

From: s.von-sicard@bham.ac.uk
Sent date: 25/05/2016 - 12:19
To: mmraraty@btinternet.com
Subject: RE: local history

Dear Dr. Raraty,

I fully agree about the "wonders of the modern internet" but without that latter you would not have had a name for your search engine. Being a historian I am very dependant on the hard copies be they in paper or stone inscriptions.

Various members of our family have over the years visited Bridge and taken pictures of the mementos relating to our relatives inside and outside the church. Since then our research has led to new discoveries in relation to Amelius and his siblings. The most interesting is one with Dr. Michael Rutter of the Physics department at Cambridge regarding his grandmother Julia, Amelius' sister. He has in his possession some paintings of Amelius' grandparents.

The volume I mentioned to Rev. Gilbert by Roger Sicard is entitled *Histoire d'une Famille de Languedoc. Cinq Cents Ans d'Histoire Familiale les Sicard au Diocese de Saint-Pons*. Paris: Imprimerie special genealogique 1962. 305 pages (Large size)

I am not surprised that you have not been able to find a copy. I believe that the author printed a limited number of copies for members of the family. As the author was *Sous Prefet de Paris* I would expect that Biblioteque National in Paris would have a copy as would the library in St. Pons.

I should also mention that our son Dr. Nils von Sicard has just visited the ancestral site at Cartoyre south of St. Pons in connection with an international conference in Montpellier..

Thank you for getting in touch.

Sigvard von Sicard

From: MAURICE RARATY [mmraraty@btinternet.com]
Sent: 24 May 2016 21:38
To: s.von-sicard@bham.ac.uk
Subject: local history

Dear Dr von Sicard,

I am delighted to have found your email address through the wonders of the modern internet.

As the current custodian of the collected archives of Bridge Village in Kent, I have come across a letter from you to the then incumbent of the Parish, the Rev. Gilbert, dated 2.12.1988 (!) concerning your ancestor Amelius, who was for so long the medical practitioner in the village, and who, with his mother, is buried in Bridge churchyard.

I do not know what reply you received, but I have accumulated more information since then. You enquired about the status of his sisters Augusta and Julia, and I can confirm that Stuart Delmar (a familiar name in Bridge), son of Augusta is buried in Bridge. The full inscription on a cross on a stone block base reads:

"Stuart/ second son of/ James and Augusta Delmar,/ born Octr. 15th 1835./ died Decr. 26th 1868./ Make them to be numbered/ with the Saints in/ glory everlasting/ In loving memory/ James Delma(r)/ of Canterbury/ born Sept. 4th 179(8)?/ died Oct. 4th 1879/ Augusta his wife/ born Aug. 20th 1807/ died Feby. 28th 1881./ Augusta/ second daughter of/ James and Augusta Delmar/ born Octr. 11th 1829/ died April 30th 1856./ "

It is not altogether clear to me if they are all buried here, beyond Stuart.

This information comes from a survey of the churchyard done by the Womens' Institute in 1978. I don't know if it was accessible to Mr Gilbert at the time.

You also make reference in your letter to a work by R. Sicard, being a history of the family, published in 1962. I would very much like to get a sight of a copy of this (I have not found it on any antiquarian book sites). Do you know where I might find an available copy?

1988 is a long time ago. I do hope you are still in good health, after what I discover has been a very long, varied, unconventional and distinguished career.

With my very good wishes,

Maurice M Raraty MA PhD FRGS

Pro tem curator

Bridge Archive