

# Dinorwic – the Horlock connections

## **Introduction & Summary**

The name Horlock occurs in two entirely separate areas of the Assheton-Smith family activities, firstly as builder and supplier of the first two Dinorwic steam locomotives at Northfleet in Kent, and secondly as Master of the Tedworth Hunt, which was based at Thomas Assheton-Smith's main home estate in Wiltshire.

The surname is relatively unusual; the 1841 census lists just 292 persons in England with the exact spelling, though including the common variants Horlick and Hurlock may add up to another 200 or so. Of the Horlocks, 102 are in Dorset and 59 in Hampshire/Isle of Wight, surely the area of origin of the name. There are 29 in the London area, 23 in Gloucestershire, 15 in Kent, and only 9 in Wiltshire. However, up to around 50 years previously, there was a large family group of Horlocks in and around Trowbridge, Wiltshire, traceable back to around 1560, from whom the above huntsman is certainly descended. The north Kent group, around Dartford – Stone – Northfleet – Gravesend, can also be separately traced back to around 1590-1620.

It seems therefore at present that there is no direct connection between the two families. We presume that when Assheton-Smith was looking for a potential supplier of his engines, he chanced upon the name Horlock, already reassuringly familiar to him as his hunting friend, and automatically assumed that Alfred would be a reliable source.

We list here all the information about the two families known to date, in chronological order:-

## **The North Kent Horlocks**

I am indebted to Mrs Janet Codd nee Horlock, a descendant of the Northfleet family, who is researching their history and supplied much new information about Alfred Horlock, builder of the first Dinorwic steam locomotives at his Northfleet Ironworks – this is incorporated into our corrected and expanded account following:

It is convenient to start with Alfred's grandfather, Richard Horlock (1753-1818) who was a barge master operating three vessels on the River Thames at the time of his death. Richard had seven known children; five sons, the eldest of whom, another Richard, was also a bargeman, and another was named Thomas. There were two daughters, Suzannah and Mary Anne. Suzannah, born in 1783, was married and widowed, then married Edward Medlicott at the parish church of St Botolph, Northfleet on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1826 as Suzannah Richardson Dormer, with her sister Mary Ann Horlock as one of the witnesses. Medlicott, of the parish of St Anne, Blackfriars was a lime manufacturer and merchant in partnership with Thomas Poynder of Wimpole Street, London, their company Poynder & Medlicott being one of the earliest in that industry in the North Kent area. We come across them again below.

Meanwhile Mary Ann Horlock had a child out of wedlock named **Alfred Horlock**, his birth date shown as 28<sup>th</sup> December 1822 in the baptism register at St Botolph; he was christened there on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1824 at eighteen months old but the father is not named.

Little is known about Alfred's early life, but it is said that he was making steam engines for Messrs Cullen & Jackson, local shipbuilders in the late 1830s whilst still in his teens; he may also have constructed engines for use in flour milling. In the June 1841 census, Alfred is staying with his uncle Edward Medlicott at Earl Street, Blackfriars in London, with his occupation shown already as "Engineer" at the age of only 18.

Alfred Horlock is not shown in the Slater's 1840 Kent directory as expected; we know he did not start his own business until 1847. The only two Horlocks listed in this are Thomas, a clerk to Messrs. Poynder & Hobson, shown in the Miscellaneous Trades section, and a Miss Mary Ann (in the Court Directory), both at Northfleet. In the 1841 census, there are 3 Horlocks shown in Northfleet, as follows:-

At Horlock's Row; **Thomas Horlock**, aged "45" (i.e. between 45 and 50), a wharfinger and company agent, born in the County of Kent. He is undoubtedly the same man as above.

Close to the Vicarage House: **Mary Horlock**, aged “45”, born in Kent, probably the same one as above, and surely Alfred’s mother . She is housekeeper to a “Sarah” Medicott aged “55”, of independent means, presumably Edward’s wife and her elder sister, though why she is calling herself Sarah rather than Suzannah is not clear; maybe the census enumerator simply misheard her.

And with no address shown, a **William Horlock**, aged “30”, Smith, not born in Kent, so probably not our family.

**Alfred Horlock married Mary Ann Chayne**y on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1847 at St Botolph, Northfleet when he was almost 25. In the register he names his father as **William Cormac**, a nurseryman, and we find that his mother, aged 55 had finally married this man in the same church just three months previously, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. He is recorded here as a “gentleman” of St Helier, Isle of Jersey, and a widower.

The 1841 census shows William Cormack at Garlinge, Margate in Kent, a nurseryman & seedsman, with a Sarah aged 49, presumably his wife. She is probably the Sarah Cormack who died in Margate in the early part of 1846. Clearly after William was widowed he came back to Northfleet to find his old love. To finish their story first, William & Mary Ann could not be found in the 1851 census, but in 1861 they are at back in Margate, lodging at Vicarage Circus, with William by now aged 79 and recorded as born at New Cross, Surrey still apparently working, as a landscape gardener. He is probably the one who died at Camberwell, South London, a few months later, for in 1871 we find the widow Mary Ann Cormack aged 76 living with her stepson William J. Cormack, 57 and his family at 1 Rye Hill Park, Camberwell. She passed on in early 1874 at Camberwell, “aged 82”.

Returning to Alfred, in May 1847 a few months before his marriage, Messrs. Poynder & Medicott were selling land at the Undershore, Northfleet, presumably upon their retirement from business. This included a new factory, in which Alfred then started up his Northfleet Ironworks engineering company. It seems that he was helped in this by the benevolence of his uncle, Edward Medicott, who died in late 1850. Adjacent on the east side was the Ship Inn, which as we will see was certainly later, if not already being run by Mary Ann’s parents, Thomas and Frances Chayney.

The Dinorwic Quarry records show that in June 1848 a first instalment of £733 was paid by them to “Messrs Alfred Horlock & Co.....on account of the locomotive engines for the railway”. In August a further instalment of £1100 was paid, and the “Fire Queen” was conveyed by sea from Northfleet to Caernarvon for £40. In September the second locomotive “Jenny Lind” followed likewise, and in November 1848 Horlock was paid the “balance for the two locomotive engines and all extras” of £564-2s-10d. Thus they had cost a total of approximately £1200 each.

Meanwhile, at home a daughter Ellen Jane Mary was born to Alfred and Mary Ann in late 1849 at Northfleet.

An **1851 directory of Gravesend & Milton** shows Alfred Horlock, Engineer & Boiler Manufacturer, at Undershore, Northfleet. In the **1851** census at Granby Place, The Hill, Northfleet we find:-

Alfred Horlock, head, married, aged 28, Engineer, born Northfleet.

Mary, his wife, aged 23, no occupation, born Faversham, Kent.

Ellen, daughter, aged 2, born Northfleet. They have a cook, a housemaid and a nursery maid living in. Granby Place is a fine pair of large Georgian gentlemen’s houses, built circa 1830 on the south side of the main turnpike road near the parish church; they still exist, nowadays in commercial use, and are listed by English Heritage.

Also in 1851, a local paper reported the theft of articles from Horlock’s Ironworks, by four boys who were employed at the factory.

A second child Alfred Thomas Edward Horlock was born around the end of 1851, followed by a son Herbert John in early 1854 (but died at around 1 year old) and daughter Alice Louisa in late 1855.

Meanwhile, the business affairs of Alfred Horlock at the Northfleet Ironworks were running far from smoothly. In the **London Gazette of July 1853** we read:-

**WHEREAS** a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, was on the 20th day of July, 1853, filed against Alfred Horlock, of Northfleet, in the county of Kent, Steam Engine Manufacturer, Dealer and Chapman, and he having been declared bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to Edward Holroyd, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Commissioners of the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 3rd day of August next, at one in the afternoon precisely, and on the 6th day of September following, at half past two in the afternoon precisely, at the Court of Bankruptcy, in Basinghall-street, in the city of London, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects; when and where the creditors are to come prepared to prove their debts, and at the first sitting to choose assignees, and at the last sitting the said bankrupt is required to finish his examination. All persons indebted to the said bankrupt, or that have any of his effects, are not to pay or deliver the same but to Mr. Edward Edwards, No. 1, Sambrook-court, Basinghall-street, London, the Official Assignee in the matter of this bankruptcy, and give notice to Messrs. Lindsay and Mason, Solicitors, No. 84, Basinghall-street, London.

and this was repeated in the edition of 21<sup>st</sup> October 1853, so he was evidently somewhat lax in submitting to the inevitable. A "Chapman" was apparently a "peddler or dealer of goods, usually itinerant, going from village to village" or "a dealer of goods from a stall", hardly appropriate for steam engines, but perhaps he had other sidelines! He eventually turned up, as in the 16<sup>th</sup> December edition (after repeating the above prologue):-

facturer, Dealer and Chapman, has, on the application of the said bankrupt, appointed a public sitting under such Petition, to be held before Edward Holroyd, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Commissioners of the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 10th of January next, at twelve at noon precisely, at the Court of Bankruptcy, in Basinghall-street, London, for the allowance of the Certificate of the said bankrupt's conformity to the laws now in force concerning bankrupts, according to the form and subject to the provisions of the Statute, passed in the Parliament holden in the twelfth and thirteenth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "The Bankrupt Law Consolidation Act, 1849;" this is to give notice, that such Court will sit, at the time and place above mentioned, for the purpose aforesaid; when and where any of the creditors of the said bankrupt, who shall have given due notice of their intention to oppose, may be heard against the allowance of such Certificate, and the same will be allowed, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary, or such other order will be made therein as the justice of the case may require.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1854 we read:-

**T**HIS is to give notice, that the Court acting in the prosecution of a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed on the 20th day of July, 1853, against Alfred Horlock, of Northfleet, in the county of Kent, Steam Engine Manufacturer, Dealer and Chapman, did, on the 11th of July, 1854, allow him the said Alfred Horlock a Certificate of the second class, and that such Certificate will be delivered to the said bankrupt, unless an appeal be duly entered against the judgment of such Court, and notice thereof be given to the Court.

Despite the above apparently ending the matter, our Alfred was committed to the debtor's prison at some point soon after, as was still the custom of those times. (Charles Dickens was a staunch campaigner for the abolition of the practice. His novel "Little Dorrit" of 1857 describes vividly the conditions and circumstances of the victims of this iniquity and their families). In the London Gazette of 12<sup>th</sup> August 1856, he appears on the list of petitioners for release:-

Alfred Horlock, late of No. 1, Lawn-terrace, Northfleet,  
Kent, Engineer.—In the Gaol of Maidstone.

In September, he was summonsed before the court to make his appeal:-

**COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT  
DEBTORS.**

See Notice at the End.

The following **PRISONERS**, whose Estates and Effects have been vested in the Provisional Assignee by Order of the Court for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, and whose Petitions and Schedules, duly filed, have been severally referred and transmitted to the County Courts hereinafter mentioned, pursuant to the Statute in that behalf, are ordered to be brought up before the Judges of the said Courts respectively, as herein set forth, to be dealt with according to Law :

Before the Judge of the County Court of Kent, holden at the Sessions-House, Maidstone, on Saturday the 6th day of September, 1856, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon precisely.

.....  
Alfred Horlock, formerly of Stone, near Dartford, Kent, out of business or employ, then of Hope-terrace, Northfleet, Kent, Engineer, and then and late of No. 1, Lawn-terrace, Northfleet, Kent, Engineer.

Evidently he was successful, as no further mentions were found afterwards. His factory had been sold to Bell, Wells & Co, shipbuilders, and this presumably enabled him to pay off his debts, and so secure his release from prison. The addresses, Hope Terrace and Lawn Terrace, were two adjacent blocks of small artisan dwellings on Lawn Road near to the Undershore, and show that the family's domestic arrangements have also suffered a considerable fall from the relative opulence of Granby Row. These houses were still extant in 1967 but are now demolished. For a time, Alfred stayed on at the works, as a foreman for Bell, Wells. From this rather sad debacle, we can deduce that his early contract for the two Dinorwic steam locomotives probably represents the pinnacle of his short business career.

A further blow came with the death of his wife, Mary Ann Horlock, at Lawn Terrace on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1857 of "liver disease"; she was just 30 years old. She was buried at St Botolph and her headstone survives.

**Kelly's Post Office directory of Kent, 1859** (published late 1858) lists in the Commercial section at page 640:-

Alfred Horlock, Engineer, at 4, Hope Terrace, Northfleet. He is also listed as "Engineer – Mechanical" on page 859, at the same address.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April 1859 at St Botolph, Northfleet the widower Alfred Horlock married **Mary Ann Loft**, the daughter of Thomas Beale Loft, a licensed victualler and his wife Mary. He was by now 36 years old; his bride was only 22, born at Gravesend St George in early 1837. He again shows his father as William Cormack, nurseryman, and his own occupation as engineer. They went to live in Gravesend, and Alfred found work at Messrs Fletcher's shipyard in the town.

In the **1861 census** we find Alfred with his new wife and son, at 8, Clifton Road, Gravesend St. George:-  
Alfred Horlock, head, married, age 38, Mechanical Engineer, born Northfleet,  
Mary, his wife, aged 24, no occupation, born Gravesend,  
Harry, son, aged 1, born Milton (which is near Gravesend). They have one general servant, Martha Jackson aged 15.

His children by his first wife are found living with his father-in-law at the Ship Inn, Undershore, Northfleet:-

James Chayney, head, widower, aged 60, Publican, born Faversham, Kent

John, his son, unmarried, aged 29, assistant publican,

Thomas Sargeant, son-in-law, aged 30, publican,

Elizabeth Sargeant, his wife (daughter of head), 26, born at Faversham,

Jane Chayney, daughter of head, 18, unmarried,

Ellen Horlock, aged 12, grand-dau of head, born Northfleet,

Alfred Horlock, 9, grand-son, born Northfleet,

Alice Horlock, 4, grand-dau, born Northfleet (all 3 Horlock children shown as Scholars)

Ellen Jane Mary Horlock married William Butler in early 1868. In the 1881 census, they are living at 31, The Shore, Dock Place, Northfleet; William, 44, is a labourer, Ellen now 31, and their 3 children.

Alfred junior married Hannah Coffee (born 9/3/1857 at Chalk, near Gravesend), in late 1874 at Rochford, Essex.

**Alfred and Mary** went on to have three more children:-

Lizzy Loft Horlock born in summer 1861 and christened 3/12/1862 at Gravesend St. George

Mary Horlock (late 1862; christened with Lizzie)

William Beale Loft Horlock (late 1864, christened 3/3/1867 at St Georges).

Mary died in late February 1866 aged only 3, at Perry Street, Northfleet and was buried at St Botolph on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Alfred Horlock** was declared bankrupt a second time at around that time. The London Gazette of 13<sup>th</sup> March 1866 records:-

**Alfred Horlock, of No. 19, The Terrace, in the parish of Milton-next-Gravesend, in the county of Kent, Engineer, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Kent, holden at Gravesend, on the 19th of February, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to Mr. Francis Southgate, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 7th day of March next, at twelve of the clock at noon precisely, at the said Court, in King-street, Gravesend. Mr. Francis Southgate, of Gravesend, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. G. E. Sharland, of the Townhall, Gravesend, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.**

In this case, as there is no business mentioned, presumably it is what we would now call a personal bankruptcy. However, before proceedings could take their course, Alfred died of tuberculosis at Perry Street, Northfleet in late June 1866, aged 43 years. He was buried at St Botolph on St Peter's Day, 29<sup>th</sup> June.

In the **1871 census**, we find his young widow and her three surviving children living at 16, Kempthorne Road, Gravesend St. George:

Mary Horlock, Head, Widow, aged 34, Schoolmistress, born Gravesend,

Harry, son, aged 11; Lizzy L., daughter, aged 9, and William B, son, aged 6; all 3 children shown as scholars, and all born at Gravesend.

William died in the spring of 1877, aged just 12. Lizzie Loft Horlock married Alfred Stiles in the summer of 1898. In the 1901 census, they are living at Milton, Gravesend, with Alfred, 55, born at East Malling, Kent shown as a Traveller in Mineral Water.

In **1881**, Mary Horlock, by now aged 44, is staying with her younger unmarried sisters Emma & Emily Loft at 306 Holloway Road, London N, helping out in their fancy goods business. None of her children are with her.



## The Wiltshire Horlocks

The first reference we found to date for a member of the Wiltshire family is for the birth of **Isaac Webb Horlock** on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1728, at Trowbridge. He was the son of Benjamin Horlock (born c1700, Trowbridge or Devon?) and his wife Sarah (nee Mortimer), and was christened a week later on 9<sup>th</sup> August at Trowbridge parish church.

**Isaac married one Lucy Miller** (or Webb?) around 1753 (at Ashwick?). Daughter Maria Charlotte was born 1754 at Ashwick (she married John Wilkinson alias Dennison at St. George Hanover Square, London, on 5/3/1787; 5 known children; she died 31/7/1794 at Ossington, Notts). Son **Isaac William Webb Horlock** was also born at Ashwick, christened on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1756 at Trowbridge, probably at just a few days old, as was the custom then. A third child George was baptized on 19/4/1758.

Isaac senior became a respected, long-serving Magistrate for the County of Gloucester. He died “aged 96” on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1821 at his home, Ashfield House, Marshfield.

The next record we find is that **Isaac junior married Anne Holled Smith** (born c1759 at Normanton Turville, Leics, the daughter of Holled Smith and Elizabeth, nee Grace; she had younger brothers named Darrell and Knightley) around 1795-1800 at a relatively late age, had three known children by her, as follows:

**Isaac John Webb Horlock**, born at Ashwick, christened 1<sup>st</sup> November 1801 at Box parish church  
**Knightley William Webb Horlock**, born 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1802, christened 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1803 at Box, and  
**Holled Darrell Cave Smith Horlock**, born at Rocks, Marshfield, christened 8<sup>th</sup> September 1807, at Box.

Isaac William Webb Horlock died at Marshfield in 1829, aged 72, and his wife Anne at Bath in 1849. .

**Isaac John Webb Horlock** married Phoebe Boode (or sometimes, Boade) the daughter of Andrew Christian Boode of Bryanston Square, London, in late 1826. They had three children, Anna Phoebe born August 1827, Frederick Geldart Webb born June 1828, and Knightley Lionel born late 1829, who died aged just 5 in December 1834. Shortly before this, in May 1834, Isaac had divorced Phoebe, “to enable him to marry again”. From before 1828 until then, they were living at Rocks (or sometimes, Rooks), Marshfield.

Surprisingly we find that Phoebe in fact remarried very quickly, to Baker Dawson, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1834 at St. James Westminster, London. Son Frederick married Isabella St. John at Kensington, London, in 1863. Daughter Anna Phoebe Horlock married Joseph James Ernest Ely in 1845.

Isaac seems to have been what we would now call a “property speculator”, and was involved in various court cases over many years, firstly an inheritance dispute stemming from his divorce, then in buying various properties with large mortgages on which he defaulted on the payments. Like Alfred Horlock, he was declared insolvent in 1853, and then tried to prove by devious means that he had inherited some of them. He is not to be found in the censuses from 1841-61 inclusive; perhaps he was operating in this period under an assumed name! The 1871 entry for him is interesting (ref: RG10 4282 p6, at Whixely Hall, Yorkshire):-

Isaac J. Horlock, Pensioner, Widower, aged 70, occupation “Inheritor of Oakfield Manor, (&) late owner of the E/Ea (illegible), born Wiltshire: Box. Whixely Hall (a few miles east of Knaresborough) appears to be some sort of pensioner’s lodging-house. Isaac died aged 74 back home in south Gloucestershire (ref: 1875 Mar, Chipping Sodbury 6a 164).

**The Reverend Dr. Holled Horlock** became rector of Box St Thomas church in 1831, succeeding a JWW (or sometimes TWW) Horlock, surely an uncle, in that post, where he remained until at least 1859. He married Elizabeth Sudell, born 1808 in Blackburn, Lancs, around 1832, and daughter Elizabeth was born in 1834 at Box. Son Darrell Holled Webb Horlock born 1839 at Box (birth not registered; he later married twice, and died 1911 at Chipping Norton; no known children).

1841 census ref: HO107 1171 4 11, and 1851: HO107 1836 163, both at the Vicarage House, Box. His wife Elizabeth died (1858 mar, Chippenham 5a 35) aged 50, and Holled then married Charlotte Butler Clarke in London, 1863 Sep, Marylebone 1a 968. He died 1902 at St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon.

**Knightley Horlock** was living in Ashwick, near Marshfield, Gloucestershire by 1830, having married Mary Anne Maxwell (“daughter of the late Captain Maxwell”) in late 1826. Ashwick is around 4 miles north of Box. In the **1841 census**, they are still at Ashwick (ref: HO107 368 7 30 page 25):-

Knightley Horlock, aged “35” (i.e. 35-39), Magistrate,  
Mary ditto. aged “30”, and a son Maxwell aged 5 (who was born 1837 at Bath).

**In 1851**, they are again still at Ashwick (ref: HO107 1956 30):-

Knightley William Horlock, head, married, aged 46, Magistrate for Gloucestershire, born Wilts: Box,  
Mary Anne, his wife, aged 44, born London,  
Georgina, daughter, aged 19, born (1832) in Bath, Somerset.  
They have two female general house-servants.

Son Maxwell is away at boarding school in Bruton, Somerset in 1851. In 1855 he was enlisted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Surrey Regiment at Portsmouth. He married (Eleanor Tripp?) in late 1856 at Southampton (ref: 1856 Dec, Southampton 2c 45). He cannot be found in the 1861 or 1881 censuses; but in 1871 he is languishing in Nottingham Gaol (occupation: clerk) though why, and for how long, is not yet known.

Also in the 1851 census, **Thomas Assheton-Smith** is shown staying on his Wiltshire estate, Tedworth House. Ref: HO107 1683 232. He is aged 73, and shown as being born at Marylebone, London. Tedworth (or Tidworth) is about 25 miles east, and somewhat south, of Box and Marshfield, but probably the Tedworth Hunt, requiring the services of Knightley Horlock, met only once or twice annually.

**Knightley Horlock** wrote several books, pamphlets etc (sometimes under the pen-name “Scrutator”); some of those known are “Horses and Hounds; a Practical Treatise on their Management” (1855), “The Country Gentleman” (1863), and “The Science of Foxhunting” (no date known).

He could not be found in either the 1861 or 1871 censuses in England. Presumably he had commissions in either Scotland or abroad in this period?

In the **1881 census**, he is found at Christchurch, Hampshire (ref: RG11 1193 92) aged 79, an Annuitant (pensioner), with his wife Mary, aged 76.

Knightly William Webb Horlock died in late 1882, aged 80 (ref: 1882 Dec, Christchurch 2b 395)