

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BARTLETT DAYS

by William Bartlett Day Junior    December 1991

Our earliest known ancestor is John Day , a yeoman of Tenterden in Kent. A yeoman was a small landowner holding a respected position in the rapidly changing rural society at the end of the seventeenth century. John Day's son Peter married Mary Willard of Biddenden in June 1708. Their eldest surviving son Peter was born in December 1710.

There were three generations of Peter Days. The third Peter, born in 1741, moved to Maidstone and is recorded as being a member of the Headcorn Baptist Church with his wife Elizabeth and their six children.

Peter and Elizabeth's oldest son, Charles, was born in 1775. He established a successful auctioneering business in Maidstone where son William was born in 1807, followed by Samuel in 1811. There were two daughters.

William was the first in a succession of William Days. He became a cabinetmaker in the town with a business in High Street employing twenty-one workers, according to the 1861 census. His brother Samuel sailed for Melbourne in 1860 to serve as a pastor in Geelong, where he also worked as a cabinetmaker when the church could not support his family.

William married Rebecca Pierce in 1828. They had four sons- William (1829), Samuel (1832), Joseph and Thomas and five daughters. William junior continued his father's interest in local government, becoming a JP, and mayor three times.

William and Rebecca's second son , Samuel, married Phoebe Bartlett in 1833. They had eleven sons: Samuel, Percy, William, Albert, Thomas, Arthur, Charles, Hubert, Harry and Leonard - although these names have not been confirmed. However the 1881 census shows that Phoebe aged 48, was living at 48 Bower Street Maidstone with the four youngest boys, Charles aged 13, Hubert B. aged 12, Harry R. aged 10, and Leonard O. aged 2 assisted by a 20 year old servant, Alice Tuttfeld.

Phoebe earned some income from piano lessons and the older sons helped provide after Samuel and Phoebe separated. Samuel died in South Africa in 1890. By 1887 Harry was apprenticed to a King Street dental surgeon and Hubert was getting experience in the Kent County Hospital. Brother Charles became a surgeon at the Charing Cross Hospital.

Hubert emigrated to Melbourne around 1890 where Arthur began a dental practice. Rev Samuel Day and his family had arrived thirty years earlier and made them welcome. (Samuel's son Cornelius was now a prosperous farmer in New Zealand). Arthur's descendants became doctors with Arthur junior a dermatologist and his son Arthur now a well-known gynaecologist oncologist, in Melbourne.

Having distinguished himself by hyphenating his name, Hubert settled in the expanding town of Northam, lifeline to the goldfields. His brother Harry practised in Fremantle. Both married into well-known West Australian families. Harry married Jessie MacKay, daughter of the pioneering northern pastoralists, while Hubert married Evelyn Throssell, third daughter of Hon. George Throssell, politician and businessman, who became the state's second Premier.

Samuel and Phoebe's youngest son Leonard had become an officer in the Siamese Gendarmerie when King Chulalongkorn was opening Siam (Thailand) to the West. In defiance of racial attitudes of the times, Leonard married a Thai woman -- Princess Tham. As each king had up to seventy wives, there were many princesses in Thailand.

Harry sailed from Fremantle to visit his brother Leonard in 1921. Tragically, Harry fell from a plank crossing a Thai canal, and was drowned, supposedly in only centimetres of water. He was buried in Bangkok on 29 August 1921, leaving a daughter Hazel Phoebe and sons Reg (Dick), Robert and Loudon.

One brother had migrated to South Africa where he became manager of various gold mines including the Criterion at Bulawayo. His son Franklyn later came to Western Australia to enlist in 1914. Typically Franklyn did not contact his relations in Perth after returning from service in France and he died alone in the Sunset Home in 1970.

After only the occasional letter from Hubert in Boulder, news came that he was seriously ill. Reg travelled by train to bring his dying father back to Perth. For two weeks he lingered at Bay View Terrace before succumbing to throat cancer on 19 May 1932. He was buried at Karrakatta (WA 404) with Hugo Throssell VC one of the pallbearers. Evelyn Bartlett Day's faith was an inspiration to all who knew her. Rev Gunning describes her as "solid, humorous, gentle and understanding". She died on 30 July 1941 and was buried beside her late husband.

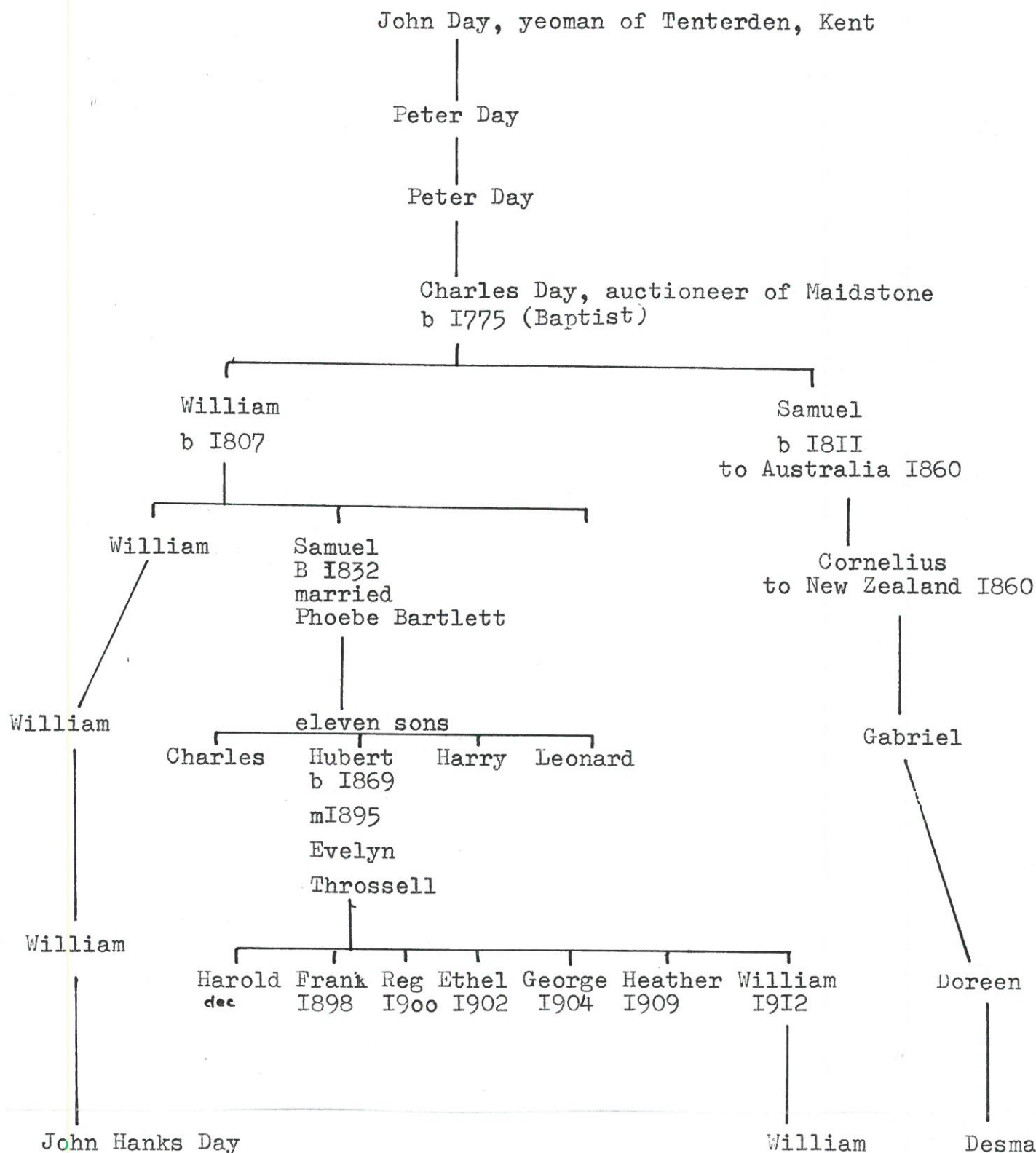
Despite the mixed fortunes of the eleven brothers, the Maidstone cousins upheld tradition. Charles' auctioneering firm has survived as Burrows and Day managed by John Hanks Day, the son of William Day III, Maidstone mayor in 1905, 1920 and 1933. (William was Hubert's cousin). William Day IV began a chartered accountancy known today as Day, Smith and Hunter of Maidstone. G.M. & Timothy Day & Co are solicitors of Earl Street Maidstone and John and Cynthia Day of Farnham correspond with Heather Bartlett Day, Hubert and Evelyn's surviving daughter. (John Bartlett Warren Day is the grandson of Hubert's brother Albert).

Although sisters Ethel (Biddy) and Heather lived in London from 1951 to 1974, most of the "Bartlett Days" have remained in WA. Frank married Jean Durkin and had three children (Jeanette, James and Meridith). Reg married Isabel Fraser and had two children (Jill and Isabel), George married Vera Kell and had two children (Rosemary and Andrew). William (Bill) married Bessie Moore and had six children (William, Diana, Marian, Robin, Bruce and Frances).

Harry's sons Dick and Robert have surviving children: Warwick, Jill Jeanette and Peter who are married with their own families. Hazel married Harry Meakin and their son Rod lives at Bullsbrook. Dr Arthur Day's son William visited Perth in 1990. However there is still much research to be done, particularly in tracing the other sons of Samuel and Phoebe.

Fortunately the grandson of William Day II, the late Geoffrey Day of Maidstone, had researched the family tree with John Hanks Day. Their useful work has been added to by the great-great granddaughter of Rev Samuel Day, Desma Russell. Desma has recently produced a computerised record of the known and numerous descendants of John Day, yeoman of Kent. Your interest and your information is always appreciated.

The Simplified Family Tree



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT :

William B Day

PO BOX 892

NEDLANDS 6009 WA

AUSTRALIA

Desma Russell

29 ARCHMILLAN AVE

PUKURANGA

AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND