

YE STYAN CHRONICLES - PART 13  
"THE BAKER'S DOZEN"

Having reached the 13th Part of these Chronicles (the Baker's Dozen) it seemed appropriate to investigate Styan involvement in the baking business. That is a little more cheerful than making the thirteenth a bad luck number in which the major misfortunes of the Styans are catalogued.

In 1981 in Part 5 Your Chronicler (YC) recorded that his greatuncle had been a baker and that his son had been a true craftsman in the confectionery business, whose masterpieces included a massive cake for the Duke of Norfolk's 21st birthday. And there the Baking Project might have ended. (The reader may think 'Thank Goodness').

But - YC had heard tales from unexpected sources of a chain of baker's shops in Sheffield in the WW2 era. In 1989 YC decided to follow this up and dug into his archives on Styans generally, and then studied the Trade Directories for Sheffield. It was found that the firm of C.E.Styan had about 40 branches in Sheffield, Rotherham and Chesterfield in the 1960s. Eventually contact was made with members of the 'Sheffield Bakers' family and this is a part of their story. It can only be a part because the later events relate to people now living, or their close family, and that is not our business.

It all hinged on a man called JOHN THOMAS STYAN (1853-1934) who is first identified as a confectioner at 20 Sheaf Street, Heeley, Sheffield in 1876. However to get the story into chronological order we must go back several generations and for this the enclosed Family Tree is meant to be helpful.

This branch of the Styans stems from Elizabeth Styan, whose son MARTIN STYAN, was born in the Parish of Nidd in Yorkshire in 1755. Nidd is near Knaresborough, well within the traditional Styan breeding ground of that era. It has not been possible so far to trace Elizabeth's ancestry but it is probable that she belonged to one of the several known Styan family groups in that area.

Martin married in the same parish and his 8 known children were baptised in nearby Kirk Deighton - where he died in 1838. The second youngest was a boy THOMAS (1793-1876) who married and raised a family of at least 6 in the same parish. He was an agricultural worker and died in nearby Wetherby. So things had been pretty static, geographically, for over a century. That was about to change.

Thomas's second child was WILLIAM STYAN (1819-1878) and for some reason, as yet unknown, he became a Messenger at the Admiralty in London some time before 1852 and his four known children were all born in London (the first 3 in Chelsea). They were in fact living not far from YC's own Styan greatgrandfather - another migrant to London - from a nearby Yorkshire village.

What the messenger job entailed is not very clear. No record has been found of a government pension. By 1871 Thomas was back at Deighton, now described as a 'late Admiralty Messenger' and that's where he died in 1878 aged 59. It seems likely that he retired through ill health.

He left something under £1000 (in trust for his children) to his brother John (a coachman) and to his brother-in-law Charles Crooks (a sickle grinder. That's right - a sickle grinder). It looks as though that messenger job wasn't too bad.

These children were in fact aged 26, 24, 21 and 19 years old at the time. The 24-year old was our hero John Thomas. The others were his sisters. By 1875 John Thomas was already in Sheffield and at the age of 21 he married and his wife then bore him 3 children. She died in 1887 and he married her sister a few months later and had 5 more children. His two younger sisters both married in Sheffield in the early 1880s.

So to sum up so far, at 23 John Thomas is married with the first of his children born and he has a baker's shop in Sheffield. Whether or not he had help from his father in this business enterprise is not known. The shop moved several times but stabilised in 1884 and a second shop was added in 1888 and 2 more by 1893 at which time he was 40. Fortunes appear to have fluctuated because he was back to one shop in 1900.

The following year his eldest son Frank is shown as also having a confectioner's shop (he being then only 21). Frank married in 1905, but he is not listed as a shop proprietor again. He is known to have suffered from ill-health, which at some point forced him to retire from the baking business. This was also the case with the younger Styan baker (related to YC) mentioned at the beginning of this Part of Ye Chronicles. This suggests that there was an occupational health hazard associated with baking in those days.

About 1919, when he was 66, John Thomas tried to settle the business on his sons with Frank as the Master Baker and his younger son Charles Edgar as the business manager. Frank's health problem stopped this idea and a parting of the ways occurred. Frank died in 1924, aged 44. His wife Edith ran their own family shop from 1925 until 1936 and she died in 1950 aged 68. YC now corresponds with her branch of the family.

Meanwhile in 1921 a Mrs. Priestley took Charles Edgar into partnership at her shop in Sheffield initially on a 3 year contract, the terms being that if either of them died the business would revert to her estate. She subsequently changed it so that C.E. would get half and she died in May 1922 aged 44. The business was known as Priestley & Styan (Confectioners) and it ran until 1941/8 in parallel with his father's business. John Thomas (depicted on the next page) died in 1935.

Thus for 10 years there were 3 apparently separate confectionery businesses run by members of the same family in Sheffield. Some time between 1942 and 1948 Priestley & Styan

disappeared and by 1948 C.E.Styan Ltd is listed for the first time, initially with 2 shops. By this time Charles Edgar was 69 years old. The expansion was rapid, with 6 shops in 1954, 8 in 1957, 11 in 1961, 16 in 1963, 20 in 1965, 23 in 1966, 41 in 1968 (at which time C.E. was 79). Throughout this time the company was reputed to take great pride in the quality of its products.

The number of shops decreased after that and none are listed by 1975. What happened is none of our business either. By this time Charles Edgar had retired to Scarborough where he died in 1982 aged 93. He had married in 1917 and had a twin son and daughter Peter and Mary who survived him. His wife Eleanor had predeceased him dying in Scarborough in 1952. Just how the business was being run in the latter years is not known.

A story that can be related more freely is that of a determined lady called Margaret Warburton (nee Styan). YC knows that it is OK to publish it because her Great-great-great-granddaughter recently won a prize in "Family Tree" magazine for an article on the subject entitled "Margaret - A Genealogist Obsessed".

Its about a MARGARET STYAN (1784-1873) but we can only give a brief precis here. The second of a large family born in Bardsey, Yorks, Margaret was employed as a dressmaker in Manchester (which for non-UK readers is in Lancashire). At 19 she married 21-year old Adam Warburton by licence in 1803. Her husband died 10 years later, leaving her with 2 surviving children. Following various family movements an event occurred in 1849 (when she was 65) which dominated the rest of her life. She found that her late husband's greatuncle's wife had left what then amounted to about £3000 unclaimed since her death in India in 1767!

The lengths to which Margaret had to go to prove no prior claim, the slowness of mail between England and India whilst doing this, the lack of modern genealogical search aids or apparent legal



advice to help her (an ordinary Victorian widowed housewife) leaves YC breathless. Regrettably by 1873 when she died aged 89 the matter was still unresolved. It probably still is. Margaret's problems are contrasted graphically with present day facilities by an event which was only made known to YC as these notes were being put together.

One of our number in British Columbia announced to YC a few weeks ago that he was going to New Zealand on business and did YC know any Styans there. The answer was that YC did not, but that he knew of someone in Australia who had Styan relatives in NZ. Our enterprising Canadian took it from there and established during this visit the first known link between westbound and eastbound Styan emigrant families from UK.

YC reckons that the New Zealander (a lady) is the Canadian's 8th cousin, that is, they share a 7xgreat grandfather! If the reader is really keen and looks at the Family Tree in Part 12 of the Chronicles the relationship can be identified because the Canadian is greatgrandson of Charles Leopold Styan (1878-1953) and the lady is gt-gt granddaughter of Francis Styan (1820-?). Charles Leopold (who featured in Part 12) was the son of ALFRED STYAN who developed Whitley Bay. Here is Alfred photographed probably in the 1870s. Charles Leopold was one of 4 Styans known to have enlisted for short service in the Boer War and they were all whisked off to South Africa with a minimum of training.

Ironically, the only Styan known to have enlisted as a Regular during the Boer War was never sent overseas at all. He was GEORGE WILLIAM STYAN (1881-1948), son of John Styan the coachman who we met a page or two back holding his brother's bequest in trust.

George William was thus first cousin to baker John Thomas. He served in the Northumberland Fusiliers from 1900-1907 making corporal in 1902 and sergeant in 1904. He did 5 years on the Reserve. There is no record of him re-enlisting in WW1. But back to our globe-trotting Canadian for a moment. His branch of the Styans are planning a reunion, several of which they have had in the past. A member of another Canadian branch (from the other side of Canada) got together with some of them a few months ago and has suggested a sort of World-Wide Styan Jamboree. Somebody thought Yorkshire might be a good venue!

Anyway, if anybody has ideas on the subject (and more important would like to organise it) YC is happy to help in putting people in touch. If such an event ever takes place a large cake would seem to be needed. Are there any bakers amongst the Styans?



ELIZABETH STYAN

KGS.23/9/89

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MARTIN STYAN = Mary Hardisty

Bp 20/11/1755(Nidd) :

M.28/10/1778 (Nidd) : (Both of this Parish)

Bur. 29/11/1838 (Kirk Deighton)(Abode Goldsbrough) : ?Bur 3/4/1831 Age 79?  
Age 84

Elizabeth Sarah Mary William Ann Mathew Ann  
(Bp 24/9/1780) (Bp 25/5/1783) (Bp 11/12/1785) (Bp 18/5/1788) (Bp 25/4/1790) (Bp 15/7/1792) (Bp 29/6/1796)  
(Ingmanthorpe) (Ingmanthorpe) (Ingmanthorpe) (Ingmanthorpe) (Ingmanthorpe) (Ingmanthorpe) (Kirk Deighton)  
(Bur 23/9/1792) (Ingmanthorpe) (?Bur 30/10/1869)  
(Age 72)

THOMAS = Ann Greenwood  
(Bp 30/11/1793) (Ingmanthorpe) : (B Walshford c1797)  
(M 20/2/1819) (Kirk Deighton) : (D before 1871)  
(D 1876 (Wetherby)Age 82:  
Gardener

Hannah WILLIAM = Eliza Milner John Mary Ann Thomas (?Ann?or Jane = Thos.Neale  
(Bp 28/1/1816) (Bp 5/9/1819) : (Bp 13/1/1822) (Bp 29/6/1824) (Bp 25/2/1827) (Bp27/8/1830)  
(Kirk Deighton) (N. Deighton) : (N. Deighton) (N. Deighton) (N.Deighton) (Kirk Deighton)  
(M? ) : ?Bur 11/8/1853 (M.4/9/1852)  
( ? ) : (N.Deighton) (N.Deighton)  
(Age 26)

D.20/5/1878 N. Deighton  
Admiralty Messenger

Sarah Ann Mary Jane Elizabeth Alice  
(B 19/3/1852) : B. 1856 Chelsea B. 1858/9 Westminster  
37 Smith St.Chelsea) : ?M.1883 Sheffield M. 1880 Sheffield

Lucy Ann Burkinshaw (1)= JOHN THOMAS =(2) Eva Burkinshaw  
B. c1854 : B. 19/12/1853 Chelsea : B.c1863  
M. 1875 Sheffield : D. 2/12/1934 Sheffield : M. 1888 Eccleshall B.  
D. 1887 Eccleshall B. : Age 80  
Age 34 : Baker

Florence Laura Frank White = Alice Maud Lilian Eva Beatrice  
B. 1876 Eccleshall B. : B. 1881 Eccleshall B. : B. 1891 B.1893 B.1896  
M. 1897 Eccleshall B. : M. 1902 Eccleshall B. : M. 1915 D.1960 D.1917  
Age 67 Age 20

FRANK = Edith Loukes CHARLES EDGAR = Eleanor May Wheeler Colin Craven = Mabel  
B. 1879 Eccleshall B. B. c1882 B.28/5/1889 Eccleshall B. B.c1885 B. 1899  
M. 1905 Eccleshall B. D. 1950 Sheffield M.1917 Leeds D. 1952 Scarborough M. 1922  
D. 1924 Wortley Age 44 D.1982 Scarborough Age 67