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SALISBURY
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23 February 1997

Dear M S Longuet-Higgins,

The LONGUET Family

I have found your name and address in the telephone book and hope you do not mind my writing to ask if you can help with information about the **Longuet** family.

As part of my amateur interest in family history, I should like to widen my knowledge of this part of my "family tree". If you can help me with any details on the Longuets, I shall be most grateful; if, however, you cannot assist me or are not interested, I am sorry to have troubled you.

My Gt. Gt. Grandfather, John **Hancock**, married Elizabeth **Longuet** in Bath in 1811. Elizabeth was the daughter of Benjamin and Mary **Longuet** and had two sisters -- that I know of -- Theresa and Mary (or Maria) Caroline. From reference books and the work of other researchers, I have discovered that Theresa married John **Higgins**, of Turvey Abbey, Bedfordshire, and that some of their descendants used both names, i.e. **Longuet Higgins**. Is this the same family as yours? The other sister, Mary, married Richard **Orlebar**. A tree is enclosed to show these people.

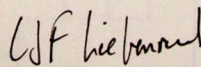
I should very much like to know where Elizabeth, my Gt. Gt. Grandmother, spent her widowed years, between 1839 and 1861, and whether she kept in touch with her sisters and their families during this time; also where she is buried.

Going further back, I am keen to know more about her father, Benjamin, and his origins. It has been suggested that the family may be Huguenot, but, as yet, I've not been able to confirm this.

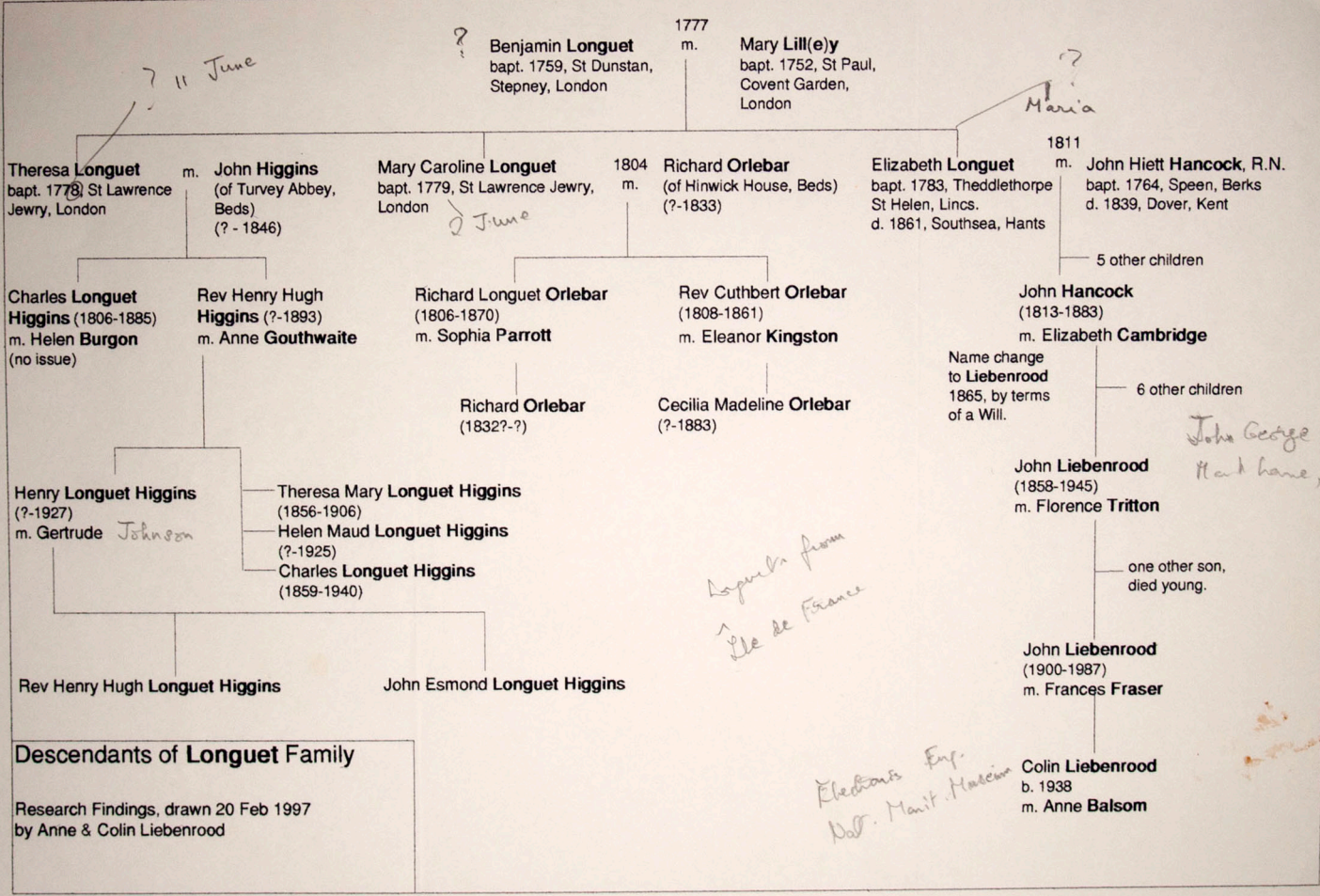
I must emphasise that much of the information on this tree has come from reference books and the research of other people, so its accuracy cannot be vouched for in every case. Any corrections or additions you can provide will be most welcome.

If you can help and would like to reply, I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Yours sincerely



Colin Liebenrood



Descendants of Longuet Family
 Research Findings, drawn 20 Feb 1997
 by Anne & Colin Liebennood

Gage Farm
Branch Road
Comberton
Cambridge CB3 7DH

6 April 1997.

Dear Mr Liebenwood,

Thank you for your letter of February 23rd which my wife showed me on my return from California last Tuesday. I am very interested to hear of your connection with our family through the daughters of Benjamin Longuet, and shall be glad to share with you any information concerning that family.

I have in front of me a pedigree of the Higgin's family, of Turvey, Bedfordshire, which is taken from pp. 192-3. of Harvey's History of Willey Hundred, Bedfordshire, a book I have not seen. It indicates that my great-great grandfather John Higgin's, b. 1768,

d. 1846, who lived for many years at Turvey Abbey, married, in 1804, Theresse Longuet, "eldest of the four daughters, coheiresses of Benj. Longuet, esq. of Louth and Bath. b. 20 May 1779: d. 5 Sep. 1845, aet. 66. (See the Orlebar pedigree, p. 392-3.)" Possibly the page numbers refer to Harvey's book.

On the same sheet there is a note as follows: "The elder branch of the Family quarters LONGUET, viz. On a field azure, a fess or: in chief, three leopards' faces of the same: — concerning which Family, see [Gen. Sir J. H. Lefroy's] History of the Family of Lefroy, p. 22, also pp. 69, 194. Also pp. x, xv, xvi."

Some years ago I made some enquiries into the life of Benjamin Longuet, and I am fairly sure that his family were Huguenots from France, though at what date they came to England I do not know. The connection with the

names of Leboy and Elieber makes the Huguenot ancestry very probable. I believe that this group first settled at Canterbury in Kent. I am certain that Benjamin Longuet was a banker, who at one time practised in Louth, Lincolnshire, and afterwards moved to Bath, which at that time (early 1800's) was a fashionable social centre, as you will know - (I recently read Jane Austen's description of it in "Northanger Abbey").

There is a family tradition, which I received through my father (who was not always completely accurate) that Benjamin L. was at one time a member of the Bank of England. This institution originated in the eighteenth century, I believe.

We still have in our house a fine portrait (in oil) of Theresa Longuet - she appears as a kindly and attractive, even beautiful, lady. After her marriage

to John Higgins. They lived for the rest of their lives at Turvey Abbey, where he was a very pious country squire and J.P., though not without humour. He has left us many water colour sketches and paintings of his estate and the surrounding countryside. They had three children: Charles Languet H., Mary, and Henry Hugh H., of whom the last is my great grandfather.

That is about all that I can tell you at present. It is possible that your enquiry will stimulate me to do further research into the family history. In any case I should be very interested to know more about yourself and whatever you discover.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Languet-Higgins.

P.S. In a few days' time I shall be returning to San Diego, California, where I have a job as a research scientist. I recently retired from my professorship here, but in America there is no retiring age. I am 71.