

MAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2002

Christmas is approaching again and it is time to try and convey a few family events and items of interest that have been unearthed in the process of our genealogical research into the history of our family. I realize that for many people some of this is available via the family website but equally for those who do not have Internet access it is the only way for us to communicate. I hope it is of some value.

We have continued the relentless search to try and expand our knowledge of the family history and piece together some of the ancient relationships. This has expanded our investigations into some of the families that married in to the MAN family over the generations and vice versa and there have been some new finds in relation to several of them. David has begun the process of creating links on our family website to the sites of connected families (e.g. Balchen and Desborough), where a website exists, and where there is no site he has created pages for connected families within our own site. Some of this is in the early stages still and much more has to be done, both in terms of gathering and organising data, getting it digitised and then posted by David to the appropriate page on our website.

In the following paragraphs and in years to come I will try to ensure that some information on the connected families is included in this newsletter.

On December 13th 1806 Edward Man, eldest son of James Man, married Georgiana Desborough and so began the connection that has been in need of investigation for many years. Ed & I have been following up on a chance find in the summer of this year whilst we were visiting the County Record Office in Huntingdon. We had, after lunch, just resumed photographing the Parish Registers of Buckden, where the Desborough family had lived in the 17th and 18th centuries. A fellow researcher asked what we were researching and I explained that we were gathering data on the Desboroughs and other connected families including the Longlands (Lawrence Desborough married Alice Longland). We were straightaway directed to a book on the shelves of the record office written by L. G. Chorley recording six centuries in the life of the Longland family and providing an invaluable link to the Desboroughs via an extract from a publication called "The Genealogist" giving details taken from the Desborough family bible, including those for Lawrence Desborough, a direct ancestor of Ed & me. We had, that very morning, found his baptismal record of 1725 and since June have traced the Desboroughs back to the mid 16th century. Interestingly one of the distant Desborough cousins, John Desborough, (not in our direct line) married Jane Cromwell, sister of Oliver, in 1637. Also, according to the family bible, Lord Sandwich adopted our direct ancestor, Lawrence Desborough. We are presently working on this family to try and get a complete picture. This will take some time because they were extremely prolific in the production of offspring with as many as fifteen children being born in one family and several others with more than ten. The early Desboroughs (the name is variously spelled Disbrow, Disbrowe, Disborough, Desborough and Disbury and sometimes differently within the same family group) were clearly wealthy landowners in Cambridgeshire / Huntingdonshire / Hertfordshire as is demonstrated in the wills of the early generations, transcriptions of which will soon be placed on the website.

We have been making gradual progress with linking the common ancestor of all MAN family members, MARY BALCHEN [she was the mother of both Henry (1747 – 1799) and his brother James (1755 – 1823)] with the Balchen family of whom Admiral Sir John Balchen was a member. Genealogically speaking the link is not yet proven entirely, however from the following description on the Balchen family website of the CREST of Admiral Sir John Balchen by Pro. William Balchen "*John Balchen's crest had been an anchor, and from its cross bar depended a blue banner bearing three fleur – de – lis, probably symbolising three sea battles with the French fleet.*" There began to emerge a connection between the two families.

Engraved on the family silver, commissioned by James Man between 1797 and 1817, and which has passed down his branch of the family through seven generations, is what always appeared, at a glance, to be a sailboat forming a crest. In the summer of this year Ed & I met up with Wanda Brewer and Jean Young – both descendants of Frederick Man (grandson of James and the “F” in E. D. & F Man) – and Wanda had a tiny die of James Man’s crest set in a piece of porcelain. Wanda kindly loaned me the die and I made an enlarged photocopy of it. Once he received his copy, David’s keen eye deduced that the crest was in fact an anchor and from the crossbar hung a billowing sail upon which there were three tiny indistinguishable dots. Could these tiny dots represent Fleur – de – Lis? Could James Man’s crest have been derived from that of Admiral Sir John Balchen?

On his recent visit to the UK David managed a visit to Westminster Abbey to view the Admiral’s memorial from which he took the photograph below of his Crest above his Coat of Arms.



Photograph of the memorial to Admiral Sir John Balchen in Westminster Abbey, London

When I received David’s e-mailed copy of his photograph I resolved to try and get a better image of the crest of James Man and below are copies of two photographs, taken in macro, of the crest on two serving spoons from James’ silver.



Silver serving spoon with plain handle dated 1806



There are slight differences in the two, probably the result of different silversmiths / engravers work, but both crests carry the same fundamental characteristics and note the similarity to that of Admiral Balchen. We think this represents the connection we are looking for. I have set out below a short passage from the Family History page of the Balchen website giving a brief account of how he met his demise. There is a full account of the Admiral's life on the MAN website.

Admiral Sir John Balchen

“Admiral Balchen served in the Navy until his 75th year. Captain of HMS Victory he set out in the rescue of Sir Charles Hardy's fleet that had been blockaded by the French. On completion of this he proceeded to Gibraltar for reinforcement of the garrison. On returning to home the fleet enter the Bay of Biscay. A violent storm blew up, placing all the ships in jeopardy. The Fleet arrived safely in Plymouth or Spithead in the next few days. The sole exception was the flagship Victory which was last seen on the morning of 4th October 1744. Nothing is known for certain of her fate. Her main topmast was washed ashore on the island of Guernsey, but no other part of her was ever found and her fate remains a mystery to this day. The Admiral and over 1,100 officers and men aboard her vanished without trace”.

Next year I will focus on the work Ed has done on our connection with the Harris family; also the Webbers and Incedons who have also been traced back to the 16th Century. David also has done work on tracing the Matthews family, connected with the Henry Man branch and who also were connected with the Desboroughs and Harrises who in turn were connected with the James Man branch! Confused? I will append a chart to this newsletter, which helps visualise the family links.

In April Tina Grace (nee Matthews) lent David James Matthews' Memo book, which contained interesting material on happenings in the Edward Garnet Man family, the Webber Harrises and Matthews between 1865 and 1888. The memo book has been digitised and is available for download on the web site. Sadly Tina died in October of this year. She was a link with the Matthews family who will be sadly missed. For those not connected to the Internet and cannot access details of the Memo Book, I will be happy to print and send them to anyone who requests it.

On Ed's visit to England this year we made many visits together to try and tie up some of the loose ends remaining in the various branches of the family and we thought it might be of interest to list these with some brief background.

We visited Reading to try and find the gravesites of Anna Maria Man and William Man, two of the children of John Man of Reading (1749 – 1824). We located them both in Reading Old Cemetery. Anna Maria's grave was well maintained with a good tombstone but William's was just an unmarked plot. William had married very late in life when in his 83rd year to Elizabeth Marchant aged just 22. They had a child Elizabeth Marchant Man in 1865 – William was then 87 and he died aged 96. In his will he states that his wife had promised not to remarry but in fact she had done so within one year. Even though she inherited the whole of his estate William was buried in an unmarked grave. Elizabeth next appears in the 1901 census living in Weston Super Mare on her own means, a widow, with her daughter, a spinster, aged 37.

We visited Wargrave and Hambleden home of the earliest MAN generations and located in the church at Hambleden a large monument to the D'Oyly family with whom the Mans were connected through the marriage of George Man (1630 – 1664), our direct ancestor, to Jane Saunders 7th child of Robert Saunders whose mother was Susannah D'Oyly born March 25th 1584. Her ancestral line goes back to the Norman Conquest. The following quotation comes from a booklet entitled “A Biographical, Historical Genealogical and Heraldic Account of The House of D'Oyly by William D'Oyly Bayley published in 1845 and which sets out the genealogy of that family: *“Robert de Oyly son of the Seigneur de Oyly of Oyly near Lisleux in Normandy who, accompanied by his brothers Nigell and Gilbert followed in train of Duke William of Normandy*

to England in 1066 and shared largely in the spoil of Conquest". We are, therefore, one of only a few families to be able to claim even an indirect line back to the Norman Conquest. This is the same family from which Richard D'Oyly formed the famous opera company in the 1870s.

As previously mentioned we were able to meet with Wanda Brewer and Jean Desborough Young and it was great to be able to exchange some copies of photographs and material; also to confirm for Jean from where the Desborough came from in her name. We enjoyed a very pleasant and enjoyable day together, which broadened our knowledge of the two families descended from brothers Edward Desborough Man and Frederick Man.

On a visit to Derbyshire we located the gravesite of Edward Desborough Man's sister Louisa Emma Man. She is buried in Tapton Grove cemetery, Chesterfield and was a governess at Tapton Grove. We do not know how she came to move from her London upbringing to Chesterfield.

The genealogical "vital statistics" of all of John Man and Mary Balchen's family are now complete with the find, in just the last couple of weeks, of the Will of their daughter Ann, dated 1832 in Reading. No one had ever been able to find a death record for Ann, so Ed had asked a researcher to locate a will on the basis that all the other siblings had left a will. All that remains is to locate the place of burial now that a date of death is known. Ed thinks his inability to find this so far is likely to be that her name in the records is mis-spelt by much more than the usual extra "n" on the surname from which we all often suffer.

Family News and Events

Now to some news of this years events and firstly congratulations to my uncle John William Cowper Man and his wife Joyce who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with their family in St Ives, Cornwall on June 22nd 2002. Personal congratulations were received from Her Majesty The Queen along with many from the family and a celebration lunch and family party was held to commemorate the event.

We should congratulate Damon Benjamin Man; grandson of John William and Joyce, and his partner Laura-Lee Emma Halsey is on the birth of their daughter Layla-Jade Bernetta Man born 29 December 2001 in Derby. Layla – Jade is the first born of a new generation in our family (unless any of you know differently and have not told me!) and is the founder member of Generation 12 on the Website. The MAN family now extends to 15 known generations!

More congratulations from all the MAN family to Elizabeth Woodhall, daughter of Peter and Geraldine, on her marriage to Christopher Aylott. Elizabeth and Chris were married at The Church of St Bartholomew at Porthleven, Cornwall on 2nd August 2002 at a ceremony attended by many friends and family. The Reception afterwards was held at The Rose-in-Vale Country House Hotel at Mithian from where the happy couple embarked on their new life together.

The meeting of Elizabeth and Chris was a real life Cupid story. Debra Mulholland is secretary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Middle School, in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, where Elizabeth is a schoolteacher. Debra came up with the idea of an introduction between Chris, an unattached friend of her brother, and Elizabeth. A meeting was arranged, effectively a blind date, and the rest is now history. It was nice that Debra attended the ceremony to witness the fruits of her role as Cupid! Elizabeth and Chris are living in Milton Keynes and we all wish them a long and happy time together.

Abigail Catherine Louise Northern was born prematurely on 12 January 2002 after her mother Louise was involved in a horrific car crash in Cumbria. After a scary few hours for Louise and husband Lee, mother and baby were fine. Abigail was baptized at The Church of Our Lady & St Patrick, Maryport, Cumbria on Tuesday 26 March 2002.

At the time of going to press I have just heard of the marriage on 21st September 2002 of Victoria Jane Major to Benjamin Gore – congratulations to you both!

Congratulations belatedly on the marriage of Fiona Lesley Man, daughter of William, to Nicholas Gwyn Brisbane at St Dionis Church, Parsons Green, London SW6 on 27th October - may you both enjoy a long and happy marriage together.

And to another of the latest additions to this family of 1287 individuals – congratulations from all the family to Elizabeth and Richard Milligan – Manby, on the birth on 4th January this year at Lincoln County Hospital, of their fourth child Margaret Celia.

And finally - we thought this year, for the benefit of those of you who have not met us hitherto, it was time to reveal to you our visual identities! The photograph was taken in March 2001 at Ed's home in Nashville, Indiana USA. We hope it is not too shocking!



Three Genealogists – from left to right: -

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May I take this opportunity of wishing a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to everyone.

Steve Man.

Steve Man - December 2002.

Appendix

The Houses of Man, Desborough, Harris and Matthews

