



Wallingford — circa 1853

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A letter replying to Edmond Wilder of Canterbury New Zealand (Gladys Ormond's father) written by Edward H Collier (UK) in 1905 - obviously responding to Edmond's request for heritage information. Retyped for the web site. John Williams is currently writing a Wilder family history.

Wilder Family Ancient Pedigree

NATIONAL CLUB
1. WHITEHALL GARDENS, S.W.

23 Feb 1905

My Dear Edmond

I will begin with pedigree, reserving more personal talk for the end.

First and most important your royal descent is given all right enough in Bernard Burkes “Royal Families of England and Wales” London 1857 (I don’t know of any later edition than 1857 – the last is Vol II page ???? pedigree 36 - the British Museum edition).

The book you referred to was possibly by the same authors as “Royal Decent and Founders Kin” Which as you say in your last letter to me giving, under founders Kin, your connection with Sir Thomas White Lord Mayor of London and Founder of St John’s College Oxford.

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But does not include Wilders in his Royal Descents which is curious seeing that he gives the lineage in full length in his other book “Royal Families” referred to above.

Nor does Foster’s (Royal Lineage) the other great authority on Royal Descents include the Wilder Family.

I don't think I should trouble about that. The inclusion in Burkes' Royal Families seems good enough for any purpose, short of trying to prove your claims to take the place over present gracious Sovereign!

Moreover there does not appear to be a single weak point in the pedigree – the people all being of importance (no misalliances!) no man needs the rank of a Knight from the start down to the Lady who imported the Royal blood into your family via Beaufoy Boyle.

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You will see this when I send you, as I hope to do before many days more, a fairly written copy of the pedigree (which I shall probably have to get someone else to do!)

I may as well give you a brief summary of the results;

The Lady referred to above Beaufoy Boyle who married John Wilder of Sulham on 11th June 1735 or 11th June 1736 (the dates differ in Burkes' "Royal Family" and Burke's "Landed Gentry") who was (as you already know) daughter and co air of Col. William Boyle younger son of Hon H J Boyle of Castle Martys, County Cork and brother of 1st

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Earl of Shannon was descended in direct line from Thomas Howard Duke of Norfolk died 1554, who married Elizabeth daughter of Edward Duke of Buckingham.

Here a double descent coming in for both these progenitors from Edward III the former through Lionel Duke of Clarence the latter through Thomas of Gloucester.

No! I am a little in error, through the Norfolk side there is a direct descent from Edward 1st independent of Edward III.

Burke however in a footnote says that Mr Wilder (that is the late Squire of Purley) is 20th in a direct descent from King Edward III.

I am no genealogist, and do not quite see why he should not say 22nd in direct descent from Edward I. However you will be able to settle that for yourself when you see the full pedigree. Perhaps I should have saved time by copying it out straight away, but you might have been unable to read it!

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I am very glad indeed to find your recollections so completely confirmed by so great an authority as Burke's book on Royal Family – I had long known that you were a very old family to use the accepted phrase, but had no knowledge of your families direct Royal descent though I have once or twice heard dear Daisy refer to your connection with the Norfolk family in a very casual way for she was not at all given to parade of long descent or indeed of any other kind and I think that was a family characteristic, for I've never heard your Uncle say much on the subject.

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Though from one or two remarks I know that he was by no means without pride in the fact of the old descent of his family. I cannot help contrasting this dignified constraint with the tendencies which one often sees to flaunt remote connection with peerages often of very recent date and no special distinction except wealth.

We were both very sorry to hear of Pearlies disablement, and sincerely hope that long before this reaches you it will have yielded to sustained treatment.

I know from slight experience of the same kind how very troublesome an affliction of the kind may be, but I think with persons who are young and in good condition they generally disappear very quickly and completely.

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I am glad to hear the good account you give of other members of your family, and that your boys are doing so well. What with your progeny and Grandfather Edmond Wilder your brother George's sons and daughters the Stanstead branch of the Wilder family will be sufficiently represented. I am not really acquainted with your nephew the present Squire of Stanstead, for though I no doubt saw him as a child on the only occasion that I visited Stanstead, it is nearly twenty years ago, and we should of course not know one another if we met.

I am glad you liked him so much. I set great store on the ties of family. All the more from my own appreciation of them – and think it is a great pity where they are disregarded or broken.

Except from your letters I have

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.....more of the other side of the dispute partly from trustees and partly from the intimacy still existing between my Grandfather, brother, Mrs George Wilder (your sister in law) and Mrs Edmond, your Uncle's widow, who is of course a very old friend of mine, but I know nothing really definite and have not sought for information on a matter which does not really concern me since I never met either of the principles in the warfare.

It must be ten years since I last met Mrs George and in view of the slight sympathy which seemed to exist between her and dear Daisy and of what I thought her unsympathetic attitude towards the Kenyon sisters. I have never felt any desire for a closer acquaintance.

From what I gather the quarrel began before the present Squire's marriage., so that his wife cannot be held answerable for that, whatever the merits may be.

I must now draw to a close, as I shall miss another mail. I mean to send you the full lineage by next. Our best and the same good wish and love to you and wife and to children.

Very truly yours

Edward H Collier.