

July 19th 1985 Low Gables
Galpham
Ripon
North Yorkshire HG4 3NJ

Dear Betty,

I was intrigued to get your much-travelled letter (and most interested that someone is prepared to accept me as a very distant sort of Cousin!

My father was Frank Edwin Derry (I was his only child, and unfortunately of female gender!)

He and his sister Annie Elizabeth were the only children of

Edwin Derry and Sarah Ann Day (Edwin being the youngest of ten children begot by James Derry & Ann Gibson. Seven of his children were girls. The first son was James born 1822 of whom I know little except that he

is said to have had four wives
only one being named as Jane Ann Hickling.

^(No 6)
George Derry was born in 1824. Nothing
is recorded of him at all - maybe he
died in infancy.

Then as No 10, our communal great
Grandparents Edwin + Sarah Day.

I know ^{little} ~~nothing~~ about the history of
the daughters of that famous pair, but
they were named as

Elizabeth,	Ann,	Mary,	Sarah,	Helen,	Charlotte,	Harriet
1815	1816	1818	1820	1823	1823	1831
				Twins?		

My inadequate records suggest that
you come from the line of Sarah who
married a Curtis and had family of
John, Mary, Lizzy = Castle, Jim, Annie
= Barlow

I think I should have been the
official last of the Derrys if only
I'd been a boy! Despite having

Several wives, James produced no offspring; George has no record and I don't wonder that I was a disappointment to Frank Edwin!

That's about all I know about the Derry line (though I have a few more details about the female line but no personal knowledge of them.)

I'll cut this short now, but just mention that I ^{have} had four children; (two with Derry as their second Christian name)

that we live in a delightful very small village close to Ripon, very near to Fountains Abbey.

My husband Philip is now sadly an invalid - chronically deaf and losing his sight, in addition to having hypertension. I get out very little because he needs my company, and he doesn't venture forth at all.

Did you go to Lincoln High School?

2/30 Why were we never introduced as relatives? I always pined for some more of my own family, and always said if ever I married I'd endeavour not to produce an "Only one". (My only memories of my Mother who died when I was twelve, were of an ill, unhappy person and I believe she suffered as a result of my birth.)

I have dim memories of our mutual grandmother Sarah Ann & husband Edwin died aged only 41 leaving her to bring up Frank Edwin (my father) and Annie Elizabeth. She spent part of her latter years living with us & I remember her as a crocheting old lady in bed, while I played with toys & books at her grumpy bedside!

Hoping all this is of some interest to you

Very best wishes to you & your family
Margaret Coleman (née Derry)
your second? Cousin several times removed!

Low Gables
Galpham
Ripon
North Yorkshire HG4 3NJ
August 7th 1985

Dear Betty,

Sorry to have delayed
my reply so long - and there's
so much I could say I
haven't known where to begin!

Although there is only three
years between our ages (I was
born in 1913) we are actually
of different generations! My
Grandmother Sarah Day was
your Great Grandmother. (I
know we've said this before -
I'm repeating myself.)

Thank you (or your daughter)
for discovering Great Grandfather
John Derry. I don't

agree about the recusance ⁽²⁾
of the word "Ratcliffe" as
place of residence. I know
my Grandfather Edwin was
born at Besthorpe on The
Trent (where I believe he
owned a boat, a pup, and
a fair amount of money)
And that his wife bore him six
ter children already mentioned.

I'm uncertain what I
actually told you in my
last letter (I actually wrote
two, and destroyed the first
because it was very long
& I thought it might not be
of much interest to you! Now
I know it would, I have
forgotten what I said in the
second one!) So excuse me

if this repeats a lot of it. (3)

You're correct in thinking my Philip was possibly a school as a contemporary of Ken Summerfield

I seem to have known Philip all my life - we played with the same box of bricks in their nursery. (he had a younger brother Richard) We were close neighbours in North Parade Llanwr. (Our house No 5 belonged to that redoubtable old lady Sarah Derry (née Day) My father lived there with her till he was 40 (hence part of the generation gap) before he married my Mother - who died when I was 12.

Then the house was sold, the money divided between my Father ^{his} ~~his~~ sister Annie Morrison

We moved then to a smaller^{er} house on West Parade. My Father was described as a Civil Servant and worked for the Post Office (I don't think he ever really enjoyed his job & close friends told me long after, that he should have been in a professional sort of occupation)

After my Mother's death, Miss Bugg almost semi-adopted me. Always spend Christmas at our house (Xmas dinner produced by my Father's thankful but far from motherly' Housekeeper.) She ^{Miss} took me for holidays and was very kind to me. She had known my Mother before her marriage and appreciated his ability in the Teaching Profession (a rare qualification at that time

and how it seems no longer ^{so}
worthy of its name profession,
Alack the day!

One of my deepest regrets
is that I did not go to her
when she was finally ill -
By that time I was caring
for my own four children
and Philip's parents and
felt (mistakenly I think now)
that my stronger duty
was to remain at home and
look after them.

How strange that Bobby and
Rozanne can still remember
me. Yes I was often called
Peggy Derry, Philip still uses
the name occasionally when he
wants a change from all his
other variations of my name!
What a pity we live so
far apart, we should have

a lot to talk about if we ⁽⁶⁾
met - perhaps next time you
visit Fountain's wonderful
Abbey it might be arranged!
(I understand since the National
Trust acquired it, many
improvements have been made
at the Studley Park end of it)

Thank you for your kind
message to Philip, he is
having a very difficult time
at the moment and can't bear
to be without his "Seeing and
hearing Margaret"; So I get
out very little.

But I'm hoping to post
this to you tomorrow with
Dad's wishes to all your family
and especial sympathy to
your Robert. I hope that David's
family didn't have non-stop rain
during their Lakes holiday
Love & every good wish Margaret