

4 Millwood Flats
Main Road
Kalk Bay
20/3/73

Dear Michael,

Your letter was both a surprise and a great pleasure to me and I shall certainly try to fill in such gaps as I can in the family trees. These will, I ~~xxx~~ fear be largely anecdotal, but I shall not apologise as anecdotes are generally the most entertaining items in family trees.

Unfortunately your letter arrived at a time when I am a very sick man. I think they call it sirosis of the liver. Anyway they reced me off to ~~xxxxxxx~~ hospital with that and there I was afflicted with septocemia which in my young days was always fatal. However they pulled me through it and I am home again and apparently getting better inspite of my age (73). Been home a few days and am already able to tap my typewriter. So here goes.

~~921 -~~
Your Greatgrandfather ~~xxxxxxx~~ William Thomas Woolly was son of a Congregationalist Minister at Pangbourne on Thames, ~~He~~ ^{He} must have been qualified as a grandfather for he had 7 Grandfather clocks which my parents saw and heard when they went over to England on their honeymoon. His widow the n had ^{your great} them. Grandfather Woolley ~~went~~ ^{went} over to Ireland either with the Bank of Ireland or with the government service and became more Irish than the Irish. He was I think rather a gay lad and a bit of a drifter, lost his job, floated about in England for a bit then went to ~~South~~ Africa where he did not make his fortune. He ended up running some school for the Railways and living in our Fishing Village of Kalk Bay. The engine-drivers used to stop the trains so that he could get out at his home.

I remember little of him except that he used to shoot seabirds with his walking-stick.

in Ireland he met and married Jamesina Louisa ~~xxxxxxx~~ Charmichael - very much a socialite and said to be the belle of Dublin. They ~~w~~ ^w married there and Bertram, only son

who died young, and Shyllie, eldest daughter my mother were born there. The arrival of other Irish relations kept the Irish angle going strongly.

Our great grandmother composed music, wrote verse, spoke French fluently among her other accomplishments. But her greatness came with adversity. In South Africa she got a chip of wood in one eye. It went blind and she was told she would lose the sight of the other. All the later years of her life she was totally blind and about 90 % crippled. Yet she remained the lively centre of life around her. Only other Carmichael I heard about was one who in the relief of Delhi blew up the gates, killed himself at the same time and was awarded a posthumous V.C..

Of course I had heard of the Earls of Hindford. If my son Robin or our cousin John Moore has a Charmichael family tree I shall send you a copy. Another Carmichael anecdote. I think it was Andrew Blair Carmichael of whom the family here had a miniature and still has copies of it. It is not known whether he was married at 18 and had 16 children or at 16 and had 18.

One of the daughters was out riding with officers of the Garrison when her horse bolted. The men in a ~~wixixix~~ village near Dublin ~~xxxxx~~ heard the clatter and farmed a chain across the road. Carmichael did not know whom to reward, so the next day he ~~xxx~~ rode hell-for-leather through the village and scattered largesse.

Both the Carmichaels and the Becks came over with William.

Both fought for Charles and I believe that the senior of both had to escape. I think it was then that the Carmichaels went to Ireland and certainly the senior Becks left their property in Norfolk and bolted to Sussex where some duke gave them shelter and they have been ever since.

That's all for the time being,
Best of luck,

Yours,

Handwritten signature