

In her christening record in 1845 Harriet's residence is given as Woolbridge. Presumably this means the cottages adjacent to Woolbridge Farm as her father, Samuel, is a labourer. In the 1851 census the family's residence is given as Little Freemans. I believe this is the same place as Woolbridge and is not directly related to Freemans Farm. From this 1795 map we can see that Freemans Farm was not built at that time (I have superimposed it). There was a Great Freemans which is in the same location as the present day Page's Farm and Little Freemans is in approximately the same position as Woolbridge Farm.



Extract from 1" to 1 mile map by William Gardner & Thomas Gream 1795

In the 1841 and 1861 censuses the family residence is given as Woolbridge Cottages. In the 1871 and 1881 census it is given as Woolbridges. I assume therefore that the enumerator in the 1851 census was using the original name of the settlement and that Samuel and his wife lived the whole of their married life in the same place if not in the same cottage.

The following is a print of what I believe was Great Freemans on the above map.



Freemans, watercolour (17.2 x 25.9cm) painted by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm - 1773

At one time this must have been part of a large estate owned by the Marchant family and others before them but like so many big houses and estates expenditure exceeded income. Deeds held by the East Sussex Record Office give some detail of the history of both Great and Little Freemans.

*"By his will proved at Lewes 4 Mar 1749, Nicholas Earle of Chailey left a house called Lyes at East Chiltington to his son William Earle and pardoned his son John Earle from considerable arrears of rent on an estate in Mayfield (2/1). On 4 Aug 1794 his grandson Nicholas Olive of Chailey gent. conveyed a farm in Mayfield called Freemans (13a) with a malthouse with other lands in Mayfield and Chiltington to Anthony Morris of Ranscombe, South Mailing gent. to levy a fine to bar the entail (2/2-3). In Sep 1794 and Mar 1797 the property (with a house and land called Highland in Rotherfield) was mortgaged to Josias Smith of Lewes gent. (2/4,5) and in May 1799 to John Tourle of Landport, Lewes, gent (2/6-8). On 2 Oct 1805 Nicholas Olive (whose descent from Nicholas Earle is here laid out) conveyed Freemans to William Marchant of Mayfield yeoman and his trustee John Waghorne of Mayfield shopkeeper, who paid off the sum still outstanding on the mortgage of 1799 to John Tourle's executors, Henry Jackson, William Cooper and Thomas Tourle (late Cooper) all of Lewes, (2/9,10). William Marchant died 5 Jan 1823 and by his will (dated 11 Nov 1818) (proved PCC 14 May 1823) he left Freemans in which he lived (now 20a) and a house in several dwellings called Little Freemans to his son Thomas Marchant subject to his wife Elizabeth's use of the parlour and parlour chambers (2/11). William Marchant's estate was found to be insufficient to provide the legacies and on 23 Dec 1826 his daughters Elizabeth Wife of William Tooth of Mayfield farrier and Mary wife of Thomas Brooke Tooth of Mayfield yeoman discharged the real estate from their legacies (2/12)*

*On 4 May 1803 Thomas Marchant had purchased a field at Wool Bridge on the west side of the river from Richard Owen Stone of Mayfield gent. and on 2 October 1816 he purchased the neighbouring field from him (2/13-15)"*