

Homewoods – From Bethnal Green to Philadelphia - and back to Liverpool For “**Phebe**” and her many descendants.

This rather brief and patchy narrative of the Homewood family is compiled from a number of sources. I have used family data contributed by my half brother Peter Wilkinson, along with information supplied by Tony Jagers and Richard Knott – both distant Homewood ‘cousins’. I have also used small excerpts from an account of the life of his first wife, written by my father (KD Wilkinson).

Other segments of the story have emerged from genealogical sources which have allowed contacts with a number of Homewood and Mercer relations over the last few years. Suzannah Foad, a Margate family historian, supplied information about the Mercers and the Newloves.



Crofton Hall

The story relates to Phebe, first child of Captain and Mrs Charles Henry Homewood, who was born at sea, somewhere off the Cape of Good Hope, on February 18th 1885 and named Phebe Helena Homewood (the ‘Helena’ after the island of St Helena which was within view when her mother went on deck with the new infant soon after her birth). The ship on which she

was born was the Crofton Hall (see picture left) which was sailing from Calcutta to Dundee.

For more than ten years, she was for much of the time with her mother on Captain Homewood's ships, coming ashore and going to school in about 1896. Three siblings were born at sea or in distant ports (San Francisco for her sister Doris, who died as an infant). Two others were born in Wallasey. In the course of her travels she had visited India, Australia, North and South America and many other lands. Subsequently the necessity of education forced Mrs Homewood to stay ashore. They lived in Wallasey, at 41 Longland Rd.

After Captain Homewood died in 1908, after a fairly lengthy illness during which she had nursed him, Phebe decided to train formally as a nurse. She was accepted by the Queen's Hospital in Birmingham, commencing there on February 20 1909, being then 24 years old. Ken Wilkinson (generally known as “KD”), working as a house physician at Queens in the latter part of that year, wrote of his first impressions of her: “One afternoon I was in the ward taking a history, I was sitting near the clock which was at the east end of the ward, and I became aware in some way of the movements of the patients in the ward. They were turning their heads following a nurse with their eyes as she moved up and down the ward. She was a tall, spare, very dark girl with a fresh colour and rather prominent teeth. Indeed she was a fine, striking looking girl with dark inscrutable eyes and a happy smile. Her movements were quiet, graceful and brisk as she went about her work.” Her mother and sister visited Birmingham in 1911 when KD Wilkinson met



Phebe around 1910

them for the first time. He described Mrs “Belle” Homewood as “Short, very stout most vivacious and entirely American. She had an infected finger then and when I made as if to shake hands she said “Wall! shake if you must but mind the digit.”

This description fitted well with the family story that Captain Homewood was an American and it came as a surprise to find, on later enquiry, that Mrs Homewood was born and brought up in England and that, by the time of their marriage, Captain Homewood himself was living

in England. Hence she was probably not as American as KD Wilkinson seems to have assumed? Indeed Captain Homewood himself, although born in Philadelphia, almost certainly came to England as a child, or young adolescent, as his father (himself a ship's captain) completed his English Master's Certificate in Liverpool in 1861 – having already served as a ship's captain (presumably with American credentials) over the preceding twelve years.

Captain Homewood senior, who had been born in London and migrated to America in early adult life, and his wife Susan (who was certainly an American by birth) both spent their later years and died in Liverpool / Birkenhead. It may have been Susan's influence on the family (she died only a year earlier than her son) that re-enforced the Americanisms in her daughter in law's (Belle Homewood) manner and accent and gave the impression that she too was an American?

KD Wilkinson started his first hospital post as house physician to Dr Douglas Stanley at the Queen's Hospital in September 1909 – some three months after he had graduated and after doing a series of short GP locums (in those days there was no requirement for internships or house officer jobs before going to work outside the hospital environment). Phebe was nursing on one of the wards, where he was looking after Dr Stanley's patients, and it was here that their paths crossed for the first time. His account of their 'courtship' is a separate story and is not repeated here, although of considerable interest in its own right. Suffice it to say that they married in October 1916, during a brief period of leave from KD's service as a medical officer on the Somme. Interestingly, although they had known one another for about seven years by the time of their



KD around 1912

marriage, and had been engaged since 1914, Phebe did not meet KD's mother until some time after they became engaged. Their 'engagement' (he never actually proposed to her, though he bought her a ring before leaving for war service) took place at about the time that KD was leaving for France and the opportunity to introduce her to his mother probably did not arise at that time – perhaps he was too uncertain about his own future to want to make much of it at that stage anyway? In March 1915, shortly before leaving for France, he wrote to his mother "I do hope that you may soon have the chance of getting to know her. At present she is nursing her grandfather and grandmother who are ill with influenza. I know that you will like her." The grandparents were Henry Stephenson Homewood and Fanny Emma Homewood (nee Mercer), parents of Phebe's mother, "Belle" Homewood, who were at that time both in their seventies. Henry Homewood died the following year and Phebe may have nursed him prior to his death which was recorded in Birkenhead.



KD c 1916
At about the time of
their marriage

Phebe's parents were both Homewoods and family legend had it that they were first cousins. Her father was Charles Henry Homewood, born in 1851 in Philadelphia, and her mother was Fanny Arabella (Belle) Homewood born in Hackney in 1863. They were cousins – but slightly more distant than 'first cousins'. Belle's father, Henry Stephenson Homewood, was a chart engraver (following a tradition established by his father and maternal grandfather, who were both engravers) and was a first cousin of Charles Henry. Henry Homewood's father (Thomas Homewood) and Charles Henry's father (Josiah Boydell Homewood) were brothers. Both Thomas and Josiah were christened at St Matthew, Bethnal Green and were probably born in that part of London. Richard Knott's history of the family, which focuses largely on this Thomas (born 1806) records that their "father and grandfather were also called Thomas and both ran public houses as well as being weavers. Whether both occupations were run concurrently and whether the lack of work in weaving had forced a change of occupation is not clear, but they seemed to have been successful as brewers. Thomas' father appears to have been a weaver before running a public house, but he will have known the life of a brewer

from his own childhood. Thomas' grandfather's public house, the Golden Harp, was in Vine Court, off Lamb Street, which formed the Northern edge of Spitalfields meat market."

"Spitalfields had been the centre of the weaving industry in England since the arrival of several thousand Huguenot weavers at the end of the seventeenth century. Driven out of France because of their Protestant faith, over 13,000 refugees had settled in London by 1687, with most living in Spitalfields. In his Survey of London Stow remarked that 'Here they have found quiet and security, and settled themselves in their several trades and occupations; weavers especially. Whereby God's blessing surely is not only brought upon the parish by receiving poor strangers, but also a great advantage hath accrued to the whole nation by the rich manufactures of weaving silks and stuffs and camlets, which art they brought along with them. And this benefit also to the neighbourhood, that these strangers may serve for patterns of thrift, honesty, industry, and sobriety as well.' The trade also had an effect on the local architecture: silk weavers needed good light so that they can match colours and not break the fragile thread, so 'weaver's windows' – wide windows in the upper story – were developed in the buildings where the weavers lived and worked, and the houses were often only one room deep.

Soon the French weavers were passing on their skills to the locals, so that by 1830 over half the Spitalfields population of 100,000 was employed in weaving. That did not mean that the life of a weaver was an easy one. Disputes over wages had led to the 'Spitalfields Acts' between 1773 and 1811 which were designed to help the weavers by imposing a minimum wage but had had the opposite effect by driving trade out of London. As cotton started to replace silk in about 1785 further hardship followed and the Acts were repealed. Trade was good as the turn of the century approached, helped partly by those in influence suggesting that silk should be worn to formal occasions, such as balls, and that a lady not in a silk dress was lacking self-respect. But the good times did not last for long and by 1816 a meeting at the Mansion House heard that two thirds of weavers were unemployed and 'some had deserted their houses in despair unable to endure the sight of their starving families, and many pined under languishing diseases brought on by the want of food and clothing'."

In 1800 Thomas Homewood (the father of Thomas and Josiah) married Mary Ashley. Their first son (Thomas) was born in 1806 (there may have been earlier children who died?) and over the next twelve years another seven children were baptised, either in Bethnal Green or, between 1812 and 1816, at St Leonard's Shoreditch (which was also the church at which many of the Wilkinsons were christened a few years earlier – KD's grandfather, William Ayscough Wilkinson (1796), and great grandfather, William Wilkinson (1763), were christened there and in the same church his great great grandparents, Joshua Wilkinson and Sarah Brind, had been married in 1755).

In 1814 Thomas was described as a weaver of Hoxton Town, but two years later he was a publican at the Hope in Pollards Row, and there he was to remain for a number of years. By now Thomas was probably helping to serve beer.

Several of the reports of court proceedings at the Old Bailey, during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, refer to members of the Homewood family. The first of these (Proceedings of the Old Bailey 14 September 1796) relates the prosecution of one David Scott who raped Mary Homewood (then aged 12), who was a younger sister of Thomas Homewood (publican and weaver and the father of Thomas and Josiah). At the Old Bailey trial, the rapist was found guilty and was sentenced to death. At first Mary, who worked as a 'pot girl' carrying beer to various clients both within and away from the pub run by her father, had not told her parents about the rape as she was frightened both of what happened and of her mother's temper. In her mother's words Mary was 'a very mild, meek girl' whereas she admitted that she, the mother, was 'very passionate to be sure, and sometimes gave her (Mary) a very heavy blow'. In the end Mary's physical discomfort, having contracted a venereal infection (probably gonorrhoea), led her to speak to her mother and she was treated

by a local surgeon, with apparent cure of the illness. She went on to marry, but the ordeal must have been traumatic for all the family.

Other cases refer to Thomas Homewood (father of Thomas and Josiah), as a witness in one instance (1816) and as a 'constable' in another (1819) (in those days constables were house owners who served as constables by rotation). In 1831 this same Thomas, who had owned a brewery as well as a number of houses around "Vine Court", was declared bankrupt (it appears that a Maltster who supplied the Brewery had defaulted on payments and had led to the financial crisis), which must have been a source of distress to his family, though a few years later his father (aged about 84) died and was still recorded as a "gentleman" with an address in the area concerned, so the family's wealth was probably not all lost?

Meanwhile Thomas junior (born 1806) had become an apprentice to a map engraver, possibly John Stephenson, a local engraver and lithographer. John Stephenson was certainly known to Thomas as, in 1829, Thomas married his daughter, Louisa, and it seems reasonable to assume that is how the future couple met. They married in January of that year and he and Louisa moved to Islington where, in time, they had four boys and four girls. The fifth of their known children (third son) was Henry Stephenson Homewood, who was born towards the end of 1839. By 1851 the seven surviving children were living at home, together with Thomas' own apprentice chart engraver. Although they moved houses occasionally, they remained in the area, and lived in respectable roads. For ten years they lived in Palestine Place which a report in 1848 had singled out as "an oasis of cleanliness in a desert of filth"

Richard Knott's account continues: "Thomas had several siblings living nearby (although his youngest brother Josiah, a master mariner, was living in the USA), but Louisa was one of only two children. She was close to her sister, Rosa, naming one of her own daughters after her, so it must have come as a shock when Rosa announced that she was emigrating to Australia. Communication with Australia was slow, so it may have been years after the events that Louisa heard the stories of Rosa's life, but it did not make easy reading. Shortly after arriving in Melbourne to join her husband who had set off earlier, Rosa's husband and one of her sons died, leaving her to bring up the family by herself. After living in a tent and struggling in Melbourne for three years she joined others in the gold rush of 1854 and became one of the pioneer settlers in Maryborough, set in the Victorian goldfields. She was more educated than many of the settlers and taught her children the importance of education. Despite her difficulties she lived in Maryborough for over fifty years, and one of her sons, James Outtrim, went on to become a local MP and a leading member of the Australian government. Rosa must have been an impressive woman."

"Rosa was not the only relative to emigrate. In 1857 one of Thomas' uncles, John, also left for Victoria, but Josiah, the mariner brother, who had migrated to the USA in the 1840s, returned in around 1860, with his American wife and two children, and filled them all in with tales of his adventures. Thomas' children were less inclined to wander. In fact most of them were still living at home in their twenties, including the three boys, two of whom had followed their father into the engraving profession and one of whom who became an architect."

"Louisa died in 1871 but Thomas was clearly not ready for old age as he continued to work as a chart engraver for several years and, in 1875, married Harriet, over thirty years his junior. A spinster and in her late thirties, she may have thought that motherhood had passed her by. Even marriage did not change that for a while but in 1879, when Harriet was in her forties and Thomas his seventies, a daughter, Mary, was born. Thomas' eldest son was nearly forty and his youngest was thirty, so it had been a long time since there had been a baby in the Homewood household. Thomas died when Mary was only seven, but he had left Harriet enough money that she could 'live on her own means' and look after Mary. Harriet did not remarry, but lived with Mary and her family, some of whom, the youngest of Thomas' grandchildren, lived until the 21st century, two hundred years after their grandfather had been born."

Thomas's youngest brother Josiah (born 1819) became a seaman. Where he did his seamanship training as a youth is not known but in 1842, aged 23, he married an American girl named Susan Ann Bannon (possibly Canon?) who was born in 1821 in Delaware. The location of the marriage is not recorded but it seems probable that they lived in the USA, where their children were born, and where Josiah acquired citizenship in about 1845, the year in which their first child (Thomas Lumbard Homewood) was born. Sadly this infant died within a few months. In 1846 they settled in Philadelphia and by 1849, in which year their second child Mary Elizabeth was born, Josiah was master of an American ship – The "Marian", which sailed out of Philadelphia. A second son was born in 1851 – Charles Henry and another in 1857 (Archimedes James Buchan, who died as an infant). It seems that Josiah was master of the Marian for nearly ten years, then serving on the "Grapeshot" (New Orleans) from 1858 to 1860 and subsequently on the Bark "Mary Mildred" (previously named Gallego), which was registered in Liverpool. It was at about this time (some time in the late 1850s?) that he returned to England, obtaining his English Master's Certificate in Liverpool in 1861. Thereafter his ships included the Mary Warren (1864), the Fred Warren (1867 – 1870), The City Camp (1870 – 1871) and the Cosmopolis (1871 – 1872).

A passenger on the Fred Warren in 1867 wrote a diary of the voyage and reported that: "the captain is a cockney but has lived a good deal in the states, chews tobacco when he is not smoking, talks through his nose and says in the states we do so and so, he considers himself a genuine Yankee." The same passenger noted that the captain told him that he had been at sea for '35 years', which would suggest that he had gone to sea as a young adolescent?

By the time of the 1881 census Josiah and his wife were living in Liverpool, where his job was recorded as "nautical assessor, insurance". When he died in 1886 he was recorded as being a "ship owner". His estate was valued at a total of £3230 9s 9d, a not inconsiderable sum for the period!

His son Charles served on several of his ships during his own seamanship training. These included the City Camp and the Cosmopolis. During the later 1870s Charles completed his training and took his master's certificate in 1877, becoming captain of the Alexander Mackenzie in that year. Thereafter Charles was master of the Edith (1878), Alexander Mackenzie (1879 - 1880), Anglo American (1880 – 83), Crofton Hall (1884 -1886), Davenby Hall (1886), Hatton Hall (1887), Forrest Hall (1887 – 1893) and Wennington Hall (1894 – 1895). Later he captained Hillbrook (1896), Hillcrag (1896 – 1899), Hilltarn (1899 – 1900), Penmannor (1900 – 1907) and finally Barra (1907), after which health problems prevented him from serving at sea.

Charles married his cousin's (Henry Stephenson Homewood) daughter on January 31st 1884. She was Fanny Arabella ("Belle") Homewood – her first name being that of her mother (Fanny Emma Mercer) and her second name coming from her maternal grandmother (Arabella Newlove). Belle was 21 at the time of the marriage while Charles was 33. Her willingness to travel the world and spend many months at sea with her husband may have been influenced by her mother's history, for she too was the daughter of a ship's captain and had been born at sea (off New Zealand). Fanny Mercer was the first daughter of Francis John Mercer who was a ship's captain for a number of years before settling in Margate (where he had been born) and becoming a ship owner and successful businessman. His family were already a prominent and highly regarded Margate family and a sizeable tomb is to be seen in the local churchyard commemorating members of the family.



Mercer monument

The following is copied from an article by a Margate historian, Suzannah Foad:

"Francis John Mercer was born at Margate on the 20th May 1819. He was son of Samuel Mercer (The Younger), a member of this prosperous family of timber merchants and builders who also owned much property in the town. Samuel Mercer passed away on the 11th October

1870. It might have been thought that the young Francis would have entered into the family business, but that was not for him and he became apprenticed to the sea. He was part owner of the brigantine 'HARRINGTON' by 1841, the year in which his first child, Emma, was born, possibly at sea as her birth was registered in New Zealand on the 29th July.

Francis John married Arabella Elizabeth Newlove in 1840, she being the eldest daughter of James Newlove, a school master and discoverer and owner of Margate's "Shell Grotto". They had 6 children in total and the second youngest Caroline (Later Caroline Drewe Mercer who died 1922 and is also buried in the Cemetery Tomb) being registered as having been born "At Sea, off Cape Town" in 1851, so it would appear Arabella often travelled the world with her husband. Francis gained his master's Ticket in 1849."



Margate Shell Grotto

"Of course, the 19th Century was a very good era in which to be involved in deep sea shipping, in which many fortunes were made. By the mid 1850's, when still a relatively young man, Captain Mercer had left the sea and begun a business career ashore, investing his money in a shipping agency, in which he was equal partner. Trading as Falconer and Mercer, the firm had London offices at 23 Leadenhall Street, where for several years they had been loading brokers for clipper ships operating between the Thames and Table Bay South Africa."

"In 1853, the Union Line of Steamships was formed, having previously operated as the Union Collier Company. In 1856 the Union Line's Office was at Oriental Place, Canute Road, Southampton. Thomas Hill was appointed as Agent and, most interestingly, George Yeates Mercer, brother of Francis, named as Secretary. By 1858 Falconer and Mercer had been appointed London Agents for the Union Line, which had inaugurated its first South African Mail run with the steamship "DANE", which arrived at Cape Town on the 29th October 1857 after a 44 day run out of England."

"By 1872 William Falconer had left the business which then traded as F J Mercer and moved its office in that year just a short distance to 11 Leadenhall Street. In that same year George Yeates Mercer was Southampton Manager of the Union Line, and it is obvious that close business ties between the two companies were maintained, in fact in 1877 Francis Mercer's office was taken over by the Union Line when it moved its administration to London. The main competitors of the Union Line on the South-African run were the Castle Line, the companies merging in 1900 to become the Union Castle Line."

"Retiring around 1878, the Mercer's took up residence at Elmhurst, Bedonwell, Erith, Kent, where Francis died on the 4th January 1889, his body being transported back to his old home town of Margate for interment. Inscribed under his name on the obelisk is the fitting requiem for a sailor :-

"Through storm and tempest passed, a haven found at last". Arabella outlived Francis, passing away on the 6th October 1893. She too lies at rest in the Margate tomb, and under her name is inscribed :-

"At rest, life's troubles o'er, we trust in God and weep no more"

Whilst Francis was a man of high repute his elder brother William Samuel (born 1817) was less so! He had eight children between 1839 and 1872, dying at the comparatively early age of 54. He was described variously (in successive censuses) as a Grocer (1841), a licensed Victualler (Publican) (1851), writer on glass (1861) and glass embosser (1871). He had three 'wives', though as his first wife outlived him and there is no documented divorce his relationship with the second and third partners / wives remains unclear? His second "wife" (Catherine Elizabeth Hall) appears to have had an infant by him in 1847 (Kate Mercer),

though at the time of the 1851 census he was still living with his first wife, Julia Boys and their daughter (also Julia) in Lambeth.

The Shell Grotto is still a well known Margate attraction. The story goes that in 1835 James Newlove lowered his young son Joshua (then aged 15) into a hole in the ground that had appeared during the digging of a duck pond. Joshua emerged describing tunnels covered with shells. He had discovered the Shell Grotto; 70ft of winding underground passages leading to an oblong chamber, its walls decorated with strange symbols mosaiced in millions of shells. Is it an ancient pagan temple or a meeting place for some secret cult? Nobody can explain who built this amazing place, or why, or when, but since its discovery visitors from all over the world have been intrigued by the beautiful mosaics and the unsolved mystery of its construction and purpose?

The Shell Grotto's story is recounted on various Internet websites and different accounts are related. Some suggest that the Newlove children had discovered and explored the grotto at an earlier date?

The story of Phebe's life from early childhood has been mentioned, in brief, earlier in this account. There were five other children born between 1887 and 1894. Next after Phebe was Charles Jesse, who came to be known as 'Robin'. He was born ashore (in Wallasey, at 24 Littledale Rd, Poolton by Seacombe). He survived to adult life worked for the Liverpool Cotton Exchange. He served in the first world war (see picture). In 1924 he emigrated to Durban, South Africa. He died in 1948 at the age of 60. in 1930 he married Jean Jessie Wilson, but no



Robin Homewood
about 1918

children are recorded from the marriage.



Forrest Hall

A second son, Harry Leslie was born in Columbo (on the Forrest Hall) in 1888, but died at the age of a year. Doris Genevieve was born in 1891 in San Francisco (while her parents were sailing on the Forrest Hall) but only lived for six months. There followed Norah Gwendoline, who was born in 1892 (on the Forrest Hall, while on a passage from Tasmania to Plymouth).

Another son (Clive Eric) was born in Wallasey (2 Bleach Bank Manor Rd, Liscard) in 1894, but died at the age of five.

Norah survived to adult life and became a nurse (she was the school nurse at the preparatory school that Peter and Roger attended (Hurst Court). She did not marry until she was 45 years old, when she married Ronald Gibbs, a lifelong friend of the Wilkinsons (his father had been the family GP in

Stetchford when they moved to Birmingham in about 1904).



Norah

Ronald Gibbs

Ronald was an officer in the Ghurkhas and a close friend of a fellow army officer called William (Bill) Slim. Bill was his best man at the wedding in 1937, which took place in Birmingham. During the war which followed Bill Slim rose to become a general and commanded allied troops in the Burma Campaign, eventually contributing to the defeat of Japanese forces across much of south east Asia. Later he was promoted to the rank of Field Marshall, was knighted and then made a Viscount and served as Governor General of Australia.

Despite their relatively advanced ages at the time of their marriage they celebrated their silver wedding 25 years later, not long before Norah died in January 1964. Ronald (by then nearly

65) re-married a few years later and went on to celebrate his second silver wedding in the early 1990s, living to the age of 95. His widow, from this second marriage, Marian Gibbs is still living at the age of 93 in 2008.

Phebe and KD did not start their own family until after the war had finished in 1918. Their first son (Neville) was born in October 1919, but died within a few days (probably of a cerebral birth injury?). It must have been a horribly traumatic time for Phebe, as her mother had died a couple of weeks before the baby was born while she was staying with them in Birmingham. More was yet to come as KD developed appendicitis a few weeks later and needed to have his appendix removed.

Fortunately things improved thereafter and in March 1921 a second son arrived and was named John Douglas (the Douglas being after his paternal grandmother, born Elizabeth Ellen (Bessie) Douglas). In September of the following year a daughter followed (named Phebe Eileen – always called Eileen). Another brother was to arrive in July 1924, named Kenneth Peter (called Peter) and their last child followed five years later (July 1929).



Phebe with John and Eileen
1923

The naming of their last son was the cause of a minor family crisis. Discussions had produced two possible names – Paul Leslie being KD’s preference while Roger Homewood was Phebe’s choice. When the birth was registered KD, who seems to have forgotten Phebe’s wishes for the moment, gave the names “Paul Leslie”. Phebe was extremely distressed at this decision and he returned to the register office with a view to changing the names to Roger Homewood. Unfortunately the officials were not able to change the names and told him that

he could only add the new names to the ones that had already been given. Hence all four names were given to the new infant, who was always known as Roger. KD’s apparent absent mindedness at that time may have been the result of pre-occupation with other heavy responsibilities. That year they were building an extension to the house (adding a suite of consulting rooms) and he was appointed to the newly created chair of pharmacology and therapeutics in the University of Birmingham.

In the early 30s the family enjoyed many happy times including summer holidays in Borth and later Aldeburgh (where they sailed in their boat, called ‘Phebe’ – still afloat at the Aldeburgh club 70 years later!) and met up with Uncle Alan (KD’s brother) and his family and Phebe’s sister Norah, on many occasions. Unfortunately, during the later 1930s Phebe’s health started to decline and she suffered at least one heart attack – a problem that KD, at times, attributed to the often difficult task of managing their youngest son who was energetic, boisterous and somewhat unruly! Roger remembers being told at one stage “You are killing your mother!”.

Unhappily, early in 1940 when Roger was ten, his mother died of a myocardial infarct (“heart attack”). The ominous prediction of his father must have rung in his mind many times in the years that followed?



John, Eileen & Peter
About 1929

Phebe’s four surviving children all thrived and lived on long after both their parents had died. KD re-married in the autumn of 1941 and he and his second wife, Agnes Crozier (nicknamed ‘George’) had three further children (Jean 1942, James 1943 and Elizabeth 1946).

KD died in April 1951, one week before his 65th birthday.

John was a medical student at the time of Phebe's death and Peter was pursuing his ambition to join the merchant navy (following in the steps of his seafaring ancestors).

John graduated at the end of the war and became a general practitioner in Tewkesbury, where he worked until retirement in 1986. He married a nurse from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham (Mary Rose) in 1946 and they had four children.

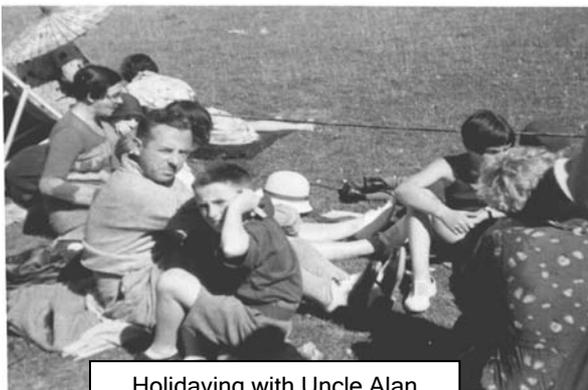
Eileen became a nurse herself and was a theatre sister at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, before marrying Leslie Rutledge, an accountant, in 1948. They had one son.

Peter later obtained his master's certificate and went on to be an officer with Cunard Shipping Company and a ship's captain himself, before joining the Trinity House Pilots and working for more than twenty years as a pilot on the Solent. He married Margaret McDonald in 1955 and they had four children, one of whom (another Ken) became a master mariner himself and was a ship's captain before becoming a pilot on the Humber.

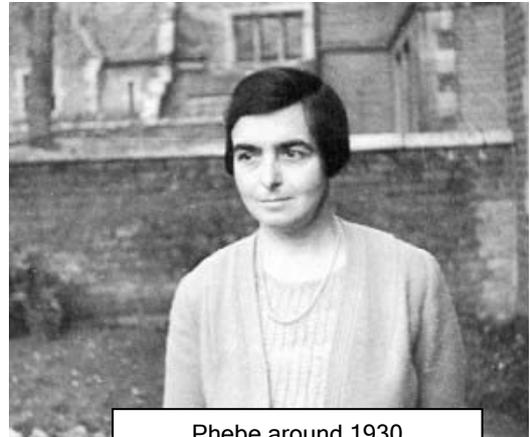
Roger became an army officer and flew scout planes for the army air corps, serving in Libya for several years in the late fifties. He married Anne Ringham in 1955 and they had three children (all born in Libya), though the first died in the newborn period. Later he left the army and pursued a career as a Personnel Manager, working for several companies including Rolls Royce and the Crown Agents, before retiring in 1994.

Peter died in 1983 at the early age of 59. John and Eileen died within a few weeks of one another in 1999 aged 77 and 76 respectively. Roger is alive and well aged 80.

11 grandchildren of KD and Phebe are living in 2010, along with a 27 great grandchildren and three great great grand children.



Holidaying with Uncle Alan about 1934



Phebe around 1930



Peter, Roger, John and James (Jimmy) about 1970