

Monypenny of Pitmilley

Coat of Arms and Ancient Origins

The arms of Monypenny are described as “Quarterly, 1st and 4th, or, a dolphin naiant azure, finned gules; 2nd and 3rd, gules three crosses crosslet fitchée issuing out of as many crescents argent.” (Sir John Balfour Paul: *The Scots Peerage*, 1904 - 1914) This means “1st and 4th quarters, gold with a blue dolphin with red fins drawn horizontally as if swimming; 2nd and 3rd quarters, red with three silver crosses having the three upper ends terminating in three little crosses and pointed like a dagger at the bottom, each one on top of a crescent with the points turned up.” Heraldic dolphins are strangely unlike the real creature and are shown with fins similar to a fish.



The story of the Monypenny Family begins, as do the stories of many families, with a legend. Tradition has it that King Malcolm III Canmor of Scotland (See *Scotland* Generation Twenty-one), being obliged to flee after his father Duncan the Gracious was killed by Macbeth in 1040, found refuge with a wealthy French merchant named James Dauphin. When the Malcolm sought to recover his Kingdom, he asked his friend for a few pennies, whereupon James Dauphin replied, “Not a few pennies but many pennies”, and his two sons fought with the Malcolm. When the Kingdom was recovered, the King gifted to the eldest son James, the lands of Pitmilley, Fife; and married him to a lady related to Macduff, Thane of Fife. - - - or so the story goes.

However, the first of an unbroken line begins with Ricardus de Moniepennie, and it is with him we will begin this genealogy.

Generation One

Ricardus de Moniepennie who was granted a charter by Thomas, Prior of St. Andrews, of the lands of Pitmulin (“quam Malisius tenuit”) in 1211.

Ricardus married and had a son:

- **John de Moniepennie**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

John de Moniepennie who was granted a charter of Mirton to Nichol of Milton in 1263.

He married and had a son:

- **John Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Three

John Monypenny who swore fealty to Edward I of England on March 14, 1295.

He married and had a son:

- ——— **Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

— **Monypenny** who married circa 1306 the daughter and heir of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Leuchars, Fifeshire, and they had a son:

- **Thomas Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Thomas Monypenny of Pitmilly who received a charter of part of Leuchars from Thomas Hay circa 1329. He married and had a son:

- **John de Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Six

John de Monypenny who was granted a charter by John, Prior of St. Andrews, of the lands of Pitmilly “which had pertained to the said John’s ancestors” circa 1347. He was one of the plenipotentiaries sent by King David II to mediate peace with England in 1335/36.

John married and had a son:

- **John Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Seven

John Monypenny of Pitmilly who was recorded between 1400 and 1421; he married and had a son:

- **Thomas Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Eight

Thomas Monypenny of Pitmilly

Died in 1427

Thomas married Christian Keith, a daughter of Sir Robert Keith, an ancestor of the Earls Marischal, and they had two sons:

- **John Monypenny**, mentioned next.
- Sir William Monypenny who married in 1410 to Marjorie Arbuthnott, daughter of Philip Arbuthnott and they had, with other issue, a son:
 - Sir William Monypenny, 1st Lord Monypenny (created circa 1460) was born in 1411 and died circa 1485. He went to France in the train of Princess Margaret of Scotland in 1437 and soon afterwards entered the service of the Dauphin (later Louis XI). He was Chamberlain to Charles VII and Louis XI, and was knighted by the Comte de Dunais at the Siege of Rouen on October 16, 1449. He was frequently employed on diplomatic missions by both the Scots and French Kings, particularly in negotiating royal marriages. He received considerable grants of land in Scotland and in France, where he was known as the Sieur de Concessault. He was also granted lands in Berry and was appointed Seneschal of Xantogne (Saintonge) in 1473. Sir William Monypenny married Katherine Stewart, and they had, with other issue, the following children:

- Alexander Monypenny, 2nd and last Lord Monypenny in the Peerage of Scotland, and Vicomte d'Omoy in France who died circa 1528. He disposed of all his Scottish estates and resided entirely in France. He married Marguerite Flockhart, daughter of Patrick Flockhart, Captain of the Scots Guard and Seneschal of Xantogne. They had two sons who died before their father.
- William Abbot Monypenny of St. Satur, Bourges who was nominated Archbishop of Bourges in 1512, but the King refused to confirm.
- Elizabeth Monypenny who married her second cousin William Monypenny of Pitmilley.

Generation Nine

John Monypenny of Pitmilley

Died in 1448

John married and had the following children:

- **Thomas Monypenny**, mentioned next.
- another son

Generation Ten

Thomas Monypenny of Pitmilley

Died in 1454

Thomas married and had the following children:

- William Monypenny of Pitmilley who married firstly his second cousin Elizabeth Monypenny, daughter of William, 1st Lord Monypenny and secondly Elizabeth Balfour. He died without issue in 1466 and was succeeded by his younger brother Thomas.
- **Thomas Monypenny**, mentioned next.
- two additional sons

Generation Eleven

Thomas Monypenny of Pitmilley

Died in 1479

Thomas married Margaret Wemyss and they had a son:

- **David Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Twelve

David Monypenny of Pitmilley who was living in 1488/89, married Jonet Monypenny and had two children:

- **William Monypenny**, mentioned next.
- Elizabeth (or Isabella) who married John Beaton de Balfour. Their son was Cardinal David Beaton (born circa 1494, murdered on May 29, 1546), Archbishop of St. Andrews and the last Scottish Cardinal prior to the Reformation.

Generation Thirteen

William Monypenny of Pitmilly

Died in 1520

William married and has a son:

- **David Monypenny**, mentioned next.

Generation Fourteen

David Monypenny of Pitmilly

Born in 1512

Died in 1578/79

David was a prominent supporter of the Reform Cause. Following the murder of his cousin, Cardinal Beaton, he took refuge in St. Andrew's Castle with the conspirators and when the Castle was captured by the French he was taken prisoner and imprisoned in Cerbourg Castle. He was later pardoned by Queen Mary, continued very ardent in the Reform Cause and was again captured by the French. David married firstly to a daughter of the 3rd Earl of Rothes and had the following children:

- **David Monypenny**, mentioned next.
- Janet Monypenny

David married secondly to Katherine Lundin, a daughter of Walter Lundin and had by her a son:

- James Monypenny

Generation Fifteen

David Monypenny of Pitmilly

Died in 1600

David, like his father, was also an ardent Reformer and was sentenced to forfeiture and banishment for his uncompromising opposition to the marriage of Queen Mary and Lord Darnley. David married Elizabeth Monypenny and they had the following children:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Monypenny, mentioned next. • David Monypenny • Thomas Monypenny | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Monypenny • Elizabeth Monypenny |
|--|--|--|

Generation Sixteen

James Monypenny of Pitmilly

Died in 1638

James married in 1576 to Euphame Colville, a daughter of Robert Colville of Cleish and they had the following children:

- **John Monypenny** (mentioned next.)
- **James Monypenny** (mentioned next.)
- {Venerable} Andrew Monypenny who emigrated to Ireland in 1613 and was in 1618 Archdeacon of Connor. Andrew died without issue circa 1634.

- {Reverend} Arthur Monypenny (died in 1658) who emigrated to Ireland and was Prebendary of Lochmalony, County Down in 1620. A “Prebendary” is a resident clergyman who is entitled to a share of the revenues of the church. This was the time of the “Ulster Plantation” and the Monypennys were likely not very popular with the Irish Catholic native peoples. Arthur married Mary ____ and they had three sons and a daughter.
- four additional sons
- two daughters

Generation Seventeen

John Monypenny

John married Euphame, a daughter of Thomas Myrton of Cambo. Euphame appears to have had two previous marriages to William Rigg of Aitherine and Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit. John and Euthame had a son:

- **Sir James “The Brave” Monypenny of Pitmilley** (mentioned next.)

John had a second marriage to Susanna Colville and they had two daughters.

James Monypenny

James emigrated to Ireland before 1620. This was the time of the “Ulster Plantation” when English and Scottish settlers were encouraged to emigrate to Ireland. During the Plantation most of the Irish remained on their lands because the planters needed their labor, but they remained as tenants rather than owners of their own land. By 1650, the rights of the Irish Catholic people had been reduced to little more than that afforded to livestock.

James married in Ireland and had a son:

- **Arthur Monypenny** (mentioned next.)

Generation Eighteen

Sir James “the Brave” Monypenny of Pitmilley

Died in 1657

Sir James married in 1637 to Helenor Maule, a daughter of William Maule and they had with two other sons and three daughters:

- John Monypenny of Pitmilley who died without issue in 1657 and was succeeded by his brother Alexander.
- Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley (1642 - 1712) who married and had, with other issue, a son:
 - David Monypenny of Pitmilley (born in 1694) who married and had, with other issue, a son:
 - Lt. Col. Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley (1726 - December 22, 1801) who married and had, with other issue:
 - David Monypenny of Pitmilley who married but died without issue, having entailed the Estate of Pitmilley to his brother William Tankerville Monypenny, failing which to his kinsman {Rev} James Isaac Monypenny.

- William Tankerville Monypenny of Pitmilly who married but died without issue in 1869 when he was succeeded by his kinsman {Rev} James Isaac Monypenny.

Arthur Monypenny

Arthur married and had two sons, of whom the elder was:

- {Captain} James Monypenny (mentioned next.)

Generation Nineteen

{Captain} James Monypenny, R.N.

Born on October 17, 1670

Died on October 23, 1721 *at*. 51

James Monypenny served as First Lieutenant aboard Sir George Rooke’s flagship at the capture of Gibraltar and the Battle of Malaga in 1704. He made a large fortune by capturing enemy ships and is thought to have been a “privateer” which was basically a crown licensed buccaneer or pirate. This was a low budget method of waging war on Spain. This is likely the origin of the story told by Henry Charles DeQuincy Sewell (1888 – 1959, see *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Eleven) that his grandmother’s family were pirates.

James Monypenny purchased Maytham Hall in Rolvenden in 1714. The estate dates from Saxon times and at least four Norman lords had manors here. (See: *Monypenny of Pitmilly: Great Maytham Hall*.)

James married Mary Gybbon, a daughter of Robert Gybbon of The Hole House, Rolvenden, Kent. Mary’s family, as determined from inscriptions at St. Mary the Virgin Church at Rolvenden, Kent is outlined in the following table:

<p>Robert Gybbon Born circa 1643 Died on October 9, 1719 <i>at</i>. 76</p> <p>Robert married Elizabeth Phillips (born circa 1649, died on October 20, 1691 <i>at</i>. 41) who was the only child of widow Elizabeth Phillips (born circa 1625, died on July 13, 1718 <i>at</i>. 94).</p> <p>Robert Gybbon and Elizabeth Phillips had ten children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Gybbon who was buried in St. Clement Danes Church at London. • Edmund Gybbon who was buried in the South Chancel of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Rolvenden. • Phillips Gybbon who married Catherine Bear, daughter of widow Honor Bear. • Robert Gybbon who was buried in St. Clement Danes Church at London. • Ann Gybbon who was buried in the South Chancel of Rolvenden Church. • Elizabeth Gybbon who was buried in the South Chancel of Rolvenden Church. • Mary Gybbon who married {Captain} James Monypenny. • Richard Gybbon who was buried in St. Clement Danes Church at London. • Ann Gybbon who was buried in the South Chancel of Rolvenden Church. • Margaret Gybbon who was buried in the South Chancel of Rolvenden Church.

{Captain} James Monypenny and Mary Gybbon had the following children:

- James Monypenny who died young and was buried in St. Ann's Church, Soho, Middlesex.
- Elizabeth Monypenny who was born circa 1717, died on July 21, 1760 at. 43; buried in the North Chancel of Rolvenden Church.
- Robert Monypenny who was born circa 1719, died on March 29, 1772 at. 53; buried in the North Chancel of Rolvenden Church.
- Phillips Monypenny who died young was buried in the North Chancel of Rolvenden Church.
- **James Monypenny** (mentioned next.)

Generation Twenty

James Monypenny

Born on October 7, 1721

Died on May 11, 1800 at. 79

James, the youngest son of James Monypenny and Mary Gybbon, married Silvestra Blackwell (born circa 1728, died on February 13, 1818 at. 90) who was the eldest daughter and co-heiress of {Reverend} Thomas Blackwell, A.M. Rector of St. Clement-Danes, London.

During this period smuggling was a flourishing occupation and a great deal of brandy and other smuggled goods passed through the parish of Rolvenden. James Monypenny was said to have done a great trade in contraband. This may be untrue, but the River Rother or a tributary thereof, long since dried up, is said to have flowed close to Great Maytham. A secret underground passage discovered at Great Maytham in 1893 connecting the cellars to a wharf on this ancient water course would suggest strongly that something was being surreptitiously transported.

James and Silvestra had the following children:

- Silvestra Monypenny who was born in 1758 and died young.
- Elizabeth Monypenny who was born in 1759 and died young.
- James Monypenny who was born circa 1759, married Mary Burt, died in June 1822 at. 53; interred in the North Chancel of Rolvenden Church..
- {Reverend} Phillips Monypenny A.M., of Maytham Hall, Rolvenden, Kent who was Vicar of Hadow, Kent. He married Charlotte Dering, second daughter of Sir Edward Dering, 6th Baronet of Surrenden-Dering, Kent. Phillips was born circa 1763 and died on January 4, 1841 at. 78. Charlotte, his wife, was born circa 1762 and died on November 12, 1826 at. 64. They are interred in the North Chancel of Rolvenden Church.
- **Thomas Monypenny** (mentioned next.)
- Silvestra Monypenny who was born in 1766, married {Rev} John Hutton, died in 1836.
- Mary and Arthur Monypenny, both died young.
- **Robert Monypenny** (mentioned next.)

Generation Twenty-one

Thomas Monypenny

Born in July 1763

Died on September 24, 1814 at. 51, and interred in the North Chancel of Rolvenden Church.

Thomas married in November 1795 to Katherine Rutton, a daughter of Isaac Rutton of Ospringe, Kent and they had the following children:

- {Lieutenant Colonel} Thomas Gybbon-Monypenny, M.P. who was born on November 7, 1796 and died on January 15, 1854. On his succession to The Hole House, Rolvenden in 1837 he assumed the name and arms of Gybbon in addition to Monypenny. Thomas was Lt. Col. of the West Kent Militia, M.P. for Rye and he fought at Waterloo as Ensign of the 30th Foot. He married in 1818 to his 1st cousin, Silvestra Rose Monypenny, eldest daughter of his uncle Robert Monypenny of Merrington Place and they had four sons and three daughters:
 - Sylvestra Elizabeth Gybbon-Monypenny (b. Dec 1820)
 - Captain Robert Gybbon-Monypenny (1823 - 1893) of Great Maytham Hall which passed out of the family on his death. Robert married Janet Philips Burney (d. 1863) and they had six children, among whom was:
 - Herbert d'Arblay Gybbon-Monypenny (1858 - 1930) who married Margaret Catherine Sterndale. They had six children:
 - Robert d'Arblay Gybbon-Monypenny (b.1892) who married Dorothea Brenda Reeve. They had one son and two daughters.
 - Herbert Reginald Dauphin Gybbon-Monypenny CBE (1895-1988) who married Marjorie Logan Aird Reid (1909-1969) They had the following children:
 - Peter Gybbon-Monypenny, 29th Laird of Pitmilley who succeeded his kinswoman Joan Cranfield Monypenny of Pitmilley. Peter married Doronée who kindly shared information and checked the details of this genealogy. Peter and Doronée live in England. They have children and grandchildren.
 - Patricia Gybbon-Monypenny
 - Phillips Gybbon-Monypenny
 - Phillips Burney Sterndale Gybbon-Monypenny (1898-1914)
 - Bertie Crawford Gybbon-Monypenny
 - Richard Montague Gybbon-Monypenny (b. 1905) who was employed by the Colonial Service in Ceylon. Richard married Annie Mary Olive and they had two sons:
 - Richard Brian Gybbon-Monypenny (1934 – 2007) who married Claire Margaret who kindly shared this family information. Brian and Claire resided in Australia where they have children and grandchildren.
 - William Gybbon-Monypenny
 - David Cathcart Gybbon-Monypenny
 - William David Cathcart Gybbon-Monypenny (b. May 31, 1825)
 - Thomas Phillips Blackwell Gybbon-Monypenny (1828 - 1874, buried Kensal Green)
 - Emily Catherine Gybbon-Monypenny (b. August 15, 1830, baptised August 20, 1830)
 - Laura Dunn Gybbon-Monypenny (b. November 30, 1832, baptised January 8, 1833)
 - Richard James Lamb Gybbon-Monypenny (b. July 7, 1839, baptised October 20, 1839)
- {Reverend} James Isaac Monypenny of Pitmilley who was born on January 19, 1799 and died on December 18, 1881. James succeeded his kinsman William Tankerville Monypenny of Pitmilley (who married but died without issue in 1869) as the 25th Laird of

Pitmilley. James was the Vicar of Hadlow, and it was he who performed the marriage between {Rev} Henry Doyle Sewell and Elizabeth Charlotte Monypenny on November 25, 1844. The first known mention of the church at Hadlow is in the Textus Roffensis (or Rochester Register) of 975 AD. This first church was probably a timber church. It is likely that the timber building lasted until about 1018 when the land of Hadlow was given to Eddeva (also Edith and Eadgyth) – Edward the Confessor’s queen. It is thought that she rebuilt the church at this time in stone. The lower part of the tower dates from about this time as evidenced by the long and short technique on the NE corner. James Isacc Monypenny married in 1828 to his 1st cousin, Mary Blackwell Monypenny, a daughter of his uncle Robert Monypenny of Merrington Place. James and Mary had the following children:

- Mary Catherine Monypenny; born on December 3, 1829 and died on December 10, 1830.
- Margaret Dunn Monypenny; born on June 13 1832 and died in 1920. Margaret married in 1860 to Rev.Alexander James Manson and they didn’t have children.
- Adelaide Elizabeth Monypenny; born on October 19, 1833 and died on September 23, 1910.
 - James Robert Blackwell Monypenny of Pitmilley, 26th Laird of Pitmilley, J.P., M.A. Trinity College, Cambridge, Hon. Colonel 4th Batt. the Buffs (East Kent Regt.) Born September 25, 1835 and died May 22,1886. James married Mary Elizabeth Lane, a daughter of {Reverend} Charlton Lane, M.A., Vicar of Hamstead, Middlesex and left issue with three other sons and two daughters:
 - Charlton James Blackwell Monypenny of Pitmilley, 27th Laird of Pitmilley (1867 - 1947) who married Emila Sybil Wetenhall, 3rd daughter of Cecil Algernon Salisbury Wetenhall of Stamrick, Northhampton. Charlton J. B. Monypenny emigrated to South Africa where he re-married and had additional children. Among the grandchildren from this second marriage is Evelyn Ferguson who shared information used to prepare this genealogy. From the first marriage to Emila Wetenhall Charlton James Blackwell Monypenny of Pitmilley, 27th Laird of Pitmilley left issue:
 - Pheobe Monypenny, heiress of Monypenny of Pitmilley, who resigned in favour of her 2nd cousin Joan Cranfield Monypenny.
 - Mary Beatrice Blackwell Monypenny; born on March 15, 1872 and died in 1932. Mary, frequently referred to as Mary Blackwell Monypenny, left a notebook which was shared by Doronée Monypenny and which helped with this genealogy. Mary married her 1st cousin {Reverend} Sinclair Howard Monypenny.
- {Reverend} Phillips Howard Monypenny, B.A., born on 13 June 13, 1837 and died on February 23, 1913. Phillips married first Emma Melasina MacMunn, 4th daughter of Dr. John MacMunn, M.D., of Rutland Square, Dublin, leaving issue with other sons and daughters. Phillips married second to Isobel Seymour Peat.

- James Egerton Howard Monypenny (1864 - 1931) who married Gladys Gwendoline Cranfield, a daughter of {Reverend} Robert Cranfield. They had a daughter:
 - Joan Cranfield Monypenny of Pitmilly, 28th Laird of Pitmilly (born 1906) who succeeded her kinsman Charlton James Blackwell Monypenny on the resignation of her 2nd cousin Phoebe Monypenny.
- {Reverend} Sinclair Howard Monypenny, (1870 - 1951), Vicar of Hadlow 1908 - 1951 who married his 1st cousin Mary Beatrice Monypenny leaving issue:
 - Mary Theodora Howard Monypenny (born 1897)
 - Douglas Phillips Sinclair Monypenny (born 1903) who married his 1st cousin Doreen Ilbert Monypenny
 - John Blackwell Sinclair Monypenny (1911 - 1940) Squadron Leader R.A.F., killed in action, July 19/20, 1940.
- Charlotte Jane Monypenny; born on March 20, 1839 and died in 1884. Charlotte married in 1860 to Fred. Arthur Littleton and they had 5 sons and 5 daughters.
- Henrietta Silvestra Monypenny; born on August 10, 1841 and died in 1884. Henrietta married Rev. Charles Grant and they had a daughter.
- Emma Susannah Monypenny; born on October 27, 1844 and died in 1908.
- Mary Louisa Gordon Monypenny; born on April 19, 1848 and died in 1896. Mary married first in 1872 to Ralph Tebbit and second to Robert Calwell (an American).
- Catherine Silvestra Monypenny who was born in 1800, died on October 8, 1825 and was buried at Hythe, Kent.
- Phillips Monypenny who died young.
- Mary Judith Monypenny who was born on January 21, 1803 and died unmarried in London in 1846.
- Phillips Monypenny who was born on August 14, 1804. He married Jane, a daughter of Thomas Castle, died 1845.
- Elizabeth Monypenny who was born in 1806, married at Rolvenden in 1836 to {Rev} Henry Davis of Dorsetshire and died in 1842. Elizabeth and Henry had two children:
 - Henry Thomas Staines Davis who was born on May 10, 1837
 - Louise Elizabeth Davis who was born on January 11, 1839
- William Monypenny what was born in 1804 and died in 1808.
- William Backhouse Monypenny who was born on December 19, 1808; was a Captain in the Royal Navy, and died on November 29, 1859.
- Robert Honywood Monypenny who was born on March 21, 1810. Robert was a Lieutenant in the 4th or King's Own Regiment; he died in 1839 and was buried at Bangalore.

Robert Monypenny of Merrington Place near Rolvenden, Kent.

Born on January 28, 1771

Died on January 14, 1834 at. 62 years and 11 months

Merrington Place is a residence located south of Rolvenden and west of Great Maytham Hall.

Robert married in 1796 Elizabeth Dunn, a daughter of James Dunn of Merrington, Durham.

Elizabeth was born in 1771 and died on April 28, 1833 at. 61 years and 10 months.

Robert and Elizabeth had the following children:

- Silvestra Rose Monypenny who was born on August 28, 1798 and married on January 8, 1818 to her 1st cousin {Lieutenant Colonel} Thomas Gybbon-Monypenny, M.P., eldest son of her uncle Thomas Monypenny. Silvestra and Thomas had four sons and three daughters; see above.
- Robert Joseph Monypenny the eldest son who was born in March 1800, died at Maytham Hall on September 4, 1842 at. 42; interred in the North Chancel of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Rolvenden, Kent. Robert married Susan Dearden, a daughter of James Dearden of Handel Hall, Lancaster. They had a son:
 - Robert Phillips Dearden Monypenny who was born in 1836.
- James John Monypenny second son who was born circa 1804, died on December 5, 1821 at. 17 and buried in Rolvenden Churchyard, Section C on the North side of the Church.
- Phillips Dunn Monypenny who was born in 1806, died on February 16, 1810 at. 3 years and 6 months and buried in Rolvenden Churchyard, Section C on the North side of the Church.
- Mary Blackwell Monypenny who was born on December 9, 1804 and married her 1st cousin, {Reverend} James Isaac Monypenny of Pitmilly, son of her uncle Thomas Monypenny. Mary and James had two sons and seven daughters; see above. Mary died in 1880.
- **Elizabeth Charlotte Monypenny**, 3rd daughter and 6th child (mentioned next.)
- Phillips Dunn Monypenny who was born in March 1812 and died in London.

Generation Twenty-two

Elizabeth Charlotte Monypenny of Maytham Hall, Rolvenden, Kent

Born circa 1809

Died in August 1862 at. 53; buried on August 7, 1862 at Headcorn, Kent.

Elizabeth Charlotte Monypenny, known as “Charlotte”, married on October 25, 1844 to {Reverend} **Henry Doyle Sewell**, Curate of Hadlow by {Reverend} James Isaac Monypenny, Vicar of Hadlow, Kent. (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Nine)

Charlotte and Henry had the following children:

- Henry de Quincy Sewell I who was born in 1845 and died 9 months later.
- **Henry de Quincy Sewell II** who was born on April 18, 1848. (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Ten)
- Charlotte Mary Sewell who was born on October 11, 1851 and died on July 22, 1920.
- Sewallis Arthur Sewell who was born on September 6, 1854 and died on May 5, 1890.

For the continuation of this line, see: *Sewall and Sewell* Generation Ten.

Sources

Notes of Henry de Quincy Sewell (II) where he wrote of the marriage of his parents: “Elizabeth Charlotte Monypenny, daughter of the late Robert Monypenny of Merrington Place, Kent, married on October 25, 1844 to {Reverend} Henry Doyle Sewell. The marriage was by {Reverend} J.I. Monypenny, Vicar at Hadlow, Kent.”

Margaret Evelyn Sewell (1911 – 2000): *The Pedigree of the Sewell Family - from 1540 - Twelve Generations* where it is written that Elizabeth Charlotte Monypenny was “of Maytham Hall, Rolvenden.” Shared by John Rees.

Doronée Gibbon-Monypenny of Pitmilly: *Letters, 2003 – 2007*

Notebook of Mary Blackwell Monypenny who was likely Mary Beatrice Blackwell Monypenny (1872 - 1932), shared by Doronée Gibbon-Monypenny of Pitmilly.

Evelyn Ferguson: *Letters, Autumn 2004* and *Monypenny of Pitmilly Family Chart*

Sir Bernard Burke: *The General Armory*, London, 1884.

Sir Bernard Burke: *History of the Landed Gentry*, London, 1898

Sir John Balfour Paul: *The Scots Peerage*, 1904 - 1914

Sir Bernard Burke: *Burke's Landed Gentry*, Edited by Peter Townsend. London, 1969

A.C. Fox-Davies & J.P. Brooke-Little: *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*, London 1985

Tombstone inscriptions at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Rolvenden, Kent at the intersection of the A28 and B2086, about 15 miles south Maidstone and 15 miles north of Hastings. Thanks to John Rees. Also see The Kent Archaeological Society internet web site at <<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/>>

Great Maytham Hall is at Rolvenden in Kent, half a mile from the centre of the village and near to the Sussex border. It is set in beautiful countryside some four miles from Tenterden, within ten miles of the Cinque Port town of Rye and sixteen miles from Hastings.

This is a little story of a large house. It is written and illustrated to meet the demand of many summer visitors for a simple booklet, originally written in 1982 by Brigadier John Faviell who was resident at Great Maytham Hall from 1975 until his death in 1984, which might remind them of what they have seen and heard.

Many are the myths surrounding Great Maytham Hall, but few reach the realms of realism. In this short pamphlet, therefore, nothing unsupported by historical fact has been included. Such an approach has been hard. Rolvenden was heavily involved in the smuggling racket of the Georgian era. Stories were rife of a contraband centre at Great Maytham and of smugglers' tunnels from the old Hall to the woods below. There were also tales of a ghost rising from a pond nearby. Our hearts have had to be hardened to discount these delightful fantasies, but two historical facts of this land of the Kentish "Dens" are worth mention.

Great Maytham is halfway between Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne. Rolvenden was decimated by the plague in 1665; the survivors removed themselves "en bloc" to what has since become the village of Rolvenden Layne. Secondly the river Rother — a navigable estuary up to Tudor days — included a Maytham wharf, clearly a central point of the Manor of that name. Although some two miles away from the Hall it is reasonable to assume that the name of the Hall was linked with that of the wharf.

Early History

Although Great Maytham Hall can hardly be described as a house of historic importance, the site on which it stands forms part of an estate of Maytham which first took shape in the early Saxon times. Anderida (a Roman stronghold and port at the edge of the forest, the site of which, called "Castle Toll", is still to be seen), existed in a vast forest, called by the Saxons "Andredwald" about two miles south-west of Rolvenden. In the fifth century Saxons and Jutes from Northern Denmark sailed up estuaries, such as the Rother, exterminating Romanised Britons, made clearings in the forest and farmed the land. The termination "den" is believed to denote a forest clearing and "ham" a farmstead.

The Saxons divided their lands for administration into "Hundreds" which were sub-divided into "Boroughs". Rolvenden was one such Hundred and "Mayhamme" one of its four boroughs. The present population of the district is said to be largely descended from these Jutes.

After the Norman Conquest

Domesday Book shows "Rowindenne" twice and at least four Normans held Manors there, corresponding to the Saxon Boroughs. In the reign of Edward I Orable and Elwina de Maytham owned the manor and soon after the owner was John de Malmains who died in 1317. In 1347 the heirs of Thomas Malmains of Hoo held it by knight's service. Later the manor came into the possession of the Carews of Beddington in Surrey.

The Middle Ages

Edward III brought Flemish weavers to teach the English their craft and a big trade developed in Rolvenden in the new wool industry. Most of the families which later became large landowners hereabouts derived their great wealth from this trade. Among these were the Gybbons who in the 18th century became closely connected with the Manor of Maytham. They held lands in Rolvenden as early as 1340 and in the reign of Henry VIII acquired the large estate of Hole Manor in this parish.

The Tudor Period

The Carews held Maytham until 1540 when Sir Nicholas Carew was attainted by Act of Parliament. The Crown then granted it to Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, but he too was attainted soon after. In 1542 the Crown gave the lands to Sir Thomas Wyatt of Alyngton who held it only for a short time. He was the father of Sir Thomas Wyatt who headed a conspiracy to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne, instead of Mary, on the death of Edward VI and who was attainted and executed in 1553 together with the unfortunate Jane and many others.

Following Wyatt's short tenure Maytham passed, through the marriage of a daughter of the next owner, to Thomas Colepeper of Bedgebury, a large estate about eight miles from Maytham. Anthony Colepeper was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I who stayed in the house during her progress through Kent in 1573.

It may be noted that all the above owners of Maytham, from the Carews down to the Colepepers who held it for over 150 years, had large and long-established estates elsewhere. There is no reason to suppose that any of them would have wanted to build a manor house at Maytham or to live there. They would have had tenants living in farm-houses.

There was another estate, formally called Little Maytham, owned originally by the same Elwina de Maytham who was part-owner of Great Maytham. This came into the possession of Walter Colepeper in Henry VIII's reign but never belonged to the owners of Great Maytham again after the Colepepers disposed of the latter estate. There was a manor house at Little Maytham, in the borough of Maytham, which was later called Lowden Manor and there is now a Lowden farm, near which the site of the ancient mansion and moat round it are still clearly visible — it is situated near the village of Rolvenden Layne.

During Queen Mary's reign of cruel persecution of Protestants a vicar of Rolvenden and six citizens of Tenterden were burnt at the stake at Canterbury.

The Stuart Period

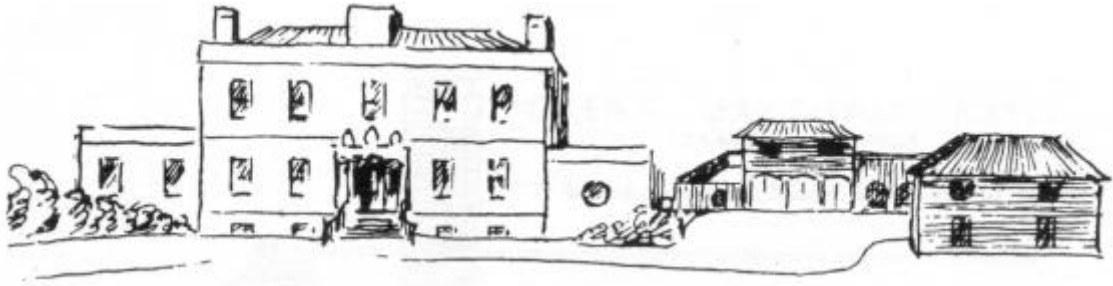
Although there is no record of the local people having been involved in the Civil war between King and Parliament, Colonel Robert Gybbon was a friend of Cromwell, commanded the Parliamentary forces at Rye 1648-9 and was Governor of Jersey under the Commonwealth. Nevertheless he was one of those who welcomed Charles II at Dover and was rewarded with a pardon and kept his large estates at Hole.

In 1665 there occurred the last of the terrible outbreaks of bubonic plague and Rolvenden was one of the villages badly infected. Following the plague the village was largely burnt down and many of the inhabitants moved about a mile away to Lain Green, now called Rolvenden Layne.

Now there are two villages instead of one and no buildings in Rolvenden Street of a date earlier than 1666 except the church and two others.

Eighteenth Century

In 1714 Mary Gybbon (d. 1756, *æt.* 71), sister of Phillips the last male of the long line of Gybbons of Hole, married Captain James Monypenny RN, a Scot, who, in the same year, bought Maytham Manor from the Colepepers as well as other lands in the parish of Rolvenden. Captain James Monypenny (d. 1721, *æt.* 51) had made a large fortune by capturing enemy ships, and in 1721 he started to build the first Maytham Hall of which there is any record. This however, presumably due to lack of funds, remained roofless for many years and it was his son Robert (d. 1772, *æt.* 53) after the death of his father in 1721, who finished it in about 1760. Roof gutters on the present Hall, built later on the same site, bear the date 1763.



The Georgian house with coach house and walled garden behind,
and “bothy” on the extreme right. (circa 1760)

During this period smuggling was a flourishing occupation in this part of Kent. There was a great trade in contraband from the lonely coast between Rye and Folkestone, a great one on which to land cargoes, and many a trail of pack-horses carrying brandy and other smuggled goods passed through the parish of Rolvenden. It was told of the second James Monypenny (d. 1800, *æt.* 79) that he did a great trade in contraband to get the money to complete the roof of Maytham Hall, just before he was made a J.P. A story is also told of an occasion when a local magistrate was called upon by a revenue officer to sign a warrant for the arrest of a smuggler. “Of a what?” bawled the magistrate. “Of Andrew Coble for smuggling”, was the rejoinder. “If you are going to arrest a man for good honest smuggling”, shouted the magistrate, “you must arrest the whole parish and the magistrate first of all. Get out”.

(Both stories may be quite untrue but it is a fact that, during the restoration of Maytham Hall in 1893 following a fire on the top floor, an underground passage was found leading for about 400 yards from the cellars into a wood. This certainly would seem to indicate that the inhabitants of the Hall had been smuggling in a big way.)

Nineteenth Century

We now find the parish of Rolvenden increasingly dominated by the Monypenny family, descendants of Captain James Monypenny and his wife Mary, née Gybbon of Hole. At Matham direct descendants followed him until 1841 when Robert Joseph Monypenny (d. 1842, æt.42), son Robert Monypenny (d. 1834, æt. 62) of nearby Merrington Place, succeeded to Maytham.

At Hole the Gybbon estates had passed in 1826 after the death of Phillips Gybbon, the last in the male line, through various Monypenny descendants in the female line, to Captain Thomas Monypenny J.P., D.L., M.P. (Rye); (d. 1854), the son of Thomas Monypenny of Rye (d 1814, æt.51). There were now members of this family at both Hole and Maytham.

Thomas of Hole assumed the name and arms of “Gybbon of the Hole” and called himself Gybbon-Monypenny but the glamour of the Gybbon name and estate were to be his downfall. To celebrate his inheritance he indulged in a series of extravagances on his estate and, following on the greatest agricultural depression known, had to mortgage the estate. The mortgages were foreclosed and he died in 1854 practically bankrupt.

At Maytham when Robert Joseph Monypenny died in 1842 his son’s claim to succeed him led to a long and costly law-suit with his cousin Lt-Col. Robert Thomas Gybbon-Monypenny, son of the above Thomas of Hole, which the latter won and succeeded to the Maytham estates and hall. Further heavy costs were incurred when the original house was extended in about 1880 in order to provide a second storey above the original Georgian house. This was a curious mock-Tudor addition quite out of keeping with the floors below .



A second storey in pseudo-Gothic style was added in about 1880.

The cost of the law-suit and the agricultural depression of the '80s and '90s ruined him and he, too, like his father at Hole, had to mortgage his estate and, frequently, to let the Hall. He sold the Hall in 1890 to Mr. John Cole Kemsley and died in 1893 virtually penniless. In 1893 the house was partially burned down. That part of the house still remaining was patched up and the Hall was maintained by various tenants.



The Hall was patched up after the fire of 1893, with additional windows.

The rebuilt house was let to Frances Hodgson Burnett in 1898.

Thereafter Maytham passed through several hands and the repaired Hall was let, notably, from 1898 to 1907 to Frances Hodgson Burnett (Mrs. Townesend), authoress of “Little Lord Fauntleroy” and “The Secret Garden”. When Miss Burnett first arrived at Maytham Hall, the walled garden to the west of the house was derelict, and its walls overgrown with ivy. With difficulty, and eventually aided by a robin, she discovered the only entrance to the garden, which was located in the wall furthest from the house. This entrance is now bricked up, but can still be seen today. Miss Burnett set about restoring the garden, which she planted with hundreds of her favourite variety of rose, a coral pink *Laurette Messimy*, and within the peace and tranquility of her scented garden she wrote many plays and novels. It was, of course, the old walled rose garden of the original Georgian house which inspired *The Secret Garden* and the robin which features so delightfully in her book. There is a tablet to her memory in the church, on the South wall.

Twentieth Century

The owner in 1909 was Mr. Powell-Edwards and in that year he sold the estate to the Rt. Hon. H. J. Tennant. The present Great Maytham Hall was built in 1909-10, on the site of the old Hall and incorporating part of it, to the design of Sir Edwin Lutyens. The vaulted cellars under the central block were those of the old Hall and the present outbuildings and walled gardens, and gates, are also of an earlier date. Lutyens was faced with a formidable task; he had an odd-looking three storey house with basement and original outbuildings and extremely difficult levels. A third storey and two wings were required, with new stables for the riding horses.

Sir Edwin’s solution was to continue the Georgian aspect and original window-spacing, using grey and red-brick instead of stone, while above the new third storey, he added a high hipped roof with dormer windows. The total length of the rebuilt houses was over 165 feet. Outside the main Hall a new clock-house was built for the riding stables to provide an imposing entrance to the new drive and avenue of lime trees. The southern, or more correctly the south-western, aspect of the house presented another problem. The ground fell away steeply and striking horizontal features were necessary to break the strict vertical line of the important “garden front”. This he achieved by a terrace and a series of steps leading from it — a feature which was typical of Lutyens’ garden design.

The interior of the house presented another difficulty. Mr. Tennant demanded a big reception room on the ground floor and complete accommodation for the children on the new second floor; all this was achieved with skill. The ground floor, with its columns breaking the vast hail area, was designed as an entrance to the reception room, now known as the Churchill Room. The new second floor was a children's paradise, with day and night nurseries, play and school rooms, bedrooms for both children and nannies as well as their own small kitchen which was a useful addition as the main kitchen of the house was in the original basements. In the design of the interior, Lutyens was responsible for all the detailed work on the fittings, and even the door handles were supplied to his specifications.

From 1909 to 1936 the Tennants lived in the luxury of a bygone age at Maytham. At Rolvenden Layne they had built their own laundry, carpenter's shop and dairy, and a huge vegetable garden in an area now covered with Council houses. There was a back drive leading towards this area for the use of the staff employed on the property. Only the owners and their guests were allowed to use the main approach through the Clock-House.

Records of 1925 show that the Maytham Estate comprised 1,304 acres of which only 56, known as Great Maytham, were kept in hand by the owner. In 1936 when the estate was sold to the travel agent Mr. Thomas Cook most of the tenant farmers bought in their holdings and the buildings in Rolvenden Layne, including the laundry, were put on the market as private dwellings which they have since remained.

So ended the era of old-fashioned spaciousness. After the outbreak of the Second World War the house was used by the National Institute for the Blind and then taken over by the Army, who were disappointed to find that the blind people had removed all the huts, which the Army had hoped would be left for them. Fortunately, a good Commanding Officer saw that all was kept in proper order and condition; but as a part of the *Dig for Victory* campaign Frances Hodgson Burnett's lovely roses were dug up and replaced with cabbages and leeks, and the well manicured lawns were planted with potatoes. But later, the Army left the house and it became a home for the disabled and misplaced. This produced difficulties, not only were internal alterations inevitable for these occupants but there was no possibility of any maintenance in the grounds. The gardens were left to rot and for years the weeds grew and the brambles flourished.

The War ended and the property was de-requisitioned. Owners came and went in quick succession, the brambles continued to thrive and the edifice itself began to suffer. The lower lawn was let for grazing and two irreplaceable Irish yews were felled because of the danger to livestock. So the sad scene darkened year by year and but for a former employee, Mr. Percy Harris, decay and devastation might well have been complete. Such was his devotion to Maytham that he opted to remain on the empty property as guardian against the ravages of vagrants and plunderers. Under his watchful eye there was one interesting episode; the deserted house was aptly chosen to represent the General Headquarters of the French Forces in the Film "Dunkirk".

Then came one of those curious freaks of fate which, throughout the ages, have rescued great works of art from obscurity. The year was 1955 when Mr. A. Du Gard Pasley, a leading landscape architect, missed a turning out of Rolvenden, looked for a place to reverse his car, and halted at the Maytham Clock-House. As he drew in to turn he saw a vast and stately mansion at the end of a lime tree avenue. He drove up the avenue towards the house, when he saw the features of the design the penny dropped — here was a Lutyens masterpiece, abandoned and

forgotten. He climbed in through an open window and was entranced with all he saw. Looking at the overgrown gardens outside, he was determined to return and on his next visit he was fascinated to discover the original lay-out.

To leave such a property derelict seemed disgraceful and he thought something must be done. He tackled the Kent County Council who eventually agreed to hold a public enquiry into the future of Great Maytham Hall. The result was the rejection of a proposal to demolish part of the building and an agreement that the buildings should remain intact. The Hall then became the property of Commander Lacon but after a short period an approach was made to Mutual Households Association (which changed its name to Country Houses Association in 1984).

In 1961 the Association, with the help of Tenterden Rural District Council, agreed to buy the house. Much work had to be done. Bathrooms for apartments were a difficulty with inevitable plumbing problems. A range of outbuildings included the two Georgian coach-houses with stabling between them. Their conversion into garages was not difficult and later these were augmented by a row of lock-up garages at the opposite side. The stables for the riding horses in the Clock-House involved a major conversion to provide an apartment for the House Administrators, a residents' apartment and two guest rooms. The main conversion work, nevertheless, was completed by January 1965.

As of 2004, Great Maytham was operated by Girlings Retirement Options Ltd, Glanville House, Frobisher Way, Taunton, TA2 6BB. Girlings was founded by Peter and Gillian Girling in 1990, and is a recognised market leader for long term residential letting across the UK.

Sources

Brigadier John Faviell: *Great Maytham Hall*, 1982.

Doronée Gybbon-Monypenny of Pitmilly, *Letters*, 2004



Great Maytham Hall circa 2003

Courtesy Doronée Gybbon-Monypenny of Pitmilly

