

John S. Winter's family, friends, and places in 1854.

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by R.Derek Wood

“Photographic collection of a visit to England (the greater part of which was passed at Tottenham Vicarage in the year 1854. Presented to Jas Winter by his affectionate brother John Saumarez Winter Nov 18, 1854.”

In 1994 a descendant of a New Zealand family named Winter showed an old album of photographs to the curator of pictures at the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch {1}. Each of the fifty-six photographs were dated - mainly 1854. The basic practice of photography had then existed for fifteen years, but throughout the 1840s the most popular technique especially for portraits had been that of the daguerreotype on metal plates. But by the time these photographs were taken by a member of the Winter family it had for two or three years become more common to produce paper prints using the wet-collodion technique on glass negatives. The photographer was an English clergyman. He photographed his relatives and fellow clergymen, churches and other views mainly in areas just to the north of London where he lived. The following account of the persons and places associated with the album was thus obtained from research carried out in England.

In 1854 a James Winter living with his wife and three children in Tasmania went back to see his relatives at his place of birth in England. He returned to Tasmania a few months later with some gifts from those relatives which included an inscribed silver salver from his oldest sister and an album of photographs put together for him by his clergyman brother John in remembrance of the trip. James lived only for another two years and when a few years later his oldest son Henry moved to New Zealand the album also came across to the south island {2}. Since then it has been handed down through another two generations and is still in New Zealand: cherished by his great-granddaughter and great- great-granddaughter just as it surely must have been by James Winter as an icon of his birthplace and family on the other side of the world.

James and John S. Winter had both grown up in Shenley, Hertfordshire, England. Fourteen children had indeed been born to their parents (Rachel and John Mico Winter) but only eight survived into adulthood {3}. The Revd. John Saumarez Winter (1807-1875), who in 1854 took the photographs in this album for his brother James, was born in 1807 {4}. After graduating at Corpus Cristi College, Cambridge, he was ordained in 1832. Although briefly a deacon at Sutton, near Peterborough, for the remaining years of the 1830s John was curate in north-east London at Hackney. He married during that period but there do not appear to have been any children. In 1841 he became curate of All Hallows Parish Church in Tottenham, Middlesex, a few more miles further north from Hackney and London. The post of vicar was at that time held by Thomas Newcome (1777-1851){5} who concurrently was the long established Rector of Shenley, which was ten miles from Tottenham. Although she had long before died in 1825, Thomas Newcome's wife Charlotte (1780-1825) had been an aunt of J.S. Winter. Indeed the interrelationship of the two families was re-inforced when, the very same year that J.S. Winter became curate at Tottenham, one of his sisters, also named Charlotte(!), had married the rector's son Henry Justinian Newcome (1815-1905){6}. The latter became the new Rector at St. Botolph, Shenley, two years before his father died in September 1851. Winter remained curate in Tottenham with a new vicar, William J. Hall (1793-1861){7}, being appointed in 1851. This was the situation when the Revd. Winter took many photographs of family, friends and places near London when James came on his visit to England from Tasmania. At Tottenham, the Revd. Winter photographed - presumably using wet-collodion negatives on glass - not only his own church and vicarage but also recorded Trinity Church (Album No. 5) in the same parish, whose "perpetual curate" was the Revd. G.B. Twining {8}. It is probably his son "Georgey Twining" who can be seen in photograph No.26 taken two years earlier. Photographs of other people in the album show Rev. Thomas Fell {9} (Photograph No.43) who had been at Cambridge the same time as Winter and for a short time in the same College; Rev. Richard M. Wood {10} (Photography No. 47) at that time curate at Aldbury, near Tring in Hertfordshire, whose late first wife had been Mary Newcome one of the seven daughters of Revd. Thomas Newcome; Edward W[illiam] Newcome (No. 49) would be the Rev. Thomas Newcome's youngest son born in 1821. Apart from those of Cambridge Colleges, Ely Cathedral, and Rochester Cathedral in Kent, most of the

photographs in the album were taken in places in a curving band from east to west across the north of London about six to twelve miles from the centre of the capital - Wanstead, Waltham, Chingford, River Lea, Tottenham, Southgate, Shenley, South Mimms (only two miles from Shenley), five miles further out to St. Albans, and to the west of London, Kew, Richmond and Hampton Court. A footpath passes alongside the old church of St. Botolph at Shenleybury and a quiet walk of fifteen minutes through fields reaches 'Salisbury Hall' {11} (No. 23). That name was derived from the Earls of Salisbury, who owned the manor in the fifteenth century. During recent years of the 1990s it has been the business premises of a Japanese company.

Although J.S. Winter was curate at Tottenham when the photographs were taken it is not that church and vicarage which provides a centrepiece to the story of the album. It is rather St. Botolph at Shenleybury, the church most closely associated with the family of Newcome, not far from the one time home of the Winter family at Shenley Hill. Although the following passage was written in a History of Hertfordshire in the late 1870s it still provides an appropriate accompaniment to J.S. Winter's photograph of St. Botolph "Shenley Church" (No. 18) and what is now St. Martin's Church in Shenley village, the "Chapel" (No. 38).

Shenley possesses two churches, the old parish church on the St. Albans road [Shenleybury], upwards of a mile north-west of the village, and a more recent erection in the village itself. The latter, which is really a Chapel of Ease, stands ... adjoining the Boys' School, and was built in the year 1842 by the Revd. Thomas Newcome, the then rector. It is a plain brick building, with no pretensions to beauty, either within or without... At the south-west is a small campanile, containing one bell. There is no burial-ground attached to it. The old church, which is dedicated to St. Botolph, is little better than a large barn. It originally [before 1753] consisted of a chancel, nave, south aisle, and tower. Now [in late 1870s], it is a good-sized four-square room, covered with a low, flat, plaster ceiling. It is a very republic of a church, for nave and chancel are all in one...; and still further to do away with the ecclesiastical appearance of the building, an old-fashioned eight-day clock is placed against the south wall. On the site formerly occupied by the south porch, is now a low tower of 'feather-edge' boarding, painted white, in every respect resembling the 'hoist' of a flour-mill, for which I really mistook it, when I first saw it. {12}

The very unique porch-tower of feather-edged wood can be seen in Winter's photograph of 1854 but was removed around the end of the last century, but otherwise the exterior of this building has not changed even though St. Botolph did cease to function as a church in 1972. The interior has since been converted into a private home with the surrounding graveyard partly a private garden. Gravestones are undisturbed and memorial stones from the inside of the church have been preserved and their text recorded by the present resident owner. Several of these memorials would provide an appropriate caption to photographs of persons who feature in Winter's album, but one in particular {13} gives guidance on the photographer's own family:

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN MICO WINTER
LATE OF THIS PARISH, ESQUIRE,
WHO DIED AUG 11TH 1839, AGED 63 YEARS.
ALSO
RACHEL, HIS WIFE,
WHO DIED FEB 9TH 1827, AGED 53 YEARS;
DAUGHTER OF
PETER PERCHARD, OF LONDON, ESQUIRE
ALSO OF
THE CHILDREN OF THE ABOVE:
MARTHA DIED 1799 AGED 6 MONTHS.
EMMA 1808 5 YEARS.
HENRY 1811 6 MONTHS.
ARTHUR FREDERICK 1817 9 MONTHS.
GEORGE PERCHARD 1820 19 YEARS.
CAROLINE 1827 9 YEARS.

[...a text from JOHN XIV 19 XIV 2]
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED
BY THE EIGHT SURVIVING CHILDREN,
AS A TRIBUTE OF AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE.
1840

The eight daughters and sons still living in the 1840s were the photographer himself, John Saumarez Winter(1807-1875); Thomas Le Mesurier Winter(1809-1876); James (1813-1856) then resident in Tasmania; Charlotte (1815-1898), who in 1841 married Henry Justinian Newcome; their oldest sister Mary aged forty years at the time the memorial was erected died unmarried in 1885; Augusta who had married a Thomas Sheppard in 1829; a much younger Amelia born in 1819; and one who has not been identified.

The photographer did also assemble a second album, for such a volume with the bookplate of "Thomas L.M. Winter" was auctioned at Christie's in London in 1976 {14}. Thomas Le Mesurier Winter {15} was intermediate in age between his older brother John and the younger James. Born in 1809 he died in England at Shenley in 1876, one year after John. But he may not have lived in England every year of his life. It is indeed conceivable that he either left for Australia in 1854 with his brother or was already there. A clue to this has been preserved for us in a singular piece of writing by the vicar of Shenley. In 1854 Henry Justinian Newcome had taken over from his father as Rector at Shenley. He and his wife Charlotte, the photographer's younger sister, are portrayed in one of the photographs in the album (No.42). Little more than four years after this photograph was taken the Revd. Henry became somewhat obsessed with designing a system for very cheaply heating Shenley Church. He advertised his ideas in *The Times* and even managed to obtain two patents in 1859 {16}, Charlotte became so worried about her husband's hyperactive behaviour that she persuaded him to go to Edinburgh to stay under observation for a few months in a private asylum. When trying to avoid this pressure Newcome had gone to Tottenham to obtain some support from his brother-in-law, our reverend photographer, but J.S. Winter was equally as worried and indeed helped his sister manage the affairs of the supposed "lunatic" while away from Shenley. The following year Newcome published a book of sixty-nine pages, *The Lunatic or English Clergymen & Scotch Doctors*, a furious account of those events in his life during 1859 as a rebuff to having excited himself into insanity. Newcome carefully worded a dedication for his book: "particularly to the proprietors of Saughton Hall, Edinburgh; these pages are (without permission) inscribed by the author"!, and a not entirely diplomatic comment about his wife as "a model of perfection as the wife of a clergyman; but who, unfortunately, is remarkably nervous". In this book he records that while in Edinburgh he had a visitor - "Mr. T. Winter, a brother-in-law, appears, just returned from Australia" {17}. Thomas Le M. Winter was Godfather to his nephew Henry who was born in Tasmania in 1842 so maybe Thomas like his brother was Tasmania in the 1840s. He does not seem to feature in the 1854 album, although other names or initials are noted under most of the photographs of persons. [In 1995 when this article was written] the whereabouts of his album since it was sold in London in 1976 was not known [but see later note 14bis]. The Rev. John Saumarez Winter was at Tottenham for a total of twenty-one years. Although the post he held was that of curate he apparently had full charge of the parish for most of that time. Finally in 1863 he became vicar of Weedon-Bec, a village about eight miles west of Northampton. No evidence is available of any continued interest in photography by Winter in the later part of his life at Weedon. He and his wife did enjoy gardening during those years and on Thursday 2 September 1875 spent a busy day hosting the annual Weedon Flower Show in the grounds of the vicarage. {18} But at midnight, at the end of that sociable day, Winter was seized by a sudden heart attack. Enduring for three more days, he died on 6 September 1875 aged sixty-eight. {19} At his funeral were many local friends and parishioners. Amongst the small group of family mourners was the presence of five persons with whom we are now familiar from photographs in his album: Maria Page (niece of Mrs Winter), Rev. G. B. Twining (father of the boy in Photograph No.26), Rev E. Newcome (No. 49), the Rev. Henry Justinian Newcome (still Rector of St. Botolph at Shenley) accompanying his wife Charlotte, J.S. Winter's sister. Also at the grave side was Thomas Le M. Winter and his wife. Apart from the widow, they were the only persons bearing the family name to attend J.S. Winter's funeral in 1875. The album of photographs that John Saumarez Winter presented twenty-one years earlier to his younger brother James was already at that time in New Zealand.

Footnotes

1. The fifty-six photographs in the Winter album in New Zealand were copied by permission of the owners in 1994 by the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, Museum Neg. No.s 13801-27, 13874-97, 13970-4.
2. It is not known exactly when James Winter (1813-1856) emigrated from England but quite possibly in 1836 in the company of A.F. Rooke (1814-1881) also of Hertfordshire. James Winter and Rooke married two sisters, presumably in a double marriage ceremony at Launceston, Tasmania, in March 1838. This information on James Winter in Tasmania and his son Henry T. Winter (1842-1918) who moved to New Zealand, had eight children after marrying at Lyttelton in 1869 and died at Timaru in 1918, depends on genealogical research kindly made available to the writer by Mrs Yvonne D. Ower of Christchurch.
3. A prime source of information on the Winter family appears on gravestones and memorials at the old Church of St. Botolph, Shenleybury (text of these memorials were transcribed by John Edwin Cussans, *History of Hertfordshire* (London, 1879; reprinted East Ardley: E P Publishing 1972), vol. iii, Part I 'Hundred of Dacorum', p.315,322). The memorials remain, even though since the late 1970s the church has been converted into St Botolphs, a private house. Peter Buttle, the present resident owner, has made available to the writer text directly transcribed from such memorials and others erected after Cussans published his book in 1879. Even so the period of the family's residence at Shenley is uncertain. The grandfather of the generation that is the prime subject of this study was described as Thomas Bradbury Winter (1745/6-1822) "of Hammersmith and formerly of this parish" of Shenley. However no Winters were listed at Shenley at the time of the census of 1851 apart from Charlotte Newcome (1815-1898), née Winter, was listed in that census (HO 107/1701, f47) as having been born in Shenley, but for J.S. Winter (at Tottenham White Hart Lane vicarage (HO 107/1702, f331) it records him as born at Middlesex / London (in other words it would be possible for it to be in Hammersmith) At the beginning of the third paragraph of this article it was thus necessary to say that John (born 1807) and James Winter were brought up (rather than born) in Shenley, for indeed there is only circumstantial evidence. Yet the family must have been at Shenley over a considerable period. For example, their aunt Behiah is buried at Shenley: "Bethiah, youngest daughter of the above Thomas B. Winter, died July 2nd 1834, in the 52nd year of her age". The gravestone of their father (died in 1839) at Shenley Church says "John Mico Winter of this parish" and also buried there are the young Emma, Henry, Arthur Frederic, and George Perchard Winter who died in 1808, 1811, 1817, and 1830, see J.E. Cussan (1879), p.315, 322. What little information there is about the Winter family being previously at Hammersmith can at least explain how the name of Bradbury entered the family. According to *Bunhill Memorials* of 1849 and the *Dictionary of National Biography* article on the congregational minister Thomas Bradbury (1677-1759), his daughter Martha Bradbury married John Winter of Hammersmith in 1744. One of their sons Robert (1762-1833) was born in Hammersmith. Thus it is conceivable that Thomas Bradbury Winter (1745/6-1822) of Shenley Hill and Hammersmith could have been John and Martha [née Bradbury] Winter's oldest son born one or two years after they married. If so he would be an older brother of Robert Winter, who like an uncle Richard Winter had become Minister in turn at Bradbury's church in New Court, Carey Street, London.
4. *Alumni Cantabrigienses. Part II From 1752 to 1900*, compiled by J.A. Venn (6 vols, Cambridge: University Press 1940-1954), entry on John Saumarez Winter, Vol.vi, p.543. Tottenham vicarage census report of 1851, PRO London, HO 107/1702, f331. He died 6 September 1875, death certificate, Daventry Reg. District, Vol 3B, p.67. An account of his death and funeral in *The Northampton Herald*, Saturday, September 25, 1875, pp. 6f-7a, does also provide a little on his earlier life, but without any mention of an interest in photography. The text (kindly provided to the present author by Miss Doreen Abbott, Church Warden at Weedon) of a memorial light of a stained glass window in Weedon Bec Church says Winter was born on May 19, 1807. This memorial window being simply dedicated only by his widow indicates absence of any children.
5. Rev. Thomas Newcome (1777-1851) was Rector of Shenley from 1802 to 1849 and vicar of Tottenham 1824 to his death in 1851. On 9 April 1806 he married Charlotte Winter (1779/80-1825), daughter of Thomas Bradbury Winter (died in 1822 aged 76) of Shenley Hill and of Hammersmith. An entry on Thomas Newcome is in *Alumni Cantab. Part II*, Vol. iv, p.534, (with his two brothers Henry and Richard on p.533.) A wide genealogy of the Newcome family is in Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 18th edition (3 vols, London: Burke's

- Peerage Ltd., 1972), Vol. iii, pp.678-9. A 'pedigree of the family of Newcome' provided by Rev. Thomas Newcome upto 1813, appeared in Robert Clutterbuck, *The History & Antiquities of the County of Hertford* (3 vols London: Nichols 1815), vol.i, p.485. Data on the Newcome family has also been available from the text of memorial stones at St. Botolph Church at Shenleybury in J. E. Cussans, *History of Hertfordshire* (1879) Vol.3, Part I, pp. 315, 319, 320, 323).
6. Mr.P. Buttle has transcribed an inscription on the rock base of a red granite cross that has been preserved in the old churchyard, now a private garden: "Revd. Henry Justinian Newcome, for 50 years rector of this parish, son of Revd Thomas Newcombe. Born June 28th 1815 died Oct 12th 1905./ also of Charlotte, his wife, Daughter of John M. Winter Esq of Shenley Hill, Born May 4th 1815 died Sept 5th 1898".
 7. *Alumni Cantab Part II*, biographical entry for William John Hall, Vol.iii, p.205.
 8. Little is known about G.B. Twining except a short entry in *Alumni Oxonienses. The members of the University of Oxford 1715-1886*, edited by Joseph Foster (Oxford: Parker 1888), vol.iv, p.1453. H.J. Newcome (*The Lunatic...*,1861, p.26) referred to Twining as "my other brother-in-law".
 9. *Alumni Cantab Part II*, biographical entry for Thomas Fell (1809-1867), Vol. ii, p.475.
 10. *Alumni Cantab Part II*, biographical entry for Richard Mountford Wood, Vol.vi, p.562.
 11. *The Victoria History of Hertfordshire*, edited by William Page (3 Vols, London: Constable 1908; reprinted Folkestone: Dawson 1971), Vol.ii, pp.267-8 with photograph (c.1900) opp. p.268. R.Clutterbuck (1815), Vol. i, pp. 481-3. J.E. Cussans (1879,1972), iii (1), pp.309-31.
 12. J. E. Cussans (1879), vol iii, Part I, p. 313.
 13. J. E. Cussans, vol.iii, Part I, p.315, listed the text concerning the six Winter children who died in childhood, but this memorial stone erected in 1840 by the remaining eight shortly after the death of their father (John Mico Winter,1775/6-1839) is still preserved inside the now private St Botolphs, Shenleybury.
 14. Lot 38, Christie, Manson and Woods Ltd, London: Catalogue of Sale on 10 June 1976, p.10. According to the description in this catalogue, this album contains some scenes in the Isle of Wight and Brecon(south Wales) an area which does not appear in James Winter's album.
- [14bis. Some years after this article was written the author learnt that Thomas Winter's album, sold at Christie Ltd, London, in 1976, is in the Stephen White collection, California, USA]
15. The grave stone of Thomas Le Mesurier Winter (1809-1876) in the now private garden, the north-east corner of the old churchyard, at St Botolphs, Shenleybury, is still just readable, and the text stating that he died on 17 November 1876, aged 67 years was also recorded by J. E. Cussans (1879), Vol iii (1), p.322.
 16. Three letters published as paid advertisements, *The Times* (London),12 April, p.6; 16 April, p.11; 21 April 1859, p.11. Patents No. 277 and 1770 of 1859, for an apparatus for heating or warming buildings.
 17. Henry Justinian Newcome, *The Lunatic or English Clergymen & Scotch Doctors*, London: John Pownceby 1861, p. 41. The Bodleian Library, Oxford, have a copy of this rare book.
 18. Weedon annual Flower Show reported in *The Northampton Herald*, Saturday, September 4, 1875, p.8.
 19. J.S. Winter's death and funeral in *Northampton Herald*, September 25, 1875, pp. 6-7. At funeral on 11 September 1875 the family mourners were "Mrs Winter, Miss Page, Mr. and Mrs. T.L.M. Winter, Rev. G. Twining, Mr and Mrs. H.J. Newcome, Rev. E. Newcome, and T.F. Gibson, Esq."