

The Smales of Frithelstock and Langtre.

The Smales were a large and generally prosperous yeoman family who inter-married with other substantial landowners in their part of Devon. The earliest yet traced is John Smale of Southcott, Frithelstock, who married Catherine Nethaway (Netherway) on 12th June 1749. They had two sons and four daughters most of whom married local people and continued to live in the district.

The eldest child was a daughter, Mary, (bp 24 Jul 1749) who married in 1770 Richard Whitlock of Langtre, the neighbouring parish close to Southcott. They had four sons and a daughter; one of the sons, John, who married Catherine Palmer, had a daughter Grace who married Mark Daniel of South Trekeive, St Cleer; (see Daniels of St Cleer) her brother and sister, William and Dorcas spent their lives at South Trekeive, too, where they were not far from other Smale and Fursman relatives. It is strange that though Grace and her sister Mary are mentioned in their Uncle William's Will, William and Dorcas are not.

The second child of Catherine Nethaway and John Smale was John (bp 14 Nov 1751) who seems to have inherited Southcott and continued to live there, but so did his brother, William. John and his wife also had four daughters and two sons as his parents had done, and both their boys, also John and William, lived and farmed at Southcott. Three of their girls married into the local families of Fursman, Hackwill (Hackwell) and Copp but the second girl, Susannah remained unmarried and her detailed Will is a great help to us.

(bp 1756)

After Mary and John came Catherine (bp 1754) and Rebecca, who married George Beare yeoman of Frithelstock, and ^{Grace} (bp 1758) who married William Palmer. Rebecca had four children and Grace had eight as we learn from the Wills of their brother William and their niece Susannah. Grace and William Palmer's eldest daughter, Catherine, married her cousin John Whitlock and their youngest daughter, Grace, married Nicholas Daniel of St Cleer. He was the brother of Mark Daniel who married Grace Whitlock, Grace Palmer's first cousin once removed!

The second son of John Smale and Catherine Nethaway was also their youngest child, William who was well off. He is described on his gravestone as 'of Southcott in the parish of Frithelstock' but when he was seventy eight at the end of his life he was living at a property called Townsends which he left in his Will to his unmarried niece Susannah, and she in her turn left it to her brother. William's Will made in 1834 and proved in 1838 lists no fewer than forty two beneficiaries, most of them his nieces and nephews, and as many of them are identified by means of the names of fathers or spouses it makes a veritable treasure store of family history information.

William mentions no wife or children of his own and none are mentioned on his gravestone so one imagines that he was a bachelor, and his executors and residual legatees are his niece Susannah and her brother William.

When Susannah's turn came to make her Will in 1854 she was even more detailed than her Uncle and listed articles in the household and amongst her personal possessions which she wanted various of her relatives to enjoy. Many of the names are the same as those listed by William, but they have an added interest because of these gifts. Our family has two salt spoons marked S.S. which probably originated from her home. This extract gives the tone of her dispositions:-

'I give and bequeath unto my niece Susanna Clark the daughter of my late brother John Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling. To my niece Rebecca Netherway daughter of the said John Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and the looking glass in the kitchen chamber; to Richard Smale son of the said Rebecca Netherway the sum of ten pounds sterling; to my niece Sarah Saunders daughter of the said John Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and my silver sugar tongs; to my niece Catherine Keill daughter of the said John Smale the sum of twenty pounds sterling and my large bible; to my niece Dorcas Semale daughter of the said John Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and my Copper Tea Kettle; to my nephew Thomas Smale son of the said John Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and one silver table spoon; I give and bequeath unto my brother William Smale of Frithelstock aforesaid Yeoman the sum of one hundred pounds sterling and my armed chair and a Silver Cream Jug, I also give unto my said brother William Smale All my term and interest in All my Tenement and Messuage called Townsends situate in the parish of Frithelstock aforesaid; I also give and bequeath unto Susanna Smale the wife of the said William Smale the sum of sixty pounds sterling also my brown silk gown and shawl; I also give and bequeath unto my niece Rebecca Copp the daughter of the said William Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and my silver cream ladle; To my niece Sarah Smale the daughter of the said William Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and the bed in the parlour chamber with the bedframe Furniture Bolsters Quilts and all other things thereunto belonging and also a bread basket; To my nephew Frederick Smale son of the said William Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and two brass candle sticks; to my nephew Caleb Smale son of the said William Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and also the pestle and mortar and one silver table spoon marked S.S.; to my nephew William Smale son of the said William Smale the sum of eighty pounds sterling and also six silver tea spoons marked W.S.; to my nephew John Smale son of the said William Smale the sum of seventy pounds sterling also my watch and gun;-- and so it goes on for several more pages.

For us the particular interest lies with John's younger son, William Smale and his wife Susannah Nancekivell, who are our direct ancestors. They had a daughter, then four boys and lastly another daughter, our ancestress. Rebecca who married another of the Copp family, had a daughter, Rebecca who at eighteen was housekeeping for her Uncle Caleb and his little girls at Trecarne, St Cleer. Frederick who got eighty pounds and two brass candlesticks was the eldest son and eventually went to farm at Lewannick, at one time at Trelaske and another at Coombshead in that parish. He married Mary Braund and they are both buried in the church yard there. He was one of the executors for his brother-in-law, William Daniel, the husband of his sister Sarah. Caleb the second son who also got eighty pounds and a pestle and mortar and one silver table spoon marked S.S., was a widower before he was forty, and had a Young family to care for. It was he who was looking after Trecarne for their widowed sister, Sarah, in 1871. The next brother was William and the youngest one John, both of whom were remembered by their Aunt Susanna. John also farmed at Coombshead in Lewannick at one time, and he and his wife had two daughters. The younger one Emily, eventually had a grandson, John Trewin, who married Elizabeth Daniel the great granddaughter of Sarah Daniel, née Smale.

It is this Sarah, the one who received £80 and the bed in the parlour chamber and a bread basket, who became the wife of William Daniel and our ancestress. She was a charming and lively woman and has her own section of this story.