

The Last of the male Kitcheners in Lakenheath?

It seems to have been common at this time to repeatedly use family first names. Here's an example which certainly caused a few confusing moments!

In 1772 another Robert(2), son of Robert (1), who was Thomas Kitchener's eldest son, married Hannah Bloomfield and they had two sons, Robert (3) in 1773 and John, (another family name)?

Then the year 1775 saw the deaths of:

Robert (1)	1717-1775,	aged 58.
Ann, nee Fisher, his wife,	1718-1775	aged 57.
Robert (2)	1750-1775	aged 25, leaving son ROBERT (3) to make his way in the world.

John, son of Robert (2) and Hannah died aged 6 also in 1775.

Robert (2)'s widow Hannah had an illegitimate daughter in 1779.

ROBERT KITCHENER (3), born in 1773. Since I have found no record of his burial it seems likely that he had left the village by 1800. So far I have been unable to find any trace of him.

Lily Bailey, in the WI History of the Village, says that Parish Records shows that a John Kitchener had a house here in 1818. If so he is the last of the male line living in the Village.

If you know differently please let me know!



A Kitchener grave.

There are 13 Kitchener graves in the churchyard but they are now almost impossible to read due to the erosion of the inscriptions. It's not known what caused the deaths of the Kitcheners in 1775 but the fact that they were a comfortably off family and well able to provide for themselves makes one wonder how poor families of the village survived the risks of the time. A minor cut could develop into a life-threatening infection, lung infections leading to pneumonia were not uncommon and water-borne disease was to become a major problem in the Village in the coming century.