

## Family BU

### The Broof Jeffcotts

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#### Introduction

If I had to name a favourite response to one of my letters, the one from Edith Jeffcott, transcribed further on, would have to be it. She wrote her first letter to me in 1987, and this was soon followed by others, full of lively commentary on her family connections.

In 1988, I wrote an article for the newsletter, which I reproduce below. Some of the details are repeated in the following letter transcript.

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#### Edith Beatrice Jeffcott

One of our contacts in the 1980s was a lady by the name of Edith Beatrice Jeffcott.

Edith was born in 1899 and proudly declared that she had lived in the same house in Leamington Spa since arriving there at the age of three years in a horse drawn carriage, wrapped up in blankets and with measles.

It would appear that Edith's recent ancestry stems from Nuneaton. Her grandfather was Thomas Broof Jeffcott, who at one time had a Tinsmith's shop in Kenilworth. He died of tuberculosis at the age of thirty three.

He and his wife Louisa Hannah had five children, of which only two sons survived beyond babyhood. Edith says that of these two, her father Walter Thomas, had the rough end, due to his being the eldest. However, his brother struck lucky and he joined the Royal Engineers, went out to the Boer War as Secretary to Lord Roberts and retired as a Major.

Edith had one brother, who also joined the Royal Engineers and who died at the age of thirty five. He had gone all through the 14/18 war and then, being in the Ordnance Survey Section, was sent to the Gold Coast (now Ghana) to map a part previously untrodden by white men, came home after nine months and died of an incurable disease. His only son, now living in Cornwall (also Royal Engineers, Ordnance Survey Section), was miraculously saved from the beaches of Dunkirk in the boat of 'Potato Jones', so named because of his insistence to deliver his potatoes during the Spanish blockade.

"I never had a husband, like millions of others" says Edith, "after the 14/18 war there was what was known as the 'two million surplus women' and there was serious talk of taxing bachelors!"

The windows of Edith's house are still cracked following the night the Germans tried to wipe out Coventry, some eight miles away. She saw the historic city burning on that tragic night.

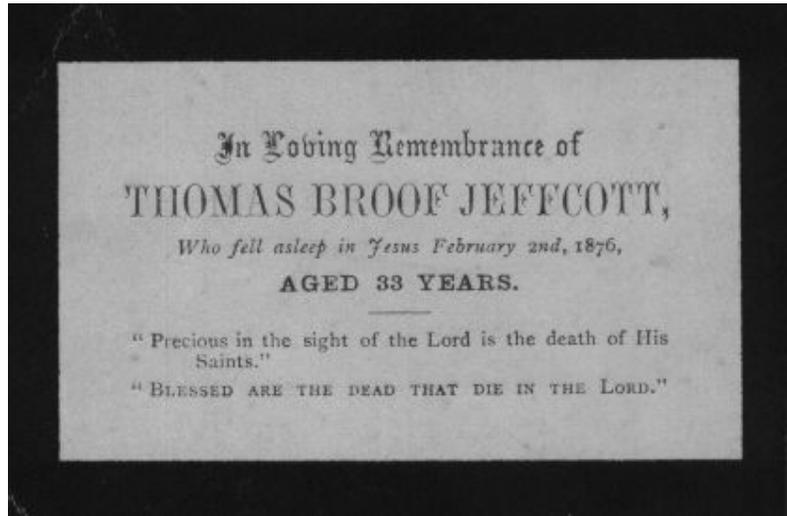
As part of Edith's busy schedule, she did the 'church watch' at All Saints Church, Leamington Spa, where she would tell visitors of the history of the church and no doubt other stories of local life. She told me that she had been in the local papers four times (nothing criminal she stressed). One of these instances is shown on the following page.

1988

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Edith's grandfather, Thomas Broof Jeffcott died in 1876 at the age of 33. This left his wife Louisa to care for their two surviving children alone, the 1881 census showing her as a laundress, living with just two of her children, Walter and Edward.

This is the memorial card for Edith's grandfather, who died in 1876.



An email from Guy Etchells (shown further on), came at a point when this book was being finalised ready for printing. It pointed to a direct link with family AP, something which, at the time of writing, had not been explored further. Guy bought the bible for 50p and kindly let us buy it from him. This presumably shows the previously unknown (to us) siblings of Thomas Broof Jeffcott, together with some more unidentified persons. The bible seems to have passed from William Jeffcott to a Marian, surname and family connection unknown. On receipt of the bible from Guy, we contacted Edith's nephew Ivor, who lived in Trebetherick, Cornwall, to see whether he was interested in having the book. He declined the offer, saying that none of his family were interested in the family's history. He knew of Edith's interest and confirmed that she had died some three years ago. If a Jeffcott who descends from any of those mentioned, would like to contact us, we would be delighted to return it to the family.

Another possible link to this family is from the 1851 census for Nuneaton Meadow, where a Thomas Broof, aged 65, combmaker born Kenilworth and his wife Sarah Broof, aged 73, silk winder born Nuneaton, were recorded. It seems possible that James was apprenticed to Thomas Broof as a combmaker and that their son was named in his honour. Where the second names Gray and Walton, and the unique first name Thetis, had their derivation, would be interesting to discover.

Some confusion exists regarding James and Ann Jeffcott as there is a James and an Ann Jeffcotte shown in the 1881 census, but presumed not to be the correct ones as the bible mentioned above says that James died in 1880.

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### Letters Received

The following is a transcript of one of Edith's letters. The number in brackets refers to the number system used by me in my letters received collection and which enables me to cross reference more easily.

Other letters - 481, 494, 503

(482)

15th August 1987

Dear Mr Jephcott

About 2 years ago I had an accident and broke my right wrist since when for a long time I did not use a typewriter, but this seems likely to be a lengthy epistle, so please excuse any mistakes!.

I can not go back anything like 250 years but I will give you such family history as I know. I will start with something which interested me very much as a small child! My grandmother used to come and stay with us every October and a highlight for me was a visit to Warwick mop on the Saturday afternoon, but Granny always insisted on riding on the top of the tram. As we passed a certain large house in Warwick she used to tell me "That is where my dear mother went to school with a princess".

St John's House, Warwick is now a museum but I have checked that it was a school for ladies. As I grew older I questioned my father about this and, from what he told me I gather that a certain young lady who lived in the Birmingham area was taken to Warwick in a carriage, with a maid, to this school at regular intervals. As time went on, she received the 'Glad Eye' from a passing 'Villian' on horseback, taking poultry from Birmingham market (or elsewhere!) to shops in Leamington and Warwick.

They eventually eloped and her family cut her off. I believe her name was Osborne and his was Bastock. They were married at the Church of St Martin in the Bull Ring at Birmingham. (I think it was destroyed in the war). From that time the descendants either take after the lady or the villian! When we were naughty, as children, it was a saying "Thar is the Bastock coming out"!

There were, as far as I know, three children of that marriage. One Louisa Hannah, born 1840, became my grandmother and she married in 1865 Thomas Broof Jeffcott. Of that marriage there were five children but only the eldest (my father) and the youngest (my uncle) lived beyond babyhood - one was Arthur. By the time the last was born they evidently remembered the family name of Broof and it was given to the youngest instead of the eldest! As I said in my previous letter I think, on the top of the page of my ancient book appears the note "Thos. Broof, Nuneaton", from which I deduce that there was at some time some connection with Nuneaton.

I don't know how you found me out, but if from the telephone directory you will have realised what a lot (of every possible spelling) there are in that area. I have just checked - about 25 - I will copy them all and forward them later if you would find them useful! My father used to speak of someone, presumably from that list, who was so clever that his teacher sent him home one day because he couldn't teach him any more!!! Well! of course in my young days there was no such thing as free secondary education but I have my school examination result for 1913 and it was given to the one who was top of the school!.

Thomas Broof Jeffcott had a tinsmith's shop in Kenilworth but died of TB at 33. The book says he was converted March 25th 1867.

Of the two who lived, my father, Walter Thomas, had the rough end, being the eldest of five, and his brother struck lucky! He joined the Royal Engineers, went out to the Boer War as secretary to Lord Roberts and retired as Major. I don't know if his two sons are still alive - they were living in Surrey, nr. Gatwick, Edward Ian Broof went to Sandhurst, then had to leave the army (the so called Geddes Act) became an architect and was "Daily Mail Home Exhibition Architect!" I have quite lost touch with John Henry Broof.

I had one brother, also joined the Royal Engineers, died at 35, having been all through the 14/18 war and then, being on Ordnance Survey Section, was sent to the Gold Coast, came home on leave after nine months and died of an uncurable disease. His only son, now living in Cornwall, also Royal Engineers, Ordnance Survey Section, was miraculously saved from Dunkirk in the boat of "Potato Jones" nicknamed because he insisted on delivering his potatoes during the Spanish blockade. He is celebrating his golden wedding this month and has two sons.

Let me know if I can help further. I don't think people bothered much about spelling and we are probably all related, even to the unknown princess!.

Yours sincerely

Edith B Jeffcott (aged 88)

(Beatrice not Broof)

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(1105 email)

Subj: Family Bible

Date: 5/14/00 4:05:44 PM GMT Daylight Time

From: guy.etchells@virgin.net (Guy Eтчells)

To: jephcott@one-name.org

Hello Jess,

I mentioned on the mailing lists that I had bought a family bible today for a very modest price and would like to re-unite it with the original family line. A lady on one of the lists mentioned your JEPSCOTT/JEFFCOTT one name study and thought you may know of any researchers of the name.

Details mentioned are as follows;

The bible belonged to William Jeffcott, 'The Gift of My Grandma The 1st of June 1851.'

James Jeffcott born 12 Sep 1805 died 23 Jan 1880 interred Old Church, Kenilworth  
Ann Jeffcott born 6 Apr 1816  
William Jeffcott born 11 Jan 1835 married 17 Nov 1857  
Thetis Jeffcott born 22 Feb 1837 died 20 Mar 1911  
Edward Gray Jeffcott born 29 Sep 1839  
Thomas Broof Jeffcott born 2 Feb 1842 died 2 Feb 1876  
Mary Ann Jeffcott born 24 Mar 1845 died 16 May 1867  
John Walton Jeffcott born 17 Mar 1847  
Elizabeth Ellen Jeffcott born 22 Sep 1849 died 4 Mar 1859  
Phillis Mariah Jeffcott born 4 Apr 1852  
Walter Wilfred Jeffcott born 15 Jun 1855  
William Jeffcott born 17 Nov 1857  
Louisa Smith born 14 May 1837 married 17 Nov 1857 died 1 Aug 1903  
Marian was given the bible 'from her dear Father and Mother Jan 11th 1902.'

[this email has been modified to give a true transcription of the bible's contents.]

Perhaps some of these names ring a bell. The bible has some staining to some of the pages and the binding is split almost in two.

Call me sentimental, but I would like it to be in the correct family again if at all possible.

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The following article was taken from the Leamington Spa Courier of 19th September 1986?

# Hess link with 'Gestapo' picture

A RECENTLY discovered mystery Gestapo photo of Warwick was taken by Rudolph Hess on a secret spying mission in the Midlands, a Leamington woman has claimed.

Miss Edith Jeffcott, aged 87, of Highfield Terrace, remembers an amazing long-forgotten story after seeing the 1930s picture of the Lord Leicester Hospital in the Leamington Courier.

"I nearly jumped out of my chair when I saw it" she said. "I knew at once where the picture had come from and why it had been taken."

She believes the photograph was tied in with Hitler's plan to divide up the country into areas to be commanded by the German hierarchy after the invasion of Britain.

Hess, who was Hitler's deputy, was to have taken

control of the Midlands, and as such needed a thorough knowledge of the area.

"This picture was one of many taken by officers who spent holidays in Britain before the war to gather information. I believe Hess took this photo," said Miss Jeffcott.

She heard the Hess story after a chance reunion with a childhood friend, Miss Judy Baskot, ten years after the war.

During the war, Miss Baskot served as an Army nurse with the Queen Alexander Hospital, Birmingham. She told Miss Jeffcott that one night she had been ordered to embark on a secret mission.

She was taken to Edinburgh Castle and there introduced to a patient with an ankle injury who needed nursing.

He turned out to be Rudolph Hess, who had been arrested after parachuting into Britain and breaking his ankle.

Miss Jeffcott was told that in conversation with his nurse, Hess revealed details of his pre-war mission and spoke knowledgeably about Leamington, Kenilworth and Warwick.

"Only someone who had taken the trouble to find out about the area would have known what he did. Because Judy came from Leamington, Hess was particularly interested in talking to her.

"At first Judy would not speak to him because her brother had been killed in battle, but she was alone nursing him for such a long time that they eventually had quite long conversations.

"She said he was the perfect gentleman, very charming."

Miss Jeffcott is convinced that the Warwick photo, one of many taken of parts of the Midlands and South East England was part of the Hess collection.

The picture was sent to

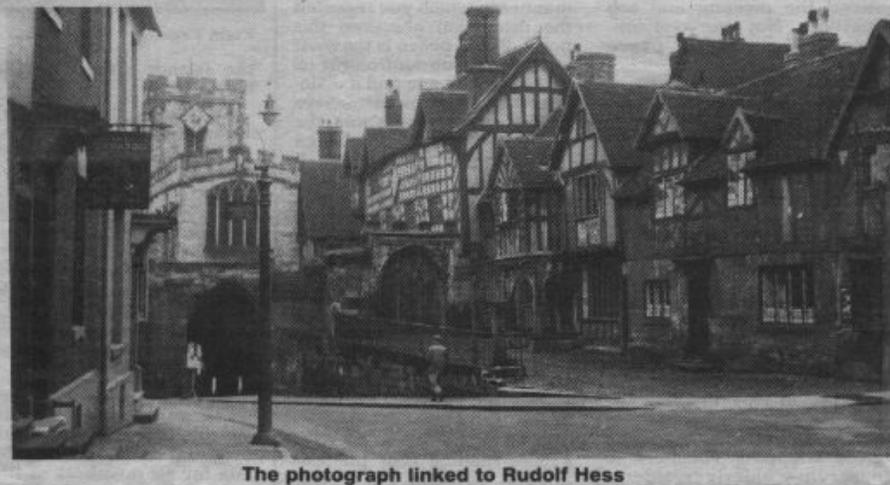


● Miss Edith Jeffcott.

Warwick Town Clerk, Major Michael Gaffney, by a friend of an ex-American airforce man who found the photos in what is believed was SS or Gestapo headquarters in Berlin.

Said Miss Jeffcott: "I was very surprised when I heard the story. It has stayed in my mind ever since. It was only when I saw the photo that I was reminded of it.

"There is no doubt in my mind that it was Hess who took the photo during the trip to Warwick."



The photograph linked to Rudolf Hess

The Jephcott Family – Chapter 6 – Family BU

BU

JEFCOTT  
JEFFCOTT



Ken Kenilworth  
Stn Stoneleigh, Warks  
War Warwick

See the gedcom for a more detailed tree.