

THE COLE FAMILY and Norman Henry Marks, *branches of the family separated by oceans.*

A. **James Humphrey Cole** (1839-1920), Norman's Grandfather, a Baker, his family and his early life.

This chapter, outlines Norman's links to the Cole family and compares the lives of two brothers, Norman's Grandfather **James** and James's brother **Thomas**. The Cole family is traced back to **John Cole** born in 1705 (thanks to the Nebraska Cole Genealogy web site and Cole descendants).

1-**John Cole** b. 1705, Bishops Nympton, Devon, England

```
+Margaret Gill b. 22 Feb 1705, Bishops Nympton, Devon, England, d. 2 Dec 1871
|-----2-George Cole b. 30 Jan 1744, Bish Mill, Bishops Nympton, Devon., d. Sep
| 1829, Bish Mill, Bishops Nympton, Devon.
| +Mary Pollard b. 30 Jan 1769, Bishops Nympton, Devon, England, d. 29
| May 1823, Bishops Nympton, Devon, England
|-----3-James Cole b. 1778, d. 1848
| +Agnes Bale b. 1778, d. 1837
|-----4-George Cole b. 28 Dec 1808, d. Mar 1886
| +Ann Chapple b. 1813, Barnstaple, Devon, England, d. 29
| Mar 1878, Bish Mill, Bishops Nympton, Devon.
|-----5-James Humphrey Cole b. 1839, Hemyock, Devon,
| England, d. 26 Aug 1920, Blenheim, New Zealand
| +Matilda Cooper b. 1839, Thalbeer, Somerset, d.
| 1890, Barton Regis
|-----6-Florence Matilda Cole b.1876, Clifton,
| Gloucestershire, d. 1930, Wellington, New
| Zealand
| +William Nathaniel Marks b. 13 Jun 1871
| (pos. Jul), Bath, England, d. 17 Oct 1937,
| Wellington, New Zealand
|-----7-Norman Henry Marks b. 25 Apr 1910,
| Blenheim, New Zealand, d. 17 Nov
| 1983, Rothesay Bay, New Zealand
|-----7-Ernest William Marks b. 15 Apr
| 1904, Bath, England, d. 1976,
| Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
| England
|-----7-Frederick Stinchcombe Marks b. 23
| Mar 1908, Blenheim, New Zealand, d.
| 1989
|-----7-Lilian Doris Marks b. 1915,
| Blenheim, New Zealand, d. 1993,
| Wellington, New Zealand
|-----6-Alfred James Cole b. 1866, d. 1887,
| Clifton, Gloucestershire
|-----6-Emily Hannah Miriam Cole b. Jun 1868,
| Clifton, Gloucestershire, d. 1952
| +Ernest Carey Ham b. 1869, d. 1932,
| Axbridge, Somerset
|-----7-Doris Florence Ham b. 1895,
| Bristol, d. 1966, Birmingham,
| England
|-----7-Norman Ernest Ham b. 1898, Bristol,
| d. 17 Sep 1947, Walsall,
| Staffordshire, England
|-----7-Edna Edith Ham b. 19 Sep 1898,
| Barton Regis, d. 1978, Birmingham,
| England
|-----6-Frederick Samuel Cole b. 1871
|-----5-Mary Cole b. 1834
|-----5-George Cole b. 1837
| +Mary Sanders b. 1837, South Molton, Devon, England
|-----6-John Cole b. 1865, Bish Mill, Bishops
| Nympton, Devon.
|-----6-Thomas Cole b. 1869, Bish Mill, Bishops
| Nympton, Devon.
|-----6-James Cole b. 1868, Surrey, England
|-----5-Thomas Cole b. 1842, Bish Mill, Bishops Nympton,
| Devon., d. 11 Oct 1920, Otoe County, Nebraska,
| USA
| +Elizabeth Chapple b. 12 Nov 1842, South Molton,
```

```

|         Devon, England, d. 5 Jun 1914, Otoe County,
|         Nebraska, USA
|-----6-Frederick Cole b. 18 Feb 1868, Japan, d.
|         26 Apr 1911, Otoe County, Nebraska, USA
|         +Fannie M
|         |-----7-Alice E Cole b. 10 Feb 1895, Pawnee
|         |         City, Nebraska, USA, d. 21 Jul
|         |         1975, Cornelius, Washington,
|         |         Oregon, USA
|         |-----7-Earl L Cole b. May 1896, Nebraska,
|         |         USA, d. 15 Feb 1966, Nebraska, USA
|         |-----7-Mary Helen Cole b. 14 May 1903,
|         |         Pawnee City, Nebraska, USA, d. 23
|         |         Feb 1985, Iowa Falls, Hardin, Iowa,
|         |         USA
|         |-----7-Lydia Cole b. 1905
|         |-----7-Bessie F Cole b. 1908
|-----6-Elizabeth Ann Bessie Cole b. 22 Aug 1869,
|         Yokohama, Japan, d. 29 May 1956, Nebraska,
|         USA
|-----6-Thomas Henry Harry Cole b. Nov 1872,
|         Japan, d. 14 Oct 1953, Otoe County,
|         Nebraska, USA
|         +Maud Ann Cook b. 1884, d. 1935
|-----6-John Cole b. 4 Jan 1876, Julian, Nemaha,
|         Nebraska, USA, d. 1 Jul 1960, Nebraska
|         City, USA
|         +Maria Spinner b. 1881, d. 1979
|-----6-George B Cole b. 16 Oct 1877, Nebraska,
|         USA, d. 10 Mar 1957, Otoe County,
|         Nebraska, USA
|         +Hannah Currie Cook b. 7 Dec 1885, England,
|         |         d. 1965, Otoe County, Nebraska, USA
|         |-----7-Lennis Cole b. 21 May 1906,
|         |         Nebraska, USA, d. 19 Dec 1999,
|         |         Nebraska, USA
|         |-----7-Leroy Cole b. 26 Apr 1908, d. Jul
|         |         1935
|         |-----7-Iola Cole b. 28 Oct 1909
|         |-----7-James Cole b. 2 Jun 1911
|-----6-William Cole b. 29 Jul 1879, Nebraska,
|         USA, d. 17 Feb 1945
|         +Nancy Ermentrude Retherford b. 3 Mar 1894,
|         |         Nebraska City, USA, d. 11 Jun 1952,
|         |         Nebraska City, USA
|-----5-Frederick Cole b. 1848
|-----5-Fanny Cole b. 1850

```

The Cole family had many interesting twists and turns which are fascinating to explore. They lived around Bishops Nympton in Devon and the men were blacksmiths, Inn Keepers and agricultural workers and farmers. Frederick, George, and James are names that occur frequently in the Cole family. **Norman Marks** knew only a minimal amount about his mother's family and seemed to only be aware that his Grandfather **James** was a baker from Bristol. But of course there was a much more interesting story to discover.

James's father **George Cole** (**Norman's** Great Grandfather), was a blacksmith born in 1808 and in 1841 **James** aged 2 was living with father George aged 30 and mother **Ann Cole** (nee Chapple) aged 25, sister Mary aged 7, and brother George aged 4, in Bishmill Cottage, Bishops Nympton in Devon. (The ages entered in the 1841 Census are inconsistent with their parent's birth dates.) Presumably the cottage was white and thatched as this style was common to this County? Bishmill was an abbreviation of the name Bishop's Mill and the area was covered in trees with the clergy benefitting from the removal and sale of the trees from their Mill. Eventually the forest was cleared.

When the 1851 Census was conducted on the 30th March 1851 at age 12 James was living with parents still in Bishops Nympton, and now has had four brothers and sisters. Mary (17), Thomas (9), George (14), Frederick (3), and Nancy (1) (Fanny?). His elder brother George (14) is also now a blacksmith.

There were a number of unoccupied cottages in the row in which their cottage stood. One neighbor is a 'turnpike keeper'! This neighbour manned a gate on the main road leading into the village and charged a fee for horses, cattle, sheep and carts and carriages before they could pass the gate. In his house a 'pauper' was recorded as living, presumably benefitting from the charity of the turnpike keeper.

The 1861 Census shows the family is spreading. George Cole is shown as a farmer of 12 acres, James (22) has left home, Frederick (13) and Nancy (11) are the only two at home. Thomas has left home and is living with his older brother George (24) who is married to Mary Sanders (22). They live close by his parents. Thomas is shown as a blacksmith.

James, in 1861 is unmarried and a young baker aged 22 and he has moved to a town, living in Somerset Street Bristol in a small house with one other baker as a fellow lodger. Then after marrying Matilda Cooper in 1864, the 1871 Census shows him aged 32 living at 10 Winsford Street, Bristol with Matilda (22), son Alfred James Cole aged 5, and daughter Emily H. M. Cole aged 3. He records his birth as Ilfracombe in Devon (not Hemyock). He is a baker and has another baker (unmarried) living with them, Alfred R. Williams.

B. Alfred James Cole/Emily H. N. Cole/Florence Matilda Cole (Norman's mother)/Frederick Samuel Cole

James and Matilda had four children by 1881. Florence Matilda Cole, Norman's mother was born in 1876 in Winsford Street. A short street that today gives access to a Roman Catholic School, the building at the rear appears to be still standing but rudimentary. By 1881 the occupations of urban Bristol had broadened. James (the father) still is a baker, Alfred a 'clicker' making shoes, Emily a dressmaker, and their neighbours were employed as a tea warehouseman, an engine fitter, a relief stamper (stationery), a copperplate engraver, a shoe binder, a daily cook, a butcher, and a stay maker. Stay makers made corsets for women. A daily cook was someone who was a general help each day employed as a domestic servant but primarily preparing the meals. A relief stamper embossed personal stationery, something in great demand. Shoe making was an industry that was an important source of work at the time. It employed many people. Shoe binders sewed the upper leathers on a last. A job for older children. A clicker cut out the leather to be used to make the shoe.

Alfred died in 1887, when he was aged 21 before the next census to be held in 1891. He did not marry. Emily married an Ernest Carey Ham in 1894. Ham was a commercial traveller in leather goods. He was apparently earned a good income because by the 1901 Census they had three children (Doris Florence 1895-1966, Norman Ernest 1898-1947, and Edna Edith 1898-1978) and employed a 'General Servant, domestic' named Minnie Cox aged 16, who lived with them in their house in Bristol. Doris married a Wilfred Buxton and they had one child Barbara in 1924. I have not been able to track her after this date. Norman married an Ethel Lewis and it does not seem that they

had children. Edna married a Percy Whateley. They moved to Walsall in Staffordshire, as also it seems did Norman, leaving Doris back in the Somerset area. Whateley is a common surname in Walsall and it seems that Percy was one of a large family. Percy served in WW1, with some military success as he started as a private, fought in the trenches, and rose through the ranks to become a Second lieutenant by 1913. I cannot locate any children for Edna and Percy.

Then in 1890 Matilda Cole died aged 51. It seems the family had fallen on 'challenging' times. In the 1891 census **James**, now therefore a widower was still a baker, living with Frederick (19) a boot cutter, and Emily (23) and **Florence** (14). They lived at 41 Lawrence Avenue, Bristol (pictured). By the 1901 Census, Frederick has left home. James was still recorded as a baker and he and Florence are living at 11 St Agnes Road, Bristol. She was noted as housekeeper. **Florence Matilda Cole** is now aged 24 and James was 62. It was a three roomed house. Their landlady was Mary Ann Knight, widow who was a charlady (housecleaner). His family had reduced considerably.

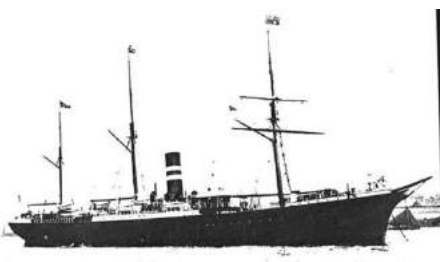


Between 1891 and 1901 Frederick appears to have left England? There is no record of his death online. He does not appear in subsequent censuses. References to people of the same name are inconclusive there being no evidence to verify continuity with this Frederick.

So after Matilda died the family was left in 1901 with **Florence** (Norman's mother) and her father in Bristol because Frederick had left home. Alfred had died in 1887 and when **Florence (26)** married **William Nathaniel Marks (31) (1871-1937)** in 1902, **James** the baker was now living alone.

We do know from family lore that Norman's parents emigrated to Blenheim, New Zealand in 1905 simply due to the ill health of his mother, **Florence Matilda**. Blenheim had a dry climate and she had respiratory difficulties. It was recommended the dry air would assist her breathing. As his father **William** was a cabinet maker and carpenter, there was ample work for him in the relatively new colony when they arrived. Marlborough being a sparsely populated agricultural Province, famed for its sunshine with Blenheim being the only town of any size. The main activities being small scale arable farming, sheep farming for wool and meat, with supporting services. The gold rush at Canvastown had long since gone, the mines having closed down. The gold rush population had moved on. Whaling and other fishing was still important from the nearby port of Picton and along the Marlborough Sounds. The railways had been built from the port at Picton to Blenheim. The population of the entire Province was around 3,000 people spread over a very large area. This would certainly be a 'New World' to the Marks family after the Regency town of Bath in Somerset..

The departure from England in 1905 on the *S.S Tongariro* (below) was therefore a very decisive step.



There was a considerable physical separation between Bath and Blenheim. It would take at least 14 weeks for a letter to be sent and a reply received. They were leaving behind all their family and friends, supposedly permanently. The family had experienced sadness with a high rate of infant mortality. **William Nathaniel** would have been aware that he was named after an earlier

brother who had died at age 3. Then his brother Edgar Stinchcombe died aged 14, when William was aged 11. As for Elizabeth Emma, his sister she possibly also died before 1905. It is not possible to locate her in later Census records. From five siblings, three died at an early age. **Florence** also had experienced the loss of a sibling and her mother. They would have been very conscious of health issues.

William, Florence and their first child Ernest William Marks who had been born in England (1904-1976) settled in rented accommodation close to the centre of Blenheim¹. Four years later Frederick Stinchcombe Marks (1908-1989) was born followed by **Norman Henry Marks (1910-1983)** and later their only daughter Lilian Doris (1915-1993).

Below is an extract from the shipping list of the 1st November 1905 voyage of the *Tongariro*. They boarded in London. It seems they had a cabin to themselves. They were 'English', not 'Scotch' or 'Irish', to us seemingly strange classifications?

TONGARIRO 1905

Port of Emigration	No. of Passengers	Name of Passenger	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger	English						Scotch				Irish					
				Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years		Infants		Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years		Infants		Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards		Age of Children between 1 and 15 years	
				Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single		
				Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females		
London	69	Brought Forward																	
		Mr. Barry	Plate Layer	25															
		John G.		28															
		Miss G.																	
		Master S.																	
		Miss A.																	
		Mr. Smith	Miner	22															
		Mr. B. P.	Game																
		Mr. W.	Handyman																
		Master																	
Mr. J.	Black	28																	
Master G. W.																			
Mr. W.	Labourer																		
Mr. W.	Black																		
Mr. W.	Black																		
Mr. D.	Medical																		
Mr. D.																			
Mr. W.	Farmer	25																	
Mr. L.	Coal Miner	22																	
Mr. L.	Housewife																		
Mr. G.	Labourer	22																	

James was obviously very lonely living by himself in Bristol. Emily and her husband would appear to have been upwardly mobile living in a different, non-working class and more middle class area of Bristol. As mentioned Alfred had died in 1887. And Frederick appears to be absent, and of course Matilda his wife had died back in 1890 so whilst it may have been a brave step to take, at age 69 he did make a major decision to follow his daughter and son-in-law out to New Zealand 3rd Class on the

¹ Refer to Chapter 08 for detailed information on the Marks family.

Tainui in 1908. The ship had 36 First class, 82 Second class and 830 third class, passengers. James travelled third class. His register in the ships records is below.²

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS.																			
Date of Embarkation	Index or Ticket Number	NAMES OF PASSENGERS (Surname, Christian names, Maiden name in female, and a figure for Junior when not the first Passenger)	CLASS	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger	ENGLISH			WELSH			SCOTCH			IRISH			BRITISH ORIGINAL		
					Age	Sex	Married	Age	Sex	Married	Age	Sex	Married	Age	Sex	Married	Age	Sex	Married
London	472	Edham Taylor	3 rd	Carton	1														
		Wife	do	Wife															
		Jno. do		Child															
		Leonard do																	
	477	David E. Waller		Wentworthman	1														
	478	Herbt. Dixon		Carpenter	1														
	479	Herbt. Marshall		Saddlermaker	1														
	480	David Jones			1														
	481	Jno. Andrew		Drummer	1														
		Wife	do	Wife															
		Chas. do		Child															
		Albt. do																	
		Blanche do																	
	483	Jno. Doxey		Labourer															
	484	Chas. M. Brown																	
	485	Walter Brummond		Designer	1														
		Wife	do	Wife															
		Donatha do		Child															
		Amelia do																	
		Harold do																	
	487	Arthur Miller		Jones	1														
	489	Frank Jennings		Farmer	1														
		Wife	do	Wife															
		Roma do		Child															
		Hamilton do																	
	500	Jno. Dawson		Labourer															
		David Christie																	
	502	Jno. H. Wildaash		Carpenter	1														
	503	Ronald Sutcliffe		Baker	1														
	504	Wm Murray		Farmer	1														
		Wife	do	Wife															
		Mary do		Wife															
		David Pees		Labourer	1														
	506	Mr. Chaplin		Wine		X	1												
		Jno. H. Cole				1													
	522	Mr. H.C. Hamilton																	
		Children do		Child															
	523	Fred Andrew		Engineer	1														
		Wife	do	Wife															
		Mary do		Child															
	524	Thos. Hirst		Engineer	1														
	525	Jno. A. Goodfellow			1														
	522	Alfred P. Phipps		Builder	1														
	526	Blanche Siddings		Child															
		Edith do																	
	621	Edg. Wintertonham		Domestic	1														
	622	Mrs. Black		Matron	1														

The Tainui arrived in Wellington on 26th December 1908 and he sailed in a second ship across Cook Strait and travelled to Blenheim.

The Auckland Star, 21st December 1908 (From Our Special Correspondent.) LONDON. November 13. The new Shaw, Savill steamer Tainui leaves London to-day on her maiden voyage to New Zealand, with 36 first saloon passengers. 82 second saloon, and no fewer than 830 third class. The Tainui, which was launched at the beginning of September from the yard of Messrs Workman, Clark and Co., of Belfast, is a handsomely modelled twin-screw steamer of over 10,000 tons gross register. She has been specially designed to meet the growing demands for an improved passenger and freight service between London and New Zealand. Her sea-going speed is 13 knots, and she has two sets of triple expansion engines. Her passenger accommodation is handsome and spacious, with well lighted and ventilated cabins, and artistic and comfortable public rooms and lounges. The third-class equipment includes a roomy dining saloon on the main deck, and large dining spaces on the lower deck, also a smoking room on the after deck house.



Norman assumed that his Grandfather did not work once he arrived in Blenheim but it would have been logical that **James** would seek employment even though aged 69, in order to provide basic necessities. There being no government financial support available in 1908. Every Saturday **Norman** and his brothers used to walk to his Grandfather's house which was nearby theirs in Blenheim. **Norman**

knew he was a baker but that was all.

Following his retirement in 1970 **Norman** and Lois went on a 'grand tour of Europe' basing themselves in London. **Norman** believed that he had a 'close cousin' called Audrey. He was disappointed that when he met Ernest his eldest brother for the last time in 1970 in Cirencester, that Ernest had no news of her. However, I have not been able to find her in the Marks or Cole branches of the family tree. Alfred, Emily and Frederick were the only possible source of the mysterious Audrey on that side of his family and I could not identify an 'Audrey'.

C. Thomas Cole of Nebraska (Norman's Grandfather's brother)

James Humphrey Cole had three brothers and two sisters (Mary, George, **Thomas**, Frederick and Fanny).

Recently, thanks to helpful information from Nebraska, we know that **James**' brother, **Thomas** led a very adventurous and colourful life³. **Thomas** disappears from the U.K. Census records after 1861. He is located again in the 1880 US Census at a small town in Otoe County, Nebraska. He became a Midwest farmer after experiencing adventures along the way.

Initially, **Thomas** had left Bishops Nympton for London in 1863, when he became a Policeman with the Metropolitan Police in Hampstead, London, starting on 16th March. He resigned on 11th February 1867 and would appear to have then married his cousin **Elizabeth** Chapple in South Moulton, on 13th February 1867, before they embarked on a grand adventure travelling to Japan where he joined the Mounted Legation for the British Embassy in Tokyo (Yedo). From 1867 to 1871 he was employed by the British Legation protecting Sir Harry Parkes.

³ Thanks to Bob Jenkins of <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~neotoe/>



1867 Parkes meets the last Shogun.



1868 attack on Parkes and entourage.

Parkes worked in Britain's diplomatic consular posts in China during the First Opium War (1839-1842). He arrived in China in 1841, learnt Chinese and acted as an interpreter and he later in 1847 learnt Japanese. He then was part of a British diplomatic mission to Thailand and spent much of his early years in this part of the world interspaced with trips back in London up until the start of the Second Opium War (1856-1860) when he assisted with negotiations between the English and French and the defeated Chinese. From 1865 he was the representative in Japan for 18 years.

Parkes was active in resisting and undermining the administration (Bakufu) of the Shogun favouring the Emperor Meiji. A deliberately political and potentially dangerous approach that was classically imperialist in nature. A strategy where the interests of one domestic power are encouraged over another in order to gain influence for economic gain. Also, the British government in the reign of Queen Victoria was more likely to favour a monarch. Parkes acted in concert with other European powers particularly the US delegation. This stance led to three assassination attempts by the Shogun's sympathisers. One occurred when Parkes visited the Emperor against the wishes of the Bakufu on 23 March 1868. This visit following the declaration by the Emperor that rule had been returned on 3rd January of that year. This was a very unsettled period in modern Japanese history. The transition to power and accommodation by the Bakufu and Samurai classes towards the change was not always forthcoming.

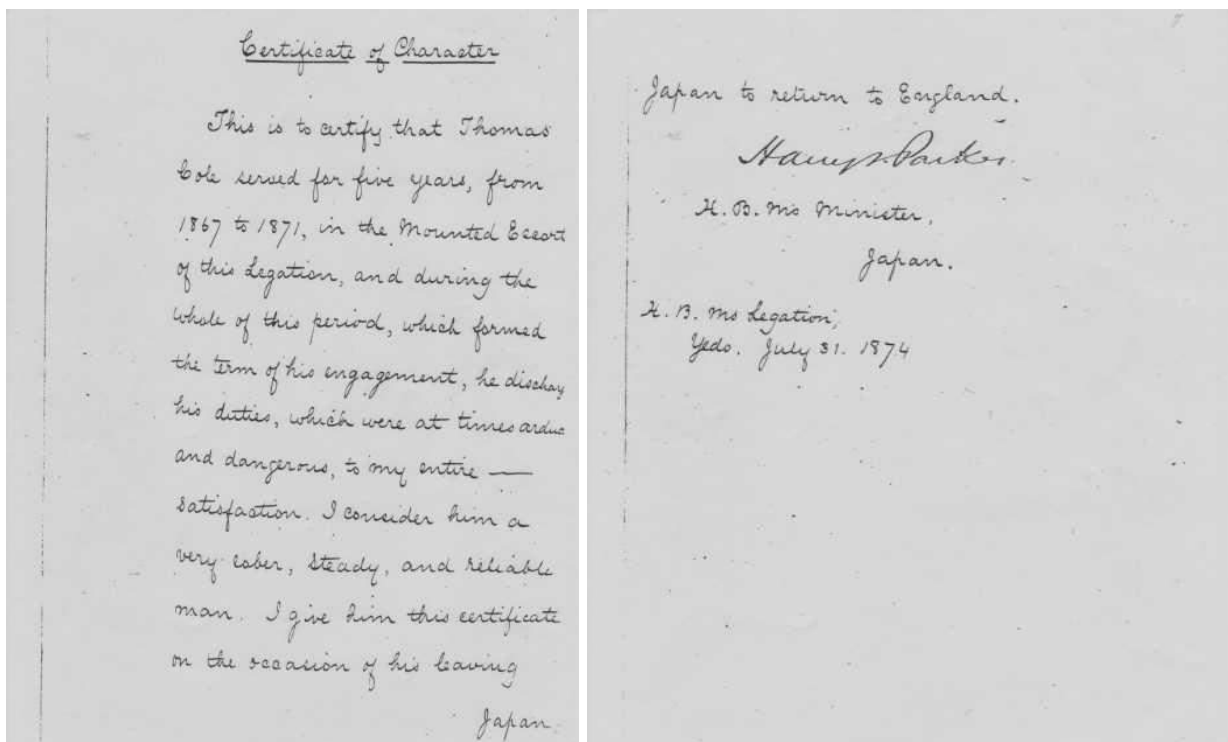


Thomas Cole (possibly the soldier pictured here on a horse) was part of the protective forces of the Legation but whether he was part of the protective team on the day Parkes and his entourage were attacked is not known. Japan was a place of opportunity for adventurous Europeans. After the Meiji Restoration was effected in 1868 and a resourceful, well connected European would be able take advantage of the commercial opportunities of the time. On 7 December 1869, Harry Parkes met the heads of the Meiji government to discuss basic measures for introducing railways and telegrams in Japan. During the discussion, it was decided to build the first line between Tokyo and Kobe⁴.

⁴ Information about the Tokyo to Yokohama railway is obtained online from *Japan Railway & Transport Review* No. 1 (pp.28–30).

A large number of British engineers were hired by the Japanese government in the early stage of Japanese railways. Their specialities ranged from civil engineering and machinery for manufacturing and repairing rolling stock, to scheduling train services and operations. Nearly 300 foreigners in total (mostly British) were also hired for various posts. Their jobs included directors, engineers-in-chief, locomotive superintendents, traffic managers and other key posts, as well as mechanics, masons, plasterers, carpenters, engine drivers, track maintenance and other field workers. The railway construction was never entirely free of opposition during the first years of the new government. The major opposition came from the military which put priority on armaments and isolationism. Isolationism was quite common among Japanese people who feared the railway being built by foreign engineers as being a strange 'foreign' tool.

Therefore taking advantage of the opportunity and his connections, on 1st August 1871 Cole left the Legation and was appointed as police inspector for the Japanese Government Railroads and his term lasted until 31st July 1874. They lived in Yokohama. When they decided to leave Japan in 1874, a character reference (below) was provided on his departure by Sir Harry Parkes. It hints they are returning to England, not directly to Nebraska.



Thomas and **Elizabeth** had three children born in Japan. Frederick C. Cole 1868, Elizabeth Ann Bessie Cole 1869 and Thomas Henry Harry Cole in 1872.

In 1875 the Cole Family of **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** emigrated to Otoe County, Nebraska. It is likely the decision to choose Otoe was linked to the acquisition of arable farming land on generous terms. Nebraska had only recently in 1867 become a State in Union. It is possible that Thomas had contact with counterparts in the United States Legation so he had become aware of Nebraska's potential. The population of the new Nebraska State by the 1880's was 450,000 people. The opportunities would have appeared very attractive to **Thomas** and his wife. At that time Federal government policies were put in place to encourage migration west and from overseas. The Railroads had also been given large grants of land and they on sold the land to new settlers on advantageous terms so

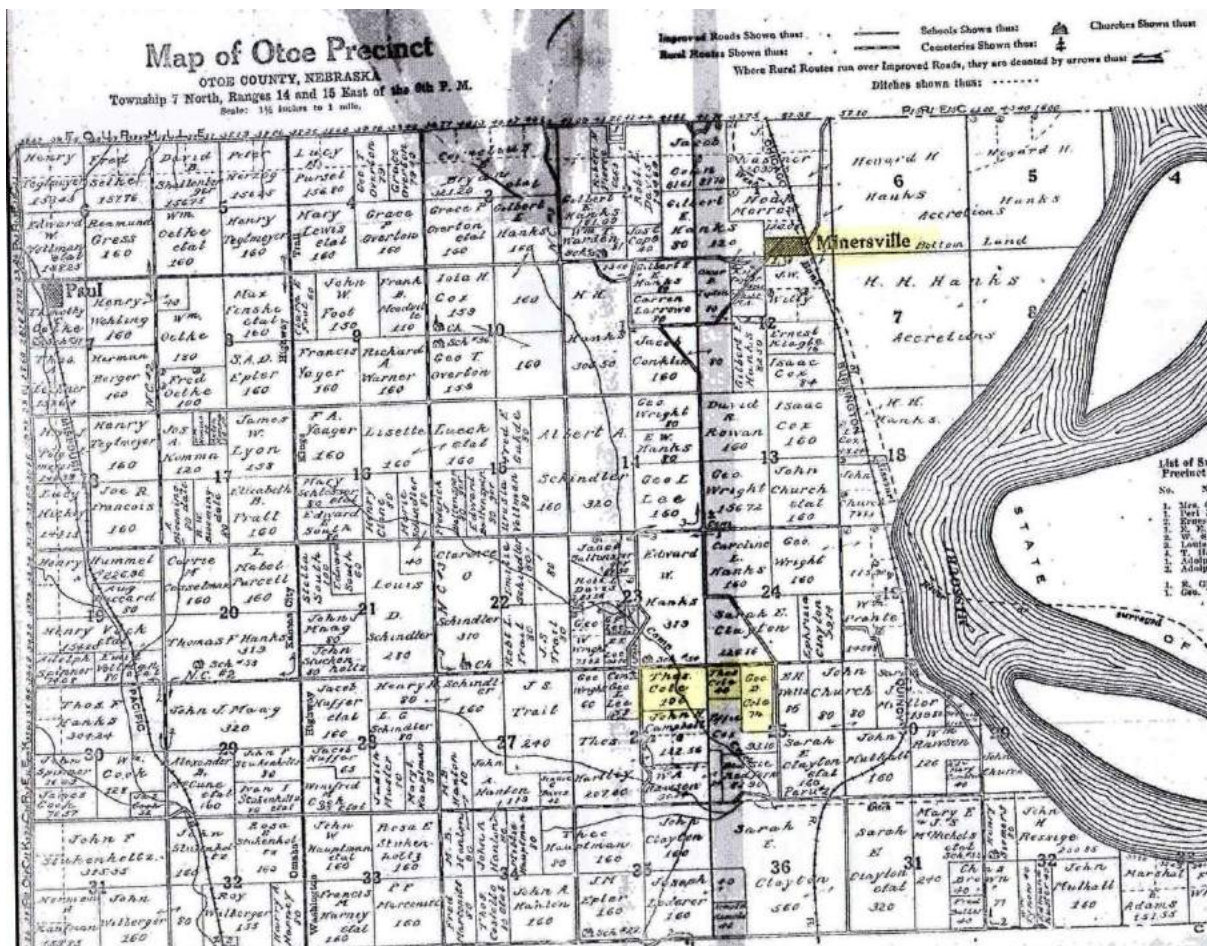
as to develop a market for railroad travel and shipping. Increased volumes of farm produce and supplies and passengers being the objective.

The Burlington and Missouri Railroad crossed Otoe County to the main town Nebraska City on the banks of the Missouri River.

The land on the west side of the Missouri River was extremely fertile. They took land south of the settlement of Minersville which is south of Nebraska City. A railway line ran to the east of their farm. By 1917 they appear to have had 214 acres between family members. Their farm did not seem to be as large as neighbouring properties.



Elizabeth and Thomas in 1887?



The railway is no more and Minersville has also disappeared. Minersville losing it's post office in 1923.

On Google maps today this part of Nebraska looks to be verdant and productive arable farmland (below).



By 1880 when Census details are available, it shows **Thomas** (38), **Elizabeth** (38), Frederick (12), Bessie (10), Thomas (6), John (4) and George (2). By the 1910 Census, 30 years later, Only **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** both aged 67 and married for 42 years, are at home along with William aged 27. The Census shows that seven children have been born but only six have survived, that both arrived in 1875 and that **Thomas** is now a citizen. William is farming on his own account, managing the property as his father and mother have retired from farming. The property is free of a mortgage. They all can read. **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** are the only immigrants in their census sheet other than a person from Denmark. Of the sixteen families, four (25%) have married for a second time due to the death of a spouse (?). In the 1900 Census, **Elizabeth** also again declared that seven children had been born and one had not survived. In the 1920 Census William is now the head of the family. **Elizabeth** passed away in 1914, and William is now married to Beatrice (?), and has two sons. **Thomas** is living with them.

Thomas Cole's brother, **James** Cole, three years older than he, passed away on 26th August 1920 at age 81. **Thomas** himself passed away that same year on 11th October 1920, aged 78.

Two brothers separated by thousands of miles of land and water, each on the other side of the globe. Both in their own way showing courage in facing a new social, economic and physical environment. Did they know where each other lived? Did they correspond? It is difficult to imagine that they were able to keep in contact once **Thomas** left for Japan, although if **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** returned to England before moving to Nebraska in 1875, it is possible they met in Bristol?

Both made the most of their lives and their many descendants can be grateful for the sacrifices and efforts they made when supporting their respective families. The evidence that their struggles were not in vain lies in the diverse and many talents of their descendants across the world in our 21st Century.