

WATES FAMILY NEWSLETTER

April 2018

A few years ago I circulated some newsletters but I am afraid that ,with other things taking up my time ,the newsletter has fallen by the wayside. I have been keeping a few notes of matters that are included here. The previous newsletters can be accessed on the Wates Family Saga page of my website - <http://www.brian-wates.co.uk/Wates.html>. This page also has a link to a list of websites that I have identified belonging to members of the family. Please let me know of any others to add.

WATES FAMILY SAGA

The latest edition of the Saga is the 4th edition published in 2013. It used to be available to download from the web using Ian Robert's website. However he no longer has a website so we decided it would be more practical to share it directly with those who request a copy. This also ensures it is not generally available to the public, reducing the risk of personal information being misused for identity theft. As attachments to emails can now be quite large we might just as well send a copy, so if anyone would like a copy please apply to me – bawates@globalnet.co.uk or Ian - gianroberts@bell.net.

I have kept adding information to my working copy so I will also send the updates of the immediate family of anyone who requests a copy.

Ian and I are starting work on a next edition so the main purpose of this newsletter is to ask for updates and/or amendments to the information on your immediate families which I would like to have before completing the next edition. I have in mind that there will then be a final edition before I retire from the task, as I am now 75. I am glad to have been able to continue Margaret Pitt's work but it must come to an end, unless anyone else is prepared to take over. With the ever expanding family it is, of course, an impossible task to make a comprehensive record and many branches, particularly female branches where the Wates name is in the distant past, are not represented.

The revised editions since Margaret's original have only been in digital form which tends to get lost and is therefore less likely to get passed down to future generations, unlike the original which many people still have. It would be good if the final edition could be printed so I would like to know if people would be interested, so that I could explore the possibility of this and the cost. Please let me know.

WATES FAMILY GROUP on FACEBOOK

A few years ago this was created by Louise Wates as a bit of a fun thing to see how many members of the family could be got together in the group. The original name was "I'm a Wates, that's W – A – T – E – S"! It has been used to post information about family history and photos. I have attempted to create albums of photos of the ancestors of different branches of the family. These can be accessed from the menu on the left under Photos and then Albums. There is also an outline family tree to identify the branches under Files

There are 210 members of the Group when I write this. One half of these are descendants of Joseph Wates (1823-1909) of which 57 are descended from his grandson Dominic Wates (1891-1952) of India. Some recent additions have been the South African descendants of James William Wates (1867-1955) who emigrated about 1900. He was descended from John Wates (1799-1868) who is also the ancestor of the Wates builders family.

Members of the Group are encouraged to add other members of their immediate families who are not already members of the Group.

PORTRAIT OF JAMES WATES (1807-1891)



These portraits of James and his wife Sarah passed down through his youngest child Edwin Wates to his grand-daughter, Constance Wates, who was born in 1886 and lived to be over 100. Margaret Pitt, who wrote the Wates Family Saga, was in touch with her and may have obtained much of her information about James' family from her. Not having any close relatives she gave the portraits to Margaret. After Margaret's death in 1992 they remained in the possession of her daughter Naomi until Alan Garrett Wates of Tavistock, Devon, a great-grandson of James' eldest son James (1830-1883), agreed to take them and



hold them on behalf of the family. The descendants of James' other children are scattered around the world in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

TRIBUTES TO JOSEPH WATES (1823-1909)

Joseph Wates served the Woolwich Equitable Building Society (later The Woolwich and now part of Barclays Bank) for 38 years from 1863, first as secretary and then a director and chairman of the board of directors. On his retirement in 1901 he was presented with two magnificently framed replicas of resolutions of thanks passed, as to one, by the directors and, as to the other, by the shareholders. These passed down, probably through his son Joseph North Wates, to his grandson George Leslie Wates, my grandfather. They languished in attics and cellars until in 2011 two of the great-grandsons of his son Edward Arthur Wates agreed to take them and display them. Paul Bartholomew of Upper Norwood, South London has the directors' resolution and Stephen Wates of Frimley, Surrey has the shareholders'. Stephen has had his renovated and this is a photo of it.

Part of the wording is;-"This meeting of the shareholders....desire to place on record their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him to the Society during the past 38 years, which in their opinion, have materially assisted in placing the Society in the important position it now occupies amongst the Financial Institutions of the Kingdom...."



WATES FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED IN THE WORLD WARS

Here is a list of people I have identified from the Wates Family Saga as having died as the result of enemy action during the two World Wars with their references which should enable them to be found in the “Saga”. If anyone knows of any others please let me know.

Leonard Charles Wates	baaa db	in action 1915
William John Wates	baak gc	in action 1945
William J. Farrelley (husband of Maude Eliz.Wates)	caa bde	in action 1918
John L Gostwick Wates	dbc cce	shot down over Himalayas 1944
Janet Marshall Wates	dbe acb	in air raid 1940
Harry James Ward	dbe baab	in Japanese POW camp 1943
Charles Leslie Wates	dbe pe	in action as pilot 1917
Augustus Edward Veal	dbf ace	in air raid 1940
Arthur Horlock	dbf gc	in action 1917
Allan Thomson	dbh bbb	from wounds 1918
Jocelyn Tierney Duffy	dbh bre	by Japs 1941
William Charles Wates	dbi be	in action 1917
Maurice Godfrey Wates	dbl gg	in action 1940

DEATHS

I had noted a number of deaths to report but I am just going to mention those of a few people who have been particularly interested in the family history and have made contributions to the “Saga”

Norman Wates (dbeidd) (1922-2013)

A great-grandson of Benjamin Wates (Chapter VII) he wrote a short autobiography including a description of growing up in a log house on a farm in Canada in the 1920s and ‘30s and service with the Canadian army in the Normandy invasion in 1944, where he was seriously wounded. He qualified in Toronto as a plumber and later emigrated to the California, where he was an active freemason.

Ian Grant Davis (dbeibada) (1933-2013)

Another descendant of Benjamin Wates, whose grandson, Harry Ward Davis, emigrated to Australia in 1878. Ian’s father Arthur Davis had written some memoirs which Ian’s brother, Ron, had published as “The Davis Story 1878-1959. Ian was very helpful to me on my visit to Australia in 2010 in making introductions to various members of the Davis family.

John William Duffy (dbhbre) (1924-2017)

A grandson of Martha Hughes, daughter of William Wates (Chapter IX), he lived all his life in St.Merryn in Cornwall where Martha Hughes lived from 1892 after she was widowed. Probably most of the descendants of her 15 children live in the United States and Canada but there were frequent visits to St.Merryn both to Martha and to her family who lived there. John thus kept in touch with many and was a fountain of information about the family. A few years ago he gave me a guided tour of the area pointing out the properties associated with the family.

JON WATES SANDERS – FILMS

Jon Sanders (baakdja) is a grandson of Alice Sanders, daughter of William Wates (Chapter XIV). It was Alice's brothers Edward and Arthur who founded the Wates building company. Jon happened to be a contemporary of mine at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. After a career in the film and theatre industries he started making his own low budget films in conjunction with his actress wife, Anna Mottram. Last year he produced A Change in the Weather. The DVD is available on Amazon. Earlier films were Back to the Garden and Late September. The DVD of the latter is available.

WILL SATCH – OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

William Spencer Satch (baakhdda) is the son of Sally Satch (nee Wates), a granddaughter of Herbert Wates who was a brother of Alice, Edward and Arthur mentioned above. He is a rower and won the bronze in the Men's pairs at the London Olympics in 2012 and the gold when stroking the British team at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. He was awarded an MBE for services to rowing in the 2017 New Year Honours.

GEORGE FREDERICK WATES' BOOKS

George Frederick Wates (1855-1951), son of Joseph Wates and my great-grandfather wrote several books on political and philosophical subjects during the 1920s and early 1930s following his retirement. Some can be bought on Amazon although high prices are asked. It would be interesting to know who has copies. Those I have identified are:-

From World Force to World Heritage

Progress and the Past. A Glance Down the Ages.

The Magic of Commonsense

The Religion of Wise Men

All for the Golden Age: or the Way of Progress

The appeal of Liberalism and the future of the Liberal Party

I have a few spare copies of The Magic of Common Sense which I can send to anyone who would like one.

BASQUE ORIGIN OF WATES FAMILY?

Stephen Wates, referred to above as holding one of the tributes to Joseph Wates, has been pursuing the theory that the family has a Basque origin, derived from a DNA test on his brother showing the Y chromosome as type R1b1 which is particularly high in Northern

Spain,.

He has asked me to include the following:-

"I suspected the name Wates is not native English, as so many are unfamiliar with the spelling. Rather, that it is Anglicised. Early Wates portraits show pale skin, and dark hair, suggesting Spanish (or Jewish) origins. As W is not used in native Spanish words, my suspicion was it was derived from the name Vates. I checked and found that Vates is a indeed Spanish family name, for example, there is Spanish footballer named Raul Vates (Barcelona). The blood test indicating the Male line is of Basque origin, consolidated the theory."

He has found that Basque people tend to have a Rhesus Negative blood type and found out that at least two cousins have this. He wonders whether anyone else knows if they have this blood type. Please contact him direct if you have or are interested in pursuing this line of enquiry. His email address is swates@mobifed.com

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