



# From Swaledale to Smyrna

The descendants of Ralph Peacock

*Lafosse*

*Managers, Liverpool*

KNOLLS HOUSE,  
MANCHESTER.



Eugenie Dawson (née Peacock)

Jane Birchenough (née Peacock)

*Richard Peacock CE MP and his daughters*

# Reference Documents

- **The Peacock bible** consists of four pages of records of the births and deaths of family members of Ralph Peacock (1782-1844) originally from Healaugh, Swaledale
  - It focuses primarily on Ralph, his children and his grandchildren. The last entry is the death of Ralph Peacock in 1844.
  - It is of interest for this presentation because it helps us cross check the information we have on James Peacock the ancestor of the Smyrna Peacocks against other sources
- **The Will of Col. Ralph Peacock** of Avon Castle and Sunninghill (died 1928) included a codicil from 1915 which references James Wells Peacock and references the provision of support to him in the aftermath WW1 if his trustees thought he needed help and Ralph was dead. Ralph actually outlived James Wells Peacock and it is unclear to me what contact they had after the war. (I have found contradictory dates regarding James' death)
- **Graces Guide** is a website with industrial history sources, including many from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers including obituaries of several of the Peacocks which we can cross check against the family bible. It also includes much information on Beyer Peacock
- I used the **Willem Daniels** genealogical information to compile a tree showing the first two generations of the Smyrna Peacocks which I have supplemented with earlier generations.
- Other sources included the FamilySearch website

**X** Ralph Peacock the son of Rich<sup>d</sup> Peacock of Healaugh  
Born August 3, 1782.

James Peacock the son of Ralph Peacock of Healaugh  
Born November 12, 1802. Register at Grinton.

Rich<sup>d</sup> Peacock the son of Ralph Peacock of Healaugh <sup>and Dorothy Peacock</sup> Born May 30 1805

Ann Peacock the Daughter of Ralph Peacock of Healaugh <sup>and Dorothy Peacock</sup>  
Born January 7, 1808. Register at Grinton.

Hannah Peacock the Daughter of Ralph Peacock of Healaugh <sup>and Dorothy Peacock</sup>  
Born May 27, 1810 Register at Grinton.

Elizabeth Peacock the Daughter of Ralph and Dolly Peacock  
Born November 14, 1812 Register at Grinton.

**X** Richard Peacock the son of Ralph and Dolly Peacock of Healaugh  
Born April 9, 1820 Registered at Grinton.

Ann Peacock Daughter of Ralph Peacock Healaugh  
Died 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1822

Dolly Peacock Daughter of Ralph & Dolly Peacock Healaugh  
Died Decem<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1822

Dolly Peacock Wife of Ralph Peacock  
Died January 20 1822

Ralph Peacock Born August 3, 1782

Ralph Peacock and Dolly Robinson Married March  
**X** James Peacock the son of Ralph Peacock of Healaugh  
Born November 12, 1802

Dolly Peacock the Daughter of Hannah  
Died December 8, 1837. Friday night 20

**X** Frances Peacock the son of James & Mary  
Peacock Born April 2, 1838 Leeds, Gleu Street  
Registered at St John Church

James Peacock the son of James and  
Mary Peacock Born April 27, 1841  
at Leeds Gleu Street Registered at St John  
Church

**X** The above Ralph Peacock  
Died May 16<sup>th</sup> 1844 Aged 61 years  
nine months & 13 days

My Peacock the Wife of Ralph Peacock of Healaugh  
born in year of our Lord 1781

Ralph Peacock and Dolly Robinson the Daughter of  
Henry and Hannah Robinson married March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1802

Dolly Peacock Daughter of Ralph & Dolly Peacock Healaugh  
Born in year of our Lord 1817 July 4<sup>th</sup>

1823 January 10 Dolly Peacock the wife of  
Ralph Peacock of Bank house near Healaugh  
Funerall Sermon preached by M<sup>r</sup> Hudson from  
Deuteronomy 32 Chap. 29 Verse

That they were wise that they understood this  
that they would consider their latter end

Ralph Peacock and Ann Dan of Grinton married the 22 Day  
of April 1826

\* Ralph Peacock the son of Rich<sup>d</sup> and Hannah  
Peacock born April 4 1830 Registered at Leica

Joseph Peacock the son of Rich<sup>d</sup> and  
Hannah Peacock September 28 1839 Registered  
at Leeds

John Peacock at Bradford the Brother of old  
Ralph Peacock Died April 10 1843 in the year  
of his Age 53

Ralph Peacock the son of James and Mary Peacock  
of Gremington born September 6 1820

Christina Peacock at Grinton November 12 1826

Jane Peacock the Daughter of James and Mary Peacock  
of Gremington born February 15 1829 Registered at Gaint

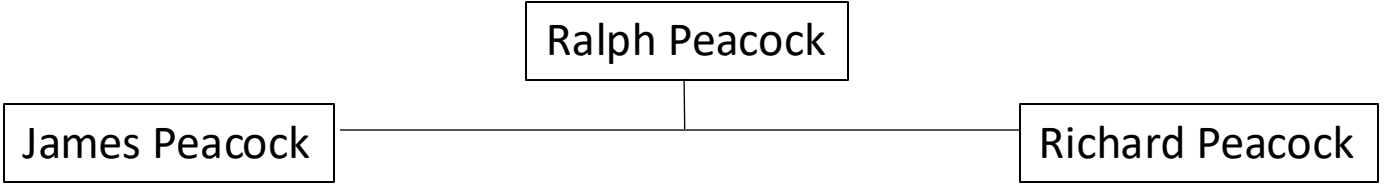
Frances Peacock born the son of James and Mary Peac.  
in year of our Lord 1831 February 27 Born at Waringe

Green near Bozehouse  
Dolly Peacock the Daughter of Hannah Peacock born  
in the year of our Lord 1831 March 21 Born at Healaugh

James Peacock the son of H. James Peacock and Mary  
Peacock Died January 20 1832 Buried at Leeds at Quor

Church  
Ann Peacock the Daughter of James and Mary Peac  
of Leeds York Road each pleasant place born June 27 1833  
twenty minutes past five morning

Elizabeth Peacock born August 1835 Daughter  
of James & Mary Peacock Glue Street Leeds  
Registered at Leeds old Church



# Ralph Peacock of Swaledale 1782-1844

- Ralph Peacock, son of Richard Peacock of Healaugh was a Wesleyan, **originally a lead-miner**, he subsequently became a foreman or superintendent of mines. He married Dorothy "Dolly" Robinson. He later married a second time
- He was apparently very clever, and known for his community work.
- He was naturally gifted in **mechanical matters**, and could construct almost anything in wood and many things in iron. All the clocks and watches in the neighbourhood were kept in repair by him, and when the instruments of the native musicians fell out of order it was to him they were taken to be set to rights, for he was something of a violin player himself, and had paid much attention to the structure of the various musical machines.
- **He had some knowledge of medicine**, and *"acquired such a good training in Natures school of medicine that the Dales people would often entrust their ailments to his tender care in preference to making calls upon the professional skill of the duly qualified practitioner."*
- Ralph Peacock possessed an extensive practical knowledge of natural remedies , and often received credit for saving lives that the doctors had given up as lost. Community leaders in Swaledale also entrusted Ralph, rather than doctors, to carry out bleeding, and the lancets with which he used to perform these duties are still preserved by his son as relics of that olden time.
- **A distillation of herbs which he produced** was known far and wide over the countryside as a sort of cure-all, having ascribed to it almost as many virtues as are now claimed for a patent pill or nostrum.
- **He was also often called upon to cure horses and cows**, and was a very busy man. If he had done all these things for money, he would have been a wealthy man.
- **Ralph moved with his family from Swaledale to Leeds** in 1830, and took up the role as assistant superintendent in the construction of the Leeds Tunnel on the Leeds and Selby railway.
- **Richard was Ralphs seventh child. Richard had one brother James.**

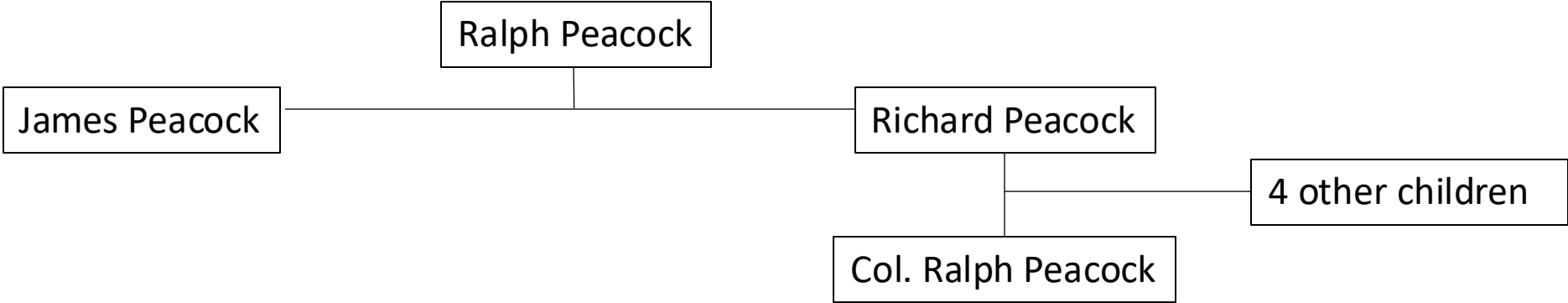
*Edited from "London Society, a Monthly Magazine", Vol. LI. No. CCCIII, March 1887*

# Richard Peacock Civil Engineer, MP. (1820-1889)

- Born in Swaledale
- Taken to see the Stockton-Darlington railway as a child
- Appointed as a Superintendent of the Leeds and Selby Railway at the age of 18
- Attended Anti Corn Law League meetings as a young man
- An original member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.
- Founder of the Beyer Peacock Locomotive Company with Charles Beyer and Henry Robinson in 1854.
- Member of Parliament for Gorton from 1885 – 1889 for the Liberal Party.
- Married to Hannah Crowther and Frances Littlewood his children included Colonel Ralph Peacock of Avon Castle, Jane Birchenough and Eugenie Dawson.
- Emily Faithfull the early women's rights activist dedicated her book "Three Visits to America" to Richard who appears to have been politically quite progressive.
- Chairman of the Manchester Theatre co and other institutions, he was also the sponsor of what eventually became Manchester City Football Club
- Richard was a Unitarian and built Brookfield Church in Gorton in 1870, allegedly he and Charles Beyer competed to see who could build a church first! The bells of Brookfield are named after Richard's children.
- Buried in the Grade Two\* listed Peacock Mausoleum designed by Thomas Worthington in Brookfield Church yard.









Avon Castle- home of Col.  
Ralph Peacock from 1905

Jane Birchenough (née Peacock) & WT Birchenough

Frederick William Peacock

Richard Peacock Birchenough

Col Ralph Peacock

Rose Peacock (née Fitzherbert)



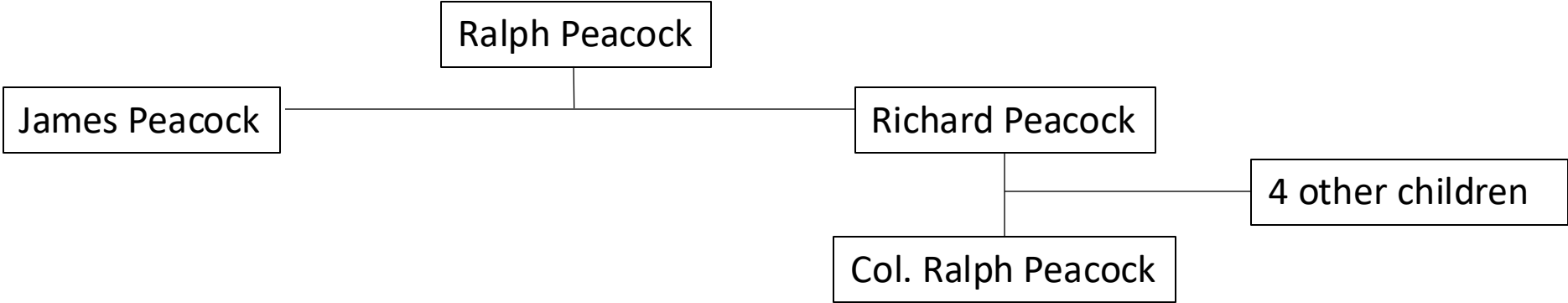
Peacock wallpaper  
at Avon Castle

# Col. Ralph Peacock of Avon Castle and Sunninghill 1838-1928

- The son of Richard Peacock and Hannah Crowther
- Ralph was born in Leeds and attended a Moravian school. Later he became a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and the Iron and Steel Institute
- c.1854 began technical training at Beyer, Peacock and Co, Gorton.
- 1860 Sent to Paris to gain engineering experience
- 1865 Joined the Lancashire Artillery Volunteers
- 1889 Succeeded his father as managing director of Beyer Peacock
- 1891 Retired from volunteers with honorary rank of colonel
- 1905 Retired from business; moved to Avon Castle at Kingswood near Christchurch
- 1915 Moved to Sunninghill, Berkshire
- 1928 Died at Sunninghill
- Whilst in France in the 1860's Ralph fell in love with an artist called Marie De Lage. She died and apparently Ralph never forgot her and purchased a burial plot for them both in St Jean de Luz in southern France. Ralph is buried in his father's mausoleum
- Ralphs diaries are in the Manchester Science museum with other papers and artifacts relating to Beyer Peacock
- It is in Ralphs Will that James Wells Peacock of Smyrna is mentioned.
- By some family accounts Ralph was quite eccentric

# Col. Ralph Peacock's Will and the Smyrna connection

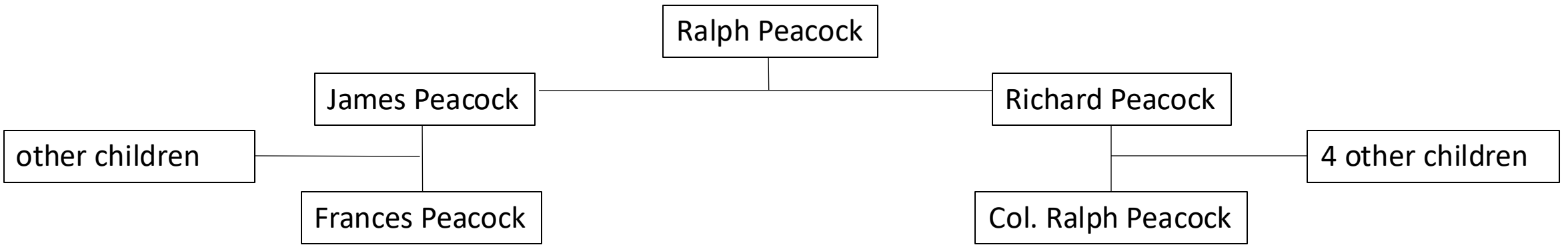
- Ralph wrote a will in 1893 when he was 55. He subsequently made 17 codicils over the years before dying at Charters, Sunninghill in 1928. In the will he mentions his friends in France who have tended Marie de Lage's grave over the years.
- In the 15<sup>th</sup> codicil written in October 1915 Ralph now 77 mentions his "half cousin" **James Wells Peacock of Smyrna, Asia Minor**. He writes that if, six months after peace is declared, his trustees judge that James Wells Peacock is unable to look after his family, then they should give him an annuity of £100 per annum for life or the option of taking the capital.
- According to "Graces Guide" James died in 1914, although other sources report him dying in 1923



# Richard's brother James Peacock (1802-?)

- According to the Graces Guide obituary of his son, Francis, he was a book keeper, but in his eldest son Ralph's obituary he is also mentioned as having worked with his father on the Leeds tunnel for the Leeds- Selby railway
- In the family bible his date of birth is November 12<sup>th</sup> 1802
- James was the elder brother of Richard Peacock CE MP
- The family bible records his wife as Mary; (Probably Mary Gill) – it does not record their marriage.
- The family bible records him as having seven children.
- His eldest son Ralph (1826-1887) is mentioned in his own obituary as being a protégé of his uncle **Richard Peacock CE**. His birth is also recorded in the family bible.
- The second son Frances (*sic*) (1837/8-1905) is recorded in the family bible as born on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1838 in Glue Street, Leeds. **He is the ancestor of the Peacocks who went to Turkey.** Like his eldest brother he also worked for a period at the New Holland Works
- James appears in the 1841 and 1851 censuses with his family in Glue Street, Leeds. Details of his wife and 5 children and address correspond with the Peacock Family Bible except that Frances his 3 year old son is recorded as female in the census.





# Frances Peacock 1837 -1905 – Son of James Peacock

- 1856 Engine Fitter
- 1856 Married Jane Wells, daughter of George Wells, gas fitter, in Manchester Cathedral<sup>[1]</sup>
- 1890 His son James Albert Wells Peacock (1858-1914/23?) was assistant engineer on the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway
- Frances was born in Leeds on 2nd April 1837. *(Note that in the family bible he is recorded as being born on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1838)*
- He commenced his apprenticeship at the New Holland Works\* of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, and was transferred in 1852 to the Gorton Works. *(Which had been planned and designed by his uncle Richard Peacock)*
- Two years later he started working for **Beyer Peacock** but in 1856 returned to the New Holland Works as assistant foreman, where he remained four years.
- He was foreman of the Cyclops Works at Goole, until 1865 when he went to sea as second engineer, subsequently becoming chief engineer.
- From 1867 to 1869 he worked for Beyer Peacock, and then was appointed locomotive superintendent of the **Smyrna and Cassaba Railway**, Asia Minor\*\*. He remained in that role for twenty-seven years, until his retirement.
- In 1897, however, on the commencement of the construction of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, he went to Damanhour to take up the position of chief store-keeper and works manager, remaining in the company's service until June 1902.
- He died at the age of 68 in Cairo on 14th February 1905.
- He became a Member of this Institution [**Institute of Mechanical Engineers**] in 1890.

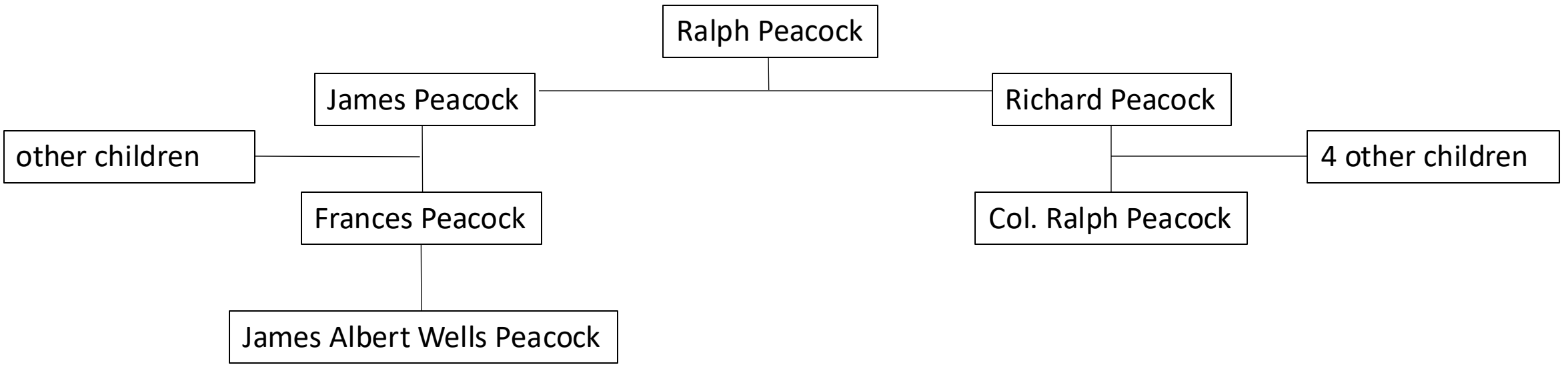
*\* His brother Ralph also worked at New Holland Works for a while*

(Graces Guide Obituary– edited & annotated)

# The Smyrna Cassaba Railway Company

- Frances Peacock worked for Beyer Peacock until 1869 before becoming Superintendent at the Smyrna Cassaba Railway company. His son James Wells Peacock also worked for the company
- The company was formed in 1863 and lasted until 1893 when the concession was sold.
- The founder, Edward Price, ran into financial difficulties and transferred the concession to a consortium which included Henry Robertson, (the third partner in **Beyer Peacock**) in the mid 1860's.
- Beyer Peacock received an order for two locomotives to the Smyrna Cassaba Railway Company in circa 1865.
- Charles Beyer and **Richard Peacock** CE (Francis' uncle) were major shareholders in the company in the mid 1860's, probably because they were paid in preferential shares for the above locomotives.
- The Smyrna Cassaba Railway company went through financial difficulties in 1866 but recovered after a second concession was granted to Alaşehir. In 1887 they received a third concession.
- In 1893 the the Ottoman government exercised its right to purchase the concession. The railway operations were subsequently sold and purchased by the *Société Ottomane du Chemin de fer de Smyrne-Cassaba et Prolongements*"

(Sources; "Investment Banking in England, A Case Study of the International Finance Society", Vol 1. PL Cottrell, 1985. "Beyer Peacock, Locomotive Manufacturers to the World", RL Hills & D Patrick,1982. & other secondary sources)



# James Albert Wells Peacock (1857- 1914/1923)

- 1857 Born Gorton, son of Frances Peacock and his wife Jane Wells
- 1870 Apprenticed on the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway
- 1876-1878 with Beyer Peacock
- 1890 Assistant engineer on the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway when he joined I Mech E
- 1896 of Smyrna, Turkey in Asia
- He married Eveline de Jongh and they had 5 children born in Smyrna, in the Ottoman Empire,.
- By 1904, James was initiated into Freemasonry, in the masonic Lodge in Cairo, Egypt.
- James was a mechanical engineer and in 1913 he patented a device used in water heating and circulation for locomotives.
- He returned to work in Cairo, Egypt in 1918 and he died there in 1923, aged 66.\*

*(\*Graces Guide reports him as dying in 1914?)*

*(Sources: secondary online & Graces Guide)*

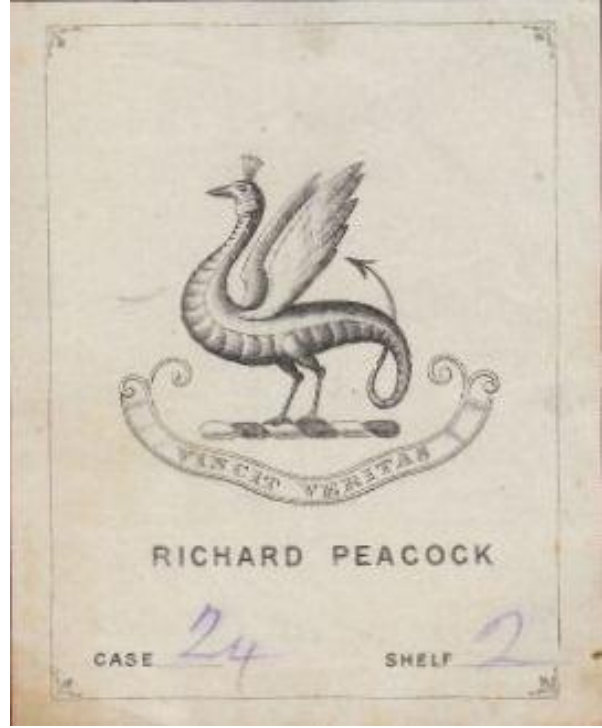


The Cockatrice and motto “Vincit Veritas” appear on various personal items which probably belonged to Richard Peacock and his children Ralph and Jane. It also notably appears on the Cassidy sculpture on the side of the church he built at Gorton. No record in the College of Arms that Richard was granted arms.



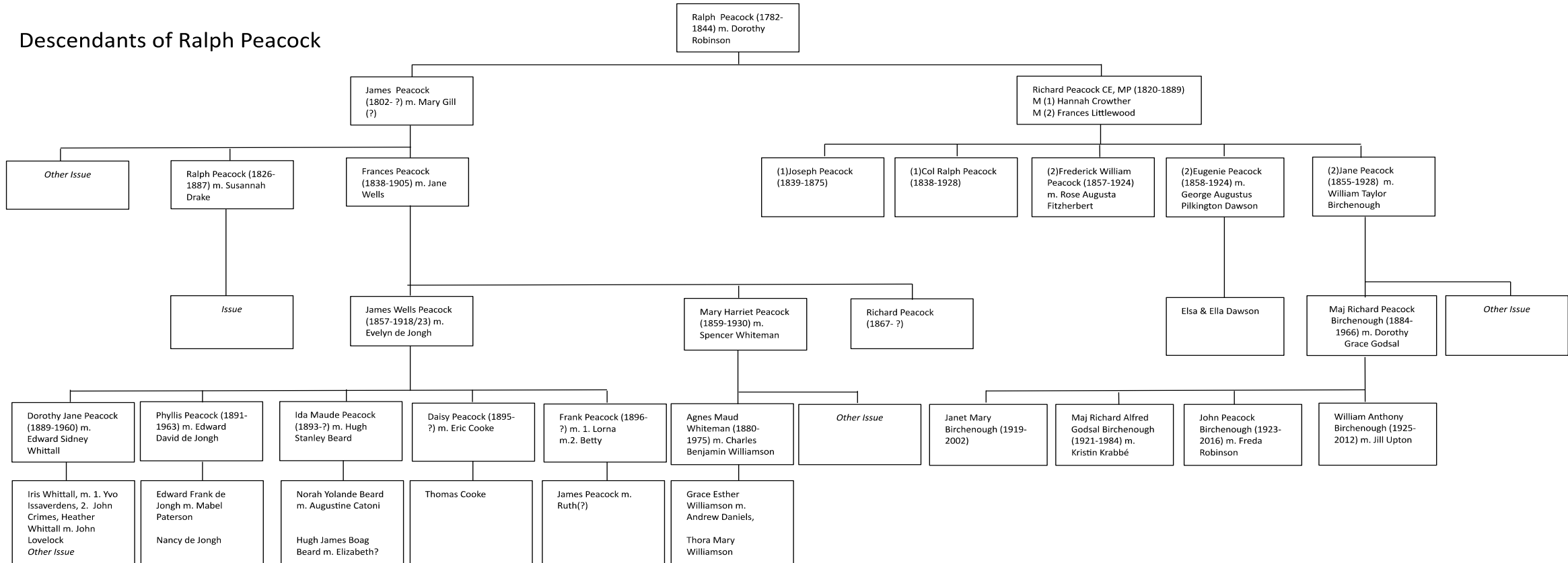
IN MEMORY OF  
RICHARD PEACOCK  
G.E. M.P.  
WHO DIED ON  
THE  
THIRD OF MARCH  
1889.  
AGED 68 YEARS.

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF GORTON FOUNDRY TO THE MEMORY OF THEIR  
LATE RESPECTED EMPLOYER WHO REPRESENTED THE GORTON DIVISION OF EAST LANCASHIRE IN  
PARLIAMENT FROM ITS FUNDATION AS A SEPARATE CONSTITUENCY UNTIL HIS DEATH. HE WAS A  
MAN OF STEADFAST COURAGE AND UPRIGHTNESS WHO WAS FRIEND TO THE POOR AND NEEDY  
AND A GENEROUS SUPPORTER OF ALL AGENCIES FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE



Burke’s General Armory (1884) records a family called Peacocks (*sic*) of Efford Hall, Hants and an Irish family called Peacocks of Barntic, Co. Clare who used the Cockatrice and “Vincit Veritas” as their motto. The latter interestingly included a “Richard Peacocks” of Rothwell, Yorkshire. (d. circa 1691?) There is no obvious link with the Healaugh Peacocks

# Descendants of Ralph Peacock



*Different sources on Levantine Heritage website (Primarily Willem Daniel) & JUB research*