



# Josselin Journal 68

## 2020-21



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Society Website; [www.josselin.org.uk](http://www.josselin.org.uk)  
 Website Manager; Mike Garrick (269)

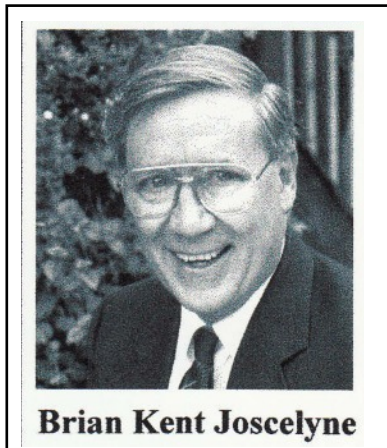
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The views expressed in the articles are those of the individuals concerned and may in no way reflect those of the Josselin Society in general.

## Administration & Editorial.



**2<sup>nd</sup> March 1934 - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

We are saddened to announce the death of Brian Kent Joscelyne (06) died in 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

Brian's Obituary contributed by his brother Ben Joscelyne appears on Pages 4 - 5.

### **Accounts for the year ending ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.**

As we were unable to hold a full AGM meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions, the (unaudited) accounts were circulated to the Committee Members for approval and accepted unanimously.

It was also agreed that there would be no Annual Subscription this year.

The accounts are shown on Page 3.

There has been no further discussions on dates for Committee or General meetings at the present time, but it looks as though we may be in able to meet again towards the end of the summer if the conditions continue to improve.

THE JOSSELIN SOCIETY		FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/8/2020		
01/19	RECEIPTS	2019/20	2019/19	2019/20
703.69	BALANCE IN HAND 1/9/2019 Add cancelled cheque issued in year 18/19 to Website (£250 less £10 subscription) SUBSCRIPTIONS For 19/20 410.00 20/21 90.00 21/22 10.00	1623.21 240.00 1863.21	104.05	PRINTING - BDC JOURNAL 65 29.40 JOURNALS 66/67 54.00
625.00	DONATIONS	510.00	347.50 (RODEN MEETING)	HADHAM MEETING ENTRIES 278.90 TEAS/COPPIES 80.50
5.50	HADHAM MEETING	10.50	250.00	WEBSITE (Replaced cheque) 3 years hosting (last subscription) 240.00
-	LITTLE HADHAM HAL BERNARD	345.00		SECRETARY'S EXPENSES Journal 65 mailout 36.17 Journals 66/67 mailout 35.21 Little Hadham Refranch. 15.00 86.88
40.00	TIES/SCARF/BADGES	58.00	349.43	Sundries 33.40
255.00	LEDDEN RODEN MEETING	-	255.00	BALANCE IN HAND 31/8/20
	MADON MEETING	-		BALANCE IN HAND 31/8/19
	NET INCREASE IN FUNDS IN YEAR	2034.13	1305.98	
	BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	1863.21	1623.21	
	Less adjusted balance at start of year	170.92		
1929.19	NET INCREASE	2836.71	2929.19	2836.71

## **BRIAN KENT JOSCELYNE 1934 to 2020**

Brian died on 9 November 2020 aged 86. He had been suffering from dementia for the last few years and died peacefully at his home in Braintree.

Brian attended the founding meeting of the Josselin Society (becoming member number 6) on Sunday 24 February 1991 which was held at The Jobbers Rest, Upminster, following the suggestion to form the society by Bill Joscelyne and Peter Josling. While not becoming a committee member, Brian took part in nearly all the meetings including one of the visits to the town of Josselin in Brittany and to the first world war battlefields.

One of the "Braintree" branch of the Joscelynes, his 3 times great grandfather Benjamin had become a cabinet makers apprentice in 1777 and founded the family business about 1794. This developed into retail furnishing, house removals and estate agency. Various descendants emigrated to Australia, South Africa and the United States to found businesses as well as to Bishops Stortford in Hertfordshire.

The younger son of Hilton and Connie (nee Kent) Joscelyne, Brian was educated at Gosfield Boys School where he became School Captain and enjoyed sports and scouting; he was also a particularly good young actor in the Pageants that were a feature of the school each year. He was often cast as leading lady – Portia in "The Merchant of Venice" and Kate Hardcastle in "She Stoops to Conquer" but also as Mark Antony in "Julius Caesar". He also took the title role in a production of "The Winslow Boy" by the Braintree Dramatic Society.

At London University, Brian graduated with a BSc(Estate Management) and then for several years he worked for Stimpson, Lock and Vince in Watford while completing his Chartered Surveyors qualification. Following that, Brian did his National Service in the RASC (Royal Army Service Corps) commissioning as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and involved with transport; his unit was prepared for shipment to Suez in 1956 but fortunately didn't travel as the war was quickly over.

Brian followed his father and me into the Estate Agency as a Chartered Surveyor in 1963 by which time that side of the business had become separate and was then known as Joscelyne and Sons.

In the family tradition, Brian became an active participant in several local voluntary organisations – the Braintree Chamber of Trade and Commerce (and sometime Chairman) and a longstanding committee member of the Friends of the Braintree Museum. For the latter, he used his video filming skills as a member of the Friends Timeframe film unit contributing to many videos and DVDs of the Friends visits and activities and for items of local historical interest. He also audio-recorded the reminiscences of local people, some being donated to Essex Record Office.

Brian's major interest was motor sport and in particular as a member of the Aston Martin Owners Club (AMOC). Father had acquired a pre-war sports-tourer Aston which the family shared and this led to Brian joining the AMOC remaining a member for over 60 years. He became assistant editor of the club magazine and then editor for 20 years including contributing many articles. He also filmed interviews with notable members and motoring personalities and events and these were donated on DVD to the Club's Heritage Trust of which he was a founder trustee. He also



filmed for the Brooklands Society, both motoring and aviation events, and donated the results to that Society.

During this time Brian acquired a DB3 Aston and then a DB3S both of which he raced in club events while he was also entrusted to drive for other owners – all as an amateur. Then an opportunity arose to join the Dorset Racing team, an amateur set up with some sponsorship, to race a Chevron and then Lola sports-racing cars in mostly long-distance races all over Europe and once in South Africa. These included three Le Mans 24 hour races resulting in several well placed finishes and an occasional class win. He became a member of the British Racing Drivers Club and also the ERA Club.



*The portrait was taken at the BRDC (British Racing Drivers Club) at Silverstone (pointing to a picture of the winning Aston Martin in the 1959 Le Mans 24 hour race)*

*Below -  
Brian standing by his DB3S Aston Martin when competing at the Firle Hill Climb in East Sussex.*



On these and other occasions Brian took numerous colour slide photographs and quite recently, and through the good efforts of a friend, a prestigious book of about 500 of them has been published which he was able to see before passing away – a fitting tribute.

Ben Joscelyne (09)

## A FAMILY'S QUEST FOR TRUTH: IS THEIR TREASURED HEIRLOOM THE FAMOUS X-RAYED RING? Donna Reid Bergholz (265)

### EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION.

At the 2018 Society's Annual General Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018 at Leaden Roding, our Treasurer, Ben Joscelyne welcomed our two members visiting us from Canada, Larry & Donna Bergholz.

I asked if they could give us a brief 'lowdown' on their connection with the Society. In reply, Dave said it was his wife, Donna, who had the connection through her Grandmother, Mae Joslin line.

During the tea-break interval, I asked them if they would do an Article for the Journal.

Recently, I was contacted via Ben Joscelyne by Alison Stabile (Nashville Tennessee, USA, 917 414 3941) who had a story about her quest to find a Wedding Ring connected with her maternal Roentgen ancestors (my full name being Alison Roentgen Dowd Stabile), the discoverer of X-rays.

I followed the link in her email and now Donna has come up with an intriguing story. Thanks, Allison & Donna.

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### DONNA'S STORY.

My name is Donna Reid Bergholz, Delta, BC, Canada.

My Joslin connection is through my Dad's Mother, My Grandmother, Mae (Minnie) Emily Crewe Joslin.

My Dad, Donald Wilson Reid grew up in Victoria, B.C. Canada, his Mum, was an amazing seamstress, gardener, with large outdoor fish ponds, had a dog, and she even had an aviary!

Nana Mae never told us, but she was placed in Dr. Barnardo's orphanage at 8 yrs. old with two younger brothers, Thomas and John, her Mother took the 4 other children to New Jersey, U.S.A., to live with her brother, when her husband died unexpectedly. I have been extremely fortunate to have connected with my Grandmother's brother's daughter, Nadine Foster, in Ontario and I am thrilled to be a part of the Joslyn connection.

I have have visited England twice for the spectacular, Jocelyn, Joslyn reunions, one with my brother Dave in 2014 and then in 2015 with my husband Larry. I now have a one year old granddaughter named Jocelyne!

My Dad was a very hard worker, had his own autobody business, volunteer fireman, member of the Shriner's, Mason's, Chamber of Commerce. When my Dad passed we found a very neglected 1928 chemical firetruck in the basement of his shop. Donna and Dave donated it to the City of Port Alberni, and voila! It was restored wonderfully and it is now used for parades, graduations, and weddings!

If you ever travel to Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, British Columbia you can have a ride on the 1928 Firetruck, just tell them Donna sent you!

PICTURES. [Following]



Above: Left 1

Right 2



Left 3

Below 4



1. The Joslin Reunion, 2015 in London with Peter, Margaret, their daughter Karen, Brian and Ben, Larry & Donna.
2. The fully restored 1928 Chemical Firetruck on parade in Port Alberni on July 1st.
3. Dave Reid on board the Firetruck wearing the original 1950's fireman's jacket.
4. Mae Crewe Emily Joslin



## A FAMILY'S QUEST FOR TRUTH: IS THEIR TREASURED HEIRLOOM THE FAMOUS X-RAYED RING?

November 12, 2020

Have you ever seen an image of the very first X-ray? Look at the fourth finger. What do you see?



If you guessed “ring”, you are correct. When German physics professor Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered the X-ray in November 1895, the first image he took was of his wife Anna Bertha’s left hand – with her engagement ring prominently displayed for the world to see. Upon seeing the ghostly image, Bertha is said to have exclaimed, “I have seen my own death.” (Translation by Katherine Schober)

FAST FORWARD 120 YEARS...

In 2017, I received an e-mail from a new translation client named Allison Stabile. She and her cousins, Frank Wilson and Paul Heidorf, all descendants of the Röntgen family, were on a quest to prove that the golden ring that had been passed down by their relatives for generations was the ring – the ring in the x-rayed image of Bertha’s hand that had become famous throughout the world.

All signs pointed to the fact that it was. The interior of the ring was engraved with the name F. Röntgen (you’ll soon see why an F...) and the date 1869. Family lore and photos of Bertha and other ancestors showed a very similar-looking ring on the women’s hands throughout the ages. But Frank, Allison, and Paul wanted to be absolutely sure.



[CONTINUED]



## THE RING'S JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Frank Wilson received the ring from his Aunt Julia (Louise Grauel's granddaughter) in 1979. At that point, he determined to prove the ring's connection to the famous x-ray once and for all.

Through Frank's extensive research, he came to believe that the ring was made at a workshop in Emmerich, Germany in 1839, as it was there that his great-great-grandfather Ferdinand Röntgen married Henriette Catharina on April 30, 1839 (there's our F!).



*Ferdinand Röntgen, uncle of X-ray discoverer Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen.*



*Close up of engravings in the ring.*

*Anna Bertha (known as Bertha), posed with her engagement ring on her finger, sometime between 1869-1872. This is the first known picture of the ring.*

*The ring, engraved with the name F. Röntgen and the year 1869.*

After Bertha's death in 1919 – during a time of economic hardship in post-World War I Germany – Frank believes that Wilhelm Conrad had the ring sent back to its original owners, specifically to his cousin Louise Grauel, now in America. She had emigrated with her brother Johann Heinrich and her father (Wilhelm Conrad's uncle) Ferdinand in 1872. As you can imagine, this ring was extra special to Louise, as it had originally belonged to her mother, Henriette.

As time progressed, this special family keepsake was passed down through the generations, until it eventually made its way from an aunt to Frank himself in 1979.



*The original recipient of the ring, Henriette Catharina (Louise's mother)*



*Louise Röntgen Grauel, seen with the ring on her pinky finger in 1929*



## THE QUEST BEGINS

After he came into possession of the family heirloom, Frank was ready to prove its authenticity – and that required going back to the land where the ring had come from.

Over the years, Frank researched the life of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, and then made multiple trips to Europe following in his famous relative's footsteps. Röntgen's physics laboratory at the University of Würzburg, Röntgen's birthplace of Lennepe, Germany, and Röntgen's hometown of Apeldoorn in the Netherlands were just a few of the stops on his research trips. Frank also journeyed to Utrecht and Zürich, the cities where Röntgen had received his education. Along the way, he consulted with various experts – antique experts, goldsmiths, engraving experts, and more – to assist him in his quest for verification. [The Röntgen Museum in Lennepe](#) and the [Deutsches Museum in Munich](#) also became frequent points of



contact  
as his  
quest  
contin  
ued.



*Cousin Allison joined Frank in searching for clues in Lennepe, Germany in 2017 (Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's birthplace)*

*Antique specialist in The Netherlands assisting with the ring*



## SO WHAT DID THE EXPERTS SAY?

While each expert assisted Frank in their own way, it was an expert goldsmith in Switzerland who told Frank that the ring had actually been resized in the late nineteenth century – which fit perfectly with the theory that the ring given to Bertha had originally belonged to someone else with a different-size finger. Henriette, perhaps?

An engraving expert then informed Frank that the ring engraver was likely not an expert himself and that he had probably been working without a magnifying glass. Based on detailed examination of the engraving, it was this expert's opinion that the "1869" portion of the engraving had been done by a different engraver or with a different engraving tool – thus supporting the fact that the "1869" was added at a different time than the name "F. Röntgen". Could it have been for Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's engagement to Bertha?

Following these findings, multiple experts recommended that Frank have a DNA analysis of the ring performed. This could help solve things once and for all.

It was that path that Frank decided to embark on next.



*Many tests were carried out on the ring in Europe.*

## IN THE MEANTIME...

While Frank was hard at work getting clues about the physical ring itself, Allison Stabile, Frank's third cousin and great-great-great-granddaughter of Uncle Ferdinand Röntgen, was busy herself.

Allison – whose middle name is Röntgen – had hundreds of documents and photos in her possession, family keepsakes that had been passed down to her through her family line. She met Frank on Ancestry.com while trying to identify certain shared ancestors in photos. But shared ancestors weren't the only thing these two Röntgen cousins had in common...

After years of online contact, Frank and Allison finally met in person in November of 2016, researching with fellow Röntgen descendant Paul Heidorf in the archives at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. On that trip, Frank proudly showed Allison the famous ring – and more.



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In addition to the ring, Frank showed Allison two forks and spoons that had been passed down to him from his Aunt Julia. These spoons, with hallmarks proving they were made in Amsterdam in 1842, were from the 1842 Amsterdam wedding of X-ray inventor Wilhelm Conrad's Röntgen's parents. Their monogram (RF, for Röntgen and the wife's maiden name of Frowein) was carved on the back. More impressed with the ring than the spoon, Allison didn't give them much thought, until...



*Röntgen descendants Allison Stabile, Paul Heidorf, and Frank Wilson researching together at the Dittrick Museum of Medical History at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio (2016)*



Two years later, Allison was sorting through all the family heirlooms that she herself had received. Her eyes widened in shock as she stumbled upon two familiar-looking silver spoons. She turned them over – that same R and F were on the back! They were from the very same Dutch set that Frank had showed her two years ago!

*One of the 1842 Dutch spoons from Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's parents' wedding in 1842.*

## BUT LET'S GET BACK TO THE MYSTERY OF THE RING...

With Frank searching for physical proof on the ring itself, Allison started looking for written proof. After all, she had those 19th-century letters and photographs from the Röntgen family in her possessions. Could the ring have been mentioned within those old German pages?

And that's how I got involved. With the letters in German and the old German handwriting, Allison couldn't read them herself. Through a series of referrals, she found my website, and I was so glad she did. The family's quest to find the ring's origins sounded like an exciting challenge to me!



*I made sure to tell Allison what "ring" looked like in the old German handwriting, in case she happened to stumble across it when sorting her letters!*

Starting in 2017, I began translating multiple letters for the family – beautiful handwritten letters from Friedrich, Wilhelm Conrad's father, and Ferdinand, Wilhelm Conrad's brother. While the discoverer of X-rays was

mentioned in the letters (at one point, his father said they were moving back from Holland to be closer to Wilhelm Conrad in Germany), dozens of translations produced no mention of the ring itself. Back to the drawing board.

*While we haven't found any mention of the ring – yet!-, I've really enjoyed translating Allison's special letters and learning the history of the Roentgen family.*

## A CRUEL TWIST OF FATE...

With the letters not producing any written clues, Frank and Allison turned back to the physical ring itself. In 2019, Frank again set off to Europe, ready to follow the experts' advice and have the DNA in the engraving of the ring tested in Switzerland. Perhaps DNA could prove the ring's origins once and for all.

Unfortunately, it was not to be.

When Frank awoke from a nap on the train ride from Düsseldorf to Switzerland, the ring – along with some cash – had vanished from his nearby backpack. The thief had only left the ring's plastic bag behind.

Frank acted quickly, immediately reporting the theft to the local police in Düsseldorf. But despite the quick action, the police were unable to locate the thief. The ring was gone.

## BUT THERE'S STILL HOPE...

For years, Frank, Allison, and Paul have been working diligently to trace the origins of their beloved family possession, an item that also has immense meaning to the scientific community. In fact, once the ring's origins were proven, Frank was planning on donating a replica to the Röntgen Museum in Lennep, Germany, so that the entire world could share in this ring's special story. But before he could do so, the ring was cruelly stolen – and the thief likely had no idea what he had taken from the family.

Fortunately, the story doesn't end there. In the last few months, interest in the Röntgen ring story has provided the cousins with a glimmer of hope. When I was in Salzburg last summer, author Alexandra Nagele became interested in the family's story and decided to interview me about my work with the Röntgen letters and the ring itself. That article was published in the

the Salzburger Nachrichten, the main newspaper of Salzburg, this past September. Through that recent article, other newspapers have expressed interest in the fascinating saga and more articles are forthcoming.

Perhaps, with enough media attention and getting the word out, the ring will resurface someday – and people will be able to recognize and return it when it does.



*The article in the Salzburger Nachrichten Newspaper, September 2020.*



*(Right; Retired neurologist Frank Wilson, who has done an incredible amount of research on the history of the Röntgen ring and Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen himself)*



*Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen*

[Will you help to spread the word about the missing Röntgen ring? Share the story on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with your community and genealogy groups. The more people that know about the ring's fascinating history, the more chance of it being found and returned someday. You never know what can happen when we all work together.]

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.

The Era, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 1914.

Walking Through a Solid Wall  
is positively my sole invention which I have sold to  
MR HARRY HOUDINI  
Reserving the performing rights for England to myself

This Act opens July 5th and is booked under the  
exclusive management of Day's Variety Agency.  
All other Acts using this method are imitations

Signed **S. E. Josolyne**

16th June 1914

The Stage Thursday 28th January 1965.

**Sidney Edgar Josolyne**, inventor of the “walking through a brick wall” illusion, died on Sunday, January 24. He was a personal friend of Harry Houdini. The act of La Celeste was created by Josolyne and eventually terminated because of ill health.

**Sidney Edgar Josolyne** was the second son of **Harold Vose Josolyne** and **Frances Mary Godden** and he was born 19 February 1892 Walthamstow. He married three times. His 3<sup>rd</sup> wife Agnes Blanche Parry was a Variety Artist.

Sidney wrote a book entitled “Weird Wonders for Wizards by Sidney E Josolyne” published in London 1924.

The following is an entry in the Directory, Putney 1965:

37 Keevil Drive SW19

*Josolyne, Agnes B and Sidney*

Brenda Joscelyne (95)



## NEWSPAPER

Berks and Oxon Advertiser, Friday 18 May 1923.

“The Dedication of the War Memorial on Sunday 13 May 1923 in the village of Blewbury, Oxfordshire stands on the Bohams Road, opposite the Church of St Michael. The memorial takes the form of a Lych Gate and was designed by Mr E Heathcote F.R.I.B.A. of London and the work was carried out by Messrs W Gardiner and W Grace of Blewbury and Messrs Boshers of Cholsay under the supervision of a well-known Architect and Surveyor of London and Blewbury namely Mr Ernest Josling, who kindly took a very great interest in the work.”.

The above article draw my attention as it contained a JOSLING. Who was he?



Photo of The Lych Gate WW1 Memorial in Blewbury

Ernest Josling was the eldest son of Arthur Josling and Emily Sargent, who had married 14 September 1874 in the City of London. In the 1891 census Ernest was an articulated clerk to a Surveyor and he was living South Road, Edmonton with his parents. His father, who was a Commercial Traveller, died in 1898 at the age of 48. By 1901 Ernest was a Land and Building Surveyor and he was boarding at 7 Lansdowne Place, Plymouth. By the time the 1939 Register was taken Ernest described himself as a Chartered Surveyor (Quantity) and he was married to Caroline Sarah Stott who was from Plymouth and they had a daughter Naomi Loveday Josling who was working as a clerk in Government Service,

Ernest George Arthur Josling died 14 Sept 1943 in Ealing.

## NEWSPAPER

Aberdeen Press and Journal Monday 17 April 1972

## CLANGERS

In Caddington, Beds (pop 4000) a challenge was handed out yesterday to the rest of Britain. They're waiting to hear..... from Clanger Eaters.

If they're good enough, they can chomp their way into the Clanger Eating Championship of Great Britain.

Caddington has the current champion 20-stone pig man Harry Colman.

Clangers? They're a unique Bedfordshire dish dating from medieval times- huge, foot-long dumplings, with meat and veg at one end and jam at the other, eaten cold.

Contest organiser **John Josling** said: “The idea was that farm workers could have their complete lunch in one beautiful piece.” and there was only a dumpling cloth to carry home.

Brenda Joscelyne (95)

## QUERY.

Sometime ago the Society received an enquiry; did we know who Margaret Ellen Joscelyne and Christopher Nissen were as the person enquiring had purchased a bag, containing some letters belonging to Margaret Joscelyne and later Margaret (Peggy) Nissen, at a car boot sale.

After some research I came up with the following.

In the 1939 Register Christopher lived with his parents at Byng Drive, Potters Bar. His father was a paper merchant. (*Note Christopher's name is blocked out as he had not died before 2016*).

Before the couple married Margaret lived at Martindale in Stanley Road, Enfield, the home of her parents. Marriage reference 1955 March qtr. Edmonton Christopher F Nissen to Margaret E Joscelyne.

By 1956, Christopher and Margaret Nissen were living at 76 Apple Grove Enfield.

Margaret died 5 May 2011

The Nisson line goes back to Denmark. Christopher's father, Christopher Frederick Lorenz Nissen (1897-1989) although born in Lewisham is recorded in the Danish records.

Margaret Ellen Joscelyne was the daughter of Lawrence Henry Prince Joscelyne (1896-1972) and Elsie Evelyn Goodchild (1893-1971)

Lawrence was the son of Henry Joscelyne (1869-1951) and Charlotte Sarah Prince (1875-1961) Henry was born in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Brenda Joscelyne (95)

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Once again, my Thanks to all the Contributors; Please keep the Articles rolling in for the next issue of the Journal.

John Hallum, Editor.