

Joseph Day & Ann Harvey - Our Family Legacy

Our Family Legacy
Joseph Day & Ann Harvey

History found at *****

If Kent, England, has the appearance on a map of an animal's lower jaw, Essex sits like an upper, with the River Thames as a tongue; or as two sentinels, sit those two counties, guarding the watery road to London. Essex was apparently the homeland of the Day family for centuries. They were people of the land, and the name of DAY has been associated with eastern England since the era of the Vikings. It is an occupational name - a "dayman" being a dairyman. Joseph DAY(h9-1) was born in Writtle, Essex, just west of Chelmsford, but he was married in West Ham, on the outskirts of London.

London has always acted as a great magnet, drawing the rich - for London was the center of commerce and politics - and the poor, who migrated there looking for sustenance. Joseph DAY did not go to London looking for investment opportunities, but for employment. He was apparently an experienced horseman by his late teens and knew something of farming, or gardening as it was called, for he was employed by a farmer in West Ham who grew vegetables for the London market. At least part of the time when Joseph was in the farmer's employ, he drove a produce cart over the cobblestone streets of the great city which, as children, we have all seen through the eyes of Eliza Doolittle, Oliver Twist and Mary Poppins. Early in the morning on market day, the clatter of iron-shod hooves and iron-rimmed cart wheels over the cobblestones was deafening to all who lived close to the streets. In fact, in his later years, that sound was one of Joseph's clearest memories of England.

Horsepower was essential to the operation of the farm where Joseph worked, but times were hard, money scarce, and the cost and maintenance of horses represented a substantial expense to farmers. Consequently, even farmers who were of a kindly disposition were inclined to skimp on feed and care for their animals. This was the case on the West Ham farm, where each teamster was given a small measure of grain for his horses and no more. It was false economy. The horses lacked stamina and were shabby looking.

One day Joseph was given the key to the grain shed and told to lock it up that night, which he did, but not before he made an impression of the key in a bar of soap. A locksmith made a duplicate for him, and thereafter he was able to help himself to a sufficient amount of feed necessary to restore his team to health. The horses immediately began to gain weight, the light came back into their eyes, their coats and manes began to shine, and their power and stamina returned. The owner noticed the difference in the team and complimented Joseph, thinking it was due to extra care which he took in grooming the animals.

Ann HARVEY(h10-1) was born in the village of Margaretting, southeast of Writtle. She also was in the greater London area as a young woman, working in a mill of some kind. Her sister worked in a bakery. Joseph and Ann were married in West Ham and found lodgings in Bethnal Green where their first four children were born. Apparently Ann continued to work when she was able, and before the oldest child, Mary Ann, was a teenager, she too was working to help support the family.

There was a branch of the LDS Church at White Chapel, just a mile south of Bethnal Green. It is not known how Joseph and Ann came to be interested in the message of the Latter-Day Saint missionaries, but Joseph was baptized in November, 1850, and Ann in January, 1851 when she was five months pregnant. Ann Reed [EVERINGTON] ROBERTS could also have been a member of the White Chapel Branch for a time, after her baptism in August of '51, and prior to her family's departure to Liverpool. If she were, she likely met Joseph and Ann [HARVEY] DAY while they were all in