

BARRY STRANGE AND CROAD

The Barry family.

Family lore is that **Alexander Barry** was a chemist and came from Ireland in the eighteenth century with a brother and a sister. It is said, too, that he was known as "Cripplegate", because of a genetic defect called 'the Barry foot', also that his brother, a priest, was called "Newgate" because this was the only gaol he'd never been thrown into, and that their sister was called "Billingsgate" because of her fishwife language. However, this story is identical to one, authenticated, that arose in the court of the Prince Regent ! ^a

The will of Alexander's oldest son, John Thomas, is evidence that Alexander did have a brother and, possibly a sister because there were legacies to two 'cousin' families, one bearing the name Barry. Therefore, Alexander had a brother, but, as the other 'cousin' legacies were to two female, married cousins, Lucy Weston and Mary Ann Tomkins, the gender of their Barry parent cannot be determined from the will alone ¹

The report of a genetic defect in the Barry/Barrymore family, though, is supported by some evidence, in that a grandson of Alexander, Alexander John Thomas, was called the "afflicted boy" in the will of John Thomas, and, two generations later, three boys, Cecil George, Edward Maitland and Raymond, sons of George Maitland Stapley and Lucy Jane, had foot defects, which caused the first two to spend much of their childhoods in leg-irons, and both always walked with a limp. Later repetitions of this defect may have occurred.

No record of Alexander Barry can be found until the registration of his marriage by licence to Dinah Strange, daughter of a farmer or farmworker, in the parish church of Whitchurch, Hants. on 19 July 1787, where he was recorded as "Alexander Barry of Portsmouth".^b Further family information is by deduction. The witnesses to that marriage were Dinah's sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Charles Thorngate, who were living in Whitchurch, and William Butterfield and Elizabeth Hayter. The connection of the last two to Alexander is not known but the baptisms of Alexander and Dinah's sons took place at the Orange Street Independent Chapel in Portsmouth, as did those of a Butterfield family. There is the possibility that Elizabeth Hayter was Alexander's sister, as his daughter was later called Elizabeth and so was the daughter of another of Alexander's daughters - and the family tree does show an exceptionally strong tendency to repeat family names.

^a These names were given by the Prince Regent to the contemporary ninth Earl of Barrymore (1770-1823) his brother and sister. Their older brother, the eighth Earl (1769-1793) was given the name of "Hellgate". The ninth Earl did acquire the name because of a hereditary foot defect but the priest was called "Newgate" because of his frequent imprisonment there for debt, being a heavy gambler. The story about a sister with foul language is confirmed. (*Burke's Peerage* 1910)

^b The Hampshire Genealogical Society has reported two earlier Barry marriages in Portsmouth, John Barry to Margaret Newborn at St Thomas' church in December 1742 and John Barry to Elizabeth Foster on August 4th 1760 at St Mary's. There are also records of the baptisms of two children of John and Margaret Barry, Elizabeth on November 18th 1765 (born on the 14th) and John, Baptised on July 3rd 1772 and "persons present" at both were recorded as including "Many Persons of 41st Regiment". Both baptisms took place at the High Street Presbyterian Church. Portsmouth City Council has confirmed these entries. However, no link, though likely, has been found to Alexander.

The possibility that Alexander's mother had the unusual maiden name of Hoose cannot be discounted as 'Hoose' was given as a second name to both those girls called Elizabeth, Elizabeth Hoose Barry and Elizabeth Hoose Scott, and the same name was given to John Hoose Barry, the grandson of Alexander's brother. The nearest family link common to all three is the mother of Alexander.^c

Alexander and Dinah had six children. The baptisms of three boys at the Orange Street Independent Chapel, are recorded, John Thomas,² Martin³ and Alexander⁴. There is no record of the baptism of any daughter of Alexander and Dinah, but from John Thomas's will we learn the names of two, Elizabeth Hoose, who was to marry Samuel Croad, (and whose daughter was to marry Richard Strangways), and Dinah Margaret who married Robert Dashwood. The third married a Mr. Scott. None of the sons married but all had distinguished careers.

No record can be found of the life or death of Alexander or Dinah after the baptisms of their sons.

John Thomas Barry, when about 15 years old in 1804, "entered the Plough Court Pharmacy, then known as Messrs. Allen and Howard."⁵ (Plough Court is off Lombard Street in the City of London.) It is said that he "had unusual ability, but in his early years, being deprived of both his parents by death, the responsibility for the care and education of the family fell on him, and he was therefore unable to concentrate on his own education until a later period in his life".⁶ "Before long, though, he was in charge of the manufacturing laboratory and, in 1818, became a partner, the firm thereupon becoming William Allen and Company."⁷ By that date, he was taking control during Allen's many business trips through Europe. Following his training in chemistry at Guy's Hospital, where Allen was the lecturer in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, John Thomas improved production methods, and patented a distillation process that improved the quality and colour of cod liver oil. It thus became much more saleable and, for the firm, a major trade.⁸ "In May 1851 there is a record of the sending of four cases of cod liver oil to S J P Croad, of Melbourne, once an assistant at the Old Plough Pharmacy" and a possible nephew of John Thomas.^{9 d}

At the same time John Thomas, a Quaker like Allen, was more and more involved in philanthropic work. In particular, he was campaigning to limit the death penalty, becoming a founder member of the Anti-Capital Punishment Society in 1828, Allen becoming chairman. He worked tirelessly, too, as an individual. He said in his old age that he had spent more than £500 on cab fares to the House of Commons seeking reprieves for criminals convicted on what he regarded as unsatisfactory evidence.

In 1841 he became a founder member of the Pharmaceutical Society with Allen as President. By 1850, though, his health was deteriorating and he retired in 1856. The firm then became Allen and Hanburys after one member of the Hanbury family had married Allen's daughter and joined the firm, and two more Hanburys joined the firm

^c There is just a possibility of a connection between Butterfield and Hoose in Basingstoke where Anne Hoose was buried on September 9th 1730, because a Butterfield family worshipped at the London Road Independent Chapel, Basingstoke.

^d Probably an error for Samuel John Thomas Croad, the son of Elizabeth Hoose Croad and nephew of John Thomas Barry

John Thomas died a bachelor in 1864 at his home in Sutherland Villas, near Holloway. In his will he directed that his furniture, plate and linen be divided among five of his nieces. One of these pieces, a table, is now owned by Vicky Wallis, a grand-daughter of Alan Stapley. John Thomas is buried in the Friends' Burying Ground at Winchmore Hill.¹⁰

Little is known of **Martin Barry**. He was a biologist who, for his researches, received the gold medal of the Royal Society, of which he was a Fellow.¹¹ In 1834, he ascended Mont Blanc, and published his account of what was then a rare feat.

Alexander Barry, the third son of Alexander, was like John Thomas, a chemist, being a lecturer at Guy's Hospital by the age of twenty-one. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on 19th May 1831, at the age of twenty-six, then the youngest person ever elected, his sponsors including Wm Allen, Sir Astley Cooper and Wm Babington.¹² By then, he had followed William Allen as Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy at Guy's Hospital.

In the minute recording his election it was noted that he had published a paper in the *Transactions* on electro-chemistry. In the following year, this was to prove a tragic interest. He and his manservant lived in lodgings in Furnival's Inn, where he was experimenting on the effects of electricity on gas mixtures. This resulted in an explosion, causing appalling injuries and his death a month later, on October 7th 1832.¹³ He left no will and administration was granted to John Thomas for an estate of £3,000.¹⁴

The Strange family

Thomas Strainge married Mary Willes, by licence at Litchfield, four miles north of Whitchurch, Hampshire on October 13th 1751.¹⁵ The registers of that parish do not record the home parish of either and contain no entry, other than this one, in either surname before or afterwards, up to 1827. The probability, therefore, is an elopement.

The IGI has a baptism entry in Reading for Thomas Strange, son of William and Elizabeth, at St. Giles on May 15th 1715. Mary Willis was the daughter of Luke Willis, a cordwainer of Facombe, six miles north-west of Whitchurch, Hants, and Cecily, neé Cowper, from Overton, three miles north-east of Whitchurch, who were married at Laverstoke on December 27th 1711^e.

Thomas and Mary seem to have settled in Wonston, next to Sutton Scotney and six miles south of Whitchurch, as two daughters (for whom no birth or baptism records have been found) were married there, Mary to Charles Thorngate, less than twenty years after her parents' marriage,¹⁶ and Sara to John Cook, six years later.¹⁷ Their third daughter, Dinah, who was baptised in Wonston,¹⁸ seems to have gone to live with her sister Mary in Whitchurch for she was recorded as "of this parish", at her marriage to Alexander Barry, with Mary Thorngate as witness.^f

^e Luke Willis died in 1757, aged 72, and Cecily died in 1773, aged 83: they are buried in the now-disused churchyard of St. Michael's, Netherton in the parish of Facombe. Their daughter is also buried there and her headstone reads "Mary, wife of Thomas Strange and daughter of Luke and Cicely Willis". The register reads "the wife of Thomas Strange of Sutton Scotney", though his burial was also in Facombe. (Hants CC. Record Office. Hants genealogical Soc. Burial Index)

In his will, Luke Willis left “all my copyhold lands in Hollampton” and premises to his daughter, Mary Strange, ten pounds to his grand-daughter, Mary (who was to marry Charles Thorngate) and, whatever the reason may have been for his daughter marrying away from away from home, he left the sum of Fifty pounds and the residue of his estate to be divided between his son, Luke, and his son-in-law, Thomas Strange.¹⁹

The Croad family.

One of the three daughters of Alexander Barry and Dinah, neé Strange, was Elizabeth Hoose Barry, who married Samuel Croad, by licence, on June 18th 1816 in Portsea parish church, St, Mary’s. One of the witnesses was Mary Marden. George Marden had married Elizabeth Hose in the same church, also by licence, on December 9th 1797. Her name could be the source of ‘Hoose’ in the Barry family

The Croads were a well-known Portsmouth family of artisans and craftsmen. One was a builder, another a caulker in the dockyard and Samuel, at various times described himself as a joiner, a glazier and a draughtsman. He had been baptised in 1791, the oldest of the four children of Samuel and Elizabeth.²⁰

After the marriage of Samuel and Elizabeth in 1816, the next record of the family that can be found is in the baptism register of St Mark’s church, Kennington, in South London on June 18th 1828.^g The first baptism recorded for that day is that of “Elizabeth Hoose Barry” stating her to be the child of Elizabeth Hoose and Samuel Croad. The strong probability is, however, that this is the Elizabeth Hoose Barry who was never baptised in Portsmouth. The following baptisms on that day were of six children of Samuel and Elizabeth, given the Christian names of Alexander Barry, Dinah Mary Strange, Ellen Martin, Frances Jane Thorngate, Lucy Selina (the only one not to bear the names of any known ancestor.) and Samuel John Thomas. None had a birth date or age recorded. (Selina’s birth date, from her age on her death certificate was 1822 or ’3, making her aged five or six at her baptism.) Charles Thorngate Croad was baptised in the same church on February 17th 1830 and Frances Jane Amelia Croad, later to be known as Fanny, on July 1st 1832.²¹

Some time before 1839 the family moved to North London. From 1839 onwards, Samuel is listed in trade directories as a glazier and painter living at No 2 Providence Row, Islington.²² He is reported in the family also to have invented the waterbed. The 1841 census lists Lucy, Charles and Frances with him at that address. The 1851 census lists him there as a widower, aged 59 with Dinah, Lucy, Alexander, now a merchant’s clerk and Fanny. No record of Elizabeth has been found after the baptism of her daughter Frances (Fanny) in Kennington in 1832.

^f Only half a mile south of Whitchurch is the hamlet of Tufton, remarkable for having two manors, one of which had a chapel. In the records of that chapel, details of the family of a David Strange can be found, but no certain link can be established between him and Dinah. He married Sarah Stagg there on March 12th 1795. They had two sons, William and James, before Sarah Strange died in childbed and was buried on October 17th 1798. David seems to have remarried, for David Strange and Martha had a family of four in Whitchurch between 1803 and 1810. David, a farmworker, was buried in Whitchurch in 1818, aged 60, and Martha in 1831, aged 64.

^g Opposite Kennington Oval tube station, built in 1822, now a well preserved typical Georgian church, used by an Afro-Caribbean congregation.

Lucy Selina married Richard Strangwayes, by licence, at Christ Church, Highbury, in the borough of Islington, on June 14th 1860. William Carter, Alexander Anderson Croad and Samuel Croad were witnesses. The couple set up home south of the river in Lyndhurst Road, Camberwell, where Lucy Jane was born on February 25th 1861.

In an era when a marriage licence was very expensive for most people, it is remarkable that Selina Croad, her mother Elizabeth Barry, her grandmother, Dinah Strange and her great grandmother, Mary Willis should all have married by licence.

- ¹ York Probate Registry Ref 99-05-1658. Proved 23 May 1864.
- ² Born 22 December 1789, baptised 3 January 1790.
- ³ Born 28 March 1802, baptised 2 September 1805.
- ⁴ Born 1 September 1804, baptised 2 September 1805.
- ⁵ E C Cripps *Plough Court* Allen & Hanburys Ltd. 1927 53.
- ⁶ D Chapman-Houston and E Cripps *Through a City Archway* Murray, London 1954 122.
- ⁷ Ditto 123.
- ⁸ G Tweedale *At the Sign of the Plough* Murray London 1990 75.
- ⁹ DC-H & EC above 247.
- ¹⁰ Cripps. *Plough Court*.
- ¹¹ Chapman-Houston and Cripps 122.
- ¹² Private correspondence, the Royal Society.
- ¹³ *The Times* 6th, 7th September and 10th October 1832.
- ¹⁴ Ref. PROB 6/208, quire 256.
- ¹⁵ Hampshire County Council Record Office. Research report 998/8 of 8.9.99.
- ¹⁶ On May 9th 1771.
- ¹⁷ On December 5th 1785.
- ¹⁸ On January 1764.
- ¹⁹ Ref 1758/40 from Hants CC Record Office.
- ²⁰ Samuel October 14th 1791: John William, August 30th 1793: Elizabeth November 13th 1793: Sarah August 24th 1798.
- ²¹ Deductions from the 1851 census give birth dates as follows: Dinah 1821, Alexander 1827, Fanny 1832. The 1841 census reports Lucy as 15, giving a birth date of 1826 and Charles as 10, giving a birth date of 1831. However the 1841 census frequently gave ages of any but the youngest children to the nearest 5 years.
- ²² Pigot 1839, Post Office 1846 and 1855.