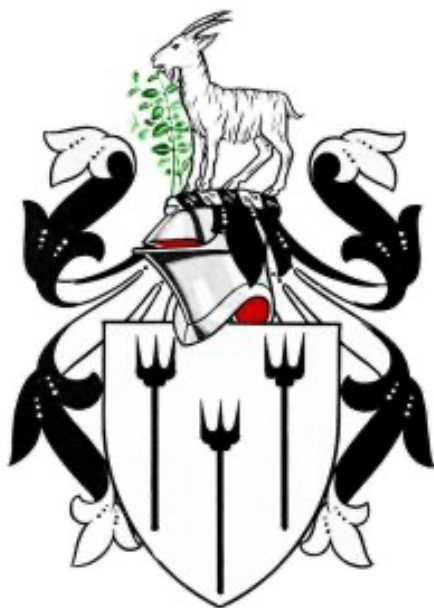


Worthington Family History Society Newsletter



April 2023

Worthington Family History Society

Newsletter

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Remember to visit our website at

www.worthingtonfhs.org

Worthington Family History Society

Newsletter: Edition 6

Welcome to the sixth edition of the WFHS Newsletter. Hopefully we are all nearing the end of the Coronavirus pandemic and returning to a more normal life, although the effect it has had on many nations economies will persist for years.

I am typing this in our property in Switzerland as the weather is warm and wet and not conducive to skiing or any outdoor activity so there is no excuse for further delay in producing this document.

Since the last Newsletter we have heard the sad news of the death of Stuart Worthington last month. Our President, Ian Worthington, has written an excellent valedictory for this edition.

Stuart, himself, had already contributed a fascinating article on the life of Richard Worthington 1667-1736/7 of Pemberton, Lancashire, his time in the army in the West Indies and his friendship with the ninth Earl of Derby.

We also include an update by Ian Worthington on the progress of Volume 2 of the Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century. You will see that six further pedigrees and thir narratives have been completed and are imminently to appear on the WFHS

website. Only seven further pedigrees remain to be finalised but some are relatively complicated.

Jan Worthington, former President of the WFHS, and regular contributor to our newsletters has written about the Worthington Brothers of Hythe who became coachbuilders and who may have been related to her family from Dover. It would be fascinating if a living male descendant of this line could be traced and persuaded to have his yDNA checked to prove or disprove this story.

My aim when starting to become interested in genealogy was to try to trace all the Worthington descendants of my most distant proven ancestor, Thomas Worthington c1700-1771 of Nottingham, and thought that I had largely succeeded. However, whilst browsing on Ancestry's Public member Trees I recently discovered that a third cousin once removed, whose grandfather had emigrated to Australia in the early 1800s hah had four children, one of whom I had not recorded. I eventually managed to make contact with the owner of the tree and, with his help, have added six new, albeit distant, cousins to my tree. I feel that this goes to prove that genealogy is a hobby where one can always find something new and exciting.

Lastly, Hannah has provided details of the forthcoming AGM, which will be held by Zoom, to which all members are invited.

Sidney Worthington
Councillor



Stuart Gibson Worthington 1940-2023

It was a sad day that I learned Stuart had passed away. I had been corresponding with him fairly regularly about the draft narratives and charts being used for Volume/ Part 2 of our book. We had only actually met a couple of times at Worthington FH Society gatherings and got on well socially, although we did often have differing views and interpretations when it came to compiling and examining pedigrees for inclusion in the book!

Stuart was born on 30 October 1940 in Leek, Staffordshire. He was educated at various schools and educational establishments, including Winchester College, Hampshire. But perhaps the most unusual part of his formal education was as the only male student at the Madame de Sallier du Pin residential finishing school for girls in Blois, Loir-et-Cher, in the Loire Valley. His working life was centred around the textile industry and he had been a director of A J Worthington & Co, Leek Ltd., the company his great grandfather had acquired and named in 1839.

Stuart served on the Leek Rural District Council for seven years in the 1960s and 70s and was an activist opposing the building of a reservoir which would have submerged several properties in the district. In 1966 he sought the nomination as parliamentary candidate for the Conservative party in the Leek constituency. In 1976 Stuart became a Justice of the Peace for the county of Stafford and served on the bench for 11 years. In 1978 he became a freeman of the Worshipful Company of Weavers and rose within its ranks to become an upper warden by 1990.

Stuart married Geraldine in 1972 and their daughter Victoria was born a year later. Geraldine's daughters Melanie and Lucinda from her first marriage took on the surname Worthington just a few weeks after the marriage. In recent years Stuart and Geraldine had visited Zambia where Victoria and her family now live. They

themselves had moved countries in 2000 when they went to live in Spain. It was there that Stuart passed away peacefully on 7 March 2023.

Stuart's interest in family history stretches back a long time. As early as 1965 he had written a paper entitled "The Life of an Elizabethan Recusant - Thomas Worthington, SJ, DD, BA" . He was one of the founding members and sponsors of the 17th Century Project which later became the WFHS. His breadth of knowledge about the Worthington families over the last 400 years was impressive as was his general knowledge of matters genealogical. He compiled and or examined many of the pedigrees which appear in Volume 1 of The Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century and was working until just before his death on those pedigrees to appear in Volume 2 of the book. He was also instrumental in the production of the series Registers of Worthington References and worked closely with Bill Worthington to produce the indexes for the eleven volume series. Bill has said of Stuart:

"Stuart was one person that I got to know with the Worthington Society. I asked a Worthington-related question on a genealogy website back in 2005, and he replied with the answer. Then he asked if I might be interested in joining the Society; I was and have been with it ever since. He and I worked on the References portion of the Project. He kept me sane as he was collecting information and I was creating the indices for them which Stuart kept an eagle eye on also. I was always surprised by his depth of knowledge of Worthington ancestors. A friend once said that every time someone like Stuart dies, a library closes."

Our thanks go to Stuart for his valuable contributions to our cause and condolences go to Geraldine, his daughters Victoria, Melanie and Lucinda, to his sister Rosalie Courage and his wider family for their loss.

Ian A Worthington, March 2023

Richard Worthington 1667-1736/7

Stuart G Worthington

It is perhaps fitting that Stuart's article on Richard Worthington of Pemberton and the latter's connection to the Earl of Derby is appearing in this newsletter, the same one which carries an appreciation of Stuart following his recent death. Stuart sent me the draft at the end of 2020 and asked that it be added to the Society archive. Towards the end of last year, after having completed a review of one of the latest pedigrees to go into Volume 2 of "The Worthingtons of the Seventeenth Century", I suggested that we might add it to a future Newsletter and so here it is.

Ian

Richard, the only son of William Worthington of Pemberton, co Lancaster (Chapter 25, the Worthingtons of Ashton in Makerfield and Pemberton, Art 25.16) was baptised at Wigan in 1667. He died in February 1736/7 and was buried in a vault in St Margaret's Church, Westminster, Middlesex on 21 February [16c/17c/18c; Vol 3, 1737.2].

The first mention of him as a soldier was in 1696 at the age of 29 years, when he was appointed Quartermaster in the Honourable James Stanley's Regiment (16th) of Foot. James Stanley was the Second Son of the eighth Earl of Derby, so he did not expect to inherit the title. But the ninth Earl died in 1702, as a result of which the Regiment became known as the Earl of Derby's. On 7 July 1702, a "list of commissions renewed for the Earl of Derby's Regiment of Foot" was published and of the 6 Captains – lieutenants mentioned, the name of Richard Worthington was included: he was again shown as the quartermaster [18C, Vol 2, 02.07.07]. In 1704-5, the 16th Foot was still under the command of the Earl of Derby [16C/17C/18C, Vol 2, 1704.1], but later that year the Earl was succeeded by the Colonel Francis Godfrey. The years Richard served under the Earl proved invaluable to him later in his career.

In 1709, Richard was posted to the West Indies – to Colonel Lillingstone's (38th) Regiment of Foot. Richard was "to be Lieutenant to Major Roke by December 20, 1709". The Leeward Islands under British rule were the British Virgin Islands (Jost Van Dyke, Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Anegada, Anguilla, Saint Kitts, Nevis, Barbuda, Antigua, Redonda and Monserrat. These islands constituted the British Colony of the Leeward Islands, the Governor living on Antigua.

Daniel Parke became Governor in 1706 but he had a rough time throughout his tenure. Parke angered the corrupt planters of Antigua when he refused to accept bribes and more so when he attempted to reorganise the islands defences with the help of slaves, whom the planters preferred to have working in their plantations. On December 7, 1710, the Members of the Assembly flocked to St John's and

together with other settlers, whose passions they inflamed, and gave Parke an ultimatum 'to leave the island [of Antigua] or die'. When he resisted, they murdered him. Of the 70 British regulars who guarded the Governor, 44 were wounded in the bloody exchange of fire [An Empire Divided, by AJ. O'Shaughnessy (2000), page 43]. Richard Worthington himself was wounded in the affray between the militia and the planters.

By January 25 1710-11, Richard's commanding officer was Colonel Jones. [Calendar of State Papers, Colonial, America and West Indies: Volume 25, 1710-1711. British History Online. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/colonial/america-west-indies/vol25/pp370-397>].

By the second half of 1715, Richard was in Lord Irwin's Regiment (16th Foot), stationed in Scotland at Fort William. He was there throughout the Jacobite rebellion [Sheriffmuir 1715 - the Jacobite War in Scotland by Stuart Reid. Frontline Books (an imprint of Pen and Sword Books Ltd, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S10 2AS)]. Richard was still in Lord Irwin's Regiment in 1717: he was aged 50 and still unmarried.

Now we must refer to several dates from the Registers of the Worthington Family:

1. 16C/17C/18C: Vol 3, 1737.1/2. Richard of Queen Square, Westminster... died 17 February 1737: rank: Captain; [Not from Northamptonshire!] Interred 21 February 1737 (in a vault in St Margaret's Church, Westminster); Formerly, Steward to the late (10th) Earl of Derby, "and one of the chief agents for clothing the Army".
2. 18C, Vol 2. 19.06.11. Retired from the Army: gave address as "Queen Square, Westminster" [Also 16C/17C/18C, Vol. 3, 1723.2; 16C/17C/18C, Vol. 3, 1725.2]
3. Lord Derby Queen Square (No. 10) 1706-1724
4. Lord Derby Queen Square (No. 11) 1718-1721
5. Richard Worthington Queen Square (No. 11) 1722-1737

After being promoted to Captain, Richard decided to retire from the Army. Either he applied for a position from his former commanding officer, Lord Derby, or the latter sought Richard out, knowing that he would be dependable and was a "gentleman".



*James Stanley, 10th Earl of Derby by Peter Pelham
(Image is courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery)*

Lord Derby was 3 years older than Richard. The Earl became a Privy Councillor in 1706 and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster at the same time, retaining this latter position until 1710. In 1715, he was appointed to Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, from which he resigned in 1723. He also served as Lord lieutenant of Lancashire from 1702 to 1710 and from 1714 until his death on 1 February 1735-6.

Lord Derby's primary home, of course, was Knowsley (Hall), some 8 miles from Liverpool – but his London home (from 1706 to 1724), was 10, Queen Square, Westminster. But from 1718 to 1721, records show he also occupied No. 11, next door. Not really! By 19 June 1719 at least the Earl's neighbour was Richard Worthington! It seems that Lord Derby stood surety for Richard until 1722, when he (Richard) was able to stand on his own feet; he died as occupier of Queen Square in 1736-7.

In addition to the Derby's, other neighbours in Queen Square were Lord and Lady Harcourt (No. 2, 1729-1737), Lady Somerset (No. 6, 1732-1735), Bishop of Carlisle (No. 7, 1724-1734), Bishop of Norwich (No. 8, 1724-1728); Lord Willoughby de Brooke (No. 9, 1712-1728, Lady W de B 1729), Sir John Humble (No. 12, 1706-1723).

Richard Worthington was 'Steward' for 5 or 6 years – until the Earl left London for Knowsley in 1724-5. The new tenant was the Bishop of Chichester, who died in 1731.

The houses of 10 and 11 Queen Square were identical in style, both containing "in front about 29 feet and in depth 40 feet, three storeys high, with a large hall, two parlours and two staircases on the first floor, three rooms on each of the floors and kitchens, warehouses and other offices underground garrets In the roof, two vaults under the square, a large yard with flatts over part of the several yards from the houses to the Park Wall" and iron railings in front. "Two coach houses on the north side of the stable yard in or near the said square, which coach houses are built under the Chappell there".

The Westminster Rate books of 1634-1900 show that in 1723 Richard paid £37 12s 4d. The same entry continued until 1736. [www.ancestry.co.uk accessed on 26 July 2016 – 16C/17C/18C. Vol. 3. 1723.2].

The Reverend George Smith, B. D. was made Chaplain General to the Army, when he clearly met and befriended Richard, and the warmth of the friendship beyond George's military service when he became the Vicar of Higham, in Kent. In his will of 10 January 1722-3, George left a bequest of a mourning ring to "Richard Worthington of Queen Square, Westminster". George appointed his wife Ann his executor, but requested that "his brother, Joseph, and his friend, Richard Worthington, "assist" his wife with his will, as 'she is little acquainted with the affairs and management of world concerns". George died on 17 April 1725. [16C/

Although retired from the Army, Richard retained close links with the military [16C/17C/18C, Vol. 3. 1719.1, 16C/17C/18C, Vol. 3. 1727.1, 18C, Vol. 2, 27.10.10; 16C/17C/18C, Vol 3 1727.2 and 1728.1]. Further, perhaps Richard drew upon his experience as a subaltern (when fulfilling his role as quartermaster). As “one of the chief Agents for clothing the Army” [16C/17C/ 18C, Vol 3. 1737.2].

Richard was interred on 21 February 1736-7 “from his dwelling house in Queen Square, Westminster, into a vault in St Margaret’s Church [Westminster]”. [16C/17C/18C, Vol 3. 1737.2].

Richard married Helena Worden and they had three children – William, the heir, Joanna and Richard [16C/17C/18C, Vol 3. 1736.1]. When the children were born is not known; neither is the date of marriage. But an indenture made 17 December 1739 for “William Worthington, the son of Richard Worthington, late of Margaret’s Westminster Esqr... of Harrow on the Hill in the County of Middlesex gent aged 15 years or thereabouts...” confirms that the children were teenagers or less [16C/17C/18C, Vol 2. 1739.1]. That William was described as being of “Harrow on the Hill” may or may not mean that he, his mother and his brother lived there: rather he was a pupil of Harrow School.

The first child of Richard and Helena was probably Joanna; she was born, possibly in 1721... and her brother William in 1724 (their brother Richard will have been born later). The Daily Post of 12 September 1737 reported that “On Friday morning, was married by the Rev John Drew, at the Parish Church of St Pattons, in Rood Lane, Mr John Whiting, an eminent surgeon in Nicolas Lane, Lombard Street to Miss Worthington of Queen Square, Westminster and daughter of the late Col [error: should be Capt] deceased, a young lady of 8,000£ fortune” [16C/17C/18C, Vol 3. 1737.4]. If Joanna was that wealthy, then her father Richard clearly became so after leaving the Army!

Richard had a complicated and long will, and he left detailed instructions as to how it should be interpreted [16C/17C/18C, Vol 3. 1736.1] – but it seems it was undated! The only member of his Lancashire family to be remembered in his will was his widowed cousin Hannah Clough [Worthington families of the Seventeenth Century, Vol 1, Pedigree 25 (The Worthingtons of Ashton in Makerfield), Art 25.12] but she was probably the only surviving child of Robert and Sarah: she was left £100.

The Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century Volume/Part 2 Update

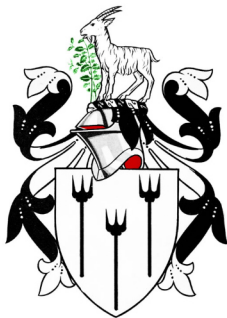
Ian Worthington



I am pleased to be able to report that with the help of Stuart, Heather and Jan, we have completed the following pedigrees: Ropley, R and RA; Dover, D; Connecticut (and Massachusetts), N; and Montgomeryshire, G and GA. Narratives and charts for each of these are ready to be uploaded to the members' area of the website and should be available to read and study by, or shortly after, the time you receive this Newsletter. So please go and have a look.

The completion of this set of five pedigrees leaves just the Cheshire group (about seven in total) to examine and draft. We hope to be able to start that process during the summer, with a view to uploading the completed pedigrees towards the end of the year.

Whilst working on the pedigrees of south eastern England, it became apparent that London, including Middlesex and Surrey, may (in some cases) have been a link between those families who moved from the North West to the South East. Yet a pedigree for London (except Kensington, which was published in Volume 1) was not included in original list of pedigrees to be researched, compiled and examined. It is not certain how many generations or families might be identified but I will make a start on compiling this new pedigree in the coming weeks.



Subscription Renewal

Members are reminded that it is time to renew their subscription to the Society for another year; subscriptions fell due on 1st April. Notices about renewing membership of the Society were sent out to members at the end of March. A big thank you to those who have already responded; your ongoing support of the Society is much appreciated. If you've mislaid the earlier notice, details for renewing your subscription are:

- For members in Europe, Australia and New Zealand the amount due is £32;
- For those living in USA and Canada it is US \$39.00.

To make payment in £ sterling, please make your cheque payable to Worthington Family History Society and send it to Paul Lawrence, 1, Bayfield Place, Orpington, Kent, BR6 7FA, United Kingdom.

Alternatively an electronic payment can be made direct to The Co-operative Bank, Sort Code: 089299, Account Number: 65220074; International Bank Account Number GB66 CPBK 0892 9965 2200 74; Bank Identification Code: CPBK GB22. Please let Paul know if you make a direct payment (email: lpaulvlawrence@aol.com).

For paying in US\$, your cheque should be made payable to Worthington Family History Society; please send it to Larry Rickards, 2601 Woodley Place NW, APT 503, Washington DC 20008-1562, USA.

We do hope you will continue to support the Society by subscribing for a further year and look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Worthington Brothers Coachbuilders of Hythe

By Jan Worthington Dip FHS, FSAG

The parish, village and cinque-port of Hythe lies in the Folkestone area of south Kent 33 miles south east by east of Maidstone and 67 miles from London. This place of great antiquity is noted for the security of its haven and has a long maritime history. Hythe's Saxon name signifies harbour.

Over 25 years ago I published a brief compilation of random records I had found in connection to the Hythe Worthingtons.¹ In the 1980s and 1990s there was not the plethora of genealogical primary sources to be quickly found in computerised genealogical databases as there is today. The cluster of inventive Worthingtons found in Hythe, situated only 10 - 13 miles from Dover, depending on how you travel, always intrigued me. Were they connected to the Worthingtons of Dover?



The earliest known Worthington in Hythe was Joseph. When he married Sarah Steel by licence in the mediaeval St Leonard's Church, Hythe on 23 March 1820 he was described as a bachelor of that parish.² St Leonard's is known as "the church with the bones" and is famous for its ossuary or crypt containing the largest and best preserved collection of ancient human skulls and thigh bones in Britain.

¹ *Coopers & Customs Cutters, Worthingtons of Dover & Related Families 1560 – 1906*, see pp. 233-4.

² *Willis Licence Lists and Michael Gandy Index*.

Christnings in August 1798			Born
31	Harrison	Esther Daughter of Robert & Andrew	19
31	Child	Joseph son of John & Elizabeth Child	17
September			17
1	Biggs	Thomas Tector and Margaret Bayley	17
Twins of Thomas & Jane Biggs			17
2	Duff	Thomas son of James & Mary Duff	17
2	Trimmis	Elizabeth Daughter of Gilbert & Elizabeth	17
2	Worthington	Joseph son of Edward & Elizabeth Worthington	17

Baptism of Joseph Worthington in St Mary the Virgin Dover 1798 (last line)

A Joseph Worthington was born on 15 August 1798 and baptised at Dover St Mary on 2 September 1798, the son of Edward Worthington and his wife Elizabeth, nee Davison; and the grandson of Elias Worthington and his wife Mary, nee Fitch. Both Edward and Elias, who was a shipwright, were Freemen of Dover. Joseph Worthington of Hythe bachelor aged 22 years married Sarah Steel, spinster of Hythe on 23 March 1820. Joseph and Sarah signed with an X witnessed by H Jury and Richard Chamberlain.

Married	Joseph Worthington	of this Parish
and	Sarah Steel	of this Parish
were married in this	Church	by
		Minister
		with Consent of
		this
		Twenty third
		Day of
	March	
		in the Year One thousand eight hundred and
		Twenty
	By me	William Henry Lawford Vicar
This Marriage was solemnized between us	{	Joseph Worthington & his
		Sarah Steel & her mark
In the Presence of	{	H. Jury
		Richard Chamberlain
No. 149.		

Marriage record of Joseph Worthington in St Leonard's Hythe 1820

Joseph's wife Sarah died and was buried in the parish of St Leonard, Hythe on 24 August 1837 aged 39 years. No registration of marriage, death or burial record was found for Joseph in Kent and neither does he appear in the 1841 Census for Hythe or the surrounding area.

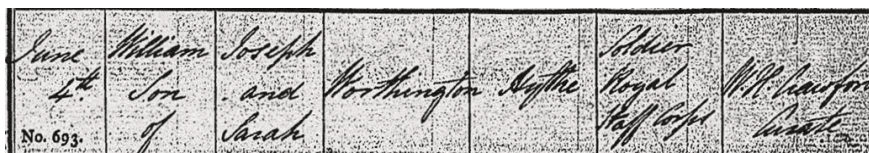
Joseph and Sarah had at least two children who were baptised in St Leonard's Church, Hythe: William born in 1821 and John born about 1826.

John Worthington (c1826-)

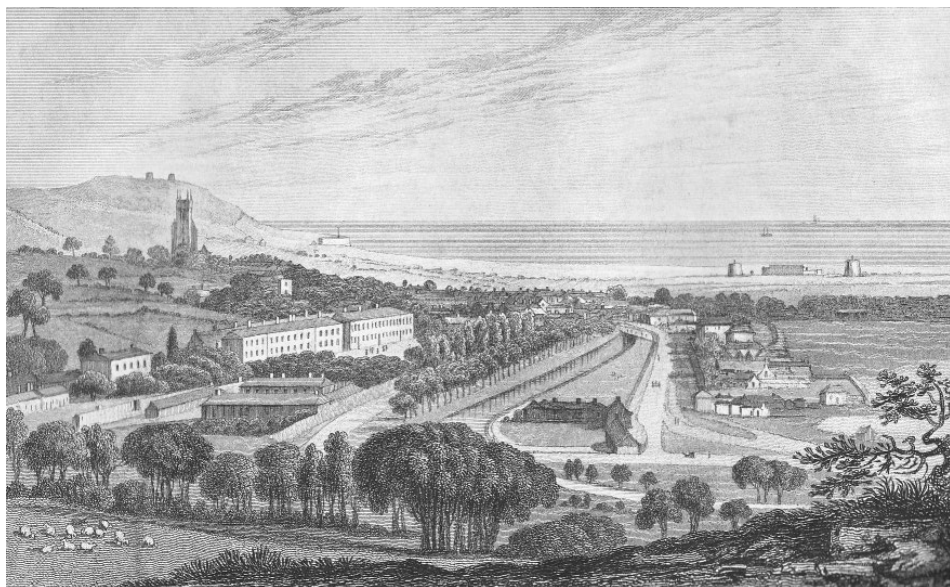
In 1841, when the census was taken on 6 June in Windmill Road, Hythe, John aged 15 years³ was working as an agricultural labourer and living with his mother's unmarried sister, Mary Ann Steel aged 35 of independent means. Also present were her two young illegitimate daughters, Mary aged four years and baby Mercy aged 10 months.

William Worthington (1820-1892)

When William Worthington was baptised on 4 June 1820 in St Leonard's Church, Hythe his father Joseph was a soldier in the Royal Staff Corps. The Royal Staff Corps barracks were permanently stationed at the entrance to the town of Hythe from London Road.⁴ It was responsible for military engineering and employed skilled tradesmen and engineers.



St Leonard's Church, Hythe baptism register 1820



View of Hythe, c.1830 showing the military canal and four Martello towers near the shoreline⁵

In the 1841 Census, William Worthington, an unmarried wheelwright aged 20 years was living at Hardway's End, Hythe with Jesse Wanstall, a carpenter aged 30 and his young family. Next door was William Evenden also a wheelwright.

William was residing in Ivychurch village located on Romney Marsh when he married Blanch (sic) Lucas at Hythe St Leonard after banns on 17 September 1843.⁶ The couple lived in a freehold cottage and garden in Elm Terrace, Hythe⁷ and by 1861 William's business occupation had changed from wheelwright employing one man to a coach builder employing two men and a boy. The couple had at least seven children who were all born in Hythe: Elizabeth, Robert, Jane, Blanch, Louisa, William, Emmeline and Lucy. Their son Robert aged 15⁸ was apprenticed to a coach builder.

In 1871 the family address was The Avenue, Hythe. William was now aged 50 and he and his son Robert aged 25 were coach builders. William, junior, aged 16⁹ was an apprentice coach builder. Daughters Blanche (sic) and Louisa were not listed in the census and young Frederick aged seven years had joined the family.

Twenty years later in 1881 Wililam and Blanche were in their 60's. William was still working and employing eight men and a boy. Only two of their children were living at home at Tanner's Hill in the district of Saltwood, Hythe. Emmeline was unmarried and Frederick aged 17 was the "coach builder's son". Ten years later William, now a retired coachbuilder, and his wife Blanche were in their 70's and living together at *The Stables*, next door to 4 Tanner's Hill Cottages.

³ *Children under 15 years had their ages recorded accurately, while those over 15 were to be rounded down to the nearest five years. Not all enumerators followed this instruction and exact ages may have been recorded.*

⁴ *Samuel Lewis, A Topographical Dictionary of England, Vol. 1, London, 1831.*

⁵ *Ireland's History of Kent.*

⁶ *Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Ref: CCA/U3/282/1/C/1, p.2.*

⁷ *Electoral Rolls 1855, Parish of St Leonard, Hythe, Number of Voter; William Worthington 4252, p.106.*

⁸ *Robert Worthington, born 15 October 1845 and died 19 December 1908.*

⁹ *William Worthington, born 22 November 1854 and died 21 December 1906.*



Wheelrights Shop c1860

William died aged 71 on 12 March 1892 and his tombstone can be found in St Leonard's churchyard.¹⁰ His sons Robert and William, coachbuilders, were the executors of his estate which was valued at £856 5s 8d. According to *Pike's Folkestone, Hythe and Sandgate Directory 1902-3*, widowed 'Mrs Worthington' continued to live in the family home at 4 Tanner's Hill.

In 1911 the census revealed Blanche Worthington had reached the ripe old age of 91 years and had been married for 68 years. Of her nine children five were living and four were deceased. She and her married daughter Emmeline, aged 49 were living together at *The Gables*, North Street, Hythe. In 1912 Blanche Worthington died in Hythe aged 92.

¹⁰ Roy Latham, 73 years, retired gas engineer & great grandson of William Worthington, 18 Admiral's Walk, South Road, Hythe 12 June 1983 correspondence with researcher Kathleen Hollingsbee, Tilmanstone, Kent.

Robert Worthington (1845-1908) of Worthington Brothers coachbuilders

In 1876 Robert, eldest son of William and Blanche Worthington was 35 when he married Emma Page aged 25 in Hythe and the couple went to live in East Street. According to the census taken on 3 April 1881 they had three daughters and the family lived next door to his younger brother William, his wife and child. By 1891 the family had grown to seven children: Lizzie E, Emma M, Laura L, Rosaline H, Kathleen D, Robert L and James R., followed by William W, and twins Rita and Renee who were seven months old in 1901. Emma Worthington was 50 years old when she died in 1906 after giving birth to ten children.



Two years after Emma's death, Robert was in his 64th year and described as "A noted Wesleyan... and senior partner in the firm of Messrs Worthington Brothers, well known coach and motor body builders of Hythe" when he died suddenly on board a motor coach on 19 December 1908. His newspaper death notice reported, "The sad event occurred most suddenly." His son, Leslie Worthington and a friend were already on board when Robert hailed the coach driven by Mr Honey to take him to Folkestone. He appeared to be in good health until Mr Fagg, the conductor noticed Robert was looking unwell and "a bit queer". After tapping his son's shoulder to tell him his father was ill they drove to Dr Bradbury's at Sandgate but Robert was dead when they got there. His death was attributed to heart failure and an inquest was found to be unnecessary. His obituary and photograph, published in the local newspaper,¹¹ revealed a long list of mourners at his funeral including his mother. His coffin was of polished oak with brass fittings and the floral tributes were enormous.

William Worthington, Jnr (1854-1906) of Worthington Brothers coachbuilders

Twenty three year old William Worthington married Mary Ann Austen¹² on 9 April 1878 and their son named Arthur was born 3 February 1879 at Saltwood. He was an organist at the local Wesleyan Church and manager of the Hythe Motor Cab Company before he "joined the forces" as a Private in the 8 Leicester Regiment. The sad news a year later, "reported missing, presumed killed on 3 May 1917" was received by his mother at 23 Cobden Road, Hythe, from the Record Office.¹³

¹¹ *Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate and Cheriton Herald*, 26 December 1908. A photograph of Robert appears above his obituary.

¹² *Mary Ann Austen* born 3 April 1857, London, UK.

¹³ *Herald*, 10 August 1918, p.3.

Their first daughter, Emmeline Nellie was born at Hythe on 5 February 1884 and died on 6 March 1970 at St Mary's Eastbourne. Four years later Mildred Blanch (sic) was born on 28 September 1888 at East Street. She was a school teacher employed by the Kent County Council before marrying a Swayne. Mildred Blanche (sic) Swayne died on 25 March 1949 aged 59 years at 2638 Scott Street, Victoria, BC Canada.

William and Mary Ann also had a son named Donald Worthington who was born on 9 September 1893 and died on 3 June 1975 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone. Donald was a draper before enlisting as a Private in the 2nd London Rifles and Royal Fusiliers, No. 2586; and after serving overseas was awarded a Bronze Medal, star and crown design and Bronze Medal 1914-18 angel design. On 13 July 1922 Donald, a 28 year old bachelor poultry farmer of 23 Cobden Road, Hythe, married Mildred Ethel Elvey, a shop assistant to a linen draper whose father ran a mineral water firm in the parish church of St Barnabas. They had a daughter, June Mildred Worthington who married Brian David Ayling on 2 April 1945 at St Andrew, Buckland by Dover Church. Brian was a bank clerk for the Southern Railway at 377 Folkestone Road, Dover.

By 1939 Donald and Mildred had divorced and Donald Worthington married Evelyn May/Mary Goode in 1941 at Maidstone. When Evelyn died at 19 Cobden Road, Hythe on 1 November 1960 her will mentions several family members. I don't know what became of Mildred, Donald's first wife.

William Worthington died in a railway incident on 7 November 1906 at Saltwood. Administration of his effects worth £987 2s 6d was granted to his widow, Mary Ann Worthington. After his death Mary Ann became a boarding house keeper and there were eight people living in the nine room house at 18 The Avenue, Hythe when the census enumerator called on 2 April 1911. Present were her sons Arthur and Donald; and daughters, Emmeline and Mildred.

Mary Ann Worthington, widow of William, formerly of Woodbine, Tenterden died on 7 March 1925 at 23 Cobden Road, Hythe and was buried in St Leonards Churchyard. The executors of her will were Emmeline Nellie Worthington, her spinster daughter, and her son Donald. She left an estate worth £2307.18 including shares and four houses in Cobden Road to be divided between her son and two daughters.

*St Leonards Churchyard tombstone
for William and Mary Ann Worthington*



Frederick Worthington (1863-1948) of Worthington Brothers coachbuilders

Robert's youngest brother Frederick also became a coach builder and in 1890 he married Florence Emily Day, the daughter of Susannah and Albert Day, a carpenter and previous Mayor of Hythe. The couple went to live in *Shanklin House*, 5 Twiss Villas, Twiss Road, next door to the *Seabrook Hotel* stables in the parish of Newington, Hythe.

In 1901 Frederick and Florence had three children: Olive Florence, Stanley Frederick, and Lena Emma. By 1911 Frederick was also described as a coach painter, motor car and carriage worker. He and his family lived in a house with 8 rooms called *The Corbier* on North Road, Hythe West. His son Stanley born in 1894 was a carpenter and builder and according to a Hythe resident in 1983 "left Hythe many years ago". He married Sybil L Bell in 1923 at Lewisham and they were living in Bromley, Kent in 1939.

Florence Emily Worthington died on 5 May 1912 at Hythe aged 45 years and Frederick did not marry again. In 1939 he was a retired coach builder living at Stade Street, Hythe with his daughter Lena Worthington born 24 September 1898. His birth date was given as 19 June 1863. Living next door at no 78 was his widowed daughter Olive Leonard who was born on 24 September 1891.

Frederick Worthington died on 20 March 1948 aged 84. His two daughters Olive and Lena were the executors of his estate worth £6072 15s 3d. He is buried with his wife Florence in St Peter and St Paul Churchyard, Saltwood, Shepway district of Kent.



Inscription

In Loving Memory
of
FLORENCE EMILY
(NEE DAY)
THE BELOVED WIFE OF
FREDERICK WORTHINGTON "OF HYTHE"
WHO DIED MAY 5TH 1912. AGED 45 YEARS
HEAVEN'S MORNING BREAKS AND EARTH'S VAIN
SHADOWS FLEE: IN LIFE AND DEATH, O LORD.
ABIDE WITH ME.
ALSO OF
FREDERICK WORTHINGTON
WHO DIED MARCH 20TH 1948 AGED 84 YEARS
AND OF THEIR DAUGHTER
OLIVE FLORENCE LEONARD
WHO DIED OCT. 9TH 1964
AGED 73 YEARS.

Also on the reverse

Also
IN MEMORY OF
SYBIL LUCY WORTHINGTON
(NEE BELL)
BORN 4TH JANUARY 1901
DIED 23RD JANUARY 1980
LENA EMMA WORTHINGTON BORN 24TH
SEPTEMBER 1898
DIED 7TH OCTOBER 1984
SISTER OF OLIVE
STANLEY FREDERICK DAY WORTHINGTON BORN
4TH JULY 1894
DIED 19TH APRIL 1985
LOVING HUSBAND OF SYBIL
AND BROTHER OF OLIVE AND LENA



The *Worthington Brothers* Coachbuilders, painters and writers business address was East Street, Hythe according to *Pike's Directory 1902-3*.¹⁴

<u>Established 1847.</u>	<u>Established 1847.</u>	
WORTHINGTON BROS.,		
EAST STREET, HYTHE, KENT.		
CARRIAGES of every <i>Description</i>		Built to Order for Home and Abroad.
New & Second Hand Carriages always on hand.		
REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.		
Carriages Warehoused by the Month or Year. Estimates Given.		

They were first class coachbuilders and built a coach for the Prince of Siam.¹⁵ They also built carts and carriages of all kinds.¹⁶ According to Dr Roger Worthington, great grandson of Frederick Worthington, the Worthington Brothers used local military connections enabling them to build up a very profitable business making custom build carriages for officers of the Raj which they exported all over the Empire including India. One carriage, which remained in England was restored and driven through the town as part of the Hythe Flower Festival in 1951. He also added that, "Another miniature, child-sized carriage built in 1900, remains in the family. This 'toy' carriage was once frequently in use, pulled by a dog, and in recent times it was loaned by the late Lena Worthington to the Stade Street library and museum."¹⁷

Only one Worthington Runabout (GB) 1909-1912 was built, although development continued throughout the period shown. The car was originally powered by an 8hp horizontally-opposed twin engine built in Worthington's workshop, but was replaced by a 8-9hp V-twin J.A.P. The transversely mounted engine drove by two chains to a countershaft, final drive being a belt. It was intended to sell the car at £90 but the company became involved in grandiose plans to build aircraft, and in the end nothing was seen of either aircraft or cars.¹⁸ The Worthington Coach business continue until about the beginning of the First World War when they built an early motor car, described as a Cycle- Car with flat belt drive called the *Worthington Flyer*.¹⁹

In 1983 the Hythe librarian commented "the daughter of Frederick and the widow of one of his nephews are still living in Hythe." In the 1990s Bernard and Joan Worthington opened flats called Worthington Court on land once owned by the Day family.

Postscript: The *Worthington Brothers Collection* contains items relating to Worthington Brothers, a coach building company in Hythe, Kent between 1847 and 1912. It consists of business papers, greeting cards and photographs. The collection was donated on 30 July 1915 by Dr Roger Worthington, great grandson of Frederick Worthington. The material is held at the National Motor Museum Motoring Archives, ref: GB 307 WOR/1, [c1893-1951], 3 items.

¹⁴ Pike's Folkesstone, Hythe and Sandgate Directory 1902-3, p.305.

¹⁵ Now known as Thailand.

¹⁶ Hythe Library 1983.

¹⁷ Roger Worthington, brief article: *Worthington Brothers, coachbuilders in Hythe 1847-1912*.

¹⁸ Photocopy of p.674 from an encyclopaedia of the motor car, think this came from Beaulieu Motor Museum.

¹⁹ A full description of this vehicle and picture was found in *Motor Cycling*, 18 June 1912, p.166 and a copy was obtained from Beaulieu Motor Museum; the description and photo is reproduced in full in *Coopers & Customs Cutters, England, 1997*, pp.233-4.

A CYCLE-CAR WITH FLAT BELT-DRIVE.

First Illustrated Description of the Worthington Duocar.

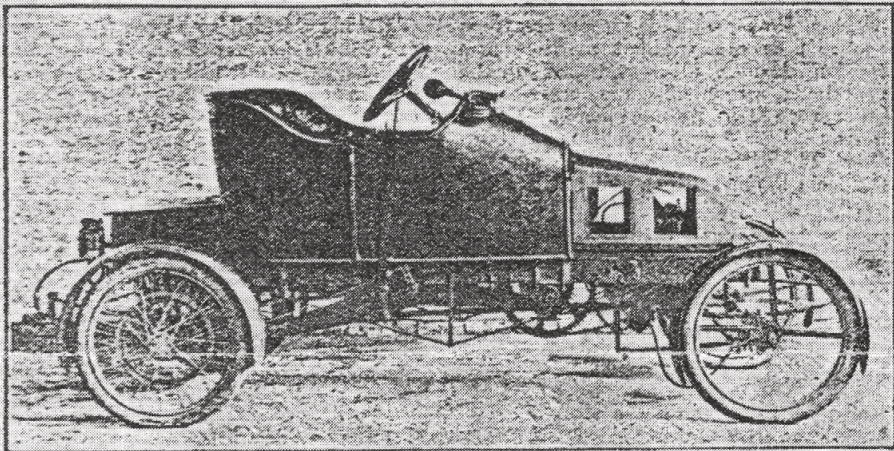
A $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. flat belt running on large pulleys is a feature of the transmission of the Worthington four-wheeled cycle-car, built by Worthington Bros., Ltd., East Street, Hythe, Kent. By means of the system of belt drive and free wheel clutches in the back hubs, the need for a differential is done away with. The machine has gears of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 and 10 to 1, which have been proved in test to be capable of giving a high speed and making the machine a good hill-climber. The engine is an 8 h.p. J.A.P., which is supplied with gas by a J.A.P. automatic carburettor and cooled by a fan.

Lubrication is through an automatic sight feed, and there is an auxiliary hand pump on the dashboard. Transmission is by chain from the engine to the countershaft, and thence by the flat belt mentioned. A hand lever enables

the belt to be tightened when running if required. The clutch is of the multiple-disc type. Steering is by worm and sector, and the 16 in. wheel is mounted on a well-raked pillar. Band brakes on the back hubs are operated by a pedal, while a side lever operates shoe brakes on the back wheels.

The frame of the Worthington cycle-car is of armoured ash, and is carried on three-quarter elliptic springs in front and behind. The two-seater body with scuttle dash gives plenty of leg room, and there is ample accommodation for luggage on the tool locker at the rear. Severe tests have been imposed on the Worthington, and it has survived them successfully.

The weight is approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ cwt., the wheelbase is 8 ft., and the price 95 guineas.



A side view of the Worthington cycle-car. It is fitted with an 8 h.p. J.A.P. engine which is fan-cooled.



Worthington Family History Society AGM

**You are invited to the WFHS Annual
General Meeting which will take
place online**

24th June 2023

1.30pm – Pacific Daylight (California)

9.30pm - UK

10.30pm – Central Europe

25th June 2023

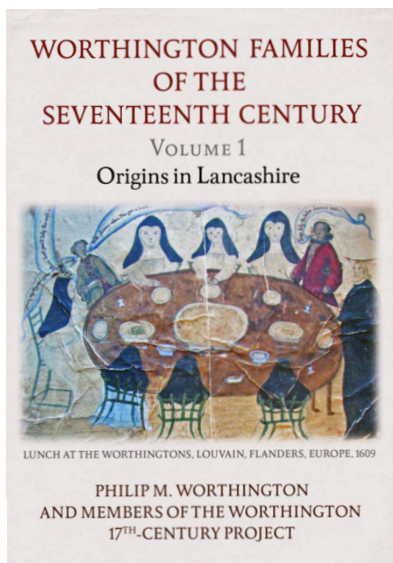
6.30am – Eastern Australia

RSVP to wfhs.contact@gmail.com

Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century, Volume 1

Bursting with Worthington's after more than ten years of research this very worthy, comprehensive and academic reference book, ***Worthington Families of the Seventeenth Century*** is now available directly from the Society.

Members of the 17th Century Project, now the Worthington Family History Society, combed through thousands of original written documents, microfilms, microfiche and online databases to accumulate over 2,000 references to Worthington's from 1560-1730. In addition to the 32 pedigrees there are 76 illustrations.



ISBN 978-78155-799-0

The focus of Volume 1 is mainly on Lancashire and anywhere else in the world where the Worthington ancestry goes back to Lancashire: three lines in Lincolnshire, one in Warwickshire, one in Middlesex and one in Maryland, America. Volume 2 is in progress and will cover the remaining Worthington families. For further information visit the Worthington Family History Society website: www.worthingtonfhs.org

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