

## The RAYNERs of HALSTEAD, ESSEX

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together, tracing the movement of some family members became easier, especially as the “Internet” provided access to more information. However, books such as those relating to the early migration to America did not give the migrants place-names of origin in England. Later Quaker records may have added some details which helped. Creating a family tree from the Public Records Office (PRO) births, deaths and marriages records (B.D.M’s), later census records, family Bibles, Wills, school attendance lists and ship’s passenger lists all helped in tracing the families that emigrated. On completion of a family tree of Halstead “RAYNER”, we know that there are descendants around the world. They have migrated from Halstead to other parts of the country, and can then be found in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America and even in Germany. Perhaps some could be identified as ‘£10 Poms’ if they went to Australia after 1945.

Drawing the family trees can be difficult when limited to sheets of A4 size paper. Different layouts can be used but what you see here is what you get. I have used the first, second, third son method, completing each son’s tree in turn and it is still difficult to make an orderly presentation. My own origins go back to Robert (1762–1813) RAYNER. The layout of “sons of sons” is easier to follow. Then I chose daughters that married RAYNERs followed by unmarried daughters giving the family name to their children. This last option provided three pages of trees. However, where a daughter in Robert (1762) RAYNER’s line married a RAYNER from another line, the tree will be given in that male line. See Benjamin (1754) RAYNER line for example.

In all, so far, 102 family trees are outlined. More may follow. They will be on my website for any and every RAYNER to have a look at. On my section of the story, I have made a names list indicating where they were born and where they died but I cannot do it for all the family trees. I have reached the age where what I have completed must be made available on the Internet for anyone interested enough to read it. It will be on behalf of all who have collaborated with me.

Any proof to correct a doubtful record would be gratefully received. Sometimes errors have been found which we may not be able to correct. These could then be noted in addenda. There are many people to whom I can say a ‘thank-you’ for their help in accumulating a large data base of RAYNER. Some eyes see things differently, such as dates, church year or calendar year, or in numbers where a ‘5’ read by one person looked like an ‘8’ to me and place names can be spelled differently over the years. So, read and enjoy, participate in a way that will highlight any differences if you feel strongly about it. My thanks go to Stuart BARKER, David WILLIAMS and Dianne BOWER, among the many who have shared their data with me. There are many other lines of RAYNER that may or may not be related to the Great Maplestead family. From the 1700’s, where I have a line starting, it is probably impossible to connect back to their parents. It would be too great a task to find out.

