

In 1764 the Reverend George Austen married Cassandra Leigh, and had eight children, of whom Jane was the seventh, bracketed by her sailor brothers Francis and Charles. The eldest son James carried on the family name, later Austen-Leigh. The third son Edward was adopted by his Knight relations, assumed their name, and in due course inherited their estates as Edward Knight of Godmersham and Chawton. (See Tables).

Meanwhile 'Kind Uncle Francis' had also married; his son Francis Motley Austen, George's cousin, married in his turn. Of Motley's large family, six concern us here, Thomas, Jane, Frances, John, George and Elizabeth.

Thomas became Colonel Thomas Austen, later MP for Kent 1845-7; his second wife (m 1826) was sister to Cardinal Manning, and a relation by marriage of John Abel Smith. Jane married William John Campion of Danny whose mother was a Heathcote, and had sons William, Heathcote, and George. Frances married in 1808 Captain William Holcroft of the Royal Artillery, a match which Jane Austen, in a cousinly comment, described as 'misconduct'.² Her grandson George Holcroft (b 1832) came to New Zealand in 1871.³

John went into the Church, was presented to the living of Chevening, and inherited the family estate of John Austen of Broadford.⁴ A son, Charles Wilson Austen, rose to be Lieutenant-Colonel, and died commanding the 14th Regiment at the Siege of Rangiriri, Auckland, in 1863. George Lennard Austen, the fifth son, entered the family firm of solicitors, Austen and Holcroft of Sevenoaks, and married Harriett Hughes.

Elizabeth Motley Austen's first marriage was to Colonel William Skyring (d 1806) by whom she had two daughters, Elizabeth and Emily Mary. Elizabeth Skyring married Major John Longley; after his death she remarried in 1843 Sir John Easthope of the *Morning Chronicle*. Emily Mary Skyring married Frederick Torrens, son of Sir Henry Torrens, and an officer in the Welsh Fusiliers.

In Elizabeth Austen's second marriage to Christopher Cooke, John George, born 1819, was the second son and fifth child.

In 1876, long after his return from New Zealand, John George Cooke compiled what he called 'Reminiscences. Excerpta de ma vie. Souvenirs', covering his family background and life up to 1850. This, a typescript, is held at Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, the original being owned by Rear Admiral A. D. Torlesse, Hants., England. There were, it seems, other journals also, likewise lost. From internal evidence, the Reminiscences were written for Cooke's stepson Edward Ward, son of Crosbie Ward whose widow married Cooke in 1868.

The Reminiscences give a delightful picture of Cooke's boyhood. In 1819, his father sold Ashgrove – the hounds and their huntsman went