

YE STYAN CHRONICLES - PART EIGHT

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Your Chronicler acknowledges that he is mortal. He may not like the idea but accepts the fact. He has therefore decided that before burrowing into the archives for more facts about the Styans, he should document the results of his research to date in a form that will be comprehensible to future generations.

He therefore set himself the target of constructing a Family Tree that could be deposited at the Society of Genealogists in London and which would link all known related Styans living or dead. It was hoped to include a slightly edited version of this in this Part of these Chronicles.

Alas, he underestimated the magnitude of the task, and though it will get completed one day, something less ambitious was required for these Chronicles. All that it has proved practicable to present to you at this stage is the bones of a Tree showing how all the current recipients of these Chronicles are linked. It is hoped that this will give each one a personal interest in the attached Tree.

About the Tree

There are a few points that should be recognised about this particular Tree. Firstly, it does not pretend to be representative of the overall Styan Family Tree but has been distorted to show only the specific lines of descent of immediate interest to readers. Most people named on it - starting from the early 1600s right up to the present day - have brothers and sisters who themselves have descendants, some of whom have been traced through many generations almost to the present day.

Secondly, many recipients of these Chronicles have children and grandchildren and can extend their own branches for themselves.

Thirdly, the Tree is as accurate as possible, but where a "?" is shown a reasonable assumption has been made. Most lines shown are based on original sources, in many cases verified by other independent means. In a couple of cases it has not been possible to prove the particular descent indisputably but the coincidence of several different sets of circumstantial evidence is so overwhelming as to make the addition of a "?" unreasonably pedantic. Shall we say that in your Chronicler's opinion an English jury would return a unanimous verdict in his favour without argument! (Apologies to all those who claim another Nationality - including Scottish).

Fourthly, several recipients are descended through the female line and have undergone a change of surname, sometimes more than once. Two are shown to descend through both lines, but this does not qualify them for two copies of these Chronicles. Others may well have additional lines of descent through female lines but that has been too big a task for your Chronicler to check (volunteers never refused).

Fifthly, those underlined on this Tree are the recipients of these Chronicles and your Chronicler has taken the liberty of showing their present-day whereabouts. A few are widows of people shown on this Tree.

Finally, much is known of the life of many people shown on this Tree but your Chronicler operates a sort of One-Man Official Secrets Act in which no information is disclosed which is likely to upset anybody now living.

However, a little of the life of our ancestors (mainly over 100 years ago) is revealed in order to give the Tree a little human interest and also to identify people featured in earlier Parts of these Chronicles. To do this the notes below are offered, numbered to correspond with the numbers marked on the Tree.

THE NOTES.

(1)-(2) The first 5 generations (Leonard Styan, marr. 1609 up to James, born 1715 and his brothers Abel born 1716 and John born 1721 all lived in the village of Whixley, Yorkshire (9 miles Northwest of the City of York). Oliver Cromwell and his Commonwealth caused many Parish Registers to be inaccurately maintained for inexplicable reasons in the 1640s and 1650s and this seems to have applied to Whixley. So there you are, blame the Puritans for our incomplete Family Tree with a lot of ?s in the early generations.

(3) George Styan 1823-1900 although underlined on the Tree is not in fact a recipient of these Chronicles and had no descendants. He is shown because he featured in Part 7 of these Chronicles as the City Surveyor of York in the late 1800s but at the time of writing his connection with our Tree was not known. He was born at Newton-on-Ouse (4 miles East of Whixley) and died in York.

(4) Robert Styan 1832-1900 featured in Part 6 of these Chronicles but his link with the Tree was then thought to be tenuous. Following an outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in about 1880 which ruined him as a farmer at Benningborough (2 miles South of Newton-on-Ouse) he emigrated to Gadorus, Illinois, U.S.A. where some of his descendants still live.

(5) William Styan 1755-1842 was a tenant farmer on the Tancred Estates in Whixley. He is your Chronicler's Great-great-grandfather which accounts for his descendants constituting a disproportionately large part of this Tree (excuseably we hope). A valuation of the Tancred properties in 1805 reveals the location of his abode and the area that he farmed. He shared the tenancy with his elder brother Seth and they lived in the middle of the village, there being a house, barn, two stables, two cowhouses, pigsty, yard, orchard and garden. A cousin Abel lived next door. They farmed 100 acres about a mile West of the village in the upper fields of Clockhouse Farm (still clearly identifiable) and part of what is now High Farm. The agent who made the valuation was unimpressed by the standard of husbandry displayed by the tenants generally (not specifically the Styans) and considered that the maintenance of livestock to fertilize the land was inadequate.

(6) William Styan 1807-1869 was your Chronicler's Great-grandfather and has been mentioned many times in these Chronicles - particularly Part 1. He was no doubt born at his father's home mentioned above and at the age of 19 he enlisted in York in the 2nd Life Guards thereby escaping from what is presumed to have been a dreary life on his father's farm in Whixley.

(7) William Styan 1785-1856 was the first 'Leyburn' Styan being an Tinkseper and Farmer. Your Chronicler owes an apology to this William's present-day descendants for mistaking them regarding William's line of descent from James Styan (1684-1723). His previous assumption had been that the line was: James 1684-1723 - James 1713-1783 - James 1740-1820 - William 1785-1856. This theory (then believed to be fact) was severely shattered when it was discovered that James 1740-1820 in fact lived 1746-1797 dying at Newton-on-Ouse. He did in fact have a son William but he died as a child. Hence egg on your Chronicler's face.

The true line is now firmly believed to be:

James 1684-1728- Abel 1716-1807- James 1740-21820- William 1785-1856. In other words we got 2 of the generations wrong. As a feeble excuse your Chronicler points out that these early Styans did not have much imagination in picking Christian Names and Jameses, Williams, Abels and Seths abound in the Parish Registers. He thought he had sorted them all out but clearly he had booted on this occasion.

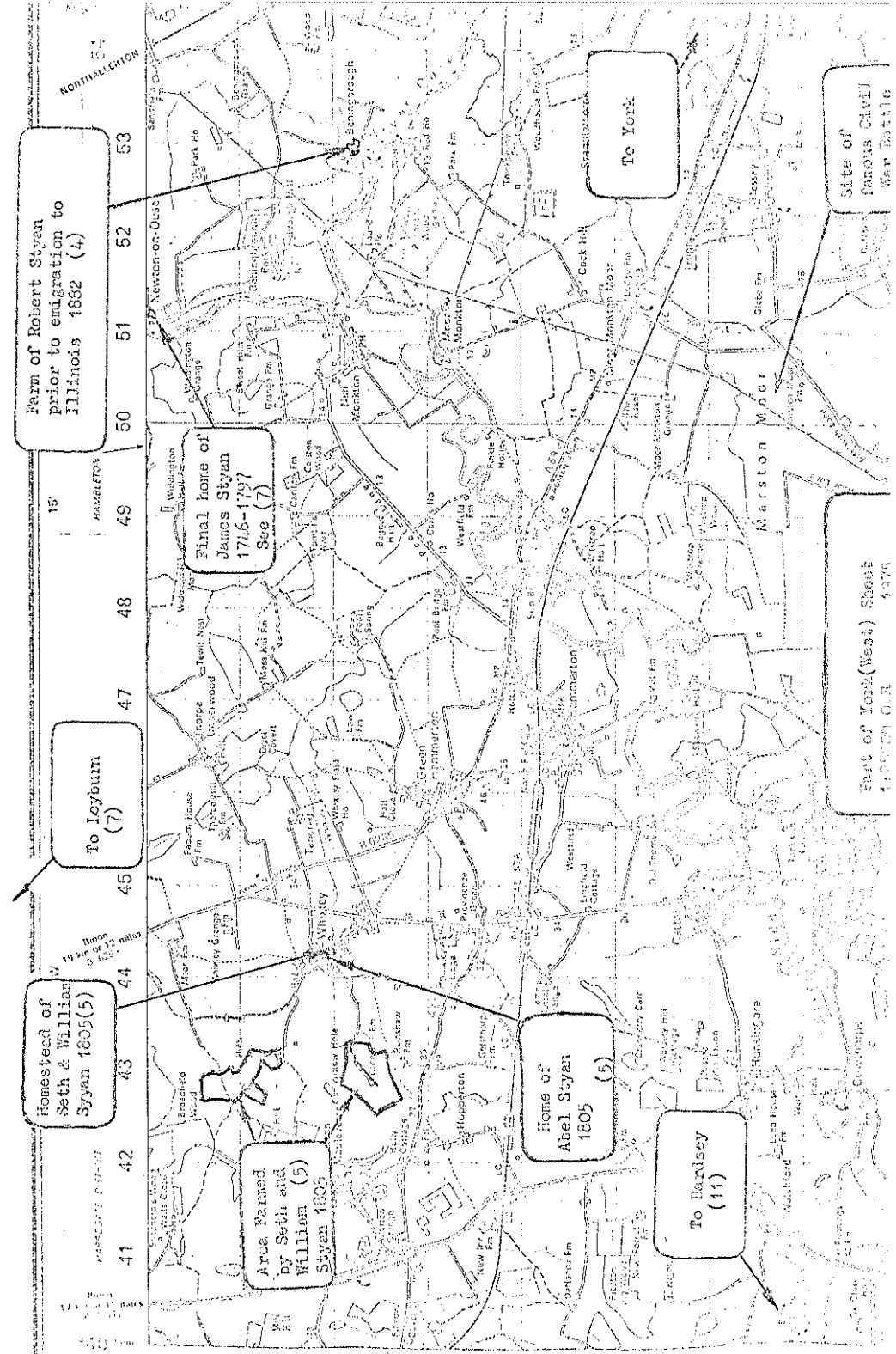
(8) William Styan 1640-1898 was the grandson of the William just mentioned and lived at Leyburn in North Yorkshire. He was the father of 14 children including the two sons who served in the Beer War previously mentioned in these Chronicles. He was a farmer and quarry manager and died of injuries sustained when he fell into his own quarry whilst going to visit engineers working on the quarry machinery on a foggy night. Ironically, he had been warned to erect a safety fence around the quarry but had ignored this advice on the grounds that it was on private property and anybody being there would be trespassing. With the one exception shown on the Tree his large family emigrated to Canada a few years afterwards but none of his sons married and the Styan name has thus died out as a surname although at least one of his descendants still has it as a Christian name. Your Chronicler is aware of several other instances in which the name has thus persisted.

(9) Alfred Styan 1839-1902 was the developer responsible for various street names in Whitley Bay including Styan Avenue. Two of his sons including Arthur James (shown on the Tree) emigrated to Canada founding a large clan there. One son continued the building tradition in England whilst another built Styan Road in Victoria, British Columbia.

(10) Charles H. Styan still lives in Whitley, coincidentally immediately across the street from the site of your Chronicler's Great-great-grandfather's home in 1805 (see (5) above). If this Tree is correct then Charlie's granddaughters - who also live in Whitley - are the 12th generation of Styans continuously resident in our ancestral village and this must surely be something of a record.

(11) Thomas Styan 1756-1824 is very probably the son of John Styan 1721-1824 as shown on the Tree. This family migrated to Bardsey, about 8 miles Southwest of Whitley and the Tree shows one of the female lines which eventually arrived in the London area via Lancashire. This particular addition to the Tree has only recently been revealed to your Chronicler and has added a further dimension to his studies which he hopes he can complete before mortality catches up with him..... which is where we came in.

K.G.S. Nov. 1984



(1)
Leonard Styan = Eliza Thompson 1609

James Styan 1619- ? Bernard Styan 1633- ?
? ?

James Styan ? -1695?
?

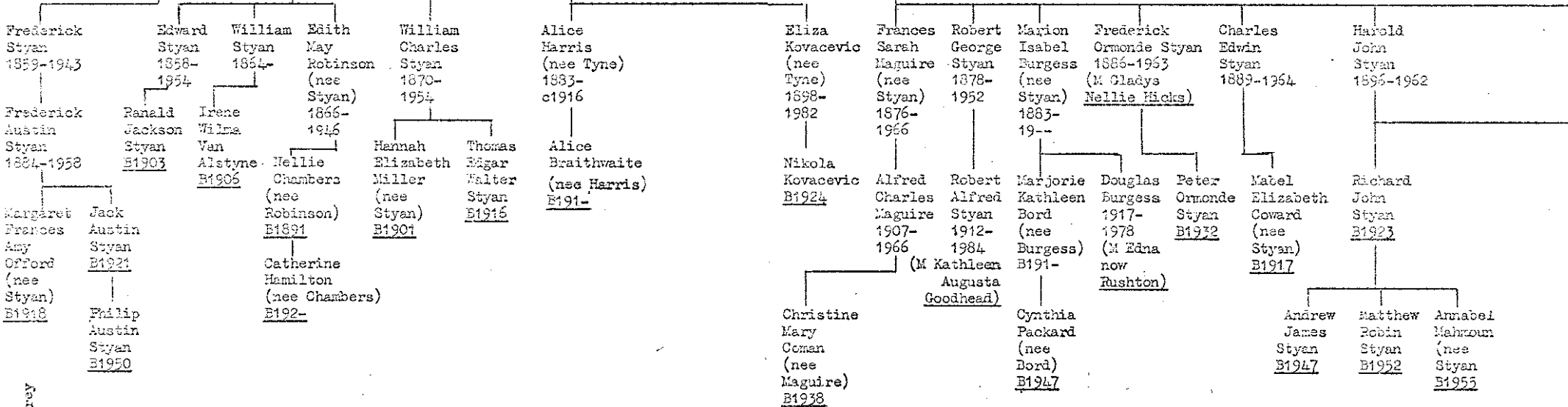
James Styan 1684-1728

(2)
James Styan 1713-1763?

John Styan 1749-1832 William Styan 1755-1842 (5)

Seth Styan 1791-1842 William Styan 1807-1869 (6)

(3) (4)
George Styan 1825-1900 Seth Styan 1826-1883? Robert Styan 1832-1900 William Styan 1840-1882 Robert Styan (Became 'Tyne') 1849-1926 George Styan 1852-1923
York City Survivor



Elmbridge(Weybridge) Surrey

Cheltenham, Glocs.

N. Mumperside

Sadorus, Illinois

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Urbana, Illinois

Champaign, Illinois

Bromley, Kent

Suffolk

Stroud, Glocs.

Belgrade, Yugoslavia

London

Somerset

Surrey

Surrey

Twickenham, Surrey

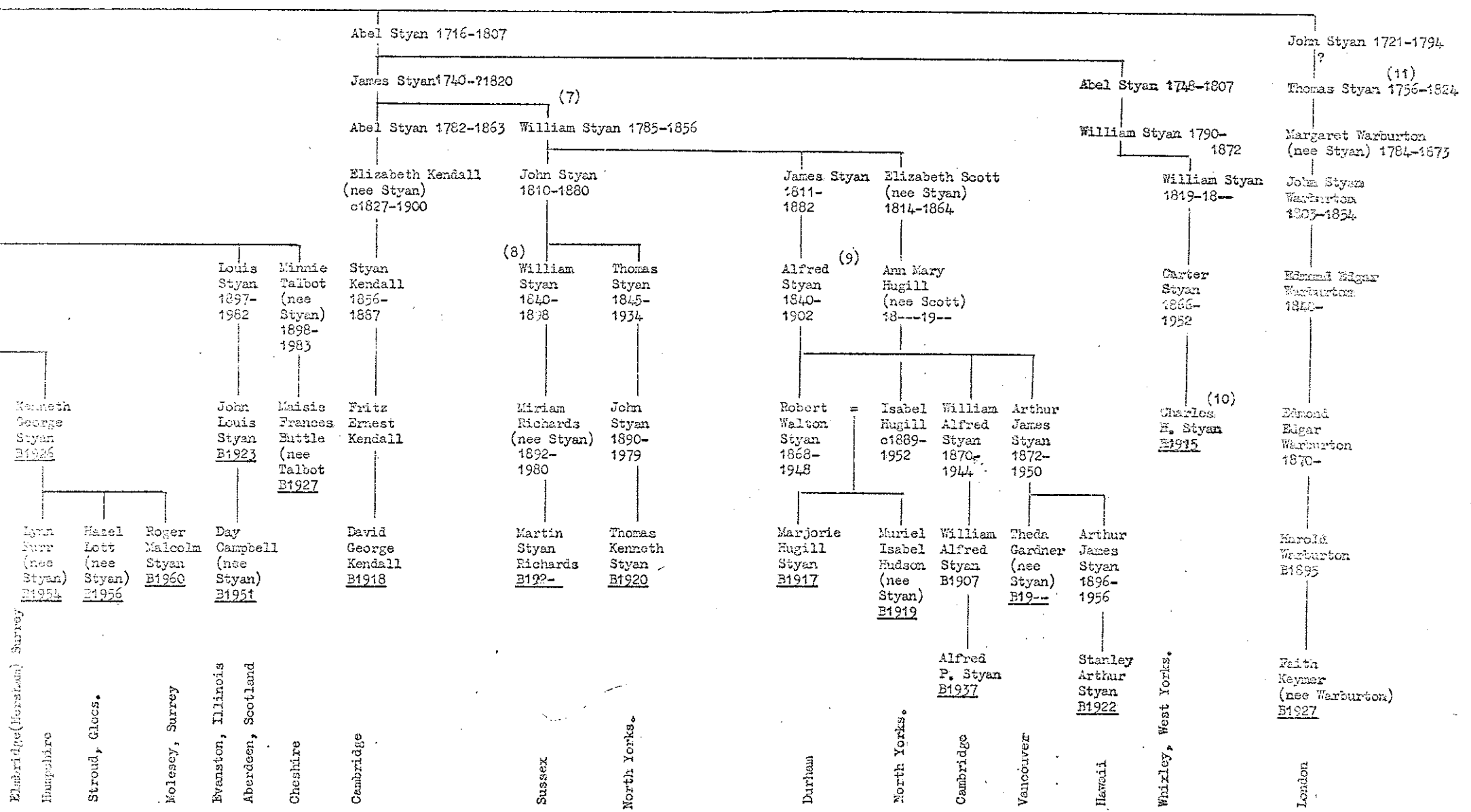
Wiltshire

West Yorks

West Yorks

West Yorks

Damascus, Syria



Elmbridge (Henstead) Surrey

Hampshire

Stroud, Gloucs.

Molesey, Surrey

Evanston, Illinois

Aberdeen, Scotland

Cheshire

Cambridge

Sussex

North Yorks.

Durham

North Yorks.

Cambridge

Vancouver

Hawaii

Whitley, West Yorks.

London