

The Michaelwaite Branch

The Michaelwaites are an interesting branch. Their ancestor appears in Lincolnshire, apparently from nowhere, and the line survives to the present day in Surrey. How did they get from Lincolnshire to Surrey?

George Micklefitch made his first appearance in the records when he married Sarah Rusling in Winterton, North Lincolnshire in 1773. So far I've not been able to locate a suitable baptism for him. He died in Winterton in 1835 aged 89 (so born about 1746 if that age is to be believed). Sarah died in 1820. They had 2 children: Hannah baptised 1778 in Winterton (married John Phillipson in Winterton in 1801) and Richard baptised Winterton 1774.

A John Michaelwaite also died in Winterton in 1825 aged 78 (born about 1747) – I have found no other records for John, but given that he has the same surname and is of similar age, I strongly suspect he is George's brother.

George's son Richard married Mary Rayner in Winterton in 1799. He died there in 1852, appearing in the 1841 and 1851 censuses, described as a shoemaker in 1841 and a retired hive maker in 1851. Mary died in 1849. They had 6 children, all baptised Winterton: Mary 1800 (married Samuel Smith 1820 Winterton); Edward born 1802; Sarah 1803; Hannah 1806 (married Thomas Dixon 1827 Winterton); Sarah 1808; Ann born/died 1813. I do not have a death record for either Sarah.

Richard's daughter Mary had a son, John William, born 1818 before her marriage. John William married 2 or 3 times, had 3 children, and died in 1887. His children were: Thomas 1852, Mary 1859, and Charlotte 1863. Charlotte had a daughter Sarah Jane 1888. I have no records for these children apart from their births and a couple of census records - no deaths, no marriages. John William is recorded as Micklewaite on the 1861 census, as Muttlewite in 1871, and Micketwaite in 1881 (still in Winterton).

Richard's son Edward married Elizabeth Harrison in 1824 in Leeds – he was then a cordwainer, which is the same occupation as his father Richard had in 1841. Elizabeth died in 1831. Edward remarried Harriet Miller in Hull in 1834, but died in 1840. His death is recorded in Lincoln registration district. Harriet remarried in Hull in 1848.

Edward and Harriet had a son, Benjamin, born 1838 in Winterton, who died the following year, and a daughter, Mary, born 1836 in Winterton, who died in 1842 in Hull. Mary and Harriet appear in Hull on the 1841 census.

Edward and Elizabeth had one son, Richard, born 1825 in Winterton. On the 1851 census he is living with his grandfather, Richard, and is described as a mariner. He married Elizabeth Kerman in 1852 in Sculcoates, Hull. In the 1861 census he is a railway company messenger in Hull. In 1871 he is in Deptford London, and in 1881 in Camberwell London, still working for the railways. Elizabeth died in 1897 in Camberwell. In 1900 Richard married Emily Best in Croydon, but he died the following year. Emily died in 1912. The railways had brought the Michaelwaites south to the London area.

Richard and Elizabeth had 5 children: Eliza Jane, born in 1853 in Bermondsey (she died in 1923); Henry John, born in 1854 in Hull (according to the censuses – no registration yet found); Mary Elizabeth, born in 1855 in Southwark (she died 1857); Alfred Richard, born in 1857 in Bermondsey; Charles Edward, born in 1859 in Bermondsey (he died in 1879).

Henry John married Lillie Jane Booth in Croydon in 1887. He died in 1940; she died in 1951. They had 5 children: Rose Elizabeth, born in 1888, married in 1910 to Herbert Seymour; Lilly Jane, born in 1891, married in 1914 to Sidney Aldridge; Charles Henry, 1896-1964, married in 1919 to Bessie Deacon with whom he had 3 children; Alfred Richard 1901-71; William George 1904-74, married in 1930 to Clarice I Taylor with whom he had 3 children and 3 Michaelwaite grandchildren.

Alfred Richard married Mary Thompson 1877 in Greenwich. He died in 1887; she died in 1933. They had 4 daughters: Mary E J born in 1878, married in 1899 to John D Lancaster in Sunderland; Rosina, born in 1880, married in 1906 to Edward A Stoker in Sunderland; Lucy Eliza, born in 1882, married in 1902 to Walter James Allan in Sunderland; Elizabeth A, born in 1884, died 1885. I guess Mary moved

with the girls back to the North East after Alfred died (she was born Bedlington Northumberland). They were in Deptford in the 1891 census but I've not yet found them in 1901.

However, one mystery remains – where did they come from? There are few clues. Sarah Michaelwaite married Thomas England in 1764 in Pontefract – could she be a sister to George and John? There are no other Michaelwaite births, marriages or deaths that aren't attached to the tree described above – oh that the other Micklethwaites were so easy!

If I expand the search to look at Michaelthwaite, there are more possibilities. The vicar of Silkstone used the form Michaelthwaite for Micklethwaite around 1760-70, but there don't appear to be any suitable candidates for George or John. Another Elizabeth Michaelthwaite was baptised in Spilsby Lincolnshire in 1802 – the rest of the family is recorded as Micklethwaite, but here too there are no Georges or Johns. Martha Michaelthwaite married William Senyear in 1763 in Campsall – this is getting closer to Winterton. She was the widow of Jonathan Micklethwaite married Campsall 1751, born Martha Kitson. I don't know Jonathan's parents either! His daughter Mary married as Michaelthwaite too in 1781 in Campsall but I can't find any other siblings other than Jonathan 1752 and Robert 1754. However, it's possible that Jonathan was married someone else before Martha and had children, and that these records haven't turned up.

Another possibility for the ancestor of George and John could be Richard Michaelthwaite who married Ann Jackson in Fishlake in 1746. I have records for 5 children: Jonathan 1746; Sarah 1747; Richard 1749; Martha 1751; Ann 1753 – but no John or George. Fishlake isn't far from Winterton. Of course I don't know Richard's parents!

The above records suggest that Michaelwaite could easily be a variation of Micklethwaite. Widening the search to include Micklethwait(e)s still gives no strong suspects for a trio of George, Sarah and John. There are 4 baptisms in Felkirk to Richard Micklethwait(e) – John 1746, John 1749, Richard 1751 and Ann 1754 – not a lot of room in there for births for George and Sarah, so not looking good, except that George named his son Richard which could indicate a connection.

There is another major line starting with Jonathan Micklethwaite born about 1660 in Hemsworth, about which we know little apart from the direct line (until the 1800s when one branch emigrates to Doncaster and another to the USA). It is possible one of the siblings of this line could have had Michaelwaite offspring. As yet, no records have surfaced to enlighten the situation.

I enjoyed researching the Michaelwaites – the name is sufficiently rare to be easy to find, and it isn't often messed up to Makeltherde as Micklethwaite has been. If only I knew where they came from!

For the full tree see <http://www.ancestryhost.org/andymick/micks-data/gdr-m2368.pdf>