

Ref: Oxford University Bodleian Library Special Collections:
MDD SS Ducat Hamersley

Margaret Hamersley's Will was proved 1849

These are some names extracted from her probate account,
some with occupations included.

Useful because it puts these people in the Sandgate area as at
1849

Leasehold Estates: To amount received of **Mr Stokes** for
Purchase of Ivy Cottage and fixtures £62 0s 0d
Peter Ware - 12 weeks care of Ivy Cottage

Pope (milkman)
Elgar (butcher)
William Pledge
T Lewis
John Page
William Beadle
William Prier
Susan Stone
Harriet Stone
William Hall
Thomas Grant
Sarah Waddell
Francis Plisher
John Quested
Messrs Tritton
S J Tavener (Green Grocer)
Benjamin Eastes (painter and glazier)
Ann Town
I or J? Bourne (baker)
John Eastes (grocer)
R B Jenner
Ruth Tavener
J or F C Westley (newsman)
Norres Stokes (poulterer)
Edward George (surgeon)

The Du Boulay family in 'West Lawn', Sandgate, Kent

'West Lawn' was one of six houses built on The Esplanade, Sandgate between Brewer's Hill and Encomb before 1813¹, when it was owned by the Hamersley family. The houses are shown on the John Adam's map of the Parish of Cheriton of 1827 but it is unclear when exactly the name 'West Lawn' came into use. The Hamersley family are connected by marriage to the Drake-Brockman and Du Boulay families. All three families collectively and individually had and have strong links with the history of Western Australia, and with the wider Australian community to this day.

The 'Huguenot' family Du Boulay, full name Houssemayne Du Boulay, descends from the Protestant Houssemaine family of Alençon. Benjamin François Houssemayne Du Boulay (1724-1765) was called to minister to the French Church in Threadneedle Street, London in 1751. He was ordained Deacon in the Temple Church by Thomas Sherlock, Bishop of London on 22 December 1751. Benjamin François and his family settled in London.²

'West Lawn' 1845(?) - 1866: Thomas and Harriet (Houssemayne) Du Boulay

In 1829, a grandson of Benjamin François, Thomas Du Boulay (1804-1872) married Harriet Drake-Brockman (1805-1877), third daughter of the Rev. Julius Drake-Brockman, Rector of Cheriton, Kent and his wife, another Harriet. Thomas and Harriet's first daughter, yet another Harriet, was born in Sandgate in 1830, but their eleven subsequent children were born either in Dorset or Sandgate: William, 1832, Weymouth; Eliza, 1833, Weymouth; Julius, 1834, Charlton; Francis, 1837, Sandgate; Caroline, 1838, Sandgate; John, 1841, probably Sandgate; Edmund, 1843, Sandgate; Emma, 1845, Sandgate; James, 1847, probably Sandgate; Woodforde, 1848, Sandgate; Henry, 1851, Sandgate.²

(Note: a few later details of those children are given here for the sake of completeness, to show any other known connections with Sandgate: Harriet married a Prussian Baron, Karl August Alfred Freiherr von Wolzogen, in Florence; William married Margaret Cort in Prestwich and for many years was vicar of St. Mary Boltons, South Kensington; on 7 June 1859 Eliza married in the Parish Church, Cheriton, one William Smith Cowper Cooper of Toddington where at some stage they moved, although their first child Edith Cooper was born in Sandgate on 6 December 1860; Julius (see below); Francis settled in Western Australia and later in Victoria where he became both a Professor of Music and a notable entomologist; Caroline married Capt. Richard Travers of Cork; John, a Midshipman on H.M.S. *Sappho* was lost at sea in 1857 - he is commemorated on a family tablet in the Parish Church at Cheriton; Edmund died in infancy in Sandgate (also commemorated on the tablet); Emma married a John Melville Span, civil engineer, in Kensington; James married Emma Newcome and also took Holy Orders; Woodforde married Rose Hawkins in Colchester, his career being in the Royal Engineers; lastly Henry also died in infancy - his death is also commemorated on the church tablet upon which his names are given as Hengry Brockman).²

The 1841 census shows Thomas, Harriet and family living in Sandgate without actually naming 'West Lawn' as their residence, although they must have been living in a substantial house. The census records the household as consisting of Thomas and Harriet, William, Eliza, Julius, Francis, Caroline and John with six servants.

(Note: the eldest daughter, Harriet, is recorded in the 1841 census for Folkestone).

A reference to an 'Indenture of Release' on 'West Lawn' dated 11 November 1845 implies the property was conveyed by Hugh, Samuel and Margaret Hamersley to Thomas Du Boulay and Ralph Thomas Brockman.³

(Note: Ralph Thomas Brockman was Town Clerk of Folkestone and a Barrister-at-Law, an elder brother of Thomas Du Boulay's wife, Harriet, of the old Kentish family of Brockman - see *Burke's Landed Gentry* 1952: Drake-Brockman of Beachborough).

There is no record of the Du Boulay family in Sandgate on the 1851 census. There is evidence that Thomas and his family lived from 1851 to 1856 at 5 Moray Place, Edinburgh, although it is unclear whether this was continuous residence.⁴

Thomas Du Boulay, J.P., was elected Chairman of the Local Board of Health for the District of Sandgate on 12 March 1857, and again in 1861, 1863 and 1865.⁵

The 1861 Census records as living at 'West Lawn House':

Thomas Du Boulay, Head, Justice of the Peace & Harriet Du Boulay;

Caroline M. Travers, daughter, married; Emma M. Du Boulay, unmarried, age 16, scholar;

Robert Henry Travers, grandson, age 1.

Emily Hatch, visitor + four servants.

A reference to an 'Indenture (Deed of Gift)' dated 31 May 1866 implies that 'West Lawn' was gifted by Thomas Du Boulay to Julius Du Boulay.³

It is likely that at this time Thomas (aged 62) and Harriet (aged 61) moved permanently to Childe Okeford in Dorset. Thomas' gravestone at Childe Okeford, Dorset bears the inscription "In memoriam Thomas Du Boulay formerly of West Lawn, Sandgate, Kent who died at Childe Okeford June 14th 1872 aged 68 years..."

'West Lawn' 1866-1915: Julius and Elizabeth Houssemayne Du Boulay

Both Julius and Francis (Frank) Du Boulay, the fourth and fifth children of Thomas and Harriet Du Boulay, travelled to and from Western Australia in the 1850s and 1860s where in partnership with others they established the Minnenooka pastoral station near Geraldton.⁶ On 20 June 1860, whilst back in England, Julius married his first cousin Elizabeth Solly, daughter of Isaac and Marianne (née Du Boulay) Solly, at Forty Hill Enfield. They returned to Western Australia but in 1865/6 moved back to 'West Lawn' with their surviving daughter Flora, following the untimely deaths of their infant daughters Emma Mary and Charlotte at Minnenooka in 1864 and 1865 respectively. Their later children Minna, James, Lola, Isabel and Thomas William were all born in Sandgate between 1866 and 1878. Sadly, James died in infancy in 1868, and Isabel died, at age 12, in 1884, both in 'West Lawn'.²

The 1871 Census records as living at 'West Lawn House':

Elizabeth Du Boulay, age 40, Head, annuitant.

Flora H Du Boulay, age 9, scholar; Minna H Du Boulay, age 4;

Lola H Du Boulay, age 10 months.

+ four servants

(Note: the whereabouts of Julius on the day of the census has not been ascertained. It appears, however, that he travelled back to Western Australia on at least one occasion after coming back to live at 'West Lawn', as the *Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1914* cites a departure from W.A. in the 'Palestine' on 5.8.1868. In 1866 Arthur Du Boulay took over the management of Minnenooka Station renting it from his first cousins Frank and Julius.)^{2 & 6}

There is a reference in *The Times* of 10 November 1880 to a proposed sale of 'West Lawn'. The auction particulars by Messrs. E. and H. Lumley, Folkestone, described the

property as having a frontage of "about 255ft. to the sea road, and a depth of over 500ft, every yard of which is immediately available for building purposes". The "capital residence" comprised "15 bed and dressing rooms, large drawing and dining rooms, library, hall and offices; five-stall stable, coach-house etc".⁷

The 1881 Census records as living at 'West Lawn House':

Julius (badly transcribed as Julian) du Boulay; Head of family. Magistrate

& Elizabeth du Boulay; Julius' sister Emma M. Span is also shown as living there at the time.
+ a governess and four servants

It may be deduced from the 1881 census that Julius either failed to find a buyer or withdrew the property from the market. Julius Du Boulay, J.P., was, *inter alia*, a member of the Sandgate Board of Health and Chairman of the Elham Division of Magistrates.⁵

In 1893 a major landslip damaged some 200 houses in Sandgate many of which were rendered uninhabitable.⁸ In one account of the landslip it was stated that "West Lawn, Castle House, and Prospect House, each on The Esplanade, have been so badly shaken as to necessitate the removal of the inmates". A later report quotes Julius Du Boulay, in refuting that statement in respect of 'West Lawn', to have said that "...as an owner of property, he had been hit hard, but thanks to God, he had only had some of his stables and outhouses injured. His house was intact. There was nothing so catching as panic. Whilst others were removing their belongings he and his family had remained, and there they remained now as an example to others." Another press report on 'West Lawn' stated, "house slightly damaged, walls and ceilings cracked, basement shifted etc. Several fissures in ground and garden wall damaged". A further report reads "West Lawn is injured, but not as severely as many others".⁹

The 1901 census reveals that in addition to Julius and Elisabeth, both their unmarried daughter Flora and her sister Minna and her two daughters were resident at 'West Lawn', as well as four servants. Minna's husband Major Finch White was with the East Surrey Regiment in South Africa where he had been wounded at Potgieter's Drift in 1900.²

Elizabeth died in 1912 and Julius, at age 80, in 1915, both in 'West Lawn'.

Flora is mentioned in an obituary of her father as still living at 'West Lawn': "Miss du Boulay, who has always lived with him".⁵ Flora and Minna died in 1939 and 1952 respectively.

As to the two other surviving children of Julius and Elizabeth in 1915:

- Lola, married William Joseph Tyson, M.D. in 1899, from which date they lived in Folkestone where they had three children;²

- Thomas William (the Border Regiment), his wife, Lilian (née Askew, Cumberland) and young family were apparently recently back from Burma, noting that their daughter Elizabeth was born in Folkestone on 10 January 1914 and christened in St. Paul's, Sandgate; it may well be that they temporarily came back to 'West Lawn', before moving to Westgate-on-Sea where Thomas William died on 18 June 1921.²

'West Lawn' during the First World War

From February 1915 large numbers of troops of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces came to Shorncliffe Camp for training. Some 40,000 men received training in 1915-16, approximately 30,000 in 1917 and 20,000 in 1918. The troops were billeted in many establishments in Folkestone and Sandgate.¹⁰

The 1916 'Folkestone & District Directory' entry in its Sandgate Street listing for 27 The Esplanade, states "*Canadians, West Lawn*" (as also for nos. 28 [Grosvenor House] & 29 [Prospect House]). There was no Directory for 1917 but the 1918/19 edition shows the house as "*unoccupied*".¹¹

On Wednesday 5 May 1916 the coach-house and stables of 'West Lawn' were destroyed by fire. The 'Folkestone Herald', in its report on the fire, states that 'West Lawn', "*the residence of the late Mr. Du Boulay, had been occupied for some little time by the military for sleeping accommodation. The cause of the outbreak is unknown*". The firemen from Sandgate Fire Station "*found the whole of the stables a mass of flame, shooting up into the sky greatly endangering the neighbouring buildings, which included Grosvenor House, the headquarter offices of the D. of S. and T., C.E.F., on one side, and West Lawn, now used for billeting troops, on the other.*"¹²

'West Lawn' after the First World War to the present day

A Conveyance dated 26 February 1920 shows that 'West Lawn' passed out of ownership of the Du Boulay family, as represented by Julius' executors (Major Finch White, William Tyson and Thomas William Houssemayne Du Boulay) to a George William Hills of Folkestone. Following Hills' death in 1925, 'West Lawn' was sold by his widow on 26 February 1926 to Joseph Seymour Clark, a builder, of Sandgate.³

Both the 'Folkestone Directories' and the Registers of Electors for the 1920s and 1930s show that from 1924 to 1933 'West Lawn' appears to have had three occupiers each year, presumably tenants in separate suites of rooms in a first stage of modifications. It appears that in 1934 the house was further modified by addition of large wings on either side. The original house, and its projecting wings, became the central section of a large block of apartments presently standing, the five sections of which have been named 'West Wedge', 'West House', 'West Lawn', 'Spanish House' and 'The Wedge'. According to a 1975 Department of Environment list of Buildings of special interest the core of the block is "*probably C18 but it has been given a Spanish appearance in the C20*".¹³

Sources

- ¹ The date is based on information from the *St. Martins' Marriage and Baptism Registers* (courtesy of the 'Heritage Room', Folkestone).
- ² *A Pedigree of the family of Houssemayne Du Boulay* by Rev. J.T.H. Du Boulay, Shawford, 1908, and other family papers, as well as research notes from many sources including censuses, BMD registers, *Burke's Landed Gentry 1952*, and *The Times*.
- ³ A copy of a schedule apparently extracted from a 1926 Conveyance on 'West Lawn'.
- ⁴ *An Edinburgh Family of 1851-1856* - research notes compiled in 2001 by Kenneth Hughes for Prof. FRH Du Boulay.
- ⁵ *Mr. Fynmore's Sandgate Scrapbook*. From a series of scrapbook albums containing manuscript notes but mainly press cuttings, compiled by Lt. Col. R.J. Fynmore, first Chairman of Sandgate Urban District Council in 1894 and for many years thereafter.
- ⁶ *Dictionary of Western Australians 1829-1914*, Pamela Statham and Rica Erickson, publ. University of Western Australia Press in a series of volumes, 1979-1986 - a Preface note warns against unavoidable inaccuracies and omissions arising from early and incomplete records.
- ⁷ Extracted from *The Times Digital Archive*.
- ⁸ *Sandgate: Rise and Progress of a Village* by Linda René-Martin, publ. AR Adams & Sons, Dover, 1998; 2nd ed., 2004.
- ⁹ *Folkestone Chronicle*, March 1893.
- ¹⁰ *Folkestone during the war 1915-19* ed. J.C. Cartile publ. F.J. Parsons Ltd., Folkestone (1919).
- ¹¹ *Parsons' Folkestone & District Directory and Local Year Book*.
- ¹² *Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate and Cheriton Herald* 6.5.1916.
- ¹³ *Department of Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural Interest or Historic Interest, District of Shepway, Kent, Folkestone Area*, 1975 p.64.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks for their invaluable help and research are due to :

- Cicely ('Cee') Carpenter, Folkestone. Mrs Carpenter is a great grand daughter of Francis Samuel Daniel-Tyssen of Castle House. He and Thomas Du Boulay were neighbours and variously fellow J.P.s and Chairmen of the Local Board of Health for the District of Sandgate.
- Bernard Sargeant (with family history links to Sandgate and Bridge, Kent) of Sutherland, N.S.W., Australia.
- Bobbie Allen of The Sandgate Society.
- Staff of the 'Heritage Room', Folkestone Library.

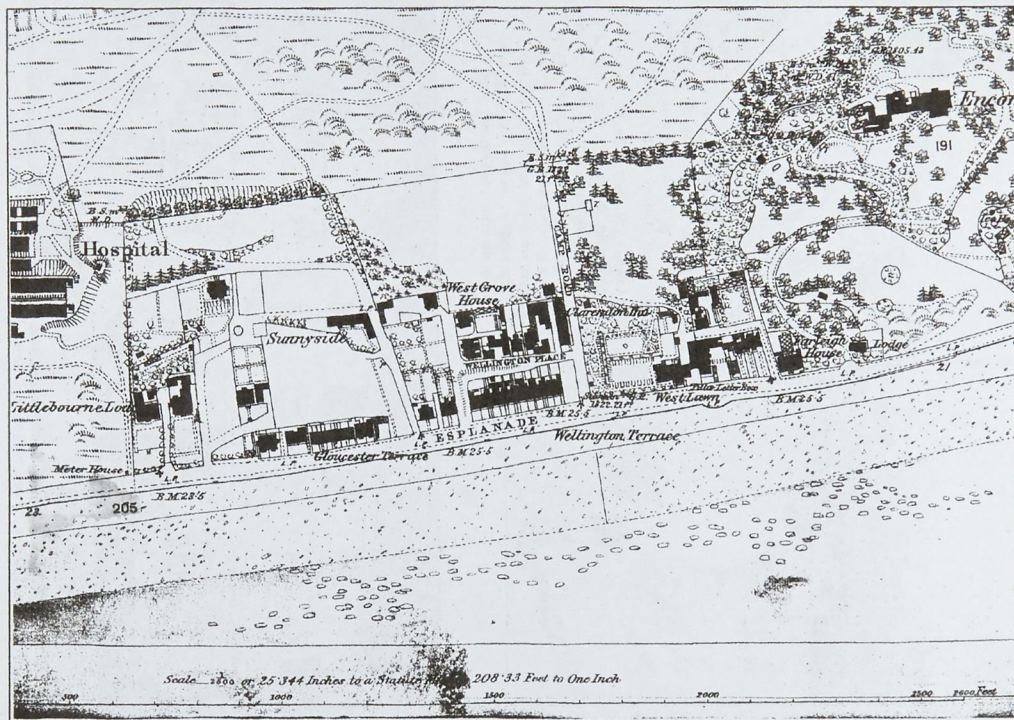
Peter Giles Houssemayne du Boulay, June 2006

[Giles du Boulay, 8 Malvern Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1QF]

Attached:

- An extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1872 showing the position of 'West Lawn'
- Three photographs of 'West Lawn': c.1920, c.1935 and 2006

Extract from Ordnance Survey Map 1872 - showing the position of 'West Lawn'.





A family snap, courtesy of Bernard Sargeant, c.1935, showing in the background, Prospect House, Rodney Court (previously Grosvenor House and originally Castle House), and 'West Lawn' much as we see it today.

'West Lawn', c.1920, with an unidentified woman in the foreground. The roofline of the main part of the house is recognizable as the central section of the present day block of apartments.

The original house had projecting wings, one of which can partially be seen here; its top windows became the middle level of the converted eastern wing.



'West Lawn', 2006, as the central section of the block of apartments on The Esplanade, Sandgate.