

## CHAPTER FIVE

### *THE EARDLEY AND TRAVERS FAMILY*

So far there has been no obvious connection with St Tudy.

Let us focus on the Rector of St. Tudy that Julia Harrietta Cannan wrote to in 1921 <sup>(1)</sup>, The Reverend Henry Edwin Eardley.

Ancestry.Com. <sup>(29b)</sup> shows a Henry Edwin Eardley born Oct/Nov/Dec 1857 in Derby.

Recorded in the 1861 census there is Henry E. Eardley, son of Edwin and Emma. He was born in 1858, in Litchurch, Derbyshire <sup>(29)</sup>.

At the age of 13 in 1871 he was still at Litchurch <sup>(29a)</sup>.

In 1881<sup>(29b&29bi)</sup> there was a student, Henry E. Eardley born 1858, attending the Theological College at St Mary's Islington.

The Crockford's entry for Mr. Eardley tells us that in 1881 Reverend Eardley was Ordained and he took up work as Curate at Swanage from 1881 to 1884 <sup>(29ei)</sup>.

On February 20th he married Julia Mina Travers who was the daughter of the Rector of Swanage, the Reverend Robert Duncan Travers <sup>(30)</sup>.

Reverend Eardley was then a Private Chaplain from 1884 to 1887 <sup>(29ei)</sup>.

From 1886 to 1891 he was Assoc. Sec. C.M.S. Committee, York <sup>(29ei)</sup>.

There is a census record of him visiting Wallingfen, Derbyshire during 1891 <sup>(29d)</sup>. At the same time his wife Julia Mina was visiting Micklegate, York with Charlotte Mary Travers her sister and Violet Dorothy Eardley her daughter.

The 1901 census <sup>(29di)</sup> shows Henry E. Eardley as residing as 'head' of family at the St. John's Vicarage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. It looks therefore as if he was the vicar of St. John's, Tunbridge Wells.

The Archivist of St. John's Church has confirmed that Henry Eardley was the vicar of St. John's, Tunbridge Wells from 1891 to 1908.

The St. John's Archivist also stated "*Reverend Eardley overworked himself while at St. J. and is said to have done "50 yrs." work in the 17 years he spent here. He revived a dying parish (which had slumped to less than 50 Easter communicants). He started the parish magazine, oversaw a huge enlargement of the church building in 1897 and set up many parish activities.*

*In 1907-8 he went on a lengthy, health seeking cruise. However, on his return he had to admit that his health was no longer up to running St. J. and he had to seek lighter duties elsewhere. He left St. John's and moved to Swanage by mutual transfer with his successor, the Rev. William Henry Parsons."*

The 1915 Kelly's directory shows Reverend Henry Eardley as rector of Swanage <sup>(29e)</sup>. Crockford's show him as Rector of Swanage and Herston from 1908 to 1916. From 1916 to 1926 he was rector of St Tudy. He died in 1932.

Henry Eardley's wife, Julia Mina Travers, was born in 1853 in Thorp Hesley, Rotherham, York's <sup>(30a, b)</sup>, where her father the Reverend Robert Duncan Travers, was 'P.C.' from 1851 to 1853.

Duncan Travers was born in 1823/4 in Gorleston, Suffolk. He was ordained deacon (Chester) in 1846; priest 1848. He must have moved from Yorkshire soon after Julia's birth in 1853 as he became Rector of Swanage, Dorset from 1853 - 1886 <sup>(30i, 30b & 30bi)</sup>.

In 1861 and 1881 census <sup>(30ai, 30bii & 30biii)</sup> Julia was residing with her father in Swanage. He was recorded as Rector of Swanage

Robert Duncan married Julia Holland on 26th February, 1850 in Beckenham, Kent <sup>(30d&30di)</sup>. She was born in 1821 in Westminster <sup>(30)</sup>. The 1881 census <sup>(30e)</sup> shows that Julia Holland was born in Middlesex, London in 1822.

After Swanage, Robert Duncan moved to Walcot, Bath <sup>(30ciii)</sup>. He died in London on 4th October, 1897<sup>(30c, 30ci)</sup>.

Robert Duncan's father was Sir Eaton Stannard Travers, Admiral, R.N., Great Yarmouth and his mother was Ann <sup>(30cii)</sup>. Eaton Stannard Travers had a daughter called Isabella. She was born in Gorleston in 1822. In 1842 <sup>(30eii)</sup> she married the Reverend Charles Norfolk Smythies, vicar of St. Mary's church, The Walls, Colchester. They had three children. One was Charles Alan, born in London in 1844 <sup>(30eiii)</sup>. (Coincidentally the same birth year as Edward John Gore Dupuis).

Charles Norfolk died in 1849. Isabella stayed on in Colchester for a few years and then moved to Swanage in 1857 with her children.

In 1858 she married again to the Reverend George Alston who was the vicar of Studland a neighbouring parish to Swanage.

From Gertrude Ward's biography on Isabella's son, who became Bishop, Charles Alan Smythies, we know that he went to Trinity College, Cambridge in October 1863 and graduated in 1867. He was ordained and was priest in Great Marlow from 1871 for about "three years". From about 1872 to 1880 "he joined the Rev. F.W. Puller as curate in Roath, Cardiff which was a fast expanding parish. In the middle of July 1883 the Bishop of London offered him the Bishopric of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. This he initially refused suggesting that The Reverend Puller would be the better man for the job. Smythies followed up his appeal on behalf of Reverend Puller by a visit to Cowley, where Reverend Puller had joined the Society of St. John. This came to no avail".

The Committee of the Mission had therefore to recommence their search for another name to submit to the Bishop of London. They needed a man of many and singular qualifications; "such men are rare, and of these rarities none seemed willing or able to accept the perilous honour. In their extremity they returned to Smythies and begged him to reconsider his decision. This he consented to do. "Smythies besought the prayers and council of his friends."

He finally wrote to the Bishop accepting the sacred charge. He was consecrated to Bishop on 30th November, 1883 in St. Paul's Cathedral. He then became Bishop of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa. He was returning to England in 1894 due to ill health but died during the voyage and was buried at sea.

The Travers and the Smythies were large families. I am sure they became involved in much and would have surely known, through the church, the Dupuis family. The Dupuis family were living in Creting; a trains journey away from Gorleston via Norwich or along the coast via Ipswich from Gorleston and even Colchester on the same line. Whilst up at Cambridge, Charles Alan may have met George Richard Dupuis. Very possibly, during his time at Marlow, near Eton, he may have met the Dupuis family.

Two snippets:

1. The family had shares in the Steward & Pattenon Brewery. In 1883 Major General James E. Travers and Francis Steward Travers owned 12% and in 1895 Rev. Duncan Travers owed 2.67% (30ciii).
2. Duncan Travers the son of Robert Duncan Travers became missionary and Chaplain to Bishop Smythies from 1884 to 1886 (30eiv).