

RICHARD ASHBY – MILLER, FARMER AT HAWKWELL, PEMBURY INCLUDING CONNECTIONS TO WESTFIELD, SUSSEX

Jane Grooms

Richard Ashby was born in 1795 in Heathfield, Sussex. He died on the 21 February, 1880 in Hawkwell, Pembury, Kent.

He was a miller at [Spring Grove Water Mill](#) and a farmer at Hawkwell, Pembury for many years.

Richard married Jane Tyhurst (born circa 1800, died 1888), in Westfield, Sussex on 18 March, 1820.

Richard Ashby of this Parish
Bachelor
and Jane Tyhurst of this Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of
this eighteenth Day of
March in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty
By me John Wilson Curate of Maresfield
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Rich Ashby
Jane Tyhurst
In the Prefence of { John Tyhurst
Thomas Tyhurst
No. 48.

He was one of the witnesses to the second marriage of Stephen Crisford to Ann Woodhurst in 1833 in St Peter's Church, Pembury (lower church). Stephen Crisford was a miller in Westfield, Sussex and his first wife had been Elizabeth Tyhurst, Aunt of Richard Ashby's wife, Jane.

Stephen Crisford of this Parish
Minister
and Ann Woodhurst of the Parish
of Westfield in the County of Sussex and Diocese of Chichester
were married in this Church by Licence with Consent of
this Thirty first Day of
May in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Three
By me Stephen Woodroffe, Vicar
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Stephen Crisford
Ann Woodhurst
In the Prefence of { Rich Ashby
Charles Crisford
No. 111.
John Austin Clerk

TITHE MAP AND CENSUSES FOR RICHARD ASHBY

Circa 1840 Tithe Schedule, Pembury

Richard Ashby is shown as *occupier* of various plots owned by Woodgate and Briscoe [the Woodgate family] including the following plots:

- 650 - "Farm and Buildings"
- 651 - "Cottage and Land"
- 652 - "Orchard"
- 657 - "Coach House Meadow"

This area of land is close to where [Great Hawkwell Manor](#) once stood.

Other plots occupied by Richard Ashby describe the land as being used for Arable farming including Hops.

He also occupied land known to be [Spring Grove Water Mill](#):

- 734 - "House Water & Mill"
- 735 - "Stack Pot" - Waste
- 737 - "Lower Mill Field"
- 738 - "Upper Mill Field"

CENSUSES 1841 TO 1871 FOR RICHARD ASHBY

DATE	NAME OF RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION
1841	Not stated. Just area of Hawkwell	Farmer
1851	Spring Grove Mill / Great Hawkwell Farm	Farmer
1861	Hawkwell Farm House	Farmer
1871	Hawkwell Villa	Formerly Miller

The locality of Hawkwell is discussed on another area of the website - [Localities](#) as the names of the properties are very similar and sometimes change over time which can be confusing.

Richard died in 1880.

PEMBURY.

SAD CASE OF SUDDEN DEATH.—On Saturday last Mr. Richard Ashby, a retired gentleman 85 years of age, living at Hawkwell, Pembury, died suddenly under the following circumstances. He had been for his usual morning's walk, and about eleven o'clock was speaking to a neighbour, and telling him that he thought the walk had been too much for him, when he fell down in the road, and died in a few minutes before any assistance could be rendered. The deceased, who was highly respected, was for many years a member of the Tonbridge Board of Guardians, and was present at their meeting on the previous day. Mr. Joseph Rogers, the coroner, was communicated with, but did not, under the circumstances, deem an inquest necessary.

Kent and Sussex Times, 28 February 1880

OTHER ASHBY FAMILY MEMBERS RELEVANT TO PEMBURY

HENRY ASHBY (1799 to 1881) – older brother of Richard Ashby

One of Richard's brothers, his older brother, Henry was also a miller. For the location of Hawkwell Cottages see another area of the website under [Localities](#).

Censuses

DATE	NAME OF RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION
1841	Bulls Eye Corner, Westfield, Sussex*	Miller
1851	Down, Westfield, East Sussex	Miller
1861	5 Hawkwell Cottages, Pembury, Kent	Miller
1871	Hawkwell Cottages, (number unknown)	Miller
1881	Hawkwell Cottages (number unknown)	Former Miller

***also present in the same household is Jane Tyhurst age circa 30. Not Richard Ashby's wife as she was married and living in Pembury in 1841 but again shows a link between the Tyhurst family in Westfield, Sussex and the Ashby family in Pembury, Kent.**

GEORGE ASHBY (1823 to 1911) - son of Richard Ashby

Richard and Jane had several children one of which, George Ashby became a farmer eventually taking over from his father, Richard when Richard retired. It appears George retired not long after the death of his father and moved to Preston, Brighton, Sussex.

Censuses

DATE	NAME OF RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION
1851	Swig's Hole, Brenchley, Kent	Farmer
1861	Hoggs Hill, The Brook, Tudeley, Kent	Farmer
1871	Hawkwell Farm, Pembury, Kent	Farmer
1881	49 Ditchling Rise, Brighton, Sussex	Late Farmer
1891	49 Ditchling Rise, Brighton, Sussex	Retired Farmer
1901	Egerton, Croft Road, St Clement, Hastings, Sussex	Retired Farmer
1911	9 Ditchling Rise, Brighton, Sussex	Private Means

FREDERICK ASHBY (1828 – 1902) – second eldest son of Richard Ashby

Frederick is included because he is recorded as a mill employee at Spring Grove Mill/Great Hawkwell Farm in the household of his father, Richard Ashby in the **1851 Census**. From the **1861 census** onwards, Frederick is no longer in Pembury but in Camberwell and later Lewisham as a Hop Factor and Brewer. The **1881 census** records him at Home Park, Lewisham, London, England.