

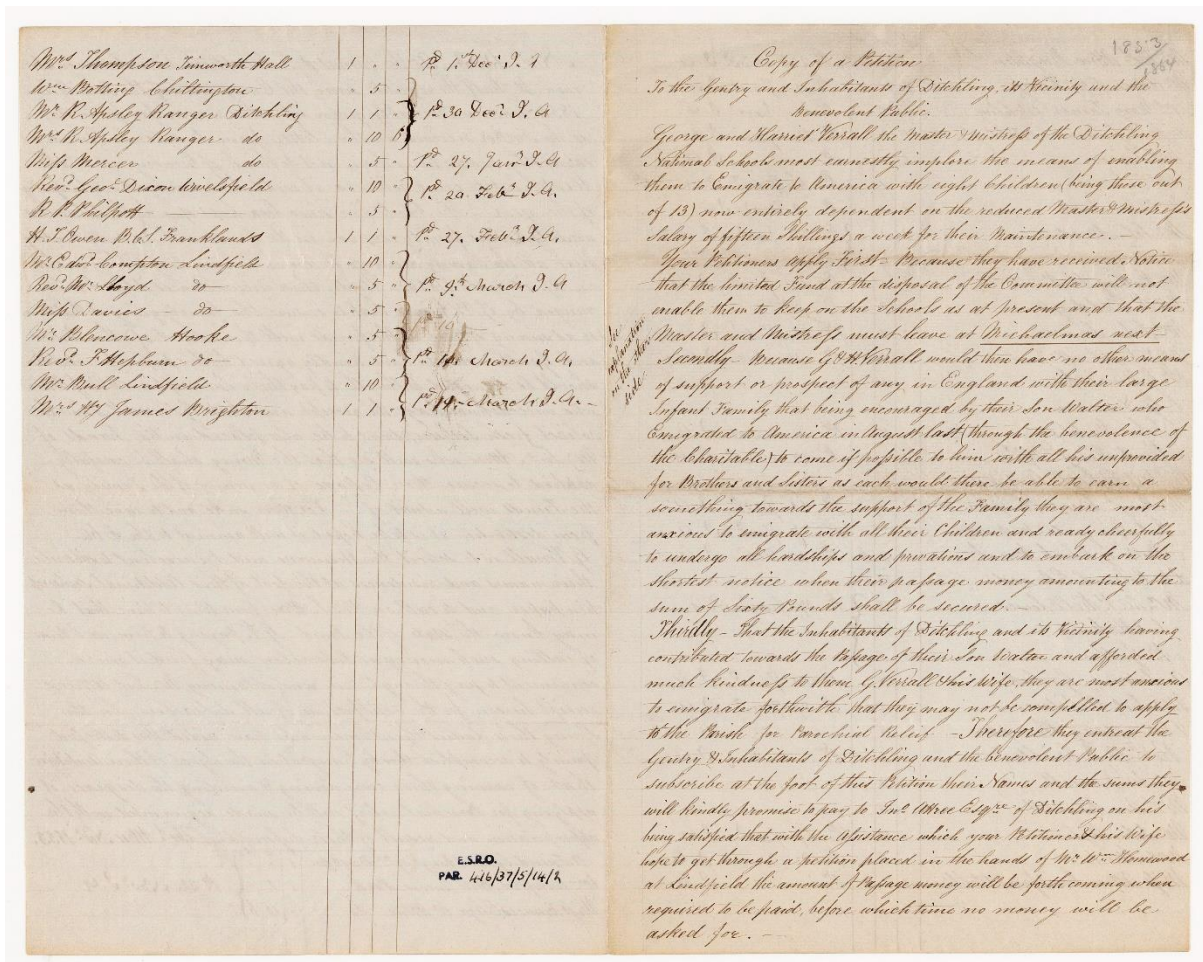
Transatlantic Ties – an Emigration Case Study

The Verrall Family: Emigrants from Sussex in 1854

The patriarch of the family George Verrall was baptised on 30th October 1801 in Barcombe, East Sussex, to George and Mary Verrall. George married Harriet Hurst on 30 May 1827 in Horsted Keynes. Harriet was baptised on the 12th July 1807 in West Hoathly, West Sussex, to Walter and Elizabeth Hurst.

George and Harriet ran the National School in the village of Ditchling, East Sussex, for several years. Prior to their move to Ditchling, the newly married couple lived in Lindfield, West Sussex, where they had their first three children.

To fund their passage across the Atlantic to begin anew life in North America, the family appealed to the residents (and past neighbours) of Ditchling and Lindfield to contribute money by subscription. See WSRO Ref. Par 416/37/5/14, [Papers relating to emigration \(transatlantic-ties.org.uk\)](http://papers-relating-to-emigration.transatlantic-ties.org.uk).



Lindfield parish records: WSRO ref. Par 416/37/5/14/2 (above & below)

Henry Hurst (b.1835 in Ditchling d.1910 in Nebraska) Worked as a miller or farmer. Married Amelia Ann Porter in New York on 1 Nov 1864. Died 9 Mar 1910 aged 75 in Nebraska. Buried Ashland Saunders County, Nebraska.

Maria (b.1836 in Ditchling d.1913 in Tuscola, Michigan) Married John Palmer in Ontario, 31st May 1859.**Ellen** (b.1838 in Ditchling d.1928 in Ontario) Married Richard Brooking Butland, a music dealer from Devon in England, in Ontario 30th October 1873. She travelled to Gatestown, Michigan, in 1908, to join her sister Susan. Her nephew, George Marshall Verrall (son of George Roots) is living with her on the 1881 census.

Robert Hurst (b.1842 in Ditchling d.1913 in Toronto) Worked as a Hotel Keeper in Port Arthur, Thunder Bay, Ontario. Married Clara Theresa Gwatkin [*sic*] on 16th August 1890.

Albert (b.1843 in Ditchling d.1902 in Ontario) Died 15 Feb 1902 in Armstrong, Thunder Bay, Ontario. Buried in Toronto Necropolis Cemetery. Married Margaret Hughes.

Susan (b.1845 in Ditchling d.1919 in Michigan) Married William Wheeler, a saddler from New York, in Ontario in 1873.

Ann (b.1846 in Ditchling d.?) Married Julius A. Risser [*sic*] a music dealer from Ohio in Ontario, 1901. She is recorded as living with her sister Ellen in Toronto on the 1881 and 1901 Censuses of Canada.

Fanny (b.1848 in Ditchling d.c1854) She died as a child, probably on the voyage.

Alice (b.1849 in Ditchling d.1934 in Oakland, Michigan) Married James Wilson in Michigan, 29th December 1869, and then Stephen G. French in Michigan, 5th February 1898. George Verrall Sr. died on the 22nd December 1856 aged 55, just two years after arriving in Canada. He is buried in the Toronto Necropolis Cemetery. Harriet outlived her husband by thirteen years, dying in 1869, and is also buried in the Toronto Necropolis Cemetery.

Sources

Details of baptism, marriages and burials, and details of the family gleaned from passenger lists and census returns, were found on www.Ancestry.co.uk, www.FindMyPast.co.uk, and through the West Sussex parish register transcripts held by West Sussex Record Office (WSRO).

Details of the funding of the Verrall's emigration was found in document [Par 416/37/5/14](#) [link?], held by WSRO.

Details of the lives of Susan Wheeler (nee Verrall), George Roots Verrall, and Harriet Verrall (nee Hurst) were found on www.FindAGrave.com:

- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105391925/susan-wheeler>
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145934105/george-roots-verrall>
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145933520/harriet-verrall>