



Family Roots

Family History Society for Eastbourne & District
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: Mrs Helen Warren, 49 Prideaux Road, Eastbourne BN21 2NE

Tel: 01323 731792 e-mail: chairman@eastbournefhs.org.uk

VICE CHAIR: Position Vacant e-mail: chairman@eastbournefhs.org.uk

SECRETARY: Mr John Crane, 8 Park Lane, Eastbourne BN21 2UT

Tel: 01323 50243 e-mail secretary@eastbournefhs.org.uk

TREASURER & ASST. EDITOR: Mrs Jennifer Wootton, 3 The Crescent, Willingdon BN20 9RN

Tel: 01323 487237 e-mail: treasurer@eastbournefhs.org.uk

e-mail: assistant-editor@eastbournefhs.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mrs Marianne Gunther, Oakhaven Wallsend Road, Pevensey BN24 5NX

Tel: 01323 767485 e-mail membership@eastbournefhs.org.uk

SPEAKERS SECRETARY: Mrs Shirley Moth.

e-mail: speaker-bookings@eastbournefhs.org.uk

PRESS SECRETARY: Mrs Helen Warren, Contact as above.

e-mail: press@eastbournefhs.org.uk

BOOKSTALL & ON-LINE SALES: Mrs Janet Savage, 24 Coombe Shaw, Ninfield, Battle TN33 9LQ

Tel: 01424 892749 e-mail: bookstall-shop@eastbournefhs.org.uk

HELP DESK & NEW MEMBERS PACKS: Position Vacant

e-mail: coordinator@eastbournefhs.org.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION: Mrs Patricia Turner, 25 Briar Place, Eastbourne BN23 8DB

Tel: 01323 761315 e-mail: magazine@eastbournefhs.org.uk

WEBMASTER & EDITOR: Mr John Titmuss, 23 Foxglove Road, Eastbourne BN238BU

Tel : 01323 765871 e-mail: webmaster@eastbournefhs.org.uk

e-mail: editor@eastbournefhs.org.uk

ASST. WEBMASTER & ZOOM MEETING CO ORDINATOR: Mr Russell Ridout, 62 Howlett Drive, Hailsham BN27 1QW

Tel: 01323 846571 e-mail: assistant-web@eastbournefhs.org.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Mr John Tyhurst, 44 Anderida Road, Willingdon BN22 0PX e-mail johntyhurst@eastbournefhs.org.uk

Mrs Helen Lucas, 22 Milton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1SJ e-mail helenlucas@eastbournefhs.org.uk

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January 15th, April 16th, July 16th & October 16th.

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The cover image © John Tyhurst

Editorial

Wishing you all a belated Happy New Year.

Due to an error Linda Hayler was stated as a “Graveyard kneeler” page 82 in the November magazine, this should have said Linda Cripps my apologies.

A big thank you for the articles sent in for this edition, it was nice to have pieces from our new members Jan & Graham Upton also Donald Selmes. Ailana and Rosalind also sent in articles, thank you. Anything you have tucked away please send it in, I would also be interested in pictures suitable for the cover.

Your committee would be interested in your ideas for future speakers, it is difficult to guess what you the member would like talks on; it has been mentioned that “it looks like Family Roots is going down the path of another local history society”

We would like to give you more family history talks but we need bums on seats so please come along to meetings, it seems to me we have a better attendance when we have local subjects as we have visitors from other local groups.

Don't forget we will be replacing our secretary and bookstall manager at the next AGM is this something you would be interested in? We also have spaces on the committee. Have a think about it and if you think this could be you please get in touch with any committee member.

Till next time John Titmuss

Meeting programme for 2023

March 2nd Mathew Homewood - Life as a Genealogist

April 6th (AGM) Paul Jordan - Department Stores of Eastbourne

May 5th James Gardner - William Booth, The Salvation Army and Skeleton Army riots

June 1st Geoff Hutchinson - Smugglers of Sussex

July 6th Kathy Chater - Huegunots

August 3rd Alan Wenham Eastbourne in WW1 & WW2

September 7th Tour of Compton Place.

October, November and December to be arranged.

A Quiz

Contributed by: Helen Warren

We all know butcher, baker and candlestick maker but what are these old occupations, trades and jobs?

1. A person who makes and repairs things in iron by hand (10)
2. A craftsman who builds or repairs wooden wheels (11)
3. A person who works with "white" or light-coloured metals (10)
4. A smith who shoes horses (7)
5. A plasterer who raised ornamental figures on both interior and exterior walls (8)
6. A person who makes and sells arrows (8)
7. A man employed to look after the horses of people staying at an inn (6)

8. A name for a steward or bailiff (5)
9. A name for a maker and repairer of wooden vessels such as barrels (6)
10. A man who tends and maintains the rabbit warrens of his master (8)
11. A maker of longbows (6)
12. A person employed at a dock to load and unload ships (9)
13. A person who prepared and sold medicines and drugs (10)
14. A person who stands at the entrance of a place where there is entertainment and tries to attract customers by shouting to them (6)
15. A person who climbs tall structures such as chimneys and steeples in order to carry out repairs (11)
16. A person who made wigs.(11)
17. A person responsible for candles, soap and wax (8)
18. The lucky person responsible for emptying privies and cesspits (4 6)
19. A boy who carried a torch to guide people through dark streets (9)
20. A travelling tinsmith who repaired items such as household cutlery, pots and pans (6)
21. Nickname for the first policemen (6)
22. One who drove or let out vehicles, a carrier (6)
23. A person whose job is to prepare the skins of dead animals and birds and fill them with a special material to make them look as if they are alive (11)
24. An old name for a smuggler of wool (5)
25. Among other aims, he tried to transform base metals into silver or gold (9)

Answers page 123

Member's Interests

These are the latest research interests from members. If you would like to add or amend yours either email them to me or use the form in the member's area on our website.

SURNAME	LOCATION	PERIOD	MEMBER
COLLINGHAM	Any	Any	1530/1531
HAZELDEN	Any	Any	1530/1531
KEMP	Any	Any	1530/1531
SMITH	Any	Any	1530/1531
WELLER	Any	Any	1530/1531
BOND	East Dean Sussex	1800 - 1850	1538
WHITE	Stonegate Sussex	1780 - 1850	1538
WHITE	Wadhurst Sussex	1800 - 1850	1538
WHITE	Rye Sussex	1700 - 1800	1538
BARNES	Sussex	Any	1540/1541
BARSLEY	Sussex	Any	1540/1541
UPTON	Lincolnshire	Any	1540/1541
HILLYER	Middlesex	Any	1540/1541

Jan, Graham and the Lewes Martyrs

Submitted by: Graham Upton

Although we've been attending for a couple of years now, we've only just got round to actually joining Family Roots. I cannot say we are "new" members as Jan used to attend over forty years ago when she met Phyllis Webb, who said they were related and had done Jan's family tree.

We have both managed to trace our families back with connections to Lewes in the 1500's although for vastly different reasons. Through my Mother's line, the Holter family were resident in Lewes at that time and in 1560 they helped pay for the building of a market and sessions house. Jan's history in Lewes is both terrible and well documented as two of her ancestors were Lewes Martyrs!

A brief look at history will tell us that in 1531 Henry VIII declared himself Supreme Head of the Church of England. This allowed him a divorce from Catherine of Aragon and he then married Anne Boleyn. Henry allowed his daughter Mary to practice her Catholic faith and after his death, the brief reign of his son Edward VI and the even shorter one of Lady Jane Grey, she became Queen in 1553.

Mary decided that everyone must renounce Protestantism and return to the Catholic faith. Many of those who openly refused to give up the Protestant prayer book and take mass were burnt at the stake giving Mary the moniker "Bloody Mary" and during this period a total of seventeen

people suffered this fate in Lewes.

On the 22nd of June, 1557 and upon the orders of The High Sheriff (Sir Edward Gage of Firlle Place) ten men and women became martyrs for their beliefs in what was the largest “human bonfire” in the country and the last in Lewes. Only two of these had a trial, the rest were just rounded up, by the Sheriff, a few days prior to the execution and held overnight in the cellars of the Star Inn.

One of Jan’s ancestral lines is the Morris family and, many years ago, a distant relative prepared a detailed family tree. Against two names was the word “martyr”: Margery Morris and her son James from Cade Street, Heathfield. At that time, we didn't know what that meant but further investigation revealed the awful truth, they were two of the ten.

For thirty years we had the museum called “How We Lived Then”. One day a lady came in and announced that she had done her family tree and said that I was related to her. I just cannot remember how the subject came up but I do recall that she said that one of my distant relations worked for the High Sheriff and was instrumental in the burning of the Lewes Martyrs. She absolutely promised to give me a copy of her research but I never saw her again. Therefore, I only have her word for this but it would seem that my ancestor was involved in the burning of Jan’s. That makes for interesting conversations!



The Burning of Richard Woodman and nine other Protestant Martyrs Before the Star Inn, Lewes. From the engraving by Mr. F Colvin, Lewes

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The Lighthouses at Beachy Head

Speaker: Rob Wassell

Family Roots meeting – Thursday, 6th October 2022

By: Jenny Wootton

There are two lighthouses at Beachy Head and Rob told us about their history, but he began by giving a history of the creation of the cliffs at Beachy Head. The area was originally covered by a tropical sea which froze in the Ice Age, and between 65-100 million years ago the ice caps melted and carved out the Channel. The original cliff edge was two and a half miles further out and over thousands of years the chalk has eroded

exposing the white cliff face. Roman coins and flint arrowheads have identified human habitation along the cliffs.

There are thousands of shipwrecks along this part of the coast and since 1691 Trinity House has been petitioned to build a lighthouse to protect shipping. Parson Jonathan Darby, the Parson of East Dean, created an opening in the cliff face from an old smugglers tunnel and would sit there on stormy nights shining a light out to sea to warn ships away from the rocks. He is buried in the churchyard at East Dean.

Despite petitioning Trinity House for over 100 years to allow the building of a lighthouse on the cliffs at Beachy Head, but it was only after the grounding of an East Indiaman on the rocks below the cliffs on 3rd February 1822 that they finally changed their minds. John “Mad Jack” Fuller, MP for Sussex, used his influence and asked Trinity House for permission to build a lighthouse on top of Beachy Head, and finally they agreed.

A permanent granite lighthouse was started on top of the cliffs in 1829 and the Belle Tout lighthouse was opened on 11th October 1834. It contained 30 oil lamps each of which had to be lit by hand, and the light was visible up to 22 nautical miles out to sea. The cliffs were often hidden by fog severely reducing the beam of light, and with frequent erosion of the cliffs it meant that ships were still put in danger. In 1893 and 1896 there were heavy cliff falls, so by 1898 Trinity House looked at

other levels for a new lighthouse and the only place could be on the seabed. They commissioned their chief engineer Thomas Matthews to produce detailed plans for a new structure that would stand at sea level. A cable ropeway was erected from the cliff top to transfer men, equipment and building materials down to a landing stage on the shore. To overcome the problem of the twice daily tides a coffer dam was built around the base of the new lighthouse which had to be pumped out to keep the water away from the foundations. Granite was carved out from the quarries at Bodmin in Cornwall and each block was numbered to fit exactly into position at the lighthouse.

The building of the lighthouse became a tourist attraction and the development was photographed many times over the years. Building works took four years to complete and the last stone was laid on 25th February 1902. The topping-out ceremony was covered by newspapers worldwide. In 1907 a black stripe was painted around the lighthouse to make it stand out against the white chalk cliff.

During the Second World War Trinity House had to abide by black out regulations, but they were asked to show a light to help guide home aircraft in distress. In 1951 the red stripe was painted round the building. George Harthill, one of the Beachy Head lighthouse keepers, suffered a heart attack while on duty and had to be winched down from the lighthouse.

On 30th July 1974 the lights were switched over to electricity, and on 28th June 1982 all UK lighthouses were switched over to automatic lighting from Harwich, and there are no longer any lighthouse keepers. On 27th September 1902 the Belle Tout lighthouse was decommissioned. It opened up and was run as a tea room on the cliffs. In 1923 it was purchased by Sir James Purves-Stewart for £1,500. He added a roadway, garages and electricity to the building. King George V and Queen Mary were invited to visit in 1935. Sir James added a second storey to the building so he could live in it. The lighthouse was left empty during WW2 and it was badly damaged by Canadian troops who were testing new high explosives on the nearby firing range. Eastbourne Corporation took over ownership of the building in 1948, compensating Sir James Purves-Stewart, and in 1950 it was made a Grade II listed building. Dr Edward Horder Cullinan bought the building in 1956 and rebuilt it. In 1986 the BBC purchased the lease and it was used in the filming of the mini-series "The Life and Loves of a She-Devil". It also featured in the James Bond film "The Living Daylights". Paul and Shirley Foulkes were the next owners of Belle Tout, and in 1996 it was bought by the Roberts family. They wanted it as a family home but knew it would have to be moved back from the cliff edge because of the risk of erosion. A major cliff fall in 1999 at Beachy Head brought the date for moving forward. It was a major undertaking as the building weighed 850 tons and involved

raising it on hydraulic jacks and moving it back 17 metres (56 feet) from the cliff edge on steel-topped concrete beams by electronic joists.

The building fell into a poor state of decay and rust, and in 2007 it was put up for sale again, and Rob Wassell started the Belle Tout Lighthouse Preservation Trust. He contacted the local papers, radio stations and The One Show to raise donations to preserve the building. It was sold by Rager & Roberts in 2008 to David and Barbara Shaw, and they wanted to meet Rob. Their plan was to turn the building into bed and breakfast accommodation, which was similar to Rob's idea, and they decided to work together on the project to restore the building. During the renovations they found an unexploded WW2 bomb, archaeological remains which held up the building works, and also Eastbourne Council posed planning restrictions. The Trust continued to raise funds to support the restoration, including a nude charity calendar.

After two years hard work Belle Tout opened its doors in March 2010. David Shaw put his heart and soul into the renovation work and now runs the unique bed and breakfast guest house with his wife.

In 2011 the 'Save the Stripes' campaign was started on BBC Sussex as Trinity House had decided not to repaint the worn stripes back onto the Beachy Head lighthouse. If the campaign raised half the money for the project Trinity House agreed to put up the rest. Rob Wassell and Shirley Moth led the campaign, which was featured on Countryfile in October

2012, as well as in local papers and on the radio, and succeeded in raising enough money. Repainting started in September 2013 and took three weeks, using boat paints with the painters abseiling up and down the tower. On 10th October 2013 the painting was finished and the lighthouse is again resplendent in its red and white stripes.

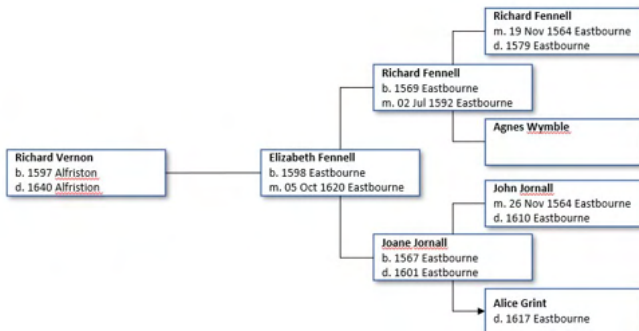
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Relations of an early Eastbourne vicar

Contributed by: Donald Selmes

My wife and I recently joined Family Roots but we have been researching our trees for over 40 years. This prompted me to look to see what ancestors we have who come from Eastbourne and although we both have a lot of East Sussex ancestors the number of ones from Eastbourne are relatively small.

I did find one series of ancestor families in Eastbourne as laid out below – with the Fennell, Jornall, Wymble and Grint families in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century.



The last of the line of these ancestors in Eastbourne is an Elizabeth Fennell (or Funnell) who married a Richard Vernon from Alfriston, in Eastbourne on 5th October 1620. Richard was from an Alfriston family – his parents George Vernon and Ann Smyth had married there in 1595 and had five children in the next 12 years, three of whom died before they were five. Intriguingly Richard Vernon was married at St Mary's, Eastbourne by the vicar, another Richard Vernon.

Richard Vernon senior was vicar in Eastbourne from 1588 until his death in 1638 which means he served the last 15 years of the reign of Elizabeth I, all the reign of James I and half the reign of Charles I so he would have seen some momentous changes during his time in Eastbourne. So who was this man and how, if at all, was he related to our Richard Vernon.

Surprisingly there is quite a lot that can be found out about him. We know when he came to Eastbourne due to an entry in June 1588 in the margin of the parish register which simply says “Vernon vicar came hither”. We also have evidence from the Clergy of the Church of England database theclergydatabase.org.uk that he was ordained in London on 21st December 1583 by John Aylmer, Bishop of London from 1577-1594.

He was then instituted as Vicar of Eastbourne on 20th September 1588 with patronage from Richard Kitson and Thomas Hills of Chichester. His licence was renewed in 1606 and 1637. He died in Eastbourne and was

buried at St Mary's on 28th August 1638, reputedly aged 84.

To find out more about him I turned to Walter Budgen's 1912 book "Old Eastbourne, its Church, Its Clergy, Its People", regarded by many as the definitive book on early Eastbourne and he did mention Richard Vernon in a few places. He states that Richard had two wives, Alice who dies in January 1602/03 and Beatrice in 1625. He also quotes from Richard's will where he directed his body to be buried "in the Chancell of the Parrish Church of Eastbourne aforesaid as neere my loving wives as may bee". Budgen interprets this as meaning he had more than one wife but I believe that this was purely a matter of spelling and if it was wives and not wifes the will makes sense. Sure enough, when I checked the original of the will it says "as neare to my loving wifes body as may be".

On checking the parish register for Alice Budgen dying it is clear to see that there is buried on 26th January 1602/03 "Ales the wife of John Vernon buried", so not the wife of Richard. John Vernon, a yeoman, had married Alice Seagar a widow from Eastbourne by Archdeaconry of Lewes marriage licence on 4th May 1590. There is a hint of a connection when we see that one of the sponsors of the licence was Richard Vernon, clerk of Eastbourne. This is made certain when we see the burial on 9th October 1630 of "John Vernon brother to Mr Richard Vernon.

Walter Budgen was wrong about Richard having two wives which is a

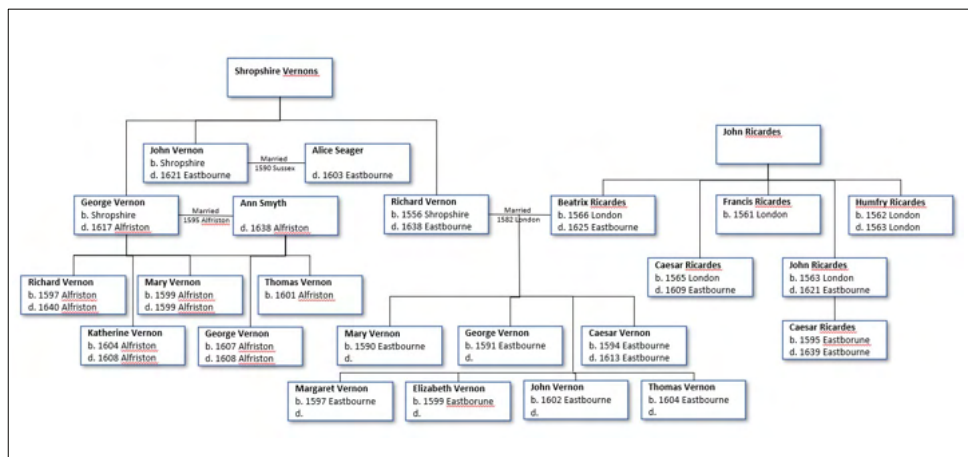
good example of why we should always go for the primary source material where possible. Having decided that Richard Vernon therefore probably only married once I searched for a marriage with a Beatrice and came up with a marriage on 8th July 1582 of Richard Vernon to Beatrix Rycardes at St Gregory by Paul, London. This fits the timescales known for Richard Vernon as he was ordained priest in London the next year.

We still needed a bit more corroboration to see this was the right marriage and the link to this was the name Caesar. Richard Vernon had a son called Caesar who lived from 1594 to 1613. The only other Caesar born in Eastbourne in this period was Caeser Riccardes son of John and christened on 9th February 1594/5. So it looked like Beatrice probably had a brother John. Searching records for John and Beatrix Rycardes in London I found in Boyds Inhabitants of London a record for the christening dates for them and their siblings along with their father's name, John Rycardes. The five children were Francis, Humfry, John, Caesar and Beatrix born between 1561 and 1566. We had now found a source for the name Caesar.

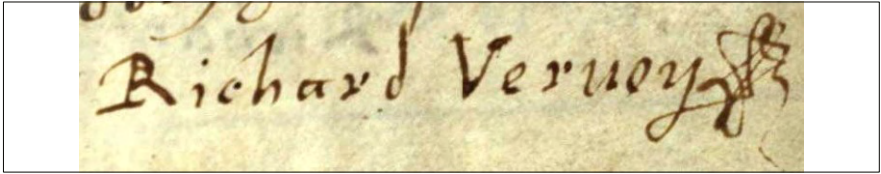
Caesar Rycardes went on to be an armourer and remained in London being buried at St Olave, Bermondsey on 31st January 1608/09. In his will he left most of his property to his wife Anne who he had married only two years earlier but also mentions his brother-in-law Richard

Vernon clerk of Eastbourne and his brothers John and Francis – Humfry had died as a baby. When John Ricardes dies in Eastbourne in 1621 he leaves in his will twenty shilling in gold to his sister Beatrice Vernon and ten shillings to his “brother Vernon”.

What we have not found is what Richard and Beatrix did after he was ordained and before they came to Eastbourne or whether they had any children in that time.



It is always interesting to have a detailed look at the parish registers to get a picture of some of what was happening at the time and we look at the parish registers of that time, almost definitely in the hand of Richard Vernon we do see a few interesting things. From 1603 onwards Richard Vernon puts his signature at the bottom of almost every page, was this a new decree from the new King James?



Plague is mentioned in the margin for both March and April 1590 which is interesting when we see that the last major outbreak in London in the sixteenth century did not start until August 1592 over a year later, and suggests it may have passed through Eastbourne on the way.

Most of the entries in the parish register are very straightforward such as “William Browne buried” or “Thomas the son of William Chapman christened” but he does expand and a number of times he feels obliged to mentions bequests to the church or the parish poor such as

- “13th February 1594 James Payne the younger buried who hath willed a house to be built in the and maintained by his heirs for ever.”

Some causes of death were mentioned, when this was unusual such as

- “22nd July 1660 James Payne yt was slayne with a falle down a cliffe was buried”
- “30th November John Howell a seaman, drowned buried”
- “2nd December 1605 John Body and James Cody drowned buried.”

These causes of death were rarely mentioned when you consider that because of the size of the parish Richard Vernon was a busy man – in his time of office I estimate he conducted about 1600 baptisms, 1450 burials and 430 marriages.

On 3rd February 1605 Richard Vernon first uses the term baptised in the register for the baptism of “Ales daughter of Pelham Burton gent” and stays with this throughout his tenure apart for a few months in 1610. If anyone can suggest why this would be I would be interested to know. Prior to this date he had used the word Christened. It may be that it was Pelham Burton who suggested this change. He was of Compton Place and the son of John Burton and Grace the daughter of Sir Edward Capel and went on to become the guardian of John Pell who became an early mathematician and Oliver Cromwell’s ambassador to the Swiss Cantons. He was a man of influence in the town. It was his aunt who was the recusant mentioned below in 1603. His elder brother Sir Edward had a son who was chaplain to King Charles I and a step-granddaughter Mary who married William Wilson a later possessor of Compton Place, and a strong supporter of the return of Charles II.

Richard Vernon and Pelham Burton had been joint witnesses to the will of John Pell senior, the father of Cromwell’s ambassador who had taught Vernon’s children.

On 8th August 1603 Richard Vernon wrote this Ecclesiastical Return for the Bishop of Chichester: “About 500 communicants. There is only one gent a widow recusant in the parish. Every inhabitant (except the gentlewoman recusant and one Scottishman who hath been excommunicated these 4 years) receyveth the communion. The vicar no graduate but licensed to preach and hath been a preacher this xvii yeares past. Patron Mr Doctor Nayle Treasurer of Chichester but there is an advowson granted by the last Treasurer of the vicaridge to a citizen of London for certayn years not yet expired as I have credibly heard.” You may be interested to note that of the 81 parishes in Sussex who sent in these returns in 1603 Eastbourne was one of the largest only being beaten by Heathfield and Hastings St Clements who each had 600 communicants. and there were another 200 communicants in Willingdon.

The widow mentioned above was Alice Gildredge (nee Burton) who was buried on 28th May 1608 with the description “Alles Gildredge Recusant was buried in my absence”. A recusant was someone, normally a Roman Catholic, who (from about 1570-1791) refused to attend services of the Church of England, and therefore violated the laws of mandatory church attendance.

1616, the year that William Shakespeare died, was a busy time for Vernon and Eastbourne when he buried just over 100 of the inhabitants.

The cause of so many deaths is not recorded but there was a typhus epidemic in England that year. Then comes on 3rd March 1616/7 “Ursula Hernanden yt was poisoned buried” – it would be great to know more about that story but we probably never will now.

This now takes us to the final question – where did the Vernon brothers come from? When Richard Vernon became Vicar of Eastbourne it would seem that family members followed him down including his wife’s brother John and his brothers John and George Vernon. The Riccardes came from London but what about the Vernons.

We have a clue in vol 55 of “Sussex archaeological collections relating to the history and antiquities of the county” which has a list of some early clergy from the Archdeaconry of Lewes and the South Malling Deanery. In here it is noted that in Deposition Books to the Bishop in January 1598/9 he stated he was born in Shropshire and was 42 years old at the time which would put his birth in about 1546.

The Vernons were obviously a fairly well-off family with very good connections so an immediate place to start is the Visitations of Shropshire which is freely available on www.archive.org. In this we find reference to the Vernons of Hodnet in Shropshire. Burke’s Peerage provides further detail on the family who were descended from the Vernons of Haddon Hall, Derbyshire. The names of Richard, John and George are all very

common in this family and suggest that the Vernons of Eastbourne may have been from a lesser branch of this family but no firm connections have been made yet.

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The Development of Victorian Eastbourne

Speaker: Richard Crook

Family Roots meeting – Thursday, 3rd November 2022

By: Jenny Wootton

Richard Crook, well known local architect and member of the Eastbourne Society, gave us an illustrated talk on the development of Eastbourne.

Until the 19th century Eastbourne had comprised a series of small hamlets, but the Victorian period saw the start of an age of strength, optimism and confidence, and the acceptance of the self-made man. William Figg's 1816 map of the Eastbourne area showed the old village of East Bourne based around the Old Town area and the Bourne stream, and the three hamlets of South Bourne, the agricultural community of Meads, and Sea Houses next to the artillery barracks. The two principle landowners at the beginning of the 19th century were William Cavendish, Earl of Burlington, and the Davies-Gilbert family.

The Cavendish family owned Compton Place and large areas of land around the Downs and the seafront. The house was purchased by Spencer Compton in 1724 and was re-designed by Colen Campbell in 1726. Spencer never married and the

property passed to his nephew George Cavendish, 1st Earl of Burlington, on his marriage to Lady Elizabeth Compton in 1759. Their eldest son William Cavendish pre-deceased his father, so his son, also called William, inherited the Earldom of Burlington from his grandfather, and when the 6th Duke died childless he inherited that title and became the 7th Duke of Devonshire.

The Duke's architect Decimus Burton drew up plans for improvements to the Compton Estate. Burton was one of the great architects of the 1830s, famous for designing a lot of houses in Hyde Park, and probably best known for designing the palm house at Kew for the 6th Duke of Devonshire. He drew up a street plan for Eastbourne from Sea Houses up to South Bourne where the town hall is today. He imagined this agricultural area would be developed for the very wealthy and designed the large houses in Trinity Trees, and it was going to be called the new town of Burlington. Only Holy Trinity Church was built to Burton's design, but the rest of this first plan was never carried out. Burton also drew up a plan for the Meads area but that also was scrapped. Nothing much happened in Eastbourne as the 2nd Earl of Burlington was busy developing one of his other estates, Holker Hall at Barrow-in-Furness, so Burton turned his attention to St Leonards.

Henry Currey, who was apprenticed to Decimus Burton when he was working on the Great Stove at Chatsworth, became the architect of Eastbourne and set out the street plan we see today. He was educated at Eton, studied architecture, went on the Grand Tour of Italy as a young man, and worked alongside Joseph Paxton, another talented designer, at Chatsworth in the 1830s, where the 6th Duke

recognised his incredible architectural skill. Currey was involved in the development of Chiswick House in London for the 6th Duke, and one of his best known buildings is St Thomas's Hospital which was opened by Queen Victoria. Currey was impressed by Italian architecture while on the tour and there is much Italianate influence in his designs for Eastbourne.

It wasn't until the railway arrived in 1849 that Eastbourne began to open up to become a seaside resort. The Earl of Burlington was not directly involved with the arrival of the railway, which was a branch line of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway between Brighton and Hastings, but it meant he could really get started on the development of Eastbourne. By 1855, only six years after the arrival of the railway, the huge Burlington Hotel had been designed by James Berry, a surveyor from Lewes, and built on the seafront, together with the bow-fronted buildings in Victoria Place, the top end of Terminus Road. They were very much in the Regency style, which was rather old fashioned for the time, and the Earl did not continue to use Berry as his architect as it is thought that he wanted something more modern for Eastbourne.

In 1858 the Earl of Burlington became 7th Duke of Devonshire, after the 6th Duke died without any children. He was well loved by the people of Eastbourne and was called one of the "finest flowers of Victorian nobility". He was incredibly talented and held many high positions in society, but he was also a very humble man. He tragically lost his beloved wife Blanche when she was in her twenties and he never got over that. He died in 1891, and the large statue of him at the end

of Devonshire Place was funded by public subscription and raised in 1901.

In 1859 the Duke had appointed Henry Currey as his architect and he had drawn up the second plans for the development of Eastbourne, which are still recognisable today on maps of modern Eastbourne. Devonshire Place was the central feature of Currey's plan, an eighty foot wide tree-lined boulevard, then the other roads all in a grid pattern of sixty foot wide streets laid out in building plots. The Duke wanted to lay out the infrastructure of the town, all paid for by himself, a massive expenditure, but it turned out to be a huge overspend. When the 7th Duke died and the 8th Duke took over he engaged Price Waterhouse to look into the huge overspend by Henry Currey and his advisers.

Currey was a London architect and could not spend all his time overseeing the project so the Duke engaged a local man, George Ambrose Wallis, a brilliant engineer who ran his own building firm of Wallis & Wallis. He was chairman of the Board so could pass his own plans, he was agent for the Duke who had to approve all the expenditure, and he had a lot of influence in the town becoming first mayor of Eastbourne in 1894. One of the first things the Duke had to pay for was putting in the infrastructure for main drainage for the town, discharging the sewage out onto the beach at the Crumbles.

The beautiful gardens on the seafront opposite the Burlington Hotel were paid for by the 7th Duke. Devonshire Baths, built in 1874, were designed and built by Wallis but approved by Currey, and showed the Italianate influence of a large Venician tower and Italian portico. They were the largest heated salt water baths

in the country. Eastbourne pier was designed by another famous architect, Eugenius Birch, and was originally intended to be a promenade pier with the possibility of paddle steamer trips from the end, but it was soon realised that more



facilities were needed in order to attract the public, so a theatre was added at the end of the pier. In 1877 a terrible storm smashed through part of the pier, but it was rebuilt. A bandstand was added in 1905.

There are two outstanding ecclesiastical buildings in Eastbourne. The All Saints Convalescent Hospital (1867) was an Anglo-Catholic extension of the London Sisters of the Poor. It was built as a convalescent hospital for the poor and needy from London who could be sent down to recover in Eastbourne. The chapel was built in 1874 in the manner of a medieval cathedral and the Duke contributed towards this as well. The other church is St Saviour's in South Street built in 1867, with its 170 foot high spire, the tallest in the town, added in 1872. It was built at the entire cost of a very wealthy businessman, George Whelpton, who made his fortune developing the Little Liver Pills, and he wanted to pay for a new church in the new town of Eastbourne. The architect was George Edmund Street. The other big landowner in Eastbourne, and lord of the manor, was Carew Davies-Gilbert. He owned about a third of Eastbourne parish, mostly around Hartfield Square and The Avenue, where there are many classically designed

terraced buildings with beautiful Italianate details.

Another big project that the 7th Duke funded was the development of Eastbourne College, which had been founded by a local doctor, but the Duke realised to attract the “right sort of person” to Eastbourne he would need to build a college. The Duke was on the Board of Governors and Henry Currey was the architect for the college. The main block and the chapel still exist but they were largely modified in 1910.

Eastbourne began to flourish and people were moving in. The railway established a commuter link to London, well known and wealthy people were retiring to the coast, and the town was attracting fashionable visitors, so in 1872 the Duke employed Henry Currey to lay out a further portion of his estate for building purposes. This was to be an extension of the 1859 plan all the way up to the hamlet of Meads, which until then was still agricultural land, including the area of Devonshire Park. The development progressed very quickly and Eastbourne became the most rapidly expanding resort in the country, and between 1871 and 1876 the population doubled.

Henry Currey created one of his most important buildings, the Winter Garden, in Devonshire Park and it became known as the “miniature Crystal Palace”, heavily influenced by Joseph Paxton. It was built very quickly of iron, glass and timber, as the Duke had built a similar pavilion up at Buxton which had attracted a lot of attention, and he wanted to create something similar in Eastbourne to foster the great age of bands and classical orchestras. The Floral Hall was opened as a roller

skating rink but was extended to accommodate the bands.

In the 1870s Eastbourne was largely run by the Cavendish family. Their agent George Wallis and the estate office were in the town, and all plans had to be submitted and approved by the estate before being built, an early form of town planning. Although the second stage of the plans for Eastbourne were built very quickly it still contained the Victorian attention to detail.

Prince Edward came on a royal visit to Eastbourne and opened the Western Parades extension, at the western end of the town towards the Meads. Henry Currey designed the Queens Hotel on the seafront opposite the pier, but it was built forward of the building line of the Royal Parade. It creates a 'full stop' when you looked from the west along the seafront, keeping the high class town centre with its area around the park and residential buildings of Meads in a different 'zone' from the service east end of the town and its laundries and terraces. The Gilbert estate further inland around the railway was trying to keep up with the development but lacked the resources of the Duke.

The Bedfordwell Waterworks building was designed by Henry Currey, currently waiting to be converted to residential flats. It is a listed building and one of the only industrial buildings designed by Currey. He also designed the Devonshire Park Theatre in 1884. The two towers are not just elaborate features, they also contain two huge water tanks because the risk of fire in a Victorian theatre lit by gas lamps was very real so a sprinkler system had to be incorporated. The theatre is entered at the level of the circle because the roads around park had been built

up with chalk that was excavated from the building of the Western Parades as the land around the park was very marshy. The theatre was remodelled by Frank Masham.

One of the last buildings of this period was the Town Hall, which marks the



handover of the Cavendish Estate to the Borough Council. The design was won by a Birmingham architect called Tadman-Faulkes and the foundation stone was laid by Lord Edward Cavendish. At £50,000 it was an incredibly expensive building for the time but it made a statement for the town moving to democratic government, with George Wallis as the first

Mayor of Eastbourne, and moving away from the Duke.

The last building of note is the railway station with its elaborate French clock tower and pavilion roof and amazing decorations inside, which is currently being restored by Network Rail preserving much of its historical detail.

The changes in the character of Eastbourne can be seen if you walk from the classically designed town centre to the much softer gabled roofs at the Meads end of the town.

NO EASY LIFE FOR The REV. WILLIAM LISHMAN (1761 –1828)

Contributed by: Ailna Martin

William was the second child of James Lishman and his first wife Margaret Robinson. His older sister had died in the year of her birth, in 1759, so that he was in effect brought up as the eldest child. He was born at Staveley-in-Cartmel and his baptism was recorded in the Parish Register of Cartmel Priory, now in Cumbria, on 31st August 1761, though it is very likely that his baptism took place not far from the mother priory in the chapel at Staveley-in-Cartmel, as we know that there was a chapel on the site of the present Parish Church of St. Mary's, as a font, inscribed with the date 1678, is now used as a sundial in the churchyard.

Nothing is known of William's early years, but it is evident from his later life that he was educated to a greater degree than most young people of that period. There was a school at Brow Edge, where it is believed the family lived because of its proximity to the Backbarrow Furnace, (now a world heritage site), where William's father was an iron founder. William must have been an able pupil as there is a record amongst the Hudleston Papers in the University of Durham Library Archive, listing the fact that William was a teacher, first at Staveley-in-Cartmel, in 1780, and then at Brow Edge from 1780 to 1798. The school at Brow Edge was a free

school, endowed with about £40 a year.

It was whilst William was a teacher at Brow Edge that he married Barbara Hudson on 3rd December 1786. The marriage was recorded in the Cartmel, the Cartmel Fell, and the Crosthwaite (Westmorland) Parish Registers, so it is likely that Barbara came from Crosthwaite Parish, just across the border between Lancashire and Westmorland. William and Barbara had four children together, namely James Hudson, born at Cartmel Fell and baptised on 30th March 1788; Margaret, born on 22nd September 1790 and baptised on 28th September; William Robinson, born at Brow Edge and baptised on 10th July 1793; and Barbara, born shortly before her mother's death and baptised in Cartmel Priory on 25th October 1794. The burial of Barbara, William's wife, was recorded in the Cartmel Register on 9th December 1794. All the children's baptismal dates are entered in their father's family bible, a record noted by Norman Lishman, one of William's descendants, in his comprehensive document covering his research into his branch of the Lishman family. Further research still has to be done to ascertain the history of these children, though it is already known that William Robinson Lishman became a bank cashier in Newcastle.

According to the references in the Hudleston Papers, it appears that William held the Curacy of Field Broughton Chapelry, near Cartmel,

from 1791 to 1804, the appointment running concurrently with that as a teacher at Brow Edge. These dates are at variance with the date of his ordination by the Bishop of Llandaff, in whose records it quite clearly shows that William was not ordained until 1797. Perhaps it was possible to be a curate without the need for ordination, or there may have been errors in the transcription of dates.

The Hudleston papers referred to above also record that William was appointed to a curacy at Gainford in County Durham between 1798 and 1801. Again, these dates overlap with those of the period during which William was recorded as holding the curacy of Field Broughton.

There seems to be a good deal of confusion about William's movements at this period as he was also recorded as curate of Coniston in 1803, though this seems to be at variance with another record stating that he was a classical assistant in Thomas Facer's Academy at Staindrop in County Durham between 1801 and 1804. Perhaps he took a locum appointment at Coniston during the summer break from school.

Life must have been difficult for the young, widowed William, left with four small children, including a baby of two months, so it is not surprising to find that he took a second wife, Ann Parker, whom he married by licence at Denton, County Durham, on 22nd January 1801. The original documents of William's marriage allegation and affidavit

sworn on the occasion of obtaining the licence to marry Ann are held in the Archives & Special Collections of Durham University. According to the dates recorded by Hudleston, William resigned the curacy of Coniston in 1803 and one suspects that his resignation may have coincided with his new wife's links with the Northeast.

In 1806 William was appointed to the curacy of Doddington in Northumberland, and then briefly, in 1815, he held the curacy of Shilbottle, a mining village in the same county. Finally, in 1821, he became the Perpetual Curate of Brinkburn and Longframlington, the latter serving as a chapel of ease within the parish of Felton. Here he took on the added responsibility for the ruinous Brinkburn Priory. I have in my possession a photocopy of a letter of recommendation to the Curacy of Brinkburn, dated 18th January 1821. The signatories were William Bell Moises, Vicar of Felton, L. V. Vernon, Rector of Rothbury, and James Manisty, Vicar of Edlingham. William remained at Longframlington until his death on 25th March 1828.

It is very likely that William became acquainted with Ann Parker whilst holding the curacy of Gainford, or when teaching at Thomas Facer's Academy in nearby Staindrop. Ann was born in 1776 at Headlam, near Gainford, in County Durham, and was the daughter of William Parker. Gainford is a parish lying astride the road from Barnard Castle to

Darlington and bounded on the south by the river Tees. The marriage took place in the adjoining parish of Denton. A daughter, Anne, was born to the couple on 7th November 1807, and she was baptised the next day at Gainford. It is assumed that William's children by his first wife were brought to County Durham when their father was appointed to the curacy of Gainford. Certainly, William's son, William Robinson Lishman, became a bank clerk in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he married his first wife, Julia Mary Dyer, at Gosforth on 8th June 1823. Then, as a widower, he made a second marriage to Isabella Ridley on 14th December 1839.

It is clear from a number of sources consulted that William's life as a clergyman was not to be an easy one. His final appointment was to the Perpetual Curacy of Brinkburn and Longframlington, the latter serving as a chapel of ease within the Parish of Felton. The church at Longframlington dates back to Norman times and when William took up the curacy the fabric was in a parlous state. The ancient and almost ruinous Priory at Brinkburn, not far away, was also William's responsibility, and it would appear that the financing of the maintenance of these two buildings was a constant source of friction between William and the owners of the Priory lands, firstly the Fenwicks and latterly the Cadogans. William's annual stipend was the princely sum of £6. 1s. 2d, supplemented by fees from his work as a tutor, out of which he was

expected to pay for the repairs to these two medieval buildings. His income was barely enough to keep himself and his family, let alone pay for an endless list of building repairs.

Following his visitation to Longframlington in the course of his duties on 30th May 1826, Archdeacon Singleton wrote most succinctly in his Minute Book. The original of this book is in the Northumberland Record Office. Archdeacon Singleton wrote as follows:

“(This chapel) is in a very ruinous and disgraceful condition, the pews ruinous within and the walls ruinous and unseemly with filth and abomination without. I left instructions for temperate and reasonable repairs at first. Of the condition of the curate I have deemed it my duty to make a report to the bishop. He is a stipendiary curate to the vicar of Felton, but without a single farthing of stipend; he receives an ancient payment from the Crown of £6 1s., and a scanty and varying subscription of the inhabitants may produce about £30 per annum. For this he gives double duty on Sundays, the vicars pretending that by ancient custom they are only compelled to do or find duty at Framlington every third Sunday in summer and every fourth Sunday in winter, and this, too, with a population of 840. The chapel holds 250. The late good and generous bishop gave the curate £30 per annum, and he is reduced to teach the village school and to share the house and garden with the clerk, the

parish making this disposition to whom the house belongs. The Chapelry has parochial limits, which have been sometimes ridden. Alexander Davison of Swarland, esq., repairs the exterior of the chancel and Mr. Fenwick, now resident at Long Witton, the interior.... The clerk is paid by "groats" collected at Easter, and he has the churchyard, which is in a horrible state, intersected with paths and the receptacle of all the filth in the village and of the adjoining school-house. There is neither glebe nor parsonage."

There is obvious sympathy with the predicament in which poor William found himself, a sympathy in which today we cannot fail but share. One wonders how William had tolerated this state of affairs as long as he did, and did we know it, perhaps the stress contributed to his death a couple of years later.

Extracts from the 1820 Parson & White's Directory of Northumberland show the size of the little community that William served. He would know and be known to them all and would have been responsible for the education of those children whose parents could afford his modest fees. It will be seen from the list of inhabitants of the village that William was both curate and tutor.

William died intestate on 25th March 1828. He was buried close to the south porch of the little church he had served, where his grave is marked

by a simple slate memorial stone that also commemorates his daughter, Anne, who died on 2nd June 1840, and his wife, Ann, who outlived her little family by many years, and died on 20th March 1857. William's widow, Ann, was appointed administratrix of her husband's estate. The letters of administration are preserved in the University of Durham Archives & Special Collections, and we see that William's estate was valued at "Under £50".

Existing records found in the above-mentioned Archives and Special Collections reveal that following William's death both his widow and daughter had found it necessary to appeal to Lord Crewe's Charity for funds. Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, was a former Bishop of Durham who lived from 1674 – 1722. An extremely wealthy man, he left most of his property in trust for the benefit of the clergy. The daughter's letter to the trustees is far more confidently written than that of her mother and suggests that she had been better versed in "reading and writing"; it is not difficult to imagine that the daughter may have advised her mother on how to write her letter. Though brief and to the point, the letters speak volumes about the financial difficulties in which the two women found themselves, following the loss of their breadwinner.

It would seem that Anne, William's daughter, ceased to be dependent upon charitable funds when she married William Harrison at

Longframlington on 21st June 1837. William was a schoolmaster in the nearby village of West Thirston, which lay to the south of Felton across the bridge over the River Coquet. Sadly, the marriage was to be short-lived as Anne died on 2nd January 1840 and she lies beside her father in Longframlington Churchyard. Her death certificate records that she died of influenza at West Thirston, in the registration district of Morpeth. Her husband, William, was present at her death. William Harrison wasted no time in marrying again, as the 1851 census records him still living in West Thirston with his second wife, Elizabeth, and four children. William was recorded as a “teacher of mathematics & etc.” There were to be six children in all, but their fate has not yet been researched.

The Reverend William’s widow continued to live in Longframlington until her death on 20th March 1857. The Tithe Apportionment records of 1844 show her as the tenant of a property known as Dickenson’s Close – a tenancy shared with a man named John Grey, who was listed as an innkeeper on the 1851 Census. The property sadly is not described, but it was over 5 acres in area and owned by Philip Gibson. A tithe of 6 shillings was payable to John Manners Fenwick.

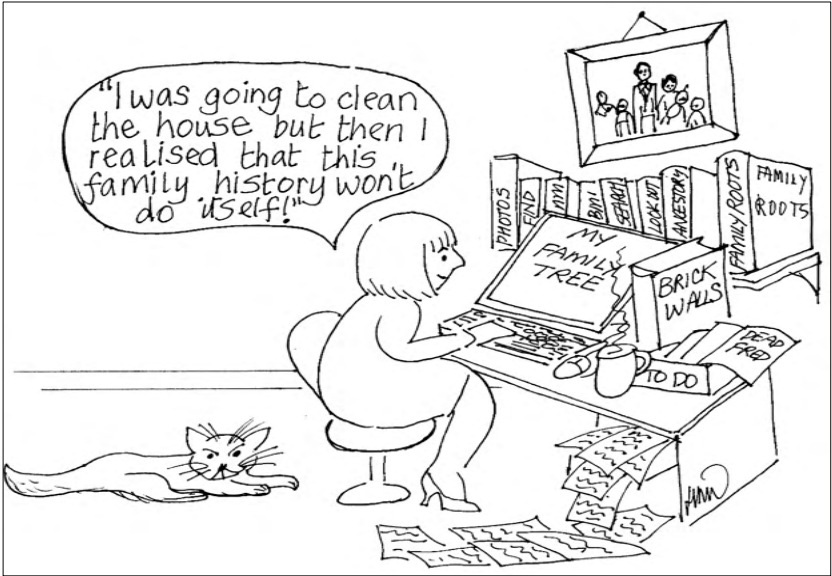
Margaret Lishman, William’s daughter by his first wife, was recorded on the 1851 Census, where she was enumerated as an annuitant. It would seem that, like her stepmother, Margaret had fallen upon hard times. She

had her 22-year-old niece, Mary Julia Lishman, living with her who was also recorded as an annuitant. Mary was the child of William Robinson Lishman, the Reverend William's second son by his first wife. William Robinson married twice, and it is possible that Mary Julia, a child of the first marriage, was not welcomed by the second wife, so she took up residence with her maiden aunt, no doubt acting as her companion. Mary Julia remained a spinster and was recorded on each census up to and including that of 1901, when she had retired to Wickham, County Durham and was an annuitant of the "Governesses Society".

Researched by Ailna Martin

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Cartoon by: Helen Warren



Quiz Answers

1 - Blacksmith. 2 - Wheelwright. 3 - Whitesmith. 4 - Farrier.
5 - Pargeter. 6 - Fletcher. 7 - Ostler. 8 - Reeve. 9 - Cooper.
10 - Warrener. 11 - Bowyer. 12 - Stevedore. 13 - Apothecary.
14 - Barker. 15 - Steeplejack. 16 - Chiffonnier. 17 - Chandler.
18 - Gong Farmer. 19 - Linkerboy. 20 - Tinker. 21 - Peeler.
22 - Carman. 23 - Taxidermist. 24 - Owl. 25 - Alchemist.

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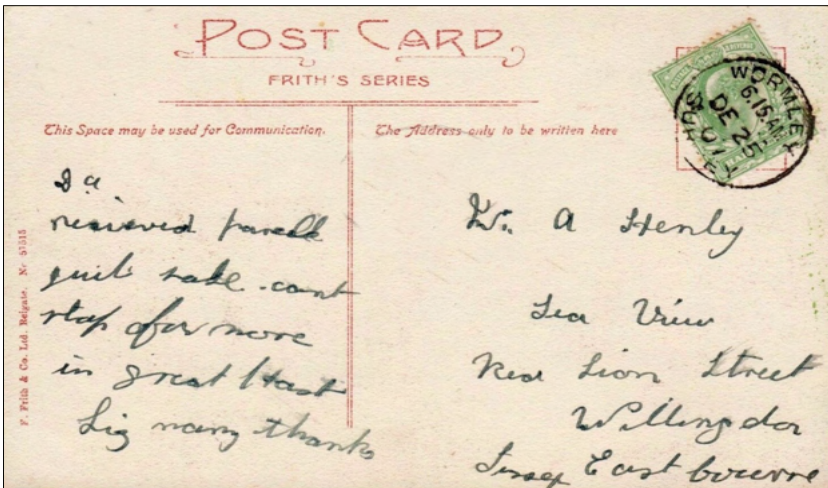
An Unexpected Relationship

Contributed by: Rosalind Hodge

Even after nearly forty years of researching family history, unexpected surprises can still crop up. This has happened to me twice in the last six months. With one I received a message from a lady named Linda, who gives talks on postcards and researches the people who sent and received them, finding a story around the cards.

We had a similar talk at Family Roots last year. She was looking into postcards connected to an A. Hendley of Willingdon and had searched and found my item on the East Sussex WW1 website about my grandmother's fiancé Albert HENDLEY. He was killed 31st July 1917 on the first day of the Battle of Paschendael, just over 3 weeks before they were due to be married. Linda was preparing a talk for Christmas and wanted to use a couple of cards sent to A. Hendley of 'Sea View', Red Lion Street, Willingdon by Lizzie. Posted 25th December 1908 Lizzie was thanking him for her Christmas present. Another was to Mr A Hendley at Wallingford Berks signed Dad. The latter card postmarked Willingdon showed the old Post Office bakery in Willingdon village opposite 'Sea View' where Albert was an apprentice baker. Linda was keen to identify Lizzie and wondered if I could provide any leads. Looking at the dates 1908 and 1909 I knew Albert was living in Willingdon at the time but one card indicated Mr A Hendley was living away. Albert did have an older brother Arthur who worked as a gas fitter, so we decided he must be the correspondent. Linda had the hunch from the cards that Lizzie could be a relative of Arthur. I knew something of the Hendley family history as have had a lovely contact for 10 years with Patricia, Albert's great niece. Her grandma Lily was Albert's sister. I started checking for a Lizzie or Elizabeth in the family, looking for cousins, aunts etc. starting on the paternal Hendley line. No luck but for some reason I looked at their grandparents William Hendley and Eliza née Monckton. I saw Eliza's parents were George Monckton and Louise née Diplock of Rotherfield. That was interesting as both my husband Anthony and I have Diplock relatives from the Rotherfield, Mayfield area. We found out we are 5th cousins, through that line, a while back. It turned out Louise's father Samuel Diplock was the elder brother of David Diplock and their parents were John Diplock/Duplock and Lucy née Hope who had married at Mayfield 6th August 1780. I couldn't believe this as I knew John and Lucy Diplock were in Anthony's family tree. David Diplock is Anthony's 3x great grandfather and John and Lucy his 4x great grandparents. I then realised they were also Albert Hendley's

great great grandparents. I was astounded. It also meant our daughter and grandchildren are genetic relatives of my grandma's late fiancé. I have the silver dressing table set and engagement ring Albert gave grandma and a collection of Goss china he bought for her, also a photo of him with the elaborate wedding cake he made, which they never had the chance to cut. This is almost stranger than fiction as but for his death at Paschendeal, I would never have existed. Yet totally by chance, I have found my husband, daughter and grandchildren share DNA with Albert. Had it not been for Linda messaging me about the postcards I would never have known or even suspected a link. Such a pity I can't tell my grandma. As for Lizzy, I found Elizabeth Irons married Arthur Hendley at Willingdon church 1st June 1914. So, by trying to identify Lizzy on the postcard card I discovered so much more.



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East Dean * East Hoathly * Eastbourne * Folkington *
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