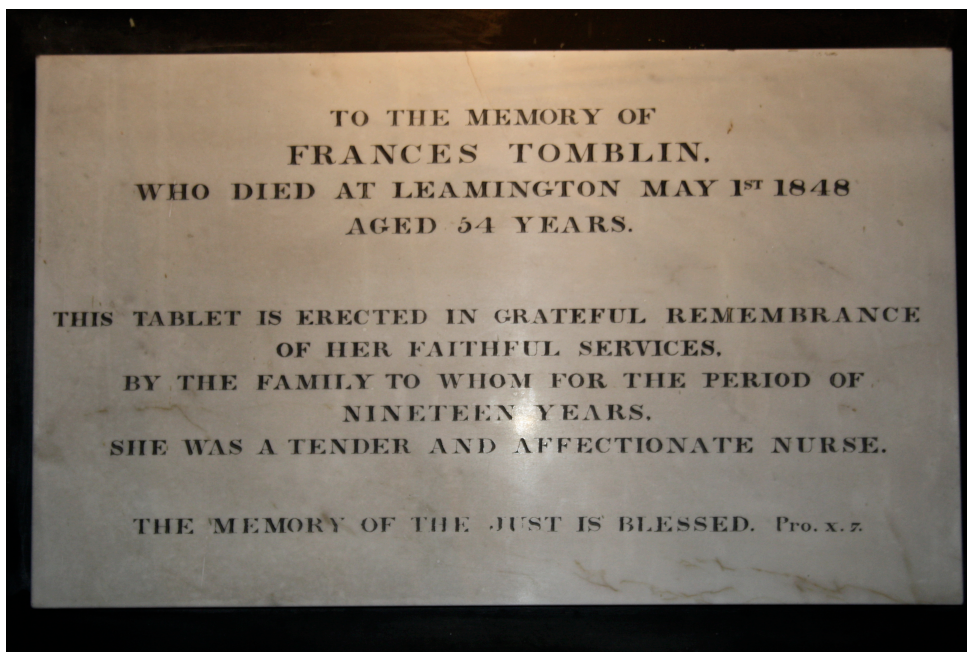




**Frances Tomblin
1794 – 1848**

Nurse to the Sheppard Family



According to the memorial in the Church at Campsea Ashe, Frances Tomblin worked for 19 years as “a tender and affectionate nurse” to the Sheppard family. She may not have lived in the village for long, but she certainly had an impact on this important local family who lived at the High House.

It is not known where Frances was born, just that her birth occurred in 1794. Nothing is known of her early life at all. The first we know of her was when she became nurse to four Sheppard children at some point in the mid to late 1820s. John Wilson and Harriet Sheppard owned the High House and they had four young children, John George (b 1824), Julia Harriet (b 1825), Henry Wilson (b 1827) and Agnes Mary (b 1829).

John Wilson died in 1830 when he was just 32 years old and his six year old son inherited the High House, albeit through trustees. Harriet soon remarried and in 1832 she became wife of the Hon Rev Robert Wilson and she moved to Ashwellthorpe Hall in Norfolk. In the 1841 census Harriet is recorded as living at Ashwellthorpe along with Julia and Agnes, as well as two other children who had been born since her remarriage. There were, of course, a number of servants living at the Hall, including one Frances Tomlison aged 46 years. The 1841 census is notorious for the number of errors in the spelling of names etc and we believe this Frances is Frances Tomblin who has moved with Harriet to Norfolk to look after the children.

In 1845 Agnes married at a very young age, 16 years, and she moved to Leamington in Warwickshire along with her husband, Frederick Fiddymont Wells. We believe Frances moved with Agnes as her death and burial is recorded at Leamington Priors. She died from apoplexy – bleeding from a stroke – on 1st May 1848 and was buried on the 5th May. Her death certificate records her as Fanny Tomblin and she was living at Beauchamp Street. A few years later Agnes is recorded as living at Clarendon Square – a Beauchamp Road (not Street) can still be found in Leamington, very close to Clarendon Square.

It is believed that John George Sheppard, brother of Agnes, arranged for the memorial in the Church to be erected, although this has not yet been proved. It is known that Agnes was brought back to Campsea Ashe on her death in 1852 when just 23 years old. She is buried in the now lost Sheppard vault along with many other members of her family.

Tim Holmes
March 2012

Appendix 1
1841 census

Northwell, Norfolk

PLACE	HOUSES	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night	AGE and SEX	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born
		William Pitcher	16		4
		Annalee D.	9		4
		Annalee D.	7		4
		Elizabeth D.	14		4
		John D.	1		4
		John Cook	27	Mariner	4
		Mary D.	29		4
		James D.	9		4
		Robert Cook	58	Member	4
		Annalee D.	17		4
		Robert D.	25		4
		William D.	21		4
		Edward D.	19		4
		Hannah D.	10		4
		Thomas Harvey	75	Farmer	4
		Ann D.	18		4
		Charlotte D.	60		4
		George D.	20		4
		John D.	10		4
		Charlotte D.	15		4
		Charles D.	15		4
		Sophia D.	11		4
		William D.	35	M. S.	4
		Elizabeth D.	15	F. S.	4
		John Royal	35	Ag. Lab.	4
TOTAL in	4		13	12	
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Northwell, Norfolk

PLACE	HOUSES	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night	AGE and SEX	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	When Born
		Elizabeth Royal	38		4
		William D.	15		4
		Annalee D.	10		4
		Robert D.	10		4
		Mary D.	5		4
		John D.	4		4
		Ann D.	1		4
		Edward Wilson	30	Ag. Lab.	4
		Sophia D.	40		4
		George D.	8		4
		Mary D.	5		4
		Robert Wilson	39	Farmer	4
		Harriet D.	32		4
		Henry D.	8		4
		Annalee D.	5		4
		Julia Shepard	15		4
		Agnes D.	11		4
		Emily Patton	26	Generalist	4
		John Partridge	16	F. S.	4
		Frederick Tomlinson	46	F. S.	4
		Henry Spalding	30	F. S.	4
		Mary Bridgman	28	F. S.	4
		Lucy Chalmers	25	F. S.	4
		Mary Branch	47	F. S.	4
		Martha Taylor	37	F. S.	4
TOTAL in	2		7	18	
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Reference: HO 107 / 757 / 1

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Appendix 2
Burial Register Leamington Priors

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BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Leamington Priors</u> in the County of <u>Warwick</u> in the Year 18 <u>82</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
James Butler Duffey No. 537	Leamington	April 14 th	10 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Emma Blum No. 538	Leamington	April 20 th	9 ^{Months}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
James Stapp No. 539	Leamington	April 20 th	20 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Philip William Thorne No. 540	Leamington	April 21 st	3 ^{Months}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Elizabeth Whitworth No. 541	Leamington	April 22 nd	4 ^{Months}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Frederick Handley No. 542	Leamington	April 22 nd	2 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
William James Waps No. 543	Leamington	April 26 th	7 ^{Months}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
James Watkins No. 544	Leamington	April 27 th	16 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister

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BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Leamington Priors</u> in the County of <u>Warwick</u> in the Year 18 <u>82</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Henry Ridgway No. 545	Leamington	May 3 rd	6 ^{Months}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Thomas Fox No. 546	Leamington	May 5 th	90 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Frances Southin No. 547	Leamington	May 5 th	54 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Thomas Brownth No. 548	Leamington	May 11 th	40 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Mary Ann Jeffery No. 549	Leamington	May 11 th	14 ^{Days}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Charles Mansell No. 550	Leamington	May 12 th	21 ^{Years}	James Pearson Offic. Minister
Sarah Ann Clark No. 551	Leamington	May 15 th	10 ^{Months}	Wm. Burrell Offic. Minister
Frederick Brownth No. 552	Leamington	May 16 th	1 ^{Year}	Wm. Burrell Offic. Minister