

Notes on family of Hadfields



Derbyshire & Yorkshire



EDALE & Holderness

A handwritten account, in journal format, of a Hadfield family
deciphered and transcribed without changes from the original

With thanks to Roger Hurst and Graham Hadfield

Notes on the Hadfield family
Extracted from an old book in
“Ventnor Cottage” the property of
the Misses Hadfield - **wh.** (*abbreviation
of which*) was
written by my **grandfather** (who
resided at Bonchurch I of W.)
It was written sometime before
his death which took place
in 1852 –

<i>Self</i>	C. A. Hadfield
<i>Father</i>	Son of Charles Joseph Hadfield
<i>Grandfather</i>	Son of Joseph Hadfield
Gt -"-	Son of Joseph Hadfield of Derbyshire
-----	Son of Joseph Hadfield of Derbyshire
<i>Gt. Grandfather of my grandfather</i>	Son of Hadfield

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as on original*

Note by C. A. Hadfield. It appears from my Grandfathers narrative (written prior to his death in 1852) that his Great Grandfather had his property **injured** by the Civil Wars – The family of Hadfields – a Hatfield – **wh.** is probably the correct spelling – having taken a prominent part in the Wars of Charles 1st – many towns were named after the Hadfield family, who possessed, not only landed property but were much occupied in commerce in Spain, Portugal, & Americas as large Merchants. My Grandfather lost some £30,000, or more, when the United States threw off the **allegiance** of the Mother Country & confirmed their Independence by the Treaty of Peace in 1783 – His other losses were also considerable -

Hadfield family

of Saxon Origin

From the year 440 when the Saxons first were in England all families that have a Saxon origin can be traced. The family name of Hadfield was originally Atyfeldt, from which it has been changed to Hadfield or Hatfield; and which last made up spelling is probably correct and the manner in which the name should be spelt: as it is so spelt on the old family tombs in the Church of Edale, in the vale of Edale near Castleton in Derbyshire, where for many centuries the ancestors of the Hadfield, or Hatfield, family have enjoyed

their landed properties. It appears from “Camdens Britannica” that a branch of the family settled in Holderness Yorks and, a number of towns and houses have been names after them. The Hadfields, or Hatfields, appear to have taken an active part in the wars of Charles I. and were attached to the Royal Cause, suffering great persecutions and loss of prosperity from the Roundheads and Rebels.

The first emigrations: and alienations of the Hadfield property appears to have taken place in the reign of Charles I and their properties injured by the

Civil wars. One ancestor was killed at the battle of Rammilies, at Holderness, not far from Rotherham, a little south of Rack Abbey, Stands Langton – Morthan, where stood a handsome stone house belonging to the ancient family of Hatfield but which has been reduced to a ruin. Another branch lived at Hatfield Hall, near Wakefield, and which passed to John Hatfield Ray (latter named assumed) and which property was much improved; in 1768, (it having been rebuilt 1608, by Gorsare Hatfield a descendant of Sir Stephen Hatfield a branch of the Hatfields of

Holderness in reign of Henry VI (1425)

Joseph Hadfield who resided at his estate at Edale Derby shire had a son Joseph: and ancestors relatives in Holderness Yorks. There are entries in the Registers at Edale and Holderness showing the family name was spelt Heathfield, Hartfield, Hatfield, Hadfield.

Joseph Hadfield sold Edale and lapse of time appears to have prevented the eldest branch of Hadfields from recovering the property as it came by an heiress and was not entailed.

April 1904. visited Edale and
could only trace few tomb-
-stones in the old burial
ground which is situated away
from the recently erected church

In Memory of
George Hadfield
who has died October 17 1810
aged 81 years
also Ann wife of
George Hadfield
who died 21 February 1827
aged 90 years
also Sarah
daughter of George and Ann
who died December 19 1816

(George born 1719)

William Hadfield
son of George and Ann
who died 14 January 1860
aged 85 years

also

Mary his wife who died
October 4 1851
aged 72 years

also

George Hadfield
son of George and Ann
died September 11 1836
aged 79 years

also

Joseph son of George and Ann
died December 26 1845
aged 80 years

Hatfeild of
Newton Kyme & Laughton
Co Yorks

By sign manual
16 October 1844 Randolph
Gossip of Thorp Arch Hall
Yorks assumed the name
of Hatfeild

Arms quarterly 1st and 4th **ermine**
on a **chevron engrailed sable** three
cinquefoils or a canton **sable**
for difference of Hatfeild

Second & third per fesse
indented **arqent** & **sable** a pale
counter **charged** three goats
heads erased 2 & 1 and as
many crosses pattee fitchee
one and two of the first for

*Unusual words in above and below text appear to be abbreviations of heraldic terms -
e.g. ermine (erm) and sable (sa)*

fossip on an escutcheon of
pietence for Hatfeild **ermine**
on a **chevron enrailed sable** 3 cin-
-quefoils or

Crests First a dexter cubit
arm rested **sable** cuffed
argent the hands **proper** holding
a cinquefoil slipped or
the arm changed with a
cross – crosslet or for difference
for Hatfeild. Second 2
goats head – or –

Motto Pax

Nicholas Hatfeild of
Shiregreen parish of
Ecclesfield Yorks: son of
Robert Hatfeild, grandson
of

of William Hatfield
a Great Grandson of Robert
Hatfeild whose father
William was son of
Richard, Grandson of
Ralph and Great grandson
of Adam de Hatfeild of
Glossopdale, possessed of
an estate in the parish
of Glossop, buried 26
September 1558

note by John Hadfield

Where did you obtain your motto? (“Cartavi et vici”)

The undermentioned “Sancta Clavis Coeli Fides” has been used by our family for 100 years: but Coat of arms, crest and motto of our family **very** doubtful.

Heralds College not traced which family of Hadfields we belong.

Note by Charles Arthur Hadfield.

The crest is on the

silver plate belonging
to my Grandfather who
resided at Bonchurch
I of W. and which is dated
1700 to 1770 - hand
holding a trefoil.

The motto “Certave
et Vici” was selected by
me – on my marriage 1880
as being an appropriate
one for a man with no
means, who had to make
his way in the world
under difficulties. And
also because I could not
definitely trace a family
motto at that time which I since find is
“Sancta clavis cali fides”

Notes by Jos. Hadfield
Born August 16 1759 - died December 1852
aged 93 4/12 years

It is from my observation, not an un-
-common circumstance to find persons
of education, & of all ages, almost
totally ignorant of their ancestors;
their recollections being confined to
those who are nearly connected and
allied & whom they are in the habit
of seeing. I have complained to my
parents of their neglect of cultivating
the good will and **intimacy** with the
different branches of our family, who
were much separated; more especially
as they were respectable. The answer
usually was that it could be of no
use, as they were far removed. As
I am a parent of 12 children, whose

curiosity may lead them to make similar enquiries, I will **endeavour** to collect the most **material** facts that have come to my knowledge.

If I cannot boast of having descended from Titles, & **patrician** blood, which are often the result of chance or mere adventurous circumstances, I feel great satisfaction in being able to trace my origin of descendants. an independent line of ancestors who lived upon their prosperity & belonged to that class of gentlemen who are, at once, the pride & bulwark of England. The names of Hattfield, are heard of from the days when the Saxons first landed in England in 440. And with they never quitted; increasing their numbers until they

got possession of the country.
From this period you trace
all those families who have
Saxon origin. - Our name was
originally Atyfeldt – from which
it has changed to Hadfield and
Hatfield, & which last, I am
inclined to think, is, or ought to
be, our manner of writing it, for
I have seen it so spelled in the
tombs in the church of Edale,
in the Vale of Edale, near Castle-
ton in Derbyshire. Where for many
centuries our ancestors enjoyed
their landed prosperity.

It appears from “Cambdens Brita-
-nica” that a branch of our name
was settled in Holderness Yorks
& of whom that correct **writer of**

antiquity makes honorable mention.

That the name, & family, were in from times highly respectable is evident from the number of Towns so called, as well as many mansions, & I have seen the letters of some of my ancestors in the 16th century that prove their learning & acquirements, tho' in an age of ignorance, more especially in the B. Isles! My ancestors appear to have taken an active part in the Wars of Charles 1st * - & were attached with Royal cause & suffered great persecutions & loss of prosperity. I remember, when a boy, hearing my grandfather read "Butters Hubidras", of when he was very **fond**, as it exposed the Roundheads & Rebels & he

* Between 1625 - 1649

often remarked to his wife what he had heard from his father of the horrors & fanaticism of the Civil Wars: & how much his family now suffered. The first **emigration** & alienation of the family property, appears to have taken place in the reign of Charles 1st, at the period when my Great Grandfather appears to have injured his property by the Civil Wars, & also from having a large family to provide for. He had only one brother, who was in the Army, & who was killed at the battle of Ramillies; leaving no family. I am therefore **warranted** in believing there were no other branches of our family, except in the female line, & those I have never been able to trace.

It appears that my Great-grandfather living & dying divided his property among his sons, Joseph the eldest – (from whom I am descended). Thomas, James, Henry, John, & William. I shall proceed with the 2nd son – Thomas – who settled in Liverpool & was an eminent merchant. He never married, & when he died at a good old age at Manchester, where he retired after quitting business & is there buried in the Dissenting Burial ground, he left his property in equal proportions to his nephews & nieces. James the third son married, & settled in Yorks having a small estate with his wife. He died leaving only one son Joseph who married Miss Harrison, a clergyman's

daughter, had no children & I suppose now most be dead. I never heard how he left his property, but believe to female relatives.

Henry, the fourth son, was I believe a merchant. He died young leaving two daughters who lived much with my father until they married, one to Mr. Cole in Lincolnshire, he & his wife both died leaving one daughter who is I believe now living & married to a Mr. Warring in London – & known to the Kennedy's & Esdailes. The other daughter Miss Hadfield married Dr. Jackson. William, the sixth son, was in the navy, I believe, & died abroad unmarried & without issue. John, the fifth son, settled in Manchester, & became an eminent

merchant having acquired a good fortune. He had a large family of daughters who almost all married well. I shall endeavor to describe & make them known. I have seen more of them than any of the others. The eldest daughter I think died unmarried. The Second, Anne, married John Kennedy Esq, an eminent merchant in London; who experienced great *vissisitudes* (*mis-spelt vicisitudes*) & is now dead, leaving a widow with a large family who have all received a liberal education.

The eldest son – John Hadfield Kennedy is at the head of the Transfer Office in the India For. Service. He is married & has two sisters, married to persons of large fortune. One is Mr.

James Esdale, her cousin, who is very wealthy. Mr. Kennedy has a brother a Colonel in the S.E.J Military Service who is well spoken of. The third daughter married Benjamin Boddington, a considerable West Indian merchant residing in London. They are both dead: leaving one son who is one of the leading characters in the West India trade.

The fourth daughter married James Esdaile, the eldest son of Silas Esdaile – one of the Aldermen of London. They died, & the eldest son married his cousin Miss Kennedy.

They have several children: & possess very large landed property, besides great commercial connections. The

5th & 6th daughters married well, & died leaving no issue. The 7th, Sarah married Mr. Fern (Fenn?) leaving one son.

I have now recapitulated all I know of the various branches of my father's family, it is evident no one male heir remains, but from his issue, as he was only child of Joseph the eldest son. My grand-father (who lived to be 75 years) lived always in Derbyshire upon a small property. He was highly respected by all the first gentlemen in his neighborhood, & was often noticed by the Duke of Devonshire, grandfather of the present Duke, with whom I believe he had some connections in the lead mines. As I was named after him he was desirous of having me

with him. My early youth was passed under his roof & so kind and affectionate was the treatment I **recd** (*abbreviation of received*) from him, & my **worthy** grandmother, that I feel at this moment the most grateful recollection, & my memory furnishes me now, with innumerable recollections of their virtues & goodness. It is with pleasure I can assure my children that there never existed two more moral, religious, & amicable, beings than these our ancestors: & they were beloved by rich and poor. The latter found in them constant friends of **relief**. I have seen their house crowded with individuals, some asking advice, others assistance, in various ways, particularly medicines, for at that time Country Apoth-

-caries were but little known, the wealthy, & the humane, took charge of their neighborhoods. My grandmother died at 84 & I have heard some of their friends say they were considered the handsomest couple in the County of Derby. Her maiden name was Hinchcliff from Yorks & she had one only elder sister who married John Bray Esq of Holmfirth some miles from Huddersfield. They had one son John, who married, & became a widower without children. He was about the age of my father, his cousin, who of course was considered as his heir, I, & my brother by turns passed some weeks with him at our vacations, we were delighted to go to see him as he was a liberal

hospitable man, a great sportsman, kept a pack of hounds, & was the squire of the county, living on his own estate **wh.** at that time was supposed to be £700 or £800 p.a. equal to double, or more, at this time. Mr. Bray, when over 70, suffered himself when led away by his house-keeper a young & artful woman, he married & had one son – Mr. Bray soon after died, & the estate of **course** went to the boy, whose mother then married a man in my cousins service to whom she had been attached. Thus J, now the eldest male issue, have been deprived of a fine estate from the folly of Mr. Brays imprudent connections. This proved a severe blow to my poor

Father. He was the only male descendant who had male children & I must now trace back the early part of his life. Being an only child his parents were **doatingly** (*mis-spelt dotingly*) fond of him. He was, early in his life placed under the care & tuition of the Rev D. Godhard a learned Divine, of a particular friend of the family. My father's family were desirous he **shd.** become a clergyman & he **contd** (*abbreviation of continued*) to receive an education proper to that state until he was 19 or 20, but then, he was induced by various circumstances to change his views, among which, I believe, was the advice of his uncle John who was settled in Manchester: who pointed out to him the more flattering

prospects of making a fortune by commerce, he decided this choice & his parents allowed him to accept the offer of being placed in the Country House of an eminent Spanish Merchant. Mr. Couch – at Exeter; **wh.** place, at that period was celebrated for its trade with Spain, Portugal & the **Levant**. He continued a few years there when he was invited by his uncle John Hadfield to become a partner. Here I must introduce my mother, who was Miss. Dorothy Fryer, daughter of a Spanish Merchant, who dying, left a widow with 2 sons & 4 daughters. My father formed an attachment: & my mother, who had **reced.** a very accomplished education at Bath was considered the Belle of Exeter. My father had

many difficulties to contend with: & two formidable **rivals**, one in the late Sir James Dunty Bart, the other Sir Francis Baxing Bart, but who at that time were the sons of two Spanish Merchants, or rather engaged in that commerce. However **perseverance & the** partiality of my mother, **ended** in their being married: & they lived at Manchester making his Establishment with his uncle. I shall now tell all I can recollect of my mother's ancestors. The Fryers had been long settled in Devonshire. My Grandfather appears to have succeeded his father in Commercial pursuits & was, in early life, much in Spain & Italy. He married Miss Dorothy Howe who was an immediate

descendant of Dr. John Howe, a learned [Divine](#), & Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell & the friend of Milton. He was a celebrated author & his works are now read and admired by all those who can appreciate talent and virtue, more especially when it is considered that he strove to overcome the [bigotry](#) & fanaticism of the Puritans; & the prejudices of the age he lived in.

My maternal Grandmother appears to have inherited his talent & courage for her situation was peculiarly distressing on the death of her husband who died in his prime. The eldest of 6 children could not be more than 12 or 13, she was at first inclined to have retired from business ([wh.](#) she had managed during the long confinement

of her husband) & to live on what was realized – about £20,000 **however** on reflection, & advice of friends, she continued **it**. The result of this excellent womens exertions for 20 years was realized £70,000: & her 2 sons being then connected, she retired in favour of her eldest son Mr. Fryer. Her second son has now a merchant in Portugal. It was at this period my grand mother called in the assistance of my father to settle all her affairs with her son who was of a **violent** vindictive temper, & **cd.** (*abbreviation of could*) never forgive my father's **zeal** or honorable conduct in the settlement of the accounts that he was desirous of having in his own way, to the prejudice of his mother; he was jealous of all his

family & wd. have got the whole of the property in to his own forever if his mother, & my father, had not been firm in opposing him. The consequence of this was that he never took any notice, or had any connection with any of his sisters, grudging all that was done for them. He recd. £30,000 & John Fryer £15,000, & the daughters £5000 or £6000 each. My grandmother, I can just remember, she came in a coach & four from Exeter to Manchester twice to see her daughter, to whom she was very kind. She died aged 70 & is buried at Exeter.

My family may wish to know what has come to my knowledge of this family whom, from their distant residence I had few opportunities of

seeing in early life, & since I have been so much abroad, & so much engaged, & passing the last 20 years in retirement in the I of W. I must have recourse to my memory for such information as my mother gave me at different times. Mr. Fryer, the eldest son, was twice married. He had one daughter by his first wife who married Mr. Brown, a merchant in London. I had the pleasure of seeing her previous to my going to America in 1783, she was an accomplished woman. I think she had a family. Mr. Fryer by his second wife had children: & one daughter – a great beauty – married to Admiral Sir Percy Collier who left her a rich widow with several children. She had one son in the Guards, & another

in the Navy – a Captain: - John Fryer
the second son lived many years in
Portugal making a considerable fortune.
He returned to Devonshire & built a
large mansion near **Topsham**, not far
from Exeter. He left a son & daughter,
the latter very diminutive; the son
joined the Army, & married, I believe,
into Lord **Boringtons** family: as did
Mr. Baring of Exeter. My mothers eldest
sister married Mr. Whiting a merchant
of fortune settled in Lisbon; they had
one son Charles, & 2 daughters. His
prosperity was destroyed by earthquake
in 1755. Another of my mother's sisters
married John **Wolrond**, a gentleman
of fortune at Exeter; a very learned
man, they left 2 daughters, the eldest
of whom was considered the most

learned female in those parts. She was engaged to my eldest brother Fryer Hadfield; but he was too volatile, & the marriage did not take place, she died, & the whole of the family fortune centered in the youngest sister Frances Walrond an accomplished & lively beauty. She married Mr. Oak, a gentleman of fortune of Pinney, Dorsetshire.

I have written what will enable my descendants to trace our family connections, not that I consider there can be any pecuniary benefit, but **because** it must be always gratifying to have the power of pursuing the enquiring: & to claim a right of **consanguinity**. It is also satisfactory to know that my children are descendants from

a line of honorable & virtuous ancestors; not one of whom they need be ashamed of. They will feel it is a duty to imitate & excel them in every good principle, & to **hand down** to their **posterity** a continuation of the same moral excellence.

I have now the most painful part of my task to perform – the detailing the history & uncommon incidents that have occurred to my parents, & their children. Their marriage must have taken place about the year 1750 - for several years the most perfect domestic felicity: & increase of wealth, was the result of their united **exertions** for I must here remark that my father, who had separated from his uncle, **was** engaged in very extensive

mercantile concerns that obliged him frequently to absent himself for long periods – During his absences my mother supervised his affairs and corresponded with him, as well as with his connections in various parts of the world. She imbibed her mothers talents penetration, & capacity for all situations & circumstances: & the exercise for that was only interrupted by the birth of at least 12 children: but who were nursed by others; (as I believe she met with an accident in her breast that prevented her performing that greatest of duties.) My father was considered one of the most personable men of his age. He was of middle size, with a beautiful complexion. He was an excellent moral character, a religious

observer of his duty to God, even to an extreme; he was a dissenter from the Ch of England, but his principles were liberal & tolerant. He was sober, & the most industrious & indefatigable man I ever knew. His mind has always directed to the improvement of his fortune, & the support of his family – So much that he seldom allowed pleasure to interfere with, or divert his attention from his interests. Under these impressions he did not enter into literary pursuits; his reading was confined to the news of the day, periodical works, & religious authors. On the Sabbath, that he kept with great solemnity, of even unnecessary severity; for his children were employed all day in reading & learning something, besides attending

Divine Worship at Chapel three times a day, the close of which finished by the Domestic ceremonies when all the family were collected. The consequences of this overstrained piety produced gloom & satiety. Youthful minds cannot learn so much, & I confess here that all my brothers & sisters feared, nay dreaded, the arrival of Sunday, *tho'* my father thought he was discharging only his duty. I am of opinion that religion *shd.* be made a pleasure, that it *shd.* be the recompense: that it sublime truths *shd.* be inoculated without those terrors that is often *practiced*, that it *shd.* be taught with humility, & rationally, that selections *shd.* be made & addressed to our understanding, & feeling: & above all

that **we shd.** avoid attempting to discuss doctrinal points upon **wh**, the best, & **wisest** men differ, there is enough in the practice **of our** duty to occupy our constant thoughts without engaging in abstract theories. The great object is to teach; & point out the great author of all; & to fill the soul with the plenitude of his power, & the good effects of his attributes, & finally to impress upon the mind, the leading & essential deities of our earthly exertions, to fear God, love & obey his Commandments, & to do unto others what we wish: or expect they should do unto us! Such are the essentials, everything else is mere **Ceremony & Hypocrisy**. If men were brought up with these liberal **principles** you **wd.** hear no more of

persecutions. Charity wd. prevail universally, whereas we see by limiting, by contracting, & confirming our views of benevolence we only encourage Bigotry & under that influence all the dreadful wars on the subject of religion have been engendered to the **distruction** of millions of God's creatures.

I have mentioned that my mother was educated at Bath by a very **Supr** (*abbreviation of Superior*) Governess, her strength of mind, & fine talents enabled her to acquire a general knowledge of personal accomplishments, as well as a gt. range of science; her conversation was full of energy, & her wit enlivened every society; & I may with truth say that men of the first ability delighted to seek her company. She could reason & support

an argument upon most subjects with a **force &** perspicuity that carried **conviction**; & she was allowed to be one of the most distinguished females in the K of England. Her charity was so universal that she promoted various institutions for the relief of the poor.

She had many old pensioners, & some of her favourite old women were accustomed to dine at her house on the Saturday, & receive their all **allice** for the ensuing week. I can never forget her funeral at the age of 50 it was at night, by torchlight, her pall was borne by 8 gentlemen of learning & consequence, & I am confident there **were** at least 2000 persons present at the ceremony; many of the poorer classes, whose tears & expressions struck

me forcibly in the midst of my own sorrow. In paying this tribute to my mother's virtues, I feel that my own children will be proud of such an ancestor **yet** I am bound by a love of truth to observe that her **liberality** was productive of an expenditure that was injurious to her large family: of whom she was very fond & to whom very kind; nay often **too** indulgent. She had very exalted ideas, & great ambitions, **which** she could not help infusing into our youthful minds by example as well as **precept**; & I am **warranted** in thinking that many of the **evils** I shall have to detail originated from these causes. My father's success in business, for many years, was great: & he accumulated great wealth which enabled him to indulge my

mother's vanity's **who wd.** always be at the head of the fashionable world.

she had an elegant **equipage**, three men servants, 5 or 6 maid servants with a noble house, & well furnished. She had large or expensive parties; & dinners & suppers were the order of the day. £2000 p.a. were expended in "house keeping", which 50 years ago was double, or triple that sum now. This expense might have been supported if my Father had been secure against the **vicissitudes** of life, but this he was now to experience in a very distressing manner. He had a large property owning by our **Colonies** in America **when the Revolution broke out in 1775.** Every one is acquainted with that dreadful contest which ended in the **U S.** throwing **off**

the allegiance of the Mother Country; & their independence being confirmed by the Treaty of Peace in 1783. During this struggle all communication was interrupted & ceased between the two countries. The connections of British Merchants paid their debts in the paper currency when depressed into the National Treasury. My Fathers losses were eventually £30,000 - **It wd.** have been greater had I not recovered some of the debts: as I shall show at a future period. I take no account of any other losses my Father had, tho there were many, but his greatest misfortune arose through his having a very expensive family; whose education & imprudence, besides the serious dissipations of his eldest son Fryer, who

by his **ill** conduct first broke into the Domestic happiness of his Parents. I have heard them both declare, until that time they had both enjoyed as great a share of felicity as belongs to a sublunary & changeable condition. But here I will pause until I can recollect the outlines of the history of this infatuated brother; & I am inclined to think his follies served as a Beacon to **warn** me from pursuing a **Similar** Course! May the Almighty prepare my children to **shun** & avoid the same dreadful consequences. I remember well my dear mother's conversations with her family upon the subject of her eldest son, she was in a serious mood when expatiating on the great qualities & the vices which **alternately** he exhibited

& the fatal effects of his dissipations. She condemned herself for having, previous to his birth, shown great impatience in not having any children, for she had none for near 3 years after she was married. She was accustomed for months together to pray & invoke the Deity to gratify her with children; & she was miserable when she saw those of others; “little did I think, she said,” I was to have them & that some “of them, particularly the eldest **Sh** (*abbreviation of should*) “prove a curse instead of a blessing. I “feel I am punished for daring to im “peach the wisdom of the Almighty”

Her feelings on these occasions were peculiarly impressive: & such was her attachment to this prodigal son that she has often exposed herself to every

inconvenience & to imminent dangers, she has traveled for days & nights to visit him in a prison, she has sold trinkets & raised money in every way to pay his debts & extricate him; & these scenes, often repeated, until my Father, tired out, opposed as far as possible her indiscretion. These subjects gave rise to bitter reproaches, & they, who had been so happy, felt, for years the most distressing miseries. My mother, even on her death bed, bequeathed to him half her fortune, tho' the least reflection must have convinced her that it was soon be dissipated; she did confess that her affection for him superseded all other considerations, that it was infatuation & in direct opposition to her judgment.

She could only think of his great accomplishments in person & sciences, she hoped that the period wd. arrive when he should see his errors: & that he would be placed in that elevated situation **which** his talents must have commanded had he only made a proper application of them. But that moment never arrived, except by fits & starts, but like all other habitual vices, he retired to their indulgence, & he was the constant victim of his passions.

The history of this Brother would require volumes – I will confine myself to giving an outline of his pursuits - His person & attainments where of a superior kind, as no expense was spared in his education, & to his credit, he availed himself of his advantage.

He was a good classical scholar, had a turn for poetry, an excellent mathematician, & sometime after had acquired several modern languages – also Persian & Arabic. He was a good musician & painted very well & in his conversation was peculiarly brilliant. His attractive manners, too often enabled him to obtain too great an influence over the female sex which he abused, for his maxim was that everything was subservient to his will & pleasure. He was intended for the Bar, but decided on the Army, he became an [Ensign](#) in the 6th Regt. of Foot. The late Lord Disant was then also an [Ensign](#), but left on the Regt. being ordered to the W.I. When my brother arrived there he was appointed

[aide to](#) the Governor of the Island of St. Vincent – Valentine Morris Esq. The island was involved in a war with the native Caribs who were finally subdued. In a few years Fryer became Captain & returned to England where he entered into the gay [world](#) & got involved by his extravagances & he had his debts frequently paid by his Father; but at last he was so imprudent as to sell his Commission. I recollect that in his distress he sought the parental roof, & like the Prodigal son was received & forgiven. Nothing could excel his apparent contributions for sometime & my Father was induced to purchase for him an [Ensigncy](#) in the Royals or 1st Regt. of Foot. In this

he remained long enough to become an Lieut; but soon afterwards sold his commission & was again well provided for. He then went to the East Indies & became Private Secty – to Mr. Hastings who employed him in some important negotiations with the Native Princes. **Having** acquired some prosperity he **ret'd.** to England & indulged in expensive pursuits which involved him in debt; he **ret'd.** again to India & improved his resources. He left India for Europe and touched at the Cape of Good Hope where he married a celebrated Dutch Beauty, Miss Van Renan with whom he came to England and visited **my** Father in Lancashire. His conduct to **my** Father was so incorrect, and his extravagance so great, that he was compelled to depart. He went to London

& took a superb House in Grosvenor Place where he lived in great splendour which soon exhausted his means. This was in the beginning of 1784. For fear of being arrested by his creditors he took lodgings on the outskirts of the Town. I procured a passage for him & his wife to India where he arrived & soon after was drowned in the river Ganges, near Calcutta, by the upsetting of a boat in a gale. He left his widow, but no children, & she soon married an officer named Hawkshaw.

My Fathers 2nd son, Thomas, was brought up with me to merchantile pursuits: at the age of 21 we were taken into partnership with my Father & soon after I went to America: whilst

my brother remained at home to
superintend the concerns of the House.
In the year 1788 he went to the W.I.
& America to recover property in Grenada
of my brother John. I had **ret'd.** to
England. I must here relate an extra
ordinary event which occurred to my
brother Thomas at Baltimore in Maryland
in consequence of insults & ill treatment
he experienced from a connection of the
family of Smiths, with a member of whom
I had also a personal quarrel. The
name of my brother's antagonist was
Stirrett. It is unnecessary to dwell
on the cause of their duels; each was
attended by his second, my brother after
receiving the fire of his **enemy** returned
it with fatal result, as Mr. Stirrett was
shot through the heart & died instantly

upon which my brother was obliged, for his personal safety, to take horse & flee for shelter to Alexandria in the State of Virginia: to which place he was pursued by the friends of Mr. Stirrett, who arrested him, but fortunately for him the Mayor of Alexandria Mr. Hunter, a particular friend of mine, interfered & liberated him as the Maryland writ was illegal in the State of Virginia. Mr. Hunter lost no time in concealing my brother at his Country house: & in the night brought a faithful Negro servant with his fine horses. This man was acquainted with all the roads in the Province and was ordered to convey my brother to the Fort of Niagura on Lake Ontario, garrisoned by a British Force. You must consult the map of the U. States

to have some idea of the distance
- many hundred of miles – thro’ forests
of timber trees & brushwood, after 10 or
12 days, living upon wild berries & such
relief as chance threw in their way:
they arrived at the Fort, half starved
& almost naked – **their** clothes being
torn & bodies lacerated. The C.O. Major
Campbell, had them confined, taking
them for horse stealers. In this dilemma
my Brother found another friend of
mine, Mr. Hamilton, a merchant to
whom I was known when I visited
Niagara & the Lakes in 1785. As my
brothers name was familiar to him he
visited him in prison, & in a conversation
was made sensible of his connection with
me, upon which explanation Maj. Campbell
released him. Mr. Hamilton furnished

him with clothes, & other necessaries, & my brother, having dispatched the Negro & horses, embarked in the [Govt.](#) packet, on Lake Ontario, & arrived at Port Frontignac [New](#) Kingston. He then descended the River St. Lawrence to Montreal & Quebec where he was hospitably rec. by Mr. Lynburner; & having recruited his strength, embarked on board a merchant vessel: & after a prosperous voyage of only 17 days arrived at Liverpool. The first news I had of this duel was from my brother who surprised me in bed in Broad St. London, by describing the above particulars. I must here remark that when I arrived from America, & the W.I. in 1789 I made an Establishment in London, my Father having [retired](#) from

business. I was induced to assist my Brother, in carrying into execution a speculation in the W.I; with promised great advantage but which was frustrated by the negligence of my correspondent in Holland. Suffice it here to observe on this melancholy subject that having bought a Ship, & loaded her with a valuable cargo, & furnished my Brother with £2000 in dollars he arrived safe in **Demarara** & was eminently successful in making his contracts for cotton, a large amount upon low prices (for the Colony was ignorant of the price of this article having **risen** in Europe). My Brother had engaged to give bills on Amsterdam, but, disappointed in his “letter of Credit” the Planters refused to deliver

more cotton than my Brother found money for. I, by this means lost at least £10,000 which would have been “profit” by the Speculation. This disappointment, & the misconduct of my brother John at Grenada to which place he went to settle his affairs leaving his clerk at Demarara to manage his own affairs. He was attacked by violent fever & delirious & under its influence destroyed himself. When his clerk heard of the death, he collected my brothers property & absconded to America: & from that day I have never recd. a shilling, sinking, & losing, many thousands of pounds. But however distressing the loss was to me it was nothing to what I felt for that of my

Brother to whom I was sincerely attached
He was brave, liberal, & the most
honorable of men. He had only one
fatal foible – the love of “play”, which
often was attended by bad conse-
-quences but this is a vice he daily
saw practised by men in the most
exalted stations & by persons of all
conditions. Thank God I have always
felt a horror at the name, & this
dislike has continued to the present
moment: I have dwelt on this, that
my dear Children may avoid it as
the greatest of evils. My Brother
John was younger than me, was
brought up as a merchant, my
father had just placed him in an
Eligible Situation with the most flat-
-tering prospect of success when he was

induced to follow his eldest – Brother Fryer - & like him dissipated his property. After various adversities he went to the I of Grenada – W.I. – where he might have done well, indeed for some time he appeared to be steady & reformed that induced my Father to assist him & to consign property to him to a large amount at least £10,000 **which** my brother sacrificed in gambling with the French at Martinique. I was at the time in Philadelphia when I **recd.** information of this misconduct. I proceeded to load one of my vessels & in Dec' 1788 sailed from the Delaware River, having found great difficulty in getting **clear** of the ice we experienced very bad weather & were

nearly wrecked on the rocks Bermuda after a tedious passage of 30 days [we](#) got into St. Johns Antigua in a wretched state, all the sailors frost bitten, some severely. I sent them to hospital as the vessel wanted repairs & I left ship & cargo in charge of a friend & hired a Sloop to take us to Grenada. When I got there I found John had left, & his affairs deranged. The next accounts I had of him was that he was pursuing his pleasures & follies, & he afterwards obtained an Ensigncy in the 35 Regt of Foot; & during the war served under Col Stuart in Sicily, & on the Continent & where, it appears, he distinguished himself by many heroic deeds. I ought here to remark he was, [in person](#)

a most formidable & powerful
Soldier, of great courage & resources.

He commanded the Light Coy at the
Battle of Maida & gained great honor,
he was afterwards 2nd in Command
of the Fort of Seylla, which, owing to
Capt Robinson's indispositions, he
had the change of its gallant defence
by which he gained great credit he
was wounded there, & also at Maida.

These circumstances were com-
-municated to me by Gen' Stuart
& Col Hill at Bonchurch, as well as
the following anecdote. When the
British Army was obliged to evacuate
Italy, they returned to Sicily, & found
Stewart wishing to keep up his com-
-munication with his partisans in
Naples & Calabria he had a large row

galley constructed & gave the command to my brother, with the liberty of selecting 30 men from his Coy. there he trained & armed so as to make them efficient for any service. My Brother had been much at sea & had been instructed in military tactics in Granada, so that he united all the qualities for the **desperate** service which he was ordered to undertake. His instructions were to land on the coast of Italy by night, surprise the outposts, & to gain intelligence of the **enemy**, his depredations were so successful as not only to be useful, but he kept the inhabitants, & the military on the Coast in continual alarm! The French Authorities at length determined

to **capture** the galley or crew. They ordered a Sloop of War from Naples to take a position in the Bay which was sheltered by a cape: her force consisted of 24 guns & over 200 men: she was anchored, with springs on her cable, ready to start when the row galley which appeared in the Bay. My Brother was ignorant of this war vessel being there & with confidence, as usual, he doubled the Cape: & Signals from the heights having informed the French Captain of the galleys approach he slipped her cable and pounced on the galley as a certain prey. My **Brother**, finding he could not escape, addressed his men, who were as brave & desperate as himself by observing that from the predatory

attacks they had made they would receive “no quarter”, therefore if they would support him, he would endeavour to extricate them; “we are well armed & you know I am certain with my Short Rifle Gun to hit any one I fire at; we must appear to submit & lay upon our oars until the ship nears us. As Soon as she is close enough I will single out the Captain & as soon as I have fired you will lay her on board & follow me. This was done, & after a desparate contest they killed 30 or 40 men, drove the rest below deck & took possession of the ship, which they brought into Messina to the astonishment of everyone. The Queen of Naples paid him many compliments, & Genl. Stewart in

Public Orders mentioned this gallant officer in warm terms of **ap-
probation** – My Brother was afterwards employed to Command the Calabrian Peasants for some time, who drove the French out of Calabria in this, as well as other exploits my Brother got the little of “Fra Diavolo” - : for his courage & conduct appeared more than human. However in consequence of his exertions his **constitution** was much impaired & Sir John Stewart sent him to England recommending him to Government. He was appointed a Captain in the 56 Regt. & received a pension of £200 per annum. His Regt. went to the East Indies, but the Climate disagreeing with him

he returned to England & he was appointed to a veterans Corps with full pay & his pension. He died from exhaustion. To detail all his adventures would fill volumes. His family suffered severely & none more than myself, but he is gone & I must draw a veil over his imperfections. Sir John Stewart speaking of him said “if John Hadfield had possessed prudence he would have been one of the most distinguished military characters of the age”. He was married & left an only son in the Army, & lately promoted to a lieutenantancy – William Howe Hadfield.

My Brother Bray entered the R. Navy in early life, went with

Admiral Arbuthnots Fleet to America, he was in the same ship, as a Midshipman with the Duke of Clarence. They were in the engagement with D' Estaign's Squadron. When peace talks took place he went to the East Indies & was in various other services, but unfortunately for him, he got one of the vices of a Sailor, & to an excess, a habit of Drunkenness which finally destroyed his constitution & he died abroad unmarried.

My youngest brother Howe was educated at Birnne in Switzerland & when I was established in 1790 in London I sent for him wishing to make a merchant of him but he took a dislike to it, so I

purchased a Commission for him in the 87th Regt, his rise to Captain was rapid & he was Paymaster. He went on service to Holland with the Duke of York, his Regt. was part of the garrison of Bugen of Zoom which was taken by the French. Howe got leave to go to Paris where he remained on parole for some time. He made interest to return to England & got the same permission for his Lt Colonel – Lord Dungaran – now earl of Cork. When his Regt was relieved it was sent to the W.I. from where he returned in bad health: when recovered he rejoined at Martinique & a few days after his arrival he was [attacked](#) with yellow fever & died, being buried in that Island.

He was a very handsome and elegant man & much admired, but like too many officers was a notary to pleasures. He died unmarried.

I had two sisters the eldest Dorothy married Mr. Jas Hyde in the India Service & nephew to Richard Plowden Esq an E. Ind Director now retired of living near Southampton with two single daughters, his eldest son James is in the E. India Coys of Arty (*Company's of Artillery*) in Bengal, he has another son high in the Bengal Civil Service.

My sister Charlotte married Mr. Wm Maitland a merchant of eminence in Montreal from which he retired with a large fortune and resides at Exeter. By some fatality he

engaged in concerns with his nephews in Canada & by whose imprudence he lost a great part of his fortune, but previous to this my sister died. They have several children – one daughter married Col Jervis – another Mr. Snow of Exeter – one son in the Dragoons another in Commerce, another at the University, intended to be a Clergyman.

Written – at Bonchurch
6 Nov 1831

Note by C.A. Hadfield – From the above narrative by my Grandfather I gather the following points in regards to my ancestors – assisted as regards my Fathers family by my sister Helen.

It appears that a Hadfield (my
direct ancestor) lived in Derbyshire
upon his property & married Miss
Hinchcliff – a Yorkshire lady –
He had sons as follows – and he
died after 75 years
Eldest son Joseph also Fryer Thomas
John & Howe

Joseph married about 1750
Miss Dorothy Fryer the daughter of a
Spanish merchant he had a large
family, his sons were

Joseph born 16 August 1759
who married on 16 June
1795 Amelia Caroline the
daughter of General White
His other sons and
daughters were Amelia Harriet

Mary born 4.12.1798	d 20.6.1875
William Crane 23.11.1800	“ 1820
Frances Maria 15.3.1802	“ 28.11.1870
Caroline 5.9.1803	“ 14.4.1877
George Horatio 28.5.1805	“ 1.7.1854
Henry Wilbraham 9.2.1807	“ 30.4.1902
Alex’ James 3.10.1808	“ ?
Julia Magdaline 17.7.1810	“ 18.1.1874
Charles Joseph 14.3.1812	“ 19.10.1893
Octavius 6.10.1814	“ 11.12.1904
Georgina Elizabeth 13.2.1816	“ ?
Octavia Louisa Clem. 25.8.1818	“ 22.1.1887

Charles Joseph – my father – joined
the Royal marines, Light Infantry – and
served throughout the Crimean war –
He married Agnes Phelps
Byers daughter of Rev. James Byers
of “Northdown”. Lamphey, Nr. Tenby

He had a family of three sons &
six daughters –

Helen Amelia	b. 27.1.47
Edith Maria	“ m. & div.
Gertrude Mary	“ 31.7.1850
Charles Arthur	“ 27.3.1852
Alice Agnes	“ 4.4.18

Frederick Howe

Herbert Charles

Emily Octavia

Annie Isobel

My father retired in 1862, as a Colonel –

Charles Arthur Hadfield, married
17 January 1880 Florence Elizabeth a
daughter of the Rev. Octavius Byers
vicar of Christ Church

Croydon. He had three daughters who
died in their infancy – Gladys, Ethel
& Marjorie. and one son, Wilfrid

John Mackenzie Hadfield born
11 January 1889 at Southsea and he
was appointed as 2nd Lieut in the
South Lancashire Regiment on 6 Nov^r
1909 – after his course at the Royal
Military College – Sandhurst.

He embarked for France with the
British Expeditionary Force in August
1914.

In the great retreat from Mons, (at
the fighting on the Marne) Wilfrid was
wounded: on the 6th Sept^r – and; and on the
10th Sept 1914 he died – from the wounds
-in hospital at Angers – and was buried
there with military honours by the
French garrison and in the presence of the
Mayor and other local dignitaries and
several British Officers.