

Newsletter

Volume Two - February 2017

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This is my first newsletter of 2017, so a belated happy New Year to all. After a Christmas interlude visiting friends in the United States, I'm back at my research and ready to press ahead with the discoveries and challenges of a new year. I for one am hoping for a busy and fruitful year, and certainly there are some promising leads to follow up on in the coming months.

February Research Trip

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, I had been planning on taking what has become my annual research trip in February. The first week of February marked my 33rd birthday, and I couldn't think of a better way to spend it than in the pursuit of family history. As such I decided upon a return visit to Canterbury, with visits to Canterbury Cathedral Archives booked for 7th, 8th & 9th February.

Before this, though, I made a visit to the City of Canterbury Cemetery - where I took photographs of a number of extant gravestones, and by the time of reading this copies of these will most likely have been uploaded to the study Facebook page. My decision to visit & photograph the graves there has been brought about by the realisation & discovery that the City of Canterbury Council have available online an index for the municipal cemeteries they are responsible, and a search of these records has brought to light approximately 70 Twymans buried in the cemetery. My theory was that I should definitely take the opportunity to visit these graves, and record any extant monumental inscriptions in both photographic & written form. Unfortunately though, the weather took a poor turn during my visit, so I was unable to finish the task of locating & photographing the graves - but I will be making a point to complete this project during my next visit, as well as to replicate the same for both Herne Bay & Whitstable Cemeteries - which are also available as part of Canterbury Council's index.

Otherwise my visit involved checking the microfiche copies of the above civil cemetery registers (as it became apparent that while useful, the online index doesn't replicate the full details as available in the original books), transcribing any

convictions notices relating to criminal acts for which members of the extended Twyman family were convicted, and the ongoing task of checking those parish registers which aren't available online at FindMyPast. Those parish which I've checked this visit include:

- All Saints' Stourmouth (including the burial register).
- The three Sandwich parishes.
- All Canterbury city registers held by the Cathedral archives, with these exception of those for the original St. Mary Bredin church & St. George's church. Unfortunately these two parishes were destroyed by bombing during the Second World War and while some registers have survived, they are in a state of damage that makes them unfit for viewing sadly.
- The three Deal parishes.
- Various parishes in the Blean & Hoath areas.

The Early Roots

Following up on the report of the will of Thomas Adayne in the last newsletter, there have been further development in this area. The first is a supporting suggestion of a connection between William & Zacharye Twyman, based on the fact that William named one of his daughter Zarai. This is reportedly a female form of Zacharye and while admittedly a similarity in names is inconclusive, is does given a further element of circumstantial evidence to support a connection between the two families.

Perhaps more interesting is the discovery of a John Twynam (who is also recorded as John Twyman, Twiman, and various other spellings) in a history of Elizabethan Naval Administration. This John Twyman would be placed approximately between 1558 and 1585. Again evidence is more than circumstantial at this time, but interestingly this is the approximate time when the father of Zacharye (and by inference William Twyman) would have been alive, and we know from Zacharye's baptism record that his name was John Twyman. It would

be interesting, if a little convenient, if these two Johns were the same individual.

If they were indeed one and the same, it could also explain how and why the Twyman family arrived in Thanet - as, of course, the Isle of Thanet would be a logical place for anyone in the navy to start a family. That he is also recorded as Twynam could also suggest a connection to the Hampshire-based Twynam family, perhaps suggesting support for one of the theories based on the root of the surname.

Research continues, and I'm waiting for a copy of a reference book to arrive to further this research. Naturally I'll bring to light any further developments in future newsletters.

Many thanks too to Gezin Huisstede-Steinhorst for information, suggestions, and basically bringing a lot of this to my attention. It may have been years before I came across this on my own - too many sources but not enough hours in the day, after all.

Website Updates

I'm continuing with the ongoing project of adding names to the name index on the website, and am working on adding all names beginning with the letter 'D' this time. I had hoped to get this uploaded before my Christmas holiday, but unfortunately other sources grabbed my attention away (the Canterbury burials mainly, if I'm honest) & I'm unfortunately limited to checking census sources during my lunch break at work at present (as I've allowed my subscription to FindMyPast & Ancestry lapse, given I can use them free at the library). This project will, though, continue, with updates coming as soon as I can. It is a somewhat important project, as aside from creating the index I'm also evaluating each individual in my research as I add them to the Excel file ready for uploading - adding census notations to each individuals in my Legacy file, as well as in some cases merging duplicate entries, as well as adding snippets to people's notes that I've previously not entered due to lack of time & lazy record keeping in the early days of the study. Needless to say it can be pretty dry work, so I'll also be working through newspaper articles to add a little variety - and because there's "new" Kent-based newspapers available on the British Newspaper Archive since I last looked. If, though, you're waiting for, say for example, Edward Twyman, I'll be endeavouring to get the details uploaded as soon as possible.

Profile: John Twyman, the Blacksmith

This issue's profile is on another one of own Twyman ancestors - mainly because he's another

one of those interesting fellows, and his story makes for a good read.

John Twyman was baptised in 1591 in Birchington in Kent, the son of William Twyman & Margaret Jenkin - and is one of the earliest names & generations I've thus far got in the family tree. John was a blacksmith by trade, but is perhaps better known for what he did but more for what he shouldn't have done! On 20th June 1619 he is reported to have been found drunk while visiting Birchington - a victim, no doubt, of the binge drinking culture that is still alive & well in Britain today. It will be no surprise to anyone familiar with the effects of alcohol that he got into trouble during that day for "*fighting & quarrelling with everyone*". Coming off worst of it was a Mr. Arnold Kopp & his mother (against whom John Twyman's acts are described in *Archaeologica Cantiana* as being "*too shameful to be spoken*"), and the local vicar - who John Twyman told exactly what he thought of him! Apparently the fine for such behaviour was only 3/4d at the time, so reportedly John Twyman wasn't too bother about the consequences - basically telling all concerned that they could present him due to the nature of the fine.

Outside of his drinking behaviour, a few years later John Twyman married Mary Barnes in Margate - and presumably must have made a success of his life as a blacksmith, as John interestingly left what is one of the earliest Wills for a member of the Twyman family - in which he made numerous monetary bequests to his children, as well as bequests of household goods to his widow.

Book Project

The one other project I'm currently working on is one that will hopefully interest many researchers, as I feel I've reached the point where I can start publishing my findings in a book form. As such I'm about a third way through bringing together what I intend to be the first volume of the history of the Twyman family, covering those branches of the family from the county of Kent in England. This, I hope, will be finished in the next few months, and needless to say I'll be bringing news of this project in future newsletters.

And that's it's for another issue...

On that note, I'll bring this edition of the study newsletter to a close. I'm hoping to bring out newsletters quarterly now, so the next edition should be up online around May.

All the best.

Simon Golding