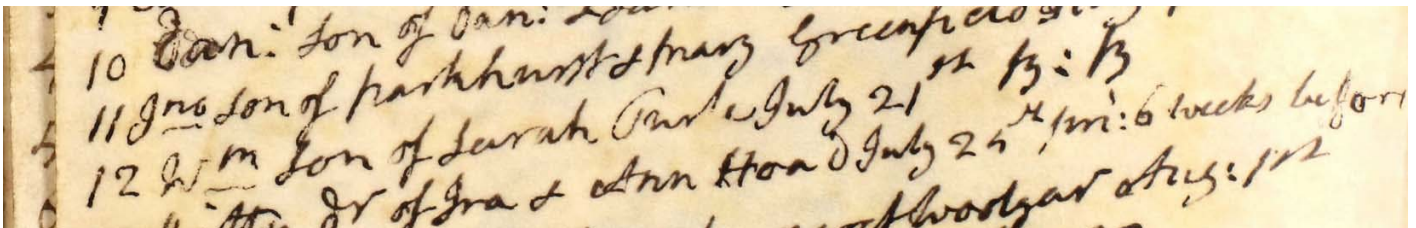


Emigrants of West Sussex: The Tourles of West Grinstead

This case study follows the Tourle family of West Grinstead and with a surname that is as inconsistent as the weather, the story of their emigration to America is a fascinating one, thanks to the records we hold at West Sussex Record Office!

The Tourles of West Grinstead

The family, composed of William and Mary Tourle, not to mention their seven children, emigrated to New York in 1849. William was born in West Grinstead to an unmarried mother – Sarah – and was baptised in July 1802. Being born to an unmarried mother, whilst not uncommon, would have been noteworthy in such a small parish. Mary herself was not from England and was around four years younger than her husband. As she was not from England, tracking down her birth is quite tricky.



West Sussex Record Office Par 95/1/1/4: William Turlé's baptism entry, 1802 – the B:B written at the end of his entry means base-born, that is, the child of unmarried parents

By 1830 we know that the family was in Yorkshire as their eldest daughter, Maria, was baptised in Drypool (now part of Hull), East Yorkshire, in January of that year. William's occupation is noted in the baptism entry to be a private in the 7th Fusiliers, most likely meaning the 7th Regiment of Foot, later the Royal Fusiliers, who were stationed in a garrison and barracks near the parish. The regiment had spent some time in the late 1820s in Ireland, which is where he may have met and married Mary, though the record keeping at this time is patchy, and this is pure conjecture.

Shortly after Maria was born, William left the army for unknown reasons, and the family moved south and set up home in his parish of origin, West Grinstead, Sussex. There they would remain until 1849. Over the next decade and a half, William and Mary would have seven more children in West Grinstead. Finding their entries in baptism registers can be a challenge. As William was illiterate, and it was more than likely Mary was too, they could not spell their surname consistently. As such, record keepers had to guess how to write their surname on documents based on how the couple

said it. What could have been a thick Sussex accent would not have helped so their name is spelt differently in various records!

The following baptisms can be found at West Sussex Record Office:

- Ellen Turl, baptised 9th August 1832
- William Turl, baptised 13th July 1834
- Mary Turl, baptised 11th September 1836. Mary would sadly die young and was buried in West Grinstead churchyard on the 21st of March 1845.
- Agnes Turl, baptised 3rd February 1839.
- Catherine Turl, baptised 4th July 1841
- David Tirrill, baptised 23rd June 1844
- Emma Turrell, baptised 20th May 1847.

No. 871.	August 19 th	Ellen daughter of	William & Mary	Turl	D.	D.	D.
No. 872.							
e e							
No. 944.	July 13 th	William son of	William & Mary	Turl	Do	Labourer	West Grinstead
No. 1024.	do. 11 th	Mary daughter of	William & Mary	Turl	West Grinstead	Servant	do.

WSRO Par 95/1/2/1: West Grinstead Baptism Register entries for the Tourle family, 1832-1847

No. 1114.	February 3.	Agnes daughter of	William & Mary	Turl	West Grinstead	Servant	W. Jones
No. 1115.							
No. 1199.	July 4 th	Catherine daughter of	William & Mary	Turl	West Grinstead	Labourer	J. Milnes
No. 1315.	June 23	David son of	William & Mary	Turrill	West Grinstead	Labourer	J. Milnes
No. 1437.	May 20 th	Emma daughter of	William & Mary	Turrell	West Grinstead	Labourer	J. Milnes

If we look at the 1841 census, we can see that Catherine at this point is unnamed, referred to only as a new-born, her age is given as one month. It seems Emma was William and Mary's last child, leaving seventeen years between their eldest, Maria, and their youngest, Emma. All surviving children would go with their parents to the United States on the 31st of October 1849.

William's job as given in the 1841 census, as well as many of his children's baptisms, is an agricultural labourer. He flits between this job title, servant, and labourer with each baptism register entry of his children. It is here, where a potential reason for emigration emerges.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Male	Female		Whether Born in this County	Whether Born in any Foreign Part.	
Clothels			James do	12			Y		
			Richard do	9			Y		
			Harriet do	7			Y		
			Hony Sprinks	40		Tayner	Y		
			Elizabeth do	35			Y		
			Ann do	20			Y		
			Sarah Hynny	64			Y		
			Elizabeth Vincent	15			Y		
			Amy Cantable	20	W S		Y		
			Sarah Stollman	45		Ag Lab	Y		
			William Short	20		Ag Lab	Y		
			Thomas White	15		Ag Lab	Y		
	Butcher Row			William Barnwell	11		Ag Lab	Y	
				William Greenfield	20		Ag Lab	Y	
	do			Caroline do	20			Y	
			Harriet do	1			Y		
			John Deere	40		Ag Lab	Y		
			Ann do	55			Y		
			Harriet do	16			Y		
			George do	13			Y		
			Eliza do	13			Y		
			Emily do	10			Y		
			Daniel do	8			Y		
			William Sward	33		Ag Lab	Y		
		Mary do	30			Y			
TOTAL in Page 9	4			12	13				

City or Borough of		Parish or Township of		Enumeration Schedule.					
PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Male	Female		Whether Born in this County	Whether Born in any Foreign Part.	
do			Maria do	11			Y		
			John do	9			Y		
			William do	7			Y		
			Mary do	5			Y		
			Agnes do	2			Y		
			John do	1			Y		
			John Gratonck	30		Ag Lab	Y		
			Elizabeth do	60			Y		
			Thomas Mitchell	25		Ag Lab	Y		
			Caroline do	25			Y		
			James do	2			Y		
			William Gates	33		Ag Lab	Y		
			Mary do	25			Y		
	Butter			Richard Shann	53		Schoolmaster	Y	
				Maria do	40			Y	
			Richard do	20			Y		
			Eliza do	14			Y		
			Mary do	13			Y		
			Louisa do	7			Y		
			Ann do	4			Y		
			Edward do	2			Y		
			John do	2			Y		
			Hannah do	20		Domestic	Y		
Butteridge			James Salter	50		Ag Lab	Y		
			Harriet do	30			Y		
TOTAL in Page 10	5			19	15				

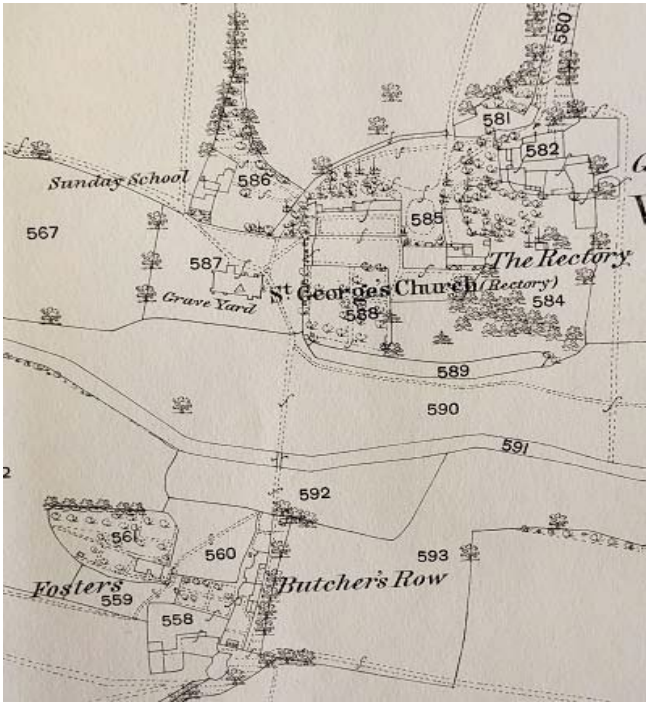
West Grinstead Census, 1841 – The Turrels can be found on the very bottom of the first page crossing over to the second. They lived next door to another set of Turrells, most likely family. Available through Ancestry.com

The Troubles of an AgLab

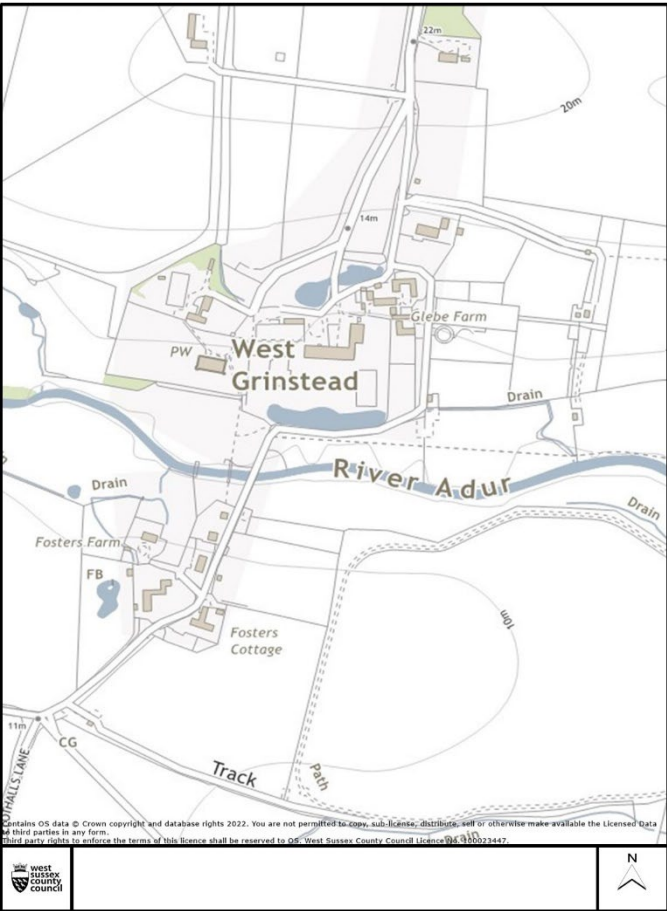
Why the Tourles emigrated is something of an unknown. Looking at Rate Books in 1849, the year they left Britain, the fee they would have paid for their property was small, as the land they rented was only 8 perches (about 200 square metres). They lived next to and near family, across the river from the parish church of West Grinstead. Further adding additional spellings of their surname into the mix, in the parish rate book, their name is spelt Turrell; in the tithe map list of apportionments, it's Tyrrell.



WSRO TD/W142 West Grinstead tithe map, 1841. The Tourles' property is on Butcher's Row.



Above: WSRO 25" 1st Ed OS Map featuring Butcher's Row
 Below: extract from OS/WSCC current mapping 2002



Agricultural labourers (AgLab) in the South of England during the 1830s and 40s were going through very hard times. The booming population did not correspond to the amount of work available, and because there were so many people looking for work, employers did not have to pay particularly high wages. There was always someone else who needed the money – any money – if you felt your pay was too low. In addition, mechanisation was increasingly putting people out of work – what would take four men all day to complete now took a machine one morning, and what's more, that machine only required one (trained) man to operate.

Many agricultural labourers had a choice if they wanted to work and support their family in West Sussex: move to towns or move out of Britain. In southern England this had led to much unrest and indeed widespread rioting (Swing Riots) during which agricultural equipment such as threshing machines were smashed.

More job opportunities, with greater security and higher wages, were emerging, particularly in America and Canada and many families during the 1830s and 40s left for America and Canada, and later Australia and New Zealand.

Tourles to help them on their journey. The total received was £67 10s (nearly £6,000 in today's money). This sum was intended to help the Tourles get to the docks, get a ship to the USA, then to help them settle in their new home, wherever it may be.

The record is reproduced below and a full transcript reads:

*Account of money received and expended respecting William Tourle and Family West
Grinstead Going to New York in the Ship Westminster*

1849		£ s d
Oct 24 th	Received of Mr. John Bristow	£20
28 th	Received of Mr. John Coates	£47 10s
	Total Received	£67 10s
	Total Expended	£67 10s
1849		£ s d
Oct 25 th	Paid deposit money for Tourle and family	£15
	Expenses of journey to London to pay deposit money etc.	£1 10s
29 th	Paid Mr. Richard Rapley for Conveying the family to Horsham	10s
	Refreshment at Horsham	5s
	Expenses to London Bridge Station	£1 18s 4d
	Paid for conveying the family and luggage from London Bridge Station to the London Docks	14s 6d
	Paid wharfage for luggage	8s
30 th	Paid the remainder of passage money	£23 10s
	Paid Mr. Whyte for Provisions, Beds and [] etc.	£9 17s 9d

Paid porter at the London Docks

2s

Expenses home

18s 10s

£56 4s 6d

Paid to William Tourle after on board of the Westminster

£11 5s 6d

£67 10s

George Thorns

Account of Money Received & Expended respecting William Tourle & Family West Grinstead Going to New York in the Ship Westminster

		£	s	d			£	s	d
1849					1849				
Oct-26 th	Received of Mr John Buckton	20			Oct-25 th	Paid Deposit Money for Tourle & Family	15		
						Expenses of journey to London to pay Deposit Money &c.	1	10	
28 th	Do of Mr John Coates	4	10		29 th	Paid Mr Rich ^d Bagley for Conveying the Family to Starbuck	10		
						Refreshment at Starbuck	5		
						Expenses to London Bridge Station	1	8	4
	Total Received	6	7	10		Paid for Conveying the Family & Luggage from London Bridge Station to the London Docks	1	14	6
	Expended	6	7	10		Paid Wharfage for Luggage	8		
						Paid the Remainder of the Deposit Money	23	10	
					30 th	Paid Mr Whyte for Provisions, &c. for the same	9	17	9
						Paid Porter at the London Docks	2		
						Expenses in London for myself Tourle & Family	1	10	1
						Expenses home	18	10	
							56	4	6
						Paid to W ^m Tourle after on Board of the Westminster	11	5	6
							£	67	10
						George Thorns			

WSRO Par 95/38/7 – Account of money received and expended respecting William Tourle and Family West Grinstead Going to New York in the Ship Westminster, 1849

Memorandum Received 30th Oct^r 1849
 of George Thorns on Board of the Westminster
 the Sum of Eleven Pounds Five Shillings
 and Six pence

The Mark of
 William Tourle

£11-5-6

WSRO Par 95/38/7 - Memorandum received 30th Oct 1849 of George Thorns on Board of the Westminster the Sum of Eleven Pounds Five shillings and six pence. The mark of William Tourle £11-5-6

What does one take with you when leaving behind an old life, embarking on a transatlantic journey and a starting a new life? We have a receipt of items that the Tourles bought in a general provision (grocer's) warehouse near St. Katherine's docks in London the day before their departure. Quantities and prices can be hard to determine from the list, but we have added our guesses in brackets:

Tobacco, ham and bacon, butter (16 ounces?), lard (6 ounces?), cheese, raisins, mustard, salt and pepper, soap, candles, vinegar (2 bottles), potatoes (20 pounds?), net (1), sea beds (3 double, 1 single? probably hammocks to sleep on the ship), a provision chest, 1 saucepan, 2 chamber [pots], 2 water bottles, a hook pot, a lantern, brandy (1 bottle) and rum.

The total spent on provisions came to £5 16s 9d to which was added "Keep of 7 adults" and another expense not deciphered, bringing the grand total to £9 17s 6d.

Longevity of provisions was the aim, purchasing food that would spoil quickly would be of no use. Looking at the list,

Octo-30th 1849

London,
 Mr. J. B. Whyte
Bought of J. B. WHYTE,
GENERAL PROVISION WAREHOUSE,
 10, UPPER EAST SMITHFIELD,
 Opposite St. Katherine Docks, near the London Docks.

Tea		
Coffee		
Cocoa		
Sugar		
Loaf Sugar		
Tobacco	1 lb	2 10
Hams	2	3 18
Bacon		
Corned Beef		
Pickled Pork		
Tongues		
Cask		
Suet		
Butter	16	16 00
Jar		2 00
Lard	6	4 00
Eggs		
Cheese	2 1/2	4 0
Raisins	2 1/2	4 0
Currants		
Rice		
Spices		
Mustard	1/2	2 6
Pepper	1/2	2 6
Salt	2	2 0
Soap	2	2 0
Soda		
Candles	2	2 0
Vinegar	2	2 0
Pickles		
Oranges		
Lemons		
Oatmeal		
Packets of Groats		
Barley		
Peas		
Fine Biscuit		
Second ditto		
Bag		
Loaves of Bread		
Rusked Bread		
Flour		
Bag		
Herrings		
Potatoes	20	13 0
Bag		
Onions		
German Sausages		
Knives and Forks		
Spoons		
Net	1	1 30
Sea Bed	3	17 6
Blankets		
Coverlid		
Provision Chest	1	25 0
Bottled Ale		
Ditto, Porter		
Casks		
Saucepan	1	2 0
Fryingpan		
Plates		
Mugs		
Dishes		
Wash Bowl		
Chamber	2	3 0
Slop Pail		
Water Bottle	2	6 0
Hook Pot	1	2 0
Lantern	1	2 0
Tea Pot		
Port		
Sherry		
Brandy	1	2 6
Rum	1	1 0
Geneva		
Bottles		
Bipes		2 5

Total of 7 Adults
 1/2 lb of 2/3 each
 9 17 6
 Paid J. B. Whyte

WSRO Par 95/38/7 – A receipt of goods bought near London Docks.

what would be for the journey, and what would be for the family to use once they arrived in their new country?

The Journey Across the Atlantic

The poorest of immigrants were crammed onto cheaper sailing ships that could take up to 40 days to cross the Atlantic. Steam ships, by comparison, could do the journey in 20, however they were not yet as common as their more old-fashioned counterparts in the 1840s.

The Tourles' journey was on the ship Westminster, a sailing ship built in 1837.



A depiction of the Westminister, the ship that took the Tourle's to the United States. Courtesy of Stephen Robert Kuta, from his blog: *Barque Westminister (1837) – The Lives of my Ancestors via wordpress.com* (see link at the end of this case study)

Leaving London on the 31st of

October, they reached New York on the 10th of December 1849. Within the *New York arriving passenger and crew lists* for 1849, William, Mary, Maria, Ellen, William, Agnes, Catherine, David and Emma all appear on the list of entrants. The ages do not exactly match up as what was given in the 1841 census, but this was often the case at the time. Like the spellings of names, ages could also be in flux!

William Toule	46	M	Labourer
Mary	43	F	
Maria	20	"	
Ellen	17	"	
Wm	15	M	
Agnes	11	F	
Cath	8	"	
David	5	M	
Emma	2	F	
Fred ^c Bird	19	M	grocer

List of passengers arriving at New York, Dec 1849. William Toule aged 46 Labourer, Mary aged 43, and Maria, Ellen, William, Agnes, Catherine, David, and Emma accompanying their parents. Available through [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

The journey across the sea could be difficult and rough. It was often not the case that arriving in America would solve family ills. Sadly, this was the case for the Tourles. Agnes, the middle daughter, would pass away in January 1850. Her death is noted in the *U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules*, cause unknown. As she died within weeks of arriving, she may have picked up an illness on board the ship, and never fully recovered once settled in Kings County in Brooklyn.

SCHEDULE 3. — Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, in Kings County 99 State of New York, enumerated by me, John W. Thompson, Ass't Marshal

NAME OF EVERY PERSON WHO DIED during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, whose usual Place of Abode at the Time of his Death was in his Family.	DESCRIPTION.						PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	The Month in which the Person died.	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE.	DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	Number of DAYS Ill.
	Age.	Sex.	Colour { White, black, or mulatto.	Free or Slave.	Married or widowed.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
James Adams	40	m				N.Y.	June		Scholar	2	
George Smith	11	f				N.Y.	September		Unknown	11	
Agnes Terrell	3	m				England	January		Unknown	3	
William Douglas	2	m				N.Y.	June		Unknown	1	

U.S. Census Mortality Schedules, New York, 1850-1880. Available on Ancestry.com. Agnes Terrell, age 11 years born in England, died in January 1850. Her cause of death is noted as unknown.

Where the family went after this is unknown. Most families did not remain in New York for long after arrival. It could have been they had a target destination in mind before they left England. Usually, we would look to Vestry Minutes from their home parish for answers, however in this instance, the minutes we need have not survived for 1849. With their everchanging surname, it has proved very difficult to track down where and when the Tourles settled down in the 1850 or 1860 US censuses. Wherever it was, we can only hope that they found greater happiness and success in their new life in America than they had experienced at Butcher's Row, West Grinstead in Sussex.

Sources

West Sussex Record Office Resources

Papers concerning emigration to Canada and the United States, 1849-1852: West Sussex Record Office, Par 95/38/7

West Grinstead parish register, William Turle's baptism entry, 1802: WSRO, Par 95/1/1/4

West Grinstead parish register, Tourle family baptism entries, 1832-1847: WSRO, Par 95/1/2/1

West Grinstead Overseers' rate book, 1849: WSRO, Par 95/30/38

West Grinstead Tithe Map, 1841: WSRO, TD/W142

OS Map of West Grinstead, 1875: WSRO, Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 sheet XXXVII.4 (37.4) 1st Ed. 1875

External or Online Resources

Drypool parish register, Maria Turle's baptism entry: East Riding Archives, PE109/5

Fortifications of Kingston on Hull, URL: https://www.wikiwand.com/en/The_Citadel,_Hull Accessed 7th September 2022

Tourle's family entry within the Census, West Grinstead, Sussex, 1841: Census Returns of England and Wales, 1841. The National Archives, HO 107/1096. URL: <https://www.ancestryinstitution.com/search/collections/8978/>. Accessed 1st September 2022.

A painting of the ship *Westminster* appears on a postage stamp issued by British Indian Ocean Territory. URL: <https://thelivesofmyancestors.wordpress.com/2018/02/25/barque-westminster-1837/>. Accessed 6th September 2022

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Agnes Terrell's death, United States Census of Mortality Schedule, New York, 1850: New York State Education Department, Office of Cultural Education; U.S. Census Mortality Schedules, New York, 1850-1880. URL: <https://www.ancestryinstitution.com/search/collections/8756/>. Accessed 1st September 2022.