

22 January 2024

Colyton Parish History Society Newsletter

Happy New Year everyone! Lots of things to look forward to. Hope you enjoy this month's tale of Sue Pither and Josephine Manjaji's family. Thank you for sharing Sue and Josie.

1. News

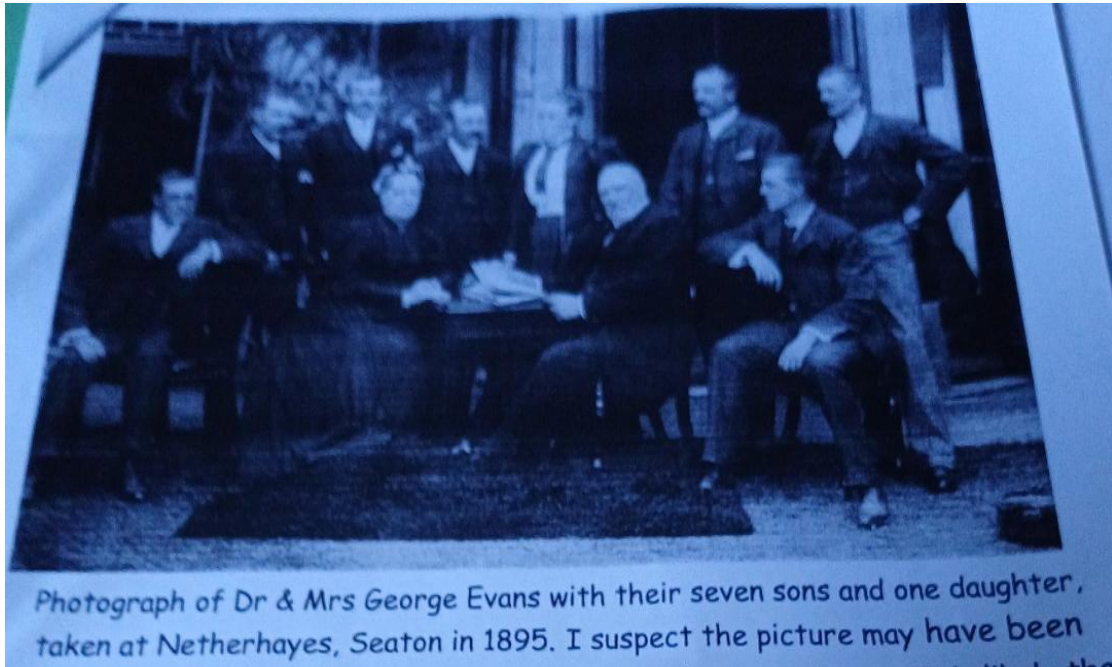
Family research – Calling the Doctor!

Some 150 years ago a highly respected family of doctors lived in and around Colyton and Seaton. The Evans family were pillars of the local establishment. This weekend, Josephine Manjaji who lives in Australia, visited Colyton to do some research into her family history and catch up with her cousin Sue Pither. On Saturday morning I met up with the cousins at Sue's home here in Colyton and then accompanied Josie on her travels down memory lane.



Josie and Sue

Dr George Evans and his wife Henrietta had seven sons and one daughter. Dr Evans was born in 1826 and died aged seventy-six in 1902. The picture below of George and Henrietta surrounded by all their children was taken at their home Netherhayes in Seaton in 1895.



From left: siblings John, Thomas, Frank, Arthur, Gertrude, William, Charles, George with Henrietta and George in the middle

Their son William Henry Evans, also a doctor, subsequently had two sons and two daughters of whom Richard Francis Evans - who worked for the Colonial Service in Borneo for many years - was the youngest. While in Borneo, Richard married Paulina Ganiem Bansawan, according to local customary rites in 1938, and had four children and was Josephine's grandfather. He later married again and died in Colyton in 1995.

William's daughter Kathleen Hermione married Douglas Gracey in 1919 at the church of St Andrew. They had a daughter Patricia Hermione who was born at Knowles here in Colyton in 1920 and who in turn married George Pither in 1942 at St Gregory's in Seaton. Patricia was Sue's mother.

I accompanied Josie on a stroll round Colyton visiting the Church and the Heritage Centre to see the archives we hold before we headed over to Seaton visiting first the windswept Clock Tower on Sea Hill, built to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, where Dr George Evans laid the foundation stone in 1887. Dr Evans was also closely involved in establishing the Axe Vale Harriers.

Then we drove on to the thirteenth century St Gregory's Church in Seaton where generations of the Evans family are laid to rest in the churchyard.



Josie beside the Clock Tower, Seaton



Josie paying respects at the graves of several of her ancestors in St Gregory's churchyard.

If anyone has any memories or photos of members of the Evans family please do get in touch. Sue and Josie would love to receive them.

Over lunch Josie told me she is also researching the life of Edward Peregrine Gueritz who spent many years in North Borneo, serving in a number of posts before retiring as Governor of Labuan in 1910 and returning to his home in Seaton, also



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called Labuan, where he died on 1st September 1938. His father was the Rev Mamerto Gueritz, for many years Vicar of S Andrews in Colyton. But that's another tale for next month's Newsletter.....!

2. Other CPHS Matters

Membership - Annual Subs due in January 2024

A reminder that annual membership fees for 2024 are due from the beginning of January. It is £8 for a single membership or £12 for a couple.

Subscriptions can be paid at any Society meeting. Or they can be paid by standing order or BACS transfer using the following details: Colyton Parish History Society, Sort Code: 30-90-37, A/c no 00992240 (Lloyds Bank.)

3. Other organisations events

a) Devon and Somerset archives

This spring Devon and Somerset archives have organised a series of coffee time (10.30 am) online talks on the theme of researching your West Country :

- i) family - 23 February
- ii) criminals – 15 March
- iii) poor – 19 April

For more information and to book click on the link below:

https://swheritage.org.uk/news_tags/coffee-time-talks/?dm_i=5KNS,Y6EA,4G6WD,48USA,1

4. Items you may have missed

a) Policing in Colyton in the mid nineteenth century

<https://british-police-history.uk/f/colyton>

b) Victorians invented Boxing Day

<https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/24010728.call-boxing-day-victorians-invented/?ref=eb&nid=2405&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=271223>

c) Seaton Wetlands receives donation

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/24052086.seaton-wetlands-receives-8-000-donation-svct/?ref=eb&nid=2397&u=26e309a1465491fa9108b8530c3bc91f&date=170124>

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