleet, Lincolnshire
Robert Fox Peachey	b.1832, at Soham, Cambridgeshire

We know very little of **Azuba Peachey**, **Sarah Peachey** or **Harriot Peachey** other than the date & place of their births.

Elias Fox Peachey (b.1825) was our GG-Grandfather and there are further details of him later in this chapter.

William Fox Peachey (1827-88) followed the family occupation by becoming a bricklayer. On 10th Dec 1847, he married **Eliza Aveley Staples** at Soham. Some time after this, William moved the family to Brixton in London. In 1862 they were living at 2 Millbrook Road, Brixton and by 1871 they were at 11 Industry Terrace, Brixton. This is the address at which William died in 1888. William & Eliza had at least 2 children - James Aveley (1848-49) and George (b.1862).

Robert Fox Peachey (b.1832) also became a bricklayer and subsequently migrated to the Islington area of London where he established the building business of R.F. Peachey & Sons. His eldest son, Robert Frederick Peachey took over the business from his father and transformed it into a large building company, responsible for the creation of more than 1,000 new houses during the house-building boom of the 1930s. In doing so, he became fairly wealthy. He was featured in a recent television programme in which well-known celebrities trace their roots. In this case, the celebrity was Alan Davies, the actor & comedian, who was a g-grandson of Robert Frederick Peachey.

Elias Fox Peachey (1825 – 1889)

Our GG-Grandfather was **Elias Fox Peachey** and represents our last linkage to the Soham area. He was born in Wainfleet, Lincolnshire in 1825, although most of his childhood was spent in Soham, Cambridgeshire as the family had moved back to the village from which his ancestors had originated, when Elias was about 7 years of age. He took up the occupation of bricklayer - the same as his father, uncles and brothers. On 9th April 1844, he married **Lettice Mary Aspland** at Newmarket Register Office. Mary, as she was known, was born in 1826 at Soham and was the daughter of a thatcher, Robert Aspland and his wife, Mary. The Aspland family had originated from Downham, in the Isle of Ely, but then established themselves in the villages of Wicken & Soham during the 19th century.

Around 1853, Elias moved the family north to Hull in East Yorkshire and it was here that they spent the remainder of their lives. They settled within the Sculcoates area of Hull, but seemed to have moved around as they occupied various addresses - Sykes Street (1854), 1 William Place, Alicia Street (1857-61), Walker Street (1863) and Day Street (1867), 124 Campbell Street (1871) and 11 Park Street (1881-89).

It appears that Elias may have run his own business rather than having been an employee. In various trade directories during the 1867-87 period, he was described as a builder and the census records show that he employed 2 other men. Also, in the 1871 census, he was living at 124 Campbell Street, but the adjacent properties were referred to as Peachey Terrace. This was perhaps an indication that he was responsible for building these properties.

Mary died of a disease of the lungs on 8th December 1887 at the age of 61. Elias survived for another couple of years, but was found lying face down in a ditch on Stepney Lane, Hull, on 2nd October 1889. He had been last seen alive about 6 hours prior to discovery. A report in the Hull Daily Mail stated that an inquest was held at the Whittington Inn, Commercial Road on the same day that he was discovered. After considering the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned". Elias is buried with Mary in the General Cemetary, Hull.

Elias & Mary had a very large family - 15 children were baptised, although a family bible suggests that they had 22 children altogether. Those who were not baptised were probably dead at birth and never given names. Known children were :

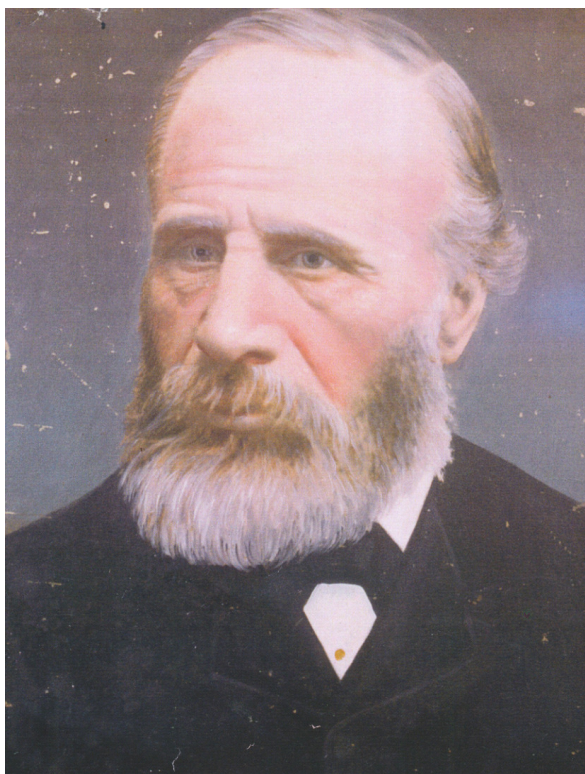
Caroline Peachey	b.1845, in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Agnes Peachey	b.circa 1847, in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Adelaide Peachey	b.circa 1847, in Soham, Cambridgeshire
George Fox Peachey	b.1848, in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Robert Aspland Peachey	b.1851, in Wicken, Cambridgeshire
Elias Peachey	b.1853, in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Elias Fox Peachey	b.1854, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
John William Peachey	b.1855, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Robert Aspland Peachey	b.1856, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Robert Aspland Peachey	b.1857, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Mary Peachey	b.1860, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Mary Peachey	b.1861, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Rosanna Peachey	b.1862, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Kate Peachey	b.1863, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Robert Aspland Peachey	b.1864, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire

However, there was a high rate of infant mortality within the family. Robert Aspland (b.1851), Elias (b.1853), Elias Fox (b.1854), Robert Aspland (b.1856), Robert Aspland (b.1857), Mary (b.1860), Mary (b.1861), Rosanna (b.1862), Kate (b.1863) and Robert Aspland (b.1864) did not survive beyond a year of age. Only 2 of the male children survived to adulthood - our G-Grandfather (John William Peachey) and his elder brother, George.

George Fox Peachey (1848-1910) was born in Wicken, Cambridgeshire and raised in Hull, Yorkshire. As was the case with his forebears, he became a bricklayer, although he seems to have also had other occupations. Between 1892 and 1909 he was also described as a Commission Agent in trade directories and in 1905 he was described as the proprietor of Peachey & Co., Cabinet Makers.

Moving from house to house seems to have been the norm for the Peachey family and George is recorded at various addresses - 83 Campbell Street (1869), 32 South Parade (1871-74), 17 St.John's Place, Walmsley Street (1875), 10 St.John's Place, Walmsley Street (1880-87), 27 Victoria Street (1892), Hawthorn House, Hawthorn Avenue (1901-05) and 63 Hawthorn Avenue (1909-10). Apparently, Hawthorn House was the lodge in the grounds of the grand Newington Hall on Hawthorn Avenue.

George was married twice. When he was 21, he married **Lucy Hannah Tiplady** on 21st December 1869 in Hull. They had 12 children, but as was the case with his own parents, many of the children died as infants. At least 7 died before the age of 2 years. Lucy died of cancer in 1901.



George Fox Peachey (1848-1910)

In 1903, at the age of 50, George remarried. His 2nd wife was **Mary Louisa Revell** and they married on 22nd October 1903, when she was 29 years of age. They produced one son, Arthur Peachey (1904-69). George died of influenza & heart failure on 5th March 1910 when he was aged 63.

He is buried in the General Cemetery, Hull, along with many of his infant children.

John William Peachey (1855 – 1935)

Our G-Grandfather, **John William Peachey**, was born in the Sculcoates area of Hull on 6th June 1855, the son of **Elias Fox Peachey** and **Mary Aspland**.

His parents had only just arrived in Hull a couple of years earlier after migrating from Soham, Cambridgeshire. John William followed in his father's footsteps and those of many other family members in that he became a bricklayer. On 28th July 1877, he married **Laura Horwood Hewitt** in Sculcoates, Hull. Laura was the daughter of Jacob Charles Hewitt and Charlotte (nee Kemp). Jacob was a grocer and beerseller and the family lived at 33 Clarendon Street.

John William Peachey was living at 10 Wassand Street at the time of his marriage, but soon afterwards he and Laura moved to 1 Collingwood Terrace, Clarendon Street, and soon afterwards, a couple of doors along to 5 Collingwood Terrace. By the 1890s, they had moved again - this time to Kimberley Street, first at number 26 and then to number 6. However, that was not the end of their migrations. Between 1897 and 1905 they were living at 121 Plane Street, Anlaby Road and subsequently they lived at 84 Somerset Street, where they remained until at least 1933.



John William Peachey

Large families seem to have been the

norm with the Peacheys. John William was from a family of 22 (although most of them did not survive infancy) and his older brother George Fox had produced 13 children (also with a high number of infant mortalities). John William was just as prolific as he and Laura also had 13 children :

Charles Fox Peachey	b.1878, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Hilda Beatrice Peachey	b.1879, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Ernest Harry Peachey	b.1881, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Caroline Peachey	b.1883, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Thomas Kemp Peachey	b.1885, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Lucy Mary Peachey	b.1886, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
William Peachey	b.1889, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
John Peachey	b.1889, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Alfred Peachey	b.1891, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Charlotte Peachey	b.1893, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Jennie Peachey	b.circa 1895, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Edward Peachey	b.1895, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
James Peachey	b.1897, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire
Fanny Peachey	b.circa 1901, in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire

Charles Fox Peachey married **Ada** and had 3 children : Charles Fox (c.1904), Lucy (c.1913) and Dorothy (c.1913). He died of consumption on 19th Mar 1922 at the age of 44. At the time of his death, the family lived at 8 Lily Grove, Greek Street, Hull.

Ernest Harry Peachey was known as Harry. About 1900 he moved to Bradford, West Yorkshire, and on 27th Sep 1900 he married **Alice Ulunda Marsh**, who was born in Newbury, Berkshire on 7th Sep 1879. At the time of the 1901 census, Harry and Alice were living at 60 Fenton Street, Great.Horton, Bradford with a baby daughter called Eva. All of their children (Ada, Eva, Lucy, Elizabeth, Aurilla & Jack) were born in Bradford. During the 1930s, Harry took the family south to London, where he established a building company. They lived at 11 Patters Street, Northwood, Middlesex. Harry became a leading figure in the town and was responsible for building the railway station, retail shops, workshops and houses. He also played a leading role in the establishment of cricket, tennis and bowls clubs in Northwood.

Caroline Peachey was known as Carrie and married a man called Whitewood. They lived in Greek Street, Hull and had 1 son and 1 daughter (Grace).

Thomas Kemp Peachey worked on the railways as a foreman and lived at 45 Langtoft Grove, Hull (1933) and 70 Langtoft Grove, Hull (1937).

Lucy Mary Peachey was our Grandmother (see details below).

William Peachey married **Violet Staples**. He became an East Riding County Football Association official and was well-known in local amateur football circles. He used to write a regular column in the Hull Daily Mail's *Sports Mail* under the nom-de-plume of "Pee-Chey". His death in 1933 at the age of 44 was a little unusual. His wife, Violet, was a true Yorkshirewoman, very frugal and thrifty and let nothing go to waste. She had a habit of preserving eggs in a substance called water glass (a common name for sodium silicate which is water soluble). It worked by coating and sealing the porous eggshell. There was some left over after an egg-preserving session, so she stored the water glass in a Robinsons Barley Water bottle, still possessing its label. One fateful and very thirsty day, William drank said contents, believing it to be barley water - but it was poisonous and he died as a consequence. It seems the family did not blame her - they just considered it to be a tragic accident. His widow, Violet, remained

very close to William's sisters, Carrie & Lottie. William & Violet had a son called William.

Alfred Peachey worked as a trawlerman and lived in Selby Street, Hull.

Charlotte Peachey was known as Lottie. She married **John Edward Holmes** on 28th October 1920. He was known as Jack and was born in Limehouse, Stepney, Middlesex in 1879. He was a chief engineer on trawlers and was still sailing to Iceland at the age of 80. During World War II he gained a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). At the time of marriage, Lottie was living in the Peachey family home at 84 Somerset Street, Hull. Soon afterwards, they moved to 1 Beech Grove, Division Road and in later life they lived at 55 Main Street, Swanland, on the western outskirts of Hull. Jack died in 1963 at Swanland and Lottie died in 1976. They had 2 sons : Kenneth Edward (b.1922) and Alan Hewitt (b.1924). The latter never married, but Kenneth Edward married Barbara Collin in Edinburgh in 1953. Kenneth & Barbara subsequently divorced, although they had a daughter in 1955 (Sue Holmes).

Jennie Peachey died of convulsions in 1901 at the age of 6.

Edward Peachey served in the 7th battalion of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt.) and was killed during World War I on 4th April 1918, aged 22.

James Peachey was known as Jimmy and married Mabel Miriam Hall at Newington, Hull on 23rd Dec 1922. He worked as a coppersmith for all of his working life. The Peachey family were living at 121 Plane Street, Hull when Jimmy was born and were at 84 Somerset Street at the time of his marriage. When he died on 14th Jul 1963, his family were living at 2 Linden Grove, Greek Street. He is buried in Northern Cemetery, Hull. Jimmy & Mabel had one daughter - Doreen Peachey. She subsequently married George Moody and they also had a single daughter - Kay Moody.

Lucy Mary Peachey (1886 – 1949)

Lucy Peachey was our paternal Grandmother. She was born on 30th Nov 1886 at 5 Collingwood Terrace, Clarendon Street, Sculcoates, Hull, one of 14 children of John William Peachey and his wife, Laura Horwood (nee Hewitt). In 1910, she married Charles Smith in Hull and they subsequently had 8 children :

Leslie Charles Smith	b.1912, at 5 St.Leonard's Ave, Rhodes St, Hull, Yorkshire
Marjorie Mary Smith	b.1914, at 34 Huntingdon St, Hull, Yorkshire
Francis Cameron Smith	b.1915, at 5 Palm Grove, Somerset St, Hull, Yorkshire
Dorothy Laura Charlotte Smith	b.1920, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Edward Peachey Smith	b.1921, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Kathleen Muriel Phyliss Smith	b.1923, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Betty Horwood Smith	b.1925, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Joan Smith	b.1926, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire

For further details of the children, see the chapter on the SMITH Family.



Picture probably taken in the 1930s
Lucy Smith (nee Peachey) is in the centre and **Charles Smith** is on the right.
The man on the left is probably Lucy's brother, **James Peachey**.



Harry Peachey



Alfred Peachey



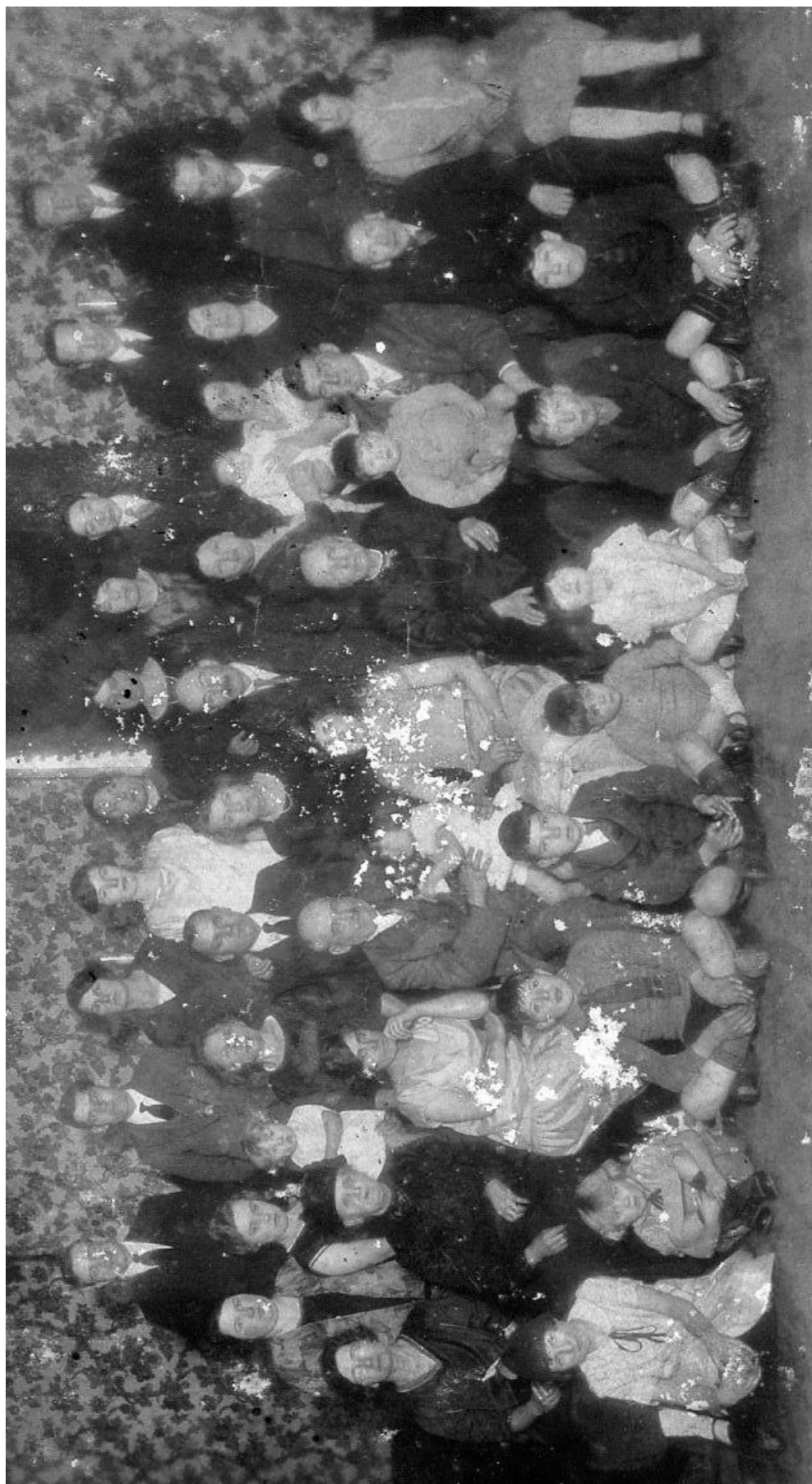
The Peacheys seem to have been rather keen on photographs of large family groups. The one above shows 21 of the family and there is another with over 40 people present.

John William Peachey & Laura Horwood (nee Hewitt)
are on the front row (4th and 3rd from left)

The others are probably sons & daughters with their spouses and children although we cannot identify many of them.



Harry Peachey & Alice
on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary



PEACHEY Family Group - probably about 1928

Back Row (Standing): unknown, James Peachey, Mabel Peachey (nee Hall), unknown, unknown, unknown, Charlie Smith, unknown.
2nd Row (Standing): unknown, unknown, unknown baby, unknown, unknown, unknown, Lucy Smith (nee Peachey), unknown, unknown.
3rd Row (Seated): unknown, unknown, Charlotte Holmes (nee Peachey), John William Peachey, unknown child, unknown, Laura Horwood Peachey (nee Hewitt), unknown child, Jack Holmes, unknown, unknown. **Front Row (Seated on Floor):** unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown.



Wedding of Charlotte (Lottie) Peachey & John Edward (Jack) Holmes (1920)

Back : Alfred Peachey, James Peachey, John William Peachey

Middle : Henry Thomas Holmes, Unknown, Jack Holmes, Lottie Peachey, Laura Horwood Peachey

Front : Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown



Wedding of James Peachey & Mabel Miriam Hall (1922)

Seated at front left is James' mother, Laura Horwood Peachey (nee Hewitt)



Wedding of Doreen Peachey & George Moody

At the rear (behind Doreen) are Mabel & James Peachey (Doreen's parents)
and (at the left), Harry Peachey (brother of James)



Wedding of Elizabeth (Lizzie) Peachey & Walter Ortmyer (circa 1930)
(daughter of Harry & Alice Peachey)

Back Row : Cecil Robinson, Ada Robinson (nee Peachey), Jack Peachey, Walter Ortmyer, Lizzie Peachey, Ernest Harry Peachey, Eva Watson (nee Peachey), Johnson Watson

Front Row : Lucy Peachey, John William Peachey, Aurilla (Rilla) Peachey, Sheila Robinson, Alice Alunda Peachey, Laura Horwood Peachey (nee Hewitt)