

FAMILY TREE

for

ALAN WILLIAM DELFORCE NICHOLLS

1913-1996

And his wife

MARY JANET BISHOP

1911-1989

Compiled by

Peggy Nicholls

ALAN WILLIAM DELFORCE NICHOLLS

1913-1996



— 2nd Lieut. Alan Nicholls —
Aug. 1936

Alan William Delforce NICHOLLS (1913-1996)

George Edward Nicholls

married

Maude Ethel DELFORCE



William NICHOLLS m **Louise Sarah WRIGHT**
1853-1930 1855-1932

Children:

Edith Louisa 1878-1951

George Edward 1880-1958

Ada Lucy (m Reginal Kirkby) 1882-1964



Thomas NICHOLLS m **Lucy TURNER**
1829-1906 1826-1892

Children:

William 1853-1930

Ann Maria 1854-1938

Lucy 1856-1949

Sarah Jane 1858-1935

Thomas 1861-1936

Joseph 1869-1869

Mary 1871-1966



John NICHOLLS m **Mary Anne SUTTON**
1805-1880 1806-1869

George DELFORCE m **Sarah BLAKE**
1846-1928 1852-1919

Children:

Beatrice Mary (m James Andrew Chappell)
1881-1961

Maude Ethel (m George Edward Nicholls)
1882-1981

George B (m Constance Baily) 1887-1956



John William DELFORCE m **Mary Maria DOUGHTY**
1816-1871 1818-1871

Children:

Mary Ann 1837-1907

John 1841-1841

Matilda 1843 - 1896

Harriet 1844-1858

William Edward 1844-1845

George 1845-1928

Henry 1847-1917

Charles 1850-1942

Jane (Jenny) 1852-1925

Thomas 1853-1873

Caroline 1857-1911

Ann (Annie) 1859



John DELFORCE m **Jane STARMER**
1782-1855 m 1802
m **Mary MORRIS**
m 1807

ALAN WILLIAM DELFORCE NICHOLLS

Born 25th August, 1913 Walthamstow, Waltham Forest
at 43 Howard Road, Walthamstow E.6

Married **Mary Janet Bishop** on 21st March, 1940 at St Luke's Church, Haifa,
Palestine

Died 15th December 1996 The Lawns Nursing Home, Springfield, Chelmsford



Alan was the only child of George Edward NICHOLLS and Maude Ethel DELFORCE and in 1921 they lived at 37 The Drive, Walthamstow. Both grandparents lived in The Drive, William and (Louisa) Sarah Nicholls at No.6 and George and Sarah Delforce at No. 58.

Education:

Alan went to St Aubyns Preparatory School (Woodford Wells) (there in 1922 as received a silver cup with school and his name on it, Haileybury College 1927/2-1932/2 and from there to Clare College Cambridge. He chose a career in the army and was commissioned into the Royal Leicester Regiment on the 31st August, 1935 and joined the 2nd Battalion in Londonderry.

He was a keen sportsman and played flyhalf at rugby but following an accident severely damaging his knee and was restricted to refereeing rugby and playing hockey.



Aunt, (Edith Nicholls)
Father, (George Nicholls)
Mother (Maude Delforce
Nicholls) and
Alan William Delforce Nicholls at
Alan's Graduation in Cambridge

Career:

1935 Joined the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment

30-9-1935 to 14-9-39 in UK and was made Lieutenant on the 1st February 1937

15-9-1938 to 13-9-40 in Palestine *Acting Captain on 3.9.39*
Active service with the Battalion in the Arab Rebellion, Palestine**

** While in Palestine Alan married Mary Janet Bishop at St Luke's Church on the 21st March, 1940 after having met at a friend's wedding in England.

4-6-39 to 10-6-39 passed a course of Instructions on P.A.D. at Sarafand Garrison, Palestine (recognised as the Aldershot of Palestine)

15-9-1939 Mentioned in Despatches
Awarded General Service Medal with Clasp 'Palestine 1936-1939

1940 After the Battle of Sidi Barrani 10-11th December 1940 the Battalion was placed in reserve to the 16th Australian Infantry Brigade for the assault in Bardia (3-5th Jan 1941) Alan (or Spike as he was known in the army) was responsible for setting up a Prisoner of War camp and eventually looking after 12,000 Italians – they weren't the problem as they were pleased to be out of the war but feeding and watering them was a major headache for him.

13-9-1940 to 15-5-41 in Egypt Western Front, *Confirmation of rank of Captain*
Joined Battalion with rear party *3.12.40*

1941 In April 1941 they were still in the Libyan desert near Mersa Matruh and at the beginning of May when they were given a holiday on the 12th May they were enjoying a well-earned rest on the Mediterranean coast when on the 15th May 1941 they were rushed to Alexandria to embark for Heraklion, Crete to reinforce 14th Infantry Brigade's defences.

15-5-1941 to 29-5-41 in Crete (14 days)
Awarded Military Cross 19.9.1941 after battle of Crete

It was routine for breakfast to be machine-gunned by Messerschmitts. On the 20th May the Battalion was firmly in position and after extensive dive-bombing and machine-gunning Junker aircraft appeared in their hundreds and dropped parachutists. The Battalion's task was to tackle the enemy as soon as they landed and before they had time to re-organise on the ground. Alan was awarded the **Military Cross** for his actions during this battle and he wrote the following account of the action:

'It was about 12.30pm on Tuesday 20th May 1941 when I was sitting in my Company HQ thinking that the morning had been well spent and that, as the Company positions were in a reasonably advanced state, the platoon commanders could be left to their own devices and I might study for the Staff College for half an hour, when the phone rang. It was the C.O., the same thing had happened 24hrs earlier when he had said 'Cancel your reconnaissance this afternoon it looks as though there might be trouble'.

But on this occasion he said 'The trouble seems to have died down, so there is no objection to you taking your platoon commanders away this afternoon and showing them all around the area. Set off by 2 o'clock and be back by 4.30pm'. *It was a pity that the horoscope issued to Battalion HQ on that particular day was not a little more accurate!*

We were half way across 'Buttercup Field' having explored Heraklion and visited the Royal Marines posts and the Black Watch on the airfield when the first dive bomber appeared. The only cover available was two prominent conical hills (The Charlies) some 300 yards away. We ran and arrived breathless, clambered up the side and wedged ourselves between the rocks. We then sat for an hour or more and watched one of the finest air displays of the whole war. From our perch, the whole of Heraklion and its defences were laid out before us. The view of the town, the Battalion positions and the airfield was as from the top of the pavilion at Lords.

We watched speechless as bomb after bomb was dropped on the Black Watch and the 40mm Bofors positions and what we later knew were dummy aircraft round the airfield. Each and every bomb seemed to hit its target and each one sent a pang of anguish through us as we watched. There was no opposition and when the bombs had dropped, the pilots cruised around. Many times we had the planes flying below us and it seemed as though we could stretch out a hand and touch the pilot as he went by.

We broke cover and headed back just as the parachutists began to fall. Having returned to the Company location the first task was to keep 'Buttercup Field' free from parachutists. I'd never seen the light of battle in men's eyes before, but it was unmistakably there. Whilst Dick Godbehere was quickly telling me what had happened in our absence the next lot of parachutists dropped from immediately above us. For a second there was silence as stomachs turned and then every weapon we possessed opened fire and the spell was broken. The finest sound of all was the regular pounding of the 40mm Bofors opening fire on the troop-carrying aircraft. If there was a fillip to morale this was it.

The guns we had seen battered were not out of action but had merely waited patiently for their target and was at the end of their barrels. The sound of those guns put life into us all and we cheered. We had only to wait a short time before one Junkers was hit just as it was about to disgorge its load. It crashed. Perhaps the death of those parachutists was preferable to the death suffered by those who came down with their parachutes on fire, going faster and faster as they neared the earth, only to be swallowed by one of our platoons as they landed. One had the misfortune to land on top of Company HQ as we lay concealed in some standing corn. He drifted slowly to earth and I watched. When he was about ten feet from the ground seven or eight Tigers, each with a bayonet fixed, rose and approached him. That was the first time I had heard a man scream with fright.

During the rounding up of the parachutists a misunderstanding caused a soldier to shoot when I should have told him to use his bayonet and the bullet went through the German and then on to me. I had been told before that ricochets were dangerous – now I knew!

The German was killed but Spike's finger had to be amputated (and ceremoniously buried). He was evacuated to the hospital at Knossos. Both sides used that hospital for their wounded under the protection of the Red Cross though the Germans quickly took over control. When he knew the Royal Navy were coming to evacuate the Heraklion garrison, the Battalion Medical Officer bravely and cunningly visited the hospital and brought Spike back with him. Hence he avoided the fate of the other wounded who remained German POWs for the remainder of the war.

29-5-1941 to 24-7-41 in Egypt (56 days) After convalescence, Spike rejoined the Battalion which was in the besieged garrison at Tobruk. The Battalion was by then down to only twelve officers and his arrival did much to instil new enthusiasm. He and his company played an active part when the garrison 'broke out' in December 1941.

24-7-1941 to 8-10-41 in South Africa

*Prisoner of War Escort Duty Imp Forces Transshipment Camp, Durban, South Africa
Awarded Africa Star (Spec IAO 56/S of 18.12.43)*

According to Alan's war records he was sent to Durban from the 27th July to the 8th October 1941 for 'Prisoner of War Escort Duty' at a Forces Transshipment Camp. His wife Mary was in South Africa at the same time.

We aren't sure where Alan was working but below is a brief summary to the internment camps in South Africa:

After the declaration of war by South Africa on Germany on 6th September 1939 the government established an internment camp to house 600 civilians who were suspected Nazi sympathisers. On 10th June South Africa declared war on Italy. With the numbers of POWs being sent to South Africa more camps were established, the largest being Zonderwater and Kronstadt near Pretoria and Durban Rd Camp, Pietermaritzburg near Durban.

8-10-1941 to 25-12-41 in Egypt and Tobruk *Acting Major 2.12.41*

Records say:

24.10.41 S.O.S. Unit on posting to X(iv) List (IBD) (IBD =?Infantry Base Depot)

15.11.41 Proceed to join Unit from IBD remains X(iv) List

2.12.41 Joined TOS from X(iv) List

25-12-1941 to 29-1-42 in Egypt

29-1-1942 to 24-2-42 in Syria

24-2-1942 to 6-3-42 in Egypt

T/Major 2.3.42

15-3-1942 to 3-2-43 in Ceylon

**Rel T/Major 1.6.42*

***Re-granted T/Major 29.6.42*

**1.6.42 Admitted to hospital*

***29.06.42 Discharged from hospital*

07.09.42 - October 1942 Joined course at Tactical School Poona India

- Passed 05.11.42

5-2-1943 to 2-6-45 in India

Acting Lt.Col 1.9.44

Lt.Col 1.12.44

10.3.43 Attached to 70 Division Battlecraft School Wef

19.06.43 Admitted to hospital S.O.S. to X(ii) List

05.07.43 Discharged from hospital S.O.S. to X(ii) List

05.07.43 Attached EAC School on 'rejg' from hospital

15.05.43 CTBA EAC School

15.07 to 05-08 Granted War leave with R.A. for period

03.10.43 Proceeded to 70 Div Jungle Warfare Cadre

24.10.43 Joined 70 Div Jungle Warfare Cadre

Jan 44 - Jun 44 Staff College Quette, India - Passed Course

Early 1945 C.O. during training for 1945 operation which did not materialise.

Ceased to be Administered by O2E A.L.F.S.E.A.

**Information written by A.W.D. Nicholls regarding his experience and signed
12 June 1945:**

Two years training with Chindit Units inc Air Supply

No experience 1944 operations owing to Staff College Course

Early 1945 C.O. during training for 1945 operation which did not materialise.

Awarded War Medal 1939-45

Awarded Defence Medal

Travelled back to the UK from Bombay, India on the 02.06.1945 and arrived in Glasgow on the 28th June - his leave address was 7 The Drive, Buckurst Hill, Essex

Posted to 22 Hold B2 Moreton Morrell on arrival in UK

Moreton Morrell Hall was the base for the Czech Field Artillery during WWII

27.11.45 Appointed GS02 Co-ordinating Branch C.O.H.Q. (Combined Operations Headquarters) based in London.

17.07.47 Relinquishes GS02 (co-ord) bomb, gas C.O.H.Q. London

17.07.47 Posted to Midland Brigade I.T.C. Stensall Barracks, Yorkshire

15.08.47 Proceed to Port to embark duty with B.A.O.R (1st Leicestershires)

05.09.47 **N.W.E.** (North Western Europe) Transfer to Training Centre B.A.O.R. from 2nd Leicestershires S.E.A.C. (South Eastern Asia Command)

03.1948 Bad Lippspringe, Germany

12.07.48 Overseas B.A.O.R. to Midland Brigade T.C. Warwick

13.07.48 Posted to School of Infantry (Platoon Weapon Wing) Hythe

- 30.10.48** Appointed Instructor E. Comd List
- 1948-1950** Officer Commanding Signals Wing, School of Infantry, Hythe
- 1950-53** Brigade Major in the Arab Legion (Jordan) Mafrak and Zerka.
See **AWARDS - Awarded *Al Istikal III Class* by King of Jordan**
- 1953-54** 1st Leicestershires, Iserlohn, Germany
- 1954-55** Transferred to Ogbourne St George, Marlborough, Wiltshire in preparation for departure for Khartoum, Sudan
- 1956-58** 1st Leicestershires, Farmagusta, Cyprus
He commanded the 1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1957-58 when it was on active service in Cyprus for which he was **awarded the OBE.**



British Army Officers 1939-1945

**NICHOLLS,
Alan William Delforce**



Son of George E. Nicholls, and
Maude E. Delforce.
Residence: (1987) Ingatestone,
Essex

25.08.1913

West Ham
district, Essex
/ Greater
London

12.1996

Chelmsford
district, Essex

2nd Lt. 29.06.1934 [62873]
2nd Lt. 31.08.1935, seniority
01.02.1934
Lt. 01.02.1937
A/Capt. 03.09.1939-02.12.1939
T/Capt. 03.12.1939-31.01.1942
Capt. 01.02.1942
A/Maj. 02.12.1941-01.03.1942
T/Maj. 02.03.1942-31.05.1942,
29.06.1942-30.11.1944
WS/Maj. 01.12.1944
A/Lt.Col. 01.09.1944-30.11.1944
T/Lt.Col. 01.12.1944-27.08.1945
Lt.Col. 28.06.1956 (retd
18.01.1959)



OBE 30.09.1958 [Cyprus](#)



MC 04.11.1941 [Middle East \(Greece and Crete\)](#)



MID 22.12.1939 [Palestine](#)

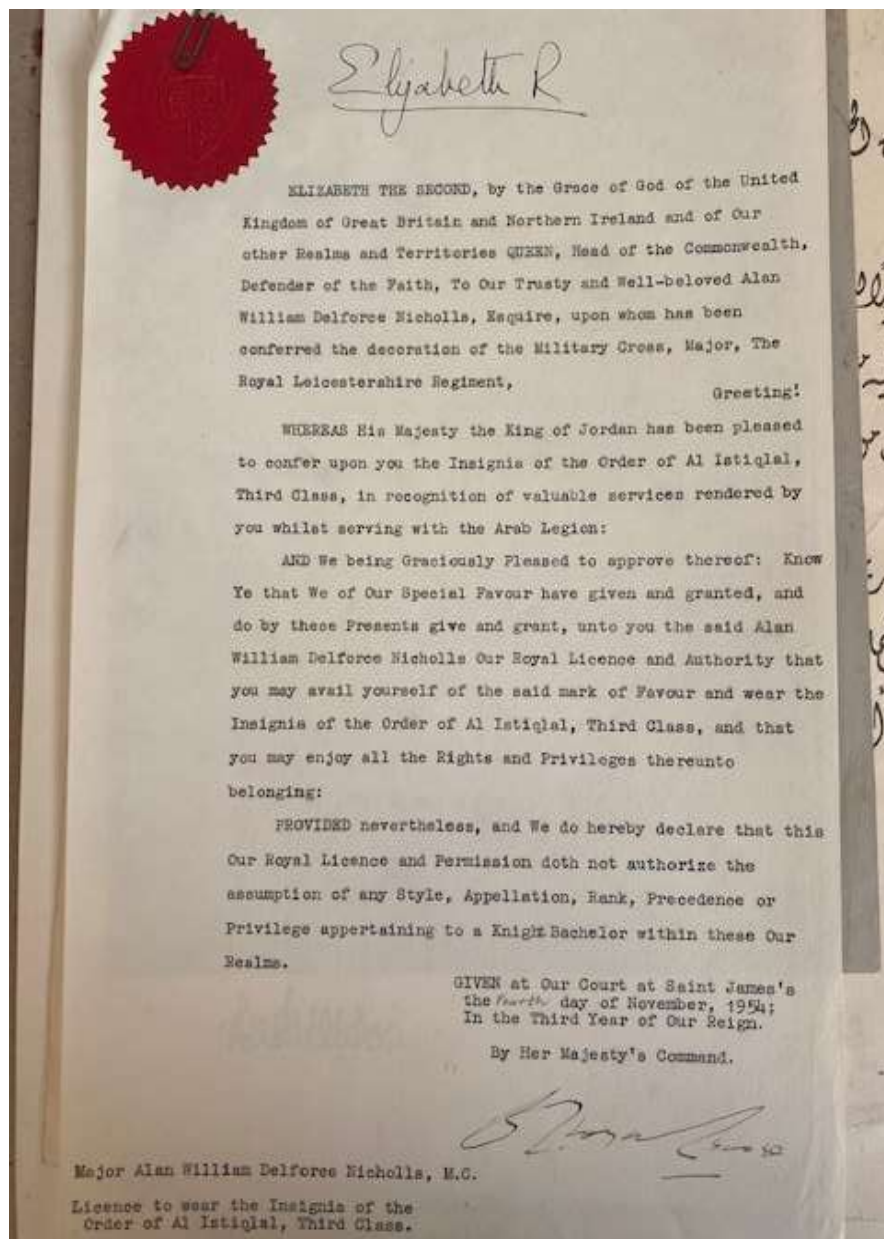
Palestine 1936-39 Medal & Clasp
Order of Al Istiqlal, third class
(Jordan) (09.11.1954)

Education: Staff College (psc)

29.06.1934		commissioned, General List (University Candidates)
31.08.1935		commissioned, The Leicestershire Regiment
(01.1937)		2nd Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment (Aldershot)
(01.1939)		2nd Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment (Palestine)
(1941)		2nd Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment
10.03.1943 -	20.01.1944	Chief Instructor, 70th Divisional School
13.05.1944 -	11.07.1944	Brigade Major, 14th Army Pool
27.11.1945 -	04.09.1947	BR, Combined Operations HQ
05.09.1947 -	29.10.1948	Instructor, School of Infantry, British Army of the Rhine
30.10.1948 -	29.10.1950	Instructor, Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry, Hythe
20.11.1950 -	04.10.1953	Brigade Major, 2nd Brigade Arab Legion
(1958)		1st Battalion The Royal Leicestershire Regiment

AWARDS

1954



From Colonel R. F. Melville

OFFICE OF THE
STAFF LIAISON OFFICER
THE ARAB LEGION



18 UPPER PHILLIMORE GARDENS
LONDON W.8
TEL. WESTERN 2211

Reference A/IE

5th August, 1955

Dear Sir

At Qaida's request I am forwarding you
the Royal Warrant in respect of the Jordan
decoration awarded to you.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

Major A. W. Nicholls,
1st Bn. The Royal Leicestershire Regt.
BACH 24.

محي الدين بن جلوه
 قد برزوا لصفحة التاريخ التي انصف بها قلوبنا لفضلهم ا. و. وكيكوس
 واهم فرائد من اهلنا واولاد بيتنا الهادي فقد اخذوا من
 الله تعالى من الهزيمة الثالثة واهمنا بغيره البراءة من وقلنا اننا نأبى لرك
 صدر عن قهرنا بسماي في احوالنا في اليوم الذي قد ننوذي القصة سنة
 اقول في امانه وادع من بسيد هجرته الخرافي في يوم الذي من من من
 سنة اقول في امانه وادع من بسيد هجرته الخرافي في يوم الذي من من من

ببركة الله الملك الوهاب

[Handwritten signature]

رضي الله عنه

Order of the British Empire
September 1958



Elizabeth R

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith and Sovereign of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to Our trusty and well beloved Alan William Delforce Nicholls Esquire on whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Military Cross Lieutenant Colonel in Our Army The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Greeting
Whereas We have thought fit to nominate and appoint you to be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of Our said Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

We do by these presents grant unto you the Dignity of an Additional Officer of Our said Order and hereby authorise you to have hold and enjoy the said Dignity and Rank of an Additional Officer of Our aforesaid Order together with all and singular the privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining

Given at Our Court at Saint James's under Our Sign Manual and the Seal of Our said Order this Thirtieth day of September 1958 in the Seventh year of Our Reign

By the Sovereign's Command.


Grand Master.

Grant of the Dignity of an Additional Officer
of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire
to Lieutenant Colonel Alan William Delforce Nicholls, M.C.
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment

He retired from the Army in December 1959

1960-1964 Works Manager Patent Shaft Steelworks, Wednesbury

1964-1978 Confederation of British Industries – CBI (retired)

Marriage: Married Mary Janet Bishop on the 21st March, 1940 at St Luke's Church, Haifa, Palestine. They had met at a friend's wedding where Mary was a bridesmaid and Alan a guest (Groom was in the Army)

Their marriage took place during the war in Palestine where Mary was working as a nurse. Not long after their marriage Alan was posted to Libya and Mary went to South Africa and Alan visited in Sept 1941 before being posted to India and Burma. Below is a photo taken at Amanzimtoti nr. Durban



Amanzimtoti offered refuge to many [Middle Eastern](#) and [British](#) evacuees during the [Second World War](#), many of whom lived in holiday cottages and in private homes. When first a school was started at Toti Town Hall, Dr Frickle paid for two teachers' salaries out of money he made at his clinic selling "No 9s" (red pills "from the army"), which he purportedly prescribed "for everything". Miss Burns (who ran the Guides) held the first [Arbour Day](#) in [Natal](#), and along with 16 Guides, planted 60 [Erythrina lysistemon](#) trees along Beach Road. These trees "blazed red" when in flower and were known as the "glory of Beach Road" - and for this reason, the Coral Tree is included in the crest of Amanzimtoti. These trees were however cut down in the 1950s when Beach Road was widened and tarred.

Places Alan Lived:

1913 born at 43 Howard Road, Walthamstow

1921 37 The Drive, Walthamstow

During this time he was at St Aubyns Preparatory School (Woodford Wells)
Time also spent as a boarder at Haileybury School 1927/2- 1932/2

At Clare College, Cambridge University

1939 7 The Drive, Chigwell, Essex

1935 Alan joins the arm and during the war he was based in several countries - see war records

1940s The White House, Cleland Road, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire

1950s Eastcote, 25 Brockhill Road, Hythe, Kent

1958 Lt Col A W D Nicholls residing at Seymour House, Mount Wise, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon

Mary always told people that she had lived in 35 different houses in her married life most as an army wife but the homes their children talked about were:

Eastcote, 25 Brockhill Road, Hythe, Kent
188 Barnet Lane, Kingswinford, Staffordshire
40 Willow Green, Ingatestone, Essex

GEORGE EDWARD NICHOLLS

(1880-1958)



William **NICHOLLS** m Louise Sarah **WRIGHT**
1853-1930 1855-1932

Children:

Edith Louisa 1878-1951

George Edward 1880-1958

Ada Lucy (m Reginal Kirkby) 1881-1964

Thomas **NICHOLLS** m Lucy **TURNER**
1829-1906 1826-1892

Children:

William 1853-1930

Ann Maria 1854-1938

Lucy 1856-1949

Sarah Jane 1858-1935

Thomas 1861-1936

Joseph 1869-1869

Mary 1871-1966

John **NICHOLLS** m Mary Anne **SUTTON**
1805-1880 1806-1869

GEORGE EDWARD NICHOLLS

Born 28th April 1880 in Hackney London

Married **Maude Ethel Delforce** 10th July, 1912 at St Mary the Virgin, Walthamstow, Essex, London

Children: **Alan William Delforce Nicholls**

Died 11th January 1958 in Connaught Hospital, Walthamstow Essex



George was born when the family were living at 82 Powerscroft Road, Clapton, Hackney and joined his eldest sister **Edith Louise (1877-1951)**. His father is described as a Commercial Clerk in the 1881 Census and they have a maid living with them. His younger sister **Ada Lucy (1882-1964)** was also born in Clapton.

By the time of the 1891 Census the family have moved to 6 The Drive, West Ham, Walthamstow. George is at home with his father and cousin (William J Taylor aged 15). His mother and sisters are in Hastings staying in Cambridge Road a short distance from the beach.

The family are registered at 6 The Drive, Walthamstow in 1911 and his father is now Director of Hudson Soap and George is working as a Colour Printer, Lithographics

His future wife, Maude Ethel Delforce, was living at 58 The Drive in 1911 with her parents and brother, so perhaps this is where they met. They got married on the 10th July 1912 and initially lived in Howard Road, Walthamstow and moved in to 37 The Drive, Walthamstow – mid way between their parents at 6 The Drive and 58 The Drive after Alan was born.

However, their only son Alan William Delforce Nicholls was born on the 25th August 1913 at 43 Howard Road, Walthamstow and George was a Master Printer.

World War 1 started in 1914 and finished in 1918. George joined the Royal Garrison Artillery as a Bombardier and was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. His record card says he served from 1914-1920.

The picture below says it was taken on the 9th September 1916 at The Bush Hotel, Farnham and is of George's father William standing and then left to right Edith, George's sister, George with son Alan on his knee and then Maude, George's wife



George and the family were still living at 37 The Drive in 1921 and Maude's father was widowed and living with them. It also states that George was an Employer and that he was a printer at 18 Appold Street, Finchley.

In 1930 his father William died and in 1932 his mother Louise **Sarah** also died and then by 1939 George and Maude were living at 7 The Drive, Walthamstowe and had two young ladies living with them. WWII started on the 1st September 1939 and the Register was taken on the 29th September so that Britain could issue identity cards, administer conscription, and monitor and control the movement of the population.

George's Sisters

Edith Louisa was born on the 25th June 1877 and never married. She is shown as living with her parents on the 1921 Census. Also on this census is her father's cousin Ann Nicholls (d.o.b. 6.11.1863) and in the 1939 register both Edith and Ann are living with Archer and Lillian Taylor (*possible from her mother's side of the family through the Wrights?? Need to check*) and they are in Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Maud appears in lots of family photos with her brother George and nephew Alan. She died on the 29th December 1951 and was buried on the 2nd Jan 1952 at Waltham Forest. When she died she was living at 11 West Avenue Road, Walthamstow, probate as London 1st April 1952 and she left everything to her brother George and sister Ada £14,744.5s.5d

Ada Lucy was born in 15th December 1881 and baptised on the 21st May 1882. She married Reginald Kirkby (d.o.b. 18.11.1881) on the 6th June 1912 at St Mary the Virgin Essex. Reginald is described as a Photographic Apparatus Light Tool and Jig Work Sound and Machine Engraver on the 1939 Register.

Ada died on the 21st December 1964; Probate London 13th May 1965 £21,425. At the time of her death, she was living at 19 Hadleigh Road, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex and Reginald was described as a retired instrument maker.



William, Sarah, Ada, George, Edith

WILLIAM NICHOLLS 1853-1930



Thomas NICHOLLS
1829-1906

m

Lucy TURNER
1826-1892

Children:

William 1853-1930

Ann Maria 1854-1938

Lucy 1856-1949

Sarah Jane 1858-1935

Thomas 1861-1936

Joseph 1869-1869

Mary 1871-1966



John NICHOLLS
1805-1880

m

Mary Anne SUTTON
1806-1869

WILLIAM NICHOLLS 1853-1930

Born 2nd Nov 1852 Trinity Street West Bromwich

Married Louise Sarah Wright 19th August 1876

Children:

Edith Louisa 1878-1951

George Edward 1880-1958

Ada Lucy (m Reginal Kirkby) 1881-1964

Died 4th May 1930

Probate 13 June 1930 - Effects £42562.6s. 7d. Re-sworn £43381 1s
(equivalent to £3,627,750.35p in 2023)

Wife: Louise Sarah WRIGHT 1855-1932

Born abt1855

Died 24 August 1932 Probate 7th October 1932 £933.10s 2d
(equivalent to £85,452.00 in 2023)



WILLIAM NICHOLLS 1853-1930

William was the eldest son of Thomas Nicholls and Lucy Turner and had four sisters and two brothers. He was born on the 2nd November 1852 in Trinity Street, West Bromwich. When William was born the population was 18 million. By 1861 it had increased by 5 million to 23 million.

In the 1861 Census he was living with the family in Sam's Lane, West Bromwich and his father was a Mill Furnace Man, William is listed as a scholar.

1871 William is in London visiting his uncle Samuel who is living at 2 Cross Street, Hackney with his new wife Mary Ann (Wright). Samuel is working as a Window Glass Cutter and is more like a brother to William (there was only ten years difference between them). William is working as a 'Traveller to Manufacturer'

Information taken from a document written by Samuel Nicholls (William's uncle): William's grandfather (John Nicholls 1805-1880) was a salesman but rather partial to the port wine. It would appear that both Samuel and William inherited his ability to sell but fortunately not his addiction. William was visiting Samuel while working for R H Hudson as a salesman. William's Great Uncle Samuel was also in London working as a 'cabbie' and had a contract to operate by one of the new stations. (Samuel's notes given to me after an AGM of Nicholls & Clarke are included as an addition to this document)¹

William was to become chairman of R H Hudson who were eventually bought out by Unilever. How this came about is not clear but Unilever have records of him in their archives (not yet managed to see them) and his Uncle Samuel's notes confirm this appointment.

It can be concluded that William probably met his wife Louise SARAH Wright at Sam Nicholls' as she was the sister of Sam's wife Mary Ann Wright and they married on the 19th August 1876 and lived at 82 Powerscroft Road, Clapham/Hackney, London – this is where their three children were born but by 1891 they have moved to 6 The Drive, Buckhurst Hill where they spend the rest of their married life.

William and Sarah are buried in the Queens Road Cemetery, Waltham Forest, Greater London at plot 511a together with William's mother Lucy and their daughter Edith Louise.

William died on the 4th May 1930 and probate was granted on the 13th June this with Louisa Sarah and his son George. His will is attached as Appendix 1.

There is evidence that William kept in touch with his family in West Midlands with his cousin, Ann, living with them at the time of the 1891 Census. William is at home with his son George and nephew (William J Taylor aged 15). His wife, daughters and cousin, Ann, are in Hastings staying in Cambridge Road a short distance from the beach

¹ Samuel Nicholls Recollections

Thomas NICHOLLS

1829-1906

m **Lucy TURNER**

1826-1892

More research is required into William's father and mother. We know that they lived in Sam's Lane, West Bromwich in 1861/1871 and he was a Mill Furnace Man. Lucy was born in Ludlow, Shropshire and lived with William in her later years (she is buried with William and Louisa **Sarah**). Thomas was a retired Ironworker on 1891 Census and a shop keeper on the 1901 census - why Lucy is living with her son and Thomas is in West Bromwich with his daughter is up for conjecture.

Louise Sarah WRIGHT 1855-1932

Louise Sarah **WRIGHT** 1855-1932

Born abt 1855

Married: William Nicholls 19th August 1876

Died 24 August 1932 Probate 7th October 1932 £933.10s 2d

Louisa **Sarah** Wright was the daughter of Thomas Wright and Mary Anne Bennet Wright and was one of six children. Her father Thomas worked for the General Post Office (GPO). It is thought that Sarah as she was known once she married met her husband, William Nicholls, through her sister Mary Anne Wright who was married to William's uncle Samuel. Samuel Nicholls was the founder of Nicholls and Clarke and the two families had strong links with Samuel mentioning William in his notes about his life told to his family – those notes are Appendix 2 a PDF file

Sarah started her life at 60 Nightingale Road, Hackney and by 1871 was living at 12 Highland Road, Hackney. In 1876 She married William Nicholls and they lived together at 82 Powerscroft Road, Clapham, Hackney with their three children till they moved to 6 The Drive, Buckhurst Hill by 1891.

On the 1891 Census Sarah is visiting Hastings and is staying at Cambridge Road, Hastings with her two daughters and Cousin, Annie Nicholls. Annie Nicholls lived with William and Sarah according to the census right through till their deaths and then continued to live with their daughter Edith – she is mentioned in William's will attached.

Sarah died after William and is buried in the same plot in the Queens Road Cemetery, Waltham Forest, Greater London at plot 511a together with William's mother Lucy and their daughter Edith Louise.

Her probate record says that she died on the 24th August 1932 – probate authorised on the 7th October with effects of £933.10s.2d

Maude Ethel DELFORCE NICHOLLS 1882-1981

Born 20th September 1882 in Walthamstow
Married **George Edward Nicholls** July, 1912 at St Mary the Virgin, Walthamstow, Essex, London

Children: Alan William Delforce Nicholls
Died December 1981 Chelmsford



Maude Ethel DELFORCE (1882-1981)

Maude was born in Walthamstow and in the 1891 census she was living at 18 Markhouse Road, Walthamstow with her parents, sister Beatrice and brother George B and her Aunt, Mary Ann Blake. They also had a servant living with them and her father was a Fish Salesman.

When we get to the 1901 census the family are still all together but living at 213 Markhouse Road and her father George has his sister Caroline staying with them. It also says that George is a Fish Salesman Retired at the age of 55yrs, however by the 1911 census the family are living at 58 The Drive and George is a Fish Salesman but is now an employer.

In 1912 Maude marries George Nicholls at St Mary the Virgin church, Walthamstow, we don't know how they met but as they both lived in The Drive they had every opportunity to meet each other.

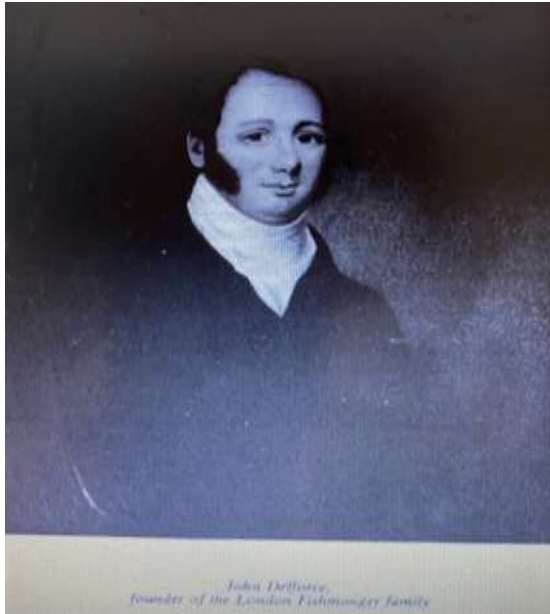
Her mother died in 1919 and on the 1921 Census her father, George, is living with her and her husband at 37 The Drive and by the time of the 1939 Register her and George are living at 7 The Drive.

When her husband dies in 1958 she moves from 7 The Drive to 9 Rookwood Gardens, Chingford, Essex. She eventually moved into a nursing home and I remember her telling me that the people there were very old!! Though she was probably one of the oldest residents she was still corresponding in French with a young pen friend.

She died in the December 1981 just under a year short of her 100th birthday.

The Fishmongers of London - the Delforce family

written by Patrick Delaforce 1923-2018

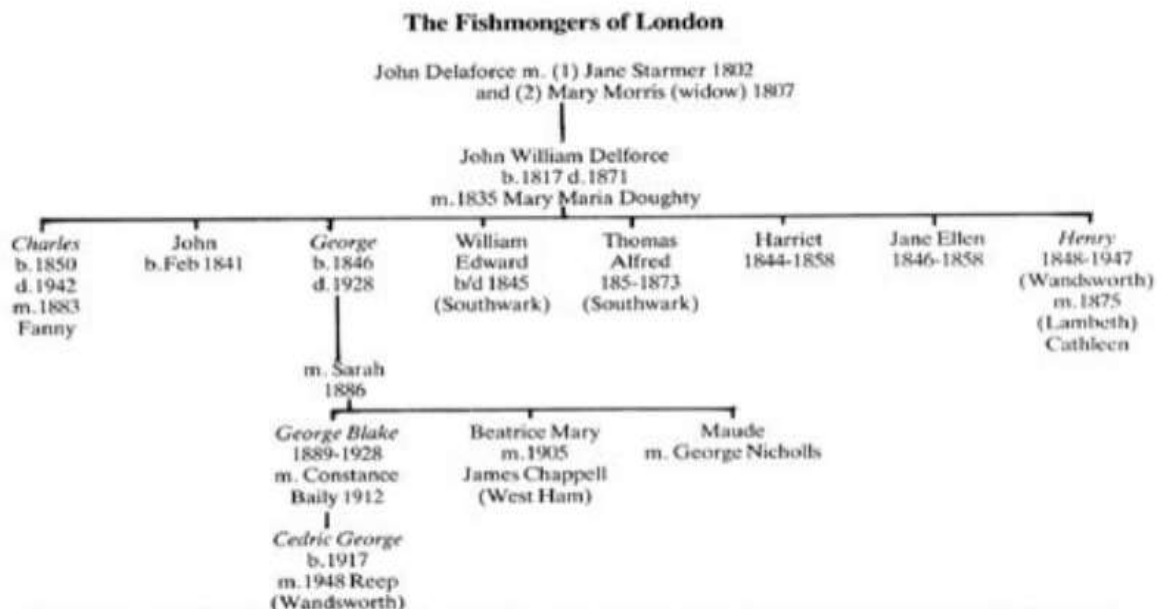


The Delforce family started their fishmongering business in Billingsgate, London in 1820.

It was founded by John Delaforce born in 1780 who married Jane Starmer in 1802 and then Mary Morris (a widow) in 1807. John William Delforce was born about 1817 and married Mary Maria Doughty in 1835.

The three main partners in the middle and late 19th century were John William's sons - George, Charles and Henry.

There are two possible reasons for the change of name from Delaforce to Delforce. One was that there might have been a clash of interests with the Port Wine business and the London wine merchants run by George Frederick. The other (and more likely) reason is or was a good old-fashioned Victorian family row! The John Delaforce born in 1780 was a son of the second marriage of John's (the Card, See** at the end) second marriage to Sarah Wilmor when she was very young and he was distinctly middle-aged. Possibly a scenario for a family row.



NOTES: The original family lived at 36 Henry Street, Kent Road, Southwark - at No. 46 Crispin Street, Christchurch, Spitalfields - and

NOTES: The original family lived at 36 Henry Street Kent Road. Southwark - at No. 46 Crispin Street. Christchurch, Spitalfields - and at 31 Warner Street, Dover Road. Surrey. The churches for baptisms and marriages were Christchurch, Greyfriars, Newgate St, St. Saviors and St. George the Martyr in Southwark. Partners in family firm in italic type.

With the arrival of a good railway system the fish business prospered. A main warehouse was set up at No.23 Love Lane (later renamed Lovat Lane) in Eastcheap. Soon market stalls, stands and retail shops were set up in Stamford Hill, Enfield and Surbiton (south of the river). By the turn of the century between 80 to 100 people were employed and the business was then mainly wholesale - buying fish in bulk and supplying retail fishmongers daily on a 'country order' basis by rail to Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hants, Wilts, Dorset, Somerset and Gloucestershire even the Channel Islands by railway-steamers.

It was, and is, hard work. Certainly at the deep sea end and certainly at the distribution points. It meant getting fresh fish to London by four o'clock in the morning for repacking and reshipment by rail to reach the retailers by 8-9 a.m. perhaps a 100 or more miles away.

Hundreds of retail shops bought fish daily from Delforce Brothers. Retail fishmongers with open stone or marble counters with straw hats and blue aprons served fresh fish throughout London, the Southern and Western regions. Cod, mackerel, hake, herring, whitebait, kippers, large quantities of salmon, and trout from Lord Lovat's estates.

George's son was called George Blake who married Constance Baily in 1912. Their only son is Colonel Cedric Delforce, Administrator to Lord Devon at Powderham Castle.

Charles married twice, to Fanny, and later, on her death, to her sister Adelaide. The family bought shares in various fishing trawlers. They had agents and buyers in Oban, Fleetwood, Milford Haven, Newlyn, Brixham, Ramsgate, Hull, Filey, Scarborough, North & South Shields, Dundee, Aberdeen, Lossiemouth & Wick practically every fishing port in the United Kingdom. Fish came into the country from Esbjerg and Ijmuiden.

Delforce brothers prospered for about 100 years. But a chain of related problems arrived. Modern deep freezing techniques were ignored. Alternative methods of transportation by truck and lorry were not tried out. Tastes were changing and cooking habits too.

In 1939 the Emergency Defence Regulations closed the firm down and George Blake Delforce became a Government fish distribution unit based at Watford. After the last world war two new developments helped to kill the business. The frozen prepacked fish (finger) business developed for or by the grocery and supermarket chains eliminated the retail fishmonger. The final straw was the new Billingsgate market which opened only at 6 a.m. (not 4 a.m. as formerly) and the early express railway delivery services were cancelled - all in the magic name of progress.

The original family lived at 36 Henry Street Kent Road. Southwark - at No. 46 Crispin Street. Christchurch, Spitalfields - and at 31 Warner Street, Dover Road. Surrey. The churches for baptisms and marriages were Christchurch, Greyfriars, Newgate St, St. Saviors and St. George the Martyr in Southwark.

****The Card - John Delaforce 1728-1788** Despite the difficulties of research some 250 years back, there seems little doubt that John Delaforce was indeed a Card, an eccentric, a man of talent, immense energy and an appetite - in all senses - for life. That is why, out of the many dozens of Delaforces whose lives have been glimpsed from libraries, books and museums, John seems to stand out with his exuberance. "John Delaforce, son of John Delaforce of the Parish of St. Dunstons in the West, London, by and with the licence & consent of the Governors of the Hospital of Bridewell, London, apprenticed to Thomas

Roay citizen and musician 11th September 1741. Made Free 17 November 1749”
Bridewell Chapel, Hospital and Precinct Church were later united with St. Brides, Fleet Street.

John’s (the father) permission was needed so that as an apprentice musician the son could start his apprenticeship at the age of 12 rather than the customary 14. When he became an apprentice to the Musicians Guild in 1741 he gave his initial occupation as a Taylor living in Bride Lane (many tailors lived and practised at St. Brides). He also gave an alternative occupation as a Dealer in Coals. So at the age of 20 he was involved in at least three activities. The pity is that there is no knowledge of his skill as a musician, no record of the instruments he played. An alternative address is given as Bordes Lane (although this might be a misprint of Brides lane). In fact he lived most of his life at No.39 Norton Folgate, the continuation of Bishopsgate Street, heading north Family History Research About 1749 he married Elizabeth, their children were Samuel born in 1749, Daniel 14th October 1750, Joseph 30th May 1752, Benjamin 1754, Mary 1st February 1756, Jeremiah 5th February 1758 and Sarah Jane 12th July 1761. John married again to Mary Willby 18 August 1765 at Saint Leonards Church, Shoreditch. John also must have helped his father John with the pawnbroking business, Golden Ball at Widegate Street, Bishopsgate, but the indications are that John (and William his brother) were thought to be very capable of supporting themselves (as shown in the father’s will).

From 1759 to 1782 John was a lieutenant, then captain in the Honourable Artillery Company in Finsbury. He probably joined them before 1759 when he was 30. He was also an Ensign in the Orange Trained Bands, organised as the militia to defend London from mobs and attackers. From 1770-1776 he was a Lived Member of the Musicians Guild. His first wife Elizabeth must have died (possibly in childbirth) in the late 1760s. Several children died young: Benjamin age 2, Jeremiah age 2, Sarah Jane age 6. John’s father died in late 1779 and left him £5! It may be that John was so prosperous with all his various activities - musician, tailor, coal dealer, pawnbroker and stockbroker - that his father felt he had no need of any more money. He left £20 to his son William, modest legacies to his grandchildren, but the bulk of his estate, including the pawnbroking business, to his favourite grandson Samuel, John’s eldest son.

On 28th May 1780 he married yet again, to Sarah Willmott, a minor - given away by her father Sam - and their son John was baptised at St. Botolphs, Bishopsgate, but Joshua, 13th June 1784 and Isaac, 1st July 1787, were baptised at St. Leonards, Shoreditch, and finally William, 12th October 1789, at St. Botolphs without Aldgate. On the 13th June 1782, in the reign of King George the Third, John became a City of London Stockbroker, in partnership with Joseph Bond, citizen and blacksmith, each with a £500 bond. On the 18th December 1788 John died, leaving in his will everything to his wife Sarah. His addresses at this time were Peters Court, Cartwright Square and also Darby Street, Rosemary Lane It is interesting that John Delaforce 1781-1855, Samuel’s younger son, was a Taylor of Mile End, as shown in Samuel’s will of 1805. John had followed his grandfather’s first declared trade of tailoring.

John and Sarah’s first son John, born 1780, was the founder of the Delforce family who in 1820 became Billingsgate wholesale fish merchants. It is possible there was ill-feeling in the family about John’s third marriage to Sarah, which may have prompted a later generation to change their name to Delforce. The information about John came from various Guilds, including brokers, from the Honourable Artillery Company, from Parish Registers, the Chamberlain’s Court, and the IGI Index

MARY JANET BISHOP

1911-1989

Mary as bridesmaid at the wedding she met Alan Nicholls



Mary Janet BISHOP (1911-1989)



George Stanley BISHOP

1880-1963

Children:

Mary Janet 1911-1989

Robert (Bob) Henry Montague 1913-1980

Stanley Victor 1916-1995

James (Jim) William 1918-1995

Eric Gordon 1922-1996



Henry Davenport BISHOP 1846-1911

m Maria Augusta BARNES 1848-1939

Children:

Emily Davenport – d1932

Philip Henry - d 1938

George Stanley 1880-1963

Albert Edward d 1943

Walter Edmund d1938

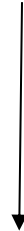
Gertrude Alice d1967

Augusta Maria d 1956

married

Elsie Gordon MILNE

1885-1982



Robert MILNE 1849-1922

m Mary Stuart THOMPSON 1854-1925

Children:

James Alexander 1878-1950

Robert Milne 1881-1949

Margaret Thomson 1883-1924

Elsie Gordon 1885-1982

William Thomson 1887-1904

Clemintina Isabella Gordon 1889-1955

Mary Elizabeth Gordon 1891-1972

George Gordon 1894-1942

Dorethea Ella Gordon 1895-1974

John Skynner Egerton BISHOP 1818-1889

m Emily Davenport HUNTER 1819-1878

James MILNE 1809-1875

m Elspet Gordon 1812-1879

Mary Janet BISHOP 1911-1989

Born 19th November, 1911, St Andrews College, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa
Birth registered in UK in Leeds

Married 21st March, 1940 at St Luke's Church, Haifa, Palestine

Died 8th February 1989



Bob, Jim, Mary, Victor and Eric (1975)



Mary in Haifa 1940

Mary was the eldest child of George Stanley Bishop and Elsie Gordon Milne and had four younger brothers:

Robert (Bob) Henry Montague Bishop 1913-1980. He was also born in South Africa and was an apprentice mechanical engineer with Greenwood and Batley, Armley Road, Leeds in 1928 – he graduated on 15th Nov 1929. Married Leatrice and had a daughter Patricia Ann (Finch)

Stanley Victor Bishop MC 1916-2006. Born in 1916 in Twickenham, chartered accountant and company secretary. He received the Military Cross in 1944. Married Dorothy Primrose Dodds and had two sons (John and Richard and one daughter Victoria) John married Gillian Alice Foster and had two daughters, Fiona Eileen and Claudia Victoria, they emigrated to Toronto, Canada. Richard married Janet Elisabeth Thomas and had a son Matthew Ian and daughter Raichael Jayne and they emigrated to America (Boston and then Idaho). Victoria married John Drummond and had four children, Edwin, Angus, Lorna and Shona. Victoria and John separated and she married Blair Wordon in 2014.

James (Jim) William Bishop 1918-1995 Born in Twickenham and married Mary Fitzclarke and had a daughter Elizabeth Ann (1944-2015?) Ian David married Diana Shavoyev and had a daughter Edith and a son Hugo. The family left 45 Kenilworth Road, Coventry and emigrated to Melbourne, Australia February 1955 – Jim was an Ophthalmic Surgeon.

Eric Gordon Bishop 1922-1996 Born 1st October 1922 in Ware, Hertfordshire (ref 3a 1102) Eric served in the RAF during WWII and married Josephine Green in 1945 (*I understand that they divorced but haven't verified that information*) Eric managed hotels and ran a pub.

Mary Janet BISHOP 1911-1989

Mary was born in Grahamstown in the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa in 1911, her father and mother were married in on the 30th November 1930 at St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, South Africa. Her father was a school teacher. She came back to the UK in 1915 and as her and her brother's births were registered in Leeds we could assume they were living in the Leeds area to do this.

In 1921 she was living at 1 Springfield Road, Wimbledon SW19 with her mother and three brothers. Her father was registered as living in Hertford boarding with Mrs Ferriday at Romney, Queens Road, Hertford and is listed as a schoolmaster and boarding with another schoolmaster Davey Lavender and his wife Helen – both men worked at Hertford Grammar School.

In 1922 Mary's brother Eric was born in Ware, Hertfordshire so we can assume that the family moved to Hertford after the 1921 Census.

Education

Mary trained as a nurse at St. Thomas's Hospital in London following in the steps of her Aunt Mary Elizabeth Gordon Milne who also trained there.

Career:

Qualified as a State Registered Nurse in 1939

Places Mary Lived

Grahamstown, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa

Leeds - birth registered here on their return to England

1921 Twickenham

1922 Hertford

1940 Haifa, Palestine

1942 Cape Town and Durban, South Africa

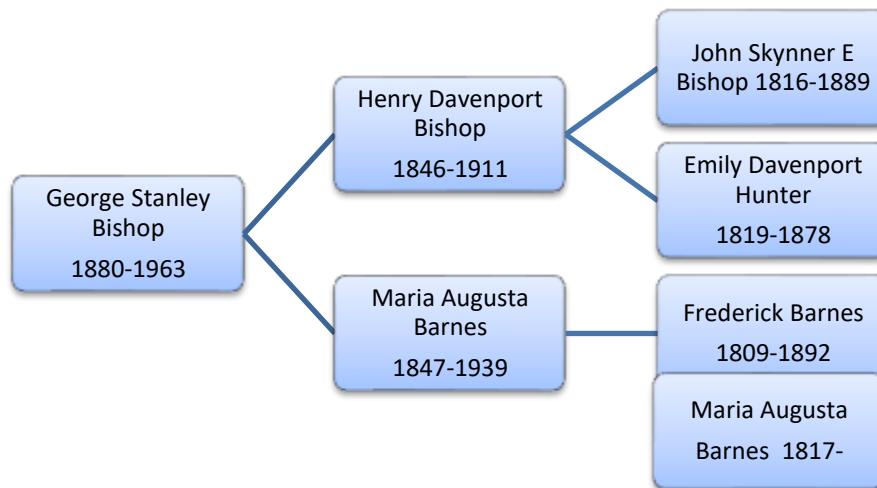
1946-1947 Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire

Mary always told people that she had lived in 35 different houses in her married life, most as an army wife but the homes their children talk about are:

Eastcote, 25 Brockhill Road, Hythe, Kent

188 Barnet Lane, Kingswinford, Staffordshire

40 Willow Green, Ingatestone, Essex



GEORGE STANLEY BISHOP 1880-1963

George Stanley BISHOP
1880-1963

married **Elsie Gordon MILNE**
1885-1968

Children:

Mary Janet 1911-1989
Robert (Bob) Henry Montague 1913-1980
Stanley Victor 1916-1995
James (Jim) William 1918-1995
Eric Gordon 1922-1996



Henry Davenport BISHOP 1846-1911 m

Maria Augusta BARNES 1848-1939

Children:

Emily Davenport – d1932
Philip Henry - d 1938

George Stanley 1880-1963

Albert Edward d 1943
Walter Edmund d1938
Gertrude Alice d1967
Augusta Maria d 1956



John Skynner Egerton BISHOP 1818-1889 m Emily Davenport HUNTER 1819-1878

George Stanley was born in Chemy, Nord, France, his father Henry was a silk merchant and came from Middlesex and his mother, Maria Augusta, came from Hampshire – they were married in Winchester. The family lived in Chemy and Lyons but on the 1891 Census they are living in Muswell Hill, Hornsey & Wood Green, London.

George Stanley is found on the east coast at Sheringham, Norfolk staying with another student in 1901 and on the 30th November 1920 he has married Elsie Gordon Milne in St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, South Africa and by 1912 is teaching at a school in Grahamstown, The Cape, South Africa. They have two children Mary Janet and Robert (Bob) Henry Montague whilst in South Africa.

The family come back to the UK in 1915 as George Stanley has joined for World War One, He obviously saw the family during the war as Victor Stanley was born in 1916 and James (Jim) William 1918.

By 1921 George Stanley has got a job at Hertford Grammar School which was in the process of expanding. His wife and children were living in Twickenham and joined George Stanley late 1921 and their fifth child Eric Gordon was born in 1922.

In 1939 George Stanley, Elsie, and Jim are living at 19 Edinburgh Grove, Leeds and Jim is a medical student.



PICTURE FROM Google August 2022

At the time of his death in 1963 he is living in Brighton with his wife Elsie at 5 Braybon Avenue, Brighton having died at 54 Marine Parade, Brighton on the 15th January.

ELSIE GORDON MILNE 1885-1968



Elsie with Mary Janet

Elsie Gordon MILNE
1885-1968

married

George Stanley BISHOP
1880-1963

Children:

- Mary Janet 1911-1989
- Robert (Bob) Henry Montague 1913-1980
- Stanley Victor 1916-1995
- James (Jim) William 1918-1995
- Eric Gordon 1922-1996



Robert MILNE 1849-1922

m

Mary Stuart THOMPSON 1854-1925

Children:

- James Alexander 1878-1950
- Robert Milne 1881-1949
- Margaret Thomson 1883-1924
- Elsie Gordon 1885-1982**
- William Thomson 1887-1904
- Clemintina Isabella Gordon 1889-1955
- Mary Elizabeth Gordon 1891-1972
- George Gordon 1894-1942
- Dorethea Ella Gordon 1895-1974 (was an artist and married Harry Warren Wilson in 1925 He was an Art Lecturer at University College)



James MILNE 1809-1875

m

Elspet Gordon 1812-1879

How Elsie Gordon Milne met George Stanley Bishop and they start their married life in South Africa is unknown at this time and more research is required. Elsie lived all her childhood in England though her father and mother both originated from Scotland. Her daughter Mary Janet always said that the family had links to Dr Barnardos and the following information confirms this.

Elsie died in 1968 having moved from 5 Braybon Avenue, Brighton to 6 Harrington Road, Brighton. She had continued to live in Braybon Avenue taking in lodgers but the family didn't feel this was right for her so she moved to Harrington Road

ROBERT MILNE 1849-1922



Robert Milne
(top left corner)

Mary Stuart Thompson Mine
(wife middle 2nd row)

Mary Elizabeth Gordon
Milne (3) (Start of 2nd row)

Elsie Gordon Milne Bishop
(4) (last female on 2nd row)

Robert Milne was born in Peterculter, Aberdeenshire and was one of seven children

He married Mary Thomson on the 6th April 1877 at the Kintore Arms Hotel in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire and they had nine children in total.

We know that by 1881 he was a qualified physician and surgeon and he was living at 47 Grove Road, Mile End Old Town, London. In 1891 they have moved to 22 Mornington Road, Bromley, London. However, in 1901 Census they were living at 32 Bow Road – Dr Barnardo and his family lived in this house from 1875-1879. The new hospital built by Barnardos was opened in 1889 and it is understood that Robert Milne was the first Chief Health Medical Officer from 1880-1919.



In 1911 the family are living at 145 Bow Road, Bow, London and Robert Milne and the census says he is Medical Officer for Dr Barnardo's Homes. The 1921 Census he is a Consulting Physician for Dr Barnardo's Homes when he is nearly 72yrs old.

Dr Barnado's Stepney Causeway Home and Her Majesty's Hospital



A view looking south down Stepney Causeway, Stepney, taken from near the junction of what was Hilton Street, showing the Headquarters of Dr Barnardo's.

There are people on the pavement and in the road. A horse and cart is travelling towards the camera just beyond a railway bridge that bears the words "Dr Barnardo's Homes, National Incorporated Association, now supporting over 7000 children, no destitute child ever refused admission". An enclosed footbridge links buildings on either side of the street.

The original Dr Barnardo Home for Working and Destitute Boys, which opened in 1870 at number 18 Stepney Causeway, is located on the right between the two bridges. On the opposite side of the street, joined by the bridge, is Her Majesty's Hospital for Sick Children, which was erected on the site of numbers 13-19 Stepney Causeway and opened in 1889. Various Barnardo buildings were constructed in the surrounding streets including Bower Street



Dr. Robert Milne (1849-1922) Chief Medical Officer for Barnardo's (1880-1919) attending patients in Her Majesty's Hospital for Sick Children, Stepney, London, which opened in 1888

Her Majesty's Hospital for sick children was officially opened in 1889. It was four storeys high, had six general wards an isolation ward and an operating theatre. There was accommodation for the nurses and matron together with a playroom and open air exercise area for convalescents. A subway under Stepney Causeway linked the hospital to the boy's home opposite

Mary Elizabeth Gordon Milne OBE SRN SCM 1891-1972



George's daughter Mary and his two son's had links to Dr Barnardo's through their medical qualifications. Mary's fiancé died in World War One, she never married and spent the rest of her life nursing. In 1945 she receives her OBE while matron at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

The article below appeared in the Kensington News and West London Times on Friday 22nd January 1960

When Homes Become a Home

DR. BARNARDO'S CELEBRATE IN KENSINGTON

A special meeting was given by the Mayor, Councillor A. N. P. McHaffie, in the Town Hall Council Chamber last Monday to celebrate the completion of 94 years of child-rescue work by Dr. Barnardo's home.

Also present were the Mayoress, Miss M. G. Milne, O.B.E., a member of the Council of the Homes and the Rev. H. L. Hughes, from Barnardo Headquarters.

Miss Milne outlined the work of the Homes and the various functions they perform. She described Dr. Barnardo's as "the biggest family in the world."

Miss Milne was at one time matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Her father was Dr. Barnardo's first medical officer, and two of her brothers both worked for the Homes. Dr. Milne, her nephew, is the St. Pancras Coroner and is a member of the Homes' Council.

She said there is a deep wealth of affection for Dr. Barnardo's Homes in this country, where the main themes were affection, opportunity and a Christian upbringing.

"They just want that little bit of interest shown in them which you can give," she said.

The Rev. Hughes said there was "a wonderful band of support here in Kensington" for Dr. Barnardo's.

He said that since records were first kept there have been 544 children from Kensington taken into custody by the homes and of this figure, 47 cases are from the past five years. This compares with the respective totals for London of 28,088 and 1,090.

"Dr. Barnardo's" he said, "will fill a place for many years. Whatever rules and regulations there are, they can't fill the place for a child coming out of a home."

"Dr. Barnardo's helps to fill the gaps that officialdom can never do."

COMMONWEALTH FILMS

The following programme will be showing next week at the Commonwealth Institute Cinema: (Commencing Monday, 25th January) Singapore—Lion City, Loyal of Endeavour—South Africa.

This article appeared in the Kensington News & West London Times on Friday 22nd January 1960

This article references Mary's two brothers working for Dr Barnardos and her nephew, Dr Milne, was St Pancras Coroner and a member of Barnardos Homes Council.

Mary received an award from Dr Barnardo's in recognition of all the work she had done for the Society and was presented in 1969 with a book of the history of the Society having supported the society for 17 years.



Mary died on the 14th October 1972 in hospital in Eton, at this time she was living in Howard House, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire and she left an estate of £9,541

Howard House Nursing Home on Vicarage Way closed its doors on July 31, 2013. The Perseverance Trust had the home since 1959 after it was set up as a home for retired nurses, but the board decided to shut the home and sell it as a private residence. The proceeds from the sale of Howard House went towards supporting retired nurses as per the trust's original objective, starting with the Nightingale Foundation.

APPENDIX 1
Will of William Nicholls

DEATH ON OR AFTER 1st JANUARY, 1898.

Will of

BE IT KNOWN that *William Nicholls of*

6 the Drive Walthamstow Essex died there on the 4th
day of May 1930

AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that at the **date hereunder written the last Will and Testament of the said deceased was proved and registered** in the Principal Probate Registry of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, and that administration of all **the estate which by law devolves to and vests in the personal representative of the said deceased was, granted by the aforesaid Court to**

Louisa Sarah Nicholls of the same address widow and

George Edward Nicholls Company Director - son of
deceased of 36 the Drive aforesaid the executors **named in the said**

£43381-1s 7d

Dated the

13th day of June 1930

Gross value of Estate £42,562 6s 7d

Net value of Personal Estate ...£ 40,300 5s 9d

9454 4736/50

25,000 6/29 148 FA

WILLIAM NICHOLLS of 6 The Drive Walthamstow, in the county of Essex retired Director and Chairman of Messrs R.S.Hudson Limited of Liverpool hereby revoke all former wills and testamentary dispositions made by me and declare this to be my last will and testament I appoint my dear wife Louisa Sarah Nicholls and my son George Edward Nicholls (hereinafter: called my trustees) to be the EXECUTORS and trustees..of this my will I give to my said wife my motor car / give my leasehold dwelling house No 6 the Drive Walthamstow in the county of Essex and all my plate linen china glass. pictures prints, and other household effects and the silver presentation plate given to me by. Messrs. Lever Brothers Limited and the Directors of Messrs R.S.Hudson Limited being in and about my said dwellinghouse unto my trustees In . trust for my said: wife : during her life. she paying the ground rent and all rates taxes and outgoings payable in respect of the said dwellinghouse and observing and performing the covenants contained in the lease under which the same shall be held And I declare that from and after the decease of my said wife the said dwelling house plate linen china glass pictures prints and other household effects with the exception of the silver presentation plate shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate

And I direct my trustees shall 80 soon as conveniently can be after my decease cause an inventory to be made of the plate linen china glass pictures prints and other household effects and the silver presentation plate hereinbefore bequeathed for the benefit of my said wife during her life and that one copy of such inventory be signed by my trustees and delivered to my said wife and that another copy thereof be signed by my said wife and retained by my trustees And I declare that after the delivery to my said wife of the said plate linen china glass pictures prints household effects and the silver presentation plate my trustees

shall not be obliged to see to the preservation of the same or any part thereof nor be answerable for any loss or injury thereof which may happen during the life of my said wife And I also declare that my trustees shall not be bound to see that my said wife duly pays the rent and observes and performs the covenants and conditions reserved by and contained in the lease of my said dwelling house nor shall they be liable for or in respect of any forfeiture or loss which may arise by reason or in consequence of the non payment by my said wife of the said rent or the breach by her of any of the said covenants and conditions After the death of my said wife I give a silver presentation plate to my son George Edward Nicholls during his life and after his death to my grandson Alan William Delforce Nicholis absolutely I give an annuity of one thousand pounds to my said wife during her life and direct that the same shall be paid quarterly the first payment to be made at the expiration of three calendar months after my decease And I direct my trustees to appropriate and set apart and invest such a sum of money or to stand possessed of any investments held by me at the date of my decease as will produce by the income thereof an annual sum equal to the amount of the said annuity and to apply the income or (if necessary the corpus of the fund so appropriated in payment of the said annuity which fund shall on the dropping of the said annuity fall into and form part of my residuary estate I give to my sister Lucy Nicholls the sum of one hundred pounds to my brother Thomas Nicholls the sum of one hundred pounds and to my cousin Ann Nicholls the sum of one hundred pounds. After the death of my said wife and provided my cousin the said Ann Nicholls shall have resided with my said wife to the time of her death and shall after that date permanently reside with my daughter Edith Louisa Nicholls I give to the said Ann Nicholls an annuity of fifty two pounds during her life and direct that the same shall be paid quarterly the first payment to be made at the expiration of three calendar months after the death of my said wife and direct my trustees to appropriate and set apart and invest such a sum of money or to stand possessed of any investments held by me at the date of my decease as will produce by the income thereof or (if necessary) the corpus of the fund so appropriated in payment of the said annuity which fund shall on the dropping of the said annuity fall into and form part of my residuary estate in the event of the said Ann Nicholls not having resided with my said wife to the date of her death and after that date not permanently residing with my said daughter the said. Edith Louisa Nicholls then at the date the said Ann Nicholls shall cease to permanently reside with my said daughter the said annuity shall cease and the fund so appropriated as aforesaid shall fall in to and form part of my residuary estate In the event of the above conditions having been faithfully carried out by the said Ann Nicholls and my said daughter shall pre decease her the said annuity shall still be paid to the said Ann Nicholls and on her death the fund so appropriated as aforesaid shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate In the event of my said wife predeceasing me the said annuity is still to be paid but only should the

above conditions be carried out so far as they can be I direct that the said annuity and legacies shall be paid free of all duties I devise and bequeath all my property not hereby otherwise disposed of unto my trustees Upon trust that my trustees shall sell call in and convert into money the same or such part thereof as shall not consist of money and shall with and out of the moneys produced by such sale calling in and conversion and with and out of my ready money pay my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts and the legacies bequeathed by this my will or any codicil here to but so that the proceeds of real estate shall not be applied in payment of legacies unless the other moneys applicable thereto under this trust shall be insufficient for payment thereof and shall stand possessed of the residuary trust moneys and the investments for the time being representing the same (hereinafter called the residuary trust funds) In trust to divide the same equally between all my children the said Edith Louisa Nicholls the said George Edward Nicholls and Ada Lucy Kirkby the wife of Reginald Kirkby Provided always that if any child of mine shall die in my lifetime leaving a child or children who shall survive me and attain the age of twenty one years then the last mentioned child or children shall take and if more than one equally between them the share which his her or their parent would have taken of and in the residuary trust funds if such parent had survived me and attained the age of twenty one years And I also declare that my trustees may postpone, the sale and conversion of any part of my real and personal estate for so long as they shall think fit and that the, rents profits and income to accrue from and after my decease of and from such part of my estate as shall for the time being remain un sold and unconverted shall after payment there out of all incidental expenses and out goings be paid and applied to the person or persons and in the manner to whom and in which the income of the proceeds of such sale and conversion would for the time being be payable or applicable under this my. will if such sale and conversion had been act ually made and I also declare that as regards any real or leasehold property remain ing unsold my trustees shall be at liberty to let on weekly or monthly tenancy or from year to year, or for any term of years at such rent and subject to such conditions as they shall think fit to accept surrenders of, leases and tenancies to expend money in repairs and improve-ments and generally to manage the property according to their absolute discretion And I also declare that any money required for repairs and improvements may be raised either out of income or out of capital of my estate as my trustees shall under the circumstances think fair and equitable And I also declare that all moneys liable to be invested under this my will may be invested in any stocks. funds. or securities authorised by law for trust funds or on mortgage of free old property or in the purchase of freehold ground rents but I empower my trustees at their absolute discretion to continue all or any part of my personal estate in the state or upon the investments in or upon which the same shall be at the time of my decease however doubtful or hazardous or limited the description or nature of the property or Investment may be: And I declare that it

shall be lawful for my trustees to pay out of my estate any call or calls upon any shares which I may at the time of my decease hold in any company and also to accept or refuse any new shares or stock in any such company which may be allotted to them in respect of any shares or stock therein for the time being and to pay out of my estate any call' or calls to become due in respect of any new shares or stock which may be accepted by them and I also declare that the power of appointing new trustees conferred by statute shall for the purposes of this my will be vested in my said wife during her life IN WITNESS whereof I the said William Nicholls have to this my last will and testament contained in this **and** the three preceding sheets of *paper* set my hand this twenty eighth day of **December** one thousand nine hundred and twenty five • **WILLIAM "NICHOLLS** - Signed by the said William Nicholls the testator as and for his last will and testament in the - - presence of us both being present at the same time who in his presence at his request witnesses - **FRANK BUDD** - Devonshire Chambers 146 Bishopsgate EC.2. Solicitor :- **W.H.CARVELL** - 36 Salisbury Road Walthamstow E.17.

PROVED 13th June 1930.

£43381-1s 7d

£43,381 in 1930 is equivalent to £3,627,833 98p in 2023