

# CHAPTER B10

## The ASPLAND Family

### “ Viking Roots “

The first time that the Aspland name appears in our ancestry occurs in our 4th generation, where our GG-Grandfather, **Elias Fox Peachey** (b.1825, in Wainfleet, Lincolnshire) marries our GG-Grandmother, **Lettice Mary Aspland** (b.1826, in Soham, Cambridgeshire).

The Aspland name is not common, but seems to occur in small pockets around the country. Most of these small pockets can trace their origins to East Anglia. Our research into this name goes back to the early 1600s in the Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire. However, other writers on the surname suggest that it has Scandanavian origins (probably Denmark) and perhaps it was originally ASPLUND or ASPLUN. If that is the case, it seems very likely that early Viking settlers into the Fens were the ones who brought the name to the area. Our earliest known Aspland was ...

### Richard Aspland ( b.circa 1605 )

**Richard Aspland** would be our 9G-Grandfather. On 22nd July 1629 he married **Ellen Washington** at Downham, Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire. They had six children:-

William Aspland	b.1630	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Robert Aspland	b.1636	in Downham, Isle of Ely
George Aspland	b.1638	in Downham, Isle of Ely
May Aspland	b.1639	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Richard Aspland	b.1644	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Thomas Aspland	b.1651	in Downham, Isle of Ely

**William Aspland (b.1630)** married Ellen Harvey at Downham in 1653. They had four children:-

Ellen Aspland	b.1655	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Alice Aspland	b.1661	in Downham, Isle of Ely
William Aspland	b.1665	in Downham, Isle of Ely

**Robert Aspland (b.1636)** was our 8G-Grandfather (further details below).

**George Aspland (b.1638)** married Elizabeth (surname & date unknown) and they had four children:-

George Aspland	b.1660	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Robert Aspland	b.1669	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elizabeth Aspland	b.1672	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elizabeth Aspland	b.1675	in Downham, Isle of Ely

## Robert Aspland ( b.1636 )

Our 8G-Grandfather was **Robert Aspland** (b.1636) in Downham, Isle of Ely. On 26th September 1671 he married **Elizabeth Carter** at Downham, Isle of Ely. They had four children:-

Elizabeth Aspland	b.1672	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Ann Aspland	b.1674	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Robert Aspland	b.1676	in Downham, Isle of Ely (d.1729)
Isaac Aspland	b.1682	in Downham, Isle of Ely

**Ann Aspland (b.1674)** married William Aspland in 1696 at Downham. We have not confirmed the identity of her husband, but in those times, it was not unusual for 1st cousins to marry. Therefore, it is quite possible that it was William Aspland (b.1665), the son of William Aspland (b.1630) and Ellen Harvey.

**Isaac Aspland (b.1682)** was our 7G-Grandfather (see details below).

## Isaac Aspland ( 1682-1744 )

**Isaac Aspland** was born in 1682 at Downham, Isle of Ely and he was our 7G-Grandfather. By trade he was a thatcher and he married **Ellin Stinton** on 18th October 1703, They had 11 children:-

Robert Aspland	b.1704	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Isaac Aspland	b.1706	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elisabeth Aspland	b.1708	in Downham, Isle of Ely
John Aspland	b.1710	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elisabeth Aspland	b.1711	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elliner Aspland	b.1713	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Helen Aspland	b.1715	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Richard Aspland	b.1717	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Sarah Aspland	b.1718	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Ann Aspland	b.1720	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Marey Aspland	b.1724	in Downham, Isle of Ely

Isaac died in 1744. The details of his 1737 Last Will & Testament are as follows:-

In the Name of God Amen I ISAACK ASPLAND the Elder of Downham within the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge, Thatcher, being of a sound and disposing mind and memory Do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following.

I Give and Devise to my Son ISAACK ASPLAND his Heirs and Assigns for ever all that Messe and Tenement situate in Downham with the Buildings Garden and Yard thereunto belonging provided always nevertheless and upon condition that my said Son his Heirs and Assigns and every of them shall and will permit and suffer my loving Wife ELLEN ASPLAND and her assigns peacefully and quietly to have hold occupy possess and enjoy the said premises with all and singular the appurts aforesaid for and during and so long as she continues my Widow and to receive perceive and take Rents and Profits issuing out of the premises aforesaid for during the said Term without the let suit trouble Eviction or Ejection of my said Son his Heirs or Assigns or of any other Person claiming any Tithe from by or under them or any of them. And my Will and meaning is that in case my said Son his Heirs or Assigns or any of them shall hereafter disturb remove or expel my said Wife or her Assigns from her or their possession of the abovementioned premises or any part thereof or shall bring or commence any Suit or Action at Law against my said Wife or her Assigns for or by reason of her or their possession concerning the same that then and in such or cases my said Wife shall have and enjoy and I do hereby Give and Devise unto her all that Messe or Tenement aforesaid to have and to hold the same to her my said Wife for and during her natural life (she my said Wife keeping the said premises in Tenantable repair during her possession as aforesaid).

And also I Give and Bequeath to my said Son ISAACK my Bed and Bedding as it now stands in the Hall. Also I Give and Bequeath to my Dear Daughter ELLEN my Bed and Bedding as it now stands

in the Parlor. Also I Give and Bequeath to my Daughters SARAH and MARY my Bed and Bedding as it now stands in my Bed Chamber. And my Will is that the abovementioned Legacies shall be delivered to the said Legataries immediately after my Decease by my Executor.

Also I Give and Bequeath to my Daughter SARAH the sum of Three Pounds to be paid by my said Son ISAACK three years after the Decease or Intermarriage of my Wife. Also I Give and Bequeath to my Daughter MARY the sum of Three Pounds to be paid by my Son ISAACK six years after the Decease or Intermarriage of my Wife aforesaid. But if default be made in payment of the said Legacies at the times above indicated for payment then it may be lawfull for my said Daughter or Daughters to enter upon and seize the said Messuage with the appurts till their respective Legacies be full paid and satisfied.

Lastly I appoint my said Loving Wife ELLEN ASPLAND Sole Executrix of this my Last Will and Testament she paying my Debts performing my Legacies and seeing my Body decently interred. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this Eighteenth day of July in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King George the second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the Year of our Lord 1737.

*Isaac Aspland*

4 Sept 1744 Proved by the Oath of ELLEN ASPLAND Executrix

As far as the children of Isaac Aspland and Ellin Stinton are concerned:-

**Robert Aspland (b.1704)** married **Margaret Galley** on 29th November 1724 and they had four children:-

Margaret Aspland	b.1725	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Alice Aspland	b.1725	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elizabeth Aspland	b.1725	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Isaac Aspland	b.1731	in Downham, Isle of Ely

Margaret died in 1736 and Robert remarried to **Anne Tingay** on 20th November 1740. they had a further four children:-

John Aspland	b.1741	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Robert Aspland	b.1744	in Downham, Isle of Ely
Elizabeth Aspland	b.1748	in Downham, Isle of Ely
William Aspland	b.1753	in Downham, Isle of Ely

**Isaac Aspland (b.1706)** was the main beneficiary from his father's Will, having inherited a house and buildings in Downham. He married **Elizabeth Haywood** on 14th November 1741 in Downham. They had one child, Isaac Aspland, in 1743, but he died in the same year. Elizabeth also died in that same year, probably as a result of childbirth. In 1745, Isaac remarried to **Mary Steadman** in Wicken, Cambridgeshire. They had four children:-

Robert Aspland	b.1746
Mary Aspland	b.1749
Isaac Aspland	b.1752
William Aspland	b.1755

Isaac Aspland (b.1706) died in 1762.

**John Aspland (b.1710)** was our 6G-Grandfather (see details below).

## **John Aspland ( 1710-1787 )**

**John Aspland** was born in 1710 in Downham, Isle of Ely. He was our 6G-Grandfather. He married **Mercy Spark** in 1735 in Wicken, Cambridgeshire. They had four children:-

Mercy Aspland	b.1736	in Wicken, Cambridgeshire
Isaac Aspland	b.1739	in Wicken, Cambridgeshire

Helen Aspland	b.1741	in Wicken, Cambridgeshire
John Aspland	b.1744	in Wicken, Cambridgeshire

**Mercy Aspland (b.1736)** married John Drake in 1756 and died in 1780.

**Isaac Aspland (b.1739)** was our 5G-Grandfather (see details below).

**John Aspland (b.1744)** married **Mary Aspland (b.1749)** in 1773. This was a marriage between 1st cousins as Mary was the daughter of Isaac Aspland & Mary Steadman, and therefore John's father and Mary's father were brothers. They had two children:-

Isaac Aspland	b.1775	in Soham, Cambridgeshire
William Aspland	b.1776	in Soham, Cambridgeshire (d.1776)

Isaac Aspland (b.1775) became the Reverend at Stoneham in Suffolk. He married Elizabeth, but as far as we are aware, they had no children and therefore no descendants. He died in 1823.

From 1774 to 1823 John Aspland (b.1744) was employed as the Senior Master at the Free School in Soham. This later became Soham Grammar School. John died in 1825 and left a Will, although we have not obtained a copy. Given that he only had one surviving son, one we would assume that the majority of his assets would have passed to his son, Isaac Aspland. However, Isaac had died two years, so at the present time we are unclear how this was resolved.

## Isaac Aspland ( 1739-1781 )

**Isaac Aspland** was born in 1739 and was our 5G-Grandfather. In 1761 he married **Mary Marshall**. Isaac became a grocer in Ely. He died in 1781 leaving a Will, the details of which are below:-

This is the Last Will and Testament of me, ISAAC ASPLAND of Ely in the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge, Grocer, made on this fourth day of August in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and eighty one as follows (that is to say).

I Give and Devise All and singular my Messuage Lands Tenaments hereditaments and premises whatsoever as well as freehold and Copyhold situate in Downham in the said Isle and County with there and every of their appurtenances unto my Brother ROBERT ASPLAND of Wicken in the said County of Cambridge, Grocer, his heirs and assigns for ever In Trust nevertheless and to the Intent and purpose that he my said Trustee or his heirs or assigns do and shall as soon as may be after my decease will and dispose of the said Messuages Lands Tenaments hereditaments and premises and every part thereof for the most money that can be got for the same and the monies receiving thereupon order and collect my said Trustee his heirs or assigns to pay and apply to and for the several intents and purposes which are hereinafter mentioned of and concerning the Monies ensuing from the sale of my provisional Estate and Effects whatsoever.

I Give and bequeath all and singular my Household Goods and Furniture Goods and Chattel Stock in Trade Money Debts and Securities for Money Plate Linen and all other my Effects whatsoever and wheresoever unto my said Brother ROBERT his Executors and administrators In Trust nevertheless and to the intent and purpose that he my said Trustee his Executors and administrators shall and do as soon as conveniently may be after my Decease make sale of all such parts thereof or shall be saleable and out of the Monies owing therefrom and from the sale of my said Estate together with my Debts and Securities for Money I order and direct my said Trustee his Executors or administrators in the first place to pay off all my Debts as I shall justly owe at the time of my decease and my funeral Expenses and after payment thereof I order and direct my said Trustee his Executor or administrators to put and place out to Interest the residue of the Monies arising from the sale of my said Estates and Effects on the best Security which he or they can provide for the same and Yearly and every Year to pay and apply the Interest thereof for and towards the maintenance Education and bringing up of my Nephews and Neice WILLIAM, ISAAC and ELIZABETH sons and daughter of my said Brother ROBERT and ISAAC ASPLAND Son of my Brother JOHN ASPLAND of Soham in the said County of Cambridge, Schoolmaster until they shall severally attain their respective ages of Twenty one Years and when and as they do attain their respective ages of Twenty one years then in interest to call in the said principal together with Interest which shall be then raise and to pay and direct the same equally to and between them my said Nephews and Neice WILLIAM, ISAAC and

ELIZABETH Sons and Daughter of my said Brother ROBERT and ISAAC Son of my said Brother JOHN share and share alike Provided always nevertheless that if it shall happen any or either of them my said Nephews and Neice shall depart this life before he she or they shall attain his her or their age of Twenty one Years leaving no Infant lawfully begotten at the time of his her or their decease Then and in such case I order and direct the share or shares of his her or them is dying under age as aforesaid to be paid to and equally divided between the Survivors or Survivor of them share and share alike.

I hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said Brother ROBERT Sole Executor of this my Will hereby revoking all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made and it is my will and mind that my said Trustee and Executor shall not be responsible or accountable for any more Sum or Sums of Money than he shall actually receive by virtue of this my Will and the Trusts hereby in him reposed nor any of the said Trusts Monies so to be by him put out at Interest that shall happen to be lost or for the insufficiency of any Security or Securities that shall be taken for the same Provided the same happens without his wilful default or neglect And it is also my will and desire that he shall and do reimburse himself all such Expenses and changes as he shall be put unto in execution of this my Will.

And Lastly I do publish and declare the writing contained in this and the preceding sheet of paper to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said ISAAC ASPLAND the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in this and the preceding sheet of paper set my hand and Seal (to wit) my hand to the bottom of the said preceding sheet of paper and my hand and Seal to this last sheet the day and year first above written.

*Isaac Aspland*

Isaac & Mary had two children:-

Robert Aspland	b.1762	
Isaac Aspland	b.1765	(d.1765)

**Robert Aspland (b.1762)** was our 4G-Grandfather (see details below)

## **Robert Aspland ( 1762-1839 )**

**Robert Aspland** was born in 1762 and was our 4G-Grandfather. In 1790, in Downham, Isle of Ely, he married **Lettice Russel**, a daughter of Philip Russel and Elizabeth (nee Edwards) of Downham. They had four children:-

William Aspland	b.1793	at Downham, Isle of Ely
Rebecca Aspland	b.1795	at Downham, Isle of Ely
Elizabeth Aspland	b.1799	at Downham, Isle of Ely
Robert Aspland	b.1799	at Downham, Isle of Ely

Robert (b.1762) was employed as a thatcher and he was one of the beneficiaries from the Will of his uncle, John Aspland (b.1744, Schoolmaster of Soham), inheriting a sum of money and land. In 1827, he remarried to **Ann Carol** when he was 65 years of age. She had previously been the housekeeper to his uncle, John Aspland. He died in 1839.

## **Robert Aspland ( b.1799 )**

Our 3G-Grandfather was **Robert Aspland** who was born in 1799 in Downham, Isle of Ely. He was a thatcher and about 1821 he married **Mary Smith**. They had nine children:-

Susan Aspland	b.circa 1824	in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Robert Aspland	b.circa 1824	in Downham, Isle of Ely
John Aspland	b.1825	in Soham, Cambridgeshire (d.1825)
Lettice Mary Aspland	b.1826	in Soham, Cambridgeshire
William Aspland	b.circa 1829	in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Smith Aspland	b.circa 1833	in Soham, Cambridgeshire
John Aspland	b.1836	in Soham, Cambridgeshire

Alford Aspland	b.circa 1840	in Soham, Cambridgeshire
Ann Aspland	b.circa 1843	in Soham, Cambridgeshire

In 1841, Robert Aspland, his wife Mary and family were living at Sand Street in Soham, Cambridgeshire. By 1851, Robert and Mary were still living in Sand Street. The children living with them at that time were Susan (26), William (21, a harness marker), Smith (17) & John (15) - both agricultural labourers, Alford (10) & Ann (7) - both scholars. By 1881, Mary must have died as Robert is listed as a widower and he is living with his son (John) in Paddock Street, Soham.

## **Lettice Mary Aspland ( 1826-1887 )**

**Lettice Mary Aspland**, known as Mary Aspland, was born in 1826 in Soham, Cambridgeshire and was our GG-Grandmother. On 9th April 1844, she married our GG-Grandfather, **Elias Fox Peachey** of Soham, in Newmarket Register Office.

For further information on the above, see the chapter on the PEACHEY family.

## **Other Asplands of Note**

As mentioned at the start of this chapter, Aspland is not a common name, but during our research we found other small pockets of Asplands around the country and they could all trace their roots back to the same area in which we found our Asplands - Downham, Ely, Wicken, etc. In fact, they could be traced back to the same ancestors as our own, so we were distantly related.

### **Robert Aspland - Unitarian Minister**

Robert Aspland was born in 1782 in Wicken, Cambridgeshire, the son of Robert Aspland (b.1746) and Hannah Brook, and a grandson of Isaac Aspland (b.1706) and Mary Steadman. Therefore his G-Grandfather was Isaac Aspland (1682-1744) of Downham, the same person who was our 7G-Grandfather.

In the first half of the 19th century, The Reverend Robert Aspland was a distinguished member of The Unitarian Community, living in Hackney, London. The Unitarians had been the first non-conformist group to meet in Wicken in 1798 and their meeting place was at the 'Chestnuts', the home of the Asplands. His first schooling was obtained at the Soham Grammar School under John Aspland, a relative.

### **Robert Brook Aspland - Unitarian Minister**

Robert Brook Aspland was born in 1805 in Newport, Isle of Wight, the son of Robert Aspland (b.1746), Unitarian Minister. After early studies at Blackheath (where Disraeli was his schoolfellow), Tavistock, Glasgow University and lastly at York, he took up his first position in Bristol, where he married Jane Hibbert and then opened a boarding school. In 1836 he moved to Dukinfield and in 1858 to Hackney, where his father had ministered for nearly 40 years. After his father's death in 1845, he took up the editorship of the '*Christian Reformer*', a publication which his father had edited for many years until his death. He then edited it for a further 19 years. In 1846 he was made one of the secretaries of Manchester College (holding the post till 1857) and he became secretary to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in 1859. He died suddenly in 1869, aged 65. His obituary was published in '*The Times*'.

### **William Palmer Aspland - Cotton Mill Owner**

William Palmer Aspland was born in 1837, the eldest son of Robert Brook Aspland

(b.1805). He lived at Werneth Lodge, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire, which he had built in 1868. During the latter half of the 19th century, he was one of the most prominent figures in the industrial and social life of Hyde. He entered the cotton trade in 1853 and ran a number of different cotton mills, including Slack Mills in Hyde, which he developed into one of the largest industrial concerns in the district. He was also noted for his activities in public affairs. For twelve years he was a member of the Hyde Local Board, and was a Justice of the Peace for the county of Chester. Originally a prominent member of the Liberal Party, on the introduction of the Home Rule Bill in 1886, he became a Unionist, and was largely responsible for the Conservative victories at the elections which followed in the next few years. He took a prominent part in the work at Hyde Chapel, and liberally supported philanthropic and educational institutions in the town. Following his death in 1900, his widow and son presented Werneth Lodge to the town of Hyde, together with a sum of £1,000. The grounds of Werneth Lodge were opened as a public park in 1922, and in 1931 the hall was converted into the Arthur Palmer Aspland Maternity Home. Mr Aspland also had a residence at Windermere.

### **Lindsey Middleton Aspland - Queen's Counsel (QC)**

Lindsey Middleton Aspland was born in 1842, second son of Robert Brook Aspland (b.1805) and Jane Hibbert and he became a famous Queen's Counsel (QC). He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1868, when he joined the Northern Circuit, and was made a Queen's Council in 1886. He was a member of Convocation, a member of the Council of University College, London, and had been a member of the Bar Committee since 1883. He lived in Bayswater, London and when he died in 1891, his Will was published in '*The Times*' and he left over £27,000.