

DAVID GOLIATH BAYLISS

When researching the history of any property, one of the best places to start is the deeds – another reason why it has taken me so long to piece together this story. When we bought the property in 1986 from a man called Steele, it was on a mortgage – our solicitor keeping hold of the deeds as security on behalf of our bank. I assumed, when our mortgage was paid up, the deeds would be returned to us, but in the meantime, as our mortgage was nearing its end, the solicitors apparently asked the bank if the deeds needed to be retained, and when they said ‘no’ they ‘dumped’ them – without informing us!

You can imagine my reaction when I found out.

All we were left with was the land registry entry which said nothing about Mr Steele or his immediate predecessors, the only names other than ourselves being a David Goliath Bayliss and Ethel Marion Strudwick, who transferred the freehold to John William Gunning on the 26th February 1960.

The land has the benefit of the following rights granted by but is subject to the following rights reserved by a Transfer dated 26 February 1960 made between (1) David Goliath Bayliss and Ethel Marion Strudwick and (2) John William Gunning:-

I will deal with the story of John William Gunning later on, but for now I want to concentrate on Ethel Marion Strudwick, and in particular the wonderfully named David Goliath Bayliss.

I believe David Goliath Bayliss was born in Kingfield in 1880, the son of William Barnett Bayliss (a plumber) and Mary Ann his wife. He was baptised at St Peter's Church on Boxing Day 1880¹, the census for 1881² showing that William (47) came originally from Daventry in Northamptonshire, with Mary Ann (38) being born in Cobham, Surrey. William's occupation on the census is as a 'Master Plumber, Painter, Glazier and General House Decorator, employing 1 labourer - that labourer being their eldest son, Fred (12). He was born in East Molesey, along with his younger brothers William (10), Frank (7), Harry (5) and Susan (3), with another daughter, Annie (2) and four-month-old David being born in Woking.

I know that David Goliath Bayliss married Emma Rogers (the daughter of Charles Rogers, a shepherd) at Christ Church, Woking³ on his 20th birthday - David's profession being noted as a 'fishmonger' with both his and Emma's address being given as 5 Courtney Road.

A year later the census⁴ shows the couple living in Hermitage Road, St John's, and records that Emma was born in Littlehampton.

They were still at Hermitage Road in April 1902 when their first son, David William, was baptised at St John's Church⁵, with a second son, Frederick Charles, coming along in February 1905⁶.

The electoral registers confirm David Goliath Bayliss at Hermitage Road in 1904-5⁷, but in 1906-7 the address is given as Adelaide Villas, St John's⁸, with No 34 Temple Bar Road being listed between 1908⁹ and 1911¹⁰.



A third son, Albert, was born in May 1907, with a fourth, Ernest Henry, born in 1909¹¹ and another son born just one month before the census was taken in 1911¹² – ‘no name chosen’ being written for the latter on the census form. It obviously didn't take them long to decide on a name, however, as Harold was baptised at St John's Church on the 5th April that year¹³.

Temple Bar was the address given for David on the 1912-13 electoral registers, but by 1914¹⁴ when another son, Goliath David, was born, Hermitage Road was again given as their address, with David Goliath's occupation now listed as a 'dealer'.

¹ SHC WOKP/2/4

² TNA RG11/772/66/6

³ SHC WOKCC/2/1

⁴ TNA RG13/597/118/30

⁵ SHC WOKJ/1/3 – born on the 28th February, baptised on the 6th April

⁶ SHC WOKJ/1/3 – born on the 19th February, baptised on the 30th March

⁷ SHC CC802/15/4 & CC802/16/4

⁸ SHC CC802/17/4 & CC802/18/4

⁹ SHC CC802/19/4

¹⁰ SHC CC802/22/4

¹¹ SHC WOKJ/1/3 – born on the 6th March, baptised on the 6th June

¹² TNA RG14/3043/172 – All the boys were born in St John's (Ernest Henry being recorded as Henry), with Emma Bayliss' place of birth recorded as 'don't know' – the same 'location' of a visitor on census night – 19 year old Laura Sheppard, a laundress.

¹³ SHC WOKJ/1/3 – born on the 1st March, baptised on the 5th April

¹⁴ SHC WOKJ/1/4 – baptised 6th November.

DAVID GOLIATH BAYLISS

By now David Goliath was in his mid-thirties and I know I shouldn't speculate, but I wonder whether he (or his wife, or both) were suffering from some sort of a mid-life-crisis.

By the Spring of 1916 they had evidently moved to a property called 'Strange Meadow' in Long Lane, off Robin Hood Road at Knaphill, as the registers for St John's Church¹⁵ gives that address for the family on the baptism of their sixth son – named Strange Conveyance Victory Bayliss, with a seventh boy being born on the 19th April 1919 named as Vengeance Recompense Faith Bayliss, and an eighth on the 27th January 1920 called Wholesome Durrell T. Bayliss (I haven't yet been able to work out what the 'T' stands for)!

By 1921¹⁶ their address has once more changed to Dwell Deep, Lower Robin Hood Road, where it appears a daughter was born on the 25th July 1922, named Dorothy N.D. Bayliss (the N.D., I believe, standing for New Dwell)!

1922 also saw the marriage¹⁷ of their eldest child, David William, a 'motor driver's mate', to a Violet Mabel Ware (aged 21), of Loan Barn Farm, Saunders Lane, St Johns, the daughter of William Arthur Ware (a farm hand).

Throughout the 1920's and early 1930's Dwell Deep continued to be the address given in the electoral registers for David Goliath Bayliss (and indeed Emma), with Frederick Charles and later Henry Ernest also being listed there when they were eligible to vote. For a couple of years (1928-29) even David and his wife Violet were listed at Dwell Deep (before moving to Normandy).



The 1935 Ordnance Survey 25' Map, shows the White House with its substantial grounds on the south side of Anchor Hill, between Barnaby Road and Robin Hood Road.

Frederick Charles gave Dwell Deep as his address when he married Kathleen Violet May on the 7th October 1931¹⁸, with Albert Bayliss having moved away by August 1933¹⁹ when he married Sarah Louisa Watts, but by 1935 the Bayliss' had moved again this time to a property called White House on Anchor Hill²⁰ (next to the forge at the bottom of the hill).

Here also was a James and Mary Warwick, although what their relationship (if any) to the Bayliss', I do not currently know.

All I have been able to find (so far) on the Warwick's comes from the National Register of 1939²¹, which shows James was born on the 28th April 1863 and was a retired coachman, with Mary born on the 3rd December 1867 listed as a housewife.

I think he is possibly the James Warwick (47) a coachman, listed in the 1911 census²² living with what must have been his first wife (of 19 years), Sarah Ann (47) and their son, George Colin Warwick (11) – two other children having died before then. They were living in a three-roomed property in Brookwood Cemetery known as 'Stable Cottage', from where on the 26th December 1919 James married Mary Lee²³.

I also cannot work out the connection between David Goliath Bayliss and Ethel Marion Strudwick (the other owner of our property until February 1960).

I believe she was born in Woking on the 18th February 1895, the daughter of John and Annie Strudwick, who at the time of the 1901 census²⁴ was a self-employed harness-maker in Connaught Road, Brookwood (John being 35, Annie 37), with three other children all born in Woking - Rosalin (10), Ethel M (5) and Felix J (3).

Ten years later²⁵ the family had moved to 52 Goldsworth Road, with Ethel still there in 1939²⁶ when the National Register was taken (now 44 and still single). Her father appears to have died in the meantime, with Ethel taking over his business, now doing 'shoe repairs, carpets, etc.', with her mother and sister listed as performing 'unpaid domestic duties'.

The National Register lists David Goliath as a 'general dealer, merchant', with Strange listed as a lorry driver and Dorothy as a 'mothers help', but the occupation of Wholesome is not given and one of the occupants of White House is still officially closed (possibly Vengeance) as by then Henry Ernest Bayliss had moved out, having married Eliza White in October 1935²⁷.

¹⁵ SHC WOKJ/1/4

¹⁶ SHC CC802/32/4

¹⁷ SHC WOKJ/2/5

¹⁸ SHC WOKJ/2/5 – At St John's Church - Frederick Charles being listed as a lorry driver, with his father then noted as a 'contractor' – Kathleen Violet May (21), being the daughter of Ernest Edward May a wood merchant of Ferndale, Bagshot Road, Bisley.

¹⁹ SHC 6923/10 – 19th August 1933 at St Mary's Horsell – Albert (26) being an engineer living at Littlewick Cottages, Horsell, whilst Sarah Louisa Watts (28) was a domestic of Viggory Cottage, Horsell, and daughter of Albert Watts (deceased) formerly a gardener.

²⁰ SHC CC802/52/4

²¹ TNA RG101/1930F

²² TNA RG14/3040/8

²³ SHC WOKJ/2/5 – The marriage register at St John's noting that James (56) a widower, was a coachman at Brookwood Cemetery, the son of William Warwick, a Station Master, whilst Mary Lee (51) was a widow, also residing at Brookwood Cemetery, the daughter of John Mathews, a farmer.

²⁴ TNA RG13/597/78/25

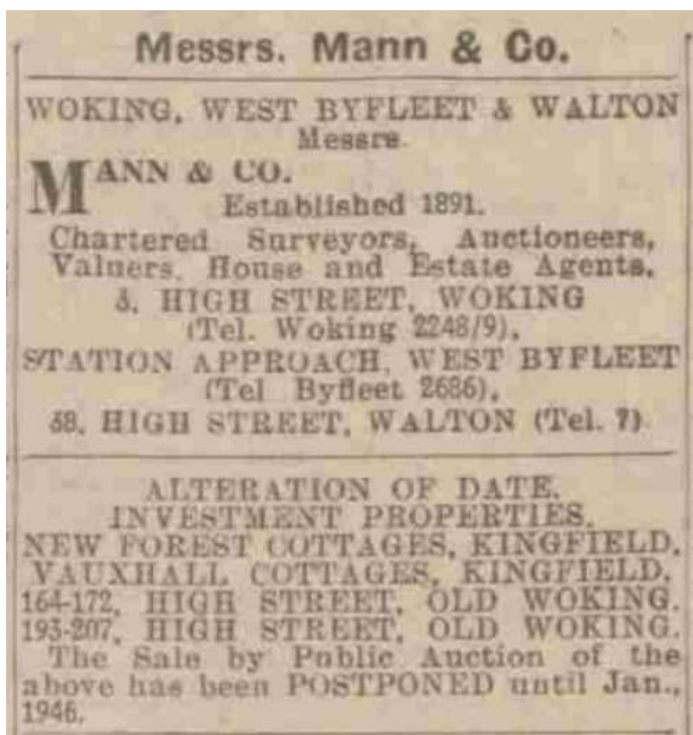
²⁵ TNA RG14/3035/56

²⁶ TNA RG101/1929F

²⁷ SHC WOKJ/2/6 – 9th October 1935 at St John's Church – Henry Ernest Bayliss (26) being a Motor Driver and Eliza (23) of Welbury, Mount Hermon Road, the daughter of Henry Charles White, a head carter.

DAVID GOLIATH BAYLISS

The National Register entry also indicates that Dorothy married in 1946, with the Bayliss crossed out and Hawkins written above it. Indeed Dorothy married Harold Hawkins on the 9th April 1946 – their names joining those of the Warwick's and Bayliss' (David Goliath, Emma, Strange and Vengeance) on the electoral registers from then on.



Surrey Advertiser, Saturday 24th November, 1945, page 1

I am afraid that my investigation into the later owners of our property has thrown up more questions than answers. You would think it would be easier to discover more about people from more recent times, but that is not always the case.

I would love to know exactly what was going on with the Bayliss offspring names after 1916.

I still do not know what the connection is between Ethel Marion Strudwick and David Goliath Bayliss.

I don't really know when they acquired (or inherited) our property, although a chance discovery in an old local newspaper²⁸, did suggest that it was probably after a sale in January 1946 when number 164-172, along with the houses on the opposite side of the High Street and a number of properties in Kingfield, were put up for auction at the Albion Hotel in Woking

That advertisement linking our house to the other High Street and Kingfield properties (combined with the name David Goliath Bayliss) led me to probably my most important discovery – a set of documents in the Surrey History Centre²⁹ that would unlock the entire history of our house, its neighbours, and the houses that were here before – but that will have to wait for the next article in this series.

²⁸ Surrey Advertiser, 24th November 1945, page 1

²⁹ SHC 3468/4