

Bio: Catalina (Catherine) Mathews

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

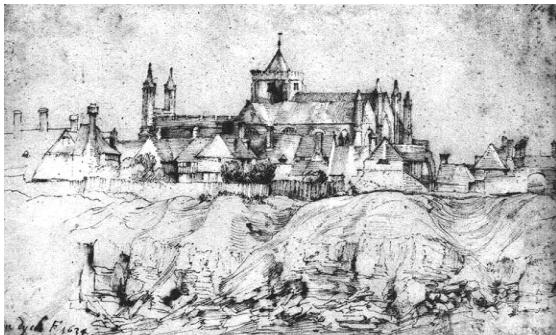
According to the records of Trinity Church in New York City, Catalina Mathews was born on the 15th of August 1759, and baptized on the 29th of that same month. She was the first born child of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour, and her baptism was witnessed by David and Mary Abell (Abeel) and Ann Seymour.

A variety of dates are given, in early September of 1778, for the marriage of Catalina Mathews and James Lamb. This newspaper clipping might be most accurate:

James Lamb, esq Lt and adjutant in HH 35th Regt, married 31 Aug at Flatbush to Miss Matthews, eldest daughter of David Matthews, esq, mayor of New York City. Newspaper date – 14 September 1778. [source] Genealogical Data from Colonial New York Newspapers, Scott 1977.

At the time of the Lamb – Mathews marriage, New York City was firmly under the hand of the British, and Catalina Mathews' Loyalist father was serving as Mayor. So, it is no surprise that Catalina was married to a British officer. James Lamb was the son of James Lamb and Anne Morris, and the grandson of James Lamb and Martha Grebell; the Lamb family being of long-standing prominence in the village of Rye in East Sussex county England. James Lamb's military service during the American Revolutionary years is of interest. Further detail is available in his biography at this website.

When Catalina Mathews married James Lamb in the fall of 1778 she was nineteen years of age. It is uncertain where she resided during the early years of her marriage. About the time of his 1778 marriage James Lamb removed with his regiment to the islands of the West Indies and was probably stationed on St Lucia. Did Catalina Mathews Lamb travel with her husband to St Lucia, or remain with her family in the New York City area? Or, perhaps her young husband sent her on to his family in England. Any of these scenarios would have presented challenges to a young bride. Records suggest that James Lamb was captured by an American privateer in the Spring of 1780, and was subsequently released. It seems likely that he returned to England shortly thereafter, rejoining his young wife.



[St Mary's Church at Rye](#)

The first identified child of James Lamb and Catalina Mathews, James Matthews Lamb, was baptized at the church at Rye, in Sussex county England in 1782. Following shortly thereafter was another son, David Morris Lamb, who was baptized in the same church in 1784. His death is recorded in the parish records on the 6th of April 1785. The Lambs were also known to have had a daughter, Sarah Lamb, probably named for her grandmother, Sarah Seymour Mathews. There is some evidence that she might have been born before 1780. It is possible that they had other children.

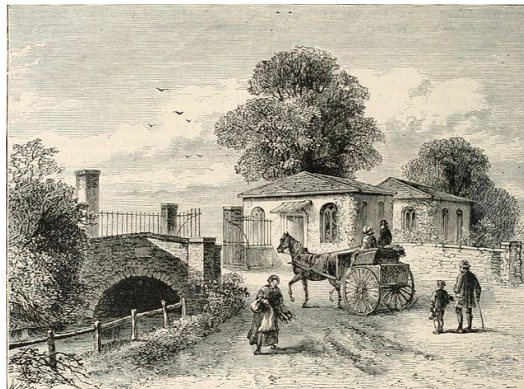
It has been difficult to locate records specifically related to James Lamb and Catalina Mathews in England. Studying accounts of the larger Lamb family around the town of Rye suggests that James took up the post of Customs Collector, and may have lived with his family at the Old Customs House, also called Green Hall, in the center of Rye. He must have been occupied with both town and family business. He retained his interest in the military, and eventually established and served as captain of the Rye Volunteers. A mention of his service points to his death about August of 1795. More can be learned about James Lamb's public life in his biography at this website.

It is unknown when Catalina Mathews Lamb died. Several things "hint" that she might have died when her children were young, and there is no evidence of her as a widow after her husband's death in 1795. A note related to her daughter Sarah Lamb, at the time of her 1801 marriage, identifies her as being of Mountfield, near Rye, in East Sussex county. This was the home of her great-uncle Thomas Lamb, and his son Thomas Phillips Lamb. Did Thomas Lamb sponsor, or "take-in" the orphaned children of his brother James Lamb and sister-in-law Catalina Mathews?

A few brief notes on the children of James Lamb and Catalina Mathews:

Sarah Lamb became the wife of James Noble, who served on shipboard, as Lt to Horatio Nelson, and was later named a Vice Admiral of the British Navy. Noble and Lamb were the grandparents of Horatio (Horace) Noble Pym, "confidential solicitor, book collector and the editor of the best-selling private journal of the Quaker writer, Caroline Fox: *Memories of Old Friends*, published in 1881." There were a number of "interesting characters" among the descendants of James Lamb and Catalina Mathews.

James Mathews Lamb was christened in St Mary's Church, Rye, Sussex, England in 1782. He married Mary Rich in London in 1809. In her 1850 death notice she is identified as "third daughter of the late Robert Rich, esq, of Bermondsey." Prior to his marriage James Mathews Lamb is identified as a glover, but by 1822 he is listed as a grocer, living on Grange Walk in Bermondsey (London). He died in 1825 and is buried along with his grandparents, James Lamb and Anne Morris, in the church at Rye.



Grange Road (Walk) at Bermondsey

David Morris Lamb was christened in 1784 and buried in 1785 at St Mary's Church, Rye, Sussex, England.

Susan Lamb is a "character" of interest. She is not clearly identified as a child of James Lamb and Catherine Mathews. Her name is listed in the "Petition of 1821", naming children and grandchildren of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour of New York. The name Susan, or Susannah, is used in the Lamb family, but no recognizable account of this Susan Lamb has emerged.

There are several Lamb family items that descendants would find of interest. I have gathered them in a separate document on this website, titled - Sketch: The Lamb Family at Rye in East Sussex County England.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Catalina Mathews in the database](#)

[Link to James Lamb in the database](#)

[Bio: James Lamb](#)

[Sketch: The Lamb Family at Rye in East Sussex County England](#)

[Sketch: Petition of 1821, David Mathews' Descendants](#)

About the Photos:

St Mary's Church at Rye, England; Anthony Van Dyck, about 1634; Uffizi Gallery (Florence, Italy).

Bridge and Turnpike in the Grange Road (Bermondsey), about 1820; from Old and New London, Walter Thornbury, about 1873.

Biography of Catalina (Catherine) Mathews; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.