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Index of Canterbury Baptisms 1790-1840.
Kent Miscellaneous Index.
Others in Progress...

Jeff Playford,

16th December 2002.

Dear Jeff,

Further to my letter of 27 November, I can now send you a report of my research into the Goodsell family.

I looked at Sarah Playford's death certificate on your web site and saw that when she died on 28 March 1856 she was aged 60 years and noted as being the daughter of William and Sarah Goodsell, born 'Newhurst' - probably Ewhurst - Sussex. Her father was a blacksmith. She had married at Beckley, Sussex, at the age of 28 years to Henry Playford and their children were Sarah aged 28, William 22, Mary aged 19, Richard aged 17 and two dead in England. The two who died were probably Henry, baptised 14 March 1832 at Beckley, and perhaps another either born before Henry or after Mary Susanna, perhaps around 1838 just before the family left England but maybe died unbaptised.

I tried to obtain a copy of Henry and Sarah's marriage certificate but the Beckley marriage register has not been microfilmed so I was not allowed a copy. I made a transcript of the entry, however:

Beckley, Sussex.

1831 Nov 18 Henry Playford of this parish and Sarah Goodsell of this parish, by banns. Both signed.

Witnesses: Samuel Olive, James Baker, Charlotte Dennis, Cordelia Dennis.

I searched for the baptism of Sarah Elizabeth Goodsell between November 1823 and 1831, to allow for a late baptism, in Ewhurst and the neighbouring parishes of Bodiam, Salehurst, Mountfield, Whatlington, Sedlescombe, Brede, Northiam and Beckley, but without success. I also searched the British Vital Records Index 2, but drew a blank there also.

Finally I searched Ewhurst for the baptism of Sarah Goodsell. According to her age at death she was born about 1795/6 but according to her age at marriage, as given on her death certificate, she was born about 1802/3. I therefore searched Ewhurst baptisms between 1794 and 1805, but did not find a Sarah Goodsell baptism. The baptism of Sarah, bastard daughter of Ann Goodsell, was found on 24 November 1805 but this seems unlikely to be the baptism we seek. The BVRI2 contains no entry for her baptism or any children of William and Sarah Goodsell in the area in this period.

I suggest that the search for her baptism is now spread to surrounding parishes and that I include Hollington, which you mentioned was her native place as entered on the ship's passenger list. I could also search the national indexes to births and deaths from their start in July 1837 up to October 1838 to see if I can find mention of the other child of Henry and Sarah, who died before they left England on 20 October 1838.

This brings you up to date with my research into the Goodsell family and I enclose a statement of my account to date.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you and yours all the best for the festive season and the New Year and I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2003.

Yours sincerely,

G.Rickard (Miss)