

"FROM LITTLE ACORNS"

First, however the links between the various branches need to be shown. This is best done in the traditional way, with a Family Tree extract as follows:

Your chronicler is almost overwhelmed by the profusion of growth of his Family Tree since last reporting progress a year ago. Although he has only pushed back the frontiers one more generation historically, an abundance of new branches and twigs have emerged revealing modern distant (and not so distant) Styan relatives.

Whilst these revelations get him all worked up, your chronicler acknowledges that they may leave some of his readers cold and he regards it as a challenge to present this new (and he believes in some cases hitherto unknown) information in a way that will excite his reader's interest.

An extensive Family Tree is a difficult thing to describe in a simple way because its roots spread widely whilst its branches spread at an equally rapid rate and the common interest of any two people on it can be very limited. That is why only the Styan element of our common heritage can be featured in these Chronicles and if that aspect is of little interest to the reader then your chronicler says with regret "Hard luck" and "Please file this in the nearest waste paper basket". If in fact you find it all a bore no offence will be taken by your saying so and no further unsolicited literature of this type will drop through your letterbox.

Assuming that you have not in fact disposed of this in the way suggested above the exciting revelations are about to begin. But first there is one thing your chronicler will say. He has met in the last few years quite a few Styans (many of whom he didn't know existed until recently) and he thinks without exception that you are all very nice people!

WHIXLEY AGAIN

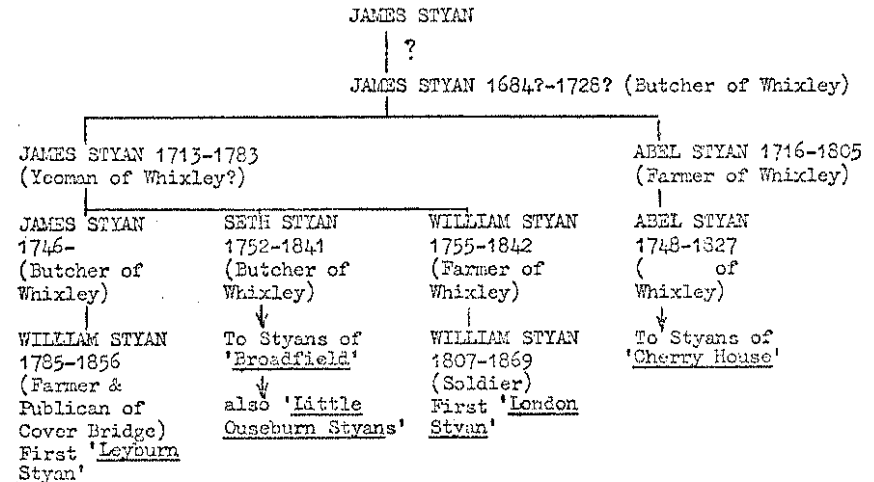
If you have read previous Parts of these Chronicles you may recall that the Yorkshire village of Whixley was geographically a focal point in our history. If you are a newcomer to the story then you will find that all routes (roots) in our Family Tree lead there. Whilst other Styans lived only a few miles away, and Family Trees for some of them have been produced, there is no evidence yet to show common ancestry. There are a few tantalising hints which suggest that

there could be connections and if this could be verified it would make the whole thing more interesting. However, the temptation to embroider, or even fabricate facts has to be rigorously resisted.

The Roads Divide

All Styans with whom this Part of the Chronicles is concerned descend with near certainty from a JAMES STYAN (baptised at Whixley, 24.10.1684) who had several sons and four of these have been identified. They are JAMES, ABEL, WILLIAM and JOHN. Sons James (bapt. 1.12.1713) and Abel (bapt. 26.8.1715) produced families from which we all descend. Although many of their modern descendants have not yet been identified there are several groups which are known and which survive today. These will be described as the London Styans, the Leyburn Styans and the Whixley Styans.

Your chronicler is a 'London Styan' and these Chronicles have so far concentrated on this branch. Since some of the recipients of this Part of the Chronicles are not 'London Styans' the challenge to reconcile conflicting interests is met by dividing this little essay into clearly separate sections, of which the first concentrates on the more parochial interests of your chronicler's more immediate family. It is hoped that all Styans may in fact find some interest in all sections, but if this is not to your taste then just skip the bits you don't want to know about and you will not incur any penalty points, nor will you lose the thread of your part of the story.

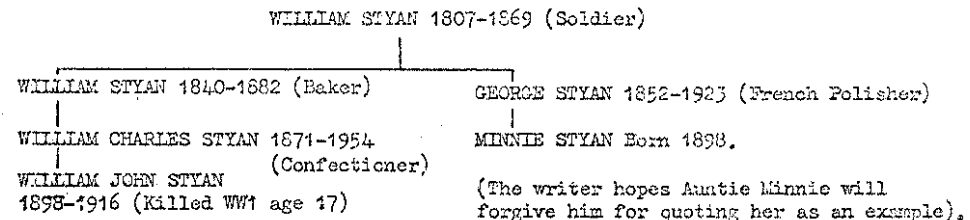


Most of these Styans had brothers and sisters who had families. Only branches mentioned above are featured in this Part of these Chronicles. (The term 'Butcher' probably denoted a cattle farmer and not a purveyor of meat in the modern sense, by the way) -and all your chronicler can hope to do at the present time is to recount a few anecdotes on some of the characters he has encountered in his researches - picking some ripe fruit from the Family Tree as it were. Anyway to get on with it...

THE LONDON STYANS

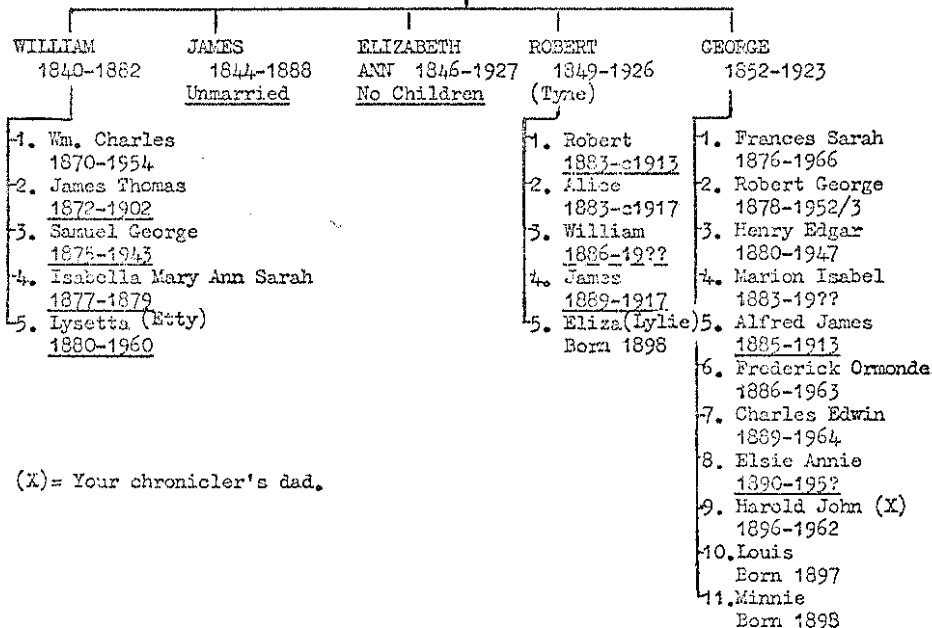
As a brief resumé you may recall that William Styan (Soldier), imprudently enlisted in the 2nd Life Guards in York in 1827 and not only did he spend the rest of his life in London but he founded a thriving family of Styans including those descendants who adopted the name 'Tyne'.

The present aim is to clarify the relationships between some of the present day members of this branch which your chronicler believes have become somewhat obscured by the mists of time. In particular, because of the wide age differences between the first-born and last-born in some families it has become easy for a complete generation to get omitted when trying to relate two individuals of similar age. As an example William John Styan (1898-1916) was a greatgrandson of William Styan (Soldier) but Minnie Styan (later Talbot) also born in 1898 is a granddaughter. Their lines of descent are:



Anyway, know-all that he is, your chronicler takes it upon himself to put his relatives right upon a few points. First then, more of the same tree:

WILLIAM STYAN 1807-1869



(X) = Your chronicler's dad.

The people underlined had no children-leaving the others to carry on the line.

If we take the most SENIOR LINE

first, then William Styan (1840-1882, hereinafter described as Wm 2) had only one child (Wm Chas) who in turn had children. He had two sons, William John who died so tragically in 1916 and Thomas Edgar Walter (born 1916). Tom now lives in Essex and has two sons David (born 1943) and Peter. David is thus 'heir apparent' of the 'London Styans'.

Catering

Wm 2 was a baker. His son Wm Chas had an artistic bent but his father died when he was 12 and he had to go to work to earn his crust. He worked at one time in the bakery of the Robertson family (of Golliwog fame, and with whom he had family connections) when they were still small-timers with premises in Chelsea. By coincidence his first wife's surname was Baker.

His artistry was given its head when he iced the Duke of Norfolk's 21st Birthday Cake, which had 21 tiers and was said to be 21 feet high! He had a photograph of it for many years. (That would have been the Duke who died recently, and as of course you know the Duke of Norfolk is hereditary Earl Marshal of England).

He also rescued the Festival of Britain from disaster in 1951 by providing them with the secret of how to make the original Chelsea Buns. (Its the bits not in the cookbook that make all the difference).

However, baking was not good for his health and he eventually turned from this to the building industry.

Horses

The 1880's was a time when the Styans admired racehorses. Wm Chas had a younger sister in 1880 whom his father (Wm 2) had named 'Lysetta' after a famous racehorse of the time. She was given the nickname 'Etty'.

Etty worked for a Mrs. Cresswell, a friend of Queen Marie of Yugoslavia and on occasion helped to look after her sons (then Crown Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej) who were at school in England. In this capacity she appeared on the front page of the 'Daily Sketch' on 26th July 1938. The fate of Balkan monarchies was however about to take a turn for the worse.

But that was not the end of the racehorse saga for Wm 2's youngest brother George named one of his sons 'Ormonde' after the winner of the 1886 Derby. Ormonde was trained by John Porter who had the rare distinction of training 7 Derby winners. Ormonde was the first horse ever recorded with odds of 100 to 1 ON (in the Champion Stakes 14th October 1886, 3 runners). Mention of

Yugoslavia

brings to mind another branch of our family with whom contact has been a bit spasmodic in recent years. Referring to the Tree on page 3 we find Wm 2's brother Robert whose surname became recognised as 'Tyne' on his enlistment into the Grenadier Guards in 1868.

His younger daughter Eliza (Lylie) lives in Belgrade being the widow of Blazo Kovacevic whose family originated in Montenegro on the Adriatic Coast. Apparently Blazo's father was a sea captain who was captured by the Turks and enslaved about the end of the 19th Century for about 14 years, but became a favourite of the Sultan because of his wide knowledge of languages. In just what circumstances he was released is unclear, but his talent for languages has been inherited by some of his present-day descendants. Your chronicler is a trifle bemused.

Robert's elder daughter Alice had two children - Alice and Joe, and your chronicler recently had the pleasure of meeting Alice - apparently the first Styan to do so in living memory. Her married name is Braithwaite and this year she became a grandmother (to Karen Michelle Braithwaite). Anyway the London Styans have had their share of the limelight and it is now the

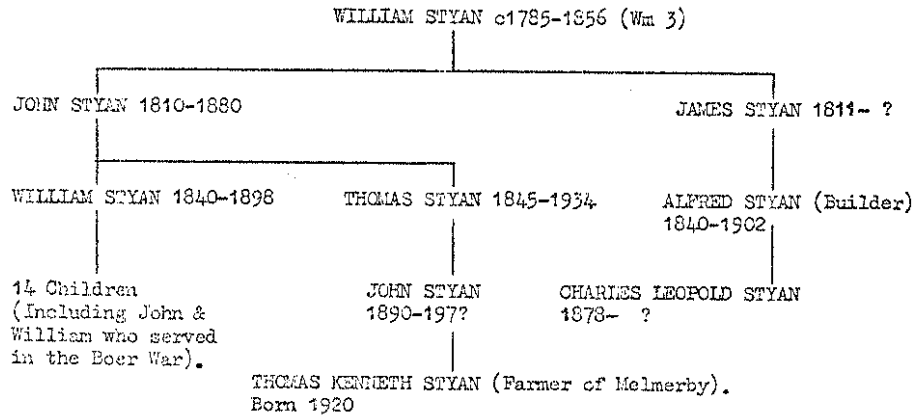
LEYBURN STYANS'

turn. If we refer to the Tree on page 2 it will be seen that after a succession of 4 James's we come to William Styan 1785-1856 (hereinafter described as Wm 3 and first cousin of William Styan (Soldier)).

Wm 3 left Whixley some time prior to 1809 by which time he was tenant of the Cover Bridge Inn in North Yorkshire. At some time after 1816 he was at the Forrester's Arms, Coverbridge and this was his residence when he died.

Of his 7 children, 8 or more grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren and their present-day offspring no all male line exists to perpetuate the Styan surname in England after the present generation although a strong branch is understood to survive abroad but has yet to be researched.

There are, however some Styan stories to tell and of Wm 3's 7 children 2 provide descendants featuring in these Chronicles. These are his two eldest sons John (1810-1880) and James (1811- ?). To make it easier to follow, here is a further fragment of the Family Tree:



The Boer War

John's eldest son William had 14 children. Two of them, John (B 1877) and William (B 1881) served in the Boer War. This last William (call him Wm 4) is still alive (or was a few months ago) aged 100 and resident in Saskatchewan, Canada. On 30th May 1981 the final reunion of Boer War veterans was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, at which time there were only 14 known survivors, (the oldest 2 being 103 years old). They probably didn't know about Wm 4, and he is therefore one of a distinguished band of old gentlemen.

There is a terrible irony for while Wm 4 is one of the longest survivors his brother John was one of the shortest. In fact at the very moment that Wm 4 arrived home from the war a telegraph boy delivered a telegram announcing his brother's death at sea on the way home. John had delayed his return from South Africa to view the prospects of farming there and had died from natural causes.

Their father had died in 1898 when he fell into a quarry at night and after the war, in the early 1900's all the surviving family emigrated to Canada except one daughter named Miriam. She married a Mr. Richards in 1917 and her son is in fact a business colleague of one of our London Styans. It was quite by chance that it was discovered this year that they are 4th cousins once removed.

Melmerby

Ken Styan is a farmer at Melmerby in Coverdale, North Yorkshire and is first cousin once removed to the family who emigrated to Canada. His family have lived in the same general area of Yorkshire that his great-great-grandfather went to over 170 years ago. Your chronicler was particularly pleased to visit him, being the first time he has met another Ken.

Whitley Bay

Going back to Wm 3 at the top of this page, reference was made to his second son James. His son Alfred became a builder at Whitley Bay near Tynemouth and named one of the streets STYAN AVENUE. His son Leopold was another emigrant to Canada where in Victoria he built a STYAN ROAD. The Leyburn Styans may not be leaving many sons of that name in England but they have certainly perpetuated it in a more tangible way.

THE WHIXLEY STYANS

And so we return once more to Whixley and need to refer again to the tree at the top of page 2. Although Styans appear in Whixley Parish Registers as far back as 1609 the picture is very fragmented until the early 1700's when things "jell" and all but a few Styans can be fitted into one massive Family Tree of which page 2 is a significant part. By ignoring the lines on the page 2 tree already discussed under 'the London Styans' and 'the Leyburn Styans' we have two lines left - those of Seth(1752-1841) and Abel(1716-1805). Both these lines survived in Whixley into the 20th Century, and Abel's is still there.

The present head of this family is Charles Styan who was born at Cherry House, Whixley in 1915 and has lived there to this very day. Cherry trees were very numerous in Whixley in times past and the annual Cherry Feast was an important event in the local Calendar. None of the trees survive today and an attempt is being made to re-establish them. But that is another story.

The other line descends from Seth, who was Wm(Soldier)'s uncle. His son Seth (born 1795) was a farmer of some substance in the village and a Pillar of the Church to which he presented a stained glass window in 1868. His eldest son Thomas carried on after him, living in a large house named 'Broadfield' until he died childless in 1905, to be survived by his widow who died there in 1927. One of his brothers (John) became a brewer at Burton-on-Trent- a most praiseworthy move.

The Red Herring

Another branch of Seth's line moved to nearby Little Ouseburn where they survived until 1946. Another family of Styans also lived at Little Ouseburn at the same time, and one of their daughters married a Whixley man and came to live in the village. But this family originated in nearby Newton-upon-Ouse, not Whixley, and they have Styan relatives living in Illinois, USA. One of our own Styans has met them but your chronicler has yet to identify a common heritage. That is the next challenge.

AN INDEX

Has this got you confused? Your chronicler will try to help out by listing how all the people mentioned in this part of the Chronicles are related to himself, and they also bear the same relationship to his cousins Wink, Bob, Peter, John, Mabel, Maisie and brother Richard. (In Maisie's case ignore the reference to Mimmie as 'Aunt').

Amount of Same

	Blood*	Branch	Relationship	Name (and additional identification where needed)
*	London	Aunt		Mimmie
†	London	Grandfather		George
		Great Uncle/Aunt		Wm 2, James(1844), Elizabeth Ann, Robert(Tyne).
		Cousin(once removed)		Wm Chas, Eddy, Eliza(Lylie), Alice(1833).
		2nd Cousin		Wm John, Thos, E.W., Alice(Braithwaite).
‡	London	Great G'father		Wm(Soldier).
		2nd Cous, 1xremoved.		Peter, David.
1/16	Whixley	Gt.Gt.G'father		Wm(1755).
		Gt.Gt.Uncle		James(1746), Seth(1752).
		Cous. 3xremoved.		Seth(1795-Church window),
	Leyburn	do.		Wm 3
		2nd.Cous., 2xrem'd.		John(1810), James(1811)
	Whixley	do.		Thos(Broadfield), John(Brewer)
	London	do.		Karen Michelle (Braithwaite).
	Leyburn	3rd.Cous., 1xrem'd.		Wm(Quarry), Thos(1845).
		4th.Cous.		Wm 4, John(Boer War), Leopold, Miriam,
1/32	Whixley	3xGt.Grandfather		James(1713)
		4xGt.Uncle		Abel(1716)
		Cous., 4xrem'd.		Abel(1748)
	Leyburn	4th.Cous., 1xrem'd.		Thos, Kenneth
	Whixley	5th.Cous.		Charles (Cherry House).
1/64	Whixley	4xGt.Grandfather		James(1684?)
1/128	Whixley	5xGt.Grandfather		?James?