

NOTE ON THE HISTORY
OF THE
BRITISH BRANCH
OF THE
BOURDILLON FAMILY

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INTRODUCTION

This note has been written in response to a request by the French members of the family who are arranging the projected reunion of participants from the whole family at Chantilly in September, 1983. The author has been happy to make a contribution towards this very special occasion, but the task has presented some difficulties. One problem has been to reconcile the needs of French members, who will not want details about such matters as British educational institutions with which they are unfamiliar, or the precise family circumstances of living members of the British branch, with those of British members to whom this kind of information may be of interest.

The note is divided into two parts, dealing respectively with the first four generations of the British branch and with subsequent generations up to the present day.

The first part has been treated more discursively than the second, with the object of throwing light on the origins and early history of the branch in a way which may interest all living Bourdillons, French and British. The account of subsequent generations is more in the nature of a summary. Even on this relatively restricted basis nothing is said about the numerous daughters, as opposed to the sons, of the fifth generation and their families, though some at least of these still cherish the Bourdillon connection. It is hoped nevertheless that the survey in the second part, for which the author is largely indebted to the admirable annotated genealogy recently prepared by Victor Bourdillon and his nephew Thomas in Zimbabwe, will give a useful picture of the branch as it has developed over the past hundred years. The author apologises if the particulars given, besides doing greater justice to some members of the family than others, are not absolutely up to date at the time of writing (September, 1982) or accurate in every detail.

1. THE FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS

The history of the British branch of the Bourdillon family begins on October 26th, 1735, when Benedict Bourdillon arrived in England from Geneva. To this statement, however, much be added two comments. First, Benedict was not the only founder of a British branch. His elder brother Gedeon, who had come to London from Geneva in 1731 and who remained there as a merchant until his death in 1788, has descendants who still carry the name. The only surviving male representative of this branch is, however, of Dutch nationality and has no sons. The Gedeon branch is therefore, sadly, about to become extinct, and is in any case no longer British. For that reason it is not covered in the present note, though the study of it would certainly repay the research involved. Secondly, there might today be no British branch at all, though possibly a flourishing American one, if Benedict's widow and his sons had not returned to England after his early death in Maryland in 1745.

Benedict was the eighth son - the fourth to survive childhood - of the twelve sons of Ami, great great grandson of Jean Bourdillon who fled to Geneva from France about 1563. It is worth recording that the junior French branch, descended from Benedict's younger brother Jean, is thus more closely related to the British branch than to the senior French branch, which is descended from their uncle Jean-Georges.

Benedict was born on May 11th, 1710, and was baptised in the Church of St. Pierre, Geneva. We know nothing of his early life, though it can be assumed that he received a thorough education on Calvinist principles, since his father and grandfather were teachers in the College founded by Calvin in 1558. When he came to England at the age of twenty-five he was following in the footsteps not only of Gedeon but of their elder brother Jacob, who had arrived in London shortly before Gedeon in 1731. Jacob had been invited by the French Protestant colony in Plymouth - one of many such colonies which established themselves in Protestant countries after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes - to become their pastor, but in the event he was retained by the French colony in London and remained there, highly esteemed at a time when these colonies were being progressively absorbed into the British community, until his death fifty-two years later. In some documents he is referred to as unmarried, but in the authoritative "Note on the Bourdillon Family"

by the late F.B. Bourdillon, from which much of the material in the present note is taken, it is stated that he was married but had no children. In any event he died without issue.

Benedict did not stay long in England. On May 28th, 1737, he married Johanna Gertruy Janssen, a lady of mixed French and Dutch descent who had been born in Amsterdam in 1709. Shortly after his marriage he was ordained as a priest in the Church of England, though still Genevese by nationality. On August 29th, immediately after his ordination, he was instituted as parish priest in the parish of Pilsdon in Dorset, but on October 30th of the same year he and his wife sailed for Maryland, where in August 1739 he was appointed rector of St. Paul's Church, Baltimore. His three sons were all born in Maryland, and there he remained for the rest of his life. He died on January 5th, 1745. On July 23rd, 1739, he and his wife and their son Andrew Theodore, born the previous year, had become British citizens by naturalisation. The second son was born in 1740 and was christened William Benedict. The third son, Thomas Jacob, was born on August 6th, 1742, and the event is referred to in a letter from Benedict to his brother Jacob dated October 20th of that year. It is through Thomas Jacob that the whole of the present British branch of the family is descended.

The reasons which led Benedict to go to Maryland (then still, of course, a British Colony) so soon after his appointment to Pilsdon are not fully known. All that can be said with fair certainty is that both events were connected with his wife's family. He was appointed to Pilsdon by her uncle Sir Theodore Janssen, who had the parish in his gift. Theodore Janssen had come to England in 1680 and had been naturalised in 1685. He had amassed a large fortune, which he eventually lost. He was created a baronet by Queen Anne. His two daughters married Lord Baltimore and Thomas Bladen, who were successive Governors of Maryland. It can only be supposed that through these family connections the opportunity for Benedict to follow his calling in Maryland arose very soon after his appointment to Pilsdon, and that he and his wife opted for the more adventurous life.

Light is thrown on Benedict's circumstances in America, and by inference on his character, by the letter to Jacob which has already been mentioned. This is Benedict's only extant letter. It is written in English, though the mother tongue of the brothers

was of course French. A short postscript was added in French by Johanna Gertruy. It is evident from the affectionate terms both of the letter and the postscript that family bonds remained strong in spite of infrequent communication. This was still more infrequent in the case of Gedeon, of whom Benedict writes "if he be yet alive, desire him to send me an account of the goods I had of him two years ago". He refers cheerfully to his own children, of whom he says "Thanks be to God, if my children are dressed and fed coarsely they are strong and healthy". At the end of the letter he asks Jacob to send news of him to Geneva and to make his excuses to his father for not writing at present. He says he is "continually disturbed by people and other business".

Among other matters of interest in the letter there is an anxious reference to Benedict's younger brother David, who had also emigrated from Geneva and had joined him in Maryland. The problem of finding employment for David was an acute one, as he had been seriously ill and spoke very broken English. Meanwhile he was an added burden on Benedict's already overstrained resources. It emerges incidentally from this part of the letter that the Janssen family had a regular commercial link with Maryland, and this may have contributed towards Benedict's original decision to go there. According to the Note by F.B. Bourdillon, David subsequently went to the West Indies, became a Spanish prisoner in 1744 and on his release from Cuba went to Philadelphia, where he was lost sight of.

Benedict's financial position was at this time bad, owing to the irregular payment of his salary and the difficulty of finding a local market for tobacco, the sale of which was apparently his principal source of income; but the tone of his letter is positive and vigorous, and there is independent testimony of his energy as a parish priest. He was the originator of and principal contributor towards a proposal to build a second church or chapel for the benefit of a community known as the "forest inhabitants". This church, St. Thomas's, became the centre of a separate parish after his death, and in the church records it is stated that "St. Thomas's owes much to the personal interests and influences as well as to the many contributions of the Reverend Benedict Bourdillon".

These facts and records can of course give us no more than a glimpse of the founder of the British branch. All the evidence seems to show, however, that he was a man of courage, adaptability and enterprise.

His widow and the two younger sons did not return to England until nearly eight years after Benedict's death. How they fared in the meanwhile we do not know. Even if his fortunes improved after 1742, he cannot have been at all well off when he died. On the other hand the family had influential connections in Maryland, and there was also the Janssen commercial link. At the time of the letter to Jacob, the Governor of the Colony was Thomas Bladen, whose wife, as we have seen, was Johanna Gertruy's cousin. It is recounted in the letter that the Governor had agreed to be the god-father of young Thomas Jacob, who was named after him.

Johanna Gertruy and the two boys arrived in London on November 25th, 1752, an event which is recorded in the "commonplace books" of both William Benedict and Andrew Theodore. The latter, who was now well into his teens, had already been sent back to England. On their arrival the two younger boys and their mother lodged with their uncle Gedeon, who perhaps already had Andrew Theodore under his roof.

From the time of their arrival in England, if not before, the future of all three boys seems to have been settled. They were to be apprenticed to various trades in London. This decision accorded with Johanna Gertruy's parental and family background. Her father was a merchant of Utrecht and Amsterdam and her family had close links with London, where she spent the rest of her life. She died in 1791. There was a tradition in the family in later years that on the way over from America Thomas Jacob had attracted the attention of no less a person than Lord Howe, future Admiral of the Fleet, who had offered to take the boy into the Navy and "make a man of him". Johanna Gertruy was supposed to have refused through fear of the sea, and Thomas Jacob's grandchildren were incensed at the thought that their grandfather might have been an admiral instead of a hatter if his mother had not taken such a cowardly decision. In fact, the decision seems to have been prompted by hard common sense rather than cowardice. It certainly bore fruit, since all the boys prospered in their trades and lived to a good age. Something is known about the history of each of them.

Andrew Theodore (1738-1808 or early 1809) was apprenticed on December 4th, 1752, to a Mr. Lawes and became a silk merchant. He never married. What we know about him comes mainly from his

commonplace book, which is a bulky little note-book full of miscellaneous entries made almost up to the time of his death. Interspersed with items of general information relating to English history and other subjects (including some of the more sensational executions of the day) are a number of entries dealing with family affairs. The book is thus an invaluable repository of dates and other particulars of events in the family circle. To judge from his glowing reference to George Washington and his much less flattering entries about King George the Third, Andrew Theodore seems to have had pronounced American sympathies, and he may have been a republican at heart.

William Benedict (1740-1817) was apprenticed on March 13th, 1756, to a Mr. Ivory. Later in life he had a shop in Piccadilly and was grocer to the King. Like Andrew Theodore he kept a commonplace book, but his is shorter and less informative. It contains a number of medicinal and other recipes. He married in 1785, rather late in life, and had two sons - Frederick Lionel, born in 1787, and Edward, born in 1790 - as well as three daughters, two of whom died in infancy. Neither of the sons had any children.

Thomas Jacob (1742-1822) was apprenticed on July 22nd, 1757, to a Mr. Eastgate, whose daughter he eventually married. He was a hatter and hosier in Great Russell Street, Covent Garden, and was a member of the Merchant Taylor's Company, of which he became Master in 1802. He left two diaries relating to short periods of his life. The first is of a tour in Holland in 1769, during which he visited his Janssen grandmother in the Hague. Andrew Theodore was with him for part of the time. The diary is written with humour and the whole tour seems to have been convivial as well as instructive. Thomas Jacob greatly admired the "neatness" of Dutch scenery and buildings. The second diary, which is a record of his year of office as Master of the Merchant Taylor's Company, is a more staid affair and is mainly of interest in giving an account of the day to day business of the Company.

Thomas Jacob had two sons, Thomas and Francis, and no daughters. His wife died in 1779, at the age of 28. He was thus a widower for more than half of his life, and this may account for the fact that his elder son Thomas spent much of his childhood with his grandfather Eastgate, who had retired to St. Albans. Thomas

and Francis nevertheless regarded their father with deep affection. The inscription on the memorial tablet which they erected for him in St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden, reads as follows:

"Sacred to the memory of Mr. Thomas Bourdillon, an old and much respected inhabitant of this parish who died August 13th, 1822 in the 80th year of his age. In testimony of his many virtues, among which genuine and unaffected piety held a conspicuous place, and as a small tribute of dutiful and affectionate gratitude for a long and uninterrupted course of parental love and kindness, this tablet was erected by his two sons, Thomas and Francis."

Though the information is fragmentary, we can have a reasonably clear picture of the circumstances of the British Bourdillons during the second half of the eighteenth century. They were a closely knit family, progressively established in London commerce but maintaining links with Holland and Geneva and still very conscious of their origins. According to Andrew Theodore's commonplace book his Uncle Gedeon made repeated trips to Geneva. A Janssen relative, William Janssen, pledged fifty pounds when William Benedict was apprenticed and was the godfather of one of his children. Both William Benedict's sons started life in the hatter and hosier business of their uncle Thomas Jacob, though very little is known about their subsequent careers.

This pattern must have seemed stable enough at the time; but with the passing of Thomas Jacob and the growing up of his son Thomas, forbear of all British Bourdillons living today, the history of the British branch takes a new turn. Thomas was born on July 6th, 1772. As we have seen, he passed much of his childhood with his grandfather Eastgate. He was a reflective man and a scholar, and he spent his long life in the service of the Church of England. Of his four sons who established themselves in different walks of life the eldest was a lawyer, the second an administrator in India, the third a civil servant and the fourth a clergyman.

There was of course no sudden break with the past. Benedict had been ordained in the Church of England less than

two years after his arrival from Geneva. It also appears from contemporary records that his elder brother Jacob, though pastor of the French community in London, had been attracted to the English Church and had even taken English orders. One wonders whether both brothers, first in ^{leaving} Geneva and later in their subsequent careers, had not been partly motivated by a reaction against the rigidity of Calvinist doctrine. However that may be, Thomas's entry into the Church of England was not a new departure. We also know that in 1790 he spent six months in Geneva - the exact dates are recorded in Andrew Theodore's commonplace book; but he paid no subsequent visits, though his stay there gave him a good knowledge of French which lasted throughout his life. It may also be noted that his brother Francis, who kept a diary of a visit to Holland with Thomas and his eldest son, makes no mention of contact with Janssen relations. From Thomas onwards the British branch was unmistakably English, with a leaning towards the professions rather than commerce.

The main facts of Thomas's life are as follows. He went to the Charterhouse School (then in London, though in later years it moved to Surrey), where he rose to be "Captain" or head of the school. On his return from Geneva in 1790 he entered Queen's College, Cambridge. He took a high honours degree in mathematics in 1794, and in January of the following year he was elected a fellow of the College. Later in 1795 he was ordained as a priest in the Church of England, and on October 25th he was elected Fellow and Tutor of Trinity Hall. He carried on the life of a Cambridge University tutor until 1802, when he was married to Anne Ellen Dewar. At about the time of his marriage he went as parish priest to the college living of Fenstanton in Huntingdonshire, (now part of Cambridgeshire). He retained the living for fifty years, though a considerable part of the period was spent elsewhere. He retired in or about 1852 and died at Hastings in March, 1854, in his eighty-second year.

Thomas had ten children, all of whom were born at Fenstanton. His wife, however, suffered from violent attacks of asthma which at times endangered her life. For this reason the family moved in 1823 from the damp air of Fenstanton, and Thomas did not return there until 1840, his wife having died in 1839. The living was left in charge of a curate, and Thomas himself went as curate to a number of parishes in succession; first Ramsgate (1823), then

Wanstead in Essex (1828-9), then Woodford (1830), then Leyton (1835), then Broadstairs (about 1836) and finally Beckenham (1838). In 1829 he was appointed headmaster of Macclesfield Grammar School in Cheshire, but the life did not suit him and he returned to Wanstead after six months' trial.

Two of his sons, Edmund and Francis, wrote short private memoirs. Francis recalls in his memoir that his father had always regarded his early years at Fenstanton, when he was bringing up his family, as the happiest time of his life. Soon after his arrival in the parish he built himself a house, as the existing vicarage was inadequate. From the start he supplemented his means by taking private pupils. According to Francis he was an excellent classical as well as a mathematical scholar. At first he prepared young men for entry to university, but in later years he took younger boys, apparently influenced by the fact that one of his pupils, Henry Stretton by name, had fallen in love with his eldest daughter Anne, whom he eventually married. In one case Thomas had six sons from the same family as pupils. One of these sent his own son to him, declaring that he was the best tutor in England.

Though he must have had private means, Thomas was not affluent. The living at Fenstanton was only a moderate one, and he had a large family to bring up. He went on taking pupils until 1835, when he was over sixty years old. His father-in-law, Captain Dewar of Clapham, had been Captain of an "Indiaman", one of the East India Company's ships which carried the trade between India and England. The captains of these ships frequently made fortunes through "private ventures" which they were allowed to undertake, and it seems that Captain Dewar was no exception; but his daughter did not become rich, either because he lived in rather grand style (as surmised by Francis) or because her affairs were mis-managed by her guardians (as stated by Edmund).

The picture of Thomas which emerges from the memoirs is of a man of simplicity and humanity. He was a sincere churchman, free from bigotry, who conscientiously fulfilled his parish duties in spite of his work with his pupils. His children may have regarded him with some trepidation - at least if we are to judge from Edmund's memoir, which contains the following passage:

"Our father was necessarily much absorbed in his

parochial duties and in work with his pupils; and his study was at all times a sacred place into which no one of the children ever thought of intruding.....for our father was of a nervous temperament and, if disturbed while engaged on a sermon or any other work which required thought or close attention could not easily regain composure."

The memoir goes on to say, however, that in times of relaxation Thomas was full of fun and greatly enjoyed "a game of romps" with his children. Nothing could be more perceptive or affectionate than the surviving letters which he wrote to his eldest son, Thomas, when the latter was away at school at Oakham; and Francis gives us a charming account of his father's excitement, vented absentmindedly on the horse he was driving, when he fetched him from Cambridge and heard of his good progress at Emmanuel College.

Before we pass to the next generation, a word must be said about Thomas's younger brother Francis, who was born in 1773 and died suddenly in 1843, while staying at Fenstanton. He took over his father's business - it was to him that William Benedict's younger son was apprenticed - but soon gave it up. Having no children of his own, he was a much loved uncle to Thomas's family. According to his namesake, he was an old-fashioned Tory, very fierce though extremely kind-hearted. He used to say that a Whig might possibly be an honest man but a Radical never.

Of Thomas's ten children two, Mary and John, died young. They were the third daughter and the third son, born in 1808 and 1813 respectively. They both died of consumption in 1827, when the family were at Ramsgate. The remaining children consisted of three daughters and five sons, three of whom - James, Edmund and Francis - carried on the name into succeeding generations. In the following brief account of the individual children they will be left to the last.

The eldest child was Anne, born in 1803. She was the one who in 1828 married Henry Stretton. She went to live abroad and had a family of three sons and two daughters. She and her family exchanged visits with the family in England. On one occasion

Francis went to stay with the Strettons at an old chateau near Ghent. Anne died in Geneva as a widow in 1862.

The eldest son, Thomas (always known in the family as Tom), was born in 1805. He was called to the bar, married late in life, and retired to Horkesley Hall in Essex. He had no children. The name of his wife, whom he married in 1871 (some years after his retirement) was Selina Carbonnell. His father evidently thought highly of his judgment, and it was on his advice that young Francis was launched as a solicitor - a decision which Francis subsequently reversed by becoming a clergyman. Tom died in 1888 in distressing circumstances. His body was found in the pond in the grounds of Horkesley Hall, and it then came to light that the property was mortgaged beyond its value and that he was insolvent. Considerable sums held by him on behalf of other members of the family were lost.

The second daughter, Sarah, also had no children. She was born in 1806 and did not leave her father till his death. She looked after the house on his return to Fenstanton in 1840. In 1843 she married a widower named William Wright, much older than herself, but they had no house of their own and she continued to live at Fenstanton. He was a retired Bengal civil servant, described by Francis as "a good and kind man, though peculiar". He died about 1850, and Sarah lived on as a widow until 1890. She refused to acquire a settled home and lived in lodgings in various places, mostly by the sea. Francis says that at the time of her death the accumulative cost of storing her possessions far exceeded their value. She was very musical and continued to play the piano as a very old lady, in spite of failing eyesight.

The fourth daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1809 and died childless in 1844. In 1832 she married a man named Peter Mallard, but the marriage was unhappy. According to Francis her husband was unfortunate in business and became a heavy drinker.

The sixth son and youngest child, Robert, was born in 1817. Francis says he was "strange and wayward", and apparently he was a source of anxiety to his parents. His father procured him a commission in the Madras army, though he did very little active duty. He was invalided and retired on a pension, on which he lived for the rest of his life. Part of his retirement was spent in Germany where, according to Francis, he acquired a good knowledge

of German and "translated a large book of philosophy". He died unmarried in 1860.

We now return to James, Edmund and Francis, and first of all to James. He was the sixth child and the second son, born in 1811. Francis in his memoir speaks warmly of him in the following terms:

"He was five years older than me and a great hero in my eyes. He was my teacher in carpentering and boat building. He was a fine manly boy, but not always clear of mischief and scrapes; but he was always truthful and straightforward, as he was to the end of his days".

This is a picture recollected from boyhood, but in later life James amply demonstrated his character and ability. He was educated by his father and at school at Ramsgate. In 1829 he went to Madras as an administrator in the service of the East India Company. This was when his father was at Macclesfield. Francis recalls that he and his father stood at the head of the street watching the coach going off with James in it waving his hand. At the bottom of the street something was the matter and the coach stopped, so they ran down and took a second farewell.

In Madras James was secretary to the board of revenue and in 1834 he became secretary to Government in the departments of revenue and public works. He wrote important reports on the system of public works and land revenue and was instrumental in improving the method of reporting to the central government in India and the government at home. In 1847 he married Anne Fulton, who was from an Ulster family connected with India. In 1861 trouble with his eyesight forced him to retire at a time when he seemed destined for one of the highest posts in the Indian service. He died at Tunbridge Wells in 1883, leaving three sons and three daughters.

Edmund was Thomas's eighth child and fourth son, and was born in 1814. After receiving his education mainly at home he obtained an appointment in the home service of the East India Company, which meant that for the whole of his active career he and his family lived in or near London. In 1843 he married Mary

Cotterill, daughter of the rector of Blakeney in Norfolk. After living successively in Wanstead, Bayswater and Wimbledon, they moved in 1854 to Great Amwell in Hertfordshire. In 1858, the year of the Indian Mutiny, responsibility for the administration of India, previously discharged by the East India Company under the ultimate control of a governmental body known as the India Board, was transferred to the Crown, and Edmund carried on his previous duties under the ^{new} regime. Shortly afterwards he was associated with other residents of his neighbourhood in the founding of Haileybury College in buildings previously used for the training of the Indian Civil Service. His own second son went to Haileybury as a scholar, as did Francis's three sons. In 1867 he had the opportunity, in the words of his memoir, of leaving the India Office on "unusually favourable terms", so he retired and went abroad with his wife and younger daughters. They spent a winter in Coblenz and then moved to Dresden, where his wife died in 1870. The family stayed in Dresden until 1874, when they settled at Poundisford Park in Somerset. Here Edmund remained until 1890 with his second wife, Maria Rolfe of Amwell, whom he married in 1876. He died in 1900. By his first wife he had thirteen children, nine of them girls. Two of his four sons died in infancy.

This catalogue of events can give no insight into Edmund's real character. Unfortunately his memoir does little to remedy the deficiency, though it is factually useful. It was written for the benefit of his children, and the picture of its author which emerges is the stereotype of a Victorian father of a large family.

Francis's memoir is much more revealing. Written towards the end of a long life as a reminiscence for its own sake, it is vague and sometimes inaccurate on dates. On the other hand it has many illuminating touches. It tells us, for instance, that in their younger days he and Edmund were close friends, sharing rooms, sometimes in considerable discomfort, and going on long walking holidays together. The memoir is very religious in tone, and today some of his expression of his religious feelings may seem dated; but there is no doubt of the sincerity and depth of his conviction. He gave dedicated service to the parishes in which he worked after his ordination, being particularly keen on the work of the Church Missionary Society. He wrote a number of short religious books which were widely appreciated in their day. At the same time he was humble in his approach, criticising himself for the shyness which impaired his contact particularly with working class parishioners in his earlier years. He tells a delightful story of his shyness as a boy. He was supposed to be able to sing,

but could not be brought to do so in company until he had a screen put round him, so that he could sing without being seen.

The essential facts of his life are as follows. Born in 1816, he was the fifth son and ninth child. He says in his memoir that he had always been meant for a clergyman, but that when he was about seventeen his eldest brother persuaded his father that he had much better be a lawyer. He was accordingly articled to a solicitor in Lincoln's Inn, with whom he remained for five years, supported by an allowance of £100 a year from his father. After that he set up on his own, and just managed to pay his way for the first year. Religious conviction had, however, been growing strongly in him for some time, and at this point he decided to enter Cambridge University, though considerably above the normal age, with a view to ordination. A timely legacy from a great aunt enabled him to do this without further help from his father. At the beginning of 1842 he entered Emmanuel College, where he was awarded a scholarship. Finding nevertheless that he had too much leeway to make up in his studies to attempt an honours degree, he took an ordinary degree in 1845 and after his ordination went to Fenstanton as his father's curate.

In 1846 he became vicar of St. Mary's Church in Huntingdon. This enabled him to marry Sophy Holland, whom he had known intermittently since his father's days at Beckenham. Sophy's father, Lancelot Holland, had started life in the army but had subsequently made his fortune as a timber contractor. According to Francis he was a man of great erudition and was among other things an astronomer. He was the son of Henry Holland, one of the leading British architects of the later eighteenth century, who was in turn the son-in-law (and business associate) of "Capability Brown", the greatest figure in the history of British landscape gardening. The descendants of Francis can therefore count these illustrious figures among their ancestors.

Francis moved in 1849 to Shipley in Sussex and in 1851 to Runcorn in Cheshire. Here he developed symptoms of what might have been consumption, so in 1853 he resigned the living and spent the following years at Hyeres in the South of France. In 1855 he went to the country parish of Woolbeding in Sussex, where he spent twenty peaceful years bringing up his children. In 1875, at the age of nearly sixty, he accepted the challenge of the much larger and busier parish of St. Mary's, Kemp Town in Brighton, but he only stayed there for two years. After a period in foreign chaplaincies - of which he undertook quite a number at different times - he

went in 1880 to his last parish of Old Warden in Bedfordshire. In 1892, when his wife became ill, they retired to Eastbourne, where she died in November of the same year. He himself died there in 1912 at the age of 96.

Francis had one daughter, who died in childhood, and three sons, apart from one who died in infancy.

II. UP TO THE PRESENT DAY

The second part of this Note is divided into three sections, dealing respectively with the descendants of James, Edmund and Francis.

Descendants of James

James, as we have seen, left three sons and three daughters. The eldest of the three sons, also James, was born in Madras in 1848 and had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service. He rose to be Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and was knighted. He died at Liphook in Hampshire in 1913, where his wife Mary (nee Lewis) survived him for many years. He left a son and two daughters. The son, Tom Lewis (born in 1887), joined the Malayan Civil Service, was commissioned in the King's Royal Rifles in the First World War and was killed on active service in 1917. The two daughters, Dorothy and Margaret ("Meg") remained unmarried and were close friends and companions all their lives. Dorothy was born in 1894, Meg in 1895. They died within a few weeks of each other at the end of 1969. Meg maintained close links with other members of the family, French as well as British, and was a keen student of family history.

The second son of James (senior), was Thomas Fulton (known as Fulton), who was born in Madras in 1849. He returned to India as a coffee planter in 1871 and was subsequently Conservator of Forests in Travancore, where he married in 1892. He had two sons and a daughter (Helen May, born in 1899). He died in 1930 but was predeceased by the elder of his sons, Imbert (born in 1892) who was an officer in the Royal Engineers and was killed on active service in France in 1916. The other son, Francis Henry (known as Frank), also began life as an army officer but resigned his

commission after the First World War and took up farming in Kenya. He had no sons. After his wife's death many years later he went to live with his daughter Jean and her husband Peter Loch on their farm, first in Kenya and latterly in Zimbabwe, where Jean and Peter are actively engaged in the cause of Moral Rearmament. Frank was born in 1896 and died in 1981. After his retirement from active life he devoted himself to a study of the history of the Bourdillon family from its reputed early origins in Franche Comte.

James's third son was Francis Wright (known, like his nephew, as Frank). He was born in Madras in 1851. After a period in India with his brother as a coffee planter he returned to Europe in 1880 and studied art at Newlyn (in Cornwall) and in London and Paris. He was a highly gifted painter, but he gave up the pursuit of painting in order to go back to India in 1893 as a lay missionary. He was ordained in 1895 and married in 1896. When ill health forced him to leave India for the last time he became a parish priest in England. He died in 1924. He had one son, Paul, who died in Persia in 1919 as a Royal Engineer at the age of twenty, and two daughters who are still living. Pernette, the elder daughter, was born in 1897 and has never married. As a professional nurse she saw many years of service in India with the Church Missionary Society. Her sister, born in 1901, is Mrs. Claudine Baber, who has one daughter. Claudine is a Catholic.

With the death of Fulton's son Frank there are now no male descendants of the elder James still bearing the name of Bourdillon. It is therefore left to the descendants of Edmund and Francis to ensure the continuation of the British Branch.

Descendants of Edmund

We have seen that of Edmund's thirteen children four were boys, two of whom died in infancy. The second surviving son, Henry, was born in 1853 and died without issue in 1919. On the other hand the elder son, named Edmund after his father, had a large family.

Edmund junior was the eldest of the thirteen children. He was born in 1844 and educated at Brighton College where his uncle, afterwards Bishop Cotterill, was Principal. In 1862 he went to

South Africa; first to Capetown, where he qualified as a land surveyor, and then to Grahamstown, where his uncle was now bishop. He moved to Bloemfontein in 1871 and was married to Dora Hull in 1883. Between that date and 1903, when he returned to England with his family, he had ten children, four of whom died in infancy. The children born during that period included two daughters who grew up: Mary, born in 1884, who was married to William Clowes and died in 1946, and Dorothy, who married Walter Hett and died in 1980 at the age of 94, leaving one surviving son and two daughters. Edmund's youngest daughter Maud, always known as Jemima, was born in England in 1906 and is still living. He died in Brighton in 1941.

Of his four sons who grew up, three settled at different times in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. The eldest of these was Thomas, born in 1890, who was a farmer by profession. He was for many years manager of de Beers cattle ranch at Bulawayo and for ten years president of the Bulawayo Agricultural Society. In his younger days he was a first class cricketer. He was married in 1925 and his wife is still living. He died in 1961, leaving two daughters and a son. The daughters, Jill (born in 1926) and Rosemary (born in 1935) are both married to farmers in Zimbabwe and both have families. Jill's husband is Ian Keith and they have two sons. Rosemary is married to Richard Rice and they have a daughter and two sons. Thomas's son, also Thomas, was born in 1938 and has been a lecturer at Zimbabwe University since 1977. He is an educationist, and his professional interest in education has brought him recently to Britain on a visit of enquiry. He is married and has three sons, Paul, Anton and Jonathan, who were born respectively in 1964, 1966 and 1972.

The other two sons of the younger Edmund who settled in Zimbabwe are still living there. The elder of these is Theodore, who was born in 1894. He became Chief Engineer of Rhodesia Railways after serving as a railway engineer in the State of Jodhpur in India. He has been married ^wice and has one daughter and two sons, all of whom are married with families. Lynette (born in 1927) is married to Neil Welch and has a daughter and a son. Denis (born in 1931) is a farmer with two sons and a daughter. The sons, born in 1959 and 1961, are called Robert and Timothy. The daughter, born in 1953, is Juliet Margery. Gerard (born in 1934) is a builder and engineer with one son and one daughter. The

son was born in 1964 and is called Mark. The daughter was born in 1969 and was christened Karen Louise.

The third brother to have made his home in Zimbabwe is Victor, born in 1897. From 1922 until 1948 he was in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) in the British Colonial Service. On his retirement he took up farming in Zimbabwe and has remained there ever since. He married in 1940. His wife, Marjorie, is a doctor of medicine who has given many year's service in the treatment of Africans in her country of adoption.

In 1930 Victor was received into the Roman Catholic Church, and his wife is also a Catholic. Two of his children have given their lives to the Church. His eldest daughter Cecily (born in 1941) joined the Order of the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1960, obtained her medical degree at Dublin University in 1968 and is now working as a medical missionary in Nigeria. His eldest son Michael (born in 1942) was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1979. He is a social anthropologist of distinction and is now doing a second spell as lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, after an intervening period at Calabar University in Nigeria.

Apart from Cecily and Michael, Victor's family consists of four sons and a daughter. Peter, born in 1944, is a graduate of Dublin University and is now a teacher in Zimbabwe. He is married and has two daughters; Cheryl (born in 1980) and Ashleigh Clare (born in 1982). Anthony, Peter's twin brother, obtained his doctorate at Oxford in 1975 and is a nuclear physicist now working in Cambridge. Patrick, born in 1946, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and became a doctor of medicine. He was married in 1981. He and his wife, also a doctor, are now in America, where he is Assistant Professor at Ann Arbor University, Michigan. Clare, the second daughter, was born in 1948 and has been a teacher in Zimbabwe and England. She was married in 1981 to Malcolm Underwood, an archivist working in Cambridge, and has a daughter. Bernard, born in 1953, is an electrical engineer who obtained first class honours at Loughborough University and is working with Esso Oil Company at Southampton. He married in 1977 and has a daughter, Gemma, born in 1981.

Theodore and Victor's eldest brother Francis (born in 1893) was the only one of the four brothers in the younger Edmund's family not to go to Southern Rhodesia. As a boy he was trained on

the training ship H.M.S. Conway. He then joined the Merchant Navy and went round the world under sail. He became a midshipman in the Royal Naval Reserve in 1911 and served in the Navy throughout the First World War. He married in 1919 and died in 1976, leaving two sons and a daughter. The elder son, Brian, was born in 1922 and served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945. After the war he pursued a successful commercial career from which he is now retired. He is married but has no children. His sister Margaret, born in 1926, is married to Michael Udale and has a family of two sons and two daughters. His younger brother Ralph (born in 1930) is Consulting Physician to Nobles Hospital in the Isle of Man. In 1975 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He is married and has a son (Andrew James, born in 1970) and a daughter (Alexandra May, born in 1975).

Descendants of Francis

It remains to trace the descendants of Francis, the third son of Thomas of Fenstanton to raise a family. All Francis's three sons have male descendants still carrying the name.

The eldest son was Francis William, who was born in 1852 and died in 1921. After leaving Oxford he was a private tutor, but his marriage to Agnes Watson Smyth in 1882 freed him from the necessity of earning a living. He was a poet and author and a man of wide cultural interests. His most celebrated poem, "The Night has a thousand eyes", has several times been set to music, once by Francis William himself. He was an authority on the old French language (on which he wrote a text-book) and literature. Among other undertakings in this field, he edited and translated the romance of Aucassin and Nicolette. After his death in 1921 the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth acquired and rebound his unique collection of early French works.

He had two sons and one daughter. The elder son, Francis Bernard, was the author of the Note on the Bourdillon Family to which reference has been made in Part I of the present Note. He was born in 1883 and was married in 1910 to Mary Armitage. He was a scholar who worked in the field of international analysis and research. Between the wars he was the first Secretary of the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, and in the Second World War he was a member of the Research Department of the Foreign Office. The study of the history of the Bourdillon

family was a continuous interest which he maintained up to the time of his death in 1970. He and his wife were actively involved in the Moral Rearmament Movement in its early days - an involvement which has been maintained by members of his family, and particularly by his younger daughter Eleanor and her husband John Vickers, up to the present time. Bernard (as he was known) and Mary lived for many years at Headington, Oxford, but ended their lives close to their elder daughter Dorothea and her husband, the Reverend Ian Miller, at their vicarage at Dunchurch in Warwickshire.

Francis Bernard had one son and two daughters. Reference has already been made to the daughters. Dorothea (born in 1912) and her husband now live in retirement in Lincolnshire, close to their teacher son and his family. Eleanor was born in 1926. Her husband is an industrialist and they have two daughters and a son. Francis Bernard's only son John, born in 1914, is a distinguished orthopaedic surgeon who now lives in British Columbia. He is an authority and pioneer in the field of manipulative surgery. His book 'Spinal Manipulation', first published in 1970, has just had its third edition. He has two sons: Peter (born in 1941) and Benedict ("Ben", born in 1959). Peter is a consultant in cardiac physiology to the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith. He is married with three children: Charmian, born in 1968, Paul, born in 1972, and Helena Maud, born in 1974. Ben is a tele-communications engineer.

Francis William's daughter Nicolette (born in 1887) was married late in life to Robin Chatwin and died in 1953. His younger son Robert (known as Robby) was born in 1889 and died in British Columbia in 1971. He was an outstanding research scientist who did much valuable work for the Medical Research Council at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire. His research at Stoke Mandeville during the nineteen forties and fifties covered a wide range, but his work on the treatment of respiratory problems in polyomyelitis is considered to be of special importance. After his retirement he and his wife moved to Canada, where she is still living. They had two sons, the younger of whom (William, known as Bill) has for many years lived unmarried on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, where he is working on a research farm. The elder son, Thomas Duncan (known as Tom) was born in 1924 and met his death climbing in the Alps in 1956. He was a physicist, but he achieved eminence as one of the leading British mountaineers

of his generation. He was a member of the team which made the first successful assault on Mount Everest in 1953. He was married and had one daughter (Nicola, born in 1954) and one son (Simon, born in 1956). Nicola works with a firm of publishers of computer material, and Simon is a computer technologist.

We must now return to Francis William's two brothers: that is, the two other sons of Francis who survived infancy. The elder of these was Gerard, who was born in 1853. After taking his degree at Oxford he was ordained in 1878. In 1882 he left England for Tasmania, where his younger brother Bernard Keene had already been for some time. Both brothers were physically frail and went to Tasmania largely for health reasons. Gerard first went as a school inspector but remained as curate of St. John's Church in Launceston. He spent the summer of 1890 in England with his wife Elizabeth (nee Tarleton), whom he had married in 1885, and their son Gerard, born in 1886. After his return to Tasmania his health broke down and he died there in 1894. A daughter, Beatrice, was born in 1891.

The younger Gerard, after completing his education at Cambridge, entered the Church and served in the First World War as a naval chaplain. He married Cara Evan Thomas in 1917 and died in retirement in 1971. In 1927 he went with his family to Canada, where he remained until 1933. After his return he held in succession the livings of Fownhope and Pembridge in Herefordshire. He had one daughter and three sons. His daughter, Barbara, was born in 1918 and is married to Dr. Weston. The eldest son, Patrick Gerard, was born in 1921 and was killed on military service in 1944. The surviving sons are Mervyn, born in 1924, and Martin, born in 1931. Mervyn was in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in the latter part of the Second World War. He has inherited property in Wales through his mother's family and is Vice Lord Lieutenant of the County of Powys. He is married and has a family of three daughters and a son. These are Katherine (born in 1962), Sara (born in 1964), Patrick (born in 1965) and Lucinda (born in 1968). His brother Martin is a Commander in the Royal Navy. He is also married and has two daughters; Cara (born in 1957) and Emma (born in 1964).

Bernard Keene was born in 1855. He took his degree at Oxford in 1878 and was ordained in 1880, after a short period as

a schoolmaster. He went to Tasmania in the same year with his wife Laura (nee Townsend), whom he had just married. The climate suited him, and he tackled the problems of a parish priest in a strange and still largely undeveloped country with enthusiasm. This is evident from the letters which he wrote to his brother Francis William at the time; but in the later letters there are signs of growing homesickness. He gave up his living and returned to England in 1886. After a few months at home he went to Capetown as vicar of Trinity Church. He died in Capetown in 1888, leaving three children under five years of age.

The eldest child was Bernard Henry, born in 1883. After taking his degree at Oxford he entered the Indian Civil Service. In 1909 he married Violet Billingham. During the First World War he served in Mesopotamia, and after the war he remained there in the administration formed under the British Mandate. In 1929 he went to Ceylon as Colonial Secretary (the second post in the administration, renamed Chief Secretary while he was there). In 1932 he was appointed Governor of Uganda and in 1935 he took up his last post as Governor of Nigeria. In 1940 he was designated Governor-General of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, but the circumstances of the war frustrated his appointment and he remained in Nigeria until 1943. He retired to Midhurst in Sussex and died in 1948. Knighted in 1931, he was created a Grand Commander of St. Michael and St. George in 1937. During the war he was closely concerned in political developments in French Africa, and in this connection he won the personal esteem of General de Gaulle. The latter was in Lagos when his grand-daughter Sally was born there in 1942, and consented to be her god-father in spite of her Protestant baptism.

Sir Bernard's widow died in Oxford in 1979 at the age of 93. She had been a partner of inestimable value to him throughout his career.

Bernard and Violet had three sons and no daughters. The eldest son, Bernard Godwin, was born in 1910. He was in the Colonial Administrative Service, first in Nigeria and later in Palestine, where he was killed in the explosion in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1946. His widow, Joy, lives in Oxford, as does their daughter Sally and her husband Andrew Wright and their small son and daughter. Andrew is on the staff of Radio Oxford.

Sir Bernard's second son (the author of this Note) is Henry Townsend, born in 1913. He is a retired civil servant who worked in the Colonial Office and latterly in the Department of Education and Science. He had the good fortune to be employed on international relations work in both these Departments, and this brought him into close contact with French officials engaged in similar work. His wife, who is Swedish by birth, has one daughter by her previous marriage to a British submarine officer. They have three joint children: Cecilia (born in 1943), Kristina (born in 1945) and Bernard (born in 1948). Cecilia is married to David Ingram, who is in the insurance business, and has a daughter and two sons. Kristina, who took a first class degree in anthropology at Newcastle University and is now teaching in Scunthorpe, also has a family of a girl and two boys. Bernard has no children. He is a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and is a Senior Lecturer at the Chelmer Institute of Higher Education in Chelmsford.

The youngest of Sir Bernard's three sons is Patrick Imbert (known as Imbert), who was born in 1927. He started his career in the Colonial Administrative Service in Nigeria, but after Nigerian Independence he joined the home government and now works for the Ministry of Defence. He is married and has one daughter, Amanda (born in 1965) and one son, Gerard (born in 1968).

Bernard Keene's second child was a daughter named Helen. She was born in 1885 and was married to a military officer, Christopher Birdwood, who served in India and was killed at Gallipoli in the First World War. Helen died in 1951, leaving a son and a daughter who are still living.

Bernard Keene's third and last child was Lancelot Gerard (known as Lance), who was born in 1888, and qualified as a doctor of medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital. He served with conspicuous gallantry in the First World War, being awarded the D.S.O., and M.C. and Bar and the Croix de Guerre. He was six times mentioned in despatches and was recommended for the Victoria Cross. After the war he served as medical officer to the Sudan Boundary Commission. In 1922 he married Sylvia Reiss. He died in 1950 after many years as a general practitioner at Goring-on-Thames in Oxfordshire, interrupted by service as a major and latterly a colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps throughout the Second World War in Britain and abroad.

Lance and Sylvia left three children: Margaret (born in 1923), John (born in 1925) and Annette (born in 1928). Margaret was married in 1950 to Hamilton Ramsay, a member of the Colonial Administrative Service, and died in 1976 leaving a son and a daughter. John is a doctor of medicine who is in general practice in Brackley in Northamptonshire. He has three daughters, Jane Clare (born in 1957), Alexi Beth (born in 1959) and Catherine Grace (born in 1972), and one son, Jonathan, who was born in 1963 and is now studying at Sheffield Polytechnic. Annette is a qualified occupational therapist. She is married to David Steed, who is a Senior Lecturer in Education at Goldsmiths' College, and has two daughters.

H.T. Bowdillon

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