



Family Roots

Family History Society for Eastbourne & District
www.eastbournefhs.org.uk



Transcribing at Ocklynge Cemetery.

Vol. 38.3 February 2024



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The cover image © Jenny Wootton

Editorial

We are deeply saddened to report the sudden passing of the Hon. Charles John KERR, Baron Teviot, on Sunday 15 October 2023.

He and Lady Teviot featured in several episodes of the Television programme Heir Hunters. Lady Teviot spoke to Family Roots on several occasions. Our thoughts are with Lady Teviot and the family.

Also of member Kenneth Alderton his obituary is on page 117.

Jenny Wootton represented Family Roots.

The Christmas meeting proved to be very interesting seeing the treasures that members brought in. A shame that the turn out was not to our normal numbers, you missed an interesting evening and the mince pies.

The A G M is looming up, if you would like to nominate anyone for a position on the committee please consult them first then advise the secretary; if you yourself would like to stand please contact the secretary.

I watched a new programme on ITV, it is running for 4 episodes. Born From The Same Stranger follows searchers as they unite with a host of brothers and sisters or track down anonymous donors who never imagined they could be found.. It looks to be an interesting watch.

Till next time John Titmuss

The Huguenots

Speaker: Kathy Chater

BY: Jenny Wootton

Family Roots extra meeting – Saturday, 7th October 2023

England had been a Catholic country until Henry VIII broke from Rome when he divorced Catherine of Aragon, when the Act of Supremacy 1534 established Henry as the supreme head of the Church of England. After Henry's death Protestant reforms were introduced during Edward VI's reign, and although Mary I tried to turn the church back to Roman Catholicism, once Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558 the independent Church of England was re-established.

At the same time in France John Calvin was leading the French Protestant cause, breaking away from the traditional Roman Catholic form of worship. As the movement grew the Protestants began to be persecuted for their religion. There were bloody massacres in France and the Protestants were forced to flee abroad to establish a new life with religious freedom.

Huguenots were specifically French Protestants, although the Huguenot Society includes 16th century refugees from the Low Countries in its areas of interest. Thousands of Huguenots fled France over the centuries, some during the Wars of Religion (1562-98) but the majority left after 1681 when Louis XIV introduced increasingly repressive

pressure on them to convert to Catholicism, culminating in the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The Edict (1598) had given Protestants some freedom of worship but now everyone had to become Catholic.

The Huguenots who fled in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries came to previous centres of settlement in London, Canterbury and Southampton. Norwich had been important to refugees in the sixteenth century but by the seventeenth was no longer as economically prosperous, so few went there. By 1750 this second wave of migration had virtually ceased. French people who migrated after 1750 were either economic refugees or political fugitives following the French Revolution in 1789, who were Catholics. For family historians it is date, name and place that may give some clues to Huguenot ancestry and possibly occupations.

Huguenots assimilated quickly. Although today most people think of the silk weavers in Spitalfields, they followed a range of occupations and as a rule of thumb the richer they were, the faster they assimilated. They also lived in other places: in London it was Soho, where makers of luxury goods settled; the City where rich merchants went and other places like Greenwich, Wandsworth and Chelsea from which the records have been lost. There were other communities in the West Country, East Anglia and Ireland, but none in the North of England or the Midlands. Those who

went to Scotland and the Channel Islands have left no records of any separate churches. Some conformed to the Church of England, others became nonconformists.

There are a number of records which will give further information: not just church registers but also other sources, like denization and naturalisation records. Most have been published by the Huguenot Society or are in the Society's library, currently located at the National Archives in Kew. Huguenots believed in looking after themselves so charity records will both help to locate possible ancestors and may still benefit descendants today. The French Hospital, now in Rochester, was set up in London in the early eighteenth century to help the elderly and infirm. Although it no longer takes people who need extensive care it is still in existence and open to those who can prove their descent from a French Protestant. Also in Rochester is the Huguenot Museum, which runs talks and a range of activities.

Websites:

Huguenot Society organises lectures and events and publishes a range of books and CD-ROMs to help researchers. www.huguenotsociety.org.uk

Huguenot Museum <http://huguenotmuseum.org/>

Family Roots Christmas Meeting 2023

By: Helen Warren

Our Christmas meeting was a bit different this year as members, plus two visitors, brought along family heirlooms, keepsakes and memorabilia to share and talk about. Although only about thirty attended, the weather was miserable, it was a real chance to chat and meet up while discovering interesting facts and seeing poignant artifacts.

I introduced the gathering by explaining about my embroidered family tree originally created over 25 years ago for a competition run by Family Tree magazine and the Royal School of Needlework. However, as a special birthday present last summer my granddaughter Tilly had put together an additional section bringing this piece of sewing up to date as it depicts our seven grandchildren.

Bill and Pat Turner displayed items, including the Edward medal awarded to Bill's great uncle Samuel Turner who with others rescued some of the miners in the Whitehaven coalpit explosion of 1910 when 147 died.

Yvonne Salmon brought along her aunt, Ada Harris's school cookery books of 1913. Ada was a pupil at All Soul's School and the books were issued by Eastbourne Education Committee. The recipes and menus are

neatly written in copperplate and together with shepherd's pie and other familiar dishes include a recipe for curry!

Shirley Barrow brought along brooches with photos of two brothers who had served in WW1 and Peggy Westwood a floral, Victorian day dress that had been handed down in her family since the middle of the 19th century. There were also photographic collections and family records.

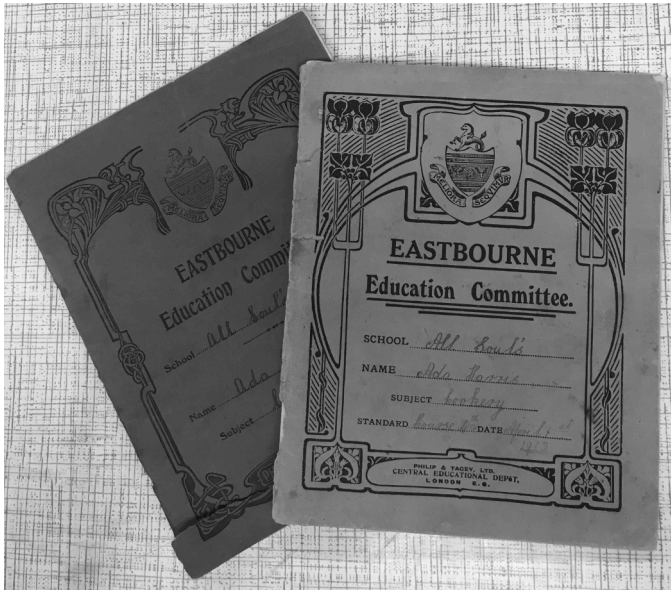
These are just some of the items which were on display. I heard that those who came had a great evening and I hope that we can do it again one day. Sometimes it is good to socialise and chat about our own family history research.



Helen Warren's embroidered family tree



Pat and Bill Turner



school cookery books

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

COMPILED BY: JENNY WOOTTON

CHARACTERS ON MATHEWSON FAMILY TREE (WITH THEIR AGES)

ALBERT 72 DANIEL 25 FRANK 60 ISAAC 4 JOSEPH 101
MARK 47 RUTH 68 SUSAN 75 ANDREW 5 DAVID 26
FREDDY 7 ISABELLE 29 JOSEPHINE 48 MARYANN 100
SALLY 8 SUSAN 7 ANNABEL 75 DELIA 28 GEORGE 39
JOE 32 MABEL 50 MARY 48 SARAH 43 WILLIAM 47
CATHERINE 31 ELIZABETH 77 GERALD 28 JOHN 78
MARIAN 29 RICHARD 75 STEPHANIE 25

Joseph and his wife have four children, two boys and two girls.

Their eldest granddaughter Mabel married a man 10 years older than herself, but they have no children.

John is the oldest of four siblings. His wife is a year younger than him, and they have two children, a boy first and then a girl.

Mark has two older sisters and is married to Mary. They have two grandsons, but Isaac was adopted by their daughter.

Catherine and George have twins, and they named the girl after Catherine-'s aunt.

Albert is the youngest of four and is married to Ruth.

John's son was named after his grandfather but is always known as 'Little Joe' in the family.

Susan is the only unmarried one of her siblings, and she stayed at home to look after her aged parents.

Delia's parents have come to terms with the fact that their daughter is gay and married to another woman.

Josephine didn't want to get married but decided to adopt a little boy when she was 23 years old. He is now 25 and still lives at home with his mother.

Albert's daughter Sarah got married twice. Tragically her first husband died when he was only 28, but she married again to a man who is four years older than her.

Susan doesn't much like her twin brother, but she loves playing with her cousin Sally.

Annabel and Richard have three children, but their middle child is not married.

Elizabeth is Isabelle's mother-in-law.

Isaac tells everyone that Marian is his 'other mummy'.

Maryann and her husband have both received a birthday card from the King.

Stephanie is married to David, and they have a young son who is five years old. - Good luck, you will find the family tree in this issue.

South Metropolitan Gas Company

Workman's Visit to French Battlefields.

Family Roots Magazine Vol 4.1 July 1989 Continued from Issue 38.2

November 2023.....

1st December 1918

Proceeded to Arras via Douellins - same evidence of destruction en-route.

Arras, though badly battered, has not been so thoroughly strafed as Albert - numbers of inhabitants remain.

Arras was built during the Spanish occupation this circumstance accounting for the Spanish style of architecture of that period. All the houses are built over cellars, excavated for the chalk which was utilised in building. The English had connected these cellars, thus forming tunnels sufficient to conceal thousands of troops.

We descended, and using candles passed under a number of houses and the Hotel de Ville. We were shown the cell in which Joan of Arc was imprisoned. We were also shown the window at which Robespierre, who figured in the great revolution, used to sit and watch the beheading of those who fell into his hands.

Visited Arras Cathedral, ruined beyond restoration by deliberate German gunfire - a most depressing sight which will make the Hun detested for generations - separated only by the roadway from the Cathedral we were

shown the residence of an elderly French lady who during the whole period of hostilities has refused to leave her house in which she lived alone, though all her neighbours had gone long ago. She came to the door and we had the proud privilege of shaking hands with one of France's bravest citizens. A photo of this lady lately appeared in English newspapers. It is proposed to erect a memorial in the nave of the Cathedral of the bombardment.

We proceeded to St Germain's outskirts of Arras and descended into the famous German tunnel trenches extending for miles. They are wide enough in places for use as temporary hospitals, dressing stations etc. Electric light and water laid on and a narrow tramway runs through them — a stupendous undertaking.

After capture by us they were extended to near Cambrai, a total distance of 26 kilometres.

During the recent push back of the Germans these and the Arras systems of trenches were filled with thousands of British troops who, making their appearance at an opportune moment, contributed materially to the defeat of the Boche.

Motored over Vimy ridge, scene of terrible fighting and site of Vimy town, long since destroyed by shellfire. Same ruined state of country devastation far as eye could reach.

On way to Lens, by way of variety, passed some strafed pill boxes and

more disabled tanks. The town of Lens is simply so many heaps of bricks as there were formerly houses. The Germans mined it on being driven out and it simply collapsed on our troops after their entry. The greater part of the civil population had been previously deported by the Huns.

Afterwards visited the battleground of Loos, passing Vermilles, Souchez. Stopped at Hulloch, descended into the underground hospital used by the British at the 1st battle of Loos, 25th September 1916, Entered a number of trenches and was shewn the Hohenzoll redoubt, a short distance away. Colliery pit—heads damaged, pits flooded and machinery removed. Estimated to take five years to make damage good.

Scarcely an habitable house in this area. Afterwards passed through Bethune, much damaged by gunfire.

Villers 'normal' (outside of war zone).

Aire, where we first saw Portugese troops not mentioned in English papers since the German push in March last.

From there to Blendecque billet.

2nd December .1918.

Motored to Calais via St Omar, Audrigue etc/_ St Omar is the town in which the body of the late Lord Roberts lay in state. He died in a chateau in this district

Stopped at Audrigue — an immense ammunition dump -
.all unskilled labour (Chinese coolies). We were Shown all

kinds of grenades and bombs, the latter Varying from 20 to 1660 lbs. It is a very extensive place. It was found by German airmen in 1916, who bombed it, causing an explosion destroying ammunition and other property to a fabulous amount.

Between St Omar and Calais passed a unique spott - _ two canals and two bridges crossing altogether, nammd Le Pont Des Pariel.

Arrived at Calais about noon.

Afterwards motored to salvage camp where all salved material from battlefields is treated, ranging from 9.4 guns to a soldier's spurs - personnel cosmopolitan - German prisoners, Chinese coolies, English soldiers, French girls by the hundred, a veritable hive of industry. 30,000 pairs of boots can be repaired here weekly. Visited the Army bakery here, where 20 tons of flour is used daily, all hand labour by ARS men (not very interesting).

3rd December 1918

Motored to previous billet at Bologne for lunch. Embarked at 2.30 pm. Lifebuoys again. Worn. Fresh wind rough sea.

Many passengers paid tribute to father Neptune.

Arrilved at Folkestone shortly after 4 pm and Victoria about 7.20 pm.

Alltogether an interesting trip but a serious and trenuous object lesson..

Distance travelled approximately

Rail 150 miles. Boat 50 " Car 400 "

600 miles

F Eldridge

IMPRESSIONS:

I. "Apparently" Boulogne a British possession owing to the great number of British Officers, soldiers and WAAC's, army lorries, cars, Red Cross and other ambulances.

II. The cheerfulness of the French populace. In answer to my enquiry an officer said this had been maintained ever since Britain entered the war — they had absolute faith in the steadfastness of the British.

III. with respect to the war, the immensity of everything connected with it, whether military strength, operations, finance and last but not least the superb organisation which kept our fighting men supplied with food, ammunition & under great difficulties but got there every time.

IIII. The almost super human endurance and courage of our soldiers and those of our allies in withstanding the terrible shell—fire to which they were subjected. - when you see the terrible damage to trees, houses, land & you can form in a slight degree some idea of the ordeal the had to undergo.

V. The immense number of graves in well kept cemeteries. Others on the battlefields and by the roadside and other places.. Resting places of

Britain's young manhood who gave their lives freely for us, Who could see these graves without a thrill of admiration for the boys who died for us? Let us see to it that their dependants are not treated in a niggardly [sic] way. Let us show our appreciation for the sacrifice they made for us.

VI. A feeling of thankfulness that England being an island has escaped the ravages of war. As the whole aim of the Kaiser's policy was to despoil the Empire and the greatest desire of his was to invade, subdue and ravage Britain, But this was frustrated by our Fleet which alone has made victory possible Let us never forget that we owe all to our sailors.

VII. Lastly a feeling of regret that after nearly 2000 yrs of Christianity the nations have not taken to heart and obeyed the scriptural injunction "Do unto others as ye would have that others do unto you"

F. Eldridge.

Spellings as transcribed ED

Friends of Ocklynge Cemetery.

Speaker: Kevin Gordon

Family Roots meeting – Thursday, 5th October 2023

By: Jenny Wootton.

The group Friends of Ocklynge Cemetery (FoOC) was formed in July 2022 by Kevin, Shirley Moth and Danielle Wilson to help tidy the cemetery and maintain its history. The committee meetings are held in The Lamb pub in Eastbourne.

The aims and objectives of the Friends are to respect the historical and environmental aspects of the cemetery and to liaise with the Council on all aspects of the cemetery. Kevin provided guided tours for some of the councillors to show them what the Friends are doing and they gave some funding to start the project. Kevin also mentioned the Eastbourne Heritage List, which he had started and which also crosses over with the work of the FoOC. He also wanted to explain how the work they are doing will add to the work that had previously been done by Family Roots in recording the memorial inscriptions on graves in the cemetery.

The grass in the cemetery had been left uncut by the Council for some years and visitors who had seen the Friends tidying bushes and brambles there have often complained to them about the state of the ground. The Friends have passed on these concerns to the Council and some additional mowing has now been done in the cemetery.

The Friends have met with Louise Drewett, the Cemetery Manager at Langney, and with Andy Frost at Lewes who is responsible for the gardening aspects of the cemetery, and they have been very helpful. The old burial maps at Langney are very confusing and not easy to follow especially as the cemetery is not laid out in a regular pattern. Checking the burial registers with the Family Roots memorial transcriptions has thrown up a lot of anomalies as the names in the burial registers did not always correspond with the names that had been transcribed from the gravestones, because what the Council has done over the years is re-use the graves. In Kevin's own family he had been tending his grandparents' and great-grandparents' grave at Ocklynge over the years not realising that underneath his family is another completely different family grave. The intention is that Kevin and the Friends will go through the burial lists and record all the additional names in the graves and pass them on to Family Roots, so that in the future we will be able to provide a complete list of everyone buried in Ocklynge cemetery in addition to those mentioned on the gravestones. Some details in the lists even show a plan of where a person is buried within a grave where they contain multiple burials.

Kevin praised the work that Family Roots had done in recording the memorial inscriptions on gravestones in the cemetery and said it was a godsend when trying to find a specific grave. He had taken the first

seventeen graves in Section A and added the information he had been able to find out from the burial lists, which had added another twenty names just to those seventeen graves. They would never have been known from the memorial inscriptions as the names are only recorded in the burial registers.

Another aim of the Friends was to identify notable graves, and there are many in Ocklynge cemetery. Kevin highlighted the one of Oswald Fitzgerald, who was a soldier who died on HMS Hampshire in 1916 with Kitchener. Kitchener's body was never recovered so there was no national funeral for him, but they did the next best thing and gave the national funeral to his friend Oswald Fitzgerald. The Imperial War Graves Commission said they would never repatriate the bodies of the fallen but they made an exception for Fitzgerald and he was returned to his home town of Eastbourne to be buried with his family. His gravestone was designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the famous Glaswegian architect and designer, the only gravestone he ever designed. Kevin feels it is such an important gravestone he will try and get it recognised as a listed building.

Another aim of the FoOC is to conduct historic research on some of the people buried there. As an example of the type of research Kevin highlighted one grave that had recently come to light of Benjamin Elliott, formerly of the 95th Rifle Regiment (also known as the Royal Green

Jackets) which had been raised locally in Seaford by Col. Coote-Manningham, and his headstone lists 21 of the battles that he fought in, the last one being Waterloo. Elliott lived in Seaside, Eastbourne and died at 91. His family couldn't afford a gravestone so the money for it was raised by public subscription.

Identifying aspects of the flora and fauna of the cemetery is another aim. There are many interesting wild flowers in the long grass, including orchids, and the Friends are hoping to find an expert who can do a full ecological survey of the cemetery next spring to see what plants are growing there.

The FoOC have also been liaising with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, with Sarah Nathaniel, the local Public Engagement Officer. Kevin is a 'War Graves Champion' for Ocklynge Cemetery and he keeps a look out for any damaged or weather-worn graves. Some of the Portland headstones are 100 years old, and where damage is reported to the CWGC they will replace a headstone with a better Italian marble one. The Friends keep an eye out for other problems in the cemetery and can raise issues with the Council, for example when damage was done to the toilets on the property.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the work the FoOC do is assisting members of the public in identifying graves and gravestones, and this is where the Family Roots transcriptions have been a great help. The

Friends also liaise with other local history groups and the Council, and are represented on the Heritage Forum in the town. They also arrange tours of the cemetery and give talks.

The FoOC have their own constitution and have set up a bank account. They have undertaken a risk assessment in order to get public liability insurance, which the local Council insisted on, for anyone working in the cemetery; and the FoOC has now joined the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, who are able to offer helpful advice online on how to clean gravestones and maintain a healthy environment in the cemetery; and they have links with other Friends groups in Sussex. Thanks to Danielle over 500 graves in Ocklynge cemetery have been linked to Find a Grave website and most of them are GPS tagged, which means you can easily go to the exact location of a grave using a GPS trace on your smart phone or tablet.

The most important thing the Friends have been doing is the weekly clearing sessions at the cemetery. The group now have their own high vis vest so they can be easily identified, and meet to clear the overgrowth on the graves. What they have found has been truly remarkable and ‘then’ and ‘now’ photographs have been put up on the FoOC Facebook page. Some of the graves are not even on the Family Roots inscriptions list basically because the stones have been buried. The Friends are negotiating with the Council to have all the greenery they cut back taken

off site or put into large refuse bins, but this is still ongoing.

Kevin showed us a photograph of the Rube family grave, which is the largest grave in the cemetery. The Rubes were diamond merchants so could afford such an elaborate monument, and the top of the angel was said to be visible from the family home in Meads before trees grew up and blocked the view. He said that there were 150 early photographs of Ocklynge Cemetery held at The Keep, Falmer, and it would be worth asking for volunteers to have a look at them.

Kevin then related the interesting stories behind some of the people whose graves are in the cemetery, including a well-known jockey who won the 1904 Grand National; a South African politician, and a bellringer from St Mary's church.

Arthur Birch was born in the village of Bone Hill near Tamworth, Staffordshire in 1875. He made a career in horse racing and excelled in steeple chasing. He married Louisa Steadman in Lewes in 1896 and they settled in Lewes. In 1904 he rode 'Matthia', a New Zealand horse, in the Grand National and he won by a great length. After the race the horse was bought by King Edward VII. In 1907 Arthur was riding a horse called 'Black Ivory' at Gatwick racecourse (now part of Gatwick airport), when his horse fell. Unfortunately, another horse then fell on top of Arthur and his back was broken. He convalesced in Eastbourne and decided to move to the town, buying Saville House in Victoria Drive, where he died in 1911 at the

age of 35. He was buried in Ocklynge cemetery on 7th February 1911 and there were many wreaths on his grave from the horse racing community. He left a widow and four children. His grave is in section U and is decorated with a Celtic cross which appears to have contained a plaque in the middle which is now missing, but is thought to have been a picture of a horse.

Saul Solomon, a South African politician, who died in 1892 and his grave is in section H. On his death he was described in the Cape Town newspaper as the “greatest champion of the rights and liberties of the native population”. He was born on the island of St Helena in 1817 and he went to a Jewish school in London where he contracted rickets. His stunted growth did not deter him from a full and active life. He moved to Cape Town and founded the Old Mutual Insurance Company. He was elected as one of the first MPs when the South African parliament was established in 1854. He was so short that when he spoke in the parliament he had to stand on one of the benches so that he could be seen. Throughout his career he fought for equality for class, colour and creed, and although unpopular he was always re-elected. In 1873 he met Georgiana Margaret Thomson, the headmistress of Cape Town Girls School. They married the following year and had six children, but when their eldest daughter drowned in 1881 he withdrew from politics. The family moved to England, living in Penge and then Bedford. They also had

a house in Scotland and this was where Saul died in 1892. Kevin could find no connection with Eastbourne so it is a mystery why Saul is buried here in Ocklynge Cemetery. His wife Georgiana is buried with him.

Georgiana Margaret Thomson, wife of Saul Solomon, was a celebrity in her own right. She was born in Scotland in 1844, and her mother Margaret was a relation of Walter Scott. In 1873 Georgiana sailed to the Cape of Good Hope and became headmistress of a girls' school. She was a powerful public speaker, a total abstainer and a lifelong suffragist. After the death of her husband she joined the newly established Women's Social and Political Union with her daughter Daisy. She attended women's demonstrations in the early 1900s, was seriously injured and twice arrested and imprisoned. In 1909 when the Prime Minister refused to answer her letters she posted her daughter Daisy to 10 Downing Street. Georgiana was involved in the Black Friday event of 18th November 1910, when a peaceful women's suffragettes' demonstration was violently broken up by police and the women were beaten and sexually assaulted. In 1912 Georgiana was imprisoned for smashing a window in the Houses of Parliament. Georgiana was staying in Eastbourne when she died here on 24th June 1933 aged 88, and is buried with her husband in Ocklynge cemetery.

Harry Packham Bennett, who was a bellringer at St Mary's church, was accidentally killed while working at the railway station. He was the son of

Henry and Elizabeth Bennett and was born in Cuckfield in 1831. He moved to Eastbourne aged 20 and worked at Eastbourne railway station as a porter. He married Mary Ann Wood in 1854 and they had two children. Harry's passion was bellringing, he founded the Eastbourne Society of Change Ringers, and he was keen to teach the art of change ringing to anyone in Eastbourne. He died on Wednesday, 12th August 1891 as a result of an accident in the shunting yard, crushed under the wheels of a carriage. His gravestone at Ocklynge Cemetery carries the image of a bell.

Sir Launcelot Keay was one of three sons born to Henry Keay, who was a town councillor and magistrate in Eastbourne for 53 years. His sons were Wilfred, who was killed in the Great War and whose name appears on the war memorial in the town hall; his second son was Ethelbert, who was a fire warden in the 2nd World War and was killed in an air raid while helping civilians into an air raid shelter in South Street, and his name appears on the civilian war memorial at the Wish Tower. The third son Launcelot was educated at Eastbourne College and Brighton School of Art and he made his career as an architect. He worked for Norwich Council before the Great War and served with the Royal Engineers in France, where he was wounded in his back. He went on to serve in Egypt before returning to England after the war, and in 1921 was appointed Chief Architectural Assistant in Birmingham. In 1925 he was appointed the

Chief Architect for the city of Liverpool, and went on to become their Director of Housing. He wanted people to live in healthy housing and was responsible for the slum clearance in Liverpool and created huge housing developments in the city. One of the council houses he designed became Paul McCartney's home. He was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects and served on the post-war National Housing Committee. He was knighted in 1947. He lived in Eastbourne in his latter years and died in 1974 and is buried in Ocklynge.

Matthew Freeman. When Danielle was clearing his grave she saw the word 'SS Lusitania' on his headstone. She found out he was a waiter on the 'Lusitania' and was on board when the ship was hit by a German submarine in 1915. Of the 2000 on board only 600 were rescued. He was one of them and was quite badly injured while helping people launch one of the lifeboats but he did survive. He was also a boxer and was often mentioned in reports as 'the famous Lusitania survivor'. After living in the USA for a while he returned to Eastbourne, dying here in 1968 and is buried in Ocklynge cemetery (section O plot 553).

The mystery of the missing mausoleum. A photograph was sent to the FoOC for help identifying the location of a rather large mausoleum, but they told the lady who sent it that it was not in Ocklynge. After insisting it was in Ocklynge cemetery and sending a photograph of the person buried there the Friends did some research and found the grave, but no

mausoleum. They were told that the mausoleum had been removed because it was becoming dangerous. On photographs from before 1910 it can easily be seen and the Friends plan to do some digging in the area they think it should be to see if they can find any evidence still left.

The **Eastbourne Heritage List**. Kevin discovered there are very few listed buildings in Eastbourne compared to other towns such as Brighton and Lewes, where many street lamps, post boxes and the like have been listed. He was shocked to find that the Grand Hotel is not listed nor is the Queens Hotel, along with many others, so he contacted Heritage England to find out how to go about listing a building. He was told to contact the local authority to see if a building is on the town's Heritage List and Eastbourne admitted they didn't have one. So Kevin approached the Heritage Forum and offered to start a list, and with a group of volunteers has been listing any building or item of historical interest in the town. As well as making a list they are photographing and giving a detailed description of each item and who owns it. The list will include the site of an original police box, the goat chaise and bath chair stand licence plaques, the many stink pipes around the town as well as vintage lamp posts and post boxes. Kevin has designed a proforma which will be put on the Council's website, so anyone who feels something they know about should be added to the Heritage List for Eastbourne can fill in a form and Kevin can add it to the list. These can include street signs, drain covers,

streetlights and anything that is historically interesting and part of the town, in order to record them before they go missing. So far there are over 200 items on the list and 550 photographs.

There is no charge to join the Friends of Ocklynge Cemetery, but there are three things that we would be asked to do: 1) to join the group who help clear the graves in the cemetery; 2) to help by doing some research into the graves that are uncovered; and 3) help to support the Friends financially.



Cartoon © Helen Warren 2024

My “Dutch family” saga

Contributed by: Graham Upton

When the First World War broke out, an aristocratic Dutch family feared for the safety of their children being brought up in war-torn Europe and sent them to Pevensy Bay for the duration. The reason they chose here was because they knew a Mrs. Butler of the “Lambert and Butler” cigarette company.

Here I digress a little. She lived in a house called “Innings” Cottage . When we come to family Roots we usually bring our nephew, Tom. Much later, Tom's Grandfather, Roger, lived there and it was Roger's mother, Mary Richardson a suffragette, who went into the National gallery and slashed the “Rokeby Venus”. The painting has recently been back in the news as it was attacked by the “Iust Stop Oil” activists!

The children came, in the care of their teenage aunt, and settled into life here even attending the local school and became good friends with my mum. Strangely, when the war was over the aunt went home taking the two girls and one boy with her but left two, called John and Reginald, behind and they went to live with my family. They grew up and worked in the local garage for a while until they had to return to Holland to do their National Service, but they kept in touch.

When the next war started John and Reginald returned to England and

joined the Air Force. After the war, they went home to Holland but continued with their letters and visits. Later, when I was a child, my Mum got a message to say that John had called in for a cup of tea and brought a friend to meet her. The friend was Prince Bernhard, the husband of Queen Juliana. Eventually, John said that he was going to live in South Africa and that could've been the end of the story.

Thirty years later when we had our Museum, a smartly dressed lady came into the shop and said: "I see that you sell postcards of Eastbourne, do you have any of Pevensey Bay?" I asked why and she replied: "When my husband and his brother, who are Dutch, were little boys they lived in Pevensey Bay. Sadly, my husband is dead but my brother-in-law lives in the south of France and I would like to send him a postcard".

Without any hesitation I said: "Were their names John and Reginald Steengracht van Moyland?"

She looked at me in total amazement and said: "I am the Baroness Steengracht van Moyland". It transpired that my mum's friend was a Baron, Godfather to Queen Beatrix and Prince Bernhard's aide-de-camp. She gave me the address of Reginald and we corresponded for some time. I could never understand why they didn't want to be in Holland during the First World War when there was no fighting on Dutch soil. However, it seemed that they lived in Moyland Castle which was over the border in

Germany. As I wrote earlier, both young men joined the Air Force and they were sent on a bombing mission to attack a place where there were many high-ranking Nazis. When they arrived it was their own castle. I have checked this fact and indeed it suffered serious damage.

Reginald told me that before the war, he lived in Paris, was friends with King Edward and Mrs.

Simpson and walked their dogs together in the Bois de Boulogne. He also told me that when younger both he and his friend fell in love with the same girl and both asked her to marry them but she didn't choose Reginald. Her name was Barbara Hutton, known as "The Poor Little Rich Girl" as she was the heiress to the Woolworth's fortune.

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From Pevensey Registers

Contributed by: John Tyhurst

17th January 1773.

The body of a man drowned at sea was buried naked in the beach because Mr. John Breden the then Bailiff would not permit the person who found it to bring it up to be buried in the Churchyard. The Minister desired to have it brought up and he would bury it without any fees, but the humane jurat forbad it.

17th March 1833.

I do hereby give notice, that at an adjourned vestry, held on the 9th day of

March 1833, the Parish appointed John Akehurst to be Clerk of this Parish. signed Julius Nouaille, Curate.

22nd July 1833

The Revd: Julius Nouaille was compelled to call a Vestry upon John Akehurst, Clerk, appointed by the Parish upon the charge of impudence and insubordination, with respect to the possession of the key of the Church and his charge having been completely substantiated he was reprimanded by the said Vestry: and the Revd. Julius Nouaille refused to grant the Clerk John Akehurst, his licence and also prevented his being sworn in for these reasons. Witness by my hand. Julius Nouaille, Curate of Pevensey.

5th August 1839

The Revd. Julius Nouaille was again compelled to call a second Vestry upon John Akehurst, Clerk. he (the Clerk) having accused Mr. Nouaille of taking the money paid as Christening fees, the Clerk claiming it as his gift.

At a Vestry holden the 15th day of August 1839 it was unanimously agreed that the charge made by the Clerk of the Revd. Julius Nouaille taking of his fees is unfounded and that the conduct of the Clerk towards Mr. Nouaille is such that if repeated, to take such steps for his removal as the necessity of the case shall require.

You may be interested.

These talks from Berkshire FHS are on Zoom, there is a small charge, Pre-booking required.

Maiwand and The Great Game

Thu 22 Feb 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Mike Cooper

Berkshire FHS members £4.00. Non members £5.00

The impressive cast iron statue of a lion in Forbury Gardens, Reading has become one of the most iconic images of Reading.

The Lion is posed snarling defiance to the north – towards Russia. Built by George Blackall Simonds and unveiled in 1886, it commemorates those who died in the Battle of Maiwand. Yet few of us probably know much about the battle and its tragic association with Berkshire.

In this talk, Mike Cooper looks at the Battle of Maiwand against the background of Anglo-Russian rivalry in Asia – The Great Game – something he's been following for 40 years – and the history of the lion itself.

[Thursday 22 February “Maiwand and The Great Game” 2 – 3.15pm with Mike Cooper](#)

The Battle of Britain

Thu 21 Mar 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Richard Marks

Berkshire FHS members £4.00. Non members £5.00

In 1940, Britain stood alone following the fall of France. With the German army poised across the channel, only the RAF could prevent the Luftwaffe from gaining the air supremacy needed to successfully mount the expected invasion. Historian Richard Marks will look at how the RAF's systems and equipment allowed them to prevent the invasion.

[Thursday 21 March "The Battle of Britain" 2 – 3.15pm with Richard Marks](#)

Women in World War Two

Thu 25 Jan 14:00 - 15:15

Talk by Bill King

Often overlooked, discover how the talents of women were integrated into the British war effort on the Home Front, in industry and in the Armed Forces at every level during World War Two. Bill is a popular speaker and his talks are meticulously researched.

<https://berksfhs.org/events/women-in-world-war-two/?occurrence=2024-01-25>

Berkshire Heritage Fair

Sat 24 Feb 10:00 - 12:00

14:00 – 16:00.

Online

If you have an interest in historic Berkshire or a particular family, location, industry or transport system within it, you will almost certainly find this online Heritage Fair beneficial.

You will be able to:

- Connect with local experts about locations, businesses, industries or families of interest.
- Some of these organisations have their own archive and are able to give advice about it, how the archive may help you and how you can access it.
- They will share general or specific information and images pointing people to new sources they may have been previously unaware of.
- Share information on your own family or heritage research with the participating organisations.
- Gain advice and guidance on Berkshire-specific resources and sources.
- Get help with your own family history or heritage research – from getting started to breaking down brick walls.
- Build lasting connections with new contacts beyond this event.

Many of the Family History societies from our adjoining counties are also joining us for the day and will be able to answer

questions on their counties.

Session timings are pitched to allow as many people as possible from across the world to join in. Last time, participants joined us from the US, Canada and Australia – can we add even more countries this time? The event uses Zoom breakout rooms, and each participating heritage organisation will have their own room

The list of participating organisations and individuals is growing and you can see the latest position at:

<https://berksfhs.org/berkshire-heritage-online-fair-2024/>

For members and non-members of Berkshire Family History Society.
Free to attend.

Pre-booking of the am session or pm session or both sessions is required because places are limited.

As spaces are limited you are strongly advised to contact Berkshire FHS

<https://berksfhs.org/contact-booking-administrator/>

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Suffolk FHS.

Getting Your Data Ready for Using a Family History Package

Monday 5th February 2024 7:30pm - 9:00pm

This will include:

What is a GEDCOM? , Data Formats Naming Conventions, Place Names Citations,

Hilary Waller is a professional genealogist and a volunteer researcher for the Berkshire Family History Society.

This is the link to register

<https://tinyurl.com/GettingDataReady>

Monday 5th February 2024 7:30pm GMT Free to join

The National 1939 UK Register

Dorset Family History Society will be hosting an online Zoom meeting entitled ‘The National 1939 UK Register’ by Linda Hammond. Exploring the 1939 National Register and decoding its secrets! Taken on the eve of World War II, the register provides family historians with a valuable insight which bridges the censuses between 1921 and 1951. Linda Hammond holds a Master’s degree in Genealogy, Palaeographic and Heraldic studies with 35 years experience as a researcher and lecturer.

Tuesday 20th February 2024 7:30pm - 9:00pm

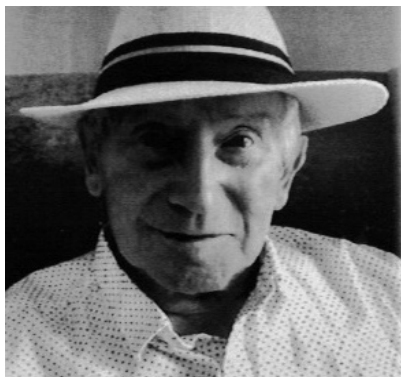
Non Society Members, are welcome to join this meeting and should follow the link on the website

www.dorsetfhs.org.uk or email liaison@dorsetfhs.org.uk to request an invitation link at least 6 hours before the meeting is due to start.

—000—

Kenneth 'Ken' Alderton

11 April 1939 – 24 December 2023



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Ken Alderton, one of the founder members of Family Roots in 1986, when he was member No.6.

Ken was an only child and lived with his parents in Moy Avenue, Eastbourne.

He went to school in Eastbourne and then on to Eastbourne Technical College, where he trained to be an engineer. He worked for Seeboard for most of his working life, firstly at Westlords and then at their Polegate offices, only leaving for two years in 1957 to do his National Service at RAF Northholt.

Ken had many hobbies. He learned to play the piano and violin and had a love of classical music; he was interested in archaeology and local and family history, serving as a member of Family Roots committee for a number of years; he loved walking in the countryside and studied butterflies; but his greatest passion was sailing. Ever since his father taught him to row on Princes Park boating pond Ken had loved being on the water. He bought a sailing yacht, and once captained a boat from Gibraltar to the West Indies and back. Later he bought his pride and joy, a yacht named 'Haven' and was always happy to take friends out sailing with him.

In 2013 Ken was diagnosed with early onset dementia. He had to give up his beloved yacht but he was determined to remain independent and keep up with his many other hobbies. He started the Wednesday Walking Group and became friends with many of its members, leading walks all over the Sussex countryside. Over the past few years he had developed a friendship with a lady named Shu-Li, the widow of a former colleague, and she kept an eye on Ken. When it became impossible for him to live on his own she took him into her home and cared for Ken until it was necessary to move him to Bowes House, Hailsham for more professional care. It was here that he died on Christmas Eve 2023. A unique man.

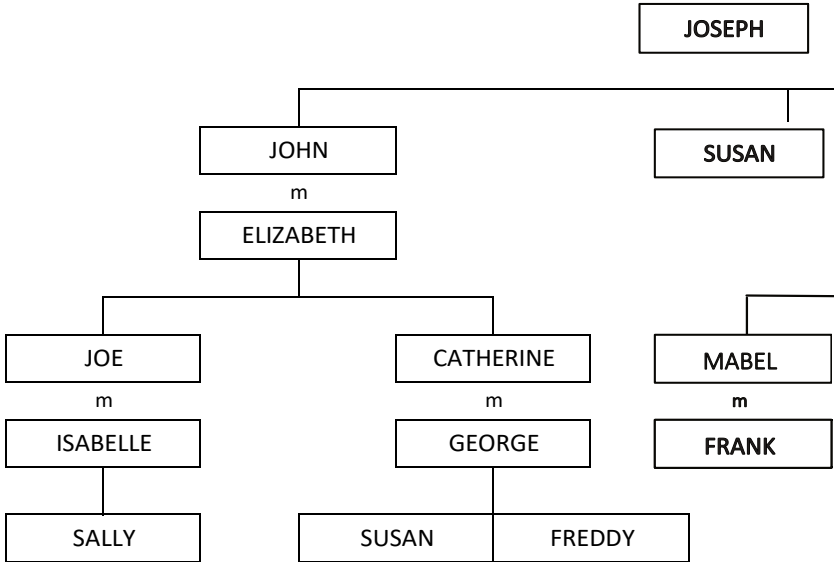
Jenny Wootton

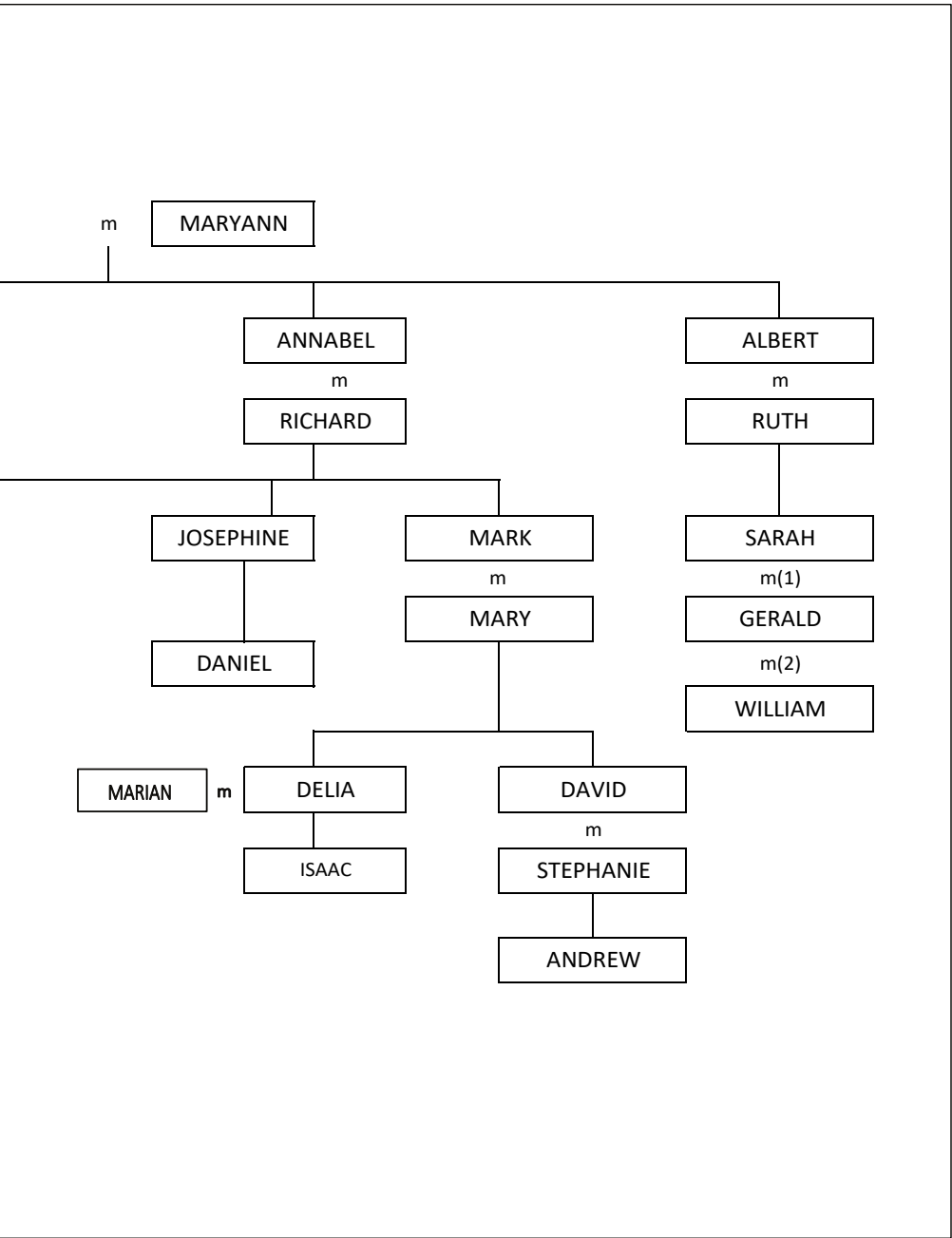
20th Century Events

- 1900 27 February The Labour Party is founded.
- 1901 22 January Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII ascends the throne.
- 1902 12 July Arthur Balfour becomes Prime Minister.
9 August Coronation of Edward VII and Alexandra.
31 May Treaty of Vereeniging ends the Second Boer War.
- 1903 September The Lib-Lab pact enables Labour to break into national politics.
- 1904 8 April Entente Cordiale signed between Britain and France
- 1905 5 December Henry Campbell-Bannerman becomes Prime Minister.
- 1908 5 April H. H. Asquith becomes Prime Minister.
27 April The Summer Olympics open at White City in London.
27 October Parliament approves old age pensions.
- 1910 6 May Edward VII dies and George V ascends the throne.
- 1911 22 June Coronation of George V and Mary.
- 1912 13 April Royal Flying Corps established.
14 - 15 April The RMS Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg. Over 1500 crew and passengers die.

- 1914 4 August World War I: Great Britain declares war on Germany in response to the invasion of Belgium.
- 5 November Britain declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 1916 6 December David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister.
- 1918 6 February Women get the vote for the first time - women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification could vote as a result of the Representation of the People Act 1918.
- 1 April The Royal Air Force is founded, becoming the first independent air force in the world.
- 11 November World War I ends.
- 1919 1 December Nancy Astor becomes the first woman to take her seat in parliament.
- 1921 The Great Britain road numbering scheme.
- 1922 18 October The BBC is founded as the British Broadcasting Company.
- 23 October Bonar Law becomes Prime Minister.
- 1923 22 May Stanley Baldwin becomes Prime Minister.
- 1924 22 January Ramsay MacDonald becomes Prime Minister.
- 4 November Stanley Baldwin becomes Prime Minister for the second time.
- 1926 4 May - 12 May The 1926 United Kingdom general strike takes place.

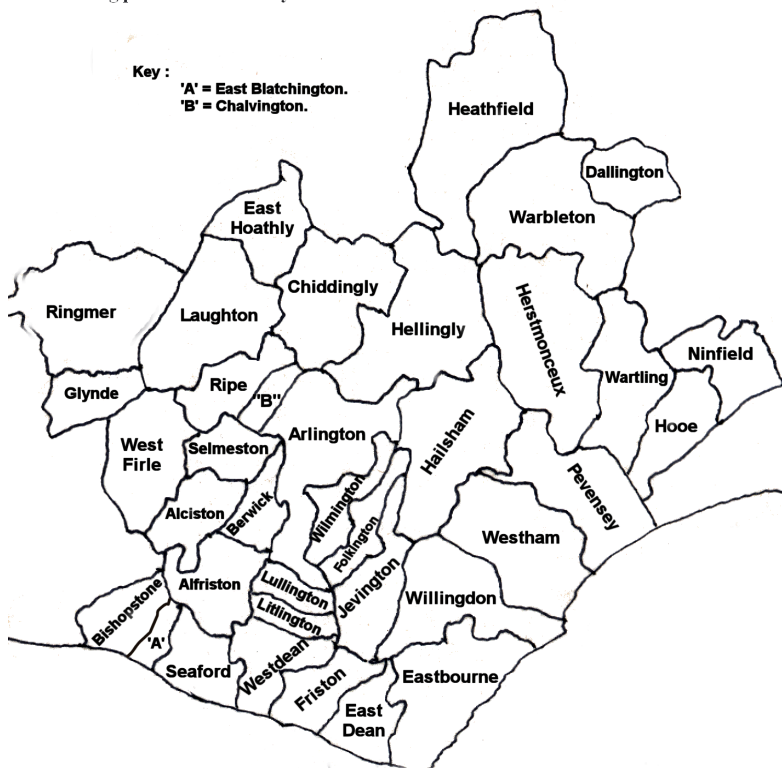
THE MATHEWSON FAMILY TREE





MAP OF "DISTRICT"

Showing parishes for "Family Roots" local research.



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Alciston * Alfriston * Arlington * Berwick * Bishopstone *
Chalvington * Chiddingly * Dallington * East Blatchington *
East Dean * East Hoathly * Eastbourne * Folkington *
Friston * Glynde * Hailsham * Heathfield * Hellingly *
Herstmonceux * Hooe * Jevington * Laughton * Litlington *
Lullington * Ninfield * Pevensey * Ringmer * Ripe * Seaford *
Selmeston * Warbleton * Wartling * Westdean * West Firle
* Westham * Willingdon * Wilmington.

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