

The HICKS Family of Calstock

Data and Photographs contributed by Anne Taylor

1. George Hicks



Born 1809 in St Columb Minor, son of James Hicks (1773-1853) and Blanche, nee Ellery (1771-1864)

Siblings	James	1803-1875
	Robert	1805-?
	Samuel	1807-1882

1851 Census

Living at New Quay, Northam, Appledore, Devon

HICKS, George	Head	Mar	41	Master Mariner	born New Quay Cornwall
HICKS, Susannah	Wife	Mar	38		born Northam Devon
HICKS, George	Son		13	Scholar	born Northam Devon
HICKS, Blanche	Daur		10	Scholar	born Northam Devon
HICKS, Susan	Daur		9	Scholar	born Northam Devon
HICKS, Mary A	Daur		6	Scholar	born Northam Devon
HICKS, William	Son		5	Scholar	born Northam Devon
HICKS, Lucy	Daur		1		born Northam Devon
SANDERS, Mary	Servant	U	15	House Servant	born Northam Devon



1861 Census

Living at Higher Kelly No. 6, Calstock, Cornwall

HICKS, George	Head	Mar	51	Ship Chandler	born Cornwall Newquay
HICKS, Susan	Wife	Mar	48		born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Susan	Daur	Un	19		born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Mary Anna	Daur	Un	16		born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Lucy	Daur	Un	11	Scholar	born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Richard	Son	Un	9	Scholar	born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Henry	Son	Un	5	Scholar	born Cornwall Calstock

1871 Census

Living at H Kelly No 15, Calstock, Cornwall

HICKS, Susan	Head	W	58	Master Mariners Widow	born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Lucy	Daur	Unm	21		born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Richard	Son	Unm	19	Carpenter	born Devon Appledore
HOPELE?, John E	Visitor	Unm	25	Sail Maker	born Devon Salcombe

1881 Census

Living at Kelly House, Calstock Cornwall

HICKS, Susan	Head	Wid	68	Annuitant	born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Lucy	Daur	Unm	30		born Devon Appledore

1891 Census

Living at 17 Sand Lane, Calstock, Cornwall

HICKS, Susannah	Head	Wid	78		born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Lucy	Daur	S	41		born Devon Appledore

2. Mary A. Hicks

1871 Census

Living at Lansdowne St, West Side, No. 22, Holy Trinity, Kingston upon Hill, Yorkshire

PATTERSON, William	Head	Mar	65	Minister of Methodist Free Church	born North Derham Merofst?
HICKS, Mary A.	Neice	Unm	26		born Devon Appledore

1881 Census

Living at Bonner Road Childrens Home, Bethnal Green, London

Amongst a long list of staff and scholars

HICKS, Mary Ann	officer	Unm	36	born Devon Appledore
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1891 Census

Living at Grimaton Avenue, Kent College for Girls, Folkestone

Amongst a list of staff and pupils

HICKS, Mary Ann	Boarder	S	44	House Mistress	born Devon Appledore
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1901 Census

Living at Kent College, Harbledown, Kent

Amongst a list of staff and scholars

HICKS, Mary A	Matron	S	56	Matron of School	born Devon Appledore
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3. William J. Hicks

1891 Census

Living at 13 Sand Lane, Calstock, Cornwall

HICKS, William J	Head	M	45	Pilot	born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Eliza	Wife	M	41	Housekeeper	born Cornwall Calstock
HICKS, William G	Son	S	9	Scholar	born Cornwall Calstock
HICKS, Mary F.	Daur		5	Scholar	born Cornwall Calstock

1901 Census

Living at Higher Kelly, Calstock, Cornwall

HICKS, William J	Head	M	55	Pilot (River)	born Devon Appledore
HICKS, Eliza	Wife	M	54		born Cornwall Calstock
HICKS, William G.	Son	S	19	Tailor? Apprentice	born Cornwall Calstock

4. Blanche Ellery Hicks

Married at Calstock Parish Church, 5 October 1862, by banns

MARTYN, Richard	aged 24	bachelor, miner, of Trelechar?, son of Richard, a miner
HICKS, Blanche Ellery	aged 22	spinster of Calstock Town, daughter of George, the captain of the 'Emperor' steamer

Both signed
Witnesses: WARNE, John; HICKS, Susannah Payne

See below

1. newspaper article, dated August 1878, headed Hiogo News (Japan)

William Hicks, Mate of the Barque "Nimrod"

Registered at Plymouth, O.N. 47318

2. newspaper article, regarding a rescue off the Irish coast in October, 1880

MINUTES of an INQUEST held at H.B.M.'s Consulate for Hiogo and Osaka, at HIOGO, the 21st day of August, 1878, on the body of BRAHIM, a Malay Seaman of the British Barque "Nimrod" (O. N. 47,318, Port of Registry, Plymouth):

Before J. J. QUIN, Esq. Acting-Consul, Coroner, and MARTIN SANGSTER, PHILIP SAMUEL CABELDU and GEORGE BADGE, Jurors.

The Jurors, having been duly sworn, proceeded to view the body, which was lying at the International Hospital, Hiogo, after which:

HOWARD CLARK, Master of the ship *Nimrod*, sworn, stated:—The Mate reported to me this morning that the serang Brahim had dropped down dead in a fit. This was, I believe, at 5 o'clock this morning; I was not on board at the time. Directly the Mate reported to me I went to the Doctor's and from there to the Consul and reported the occurrence. The Doctor has since made a *post mortem* examination.

To CORONER:—I was not on board the ship when the man died. The deceased always did his duty up to this time. He was not subject to fits, to my knowledge.

WILLIAM HICKS, Mate of the *Nimrod*, sworn, stated:—At about a quarter past 5 this morning, one of the men came aft to me, saying that the serang had fallen down in a fit. I went forward and found him lying upon his box. I immediately ordered him to be taken out into the air. He gave two or three gasps and in about ten minutes he was dead. I sent for the Captain.

To CORONER:—He had always done his duty. I had not seen him previous to his falling down.

To a JUROR:—He had been four months in the ship. I never heard him complain. I bathed his temples and he gave two or three gasps and then he was dead.

WILLIAM MOORE, boatswain of the *Nimrod*, sworn, stated:—At 5.20 this morning I was washing myself. I heard a mango to the Chief Officer's cabin and say that the serang had fallen down. I

Chief Officer tell the men to open his clothes and give him air, and they did so. The deceased was gasping. The Chief Officer ordered him to be taken upon the fore-castle for more air. The Chief Officer ordered water to bathe his head. I believe the Chief Officer did everything in his power for the man.

To CORONER:—The deceased was a few minutes alive after I saw him. He always appeared in good health. There has never been a quarrel in the ship. The crew are very sociable.

JAMES HARRIS, M.D., sworn, stated:—I made a *post mortem* examination with Dr. Thornicraft and found an aneurism of the aorta. The ascending aorta was occupied the whole of its length by the aneurism, and was ruptured in several places. We did not conduct the examination further, as that was sufficient to cause death.

To CORONER:—In this case the rupture was small and was the cause of death, as has previously been described. I observed no contusions upon the body—I saw no bruises.

The Jury then brought in a verdict that deceased came to his death by the rupture of an aneurism of the ascending aorta.

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Kobe, Aug. 24th, 1878.

BRAVE CONDUCT OF A CORNISH MERCHANT CAPTAIN

PUBLIC PRESENTATION AT PLYMOUTH.

A very interesting ceremony was performed yesterday, at the Plymouth Police-court, prior to the transaction of the ordinary business. It consisted of the presentation of a silver medal and certificate to Captain W. J. Hicks, of Calstock, Cornwall, for rescuing from a watery grave, at the peril of his own life, the shipwrecked crew of a French vessel, the Charles and Marie, off Kinsale, near Queenstown, on the south-coast of Ireland, in October, 1850. At the time Captain Hicks was in command of the ship Nimrod, and was putting back to Queenstown Harbour, having experienced a very heavy gale. It was whilst on his way back to this port that Captain Hicks fell in with the French schooner dismasted and sinking. She had been lying in a helpless condition for two or three days, and the aid rendered by the brave Cornishman and other members of his crew was but just in time to save the lives of the despairing Frenchmen. Seeing their critical condition, Captain Hicks put off to them—despite the heavy sea prevailing at the time—in a boat manned by several seamen, and the gallant officer and his comrades had the great satisfaction of rescuing the crew of the French schooner, only a quarter of an hour before she foundered. The noble act was reported to the French Government, and, although a rather long period has since elapsed, Captain Hicks at length recently received an intimation, on his return home from another voyage, that his gallant conduct had received official recognition, and that a silver medal and certificate had been sent for him from the French Government and Ministry of Marine to the English Board of Trade, who in their turn sent on the medal and certificate to the Local Marine Board at Plymouth for presentation. The magistrates present yesterday were Messrs. R. O. Scrpell, W. Luscombe, T. Pitts, and J. King. The proceedings commenced by Sir T. Wolferstan, secretary of the Plymouth Local Marine Board, intimating to the Bench that he had received a communication from the Board of Trade respecting the meritorious services of Captain Hicks at sea, and reading it as follows:—

Board of Trade (Marine Department),

Whitehall Gardens, S. W., 18th July, 1853.

Sir,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that they have received an application from Captain Hicks, of Calstock, Cornwall, late of the ship Nimrod, for the silver medal awarded to him by the French Government for having rescued, at the risk of his life, the shipwrecked crew of the French schooner Charles and Marie, of Nantes, which foundered at sea on 9th October, 1850. I am, therefore, to transmit the medal herewith, and to request that you will be so good as to move the Local Marine Board to present it to Captain Hicks (on their being satisfied of his identity) in such manner as they may think suitable. I am further to request that the receipt of the medal may be acknowledged, and that Captain Hicks's receipt, together with some account of the presentation, may be forwarded to the department in due course.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS GRAY.

The Secretary, Local Marine Board, Plymouth.

Mr. W. LUSCOMBE stated that, in consequence of the Mayor's absence, he had been asked, as a member of the Marine Board, and also as French Consul for the district, to present Captain Hicks with the medal which the French Government had passed into the hands of the Board of Trade for presentation to him for very meritorious service. He confessed that he was sorry that the Mayor was not present, because he felt that, had Captain Hicks received the medal from the Mayor instead of from himself, it would have been more complimentary and agreeable to him and to the audience, in consequence of the better manner and more suitable terms in which his Worship would have presented it. But at the same time, whilst he knew that the Mayor would regret not being able to

always been a resolution on the part of the French Government to take notice of events of this character. The event in question was a simple one, yet of very great interest. At the time of the occurrence Captain Hicks was the chief officer of the vessel. Having left Queenstown to go on his voyage he encountered a very severe gale, which compelled him to return to the port from whence he had come. It was during that return that Captain Hicks fell in with a French vessel in great distress, in a sinking state, dismasted, and, of course, perfectly helpless, and which vessel, in fact, foundered within a quarter of an hour after Captain Hicks was enabled to render this important and timely service. The service was a dangerous one, for there was a very heavy gale raging at the time, and Captain Hicks proceeded from his own vessel to the one in distress in a boat at the peril of his own life and of the lives of those who were with him. They rescued from death—for it was nothing more nor less—five Frenchmen, who formed the crew of the wrecked vessel. Any expression of satisfaction that the magistrates might feel must be very small in comparison with the satisfaction which Captain Hicks must feel, together with the men who were associated with him in this admirable work, for the rest of their days—(hear, hear). Still, there was some small satisfaction, in one sense, in receiving a tribute of this kind, for, slight as was the value of the medal, it represented a concession of feeling and an acknowledgment of merit which, it seemed to him, was beyond all praise. He did not look upon the medal as representing merely a small quantity of silver. Nor was he attracted by the colours of the ribbon attached to it, but there it was for Capt. Hicks to wear as an honourable distinction, he might well be proud of, or to make use of in any way he liked. His (Mr. Luscombe's) memory allowed him to go back to France as a Kingdom and to the period of the Empire, and, as a King under the Republic, there had ever been displayed by the French Government a readiness to recognise the value of such services as those which Capt. Hicks had rendered. He trusted that this readiness would always exist on the part of the French Government, and, indeed, on the part of any other European nation, and he hoped at the same time that there would be exhibited on the part of

our own Government a readiness to render such gallant and meritorious services to their fellow-creatures in distress, and whether they were English or Dutch, or of any other nationality—(hear, hear). The seal and promptitude which Capt. Hicks exhibited in rescuing these poor shipwrecked French sailors entitled him to the thanks of his superiors of that Government, but to the thanks of his fellow-countrymen he was so well sustained by the opinion of an Englishman on the trying occasion—(hear, hear). In conclusion, Mr. Luscombe handed the medal and certificate to Capt. Hicks, and expressed a hope that he would live for many years in happiness and comfort to enjoy the possession of them—(applause).

The medal, which was enclosed in a suitable case, bore the following inscription:—“A. Wm. J. Hicks, Le Capitaine de la Marie. Courage et dévouement, 1850.” The words of the certificate were also in French.

Mr. SEMELL, the presiding magistrate, also addressed a few congratulatory words to Capt. Hicks, observing that he regarded the act which had just been recognised as being very highly creditable and honourable to him, exercised as it was in the cause of humanity. It was an action which Capt. Hicks might well be proud of as long as he lived, and it was with much pride that, looking back on the circumstances, his fellow-countrymen claimed him as a brave Englishman. He cordially endorsed the hope of Mr. Luscombe, that Capt. Hicks would live long to enjoy the possession of the medal he had so well earned—(applause).

Capt. HICKS, in a few appropriate sentences, returned thanks to the magistrates, and through them to the French Government, for the medal which had been presented to him. He modestly remarked that what he did on the occasion was nothing but his duty as an Englishman and a sailor, and he added that, should he ever again be placed in similar circumstances, and saw an opportunity of rescuing a shipwrecked crew of any nationality, he would at once give them all the assistance it was in his power to render—(applause).

The proceedings then terminated.