

ROBERT LEWIN Snr

(1705 – 1886)

LONDON, ENGLAND



Secretary, Bank of England
Married Sarah Pitt, Sarah Kirke,
Elizabeth Allcock, Rebecca Hawtayne



Robert Lewin Snr



Joseph Barton was born in Poslingford, Suffolk, England on 2 December 1836, the son of James Barton and Margaret (nee Brett).

He migrated from England to the Colony of New South Wales per the ship “**Golcanda**”, arriving at Sydney Cove on 15 May 1857.

Joseph Barton’s great grandmother was **Mary Lewin**, the daughter of **Reverend Robert Lewin and Mary (nee Hensman)**.

The Family Story of Rev. Robert Lewin and Mary Hensman separate article

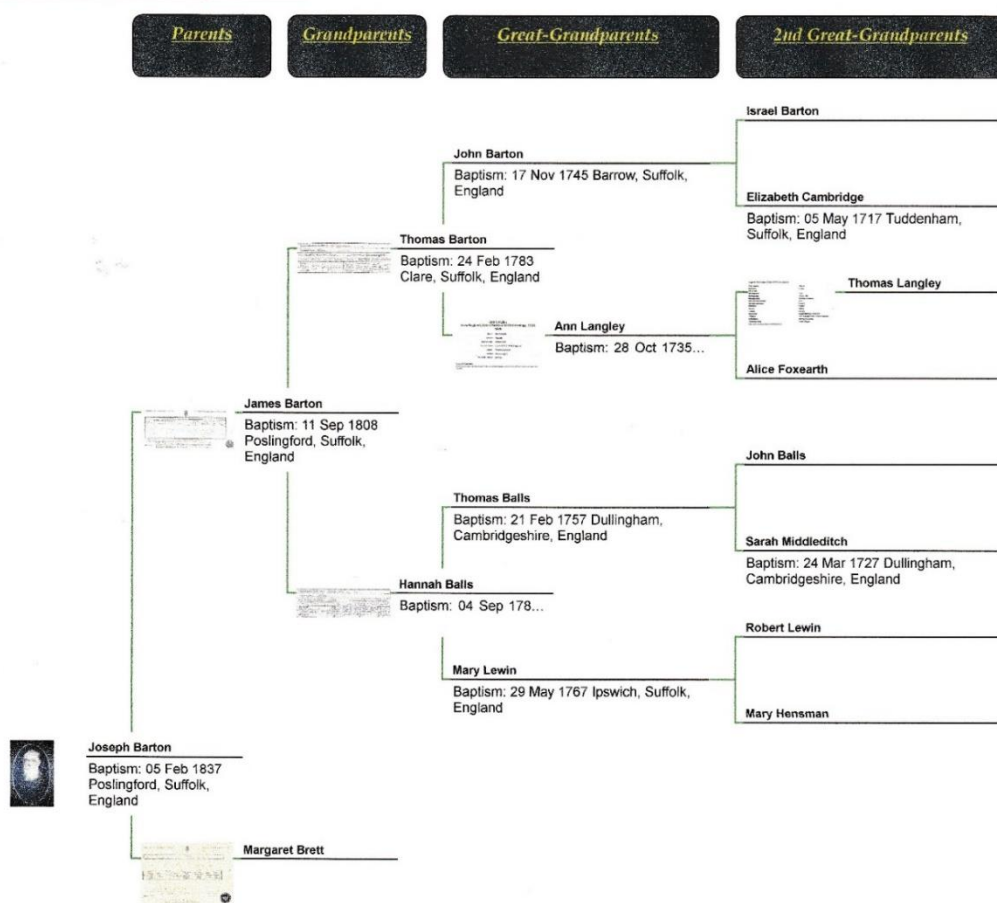
Reverend Robert Lewin was the son of [Robert Lewin Snr and \(mother most likely, Sarah Kirke\)](#).

This story focuses on the family of Joseph Barton’s **great great great (3x great) grandparents**:

Robert Lewin Snr and (Sarah Kirke ??)

Lewin Family Roadmap

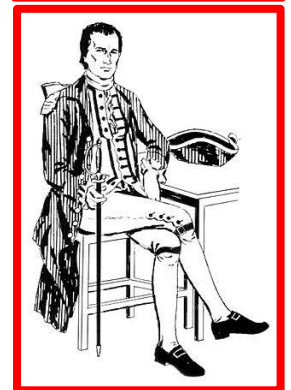
Pedigree Chart for Joseph Barton



Robert Lewin Snr
(Sarah Kirke)

What Was It Like to Live in 18th Century England? [Source: Ancestry]

- There were two very different lifestyles in 18th-century England: that of the rich and that of the poor. With the Industrial Revolution, which started in the middle of the century, came new machinery that saved time and made some people very wealthy. The rich were getting richer and the poor, poorer.
- Many people were out of work because suddenly machines were doing their jobs.
- The population was growing wildly. Cities were dirty, noisy, and overcrowded. **London** had about 600,000 people around 1700 and almost a million residents in 1800.
- The rich, only a tiny minority of the population, lived luxuriously in lavish, elegant mansions and country houses, which they furnished with comfortable, upholstered furniture.
- Their calendars included dinner parties, opera, and the theatre. Many had inherited their great fortunes and never knew what it was to have to work, cook meals, or empty their own chamber pots.
- Fashion was important in upper society: Upper-class women wore stays, which were bodices with strips of whalebone, and hooped petticoats under their dresses.
- Men wore knee-length “breeches” with stockings, waistcoats, and frock coats over linen shirts, as well as buckled shoes. Three-cornered hats were popular, too—and wigs.
- Schools were not compulsory, but many upper-class boys attended school, and some girls from well-off families did, too. Girls were educated more in “accomplishments” like embroidery and music than in academic subjects.
- Some “charity schools” started to provide an education to lower-class children.
- Tea drinking became popular in the 1700s among both the rich and the poor.
- Poor people ate rather plain and monotonous diets made up primarily of bread and potatoes; meat was an uncommon luxury.
- Poor craftsmen and labourers lived in just two or three rooms, and the poorest families lived in just one room with very simple and plain furniture.
- It was a difficult life for poor people: There was no government assistance for the unemployed, and many had trouble finding their next meal or a warm place to sleep.
- For every 1,000 children born in early-18th-century **London**, almost 500 died before they were 2, generally due to malnutrition, bad water, dirty food, and poor hygiene.
- Orphans roamed the streets; because they didn’t attend school, they had little chance of improving their situation.



The following life story of Robert Lewin Sen, his wives and family were probably lives of wealth and privilege!

Please Note: This story is “a work in progress” – any additions / corrections / suggestions would be greatly appreciated in order to add to the history story of our Barton / Balls / Lewin forbears – JM.

Starting Point: Will of Robert Lewin (Senior)

Recently I thought that I had completed the 'Life Story' of Robert Lewin Snr. Upon reaching the final task, I accidentally found his **Will** and that turned the story into quite an upheaval!

15

In the Name of God the Father is

Robert
Lewin

I the said Robert Lewin of the parish of Saint John at Hartney and also of the County of England do make this my last will and testament I give to my son Robert Lewin two hundred pounds to my son Edmund Lewin one hundred pounds and forgive him all that he now owes me To my son Samuel Lewin one hundred pounds and to my daughter Elizabeth Walter one hundred pounds and forgive all that she or her husband now owes me I bequeath to my said son Robert Lewin and to the survivor of them his Executors or Administrators the sum of twenty pounds after Consolidated Long Annuitie of the present year 1700 in trust to pay the said annuitie as the same shall become due and payable to my daughter Sarah Lewin for and during the term of her natural life and direct that the same shall not be subject to the debts or encumbrances of any husband she may take but that the same shall be for her own use and benefit and after her death upon further trust to pay the said annuitie to my lawfully married wife Rebecca Lewin for and during the term of her natural life and after both their deaths I direct the said twenty pounds a year after Consolidated Long Annuitie to be sold and the proceeds thereof to be divided into five parts two fifth parts I give to my said son Robert one fifth part to my said son Edmund one other fifth part to my said son Samuel and the remaining fifth part to my said daughter Elizabeth Walter and if either should die before the above division leaving child or children such child or children to have their or their part share all the rest and residue of my estate and effects at bequeath to my said dear wife Rebecca Lewin and appoint her sole executrix of this my last will and testament In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty third day of November in the year of our Lord 1700 R Lewin Signed sealed and delivered by the above named Robert Lewin the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who at his request in the presence of him in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses Thos Mullington of the Bank Street Office Peter Hendrick Hogenbergh of London Notary public

This Will

was proved at London the twenty third day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty six before the worshipful Mr George Wain Dotor of Laws Surrogate of the High Court of Chancery Peter Calvert Dotor of Laws Attorney General or Commissary in the prerogative Court of Canterbury & lawfully admitted by the oath of Rebecca Lewin the

Will of Robert Lewin (Senior) - continued

The Will is somewhat difficult to read but each time that it is viewed, more and more information is ascertained.

Mentioned in the Will are several family members, some that I was initially unaware of:

- ❖ Son: **Robert Lewin (Junior)** – born c1739 - who became **Reverend Robert Lewin** (a Presbyterian / Unitarian Minister of Religion at Liverpool, Lancashire, England)
- ❖ Daughter: **Sarah Lewin** – born c1740
- ❖ Son: **Edmund Lewin** – born c1742
- ❖ Son: **Samuel Lewin** – born c1751
- ❖ Daughter: **Elizabeth Walter (nee Lewin)** – born c1755
- ❖ Wife: **Rebecca Lewin** (nee Hawtayne)

*It appears that **Robert Lewin Snr** may have married on **4 occasions**:*

Documentation relating to the 4th marriage to Rebecca Hawtayne hasn't, as yet, been uncovered!

Below is an outline of my hypothesis, it is only a possible theory that could be completely unravelled or disproved in the future, when other information may be forthcoming!

Possible Marriages:

<div>Sarah Pitt in the England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973</div> <div>Detail Source</div> <div>Name: Sarah Pitt Gender: Female Marriage Date: 14 May 1735 Marriage Place: Saint Anne and Saint Agnes Aldersgate, London, London, England Spouse: Robert Lewin FHL Film Number: 374413</div> <div>1. Sarah Pitt 14 May 1735 St Anne & St Agnes, Aldersgate, London</div>	<div>Robert Lewin in the England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973</div> <div>Detail Source</div> <div>Name: Robert Lewin Gender: Male Marriage Date: 01 Jun 1738 Marriage Place: Saint Benet Pauls Wharf, London, London, England Spouse: Sarah Kirke FHL Film Number: 547508, 574439, 845242</div> <div>2. Sarah Kirke 1 June 1738 St Benet, Paul's Wharf, London</div>	<div>Elizabeth Allcock in the London, England, Clandestine Marriage and Baptism Registers, 1667-1754</div> <div>Detail Source</div> <div>Name: Elizabeth Allcock Gender: Female Event Type: Marriage Marriage Date: 21 Dec 1747 Marriage Place: London, England Residence: St Leonard's Shoreditch Spouse: Robert Lewin Spouse Residence: Islington Place Description: Officiating Ministers: Grierson, NA found Oct 1982, May Fair register. (1745 Apr - 1754 Apr); Officiating Ministers: Grierson, May Fair register. (1747 Sep - 1749 Sep, 1752 Dec)</div> <div>3. Elizabeth Allcock 21 December 1747 St Leonards, Shoreditch, London</div>
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Possible Burials:

<div>Mrs Lewin Vital • England and Wales Non-Conformist Record</div> <div>Name: Mrs Lewin Burial Date: 03 Jun 1737 Burial Place: Bunhill Fields, London</div> <div>1. Mrs Lewin buried 3 June 1737 Bunhill Fields, London</div>	<div>Sarah Lewin in the London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812</div> <div>Detail Source</div> <div>Name: Sarah Lewin Gender: Female Record Type: Burial Death Date: Abt 1743 Burial Date: 27 Jul 1743 Burial Place: St Mary, Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, England</div> <div>2. Sarah Lewin buried 27 July 1743 St Mary Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, England</div>	<div>Elizabeth Lewin in the London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812</div> <div>Detail Source</div> <div>Name: Elizabeth Lewin Gender: Female Record Type: Burial Death Date: Abt 1748 Burial Date: 24 Jun 1748 Burial Place: St Mary, Whitechapel, Tower Hamlets, Middlesex, England</div> <div>3. Elizabeth Lewin buried 24 June 1748 Whitechapel, Middlesex</div>
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Family of Robert Lewin Snr

Compiling a comprehensive document of the family of Robert Lewin Snr is quite a challenge.

Documentation is quite fragmented.

There **may** have been **other** Robert Lewins residing in **London** at the time and this adds to the challenge!

There is a distinct probability that Robert Lewin Snr had a number of marriages, **possibly 4 marriages**:

Marriage listings in London appear as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>B, D, M</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Place</u>
14 May 1735	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Sarah Pitt	St Anne & St Agnes, Aldersgate, London
1 June 1738	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Sarah Kirke	St Mary Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, London
21 Dec 1747	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Elizabeth Allcock	St Leonards, Shoreditch, London
?	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Rebecca Hawtayne	?

Combining Marriage listings and Burial listings we can establish a possible Sequence of Events as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>B, D, M</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Place</u>
14 May 1735	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Sarah Pitt	St Anne & St Agnes, Aldersgate, London
3 June 1737	Burial	Mrs Lewin - (Possibly - Pitt)	Bunhill Fields, Islington, London
1 June 1738	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Sarah Kirke	St Mary Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, London
27 July 1743	Burial	Sarah Lewin (Possibly - Kirke)	
21 Dec 1747	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Elizabeth Allcock	St Leonards, Shoreditch, London
24 June 1748	Burial	Elizabeth Lewin (Possibly - Allcock)	Whitechapel, Middlesex
?	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Rebecca Hawtayne	?
14 Sept 1786	Burial	Robert Lewin Snr	Bunhill Fields, Islington, London
17 July 1794	Burial	Rebecca Lewin (Hawtayne)	Bunhill Fields, Islington, London

The Wills of both Robert Lewin Snr and wife Rebecca Lewin (nee Hawtayne) makes mention of 5 living children (documentation of birthdates are very scarce but other researchers have provided some possible details!)

Combining Marriage listings, Burial listings and Children listings, we can establish a more expansive Sequence of Events as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>B, D, M</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Place</u>
14 May 1735	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Sarah Pitt	St Anne & St Agnes, Aldersgate, London
3 June 1737	Burial	Mrs Lewin - (Possibly - Pitt)	Bunhill Fields, Islington, London
1 June 1738	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Sarah Kirke	St Mary Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, London
14 Aug 1739	Birth	Robert Lewin Jnr	Westminster, Middlesex
1740	Birth	Sarah Lewin	
1742	Birth	Edmund Lewin	
27 July 1743	Burial	Sarah Lewin (Possibly - Kirke)	
21 Dec 1747	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Elizabeth Allcock	St Leonards, Shoreditch, London
24 June 1748	Burial	Elizabeth Lewin (Possibly - Allcock)	Whitechapel, Middlesex
Bet 1748-1751	Marriage	Robert Lewin m Rebecca Hawtayne	?
1751	Birth	Samuel Lewin	Borough of Hackney
10 June 1755	Birth	Elizabeth Lewin	
14 Sept 1786	Burial	Robert Lewin Snr	Bunhill Fields, Islington, London
17 July 1794	Burial	Rebecca Lewin (Hawtayne)	Bunhill Fields, Islington, London

In Summary!

Possible children of: Robert Lewin and Sarah Pitt – no children

Approximate Timeline of Sarah Lewin (nee Pitt)

- Born 27 November 1707 at Cornhill, Middlesex, London
- Married Robert Lewin 14 May 1735 at St Anne & St Agnes Church, Aldersgate, London
 - *No children:*
- **Sarah (nee Pitt)** died c1737 and buried at Bunhill Fields, Islington, London on 3 June 1737

Possible children of: Robert Lewin and Sarah Kirke

Approximate Timeline of Sarah Lewin (nee Kirke)

- Baptised 28 March 1708 at St James Church, Clerkenwell, Islington
- Married Robert Lewin 1 June 1738 at St Benet's Church, Pauls Wharf, London
- *Gave birth to:*
 - Son: **Robert Lewin Jnr** – born c1739
 - Daughter: **Sarah Lewin** – born c1740
 - Son: **Edmund Lewin** – born c1742
- **Sarah (nee Kirke)** died c1743 and buried at St Mary's Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, London on 27 July 1743

Possible children of: Robert Lewin and Elizabeth Allcock – no children

Approximate Timeline of Elizabeth Lewin (nee Allcock)

- Baptised 28 February 1727 at St Giles Church, Cripplegate, London
- Married Robert Lewin 21 December 1747 at St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, London
 - *No children:*
- **Elizabeth (nee Allcock)** died c1748 and buried at Whitechapel, Middlesex on 24 June 1748

Possible children of: Robert Lewin and Rebecca Haltayne

Approximate Timeline of Rebecca Lewin (nee Haltayne)

- Born c1711
- *No marriage document* – possibly married between 1748-1751
 - Son: **Samuel Lewin** – born c1751, Hackney, London
 - Daughter: **Elizabeth Lewin** – born c1755
- **Rebecca (nee Haltayne)** died c1794 at Hackney, London and buried at Bunhill Fields, Islington, London on 17 July 1794

Lewin Roadmap

Our Lewin ancestor roadmap:

- **Mary Lewin** married Thomas Balls
- Mary Lewin was the daughter of **Robert Lewin (Junior)** (*a Unitarian Minister of Religion*) and Mary Hensman
- Robert Lewin (Jnr) was the son of another **Robert Lewin (Senior)** (*Secretary to The Bank of England*) and (? Sarah Kirke)
- Robert Lewin (Snr) was the son of another **Robert Lewin** and Theodotia Boultetage

Baptism of Robert Lewin *(Senior)*

Robert Lewin

in the England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975

Detail Source

Name: Robert Lewin

Gender: Male

Baptism Date: 16 Apr 1705

Baptism Place: St Andrew Holborn, London, London, England

Father: Robert Lewin

Mother: Theodotia

FHL Film Number: 374352

Robert Lewin was baptised on **16 April 1705** at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, London.

He was the son of another **Robert Lewin** and his mother **Theadotia Boultetage**.

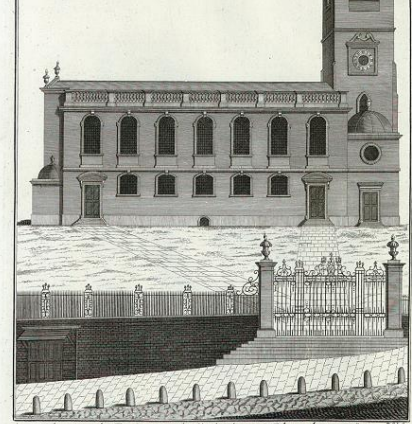
{*Theadotia is a family name that reappears as the daughter of Rev Robert Lewin and Mary Hensman – The name Theadotia is a girl's name of Greek, Russian origin meaning "giving to God"*}

Robert son of Robert Lewin a Serv^t and Theodotia in Holborn Lane. 16th Bapt^d

April 1705: Christnings.

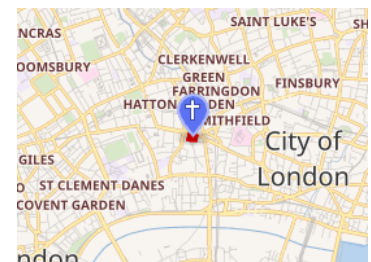
Benjamin son of Robert Gervaisy (Gervais) & Elizabeth in Maypole Lane, Holborn Lane. 10th Bapt^d
 Anne daughter of John Gervaisy (Gervais) and Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 10th Bapt^d
 Thomas son of James Gervaisy (Gervais) & Mary Raynall Street. 11th Bapt^d
 W^m son of W^m Gervais (Gervais) and Sarah in Maypole Lane. 11th Bapt^d
 Susanna daughter of John Gervaisy (Gervais) & Susanna in Addison Street. 12th Bapt^d
 John son of John Gervaisy (Gervais) & Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 12th Bapt^d
 Elizabeth daughter of Robert Gervaisy (Gervais) and Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 12th Bapt^d
 Daniel son of John Gervaisy (Gervais) & Sarah in Maypole Lane. 12th Bapt^d
 Andrew son of Robert Gervaisy (Gervais) & Anne in Maypole Lane. 13th Bapt^d
 Edward son of W^m Gervaisy (Gervais) and Sarah in Maypole Lane. 13th Bapt^d
 Mary a child found in Bartholomew's Hospital. 14th Bapt^d
 W^m son of W^m Gervaisy (Gervais) & Mary in Maypole Lane. 14th Bapt^d
 Elizabeth daughter of Robert Gervaisy (Gervais) & Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 15th Bapt^d
 Thomas son of Robert Gervaisy (Gervais) & Mary in Maypole Lane. 15th Bapt^d
 John son of John Gervaisy (Gervais) and Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 15th Bapt^d
 Elizabeth daughter of John Gervaisy (Gervais) and Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 15th Bapt^d
 Mary daughter of Benjamin Gervaisy (Gervais) & Elizabeth in Maypole Lane. 15th Bapt^d
 Mary daughter of John Gervaisy (Gervais) & Susanna in Maypole Lane. 16th Bapt^d
 Robert son of Robert Lewin a Serv^t and Theodotia in Holborn Lane. 16th Bapt^d

St Andrew's Church,
Holborn

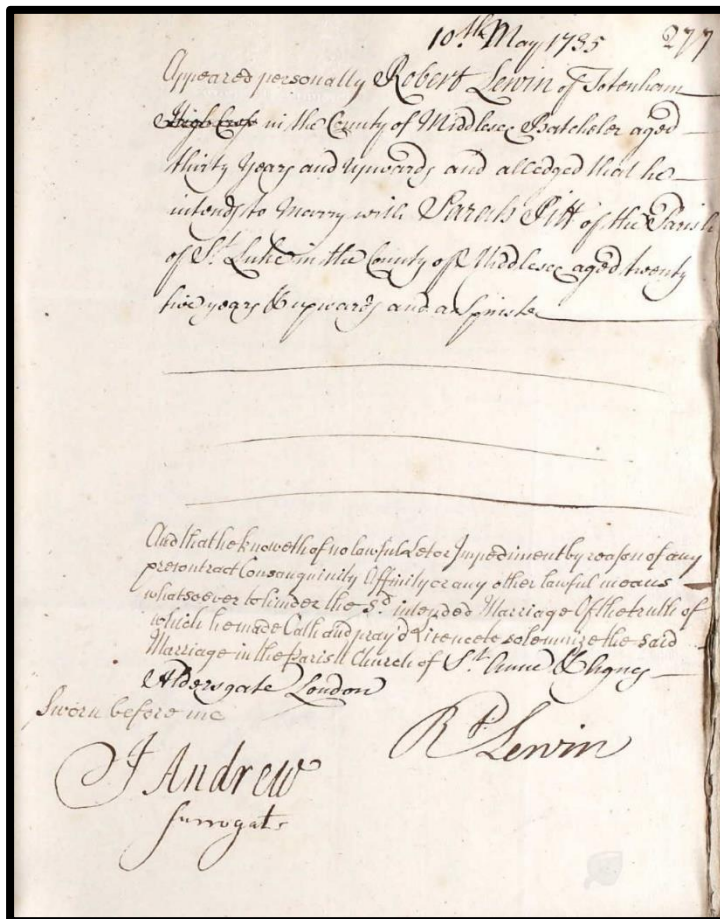


The North Prospect of St Andrew's Church in Holborn.

The Church of **St Andrew, Holborn**, is a Church of England church on the north-western edge of the City of London.



Marriage - 1 - of Robert Lewin (Senior) and Sarah Pitt



The attached '**Marriage Bond**' between Robert Lewin and Sarah Pitt was dated 10 May 1735.

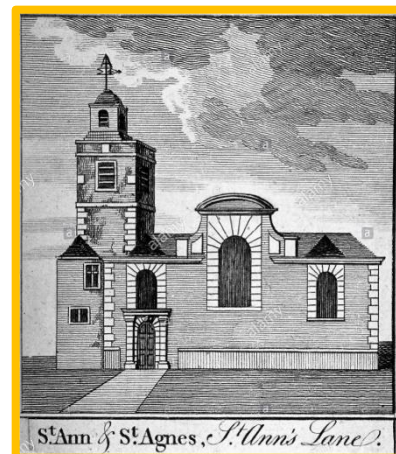
Marriage Allegations, Bonds and Licences in England and Wales

There have always been some people who want to marry in a hurry or in private. The church allowed them to avoid the delay and publicity of calling banns on three successive Sundays by providing, for a fee, a marriage license. The information given in order to obtain the license may include detail not available elsewhere. The centrally filed record may lead directly to the place of marriage and may survive when the marriage record itself has been lost.

Couples in a hurry or requiring privacy might include those where:

1. The bride was pregnant or the groom was on leave from the Army or Navy.
2. The parties differed greatly in age, such as a widow marrying a much younger man or an old man marrying a young woman.
3. The parties differed in social standing, such as a master marrying a servant.
4. The parties differed in religion or did not attend the parish church because they were Nonconformists or Roman Catholics.
5. The parties were of full age but still faced family opposition to their marriage.
6. The parties had already married, perhaps in Scotland or overseas, and wished to clarify their status in English law.

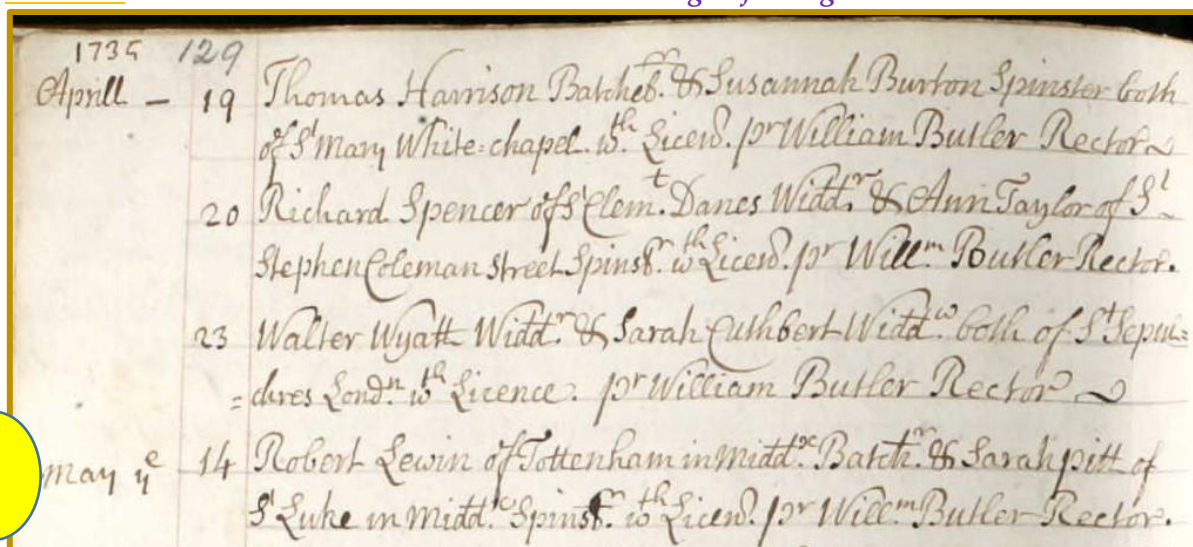
Just 4 days after the 'Marriage Bond' was dated, it appears that the first marriage of **Robert Lewin** took place at St Anne and St Agnes Church in the City of London on **14 May 1735**.



Robert Lewin of **Tottenham** in Middlesex, a bachelor, took as his bride, **Sarah Pitt**, a spinster of **St Luke's**, a District in central London, in the Borough of Islington.

Robert Lewin was approximately **30 years of age** when he married.

- **Tottenham** sits in the London borough of Haringey, with Barnet to the west, Enfield to the north, Waltham Forest to the east, and Islington and Hackney to the south.
- **St Luke's** is a district in central London in the Borough of Islington.



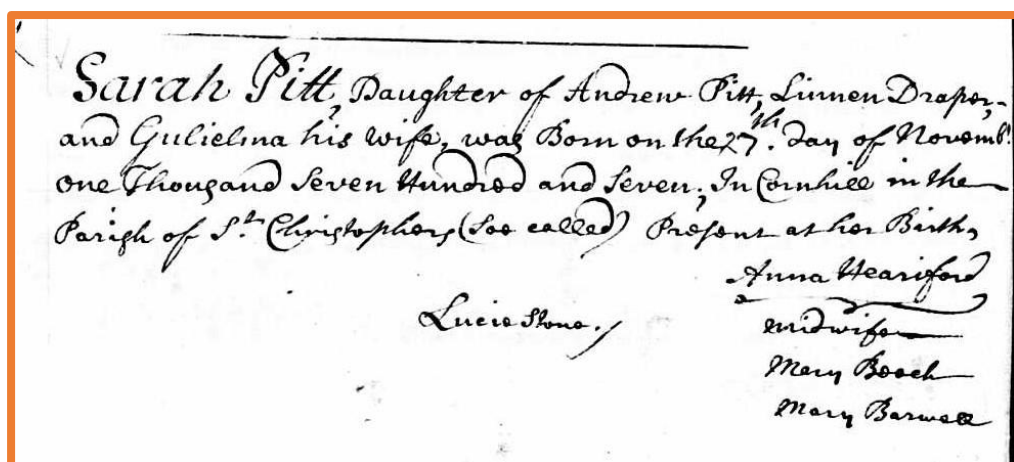
Sarah Pitt

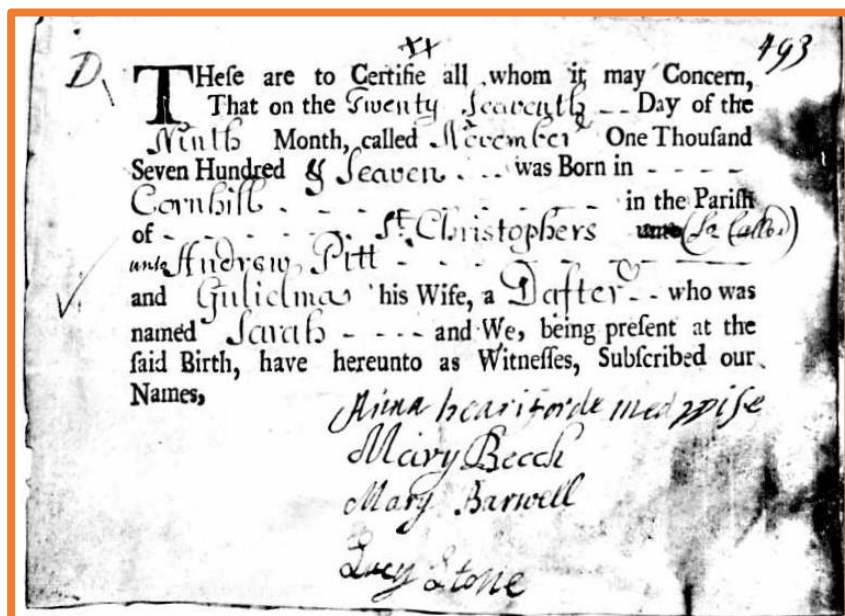
There are a **couple of possibilities** regarding the birth / **baptism of Sarah Pitt** born c1705-1715 as many women tended to marry in their 20's.

Circumstantial evidence possibly points to the following Sarah Pitt:

This particular Sarah Pitt was born at Cornhill, London.

Cornhill is a ward and street in the City of London, the historic nucleus and financial centre of modern London. The Bank of England where her future husband, Robert Lewin, was to spend his working life is just nearby.





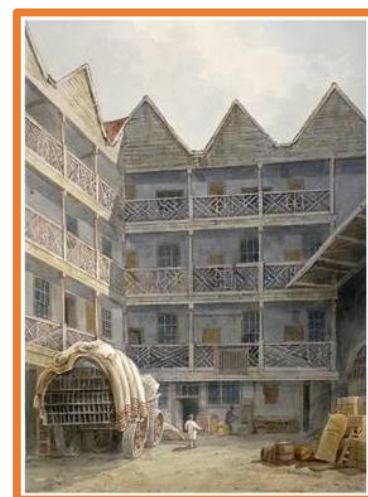
Sarah Pitt was the daughter of Andrew Pitt, a linen draper, and his wife Gulielma.

Sarah Pitt was born on 27 November 1707.

Andrew Pitt and his wife Gulielma registered the birth of their daughter at the Quarterly Meeting of the **Quakers** who met at the '**Bull and Mouth Inn**' in the City of London.

The Bull and Mouth Inn was a coaching inn in the City of London that dated from before the Great Fire of London in 1666. It was located between Bull and Mouth Street (now Postman's Park) in the north and Angel Street in the south. It was once an important arrival and departure point for coaches from all over Britain, but particularly for the north of England and Scotland.

Back vard of the Bull and Mouth Inn



Death of Sarah Lewin (nee Pitt)

Robert Lewin remarried in 1738, so the presumption is that his first wife Sarah (nee Pitt) **died between 1735 and 1738**.

Often in that particular period, women died in childbirth and this may have happened with Sarah Lewin (nee Pitt).

Mrs Lewin	
Vital • England and Wales Non-Conformist Record	
Name	Mrs Lewin
Burial Date	03 Jun 1737
Burial Place	Bunhill Fields, London

A promising burial record is that of Mrs Lewin who was buried at Bunhill Fields Burial Ground in London.

Two important details add to this record as one relating to our particular Lewin Family History:

- ✓ Many of our Lewin family were also buried at **Bunhill Fields**
- ✓ The record is a **Non-Conformist** one – most Lewin Records relate to affiliation with Non- Conformist religious beliefs

Bunhill Fields is a former burial ground in central London, in the London Borough of Islington, just north of the City of London.

What remains is about 1.6 hectares in extent and the bulk of the site is a public garden maintained by the City of London Corporation.

Sarah Lewin's Parents - Andrew and Gulielma Pitt - Quakers

The parents of Sarah Lewin, Andrew Pitt and his wife Gulielma were **Quakers**.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) are a movement within Christianity that began in 1650's England. Early Quaker co-founders were George Fox and Margaret Fell.



George Fox, founder of the Quaker religion

The early Quakers were unhappy with institutionalized Christianity, which they saw as having lost its way by becoming too embedded in the state. Friends sought to revive "primitive Christianity" by going back to the roots of Christianity in Jesus' teachings around non-violence, simple living, God's concern for the marginalised, and the immediate and equal access to God's Spirit.

Some of the practices that made early Quakers stand out was their refusal to pay tithes (which were a required religious tax).

They also refused to take oaths by swearing on the Bible, saying that doing so created a double-standard for truth. Instead, Christians should let their "yes be yes, and no be no." Early Quaker worship was marked by an "expectant silence," where there was an expectation that Christ who was present among them would lead individuals to share messages out of the silence.

This allowed them to practice the "priesthood of all believers" in a way that clergy-led churches were never able to do.

Finally, Friends opted to not take physical sacraments – abolishing the final two the Protestants hung onto – in favour of an inward communion and baptism. Moving from external to internal markers meant that Friends placed high priority on behaviour and what became known as testimony: that is the public witness of God lived out in one's life. Source: Quaker.org

Andrew Pitt and Voltaire

*François-Marie Arouet, known by his nom de plume **Voltaire**, was a French Enlightenment writer, historian, and philosopher famous for his wit, his criticism of Christianity—especially the Roman Catholic Church—as well as his advocacy of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state. He was born: 21 November 1694, Paris, France and died: 30 May 1778, Paris, France. Source: Wikipedia*



What is the connection between Voltaire and Sarah Lewin's father Andrew Pitt?

*It was most likely around the time that Sarah Lewin (nee Pitt) died, that her father, the very successful businessman Andrew Pitt sold his drapery business in London and moved to the outer London village of Hampstead to lead a simpler life as a **Quaker**. The following 2 extracts connect Andrew Pitt and Voltaire!*

An extract from: Voltaire's English Years: (1726–1728)

By Anthony Netboy

No facet of English life interested Voltaire more than religion. He marvelled at the tolerance and freedom of expression which Dissenters enjoyed although they could not hold public office and suffered other legal disabilities.

The Quakers especially attracted Voltaire's attention; he learned a great deal about them from his tutor Higginson and the **retired draper Andrew Pitt**. In the *English Letters* he describes a visit to **Pitt's modest home in the village of Hampstead**. Never had he met anyone who had a nobler or more engaging air, but his dress was odd. He wore a large hat with a turned-down brim and a dark coat without pleats on the side or buttons on either pockets or sleeves. He received the poet with his hat on the head and greeted him without bowing. At times he talked like a fanatic and at other times quite sensibly. Oddly enough, the Quaker addressed him in the second person singular.

Pitt took him to a Quaker meeting near the Monument in London. Here the silence was punctuated by meaningless utterances from persons whom the spirit moved to express themselves. "Why do the more intelligent members of the sect put up with such nonsense?" Voltaire asked his companion. Pitt replied that "it is impossible to know whether a man who rises to speak will be moved by the Spirit or by madness," and hence anybody was allowed to address the assembly, even women. Above all, Voltaire admired the Quakers not only for the simplicity of their lives and free manner of worship but also because they had no priests (and did very well without them, Pitt assured him) and refused to bear arms.

Voltaire was astonished to discover that while the different religious sects might detest each other, they managed to live quite amicably together, and this inspired his famous remark that "an Englishman, as a free man, goes to heaven by whatever route he pleases." In France there was only one acceptable route—via Catholicism.

In the business world there was an easy intercourse between people of different faiths. At the Royal Exchange, "a place more venerable than many a court," Jews, Mohammedans, Anabaptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Quakers trust one another and "reserve the name of infidel for those who go bankrupt." When they leave the Exchange, "some men to the synagogue, others in search of a drink; this man on his way to be baptized in a great tub in the name of the Father, by the Son, to the Holy Ghost; that man is having the foreskin of his son cut off. . . others are going to their church to await the inspiration of God with their hats on, and all are satisfied,"

"O blessed land!" exclaimed Voltaire in the *English Letters*. "If there were only one religion in England, there would be danger of tyranny; if there were two, they would cut each other's throats; but there are thirty, and they live together in peace."

Voltaire on Quakers attitudes to Baptism, Oaths and War

On visiting a friend in France, I [Joe Latham] was shown a copy of Voltaire's "**Lettres Philosophiques**," published in 1734. These contain 4 very interesting letters about the Quakers.

At the time the letters were written, Voltaire had already had **two spells of imprisonment in the Bastille** for his advocacy of toleration and enlightenment. He was released from prison on condition that he **left France and he chose exile in England**. He was taught English by a Quaker and became sympathetic to the Quaker outlook.

The Quaker attitude to Baptism

I believed that the doctrine and the history of such extra-ordinary people were worthy of curiosity. To find out about them, I visited one the most eminent Quakers in England (**Andrew Pitt, a linen draper from Hampstead**) who had been in commerce for thirty years, but had decided to limit his wealth and wants, and had retired to the countryside close to London. I went to seek him out in his retreat which was a small house, well-built and clean and without ornaments.

The Quaker was a fresh-faced old man who had never been ill, because he had never known passions or intemperance. I have never seen in my life a nobler or more engaging countenance than his. He was dressed, like all those of his religion, in a plain coat without pleats in the sides or buttons on either the pockets or the sleeves. He was wearing a large hat, with turned down brim, like our clergy. He received me with his hat on his head, and came towards me without the slightest inclination of his body, but there was more politeness in the open, humane expression on his face than in the custom of drawing one leg behind the other, and carrying the head-covering in one's hand.

"Friend," he said to me, "I see thou art a stranger. If I can be of any help to thee, thou hast only to speak."

"Sir," I said, bending forwards and sliding one foot towards him according to our custom, "I flatter myself that my just curiosity will not displease you and that you will give me the honour of telling me the details of your religion."

"The people of thy country," he replied, "make too many bows and compliments. But I have not yet seen any who have the same curiosity as thee. Come in, and let us dine together first."

I made still more unwanted compliments, because one cannot get rid of bad habits suddenly. After a healthy and frugal meal, which started and ended with a prayer to God, I set about questioning my host. I started with the question that good Catholics have put more than once to the Huguenots:

"My dear Sir," I said to him, "are you baptized?"

"No," replied the Quaker, "and neither are my brethren."

"My God!" I replied, "Then you are not Christians."

"My son," he replied in a gentle voice, "do not swear. We are Christians and try to be good Christians, but we do not think that Christianity consists of sprinkling cold water on the head."

"Good Heavens!" I replied, shocked at this impiety, "have you then forgotten that Jesus Christ was baptized by John?"

"Friend, no more swearing," said the benign Quaker. "Christ received baptism from John, but he never baptized anybody. We are not disciples of John but of Christ."

"Alas," I said, "you would surely be burned in countries of the Inquisition, you poor man. For the love of God, how I wish I could baptize you and make you a Christian."

"Were that all," he replied gravely, "we would willingly submit to baptism to comply with thy weakness. We do not condemn anyone for using the ceremony of baptism. But we believe that those who profess so holy and so spiritual a religion as that of Christ must abstain, as much as they can, from Jewish ceremonies."

"What! Baptism a Jewish ceremony!" I exclaimed. "

Yes, my son," he continued "and so Jewish that several Jews today still use the baptism of John. Consult antiquity. It will teach thee that John only revived this practice, which was in use a long time earlier amongst the Hebrews, in the same way as the pilgrimage to Mecca by Muslims is copied from the Israelites. "Jesus was willing to receive the baptism of John, in the same way that he submitted to circumcision.

But circumcision and the washing with water must both be superseded by the baptism of Christ, this baptism of the Spirit, this washing of the soul, which is the salvation of mankind. Thus the fore-runner, John, said: "I baptize you to the truth with water, but another will come after me, mightier than me, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with fire and the Holy Ghost." 'Likewise, the great apostle to the gentiles, Paul, wrote in Corinthians:

"Christ has not sent me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel." 'Indeed, this same Paul only baptized two people with water, and this was in spite of his inclination. He circumcised his disciple, Timothy. The other apostles also circumcised all who wanted it.

Art thou circumcised?" he added.

I replied that I did not have that honour.

"Ah well," he said, "Friend thou are a Christian without being circumcised, and I am a Christian without being baptized."

Quakers on oaths and going to war

"We never swear an oath, not even in a court of law. We think that the name of God ought not to be prostituted in the miserable squabbles of men. When we are obliged to appear before a magistrate on someone else's account (for law suits are unknown amongst Friends) we affirm the truth by a "yes" or a "no". The judges believe us on our simple word, whilst so many other Christians perjure themselves upon the Gospels.

"We never go to war. This is not because we fear death. On the contrary, we bless the moment that unites us with the Being of Beings. It is because we are neither wolves, tigers nor mastiffs, but Christian men.

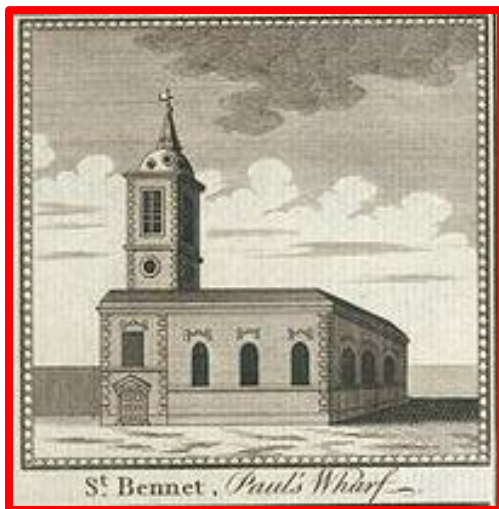
"Our God, who has commanded us to love our enemies and to suffer without complaining, would not permit us to cross the seas to slaughter our brothers, just because murderers clothed in scarlet, wearing caps two feet high, enlist citizens by making a noise with two little sticks beating on a stretched ass's skin.

"When after a victory, all London is lit up with illuminations, and the sky is ablaze with fireworks, and the noise of thanksgiving is heard from bells, organs and cannons, then we groan in silence about the murders which caused the public rejoicing."

Marriage - 2 - of Robert Lewin (*Senior*) and Sarah Kirke

Just 3 years after Robert Lewin's first marriage, Robert Lewin was to re-marry.

The marriage to the new bride **Sarah Kirke**, took place on 1 June 1738 at Saint Bennet, Pauls Wharf, London.



Robert Lewin	
in the England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973	
<div>Detail Source</div>	
Name:	Robert Lewin
Gender:	Male
Marriage Date:	01 Jun 1738
Marriage Place:	Saint Benet Pauls Wharf,London,London,England
Spouse:	Sarah Kirke
FHL Film Number:	547508, 574439, 845242

*The best-preserved church built by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London, **St Benet's, Paul's Wharf** has been the church of the College of Arms since 1556. It now serves the Welsh Anglican community of London.*

HISTORY

*The first church on this site dates to 1111, and was dedicated to St Benedict. Over time the name has shortened to 'Benet'. The medieval church was mentioned by Shakespeare in *Twelfth Night*, when the Clown asks Duke Orsino to give him three, not two coins, and says '...the bells of St Bennet, sir, may put you in mind – one, two, three'.*

Ancient Baynard's Castle stood near the church, and it seems very likely that both Lady Jane Grey and Anne Boleyn would have received the last rites at St Benet's before embarking at the castle's watergate for their final, fatal journeys to the Tower of London and execution. The College of Arms stands across from the church. Since 1556 St Benet's has been the official church for the College, and many masters of arms are buried here.

Birth of Robert Lewin Jnr

Some Family Researchers have **Robert Lewin Jnr** (later Reverend Robert Lewin) being born 14 August, 1739 at Westminster, London.

At this stage I am unable to locate such a record!

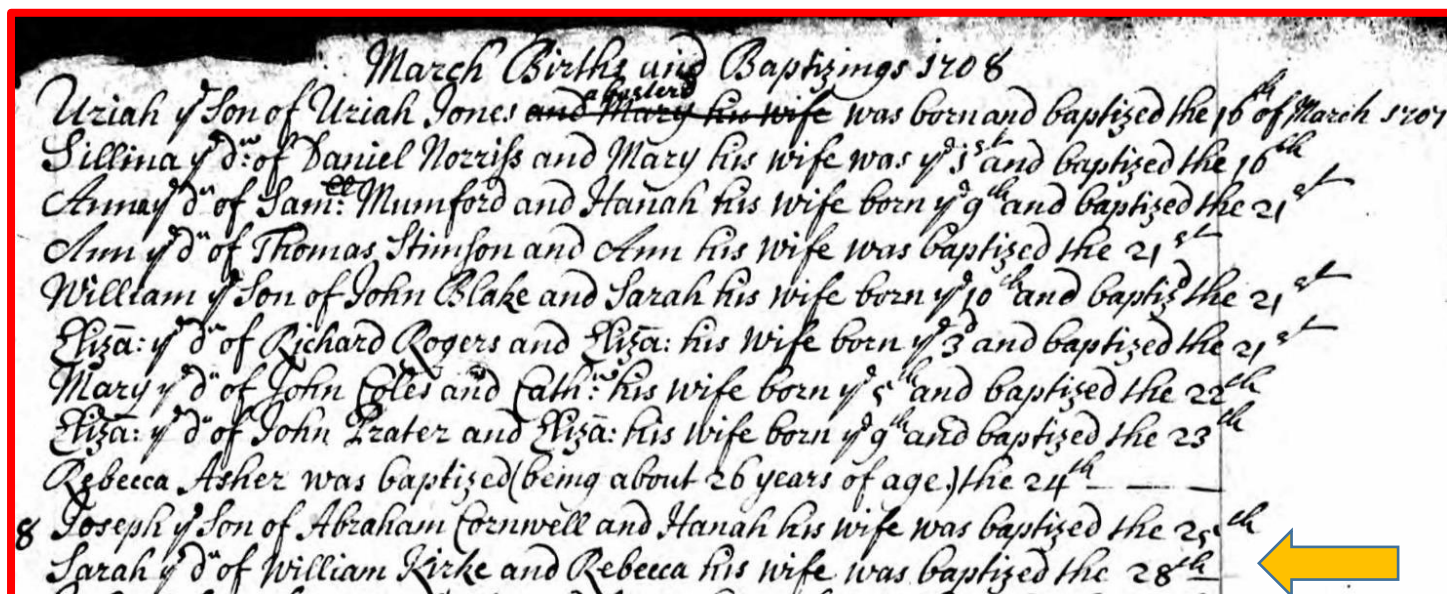
Possible background of Sarah Kirke

The most likely scenario for Sarah Kirke was that she was baptised on 28 March, 1708 at St James Church Clerkenwell, in the Borough of Islington, Middlesex, England.



Sarah Kirke	
in the London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812	
	Detail Source
Name:	Sarah Kirke
Gender:	Female
Record Type:	Baptism
Baptism Date:	28 Mar 1708
Baptism Place:	St James, Clerkenwell, Islington, Middlesex, England
Father:	William Kirke
Mother:	Rebecca Kirke

St James Church, Clerkenwell (Old Church)



Sarah Kirke was the daughter of William Kirke and Rebecca (surname unknown).

Approximate Timeline of Sarah Lewin (nee Kirke)

- Baptised 28 March 1708 at St James Church, Clerkenwell, Islington
- Married Robert Lewin 1 June 1738 at St Benet's Church, Pauls Wharf, London
- Gave birth to:
 - Son: **Robert Lewin Jnr** – born c1739
 - Daughter: **Sarah Lewin** – born c1740
 - Son: **Edmund Lewin** – born c1742
- Died c1743 and buried at Mary's Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex on 27 July 1743

Death of Sarah Lewin (nee Kirke)

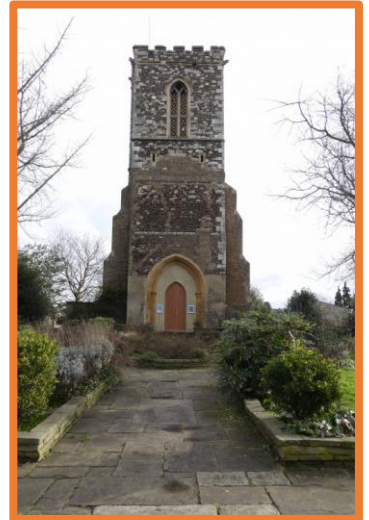
It appears that Sarah Lewin (nee Kirke) may have died just 5 years after her marriage to Robert Lewin Snr.

One can only speculate regarding the cause of death.

She had a 4 year old son Robert Jnr— she may have been pregnant again and death in childbirth was quite a common cause of death in that era, but we will never know!

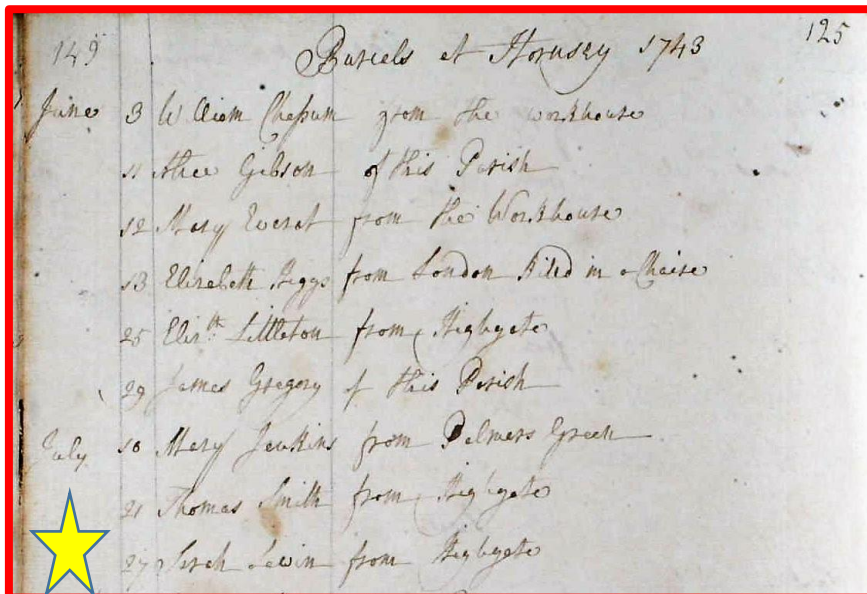
Sarah was approximately 35 years of age when she died.

Sarah Lewin's burial most likely took place at St Mary's Church Hornsey.



Sarah Lewin	
in the London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812	
Detail	Source
Name:	Sarah Lewin
Gender:	Female
Record Type:	Burial
Death Date:	Abt 1743
Burial Date:	27 Jul 1743
Burial Place:	St Mary, Hornsey, Haringey, Middlesex, England

Hornsey is a district of north London, England in the London Borough of Haringey.



It is an inner-suburban, for the most part residential, area centred 10 km north of Charing Cross. It adjoins green spaces Queen's Wood and Alexandra Park to the north.

*The burial record above indicated Sarah Lewin came from **Highgate** to be buried.*

Highgate is one of London's prime areas, attracting celebrities and the wealthy.

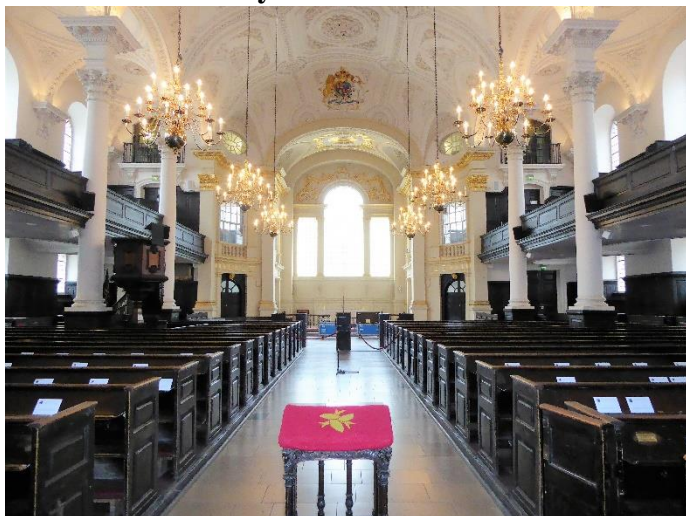
*Until late Victorian times it was a distinct village outside London, sitting astride the main road to the north. The area retains many green expanses including the eastern part of **Hampstead Heath**.*

Research into the life and background of Sarah Lewin (nee Kirke) remains a little uncertain and requires further research!

William Kirke and Rebecca *[parents of Sarah Kirke]* (background)

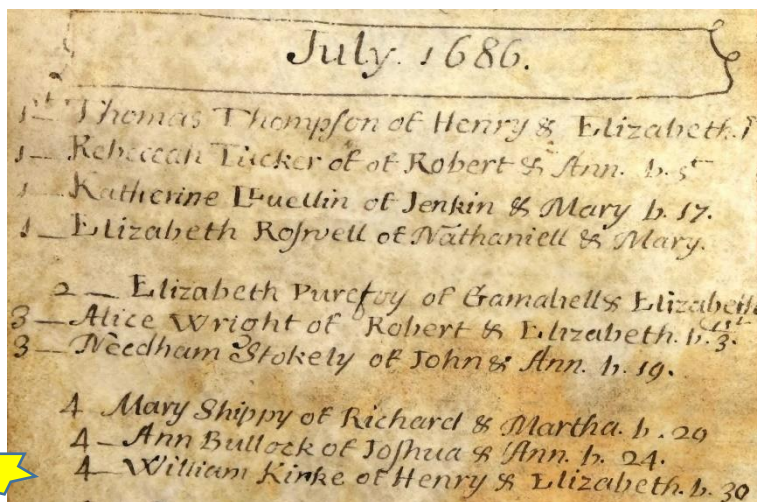
St Martin-In-The-Field Church was a much visited church in 2015 when my wife and I visited on many occasions during our Family History Tour of England, Wales and Ireland.

In the lower level of the church was a much visited 'Eatery' that had a throughput of people in their hundreds each day!



William Kirke, father of Sarah Kirke, was baptised at the beautifully designed **St Martin-In-The-Field Church, Westminster**, on 4 July **1686**, his parents **Henry and Elizabeth Kirke**.

William Kirke in the Westminster, London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1558-1812	
Name:	William Kirke
Baptism Age:	0
Record Type:	Baptism
Birth Date:	Abt 1686
Baptism Date:	4 Jul 1686
Baptism Place:	St Martin-In-The-Fields, London, Westminster, England
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Map:	View this parish
Father:	Henry Kirke
Mother:	Elizabeth Kirke



In the UK Directory of 1760, **William Kirke** is listed as a **financial broker** in Bread Street, London.

Bread Street is very close to the Bank of England, where his son-in-law Robert Lewin was employed for 63 years.

William Kirke in the U.K. and U.S. Directories, 1680-1830	
Name:	William Kirke
Dates:	1751-1775
Location:	London
Occupation(s):	broker financial/brokering services(a)
Gender:	Male
Address(es):	Bread street, London
Source Date:	1760
Source Info:	Listed in The Universal Pocket Companion. 3rd edn. 1760. London; Printed for C. Hitch, L. Hawkes, R. Baldwin, G. Keith, & J. Rivington

Marriage - 3 - of Robert Lewin (*Senior*) and Elizabeth Allcock

Elizabeth Allcock, was the daughter of John Allcock, a **goldsmith**, and his wife Eliz (Elizabeth) Field. Elizabeth Allcock was baptised at **St Giles, Cripplegate**, London on 28 February 1727.

1727	Christmings in February	Born	Baptized
John	Son of William Dickett Corn Chandler & Bridget	Feb 1	25
John	S. Abraham Wooten Mafon & Mary	2	25
Mary	D. Marrat - Nicholli Mariner & Lydia	14	25
Elizabeth	D. Henry Dunsford & Elizabeth	14	25
Ann	D. Christopher Magdon Brasier & Rose	19	25
Sarah	D. Samuel Shoe Maker & Sarah	Jan 29	25
Mary	D. William Gaultman & Mary		25
Mary	D. Joseph Jackson Gentleman & Eliz.		25
James	S. Richard Fry Linen Draper & Sarah	Feb 3	25
Ann	D. John Bargeau Gentleman & Mary	Jan 20	25
Charles	S. John King Sawyer & Susanna	Feb 10	25
Robert	S. William Brighthuff & Mary	9	25
Elizabeth	D. William Feast Frame Work Knter & Eliz	14	25
Susanna	D. Francis Lee Perfumer &	Jan 19	25
Editha	D. Martin Field Silver-Spinner & Eliz	Feb 11	25
John	S. Joseph Carvell Hemp-Dresser & Ann	11	25
Mary	D. Henry Fowler Clothworker & Mary	2	25
Jonathan	S. Vishur Hobbs Saltwater & Sarah	9	25
John	S. John Linter Shoe Maker & Eliz	6	25
Elizabeth	D. William Lutter Buton Mould Maker & Eliz	8	25
John	S. Benjamin Lane Officer & Joan	11	25
Sarah	D. Thomas Ruffhead Taylor & Sarah	27	25
Elizabeth	D. Andrew Barton Pipe Maker & Katherine	10	25
Elizabeth	D. John Allcock Goldsmith & Eliz	25	25

Elizabeth Allcock	
in the England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975	
Detail	Source
Name:	Elizabeth Allcock
Gender:	Female
Baptism Date:	28 Feb 1727
Baptism Place:	St Giles Cripplegate, London, London, England
Father:	John Allcock
Mother:	Eliz
FHL Film Number:	380206

St Giles-without-Cripplegate is an Anglican church in the City of London, located on Fore Street within the modern Barbican complex. When built it stood without (that is, outside) the city wall, near the Cripplegate. The church is dedicated to St Giles, patron saint of lepers, beggars and the handicapped. It is one of the few medieval churches left in the City of London, having survived the Great Fire of 1666.

There had been a Saxon church on the site in the 11th century but by 1090 it had been replaced by a Norman one. In 1394 it was rebuilt in the perpendicular gothic style. The stone tower was added in 1682. The church has been badly damaged by fire on three occasions:

In 1545, in 1897 and during an air raid of the Blitz of the Second World War. German bombs completely gutted the church but it was restored using the plans of the reconstruction of 1545.

A new ring of twelve bells was cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1954, and this was augmented with a sharp second bell cast in 2006 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. The historic pews, altar and font come from the nearby St Luke Old Street, and were transferred to St Giles when it closed and the parishes were amalgamated in 1959. The church was designated a Grade I listed building on 4 January 1950.



Robert Lewin married Elizabeth Allcock at Saint George, Mayfair Church in London. Elizabeth would have been 20 years of age, while Robert, after 2 previous marriages would have been aged approximately a mature 42 years of age.

<div> <div>Elizabeth Allcock</div> <div>in the England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973</div> </div> <div> <div>Detail</div> <div>Source</div> </div> <div> <div>Name: Elizabeth Allcock</div> <div>Gender: Female</div> <div>Marriage Date: 21 Dec 1747</div> <div>Marriage Place: Saint George Mayfair,Westminster,London,England</div> <div>Spouse: Robert Lewin</div> <div>FHL Film Number: 942 B4HA V. 15</div> </div>	<div> <div>Elizabeth Allcock</div> <div>in the London, England, Clandestine Marriage and Baptism Registers, 1667-1754</div> </div> <div> <div>Detail</div> <div>Source</div> </div> <div> <div>Name: Elizabeth Allcock</div> <div>Gender: Female</div> <div>Event Type: Marriage</div> <div>Marriage Date: 21 Dec 1747</div> <div>Marriage Place: London, England</div> <div>Residence: St Leonard's Shoreditch</div> <div>Spouse: Robert Lewin</div> <div>Spouse Residence: Islington</div> <div>Piece Description: Officiating Ministers: Grierson. NA found Oct 1982. May Fair register. (1745 Apr - 1754 Apr); Officiating Ministers: Grierson. May Fair register. (1747 Sep - 1749 Sep, 1752 Dec)</div> </div>
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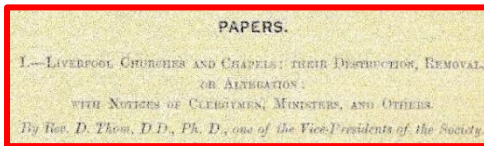
St George Hanover Square was a civil parish in the metropolitan area of London, England. The creation of the parish accompanied the building of the St George's Hanover Square Church, constructed by the Commission for Building Fifty New Churches to meet the demands of the growing population.

The parish was formed in 1724 from part of the quite early medieval parish of Saint Martin in the Fields in the consequent Liberty of Westminster.

It included some of the most fashionable areas of the West End of London, including Belgravia and Mayfair.

Robert Lewin (*Senior*) – Secretary to the Bank of England

Robert Lewin Junior [*later Reverend Robert Lewin*] was born at Westminster, Middlesex, England on 14 August 1739, the son of Robert Lewin Snr and (? Sarah Kirke).

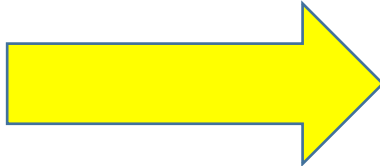


An extract from an attached internet publication states that in relation to Mr (Rev.) Robert Lewin, “The gentleman, it appears, was a native of London, where his father for thirty years held a high and confidential situation in the *Bank of England*.”

UK Directory - 1763

Robert Lewin

Secretary to the Bank of
England



L I C		103
Lepard William, stationer & rag mer.	26, Newgate street	
Le Quainter Peter, & Son, batters,	182, Piccadilly	
Lequesne Elizabeth, and Son, Mer.	5, St. Martin's lane, Cannon street	
Lermitte Thomas, man's mercer,	13, Minories	
Lefage Augustus, goldsmith and jeweller,	Cockspur street	
Lefouef John & Son, weavers,	17, Church str. Spitalfields	
Lester Shadrach, and Sons, mast makers,	Rotherhithe	
Lester John, Mer.	29, Cornhill	
Letch Thomas, pin maker,	222, Strand	
Lett Thomas, timber merchant,	Lambeth	
Letteney John, attorney,	13, Holborn court, Gray's Inn	
Lever Richard, Mer.	49, Lothbury	
Levy Samuel, Andrew, & Son, jewellers,	27, Bury street	
Levy Abraham, broker,	4, Devonshire square	
Levy Hyam, goldsmith,	121, Whitechapel high street	
Levy Jacob-Joachim, Mer.	111, Gravel la. Houndsditch	
Levy Joseph, jeweller,	New round court, Strand	
Levy Joseph, Mer.	Somerfet str. Goodman's fields	
Levy Simpson, broker,	9, Grocer's alley, Poultry	
Lewes Sir Watkin, Knt. & Alderm.	Johnstr. Bedford row	
Lewin Robert, Secretary to the Bank,	at the Bank	
Lewis and Burton, surveyors and builders,	40, Coleman str.	
Lewis and Tavenor, packers,	31, Bucklersbury	
Lewis Belloncle, silk weaver,	Steward street	
Lewis Christopher, tobacconist,	23, Long acre	
Lewis David, linen draper,	opposite Mansion House	
Lewis Edward, Mer.	Charles street, Berkeley square	
Lewis Edward, shoe factor,	26, Swithin's lane	
Lewis Edward, haberdasher,	43, Borough	
Lewis Hugh, insurance broker,	28, Cornhill	
Lewis John, wharfinger,	Battle Bridge	
Lewis John, broker,	4, Change alley	
Lewis Joseph, goldsmith,	38, Foster lane	
Lewis Israel, upholsterer,	151, Fleet street	
Lewis Richard, stationer,	Lothbury	
Lewis Richard, grocer,	Parliament street, Westminster	
Lewis Robert, broker,	10, Bond's court, Walbrook	
Lewis Thomas, hardwareman,	34, Ludgate street	
Lewis Thomas, glass grinder,	6, Great Queen street	
Lewis Thomas, bookseller,	Russel street, Covent garden	
Lewis William, Mer.	118, Salisbury court, Fleet street	
Lichigaray Matthew, Mer.	31, Cornhill	
Lichigary Samuel, Mer.	at Low Layton	
		Lichfield

Robert Lewin (Senior) – Secretary to the Bank of England (continued)

In the article below, mention is made regarding Robert Lewin being *Secretary to the Bank of England*.

"The European Magazine and London Review, by the Philological..., Volume 10",
states the following:

Monthly Obituary August, September, October (1786) - Page 310

8. (September) At Hackney, aged 81, Robert Lewin Esq, Secretary to the Bank. He had been 63 years in service of the Bank and 42 years as Secretary.

From the above obituary, Robert Lewin's service to the Bank of England was indeed extraordinary to say the least. In order to achieve 63 years of service it appears he may have joined the bank very early, possibly 11 / 12 years of age. He possibly commenced work as an errand boy! Being Secretary to the Bank of England would have involved huge responsibilities and obvious talents to hold that position for 42 years – exceptional!

As a Bank Secretary, Robert Lewin would perform administrative duties to keep the enormous financial institution running efficiently. What a monumental task!

*As part of his role as Bank of England Secretary, the name **Robert Lewin** appeared as signatory to many notices during his 42 years as Bank Secretary.*

The London Gazette is one of the official journals of record or Government gazettes of the Government of the United Kingdom, and the most important among such official journals in the United Kingdom, in which certain statutory notices are required to be published.



The London Gazette claims to be the oldest surviving English newspaper and the oldest continuously published newspaper in the UK, having been first published on 7 November 1665 as The Oxford Gazette.

Two examples appear below, extracted from the **1764 London Gazette**.

<p>7 July, 1764.</p> <p>The Court of Directors of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England give Notice, that a General Court will be held at the Bank on Thursday next the 12th Instant, at Eleven in the Forenoon, being one of the Quarterly General Courts appointed by the Charter.</p> <p>Robert Lewin, Secretary.</p>	<p>10 May, 1764.</p> <p>The Court of Directors of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England give Notice, That they have appointed Jeremiah Thompson and Charles Jewson to be two of their Cashiers, and empowered each of them to sign Bills and Notes for the Governor and Company of the Bank of England.</p> <p>Robert Lewin, Secretary.</p>
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Bank of England, August 13, 1774.
THE Court of Directors of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England give Notice, that they have made an Agreement with the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to circulate Exchequer Bills, (made forth or to be made forth) pursuant to several Acts of Parliament now in Force, for one Year, to end the 5th of August 1775.
 Robert Lewin, Secretary.

Bank of England, August 13, 1774.
THE Court of Directors of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England give Notice, that the Transfer Books for Bank Stock will be shut from Tuesday the 13th of September next, till Friday the 23rd of October following.
 Robert Lewin, Secretary.

A further two examples are extracted from the London Gazette
 Saturday **13 August 1774**.

Another further example from **9 March 1750** calls upon the Court of Directors of the Bank of England to meet together to consider a 'dividend' for the Bank.

March 9, 1750.
The Court of Directors of the Bank of England give Notice, That a General Court to consider of a Dividend, will be held at the Bank on Thursday next the 14th Instant, at Eleven in the Forenoon.
And also, That another General Court will be held at the Bank on Tuesday the 2d of April next, from Nine in the Forenoon to Six in the Afternoon, for the Election of a Governor and Deputy-Governor for the Year ensuing; which Election will be declared that Evening: And the said Court will be continued by Adjournment, and held at the same Place, and during the same Hours, on Wednesday the 3d of April, for the Election of Twenty-four Directors, (which will be also one of the Quarterly General Courts appointed by the Charter.) And the Election of the Twenty-four Directors will be declared as soon as the Scrutiny is over,
Printed Lists of the Proprietors having Votes, will be ready to be delivered at the Bank on Thursday the 28th of March instant.
 Robert Lewin, Secretary.



Dividend Day
Bank of England
1770

At this time in history, 1750

Scottish landlords started evicting tenants in the Highland Clearances

From the 1750s, landlords in the Scottish Highlands began to forcibly remove tenants from their land, usually to replace them with more profitable sheep farming.

The clearances resulted in whole Highland communities leaving Scotland and emigrating, most of them to North America.

Many others moved to growing urban industrial centres such as Glasgow. This was part of a broader process of agricultural change in Britain, but in the Highlands it was marked by particular abruptness and brutality.

Robert Lewin – Freeman to the City of London

Robert Lewin was approximately 42 years of age when his papers were submitted and accepted to the **Freedom of the City of London** on 14 October 1747.

Robert Lewin in the London, England, Freedom of the City Admission Papers, 1681-1930

Name: Robert Lewin

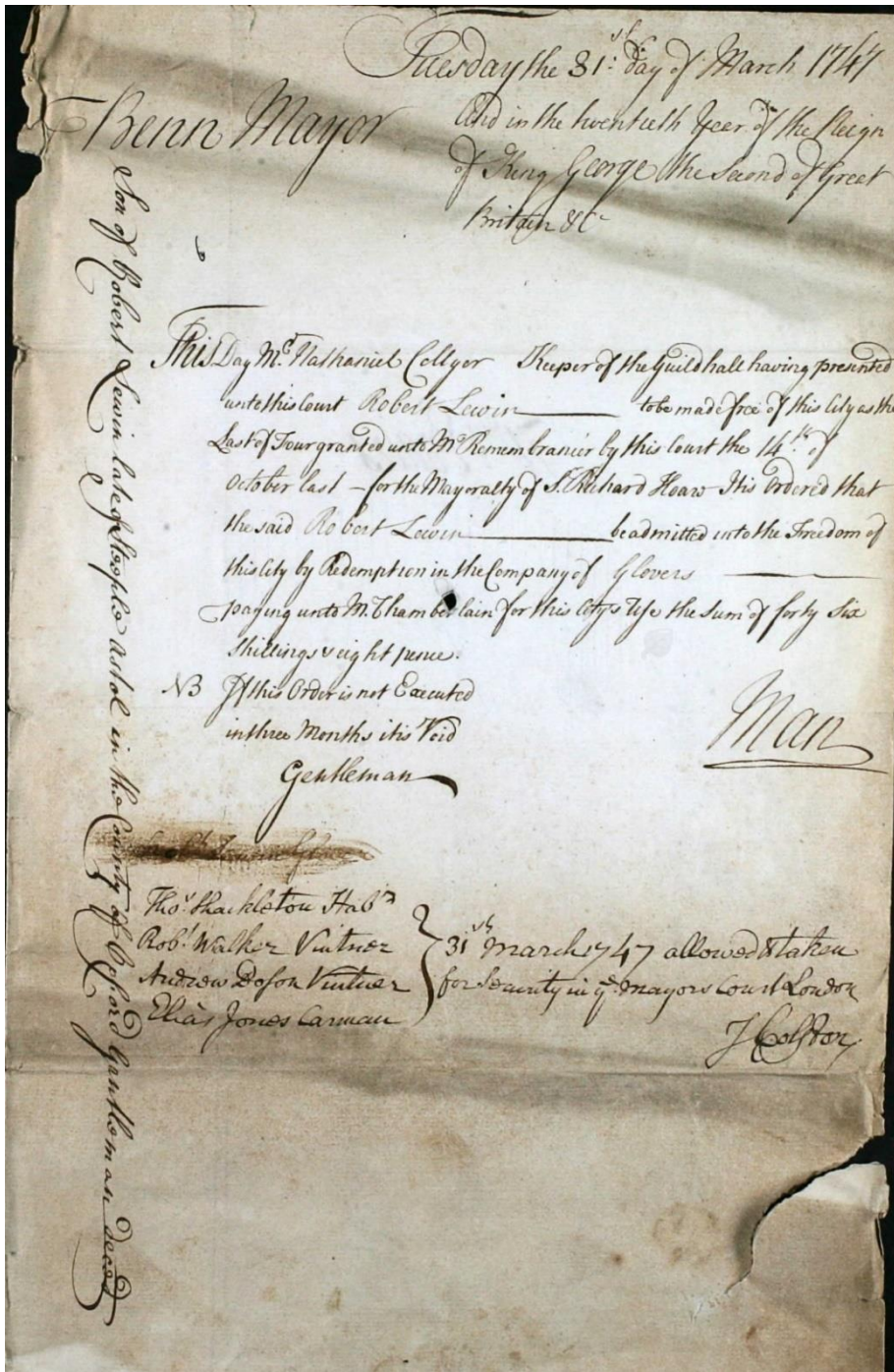
Admission Date: 14 Oct 1747

Residence Place: England

Father: Robert Lewin

Source Citation

London Metropolitan Archive; Reference Number: COL/CHD/FR/02/0697-0-707



The letter submitted the Mayor of London,

William Benn (c. 1682 – 1755) was a British merchant, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1746.

Benn was a member of the Fletchers Company.

He was a common councillor of the City of London for Bishopsgate from 1730 to 1740 and was Auditor from 1739 to 1741.

He was elected Alderman of Aldersgate Ward on 12 November 1740.

In 1742 he was Sheriff of London.

He became Lord Mayor of London for the year 1746 to 1747.^[1]

Robert Lewin – Freeman to the City of London (continued)

About London, England, **Freedom of the City Admission Papers, 1681-1930**

Historically, Freedom papers go back to royal charters granted for the privilege to market, trade, or conduct business. Livery Companies (which originated in guilds) are associations of craftsmen whose members can earn Freeman status and who regulated their trade by controlling wages, labour conditions, and admission by apprenticeship. When an individual is granted Freedom papers they are made "Free of the City of London."



What are the 12 Great Livery Companies?

- **Mercers.**
- **Grocers.**
- **Drapers.**
- **Fishmongers.**
- **Goldsmiths.**
- **Merchant Taylors.**
- **Skinners.**
- **Haberdashers.**

The Freedom of the City of London is a recognition awarded to people who have achieved success, recognition or celebrity in their chosen field.

Robert Lewin, as Secretary of the Bank of England, obviously achieved that high level of achievement and recognition.

Whilst undoubtedly a privilege, strict instructions are given that the Freedom of the City of London should not be presented to others as being an honour or award. The Freedom of the City of London can be gained through membership of a livery company or by direct application supported by a suitably qualified proposer and seconder. After approval by the Court of Aldermen, Freeman are admitted by the Clerk to the Chamberlain of the City of London during a ceremony at Guildhall. A certificate is presented to the recipient.

Freedom of the City of London is a pre-requisite for standing for election to the Common Council and Court of Aldermen of the City of London, and therefore also required by the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor of the City, as they must first become aldermen.

What are the benefits of being a freeman of the City of London?

The benefits of membership are: A full programme of social events, ranging from events of historical interest, dinners and receptions in historic locations, to an Annual Banquet with the Lord Mayor at the Guildhall, and an Annual Service in the church of St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall.

Over the last 300 years, **about 300,000 ordinary people** have been made Free of the City of London.

Robert Lewin - Appearing at the Old Bailey on behalf of the Bank of England

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913

is a 'free' fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at E's central criminal court.

Robert Lewin, on behalf of the Bank of England, has many listings in these trials. Below I have included 'just a few examples' of the witness statements made by **Robert Lewin**.

Researchers can see a digitised version of each trial **in full** by going to the Old Bailey Website. It has a simple **name search** facility.



*In 2015, as part of a Family History Tour to England, Wales and Ireland my wife Pam and I stood outside the **Old Bailey in London**.*

My Convict Ancestor, Elizabeth Smith, was a guest at the court in 1822.

ELIZABETH SMITH, 19, defendant name in trial of **ELIZABETH SMITH, Theft > pocket picking, 4th December 1822.**

Before Mr. Justice Bayley. 33. **ELIZABETH SMITH** was indicted for stealing, on the 27th of November, three sovereigns and a seven shilling piece, the monies of Nathaniel Shackle, from his person.

Pam's Convict Ancestor, 'Francis' William Honeyman, was a guest at the court in 1837.

WILLIAM HONEYMAN.

Theft: simple larceny.

12th June 1837

1565. **WILLIAM HONEYMAN** was indicted for stealing, on the 15th of June, 1 snuff-box, value 3s. the goods of Charles Ward.

At that stage we had absolutely no inkling that another ancestor, **Robert Lewin** was, quite a number of years previously, a **regular attendant at the 'Old Bailey'**.

30th May 1759

Robert Lewin. I am secretary at the Bank. I was ordered to send this bill in question to Sunderland in a letter, after Mr Tittley had failed, that the money might be received of the drawer Jo. Archer, not doubting but there was such a person. I sent the letter to Mr Harris a merchant there. I have his answer, dated Dec. 9th. 58. wherein he mentions he has made diligent inquiry for Jo. Archer, and is very well satisfied there is no such person there. John Wright had a commission of bankruptcy granted against him on the 4th of Dec. last.

The bill read, to this purport.

Sunderland, Sept. 26. 58. Sir, 65 days after date, pay Mr James Halyard 200 l. for value received, as by advice, Jo. Archer.

Directed to Mr John Wright, Angel-Court, St Martins Le Grand. Accepted J. Wright.

Robert Lewin. I am secretary at the Bank. I was ordered to send this bill in question to Sunderland in a letter, after Mr Tittley had failed, that the money might be received of the drawer Jo. Archer, not doubting but there was such a person.

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City of London Sessions:
Sessions Papers - Justices' Working Documents

23rd February 1763

The King
agst:
Gregory Geering

Robert Lewin Secretary to the Governor & Company of the Bank of England maketh Oath that in a Letter this day received from Peter Vitu one of the persons sent over to France by order of the Directors of the said Governor & Company in pursuit of ~~the~~ **said** John Rice (which Letter this Deponent Saith is directed to the Governor of the Bank of England & dated Paris nineteenth February One thousand Seven hundred & Sixty three & this Deponent believes the same to be of the hand Writing of the said Peter Vitu) the said Peter Vitu writes and this Deponent believes such Account to be true that his Grace the Duke of Bedford had all the reason in the world to believe that the said John Rice will be delivered up by Order of the Court of France ~~in~~ and from the Tenor of the said Letter this Deponent believes the said John Rice will arrive in England before the next Session of Oyer and Terminer to be held for the City of London

Sworn the 23d: day of February 1763 at Justice Hall in the old Bailey

By the Court

Rt: Lewin

666 The King
agst:
Gregory Geering

Robert Lewin Secretary to the Governor & Company of the Bank of England maketh Oath that in a Letter this day received from Peter Vitu one of the persons sent over to France by order of the Directors of the said Governor & Company in pursuit of ~~the~~ John Rice (which Letter this Deponent Saith is directed to the Governor of the Bank of England & dated Paris nineteenth February One thousand Seven hundred & Sixty three & this Deponent believes the same to be of the hand Writing of the said Peter Vitu) the said Peter Vitu writes and this Deponent believes such Account to be true that his Grace the Duke of Bedford had all the reason in the world to believe that the said John Rice will be delivered up by Order of the Court of France ~~in~~ and from the Tenor of the said Letter this Deponent believes the said John Rice will arrive in England before the next Session of Oyer and Terminer to be held for the City of London -

Sworn the 23: day of February 1763
at Justice Hall in the Bailey

By the Court

6th December 1775

FRYER. *I am the only man that applied to him. Wilmot's men came to me; and Robert Lewin said he would give me two or three guineas, if I would only swear Smith was in the robbery with me: I said how can that be done; he said very well, for Wagstaffe was to have six guineas if Smith was cast, and he has had part of it already.*

Q. to Wagstaffe. Have you had any money? - No, not a farthing.

[The information of James Fryer before the justice was read; and it appearing that his evidence upon the trial was quite contrary to his information before the justice, he was committed by the Court to take his trial for the burglary.]

ROBERT LEWIN sworn.

I attend Justice Wilmot's office. On Saturday night, the 11th of November, I went in company with Ryder and Wagstaffe to a place they call the World's-end, at Stepney; there I saw Ryder take a quantity of silk out of a summer house; we brought it away.

Do you know Fryer? - I do.

Did you tell him you would give him two or three guineas to swear Smith was in this robbery? - No.

Did you never say what Wagstaffe was to have? - No.

Not that he was to have six guineas, and had part of it already? - No.

Are you certain it was Smith and not Fryer, that came to you at the public house to offer you the silk?—I am certain it was Smith.

FRYER. *I am the only man that applied to him. Wilmot's men came to me; and Robert Lewin said he would give me two or three guineas, if I would only swear Smith was in the robbery with me: I said how can that be done; he said very well, for Wagstaffe was to have six guineas if Smith was cast, and he has had part of it already.*

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Did you tell him you would give him two or three guineas to swear Smith was in this robbery?—No.

Did you never say what Wagstaffe was to have?—No.

Not that he was to have six guineas, and had part of it already?—No.

Nº I. Part III.

Death of Elizabeth Lewin (nee Allcock)

Elizabeth Lewin (nee Allcock) was to pass away in March 1776 and was buried on 19 March 1776, the service taking place at St Mary's Church, Stoke Newington.

Old Church

There has been a site of Christian worship on the site of the 'old' parish church since at least 1086 - and probably even before then. The first recorded Rector was appointed in 1314 to a Church which included a chapel dedicated to St Thomas Becket and a rood known to have been in a poor state of repair by the fifteenth century.

Sir William Patten, Lord of the Manor, built the present 'Old' Church, bordering Clissold Park on the north side of Church Street, in 1563. It is the only church of the Elizabethan period left in London and one of only a few in the entire country. It is also one of the very earliest Anglican Churches which has never been a Roman Catholic Church.

Elizabeth Lewin

in the London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

Detail

Source

Name: Elizabeth Lewin

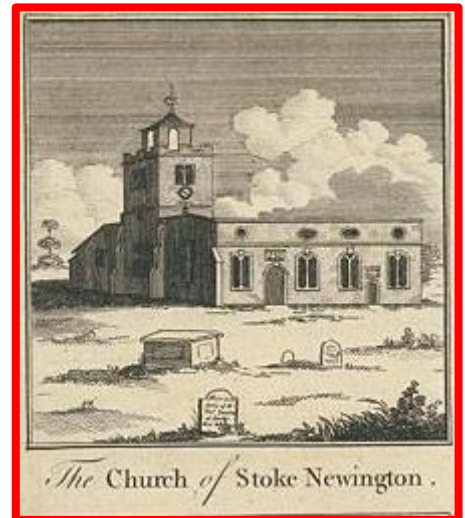
Gender: Female

Record Type: Burial

Death Date: Abt 1776

Burial Date: 19 Mar 1776

Burial Place: St Mary, Stoke Newington, Hackney, Middlesex, England



1776	Burials in 1776	
Lewin	Elizabeth Lewin	19 th March
Burke	Thomas Burke	12 th April
Manfell	Mary Manfell	14 th May
Picobier	Magdalene Picobier	6 th June
Burd	Arthur Burd	16 th
Mathews	John Mathews	30 th
Bizon	John Isaac Bizon	11 th July
Webb	Elizabeth Webb	16 th
Stapp	John Stapp	21 st
Warring	John Warring	30 th
Aiflabie	Mary Ann Aiflabie	2 nd Aug ^r
Geft	Sarah Geft	7 th
Guichenot	Sarah Guichenot	16 th
Smallman	Matilda Ann Smallman	2 nd Sep ^r
Lilley	Thomas Lilley	3 rd
Teyer	Sarah Teyer	3 rd
Linderman	Willm Linderman	15 th
Woodward	Thomas Woodward	16 th
Bree	Mary Bree	26 th
Tonester	John Tonester	2 nd Oct ^r
Turner	Mary Turner	13 th
Smith	Maria Smith	15 th
Pirce	Thomas Pirce	18 th
Jones	Willm Jones	24 th Nov ^r
Danby	Willm Danby	24 th
Peacock	Nachel Peacock	18 th Dec ^r



Elizabeth Lewin was approximately **49 years** when she died.

He husband Robert Lewin would have been aged **71 years** and was probably still working as Secretary to the Bank of England (he spent 63 years employed by the bank).

Marriage - 4 - of Robert Lewin (Senior) and Rebecca Hawtayne

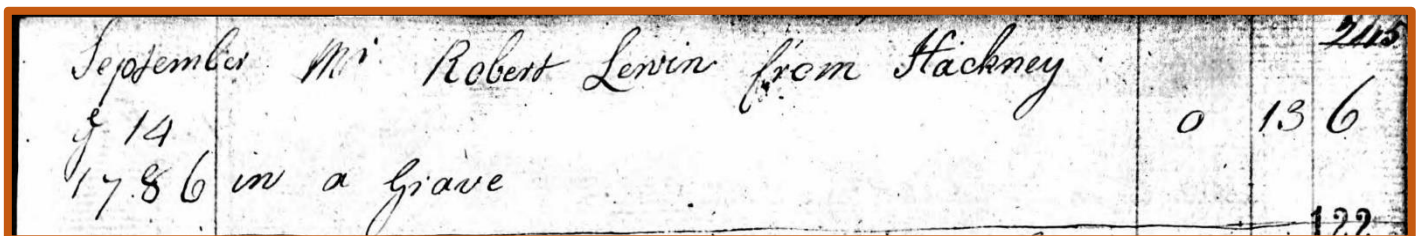
As mentioned early in this document, the **Will of Robert Lewin** suggests a further marriage as his wife **Rebecca** is mentioned in the will.

At this stage, there is no evidence of a marriage document between John Lewin (Senior) and Rebecca. Other researchers have listed Rebecca Lewin's maiden name as **Hawtayne**.

Death of Robert Lewin

Mr Robert Lewin	
in the England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1936	
Detail Source	
Name:	Mr Robert Lewin
Event Type:	Burial
Death Date:	abt 1786
Burial Date:	14 Sep 1786
Burial Place:	London, Middlesex, England

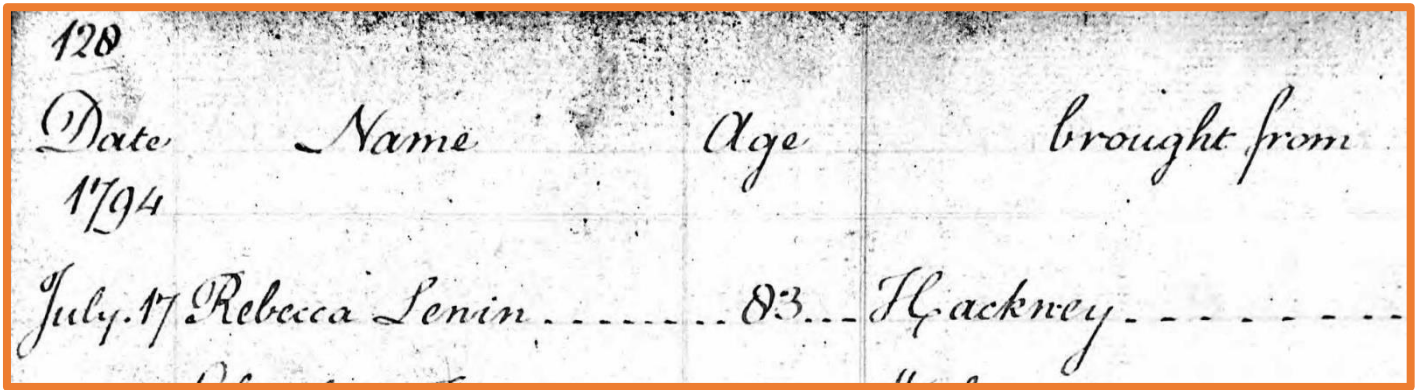
When Robert Lewin was buried on 14 September 1786, he was living in the Borough of Hackney, London. The document below is taken from the **"Bunhill Fields" Burial Ground** records.



Rob. Lewin	
in the England, Extracted Parish and Court Records, 1399-1795	
Detail Source	
Name:	Rob. Lewin
Death Date:	8 Sep 1786
Death Place:	England
Title:	Musgrave's Obituaries Prior to 1800, parts 3 & 4

The publication "Musgrave's Obituaries Prior to 1800" lists Robert Lewin's date of death as 8 September 1786, six days before his burial.

Death of Rebecca Lewin



Rebecca Lewi (nee Hawtayne), aged 83 years, was buried on 17 July 1794 at **Bunhill Fields** burial ground at Islington Borough, London.

Rebecca was brought to the burial fields from the Borough of Hackney, London.

Her husband Robert Lewin had been buried almost 8 years previously.

The Hill of Bones: the story of Bunhill Fields {Internet Extract}

Originally a stretch of open land to the north of the City of London, Bunhill Fields got its name from its use as a burial ground during the Saxon period and a macabre event that took place in the mid-sixteenth century. Cartloads of bones from the charnel house at St Paul's Cathedral were transported out of the city and dumped in such large quantities that they formed a hill of bones, with a thin layer of soil covering the mound. This "Bone Hill" was large enough to accommodate three windmills on top, which were presumably installed to make the most of the elevated ground.

*In 1665, a century or so after the Bone Hill was created, Bunhill Fields was given authorisation to be used as a plague pit. Thousands were dying of plague in London and the rural location of Bunhill Fields, only a short distance north of the city, made it an ideal location for mass burials. However, it is unclear whether the site was ever used as a plague pit. It is also unclear what became of the bones from the charnel house of St Paul's. The land passed into private hands in the 1660s and burials began in what was referred to as "Tindal's Burial Ground" after Mr Tindal, who had taken over the lease of the land. As the burial ground was not associated with an Anglican church, it became popular with **Nonconformists** – *those Christians who did not belong to the Church of England*. A separate burial ground for Quakers was also opened close to Bunhill Fields in 1661 – sadly today very little of it remains due to severe bomb damage during the Second World War.*

*Throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries Bunhill Fields became the major burial ground for **London's Nonconformists**. Robert Southey, a 19th century poet, described it as "the Campo Santo of the Dissenters" as so many influential Nonconformists and their families were laid to rest there. Isaac Watts, a celebrated hymn writer, is buried in Bunhill Fields, as is preacher and pamphleteer Richard Price, and Thomas Newcomen, a preacher and early developer of steam engines. The mother of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, is also buried in Bunhill Fields, as is a grandson of Oliver Cromwell and the grandfather of JRR Tolkien. The most prominent memorials today are of the famous literary figures of Daniel Defoe, John Bunyan and William Blake.*

Rebecca
Lewin

of London ffied in the parish of Saint John Battarney
in the County of Middlesex widow being weak in body
but of sound and disposing mind Inman and full
understanding blessed be God for the same So make
publick and declare my last will and Testament in
manner and forme ^{following} (that is to say) first I Give and
bequeath unto the Reverend Mr Robert Lewin of
Liverpool in the County of Lancashire the Principal
Sum of four hundred and fifty Pounds four per Cent
Bank Annuitie Item I will and direct that my
Executor hereafter named shall and do as soon as
conveniently may be after my Decease purchase the
Principal Sum of four hundred and fifty Pounds
four per Cent Bank Annuitie and invest the same
in the Names of the said Mr Robert Lewin Mr Joseph
Golden of London Merchant and my son Samuel Lewin
of Battarney aforesaid ffier ffactor to whom I leave
the same In Trust that they the said Robert Lewin
Mr Joseph Golden and Mr Samuel Lewin and the
Survivors or Survivor of them and the Executors and
Auditors of such Survivors do and shall from time to time
and at all times hereafter well and truly pay and
apply or cause to be paid and applied all the Interest
Dividends and profits of the said last mentioned Sum of
four hundred and fifty Pounds four per Cent Bank
Annuitie ^{from time to time} becoming due and
be received by them or either of them for and towards
the Maintenance and Education of all and every the
Child or Children of Mr Edmund Lewin of the County
of England that shall be living at the time of my
Decease until such of them as being Boys shall
respectively attain the age of twenty one years and
such of them as being Girls shall severally and respectively
attain that age or be married which shall first happen
and then upon this further Trust that the said
Reverend Mr Robert Lewin Mr Joseph Golden and
Mr Samuel Lewin and the Survivors or Survivor of
them and the Executors or Auditors of such Survivors
do and shall as early and soon of such Child or Children
shall respectively attain the said age of twenty
one years or be married as aforesaid pay and transfer
unto such of them as shall so respectively attain
that age or be married an equal proportionate
share of the said Principal Sum of four hundred and
fifty Pounds four per Cent Bank Annuitie save
and except the part or share therein of Rebecca widow
of ^{or} ^{of} ^{the} ^{County} ^{of} ^{Middlesex} ^{gentleman} (one of the Daughters of the
said Edmund Lewin whose share of the said Principal

Sum of four hundred and fifty pounds four per cent.
 Bank annuities and the Interest thereof & I hereby give
 and bequeath the said Sum and the Interest thereof to my
 son and Mr. Samuel Lewin and the Survivors or
 Survivor of them and the Executors and Admins of such
 Survivor in Trust that they shall and do pay and apply
 the share of her the said Rebecca withers in the said
 principal stock and Interest from time to time at such
 times and in such proportions as to them the said Trustees
 or the Survivors or Survivor of them or the Executors
 or Admins of such Survivor shall seem most for the
 benefit and advantage of the said Rebecca withers or
 her Children either at the Discretion of the said Trustees
 and as they shall think proper and unchained and well
 is that if at any time the said Trustees or any two of
 them shall think it necessary it shall and may be
 lawful to sell out part or all of any of the said parts
 or shares of all or either of the said Children of the
 said Edmund Lewin in the said Sum of four hundred
 and fifty pounds four per cent Bank annuities as or
 they the said Trustees or any two of them shall think
 fit before the said Children shall attain the said age of
 twenty one years or be married as aforesaid and to
 apply the same in such manner and at such times as
 the said Trustees or any two of them shall seem most
 for the Maintenance and Education of such Children
 or for the putting out either of them apprentice for their
 better advancement in the world and my will is that
 if either of the said Children should die before they shall
 attain the age of twenty one years or be married as
 aforesaid that the share of him her or them so dying
 shall be divided in equal proportions among the
 Survivors then & I give and bequeath unto Samuel
 the son of William Walter and Elizabeth (Lewin) his
 late wife deceased the Sum of one hundred pounds
 to him when and if he shall attain the age of
 twenty one years but not otherwise then & I give
 and bequeath to Sarah Lewin the Sum of twenty
 pounds and no more she having been provided for by
 her father's will all the Rest Residue and Remainder
 of my Estate and Effects whatsoever and wheresoever
 and of what nature or kind soever not hereinbefore
 disposed of I give and bequeath unto my son or
 Samuel Lewin and I hereby appoint my said son or
 Samuel Lewin Residuary Legatee and sole Executor of
 this my will hereby revoking all former and other
 wills by me at any time heretofore made do declare this
 and this only to be my last will and Testament in
 witness whereof I the said Rebecca Lewin have
 hereunto set my hand Seal the third Day of December
 in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred

Will of Rebecca Lewin - Page 3

and ninety one / Rob^t Lewin Esq^r signed sealed published
and declared by the said Testatrix Rebecca Lewin as
and for her last will and Testament in the presence of
no who in her presence and in the presence of each other
have subscribed our names as witnesses an Intestament
being first made between the sixteenth and seventeenth
lines from the bottom beginning with the word "of" and ending
with the word Lewin / Attest: James P. Parker...

This Will was proved at London the eight^h a
day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven
hundred and ninety four before the worshipful John Pitt
Doctor of Laws and Surrogate of the Right Honourable
Sir William Wynne Knight also Doctor of Laws Master
Deputy or Commisary of the prerogative Court of Canterbury
lawfully constituted by the oath Samuel Lewin the son
of the deceased and the sole Executor named in the
said will to whom administration of all and singular
the goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased was
granted having been first sworn duly to administer.

This is just a brief outline of the Family of Robert Lewin and 1. Sarah Pitt 2. Sarah Kirke 3. Elizabeth Allcock 4. Rebecca Hawtayne and will be hopefully expanded in the future by other researchers!

This story is purely my interpretation of the chain of events that may have taken place in the life of Robert Lewin Snr and his family.

There is certainly *no guarantee of the accuracy of my information*, as there are many gaps in the source materials that is currently available!