

*Dear Sirs,*

I have recently decided to make a start on tracing my family history, and as yet, not getting to grips with the various web sites on the computer, from which a lot of information can be obtained, a friend helped me by printing out some pages which, by coincidence, contained details of his family as well as mine, both of which originated in the East Meon district.

I knew that my mother was born in East Meon in 1901, but never having known any grandparents, and given the reluctance of my mother's generation to talk about their early days, I thought it might be a difficult task. Having now learnt the names, year of birth and marriage of my maternal grandparents, I am keen to follow up these leads.

On the fifteenth of February my wife and I decided to visit East Meon, and spent a very pleasant few hours walking around the village, visiting the church and partaking of a very good lunch at Ye Olde George Inn, where the lady of the house, Kay I believe, gave me a copy of the February edition of your excellent magazine. We also purchased a copy of Mr. Standfield's "History of East Meon" (at the Post Office) which gives a wonderful account of the village. On returning home, I spoke at some length on the telephone to Jane Atkinson, her husband being out working the land at the time, and she was very helpful. When I said my mother's maiden name was Blackman, I quickly became aware that it is a very common name in the area.

I have enclosed a photograph of my mother together with two of her sisters and one brother, which I believe was taken about 1920. George Blackman, my uncle, was in the Central Band of the Royal Air Force for many years.

My mother was married in Leicestershire, where I was born, but I have been back living in Hampshire since the early fifties. My Aunt Lily, on the left of picture, lived to a grand old age of one hundred years and six months.

Following your editorial, and the fact that I was given a copy of your magazine, I have enclosed a small donation (*gratefully received - Eds*) to support your cause and as a thank you to the very helpful people I have so far spoken to.

*Terry Chapman*

Fleet, Hampshire.

