

BRANSCOMBE FAMILY OF LITTLEHAM(EXMOUTH) - by Hugh Pickett, February 1975

Evidence from parish registers, tabulated: (spellings modernized)  
Provisional table

(Jane Branscombe buried 17 Oct 1609 may be mother of the following)

ELIAS BRANSCOMBE of Littleham married JOAN WHEATON 28 Jan 1603/4 at Littleham - *11 Dec 1630*  
they had issue (with possibly other issue of whom record is lost)

1. WILMOTT bapt 15 Apl 1607, married 17 Jan 1638 to SIMON HOOPER
2. WILLIAM bapt 10 Dec 1609 and buried 19 Nov 1630, (unmarried, and without issue)
3. ELIZABETH bapt 11 Aug 1616, married 1 Dec 1656 to THOMAS LANGFORD
4. \*ELIAS BRANSCOMBE bapt 13 Jun 1619 of whom nothing further is recorded in this parish; he may very well have moved away and had issue.
5. THOMAS BRANSCOMBE of Littleham, bapt 23 Jun 1622, drowned 6 Feb 1660/1 married to SUSANNA ELSON 30 Mar 1646, and had issue:

(A) WILLIAM BRANSCOMBE of Exmouth bapt 5 Dec 1647 married 23 Feb 1676/7 to MARY CRUTCHET and had issue

- (i) WILLIAM bapt 31 Jly 1679 presumed died in infancy *24 July 1712*
- (ii) JAMES bapt 28 Mar 1681 presumed to have died in infancy *11 Dec 1630*
- (iii) WILLIAM bapt 15 Jly 1682, buried 3 Aug 1728 *1712*  
(on negative evidence, unmarried and without issue)
- (iv) SIMON bapt 5 Oct 1684, buried 7 Apl 1641 *1712*  
(on negative evidence, unmarried and without issue)
- (v) \*JAMES bapt 20 Mar 1686/7, married ...  
had issue  
(a) \*JAMES bapt 15 Nov 1711  
(possible other issue in lost records or elsewhere)
- (vi) ARTHUR bapt 1 Jan 1689/90 married ELIZABETH *CALLARD*  
had issue  
(a) MARY bapt 14 Oct 1715  
(b) \*ARTHUR bapt .. ... 1718  
(c) JOHN bapt 5 Aug and bur 2 Oct 1723, died in infancy  
(d) ELIZABETH bapt 25 Aug 1725 *Mr. Thomas (Carter) 1741*  
(possibly other issue in lost records)

(vii) SARAH bapt 23 Apl 1693, married 2 Nov 1720 to JAMES GEILES (? GILES)

(B) THOMAS BRANSCOMBE bapt 16 Aug 1652, buried 3 Jly 1715 married 5 Apl 1702 to JOAN ADAMS.  
(on negative evidence, unmarried and without issue)

(C) \*JAMES BRANSCOMBE born 14 Sep 1656 of whom nothing further is recorded in this parish. he may very well have moved away and had issue.

(D) SARAH bapt 4 Aug 1659, married 27 Dec 1683 to THOMAS WISH

Later unidentified/unconnected entries:

- ELIZABETH BRANSCOMBE buried 1752(may be the widow or daughter of Arthur above)
- ELEANOR BRANSCOMBE spinster, married 1765
- THOMAS BRANSCOMBE buried 1800
- ALICE BRANSCOMBE married 1819
- JAMES & SARAH BRANSCOMBE whose daughter was bapt 1781

names underlined are certain or probable ancestors of Branscombe-name male line families. Those marked \* are the "unaccounted-for loose-ends" possible ancestors of Branscombes elsewhere.

parish LITTLEHAM county Devon <sup>source</sup> (original registers) at parish church  
 ( ~~transcripts~~ )  
 ( ~~modern copy~~ )  
 searching Total search of all surviving registers from start (1603-1612) to 1837  
baptisms start 26 May 1612; marriages start 2 Aug 1603; burials start 5 Sep 1603  
 remarks / defects / years covered or missing there is a gap in the burials register 1650-1657  
also a complete volume of the registers, baptisms, marriages, and burials, is lost  
covering 1705 to 1743. (see separate report of Bishop's Transcripts.)

year	month	day	BAPTISMS 1612-1704, 1744-1837			
1616	Aug	11	BRANSCOMB	Elizabeth	d	Ellys
1619	Jun	13		Ellis	s	Ellis
1622	Jun	23	BRANSCOMBE	Thomas	s	Elize
1647	Dec	5	BRANSCOMB	William	s	Thomas
1652	Aug	16		Thomas	s	Thomas
1656	Sep	14	(N) <del>Thomas</del>	James	s	Thomas
1659	Aug	4		Sarah	d	Thomas
1679	Jly	31	BRANSCOMBE	William		(parents not stated)
1681	Mar	28		James	s	William & Mary
1682	Jly	15	BRANSCOMB	William	s	William & Mary of Exmouth
1684	Oct	5		Simon	s	William & Mary of Exmouth
1686	Mar	20		James	s	William & Mary of Exmouth
1689	Jan	1		Aurther	s	William & Mary of Exmouth
1693	Apr	23		Sarah	d	William & Mary of Exmouth
(GAP IN REGISTERS 1705-1743)						
1781	Mar	15	BRANSCOMB	Susanna	d	James & Sarah
MARRIAGES 1603-1704, 1744-1837						
1603	Jan	28	Ellys	BRANSCOMBE	&	Jone Wheaton
1638	Jan	17	Simon	Hooper	&	Wilmott BRAUNSCOMBE
1646	Mar	30	Thomas	BRANSCOMB	&	Susanna Elson
1656	Dec	1	Thomas	Langford	&	Elizabeth BRANSCOMB
1676	Feb	23	William	BRANSCOMBE	&	Mary Crutchet
1683	Dec	27	Thomas	Wish	&	Sarah BRANSCOMB both of Exmouth
1702	Apr	5	Thomas	BRANSCOMBE	&	Joan Adams of Exmouth

(continued)

Clear and straightforward entries are given in standard form  
 Any entry which is at all ambiguous is quoted verbatim  
 No relevant detail at all is omitted; Latin is translated  
 Mixed entry sources are distinguished C, M, B, in right margin  
 all names are as spell in the original

Aff - affidavit of burial in woollen  
 Witnesses to marriages are in brackets  
 Dates before 1 Jan 1752 are given OLD STYLE  
 unless otherwise noted  
 osp - of this parish

C - christening/baptism  
 M - marriage  
 B - burial  
 N - natus/born  
 spin - spinster  
 bach - bachelor  
 wid - widow(er)

s - son of  
 d - daughter of  
 w - wife of  
 Lic - marriage by Licence

## PARISH REGISTER SEARCHES

Parish LITTLEHAM county \_\_\_\_\_ source  
 ( original registers )  
 ( bishops' transcripts ) at \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( modern copy )  
 searching \_\_\_\_\_ continuation \_\_\_\_\_  
 remarks / defects / years covered or missing \_\_\_\_\_

year month day

MARRIAGES continued

(GAP IN REGISTERS 1705-1743)

1765 Ap1 30 Thomas Caperl otp & Eleanor BRANSCOMB, spin, otp  
 (Robert Howard; John Baker)

1819 Ap1 19 John Bishop otp & Alice BRANSCOMBE otp  
 (Mary Ann Bastin; John Blackmore)

BURIALS 1603-1649; 1658-1678; 1744-1837

1609 Oct 17 BRANSCOMBE Jane

1630 Nov 19 William

1630 Dec 11 Ellize

1660 (GAP IN REGISTERS 1650-1657)  
 "memorandum that upon the 6 day of Febr was drownd Arthur Herring:  
 Thomas Stile; And THOMAS BRANSCOMBE Coming from Torbay"

(GAP IN REGISTERS 1678-1743)

1752 Oct 15 BRANSCOMB Elizabeth

1800 Feb 13 Thomas

Aff - affidavit of burial in woollen  
 Witnesses to marriages are in brackets  
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 unless otherwise noted  
 otp - of this parish

C - christening/baptism  
 M - marriage  
 B - burial  
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 spin - spinster  
 bach - bachelor  
 wid - widow(er)  
 s - son of  
 d - daughter of  
 w - wife of  
 Lic - marriage by Licence  
 bach - bachelor  
 wid - widow(er)

Clear and straightforward entries are given in standard form  
 Any entry which is at all ambiguous is quoted verbatim  
 No relevant detail at all is omitted; Latin is translated  
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 all names are as spelt in the original



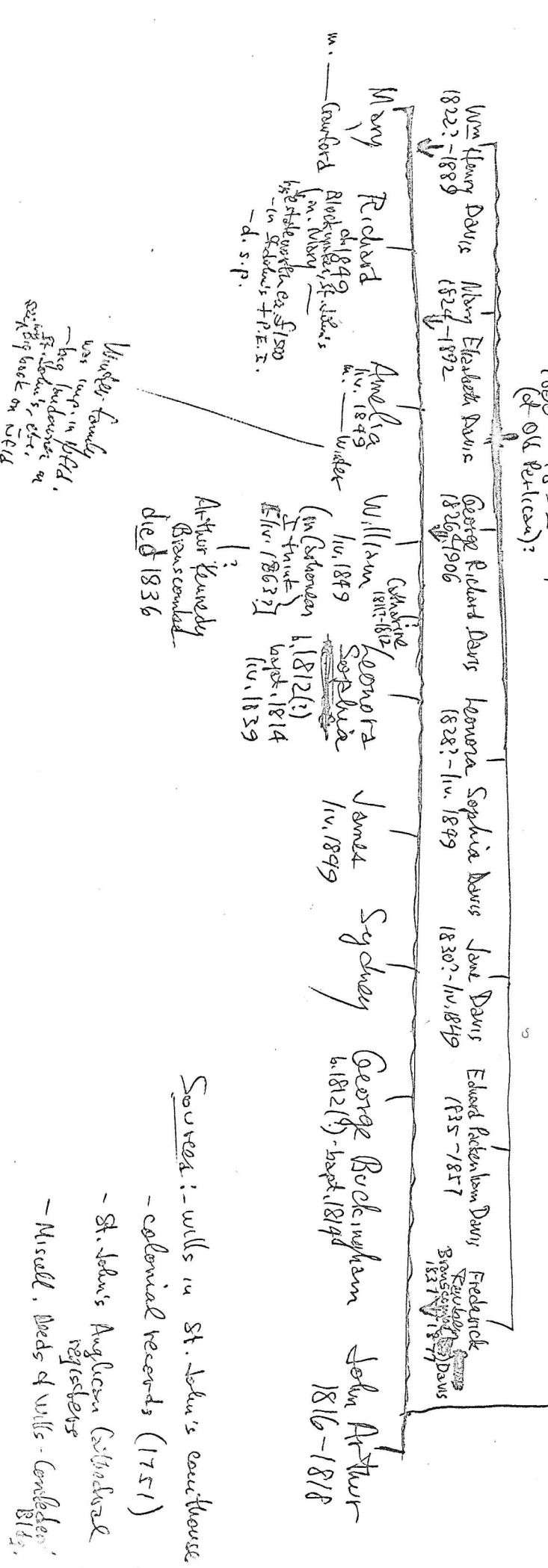
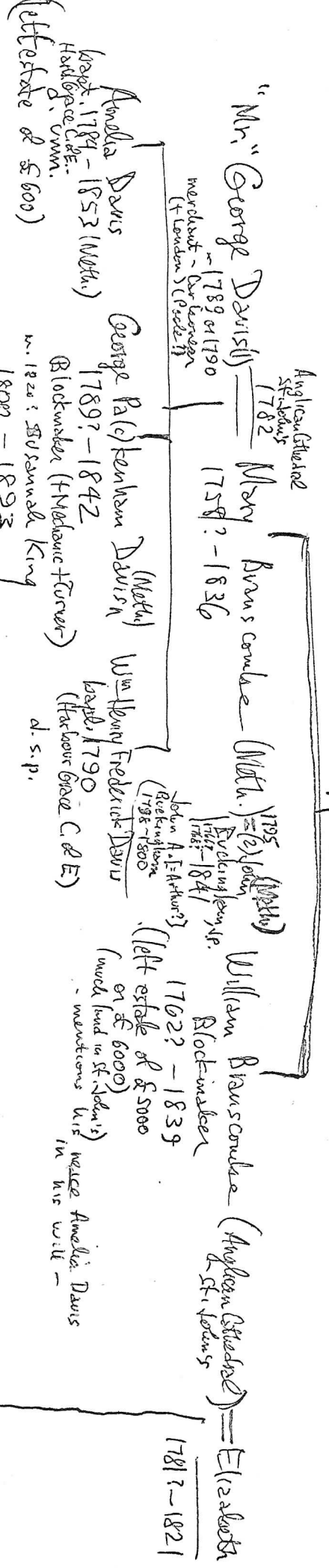
- Charles Grew = Mary —  
 John Rainscombe Grew  
 b. 1815 of bapt.  
 in Anglican Church  
 St. John's

Arthur Rainscombe  
 - 1800 (buried Anglican Church, St. John's)  
 ?

Simon Rainscombe = Elizabeth  
 dead by 1751  
 - executors of husband  
 of Emanuel (1751)  
 - liv. 1751

of St. John's, Nfld.  
 (buried at English Church)  
 by E.W. Kennedy  
 (summer 1970)

Arthur Rainscombe  
 - executors of husband  
 of Emanuel (1751)  
 - liv. 1751



Sources: - wills in St. John's courthouse  
 - colonial records (1751)  
 - St. John's Anglican Church registers  
 - Miscell. deeds of wills - Condegen Bldg.



KENNEDY  
KANEY  
①

BRANSCOMBE FAMILY OF LITTLEHAM (EXMOUTH), CO. DEVON  
ADDENDA TO THE RESEARCH OF HUGH PESKETT  
BY EARL WM. KENNEDY, AUGUST 1976

LITTLEHAM PARISH REGISTERS:

Thomas [~~not William!~~], baptized 31 July 1679, son of William Branscombe.  
Arthur, baptized <sup>14</sup> October ~~1649~~, son of Thomas Branscombe  
Dyna, baptized 26 December 1614, daughter of Ellis Branscombe  
Jane, baptized 26 May 1612, daughter of Ellis Branscombe  
Dyna <sup>Branscombe</sup>, buried 28 September 1615  
(William Branscombe, buried 19 November 1630) drowned  
Jane Branscombe [?] married Thos. Hooper [?] 1703 [this is uncertain]

LITTLEHAM PARISH BISHOP'S TRANSCRIPTS:

Joseph Wood married Mary Branscombe <sup>12</sup> February 1735-36  
Mary Branscombe buried 25 September 1735

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH [incomplete] BISHOP'S TRANSCRIPTS

(= the parish adjoining Littleham; original parish registers also exist but were not examined)

Simon, baptized 18 December 1728, son of Arthur Branscombe and

Elizabeth his wife  
Richard Chard <sup>[buried 20 Oct. 1759?]</sup> married Martha Branscombe <sup>[buried 18 Feb. 1763?]</sup>, both this parish,  
9 February 1718-19

Thomas, <sup>7</sup> baptized March 1713-14, son of James Branscombe and  
Magdalen his wife

John Branscombe, baptized 22 March 1690-91 [no parents named]

FURTHER ADDENDA TO BRANSCOMBE FAMILY RESEARCH  
 - ESPECIALLY ALLIED FAMILIES, E.G. ELSON, CRITCHARD.  
 BY EARL WM. KENNEDY, AUGUST 1976

## LITTLEHAM PARISH:

WILLIAM ELS[D]ON [SR.] (buried 22 January 1662-63) married 18 Apr. 1618  
 THOMAZINE RIANI (<sup>presumably</sup> buried 10 February 1659-60); his (=their?) children:

1. ROBERT, bap. 14 Feb. 1618-19
2. WILLIAM, bap. 30 Sept. 1621
3. SUSANNA, bap. 9 May 1624; mar. Thomas Branscombe 30 March 1646
4. JOHN, bap. 10 Sept. 1626; bur. 24 Sept. 1628
5. JOHN, bap. 13 Sept. 1629
6. DOROTHEY, bap. 5 Jan. 1633-34
7. ANDREW, bap. 18 Dec. 1636
8. (JAMES, bap. — Sept. 1642 [?])?

SYMON CRITCHARD (CRUTCHARD, C[H]RUTCHET[T]) married 30 Jan. 1633-34  
 KATHERINE CROSSE (he <sup>may have</sup> remarried 26 Feb. 1654-55 Margaret Bull);  
 his (their?) children:

1. SYMON, bap. 12 Apr. 1635
2. MARY, bap. 27 March 1636; bur. 14 Sept. 1636
3. JOHN, bap. 12 Nov. 1637
4. ELIZABETH, bap. 29 March 1640
5. SIMON, bap. 29 Jan. 1641-42
6. SIMON, bap. 1 Apr. 1646
7. MARY, bap. 6 Feb. 1647-48; mar. William Branscombe <sup>23 Feb. ?</sup> 1676 [-77]
8. WILLIAM, bap. 27 Dec. 1649

Probably Symon's brother was Josias Critchard <sup>(bapt. prob. 29 Dec. 1661)</sup> <sup>(buried prob. 1 June 1662-63)</sup>  
 mar. 29 Jan. 1636-37 Joanne Crosse  
 (perhaps sister of Symon's wife); their children: Rebecca (1638), Josias (1642), Wm (1645),  
 John (1647), Thomas (?) (1650).



BRANSCOMBE (ALLIED FAMILIES) ADDENDA (cont.)

Perhaps George Critchitt (mar. 1628-29) was (another) brother of Symon Critchard. Evidently William Critchard (m. 20 Sept, 1606 ~~to~~ Agnes Sander) was the father of Symon, <sup>and</sup> probably Josias, ~~and~~ ~~probably~~ George Critchard.

(This) WILLIAM CRITCHARD was the father of Edward (bur. 17 March 1606-07), <sup>George (bap. 8 July 1607)</sup> and of Elizabeth (bap. 28 Jan. 1612-13).

Perhaps Mary Branscombe (bap. 1715), dau. of Arthur Branscombe and his wife Elizabeth Colvard, married William Halse (bap. 2 June 1714) and had the following children: <sup>(= children of William and Mary Halse)</sup> William (1741), Mary (1743), Matthew (1746), Elizabeth Branscombe (1749<sup>50</sup>), James (1752), Mary (1755<sup>57</sup>), Jane (1755<sup>57</sup>-1760). [the clue here was the middle name of Elizabeth, bap. 1749-50]

JAMES GILES (buried <sup>13</sup> April 1755) married 2 November 1720 SARAH BRANSCOMBE (baptized 23 April 1693; [prob.] buried 5 Feb. 1750-51); <sup>their</sup> children:

- 1. JAMES, bap. 17 March 1722
- 2. WILLIAM, bap. 7 May 1725
- 3. JOSEPH, bap. 14 June 1728
- 4. THOMAS, bap. 2 Sept. 1730
- 5. JOSEPH, bap. 3 Aug. 1732
- 6. HENRY STAFFORD, bap. 1 Nov. 1734; bur. 13 May 1735.  
(a Capt. Henry Stafford was buried 15 Aug. 1746)

Mary Branscombe Horn buried 10 Nov. 1780

Perhaps (probably?) Mary Branscombe <sup>who was baptized 1715 (dau. of Arthur)</sup> ~~was~~ married 12 Feb. 1735-36

Joseph Wood and had children: 1. Susannah (bur. 5 July 1741)  
2. Sarah (bap. 9 Nov. 1743).

All of the above information is from Littleham Parish Registers and/or Bishop's Transcripts

## BRANSCOMBE (ALLIED FAMILIES) ADDENDA (cont.)

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH BISHOP'S TRANSCRIPTS (very incomplete):

- ELIZABETH CALLARD baptized 12 July 1687 (no parents given); she may well be the Elizabeth Callard who married Arthur Branscombe in 1713.
- Bartholomew Branscom as father of (minor?) children:
  - Martha, buried 8 Feb. 1669-70
  - Bartholomew, bap. or bur. 20 Dec. \_\_\_\_\_

The Withycombe Raleigh original parish registers should be searched.

BRANSCOMBE

An old established Devonshire family with a long connection in the "migratory" fishing trade to Newfoundland, which probably first established a "resident" branch in Newfoundland during the Mid-Eighteenth century, although they had resided there briefly for various periods before that date.

Family originated almost certainly from "Branscombe" a village and small sea port of that name in East Devonshire near the Dorset border. Certainly most of the family (which was connected with Newfoundland) sailed out of the parent port of Tonsham, Devonshire (or sometimes from a neighbouring village called Beer). However at least one branch of this family migrated to Dartmouth further along the Devonshire coast, where by 1700 they too were involved in the Newfoundland Trade. By the late eighteenth Century the most important branch of the family had become Tanners at the market town of Newton Abbott, also in South Devon. their trade was very dependent upon exports to the Newfoundland fishery.

below are some of the more well known members:

1. GEORGE: of St Johns, (fl 1750-80s. a ship captain in the foreign trade. Commanded the "Rival".
2. JAMES H. of St Johns. (fl 1820-30s) another ship captain who traded between St Johns and the West Indies.
3. PHILIP: of Tonsham, Devonshire (fl 1750s). A "bye boat keeper" (i.e. a man who operated an inshore fishery in Newfoundland, but himself migrated annually between there and his home in England).
4. S. MUIR (senior/junior): of HIGHWEEK/Newton Abbott in Devonshire. \*Teather tanners who flourished 1790s-1840s.

*prob nephew of our Mary*

5. WILLIAM: of Tonsham Devonshire.
  - (a) flourished late 17th century. Ship captain and ship owner who was in the fishing trade.
  - (b) flourished 1760s another fishing captain who was employed by merchants in Poole, Dorsetshire.
  - (c) William of KINGSBRIDGE South Devon, leather manufacturer who exported most production to Newfoundland. fl late 18th century
  - (d) William of Tonsham, Devon. flourished late eighteenth century
  - (e) William of tonsham and St Johns - "planter" (i.e. a man who lived in Newfoundland and operated small fishing boats). possibly the same man as (d) above. flourished around the turn of the eighteenth/nineteenth centuries.
  - (f) WILLIAM B: of St Johns "planter and Landholder" 1828 MARRIED MARGERET KENNEDY at Carbonear. (by the Revd Devereaux). in 1829 he seems to have given up active trade since his premises in St Johns (OR possibly his FATHER WILLIAM) were leased for £140 p.a. (which seems to indicate a fairly large establishment. also flourishing at least until the 1850s. a prominent member of St Johns "society". may for a period in the 1830s have been involved in the mercantile firm of William Wilking Bulley and Thomas Chancey in Conception Bay.

*prob bro. of our Mary*

*nephew of our Mary*

*[b. 1762  
Clyst St. George?]*

*had son -  
Arthur Kennedy  
Branscombe -  
d. 1836*

6. JOHN

of Topsham in Devonshire. fl 1700-1720s. ships captain in the Newfoundland trade. (b) flourished 1780s). Agent for the firm of Sparke, Hutchings and Sparke of Dartmouth, at St Johns.

*John Brinscombe  
1815*

7. ABRAHAM:

of Taigmouth in Devonshire. fl 1730s. Fishing ships captain who owned his own vessel.

8. SIMON:

of EXmouth in Devonshire. died 1751 (fl 1700-50). small merchant and ship captain. had 2 sons? both named Arthur, ~~xxxx~~ one of whom predeceased him. Owned a fishing plantation in St Johns. probably the direct ancestor of all those who settled in Newfoundland.

*John Brinscombe  
1815*

9. ARTHUR:

son of the above fl 1740-1760s. born in Topsham. during the 1740s commanded a Bristol ship in the Newfoundland Trade. SETTLED in St Johns in the mid 1750s. Seems to have been a small "planter" and captain/owner of his own small vessels. in 1757 "a sober man and well acquainted with the Halifax Coast" he was engaged as a pilot by Admiral Shelborne for his projected expedition against French Canada and Cape Breton.

*or will there  
2 Arthur's -  
father of son -  
- ds in my records -  
- one dead by 1751*

9. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
NICHOLAS:

of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>Topsham</sup> Devonshire. fl 1680-1710. Fishing ship captain ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ who trade to St Johns, was for a few years employed by merchants of Dartmouth. Seems to have been connected with only ~~xxxxx~~ two ships, the "True Intent" of Topsham - 85 tons burthen and later the "Susannah and Mary" of Topsham - 130 tons burthen.

10. RICHARD:

of East Devonshire: fl 1670-1680s. a "planter" At St Johns. had a wife and daughter but no sons. scale of operation - a typical Newfoundland planter of the era - he employed from 5 - 10 men operating one or two fishing boats. (b) RICHARDS of St Johns: fl 1810-1850. Later history obscure but seems to have begun adult life as a clerk to the firm of McCarthy, Hoyles and Brown of London and St Johns.

*link to ... 1849  
d. 1849 - well -  
block master -  
nephew of our Mary*

*Topsham seems to be H's of our Brinscombe.*

HUGH PESKETT

Genealogical & Historical Research  
Member of the Association of Genealogists & Record Agents

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Exeter  
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EX4 6DA  
15th February 1975

Dear Mr Kennedy,

BRANSCOMBE FAMILY

I have now been to Littleham, where I have searched the registers as shown by the enclosed, which I trust you will find self-explanatory. While there due to the high overhead costs of searching registers still in parish churches (see below) I made a full search of the registers up to 1837 (the later entries are not directly relevant to your case, but they are often of value especially in migrant cases to give "follow through" evidence of the members of the family who stayed behind. 1837 is the year when civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths began, hence the choice of that date.

As you will see, I have found evidence of a numerous family of the name settled there for five generations at least. However there is the problem that one volume of the registers is missing as noted, and that all I can obtain from register evidence of the fifth generation is a probably incomplete account, from Bishop's Transcripts. (I am not sure how much you know about Bishop's Transcripts; in theory they were supposed to have been sent in every year to the Bishop's office, from every parish, with copies of all register entries. Unfortunately, especially in the earlier years, many were lost (or perhaps not sent in) and so the series is very incomplete; in addition, during our Civil War, Oliver Cromwell abolished Bishops, so there are never any between about 1640 and 1661, and after Bishops were restored, the system was slow to get going again. If the system had worked perfectly, there would have been duplicates of all parish registers, but in practice history, neglect, and accident, have meant that it is incomplete.

However basically the fact is, as shown by the "one piece of paper" summary of the evidence (which I must stress is only provisional; it includes certain assumptions which may need amendment on further evidence emerging), that the Branscombe family seem to have left Littleham as a settled residence about 1740, although the "stray" occurrences of the name later show that there were families of the name probably not far away.

However my statement "left Littleham" needs qualifying; the precise statement is that they cease to appear in Church of England registers (Episcopalian); I see from my lists that a Presbyterian chapel was founded not far away in 1744. Absence from Littleham registers may mean that they had become Presbyterians.

Turning to Probate evidence; I am not sure how much you know of English probate courts before 1858; briefly they were all church courts; wills could be proved in local church courts, or the Archbishop's court (Prerogative Court of Canterbury), the latter being obligatory if the testator had goods in the jurisdiction of more than one local church court. Most of the local probate courts archives were destroyed by bombing here in Exeter in 1942 (but P.C.C. in London escaped). Littleham itself was in the jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, and there is no record of these; for much of the rest of Devon there are lists of the lost wills, pre-1800. BRANSCOMBE wills listed are:

(a) At Morchard Bishop, a parish far away in mid-Devon which I think we can disregard:

William	1548
John	1733
Joseph	1763

(b) In three virtually adjoining parishes, only about 5-6 miles from Littleham, and what is more, on the Teign estuary (see below)

James	West Teignmouth	1571
Joane	Chudleigh	1621
Thomas	Chudleigh	1621
Thomas	Bishopsteignton	1763

(A small point in parenthesis: even if they had joined another church, their wills would still have to be proved in the Church of England courts)

The Teign estuary references are particularly interesting, as it was from the ports and fishing villages on this estuary that the great strength of the Newfoundland Fisheries grew; secondly were the ports etc., on the Exe estuary including Exmouth in Littleham parish. I need say no more.

Now as regards the P.C.C. probates search; this as you know is from a card index at the Society of Genealogists; I have paid them £2.50 for the search, and I am sitting back waiting for the results.

We could do more register searches while waiting, but these would be searches to some extent in the dark, waiting to see what turned up, whereas the P.C.C. wills might very well pinpoint specifically which parish to search.

As regards other parish registers (and the Presbyterian registers, etc.) for the majority of those which are likely, access has no problems, as they are almost all available here in Exeter, either as original registers deposited at the county archives, or microfilm copies, etc. A few have even been indexed.

This contrasts with Littleham which is one of our "problem" parishes; the registers are still in the parish church; the local church authorities are more demanding of fees than most (as I am afraid my account below shows) and there is a volume of the registers lost, which involves making further searches in the Bishop's Transcripts; you can well imagine the relative costs of searching a register here in the Exeter county archives, and indexed, where I can cover 300 years at a mere fraction of the cost of the searches in Littleham. (Not all have been indexed.) (Some local church authorities charge no fee at all.)

(There is one other parish near Littleham which still has the registers in the church, Otterton, but the County Archivist tells me that he expects this to be brought in to the Archives very soon.)

I do not know what you feel as regards the next step: either wait for the results from the P.C.C. index, then search the wills indicated by the results, or make some further register searches first. (e.g. perhaps the Presbyterian registers ?)

The account at present stands at:

Searches Littleham parish registers, also Bishop's	
Transcripts, analysis of results, and report	£36. 00
Journey to Littleham 20 miles @ 12½ £	2. 50
Search fees to Rector and Verger £6.00 (@ £2.40 to £1)	14. 40
Paid Society of Genealogists £2.50	6. 00
	<hr/>
	£58. 90

less £26.00 paid.

As I stress, the Littleham registers were an exceptionally "difficult" and so high cost parish to cover.

There is one point; it seems to me that one of the items in my stolen brief case must have been the specific details you sent me of the precise Branscombe names and dates which you were seeking. (Unfortunately one only finds out what was stolen when one cannot find it in its right place.) Could I ask you to let me have the details again, please ?

I hope that you find this satisfactory; I do apologise that these searches have taken costs over the budget. I felt that I was doing right to make a total coverage of Littleham while I was there, rather than perhaps have to go back to search again, with another journey, and more search fees to pay there, etc., and hope you agree that I took the correct action.

Yours sincerely

*Arthur Peckitt*