



*John Simons' bankruptcy*

John married twice: first to Elizabeth Mary (surname unknown, but born on 8th October 1790) in 1811; she died in 1811 or 1812 (the memorial inscription from St Paul's Cray and the family tree differ on this). The second marriage could be the one in the Chesham register of John Simons, widower, to Elizabeth Sharp on 23rd September 1813. The family tree refers to Fanny, surname unknown but born in 1792. John died on 21st May 1871 aged 81. John and Fanny had four children: firstly John Simons (the family tree isn't entirely clear and John could have been born to Elizabeth Mary). Secondly, they had Fanny Simons who, according to the family tree, married M Edwards of Glantowy. Neither Fanny's fate nor Mr Edwards have been located with any certainty yet, although newspaper evidence suggests that Mr Edwards was in fact one David Edwards and he came from Northampton, not Glantowy (indeed I haven't found out where Glantowy is – there are many Glantowy place-names scattered through Wales), and he was a Naval officer: the wedding was at St Pancras in 1842. Third to be born was Mary Ann Simons. The family tree sets her death in January 1825 aged 3 years, so she was born in 1821 or 1822. This still leaves a wide margin of error for the dates of birth of her elder siblings. Mary Ann was presumably named for her grandmother Mary Ann Sturges. Fourthly, Daniel Simons born in 1817 and died in 1818 aged 8 months. St Paul's Cray memorial inscriptions fix both Daniel and his sister Mary Ann. There is more on this line of descent on page 281.

Samuel Simons was christened at St Paul's Cray on 15th September 1792. He was married; it's unclear exactly what was wrong but his father's Will leaves him no share in the family business in Yorkshire, but does leave an income of £100 per year, although the income was pretty circumscribed: the implication is that neither Samuel nor his wife were to be trusted with money. His wife is mentioned but not named. I found the marriage – with some help - he married Ann Jackett by banns at St Giles in the Fields on 12th September 1825. Samuel's father John did not officiate – he did for Samuel's siblings, so there is another suspicion somewhere! Ann was stated to be a spinster and Samuel a bachelor, and both “of this parish.”

I next found them in the 1851 census in Horsecroft Road, Croydon, where the neighbours were definitely working-class: labourers, masons, a mangler and the like. They had no children with them and no servants; he's recorded as an annuitant. My deduction here is that there were no children to this marriage: Samuel's father took care to deal with his grandchildren in his Will, and there is no mention of any children of Samuel.