

The Paul Family of Attleborough appear to have their earliest roots in the nearby town of Hinckley just over the border in Leicestershire about 5 miles away. Richard Paul of Hinckley, the eldest of four brothers was born around the year 1530. His wife was called Elinor, and at the end of his life in 1584 he was described as a husbandman, a small farmer. We know very little about Richard's brothers Robert, William, Paul and sisters one of whom was called Helena. He had seven children, Robert, again a husbandman who died in 1599. Robert's wife was Anna Collins who died in 1616. A daughter whose name we do not know married William Taylour of Shilton and is known to have had two children. Another daughter Johanna married William Smyth of the nearby Warwickshire village of Brinklow about 1580 and they had two children. A third daughter, Elizabeth must have died young in 1568, then a son Hugo who was born in 1564 is unrecorded in later records. Finally Alice born in 1567 again, her later life is unknown.

The third generation in our history stems from Robert's son, also called Robert (1568-1649) who married twice. His first wife was called Alicia Ormeson whom he married in 1610. She died in 1642 and afterwards he married Ann who outlived him dying in 1659. In his will Robert was said to be a yeoman and constable. The Paul family's status appears to be increasing by this time. Robert had five siblings, Anna who was born in 1612 and died as an infant. In turn another Anna was born in 1615 who married Thomas Sansome, Sara was born in 1618, Ricus (or Richard) (1620-1636) tragically died as a teenager and finally Joseph (1623-1660) who is believed to have married Anne Wakefield. Like his father he was described as a husbandman. The forth generation descended from Robert were six children, Robert (1643-1673), Richard 1644 died an infant, An(n) was born 1645, Sara (1655-1658), Richard (1656-1695) described later as a baker who married Ann who died in 1739. They had at least three children. Finally there was another daughter of this generation Katherine (1661-1689). Despite only being thirty years old when he died Robert (1643-1673) had five children from his marriage to Sara (surname unknown). They were: Robert who died an infant in 1665, followed by another Robert (1665-1746). This Robert married Anne Sheet of Bilton, near Rugby in 1694. There was Joseph (1667 -), finally Elizabeth (1670-1702).

The family generally continued to live in Hinckley at this time and Robert's (1665-1746) son also called Robert (1695-1737) is described as a framework knitter a very common trade in Leicestershire over the next one hundred years. This Robert married Eleanor Kiss (1702-1727). The Kiss's were an old Nordic family long established in the Danelaw borderlands along the Watling Street border of Leicestershire and Warwickshire. It is highly probable that Eleanor died in childbirth. She had two children; Richard was born in 1727 and died at the age of eight in 1735. His sister Anne survived to marry John Fowke. Another of Robert's offspring was Katherine (1697 -) who married Richard King in Hinckley in 1724. There was Jane born 1701 of which we know nothing further. Another had the unusual name of Hussey (1704-1758) and from this generation onwards the Christian names of these Pauls, in various generations, take on a picturesque appeal. Hussey married Anne Tilley in 1734 at Hinckley. They did not have children. His trade was a carpenter. There was another daughter Elizabeth born 1707, finally George Paul who died in 1781. With this

George the migration from Leicestershire into Warwickshire begins. He was described as a Yeoman and may have married a relative, Elizabeth Paul, whom he wed in the parish of Mancetter in 1739. Later he is referred to as a victualler. He must have stayed in Mancetter because his son George (1749-1839) was born there. Mancetter parish included the Warwickshire/Leicestershire border community of Atherstone an ancient coaching town on the Watling Street where the Paul family leased a burgage plot. This George married twice. First Sarah Worster in Nuneaton in 1771 and when she died in 1702 he married Elizabeth Lees (1763-1837) the same year. I suspect that as was the case in those days that the Pauls were registering their marriage at Nuneaton, they were in effect living in Attleborough. All Attleborough parish transactions were then carried out at the Nuneaton parish church.

George (1749-1839) and Sarah (- 1802) were prolific producing nine children, Elizabeth (1771-1771), George (1774 -), Robert (1776 -) a silk weaver who had four children, three of whom died young), Hozea (1778-1845) a ribbon manufacturer and Attleborough village constable. Hozea married Dorcas Allcott in 1803 and had ten children. Sarah (1781 -) who married John Marston, John (1783-1856) was also engaged in the ribbon trade. Perhaps he married a sister of Dorcas Allcott, his bride's name was Ann Allcott (1784-1864). Then there was William (1785 -), William (1788-1801) and Ann (1792 -) who married James Nixon in 1810.

Amongst the offspring Hozea, (1778-1845) the Attleborough village constable was Naomi (1806-1853), Ezra (1817-1904) a builder and carpenter. Ezra married another generation of Allcott, Ann Allcott (1822-1866) in 1844. Bathsheba (1819-1915) does not appear to have married although she lived to the ripe old age of 96. She must have been quite a character and very knowledgeable about the family runes.

John's (1783-1856) children were plentiful. There were eight. Their family history is patchy. We know a great deal about George (1811-1869). He was a bricklayer and married Martha Petty (1812 -) in 1833 at Nuneaton. Peter (1813 -). Peter married a girl who was born in Derby Emma, and had two children, Emma born 1865 and Edwin who was born on 10th May 1866 and migrated to Poughkeepsie, New York state where he married Violetta Rogers. From these several generations of Pauls alive in America today are descended.

A third child Ann (1815-1817) died aged two. Jennet (*or Jenerett*) (1817-1834) at least one child called Jennet (*or Jenerett*). A most unusual Christian name. The circumstances of the birth, probably out of wedlock, for this teenager, and her subsequent tragic death, when her child was only an infant, suggests a sad story that can only be guessed at by her descendents today. Maybe she died in childbirth, and the little one, named Jennerett was living in the household of her uncle, Ezra Paul, in the 1851 census. Then there was another Ann (1819 -) who married Jon Baker in 1842 at Nuneaton, Eliza (1821 -) Elizabeth (1823 -) who married James Smith at Nuneaton in 1847. John (1825 -) who married Elizabeth Starkey in 1852. Finally Nathaniel (1828 -) who married Ann.

From George (1811-1869) descended his son also called George (1837-1911) who was variously described as a mason, a victualler and a farmer. George married three times, Hannah Nixon (1836-1862) in 1858, Martha Plumb (1836-1878) in 1864 at Shilton, finally Esther (1834-). By Hannah he produced William christened at

Ryton (near Bulkington) in 1859, and by Martha four children, George Edward (1868-), Charles Walter (1871-1933) a pawnbroker, Martha Ann (1873 -) and Joseph Arthur (1875 -) a farmer who married three times but had no offspring. It was soon after George's wedding to Martha Plumb that he went to live in Leicester. Martha and a relative (possibly a cousin) were working in service for a farmer named Sparks at Shilton in Warwickshire. The Plumbs came from Meldreth in Cambridgeshire as did their employer. Their eldest son George Edward (1868 -) was born in Leicester. By 1871 they were the licensed victuallers at the British Arms, 83 Asylum Street, Leicester. Later George Edward became a mineral water manufacturer. This trade appeared all over the country at this time as the craze for fizzy pop took off. He seems to have given up the licence of the British Arms in 1876 and moved by 1877 to 28 Grosvenor Street, Leicester. Martha died the following year. His third wife Esther was four years his senior and came from Coton in Lancashire. George continued to trade with his son William as a Soda water manufacturer. By now he was wealthy and bought a farm at Baron's Park, Kirby Muxlow. He was listed in 1900 as a farmer and grazier. In 1895 he was a member of Kirby Muxloe Parish Council. By 1900 William had completely taken over his father's business having moved it from Grosvenor Street to Spence Street, West Humberstone and William's home in 1902 was at 97 Bridge Street, West Humberstone.

George died in 1911 and his estate, after William had been provided for, was divided between four children of his second marriage. Sons George and Charles had gone to live in Somerset where George kept a jewellers shop in Taunton. Charles married Martha Kibby and became a pawnbroker in Bridgewater. Daughter Martha married Albert Whittaker, an engineer, inherited the household effects whilst the youngest Joseph took over the farm at Kirby Muxloe.

Before we deal with the Attleborough Pauls in more detail I will mention another family named Paul in the next parish of Chilvers Coton. These appear to be associated with Richard Paul who is described in the Hearth Tax returns as a clerk, presumably the parish clerk. John Burrowes (who had five hearths) at the vicarage died and was buried on 29th July 1665 and then for a year Richard Paul, described as clerk, although this might mean clerk in holy orders – a vicar – I am not sure, (Chilvers Coton historian Dorothy Dodds stated that Rev. Richard Paul was vicar between October 7th 1663 and September 28th 1665 in her "Handbook of Chilvers Coton Church" published in 1948) and he continued to occupy the vicarage until a successor. Edward Abbott, took over the incumbency. Richard Paul then moves to a more modest accommodation in the village starting with three then reducing to two hearths where we pick him up every year until 1674. He may have retired in September 1665 and died by 1684 as he is missing from the Chilvers Coton census for that year but two other Paul families are mentioned. Jefferey Paull (1651?-1699) described as a labourer aged 33 lived with his wife Frances aged 30, children Ann, 10, Frances, 8, Jefferey 6, Hanna aged 3. A separate household lists Richard Paull, another labourer aged 34, whose wife is not mentioned. He does have two children with him, Ann aged 12 and Frances aged 9, with what appear to be two other children living in separate households in the village. Jefferey, then 12, with John Knight, and Richard (junior) also aged 12 with Ralph Cox.

The naming patterns shown, are in my view, evidence linking these families together. This also seems to merge into the naming patterns of previous generations as Richard

is mentioned in the Hinckley records. Reference to the International Genealogical Index suggests that these might be the offspring of a Jeffery Paule and Hannah all born at Burton Hastings. Jefferye in 1645 (although this date is not based on a parish register entry and the 1684 census suggest 1651 as being his birth year), Richard 28th December 1645 and William 23 November 1647, these latter do appear to be based on parish records. Burton Hastings is not very far from either Attleborough or Chilvers Coton being the next parish to the former, and next but one to the latter.

In the Chilvers Coton census for 1781 taken by the Rev. John Rennie, curate of the parish, there was another generation of Pauls in the parish then. They were living in the Coton Woodlands now the Griff area. There was Richard Paul, labourer aged 50; Mary his wife aged 50. Jeffery, their son aged 11, Elizabeth aged 5, and Joseph aged 2

There is no doubt that one part of this branch of the Pauls prospered because by the late 18th century Jefferey Paul's (1651?-1699) great grandson, another Jefferey, (1736-1822) described on his marriage as a gent, wed Mary Ensor (1733-1801) on 23rd January 1754. Mary was the heiress of the North Warwickshire/South Staffordshire Wilnecote Ensor line, and the Ensor's 300 year old Tinker's Green, Wilnecote property then passed to the Chilvers Coton born Pauls.

Another Paul was sent to confuse the picture. This was the Rev. William Paul, one time curate of Nuneaton. He was born in 1678 and when he matriculated to St. John's College, Cambridge in 1698 he was living at Rugby. He was appointed curate at both Tamworth and Nuneaton before accepting the living at Orton in 1709 (presumably what is today – Water Orton). He is said to have preached in his parish church from Ezekiel xxi 26, 27 and for some reason to do with this, and the fact he was a Jacobite, was apprehended and brought to London for trial before being found guilty, drawn on a sledge from Newgate to Tyburn. He was hung, drawn and quartered. It is said that his terrible fate was probably the last meted out on a clergyman in England.

To return to Attleborough it is, of course difficult to piece together the entire history of the Pauls in the village. When they arrived and why? Nevertheless by the 19th century they were well established and reasonably prospered in the local community. Indeed by the 20th century their descendants were generous benefactors having accumulated land and property throughout the village.

The 1851 census for the various Pauls alive then is reproduced below. I have included those in the neighbouring parishes as well for completeness.

Location/Name	Kinship	Age	Occupation	Where Born	Notes
<i>Garratts Lane, Attleborough</i>					
John Paul	Head	68	Ribbon weaver	Attleborough	1783-1856
Ann Paul (<i>Nee Allcott</i>)	Wife	67	Ribbon Weaver	Attleborough	1784-1864
Eliza Smith	Dau./widow	30	Ribbon Weaver	Attleborough	
<i>Ladywood Lane,</i>					

<i>Chilvers Coton</i>					
Mary Ann Paul	Head	55	Farmer (15 acres – with one labourer)	Nuneaton	
<i>Abbey Street, Nuneaton</i>					
William Paul	Head	35	Cordwainer	Nuneaton	
Harriett Paul	Wife	34	Silk weaver	Nuneaton	
George Paul	Son	13	Cordwainer	Nuneaton	
Mary Paul	Dau.	9	Nurse	Leicester	
William	Son	7	Scholar	Nuneaton	
Harriett Paul	Dau.	4	Scholar	Nuneaton	
Samuel Paul	Son	9 months	-	Nuneaton	Died an infant, bur.13.5.1851
<i>Church Street, Attleborough</i>					
Ezra Paul	Head	33	Builder	Attleborough	
Ann Paul	Wife	29	-	Coventry	
Matilda Paul	Dau	6	Scholar	Attleborough	
Evarard Paul	Son	3	Scholar	Attleborough	
Fanny Hamond		15	Servant	Uttoxeter	
Joseph White		15	Apprentice	Chilvers Coton	
John Paul	(Son of John)	27	Ribbon Weaver	Attleborough	
Jenerett Paul	(G.daughter of John)	16	Ribbon Weaver	Attleborough	Dau.of Jenerett 1817-1834
<i>Church Street, Attleborough</i>	(living in household of John Brown aged 40 Wood-turner				
Edward Paul	(Son in Law of John Brown)	10	Ribbon weaver	Attleborough	
<i>Bull Street, Attleborough</i>					
Nathaniel Paul	Head	25	Bricklayer	Attleborough	
Ann Paul	Wife	22	Dressmaker	Burbage, Leics.	
<i>Abbey Street, Nuneaton</i>	(living in the household of Alfred Johnson)				
Sarah Paul	Niece	11	Servant	Nuneaton	

In Nuneaton Public Library there are two volumes known as the Nuneaton Diary (1810-1845). This is a transcript of a diary kept by John Astley, a local shopkeeper,