

YE STYAN CHRONICLES

PART FOUR - STYANS ANCIENT AND MODERN

THE STORY SO FAR

In the best traditions of serials the reader is reminded of the main theme of previous episodes. This is particularly necessary in the case of these Chronicles because they appear very infrequently (about once a year) and when they do the tale they tell is not a coherent chronological narrative but a hotch-potch of loosely linked information. So where did we get to?

In Part 1 we traced what was known of our ancestor WILLIAM STYAN who came to London in 1827 from Whixley in Yorkshire to enlist in the 2nd Life Guards, and from whom a whole dynasty has sprung.

In Part 2 the most likely ancestor of many readers - ROBERT ASHBEE gun-powder manufacturer was introduced. This probably gave rise to more questions than it answered.

In Part 3 the origins of the name STYAN were discussed and some of our female antecedents were briefly mentioned, particularly the pedigree of William (Life Guards) Styan's wife SARAH SMITH. A few anecdotes about other fortunate bearers of our exclusive surname were also related - but more of this later.

However, information continues to emerge which renders each part obsolete before it is read. In fact to set the scene for this present offering an updated extract from a part of our Family Tree follows, focused on William (Life Guards) Styan.

	WILLIAM STYAN	Farmer of Whixley	Baptised 17.11.1755		
			Died 9.10.1842		
(Regular soldier- 2nd Life Guards)	WILLIAM STYAN	Bapt. 22.2.1807	Married SARAH SMITH 1.4.1841		
			Died 19.3.1869		
	WILLIAM	JAMES	ELIZABETH ANN	ROBERT (TYNE)	GEORGE
Born	1840	1844	25.8.1845	20.11.1849	2.9.1852
Married	20.3.1870	Not marr.	11.11.1894	10.2.1883	12.3.1876
Died	1892	20.12.1880	1927	13.4.1926	27.5.1923
Children	5	0	0	5	11
Grandchildren	7	0	0	3	21
Great grandchildren	8	0	0	3	32
Gt. Gt. Grandchildren	2+	0	0	2+	38+

As at
Oct.1980

WHAT PART 4 IS ALL ABOUT

It has always been your chronicler's primary aim to trace back our common roots as far as documented history will permit. There is the pitfall. The STYAN's of Whixley do not feature prominently in the records of our ancestral

village - which appears to have been dominated by the "Tancred Charities" for ages up to the mid 1800's. The approach has therefore been to consolidate all known facts before probing deeper into the unknown - to an extent that might not have been necessary in other circumstances.

These known facts tell us something about STYANS generally now and their habitat in bygone days. This then is the subject of this little essay.

WHAT IS KNOWN

With a little patience the following information was gathered from which it was hoped to draw some conclusions:

- (1) All STYANS in the 1978 U.K. Telephone Directories.
- (2) All STYAN Births, Deaths and Marriages Registered in England and Wales since Civil Registration was instituted in September 1837 up to and including 1978.
- (3) All STYANS living in the Parish of Whixley (Yorks) in the Censuses of 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 (these being the only ones at present available to the public.)
- (4) All STYANS living within a radius of 15 miles from Whixley in 1841.
- (5) All STYAN Wills and Administrations Indexed at Somerset House as proved from 1858 to 1975. The actual content of the Wills themselves was regarded by your researcher as too private to be seen, only the details in the freely available indexes being recorded.

Many STYANS in the Whixley Parish Register prior to 1812 had already been recorded but in acquiring this new information we were coming close to breaking the Golden Rule not to pry into the personal lives of contemporaries, which by any standards would be regarded as impertinent. It is therefore hoped that sufficient discretion was exercised to avoid giving offence. However, by good luck and as an unexpected bonus to this research a small reunion took place between descendants of William and George (eldest and youngest sons of William (Life Guards) STYAN) after an interval of over 60 years during which contact had been lost. Anyway, the intention is not to boast about work done but to give information, so here goes.

1978

In 1978 there were 67 STYANS listed in the U.K. Telephone Directory plus 4 firms with that name. Of these 67, 10 have been positively identified as descendants of William (Life Guards) STYAN. The guess was made that something like one person in 9 of the population was listed in the telephone book assuming that 1 family in 3 is listed and that the average family size was 3. This would have made 576 STYANS living in U.K. in 1978. In the event this proved to be an over-estimate. Of more interest is their geographical distribution. Yorkshire - predictably - took the honours with 25 (or 37%), most of whom were in the old West Riding. (Some were 'our' STYANS who had moved back from London. Lancashire had 9 (13%), Far Northern English Counties 2 (3%), Midlands and East Anglia 11 (16%), London 4 (6%), South East 8 (12%) and South West 6 (9%). The reader will be relieved to know that no STYANS were listed in Northern Ireland - and none in Wales either - or the Isle of Man for that matter. One is listed in Scotland and one on the Isle of Wight.

Of the 4 firms listed 2 were haulage contractors and 2 were builders, one of them with 8 branches in Chesterfield and Sheffield.

Despite the increased mobility of the 20th Century a predominance in what turned out to be the traditional STYAN stamping grounds was still discernible.

CIVIL REGISTRATION is a more accurate pointer to STYANs generally, however. Only Births, Deaths and Marriages in England and Wales have been checked and these have yielded some interesting statistics. Interesting to your chronicler that is.

From 1837 to 1978 the following totals were recorded:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Births	407	409
Marriages	301	290
Deaths	312	308

To obtain these figures involved consulting about 1712 heavy index volumes. Having only just stated that only England and Wales were involved it is now necessary to correct that because the following were also listed: War Deaths- Boer War, WW1, WW2. Service and Diplomatic Births, Deaths and Marriages Overseas and at sea and in the air.

Not surprisingly there were no 'non-War' events listed for STYAN in the air. There was only one Service Birth (in Londonderry in 1890) and no Diplomatic Birth. There was one Diplomatic Marriage (in Singapore in 1971) and no Service Marriage. There was one Diplomatic Death (in Kuala Lumpur in 1971 - one of our own STYANs) and one Service Death at sea (a soldier apparently en route to the Boer War). There were no Boer War Deaths, 3 WW1 Other Ranks Deaths (one of them ours) and no WW2 War Deaths. Nobody named STYAN is recorded as dying at War whilst holding the King's Commission. There were no Births or Marriages at sea and that concludes this minor digression from our main theme.

If we now assume that all Births increase the number of living STYANs and all Deaths decrease them it is clear that the number of STYANs living has increased substantially since 1837. If we also assume that each male Marriage adds a STYAN (his new wife) to the total, whilst each female Marriage subtracts one (she takes another name) then we find that the approximate number of STYANs in England and Wales has increased by 208 since 1837. Of course this ignores emigrations, divorces, clerical errors and the like, which could account for up to, say, 10% error.

The most interesting thing is that the age of people at Death is listed in the indexes of Deaths starting in 1866. Using this information it is possible to estimate the number of STYANs living in that year, and then the number living in England and Wales in any other year. This amounts to

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1837	90	78	168
1866	114	101	215
1978	185	191	376 - well below the 578 estimated using telephone directories!

From an estimated population of 48.6 million (England and Wales only) this makes 1 person in 130,000 a STYAN.

LIFE and DEATH

The age at Death also reveals the appalling infant mortality rate in the Nineteenth Century - and its virtual elimination in modern times. That is to say, from 1871 to 1900 of 241 STYAN Births, 32 died before the age of 1, presumably mostly at birth or shortly after, representing about 1 in 8 births. There were a total of 107 STYAN deaths in the same period, so the 32 aged less than 1 year represent about 1 in 3.

From 1931 to 1978 of 195 STYAN Births only 1 died before the age of 1 - a dramatic reduction. On the brighter side Mrs. FRANCES SARAH STYAN of Ben Craig, Sevenoaks died on 29th July 1924 aged 101. She is the only known STYAN centenarian. If we consider slightly less ambitious longevity, then from 1871 to 1900 37 STYANs died aged 71 or over out of a total of 147 (25%) compared with 108 out of a total of 195 from 1931 to 1978 making 55%. These figures do not separate out married women who were not STYANs at birth.

This type of change is of course not exclusive to STYANs.

Turning from death to birth, of 296 Births since 1912, 7 were fairly clearly illegitimate which seems to be lower than the national average.

Of Marriages since 1912 (when the surname of the spouse was first listed in the indexes) there were 2 cases of both parties being named STYAN - and in both of these the couple appear to have been previously married to each other! Whether they had been divorced or had doubts about the validity of the original marriage is not known and its not our business anyway.

Taking the same data an analysis of

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

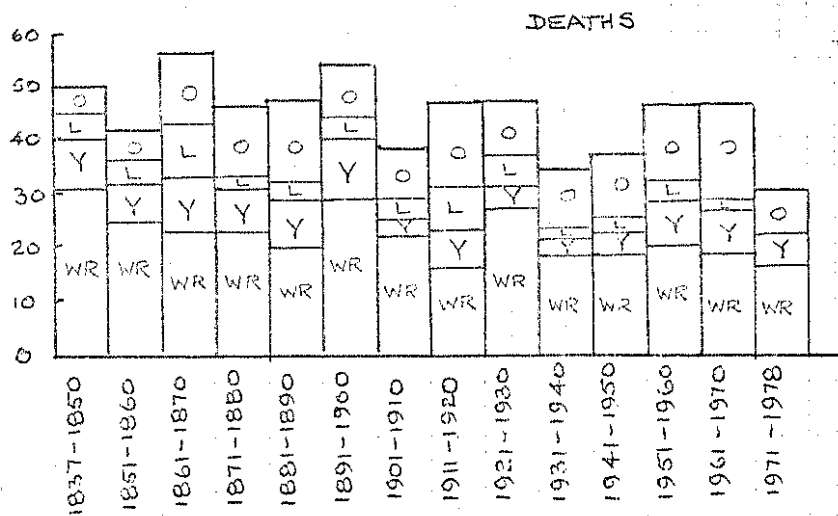
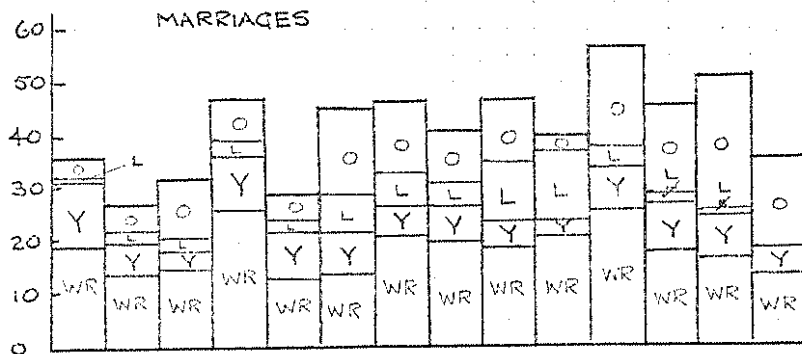
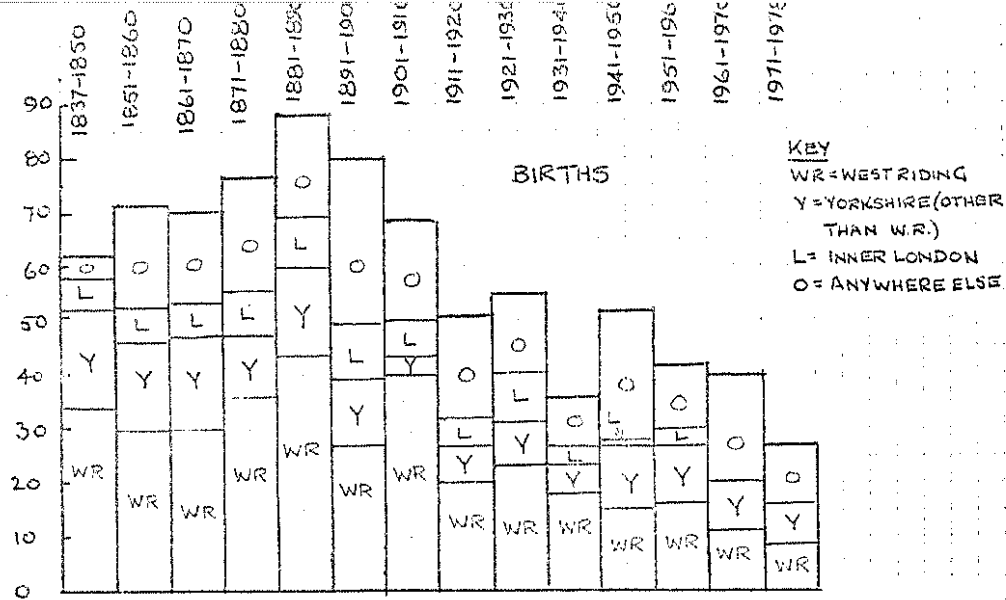
was made which is summarised in the table on the next page. (The scale on the left-hand side of the table is the number of Births, Marriages and Deaths that were registered in each ten year period).

It will be seen that the bits marked 'WR' and 'Y', which together constitute Yorkshire predominated in the early years - and they still do for Deaths, but have dropped very significantly for Births. In other words the old people have remained in the old tribal territory while the young ones have moved on to pastures new to breed.

Births outside Yorkshire have remained more constant and the rise in population of STYANs whilst the birthrate has declined steadily from 1881 is accounted for by the increase in average age. (If the reader is having difficulty in following the reasoning, take heart and skip this bit because it doesn't really matter and we'll get on to something different in a moment). The table has been simplified in that 'O' represents all those regions of England and Wales outside Yorkshire and Inner London which were listed separately when the Telephone Directory was being discussed. The reader will have to take the writer's word for it that some agreement can be seen in the regional distribution found in the Telephone Directory and in the Registration indexes. One striking difference is the absence of registered events in Inner London in recent years - particularly births.

In fact 'our' STYANs (that is the descendants of WILLIAM (Life Guards) STYAN) account for about half the Births and Marriages of STYANs in Inner London. Only 2 other family groups are clearly discernible in the area and they all now seem to have dispersed.

Meanwhile the STYANs in the West Riding soldier on - perhaps in reduced numbers and definitely with greyer hair, and we now concentrate on the area around Whixley which was where this part of the Chronicles started in the first place.



One final digression though. By studying the dates and numbers of Births, Marriages and Deaths in each Registration District a fair idea of the migrations and numbers and sizes of families can be estimated. As an example a family group appeared at Ecclesall Bridge in Birmingham in the 1870's, had 11 births between then and 1900, 9 marriages between 1881 and 1911, but mainly in the early 1900's - and 5 deaths from 1911 to 1930 after which they disappeared from the records.

A similar thing occurred at Tynemouth, in rather larger numbers peaking in the 1890's. Many examples of this type exist. However Leeds and York have a high numerical and constant list of registered STYAN events from the earliest days but dropping off in the mid- and late 20th Century. Leyburn in North West Yorkshire is also fairly consistent (though on a smaller scale) up until 1950 when the registrations suddenly stopped.

The prize must however go to Knaresborough. Whixley was originally in the Knaresboro Registration District, which had by far the most numerous registered events of all. In 1855 the Registration District of Great Cuseburn was created which embraced Whixley, whereupon the incidence of Registrations in Knaresboro dropped off significantly. In 1947 Whixley came within yet a further new Registration District known as Claro whereupon Registrations in both Knaresboro and Great Cuseburn ceased. The STYAN Registrations in Claro more than compensate for this, however.

One thing of interest - if we study a map of Northern England we find that many STYANs were located along a line centred on the River Ure, through Wensleydale down to York and spilling over into the North Riding. In fact it is because of the spreading of families into neighbouring areas that the search for STYANs in 1841 is fairly widely spread in the neighbourhood of Whixley. Regrettably, it has had to be limited to a radius of 15 miles for the time being because this just excludes Leeds. Although it is known that a significant number of STYANs were living in Leeds at the time (some of them believed to be ours) it had a population of 150,000 at the time and to search through the Census Returns of a city of that size is a major undertaking in its own right. And so back to Whixley yet again.....

The CENSUS RETURNS for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 were scrutinized for an infestation of STYANs and in 1841 there were 5 families of STYANs found to be living in the Parish of Whixley. One of these was the family from which William of the Life Guards came, one is almost definitely that of his Uncle Seth and the other 3 have yet to have any link established. If a slightly wider sweep is taken we find STYANs living with other families (as lodgers, with -in laws, etc), and these are included in the following table which gives totals within circles of 5, 10 and 15 miles radius from the centre of Whixley Parish. The 5 mile circle takes in Harrogate and Knaresboro and part of the Western suburbs of York. The 10 mile circle includes Wetherby, Ripon and the majority of the area around York and the 15 mile circle goes well past York into the East Riding as well as biting deep into the West and North Ridings to cover such places as Thirsk, Harewood and Topcliffe. Only people named STYAN are listed below although the family actually may contain members such as married daughters and grandchildren who therefore bear a different surname.

	Male	Female	Total	Families	STYANs living with other Families
Whixley Parish	15	14	29	5	0
5 Mile Radius	29	27	56	11	2
10 Mile Radius	47	33	80	18	5
15 Mile Radius	54	40	94	22	8
Estimated Population (England & Wales)	88	82	170	?	?

N.B. These totals are cumulative, not additive

Apart from pointing out that nearly half the STYANs in the country were living within 10 miles of Whixley in 1841 it is not the intention to analyse these particular statistics any further in this Part of the Chronicles. The information is, however used to trace the progress of certain individuals to whom we are related. One of them is

RICHARD STYAN

the younger brother of WILLIAM (of the Life Guards). His particular claim to fame is that he is the last close relative to ourselves to have survived in Whixley - or at least the last one that we have discovered so far. He survived until March 1895. His known history is as follows:

- 1810 Baptised Whixley.
6. 6.1841 (Census).Thornaby Mill, Thornaby. Farmer, age 30 living in household of Luke Plummer, 60, Farmer. At this time Richard's father was still alive and living at Whixley.
30. 3.1851 (Census).Whixley (no address listed).Farm Labourer, age 41, unmarried living with widowed mother (described as 'Annuitant') and nieces ELIZA STYAN and MARY JANE WALKER. More is known of these two girls of whom more, perhaps, in a later Part of these Chronicles.
12. 5.1856 Whixley. Labourer ('full age'). Married ELIZABETH BROWN (Spinster-'full age') daughter of Thomas Brown, Farmer of Green Hammerton - a neighbouring township within the Parish of Whixley.
7. 4.1861 (Census).Whixley (no address listed).Agricultural Labourer, age 50, Head of Household. Living with wife ELIZABETH, age 50, and widowed mother (described as 'Fund Holder'). Nobody else in household.
2. 4.1871 (Census).Whixley (still no address listed). Agricultural Labourer, age 60, married, Head of Household. Living with wife ELIZABETH age 61. (His mother had died in 1866).
24. 2.1890 Wife died age 80 at Walshford R.S.D. (whatever that is). Occupation still Agricultural Labourer although he was now 80 years old. Death registered by WILLIAM BUCKLE, son-in-law. When she married RICHARD she was 46 years old so how she acquired a son-in-law is something we needn't go into.
5. 3.1895 Died. Age 85,(Domestic Gardener) at Walshford R.S.D. Registered by R. BUCKLE.
4. 4.1895 Will proved at Wakefield. £62.12.6. Probate to Mary Buckle, wife of WILLIAM BUCKLE. This may be a Will that we could be excused for perusing.

The Census Returns also give us a lot of information about old Uncle SETH's family, which coupled with the Wills and Registrations suggest that we might soon trace their present day descendants. They would be 4th or 5th cousins to most readers.

One thing that your Chronicler is sometimes asked is "Is there any money in the family?". Without disclosing any confidences the answer is "There are no Millionaires". There was however a well heeled family group in London about 100 years ago and in 1868 widow ELIZABETH STYAN of Norfolk Crescent, Hyde Park left something approaching £35,000 which to our own poverty-stricken forbears would have seemed like a million. The reader is left to estimate its present

day value. There is no evidence to connect that family with our own STYANs.

The reader may recall that we started with an extract of our own Family Tree and seem to have wandered a bit from the point. So let's get back there.

WILLIAM (Life Guards) STYAN has produced so far 142 descendants (check it for yourself from the Table if you like).Of these the vast majority no longer bear the name of STYAN. 106 of these descendants are alive today (October 1980) including 5 of his grandchildren who are all aged over 80.

Of the 106 only 18 are still named STYAN. We can of course add living spouses (7) making 25 STYANs in all. However, 5 of these STYANs are not living in Britain, so for the statistically minded (and you will have to have been to make sense of this little lot) of the 376 STYANs in England and Wales in 1978, 20 of them were in our family or 1 in 19. A pretty useless bit of information like this next bit with which we will conclude.

OTHER NAMES

During the course of recording the STYAN Registrations a note was made of other names starting STY... which might possibly be misspellings of our own name. Some proved to be clearly completely separate e.g. STYNES, whilst others such as the single Marriage of a STYANO could well be a clerical error. A League Table of these other names was produced which lists the total numbers of Registered events and a simplified version of this follows:

665	STYNES
340	STYMAN
218	STYANTS
154	STYANT
130	STYRAN
92	STYNE
86	STYANCE
13	STYANS
8	STYRIN
3	STYMANS, STYRON
2	STYAM, STYAR, STYEMAN, STYN, STYEN, STYON
1	STYALES, STYANCES, STYANE, STYANES, STYANO, STYANTES, STYANTO, STYBAN, STYHR, STYLANCE, STYING, STYMES, STYMON, STYEN, STYON, STYMAN, STYNS, STYER, STYRANTS, STYREN, STYANTI, STYRING,STYRNE, STYRON.

In fact, just to stress a point, one of our own STYANs is listed in one of the Census Returns as STYNE. You just can't win.