

Email exchange between Brian Aylwin, South Africa, and EMHG

Email from Brian Aylwin, May 2014 I recently found out while researching my ancestry for Visa purposes, that my great, great, great grandfather, Benjamin Aylwin was a resident in East Meon and was running the local mill.

I wanted to enquire if you had any information that I would find of

interest or useful in my ancestral visa application. I'm on a crusade to show the British government that all my forefathers were hard working men of British decent, after I was denied the right to re enter the UK after my working visa expired.

11 Jul 2013 Michael Blakstad to Brian Aylwin

Dear Brian

A quick look at the Parish Register of Baptisms shows some Aylings, Aylines and Aylwards. The Aylines were born in the 17th century. In the Register of Marriages, an Aylin and a few Aylings, and an Ayline. Again no Benjamin. Burials show the same mix of names, with two Aylins buried in the 18th century. A John Aylen was buried in 1832, and there are lots of Aylings, but no Benjamins. I've done a preliminary search in the Hampshire Records Office online archive, but no response.

No hits in the Tithe Apportionments for Aylwin ... these were recorded in 1852.

Spellings change. How far back can you trace your family in South Africa? They might have carried different spellings ...

Sorry not to be of more help.

Michael

Email Michael Blakstad to David Hopkins

I looked up the Parish Registers, and failed to find a Benjamin Aylwin, and have passed it onto you not least because of the reference to B.A. running a local mill.

I don't have a date for the news clipping - attached below, slightly out of focus. And the Aylwin mentioned in the article is unlikely to be Benjamin. (The Rev Payne does not appear to have been a vicar of East Meon, but many of the names are familiar, not least Mr Barnard himself, of Park Farm.)

EASTMEON.

THE LATE MR. H. BARNARD.—A few days since there was a considerable gathering of friends, neighbours, and villagers to pay the last mark of respect to an old and respected inhabitant, the late Mr. Henry Barnard, of Park Farm, by following his remains to their last resting-place in the churchyard. He belonged to a class fast dying out in this country, the British yeoman. He was a good sportsman, neighbour, and man of business, and as an excellent master will be much missed in the neighbourhood. Among those who followed were his two sons, Lasham and Henry, also the Rev. — Payna, Colonel Jervoise, Admiral O'Callaghan, C.B., Colonel Briggs, Mr. Whalley Tooker, Captain Barnes, Messrs. Henry Woodridge, Richard Barwaker, S. Seward, Robert Barwaker, William Thorp, Matthew Arnold, George Gale, T. Stubbington, Harrison, William Weeks, Aylwin, John Stubbs, Charles Clarke, Dennett, Aylwin, Thorp, Wesks, Singleton, N. Beagley, and many others. The deceased was master of and hunted a pack of harriers in the neighbourhood for many years, and a large percentage of those round the grave had often joined him in many a merry spin over the downs with his currant-jelly dogs, as the old master of the Hamledon, the late Mr. Thomas Smith, used to call them.

Email David Hopkins to Brian Aylwin, 21st September

Preliminary research suggests:

The press cutting does relate to East Meon and was probably dated 1887. Aylwin was Henry Barnard's farming neighbour. Do we have a definitive list of curates of East Meon, Michael? There is no reason to think the burial of Henry Barnard was conducted by the vicar (who was often absent).

Benjamin Aylwin was the miller of Frogmore Mill (and possibly made more money by farming the water-meadows around it and irrigated by the mill sluices) for some decades. I have lots of info on his family who originated near Lewes in Sussex. However, I suspect your connection is through Frederick Ben Aylwin who emigrated to South Africa. He is undoubtedly closely related as he was the sole executor of Benjamin Aylwin's will. However...I don't think he was his son....perhaps his brother? Can you elucidate?

Email BA to EMHG

Thank you so much for this information.

From the correspondence below I can tell you that I am definitely directly descended from Frederick Benjamin Aylwin, My great grandfather I think. My uncle bears his first name (my grandfather obviously naming his first born after his own father one would guess).

He is buried in Queenstown cemetery in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. I can recall seeing this as a young boy.

Email David Hopkins to Brian Aylwin

Trying to tie up your East Meon roots. I'm convinced that your forbear Frederick Ben Aylwin migrated to South Africa ... and his father, Benjamin Aylwin, was the miller at Frogmore Mill (East Meon) for many decades. In trying to piece the picture together I am struggling with the fact that I can not readily find Frederick in either the 1881 UK Census or that of 1891, whilst all his sisters are clearly visible at home. That suggests he was in boarding school. Churcher's

College in nearby Petersfield is the obvious place to look....but I can't currently find their 1881 Census return either (perhaps because they were then in transit to a new location?)

Whatever... Frederick was the sole administrator of Benjamin's estate on his death, and was described as "Miller".

Can you throw any light on the above and do you have Frederick's Birth Certificate? (available from UK General Registrars Office for about a £10....I'll provide index references if you require. He was not baptised in East Meon Church as far as I can see)

BA to DH

That's about as much info as I have really, hence my quest to find out more.

Not much is known by my family here in SA about our roots but it's very clear that we are of English descent

My whole reasoning is to question the English government on its visa rules. Someone like me, clearly of English descent is not allowed to return to the land of my forefathers but those from countries with absolutely no heritage are given entry and are allowed to sponge off the hardworking men of England.

Sorry about the rant, its a policy I'm very passionate about!

DH to BA

Some of the mystery surrounding Frederick Benjamin Aylwin is now solved. But more must remain open to conjecture. I am reasonably confident that the attached report on his ancestors going back to 1713 has about a 90% chance of being accurate. It would help to have his birth certificate (available from the General Registrars Office) but obviously inappropriate for me to purchase it. The outline seems to be he was born (registered at any rate) in the Petersfield District (if he was born in East Meon that would be the place of registration) but unlike his siblings was not baptised in East Meon Church (All Saints). There may be a variety of reasons for that (e.g., family became non-conformists, did not live at home, etc.). Interestingly, he was living with his uncle in Sussex at age 9. I can not find him in the 1891 census, but he is granted administration of his father Benjamin's estate in 1894 and designated a "miller" so may well have been assisting his father who was miller at Frogmore, East Meon. He definitely sailed to Cape Province from Southampton on 17th April, 1903 on the Union-Castle Line mail ship "Bubon". I think it probable he spent some time in the Cape before that fighting in the 2nd Boer War in 1901-2 with the Cape (District 1) Police enlisting on 16th April 1901 and receiving campaign medals. He died (according to my research) on 20 September 1954 in Queenstown, Cape Province. Obviously there is a lot more in the original documents I have access to, but not easily communicable by email. If there is anything specific I may be able to help and if you ever do get around to acquiring Frederick's birth certificate I would be interested to know the details

Brian Aylwin to Michal Blakstad 10th August

This has been a fantastic experience and I am more than happy for you to load onto your site. I am happy with your edit.

If all goes well with my current plans, I will hopefully get to meet you sometime in the not so distant future... Please feel free to stay in touch as I do find the history of my family quite intriguing.

All the best and kind regards,

Brian Aylwin