

Lexden History Group

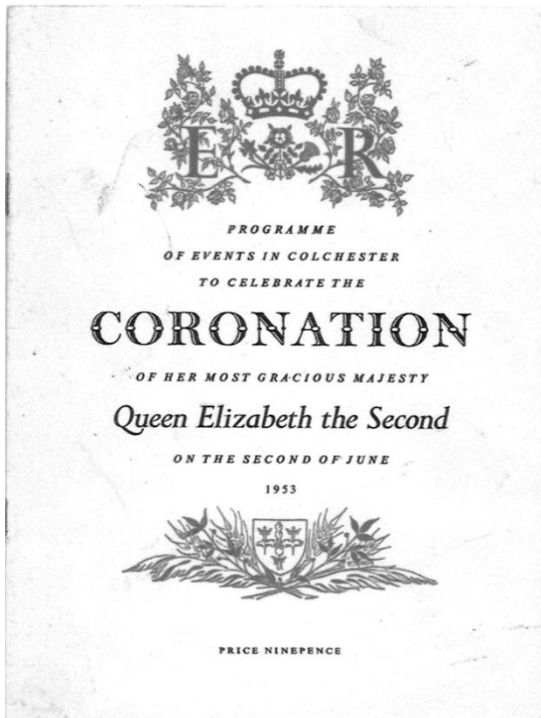


Ambrose Butchers Shop, junction of Straight Road and London Road, 1923

- How did Colchester Celebrate the 1953 Coronation?
 - Stories of Colchester Clockmakers (continued)
- Tales From the Churchyard - The Boyns & Flux Families

Newsletter No 68 – March 2023

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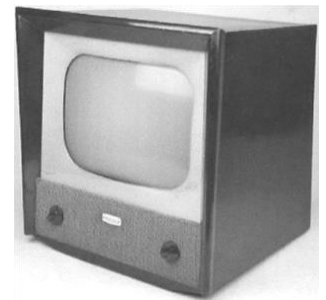
Colchester Borough Council appointed "The Coronation Celebrations Committee" under the chairmanship of Councillor William Lee. They produced a small booklet (*left*) entitled '*Programme of events in Colchester to celebrate the Coronation of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second on the second of June 1953*'. The cost was nine old pence (5p).

On Sunday 31st May the Mayor, Alderman Elfreda Sanders (*right*), Major General R H Bower, Commander of East Anglian District, and Brigadier George Taylor, Colchester Garrison Commander, with members of the Council and representatives of local organisations assembled at the



Town Hall ready to proceed to Lower Castle Park for a Thanksgiving Service in the afternoon. Hundreds of people turned out to join in the singing of hymns led by massed choirs of Colchester churches and the address given by Rt Rev Sherard Faulkner Allison, Bishop of Chelmsford.

On Coronation Day, Tuesday 2 June, Messrs HE Williams Ltd of Colchester made available several television sets (*right*) to be in operation in the Moot Hall for elderly people without their own set to view the celebrations in London and Westminster Abbey.



In the afternoon much entertainment was provided free-of-charge in the Castle Park, including a musical concert by the Band of the Essex Yeomanry, a daring display by the Castle Motor Cycle Club, a football match with Colchester Secondary Schools versus the Royal Grammar School, community singing led by Harold Arthur Finch, (that is a form of entertainment we don't enjoy today!) and a wide selection of sideshows and donkey rides.



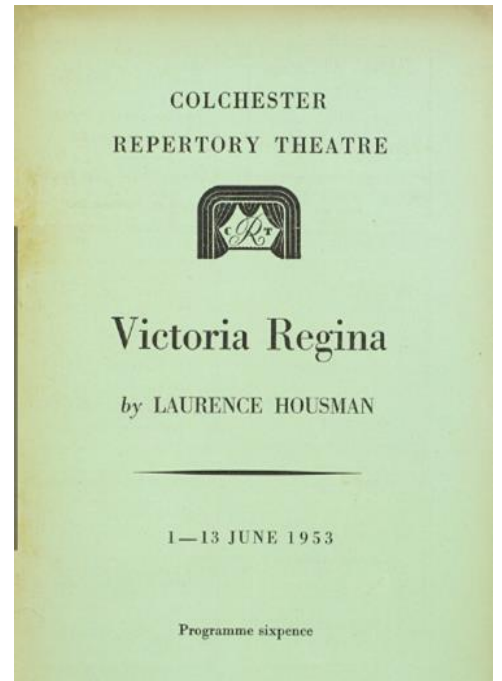
There was seated accommodation on Holly Trees lawn to watch a performance of Les Sparks Marionettes, and a children's musical pageant presented by Colchester Council of Youth. This was *The Rose of England* from the 1937 musical *Crest of the Wave*, composed by Ivor Novello.

At nine o'clock there was a relay by Greenwood's Sound Service of Her Majesty's speech to the nation, then more community singing of patriotic songs, a torchlight parade and Wilder's Ltd fireworks supervised by Mr R Van Asch.

In other parts of the town more celebrations were being held as on Shrub End Playing Field for children's sports (toddlers to 15 years of age), a baby show, a fancy dress parade and a picnic tea. All school children received a copy of the Essex County Council's souvenir book '*Royalty in Essex*' - (*left*).



Throughout this period of celebration Colchester Repertory Company at the Albert Hall Theatre in High Street staged the play *Victoria Regina* by Laurence Housman, (right) with the actress Angela Thornton (1931-2010) (left) playing the part of Queen Victoria.



When consideration was first given to the manner in which the Queen's Coronation should be celebrated, it was felt that in addition to festivities on Coronation Day, a lasting memorial of benefit should be erected. After various proposals, it was decided the memorial should take the form of a *Garden of Fragrance*.

This would be in a small section of Castle Park adapted and designed as a garden in which those less fortunate

members of the community who had lost their sight might spend a happy hour amongst the many scented flowers and shrubs. This was carried out with an opening ceremony on 5 June performed by William Sharp, a well-known figure in the field of welfare and work for the blind. This was replaced in 1995 by the Sensory Garden.



The Queen's coronation honours included an MBE for Mr Harry Hepburn Reid JP Headmaster, St. Helena Boys' Secondary Modern School, Colchester and later Mayor of Colchester.

(left - Colchester Co-op in Culver Street/Long Wyre Street decorated for the Coronation)

Stories of Colchester Clockmakers - Trish Terry

If you remember from my previous article when Nathaniel Hedge was thrown out of John Smorthwaite's house, business and will for getting his daughter pregnant, he went into business with William Cooper, who had himself been an apprentice to John Smorthwaite. At this time there were about eight clockmakers in the town so life was hard for Nathaniel and William Cooper when they set up together in 1733.



Cooper had started his business in 1728 and married John's niece Magdalen Reynoldson in 1729. They had seven children, four of whom died before the age of 5. Until 1739 they traded as Cooper and Hedge, (left: Clock arch showing names Cooper and Hedge) but in 1739 Hedge left the business and acquired his own. After this break Cooper made little impact on clockmaking in Colchester and died in 1757 a poor, indebted man.

Nathaniel Hedge was born in 1710 and has been labelled No 3 because there were five generations of the clockmaking Hedge family in Colchester. Also the family names of Nathaniel and Thomas are repeated in every generation especially in the

clock and watchmaking businesses. To avoid confusion they are numbered 1-5. Nathaniel 3 was Smorthwaite's apprentice and married his daughter, Sarah. Originally the Hedge family were weavers but the three month Siege of Colchester in 1648 impacted on all trade and the cloth trade never completely recovered. When life was looking up again Colchester was then hit, as was the rest of the country, by the Plague in 1665-6 when nearly five thousand lives were lost. Nathaniel Hedge 2, however, was not discouraged and continued his weaving business, taking on Robert Cupert in 1700 as his apprentice for nine not the usual seven years. The following year Colchester Borough Court ordered him to be discharged from Hedge. Nathaniel 2's weaving business did not appear to thrive and in 1705 he was convicted for stealing wood and was ordered to pay the bailiff 2s 6d. He was again before the court in 1717 and gaoled for "misbehaviour having no sureties".

It seems that two sons of Nathaniel 2, Thomas and Nathaniel 3, worked as weavers for their father, but when Nathaniel 3 was 18 he became an apprentice with John Smorthwaite at the much reduced rate of £10 and the unanswered question is perhaps his father could not afford this, particularly because another apprentice was charged £30. It is possible that John Smorthwaite was encouraged to buy the freehold of the property in the parish of St Mary Magdalen where he was one of the tenants. This had been owned by grandfather William Hedge and by a strange coincidence it was bought back in 1753 by Nathaniel 3 from the Smorthwaite family in Westmorland. He could well have bought it for the sake of the family and in turn pass it on to his sons with his other properties.

However I am digressing from the clock making! Nathaniel 3 had joined up with William Cooper. Nathaniel 3 and Sarah's daughter was born at the end of January 1734 and baptised Sarah after her mother at All Saints' Church, High Street. Sadly the child died the following year but that year also saw the arrival of their eldest son Nathaniel 4, but later they lost two daughters and three sons, with only Nathaniel 4, John and Thomas surviving.

Nathaniel 3 was sworn in as a free burgess of the Borough of Colchester in April 1734. This was a vital requirement for a business in the town as he could now vote for MPs of the Borough. He was also expected to serve regularly on the jury at the local Sessions which he did, but when he failed to appear in August 1738 he was duly fined. John Smorthwaite died in January 1739 and Nathaniel 3 acted quickly to acquire John's clockmaking tools, goodwill, etc, from his widow. He was then able to trade and also transferred John's apprentice, Samuel Downum, to his business, which he set up at what became 97 High Street, Colchester. Two centuries later this was demolished for car park access at the back of the row of properties.

In the first half of the eighteenth century with several other clockmakers in Colchester, Nathaniel 3 had to work hard to make his business a success, and this was helped by being able to use the stock he had bought from Smorthwaite's widow. He made brass lantern clocks, the usual product of a clockmaker, but he fitted them with anchor escapements and pendulums to make long case clocks. These were thirty hour clocks as were his hooded wall-bracket clocks which included a small arch dial, often in brass, upon which he engraved his name. Nathaniel 3 in his first years as a clockmaker made longcase clocks, which were popular at the time. These often had an 11 inch square brass dial with one hand and were made with pine or oak cases, often polished.

More expensive 8 day long case clocks (*right*) had a larger dial and the more usual oak cases could be replaced by those of Chinese lacquer. However, they were not mass produced. No two clocks were ever the same but had different designs, often reflecting the fashion of the time. I should also mention that he did not make the cases. These were made by specialist cabinet makers who could use proximity to Nathaniel 3 as an advantage, eg, Clark Blyth, a joiner and cabinetmaker. Blyth's business did not pay so he sold out in 1756 becoming a woolcomber. He died in 1768. Perhaps Nathaniel 3 employed other local cabinet makers such as John Kendall and James Deane.



Nathaniel not only made clocks but also a good number of verge (mechanical escapement) watches with gold and silver cases. (*left - silver verge watch marked Hedge, ie, Nathaniel 3*) Few survive as with gold especially at an ever-increasing value, many were stolen and lost and melted down. The verge escapement was so called from the Latin *virga - stick or rod*. This was important as it enabled the development of mechanical clocks.

Nathaniel's son, Nathaniel 4, started training with his father in 1749 when he was 14 years old. In due course his brothers, John and Thomas, followed him into the trade. It is not known whether they were apprenticed to their father as the town had no Charter from 1740 to 1763 and there were no records. This political difficulty also prevented the brothers from taking up the Hedge family's grant of Freedom of the Borough on finishing their apprenticeships at 21. This was resolved in 1764 and they became free burgesses as their father and grandfather had before them. (*right: Gear Cutting machine from the Hedge business. Colchester Museum*).



This was vital for the high precision of cutting away metal to give a particular shape, ie, uniform tooth shapes to the wheel for pocket watches and pendulum clocks.

It was during their apprenticeships that the Hedge business moved on from small scale watch and clockmakers to opening a small factory in 1745 to about 1778, to produce cheaper long case clocks as well as better clocks and watches. According to Bernard Mason in his book "*Clock and Watchmaking in Colchester*" Nathaniel Hedge not only made the dials, but also the movements for these clocks which were of very good quality. When he started Nathaniel 3 signed his clocks 'Natl Hedge' (*left*) and then after 1765 'Hedge'.



Nathaniel 4 had his own signature to differentiate his work from his father's so he signed Nathaniel (sometimes Nath) Hedge (*right*). In 1763 local lad William Payne became an apprentice with Nathaniel 3 for a fee of 12 guineas. Payne later set up a small but successful business in Hadleigh,





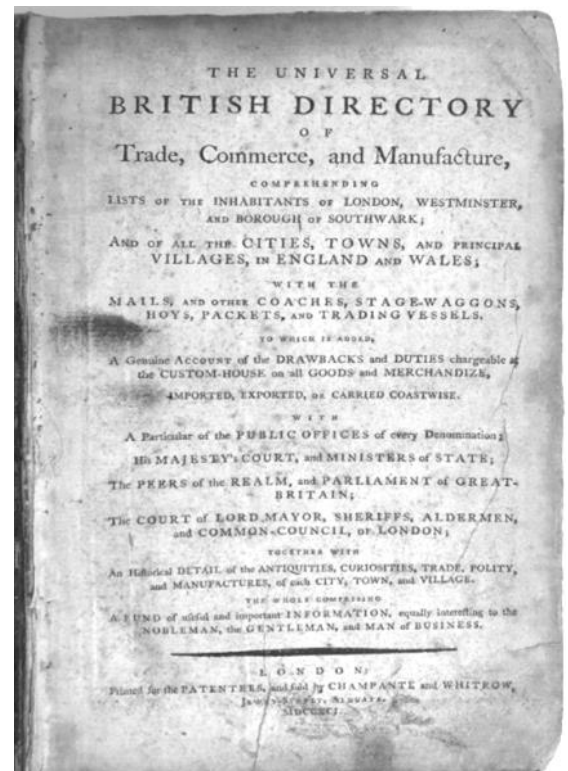
Suffolk, until he retired due to ill-health in 1814.

Nathaniel 3 attended church at All Saints' at the end of the High Street (now the Natural History Museum) (*left*). For forty years from 1736 he attended 57 parish meetings. In 1744 he was elected churchwarden and until 1769 was nominated for election as Overseer of the Poor in the All Saints' parish. He became an Assistant to Colchester

Borough in 1763 until he resigned in 1785 at the age of 76. He had further civic duties when he was sworn in for the Grand Jury in 1764. The fact that he was able to hold such important posts indicates that his business was successful, that he was comparatively wealthy and that he was an honourable member of society.

Nathaniel 3's son, Thomas, was law-abiding as was his father. Recorded in 1766 in the Colchester Borough Sessions book was "Thomas Hedge, son of Nathaniel Hedge of Colchester, watchmaker in £10 to appear and prefer one or more Bills of Indictment against Joseph Broadbent and Richard York, Labourers, for felony and give evidence thereon." They were charged with stealing 'a pair of silver buckles worth 10s' from his father's shop. Richard York confessed and his punishment was "To be whipped in the cart from the Gaol to the Three Crowns, from thence to St. Nicholas church and back again to the Gaol on Saturday next between the hours of twelve of the clock and one and then discharged". There is no evidence of any punishment meted out to Robert Broadbent.

Nathaniel 3 was doing well and by 1768 had acquired land and property in Essex. As a Freeholder he was entitled to vote, which he did, voting on several occasions for Knights of the Shire for Essex. He was also listed as a gentleman in the 1791 Universal British Directory (*right*).



Sadly, Sarah, Nathaniel 3's wife died in May 1770 at the age of 62 and was buried in All Saints' churchyard. In 1790 Nathaniel 3 married a widow, Elizabeth Mead, and soon after retired and moved to 103 High Street. This no longer stands as it was destroyed in 1952 by fire. His business was now continued by his two sons, John and Thomas, Nathaniel 4 having married Martha Gibson and started his own business near St Nicholas Church.

In 1776 when Nathaniel 3 retired from his work for All Saints', Thomas and John, now 32 and 31, were nominated for election as Overseers. No doubt Nathaniel 3 was available for advice when problems arose. John took over 97 High Street with his wife, but he died aged 41 in 1778.

Nathaniel 3 signed his will on 9th April 1787, leaving "£200 to the children of his sons, Nathaniel and Thomas, living at his death. To his wife Elizabeth, her wearing apparel and linen such as part of his household effects as she might choose to the value of £15." He also instructed his sons, Nathaniel 3 and Thomas 2 to "pay his widow, out of his real and personal estate, the sum of 8 shillings weekly during her



lifetime for her own personal use, free from the control of any future husband she might have". To his sons he left "all his messuages, lands and other real estate, together with the balance of his chattels and household effects for them and their heirs to hold as tenants in common" and he appointed them as his executors. Nathaniel 3 lived to what was considered a great age in those days - he was 85 when he died on 14th March 1795. He is buried with his first wife, Sarah, in All Saints' churchyard (*left*). They were also buried close to Sarah's father, John Smorthwaite.

Tales from the Churchyard - The Boyns and Flux Families



Grouped to the west of the church are four gravestones, another further away is lost, but all in memory of the large, extended and ever diverging family of George and Sarah Boyns. (*grave on right of group left*) George was born on 13th September 1809, the son of Robert Boyns and Mary Osborne who had been married in Clopton, Suffolk in April 1805. Robert and Mary (*grave in centre of group above*) were born in 1784 and had seven children, but only Robert and three sisters survived.

By 1841 Robert, a wheelwright, and his wife, Mary, were living in Lexden Heath with their son, George, also a wheelwright, and two of their grandchildren, George and Mary Worth. Robert's younger sister, Mary Ann, had married Lexden stonemason Thomas Allen Worth (*Worth family headstone on left of group above*) and lived in London Road. Their daughter, Eleanor, married John Sydney Smith (*right*) in Shoreditch in October 1856. John, a Sergeant in the Coldstream Guards, based at the Tower of London, had been born in Colchester and had just returned from serving in the Crimean War. In 1861 the couple were lodgers in Heath Road where Mary's sister, Rosina, was working as a servant. With them were three of their children born in Colchester. John, promoted to Ensign, ie, of officer rank below Lieutenant, was posted



in 1864 to the Punjab with 7th Bn Royal Fusiliers, where Mary had two children before they returned to Colchester in 1867. Then she had two more. By 1871 John was promoted to Captain in the Coldstream Guards and the family was living in Camberwell, Surrey. He sold his commission and they emigrated to Queensland, Australia, leaving London in November 1871 on the *Storm King* (*left*), arriving in Moreton Bay near Brisbane in February 1872. It

was apparently a good journey for many of the passengers, including John and Eleanor, signed a testimonial to Captain Llewellyn Davies in "appreciation of your urbanity of manner and courteous bearing towards us, and also the generous solicitude for our comforts throughout the Voyage." The family settled well, increasing to six sons and four daughters and John becoming drill

inspector to the local schools and promoter of sports. He died in October 1882 having just bought a hotel to start a new career. Eleanor died in Brisbane in 1917.

Returning to Colchester - After Robert Boyns died in 1846 Mary lived first with George's family, then with Mary Ann's family in Heath Cottage, London Road, which was close to Back Lane. This could demonstrate how close the family was but also that a widow, with no income, had to live with her children and their families.

George Boyns married Sarah Hayes in Barnet, Hertfordshire, in December 1846 just a few months after his father, Robert, died. Sarah was some 14 years younger than

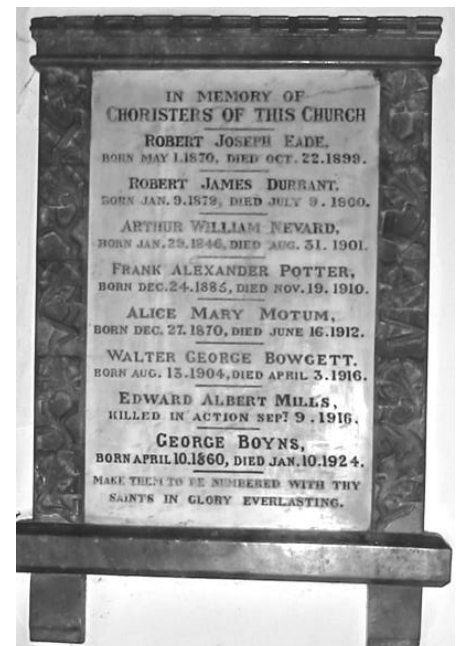


him and they went on to have six daughters and one son, all baptised at Lexden Church. Lydia, their first daughter, was born in 1851 and married Thomas Sivell in 1880. Her sisters, Eveline and Eleanor Annie were witnesses at the marriage. She was Thomas's second wife, the first, Celestine, having died young. Thomas was a farmer and riding school manager in Paddington, so Lydia and her family did not return to Lexden. Their daughter Maud Evelyn Sivell, born in 1887, married Edgar Charles Seeley in 1911, a stained glass artist. He worked for Morris & Co, in a workshop at Merton Abbey, Surrey, designing and making windows but especially in the style of Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones. (left: 1927 St Mary The Virgin Church, Farthingstone, Towcester, Northants)

George and Sarah's second daughter, Elizabeth Sarah, was born in 1853 and in March 1874 married James Felix Flux at Lexden Church. The Flux family is large and interesting, but for now we will continue with the family of George and Sarah Boyns.

Their third daughter was Eveline and more will be told of her later. George and Sarah's fourth daughter, Eleanor Ann, was born in 1856. She never married and in 1891 was working as nurse to a Government contractor's family in Streatham. Ten years later she was a servant to a Surgeon's family in Hoddesdon, Herts. She died in 1940 at 60 Vicarage Road, Watford, which had originally been the Union Workhouse but in 1930, having been taken over by Watford Borough Council, it became Shrodells Public Assistance Institution. Some years later in 1948 it became Watford General Hospital. She left only £83 and probate was granted to Edgar Charles Seeley, her brother-in-law.

Alice Emma was born in 1858 and married William Yeoman on 30th December 1886 in St John's Wood, London. Her brother George, was one of the witnesses. William was a coachman and groom from Somerset and in 1891 they were living in Hampstead. During the next few years they moved to Belvedere, West Meath, Ireland, with their four children. She died in Limerick in 1926.



The only son of George and Sarah Boyns was George Isaac. He was born in 1860 and was an ironmoulder. He married a local girl, Emma Eade, in Lexden Church

on 7th August 1899. She was a servant to Laura Papillon in Church House, Lexden Street (now No 197 Lexden Road). Their first house was 25 Lexden Street (one of the houses set back opposite the Sun) and then they moved to 29 London Road. He died in 1924 and his grave, although in the Lexden Church Inscriptions list, cannot be found but he is mentioned on the marble framed choristers' memorial in the organ vestry (*above: George last in list*). Emma's brother, Robert, is at the top of the list. Their only daughter, Kathleen born in 1901, married Blythin Arkinstall in Lexden Church in 1922. He was a local hairdresser and in the 1939 Register they were living at 73 London Road with their two small children.



George and Sarah's last child, Florence Jane, was born in 1865 and lived for many years with her sister Lydia, her farmer husband, Thomas Sivell, and their growing family in Harrow Road, Wembley. In the 1901 Census Florence is with her sister Lydia Sivell's family and in the same household was a young assistant bacteriologist, Dr Charles Todd (*left*). He worked in the serum department at the Lister Institute and wrote many papers on dysentery toxins and antitoxins. Lister Institute was the first medical research charity in the country. Its aims were to research the causes and prevention of disease by vaccine and antitoxins in man and animals. Dr Todd was later at the Hygienic Institute in Cairo, his specialism being serums and immunology.

By 1911 widowed Lydia was living in Bushey with four of her children. Her son, Thomas, was a laboratory assistant, probably at the Lister Institute. Her sister, Florence Boyns, was a servant to Richard Alfred O'Brien (*right*), a bacteriologist from Queensland, Australia, and his new wife, Nora, who was born in Leeds. He worked at the Lister Institute, gave lectures and wrote many papers over the years. Maud Sivell, Florence's niece, a Government school teacher, was a visitor in the house in 1911. Florence stayed in the Hertfordshire area near her sisters and died in April 1939 in Watford.



To return to the family of Elizabeth Boyns and James Flux: James was an Army Washing Contractor with a business off Magdalen Street, which is where the young family lived, but it was doing well enough in 1881 to employ 18 men and a house servant. At some point James and Elizabeth moved to 19 Meyrick Crescent but sadly Elizabeth died in early 1891, shortly after the birth of their fifth daughter Aldyth. At her funeral service at St Giles church where she had been an active parish worker, Rev Luther Boswall assisted at the service. She was buried in Lexden Churchyard where eight of her children had been buried.



By the 1891 Census the very recent widower, James, (*left*) was still in the same house but he did not remain a widower for long as in the summer of 1892 he married Elizabeth's younger sister, Eveline Fanny. At that time it was illegal in England to marry such a close member of the family. The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act, a Private Member's Bill was passed in 1907. The fact that such a marriage was illegal in 1892 may have been the reason James and Eveline married in Hampstead, London, by

Special License, and that James's previous marriage could not be traced so easily (no internet!), but perhaps it was because Eveline's sister, Alice Emma Yeoman (née Boyns) was living there. It would be interesting to know if any questions were asked on their return to Colchester as man and wife. Eveline Fanny and James moved across the road to No 16 Meyrick Crescent. After their marriage, Eveline was looking after her sister's five daughters and her own increasing family. Elizabeth's first daughter Eveline Ellen married Luther Henry Boswall in 1896 who had been a curate at St James's Church, East Hill. They moved to Tring and then Baldock, Hertfordshire. Luther died in 1934 and in the 1939 Register Eveline was living in St Albans. (right: wedding of Eveline Ellen and Luther Boswall by William Gill of Colchester)



In 1911 James Flux and Elizabeth's third daughter Kate, born 1884, was staying with her older sister, Florence born 1879, who had married Albert Hague, an organist and teacher of music. He had been the organist at All Saints in Colchester 1890-97. They and their family lived in Woodhouse Lane, Leeds.

Kate Flux married George William Mann at St Giles Church, Colchester on 31st August 1918 shortly before he was killed aged 38 on 8th October 1918 at the Battle of Cambrai. George had signed on with 1600 others in one week at the Tower of London with the Stockbroker's Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, which included wealthy bankers as well as bank clerks. They trained in Colchester and became part of 54 Brigade in Colchester. They landed in Boulogne in July 1915 and fought at many of the major battles. George was soon promoted to sergeant. The unit became 10th Bn (City of London Regiment) Royal Fusiliers. On his death Kate chose the inscription "Sleep to Wake" for his headstone at Bois-des-Angles British Cemetery, Crevecoeur-sur-L'Escaut. When he died Kate was living with her parents at 16 Meyrick Crescent and she would have received his three medals.

In 1934 she and her sister, Florence (Hague), travelled together to Canada, returning to Liverpool in November on the Cunard ship, *Laconia*. The ship's manifest recorded Kate as having no employment, but Florence was an actress and unless she had a different stage name, she does not appear in any theatrical records of the time. Eight years later, off the West African coast, the *Laconia* was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Kate died in 1961 at 39 Waverley Road, St Albans, near her family.

The fourth daughter of Elizabeth and James Flux, Dorothy Marion, was born in 1889. From May 1916 she was employed as a British Red Cross VAD clerk to the Steward's Office in Colchester Hospital. When she started her pay was £1 and increased to £1 16s 6d by the end of the war. She continued to work there. In September 1922 she married Henry (Harry) Burton Mason at the family church of St Giles Colchester. He was serving as a Sergeant at the Cape of Good Hope from 1911 to 1921 in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He joined Freemasons whilst he served in there. He may have been posted to Colchester Hospital where he met Dorothy. He reached the rank of Warrant Officer Class I and on retirement became a poultry farmer in Sutton Coldfield. They moved back to 9 Alexandra Road, Colchester, where Henry died in October 1950. Dorothy then lived near to her sisters Kate and Eveline in St Albans

and died there in 1970 but she is buried in Colchester Cemetery.

Aldyth Flux was born in January 1891 and Elizabeth, her mother, died shortly after her birth. Aldyth married Alfred le Bas le Messurier from Jersey, a man some 16 years her senior, in April 1912 at St Giles Church, Colchester. Alfred worked for Westminster Bank. They lived in Chertsey and later moved to Chatham where he died in 1965 aged 90 leaving nearly £13,000. Aldyth died in Maidstone in 1972.



Eveline, James Flux's second wife and the sister of Elizabeth, gave birth to a son, Jack, (*left*) in 1893. He attended Colchester Royal Grammar School and was captain of the cricket and football teams, helped by his unusual height - 6'3". He served with Essex Yeomanry from the age of 16 and in 1911 became an apprentice with Frederick Clark at Hannam's Hall Farm, Weeley. He emigrated to Western Australia in 1912 and worked as a stockman on a sheep farm. He enlisted on 9th January 1915 and joined 10th Light Horse Regiment

(Service No 521). He fought on Walker's Ridge, Gallipoli, and was declared missing on 7th August 1915. He is remembered at Lone Pine Memorial, the main Australian War Memorial at Gallipoli. In 1919 Commonwealth burial parties returned to Gallipoli and 316 soldiers, including Jack Flux, were recovered and buried at the Nek - a narrow ridge on the Gallipoli Peninsula. His name is not on the Lexden War Memorial as he was not a British soldier, but he is mentioned on the CRGS memorial. After armfuls of ivy were stripped away, the gravestone (*right*) with Jack, James and his two wives, Elizabeth and Eveline is again visible in Lexden Churchyard. When James died in 1916 he left £3,300 and Eveline was granted probate with Rev Luther Boswall.



The large families of the Boyns and Flux were scattered over the years but some remained in Colchester, only remembered on their gravestones in Lexden Churchyard. The generations have been very interesting and varied giving a great insight into life at the time. One hundred years later we can appreciate how different life is with telephones, email, facebook, apps, etc. For families and generations that had become so widespread it must have been difficult to stay in touch, the main form of communication being letters. Perhaps some of this family is still in Colchester!

News from the Committee

The Committee considered that the issue of LHG membership cards was more of a hindrance than a help, and they will no longer be issued. Membership details will in future be recorded on a master list held by the membership secretary, Jackie Bowis.

Concern was expressed regarding the continuation of the Summer Barbecue, due to the lack of help from LHG members with setting up the tent, tables and chairs and the general organisation of the food and other equipment required. These tasks have always been carried out by the committee, many of whom who are now finding it physically difficult to do so, and committee is now much smaller. Other options, such as hiring outside catering specialist, or using the Church Hall were considered. Before taking a final decision, LHG members' views would be appreciated".

Your Committee

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Archivist and Refreshments Organiser - Positions Vacant

Forthcoming Meetings start at 2.30pm
at Lexden Church Hall

Wednesday 12th April 2023

Paul Byrne

"CRGS Swimming Pool – 100 Years of Pleasure"

Wednesday 10th May

Jackie Bowis and Liz White

"The Coronations"

Wednesday 14th June

Keith Lovell

"Colchester Blue Heritage Plaques"

Membership renewals can be taken during our March and April meetings
ready for the AGM on 10th May.

Membership Renewal is due before the May AGM

If your details have **not** changed since the 2022 AGM, then please fill in the form below and return it to:

Jackie Bowis, Membership Secretary, 20 Munnings Road, Colchester, CO3 4QG

MEMBERSHIP NO NAME

Please tick the membership required: SINGLE MEMBERSHIP £15 FAMILY
MEMBERSHIP £20

Please make cheques payable to "Lexden History Group"

If your details have changed, please ask the Membership Secretary for an application form.