

WHO WAS THE FATHER OF PATIENCE EDGOOSE'S SIX ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN?

Patience EDGOOSE's husband Stanton died on 17 March 1845 in the presence of Joseph BATTERHAM. Subsequently Patience gave birth to James (Great Grandfather of Michael James EDGOOSE) on 2 April 1847, Charles on 19 May 1849, William on 19 October 1850, Benjamin John on 19 May 1852, and twins Benjamin and Selina on 1 August 1854.

Burt EDGOOSE told me that he thought Robert, Stanton's elder brother, whose wife Judith had died in April 1842, was the father. He certainly never remarried and thanks to the land and money which his wife inherited from her grandfather a few years before she died he was able to describe himself as an 'annuitant' or 'of independent means'. He may well have thought it his duty to look after Patience and her children. Whilst no documentary evidence has been found, DNA tests in February 2006 on Michael James EDGOOSE and John Samuel EDGOOSE proved conclusively that Robert EDGOOSE was the father of Patience's son James EDGOOSE.

Before she died Bertha CURTIS (nee EDGOOSE) told me that as a young girl in West Walton she had heard a whisper that George BATTERHAM was the father of Benjamin. Impossible as it happens as he wasn't born until 1867! Raymond BENNETT told me in 1969 that the father of Benjamin and Selina was called BATTERHAM. Intriguingly, Joseph BATTERHAM was present when James EDGOOSE died and he informed the registrar. Joseph BATTERHAM married Mary Ann, the daughter of Joseph OLDFIELD who had married Stanton EDGOOSE's sister Ann in 1818, and had sons George BATTERHAM and John Stanton BATTERHAM. Of course this proves nothing, but it does prove that Joseph BATTERHAM and Patience EDGOOSE knew each other. Raymond BENNETT also told me that Patience was Joseph BATTERHAM's cousin.