

## Email correspondence about Bone family history.

### Denise Moody, granddaughter of Edward Bone, David Hopkins of East Meon History Group

#### Denise Moody

My Mother-in-law Mary Ellen Moody, nee Bone died in New Zealand last year age 89. We have been unable to find where Mary was born on 5th December 1923, she was married in the All Saints Church on 25th May 1942 to Ernest Arthur Moody a New Zealand Serviceman. Her maiden name was Bone, she was the daughter of Edward and Alice Bone who lived and worked on the Estate of Leydene. My husband Robin and his older sister Shirley were both baptised in the All Saints Church before the family left for New Zealand at the end of 1944.

#### Denise Moody

Sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you but I have been waiting to hear from my husbands cousin in Portsmouth to see if she can be of any help re their Grandfather Edward Bone and this morning I got a reply from her. Her name is Margaret Francis and she lives in Portsmouth, but she knew her Grandfather and of course my husband can't remember anything about his year in East Meon as he was only just over a year old when they left for New Zealand and by the time he returned for Margaret's parents Golden Wedding in 1989 his Grandparents were long gone..

All we know about Grandad Edward Bone is that he was born in Liss, don't know where Grannie Alice Bone (nee Richards) came from or where they were married, but it was during the war as he was in his army uniform. Their eldest daughter Maisie was born in 1918 in Liss, we think he was injured and sent home for a while and that was obviously when Grannie became pregnant with Auntie Maisie. The other 2 daughters, Margaret (Marley) and Mary (my husbands Mother) were born in Coombe Bottom, East Meon. Because my husband was the eldest Grandson he got the medals when his Grandad died, we put them in the top draw, bought them out to show off occasionally, but it wasn't until about 4 years or so ago that a friend of my husbands came to visit, he was a retired officer in the NZ Army and told my husband he now mounted medals as a hobby. When Robin gave him Grandad Bone's medals and his own Dad's medals from WW2 Dudley just looked at Robin and said "You've got no idea of what you have here do you" and of course Robin didn't. We then visited Robin's Mum we asked her about it, all she said was when she was about 12 and went to East Meon school her teacher was talking to them about WW1 and he said to Mary "Your Dad was a war hero and has a special medal", Mary argued with him and said no he didn't, but she went home and asked her parents and was told that yes he did, but they never said how, why, what - nothing and the war was never talked about at home. Even when the medals arrived in the post from England for Robin she still didn't say it was a special medal. Mary died just over a year ago age 89, what a shame we hadn't been able to ask her more questions now. Can't tell you anything else about Robin's Grandad Bone at all unfortunately. You mentioned Petersfield - that is where Grace Francis lives, Margaret's sister,

Robin stayed with his Auntie Marley and Uncle Sid Francis in 1989 when he went over for their Golden Wedding, Auntie Marley died not long after this.

If you are at all interested I could send you a photo of our Grandson Charlie Birdling wearing the miniatures of those medals, he wore them on his cub uniform on ANZAC Day up in Christchurch where they live, we have 3 grandchildren and have got them all a set of the miniatures.

### David Hopkins

I think I've found rather a lot more info about your grandfather and his wife. In fact I think we can trace his family tree back to 1774 and she was the ironmonger of Bishops Waltham's daughter!

### David Hopkins

Mary Ellen's parents were Edward and Alice May Bone (b.2 June 1895) probably not originally from East Meon. Think they went there on WW1 demob. He was first an agricultural labourer but by 1924 he was a "motor driver." They lived at Coombes Bottom, which is as far away as you can get from Leydene whilst still being in the parish....so he might then have been employed at Hall Place or Westbury estates which are half a mile awa prior to Leydene.

Mary had an older sister, Phyllis Margaret b.3 April 1920 m. Sidney Francis in 1939 d. 1981. Mary Ellen died in 1971

PS Edward Bone was alive and present at time of Mary Ellen's wedding in May 1942. He was a lorry driver living at Hambledon Lodge, Leydene House. Mary was a domestic servant employed by the NAAFI, whilst her husband to be was based at Bereleigh House. Think he was an engineer. There was lots of logging going on at that time .. I thought this was mainly carried out by Canadian sappers..but looks as if there were NZanders too. We still have a plantation of spruce planted by them opposite our house.

### From Ancestors document

**Mary Ellen Bone**, daughter of **Edward Bone** and **Alice May Richards**, was born on 05 Dec 1923 in East Meon, Hampshire, England. She died in 2013 in New Zealand. She married Ernest Arthur Moody on 25 May 1942 in All Saints, East Meon (2408 74 25-May 1942 Ernest Arthur Moody

**Mary Ellen Bone** Married by a NZ chaplain 22 18 Bachelor Spinster Sapper, New Zealand Engineers NAAFI Bereleigh House, East Meon Hambledon Lodge, Leydene, East Meon Arthur Ernest Moody (deceases). He was born in New Zealand.

**Edward Bone**, son of Benjamin Bone and Sarah Knight, was born on 01 Mar 1891 in East Worldham, Hampshire, England. He died about 1950 in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. He married Alice May Richards.

More About **Edward Bone**:

Military Service: Bet. 1914-1920

Military Service: 30 Sep 1918 in Geluwe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium; Action Leading to Distinguished Conduct Medal Occupation: 25 May 1942 in East Meon, Hampshire, England; Lorry Driver

2. **Alice May Richards**, daughter of **William Walter Richards** and **Ellen Bridle**, was born on 02 Jun 1895 in Sidlesham, Sussex, England. She died in Mar 1971 in Petersfield, Hampshire, England.

3. **Alice May Richards** and **Edward Bone** had the following children:

i. **Maisie V Bone** was born in 1918 in Liss, Hampshire, England.

ii. **Phyllis Margaret Bone** was born on 03 Apr 1920 in East Meon, Hampshire, England. She died in Oct 1989 in Petersfield, Hampshire, England. She married Sidney G Francis. He was born about 1920. She married an unknown spouse in Sep 1939 in Petersfield, Hampshire.

iii. **Mary Ellen Bone** was born on 05 Dec 1923 in East Meon, Hampshire, England. She died in 2013 in New Zealand. She married Ernest Arthur Moody on 25 May 1942 in All Saints, East Meon (2408 74 25-May 1942 Ernest Arthur Moody Mary Ellen Bone Married by a NZ chaplain 22 18 Bachelor Spinster Sapper, New Zealand Engineers NAAFI Bereleigh House, East Meon Hambledon Lodge, Leydene, East Meon Arthur Ernest Moody (decease). He was born in New Zealand.

### Denise Moody

Great news David, thanks for that. You have almost solved a mystery for us, I always said that Grannie Richards came from money, as you will see from the wedding photo I sent she had a beautiful wedding dress, as well as that she had several bridesmaids etc., I will see if I can find the wedding photo and send it to you of the whole wedding party. You can see Edward Bones parents and they certainly don't look wealthy but all the photos we have of the Richards they are always very well dressed as in the wedding photo, very tall people and to give a daughter the kind of wedding they gave her during the war you would have to have money. We have a photo of Great Grandad Richards taken when he was a very old man and all we knew about him was that he went to the pub for his pint of beer every day and he was in his 90's when he died, but I am sure he was still alive in 1962 when I first met Robin and his photo was hanging on the wall in the family home and I was told the story about him. I found a Henry and Annie Richards on the internet and wondered if that is our Great Grandad Richards and his wife? I've just had a quick look for that wedding photo, had it when I was looking for the other ones I sent, but can't just put my hand on it at the moment, if I do find it I'll send it.

### David Hopkins

Denise....good challenge, and yes I got Richards wrong. A bit confusing as an Alice with Blackman close relation in near vicinity. So ....I think a better try this time. BUT....there can be no certainty without drawing down Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates from General Registrar's Office at about £10 a throw (and not even then - even if I could afford it!).

So, a work in progress for you to evaluate and explore at your leisure. Sadly ....immensely boring presentation (but it is encompassing a lot of referenced evidence). Michael is acquiring a load of much more sexy software soon ....so hopefully something more digestible in the near future (sorry to mix metaphors so unfortunately). I am pretty sure your Edward who married Dorothy is actually Edwin. I'll send you a photo of him if it helps. Dorothy ties things back into the East Meon connection as she was part of a big (and continuing) EM family.

### **Denise Moody with scans of photographs**

The first lot is the group wedding photo from 28th August 1915 at Liss, it looks like a family who spared no expenses for their daughters wedding - wouldn't you agree. They both came from large families but no one has a clue who the other people are in the photo except Granny and Grandad Bone, he is in his army uniform and of course Granny in her wedding dress plus both sets of parents - Grandad Bones behind him with his Mum to the left and his Dad beside her further to the left. Granny Bone's parents are directly behind the bride and groom. The Richards were very tall people - our daughter is almost 6ft tall and my parents and Robin's father were short people (like me) so she had to get her height from the Richards, Mary told us all her Uncles on her Mum's side were tall, well over 6ft and her Auntys were tall as well. Their eldest daughter Maisie was born on 20th December 1918 so 9 months back from there Grandad had to have been home, she certainly doesn't belong to the milkman, those 3 girls were so alike in looks. Old couple together are Edward Bones parents, wish I had a date but sadly none on the back of the photo. Last photo is where my husband Robin and his older sister Shirley were born in November 1942 and 1943. It is Hambledon Lodge, Leydene. I have a lot more photos of Leydene and if you like can scan them for you.

Please challenge anything you think is wrong. I have access to loads of much more detail source material....so if there is a specific individual you want to ask about I can email you a copy of usually the original document (not B, M, & D's unless they are from the East Meon Parish Recos though).

Something from the War Diaries will be with you probably tomorrow.