

SOUTH SOMERSET

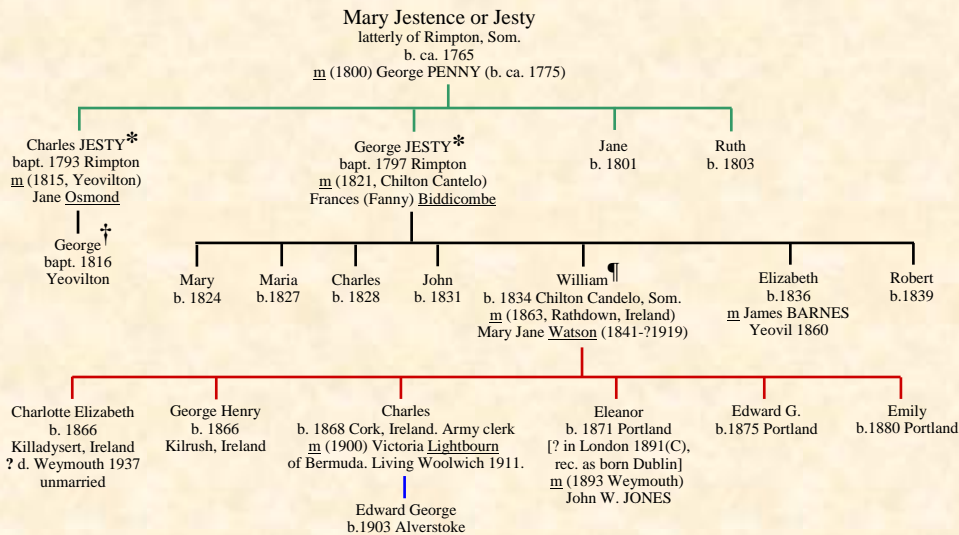
The neighbourhood of Chilton Cantelo, Rimpton, Bridgheampton, and Yeovilton in south Somerset is the source of a significant Jesty branch in the late 1700s that runs (via Ireland) into a small branch in Portland from 1870s-1930s. A lot of it is still missing, but it may account for a “missing” George Jesty who might have founded the main Canadian Jesty line.

The sources are a decided mixture, some of them weak. The key information about the roots came from Audrey German in Somerset. Readers of the [Canada page notes](#) will know that I proposed that--if there is indeed any link between the Dorset/Somerset and the Canadian Jests--the most likely root of Founder George Jesty in Newfoundland would be an illegitimate son or grandson of a Jesty daughter, which would explain why Y-chromosome analysis shows no (male-line) links between the main Dorset tree (sheets A-F) and the Canadian island.

If Mary is in our existing tree, the likely candidates are on [sheet B](#): (i) daughter of William (1734) and Mary of Yetminster, or (ii) daughter of Robert (1721) and Mary of Hinton St. George.

SOUTH SOMERSET and PORTLAND:

Sources: Audrey German, Myra Keay, Somerset OPC, Irish and Portland birth records, U.K. censuses 1841,1881-1911.



NOTES

•Audrey German--a descendant of Elizabeth (1836) has found that Charles and George’s births were both illegitimate, before Mary married George Penny, so it’s uncertain whether he was their father. And that’s assuming they even had the same father! Note also frequent name variations, e.g. Mary Jestence, George Jesty, etc.

† Charles & Jane’s son George (1816) is not found in Somerset in the 1841 census, and there is no earlier Yeovilton or Rimpton death record either. (Note, however, that death/burial records are very thin, so the lack of one tells us little.) So it’s possible he left, and it’s further possible that he emigrated to Newfoundland, at just about the right time and age to be Founder George of the Canadian Jesty line ([Canada sheet](#)). Moreover, his father’s illegitimate birth would prevent his carrying any male-line (Y chromosome) Jesty genes. To test that idea, we would need DNA from a male-line descendant of Charles (1793) or George (1795), assuming they had the same father. I.E. male-line descendants of Charles (1828), John (1831), Robert (1840), George Henry (1866), Charles (1868), or Edward (1875), to compare with the Canadian line.

¶ William (1834) was a gunner in the Royal Artillery and posted to many places during his Army career, including presumably Ireland, where he married Mary Jane Watson. M-J appeared in Portland around 1870, between the births of Charles and Eleanor. William, M-J, Edward and Emily are there in 1891 (C), while Charlotte and Eleanor are apparently in London, as a nurse and a cook. By 1901 (C) they had returned to Dorset: Eleanor now married in Weymouth, and Charlotte living with her mother, running a confectionery/bakery shop in Fortuneswell. But in the same census William is an army pensioner in Portsmouth (near son Charles at that time). M-J is still listed as married in Portland in 1911(C), still with Charlotte, but again without William. Mary Jane likely died in Portland/Weymouth in 1919, and Charlotte in 1937. M-J’s and Charlotte’s Portland shop was very close to a Jesty butcher’s shop in Kelly’s 1903 Portland Directory, which was probably part of Wm Charles’s Weymouth business ([sheet E](#)). I note also that Rimpton and Chilton Cantelo are fairly close to West Coker, which is where “old” Charles was born in 1800 ([sheet B](#)). Some cousinship between old Charles and this Rimpton island is possible, but unproven.