

SIMPLY SILLIFANT?

Or Pillifant, Pilliphant, Silliphant, Lillifant,

Marriage of **Kenneth Malcolm SILLIPHANT** to Helen Lillian HART at the First Methodist Episcopal, Camden, New Jersey, USA - 13 February 1937

New records of an interesting nature!

Ireland Griffith's Valuation (1848-1864) for Listowel

William SELIPHANT, occupier, Gerard O'Callaghan, lessor - a house, office and yard

UK Land Tax Redemption, 1798: Holsworthy

Proprietor: Arscott Bickford, Esquire

Occupier: **Geo. SELIPHANT**

National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

Thomas John SULLIFANT

Published and edited by: Kirsty Gray, Calne, Wiltshire, England
E-mail: sillifant@one-name.org



New Sillifant discoveries... and from my line!

I know ... it is very sad to get excited when locating the graves of Sillifant ancestors. But, when you have been researching this long, it is rare to find a churchyard which has not previously been discovered and thoroughly searched. But after the June family gathering, I borrowed a detailed Devon street map from the bed and breakfast owners in Clawton and found many **nonconformist chapels** strewn across the landscape. And so, on Sunday morning (in the midst of lots of church services, surprisingly!), my Audi travelled down roads that perhaps were not designed for normal road vehicles and I stumbled across **Stowford Meadow Baptist Chapel**...



... and was thrilled to find not one, not even just two, but **three Sillifant gravestones** in the small churchyard. Not only that, but they belong to my own Sillifant tree. William died in 1923 aged 67 and his wife Jane in 1930, aged 72. Most of their nine children seem to marry and move away from Holsworthy with just two of his sons remaining in the area.



Both Ernest and Frederick married, most probably in the **Baptist Church in Halwell**, though neither of them had children and Ernest Richard died in Tavistock Hospital in 1937 as a result of an accident.



Are you a post-war Baby Boomer?

Were you born at Winsford Cottage Hospital at Halwill Junction?

By Peter Sillifant, Dawlish, Devon, England

After spending some thirty years successfully touring the UK in search of a decent wage that would pay off a mortgage, I returned to Devon thirteen years ago and started looking at my roots. That is to say my history, for I have but a few hair roots.

My Mum often told the story of my birth amidst the snow of 1947 and how she indulged in snow ball fights whilst waiting for me to make an appearance. At the time, she and my Dad lived at [Cholwill Farm, Grimscott](#), just down the road from the Village Hall we met in for the recent gathering of Sillifants.



Grimscott is in Cornwall and, since my Dad was born just inside Cornwall at Thursdon near Lower Tamar Lake, I am proud to be Cornish. However, my Mum was born at Clawton near Holsworthy and the powers that ruled these matters at the time, decided I would also be born across the border at the Winsford Cottage Hospital just by the railway line at Halwill Junction, some fifteen miles away. [So am I Cornish or a Devonian?](#) I am proud to be both.

A couple of years ago, I noticed that the Winsford Trust had been set up to rescue the Grade Two Listed Hospital and that they were organising an Open Day. I went along, not knowing what to expect. However, it was one of those occasions when the hair on your neck starts twitching and you develop a small tear in your eye.

The hospital was designed by a celebrated architect from the Arts and Crafts period, Charles Voisey, and opened in 1900. It had separate male, female and children's wards with a couple or three beds in each. There was even an operating theatre! Full details can be seen at <http://www.winsfordtrust.org.uk/>.

The hospital had many different uses in its time ending with a mixed reputation as a place for older infirm folk. However, after the Second World War, someone decided it could be used as a Maternity Unit. There was easy access by train from West and North Devon so all the mainly country folk from a wide area could be brought in for the usual two or three week confinement.

I asked where I was likely to have been born and was shown the consulting room where this historic event is believed to have occurred. I asked for more. Were there any [admission records](#) available? Would you believe it.... they had a facsimile of records up to about 1950 and there I was:

2-3-47 Mrs Jane Elizabeth Sillifant Cholwill Grimscott Launcells left 15-3-47
after 'satisfactory' Midwifery

Neither me nor my date of birth are mentioned but, at least, I was 'satisfactory'. I also found my sister and some cousins, as well as some other locals known to me as a child.

I suggested to the Trust's Chairman that this would be of interest to [Devon Family History Society](#) and others, but with so much detail being available about people still living, this is clearly a Data Protection minefield.

However, if you were born there between 1946 and 1950, why not visit and ask whether or not these records are still available for you to view.

The original concept of a [cottage hospital](#) was a small rural building having several beds. The advantage of having such a hospital in villages was the provision of care which avoided long journeys to county or voluntary hospitals and the familiarity the local physician might have with their patient, that may affect their treatment.

The second Sillifant gathering

Following the success of the first family gathering back in 2010, Sillifants congregated once more in June this year at Launcells Parish Hall in Grimscott. Carefully selecting the date so as not to clash with the Holsworthy Rally, many more local name bearers were able to attend the event this time round.

Following an introduction to **'The Past, The Present and The Future of the Sillifant surname study'**, Janet Few described the motivations for emigration from Devon from 1830 to 1900 in her fascinating talk **'Faith, Fish, Farm or Family'**, with many Devon surnames including Braund and our own Sillifant name featuring in her tales.

The lunch break enabled much discussion about our families, as well as the opportunity to see the displays and digitised records, share stories and try to identify ancestors in various photographs. Various raffle prizes were donated for the event with Family Tree Magazine kindly providing a subscription to their monthly magazine and FindMyPast, a year's subscription to their website. The proud winners, **Freda Hockin** and **Karen Sillifant** are pictured, below right.



Many Sillifant descendants travelled from **far afield** although this time, all within the United Kingdom. In the absence of a professional newspaper photographer, the 'team photograph' was less organised than in 2010. However, it certainly serves as a reminder of all those who attended.





The founder members are proud to announce the launch of the '[Society for One-Place Studies](#)', a 'not-for-profit' organisation for individuals and societies with an interest in family history and local history.

The Society has used the websites of John Palmer and Alex Coles' websites as the foundation for this new organisation. The aims of the Society are to [encourage and assist](#) those involved in one-place studies and to advance the education of the general public in these types of studies. The newly designed website shares good practice, ideas and methodology, promoting the research principles and problem solving techniques required in historical and genealogical research on a particular locality.

A [truly global organisation](#) from the outset, the Committee members are situated around the world from New Zealand to England and the USA and in the first two weeks since its announcement, the Society has over fifty enthusiastic members who represent studies in eight different countries.

New: Society for One-Place Studies

The cost of membership to the Society is [just £10 per annum](#) with the option of registering your place of interest for a further (one-off) £10 fee per study. This can be a road, hamlet, village, townwhatever! The Society provides an online study profile and a dedicated email address for registered studies and a plethora of resources including a fascinating quarterly newsletter in the Members' area of the website. We have many other developments in the pipeline to expand the service we offer to our members.

So, what are you waiting for? Take a look at the website and if you are interested, join!



Pioneers – Part 3

But was it Sellivant, Sillivant, Suillevant, Swillivant, ...or Silliman?

Or all of them and more.....!

By Beryl Young, Brisbane, Australia

In this edition, we will take a look at *The Life and Times of Benjamin Silliman (senior)*. Benjamin Douglas Silliman was born of Gold Selleck and Mary (nee NOYES, formerly FISH) SILLIMAN on 8 August 1779. The statue of Benjamin in front of Yale's Sterling Chemistry Laboratory was featured in Volume 27.



Although this statue's plaque and current location on Science Hill honour Benjamin Silliman (senior) as a **pioneering Professor of Chemistry and Natural History**, Benjamin is equally remembered for his passion for the visual arts. In addition to helping found the School of Medicine and the Sheffield Scientific School, Silliman brokered Yale's acquisition of the collection of paintings by John Trumbull (his brother-in-law who was experiencing poverty) in 1832, thereby creating America's first university art gallery, which he curated until his death in 1864.

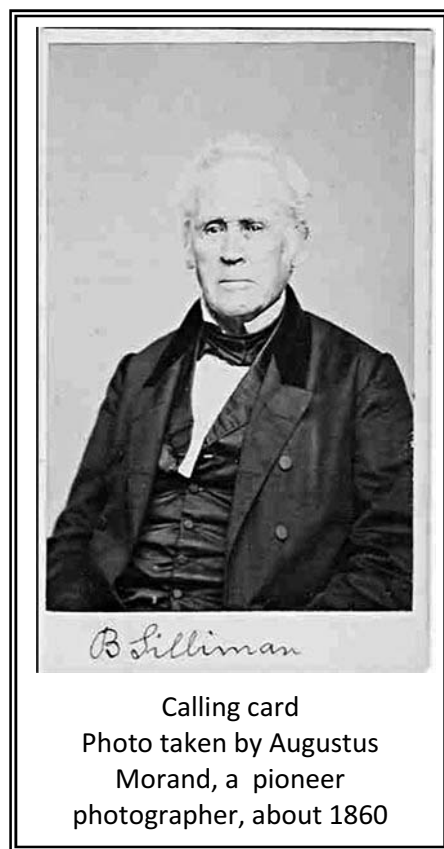
The portly **eight-foot bronze figure** of Silliman is the first sculptural work by Yale School of the Fine Arts director John Ferguson Weir, a well-known painter of industrial scenes who learned to work in three dimensions specifically for this project.

Set high in the ceiling of the rotunda of the magnificent Library of Congress at Washington, the eye is attracted to the name of 'Silliman' on a tablet there, with other great American names. The memorial is in honour of Dr. Benjamin Silliman, **'distinguished Scientist of Yale College, and founder of Silliman's Journal'**.

Benjamin Silliman deemed slavery an 'enormous evil' but also favoured colonisation of free African Americans in Liberia, serving as a board member of the Connecticut Colonization Society between 1828 and 1835. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and was also appointed one of the corporate members of the National Academy of Sciences by the United States Congress.

Silliman College, one of Yale's residential colleges which opened in 1940, is named after Benjamin. He was primarily responsible for the creation of the Yale Medical School in 1813, as well as the Peabody Museum and the Yale Art Gallery. Silliman also played a leading role in organising the Sheffield Scientific School in 1847, an event that marked the dawn of professional scientific education in the United States.

Benjamin Silliman's **passport** was issued on 29 June 1848. His second trip abroad followed forty-five years after his first voyage: a gap which witnessed a transformation of American science and technology. He had played an important role in that change by founding the *American Journal of Science* in 1818. Since his journal became a conduit for the transatlantic flow of scientific ideas, Benjamin Silliman was well known to Europeans by this. He moved easily among the famous scientists of the era, including Charles Lyell, Adolphe Brongniart, Francois-Jules Pictet, Justus Liebig and Alexander von Humboldt. After a few days in Paris, he reported that 'among the men of science in that city we met with only a solitary instance of cool manners.'



Calling card
Photo taken by Augustus
Morand, a pioneer
photographer, about 1860

During the six months he was abroad, he took **his young son Benjamin** with him; they frequently visited botanical and zoological gardens, and private collections of specimens. Though he examined some chemical and physical apparatus, in line with his own interests he focused on **mineralogy, geology, palaeontology and botany**. He was perhaps most impressed by the 'immense and unrivalled treasures' of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, where he revelled in the 200,000 specimens of extinct and extant animals. But even in the modest Sicilian city of Catania, Silliman appreciated the mineralogical and geological collections of its museum of natural history.

For all his scientific orientation, the ostensible purpose for Silliman's visit was to see the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London, with its largely technological exhibits.

This Silliman house, below left, was built in 1807 and once stood at 28 Hillhouse Avenue in New Haven. In 1871, part of the house was moved to 87 Trumbull Street and other parts were distributed to other locations around the city. Since 1920, the house has been owned by Yale University and is currently used by the Department of Economics.

Benjamin Silliman died on 24 November 1864 at New Haven, Connecticut and is buried in Grove Street Cemetery (see right).



Benjamin Silliman (junior) was born 4 December 1816 in New Haven, Connecticut, to Benjamin Silliman and his wife Harriet Trumbull. He married Susan FORBES in 1840 and they had children:

- **Susan Forbes SILLIMAN** born 1841, married Arthur William WRIGHT. Children: Susan, Arthur and Dorothy
- **Alice Trumbull SILLIMAN** born 1844, married William R. BELKNAP. Children: Alice, William, Eleanor, Mary, Christine
- **Benjamin III SILLIMAN** born 1849 in Kentucky, married Frances WILD. Children: Benjamin and Alfred. He was a lawyer.
- **Edith SILLIMAN** born 1851, died 1866
- **Mabel McLellan SILLIMAN** married Robert KELLY. Children: Robert, William, Trumbull, Mabel, Faith and Eleanor. Robert Kelly was an architect.
- **Eleanor Root SILLIMAN** married William A. Rogers, a prominent banker and industrialist. Eleanor attended Yale Art School. Children: William, Alice and John Alden
- **Elmer B. SILLIMAN** born 1856. It appears he did not marry

Benjamin graduated from Yale with a Bachelor of Arts in 1837 and a Master of Arts in 1840, remaining there as assistant to his father in Chemistry from 1837-46, as **Professor of Applied Chemistry** from 1846 to 1853. He assisted his father in setting up a chemical laboratory in 1842, out of which grew the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. He taught medical chemistry and toxicology at the **University of Louisville, Kentucky**, from 1849 to 1854. He then succeeded his father in the Chair of Chemistry at Yale, which he held until 1885. Read more about Benjamin Silliman (junior) in the final part of *Pioneers...*

Eidelweis Sillifant

In recent months, a great number of South African provincial records have been added to the [FamilySearch website](#). Some members of Beryl's Sillifant line are known to have travelled to this region but I was doubtful that any new indexes and images would include individuals from our one-name study. So, I was pleasantly surprised to find four interesting references, one from the [Dutch Reformed Church Registers](#) and three [Natal Province Civil Marriages](#):

Search Results from Historical Records
1-20 of 23 results for Name: **sillifant**, Country: **South Africa**

Number of results to show: 20 50 75

Name	Events	Relationships	Preview
Walter Sillifant South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers, 1660-1970	birth: 1897 residence: 29 November 1929 Wynberg marriage: 29 November 1929 Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa	spouse: Magdalena Aletta Francis Smit	
Eidelweis Sillifant South Africa, Natal Province, Civil Marriages, 1845-1955	birth: 1926 marriage: 21 August 1948 Durban, Natal, South Africa	spouse: Edgar William Monk	
Maynard Joseph Sillifant South Africa, Natal Province, Civil Marriages, 1845-1955	birth: 1932 marriage: 12 March 1954 Durban, Natal, South Africa	spouse: Zilla Young	
Frederick Phillifant South Africa, Natal Province, Civil Marriages, 1845-1955	birth: 1870 marriage: 31 March 1903 Durban, Natal, South Africa	spouse: Emma Jane Warne	
Joyce M Sullaphen South Africa, Natal Province, Civil Marriages, 1845-1955	birth: 1933 marriage: 5 January 1935 Sydenham, Durban, Natal, South Africa	spouse: George B David	
Joseph Sullaphen	birth: 1940	spouse: Dorcas Danna	

Walter Sillifant, Maynard Joseph Sillifant and Frederick Phillifant were folk already known in our studies but **Eidelweis Sillifant** was most certainly a new addition! Full of excitement, I opened the digital image of Eidelweis Sillifant's marriage to Edgar William Monk on 21 August 1948:

(1) Date of Marriage	(2) Full Names of Persons Married	(3) Age	(4) Country of Birth Province, Place	(5) Personal Status	(6) Occupation	(7) Residence at Time of Marriage	(8) Banns or Special Marriage License	(9) Consent by Whom Given	(10) With or without Antenuptial Contract	(11) REMARKS
21st August 1948	EDGAR MONK.	34	Cape Province	Bachelor	Radiographer	34 Hythe Road, Durban.				
	EIDELWEIS SILLIFANT. Amended to correspond with Birth Entry 3717/35 Johannesburg	22	Transvaal	Spinster	Nil	34 Hythe Road, Durban.	Special Marriage licence No. 162641.		Without	

This Marriage was solemnized by me on this
the 21st day of August 1948 G.B. BEATTIE
in the presence of the undersigned witnesses:—
1. H.C. Foster.
2. J.M. Toll.
Marriage Officer.

This Marriage was contracted by us
E. W. MONK.
E. SILLIFANT.

EIDELWEISS SILLIFANT.

There appeared to be some **discrepancy in the spelling** of her surname and unfortunately, the father's name does not seem to be noted on marriage documents in South Africa. However, an interesting addition has been made to the record stating 'amended to correspond with Birth Entry 5717/25 Johannesburg'. Clicking back to the previous image, the name is written as per the box out: **EDELWEISS SILFHANT**. But, who is she?

After the amended marriage certificate, the following image shows an affidavit written by Helena Foster, the mother of Eidelweis, which begins:

In about the year 1924, whilst still a minor, I had intercourse with one Charles Sillifant as result of which I became pregnant and on the 3rd December 1925 I gave birth to a daughter and according to her birth certificate her name is EIDELWEIS SILLIFANT.

Helena Foster goes on to say that she informed her daughter 'as soon as she was able to understand, that her name was **EDIE FOSTER**.' The affidavit is dated 30 March 1949 and other affidavits made by Eidelweis and her husband refer to the fact that Edgar William Monk has been **asked by his employer** to produce his marriage certificate and his wife's birth certificate. It was at this point that Eidelweis Sillifant 'realised' that her name had been misspelt on their marriage certificate. Her mother states:

The only explanation I can give as to the incorrect spelling of my daughter's Christian and surname is that I had severed my association with her father over 23 years ago, and I had forgotten the correct spelling of his unusual surname. Although I knew I had a copy of her birth certificate I was unable to find it and could not therefore verify the spelling of her names.

....The story of our Sillifant research, really!

And of course it goes without saying, that this illustrious Charles Sillifant belongs to Beryl! Charles' birth was registered in 1895 with his full name stated as **Charles Alfred Sillifant**, eldest son of Alfred and Christina (nee MIDGLEY) SILLIFANT. Later in life, he added his mother's maiden name of Midgley and referred to himself as Charles Alfred Midgley Sillifant. He married three times:

1. Hermina Elizabeth SWART
2. Violet ROBERTS
3. Elizabeth Frances Sophia REED (nee MILLS)

...and had **eight previously known children** by his first two wives. The other two Sillifant references on the FamilySearch South African indexes are Walter Sillifant, Charles' brother and Maynard Joseph Sillifant, Charles' son by his second wife, Violet.

I sincerely hope that more South African records are made available via this website as, at present, although we know about the descendants of these lines, there is **very little documentation online** to gain further detail in terms of baptisms, marriages and burials, now that **Ancestry24** is no more.

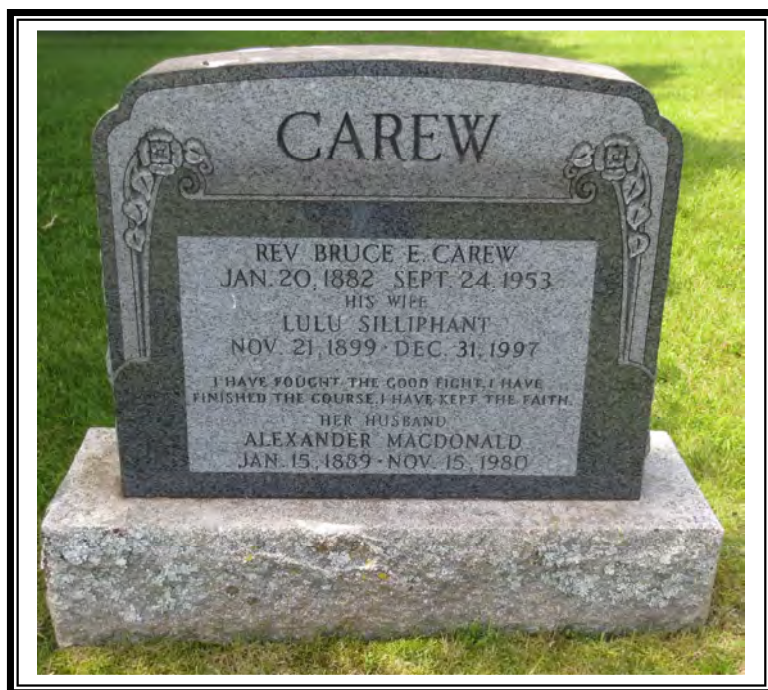
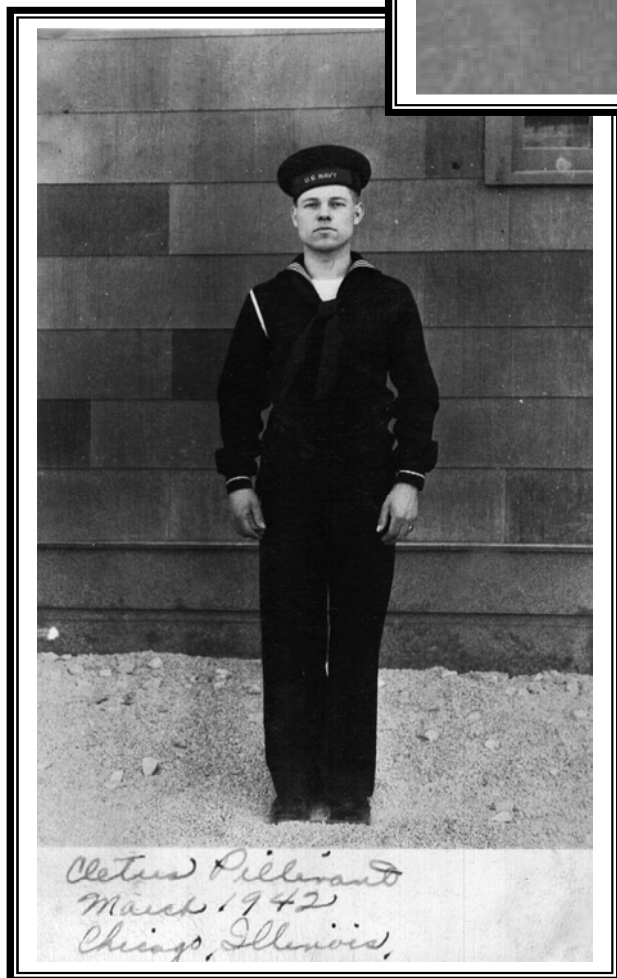
The Sillifant/Pillifant family album

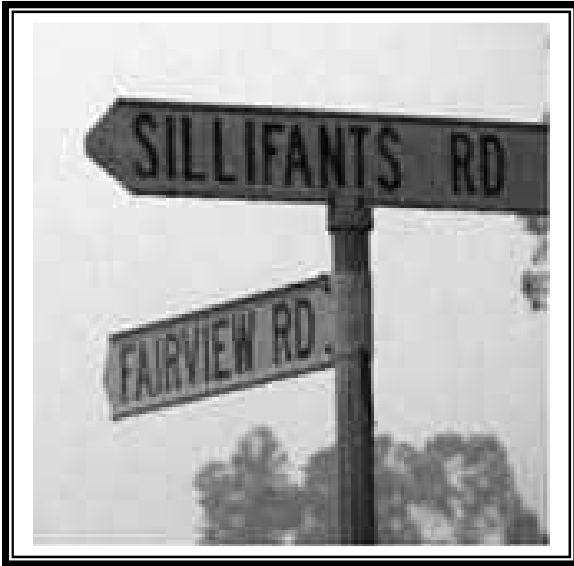


Above, Henry H. McLeod and **Anna May McLeod (nee SILLIPHANT)**, 1890s

Left, **Cletus Dale (Bud) PILLIVANT**,
born 1922 Ohio, son of George and Laura (nee
WOLFE) PILLIVANT

Below, the grave of **Lulu SILLIPHANT**, wife of Rev.
Bruce E. Carew, at Hunter River Cemetery, PEI

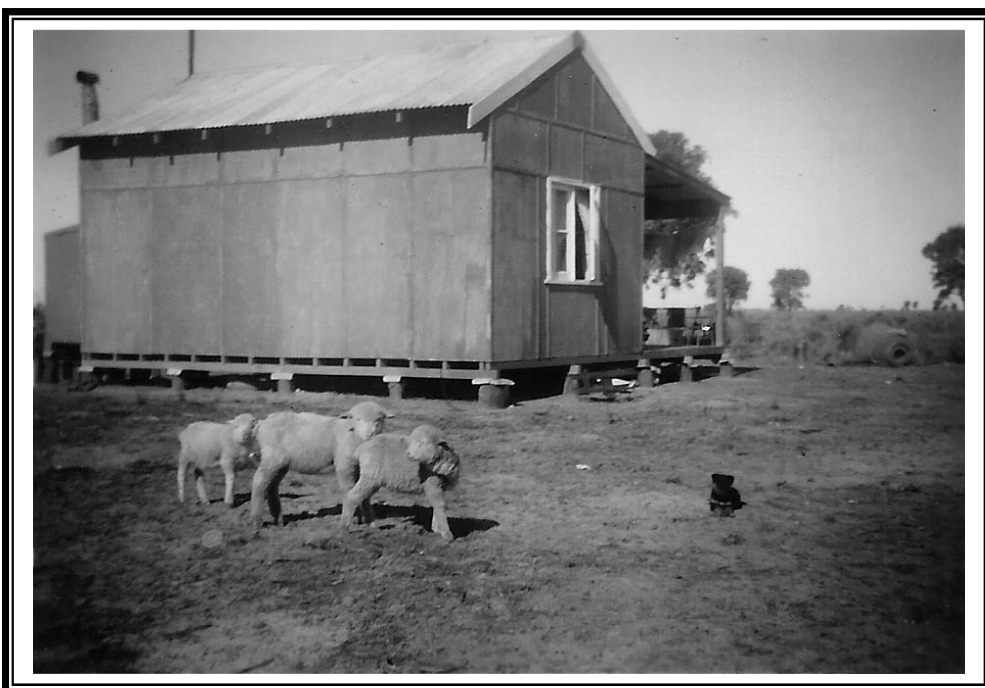




Left, **Sillifants Road**, Cattle Creek, New South Wales, Australia

<http://www.street-directory.com.au/nsw/cattle-creek/71-sillifants-road>

Below, a photograph labelled 'The Three Hobos' by Alice Sillifant. She states 'when working with sheep, any clothing will do'. In the photograph are Jack, Alice and a very young, Gordon Sillifant, taken in the early 1950s



Right: After the war, Gordon's parents, Alice and Jack Sillifant, bought acres of land not far from **Quirindi**. They built their own house, began to keep sheep and continued to farm there for many, many years. It is believed that the homestead was called '**Ardrossan**', a name chosen by Alice as she was of Scottish descent.

A-Z of Victorian Occupations

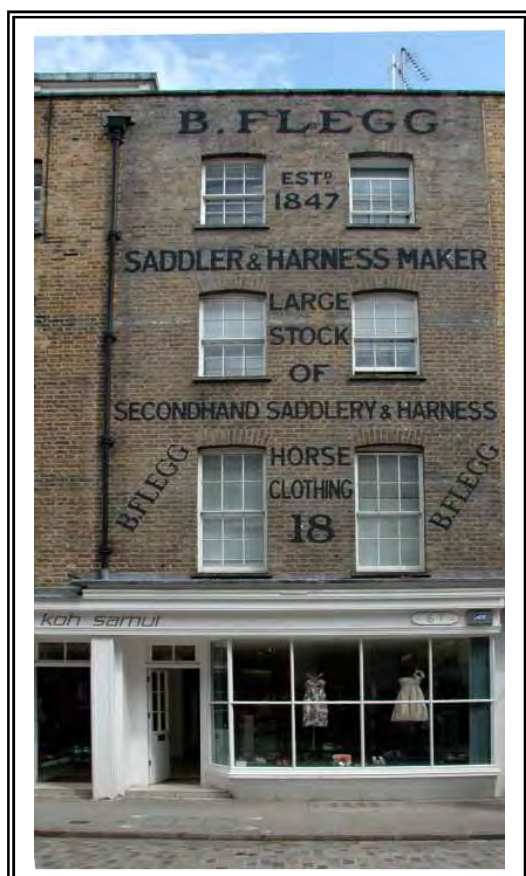
Part 5: E for ephippiarius

Ephippiarius is a term used in Victorian times to describe someone who was skilled in making saddles. Horses were an essential part of economic and social life in this era and provided a huge market for manufacturers in rural and town locations.

The working horse was the chief means of power on most farms and in most cities, and in total there were around 3.3 million horses in late Victorian Britain. Since the nineteenth century, Walsall has been considered as the world centre of the saddlery trade though many very small rural communities had their own **saddler and ironmonger**. Black saddlers made cart and carriage saddlery and harness with black leather and brown saddlers made riding saddles.

John Sillifant of Moreton Hampstead was noted in the **1822 Pigots Directory** as a 'saddler, ironmonger and agent' at Fore Street in the village and the Board of Stamps: Apprentice Books (The National Archives, IR 1/71) show Wm Hall apprenticed to **John Sillifant Junr** in 1803. At this time, John was nearly 60 years old and was most likely seeking an apprentice to become the next saddler in the village of Moreton Hampstead.

2 April: 1803 21 John Sillifant Junr, Moretonhampstead: C. of d. Saddler	Wm Hall
5 d. 1803 22 Josias Gabsley, Stokenham: C. of d. Butcher	John Luscombe



Above left, B. Flegg, **Saddle & Harness Maker**, 18 Monmouth Street, London WC2

Photograph and text, George P. Landow

<http://www.victorianweb.org/art/architecture/commercial/1.html>

Above right, from framed photograph. Judging from the costume of the lady at the back, it would appear to date from around 1890-1900

Too many Williams, too many Georges, too many Johns and too many Samuels

The Sillifant families are certainly not renowned for their originality when it comes to naming their children - in fact, my own tree includes William and Jane Sillifant who **named two of their children, William**. They both survive and are seen together on one nineteenth century census!

Beryl toiled over one branch of her tree for many years believing it was her William, only to find out it wasn't.... And then there have been **numerous John, Samuel and George Sillifants** over the centuries. Some just don't seem to link into any of the main trees at present, including George born 1755 who married Sarah HALFYARD on 8 February 1785 in Heavitree. The record of their marriage (below) gives no clue as to who George was aside from being 'of the parish of Heavitree' but since when? You did not have to reside for long in a parish to be referred to as 'of this parish' on parish records.

George Sillifant		of [this] Parish of Heavitree	No. 179
and Sarah Halfyard		of [this]	
Same Parish		were	
Married in this [Church] by [Banns]			
this 8 th Day of February in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred			
and 2 nd by me John Simons [Curate]			
This Marriage was		George Sillifant	
solemnized between Us		the Mark of Sarah Halfyard	
In the		the Mark of Robt Halfyard	
Presence of		Henry Chapman	

George and Sarah's first child was named **WILLIAM** and was baptised 4 December 1785 Heavitree. He was apprenticed to Steven Richardson of Heavitree in 1797 at aged 11, with his name being recorded as **SILLEFANT**.

The couple had a further four children and very little is known about them, aside from their baptisms in Heavitree:

2. **John** bapt. 8 June 1788 Heavitree
3. **Elizabeth** bapt. 19 September 1790 Heavitree
4. **George** bapt. April 1793 Heavitree and buried 17 October 1823 St Thomas, Exeter
5. **Sarah** bapt. 30 August 1795 Heavitree, married James HEATH 19 April 1819 St Mary Steps, Exeter and had six children: William James, Caroline, Sarah Sillifant, John Sillifant, Richard Ley and Mary Jane.

Sarah (nee Halfyard) died 23 September 1839, aged 82. In 1841, **George SILLIPHANT** was residing at Ducks Almshouses, Heavitree aged 87 (see below) and is noted as an agricultural labourer. I sincerely hope he wasn't still working at 87! He is **buried in Heavitree**, 12 August 1842 aged 87.

George Silliphant	87	12 Aug 1842
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But where does George fit into the **Sillifant family jigsaw puzzle**? And what happened to John and Elizabeth?

Ed.

From the Cradle to the Grave

The first reference to **George SELLIFANT** is in Barnstaple in 1828 when he is referred to as a sojourner on his marriage to Mary Ann Edgcombe, also a sojourner within the parish, see below. Married by Banns, the witnesses to their marriage provide no assistance in our quest to discover, **who is this George Sellifant?** Where was he from?

GEORGE SELLIFANT

Born: 1802

Married: Mary Ann EDGCOMBE,
30 September 1828 Barnstaple
Died: 1832, buried 11 July 1832
aged 30, Plymouth St Andrew

On 25 July 1832 at Plymouth St Andrew, George and Mary Ann baptise their daughter, **Margaret Edgcombe SULLIVANT**. George's occupation is noted as 'mason' and the family abode as 'Richmond Street'.

Unfortunately, not four years later, **George SULLIFANT** is noted in the burial register at Plymouth St Andrew, a pauper, buried 11 July 1832 aged 30 years, see below.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Barnstaple
in the County of Devon in the Year 1828

George Sellifant sojourner of in this Parish
Bachelor
and Mary Ann Edgcombe sojourner of in this Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of
this Thirtieth Day of
September in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty Eight
By me H. Gamble, Minister
This Marriage was solemnized between us { George Sellifant
Mary Ann Edgcombe her wife.
In the Presence of { John Kimball
John Topham
No. 649.

George Sullifant Plymouth 11 years 30 John Topham
No. 1262. P Pauper

It would appear that the widowed Mary Ann Sillifant remarries later in 1832, to Joseph Burton, a mariner. The record states 'see declaration at the end of the Book' but I have yet to discover what this declaration says! Sadly, Mary loses her daughter, Margaret Edgcombe Sillifant, in the March quarter of 1839 in a parish within the Holsworthy Registration District. But just who was **her first husband, George** - where does he fit into our trees?

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Stoke Newington
in the County of Devon in the Year 1832

Joseph Burton of this Parish
Mariner
and Mary Ann Sillifant of this Parish
Widow
were married in this Church by Banns
this Twenty Second Day of
October in the Year one thousand eight hundred and thirty Two
By me John Topham, Minister
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Joseph Burton
Mary Ann Sillifant her wife.
In the Presence of { Richard Topham
Richard Topham
No. 364

The village of Halwill

"HALWELL, a small village in a hilly district, 7 miles SE by E of Holsworthy, has in its parish 319 souls and 3426 acres of land including **Stronds, Upcott, Stowford, Landhill, Foxhole**, and other scattered farms. **Sir Wm. Molesworth** is lord of the manor, and owner of great part of the soil. The Church has a tower and five bells. The *rectory* valued in KB at £12. 3s. 9d. and in 1831 at £210 is in the patronage of the Lord Chancellor, and incumbency of the Rev. Ambrose Stapelton of East Budleigh. The glebe is 125 acres, and the Parsonage is a good residence, built in 1849, at the cost of £600" [From White's *Devonshire Directory* (1850)]. The name 'Halwill' is given by Peskett in his *Guide to the Parish and Non-Parochial Registers of Devon and Cornwall 1538-1837*.



The front of the Halwill Station building in the 1980s, exact date not known.



The village now has a much larger population (619 in 1999 compared to 434 in 1901) and so, the old **school** (photographed above) has been replaced by a new one at Halwill Junction.

Left, **St Peter and St James** Church, Halwill



The Sillifant Y-DNA project

I am delighted to inform you that the Y-DNA project is now underway with one key objective: to prove or disprove the link between the 'Dennis and Petronella' line, my line, Beryl's and Nicole's line, in the absence of documentary evidence. '**Sillifant Central**' appears to be the parish of **Little Torrington** in the mid-1600s and unfortunately, there is an enormous gap in the parish registers right when we need records of baptism and marriage.

Already, **Peter Sillifant** of Dawlish (K) and **George Sillifant** of London (Ontario) (B) have returned their tests to FamilyTreeDNA and now we await the return of the kit on the Dennis and Petronella line to see if they match! If you are a male Sillifant or know a male Sillifant willing to take a test, please get in touch!

Help needed....

As the years roll by and more and more journals have been produced, it is becoming increasingly challenging to find **new people, new records and new places** to write about. 'We' really need your help. The journal has - for some time now - been written by Beryl and I, with some photographic additions and an occasional article from another subscriber. This is the 28th volume of *Simply Sillifant?* and the beginning of the **tenth year of publication**. In order to continue, we need your contributions or this could be the last year of production.

Please look at the **old photo albums** in the cupboard, on the shelf, in the loft (attic) and/or consider writing a snippet about a family member, story from your childhood, article about a place where the Sillifants lived in the past, or even currently..... all contributions gratefully received and do not worry about spelling, grammar etc. So, long as you have the content, the Editor can work on the rest.



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[SILLIFANT and variant spellings](#)

Subscribers:

- (1) Beryl Young, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- (2) Glenn Silliphant, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
- (3) Philip Smith, Gurnee, Illinois, USA
- (4) George Sillifant, London, Ontario, Canada
- (5) Freda Hockin, Bude, Cornwall, England
- (6) David Sillifant, Camborne, Cornwall, England
- (7) Ian Leach, London, Ontario, Canada
- (8) Rosemary Shadrick, Bideford, Devon, England
- (9) Margaret Freeman, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England
- (10) Nicole Metzger, Auckland, New Zealand
- (11) Wendy Essery, Leominster, Massachusetts, USA
- (12) Georgina Edwards, Crediton, Devon, England
- (13) Sue Maunder, Wimborne, Dorset, England
- (14) Karen Sillifant, Margate, Kent, England
- (15) Diane Waddington, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, England
- (16) Richard Smith, Eastleigh, Hampshire, England
- (17) Linda Pullen, Winchester, Hampshire, England
- (18) Gerrie Bews, Taunton, Somerset, England
- (19) Terry Sillifant, Kilkhampton, Cornwall, England
- (20) Ronald Brooks, Harrow, Middlesex, England
- (21) Jenifer Bird, Swindon, Wiltshire, England
- (22) William Allin, Cowley, Oxfordshire, England
- (23) Jenny Shobbrook, Holsworthy, Devon, England
- (24) Jean Sillifant, Macclesfield, Cheshire, England
- (25) Violet Conolly, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, England
- (26) Win Scott, Timmins, Ontario, Canada
- (27) Peter Sillifant, Dawlish, Devon, England
- (28) Merv Sillifant, Holsworthy, Devon, England