

# Lavender Family Newsletter

Issue 42

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Thank you to the people who sent in information for this "Lavenders at War" issue. It was a pleasure to put the Newsletter together. Martin made an interesting comment about being bombed out twice so I wondered if there is more to write on the two World Wars - possibly other wartime experiences of families - land army, ARP duty, munitions work, evacuees etc. The stories could just be narrative rather than heroic, but together could give a window into conditions during the wars, just as this edition has done with military service. If there is a military story to add that would be included too. Also there is an item about Meshach Lavender (1824-1890)

The day after the royal engagement announcement the 'Daily Telegraph' printed a family tree. This has nothing to do with our ancestors but I couldn't resist printing it because Prince William and his fiancée are likely to have approximately 24,000 ancestors altogether counting those in his 14th generation and in her 13th generation. It was quite a feat for the genealogist to link them as 12th cousins once removed.

FAMILY TREE   KATE AND WILLIAM'S RELATIONS	
<b>Sir Thomas Leighton</b> m. Elizabeth Knollys	
<p><b>ELIZABETH LEIGHTON</b> m. Sherrington Talbot</p> <p>Sherrington Talbot m. Jane Lyttleton</p> <p>Elizabeth Talbot m. <b>Henry Davenport</b></p> <p>William Davenport m. Grace Alloway</p> <p>William Davenport m. Elizabeth Marshall</p> <p>Sarah Davenport m. <b>Thomas Ashford</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Ashford m. <b>Robert Hobbes</b></p> <p>Christina Hobbes m. <b>Thomas Davis</b></p> <p>Harriet Albina Davis m. <b>Francis Lupton</b></p> <p>Olive Christiana Lupton m. <b>Richard Noel Middleton</b></p> <p>Peter Middleton m. Valerie Glassborow</p> <p>Michael Middleton m. Carole Goldsmith</p>	<p><b>ANNE LEIGHTON</b> m. <b>Sir John St John, 1 Baronet</b></p> <p>Anne St John m. <b>Henry Wilmot, 1 Earl Rochester</b></p> <p>John Wilmot, 2 Earl Rochester m. Elizabeth Malet</p> <p>Lady Malet Wilmot m. <b>John Vaughan, 1 Viscount Lisburne</b></p> <p>Wilmot Vaughan, Viscount Fethers m. Elizabeth Watson</p> <p>Wilmot Vaughan, 1 Earl Lisburne m. Dorothy Shaffo</p> <p>Dorothy Vaughan m. <b>Sir Lawrence Palk, 2 Baronet</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Malet Palk m. <b>Horace Beauchamp Seymour</b></p> <p>Adelaide Horatia Elizabeth Seymour m. <b>Frederick, 4 Earl Spencer</b></p> <p><b>Charles Robert Spencer, 6 Earl Spencer</b> m. Margaret Baring</p> <p><b>Albert Edward John Spencer, 7 Earl Spencer</b> m. Cynthia Hamilton</p> <p><b>Edward John Spencer, 8 Earl Spencer</b> m. Frances Ruth Burke Roche</p> <p>Diana Frances Spencer m. <b>Charles Prince of Wales</b></p>
<b>Catherine Elizabeth Middleton</b>	<b>Prince William Of Wales</b>
<p>Kate Middleton is distantly related to Prince William through a 16th-century ancestor. Sir Thomas Leighton, a former governor of Guernsey who ruled the island by the sword,</p>	<p>was Prince William's 12th generation great-grandparent, and Miss Middleton's 11th. It means the royal couple are 12th cousins, once removed.</p>

Please send SAEs for the next Newsletter for June 2011 to Mrs Enid Lavender 91, Brenton Rd, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5NS

We already have an SAE for the next Newsletter.

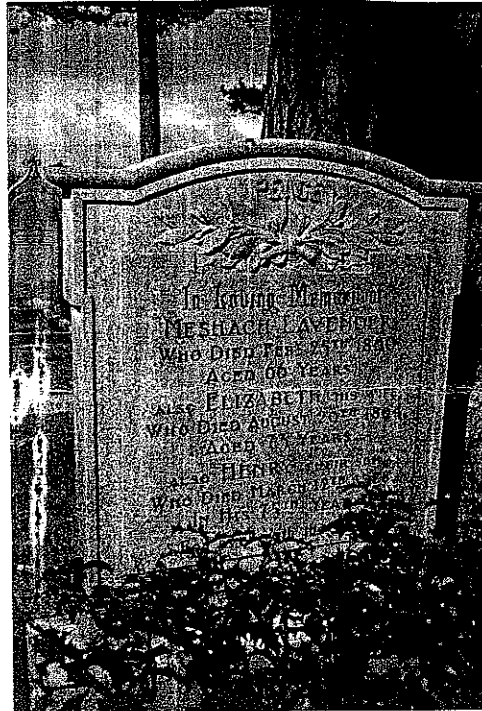
**Meshach Lavender, died 25<sup>th</sup> February 1890 aged 66**

Meshach Lavender was a master tailor; he and his descendants were tailoring in Lye for a hundred years or more yet probably during all that time they never made more than three dozen suits for the men of the town. The story of Meshach Lavender is like the story of Lye itself – full of oddities. Whilst the working men of Lye would most likely have been wearing old corduroy trousers, belt and braces, collarless shirts and cloth caps, Meshach Lavender in his shop was making hunting pinks, hacking jackets and jodhpurs for the gentry. Local people could recall a time when Lye High Street was lined with chauffeur driven vehicles, all waiting for their masters who were being measured or fitted for their hunting attire.

However, Meshach Lavender's inclusion in this chapter is not because of his tailor's business but because of the fact that it was in his shop doorway during the elections of 1874 that, it could be said, Lye became civilized. Unlike today when elections are held on one specific day, in those days an election would be spread over three or four days. Dudley would have its election on one day, Stourbridge on another, Droitwich on another and so on. There was a method in that madness insofar as, at that time, quite a few towns experienced rioting when an election was taking place and by spreading the election over three or four days the police force could move around to quell any likely disturbances. On that particular day in 1874 there were, in fact, sixty policemen stationed in Lye.

There was one Polling Station at Lye Cross and, with plenty of free beer around to influence the voters, towards the afternoon things got rather out of hand. So much so that a magistrate from Stourbridge was brought in to read the Riot Act. This is quite a lengthy Act but the actual proclamation, read on occasions like this, was just one terse sentence. The consequence of reading this proclamation by the magistrate was that the police or militia could charge the unruly crowd and if anyone was injured, maimed or even killed then nobody could be blamed. It was in Meshach Lavender's shop doorway that the magistrate from Stourbridge chose to read the Riot Act, but the crowd failed to disperse and the police were forced to charge. The ringleaders were apprehended and brought to Worcester Assizes where they appeared before the Lord Chief Justice of all England and sentenced to three months hard labour.

It appears that this was the last occasion that the Lye nail makers made what was known as a 'Tiss-as-Twassis' or 'Tis-as-it-was'. This was a fiendish device of a four-pronged sharpened nail which, when thrown on the ground, would always land with a point upwards. Any horses of the mounted militia or police who stepped on these nails would shy and throw the rider but the occasion of the election of 1874 was the last time when the 'Tiss-as-Twassis' was used.



Printed from "The Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels" by Jean Weston and Marlene Price. Published by The West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, price £9.99

Meshach was the 2X gt grandfather of Albert Lavender of Walsall whose father Albert was the last of the family's master tailors and the business closed when he died in Sept 1976. See Newsletters pp 53, 69, 72 & 3, 136 & 7 and 141

## Frederic George Lavender (1926 - 1997) Royal Navy WW2

Martin Lavender has sent this item about his Father.

My Father joined the Royal Navy during the Second World War after his Mother's house in Lambeth was bombed out. In 1940 they moved to Morden, Surrey where their house was also bombed. His mother Mary Ann survived after being buried under the reinforced kitchen table, which saved her life. Also in the house was ammunition recovered from a crashed Spitfire plane which had come down in Morden Park (a memorial to the pilot stands there today) The ammunition my father had brought into the house apparently exploded when the bomb hit the house. My grandmother was very lucky to survive this and my father never repeated his hoarding of ammunition again. The family again moved house in Morden where all but the youngest stayed through the war.

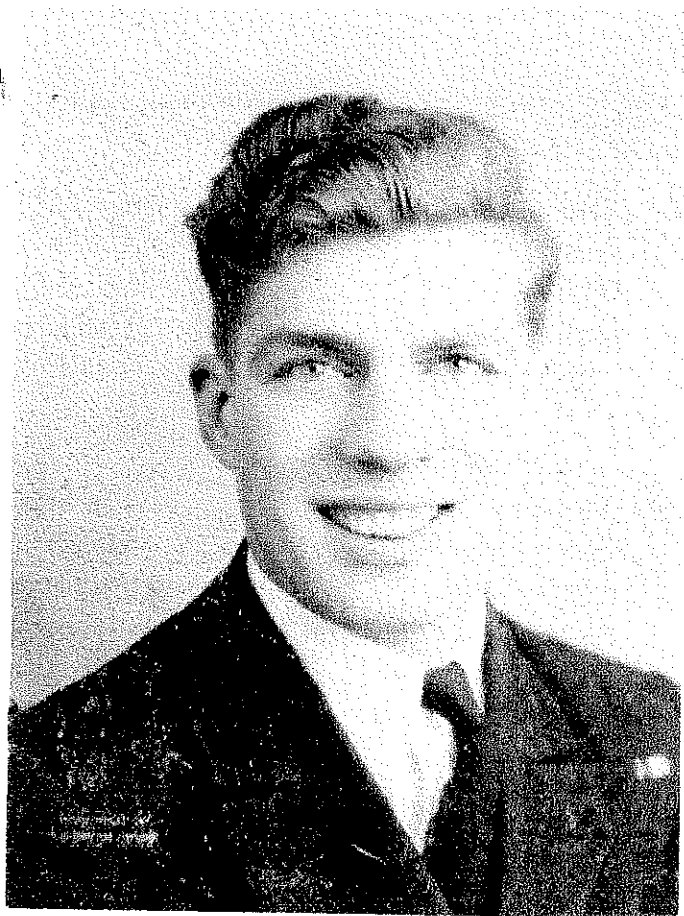
My father joined the navy in 1941 at the age of 15 after making out he was 16 years old. He travelled all round the world: to USSR., America, Canada, India and France.

In July 1944 his ship HMS St Hillier was sunk in the English Channel by its sister ship which turned too quickly during manoeuvres to drop off troops. The ship was cut in two halves. The front sunk at once but the rear half stayed afloat thanks to the water tight doors being shut. My father and his dog and one other survived on the stern of the ship. They were rescued and the stern was towed back to England where a new front was fitted. ( I am told this was a first for the war). Fred had served on the St Hillier for two years. He was then transferred to HMS Premier (an aircraft carrier) for escort duties across the Atlantic.

After six months he was transferred to HMS Persimmon for one and a half years, carrying troops to and from Bombay. My father was the ship's cook for most of his time in the Navy until he was demobbed in 1946.

He became a dental mechanic after the war for many years and then worked as a reactor operator in a chemical plant.

He died 14.2.1997 at the age of 70 in Ramsgate, Kent.



Frederick was the son of Henry John Lavender (1884-1972) & Mary Ann (Pain)

**Frederick Harris Lavender (1889 - 1966) of Birmingham WW1**

Fred was in the Royal engineers, Sapper 490203. His daughter Mary Jean (Jane) Hull tells me that because his varicose ulcers became infected while he was in the trenches he served the remainder of the war as a cook in the officers' mess.

**Edwin Ewart (Hughie) Lavender (1893 - 1923) of Bearwood, Birmingham WW1**

Edwin was a grocer like his brother (above) and also in the Royal Engineers. He went to enlist together with his friend. There his friend when asked his occupation told them that he was a tailor and that Hughie was his assistant. Dorrie, his sister, a professional dressmaker and Hughie sat up all the night before he reported for duty while she taught him to do small routine tailoring tasks like sewing on buttons. It seems that he then served in the military tailoring workshops or similar.

Fred and Hughie were the sons of Edwin Lavender (1856 - 1910) and Ellen Eliza (Harris) See Newsletter p 108.



Edwin Ewart Lavender (Hughie)



Frederick Harris Lavender

## William Lavender (1892 - 1982) of Mexborough, Yorkshire WW1

Mavis and Len Cockerill have sent this item about Mavis's Grandfather.

William was 22 years old when he joined up at Swinton, West Riding of Yorkshire (now South Yorkshire) on 21 May 1915.

He was living with his parents at 60 Frederick St, Mexborough and working as a labourer in the locomotive department of the local coal mine. He was a small, 5 foot 2 inches, lightly built, dark haired young man. He was enlisted into the 10th Battalion Yorks and Lancs, private 21281. He went to France on 21 Jan 1916. For a period of time he kept a little red notebook containing the dates of letters to and from his Mother, sisters, brother and other family members plus details of rifle drill and sighting of a rifle. One short extract places him at specific episodes of action. He refers to Acheux Wood where the 10th were on 14 Nov 1916. By February 1917 he was at Houvin-Houvigneul for training prior

to moving through to Arras and up to the front in April 1917. He lost a finger, fourth finger left hand, to a sniper on 15 June 1917. After 2 part-days in hospital in France he was transferred to 'Blighty' i.e. hospital in Maidstone, back in England on the 16th on the Belgian hospital ship SS Jan Breyde landing at Dover. He was in hospital until 6 July 1917. For the rest of his life his hand shook whenever he tried to do anything that required precision.

He was returned to active service in France but, we understand, on stretcher and hospital duties. He gives an account of one specific action in Nov 1917, the sight of the dead and dying horses distressed him, but not enough to prevent him using one as cover from machine gun fire. The description of human casualties is horrible. He was detailed to take the message back through the trenches to the officer Captain Drynan (later Major W.B. Drynan DSO), that there were only 18 men left of the 2 platoons. He was then stranded in that trench to which neither food nor water could be got for 2 days with only the early snow to quench his thirst and some tins of German meat to eat. After 5 days rest they were ordered back to the front but his finger had gone septic and he was sent to hospital again.

He was discharged as unfit for military service but "suitable for light work" from Ripon on 24 Jan 1918. The light work was initially in the steel works but soon he returned to work in the pit. There was not much alternative employment in Mexborough!



**Arthur Josiah Lavender (1890 - 1942) of Mexborough, Yorkshire WW1**  
Mavis and Les Cockerill also write that Arthur was the brother of William (on the previous page). He must have joined up earlier than William because his medals include the 1914 Star. We know little of his service other than that was in the Royal Engineers, Sapper 82112, and he first served in France on 28th February 1915.

William and Arthur were the sons of Arthur Josiah (Joseph) Lavender (1858 - 1935) and Harriet (Simpson). See Newsletter P 124

**Jack Lavender of Leeds WW2**

Margaret Lavender of Darlington tells us about her cousin Jack who was in the Royal Navy but was sent to serve as a gunner aboard ships of the Merchant Navy sailing with the Atlantic convoys. Four or five times ships on which he was serving were torpedoed and the men took to the life boats. When he spent a few days adrift the warmth of the Royal Navy issue clothing was probably crucial to his survival.

Jack was the son of Joseph Hampton Lavender (1889 - 1946) and Sarah Maude  
See Newsletter P 159

**Charles Edwards Lavender (1919 - ) of USA WW2**

Our reader Abe Lavender of Miami has said that his Uncle was a Lieutenant JG in the U.S. Navy. He was one of the first to land on the Normandy beaches, June 1944.

Charles was a son of Charles Wells Lavender (1881 - 1939) and Annie Belle (Hicks)  
See Newsletter P 178

**William Edwin Frederick (Billy) Lavender (1922 - 1943) of Birmingham WW2**

Billy was a Sergeant in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, no 1578703, a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner. On 5 Sept 1943 on a training flight in Scotland his Lancaster bomber crashed into a mountainside and he was killed. He is buried at Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham.

Billy was the only son of Frederick Harris Lavender (see two pages back) and Edith Emily (Wright) and the husband of Kathleen Joan Lavender (Morris)

All these military men, apart from Abe Lavender's Uncle and Martin Lavender's Father, were descended from **Joseph Lavender 1769 - 1820? and Sarah (While) of Dudley**. It would be good if Martin could connect his ancestor Andrew Lavender, ironworker, of Surrey in the early 18th C with Simon Lavender, ironworker, of Sussex in the 16th C, ancestor of the above Joseph. That too would be 14 generations.