

## Mary Tunaley's connections with her illustrious neighbours of Full Street and Queen Street, Derby: Joseph Wright and Erasmus Darwin.

(copyright P.H. Tunaley)

In the early 1790s, the Tunaley family was living in Full Street, Derby as were Erasmus Darwin, Lucy Swift and Lamech Swift, the tenant manager of the Old Silk Mill. Lucy was the suspected first illegitimate daughter of Erasmus Darwin. The artist Joseph Wright who created a portrait painting of Mary Tunaley now held by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, MA was living at 28 Queen Street that overlooks and joins Full Street. Records and information below illustrate the connections between the lives of these people at the time.

This document includes a timeline for Mary Tunaley (c. 1775) and Lucy Swift (c. 1771) and also looks into Lucy's a potential family connection with Ann Swift (c. 1748) who became wife of the portrait painter Joseph Wright of Derby. The article examines Mary Tunaley's connections with Joseph Wright and Lucy Swift and, through these people, a further connection with Erasmus Darwin.

(“Erasmus Darwin was one of the key thinkers of the Midlands Enlightenment, he was also a natural philosopher, physiologist, slave-trade abolitionist, inventor and poet.” He was the grandfather of the more famous Charles Darwin).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus\\_Darwin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Darwin)

### Intro

In 1805, Mary Tunaley married Francis Boott ("merchant"), All Saints, Derby, 25th July, followed by emigration to America.

In 1820, Mary Hardcastle married Francis's American cousin also Francis Boott (1792-1863) at St. Werburgh's Derby. Francis was a physician and botanist resident in England from 1820 – he helped pioneer the use of anaesthetics in surgery. Mary Hardcastle's mother, Lucy Swift (c. 1771) who married John Hardcastle, 1792), was the suspected first illegitimate child of Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802), the renowned physician and philosopher.

Ann Swift (c. 1748) married Joseph Wright of Derby 1773 whilst Lamech Swift, the manager and sub-tenant of The Old Silk Mill from 1780 to 1803, appears on Lucy Swift.'s marriage certificate as her father.

Records confirm that Joseph Wright was a friend of Erasmus Darwin.

Around 1793, Joseph Wright created a portrait painting of Mary Tunaley now held by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, MA.

---

Numerous records and detailed information given toward the end of this document indicate the following:

- Ann Swift (c. 1748) of Shirland, Derbyshire, (daughter of Samuel and Ann Swift (nee Eastwood m. 1743)) who married Joseph Wright of Derby 1773, came from the same small village and was possibly the niece of Lucy Swift (nee Lucy Turner) who married William Swift 1755. It is this Lucy Swift who is thought to have had an adulterous relationship with Erasmus Darwin.

- Records give (a) Ann Swift christened 1748 (b) Lucy Swift (nee Turner) married 1755. Hence the age difference would have been relatively small. They would have been more like sisters than aunt and niece.
- Lucy Swift (nee Turner) was the mother of Lucy Swift (Junior) (c. 1771 who later became Lucy Hardcastle) of whom Erasmus Darwin, a friend of the painter Joseph Wright, was suspected as being the natural father.
- Lamech Swift, Clerk to the Collector of Excise and later manager and sub-tenant of the Old Silk Mill, is given as the father of Lucy Junior on her marriage certificate whilst her baptism record gives William and Lucina (sic) Swift as the parents. One explanation is that William Swift was the natural father with Lamech Swift the legal guardian.
- In 1782, Erasmus Darwin moved to Full Street where the Tunaleys were living. Records indicate Lamech Swift, tenant manager of The Old Silk Mill was also living in Full Street at the time. It is likely that Mary Tunaley and Lucy Swift, of similar ages, were well acquainted with each other as a result of this proximity. Then in 1793 Joseph Wright moved to 28 Queen Street, a residence that overlooks Full Street. It was shortly after this time that Joseph Wright painted the portrait of Mary Tunaley that now hangs in the Boston Museum MA. With Joseph Wright being recorded as a close friend of Erasmus Darwin and Joseph Wright's wife close to Lucy Swift, it is not difficult to see how these relationships developed.
- The Boott family (see also item 9 in information below) appear to have been on the fringe of this circle of famous people. The American entrepreneur Kirk Boott Jnr. (1790-1837) was a business associate of William Strutt (1756-1830) the architect, civil engineer and inventor. William Strutt and Erasmus Darwin were co-founders of the Derby Philosophical Society. With Mary Tunaley marrying the merchant Francis Boott in 1805 and Lucy Jnr.'s daughter Mary Hardcastle marrying Francis's American cousin also Francis Boott (1792-1863) the Tunaleys would have been close to these well-known people by virtue of work, location and marriage.
- There are other ingredients.  
In 1800, Mary Tunaley left the Tunaley family home to live with the Haden family. Thomas Haden was a surgeon and later twice Mayor of Derby. He had twin daughters, Ann and Sarah and it appears Mary acted as their governess. Mary Tunaley married Francis Boott ("merchant"), All Saints, Derby, 25th July, 1805. This was followed by emigration to America. Ann Haden later married Kirk Boott Jnr. (St. Michael's Church, Derby 1818) and also emigrated to America. This event after Kirk Boott Snr. had died Boston, 1817.  
In 1820, these events were followed by Mary Hardcastle marrying Francis Boott, brother of Kirk Jnr. at St. Werburgh's Church, Derby, Mary Hardcastle being the daughter of Lucy (nee Swift).

It has already been suggested that Lucy Swift would have been well acquainted with Mary Tunaley and that Joseph Wright's wife Ann (nee Ann Swift) who died 1790 was related to Lucy Swift. Joseph Wright in turn was a friend of Erasmus Darwin suspected natural father of Lucy Swift. It was possibly a consequence of these close relationships that Joseph Wright came to paint the portrait of Mary Tunaley. At around the same time Wright also painted the Haden twins, their painting now at the Worcester Museum, M.A.

Meanwhile Erasmus Darwin was a life-long friend of Benjamin Franklin, founding father of the United States and, like Erasmus, a philosopher scientist and inventor. Indeed, Benjamin Franklin visited Erasmus in Lichfield and Derby and was a committed Lunar Society member by correspondence. "Benjamin Franklin shared Darwin's support for the American and French revolutions" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus\\_Darwin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Darwin)). What seems remarkable in this context is that, around thirty years later in 1825, Mary Tunaley Boott, now a widow, married Jeremiah Lee at Brattleboro, Vermont. Jeremiah was the grandson of the renowned patriot Colonel Jeremiah Lee, a person who had been influential in the American War of Independence. No doubt Erasmus Darwin, had he been alive, would have raised a special smile at this outcome.

---

	<u>Samuel Swift</u> <u>(Shirland/Ashover)</u>	<u>William Swift</u> <u>(Shirland/Ashover)</u>	<u>Samuel Swift</u> <u>(Chesterfield)</u>	<u>Misc.</u>
<u>1723</u>			Samuel Swift c. 25 Jan 1723 Chesterfield, Derby. mother Esther	
<u>1743</u>	<b>Samuel Swift m. Anne Eastwood, Ashover 6 Feb 1743</b>			
<u>1745</u>	Mary Swift c. 15 Sep 1745, Ashover, Derbyshire Father's Name: Samuel Swift Mother's Name: Anne			
<u>1746</u>			Lamech Swift baptism: Father Samuel Swift 22 Feb 1746 (another record gives the year as 1747). Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Elder Yard Chapel (Presbyterian).	
<u>1748</u>	<b>Ann Swift Jnr.c. 21 May 1748 Shirland, Derby England Father's name Samuel Swift.</b>			
<u>1753</u>	Joseph Swift c. 7 May 1753, Shirland, Derby (another record gives date as 7 May 1752). Father's Name: Samuel Swift Mother's Name: Anne			
<u>1755</u>		<b>William Swift m. Lucy Turner, 23 October 1755. Shirland, Derby.</b>		
<u>1756</u>		Richard Swift, 6 June 1756, Shirland, Derby Father's Name: William Swift Mother's name: Lucy		
<u>1759</u>	Samuel Swift, c. 10 Feb 1759, Shirland, Derby. Father's Name: Samuel Swift Mother's Name: Ann	Mary Swift, 21 April, 1759, Shirland, Derby Father's Name: William Swift Mother's name: Lucy		
<u>1760</u>		Samuel Swift, 2 April 1760, Shirland, Derby Father's Name: William Swift Mother's name: Lucy		
<u>1763</u>	Thomas Swift, c. 31 July, 1763 Shirland Derby Father's Name: Samuel Swift Mother's Name: Ann	William Swift 18 Feb 1763, Shirland, Derby Household Members:William Swift, Lucy, William Swift <b>(1851 Derbyshire Census: "William Swift aged 88 years estimated birth yedr 1763").</b>		
<u>1767</u>		Richard Swift, 29 Jan 1767, Shirland, Derby Father's Name: William Swift Mother's name: Lucy		
<u>1768</u>		Sarah Swift, 1768, Ashover, Derbyshire. Father's Name: William Swift Father's Name: William Swift Mother's name: Lucy		
<u>1769</u>	<b>Samuel Swift bap: 2 April 1769, Shirland Derby Household Members: Samuel Swift, Lucy, William Swift. (N.B. this time no mention of Samuel's wife Ann).</b>	<b>William (Jnr.b.1763 ?) and Lucy included in record as part of Samuel's household. (see record left).</b>		
<u>1770</u>			Marriage of Lamech Swift: Lamech Swift, clerk to the Collector of	Erasmus Darwin's first wife, Mary (nee Howard) dies.

			Excise, and Dorothy Kinder 8 February 1770. All Saints, Derby.	
<u>1771</u>		<b>Record: Lucy Swift baptism: 29 July 1771 Shirland, Derby, England Mother: Lucina (sic), Father: William. See item right;</b>		Lucy Swift (see item left) thought to be illegitimate child of Erasmus Darwin.
<u>1772</u>				Susanna Parker (1772-1856) illegitimate child of Erasmus Darwin and governess Mary Parker.
<u>1773</u>	<b>Ann Swift Jnr. marries Joseph Wright, 28 July 1773, Ault Hucknall, Derbyshire. Ann (aka Hannah) "the daughter of a lead miner".</b>	Godfrey Swift, 15 May 1773 Father's Name: William Swift Mother's name: Lucy		
<u>1774</u>				Mary Parker Jnr. (1774-1859) born. Illegitimate child of Erasmus Darwin and governess Mary Parker.
<u>1775</u>				<b>Mary Tunaley c. St. Alkmunds, Derby 4/5/1775. Tunaley family rsident in Full Street, Derby.</b>
<u>1777</u>		Mary Swift, 29 May, 1777, Ashover, Derbyshire. Father's Name: William Swift		
<u>1779</u>			Dorothy Swift (daughter) baptism: 1779 Derby Friargate Chapel Presbyterian Father: Lamech Swift.	
<u>1780 - 1803</u>			Lamech Swift has gone from being Clerk to the Excise Collector (see 1770) to the Sub-Tenant/Manager of the Old Silk Mill.	
<u>1781</u>			Lamech Swift (Jnr.) Born: 3 Oct 1781 Baptism: 7 Nov. 1781 Derby Friargate Chapel Presbyterian	
<u>1782</u>				Erasmus Darwin and second wife Elizabeth (nee Pole) move from Radbourne Hall (four miles west of Derby) to Full Street, Derby.

<u>1788</u>				Linnean Society founded in 1788. Previously. Erasmus Darwin had translated the works of of the Swedish botanist <u>Carolus Linnaeus</u> from Latin into English and written the books "A System of Vegetables" between 1783 and 1785, and "The Families of Plants" in 1787.
<u>1790</u>	<b>Ann Wright (nee Swift) died 17 August 1790.</b>			
<u>1792</u>	<b>Second record to the right gives Lucy's father as "Samuel". Record 1769 above suggests Lucy, the mother, part of the Samuel household at the time. William and Lucy, the mother, may have died (no further record found of either of the two after 1777).</b>	Lucy Swift's marriage: John Hardcastle of Birmingham, tea dealer, and Lucy Swift, "a minor with the consent of her father Lamech Swift" 11 January 1792. <hr/> Another Record: Lucy Swift m. John Hardcastle, All Saints, Derby. 11 Jan 1792. Spouse's fathers' Name: Samuel Swift.	<b>No further record found to the one on the left connecting Lamech Swift with Lucy Swift. Rather than being the natural father, Lamech could have been acting as Lucy's legal guardian given the formal "consent" written into the document.</b>	
<u>1793</u>			<b>See item right =&gt;</b> Full Street joins Queen Street at T-junction with the house at 28 Queen Street facing down Full Street.	<b>Joseph Wright moves into 28 Queen Street, Derby close to his friend Erasmus Darwin living in Full street.</b>  <b>Painting of Mary Tunaley by Joseph Wright of Derby around 1793.</b>
<u>1795</u>		<b>Mary Hardcastle, c. 3 Feb 1795, Saint Martin, Birmingham, Warwick. Father's Name: John Hardcastle. Mother's Name: Lucy.</b>		
<u>1797</u>			1797 Dorothy Swift burial 26 Oct 1797, All Saints Church Derby	Death of Joseph Wright, 29 August 1797 (b. 3/9/1734).
<u>1802</u>				<b>Erasmus Darwin died suddenly on 18 April 1802, weeks after having moved to Breadsall Priory, just north of Derby. His body is buried in All Saints Church, Breadsall.</b>

<u>1805</u>			Second Marriage of Lamech Swift: Lamech Swift, widower, and Ann Granger widow, 16 June 1805, Derby.	<b>Mary Tunaley m. Francis Boott ("merchant"), All Saints, Derby, 25th July, 1805.</b>  <b>Followed by emigration to America.</b>
<u>1818</u>			<b>Directory Information: Pigot's directory 1818-1820 Lamech Swift, Full Street, Derby.</b>	Francis Boott (Mary Tunaley's husband) died 1818, Azores, on journey from America to England.  Kirk Boott Jnr. married Ann Haden, daughter of Thomas Haden, surgeon and later Mayor of Derby. Marriage at St. Michael's Church Derby, England.
<u>1820</u>		<b>Mary Hardcastle m. Francis Boott (1792-1863) 3 July 1820, St. Werburgh's Derby.</b> Francis was an American physician and botanist resident in England from 1820. <b>He helped pioneer the use of anaesthetics in surgery.</b> <b>See:</b>  <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Boott">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Boott</a>  <b>and</b>  <a href="http://phtunaley.hypermart.net/tunaleymary.htm">http://phtunaley.hypermart.net/tunaleymary.htm</a>		<b>Death of Robert Tunaley.</b> According to his will, he leaves the sum of £500 to his daughter Mary Tunaley.
<u>1822</u>			Swift Lamech Snr. -- 1822 Wills & probate	
<u>1822=&gt;</u>			1822- Lamech Swift Jnr. moves to the West Country making a name for himself there as an engineer and throwster.	
<u>1825</u>				Mary Tunaley Boott m. Jeremiah Lee, Brattleboro, Vermont, 1825. Jeremiah was the grandson of Colonel Jeremiah Lee, a person influential in the American War of Independence.
<u>1828</u>			<b>Ann Swift (nee Granger) burial Jan 7, 1829, St. Werburgh's Derby aged 76. Birth year 1753, Spouse's name: Lameck (sic) Swift.</b>	

<u>1837</u>			1837 Lamech Swift Jnr. marriage 3 Aug 1837, Wellington Somerset	
<u>1841</u>			Swift Lamech (Jnr).- - 1841 Wills & probate	
<u>1851</u>		(1851 Derbyshire Census: William Swift (Jnr.) aged 88 years estimated birth year 1763 <b>(see 1763 above)</b> )		
<u>1854</u>				Charles Darwin (1809-1882) Elected Fellow of the Linnean Society.
<u>1859</u>				Charles Darwin's book "On the Origin of Species by means of natural selection" published in 1859.

## Detailed Information

1. From: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus\\_Darwin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Darwin)

"Darwin may have fathered another child, this time with a married woman. A Lucy Swift gave birth in 1771 to a baby, also named Lucy, who was christened a daughter of her mother and William Swift, but there is reason to believe the father was really Darwin. Lucy Jr. married John Hardcastle in Derby in 1792 and their daughter, Mary, married Francis Boott, the physician."

2. From: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Wright\\_of\\_Derby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Wright_of_Derby)

"Wright married Ann (also known as Hannah) Swift, **the daughter of a leadminer**, on 28 July 1773".

3. From; <http://derbyblueplaques.co.uk/joseph-wright/>

"However, a large number of his contacts and friends came from the Lunar Society, such as the highly influential Erasmus Darwin. **Some have questioned his choice of bride – Hannah Swift, also known as Ann – because, as a lead miner's daughter, some believed her to be beneath him, but he had a happy marriage with her until her death.**"

4. **Ashover was the location of a productive lead mine.**

From: <http://www.derbyshireheritage.co.uk/Menu/Archaeology/Mines/Lead/Gregory-mine.php>: "the Gregory lead mine at Ashover was highly productive between 1758 and 1806 and yielded an average of 511 tons of ore per annum". **Ashover is just 5 miles from Shirland where Lucy and Ann Swift lived.**

5. **Baptism records show that a number of the marriage/baptism events took place in Ashover as well as Shirland.** Records indicate that Ann Swift (c. 1748) of Shirland, Derbyshire, (daughter of Samuel and Ann Swift (nee Eastwood m. 1743)) who married Joseph Wright of Derby 1773, was close to and possibly the niece of Lucy Swift (nee Lucy Turner). Records give (a) Ann Swift christened 1748 (b) Lucy Swift (nee Turner) married 1755. Hence the age difference would have been relatively small. They would have been more like sisters than aunt and niece..

6. In 1792 Lucy Swift's marriage:record 11 January 1792 includes **"a minor with the consent of her**

father Lamech Swift”.

In 1754 Hardwicke's Marriage Act pronounced that marriage below the “age of majority” (21 years at that time) required **the consent of parents or guardians**. The age of majority was not the same as the minimum age of marriage that varied over the years and was at one time as low as 12 years for girls.

It might be that the statement “a minor with the consent of her father Lamech Swift” was necessarily required to fulfil a legal obligation such as might be required under legal guardianship. **Under such an agreement, the guardian would assume all responsibilities of a father with the word “father”, as seen on Lucy's marriage certificate, not necessarily meaning “natural father”.**

**As the guardian's name was also Swift and if some deception had been involved, one would automatically assume Lamech was the natural father.**

**Ann Wright (nee Swift) would not have been around to complicate matters (Ann died 1790 two years prior to Lucy's marriage).**

7. Under her married name Lucy Hardcastle (nee Swift) wrote the book “An Introduction to the Elements of the Linnaean System of Botany for Young Persons” (1830) - see Google books using the following link:

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=iM9BAQAAMAAJ&pg=PR14&pg=PR14&dq=An+introduction+to+the+elements+of+the+Linnaean+system+of+botany&source=bl&ots=kchZkqYszG&sig=W2ytF0oPZShvDoiqm-2VxZuZw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=yPoHVNI4HYGM7QaEyoCYBQ&ved=0CUDUQ6AEwAw%2>

**This text would suggest an Erasmus Darwin influence although Michael Faraday's letters (see below) show that her son-in-law Francis Boott was, himself, Secretary of the Linnean Society from 1832-1839.** Hence it seems both Lucy and son-in-law Francis were carrying on the work of Erasmus Darwin (Lucy's book appears to have been published 28 years after Erasmus Darwin died when Lucy would have been aged about 59 years.).

For “The Correspondence of Michael Faraday (F.R.S.), Volume 2: 1832-1840” – see Google books using the following link:

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=ARLkMh794L8C&pg=PA139&pg=PA139&dq=Francis+Boott+Michael+Faraday&source=bl&ots=vaEoFVfYFC&sig=ff6xEqG7nzwPvINwK5UOEasLIDo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=rzULVPPVOC7y7Aai4oCgAQ&ved=0CCEQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Francis%20Boott%20Michael%20Faraday&f=false>

8. Whatever the merits of Lucy Swift's marriage certificate, one assumes she lived in the Darwin household that included two other known illegitimate daughters of Erasmus Darwin.

If Lamech Swift was indeed Lucy's legal guardian, she would have been familiar with the Lamech Swift household in Full Street. Also Ann Swift's marriage to Joseph Wright would indicate Lucy having a close relationship with the Wright household.

9. In 1783, Kirk Boott, at the age of 33 left England for America. According to one report his passage was paid for by friends who invested various amounts of money in the import business he set up on arrival. Those friends could have included Erasmus Darwin, Joseph Wright, Thomas Haden and the Strutts\*. Over time, those debts were repaid meaning Kirk Boott must have stayed in contact with his Derby investors. Indeed, those investors could have continued to put money into the business and into Kirk Junior's business also (see below). It is recorded that Kirk Senior's business was at its most successful around 1802.

The "derbyshire.co.uk" website at:

[http://www.derbyshirelife.co.uk/people/derbyshire\\_s\\_kirk\\_boot\\_the\\_founder\\_of\\_the\\_american\\_textile\\_industry\\_1\\_1632899](http://www.derbyshirelife.co.uk/people/derbyshire_s_kirk_boot_the_founder_of_the_american_textile_industry_1_1632899)

tells how Kirk Boott Jnr. (1790=1837) with the help of William Strutt of Belper, Derby

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Strutt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Strutt)

later set up a cotton manufacturing business on the banks of the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. It was William Strutt who designed the mills and machinery.

10. In 1780 Lamech Swift, a Clerk to the Excise Collector, became Sub-Tenant/Manager of the Old Silk Mill. A Pigots' directory listing for 1818-1820 gives Lamech Swift as living in Full Street Derby. It is probable that Lamech was living at this same address in 1780 as it is in close proximity to the Old Silk Mill. In the same year, a silk throwster's notice confirms the existence of the Hall and Tunaley silk throwing business along with Strutt and Woollat and showing the Tunaley residence also in Full Street. This would indicate a Swift familiarity with the Tunaley family in terms of business, location and possible relationships. It is noted that the young Lucy Swift would have been just four years older than Mary Tunaley. As such, it is reasonable to assume that Lucy and Mary would have been close acquaintances at the very least from an early age especially given their respective links with Joseph Wright and Erasmus Darwin.



