

YE STYAN CHRONICLES-PART 10
THE GAME OF THE NAME

In fact, studying that name is proving to be quite a game. One of our readers pointed out that the Oxford English Dictionary listed "Styan" as a noun with its earliest form as "stizend" in c1000AD ('riser') and with various forms e.g. "staying" 1597 and "stian" 1601 - (a hard swelling on the eyelids). Variants "stigan, stizende etc" are listed and by 1440 a styvanne or styney (and other versions) was a "growth", "inflamed pimple among the eyelashes", or a "disease of the eyelids".

This prompted Your Chronicler (YC) to look further into the origins of the word "Styan" - since he had taken P.H. Reany's Dictionary of English Surnames as Gospel. A multitude of entries in other dictionaries was discovered, which more or less agreed with the O.E.D. and samples of which are shown later.

The recognised pronunciation (in Southern England) was given as 'St-eye-ern' rhyming with 'iron' but people from other regions may well wish to dispute this.

A whole shelf of books on family names at the Society of Genealogists ignored the name completely except one (apart from Reany) and that was H. Barber's "British Family Names". He says it is a Norse personal name meaning a stone. A couple of our readers have said they were told that the name Styan had Huguenot origins but YC has found no evidence to support that - and the current form of the name was in England before the main Huguenot immigration. Agreed that one spouse of a Styan had Huguenot descent and there's nothing to stop a name having more than one origin - though in this case it doesn't seem very likely. So what do you make of that? A Norse personal name, a stone or an eyesore? Perhaps somebody more academically minded than YC can resolve it. At least any association with pig-sties seems to be ruled out!

The Domesday Book (1086) lists only "Stigand" among persons holding land - and nobody appropriately named is listed as a Tenant-in-Chief or an Under Tenant.

If its any consolation to any Styans around who have a problem with explaining the name it is of considerably greater antiquity in our family than the name of a certain prominent family resident in London W.1. Both the names Windsor and Mountbatten were adopted in WW1 because their existing German family names did not go down well with a British population indoctrinated against anything German. Of course other less exalted mortals bore the name Windsor long before that time, but lets not be side-tracked. Going back to the subject of

Early Records.

the "Lay Subsidy Rolls" and Hearth Tax Returns of 1666 and 1672 for the "Wapentake of Claro" were scrutinised for any records of Styans. (A Wapentake corresponded to a "Hundred" in Yorkshire and Claro was the focal point for our own Styans). The 1666 Return yielded only ??? Styan - who was not able to pay! The Lay Subsidy Rolls had no Styans presumably because they ignored the hoi-polo, and neither did the 1672 Return - though this listed a number of unnamed people who were "excused by reason of poverty" and thats probably where our lot were. So that puts us in our place.

However the name persists for posterity because of that PANDA. Readers may recall that the Styan Panda is an almost

indistinguishable variant of the more common Red Panda, 1986 being the year of the Queen's visit to China most things Chinese have come into the spotlight. Firstly it appears uncertain whether pandas are bears or racoons and the experts are trying to resolve the matter - and secondly the continued human population explosion is causing encroachment on the remote Panda habitat (Great and Red varieties) and threatening them with extinction in the wild, and presumably that includes the poor old Styan model. Incidentally YC has his suspicions that the ones in San Diego Childrens Zoo may not be your genuine Styan Pandas at all but the ordinary Red ones. Anyway the name reached

North America

long before the panda got there and YC will now relate a brief history of the invasion of that continent by the Styans. Incidentally additional input from readers is always welcome, like has anybody checked the passenger manifest of the Mayflower? Anyway here are the results so far:

1852 John Styan. In 1879 administration of the estate of John Styan, bachelor, was granted to his sister Mrs. Elizabeth Dove, he having died some time after 1852 in Buffalo, USA. (He was born in Whitley in 1826 and appears to be cousin to Robert Styan who we'll come to in a minute).

1855 Thomas Styan. He was a widower of 100, Otter Street, Philadelphia who died on 4 Nov. 1855 and whose estate was administered by his son Thomas, tinplate worker of Manchester who also seems to have gone to USA. YC is currently researching this family which has so far not been linked to our own.

1880 Edward Styan. He went to America with his uncle in that year and was the son of Robert Styan farmer of Benningboro, Yorks who followed him to Illinois with the rest of the family the following Spring after his stock had been lost through Foot-and-Mouth Disease. He was the Robert mentioned a couple of paragraphs ago and also in an earlier Part of these Chronicles.

c1883 Mark Styan. A non-conformist minister (also mentioned in an earlier edition), he was born in Whitley in 1854 and emigrated some time after 1880 (his youngest child Reuben Mark was born in N.Y. State in 1888) subsequently going to Canada about 1907. His nephew Charles (born 1889 in Lincolnshire) went to Canada in 1902 and they both have descendants in Canada or USA.

1907 Family of William Styan. William died in a quarry accident in N. Yorks in 1898 and his widow and all but one of their many surviving children went to Canada several years later. His cousin Alfred's sons Arthur James and Charles Leopold Styan subsequently went to British Columbia where Leopold seems to have carried on a family tradition of naming streets after members of his family.

1926 Cyril Styan. A blacksmith (born Bedale, Yorks 1901) emigrated to Canada where his descendants live. His roots have not yet been linked with our own though his family has been traced back to the early 1800s in the Styan heartland.

Later Stvans (including cousins of YC) now live or have lived in N.America but we are getting a bit too close to the present for comfort.

The Cyril just mentioned has a niece living in Borobridge, Yorks and she along with one or two other readers sent YC the following advertisement:

Albert Victor Styan 1897-1984 was in fact descended from our main Family Tree and has many present-day descendants. YC has so far been unable to make contact with any of them and will not therefore elaborate on that branch at the present time.

There are though a couple of other lines which it is hoped will be of interest. The first is related to

one of our readers and centres on an interesting character called

JAMES STYAN 1800-1879

who was in fact Gt-gt-gt-gt-uncle to the reader (F) in question. His occupation and reproductive endurance are the points to note. YC's attention was first drawn to this particular Styan when his (YCs) brother produced a list of Styan names in 19th Century Trade Directories at Leeds Reference library in 1980. Research reveals that James (who lived in Leeds) was described as:

- A bonesetter in 1837
- A chymist in 1841
- A surgeon & druggist in 1849, 51.61 and 66
- A tooth extractor & druggist in 1851

and chemist thereafter. He married in about 1829 with a first child being born in 1830. His wife is thought to have died in 1851 and he married again in 1862 (to a lady 31 years his junior) and they had 2 further known children, the last in 1869 when he must have been nearly 70, and his eldest daughter is thought to have already been married for 16 years. His career spans the introduction of anaesthetics and antiseptics and YC wonders what qualifications he possessed. His descendants down to children born in 1982 have been identified but not yet contacted.

A grandson of his, Thomas Styan MM 1890-1973 (an elderly poppy seller) was mentioned in an earlier issue of these Chronicles but because he was known as 'Stan' YC was thrown off the trail.

It may be recalled that YCs brother who lives in the small Yorkshire town of Meltham discovered a line of Styans there when he chatted to a gentleman whilst they were walking their dogs. More recently when he went to the dentist the receptionist remarked that her grandmother was a Styan. It now transpires that this was the other branch of Styan known to have lived in Meltham and it is now

known that they are closely related to the Mark Styan branch mentioned above who emigrated in the 1880s.

If the reader is becoming bemused by the complexity of all these relationships - relax, the accompanying Tree reveals all.

And now for those definitions.

The Oxford English Dictionary

Styan (stai'an). Now dial. Forms: 1 stisend, 6 staying, 7 stian, 9 styan, stine, etc. (see Eng. Dial. Dict.). [OE. *stigend* (lit. 'riser'), agent-n. (related to *stigende* pres. ppic.) f. *stigan* STR v.1] = STR sb.4

21000 *Aeternic Gloss.* in W. Wülcher 111/10 *Oedolus stisend.* 1597 *Lon. Chirurg.* (1591) 163 *Hordelium.* In vulgar language, the Staying. 1601 *HOLLAND Pliny* xxviii. xi. ff. 372 A sovereigne liniment for the Stian or any other hard swelling in the eyelids. 1735 *ATSWORTH Lat. Dict.* *Hordelium.*... a little swelling in the eye-lids, like a barley corn; a stian, or stione. 1834 *De Quincey Autob. Sk. Wks.* 1833 f. 70, I knew that a *styan* (as it is called) upon the eyelid could be easily reduced... by the slight application of any golden trinket.

Styany (stai'ani). Now dial. Forms: 3 styania, 6 styonia, styonyz, 8-g styony, 9 styney, stino-eye, sty-on-eye, etc. (see Eng. Dial. Dict.). [(I. STYAN + EYE sb.); the etymological sense is therefore an eye with a 'styan' on it.] = STR sb.4

1344 *Pronk. Barr.* 1231 Styany yn the eye, *egilofa.* 1521 *Hutorz.* Styony, disease growing within the eye llydis, *styonis.* 1520 *Livius Manih.* 103/24 Ye styonie, *styonis.* 1572 *Hutorz* (ed. Higinz), Styony. 1706 *PULLIUS* (ed. Kersey), *Styony.*... a Disease in the Eye-lids. 1823 *Styney* (see STR sb.4). a 1823 *FORAN Vac. E. Anglia.* *Styony.* a small itching and inflamed pimple among the eye-lashes. 1881 *Littlerish. Gloss.* *Sty-on-eye.*

The Heritance Dictionary of the English Language

sty¹ (sti) n. pl. sties or styes. Inflammation of one or more sebaceous glands of an eyelid. [Obsolete *styan* (taken as *sty-on-eye*), Middle English *styanne*; *styan* (unattested), *sty*, "swelling," from Old English *stigend*, present participle of *stigan*, to rise (see *stioah-* in Appendix*) + *EYE*.]

Chambers 20th Cent. Dictionary

sty¹, *stye* st, n. a small inflamed swelling on the eyelid. [Obs. of dial. *stian*, *styan*—O.E. *stigend*, from *stigan*, to rise.]

Websters 3rd Internat. Dictionary

sty¹ or stye (st), n. a plication or styas (short for obs. E *styan*, fr. (assumed) ME *styan*, short. of OE *stigend*, fr. *stigan* to go up, rise); an inflamed swelling of a sebaceous gland at the margin of an eyelid

H. Barbers British Family Names

STYAN. M. Steinn (stone, firm); a p.n.

P.H. Reaney Dict. of Eng Surnames

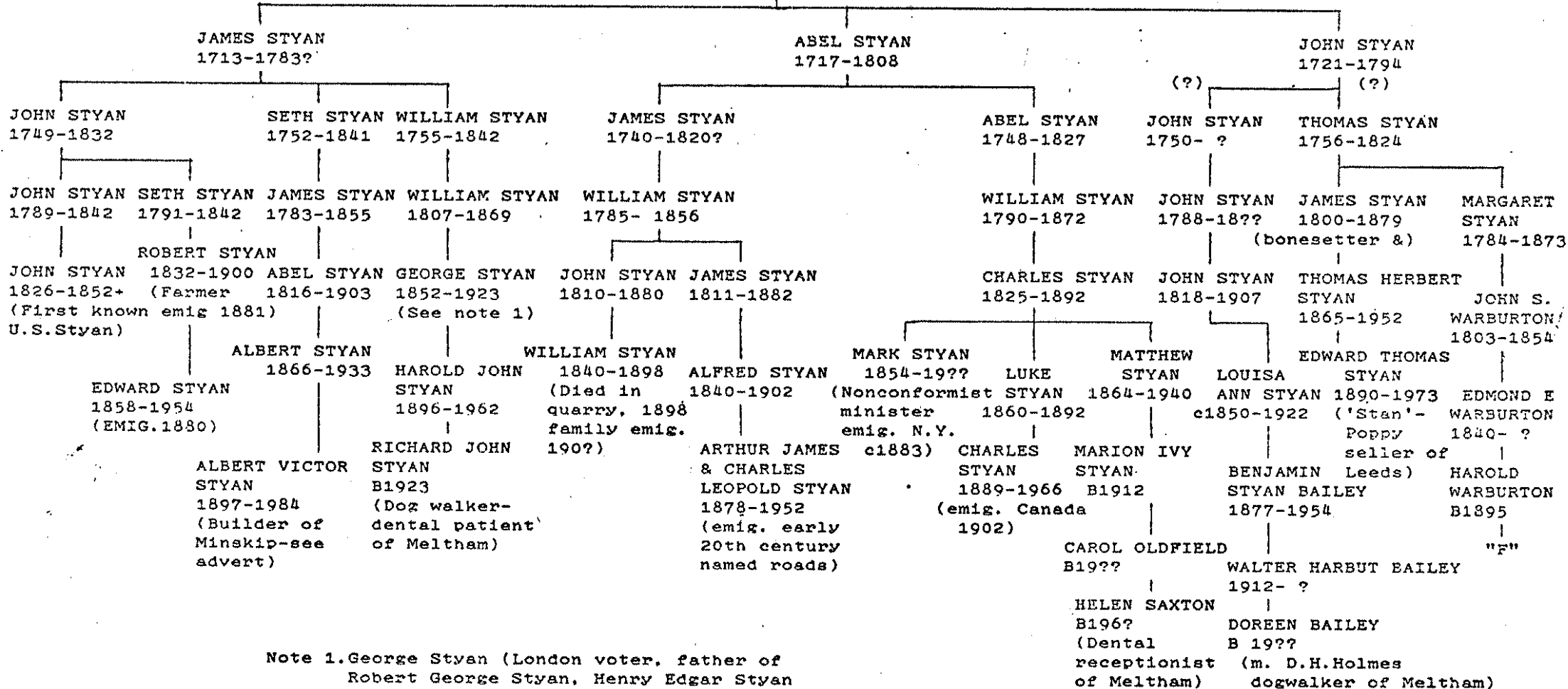
Styan, Styance, Styants: Robertus filius Stian 1230 P (W); Nicholas Stian 1275 RH (W); John Stian 1712 FrY. An Anglicizing of ON *Stigand*, v. STIGAND.

If you are not a 'London' Styan you will now have to bear with us because the rest is pretty domestic stuff. The electoral registers in the Greater London Record Office were checked to trace the movements of YCs more recent ancestors. They don't have any earlier lists than 1890 and of course women did not have the vote at that time. The following was found:

- 1892. 31. Exeter Street, Chelsea. George Styan. 3 rooms, 3rd floor. unfurnished, 6s per week.
- 1898 & 1899. 55. Kinnerton Street, Knightsbridge, George Styan, dwelling house
- 1902/3 (As 1899) plus lodgers: Henry Edgar Styan, back room, ground floor) Rent paid Robert George Styan do do do do) to Mrs. Styan, same address
- 1906/7 & 1907/8. 165. Lupus Street, Pimlico, George Styan, dwelling house. (Lodgers not listed)
- 1908/9 (As 1906/7) plus lodgers: Henry Edgar Styan, 1 room 2nd floor, furn.. rent £45pa same for Frederick Ormonde Styan & Alfred James Styan but rent £35pa.
- 1910/11 (As 1908/9 but Charles Styan replaces Alfred James) also lodger Louis J.B. Maguire, 3 rooms gd fir unfurn. rent 10/- pw. paid to Mr. Styan, same address.
- 1913/14 1. Westmorland Place, George Styan, dwelling house lodgers: Frederick Ormonde & Charles Edwin Styan.

at which place and time we start to come within living memory of some of our readers and is perhaps where we should stop.

JAMES STYAN
1684-1728



Note 1. George Styan (London voter, father of Robert George Styan, Henry Edgar Styan Alfred James Styan, Frederick Ormonde Styan, Charles Edwin Styan (also Louis Styan who was too young to vote in the timeframe) and father in-law of Louis J.B. Maguire).

TREE TO LINK PEOPLE MENTIONED IN PART 10 OF YE STYAN CHRONICLES