



# **A Story of Adventure, Love, and Grief**





**James Hinnell 1861 - 1899**  
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**Based on letters from America in the  
Hinnell family archives**

**Robin Hinnell**

**March 2022**



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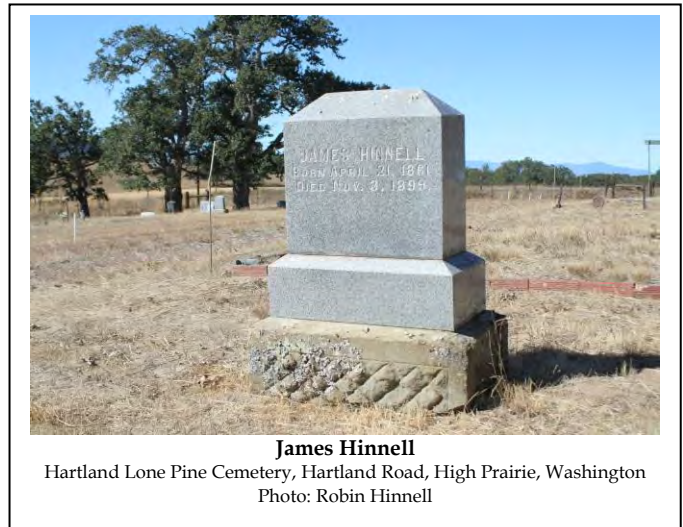


## James Hinnell 1861 – 1899

### A Story of Adventure, Love, and Grief

#### Introduction

Exploring the life of James Hinnell, who emigrated from England to the New World in 1881, might appear to be somewhat 'ordinary' in the overall history of immigration. After all, tens of thousands of young men and women left Europe for America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so why is James Hinnell's adventure different? It may not be so different, but it is personal; it relates to the descendants of the extended family to which he belonged then, and I belong today.



There are several other motivations in writing the narrative. My wife Sally and I emigrated too, albeit in 1969, not in 1881. Today, we find ourselves reflecting on our lives in Canada and we continue to learn about the social history of Canada in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. We explore the length and breadth of this vast country, and marvel at the determination and commitment shown by early settlers who built their lives in a naturally wild land.

Another incentive for me to write this narrative is that I posed a question for myself: "If I do all this research, which I want to do, will I be able to remember the intriguing ancestral details that will without doubt surface as I dig deeper into the research?" Thus, in doing all this research I needed a process and a medium which would ensure I could remember the multitude of facts and family stories which I would unearth. This record of James Hinnell is a narrative rather than a story, which has been carefully constructed over the past ten years. The reader will detect where, on behalf of the characters in the narrative, I have added a little 'emotion' or a 'hope' as the narrative unfolds. However, I am able to state that all the facts that drive the narrative are supported by evidence, as shown in the multitude of footnotes in the text.

The final motivation for me to research and create this narrative is that, in the early days of my interest in my ancestors, I had looked over the multi-generational Bury St. Edmunds Grammar School List, 1550-1900<sup>1</sup>, found on my father's bookshelves in our family home, and now in my home in North Vancouver. There, as I read about the Hinnells who attended the school, my eyes came to rest on the last Hinnell recorded in this 483 page tome.

*James Hinnell, at Bury school 1873-1876. Emigrated to Kansas, USA. Died (there) about 1900.*

This one line introduction to a young man who sought life in America has led me to this research. I could not be satisfied by this incomplete summary of a life well lived. My ongoing curiosity and research into the extended Hinnell family of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

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<sup>1</sup> Biographical list of boys educated at the King Edward VI Free Grammar School, Bury St. Edmunds; Suffolk Green Books No. XIII, 1908

especially those who left England on journeys of exploration, answered many questions: “Who were the Hinnell ancestors who emigrated from England, where did they go, what did they do and why did they do it, and of course who did they marry?” My curiosity just had to be satisfied. My ever widening research has unearthed family connections, relationships and life experiences of which I had no inkling. And along the way I have valued immensely this window into the social history of those times, the good aspects and the bad.

Furthermore, I seek to leave answers to yet another question, this time from my seven Canadian grandchildren who ask: “Who am I and where do I fit into the family histories of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in England?” [This project extends to the ancestral lines of my three children’s spouses too!]

My father’s research into family history was a lifelong interest and he would visit churches, examine records and look at worn grave stones; he would visit Somerset House in London and research wills of ancestors. Much of my father’s anecdotal gems are on the backs of used-one-side paper and old envelopes! But it is all there, in my Family Archives boxes today. Thankfully, he never threw anything away! It is this intent of his to keep everything that has become a critical ‘vault of detail’ supporting this narrative. My ancestry boxes contain a set of letters written from the American West in the 1890’s, written by James Hinnell himself to his cousins back home. These letters form the backbone of the narrative.

In contrast to my father’s style of research, my research is ‘arm chair’ research; I sit at my computer. The diversity of records available through research on the internet continues to amaze me. Specialised software for recording one’s ancestry is highly sophisticated; I use Ancestry and Family Tree Maker for my family tree.

### *The narrative*

This narrative documents James Hinnell’s life and his connections with his extended family in two countries over two decades. It connects two contrasting ‘worlds’, the first being the well-established Hinnell family in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England and the second being the settlers of the American west in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Who is the audience for the narrative? In some way, the narrative must be accessible and of interest to a variety of audiences, my immediate extended family, my grandchildren in due course, my cousins in England, and some wonderful people currently living in High Prairie, Klickitat County, Washington by whom Sally and I were so warmly welcomed during our visit in 2016.

Writing for this varied group has proven to be an enormous challenge and so in constructing the narrative I have set out some ‘prologue sections’ which will appeal to some but not all, and may be skipped. Others may choose to skip over the social history sections. Some may enjoy it all!



## *But who was the James Hinnell, who attended the Bury School in 1873?*

A multi-generational tradition of the Hinnell family was to attend the King Edward VI Grammar School in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, which was the Hinnell family's home town. The list of Hinnells named in the Grammar School List were sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons of Charles Hinnell (1795-1871), my second great (or great great) grandfather, with whom I was familiar based on oral history, i.e. the entertaining stories told around the dinner table by my father, Charles James Hinnell.

Outside the boundary of my familiarity with Charles Hinnell's family and his descendants was his older brother James Hinnell (Sr). Beyond knowing that James' son Thomas Charles Hinnell was the Hinnell partner in the Chemist on Abbeygate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, I knew nothing.

## *Introducing James Hinnell (Jr)*

James Hinnell (Jr), was born in 1861, the youngest of the six children of Thomas Charles Hinnell. Thomas Charles was both a cousin and a brother-in-law of my great grandfather George John Hinnell! James Hinnell (Jr), my 'first cousin twice removed', is the central character in this narrative; but his story cannot resonate with readers without exploring the roles played by other family members back home in England, and one in particular, a member of the Squier family, who also emigrated to the Pacific West Coast in the same time period.

To set the stage, some relevant aspects of the social history of the era, namely mass migration westwards over the Oregon Trail, and the subsequent opening up of the American west, are included in the prologue to chapter 1.

The prologue to chapter 2 introduces extended family members, the "who's who?" of the narrative, "how did they meet up?" and "what did they do?". This description of the extended family in the second prologue may be skipped. A short summary of the relationships which drive the narrative has been added to the beginning of chapter 2; this summary is a 'must read' or the reader will become lost as the narrative unfolds.

I hope that this narrative, and other ancestry stories already written and still to be written in my retirement, will add to the musings of current and future generations of members of the Hinnell, Bird and Ashton, and Squier and Windle families from Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, and Horndon, Essex, some of whose ancestors emigrated to America and Australia and other far reaches of the then British Empire too.

Robin Hinnell

March 2022

## Acknowledgements:

I mentioned my father in the introduction. I am truly grateful to him for kindling my interest in ancestry and for never throwing anything away.

My mother was very patient and listened attentively to the Hinnell stories told around the dinner table. She had her own fascinating family history to tell, which is now as much of an interest of mine as the history of the Hinnells. But this is another story.

I am grateful to my wife Sally, and our three children who encourage me to keep researching and particularly to document the outcomes of my research. It is the stories that intrigue us so much more than names on a family tree chart.

On discovering James Hinnell's personal letters from High Prairie (Hartland), Klickitat County, Washington, soon after my father died I realised the potential of this resource and I knew I had to go to Klickitat. In 2013, I discovered that the High Prairie Community Association published a quarterly newsletter. This was my introduction to High Prairie. I emailed the editors! Fred Henschell emailed me back with information and photographs of Hartland Cemetery and my narrative began. Through the generous support and encouragement of Fred and Cindy Henschell my research went into high gear. Fred put me in touch with the current owner of "the Hinnell Place", as James Hinnell's parcel of land was called in the early days. Doug Taylor and his sister Lorna Dove, whose parents and grandparents also owned the land in their time, have homes on the property.

My wife Sally and I took a road trip to the Columbia River gorge in 2016. We spent time wandering through the cemetery, and visited with Fred and Cindy Henschell and with Doug Taylor and Lorna Dove who grew up on the Hinnell homestead land.

I am immensely grateful to Fred, Cindy, Doug and Lorna for introducing us to the present and past of High Prairie. We were able to roam around the Taylor property and freely take photographs. Doug and Lorna shared many stories about growing up in High Prairie and described the changes that have taken place since the early days. As I write I am so very aware that our time with them, listening to their personal stories, made this narrative come to life for me. We have been wholeheartedly welcomed by our new friends in High Prairie, who opened their doors to us and shared their knowledge. Thank you!

The message function on Ancestry has enabled me to connect with descendants of Azariah Pitman. I am most grateful to my 'Ancestry friends', whose ancestors were sisters of Josie Pitman. I have exchanged messages with them and am grateful for the photographs which I have incorporated into the narrative.

The research into the lives of James Hinnell, Josie Pitman and their extended families has been truly engaging. Over the years of my research, Sally and I have lived the life of James Hinnell, and his cousins. I have grieved over the many lives cut short by medical conditions, and continue to puzzle over the many missing links in the narrative for which no records have been found to date.

Robin Hinnell

## Prologue to Chapter 1

The background of this adventure begins in 1850. Two young men living on two different continents separated by 5000 miles of ocean and wilderness faced their futures with anticipation and excitement. In their twenties, they were looking for opportunity and dreaming of the life that lay ahead, and making decisions about their life's work. In England, Thomas Charles Hinnell, 27 years old, a member of a long established family line in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England had chosen a career in pharmacy. On the other side of the Atlantic Ocean Azariah James Pitman<sup>2</sup>, 23 years of age, was working his father's land in Jackson County in the new state of Missouri<sup>3</sup>, acquiring the skills of homesteading and farming.

### **Thomas Charles Hinnell, his father James Hinnell (Sr), and his son James Hinnell (Jr)**



James Hinnell (b.1794)  
Photo: metal plate photograph,  
Hinnell family archives

James Hinnell (Sr), born 1794, and his wife Susan had 11 children; however, in Thomas' childhood he and his parents were burdened by unspeakable grief. Between 1819 and 1839 James Hinnell (Sr) and Susan had buried 5 of their 11 children; in 1839 Susan also died. By 1841 we find James (Sr), now a widower struggling to manage his career and caring for his six living children. Four daughters attended a girls' boarding school in Palgrave<sup>4</sup> (a village just 6 miles from his brother Charles's country home in Rickinghall<sup>5</sup>). His youngest son Stephen Frederick lived or visited with his Aunt Mary Sophia in Norwich. His then oldest son, Thomas Charles, born in 1823, had left home to begin his career.

In the early 1840's at the age of 17, in pursuit of his chosen career in pharmacy, Thomas Charles took his apprenticeship at John Nunn's pharmacy in Bury. This firm grew to become Nunn, Hinnell & Summers and later Nunn, Hinnell, & Clark, and was a well-regarded 'druggist and chemist' on Abbeygate Street in Bury St. Edmunds. [The firm closed its business in 1968<sup>6</sup>]. A career in pharmacy was a new line of work in the Hinnell family; Thomas Charles' brother set out to be a solicitor, his father was a surveyor of taxes<sup>7</sup>, his uncle Charles was a solicitor, and his grandfather was the maltster in the nearby village of Rattlesden, Suffolk.

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<sup>2</sup> Azariah born 1827

<sup>3</sup> Missouri became the 24<sup>th</sup> state in the USA in 1821

<sup>4</sup> Palgrave school, 1841 census

<sup>5</sup> Brook House, Rickinghall: 1841 census

<sup>6</sup> The London Gazette, 19 March 1968

<sup>7</sup> UK Census documents 1851-1871

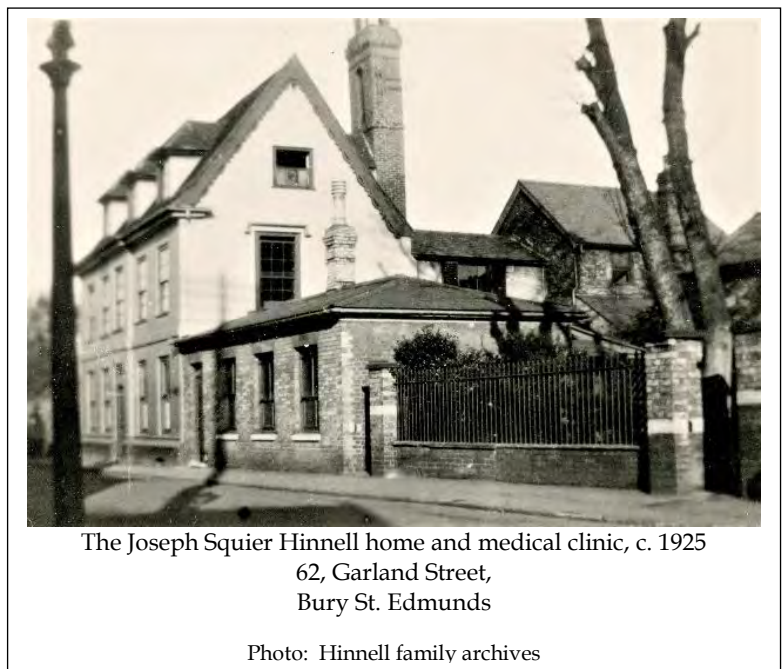
In about 1844 James (Sr) opened a new era with his family, he left Bury St. Edmunds. He took the position as surveyor of taxes in Bath, Somerset. His four remaining daughters and his son, Stephen Frederick, went down to Bath with their father; Thomas Charles remained in Bury St. Edmunds continuing his career at the pharmacy. Tragically, while in Bath all five of James (Sr)'s children died, presumably from the same medical condition as their siblings. [We must assume that there was a genetic medical condition associated with the deaths of the children who, for the most part, died between the ages of 15 and 30]. Thus by 1850, James (Sr) was a widower and was watching Thomas Charles, who was his only living child, grow in his pharmaceutical career.

In 1851, Thomas married his cousin Anne Charlotte Hinnell and together they set up home at 16, Hatter Street, in Bury St. Edmunds<sup>8</sup>. Anne gave birth to their first child James Charles in 1852 and a second son John George in 1853<sup>9</sup>. Sadly both the boys died in late November 1854, creating further anxiety over health issues. In subsequent years, Thomas and Anne had two daughters, Katherine (Kitty) and Anne Jane and another son, also named James. By 1861, presumably in order to care for the growing family, they had moved to 14, Well Street. It is this James, born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1861, who is the central figure of this narrative.

### **James Hinnell (Jr), born 1861**

Other than identifying the ten aunts and uncles and his two brothers, all of whom he never knew, we have no stories from James Hinnell (Jr)'s early childhood. His cousins (George John Hinnell's children) lived at 82, Risbeygate Street and later at 62, Garland Street, which were only short distances from James' family home at 14 Well Street. It is assumed that this proximity gave birth to the strong lifelong relationships between James and his Hinnell cousins.

In light of the family's medical history, there was always uncertainty about James' father's health (the only survivor of the eleven siblings to marry and have a family) and perhaps his own future health too. James (Jr) followed in the family tradition of attending King Edward VI School (Bury St. Edmunds Free Grammar School) from 1873 to 1876<sup>10</sup>, by which time he was 15 years of age. It seems that the academic world



<sup>8</sup> 1851, UK Census

<sup>9</sup> Anne Charlotte Hinnell's 'birthday book'

<sup>10</sup> Bury St. Edmunds Grammar School List 1550 to 1900

was not for James. The Grammar School record simply shows James as leaving school in 1876, at age 15, with the additional note: *"Emigrated to Kansas, U.S.A. Died about 1900"*. As the narrative unfolds, we will find that this reference to emigration to Kansas describes only the first step of his adventures in America.

## Summary of the Hinnells of this period

James Hinnell (Jr), born in 1861, was the youngest of the five children of Thomas Charles Hinnell, the first two of whom (both sons) died when infants. His grandfather, James Hinnell (Sr), outlived his wife and all eleven of their children, including their son Thomas Charles Hinnell. Young James' extended family of ten aunts and uncles had all died between the ages 15 and 30. James had two older living sisters; both were married.

This tale of grief and uncertainty regarding his father's health and indeed anxiety about his own future health may have prompted James (Jr) to follow his dreams and explore the New World, to find his own 'new world'.

## America, 1825 to 1850

In 1825, wars in America seemed to be matters of the past, space in America was endless, and the phrase "Go west young man" was the theme of the day everywhere; Americans, and Europeans too, were on the move.

### In America – Early days in the mid-west; Azariah James Pitman and the Savage family:



Early map of the Missouri Territory<sup>11</sup>

In the 1820's and 1830's the Missouri Territory<sup>11</sup> was a vast land of opportunity in the American mid-west. The Territory stretched from the Canadian border southwards with its eastern border defined by the Mississippi River. The more adventurous families in the eastern states became the "early settlers" of the mid-west and, by the 1840's, the Pacific West Coast.

Two particular families, the Savages and the Pitmans, farmers and committed Baptists neither of whom were afraid of adventure, were planning their second migration.

<sup>11</sup> [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Missouri\\_territory.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Missouri_territory.png)



### **The Savage family<sup>12</sup>**

Over two generations, members of the Savage family migrated from North Carolina to Kentucky in the mid-1780's and later 500 miles further westwards to Missouri. Dr. William Savage (born in 1784) came to Cooper County, Missouri, from Kentucky with his wife Susanna and their two sons, Hiram William Savage and John Mulkey Savage. A number of other Baptist families, including his wife's parents and extended family, joined them on this second migration in 1809. Records of the first settlers describe Cooper County as being the "far west of the New World". In Missouri William and Susanna Savage had ten more children and along with other families co-founded the Baptist church and the first farming community in North Missouri. John Mulkey Savage followed in his father's footsteps becoming a medical doctor; later he becomes a lead player in the narrative of the Pitman family which follows. Growing up in Cooper County, Missouri, Dr. John Mulkey Savage married Cynthia Jane Crawford in 1830 and their lives together soon included their first child, Louisa, born in 1831.

### **The Pitman family<sup>13</sup>**

As with the Savage family, the Pitmans migrated first from North Carolina to Kentucky and then to Missouri. Michael Pitman, born in 1805, in North Carolina, met his future wife Sina in Kentucky and they were married there in 1824. Michael and Sina Pitman were familiar with the adventure, challenges and rewards of "going west" and it is of little surprise that they embarked on their second westward migration very soon after their marriage, and had acquired land for their new homestead in Cooper County, Missouri, by 1827 when their first child Azariah was born.

### **The Savage and Pitman family connections**

Both families were farmers in Cooper County, Missouri in the 1830's. It appears that through the Baptist communities in Missouri the Savage family and Pitman family were closely associated. Joining the two families together Azariah Pitman and Louisa Savage were married in Jackson County, Missouri, in August 1848; Louisa gave birth to their first child John Michael in 1849.

The Savage and Pitman connections were strong, migration was in their blood, and "Where next?" was the conversation over dinner. In Missouri in the 1840's, the notion that their current homes were in the "Far west of the New World" was no longer true. Change was rapid in these early days of migrations across America; the favoured options being farming and ranching in the endless expanse of Texas or the lush Willamette Valley in Oregon on the Pacific West Coast.

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<sup>12</sup> Ancestry.ca story. Ref: [https://www.ancestry.ca/mediaui-viewer/tree/108891189/person/112097350816/media/2cf374d9-179d-4df3-b528-2f0dc0388261?destTreeId=100538984&destPersonId=422250393202&\\_phsrc=WYm31551&\\_phstart=default](https://www.ancestry.ca/mediaui-viewer/tree/108891189/person/112097350816/media/2cf374d9-179d-4df3-b528-2f0dc0388261?destTreeId=100538984&destPersonId=422250393202&_phsrc=WYm31551&_phstart=default)

<sup>13</sup> Ref: Ancestry data

## “Gone to Texas”

“The promise and opportunity of life in Texas vastly outweighed the threats that frontier life might pose, so for a while there, it looked like everybody in the world really was going to Texas. From Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, the adventurers packed up their belongings and their newly-issued land grant titles and headed toward their futures<sup>14</sup>. From 1836 to 1845, the Republic of Texas adopted a liberal land policy, granting each family 1,280 acres. 135,000 settlers migrated to Texas”.

“From a population of about 20,000 in 1830, Texas grew to over 140,000 hardy frontier settlers by the late 1840s. In 1835, honorary Texas frontiersman Davy Crockett had uttered his famous directive, “You may all go to hell and I will go to Texas.” Whether following Crockett's example or following their own dreams, thousands of people did just that. They up and went to Texas.”<sup>15</sup>

*Some readers will well remember the Davy Crockett movie of 1955.*



Cattle ranching in Texas<sup>16</sup>

Cattle ranching<sup>16</sup> was to become the choice for some of the Pitman and Savage families.

## The Willamette Valley, Oregon<sup>17</sup>



An early sketch of the destination – the Willamette Valley, Oregon<sup>18</sup>  
*The Willamette Valley lies between the ocean and the mountains*

“A list of motives for migrating includes: the lure of free land; the promise of economic betterment; the quest for adventure and excitement; and the promise of physical health. Equating wealth with landholding, the hard-pressed mid-western farmers found the promise of abundant and fertile land<sup>18</sup> an attraction to undertake the arduous two-thousand-mile journey to the Willamette Valley.”<sup>19</sup>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/campfire-stories/frontier-folk>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/campfire-stories/frontier-folk>

<sup>16</sup> Photo credit: The Lyda Hill Texas Collection of Photographs in Carol M. Highsmith's America Project, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cowhands\\_surveying\\_the\\_longhorn\\_herd\\_at\\_the\\_1,800-acre\\_Lonesome\\_Pine\\_Ranch,\\_a\\_working\\_cattle\\_ranch\\_that\\_is\\_part\\_of\\_the\\_Texas\\_Ranch\\_Life\\_ranch\\_resort\\_near\\_Chappell\\_Hill\\_in\\_Austin\\_County,\\_Texas\\_LCCN2014631872.tif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cowhands_surveying_the_longhorn_herd_at_the_1,800-acre_Lonesome_Pine_Ranch,_a_working_cattle_ranch_that_is_part_of_the_Texas_Ranch_Life_ranch_resort_near_Chappell_Hill_in_Austin_County,_Texas_LCCN2014631872.tif)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/narratives/this-land-oregon/resettlement-and-the-new-economy/a-changing-landscape-and-the-beginnings-of-white-settlement/#.YB3tsuhKhaQ>

<sup>18</sup> Illustration credit: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Early\\_Willamette\\_Valley\\_sketch.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Early_Willamette_Valley_sketch.png)

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/narratives/this-land-oregon/resettlement-and-the-new-economy/a-changing-landscape-and-the-beginnings-of-white-settlement/#.YB3pN-hKhaQ>

“Immigrants traveling to Oregon registered land claims in the Willamette and tributary valleys, where western Oregon’s climate created an ideal environment for wheat and other grain crops. The federal Donation Land Act in 1850 – which granted 320 acres of land to adult white males and another 320 acres if they were married – attracted many newcomers.”<sup>20</sup>

### How to get there?

Stories of lush farming land on the Pacific coast, and news of the expanse of free land for farming and ranching in Texas had reached the eastern states. Added to this, word of mouth information on “how to get there” was abundant. The California gold rush of 1849 was in full swing, trails south to Texas had been created for cattle drives and the Oregon Trail<sup>21</sup> had been developed to provide a route west for the early settlers dreaming of the American West.

### Who, where, and when will we go?

The key players in these decisions were Dr. John Mulkey Savage and his siblings, and Michael Pitman and his wife Sina (Bone) Pitman, as well as Sina’s parents. Most of the Savage family and the Pitmans called for Texas, a journey of only 550 miles, while Dr. John Mulkey Savage decided on Oregon, planning to take the long



four month trek of 2500 miles on the Oregon Trail. But, at decision time, Azariah Pitman and Louisa Savage had only just got married. They faced a choice, to join the Pitman family or the John Mulkey Savage family migration, Texas or the Oregon territory?

To add complexity, Louisa was expecting her first child in 1849. It was to Oregon that they decided to go. In late 1848, Azariah had bid farewell to his parents and siblings, and Louisa to her mother, siblings, aunts and uncles as they had all packed up and departed for Texas. Louisa gave birth to their son John Michael Pitman in November 1849 (he was named after both his grandfathers) and Azariah worked with his father-in-law to prepare for the Oregon Trail adventure of 1850.

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/willamette\\_valley/#.YB1yR-hKhaQ](https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/willamette_valley/#.YB1yR-hKhaQ)

<sup>21</sup> Photo credit: <https://www.backwoodshome.com/oregon-trail-preparedness/> Issue #176, used with permission of Backwoods Home magazine

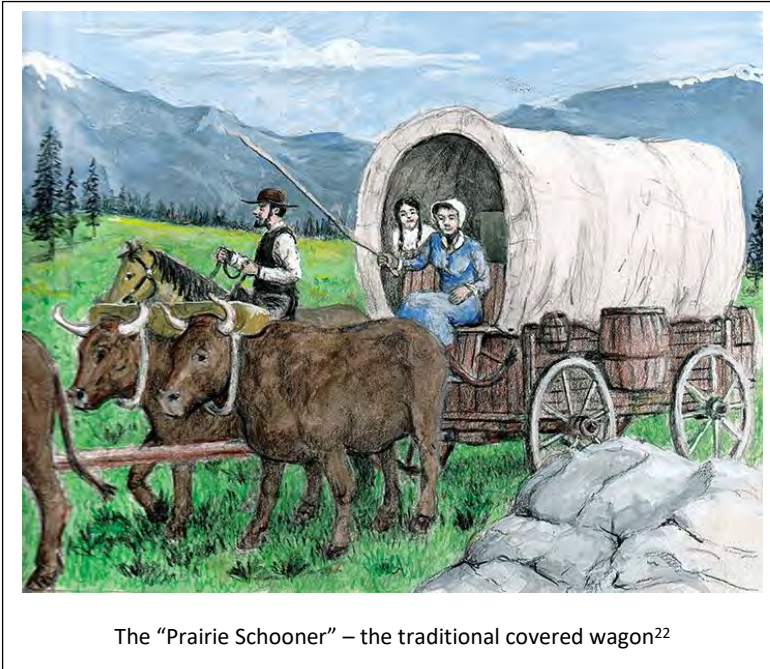


Perhaps inevitably the Savage and Pitman families' spirit of adventure, and the opportunity to play a part in opening up the American West, was passed on to Azariah and Louisa, who were ready to seek their shared 'new world' on the west coast.

### The Oregon Trail adventurers of 1850

The party consisted of:

Azariah Pitman, his wife Louisa (Savage) Pitman and their one year old son John Michael. Azariah's father-in-law, Dr. John Mulkey Savage, and his second wife Jane (Waite) Savage. Eight Savage children, aged between 1 and 17, five of them being under 10 years old!

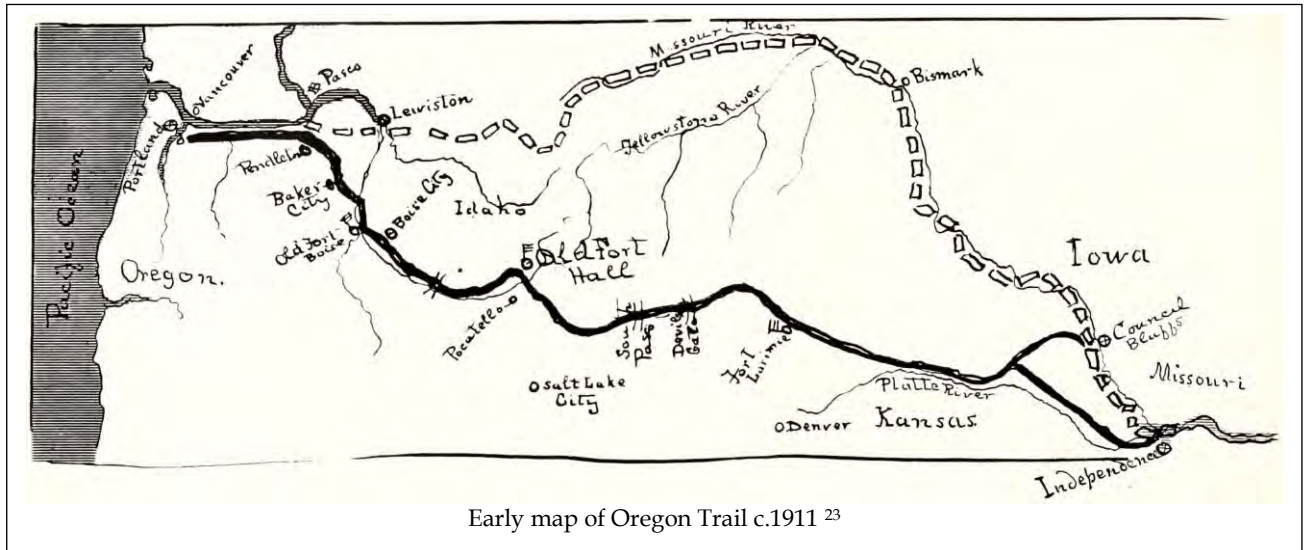


Much is written about supplies needed on the trail and so forth, but this is another story. Suffice it to say that "The Prairie Schooner, the classic covered wagon, was designed to carry the family's belongings over great distances. It was called the Prairie Schooner because the white canvas covers looked like the sails of schooner ships from a distance.<sup>22</sup> It was four feet wide and about ten feet long, drawn by 3 yoke of oxen, and could carry 2500lbs". Old photos and drawings depict younger family members walking alongside the wagons.

The Savage family and Azariah joined one of several wagon trains heading west in 1850. Ahead of them was the 2500 mile journey to the Willamette Valley in the Oregon territory, a journey which would take between three and four months. Furthermore the crossing of the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Mountains had to be completed before the snow fell in late October.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.backwoodshome.com/oregon-trail-preparedness/> Issue #176, used with permission of Backwoods Home magazine



Early map of Oregon Trail c.1911 <sup>23</sup>

With the spirit of adventure and opportunity carrying them through the challenges faced along the Oregon Trail<sup>23</sup> the Savage family arrived in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, in late 1850.

Azariah and Louisa, having crossed the country with their family, claimed land in Marion County, Oregon. According to the US Donation Land Act of the time, settlers were permitted to claim 640 acres. They settled there with John Michael, their only son, and as the years went by John Michael's nine sisters were born.

## Two pathways converge

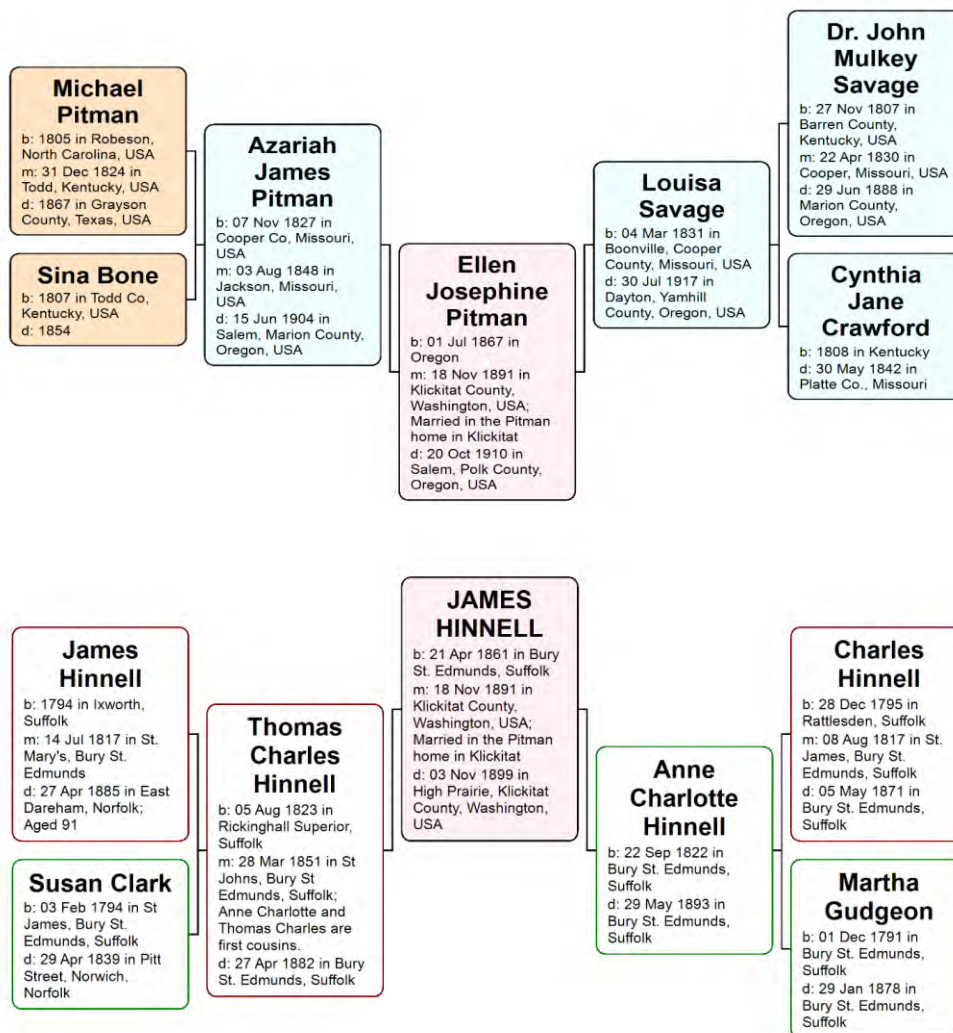
As these Texas and Oregon migration stories evolved, the paths of the children of Thomas Charles and Anne Charlotte Hinnell of Bury St. Edmunds, England, and of Azariah James and Louisa Pitman of Missouri, USA, converged. The challenge of adventure and the seeking of new opportunity become the common threads that in due time connected these two families through the marriage of James Hinnell and Josie Pitman, the eighth of Azariah and Louisa's nine daughters.

<sup>23</sup> <https://archive.org/details/portlandoregonit01gast>. Portland, Oregon, its History and Builders – Joseph Gaston. Published by S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. in 1911. Volume 1, illustration - page 92

## Ellen Josephine (Josie) Pitman & James Hinnell

To Texas 1848

Oregon Trail 1850



Thomas Charles and Anne Charlotte were first cousins

## **Chapter 1 - James Hinnell leaves town for a future in America**

James Hinnell (Jr), born in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England in 1861, was the youngest of the six children of Thomas Charles Hinnell, the first two of whom (both sons) were infants when they died. Tragically, young James's extended family of ten aunts and uncles had all died between the ages 15 and 30. James had two older living sisters; both were married.

This tale of grief and uncertainty regarding his father's health, and indeed anxiety about his own future health, may have prompted James (Jr.) to follow his dreams and explore the New World, to find his own 'new world'.

### **The 1880's - James' Journey to the 'New World'**

In large part, the new immigrants .... came for land and opportunity. This appealed to James. Quoting from "The story of Kansas"<sup>24</sup>:

*Opportunities in Kansas were advertised by the railroads who had land to sell to immigrant farmers. The railroads, trying to sell the millions of acres given to them by the U.S. government to grow their business, promoted Kansas all over Europe.*

*To hear the railroads tell it, Kansas was the Garden of Eden. "Temperate Climate, Excellent Health, Pure & Abundant Water," the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad declared on an advertising flier in 1876.*

*The "best stock country in the world," the Kansas Pacific Railway boasted in 1878. The climate, it said in a statement that would be proven wrong more than once in the state's early decades, "is mild and pleasant."*

*According to an 1870 handbook printed by the Kansas Pacific Railroad offered free or reduced-rate transportation to Kansas, and settlers from overseas could bring all of their household goods at a railroad's expense.*

In 1880 James Hinnell was dreaming of New York City and Kansas, but why James decided to go to Kansas will never be known. Did he know a sheep ranching family there? And, if he was in touch with his cousin Jane Mary Squier, why would he not go directly to the Pacific Coast? Jane Mary left England with her family in July 1880, at the same time as James was dreaming of his adventure. And their cousin Maud Martha Hinnell who knew both adventurers well would have known of both the adventures!

Turning twenty in 1881, James made his decision to leave home and family, embark on the adventure of his lifetime, and to cross the ocean to America. He boarded the Cunard Steam Ship Scythia, departing from Liverpool for New York City on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1881.

Due to the large number of Irish men and women emigrating during this particular decade the ship also took on passengers at Queenstown (now the city of Cobh) in Ireland prior to heading westwards across the Atlantic. [Emigration was a common theme in England at this time; four ships left Liverpool on this day alone bound for New York<sup>25</sup>].

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.kansas.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/the-story-of-kansas/article1053043.html>

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.norwayheritage.com/t\\_transatlantic.asp?month=05&year=1881](http://www.norwayheritage.com/t_transatlantic.asp?month=05&year=1881)





It is hard to imagine the mix of excitement, emotion and anxiety running through the 11 day voyage to New York; James dreaming of his future and Thomas watching over his 20 year old only son destined to break ground in America, and likely planning not to return to England. We do not know whether Thomas Charles Hinnell journeyed westwards from New York with James, or how soon he returned to his wife and two daughters in Bury St. Edmunds. But New York was his initial destination, his own adventure and chance to explore. Reflecting on his death a year later, the time father and son spent together on the voyage to the New World would have been very precious for both James and his father.

The settlement of the American west, was made more possible in the 1880's by the ever expanding railroad system originating in the east and north of the country and heading westwards to the Pacific. The 1880's and 1890's have been described as the "Golden Age of Railroading" and travelling across the continent was straightforward albeit time consuming.

We can assume that James travelled to Kansas by train, a journey of 1200 miles and approximately 60 hours in duration. Trains left New York using the Pennsylvania Railroad Company lines or the New York Central line.

Thus, James arrived in Kansas, seeking work as a farmer in the 'land of opportunity'. No details have surfaced of his railroad journey or his search for work, but it becomes clear that he worked in Kansas on a sheep ranch for at least one year, probably two <sup>28</sup>.

## James' life in Kansas

NATURALIZATION RECORDS FROM OTTAWA COUNTY, KANSAS, USA Hinnell, James, 21, Ottawa Co. KS, 08/01/1881, .Eng
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James Hinnell appears in the published records of the State of Kansas living in Ottawa County, 170 miles due west of Kansas City<sup>29</sup>. This record identifies James as applying for naturalization in Ottawa County, on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1881, soon after his arrival in Kansas. The blank signifies that, while James was living in Kansas, naturalization was not completed.

The sheep ranch was in Melville<sup>30</sup>. James is referred to in the documents from the Kansas State Agricultural Fair held in Topeka, (capital city of Kansas) from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 1882<sup>31</sup>. He was exhibiting sheep at the fair and is noted as exhibiting both 'long wool' and 'middle wool' sheep. [See next page<sup>32</sup>.] There is no mention as to any prizes won!

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<sup>28</sup> Google books: "Report of the Kansas Board of Agriculture – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 1882"

<sup>29</sup> Naturalization records from Ottawa county

<sup>30</sup> Google books: "Report of the Kansas Board of Agriculture – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 1882"

<sup>31</sup> Google books: "Report of the Kansas Board of Agriculture – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 1882"

<sup>32</sup> Google books: "Report of the Kansas Board of Agriculture – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 1882"

## KANSAS STATE FAIR, 1882.

*A delightful introduction to sheep ranching in Kansas*

### SHEEP.

From the day when David, the sweet singer of Israel, left his father's flocks in Bethlehem, to do battle with the giant of Gath, and even before that, to the present time, sheep husbandry has been a favorite and profitable calling by men.

*Record of James exhibiting sheep*

*Long-Wools.*—M. L. Stewart, Manhattan, Kas.; Frank Baldwin, Melville, Kas.; James Hinnell, Melville, Kas.; J. M. Moberley, Circleville, Kas.; W. G. McCandleas, Cottonwood Falls, Kas.; John Mathews, Newton, Kas.

*Middle-Wools.*—M. L. Stewart, Manhattan, Kas.; Frank Baldwin, Melville, Kas.; Dryer & Wann, Abilene, Kas.; James Hinnell, Melville, Kas.; Dunton Bros., Pleasanton, Kas.

## News from England

Earlier in the spring of 1882 James had received the sad news of the death of his father, Thomas Charles Hinnell the chemist. In the last few years of his life, Thomas Charles had had the joy of his daughters' marriages in 1878 and 1879, the birth of three grandchildren, and the time spent crossing the Atlantic with his son. However, his son was far away and far from truly settled in the 'New World'. For James (Jr) in Kansas, the impact of his father's death and his never faltering love for his parents, sisters and cousins<sup>33</sup> may have prompted him to return to England to visit his family during their time of grief in late 1882. James had said farewell to his father in New York in 1881; no ships' manifests have surfaced to shed further light on trans-Atlantic voyages by James. But the question "Did James return to England to be with family at this time of grief?" remains unanswered.

With Thomas Charles' death, it brought to a close the chapter of births and tragic deaths that had marked the marriage of James Hinnell (Sr) and his wife Susan. The ongoing lifelong grief experienced by James Hinnell (Sr) is unimaginable. With Thomas' death at age 58 in 1882, James Hinnell (Sr), then 86, had buried his wife, each of their eleven children, two grandchildren, and seen his only living grandson, James (Jr) emigrate to America.

However, whether James (Jr) visited England in 1882 on account of his father's death or not, he decided to leave Kansas soon after. There are no records to confirm a trip back to England at the end of his Kansas ranching experience, but this is a possibility. Regardless, by 1884, he seemed to be seeking a less harsh environment on the Pacific West Coast with "people he knew well".

<sup>33</sup> Evident in the letters written by James Hinnell from the New World.

## **Prologue to Chapter 2 – Hinnells, Squiers and the De La Court family**

*To appreciate the context of James' second journey westwards, the journey that led to a farm labourer's and farming life in Washington where he met up with 'people he knew well', we need introductions to his extended family members.*

*The following description of families, their home villages, their marriages and their children is no doubt typical of the time when the 'motor car' had scarcely been invented and life was indeed 'local'. This is the 'who's who' of a particular extended family from Essex, some of whose members are critical players in this next chapter in the life of James Hinnell (Jr).*

*Readers of this narrative may be interested in these details of the Squier and Hinnell families. Other readers may wish to skip this prologue but absorb the summary at the beginning of chapter 2.*

### **Joseph Squier and Mary Austin Westwood in Essex**

At this point in the James Hinnell narrative, the Windle, Westwood, Clark and Squier families join the cast of characters alongside the Hinnells. We return to the era described in the opening prologue, the year 1795.

Joseph Squier and Mary Austin Westwood were born in 1793 and 1795 respectively to two long established and successful farming families in Essex; the Squiers lived in the villages of East Horndon and West Horndon and the Westwoods in nearby Horndon-on-the-Hill. By 1820 Joseph Squier and Mary Austin Westwood were married and by 1834 they had a family of seven children. Of these seven children one in particular, Louisa, born in 1830<sup>34</sup>, plays a key role in the narrative.

### **Louisa Squier and George John Hinnell, born 1823**

In her teenage years, Louisa Squier, Mary Austin (Westwood) Squier's fifth child, spent time on the Westwood family farm, likely helping her Uncle Samuel Westwood with his four young children<sup>35</sup>. However, her interests were to blossom elsewhere and by the mid-1850's she was living in or visiting Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. There is no formal record of her purposes or her occupation in Bury St. Edmunds but it was here that she met Dr. George John Hinnell.<sup>36</sup> He had just returned to Bury St. Edmunds at the end of his long medical training. He had studied at King's College hospital in London and had completed a residency as House Surgeon at the Stockport Infirmary, Cheshire<sup>37</sup>. George John Hinnell was a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. He returned to his home town in 1855 to open a general medical practice in Bury St. Edmunds. Louisa Squier married George John in

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<sup>34</sup> UK Census 1841

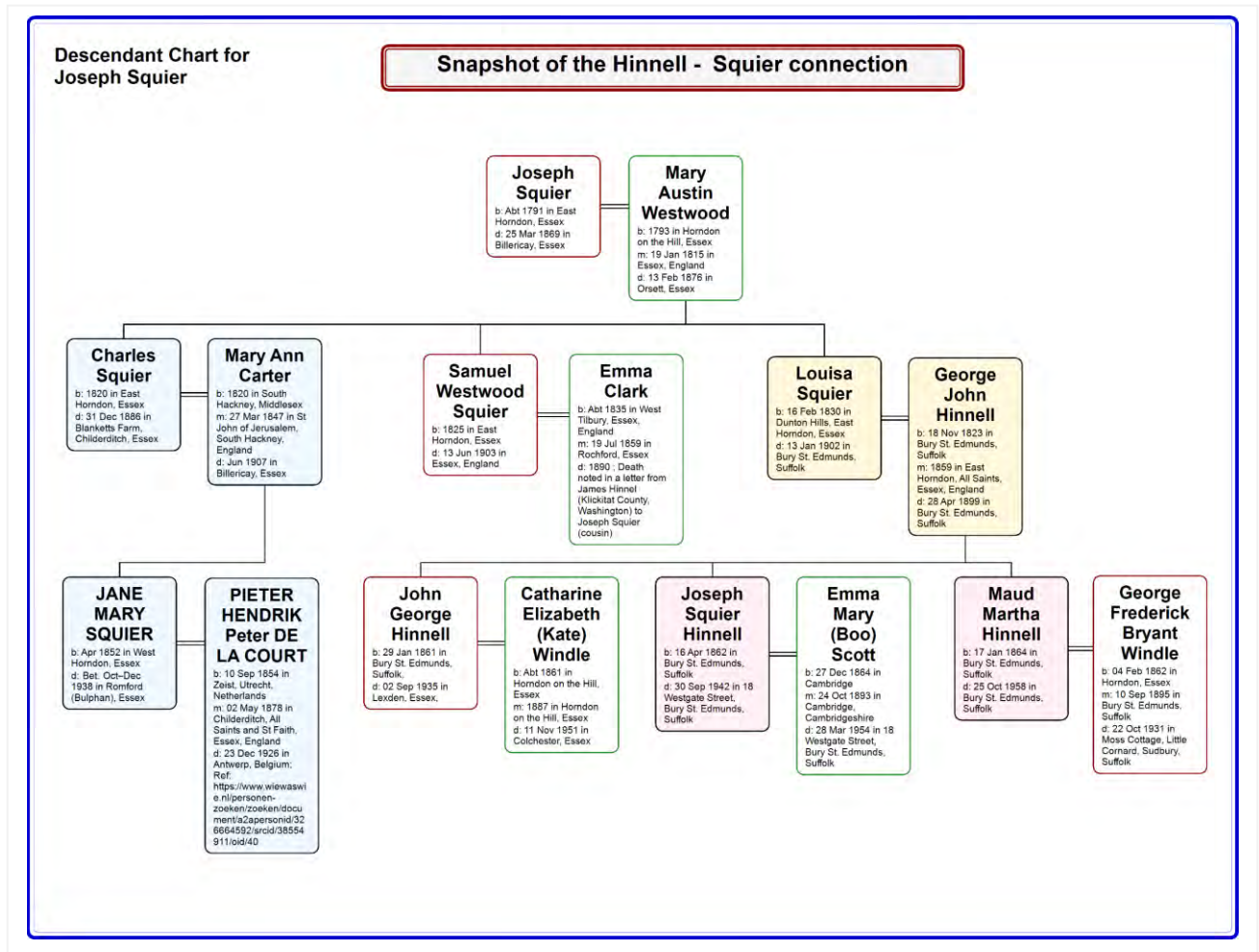
<sup>35</sup> UK census 1841 and 1851

<sup>36</sup> Born 1823

<sup>37</sup> UK Medical Journal



1859 and so Bury St. Edmunds became her home. It was this marriage that sowed the seeds for the strong connections between Squier and Hinnell families.



## The vicar of Horndon-on-the-Hill, the Rev. John Windle, M.A, born 1814

The 1850's decade was a time of great change for the Rev. John Windle. He was a Londoner and the curate at St. Mary's Church, Whitechapel, at this time<sup>38</sup>. However, he was ready for his own parish and accepted the position of vicar of the country parish of Horndon-on-the-Hill in about 1852. He had earlier met his future wife, Frances Bryant, from nearby Colchester; they were married in 1855. They had four children before the decade was over and a fifth child in 1862. Two decades later, in the 1880's, as the vicar of Horndon-on-the-Hill, John Windle, his wife Frances and their four grown children enjoyed a significant involvement in the extended family life of the Squiers, Westwoods and Hinnells.

<sup>38</sup> UK census 1851

At the Sunday services at St. Peter & St. Paul's church in Horndon-on-the-Hill eligible young Windles sat in the pews along with similarly aged Squiers, Westwoods and Clarks.

The children of Louisa (Squier) and George John Hinnell were frequent visitors to Horndon-on-the-Hill and knew their Squier and Westwood cousins well. Their eldest son, John George Hinnell was an agricultural engineer working and living in Stanford Le Hope, just 3 miles from Horndon-on-the-Hill. It might be assumed that the Hinnell visitors also went to the

church with their cousins, enjoyed their community gatherings and parties. Thus it is no surprise that, from this generation of Hinnell and Squier cousins, the parish priest's family, and farming neighbours, the Westwoods and Clarks, connections through marriage were frequent.

### **The 1860's & 1870's marriage game**

*One Hinnell married a Squier*

George John Hinnell married Louisa Squier

*Two Squiers married two Clarks*

Samuel Westwood Squier married Emma Clark

William Squier married Fanny Clark

*Two Clarks married two Westwoods*

Annie Clark married George Samuel Westwood (1<sup>st</sup> wife)

William Clark married Emily Westwood

*One Westwood married a Windle*

George Samuel Westwood married Francis Jane Windle (2<sup>nd</sup> wife)

*Two Windles married two Hinnells*

George Frederick Windle married Maud Martha Hinnell

Catherine Windle married John George Hinnell

*Thus we have the matrimonial connections game in a full circle.*

### **Maud Martha Hinnell, (born 1864)**

While seeking her life's path, Maud Martha Hinnell studied art in London<sup>39</sup> for a while; she lived with her Aunt Mary Sophia (Hinnell) Strange in Kensington. However, time spent later with her cousins in Horndon-on-the-Hill became the turning point for Maud and she fell in love with and married George Frederick Bryant Windle, the vicar's son, in 1895<sup>40</sup>. George Frederick had had a 'London experience' too; he had trained as a bank clerk and had lived with his two spinster Aunts in Whitechapel<sup>41</sup>. George Frederick and Maud Martha made their home in Stanford le Hope not far from his sister Catherine, who had earlier married Maud's brother!

So Maud Martha knew all her cousins well; in particular, since Maud Martha and George Frederick Windle did not have children, she had a good deal of time for visiting. In total, Maud Martha had forty seven first cousins!

<sup>39</sup> UK census 1891

<sup>40</sup> England & Wales marriage registrations

<sup>41</sup> UK census 1881

## Two family stories

*Maud Martha is remembered today by her great nephews and nieces as the great aunt who never forgot a great nephew's or great niece's birthday. The gift was always the same a 'five shilling postal order' cashable at the local post office. Thank you letters were dutifully and lovingly written!<sup>42</sup>*

*John George Hinnell (Maud Martha Hinnell's brother who married her husband's sister – see chart on page 16) is remembered for building a car in 1902 for his brother Joseph Squier Hinnell, the doctor who had previously done his rounds to take care of his patients, on horseback or by pony & trap.*



Dr. Hinnell's first car, made by his brother, John George Hinnell in 1902  
Photo: Hinnell family archives & Bury Free Press

## Jane Mary Squier, born 1852

Louisa Squier's eldest brother Charles married a Londoner in 1847. As one of their six children Jane Mary Squier enters the narrative. Charles and his wife Mary Ann lived and farmed in West Horndon and Jane Mary was born and raised there.

It is through the marriage of Louisa Squier and George John Hinnell (described earlier in this prologue to chapter 2) that James Hinnell (Jr) and Jane Mary Squier became connected as cousins ('by marriage'). Both were to acquire a sense of adventure in later years. Jane was not about to follow the matrimonial game played out in Horndon, Essex, (*see chart on previous page*) although it was in Horndon that she met her future husband, Pieter De La Court a farmer from Holland.

At aged 19, Jane Mary visited Hastings<sup>43</sup>, Sussex with her parents. This record of the family residing in a row house on the Hastings sea front in 1871 is likely a holiday rental home. This may not have been an exciting beginning to travel and adventure but her life was soon to change.

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<sup>42</sup> Letter to Robin Hinnell, June 29<sup>th</sup> 1953

<sup>43</sup> UK census 1871

## Pieter Hendrick De La Court

Pieter Hendrik De La Court was born in Zeist, Holland, in 1854<sup>44</sup>. At age 19 (the year after his father died) Pieter Hendrik was on board the ship Maas<sup>45</sup>, leaving Rotterdam, booked into a first class cabin arriving in New York on December 24<sup>th</sup> 1873. It is not known how long he remained in America and whether he explored regions beyond the 'big city'. No records have surfaced between 1873 and 1878 and this formative period in Pieter's life is undocumented. Did he venture as far as the Pacific West Coast? Did he actually plan to stay in America? Did he apply for US citizenship while in America?<sup>46</sup> Anyway, he returned to Europe sometime before 1877 and took up work near Bulphan, Essex. In light of the deep rooted farming lives of the Squier and other families, this area was likely an excellent place to learn the skills of farming. But why Bulphan and West Horndon? Records from Holland show that Pieter's parents had some connections in England as early as 1852<sup>47</sup> although this fact fails to answer the question.

Having met up with Jane Mary Squier in West Horndon their shared spirit of adventure cemented their love and they were married in 1878. Following their marriage, Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary farmed in Bulphan, a neighbouring village to West Horndon. Their son, Pieter Maria Kneppelhout De La Court was born a year later. At a later date he acquired the nickname Jamie<sup>48</sup>.

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<sup>44</sup> Genealogie Online (Netherlands)

<sup>45</sup> Dutch immigrants to America, 1820-1880 & Ellis Island record

<sup>46</sup> Squier family records show Pieter De La Court as "of Washington, USA"

<sup>47</sup> Pieter De La Court immigration record

<sup>48</sup> Ref: Letters to Joseph Squier Hinnell from Klickitat



## Photographs of the Hinnell families, c. 1875

*Finding early photographs of the siblings and cousins in this narrative, who were the writers and receivers of the letters from America in the Hinnell family archives, has been challenging; in fact this is an understatement! I have a very old photo album, which has no named photographs. However, in this album I recognize from other sources several members of George John Hinnell's family, from which I have deduced that it was George John's photograph album, and from family events researched for my family tree I have determined that the album contains photos from the period 1870 – 1890.*

### Photos of the ancestors in the narrative:

#### The siblings – the two couples (parents):

Anne Charlotte Hinnell & Thomas Charles Hinnell

George John Hinnell & Louisa (Squier)

#### The cousins – their children:

James (Jr), Anne Jane and Kitty Hinnell

Joseph Squier Hinnell & Maud Martha Hinnell

### The family of George John Hinnell



Standing: John 18, Maud 16, & Joseph 17

Foreground: Alice 11 & Nell 9

Sitting: George John & Louisa (Squier) Hinnell

Photo: c. 1879  
Hinnell family archives

## The family of Thomas Charles Hinnell and Anne Charlotte (Hinnell)

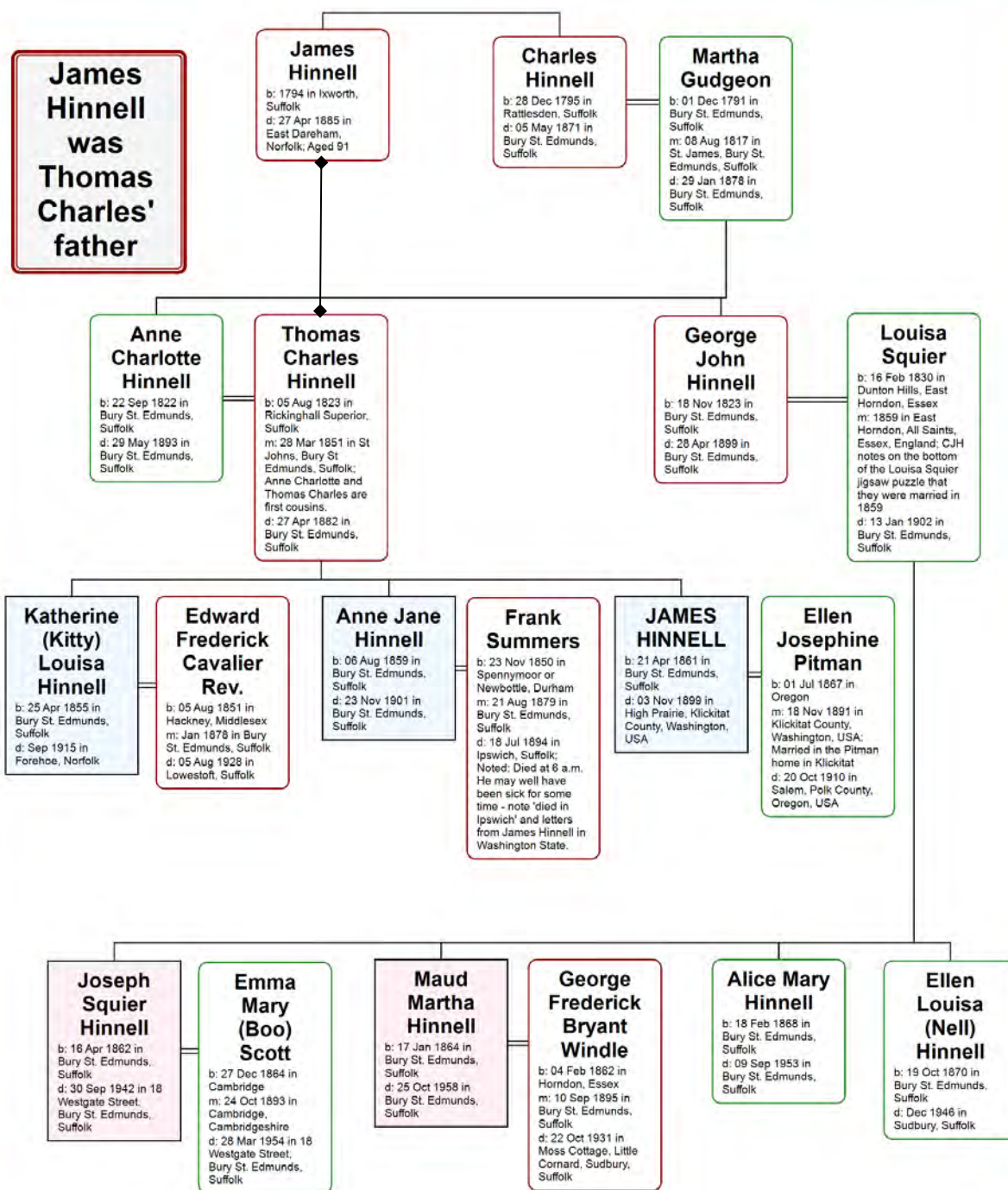


*Although this photograph is not named, it is almost certainly that of Thomas Charles and Anne Charlotte's family. My "what if" questions regarding unnamed photographs take into account family relationships, boy/girl order in ages, marriage dates and deaths of children and so forth. Others who are more skilled in 'family likenesses' may be able strengthen my argument. Robin Hinnell*



**Descendant Chart for  
Charles Hinnell**

**James Hinnell's sisters and cousins who  
feature in the narrative**



## **Chapter 2 – Pacific North West, Klickitat County, Washington**

### **Summary: Connecting the cousins, the main characters in this narrative**

**Maud Martha Hinnell**, born 1864, was brought up in Bury St. Edmunds. Maud was James Hinnell's first cousin. She met and later married George Frederick Windle, the youngest son of The Rev. John Windle, Vicar of Horndon-on-the-Hill, which was Squier and Windle family territory. Although she did not have children of her own, she was the family 'glue'. She ensured that her many Hinnell, Squier and Windle cousins "knew each other well" and were well connected.

### **The cousins who emigrated**

**James Hinnell (Jr)**'s adventures in the New World began in May 1881. Having left Bury St. Edmunds for America, James communicated regularly with two cousins in particular back in England, Maud Martha (Hinnell) Windle and her brother Joseph Squier Hinnell. Dr. Joseph Squier Hinnell and his family lived in Bury St. Edmunds, which was Hinnell family territory.

**Jane Mary Squier** was another cousin of James Hinnell, (through the marriage of James' Uncle George John Hinnell to Louisa Squier from West Horndon, Essex). Jane Mary was the third of Charles Squier's four daughters and one of Louisa Squier's many nieces and nephews. It is not known what role Jane Mary played in the farming life of the family; however, in about 1877 she met and fell in love with a young farmer from Holland, Pieter Hendrik De La Court, who was working on a farm in Bulphan, Essex<sup>49</sup>, only a few miles from Horndon-on-the-Hill.

**Pieter Hendrik De La Court** was born in Zeist in 1854. Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary were married in May 1878<sup>50</sup>. Following their marriage, Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary farmed in Bulphan. Their son, Pieter Maria Kneppelhout De La Court was born in February 1879 and by July 1880, the family was packing their bags for their emigration to the New World.

### **West Horndon, Essex, to Hartland (High Prairie), Klickitat, Washington**

Horndon-on-the Hill is a small close knit farming community. Farming was a generation to generation life style, fathers passing farms to their sons, leaving their daughters to find careers of their choice, find a husband or remain at home. Jane Mary Squier followed the second option, falling in love. During his earlier adventure to New York<sup>51</sup> and likely beyond, the spirit of adventure had gripped Pieter Hendrik and this inspired him and Jane Mary to explore America together. No matter how well the declared intent was received by

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<sup>49</sup> United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921

<sup>50</sup> Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials; Childerditch, All Saints and St Faith; Parish Records

<sup>51</sup> Maas in the 'Passenger Ships and Images' database



the extended family Jane Mary, her husband, and their young son, left Horndon-on-the-Hill, Essex, for America in July 1880.

The young couple and their one year old son, Pieter Maria, boarded the ship S.S. Victoria in the Port of London and sailed across the Atlantic into New York on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1880<sup>52</sup>.

The objective of their journey was to reach the highly publicised farming opportunities on the Pacific North West coast. The transatlantic ocean journey took about eight days from Liverpool to New York. But New York was only the half-way point of their long journey.

By 1880, the Transcontinental Railroad between New York and San Francisco had been providing services for a decade. In only thirty years the transcontinental journey time had been reduced from four months by wagon train in the 1850's, to twenty five days by stage coach and to just four to six days by the express train<sup>53</sup>. Even ten days spent sitting on a hard bench seat in third class would be preferable to four months walking alongside a covered wagon on the Oregon Trail. There were other railroads crossing America but in 1880 most were not completed.



Transcontinental Railroad – 1<sup>st</sup> class dining car  
Cranbrook, History Centre, BC

Photo: Robin Hinnell



The 1<sup>st</sup> class washrooms



The bunk bed



1<sup>st</sup> class breakfast service  
Cranbrook, History Centre, BC  
Photos: Robin Hinnell

It has come to light that Pieter De La Court came from a wealthy Dutch family and we can assume that, especially with a child not yet two year old, and following eight days at sea, Pieter and Jane De La Court travelled first class on the Transcontinental Express from New York to San Francisco<sup>54</sup>.

<sup>52</sup> New York passenger lists

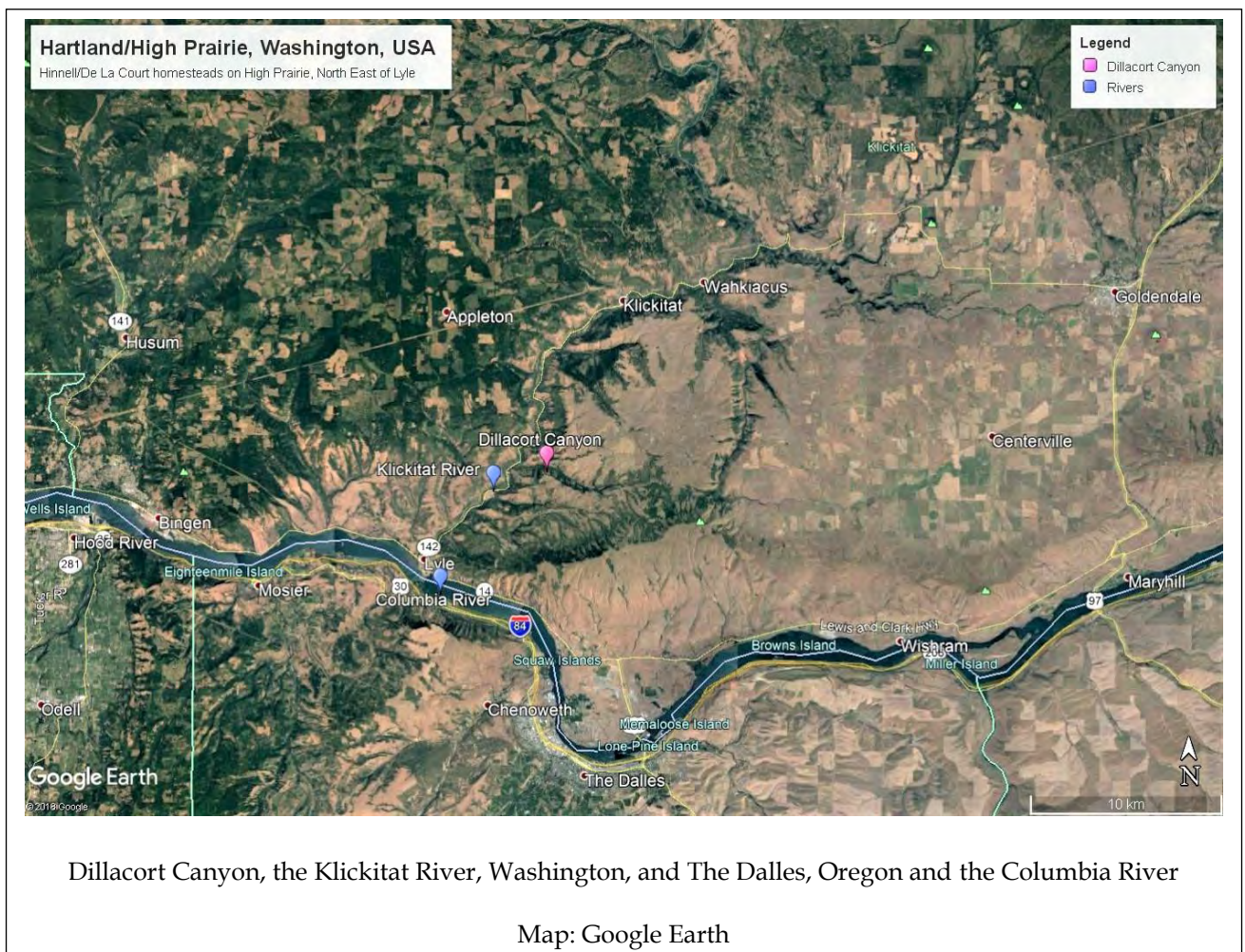
<sup>53</sup> <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/express-train-crosses-the-nation-in-83-hours>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/transcontinental-railroad>

Regardless of the class of ticket purchased, the combined sea and land journey was indeed a test of character and endurance for the family. From San Francisco the route to Portland, Oregon, and their final destination, The Dalles on the Columbia River, would likely have been accomplished by steamship from San Francisco to Portland and on up the river.

There are no records of the De La Courts on this journey and the descriptions here are simply possibilities and examples of early days of the expansion of the railroad network. In one way or another the De La Court family, who subscribed to the immigrants belief that “it may be tough but it is possible”, arrived in The Dalles, Oregon.

The Dalles is 120<sup>0</sup> longitude west from Horndon-on-the-Hill. The De La Court’s journey of one third of the way around the world in search of adventure and their future was rewarded after approximately four weeks of travel. It is not known exactly where they began their farming life on the west coast but by the end of the Fall of 1880 it appears that they were living in The Dalles, a town on the Columbia River, 85 miles east of Portland.





Pieter Hendrik had joined the St. John's Freemason Lodge in Grays, Essex in June 1880<sup>55</sup>, but he and his family were on the ship to America before completing all the initiation steps for membership. However, eight months later, in February 1881, the Freemason records show that Pieter Hendrik had not only arrived on the Pacific West Coast but he had been fully initiated as a Freemason, a member of the Wasco Lodge #15<sup>56</sup> in The Dalles.



Dillacort Canyon leading up to High Prairie

Photo Robin Hinnell

It was from here, in the summer of 1882, that Pieter and Jane Mary explored opportunities under the Homestead Act of 1862 across the Columbia River in Klickitat County, Washington. They claimed land high up on the prairie by the junction of Hartland Road and Centreville highway<sup>57</sup> in the upper regions of a canyon, where a creek began its journey from the prairie down to the Klickitat River below. By the spring of 1883 the family had a home, cattle<sup>58</sup> and sufficient acres on the prairie producing hay for feed.

At some point in time the canyon was named by or after the De La Court family and to this day is known as Dillacort Canyon.

<sup>55</sup> United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921

<sup>56</sup> United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921

<sup>57</sup> Ref: Article in High Prairian, Vol 5 #3, 'Hauling Wheat'

<sup>58</sup> Washington State census 1883



Klickitat River

Photo: Robin Hinnell

With Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary (Squier) De La Court from West Horndon, Essex, settled in their new home in Hartland, Klickitat, County, Washington, the focus shifts back to cousin James Hinnell, who in 1883 was in Kansas and missing “people he knew well”.

### **Kansas to Hartland (High Prairie), Klickitat County**

*Hearing of James’ sheep farming experiences in Kansas, and knowing that his father had died in April 1882, his cousin Maud Martha (Hinnell) Windle back in England, out of concern for James’ wellbeing may have written to James suggesting that he visit with his cousin Jane Mary and her husband Pieter Hendrik De La Court, who had settled in Hartland (High Prairie), Washington. More probably, James responded directly to a suggestion from his cousin, Jane Mary (Squier) De La Court, that he join their new De La Court farming adventure in Hartland.*



## James' second journey, westwards from Kansas – to “people he knew well”

At some point, James made the decision to travel again. Whether the destination was back to England for a visit or directly westward to the Pacific coast is not known. The exact year is not known, neither is the route travelled. For the short route from Kansas to the west coast we can assume that he travelled by train, the final leg of the journey being through the Snake and Columbia river valleys on the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company (OR & N) line to The Dalles, Oregon.



Steam locomotive No 47 of Oregon RR & Navigation derailed in the Columbia River Gorge, 1880's  
*This is not James Hinnell's train!*

Photo credit:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steam\\_locomotive\\_No\\_47\\_of\\_Oregon\\_RR\\_%26\\_Navigation\\_derailed\\_in\\_the\\_Columbia\\_River\\_Gorge,\\_1880%27s.jpg#filehistory](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Steam_locomotive_No_47_of_Oregon_RR_%26_Navigation_derailed_in_the_Columbia_River_Gorge,_1880%27s.jpg#filehistory)

Two years pass before official records of James appear in Washington. The census of June 1885 shows him living in Hartland, Klickitat County; however, he likely arrived in the summer of 1883 (after the 1883 census) or spring of 1884.

No doubt Jane Mary and Peter Hendrik not only welcomed James to Hartland but were also instrumental in helping him navigate the regulations and procedures for finding land. Under the US Homestead Act of 1862, due in part by James' application for US citizenship made while in Kansas, he was eligible to make a claim for 160 acres (a 'quarter section'). He opted for 160 acres adjacent to the De La Court land claim on the Hartland prairie.



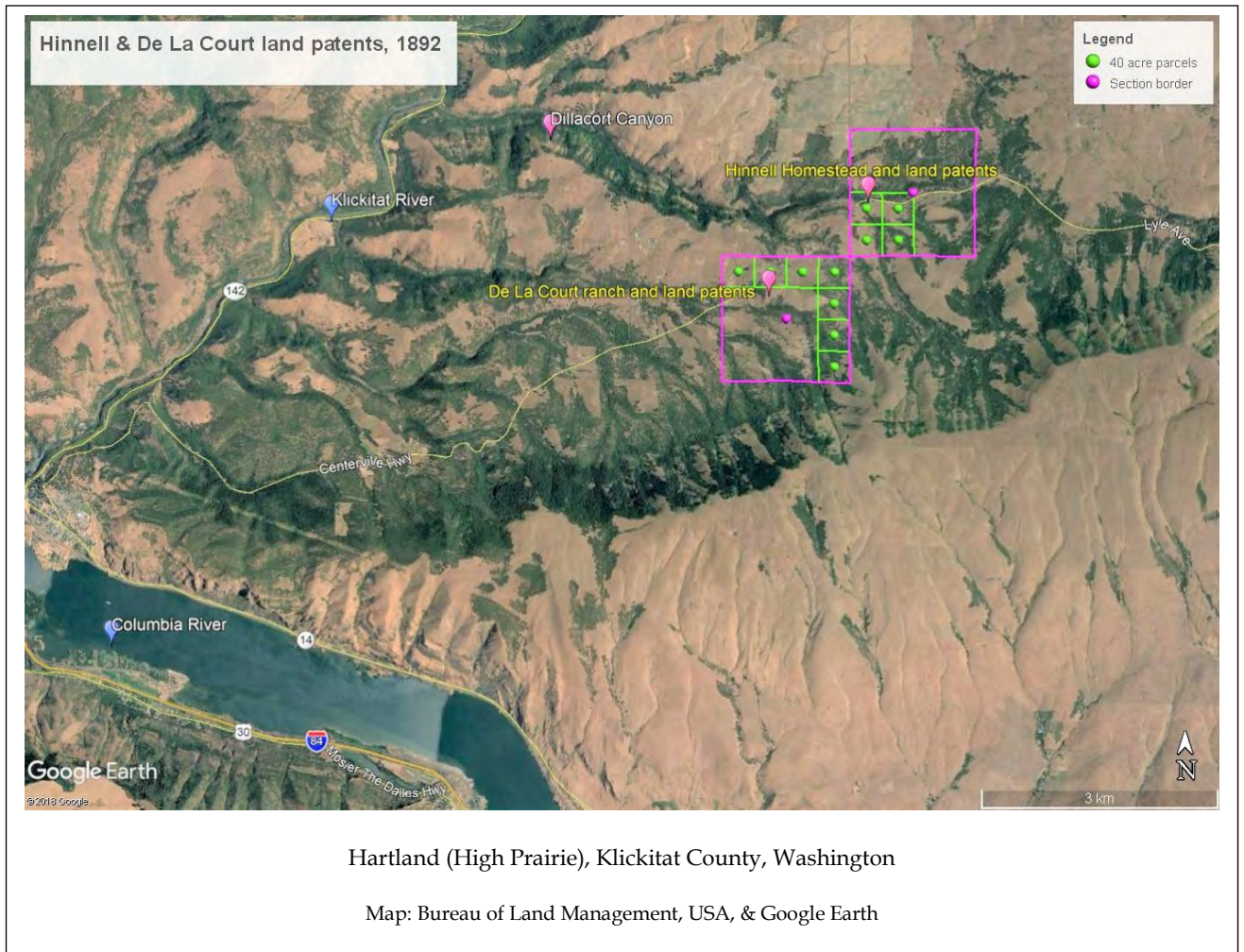
The Homestead Act, enacted during the Civil War in 1862, provided that any adult citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. government could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land. Claimants were required to “improve” the plot by building a dwelling and cultivating the land. This meant that the homestead was their primary residence and that they made improvements upon the land. After 5 years, the homesteader could file for his patent (or deed of title) by submitting proof of residency and the required improvements to a local land office. Title could also be acquired after only a 6-month residency and trivial improvements, provided the claimant paid the government \$1.25 per acre.

US National archives:

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act#background>

Thus, the two cousins were living as neighbours in Hartland, Klickitat County<sup>59</sup>, Washington State. Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary and their son Pieter Maria (a.k.a. Jamie) owned cattle; James was a general labourer<sup>60</sup> looking forward to creating a new life for himself as a homesteader and finding work.

By 1884<sup>61</sup>, all the challenges of journeys to America had become just memories, an aspect of the story of a young man who left his home town in England for an adventure in the 'New World'. James had arrived at the place in America where he found "people he knew well", his cousin Jane Mary (Squier) De La Court (and her husband and young son) from Essex, England.



<sup>59</sup> Washington State census 1885

<sup>60</sup> Washington State census 1887

<sup>61</sup> 1883 census: De La Courts shown but not James Hinnell



The backdrop for James' new beginning was prairie country situated between the two volcanoes, Mount Hood to the South West and Mount Adams to the North West. High Prairie lives up to its name. It is a stunningly beautiful high plateau only a few miles north of the Columbia River Gorge, Washington State's southern border with Oregon.



To the South West, Mt. Hood from High Prairie

Photo: Robin Hinnell



To the North West, Mt. Adams from High Prairie

Photo: Robin Hinnell

## James' early life in Hartland, Washington



A log cabin typical of the late 1800's  
(This photo is not of James' "shanty")

Photo: Robin Hinnell

For a while, James' home in Hartland was likely a log cabin, which he describes as his "shanty"<sup>62</sup>. Basic necessities were a wood stove for cooking and heating, perhaps a separate log fireplace, a well for fresh water and a pasture for his horse. But James was clearly torn on the matter of 'home'. In a reflective mood in 1894, long after his marriage, he wrote to his cousin Joe (Joseph Squier Hinnell) in Bury St. Edmunds reflecting on his early life in Hartland: *"I used to sit alone by my fireplace in the old shanty .... and get as homesick as I could and still be alive"*.<sup>63</sup>

The location of his 'shanty' is not known, although there was an old cabin on the Hinnell homestead land for many years, which may have been James' first home.<sup>64</sup> James' early descriptions of life in Hartland include only one reference to the location of his home: *"My house is about a quarter of a mile from the road"*.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, Dec 1894

<sup>63</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, Dec 1894

<sup>64</sup> Information from Doug Taylor, current owner of the property

<sup>65</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, 30 Nov 1889



the junction of Hartland Road and Centreville highway.

Apart from musing on his lot in life sitting “alone by (his) fireplace in the old shanty” what did James, a farm labourer<sup>67</sup>, do apart from pump water, buy oil for his lamps, perhaps plant a vegetable garden and cut firewood for the cooking stove and his fireplace in the winter months?

Over time, James’ property became known as “The Hinnell Place”<sup>66</sup>; the 1885 homestead land lies at



Centreville highway near  
“The Hinnell Place”

Photo: Robin Hinnell

James’ letters have a rambling style but include clues to the answer to this question. One such clue is a job he did with a neighbour; 75 feet down a well. The opening paragraph of the letter shown on page 32 is a typical story of ‘friends helping friends in Hartland’.

James wrote to his family back home, enjoying in return news of his sisters Kitty Louisa and Anne Jane and their families.

Excitement over Kitty’s young son Guy, James’ nephew, prompted him to dream of Kitty “*making a Yankee out of him when he is big enough*”<sup>68</sup>.

Reflecting to Maud on life in Klickitat James wrote: “*I wish Guy was 10 years older and I had him here now. With Guy here, I’d have something besides my horse to care for*”.<sup>69</sup>

One of James’ first jobs in Hartland was with the US Postal Service. He took a job as a Rural Route contractor<sup>70</sup>. [His route was #43138, as yet to be identified from the geographical perspective; however, it would have been in his neighbourhood of Klickitat County]. The records show his pay was \$100 p.a. and he worked this contract from June 1885 through to February 1888. Clearly, this was part time work since the equivalent of \$100 in 1885 is only about \$3,000 today.



Kitty, James’ sister, c.1875  
(Mother of Guy)

Photo: Hinnell family archives

<sup>66</sup> “Sketches of Early High Prairie” by Nelia Binford Fleming, page 60. Publisher: Binfords & Mort, Portland, 1949.

<sup>67</sup> Noted as a ‘labourer’ in the Washington census 1887

<sup>68</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, Nov 1889

<sup>69</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, Nov 1889

<sup>70</sup> Official Register of the United States, Containing a List of the Officers and Employees in the Civil, Military, and Naval Service



Peter De La Court's farming was going well; James was at hand and likely worked for him from time to time. Through the next couple of years the De La Courts were focused on their farm and family. Jane Mary's two daughters Alvira<sup>71</sup> and Alma were born in December 1886 and December 1887 respectively. Sadly, Alvira's life was short; she died sometime before June 1889<sup>72</sup>.

Apart from his casual jobs, James had 160 acres of land of his own and was intent on creating a farming life in Hartland for himself. [Note: One 'section' of land is one square mile, or 640 acres]. The Homestead Act programme ensured that, from the outset, he had a place to call home and pasture for his horse<sup>73</sup>. Over the next few years farmers of other quarter sections which butted onto his land would have provided some helpful advice for young 'farmer James'. And just as in the story of James digging the well in the letter below the 'helping hand' is what the people of Hartland lived by and still do today.

***Clues to nicknames will assist in following the narrative:***

James Hinnell, sometimes signs his letters Jim	<b><i>Jim</i></b>
Ellen Josephine Pitman, James' fiancée/wife	<b><i>Josie</i></b>
Thomas Henry Hinnell, James and Josie's son	<b><i>Harry</i></b>
Joseph Squier Hinnell, James' cousin in England	<b><i>Joe</i></b>
Anne Jane Hinnell, James' sister	<b><i>Annie</i></b>
Katherine Hinnell, James' sister	<b><i>Kitty</i></b>
Guy, James' nephew, Kitty's son	<b><i>Guy</i></b>
Jane Mary (Squier) De La Court, James' cousin and in Hartland	<b><i>Janie</i></b>
Pieter Hendrik De La Court, Jane Mary's husband	<b><i>Peter</i></b>
Pieter Maria De La Court, Pieter Hendrik's son	<b><i>Jamie</i></b>

<sup>71</sup>Washington State census 1887 shows Jane's daughter Alvira.

<https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/00B4662DB9FBE08A084178E57502A5D6>

<https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/DigitalObject/Download/fbd12023-9ef1-41c4-9738-2de9e7953338>

<sup>72</sup> Washington State census 1889 shows Jane's daughter Alma but not Alvira.

[https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/1018/images/wav228\\_10-0259?pid=129386](https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/1018/images/wav228_10-0259?pid=129386)

<sup>73</sup> Willamette Meridian, Township 3N, Range 13E, Section 23 SE ¼

Hartland  
Hitchitat Co  
Washington  
November 30<sup>th</sup> /89

Dear Maude

I received your letter last week at the bottom of a well. 75 feet deep, I was helping one of my neighbors digging it, and one of the boys had been to the office, and chucked it down to me, it's rather queer going down so far, on the end of a rope, you can't see the bottom till you get a little way down, we did n't find water at 80 feet but haven't given it up yet. The de La Courts are all well, Jamie is going to school, he has to ride by my place morning and evening, and generally gives a yell for me <sup>to</sup> answer, my house is about a quarter of a mile from the road, he is growing quite tall but not very broad yet, he's very fond of animals, I

Reference  
to the  
(Post)  
Office

The De La  
Courts and  
James'  
connection  
with young  
Peter Maria  
aged 10,  
who was  
nicknamed  
'Jamie'

"My house  
is about a  
quarter of a  
mile from the  
road"

James' neighbours to the south were George W. French, from Massachusetts, with his wife and three boys; Adolphus Hoff, from Ohio, lived to the north. Both were established farming families<sup>74</sup>. William Bridgefarmer, from Oregon, farmed the North East quarter and provided blacksmith services in the neighbourhood<sup>75</sup> with his business partner R. Dingle from England.

Another young man, Nelson Brooks, from Michigan, was directly to the north of James' quarter section; he was of a similar age to James and was single in 1883 and taught school<sup>76</sup>. However, by 1885 he was married and had added farming as a sideline to his teaching<sup>77</sup>. *[In generations past through to the present day, school teachers in rural communities have owned small ranches to supplement their teacher's income; the two life styles are compatible due to the long summers when schools are not in session, in order that children were free to help on the farms].*

Noting the birth places of the above newcomers to Klickitat County, (who had settled in just two sections of land), and adding in Peter De La Court from Holland and James Hinnell and his cousin Jane Mary De La Court from England, the diversity amongst the ambitious "settlers of the American West" becomes very evident. Shared hopes and ambitions, diversity of culture, and stories to tell around the fire helped to build the new community of Hartland, High Prairie.

With his relocation to Hartland, James had found "people he knew well", the likeminded De La Courts; and he had land, a home and his horse. He had other folks to connect with and he had work; however, he still lived alone in his shanty, and from letters he wrote back to England from time to time we know he was lonely and homesick<sup>78</sup>.

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<sup>74</sup> Washington census records and US Bureau of Land Management

<sup>75</sup> Washington census records and US Bureau of Land Management

<sup>76</sup> Washington census records and US Bureau of Land Management

<sup>77</sup> Washington census records and US Bureau of Land Management

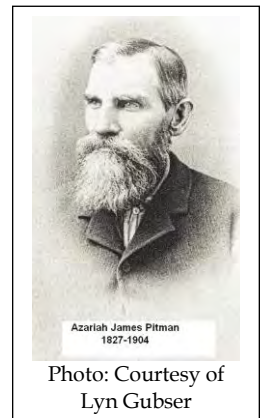
<sup>78</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier, December 1994



## Chapter 3 – Neighbours of interest, Hartland, Klickitat County or “the girls next door”

“Go West Young Man” had been the cry in 1850. For Azariah and Louisa Savage memories of their long journey on the Oregon Trail with their one year old son John Michael were still as vivid as ever (*see the prologue to chapter 1*). They had dreamed of making a new beginning for their family in the Willamette Valley in central Oregon. They crossed the country with Louisa’s father Dr. John Savage and his second wife, Jane, and eight of their children through the summer and early Fall of 1850; furthermore they arrived before the snow fell in the mountains of the west coast. They had succeeded in their goal.

Azariah, Louisa and John Michael (and the Savage family) initially settled near Silverton, Marion County, Oregon. Later they moved to the west of the Willamette River to Wheaton, Yamhill County. They built their home, farmed their Donation Lands and their family grew in numbers. John Michael, born in Missouri, was Azariah and Louisa’s only son. Between arriving in Oregon in 1850 and 1870 nine daughters were born to Louisa, and no further sons. In the next decade, several of John Michael’s sisters were married and the youngest were still teenagers in 1879 when Azariah and Louisa opted to explore new territory once again and relocated to new land claims in Klickitat County, Washington. Their four eldest daughters and their husbands were settled in Yamhill County, Oregon and did not move north to Washington. However, their son John Michael (then thirty years old and newly married) relocated and farmed for a while in Klickitat County. Azariah’s four youngest daughters moved to Klickitat with their parents. [Sadly, Azariah and Louisa’s sixth daughter, Emma Sarelia Pitman, died in 1878 at age 16].



### **“The girls next door”**

Hartland welcomed Azariah, Louisa and their four daughters. Here the family built their new homestead a short way up Schilling Road north from the Centreville Highway. The teenage years of their daughters gave way to young adulthood and with it romance and marriage. As other newcomers arrived in Hartland’s prairie country Azariah, Louisa, and their four daughters Mary Louisa, Arena Francis, Ellen Josephine and Effie Parilla were part of the ‘welcome wagon’ for both the De La Court family in 1881 and James Hinnell on his arrival in 1884.

By the time James arrived in Hartland, Arena Frances, then twenty, had met William Courtney, a young farmer from Illinois who was farming three miles north of the Pitman family homestead on Schilling Road. He and a Samuel Courtney, perhaps a brother or cousin of William, farmed an extensive five sections of land just to the west of the Swale Canyon. William and Arena were married in December 1883 at the Pitman family home.

**Thus, by 1884, three daughters remained on the Pitman farm.**

Records show that Mary Louisa Pitman, Arena's older sister, pursued a teaching career as early as 1880.<sup>79</sup> In June of that year she is noted as a teacher on the Washington census. Where she was teaching is not identified, although being at home on the Pitman farm in June is no doubt accounted for by the timing of the school year. School years were short in those days and Mary Louisa had the long summer months off from teaching.

Few clues to her training and school locations are found; for example, in April 1883 Mary was living on the Miller family farm located in the upper reaches of the Swale Creek<sup>80</sup>. This census record states she is a teacher and this suggests that she was likely employed to teach the Miller children and other children of nearby farming families (a common practice at this time).

In the 1880's and beyond there were three one-room schools in this part of Klickitat County and it is possible that she secured a position at one of them. Later she was employed by the Klickitat County Superintendent of Education for the school year 1883-1884.<sup>81</sup> Her role is described as the teacher of the 'Primary Department' in the only graded school in Klickitat County, in Goldendale.

But in 1880, at the age of twenty one, a young man Thomas Jefferson Newland, had entered Mary's life. He was working on his grandparents' (Chisholm Griffith) farm in Hartland for the summer. Isaac and Zelika Newland, Thomas Jefferson's parents, also farmed just north of the Little Klickitat River.

Thomas Jefferson was ambitious by nature and had set his eyes on becoming a doctor. By 1883, he was living in Goldendale studying 'medicine'<sup>82</sup>, and by 1885 he had been granted the full M.D. qualifications and had a medical practice in Ellensburg. The years 1880 to 1884 for Thomas Jefferson Newland are not well recorded; however, Mary Louisa and Thomas Jefferson became lifelong partners and were married on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1884. Did Thomas Jefferson Newland qualify as a doctor before their marriage? Where was he practicing in 1884? Where was Mary Louisa teaching?

The only clue to the answers of these questions is their marriage certificate (*see next page*). Both bride and bridegroom came from homes in the Klickitat County but the wedding was held at neither family home. With the challenges of travelling in the 1800's holding their

#### *Certification of teachers, c. 1882*

Certification of teachers, particularly in rural areas, was largely the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and accomplished through an examination of the subject matter most likely to be taught. The long standing characteristic of a teacher being "of good moral standards" was also appraised. Recognizing the challenges of travelling further afield to take courses at one of the newly opened 'Normal' schools (teacher training programmes), it is most likely that Mary Louisa and her sister Ellen Josie completed their schooling through to their late teens and obtained their certification by examination in Klickitat County.

<sup>79</sup> 1880 US census record

<sup>80</sup> 1883 Washington census record

<sup>81</sup> Report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Territory, 1883

<sup>82</sup> 1883 Washington Territory census

wedding where the bride lived would be the custom. In fact, Mary Louisa and Thomas Jefferson were married at her 'home away from home', identified as "the house of C. S. Price at the Simcoe Reservation Territory"<sup>83</sup> east of Yamhill, Washington. It is probable that she was teaching at the Native American Boarding School on the Simcoe Reservation and she was likely boarding with her fellow teachers Chamness S. Price and his wife, Mary Mildred.

This may be the clue to the questions posed for the years of their courting and their ongoing professional careers – Mary Louisa teaching at the Simcoe Reservation Boarding School and Thomas Jefferson being newly qualified in 1884 and taking a position as a physician on the Simcoe Reservation or in Ellensburg. [Census records of Washington appear not to include people living on reservations]. Thus for their first year of marriage they were living and working for the Agency at Fort Simcoe.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.		AA-20
Territory of Washington County of Klickitat		
This is to Certify, that the undersigned, a Presbyterian Minister by authority of a license, bearing date the 15 day of September A. D. 1884 and issued by the county Auditor of the county of Klickitat, did, on the 15 day of September A. D. 1884, at the house of C. S. Price at the Simcoe Reservation in the county and Territory aforesaid, join in lawful wedlock, F. J. Newland of the county of Klickitat and Territory of Washington and Mollie L. Pitman of the county of Klickitat and Territory of Washington, with their mutual assent, in the presence of C. S. Price and Mrs M. M. Price witnesses,		
Witness my hand, Jas. A. Laurie Ellensburg W.T.		

**Thus, by the Autumn of 1884, two daughters remained on the Pitman farm.**

[Note: Mary Louisa (Pitman) Newland will return to the narrative in the Epilogue].

The two remaining 'girls next door' were Ellen Josephine (Josie) and Effie Parilla. They were 17 and 15 years of age respectively. The 'boy next door', James Hinnell, had settled into his shanty for his first winter in Hartland; he was 24 years of age, and single. James was the

<sup>83</sup> See marriage certificate. [https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/2378/images/47902\\_b381043-00019?pld=97960627](https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/2378/images/47902_b381043-00019?pld=97960627)

local casual labourer. He kept in touch by mail with his extended family back in England; he lived in his “shanty” and took care of his horse. The Klickitat community was expanding, the De La Court family (his cousins) were growing up fast, and James, no doubt, made some good friends on the prairie.

However, Josie, at seventeen, had her own life to pursue, firstly to finish school and to prepare for gainful employment. Then at twenty, she took a position away from home, employed by the US government to teach in the Salem Training School<sup>84</sup> (a boarding school for Native Americans) in Oregon for the school year July 1888 through March 1889.

Following the school year at the Salem Training School (now Chemawa High School), Josie was reassigned as the matron at the Sinemasho Boarding School under the Warm Springs Agency in central Oregon<sup>85</sup> from April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. [*The physician’s report on the Warm Springs Agency*<sup>86</sup> portrays a great need for improvements in general school facilities and a focus on improving the general health of the school community].

For the next school year, July 1<sup>st</sup> 1889 through March 1890, Josie returned to the Sinemasho Boarding School as matron, where she was responsible for seventy students<sup>87</sup>. Her contract ended on March 15<sup>th</sup> and Josie returned to her Hartland home in the spring.

With James working away from his shanty for much of the time during the summers, and with Josie continuing her work as Matron at the Sinemasho Boarding School in the Warm Springs Agency in Oregon, they had little time together in Hartland in 1889. However, by this time James and Josie had found more than just friendship. After all, James’ ride from his shanty to visit with Josie was only a little over one mile; an easy ride for sure, or even a pleasant stroll! [See map at the beginning of chapter 4].

Perhaps to no one’s surprise, sometime in the summer of 1890 James asked Josie to marry him. The news of his engagement spread to his cousins back home in Bury St. Edmunds and Joe (Joseph Squier Hinnell) sent congratulations on his engagement. That October, as Fall was changing to winter, James wrote back to his cousin Joe:

*“Thank you for all your congratulations, but don’t be in such a hurry to get me fixed for life, you know there’s many a slip and Josie says she’ll make me wait two or three years, so you’ll have lots of time to get ahead of me”.*<sup>88</sup>

Amongst the many cousins in England, marriage was clearly becoming the theme for the 1890’s with James Hinnell and his cousins Joseph Squier Hinnell and Maud Marth Hinnell, all in their late twenties and not yet married.

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<sup>84</sup> <https://chemawa.bie.edu/history.html>

<sup>85</sup> *Annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the year 1889*

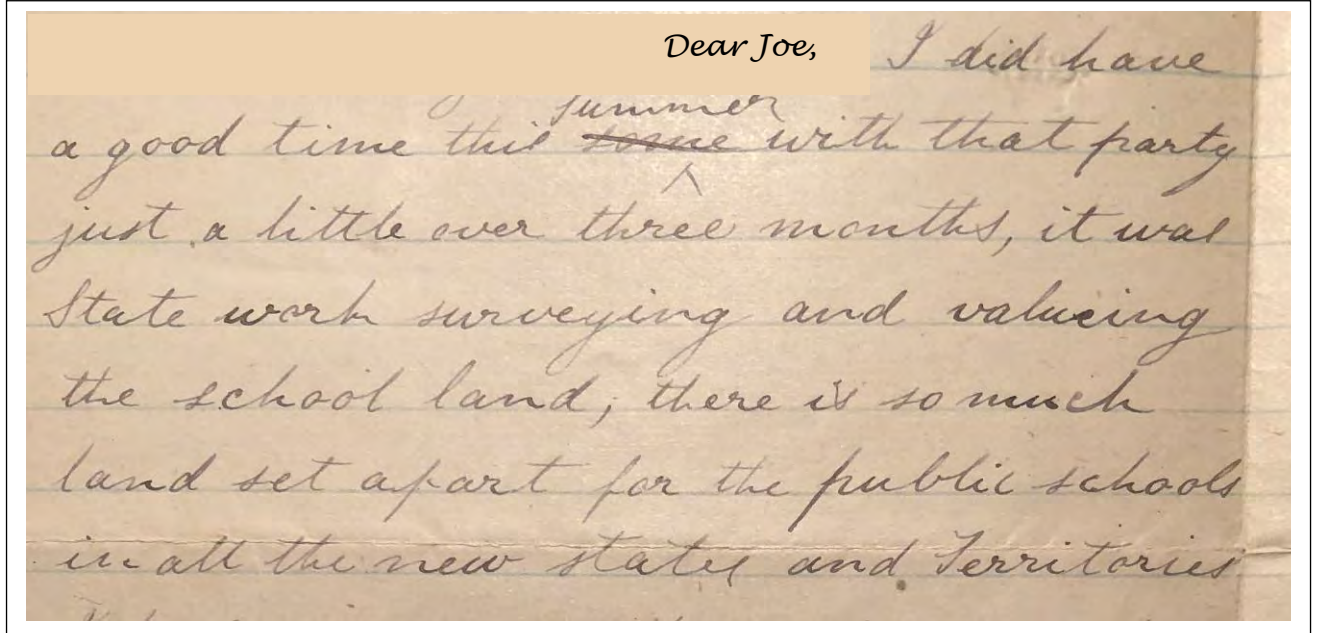
<sup>86</sup> [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Warm\\_Springs\\_Indian\\_Agency\\_\(Oregon\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Warm_Springs_Indian_Agency_(Oregon))

<sup>87</sup> *Annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for the year 1890*

<sup>88</sup> Letter from Joseph Squier Hinnell to James – October 1890



When James put pen to paper he usually sent descriptions of his various jobs as a labourer, while Joe, in contrast to James' life style, was midway through his MD degree at Cambridge University. In this letter of October 1890, James describes surveying school lands.



This long rambling letter to Joe (see next page) was written from his weekly lodgings close to the ferry dock at Columbus Ferry. James tells the story of his work and play, stacking wheat sacks and swimming in the Columbia River, through October and November.



Stacking sacks of wheat, Columbus Ferry

Photo credit: Klickitat Historical Society, Presby Museum, Goldendale, WA  
Used with permission



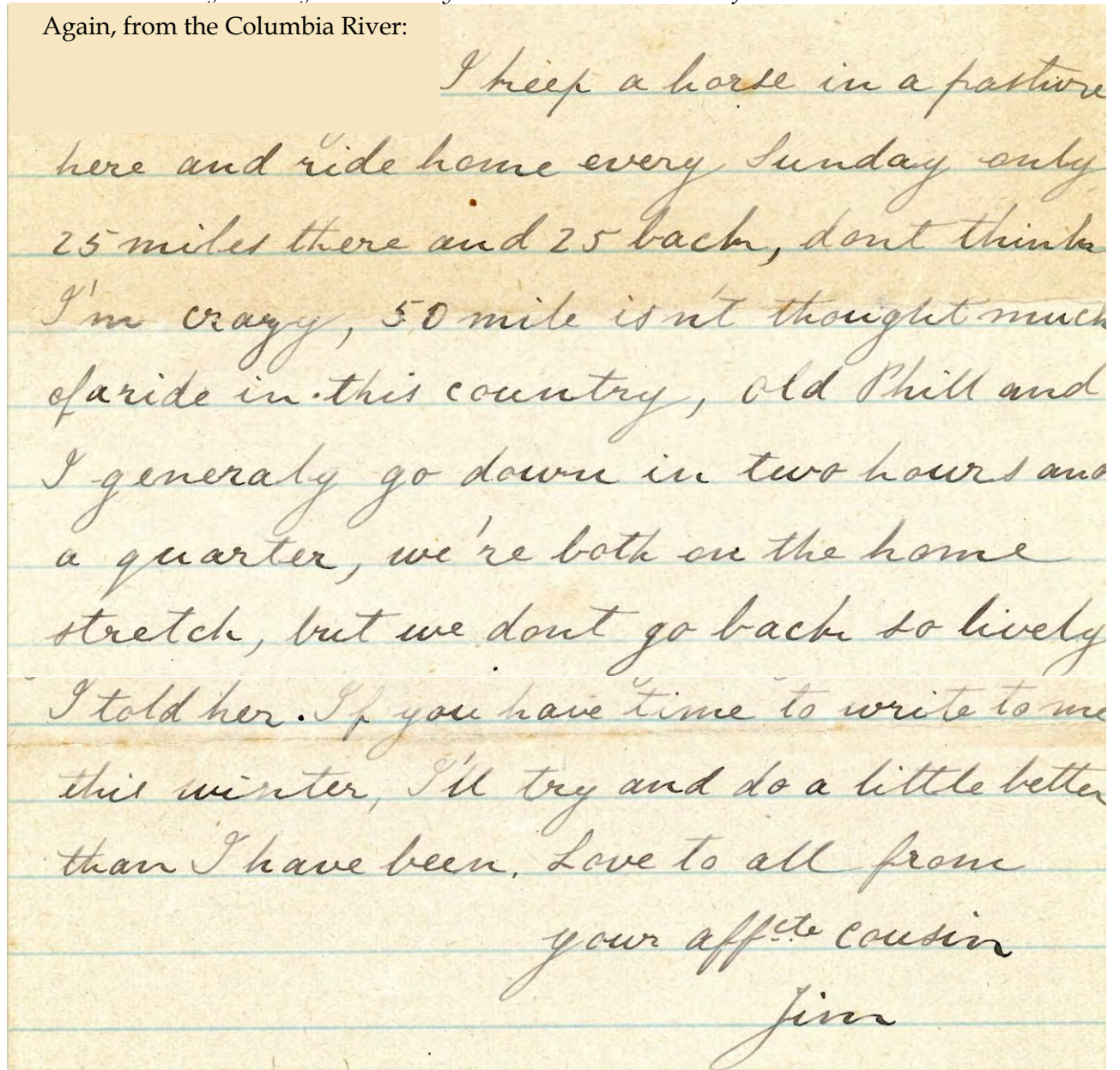
I had many a jolly swim in the Columbia; it's a big river about a mile across, & I was the boss in the water, as only one of the other fellows could swim, and he would <sup>nt</sup> go further than he could touch bottom. I have been working for a month for a man weighing wheat down on the Columbia river, and expect to be here till the middle of next month, it's like my last job ~~is~~ a pretty easy one, I weigh about 50 loads a day, and it takes 3 hours the rest of the time I'm in and on the river, the wheat is put up in thin sacks holding about 130 lb.

it's piled up along the river bank about 6 sacks high, there is about 2 acres of it now and they are ferrying across the river to the railway as fast as they can.



A ride home "every Sunday" necessarily included a visit with his fiancée!

Again, from the Columbia River:



I keep a horse in a pasture  
here and ride home every Sunday only  
25 miles there and 25 back, don't think  
I'm crazy, 50 mile isn't thought much  
of a ride in this country, Old Phill and  
I generally go down in two hours and  
a quarter, we're both on the home  
stretch, but we don't go back so lively  
I told her. If you have time to write to me  
this winter, I'll try and do a little better  
than I have been. Love to all from  
your aff<sup>te</sup> cousin  
Jim

It appears that Phill is the name of James' horse.

And James includes in the letter a vague invitation to his cousin Joe:

"I expect to be home this winter, come over when the sleighing is good, that's generally when I have a good time, except when the snow gets too deep. One winter we had 7 feet that cooked the sleighing, and I had to go on snowshoes and alone".

1890 had been a long hard summer for James. As he complained to Cousin Joe: "I have not been at home two weeks at a stretch this summer and I don't expect to get home to stay until the middle of next month" (November). However, pleasant changes were in the wind. He and Josie were engaged and, although when the snow fell in the Autumn of 1890, and James's invitation to his cousin Joe to visit had gone unanswered,

it was Josie's turn to find work in Hartland, near her fiancée, as opposed to back at the Warm Springs Agency in Oregon.

And when James did get home to see Josie, there was much to enjoy. James had reminded his cousin Maud Martha by letter that winters are "*generally when I have a good time*". He wrote: "*We have had a little sleighing already, a couple of dances and once in a while a whist party, so we are not altogether dead in this part of the world. Some of the people in here have an organ and it is quite a treat to hear Janie (Jane Mary De La Court) play some of the old pieces that Kitty (James' sister) used to play.*"<sup>89</sup> And as always he adds: "*The De La Courts are all well*".

It appears that Josie's initial idea of making James wait for "two or three years" was crumbling<sup>90</sup>. James and Josie were neighbours, engaged to be married and enjoying the winter months particularly. James' cousins were delighted he had found "the girl next door". Perhaps life would become less lonely for him.

**And so, very soon only one daughter, Effie Parilla, would remain on the Pitman farm.**

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<sup>89</sup> Letter to Maud Martha November 1889

<sup>90</sup> Letter from Joseph Squier Hinnell to James – October 1890

## **Chapter 4 – James and Josie make their home together**

### **The Pitman girls in Oregon**

By 1884, seven of Azariah and Louisa Pitman's ten children were married and the grandparents were enjoying their fifteen grandchildren to date. They had grieved over the deaths of three of their nine daughters, Emma Sarelia dying as a teenager; Martha Evaline dying at nineteen years of age leaving her husband and first born child after only one year of marriage; and Sina Elizabeth, who died a couple of years after the birth of her twins in June 1880. Sina's five older children (aged five to twelve) remained with their father, a steam engineer, landlord and hop farmer in Wheatland, Yamhill County, Oregon; however, Azariah and Louisa took on Sina's young twins, Bertha and Burton Isham, who lived with them from 1883 for the next nine years.

### **The two Pitman girls in Hartland**

Josie and Effie, through their teenage years, had lots to keep themselves busy at home by supporting their parents who were bringing up Sina's twins; Azariah and Louisa were already in their fifties and managing their farm. However, by 1889, with the twins being six years old, both Josie and Effie had been more able to follow their own ambitions. As recorded in chapter 3, Josie worked over in Oregon for the Warm Springs Agency. During the summer of 1889, while Josie was working at the Sinemasho Boarding School for Native American children in Oregon, Effie was in Ellensburg with her older sister Mary Louisa (Pitman) Newland<sup>91</sup> helping her with her two boys, then 2 years and just 9 months old. It was during that summer in Ellensburg that Effie met Lemuel S Brown, who was a teamster from Iowa working in the vicinity of, and living in, the town.



Ellen Josephine (Josie) Pitman c. 1891

Photo: Courtesy of Robert Johnson

As the next decade began, Effie, having finished her schooling and gaining valuable experience in caring for young children, was keeping in contact with her 'teamster' friend.

Josie and James had become engaged, and were looking ahead to their marriage. Being at home through the winter of 1890/1891 had provided further opportunity for their relationship to grow and they decided that they would shorten Josie's required 'waiting period' to one year. After all, Josie would soon be twenty four.

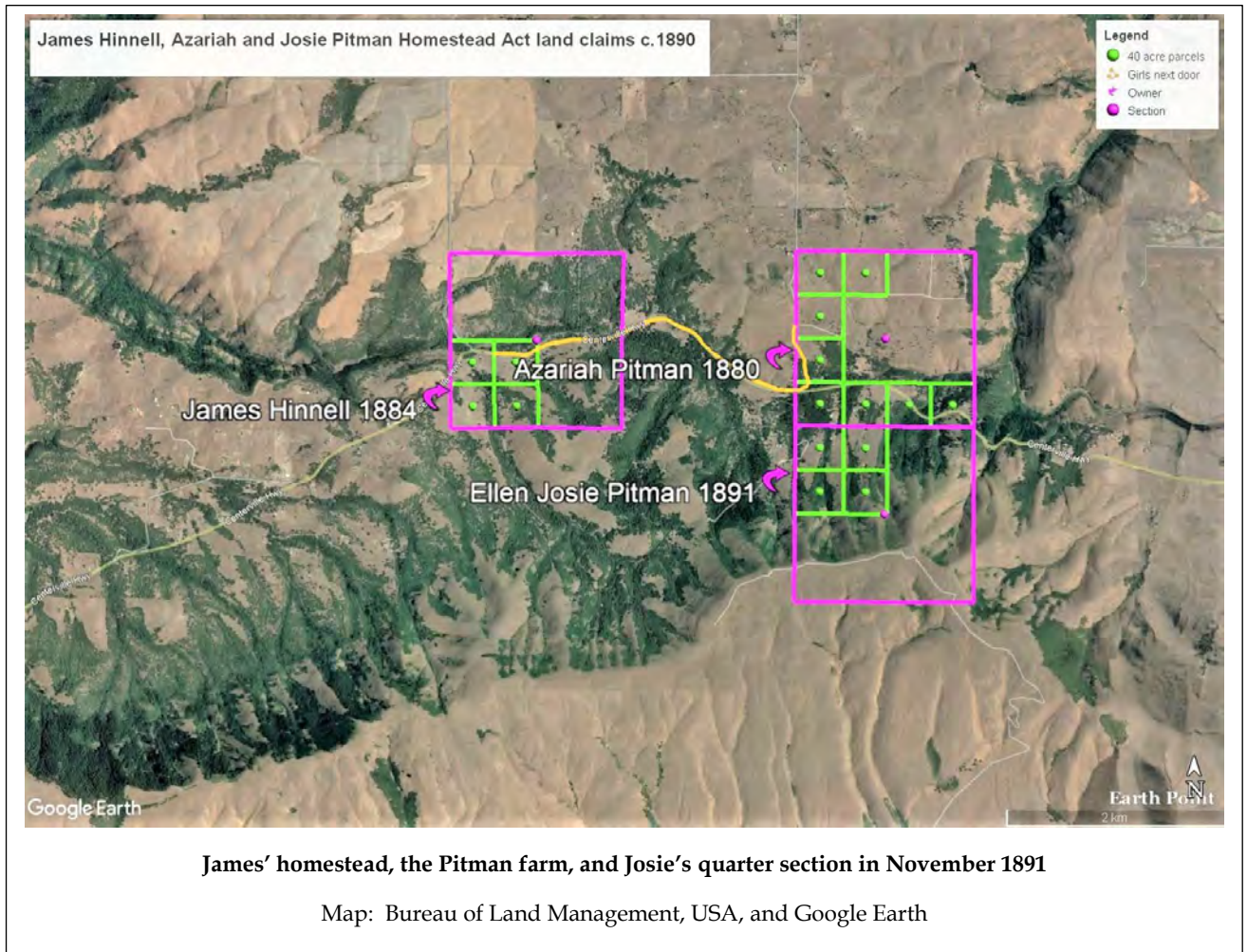
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<sup>91</sup> See Chapter 3 pages 35 & 36 re Mary Louisa and the Simcoe Reservation



## James and Josie's wedding and their new home:

James was as committed as usual to the demands of a farming life as well as his casual jobs through the summer of 1891 and so the wedding day was set for 18<sup>th</sup> November 1891, for when the year's work was done. As was the custom, Azariah and Louisa Pitman hosted the wedding on the family farm. Amongst Josie's family members who were at the wedding were the young Isham twins, Josie's sister Effie Parilla Pitman, and her older sister Arena Frances (Pitman) Courtney who farmed close by in Hartland. James' cousin Jane Mary De La Court and her family were likely there too, as well as James' friend and neighbour Nelson Brooks who was his witness at the wedding ceremony<sup>92</sup>.



<sup>92</sup> Washington State Archives: Record of Hinnell/Pitman wedding license





John & Nellie Taylor's home in Hartland, c. 1930  
[The "Hinnell Place" of the 1890's]

Photo: Courtesy of Doug Taylor

Since arriving in Hartland, James' ongoing casual jobs had been adequate to sustain him in Hartland; he had his shanty, his quarter section of land to farm, a horse or two, and his sleighs. With marriage came responsibility. James was not fortunate to have parents to give him the customary 'good start' to his married life; however, Azariah Pitman was a successful farmer and purchased a nearby quarter section of land in Josie's name<sup>93</sup>. In addition, it must be assumed that Azariah also helped James and Josie in the building and financing of their family home on the "Hinnell Place"<sup>94</sup> (i.e. James' property).

The house was built in 1892<sup>95</sup>. The main floor had two bedrooms, living rooms and the attic was a bedroom too. The roofed deck and bay windows of the period added character to the home, enjoyed by all who have lived there. Electricity and running water were installed in 1948<sup>96</sup> when the Taylor family returned to Hartland.

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<sup>93</sup> Bureau of Land Management records

<sup>94</sup> "Sketches of Early High Prairie" by Nelia Binford Fleming, page 60. Publisher: Binfords & Mort, Portland, 1949.

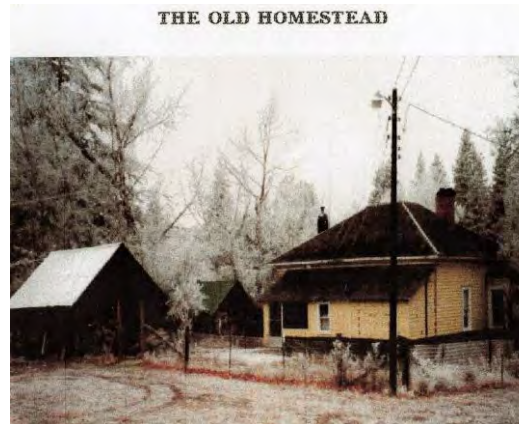
<sup>95</sup> "Growing upon High Prairie"; talk by Lorna Dove to the High Prairie Historical Society, 2002

<sup>96</sup> "Growing upon High Prairie"; talk by Lorna Dove to the High Prairie Historical Society, 2002



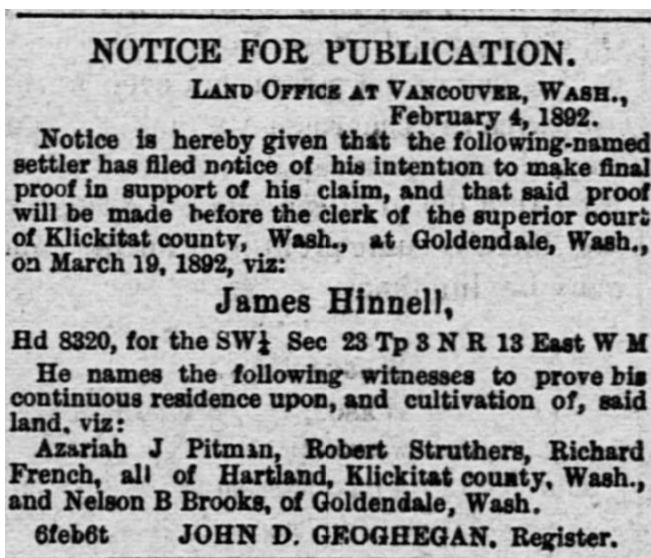
Photo: Courtesy of Doug Taylor

*There have been several owners over the years. However the Taylor family owned the home in the 1920's and again from 1948 when Doug and Lorna Taylor's parents moved back to Hartland. Doug and Lorna continue to live on the property to this day and were most gracious to receive Robin and Sally during their visit to High Prairie in 2016.*



The Taylor family home in Hartland, c. 1950 with electricity and running water

Photo: Courtesy of Doug Taylor



The Dalles Times Mountaineer  
February 20, 1892

### *Land ownership - the Land Patent*

*To receive the final approval and issue of the land patent a burden of proof as outlined in the Homestead Act fell upon the farmer. He was required to demonstrate to the superior court in Goldendale through testimony of local witnesses his "continuous residence upon and cultivation of the land" for a five year period. Typically the farmer would ask his neighbours to attend the court hearing and provide the testimony required.*

As well as setting up their home together, 1891 and 1892 were years spent preparing for the finalization of ownership of the quarter section of land which James had claimed under the Homestead Act of 1862 on arrival in Hartland. The annual fee for use of the land claimed was \$10; the final date for issuing the ownership papers, the patent, was set for July 7<sup>th</sup> 1892.

## And Josie had a baby boy

To complement building and moving into the family home, the joy of Thomas Henry Hinnell's birth on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1892<sup>97</sup> wrapped up the year. From his birth James and Josie's son went by the name Harry. Harry's grandmother, Anne Charlotte Hinnell, back in England, heard the good news from James and with much joy entered Harry's birth in her Birthday Book<sup>98</sup>, (a treasure trove of births, marriages and deaths of Hinnell family members), simply noting Harry as "Jim's boy"]. 1891 and 1892 were indeed memorable years for the Hinnells both in Hartland and back home in Bury St. Edmunds.

The twins, Bertha and Burton, at 12 years of age, were free to visit Josie and help out with their new cousin, and Effie was at home on the Pitman farm. James, now with his wife and son, was missing his neighbours, the "people he knew well". His De La Court cousins had sold their Hartland farm and moved to Tacoma Washington in late 1892, to take over a tobacco, confectionary and fruit business. [*This is another whole story!*] However, there is no doubt, James and Josie were a happy couple.

## And James and Josie had their horses

The horses were a big part of James' life in Hartland. He had relied on his horse 'Phill' to get to his many different work sites and for his enjoyment of the winter with Phill harnessed to his sleigh. His letters show that Phill had not been alone in the pasture beside the family home. For several years James had raised horses to sell. In a letter to Maud<sup>99</sup> in his early days of farming he expressed his confidence about having enough cash to meet his cousin Joe in New York for a holiday together. He had written: "*I'm raising a colt to sell by 1892 and then we will meet in New York*".<sup>100</sup> However, this plan for the cousins' holiday in New York never came to fruition, partly due to James' colt and other horses either being stolen from his homestead, or dying from sickness, probably sometime in 1891. Furthermore, in 1892, his cousin Joe was finishing his doctoral studies in medicine at Cambridge University and was planning his own wedding for 1893.<sup>101</sup>

The loss of the horses had a major financial impact on James. He wrote in July 1893 to Joe: "*Old Chuck was very good to me when I lost my money over those blessed horses*"<sup>102</sup>. *He sent me £60*", a significant sum in 1891 - approximately equivalent to \$9,000 today. 'Old Chuck' was James' sister Anne Jane's husband Frank Summers. Frank had been in partnership with James' father, Thomas Charles Hinnell, of the Bury St. Edmunds firm Nunn, Hinnell & Summers, Chemists and Druggists.

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<sup>97</sup> Anne Charlotte Hinnell's (James Hinnell's mother) birthday book. [Note provided by Joseph Bird, holder of the Birthday Book].

<sup>98</sup> Notes made from the Birthday Book by Joseph Bird sent to Robin Hinnell

<sup>99</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, October 1890

<sup>100</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, October 1889

<sup>101</sup> Ancestry records: Joseph Squier Hinnell married Emma (Boo) Scott in October 1893

<sup>102</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, July 1893

## Better days for James arrived in 1893

It had been four years since James had written to his cousin Maud musing over the joy he would have if his nephew Guy could be out in Hartland with him. James had written “...something besides my horse to care for...”<sup>103</sup> But he now had Josie and their son Harry “to care for”, both of whom loved the horses.

*“Harry is two now and we can’t keep him away from the horses; he’ll run up to any horse and grab the harness or saddle and call up, up”.<sup>104</sup>*



**Harry Hinnell on horseback  
c.1899**

Photo: Courtesy Robert Johnson

Josie was active in the community. Following in the footsteps of her father, whose “influence has been felt in moulding the destiny of the state of Oregon ever since his arrival in 1850”<sup>105</sup>, she became involved with the Patrons of Husbandry organisation and held the position of Ladies Assistant Steward on the Washington State Patrons of Husbandry committee<sup>106</sup>.

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<sup>103</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, October 1889

<sup>104</sup> Letter to Joseph Squire Hinnell, 2 November 1894

<sup>105</sup> Azariah Pitman obituary, Daily Oregon Statesman

<sup>106</sup> Barton’s Legislative Handbook & manual of state of WA 1893-1894





**Josie Hinnell on side saddle**

Photo: Courtesy Robert Johnson



We are having a little <sup>warm</sup> the thermometer hasn't gone below twenty yet, about six inches of snow on frozen ground which makes pretty fair sleighing; Josie has gone to church tonight in the sleigh, and Harry is asleep so I'm all alone in my glory; we enjoy the sleighing very much, I have four pretty good travellers, we always drive two; I have two colts to break this winter, the sleigh is the finest thing to put them to first, everything is quiet, no wheels to rattle and scare them, if they want to run it's all-right, we put the colt beside a broke horse and he keeps them in the road, if you do upset the snow is soft and it is not far to fall, last winter I took Josie and the baby the first day I put a colt to the sleigh, I had a good horse for its mate, a good gallop soon brings them to time; I don't mind driving them, but I hate to get onto a young one the first time, as bad as ever I did the little old pony. Josie sends her love with me to you all and wishes for a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

your aff<sup>l</sup> cousin  
Jim

In spite of the earlier loss of his horses, raising colts for sale remained a focus of James' farming life.

In the summer months James stored hay from his land for winter feed and in winter time, James used his sleigh to break in his horses.

His letters tell the stories well.

## The family back home in England

1893 and 1894 were hard years for the family back home in England and therefore for James too. His mother, Anne Charlotte, died in May 1893. His sister Kitty (Hinnell) Cavalier and her family lived in Wramlingham, Norfolk, a three hour journey from Bury St. Edmunds in those days. Anne Jane, his other sister, had been caring for her husband Frank, who had a long term illness, as well as their young son Thomas Hinnell Summers. Frank died on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1894 (it seems in a hospital or care home in Ipswich). The generosity of his brother-in-law had been immensely appreciated by James and he wanted to repay his 'horses' loan, in spite of Anne Jane's reluctance to accept anything.<sup>107</sup> Joseph Squier Hinnell had agreed to be an executor of his Aunt Anne Charlotte's will on behalf of James, who wrote:

*Dear Joe,*

*(Anne Jane) didn't want me to say anything to anyone about it (the loan for the horses). I've been precious hard up ever since, and I felt it hard that I could do nothing for her in her troubles. I don't know what she is going to do or how things are going to be settled. But in settling up the business (their mother's estate) you can help her (Anne Jane) for me, that is as my agent, for I believe that is what a power of attorney means, I shall feel very much in your debt.....<sup>108</sup>*

James even asked Joe to buy his nephew an expensive bicycle from the share of his mother's estate<sup>109</sup>.

By 1895, James' mother's estate was settled and the three cousins in our narrative were married. James to Josie (1891), Joseph Squier Hinnell to Emma Scott (1893) from Cambridge who he had met at the annual Bachelor's Ball in Bury St. Edmunds a year earlier<sup>110</sup>, and Maud Martha Hinnell to George Frederick Windle (1895). George was the 'younger brother of Maud's oldest brother's wife'!

The next generation of Hinnell cousins included Harry Hinnell (1892) in Hartland, and Thomas Squier Hinnell (1894) in Bury St. Edmunds, Joe's son. [Maud Martha and George Frederick Windle did not have children]. James and Josie may have hoped for siblings for Harry but this was not to be. James' 1893 letter to Joseph ends with a hopeful message from Josie:

*"Josie sends her love, says no more new cousins on this side of the briny yet".*

## Harry's Pitman cousins

Although Harry never met any of his English cousins there were thirty six Pitman cousins living in Hartland and Ellensburg, Washington and Yamhill County, Oregon. The youngest five cousins were children of Effie Parilla Pitman, who had married her teamster friend, Lemuel Brown, from Ellensburg in 1894. Effie and Lemuel set up home in Ellensburg, sadly 130 miles from James, Josie and Harry in Hartland.

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<sup>107</sup> Letters to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 1894

<sup>108</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, July 1893

<sup>109</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, September 1894

<sup>110</sup> Bachelor's Ball invitation and dance cards of 1892

With Josie's marriage in 1891, Azariah and Louisa Pitman experienced a special joy with their young grandchild, Harry, who lived close by. All their grandchildren except Harry lived away from the Pitman family homestead in Hartland.

### **The ongoing question: Did James and Josie ever go to England to visit the extended family?**

Before he was married James did mention an earlier trip to Bury St. Edmunds in a letter to his cousin Maud<sup>111</sup>:

*"When I was last back in England, I was promised a photo; amongst other beings I believe there was a dog in it"*. At that time he was yearning for a family photo for the mantle shelf above the fireplace in his shanty. No records have surfaced to offer clues to the date of his visit or whether the promised George John Hinnell family photograph found its way to Hartland. However, this note suggests that James returned to Bury St. Edmunds for a visit at least once before he was married.

The lack of mention in letters of specific visits back home to England suggests that Josie never met her English in-laws and James' relatives didn't visit him in Hartland. But James was often scheming. The proposed "cousins' trip" in 1892 to New York<sup>112</sup>, which did not materialise, would have depended on the proceeds from James selling his colt. And in a letter to Joseph<sup>113</sup>, he comments on communications he had had with his sister Anne Jane whose husband Frank had just died a few months earlier. *"Annie is talking of coming over to see us a year from next autumn, it seems a long time to look forward to, it will be a great treat to me"*. But did she ever make the trip?

His sister Anne Jane's proposed visit for the autumn of 1896<sup>114</sup> would have depended on her decisions regarding her son Thomas Hinnell Somers, who would be only fifteen at the time of the proposed visit. No relevant passenger lists of transatlantic voyages have come to light.

In 1895 in his letter to his cousin Maud, James wrote: *"as you only know one third of us"*. This quote answers the question on a possible visit to England by Josie with clarity. No, Josie never visited Bury St. Edmunds.

### **The ongoing hope for a recent family photograph from the Hinnells in Bury St. Edmunds**

James was always glad to receive news of Bury St. Edmunds.

*"Annie sends the (Bury) Free Press (local newspaper) every week and I know what is going on in Bury almost as if I lived there"*.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>111</sup> Letter to Maud Martha Hinnell, 30 Nov 1889

<sup>112</sup> See page 4 of this chapter

<sup>113</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 2 Nov 1894

<sup>114</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 2 Nov 1894

<sup>115</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 2 Nov 1894



But the local paper was not a family photograph! He was as close as a brother to cousins Joe and Maud and he wanted a recent photograph of their family.

*We recall from the prologue to this narrative that James, with the sad and early deaths of all his uncles, aunts and grandmother, had no cousins on his father's side of the family. By 1894, his English relatives were his two sisters and his cousins in the George John Hinnell family who had lived close by through his twenty years in Bury St. Edmunds prior to his emigration.*

December 1894 brought the surprise he longed for, just in time for Christmas – an up-to-date family photograph of the George John Hinnell family.



George John Hinnell (standing centre) & Louisa (Squier) Hinnell and family,  
Autumn 1894

James Hinnell's cousins from left: Catharine & John George Hinnell (L); sitting: **Joseph Squier Hinnell** (R) & Emma;  
Standing on right: **Maud Martha Hinnell**, and Alice Hinnell; Sitting: Nell Hinnell  
Harry Hinnell's second cousins (John George Hinnell's children) from left: Roger (L), Catharine (R)  
Harry's latest second cousin, Joseph's first boy, Thomas Squier Hinnell (in Emma's arms)

Photo: Hinnell family archives

*The text in James' letter below provides the evidence that this is in fact a print of the Hinnell family photograph, a copy of which he and Josie received in December 1984.*



James put a 'thank you' letter to Joseph in the mail in time for Christmas; it shows that his connection with "Old England" was as strong as ever.

Hartland  
Helicitat  
Washington  
December 15<sup>th</sup> /94

Dear Joe.

Our last mail was quite a surprise and a treat for us. Josie brought the mail home, she said "guess whose photo we've received to day" I said, "Joe's baby", she said "and who else" I said "Mrs Joe" then we went in and had a good look at all of you, Josie knew you all; at first I said "whose that next to Alice with the nose nippers on" she said "why that must be Nell" you see I often talk to her about you all, and about Old England, just the same as I used to sit alone by my fireplace in the old shanty and think about you, and

get as homesick as I could be and still be alive, though thanks to Josie and Harry I've about got over that now; I liked the place where the photo is taken so much better than if it was some photographer's scene, it brought a kind of an old creepy feeling back into my 'tune tun', but I must stop or you'll swear that I'm as homesick as ever yet; how is it you people don't grow any older, Alice doesn't look any older than when I was last home, neither does Kate, John looks a bit fatherly, perhaps on account of the boy by him, I have the picture beside me; the more I look at it the worse I get to think that time has not changed any of you much, I feel as if Uncle ought to step out and speak to me,

James signed off in his customary way:

Josie sends her love and wishes with  
me to you all for a Merry Xmas and  
Happy New Year.

Your affectionate cousin,  
Jim



## Chapter 5 – James at work and the Hartland community

### **Working on the farm and other jobs**

There was always work to be done on the farm; horses to be cared for, hay to be harvested and stored for the winter, logs to be split for the log fire and the stove in the kitchen, and the usual sequence of daily chores around the house. Stories of family life at home and of the labouring jobs he took on through the year had been relayed to James' sisters and cousins in England; however, many of these letters have not survived. For the most part, the years on their farm following James and Josie's wedding are left to our imagination.

One aspect of James' life in Hartland is known. In 1894, he received his share of his mother's estate from England which amounted to £2,100<sup>116</sup> (equivalent to about \$300,000 in today's dollars<sup>117</sup>). This bequest would have provided the much needed stability for James and his family.

James and Josie's son Harry was growing up and no doubt was engaged in helping out at home, attending the Hartland School, and visiting with his Pitman grandparents.

But "Daddy" had to go out to work. Once again, James took the job on the Columbia River.<sup>118</sup>



Stacking wheat on the Columbia River for ferrying over to the railroad at The Dalles, c. 1894

Photo: Robin Hinnell at the Presby Museum, Goldendale.

Photo credit: Klickitat Historical Society, Presby Museum, Goldendale, WA. Used with permission

<sup>116</sup> As shown in the letter from Edgar Robins, UK solicitor, 26th July 1894

<sup>117</sup> £1 → ~\$4.86 in 1895; \$1 in 1895 equivalent to \$33 in 2022

<sup>118</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 2 Nov 1894

*"I've got one of my old jobs again, weighing and receiving wheat. It is ten miles from here. I ride back and forth morning and evening, have to be up at half past four, get my breakfast and be down to meet the boat and ship the wheat off every morning at half past seven. Then the wheat comes in from ten to three, it's rather heavy work handling a hand truck with five sacks of wheat 135lbs to 140lbs to the sack; it's on the bank of the Columbia river, I get two dollars a day and board myself, I like it pretty well, but after my ride home and supper, I don't sit over a warm fire for more than two minutes before I tumble off to sleep. I don't think I could stand it very long but I expect to get through next week; I'm getting to be a lightweight, only 128lbs now. I've had no shooting this year, took my holiday at the sea side, and have been too busy since I came home. The farmers are looking blue here just now, wheat is only worth twenty seven cents a bushel and ten miles up the river it is only twenty one. Hogs are a very good price..... A good many farmers are turning their attention to fruit, mostly prunes; I want to plant a small orchard of winter apples. I have a good place for them, they are sending them over to you from here and expect a good market in the future."*



Harvested wheat and an old homestead, High Prairie

Photo: Robin Hinnell



## The heart of the Hartland community responds to help Josie's parents

At some point around the Fall of 1889, a year or two before James and Josie's marriage, Azariah Pitman became very ill<sup>119</sup>. Effie was possibly at home or may have been in Ellensburg with her sister, and Josie had returned to the Sinemasho Boarding School in Oregon as matron. Azariah and his wife Louisa managed as best they could but with a farm to run, a house to keep warm, and two grandchildren to look after (the twins, Burton and Bertha) word got around that things were not going well. An example of the 'heart of the Hartland community' is described in the the Pitman sketch from "Sketches of Early High Prairie", by Nelia Binford Fleming:

*"It was noised around that Mr. Pitman was ill. It was the Fall and they were out of wood. The Pitman's only son was married and away from home, and the small grandson, whom they were bringing up, was entirely too young to be of any help. Mrs. Pitman was a frail morsel of a woman, not strong enough to cope with the situation, so the family was really in a sorry plight.*

*Pioneers did not at that time hire help, nor did people wait to be asked to help when a friend was in distress.*

*By 'grape vine' a day was set on which we were to meet. Men brought their teams and wagons. Women brought food enough to feed the hungry wood haulers, and little girls brought their favorite dolls. They met at the Pitman home as early in the morning as chores, at home, could be taken care of. All day those men hauled and split wood for their sick neighbor. All day the women visited and cooked. All day the children ran and played, getting in their mothers' way, and begging for a bite of food which they particularly craved.*

*At noon a hearty meal was ready, and all ate from an improvised table in the kitchen. By night there was wood enough hauled up and split, to last the family through the winter months. Through the silver twilight, the kind hearted farmers drove their wagons, loaded now, not with wood, but with wives and children to their several homes, feeling that the day had been well spent."*

*We can be sure that James was one of these "kind hearted farmers". And no doubt the twins had loads of fun playing with their local friends.*

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<sup>119</sup> "Sketches of Early High Prairie" by Nelia Binford Fleming, page 35. Publisher: Binford's & Mort, Portland, 1949

## James and Josie's heart for community and the Baptist chapel

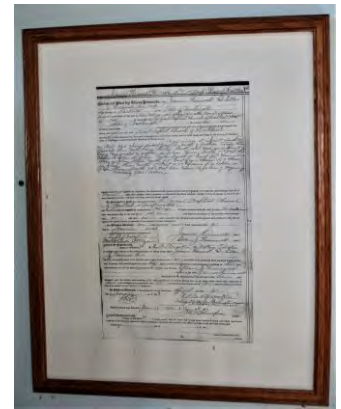
Josie, in the footsteps of her father Azariah, was a committed Baptist. On a Saturday evening in December 1894, with pen in hand James wrote his Christmas letter to his cousin Joe<sup>120</sup>: *"We are having a little winter, ... about six inches of snow on frozen ground which makes pretty fair sleighing. Josie has gone to church tonight in the sleigh and Harry is asleep, so I'm all alone in my glory"*.

It is likely that Josie was attending the Methodist Church which was on the corner of Morris Road and High Prairie Road<sup>121</sup> just a couple of miles from home.



**Baptist Chapel, 1898**  
Photo: Courtesy of Fred Henschell

Their shared support of the Baptist community in Klickitat grew and led to the decision in 1898 to offer land for a Baptist church. James and Josie donated a parcel of land (officially sold for \$1) just across from their home at the corner of Hartland Road and Centreville Highway.



The deed of the transfer from 8 June 1898 still hangs in the chapel today.

Visit to the Chapel: Courtesy of  
Doug Taylor  
Photo: Robin Hinnell

Many years later the chapel fell into disuse and the current owner of the property, Doug Taylor, bought the chapel and the one acre land parcel in 1953.<sup>122</sup> Over the years it has been used for community meetings, weddings and other events until the new High Prairie Fire Hall and Community centre was opened in October 2010.<sup>123</sup>



The Baptist Chapel, 1898, interior décor with the frieze depicting wheat at the ceiling

Photo: Robin Hinnell



The Baptist Chapel, 1898

Visit to the Chapel: Courtesy of Doug Taylor  
Photo: Robin Hinnell

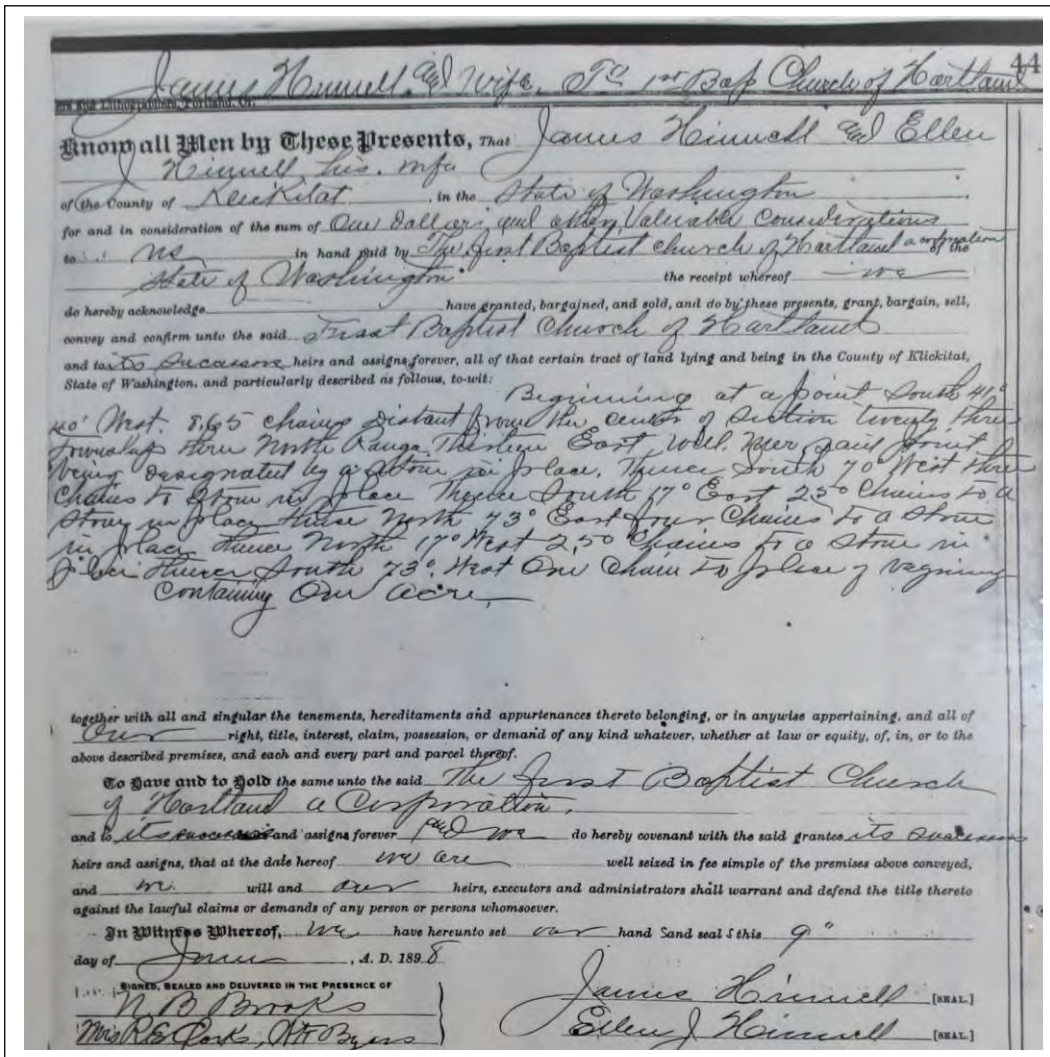
<sup>120</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 15 Dec 1894

<sup>121</sup> 1913 Plat Map of Klickitat Township 3N, Range 13E & High Prairian Newsletter – see #6 below

<sup>122</sup> High Prairian Newsletter, Autumn 2021, "Pancake Breakfast Honors Doug Taylor"

<sup>123</sup> Conversations with Doug Taylor in 2016 during Robin & Sally's visit to High Prairie & High Prairian Newsletter.





Part of the deed of 'purchase' of the land on which the chapel now stands.

← \$1

← Legal description of land parcel

Visit to the Chapel:  
Courtesy of  
Doug Taylor

Photo: Robin  
Hinnell

Nelson Brooks as  
witness is James'  
friend and farmer  
up Hartland Road



Preparing the land

Photo: Robin Hinnell at the Presby Museum, Goldendale  
Photo credit: Klickitat Historical Society, Presby Museum, Goldendale, WA  
Used with permission

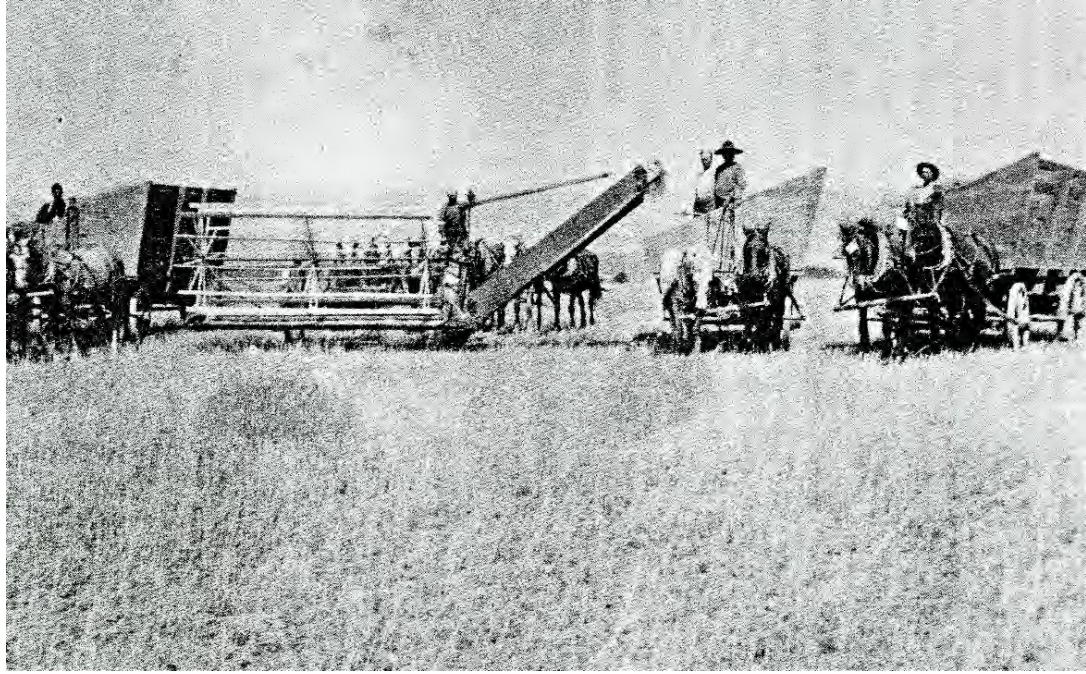


Early farm equipment on the homestead  
Photo: Robin Hinnell  
Visit: Courtesy of Lorna Dove

And there was always work to be done



In the 1890's wheat was the principal crop on the prairie. The wheat, when harvested and threshed, had to be sacked and taken down to the Columbia River. James had experienced firsthand the hard work involved in shipping the sacks across the river to The Dalles and the railway. The story of wheat, from harvesting to shipping is described in the book by Nelia Binford Fleming, "Sketches of Early High Prairie"<sup>124</sup>.



**Harvesting in the early 1890's**

Illustration from "Sketches of Early High Prairie", Nelia Binford Fleming, page 13 <sup>124</sup>

"In the fall once the wheat was threshed and sacked .... Wagons were loaded to capacity and made ready for an early departure... Early in the morning, long before daylight, six horses were hitched to the wagons and the trek to Lyle was begun. The horses knew their business. The roads were narrow and crooked and steep, much of the distance .... The roads from High Prairie all led to one main road at a certain point, The Hinnell Place, so the drivers all tried to reach that point first and take the lead of the caravan of wheat wagons. If they were in the lead, they could get unloaded earlier and so get started home earlier as most of them had chores to do at home...."

And tomorrow was another day.

<sup>124</sup> "Sketches of Early High Prairie" by Nelia Binford Fleming, pages 13 & 59. Publisher: Binfords & Mort, Portland, 1949.



## Chapter 6 - "Dropped dead"

### *Life was good in Hartland in 1899.*

James had become a successful farmer. His father, Thomas Charles Hinnell, who said farewell to him in New York almost a decade ago, would have been proud of him. James' days of just being a labourer were long gone. In October 1899 his farm assets<sup>125</sup> were: 13 head of stock cattle, 15 horses, 14 hogs, 2 wagons, 1 buggy, 3 sets of double harnesses, 1 seeder, 3 plows, a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> interest in a header (for cutting crops) and 2000 bushels of unsold wheat.

James and Josie were happy, and James had achieved what he had hoped for in the early years of his life in America. He lived close to "people he knew well". He had married the "girt next door". He now had family; he had joined the large extended family of Azariah and Louisa Pitman. His parents-in-law had helped him in setting up his small farm and he appreciated the inheritance that he had received on his mother's death.



Thomas Henry Hinnell, b. 16 October 1892  
Known always as Harry  
Photo: Courtesy of Robert Johnson

He and Josie had their home together and their son Harry, who was greatly loved.

James had been in America for eighteen years, kept in touch with his extended family in England and had grieved with them over the deaths of his father and mother, and brother-in-law.

He had yearned for visits from his English cousins but it seems that the distances, time needed for the long journey, and their responsibilities back home were just too great for these visits to occur.

Every year, he looked forward to the winters and being out in his sleigh.

James had started out as a casual labourer. He had become skilled at raising and caring for his horses and himself. Having completed the requirements regarding his land claim, he had been granted the deeds of his section of land, received under the Homestead Act on his arrival in Hartland in 1884. He was an established and respected farmer.

And on this fateful day in October James was just doing what he had planned to do and had done many times before; he was driving his wagon bringing a load of wheat from his farm to The Dalles, across the Columbia River on the ferry. At this time of year, this was his livelihood.

<sup>125</sup> James Hinnell probate documents. 1899



Published in The Dalles Daily Chronicle  
Friday November 3, 1899<sup>126</sup>

## **DROPPED DEAD**

### **Apoplexy Causes the Death of James Hinnell This Morning.**

James Hinnell, who drove into The Dalles, this morning at 11 o'clock, bringing a load of wheat from his farm on High Prairie, near Hartland, and who was apparently in the best of health as he stopped at Moody's warehouse and unloaded the wheat, now lies a corpse at the undertaking rooms of Crandall & Burget.

After disposing of his wheat, he stopped to talk to W. H. Moody in the east warehouse, and suddenly reeling, as if dizzy, fell to the floor. Mr. Moody and the workmen at once began doing all they could to bring him to and carried him to the back of the room, when a physician was at once sent for. Dr. Hudson arriving soon after, but too late, for his heart seemed to cease beating the moment he fell. His remains were removed to the undertaking rooms, where an examination was made and the verdict was apoplexy. The coroner was sent for, but did not deem an inquest was necessary.

His wife, who came up on the Inland Flyer<sup>127</sup> last evening and was to return home with him, was shopping (in The Dalles) and it was some time before it was discovered she was here and before she could be found. The shock was a severe one, but she is said to be very brave. She says he has been aware there was a slight defect of the heart<sup>128</sup>, but that he has never suffered from it. She was a Miss Pitman, and was a teacher at Warm Springs until eight years ago when they were married. They have one child, a boy of 7 years.

Mr. Hinnell was a man of 38 years and a native of England; he has lived in this country fourteen years, living most of the time at High Prairie where he has good property interests. His intelligence was far above the ordinary, and his character and integrity of that sterling quality which makes the large number of business men who know him here, speak in the highest terms of him. He was strictly honest. He leaves two sisters in England.

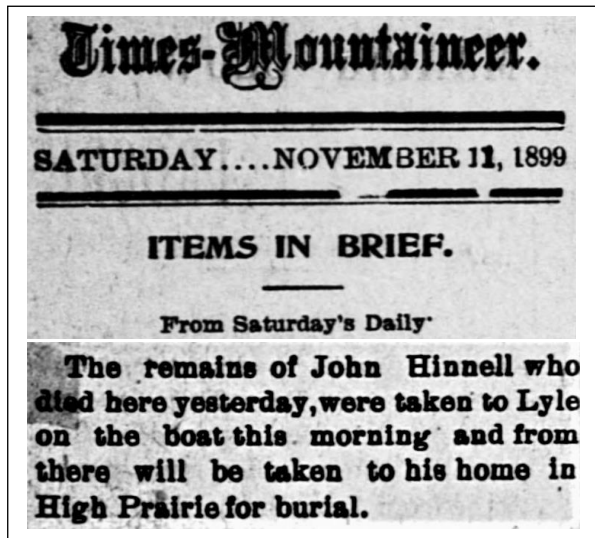
Mr. Pitman, father of Mrs. Hinnell, has been sent for and arrangements for the removal of the remains to their home will be made upon his arrival.

<sup>126</sup> <https://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/lccn/sn85042448/1899-11-03/ed-1/seq-3/#words=Hinnell>

<sup>127</sup> The Columbia River steamer service from Portland to The Dalles, Oregon

<sup>128</sup> This would have been the same heart defect that had affected all his uncles and aunts, the children of his grandfather James Hinnell (Sr.)

The Times Mountaineer, of The Dalles, reported on November 11<sup>th</sup> in the “Items in Brief - Daily from last Saturday” column that:



“The remains of James Hinnell who died here yesterday, were taken to Lyle on the boat this morning and from there will be taken to his home in High Prairie for burial”. [Note: Error in first name].

*The cemetery is less than a mile up Hartland Road from the “Hinnell Place”*

*Hartland Lone Pine Cemetery,  
Hartland Road,  
High Prairie*



Photo: Courtesy of Fred Henschell



Hartland Lone Pine Cemetery in springtime.

Photo: Courtesy of Fred Henschell





James Hinnell (1861-1899)  
Hartland Cemetery, High Prairie  
Photo: Robin Hinnell

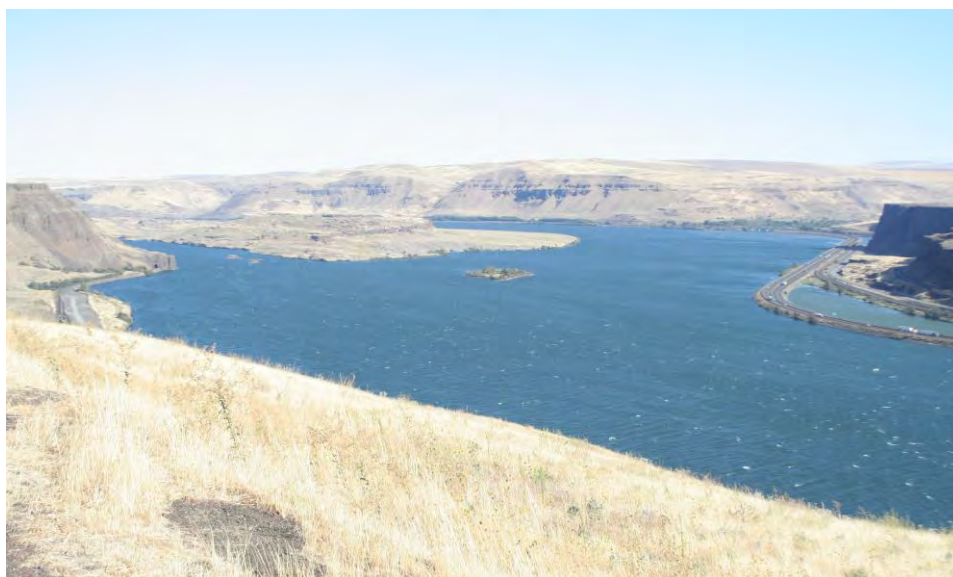


Photo: Robin Hinnell

*Columbia River,  
(from above  
Columbus Ferry)*

*One of James' work and play spaces - weighing sacks of wheat at Columbus Ferry (and swimming) <sup>129</sup>*

<sup>129</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 25 Oct 1890



Photo: Robin Hinnell

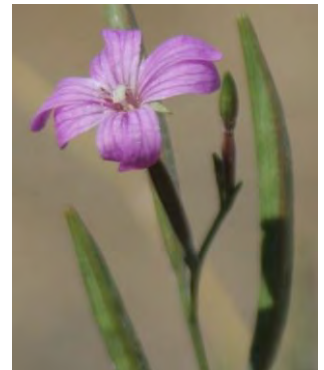
*Mt. Hood, and farming life on High Prairie*

*A simple reflection*

James' last letter that is in the Hinnell Family Archives box ends with the message he sent to his cousin Maud Martha Hinnell on her marriage to George Frederick Bryant Windle in October 1895:

*Josie sends her love, and the best that we can wish for you is that you may always be as happy as we are.*

*From your affectionate cousin,  
Jim*



**Flower from High Prairie  
country**

Photo: Robin Hinnell



*James was 38 years old when he died, Josie, 32;*

*Josie and James had been married for just 8 years;*

*Harry was 7 years old.*

## Epilogue

*We cannot leave this narrative without returning to some of the characters in order to bring some closure as they moved on from their place in the life story of James Hinnell.*

### Washington and Oregon:

#### **James**

James left a will. It was a simple will and admirably presented his wishes. He appointed Josie as the sole executrix. He left his son \$500 and the remaining assets in the farm to Josie as noted in the list on page 61.

There is no record of James' funeral but his internment in the Hartland Lone Pine Cemetery is well documented. The current long-time owner of the "Hinnell Place", Doug Taylor, researched and published the list of local residents who are buried in the cemetery. This includes James Hinnell and, as can be seen in the photographs in this narrative, his grave is marked by a simple engraved headstone.

#### **Mary Louisa (Pitman) Newland**

There is no record of who from Josie's extended family attended James' funeral, and in particular there is no record of Mary Louisa (Pitman) Jefferson from Ellensburg being there. Sadly it was exactly on the day of James' death that her husband, Thomas Frederick Jefferson Newland, the doctor in Ellensburg, fell ill. Seventeen days after James' death, Thomas Jefferson died leaving Mary Louisa a widow with their two boys, then 13 and 11 years old<sup>130</sup>.

#### **Josie and her sister Mary Louisa**

Immediately following James' death Josie's parents, Azariah and Louisa Pitman, helped and supported Josie and Harry through their initial period of grief. There were the cattle<sup>131</sup> and the horses on the farm to care for; however, we can assume that neighbours were at hand to assist as well. This was the Hartland way.

Through a long winter of grief, Josie Hinnell and her sister Mary Louisa Newland had to deal with the business associated with their husbands' deaths. By the spring of 1900 Josie and Harry, and Mary Louisa and her two boys were living together in Portland Oregon<sup>132</sup>. The motivation to move to Portland was to be close to their older sister, Cynthia Jane (Pitman) Hewitt and her family, who lived not far away from their new home together.

---

<sup>130</sup> Letter to Joseph Squier Hinnell, 12 Jan 1911, from Mary (Pitman) Newland

<sup>131</sup> James' probate documents list the animals on the farm in 1899

<sup>132</sup> US census, Klickitat County, 12 June 1900



Josie arranged for someone, perhaps her father Azariah, to manage the Hinnell homestead and farming activity.

Later that year, Josie decided to rent out her farm as briefly reported in the Goldendale Sentinel<sup>133</sup>.

Josie's and Mary Louisa's home sharing arrangement was short lived and by 1902 Mary Louisa had relocated to Palo Alto, California. Her oldest son Lloyd attended Stanford University.

THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL  
Thursday November 12 1925  
Column: "25 Years ago"

November 28 1900  
Mrs. Jas Hinnell has rented her  
High Prairie farm to D.E. Witt  
of Lyle and will spend the  
winter in Portland.

Josie and Harry moved to Corvallis, Oregon, a town south of Salem in the Willamette Valley, in 1908<sup>134</sup>. Harry had missed some school, on account of some issues with his eyes, and at age 16 aspired to follow an outdoor life like his father. Josie wanted Harry to finish high school and then attend the Corvallis Agricultural College<sup>135</sup> (now a college of Oregon State University) in order for him to have a good education in agriculture.

Corvallis lies in the south of the Willamette Valley,  
Oregon

*For a map of the Willamette Valley go to  
Google Maps and search for  
Willamette Valley, Oregon*

## Harry

The optimism about Harry's future studies and life on the farm was shattered in 1909. Harry was suffering from "anterior poliomyelitis"<sup>136</sup>. In October of 1909 the disease began to affect his heart and his condition worsened quickly to a state of "paralysis of the heart or respiration".

**Harry died on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 1909.**<sup>137</sup>

[Josie's mother was still living with Josie and Harry].

The Gazette Times in Corvallis, reported Harry's death on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1909.

"Before the remains of Thomas Henry Hinnell were taken to the train for shipment to Lyle, Wash., yesterday evening, a short funeral service was held at the home. Dr. Bell made appropriate remarks and W. W. Davis, wife and daughter furnished music. Mrs. Hinnell was shown every loving kindness and given evidence of sincere sympathy by many friends." <sup>138</sup>

<sup>133</sup> <http://gld.stparchive.com/Archive/GLD/GLD11121925p01.php>

<sup>134</sup> Letter from Josie to Joseph Squire Hinnell, 8 November 1908

<sup>135</sup> <https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/>

<sup>136</sup> Noted on Harry's death certificate

<sup>137</sup> Noted on Harry's death certificate

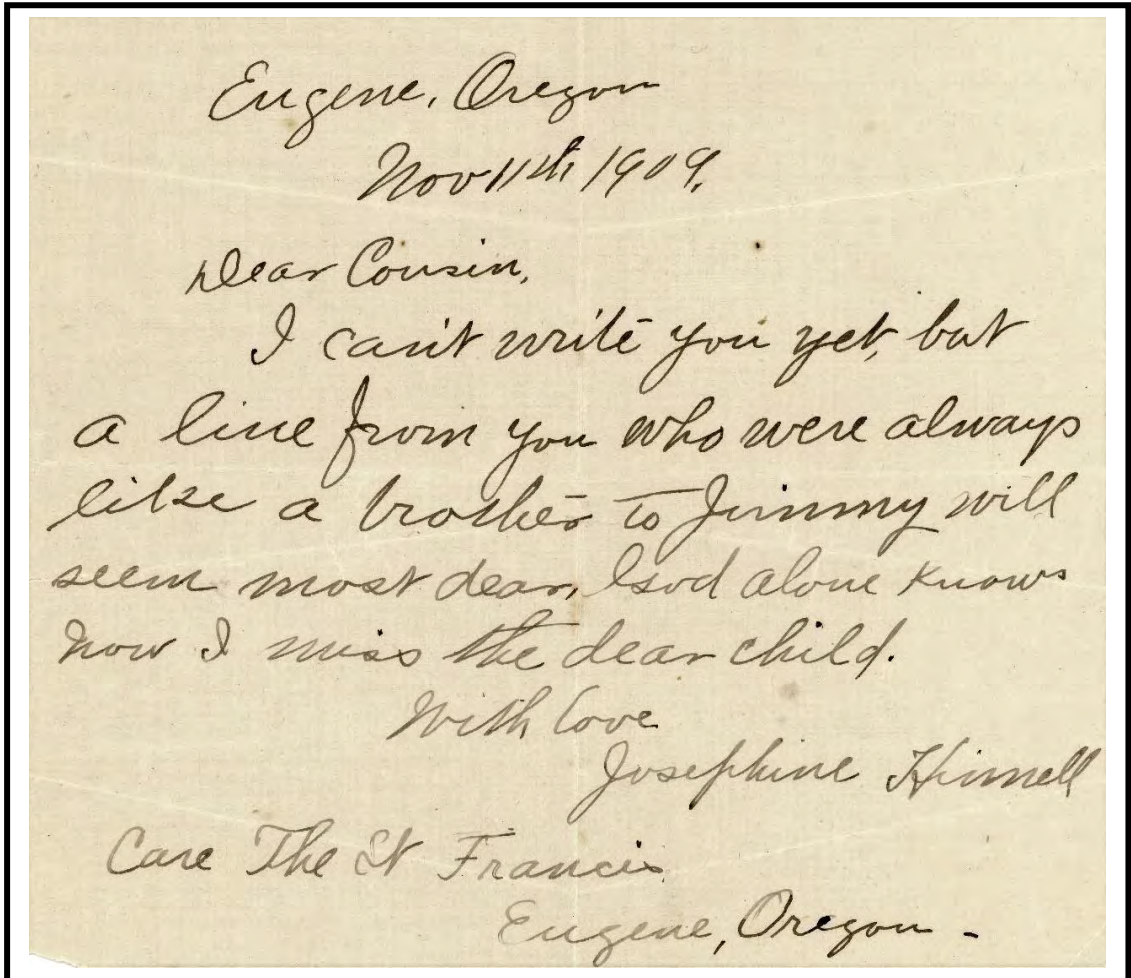
<sup>138</sup> <https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~westklic/ohahinne.html>

The following day, the Klickitat County Agriculturalist, Goldendale, also reported under the column: *County Doings*, Warwick.<sup>139</sup>

“Mrs. Josie Hinnell, of Corvallis, Oregon, accompanied by relatives and friends, arrived here Friday on the 2 o’clock train with the body of her seventeen-year-old son, Harry, who died quite suddenly there on Wednesday. They were conveyed to the Hartland cemetery where the body was interred by the side of his father.”

*[Warwick was a stop on the new railroad, which had been built after James’ death from Lyle to Goldendale through the Swale Canyon. Warwick was close to the Hartland cemetery].*

Josie was totally heart broken. She wrote a note to Joseph Squier on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1909.



Eugene, Oregon  
Nov 11th 1909

Dear Cousin,

I can't write you yet, but  
a line from you who were always  
like a brother to Jimmy will  
seem most dear. God alone knows  
how I miss the dear child.

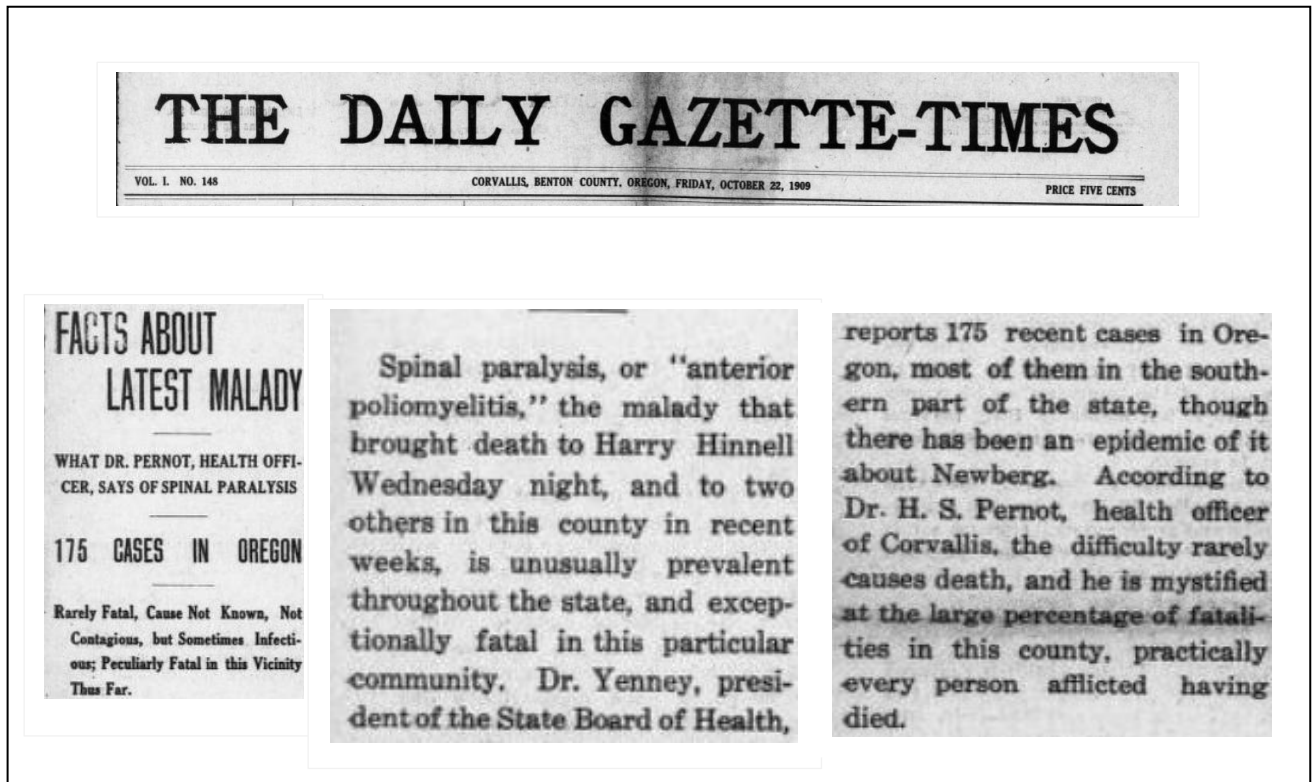
With love  
Josephine Hinnell

Care The St Francis  
Eugene, Oregon -

*The St. Francis may have been a hotel, or perhaps a care home of some sort, in Eugene.*

<sup>139</sup> The Klickitat County Agriculturalist, Goldendale, WA., October 30, 1909, page 17

Harry's illness had affected many others in Oregon. It was reported in the Daily Gazette-Times<sup>140</sup>



<sup>140</sup> The Daily Gazette-Times, Corvallis, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1909



Ellen Josephine (Josie)

*"God alone knows how I miss the dear child."*

This phrase from Josie's letter (page 69) never left her mind. Almost exactly one year after hearing of Harry's death, Joseph Squier Hinnell, in Bury St. Edmunds, received a letter from Mary Louisa (Pitman) Newland, written on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1910.<sup>141</sup>

McMinnville, Oregon

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dr. Joseph Hinnell

Dear Doctor,

After a month's illness of pneumonia my dear sister Josephine passed away. She grieved so much especially during the past year. Since Harry's death, she had very little interest in life. This mental condition went greatly against her recovery - so the physicians say.

I was with her almost constantly during her illness and most of the time during the past year. I feel so lost without her, and the loss is especially hard on my own aged mother. Since Jimmie's and my father's death, Josie and Harry have been very near and dear to mother. She will soon be eighty years of age. I will write you later in regard to some requests sister made. I am in no condition to write now. I should have written to you before this. I could not, it is all so sad.

With a sorrowing heart I remain,  
Mrs. Mary L Newland

**Josie died on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1910, a year less a day after Harry's death.**

On Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1910, The Klickitat County Agriculturalist, Goldendale, reported under the column: "Nearby Towns", Warwick.<sup>142</sup>

"The remains of Mrs. Josie Hinnell arrived here on the 2:20 train Friday from The Dalles, Oregon, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Newland, and her brother-in-law Mr. Jewett, of that place. They were met here by teams and friends and went at once to the Hartland cemetery, where she was laid to rest by the side of her husband and son. Rev. Cheyne had charge of the service."

<sup>141</sup> Letter from Mary Louisa (Pitman) Newland, 2 November 1910

<sup>142</sup> The Klickitat County Agriculturalist, Goldendale, WA, October 22, 1910. <https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~westklic/ojohinne.html>

According to Josie's wishes, she was buried in Hartland Lone Pine Cemetery, next to the graves of both James and Harry.

### The records of Hartland Lone Pine cemetery<sup>143</sup>

The records of the burials of James, Josie and Harry Hinnell are shown in the list published by the Hartland Cemetery Association. *[The box below is cropped from the full published list and edited with additional dates].*

Lone Pine Cemetery, Klickitat County, Washington				
Also Known As: Hartland or High Prairie				
Submitted By: Douglas Taylor				
Submitted in August 2005				
*****				
USGENWEB NOTICE				
Copyright. All rights reserved.				
<a href="http://www.usgwarchives.net/copyright.htm">http://www.usgwarchives.net/copyright.htm</a>				
*****				
X = They have a marker or stone				
*****				
Marker	Last	First	BIRTH	DEATH
	Hinnell	Harry	October 16, 1892	October 20, 1909
X	Hinnell	James	April 21, 1861	November 3, 1899
	Hinnell	Josie	July 7, 1867	October 19, 1910

### Azariah and Louisa Pitman

Azariah and Louisa Pitman were 71 and 67 years of age when James died and still farming in Hartland. However, in 1900 the couple were now on their own on their Hartland farm. Effie Pitman was married and was in Ellensburg and their 'local' daughter, Arena Frances (Pitman) Courtney, had returned to Oregon with her family in 1893.

In April 1900, Cynthia Jane, Mary Louisa and Josie paid a special visit to their parents, which was noted in the Goldendale newspaper<sup>144</sup>. Their mission was likely to suggest that, with many of the Pitman family now living near Salem, Oregon, it might be time to sell their farm in Hartland and return to Oregon.

THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL  
Thursday January 4 1945  
Column: "Clippings from, the past"

April 25 1900  
Mrs. Josie Hinnell and sisters of  
Portland are visiting their parents at  
Hartland.

So Azariah and Louisa retired from their farming life in Hartland and by 1902 had moved to Salem to live with Josie and Harry on South Commercial Street, Salem. Azariah died there in 1904. On Azariah's death, Louisa Pitman moved to Dayton, Yamhill County, Oregon to live with her daughter Susan Minerva (Pitman) Gubser and her husband Daniel Gubser and their four boys, who farmed there. Louisa died in 1917 in Dayton having outlived her daughter, Josie, and son-in-law, James.

<sup>143</sup> <http://files.usgwarchives.net/wa/klickitat/cemeteries/lomepine.txt>

<sup>144</sup> THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL, Thursday January 4, 1945. <http://gld.stparchive.com/Archive/GLD/GLD01041945p04.php?tags=hinnell>

## The Old Homestead, Hartland

Klickitat, 3N 13E, SW1/4 of Section 22

Current owners: Doug Taylor and Lorna Dove

~1885

Homestead land claimed by James Hinnell

1892

Home built for James Hinnell and family

1900, November 28<sup>th</sup>

Farm rented to D. E. Witt of Lyle.<sup>145</sup>

1910, May 10

Property sold to Henry Day<sup>146</sup>.

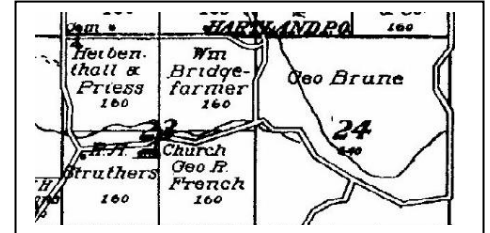


Before 1913, say 1912

Property sold to Robert Struthers

*This series of Plat maps was printed in 1913.*

*This map shows R. H. Struthers as the owner<sup>147</sup>. It also shows the Baptist church.*



1919

Property sold to John and Nellie Taylor. [John Taylor was Doug Taylor's and Lorna (Taylor) Dove's grandfather].

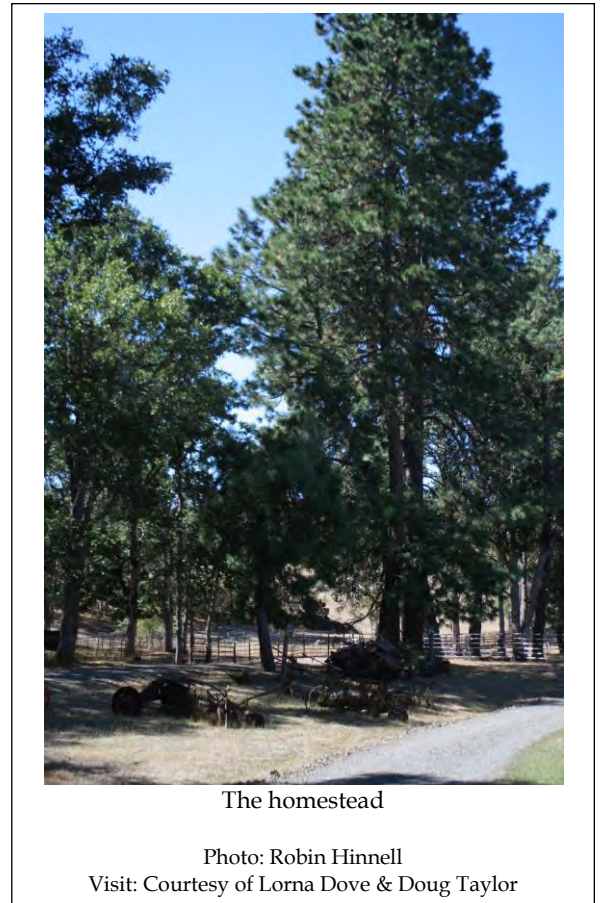
1939

Property sold to Lois Clark<sup>148</sup>.

1948 - present

In 1948, the Clark family sold the property to Ben Taylor<sup>149</sup>. [Ben and Letitia Taylor were the parents of Doug Taylor and Lorna (Taylor) Dove].

Doug Taylor and Lorna Dove lived their childhood in the old home and continue to live on the property today. The property has been in the Taylor family since 1948.



The homestead

Photo: Robin Hinnell  
Visit: Courtesy of Lorna Dove & Doug Taylor

<sup>145</sup> THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL, Thursday November 12 1925, Column: "25 Years ago"

<sup>146</sup> The Morning Oregonian, Wednesday May 11, 1910

<sup>147</sup> Map of Township 3N, Range 13E, Willamette meridian, 1913

<sup>148</sup> Presentation to the High Prairie Historical Society on "High Prairie Life" by Lorna Dove in 2002

<sup>149</sup> Presentation to the High Prairie Historical Society on "High Prairie Life" by Lorna Dove in 2002

**1953**

Doug Taylor purchased the Baptist church and the parcel of land associated with it.

**1995**

There was a major house fire in 1995 and the house was destroyed. There were no injuries but it was traumatic and a huge sadness to the family.

**1995**

Ben and Letitia Taylor moved to a new home on the property.

**1999**

Lorna Dove and her husband Bob moved back to the homestead property.

**2016**

Visit from Robin and Sally Hinnell:

*We were most warmly welcomed by Doug Taylor and his sister Lorna Dove, who have their homes on the property. They invited us to their homes and were most gracious in telling us stories from their years growing up in Hartland and of their life on this quarter section of land in High Prairie.*



**The Old Homestead**

Photo: Robin Hinnell

Visit: Courtesy of Lorna Dove & Doug Taylor

## **Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England**

### **Anne Jane (Hinnell) Summers, (James Hinnell's sister)**

It seems that Anne Jane did not visit with James and Josie in America. She and her husband Frank, (of the pharmacy Nunn, Hinnell and Summers), had one son Thomas Hinnell Summers, born in 1881. Frank died in 1894. Anne Jane died in 1901 when Thomas was twenty. Soon after his mother's death, Thomas gave up his job as a bank clerk in London and left England for a major exploration of (possibly) America from 1905 through 1908 or longer.<sup>150</sup> He did not visit Josie in Oregon.

<sup>150</sup> Letter from Josie Hinnell to Joseph Squier Hinnell, August 1908



### **Joseph Squier Hinnell, (Cousin Joe)**

Joseph married Emma Scott in 1893. They had six children. Joseph Squier was a highly regarded eye specialist and general practitioner in Bury St. Edmunds. He took over the family medical practice from his father George John Hinnell and in his turn passed the practice to his son-in-law Dr. Marcus Bird.

### **Maud Martha (Hinnell) Windle, (Cousin Maud)**

She was married to George Frederick Windle in 1895; they did not have children. She was a widow for twenty seven years, outlived her two spinster sisters with whom she had lived for a decade, and then moved back to live in Bury St. Edmunds for her final years. She lived to be 94 years of age; and due to her long life she is well remembered by her great nephews and great nieces.

## **Horndon, Essex, England and Hartland, Klickitat, Washington**

### **Jane Mary (Squier) De La Court and the De La Court family<sup>151</sup>**

Having farmed in Hartland for a decade, Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary relocated to Tacoma, Washington. They owned a tobacco and confectionary business. Their business adventure was successful but after ten years in Tacoma they went back to Europe in 1901.

Their journey from Tacoma to Europe is a 'story' in itself, for which there are few records. In 1901, the family left Tacoma en route to Holland. Records show that they travelled through Canada to Montreal. Records show that, in Montreal, Pieter Hendrik applied for and was granted permission to export the "mortal remains" of their son Pieter Maria De La Court, aged 22. Did he die in Tacoma, at which point the family decided to go back to Holland to bury their son 'back home' amongst the extended family's graves? Or did he die on the journey from Tacoma to Montreal?

On arriving in Antwerp from Montreal in 1901, Pieter Hendrik and Jane Mary buried their son Pieter Maria in Zeist, Holland. Following this, they may have decided to live in the Netherlands for a while. Alma and her mother are recorded in Bournemouth England on the 1911 census although this could have been just a holiday visit to England. In 1921 Jane Mary was living with, or visiting, her sister in Upminster, Essex<sup>152</sup>. The impact of World War I on the family's movements have not surfaced.

Records are not clear but it seems that Pieter Hendrik died in Antwerp, Belgium in 1926. Jane Mary died in 1938 in Bulphan, Essex, the village in which she had grown up.

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<sup>151</sup> Ref: De La Court records are on the Hinnell family tree

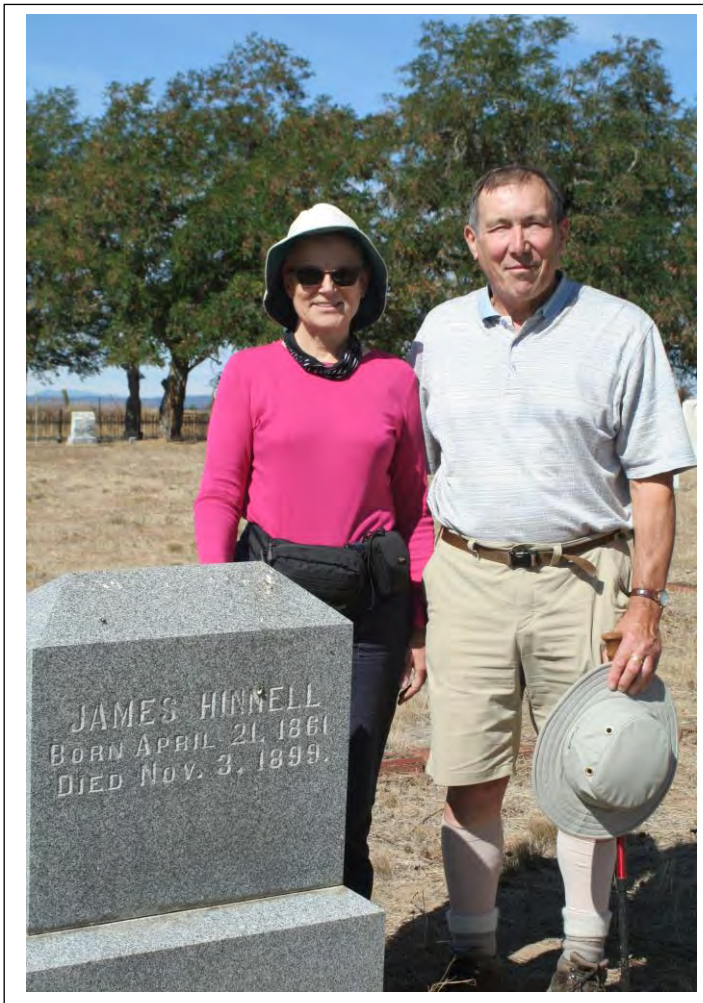
<sup>152</sup> UK census 1921

## Alma Henrietta De La Court<sup>153</sup>

After her mother (Jane Mary) died Alma mostly lived in England on her own. She never married. For a few years just after the Second World War Alma lived at Mill Lawn Lodge, Wray Common Road, Reigate, where she was the house keeper/companion for the owner of the lodge. From 1957 through to her death in 1988 she lived at 21, Blackborough Road, Reigate. She also owned a country home in Holland. As the only descendant of this branch of the De La Court family from the Netherlands she devoted time to archiving the De La Court family records. Furthermore, knowing that her branch of De La Court extended family would end when she died, she arranged for storage of the family records in the De La Court family archive section in the museum in Leiden, Holland.

### ***Sadly, a lost opportunity***

*In 1972 through 1975, Robin and Sally lived only a few miles from Alma's home in Reigate, England. Robin would have loved to meet Alma and listen to her tails of life in Hartland in the 1890's. But he had no inkling of this evolving story or of Alma at that time.*



Robin & Sally Hinnell  
Hartland Lone Pine  
Cemetery  
September 2016

Photo: Courtesy of a High  
Prairie resident who came by  
the cemetery and offered to  
take the photo.

<sup>153</sup> Ref: Alma's records on the Hinnell family tree.



## APPENDIX

### **The family trees on the next few pages show:**

- i. The descendants of James Hinnell (Sr) and Charles Hinnell, the two brothers who were James Hinnell (Jr)'s grandparents.
- ii. Azariah Pitman, his son and nine daughters, Ellen Josephine (Josie) being the eighth daughter.

### **Family relationships which are difficult to pick out from the trees in spite of efforts to use colour coding:**

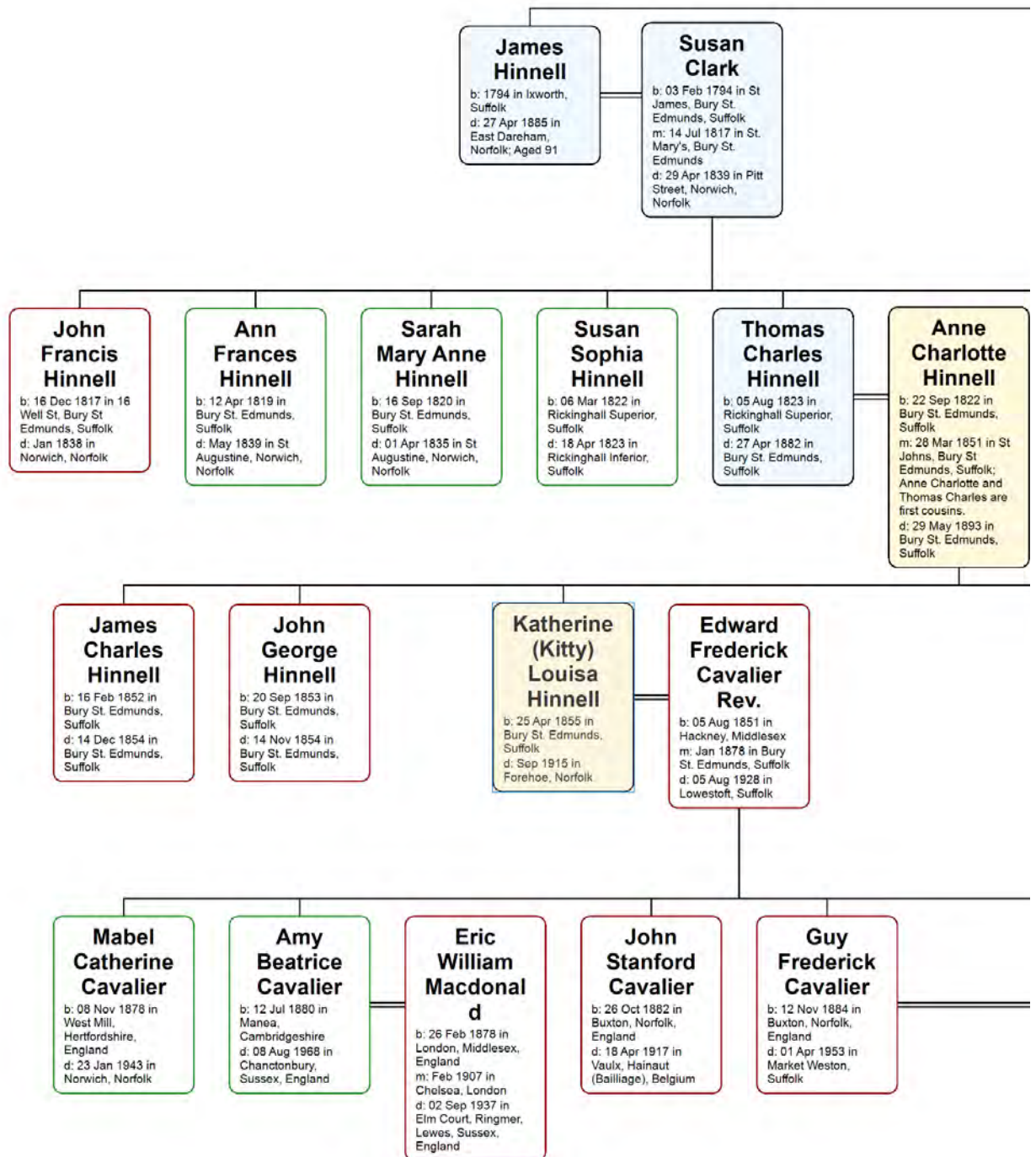
- i. Thomas Charles Hinnell and Anne Charlotte Hinnell, parents of James Hinnell (Jr) were cousins.
- ii. Joseph Squier Hinnell and Maud Martha Hinnell are first cousins to James Hinnell (Jr), from his mother's link to Charles Hinnell. They become second cousins to James Hinnell from his father's link to James Hinnell (Sr).
- iii. Keeping it simple, Robin Hinnell is James Hinnell (Jr)'s 'first cousin twice removed'.

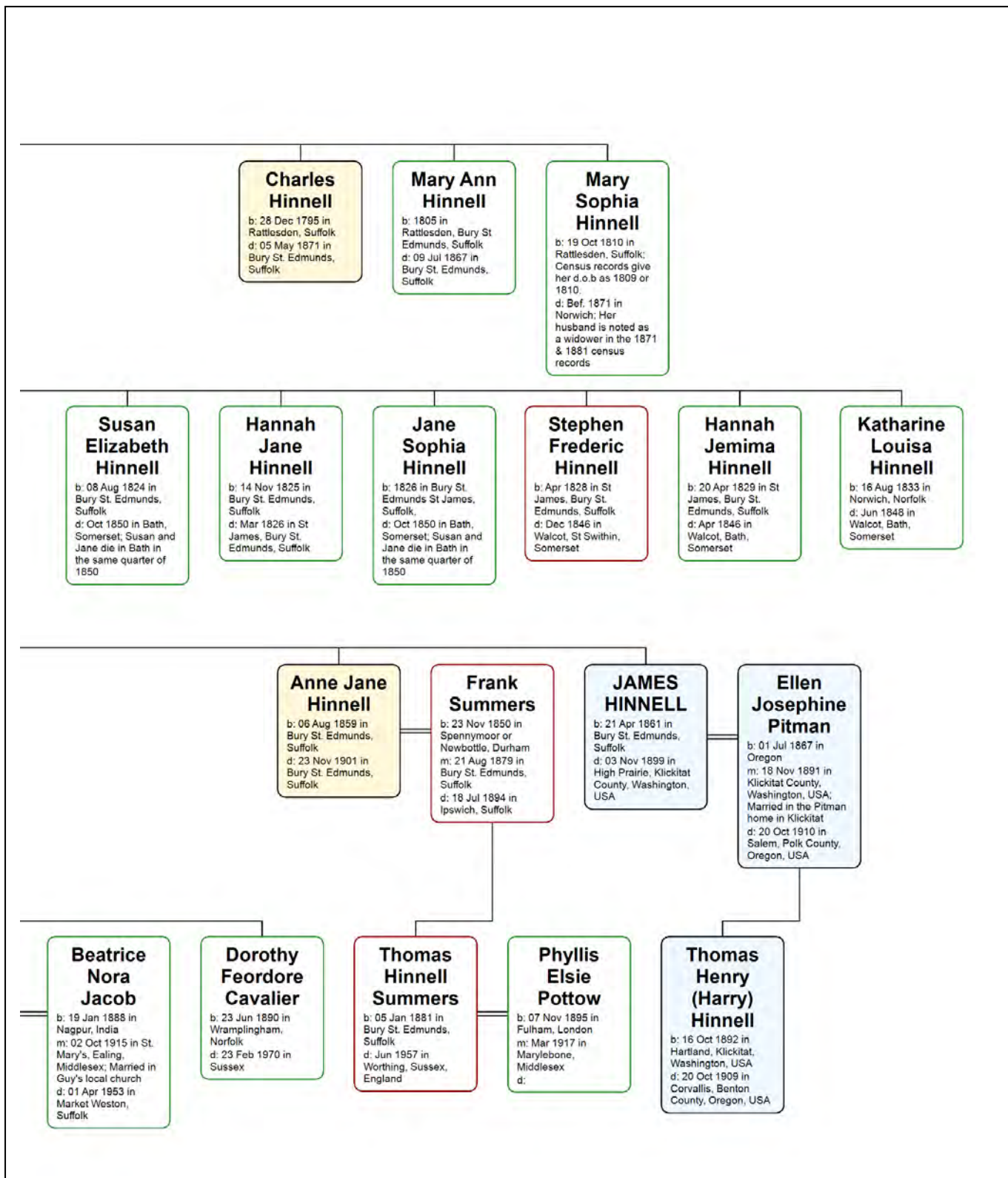
Each family tree covers more than one page:

James Hinnell (Sr)	pages 78, 79
Charles Hinnell	pages 80, 81 & 82, 83
Azariah Pitman	pages 84, 85

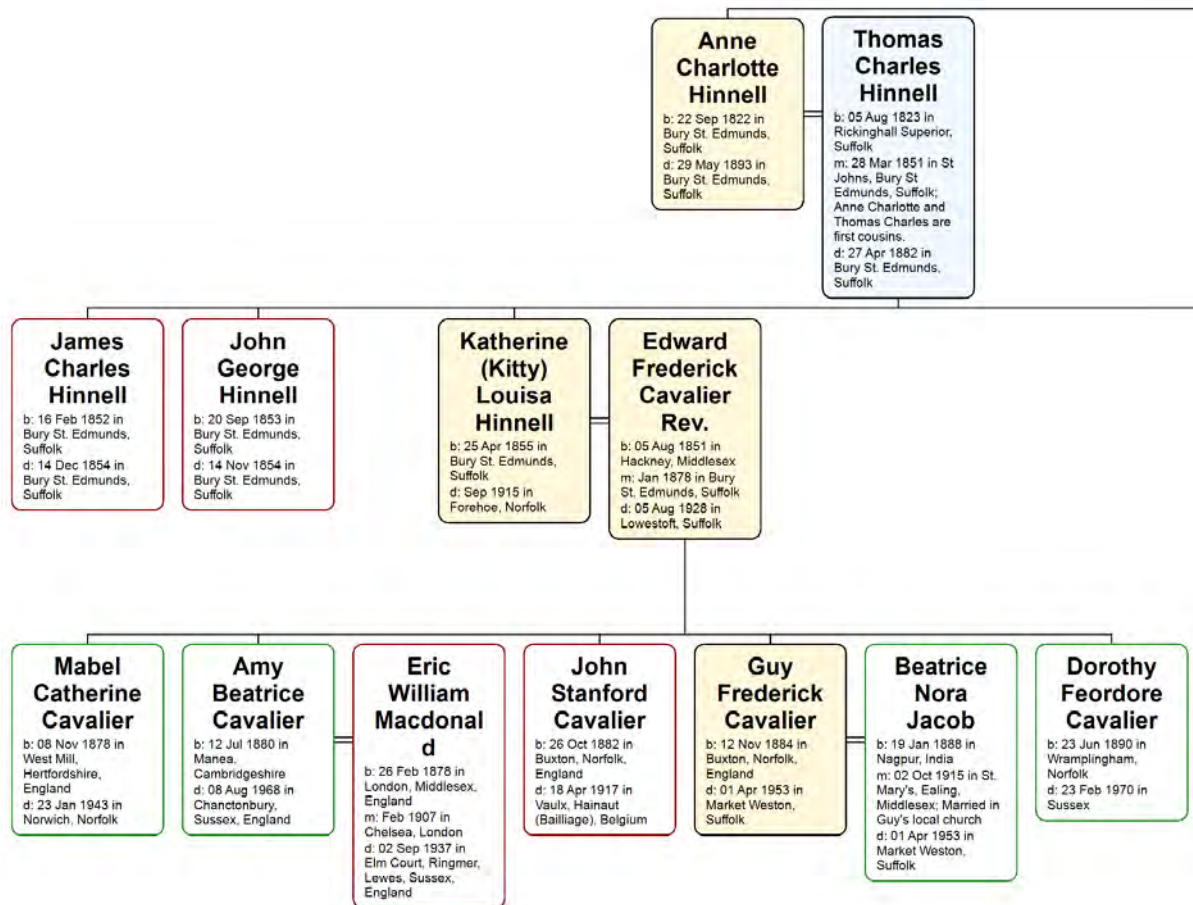


## Descendant Chart for James Hinnell

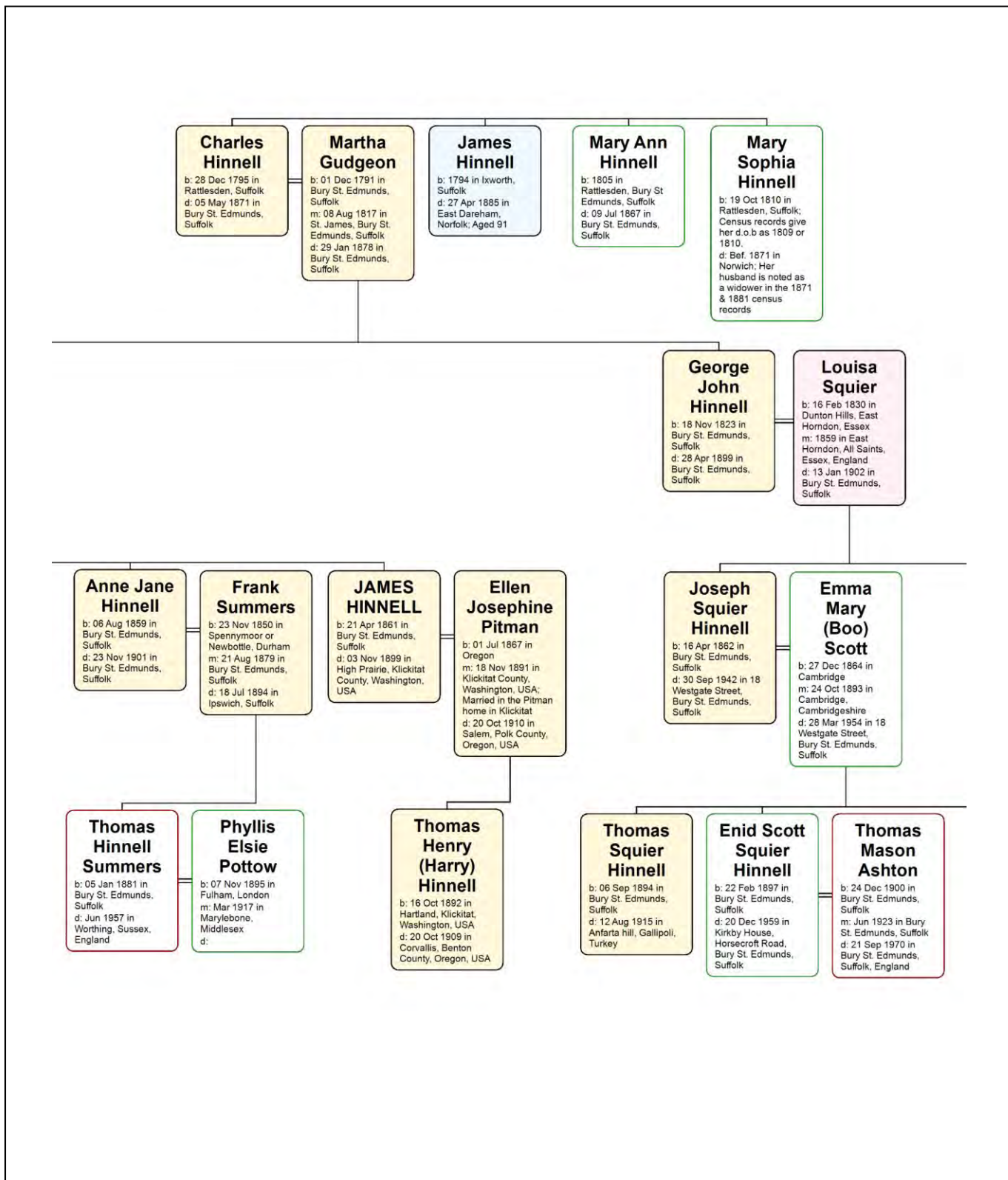




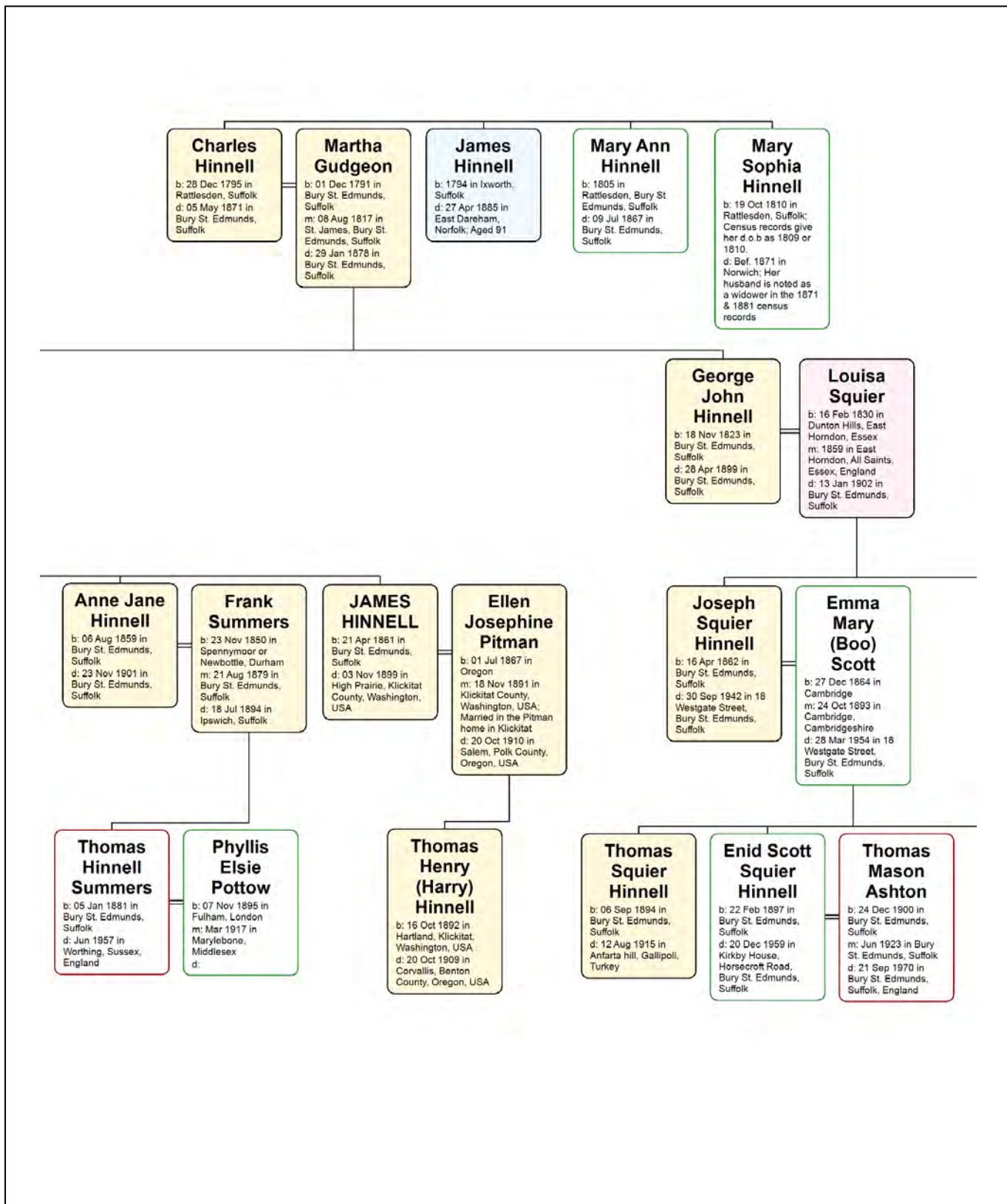
# **Descendant Chart for Charles Hinnell**

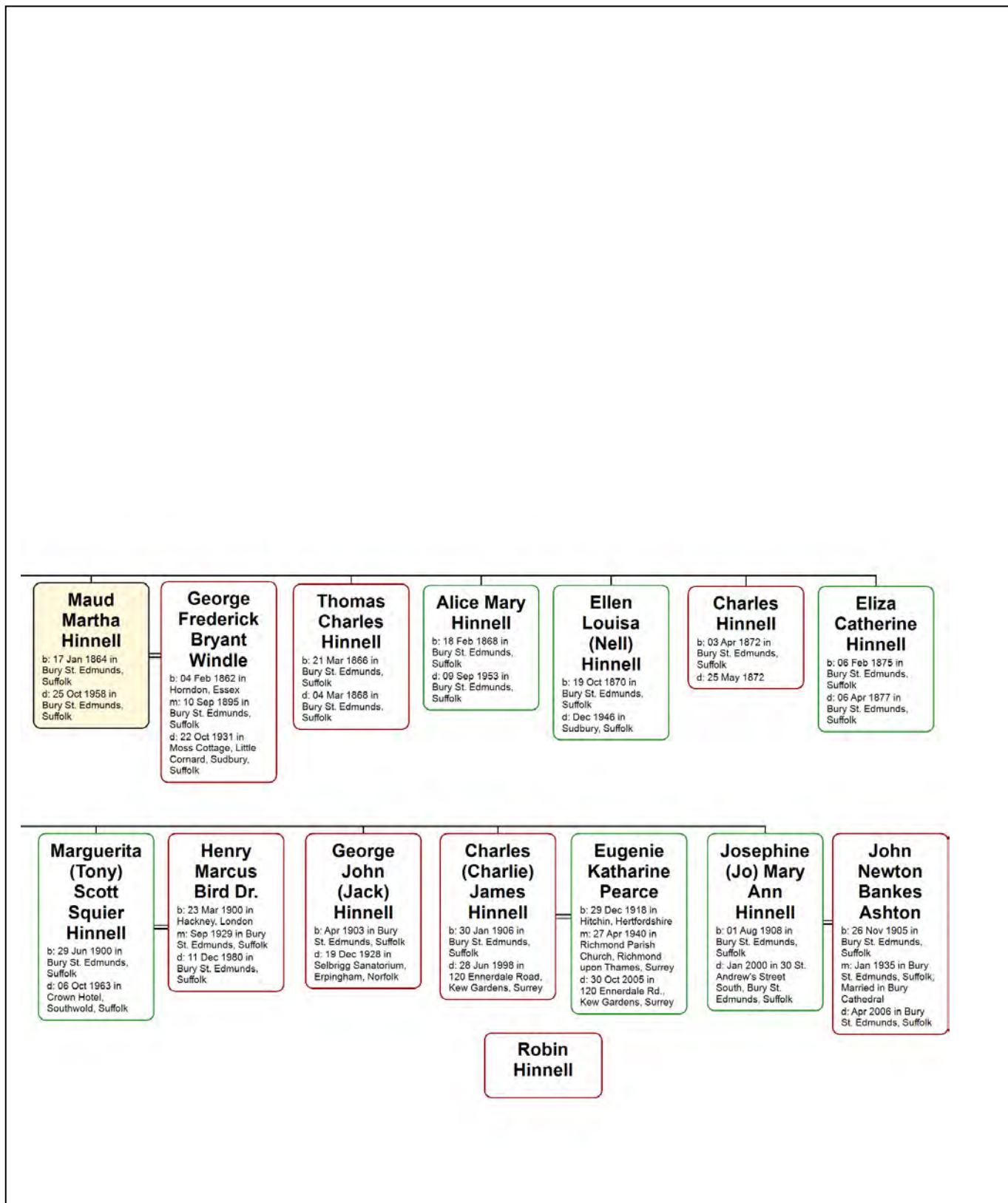




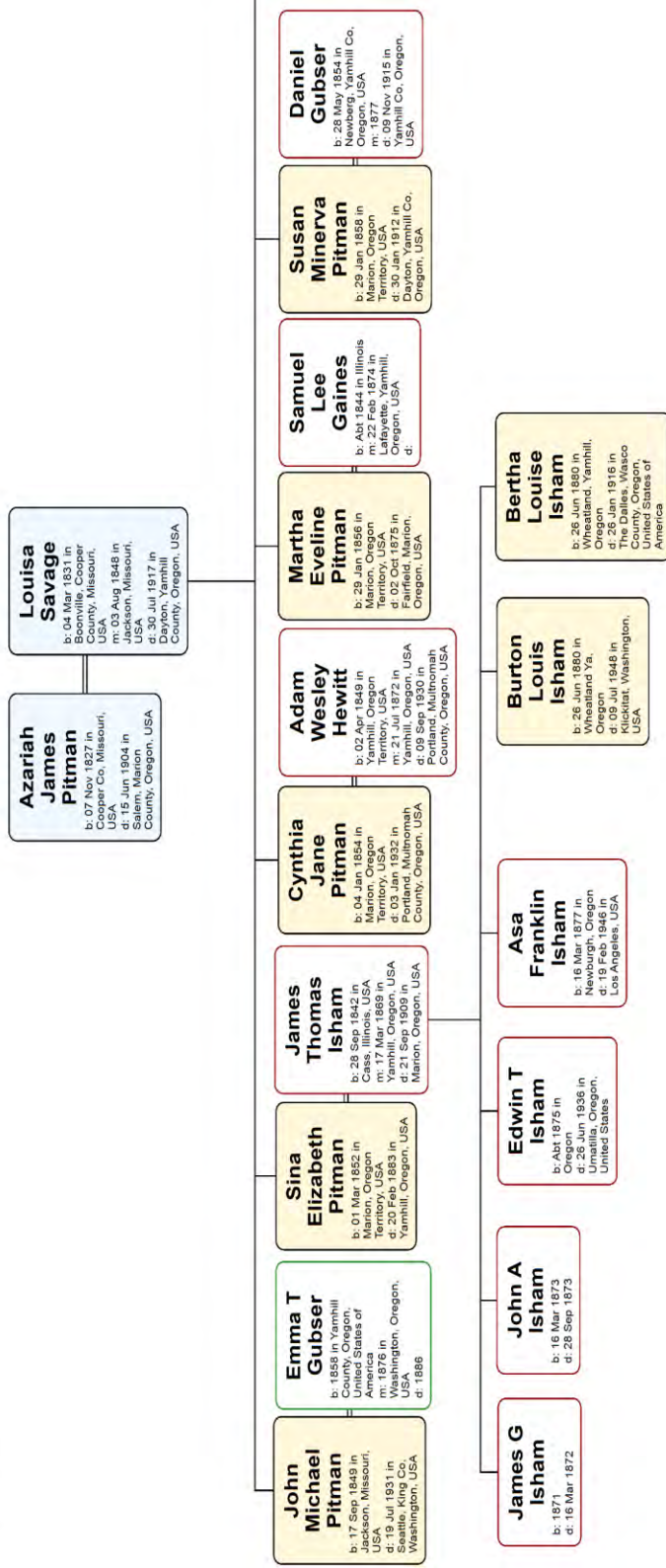








# Descendant Chart for Azariah James Pitman



Azariah Pitman and Louisa's family. All but one of their nine daughters were married.

Josie and Mary Louisa were widowed in the same month of 1899. Azariah and Louisa brought up Burton and Bertha, the Isham twins, through their early childhood on account of the death of their mother, Sina Elizabeth, when they were three years old. The children of Josie's other sisters are too numerous to fit in this chart.





