

**Thomas and John Newman of Longdon  
&  
Thomas and John Newman of Prestbury**

**1. Thomas and John Newman of Longdon**

Thomas Newman appeared at Longdon on 24 Nov 1761 when he married Mary Wall.

*“Tho<sup>s</sup> Newman of the Parish of Longdon in the County of Worcester a batchelor & Mary Wall of the same Parish a spinster were married in this Church by Banns In the presence of Eliz<sup>th</sup> Wall & John Greening”<sup>1</sup>*

They had seven children:

- Ann, baptised 27-Dec 1762
- William, baptised 27-Jan 1765
- Thomas, baptised 21-Feb 1768
- Mary, baptised 28-Jul 1771
- Richard, baptised 29-Dec 1772
- John, baptised 28-May 1775
- Joseph, baptised 31-May 1778

Thomas died in 1800 followed by Mary in 1806. The tombstone reads:

*"In memory of Thomas Newman who died the ... day of January 1800 aged 69 years. A honest man... beloved by all his neighbours. He laboured hard until his death and then to Christ resigned his breath. Also in memory of Mary the wife of the above named Thomas Newman who died the 13th day of June 1806 aged 69 years. A loving wife and mother dear. A virtuous women lieth here. We hope her soul has gone to rest among the regions of the blest. She laboured hard until her death and then to Christ resigned her breath."*

John Newman married at Longdon on 25 Oct 1763:

*“John Newman of the Parish of Longdon a batchelor & Mary Pilangar of the same Parish a spinster were married in this Church by Banns In the presence of Mary Newman & John Greening”<sup>2</sup>*

They had ten children:

- William, baptised 14 Oct 1764 & buried 29 Oct 1764
- William, baptised 11 Oct 1767
- Mary, baptised 24 Sep 1769
- Edmund, baptised 28 Apr 1771
- John, baptised 2 May 1773
- Thomas, baptised 19 May 1776
- Adam, baptised 3 Aug 1777 & buried 8 Aug 1788
- Sarah, baptised 9 Aug 1778 & buried 23 Feb 1780
- Joseph, baptised 11 Jan 1782 & buried 23 Jan 1782
- Elizabeth, baptised 30 Mar 1783

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<sup>1</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/longdon/longdonvol6.htm>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

John Newman died in 1814, followed by his wife in 1824. The tombstone is almost illegible but John's age is given as 77.

John, Thomas and Thomas' son Richard are buried in the same part of the Longdon graveyard.



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Based on the fact that Mary Newman (née Wall) witnessed John Newman's marriage and the proximity of the graves, it has been concluded that Thomas and John Newman were brothers.

Noting that both men named their first-born son William and, following the death of John's son of that name in 1764, John named his next son William, it seems to me probable that their father's name was William Newman.

The profile of the brothers is therefore:

- Father: probably William
- Thomas born ca. 1731 (he died in December 1800 aged 69)
- John born ca. 1736 (he died in February 1814 aged 77)

## 2. Thomas and John Newman of Prestbury

Two brothers of these names were baptised at Prestbury, 12 miles south east of Longdon, Thomas (1734) and John (1738), sons of Thomas and Mary Newman.

These brothers have frequently been identified as the Longdon brothers. The dates of birth are relatively close, but both are several years later than the calculated birth years of the Longdon brothers.

There is a probable marriage for Thomas of Prestbury at Tewkesbury, 30 April 1761, "Thomas Newman of the Parish of Bishop's Cleeve & Ann Holbert of this Parish."<sup>3</sup>

The marriage allegation gave Thomas' age as 26, suggesting a birth between April 1734 and April 1735. Thomas Newman of Prestbury was baptised in May 1734. The parish of Prestbury adjoins the parish of Bishop's Cleeve on the south, with a common border of about 4 miles, making this identification almost certain.

<sup>3</sup> <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/tewkesbury/tewkesburyvol10pt2.htm>

28<sup>th</sup> Day of April - - - 1761

ON which Day appeared Personally Thomas Newman of the Parish - of Bishop's Cleeve in the County and Diocese of Gloucester, Labourer - and, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, Alledged and made Oath, That he is of the Age of Twenty six - Years and upwards, and a Bachelor - and that he intends to Marry with Anne Holbert - - - of the Parish - of Tewkesbury - in the County and Diocese of Gloucester, Spinster - aged Twenty four - Years and upwards; and that he knoweth of no lawful Lett, or Impediment, by reason of any Pre-contract entered into before the 25th Day of March, 1754, Consanguinity, Affinity, or any other Cause whatsoever, to hinder the said intended Marriage; and that he prayed a Licence to solemnize the said Marriage in the Parish Church - of Tewkesbury - aforesaid; in which said Parish - of Tewkesbury - the said Thomas Newman - further made Oath that the said Anne Holbert - hath had her usual Abode for the Space of Four Weeks last past.

Let Licence pass as prayed.  
John Wickes Surr.  
Thomas Newman

Therefore Thomas Newman of Prestbury, baptised 1734, cannot be Thomas Newman of London, born about 1731.

There are several possible marriages for John Newman of Prestbury at Cheltenham, which adjoins Prestbury to the south with a common border of some 4 miles<sup>4</sup>:

- 25 Dec 1760 John Newman and Ann Brown, by license
- 18 Jul 1768 John Newman and Ann Hyett
- 19 Jul 1768 John Newman and Elizabeth Hooper, by license

The 1768 marriages can be excluded as the husband of Ann Hyett was 26<sup>5</sup> (born about 1742) when he married and the husband of Elizabeth Hooper was 22<sup>6</sup> (born about 1746).

22<sup>d</sup> Day of December - - 1760

ON which Day appeared Personally John Newman - of the Parish - of Cheltenham - in the County and Diocese of Gloucester, Basket-maker - and, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, Alledged and made Oath, That he is of the Age of Twenty one - Years and upwards, and a Bachelor - and that he intends to Marry with Anne Brown - - - of the said Parish - of Cheltenham - in the County and Diocese of Gloucester, Spinster - aged Twenty three - Years and upwards; and that he knoweth of no lawful Lett, or Impediment, by reason of any Pre-contract entered into before the 25th Day of March, 1754, Consanguinity, Affinity, or any other Cause whatsoever, to hinder the said intended Marriage; and that he prayed a Licence to solemnize the said Marriage in the Parish Church - of Cheltenham - aforesaid; in which said Parish - of Cheltenham - the said John Newman - further made Oath that the said Anne Brown - hath had her usual Abode for the Space of Four Weeks last past.

Let Licence pass as prayed.  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Carpenter Surr.  
John Newman

<sup>4</sup> Phillimore's Gloucestershire Parish Registers, Volume 7, pages 66 & 70

<sup>5</sup> John Newman, husband of Ann Hyett or Hyatt, was buried at Cheltenham 2 November 1829, aged 87, therefore born in about 1742.

<sup>6</sup> Marriage Allegation dated 19 July 1768 between "John Newman of the Parish of Cheltenham ... bachelor ... of the age of twenty two years and upwards" and "Elizabeth Hooper of the Parish of Cheltenham ... spinster aged twenty one years and upwards."

The Marriage Allegation of John Newman and Ann Brown, dated 22 December 1760 gives the age of John Newman as “Twenty One Years and upwards.” This gives a probable date of birth of about 1739.

There is no baptism of a John Newman at Cheltenham between 1706 and 1768 so this John Newman came from elsewhere. His age fits well with that of John baptised at Prestbury 27 April 1738. The parish of Prestbury adjoins the parish of Cheltenham on the North, with a common border of about 4 miles, making this identification almost certain.

### **Conclusion**

The probable brothers, Thomas and John Newman of Longdon, and the brothers Thomas and John Newman of Prestbury are different people.

William Good  
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