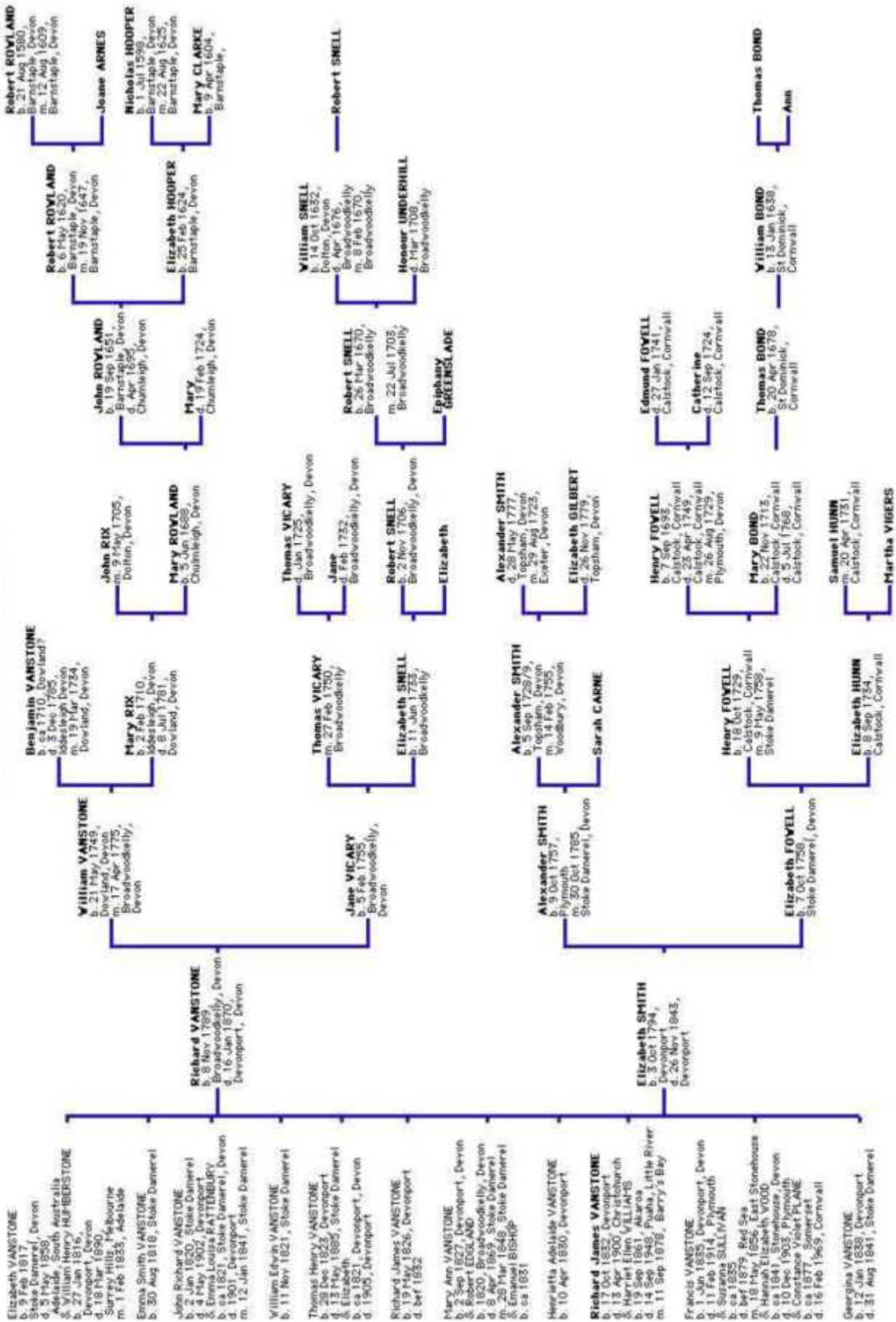
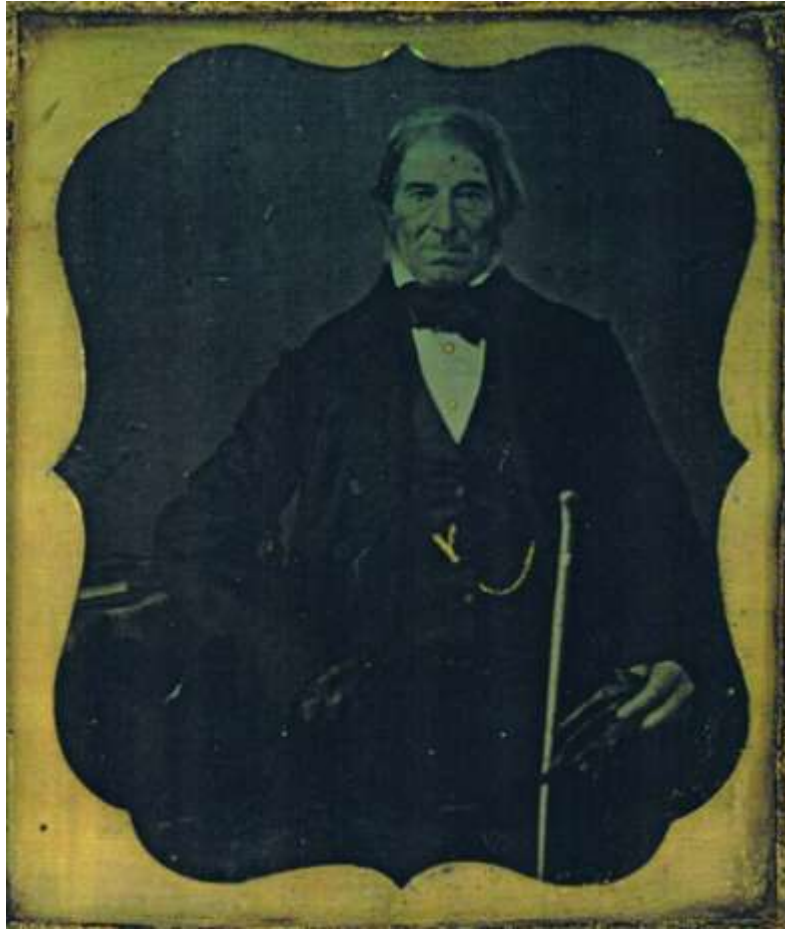
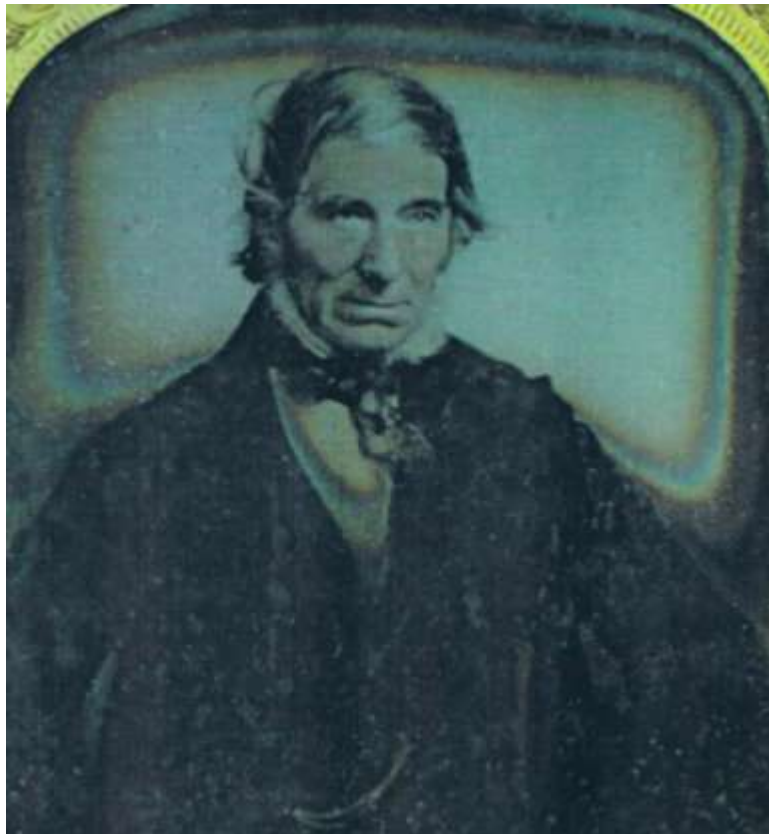


Vanstone family ancestors





Thought to be Richard Vanstone 1789-1870



The lineage of the New Zealand Vanstones can be traced with certainty as far back as 19 March 1734 when Benjamin Vanstone married Mary Rix at the parish church of St Peters in Dowland, North Devon. Although there are many Vanstone families recorded in the area before that date, Benjamin's baptism has not been found to prove a connection. Many early records of the area are unreadable, so it may be that no further progress can be made.

However, a Richard Vanstone was buried 18 October 1601 at Dowland churchyard; an Elizabeth Vanstone married John Dawe of Upcott, Dowland on January 1616; John Vanstone married Susannah Maynard Phillips 1 September 1745 at Dolton, just north of Dowland - they had a daughter Susannah baptised 5 July 1747 at Dolton; and a Susannah Vanstone was buried 26 July 1727 at Iddesleigh, just south of Dowland. One or all of these may well be part of Benjamin Vanstone's immediate family.

The name Vanstone is an ancient English West Country one. According H.N.W. Toms in Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries, many bearing the name claim descent from a Dutch ancestor who, it is always alleged, "came over with William of Orange". Such was not the case. There appear to have been two place name sources, both of which derived from Faunteston or Faunt's tun (Faunt's farmstead), one being Faunstone in Shaugh (Shaugh Prior) in south Devon, the other Fonston (commonly spelled Fonson or Vanson today in Warbstow in Cornwall. The west country interchange of 'f' and 'v' accounts for the Vanstone spelling. J.E Gover in Place Names of Cornwall states that Faunteston derives from "a late place name in tun, the first element being an Old French personal name Faunt, aphetic for the French enfant (child). Also the name "is probably associated with the family of Samson le Enfaunt, a juror of Plympton Hundred in 1249" in the Assize Rolls.

The Warbstow place name occurs as early as 1284 in the Assize Rolls in the Public Record Office, that of Shaugh in 1339 in a similar document. Edmund Lacey, in his register, records that one Ricardus Fanston was tonsured in 1440 and lists a Frater Henricus Fanston of Plympton Priory in 1445. The 1524 subsidy roll for Devon records Vanstones in Tetcott, Ashwater, North Petherwin, Parkham and Clawton, all around the north Devon/ Cornwall border. Lastly, William of Orange landed at Brixham, Devon on November 5, 1688, long after the name was established in the area.

It is also interesting to note that a Christopher Vanstone who married Mary Brock in 1786 in Broadwoodkelly, where many of our Vanstones lived, came from the parish of Eggbuckland in south Devon. Eggbuckland is next to the parish of Shaugh, already mentioned. Christopher Vanstone can't be placed in the family tree of the Vanstones of Dowland and surrounding parishes, but the witnesses at his wedding were John and Tristram Vanstone, sons of Benjamin Vanstone and Mary Rix, thus placing him firmly within the family circle. Mary Rix was born in the neighbouring parish of Iddesleigh in 1710, the daughter of John Rix and Mary Rowland who were married in Dolton, just to the north of Dowland, in 1705.

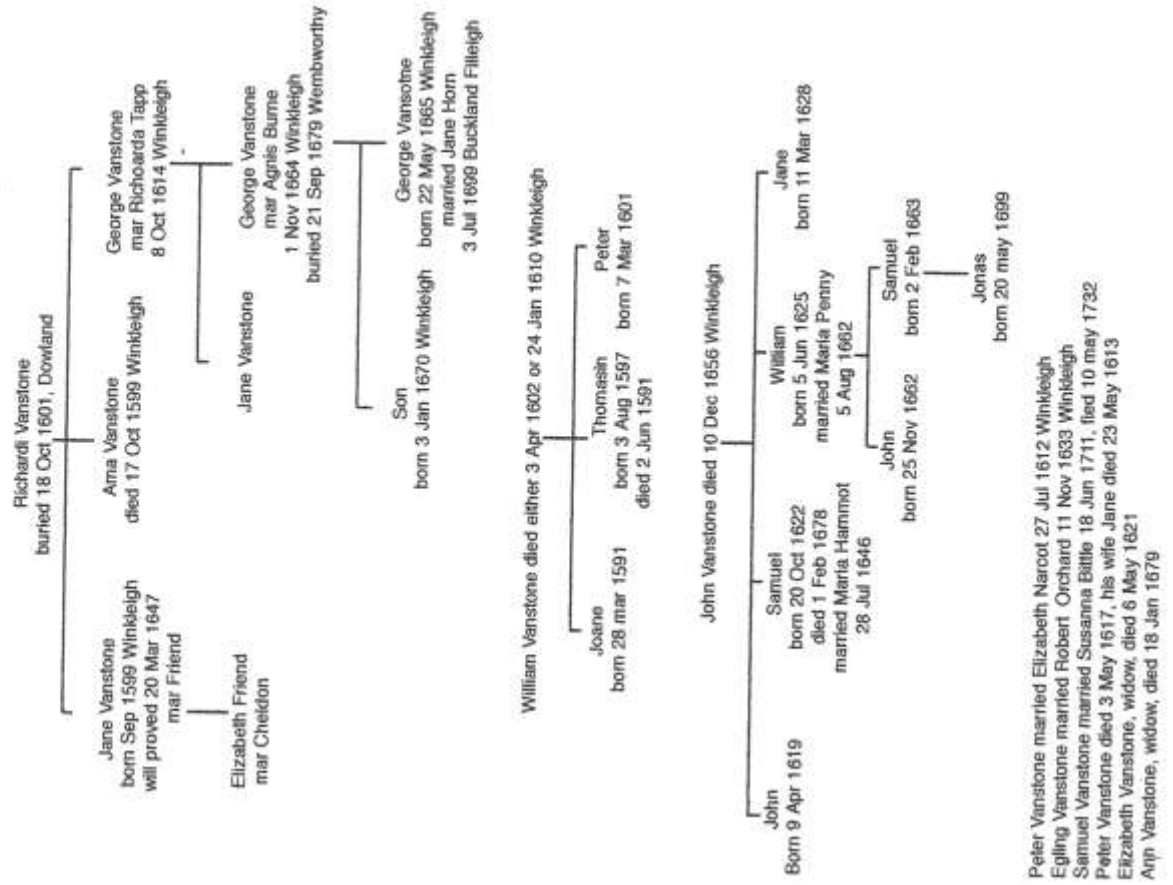
Dowland is a sparsely populated parish on high ground with views in all directions, especially of Dartmoor to the south with the gentle contours of Cosden and many of the tors. It is one of the picturesque and unspoiled areas of Devon, even to this day, and the fields with high hedge surrounds are man-made boundaries stretching back through the centuries and forming a link with the past (D.A Ellis, Dowland Past and Present). There is an area in Upcott, just south of Dowland village, called Vanstones Tenements which still exists in part and is the remains of an area subject to a 99-year lease dated 10.4.1770 between Dame Briget Maria Northcote of Pines, and Tenant(s), written during the reign of King George III, the annual rent being £2. 1s. 0d.

White's Devonshire Directory of 1850 states: Dowland parish, 4 1/2 miles north-north-east of Hatherleigh, comprises 244 souls and 1668 acres of land, including Upcott. Sir S.H Northcote, Bart., is lord of the manor, owner of most of the soil, impropiator of the tithes, and patron of the perpetual curacy, valued in 1831 at only £81, and now held by the Rev J.R Ruse, of Monk Okehampton. The church is a Gothic fabric with a tower and five bells. The poor have 50s a year out of the great tithes, left by Hugh Stafford in 1671. An old building, called the Church House, is occupied by paupers.

Vanstones in early Devon rolls and returns

	1524 Subsidy Roll	1543-5 Subsidy Roll	1569 Muster Roll	1641 Protestation Returns
Ashwater	John Vanstone	John Fanston Richard Fanston		
Buckland Filleigh				Stephen Vanstone
Burrington				John Vanston
Calverleigh				John Vanstone
Chittlehampton				James Vanston
Clawton	William Fannston			
Exeter St Olave				John Vanstone
Fremington				Abraham Vanstone
Hatherleigh		William Vanstone		
Little Torrington			George Vanston (harquebusier) Thomas Fanston (harquebusier)	Thomas Vanstone
Merton		John Vanston Walter Vanston		Humphrey Vanstone
North Petherwin	Alice Fanstone widow	John Fanston		
Parkham	Isobel Vanston executor of will of John Vanston mar to John Durke			
Shirwell				John Vanstone
Telcote	John Fanstone	John Fanstonsen	Richard Fanston	John Fansteson John junior Nicholas, Roger Richard
Wembworthy				Peter Vanstone
Winkleigh			William Fanstone (harquebusier)	

Early Vanstone families in the Winkleigh area



FROM THE DOWLAND PARISH REGISTER

Dowland

Deanery of Torrington
Archdeaconry
of Barnum
Diocese of
Eton

A Copy of the Register-Book belonging to the
Parish of Dowland, as to the Christian Births, Marri-
ages & Burials in that Parish for the year 1734.

Christian Births

Anno Domini 1734 were baptized

John, Son of George & Mary Woollecock	June 10 th
John, Son of John & Mary Hooper	July 8 th
William, Son of John & Grace Rix	Feb. 12 th

Marriages

Anno Domini 1734 were married

George Woollecock & Mary Bray (of Ddesley)	May 7 th
William Pasmore & Mary Martin (of Ddesley)	— 13 th
Philip Madge & Elizabeth Smale (of Dolton)	Sept. 10 th
Benjamin Vanstone & Mary Rix	— — Mar. 13 th

Burials

Anno Domini 1734 were buried

John Raddenbury	— — — — —	Apr. 12 th
Mary Ward	— — — — —	May 25 th
Miss Katherine Gayer	— — — — —	June 8 th

In his book about Devon, W.G Hoskins states: "Dowland has a very attractive little church (St Peter built 1322) almost entirely unrestored. It has a good plain 15th century tower. The body of the church is roughcast and whitewashed, and therefore difficult to date; but the south doorway is Norman and the nave and chancel may also be of this date. The north aisle has a remarkable arcade of oak pillars C1500, which replaced an older arcade - the only other arcade of this kind in Devon is at Nymet Rowland. There are a number of carved box-pews and floor slabs to the Staffords of Stafford Barton. Dowland Barton beside the church appears to be Tudor, remodelled in the 18th century. At the entrance to the churchyard are two cottages of early 16th century with a number of windows having crudely carved oak mullions. This was probably the church house originally."

Benjamin and Mary Vanstone had at least seven children: John was the firstborn, possibly even before his parents' marriage, who married Mary Knight; Benjamin born in Dowland January 1740 who married Thomasin Weeks; Richard born in Dowland 1743 who married Susanna Dunning; Wilmot born in Dowland 1746 who married William Weeks; William born in Dowland 1749 who married Jane Vicary, progenitors of the New Zealand line; Mary born in Dowland 1751 who was buried in Winkleigh in 1765 aged 13; and Tristram, born 1755 in Winkleigh who married Mary Bolt.

It seems that Benjamin and Mary moved to Winkleigh between Mary's birth in 1751 and Tristram's in 1755. The family was "of Winkleigh" at the time of young Mary's premature death in 1765, the young Benjamin was "of Winkleigh" at his marriage to Thomasin Weeks in 1768, and Wilmot was married there in 1773, but by 1781 the family had moved again, to Iddesleigh, all three villages being within a radius of about five miles. Benjamin and Mary's fourth child, William, married in Broadwoodkelly, another village in the small radius the family occupied, just about two miles south-west of Winkleigh, to a girl born in the village, Jane Vicary. He was described as a husbandman (farmer), a sojourner in the village, so he was probably domiciled in Winkleigh but working in Broadwoodkelly.

In those days, of course, a farm labourer thought nothing of walking a few miles every morning and night to and from his work, getting there at 6am and very much earlier in harvest time. It was quite usual at certain seasons for a man to get up about 4am and do an hour's gardening before starting to walk the few miles to his day's work at the farm. Early nights were thus not unusual. Although he was a farm labourer, William was not an uneducated man for his time. He was able to sign his name to the marriage register in 1775, but Jane signed with an X. Her parents, Thomas Vicary and Elizabeth Snell, had been married in Broadwoodkelly in 1750, and their parents, too, were from the area.

On the world scene at this time Captain James Cook had only recently returned from charting the Great Southern Continent including Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia. In the American colonies opposition to looming taxes had resulted in 1773 in the defiant dumping of British imports that became known as the Boston Tea Party and culminated in the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776.



Dowland Church Spring 1999



St.Peter's Church, Dowland

VANSTONES

Vanstones is a small farmstead on the Monshall-Furzepark road mainly confined to dairy farming.

From the archive notes:

1770. Lease for 99 years in reversion of Hugh Northcote clerk.

Dame Bridget Maria Northcote of Pynes for daughter Bridget Maria of Pynes. The messuages and appurtances in Upcott parish of Dowland. Vanstones tenement and field formerly part of Dowland Wood and Messuages and appurtances called Headon in Dowland Town

Rent 52. also one fat capon or 1/- at Christmas for messuages called Headon and best beast from Vanstones tenement also service in the manor court of Dowland.

Rented by John Reed of Chulmley for son Hugh messuages Vanstones and Headon in Dowland Town.

There was also a cottage next to Vanstones which was burnt down at the beginning of the 20th century. Pottery found in a nearby hedge has been dated from 17th century. Vanstones is marked as Lower Upcott in the 1963 map.



The cottage called Vanstones at Upcott



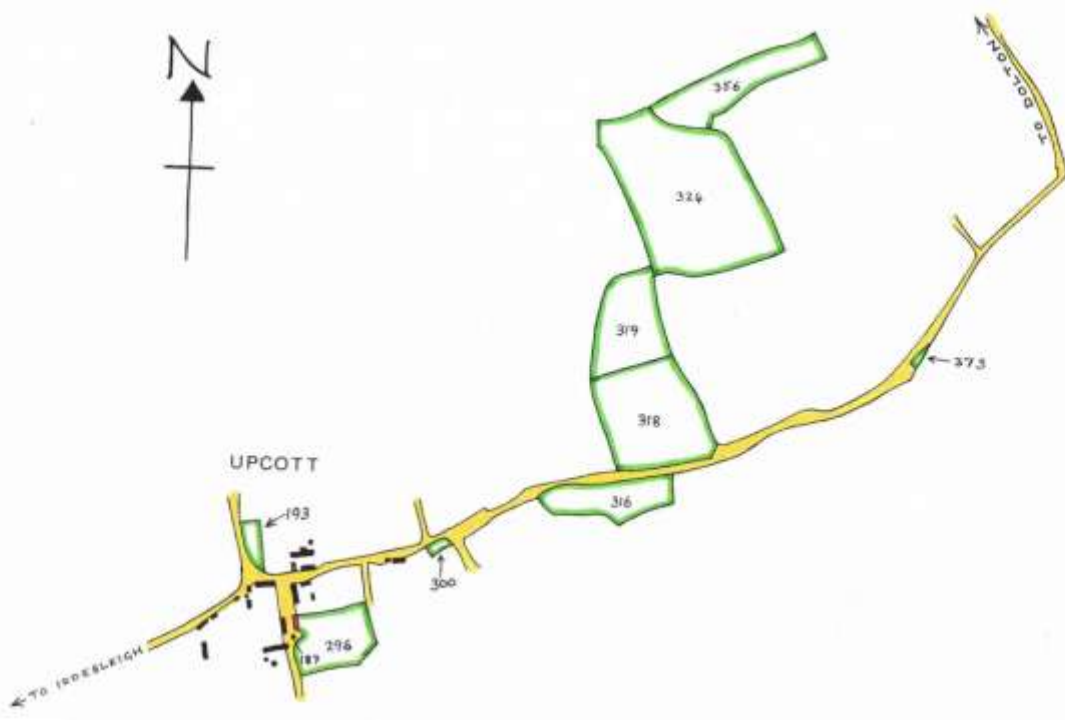
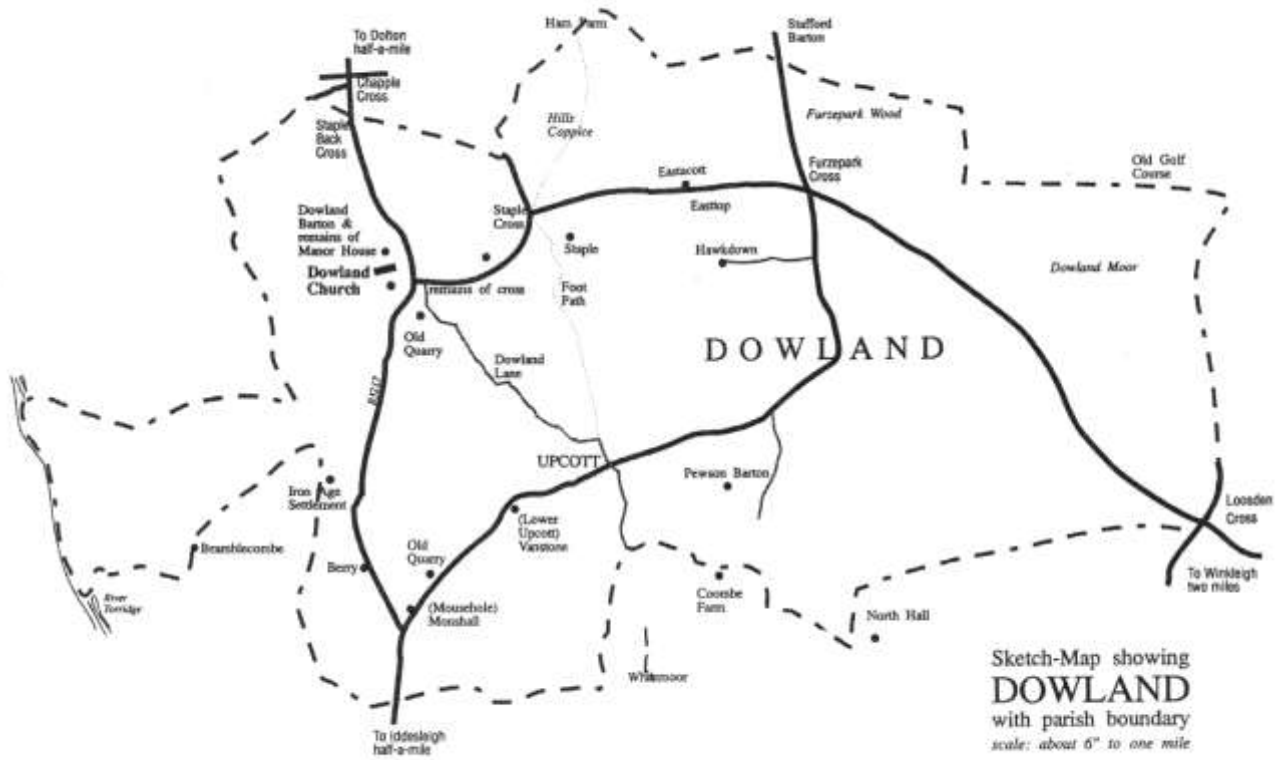
Upcott hamlet, Spring 1997



From site of Vanstone's farm to Dartmoor



Adrienne Vanstone-Pegler and Graeme Vanstone at the site of the Vanstone farm and in front of Vanstones cottage



Part of Vanstones, Upcott, in the Parish of Dowland. From the tithe map of 1841



Graeme Vanstone and Adrienne Vanstone-Pegler with the Upcott tithe map of 1838

Broadwoodkelly

William Vanstone and Jane Vicary had 11 children in Broadwoodkelly: Elizabeth, born 1775, died in Broad-woodkelly aged 21; John born 1777, died three days later; William, born 1779 who later lived in Kingston on the south coast; John, born 1780 who lived in Hatherleigh; Jane, born 1785; Mary, born 1786; Richard, born 1787 who died the following year; another Richard, born 1789, progenitor of the New Zealand line; Wilmot, born 1792 who married John Cole in Jacobstowe; Ann, born 1795 who married John Weeks in Broadwoodkelly; and Thomas Vicary Vanstone, born 1798 who became a boot and shoe maker in Northlew, about 10 miles to the south-west.

Broadwoodkelly, even today, is a village of very few buildings, obviously not a rich area. White's Devonshire Directory of 1850 cites the land as "freehold although generally poor" and the population at that time was 471 souls. It was also noted that the poor had the interest of £24, left by several donors, and vested with the overseers. One wonders how many poor shared the princely amount, and just what the interest on £24 might have been. There would have been little to support the members of such a large family as the Vanstones as they reached their adult years. Several of the male members of the family moved to other areas and young Richard Vanstone headed south to the city of Plymouth on Devon's south coast.

the 29. day of January 1789
 Elizabeth Daughter of John Weeks & Elizabeth his Wife was bap-
 tized the 21. of March.
 Mary Daughter of Benjamin Vanstone & Mary his Wife was
 baptiz'd the 22^d day of May.
 William son of William Vicary & Mary his Wife was baptiz'd
 June 11. 1789.
 Philip Son of Robert Lovel & Joan his Wife was baptiz'd
 the 23^d of August 1789.
 William Son of William Knight Vanstone & Dorothy his Wife was
 baptiz'd September the 6. 1789. ^{Ins. paid}
 Richard Son of William Vanstone & Jane his Wife was baptiz'd the
 8. day of November 1789.
 John Son of John Comond & Susanna his Wife was baptiz'd the
 29. day of November.
 Joanna Daughter of Robert Sampson & Joanna his Wife
 was baptiz'd the 29. day of ^{December} ~~the year~~ 1790
 Mary Daughter of Richard Bolt & Grace his Wife was baptiz'd the
 17th day of January 1790
 Richard Son of Richard Folly & Mary his Wife was baptiz'd Febma-
 ry 22. 1790
 Mary Daughter of William Sampson & Ann his Wife was baptiz'd
 the second day of March
 Elizabeth Daughter of James Leonard & Susanna his Wife was
 baptiz'd the second day of March
 Susanna Daughter of William Heard & Ann his Wife was baptiz'd
 April the 12th
 Richard Son of Roger Dart & Mary his Wife was baptiz'd April 18.
 Mary Daughter of ^{William} ~~Richard~~ Vanstone & Mary his Wife was baptiz'd May the 2.
 Mary Daughter of Thomas Keary & Mary his Wife was baptiz'd the
 30. day of May
 Joanna Daughter of John Palmer & Agnes his Wife was baptiz'd the
 30. day of May
 William Son of William Manz & Elizabeth his Wife
 was baptiz'd the 29. day of July 1790. ^{Ins. paid}
 Elizabeth Daughter of John Short & Jane his Wife was baptiz'd
 the 30. day of October 1790. ^{Christenings in the year 1791}
 Mary Daughter of Richard Kelly & Mary his Wife was baptiz'd
 the 6. day of February 1791

Children of J^m & Mary
Sommers bapt: Sep: 17.

Robt^t Son of Tho^s &
Mary Palmer bapt: Nov: 8.

J^m Son of Tho^s &
Martha Weeks bapt: Nov: 19.

1755 Jane Daughter of
Elizabeth & Tho^s Vicary
baptiz^d Feb^ry 5th.

Grace the Daughter of Bartholom
and Ann Parker was baptiz^d Feb^ry
the 26th.

Robert Base born Son of Susannah Ellis was
baptiz^d the 5th day of Aprill Ellis

Ann Daughter of William Westaway and
Elizabeth his Wife was baptiz^d June the 13.

Simon Son of Simon Webber of Barron-Town, and his
Wife Catharine was born May the 24th 1755 betw
Four and Five in the Afternoon, and Richard his
Brother about an Hour after; they both had imme
diately private Baptism: and were carried to Broad

1775

Banns of Marriage between William Vanstone, Sojourner, Husbandman & Jane Vicary, Spinster of this Parish
 were published on the Sundays following viz: the 12th, 19th & 26th days of March 1775 by me Josias Tucker.

No. 49 William Vanstone and Jane Vicary of this Parish were
 married in this Church by Banns
 this seventeenth Day of April in the Year One Thousand Seven
 Hundred and Seventy Five by me Josias Tucker Rector

This Marriage was solemnized between Us } William Vanstone
 } The Mark of Jane Vicary

In the Presence of Robert Grater
William Vickery

DEVON RECORD

Banns of Marriage between John Cooper Husbandman Sojourner in this Parish & Mary
Bears Spinster of the Parish of South-Tawton were published
 in the Parish Church - of Broadwoodkelly on the ten
 No. 50 days following viz: on the second, ninth & sixteenth days of
April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred &
Seventy five in this by me Josias Tucker Rector of Broadwood
kelly this _____ Day of _____ in the Year One Thousand Seven
 Hundred and _____ by me _____

BROADWOODKELLY PARISH REGISTER



Broadwoodkelly church



Looking towards Broadwoodkelly village