

FREEGARD FAMILY NOTES

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Freegard family notes by Edwin Freegard

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EDWIN FREEGARD

**FREEGARD
FAMILY NOTES**



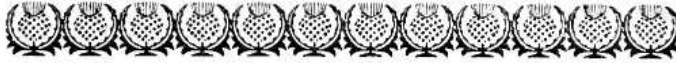
FREEGARD is not a very common name, as an examination of English and American directories will indicate. For several years I looked in vain to find the name without the owner of it being in some way related to my immediate family; and I think it very probable that the English-speaking Freegards are all descended from the same ancestry. My father often mentioned that he knew of no individual bearing the name who was not in some degree related to himself.

Notwithstanding this rarity of the name among those of the English tongue, I have been assured that in Germany the name or



its equivalent is not uncommon; and since residing in the United States have been many times asked if I were not a German. This supports a family tradition, that the Freegards came to England from Germany, emigrating from their homeland some two or three hundred years back in consequence of religious persecution.

Upon this hypothesis is explained the reason why family records go back only four or five generations. The original English Freegards wished to enjoy the liberty of British citizenship and came there without wealth so far as money is concerned, so that there is little pride of birth to be handed down to the generations following and no pedigree. The fact that the Freegards, so far as can be traced, have been socially always among the workers and those whose business life was that of the great mass of their fellows, can therefore be



easily understood. At the same time they appear to have generally made an honorable record, and to have eaten the bread of industry and cheerfully performed the obligations of good citizenship.

The early Freegards settled in the county of Wilts, England, and were farmers. My grandfather was named Job Freegard, and was the son of a baker and small farmer who lived at a place called Whitley, near Melksham, in Wiltshire. He was born in Melksham in 1779, and died at Calne, Wiltshire, November 13, 1850, aged 71 years, in which latter place he carried on the business of bootmaking. My grandmother Freegard, wife of said Job, was a daughter of a family named Stantial, and was christened Ann. This Ann Stantial was born in Calne, January 26, 1781, and died in the same place January 26, 1868, aged 87 years. Her birth and death were on the same



day of the same calendar month. The Stantials were also farmers. I have no memorandum of the date of the marriage of my grandfather Job Freegard to Ann Stantial. The particulars here recorded I obtained from my father in the year 1884, when paying him a visit.

My father was one of a large family, some members of which I have seen and others often heard about, as visits were occasionally made by them to my home at Dover. He was christened Edwin Charles, and was brought up to the bootmaking business carried on by his father. He also was born at Calne, December 7, 1814, and died at Dover, in the county of Kent, May 4, 1887, being somewhat over 72 years of age. He was fairly-well educated, as were all his brothers and sisters. As a young man he became dissatisfied with the narrow routine of his home, or had ambition



to see other localities than the neighborhood where his parents were born and where they spent their lives, and so entered the ranks of "journeymen" and traveled from Calne in Wiltshire to London, where he worked for a time; afterwards walking on to Dover in Kent, at which place his travels ended. I remember his telling how, as a young man of only 19 years, he sat on a mile-stone at Crabble Hill, just before reaching the town, footsore and discouraged, and how he wept in his perplexity.

But in Dover, though he never had or wished for surcease of labor, he did obtain the rest of a home, for he there found a good and industrious woman who became his "helpmeet" about one year afterwards.

My mother was the daughter of a blacksmith named John May and Ann his wife. John May was born at Fordwich, near Canterbury, Kent, September 8, 1785. His wife's maiden



name was Stokes ; she was born at Hythe, Kent, March 9, 1785. Of the date of the marriage of my maternal grandparents I have no record. They lived together a good long life, and of them I have distinct and affectionate memory. My grandfather May died February 24th, 1859, aged 73 years ; my grandmother May died March 9, 1862, aged 77 years. They sleep together in Old St. Mary's Cemetery, Dover ; a stone marks their resting place.

John and Ann May were the parents of five children, to-wit :

Ann (my mother), born at Deal, Jan. 31, 1812.

Edmund, born at Sandwich, Sept. 21, 1813.

John, born at Dover, July 21, 1817.

Henry, born at Dover, Oct. 30, 1820.

Hannah, born at Dover, July 13, 1825.

From these dates it will be seen that John



and Ann May moved their residence to Dover, Kent, between 1813 and 1817.

My father, Edwin Charles Freegard, and my mother, Ann May, were married in St. Mary's parish church, Dover, on the 10th day of November, 1834.

My mother died at Dover, March 24, 1883, aged 71 years. These dear parents sleep side by side in Charlton New Cemetery, Dover, where a stone indicates their resting place.

The children of Edwin Charles and Ann Freegard were all born at Dover, as follows :

- Ann, August, 5, 1835.
- Henry Charles, December 14, 1837.
- Elizabeth, August 29, 1840.
- Edwin (myself), March 28, 1843.
- Job, January 16, 1846.
- John, July 27, 1848.
- Frank, February 2, 1851.
- James, July 18, 1854.