

[1] William Townsend moved from Bremhill to London in the late 1880's where he married Sarah Holton at Christchurch, Notting Hill on Nov. 29th 1885. They opened a cafe and William became foreman for the London Electric Supply Company.

William worked for the world famous electrical engineer Dr. Sebastian Ferranti. Subsequently over 30 members of the Townsend family worked for the London Electricity Authority in one capacity or another.

[2] John Townsend [grandson of John and Edie Townsend] was given the "The Queens Award For Technology" for his contribution to Electrical Engineering.

[3] Peter Townsend, son of Ernie and Susie Townsend was recognised in 1987 as one of Canada's "Space Pioneers" by the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute for his work in building the "Alouette" Spacecraft and his contribution to Space Research.

[4] We assume that the Vicar of the day would not baptise George Townsend unless Ann named the father, he would never know how important his notation in the church register turned out to be.

[5] Some day we are hoping to solve the mystery of William Townsend husband of Ann Britain who disappeared shortly after she died in 1862. William was only in his 30s and could have started another family somewhere. DNA might help solve this mystery.

[6] Peter Townsend's DNA matched that of Martin Wiltshire, a sixth generation descendant of Richards brother William Wiltshire. 1765-1834. DNA test proved a solid Townsend link from Peter to George Wiltshire. 1731-1812.

[7] Ann Townsend's parents were almost certainly Abraham and Sarah Townsend who were married in 1765, she had four siblings, William, Sarah, Betty and Isaac. Did Ann meet Richard Wiltshire when her brother William married Dinah Wiltshire in 1791?



THE TOWNSEND/WILTSHIRE FAMILY DNA STORY

In late 2004 Peter Townsend decided to get a record of his DNA, the main reason for doing this was to leave a family marker for future family members to compare their DNA to our particular branch of the Townsend family.

Peter Townsend had made contact with a Martin Wiltshire about a year before his DNA test, Martin was looking for information on the village of Bremhill in Wiltshire.

They subsequently discovered that Richard Wiltshire [who was reputed to be the father of George Townsend] was Martin's distant relative and all things being equal, their DNA should match if Richard Wiltshire was in fact the father of George Townsend.

In July 2005 the 37 marker FamilyTree Y-DNA comparison test showed an almost perfect match for Peter and Martin's DNA. This proved beyond any doubt that our branch of the Townsend family descended from the Wiltshire family in 1796.

The DNA test also revealed that we are descended from the Viking Hjalpogroup from north western Europe. We were different from almost all the other Townsends tested who were from southern Europe. This clue pointed towards the Wiltshire family connection.

Wiltshire Family Tree data provided by Martin Wiltshire.

This is the church where William, Jonathon, Thomas, Sarah and Tryphena Townsend were baptised on Oct 18th 1859. Ann Britain wife of William Townsend is reputed to be buried under the Churchyard wall.

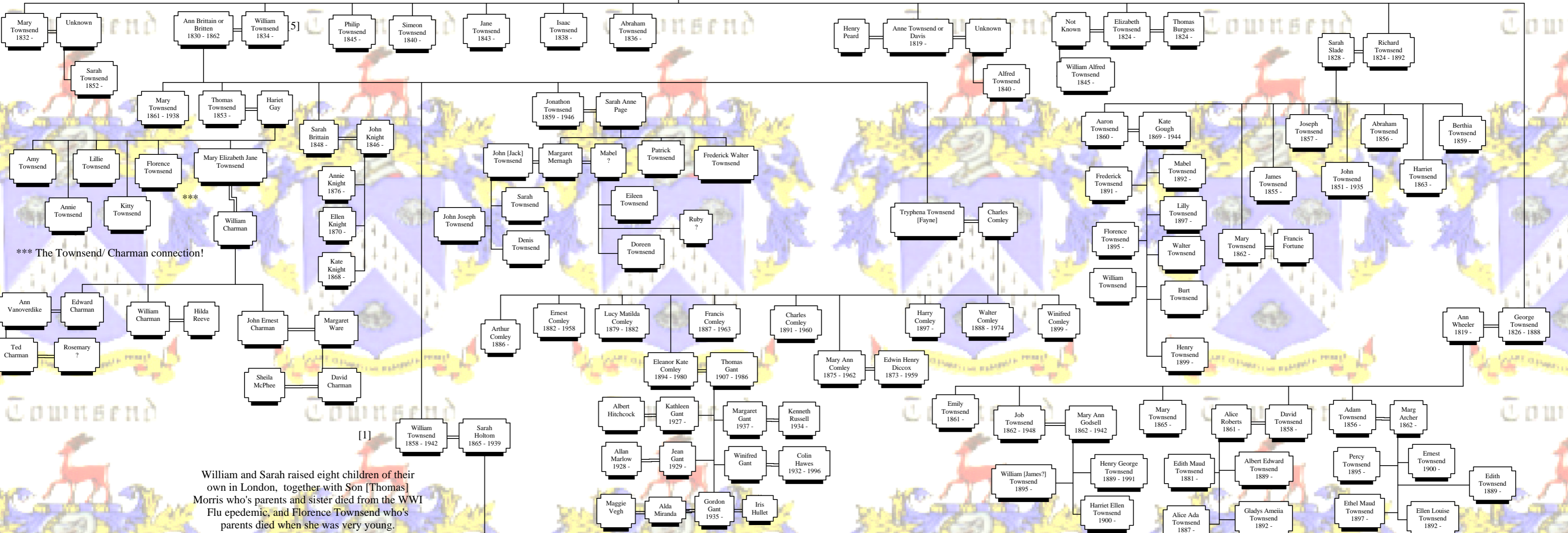
** William and Martha built the Zoar Chapel in Studley, which is still there today.

The history of Bremhill, Derry Hill and Studley is very much a part of the Townsend/ Wiltshire family story, research has shown that they lived in that area as far back as the mid 1600's and in all probability a lot longer than that.

The Bremhill Church register is full of Townsend and Wiltshire family Weddings, Baptisms and Burials. The first recorded Townsend death in the St Martins register occurred in 1591, so far no family connection has been made.

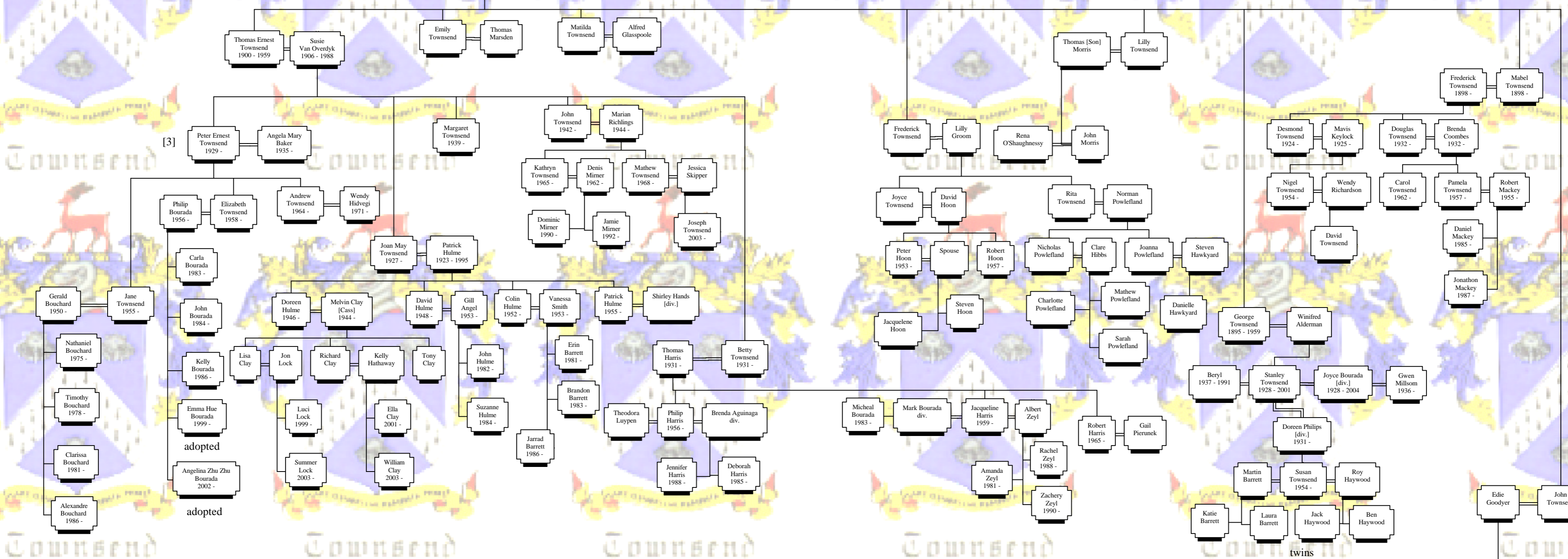
We are still trying to find descendants of Simeon, Jane, Philip, Abraham, Isaac and Mary Townsend. This tree will be updated as and when family members of these branches are found.

The Bremhill, Studley and Derry Hill Townsends

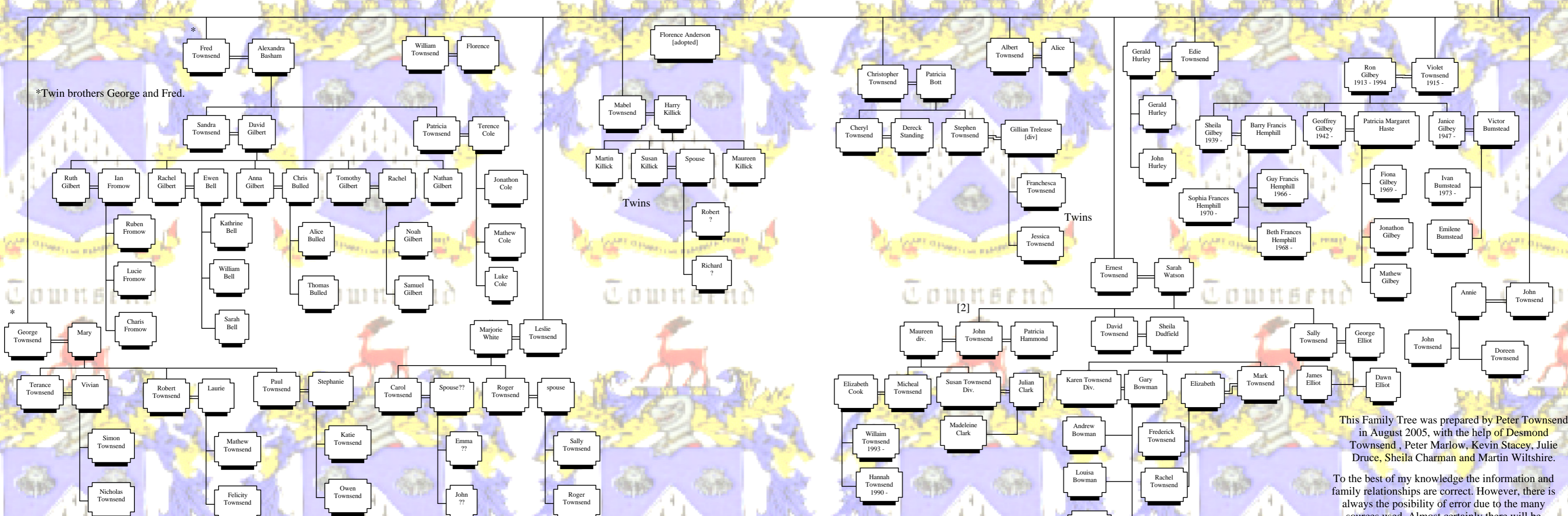


William and Sarah raised eight children of their own in London, together with Son [Thomas] Morris who's parents and sister died from the WWI Flu epidemic, and Florence Townsend who's parents died when she was very young.

The London Townsends



The Bromley Townsends



This Family Tree was prepared by Peter Townsend in August 2005, with the help of Desmond Townsend, Peter Marlow, Kevin Stacey, Julie Druce, Sheila Charman and Martin Wiltshire.

To the best of my knowledge the information and family relationships are correct. However, there is always the possibility of error due to the many sources used. Almost certainly there will be changes and additions in the future at the top of the tree.

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Visit the William Townsend Family History website at <http://www.magma.ca/~petw>

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