



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Summer 2026

Repton Village History Group – reptonvillage.org.uk

Email Reptonvillagehistorygroup@outlook.com

Members updates

Hello all, welcome to the Spring 2026 newsletter. I hope it is a good read. We are still on board with updating and refreshing our website and encouraging more people to join, so please tell your friends and get involved if you wish. We also welcome any new committee members, tasks can be small so please if your interested please email or contact us. We conducted a bit of a feedback from the members about where and when we have our speakers for the talks.

The general feeling was although the URC ticks many boxes it can also be problematic especially in the winter with parking, dark entrance and sometimes cold. We are trialling the village hall, back room, in October 2026 with better parking, modern facilities and more central to the village, also with a different day of the week and ealier start time. John is doing a great job in securing speakers for our talks but we do need more people in the audience.

When you read the newsletter below you will see we have several enqiries from abroad which we try to investigate and feedback factual information to the requester. Our archive is quite full and information is available on request this has proved very useful for these tasks. We may be trialling some open mornings so people can view the archives although we would have to man it for that period.

I have also trialled a quiz for virtual prizes, many people get involved and hope this provides some light fun.

The newsletter is produced with help from different sources/people and its not all about Repton but we would like to include surrounding villages and different topics. So please feel free to contact the group for inclusions.

We also have our yearly AGM this time at the village hall during the day, so if you wish to come along please do so and maybe have a coffee whilst your there (see schedule below).

At all times we try to provide the correct information and names to photos etc and keep away from political, religious and contentious views. There may be some grammer errors if items are copied or Inserted from other sources.

Thank you to the people who have contributed to this spring newsletter without you it would prove more difficult for me.

Tim Norman, Charles Proud, Paul Stevens, Lilian Coultan, Mark Sims and Mrs K Corey.

(Note some fonts and styles may be different as you read due to various inputs)

Speaker	Subject	Time/Date	Venue
Andy Millar	A year on the Ethel's (a life in the hills of Derbyshire)	21st April 2026 (1930hrs)	URC Church Repton
Chairman RVHG	AGM	08th May 2026 (1030hrs)	Village Hall
John Barnet	Overseers of the Poor	16th June 2026 (1930hrs)	URC Church Repton
Elaine Perkins	Herbs and Plants Protection in the Medieval period	21st Oct 2026 (1830hrs)	Repton Village hall (Wednesday)

Please keep checking the programme schedule within the RVHG webpage as it will constantly be updated. Reptonvillage.org.uk



As a Bank approx 1977

14 High street c1896



We had an inquiry from Australia. Lilian Coulton was looking to see if we knew the location of a probable Police station within Repton where her father may have worked. We believe they did move around but this building which is still similar was a Police Station at some point and was at 14, High Street from about 1858 to ????. Mellors (Lilians relations) were there in 1921.

As you can see it was Bank around 1977

Overseers of the poor

A single example below of one story, compiled by Charles Proud

Robert Fearn:

The village poor, usually leave behind little evidence of their lives so the following is an attempt to show a brief outline of the life of one of them.

Robert Fearn was born in 1748 in Foremark but from 1784 to at least 1807 he was in Milton, living at what is now 24, Main Street. The house was owned by the Harpur Estate with the rent paid by John & then William Orchard who ran a farm across the road at The Hollies. The Orchards sublet to Robert and he may well have been an agricultural labourer employed by them. He had married Sarah Thorpe, a Repton girl, in 1775; William Orchard was a witness at the wedding. They had two sons, John & Robert, and a daughter Elizabeth but by 1791 all three had died. Robert & Sarah disappear from the records for the next 30 years, not attracting the attentions of the village Constable or Overseers of the Poor, but by 1817 the 1816 'year without summer' added to the post-war depression meant the Repton rural economy was in a dire state with high unemployment combined with high food prices. Robert was forced to appeal to the Overseers and was in receipt of Houserow, where local employers took turns to provide employment to the needy, subsidised by the parish. 1818 brought better times and Robert and Sarah were able to support themselves without the help of the Overseers but by 1823 Robert was 75 and unable to do regular work so was added to the list of the old and infirm in receipt of weekly pay of 2s 6d; an agricultural labourer that year would have earned about 10s per week. Sarah died in 1827 leaving Robert at 79 very dependent on the Overseers for support. In response to rapid rises in the poor rates Repton had in 1828 instituted a Select Vestry system whereby leading parishioners as representatives of the ratepayers met monthly to determine the relief afforded to the poor of the village. The Select Vestry meeting of January 18th 1830 decided that 'Robert Fearn be sent to Rosliston Poor House' & the Overseers Accounts show that he was taken there by horse & cart a month later. Perhaps unsurprisingly Robert lasted barely a month in the Poor House, and he was buried in Repton on March 25th with the Overseers paying the funeral expenses.

The Bricked up Arch

I'm still intrigued with this bricked up arch, which seems to have been built before or within an extension of the old Mitre Inn. It is very close to the road now and from word of mouth it is believed there were some steps going down with a possible rear exit. I wonder if the steps turned 90 degrees as it went down and what was it used for? We know it was temporarily used as an air raid shelter in WW2 suggesting it had a roof. There are some photos below of the building, with and without the end extension. There was a similar larger arch near the now bursars office possibly used as a coal chute. Also there is still one at the old bank near the bus stop, possibly a cellar or strong room.



The arch is just around the corner on the High Street, as you can see above. Before the current extension was built there was a very small thatched cottage.

The thatched cottage in the photo was the court leet . A court room to attend to petty crime in the area. If the case was too serious for them to handle, the suspects were put in the village lock-up, possibly down the little path to Boot Hill and then transported to Derby Assizes. There were also a set of stocks near the cross as one can see in one of Russell Fisher's drawing interpretation.



Without extension



6 main roof ridges before 7 after and an extra chimney

With extension



A wonderful interpretation of how the central part of Repton may of looked, with the court Leet, the lockup possibly down Boot Lane and also the stocks on the cross. Hand drawn by Russell Fisher

Somers article

Yet another enquiry from Australia from a Mr Mark Sims, great grandson of a William Somers. William was the innkeeper of The Boot Inn between 1842 -1859. He then became the Collector of poor rates. Mark was keen to obtain any further information or articles about him and if possible obtain a photograph of William Somers (and family).

William Somers was born on 5th July 1801 in Repton. His father William was 42 and married to Phoebe Brown in December 1827. They had six children.

Some of the many Somers graves are on the back wall next to the vicarage near to the road (church end).



In Red below, from King James bible version. Psalm 46:1
An un usual phrase maybe something was happening around Repton then?

B2 I H S In affectionate remembrance of William Somer/of Repton/who died July 4th 1874/
Aged44 years/**God is our refuge and strength /A very present help in trouble**

B3 Sacred/to the memory of/William Somers/who departed this life/April 8th 1867/Age 66

B4 I loving memory of William Somers/who died Jan 30th 1885/Aged 62 year/Also of Frances Somers/wife of the above/who died June 15th 1888/aged 69 years/ **God is our refuge and Strength/A very present help in trouble** (Sandstone headstone)

B5 Sacred/to the memory of/Phebe, wife of William Somers/who departed this life Feb 2nd 1865 aged 66 years

B6 In memory of/Richard, fourth son of William and Phebe Somers/of Repton/who died Died December 18th/Aged 23 years.

One of William Somers grandsons was Seth Smith Somers

Seth Smith Somers OBE J.P., was Marks adopted grandfather, he played a significant role in both his family and the broader community. He served as chairperson of Walter Somers Steelworks, a business that he and his brothers inherited from their father, Walter Somers, the founder of the steel works.

The Walter Somers Steel Works received a visit from the late Queen and Prince Phillip in 1957. Seth Somers had died in 1954. Mark can vaguely remember visiting the works as a young lad. Walter Somers Steel works were the only steel company who could forge the link chains of the RMS Titanic.



Historical records from

[Milton, Derbyshire](#) show that the **Somers** family was a prominent and notable local family, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries.

- **Thomas Somers**

: A corn miller and "gentleman freeholder," he commissioned the building of **Kirby Holt** in the 1820s. This brick and stucco Regency villa, featuring a Doric portico, still stands on the west side of the village.

- **Joseph Somers**

: Recorded in 1846 as a bricklayer and maltster in Milton. Earlier records from 1793 identify him as a miller.

- **Richard Somers**

: A resident of Milton who passed away there on September 12, 1857. He was born in nearby Repton and served as a significant figure in the community, with his will being probated in 1858.

- **William Somers**

: Listed as a rate collector for the area in mid-19th-century trade directories.

The family's legacy is tied to the village's agricultural and industrial history, particularly through milling and land ownership

Thank you to Paul Stevens for info below on the Somers from the school registers. He has also included a few newspaper excerpts from [British Newspapers Online](#).

Francis Somers

Home Boarder: February 1844 -
Son of W. Somers, Maltster, Repton

John Somers

Home Boarder: August 1840 - December 1842
Son of W. Somers, Maltster, Repton

William Somers

Home Boarder: August 1840 - December 1842
Son of W. Somers, Maltster, Repton

Joseph Somers

Home Boarder: August 1851 - June 1857
Born: April 25th 1841, the son of Joseph Somers, Mason, Repton.
Station master, Midland Railway, Lincoln.
Died: November 4th 1895

Richard Thomas Somers

Home Boarder: April 1865 - December 1865
Born: April 13th 1854, the son of W. Somers of Milton
Drowned in the Thames at Richmond, December 1866, aged 11

“A boy named Richard Somers, about 11 years of age, who was staying at the house of his uncle, Mr. Gascoyne, Hill-street, Richmond, was at the riverside at the end of Bath-terrace, near the railway bridge, with a dog belonging to his uncle, when the animal by some means got into the river, and the boy, attempting to reach him, also fell into the water. A young man named Acton, a coachman in the employ of Mr Glossop, of Twickenham, who witnessed the occurrence, threw off his coat, evidently with the intention of saving the boy if possible. The tide was running strong at the time, and unfortunately both sank. Assistance was quickly obtained, and drags being procured, the bodies of both were soon got out of the water. That of the boy was taken to the house of his relatives, and that of the young man to the Swan Beerhouse, in Bath Terrace, and every means was tried to restore animation, but without success.”

Windsor and Eton Express: January 27th 1866

“Three families have been plunged into grief by the drowning of three persons in the river. On the 19th inst. a girl named Noel was walking by the side of the river, when her bonnet was taken off by the wind. In trying to recover it, she fell into the water, and was not got out till half an hour had elapsed, when life was extinct. The following morning a lad named Somers, who was on a visit to his uncle, Mr. Gascoyne, went to the riverside to give his dog a swim. In reaching over the campshed to get the animal out, he over-balanced himself and fell into the water, which was at that place nine feet deep. A young man named Thomas Axten, coachman in the employ of the Rev. Mr. Glossop, of Twickenham, was passing at the time, and immediately jumped into the river to rescue Somers. In the attempt he failed, and both sank before help arrived. The inquest on the three bodies was held before Mr. W. Carter on Monday evening, when, after hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death in each case. They also expressed their sympathy with the aged parents of Axten, and their admiration of his humane and courageous conduct, and their sorrow at his sad end.”

Surrey Advertiser: January 27th 1866

Thomas Somers

Home Boarder: April 1855 - July 1860
Born: January 21st 1845, the son of Joseph Somers of Repton
Engineer
Address (1905) Stanley Street, Sheffield

Walter Somers

Home Boarder: January 1849 - December 1854
Born: January 23rd 1839, the son of William Somers of Repton
J.P. And C.C., Worces.

Ironmaster

Died: March 12th 1917

[SEE ATTACHED OBITUARY and FUNERAL REPORT]

William Somers

Home Boarder: October 1856 - October 1859

Born: August 3rd 1846, the son of Joseph Somers of Repton

Head of Midland Railway Time Table Office

Address (1905) The Field, Chellaston, Derby

With Mark still living in Melbourne Australia, I met up with his Brother Tony at the Boot Inn for a catch up, and for him the premises where his grandfather ran as a landlord many years ago.

We did have a photo of a William Somers who gained a high rank (if that's the word) in the Royal Sussex lodge of Derbyshire No 353, Freemasons. Originally formed in Repton now based at Burton.

It seems as though the Somers families where abundant in and around Repton and Milton and proved popular and useful for the villages.

Meyers article

Another enquiry this time from North Carolina (USA)

A great granddaughter was searching for more details about Dr Fredrick Meyer.



We have already talked about the Meyers in a previous newsletter winter 2024 No 86. They lived for a while at the Red House at Church end, when in 1898 Mr Meyer disappeared. He was assistant school master at the school, and well respected and highly educated and originally from either Southern Germany or Austria.

The whole village turned out to look for him and it was also mentioned in the local newspapers. There was some speculation he may have gone to Australia to see a sister, but alas, some 128 years later we find out he actually moved to Canada, and started a new career with a new wife. Why did he leave his wife and children alone in Repton? No one will probably ever know. He also leased the Laundry down Tanners Lane and sold the mortgage before he left. He obviously had a plan.

The headmaster of Repton at the time was William Mordaunt Furneaux (later to be Dean of Winchester) Furneaux who kept a ledger, called simply **The Red Book**, in which he recorded important events - it's like a small-scale chronicle which runs all the way from 1883 to 1900. There are four entries relating to Mr Meyer. Putting together the **Red Book** entries and the other sources below, we find that an unspecified accident in 1898 is mentioned, which seems to have occurred in the February, but the School magazine states that Dr Meyer was back at work in March. Local newspapers record him as present at meetings in the village in April and June of that year, and he appears to have resigned from Repton School in the summer.

January 23rd 1890

Start of Term. The numbers rose to 300 boys for the first time in the history of the School. Milton out of bounds on account of measles. H.F. Meyer appointed to a mastership to assist Mr MacFarland with the Army Class.

October 25th 1890

Funeral of Dr Meyer's infant daughter. Members of the Army Class attended.

February 26th 1898

Mr J. Watson came to take work for Dr Meyer, injured by an accident.

September 13th 1898

Term starts. W. Rolleston came as Master in place of Dr Meyer, resigned.

THE REPTONIAN MAGAZINE

In **The Reptonian** magazine of March 1898, there is the following entry under the *Occasional Notes* section: "We are glad to see that Dr. Meyer has recovered from his accident, and is able to resume his duties. During his absence his work was taken by J. Watson, Esq."

In **The Reptonian** magazine of October 1898, there is the following entry under the *Occasional Notes* section: "The place of Dr. Meyer, who resigned last holidays, is occupied by W. Rolleston, Esq."

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

In a report on the Repton branch of The Primrose League, which appeared in **The Derby and Chesterfield Reporter** (01st June 1894) it is stated that Dr. Meyer was unanimously elected Ruling Councillor.

An article from **The Derby Mercury** (03rd April 1895) in which Dr Meyer is involved in an election petition

A lengthy article entitled 'Lively Parish Meeting at Repton,' (in which Dr. Meyer plays a prominent part), appeared in **The Derby Mercury** (10th April 1895)

The Derby Daily Telegraph (03rd May 1895) reported on a draughts match between the Y.M.C.A. and Repton village, before which "through the kindness of Dr. Meyer, the two teams were entertained to a meat tea."

There is a report in **The Derby Daily Telegraph** (10th September 1895) of a fire at Dr. Meyer's house:

"A fire broke out on Monday night in the roof of Dr. Meyer's house. Dr. Meyer discovered the fire smouldering about 10.15 p.m., and an alarm was raised. A number of willing hands were soon found to help, and the new fire hose belonging to Repton School was quickly got into use, the hose fortunately being long enough to reach the Old Trent. A messenger was despatched for the Burton fire engines, and those of Messrs. Allsop, Bass and Co., and the Corporation were quickly on the spot. Their services, however, were not required, as through the energetic efforts of the helpers, together with the Repton School fire engine, the fire had been got under control. The whole of the thatched roof had been practically stripped. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought that it had been smouldering for some time in a large, old disused chimney, which was discovered roofed over under the thatch where the fire was first discovered."

In a news item on the Midland Counties' Chess Championship (Derbyshire v, Staffordshire) which appeared in **The Derby and Chesterfield Reporter** (03rd December 1897) Dr. Meyer is listed as a member of the Derbyshire team.

In a news item on a presentation to Mr Edwin Hopcraft (headmaster of the Repton National School) which appeared in **The Derby Mercury** (09th February 1898) it is reported that "a letter was read from Dr. Meyer, regretting his inability to attend."

He didn't seem to disguise his name in Canada and there are many photos of him with college pupils at sports events. In this photo below he can be seen with the 1901/02 football team.



Henry F Meyer was a mysterious man as can be seen from some articles collected from his great granddaughter. He seems to have met some high profile people through out his life and the more you read the more mysterious it becomes. (He even met the US president of the time). See some stories below.

November 3, 1997

HERR DOCTOR HEINRICH FREDERICH MEYER
BORN: SEPTEMBER 12, 1851- COURT OF HANOVER, PRUSSIA
DIED: NOVEMBER 15, 1926 - HAMMONTON, N.J.

(Or, at least, what his granddaughter Bette knows about him!)

Born Court of Hanover, Prussia, on September 12, 1851. Father unknown. Mother unknown except that her name was Edith. Two older brothers. Mother and her sons were said to reside at the court under the protection of King Frederich Wilhelm IV. When "Papa" was seven years old, the family left Hanover and resettled in Vienna. This was approximately the same year that King Wilhelm was deposed. He also went to Vienna!

Papa's own family background was never discussed per se. Inferences can only be drawn from accounts of his education and his presentation, as a child, to Liszt for whom he played the piano. (According to Nanny, Liszt was impressed and wanted to accept him as a pupil!) His family was said to be benefactors of various well known musicians and artists, including Brahms and Clara Schumann.

Some years ago, wondering what close connection there could be tying Papa to Queen Victoria's family - beyond the obvious German connection through Albert - I spent some hours at the New York Public Library exploring the possibility that Papa could be a "cousin." Albert was a brother of Duke Ernst II of Saxe-Coburg en Gotha (Born 1844). Edward VII of England (Born 1841). Papa born SEPTEMBER 12, 1851 at neighboring Court of Hanover. Or, Papa's mother could have been the mistress of Ernst I who divorced his wife Princess Louise in 1826. He is said to have sired children by another lady of his court.

When he was 18 or so, he was an aide to Bismark and later, a cavalry lieutenant in the Franco-Prussian war. Nanny said that in those days, the aristocratic families required their sons to learn one trade (evidently the "cool" thing to do). "Papa" learned locksmithing. Other than that, he seemingly never gave a thought to earning a living in civilian life. He earned his first Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Edinburgh. The second, at the University of Vienna in music, supposedly awarded at the same ceremony that honored Anton Bruckner with his Ph.D. He then got his third in languages at the University of London. According to Nanny and my mother he spoke eight or nine fluently and wrote in five or six, including Greek, Latin and Hebrew.

He traveled in Court circles in England, finally taking a teaching post at Harrow. Then, just before he met and married Nanny, joined the language department faculty at the University of London. By this time he was nearly 50 years old. Supposedly he was close to the royal family and especially to Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) whom he resembled so closely, they often "traded identities" and had all sorts of adventures including being present at Myerling when the famous shooting took place. (Side-Bar:

I just read recently that Edward VII, while Prince of Wales, had sired a daughter whose name was Olga di Meyer!!!!)

-more-

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Heinrich Frederich Meyer

He met Nanny at a London dinner party in 1897 and they were married within a few months and on their way to Canada. He would never allow her to return to England to see her family. He, however, often returned for summers on the Continent, making the rounds of spas and watering holes in company of European aristocrats. Nanny said he would write her from wonderful places and describe the gatherings, the foods, the names, etc. Too bad she never kept those letters!

Anyway, looking back at my mother's little story about her father (enclosed), I see that he did come to teach at the University of Toronto. But I remember Nanny's funny tales about "the boys", pupils at "St. Andrews College", and the situation at the school which required faculty and faculty wives to be house parents to boarding students. Maybe St. Andrews was a college at the University? While there, Peggy, Tom, Dick and Harry were born. They came to New York City by train and all the family was named on citizenship papers except for Peggy! She always thought she was a citizen until she found out she wasn't when she was 21. She married my dad at 24 and thought that made her a citizen since he had been in the Army in WW I, only the law granting that grant of citizenship was repealed six months before they married! So she never did become an American citizen.

Through friends, Papa had backing to start a school in N.Y.C., but I guess things were pretty grim. They lived on West 84th Street right off Central Park West and went to the Episcopal Church I lived across from 50 years later. (Mother and I visited their old address when she visited me and told me where they kept their carriage, etc.) One of the first things Papa did in the U.S. was to put all four of the children up for adoption. Mother was spoken for by a family in Chicago, Tom by a family in N.Y.C. Then Nanny found out about it and she must have threatened murder because the adoptions never happened. The "school" never really materialized. Their income would arrive willy-nilly and it was feast or famine. Papa evidently kept up appearances and kept up his "contacts", meeting visiting government officials and artistic celebrities uptown and traveling to Europe.

His next big idea, financed by sudden influx of cash, was to buy a farm near Boonton, New Jersey - real country, in those days. They all moved there, settled in, and he one day returned from Europe with about 15 Polish farm workers who were supposed to make the property into a productive business enterprise. He then promptly returned to Europe for the summer, leaving Nanny and the kiddies with their maid of all work, Old Clara, to supervise the Poles (who didn't speak English!).

But all his "stroking" ultimately paid off because, from somewhere, Papa got the money to move everybody to Atlantic City, buy or rent what I have always been told was an

old sea captain's house where the Traymore Hotel was later built, and open a very elite school accepting students from wealthy families, only, like the Duponts, Vanderbilts, Rockefellers and such. This is where President Wilson visited him, also

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Heinrich Frederich Meyer

Walter Damrosch, the famous Metropolitan Opera conductor and teacher; where he tutored Dr. Frank Black (later first conductor of the NBC Symphony) in conducting and composition, and from where he became so involved with the Germans before World War I. Von Hindenburg had him stay at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel with him whenever he came to the U.S. and Papa was his often his escort to Washington and London. He could obviously open doors! And he always left Nanny - and the children - at home.

During WWI, Tom and Harry had a ham radio going from the attic and an anxious patriot reported that Papa was sending spy messages to the Huns. By the way, both his elder brothers had become top Generals in the German army during the war. They regularly made the headlines and Nanny said that we was very proud of them. Anyway, the U.S. Army made a surprise raid on the family premises, found a wealth of German cookbooks and thought they were written in German secret codes. They confiscated half the kitchen and then - somebody translated! It must have been quite a scene.

After this debacle, many parents removed their sons from the school and that was the end of that project. Mysterious income continued to come in, but not much. Soon, the family moved to Northfield where Papa decided they should raise chickens, that is, before he went off again to Europe. This is when Nanny asked Old Clara to show her how to wring a chicken's neck. Clara did and so, Nanny did. Nanny also plucked the chicken and put it into the ice box for overnight. Next morning, Nanny opened the ice box and the chicken walked out - naked! Poor thing.

The only additional mysterious details I know are that after Papa died, the income stopped. No identification. No nothing. Both Nanny and Tom told me separately that one morning, two gentlemen came to the house and asked to go through Papa's papers. Nanny let them do this and they departed with his diplomas, letters, other identifying articles like his doctorate hoods.

According to the legend, his children were made to kneel and kiss his hand after every meal - in thanks! He was rigorously particular about his sartorial details. Had a different pair of shoes for each day, required his "linens" and suits to be kept in just such a way, etc. Would never allow anyone serving dinner to wear anything on their feet but carpet slippers, so they wouldn't clippity clop. Allowed no family conversation at meals (at least when he was there!) and kept a stern visage at all times. According to my mother, he was deeply homesick for Europe and spent hours playing German classics at the piano and weeping. He also suffered frequently from migraines.

I always suspected that Nanny knew very well who he was. But there must have been

a very compelling reason why she never told, even after his death. Uncle Dick and Aunt Edith (Aunt Kate?) would be able to fill in details and check on my memory for accuracy. Nobody could ever call Papa a family man, that's for sure. He evidently had
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Heinrich Frederich Meyer

no interest in his children except for the money they could bring home - directly to him - when they were older. He was not interested in their intelligence, talents, desires, ambitions. To him, they were not important except for their income producing efforts. A worldly man of his education and culture, not to mention inclusion in powerful circles, would be strangely isolated from the reality of his family to behave as he did. He did make certain Edith, Catherine, Tom and Herman had excellent coaching in music. They made up a family quartet which performed often around Atlantic City.

Dick, Edith, Catherine must have many more details, and they can see if my memory of tales told by Nanny and my mother is accurate. Tom certainly must have passed a few memories on to Stacy and Susan and to Dot. Maybe we can put together one composite that we can agree on and use for our detective work!!!!!!

Charlie - You say a street in Vienna is named Heinrich Frederich Mier Street. Do you think the Vienna Historical Society or Municipal offices could tell us who this gent was?



He left behind his wife Leopoldine and children who continued to live at various addresses at Repton.

By the 1901 census, Leopoldine and daughters Hilda and Ella had moved to Desford Terrace on Milton Road. Leopoldine had private means but in 1901 Ella worked in the laundry - hand washing collars and shirts. Nine year old Hilda was still a school girl - but doesn't appear in the village school admissions register so was probably home schooled. She went on to train as a kindergarten teacher. Ella became Matron at the Clergy Daughter's School in Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmorland and then married an engineer based in Cornwall.

Leopoldine and Hilda are now buried together in the graveyard.

Charles Stephen Meyer (Mr Henry F Meyer Son) was a UK citizen but also moved to Canada. Whether he moved on call to his Father or in search or maybe just to start a new life?

Charles Stephen Meyer

Charles was born on Nov 28th 1884 in Viguna, Austria to Dr. Henry F. Meyer and Leopoldine Meyer. On the 1891 census, his father is shown as an assistant master at the school and they were living in Church End. Charles attended Repton School from 1895-1904 (Brook House). By this time he was a British Subject. Whilst he was at Repton School his mother and sisters, Ella and Hilda, lived at Desford Terrace. His father disappeared in September 1898 and this caused a sensation in Repton. While a pupil, Charles spent some time in 1903-04 in Canada. He sailed for New York on 25th April 1915 on the Transylvania and signed up with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in July 1915 (No. 463128). On the War Graves Register it is reported that while on duty at an observation point during an attack on enemy positions east of the Hendecourt-lez-Cagnicourt to Dury Road, he was so severely wounded by the explosion of a shell that he died shortly afterwards. He is buried in Wancourt British Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France.

The Vicar wrote in his letter for October "After leaving the Public School Charles enlisted in the Canadian Army at the beginning of the war and fought in France for many months, and was frequently recommended for a commission. He was just on the point of coming back to a Cadet unit when he fell in the great victory of the Canadians at the Hindenburg line on 1st September 1918. The greatest sympathy will be felt for his mother and sisters". NB. The war memorial at Repton has October as the date of his death.

Charles Stephen Joseph George Meyer



Memorial tablet in St Wyan's Parish Church, Repton

Born November 28th 1884 the son of Doctor and Mrs H.F.Meyer of Repton

Brook 1895 - 1904

XI 1903 - 1904

Arrow Lakes Lumber Company, Canada

Private, 62nd Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, 5/15. France, sniper, 5th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (Saskatchewan Regiment) 9/16

He was killed in action on the 01/09/18 aged 34
WANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY

“C.S.J.G. Meyer who was killed on active service as a sniper with the Canadian Forces, has left us in his will money to found a prize for Fives, at which he was one of our best representatives.”

Terminal Letter, November 1920

This newsletter is stored within the RVHG web page under Newsletters, see the links at the beginning.