

Newsletter

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It seems like only yesterday that I was penning the previous newsletter, but amazingly it's been three months! This is as much a statement as to how busy the past few months have been as anything else, and it is with perhaps embarrassment that I admit there haven't really been any developments in my research since the more ground-breaking discoveries I related last time. That isn't to say I haven't been working on things (rather to the contrary, I haven't really stopped); but rather my work has been more background work – with the ongoing project of adding fuller source citations and notes to my files, and working on the ongoing project that is my book into the Kent branches. The work, as always, continues, at a steady pace, and hopefully there will be more noteworthy discoveries again in the near future.

Book Project

As mentioned, the book project continues – and at this stage I'm at the point where I've finished the first two thirds of the book (concerning the origins of the surname, and the descendants of William Twiman/Twyman of Birchington). Remaining to write is the third and final section of the book, concerning the descendants of Zacharye Twiman/Twyman – which covers the perhaps infamous branch of the Twymans who built and owned the so-called Rushbourne Manor in Hoath. This is a somewhat interesting story, although perhaps not the longest – as sadly this branch of the Twyman family is now extinct. This does mean, though, that if things go according to plan, then I hope to be finishing the book either at the end of this year or the beginning of 2018. This does, of course, assume that there are no more developments in the research – as while it was certainly a welcome breakthrough, the discovery of the Twymere links did lead to a complete revision of the first few chapters of the book and a set-back in writing of a few months.

Profile: Charles Twyman - The Murderer

One thing I have been working on not just recently but in the long term is an incident in 1786 in which *John Ansell* of Sacket's Hill in Kent was reportedly murdered by one *Charles Twyman* (a young boy of about 10 years, of Bromstone near St. Peter's in Thanet). There had reportedly been a disagreement between Ansell and Twyman sometimes prior to Ansell's murder, following which Twyman had reportedly threatened to exact revenge on the deceased. Twyman throughout denied any knowledge of the murder, and stuck to his story throughout – before eventually confessing, and shortly after absconding.

This bitter tale doesn't end there, however, as there are documents in the Home Office records at the National Archives in Kew that record how a David Twyman (a carpenter from St. Helena) was mistakenly arrested in Portsmouth in 1799 on the false apprehension that he was Charles Twyman – even though David and Charles apparently looked nothing alike, and the former was more than 10-years younger than Charles! The whole connection appears to have been based solely on the fact that David Twyman had left Thanet some years earlier, presumably for either work or adventure.

One would presume that David was eventually released, although there is evidence of a Charles Twyman being held on the prison ship *Retribution* at Woolwich in 1806 for an undisclosed “felony” – and while it is pure supposition, one cannot help but wonder if this is Charles Twyman the murderer finally getting his comeuppance.

That's it for another month...

And so I think I'll leave it there, and continue on with my research. Hopefully by the time I'm penning the next issue (which I'm planning to be around the end of the year) I'll be bringing more and maybe final news on the book, and making plans for my annual research trip.

Take care all.

Simon Golding