

The ancestry of William Morris: the Worcester connection

David Everett

Most biographers of Morris, from Mackail onwards,¹ concern themselves only briefly with his ancestry, and one is inclined to conclude that Morris himself had few dealings with his parents' families, either in the paternal or the maternal line. One is inevitably curious about a family background which seems shrouded in mystery. Investigating this background may possibly throw light on Morris's most unusual and intriguing personality. The purpose of this essay is to do just that, utilising a genealogist's methods and resources, which are expanding as a result of digitisation of original material, including some parish registers and local newspapers. Throughout, the aim is to rely as far as possible on primary sources. However, the extent to which this may help us better understand Morris, will be for the reader to judge. A simplified family tree (Figure 1) is included, in order to help readers identify individual members of the Morris family more easily.

Extensive research in Worcester has failed to substantiate reported connections of Morris's father (William Morris senior) with that city. In a letter to Havlock Ellis, Morris wrote 'My father and mother both came from Worcester. My father's father was Welsh, I believe and my mother's mother also. My name is very common along the border'. However, he did not claim that his father was a native of Worcester, and there is no evidence of his father's baptism at any of the city's churches. Moreover, although the surname Morris was common in Worcester, no other city records support the view that Morris's father had established himself in the city. It is undeniable that the surname Morris is Welsh, as is Jenkins (that of his mother's mother), but Welsh surnames are very common throughout England, and especially in border counties such as Herefordshire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire, and to a similar extent Worcestershire. Morris's pronouncements on the subject of his forebears are vague, and migration of the Morris family from Wales may have happened several generations earlier. What follows is therefore almost completely confined to Morris's maternal family. A parallel article also published in this issue (pp. 19–33) explores Morris's paternal origins.²

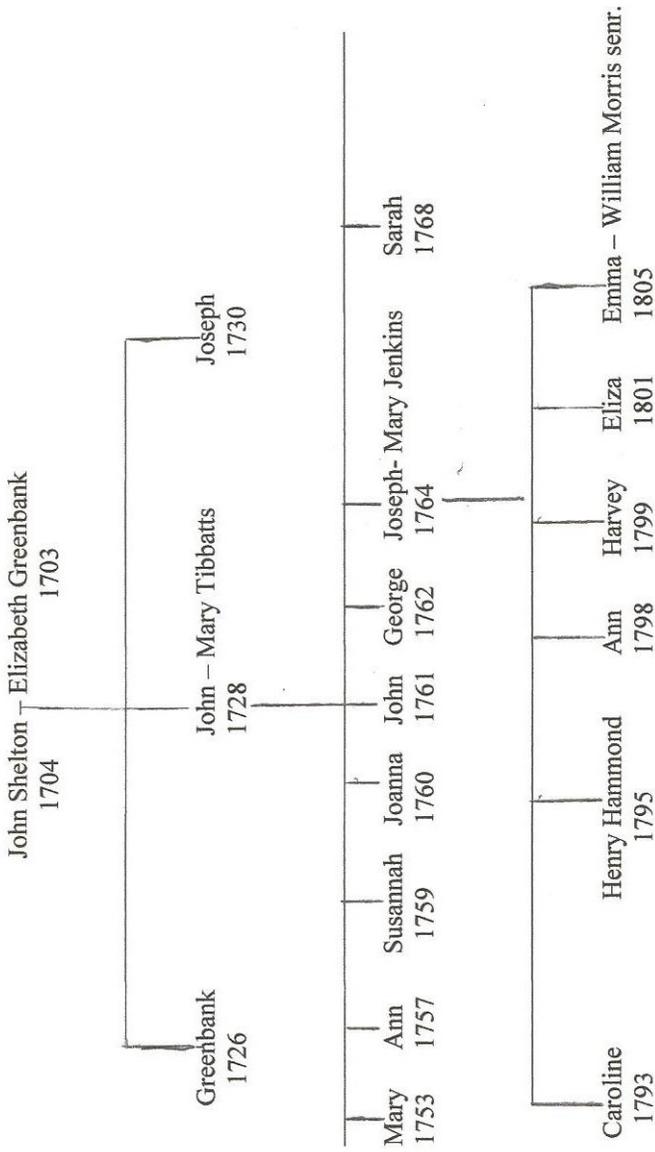


Figure 1 – Simplified family tree of Emma Shelton Morris

I. MORRIS' S PARENTS

Morris's mother, Emma Shelton, married William Morris senior at the parish church of St Nicholas, Worcester on 27 July 1826, Emma being described as 'of this parish' and her bridegroom of 'Edmund the King & Martyr in the city of London'. The couple are said to have become engaged in 1824, at which time their portraits were painted by T. Wheeler (See Figure 1, this volume, p. 26), presumably the miniaturist based in London who exhibited at the Royal Academy forty-nine times between 1817 and 1845, and whose services, one imagines, would have been greatly in demand. Although Emma was only nineteen in 1824, the Shelton family was numerous, and it is very likely that a close relative was already living in the London area and was able to chaperone her. A marriage between the Sheltons and the Morrises was apparently regarded as a natural arrangement, the families having some similar previous connection, but the absence of detail rules out any further research in that direction. This matter is discussed further below.³

William Morris senior applied for a licence to marry in Worcester. The sworn document supporting his application (known as a marriage allegation) reveals that at the time he was a widower: the name of his first wife is not known. As in 1818 he was twenty-one years old, this leaves six years before the certain date of his engagement to Emma Shelton. One possibility therefore is a marriage at St James', Clerkenwell, London, on 2 November 1822 of William Morris to Jane Dennis of St Clement Danes. One of the three witnesses was William Dennis, possibly the bride's father. A Jane Morris was buried at St Mary's, Paddington Green on 28 May 1823, aged 26, her address being Bath Street, St Lukes, Middlesex. However, it cannot be stated with any certainty that this is the same person. Further research into Morris's male line needs to be pursued in the London records.⁴

2. THE SHELTON SIBLINGS

Morris's mother Emma was the youngest child of Joseph and Mary Shelton. Each of their children was baptised at the parish church of St Nicholas, Worcester. The two eldest, Joseph and Mary Louisa, died in infancy. The remaining children were baptised thus:

11 July 1793	Caroline
27 February 1795	Henry Hammond

4 February 1798	Ann
24 November 1799	Harvey
8 July 1801	Eliza
27 May 1805	Emma

Morris's mother Emma was therefore the youngest, and lived to a great age. It seems likely that she would have made an effort to keep in touch with some of her siblings, particularly after her husband's early death in 1847. The only direct contact Morris himself seems to have achieved is during the 1850s when he visited his aunts.⁵

Caroline, the eldest Shelton sibling, remained unmarried until well into her forties. *Bentley's Worcestershire Directory* (ca 1841, but no doubt compiled over several years) records her under 'milliners and dressmakers' in Lich Street, Worcester, an area close to the cathedral, which consisted mainly of ancient but modest dwellings. (It was demolished during the 1960s in order to make way for a new shopping centre despite an outcry from John Betjeman and others). She had most probably been employed in this way since her youth. The earliest *Worcestershire County Directory* (compiled by S. Lewis, 1820) lists under the same heading Shelton & Blandy at 86 High Street. These business premises would have been located at the south end of High Street, close to the Guildhall, and were probably a 'superior' establishment.⁶

However, on 3 September 1840, at St Peter's church Worcester, and at the age of forty-seven, Caroline Shelton married the splendidly-named Morwent Baron, gent., son of Thomas Baron, gent., her address being given on the marriage certificate as Edgar Street. This is the short street leading up to the Edgar Tower, the imposing entrance to College Green, giving access to the cathedral cloisters. Her father's occupation is shown as lay clerk. Baron was a solicitor, and obviously retired, as he was about twenty years older than his bride.

This was to be a very short-lived marriage. A Worcester newspaper reported his death in 1846, still describing him as solicitor, and 'late of Caerleon, Monmouthshire'. Caroline survived him by ten years, dying in 1856. Her death was not reported in the local newspaper. In the 1851 UK census she is again recorded as a dressmaker, with her niece Martha Parker, 34, a native of Usk, who can also be found as a dressmaker in the 1871 census, living with a member of the Blandy family. In the 1841 census, Martha appears as the eldest daughter of Isaac Parker, an auctioneer, in Church Street, Usk. During 1851, Caroline earned sufficient funds to employ one servant, but her late husband's imposing name was not

matched by an opulent estate – he left no will and no assets. He came to public notice on one occasion in 1815, while living at Coleford, Gloucestershire, when he was convicted of the technical offence of ‘uttering and negotiating a certain undertaking in writing, for the payment of a smaller sum than 20s’ against a recent Act intended to stop the circulation of notes or cheques for such small amounts. He was fined £5.⁷

Caroline is not the only Shelton whose marriage prompts the question – ‘Why this particular partner?’ For example, Morwent Baron’s home at the time of the marriage was Monmouth, and hers Worcester. How well did they know each other, and what did they know of each other? Where did they meet? Baron was a widower, and described himself (and his father) as ‘gent’. Four witnesses signed the register, but none of them appears to have been a blood relative of the bride or the groom.

Henry Hammond Shelton, the second sibling and Emma’s elder brother, often referred to simply as Henry, was a prominent member of the Worcester community. He served as a lay clerk at Worcester Cathedral from 1817/8 for a long period, though absent through illness from February 1844. He finally resigned in 1852, but continued to be paid a pension at the same rate as his stipend. He also resigned his post as organist at the parish church of St Nicholas, Worcester, which he had held for forty years. He put in his final appearance at a parish Vestry Meeting in April 1851, when his successor Jabez Jones was appointed. Since 1845 the rector of this church had been the celebrated W.H. Havergal, a fairly prolific composer of hymns, and father of the even better-known Frances Ridley Havergal. Henry Hammond had also been active as a ‘music master’, and was listed as such in Lewis’s 1820 *Directory of Worcestershire*, where his address is given as 8, Barbourn Terrace. In 1797, an uncle, John Shelton, had married Mary Ann Hammond at the parish church of St John-in-Bedwardine (on the west bank of the Severn, now part of the city of Worcester), and it seems likely that there was an existing connection between the two families, prompting the choice of Henry Hammond’s second name. It is also worthy of note that a member of a Herefordshire branch of the Sheltons (born in Ledbury) was named John Hammond Shelton. He died at his home in the King’s Road, Chelsea [London] on 9 January 1867 after a long career as a cashier in the Bank of England.⁸

Henry Hammond was clearly highly thought of in Worcester. In January 1825 he was chosen to ‘open’ the new organ at St John’s (St John-in-Bedwardine), where hymns and anthems were sung by the choir of the cathedral, and the collection earmarked to assist with purchase of the instrument. His musical talents were not limited to the organ, however, and he sang at Three Choirs Festivals in Worcester in 1821, 1824 and 1827, and also at amateur concerts in the city, earning praise in the local press for his performance of ‘La mia Dorabella’ from *Così fan tutte* in an amateur concert in 1832. Moreover, he was a member of a vocal quartet

hired for some fairly prestigious events, including a meeting of the newly-formed Evesham corporation in 1833.⁹

Henry Hammond married Maria Trehearn with the consent of her parents (she was a minor) at the parish church of St James, Bath, Somerset, on 14 April 1819. They produced two children, Henry Richard, baptised 29 January 1820, and Maria Charlotte, 12 March 1821, both at Claines parish church. Maria died aged twenty-four, and was buried at St James, Bath in April 1823.¹⁰

Henry Richard Shelton first came to public notice when, as a thirteen year old, he was commended by a local newspaper for alerting the rest of his family to a fire which had broken out in their home. He subsequently joined the Indian Army, rising through the ranks to Colonel. In 1843, it was reported that 'Ensign Shelton, of the Indian Army, son of Mr H.H. Shelton of this city, has been promoted to a Lieutenancy in the 48th Light Infantry, late a native regiment, in succession to Lieutenant and brevet Captain Dewar, removed to the 37th. Ensign Shelton has been attached to the division under General Nott during the whole of the Affghanistan war, and was concerned in the second siege of Ghuznee, at Candahar, and Khelat-i-Ghilzie, in the forcing of the Khyber Pass, and other successful operations'. In 1844, his promotion to the Adjutancy of the 38th Regiment was reported. There is no further mention until 1862, when we learn that 'Captain Henry Richard Shelton had been promoted to the rank of major in the company in which he has long served'.¹¹

Henry Hammond and Maria Shelton's daughter Maria Charlotte married Henry Russell, Esq., of the 7th Regiment, NI [Northern India?] at Julundhur on 23 November 1848. The event was reported in a Worcester newspaper, the original source being the *Delhi Gazette*. Further information is recorded below.¹²

On 13 December 1825, two and a half years after the death of Maria, Henry Hammond married Elizabeth Saffery, a native of Canterbury, Kent, at Whittington, a chapelry of the parish of St Peter's, Worcester. His sister Emma was one of the witnesses, as well as his younger brother Harvey and two female members of the d'Egville family, Mary and Matilda, doubtless related to the well-known (and prosperous) dancing-master Louis (sometimes written Lewis) Harvey (sometimes written Hervey or Hervet) d'Egville – a family prominent in Worcester's musical life. Henry Hammond's local status is indicated by his presidency of a local Masonic Lodge, and his election as one of the two Assessors involved in compiling the burgess roll for the city (1836 and 1837), the other being a local solicitor. No doubt he would have made an even greater mark on local society had it not been for his poor health. He and his new wife moved into increasingly well-appointed houses, from 12, The Tything, to 8, Albany Terrace and then 9, St George's Square.¹³

Henry Hammond's second marriage was childless. His wife Elizabeth came from a musical family (in 1843, the death of her uncle Osmond Saffery 'formerly

an eminent professor of music' in Ramsgate, Kent, was reported in a Worcester newspaper), and was even more well-known in Worcester than her husband. During the 1840s, she ran her own business selling pianofortes, but sold it to Jabez Jones in April 1847, 'in consequence of an increase in her professional engagements'. Jones subsequently succeeded Henry Hammond as organist at St Nicholas' church, and was a prominent member of the Worcester Glee Club, founded in 1809 or 1810. Prominent members of this club included from 1850 the father and uncle of the composer Edward Elgar. Like the Safferys, the Elgars were originally from Kent.¹⁴

In her numerous advertisements in the local newspapers, Elizabeth styled herself 'Mrs Henry Shelton'. As a businesswoman, she was clearly ambitious; she advertised visits to 'Town' (London), inviting potential customers to specify their needs so that she could place suitable orders with dealers. She was quite happy to trade in used instruments as well as new, including one which had been played by her teacher Henri Herz (a piano virtuoso and composer who enjoyed considerable fame in his heyday, referred to in the *Morning Post* as the 'Paganini of the pianoforte', and some time professor at the Paris Conservatoire). From 1842, she also offered for sale Wheatstone's Patent Concertinas, still advertised as 'a new musical instrument' six years later, and one of the few instruments considered suitable for female performers. It is unclear when the original model was introduced, but a second patent (for an improved version) was obtained in February 1844. Elizabeth's efforts were, it seems, directed to keeping Worcester up to date with the latest musical developments. Her shop, or 'music room', as she preferred to call it, was 'adjoining the Star Hotel' in Foregate Street, formerly the Star and Garter, but recently re-named the 'Whitehouse'.¹⁵

'Mrs Henry Shelton' also gave music lessons, privately and in classes, sometimes travelling to north Worcestershire for pupils located in Kidderminster, Stourport, Hartlebury, Droitwich and elsewhere. In 1836 she even placed an advertisement in a London newspaper, addressing herself to governesses, advising them that she was offering a vacancy to anyone 'who may be desirous of improving herself in Music, to reside with her during the ensuing vacation'. Applications were to be sent to her at 389 High Street, Cheltenham.¹⁶ As Henry Hammond was at that time both lay clerk at Worcester Cathedral and organist at St Nicholas church, Worcester, one wonders whether he too was staying in Cheltenham at holiday time (neglecting his duties, possibly), or whether Elizabeth was free to take time off in Cheltenham on her own. It is unknown, for that matter, whether her business trips to London were accompanied or not.

Elizabeth's commitments were clearly very demanding, and in May 1844, an advertisement in the local press indicated that she had relinquished some of her pupils living at a distance, and could therefore increase her engagements [in the city]. She was also involved in organising local concerts, occasionally in person.

Some of these involved well-known performers, including her teacher Henri Herz (see above), and another piano virtuoso named Thalberg. She also featured as pianist herself. In 1835 a long account of 'Mrs Henry Shelton's Concert' at the Worcester Guildhall, appeared in a Worcester newspaper, where an audience of around three hundred and fifty enjoyed the first appearance in the city of Henri Herz, 'in turns delighting and astonishing his auditors by the brilliancy and rapidity of his execution ...'. 'Miss Woodyatt' appeared as the prima donna, and other performers included the famous cellist, Mr Lindley. Mrs Shelton's 'well-known ballad "Oh! ask me not why" elicited a general encore'. Mr Henry Shelton performed in a group singing two glees and the leader of the orchestra was 'Mr d'Egville'.¹⁷

Elizabeth had already come to public notice during the late 1820s as a composer of songs and piano pieces. Her reputation was not purely local – in 1836, she even attracted favourable comment in a prominent London newspaper: ('This lady is decidedly a favourite ...', etc). She published some of her own pieces herself, but others were included in musical anthologies printed in London. In a review of *The Musical Gem: A Souvenir for 1832*, another prestigious London paper stated that 'the pearl of the collection is the "Broken Vow" by Mrs Henry Shelton, a beautiful and pathetic air'. In 1836, Wheeler's Music Warehouse in High Street, Worcester, advertised several named compositions of Elizabeth's for sale, and offered a catalogue of these, along with her other songs and piano pieces *gratis*. Her high point came in 1837, when she composed a piece entitled 'Homage à la Reine' for the coronation of Queen Victoria, 'with the sanction of, and dedicated by express permission to, her Most Gracious Majesty ...'. In 1841, she very generously donated twenty guineas (£21), representing the proceeds of a song she had written for the occasion, towards the cost of erecting a new church at Wellington Heath, Herefordshire. Reports suggest that more money might have been forthcoming, but it seems that Elizabeth's public acclaim may now have been waning, as this appears to have been a solitary (and rather extravagant) gesture. Her last production advertised in the local press, published by J.F. Shaw of London, was entitled 'Who is Right, or The Test of Truth: an Appeal to the Judge to decide between The True and the False Prophets, The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error. With an Address to the Reader' (price 3d). This was probably no more than a pamphlet. Its contents are not known, but the title suggests that, at the time of its composition, her spirits were rather low.¹⁸

By the time of the 1861 census, Henry Hammond and Elizabeth were living in Dover, probably in the hope that the sea air might benefit Henry. However, despite his retirement on health grounds, he outlived his wife. On October 15, 1870 died 'at the residence of her brother, Elizabeth, wife of Henry Shelton Esq., late of this city, much lamented'. It is unclear why she was at her brother's home (wherever that may have been), and it is also rather surprising to find that a mar-

riage is recorded on 2 August 1871 at St Mary's, Islington between Mr Henry H. Shelton and Mrs Mary Parkes. Henry Hammond lived on until 1875, dying at 39, Crane-Grove, Holloway, Middlesex, but was 'formerly of 139 Liverpool Road, Islington', the address of his 'relict' [widow] Mary. His estate by now had dwindled, his personal effects being valued at under £100. Mary's origins and her subsequent history are both obscure.¹⁹

None of the Shelton marriages seems to have been straightforward. The next sister, Ann (baptised 4 February 1798), married Thomas St John, gent., at St Nicholas' church, Worcester, on 6 July 1822, but he died on 19 December 1833, aged thirty-six. It seems that there were no children. Thomas, then of Moor Place in the Tything of Whistons [Claines parish], made a will in 1831 leaving Ann all his 'freehold, leasehold and copyhold houses, lands or tenements, goods, personal effects etc'. Thomas was probably related to St Andrew St John, a former Dean of Worcester Cathedral (1783-1795), but when he applied for a marriage licence, his bondsman was William Savage, a porter at the cathedral, which seems a rather eccentric choice. A bondsman was a surety, and would normally be someone who was financially sound. In theory, if the conditions laid down in the bond were not satisfied, the bondsman could be called upon to pay a significant sum, surely well beyond the means of a porter.²⁰

In the 1841 census, Ann (Shelton) St John ('Independent', i.e. of independent means) is listed as living at Sansome Place, Worcester. On 22 January 1849, she married John Beresford Turner, Esq. at St Peter's, Worcester. The marriage entry in the parish register gives his marital status as widower, describing him as 'gent.' of the parish of Claines, the son of James Turner, also 'gent'. It is indeed a revelation to discover that only six months before, on 20 June 1848, the same John Beresford Turner was married at the same church to Ann Ursula Slater. On that occasion both parties were also already widowed: the groom was a 'gent.' of Brockmanton [near Leominster] in Herefordshire, and the bride's abode was in College Precincts, close to Worcester Cathedral. The space on the form for the father's details for bride and groom is struck through, and the witnesses' signatures are practically illegible. A newspaper report indicates that the marriage service was conducted by the Rev. George Fleming St John, a close relative, no doubt, of Ann Shelton's first husband Thomas St John.²¹

Ann Ursula Turner, John Beresford's second wife [he married the first, a Miss Collins, at Puddleston, Herefordshire in 1819] died at Kempsey, Worcestershire, on 25 September 1848, aged 48 years. Her marriage to John Beresford was also her second marriage. Her first husband was Isaac Wane Slater of London, whom she, as Ann Ursula Holdsworth, had married in 1831 at St Nicholas church in Worcester.²²

It still seems shocking that Turner should have married his third wife so soon after the second wife's death. According to his will (written 26 January 1854),

sometime between September 1848 and January 1849, some form of pre-nuptial agreement was concluded between the parties, which also seems rather cold-blooded. The relevant passage reads: 'To my beloved wife the annual sum of fifty pounds in the manner and conformable to my engagement to her previous to our marriage'. The family connection between Ann (Shelton) St John and George Fleming St John, the clergyman who officiated at the marriage between John Beresford Turner and Ann Ursula Slater suggests that this marriage (his third) was facilitated by influential members of the bride's family. As indicated below, Emma Shelton's uncle John Shelton was a minor canon at Westminster Abbey, and may have possessed the necessary connections to find a her well-heeled suitor in the same way.²³

John Beresford Turner was a man of substance. He was born in Bockleton, on the border of Worcestershire with Herefordshire, where he wished to be buried in the family vault. He owned substantial properties, including farms, mainly in Herefordshire. In 1822 he was elected Vice-President of the Hereford Pitt Club, a constitutional club named after the statesman William Pitt the Younger, and in 1833 gave evidence before a Select Committee of Parliament investigating the depressed state of agriculture. The following year, he set out his own proposals for Farmer Societies, in order to defend the agricultural interest and oppose free-trade, which seem to have come to nothing. In 1844, his efforts were recognised, when he was elected a member of the Royal Agricultural Society. In March 1848, he let Romers Farm, Bockleton, and sold off the cattle, horses and agricultural implements. During August the same year (i.e. *after* he had married his second wife Ann Ursula Slater, but before she had died), the contents of his home at Brockmanton Hall, four miles from Leominster, Herefordshire were auctioned, he wishing to retire 'having had three deaths in the family'. Judging by his will, he fathered no children, as among his beneficiaries are several nephews and nieces, among them two Manchester cotton manufacturers, and a Worcester coach maker. However, he also left money to the poor of the two parishes which meant the most to him – Bockleton, where the Overseers and Churchwardens were to distribute £5 annually among the 'ancient and unfortunate poor ... distinguishing the honest and industrious from the drunken and disorderly'. In Puddleston [Herefordshire], the same amount was to go to the 'poor and unfortunate, but to the exclusion of the drunken, dishonest and disorderly. Turner was clearly a staunch upholder of 'Victorian values'.²⁴

In the 1851 census, John Beresford and Ann Turner are listed as living at 3, Upper Severn Terrace, Worcester, he being by then seventy-six years old, and she fifty-two. By 1861, Ann was a widow again, and remained so until her death in 1883, living successively at Field Terrace (1861), Edgar Street (1871) and Sidbury (1881), all these addresses being close to Worcester Cathedral.

Ann Turner left an estate valued less than £600, an interesting feature being

that the executors were a local solicitor, and a great-nephew, Henry Llewellyn Shelton of Stoke Newington, Middlesex, a man descended from Ann's brother Henry Hammond. In the 1901 census, we see that Henry Llewellyn had also named one of his sons Harvey, a forename which had been in use in the Shelton family since Emma's generation. For the record, in 1901, this Harvey was working as a dental surgeon.

Examination of Ann's probate material reveals more useful information. She made her will on 18 January 1878, adding a codicil on 25 July 1879. At the time she made the will, the bulk of her estate, after all debts had been settled and her property sold, was to be divided five ways, between her executor 'Harry' Llewellyn Shelton, 'mercantile clerk' then of Cricketfield Road Tower, Clapton, Middlesex, and his brother George, the sons of her 'nephew, Col. Henry Shelton of HM Indian Army', her nieces Mrs Maria Russell 'now residing in New Zealand', and Mrs Mary Jane Brown, 'wife of Robert Gossett Brown of Hill Gardens, Hampstead, Doctor of Medicine' and her 'nephew, Rendall Thomas Morris'. The bequests to her nieces were for their sole and separate use. Ann died on 28 July 1883 and her real estate – freehold and leasehold – was auctioned, notice of the sale having been published in the local press. It is incidentally significant that in the 1861 UK census, three pupils named Shelton – Henry L. aged fourteen, George H., thirteen, and Edwin H.H.J., ten, all presumably sons of Henry Richard Shelton, were pupils at the Forest School in Walthamstow, an institution Morris also attended before he went to Marlborough. Their places of birth are shown as India for the two eldest boys, and 'Singapore, India' (*sic*) for the youngest.²⁵

The will demonstrates that Ann had maintained relations with her wider family, even the Morris branch. It seems that the Sheltons were on the whole fairly close-knit, not severing their ties, despite geographical separation. What we cannot determine is the extent to which Morris himself was aware of, and influenced by, the varied fortunes of his wider family. Ann's legacy to Rendall Thomas Morris, Morris's second surviving brother, may come as a surprise. However, it is clear that she was concerned for the welfare of his family.

In the 1881 census, Rendall is listed with his wife Elizabeth and her unmarried sister Margaret (Maxwell), both natives of Stirling, Scotland, his eldest son Rendall McEwen (a clerk, nineteen), and five dependent children aged between two and fourteen. In 1871 there had been only four dependent children, including Ada, aged seven years, but there were also three domestic servants. Rendall (listed as Thomas R. Morris), at the age of thirty-two, was already 'late Ens. [Ensign], 53rd Regiment', and there is no evidence of any other employment. By 1881, Ada, aged seventeen, had found a post as a governess and was boarding with the Rev. Henry B. Hayward, Rector of Winstone, Gloucestershire, and his wife and children, aged three to six years.

It is clear that by 1881, Rendall's family were living in straitened circumstances.

After his death in 1883, the immediate consequences are unclear, but by 1891 the children Effie and Violet, aged respectively fourteen and twelve, were both at boarding school, the School of St Lawrence Sisterhood in Belper, Derbyshire. By 1901, Rendall's widowed sister Isabella (Gilmore; Morris's second youngest sister) was living at the Rochester Diocesan Deaconesses's Institution, on the north side of Clapham Common in London, with three of his daughters, namely Ada, now thirty-seven, Esmé, twenty-eight, and Daisy, eighteen. Esmé and Daisy are listed as visitors, and their usual addresses are not known. The youngest, Daisy, must have been born not long before her father's death. Their mother, Elizabeth Maxwell Morris, is no longer traceable: she may possibly have returned to Scotland.

Emma Shelton's younger brother Harvey is probably the most interesting of her siblings, appearing (significantly) as a witness at three family weddings. On 19 August 1824, he married Mary Jane Nott, a native of Bromyard, Herefordshire, the youngest daughter of Edward Nott, a local farmer, at Stockton-on-Teme, Worcs. Harvey clearly enjoyed considerable prosperity. In 1827, he was already proprietor of a house in Britannia Square, now in Worcester, but then outside the city boundary, in the 'Tything of Whistons' and the parish of Claines, one of the most desirable properties in the area, a new development where building had begun before 1820 on enclosed land previously devoted to growing flax. However, in 1829, the six-bedroomed house was advertised 'to let'; the reason for this is not known, and it is still given as his address in *Bentley's Directory of Worcestershire* (1841). However, it is understood that during 1829, houses were still being built in the square, and that when foundations were being laid, traces of an ancient tower or fort were discovered, together with about fifty Roman coins. It may well be that continuing building operations prompted Harvey's desire to move somewhere more peaceful.²⁶

When his younger daughter Eliza was baptised at Claines parish church on 27 July 1827, Harvey's occupation was recorded as 'clerk at Old Bank'. The Worcester Old Bank was founded in 1785. An early partner was Elias Isaac, of whom more below. In *Bentley's Directory* (1841), Harvey is described as 'cashier', although by the time of the 1841 census he had left Worcester. A number of notices in the Worcester press published during the 1830s refer to his acting on behalf of creditors in bankruptcy proceedings, apparently on behalf of the bank. In 1840, his name is appended as one of the two auditors to a set of Treasurer's Accounts in connection with the city's water supply for 1836-1839. Several advertisements for the Atlas Assurance Company also name him as their local agent for Worcester. Harvey was also elected a member of the Worcestershire Natural History Society, and belonged briefly of the Worcester Glee Club. In short, he was a man with ambitions.²⁷

By 1841, he was living with his wife and two daughters at 28, Harmer Street, Gravesend, Kent, his occupation being 'merchant'. He cannot have lived there

for long, though, as a property deed in Worcestershire Archives of 1843, to which he was a party, gives his address as 3, St Mildred's Court, Poultry, London, and his status as 'gent'. In 1845, the death of his younger daughter Eliza, after an illness of nearly two years, was reported in a Worcester newspaper, when Harvey was living at Pelham Place, Brompton, London. This house was still his address when his elder daughter (also named Mary Jane Shelton) married Robert Gosset Brown, surgeon of Lansdowne Terrace, Fulham at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, London, on 5 September 1846. In the 1851 census, Harvey Shelton is listed as a wine merchant at Paulton's Square, Chelsea (between the Kings Road and Cheyne Walk). Ten years later, he was still selling wine, but was now living in Munster Road, Fulham. At this time, two of his daughter Mary Jane's children were living with him, though possibly on a temporary basis. By 1871, he had retired to Ledbury, Herefordshire. His wife Mary Jane died a few weeks after the Census, on 15 May 1871, at the family home, Gloster Villa, South Parade, Ledbury.²⁸

During his seventies, like his brother Henry Hammond, Harvey Shelton married again. Even more astonishing is the fact that his bride had been in service with him, and was *fifty* years younger than he. Less surprising, therefore, is the fact that the marriage did not take place in Ledbury parish church, but in the Independent Chapel in the High Street. The entry in the marriage notice book at Herefordshire Record Office dated 9 November 1872 indicates that Harvey was a widower, a retired merchant 'of full age' and of six years' residence in Ledbury; his bride Mary Ann Baggett, was a spinster aged nineteen.²⁹ Mary Ann Baggett was a native of Ledbury. In 1861 she was living with her father John Baggett, a letter carrier (postman), born in Hereford. In 1871 she was working in service as a dairy maid with William Greenwood Chapman, a retired civil servant aged sixty-nine and a Londoner. He had possibly been in the consular service – his son, residing with him at the time of the census, was shown as Secretary to the Consul in Valparaiso, Chile.

Harvey Shelton may have hoped that marriage in the Independent Chapel would be more discreet, and therefore less likely to give rise to gossip. Unfortunately, it seems that his bride Mary Ann was already engaged to a seaman who was not entitled to discharge from the Navy for seven years. The young man was persuaded to buy himself out, and Harvey (or his bride) must have promised to reimburse the costs. (Presumably Harvey offered this as a sweetener so that Mary Ann could be induced to marry him). The injured party, William Henry Godwin of Ledbury, 'labourer', considered a breach of promise case against his fiancée, but the action was not admissible because she was a minor. However, he initiated a breach of contract action against Harvey Shelton, which also failed because Mary Ann could not be compelled to give evidence against her husband. The case, before the Ledbury County Court on 17 April 1873, was reported in some

detail in the *Worcester Journal* two days later and it seems very likely that Harvey was seriously embarrassed as a result. Despite the great differences in the couple's ages, sometime during 1874, Mary Ann gave birth to a daughter, Frances Mary Shelton. Harvey died on 31 October 1875, and was buried in Ledbury municipal cemetery. By 1870, the parish churchyard was full.³⁰

The extent of Harvey Shelton's social life in Ledbury is difficult to gauge. In 1866, no doubt soon after his move to Ledbury, he is reported to have taken an active part in the Fortnightly Penny Readings in the town, reading poems and singing. The selections were 'very well received'.³¹ However, this example of philanthropic effort seems to have been limited to one occasion. Otherwise, we can observe that his executors were regarded as close friends, and prominent members of the local community, as well as businessmen who may have benefited from his patronage.

Harvey wrote his will on 30 July 1875: it was proved at Hereford on 5 February 1876 by William Giles Taylor, postmaster, one of the executors. There, he directed that his body 'be buried in a quiet way'. His house, Gloster Villa, with all its contents, was not to be sold but to remain with his wife for the rest of her natural life and thereafter to pass to their daughter Frances Mary. Otherwise, there were special provisions regarding some valuable bank shares, some of which were for the benefit of his elder daughter Mary Jane, wife of Dr Robert Gosset Brown. Harvey's personal effects were valued at 'under £3000'.³² He was a wealthy man.

The manner in which the estate was actually disposed of is difficult to determine, as Harvey's wife, named in the will as *Susan* Mary Ann Shelton, did not remain in Ledbury for long. During the final quarter of 1876, she married Thomas Oliver, a native of Barrow-on-Soar, Leicestershire, who by 1881 was keeping a boot and shoe shop in Cardiff. Thomas already possessed five dependent children, and he and Mary Ann produced a further five. By 1891, she was a widow again, and by 1901 living at 67, Forest Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, with Frances Mary, who married in 1903.

Harvey Shelton's solicitors were Masfield & Sons – specifically, George Masfield, father of John Masfield, later Poet Laureate. There were clearly certain legal difficulties with his estate. An announcement appeared in the London *Evening Standard* of 15 May 1876 'pursuant to an order of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, made in a cause of "Shelton against Taylor and others" (1876, S No. 44)' calling for all creditors to submit their claims on 20 June 1876. Further developments were not publicised.³³

Emma Shelton's youngest sister Eliza (born 1801) was buried on 12 September 1814, at the age of thirteen. When she lost this sister, in terms of age the sibling closest to her, Emma would have been eight years old. The experience may well have had a profound effect on her in later life.

3. EMMA SHELTON'S PARENTS

Emma Shelton's father Joseph was a son of John and Mary Shelton, and baptised at the parish church of St Peter's, Worcester on 14 January 1764. He attended the Cathedral King's School in the city as a King's scholar, initially 'under Lewis Crusius' and later 'under Dr Torkington' from 1771/2 till 1780/1. He is listed as a chorister of the cathedral in 1776/7, and a lay clerk from 1782/3. He was married on 22 January 1787 at the parish church of Elsfield in Oxfordshire, where he was described as 'of this parish', but his bride, Mary Jenkins, was 'of St Nicholas in the city of Worcester'. The witnesses were Edward Houlditch and John Smith. It is unclear why the marriage was celebrated in that particular parish, and not in Worcester. The National Burial Index, which includes burials at Elsfield from 1670 to 1851, includes no Sheltons, so that I think Joseph lived there only briefly, i.e. long enough to qualify for marriage. Canon law required residence of four weeks before the granting of a marriage licence, but the party concerned was not expected to produce any proof of such residence. An ecclesiastical official, usually a representative of the bishop, and known as his surrogate, granted the licence, and risked a fine of £100 if acting fraudulently e.g. in circumstances where he knowingly granted a licence although neither party to the marriage met the residence conditions. However, the risk of discovery would have been insignificant. In any event, a stay of four weeks in Elsfield in order to comply with canon law would not have been difficult for Joseph to arrange.³⁴

The births, marriages and deaths columns of Worcester newspapers give scant information regarding Joseph. In 1848 they announced 'In the 85th year of his age, Mr Joseph Shelton, for nearly 75 years a chorister and lay clerk of our cathedral' [a slight exaggeration] and in the following year 'December 2nd In the 86th year of her age, Mrs Mary Shelton, widow of Mr Joseph Shelton, and eldest daughter of the late Rev. J. Jenkins, Rector of Donnington, Herefordshire'. Wall plaques in the parish church of Donnington, a small village near Ledbury, Herefordshire reveal that Mary's father was the twice-married Rev. Jenkin Jenkins, who, with his first wife Elizabeth, who died in 1787, produced twelve children. His second wife Ann was too old for childbearing when he married her in 1791. He was to outlive her, as she died in 1809, whereas he lived on till April 1817, aged 88.

Jenkin Jenkins left a will, but his daughter Mary Shelton was not a beneficiary. It is possible that there was a separate financial settlement when she married Joseph, although it could also be that the marriage took place in Elsfield, Oxfordshire because she married him against her father's wishes. The couple married by licence, and the supporting documents, the marriage allegation and bond, have survived. The second party to the bond, who is usually a friend or relative, is recorded as 'John Doe', a legal fiction, which is certainly an irregularity. There seems little doubt that Joseph was no more than a visitor to Elsfield. None of the

witnesses to the marriage seem to be related to bride or groom, and given Joseph's apparent only brief residence in the parish, there is indeed something mysterious about it.³⁶

Joseph's life seems to have been fairly uneventful. In the Worcestershire county directories of 1820 and 1841, he is recorded as living at Sansome Fields in Worcester. In 1820 he is listed as 'gent', but no occupation is shown in 1841, though the 1841 census gives his occupation as organist. Joseph was admitted and sworn a citizen (freeman) of the city of Worcester on 23 May 1796, having served an apprenticeship to Elias Isaac and Thomas Pitt, organists. Elias Isaac was a Gloucestershire man elected organist at Worcester Cathedral in 1748. He served forty-six years in all, during the latter part of which he was also a lay clerk. He died in 1793, and is buried in the north cloister. His nephew, also Elias, was an early partner of the Worcester Old Bank (founded 1785), dying prematurely in 1803. A nephew of the latter, also (confusingly) named Elias, succeeded him, remaining in post until his death in 1841.

Relations between the Sheltons and other prominent families in Worcester were no doubt strengthened by their membership of the Freemasons. From 1801, Joseph Shelton belonged to Worcester Lodge no. 280, as did Elias Isaac 'the younger' from 1805, and Lewis Hervet d'Egville, the dancing master and musician. As already indicated, Henry Hammond Shelton was a member of a separate Worcester Lodge. Connection between the Sheltons and the Isaacs probably helped Joseph's son Harvey secure a position at the Worcester Old Bank.³⁷

The Isaacs remained a prominent Worcester family in later generations. During the late 1860s, the family made available from their property at Boughton in the parish of St John-in-Bedwardine, Worcester, a ground and pavilion for the newly-formed Worcestershire County Cricket Club. This ground continued to be used until 1896.³⁸

4. PRECEDING GENERATIONS

Joseph Shelton's parents, John Shelton, 'of the city of Worcester', 'scrivener', aged twenty-three, bachelor, and Mary Tibbatts of Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, aged twenty-four, were married at Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire on 23 October 1751.³⁹ Their children were each baptised at the parish church of St Peter, Worcester, as follows:

10 September 1752	Elizabeth (buried 24 May 1758)
8 December 1753	Mary

14 April 1755	John [buried 19 April 1758]
14 April 1757	Ann
11 January 1759	Susanna
1760 (?)	Joanna (baptism not found, but suggested date calculated from marriage allegation)
1761 (?)	John (baptism also not found – see text)
15 July 1762	George
14 January 1764	Joseph
9 August 1768	Sarah

There is a considerable trend towards careers in the church for males and a marriage to a clergyman for one (or possibly more) daughters in this generation.

The eldest surviving daughters, Mary and Ann, were married respectively to James Jones, and to Thomas Atkinson Silk. This information is taken from the will of John Shelton senior (1791). Neither marriage was celebrated in Worcestershire, and no further information is available regarding either couple. The next daughter, Susanna, was still single in 1788 when her father wrote his will, but no record of any marriage or burial in Worcestershire involving her can be identified either.

The fifth daughter, Joanna, spinster of St Helen's, Worcester, aged twenty-eight, was married by licence to William Douthwaite of St Clement's, Worcester, 'gent', 'bachelor' at St Helen's, Worcester on 23 October 1789. The groom's bondsman was George Childe of St Clement's, baker. Two of their children died in infancy – Mary and John, buried respectively at the parish church of St Clement's on 30 May 1790, and 9 August 1791. No further children were baptised at St Clement's. As nothing further is known of them, it seems likely that Joanna and William left Worcestershire for another county.

The sixth daughter, Sarah Shelton, married the Rev. Charles Lockett at St Helen's, Worcester on 23 December 1793. Their future movements are unknown, but they are also believed to have moved away from Worcestershire.

Of the sons, George Shelton of St Helen's, Worcester, (BA 1783. MA 1786. Vicar of Overbury, Worcs, 1789. Vicar of Cleeve Prior, Worcs, 1796. Minor canon, Worcester Cathedral. Died 1812) matriculated at Worcester College, Oxford on

24 June 1779, aged seventeen. Like his brother Joseph, he attended the Cathedral King's School, Worcester, both being listed as King's Scholars 1774–5, and as choristers 1776–7. George married Mary Stevenson at St Peter's, Worcester on 5 January 1797. He made a will in 1800, when he was living at Rushwick in the parish of St John-in-Bedwardine, Worcester. He appears to have died without issue, leaving his estate, valued at under £100, to his wife Mary. The will was proved at Worcester on 31 August 1812.

The second Shelton son named John (the first having died in infancy) was apparently, like his sister Joanna, not baptised. He matriculated at Worcester College, Oxford 12 October 1790 aged eighteen (BA 1795). He served as a minor canon of Westminster Abbey, London and as Rector of Childswickham, Gloucestershire. He died at Queens Square, Westminster during February 1828. Of all of the Sheltons in this generation, he is the one most likely to have been living in London when Emma Shelton was getting to know William Morris senior. There is no trace of a baptism, but information in *Alumni Oxonienses*, combined with the mention in his father's will, is convincing.⁴⁰

There is no way of determining precisely when he and his younger sister Joanna were born, but there is a gap of three years and six months between the baptisms of their elder sister Susanna and that of their younger brother George, an ample period for two further children to have been born. The absence of corresponding baptisms in Worcester itself or elsewhere in the county is vexing, and it seems highly improbable that these two children remained unbaptised. This 'gap' in the evidence is most probably due to an error of omission. Like any other documentary source, baptismal registers are imperfect.

Their father, John Shelton senior (scrivener) was buried at St Helen's, Worcester on 17 April 1791, having outlived his wife Mary by nearly four years – she was buried there on 21 August 1787. In his will, proved at Worcester on 25 April 1791, he left a nominal £5 each to sons George and Joseph 'they having been better provided for than the rest of my children'. Apart from specific household goods, such as silver and pewter items, rings, salts, tongs, tea-spoons and the like, clothing and bedding, the rest of his estate was to be shared equally between the six remaining children, although his personal effects were valued at under £100. John's strong religious commitment is evident from some of his bequests – a testament and folio prayer book to son George, a *Whole Duty of Man* to daughter Sarah, to daughters Susanna and Joanna a folio *Treatise on the Creed* by 'Pierson' [Pearson], two seventeenth century texts greatly valued in the Church of England. He requested burial 'in a frugal manner, as near to my late dear wife as may be'.

One further generation of Sheltons in Worcester takes us back to the early eighteenth century. John Shelton of St Martin's, Worcester, barber and peruke-maker, a bachelor aged twenty-one years and upwards, married Elizabeth Greenbank of the same parish, spinster, aged about twenty-two years, by licence at St

Martin's parish church, Worcester on 18 November 1725. They produced three children, baptised as follows at the parish church of St Michael-in-Bedwardine (near Worcester cathedral, but no longer extant). The surname is recorded incorrectly as Sheldon, but the marriage licence records bear the groom's signature, written with a 't' and not a 'd'.

25 August 1726	Greenbank
16 January 1727/8	John
20 January 1729/30	Joseph

Their son John was a King's Scholar at the Cathedral King's School, under the Sub-Dean, Rice Williams, from 1741 to 1744, and a chorister from 1738 to 1744. His subsequent career as minor canon of Westminster Abbey, London, and rector of Childswickham, Glos., has already been mentioned.

The eldest son, Greenbank, given his mother's maiden name, was the 'black sheep' of the family. He too appears as a King's Scholar at the Cathedral King's School (in 1740), but the next information we possess is that for many years he was master at Bishop Lloyd's Charity School, Worcester. However, performance of his duties left much to be desired, and on 1 October 1778, the Trustees of the School were sufficiently concerned as to examine him regarding his conduct: they established that he lacked the most rudimentary knowledge of the rules which governed the master and his pupils. He was then supplied with a copy of the rules, but still failed to comply with them, and a sum of five shillings was deducted from his salary. Worse was to come. On 8 April 1778, the Trustees met Mr Bullock, a pawnbroker of the Cornmarket in Worcester, with whom Greenbank had pawned a bible and two prayer books, the property of the school. Not surprisingly, he was dismissed for serious misconduct. He lived on in Worcester till his eightieth year, being buried at St Andrew's, Worcester on 2 March 1806. He remained unmarried, and left no estate. Although Emma Shelton was only one year old when Greenbank died, one wonders whether she was aware of this family disgrace, which would certainly have been known to her father.⁴¹

Elizabeth Greenbank was a good 'catch' for John Shelton. Her brother, Francis Greenbank, came from a long line of pewterers, brasiers and other skilled metal workers in Worcester, and was a wealthy man. One of his ancestors, John Greenbank, was a prominent plumber who supplied lead and carried out work at the Cathedral during the 1670s. Francis Greenbank was also a pewterer, identified in Homer & Hall's *Provincial Pewterers* as 'Francis Greenbank II'.⁴² He died unmarried in 1752, leaving a substantial estate, including a legacy of £100 to his nephew Greenbank, whose failings he must already have recognised, as he

adds the words 'tho' undeserving of any such favour from me'. A parallel bequest to his nephew John (£300) came with the proviso that he assist Francis's executors in recovering any debts owing to him. His other nephew, Joseph, was most generously provided for (£500), 'as a reward in some short [blank] for his good behaviour and conduct in life'.

John and Joseph may also have shared some of the residue from the estate after all the legacies had been paid out, but these were substantial and numerous, and so this may not have added much to their already considerable benefits. Although Francis expressed the wish that 'my body to be buried at dead of night in or as near to the same grave as possible wherein my dear father and mother lye in the vault of the parish church of St Nicholas in the city of Worcester without any pomp', he also indicated that the clergy, pallbearers and his relations (as specified) would need three coaches as well as the hearse. The pallbearers included Dr (John) Wall, now most famous for his involvement with the newly-founded porcelain works in Worcester. Otherwise, the will reads rather like an excerpt from *Crockford's Clerical Directory*, many legacies going to local clergymen.⁴³

Joseph Shelton, Francis Greenbank's favourite nephew, moved to Pershore in Worcestershire, where he kept the Angel Inn. He died at the age of 42, being buried at the parish church of Holy Cross on 12 June 1772. His will, written during February the same year, shows that in financial terms, he enjoyed considerable success. There was an orchard and other lands attached to the inn, and he owned a stock of cattle, corn and hay. He also owned two other properties in Pershore, and one in Great Comberton (also in Worcestershire). The will provided for three children under twenty-one, a son also named Joseph, and daughters Elizabeth and Mary. Their expectations must have been high – Joseph senior owned other lands and held leases on properties in Worcester.

Researching earlier generations seems unnecessary, and what has been established at this point is intended as a source for future researchers. One aspect of the Shelton family's activities mentioned by Fiona MacCarthy concerns the suggestion that one member was an art teacher. There is no evidence to support this statement, though it must be admitted that during the 1830s and 1840s, the city boasted a lively Society of Artists which mounted exhibitions, concentrating on the work of local artists. Among the china painters at the city's porcelain works were a few who also painted in oils or watercolours. There was certainly no lack of interest in art in the city. In 1835, John Constable gave a series of three lectures on landscape painting at the city's Athenaeum.⁴⁴

It may be that William Morris's apparent reticence about his family is the reason for its having received so little attention in the past. It may also be that Morris knew little about them, or cared little for them. Even so, research into the maternal side of his family has produced some surprising results, particularly regarding

marriages, and has added much to the rather sketchy information which had otherwise come down to us.

NOTES

1. See particularly Philip Henderson, *William Morris. His Life, Work and Friends*, London: Thames & Hudson, 1967, p. 3, and Fiona MacCarthy, *William Morris. A Life for our Time*, London: Faber & Faber, 1994, 780 pp. (Afterwards MacCarthy). MacCarthy's monumental work prompted me to undertake this research project.
2. Norman Kelvin, *The Collected Letters of William Morris*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1984-1996, 4 vols in 5, Vol. 3, pp. 162-163. Letter number 1722, dated 2 June 1890. Morris goes on to say 'my mother's father's name was Shelton, so I suppose his family must have come from Shropshire'. This is pure guesswork; toponyms (surnames derived from place-names) are not uncommon, but places bearing the name Shelton can also be found in Staffordshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Nottinghamshire (See Eilert Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford, at the Clarendon Press (Fourth edition), 1960, 546 pp; Dorothy Coles, revised by Barbara Lawrence, 'William Morris's paternal ancestry', *Journal of William Morris Studies*, XX, No. 4, 2014, p. 19-34. (Afterwards Coles rev. Lawrence)
3. Worcestershire parish registers are held on microfilm at Worcestershire Archives (formerly Worcestershire Record Offices), The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester. Also available on microfilm are marriage licence records (allegations and bonds) and wills proved at Worcester up to 1928; Algernon Graves: *A Dictionary of Artists who have exhibited in the Principal London Exhibitions from 1760 to 1893*. Bath: Kingsmead Reprints, Facsimile Edition, 1969 (third edition), 314 pp.; MacCarthy, p. 1. Marriages in Worcestershire and Herefordshire have been comprehensively indexed and are held at the relevant County Record Office. Only one earlier marriage between Morris and Sheltons (the first listed below) can be traced, but the two which follow, appearing with a variant spelling, could also be relevant:

13 April 1763 John Shelton and Sarah Morris, Crowle, Worcestershire

12 May 1785 Susanna Sheldon and John Morris, Llangarren, Herefordshire

19 October 1810 Sarah Sheldon and Thomas Morris, Dudley, Worcestershire

- In 1971, Local Government Reorganisation transferred Dudley from Worcestershire to the West Midlands.
4. London parish registers, including original manuscript entries, may be accessed *via* the *Ancestry* internet subscription site (<http://www.ancestry.co.uk>). All census returns and entries from the National Probate Register (from 1858) have also been accessed *via* the *Ancestry* site.
 5. To Jenny Morris, 18 August 1888. Kelvin, Vol. II, p. 797, letter number 1515.
 6. *Bentley's History, Gazetteer, Directory and Statistics of Worcestershire*, Birmingham: printed for the Proprietor by Bull & Turner (not dated, ca 1841), Vol. VI, *The Borough of Worcester*, 228 pp. (Afterwards *Bentley's Directory*); S. Lewis, *Worcestershire General and Commercial Directory for 1820*, Stourbridge, Worcs: printed for the Proprietor by J. Heming, not dated, 500 pp. (Afterwards *WGCD, 1820*)
 7. *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 11 March 1846. All newspaper articles quoted have been accessed *via* the British Newspaper Archive internet subscription site (<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>). As the daughter of an auctioneer, Martha belonged to a higher social stratum than the occupation 'dressmaker' would normally imply; *Royal Cornwall Gazette*, 4 February 1815.
 8. Catalogues of cathedral members are held in *Worcester Cathedral Archives* as follows; D821: 1706-1779 (with some gaps), A132: 1779-1798, continuing in a numerical sequence up to A144 (1895-1908). Payments of stipends, pensions etc to members are recorded in numerical sequence thus A324 (1817), thereafter advancing annually to A359 (1852); resignation as organist: see *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 9 April 1851. Havergal refers to 'the continued indisposition which occasions his retirement'; W.H. Havergal's incumbency: Rev. George Miller: *The Parishes of the diocese of Worcester*, Birmingham: Hall & English, 1890, Vol. 2 (*The Parishes of Worcestershire*), p. 287; *WGCD, 1820*, p. 61. John Hammond Shelton, born Ledbury, Herefordshire about 1797, appears in the 1851 and 1861 UK censuses. The surnames Shelton, and Shelton, can be found in Herefordshire from the latter half of the eighteenth century, and these are doubtless related to the Worcestershire families.
 9. *Worcester Journal*, 30 December 1824, 1 November 1832, 9 October 1833, 6 November 1834; *Worcester Herald*, 6 February 1830. See also Rev. Daniel Lysons and others, *Origin and Progress of the Meeting of the Three Choirs of Gloucester, Worcester & Hereford, and of the Charity connected with it*. Gloucester: Chance & Bland, 1895, pp. 104, 108, 113. Henry Hammond also performed at charitable events – e.g. at St Peter's church Worcester, in order to raise funds for a new window and for 'recent improvements', and another for the benefit of 'the widow Bateman', who died before she could receive any financial assistance (*Worcester Journal* 9 April 1835).

10. The marriage in Bath appears in the Worcestershire Marriage Index (see Note 3). The parish of Claines is partly rural, taking in the village of Fernhill Heath, but in those days included a large part of what is now the city of Worcester, extending to within about two hundred yards (*ca* 185 m) of the city centre at the Cross; Federation of Family History Societies, *National Burial Index*, Bury, Lancs, UK (Second edition 2004, 4 CD-ROM). This edition has been superseded. An improved third edition may be bought on-line (e-mail: sales@ffhs.co.uk). In any event, the relevant parish register should be regarded as the primary source.
11. *Worcester Herald*, 30 November 1833, *Worcester Journal*, 2 March 1843, 15 August 1844, *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 26 March 1862.
12. *Worcester Journal*, 24 January 1849.
13. One member of the d'Egville family, Louis Hervey, born *ca* 1820, probably the son of another Louis Hervey, moved to the London area, where he made a fortune as a dancing master. According to the UK National Probate Index, in 1892, his estate was valued at a little short of £15,000; Henry as Worshipful Master or President of a Worcester Lodge of Freemasons: *Worcester Journal*, 29 December 1841, 30 June 1842; Steward at 'Grand Masonic Ball', his poor health notwithstanding: *Worcestershire Chronicle* 25 February 1846. The Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum at Rainbow Hill, Worcester, very kindly granted me access to nineteenth century membership lists and minute books of local masonic lodges; *Worcester Herald*, 10 September 1836, *Worcester Journal*, 10 August 1837; the first address appeared in various newspaper articles. The move from Albany Terrace to St George's Square was advertised by the couple themselves in the *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 12 July 1848.
14. *Worcester Journal*, 30 November 1843; Glee Club Members 1836-1937: *Worcestershire Archives*, 496.5, BA 9360/Cab 14/Box 2/4.
15. Visits to London: *Worcester Journal*, 5 December 1844, *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 27 May 1846. Sale of Henri Herz's piano: *Worcester Journal*, 7 August 1835; advertisement for concertinas: *Worcester Journal* 14 April 1842. Also, see <http://www.concertina.com>, which provides a vast amount of information about the instrument, its suppliers, and even the names of lady customers.
16. *Worcester Journal*, 8 December 1842; *Morning Post* (London), 8 December 1836.
17. Re: Concerts (advertisements and reviews), see *Worcester Herald*, 1 August 1835, and *Worcester Journal*, 13 August 1835, 22 October 1835, and 24 August 1837. Pupils at a distance: *Worcester Journal*, 2 May 1844.
18. See *Worcester Herald*, 9 July 1836 (quoting *Morning Post*); 'Gem': *The Examiner*, 4 December 1831; Wheeler's: *Worcester Herald*, 6 August 1836; 'Hom-

mage': *Worcester Journal*, 16 November 1837. Other pieces mentioned in the press: *Worcester Herald*, 30 July 1836, *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 24 March 1841; 'new church': *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 9 June 1841; 'Who is Right?': *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 7 September 1853. For change in musical fashions, see 'New Music', *Morning Post*, 2 May 1845, which is quite disparaging of Henri Herz and of Thalberg (Mrs Henry Shelton's heroes), whose music was largely 'fantasies' based on the work of other composers, though probably not in the same class as similar works e.g. by Liszt. The article refers to them as the 'flashy school', to their reputations as 'ephemeral', and their works as 'pretty trifles'. Clearly Mrs Shelton's compositions suffered the same loss of esteem.

19. Mrs Shelton's death: *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 26 October 1870; Henry Hammond's re-marriage: *Worcester Herald*, 12 August 1871; his will: National Probate Index.
20. Thomas St John's will proved on 1 May 1834 at Worcester (*Worcestershire Archives*, available on microfilm); marriage bond also held there on microfilm.
21. Marriage of John Beresford Turner to Ann Slater, *Hereford Journal*, 28 June 1848 (the bride identified as the 'relict' [widow] of Isaac Wane Slater Esq. of London).
22. Marriage of John Beresford Turner to Miss Collins: *Hereford Journal*, 2 June 1819. Ann Slater Turner's death: *Hereford Journal*, 4 October 1848.
23. John Beresford Turner's will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (afterwards PCC) on 2 January 1856, ref. PROB11/2226/13 (downloaded from National Archives website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>).
24. Romers Farm, Bockleton, Great Heedon Farm at Grendon Bishop, Herefordshire: *Hereford Journal*, 4 March 1848, 22 August 1838; auction of house contents, South Street, Leominster: *Hereford Journal*, 11 August 1855; Hereford Pitt Club: *Hereford Journal*, 23 October 1822; Select Committee: *Hereford Journal*, 7 December 1833; Farmer Societies: *Hereford Journal*, 8 February 1834; Royal Agricultural Society: *Hereford Journal*, 18 December 1844; sale of contents, Brockmanton Hall: *Hereford Journal*, 24 August 1848.
25. Ann Shelton Turner's death: *Worcester Journal*, 4 August 1883; her will proved at Worcester on 18 September 1883 (available at *Worcestershire Archives* on microfilm); 'auction': *Worcester Journal*, 1 September 1883. Forest School: MacCarthy, pp. 48, 214. See also Coles rev. Lawrence, pp. 26–27.
26. 'Tything of Whistones', and Britannia Square: see Bill Gwilliam: *Old Worcester: People and Places*, Bromsgrove, Worcs., Halfshire Books, 1993, pp. 127, 121 (afterwards Gwilliam); house to let: *Worcester Herald* 11 April 1829.
27. Parish register: Under *Rose's Act* (1812), which came into force the following year, all registers of baptisms for Church of England parishes were to be in

- a prescribed form which included, for the first time, columns for the family abode; the quality, trade or profession of the father, and the signature of the officiating clergyman – there was no requirement to record date of *birth*. Burial registers were also to contain columns for abode, age at death and the clergyman's signature. See Mark Herber, *Ancestral Trails*, Stroud, Gloucestershire: Sutton Publishing, second edition, 2004 (1997), 873 pp.; Worcester Old Bank: Arthur W. Isaac, *The Worcester Old Bank*, Worcester: Baylis, Lewis & Co., printed for private circulation, 1908; *Bentley's Directory*: see Note 6; 'Bankruptcy': *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 8 May 1839; 'auditor': *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 19 February 1840; 'Atlas Assurance': *Worcester Journal*, 4 April 1833; 'Natural History Society': *Worcester Journal*, 14 July 1836. Harvey also brought himself to public notice by signing a petition to the Mayor regarding improvements to the [River] Severn navigation, and involving himself with a group of 'gas consumers' in Worcester (*Worcester Herald*, 5 November 1836, *Worcester Journal*, 24 March 1836).
28. Property deed: *Worcestershire Archives* 899:749, BA 8782/10/B11/25; death of Harvey's daughter Eliza Shelton: *Worcester Journal*, 20 November 1845; Marriage of Harvey's daughter Mary Jane: *Worcester Journal*, 10 September 1846; death of Mary Jane Shelton (Harvey's wife): *Worcester Journal* 23 May 1871.
 29. Marriage Notice Book: *Herefordshire Record Office*, Ledbury Poor Law Union Archive. K42/386.
 30. The birth of Harvey and Mary Anne Shelton's daughter Frances was not reported in the press; in order to estimate the date, it has been necessary to read backward from his will. Frances's name appears in the national index of births maintained by the General Register Office, widely available at Record Offices on microfiche and on-line through *Ancestry* and similar internet sites. Death: *Worcester Journal* 6 November 1875. The cemetery burial was confirmed by the Burial Board; no headstone can be traced.
 31. 'Penny Readings': *Hereford Journal* 10 August 1866.
 32. Will: copy obtained from the Postal Searches & Copies Department at the Leeds District Probate Registry (a branch of HM Courts & Tribunals Service). *Editor's note*: £3000 at today's prices is ca £144, 000.
 33. 'Press announcement': *Evening Standard* (London), 15 May 1876. Other information from census returns.
 34. Copies of marriage entry (ref: PAR94/1/R3/1), and of the marriage allegation and bond (Oxford diocese D.87/1 f.134), supplied by Oxfordshire History Centre, Cowley, Oxford. For canon law regarding marriage licences, see Richard Burn, *Ecclesiastical Law*, London: A. Millar, 1763, 2 vols. Vol 2, p. 21 *et seq.*

35. Deaths: *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 1 March 1848 (Joseph), 5 December 1849 (Mary). Wall plaques: refer to: <http://places.wishful-thinking.org.uk/HEF/Donnington/MIs.html>.
36. Jenkin Jenkins's will: PCC, PROB11/1597/349, downloaded as in Note 23.
37. Freemasons: see Note 13 above.
38. Gwilliam, pp. 190-191.
39. Age and occupation from marriage allegation and bond held at *Worcestershire Archives*, available on microfilm. Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, was in the diocese of Worcester.
40. Information on George and John taken from Joseph Foster: *Alumni Oxonienses: the Members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886*, Oxford: Parker & Co., 1888-1892.
41. *Worcester Cathedral Archives*, A385: Bishop Lloyd's Charity Schools, Accounts 1714-1894.
42. R.F. Homer & D.W. Hall, *Provincial Pewterers*, Chichester, Sussex: Phillimore, 1985, 157 pp.
43. Greenbank's will: PCC PROB11/798/435, downloaded as above, Note 23. See also *Worcester Cathedral Archives*, A27: Treasurer's Accounts 1670-1704 (some gaps).
44. *Worcester Journal* 8 October 1835.