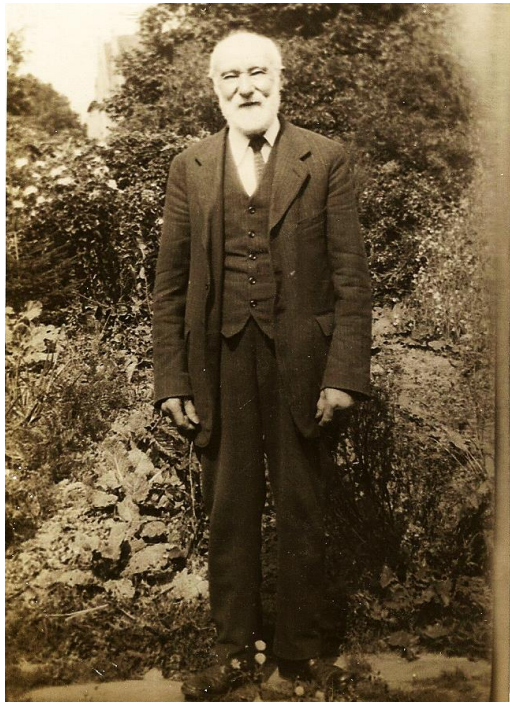


Obadiah Stephen EASTON



Obadiah, our great grandfather, probably the best remembered member of the Easton family, was born in Winchelsea on 21st February 1852, being the eighth child of the ten children born to Thomas Easton and his wife Ann (nee Henbrey) who married in 1834.

Obadiah and Eliza Harriet Quaife were married on 10th October 1874 and subsequently they had five children, Thomas Henbrey, Minnie, Annie Eliza, Charles and William.

A bootmaker by trade, as was his father, Obadiah was a Wesleyan Methodist and reknowned in Winchelsea for his "kindly and cheerful disposition". He was the Superintendent of the Sunday School in the Wesleyan Chapel for over fifty years and, at the date of writing this profile, his portrait still hangs in the Chapel. The family resided at 2 Friars Road for some time, a house lived in by various notables over the years according to the book "Winchelsea - A Port of Stranded Pride" by Malcolm Pratt. There are also some references to other members of the Easton family in the book including

information that Obadiah partook in civic duties and in the 1880s was often called to serve on juries with town officials, some of the cases heard being of a very serious nature.



Obadiah and Elizabeth were buried in the churchyard of Winchelsea and their grave is clearly visible at the time of writing.

The headstone also commemorates their son, the Reverend Charles Easton, who emigrated to America and died there of Bright's Disease in 1913, aged twenty-four. Annie married William George Roland Dann, a Methodist minister in 1910, having travelled to America on her own for the wedding. Her brother, William, followed later and settled there, marrying three times. Minnie married Arthur Wilson and they stayed in the area of Winchelsea, finally living in Spring Cottage, Hogg Hill, Icklesham.

Thomas Henbrey is our direct forebear from this family and his eldest daughter, Dorothy, lived with Obadiah and Eliza during childhood, presumably when the family of Thomas and Isabella became too large for comfort and finances.

Extract from local paper 1929

A STAUNCH WESLEYAN
Mr. S.O. Easton buried at
Winchelsea

Mr. Obadiah Easton, whose death was reported in our last issue, was buried at Winchelsea last Thursday, beside the remains of his wife, who died seven years ago. A native of the town, Mr. Easton was a staunch Wesleyan and had been superintendent of the Sunday School for 54 years. He was of very cheery disposition and many will miss his smiling face and cheery greetings.

The first part of the service was held in the Chapel he loved so much. The Rev. A.J. Norman, who officiated, commented in his address on the faithfulness of Mr. Easton's work for the Wesleyan cause and his care of the material as well as the spiritual side of the Chapel.

The mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wilson, (son-in-law and daughter), Miss

Dorothy Easton (granddaughter), Mrs. T. Easton (daughter-in-law), Mr. C. Easton (grandson), Messrs. Frank, William and Robert Easton (nephews), Mr. Deeprise and three daughters. The Sunday School children and many others also attended.



Obadiah and Eliza with family circa 1900
Back row - Minnie, Thomas Henbrey, Annie Eliza
Front row - William Robert, Obadiah, Eliza and Charles



Friars Road Winchelsea

Obadiah's family lived in the house to the right of the people standing outside the door

Information from : June Cooper (Obadiah's great-granddaughter) 16 Oct 2015