

# Some additional 18th century Buckinghamshire chair makers

The *Posse Comitatus* is a register of the names and occupations of able-bodied men aged between 15 and 60 drawn up in the late 18th century to provide civil defence against a possible French invasion.<sup>1</sup> Names are listed by town and the record for the county of Buckinghamshire is more or less complete. The register dates from 1798 and includes, with some duplications, 76 chair makers, 58 of whom worked in Chepping (High) and West Wycombe.<sup>2</sup> However, there are some chair makers in other Buckinghamshire towns that have not previously been reported. Their names, which are given below, include some makers (in italics) who may be the same men recorded as working at a later date.<sup>3</sup>

<b>Brands Fee</b>	John Verney
<b>Chalfont St Giles</b>	<i>Thomas Stevens</i>
<b>Dorney</b>	Jeremiah Dell
<b>Great Missenden</b>	Joseph Charles, Richard Charles, James Clark, Mark Hart snr, Mark Hart jnr, <i>Joseph Jarvis</i> , John Parr Nathaniel Pitt
<b>Farnham Royal</b>	
<b>Hughenden</b>	Richard James, <i>James Mayo</i>
<b>Monks Risborough</b>	William King
<b>Upton cum Chalvey</b>	Henry Hubbard, <i>Henry Lovegrove</i> , John Lovegrove, Thomas Pitt
<b>West Wycombe</b>	John Harris jnr.

John Pitt, the earliest known Windsor chair maker and the subject of a recent article, lived and worked at Upton cum Chalvey, now part of Slough.<sup>4</sup> His second, apparently illegitimate, son Nathaniel was christened in 1743 and is almost certainly the Nathaniel listed above at Farnham Royal (now also part of Slough) because no other individual of this name occurs in the Bucks parish registers.<sup>5</sup> John Pitt had another son, Thomas, baptised in 1746, who may be the chair maker listed above; however, there was another Thomas Pitt christened at Upton in 1774.<sup>6</sup> Also, Paul Pitt, a chair maker in Windsor, may have been John's son christened in 1753.<sup>7</sup> Another chair maker known to have been working at Upton in the 18th century is Henry Lovegrove.<sup>8</sup> His son, Henry jnr, born 1779, is recorded as a Windsor and garden chair maker in Slough in 1823 and married one Mary Pitt in 1807.<sup>9</sup> The Lovegroves were a successful family of chair makers, and there exists an 1870s photograph showing chairs displayed outside their shop in Slough High Street.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> I.F.W. Beckett, *The Buckinghamshire Posse Comitatus 1798*, Buckinghamshire Record Society No 22, 1985.

<sup>2</sup> B.D. Cotton, *The English Regional Chair*, Antique Collectors Club, 1990.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> R.F.Parrott, *Regional Furniture* XIX, 2005, pp 20-32.

<sup>5</sup> International Genealogical Index.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Parrott op.cit., and Beard & Gilbert, *Dictionary of Furniture Makers 1660-1840*, FHS, 1986.

<sup>8</sup> Beckett, op. cit., Cotton, op. cit., and Beard & Gilbert op.cit.

<sup>9</sup> Beard & Gilbert, op. cit., and International Genealogical Index.

<sup>10</sup> Maxwell Fraser, *The History of Slough*, Slough Corporation, 1973.