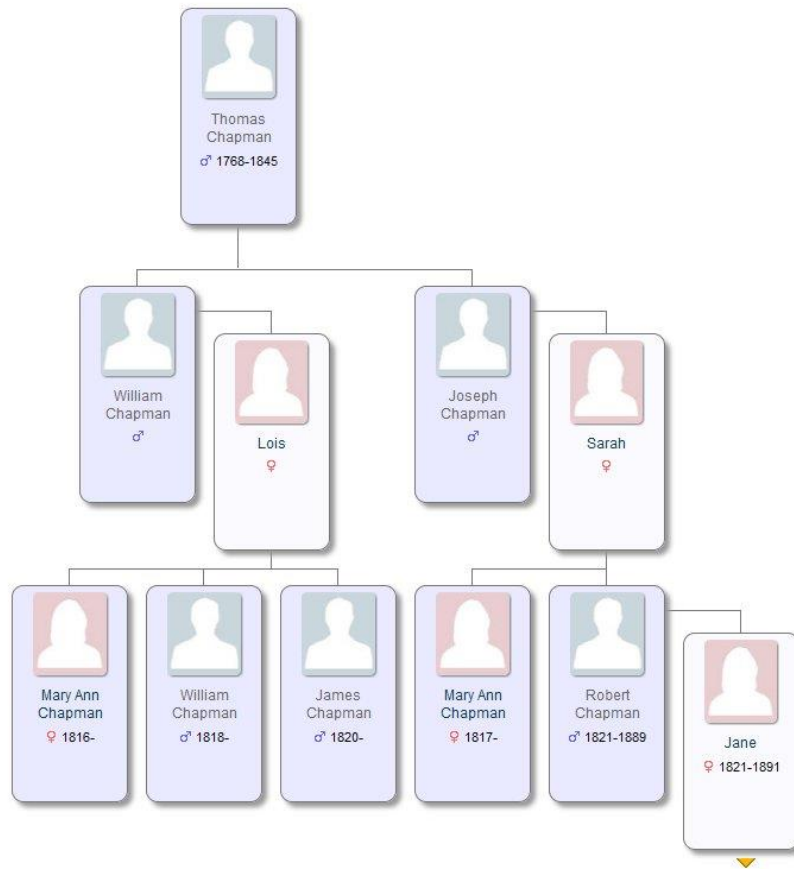


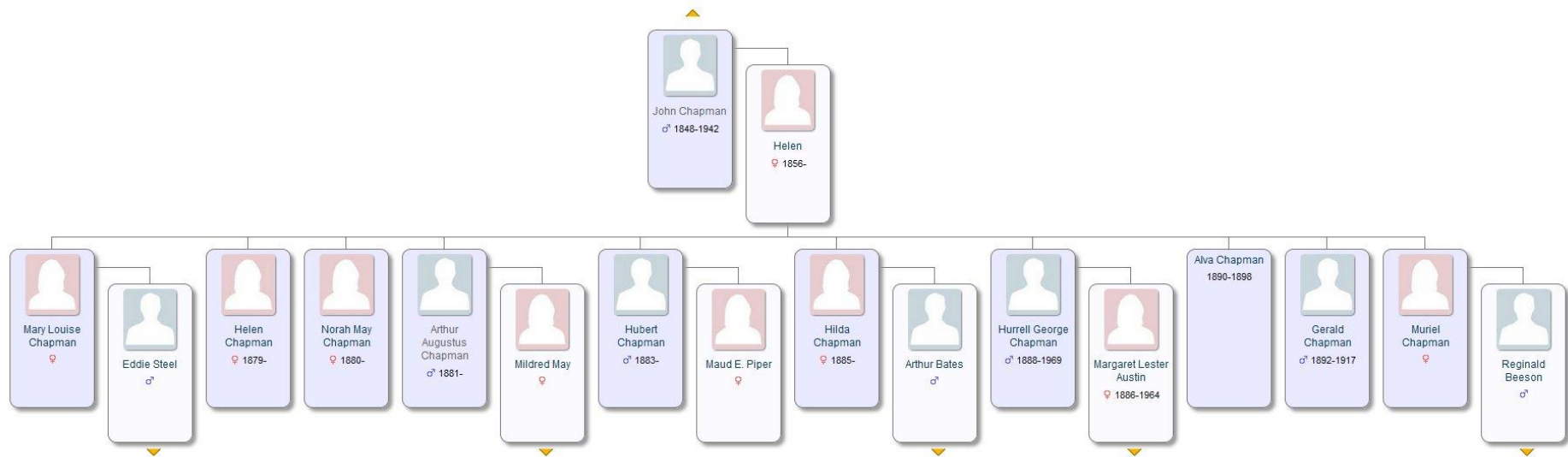
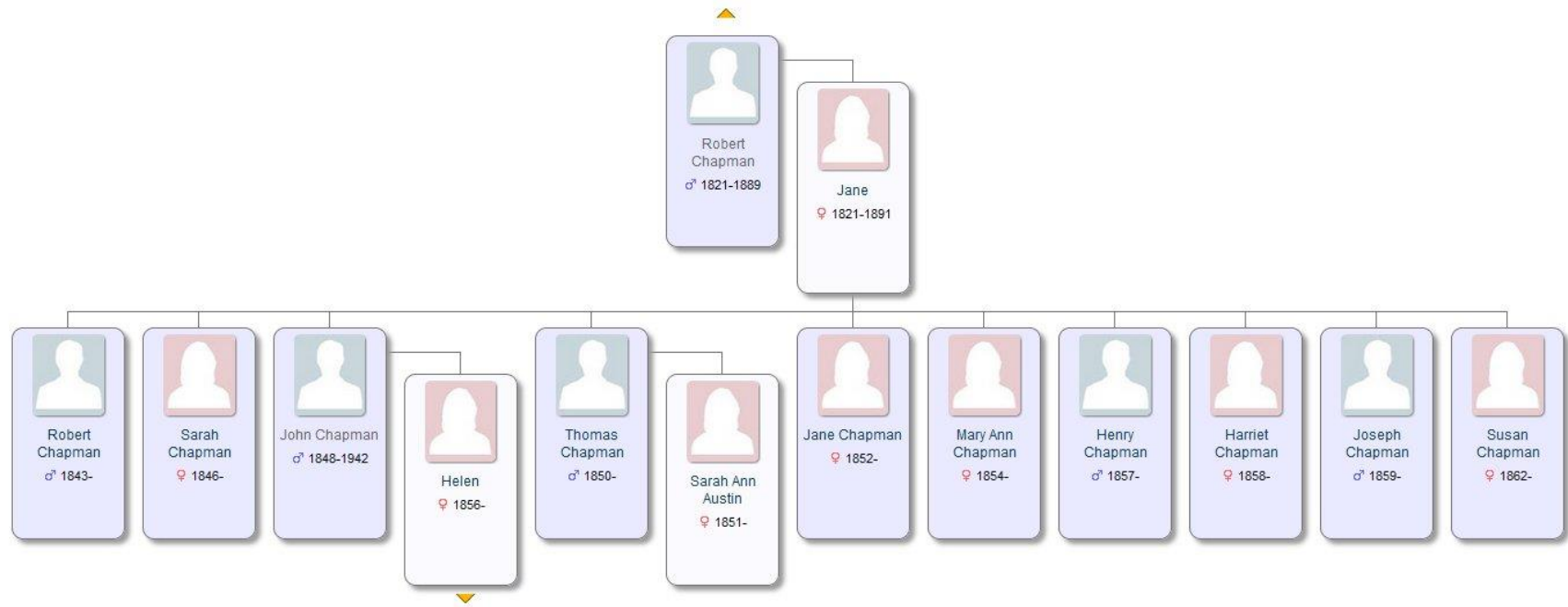
Chapman

In historical farming circles, the Chapman surname is well known, so care has been taken not to assume other entries in the archive necessarily relate to this family tree which starts with Thomas Chapman. But brief mention will be made of some of these other entries.

There was a John Chapman who provided a £200 mortgage for the corn windmill in Wheatley, owned in 1808 by Richard Lamburn. Perhaps this John Chapman was the Wheatley churchwarden who offered a reward for the re-capture in 1771 of Ben Butcher, late servant of Thos. Wastie, Cowley, who had 'eloped' from Wheatley, where he and wife Ann had been moved by order of Tetsworth Parish. But, back to the Wheatley family of builders, who did not have farming in their blood.



Ignoring a different Mary Ann Chapman, daughter of Sarah Chapman (nee Fryday) and the granddaughter of James Fryday & Susannah, who married Charles Wilkins of Wheatley, butcher, the tree continues from Robert Chapman, born in 1821 and died in 1889, to one of his sons, John Chapman, born in 1848, and living until he was 94 in 1942. Robert, the eldest son, kept the Kings Arms from 1876 to 1887 when his widow, Jane, took it over.

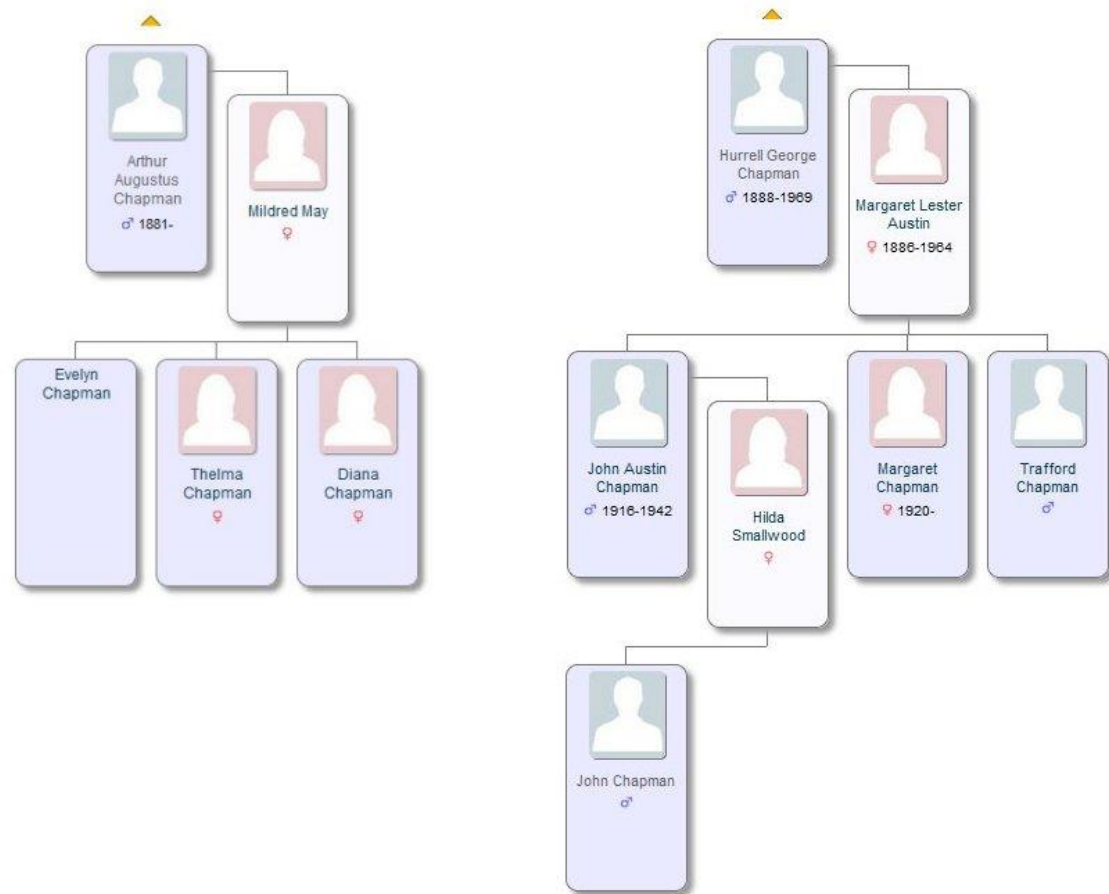


Gerald was killed at Passchendaele.

This is the point when 90 High Street, then known as Chapmans (now The Robins) comes into this story.

The deeds show that there was a building here in 1696. In the 18th century, and perhaps later, the building was used in connection with the tannery business, and it seems that much of the current building was the result of changes in the 18th century. It was the site of many businesses over the years; 1752 Richard Williams fellmonger and in 1819 Noah Crook fellmonger and parchment maker.

Then came the Chapmans. Robert Chapman (d. 1889), plumber, glazier and painter and his son John Chapman, described as painter, who married Helen, who was born in Nottingham. He had a mortgage on the property which was repaid after his death in 1942. They had a yard adjacent, now Gradara, 92 High Street, and another yard on the south of High Street just east of the Manor. In 1946, the business was acquired by Arthur and Marion Wheeler and continued until 1960. The Wheelers appear to have had a mortgage on the property from Helen, the widow.

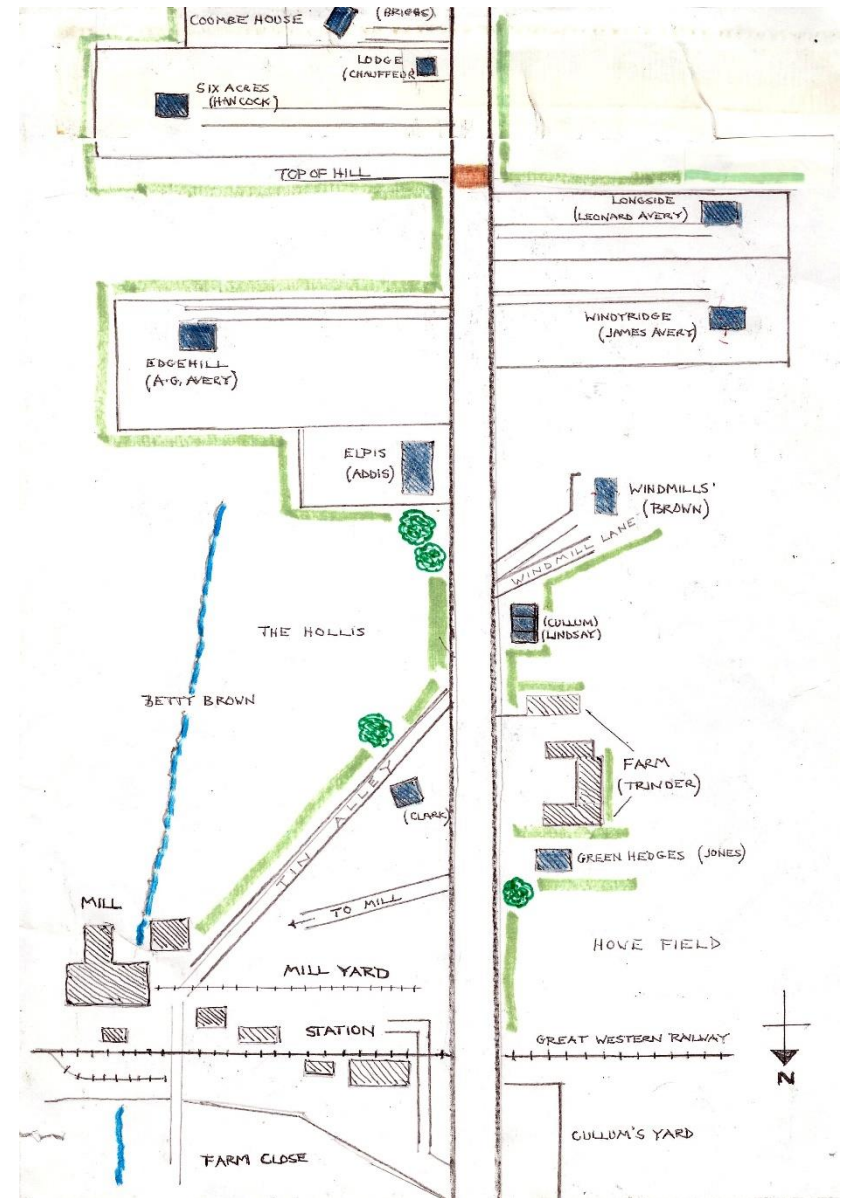
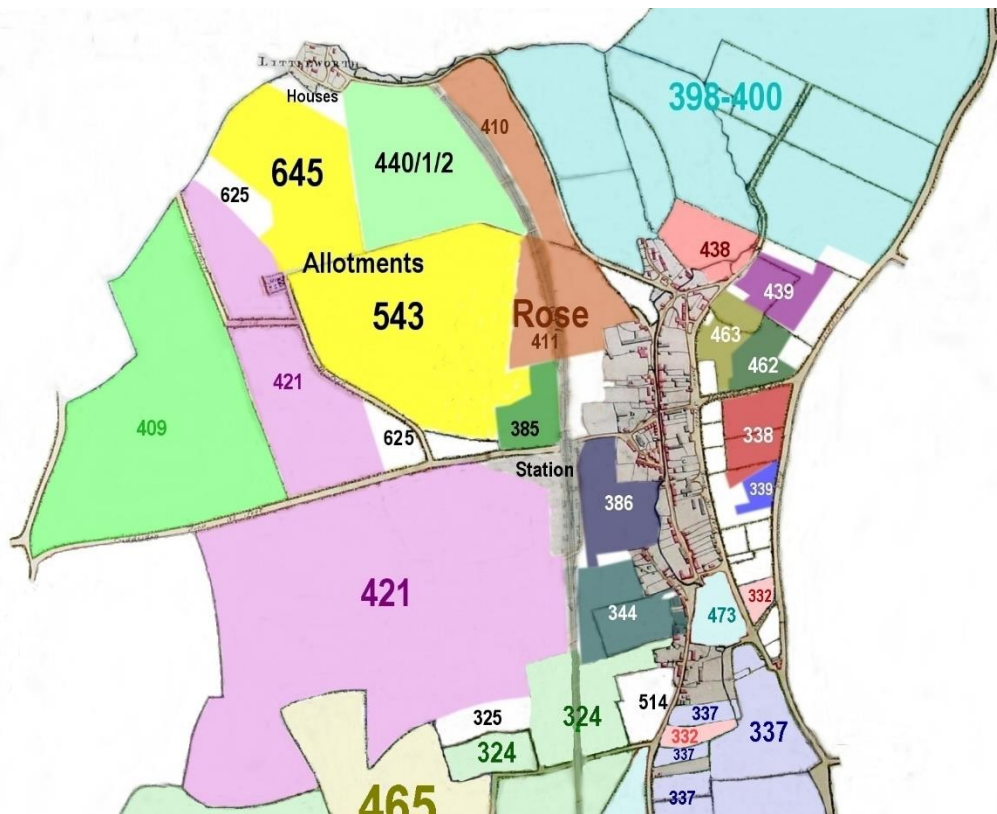


Arthur Augustus Chapman became foreman to the Cullum business, living in the double-fronted 4 Westfield Road with his wife Mildred, a lady's maid at Shotover House, and three daughters: Evelyn, Thelma and Diana.

It is not clear what his son Hurrell Chapman, carpenter, plumber, and builder, did after 1946, but he was living – and perhaps working – from a Church Road address. His son John Austin Chapman, who died in 1942 when only 26 years old, was a cabinet maker.

The house was re-named The Robins in 1960.

There is another part of the Chapman story as, by or before 1910, John had acquired Hill Farm, presumably as an investment as there is no evidence that this Wheatley family were ever active farmers (unlike those with the same surname known to have been active in farming over generations nationally). The extract of the 1910 ownership map shows that this was then 105 acres and let to William Dennis. It included the railway and Avery sawmill land (part of this is now 41-53 Ladder Hill). Percy Trinder, the next tenant farmer after Dennis, continued to run the farm until his death in 1953. Only 73 acres (shown shaded mauve and numbered 421) was included in the sale as, by then, acreages had almost certainly been already sold off for housing (Coombe House, Six Acres, Edgehill and Elpis on the east, and on the west Longside, Windyridge, Windmills, houses numbers 42-46 Ladder Hill, and Green



Hedges). The Trinder farm buildings were above 'Green Hedges' as shown in the sketch on the right