

YE STYAN CHRONICLES - PART 18

BITS AND PIECES

Your Chronicler (YC) has called this little effort Bits & Pieces because that's what it is: just odd items about Styans which may say more about them as people than a lot of dry old family trees. In fact his sister-in-law sometimes asks when a new issue appears "Is there any juice?". Well, possibly just a little this time.

But first the observant reader might ask "Why is this Part 18 and not Part 17 as we had Part 16 last year?". Good question.

The answer is that there were two Part 16s because last year YC managed to forget that he had already done a Part 16 the previous year. Are you already confused and we haven't started yet? Anyway, to get down to business:

The 1994 STYAN RALLY

You may recall that a gathering in the south of England was suggested for 1994 for those who missed the Rally in 1993. The bad news is that only 3 people expressed an interest (and nobody -including YC- volunteered to run it). Also our Australian cousin who hoped to come over this year had to postpone his visit. Result - no gathering. That is the Bad News. The Good News is that for anybody wishing to attend one in Canada in 1995 some details are attached. All you have to do is get to the middle of Canada at the required time.

The Aussie cousin (Greg Styan) who couldn't make it, did get to a gathering in New South Wales in 1982. That was the Golden Wedding of his grandparents Alfred and Olief Styan and they're all pictured below i.e:

Alf & Olief,

Dau Nancy, husband Brian & children Kevin, Carolyn, Rosemarie and Janine

Son Ron & wife Yvonne with children Gregory, Gary & Rosslyn

Son Robert & wife Nelsa with children Keiran and Donovan

Son Barry



And now for something completely different.

THE END OF THE RAINBOW.

Whilst one of our readers was delving into his family roots in the depths of darkest Yorkshire recently he discovered the actual farmhouse where they were living a hundred years ago (Village Farm, Bilton Lane, Starbeck, Harrogate).

Nearby was another farm (Longlands Farm) where another member of that family had been tenant. In 1916 or thereabouts he died (or retired and died soon after) and another tenant moved in. In the 1930s a Mr. D--n moved in and purchased the farm in 1948. His son now lives there. On the farm was an earlier farmhouse which YC understands was then in ruins.

The younger Mr. D--n (who is in his 60s) reports that when his father took over he was told by an old farmhand who used to help Mr. Styan on the milk round that Mr. Styan was a miser with no dependants and that he had a pot of gold sovereigns. He said that Mr. Styan told him that "what he had made from the land he would return to the land when his time was near".

Mr. D--n believes that this refers to the Pot of Gold and that it is buried somewhere on his farm. He had a special metal scan done around the farm buildings with electronic equipment in search of the treasure and had the old farmhouse flattened brick by brick to no avail. It now transpires that the old building which YC understands Mr. D--n thought had been occupied by Mr. Styan was in fact replaced by the present house in 1873 before the Styans got there.

Our reader tells YC that any money going probably got back into his family living nearby, but from Mr. D--n's recent correspondence he still seems to believe that there really is a Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow.

In attempting to help that reader with his research YC came across someone called Francis Styan possibly in the same family group who seems to have been

A BIT OF A LAD.

He married in 1846 and the 1851 Census Returns shows him to be a 30 year-old groom and jockey with a 23 year old wife Mary and son Thomas 3, and daughter Emma 11 months. They were living in Tower Street, Bilton, Yorks.

The 1861 Census adds son Alfred then aged 6. In 1871 he is still in Tower Street but now he is a 50 year old labourer and his wife is listed as 26 year old Sarah Styan and he has added to the family a 1 year old Esther Styan and 4 month old Frank.

In 1881 he is described as a 60 year old WIDOWED porter living at 6 Belford Row, Bilton and Sarah is now described as his 38 year old UNMARRIED housekeeper named Sarah Hustwick. Young Esther has become 11 year old Esther Styan Hustwick, Frank is now 10 year old Frank Styan Hustwick and 7 year old Amelia Styan Hustwick and 2 year old Mary Styan Hustwick have arrived.

Later that year a Francis Styan was married and the 1891 Census shows them still at the same address but he is now a 70 year old 'invalid', Sarah is his 47 year old wife and all the previous children have gone except Mary (who is now 12 and the Hustwick has been dropped from her name). Three more children have arrived - 7 year old son William Styan, 7 year old daughter Sara Styan and 9 month old daughter Florrie.

He died in December of that year aged 71. So son Thomas was born in 1848, daughter Florrie in 1890 and then he was only dismissed by death. Not a bad innings. First wife Mary is thought to have died in 1868 aged 41; Sarah bore him a daughter in 1869 and is politely described as his wife in 1871 but not in 1881 although he did get around to marrying her 10 years later. Not very different from things today!

ANOTHER STYAN STREET.

Many years ago YC's cousin told him that there was a Styan Street in Lancashire and he had actually photographed the nameplate but the picture had then gone astray; was YC interested in doing a bit of research on this? Not much to go on.

Later the town of Fleetwood was mentioned by somebody and now with the aid of local archives the story has emerged. It isn't very interesting. The town of Fleetwood was founded in 1836 by Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood as a lung at the seaside for the workers in the Lancashire towns that had sprung up during the Industrial Revolution. It was located on the family estates which he had inherited and was formerly a rabbit warren.

A small port was created to give the residents work in the off-season. To attract the visitors to Fleetwood he was instrumental in the construction of the Preston & Wyre Railway. Unfortunately his philanthropic motives resulted in the dissipation of his own fortune.

In the 1860s larger docks were required but he died in 1866 and negotiations continued on behalf of his Estate by its Trustees, Messrs Simpson, Pickering & Styan, a legal practice of Lincoln's Inn, London. In 1869 the sole survivor of the practice Mr. Harry Smith Styan cut the first sod for the construction of the new dock but he was not present at the opening 18 years later. YC has been unable to discover when Styan Street was built or so named but it seems to have been some time in the 1880s. Why he was so honoured is not known.

Harry Smith Styan was in fact a solicitor born c1820 the son of Tea Merchant Thomas Styan and he appears to have conducted most of his family's legal business including the execution of his mother's Will in 1868 valued at £35,000.

He died in 1907 apparently with little fortune. It is unclear if he ever married as there was another Harry Smith Styan, solicitor, variously identified as his nephew or once as his son.

He was the uncle of Frederick William Styan (another bachelor) after whom Styan's Panda was named in 1902. The reader may recall that this was a particular sub-species of the previously known Red Panda and which he

discovered in the Sze-chuen Province of China in 1897. A recent television programme "The Natural World" indicated that

ALL PANDAS ARE NOW ENDANGERED SPECIES.

That is to say there are only about 1000 Giant Pandas in 6 isolated populations left in the wild (all in China) and an estimated 2000 Red Pandas. Since this presumably includes the even more rare Styan's Panda YC would not be surprised if the subspecies is now extinct in the wild. A few may remain in captivity in China.

Whilst on the subject of foreign parts, readers are reminded that there is an airfield at St Yan in France. The legendary Group Captain Pickard flew 5 agents with luggage there in a Lockheed Hudson during the German occupation. To land there in the dark with such a large aircraft aided only by 2 small flares was a major feat of airmanship.

Pickard held 3 DSOs and 1 DFC and was later killed whilst leading the famous low level raid on Amiens jail when many French Resistance fighters under sentence of death escaped.

Talking of decorations, one of our number, previously mentioned for his work in the field of education received the OBE in the 1993 New Year's Honours Lists. Congratulations.

Less eminent but just as important to the Styan Historian are several Styans mentioned in a little book called

"VICTORIAN OUSEBURN - GEORGE WHITEHEAD'S JOURNAL".

This was brought to YC's attention by one of our readers and contains much detail of the goings-on in Little Ouseburn, Yorks from about 1836 to 1908. George Whitehead (1824-1914) was a cabinet maker, wheelwright, builder, possibly blacksmith, part-time farmer, Assistant Overseer of the Poor and Reading Room Secretary. But his journals contain gossip which extends beyond Little Ouseburn to the surrounding area including Whixley. (Perhaps it is uncharitable of YC to think that he might have been a bit of a busybody).

One item which particularly enlightened YC was this:

"John Walker came over from America in Nov. 1851 & married Eliza Styan of Whixley Feb. 7 1852 & went back to America (wife & all)". Now she was YC's grandfather's cousin and YC has never been able to find out what happened to her because the Whixley Parish register describes John Walker as "of this Parish" and was assumed to be a local man.

Other titbits include:

"George Styan came to live at Ouseburn Nov 1 1840"

"George Styan left Little Ouseburn Oct 11 1842"

"John Styan (Johnny's son) Whixley & William Pullen (Nany's son) Whixley set off to America Mar. 19 1849. Both young men".

"Clark & Farnell sold the Star Inn to Seth Styan of Whixley Mar. 30 for about £300. He gave it up 1855".

"James Styan of Whixley (Doctor) died Dec.9 1856".
(YC knows of nobody fitting this description).

"Alfred Styan & Mrs. Binks(both) Whixley married Apl. 17 1861".
'Mrs. Binks alias Mrs. Styan is leaving the farm March 1863".

"Alfred Styan sale at Whixley he left there and went to a Public House at Coatham May Day 1864".

"William & John Styan sale at Whixley Mar 29 1881. They have left farm & Robert Gardham took it Lady Day 1881".

"Thomas Styan sold his farming stock & implements Nov.3 1882 he is giving up farming. He has a new house built for himself just out of the top end of Whixley. Went into it back end of 1882".

"James Joseph Cass came to Tommy Styan's farm Whixley 1883".

"- Taylor of Minskip killed by lightening Aug 11th 1884. He married Louisa Styan daughter of Abel". (YC assumes that this was before he was killed by lightning).

"Alfred Styan (Abel's son) left Ouseburn for America Apl. 25th 1887".

"John Wrightson flitted from Henry Barker house to one this side of Chapel joining Styans. June 7th.1888".

"Albert Styan began to run a bus from Great Ouseburn to meet certain trains. Oct 10th or 11th 1900. (He soon finished)".

There are numerous mentions of births, marriages and deaths as well. It seems to YC that putting it all together would make an interesting project for some aspiring Styan Family Historian. YC is not volunteering as he has enough to do getting his existing records in order for posterity.

Regarding Whixley the reader who tracked down his ancestral home at Bilton sent YC a copy of a map of the area with placenames as they were in the Domesday Book. Whixley was then Chrucheslage. It might confuse the Post Office if letters are now addressed that way even if you use the Postcode.

FINALLY

Occasionally people tell YC things they have discovered about Styans that YC had already researched some years previously and had reported in these 'Chronicles'. That is clearly a duplication of effort.

He therefore thought it would be a GOOD IDEA to produce an index of topics in previous numbers for next year's issue and then in the unlikely event of anybody wanting Parts that they had missed he could supply them.

At the moment that is an objective and not a promise. Readers will have to wait a year to find out if it comes to pass.

PS YC now has his own bit of Styan History having become grandad to his 7th grandchild in 1994 but his first bearing the Styan surname.

KGS 11.94

STYAN GATHERING 1995

Come join in the Strasbourg, Sask.
area on July 21, 22, 23, 1995
for a celebration of our families.

Tours, a picnic and informal banquet
are some tentative plans.

Remember your presence in '95

will make this a great gathering for one and all.

A reply letter is attached for your convenience.

Your planning committee

Mr. Art Smith
Box 602
Strasbourg, Sask.
S0G 4V0
(306) 725-3786

Greg and Adele Coutts
Box 35
Bulyea, Sask.
S0G 0L0
(306) 725-4926

Ken and Lorna Mackenzie
14 Bodinwell Cres.
Regina, Sask.
S4R 5W5
(306) 545-1200

This is a miniature replica of a notice (less pictures) that has been sent separately to some readers. Anybody who missed out and wishes to attend contact Lorna Mackenzie. Address above.

Please reply as soon as possible.

- Will be there. Number in party _____. Awaiting more information.
 Hope to come. Number in party _____. Awaiting more information.
 Unable to attend. Please advise of future gatherings.

Names of persons attending 13 years and over as of 1995:

Names of persons attending 12 years and under as of 1995:

This information will help in establishing the individual cost of attending.

Please provide us with the name of your Styan parent or grandparent so we may find your place on the Styan family tree: _____

We would welcome additional ideas and suggestions.

Accommodation choices below for your consideration:

1. Rowan's Leavine Provincial Park. 9 miles west of Bulyea, Sk. Park admittance fee, electric sites/ 12.00/night, cabins/approx. 30.00/night. Call planning committee to hold site (Marina, mini golf, laundry, showers)
2. Royal Hotel, Box 33, Strasbourg, Sk. S0G 4V0 ph: 306-725-3630. Two person/night - 30.00.
3. Craven Motor Inn, Box 117, Craven, Sk. S0G 0W0 ph: 306-721-3455. Two person/night - 28.00.
4. 7 Oaks Motor Inn, 777 Albert St., Regina, Sk. S4R 2P6 Toll free: 1-800-667-8063. Waterslide/pool. Family - 59.00, Single - 56.00. Taxes not included.

All have restaurant on site.