

TAPPIN FAMILY GENEALOGY

[Henry Tappin 1842 – 1922](#)

[Cordwainer to Pauper and Back?](#)

Henry Tappin was born on the 11th Aug 1842 in Ripley Surrey, the son of Henry and Hannah (née Giles); he was the eldest of eleven children and followed his father into the trade of shoemaker. His brother William (the second eldest) emigrated to New Zealand (see - [Apprentice Cordwainer and Emigrant to New Zealand](#)) and two other younger brothers were to die as children.

Henry is recorded in the 1851 census of Ripley as a nine year old schoolchild; in 1861 he is shown as a shoemaker still living with his parents however, in 1871 again with his parents, he is listed as a Post Messenger. On the 14th Jan 1873 at the age of thirty, he married Emma, age 22, (sometimes shown as Emily) Tickner at the Guildford Register Office, the daughter of William Tickner (a farm labourer) and Ann Batty. His occupation at marriage was given as a postman however shortly after he reverted to his previous trade as a shoemaker and from thereon he is recorded as either a cordwainer, shoemaker or bootmaker. He is recorded as a Boot and Shoe Maker in the 1891 Kelly's Directory of Kent, Surrey and Sussex at Woking Station (5 miles from Ripley), presumably he was carrying out his trade from a shop or kiosk at the station. However, death and hardship was not long in hitting the family.

Emma herself had prior to her marriage fallen upon hard times. She had, on the 2nd March 1870 at the age of 19, been admitted to the Epsom Workhouse where, just sixteen days later, she gave birth to an illegitimate daughter, Elizabeth; the birth certificate does not record the father's name. On the same day as the birth she was discharged from the Workhouse at her own request with her child to the parish of Cobham; presumably she must have had some connection with the Parish at this time. Elizabeth has so far not been traced beyond the 1881 census where she is recorded as living with her mother and Henry; she had retained the name of Tickner and not taken Tappin as her surname. Henry and Emma had three children:

Alice Maria born 21 Jul 1874	In the 1891 Census she is a domestic servant living with her father and step-mother in Ripley, she is not with them in 1901 but an Alice Tappin unmarried of the right age and birthplace is shown as living at 12 Bloomfield Terrace in London with a Marian St Aubyn, an American, and her daughter Florence who incidentally was born in Malta. Unfortunately the census record fails to specify either Alice's relationship or her occupation; it is most probable that she was employed there as a domestic servant but it is still conjecture that this is our Alice Maria although I am pretty convinced she is; I have not been able to find her in the 19911 Census.
William born 2 Mar 1876	Later had the second name of Henry added, was in 1889 at the age of 13, admitted to Guildford Workhouse and subsequently was indentured and sent to Grimsby as an apprentice fisherman; here he started the Tappin family line in Grimsby. He went on to serve in the Royal Naval Reserve in World War I. William died aged 96 on the 8 th Jan 1973 of a Cerebrovascular Accident (a stroke). See a fuller story - From Workhouse to Trawlers .
Harry born 21 Dec 1878	Just twelve days after the birth, his mother Emma died following complications from the birth including pneumonia. In 1888 Harry was also admitted to the Guildford Workhouse aged 9 as a pauper child, he was on the 8 th Sep 1888 boarded out to William Jelley a shoemaker of Shere near Guildford. However probably because of ill health he was re-admitted just four weeks later; he is recorded in the 1891 Census in Ripley with his father and stepmother and in 1901 is shown as a patient in the Stoke-next-Guildford Isolation Hospital still unmarried. I have also been unable to find Harry in the 1911 Census.

Following the death of his wife Emma, and being left to care for three children aged 4½, 3 and 11 days, just five months later on the 14th Jun 1879 Henry re-married to Olive Emma Wapshott, the daughter of John (a labourer) and Mary Wapshott of Ripley. At his second marriage he was aged 36 and Olive was 21, she was probably working as a nurse at this time. They went on to have at least nine children:

<p>Edith Mary born 10 Mar 1880</p>	<p>In 1901 she was employed as a laundry maid and on 11 May 1902 she married Walter Augustus West, he was a Waterworks Fitter and rose to become an Inspector; Walter's father was a Temperance Hotel proprietor in Farnham Surrey - perhaps she worked in his hotel?</p> <p>One of their sons was killed in the 1970s, along with his wife and son, in Rhodesia as a result of guerrilla action when the aircraft they were travelling in was blown up. They had at least seven children possibly eight.</p>
<p>Francis David born 30 Dec 1881</p>	<p>Living in Cobham in 1901, unmarried and working as a butcher's labourer. Shortly after he joined the Army and went on to serve in South Africa, the Khyber Pass and in World War I. For service in WWI he was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal and the 1915 Star; he also attained acting Warrant Officer Class II rank. In 1911 he is found as a Lance Corporal serving in the Army Service Corps as a butcher at Greenpoint, Cape Town, South Africa having married Harriet Ann Gill (in South Africa). She was a British subject born in Pretoria; she was possibly from an Army family and was eight years younger than him. As yet I have been unable to establish what happened to Harriet, it seems they may not have had children.</p> <p>After the war he became an AA Patrolman. He had another relationship with Lilian Sarah Rice and they had at least two children together; Lilian also had two other children from a previous relationship who retained their Rice surname. Lilian died in 1933 aged 34.</p> <p>Francis married again in 1939 to Ruth Agnes Anstice, I have not been able to find a birth record for Ruth and her father's details are not recorded in her marriage certificate. There was a big difference in Francis's and Ruth's ages, when they married he was 57 and she was 22. However just a year later Francis died in Dorset.</p>
<p>Olive Kate born 22 Oct 1884</p>	<p>In 1901 she was living away from her parents in Woking, unmarried and a domestic servant. Later she moved to Durham and had a relationship with a Policeman (surname Wright); I have not found a marriage for them. They had at least one child that died as an infant. Olive died in 1911 of meningitis at just 26 years of age.</p>
<p>Eveline Grace born 29 Apr 1891</p>	<p>At some time she married a French Canadian (surname DeMars) and went to live in British Columbia. She has not been found in the 1911 Census. Died 2 May 1966 in Victoria BC.</p>
<p>Doris Maud Born 20 Aug 1893</p>	<p>Died 28 February 1895 age 18 months of meningitis and bronchitis.</p>
<p>Agnes Helen born 18 Jul 1895</p>	<p>With parents in Ripley in 1901 and 1911 unsure if she married or if she died at a young age.</p>
<p>Lillian May born 24 Mar 1897</p>	<p>Died 24 October 1906 age 9 of cerebro-spinal meningitis.</p>

Harvey John born 20 Mar 1899	Unmarried, enlisted as a Private in the Rifle Brigade, killed in action in France 28 May 1918 age 19 just five and a half months before the war ended. He was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. He is one of the very many with no known grave.
Winifred Maud Born ca Mar 1903	Listed with her parents in the 1911 Census age 8.

All of their children were born in Ripley but there is a gap between 1885 and 1891 and it seems that there were no other children born during these dates. However, it was during this period (1889) that the two of Henry's children from his first marriage were admitted to the Guildford Workhouse as pauper children, so it is apparent that the family may have fallen upon hard times and been split up. The admissions and discharges records from the Workhouse do not survive, only the minute books that mention the two children, so there is a possibility that other family members had been admitted. In 1891 Olive had the profession of Lying-in Nurse but in the 1901 and 1911 censuses she was listed a Midwife; in the 1930's she was running a maternity hospital in Ripley and was known to visit her out-patients using a pony and trap.

Henry's mother Hannah died in 1894 in Guildford Workhouse of "decay of age"; Henry himself was discovered dead in his bed by his wife having died peacefully in his sleep on 28 September 1922 age 80 in Ripley of senile decay. He had seen at least four of his children pre-decease him. His wife Olive died 18 August 1943 age 84 in the Royal Surrey County Hospital Guildford of a cerebral haemorrhage.

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