

Combined Operations

Your Chronicler is gratified that this part of these Chronicles is based mainly on information contributed by You the Readers of these offerings. He has merely assembled these inputs into a single document, which is thus the result of our Combined Operations. The way in which the various pieces of information have come together is a story in itself - part of which is related herein. But first

An Apology

for errors and omissions in the 'Extended Family Tree' which featured in the previous Part of these Chronicles. Some of these were pointed out by readers making it the first Combined Operation reported. Whilst making Your Chronicler squirm at his own fallibility it has the compensation of being evidence that somebody does actually read this stuff.

The major boob was the complete omission of his own cousin Winifred Maguire from the Tree which inadvertently took place whilst rationalising the layout to get it all on the paper. No excuse is possible and none is offered.

He also got the full name of his cousin Marjorie Bord wrong. A public apology is made. In having this error pointed out it has enabled several other details on our tree to fall into place, so it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

He got the dates of death of two gentlemen named Abel Styan wrong (father and son) but since this all happened over 150 years ago it probably doesn't worry anybody very much. And finally part of County Durham became part of the new County Cleveland a number of years ago and this was incorrectly stated.

A couple of points also should be mentioned. Not every living person known was actually shown on the Tree but only those to whom Part 8 of these Chronicles was sent. This caused some confusion but space and an attempt to keep things simple were the limiting factors. Lastly, some people shown as living may sadly have died since they were no longer young and Your Chronicler has not heard from them for some time.

On a brighter note, a couple of new branches with living people on them have now been added to our Tree but more of this later. A word of explanation is needed before going any further. All extra roots and branches need to relate to a single common point on the Tree so that we can see how they fit in to the overall picture. James Styan (1684-1728) has been chosen to perform this service because he is the only person from whom all known living 'Whixley' Styans can be said to descend with a high degree of probability.

To start off we have a major contribution to our Fund of Knowledge which may well help to trace our pre-Whixley ancestry. This was supplied by somebody we shall call F, and she has done far more extensive research into our earlier history than Your Chronicler (who we shall call YC). The way in which YC came into contact with F is as follows. In 1968, years before YC became interested in his family history, one of our readers DG wrote to YC's cousin JL following the publication of one of JL's books because DG had Styan ancestry (not then known to be linked to JL's Family Tree). JL mentioned this to YC in 1977 when he had started to study his ancestry and a brief correspondence with DG ensued. In 1984 YC contacted DG again for an opinion about an unproven relationship in the Tree, and DG mentioned that F had also been in contact with him because she also had distant Styan roots.

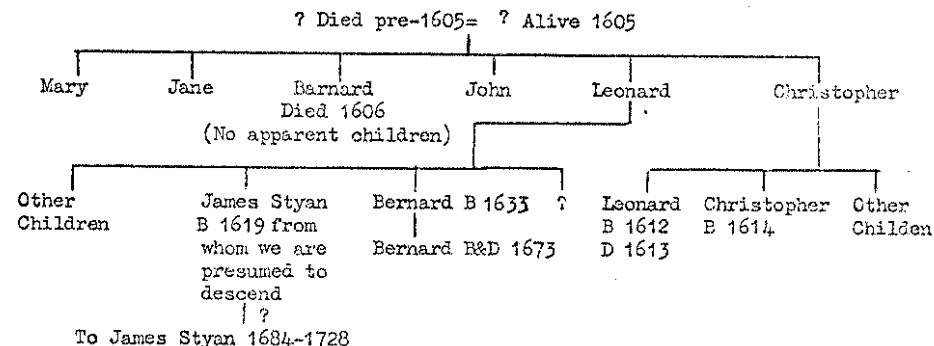
So much for the background - now for the major contribution.

The Will of Barnard Styan 1605

Barnard Styan, a yeoman of Swainbye in Cleveland made a Will on 23rd January 1605 which was proved in May 1606. This reveals that his father was probably dead, his mother was alive, that he was married (maiden name possibly Frances Sympsen), and that he had at least two sisters and three brothers namely Mary, Jane, John, Leonard and Christopher.

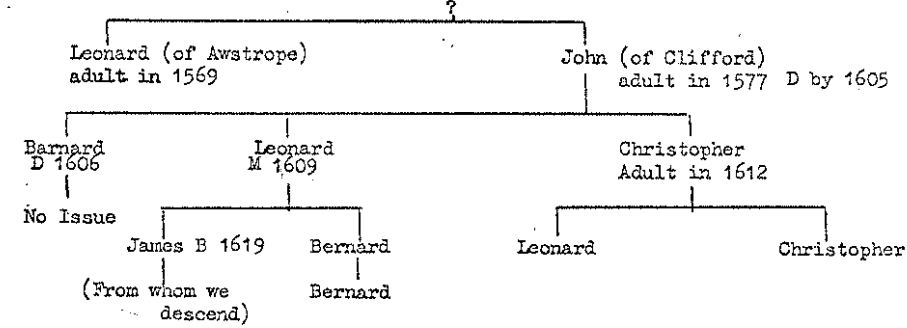
Brothers Leonard and Christopher might be presumed to be the same men of those names who first appear in Whixley Parish Registers in 1609 for reasons that are about to become evident.

The Leonard in Whixley is the best candidate as our own earliest Whixley ancestor and he had a son Bernard, whilst the first Whixley Christopher had a son Leonard. Here is a fragment of our supposed early Family Tree based on that rather thin evidence:



But that is not all. Swainbye was (and is) in the North of Yorkshire about 35 miles North of Whixley. In his Will Barnard left some money to the Poor of several villages in that locality and the area might seem to be where the Whixley Styans originated but wait ..... Barnard was a Yeoman and that means a farmer who owned his own land and where is that in his Will?

The only property mentioned is a cottage at Clifford which he left to his brother John and Clifford is 8 or 9 miles South of Whixley. It also transpires that in 1577 a John Styan was engaged in a legal transaction over property in Clifford, whilst in 1569 a Leonard Styan was a tenant of property at Awstrop 'in the manor of Manston' and Awstrop is located near Leeds, 7 miles Southwest of Clifford and 16 miles SW of Whixley. Could John Styan and Leonard Styan be related? In fact could John be the father of Barnard bearing in mind the Clifford property? Clearly more research in that area is required especially with the proliferation of Leonards and it is tempting to suggest that the Tree could be:



The John who inherited the cottage at Clifford has not been identified in Whitley Parish Registers. Perhaps Leonard and Christopher went there after Barnard's death. Who knows? But to get back on to safer ground we have a couple of proven branches. The first is the result of what might be called:

#### North American Musical Chairs

The reader may recall that in 1982 one of our number ploughed through all the Telephone Books that she could find in New York library in search of Styans and that the near 3000 volumes yielded only 9 names unknown to us. A few books for part of Canada were also available and these gave us one name in Toronto and one in Montreal. Two of the people (in Hawaii) were soon linked with our main Tree leaving 9 to go. In August 1985 YC plucked up courage and wrote to them all and sat back waiting for something to happen.

The response to date has been slightly confusing to explain but very rewarding in result. In fact in trying to keep all individuals anonymous the explanation became not just confusing but completely incomprehensible. In the circumstances it is therefore hoped that nobody will take exception to names being mentioned in what is hoped is a completely innocent way. Letters were sent to:

Clarence in Florida	M. J. in N. Dartmouth, Mass.
Mark in Swainboro, Georgia	Jas. W. in California
Blair in Swainboro, Georgia	
Mark in New Jersey	G. H. P. in Montecal
Garth in S. Dartmouth, Mass.	G. W. in Toronto

By late October replies had been received from 4 as follows:

Clarence's widow replied from Magog, Quebec (not Florida),  
Mark replied from California (not Georgia),  
Blair's wife replied from Mark's address in Georgia,  
G. H. P. replied from Denmark (not Montreal).  
Having missed the target so widely as far as those who were kind enough to reply were concerned, how far astray have the others gone? However, there is a logical explanation and the following information was volunteered.

Mark had moved home to California and Blair is his son who has moved to his previous residence. Clarence was Mark's cousin who lived in Canada but had a winter home in Florida where he died a number of years ago. Mark also has another son Brent resident in California and a nephew Garth (address not yet known to YC).

Clarence and Mark's mutual grandfather was the Rev. Mark Styan (a nonconformist minister) who emigrated from Yorkshire and settled in Magog, Quebec in about 1907. He had a nephew Charles who has living Canadian descendants. The name Mark is used frequently in this family. So is Mark of New Jersey also of this family? And what about Garth in S. Dartmouth? And if he is related what about M.J. in N. Dartmouth? So 6 out of 9 could well be linked.

There were a couple of other coincidences. JL received a letter in about 1968 from a Major Charles Styan of Hatley, Magog, Quebec but he had died by the time JL had replied and contact was lost. JL also had a telephone conversation with a Brent Styan in 1981/2 who was then resident in JL's town in Illinois. The Styan Panda in San Diego Zoo which was mentioned in an earlier part of these Chronicles has been seen by 2 people who replied. But the real gem is that the Rev. Mark was one of 13 children (all names supplied in sequence) including brothers Luke, Matthew and John - The Gospel Makers !

This really made YC sit up because in 1981 when he was visiting Charlie Styan in Whitley, Yorks Charlie mentioned that his father had had uncles named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John but he did not know what had happened to them.

YC had subsequently identified 3 of the 4 brothers and also most of their numerous brothers and sisters. A quick check of his notes revealed an exact match with the data supplied from America and overnight our Tree had grown not just another branch but a veritable bough. How YC, JL and Charlie are linked to our new cousins is shown on page 6 and it is left to the reader to try to sort out his/her own relationship. A little bit about those 13 children is given on page 5.

But - what about that reply from Denmark? Well, G.P.H. is a University lecturer at McGill who is currently Visiting Professor in Denmark. The reader may recall that in Part 3 of these Chronicles it was reported that a gentleman named Stein had done us the unique honour of changing his name to Styan. Well, G.P.H. is his son. But now for something completely different.

#### All the Kens

Until he started to probe into the Styan history YC thought he was the only Ken Styan in the world but now he knows that the place is crawling with them, 5 of them having been identified worldwide (all living) and 3 of them have now been fitted into our main Tree (YC included). The tale of the identification of the 3rd one of these (and also of his further branch of our Tree) covers 4 years of spasmodic progress.

In 1981 YC wrote to Ken Styan of Melmerby in Yorkshire, believing that he was addressing a K.R.Styan of whose existence he was aware. It turned out that he had got the wrong Ken (the Ken of Melmerby was actually T.K.Styan) but on a subsequent visit to TK not only was his connection with the Tree revealed but it was mentioned that prewar there was another Styan living in the area with a son called Ken but they had disappeared Donkeys Years ago. A pretty cold trail.

In 1982 whilst visiting another Styan related to TK living in Leyburn, N. Yorks. it was mentioned that an old lady (Mrs. Livingstone) in the town had Styan relatives (not apparently of our family) and on a visit to her she outlined a part of that Tree including giving the location of K.R.Styan - to whom YC wrote.

In 1985 'Out of the Blue' YC received a telephone call from Leeds from K.R.'s sister explaining that his letter had got mislaid and after some correspondence and a visit some information was received enabling a specific line of enquiry to be followed which soon revealed that they too were members of the Leyburn Branch of our main Tree. This is shown on page 6. Sadly Mrs. Livingstone had died before she could be thanked for her help.

#### Other Styans

There is plenty of material for further investigation into the Styans (including the other 2 Kens). For example there is

#### The Meltham Connection

Following YC's brother chatting to a gentleman whilst walking his dog near his home in Meltham, Yorks early this year it transpired that the gentleman's wife had Styan ancestry. This ancestry has now been traced back to the late 1700s but no link with our main Tree has so far been identified. Some of these ancestors lived in interesting sounding places like Kirby Overblow (1799-1836), Cold Bed (1861-1871) and The Hags (1840-1861) all close to the early Styan home ground. Other Styans have previously lived in Meltham but they have no known connection. There is also another Styan whose roots it would be interesting to trace. He was a witness to events associated with

#### The Peterloo Massacre.

This information was contributed by F who supplied the data on Barnard Styan's Will. In the report of a trial on 4th April 1822 at Lancaster Assizes for alleged

