

# *Rob's Family History Journal*

## *February 2009*

### ***Update***

It has been a while since my last journal so this one may have to be a tad longer than the rest. I have managed in this time to move a few of the families I am studying along. I have been mainly concentrating on the WATERHOUSE family that lived on the Isle of Wight. Lots of avenues have opened up in the last 18 months. The most important being the find of a lifetime (as far as research is concerned) in the archives of the Totland Parish Council. More on that in the WATERHOUSE update.

The HARVEY family have progressed well. I have now managed to track down the oldest images of the HARVEY family, namely two portraits from the 1850's. More on this in the HARVEY update.

The 1911 census release managed to help track down where my grandmother Eva Daisy HUBBARD went after the death of both her parents. This opened up a further mystery. Again, more on this in the HUBBARD update.

I had a great day last summer when I managed to meet up with Darryl and Mick, two other WATERHOUSE researchers. We met up in the Fox & Hounds, Toys Hill. It was great to be in an area where my ancestors had walked and probably drank! They showed me where my great grandfather went to school in Toys Hill. They are very lucky to still be living in an area where they are researching. That is why I have focused on the line of my family that is closest. I think

more enjoyment can be got from this hobby if you can actually see and feel what you are researching. Obviously, this is rather difficult if you are half way round the world...

### ***Waterhouse Update***

During a visit to the IOW records office I managed to move along the research into the Waterhouse family based in Totland, IOW. It appears that the Estate Agency that was run by the family existed right through until the 1960's. This was found by looking through telephone directories and waiting for it to disappear. The last entry was in the 1961 edition. After William John WATERHOUSE died in 1936 the agency was run by his son in law, Frank Allen McClean, the husband of William's daughter Ethel Louisa WATERHOUSE.

I spoke with a very kind lady in the records office who thought that maybe the parish council in Totland could help with the research; maybe their minutes of past meetings would have entries relating to the family as they would have dealt with planning matters. The records office did not hold anything from the parish council so suggested that I contact them. This I did via their website. After asking for any information they may have on the family in an email, I could not believe the response. They passed my questions on to their archivist, Dr Brian Hinton, MBE. (Of Dimbola fame and many other books about the IOW). The response was amazing. They had their own archive relating to the Totland area. This was made

up mainly of documents pertaining to the WATERHOUSE Estate Agency. This included many architectural drawings, desk diaries, minute books, receipts, mortgage papers and even an image of William John WATERHOUSE in his Masonic clothing. I was like a kid in a sweet shop when I was left alone for the day with my camera and laptop.

It took another visit or two to take it all in and even now I am planning to return as there is so much information to take in. Programs like 'Who do you think you are' show treasure chests of information and I always look longingly at it thinking that never bloody happens to me. It was like winning the lottery. If you are reading this you will know what I mean. However, even though all the things found about the family in Totland were amazing, there were two other even more fantastic finds. One was a notebook dated 1801 and appeared to belong to Richard WATERHOUSE (1761 – 1841). The other was a school book of Thomas WATERHOUSE (1823 – 1907), showing how he was taught mathematics. I think it would put my generation to shame; there were definitely no calculators then! You can see some of the documents and drawings which I have managed to put on the website in the WATERHOUSE family page.



A. H. Waterhouse 1896 - 1916

As talked about in the last journal I looked deeper into the children of the William John WATERHOUSE to see if any could have descendants alive today. This has still proved

fruitless but I continue to search. However, one amazing thing did come from this as I managed to find an image of Arthur Henry WATERHOUSE (1896 – 1916). He sadly died as previously said in the First World War.

Williams other son Ernest Thomas WATERHOUSE also met an untimely death during World War One. This time rather than in France as most did Ernest met his death in Iraq. He joined the Hampshire Regiment as a Gunner and was posted to Mesopotamia. Here he was unlucky enough to be part of the greatest military disaster to befall the British Army in history when besieged in Kut-el-Amara, they surrendered. Ernest survived the siege but died one month later in captivity. I have read about the conditions the captives lived through and the marches they were subjected too. He must have lived through hell.

My research into this family has now taken me to Rochester in Kent where Richard WATERHOUSE (1761 – 1841) lived and worked. This line is proving to be a fascinating story of wealth, poverty and catastrophe. I am attempting to put this into a small book which I will publish on the website when complete.

### ***HARVEY Update***

Obviously there have been some rather fulfilling elements to my tree coming together over the last 18 months in other families. But keeping this website up to date keeps my focus on the other members of the tree too. My aim as stated on the home page is to put faces to names wherever possible. This is obviously difficult the further back you go. With this in mind I have been trying to sort out a family mystery allegedly involving a royal scandal, bankruptcy, an untimely death and orphans. I am sure all families have things like this passed down the generations that get corrupted on the way. I am no different, or my wife's family are no different.

Caught up amongst this mystery, which can be seen in more detail on my [website](#), was the possibility of some portraits. These took some tracking down but eventually I found them. The present owners, a distant part of the family, kindly photographed the paintings and sent me the images. The sight of these was truly amazing as they represented the oldest images I have and as they are so well painted added more fuel to the fire, if it needed any! If the pictures really existed, then perhaps other parts of the story may be true? I will keep digging...

### **HUBBARD Update**

I assume the release of the 1911 census led to people opening up new avenues of research right across the planet; as long as they could afford it. I think the cost per image is a bit absorbatant. Anyway, I have bought some images, although I think I will wait now until it becomes part of a package.

One of the main things I was dieing to find out was what happened to my grandmother Eva Daisy HUBBARD after her mother died in 1906. Her father had already passed away in 1900. She and her siblings were left as orphans. Mum had always said that she went to an orphanage in London which she thought was called King Edwards? This is not as large a mystery as some of the others I am researching, but for my mum it is, as she never got to speak to her mother about her childhood so anything I can find is of great interest. I think in days gone by people spoke less of their past and looked more to the future. Perhaps without knowing it they left their mark in many ways thanks to the Victorians need for paperwork and lists.

Back to the 1911 census, I have traced Eva Daisy HUBBARD to the King Edwards School, London. She entered the institution on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1906. As both her parents had died a lady called Mrs Webb is listed in the admissions register. She lived at 8 Fronts Close, Moreland Road, Gosport, Hampshire. I am yet to trace who this is. Maybe she was

one of her step sisters or an aunt? Her conduct in the school was shown to be satisfactory when she left on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1912, for a 'situation', this was probably in domestic service.

It was thought within the family that Henrietta, Eva's sister, had gone to an orphanage together on the death of her mother. This does not appear to be the case unless she joined at a later date.



<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

King Edwards School

The King Edwards School or The House of Occupation as it was also known has a very interesting history. It was attached to the infamous Bethlehem Hospital, better known as 'Bedlam'. There is a great website [www.bethlehemheritage.org.uk](http://www.bethlehemheritage.org.uk) which goes into more detail about the school.

The [KES Whitley Education Trust](#) was very helpful in looking through there records to give me this information. I am ordering a book on the history of the school to better understand what my grandmothers schooling was like.

I think that is enough for now. I am sure I have not mentioned half of what has been happening over the last 18 months. There have been many contacts from all over the world thanks to the website. Just today a large amount of information that needs collating and adding to the HARVEY family page arrived from Lorraine in Australia. The

website now averages over 6,000 hits a month and is getting bigger and better all the time...