

Desmier

Family History Newsletter

June 2007

Issue No. 8

Editors Note

This edition of the newsletter has been a long time "in press", nine years in fact. I'm sorry but other interests and work commitments got in the way for a long time. I have been retired for nearly a year now and am starting to take control of my time and do the things I want to do, one of which is to spend more time researching my family tree. I am sure that there have been lots of hatches, matches and despatches occurring in the Desmier family since the last edition of the newsletter in June 1998 so I hope you will let me know about them in the near future so that I can mention them in the newsletter.

Technology has advanced considerably over the hiatus period as well. Many more people have connections to the internet and are happy with using email. Where possible I will use email to circulate the newsletter. Not only is this cheaper but also you get colour versions of any photos (if they are in colour) included in the newsletter. The facilities available to family history researchers through the internet continues to increase at a fantastic rate with many indexes and databases available for searching online free of charge. I intend to include tips in future newsletters that lists sites that may be useful to you when doing your own research.

I have tried to send this first digital edition of the newsletter to all those people whose email address I have. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone you think will be interested in it and of course if you are not interested in receiving future copies let me know as well so that I can take you off the list.

If you have any new Desmier family news or old stories about our ancestors that you think could be included please send them to me. To those of you who have sent me material 10 years ago I promise you won't have to wait too long before it gets published.

In the last edition of the newsletter there was an article on Cyril Desmier who emigrated to the UK from Tiruchirapalli with his wife Mary Teresa and son Eugene to join the rest of his family, we continue with information on some of his children (information collated by Eugene). Thankyou Eugene for updating the information.

Rick Desmier

Douglas Desmier

Douglas was born in Trichinopoly, South India. Most of his education was at boarding school, at Campion High School which was run by the Jesuits. In his schooldays he was a keen sportsman and excelled in track and field events. He also played hockey for the Southern Railway where he worked as a Travelling Ticket Inspector. On January 6th 1958 he married Pamela Fernandez at St Mary's Cathedral, Trichinopoly. In July 1960 he emigrated to the UK with Pamela and their son Lindsay. On arrival in the UK he joined British Railways where he worked till retirement. Doug and Pam live in Raynes Park and have four children, Lindsay, Jennifer, Caroline and Mark. Lindsay is the Financial Director for a firm of



Doug after winning the sports championship at Campion school 1948

Chartered Building Surveyors. Jennifer is married to Antonio Febbraro and lives in Milan, Italy with their son Alessandro and daughter Elisa. Caroline is married to Paolo Boscarato and lives in Reading with their three children, Gianni, Chiara and Valentina. Mark, the youngest, is a Computer Engineer.

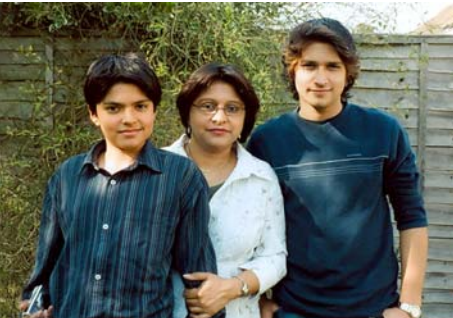
Celine Cooper (née Desmier)

Celine was born in Trichinopoly, South India and was educated at Holy Cross Convent, Trichinopoly. On leaving school she trained as a



Jack and Celine with son Eugene and his wife Denise

school teacher at St. Teresa's Training college, Cannanore and on completion of her training taught in schools in Madras and in Campion



Celine's daughter Lorraine with her two sons Leon and Jan Daniel

Neville Desmier

Neville was born in Trichinopoly, South India. He was educated at Campion High School and went on to graduate at St. Joseph's College, where he obtained a BSc. A keen sportsman, he represented his University at various sports fixtures and was Captain of the University hockey team. After leaving University, he undertook an engineering apprenticeship with the Indian Railways. In August 1959, he emigrated to the UK together with younger brother Malcolm. In 1960, he married Barbara Donaghue at St. Osmund's Church, Barnes. Neville worked for the Atomic energy authority and then moved to the Petro-

High School Trichinopoly. On 22nd May 1957 she married Christopher Cooper (Jack to his relatives and friends) at St.Mary's Cathedral. In February 1962 they emigrated to the UK with their three children, Bernadine, Lorraine and Eugene. While in the UK, Celine worked for British Telecom in the Accounts Department and Jack worked for British Railways. Both are now enjoying retirement and travel frequently abroad, including trips to India and Australia to visit Jack's relatives. Celine had the opportunity of meeting the Duke of Edinburgh when her eldest daughter Bernadine was awarded a Gold Medal for the Duke of Edinburgh's Training Scheme. Bernadine joined the Civil Service and now works for the Department of Trade and Industry. Younger sister Lorraine is married to Jan Grozdanovic who is a solicitor. They have two sons Jan Daniel and Leon both students at Sacred Heart College Wimbledon. Eugene the youngest in the family is an Accountant and is married to Denise Doody.



Celine's eldest daughter Bernadine

chemical Industry till retirement. Their eldest daughter Marie, is married to Perry Bullard. They live in Sutton with their son James. Lewie the eldest boy, is the Vice President of a publishing firm and works and lives with his wife Yuki in Tokyo. Rose graduated from Cambridge with an MA in History and is a journalist. Michelle is doing her final year studies in child psychology at the University of Exeter Glen graduated at Exeter University and now works for the Civil Service. The youngest, Gillian, graduated at Cranford University where she studied Environmental Science. She took a gap year and toured Australia and New Zealand.

Look for other members of your family who lived in British India at <http://www.fibis.org/> There are indexes of birth marriage and death as well as military records and wills all available to be searched free of charge.

Malcolm Desmier

Malcolm was born in Trichinopoly, South India and was educated at Campion High School. On leaving school, he undertook an engineering apprenticeship at the Central Railway workshops, Golden Rock. In his spare time, he took up weightlifting and bodybuilding and has a few trophies to his credit. After completing his apprenticeship he was appointed as a train examiner and posted to Madurai and then Trichinopoly where he took charge of the Freight section of rolling stock. In August 1959 Malcolm emigrated to the UK with elder brother Neville. In 1964 he married Barbara French at Christ the King Church Wimbledon Park. While working for British Rail he attended night school where he attained engineering and management qualifications and eventually went into the Motor Industry in Wales, first with Leyland Motors and finally with the Ford Motor Corporation. In 1993 Ford forced everyone over 55 years to take early retirement and he retired as a Senior Manufacturing Engineer. Due to his wife Barbara's health he contemplated moving to Spain and after considerable research moved to Spain in 2002 to Torre Vieja where he lived for two years and is now happily settled in San Fulgencio. Malcolm enjoys playing golf and Barbara enjoys the company of many ladies

Shirley Donaghue (née Desmier)

Shirley was born in Trichinopoly, South India. She was educated at Holy Cross Convent, completing her final year at St. John's Vestry School, also in Trichinopoly. On leaving school she wanted to be a school teacher and enrolled at the Church Park Teacher's Training college, Madras, where she took her final exams. On completion of her training, she taught at the Good Shepherd Convent, Madras. In July 1960, she emigrated to the UK with her parents (Cyril and Mary Desmier). In August 1966 she married Adrian Donaghue at Christ the King's RC Church. She continued her teaching career in the UK, taking a break when she started her family and went back to teaching once her family had grown up. She retired as Manager of the Early Years Unit at St. Teresa's Primary School, Morden, Surrey. They have four children. Brian, the eldest, works for the Civil Service and is based in Ireland. Alastair



Malcolm and Barbara at their eldest son Neil's wedding in 1998

clubs. They have four children. Neil, the eldest, is married to Tracey Jones and has a son Cameron. Neil runs his own business designing websites and owns a property in Spain to which he travels several times in the year. Kevin married Jayne Sangrie in 1999 and have two children Ryan and Bradley. They run a Pub in Abercynon South Wales. Corrinne is married to Michael Turner and have a son Logan. They moved to Spain in 2005 and have settled in quite well. Logan now speaks fluent Spanish. Anita the youngest spent two years in Spain where she owned a restaurant. She returned to UK to further her education.

and Nigel both work in retail management. Darryl, the youngest graduated at Southampton University in Crime and Psychology and works for the police.

Shirley and Adrian



Alastair, Darryl, Brian and Nigel -1997

Noel Desmier

Noel was born in Trichinopoly, South India. He was educated by the Jesuits at Campion High School. He left India for studies in Germany and settled in London in 1960, entering a career in the Civil Service in Tax Law and later in management development and as a policy advisor. He married Teresa (youngest daughter of Terence and Phyllis Desmier) in 1968 at Christ the King's RC Church, Wimbledon Park. Teresa works for a business training centre. They have a daughter, Sonia, who after obtaining a degree in Biology and English Literature worked in Barbados for a few years and then returned to UK where she now works as a fitness manager for David Lloyd's.

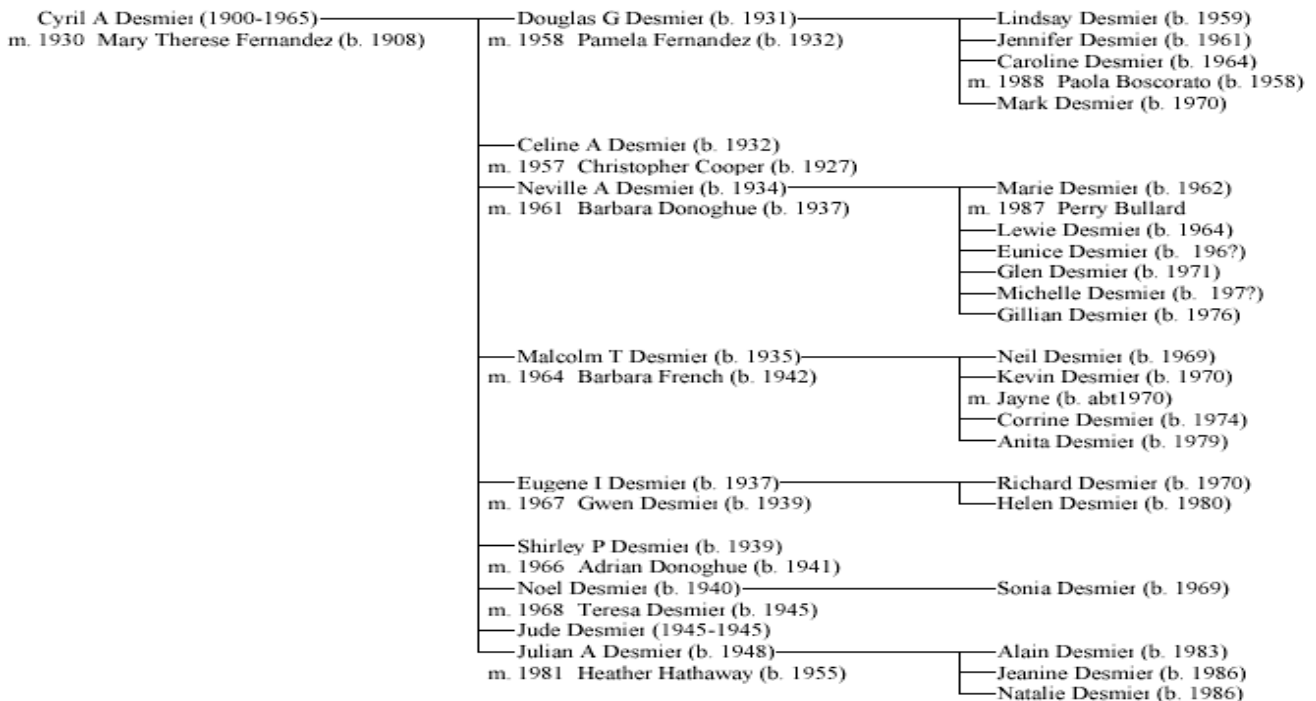


Noel , Teresa and Sonia

Julian Desmier

Julian, the youngest, was born in Trichinopoly and came over to the UK with his parents in July 1960, at the age of 12. He studied at Queen's Road School, Wimbledon where he took a keen interest in sport, representing his school at the Junior Surrey Championships. On leaving school he specialized in electronics and now works for himself as an electronics consultant /engineer In April 1981, he married Heather Hathaway at the Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon. Heather is a teacher and works in the UK's largest co-ed Prep School, Danes Hill, which is situated in Oxshott,

near Leatherhead in Surrey. She is Head of Year 6 and teaches French to Public School Scholarship level and Latin to beginners. Julian and Heather live with their three children in Worcester Park, Surrey. Their son, Alain, has recently graduated from Exeter University and was Student Union president last year. he has now started work with a Public Relations company. Alain's identical twin sisters, Jeannine and Natalie are in their second year studying to be dance teachers. Julian enjoys music and still finds time to gig with his band at the weekends



VALE BOB GIBBS B.E.M.

17/10/1916 - 27/2/2006

It is with much sadness that I have to record the death of Robert(Bob) Gibbs. Bob was an energetic and enthusiastic genealogical researcher and through him I was introduced to a whole new branch of the "Northern Clan" of the Desmier family. I have below reproduced his obituary that was published in the Knaresborough press. The author was Alan Hemsworth.

A courageous and spirited man who truly saw the world

The world will be a sadder and a less interesting place for the passing of Bob Gibbs at the age of 89. Bob was a genuine character to match Blind Jack or any other of Knaresborough's many characters.

Bob was born in Hong Kong in 1916. He grew up in India in the days of the British Raj. He came to England with his younger brother in 1926 (his mother and sister followed a year or two later) to attend an English boarding school and he eventually arrived in Knaresborough via Surrey, Bradford and Normanston, a Japanese prisoner of war camp and Korea.

Although he worked on the railway before the war and could have sat out the Second World War in a reserve occupation he volunteered for the forces as soon as war was declared.

He was eventually posted to Hong Kong where he was captured by the Japanese in December 1941. He was transported to the Japanese mainland to various prison camps and at one stage had to work as a stevedore in docks unloading rice, coal and metals.

Throughout the four years of hardship in captivity he still had an eye for beauty. During his time as a prisoner of war he first saw and grew to love Mount Fuji and cherry blossom. Having spent four years in captivity, Bob then served in the Korean War. Never one to miss an opportunity he even managed a trip to Mount Fuji before returning to England.

After leaving the forces, he trained as a games, geography and later a maths teacher. He taught at Christchurch in Harrogate, Boroughbridge Secondary Modern School and from 1971 until his retirement in 1978 at King James's School, Knaresborough.

He had a genuine interest in pupils in his charge. Even years after having a particular class he would

enquire after a pupil. 'Is he/she doing ok?'

Bob was a keen sportsman with an enduring love of walking (both fell walking and competitive road walking for which he won several medals), cricket (despite



coming to Yorkshire via Surrey he was a passionate supporter of Yorkshire County Cricket Club) and golf. He was for many years a leading figure in local schools athletics.

On retirement, Bob travelled to every continent. His daughter Margaret remembers one occasion when Bob (aged about 80) was told off by his Aunt (aged 98) for sleeping rough in Africa!

He crossed the Nullarbor Plain in Australia by bus (a journey of three or four days), he travelled from Calgary to California by Greyhound coach, he travelled the length of South America, running into Shining Path guerrillas on the way. He visited Russia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, the Galapagos Islands, Kenya, the Kalahari Desert, Borneo, China, India and Pakistan.

A few years ago he even returned to Japan for a ride on the bullet train and to see his beloved Mount Fuji again.

Take a tip from Bob and visit Chile or failing that the English Lake District.

How typical of Bob to die not in a nursing home unable to look after himself but on February 27 on a holiday in Tenerife (three and a half weeks into a four week winter break in the sunshine). He got value for money even on this last holiday!

A courageous and spirited man who kept going to the end, Bob leaves a daughter (Margaret) and son-in-law (Richard) and many friends and acquaintances in Knaresborough and all over the world.



Richard, son of Eugene and Gwen Desmier (newsletter No 7) married Emma Dodsworth at Amberley Castle West Sussex in May 2003. Richard graduated at Bristol University with a BSc First Class Hons in Chemistry. He works in the consumer goods industry and though based in Surrey, often travels to Europe, Asia and the USA on company business.

Rosalind, eldest daughter of Rick and Carole Desmier married Douglas Green at Seppeltsfield, South Australia in March 2005. Ros completed her PhD in Environmental Engineering just before marriage and works as a Specialist Environmental Advisor for Rio Tinto. Doug is an Exploration Geologist for the same company. They live in their house in Perth when they are not travelling the outback of North West Australia for work.



Eric William Anakin Desmier was born 29 July 2006 to Lee and Kelly Desmier in Toronto ,Canada. Eric is the second grandson of John and Sue Desmier and I suspect named after his great grandfather Eric Samuel Desmier of the northern clan.

This newsletter is edited by Rick Desmier. I intend to produce a new edition every six months or so, depending upon contributions. If you have any articles, news or comments for future copies please send them to me at:

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