

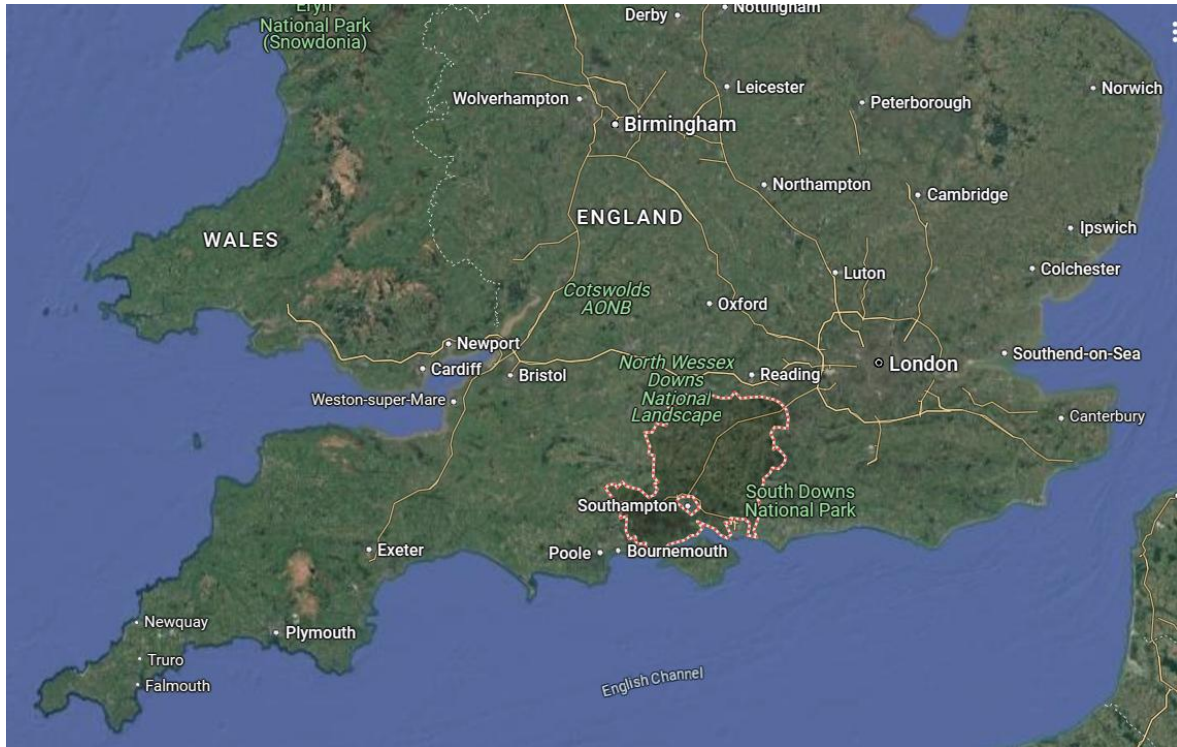
Gregory Watchmakers in Basingstoke, England.

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➤ **Introduction.**

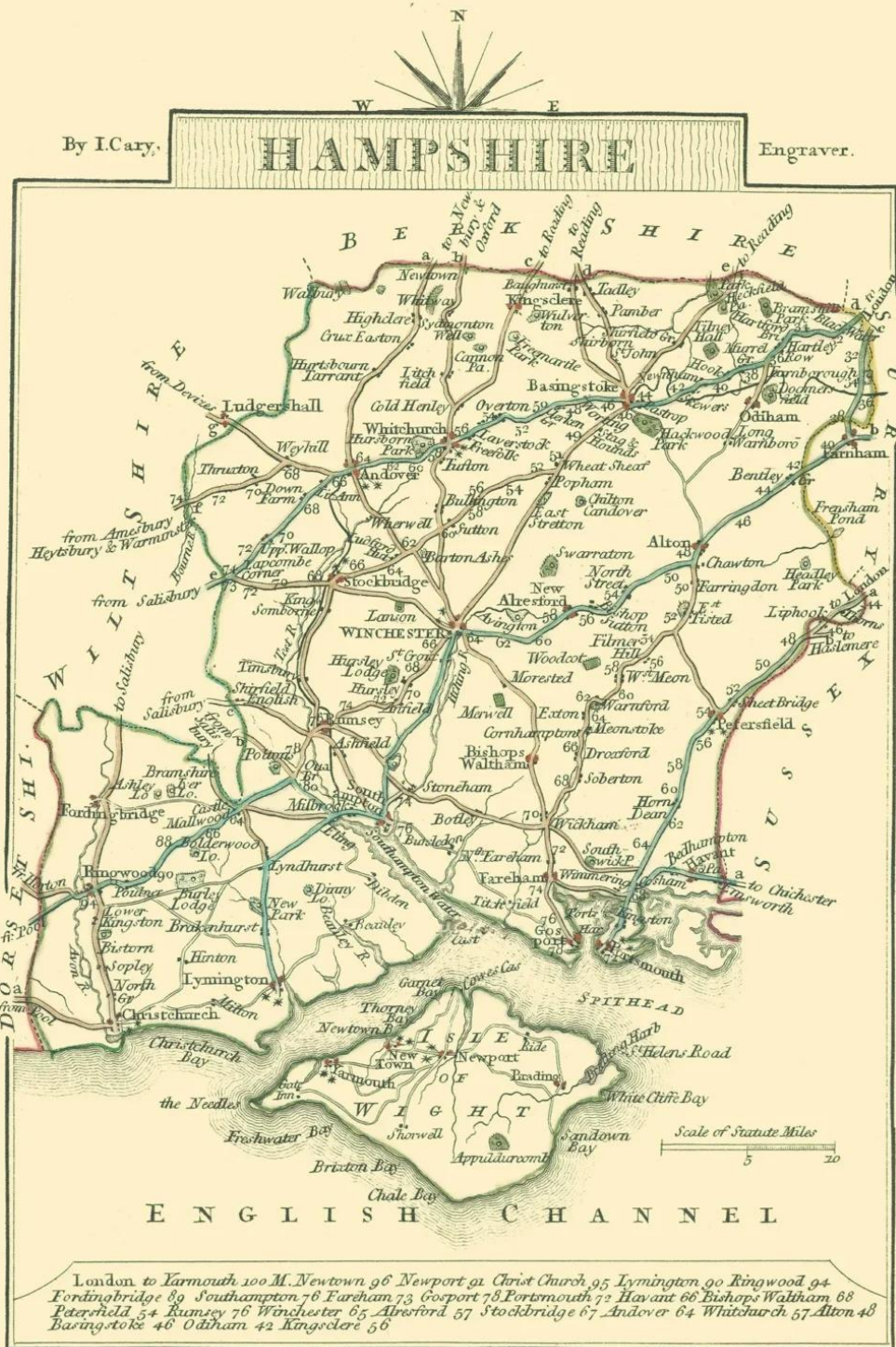
In February 2025 I purchased a verse fusee watch with the maker Jas. Gregory inscribed on the works. There is a serial number of 1010 alongside, but this would require access to the maker's record book for a date. Failing this, one is left with the hallmarks on the silver case to date; 1816. Out of pressing curiosity, I began to research the maker and whatever I might learn about the type of watch. With the large number of Gregorys in Hampshire, UK, it was the last will and testament of James that proved to be the essential key; the Rosetta Stone, if you will. I have a webpage up that more or less summarizes that search, but herein will follow what I have uncovered of the Gregory Family. Given that I live in Connecticut, USA, I am relegated to digitized sources, largely newspaper accounts and ads, and whatever kind person might uncover and share with me from Hampshire County, UK. I am eager for any information and corrections: please reach out to me via my email address, JosMorn@aol.com

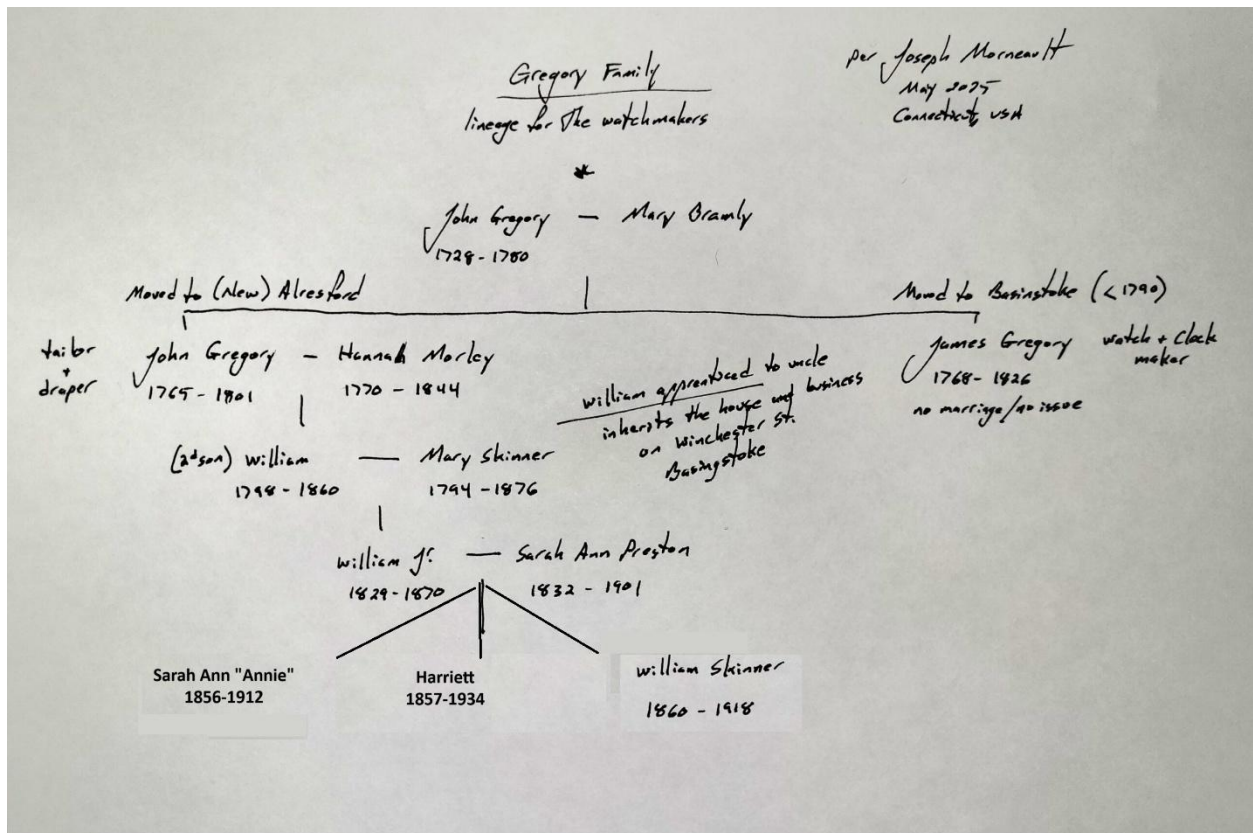
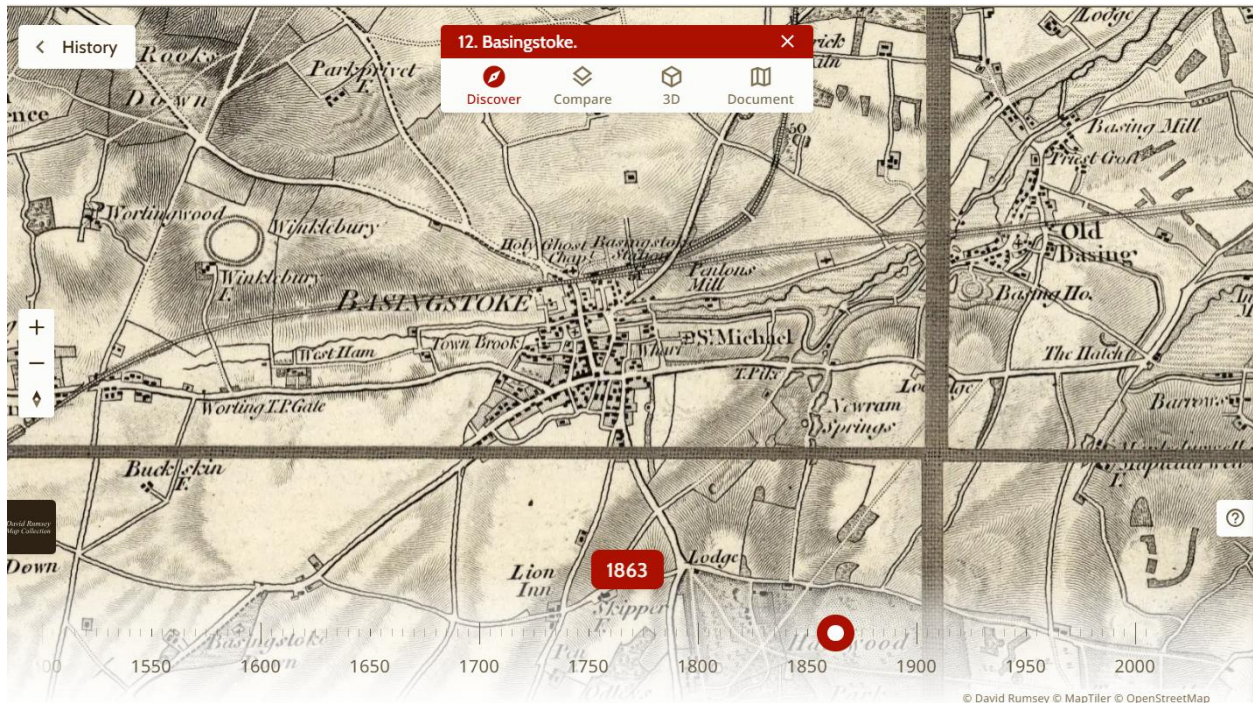
Joseph Morneault
Old Saybrook, CT. USA
Feb. 2026



For the benefit of those who are not natives to south central England, I present these maps/images for context.







The Gregory Family (watchmakers) tree. Not inclusive of all children; merely showing the lineage of those who learned and continued the watch making and clock making business.

➤ **James Gregory.**

James was born on 29 May 1767 in Lasham, Hampshire County, England to John and Mary (Bramly) Gregory; he would be baptized the very same day, according to the records of Saint Mary's Church,¹ Anglican. For a time, the county was called Southampton, which you'll see often, and the short hand for the county to this day is "Hants". Although it seems that John and Mary were lifetime members of that community, I don't have much more information. Mary is cited as local, but I haven't discerned her birth or death records, to date. John and Mary had four children; John (b. and bap. 16 June 1765), James (1768), Job (b. 3 July 1770, bap. 22 July 1770), and Mary (b. 6 May 1776, bap. 9 June 1776).²

At some point in his teens, James was presumably apprenticed to a watchmaker. During this time in history, London was the center for watchmaking, and he might have been sent there. However, it was not the only place to learn for there was no formal school; an apprenticeship to a watchmaker interested in taking on one was seemingly the norm, and it could be anywhere. Lasham is a small town south of the city of Basingstoke by about 9 miles (some 14.48 km), and James might have been apprenticed there in the city, a watchmaker being far more likely than in a small town. Until such time that I can at least present a likely master, I can at least state that James set up his business in 1790; aside from a surviving photo of the store (1881?) front showing a placard over the door as "Est. 1790", the first time James appears in the "Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture" is indeed in 1790; vol. 2, p.312. James would be shown over the years as a watchmaker, clockmaker, and seller of musical instruments. He appears in following years of this Directory, and is always listed as a watchmaker, rather than a shopkeeper. It is a source of confusion which I address in the first section entitled "James Gregory – a Period Pocketwatch". Everything that I have dug up regarding his vocation suggests that James was a maker of watches and clocks, rather than merely a "front man"; but given the overall evidence and what I have learned of what a "watchmaker" was by the late 18th century, I would think that he was more of what today in the US we might term a "jeweler"; he might well have made some watches and clocks, but he was more likely a retailer and serviceman, able to replace broken parts and generally service the watches and clocks, rather than a dedicated artisanal maker. It does seem, by the various census records and such, that the term "watchmaker", "jeweler", and "silversmith" was used loosely and interchangeably. James is listed in "Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World", Vol. 2, by Brian Loomis [1976 N.A.G. Press LTD, London]: "GREGORY, James. *Basingstoke*, ca. 1790-1813 C". C=clockmaker, but with at least three watches known still in existence, a few clocks, and other information, watches were certainly part of his work.

THE UNIVERSAL
BRITISH DIRECTORY

OF
Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture,

COMPREHENDING
LISTS OF THE INHABITANTS OF LONDON, WESTMINSTER,
AND BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK;

AND OF ALL THE CITIES, TOWNS, AND PRINCIPAL
VILLAGES, IN ENGLAND AND WALES;

WITH THE
MAILS, AND OTHER COACHES, STAGE-WAGGONS,
HOYS, PACKETS, AND TRADING VESSELS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
A Genuine ACCOUNT of the DRAWBACKS and DUTIES chargeable at
the CUSTOM-HOUSE on all GOODS and MERCHANDIZE,
IMPORTED, EXPORTED, OR CARRIED COASTWISE.

WITH
A Particular of the PUBLIC OFFICES of every Denomination;
His MAJESTY'S COURT, and MINISTERS of STATE;

The PEERS of the REALM, and PARLIAMENT of GREAT-
BRITAIN;

The COURT of LORD MAYOR, SHERIFFS, ALDERMEN,
COMMON-COUNCIL, AND LIVERY, OF LONDON;

TOGETHER WITH
An Historical DETAIL of the ANTIQUITIES, CURIOSITIES, TRADE, POLITY,
and MANUFACTURES, of each CITY, TOWN, and VILLAGE.

THE WHOLE COMPRISING
A most interesting and instructive HISTORY of GREAT BRITAIN.

VOLUME, THE SECOND.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE PATENTEES, AT THE BRITISH DIRECTORY
OFFICE, AVE MARIA-LANE; AND SOLD BY CHAMPANTE
AND WHITROW, JEWRY-STREET, ALDGATE.

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE. 317

Stockwells Misses
Vicker Thomas, Esq.
Varndall Mrs.
Webb John, Esq.
CLERGY.
Evans Rev. J. *Priest of Holy Ghost Chapel*
Illesley Rev. —, *Dissenting Minister*
Sheppard Rev. Dr. Thomas, *Vicar*
Williamson Rev. I. *Dissenting Minister*
PHYSIC.
Covey John, sen. (F.) *Apothecary*
Covey Charles, jun. *Surgeon*
Hardy James, (F.) *Physician*
Kinchin Mrs. *Licensed for the Reception
and Cure of Lunatics*
Lyford John, (F.) *Surgeon*
Lynch John, *Surgeon*
Thomas John, *Surgeon*
Workmans Morris, *Surgeon*
LAW.
Best Charles, (F.) *Attorney*
Bishop William, *Attorney*
Cafton Moses, *Attorney*
Greene William, *Attorney*
Warne James, *Attorney*
TRADERS, &c.
Allright James, (F.) *Carrier*
Andrews Thomas, (F.) *Plumber, &c.*
Attwood Roger, (F.) *Victualler*
Addams John, *Yeoman*
Addams John, *Excise-man*
Alder Thomas, (F.) *Maltster*
Ayliff Charles, (F.) *Blacksmith*
Addams Richard, (F.) *Carrier*
Addams Andrews, *Bacon-fattor*
Alexander Mrs. *Baker*
Andrews Thomas, (F.) *Grocer*
Attwood William, *Butcher*
Ayliff Charles, *Cordwainer*
Ayliff Richard, (F.) *Blacksmith*
Armworth Edward, (F.) *Bricklayer*
Attwood Abraham, *Taylor*
Attwood Samuel, *Yeoman*
Auborough William, *Cordwainer*
Berry John, *Horsecloth-manufacturer*
Banghurst Charles, (F.) *Peruke-maker*
Balfard John, *Gunsmit*
Bennett Thomas, *Gardener*
Bennett John, *Frutier*
Biggs John, *Cordwainer*
Buckle William, *Glazier*
Boswell Richard, *Thatcher*
Burrige John, (F.) *Comber*
Brackstone William, *Shopkeeper*
Bohier James, *Victualler*
Bristow John, *Blacksmith*
Baldwin Jeremiah, *Watch-maker*
Baldwin Mrs. *Milliner*

Curtis Thomas, *Powderer*
Cox Jacob, *Taylor*
Cock Joseph, (F.) *Breeches-maker*
Chambers John, *Hatter*
Cleeve George, *Shopkeeper*
Crockford Thomas, *Yeoman*
Chitty Tho. *Victualler, (Wholesale)*
Clarke Diana, *Farmer*
Collins John, *Whitesmith*
Cooper Robert, (F.) *Stone-mason*
Cleeve Charles, *Blanket-maker*
Carpenter John, sen. *Carpenter*
Carpenter John, jun. *Carpenter*
Cafton Thomas, *Ironmonger*
Curtis Richard, *Innkeeper, (Angel)*
Denyer Edmund, *Baker*
Dickinson and Mainwaring, *Lodging
Boarding-school*
Davies John, (F.) *Linin-drapeer*
Dickinson John, (F.) *Clerk of the market*
Elton Edw. *Victualler, (Queen's Head)*
Falbury Peter, *Victualler, (Royal Oak)*
Farley Charles, (F.) *Cordwainer*
Graham David, *Shopkeeper*
Grace Gideon, *Brazier*
Gilling Richard, *Cordwainer*
Geaple Richard and James, *Yeoman*
Garlick Mrs. *Mantua-maker*
Gregory James, *Watchmaker*
Groves John, *Fishmonger*
Godwin John, (F.) *Shopkeeper*
Glover William, (F.) *Plumber*
Hall Richard, *Black and Whitesmith*
Hankin John, *Victualler, (Rose & Crown)*
Hayle Mrs. *Maltster*
Hughes James, *Taylor*
Hunt Richard, *Schoolmaster*
Heath William, (F.) *Maltster*
Hacker John, *Gardener and Seedsmen*
Hewett Daniel, *Peruke-maker*
Hern Mrs. *Shopkeeper*
Hocken Thomas, *Victualler*
Hulley James, *Peruke-maker*
Hunt James, (F.) *Hop-merchant*
Hunt Thomas, *Chandler*
Howard John, (F.) *Fellmonger*
Jackson Nathaniel, *Draper*
Joyce John, (F.) *Turner*
Jeffreys Richard, (F.) *Banker*
Joyce Charles, *Powderer*
Jett Ann, *Butcher*
Jeffrey William, *Vintner, (Blue)*
Jee —, *Collar-maker*
Jays Edward, (F.) *Carpenter*
Jones Hugh, *Carpenter*
Jaques —, *Excise-man*
Jarvis T. *Master of the Blue School*
Knight John, *Maltster*



The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture. 1790 London, Vol 2. p.317 This was a publication that covered the period of 1790 through 1798.

The business seems to have always been on Winchester Street... According to the late Basingstoke historian Arthur Attwood, the first location was "where the Johnson's dry cleaners were until recently and before that on the other side of the street (north side) next to the entrance to Joice's Yard." Certainly, his shop was on this second site as late as 1819, but likely earlier. This would be, it seems, 5 - 8 Winchester Street - when I looked in 2025 via Google Maps, it was "The Money Store", but Google says that this is "permanently closed" now. This is rather close to the market square, where Winchester meets London Street. The first location was across the street on the south side, but I am ignorant of the specific address... Not being local, I don't know where the "dry cleaners was until recently". There was a move in 1850, which can be seen below under William Gregory; perhaps *this* was the second location referred to by Attwood? A property search in the local town hall might resolve this.

UK, City and County Directories, 1766 - 1946

Record Index

Name: James Gregory
 Publication Year: 1792
 Residence Place: Hampshire, England
 Occupation: Watchmaker

Source Information

Record Url:
<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3145/images/0000chu8>
 Source Citation:
 1792-1798 Universal British Directory (Hampshire extracts); Publisher: Unspecified
 Source Information:
 Ancestry.com.
 UK, City and County Directories, 1766 - 1946
 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.
 Original data: Original sources vary according to directory. The title of the specific directory being viewed is listed at the top of the image viewer page. Check the directory title page image for full title and publication information.

B A S I N G S T O K E, HAMPSHIRE, 317

<p>CLERGY. Evans Rev. J. Jefferson Rev. Mr. <i>Dissenting Minister</i> Ildefley Rev. — Sheppard Rev. Dr. Thomas, <i>Vicar</i> William Rev. I. <i>Priest of the Holy Ghost Chapel</i></p> <p>PHYSIC. Covey John, sen. (F.) <i>Apothecary</i> Covey Charles, jun. <i>Surgeon</i> Lyford John, (F.) <i>Surgeon</i> Thomas John, <i>Surgeon</i> Workman Morris, <i>Surgeon</i></p> <p>LAW. Belf Charles, (F.) <i>Attorney</i> Bishop William, <i>Attorney</i> Cafton Moses, <i>Attorney</i> Greene William, <i>Attorney</i> Warne James, <i>Attorney</i></p> <p>TRADERS, &c. Andrews Thomas, (F.) <i>Plumber and Glazier</i> Andrews Thomas, (F.) <i>Grocer</i> Atwood George, (F.) <i>Carrier</i> Atwood Roger, (F.) <i>Villwaller</i> Atwood William, <i>Butcher</i> Atwood Abraham, <i>Taylor</i> Atwood Samuel, <i>Yeoman</i> Addams —, <i>Villwaller, (Royal Oak)</i> Addams John, <i>Yeoman</i> Addams Thomas, <i>Wharfinger</i> Addams Richard, (F.) <i>Carrier</i> Addams Andrew, <i>Bacon-facitor</i> Alder Thomas, (F.) <i>Maltster</i> Ayliff Charles, (F.) <i>Blacksmith</i> Ayliff Charles, <i>Cordwainer</i></p>	<p>Cox Jacob, <i>Taylor</i> Cock Joseph, (F.) <i>Breches-maker</i> Chambers John, <i>Hatter</i> Cleeve George, <i>Shopkeeper</i> Cleeve Charles, <i>Blanket-maker</i> Crockford Thomas, <i>Yeoman</i> Citty Thomas, <i>Villwaller, (Wheat-steeff)</i> Clarke Diana, <i>Farmer</i> Collins John, <i>Whitesmith</i> Cooper Robert, (F.) <i>Stonemason</i> Cafton Thomas, <i>Ironmonger</i> Denyer Edmund, <i>Baker</i> Davies John, (F.) <i>Linens-draper</i> Dickinon John, (F.) <i>Clerk of the Market</i> Farley Charles, (F.) <i>Cordwainer</i> Graham David, <i>Shopkeeper</i> Grace Gideon, <i>Brazier</i> Gilling Richard, <i>Cordwainer</i> Gearle Richard and James, <i>Yeomen</i> Garlick Mrs. <i>Mantua-maker</i> Gregory James, <i>Watchmaker</i> Groves John, <i>Fishmonger</i> Godwin John, (F.) <i>Shopkeeper</i> Glover William, (F.) <i>Plumber</i> Hall Richard, <i>Black and White Smith</i> Hankin John, <i>Villwaller, (Rose and Crown)</i> Hazle —, <i>Maltster</i> Hughes James, <i>Taylor</i> Hunt Richard, <i>Schoolmaster</i> Hunt James, (F.) <i>Hop-merchant</i> Hunt Thomas, <i>Chandler</i> Hacker John, <i>Gardener and Seedman</i> Hewett Daniel, <i>Peruke-maker</i></p>
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Here is the local directory for two years later. Gregory is listed as a watchmaker, as distinguished from a shopkeeper.

In 1790³ through at least 1793⁴ it appears that James got involved in local committee for digging a canal.

... Hatton Garden.
 Letters for advice, including half a guinea only, will be answered; but, on a personal consultation, Dr. Hodson expects the compliment of a guinea.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL NAVIGATION.
WF, whose hands are hereunto subscribed, eight of the Commissioners appointed in and by an Act of Parliament for making a navigable Canal from the Town of Basingstoke, in the County of Southampton, to communicate with the River Wey, in the Parish of Chertsey, in the County of Surry, and to the South-East Side of the Turnpike-road, in the Parish of Turgifs, in the said County of Southampton, do hereby give notice, that, pursuant to a request of the company of proprietors of the said Canal, a General Meeting of the commissioners appointed in and by the said Act will be held on Friday, the third day of September next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of Mr. Benjamin Nichols, known by the name or sign of the Bush, at Farnham, in the county of Surry, for the purpose of issuing a warrant or warrants to the Sheriff or sheriffs, under-sheriff or under-sheriffs, coroner or coroners, of the said county of Surry, to impanel, summon, and return, a jury or juries, to inquire, and assess, and ascertain, the sum or sums of money, or annual rent, to be paid for the purchase of certain pieces of land, situate in the parish of Woking, in the said county of Surry: one supposed to belong to Mrs. C. Harley, of the Hermitage, in the said county of Surry; and the others to Mr. ——— Turner, of Woking aforesaid: set out and ascertained for making the said Canal. Dated this 16th day of August, 1790.

THOMAS DIGGLE.
 JOHN EYRE.
 JAMES GREGORY.
 J. F. TOLL.
 JOHN RICHARDS;
 ALBAN THOMAS.
 GEORGE WATKINS.
 JOSEPH RICHMOND.

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Sandy-hill Farm.

BASINGSTOKE CANAL NAVIGATION.

WE, whose hands are hereunto subscribed, seven of the commissioners appointed in or by an act of parliament for making a Navigable Canal from the town of Basingstoke, in the county of Southampton, to communicate with the river Wey in the parish of Chertsey, in the county of Surrey, and to the south-east side of the turnpike-road, in the parish of Turgifs, in the said county of Southampton: do hereby give Notice, That, pursuant to a request on the part and behalf of Magdalen college, in the university of Oxford, a general Meeting of the commissioners appointed in or by the said act will be held on Thursday, the 4th day of April next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, at the house of Mr. Wm. Wilson, known by the name or sign of the Crown-Inn, at Basingstoke aforesaid, for the purpose of settling, adjusting, and determining, the claim of the said college to the impropriate and vicarial tythes of all the lands used or prejudiced for the purpose of making the said canal, in the tythings of Basingstoke, Basing, and Nately, in the said county of Southampton. Dated this 15th day of March, 1793.

WITHER BRAMSTONE, GEORGE WATKINS,
THO. COULTHARD, J. RICHMOND,
GEORGE GREEN, ALBAN THOMAS,
JAMES GREGORY,

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What follows are transcripts of land records provided by Ms. Reavell, mentioning James in 1811, 1814, and his occupation. Note that he indeed listed as a watchmaker and not a vendor or shopkeeper.

42M66/94-95

Title

Lease, release and assignment of mortgage term of 500 years in trust to attend inheritance, concerning premises as detailed in 42M66/81 (BRA 1473)

Date

15 -16 Aug 1811

Description

- (i) Richard Jeffreys of Basingstoke, banker, mortgagee
- (ii) Martha Adams of Basingstoke, widow, vendor and mortgagor
- (iii) Samuel Doman of Basingstoke, baker, purchaser
- (iv) James Gregory of Basingstoke, clock and watchmaker, trustee for Samuel Doman
- (v) James Warne of Basingstoke, gent, trustee for Samuel Doman



63

Alt Ref No

44M69/D1/7/2

Title

Original bundle of deeds labelled 'title deeds relating to two cottages at Lasham purchased from Mr Gregory of Basingstoke by George Purefoy Jervoise, 27 Jul 1814'

Date

1675-1804

Description

In 1695 the two cottages were described as one tenement recently erected on land called Butt Close. By 1811 it had been divided into two tenements and was described as two tenements with gardens and backsides in Lasham

Bundle includes: copy of will of Christopher Cowper, 26 Apr 1700 (item 2)

Owners and occupiers include: Christopher Cowper of Lasham, gent (1675); William Vidler of Lasham, taylor (1675); Sarah Vidler of Northington, widow (1740); Joseph Figgess of Lasham, husbandman (1740); John Figgess of Lasham, labourer (1769); Richard Wateridge of Herriard, yeoman (1769); James Gregory of Basingstoke, clock and watch maker (1811); George Purefoy Jervoise (1814)



44M69/K7/58

Title

Advertisement for lottery tickets sold by J. Gregory, watch and clockmaker, Basingstoke, for Richardson, Goodluck & Co. of London

Date

1821

Description

Endorsed : receipt of Gregory to George Purefoy Jervoise, 1821



It appears that along with the watches and clocks that he made, James also sold lottery tickets, per the entry above and this 1822 ad.⁵

RICHARDSON, GOODLUCK, and Co. respectfully acquaint the Public that the ticket No. 11,221, a prize of TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS! drawn the 28th of last month, was sold by them in shares, at their Old-Established office, No. 104, Bank Buildings, Cornhill, London.

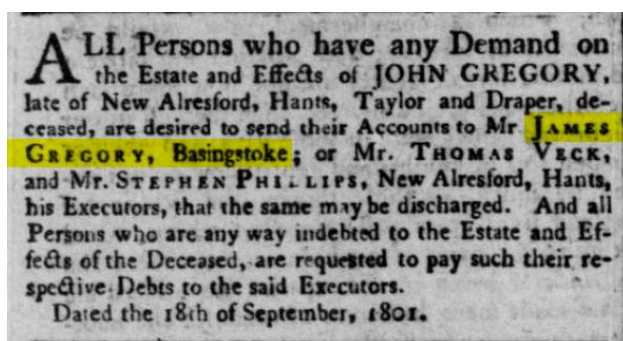
State of the Wheel.

TWO PRIZES OF £20,000!
And Twenty other Capitals.
For the Next and Last Day, the 23d of April.

Tickets and shares, warranted undrawn, are on sale by Richardson, Goodluck, and Co. at their Old Established Office, No. 104, Bank Buildings, Cornhill; and by the following Agents:—

Winchester, J. Flight, Hatter. [1665
Southampton, Nathaniel Pegler.
Basingstoke, J. Gregory.
Newbury, Mrs. Lewis, next the Jack of Newbury.

In 1780, the father John had died in Lasham and is buried there. No record have I found for the death of mother Mary as yet; transcriptions of gravestones at the Lasham burial ground do not show Mary and she may well have relocated to live with an adult child in another town, dying there. In 1789, James' elder brother John had removed to New Alresford, Hampshire County^a. This is to the west and a little south of Lasham, where he set up as a tailor and draper. There, he married Hannah Morley (30 Aug 1790); they had six children: Mary (b. Mar 1792), Harriett (b. Nov. 1793), James (b. Apr 1796), William (b. Apr 1798), Elizabeth (b. May 1799), and a Sarah, for whom I have no record of birth but I did find a record of marriage that indicates that she is a daughter of John and Hannah.^b James' brother John died around the 1st or 2^d of September 1801; he was buried on the 4th, in New Alresford. William would have been 3 when his father died; he lived with his mother and his siblings until he was taken to apprentice with his uncle James when he was about the age of 12 or 13, in 1810/11 (my educated guess, for I have not found a specific record). He moved in with Uncle James in Basingstoke and there learned the trade. Cambridge University Press & Assessment suggests that the average age of a youngster going into apprenticeship in the early 19th century was about 15 and a half years, so perhaps it was more like 1813? Uncle James appears to have served as an executor for his brother's estate.



The Hampshire Chronicle, or, Winchester, Southampton, Portsmouth and Chichester Journal. Monday, September 28, 1801. Front page.

Little William may or may not have been the only one working in the shop for James, but it's clear that he was the "son James never had" and would inherit the house and business. Anything inscribed "Jas. Gregory" believed to be sold after his death in 1826 is most likely "stock", sold as an item desired by the purchaser regardless of who's name was inscribed in it.^c James did not marry and had no children of his own. He continued in the trade until his death in 1826, when his star apprentice, nephew William, was given the house and the business in James' will: see below.

The Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921, via Ancestry.com, indicates that James Gregory died in Basingstoke on 5 March 1826, aged 58; not reaching his 59th birthday. His will is also

^a today referred to simply as Alresford, but still distinct from nearby Old Alresford.

^b Please see the Genealogical Section in Part 3.

^c I say this for there is someone online who claims to have a James Gregory watch ostensibly dated to 1828, which I have not seen. No serial number cited. If the hallmarks are correct for this, then it is a James Gregory watch inserted into a later case. Not unprecedented.

And what follows is the transcription made by Donna and Thomas McQuades.

[Transcription of Last Will and Testament of James Gregory (In left margin) James Gregory.

In the Name of God Amen. I, James Gregory of Basingstoke, within County of Southampton Clock and Watch Maker etc. Being of sound mind, memory, and understanding do wish and Publish this my last Will and Testament as follows. First, I give to my Sister Mary the wife of Abraham Cox Tailor & Draper Basingstoke Thirty pounds Per year standing in my account in the Saving Annuities in the Bank of England which I said on no account whatever may be sold during my Sisters Life time. Should she die before the Stock is run out (1860) to be equally divided between as many of her children as may then be living. Secondly, I give to my niece Sarah the daughter of my late brother John Gregory of Alresford, wife Of Stephen Parker now living in London or Westminster, to my nieces Mary and Harriett daughters of my Brother John Gregory, my nieces Mary and Ann daughters of my Sister, and to my nephew Abraham Cox the Son of my Sister Mary Cox each the Sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds in the three per Cent Consols. The said Abraham & Ann Cox to have the interest only until they attain the age of Twenty one years. Thirdly, I give to William Son and Mary the Daughter of William and Hannab Noys of Winnall – now Winchester the Sum of five pounds each (money). Fourthly, I give and I wish my freehold Messuage or dwelling house in the Town of Basingstoke in a street called Winchester Street wherein I now dwell with all my household Goods furniture Stock in the different trades of Clock and Watch Maker, Silversmith, Jeweler, Music Seller, etc with Book, debts, money, and all property of whatever kind to use Belonging unto my Nephew William the Son of my late brother John Gregory aforesaid whom I Nominate Constitute and Appoint Executor with my Sister Mary the wife of Abraham Cox aforesaid Executrix to this my last Will and Testament. And hereby desire the said William Gregory to pay my debts of every description with funeral Testamentary charges and expenses Fifthly I wish to be buried at Lasham near my father in a very plain way a double head stone on one part In memory of John Gregory who died February 28 1780 aged 52 and on the other In memory of James Gregory of Basingstoke – Son of John Gregory of this place who Died etc. etc. – Sixthly the above I declare to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof the said James Gregory have to this my last Will and Testament. Set my hand and seal this Twenty first day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and twenty six James Gregory (LL) Signed Sealed And delivered by the said James Gregory, the Testator for this last Will & Testament In the presence of us who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto set our hands as witnesses thereto Samuel Dornan [-----] Wm 38. Pearman [-----] Will'm Dornan ----- Proved at London 5th April 1826 before the Judge by the oaths of William Gregory Nephew and Mary Cox (wife of Abraham Cox) the Sister the Executors for Whom administration was granted having been first sworn by Commission duly to Administer]

In his will, James left the business to his nephew William; and that he also asked to be buried near his father John Gregory in the Lasham churchyard, which is adjacent to St-Mary's Church and not very far from Basingstoke; John Gregory, who died 28 Feb 1780 in Lasham. Mother Mary is not mentioned. We also now have a family set to follow: It would seem that James never married, nor had any offspring acknowledged in his will. "I James Gregory of Basingstoke within the County of Southampton, clock and watch maker, &c, &c." He cites his living sister Mary, wife of Abraham Cox in Basingstoke, a tailor and draper by trade; their children Mary, Ann, and Abraham, the latter two being under the age of 21 in 1826. James refers to his brother John, long deceased by the time the will is drawn up in Feb 1826, and John's children: Sarah (wife of Stephen Parker of London), and William. William is to be one of the two executors (along with Mary Cox, James' sister), and William will get the house, shop, and business. See the genealogical section in Part 3.

This will was "proved before the judge" by the oath of "William Gregory, the nephew and residuary legatee substituted in the said will to whom administration was granted..." in London on 5 April 1826.

Prepared by Joseph Morneau. Feb. 2026. Updated July 2026. JosMorn@aol.com All rights reserved. 10 Forest Glen Rd. Old Saybrook, CT. 06475 USA

Below is the record of death and burial of James Gregory – burial, 5 Mar 1826. Fr. Ellis was the rector who buried James, in the Lasham churchyard of St-Mary’s, according to his wishes. Today, the headstones have been pulled up and placed alongside the stone wall, I have been informed, and therefore the exact spot of burial is no longer knowable. The Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921, via Ancestry.com, shown above, indicates that James Gregory died in Basingstoke on 5 March 1826, aged 58.⁶

Page 6.

BURIALS in the Parish of Lasham
in the County of Hants in the Year 1826

No.	Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
No. 41.	Thomas Adams	Lasham	Aug 7	31	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 42.	Ann Pope	Lasham	Nov 14	94	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 43.	John Fitzbridge	Lasham	Feb 15	51	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 44.	Isaac Coffey	Basingstoke	March 5	58	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 45.	Isaac Tomkins	Lasham	Aug 2	57	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 46.	Thomas Spenser	Lasham	Aug 26	58	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 47.	John Gregory	Lasham	Mar 5	58	Fr. Ellis Parish of Lasham
No. 48.					

5/1/25, 12:31 PM

Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921 - Ancestry.com

Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921

Record Index

Name: James Gregory
 Death Age: 58
 Birth Date: 1768
 Residence Place: Basingstoke
 Death Date: 1826
 Burial Date: 5 Mar 1826
 Burial Place: Lasham, Hampshire, England
 Parish as it Appears: Lasham

Source Information

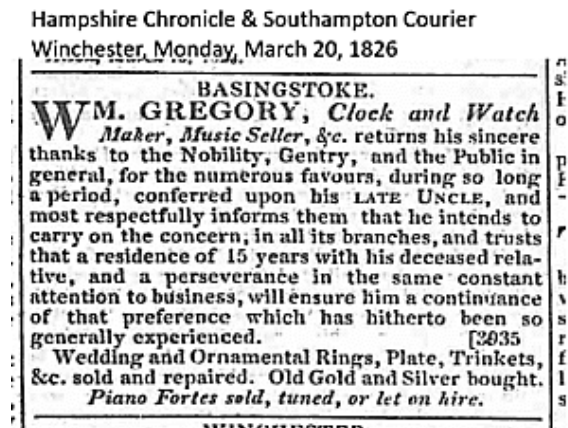
Record Url:
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62424/images/62424_373055000119_0960-00013

Source Citation:
 Hampshire Archives and Local Studies; Winchester, England, UK; Reference:
 Anglican Bishops' Transcripts

Source Information
 Ancestry.com
 Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921
 (database on-line). Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2023.
 Original data: Anglican Parish Registers, Winchester, Hampshire, England:
 Hampshire Archives and Local Studies.

➤ **William Gregory**

Born in April 1798 in New Alresford, Hampshire. As stated earlier, he moved to Basingstoke as a youngster to live with his uncle James and to learn the watch making trade. William was 28 when his uncle died, and he served as one of the two executors for the estate and will. William inherited the house, property, and business. The following year, on 6 Aug, in New Alresford, he married Mary Skinner and brought her back to the Winchester Street house in Basingstoke.



William and Mary (Skinner) had three children: James (b. July 1828), William Jr. (b. 5 Sep. 1829), and Harriett (b. June 1832). William Jr was baptized on 6 Dec 1829 at Christchurch, Basingstoke, England. William continued the business – making watches, clocks, and selling musical instruments; I have no evidence that he would have taught his wife any of the trade, but we know that he did teach his sons. Having said this, it seems that clockmaking might have become less of a focus for the business; he trained his eldest son James to work the clocks, while the next son William Jr would focus on watches. James would move out of the home some time after 1851 and presumably took his skills as a “clockmaker” with him.

The image on the following page is from the Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian of 16 Apr 1836. Note the comments that would have referred to William Sr as a watch maker.

16 April 1836

BASINGSTOKE, APRIL 16.

The General Quarter Sessions for this town took place on the 8th inst, when John Taylor stood indicted for stealing a pair of stockings the property of Mr. Francis Moth, the grand Jury ignored the Bill.—Thomas Penn, for stealing part of a chine, the property of Christopher Edward Lefroy, esq. the prisoner pleaded guilty—one month's imprisonment and hard labour at Winchester.—John Aslett, for stealing a watch the property of Mr. Renouf. It appeared in evidence that the prisoner brought the watch to Mr. Gregory, watch-maker, for sale, on the 17th of March last; he stated to Mr. Gregory that he bought it at a shop in the High-street, Winchester, about four years ago, and that he paid 3*l.* 10*s.* or 3*l.* 1*s.* for it. Mr. Gregory on examining the watch saw his private mark in the inside, which led him to refer to his book, and there he discovered that it was a watch that he had repaired for Mr. Renouf, between five and six years ago, he told the man that the watch belonged to a person in the town, and he went in the next room and desired his son to fetch Mr. Renouf, upon turning round he discovered that the man was gone, he followed, overtook and brought him back, he asked him what made him run away, he said he did not know and appeared frightened, he afterwards let him go away upon promising to call again in the afternoon, but he did not call again, he had not seen him since till he saw him in custody at the Town Hall on the day he was committed, at his examination the prisoner stated in his defence, that he changed a watch of his with a pedlar at Winchester fair about four years since for this watch and a sovereign, the prisoner brought no witnesses. The Jury retired for about twenty minutes and returned a verdict of

It would seem that Gregory's also sold lottery tickets. See the images below.

Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian. 18 Jan 1834

LOSSES OCCASIONED BY LIGHTNING ARE MADE GOOD.

NEXT WEDNESDAY.

THE GLASGOW LOTTERY,
Authorised by Act of Parliament,
Will be drawn at COOPER'S HALL, in the City of London.

On WEDNESDAY NEXT,
The 22nd of this Month, JANUARY.

The SCHEME contains the following large Prizes, besides 1995 others of smaller amount.

1 of £15,000.....	£15,000
1	10,000
1	5,000
1	3,000
1	2,000
1	1,500
4	1,000
4	4,000

Together with Prizes of £500, £400, £200, £100, &c. &c. &c.

Each PRIZE will be paid in MONEY, as soon as drawn.

Deducting only a small commission, as stated in the Schemes at large, which may be had, gratis, at all the Offices. The following Persons are the authorised Agents for the Sale of Tickets and Shares.

HANTS.

SOUTHAMPTON.. W. LOMER, Tea Dealer, 5, High St.
N. PEGLER, 151, High Street
E. SHAKELL, Auctioneer
Mis. M. STREET, Library
H. BUCHAN, House Decorator, 159, High Street

ALRESFORD.... T. Skinner, Post Office

ALTON..... J. Boyland, Perfumer, High Street

ANDOVER.... G. Mercer, Bookseller

BASINGSTOKE.. W. Gregory, Watchmaker

COWES..... W. H. Smith, Auctioneer

FORDSBRIDGE John Hannen, Junr.

GOSPORT.... J. B. Harding, Bookseller
Jacob and Johnson, Booksellers
Geo. Legg, Stationer, High Street
Mis. Legg, Post Office

END OF LOTTERIES.

ON the 22d of this month (JULY), the very LAST and ONLY LOTTERY that is or will be sanctioned by Parliament, must be all drawn, when all the Capitals and every other Prize will be decided, after which ALL LOTTERIES will cease in this Kingdom.—The Scheme contains the following Capital Prizes—

1	£16,000	£16,000
1	10,000	10,000
1	3,000	3,000
1	2,000	2,000
1	1,600	1,600
1	1,500	1,500
2	1,400	2,800
1	1,100	1,100

Besides others of £800, £500, £400, &c.

The Prizes will all be paid in Money on demand, as heretofore, the Capitals only being subject to a small discount, as set forth in the Schemes, which may be had gratis of the following Agents, by whom Tickets and Shares are now on sale.

PRESENT PRICE.

Ticket.....	£13 13 0
Half.....	£7 6 0
Quarter.....	3 15 6
Eighth.....	£1 18 6
Sixteenth.....	0 19 6

HAMPSHIRE.

PORTSMOUTH.... W. Harrison, Telegraph Office, Parade
A. Hinton, Stationer, 54, High-street
J. Miller, junr., Bookseller, 102, High-st.

PORTSEA.... S. Honey, Bookseller
Geo. Mason, Printer, &c. 102, Queen-st.
E. Wilton, Carver & Gilder, 56, Queen-st

GOSPORT.... J. B. Harding, Bookseller
Johnson and Jacob, Booksellers
G. Legg, Stationer, High-street
Mrs. Legg, Post-Office

ALRESFORD.... T. Skinner, Post-Office

ALTON..... J. Boyland, Perfumer, High-street

ANDOVER.... G. Mercer, Bookseller

BASINGSTOKE.. W. Gregory, Watch-maker, &c.

COWES (I.W.).. W. H. Smith, Auctioneer

FORDSBRIDGE, John Hannen, Junr.

HAVANT..... W. Lock, Bookseller

LYMINGTON.... R. Galpin, Bookseller
Joseph Martin, Bookseller

ODHAM..... J. W. Hornaby

RINGWOOD.... J. Benson, Saddler

ROSEY..... T. Slatts, Stationer

RYDE (I.W.).. P. T. Bolyer, Marine Library
Edward Shakell, Auctioneer

SOUTHAMPTON.. W. Lomer, Tea Dealer, 5, High-street
Mrs. M. Street, Library
H. Buchan, House Decorator, 159, High-street

WHITTINGTON.. ..

Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle - 7 July 1834

Alt Ref No

42M66/112

Title

Assignment of mortgage for residue of 500 year term, concerning property as detailed in 42M66/89 (BRA 1473)

Date

5 Dec 1835

Description

- (i) William Flower of Stantons Farm, Kingsclere, gent; John Hawkins of Welford, Berkshire, gent; Francis Cox of Aldermaston, Berkshire, surgeon; executors of Letitia Dicker, late of Baughurst, widow, deceased, mortgagee, in 42M66/89
- (ii) William Moody of Basingstoke, pastry cook, mortgagor
- (iii) William Gregory of Basingstoke, watchmaker, new mortgagee

Alt Ref No

42M66/113

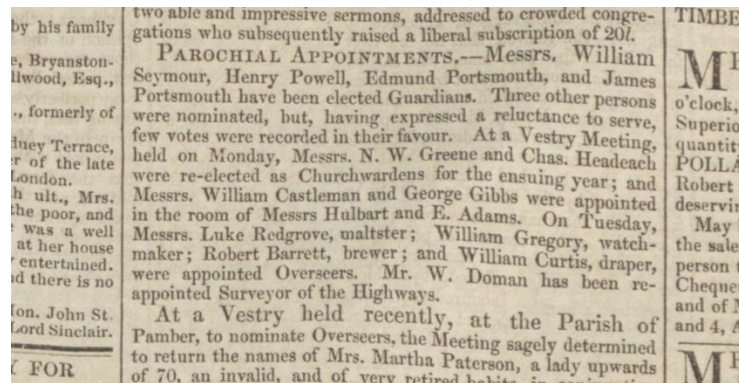
Title

Bond: William Moody of Basingstoke, pastry cook, bound to William Gregory of Basingstoke, watch maker, to secure repayment of mortgage, in 42M66/112, on 5 Jun 1836 (BRA 1473)

Date

5 Dec 1835

William may have become a church overseer, per the following announcement:⁷ With a couple of other William Gregorys in the city at this time, I may be wrong about this and would welcome any further elucidation.



The image below is a watch made by William Gregory Sr, silver paired case, ploughing scene on dial, c.1842. Owned by the Hampshire Cultural Trust.



This might be our William Sr, possibly serving on the town council, but further research is required to be certain. Found in the Hampshire Advertiser, 8 Nov 1845.

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...thought it politic to let him go for the present; upon which the mob desisted and returned to the harbour. Since then summonses have been served on Thorne and several others, who will appear on Tuesday.

BASINGSTOKE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—Mr. Charles Webb, Mr. Thomas Downs, and Mr. Edward Adams were re-elected; and Mr. Henry Downs, Mr. George William Leigh, and Mr. William Gregory were elected.

WINCHESTER BOROUGH COURT.—(Before the Mayor and Justices).
Edward Hobbs, for stealing a riding cane, with silver ferrol, the

Berkshire Chronicle, 8 Nov 1845.

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...after a previous conviction. A presentment was made by the Grand Jury respecting the revival of a court for the recovery of small debts.

BASINGSTOKE

On the 1st inst. an election for six councillors was held at the Town-hall, when Mr. Charles Webb, Mr. Thomas Downs, and Mr. Edward Adams, were re-elected; and Mr. Henry Downs, Mr. George Wm. Leigh, and Mr. William Gregory, were elected in the room of Mr. James Carter, Mr. N. W. Green, and Mr. George Penton.

On Wednesday evening a boy was seriously injured on our common by the bursting of a serpent against his leg. Fears are entertained that he must suffer amputation.

At a petty sessions held at the Town-hall, on Tuesday, before the Mayor and town magistrates, police superintendent Stephen Franklin was fined 15s., including costs, for assaulting David Tubb; and Thomas Dormer appeared to an information exhibited against him for letting off fireworks in the streets, but was dismissed from an error in the information.

WAILINGFORD.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT.—On Saturday last an election took place for four councillors in this borough,

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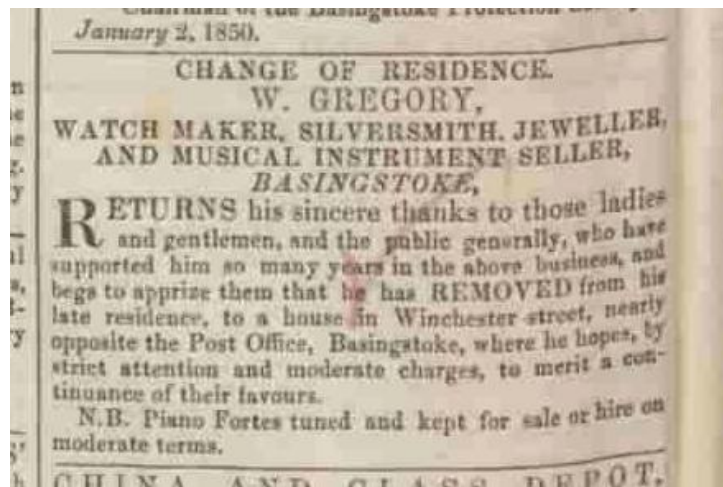
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A side note of a journeyman worker – “a watch maker, in the employ of Mr. Gregory” – for William Gregory... Mr. Joseph Sansom. There is very little evidence of employees outside of the family members in the business, so this is certainly of interest.

The Hampshire Independent
Sat. Aug. 12, 1848

most uninitiated.	The
BOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS. —Joseph Sansom, a watch	ber!
maker, in the employ of Mr. Gregory, for an assault on	T
Thomas Smith, landlord of the Hut public-house, on the	Ca
Cliddesden road, on the 1st instant, was fined 16s. penalty	v
and costs.—John Clark, of Worthing End, labourer, was	L
charged with stealing a half sovereign and other monies, the	Lo
property of Mr. Edward Hutchins of that place, on the	mo
night of the 5th instant. It appeared that Clarke had gone	S
into the cottage of the prosecutor about half-past ten in the	agt
evening, for the purpose of lighting his pipe, and finding the	1
latter asleep in a chair, seized the opportunity of taking the	Jau
money from his pocket. The loss was discovered by	1
Hutchins in about an hour, and the prisoner having been	Hy
apprehended admitted the theft, but said he found the money	2
on the table, and took it only for a lark; committed for	ast
trial.	the
BASINGSTOKE CORN MARKET. —Wheat, 46s. to 58s. per	Wi
	1
	En

By the start of 1850, William had relocated the business a couple of rods down Winchester St, which is believed to be the continued location until the early 20th century and the end of the business.⁸



On 24 July 1850, a pledge was signed by a collection of locals in the “North Hants of Hampshire, England”, addressing a desire to “promote and support a fair for the sale of wool, to be held annually at Basingstoke”. Among the signers was William Gregory of Basingstoke.⁹

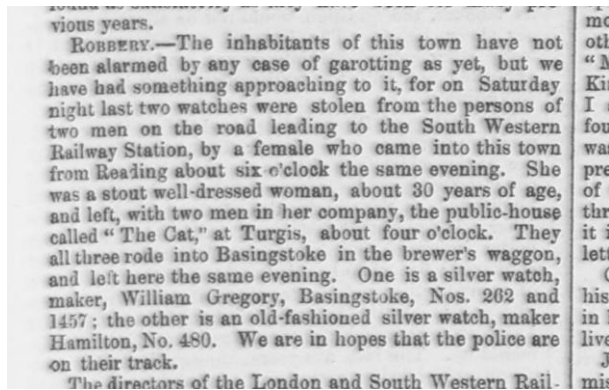
In the 1851 census covering Basingstoke, Hampshire, William is listed as head of household at 54 Winchester St. Born in “Hampshire, Alresford” and 58 yrs of age, watch maker, the house also had Mary, wife, 57, also from “Alresford”. Then there was 22 yr old son James, a clockmaker; William, 21, watch maker; 18 yr old daughter Harriett; and house servant 18 yr old Ann Martin. William Sr. employed “one man”,¹⁰ which would be besides family members. Perhaps it was still Joseph Sansom.

Prepared by Joseph Morneault. Feb. 2026. Updated July 2026. JosMorn@aol.com All rights reserved. 10 Forest Glen Rd. Old Saybrook, CT. 06475 USA

William is also listed in "Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World", Vol. 2, by Brian Loomis [1976 N.A.G. Press LTD, London]: "GREGORY, William. *Basingstoke*. 1830-1867."

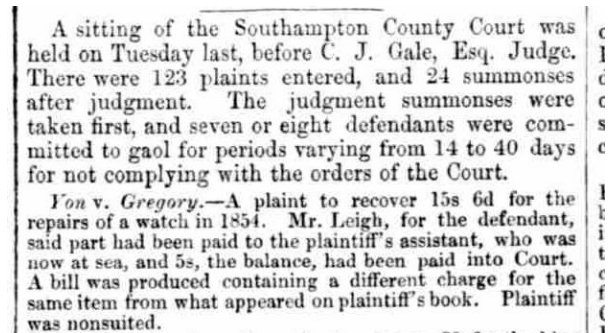
On 9 Jan 1855, son William Jr. married Sarah Ann Pelton of Basingstoke¹¹ and she moved into the Winchester house/shop with her new in-laws. She would take up watchmaking and become part of the family business.¹²

This a couple of years later, and referred to in the Berkshire Chronicle of 24 January 1857, a robbery of two Gregory pocket watches occurred. I think that it would be interesting if numbers 262 and 1457 should turn up in someone's collection today!



vious years.
ROBBERY.—The inhabitants of this town have not been alarmed by any case of garotting as yet, but we have had something approaching to it, for on Saturday night last two watches were stolen from the persons of two men on the road leading to the South Western Railway Station, by a female who came into this town from Reading about six o'clock the same evening. She was a stout well-dressed woman, about 30 years of age, and left, with two men in her company, the public-house called "The Cat," at Turgis, about four o'clock. They all three rode into Basingstoke in the brewer's waggon, and left here the same evening. One is a silver watch, maker, William Gregory, Basingstoke, Nos. 262 and 1457; the other is an old-fashioned silver watch, maker Hamilton, No. 480. We are in hopes that the police are on their track.
The directors of the London and South Western Rail-

And then this...¹³



A sitting of the Southampton County Court was held on Tuesday last, before C. J. Gale, Esq. Judge. There were 123 plaintiffs entered, and 24 summonses after judgment. The judgment summonses were taken first, and seven or eight defendants were committed to gaol for periods varying from 14 to 40 days for not complying with the orders of the Court.
Von v. Gregory.—A plaint to recover 15s 6d for the repairs of a watch in 1854. Mr. Leigh, for the defendant, said part had been paid to the plaintiff's assistant, who was now at sea, and 5s, the balance, had been paid into Court. A bill was produced containing a different charge for the same item from what appeared on plaintiff's book. Plaintiff was nonsuited.

In the Berkshire Chronicle of 3 January 1857, a report was printed regarding a burglary of some valuable antique coins. The accused fenced the coins, one of which was to William Gregory, who would give testimony in court to this effect.

KINGSLERE PETTY SESSIONS.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26.

(Present: E. Currie and E. Arbuthnot, Esqrs.)

Thomas Speen, an interesting youth, who it appeared never knew his parents, but, as was stated in court, was about fourteen or fifteen years back found in the parish of Speen, Berks, and has since been known by the name of "Speen," was brought up in the custody of J. Peachey, gamekeeper to W. Kingsmill, Esq., of Sydmon-ton Court, Hants, charged with wilfully and maliciously committing damage to yew and holly there growing on Sydmon-ton Common, on the 24th December.—William Butler, a labourer on the estate, who was instructed to look after the common, as people made such depredations just at this time of the year by cutting holly and ever-greens, said he was on the common on Wednesday, the 24th Dec., and saw the defendant in a tree; he had a bill-hook in his hand, and had cut the holly and other shrubs produced. Apprehended him, and took what he had cut away. The quantity shown to the bench consisted of the top of a young yew tree and a large "nich" of holly, &c., enough to fill a donkey cart, and no doubt the defendant would have made a pretty penny of it at the various shops in Newbury, whither he stated he was going with the same.—Convicted in penalty of 6d., da-mage 6d., and costs 4s., to be paid in a fortnight.

BURGLARY AT TADLEY.—Thomas Cripps, labourer, of Tadley, who has a particular desire to see the world, but who is at present a candidate only for a pleasant trip across the herring pond, was brought up in the custody of the police, charged with feloniously breaking into and stealing from the dwelling house of William Hasker, farmer, of Tadley, on Sunday the 21st Dec., a quantity of old silver coins, of the reigns of Charles the Third of Spain, Charles the Second and George the Third of England, also other monies, to the value of 1*l*. 18s., a bottle of wine, and part of a meat pie, the latter of which it is supposed [the prisoner consumed in the house.—William Hasker said: On Sunday last I left my house about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon; my housekeeper left with me. I saw her lock the door. We went to chapel, returned about 4 o'clock, and found the window broken and the blind down. Thought some one had been in the house. Examined a bureau in the kitchen, it had been opened, and one of the drawers left open, and some papers disturbed. There was some money in the drawer when I left home; I cannot say exactly how much.—Mary Elliott deposed: I am housekeeper to prosecutor. On Sunday afternoon I went to chapel with my master. I locked the door of the house. On our return I unlocked the door and went in. Master said, "I think the house has been robbed." I went up stairs, and on looking into my box found three old five shilling pieces had been taken away. Those now produced I identify as mine, and which were in my box. The piece produced by Mr. Ho-rau is a silver piece of the reign of Charles the Third

of Spain. The two other pieces produced by William Barber are of the reigns of Charles the Second and George the Third. I also missed other coins from the same box, and a bottle of grape wine from the cellar.—David James, a labourer, of Tadley, proved seeing the prisoner about a quarter after three on the day named go along the road near the prosecutor's house. Witness spoke to and was answered by the prisoner; he was going in a contrary direction to Mr. Hasker's house.—William Gregory, silversmith, of Basingstoke, gave evi-dence as to purchasing one of the coins of the prisoner for 4s. 3d. on Tuesday, the 23d Dec. The coin was of the reign of Charles of Spain, and is the one now pro-duced by the witness Barber. Gave it to Barber about an hour after the prisoner had left my shop. This wit-ness identified the prisoner as the party selling him the coin.—George Loten Hillier, another silversmith of Bas-ingstoke, stated that the prisoner came into his shop about nine o'clock on Tuesday morning, when he asked witness to buy a coin of George the Third; bought it, and gave the prisoner 3s. 4d. for it. Placed it in one of his drawers in a box.—Catherine Barter, a widow, of Basingstoke, proved that the prisoner came to her "eat-ing-house" and bought three pennyworth of victuals; he tendered what she thought was a five shilling piece, and she gave him the change, 4s. 0d. Afterwards sent the piece to be examined, and it turned out to be bad. Marked it and gave it to the witness Horan on the fol-lowing day.—William Barber, a police-constable of the Hants Constabulary stationed at Baughurst—a very clever officer, who has upon various occasions shown much acuteness in working up cases of felony in his dis-trict, and to whom great praise is due for his indefatiga-ble exertions in searching for the prisoner and stolen property in this case—gave evidence of unusual length, the most important parts of which we can only find room for. He stated that on Sunday evening 21st Dec., about five o'clock, he first received information of this robbery—went to the house—found a pane of glass in window broken. From information received he went to prisoner on the next day where he was at work, asked him what time he went by Mr. Hasker's, on Sunday after-noon? Prisoner said "about half-past three." Asked him if he (prisoner) met any one? Said "no." Asked him (prisoner) if he noticed Mr. Hasker's house? And he said "Yes, I noticed the window shutter was put to." On Tuesday went to Basingstoke, met prisoner, about one o'clock, coming from the direction of Mr. Gregory's shop. Prisoner said "what brought you here." I said "I don't know." Went to Mr. Gregory's and enquired if he had bought any old coins, he said he had, and gave me the one I now produce, dated 1679. Subsequently went to Mr. Hillier's and in his absence I received a coin from Mrs. Hillier. Afterwards saw Mr. Hillier who identified it as the piece he had purchased of the pri-soner, this piece is dated 1809. I then met with another police constable and described the prisoner to him, wish-ing him to be on the look-out and watch his movements. Soon after I saw the prisoner in custody and then told him the charge against him was that of breaking into Mr. Hasker's house and stealing monies to the amount of £1 18s., likewise three five-shilling pieces and some old coins, a bottle of wine, and a part of a hogmeat pie. The prisoner made no reply.—Superintendent Edmund Horan produced the coin he received of the witness Mrs. Barter, dated 1777, and stated that whilst in the cell at Kingsclere, the prisoner made a voluntary statement to witness, the effect of which was to implicate another person in the robbery and that the prisoner found the coins under the hedge, but Police-constable Barber stated that he had heard as much, at Tadley, and had made a strict investigation of the matter, and more than that a dozen people were ready to prove that the party named by the prisoner was never near the spot during any part of the day when the robbery took place. Prisoner in re-ply to usual caution declined to say anything, and was committed to take his trial at the next quarter sessions at Winchester. Prisoner had not been home many days, having suffered a term of imprisonment at Winchester, for stealing a parcel of drapery from a cart on the high-way, between Basingstoke and Pamber, on the 19th Sep-tember last, belonging to Sarah West of Tadley, widow.

William Sr died on 8 June 1860. He was buried four days later in Basingstoke, South View Cemetery: formerly known as Holy Ghost Cemetery. His will was proven on 12 August with the executors being his widow Mary and her brother Thomas Skinner. The business head was now William Jr.

Allen, of Alton, Hants. **DIED.**
 On the 1st inst. at Kirby House, Berks, Eliza, wife of John Butler, Esq. aged 67.
 On the 1st inst. at the Crescent, Windsor, Thos. Pullen Ward, Esq. aged 55, late of Winkfield-lodge, Winkfield, Berks.
 On Sunday, at his residence, near Southampton, John Jenkins Loney, Esq. Lieutenant R.N. aged 76.
 On Tuesday, at Seend, Wilts, Rev. George Wm. Daubeny, L.L.B. eldest son of the late Archdeacon Daubeny, in his 76th year.
 On the 24th April, at Secunderabad, of cholera, Bathurst Fortescue Schomberg, aged 22, Lieut. 49th Madras N.I. second son of J. T. Schomberg, Esq. of 81, Eccleston-square, London, and Seend, in the county of Wilts.
 On the 31st May, Mary Frances, the beloved wife of Lovel Byass, Esq. of Cuckfield
 On Saturday, at Reading, Harry, second son of Henry and Sophia Hume Adams, aged 17 years. Also, on Tuesday, Alexander Lamona, eldest son of the above, aged 24.
 On Wednesday, in Denzil-place, Southampton, in her 67th year, Susan Lydia, wife of John T. Duffell, Esq. Paymaster R.N. and of the Royal Mail Steam-packet Company.
 On Wednesday, at her residence, Southover, near Lewes, Mrs. Mary Barrow, widow of John Barrow, Esq. late of Davies-street, Berkeley-square, London, in her 55th year.
 On Saturday, at his residence, Staunton Lodge, Hayling Island, Hants, Mr. Anthony Fox, aged 73, late of Hobart-town, Tasmania.
 Yesterday (Friday), aged 62 years, Mr. William Gregory, watchmaker, silversmith, &c. of Winchester-street, Basingstoke.
 On the 28th ult. at the Library, Bognor, Mary Binstead, aged 70.
 On Sunday, at Park-place, Christchurch, Hants, in his 80th year, Mr. John North, formerly officer of Excise.
 On Sunday, in Southgate-road, Winchester, Gertrude Frances Morrella, aged 22 years.
 Yesterday morning, at St. Cross, Winchester, aged 54, Mr. Wm. Purchase maltster and publican. Deceased was a "character"

Hampshire Chronicle, 9 June 1860.

WILLIAM GREGORY, Deceased.
ALL Persons having any Claim or Demand against the Estate of the late WILLIAM GREGORY, of Basingstoke, Watchmaker and Silversmith, are requested immediately to forward particulars of the same to Mrs. Mary Gregory, Widow, of Basingstoke, Executrix, or to Mr. T. Skinner, Executor, of Alresford, in order to their being discharged, if found to be correct. And all Persons indebted to the said Estate are hereby required to pay their several Debts without delay.
 MARY GREGORY, Executrix,
 THOMAS SKINNER, Executor.
Basingstoke, July, 1860.

WILLIAM GREGORY,
WATCHMAKER AND SILVERSMITH,
 WINCHESTER STREET, BASINGSTOKE,
RETURNS thanks to the Inhabitants of the town and its vicinity, for the patronage so liberally conferred on his Father, and respectfully solicits a continuance of their favours, which he assures them will at all times receive his best attention.

Public ad/call-in for estate of William Sr.: The Hampshire Chronicle, 14 July 1860. This is an unusual advertisement in that Gregorys doesn't really seem to have placed ads in the various newspapers at all. At least not that I have been able to dig up after hours of scouring the digitized journals. There are other watch makers/sellers who do throughout the 19th century, but not our people, it seems.

Dunett, Solicitors, 63, Chancery Lane, in the County of Middlesex, and at the said hotel.
ALFRED HALL, Chief Clerk.
Basingstoke, Hants.
VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUSINESS PREMISES AND PRIVATE RESIDENCES.
MESSRS. NICHOLS & SON are instructed by the Trustees for Sale under the will of the late Mr. William Gregory, to Sell by Auction, in the early part of the ensuing month, the above desirable Freeholds, in the most commanding situations in the town of Basingstoke.
Further particulars will appear in future papers, and in the mean time may be had of Messrs. Prickett & King, Solicitors, and of the Auctioneers, Basingstoke.
22nd June, 1861.
KNOWL HILL FARM, HURLEY, BERKS.
LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK.

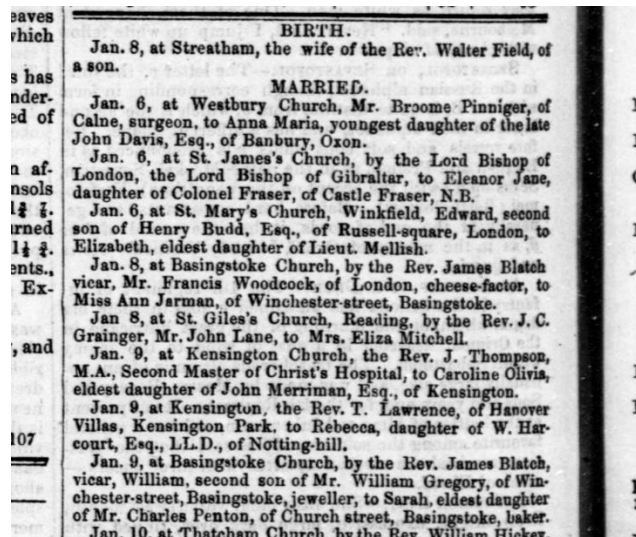
Berkshire Chronicle, 22 June 1861.

Probated property¹⁴ Widow Mary is listed as “head of household” in the 1861 census.

GREGORY William. Effects under £3,000.
19 August.
The Will of William Gregory late of Basingstoke in the County of Southampton Silversmith deceased.
238
WILLS. 1861.
ceased who died 8 June 1860 at Basingstoke aforesaid was proved at Winchester by the oaths of Mary Gregory of Alresford in the said County Widow the Relict and Thomas Skinner of the same place Gentleman the Executors.

➤ **William Jr.**

As mentioned above, William Jr (25) married Sarah Ann Penton (23) on 9 January 1855,¹⁵ moving her into the household. When her father-in-law died five years later, Sarah appears to have become the business driver; William Jr appears to have had lingering health issues, although I do not have information as to what he was suffering from. I conclude that he relied heavily upon his wife along with whatever possible but as yet not documented apprentice/worker to operate the business during his last years. Widow Mary doesn't appear to have been the one to take over the business and may have been content to be the family matriarch. William Jr and Sarah had six children: Sarah Ann – called “Annie” (b. 1856), Harriett – called “Hartie” (b. Oct 1857. She went on to marry Arthur James Lear with no known children), William Skinner (b. 1859, bap.¹⁶ 30 Dec 1859), James (b. 1861 and died 4 days later), Thomas Skinner (b. 1863 and died aged 4 yrs), and Charles (b. 1866 and lived but 10 days).¹⁷ Please see the Gregory Genealogy in the 3d section. There also doesn't appear to be a worker listed in subsequent census returns, so perhaps it was family-only by this point. Clockmaking seems to have left the immediate family business; where William Jr's brother James wound up, I have been unable to ascertain. I suspect that he continued the clockmaking aspect of the business, though.



Berkshire Chronicle, 13 Jan 1855 See the marriage

announcement at the bottom, Jan. 9, at Basingstoke Church...

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Page 10		Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Eccelesiastical District of		
		<i>Basingstoke</i>								
No of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES Inhabited (U.S. & England) (B.)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Professor, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
						Male	Female			
57	Winchester St	1	Richard Skidford	Head	Mar	57		Crane Street Basingstoke	Basingstoke	None
			Sarah Ann	Wife	Mar	54		do	do	None
			Emma James	Daughter	Mar	25		do	do	None
58	do	1	William James	Head	Mar	57		do	do	None
			Charles James	Head	Mar	56		do	do	None
			Ann	Wife	Mar	56		do	do	None
			John	Son	Mar	20		do	do	None
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	54		do	do	None
59	do	1	John Gregory	Head	Mar	68		Walthamstow London	do	None
			William	Son	Mar	31		do	do	None
			Sarah Ann	Wife	Mar	29		do	do	None
			Harriet	Daughter	Mar	3		do	do	None
			Harriett	Daughter	Mar	3		do	do	None
			William Skinner	Son	Mar	1		do	do	None
60	do	1	Sarah Brown	Servant	Mar	18		do	do	None
			William	Son	Mar	65		do	do	None
			Ann	Wife	Mar	63		do	do	None
			John	Son	Mar	38		do	do	None
			Elizabeth	Servant	Mar	19		do	do	None
61	do	1	John Bennett	Head	Mar	46		do	do	None
			John	Wife	Mar	48		do	do	None
			James Richard	Son	Mar	7		do	do	None
			Robert John	Son	Mar	7		do	do	None
			Benjamin	Son	Mar	7		do	do	None
3	Total of Houses...	3	Total of Males and Females... 6							

Eng.—Sheet D.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference: **R.G. 9 708**

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Above is the return for the 1861 census in England lists Mary, 68, as “head of household” and “watch maker’s widow” at the Winchester St shop/house. Her son, 31 yr old William (Jr), is a watch maker. His wife, 29 yr old Sarah is not listed with a profession, and for the children there is Sarah (Jr), age 5, listed as a “scholar” or student; 3 yr old Harriott; 1 yr old William Skinner; house servant Sarah Brown, age 18.¹⁸

William Jr died on Monday, 5 Dec 1870, age 41, 18 months after his father.¹⁹ He was buried seven days later in Basingstoke – South View Cemetery: formerly known as Holy Ghost Cemetery.²⁰

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Basingstoke</i>				
in the County of <i>Southampton</i> in the Year 1870				
Name	Abode	When buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed
<i>John Hobson</i>	<i>North Island Basingstoke</i>	<i>Dec: 3</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>W. W. Howard Curate</i>
<i>William Gregory</i>	<i>Winchester Basingstoke</i>	<i>Dec: 12</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>W. W. Howard Curate</i>
<i>Annah Johnson</i>	<i>Winchester Basingstoke</i>	<i>Dec: 15</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>W. W. Howard Curate</i>

The Hampshire Chronicle, Southampton and Isle of Wight Courier, 10 Dec. 1870...

DIED.
On the 23d ult. at Louth, in Lincolnshire, from an injury caused by a fall from a carriage, GEORGE T. BOWER, of 49, Hill-drop-crescent, Campden-road, N. son of the late Thomas Wool-sencroft Bower, of Winchester College, aged 62.
On Tuesday, at Union-street, Newport, Isle of Wight, Mr. RICHARD SMITH HEARN, aged 68.
On the 20th inst. at Winchester, ELIZABETH JANE GIBSON, granddaughter of James Hodgson, Esq. of Belmont, Hessie, East Yorkshire.
On Monday, in Winchester-street, Basingstoke, after a long illness, Mr. WILLIAM GREGORY, watchmaker and jeweller, second son of the late Mr. William Gregory, aged 39.
On the 3d inst. at Bourneborough, CHRISTINA CAROLINE, wife of LEONARD CURRIE, Esq. of the Manor House, Tunbridge Wells, and fourth daughter of the late Gen. Sir James Hay.
On Sunday, at his residence, Spring-grove, Isleworth, HENRY BLOXAM, late of the Parade, Portsmouth.
On the 2d inst. at Bury, after a long illness, WILLIAM FOSTER

Reading Mercury, 25 March 1871

Reading, March 21st, 1871.
ESTATE OF WILLIAM GREGORY, DECEASED.
ALL PERSONS having any CLAIM against the ESTATE of the late WILLIAM GREGORY, of Basingstoke, Hants, Watch Maker and Jeweller, are requested to SEND PARTICULARS THEREOF to SARAH ANN GREGORY OF BASINGSTOKE, Hants.—All Persons INDEBTED to the Estate are desired to PAY the Amount of their Debts without delay to Sarah Ann Gregory, adminis-tratrix.—March the 22nd, 1871.
HENRY UNION

Mother Mary seems to have left Winchester St at this point, moving to live with her widowed daughter Harriett Bullions in Lambeth, London, England until her death on 14 January 1873. See the Gregory Genealogy in part 3.

➤ Sarah Ann Gregory

Upon her husband's death, widow Sarah continued the business. Some records list her as S.A. Gregory – Basingstoke, which you'll see below. While the conventional view of watchmakers in history being done by male craftsmen, it seems more realistic to my experience in other fields that women did indeed work in this field, even if societal convention might expect the face of the business to be her male counterpart. Perhaps being the widow of a local watch maker gave extra clout to continue on her own. In any event, the census of 1871 clearly states that Sarah Ann Gregory worked as a watch maker in her own right.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
* Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or (In Metropolitan Commissioners' Districts) of	Bool		
	St Michael			Basingstoke					
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of HOUSE	HOUSES in which the person is enumerated	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON. DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	
	Winchester Street		Anna Brandon	Sister	Single	48	Stationery Assistant	Northampton	
100	8°	1	Abel H. Hawker	Head	8°	6	Watchmaker	Spencey London	
			Sarah A. Gregory	Wife	Single	39	Watchmaker	Northampton	
			Sarah A. 8°	Daughter	Single	15	Scholar	8°	
			Harriett 8°	Daughter	Single	13	8°	8°	
			William L. 8°	Son	Single	11	8°	8°	
101	5°	1	Mary A. Mear	Serv	Single	78	General Serv	8° Colclay	
			Alfred Green	Head	Single	31	Earthenware Dealer	8° East Chiddingfold	
			Jane 8°	Wife	Single	70		8°	
102	8°	1	Harriett 8°	Daughter	Single	68	Saddler & Harness Maker	8° Colclay	
			Mary J. Oakland	Wife	Single	8	Scholar	8° Newstead	
			Charles F. 8°	Stepson	Single	6	8°	8°	

Detail from the 1871 Census²¹

The Winchester Street house/shop had Sarah Ann Gregory as head of household and watch maker. The children were Sarah Ann (Jr) age 15, Harriett age 13, and William Skinner age 11; all “scholars”, or students. There was also an 18 yr old house servant, Mary A Mear.

It appears that there was a property on Winchester St that belonged to the Gregorys (or recently purchased by) in addition to their home/shop, for in April 1876, Sarah decided to evict the renter/shopkeeper, W. Hudson – stationer, for damages done to said property.²²

Registrar of Births and Deaths,
St. Mary's District.
Castle-street, 12th April, 1876.

BASINGSTOKE.

COUNTY COURT. The monthly sitting of this Court was held on Friday, the 7th inst., by Mr. P. M. Leonard, Judge. There were but very few plaints down for hearing, and these were of an ordinary character and of little interest. The only case of any importance was that of Hudson v. Gregory, which was a claim of 5*l.*, by Mr. W. Hudson, stationer, &c., of Winchester-street, in this town, for gas fittings, &c., in premises till lately occupied by him, against Mrs. Gregory, his next door neighbour, who had taken the premises, but who had given plaintiff notice to leave. Defendant admitted the claim, but pleaded a set-off of 2*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* for damage done to premises, and paid the difference into Court. The Judge allowed the set-off, and gave a verdict for the defendant. Mr. Chandler appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Eves of Aldershot, for defendant.

SPELLING BEE.—Another of these popular enter-

Ten years later, the 1881 Census lists Sarah Ann as a “jeweler”, which I find to have been a term used interchangeably with “silversmith” and “watch maker”; a major source of confusion. In our era, we see a clear distinction, but perhaps then not so much a difference.²³

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Civil Parish for Township of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of			
Litchfield									
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (A) or Building (B)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	
94	No 14 Winchester St	1	James Clarke	Head	Mar	48	Provision Merchant	Surrey	Kent
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	34		Surrey	Kent
			John	Son	Unm	12	Scholar	Surrey	Kent
			Agnes	Daughter	Unm	9		Do	Do
			Charles	Son	Unm	4		Do	Do
			Harriet	Son	Unm	4		Do	Do
			Harriet	Son	Unm	4		Do	Do
			Harriet	Son	Unm	4		Do	Do
			Harriet	Son	Unm	4		Do	Do
			Harriet	Son	Unm	4		Do	Do
98	No 14 Winchester St	1	Sarah Ann Gregory	Head	Mar	48	Jeweler	Do	Bath
			Sarah	Daughter	Unm	25		Do	Do
			Harriett	Daughter	Unm	23		Do	Do
			William	Son	Unm	21		Do	Do
			Alice Bourne	Servant	Unm	14		Do	Do
99	No 15 Winchester St	1	William Skinner	Head	Mar	48	General Servant	Do	Bath
			Sarah Ann	Daughter	Unm	25		Do	Do
			Harriett	Daughter	Unm	23		Do	Do
			William	Son	Unm	21		Do	Do
			Alice Bourne	Servant	Unm	14		Do	Do
			Harriett	Servant	Unm	14		Do	Do
			Harriett	Servant	Unm	14		Do	Do

The above is the detail from the 1881 Census, showing that the house/shop was numbered as “No. 14 Winchester Street”. (Had they moved the shop? Or had the house numbers been changed? Other evidence show that the shop had been at 5 Winchester St since the days that James owned and ran the business. Or perhaps #14 is mislabeled?). Sarah Ann Gregory, 48, head of household and a “jeweler”. Daughters Sarah Ann, 25, and Harriett, 23, have not married and live at home, as does William Skinner, 21. William S. is listed also as a “jeweler”, and we know with further information that he has learned watch making from his mother and will take on the business in his own right. There is also house servant: Alice Bourne, 14.

Based upon data found below, I think that Sarah trained her children in watchmaking to assist in the family business. You will see that William Skinner continued as the head of the business, but daughter Sarah appears to have worked in the shop, too. To what level of her participation was, I do not know.

Sarah appears in “Watchmakers & Clockmakers of the World”, Vol. 2, by Brian Loomis [1976 N.A.G. Press LTD, London]: “GREGORY, Mrs. S. A. Basingstoke. 1878”

UK, City and County Directories, 1766-1946: England, Hampshire, Basingstoke. 1885 Kelly’s Directory

GREENWOOD ALFRED M.A., LL.D., F.G.S.E.	R
boys’ boarding & preparatory school,	
Flaxfield college	L
Gregory Sarah Ann (Mrs.), watch maker,	
Winchester street	
Gregory Stph. The Victory P.H. Essex rd	
Hailstone Cornelius, cart & waggon	

In communication with Debbie Reavell of the [Basingstoke Heritage Society](http://www.basingstokeheritage.com), the north side of Winchester St location was The Crown Inn entrance surviving as Joice’s Yard. The current business there is Spotlight UK

Prepared by Joseph Morneault. Feb. 2026. Updated July 2026. JosMorn@aol.com All rights reserved. 10 Forest Glen Rd. Old Saybrook, CT. 06475 USA

Charity Shop. Below is a photo of the Gregory shop taken for the 1887 Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria; note that this would be *after* William Sr. had moved the shop property in 1850.



And a more recent image of the very same shop today: Thank you, Richard Arnold. May 2026



The 1891 Census:24

Administrative County of <u>Hampshire</u>																
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the																
Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		of <u>Marinegate</u>		
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Number of Persons occupying the House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Employed	Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
59	Windsor St			2	Missed Widower	Head	M	15	General Servant				Hampshire			
					Alice Hall	Servant		15	General Servant				Hampshire			
52	St (Office)			4	Thomas Rodney	Head	M	47	General Servant				Hampshire			
					Catherine D	Wife	M	40					Hampshire			
					William D	Son	S	11	Schooler				Hampshire			
					Elizabeth D	Daughter	S	10					Hampshire			
					Mary Slater	Servant	S	47	General Servant				Hampshire			
54	St (St. Paul)			2	Thomas Brown	Head	S	19	Watchmaker				Hampshire			
					Robert Brown	Son	S	18					Hampshire			
55	St			4	James Smith	Head	M	46	Watchmaker				Hampshire			
					James D	Wife	M	40					Hampshire			
					Robert D	Son	S	12					Hampshire			
					John D	Son	S	10					Hampshire			
					James Sheppard	Servant	S	25	Cook				Hampshire			
					James Smith	Son	S	18	Nurse				Hampshire			
56	St			2	Harry Rogers	Head	S	25	Assist. Clerk				Hampshire			
					James Rogers	Son	S	20	Assist. Servant				Hampshire			
57	St			4	Sarah Ann Rogers	Head	M	58	Watchmaker				Hampshire			
					James D	Son	S	25					Hampshire			
					Harriet D	Daughter	S	33					Hampshire			
					William D	Son	S	31	Watchmaker				Hampshire			

Sarah, age 58, is still listed as a “watchmaker” and is still head of household. Daughter Sarah Ann – called “Annie” here, age 35, and daughter Harriott – called “Hartie”, age 33, still live at home. William S., 31, is also listed as “watchmaker”. No house servant listed.

By the 1901 census, it is clear that mother Sarah, 68, has retired.²⁵ Harriott had married and gone, but Annie, 44, and William S. 40, are still in residence, with William listed as “jeweler” and now the head of the business. Sister Harriott married Arthur James Lear on 11 February 1895, moving to a house on Beaconsfield Road, while other sister Sarah (Annie) appears to have never married. Please see the Gregory Genealogy in Part 3.

Administrative County of <u>North Devon</u>																
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the																
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District		
of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		of <u>North Devon</u>		
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Number of Persons occupying the House	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Employer, Worker, or Own account	Employer, Worker, or Own account	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
122	St			2	James Rogers	Head	M	23	Watchmaker				Hampshire			
					Elizabeth Rogers	Wife	M	20					Hampshire			
					James Rogers	Son	S	19	Watchmaker				Hampshire			
					Elizabeth Rogers	Daughter	S	17					Hampshire			
					James Rogers	Son	S	15					Hampshire			
123	St			2	James Rogers	Head	M	68	Watchmaker				Hampshire			
					Elizabeth Rogers	Wife	M	44					Hampshire			
					William Rogers	Son	S	40	Watchmaker				Hampshire			

The following year, Sarah died at home, age 69, of pneumonia on 12 December 1901,²⁶ and is buried with her husband in the South View Cemetery,²⁷ grave G151 (Also known as Holy Ghost Cemetery or Basingstoke Old Cemetery) in Basingstoke.

daughter of the late Henry [unclear], of Basingstoke.
DEATHS.
GREGORY.—On December 12th, at Winchester street, Basingstoke, from pneumonia, Sarah Ann, widow of the late William Gregory.
STEVENS.—On the 12th December, at Upton Grey, David Stevens, aged 73 years.
THACKHAM.—On the 17th December, at his resi-

England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995: Gregory, Sarah Ann. 13 Mar 1903 probate.

13 November to Charles William Gregory commercial-traveller Effects £83 3s.
GREGORY Sarah Ann of Basingstoke Hants widow died 12 December 1901 Administration **London** 13 March to Sarah Ann Gregory spinster Effects £42 5s. 9d.

➤ **William Skinner Gregory and sister Sarah Ann (Jr, or “Annie”)**

William S. was merely 10 when his father died. His mother, Sarah, kept up the business and was even cited as a local watchmaker in her own right. In 1881, William S. was 21 and cited as a jeweler and watchmaker, still in residence with his mother at the Winchester St house & shop. Upon his mother's death in 1901, he assumed control of the business. William Skinner never married. According to a newspaper announcement of the passing of his sister Annie, she had apparently been an active business partner in greater or lesser capacity during her life. She had also never married.

Harriett “Hartie” had married on 11 February 1895 to a local solicitor, Arthur James Lear. They lived at 29 Beaconsfield Rd in Basingstoke. It was a quieter area of the city from the bustle of Winchester St. On 24 August 1897, while away on business, Arthur was hit by a train while crossing the tracks and killed instantly. They had no children from their three years of marriage, and Hartie's siblings were invited to come stay at the Beaconsfield Rd home.

In April 1902, William filed a complaint: On 20 March, William “jeweler of Winchester Street” had won three lots at auction, which included some carpenter's tools, some galvanized iron sheets, and a workbench, from a carpenter who was supposedly going out of business. William paid for the goods the following day, to be delivered to the Beaconsfield Road house. However, most of the won goods were not to be found. A police investigation found that they had been taken back by the original owner and "hidden". The magistrate found the defendant guilty, fining him 2, seven days imprisonment, and presumably the goods were handed over to William.²⁸

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endorsed all that Mr. Rossiter had said.

**BASINGSTOKE TRADESMEN'S GOODS
STOLEN.**

SUSPECTS CHARGED AT READING.

At the Reading Borough Police Court, on Wednesday, before Mr. J. W. Martin (in the chair) and other magistrates, William Taylor, 127, Sherwood-street, Reading, and William Thrift, Westbourne-terrace, Oxford-road, Reading, were charged on remand with stealing and receiving, in July last, a quantity of silver-plated goods, together of the value of £4. 2s. 9d., in transit from Birmingham to Basingstoke. Mr. D. H. Witherington prosecuted on behalf of the G.W.R. Company, and Mr. F. J. Ratcliffe defended Thrift. Mr. James Saunders, Superintendent of the Detective Department at Paddington station, watched the case on behalf of the G.W.R. Company.

William Hill, of St. Michael's School House, Bordesley-street, Birmingham, and clerk in the employ of Messrs. G. E. Hawkins and Co., of Birmingham, electro-plate manufacturers, proved that on July 3rd he executed an order for goods for Mr. Gregory, of Basingstoke. He recognised a number of the articles produced.

Hedley M. Maskell, of Gosbrook-road, Caversham, foreman porter in the employ of the G.W.R. at Reading, stated that on July 4th he received the box at Reading, and he subsequently transferred it to the truck numbered 35,804, which was going to Basingstoke. The truck was sent out of the shed into the yard, near the West Junction.

Thomas Jackson, a checker in the employ of the G.W.R. Company at Basingstoke, stated that on July 5th he received a truck numbered 36,804 from Reading. He also received an invoice on which was entered "A box of electro-plate for Gregory, Winchester-street, Basingstoke." The box, however, was not in the truck.

Mr. William Skinner Gregory, of Winchester-street, Basingstoke, jeweller, etc., said he never received the box of goods ordered. He positively identified the knives (produced) as some which he had sent to Messrs. Hawkins and Co., of Birmingham, to be re-bladed.

Evidence was given of arrest and of the finding of the goods at the prisoners' houses and the accused were remanded for a week, on the application of Mr. Witherington, who said that other charges would be preferred against the prisoners.

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Hampshire Observer and Basingstoke News - Saturday 07 October

1905

By the 1911 Census,²⁹ all three siblings are officially living at the 29 Beaconsfield Road house that Harriott had shared with her husband until his death. All are listed as "private means", so I surmise that they are retired. There are a few mentions of "Wm. Gregory" participating in the local church, although no further details to clearly indicate that it is our man.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.															
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.											Number of Schedules <u>63</u> (To be filled up by the Enumerator when returned)				
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.															
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.		
			Write "Single" or "Married," or "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the name of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	For Infants under one year state the age in months, or "under one month," "one month," etc.	For Infants under one year state the age in months, or "under one month," "one month," etc.	For Infants under one year state the age in months, or "under one month," "one month," etc.	For Infants under one year state the age in months, or "under one month," "one month," etc.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Self, or Working on Own Account.				Whether Working as Wage.	
1. <i>Harriet Diaz</i>															
2. <i>Annie Gregory</i>															
3. <i>William Gregory</i>		51													

With no children to leave the business to, William S and sister Annie decided to shutter the watchmaker's shop and retire. In June 1907, the Gregory siblings put up the Winchester Street properties for sale. This is the evidence that the 1850 location, where the family business would be until the end, was indeed at 5 - 7 Winchester St.

Hampshire Observer and Basingstoke News - Saturday 01 June 1907

BASINGSTOKE.
The finest position in the Town.
Notice of Sale of the
Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTY,
Comprising the commanding Business Premises known as Nos. 5 and 7, WINCHESTER STREET, BASINGSTOKE, occupied as to No. 5 by the Misses Gregory, No. 6 being now vacant, but recently occupied by Mr. Gagen, having an extremely VALUABLE FRONTAGE to the Main Street, which will be SOLD by AUCTION by
MESSERS. SIMMONS and SONS at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke, on Wednesday, June 19th, 1907, by instruction of the owner.
Particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained in due course of H. Wills Chandler, Esq., Solicitor, Basingstoke; or of the Auctioneers, at their Offices, Basingstoke, Reading, and Henley-on-Thames.

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I haven't been able to find any further records of the sale of the business and property from my vantage point in Connecticut, and it must be for someone local to Basingstoke to follow through on this, should someone wish to nail down some of the finer points of this paper.

29 Beaconsfield Road, Basingstoke, in February 2026.



The sale of the Winchester St location is hinted at within Annie's obituary. According to her death notice, Annie also worked in watch making, helping her brother in the shop.³⁰ She had been active in the church, serving as a Sunday school teacher. I consider her to be equally a watchmaker in the family, although I have little information on her. Both Annie and William S had lived at the Winchester St house/shop, but appear to have moved in with sister Harriott for their final years before renting out the old home and then selling. All seem to have been in less than stellar health. Annie would die age 56 on 17 February 1912 and then buried next to her mother in South View Cemetery.³¹

[PAGE 83]

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Basingstoke</i> in the County of <i>Southampton</i> in the year one thousand nine hundred and <i>Twelve</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Martha E. Charvatt</i> No. 657	<i>Winchester Road.</i>	<i>Feb 16th 1912</i>	<i>95 years</i>	<i>H. W. Bousfield Vicar.</i>
<i>Drummond Heath</i> No. 658	<i>Impling Road</i>	<i>Feb 10th 1912</i>	<i>72 years</i>	<i>H. W. Bousfield Vicar.</i>
<i>Sarah Anne Gregory</i> No. 659	<i>Beaconsfield Road</i>	<i>Feb 17th 1912</i>	<i>56 years</i>	<i>H. W. Bousfield Vicar.</i>

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies; Winchester,

England, UK; Reference: Anglican Bishops' Transcripts – via Ancestry.com

GREGORY Sarah Ann of 29 Beaconsfield-road Basingstoke Hampshire spinster died 14 February 1912 Administration London 26 March to Harriet Lear widow. Effects £2127 12s. 1d.

Principal Probate Registry; London, England; Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England; 1858-1995

DEATH AND FUNERAL OF MISS GREGORY.—A regrettable gap has been caused in the ranks of the Church workers in Basingstoke by the death of Miss S. A. Gregory, of Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield-road, whose funeral took place on Saturday. The deceased lady, who was a daughter of the late Mr. William Gregory, was for many years associated with her brother in the watchmaking and jewellery business in Winchester-street, and since their retirement from business a few years ago they had resided with their widowed sister, Mrs. Lear, in Beaconsfield-road. Both the deceased and her sister had been for many years prominently associated with Church work in the parish. Miss Gregory was in charge of the Infants' Sunday School (Central) on Sunday afternoons, and it is a pathetic circumstance that the last gathering in which she took part was at the prize-giving at St. John's schools on February 5th. She was then not in the best of health, but could not bear the thought of being absent from this gathering of the children, in whose welfare she took the keenest interest. That was, we believe, the last time she ever went out, and ten days later she passed away at the age of 56. Besides the Sunday school, Miss Gregory devoted herself to other forms of Church work. In conjunction with her sister she superintended the Mothers' Meeting at the May-street Mission Room, and she was also a district visitor, and further a member from the first of the St. Michael's Choral Class, and in this and various other connections her loss will be greatly felt. The first part of the funeral service on Saturday was held in the parish church—where the deceased had been such a constant worshipper—and many friends attended to pay a last tribute of respect. Unfortunately neither her brother nor sister were able to be present, owing to the illness of the former. The mourners coming from the house of Mr. and Mrs. Hall, of Winchester, M.—will avail
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Hampshire Observer and Basingstoke News. 21

February 1912.

Burial of William Skinner Gregory, 21 January 1918.

(PAGE 184)

BURIALS in the Parish of Basingstoke
 in the County of Southampton
 in the year one thousand nine hundred eighteen (1918)

Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Frank Tabbot	Union Workhouse	Jan 5 th	50	P. G. Gowan Parson
No. 1073 Louisa Wheeler	Wote street	Jan 11 th	77	H. W. Bondrad Vicar
William Skinner Gregory	Beaconsfield Road	Jan 21 st	58 years	H. W. Bondrad Vicar
No. 1074				

Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1921 - Ancestry.com

William S died on 17 January 1918 and was buried in South View Cemetery,³² Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK. Plot G232 “58 years Watchmaker Beaconsfield Road Basingstoke”, alongside his sister Annie and mother Sarah Ann. Beaconsfield Road is where his sister Harriott (widow Lear) lived, and where sister Annie had retired to until her death in 1912. His estate probated 22 May 1918.³³ [*Gregory, William Skinner of Beaconsfield-road Basingstoke, Hampshire. Died 17 January 1918. Probate London 22 May to Harriet Lear widow. Effects £, 3625 15s. 7d. Resworn £,13125 15s. 7d.*]

I don't think that William S had served during the Great War, but the following article is of interest given the date; too early for the later William Gregory; of Leicester with a dependent “Mrs. Sarah Ann Gregory” and who died on 16 October 1918 of wounds. Despite the similar names, the town is different and the timeline as well, this is an example of how easy it is to confuse two or more people, what with similar family names.

A.C.V.
A MEMORIAL SERVICE to commemorate three former members of the choir, namely, William Gregory, Herbert W. Dray and William M. Hill, who have recently fallen in the service of their country, was held in the Parish Church on Wednesday evening, when a good congregation was present. The Vicar was regretfully prevented from attending through indisposition. The Rev. E. Hall, formerly Rector of Langtree, N. Devon, who is temporarily assisting in the work of the parish, conducted the service and gave an address.

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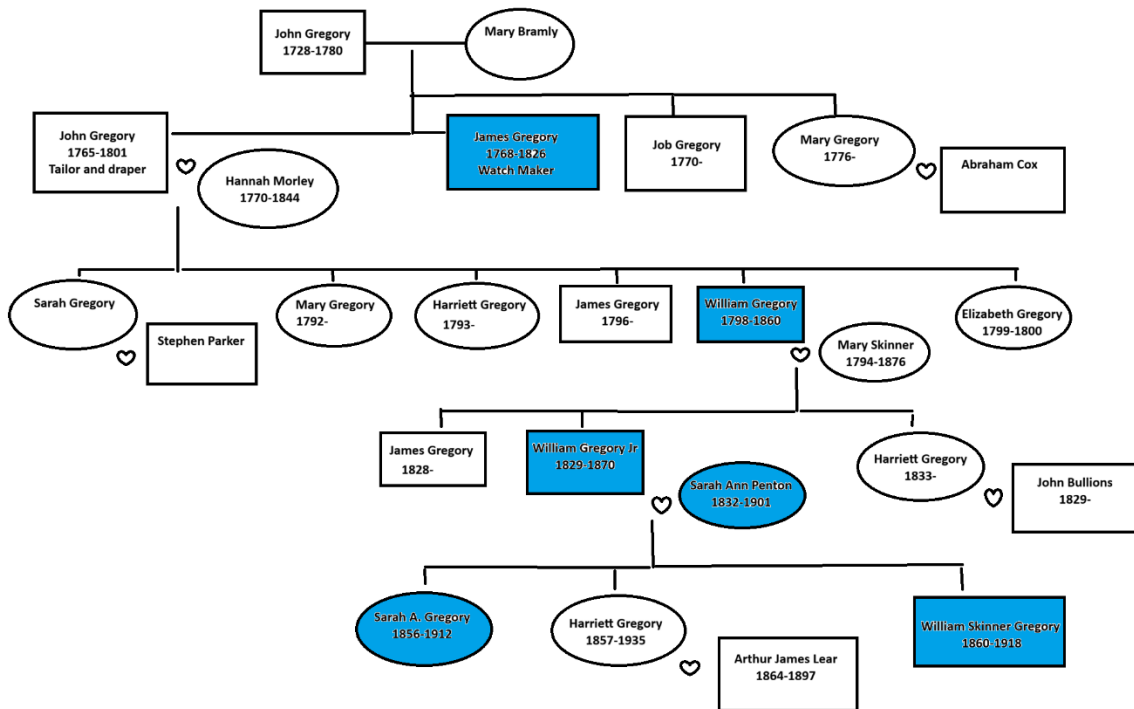
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With the passing of Harriott on 5 Feb 1935, this ended the lineage of those Gregorys in the watchmaking trade.³⁴ There are no immediate lineage family members through William Jr. Gregory and Sarah Ann Penton.

LEAR Harriet of Beaconsfield-road Basingstoke Hampshire widow died 5 February 1935 Probate London 25 March to Blanche Elizabeth Anne Chandler and Sophie Jane Wightman spinsters and Walter Hall farmer. Effects £2143 16s. 6d.

The Gregory Family of watchmakers. The blue fills are the known makers in the family.



Summation

Although not particularly documented in the history books on the topic, James Gregory may have made watches and clock, but was better documented as a “watchmaker” in the vein of today’s jewelers; providing service maintenance and repairs, between 1790 and his death in 1826. The Gregory family (watchmakers, clock makers) were locally known but not on a wider basis; finding any reference to them outside of Basingstoke or Hampshire is simply not possible. James, unmarried and without children, had taken in his nephew as an apprentice; this boy, William, would inherit the business and house upon James’ death. William married and among their children was William Jr, who also learned the trade and would also inherit the lot, training his wife Sarah Ann Penton as well. When William Jr passed, widow Sarah Ann continued the business, training their children, with son William Skinner Gregory taking over as head of business when Sarah Ann retired, aided by sister Sarah Ann “Annie”, until they both retired sometime after 1905. I see no passing of the business to anyone “in the family” after this point and conclude that Gregory’s, as a watchmaking shop, ceased about 1906/7. From 1790 to 1906, that’s a run of 116 years and four generations. I do not have access to any surviving family papers or photos/pictures/images.

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- ¹ Lasham, Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1536 - 1812.
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62421/images/62421_314054000109_1360-00018?pId=319217
- ² Ibid
- ³ Hampshire Chronicle - 23_August_1790
- ⁴ Hampshire Chronicle - 25_March_1793
- ⁵ Hampshire Chronicle - Monday 15 April 1822
- ⁶ https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62424/images/62424_373055000119_0960-0003 Hampshire Archives and Local Studies; Winchester, England, UK; Reference: Anglican Bishops' Transcripts
- ⁷ The Reading Mercury, 2 Apr 1842. Reading, Berkshire, England
- ⁸ Reading Mercury, Oxford Gazette, Newbury Herald, and Berks County Paper - 5 Jan 1850
- ⁹ Hampshire Chronicle, 27 July 1850.
- ¹⁰ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1851. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, 1851. National Archives, London, England.
- ¹¹ Berkshire Chronicle, 13 Jan 1855
- ¹² *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1871*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1871. 1871 England Census: Hampshire: Basingstoke: District 2
- ¹³ Hampshire Chronicle - Saturday 04 June 1859
- ¹⁴ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1858-1995
- ¹⁵ Berkshire Chronicle, 13 Jan 1855
- ¹⁶ "England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JQ3X-L42> : 5 February 2023), William Skinner Gregory, 1859.
- ¹⁷ "England and Wales, Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:26YS-SD7> : 1 October 2014), William Skinner Gregory, 1859; from "England & Wales Births, 1837-2006," database, *findmypast* (<http://www.findmypast.com> : 2012); citing Birth Registration, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England, citing General Register Office, Southport, England.
- ¹⁸ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1861. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, London, England.
- ¹⁹ The Hampshire Chronicle, Southampton and Isle of Wight Courier, 10 Dec. 1870
- ²⁰ Hampshire, England, Church of England Burials, 1813 - 1921; Anglican Parish Registers. Winchester, Hampshire, England: Hampshire Archives and Local Studies.
- ²¹ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1871. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, London, England.
- ²² Reading Mercury, Oxford Gazette, Newbury Herald, and Berks County Paper - Saturday 15 April 1876
- ²³ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1881. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, London, England.
- ²⁴ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, London, England.
- ²⁵ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1901. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, London, England.
- ²⁶ Hants and Berks Gazette and Middlesex and Surrey Journal. 21_December_1901
- ²⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163462156/sarah-gregory>
- ²⁸ Hants and Berks Gazette and Middlesex and Surrey Journal - Saturday 05 April 1902
- ²⁹ Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK: Public Record Office, London, England.
- ³⁰ Hampshire Observer and Basingstoke News. 21 February 1912.
- ³¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/163447922/sarah-ann-gregory>
- ³² "Find a Grave Index", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q23T-FLP2> : Thu Apr 03 23:52:28 UTC 2025), Entry for William Skinner Gregory.
- ³³ "England and Wales, National Index of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1957", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPLZ-5N8L> : Sun Mar 10 11:55:05 UTC 2024), Entry for William Skinner Gregory and Harriet Lear, 22 May 1918.
- ³⁴ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995
Ancestry.com. *England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.