

# “Marigold Cottage”, Kingsdown Road

OS Grid ref: TR 35973 45065

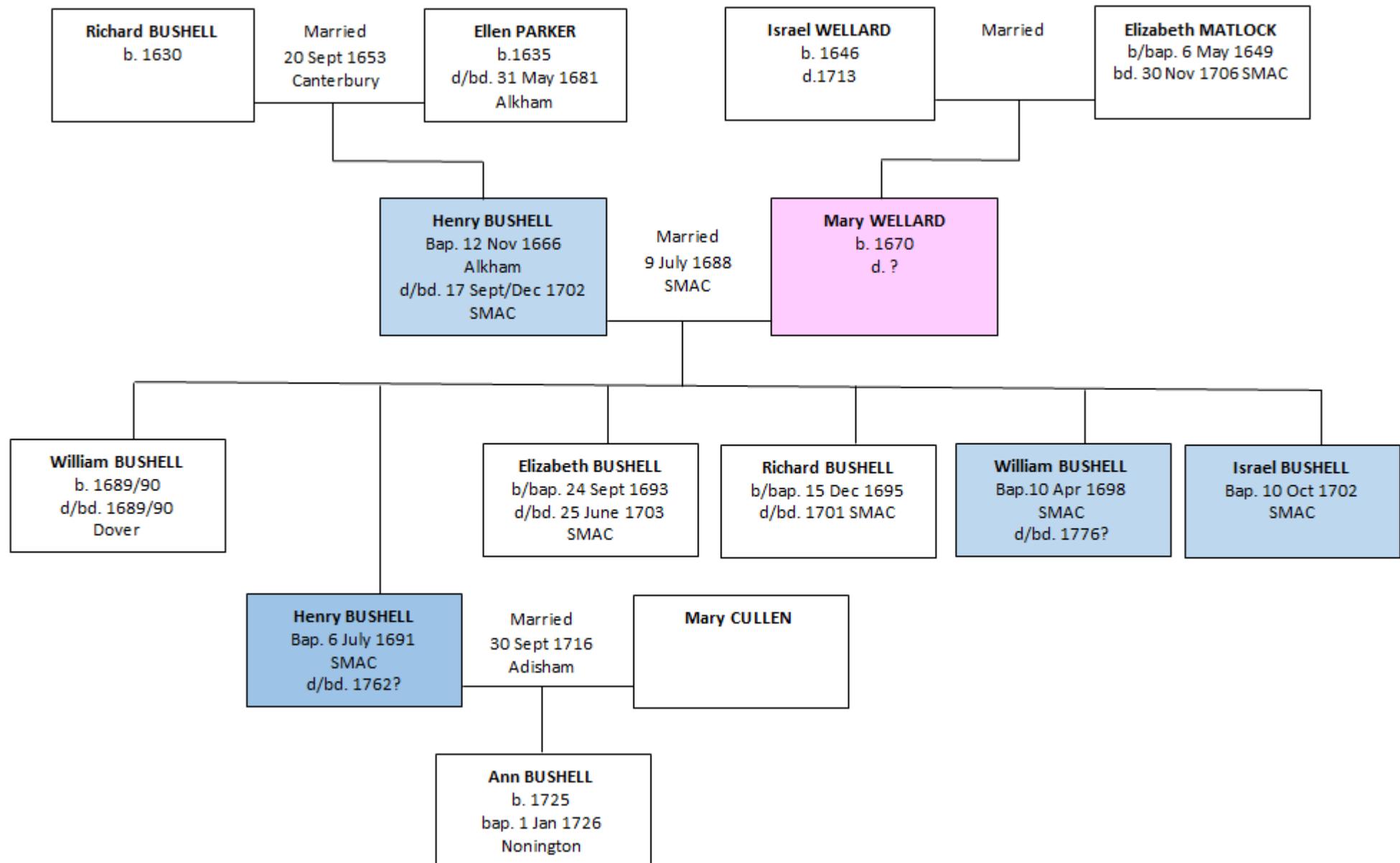
## The early 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Bushells

The first documented record of Marigold Cottage occurs in the 1723 indenture describing the conveyance of the property. This indenture also records an earlier transaction: Henry BUSHELL died in 1702 leaving the property to his three surviving sons and his widow, Mary.

Henry was aged about 45 when he died and had married local girl Mary WELLARD in 1688 at St Margaret's. Henry and Mary had at least six children three of whom died before the age of ten: William died in 1690 at about 4 months, Elizabeth died in 1703 aged about 9 and Richard died in 1701 aged about 6. The sources describe Henry as a labourer and husbandman suggesting that he may have also had a little land and stock. Mary, left with three (or more) young children appears to have remarried: no burial record has been found for Mary BUSHELL but a marriage has been recorded between a Mary BUSHELL and Matthew PARKER in 1705. A Mary PARKER was buried in St Margaret's in 1739.

In 1723 Mary and her three sons (Henry of Nonington, William of Shepherdswell and Israel of St Margaret's) agreed to sell the property to Richard PRESTON for £4 10s. There was, however, a condition attached that Mary should enjoy the occupation of such parts of the property she should choose for the rest of her natural life, rent free. The clause also includes the condition that she be allowed to live there peaceably and if she were molested in any way then the sale would become void. The property reverted to Richard PRESTON on Mary's decease, to do with as he pleased.





## **The PRESTONs otherwise PRESCOTT**

Israel BUSHELL appears to have continued to live at Marigold Cottage as the tenant of Richard PRESTON, labourer, as Israel is recorded as the occupier in the next conveyance of 1775. In April of this year Richard 'PRESTON otherwise PRESCOTT' (sic) leased the house and garden for 5s. for a full year at the end of which a peppercorn would be paid if demanded. This was not a lease as we would understand today but part of an agreement to sell. Typically, a lease was drawn up on one day and a re-lease the following day to complete the transaction. In this case, the property passed from Richard PRESTON otherwise PRESCOTT to William PRESTON otherwise PRESCOTT for £30.

Burial records show the death of a Richard PRESTON in 1777 and it is thought that he was the father of William PRESTON otherwise PRESCOTT.

## **The 19<sup>th</sup> century**

William PRESTON otherwise PRESCOTT, also a 'labourer' as his father before him, retained the property until 1818 when it was conveyed by lease and release to John ELGAR for the sum of £50. ELGAR also paid a further 10 shillings to PRESTON but the reason for this is not apparent. The solicitor is mentioned as the third party to the indenture – was this because John ELGAR was underage? John's parents had married in 1803 so this is possible; a John ELGAR was baptised at Guston in 1805 which would have made him about 13-14 so perhaps his father was setting him up for the future. There is also a clause which denies any rights to a future wife which might be a way of protecting him from falling prey to a "gold-digger"!

## **The ELGARs**

In 1842 the tithe map shows John ELGAR senior as owner and occupier of the cottage and that he was also using pasture and arable land owned by Richard SMITHET as well as Bockell Hill Farm (sic). In 1853 Elgar was still in occupation at Bockell Hill Farm when an auction was announced in the *Kentish Gazette*:

“For sale by public auction at the Shakespeare Hotel Dover. A compact and convenient freehold farm, called Brockelt (sic) Farm, with good dwelling house, barn, stables, cowsheds, lodges &c. with (according to the parish map) 28a 1r 13p<sup>1</sup> (of valuable arable land, situate in the parish of SMAC, near Dover, in the occupation of Mr John ELGAR, under a lease for 21 years, from Michaelmas, 1840, determinable at 14 years, at the option of the lessee, on a year’s notice”

In 1860 John ELGAR snr. wrote his last will and testament in which he left everything to his wife Elizabeth for the duration of her life. This was not an uncommon method of ensuring that the widow would be certain of having a roof over her head and an income for her remaining years. After her death, he instructed that his son, John ELGAR jnr. should sell all the property and divide the money between himself, William ELGAR, Finnis Curling ELGAR, and Louisa HARDING, his granddaughter. John ELGAR senior continued to receive the rents from his property until his death in 1862. Elizabeth, his widow, then received the rents until she moved into the property in 1873, the same year in which her son, John ELGAR jnr., died; John ELGAR left his estate to his brother, Henry ELGAR. Throughout this time Henry ELGAR had been living with his parents; Henry became the occupant on his mother’s death in 1878.

At the decease of his mother, Henry ELGAR was granted letters of administration and the property was left to himself, his brother Finnis Curling ELGAR and his niece Louisa HARDING. (Louisa was the granddaughter of John ELGAR snr. John and his wife, Elizabeth, had a daughter who died leaving a daughter, Louisa, who subsequently married Ephraim Burgess HARDING, a carpenter).

An indenture records how it was agreed that Henry (yeoman and bachelor) would buy out his brother, Finnis (gardener, of 2 The Cottages, Haven Green, Ealing), and niece, Louisa HARDING wife of Ephraim Burgess HARDING of Upper Farringdon, Alton, Hampshire for the sum of £25: £12 10s to each party. Henry then took possession of the property numbered 384 on the tithe map of the parish and the accompanying apportionment book (there is evidently some confusion over the tithe reference which is given as 383); this property was said to amount to 14 perches (about 350 square metres). The indenture is accompanied by a declaration to show that Louisa (being a mere female!) understood the transaction and was agreeing to it voluntarily. `

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<sup>1</sup> 28 acres, 1 rood and 13 perches

Henry ELGAR died in 1884 and was buried at St Margaret's at Cliffe church on 14 August. At the time he was living in Deal and we do not know who was then occupying Marigold Cottage. Probate for Henry's estate was granted to the Rev. Ebenezer Curling LUCEY, the well-respected incumbent of St Margaret's.

*R: Rev. Ebenezer Curling LUCEY<sup>2</sup>*

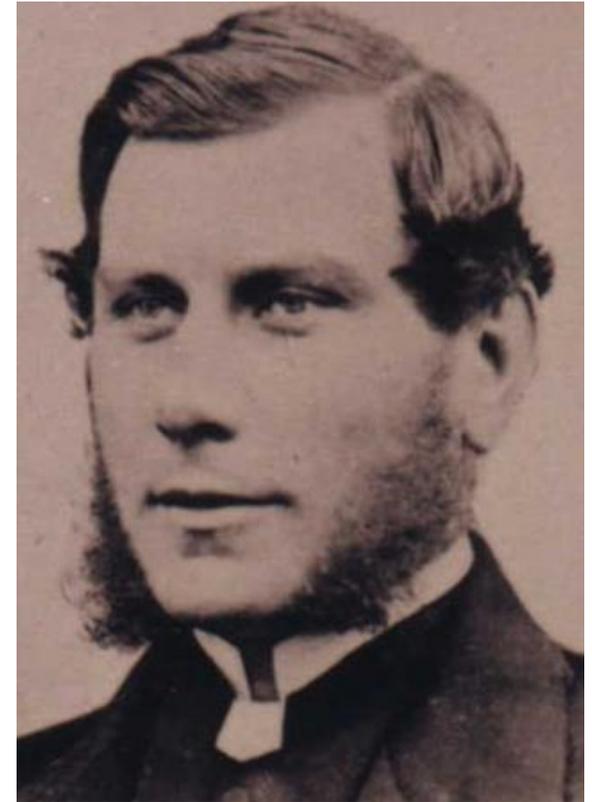
## **The CURLING family of Bockhill Farm and Bockhill House**

Following the wishes of Henry ELGAR, LUCEY sold the cottage for £80 to Henry CURLING the elder, farmer at Bockhill Farm. CURLING died just four years later leaving everything (an estate valued at £575 19s 5d) to his six children: Henry Charles CURLING (d. 1900), John Thomas CURLING, Finnis Orpin CURLING, Francis CURLING (d. 1892), Selina CURLING, and Eliza CURLING.

In 1901 an agreement was reached whereby John Thomas CURLING sold his share of the CURLING estate for £170 to his surviving three siblings: Finnis, Selina and Eliza. It is interesting to see that a pencil note on the conveyance document states that Marigold Cottage was formerly known as Elgar Cottage.

The CURLINGS evidently had a significant income from their properties locally. In 1901 all four siblings were living at Bockhill Farm but in 1905 Finnis, Selina and Eliza built and moved into their new home at Bockhill House, just off Chapel Lane. Finnis died there in 1927 leaving his estate to his sisters. Selina passed away in 1931 leaving her share of the estate to her sister, Eliza, who subsequently died in 1932. By this time we know that Marigold Cottage was let to a tenant, Miss Palmer. Eliza's estate was valued at £3524 12s 10d.

Later that year the executors of Eliza's will put up her properties for sale. Marigold Cottage was just one of nineteen cottages in the auction together with Bockhill Farm and land, a forge, and a plot of land and pasture selling in total for £3445. One of the executors was Henry George CURLING, Eliza's nephew, and it seems that he saw an opportunity for investment as Marigold Cottage was sold to



<sup>2</sup> Rev. Ebenezer Curling LUCEY, aged 42, 1876. MA, Lincoln College, Oxford. Vicar of St Margaret's 1866, St Peter West Cliffe 1872 until 1885 when he was appointed to Mersham, Kent

his daughters Gladys Emily CURLING and Ethel Beatrice CURLING later DOYLE for £145 each. The CURLING sisters seem to have inherited their tenant as records show that Jane M PALMER was still living at the cottage in 1939. Jane was an elderly spinster, upholsterer and needlewoman.

Marigold Cottage suffered some damage during the Second World War and in 1946 it was sold for £275 to Thomas William PAGE, an electrician. Not long after his purchase the house was described as having a kitchen, living room and two bedrooms. It was found to be in good condition with no dry rot or damp. It had an 8" deep scullery sink and a food cupboard, coal fires in the living room and bedrooms, an electric cooker and an Ideal type boiler for hot water. It also had an Elsan toilet and a cesspool was 'under construction'. There were two outbuildings and a coal store.

PAGE carried out his business as Page's Modern Electrical Contractors and Radio Engineers from Marigold Cottage and premises in the High Street until his death in 1961. His mother, Ethel inherited the property and subsequently sold it in 1963 to George ANDREWS, a nephew of the actor George ARLISS who had lived at Crossways in Droveaway Gardens, St Margaret's at Cliffe. George ANDREWS had a successful business as a garage proprietor and motor engineer and, 1937, had married the widow of an American artist, celebrating their reception at the Mayfair Hotel. George ANDREWS died in 1989.

**Research and narrative by Carol Partridge**

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Using a wide range of documents and other resources, every attempt has been made to produce an accurate history of Marigold Cottage and its owners and tenants. Particular thanks are due to the current owners who generously loaned original documents to support this research. However, the conclusions drawn are my own and it is almost inevitable that subsequent or additional discoveries may change the 'story' somewhat. Should such information come to hand, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Society so that we may set the record straight.

