

By Eileen Marby,
Wilfrid Scott's
Sister.

The Newbery Family

The Newberys were originally of yeoman stock in Berkshire, and then booksellers in the time of Queen-Elizabeth the First

The Pedigree (copied by Arthur Sullivan in 1904 from one in the possession of members of the family) is in two sections, one running from *Ralph Newberie, Master of Printing House to Queen Elizabeth and King James I. His son was Francis Newberie, born in Wolfines Coy Berkshire, who died in that place in 1681. He was buried at Whit Waltham. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Lowe, Lord Mayor of London and they had nine children.

Their second son, Henry Newberie (died 1679, aged 39) married Cecilie, daughter of Sir William Morton, Justice of the King's Bench. They had one son, Henry, and two daughters. The son, aged two in 1682, the year the Pedigree was drawn up, appears to be the father of John Newberie of Old Fish Street, Parish of St. Gregory, London.

John Newberie (later spelled Newbery) who heads the second section of the Pedigree, was born in 1713 at Lawrence Waltham, County Berkshire and died on 22nd December 1767. He married Mary, daughter of Martin Hornhill of Lawrence Waltham and they had two sons, Francis, the elder, and John. This second son died at the age of four and has the distinction of an epitaph written by the poet, Christopher Smart.

A book appeared towards the end of the nineteenth century called "A Bookseller of the Last Century" by Welsh which was the life of John Newbery and his son, Francis. My father had it in his library but it has disappeared.

*Volume 3 of Richard Hakluyt's Voyages contains letters from a John Newberie, dated 1583, on a journey to India. It is thought he may have been an ancestor of Ralph Newberie mentioned at the beginning of the Pedigree but no direct link has been made.

John Newbery, Bookseller.

(1713 - 1767)

John Newbery was a bookseller and publisher in St. Paul's Churchyard, thus carrying on the work (and in the venue) of his ancestor Ralph Newberie, Master of Printing House to Queen Elizabeth and King James 1st. Until the last War, there was a blue plaque commemorating him on the spot his shop stood in St. Paul's Churchyard.

He was the first publisher to have printed books exclusively for children (the first of these being "Goody Two-Shoes") and I quote here from a facsimile (pub:1899-1900) flyleaf of one:

FOOD for the MIND
or, a New
RIDDLE - BOOK
compiled for the
Use of

The Great and the Little
GOOD BOYS and GIRLS
ETC

Printed etc by F. Newbery Jun. at
Number 65, St. Paul's Church Yard

Newbery published the works of Oliver Goldsmith and they became friends. At one time, Newbery lived at Canonbury Tower in Islington (which is still standing) and persuaded Goldsmith to take rooms there; it has been said that as Goldsmith was inclined to be idle, Newbery used to lock him in, so he had no option but to write! (An early picture of Canonbury Tower is attached). I quote in part from an article on Canonbury Tower from "Once A Week" of July 6th 1867:

" The last nobleman who resided at Canonbury was William Viscount Fielding, Earl of Denbigh, who died here the 23rd August, 1685.

During the last century, Canonbury was occupied, says Tomlinson, "by transitory visitors, who went thither for fresh air or to pursue their literary labours in retirement. ...it was let in separate compartments or suites, each door having a knocker on the outside...Oliver Goldsmith came to lodge at the Tower at the close of 1762, as Mr. Forster gathered from Newbery's memoranda and account-books. Sir John Hawkins tells us that Newbery had apartments in the Tower and induced Goldsmith to remove there, the publisher being Goldsmith's responsible paymaster, at £50. a year--equal to twice the amount now. The landlady, Mrs. Elizabeth Fleming, stout and elderly, was, it is said, painted by Hogarth, one of Goldsmith's visitors.....While here, Goldsmith wrote his "History of England in a series of Letters from a Nobleman to his Son"

John Newbery

"....A number of literary acquaintances Goldsmith had for fellow-occupants of the 'Castle' (as Canonbury Tower was called)...formed a temporary club, which held its meetings at the Crown Tavern...Here ends the literary tenancy:-

'See on the distant slope, majestic shows,
Old Canonbury's tower, an ancient pile
To various fates assigned; and where by turns
Meanness and grandeur have alternate reigned;
Thither in later days hath genius fled
From yonder city to repine and die.
There the sweet bard of Auburn sat and tuned
The plaintive meanings of his village dirge;
There learned Chambers treasured lore for men
And Newbery there his A B C's for babes' "



'John Newbery receiving Oliver Goldsmith on the Introduction of Dr. Johnston'

The great lexicographer, Dr. Johnson, was the friend not only of John Newbery but of his son, Francis.

Another friend was Dr. James, the inventor of an effective remedy, "Dr. James' Headache Powders" and this was most successfully marketed at the Newbery bookshop for many years. Successors to John (and later Francis, his son) including the Leblanc Newberys were actively carrying on this section of the business in 1896.

Francis Newbery
(1743-1818)

Francis Newbery, sole surviving son of John, was born at St. Lawrence Reading in 1743. At private schools for the groundwork of his education, in 1758 he entered Merchant Taylor's School, on the advice of his father's friend, Dr. James. He was then living in St. Paul's Churchyard. In 1762, he went to Trinity College, Oxford where he studied medicine and Classics. Oxford did not afford him all he required connected with physic (very important in his father's bookselling business) and in the winters of his third and fourth years there, he was a pupil of Dr. John Hunter, the celebrated anatomist. At the beginning of 1766, he resolved to go to Cambridge, in order to get his medical degree more expeditiously and entered as a commoner of Sydney Sussex College.

Before he had obtained his degree, his father died in 1767, leaving him the whole of his medicine business and a quarter of the bookselling section.* He appealed to his father's friends Dr. Samuel Johnson and Dr. James for advice and they urged him to abandon the idea of practising medicine and to sell 'stamped' (patent) medicines.

He therefore came to London and in May 1770, he married Mary Raikes, the only daughter of the Governor of the Bank of England and a sister of Robert Raikes, founder of the first Sunday Schools. (John Fenton Newbery, their grandson, in a letter to his son Fenton, attached, gives additional information on the Raikes family).

Francis Newbery and his wife had a house, "Heathfield Hall" in Sussex (which is still standing, and occupied). They were both painted by the artist, Romney, (a coloured engraving of Mrs. Newbery's portrait hangs on my wall).

* A cousin, also named Francis, and somewhat older, had helped John Newbery in the bookselling business and presumably inherited the remaining three quarters. (attached)

I have there also two pictures of their children, John and Mary (the sole surviving daughter, who married Sir Francis Freeling). John was the eldest of Francis's seven surviving sons). There was another portrait of Francis, a miniature, painted later in life. In the Romney portrait he was wearing a powdered wig, but in the miniature, painted later in life, he has the silvered hair of old-age.

All these portraits, and many others, were owned by the LeBlanc Newberys - and doubtless Arthur Sullivan saw them there in 1904-5, because my copies came from him.

In 1905, the family sold the Romney portraits of Francis and his wife to the Misses Dawies, two collectors in Wales. On their deaths they went to the National Gallery of Wales in Cardiff.

Francis Newbery (called 'the Younger' to distinguish him from his cousin who was also in the bookselling business) had success in his business and distinction in public life; in 1795, he became High Sheriff of Sussex). He was an accomplished musician and poet*. He died on 17th July 1818.

John Newbery **
(1774-18??)

John, Francis' son, was born in January 1774. He was a Lt. Colonel in the Sussex Militia and afterwards, for many years Inspector of the Ship Letter Office, G. P. O. London. His first wife was Miss Mary Cleaver, and there were two sons: John Fenton (b. 1808) and Edward (b. 1811).

His first wife, Mary Cleaver, died in 1820, and some time later, he married for the second time, Miss Frances LeBlanc, daughter of Col. LeBlanc of Chelsea Hospital. No date is given in the Pedigree for this marriage but they had several children and as the date of birth of Lionel LeBlanc (the second child) is given as 1837, one can presume the marriage would have been in about 1834, at which time John Fenton and Edward would have been

*My father had in his library a book of verses by Francis Newberry published in 1813 for private circulation.

** The Tree gives no date for John's death, oddly enough, (nor does his son John Fenton). It merely mentions his burial at Kensal Green Cemetery.

grown-up. I believe this second marriage led to great resentment on the part of what John Fenton called 'the Direct' line. At the time, their father would have been sixty - which in those days would have been considered old to embark on a second marriage to a young girl of child-bearing age.

I was told both Colonel LeBlanc and John Newbery had become devotees of some religious sect which predicted an early end of the world, and secure in that belief John was prepared to marry LeBlanc's daughter, who was about seventeen. They then proceeded to have a family, and on John's death, the LeBlanc Newberys inherited everything: the business interests, and all the household effects, plate, jewelry, etc (including the Romney and other portraits.)

Obviously John Fenton and Edward (or his widow, he died in Italy in 1842, leaving two small children) would have resented this. In his letter to his son, Fenton, about his family, John Fenton says little of his father.

On the other hand, evidently Edward (John Fenton's oldest son, who was living in England) and Alice Maud Sullivan were quite prepared to be friendly with Arthur Leblanc Newbery (see his letter , copy of which is attached.)

When I came to school in England, my mother's second cousin, Mrs. Carver (nee Theodora Newbery, a granddaughter of Edward) told me a great deal about the Newberys, including the story of her great-grandfather's second marriage. The Leblanc Newberys had made overtures of friendship to her and her brother, Guy, but she refused to respond. So I never met them. I was devoted to her and became fascinated with the history of the family.

When I came here to live, in 1950 I was taken to Canonbury Tower in a quite different connection, and then realised the connection with John Newbery. It is still unchanged. A friend told me of a Francis Newbery (obviously one of the LeBlanc family) a very old man, with no family, who had a house full of Newbery treasures - and suggested I make myself known to him. Alas! I never did.

The patent medicine business, started by John Newbery and Dr. James and continued by the Leblanc Newberys, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1896. It was taken over by the firm of Burroughs & Wellcome early in the present century.

COPY of a letter written 11 Dec. 1905 from Herts. England
from Arthur LeBlanc Newbery to his cousin Alice (Mrs. W.W.Sullivan)
at Charlottetown (He was a son, by his second marriage, of
Col. John Newbery, thus a half-brother of Mrs. Sullivan's father)

My dear Alice,

Your nice letter has an effect, you see. The idea of your both coming
here is exceedingly good, but, to benefit you two and us Newberys
you must give effect to it & let us shake you by the hand. This will
be a good move. There are about 17 Newberys here to see and speak
to, though six grown-up ones have died since 1898.

How fond you are of young people, your own especially. That is
an excellent feature! & don't they, dear things, return it? To see
them growing up & rearing families is interesting study.

This neighborhood abounds with links of connection with the family
80 to 90 years ago. We walk on the roads my dear father trod so long
ago as that. I came across a paper saying he was in the ship letter
department of the general Post Office in London about 1816 to 1834
when his brother-in-law, Sir Francis Freeling, first Baronet, was Secretary.
The house he lived in adjoining Hadley Church $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour's walk from
here, is there still, also the tombstone under which his first wife
Mary Cleaver, & five or six children's remains lie. She died in 1820
and these children were your father's brothers & sisters.
Then there are the houses on Hadley Green where my dear wife's mother
lived 50 odd years since. Next the edifice that I leased about 29
years ago, when we left London and a few doors off, that in which
"Mrs. Edward", your father's brother Edward's widow lived, upwards
of half a century since. Your dear brother Edward wrote (9 Aug. 1886)
from the baths of ~~Livorno~~ ^{Lucca} Italy that 'in this place my uncle, &
godfather Edward too died & on the wall of the Church is a large
memorial tablet with these words, 'Sacred to the memory of Edward
Newbery, late of the East India Madras Civil Service, who died
at this place, 27 August 1842, aged 31 years "Whom have I in Heaven
but Thee" Psalm 73, verse 25.

Now I'll copy a letter of your father's: "I met him (Captain
Chas. Newbery, Bengal Cavalry) in Italy about the year 1833 or 34,
when he had come to Europe on furlough. He called on me at Siena, Italy,
but I was absent on tour. We met at Florence, passed two or three
days together at the Locanda di Porta Rossa amusing ourselves with
recollections of our childhood. My cousin Anne (Charles' wife) came

"to see Oxford whilst I was there, together with a Mrs. Raikes, the widow of Mr. Raikes, partner of my uncle Charles (Raikes & Newbery Mincing Lane, London). I lionized them all over Oxford, gave them luncheon in my rooms at Christchurch, took them over to Blenheim Palace, the Duke of Marlborough's, to see the famous collection of pictures etc. Blenheim was an estate purchased by the Nation, named after the battle of Blenheim, & presented by Parliament to the first Duke as a reward for that famous victory. In the same way Streatfieldsaye was presented to the 1st Duke of Wellington after Waterloo. The trees in Blenheim Park were said to have been planted so as to show the way in which the two armies were drawn up on that occasion, that is, in the same order. We used often to form a party to ride over to Blenheim & have a gallop on the turf in the Park. Once I remember having a pic-nic in the Park. The old housekeeper who showed the galleries told Mrs. Raikes she knew me well, as I often brought parties there (and consequently, fees to herself). I was told that Mrs. Raikes spoke afterwards of the gallant way in which I did the honours of Oxford on the occasion of her visit. "

"If you ever go to see Oxford, as I hope you may, take this very letter with you "

Your brother Edward kindly lent me this old letter and I copied what I have given you overleaf out of it, and returned it. Who now has it I don't know but this account you now possess as well as I. But I will just add the following. My Cousin Anne died young; her brother Charles got a very good appointment when he went back to India viz. the command of a Regiment of Regular Horse. He was thrown out of a tandem, broke his leg, and died in consequence.

This is an odd letter, very little of myself, the less the better! I hope it will be of interest to you. I am an old-fashioned old man, who am trying to keep up to date & am active yet & would do a bit of cycling but the weather is so wet. Gracie and I had a splendid holiday in the Isle of Wight last summer, and our cycles went with us & we rode them a good many miles & enjoyed the exercise and the sea bathing. I am thoroughly ashamed of myself for keeping you so long hoping my signature was soon coming. Here it is. Dear Percy & Ernest & Ernest's son of 4, my boys, are well. With my love to you all, Yours affectionately,

Arthur Leblanc Newbery.

** If one reads the letter to his son Edward Newbery from John

Fenton Newbery quoted by Percy & Ernest's son of 4, my boys, are well. "husband" not brother. It is obvious that this should be a change in the previous page.