

Poulton Clarkson Roadblock

by James Michael Fleming

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Introduction

This is a summary of my research into the Poulton and Clarkson families of Lancashire. I started this project as a search for the origins of John Poulton and his wife Elizabeth Clarkson, who arrived in Sydney NSW aboard the SS *Fitzjames* in 1860. Having succeeded in that aim, I then extended the research to earlier generations of their families.

Family historians often find information about a person's origins from their death certificate (which usually details their parents' names). In the case of John Poulton, his Death Certificate is no help because the informant (who was just an orderly in the hospital where he died) did not know his parent's names. Worse still, I have not even been able to find a death certificate for his wife Elizabeth Clarkson (who left the family many years before her husband died). This situation is known by family historians as "a roadblock", where the normal research techniques have not provided the information required to go back into earlier history.

Nevertheless, there are research approaches that can sometimes find a way around a roadblock like this. In this case, I succeeded by focusing on a fellow-traveler.



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Researching: Bowen, Flowerdew, Gardner, Gordon, Grady, Hanrahan, Jolliffe, Kemp, Kessey, Murphy, Poulton, Press and so many more!

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John Poulton and Elizabeth Clarkson

The main aim of this research project was to find the origins of both John Poulton and his wife Elizabeth Clarkson. The first task was to compile everything that I knew about them, to look for clues and leads.

Known facts about our couple

I knew that John Poulton and Elizabeth Clarkson were the parents of my GG-grandmother (Alice Clarkson Bowen nee Poulton) because that information is provided on Alice's Death Certificate.

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
1927 27 th November Wilson Street Bourke Municipality	Alice Clarkson Bowen	Female 67 years	(1) Intestinal Obstruction (2) Chronic Appendicitis with 2. sufficing (3) 11 years (4) Dr. H. Guiney (5) 26 th of November 1927	John Poulton Labourer Elizabeth Clarkson	Sam Williams Daughter Don-lee Wanganunga Street Bourke

Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) 11/11/1927 (2) 27 th November 1927 (3) Bourke	(1) 7 th November 1927 (2) Roman Catholic Cemetery Bourke (3) J. Sharp	(1) G. O'Connor (2) Roman Catholic (3) J. Sharp J. N. Rose	Sydney 10 years	(1) Coonamble 4 years (2) 18 years (3) John Henry Bowen	years. James D. 43 Elizabeth A. 40 Sam H. 38 John H. 36 Alice H. 30 Cornelia H. 28 William 26 Three males aged two females deceased

NSW Death Certificate 1927/022759 for Alice Clarkson Bowen, my GG-grandmother

This certificate reveals that Alice married John Henry Bowen at Coonamble in 1878 (NSW Marriage Certificate 1878/2830). The DC implies a birth year about 1860 – and NSW Birth Certificate 1860/3058 applies. This confirms the names of her parents and supplies the additional information that her parents were married on 1 March 1854 in Lancashire, England and that they had two previous children, both of whom had died.

Alice's BC also tells us that both parents were from Lancashire, with John Poulton aged 30 (born about 1830) and Elizabeth Clarkson aged 26 (born about 1834).

BIRTH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.						
No.	Date and place of birth of child	Name and whether present or not	Sex	Father's name, occupation, age and birthplace	Date and place of marriage-previous issue	Mother's name and maiden surname, age and birthplace
3058	March 23 rd 1860	Alice		(1) John Poulton (2) Labour (3) 30 Years (4) Lancashire England	(1) Nov 1 st 1854 Lancashire England (2) 20 Years Lancashire England	(1) Elizabeth Clarkson (2) 20 Years (3) Lancashire England
	Katany Road	Present				

NSW Birth Certificate 1860/3058 for Alice Clarkson Poulton, my GG-grandmother

John Poulton's Death Certificate (1887/11006) gives his age as 57, confirming a birth year of 1830. It confirms that his daughter Alice had married John Bowen and lived in Bourke NSW. The only additional information it provides is that John Poulton was born in Preston, Lancashire; but his parents' names were unknown, as was the date of his arrival in NSW.

The task of finding Elizabeth Clarkson's death certificate is complicated by the fact that she left her husband – probably in about 1870. She probably used an alias to make it difficult for John Poulton to track her down (as he had already done once, in 1869). Did she later use Poulton, Clarkson or an alias? Did she ever marry again?

Between 1870 and 1919 there were no Elizabeth Clarkson deaths recorded in NSW, but there were two Elizabeth Poulton deaths recorded, one at Redfern in 1883 and one at Chatswood in 1918 (father: Robert, mother: Christina). I have established that the 1883 one relates to an Elizabeth Poulton from Essex who travelled to Australia aboard the *Mary Ann* in 1857 along with her husband James. The Chatswood one is probably not our Elizabeth because (as will be revealed below), her mother's name was Alice, not Christina. It is likely that, after leaving John Poulton, Elizabeth left NSW. Finding her death certificate is impossible without more information about her subsequent life.

The best bet for finding evidence of the names of Elizabeth Clarkson's parents is her marriage certificate. As we saw above, she married John Poulton in 1854 at Preston, Lancashire. I ordered the certificate 6 weeks ago but it has not yet arrived. So, while waiting, I tried to track her down another way.

A search of the indexes provided by the NSW State Archives & Records locates two records associated with the immigration of the Poulton family:

- Passenger List of the SS *Fitzjames* for their arrival in 1860; and
- Immigration Deposit Journal entry relating to sponsorship of their emigration fares.

The *Fitzjames* Passenger List confirms their birth years and origin in Lancashire. The only additional information it provides is that their 2-year-old son John died on the voyage.

The Immigration Deposit Journal, however, adds some vital clues.

No.	Name of Depositor.	Date of Deposit.	Christian Name and Surname at full length.	Age.	Whether Husband or Wife resident in the Colony.	Trade or Calling.	Where living, in Great Britain or Ireland.
1452	Isabella Tattersall	June 11	John Ashworth	31		Labourer	Banley Lancashire
			Hannah	31		Wife	England.
			Arthur	1		Child	
1453			John Poulton	28		Labourer	ditto
			Elizabeth	24		Wife	
			John	1		Child	

1859 Immigration Deposit Journal entry for the Poulton and Ashworth families

This document reveals that Isabella Tattersall paid a total of 21 guineas on 11 June 1859 so that the families of John Poulton and John Ashworth could emigrate to NSW. I soon established that the Ashworth family (John, Hannah and Arthur) had arrived in NSW aboard the same voyage of the *Fitzjames* as the Poulton family.

Who were Isabella Tattersall and the Ashworths? Could the answers throw any light on the origin of the Poulton family? In short, yes!

Isabella and James Tattersall

I wondered whether Isabella Tattersall was a sister of either John Poulton or Elizabeth Clarkson. I decided to research her first, because both her names are uncommon, reducing the risk of false matches.

I started by searching for her on Trove. Very quickly I found a woman of that name whose husband was James Tattersall. She died at Ballimore (near Dubbo NSW) in September 1904 aged 76. Her obituary said that she had emigrated from Lancashire, like the Poulton family.

Trove revealed that James and Isabella Tattersall were among passengers arriving in Sydney aboard the *Mary Ann* in 1857 (*Per Mary Ann*, Sydney Morning Herald, 10 Oct 1857). He was a farm labourer from Lancashire¹.

Trove also revealed an advertisement that James Tattersall placed in the Sydney Morning Herald of 19 March 1869 where he signed himself as "Head of No. 5 Contract, Great Western Railway Line". This attracted my interest because family oral history, passed down from Alice Clarkson Bowen nee Poulton through her grand-daughter Ena Ruby Murphy (my grandmother), is that John Poulton had worked on the building of the Zig Zag railway line. Could it be that James Tattersall (through his wife) had sponsored the families of John Poulton and John Ashworth to emigrate from Lancashire in order to work for James Tattersall as a labourers in railway construction work?

Sure enough, the No 5 contract for the Great Western Railway Line did cover the building of the Lithgow Zig Zag between 1866 and 1869. But this is seven years after Isabella Tattersall put up the 21 guineas for their emigration. Had John Poulton previously worked on the construction of other parts of the railway?

¹ Also, aboard the same ship was James Poulton (a labourer from Essex), his wife Elizabeth and six children. This attracted my interest, but ultimately turned out to be a red herring. This is the Elizabeth Poulton who died at Redfern in 1883 (mentioned above).

I searched Trove for any record of John Poulton. I found several advertisements that he had placed between 1866 and 1868 relating to the impounding of animals that had strayed onto his land at Penrith. I also found a lengthy article that reports the trial of Samuel Oliver in 1870. Oliver was charged with larceny by the police on the basis of a complaint by John Poulton. There is no doubt that it is our John Poulton involved, because the article refers to his wife Elizabeth (who also gave evidence) and their unnamed 10-year-old daughter (i.e. Alice).

It is clear, therefore, that the Poulton family was well-established at Penrith by 1866. In fact, it is likely that they had moved to Penrith around 1863 when construction of the railway line westward from Penrith was commenced. It is highly likely that the zig zag railway that John Poulton worked on was, in fact, the Lapstone Zig Zag (built 1863 – 1865) rather than the later Lithgow Zig Zag (1866 – 1869)². Perhaps he worked on both.

Further research in Trove revealed that James Tattersall and John Poulton held timber licenses in the same place (Paterson 1870 – 1871). In 1879 John Poulton applied to buy land at Coonamble under the Conditional Purchase scheme and in 1883 he held a timber license at Coonamble. It is possible that these timber licenses related to the supply of sleepers for railway construction.

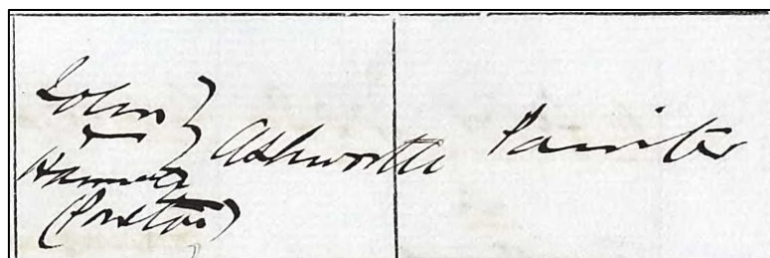
I searched Lancashire records to find an Isabella Poulton with a brother named John born in 1830. In vain. Similarly, I searched for an Isabella Clarkson with a sister named Elizabeth born in 1834; and for an Isabella Ashworth with a brother named John. Nothing. So, while there is clearly a connection between the Tattersall family and the Poulton and Ashworth families, I had not yet been able to establish what it was.

For the time being, I paused my Tattersall research and turned my attention to the Ashworth family. It was clear that John Ashworth was not a sibling of either John Poulton, Isabella Clarkson, James Tattersall or Isabella Tattersall. Perhaps his wife Hannah was a sister of either John Poulton or Elizabeth Clarkson.

The fellow-traveler: Hannah Ashworth

I started by looking for NSW birth death and marriage records that relate to John and Hannah Ashworth and their family. Their son Arthur (born 1858) had accompanied them on the voyage to Australia aboard the *Fitzjames*. Two more sons were born at Chippendale NSW: John in 1860 and Albert in 1862.

The big breakthrough came when I had a look at the certificate for their son Albert's 1888 marriage to Frances Jane Dickens Moon. This described his father John Ashworth as a painter – the significance of this clue became apparent in later research. More importantly, the certificate provided Hannah Ashworth's maiden name: Poulton!



Extract from the 1888 marriage certificate of Arthur Ashworth which gives Hannah Ashworth's maiden name as Poulton – just legible even though the handwriting is extremely poor

² The Lapstone Zig Zag proved to be dangerous in wet weather and was later abandoned when a safer route was built. Part of the trackway is now used for the Great Western Highway ascent of Lapstone Hill. The Lithgow Zig Zag was reliable but slow and was also eventually abandoned. Nevertheless, the tracks are still in place and have become a popular tourist attraction.

Furthermore, Hannah Ashworth's 1892 Death Certificate gives her parents' names as John P and Elizabeth G. As we will see later, her parents were John Poulton and Elizabeth Green.

I next searched the Lancashire marriage records and located the marriage certificate for John Ashworth and Hannah Poulton.

CAUTION: There are offences relating to falsifying or altering a certificate and using or possessing a false certificate. © Crown copyright

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE Pursuant to the Marriage Act 1949

AC 462659
M. Cert. S.R./R.B.D.

Registration District Burnley

1850. Marriage solemnized at the Catholic Church in the District of Burnley in the County of Lancaster

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
155	Thirtieth November 1850	John Ashworth	23 years	Bachelor	Painter	Cath. Mount Habergham Eaves	John Ashworth	Harper
		Hannah Poulton	23 years	Spinster	Quack's servant	Goodham Hill in Burnley	John Poulton	Joiner

Married in the Catholic Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholics by me, James Broadman

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Ashworth in the Presence of us, Henry Woodley Thomas Woodley Robert Wilson Registrar

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody. Bill Bolton Deputy Superintendent Registrar 03.04.2020 Date

1850 Marriage Certificate for John Ashworth and Hannah Poulton at Burnley, Lancashire.

This marriage certificate confirms that Hannah Poulton's father's name was John, but unfortunately it fails to name her mother. I then located John and Hannah Ashworth on the 1851 census. They were living at Habergham Eaves (Lancashire) in a household headed by Thomas Lonsdale (a joiner) and his wife Maria. John Ashworth is described as a married 23-year-old painter who is a brother-in-law to Thomas Lonsdale. John had been born in Habergham Eaves. Hannah is described as his wife aged 23, originally born at Broughton, Lancashire. John and Hannah have a one-month-old daughter, Mary A Ashworth.

51	33 Blackburn Road	Thomas Lonsdale	Head	26	Joiner	D ^o . Haslemere
		Maria D ^o .	Wife	27		D ^o . Habergham Eaves
		Eliza J. D ^o .	Servant	27		D ^o . D ^o
		John Ashworth	Painter	23	Painter	D ^o . Broughton
		Hannah D ^o .	Wife	23		D ^o . Habergham Eaves
		Mary A. D ^o .	D ^o -daughter	1		

John and Hannah Ashworth at Habergham Eaves, 1851 census.

I soon established that James and Isabella Tattersall were also living at Habergham Eaves when the 1851 census was taken. She was a 23-year-old cotton spinner from Slapton, Lancashire. He was a 22-year-old railway labourer who had been born at Goldshaw, Lancashire. This occupation no doubt gave him the experience required to later move up to his known occupation in NSW as manager of major railway construction contracts.

While the Ashworth and Tattersall families were both living in Habergham Eaves in 1851, I had not yet established a connection between them. I was able to do so when I located the Tattersall's marriage certificate.

They were married at Habergham Eaves on 18 November 1850. The certificate clearly shows that Isabella's father William Watson was a painter, just like John Ashworth. Since there is no other apparent connection between the Tattersalls and the Poultons, I have concluded that the connection must be that Hannah Poulton's husband John Ashworth worked with William Watson (Isabella Tattersall's father) in the painting trade in Habergham Eaves. Ashworth may even have been Watson's apprentice at some stage.

1850. Marriage solemnized at *Trinity Church* in the *Parish* of *Habergham Eaves* in the County of *Lancaster*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
197	<i>December 11th.</i>	<i>James Tattersall</i>	<i>22.</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>James Tattersall</i> <i>Habergham Eaves</i>	<i>Mark Tattersall</i>	<i>Labourer</i>
		<i>Isabella Watson</i>	<i>22.</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Spinner</i>	<i>Church Street</i> <i>Habergham Eaves</i>	<i>William Watson</i> <i>Deceased</i>	<i>Carton</i>

Married in the *Above Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after *James* by me, *Holland Thomas Curate*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *James Tattersall* in the Presence of us, *Edmund Watson* *Minister* *Isabella Watson* *Minister*

1850 Marriage Certificate for James Tattersall and Isabella Watson at Habergham Eaves.

The Poulton family

The newspaper article that outlines the larceny trial brought by John Poulton against Samuel Oliver in 1870 (mentioned above) provides another clue about the Poulton family. John Poulton gave evidence in that trial that his family stayed overnight on 16 December 1869 at “his sister’s place in Redfern”. We now know that Hannah Ashworth lived at Chippendale at that time; and that her maiden name was Poulton. (The boundary between Chippendale and the adjacent suburb of Redfern has always been unclear.) Could Hannah Ashworth nee Poulton be the sister that John Poulton stayed with that night? It seems likely, since the two families both had their emigration sponsored by Isabella Tattersall; and both came out on the *Fitzjames*.

The next step was to find some record of Hannah Poulton’s family before her marriage in 1850 in order to prove that John Poulton was her brother.

A search of the Lancashire census of 1841 for a Hannah Poulton (who would have been 13 years old) throws up just two possibilities. One is 14-year-old Ann Poulton, a daughter of 45-year-old Henry Poulton (a labourer in Liverpool, Lancashire). But we know (from her Death Certificate mentioned above) that our Hannah’s parents’ names were John and Elizabeth; and that she was born at Broughton (Preston), not Liverpool. Therefore, the other record is the only one that fits the known facts about Hannah.

<i>Fulwood</i>		<i>Mary Hellington</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>7</i>
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Elizabeth Poulton</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Cotton Weaver</i>	<i>7</i>
		<i>Ann do</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>do do</i>	<i>2</i>
		<i>Thomas do</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>2</i>
		<i>Elizabeth do</i>	<i>15</i>		<i>2</i>
		<i>Hannah do</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>2</i>
		<i>John do</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>2</i>
		<i>William do</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>2</i>
		<i>James Hellington</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Cotton Weaver</i>	<i>2</i>
		<i>Percy do</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>2</i>

1841 census record for Hannah Poulton in the household of her mother (Elizabeth Poulton) at Fulwood Row (near Preston), Lancashire.

This record fits with Hannah's known age; her mother's name (Elizabeth); her known birthplace (4 miles from Broughton, Preston); and her brother John (whose age infers a birth in 1830, as we would expect). The census record lists Elizabeth Poulton 50, her children Ann 20, Thomas 15, Elizabeth 15, Hannah 13, John 11 and William 8. Also in the household were Dorothy Molineux (nee Poulton) 20 and her husband James Molineux 15³.

Unfortunately, Hannah's father is not listed on the 1841 census. He must have died earlier, probably soon after the birth of the youngest child (William 1833) but I could not find a record of his burial. There are no earlier censuses that could confirm that the father of this family was named John.

So, I turned to Lancashire baptism records. If I could find baptism records for the children listed on this 1841 census record, I could check whether their father was indeed John Poulton.

Last name	First name(s)	Year Of Birth	Year Of Death	Year	Record set	Location
Poulton	Margarita	1808	—	1808	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Joannes	1810	—	1810	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Elizbta. Or Elizh.	1811	—	1811	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Helena	1814	—	1814	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Maria	1816	—	1816	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Dorothy	1821	—	1821	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Thomas	1823	—	1823	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Isabella	1825	—	1825	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Hanna	1827	—	1827	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England
Poulton	Joannes	1830	—	1830	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	Ferryhalgh, Lancashire, England

Baptism indexes showing 10 of the 12 children of John Poulton and Elizabeth Green. They were baptised in the Catholic church at Ferryhalgh.

Sure enough, I found baptism records for Anne 1818, Dorothy 1821 (Molineux nee Poulton), Thomas 1823, Hannah 1827 and John 1830 on England baptism indexes hosted by FindMyPast. All were baptised at Ferryhalgh (which is not far from Fulwood Row – see map on page 15). The parents for each baptism were John Poulton and Elizabeth Green.

These parents also had seven other children. Margaret 1808, John 1810, Elizabeth 1811, Helen 1814 and Mary 1816 may have all been living away from home by the time this census was taken in 1841 (because of work or marriage). Or some may have died. Their absence from this census record is therefore unremarkable. The other missing daughter is Isabella who was baptised at Ferryhalgh in 1825. She would have been 15 or 16 when the census was taken. Could she be the Elizabeth (15) who was recorded? If the older Elizabeth had died, it is quite possible that Isabella was called Elizabeth by her family despite her baptism name.


I could not find a baptism record for William Poulton around 1833.

³ Note that the ages of adults listed on the 1841 census were often rounded up or down to the nearest 5. So, the ages of Elizabeth, Ann, Thomas, Elizabeth, Dorothy and James are all mere approximations – give or take 2 or 3 years. It is highly unlikely that James Molineux was just 15 years old. It is more likely that he was 17 and his wife was 18, for example.

John Poulton and Elizabeth Green had been married at nearby Broughton in 1807.

her & Mark,
 Banns of Marriage between John Poulton Weaver & Elizabeth
 Green Spinster both of the Township of Haighton were published
 Oct. 11. 18. & 25. in the Year 1807 & were married by this Chapel
 by Banns this Twenty-sixth Day of Oct^r 1807 by me
 G. Charnley Minister
 This Marriage was solemnized } John Poulton
 between us. } his & Mark,
 In Presence of } John Pegley Elizabeth Green
 Tho: Adair } her & Mark,
 Tho: Adair

1807 parish record of the marriage between John Poulton and Elizabeth Green (both of Haighton, near Fernyhalgh).

 Record Transcription: England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	
First name(s)	Joannes
Last name	Poulton
Gender	Male
Birth year	1830
Birth place	-
Baptism year	1830
Baptism date	26 Mar 1830
Place	Fernyhalgh
County	Lancashire
Country	England
Father's first name(s)	Joannis
Father's last name	Poulton
Mother's first name(s)	Elizabethae
Mother's last name	Green
Record set	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
Collections from	England, Great Britain

Baptism index record for John Poulton (in Latin), baptised 26 Mar 1830 in the Catholic church at Fernyhalgh.

This collection of evidence has allowed me to conclude that John Poulton (who married Elizabeth Clarkson in 1854) was indeed a brother to Hannah Poulton (who married John Ashworth in 1850). They were two of eleven children born to John Poulton senior and Elizabeth Green who had married at Broughton in 1807.

There is a family tree on Ancestry.com that claims that John Poulton was baptised at Preston on 27 Mar 1831 [parents William Poulton (1784-1872) and Jane Taylor (1791-1845)]. This record certainly exists, but (aside from the fact that it is the right name, right place, nearly right date) there is no reason given for why this record is our John Poulton. I am confident that the evidence outlined above proves that he was, in fact, baptised at Fernyhalgh on 26 March 1830 – parents John Poulton senior and Elizabeth Green (see left).

The Clarkson family

I now moved my attention to Elizabeth Clarkson. The NSW birth certificate for her daughter (Alice Clarkson Poulton) says that Elizabeth had married John Poulton in March 1854. I had ordered this marriage certificate, but it had not yet arrived.

In the meantime, I just happened to notice something in the Poulton family records. The 1851 census record for Elizabeth Poulton (nee Green) at Fulwood Row shows three children of a Clarkson family living next door.

Parish or Township of <i>Fulwood Lancashire</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
Household No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name of No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
					Males	Females			
24	Fulwood Row	Mary Clarkson	Daughter	W		11	Weaver	Lancashire Fulwood	
		Jane do	do	W		8	Scholar	do do	
		Robert do	do	W		8m		do do	
25	Fulwood Row	Elizabeth Poulton	Head	W		64	Widow of 3 Acres	do Myerburgh	
		Ann do	Daughter	W		32	Widow and Loan	do Broughton	
		William do	do	W		18	do do	do do	
		Sarah Miller	Lodger	W		7	Scholar	do Broughton	

1851 census record for Elizabeth Poulton (nee Green) at Fulwood Row, Lancashire.

Note the three Clarkson children living next door (top 3 lines)

Could this be the family of Elizabeth Clarkson? I decided to look at the previous page of the census (which would show the head of this Clarkson household). If this were to be the family of John Poulton's future wife, it would need to have a daughter named Elizabeth who would have been about 16 in 1851.

Parish or Township of <i>Fulwood Lancashire</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
Household No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name of No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb
					Males	Females			
24	Fulwood Row	Robert Clarkson	Head	W		41	Weaver	do Fulwood	
		Ellen do	Daughter	W		19	do	do do	
		Ann do	do	W		18	do	do do	
		Elizabeth do	do	W		16	do	do do	
Total						4			

1851 census record for the family of Robert Clarkson at Fulwood Row, Lancashire.

The rest of the household was recorded on the next page – shown above

Sure enough, Robert Clarkson (the weaver who lived next door to Elizabeth Poulton nee Green) had a daughter named Elizabeth who was 16 years old! Now this could just be a coincidence, but it warranted further research.

I decided to look at every person named Elizabeth Clarkson who was born in Lancashire between 1833 and 1835. There were at least twelve altogether, but few of them had a full set of records (baptism plus 1841 & 1851 censuses). There were no pertinent burial records. The full list is detailed on the next page, along with a map that shows where they were born.

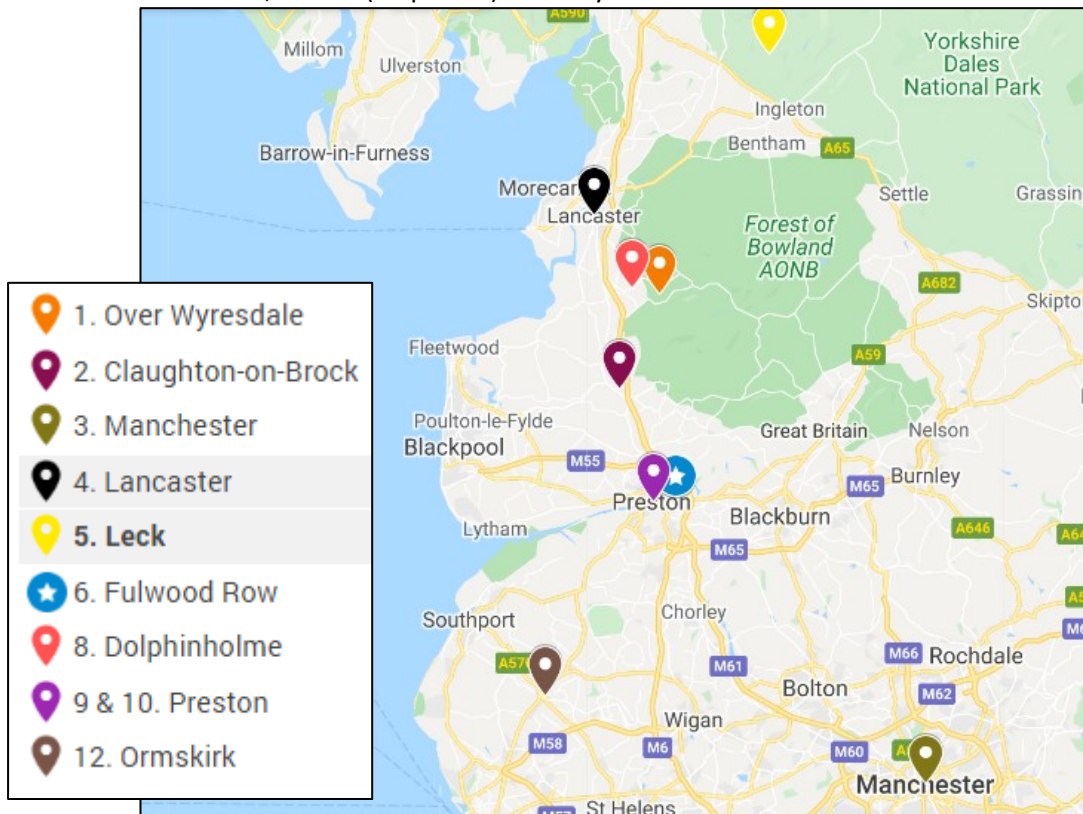
This research allowed me to eliminate two of the eleven – numbers 7 and 11 listed in red. Both appear on the 1861 census when our Elizabeth was in Australia. No doubt most of the other ones are listed on the 1861 census too, but under their (unknown) married names.

Any of the remaining ten could be the one that married John Poulton at Preston in 1854. Furthermore, a search of marriage indexes on Ancestry, FindMyPast and Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerks reveals a significant number of other Elizabeth Clarksons.

Ultimately, we cannot be certain which of them is our Elizabeth without access to the marriage certificate. Nevertheless, I think the girl next door (number 6 on the list) is the most likely, for two reasons. Firstly, most of the others were born quite a distance from Fulwood Row (where John Poulton lived). Secondly, our Elizabeth named her only daughter Alice, the name of the girl next door's mother. None of the other candidates has a mother named Alice.

Elizabeth Clarksons born in Lancashire 1833 - 1835

- 1833 Over Wyresdale, f. James (stone mason) m. Martha
 - Baptised 9/6/1833 Over Wyresdale
 - 1851 census Catterall with mother & 9 siblings including John 24 stone mason
- 1833 Claughton on Brock, f. Clarkson m. Martha
 - Baptised 11/8/1833 Claughton on Brock. Born 9/8/1833
- 1833 Manchester, f. Robert (butcher) m. Sarah
 - Baptised 22/9/1833 St Denys & St George, Manchester
- 1833 Lancaster, f. Thomas (cotton dresser) m Margaret
 - Baptised 24/11/1833 St Mary Lancaster. Born 31/10/1833
- 1833 Leck, parents unknown
 - 1851 census Bucton in Lonsdale Yorkshire, general servant to Joseph and Mary Ann Wilson
- 1834 Fulwood Row, f. Robert (cotton weaver) **m. Alice.**
 - 1841 census Fulwood Row with both parents
 - 1851 census Fulwood Row with father
- 1834 Walton le Dale, f James (farmer) m. Ellen**
 - 1851 census Walton le Dale with both parents**
 - 1861 census Walton le Dale with father**
- 1835 Dolphinholme, f. Thomas (wool comber) m. Margaret
 - Baptised 2/8/1835 Cockerham
- 1835 (Betsy) Preston, f. John (shoemaker) m. Mary
 - 1841 census Preston with both parents
 - 1851 census Preston with both parents
- 1835 Preston, parents not stated
 - 1851 census Whitfield Derbyshire, widow, servant to Benjamin Potter
- 1835 Ellel, m. Martha (grocer)**
 - 1861 census Lancaster with mother and 6 siblings**
- 1833 Ormskirk, f. John (carpenter) m. Betty



Elizabeth Clarkson births 1833-35, showing where ten Elizabeth Clarksons were born

If we accept that our Elizabeth Clarkson is the one listed as number 6 on page 11 (living with her father Robert at Fulwood Row in 1841 and 1851), then we know that her mother's name was Alice (1841 census). Robert and Alice had 9 children between 1832 and 1850 before Alice died (based on census records and indexes published by Lancashire BMD). A search for a record of the marriage between Robert and Alice finds just one possible record: 18 Jul 1831 at St John Preston. Alice's surname is Singleton and the marriage was witnessed by Isabella Clarkson (possibly Robert's sister).

Some loose ends

In the course of this research project, I located other information that allows us to tie up a few loose ends.

Elizabeth Clarkson's stepmother

After Elizabeth Clarkson's mother (Alice nee Singleton) died in 1850, her father was left with seven children. Within a year he married Ann Poulton, a 32-year-old spinster who lived next door. Robert and Ann Clarkson subsequently had 6 more children.

It would be natural for Elizabeth Clarkson to later marry her stepmother's younger brother, John Poulton.

Thomas Poulton 1856 – 1856

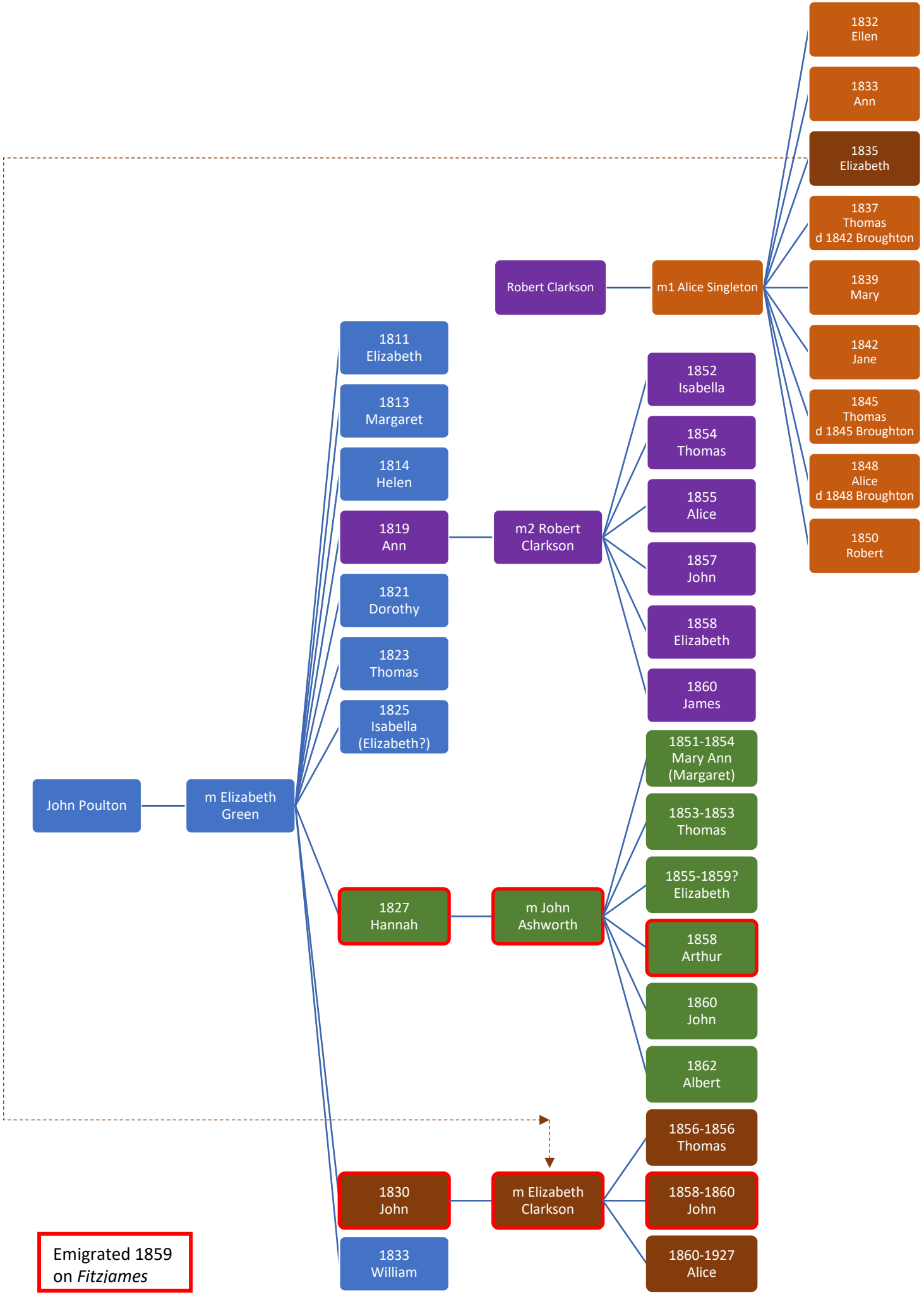
Alice Clarkson Poulton's 1860 birth certificate says that her parents had two previous children, both dead. The passenger list for the *Fitzjames* reveals that 2-year-old John Poulton died on the voyage to Australia. Who was the other child?

A search of the indexes held by the General Register Office in London for births around 1856 with the surname Poulton and mother's maiden name Clarkson finds one record. Thomas Poulton's September Quarter 1856 birth was recorded on page 463 in volume 8e for Preston, Lancashire. The GRO also has a record for the death of an infant Thomas Clarkson in the December Quarter of the same year on page 317 of volume 8e for Preston.

Ashworth family

We saw earlier that John and Hannah Ashworth had four children: Mary A (on 1851 census), Arthur (aged 1 on emigration in the *Fitzjames*), John 1860 and Albert 1862. Further research established that there were two more: Thomas and Elizabeth.

An 8-month-old son Thomas was buried on 29 December 1853. A year later Mary Ann was buried on New Year's Day 1854 (aged 2 years and 11 months). Both had died from scarlet fever. Another daughter, Elizabeth, was baptised on 18 March 1855 but must have died before the family emigrated in 1859.



Haighton

1807 marriage
John Poulton
& Elizabeth
Green

Fernyhalgh

1811 – 1830
10 x baptisms
Poulton-Green
children incl.
Hannah 1827 &
John 1830

**Fulwood
Row**

Poulton &
Clarkson
households in
1841 & 1851

**Siddle
Farm**

John Poulton
in 1851

**Clarkson's
Fold**

Possibly
named for a
Clarkson
ancestor or
cousin




Map of the Fulwood area from where the Poulton and Clarkson families originated – this is about 1 square mile

Earlier generations

Having successfully established the origins of both John Poulton and his wife Elizabeth Clarkson, I expanded the project to look at earlier generations.

John Poulton's antecedents

Earlier in this report I outlined a range of evidence that shows that John Poulton senior married Elizabeth Green at Broughton in 1807 and that they had twelve children baptised between 1808 and 1833. Ten of those baptisms were recorded at St Mary's Catholic church at Fernyhalgh, Lancashire.

 Record Transcription: England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	
First name(s)	Joannes Robertus
Last name	Poulton
Gender	Male
Birth year	1785
Birth place	-
Baptism year	1785
Baptism date	07 Apr 1785
Place	Fernyhalgh
County	Lancashire
Country	England
Father's first name(s)	Joanne
Father's last name	Poulton
Mother's first name(s)	Margarita
Mother's last name	Hodson
Record set	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
Collections from	England, Great Britain

Index (c) IRI. Used by permission of FamilySearch Intl

 Record Transcription: England Marriages 1538-1973	
First name(s)	John
Last name	Poulton
Name note	-
Marriage year	1780
Marriage date	31 Jan 1780
Marriage place	Goosnargh
Spouse's first name(s)	Margaret
Spouse's last name	Hodgson
Spouse's age	-
County	Lancashire
Country	England
Record set	England Marriages 1538-1973
Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Subcategory	Parish Marriages
Collections from	England, Great Britain

Index (c) IRI. Used by permission of FamilySearch Intl

Index records on FindMyPast for the baptism of John Robert Poulton at Fernyhalgh on 7 April 1785 and for his parents' marriage (John Poulton & Margaret Hodgson) at Goosnargh on 31 January 1780.

Marriage: 31 Jan 1780 St Mary the Virgin, Goosnargh, Lancashire, England
John Poulton - Cordwainer, the Parish of Preston
Margaret Hodgson - (X), Spinster, this Parish
Witness: Peter Newby; Richard Rigby
Banns Read: 16 Jan 1780, 2nd: 23 Jan 1780, 3rd: 30 Jan 1780
Married by Banns by: R. Carr, Curate
Register: Marriages 1754 - 1784, Page 41, Entry 312
Source: LDS Film 1470930

A more detailed index record for the marriage of John Poulton & Margaret Hodgson from the Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerks

As ten of his children. I conclude that the baptism index record shown below very probably relates to our John Poulton senior. He was baptised John Robert Poulton on 7 April 1785, at Fernyhalgh. Father: John; mother: Margaret Hodgson. His parents had been married by banns in the nearby town of Goosnargh on 31 January 1780. His father was a cordwainer (bootmaker) from Preston Parish while his mother was a spinster from Goosnargh. The marriage was witnessed by Peter Newby and Richard Rigby.

If John Poulton senior had been about 22 when he married, then he would have been born around 1785. Accordingly, I searched Ancestry.com for relevant baptisms between 1780 and 1790, yielding many results. One of these was baptised in the same church at Fernyhalgh

John and Margaret had another son baptised in the Catholic church at Fernyhalgh - Thomas Saturninus Poulton was baptised on 29 Nov 1780, ten months after their marriage. I have not found records of any other children.

Elizabeth Green's antecedents

The female antecedents proved to be particularly hard to trace. I was not able to find anything on Elizabeth Green prior to her marriage. Her 1855 death certificate does not name her parents.

Robert Clarkson's antecedents

Earlier in the report I provided an extract of the 1851 census record for Robert Clarkson's household at Fulwood Row, Lancashire. He was described as a 40-year-old weaver who had originated from Fulwood. The other members of his household were his unmarried daughters Ellen 19, Ann 18, Elizabeth 16, Mary 11 and Jane 8 plus his 8-month-old son Robert. All the children originated in Fulwood as well. (Robert's wife Alice Singleton had died a few months earlier. He would marry his second wife Ann Poulton a few months after the census was recorded.)

Robert was subsequently recorded on the 1861 census as a 50-year-old cotton handloom weaver living at Fulwood Row with his second wife Ann and six children. This record says that Robert had originated in Broughton, Lancashire.

The 1871 census recorded him as a 60-year-old labourer living at Fulwood Row with his wife Ann and four children. This record also says that Robert had originated in Broughton, Lancashire.

Robert died in 1881, but not before he was recorded on the census that was taken that year. He was recorded as a 70-year-old widower working as a farm labourer in the household of 26-year-old Oliver Hothersall who was a farm servant at Crab Tree Farm in Fulwood. Hothersall had married Robert's youngest daughter Alice four years earlier. Also in the household was Robert's youngest son, Thomas Clarkson, who was described as a 42-year-old joiner (even though he was actually 36).

Robert died in that farmhouse on 9 October that year, aged 71. Unfortunately, his death certificate does not name his parents.

Earlier in this report I identified the record of Robert's first marriage on 18 Jul 1831 at St John's Preston. His wife Alice's surname is Singleton and the marriage was witnessed by Isabella Clarkson (possibly Robert's sister, sister-in-law or cousin).


<i>Robert Clarkson</i>	of this Parish
<i>Bachelor</i>	
and <i>Alice Singleton</i>	of this Parish
<i>Spinster</i>	
were married in this <i>Church</i>	by <i>Warms</i> with Consent of
	this <i>Eighteenth</i> Day of
<i>July</i>	in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty <i>one</i>
By me <i>J. Clark Curate</i>	
This Marriage was Solemnized between us	{ <i>Robert Clarkson + his mark</i>
	{ <i>Alice Singleton + her mark</i>
In the Presence of	{ <i>Robert Lowery</i>
	{ <i>Isabella Clarkson + her mark</i>
No. <i>156</i>	

Marriage record on for Robert Clarkson and Alice Singleton at St John's church Preston on 18 July 1831. Source: Ancestry.com

Unfortunately, the marriage record does not provide the parents' names for either the bride or the groom.

Robert Clarkson and Alice Singleton had nine children. The births of the last six of these were recorded at Broughton according to the Lancashire BMD birth indexes - searched on Clarkson births 1837-1852 where the mother's maiden name is Singleton. There were no civil registrations before 1837 but we know from census records that Robert and Alice had three other daughters who were born before that: Ellen 1832, Ann 1833 and Elizabeth 1834.

I was unable to find any birth-related record for either Ellen or Elizabeth, but I did find Ann's baptism record. She was baptised at Fernyhalgh on 13 Jan 1833. An unmarried Isabella Clarkson (possibly the one who witnessed Robert's marriage in 1831) had a son (Thomas) baptised at Fernyhalgh on 8 Jul 1832.

 Record Transcription: England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975	
First name(s)	Robertus
Last name	Clarkson
Gender	Male
Birth year	1809
Birth place	-
Baptism year	1809
Baptism date	29 Dec 1809
Place	Fernyhalgh
County	Lancashire
Country	England
Father's first name(s)	Thoma
Father's last name	Clarkson
Mother's first name(s)	Anna
Mother's last name	Leeming
Record set	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
Collections from	England, Great Britain

I therefore searched for his birth around 1810 in the area around Fernyhalgh and Fulwood, including Broughton (4 miles from Fulwood Row). In conducting this search I bore in mind that his eldest son was named Thomas and his second daughter Ann. If he had used the naming convention for his children, this could be a hint that his parents were Thomas and Ann.

A search on Ancestry.com for Lancashire baptisms of Robert Clarkson between 1808 and 1812 finds 21 matches, while a similar search on FindMyPast also finds 21 matches. One of these stands out starkly from the rest and is, I conclude, very probably the baptism record for our Robert.

He was baptised at Fernyhalgh on 29 December 1809, 24 years before his daughter Ann was baptised in the same church. As theorised, his parents were Thomas and Ann (nee Leeming).

Index record on FindMyPast.com for the baptism of Robert Clarkson at Fernyhalgh on 29 December 1809, son of Thomas Clarkson and Ann Leeming.

Alice Singleton's antecedents

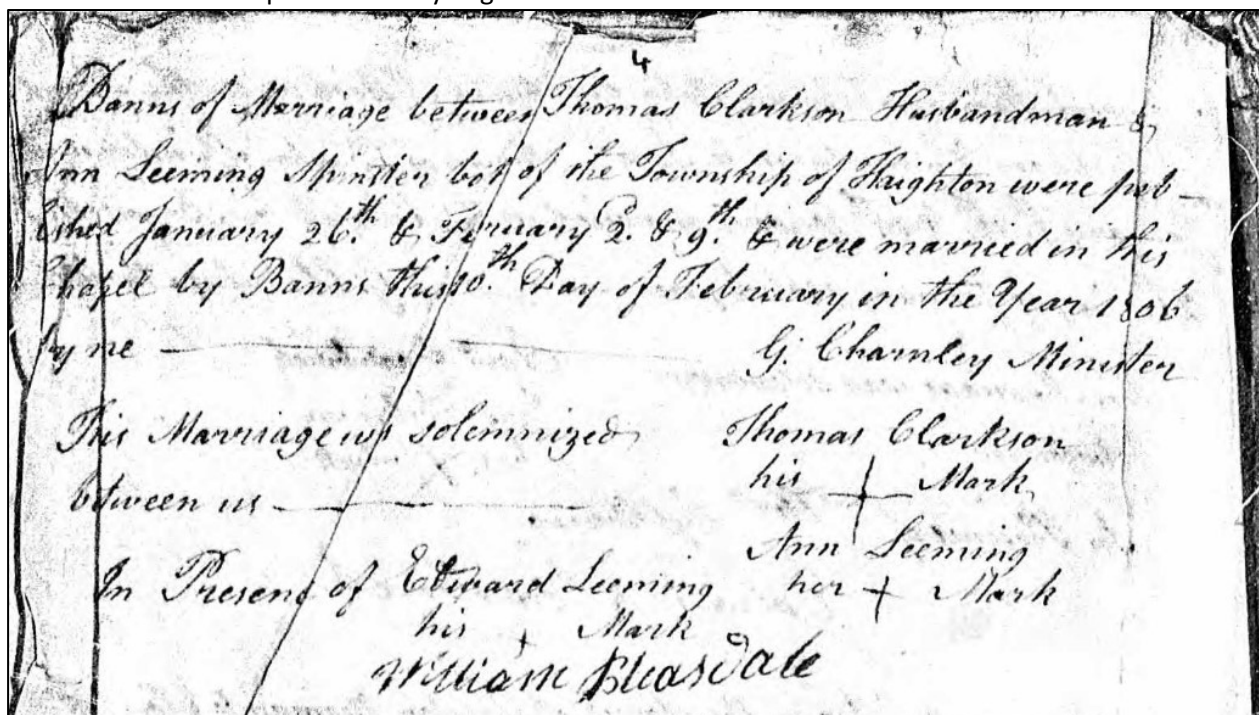
Alice Singleton's 1850 death certificate does not name her parents. Nevertheless, I searched Ancestry.com, FindMyPast and Lancashire OnLine Parish Clerks for possible baptism records prior to 1816. There are only 3.

The first possibility was baptised at St Paul's chapel at Little Marton on 17 April 1814 (father John and mother Ellen). She would have been 17-years-old when our Alice married Robert Clarkson in 1831. However, I was able to find this Alice on the 1841 census as a 25-year-old living with her parents at Duck Street Poulton-Le-Fylde. Since our Alice Clarkson (nee Singleton) was recorded at Fulwood Row on the same census, this must be a different person.

Both of the other two possibilities were baptised at Chipping. We know that Alice Singleton's future mother-in-law (Ann Leeming) also came from Chipping (see below). So, it is quite possible that our Alice was one of the two that were baptised at Chipping in 1814 and 1815 respectively. But, without information about her parents from some other source, it is exceedingly difficult to identify which of these is the relevant record.

Ann Leeming

I next turned my attention to Robert's parents. They were married at nearby Broughton on 10 Feb 1806. A search of baptism indexes reveals that they had 8 children baptised between 1806 and 1816: Helen 1806, John 1808, Robert 1809, Elizabeth 1811, Mary 1813, Ann 1815 and twins Mary and Thomas in 1816. The first two were baptised at Chipping (about 9 miles from Fernyhalgh) and the others were all baptised at Fernyhalgh⁴.



Broughton Parish Register entry for the marriage by banns of Thomas Clarkson (husbandman of Haighton) and Ann Leeming on 10 February 1806.

Thomas' wife Ann Leeming was from Chipping. She was baptised there on 1 May 1782, the eldest child of John Leeming and Isabel Dewhurst. Her parents had married there a year earlier. Ann had seven siblings baptised at Chipping, including her brother Edward (on 6 February 1785). He later witnessed her marriage to Thomas Clarkson (see image above) and sponsored the baptism of her eldest child (Helen, baptised at Chipping in 1806).

Thomas Clarkson

The Clarkson surname is quite common in Lancashire; as is the first name Thomas. While there were many Thomas Clarksons who could have married Ann Leeming in 1806, the details of their marriage record provided hints that allowed me to narrow the field considerably.

The marriage record for Thomas Clarkson and Ann Leeming reveals that Thomas was a husbandman (i.e. a small farmer who leased his land) and both he and his wife lived at Haighton (which is just 1 mile from Fernyhalgh).

⁴ While searching for the children of Thomas Clarkson and Ann Leeming I stumbled across the baptism records of four children of George Clarkson and Isabella Leeming (widow of John Ferguson). Mary 1793, George 1794, William 1796 and Thomas 1804 were all baptised at Masham, Yorkshire. This is about 70 miles from Fernyhalgh, so this family may be unrelated to ours.

My detailed search for Ann Leeming's husband focussed on four possible Thomas Clarksons:

- Thomas Clarkson #1 from Chipping
- Thomas Clarkson #2, born Fernyhalgh 1795
- Thomas Clarkson #3 of Blunham
- Thomas Clarkson #4, 1811 beneficiary of James Clarkson (Yeoman of Houghton)

Thomas Clarkson #1 from Chipping

I started my search near Chipping where their first two children (Helen 1806 and James 1808) were baptised. In 2003 Gordon and Barbara Faulkner published⁵ *Clarkson of Lancs, Beds & London* - a detailed history of the Clarkson family of Lancashire. On page 32 they list six Clarkson baptisms at Chipping between 1561 and 1682. The Lancashire Online Parish Clerks website reveals that Clarksons were buried at Chipping throughout the 1700s. Nevertheless, there is no baptism record for a Thomas Clarkson in Chipping in the late 1700s.

The fact that Thomas Clarkson and Ann Leeming were married at Broughton (ten miles away) implies that Thomas did not come from Chipping. Surely, if both bride and groom had been from Chipping, they would have married there. I conclude that it is likely that Thomas Clarkson originated from a place closer to Broughton than to Chipping. The fact that he was described as a husbandman from Houghton means that this is probably closer to his birthplace than Chipping. In other words, there was no Thomas Clarkson #1 from Chipping.

Thomas Clarkson #2, born Fernyhalgh 1795

The father of Thomas Clarkson #2 was a yeoman farmer in the Houghton district also named Thomas Clarkson. He married Margaret Slater and had nine children baptised at Fernyhalgh between 1775 and 1798. Thomas #2 (baptised at Fernyhalgh in 1795) later married Ann Gregson. He is too young to have married Ann Leeming in 1806.

Thomas Clarkson #3 of Blunham

Thomas Clarkson #3 of Blunham was a first cousin to Thomas #2. I got excited when I found that Thomas #3 was baptised at Fernyhalgh on 21 October 1786, the 4th child of Henry Clarkson of Houghton and Ann Eccles. This is the same church where our Thomas Clarkson and Ann Leeming baptised six of their children. Also, Thomas #3 is exactly the right age to have married Ann Leeming (who was four years older).

The father of Thomas #3 (Henry Clarkson) was a wealthy yeoman who is an ancestor of Gordon Faulkner (co-author of the Clarkson family history mentioned above). But that Clarkson family history says that Thomas Clarkson #3 lived at Blunham for most of his life and, therefore, is probably different from the one who married Ann Leeming.

As a six-year-old Thomas #3 moved with his family 200 miles away from Fernyhalgh and Houghton to Blunham in Bedfordshire. He may have spent the rest of his life there. He was definitely at Blunham in 1802 when he (at 16-years-old) and all his siblings were confirmed by Bishop Douglas. The next definitive record of him is also at Blunham, but it is twenty years later. He and two of his brothers were involved in the pigeon incident at Blunham in 1822. The following year he married Ann Aylett in London and they had six children baptised at Shefford (near Blunham) between 1824 and 1842. He was recorded at nearby Muggerhanger hamlet on the 1841 census and subsequently.

But where was he during that twenty-year gap from 1802 to 1822? It is possible that, during this time, he returned to Houghton; married Ann Leeming in 1806 and had a family of 8 there up to 1816; then returned to the Blunham area in time for the 1822 pigeon incident and to marry Ann Aylett in 1823.

⁵ This book is published on Gordon and Barbara's website www.faulkner-history.co.uk

While it is chronologically possible that Thomas #3 was also Ann Leeming's husband, is there any evidence to support this hypothesis? Yes, there is some significant circumstantial evidence.

The *Clarkson family history* by Gordon and Barbara Faulkner reveals that Thomas #3's father (Henry) returned to Haighton from Blunham in 1818 (page 12). Furthermore, at least four of Thomas's siblings also returned to Haighton at some time:

- John Francis by 1810 (page 12);
- James Joseph in 1808 or 1818 (page 13);
- Michael who was buried at Grimsargh in 1826 (page 14); and
- Ann who married (somebody) Richmond at Haighton.

The Clarkson family had an interest in parcels of land in both Blunham and Haighton. Thomas #3's father Henry's three brothers (John, George and Thomas) had been managing the Haighton lands, while Henry (the youngest) had made a success of his venture to Blunham. But Henry's brothers George and Thomas had died; and by 1818 his remaining brother John was 80 years old and childless. It seems likely that John asked Henry to return to Haighton to take charge of the family's interests there. John must have been unwilling to entrust this task to any of his nephews (sons of his late brother Thomas). Henry could safely leave his Blunham interests in the hands of his sons.

Did the Clarkson patriarch (John) earlier arrange for Henry's son Thomas #3 to return to Haighton from Blunham? There is some evidence that he may have done so around 1804, to take over the running of the Clarkson family's "Property P".

Faulkner's *Clarkson history* lists both the proprietor and occupier of "Property P" at Haighton from 1781 to 1831⁶. From 1791 to 1796 George Clarkson was listed as proprietor. He was Henry's brother and Thomas' uncle. After his death in 1796, the proprietorship devolved to his older brother John. At that time, the occupier was Thomas Clarkson (brother to patriarch John and Henry; uncle to our Thomas Clarkson #3 of Blunham). In 1800 the occupation of Property P changed to his son James Clarkson (aged 15). Thomas died in 1804 and James' occupation ended.

It is not clear why James' occupation ended when his father died. Perhaps he took over other land that his father had been occupying. Perhaps patriarch John Clarkson had little faith in him or his brothers (as speculated above).

In any case, the historical taxation records show that Property P was now occupied (from 1804 until 1819) by Thomas Clarkson. But which Thomas Clarkson? It is very unlikely to have been Thomas #2 (patriarch John's nephew) for two reasons. Firstly, John had ended the occupation of James Clarkson on his father's death and was unlikely to replace James with his younger brother, Thomas #2. Secondly, Thomas #2 was only 9 years old at the time.

So the Clarkson family patriarch (John) had the motivation in 1804 to invite his nephew Thomas #3 to return to Haighton to take up occupation of Property P; Thomas thus had an opportunity to prove himself as a husbandman; and his father Henry could easily spare him from Blunham.

Furthermore, if Thomas #3 of Blunham was not the one who took over occupation of Property P in 1804, which Thomas Clarkson was it? As far as I am aware, there were no other members of this family named Thomas who it could have been.

Based on this analysis, it seems very possible that the new occupier of Property P was Thomas Clarkson #3, son of Henry and nephew of the Proprietor (John). It makes sense that, as members of

⁶ This information comes from Land Tax Assessment records deposited in the Lancashire Record Office.

the previous generation died, younger (landless) family members were given an opportunity as husbandmen on family-owned land.

In this scenario, Thomas #3 would have returned from Blunham in 1804 and remained at Haighton until 1819. Then, when his father moved from Blunham to Haighton in 1818, he may have asked Thomas #3 to return to Blunham to take control of his Blunham interests. This roughly corresponds with the period of the marriage of Thomas Clarkson and Ann Leeming (1806 – 1816).

Therefore, there is a good amount of circumstantial evidence to support an hypothesis that Thomas #3 of Blunham is the Thomas Clarkson who married Ann Leeming at Broughton in 1806. One piece of circumstantial evidence undermines the hypothesis however – that Thomas Clarkson did not name any of his sons (with either Ann Leeming or Ann Aylett) after his father, Henry.

There is also one piece of documentary evidence that undermines the hypothesis. The banns register record for the marriage of Thomas Clarkson and Ann Aylett describes him as a bachelor, not a widower. It is unlikely that the recorded would have made an error on this crucial matter. If so, it seems that Thomas #3 did not marry Ann Leeming, despite the weight of circumstantial evidence to the contrary.

Thomas Clarkson #4, 1811 beneficiary of James Clarkson

James Clarkson, another yeoman farmer from the Haighton District, made out his will in 1803. The will was proved in 1811. It mentions his parents (Thomas and Ann), his brother Richard and Thomas Clarkson #4, whose relationship is not stated. Could this Thomas be Ann Leeming's husband? While possible, I could find no corroborating evidence. I could not identify any other records of James, Richard, their parents or the mysterious Thomas #4.

It is possible that Thomas #4 is the same person as Thomas #2 or Thomas #3.

Conclusion

In summary, Thomas #1 did not exist; #2 was too young; #3 was still a bachelor in 1823; and #4 is a mystery.

We know that Ann Leeming's husband Thomas Clarkson was a husbandman at Haighton (from their 1806 marriage record). The only Thomas Clarkson recorded in land tax assessment records as a husbandman at Haighton at that time was occupying Property P. He must have been related to patriarch John Clarkson who was the proprietor of that land. The logical contender is his nephew, Thomas Clarkson #3, but he was later described as a bachelor. We have a logical disconnect.

So, either:

1. Thomas #3 was the occupant of Property P and did marry Ann Leeming (and therefore the 1823 London banns record was wrong in describing him as a bachelor);
2. Thomas #3 was the occupant of Property P and did not marry Ann Leeming (and therefore there was another Thomas Clarkson who was a husbandman at Haighton but was not recorded in the land tax assessment records); or
3. Property P was occupied by another Thomas Clarkson of unknown origin (who married Ann Leeming).

In my experience, options 1 and 2 are both unlikely.

To be awarded occupancy of Property P in 1804, Thomas Clarkson must have been related to the Clarkson patriarch John Clarkson. Since the evidence indicates that he was not one of his two nephews with that name (Thomas #2 or Thomas #3), he must have been more distantly related – perhaps a cousin or second cousin.

Chart: Poulton antecedents 1760 - 1860

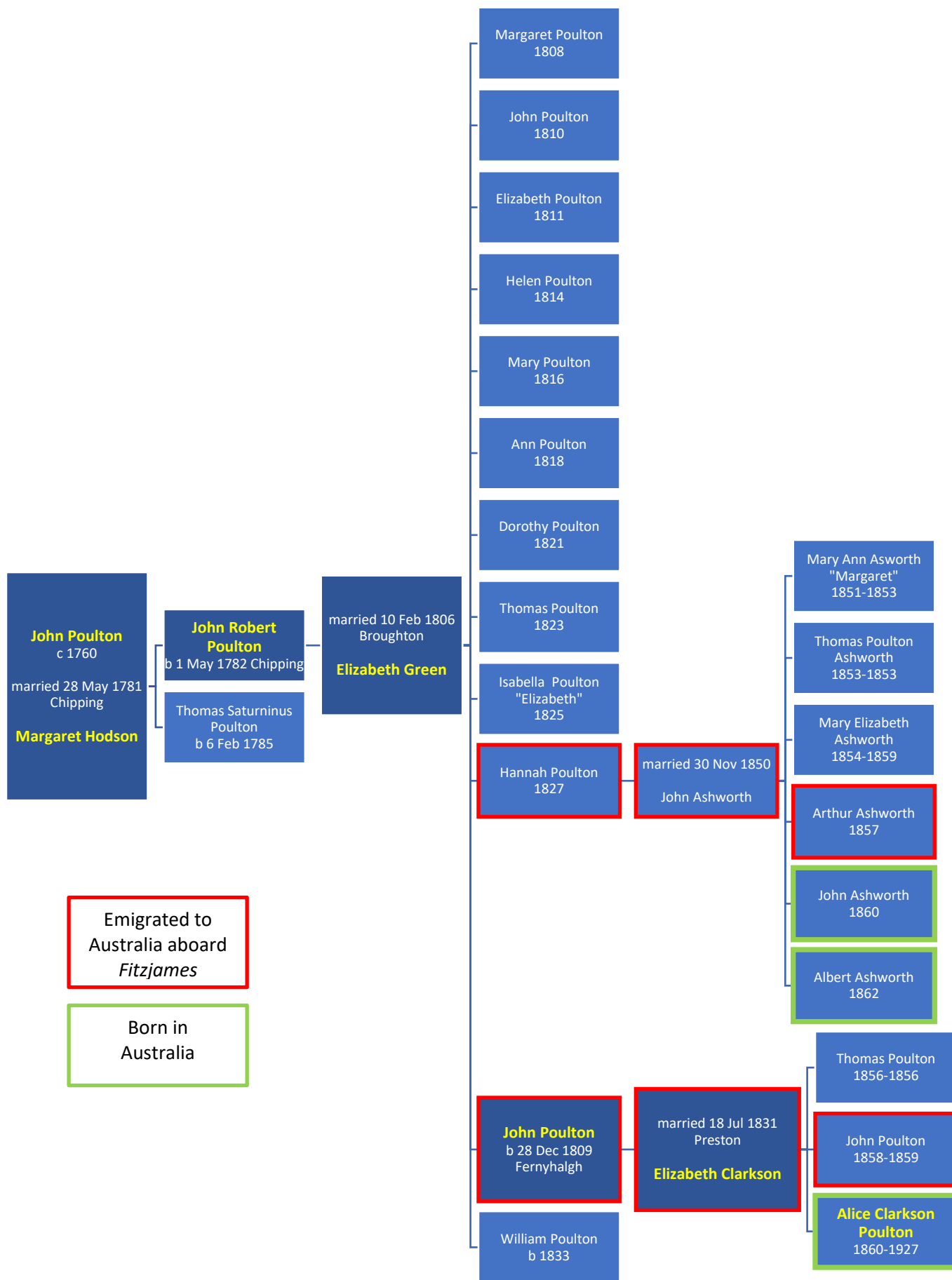


Chart: Clarkson antecedents 1755 – 1855

