

It has taken about 18 months to obtain true details about my grandfather, although we have always had certain information to work on - e.g. we knew from his gravestone his date of death, his supposed age and from this and his marriage certificate his (supposed) name. From my own father we understood, (amongst other, possibly 'embellished' accounts) that he had originally come from the Daventry area. In the latter part of 1980 and early 1981 we went a number of times to the Local Studies Library in Derby and, without success, looked at the 1871 census returns for addresses which we knew he had lived at, and also studied marriage indexes and voting lists etc. We knew that he married Mary Ann Turner from Burton On Trent and so in February 1981 I rang up the Registrar in B.O.T. to ask whether I could come along and obtain a copy of the marriage certificate which I took a guess at being mid 1876. (we knew that Uncle Herbert was the eldest child and born on 6 May 1877. Although the said Registrar was definitely 'cool' about my guesswork, Muriel and I went along to his office on 9th February 1981 and there found the Registrar quite jovially saying that he had found the marriage entry immediately after I had phoned. --- Copy of cert. (enc.) shows that John's occupation was a Breakman (a railway labouring job) that his residence was B.O.T. and that his father was Richard Lomas - a labourer. We went on to Lichfield Record Office but they did not hold Parish Records for Christ Church B.O.T. It was noted on the certificate that only the 'Turner's were witnesses i.e. no Lomas'. We were not sure (and still not) that John actually lived at B.O.T. although he may have done so to satisfy the 'marriage residence qualification'. In Feb. 1981 I wrote to the present incumbent of Christ Church, B.O.T. in case the Banns may have given the Parish of birth of John but the vicar failed to reply (or return my s.a.e.). On 30/3/1981 (remembering what Pop had said about the Daventry area) we went to the Northamptonshire Record Office - Delapre Abbey - but found that they only held Daventry census returns for 1851 and 1871. At that time we were working on the assumption that John had been born 1852/1853 (from gravestone details) and we found very little on any 'Lomas' on these census returns or Daventry Parish records (see enc.). On 7/4/81 we went to B.O.T. Library to check the 1871 census but as this was 5 years before marriage we were not really surprised to find no mention of John although we did come across details of Mary Ann Turner and family (enc.). Later that month we went to examine the Mormon files (at Loughborough) but no trace of John or his father. Later that year when our John and Ken. were in London they both examined the official records at St. Catherines House and took note of all the John Lomas' born around the assumed period. They even applied for 2 of the likely certificates of birth but they both proved wrong. We resigned ourselves to the fact that we would have to await the publication of the 1881 census when we were fairly certain that John was living at one of the addresses we had for him in Derby. On 3/2/1982 therefore, Muriel went up to Matlock Record Office where we were most disappointed to find no trace at any of the 5 addresses we had. Later that week, Muriel had a brainwave to suggest that we should try and obtain a copy of my Uncle Walter's birth certificate as he had been born in 1880 i.e. the year before the census. We, therefore, went to the Derby Registrar where we obtained the certificate quite easily.

Here we found yet another address and so the following week on 10/2/1982 we went off to Matlock again and there, at long last, we found the all important information that John had been born at Woolscott, Warwickshire.

On 3 March 1982, John(our) was thankfully over on a visit and he drove us down to Warwick Record Office where we spent a very rewarding morning getting information from census returns and Parish records on the Lomas family. Sufficiently so for us to go on to Rugby Registrar and obtain a copy of the birth certificate of Jesse John Lomas. (See enc.). We also went to have a look at Grandborough Church which was the church for Woolscott.

On 9 March 1982 Muriel and I went to Lichfield as they hold B.T.'s for Grandborough until app. 1844. There we obtained more information on various Lomas Baptisms including the fact that, regardless that my grandfather's birth had been officially registered as Jesse John, had been baptized only as John.

I subsequently wrote to the vicar at Grandborough and we arranged to go down to see his Parish records on 7/4/1982, when Esme and Derek came with us. In fact we went to Delapre Abbey in the morning and Grandborough in the afternoon - at both places adding to our information(see enc.). At the church we also met Mrs Greenhill, a churchwarden who intrigued us by saying that last year, 2 'young men' had been there collecting much the same information as we were. She gave me Roger S. Lomas' name and address and the enclosed correspondence explains the rewarding result of this contact - 3rd. cousin?.

W.J.L. 24/4/1982