

# A History of the Blessig Family

## Descendants of P.J Blessig II and Caroline Blessig.

By his wife Catharine Caroline, P.J. Blessig II had the following children:



Emily and Louis Bahr. 1877.

### **1. Emily Louisa Blessig:**

born 1853 at West Derby, died 1931 Worthing. She married in 1877 at St. Mary's Church, West Derby, **Louis F. Bahr**, of Birks House, Gateacre, who was b. 1841 in the State of Hanover and d.1916 at Perrysfield House, near Tandridge, Surrey. He was a merchant in Liverpool, and was German Consul there for many years. Emily and Louis Bahr purchased a house called Rockfield, Wavertree, and lived there, with a break of a few years when they rented houses at Wallasey, until 1906, when they moved to Surrey.

Children:

#### **(i) Caroline Louisa Sophia Bahr**

Born 1880 Wavertree. She married at Allerton in 1901, **Hermann Lange**, a merchant of Bremen; he was born in 1867 and died in 1945 at Bremen. Children:

(a) **Dora P. S. Lange**, b.1903; married in 1931, **Dr H. Janssen**, Solicitor & Notary in Bremen.

(b) **Lily J. P. Lange**, b.1904; married in 1949, **Norbert Bellstedt** wool merchant in Bremen.

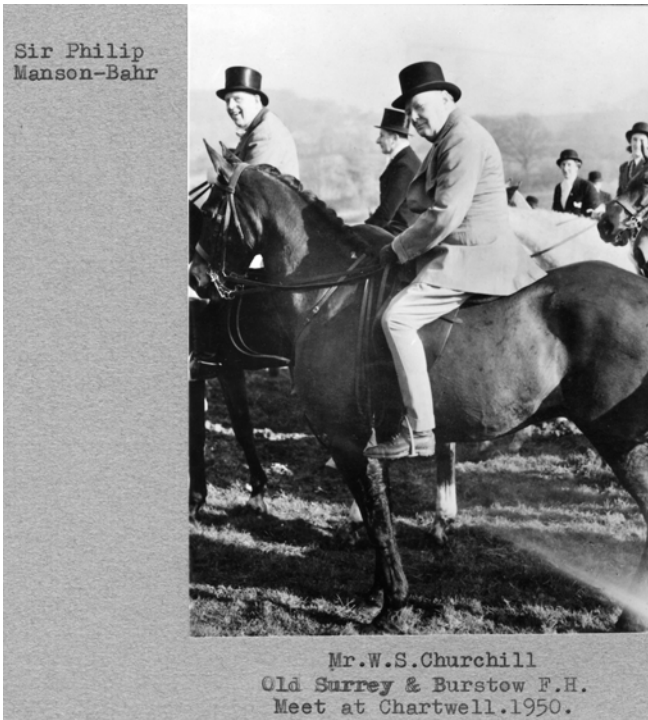
(c) **Dr Louis P. A. Lange**, Solicitor & Notary in Bremen, b.1905; married in 1932, **Amelie Finke**; children: **Dietrich** b.1934, **Andrea** b.1936, **Thomas** b.1939, and **Emily Maria** b. 1949.

(d) **Marie L.F. Lange**, b.1915; married in 1947, **Dr (Med.) Jurgen Daerr**; children: **Eberhard** b.1951, **Cornelia** b. 1953, **Beate Andrea** b.1954.

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## (ii) Sir Philip Henry Manson-Bahr CMG, DSO, MA, MD, FBCP

Born 1881 at Wavertree. Consulting Physician in Tropical Diseases,



who has held many high appointments under the Colonial Office, at the London School of Tropical Medicine, and at London Hospitals. Served as Major RAMC in 1914-18 Wars. Knighted in 1941. He married (I) in London 1909, **Edith Margaret**, daughter of **Sir Patrick Manson** GCMG, FES; she was born in 1879 and died 1948.

Children:

(a) **Patricia Emily Manson-Bahr**, b.1910; married in 1931, **Hugh Greville Spencely**, Architect; children:

**Janet Mary** b.1932, **Hugh David** b.1936, **John Despenser** b.1939, **Sally Catherine** b. 1942.

(b) **Philip Edmund Clinton Manson-Bahr MD**, b.1911.

Specialist Physician in Colonial Medical Service, East Africa and Fiji. Served as Lt. Col. RAMC in 1939-4-5 War; married in 1943, **Joan McInnes**; children: **Elisabeth Joan** b. 1943, **Philip Gordon Patrick** b. 1946.

(c) **Elizabeth Mary Manson -Bahr**, b.1913; married in 1939, **Brian Reeves**, FRCS, Consulting E.N.T. Surgeon; served as Major RAMC in 1939-4-5 War; children: **Philippa Susan** b. 1940, **Anne** 1945.

(d) **David Hugh Manson-Bahr MB**, b.1916. Died 1941 at Nairobi.

(e) **Mary Manson-Bahr**, b.1921. London Hospital Registered Nurse from 1944; Health Visitor & Social Worker from 1954.

Sir Philip Manson-Bahr married (II) at Tandridge in 1950, **Edith Mary (Molly) Grossmith**.

## (iii) Sophie Catharine Bahr

Born 1887 Wavertree; she married in 1919, **Frederic W. Tompson**, electrical engineer, b.1886. Both died in 1941 at Limpsfield, Surrey. Son: **Rev. Frederic Philip Tompson MA**, b.1921. Curate of Sevenoaks 1945-48; Staff Worker Children's Special Mission from 1948.

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## ***Bahr family: additional notes.***

L.F. Bahr came to Liverpool in 1871, where he was partner in the firm of Anthony & Bernard Schroeder & Co, merchants and brokers, Queen insurance Buildings, Dale St. From April 1872 to October 1874 he resided at Dudlow Cottage, Wavertree, and from then until 1877 at Birks House, Gateacre. He was appointed German Vice Consul at Liverpool 12.1.1879, and Consul from 29.6.1883 until 1.5.1906; he became a British subject on 13.7.1877.

## **Manson-Bahr**

**Philip Edmund Clinton Manson-Bahr** b. 5-5-1911 at Rockfield, Wavertree; Rugby School 1924-29, VIth and Shooting VIII. Trinity College, Cambridge MD; London Hospital 1931-35; house physician; pathological assistant, medical unit 1935-39; Colonial Medical Service from 1939, and war service 1959-46 with 1st East African Field Ambulance, and as Medical Advisor to East Africa Command, in Abyssinia and Kenya; Lieut. Col. & Medical Specialist, from 1948 was at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva, Fiji, and then returned to Kenya; from 1962 Professor of Tropical Med. at New Orleans Hospital, USA.

**David Hugh Manson-Bahr** \* 9-5.1916 London; Rugby School 1929-33; VIth. and XV; Trinity College, Cambridge, MB. B.ch. + Kenya 27.8.1941.

## **Spencely**

**Janet Mary Spencely** \* 1932: MB, BSc. London Hospital; anaesthetist at children's' hospital; m. Westerham 9.7.1960, **Sidney Alfred Ferris**. Son of **A. Ferris**, Burton-on-Trent. physicist, London. Son: **Andrew Manson Ferris** \* 1961.

**Hugh David Spencely**. \* 1936; Rugby School & Cambridge University; architect, Minoprio & Spencely, London; m. Swindon 4.10.1963, **Janis Nurden**, daughter of **L.E. Nurden**, of Swindon, Wilts.

**John Despenser Spencely** \* 1939; Edinburgh University, studying architecture.

**Sally Catherine Spencely** \* 1934; Edinburgh University.

## **Reeves.**

**Philippa Susan Spencely** \* 1940; secretary in London.

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## 2. *Sophia Julia Blessig*

Born 1855 at West Derby, died in 1958 at Gannow Hill, near Oswestry. She married in 1874 at St. Mary's Ch, West Derby, **Theodore Heyder**, who in 1915 assumed his mother's family name of **St. George**.



He was born in 1844 at Frankfort, died in 1925 at Allerton. He came from Paris to Liverpool in 1869, and after a few years in partnership there with his elder brother George as Commission Merchant, he entered the firm of Blessig, Braun & Co, in which he became a partner in 1887, and Head of the Firm from 1902 to 1924. His residences in Liverpool were: Eaton Cottage, West Derby, until 1881, Elm House, Wavertree, until 1898, and Stonehouse, Allerton, until 1925. His widow resided thereafter at Gannow Hill near Oswestry.

Children:

### (i) **George Philip St. George**

Born 1876 West Derby, died 1946 near Stoke Prior, Herefordshire. He was a partner in Blessig, Braun & Co. 1901 to 1924; served in R.A. 1916-18; married in 1917 **Dorothy Margaret Platt**; Children:

(a) **Barbara St. George**, b.1918; served in WAAF 1940-45; married in 1948 at Johannesburg, SA, **William Lazenby**; children: **Michael William** b.1949, **Roger John** b.1950.

(b) **Margaret St. George**, b.1921; served in WLA 1940-45. Farms in Shropshire.

### (ii) **Ida Caroline St. George**

Born 1877 West Derby. Committee Member for many years of the Robert Jones & Dame Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen. Lives at Oswestry.

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## (iii) Theodora St. George

Born 1878 West Derby. She married in 1909 at Allerton, **Frederick Harrison**, merchant, who was b.1873 and d.1949 at Liverpool; he was Captain in Liverpool Scottish Bn. 1914-18 War; children:

- (a) **Vivian Harrison**, b.1911; served in WRNS 1940-45; married  
(I) In Cairo 1945, **Major J Maxwell Johnstone MC**, RAMC. (div. )  
(II) In London 1951, **Hugh Desmond Stevenson**.

(b) **Captain Charles Anthony Harrison MC**, retd. R.A, b.1919. 1st Airborne Division 1959-45 War, wounded at Arnhem; he married in 1944, **Lavinia McFarlane**; children: **Michael Aylwin** b.1945, **Brian Anthony Frederick** b.1947, **Charles Edward McFarlane** b.1950.

## (iv) Olga Sophia St. George

Born 1881 Wavertree. She married in 1905 at Allerton, **Ronald Stewart-Brown MA**, solicitor and historian; he was Captain in Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry in 1914-18 War; b.1872 at Allerton, d.1940 at Bryn-y-Grog near Wrexham; children:

(a) **Philip Harman Stewart-Brown**, b.1904 d 1960; Major R.M. 1959-45 War; married in 1944, **Mrs. Mavis Farley** (nee Tottenham).

(b) **Cynthia Birkett Stewart-Brown**, b.1906; married in 1950 at Wrexham, Major **David Taunton Raikes**, DSO, MC, S.W. Borderers & R.T.B, b.1897; children: **Rosanne Margaret** b.1952, **Robin David Taunton** b.1955.

(c) **Ronald David Stewart-Brown**, b.1911. Barrister. Major in Welsh Guards 1959-45 War; married in 1946 **Mrs. Linette Stuart-Hamilton**, nee McKay; children: **Ronald St. George** b. 1948, **Sarah** b. 1950; **Andrew. Mackay Philip** b. 1953

(d) **Virginia Susan Stewart-Brown**, b.1915; married in 1959, **Ian Hargreave**, farmer; children: **Ronald. Hume Marsden** b. 1940, **Cynthia Mary Caroline**, and **Simon Oliver** (twins) b. 1942, **Giles St. George** b.1948.

## (v) Harold Edgar St. George

Born 1885 Wavertree; worked in Blessig, Braun & Co. From 1905; 2/Lt. Sussex Regt. 1915, Lieut. King's Liverpool Regt.1916; killed 1916 at Guillemont in Battle of Somme

## (vi) Emma Gertrude St. George

Born 1888 Wavertree.

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## 3. Edmund William Blessig

Born 1857 at West Derby, died in 1950 at Garston Park, Surrey, in his 93rd year. He was the last surviving grandchild of P.J. Blessig I, who left



Strasbourg in 1787 for St. Petersburg, and he was the last bearer of the Blessig name in England. After a short period at Clifton College in 1869-70, he had a private tutor, and being subject to asthma in early life, he spent many winters abroad, in the Canary Isles, Madeira, and Tangier. During the years 1880-83 he learned farming with William Ashcroft at Layham's Farm, near Hayes in Kent, and he also attended an agricultural course at Ashridge Park, Herts. From 1884 to 1916 he rented Coldharbour Farm (250 acs.) near Blechingley in Surrey, from the Horniman family, tea merchants of London. In 1909 he purchased Pound Farm (126 acs.) near Coldharbour, from Mr. G. Sadler, and in Dec. 1911 he bought the adjoining country house, Garston Park, with 37 acs, from Mr. S.C. Boulter, and

in 1921 he added to that, part of Chevington Farm (51acs.), and in 1926 the Upper Garston Fields purchased from Sir B. Greenwell. These several acquisitions formed a compact estate of about 240 acres around Garston Park.

In January 1912 Edmund Blessig married at St. Saviour's Church, Knightsbridge, **Ella Mary Nye**, elder daughter of Mr. Edwin Nye of South Nutfield near Blechingley; she was born in 1871, and died in 1927 at Garston Park.

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During some 50 years of his life in Surrey, Edmund Blessig hunted with the Surrey Staghounds, the Old Surrey & Burstow Foxhounds, the Crowhurst Otter hounds, and the Worcester Park & Buckland Beagles. He became a member of St. Stephen's Club, Westminster, in 1884, and was the oldest living member of that Club during his last years. On the occasion of his marriage in 1912, the bells of Blechingley Church, cast in 1780, were recast by gift from him. In 1929 he gave a field called Grange Meadow to the National Playing Fields

Association, to be used by the people of Blechingley as a Sports Ground for all time. He supported very numerous charitable organisations, and was a substantial benefactor of the London School of Tropical Medicine. He was buried at Godstone. Garston Park and farm were sold by his Executors in 1950 to Mr. E.G. Blake of Farnham.



Edmund Blessig aged 66.

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## 4. *Wilhelmina (Minnie) Blessig.*



Born 1859 at West Derby, died in 1940 at Brucklay House, Mossley Hill, Liverpool. She married in 1881 at St. James's Church, West Derby, **Alexander Heyder**, who was born in 1850 at Frankfort, and died in 1924 at Wavertree. He came from Paris to Liverpool in 1873, and after a year with cotton exporters at Savannah, Georgia USA, he entered the firm of Blessig, Braun & Co. From 1880 to 1898 he had his own business as an African merchant in Liverpool, trading in cotton goods to French Gabon. In 1881 he purchased 'Holly Bank', Wavertree, from Mr. Hugh Verdon, and resided there until his death. His widow subsequently lived at Brucklay House, Mossley Hill.

Children:

**(i) Alexander Edward Heyder**

Born 1882, died 1884, Wavertree.

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## (ii) Minnie Mary (Molly) Heyder

Born 1884 Wavertree. She married in 1906 at Allerton, **(Sir) Edward Otho Glover**, who was born in 1876 at Prestwich near Manchester; he was an electro-chemist in the Castner, Kellner Alkali Co. at Runcorn, 1897-1926, and Delegate Director in Imp. Chemical Co. 1926-39; member of the Cheshire County Council 1928, Alderman 1940, Vice-Chairman 1944-48, Chairman 1948-52. Knighted in 1951. He was awarded the Liverpool Humane Society medal for Saving Life in 1917; was Captain of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake 1939-45. From 1947, he was a Governor of the Police College, near Coventry. They celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 27 June 1956. Died 20.11.1956 at Frodsham. Children:

(a) **Wilhelmina Margaret Glover**, b.1909; married (I) in 1930, div 1942 **James Keith Batty**, solicitor, b.1902; daughter: **Penelope June Batty** b.1935. She married (II) in 1952, **Gordon Sidney Charles Wigg** b.1908.

(b) **Elinor Glover**, b.1910; married 1937, **Edmond George Williams** b.1912, research engineer in Imp. Chemical Co; children: **Belinda Anne** b.1939, **Sandra Mary Ruth** b 1942, and **Charles Roderick** b.1943.

(c) **Ruth Madeleine Glover**, b. 1913. Employed at American HQ, in London 1943-45 and at Nuremberg. Lived in New York.

(d) **Alan Otho Glover**, b.1917- Flying Officer RAFVR; killed on flying service in Northumberland 1939. Married in 1938, **Lilian Audrey Dainty**, who served in WAAF 1940-45. Daughter **Diana Jane**, b.1939.

(e) **Alexander John Glover**, b.1918. Sub-Lieut. RNVR; killed on Active Service in HMMS "Gracie Fields" in evacuation of Dunkirk, 1940.

(f) **Peter St. George Glover**, b.1920; farmer. Lieut R.M. 1940-45. Married 1947, **Sheila Elizabeth Gates**; children: **Virginia Ann** b.1948, **Tessa Elizabeth** b. 1949, **Edward Peter Valder** b.1951, **Rosalind Mary** b.1953, **Alexander Robert Wyatt** b. 1958.

## (iii) Captain John Geoffrey Heyder

Born 1886 Wavertree. Border

Regiment 1907-1923; wounded twice 1914-18 War; MC. Home Guard 1940-45. Married 1942, **Mrs. Theo. Watson**, ne'e Norrington.

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## **(iv) Commander Philip Allan Heyder**

Born 1887 Wavertree, d. 1934 at Muizenberg, SA. R. Navy 1903-1920; commanded destroyers 1914-18 War. Coffee planter in Kenya 1921-29. Married in London 1930, **Constance Plewman**. b.1898 Colesberg SA; daughter: **Sylvia Constance Heyder**, b.1931 Muizenberg SA. Rhodes University BA, 1951. M. March 1957, in South Africa, Michael Nicholson Crossley, formerly a Wing Commaner in the Royal air Force, who received many war decorations. He is a grandson of Sir Williams Crossley, who was made a Baronet in 1909.

## **(v) Major Hugh Middleton Heyder**

born 1890 Wavertree. R. Northd. Fusiliers 1910-1922; wounded twice 1914-18 War; MC, Legion d'Honneur. Forest Officer in Colonial Service 1925-28. From 1930 Forestry Advisor to the National Trust. War Office 1940-44.

Author of “a history of the Blessig family”

## **(vi) Eleanor (Nora) Louise Heyder**

Born 1892 Wavertree. Studied painting and was a promising artist; drowned at Bamburgh in Northumberland, 1918.

## **(vii) Bertha Rosamund Heyder**

Born 1898 Wavertree. Married 1938, **Douglas Alfred Cross Dickson**, b.1902 Liverpool.

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## **5. Philip Frederick Blessig**

Born 1863 West Derby, died 1925 at Ewell Surrey. He became an invalid early in life and bore his infirmity with resignation. As a young man he was a good horseman, and for a few years was an officer in the Lancashire Vol. Artillery.

