

The Attfield Family of Bath

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by John Attfield

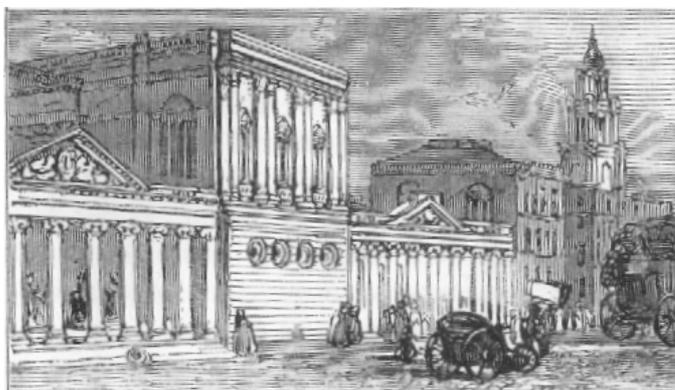
In 1761, Henry Attfield of Windlesham was living at Weybridge, Surrey, from whence the family was removed back to Windlesham by order of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Weybridge in 1765. When Henry's youngest son was born in 1771 the family had moved to Chipping Barnet in Hertfordshire. After this there is a gap of nearly two decades during which no historical traces of Henry or his family have been discovered. By the time Henry died in 1793 his numerous children had scattered far and wide, and – for reasons yet to be uncovered – had become very prosperous indeed. While his eldest son Henry settled in the nearby Surrey town of Chertsey, other sons moved to Barnet in Middlesex and to Weymouth in Dorset, and one grandson migrated to Northamptonshire. But without doubt the most intriguing and well-connected of these various Attfield families is that of Henry's third son, William, who settled in Bath, Somerset.¹

The First Generation

William Attfield was born on March 19, 1749/50.² No baptismal record has yet been found so it is not known where he was born; possibly at Windlesham where his elder brother Henry was baptised in 1746, but it is likely that by 1750 the family had moved elsewhere. William is mentioned as one of the children removed from Weybridge to Windlesham by the Poor Law overseers in 1765.³ In October 1770, when Henry was again subjected to a Poor Law examination at Chipping Barnet, William was no longer living with his parents.⁴ We do not know what William did in the ensuing two decades until he reappears in the following record in the parish register at Walcot, Bath:

Groom William ATTFIELD status bachelor otp (“of this parish”), – Bride Sophia SHORT status spinster of Bath, SS Peter & Paul, – married on 02 MAR 1789 at parish Walcot St Mary's Chapel by licence.

Then on August 1, 1789 there is an assignment of lease for a parcel of ground in Bath “fronting Barton Street, now called Gay Street and messuage built on the land”, from Richard Hewlett of Bath, builder, and Sarah Summers of Bath, widow, to William Attfield of Bath, corn factor and coal merchant.⁵ On August 3, 1791, the same property is the subject of an “assignment upon trust of Mr and Mrs Attfield's marriage settlement”, between William Attfield



Bath in the early 19th century: King's Bath and Pump Room, from Knight's Excursions from London, 1851

and George Short of New Sarum, Wiltshire, grocer, the brother of William's wife Sophia.⁶ The house at No.33 Gay Street, Bath remained in the possession of the Attfield family until 1873. For some months he was a close neighbour of Bath's most celebrated resident, the novelist Jane Austen, whose family lived at No.25 Gay Street in 1805.

It is not known in which year William Attfield settled in Bath but he already resided there in August 1788 when the local newspaper advertised that "Wm Attfield, coal & corn merchant, W-cnr Queen Sq, Bath engages to serve very best coal, oats & beans on lowest terms".⁷ On the deed of August 1791 mentioned above, William's occupation is described as corn factor and coal merchant, and he is also recorded as a coal merchant, of Gay Street, Bath in the Universal Directory of Great Britain published in 1791.⁸ In 1792 he is listed as a member of the Bath Loyal Association, founded at the Guildhall, Bath on December 8, 1792 as an Association for "preserving Liberty, Property and the Constitution of G.B. against Republicans and Levellers".⁹

William Attfield died in April 1828 at the family home at No.33 Gay Street, and was buried on April 11, 1828 at Walcot, Bath. In his will, dated November 16, 1826 and proved on May 10, 1828, as well as leaving substantial legacies to his widow Sophia and son William, he also made provision for his surviving brothers James and George Swain Attfield, as well as:¹⁰

...to Mrs Sarah Spong No.32 Thornhaugh Street Bedford Square London, Mrs Mary Smith now living in London, Sophia Attfield spinster, Mrs Jane Ellis now living at Chertsey the four daughters of my late brother Henry Attfield, the sum of nineteen guineas each as an acknowledgement for their united care of my late brother John.

William Attfield married **Sophia Short** on March 2, 1789 in the chapel of St Mary Walcot, Bath. Sophia, the daughter of Robert Short and Mary Moore, was born in 1752 and died in July 1833 at No.33 Gay Street, being buried at St Swithin, Walcot, Bath, on July 20, 1833 at the age of 81. Sophia came from a very well-connected family. According to a family tree available on the internet,¹¹ Sophia's half-aunt Elizabeth Moore (1728-1809) married Edward Henry Innes (1719-1788), rector of Devizes, chaplain to the Earl of Dunmore and the member of a junior line of the Dukes of Roxburghe.¹² The Reverend Innes gained notoriety by rousing a mob to chase the Methodist preacher John Wesley out of town when he visited Devizes in 1747.¹³ Another of Sophia's relatives, her grand-niece Frances Short (born 1810) married the composer and music publisher Charles Lucas (1808-1869), who was the principal of the Royal Academy of Music from 1859 until 1866.



Rev. Edward Henry Innes of Devizes (source see footnote 11)

The Second Generation

As far as is known, William and Sophia only ever had one child – certainly only one survived into adulthood.¹⁴ **William Attfield** was born on April 10, 1790 and baptised on August 1, 1790 at Walcot, Bath; he died on October 6, 1861 at No.14 Park Street, Bath. He married Mary Anne Cooke on November 27, 1821 at Saint Chad, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Mary Anne was the daughter of Samuel Cooke and Elizabeth Harborne. She was born on August 1, 1792 in Shrewsbury and died on January 27, 1873 at No.14 Park Street, Bath.



The Attfield family homes in Bath, photographed in 2005.

Left: a view of Park Street. The Attfield family home, No.14, is shrouded in scaffolding while undergoing renovation. Right: No.33 Gay Street.

The younger William Attfield matriculated on May 5, 1807 to Oriel College, Oxford University, where he obtained his B.A. in 1813 and M.A. in 1814. In the year 1811 he won the Oxford University essay prize with a clever and closely-argued essay entitled “Funeral and Sepulchral Honours” which is still occasionally referenced in modern academic literature.¹⁵ In his essay Attfield pointed out that, from times of antiquity, funeral rites and honours have played a role in both private and public life, representing an expression of natural and deeply-felt human sentiments.¹⁶

Thus are funeral and sepulchral honours, private as well as national, abundantly justified, the one as consistent with the genuine feelings of our nature, the other as involving political and moral advantages of the highest order. Those who have been disposed to censure the practice in the former point of view, seem to have been misled by an indistinct notion of the legitimate province of reason: while those that have questioned its pretensions to public encouragement, have been no less deceived by a partial view of the subject; forgetting that its true end and object is, not the gratification of the dead, but the benefit of the living: and that the leaders of society, having observed how firmly it was seated in the heart of man, have wisely availed themselves of the fact, without attempting to alter it, and have directed the stream whose sources they could not dry.

Military heroes, he continued, have traditionally received more than their fair share of funereal honours. But in today's world this can no longer be justified, and the arts of peace should merit just as much posthumous honour as those of war:¹⁷

Those who have either by their firm conduct, or their virtue, their learning, or their eloquence, their science, or their piety, given lustre to the times in which they lived, may surely expect from this institution that just measure of recompense, which the honours of the grave can so well bestow. For be it remembered, that the only just end of war, and its very proudest title, is, to be the guardian of peace Arms are no more than the auxiliary of the peaceful state, and encroach upon its due, when they bear off the larger share of the spoils of honour. In a word, then, every excellence, by which society is benefited or adorned, may fairly claim and receive its appropriate encouragement. The engaging eloquence of Isocrates may be expressed by the image of a siren; and the sphere and the cylinder may decorate the tomb of Archimedes.

William Attfield's Oxford prize essay of 1811 was no doubt a worthy winner. It was also, however, the subject of a curious and remarkable circumstance, as described in a reminiscence of the Oxford days of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley:¹⁸

Although Shelley was of a grave disposition, he had a certain shy relish for a practical joke, ... and he was especially delighted by a trick that had lately been played at Oxford, ... respecting the fairness of which the University was divided in opinion, all the undergraduates accounting it most just, and all the graduates, and especially the bachelors, extremely iniquitous, and indeed popish and Jesuitical. A reward is offered annually for the best English essay on a subject proposed: the competitors send their anonymous essays, each being distinguished by a motto; when the grave arbitrators have selected the most worthy, they burn the vanquished essays, and open the selected paper endorsed with a corresponding motto, and containing the name of the victor.

On the late famous contention, all the ceremonies had been duly performed, but the sealed paper presented the name of an undergraduate, who is not qualified to be a candidate, and all the less meritorious discourses of the bachelors had been burnt, together with their sealed papers – so there was to be no bachelor's prize that year.

A footnote further states:¹⁹

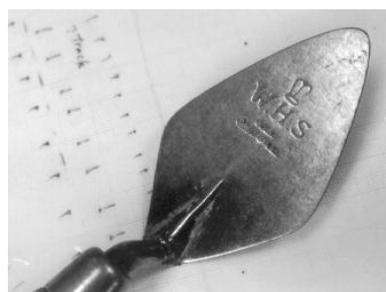
The case mentioned appears to be that of W. Attfield, 1811, but though an undergraduate he had exceeded four years from his matriculation on 5 May, 1807, and so would seem to have been duly elected.

On graduating from Oxford in 1813, the Reverend William Attfield was ordained as curate at Ufton, Berkshire that year and as priest and stipendiary curate at St Alkmund, Shrewsbury in 1814. After his marriage at Shrewsbury in 1821 he returned to Bath, where he was recorded on his eldest son's baptism record in 1823 as "lecturer" of St Mary's Bathwick. In the censuses of 1841, 1851 and 1861 William was listed as a clergyman residing at the family's home at No.14 Park Street, Bath, where he and his wife Mary Anne remained for the rest of their lives.

William continued to write occasionally, and a poem by him entitled "The Neptune's Car: a tale of New York" – describing in heroic verse a romantic incident, reported in the press, in which a captain's wife took over command of a ship when her husband fell sick and brought it safely to port – was published in 1857.²⁰ William Attfield died at his home at No.14 Park Street on October 6, 1861 and was buried at Walcot, Bath on October 11, 1861.

William's wife, **Mary Anne Cooke**, was born on August 1, 1792 in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and baptised on October 4, 1792 at High Street Non-Conformist Chapel in Shrewsbury where her father, Samuel Cooke, was a draper. Mary's elder sister Eliza (born 1791) married Thomas Plowden Slaney (1792-1819) a physician of Trinity College, Cambridge. Slaney came from a long-established Shropshire family and his brother was the well-known Robert Aglionby Slaney of Hatton Grange, Shifnal, the M.P. for Shrewsbury, an advocate of rural reform who served as commissioner on the health of towns in 1843-6. Their father, Plowden Slaney, was the guardian of Elizabeth Jenks, the future wife of Henry Beaufoy M.P., probably accounting for William and Mary Attfield's later adoption of the name "Beaufoy" when christening their son Edward Beaufoy Attfield.

Mary's younger sister Sarah Cooke (1795-1826) married the Black Country ironmaster Thomas Yate Hunt (c.1784-1852) of Brades Hall, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire. He was the son of William Hunt, founder of the toolmakers William Hunt & Sons (W.H.S.) which was acquired by Spear & Jackson in 1962. In the building trade, the W.H.S. initials – still extant as a brand name today – are affectionately referred to as "Work Hard or Starve".²¹ One of Thomas and Sarah's daughters, Emma Beaufoy Hunt (1826-1905) married Leonard Sedgwick (c.1825-1879) a Yorkshire clergyman, and one of their sons – Henry Beaufoy Leonard Sedgwick (1855-1931) – became the founder of the insurance brokers Sedgwick Ltd.²² In 1880 Henry married his cousin Caroline Stanley Sedgwick, a grand-niece of the famous geologist Adam Sedgwick.



A "W.H.S." trowel (photo source see footnote 19)

Mary Anne Attfield, née Cooke, died on January 27, 1873 at No.14 Park Street, Bath and was buried on February 1, 1873 at Walcot, Bath. Administration of her estate (effects under £450) was granted to her eldest son William Attfield on March 11, 1873.

The Third Generation

William Attfield and Mary Anne Cooke had seven children, all of whom survived into adulthood although only two of them ever married and only one had any children. For clarity the children are listed in the following table:

Name	Born	Baptised	Died
William Attfield	May 11, 1823 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	July 16, 1823 St Swithin's Walcot	January 17, 1876 Peckham House Lunatic Asylum, Camberwell
Mary Emma Attfield	December 23, 1824 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	May 11, 1826 St Swithin's Walcot	April 5, 1898 "Cranford", Princess Road, Branksome, Dorset
George Cooke Attfield	January 27, 1826 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	May 11, 1826 St Swithin's Walcot	January 16, 1925 17 Salisbury Road, Hove, Sussex
Edward Beaufoy Attfield	July 4, 1827 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	January 27, 1829 St Swithin's Walcot	July 8, 1868 Royal Free Hospital, St Pancras
Catherine Jane Attfield	June 24, 1829 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	February 3, 1830 St Swithin's Walcot	March 25, 1898 "Cranford", Princess Road, Branksome, Dorset
Robert Cecil Attfield	September 18, 1830 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	February 15, 1831 St Swithin's Walcot	October 23, 1871 14 Park Street, Bath, Somerset
Emily Anne Attfield	October 23, 1832 Walcot, Bath, Somerset	October 17, 1833 St Swithin's Walcot	January 7, 1912 9 South Parade, Walcot, Bath, Somerset

Almost all of the Attfield children were keen sportsmen and women, and there are frequent references to their activities in the local press in the 1840s and 50s, especially in reports of the Lansdown Cricket Club, Bath. They also excelled at other sports, including rowing, archery, rackets and billiards, for which one of the brothers (it is not known which) was once described as "the best amateur in England".²³ But ultimately – with the exception of **George Cooke Attfield**, who made a name for his pioneering medical work in Western Australia as well as on the cricket field – the Attfield children mostly led rather disappointing, and in some cases tragic, lives. All three of the other sons died prematurely, in one case by his own hand. Of the three daughters, two remained as spinsters while the third was involved in a spectacular divorce suit.

William Attfield, the eldest son, appeared frequently for the Lansdown Club and also took part in one first-class cricket match for the West of England against the Marylebone Cricket Club (M.C.C.) at the Lansdown Ground in August 1845.²⁴ His brother George

Cooke Attfield was playing for the opposing team. The West of England team – which included the great English bowler Alfred Mynn (who took eleven wickets in the match) – won by an innings and 94 runs so that William only had one chance at the crease, scoring a duck. At the conclusion of the game a strange incident created a considerable degree of excitement. A sheriff's officer appeared at the ground with a warrant for the arrest of Alfred Mynn, or obtaining from him a sum of money owed to a creditor in London. It was agreed that Mr Mynn should not be disturbed until the conclusion of the game, but that then he would surrender himself. When the last wicket was drawn the players returned to their cottage, Mr Mynn being followed closely by the officers who kept their man in view. However a number of his friends placed themselves in the doorway and effectively prevented the officers from entering. The upshot of the matter was that one of his friends undertook to pay the money or to deliver Mr Mynn to the Sheriff's office in the evening.²⁵ Unfortunately history does not record whether the Attfield brothers counted among Mr Mynn's "friends", or what part they played in this intriguing incident.

William subsequently commenced a military career, receiving a commission as Ensign in the 2nd Somerset Volunteer Rifle Corps on October 21, 1859; however he resigned the commission shortly afterwards in 1862.²⁶ Evidently he never took up any other occupation, being recorded in successive censuses simply as a "gentleman" or "fundholder". He lived in his parents' home at No.14 Park Street, Bath, where he was recorded in the censuses of 1861 and 1871. As the eldest sibling he undertook family responsibilities, being granted administration of his late brother Robert's estate in 1871, and then of his mother's estate in 1873. In 1873 he acted as witness to the marriage of his sister Emily Anne to Samuel Golding Head. After that he apparently moved to Walton-on-Naze, Essex, as recorded on his death certificate in January 1876 although the death actually took place at Peckham House Lunatic Asylum, Camberwell. The cause of death was epilepsy. Administration of his estate (worth under £2000) was granted to his sister Mary Emma on February 11, 1876.



William Attfield in the uniform of the 2nd Somerset Rifle Volunteers, c.1860

Edward Beaufoy Attfield started a career in the law, being recorded as an articled clerk in the 1851 census and as a solicitor and attorney in 1861, at which time he resided at No.30 Upper North Place, St Pancras. While still living in Bath, Edward also played cricket for the Lansdown Club, and at least once for the county of Somerset (against Dorset at Dorchester on June 18-19, 1846).²⁷ Tragically however he died prematurely – unmarried and intestate – of cirrhosis of the liver in 1868, four days after his 41st birthday.

Robert Cecil Attfield, the youngest brother, was an even more tragic figure. Again he played for the Lansdown Club, e.g. against South Wales Cricket Club at Sydenham Field, Bath on June 26-27, 1861, scoring a creditable 24 runs in the first innings and 22 not out in the second. Three brothers of the famous cricketer W.G. Grace were also playing in this match.²⁸ Robert was also a noted rackets player, as the following report testifies:²⁹

On Monday a match of rackets was played at the Park Tavern, Bath, for a large stake, by Capt. Taswell and Robert Attfield, Esq., of Bath, against Mr. Mitchell, the celebrated player of Bristol. After seven well contested games, which lasted nearly three hours, Messrs. Taswell and Attfield were declared the winners.

In the 1851 census his occupation was recorded as land surveyor, but like his elder brother William he subsequently commenced a military career, accepting a commission as Lieutenant in the 2nd Somerset Regiment of Militia on March 16, 1860, being later promoted to Captain on April 8, 1863.³⁰ It is not known whether he resigned the commission, but in the 1871 census has was recorded as “late Captain 2nd Somerset Militia”. However on October 23, 1871, he committed suicide at the family home at No.14 Park Street, Bath, by cutting his throat “during temporary insanity”. Administration of his estate (effects under £400) was granted to his brother William on November 20, 1871.

The two elder sisters, **Mary Emma Attfield** and **Catherine Jane Attfield** – unmarried ladies of independent means – stayed together for the whole of their lives. After moving away from Bath in the late 1870s, they were living at Paddington in the 1881 census, and in Princess Road, Poole, Dorset, in 1891. The sisters both died there in 1898 within two weeks of each other, Catherine Jane of bronchitis and heart failure, and Mary Emma of



The signature of Mary Emma Attfield, from her niece Edith's birthday book

influenza and double pneumonia. Their estates (Catherine's worth £4998 and Mary's worth £5416) were administered by their surviving brother George Cooke Attfield.

The youngest of the sisters, **Emily Anne Attfield**, had a more adventurous life, being married twice and divorced once (at a time when divorces were still rare in England). She married firstly Captain Robert Young on July 23, 1857 at Holy Trinity Church, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Westminster; after their divorce in 1871 she married secondly Samuel Golding Head on May 13, 1873 at the Register Office, Kensington. After his death on August 24, 1878 at Panmure, Cape Colony, Emily returned to her native Bath where she died of heart disease on December 7, 1912.



Emily Anne Attfield

Robert Young, Emily's first husband, was born in 1822 at Sidmouth, Devon, and died on December 18, 1901 at Battersea Union Infirmary, Wandsworth, Surrey. He was an interesting character with a strong naval background. His grandfather, Robert Parry Young, a native of the Isle of Man, was in charge of the Plymouth division of the third fleet which transported convicts to Australia. His account of a convict revolt on board the “Albemarle” in 1791 was printed in Berrow's Worcester Journal.³¹

Robert's father, Lieutenant Robert Benjamin Young (1773-1846) was attached to the Rear Division of the fleet under Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood in October 1805 and commanded the “H.M.S. Entreprenante” at the Battle of Trafalgar. Together with the boats of “Prince George” and “Swiftsure” he helped in the rescue of two women and about 200 men from the French ship “Achille” which caught fire and exploded during the battle. He was sent to Faro with Lord Collingwood's dispatches announcing the victory in

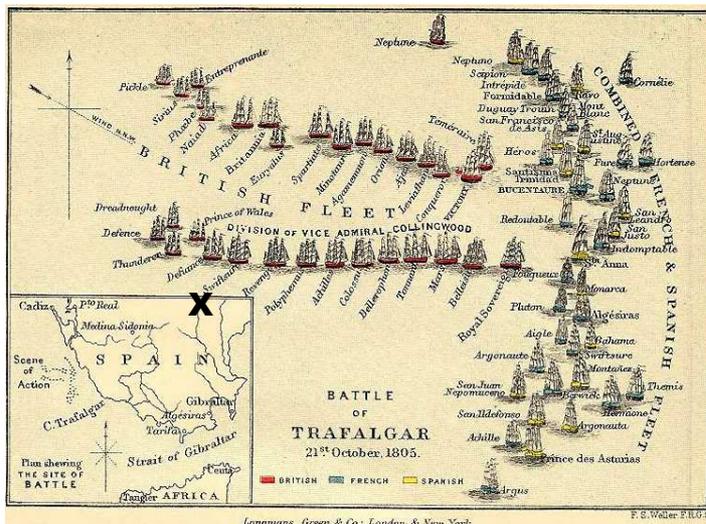
Trafalgar. He received the gold medal, the thanks of Parliament, a sword of honour from the Patriotic Fund, and an honorary augmentation to his arms.³² Robert Benjamin Young married Mary Ellis, the daughter of Captain John Ellis of the “Loyal Americans” (later the 60th Rifles), who was severely wounded at the Battle of Bunker's Hill in 1775.³³

Robert Young followed in his forebears' military footsteps although his career was somewhat less illustrious. He served as a Subaltern in the 7th Dragoon Guards, afterwards Captain and Adjutant H.M. of the Osmanbi Irregular Cavalry (Turkish Contingent).³⁴ In 1860 he was posted to the Convict Prison at Perth, Western Australia, as superintendent of stores. His service record described him as “very zealous and painstaking, but not fit for any post in which he would be required to think and act for himself.”³⁵ In March 1864 he was the butt of press stories in Australia after getting embarrassingly lost in a boat and drifting overnight without a compass.³⁶ From 1869 he was appointed superintendent of the Convict Prison at Perth, but shortly afterwards he retired from the service and returned to England. The censuses of 1881 to 1901 record him living at different addresses in Battersea, Norwood and Wandsworth in South London.

Robert Young's first wife was Martha Owen, the daughter of Owen Owen, rector of St Edmunds, Exeter and later of Gidleigh, Devon. After her death he married Emily Anne Attfield on July 23, 1857. The marriage was dissolved by Decree Nisi Absolute (divorce) dated June 6, 1871, Samuel Golding Head (“otherwise Tait”) being named as co-respondent.³⁷ Unfortunately all the background documents have been stripped out of the official case papers at the High Court of Justice, Family Division, so that the only information we have on the cause of the divorce is provided by the following brief yet dramatic report in *The Times*:³⁸

YOUNG V YOUNG AND HEAD

Captain Young was formerly an officer in the Guards, and he married the respondent in July, 1857. In 1860 they went to Perth, in Western Australia, where Captain Young had obtained the appointment of governor of the gaol. In consequence of some scandal to which Mrs Young's conduct in the colony gave rise, Captain Young sent her home to her mother's in England in 1866. On her homeward passage she made the co-respondent's acquaintance, and she subsequently lived with him - Decree nisi.



Battle of Trafalgar, 1805: the order of battle. The HMS Entreprenante, commanded by Robert Benjamin Young, is marked with an "X" at the top left (source: Wikipedia)

After the divorce, Robert Young married Elizabeth Anne Gibbins – his third wife – on November 21, 1872. She was the daughter of Samuel Gibbins (1808-1886), a member of the Common Council of the City of London and grandfather of the well-known industrial historian Henry de Beltgens Gibbins.³⁹

Comparatively little is known about Emily's second husband, **Samuel Golding Head**, whom she married on May 13, 1873 at the Register Office, Kensington (witnessed by her brother William Attfield and his friend Peregrine Bingham). Samuel Golding Head was born in 1841 at Wirral, Cheshire, son of John Head, share broker, and Jane Golding. In the 1861 census, Samuel was recorded as a broker's apprentice, living with his parents. On his marriage certificate in 1873 he was described as a "Gentleman" (usually meaning that he had no specific occupation). He died at Panmure, Cape Colony, South Africa on August 24, 1878 when his occupation is recorded as accountant in the railway engineer's office at Panmure. His will was dated August 20, 1878, and Emily was named as executor.

George Cooke Attfield, William and Mary Anne's second son, married **Alice Maude Roe**, daughter of John Septimus Roe and Matilda Bennett, on November 12, 1863 in Perth, Western Australia. She was born on August 6, 1845 in Swan River Colony, Western Australia, and died on April 1, 1925 – less than three months after her husband – at Thornham, No.7 Wilbury Road, Hove, Sussex.



George Cooke Attfield

Alice Maude's father, John Septimus Roe, was a big name in the history of Western Australia. An explorer and surveyor, he served in various expeditions to survey the coasts of Australia and in 1829 he was one of the first to land in the colony of Western Australia. He was appointed Surveyor-General of Western Australia in 1828, a post that he held for 42 years. It was on Roe's advice that the site for the capital, Perth, and its port, Fremantle, were selected. Roe founded the public museum in Perth, and was a member of the executive and legislative council of the colony. He was an associate of the Royal Geographical Society and a fellow of the Linnean Society.⁴⁰ A statue to commemorate Roe's contribution to Western Australia is situated on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Adelaide Terrace in Perth.

The signature of George Cooke Attfield, from Edith's birthday book

George Cooke Attfield, who died within just 11 days of his 99th birthday, made his name as a cricketer, playing county cricket for both Somerset and Surrey between 1845 and 1856 before subsequently contributing to the development of the game in Western Australia.⁴¹ He studied medicine, and for many years was regarded as the "father" of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where he qualified in 1850, becoming a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in the same year.⁴² From the 1850s until 1879 he served as medical officer to the Convict Establishment and superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia, being appointed to the post in July 1857 and arriving in the colony on November 6, 1857 on board the "Dolphin". His work in Western Australia is recalled by the street name of "Attfield Street" in Fremantle. George Cooke Attfield finally returned to England with his family in 1879.⁴³

On returning to England, George Cooke Attfield settled in Sussex and resumed his career as a medical practitioner, being recorded as such in the 1891 census at No.96 Buckingham Road, Brighton and subsequently at No.17 Salisbury Road, Hove, where the family resided until his death in 1925. He remained an ardent cricket follower throughout his life, asking daily for news about the test match in Australia during his last illness.⁴⁴

The Fourth Generation

While resident in Australia, George Cooke Attfield and Alice Maud Roe had five children, all girls, one of whom died in infancy. These were:

Maude Cecil Attfield, born on October 13, 1864 at Fremantle, Australia; died on November 6, 1942 at No.26 Salisbury Road, Hove, Sussex.

Florence Mary Attfield, born on April 16 and died on April 22, 1866 at Fremantle, aged 6 days.

Alice Isabel Attfield, born on January 5, 1868 at Fremantle; died on November 16, 1947 at No.39 St Aubyns, Hove, Sussex.

Edith Blanche Attfield, born on August 1, 1869 at Fremantle; died on March 14, 1955 at Brooklands Nursing Home, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Ethel Clare Attfield, born on December 4, 1870 at Fremantle; died on May 2, 1946 at Marigold Café, Maresfield, Sussex. Ethel Clare, who never married, died of a carcinoma of right lung; she was attended at her death by her niece Mary Attfield Draper (née Paley), of Yonderover, Burgess Hill, Sussex. In her will, Ethel Clare left an estate valued at £9794 to her two nieces Mary Attfield Draper and Gwendolen Attfield Gell-Woolley.

The eldest daughter, **Maude Cecil Attfield**, married **Frederick John Paley** on June 2, 1892 at St Mary Magdalene Church, Brighton, Sussex, son of Frederick Apthorp Paley and Ruth Burchell. They had three children. Frederick John Paley, a medical practitioner in Hove, Sussex, was born on September 26, 1859 at Peterborough, Northamptonshire, and died on November 12, 1924 at Brighton, Sussex. He studied at the University of London, graduating as M.B. in 1883 and as M.D. in 1887; he was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1883. His residence in 1913 according to the Medical Register was at No.18 Brunswick Place, Hove, Sussex.

The Paleys from whom Frederick descended were an illustrious and old-established North Yorkshire family with estates at Langcliffe, near Giggleswick. His father, Frederick Apthorp Paley (1815-1888), was a noted English classical scholar and author. Born at Easingwold in Yorkshire, he was educated at Shrewsbury school and St John's College,

Cambridge, obtaining a B.A. in 1838. His conversion to Roman Catholicism forced him to leave Cambridge in 1846, but he returned in 1860 and resumed his work until in 1874 he was appointed professor of classical literature at the newly founded Roman Catholic University at Kensington. This institution closed in 1877 and Paley then moved to Boscombe in Hampshire, where he died.⁴⁵

Frederick Apthorp Paley was the grandson of the famous 18th century theologian William Paley (1743-1805). Ordained in 1767, William Paley lectured on moral philosophy at Christ's College, Cambridge. Made a prebendary of the cathedral church of Carlisle in 1780, he became archdeacon of the diocese in 1782 and chancellor in 1785, in the year that he published his "Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy". He wrote "Horae Paulinae" (1790) in proof that the New Testament is not "a cunningly devised fable," and "A View of the Evidences of Christianity" (1794), the work for which he is most celebrated. His book "Natural Theology; or, Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity" (1802) also achieved great popularity.⁴⁶



William Paley (1743-1805)

William Paley's writings influenced the young Charles Darwin, who recorded in his autobiography that he was "charmed and convinced of the long line of argumentation".⁴⁷ Paley's celebrated watch analogy inspired the title of Richard Dawkins's book "The Blind Watchmaker" (1986). In 1825 a complete edition of Paley's writings was published by his son Edmund, Frederick Apthorp Paley's father.

Edmund Paley (1782-1850) married in 1812 Sarah Apthorp, whose father was another character of historical note. East Apthorp (1733-1816) was a Church of England parson at Cambridge, Massachusetts, whose unpopularity in the colony – partly accounted for by the palatial nature of the parsonage he built for himself (called Apthorp House, it is now the Master's Residence at Harvard University) – sparked off protests which some say predicted the later American rebellion. It was his principal opponent, Jonathan Mayhew, the popular and outspoken minister of the Congregational West Church, Boston, who first used the phrase "no taxation without representation!"⁴⁸

George Cooke Attfield's second surviving daughter, **Alice Isabel Attfield**, who later adopted the middle name of Roe, married William Andrew Fox on February 19, 1898 at St Patrick's Church, Hove, Sussex. He was born on November 15, 1858 in Calcutta, India and died on September 7, 1911 at Ulverston, Lancashire. They had no children.

William Andrew Fox, a medical practitioner, had been previously married to Eleanor Haig Twogood, from Scotland, who died in 1888. William's daughter by his first marriage, **Constance Adeline Fox**, was born in Edinburgh on January 8, 1878 and died at No.31 Heene Way, Worthing on April 23, 1966. She married Arthur St. Lew Frederick Perigal, another medical practitioner, on June 20, 1906 at Paddington. He was born on January 12, 1875 at Headington, Oxfordshire and died at Worthing in 1958. They had two children, Constance Mary (1907-1978) and Arthur Edward (1909-1970).

Arthur St. Lew Frederick Perigal was descended from a truly fascinating Huguenot family with long-standing roots in London and Edinburgh, which would be worthy of an essay on its own. His grandfather, also Arthur Perigal (1816-1884) was a noted landscape painter in Edinburgh and son of yet another Arthur Perigal (1784-1847) who was a historical and portrait painter. The younger Arthur was elected to the Royal Scottish Academy in 1868 and became its treasurer in 1880. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in London between 1861 and 1884.⁴⁹ His aunt Marianne Perigal (1780-1868) was the mother of Sir Antonio Brady, the celebrated naturalist and social reformer who led the campaign to preserve Epping Forest from enclosure in 1871. Arthur's uncle, Henry Perigal (1768-1867), an Admiralty clerk like several other members of the family, was the father of George Perigal (1806-1855), a noted English chess player, and of the eccentric "experimentalist" Henry Perigal (1801-1898) who is remembered principally for his elegant proof of Pythagoras' Theorem, a diagram of which was carved on his gravestone in Wennington Churchyard, Essex.⁵⁰

Edith Blanche Attfield married Charles Webster Rede Gell-Woolley, the son of Charles Woolley and Louisa Gell, on April 7, 1894 at St Nicholas Church, Brighton, Sussex. They had three children. A well-known solicitor, Charles Webster Rede Gell-Woolley, born at Geelong, Victoria, Australia on August 24, 1864, was for over half a century a member of the Brighton solicitors firm of Messrs FitzHugh, Woolley, Baines & Co. He served in the 1st Sussex Volunteer Artillery, being a lieutenant in June 1883, then lieutenant colonel and honorary colonel commanding in 1906. On the formation of the Territorial Army he transferred to the 1st Home Counties Royal Field Artillery as officer commanding. He retired in 1911 but gave further service during the 1914-18 War. His last residence was at No.3 Pavilion Parade, Brighton. He died on April 6, 1943 at Antye Farme, Burgess Hill, Sussex leaving an estate of £14987 in his will; the funeral took place on April 9, 1943.



The signature of Charles Webster Rede Gell-Woolley, from Edith's birthday book

On his paternal side, Charles came from quite an illustrious family. One of his uncles, John Woolley (1816-1866) was appointed principal of Sydney University, Australia, in 1852. He drowned on his return voyage from a visit to England in the "S.S. London" which foundered in the Bay of Biscay on January 11, 1866. Another uncle, Joseph Woolley (1817-1889) was principal of the Central School of Mathematics and Naval Construction at Portsmouth Dockyard, and subsequently inspector-general of the Royal School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, which later merged into the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Charles's uncle Frederick (1821-1877) was headmaster of Lewes Grammar School, while the grandson of yet another uncle, Benjamin (1819-1868) was Richard van der Riet Woolley (1906-1986) the astronomer royal and director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory from 1956 to 1971.⁵¹

Charles's father, Charles Alfred Woolley (1831-1910) was a leading lawyer in Geelong, Australia. After studying at Rossall School he was admitted as a attorney in 1856 and practiced in Lewes and Newcastle. In 1858 he moved with his family to Melbourne, Victoria, where he entered a partnership with Thomas Harwood in Geelong. They practiced as Woolley and Harwood, and later as Woolley, Harwood and Davies. Woolley also became a member of the Geelong City Council. Returning to England in 1865,

Woolley was appointed town clerk of Hove, Sussex. He also resumed his legal practice in Brighton, where he settled, and built up a thriving business. He died in 1910.⁵²

Charles's mother, Louisa Gell (1822-1897) was the daughter of Francis Harding Gell (c.1785-1864), who was coroner of Lewes and town clerk of Seaford, Sussex. Her brother Inigo Gell (1824-1882) also served as town clerk of Seaford. Ada Freeman Gell (née Evershed), the wife of Louisa's nephew Alfred Freeman Gell, was a noted sculptor.⁵³

The Fifth Generation

Two of George Cooke Attfield's daughters – Maude Cecil and Edith Blanche – had children and these are listed below.

Frederick John Paley and Maude Cecil Attfield had three children:

Mary Attfield (Molly) Paley was born on April 6, 1893 at Hove, Sussex, and died on April 15, 1974 at St Raphaels Nursing Home, Danehill, Sussex. She married Ernest Ivor Draper – son of Walter Skidmore Draper, a bank manager – on June 2, 1944 at the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Norton Road, Hove, Sussex.

Witnesses were her brother John Graham Paley and his brother Geoffrey Norman Draper. The marriage certificate describes Mary Paley as a music teacher and Ernest Draper as an “agricultural worker”, both resident at 26 Salisbury Road, Hove. He was born on February 19, 1905 at Bromley, Kent and died on April 2, 1983 at 51 Manor Road, Worthing, Sussex. The couple had no children that I am aware of.



The signature of Molly Paley from Edith's birthday book

Frederick Raymond Paley was born on October 8, 1897 at Hove and died on April 16, 1980 at Brighton General Hospital, his last residence being No.38 Wilbury Avenue, Hove. His occupation was recorded on his marriage certificate as “electrical engineer” and on his death certificate as “sub station attendant (retired)”. He married Zoe Alexena West – a dance teacher – on April 18, 1936 at the Catholic Church of St Mary Magdelene, Brighton, Sussex; she was born on February 24, 1903 at Steyning, Sussex, daughter of artist Alexander West, and died on November 7, 1997 at No.52 Dyke Road Avenue, Brighton. Here again I do not know whether the couple had any children.

John Graham Paley, medical practitioner M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., born on September 17, 1900 at Hove; died unmarried on March 31, 1982 at No.108 Grand Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex, leaving an estate valued at £230,000. His will contained bequests to his god-daughter, to St Bartholomews Hospital London, and to the rectors of the Catholic churches of St Wilfred Burgess Hill and of St Mary Magdelene, Brighton, with the residue to his sister-in-law Zoe Paley.

Charles Webster Rede Gell-Woolley and Edith Blanche Attfield had three children, none of whom ever married to my knowledge:

Gwendolen Attfield Gell-Woolley, born on February 27, 1895 at Brighton; died on May 19, 1979 at Flat 5, Nettlesworth, Wickham Hill, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex. She worked as a radiographer at Haywards Heath Hospital among others, and was described as a physiotherapist on her death certificate. For many years she was a mainstay of the Pyecombe Golf Club in Sussex, serving as its ladies' secretary for over fifty years from 1923 until 1976.⁵⁴

Charles Attfield Gell-Woolley, born on March 16, 1899 at Brighton; attended Rugby School and Oxford University; he died on January 13, 1931 at Fort Portal, Uganda after an operation for appendicitis.

Michael Attfield Gell-Woolley, born on September 29, 1902 at Brighton; died on September 10, 1972 at No.6 Matheson Road, Fulham. For a time he was a ballet teacher at the Josephine Bradley School, London.

Given that George Cooke Attfield, the only one of the Reverend William Attfield's four sons to marry or have any children, only had daughters, the male line and therefore the Attfield surname of this interesting branch of the family disappeared on George's death in 1925. But it is to be hoped that some direct descendants of the Attfield family of Bath via the female lines may be living today. If so, I would love to hear from them.

John Attfield
Buchholz, Germany
July 2014

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Footnotes

¹ Where not otherwise indicated, birth, marriage and death dates after 1837 are taken from the respective certificates or from the BMD indexes available online at <http://www.ancestry.com>. Pre-1837 dates are from the International Genealogical Index (IGI) at <http://www.familysearch.org> or the National Burial Index (CD published by the Federation of Family History Societies).

² Birth date according to the Attfield lineage circulated by Colin Attfield in 1956.

³ Surrey Quarter Sessions, Epiphany Sessions 1765, QS2/6/1765/Eph/7-13, and Easter Sessions 1765, QS2/6/1765/Eas/83, at the Surrey History Centre; transcripts at <http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/html/documents.html>

⁴ HALS D/P15/13/3, in John Hill: "Hertfordshire Examinations, An Alphabetical Index", Hertfordshire Family History Society, 2004.

⁵ Hampshire Record Office, Collection of Harris and Bowker of Winchester, solicitors, Ref. 11M70/B4/102.

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- ⁶ Loc cit., Ref. 11M70/B4/103.
- ⁷ Bath Chronicle, 21.8.1788.
- ⁸ Universal Directory of GB, 1791, Vol.II, p.97.
- ⁹ Membership list of the Bath Loyal Association at the Bath Record Office.
- ¹⁰ PROB 11/1739; transcript at <http://www.familytree.john-attfield.com/html/documents.html>
- ¹¹ Moore of Wiltshire and Innes Family, family tree by Vanessa Wagstaff at www.ancestry.co.uk.
- ¹² Vanessa Wagstaff, The Innes of Coxton, <http://www.burkes-scotland.com> (accessed 20.11.2005 but no longer available); see also <http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/users/w/a/g/Vanessa-J-Wagstaff/index.html>
- ¹³ Wiltshire Community History, Methodist Chapel, Devizes, <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getchurch.php?id=466>
- ¹⁴ A Charlotte Attfield, whose burial was registered at St Swithin, Walcot, on 4.10.1802 (age not recorded) could possibly be a daughter of the couple who died in infancy.
- ¹⁵ See for example Holger Hooock, “The British military pantheon in St Paul’s Cathedral: The State, cultural patriotism, and the politics of national monuments, c.1790-1820”, in R. Wrigley and M. Craske, *Pantheons: Transformations of a Monumental Idea*, Ashgate Publishing, 2004, pp.81-106, esp. footnote 8 on p.100-101; and Holger Hooock, “The Cheap Defence of Nations: Monuments and Propaganda”, in M. Philp, *Resisting Napoleon: The British Response to the Threat of Invasion, 1797-1815*, Ashgate Publishing, 2006, pp.159-172, esp. footnote 7 on p.170.
- ¹⁶ William Attfield, *Funeral and Sepulchral Honours*, published in: *The Oxford English Prize Essays*, Oxford University, Vol. III, 1830. p.21.
- ¹⁷ Loc cit, p.26.
- ¹⁸ Lilian Quiller-Couch, editor, *Reminiscences of Oxford by Oxford Men 1559-1850*, Oxford Historical Society, 1892, Chapter XI, “Percy Bysshe Shelley”, p.286.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ William Attfield, *The Neptune’s Car: a tale of New York*, Saunders & Otley, London, 1857.
- ²¹ <http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/2/2trowel2.html>
- ²² <http://www.sedgwickuk.org/uk/misc/business/business.html>
- ²³ *Bristol Mercury*, 6.3.1858.
- ²⁴ <http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Players/36/36250/36250.html>
- ²⁵ <http://www.cricketarchive.com/Archive/Scorecards/0/756.html>
- ²⁶ Commission: *London Gazette* 28.10.1859, p.3888; resignation: *London Gazette* 21.3.1862, p.1538.
- ²⁷ *The Era*, 28.6.1846.
- ²⁸ <http://www.cricketarchive.com/Archive/Scorecards/108/108364.html>
- ²⁹ *Bristol Mercury*, 31.1.1857
- ³⁰ Commission as Lieutenant: *London Gazette* 23.3.1860, p.1176; as Captain: *London Gazette* 14.4.1863, p.2018.
- ³¹ Sources on Robert Parry Young: <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/famhist/families/redfern.htm>; <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dutilleul/ZOtherPapers/Index/Favourites.html>. See also *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, by David Collins, London, 1798 in Project Gutenberg eBooks: <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/12565>
- ³² <http://hnelson.iespana.es/youngingles.htm>; see also: <http://www.nelsonsnavy.co.uk/battle-of-traffic.html>
- ³³ *Ancestry.com. England and Wales Visitation, Vol. 7, p.115 (Gibbins). [Original data: Joseph Jackson Howard, ed. Visitation of England and Wales. Vol. I-XIV, privately printed, 1893-1906].*
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ David J Barker, ed., *Warders and Gaolers, A Dictionary of Western Australian Prison Officers, 1829-1879*, 2003, pp.223-4.
- ³⁶ “A Long Voyage”, in *West Australian Times*, March 10, 1864.
- ³⁷ Divorce: 11.1870, Cause No.1389: Young Robert vs Young Emily Anne & Head otherwise Tait.

³⁸ The Times, November 24, 1870.

³⁹ Visitation (Gibbins), loc cit.

⁴⁰ Australian Dictionary of Biography Online

(<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020344b.htm>) and Wikipedia

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Septimus_Roe).

⁴¹ Benny Green, ed., *The Wisden Book of Cricketers' Lives*, 1986. For George Cooke Atfield's cricketing statistics 1845-1856 see:

<http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Players/36/36249/36249.html>

⁴² Medical Register, 1913.

⁴³ <http://www.fremantleprison.com/history/history3.cfm>; R.Erickson, ed., *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829-1888*, Univ. of Western Australia Press, 1987-88, Vol. 1 A-C.

⁴⁴ Death notice from an unidentified newspaper at <http://www.familytree.john-atfield.com/html/documents.html>

⁴⁵ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11423a.htm>; <http://www.explore-biography.com/philosophers/F/>;

http://23.1911encyclopedia.org/P/PA/PALEY_FREderick_APTHORP.htm

⁴⁶ Oxford Dictionary of National Biography; see also <http://www.answers.com/topic/william-paley>

⁴⁷ Charles Darwin, *Autobiography*, cited e.g. at <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/history/paley.html>

⁴⁸ Article on East Apthorp in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography; see also Sean Lynn-Jones, *A History of Adams House*, at <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~adams/history/index.php>, and

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_taxation_without_representation

⁴⁹ <http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/people/famousfirst1556.html>

⁵⁰ <http://plus.maths.org/issue16/features/perigal/>

⁵¹ See the respective entries in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

⁵² <http://www.deakin.edu.au/library/geelonglawyers/woolley/cw3.htm>

⁵³ <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/speel/group/egyptian.htm>

⁵⁴ Dick Smithard, *Pyecombe Golf Club 1894-1994, A Centenary History*, pp.32 and 34 (<http://www.pyecombegolfclub.com/CentenaryBooklet/CBFrontCover.htm>).