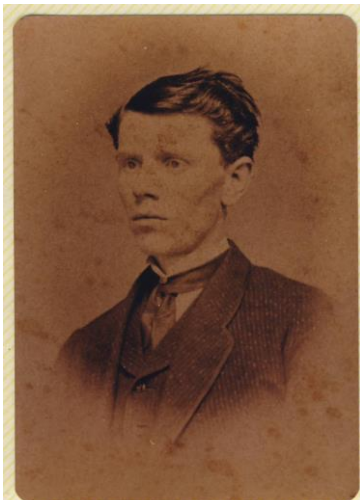


Descendants of John Hartnoll and Elizabeth Facey of Pilton from 1773 by Anne Bishop



I have extensively researched my great-grandfather **George John Bishop's** Pilton family. George John Bishop was born in Pilton and baptized on 10 December 1848 by a Wesleyan Methodist minister. He was raised in Canada from the age of 7. The photograph, left, shows him in his early 20s. The research was helped enormously by the family archives of letters, pictures and anecdotes that he preserved and passed down to his son and then his grandson, my father **Rodger Bishop**. Rodger, at 94 years, is still an inveterate organizer and keeper of all things historical.



With further help from the North Devon Athenaeum, and US and Canadian cousins, the story is emerging piece by piece like a jigsaw puzzle on which I continue to work. The family name is **Hartnoll** and my great-great-grandmother, George's mother, was **Mary Ann Hartnoll** baptized on 8 January 1815 in Pilton, one of 5 children born to parents **Phillip Hartnoll** (photo below left) and **Miriam Lovering**.

I was surprised to discover that the Hartnolls had been residents of Pilton since at least 22 May 1773, when John Hartnoll (b. 3 June, 1754, Braunton) married **Elizabeth Facey**. They must have continued to reside in Pilton since all their children were baptized there:

Thomas, 17 April 1775; John, 16 February 1777; twins George and William, 3 September 1780 and Phillip, 29 January 1785.

A search of census records and further help from St Mary's Church Vicar, Nigel Dilkes, and others at St. Mary's informed me that both the eldest and youngest from that original family, **Thomas** and **Phillip**, were carpenters living on Pilton Street until their deaths and burial in St. Mary's churchyard. Phillip died in 1868. Thomas married Martha and had 2 daughters, Anne Hartnoll and Elizabeth Hartnoll, both spinsters living on Pilton Street at their deaths in 1903 and 1906 respectively. There is also mention of John Hartnoll, a baker, but that piece of the puzzle still evades me.



Besides my great-great-grandmother, Mary Ann, Phillip and Miriam's children were John, William (noted as "dumb" on the 1851 census), George and Miriam. The photograph, left, shows Mary Ann probably with her younger sister Miriam. Records indicate that this family lived on Pilton Street until the youngest daughter, Miriam, yet another spinster, died 20 March 1902. Throughout this period Phillip was listed as a carpenter/master carpenter.

It appears that both Mary Ann and her eldest brother John left Pilton for the London area either to apprentice or find work. In the 1841 census Mary Ann was working as a dressmaker and John as a

carpenter. They each married shortly after – John married Amey Boshier at Lambeth, Surrey, in 1842 and **Mary Ann** (right) married **Edward Turner Bishop**, a tailor from Exmouth, on 17 April 1845 at St. Mary Major Parish Church, Exeter.



By 1851 John Hartnoll and his wife with their children were living at 65 High Street, Barnstaple and remained at this address until their deaths in 1883 and 1885 respectively. Their daughters Eliza and Martha, both spinsters, lived there until their deaths in 1901 and 1902 respectively. The other children of John and Amey were Miriam, John James, Phillip Charles, William George and Arthur Boshier.

The records indicate that John followed in his uncle and father's footsteps as a master builder and landlord. He ran a company with one of his sons – Hartnoll & Son Builders. I also found reference to the fact that John was Parish Clerk for St. Peter & St. Paul's Church in Barnstaple from 1859 through to his death in 1883. He is buried in the Town D Cemetery.

The Pilton Street Presence

Sadly Mary Ann's family of origin dwindled significantly between 1854 and 1856. Her brother William died in 1854 and her mother Miriam and her brother George both died in 1856. With the help of the people at St. Mary's Church, Pilton, I have been able to confirm that all of Mary Ann's family except herself and brother John are buried in St. Mary's Churchyard.

Although their marriage certificate indicates the marriage took place in 1845 at St. Mary Major in Exeter, it appears that my great-great-grandma, Mary Ann Hartnoll, and Edward Turner Bishop were nonconformists by the time they moved to Mary Ann's hometown of Pilton. Mary Ann and Edward's first child, Phillip Edward, was born in St. Thomas district in 1846. By the 1851 census they were living on Pilton Street. Interestingly, Phillip was living in Exmouth with his grandfather Henry Bishop and his aunts Elizabeth and Sarah. From 1848 until they emigrated to Barrie, Ontario, Canada (leaving from Plymouth on 4 August 1855) they had 5 more sons all baptized by Wesleyan Methodist Circuit Clergy out of a chapel in Barnstaple. I did read a reference to a Wesleyan chapel in Pilton as well, but this is still to be confirmed.

The 5 sons born in Pilton were: Harry and George John, both baptized on 10 December 1848, Charles Hartnoll, baptized on 22 June 1850, Orby Petherick, baptized on 2 Nov 1851 and Edward baptized on 12 July 1853.

One side of the law North Devon Journal : 1846

A Mary Jenkins was brought to trial for stealing 2 loaves of bread belonging to Phillip Hartnoll, baked for him by a John Hartnoll. This may have been Phillip's brother.

William Bruce, an employee of George Hodge, sawyer, was on trial for stealing 3 pieces of lumber from Rolle's Quay. The lumber had been sawn for Phillip Hartnoll and left for him to pick up later.

The other side of the law September 17 1853 : North Devon Journal

An account of a Barnstaple Bribery Commission hearing into misdeeds of a Tory MP includes the information that a Phillip Hartnoll had offered 5 pounds to a man if he would vote for the Tory Candidate.

Social and Economic Circumstances

Following the death of her father Miriam lived a comfortable life always on Pilton Street. The different addresses listed in the census records are 116 Pilton Street, The Rock, Prospect Cottage and at her death in 1902 she was at 5 St. Margaret's Terrace with a younger woman, Edith Cudmore, as a servant. These records always state that she is "living by her own means".

A notice in the **North Devon Journal 16 Feb 1888** makes reference to a proposal that the Parish Lands Charity purchase a house on the east side of Pilton Street from St. Margaret's Hospital Charity (tenant Miriam Hartnoll).

March 27 1853 : North Devon Journal

Following Miriam's death there is a notice of an auction to be held on April 2 1902 at 116 Pilton Street for "all useful furniture and household effects".

While census records indicate that her cousins Anne and Elizabeth (daughters of Thomas) did end their lives in some comfort on Pilton Street, it seems that they had been "in service" for many years. I believe Anne was with two different families in Ilfracombe.

Miriam's nieces across River Yeo at 65 High Street in Barnstaple

An auction notice in the **North Devon Journal of March 27, 1902**, following the death of Miriam's nieces Eliza (1901) and Martha (1902), highlights the affluence of John Hartnoll's family as well as the fact that some pieces had been in the family for over a century. You can almost see the auctioneer rubbing his hands with glee.

Threads between Canada and Barnstaple Years of grief and hardship

Following their move to Canada in the fall of 1855 Mary Ann and Edward lived in Barrie, Ontario where he had a tailor's shop. The following years proved to be very difficult. That same year their son Orby Petherick died and in 1856 another son Edward died. Mary Ann would also have received word that year that both her mother and her brother George had died in Pilton.

Mary Ann and Edward expanded their family following their arrival in Canada. Their only daughter Miriam (Minnie) Hartnoll Bishop was born in 1856 and son Edward Orby Bishop in 1859. Sadness struck the family again with the sudden death of Edward Turner Bishop in Nov. 1863, less than 8 years after their arrival in Canada. Just eight months following the death of his father, the

youngest son Edward Orby died (Aug. 1864).

Looking to Pilton for Support

With the death of her husband Mary Ann suffered a dramatic change in her economic situation. With four sons and a young daughter to care for it appears that she returned to Pilton for an extended visit.

A letter home to her sons George, Phillip and Harry, dated Oct. 16, 1867, indicates that she and daughter Miriam are in Pilton enjoying time with her father Phillip and sister Miriam. In it she scolds Phillip for not writing to his grandfather and mentions reversible ties that auntie has made for them. She speaks of her daughter, nicknamed Minnie, going to Church on Sunday, impressing her uncle with her singing, visiting with, and being treated kindly by, her cousins (brother John's children).

Mention is also made of sons Harry and Charles having "made up their minds" to be there at Christmas. This fits with other family records indicating that both Harry and Charles did apprenticeships in Devon, Charles as a carpenter and Harry as a tinsmith. Perhaps the builders in the family were able to arrange this for them.

Uncle John was a Master Builder, the profession that later evolved into architecture. This fact fits the story well because on his return to Canada in 1870 Charles became an eminent architect in the province of Ontario, Canada, with a host of important buildings to his credit.

C. H. Bishop served as Superintendent of Buildings for Toronto's Board of Education. His biography in the Canadian architecture website www.dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org ** says this about him. Born in England where he received architectural training, Charles Hartnoll Bishop (1851-1924) oversaw the construction of over 60 schools in Toronto during his 30-year career with the school board. According to the Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950, after 1900 Bishop's role was more administrative than design-oriented and, during the World War I era when the new Park Public School was being planned, he was assisted by architect Franklin Belfry.

Like his grandfather Phillip Hartnoll before him, however, there were questions about corruption. Coinciding with the completion of Park Public School, Bishop was removed from his position when questions arose about his actions in acquiring land for schools and granting contracts for their construction.

Charles Hartnoll Bishop's son, Roy Hartnoll Bishop, continued the Hartnoll building tradition when he became a well known and prolific architect in his own right.

** For architecture enthusiasts more can be seen at:

<http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/architects/view/1127>

<http://www.dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/architects/view/1128>

Religion takes hold



Mary Ann and Edward had their children baptized by Wesleyan Methodists both in Pilton and in Canada. This Wesleyan Methodist influence resulted in another occupational line for this family. Their 3rd eldest son, my great-grandpa **George John Bishop**, was called to serve a life as clergy. This call came at a revival meeting in Cookstown, Ontario he was attending with his bride to be, Annie Stewart, who also came from a strong Methodist family. He subsequently studied for the ministry and had an eminent career in the pastorate and as principal of the Methodist Deaconess Training School in Toronto, Ontario.

As with carpentry and architecture this tradition was handed down to the next generation. Two sons of George John, **Charles Wallace Bishop** (my grandfather) and **Edward Stewart Bishop** (my great-uncle) were also clergymen.

This picture of **Mary Ann Hartnoll** was taken in Canada toward the end of her life - between 1900 and 1902. The family story is that, as a long time widow, she cultivated the Queen Victoria look. She was aged 87 at her death.

Religion and Architecture meet

Besides his pastoral work in churches across Canada, **Charles Wallace Bishop** was the first National Secretary of the Canadian YMCA. Among his accomplishments was taking "the Y" overseas to serve allied soldiers within the trenches during WW1. In 1926 he became principal of Albert College, the United Church of Canada's boarding school for the sons of overseas missionaries. In an ironic twist of fate and family, when Albert College was built in 1921, the architect was my grandfather's cousin, **Roy Hartnoll Bishop**.

*Anne Bishop
March 2014*