



Welcome to the 1 May 2020 emailinfoservice, the NWKFHS fortnightly information service, comprising the latest information about the Society and other items of interest for family historians.

This issue's lead photo and story has been sent in by Pam Goodwin: Pam writes:

Dear Stella in response to your article about the oldest ancestor we have met I thought I'd tell you about mine.

He was William Stanley **WRIGHT** who was born 20 October 1862 in Wickford, Essex to George and Emma Wright nee **LOW**.

William married Sarah Mary Garnish **CHAPPELL** in December 1886 and was the father of Wrighty* May Wright who married Bernard **LODGE** my grandfather. William worked on the railway as a plate layer and lived in Stone near Dartford, Kent. Sarah died in 1931 but William lived until 1958.

In 1952 there was a family party for his 90th birthday at Chalkhole Cottages, Stone where he lived with his son also a William Stanley, and his daughter in law Louisa nee **BUNYAN** known to me as "Auntie Lou".

I attach a photo of William my great grandfather, with me on one side of him holding a doll and my cousin David on the other, with his 90th birthday cake on the table in front of him. I always remember feeling a bit scared of him and I think it shows in my face and my cousin's. Why we should be scared I have no idea except that he sounded very gruff to us little ones.

* Pam told me that she had found the forename *Wrighty* several times as a female forename when researching her tree.

I (Stella Eames) welcome photos of people or places (specially historical or family history) in the North West Kent area with a story about them as I like to start each newsletter with a photo and story. Please email me at emailinfoservice@nwkfhs.org.uk with your contributions. Any photos must be your own copyright.

If I don't receive any I will have to use my own which may not be as interesting.

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This week we have been very fortunate because member Gillian Hakli has also sent in an article about the oldest ancestor she met; and below that is a story about from Judith French about some important research she is doing.

Many thanks to our three contributors this issue.

Gillian Hakli writes:

The oldest ancestor that I have actually met was my paternal grandmother, born Lilian **BOUSFIELD** in Brighton, Sussex in 1856. Her father was a clergyman, Rev. George Benjamin Richings Bousfield, a minister in the Catholic Apostolic Church, an eccentric English Protestant church that is apparently now almost extinct. Her mother, in contrast, was a pillar of society, the daughter of an admiral.

Lilian would seem to have inherited a lot of her admiral grandfather's spirit. They were very close and wrote to each other regularly. In my favourite letter she asks him to persuade her parents to let her have a pet monkey for her birthday: *"I am in earnest, I do so want one. His house could be made in a back place in the kitchen by the sink. Please may I try and keep one."* I've a feeling that not even her grandfather could help with that one.

Unfortunately he died when she was only 12 so he wasn't there to help her in a later conflict. Letters written by her father reveal how much he disapproved of modern developments, in particular of young women studying for a profession, above all, that of nursing. This was unfortunate as the one profession Lilian had in mind was nursing.

Battles with her rather singular father may explain why she didn't start her training till August 1890 when, already in her mid-30s, she registered as a probationer at Addenbrookes in Cambridge.

Just over 3 years later, she received her Trained Nurse's Registration-Certificate from the British Nurses' Association.



To my knowledge she never actually worked in a hospital but was employed as a private nurse.

One of her employers was the Rev. Edward John **DOHERTY**, vicar of St John's, Plumstead, whose wife Eliza was bedridden.

Eliza died in July 1895, leaving the Rev. Edward with five children between the ages of 9 and 14. Inevitably I suppose Lilian became Edward's second wife. They had two children: my father, who was born in 1897 and my aunty Sheilah, born in 1900.

The relationship between Lilian and her stepchildren was apparently not a happy one. Possibly the strict discipline she had learnt at Addenbrooke's didn't enamour her to young children approaching their teens. As soon as they were old enough, they all emigrated to Canada except one, who remained in England to marry.

Lilian herself lived to the grand old age of 96, a widow for 24 years. My favourite, and almost only, memory of her is of a beautiful, white haired old lady sitting in her chair as straight as a ramrod busily knitting. She apparently turned out socks by the score. In the attached photo she is still proudly wearing her trained nurse's badge from Addenbrookes.

Who was Edith CERTHOUX nee Patience Edith WYLES?

Questions, Questions and more questions

Judith French writes:

It all started with the Discussion Group at the NWKFHS library, chatting about books and someone had brought some books that we could borrow. I took Lindell's List (1) by Peter Hore, about saving British and American women at Ravensbruck.

Mary **LINDELL** was already a decorated heroine of WW1 when she volunteered for France in WW2. This article is not about Mary's heroism in helping members of the British Forces escape and get back to Britain, it hinges on the fact that after she herself was captured and sent to Ravensbruck, Mary discovered other British women and compiled a list of their names.

Chapter 20, page 154 says that in April 1943 five women arrived in Ravensbruck: Ann (who used various surnames) and four British women: – Doreen **VERANI**, born Liverpool; Susanne **DUBOIS** from London; Edith **CERTHOUX** from Dartford and Rosina **FOURNIER** from Wandsworth.

In the Notes at the back of the book on page 248 it stated that Suzanne, Edith and Rosina had been deported from Compiègne into Ravensbruck on 28 April 1943; and included the information that Edith Certhoux had been born in Dartford, Kent on 8 March 1891 and was prisoner 19366 at Ravensbruck, (Ravensbruck was a camp for mainly political prisoners). Subsequently Edith was murdered in Auschwitz in July 1944.

This information is also on this website although this refers to Edith as French, perhaps because she had married a Frenchman. <http://www.bddm.org/liv/details.php?id=1.95>.

Finding this intriguing information – that a courageous woman from my home town, Dartford, had ended up in Ravensbruck and finally Auschwitz - compelled me to start my research into - who was Edith Certhoux?

I hadn't heard of her and I was born in Dartford!

I went to the Museum in Dartford and asked Mike if he had heard of Edith and he had not, but he was also interested in finding out more and discovered that Edith had been born Patience Edith WYLES.

That agreed with the baptism record I had found at the Holy Trinity Church in Dartford, Kent (2) on 1 April 1891. This record states her parents are John and Sarah **WYLES** of 55 Overy Street, Dartford and John is a labourer.

Then, reviewing the **1891 census** (3), I find at 55 Overy Street:

John Wyles born Sittingbourne age 26 years, labourer

Alice S Wyles born Leeds, near Maidstone age 24 years

Lewis W Wyles, age 2 born Dartford and

Patience E, age 1 month, born Dartford.

On the **1901 census** Patience / Edith is still living at 55 Overy Street with her father John, mother Alice, her brothers Lewis and Harold,
(Harold was born Ernest Ronald Sidney so why is he down as Harold?)
 Patience is down as Edith P 10 years old (Christian names reversed).

On the **1911 census** she is down as Edith Wyles born 1891 Dartford a servant domiciled in Maidstone
 I needed to find John's marriage and I found it at Holy Trinity Church, Dartford on 24 December 1889 (2) to an Alice Sarah **ROSE**.

1889. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church of the Precinct, Dartford, in the County of Kent.							
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Occupation
450	Dec 24 th 1889	John Wyles	22	Married	Labourer	Joyce Green	William Wyles Labourer
		Mrs Sarah Rose	21	Spinster	—	Sittingbourne	Lewis Rose Carpenter

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ Minister of the Gospel, by _____

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Wyles in the presence of William Rose Judge George Judge Alan A. Watt John

On the 1911 census Patience's mother Alice stated she had been married for 17 years and had 7 children with 3 still living, Alice was a widow by the 1911 census and living at 361 Maidstone Road, Maidstone, a Shopkeeper with her son Ernest 14 years, a niece Ethel Burgess 8 years and a nurse child 10 months.

(I found a death for John in March Quarter 1902, Dartford District, but John is not on Holy Trinity Burial Register for 1902?)

I next started to look for the baptism of the children on the census and to find the ones who had died. I found Lewis William baptism 19 December 1888 at Holy Trinity Church (2) Dartford, parents John & Sarah abode Temple Farm, Joyce Green, which is the same address for John on his the marriage.

Looking through the parish registers, I found more children. They were:

Frederick Owen George Wyles born 1893, baptised 25 January 1893, parents John & Alice Sarah, address 55 Overy Street died 1900, 7 years old,

Ernest Ronald Sidney baptism 22 July 1896, parents John & Alice Sarah, address 55 Overy Street,

Lilian Mabel born 5th April 1899 parents John & Alice – address 55 Overy Street and died 1899 4 months old (how *did her parents feel sad but relief that it was one less mouth to feed?*)

After Lilian came twins Percy John and Winnie Emily born 1901, privately baptised 6th August 1901 (*privately baptised - would that been in the church or at the home, was it because they were not expected to live?*) Parents John and Alice address 55 Overy Street. Both twins died 1 week old (*again how did the parents feel - and Lewis would have been about 13 years and Patience 10 years did the children know what was happening?*)

On the baptism for the children the mother is either Sarah, Alice Sarah or Alice. As Patience Edith became known as Edith it seems a family tradition to sometimes use the second forename.

I had hoped that one of the brothers may have been living and could answer the questions about Patience but Lewis died 1965 and Ernest 1964.

1920 Marriage solemnized at <i>St Peter's Catholic Church</i> in the District of <i>Warwick</i> in the County of <i>Warwick</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Residence.	Rank or Profession of Father.
97	<i>1920</i>	<i>Yves Georges Certhoux</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>Regent Hotel Leamington</i>	<i>Jean Certhoux</i>	<i>Schoolmaster (Leamington)</i>
	<i>1920</i>	<i>Patience Edith Styles</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Regent Hotel Leamington</i>	<i>John Styles (Leamington)</i>	<i>General Labourer</i>

Married in the *St Peter's Catholic Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Roman Catholic* by *Canon* by me,

This Marriage was solemnized in the presence of *Edith Styles* in the presence of *Edith Styles* *A. J. Gilling R. H. Priest* *E. H. H. Registrar*

I found Patience's marriage in 1920 to Yves Georges Certhoux in June Quarter, Warwick, (4) on 7 May 1930, at St Peters Catholic Church. (But Patience was been baptised in C of E Church?) Had she changed her religion?

Patience is down as a clerk, age 29 years, address Regent Hotel, Leamington and Yves, age 31 years, cook with the same address, and his Father is Jean, School Master.

The Regent Hotel is now a Travel Lodge



I now lose Patience from her marriage in 1920 until she is deported to Ravensbruck as stated in Lindell's List – the book which started my research.

1. Was Edith in France because she and Yves decided to move there and she was therefore already in France when the war started?
2. Why is she not on any lists of political prisoners or Special Operations Executive?
3. Why can't I find out about her war work, how she ended up in Ravensbruck and Auschwitz?
4. Was Edith engaged in dangerous undercover work such as concealing allied escapees or downed airman and helping them into allied territory?
5. Do you speak French and/or know of any other sites which would add to our knowledge of Edith's war work? eg does this French Government site have further information? <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEX T000019417618&categorieLien=id>

I think I have found her husband Yves, I found him on a site

https://en.geneanet.org/fonds/individus/?go=1&nom=CERTHOUX&place_0=Nevers%2C+58194&size=50

which had him born 10 September 1889 and died 8 December 1979. His father is stated to be Jean (which fits the marriage certificate) and mother Anne **GARESTIER** and sibling called Roger but no marriage to Patience. Possibly the person posting the information did not know of his marriage in England.

References

- 1) Lindell's List by Peter Hore published 2016 by The History Press
- 2) Holy Trinity Parish Registers - NWKFHS CD 1561 – 1984 or Medway Archives
- 3) Census - Ancestry or Find My Past
- 4) General Register Office <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>
- 5) <https://gw.geneanet.org/damiensp?n=certhoux&oc=&p=yves+georges>

We will not forget her

If you have any suggestions please do email me

Judith French freju39@btinternet.com

Editor's Notes:

1. When Judith first told me of her research I was likewise intrigued and immediately looked for the book Lindell's List on eBay. Such is the second hand book market I was able to buy this well researched and well written hardback book, in excellent condition including p&p, for just £2.74.
2. I have read it cover to cover and found mention of a Louisa **GOULD** whom I already had some data on from two other sources. Louisa's article will be in the next emailinfo.
3. It also reminded me of one of the few books still in my possession from my childhood - *Carve Her Name With Pride* about Violette **SZABO** (nee **BUSHELL**) (*I read it when I was 8!*)
4. Coincidentally, Dick Eastman's latest genealogy newsletter dated 29 April made mention of a new online database of 26 million documents of Nazi Victims and Survivors. <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/> However on experimenting, searches for Edith Certhoux, Louisa Gould and Violette Szabo all returned 'no results'. It s admitted the archives are by no means complete.

Stella Eames

Society Journal - for Society Members

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To join the Society and receive the Journal and have access to all our online information see <https://www.nwkfhs.org.uk/about/our-membership>

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Obviously meetings and workshops etc cannot be held until we are allowed to do so by the Government.

The National Archives

In the last email I mentioned TNI had announced on 1 April that it was working to make downloads of its transcribed data, normally £3.50 unless downloading on site, free for the duration of the building being closed. This was implemented a few days ago.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/>

We are making digital records available on our website free of charge for as long as our Kew site is closed to visitors.

Registered users will be able to order and download up to ten items at a time, to a maximum of 50 items over 30 days. The limits are there to try and help manage the demand for content and ensure the availability of our digital services for everyone.



Bromley Borough Local History Society
bblhs.org.uk

I (Stella) am a member of Bromley Borough Local History Society and a recent email from them tells about the following interesting archive:

There is an extensive archive of information at the the [BBC Genome](http://www.bbc.com/genome) website . About 30% of the programmes listed in the BBC Archive are online. For example, you can hear [a September 1939 wireless broadcast](#) from Waterloo Station describing the scene as hundreds of evacuees board a train departing for an unnamed destination.

There's a lot of wartime material. The Battle of Britain is recalled in a number of programmes, including [this 1941 radio dramatization](#) and a 1965 television documentary [featuring Douglas Bader](#), the leg-less air ace whose story was told in the book (and later, film) *Reach for the Sky*.

Nearer in time is a 2009 [documentary](#) in which Buzz Aldrin relives the dangerous and dramatic moments of the final descent to the lunar surface.

PS I am a volunteer creating this e-newsletter in my 'spare time' but, if you do notice any errors, please tell me, so that they are not carried forward to the next emailinfo.

I often get asked to publicise family history fairs, new books on genealogy and small genealogy businesses. I use my discretion in including ones which are local to our area or which I think may interest readers. It does not mean that I or NWKFHS has any personal knowledge, or makes any recommendation, about the event or business.

If there is anything else I should be aware of, to give you maximum benefit from this emailinfoservice, please let me know. I do receive many suggestions and requests for external events to be included, but there is only room for so much and I am conscious that the longer this email is, the less likely it is to be read. Some external events I publish on our Facebook page instead. But I'd welcome your opinions on the length and content and whether there is anything additional you'd like included.

Please mention it to others and encourage them to sign up so that we can keep society members and anyone interested in family history informed of NWKFHS activities.

Stella Eames, Editor

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