

# **ROOTS and BRANCHES**



Journal of the  
**FELIXSTOWE**  
**FAMILY HISTORY**  
**SOCIETY**

Volume 34 No 2  
June 2019

## ROOTS AND BRANCHES



Volume 34 No: 2

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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Dear All,

My report is not very long; we have had a good three months of talks. I wish to thank all those who have helped in their various ways, stepping in when needed.

After much thought I am stepping down as Chairman, I have very much enjoyed it, but the time has come for someone else to steer the Society. In this magazine are your nomination forms as well as your membership ones. Please think hard as to whether you could join the committee, **without a committee we cannot have a society**. We must have five members on the Committee to abide by our Constitution. We would be pleased to speak to anyone who may be interested in joining the committee, not necessarily as Chairman.

The Society has purchased a projector with the money given to us in memory of Mr Anthony Scrutton. We are now self-contained should a speaker require these.

May I wish you all a good summer and those of you who are coming to the end of theirs I hope it was a good one.

Gillian Smith

## EDITOR'S NOTES

My apologies for the lateness of this issue, but I fell off my bike and broke my wrist. I have been in plaster since 4<sup>th</sup> May and only able to type with one hand! Very frustrating and very slow!

Enclosed with this issue you will find your Membership renewal form, Nomination for Officers form and also a Members' Interests form. Ann Sanderson will be pleased to receive your Membership renewal form; the fees have stayed the same: £10 for a Single Membership and £14 for a Joint Membership.

Remember **we need a fifth Committee member** to meet the requirements of our Constitution following Gill's announcement that she will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM in September. We hope to see many of you at the Annual General Meeting.

Nick and Pam Smith hold a help workshop every fourth Thursday at Broadway House from 10 am 'til 12 noon. Please pop along to see if they can help you to get over any of those 'brick walls' that we all have at some time in our research history, they would love to see you.

Has anyone had their DNA tested, and did you have any success, it would be interesting to hear what you have to say about it?

Linda Negus  
Membership No: 0620

**From rural England to the Battles of the Somme: the story of a nurse of the Great War**

**Kate Cole**

Kate Cole treated us to an extremely interesting talk at the May meeting. Her theme was inspired by a shoebox of vintage postcards that she had bought for £27 at an Ipswich auction. While sorting through the postcards, Kate realised that many of them had British military stamps on and had been posted back home to England from a World War 1 military hospital on the Western front. Many postcards were addressed to Levington post office, and from this information, Kate used her research skills to piece together the story of Clara Woolnough, a young Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse. Being the daughter of the postmaster and postmistress at Levington, Clara kept in touch with her parents by postcard.

In the months before the First World War, Clara had nursed in small military hospitals within Essex and Suffolk including the East Suffolk and Ipswich hospital at Anglesea Road. Just weeks before the opening days of the Battles of the Somme she had been sent as a volunteer nurse to Number 25 General Hospital in Hadelot, France where she nursed casualties from the battlefields. She wrote of the rapid growth of the hospital to an amazing 1500 beds in 1916, many in open sided marquees on the sea front. Unfortunately Clara was poisoned by her proximity to gas poisoned patients and also suffered from the harsh winter conditions. Personal tragedy also hit her with the death of both her brother George and friend Dick Cripps in 1917. However in 2018 Clara was Mentioned in Despatches for her work. During the 1920's and 30's she ran a poultry farm in Levington until her death aged 62 at Levington Post Office. This fascinating story was told in a lively and enjoyable way by Kate Cole who has written several local history books and runs the popular Essex Voices Past social history blog.

Ann Sanderson

Membership No: 1292

**Did You know that.....**Marks of Cadency are variations of the original arms of the family, or marks attached to them, for the purpose of distinguishing the several branches, their relationship to each other and to their common ancestor. The system that became established in England and Wales in the 17th Century is: 1st son a label, 2nd son b crescent, 3rd son c mullet, 4th son d martlet, 5th son e annulet and 6th son f fleur-de-lis. So you can use the cadency marks on a coat of arms to establish which son the bearer was.

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## THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

**Did You know that.....**in certain parts of the British Isles it was not possible to make a will of realty [real property] until the 19th century? In Guernsey, a will of realty could not be made until 1841, in Jersey it wasn't allowed until 1851 and on the Isle of Man it was illegal until 1864 and Scotland prohibited wills of realty until 1868. Testators in these parts could only make wills that involved personalty, a person's moveable goods and chattels. One reason for this was that upon a man's death, his freehold estate automatically passed to his heir, according to the local custom.

The situation in England was somewhat different. Freehold land could be devised by will from 1540 and the joint deed known as the "Last Will and Testament" came into existence as a consequence. Previously, a testament only concerned personalty. In England it was therefore much easier for a father to make provision for younger sons who might otherwise go without where it was the custom for the eldest son to inherit the estate. Copyhold land could not be devised by will before 1815 but as it could be surrendered to the use of a will, the testator could still, in effect, devise it to whomever he or she wished.

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## FEDERATION Members - FamilySearch changes at Kew

**T**he London FamilySearch Centre, which operated at The National Archives, closed on Saturday, 23 March 2019. However, The National Archives has agreed to become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and will provide continued access to all the digitised records that FamilySearch makes available. These include many which for contractual reasons it is not possible to consult at home.

FamilySearch volunteers will no longer be present at Kew, but otherwise the service will be much the same as that currently provided. Access to FamilySearch records is free of charge but visitors to its site need a free [FamilySearch](#) account, which is easy to set up at any time that suits you.

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## DIARY DATES

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2019** “From a fort to a chateau: the domestic architecture of the abdication crisis”.  
**Adrian Phillips**

In this fascinating behind-the-scenes account of the royal abdication crisis of 1936, Adrian Phillips reveals the previously untold story of the hidden political machinations and insidious battles in Westminster and Whitehall that settled the fate of the King and Mrs Simpson.

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2019** “Misery and Misfortune –Sudden Deaths in Suffolk 1800-1850.”  
**Geoffrey Robinson**

Geoffrey will be speaking about his book that brings together some of the unusual ways that the Suffolk inhabitants of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century found to end their lives.

**AUGUST – NO MEETING**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2019** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**9<sup>th</sup> October 2019** **Life as a Harwich Pilot** **Jane Stone**

This is the story of how Jane became a Harwich Pilot.

Monthly Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at Broadway House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe IP11 7DD.

Meetings are free for members, but if you wish to bring a guest they will be charged £1.00. Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) are available at meetings after the talk has finished.

## CHANGES TO MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc )Act 2019, comes into force on 26th May. What does this mean for Family Historians? This Act requires the name and occupation of the mother of each party in a marriage or civil partnership to be recorded, in addition to that of the father. So from now on, when looking at a marriage certificate for a marriage that took place after this date, you'll be able to trace not only the father of the bride and groom, but also the mother.

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## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

The 6th June marks 75 years since the Allies launched Operation Overlord on 'D-Day', a massive endeavour with the objective of liberating north-west Europe from the grip of Nazi occupation. It began just after midnight, when allied forces parachuted into Northern France, closely followed by a naval invasion by over 7000 vessels of the beaches of Normandy. More than 14,000 air sorties supported the landings.



D-Day was six months in the planning, with preparations beginning late in 1943, led by the American General Dwight D. Eisenhower. It was an international operation, with 2 million troops from around the world arriving in Britain from overseas in the run up, including Australasians, Africans, Europeans and North Americans, all of whom came to take part in the landings.

The Nazis had been convinced by a campaign of deception that the assault would be elsewhere, which helped, but heavy losses were still taken, such as on Omaha beach, where experienced German forces launched a powerful counterattack. It is estimated that 4,300 Allied troops died in the offensive that day. D-Day did, however, ultimately prove effective, with the ongoing push into German-held territory eventually leading to Germany's surrender on 7 May 1945.

© Family History Federation – D-Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special

## HOW FAR BACK HAS YOUR RESEARCH TAKEN YOU?

When I was 21 I inherited from my grandmother a Glasgow marriage certificate dating back to 1837 for two of my ancestors. Did this mean I had Scottish ancestry? If so, why had nobody in my family mentioned this to me? Indeed, nobody else in the family expressed any interest in the subject. So I decided to research my ancestry. (What I discovered many years later was that my 3x great grandfather John Lord had moved from Suffolk to Scotland; and that my 3x great grandmother Mary Donnelly had moved from Nottinghamshire to Scotland. They had met in Scotland and had married there. In other words, there was no Scottish ancestry. Although Donnelly appears to be an Irish surname, it is a corruption of a French Huguenot name).

My research consisted of searching for birth certificates and marriage certificates in Somerset House which housed these records back in the 1960s. It cost just 2/6d to order a certificate. The amount of progress I made was strictly limited, constrained by the fact that I was a Civil Servant in the City of London, which meant I was away from home on the Sussex coast for 13 hours a day. At 25 I was promoted to Higher Executive Officer and no longer had time for family history research.

At 45 I retired from the Civil Service. Another 5 years were taken up by obtaining a BA (Honours) in Sociology and an MA in Social and Political Thought at Sussex University. Surprisingly, perhaps, I discovered that it is often easier for a mature student to make the transition to university than it is for a youngster straight out of school. That presumably explains why I finished my first year as top of the class, something I had not experienced since primary school.

When I left Sussex University I decided to continue studying, but specifically directed towards researching my family tree. Fortunately I still had the family tree I had abandoned 30 years previously. I make it my practice to transcribe all my research on to what I describe as an analytical family tree, which is mainly something of my own invention.

I joined various family history societies. These simply hadn't existed in the 1960s. I contacted all those who shared family history interests with me. I concentrated mainly on my father's family. I knew that the Sutton family of Kingsdown, near Deal, were fishermen. In simplistic terms, they would be described as working class because they were both poor and poorly educated. But in sociological terms, it was a little more complicated. They owned their own fishing boats and so were self-employed, small-time capitalists. I soon discovered that help with my research was readily available from family history experts in East Kent. A wealth of information was also available in the form of microfiche that could be purchased cheaply from family history societies. I was soon making rapid progress.

Some of my ancestors were desperately poor, such as those who died in Dover Union Workhouse, Buckland during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Occasionally you can find ancestral families which stayed in the same village for hundreds of years. My great grandmother Susannah Wellard (1852-1909) was born at St. Margaret-at-Cliffe, near Dover. Nine generations earlier her ancestor William Wellard was born in the same village in 1585. Altogether, 12 generations of Wellard have been found, all the way back to an earner William Wellard who got married in 1544 in Adisham. There was a sense of achievement in having been able to go back this far. I have ancestors in many other counties, but it seems virtually impossible to replicate this success outside Kent. I have been told that Kent records are the best and the most comprehensive, perhaps because Canterbury Cathedral is in Kent.

*Cont. page 9*

The Denne family of East Kent plays an important role in my research experience. I knew nothing about this family until I contacted two researchers in Australia. Both were highly educated and one was an Emeritus Professor of History at Canberra. They drew my attention to the importance of the Denne family in the life of East Kent. I was also furnished with a copy of the Denne pedigree, which had been drawn up by another researcher I knew and which yet another researcher was subsequently able to verify.

I am descended from Sir Alured Denne, who was Escheator of Kent in 1234, and Seneschal of Christ Church Priory, Canterbury in 1245. In about 1257 Henry III asked Alured and Sir Henry de Bath to frame the laws of Romney Marsh. Alured used a seal with three leopards' heads. He was famous for his learning.

Because Denne was such a prestigious family, they made numerous "good" marriages, including Asherst, Coombe, Arderne, De Earde, De Apulderfield and De Gatton. Hamo De Gatton was Sheriff of Kent in 1285.

In about 1533 William Denne married Agnes Tufton. She was the daughter of Nicholas Tufton of Northiam, East Sussex. He was the General Attorney for the Cinque Ports 1494-1535. In 1507 he helped to raise and correct the regulations for the Cinque Ports. His great grandson Nicholas Tufton was created Earl of Thanet on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1628. The Tuftons are the ancestors of the Marquesses of Salisbury and the most recent Dukes of Devonshire.

With the help of my distant cousin Celia Cotton of Leicester, it has been possible to trace my Sutton line back twelve generations to William Sutton, yeoman farmer of Hawkinge. He owned properties and land in Hawkinge, Folkestone and Alkham, much of which he had purchased. His will was dated 15 February 1571. His son Thomas Sutton was a sheep farmer of Hawkinge. His will was dated 20 September 1611. His bequests totalled £100. By way of comparison, the total income of Folkestone during Elizabeth I's reign was about £60 yearly.

The Sutton family were therefore wealthy farmers. What happened over subsequent generations is that this wealth gradually diminished. They also became a very mobile family, presumably because they had lost their farms and their land, with the result that they were no longer tied to one place.

I suggest that if the Suttons had not originally been wealthy, it would not have been possible to trace them back twelve generations. They would not have left wills, from which it has been possible to construct the relationship between the various family members. The corollary is that, where it is possible to trace back a family for so many generations, it will frequently be the case that the earlier generations will be wealthier than subsequent generations. This is particularly true if families have numerous children; the consequence is that the family's wealth is dissipated and dispersed as the older generations die off.

I have a lot of London ancestry, particularly on my mother's side of the family. A constant feature of London life over the centuries has been that people have moved to London from all over Britain (and overseas) in order to better themselves. If you are researching London ancestors, the question you have to ask is "When did that family move to London?" More recent moves to London will be highlighted in the Census. But if ancestors moved to London and died before the Census started, it becomes all the more difficult to establish the facts. My mother was Eileen Pickering. It was not known where her 3x great grandfather Samuel Pickering originated. Fortunately one of my family history articles was read by a Pickering cousin in South Africa and she had a record of where the family had originated. It turned out that Samuel Pickering's father was Thomas Pickering who was Diocese Surgeon of Arclid, Sandbach, Cheshire. He died when Samuel was just 9 years old, so it is no surprise that Samuel moved to London. The earliest London ancestors I have found were Henry Atkins and Elizabeth Jueline who married on 18 June 1632 at St Giles without Cripplegate. Jueline is a French Huguenot surname.

Roger Sutton Membership No.1126

## THE 1921 CENSUS

The National Archives announced in February that the contract to publish the 1921 Census online has been awarded to Findmypast, in association with the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The census, which was the first to be conducted following the introduction of the Census Act of 1920, will be published in January 2022. Taken on 19 June 1921, it consists of more than 28,000 bound volumes of original household returns containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals. The project will see Findmypast capture digital images and transcribe text data to enable family historians to search these important records for the very first time.

Neil Curtis, Finance and Commercial Director at The National Archives, said: 'This is the most significant digitisation project The National Archives has undertaken to date with the 1921 census containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals. As home to more than 1,000 years of history we are delighted to be working with Findmypast to open up this unique record collection to the world.'

This census provides greater detail than any previously published, as in addition to the questions asked in 1911, the 1921 returns also asked householders to reveal their place of employment, what materials they worked in and their employer's name. Those aged 15 and older were required to provide information about their marital status, including if divorced, while for those under 15 the census recorded whether both parents were alive or if either or both had died.

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**D**id You know that.....in certain parts of the British Isles it was not possible to make a will of realty [real property] until the 19th century? In Guernsey, a will of realty could not be made until 1841, in Jersey it wasn't allowed until 1851 and on the Isle of Man it was illegal until 1864 and Scotland prohibited wills of realty until 1868. Testators in these parts could only make wills that involved personalty, a person's moveable goods and chattels. One reason for this was that upon a man's death, his freehold estate automatically passed to his heir, according to the local custom.

The situation in England was somewhat different. Freehold land could be devised by will from 1540 and the joint deed known as the "Last Will and Testament" came into existence as a consequence. Previously, a testament only concerned personalty. In England it was therefore much easier for a father to make provision for younger sons who might otherwise go without where it was the custom for the eldest son to inherit the estate. Copyhold land could not be devised by will before 1815 but as it could be surrendered to the use of a will, the testator could still, in effect, devise it to whomever he or she wished.

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## NEWS FROM FINDMYPAST

### 1939 Register update

Over 287,000 additional 'open' records have been added to the 1939 Register. Since the Register was launched, Findmypast has matched more than four million 'closed records' to multiple data sources to correctly confirm the date and location of death for individuals recorded.

### Britain, Knights Of The Realm & Commonwealth Index

A tranche of new records have been added to our Knights Of The Realm & Commonwealth Index. Dating all the way back to the 11th century, this fascinating index will enable you to find out if any of your British ancestors were awarded an order of chivalry by the Crown. Each record consists of a transcript that will reveal a combination of biographical details as well as the date and type of award the individual received. For a comprehensive list of abbreviations used in this record set, please follow the link for complete list of abbreviations used in Britain, Knights of the Realm index in the Useful Links & Resources section.

© Alde Valley Newsletter April 2019

## FAMILY TREE LIVE

The Federation is delighted to announce that Family Tree Live, the brand new London genealogy show, came to Alexandra Palace in April, and was a tremendous success.

Visitors flocked to the show in their thousands, taking the opportunity to visit the exhibition and participate in the extensive workshop and lecture programme. People travelled from all over the country (with visitors even coming from as far as Perth in Australia!) to take the opportunity to explore their family's story further. With so many experts under one roof, there was much to learn and discover.



Over 50 family history societies attended Family Tree Live and visitors were able to visit them all under the historic roof of beautiful Alexandra Palace. The Federation welcomed many to our stand, who came to chat with us about their research, find out more about our member organisations and take away one of our freebies. Our 'We Seek Dead People' badges were the star of the show. People were making a beeline for our stand just to pick one up! The Federation's bookstall was also very popular – and if you weren't able to attend the show, don't worry, browse and buy our titles [online](#).

The Federation launched the show in partnership with *Family Tree* magazine, with the aim of bringing together the family history community, to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. The event also attracted visitors who were new to our addictive hobby and were interested to learn the basics of family history.

© Family History Federation

## WEBSITE UPDATES

### **FindMyPast**

- Devon: Port Books, Land Tax and Valuation Records, baptisms Appledore, Independent Chapel Appledore, Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Appledore, Methodist Chapel and Bideford, Methodist Circuit, Burials Northam
- Durham Bishops' Transcripts
- Kent parish registers [held by Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone].
- Queensland: Hospital Registers and Soldier Portraits, 1914-1918

USA, Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index

### **FamilySearch**

- England and Wales National Register, 1939 Index
- Surrey Parish Registers, 1536-1992
- France, Saône-et-Loire, Census, 1896
- French Combatants in the Revolutionary War, 1778-1783
- Peru, Cemetery Records, 1912-2013
- USA, California, Los Gatos, Los Gatos Memorial Park Cemetery Card Index to Burials, 1889-1989
- USA, Hawaii, Hansen's Disease Records, Kalaupapa Vital Records Card Index, 1928-1947
- USA, Michigan, Census of World War I Veterans with Card Index, 1917-1919
- USA, Montana, Deer Lodge County, Anaconda, Cemetery Records, 1878-2005
- USA, New York, Staten Island, Moravian Cemetery, Interment Records, 1866-1967
- USA, New York, New York, Department of Health, Manhattan Birth Index Cards, 1866-1890
- USA, Pennsylvania, Carbon County, Jim Thorpe, Cemetery Records, 1747-2007
- USA, South Carolina, Colleton County Marriage Licenses, 1911-1951
- USA, Utah, World War I Service Questionnaires, 1914-1918 and World War I County Draft Board

Registers, Name Index, 1917-1918

USA, Wyoming, Reclaim the Records, State Archives Vital Records, 1908-1966

### **Ancestry**

- Cheshire Parish Registers
- Kent Parish register indexes
- USA, Boston, Massachusetts Archdiocese Roman Catholic Sacramental Records, 1789-1900

USA, U.S. Navy Muster Rolls, 1949-1963;

### **The Genealogist**

1697 to 1862 jailed for debt or bankruptcy.

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## WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM WILLS

Sometimes you can learn much more about your ancestors from their wills than from BMD certificates. Take my grandfather Henry, for example.

I never knew my grandfather Henry – he died before I was born – but I now feel I know quite a bit about the sort of person he was. I remember being told that he was an ardent tee-totaller who had fallen out with most of his family, and I think I can now see why.

It took me several years to piece together this part of the family tree. Like most researchers, I had the usual number of dead ends and false leads, but with the help of the tools now available on the internet together with time spent looking through electoral roll records I managed to put together the basic details of the family tree.

Then I discovered how to obtain copies of wills, and reading those wills was most illuminating.

Henry was born to Edward and Keziah about nine months after they married, and Henry was followed by two more boys, John and Matthew. On their marriage certificate, Edward is shown as a shoe maker, the same occupation as his father Henry and the same occupation as Keziah's father Walter. Keziah's brother and sister also worked in the leather trade, one as a saddler and one as a maker of other leather goods. No doubt Edward and Keziah met because their fathers both had the same trade.

Much to the disgust of his parents, Henry did not become another shoe maker. He was better with his brain than with his hands, and he became a pharmacist. John, the second son, did follow his father and grandfathers into the trade: I am still trying to find out about Matthew.

Edward's birth certificate shows his place of birth, which I have now found to be a Public House where his father was the Licensee. Edward's birth certificate shows his father's occupation as shoe maker, despite him being a publican. Further investigation (mainly through census records and birth certificates for Edward's siblings) shows that Henry Snr and his son Edward were both Master Craftsmen Cordwainers (boot makers) and they both spent time, intermittently, as publicans.

It looks highly probable that my grandfather Henry became tee-total because he saw what alcohol could do to people: it certainly brought his father Edward to an early death.

So, what about their wills? Edward's will shows that he died a wealthy man, owning not only his own residence but also a string of terraced houses which he rented out, as well as a shop and workshop where he made and sold boots and shoes. He left his entire estate to his second son, John: not a mention of his wife or their two other sons. Was this his way of showing his regret that only his son John had followed him into the family trade?

The next member of the family to die was Edward's wife, Keziah. This is the essence of her will.

- I appoint my son Matthew to be my sole executor.
  - I give ten pounds to Jean, the daughter of my son Henry.
  - I give ten pounds to Michael, the son of my son Henry.
- I give everything else to my son Matthew.

And then comes a most enlightening bit.

Unless either of my said sons, Henry or Matthew, raise any objection, I desire that my body be cremated. (*Not a mention of second son John in this at all*).

By this clause she appears to completely reject her second son, Edward, who had done so well out of his father's will, and also Edward's offspring who are not even mentioned.

Nicholas Smith  
Membership No: 1179

**THE MARCHANT FAMILY**  
**Millers of Cowden and Westerham**

I am descended from Joseph Marchant, miller, who married May Knight on 22 July 1695 at St Peter & St Paul, Lingfield, Surrey. I had always assumed that he was a Miller in Surrey at that time, But I have recently been sent the Will dated 17 August 1695 of Elizabeth Underhill of Lingfield. She leaves ten shillings to her cousin Ann Knight and ten shillings to her cousin Mary Marchant, wife of Joseph Marchant of Cowden, Kent.

His stay at Cowden did not last very long. In September 1700 he signed a 21 year lease for Hedgecourt Mill, Mill Lane, Felbridge, Surrey. It was a corn mill on a site on the Eden Brook, with earlier associations with ironmaking. It appears that the Marchant family remained at Hedgecourt Mill until 1783, when the lease passed to a John Simmons.

It was probably before this that Joseph Marchant's grandson, James Marchant (1740-1812) moved to Westerham, Kent. He married Ann Balcomb on 17 October 1771 at St Peter & St Paul, Lingfield. He may have remained at Hedgecourt Mill for the early years of his marriage. Ann Balcomb was to die prematurely, although the date of her death has not been established. What is known is that James Marchant married his second wife, Mary Marchant, by licence, on 20 January 1782 at St Mary the Virgin, Westerham. It is not known whether the bride and groom were related. Marchant is a French surname and it is particularly common in this part of Kent and nearby Surrey and Sussex. By 1782 James Marchant must have been living in Westerham between 1782 and 1804 as he served on the Grand Jury on seven occasions.

It is clear that the move to Westerham proved to be very profitable for James Marchant. His Will was proved on 3 March 1812. His wife Mary Marchant inherited £4,000 and the Malt House, two cottages, a barn, a stable and all other buildings. Other members of the family inherited, in total, a sum in excess of £4,000.

My ancestor, Ann Marchant (1773-1845), who was the daughter of Ann Balcomb, inherited £500. No record of the marriage of Thomas Turney and Ann Marchant has been found, it was only because both the Turney family and the Marchant family left Wills that the marriage between the two individuals was established. Wills are always an important source of information.

It is highly probable that the death of James Marchant brought an immediate end to the Marchant family's involvement with water milling in Westerham as both of James Marchant's sons died before their father.

James Marchant, miller of Westerham, married Elizabeth Francis on 4 February 1802; some of the Francis family were Gentry. His Will was proved on 24 April 1806. Both his children were daughters, Elizabeth Marchant and Mary Ann Marchant; and the latter was to die in January 1821 aged only 16 years. The other son was Joseph Marchant who died on 13 June 1807 aged only 20 years. There was, therefore, nobody to run the business.

NOTE: I think that it is fairly likely that the family originated in Withyham, East Sussex. Then there is a sitting in Cowden, Kent. For several generations the family was at Hedgecourt Mill, Mill Lane, Felbridge. Their stay in Westerham, Kent was quite a short duration compared with the lengthy association with Felbridge, Surrey

**SOURCES:**

The local History Society in Felbridge

Professional researcher in Surrey so, to a degree, I have been using secondary sources, whereas they have been using primary sources

Another source was Lionel Cole, who has conducted an enormous amount of research on villages in the Westerham area. It was Lionel who told me that some of the Francis family were Gentry.

Roger Sutton

Membership No. 1126

## WEBSITE UPDATES

### FindMyPast

- British Army Office widows Pensions forms 1755-1908
- England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920
- Gloucestershire, Bigland's Monumental Inscriptions
- Northumberland, Early Deeds Relating to Newcastle Upon Tyne, 1100-1600; Parish Registers of Alnham, Ceadnell, Chatton & Ilderton, 1688-1812; Parish Registers of Edlingham, 1658-1812; Parish Registers of Halton, 1654-1812 and Parish Registers of Ingram, 1682-1812.
- Nottinghamshire parish registers from the parishes of Gedling and Warsop, Archdeaconry Court Marriage Licences and Parish Register Transcripts from the Peculiar of Southwell, the history of the county and its highways and byways.
- Rutland Registers of North Luffenham, 1565-1832
- Somerset Will Abstracts
- Somerset Dwelly's Parish Records; Bishop's Transcripts from Wells Diocesan Registry, Parish Registers from Chipstable, Raddington, Kittisford, Pitcombe and Wilton, Wells Cathedral Monumental Inscriptions and Heraldry
- Surrey Feet of Fines 1558-1760
- West Surrey Baptisms
- Prerogative Court of Canterbury Administrations 1660-1700
- Scots-Irish In North America Histories
- Ireland, Alphabetical Indexes To The Townlands and Parishes 1851-1911
- Irish Tontines Annuitants 1766-1789
- Waterford Registers & Records
- American Fenian Brotherhood 1864-1897
- New York Catholic registers
- New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records 1636-1947
- New Jersey, County Naturalization Records 1749-1986
- New Jersey Death Index 1901-1903 Image Browse
- New Jersey Marriage Index 1901-1914 Image Browse
- New York, Buffalo Death Index 1852-1944
- New South Wales, Railway Employment Records
- New South Wales, Deceased Estate Files 1880-1923

### FamilySearch

- Ireland, Petty Sessions Court Registers, 1828-1912
- France, Brittany, Church and Civil Records, 1521-1896
- France, Dordogne, Church and Civil Registration, 1540-1896
- Germany, Bavaria, Diocese of Augsburg, Catholic Church Records, 1615-1930
- Germany, Baden, Archdiocese of Freiburg im Breisgau, Catholic Church Records, 1678-1930
- Germany, Rhineland, Diocese of Trier, Catholic Church Records, 1704-1957
- Italy, Terni, Narni, Civil Registration (Comune), 1861-1921
- Quebec, Quebec Federation of Genealogical Societies, Family Origins, 1621-1865
- USA, Georgia, Houston County, Marriage Records, 1832-2015
- Georgia, Fulton County Records from the Atlanta History Center, 1827-1955
- USA, Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936

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### **Ancestry**

- Ireland, Index to the Prerogative Court of Ireland Wills, 1536-1810
- Poland, Modliborzyce Ghetto Register Books, 1939-1944
- U.S., Evangelical Free Church of America, Swedish American Church Records, 1800-1946
- U.S., Evangelical Covenant Church, Swedish American Church Records, 1868-1970
- Casino, New South Wales, Australia, Hospital Admissions and Burial Records, 1913-1997
- New Zealand, World War I Service Records, 1914-1920

### **RootsIreland**

- Limerick records

### **TheGenealogist**

- Roll of honour for both WW1 and WW2 for Shetland
- Plaques and monuments in Bedford, Bolton, Lancashire, London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Warwickshire and even further afield.
- WW2 memorial from Calgary that names 227 aircrew from Australia and New Zealand who died while training in Canada.
- WW1 and WW2 war memorials from New York  
Boer War memorials

### **MyHeritage**

- Denmark Church Records, 1813-1919

## FELIXSTOWE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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**PLEASE NOTE:** All enquiries to be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope

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