

PURPOSE OF THE NOTE

At this stage of the project the aim of this Note is to establish an accurate and agreed record of our family as we now know it down to the level of my generation, that is the great grandchildren of William and Agnes. Already there are three more generations to be considered at a later date. It is most important that they should have such a record at their disposal when they come, as I hope they will, to continue recording the history of the Coates and allied families.

With this in mind and to facilitate ease of reference I have divided the paper into three parts - Part I is about William and Agnes and their children - Part II is concerned with their grandchildren and Part III the great grandchildren.

WILLIAM COATES and AGNES DICKSON

WILLIAM COATES was born at Bury most probably in 1824. The 1851 Census Return for Bury shews that he was then living at 47 Frederick Street, the Head of a small household shared with his sister Sarah aged 22 described as a Housekeeper and a brother Thomas aged 21, occupation not stated. William gave his age as 26 and his trade as a Clogger.

On 7th March 1854 he married Agnes Dickson at Wortley Chapel, Leeds, Yorkshire. The wedding certificate gives his age as 28, the name of his father as Thomas, his address at that time, as Bolton Street, Bury.

AGNES DICKSON was born in Scotland, probably in 1828, the daughter of John Dickson. At the time of her marriage she was aged 24 and living at White Hall Street, New Wortley, Leeds. John Dickson was described as a Modeller. It has been suggested to me that he was a Freeman of the City of Edinburgh and of the House of Argyle. Dr. Walter H. Makey, City Archivist of Edinburgh has confirmed that "John Dickson definitely did not receive the freedom of the City of Edinburgh at any time". He goes on to say in his letter that "he may have been John Dickson, Mason who became an ordinary burgess of Edinburgh on the 11th May 1797; he became a burgess by right of his wife Mary, daughter of James Crichton, another Mason". Dr. Makey thinks all this is unlikely but that it suggests a possible line for future research. It is known, however, that John Dickson worked on the interior of Sir Walter Scott's home at Abbotsford on the River Tweed in Scotland. This is a point which can be investigated at some future date. John Dickson was present at his daughter's wedding as was William's sister Sarah and one Grace Hartley. These three were the witnesses on the wedding certificate.

William and Agnes were married according to the "Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church". I mention this because I have a feeling that William was a Unitarian. His son Arthur, my grandfather, was at one time. It is not a matter of great import although Unitarianism as a system of theology is not without

interest.

Some time after their marriage William and Agnes moved to 65 Georgiana Street, Bury which remained their home for over fifty years, probably until their deaths. I have read the Census Returns for 1861, 1871 and 1881, the latter being the latest available as the Returns are not released for public inspection for 100 years. The Returns record eight children of the marriage: Elizabeth 1855, Alfred 1856, Arthur 1858, Mary 1861, Alice 1863, Thomas 1867, Robert 1869 and Louisa 1871. It is possible there were others who lived briefly between the Census dates. My American and Australian sources are under the impression that there was a son William but I have found no positive trace to date. Louisa does not appear in the 1881 Census and must be presumed to have died in infancy.

About 1883 Agnes visited relatives in Janesville, Wisconsin. She was accompanied by her son Thomas, then sixteen years old. They returned to England but Thomas went back first to Wisconsin before going to Oregon where he lived for the rest of his life. The inference here is that the relatives in Janesville were Agnes'. This connection could possibly be followed up at a later date.

I have yet to establish what happened to William and Agnes in their later years. Agnes died in 1908, aged 80. William in 1910, aged 85.

ELIZABETH COATES

ELIZABETH COATES was born at Bury in 1855, the eldest child of William and Agnes. She was a school teacher by profession. She never married. I am fairly certain that she lived with her sister Alice in her later years. Mary Cook has in her collection a photograph of two unidentified ladies who are almost certainly Elizabeth and her sister Alice. Elizabeth looked after her parents in their declining years. Elizabeth herself died in 1935, aged 79 years.

ALFRED DICKSON COATES and MARY ANNE SHARPE

ALFRED DICKSON COATES was born at Bury in 1856, the second child and eldest son. No details of his education have emerged which statement is equally true of his brothers and sisters with the exception of Thomas, so that I will not repeat the point. In all probability he and his brother Arthur served apprenticeships as Clog Makers in their father's business. In the 1871 Census Return Alfred, then aged fourteen, is described as a Clogger. He used the same trade description on his marriage certificate in 1884 when he would have been twenty seven years old. His trade has also been described as an architect-builder. He emigrated to Australia taking with him a full set of woodworking tools which were used later by his son William Stanley when he was an apprentice carpenter and were taken by him to San Francisco in 1906. Some are still in use to this very day. I digress. Stanley Coates records that he arrived in Geelong at the age of twenty-one which would have been 1877. It is not known what prompted