

MAKING A NAME FOR THEMSELVES

Owing to Your Chronicler's indisposition for much of the year very little of the intended research took place, but some interesting information was received in correspondence with other Styans and this forms the basis for this Part of these Chronicles. There is nothing new directly concerned with Your Chronicler's immediate family but it is hoped that the information will be of interest to Styans generally. Most of it concerns Styans who distinguished themselves in some way - or made a name for themselves - though it is Your Chronicler's contention that all Styans have a perfectly adequate name already.

It has been the practice to cloak contemporaries in anonymity to avoid embarrassment, so such people as the former "Fell Runner of the Year" and the recent member of the Canadian Men's National Alpine Ski Team will have their blushes spared. However one exception is about to be made (uniquely we hope).

HAROLD STYAN (1895-1982) was born near Knaresborough, Yorks and served as a drill sergeant in the First World War. Shortly after that he became a Physical Training Teacher at Grosvenor House School near Harrogate, in which capacity he continued for 62 years. The school claim this as a record. He died aged 87 only a few months after retirement. One Canadian branch of Styans believe he was related to them but this has so far not been verified. He appears to have been the son of Alfred Styan (1854-1916) who lived his whole life in the Knaresborough locality.

Another Yorkshire Styan was architect GEORGE STYAN (c1823-1900) some-time City Surveyor of York. He was responsible for much of the late 19th Century municipal building work in that historic city including the restoration work on the ancient City Walls and part of the construction of the Skeldergate Bridge.

He became Clerk to the Surveyor in 1854 (at £70 p.a.) and by 1860 was earning £100 pa when it was realised that the small print of building contracts allowed him "1½% for furnishing quantities to contractors". Thus he had been paid 100 guineas for the Lendal Bridge contract and smaller amounts for earlier projects. Although this commission was customary in Architects Offices the City Council were scandalised at its apparently covert payment to a Public Servant and Mr. Styan tendered his resignation.

However this and other insinuations of corruption were successfully refuted and on the death of the incumbent in 1869 he succeeded to the post of Surveyor with the full approbation of the Council and a salary of £300 pa later raised to £400. He retired in 1887 through ill-health with a retainer of £100 pa for life as Consulting Surveyor. He died in 1900 leaving a widow Annie. Nothing else is yet known of his family and no positive connection with any other Styans has yet been established.

One mystery is the whereabouts of a plaque recording the completion of one of his projects and apparently naming him. Several correspondents have reported seeing it in the past yet nobody has been able to confirm where it is and what it says. One correspondent reports that at one end of one of the bridges (popularly known as the 'Blue Bridge') is a tower used as a private dwelling house which was occupied by a Styan relative of his as recently as a couple of decades ago. This correspondent is related with almost absolute certainty to the Styans of Sadorus, Illinois. There is therefore a very high degree of probability that he is related to Your Chronicler's own branch of Styans. He also pointed out that his aunt (born a Styan) has lived for many years only 2 miles from Your Chronicler and a meeting was duly arranged. If Your Chronicler's suppositions are correct she is his fourth cousin once removed.

What has been authenticated is the genealogy of

FREDERICK WILLIAM STYAN (1858-1934)

a noted Zoologist. Investigation into his history was triggered by one of your Chronicler's distant Canadian cousins whose curiosity was aroused by the donation of a Red Panda to San Diego Zoo by one F.W.Styan.

She (the cousin) instituted correspondence with the Zoo to find out more about him, and subsequently with the British Museum (Natural History) in London. This was later followed up by your Chronicler.

He (F.W.Styan) was an authority on the birds of China at about the turn of the Century and to a lesser extent on mammals also. He added substantially to the West's knowledge on these subjects and supplied the Natural History Museum with specimens of at least 138 birds and over 200 mammals. The original letter from the Museum said 182 mammals but on checking their records this seems to be an underestimate. The discovery of several of the mammals is attributed to him and at least 4 are named after him:

Ailurus Fulgens Styani	-a red panda
Chimarrogale Styani	-a shrew
Callosciurus Erythraeus Styani	-a squirrel
Heleriscuirus Styani	-another squirrel

F.W.Styan was a tea merchant who spent many years in China and his correspondence with the Museum relating to mammals dates from 1895 until 1903 -all of it from Shanghai. He retired for health reasons shortly after that and lived the rest of his life at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Stone Street near Sevenoaks, Kent to which area his family had removed from London some 10 to 15 years previously.

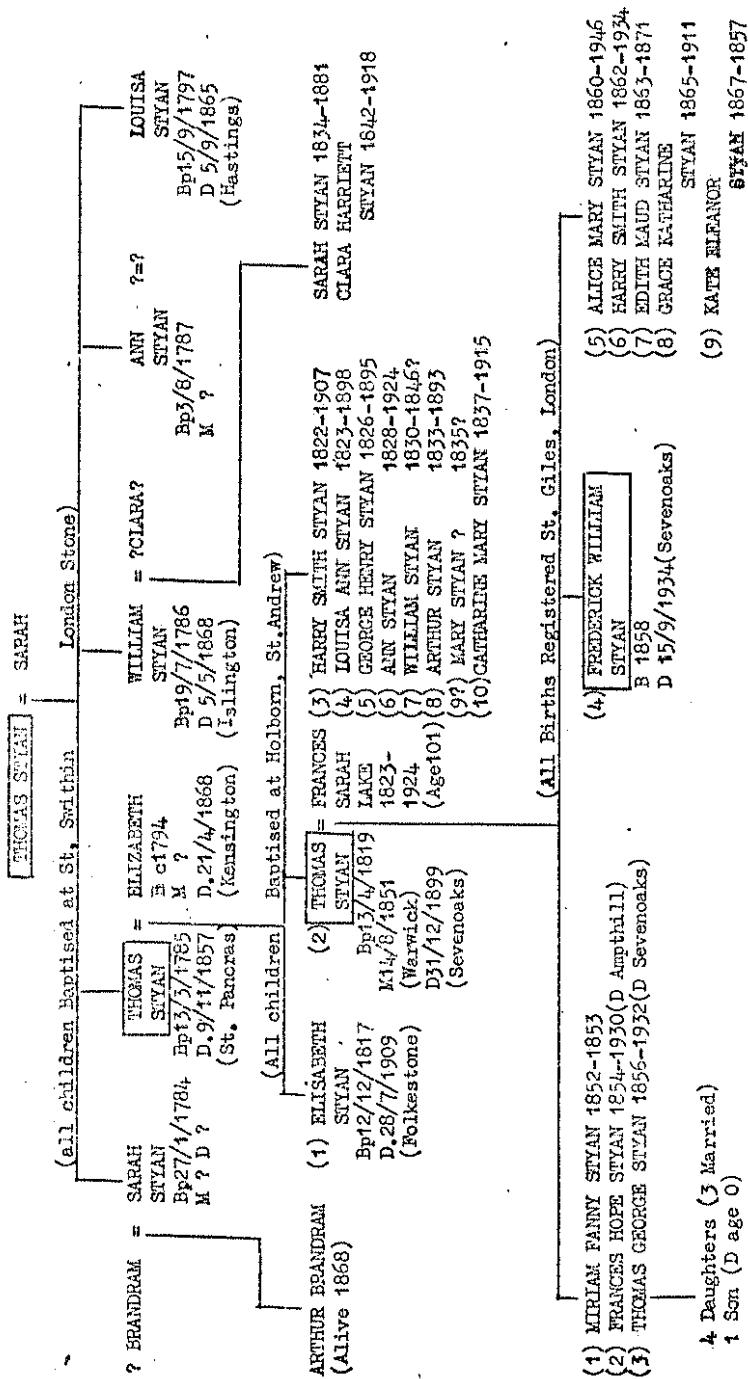
So far only his activities with mammals have been investigated because these are housed at the main Museum at South Kensington. The birds (the feathered variety and F.W.'s main interest) are now housed at the Museum's branch at Tring in Hertfordshire and have yet to be studied.

None of his mammal specimens are on public display but they were made available to your Chronicler. Several are 'Type' specimens, meaning that they have been selected as most representative of the species or family to which they belong and are used as the standard reference. They are mostly small animals and the difference between them and better known creatures is often difficult to see. He did supply the occasional larger animal such as a wolf and a tiger. He made a number of trips to previously unknown parts of China in pursuit of his hobby and also despatched collectors when he couldn't go himself.

In 1902 he sent his entire remaining collection of mammals (67 specimens) to the Museum from Shanghai because his main interest in ornithology precluded him spending much time on mammals. However in 1908 the Museum registered a further 133 specimens.

But what do we know of his family background?

His immediate descent is shown on the next page but a little more of that later. His father's Will made in 1868 (although he didn't die until 1900) bequeathed "all my stuffed birds" to F.W. (F.W.'s elder brother got the stuffed fish!). F.W. was elected to the Zoological Society of London in 1881 at the age of 23 and was a Fellow at the time of his death in 1934.



THE FAMILY OF F. W. STYAN

N.B. No connection with any other family of Styans has so far been found.

The family were well off. His grandfather died in 1857 with an estate of £500 and his grandmother died in 1868 with an estate of £35,000. Did she perhaps bring the money into the family? £35,000 in the 1860's was after all a fortune. The wealth descended largely through 2 generations of unmarried daughters but at the third generation 3 of the 4 main female beneficiaries were married. The main exception to the resulting comparative poverty of the males was F.W. himself. He received very little in the way of bequests (stuffed birds excepted) but died a wealthy man. He appears to have followed his father in business. His father was described at different times as a Colonial Broker and as a Tea Broker.

The family lived in London until some time in the 1890's when F.W.'s father (then in his 70s) moved to a large house at Sevenoaks. The London residence had been in Upper Bedford Square where by coincidence H.S.Ashbee (your Chronicler's paternal grandmother's half-brother) was contemporaneously resident.

Although the preceding Family Tree shows large Victorian families for 3 generations few of the boys reached maturity or married and few of the girls married. F.W. himself was unmarried. Today he has one niece named Styan still living at Sevenoaks. His youngest sister Kate Eleanor was the author of the "History of Sepulchral Cross Slabs" reported in an earlier Part of these Chronicles and his elder brother (who got the stuffed fish) was

DR. GEORGE THOMAS STYAN (1856-1932)

He was a Soccer Blue at Cambridge and was at one stage Captain. He practiced medicine in Ramsgate for 30-40 years and was also Medical Officer of Health to the Borough and Port as well as School Medical Officer to Ramsgate Education Committee. He was belatedly awarded the King Albert Medal in 1922 in recognition of his medical services in Military Hospitals in Ramsgate during the First World War. He was the same G.T.Styan reported in Part 3 of these Chronicles who presented an 8-page address on the sanitary conditions in Ramsgate boarding houses in 1894 to the Sanitary Inspectors Association.

But where does background information of this sort come from? Well, one source is local newspapers. The British Library Newspaper Library has a vast collection going back well over a century. Another source of information for tracing Family Trees is the

International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.)

maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - otherwise the Mormons. This index is growing all the time and was produced in support to their religious beliefs but is made freely available to those of us not of their faith. Many of the contents of the Parish Registers of England are contained in the IGI and Baptisms and Marriages are listed in alphabetical order by counties. It is however far from comprehensive. The bulk of entries for those Parishes listed run from the mid-1600s to the mid-1800s.

All entries in the name STYAN have been noted and there are very few of them. As the reader may have guessed Yorkshire has the greatest number of entries with London and Home Counties coming second and Lancashire third.

Somebody recently analysed the percentage of Baptisms and Marriages for the period 1821-1830 that are actually listed in the IGI. Results were:

County	Baptisms		Marriages			
	Total	No. in IGI	Styans in IGI	Total	No. in IGI	Styans in IGI
Yorkshire	374,199	130,500(35%)	36	104,669	20,000(19%)	14
Lancashire	362,339	103,900(29%)	7	112,475	29,700(26%)	0
London & HC	680,074	85,550(13%)	1	217,800	31,950(15%)	0
Others	2,174,772	548,950	0	463,487	141,600	0
Total	3,591,384	868,900(24%)	44	998,431	223,250(22%)	14

Not much can be deduced from that because the percentage of 'Styan events' currently listed is not necessarily the same as the percentage of total events listed. It may however be noted that the actual number of Styan events for the 10-year period is comparable with a typical number of events listed in the General Register for a 10-year period from 1840 onwards. Whew, that takes a bit of understanding! To make it simple it implies that most Styan Baptisms and Marriages for the period 1821-1830 are already listed in the IGI.

And now for something completely different.....

The Telephone Directories for the U.K. were checked to see what changes there were since they were last reviewed in 1978. There are 91 volumes containing names beginning with 'S' but only 34 have any Styan entries. 3 names have disappeared since 1978 and 14 have been added. But of the 14 your Chronicler suspects that he may have missed a group of them in the previous survey. Anyway there are now 75 entries plus 3 businesses. Volumes are not all reissued at the same time and some have not been updated since 1977. In consequence there are instances of Styans having moved home or died which are as yet unrecorded in the Directories. Of the 75 entries we know the family relationship of 12 of them.

But this exercise pales into insignificance compared with the monumental task carried out by one of our family in the U.S.A., who ploughed through all traceable TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES for the UNITED STATES in search of Styans.

This must get the accolade for endurance (like about 80 hours hard grind) and involved searching 2890 books averaging 5 separate lists per book but varying between 1 and 20. It resulted in only 9 entries in addition to 3 in Illinois previously known. Toronto and Montreal in Canada were also searched yielding 1 each. Numerically the result was:

Illinois - 3, Hawaii - 2, Georgia - 2, Massachusetts - 2,  
Florida - 1, New Jersey - 1, California - 1, The rest - 0.

As the 3 in Illinois are known already and the 2 in Hawaii are now known, your Chronicler is sorely tempted to contact the remainder. However as the distribution list for these Chronicles now approaches 40 any further potential increase to this is being viewed with some caution.



Styans from Hawaii at Styan Avenue, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, England.

The Mr. Styan depicted is 4th cousin twice removed to Your Chronicler and Greatgrandson of Alfred Styan the builder who developed Styan Ave.

The skin of the original specimen of Ailurus Fulgens Styani (a red panda) presented by F.W.Styan to the British Museum.