

Burton Overy to the World

by Frances Rouse, Jan 2012.

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- [Also available in .pdf \(PDF, 1.5 Mb\)](#)

In the Lady Chapel of St Andrew's, Burton Overy, near the parish chest, is a monumental slab dedicated as follows:

Here lie the bodies of WILLIAM, PATTY and PEGGY SULTZER children of JOHN AND CHRISTIAN SULTZER of this parish. WILLIAM died the 9th June 1773 aged 14 months. PATTY died 6th July 1779 aged 11 weeks. PEGGY died the 3d of August 1779 aged 15 weeks. (L5)



Photo: Toni Smith

When Toni Smith and her colleagues transcribed this they couldn't have known that a descendant of the Sultzers would one day find their work invaluable in tracing several branches of her family tree.

3. "Here lie the bodies of
William, Patty, and Peggy Sultzer,
children of John and Christian Sultzer,
of this parish.
William died the 9th of June, 1773, aged 14 months;
Patty died the 6th of July, 1779, aged 11 weeks;
Peggy died the 3d of August, 1779, aged 15 weeks."

franceserouse@yahoo.com

Christian (nee Woodward) was the daughter of William Woodward (born 26.8.1709) and Ann Dolby (of Burton Overy;) they were married at Illston on the Hill c.1744; Ann was born there about 1724 and died 15.2.1792; she was the daughter of William Dalby(sic) (1692-1750) and his second wife Ann and the family were probably related to Rev. Chapman Dolby. (See further Woodward information below.)

But how did the non-English name "Sultzer" appear in this small rural Leicestershire village? The connection seems to have begun with the Inclosure of 1765/6 when John Sultzer, whose origins are unfortunately unknown, arrived in the area to undertake the surveying, so crucial to this process.

JOHN SULTZER (1737 – 1782) COMMISSIONER. BURTON OVERY.

"Sultzer" is of German/Austrian/Swiss origin. John was a professional surveyor, working in Leicestershire and surrounding counties - Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Suffolk. Although more correctly his role was one of Commissioner, valuing for Inclosure (sic).

For more background on the village, visitors to this site might like to refer to *Aspects of Burton Overy* (see [Village History](#) page). But briefly, the Parliamentary Inclosures (sic) of 1760-1825 were the cause of major upheaval in the English countryside, resulting sometimes in the complete forced abandonment of whole villages. However, for some it provided opportunities - some farmers were able to move from their village and build a house on their land, and others could buy land and enclose it themselves. This process would eventually lead to the real estate development we know today.

I am indebted to the 1977 article by Peter Eden in *Norfolk Archeology* for the following[i]. As there is little evidence of specific surveyors in Norfolk prior to 1790 *a special interest attaches to the operations of two Leicestershire surveyors, John Sultzer and Samuel Davenport ... who sometimes worked*

franceserouse@yahoo.com

together ... at least eight times. (Davenport also came from Burton Overy and he and his family are commemorated in St Andrew's – see his entry.)

Eden is particularly useful on Sultzer's training: *His associations in Leicestershire point to a connection as trainee or junior partner with William Wyatt of 'Seany Park', near Burton-upon-Trent, who is probably to be rated the most influential inclosure specialist of his day in the north Midlands. Sultzer, as commissioner for the inclosure of Houghton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire (1765/6), was himself described in the award as 'now or late of Seany Park'. As commissioner for Burton Overy inclosure (also 1765/6), Sultzer replaced William Wyatt of Seany Park ... ' (The business of ... William Wyatt of Seany Park ... was in existence as early as 1741 and his prodigious output would hardly have been possible without a sophisticated organization providing reliable assistance both in the field and in the drawing office. For example, he was one of the commissioners for the Seagrave Inclosures of 1761.[iii]*

Eden continues: *Although in his earlier years (1771-73) Sultzer is known to have made one or two maps, he gradually ceased to do so in order to specialize in valuation, leaving Davenport to do the measuring ... The specialist valuer thus shaded into the agriculturalist whose function was not only to indicate what increased rent might be charged but also to suggest changes which could be encouraged or imposed by landlords[iv]*

Sultzer also surveyed Hillborough Hall, Norfolk in 1769;[v] also for the Hamond family of Westacre.vi And in the National Archives there is a *Map of an estate called King's Wood in the disafforested Forest or Chase of Leicester* surveyed by him in 1772, in the tenure of Henry Hitchcock.[vii] While on a civil note, he was listed as voting in the election of 1775.[viii] On January 28, 1779 Sultzer and Walter Watson of Shuckburgh, Warwickshire, were recorded as wanting to partition Trysts Manor or Truss's in Blakeley, co. Northampton.[ix] The last professional reference to him was 22 July 1782 when he and Henry Walkery of Thurmaston were empowered to enclose some 300 acres of Mountsorrel's open

franceserouse@yahoo.com

fields and common grounds.[x] One of the 'percs' of the position of parish surveyer of roads was that the *herbage from the verges of fenced roads was to belong* to them.[xi]

Meanwhile, he had met Christian Woodward at Burton Overy. She was born on 27 March, 1749, and on 19th March 1771 in St Andrew's, they were married. Her family had already been in the village at least since her great-grandfather John Woodward's birth in c.1642 – he died there in 1706. An earlier Woodward, Bartholomew (1553-1593) who married Isabel Ward in 1578, was also probably related. Many of her Woodward and other relatives were commemorated in the church (see separate entry.)

As we have seen three of the Sultzer's children died very young. Those children who survived were Katherine (c.10.2.1774 - 24.4.1852), Mary (c.28.3.1775), Ann (c.18.4.1776), another William (c.30.12.1777,) and John (2) (c.29.12.1782). K/Catherine married Samuel Alston, a solicitor from an old Suffolk family, at St Martin's, Leicester on 31.12.1798. Mary Sultzer married William Wheldale a draper of Leicester, on 5.4.1796 also at St Martin's. Her brother William, also a draper, married Elizabeth Geary, and they had possibly a daughter Elizabeth, and at least one son, another John (3) (1802 – 1861) who became a successful textile manufacturer and Alderman in Norwich, Norfolk. (The textile connection can go back as far as Sir John Pulteney include (c.1290-1349) (see *Aspects of Burton Overy*,) who owned a cloth mill; and extended to the 1850's when the hosiery (and shoe) industries of Leicester needed outworkers from surrounding villages.) William may have had something to do with this given his son's future in woollen manufacture, which included the famous "Norwich" (also called Paisley) shawls of the 1860's and 1870's. William married again and had at least one daughter Anne - tragedy followed when father and daughter (aged 24) were buried on the same day at St Martin's 4th November, 1839.

How John Sultzer himself died on 26th December, 1782 is a mystery; he was only 44. Very sadly for the family, their youngest son John (2) had been born only

franceserouse@yahoo.com

seven months before. He was baptized on the same day at his father's funeral, the 29th. There is no indication in John (1's) Will made 6 months before on 5th June, that he was ill, but there are many burials of people in their forties in the graveyard. He left money and some property in Burton Overy and Great Bowden. His wife's sisters were particularly mentioned, Ann Nichols (see below), Mary Woodward and Elizabeth Hartshorne. The latter's husband William, Rev. Samuel Topp and William Lee were executors. Other local names mentioned were the witnesses Susanna and William Leach and John Mattock, and all are included in the gravestones and memorial stones at St Andrew's, providing a fascinating overview of the interconnectedness of village life of the period.

Other village families connected to the Woodwards were Burdett, Hodges, Freeman, Lee, Southworth, Dolby, Ward, Woodcock and Gamble.

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Will of John Sultzer, kindly supplied by Toni Smith. It isn't clear whether the his name is his signature, or has been written by the clerk – compare to the following will of William Sargeant – the capital "S" is very similar eg.

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franceserouse@yahoo.com

It is unknown if Christian Sultzer and her five surviving children remained in Burton Overy after her husband's death, but in 1796 her son John (2), was apprenticed to the printers Price and Gregory in Leicester. As an apprenticeship lasted seven years, he must have immediately then gone into partnership with John George Barnard in London in 1803, at 21. It is probably through this connection that John's sister Ann met his partner for she and John George married on 1st June 1805 at St Martin's, Leicester.

Coincidentally, Barnard & Sultzer's printing office in Water Lane, City of London, was virtually opposite Red Lion Court, across Fleet Street, the site of John Nichols' publishing house. In his *History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester* the entry for Burton Overy contains the following on the gravestone of John Sultzer's father in St Andrew's. It appears that this may be 'hiding' underneath the parish chest.

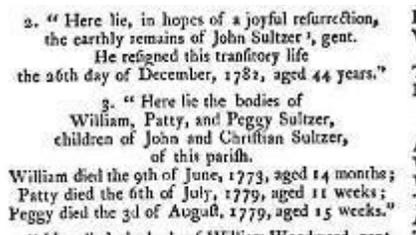
Here lie, in the hopes of a joyful resurrection,

The earthly remains of John Sultzer (3), gent

He resigned this transitory life

The 26th day of December, 1782, aged 44 years

(Note 3: an eminent surveyor) [xii]



2. " Here lie, in hopes of a joyful resurrection,
the earthly remains of John Sultzer, gent.
He resigned this transitory life
the 26th day of December, 1782, aged 44 years."
3. " Here lie the bodies of
William, Patty, and Peggy Sultzer,
children of John and Christian Sultzer,
of this parish.
William died the 9th of June, 1773, aged 14 months;
Patty died the 6th of July, 1779, aged 11 weeks;
Peggy died the 3d of August, 1779, aged 15 weeks."

Nichols

It is interesting to follow the further Sultzer generations from Burton Overy as a number of John(1) and Christian Sultzer's great-grandchildren followed in their

franceserouse@yahoo.com

ancestor's footsteps, only this time emigrating across the globe. One of John(2's) grandchildren, Reed Bishop Sultzer emigrated to Minnesota USA with his family some time between the 1871 and 1881 censuses; and his daughter Elizabeth Emma Sultzer married a James Ward and they also emigrated, to Manitoba, Canada, just across the USA border. And James, the son of John George Barnard and Ann (nee Sultzer) would also emigrate with his wife Charlotte (nee Fox) and sister to Hobart, Tasmania in November 1838. They would become the author's gg-grandparents through their daughter Charlotte "Emily" who married Richard Rouse.

Alston and Ingram descendants of Samuel Alston and Catherine (nee Sultzer) also ended up in Australia. William Evelyn Alston, cousin of James Barnard, would marry Richard Rouse's cousin, Elizabeth Rouse Fitzgerald and they would return to England. On another note, John Sultzer(3)'s only daughter Elizabeth Geary Sultzer would marry the son of one-time Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Challis, whose name was to last into history as a type of fine wool fabric.

The fate of the first twins Peggy and Patty seem to have been connected to other Woodward twins in Huntingdon, Hunts, who also died at birth in 1703; and would be replicated when James Barnard and his wife Charlotte lost their own twins in 1842. But happily their son Dr Charles Edward, had 2 male sons who survived, and another granddaughter also had twins who survived, probably due to more modern medical practices. (In another coincidence, Charlotte Barnard was born in Godmanchester just next to Huntingdon.)

ANN NICHOLS was Christian Woodward's sister (b. 1747); she married John Nichols of Spa Garden, Leicester, 5 March 1771. There is a memorial to them both and 2 children in St Andrew's (below.) She died 20 June 1805, 3 weeks before her niece Ann Sultzer married John George Barnard in Leicester. John Nichols died 6 October 1815. Their daughter Ann died in 1806; and son George in 1811.

franceserouse@yahoo.com



Author note: Frances Rouse is a writer, particularly interested in history. Her play *Counting Icebergs* about Captain Cook's wife, Elizabeth, was performed in English in Ukraine in 2008.

Sources: Grateful thanks to the transcribers of the memorial stones and especially Toni Smith for John Sultzer's Will and permission to use her photo of the memorial stone.

More detailed information on John's professional life can be found in *Leicestershire Historian*. No.47.

History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester in four volumes in 8 parts (1795-1812) by John Nichols. Vol.2 p 536 Supplied by Rootschat 19.6.09

Note: Genealogical information accessed from Familysearch IGI, Ancestry

[ii] Norfolk Records Office. *Norfolk Archeology*. Norfolk and Norwich Archeological Society. Vol.36, part 2. pp 120-123, p143 . 1975. Article: *Land Surveyors in Norfolk 1550-1850 Part II: The Surveyors of Inclosure* by Peter Eden.

[iii] Note: As above

[iv] As above

[v] National Archives. Norfolk Record Office: Mills of Hillborough, Norfolk. Cat. Ref: Hil 1.5.2009

[vi] National Archives. Norfolk Record Office: Hamond of Westacre Cat. Ref. HMN. 1.5.2009

[vii] The Catalogue of The National Archives Accessed 1.5.2009

[viii] As above – p533

[ix] National Archives. Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office: Conant MSS/ cat. Ref. DG11 1.5.2009

franceserouse@yahoo.com

[x] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountsorrel> 30.6.09

[xi] <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22043&strquery=nichols> 5.7.11

[xii] As previously

Note: Genealogical information accessed from Familysearch IGI, Ancestry