

## MY “STRANGE” DIRECT LINE ANCESTRY

By R W H (Rob) Strange

### 1 Pre-1700 references

Since I started my interest in genealogy, sometime in 1976 (this was the year that my father died and my first child, a son Peter, had been born ten months previously) I have managed to track down about one hundred individual references to the surname STRANGE (or, in early references, LeStrange), using a variety of sources such as Leicestershire Record Office manuscripts, Wills, parish records, the IGI (Mormon church computerised database) and, more recently in 2006, references to the name STRANGE in Leicestershire, on Disk 1 of the Leicestershire Project.

The very earliest reference dates back to 1154 when the LeStranges of Shropshire/Norfolk held the manor of Shangton in southeast Leicestershire. The remaining references to the surname during the next 450 years are clustered around the eastern half of Leicestershire, ranging from Loughborough and villages in the north down through Queniborough, Somerby, Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Hoby, Rearsby, Knossington and then down towards Medbourne and Great Bowden. The latest references, in the latter half of the seventeenth century, appear to be in Goadby, Lowesby, Burrough-on-the-Hill, Tugby, Lyddington and Great Bowden.

The popular theory is that the Stranges of Leicestershire are, in the main, descended from the LeStranges who came over to England around the time of the Norman Conquest and were awarded manors in Hunstanton, Norfolk and in northern Shropshire. However, it is virtually impossible to prove this connection and it is equally likely that Stranges referenced in Leicestershire may have come from other counties in England or have adopted the surname as a “characteristic” description or merely to denote a “newcomer” to an early village or settlement.

### 2 The direct line – 1700s, Leicester and Nottingham

Our “oldest” direct line ancestor is **FRANCIS STRANGE** and he first appears in the parish records for St Margaret’s church, Leicester, in 1704 when he married Dorothy Johnson. It is likely that Dorothy Johnson was baptised in St Mary’s church, Leicester, in 1679. In September 1705 Francis and Dorothy had a son, another Francis (“son of Francis Strange”) and young Francis was baptised at St Margaret’s church, where his parents had married eleven months earlier. However, tragedy struck in March 1707 as the parish records for St Margaret’s have a burial entry for “[blank] of Francis Strange, labourer”. This could be the early death of either Dorothy, his wife, or of Francis, their first son. The next entries are in June 1708, again at St Margaret’s church, when an entry shows the

baptism of “Mary Strange, daughter of Francis Strange”, but an entry in the same month (June 1708) in the burial register at St Margaret’s reveals “Hannah, wife of Francis Strange” buried. Unless the vicar entered the wrong name (i.e. Hannah instead of Dorothy) it would seem that the March 1707 burial probably referred to Francis’ first wife, Dorothy, and that he may have re-married very quickly, to Hannah [?], when tragedy struck again with the death of Hannah during childbirth.

Francis wasted no time, though, in re-marrying again as the marriage registers for St Margaret’s show a marriage, in January 1709, between “Francis Strange and Anne Porter”! Later that year, in December 1709, Francis’ daughter, Mary, died and was buried – again at St Margaret’s. In August 1710 there is a baptism for **JOHN STRANGE**, “son of Francis Strange”, again at St Margaret’s church, and this next son of Francis and Anne is our direct ancestor. By 1712, it seems that Francis and Anne had moved within the Town of Leicester and now resided within the parish of St Martins (now the cathedral church) as another son, Thomas Strange, was baptized in April 1712 but died, and was buried, in July 1712. Francis and Anne continued to have children (Joseph, who married Bridget Shaw in 1736, Anne, who married Thomas Glanister – in Loughborough – in 1739, Mary, James, who died aged three weeks, and finally Jonathan, born in 1723 but died in 1724). There are no further records relating to Francis Strange, and his death and burial appears to be unrecorded. However, there is an entry in the burial registers for St Martins, Leicester, for November 1737 showing “Anne, widow of [blank] Strange, aged 58”. This appears to be Anne (nee Porter) so we can assume that Francis had died some time between 1724 (the burial of their son Jonathan) and November 1737, the burial of Anne Strange “a widow”.

We now refer back to the second son of Francis and Anne, **JOHN STRANGE** (born August 1710) and pick up his story through the available records. In September 1730, when John would have been aged 20, there is a marriage recorded in the St Margaret’s registers showing “John Strange married Ann Spences” (probably Spencer?). Although no record of the baptism exists (or not yet found) conjecture is that John and Ann, married in 1730, had a son fairly quickly, again called **JOHN STRANGE**. IN August 1741 there is an entry in the Register of Freeman and Apprentices for the Borough of Leicester showing “John Strange, son of John of Leicester, tammy weaver, apprenticed to Richard Cooke of Leicester, framework knitter, for eight years” – my assumption is that this is **JOHN STRANGE**, the son of **JOHN STRANGE** who was the son of **FRANCIS STRANGE**, although the parish record entries are elusive and so proof is difficult to find. However, on the assumption that the John Strange apprenticed in 1741 somehow moved to Nottingham we find a marriage entry, in March 1754, in the Nottingham registers for a “John Strange to Ann Smith”. Moving forward to August 1767 there is an entry in the Freeman of Leicester records showing that “John Strange, apprentice of Richard Cooke, was made a Freeman of Leicester”. It seems unusual that John (born 1730, apprenticed 1741 and married 1754)

didn't actually become a Freeman until 1767 (aged about 36) but perhaps his apparent move to Nottingham delayed his apprenticeship. The Nottingham connection seems to have been proven when, in the following year, the Poll (voting) books for the Parliamentary elections at Leicester Guildhall, showed an entry for "John Strange of Nottingham" voting, along with two other Nottingham gentlemen, one of whom was "[blank] Smith", perhaps the father or brother of Ann Smith, John's wife? In order to vote, "John Strange of Nottingham" would have needed to be a Freeman of Leicester and so conjecture about the temporary move, due to marriage, from Leicester to Nottingham, appears fairly sound. There is no record of any children being born to John and Ann (married 1754) and this may indicate that Ann died not long after the marriage.

However, the next reference to John appears in the marriage records of All Saints church, back in Leicester, in December 1773 when "John Strange was married, following banns, to Penelope Stretton, both of this parish". I spent many years trying to trace the origins of Penelope Stretton eventually to find that she was born Penelope Stone, in Nottingham, in 1742, and she married, in 1763, Samuel Stretton at St Mary's in Nottingham. It seems that Samuel died and when Penelope Stretton married John Strange they had more than likely met in Nottingham but returned to Leicester, John's birthplace, to start their married life. Further corroborative evidence is found in the fact that one of the witnesses to John and Penelope's marriage was a William Stone, perhaps a brother of Penelope, or even her father? By this time, both John and his new wife, Penelope, were aged 42 and 31, respectively, and the parish registers of All Saints, Leicester, show that they had only one child baptised - their son "**JOSEPH STRANGE** was born to John and Penelope Strange and baptised in July 1776". I have been unable to locate a burial entry for Penelope Strange but it is possible that John is referred to again, in the records of the Borough of Leicester, in 1792, when "[blank] Strange" is shown as being "£2 in arrears in rent". In October 1798, at All Saints church, there is a burial record for a John Strange and it seems likely that this relates to John Strange, born c1731, who moved to Nottingham, married, returned to Leicester to vote and then married a widow, at All Saints in Leicester, and had one son, Joseph, in 1776.

As the eighteenth century story concludes it is clear that there are several instances of surmise and conjecture and undoubtedly many missing parish records during this period. The direct line is certainly clear, though, in that "Joseph was the son of John who was the son of John" (taken from the Register of Freeman) so the main uncertainty remains whether the first John was the son of Francis and Anne Strange, born in 1710; however, the story picks up with absolute certainty with the marriage and consequent move of Joseph Strange from Leicester to Oadby.

### **3 The Stranges of Oadby – 1802 onwards**

If the reader of this family history now refers to the actual family tree document (currently, in 2006, displayed on rolled brown paper, complete with yellow “Post It” notes for the individual people!) it will be seen that Joseph Strange, born in the Town of Leicester in 1776, is the common ancestor of many Stranges in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Liverpool, Bristol, Rome and Canada – and probably far wider! However, for the purposes of this story I will restrict my comments to our direct line of ancestry. So, to re-cap, Joseph Strange was born on 22 July 1776, son of John and Penelope Strange, and was baptised at All Saints church in Leicester. The next reference to Joseph comes on 26 May 1796 when an entry in the Register of Freemen for Leicester reads, “Joseph Strange, eldest son of John, who was apprenticed to Richard Cooke, was made a Freeman”. At the age of 20, therefore, Joseph had carried out his apprenticeship and become a Freeman far quicker than his father was able to achieve! Joseph appears to have married twice as there is an entry in the All Saints, Leicester, marriage registers on 27 August 1799 for “Joseph Strange” who “married Jane Boswell, both of this parish”. Joseph next appears in the Poll Book in 1800 when it is recorded that “Joseph Strange, framework knitter, of Sanvey Gate, voted”. However, it seems that Jane died because a burial in the registers for St Martin’s church on 20 September 1802 records the death of “Jane Strange, wife of William Strange, age 27 years”. It seems that the names Joseph and William may have become confused, by the vicar or clerk, and my assumption has always been that this “William Strange” is, in fact, Joseph Strange who had earlier married Jane Boswell. Joseph wasted no time in finding a new bride, for the records of St Nicholas’ church, Leicester, record his next marriage, only five weeks later, on 1 November 1802. The registers record that “Joseph Strange married Mary Rudkin (nee Voss), both of this parish”. Interestingly, the witnesses’ signatures look like “Boswell”, thus lending credibility to the theory that Joseph and William were one and the same person. The Voss surname, and family, originates from Oadby and Great Glen and this seems to be proven in this case because Joseph and his new bride, Mary (nee Rudkin, nee Voss) moved from Leicester to the (then) small village of Oadby, some four miles south of Leicester. We know the approximate size of Oadby village in 1802 from a book written by G H Coleman of Oadby, in 1931, which states, “in 1801 Oadby had 126 houses and 129 families”.

Joseph presumably carried on his inherited trade as a framework knitter (he is recorded in the Apprenticeship Registers for 1809 as being a master to a new apprentice) and he and Mary very soon started their large family. Our direct ancestor, **JOHN STRANGE**, was the first-born, on 28 November 1804, and he was soon followed by Simeon (1806), Maria (1807), Joseph (1809), Charles (1812), Sarah (1813) and William (1816). However, the rapid growth in their family and the meagre earnings of a framework knitter ran the Strange family into financial trouble because a Removal Order, made on 25 January 1817 under the prevailing Poor Law, reads as follows: “Paupers removed – Joseph Strange,

Mary his wife and their seven children (viz) John aged 12 years, Simeon aged 11 years, Maria aged 10 years, Joseph aged 8 years, who have gained no settlements in their own right, Charles aged 5 years, Sarah aged 2 years and William aged 9 months. Parishes removing and receiving: Oadby to St Leonard's, Leicester". Under the Poor Law, if the parish of residence was unable to support such a family, the entire family was "settled" back to the parish of the father's birth/origin or of where he was apprenticed. Therefore, Joseph Strange and his family were removed from Oadby parish to the parish of St Leonard's in Leicester. However, they must have fairly swiftly moved back to Oadby because in 1818 another daughter, Millicent, was baptised but sadly was buried later the same year. Baptisms then followed for Amelia (1819), another Millicent (1820) and then, finally, Martha in 1822. Three months after the birth of Martha the burial records record the death and burial of Mary Strange, on 13 August 1822 – a hard life! Seven years later, on 1 January 1829, their eldest son John Strange married Sarah Willey in Blaby, a village about five miles to the west of Oadby, and in 1826 this John Strange is recorded in the Register of Freemen, for Leicester, as "John Strange, eldest son of Joseph Strange who was the son of John Strange". John's brothers, Joseph and William, also became Freemen and the tradition continued for a further generation with the sons of both Joseph and William. As a sequel to discovering this official status of our direct ancestors, as Freemen of Leicester, I was privileged to claim (along with my cousin John Strange) the Freedom of the City of Leicester, in 1977, as a result of proving my direct descent from Joseph, son of John, son of John, although it seems likely that the intervening three generations of male Stranges were completely unaware of this heritage.

However, our line of descent comes from John Strange, who married Sarah Willey, in Blaby, in 1829. They, as was usual in those days, had another large family although their first five sons (Joseph in 1832, Joseph again in 1833, Charles in 1835, John in 1836, and William in 1837) all died in infancy and their burials are recorded in the Oadby parish church records. In 1839 they had a daughter, Mary, who lived, was married, and was mentioned in a Will document as still being alive in 1898. In 1841 the first national Census was taken and the entry for John and Sarah's family, in Oadby, was as follows:

London Road:	John Strange	aged 36
	Sarah Strange	aged 30
	Mary Strange	aged 2

In the same Census, for Oadby, John's sister Maria, aged 30, was shown at an address on London Road and his brother Joseph (who had married Anne Brookes) was also shown on London Road with their children Charles, aged 7, and Mary aged 2. At an address called Barber's Row their younger brother William, aged 25, was living with his wife Harriet and their son John. The absence from the Oadby Census of references to any other of Joseph and Mary's children leads to speculation that they may have died, but been

unrecorded, or moved away. In 1842 John and Sarah had a daughter Anne, and she also married and was living in Oadby after 1868. In 1845 they had another Joseph (died the same year) and then a son who (at last!) lived. His name was also **JOHN STRANGE** and he was born on 23 April 1847 and was popularly known as "Jack Strange". It is this John (Jack) Strange who continued our direct line of ancestry.

So, when the 1851 Census was taken for Oadby, now including more information such as occupation and birthplace, we find John (aged 46) and Sarah (aged 42) Strange, living on Main Street with their (surviving) children Mary, aged 11, Anne, aged 8, John, aged 3, and Sarah, aged 5 months. John's occupation was described as "cattle dealer" and it seems that he had, by now, given up the framework knitting trade and had set up a grazing and cattle dealing business, still in Oadby, with his younger brother Joseph. In 1851 Joseph and Anne were also described as cattle dealers, were also living on Main Street, and had children Charles, aged 15, Thomas, aged 9, Jane, aged 7, James, aged 4 and Mary, aged 1. Their younger brother William had obviously transgressed somewhat for in this (1851) Census he was resident in Leicester prison whilst his wife, Harriet, and son John (aged 35 and 13) were living alone in Bettoney's Yard, in Oadby.

The story now moves on a further ten years to the Census taken in 1861 and we now find John and Sarah (aged 56 and 52) resident on London Road, and John was described as a "sheep and cattle dealer". Their children were Mary, aged 21 and a glove stitcher, Anne, aged 18 and a dressmaker, John, aged 13 and a scholar, and Sarah, aged 10 and also a scholar; also living with them was a lodger, aged 59, who appears to have been Sarah's sister (born in Blaby), with an occupation shown as "sheep drover". Again, in 1861, at an address in Oadby known as Clarke's Court, Anne Strange was living with her children Thomas, aged 19 and an agricultural labourer, James, aged 14 and an agricultural labourer, Mary aged 11 and a scholar and Frederick, also a scholar, aged 8, so it is apparent that John's brother, Joseph (Anne's husband) had died between the two Census dates. Further along London Road we now find younger brother William Strange and his wife Harriet (both aged 44) living and described as "cattle dealers".

In 1866, John and Sarah's only son, John (Jack) Strange, married Elizabeth Voss in Oadby church. The marriage took place on 16 July 1866 and Elizabeth was one of the daughters of George Voss, the superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School in Oadby. It seems that Jack's father John Strange (born 1804), died in January 1871 and his gravestone can still be seen to the south side of the main pathway in the cemetery (not the church yard) in Oadby. Records show that this new cemetery was only consecrated in 1873 so our ancestor, John Strange, was one of the very first residents!

By the time of the 1871 Census Sarah Strange (aged 63, a widow, and described as a “grazier of 53 acres”) was living at 1 London Road with her daughter Sarah Hawker (nee Strange), son in law Thomas Hawker (brother of the infamous “Victorian Poacher”, James Hawker, about whom a book was published) and their four-month-old daughter. Next door at 2 London Road (by now our branch of the Stranges seem to have settled in what became known in Oadby as Strange’s Row, on what is now The Parade, roughly where the Oadby library now stands) lived John (Jack) Strange, aged 24 and a “grazier’s son”, with his wife Elizabeth Strange, aged 26, and their daughters Fanny, aged 2 years, and Sarah, aged one month. Further along at 2 Clarke’s Court lived Anne Strange, a 57-year-old widow and two of her children, Mary and Frederick and at 52 London Road lived Thomas Strange, aged 32 and a bricklayer’s labourer, and his wife Eliza, aged 27 and a shopkeeper and their three small children (it is interesting that, when I was a young boy in the 1950s, both my parents told me about this shop-keeping Strange family, further down the village, and insisted that they were not connected with our family at all! My researches, of course, have shown that they were connected with our line of Stranges but this story shows how families grow apart with each new generation and, eventually, become unaware of any relationship with each other).

By the time of the 1881 Census William and Harriet Strange and their son John, now married, had moved into Leicester (Elton Street and Braunstone Gate) and they continued trading as “milk dealer” and “cattle drover” respectively. Other members of the Oadby Stranges, descendants of Joseph and Anne Strange, also moved into Leicester and from there to Liverpool, Bristol and further afield. In Oadby, the 1881 Census still showed our family as follows; at Main Street lived Sarah Strange (aged 73) the widow of John Strange (born 1804), still described as a “grazier”. Her granddaughter lived with her. Her daughter Sarah lived nearby with her husband, Thomas Hawker, and their four young children, and in Strange’s Yard lived John Strange, aged 33 and a “grazier” with his wife Elizabeth Strange, aged 36. Living with them were their children Fanny, aged 12 and a scholar, Sydney, aged 7, Charles, aged 3, and Clara, aged 9 months. All of this family were born in Oadby and Sydney Strange eventually married and emigrated, in 1910, to farm in Canada and his descendants still live there. The **CHARLES STRANGE** at Strange’s Yard, aged 3, was my grandfather (more about him later) and in the 1881 Census, living not far away, was the family of Thomas Cope, the Oadby wheelwright; his youngest daughter, Bertha Cope (then aged one), was later to marry Charles Strange and so become my grandmother.

John (Jack) Strange, despite marrying the daughter of the Methodist Sunday School superintendent, seems to have squandered most of the family wealth that had been built up through the cattle business by his parents, John and Sarah, and the following extract from the book by G H Coleman (1931) tells a little more about Jack Strange’s life:

“Mr John (Jack) Strange was a drover, well known in Oadby and district. Every Tuesday he brought a large drove of cattle or sheep, numbering several hundreds, from Kibworth and Market Harborough to Oadby. He used to put them in the two fields that are now the Ellis Recreation Ground. Every Wednesday morning, very early, he drove them to Leicester cattle market. He had a cart following the sheep to bring the cripples and tired sheep in. His helper was Billy Rodwell, a much younger man than Jack Strange [*he was only 39 when he died!*] - these men were very heavy drinkers!”

In the same book, Mr Coleman described Strange’s Row as “a pair of gates, leading to an orchard, and a garden at the back of the property adjoining the square. This property, the small house and the double fronted house and the row of small cottages standing end to the road, was owned by Mr Strange [*i.e. my great grandfather*] who occupied the house facing the road”. It seems that a combination of the hard-working life and his liking for drink lead to the death of John (Jack) Strange, in Oadby, on 5 December 1886. His widow, Elizabeth Strange (nee Voss), continued to live in the village until her death in 1925 and her grave can be found in Oadby cemetery, together with the entire Voss family. In her later years, she was described as “Grandma Strange” by my father (who was 14 when she died) and she lived at the Village Hall with the Ward family. Fortunately, before his death, John (Jack) and Elizabeth had a family, as follows: Price Lewis Strange was born in 1868, but died. Fanny Alice Strange was born in 1869, married Jack Wall in 1886 and lived until the 1950s. Sarah Strange was born in 1871 but died in 1872 and Sydney Ernest Strange was born in 1874, married Ada, and emigrated to Canada in 1910. Lewis Strange was born in 1876 but died soon after and (thankfully!) Charles George Strange was born on 21 January 1878 and lived to marry Bertha Eliza Cope on 18 May 1905 at the United Methodist Reform Church, in Oadby. My grandfather, Charles Strange, died on 26 November 1946 and my grandmother, Bertha Strange, died on 29 April 1955. John (Jack) and Elizabeth also had Clara Strange, in 1880, and she married Jack Ward and died in 1950. Their final child was Mabel Strange, born in 1855, and she married Ben Lawson and was still living in 1975, aged 94.

The “conversion” of our Strange ancestors to Methodism appears to have occurred early in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with John Strange (born 1804) who married Sarah Willey, of Blaby – perhaps she and her family were Methodists? In 1981 I was contacted by Eric Orbell, who was writing the history of Oadby Methodist Church to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the stone laying ceremony for the new building in 1931 (I have a picture of this ceremony and Charles George Strange and my father, **SYDNEY THOMAS WILLIAM (BILL) STRANGE** – then aged 20 – are both on the photograph). Anecdotally, Eric’s researches had ascertained that John Strange senior (born 1804), as a cattle dealer/grazier, was apparently easily the most affluent member of the early Methodist community in Oadby – the rest were mostly agricultural labourers or framework knitters. It seems even more of a pity, therefore, that his son John (Jack) drank away his parent’s hard-earned wealth, as a contemporary account describes Jack Strange

as having died from “sclerosis of the liver”. Anyway, back to the 1891 Oadby Census and we find Elizabeth Strange, aged 46 and a widow, living in Strange’s Yard, Oadby, with her sons Sydney, aged 17 and a shoe clicker, and Charles, aged 13 and a shoe riveter. Hosiery and shoe factories had now become established in Oadby, and many of the young village people, including Bertha Cope, were employed in one of these factories. In the same 1891 Census John (Jack) Strange’s mother, Sarah Strange, was still alive and shown, aged 80, living on Main Road as a “widow living on own means”. She must have been very saddened and disappointed that her only son, Jack, had died so young.

Charles, described as a shoe riveter in 1891, appears in the 1901 Census still working as a shoe clicker and Bertha Cope was still living with her family, nearby, and was employed as a hosiery seamer, no doubt at the same factory. On 18 May 1905 Charles Strange and Bertha Cope were married and they had two sons; Douglas Ralph (Ralph) Strange was born in 1907 and his younger brother Sydney Thomas William (Bill) Strange was born in 1911. Ralph left Oadby and went to Sheffield, eventually becoming a successful stockbroker and marrying Evelyn Winifred Boone, from Bradford. They had four children and they and their descendants still live (2006) in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, London and other parts of the UK. Charles George Strange was apparently, according to my mother’s recollections as a young girl in Oadby village, generally known as Charlie Strange or “Shadow Strange”, as a nickname; this was apparently because he was extremely thin and gaunt and he was often to be seen around the village on an old bicycle! In 1981 I met and interviewed Norah Robinson, the daughter of Clara Strange and Jack Ward; she was interested to hear that I still had the Strange Family Bible, complete with Elizabeth Strange’s carefully written entries, and she spoke very highly of my father, Bill Strange, and also knew something of the early death of Jack Strange in 1886. She confirmed that “Charlie” Strange was latterly a “sick and weak man” who suffered badly from asthma and bronchitis, as borne out be the cause of death on his death certificate, in 1946.

My father Sydney Thomas William (Bill) Strange became an accountant and remained a bachelor, living in Oadby and working in Leicester, until 1951. He married my mother Ethel Hill (nee Hardy) and I, **ROBERT WILLIAM HARDY (ROB) STRANGE**, was born on 6 November 1951 at Thurmaston, near Leicester, completing a new and happy family unit together with my half sisters, Christine and Rosemary. I became a Chartered Banker and Chartered Director and am currently Chief Executive of a membership organisation based in Leicestershire. I married Maureen Joyce Geary, on 22 April 1972, at Trinity Methodist Church, Leicester and our son, **PETER RICHARD JOHN STRANGE**, was born in Leicester on 15 March 1975. Our daughter, Victoria Penelope Strange, was born at Kirby Muxloe, Leicester, on 26 April 1978 (no prizes for guessing that “Penelope” came from the family tree!). Both Peter and Victoria attended university, graduated, and have now married. Victoria married Nathan Holliday, a fellow Chartered Accountant, in Great Bowden church in August 2004

and they live in Harborne, near Birmingham; Peter (an Events Producer) married Emma Jones (a Clinical Research Manager)), in Positano, Italy, in June 2005 and they currently live in West London.

#### **4 In conclusion**

As I said at the start of this short Strange family history, I did most of my research work between 1976 and 1981 but I have retained a keen interest in genealogy since that time and have been able to add new information to the Strange family tree, particularly with the onset of computers and the World Wide Web. I have written this short history, in March 2006, partly for my own satisfaction and pleasure but also so that those generations that follow me may know something about their paternal ancestry and will understand, hopefully, the many folders of notes and the paper-based family tree that I have produced over the last thirty years.

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