

**JOHN & LYDIA BIRD
AND THEIR CHILDREN
(WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION)**



SAMUEL T STEWART - UPDATED DECEMBER 2022

INTRODUCTION

John and Lydia Bird were the maternal Grandfather and Grandmother of the author who unfortunately he didn't know as they had passed away before he was born. John originated from Lount and Lydia Fairbrother from Griffydam and they had eleven children. John, Lydia and the children lived in, Anchor Lane, Pegg's Green, prior to moving to Sandringham House opposite to St. George's Church.

A BASIC GENEALOGY STUDY OF THE BIRDS'

The blood-line is highlighted in **BLUE**

Joseph Bird was born 1791 in Lount, Leics and died 1862 in Leics. He married **Mary** who was born 1794 in Thringstone, Leics and died 1873 in Leics. They had four children :-

- **John Bird**, b. 1830, Staunton Harold, Leics.
- James Bird, b. 1826, Leics
- Joseph Bird, b. 1819, Lount, Leics
- Hannah Bird, b. 13 Aug 1820, d. 1834, Leics

John Bird, son of Joseph and Mary above, married **Elizabeth** who was born 1831 in Staunton, Leics. They had six children :-

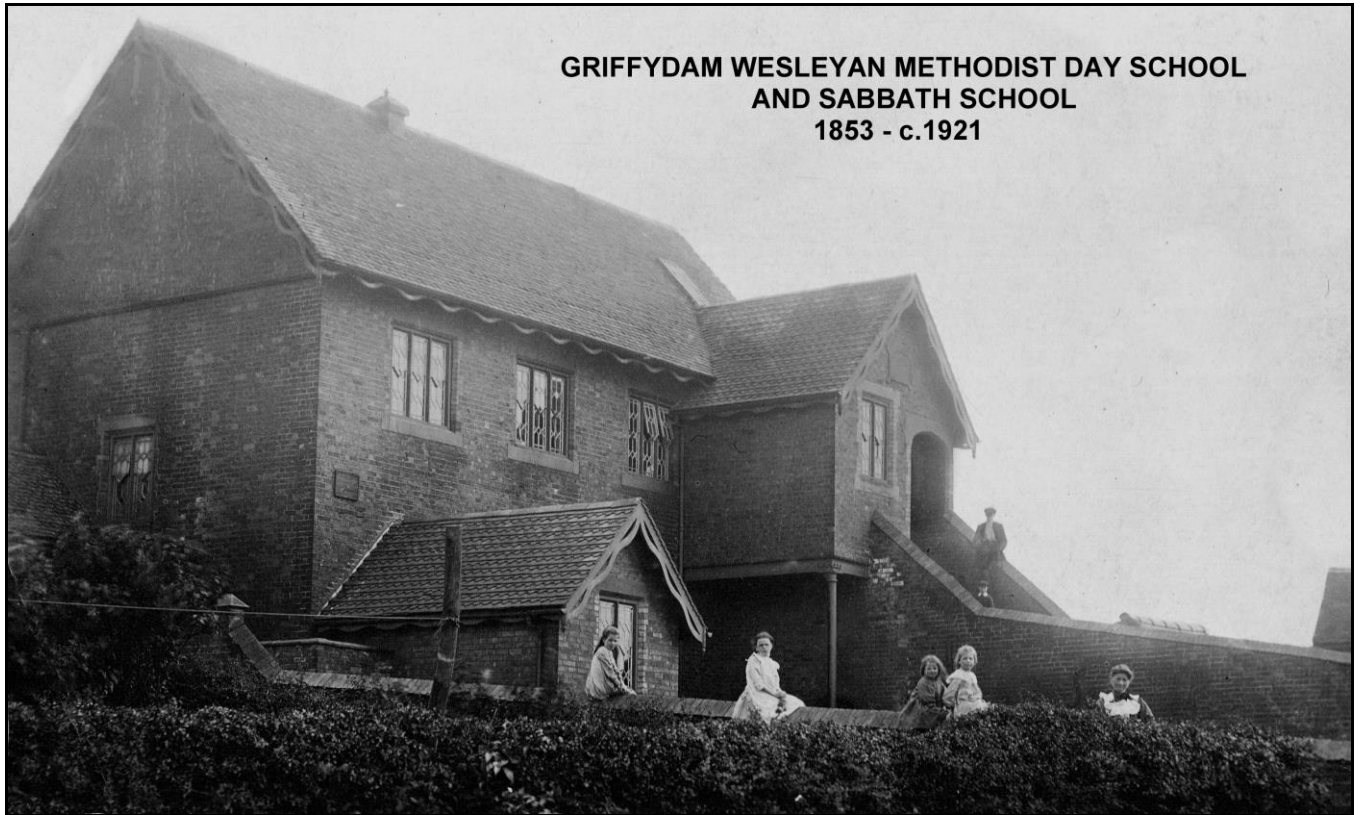
- Sarah Bird, b. 1854, Staunton Harold, Leics.
- Enoch Bird, b. 1856, Staunton Harold, Leics.
- William Bird, b. 1859, Staunton Harold, Leics.
- **John Bird**, b. 1861, Staunton Harold, Leics.
- Joseph Bird, b. 1864, Staunton Harold, Leics.
- Elizabeth Bird, b. 1869, Staunton Harold, Leics.

John Bird, son of John and Elizabeth above, married **Lydia Fairbrother**. She was born 1865 in Griffydam, Leics. They had eleven children :-

- Ellen Bird, b.1884, Peggs Green , Leics.
- Clara Bird, b.1885, Peggs Green , Leics.
- Eliza Bird, b.1887, Peggs Green , Leics.
- Enoch Bird, b.1889, Peggs Green , Leics.
- Ada Bird, b.1891, Peggs Green, Leics
- Caleb (aka Kay) Bird, b.1893, Peggs Green, Leics.
- John William (Jack) Bird, b.1895, Peggs Green, Leics.
- Sarah Bird, b.1896, Peggs Green, Leics.
- George Wilmott Bird, b.1899, Peggs Green, Leics.
- **Agnes Bird**, b.1901, Peggs Green, Leics (**mother of the author**)
- Eli Bird, b.1905, Peggs Green, Leics.

This particular line of Birds originated from a Joseph Bird born in Lount, Leics in 1791. Joseph Bird, his wife Mary and their descendants were ironically living very close to the "Stewarts of Lount", certainly up to the late 1800's. In fact, Mary Bird was the informant on a William Stewart's (1772-1850) death certificate.

It is quite remarkable that 10 out of the 11 children of John and Lydia Bird were registered as attending the Griffydam "Wesleyan Methodist Day School and Sabbath School" at Pegg's Green shown below, including the author's mother Agnes during the time when Robert Hance was the headmaster :-



Admitted	Name	Father	Birth Date
29.07.1889	Clara Bird	John Bird	5.10.1885
29.06.1892	Eliza Bird		2.10.1887
19.09.1894	Enoch Bird		00.07.1889
27.01.1896	Ada		08.01.1891
02.05.1898	Caleb (aka Kay)		? .11.1893
05.09.1898	John William		? .11.1895
11.06.1900	Sarah		25.05.1896
08.06.1903	George Willmot		27.07.1899
06.06.1905	Agnes		13.06.1901
14.09.1909	Eli		17.02.1905

	Day	Mon	Year	Day	Mon	Year	FATHER	MOTHER	
12 14	1	6	03	25	2	01	Ulleley	Thomas Arthur	Griffydau
" 5	"	"	"	22	1	01	Bradford	Joseph Joseph	Peggs Green
— 6	"	"	"	29	9	00	Pearson	Oscar R Joseph	"
7	"	"	"	6	8	00	Leeson	Joseph Thos St	"
8	"	"	"	7	5	01	Leigh	Frederick Edward G	"
9	"	"	"	28	7	97	Bradford	Andrew Marsden Joseph	"
12 20	"	"	"	12	11	00	Darby	Elsie Joseph	Griffydau
1	1	"	"	23	5	01	Cross	Sarah John	Peggs Green
2	5	"	"	4	11	99	John Baskby	Johanna James	"
3	"	"	"	3	6	01	Bird	Agnes John	"
4	"	"	"	22	5	01	Luddington	Francis John	Griffydau
5	"	"	"	26	3	01	Reid	Frank Herbert	"
6	"	"	"	14	5	01	Baskby	Ambrose George	"
7	6	"	"	16	7	00	Woodward	Catherine ^(Miss) John	Griffydau
8	19	"	"	23	5	01	Stevenem	Olive John	Peggs Green
9	4	vii	"				Wilton	Sarah Ann John	Peggs Green
12 30	19	"	"	12	8	00	Marshall	Edward Edward	Griffydau
1	18	12	"	17	3	95	Jesson	Mabel	"
2	"	"	"	25	1	97	"	Edith Mearns	"

EXAMPLE FROM REGISTER INCLUDING AGNES BIRD
MOTHER OF THE AUTHOR



A photograph taken c.1906. Agnes Stewart (nee., Bird), mother of the author is on the left. On the right is her brother George Wilmott and in the centre the youngest child Eli

AGNES BIRD – MOTHER OF THE AUTHOR

Agnes Bird, the 10th in a line of eleven children, was born in Anchor Lane, Peggs Green on June 13th 1901. She received her formal education at the “Griffydam Wesleyan Day School”, situated in Peggs Green. She started there on June 6th 1906 and left at 14 years of age. She went to be trained as a tailoress in Leicester under “Mr. C. Newman, tailor”. She apparently caught the 8.00am train from Thringstone station and was met by her mother there when she arrived back about eight o'clock at night. She spent her time crochering on the train. She was taught at the Day School by Robert Hance who was the headmaster, and recalled that the children used to sing “*Robert Hance makes you dance*” as he used to walk about swishing his cane. All her brothers, like their father, who was a hewer at the coal face, became coal miners, and Agnes related that her mum's first job when they came home from

their shift was to wash their backs for them. No pit head baths at that time of course. In latter years, John Bird worked at New Lount Colliery.

The Bird family lived for many years in Anchor Lane, Peggs-Green, Coleorton, Leics before moving to "Sandringham House", Peggs Green opposite St. George's Church, Swannington. In the 1901 Census, they were still living in Anchor Lane. However, the 1911 census shows them living at Sandringham House.

Agnes related to her son Trevor, that her father John Bird, a coalminer, paid in Gold Sovereigns for this house. The Coalville Times dated 03 March 1911 recorded "*Another residence at St. George's Hill, known as Sandringham House, lately occupied by Mrs. Crane (deceased), was brought by John Bird of Pegg's Green for £305.*" It is difficult to imagine 11 children and their parents in a house of this size. Apparently, as most large families did, they slept sided by side, head to toe.

After John Bird and his wife Lydia died, the house was inherited by their youngest son Eli and his wife Beatrice, who were living with them at that time.

John and Lydia Bird died in 1938, and are buried in the cemetery at St. George's Church, Swannington across the road from Sandringham House.

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Lydia Bird outside "Sandringham House". Photograph taken from St. George's Church, Swannington



Lydia Bird at the front of Sandringham House



Original Photograph - Colour hand tinted on glass



A rather precious photograph of Agnes Bird with her grandmother Elizabeth Bird (b.1829). Enhanced from the above in B & W by the author. John Bird Senior and his wife Elizabeth in the photograph, also lived in Anchor Lane, Pegg's Green in their later years.

THE MARRIAGE OF SAMUEL MARSON STEWART TO AGNES BIRD



Marriage of Samuel Marson Stewart to Agnes Bird

John Whyman Married	Samuel Marson Stewart b. 01.01.1899	Agnes Bird b. 22.06.01	Eli Bird Brother to
Clarrie Stewart (Best Man)	m. 02.08.1924 d. 09.03.1969	m. 02.08.1924 d. 31.01.1983	Agnes Bird
	Ada Stewart Married Roland Hill	Clarrie Stewart Married John Whyman	

Photograph taken at the rear of the Bird's family home "Sandringham House"

C 30573

The Statutory Fee for this Certificate is 2s. 7d. If required subsequently to registration, a Search Fee is payable in addition.

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE.
Pursuant to the Marriage Acts, 1836 to 1898.

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]

M. Cert.
A.P.

Insert in this Margin any Notes which appear in the original entry.

Registration District <i>Ashby de la Zouch</i>							
1924. Marriage Solemnized at <i>Primitive Methodist New Chapel, Coleorton</i> in the District of <i>Ashby de la Zouch</i> in the Counties of <i>Rutland & Leicestershire</i>							
Columns:— No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
	<i>August</i>	<i>Samuel Marson Stewart</i>	<i>25</i> years	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Factor at Sanitary Pipe Works</i>	<i>Stoney Lane, Coleorton</i>	<i>Samuel Stewart</i>
	<i>1924</i>	<i>Agnes Bird</i>	<i>23</i> years	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Railways (Assistant)</i>	<i>St. George's Hill, Swainington</i>	<i>John Bird</i>
Married in the <i>Primitive Methodist Chapel</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Primitive Methodist Church</i>							
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Samuel Marson Stewart</i> and <i>Agnes Bird</i> in the Presence of us, <i>John William Whyman</i> and <i>Clarrie Stewart</i> Authorized Person							
I, <i>William Whyman</i> , Authorized Person under the Marriage Act, 1898, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Entry No. <i>26</i> , in the Register Book of Marriages of the above-named Building.							
WITNESS MY HAND this <i>2nd</i> day of <i>August</i> , 1924.							
<p><small>CAUTION.—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to Prosecution under the Forgery Act, 1913, or the Perjury Act, 1915.</small></p>							

Copy of Wedding Certificate for Samuel Marson Stewart and Agnes Bird

Sam and Agnes were actually married at Coleorton Primitive Methodist Church, and the preceding photograph is taken after the wedding, They possibly walked from the chapel after the ceremony to Sandringham House. Sam of course was living at the Thatched Cottage in Stoney Lane with his parents prior to them getting married.



TOASTING THE BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM AT THE REAR OF SANDRINGHAM HOUSE BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE WEDDING

This striking photograph from 1924 shows from left to right -

George Wilmott Bird (brother of the bride) - He and his wife Gladys had a daughter Glenis.

John Whyman - Best Man who married Clarrie Rose Stewart, sister of the author's father. They lived at "Brookdale" in Stone Lane, Coleorton and had a son Clifford

John Bird - Father of the bride

Chris Jones - Married Annie Stewart, sister of the author's father. They moved to London where Chris became a policeman. They had two sons Malcolm and Roy.



John Bird and his son Caleb (aka Kay) - Grandfather and uncle of the author

Samuel and Agnes had a new house built in Stoney Lane, Coleorton shortly after they got married. This was named "Cwm-Rhonnda", after the well known Hymn Tune. No doubt, this decision was influenced by Sam's father, a staunch methodist. The house was situated next to the Wooden Bungalow, built for **Samuel Stewart Senior & his wife Annie (nee., Richards) to retire into from their farm in Lount.**



**"Cwm-Rhondda", Stoney Lane, Coleorton from the rear c.1970.
The raised grass hump at the front of the photograph is evidence of the
underground air raid shelter built by the Stewart families
at the start of World War Two.**

Sam and Agnes had three children (two daughters and one son)

- Betty (b. Sept 10th 1927, m. Apr 12th 1952) - married Leslie John Weston
- Greta (b. Aug 4th 1931, m. Aug 21st 1954) - married Peter Cooper
- **Samuel Trevor** (b. July 9th 1942, m. Sept 26th 1970) - married **Sheila Mary Bannister.**



**John William (aka Jack) was mustard gassed in the First World War
and never recovered from it.
The family later lived in the council houses on Coleorton Moor**