

THE JOSSELIN SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER.

Issue No 2.

June 1991.

Welcome to our second newsletter & thank you all for your response. As mentioned at the first meeting of the society the second meeting would be in Sept. The date for this now being set for Sun 29th Sept. The venue being the same "The Jobbers Rest, St Marys Lane, Upminster. Essex. The meeting will start at 12.00 & it is proposed the following agenda is adopted.

12.00 Arrive.

12.30 Lunch & General conversation. (Please note individuals will have to purchase their own Food & Drinks.)

14.00 Meeting. The following points to be discussed.

1:- The voting in of a committee, to comprise of a Chairman, a Secretary & a Treasurer plus Three other members.

2:- Discussion on the aims of the society & the creation of our basic rules.

3:- Setting of a Membership fee. (£3.00 PA has been suggested initially)

4:- Any other business.

16.00 Break for Refreshments.

17.30 Social (Any ideas ie: does anyone wish to give a talk on their family or a particular area of research.)

Thank you to our namesakes living abroad for the amount of information they have sent in to be added to the societies growing collection. It would be good if our cousins abroad could form branches of The Josselin Society in their country. Any offers let us know. Also if there is anything you would like to see discussed at the meeting in Sept concerning members abroad please notify me through the address at the end of the newsletter.

I HEAR

That there are now clubs catering for people with the same surname. Apparently there are two well established clubs; the Butlers & the Parrots. The Butler Club even has its own tie. One particular man, because of family connections, was a member of both clubs. He was in a bar one evening & was engaged in conversation by a fellow drinker who was intrigued by the tie & its motif. "Are you a Butler?" "No my mother was a Butler." "Surely you mean your father was a butler." "No my father was a Parrot." It has to be true.

From The Aston Martin Owners Club Newsheet. Contributed by The Editor, Brian Joscelyne of Braintree.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

1:- Getting Started.

You have decided you wish to know about your family history. But where do you start? The first thing to decide is how you intended to go about it, one can just trace your paternal line or you can trace all your descendants both paternal & maternal. Having decided this you need to work from what is known backwards. Trying to trace the other way such as saying my name is Jocelyn so I must be connected to Lord Roden would prove an impossible task. The best thing is to get a sheet of paper & draw a tree of your family as far as you now. Having done this visit all your living relatives & glean as much information as possible ie: family legends etc. Try to visit everyone even that eccentric maiden aunt, you never know what stories they have to tell. Keep a copy of all information you receive however trivial it may seem at the time. A common mistake when starting out is not to record your source of information, you will find as time goes on this is vital & often saves you covering the same ground again. Also don't forget to collect photographs, letters & any old documents they all add depth to your family history. Read as many books as you can on the subject as there are so many sources for information. It is always wise to see where others have trodden & the problems that have confronted them. A good read is the magazine Family Tree available from most newsagents. Now you have to find your way around all the record offices etc. The first place you visit will probably be St Catherines House which holds Births, Marriages & Deaths post 1837. Next month will be about this repository & how to use it & the information held there.

NIGHT RENDEZVOUS REVISITED

Further to our story last month more information concerning this Affair have arisen. It appears that Mary Joscelyne the midwife married a John Joscelyne, her maiden name being Woodward. Her parents were William Woodward & Elizabeth. On the death of her father her mother re-married to a Christopher Parsons a farmer & barge builder, lord of the Manor of Southchurch. His residence being "The Lawns" Southchurch, the place where the birth occurred. John Joscelyne came originally from White Notley then lived in Shoebury before finally settling at Leigh on Sea. This now gets better than any soap opera. It would appear that on the day John & Mary got married at North Shoebury in 1789, Elizabeth his sister married Christopher Parsons now a Widower. So possibly the reason for Mary being called upon was her link to the Parsons family residents of "The Lawns." Also in the village lived a male midwife (Equality of the sexes?) called Seacole who was also present at the birth. The child was baptised at St Marys church, Prittlewell. Her name being registered as Emma Hamilton Seacole, it is believed she did not live to grow up. Now back to John & Mary they had 13 children, two boys John & William & eleven girls including a Charlotte.

Charlotte wrote a diary and in 1829 made the following entry "My father had a secret of which he would tell no one. But walking to Hole Haven (on Canvey Island) in the heat of midsummer. The sun melted his blood turning it to water. He died out of his mind & no one learned his secret." Was this the birth of the Nelson child?

Also in another entry of this diary is a further link between Nelson & Marys family, it is a reference to Marys brother James Woodward. "My uncle 1st lieutenant James Woodward was in The Kings Royal Navy & fought at the Battles of the Nile & Trafalgar & served in the ships of the line." (Although there is no factual evidence it is likely as an officer he would have personally known Nelson.)

Charlotte then gives an account of an adventure her uncle had as a serving soldier.

"James was captured by the French & confined to a French prison for two years. Where he was fed only on black bread & Horseblans. But making love to his jailers daughter he escaped in womens apparell, leaving all his belongings & his two companions behind, also 200 coins in gold well hid."

From information supplied by the Maritime Museum at Greenwich it would appear that James was the leader of a reconnaissance party put ashore in France to report on suitable landing places. One can only suppose the Gold was to pay bribes etc. On his return to England the information he supplied proved very valuable to the British efforts against the French.

Compiled from information supplied by Arthur W Joscelyne of Leigh on Sea. Essex.

AND MY CROWN DERBY TEA SERVICE I BEQUEATH TO

Wills can be a very useful source of information, as the Will of Annie Louise Josling my great aunt shows.

"This is the last will of me Annie Louise Josling of Sunnyside Wood Street Barnet in the county of Hertfordshire.

I bequeath fifty pounds each (£50) each to my nephews William Booth and John Josling and to my nieces Phyllis rainsford, Marjory Rainsford, Molly Josling and Phyllis Bailey.

I bequeath five pounds (£5) each to purchase a small memento of me to my nephews Jocelyn Walker and Alick Walker and to my nieces Isobel Walker, Nancy Greig And Patricia Booth.

I bequeath to my sister Nina Rainsford one hundred pound (£100) my diamond and sapphire ring, my emerald and diamond ring, my diamond crescent brooch, my wristwatch and my bed.

I bequeath to my sister Marion Booth my Crown Derby tea service, my best dinner service, my long diamond brooch, my diamond bangle and my gold and silver spoons.

I bequeath to my sister Rose Walker my diamond hoop ring.

I bequeath to my brother Lional Josling one hundred pounds (£100) and my single diamond ring.

I bequeath to my brother Stanley Josling fifty pounds (£50).

I bequeath to my maid Rose Sugg seventy five pounds (£75) together with sufficient furniture for a bed sitting room (that is bed, chest of drawers, table, linen, kitchen utensils.)

I bequeath to Mrs Reynolds of 50 Trinder Road, Barnet. twenty five pounds (£25).

I bequeath the sum of fifteen pounds (£15) to the sick and needy fund of St Peters Church. Arkley.

I bequeath the sum of fifteen pounds (£15) to the mothers meeting at Arkley to be used towards providing the summer outing for five years that is three pounds per annum.

I bequeath my piano to my nieces Phyllis Rainsford and Marjory Rainsford.

I direct that my brother Lionel Josling shall have the use of the furniture And household effects at Sunnyside, Wood Street, Barnet. which are not Bequeathed above for such time as he continues to rent Sunnyside, Wood Street, Barnet. and that they subsequently be sold and the proceeds be divided equally between the residuary legatees.

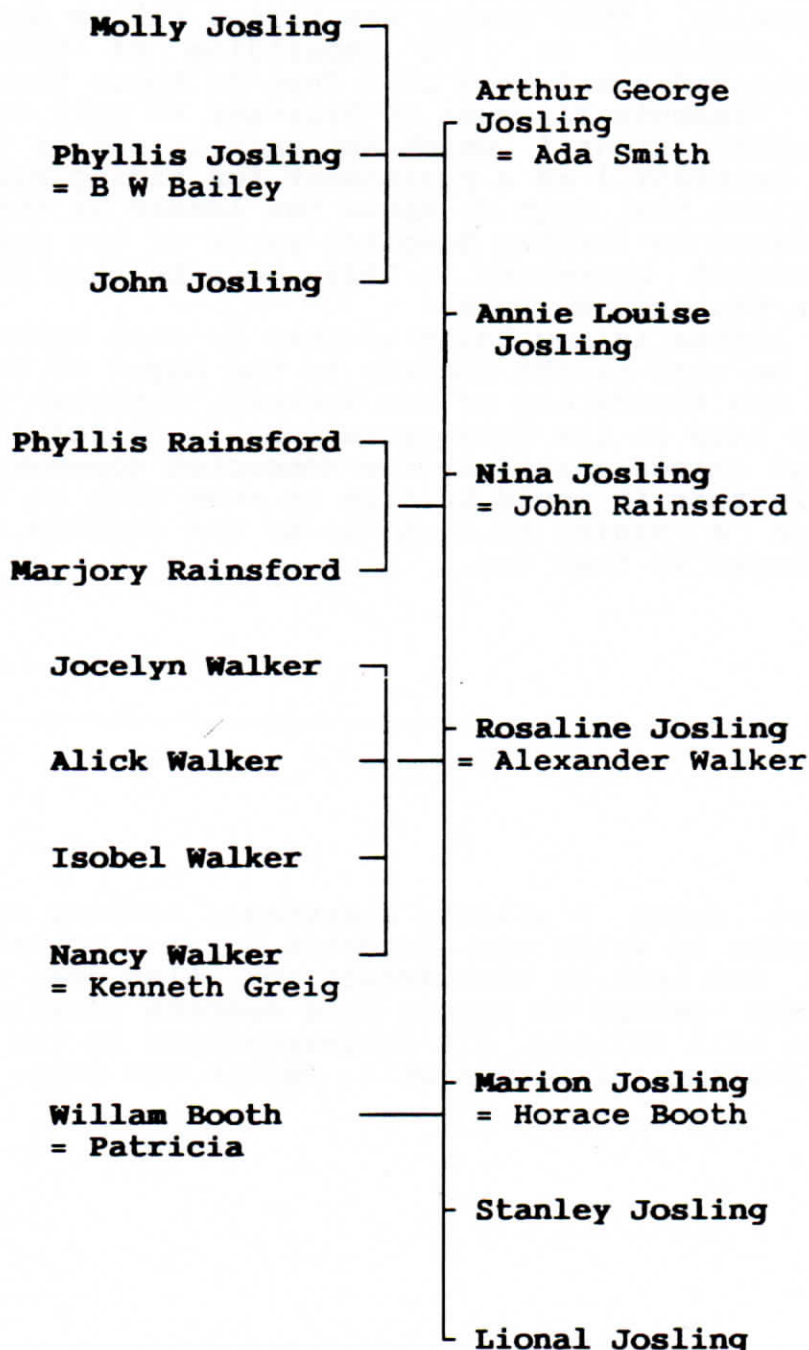
I appoint my brother Stanley Josling and Lional Josling and my sister Nina Rainsford to be my residuary legatees and if there be any residue on my estate after providing for the above bequests I direct that it shall be equally divided between the said Stanley Josling, Lional Josling and Nina Rainsford.

I appoint my brother Lional Josling of Sunnyside, Wood Street, Barnet. and Wilfred Watson Bater of Alameda, Hadley Grove, Barnet. to be the Executors of this my will and I revoke all former will and cudicils.

Dated this thirtieth day of December 1929 (one thousand nine hundred and twenty nine) Annie Louise Josling. Signed by the testatrix in the presence of us both present at the same time

who in her presence and in the presence of each other have here to set our names as witnesses. Walter Mercer Surgeon Barnet Herts- Dora Crisp 42, Cyprus Avenue Finchley.

To explain the relationship between all the named people on the will I have drawn the following tree using information from other sources to link it all together and marked those mentioned in bold print.



Peter Josling.

THE TOWN OF JOSSELIN

Josselin is a small town of about 3,000 inhabitants in the district of Morbihan in Brittany. It is 45 miles west of Rennes and 53 miles east of Lorient.

The town is dominated by its medieval castle which stands on the river that skirts the town. The first castle was built early in the 11th century by Guethenoc, who gave it the name of his son Josselin. This castle was raised to the ground by King Henry II of England. In 1173 rebuilding of the castle began, this continued until 1488 when Jean de Rohan the occupier was ordered by Francois II, Duke of Brittany to pull down some of the main fortifications, (which had made it one of the strongest castles in Brittany,) as a punishment for siding with the King of France against him. Hugh de Rohan the leader of the French Huguenots was ordered to further demolish parts of the castle on the orders of Cardinal Richelieu in 1629. Despite this the Rohan family still own the Chateau today.

A letter is now being written by John Francis Josling in French to be sent by the society to the Mayor of Josselin informing him of the foundation of the society. Although there is no proof that the name in its many variations is linked to the town, there is a good chance that they are connected somehow. Several people have said that it would be nice to some time in the future to possibly have a visit to Josselin by the society and I for one look forward to that day.

Next month I will be starting a letters column so anyone who wishes to write any anecdotes or want to ask a question we shall do our best to accommodate you. Also does anyone want to be the first person to appear in a members profile or do I have to set the ball rolling. All correspondance to the following address.
P Josling. 61 Golden Dell, Welwyn Gdn City. Herts. AL7 4EE.

As from the 29th Sept The Josselin Society Newsletter will only be sent to members. To assist with compiling a list of interested parties, please fill in and return the form below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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----- POST CODE -----

P Josling 61 Golden Dell, Welwyn Gdn City. Herts. AL7 4EE.