

Primarily I am a family historian, but one who is not content to just list them all on a beautifully scripted chart. I like to find out a lot more about these folk who lived before me, such how they lived and worked.

My first knowledge of Belton in Norfolk/Suffolk was when I found my Great Grandmother Jessie Eliza STEPHENSON (nee SKIPPER) was born there in 1861. Jessie Eliza was the daughter of Walter SKIPPER and Mary Ann Eliza who were married in 1858. Interestingly Mary Ann was the widow of John GODBOLT born in, 1854. But for many years I could find no record of his death or final resting place.

John was born in Fritton, the second son of Simon GODBOLT and Martha GODBOLT (nee EDWARDS). In the 1841 Census Martha is living in Belton with her two sons William and John and William EDWARDS.

Mary Ann Eliza FARMAN was born in Bradwell in 1828 the daughter of Samuel and Mary Ann FARMAN. Mary Ann and John married in All Saints, Belton December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1847. In 1851 (Census record) they were living at 36 Locklers Lane (now know as Station Road South). John gave his occupation as an Ag Lab (Agricultural Labourer). I have only found one child of this marriage, William Charles GODBOLT born January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1854 and baptised at All Saints, Belton February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1854. The record at Ipswich County Record Office shows the vicar recording Mary Ann as Marianne!

Four years later Mary Ann was marrying Walter SKIPPER. Walter was born in 1831 and in 1851 aged 20 was living with his parents Daniel SKIPPER a shoemaker and Elizabeth SKIPPER (nee JERMY) at 69 Church Road, Belton.

After their marriage February 16, 1858 Walter and Mary Ann set up home at 89 Belton Common with William G (Mary Ann's son?), the 1861 Census records another son James SKIPPER and their lodger? Mary Ann FANE a 16 year old laundress. My ancestor Jessie Eliza was born later that year in June.

The whereabouts of John GODBOLT continued to bother me. I looked at every new record that was published and twice visited the Churchyard at All Saints, Belton. Even two days in the County Record Office at Norwich and one day at Ipswich didn't help.

I took my 'Brick Wall' to a meeting at my Family History, it proved to be a case of many heads are better than one. John it appears like his brother William were both part-time fishermen both had Merchant Seamen's tickets. I presume this was to bring money into the family in times where there was no need for Ag Labs. John died at sea aboard the Zephyr of Yarmouth off the coast at Scarborough and is buried there.

So, Mary Ann a young widow with a child married Walter SKIPPER. This, however, is not a happy story. Mary Ann died January 19, 1862 when my Great Grandmother was six months old. I couldn't find her grave in the Churchyard at All Saints, but I understand she was buried as Mary Ann Eliza FARMAN (National Burial Index).

Walter SKIPPER now a widower with three children married Eliza SMITH, October 30, 1864. In the 1871 Census Walter and family are living at 102 Church Road, Belton and in the 1881 Census Walter and Eliza are living at 113 St John's Road, Belton. Walter died October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1889 and is buried in the Churchyard of All Saints. I couldn't find Walter's grave either but did find a headstone of Samuel SKIPPER who died in 1845. I have no photographs of any of these people; I did see a photograph of a wedding group on the internet which said Vienna Elizabeth Marjoram Skipper (Walter's sister) was one of the guests.

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