William Tolcher

Evangelist

William was born in Ugborough, nr Ivybridge in Devon on July 7th 1863. His wife Selina. Blatchford was born in Aveton Gifford, about 8 miles south of Ugborough, on April 14th 1864. The Tolchers were still in Ugborough in 1871 and by then the Blatchford family were also living there. In 1881 the Tolchers were still in the general area and William was working as a Postman. Selina was working as a General Servant in Plymouth for a Mrs Saunders, a widow and her adult son and daughter.

William and Selina were married in Plymouth in 1886. In 1891 they were living in Doddiscombsleigh, Devon about 8 miles southwest of Exeter with William's occupation listed as Haulier Cart. They now had 3 children all born in Doddiscombsleigh; William Henry born 8th February 1887; Susan Maud born 30th April 1888 and Bessie born 20th February 1890. At the time of the Census, Willliam Henry was listed at the home of his uncle, John Henry Tolcher.

Moving forward to 1901, the family were living on Main Rd, Bedhampton and William's occupation was given as Evangelist (Brethren). They have 3 more children; Hilda May, born in 1893 and Frederick John, born 24th March 1895 (both born in Doddiscombsleigh) and Helena Vida born 14th January 1900 in Bedhampton.

1911. The family are living at Dennistoun House*, Bedhampton. William's occupation listed as Resident Evangelist Undenominational. Susan Maud is a Clerk Drapery Establishment; Bessie an Assistant Teacher at a County Council School: Hilda May is a Teacher (Apprentice) also at a County Council School; Frederick John is a Student and Helena Vida is at School. There is an addition to the family, Harold James born in Bedhampton on February 25th 1908.
* Dennistoun House belonged to the Gospel Hall and still stands between the Hall and the Golden Lion. The building of the Gospel Hall and Dennistoun House was funded by Isabella Denniston Meiklam. Originally from Scotland, Isabella, who never married, moved to The Towers, Portsdown Hill Rd, Bedhampton in the early 1890s. At some point she fell out with the vicar of St Thomas's and that triggered the construction of the Gospel Hall. Somewhat ironically she is buried in St Thomas's churchyard.

1921. William and Selina and 3 of their children were still living at Dennistoun House. William's occupation given as Minister of the Gospel and his place of work as Gospel Hall, Bedhampton. Frederick John was a Salesman for Johnson Brothers, Fruit and Italian Warehousemen at 20 West St, Havant; Helena Vida was a Governess with no indication of where or for whom and Harold James is still at school.

1939. William, Selina and Harold were living at The Farthings, The Dell, Portsdown Hill Rd, Bedhampton. William had retired, Selina was listed as Unpaid Domestic Duties and Harold as Rent Collector, etc.

1947. Death of Selina Tolcher, 26th December. Burial 30th December.

1948. Death of William Tolcher at 9 Glebe Park Avenue, Bedhampton*, 12th February. Burial 16th February. In his will William left £15,716 16s 5d. * Where Spinnaker View is now.

The Tolcher Children

Willam Henry. 1911, a boarder in the Curd household in Godstone, Surrey; occupation Assistant Surveyor with the District Council. 1915, married Mabel Beatrice Painter in Newton Abbot, Devon. Mabel born 25th November 1889 in Pimlico, London. In 1911 she was living with her family in Deptford, Kent and working as a Waitress. 1921, they were living in Godstone, Surrey with their son, Alan William John (dob 29.12.1919). William's occupation, District Surveyor of Main Roads for Hertfordshire Council based in St Albans. 1923, birth of their second son William James Frederick, 23rd August in St Albans. 1939, all four are living at 3 Conningham Avenue, St Albans; William's occupation, District County Road Surveyor and Alan was a Bank Clerk. 1955, William died at the 1939 address on November 30th. 1984, Mabel died at Manor House, Thurlaston, Rugby on September 13th. Alan had pre-deceased her having died on December 11th 1982 at 28 Shelley Close, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, Hants. William James, in contrast died, on the 29th March, 2018; death registered in Rugby, Warks.

Susan Maud: 1913, Susan married Albert Johnson in Havant; Albert was born on Portsea Island, February 7th 1888. 1921, they were living at Gazeley, West St, Havant with their 2 children, Charles Edmund (dob 06.05.1915) and Norah Maud (dob 19.11.1916). Albert's occupation Potato Merchant at 264 Commercial Rd, Portsmouth. 1939, all four were living at Brunswick House, Main Rd, Bedhampton (presumably where Brunswick Gardens are now). Albert's occupation Company Director, Farmer, etc and Charles listed as Undergrad, Cam University. 1951-1952, Albert served two terms as Lord Mayor of Portsmouth; he was also a Freeman of the City. 1964, death of Susan at St Leonards Forest House, Lower Beeding, W Sussex, May 31st; she was. buried at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth. 1966, Albert married Hilda Kathleen Gilbert in Southampton; Hilda, born July 23rd 1914, was originally from Allensmore, Herefordshire. 1969. Death of Albert at The Old Rectory, Graffham, West Sussex, 23rd October. He was buried at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth. 2002, death of Charles, 29th April, registered in the Chichester district. 2004, death of Hilda in Southampton, 10th March; last address Fernside Court, Winchester Rd. 2005, death of Norah in Llanbydder, Carmarthenshire, Wales, 9th February.

Bessie: 1917, married Reuben George Scammel in Havant. Reuben was born on Portsea Island, on March 31st 1888. 1921, Bessie was living at 77 Ophir Rd, North End, Portsmouth with two children, Stephen John born 1919 and Margaret (dob 26.05.1920). Reuben was not listed although his name is on the address page and I haven't been able to find him anywhere else. 1939, Bessie, Reuben and Margaret were living at 17 Lansdowne Rd, Wood Green, Middlesex. Reuben's occupation given as Evangelist Travelling and Margaret's was Clerical Officer (Civil Service). I can't find a record for Stephen. 1960, death of Reuben at Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne on August 9th. Buried at Ocklynge cemetery, Eastbourne.

1983, death of Bessie at Plymouth House, Alcester Rd, Tardbigge, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire on October 4th; subsequently buried at Ocklynge cemetery, Eastbourne. I haven't found any records for Margaret after 1939; Stephen married post war and then moved to Canada where he died in 1980. Another Tree suggests that there were 3 further children, which seems to be supported by FreeBMD records. One died in infancy but where were the other 2 in 1939?

Hilda May. 1918, Hilda married Benjamin William Aubrey Woods at the Gospel Hall, Bedhampton, Havant on May 16th. 1920, birth of their daughter Ursula Peggy Caroline in Fareham on April 5th. 1921, they were living at The Laurels, Osborn Rd, Fareham. Benjamin a Butcher working for E. Tatford, 141 West St, Fareham. 1926, death of Hilda in Holburn, Middlesex. No indication of the cause of death nor any burial records. 1939, Ursula was living with her maternal grandparents in Bedhampton. 1942, she married Brian Hamilton Tier; the marriage was registered as Gosport but may well have been in Bedhampton. They subsequently had a son and 2 daughters. Brian died in Portsmouth in 1993 and Ursula in East Devon in 1998. (Benjamin remarried very soon after Hilda's death in the same quarter of 1926. In 1939 Benjamin and his new wife were living in Porchester Rd, Fareham. He died in Fareham on March 24th 1959).

Frederick John: Frederick served with the 5th Wiltshire Regiment in WW1. 1921, he was living with his parents and was a Salesman for Johnson Brothers Fruit & Italian Warehouseman at 20 West St, Havant. 1923, he married Eva May Bath in Havant. Eva was born in Portsmouth in 1899; in 1921 she was living with her parents and siblings at 48 Percival Rd, Portsmouth and working as a Greengrocer's Assistant for a Mr Harrison at 15 New Rd, Portsmouth.1927, Eva died in Portsmouth; death registered in July.
1928, Frederick married Florence Butter Jervis in Havant. Details about Florence can be found in the accompanying Butter documents. 1931, a Nursing Register entry gives Florence's address (and presumably Frederick's as well) as Eastgate Cottage, her parents' home in Bedhampton. 1939, they are living at 32 West St, Havant; Frederick's occupation is Fruiter & Florist and Florence is a Fruiterer's Assistant. 1945-1946, they are living at Rosebank, Crescent Rise, Thakeham, W. Sussex; the address for Florence's mother and sister Alice in 1939. It is now listed as Storrington. 1950 -1951, they are living just north of Storrington at Merryhill Corner. 1974, death of Frederick registered in Poole. 1977, death of Florence at Summerhayes Rest Home, Wimbourne Rd, Bear Cross, Bournemouth on March 14th. Probate London 5 May £30,466.

Helena Vida. 1927, Helena married Francis Richard Goddard in Havant. Francis a Nurseryman was born in Lee, Lewisham, Kent in 1890. By 1921 his family had moved to Leagrave, Luton, Bedfordshire. 1929, their daughter Helena F was born in Luton. 1936, their son Peter Richard was born in Luton on November 3rd. 1939, the family was living at 83 Toddington Rd, Luton; Francis's occupation Nurseryman Own Account Tomatoes & Cucumbers. Later in the year, December 3rd, Peter died in Thornberry, Gloucestershire. I assume the children and maybe Helena Vida had been evacuated. 1963, an Electoral Roll entry shows Helena F and her parents living at 83 Toddington Rd. 1967, death of Francis at 83 Toddington Rd on January 4th. 1969, the two Helenas are still at no. 83 (Electoral Roll entry). 1975, death of Helena Vida at 38 Spyders Lane, Exmouth on November 10th. 2012 – 2013, Helena F living at an address in Teignmouth, Devon.

Harold James. There were no further records for Harold after 1939 until his death. 1965, Harold died at 67 Litchfield Rd, Copnor on October 25th; his home address is given as 15 Portsdown Hill Rd, Bedhampton. He was buried on October 30th in Eastern Rd Cemetery, Havant, plot 445b. His estate was left to two of his sisters.