CHAPTER SEVEN

Conclusion

So this is the end of my story of my family's connection with the Isle of Wight. There is still plenty more that could be discovered, but I am happy to call it a day, in the knowledge that I have at least revealed something about our family history that is worth sharing. It is rather like doing a jigsaw: it is hard to stop, as each piece you put in leads to other possibilities and suggests new avenues to explore. I have found it fascinating and rewarding, but my greatest regret is not having talked to my parents and my grandmothers more about their early lives. I would urge the younger generations to talk to older family members about their lives.

I should mention that there is another Kimber family who were based in the Island in the nineteenth century, but in the Carisbrooke area. By looking at family trees that other people have researched, I cannot see any connection at all to my Kimber ancestors. The Carisbrooke Kimbers seem to derive from a Kimber family in Kington Magna, Dorset and since Kimber is most likely to be either an occupational name or a saint's name, the families are not necessarily related at all.[1] But this does mean that there are quite a lot of Kimbers on the Island, but none from our Kimber line.

7.1 Chance discoveries and coincidences

One of the pleasures of doing this family research has been the unexpected discoveries and coincidences that have revealed themselves.

I found it interesting to discover that both Betty's grandparents, Benjamin NASH and Frances KIMBER, and her Aunt Bet had all lived in the flat at 1 Pier Street, Ventnor, above Nash's Garage, where my parents, brother and I subsequently lived for two years on moving to the Isle of Wight in 1954. I remember that even after we had moved to our new house, the terrace at 1 Pier Street was a wonderful place from which to watch the Ventnor Carnival every year.

The discoveries I have made about the life of Jane MULLISS have been fascinating — how different her life would have been if her mother, Elizabeth$_{WM}$ MULLISS, had not married George$_{T1}$ TRINDER after the death of Jane's father. Like Aunt Bet, Jane grew up as the oldest of a large family of children and seemed to have been a key person in the family, even though she spent many years living a long way away in York. Initially I could not understand how she, as an unmarried servant, had been able to retire at the age of 55 and eventually to have left a significant sum in her will; the explanation was, as I had begun to suspect, that she was bequeathed sums of money by her wealthy employers.

It was interesting to find so many landlords of inns, coachmen and tailors in the various families. Having discovered the number of twins in the family, I was somewhat surprised that we have not had more in our own children's generation; this may perhaps be revealed in the next generation, though.

My middle name is Priscilla, and I was surprised to find several Priscillas in the family tree, but I don't believe that is why my parents chose it for my middle name, as I don't think they were aware. Chris and I had no idea that my great-grandmother's name was Frances when naming our first daughter Frances, but it is rather nice to feel there is some link back to our ancestors, even if it was not chosen for that reason.

Other surprises cropped up, such as there being a branch of the family living in Epsom, near where my parents were living and where I was born. I wonder if my mother was aware of this when she and my father were living nearby in North Cheam.

[1] http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Kimber (accessed 16 December 2018).

7.2 Cousins abroad

I was intrigued to discover the worldwide spread of our families, and there is a lot that can still be found out here. I know now that we must have quite a few distant cousins in South Africa, Australia, and Canada.

Having two of my own children currently living in Brazil, I found it fascinating to uncover the travels backwards and forwards across the Atlantic by the families of my great-grandfather's brother, John$_{N2}$ NASH. However, I am very glad that we can fly there and don't have to spend three weeks on a boat.

Thanks to the internet I have been able to make contact with a cousin, Graham BELL, and get back in touch with my Peck cousins in Canada. I have also had the pleasure of being in touch with Kimber relatives in Australia. I am grateful for all the photos and information they have all shared: I hope they will enjoy reading this and sharing the stories with their families. I was particularly pleased to receive the photos of my great-great-grandparents, George$_{K1}$ KIMBER (Figure 1.5), Eliza$_{T1}$ TRINDER (Figure 1.6) and Sarah LINSTEAD (Figure 1.12), as well as my great-grandmother, Frances Emily KIMBER (Figure 1.23). I am also grateful to Leonie Radford, a member of Madeline HORTON's family, for helping me in researching our South African connections and the story of Marlow$_{K1}$ Willis KIMBER.

7.3 The extraordinary people

I am deeply in awe of some of the women in our family, like George$_{T1}$ TRINDER's wife Elizabeth$_{WM}$ and George$_{K1}$ KIMBER's wife Eliza$_{T1}$, who gave birth to lots of children, mostly very close together in age, and brought up large families – and, in Eliza$_{T1}$'s case, not all of her own children.

Seeing their children grow up, leave home and, in a number of cases, set off for far-flung countries, with the prospect of never seeing them again, must have been hard. Almost every branch of the family has had to cope with the untimely and tragic deaths of their loved ones. But there also seem to be quite a number of our relatives who lived to their 80s and 90s.

A lot of the children in both the Trinder and Kimber families had to cope with the early death of their mothers. Their lives would have been very different, I imagine, if their fathers had not found new wives quite quickly to care for them.

The way the Trinder, Kimber and Nash families have interwoven in so many different ways has been fascinating. What shines out is the way in which a number of the members of the families clearly dedicated themselves to supporting each other. There do seem to have been some very strong bonds within and across these families. The frequent use of family names like Linstead, Lester, Mulliss and Kimber as given names and house names shows a desire to keep the link with our ancestors, as does the custom of naming children after their parents or other close relatives.

Aunt Bet stands out as an extraordinary lady. I started this journey by being intrigued about her character. My mother had mentioned her, and she really stands out as an amazing woman. Her mother died when she was six, she grew up as the oldest of nine children, worked as a nurse at a school, then at the age of 31 married her stepmother's brother (her step-uncle) who was nineteen years older than she was, became stepmother to his three children, brought up her half-sister's baby, had a child of her own at the age of 44, saw the nephew she had brought up set sail for Canada with a local barmaid to get married at the age of seventeen, saw her own son go off to war and die at the age of seventeen, looked after other members of her extended family, ran a pub until she was 70, and lived to be 87.

7.4 And finally…

I hope that you will have enjoyed reading this and will have discovered something of interest about our family. If I have got anything wrong, I apologise: I would be pleased to amend the text.

Mary Pountain
mary.pountain@gmail.com
13 Leys Road, Cambridge, CB4 2AP, UK

March 2020