

[Annotation¹]

Aug 26 = 25²

My dear cousin Jean³

I am afraid I can not give you very much information with regard to the Sanger family.

Between 1600 and 1688 two silk-manufacturers left Lyons in France – named Sanger & Brent & settled at Bradford in Wiltshire, England. They restarted their mills there and prospered exceedingly, becoming very rich. Their immediate descendants then took to keeping hounds & race horses & becoming dissipated quickly became impoverished. About this time one of the Sangers settled in Melksham Wilts. A desk of his was brought to Kew, Victoria & perhaps Aunts Jennie or Kate may still have it. A son settled in business, I think as a timber merchant, at Cirencester. He had two sons, one Mildred your great grandfather, the other Daniel whom I knew as a boy. Both families were Quakers. Mildred left the sect & joined the Church of England being christened together with his children including your grandfather & my mother who were the eldest.

One of his sisters, I think named “Lydia”, married a Standing. As a widow with one of her sons, she kept a drapers shop in the old Market Street, Bristol.

Both of the original families when in France were Huguenots & left their country because of persecution by the Catholics, notwithstanding the grant of the Edict of Nantes by Henry the 4th which gave equal rights to all faiths.

This was not fairly carried out & was eventually reworked in 1685 by Louis XIV his grandson. Our people probably left much earlier [because] of more or less persecution.

There were a number of papers in existence [but] I have heard that Uncle John⁵ destroyed them as he thought that they might make the younger generation too cocky if they learnt family history with the Scotch connection which came in with your great grandmother who was a daughter of William Brent⁶. His brother⁷ had a son Henry who I knew as one of the chief officers in the Bank of England in charge of the Bank Note Department.⁸ The eldest, Harry Woodfall Brent died in 1910 a retired Vice-Admiral. The second Arthur went when I knew him to Japan as agent for the Barings to exchange silver for gold at the proportion of three of the first to one of the latter. The third, Walter established the first match factory in Japan.

If there is anything more you wish to know write me & I will endeavour to answer your questions.

I am Dear Jean

Yours sincerely

John M. Creed
[Annotation⁹]

¹ Annotation:

“Originally the Sangers were Saxons & went in the first place from Great Britain to France – John Creed made a mistake in saying they were of French extraction – Annie Rankin”

² 26 Aug 1925

³ Jean Lena Sanger (b. 1900)

⁴ of France

⁵ John Mildred Sanger I (1816-1904)

⁶ Victoria Maria Brent, Great-Grandmother of Jean Lena Sanger, was a granddaughter of Catherine Livingstone, said to be herself descended from Lady Mary Livingstone, of aristocratic stock and a Lady-in-Waiting to Mary, Queen of Scots.

⁷ This would be Henry Brent (b. abt. 1776) whose son Henry was b. 1804. The Harry Woodfall, Arthur & Walter referred to in the remainder of this paragraph were sons of the second Henry.

⁸ At least 6 individuals across four generations of Brents worked for the Bank of England continuously for almost 150 years, from 1787 through 1932.

⁹ Annotation:

“Note by Lexy Jones, 1984.

This is a copy of Dr John M. Creed’s letter to Jean Sanger in reply to her request for Sanger family information.

Jean’s writing – South Wangamong, 1925.

Jean gave this copied letter to my mother, Annie Rankin whose writing appears at the top of this sheet. L.J.”