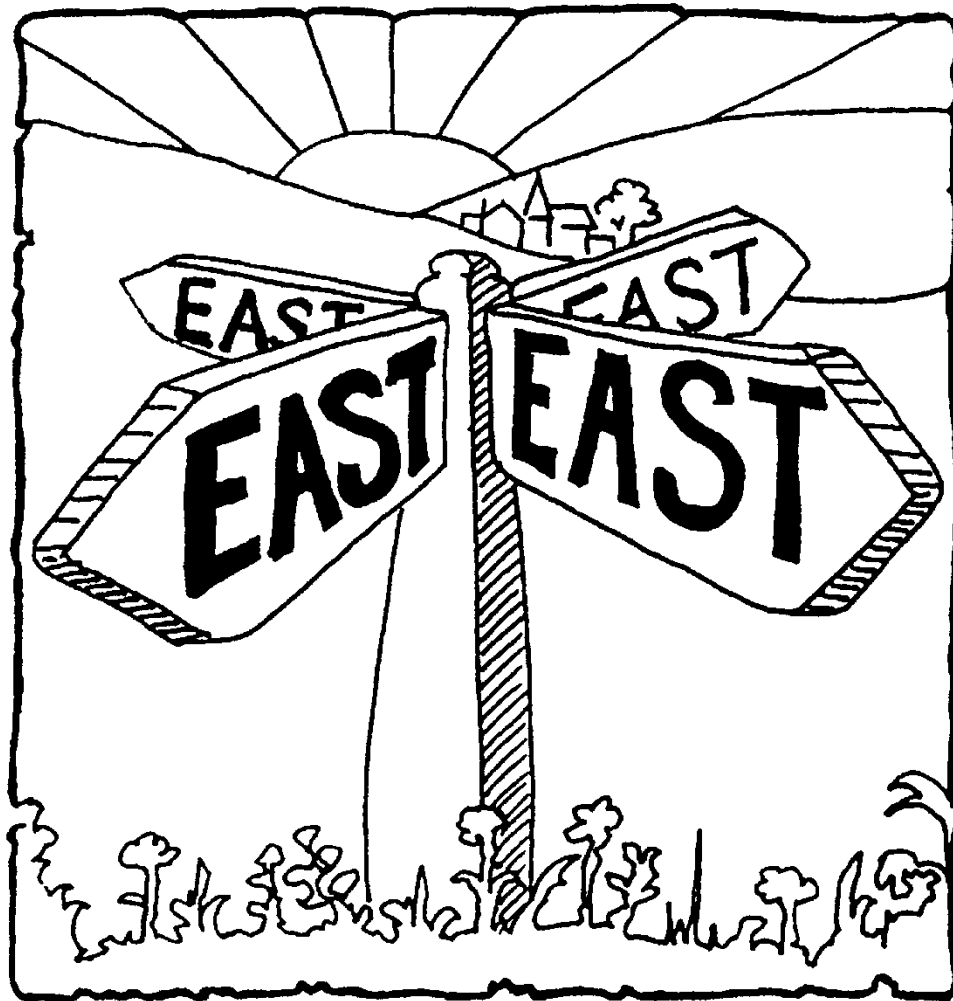


# ***POINTS EAST***

**The Journal of the East Family History Society**

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**Autumn 2021**

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## Chairman's Message

Another year and we're still unable to see all our family & friends - especially those living in other countries.

My family have been lucky to be covid free & all but one fully vaccinated, unlike my brother & his family in Australia, most of whom haven't yet been vaccinated.

Your committee have met via 'Zoom' to discuss when & how we could hold the AGM. If it needs to be virtual again we hope many of you will be able to join us.

We have a few new members in the society this year which is good news.

Keep up the research & see what unusual things you may find.

Ros Hipkin ♦

## Editorial

I must admit to have thoroughly enjoyed this last summer in the UK. Not being able to go far, and certainly not abroad for the last 18 months or so, we've still managed some weekends away to Leeds, Derby, the Isle of Wight and Nottingham. The weather has been pretty good for us so lots of paddling (kayak) trips to be had. I have also begun a new voluntary job – as a narrowboat driver on the Basingstoke Canal, which I love! I've even met the local mayor and the Borough Police Commissioner as well as many interesting tourists!

But now as the weather turns decidedly autumnal I've been getting my enjoyment from reading lots of fascinating articles that you have sent to me. I must thank Peter for encouraging you all to send me more! To those of you who've spent time pulling photos and stories together, particularly those new members who've contributed, I thank you.

Stay safe and well as we start to take pleasure from a more 'normal' existence again and make the most of the outdoors in whatever part of the world you live in. I'm excited to say I'll be off to Greece soon but will be back in time for the AGM on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October (see page 22 for details).

I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of Points East.

Best Regards. ♦

## **Theophilus Josiah East** *by Angela Waterfall*

Among our archives is a list of alumni from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

One alumnus had a striking name – Theophilus Josiah East – and was easy to find on our “Big Tree” (a compilation of various members’ family trees).

Theophilus is one of the people recorded on Rosemary Warner’s tree and he was the brother of Rear Admiral James Wylie East.

His father was John East, a clergyman, who was living in Somerset at the time of Theophilus’ birth on January 6th 1832.

Theophilus was educated at Cheltenham College and Bath Grammar School before attending Corpus Christi College, Oxford and Trinity College, Cambridge (Alumni Cantabrigiensis 1752-1900).

In May 1850, he married Annie Sarah Atherly, nee Thompson, at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Person Notes on our “Big Tree” record that he was issued with a passport in July 1853.

I cannot find Census records for him in 1851. However, we know from university records that he did not receive his degree from Trinity College until 1858.

In July 1879, Annie Sarah, his wife, died in Versailles, France. In the national probate records, it gives his profession as Professor of the University of France.

In December 1880, he remarried. His new wife was Francoise Ernestine Caquineau.

I can find no further records for Theophilus. Does anyone know what happened to him?

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Obituary**

**RONALD ERIC EAST** – Sadly passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021, aged 88 years. Much loved father of Judith, Andrew and Lisa, cherished grandad, great grandad, father-in-law and brother. He will be sadly missed by everyone. Due to current restrictions a private service will be held at Cambridge Crematorium on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Family flowers only please. *(Originally printed on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the Hunts Post and via [www.familynotices24.co.uk](http://www.familynotices24.co.uk))*

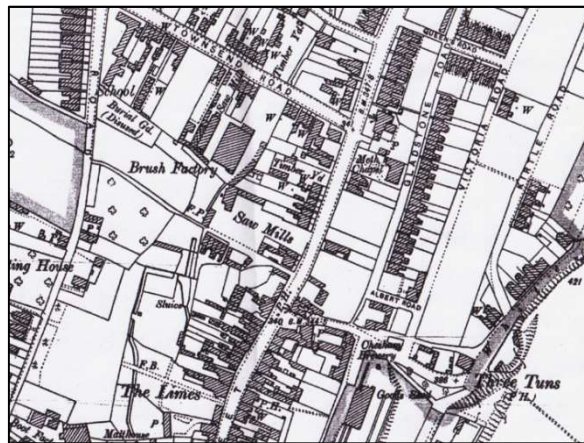
## **George East - Owner of the Hyde Abbey Sawmills, Winchester and, later, West Dean Sawmills, Wiltshire** *by Dorothy Morgan*

### **Introduction**

I knew very little about my mother's family. Following my retirement in 2001 after working in Health Visiting in Chesham for 17 years, I decided to research this side of my Family Tree. It was to prove a surprising journey. I was born in Sussex but have lived in the Amersham area for more than 50 years. As part of my work in Chesham, I visited older people, and I immunised babies and small children. To my surprise I discovered that some of the people I visited, and some of the babies and children I immunised, were distantly related to me! Of course I didn't know this at the time I was working amongst them.

Chesham, in Buckinghamshire, once a Market Town, lies in the Chess valley and many descendants of its original inhabitants still live there. It was known as the town of the 4 Bs, Beer, Brushes and Boots, because these were local industries at one time; the 4th B was for Baptists!

George East was born on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1828 in Chesham, the eldest son of Ebenezer East and his wife Ann Young. Despite being a Baptist, Ebenezer had a beer shop in Chesham High Street and later ran the Three Tuns Pub in Whitehill. Ebenezer also worked as a wood turner at this time. He subsequently owned a sawmill and timber yard in Townsend Road [Figure 1].



**Figure 1. Chesham in 1896 with Townsend Road at the top and The Three Tuns on the lower right.**

George's mother Ann died in about 1833, no record of her death has yet been found.

George married Sophia Horwood (born 31<sup>st</sup> August 1828) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1846 in Lower Baptist Chapel, Amersham. They were both aged 17 years. George's occupation was Hoop Maker and Sophia's father was a Butcher.

George and Sophia had 4 children, all born in Chesham: Joseph (1847), Elizabeth (1848), George Rustell (1849) and Henry (1851). George worked as a wood turner and they lived in Waterside, Chesham. Later they moved to Bournend,

Northchurch, in Hertfordshire. Sadly, their first child Joseph died on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1856, from Phthisis Pulmonaris (tuberculosis) and Sophia (George's wife) died on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1857 from the same disease. She had been ill for a year. During this time Mary Eames (born 1834 in Frithsden, near Berkhamstead) looked after the children and household.

Less than a year after Sophia's death George married Mary Eames on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1857 at the Parish church Northchurch, Berkhamstead. I am descended from their 1<sup>st</sup> child Rosa Sabina East, my Great Grandmother, who was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1858 at Bournend, Northchurch. George and Mary had another 8 children.

By the time of the 1861 Census George and his family were living in Pullers Road, Boxmoor, Hertfordshire; his father in law Joseph Eames lived next door. George was now a Woodenware Manufacturer and employed 4 boys and 4 men.

George later moved to manage a sawmill at Charlton, in Sussex, for his friend Thomas Foster who was himself originally from Chesham (Post Office Directory of Sussex 1866). Three of George and Mary's children were born in this part of Sussex, their births were registered in the Chichester District. George and Mary rented a cottage at Singleton at this time. Later George worked at a sawmill in Kingsworthy, Hampshire.

The 1871 Census shows George, now aged 42, occupation Broker (I think this means dealer, probably in second hand furniture and household goods), living at 119 High Street\*, Winchester, Hampshire. With him were his wife Mary (37) and their children Elizabeth 21, unmarried and subject to fits, George R., 20, Rosa S., 13, William Jas., 11, Ebenezer, 9, Martha E., 7, Walter, 5, Mary Ann, 2, and Emma R, 3 months.

\*A branch of Abbey National (later Santander) occupied the site in 2006.

### **Hyde Abbey Saw Mills, Winchester**

By 1881 George East and his family were living at Number 3, King Alfred Place, Hyde, Winchester, Hampshire. Elizabeth East, George East's daughter and Mary's stepdaughter, age 30 was still living at home, probably because she was subject to fits (1871 census). Also at home were William East, 21 years, a Sawyer, Ebenezer East, 19, Wood Turner, Walter East, 14, no occupation or attending school listed, Mary East, 12, Jesse L. East, 8, and Josiah Bertram East, 6. Joseph Eames, widower aged 73 years, Step Father (sic), born Wiggington, Hertfordshire, was living at the same address. Joseph Eames is George's father-in-law and Mary's father.

George East was now the owner of Hyde Abbey Saw Mills [Figure 2]. The saw mills were behind the present road known as King Alfred Place [Figures 3-5; all from 2006]. Alongside was a Drainage Cut from the river Itchen. The whole area was known as King Alfred's Place and was marked on an Ordinance Survey map of 1871 as "Liable to Flooding" (Record Office, Winchester), Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Winchester in 1869. Hyde Abbey Saw Mills were probably built near where the number 129 appears on the map.**



**Figure 3. Entrance to King Alfred Place**



**Figure 4. The house on the right backs onto the Drainage Cut and faces into King Alfred Place**



**Figure 5. The dark building is probably on the site of the saw mill. The Drainage Cut runs between the road and the buildings.**

An extract from *The East Family as Saw Millers* by Charles East (published in a previous *Points East*) gives more detail:

*'In the early 1870's, George moved to Winchester and founded Hyde Abbey Sawmills in King Alfred's Place. It was on the banks of the River Itchen, near the King Alfred Monument and was driven by a water wheel. About 12 men worked at the mill and timber was purchased from William Baring the then owner of the Norman Court Estate\* and transported the 16 miles to Winchester by horses and pole carriages. The main products of the mill were brush boards (the parts that hold the bristles) stove handles, veneers and general saw milling goods'.*

\*West Dean, Wiltshire.

Saw Mills were dangerous places, as this excerpt from the *Hampshire Chronicle* shows:

### **An Accident at the Hyde Abbey Saw Mills in 1882**

AN INQUEST- was held on Saturday night at the Royal Hants County Hospital, before, Mr. Henry White, Coroner, on the body of Thomas Cooper, aged 47, whose death resulted on the 17th inst. from injuries received whilst working with a circular saw at Mr. East's, Hyde Abbey Sawmills, Winchester, on the 7th inst.

The evidence of the deceased's son showed that he (the deceased) was sawing a small piece of round timber which suddenly slipped and the saw cut off the first finger of the left hand, also cutting the hand between the thumb and first finger. Corroborative evidence was called, and showed the injury was purely accidental. Deceased was taken to the Hospital immediately, and seemed to be doing well until the morning of the 14th inst., when tetanus set in and he died about nine o'clock am on the 17th inst. Medical evidence was called to prove these facts, and a verdict was returned of accidental death.

No Health and Safety, and no Workman's Compensation then!

George East sometimes advertised in the *Hampshire Chronicle* for men to work at the mill:

#### **6 October 1883:**

WANTED. A good Circular Saw Sharpener. Also, two Circular sawyers. Apply to G. East, Hyde Abbey Saw Mills, Winchester.

#### **23 May 1885:**

WANTED. A sober steady, industrious Man as TIMBER CARTER. One that has been used to a four wheeled timber carriage. Total Abstinence preferred. Apply to G. East, Hyde Abbey Saw Mills, Winchester.

**30th July 1887:**

WANTED A TIMBER CARTER. Must be used to Four Wheel Carriage. Apply to Mr. East, Hyde Abbey Saw Mills, Winchester.

**The Saw Mill at West Dean.**

In 1890 the Baring family offered George East land on their Estate at West Dean. The site included a farm which could accommodate their horses. Timber from this estate had been supplied to the Hyde Abbey Sawmill at Winchester.

In 1891 George, now 62 and a Timber Merchant, and Mary, 57, were living at The Sawmills, West Dean. With them were daughters Elizabeth, 41, and Mary, 22, and sons Jesse L. East, 18, and Josiah Bertram, 16 years.

From the *Hampshire Advertiser*, 25 Aug 1894

To be sold or let the Valuable Freehold Property known as Hyde Abbey Saw Mills.

MESSRS.JAMES HARRIS and SONS

Have received instructions from the owner to SELL by Auction, at the Black Swan Hotel, Winchester, on TUESDAY, April 10th, 1894, at 4 o'clock precisely, the valuable FREEHOLD PROPRTY known as the HYDE ABBEY SAW MILLS, King Alfred's-place, having a frontage of about 143 feet and an average depth of about 75 feet, comprising the range of brick, timber, and corrugated iron buildings with capital brick shaft , drying sheds, workshops and stores, stabling for 5 horses, a four roomed cottage in yard, also a conventional brick and slated house near containing three sitting rooms and four bedrooms.

The whole of the property has been for many years in the Occupation of MR. George East, but is now in the hand, and possession will be given on completion of purchase.

Particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained at the place of sale: of G. M.

FOOTNER Esq., solicitor, Romsey: and of the auctioneers, Winchester.

George East died from heart disease on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1894, aged 67, and was buried in the Old Churchyard in West Dean. The Sawmill remains in the family and is still operating.

\*\*\*\*\*

Here is the bill and receipt for furniture and household goods purchased from George Rustell East's in Winchester, dated May 17 1900. Leonard married Thirza Jane Tubb in June that year.

Leonard Bertram East was Andrew East's grandfather. Andrew has kindly given his permission for this bill to be included in 'Points East'.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 164, High Street. and at<br>Eastgate Street Stores, Winchester.<br><i>M. L. East May 17 1900</i><br><b>Bought of G. R. EAST,</b><br><b>Furniture Broker.</b><br>Second-Hand Furniture Bought, Sold, or Exchanged.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | <i>Brought over</i> 8 - 5 - 1<br><i>Oral Kettle</i> 2 - 6<br><i>2 Towel rails</i> 4 - 6<br><i>Bath</i> 2 - 9<br><i>2 Store Bins</i> 1 - 2<br><i>Tray &amp; 2 Scrubs</i> 1 - 0<br><i>Rug</i> 1 - 0<br><i>Felt Carpet</i> 2 - 0<br><i>2 Pieces of Brussels Do.</i> 3 - 6<br><i>2 Bedroom Chairs</i> 4 - 0<br><i>2 Pictures</i> Received May 23 <sup>rd</sup> 7 - 0<br><i>4 Strainers</i> Will Thank 2 - 0<br><i>2 Cornice poles (Complete)</i> 6 - 0<br><i>6 Plates &amp; Cover</i> - 9<br><i>2 Decanters</i> 3 - 0<br><hr/> <i>10 - 6 - 3</i><br><i>Curtain</i> 4 - 6<br><i>Knives &amp; forks</i> 3 - 6<br><i>Solister</i> 4 - 6<br><hr/> <i>Total</i> 10 - 18 - 9 |  |
| <i>Mahog Oval Table</i> 1 - 2 - 0<br><i>3 ft 6 Bedstead</i> 11 - 0<br><i>Double End Sofa</i> 1 - 16 - 0<br><i>D. Table with marble</i> 4 - 6<br><i>Table with 2 drawers</i> 5 - 6<br><i>Mahog table with 2 leaves</i> 14 - 0<br><i>6 Mahog chairs</i> 14 - 0<br><i>Mahog Commode</i> 16 - 0<br><i>Kitchen Table</i> 12 - 0<br><i>Deal Washstand</i> 4 - 6<br><i>Pier glass</i> 15 - 0<br><i>2 Toilet glasses</i> 3 - 6<br><i>2 Sets of fireirons</i> 4 - 6<br><i>2 flat irons</i> 1 - 3<br><i>Frypan Wash up</i> 1 - 4<br><hr/> <i>8 - 5 - 1</i> |  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |

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## Obituary

**WILLIAM BERNARD (BILL) EAST** – Peacefully at Aldringham Court, Leiston, Suffolk on July 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, aged 80 years, formerly of Briston. Father of Sally, Christopher and Michael, dear grandad and great-grandad to all his grandchildren, loving friend of Janet, brother of David and Sheila. Will be sadly missed. Funeral Service at St Faiths Crematorium on Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2.45pm. Family flowers only but, if desired, donations for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. (Originally printed on July 14th, 2021 in the Eastern Daily Press and via [www.familynotices24.co.uk](http://www.familynotices24.co.uk))

## **Shurville, Shervell, Shirvells or Shurvills? Who knows!** *by Gillian McCorry*

My birth surname was Shurville and I recently started looking at my father's ancestors, who lived in the villages of south Oxfordshire. I was told about Shervell Cottage on Shirvells Hill and visited the site with my daughter. She took a photo of me at the signpost.



I then turned to looking at the ancestors of my mother, who was born an East. She was born and grew up in the east end of London.

I joined the EFHS and used my password for the first time to look through the Points East index. Imagine my surprise when I found details of the death of Amelia Annie East who died at Shurvills Hill, Goring Heath in 1900.

A slight change in the spelling since then, but then there have been tweaks to the spelling of my birth surname over the years too.

I am new to researching family histories and am finding it very absorbing. I am pleased that my daughter Ruth finds it interesting too.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Red Herrings** *by Margaret East*

This is a project I started nearly 20 years ago, to search for the father of my ex husband who never knew the name of his biological father, it was definitely not East...

In 1968 I married my first husband, he was tall, dark, and handsome, and a war-baby, who looked rather Asian.

He was born in 1945 to a 17 year old girl. Her mother brought up the boy for her until the girl married, and could give him a settled home, the girl and her new husband legally adopted the child, and he became Warren Edward Huxford.

Warren was never told anything about his biological father, except that he had been an American pilot, and had been killed in action.

Warren had a look through his mother's private papers and gained the impression that his biological father was named Warren Edward Bennett, which was the name I searched for until this year.

We were married for 25 years, but developed different interests, and our marriage failed.

In 2002, I married Tim East, and a slight interest in genealogy became an obsession. I had retired early due to ill health, so to keep me busy, my eldest son gave me his old computer, and I was hooked!

Tim and I joined EFHS, with the encouragement of his mother Millie East, who was extremely interested in family history.

At our last live meeting of the EFHS, Ron and Ann East told of their taking autosomal dna tests, and the enjoyment of the cousin connections and the new channels of detective work which it opened up to them. This made me decide to try it myself, so I took the dna test with Ancestry, and got Tim and his mother Millie to take one themselves.

I tried to get my sons by Warren Huxford to take a dna test, but they would not do so, but my daughters jumped at the chance, as did one of my granddaughters.

When my daughter's results came through it was absolutely amazing, they had first and second cousins in America. I emailed all the close cousins, but only one replied, she was the wife of a second cousin my daughters shared dna with, and managed his dna tree.

This lady spent all night working out which one of 12 siblings was the biological father of my ex husband Warren. As there were many girls in that family, and most of the boys were too old to serve in WW2, it left only 2 contenders for the fatherhood.

After searching out where the two men had served it became apparent that Virgil Joseph Frederick was in the US Army as a pilot and had served in England at the correct time and place.

There is a detailed tree of the Frederick family, so now my children have a grandfather, and knowledge of their antecedents, who were of French and German extraction.

I have been sent photographs of Virgil Joseph Frederick, and of his father William Frederick, and it was a tremendous shock when I received them, Virgil was so like the man I had married in 1968, and my youngest son is the image of his grandfather Virgil Frederick.

I now know why Warren's mother had her son illegitimately. Virgil Joseph Frederick was already married with a daughter in Nebraska, he returned to America, and had two more children with his wife after the war. He never told anyone of the existence of the child in England.

Now I am searching for the father of the illegitimately born mother of Warren Huxford, my first husband. He was named as Mr Bailey of 84 Hartington Road, Walthamstow on the records I got from the Salvation Army in 2012, it takes a long time to find hidden fathers...but dna testing may yet come up with the answer.

Strangely, after writing this up roughly, I had a look for 84 Hartington Road Walthamstow, on the 1911 census, but could only find a Bailey family with two boys at number 85 Hartington Road. Should any of you feel the urge to help me find a Bailey family at number 84 Hartington Road, Walthamstow nearer to 1927/1928 please do not hold back, I need every little bit of help that is offered.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Founders' Award**

A prize of £50 will be awarded annually to the member of the EastFHS who submits the most interesting article for publishing in the Points East journal

The articles will be judged by members of the committee and the result announced at the autumn AGM

Please send all articles by 1 August to the Journal editor  
Amanda Gostelow: [amanda@gostelow24.co.uk](mailto:amanda@gostelow24.co.uk)

**In memory of John and Andrée East**

## A Very Musical Family

~About my father, Denis George East (1919-2012), my mother, Raina Kveta Saudek (1921-1986) and various other ancestors~

*by Angela East, cellist, teacher and member of the ensemble Red Priest*

When one is born, one accepts one's environment as the norm, although in my case it was unusual. I was immersed in classical music, probably as a foetus and from then until the present day.

My father, Denis George East was a professional violinist who practised from 7.30am every single morning. The other members of his string quartet lived next door and they came round regularly to rehearse.

My mother was an oboist whose place, as a woman, was in the home but who played in the Boyd Neel Orchestra during the war. She was born into an intellectual Jewish family, her parents being from the Czech Republic and Germany. It was not until I researched her on ancestry.co.uk that I discovered that she was Jewish. It was a well-kept secret, surely for purposes of protection, from both my mother and her brother.



Raina East (nee Saudek)

wrote many books and who spoke seven languages fluently. His circle of friends included many writers, including George Bernard Shaw and even the photographers employed by the family were well-known and can be found on the Internet today, so it is not surprising that music was part of my mother's upbringing.

My father, on the other hand, had no such upbringing. He came from a family in Child's Hill, Hendon – a house that must have been in the family for about 100 years - where the men were agricultural labourers and the women were in the laundry business. His father was born there, as was his



Denis G East

There were suspicions on account of her and her brother's appearance, by the fact that they were brought up in Golders Green and because of their numerous Jewish friends. She herself had no idea. My research revealed that several sisters of her father, and their families, had ended their days in Auschwitz. I also found that my mother's aunt had an entry in a Berlin telephone directory where her address was in the Jewish quarter of Berlin. Her father was a well-known graphologist – still well-known by graphologists today – who



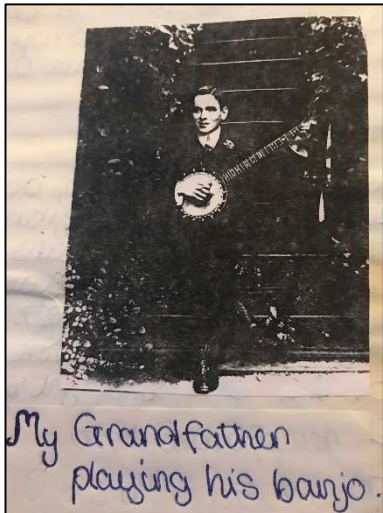
Robert Saudek

grandfather and possibly his great grandfather. Although the last mentioned fitted the description of an ag lab whose wife was a washerwoman (reminds me of Wind in the Willows!), my father's grandfather managed to break away from the tradition and became a carman whose business was furniture removal, particularly beds. My grandfather worked for the film company, Ilford's, cutting glass plates and coating film.



Eleanor P. & Thomas W. East

At some point, the housing in Child's Hill was demolished and my grandfather bought another house in Cricklewood. He was very proud of living there, almost patriotic, having come from such a poor background. He played the banjo, though this was before I was born and I never heard him play. I'm told that my



grandmother's father played the euphonium in the police force band (he was a Peeler). That is the extent of the musical background that I know. My grandparents kept a piano in their house and were surprised when my father, as a boy aged 9, decided to teach himself to play it. He managed to pass Grade 1 without any outside help!

His parents (my grandparents) came to the conclusion that he must be talented, so they took him to see a lady called Ruth Lawrence, who was one of the seven Lawrence sisters who founded Roedean School. She was a violinist (who had herself taken a lesson from Brahms) and my father began lessons with her. It was

a lot tougher then than it is now; not a case of constant praise but one of constant criticism and she would throw her wooden beads at him on a regular basis! She took him under her wing, since my grandparents were not very well off, and sent him to William Ellis School, where he would not otherwise have gone. He told me that he once got a detention after coming top in a history exam, on the grounds that 'If you can do it once, you can do it every time!'

At the age of 15 he won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he studied with Maurice Sons who was the very first leader of the very first Prom concert with Sir Henry Wood. The information that he passed on to me about these lessons has been very useful to me personally for my interest in historical performance practice. His career looked very promising, with concerto engagements in the diary with the London symphony orchestras, when the war broke out.

In 1942 he was called up to fight in Singapore. The troops travelled there by ship but were immediately captured by the Japanese upon arrival and he spent the rest

of the war in a prisoner-of-war camp in Burma building the railroad to the bridge over the River Kwai. We all know how they were treated and the ill-health they suffered. He became covered with tropical ulcers over his arms and legs. Most prisoners with this complaint had their limbs amputated but because everyone knew he was musical, an Australian doctor, who was also a prisoner, found some way of healing them, even though the scars were with him for life.

During his time in the camp, he made musical instruments and taught other prisoners how to play. Strings were made out of telegraph wire. He then put together an orchestra. He wrote out the whole score of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto (from memory of course) – after which the monsoon came down and washed all the notes away – but they did eventually get to perform it. I don't know how they acquired their concert clothes but remember finding a bright yellow harlequin outfit in the loft when I was a child that was apparently what he wore.

Not many of those prisoners made it home at the end of the war. My grandparents had received a telegram fairly early on saying that he was 'missing, presumed dead', so having tried to come to terms with this (and he was an only child), he suddenly turned up on the doorstep one day. His mother was so shocked to see him that she sent him away! Can we imagine what that must have been like for all of them? That was all before I was born of course.

What had been his home was now only half a home. The first floor of the house had been let out to a family whose house had been bombed and they remained there for as long as my grandparents lived in it. They were left with two reception rooms, what they called a scullery (kitchen) and a long garden that my grandfather treated as an allotment. Apart from a path running down the side, the entire area was devoted to growing fruit and vegetables. They cooked on a range and my grandmother was an excellent cook. They had no fridge but a wooden box hanging from the ceiling with an aerated door. I used to stay with my grandmother regularly as a child and do remember the day that I thought this wooden box would make a great swing! The whole lot came crashing down, milk bottles and all! I don't remember a bathroom but then not everyone had one in those days.

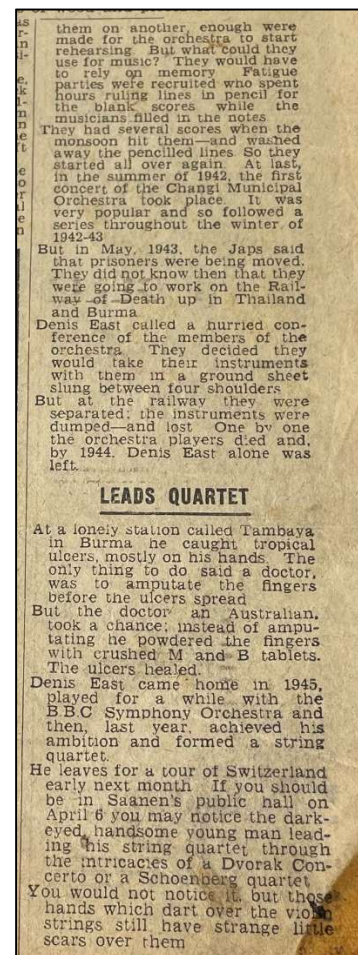
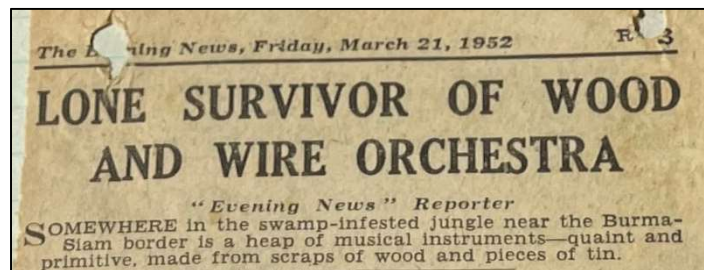
His early career was now long forgotten but he did manage to get a job in the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Adrian Boult, where he stayed for 18 months before leaving to freelance. His string quartet was very successful and he gave a number of first broadcasts of Mendelssohn String Quartets on the recently formed Third Programme on the radio.

After the war, everyone feared that there would be another one, so there were many shotgun marriages. My father fell into this trap and had a marriage that lasted all of three weeks! This unfortunate lady subsequently married one of my father's colleagues and I am still in touch with one of their children today. My father met my mother in a work situation and it was not long before I was born and then my sister.

My parents never talked about the war as I am sure it was considered unsuitable material for children, so I really know very little. I do remember that my father had bouts of malaria for years afterwards.

My father was very keen to have a son who could follow in his footsteps but together with another marriage after that of my parents, he ended up with four daughters! My grandfather was the ninth child and all his siblings were daughters, so many East families are no longer Easts! As the name appears to have been a lot more common in the 19th century, it seems that a lot of Easts had a lot of daughters!

Anyway, I had to fill the role of an imaginary son and was given piano lessons at the age of four. That is common nowadays but was unusual then. I began the cello at 9, which is fairly elderly by current day standards. I was under the impression that everyone did the same job as their father and it never occurred to me that there might have been a choice.



My mother was a secretary in the Foreign Office during the war – apparently the fastest typist in the pool – and she knew about D Day before it happened (which made her very proud).

My grandfather did not talk about the 1st World War either. He was stationed in the UK and it seems from the records as if he were in the RN and the RAF simultaneously which is puzzling.



My great grandfather died when my father was three, so not much is known about him apart from his being a carman. He appears in the 1851 Census with a wife, three sons and three daughters, though I haven't been able to trace any of them. This is partly because their ages don't seem to be credible. William East is supposedly 60, with a wife aged 46. They lived in Thomson Cottages in the Childs Hill area, probably one of the new cottages springing up in that area at the time.

Since writing this article, I sent off for the death certificate of a William East that was registered, apparently, in 1852. However, when the certificate arrived, the 1852 had been copied incorrectly. The death actually occurred in 1832 and William was only 22 years old, so born in 1810 approximately. He lived in Childs Hill and had parents called William and Mary Ann, the same as the ones in the 1851 census but obviously born rather earlier. The indications are that he will have come from our family but I do not yet know how he fits in. He was born in King St near Gravel Lane, which was a very poor area.

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**Lieut. J.H.C. East Grave Monument**  
*(taken from [www.gravestonephotos.com](http://www.gravestonephotos.com))*



**J.H.C. East**  
**Lieut. R.N. H.M.S. Rambler**  
**Eldest Son of Rear Admiral and Ruth East of Weymouth, England.**  
**Fell asleep January 24th 1890. Aged 32.**



**Location - Memorial Park (lower level) Cemetery, Albany, Western  
Australia**

## **Reflections of Research** *by Yvette East*

I don't remember what made me decide to start researching my family tree. Whatever it was, it resulted in my having spent over twenty years researching both my own maternal and paternal family and also my husbands.

When I first started things were very different, what records were 'online' had to be manually searched, page by page, line by line. I remember sitting at the computer for hours scrolling a census looking for a surname I was researching and being ecstatic when finding one linked to my research. I made several mountains of paper notes of people to follow up online, on a future visit to a records office or in parish records. I spent many hours scrolling through microfilms of records from areas where our ancestors lived. I did thousands of hours of research which only I could see. Discovering others researching the same families or sharing information was difficult and I am sure this was the reason that Societies like the East Family History Society and Geographical Family History Societies were formed.

Then came computers, scanners, digital cameras, the Internet, email, and the many other things we now take for granted. Records that we might have taken years to find can be now be found in seconds.

As time went on the East Family History Society and the Geographical Societies also began to come online and they provided another source of information, often with access to parish records. We can now find people related to us who may live thousands of miles away. We can communicate with them instantly and sometimes receive an immediate response!

My tree research having been committed to an online Account, I found that hints and suggestions began to appear directing me to potential ancestors and since doing DNA tests I am now finding matches with others which confirm families found during earlier research but also people with a genetic link whose connection has yet to be discovered.

When I first started my research all those years ago, I was trying to find a pedigree chart of names. Along the way that changed and I realised that names were just the skeletons and I needed to put some flesh on the bones. I became interested in those names as living people, what were their occupations and what conditions were like where they lived and worked?

I look up some of the obscure occupations recorded in the census to see what they were doing in their work and am often surprised at the difficult and heavy work, sometimes dangerous, performed by the very young and that very elderly people were still doing heavy tasks such as agricultural work. I have found 'Ag Labs' in their 80's but I know that sadly if they did not work they did not eat. I have also found children as young as 11 who were sent from their homes to be servants; I cannot imagine how distressing and frightening this would have been, but their parents had no option but to send them as they could not feed them.

It is sad when you find relatives with illness or disability, who found themselves living in the harsh and degrading conditions of the workhouses, husbands separated from wives, parents separated from their children, just because they were poor. Also upsetting is seeing how many babies died within days of birth, the young children lost to illnesses caused by the poor living conditions of the time, the mothers who died in childbirth and the fathers then left with several other motherless children.

I try to find images of the streets and houses they lived in and the churches where they were baptised, married and buried and some of the places I have visited. I have sat in pews, touched walls and gravestones and wondered if my ancestor's hands have touched the same places. Many relatives are very amused that I will wander around graveyards trying to find the headstones of our ancestors.

While we now have easy access to all kinds of history and information on the internet, there is an information goldmine that we can never access - the information known to our elders that we lose once they are no longer with us! Often family members know very little about the lives of their grandparents. Many of us don't ask our elderly relatives about their lives, their memories of their family and the stories they were told about family they never knew. Sometimes we are too young to realise the value of the stories they might tell. Often when we are young, even as adults, we don't think about our ancestral history or appreciate that time is passing. By the time the family history interest bug has bitten us, many of the people with family knowledge are no longer with us and that knowledge is lost. I very much regret that when I was younger I did not have paternal grandparents and that I did not talk more to my maternal grandparents, to listen to their memories and to write down their stories.

Family history is not just names and dates it's about people. People who lived, struggled, suffered and overcame hardship, some even achieved and triumphed. It's about our roots, branches and leaves and our research produces a forest. All the names in the forest have shared the same blood which has been passed to us – we are part of them.

My own children don't really have an interest in family history or my research, but I live in hope that at some time in the future the bug will bite and the research I leave behind will be continued and hopefully passed to my grandchildren and the generations beyond them.

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## It all started with some jewellery by Angela Waterfall

*‘I’m looking into some history of East Family. My Great Aunt was Mary Flora Northcott born 1908 to Henry Montague Northcott (1881-1953) and Mary East (1885-1908).*

*They were married on Oct 16, 1906, Mary Flora was born in 1908 and Mary East dies the same year.*

*I’m looking for information on Mary East and family connection and history. When my Great Aunt (Mary Flora) passed away, I inherited 2 East family jewelry pieces that she left to her brother Gerald Hamilton Northcott (my grandfather) born to Henry Monague and his 2<sup>nd</sup> Wife, Maud Mary Barstow.”*

Regards,  
Lia

This was the e-mail that I received from Lia in May 2021.

I searched our Big Tree but could not find a Mary East fitting the dates given, but a search on Ancestry gave a 1906 Census record from Manitoba, Canada showing Mary living with her mother (Sarah), her brother (Thomas), Henry Northcott, Thomas’ business partner and Henry’s sister (Dorothy).

The image shows two pages of a 1906 Census record from Manitoba, Canada. The document is titled "SCHEDULE No. 1. POPULATION AND LIVE STOCK" and "TABLEAU No. 1. POPULATION ET ANIMAUX DE LA FERME". It contains handwritten entries for various families, including the Northcott family, and lists their names, ages, and other details. The document is a historical record used for genealogical research.

From that information, I was able to find the immigration record and establish the fact that the family hailed from Lincolnshire (Croxby, Minting, East Barkwith, Louth).

After looking at some Census records in Lincolnshire, I was able to link Mary with a family tree from one of our past members and send Lia some information on which to base her own research.

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Edward East (c 1589)       |                    |
| Richard East (1613)        |                    |
| Richard East (c1639)       | Dorothy Hall       |
| Richard East (c1677)       | Mary Sowden        |
| George East (1714)         | Susannah Bullivant |
| William East (c1750)       | Mary Holmes        |
| William East (c1788)       | Ann Soulby         |
| John East (c1816)          | Emma Griffin       |
| Thomas Overton East (1854) | Sarah Ann Clark    |
| Mary East                  | Henry Northcott    |

Mary East was born in Louth, Lincolnshire in 1886. Her father, Thomas Overton East, was a maltster and he died in 1889 when Mary was three years old. In the 1891 Census she was living with her uncle, John William East.

In 1906, she joined her brother, Thomas Harold East, in Manitoba, Canada and married his business partner, Henry Montague Northcott in October 1906.

In 1908, she gave birth to Mary Flora Northcott and died in the same year.

Lia kindly sent me pictures of the jewellery that she mentioned in her e-mail, together with a photograph of Mary Flora Northcott, her great-aunt, and daughter of Mary East.

She knows that Mary Flora married and had two children and would like to establish contact with them.

Lia is descended from Henry Northcott's second wife, Maud Mary Barstow (described in one Census as Mary and Thomas' cousin). The pieces of jewellery mentioned above came from her, rather than Mary East. Maude Mary came to Canada as a nanny to Mary Flora Northcott.



Mary Flora Northcott

There is work to do to establish the true relationship between Mary Maud Barstow and Mary East. Can any members with Lincolnshire roots help, please?

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## **The Annual General Meeting of the East Family History Society**

At the Virtual 2020 AGM it was hoped that it would be the first, and only, annual meeting to be held electronically rather than in person. It was though really good to have some members join us who otherwise might not have attended had the meeting been in its usual format in a meeting room in Uxbridge.

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing uncertainty about the virus itself and the changing government Covid-19 restrictions, the committee have decided, once again, to hold a second virtual AGM much as last year. There would still be a requirement for face masks in a meeting room which would possibly diminish the benefits of a face to face gathering.

Many of you will by now be used to Zoom or other video conferencing online applications to enable communication with friends and family. The monthly Zoom account has been retained so again we can invite as many members as possible to join in, without the worry of a time-limited meeting. It is hoped that, as before, subtitles will be available onscreen and the meeting can be recorded.

**The AGM will therefore take  
place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
from 12 noon to 2pm**

As last year, the current plan is to let people join the Zoom meeting from approx. 11.30am, with the AGM at 12 then general chat till 2pm. If you wish to join in, or just want to listen to the AGM, please email our secretary Peter (see inside front cover) with your preferred email address. Peter will send out a Zoom link in advance of the meeting to those of you who wish to join in; you should only click on the emailed link from 11.30am on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. If you don't email Peter but suddenly decide that you wish to join then email either Peter or myself, Amanda, on the day and we should be able to help you join in anyway.

For anyone without computer access, we are hoping that you will still be able to join via phone. This is not guaranteed but we will aim to accommodate! Do let us know, if you are able to, if you want to join in this way.

Minutes of the AGM including financial accounts will be available in the next issue of Points East.

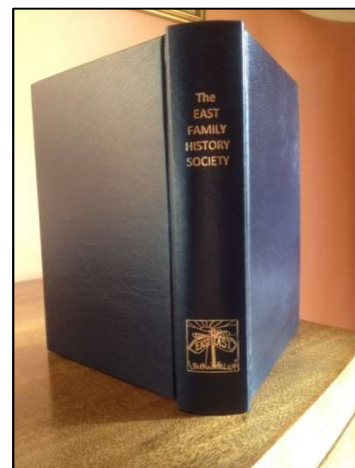
\*\*\*\*\*

**~ Please keep sending in your copies of Birth, Marriage and Death  
Certificates ~**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Binders for Points East journals

These blue Cordex binders are capable of holding 12 copies of Points East, with the spine blocked in gold with the Society's name and logo. Each comes in its own 'large letter' postal box. Please let a member of the Committee know if you might be interested in buying one or more binders. The cost for one binder (including postage) is £7. The cost for two binders (including postage together) is £13. Cheques to be sent to Brian (at his address on the inside front cover) but made payable to the 'East Family History Society'.



### Next Time in Points East....

I am still hoping that member Alan George East will let us all know whether he made contact with the lady at the Salvation Army in Avon, Ohio, who bought an old bible and inside there was a signed message to 'Thomas Oliver Cromwell East' (Alan's uncle) from his father on his 10th birthday.

The abridged transcript of the VJ Day recording on John Jellicoe Kitchener East has again been held over to the next issue (due to the fantastic response this time on Peter's request for more articles) and the article 'Our Island Story is told in DNA' still awaits publication in a future Issue. There will hopefully be more on Samuel East's colonisation of South Australia and maybe a mention of William East, a vintner's apprentice in London in the 1700s.

Please do continue writing your East-related stories; I look forward to your contributions!

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## Larry D. Duke, 'Estes Trails'

I have again received the latest issues of the newsletter of the Estes family called 'Estes Trails', via email, for June '21 and Sept '21. It is usual for us to exchange electronic (pdf) copies of our respective journals with the Estes Family Society in America. It is published about 4 times a year.

The June issue includes the usual American Estes genealogies and an article on early memories of Deal in Kent, England (ancestral home of the Estes). The September issue also includes American Estes history, members' questions and responses and some family trees.

Could all EFHS members pass on any Estes (or variants) references that you find to a committee member, so that we may pass them back to Larry for his information.

**Welcome to new members** - We extend a warm welcome to the following new members (information with their permission) :

| <b>Member</b>              | <b>Email address</b>     | <b>Interests</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 301 ~ Mrs Edna Knight      | unique3557@aol.com       | She is related to June Lines and is researching back through her East family of Chesham. Tracing back from marriage of Eleanor East to Thomas Darvell 2/8/1836 in Chesham. |
| 302 ~ Mr Roy Gravestock    | roygrave@aol.com         | Became a member following contact with Angela (research manager).                                                                                                          |
| 303 ~ Mrs Gillian McCorry  | gillianmccorry@gmail.com | Grandfather Alfred George East, Gt Grandfather William John East Cabinetmaker b. 1852/3 Shoreditch. (Shoreditch and cabinet making seems a theme in the family).           |
| 304 ~ Dr Imogen De la Bere | delaberei@gmail.com      | Her mother was Gwendoline Olive East born 1918 to Charles Herbert East 1892-1922 from Kettering, Northants.                                                                |

### Updates for members :

| <b>Existing Members</b> | <b>Updated Email addresses</b> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 280 ~ Mrs Mary Taylor   | mary2taylor@btinternet.com     |

### Local Research Assistants

We know that it can be difficult to get to record offices if you work during the day or don't live close to the office you need to visit; therefore some of our members have offered to make visits to record offices to assist those who cannot go themselves. Please see the East FHS website, [www.eastfhs.org](http://www.eastfhs.org), for details of Local Research Assistants or contact Peter, Pam or June (committee members) for their help with your research.

## **Points East**

The committee decided that to achieve production and distribution of the journal to members on the dates proposed:

**All future contributions need to be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> February for the spring edition and 1<sup>st</sup> August for the autumn edition**

**The preparation of the final draft by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for printing**

**Distribution of copies to members 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**Please keep sending in your articles for publication**, but do bear in mind copyright law. We cannot publish any picture or writing that is copyright without permission. Send us family pictures, research successes, tree excerpts, bits of found information or family stories that will give variety to Points East. Large or small items - all are welcome. If you have any suggestions to improve it please do let us know. Material will be held over for a future issue if it cannot be included in the current one.

## **Annual Subscription Renewal**

An annual subscription (including a Family Membership) is £10. A three-year subscription at £25 is available. Sterling or its currency equivalent may be enclosed with an application form which you can download from the East FHS website

**‘[www.eastfhs.org](http://www.eastfhs.org)’**

Please note that the password to access the Members Area on the website has changed in recent years. If you haven't received the new one, please contact the secretary.

Cheques should be drawn on a UK bank and be made payable to the **East Family History Society**.

It would greatly assist the Society if members could set up a Standing Order with their bank for the subscription. Our account is :

**Bank:** The NatWest **Account Name:** The East Family History Society

**Sort Code:** 60-02-23 **Account number:** 65499727

Alternatively, you could pay online to the above bank account and advise the secretary by email, but please put a reference with your payment so that we can recognise who has renewed.

Applications and subscriptions to the Secretary (see inside the front cover).

**All subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

Although subscriptions can cover a member and nominated partner, only one copy of the newsletter will be provided per full member.

**The aims of the Society shall be:**

- To collect all references to the EAST/ESTE(S) name and all variations, to collate and store these records and to make them available to all members.
- To produce a Newsletter at least twice per year to be distributed to all members, the cost of which to be covered by subscriptions.
- To advertise the Society's existence, thus bringing as many researchers of the names EAST/ESTE(S) etc. as possible into contact with each other.

**Source Data**

The Society's Research Manager holds the following data. Much of it is on computer and all of it is available, on request, to members for their personal use.

- GRO index of all EAST births from 1837 to 2005; marriages from 1837 to 2005 and deaths from 1837 to 2006. The index is regularly updated with new information. The index has been sent by email to all members and will be sent to new members when they join.
- On computer over 18,100 baptism, marriage and burial Parish records. These are taken from actual records, transcripts or indexes. Many are not on the IGI.
- On computer over 2,400 probate records extracted from the National Calendar from 1858 to 1967, together with some earlier probate records. These give exact dates, names and places of death, and sometimes additional information such as names of executors. We have paper or digital copies of over 100 EAST wills.
- A growing collection of over 2,800 birth, marriage and death certificates. A note of the certificates held is made on the GRO indexes. A list is available on the website.
- On computer, using 'Family Tree Maker', a large collection of EAST family trees with over 12,000 individuals and more than 135 trees.
- A genealogical index, in book form, of all mentions of the EAST surname from the first 14 issues of Points East, together with a separate index of other surnames. An index on computer of all mentions of the EAST surname in issues 1 to 39 of Points EAST. All the indexes are available on the website
- On computer, Civil registration indexes for EASTs in New Zealand (1840 to 1990) and Western Australia (1841 to 1905)
- An extensive collection of non-digitised information, documents etc contained within 'County' and 'Correspondence' files. This is partially indexed on cards and a computer index of all 'Miscellaneous Data' is continually updated.
- The UK National Burial Index (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)

February 2018