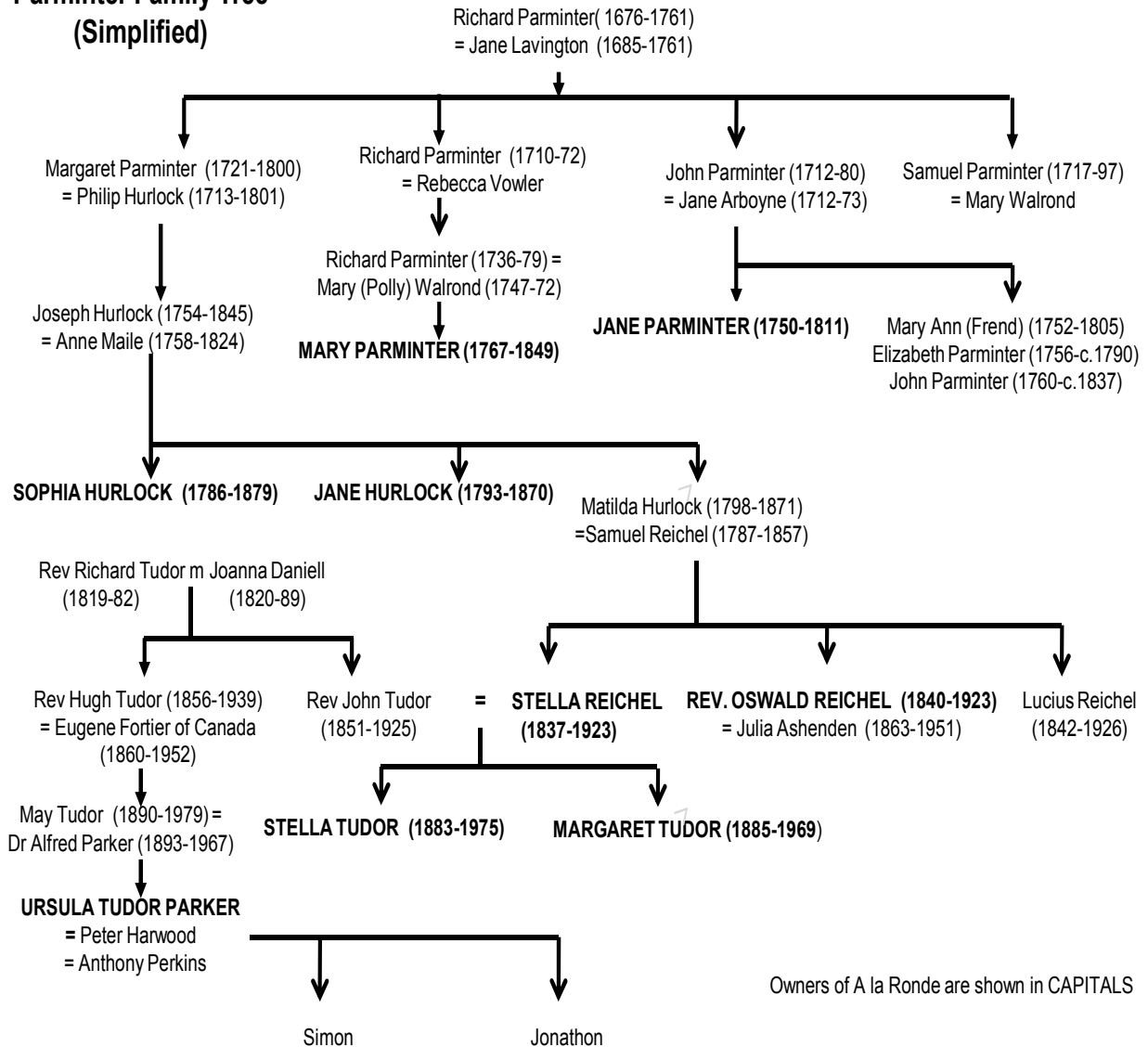


THE A LA RONDE STORY: ITS PEOPLE



A la Ronde – 1829 (National Trust)

Parminter Family Tree (Simplified)



Owners of A la Ronde are shown in CAPITALS

Rev. Jun 2012

1. Parminter Early Records

Jane and Mary Parminter were second cousins and the founders of A la Ronde at Exmouth but their family ancestry goes back through many centuries. The Parminter surname is of Norman origin and derived from the early French trade name *parmentier* (a tailor) and was found in England shortly after the Norman invasion of 1066. There are records from the thirteenth century¹ of people of that name settled, well established and leasing land in the Gloucestershire village of Tockington, twelve miles north of Bristol, where a John Parminter was recorded in 1220. The marriage of a later John Parminter born in Tockington in 1444 is one of many further records and there are details of land purchases and leases in that name as members of the family gradually migrated from Tockington along the Bristol Channel coast and into Devon. A Richard Parminter was Mayor of Barnstaple in 1493 and 1498² and, for another branch of the family, the birth at Watermouth near Ilfracombe of a Thomas Parminter is recorded in 1530. The Parminter men and ladies married well – Henry Parminter of Watermouth married a rich heiress of Combe Martin in 1607 and it is from about that time that the Parminter name could be commonly found around North Devon, with particular concentrations in the towns of Ilfracombe, Barnstaple and Bideford; the family being prominent as farmers, land owners and traders of wool and cloth. By the eighteenth century the ancestors of Jane and Mary Parminter were renowned as merchants of wealth and standing³.

The port of Bristol had a long history of commodity trading particularly with the Americas (mainland and Caribbean) and especially of tobacco. The River Severn was an important communications route into the Midlands and the merchants of Bristol and the Bristol Channel ports of Barnstaple and Bideford thrived, as did one of the main merchant families – the Parminters. Imports of tobacco into Bideford tripled between 1682 and the peak year of 1700, when eleven vessels landed such cargo from America. Vessels also arrived with up to seven thousand gallons of Portuguese brandy and export goods included earthenware, timber, salt, cloth and woollens⁴. A monopoly had prevented Bristol vessels from slave trading but this was repealed in 1698 and in the following years two thousand Bristol ships were fitted out for slaving. In 1700 Bideford tobacco merchants Richard Parminter, and his brother, John, were attracted to the certain financial gains and financed William Lisle, a Bristol agent, to freight the galley “Elizabeth” to run to the Guinea coast. While slave trading off what is now Nigeria the “Elizabeth” foundered⁵; the crew escaped but the slaves secured in the hold drowned and John and Richard Parminter vowed never again to speculate on the slave trade but they did continue trading to America and the West Indies in sugar and tobacco, the fruits of slave labour.

The home of the Parminter merchant families was the imposing mansion of Broadgate House and the adjacent Bellair House, both perched on the hill overlooking the village and parish of Pilton on the northwest fringe of Barnstaple. Broadgate House has been demolished but evidence of the original construction remains and a massive wall can be seen together with a gateway that, in 2009, still bore a “Broadgate” name plate; Bellair House, that was described as “a beautiful old house set in its peaceful surroundings which preserve an aura of the past” remains. The last of the Parminter family to occupy Broadgate died in 1776 and the property and lands were initially leased and then sold some years later.

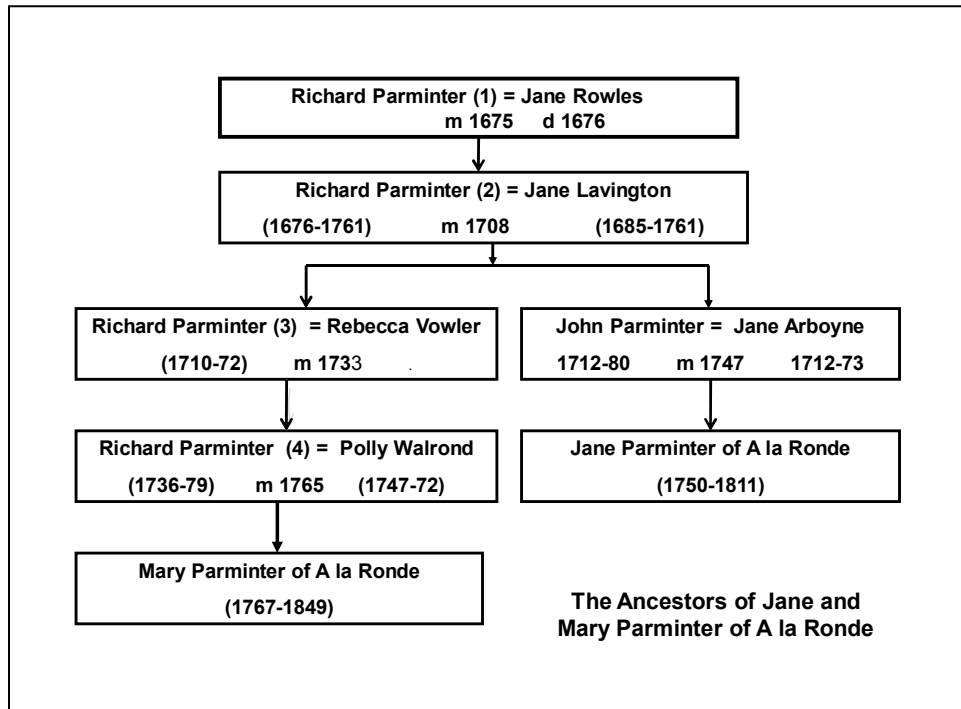
2. The Forebears of Mary and Jane Parminter

The family tree shows the ancestors of Mary and of Jane Parminter; there are four Richard Parminters in it (and more of the same name that are not) and to avoid confusion those in the tree have been numbered.

Richard Parminter (1) In 1671 purchased Broadgate, a rather modest mansion house, in Pilton near Barnstaple, then on 13 July 1675 he married a widow, Jane Rowles, at Barnstaple and brought her (his second wife) to live there and it was where she died a year later, possibly giving birth to their son Richard (2). Despite having lost two wives in less than 5 years he embarked

upon an extensive programme of enlarging, beautifying and rebuilding Broadgate as a residence fit for a man of his standing in the community.

Richard Parminter (2) (1676-1761) was christened in Barnstaple on 30 Aug 1676. On 3 January 1708 he married Jane Lavington at Exeter St Leonard Parish Church; the marriage bringing two prominent families together. This Richard and Jane lived at Broadgate where they raised a family of ten children (for details see family tree at Appendix C) and built Bellair adjacent to Broadgate in which lived senior family members. Richard was by this time a collector of dues⁶ for H.M. Customs at



Bideford and was among those registered as making an oath of allegiance to King George I, before the Justices of the Peace at Braunton on 17 Sep 1723 being described as “of Pilton, Gentleman” This Richard was prominent in the local community, being recorded in 1735 as a patron of Barnstaple Hospital and also of the Pilton United Charities which provided almshouses in the parish. Jane and Richard (2) died in 1761.

Richard Parminter (3) (1710-72) was the elder of the two sons and was to be the grandfather of Mary Parminter of A la Ronde. He was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in London in 1732. On the 23 September of the following year he married Elizabeth Rebecca Vowler in Heavitree Parish Church, she was the daughter of a wealthy Exeter merchant who was a wholesaler of tea and coffee. This Richard was the Deputy Recorder⁷ of Barnstaple in 1755, Oswald Reichel writes that he died and was buried at Barnes in West London in 1772. His elder son was:

Richard Parminter (4) (1736-79), born in the parish of Exeter St Martin was called to the Bar⁸ and practised as a Counsellor who was a person that gave advice in law and managed cases for his clients in the courtroom. The Exeter Flying Post of 19 April 1765 reported the marriage of “Counsellor Parminter of Bideford to Miss Walrond, only daughter of the Rev Mr Walrond of Bideford” which took place on 11 April, 1765 at Barnstaple, he was twenty-nine – she was eighteen. Richard and Polly moved into Broadgate House where three daughters were born, Mary, who was christened⁹ on 17 March 1767, Rebecca born in 1768 and Harriett, who died in infancy.

The Parminter families had, since the latter half of the seventeenth century, been active dissenters from the Church of England with many of them worshipping at the Cross Street Meeting House in Barnstaple and Richard became a trustee of that chapel; his father-in-law, the Rev. John Walrond, was the minister of the Castle Meeting House in Barnstaple¹⁰. Richard increased his personal fortune in 1772 when he inherited Broadgate House upon the death of his father and at that time also took the lease of Larkbeare House in Exeter. The city has two houses of that name; the most likely being an Elizabethan House between the Exe and the Cathedral, favoured because it had been owned by the Vowlers - the family of his mother-in-law. That year, however, also brought the death of his wife, Polly at the age of twenty-five, which

left five years old Mary and Rebecca, then aged four, without a mother; however, John Parminter, an uncle of her father had moved with his family back to England from Portugal and was living at Braunton; his eldest daughter Jane was twenty-three and she and her sisters took the young cousins into their family and Jane acted as the guardian of Mary (and presumably of Rebecca) from 1773. Richard (4) had increased his land ownership by purchasing an estate at Ottery St Mary but at the age of forty-three, on 19 December 1779, he died at Pilton to be buried in the family vault¹¹ in Pilton Churchyard in which wife Polly and daughter Harriet were interred. Richard, in his will made bequests to his daughters - the Ottery estate and a "picture set in diamonds" to twelve years old Mary and to Rebecca, then aged eleven, the Larkbeare house and gardens and her mother's gold watch and rings; the residue to be shared between them. Land Tax returns disclose that no Parminters lived at Pilton after Richard's death in 1780, both the Broadgate and Bellair estates were leased out and the income placed in trust for the children.

Returning to the children of Richard Parminter (2) and Rebecca Vowler, the next younger brother to Richard (3) was:

John Parminter (1712-80). Christened on 2 November 1712 in the Bow Meeting House, Exeter, he became a merchant trading in Europe, his main commodity being wine from Portugal and he furthered his business by setting up a bottling facility in Lisbon. In 1747 he married Jane Arboyne of Threadneedle Street in London, the ceremony being performed in Lisbon by the Factory Chaplain there; she was from a Huguenot family, her father being employed by the British Factory in Lisbon, The first three of their five children were born in Lisbon, William in 1748, Jane (of A la Ronde) in 1750 and Maryanne in 1752. According to a transcript¹², probably of entries recorded in a family Bible as was the custom in the days before official registration, Jane was born "on Thursday the 5th February 1750 after one in the afternoon" and according to the records of the Factory Chaplaincy was baptised the same day.

In 1755 while John and his family, including five years old Jane, were on a visit to England the great Lisbon earthquake struck. This is said to be the largest and most damaging in the world's history; it totally destroyed the city and its surroundings and caused a tsunami that inflicted major damage on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and in Southern England. Resulting deaths are estimated as a minimum of ten thousand in and around Lisbon and at least one hundred thousand elsewhere; an eye witness in a preserved letter to England records¹³ "My apprentice was killed by the falling building as was Mr Parminter's English servant, who followed me into the Yard". John returned to a devastated city with his business gone but there he also found an opportunity to profit from its rebuilding. He diversified into the manufacture of quick-drying cement for the rebuilding of the city and is said to have been rewarded by the grateful King of Portugal. It appears that Jane's mother (Jane, née Arboyne) may not have returned to Portugal after the earthquake as her next three children were born in Devon – Elizabeth in 1756, and Margaret in 1759 at Exmouth and John at Bideford in 1760.

The year 1767 saw the family, except for eldest son William, re-united in England, John and wife Jane having taken up residence in Braunton on the North Devon coast where John had purchased Fairlinch "a lovely 17th Century house, high atop the hill overlooking the Braunton Great Field and the wild North Devon coastline – a far cry from the sunny climes of Portugal¹⁴". William, the son, remained working in Lisbon but died there in 1770 at the age of twenty-two. When Jane reached nineteen (in 1769) her parents sent her to London to live with her aunt Margaret who had married Philip Hurlock, a London surgeon living in the St Paul's Churchyard area; it was there that she gained confidence and ability in languages and reputedly travelled into Europe. On 5 August 1773, when Jane was twenty-three, her mother died at Braunton and she returned home to her younger siblings, Maryanne, John and Elizabeth, and her two cousins, Mary and Rebecca, who also were living with the family.

Five years later further change came with three close events, the marriage on 7 Sep 1778 in Braunton Parish Church of Maryanne¹⁵ to George Frend; who was a merchant with a business in Lisbon and then two family deaths over the few weeks between December 1779 and February

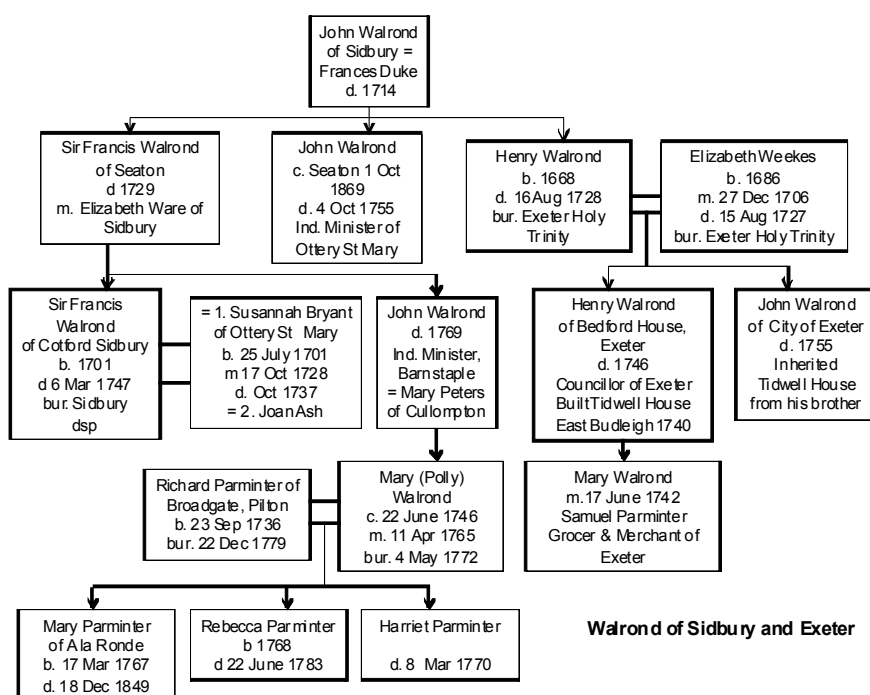
1780. These were Richard (4), who died at Pilton at the age of forty-three leaving his children, Mary and Rebecca, orphaned which was followed by the death of Jane's own father, sixty-eight years old John, on 23 February 1780 who was buried at Braunton. George Frend, born into an influential family in Canterbury where his father was twice Mayor, is recorded in 1781, 1782 and 1783 as living in London at 22 Greville Street (presumably wife Maryanne was with him) and it seems likely that by 1783 the remaining family, Jane, Elizabeth, John, Mary and Rebecca had left Braunton for London as on 22 June 1783, Rebecca (sister of Mary) died at the age of fourteen and was buried in the Dissenters Burial Ground at Bunhill Fields; her "place of abode" was entered as St Mary Overs parish which is now incorporated into the diocese of Southwark, south of the Thames and across the river from Greville Street. The family group drawn at Greville Street for the 1783 Torond silhouette now displayed at A la Ronde shows the siblings; Jane aged thirty-three, her brother John, then aged eighteen and about to leave for France where he remained as a merchant trading through Europe, twenty-seven years old Elizabeth and thirty-one years old Maryanne with her husband, George; Jane's cousin Mary, then aged sixteen does not appear in the drawing. All four unmarried family members had well benefited from parent's wills – John would assume ownership of Fairlinch when he reached twenty-one, Jane and Elizabeth shared at least half a million pounds at today's money values and Mary owned properties at Pilton, Ottery St Mary and (following Rebecca's death) Larkbeare, her income from all of which would be handled by Jane until Mary was twenty-one. Jane would have been considering further travel plans; these matured in the following year of 1784.

3. Walrond Connection

The marriage of Richard (4) to Polly Walrond had repeated earlier examples of the Parminters marrying well. Individuals with the Walrond name can be traced back to the time of the Norman invasion of 1066 when they secured property and lands in Somerset and East Devon. Many centuries later Sir Humphrey Walrond was the Governor of Somerset for King Charles I and a Royalist Commander in the Civil War. He suffered a defeat at the Battle of Bridgwater in 1645 that resulted in him being taken hostage upon which he became fearful for his life, escaped and fled with his wife and family to the West Indies where he took refuge in Barbados, declared its independence and there maintained his opposition to the Commonwealth. Upon the restoration of the monarchy the King (Charles II) was petitioned to allow him to return home; the request was refused and Sir Humphrey was appointed Governor of the colony. He died on the island from which his wife and ten children eventually returned in 1670 to the 13th century family seat in Devon at Bradfield House in Uffculme; legend has it that although his lands had been confiscated, the family recovered the fortune that had been left hidden. The (many) descendants purchased Bovey House between Beer and Brancombe, re-built Tidewell Manor at East Budleigh (in 1740), built Cotford House in Sidbury and then Dunchideock House near Exeter, they owned land at Ottery St Mary, Littleham, Plymtree and Cullompton and the Mills at St Mary's Steps, Exeter, four of the family¹⁶ were appointed Freemen of that city. The marriage of Richard Parminter (4) to Polly Walrond, a direct descendant of the Bradfield Walronds, gave him a link to that important family and built on the connection between the two families already established by the marriage of Richard's uncle, Samuel Parminter of Exeter, to a daughter of Henry Walrond of Tidwell Manor. At that time great play was made of family relationships, and cousins, however distant, were visited as reminders of the close bonds in the wider family units. Polly and daughter Mary Parminter would have included among their landed-gentry relatives not only their close Walrond family but also the Bampfyls of Poltimore, the Courtenays of Powderham, the Poles of Shute and the Rolle family of Bickton, each of these families having intermarried with the Walronds (the first Lady Rolle was a Walrond cousin).

The father of Polly Walrond, the Reverend John Walrond was ordained in 1738 as the minister of the Castle Meeting House at Barnstaple. He was renowned as a “hell-fire” preacher to the extent of having some of his sermons published in pamphlet form. His will is very revealing in that while dispensing bequests to many of his family and some institutions, he showed a less charitable side by including as gifts to his daughter the sums of one hundred and sixty pounds that he had lent to his brother-in-law (Ben Peters, whose portrait is a A la Ronde), twenty pounds lent to another brother-in-law and the proceeds accruing from money owed to him by an individual called Worth who had been committed to the Fleet debtors prison, presumably by the Reverend himself; his daughter, Mary, being expected to pursue payment. A bequest to his son-in-law, Richard Parminter (Mary’s father), was of “two paintings in gilt frames”, probably the two exhibited in the A la Ronde library, together with a statement that Richard would be forgiven for money’s owing to the deceased.

Sir Francis Walrond died in Sidbury in 1747 without children; he was a descendant of the main branch of the Walrond family of Bradfield. His will directed that his assets should be inherited by Joan, his (second) wife and that upon her death they should pass to his own brother the Reverend John Walrond (the grandfather of Mary Parminter of A la Ronde) and his heirs. When Joan died in 1786, the brother, the Rev John Walrond, and also his daughter,



Polly had also died and the only remaining heir in that line was Mary Parminter. As well as the land inherited from her father and grandfather, Mary now owned property in Sidbury and in Fetter Lane and Holborn in London. There was considerable wealth and income accruing to this nineteen years old, who was at that time in Europe on the Grand Tour, with her affairs being handled by her cousin Jane until she reached the age of twenty-one.

4. The Parminter Grand Tour

Jane had decided that three Parminter ladies would make a journey around Europe, visiting the tourist sites of the day (see Appendix A for an Overview of Grand Touring). Description of the first six weeks only of the Parminter tour is available from a transcription of part of a journal maintained by Jane, the original of which was lost in 1942 during the bombing of Exeter. The Parminter Grand Tour began on 23 June 1784 when Jane Parminter, her sister, Elizabeth, her cousin Mary and a friend, thought to be a Miss Colville, embarked at Dover. During their first week the ladies explored Abbeville and Chantilly. The following week the group set off for Paris where Jane commented on “a very dirty inn indeed, the staircase shaking, the maids bold and impertinent, the treatment sparing and the charge extravagant”. They enjoyed trips to Versailles, where they spotted Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, and to the park at St Cloud. After a week of sightseeing at a hectic pace (including the Tuileries Gardens, Les Invalides and the Gobelins Tapestry factory) they moved on from Paris, passing through the bandit-infested Fontainebleau forest and to Dijon where, over ten days, they visited churches, a school, a hospital, the Botanic

Gardens and sighted the King of Prussia and it is with Jane's visits in that city that the transcription ends.

The Parminter route beyond Dijon can only be conjecture although there are some clues among the contents of A la Ronde, from the papers of Oswald Reichel and from family oral tradition. The A la Ronde Guide Book repeats a family story that the ladies then "continued south, inspecting Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and possibly Spain and Portugal". According to Oswald Reichel, writing in 1911, the journal recorded that the ladies visited the town of Pavia which is just south of Milan and that in May 1785 they were in Marseille. The fourth lady (Miss Colville?) is said to have left the tour in its early stages, confirmed by a report that in the summer of 1786, two years after leaving London, the three Parminter ladies had climbed Mont Buet in the Alps. This was recorded in two publications of the time¹⁷ and represented a massive achievement. Mont Buet reaches a height of 3096 metres and was first climbed in 1776 by two brothers (De Luc of Geneva); the three Parminter ladies are now recognised as the first women to reach any alpine summit over 3000 metres. Mont Buet has been long regarded as a training route for Mont Blanc and is known locally as Mont Blanc des Dames (Ladies' Mont Blanc) or more affectionately as "Parminter Peak"

The fragile Italian gouaches and prints bought in Switzerland that are displayed in the Cabinet of Curiosities in the A la Ronde Library provide further information and the two shell pictures in the A la Ronde Drawing Room pinpoint a further visit as Mary's handwriting on the back of one of these identifies the subject as Isola la Bella. This is an island on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy on which there is a palace on which construction started in 1632. The palace reached its highest level of social success between 1751 and 1837 with guests including Edward Gibbon and, in later years, Napoleon and Queen Caroline of Brunswick. Visitors were shown the massive grotto underneath the palace that was (and still is) decorated with shells. One wonders whether that visit provided just some of the impetus for the Parminter's future Shell Gallery.

A la Ronde contains a print of an important site for grand tourists – the ancient bridge at Narni in Umbria and also a print, in a well in the top of a Drum Table that is decorated with souvenirs of Rome that indicates a visit to the well-visited tomb of a Madam Langhans near Berne in Switzerland. Oswald Reichel writes with certainty¹⁸ that the design of A la Ronde was inspired by the church of San Vitale in Ravenna which is famed for its magnificent 6th century mosaics. It is recorded that in the late 18th Century the roads to Ravenna were so bad that the only way to travel there was by boat (felucca) from Venice so yet another calling point of the ladies is likely, particularly as there is a gouache at A la Ronde of a Venetian gondola. Venice was a much favoured stopping point for its art and unique position and then for a possible foray to the north and into the Holy Roman Empire.

Rome with its Classical sites aroused much enthusiasm among Grand Tourists even though Jane and Mary's visit to Rome took place before many of the sites had been excavated. A Lady Webster wrote in 1792 "I walked among the ruins, recalled the Latin poets, studied the architecture and thought of my situation in life". One tourist wrote of the "fine portrayal of the ruins by Piranesi", another recorded how the same artist "immortalised the past". The many Piranesi prints of Classical Rome that can be seen at A la Ronde suggest that Jane and Mary were similarly enthused.

In the late 18th Century tourists pressed on from Rome to Naples – in 1788 a traveller wrote "There is a good road to travel". The major sight there was Vesuvius where tourists climbed up to peer into the volcano before inspecting the excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum. As well as a gouache from Naples there is a work table at A la Ronde that contains fan-leaves with a picture in fine colour of the erupting Vesuvius; ladies fans were sold to tourists returning to the base of the mountain so the question is raised as to whether the ladies ascended this mountain as well as Buet in the Alps or was the fan-paper not purchased at the time but later as a souvenir – which the date of 1795 on the fan might indicate. The ladies' acquisitions, however, do not enable a logical route to be imagined.

By tradition, the Tour of Jane and Mary lasted ten years from its commencement in 1784 but it has now been established that Elizabeth returned to London and made her Will in October 1788 and that Jane was certainly in London on the 7 June 1791 (seven years after departure) when administration of the will was granted personally to her. Elizabeth is known to have not been in good health, as during the Tour a letter to Jane from a French businessman dated 13th July 1785 makes particular enquiry as to her sister's health. Records of the date of the death or burial of Elizabeth appear not to have survived; early family documents state that she died at Malmsbury in Wiltshire and there is evidence that a distant Parminter cousin lived there and attended a Moravian church in the town. Oral tradition has it that Elizabeth "came back early and died" and that the Grand Tour finished in Spain/Portugal – this could have meant that Jane and Mary set out again for the Iberian Peninsula. This may well have been so, as Jane's brother-in-law, George Friend, had a business in Portugal to where there were frequent sailings of his leased vessels, and sailing directly to Portugal would have been sensible when transit through France became increasingly difficult with the onset of problems and dangers caused by the French Revolution. By 1793 events surrounding England's declaration of war on France had led to the imposition of a complete ban on travel in France by English passport holders.

5. Return from the Grand Tour

Upon their return from travel in Europe decision had to be made by Jane and Mary on where they should now live; the Braunton house that they had occupied prior to the journey was owned by Jane's brother John and there were few relatives remaining in North Devon, the main area of Parminter residence was now around Exeter. Samuel Parminter, an uncle of Jane was a prominent Exeter merchant importing and selling the new sought-after and expensive tea in his grocery shops; Mary's uncle, John Vowler Parminter, was a merchant of Exeter with premises in The Strand in Exmouth where lived his daughter, Mary; Jane's family had lived in Exmouth for a short time after the Lisbon earthquake and it was there that two of her sisters were born, Elizabeth in 1756 and Margaret in 1759 – the latter died in infancy. There is a family story that Jane's sister Maryanne lived at Exmouth in a house on "The Beacon"; that may be so although there is, at present, no corroboration of that. Research shows, however, that in 1793, nine years after Jane and Mary's departure and two years after Jane was in London in connection with Elizabeth's will a Miss Parminter was the occupant of a house at South Town, Kenton which was opposite the modern gates to Powderham Castle, The fact that this was home to Jane and/or Mary is confirmed by a lease signed by Mary who in disposing of property in Barnstaple in 1795¹⁹, showed her place of residence as Kenton. "Miss Parminter" ceased the Kenton tenancy in 1796 when Jane's brother-in-law George Friend (by then a very wealthy merchant²⁰) was shown as living there²¹ and his occupancy continued up to his death in 1801. Decision had been made by the cousins in 1795 regarding the site for the building of their house and in November 1796 land in the parish of Withercombe Raleigh, Exmouth was conveyed²² to Jane and Mary Parminter; family tradition has it that construction took three years. Mary, in 1796, also sold the Broadgate estate and three adjoining houses at Pilton²³ – perhaps this was to finance the creation of A la Ronde.

Guide books suggest that A la Ronde was "supposedly" inspired by San Vitale in Ravenna but one later commentator, Oswald Reichel, had no doubts whatever on this, for which he might have had good grounds. His father, the Reverend Samuel Reichel, knew Mary well (he married her cousin, Matilda, and Mary later appointed him as one of her trustees) and Oswald, who was seven when Mary died, if not being told the story by Mary, would surely have heard it from his father. Oswald Reichel, writing in the Exmouth Journal of 24 June 1911, tells of his possession of Jane's travel journal and that Jane "had visited Ravenna and been struck with the octagonal church of San Vitale with its surrounding chapels, which gave her the idea for the ground plan of the house she afterwards built on the five fields then known as The Great Courtlands but now better known as A la Ronde"; a further document²⁴ clearly states the opinion of Oswald Reichel that Jane and Mary Parminter "built this house on a model of San Vitale at Ravenna". Oral tradition has it that the unusual layout at ground level, where the ground drops away from the house, gave additional protection against forced entry by marauders – a subject well in the

thoughts of Devonians at this time who were facing a threatened invasion by Napoleon's troops. The name of the architect is unknown; there are suggestions that it was Jane herself, although this is considered unlikely.

Having moved into A la Ronde in about 1799²⁵ Jane and Mary then proceeded to convert the twenty acres of grounds into elaborately planted gardens and to start the interior decoration that reputedly was the work of the two cousins and which included the use of material such as feathers, shells and cut paper. Jane's sister Maryanne and husband George (Frend) were living at Kenton across the River Exe and opposite A la Ronde in 1801 when George visited Exmouth "for his health", the town being renowned for the benefits²⁶ of its "warm and cold sea baths"; George, however, died there on the 7 November of that year and was buried at Littleham Parish Church, his will showed him to have been a wealthy merchant with a partnership in a business at Porto, Portugal; this may well have concerned wine exports as in the A la Ronde archive²⁷ was a manifest for a shipload of wine from Porto to Europe in 1787. Less than four years after his death (on 20 April 1805) his widow, Maryanne, died at the age of fifty-three, the burial register for Littleham showed her as a resident of Lymptstone, she having ceased living at Kenton in 1802

Jane was a member of the Glenorchy Independent chapel in Exeter Road, Exmouth but decided to establish a chapel closer to home. A commentator²⁸ writes "Glenorchy Chapel opened in Exmouth about 1778. The Miss Parminters joined the congregation and attended regularly but they found the journey in winter rough and hazardous and had scruples about employing the coachman on a Sunday". Plans were laid for a chapel with school and small dwellings under the one roof and this was completed in the summer of 1811 and named "Point in View" however Jane died at the age of sixty-one on the 6th November of that year and was interred in their new chapel; Jane had lived at A la Ronde for only twelve years and it was Mary, now forty-four years old, who was to continue to implement Jane's vision. Two descriptions of Jane can be found – both by Oswald Reichel – "For her time a great traveller; a capable and observant woman of the world²⁹" and "a woman with brains and a foreign training³⁰" Oral tradition³¹ has it that Jane, and also Mary, were fluent in French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

6. Mary Parminter at A la Ronde

Although the Point in View chapel had been completed and Jane had been interred there, the building could not be used for Nonconformist public worship until the Bishop of Exeter gave his consent which was by issue of a licence in the name of Mary Parminter on 3 February 1812; the Endowment Deed of 10 May 1813 of the Mary Parminter Charity is still held by the Trustees. This sets out in detail the requirement for the provision of the Chapel at Point in View with residences for a minister and for four unmarried women, one of whom was to be a schoolmistress to educate six children from poor families. Also determined therein was the method for the selection of minister, children and women, the times of worship, the education of the children (particular attention to cooking and needlework), the remembrance of Jane on each anniversary of her death and the appointment of Trustees. Mary made an initial gift of one thousand pounds of Bank Stock.

Jane and Mary had great interest in the conversion of Jews to Christianity, the Trust Deed lays down that for the women residents, priority should be given to Jewesses who had embraced Christianity and preference for schooling was to be given to a child of Jewish parents. Much has been made of these clauses that were said to be the basis for the choice of name – Jane and Mary's "point in view" - in regard to conversion of Jews. There has also been an oft-repeated assertion that the will of Jane Parminter contained a clause that the oak trees on the estate were not to be cut down till the Jews had returned to Palestine. Writing in 1911³² Oswald Reichel refers to the story of the oaks as "a curious myth ... the source of which appears to be a little book entitled "The Oaks of A la Ronde" written by an imaginative lady with material supplied by a still more imaginative travelling foreigner". Reichel continues that there were never any oak trees

planted at A la Ronde for the purpose and, at the time of his writing none remained at Point in View. Reichel suggests that the interest of the cousins in Jewish converts arose from the Grand Tour when they witnessed in Rome the baptism of a Jewess and learned of the difficulties besetting the after-life of such a convert when cut off from her people.

Residents at Point in View took possession of their dwellings in 1826 which was also when the first school mistress was appointed and the children elected, the school continued until 1901 when an Education Act required children between the ages of five and thirteen to attend a certificated elementary school, which Point in View was not; the school then closed. Mary maintained a close interest in the appointment of ministers, her approval also being sought by the Trustees to the selection of tenants and the choice of the children to be educated.

At the age of seventy-three Mary Parminter was reported in the local press³³ as being a victim of fraud. A man went to an Exmouth grocer claiming to be acting on behalf of Miss Parminter and requested the delivery of a ham but tea and sugar were also urgently required which he wished to take with him. When the ham was delivered Mary Parminter denied all knowledge of the order, the police were called and from the grocer's description a man was arrested (and later imprisoned).

Mary continued spending time and energy on the decoration of A la Ronde, it appears that she had two servants and when she was in her seventies she also had a companion³⁴ of about the same age. Her garden³⁵ contained shrubberies, walks, ornamental trees, urns, a fountain, ornamental pools and an obelisk, the latter probably bearing the memorial inscription to Jane and her siblings that has been found (in pieces) at A la Ronde and which reads "This obelisk is affectionately dedicated to the memory of William Parminter, Elizabeth Parminter, Marianne Frend, Jane Parminter and John Parminter". The names appear to be in order of date of death; Mary had corresponded with the last one³⁶, John, right up until his death in Avignon in about 1837. A further description of the garden (from oral tradition) was related³⁷ in 1991 as being "laid with bowers, arbours, orangery, rare and tropical plants.

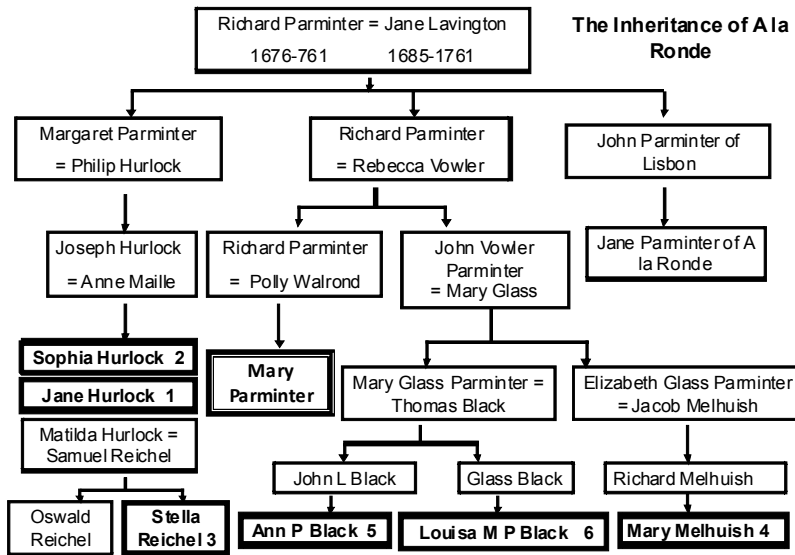
After a short illness of about eleven days Mary passed away on 18 December 1849 at the age of eighty-two and nine days later she was interred in the tomb in the Point in View chapel; the Trustees of the Charity, in their tribute, recording that "the sepulchre has gathered to itself the last of the two exalted ladies for whom it was prepared³⁸". Oswald Reichel later described Mary as "The retiring Mary Parminter who devoted herself to carrying out her cousin's wishes³⁹", the Trustees of the Point in View Charity recorded that "she acted ... in a manner most delicate and confiding⁴⁰".

7. Mary's Will

The main assets of Mary's will comprised the property of A la Ronde, the Cotford estate at Sidbury (now the area of Cotford Road and Cotford Close), Dunkeswell Abbey Mills estate (land and a water mill north of Dunkeswell village), Fairlinch estate at Braunton, the Bellair estate at Pilton and the Cold Arbour farm and estate that was east of Ottery St Mary. In London there were five dwellings and a chapel in Holborn; seven acres (part tenanted by a cow-keeper), six dwellings and a public house in Islington; two acres in Pentonville and land and dwellings in St Dunstan's Parish in the City of London and in Fleet Street (which included Peele's Coffee House – famous at the time). There were one hundred and twenty separate cash bequests amounting to £11,600, ranging between £800 (£45,000 at today's value) to her cousin, Sophia Parminter, down to £10 (worth £600) to each of the A la Ronde servants and one pound ten shillings (£80) to each of the girls then being educated at Point in View (who also received a pair of shoes and a handkerchief). Other bequests were of £500 (£28,000) to a Gypsy School in Dorset and £20 (£1,100) to the Exeter Women's Penitentiary. Mary specified that bequests to married women were to "be paid into their proper hands and not subject to the control of their husbands" and although much has been made of her interest in the conversion of Jews to Christianity, there were only five bequests to such organisations. What would be the equivalent value of the will today? The £11,600 cash bequests would have a total spending power well exceeding three

quarters of a million pounds with the value of the land and properties being many millions of pounds more.

Mary mentions items at A la Ronde that are found there today - the Cabinet of Curiosities and the Dove in the Octagon; she also refers to her pictures, books, farming stock, implements of husbandry and wines and liquors. Her interests extended to owning a telescope, a microscope and, as an example of her awareness of items then modern, a camera obscura. This was a box with a pinhole that could give an image to assist sketching and drawing and which could be used to draw silhouettes. The camera obscura led to the development of photography.

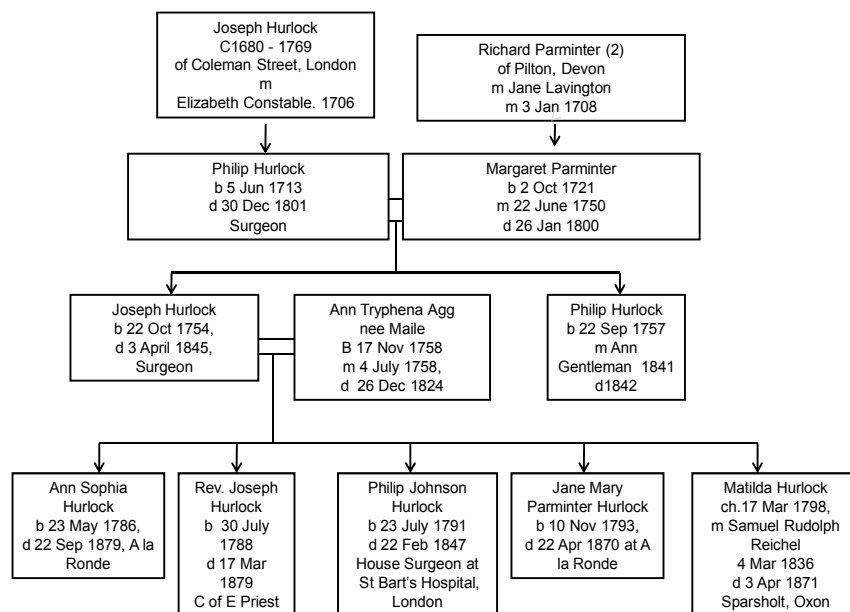


The will set out instructions for the disposal of her lands and estates other than A la Ronde and separately for the inheritance of A la Ronde. Following her death, the lands were to be shared between the family of Richard Melhuish, John Black and Glass Black – all distant cousins. The Melhuish family were land owners of Tiverton. John Black lived in Exmouth and was an army colonel who had retired on half pay. Glass Black was a surgeon practising in Torquay.

The terms of the A la Ronde inheritance were unusual in that the names of six unmarried ladies were given in sequence, the inheritance to be in turn but negated by a number of conditions including marriage, renting out (not living at) A la Ronde, not maintaining the house or gardens and making alterations to the property. If a condition was not met or the person died, the property was to pass to the next in the sequence. The ladies were the sisters Jane then Sophia Hurlock, Stella Reichel, Mary Melhuish, Ann Black and, finally, Louisa Black (the numbered sequence is shown in the diagram (above)).

8. The Hurlock sisters

Ownership of A la Ronde thus passed to Jane Hurlock and twenty-one years later to her sister, Anne Sophia Hurlock. The great-grandfather of Jane was Joseph Hurlock, (b c.1690), a London surgeon, his son Philip was born in London in 1713 and married Margaret Parminter in 1750 in the church of St. Anne Limehouse; Philip was a member of the Fetter



Hurlock Family Tree

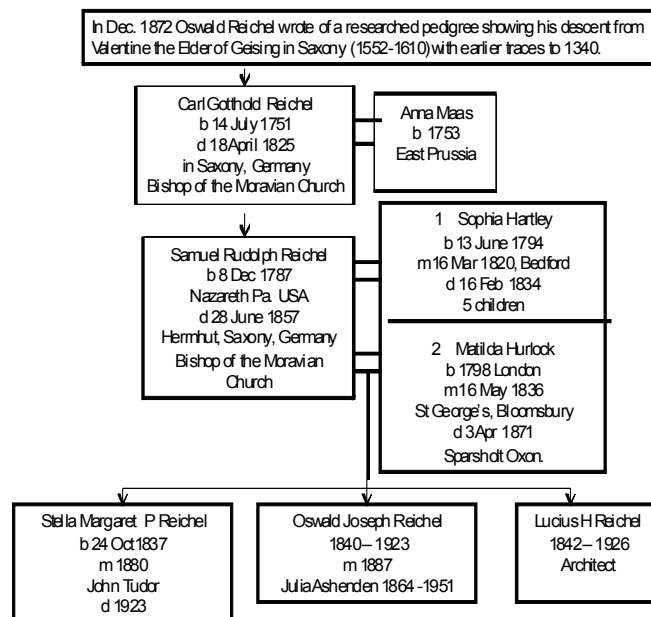
Lane Moravian Church, his wife had lived in London in the Moravian Sister's House. Margaret was the eldest child of Richard Parminter of Pilton who, in a letter of 1749⁴¹, wrote in response to her news of the marriage proposal from Philip Hurlock that he did not know him but gave her leave to do whatever she thought would be for her happiness. Margaret and Philip lived at St Paul's Churchyard, he was a surgeon at the nearby St. Bartholomew's Hospital and a Freeman of the City of London. Their elder son, Joseph (1754-1845), was also a surgeon and a Trustee of the Mary Parminter Charity in Exmouth between 1824 and 1844 and it was to him and wife, Ann Agg, that Jane, Sophia and Matilda were born. Jane and Sophia remained unmarried and, in turn, inherited A la Ronde while the youngest, Matilda, married a minister of the Moravian church, the Rev. Samuel Reichel. All derived wealth from their inheritances, not only of property but also of investments – mainly of shares in the East India Company.

Jane Hurlock owned A la Ronde during the twenty-one years between 1849 and 1870 and when she died there on 22 April 1870 at the age of seventy-seven her estate, mainly of shares that were valued at £193.10.6, passed to her sister, eighty-four years old Sophia, together with the ownership of A la Ronde. The will of Mary Parminter required legatees to live at A la Ronde and to maintain it without alterations; there is little evidence of the presence of either sister at the house except that records show that Jane had been enumerated there in the 1851 and 1861 censuses and that she had made a gift of money to Point in View during her occupancy. Jane had died by the 1871 census and although servants were enumerated at A la Ronde, Sophia was absent, staying at a hydrotherapy establishment at Matlock and presumably "taking the waters". When Sophia died on 22 September 1879 at the age of ninety-three she bequeathed to her nephew, Oswald Reichel, land at Bardney, Lincolnshire that she had inherited from Samuel, the father of Oswald; the property of A la Ronde was to pass to the next person named in the sequence in Mary Parminter's will – she was Stella Reichel, daughter of the third Hurlock sister, Matilda, the widow of the Rev. Samuel Reichel.

9. Stella Reichel

The father of Stella Reichel was the Rev. Samuel Reichel who had been born in America in 1787, a member of a family that was prominent in the Moravian Church whose followers were refugees from Bohemia in central Europe. They had been persecuted and then expelled for their Protestant beliefs and had found refuge in America where Samuel; became a minister of that church. After the death of his first wife (there were five children) Samuel married Matilda Hurlock in 1836, she was the younger sister of Sophia and Jane Hurlock. Samuel and Matilda lived at

Ockbrook Derbyshire where Samuel occupied an important administrative position (a Provincial) of the church in England (see Appendix B for notes on the history of the Moravian church). A daughter, Stella, was born in 1837 then sons Oswald in 1840 and Lucius in 1842. Samuel died suddenly in June 1857 while attending a Board Meeting of the Moravian Church at the headquarters in Saxony and Matilda, his widow and the three children initially moved home to Harrow, Middlesex⁴². In the 1871 census Matilda was living at the vicarage of Sparsholt, on the



Reichel Family Tree

Oxfordshire/Berkshire border, the parish of her son Oswald, as was Stella his sister. In the following month (May 1871) Matilda died; her daughter, Stella, continued to live in the vicarage, the home of her unmarried brother. In 1879 the twenty-eight years old Reverend John Tudor, a curate at an adjoining parish, was appointed to assist at Sparsholt as curate and was given lodgings at The Old Vicarage in the village. In August of the same year Stella's aunt, Sophia Hurlock died in Exmouth and in accordance with the terms of the will of Mary Parminter the property of A la Ronde passed to Stella, she, however, was to marry John Tudor with the wedding due to take place in the following year.

English law, at that time, was that a married woman had no right whatever to ownership of property, this included household effects and even clothing so that upon marriage all of her possessions would pass into the ownership of the husband. In Stella's case there was the added restriction of the conditions imposed in Mary Parminter's will, that ownership of A la Ronde would be negated upon marriage with the property passing to the next named individual – as long as the condition be met that she be unmarried. Stella had been the third to inherit and of the three remaining, the fourth, Mary Melhuish, had already married, Ann P Black had died and only the sixth and last (Louisa Black) met the requirement of the will. In 1880 Louisa was unmarried (she never did marry), was 30 years old and living in Torquay with her step-sister (Louisa Webb) and with two servants. She was obviously well-off, presumably from having inherited from her father his share of the proceeds of Mary's estate. She was aware of the Stella Reichel wedding as she is shown on the marriage certificate as a witness so is probably one of the three young lady bridesmaids shown in the wedding photograph exhibited at A la Ronde. Louisa Black however, being the sixth and final person in the laid-down inheritance sequence could, by law, keep or dispose of A la Ronde as she wished and she decided not to take on the property; Mary Parminter's wish that the house should be owned and occupied by the nearest unmarried kinswoman had expired with that final named individual and with the decision the young lady had made.

Oswald Reichel wrote later "My sister [Stella] bought the reversion from the reversioner [Louisa Black] at my instigation and sold it to me" (see Appendix D); A la Ronde was transferred into Reichel's ownership just days before the wedding of Stella and John Tudor on 30 September 1880, after which the couple left Sparsholt for John to take up his appointment as vicar of the parish of Turkdean in Gloucestershire.

10. Oswald Reichel

The Reverend Oswald Reichel was one of the leading figures in the history of A la Ronde which he owned from 1880 until his death in 1923. His life was that of a beginning that was full of promise, a mid point in which he was the subject of widespread public ridicule and derision and a final phase of redemption through rebuilding his reputation by research and work in his local community.

Oswald Reichel was a brilliant scholar gaining a first class honours degree in Classics at Oxford and was then sent by his family to Silesia to learn German and then to France to further his language studies there. He had learned Latin and Greek from his father. He was ordained into the Church of England in 1865 (at the age of 25) as curate of North Hinksey Parish in Oxfordshire and at the same time was appointed Vice-Principal of Cuddesdon College, Oxford. Cuddesdon had opened in 1854 to train candidates for the Church of England priesthood and Reichel's appointment came at a time of controversy between Evolutionists and Creationists (Darwin's Origin of Species was published in 1859) and then came sustained arguments over church rituals. After five years, in 1870 at age 30, Oswald Reichel left Cuddesdon and the North Hinksey parish and was appointed priest of Sparsholt on the Berkshire/Oxfordshire border.

In the 1871 census Oswald was enumerated at the Sparsholt vicarage together with his mother and sister, Stella; the census showed Oswald as Vicar, Farmer and Landowner. The following month (May 1871) brought the death of Oswald's mother, Matilda (nee Hurlock); Stella

continued to live at the Sparsholt vicarage with her brother until 1880, when she married the curate, John Tudor, and they left Sparsholt for John's new appointment as vicar of Turkdean, Gloucestershire.

In 1885 a "Mr. and Mrs. Rice" stayed at a Bristol lodging house owned by a Miss Niblett, who somehow found out that the couple were under assumed names and not married, the man was the Reverend Reichel whom she accused of being guilty of immorality in her house. He denied this and the couple left. Miss Niblett wrote to him twice and then visited him at Sparsholt Vicarage where he accused her of blackmail. Much scandal was created in his parish and the Bishop of Oxford demanded that Reichel clear his name by taking action against Miss Niblett for libel and extortion. The matter was taken to Reading Assizes where many more issues were revealed. Miss Niblett claimed that she had visited Reichel only to obtain the money due to her when she told him to leave the hotel. Reichel quarreled with the judge, who ordered him to reveal all the facts or face jail for perjury. It then emerged that the young lady was a former servant at the vicarage called Caroline King who stated that Reichel had taken her to Stratford upon Avon and seduced her. He accepted that he took her there but pleaded that it was only to visit Shakespeare's tomb. He admitted a relationship with Miss King lasting over thirteen years but said he had wished to marry her but she had refused. He accepted that they had often stayed in London and he had paid for her room (but in a separate hotel), and that he had taken her to Italy, but only to educate her. He flatly denied fathering a child by her. The criminal proceedings ended with Miss Niblett being cleared of the charges of libel and extortion.

Reichel was told by the Bishop of Oxford that he should either resign or face an ecclesiastical court and Oswald Reichel, in 1886, resigned his appointment as vicar of Sparsholt where he had served for seventeen years. The Bishop accepted Reichel's resignation and suggested that it took effect after a few months delay so that he could benefit from the tithes that would be then due. Reichel agreed the delay but in the interim period changed his mind and withdrew the resignation – the Bishop refused the withdrawal on the grounds that "it was impossible for Reichel to discharge his duties at Sparsholt without general offence and scandal". Reichel went to law seeking an injunction against his Bishop's decision not to allow him to revoke the resignation – and lost. He took matters to the High Court but in January 1887 the appeal was dismissed with costs. Reichel attempted to justify his actions in a letter published in *The Times* on 21st January 1887 in which he complained of prejudice against him in court, made an allegation that a trap had been laid by a parishioner and set out a lengthy criticism of the actions of the Bishop of Oxford. The Bishop's reply was published a week later in which he quoted the remarks of the judge of the original trial that Reichel's evidence was unsatisfactory and could not be relied upon. Reichel then produced and widely distributed a pamphlet detailing all the correspondence between himself and the Bishop and that inflamed, even more, the tension between them⁴³.

On 25 May 1887 Oswald married Julia Ashenden, by licence, in the church of St Bartholomew the Great in the City of London; Oswald was forty-seven and Julia was twenty-three. The marriage register recorded Oswald as a priest living at Sparsholt Vicarage, although that appointment had terminated. Julia, who disclosed no occupation but had been described in the previous census as a dressmaker, registered her father as "of Brighton" with profession of "Gentleman". In fact Julia was the eldest of the six children of Frederick Ashenden, an itinerant shawl salesman of Willesden, London. Some years later Julia was described by Oswald as "granddaughter of Thomas Ashenden Esq. of Old Barn Court, Nonington, Kent" but the title of respect that normally denotes a person's social status was well overstated as Thomas had been shown in the 1851 census as an agricultural labourer living on Old Barn Farm at Nonington. Julia Reichel, many years later⁴⁴, spoke of their honeymoon that was spent in a hotel in Bloomsbury, London, mainly, she felt, so that her husband could spend his time at the adjacent British Museum; "He was very learned" she added.

Reichel refused to accept the dismissal of his High Court action against his bishop and took the matter to the Court of Appeal where the judge stated that there was no possible benefit for the litigation to continue – Reichel lost with costs against him. Still refusing to accept defeat, Reichel

appealed to the House of Lords – his appeal was dismissed with costs but he then took the major step of petitioning the Privy Council – and lost. Reports of all of these judicial proceedings appeared in newspapers as well as in *The Times Law Reports* and the story was followed by readers throughout the country. Prior to his marriage Oswald had entered into a Marriage Settlement - a pre-nuptial contract to ensure that Julia would receive Oswald's property and other assets after his death. His assets then included a house in London and two farms near Drewsteignton on Dartmoor. The court costs awarded during the litigation would have been very heavy but Reichel pleaded that he was a pauper with insufficient funds to pay. Although there was legal argument that Reichel "occupied a large property in Devon" and should pay, it appears the fact was accepted that his assets had been placed to his wife in the Marriage Settlement and a report in *The Times* of 5th June 1889 bears the headline "Reichel (pauper) v Bishop of Oxford".

There was no prospect of Oswald being offered another living and it was to A la Ronde that Reichel "retired" and it was there that Oswald and his wife lived. He encouraged the pronunciation of his surname as "*Ray-she*" instead of "*Reikel*" and maintained (falsely) that he had inherited A la Ronde from his mother – but she had predeceased Sophia Hurlock by eight years. Oswald established a new life at A la Ronde and devoted himself to historical research. He became recognized as a scholar of international repute and an authority on medieval local history. In twenty-two years he published one hundred and seventeen articles for the Devon & Cornwall Record Society and carried out a massive amount of research in translating and transcribing the Domesday Survey of Devon for the Devonshire Association and also early Exeter Episcopal records.

During his research he often clashed with his peers. The Library of the University of Leicester holds seven box files of his research into the early Hundreds [administrative areas], of which Devon had thirty-two. This and relevant correspondence was often written on the reverse of what would now be deemed scrap paper, such as printed notices and meeting advices⁴⁵. A letter from T W Whale of Bath, a renowned researcher into the Domesday Book, brought a response from Reichel that was written as annotation in red ink across the original. This brought Mr. Whale to re-send the letter with the further comments "Please write your remarks on separate paper, I have great difficulty in reading your red ink. You have not answered my question". A letter of 5 May 1903 from Mr. Whale simply states "My Dear Reichel, You are a bold man in contradicting my opinion". A further letter from Mr. Whale reads "I am perfectly unconvinced; in fact perfectly sure" to which Reichel responded – in red ink – "You are wrong". What is obvious from examination of those notes is Reichel's painstaking thoroughness, illustrated by his detailed calculations of the actual area of each land holding in Devon.

Reichel's many published books included antiquarian and theological subjects – two important examples of the latter were "*The See of Rome in the Middle Ages*" and "*A Manual of Canon Law*", the latter containing many views of the role of women in the church that would be far from acceptable in current thinking. He was also a committee member of the Board of Guardians (administering Poor Law matters), an Exmouth Urban District Councillor for six years who involved himself closely in local matters, a founding member and leading figure of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and a Secretary of the Devonshire Association.

In describing the two volumes of a *Complete Manual of Canon Law*, published in 1896 and the first volume of *The Canon Law of Church Institutions*, published in 1922, the *Times* in his obituary reported: "To this work he brought wide knowledge and extraordinary industry. It represents the patient collecting for fifty years of a vast apparatus of authorities. His object was in no sense controversial; he was not bent on proving or disproving anything about the Church of England, and anything which he found in her inconsistent with the larger conception of the Church Catholic he neither defended nor denounced. Both as canonist and as historian he endeavoured to write with complete scientific detachment". The *Journal of the Devonshire Association*⁴⁶ commented that "Mr Reichel was rightly concerned to uphold his considered judgement and there may well be matters in the mass of his output upon which future verdict will be against him but his opinion, never hastily conceived, will continue to claim respect."

Oswald Reichel was the only owner of A la Ronde to have carried out major alterations to the property. His work included removal of the thatched roof and the installation of dormer windows to the upper floor that was partitioned into rooms, the installation of a winding staircase between the Library and the first floor, removal of internal walls to give an enlarged Study and Drawing Room, and replacement of the main staircase with alterations to the Entrance Hall – this latter work took place from about 1919. A correspondent in a letter to a newspaper remembered him well “...driving around the countryside in a small four wheeled vehicle drawn by a small pony; the body of the vehicle was of wicker-work and made for one person. He was a well known figure in his high hard hat, frock coat and snow white beard always accompanied by two very large brown and white collie dogs”⁴⁷. There was also a recollection by another individual⁴⁸ that “he had peacocks all around the house”

Oswald Reichel died at the age of eighty-three on the 30th April 1923; he left estate valued at £2,792 and a complex will in which his intentions appear to have been to safeguard A la Ronde for the family. His assets were incorporated into a trust that had been set up to include the terms of the (pre-nuptial) Marriage Settlement, the trust being administered by Lucius Reichel, his brother, and Sir Horatio Donkin, a leading Harley Street surgeon and Chief Medical Commissioner for Prisons. Julia was not to inherit but to enjoy the tenancy of A la Ronde and the income for life of Oswald Reichel's estate⁴⁹. If Julia, at any time, decided not to continue her tenancy of A la Ronde or upon her death, Lucius, was to be offered the tenancy and income; if Lucius did not accept, then the tenancy offer should be made to Oswald's niece, Margaret Tudor; then to niece, Stella Tudor and then to his uncle Sir Harry Reichel (the Principal of Bangor University College). The will continued that, apart from the tenancy to his brother, the subsequent tenancy offers would only be made if confirmed by Julia in her will. There was also a statement that if A la Ronde had to be sold ... “which I trust may not happen unless some kinsman be the purchaser” ... Stella, the sister of Oswald, was to receive a proportion of the proceeds. Julia, however, could not cease her tenancy of A la Ronde without losing all. Events however moved on.....

11. Julia Reichel

The complicating factors for Julia were resolved within four years. Stella died in 1923, only a few weeks after her brother; the interest of Lucius Reichel in the property disappeared with his death in 1926 and when Sir Horatio, the remaining trustee, died in 1927 the trust ceased, in practice, to function. Julia made a planning application to Exmouth Council in January 1929 for the construction of a house on a plot of A la Ronde land in Summer Lane, moved into it (Three Acres), and placed A la Ronde for auction in July 1929.

Julia lived at Three Acres for twenty-two years and died there on the 20th November 1951 at the age of eighty-eight – she was cremated at Plymouth; Oswald lies buried at St John in the Wilderness Church at Exmouth, the grave is unmarked but there are inscriptions on two pews inside the church simply stating “Rev O J Reichel” – “and of Julia his wife”

12. Margaret and Stella Tudor

Richard Tudor was born in 1820 in Montgomeryshire and was a Church of England priest who married Joanna Daniell; of their thirteen children, three of the sons became C of E priests. The eighth child, John Lechmere Tudor, born at Headington, Oxford in 1851 was educated at Kings College, London and at Oxford, and was then appointed curate, first to the parish of Childrey in Berkshire in 1876 and then in 1879 to the adjacent parish of Sparsholt, on the Berkshire/Oxford boundary, where the vicar, the Rev. Oswald Reichel was living at the Sparsholt vicarage as also was Stella, his unmarried 42 years old sister. The new curate John, then twenty-eight years old, was given lodgings at The Old Vicarage in the village. On 30 September 1880 Stella and the curate, John Tudor, were married by Oswald in the Parish Church. Stella had inherited the property of A la Ronde at Exmouth through a legacy that had restricted the property ownership which, together with the inheritance law of the time deemed that she should have forfeited the

property. Oswald Reichel, Stella's brother brokered (and probably financed) an arrangement for him to purchase the house.

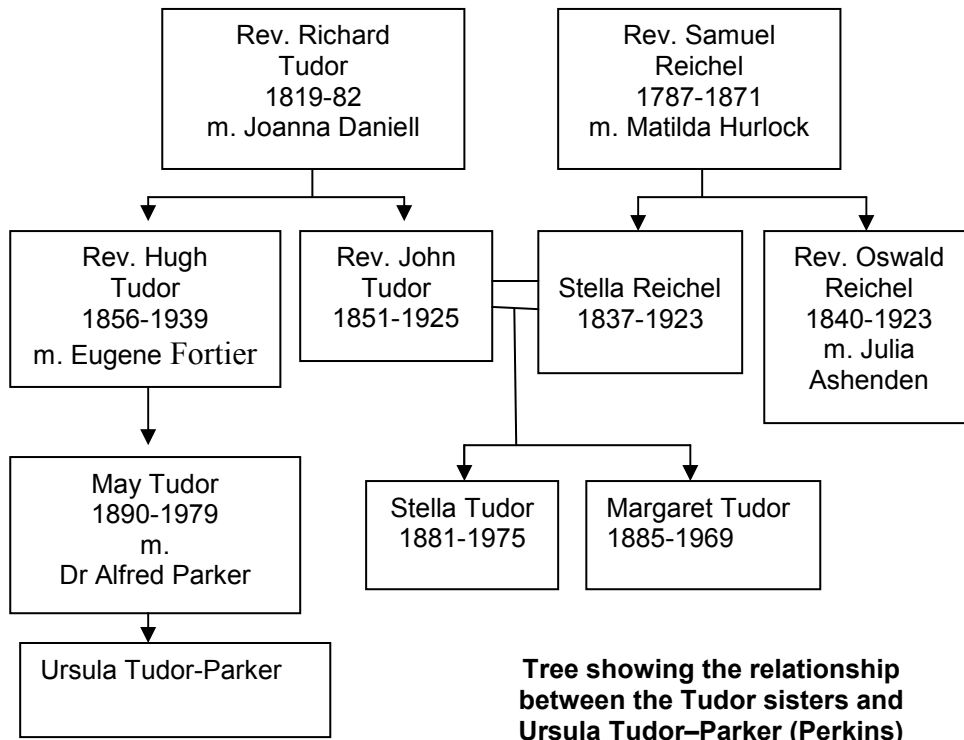
John and Stella Tudor left Sparsholt the following year for John to take the living of Turkdean in Gloucestershire, a country parish of just one hundred inhabitants. A daughter, Stella was born on 16 November 1881 and a second daughter, Margaret, on 13 December 1884. The two children were brought up in the classic style of a country parson's family. They were educated at home by a series of governess one of whom (when the girls were nine and six) was a young German lady who ensured their knowledge of her language and, as expected of them, the sisters took their part in parish activities. The two girls however had different outlooks on life and while Margaret was content to continue simply as the parson's daughter, Stella certainly was not. Stella found a great interest in music, particularly the piano, and in 1901 (at age 19) she was successful in examinations of the Royal College of Music and (in her words) "in the face of much prejudice" soon gained admission to the College in London. She was fortunate to be taught by a pupil of the daughter of Schumann and excelled in her studies. In 1906 she graduated as an ARCM⁵⁰ with capability in singing, violin and harmony as well as being a qualified teacher of pianoforte.

What to do then? The family had now left Turkdean as John Tudor had, in 1901, accepted the living of East Garston, just west of Newbury in Berkshire and the family had moved into the vicarage of that small village. While growing up Stella Tudor was a frequent visitor to A la Ronde, the home of her uncle, Oswald Reichel, and it appears that the atmosphere there and the stories of the well-travelled Parminter cousins impressed her and she, not content to return to village life, decided to travel the world. She left for Canada.

Margaret, her sister, remained at the family home at East Garston and took up painting, at which she excelled. Examples of her work are in the upstairs corridor at A la Ronde, the pictures include an oil of "A Berkshire Village" that has been identified as the road through her home village of East Garston. Her father, the Reverend John, is remembered for initiating a proposal that East Garston village should revert to its much earlier name of Esgarston. John Tudor's wish for the name change was defeated in 1904 in a parish "referendum" but that did not stop him from using the Esgarston name in his correspondence so that for many years Crockford's Clerical Directory referred to the parish as Esgarston. On special occasions now, the petition and anti-petition are exhibited in the village.

Stella meanwhile was teaching pianoforte in Canada and continuing to study, achieving further qualification in 1909 in an Advanced Music examination taken in Vancouver. She was back in London in 1913 where she was a founder member in that year of the (London) Three Arts Club. This was for women actresses, musicians and dancers and was described as "a cultural institution where young ladies of artistic ability could rent rooms" and it was there that she stayed when in the capital. Among her contemporaries in the Arts Club were Sybil Thorndyke and Dame Clara Butt. For a period Stella acted in the "Frank Benson Shakespeare Players", a touring company of high repute in which she worked with stars such as Basil Rathbone and Ellen Terry. The company later developed a base at Stratford upon Avon which led to the foundation there of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. On 1 November 1916 Stella was in South Africa where she was awarded a Piano Teaching Certificate by the Transvaal authorities. The ostrich egg on show at A la Ronde is a souvenir from this episode of her life; the emu egg, labelled by Stella as from Queensland and also displayed, was almost certainly obtained on a visit to the Antipodes a few years later. Stella later recounted that she interrupted her travels during the 1914-18 War in order to return to Britain to take Red Cross training and then to nurse wounded officers as a VAD nurse [Voluntary Aid Detachment]; these were volunteers who assisted as nurses or orderlies in military hospitals in Britain and behind the battlefield. She then returned to her world travel and piano tuition - in later life she joked that she had been in every country in the world where English was spoken and had swum in every ocean of the world except the Arctic and Antarctic. In another period she spent some time teaching piano in Bermuda where she stayed in the home of the Bishop of Bermuda, astounding her host by also teaching sewing to the local girls and then learning hairdressing and passing that knowledge on

to the young ladies. It was said that Stella had an “adventurous and versatile spirit” and she was described as being “yet more beautiful than Ellen Terry”. She lived in India for some time where she taught piano and it was here that she became engaged, but sadly her fiancée died of a tropical fever and although she had many admirers she never married.



Margaret had continued to live with her parents at East Garston but in 1923 her mother died at the age of eighty-six. The Reverend John Tudor retired from his parish and he and Margaret left to live at 34 Russell Street in nearby Reading; father, however, survived for only one more year and in 1924 daughters Stella and Margaret jointly inherited the Reading

property (estate value £334) and it was there that Margaret lived while Stella continued to teach piano and to travel.

Oswald Reichel died in 1923 (Stella was a mourner at the funeral) and Julia continued to own A la Ronde. In 1929, by chance, Margaret Tudor saw an advertisement for its sale and purchased it at the 1st July auction. The purchase was completed one year later, on 30 June 1930; the price was £3,609, a mortgage of £2,000 being obtained. Margaret took up residence at A la Ronde and in order to raise capital, a portion of the land was sold for housing and also four tenants lived in. Stella joined Margaret in 1933 and, together, they restored much of the Parminter furnishings, lovingly cared for the property and, in 1935, opened the house to the public. Open days when visitors could view the Entrance Hall, Octagon, Library, Drawing Room and Shell Gallery were on Mondays to Saturdays from May to October and on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the rest of the year.

Stella still, on occasions, performed at the piano; there is at A la Ronde a camel saddle – the story linked with it is that during World War II Stella joined ENSA, the Entertainments National Service Association that performed in factories in Britain and also entertained troops overseas. The saddle was brought home by her after she performed in North Africa and Egypt.

Margaret and Stella were extremely concerned about the preservation of A la Ronde and what would happen after their deaths and they decided to offer the property to the then Exmouth Urban District Council but, in 1950, the offer was declined. After Julia Reichel’s death in 1951 Margaret and Stella were faced with legal battles regarding the ownership of A la Ronde which led to costly litigation. This apparently stemmed from the actions of Julia twenty-one years before in selling A la Ronde despite Oswald Reichel leaving it in a Trust which dictated that occupation of A la Ronde could be enjoyed by Julia, his widow, during her lifetime followed by Oswald’s brother, Lucius, then by Stella and then Margaret Tudor - all as tenants. After the death of, or refusal of the property by the final nominated individual, it was to be given as an

outright bequest to Oswald's nearest relative in Great Britain. The breaking of the Trust by Julia in selling A la Ronde to Margaret Tudor led to the descendants of Julia and then Lucius (he also had died by then) claiming the property as theirs. Three sets of legal advisors gave conflicting opinions thus leading to proceedings that finally terminated at considerable cost to the Tudor sisters, increasing their financial difficulties and leading them to sell part of the land. Their overriding concern was only that their property should be preserved and they offered A la Ronde to The National Trust in 1952, but the terms were not acceptable to the Trust. In 1953 it was offered to the Mary Parminter Charity of Point In View but that offer was declined due to the running costs the charity would bear. In 1956 the sisters sought interest from the Georgian Group who declined involvement. In 1956 there was further correspondence with The National Trust and negotiations reached the stage where the Trust would then accept A la Ronde with the Miss Tudor's being allowed to continue tenancy for life, the ladies, however, refused the offer on the basis that they wished to remain owners of the property until their deaths - the discussions then foundered. Margaret Tudor died in January 1969 aged eighty-three and her request of cremation was carried out. Stella continued to live at A la Ronde.

There are people in Exmouth who speak of the Miss Tudor's wearing long black dresses, carrying a shopping basket each and walking (trotting was one description) along the Exeter Road for their shopping. One person described Stella's voyages in her car – slowly and in the middle of the road another remembered a “Georgian evening” that took place at the property – for which the A la Ronde archive⁵¹ contains a ticket. Another person⁵² recollected Stella and Margaret as “Very charming - during the war [1939-45] they wore old fashioned dresses and took tea in the conservatory daily” They entertained soldiers (Commonwealth and United States) awaiting D-Day and at Christmas were known to have invited doctors from Exeter hospitals to functions arranged for them.

Financial difficulties led to more land being sold in the early 1970's then in 1974 there was the worry of further legal action when a husband and wife that Stella had employed became aware that the property was not to be left to them in her will. They claimed that such a promise had been made by Stella to persuade them to continue to live at A la Ronde and care for her. The litigation foundered after Stella died on 9 June 1975 at the age of ninety-four. A la Ronde was left to her cousin, Ursula Tudor-Perkins and there was a bequest of £100 to a friend, but it was found that there were insufficient funds to pay the monetary bequest - or the solicitor's costs!

Stella was interred in the grave of her uncle Oswald Reichel at St John-in-the-Wilderness church, Stella's obituaries appeared in The Times and the Exmouth Herald, the latter reported that “Miss Tudor maintained always the bearing and standards of an England once more noble, but retained her sharp wit and keen sense of humour”.

13. Ursula Tudor-Perkins

Ursula lived at A la Ronde from 1975 until 1991. The house was open to visitors who were conducted around by Ursula or family and friends and events⁵³ were staged. Many options were explored for redevelopment around the house and of the grounds while seeking to retain the character of the building itself. In the 1980's consideration was given to changes such as the construction of dwellings in the grounds, providing a museum, maze and lake and having a pizzeria at the tea-room⁵⁴, all of which failed to be progressed and the house was offered for sale. With a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, A la Ronde was purchased for £750,000 and passed into the ownership and care of the National Trust on the 11 January 1991. Essential building work had to be carried out, visitor facilities upgraded and conservation is a continuing feature. The rescue and restoration of this unique property continues to be an ongoing task.

Appendix A

The Grand Tour – an Overview

The 18th Century has been described as “The Age of Reason and of European Enlightenment”; it was then that tourism was born and the English started to flood the European scene. The Grand Tour was a cultural and geographic phenomenon with its climax in Italy. Culturally, the tour was a route to self-knowledge and the gaining of important social contacts; Grand Tourism was not a leisure pursuit but a means of education on which young men were often sent by wealthy parents to finish their education and become complete gentlemen. These men would have become familiar with the Classics through their education and were intent on seeing for themselves the sites of the stories of the great Classical poets.

The 18th Century standard view was that women were not expected to stray from home. Women who travelled blurred the distinction between male and female activities and for most English women of that time Europe was a fantasy represented only in landscape paintings or narrated in books. A frequent observation in the earlier part of that century was that as women lacked a formal education there could be no completion of such and therefore no point in a Grand Tour. From the middle of the century, however, there were increasing numbers of wealthy English women participating in Grand Tourism and female groups were not unusual.

How was the tour route decided? By the 1780's basic guidebooks could be obtained and potential tourists could purchase diaries of previous travellers from which they gleaned ideas and hints. Tourists were not on packaged trips, it was them that decided the itinerary and lengths of the various stays depending on their interests. On departing England they would have a broad idea of the route they intended to follow but much depended on the season, weather (heat, snow, flood) and any special events on the way (Easter, festivals, plays, concerts or opera season). There could well be delays; in 1772 a tourist writes of being trapped in Milan all winter due to heavy snow, there were frequent delays due to flooding on rivers as well as on roads. The length of the tour therefore was very variable; a gentleman could depart for Rome and return within a year but for many travellers the tour was for two to four years.

Grand Tourists usually departed by sailing ship from Dover to Calais on a sea crossing of five hours. Arriving at Calais a tourist had to negotiate Customs (with a bribe usually demanded by the Customs Officer) and then find a hotel; one diarist described the standard as “deplorable”. For the many who had not afforded an agent, travellers would then commence to hire carriages; two were sometimes necessary – one for the tourists and the other to contain the luggage, a servant and the subsequent purchases. Servants could be brought from England but normally they were hired overseas, often for each country, and coachmen were also hired either for the whole journey or for each country. All the hiring would require negotiation, as would the provision of horses that had to be changed at post houses at intervals of about ten to fifteen miles.

In starting away from Calais, a traveller would find no network of inns, most were off the major routes with many described as “miserable hovels” although major towns and cities had well run hotels but these were very expensive. Seasoned travellers advised that tourists took their own sheets and cutlery as sometimes neither was provided and when they were would frequently be found unfit for use. Food varied but many tourists strongly complained of the quality and price. There was novelty in some food – in Italy travellers would experience their first taste of broccoli, radish and ravioli. If travelling during Lent it was necessary to produce certificates to allow meat to be served.

Due to the risk of robbery most tourists did not travel with large amounts of currency but used paper instruments of credit that could be drawn on “correspondents” of their London bank. Many towns were walled with their own control points and these were additional to controls between states. In the 1780's a passport had to be shown at the entrance to each town (with a little

money to the Officer). To enter the Vatican a pass (visa) was required thus avoiding the need to pay a bribe each time. It was unsafe to travel at night, and even by day, passage would often be in "trains" for security reasons. These were informal but satisfaction could be obtained from managing to attach oneself to a wealthy person's group, particularly if it included a leader who was often well-read, such as a clergyman or historian, and who had been hired to accompany the travellers to pass on his knowledge and "guide" them through the interesting places.

Road surfaces varied immensely. Poorly drained clay soil caused ruts full of water and sticky mud. Rivers were crossed by fords or simple ferries and were difficult when in spate. Dry weather caused choking dust. When in France, travel was often by river transport using boats that were powered by sail or oars.

For the tourist there were two essential destinations, Paris and Rome, the latter being the focus in a culture dominated by the Classics. The two main tourist routes encompassed the Low Countries (now Belgium and The Netherlands) to the Holy Roman Empire through Germany, Austria and Switzerland, or directly through France and crossing the Alps. A third option for tourists was to travel to or from the Iberian Peninsula by sea, with the option of visiting Spain and Portugal and then sailing the Mediterranean. The detailed route depended on the whims of the traveller but recommended for visits were Florence, which was said to inspire a taste for literature, Venice (Renaissance Art) and Milan and Naples for its opera. Some tourists would spend time in a city to attend formal education in the Arts or a language. Lady travellers had a special interest in noting the clothing and customs of each particular region and in viewing churches and cathedrals, a practice the inhabitants found amusing.

The French Revolution broke out in 1789 and then the spirit and characteristics of the Grand Tour quickly disappeared. There was horror at the bloody events, British tourists returned home and their activities of exploration ceased. War between England and France was declared in 1793, the same year as the execution of the Emperor Louis XVI. Venice was plundered and Milan occupied. By 1798 the French had captured Rome, exiled the Pope, moved on to enter Naples and pillaged Italian art treasures to make Paris the art capital of the world. It was at that time that Grand Touring ceased only resuming after the abdication of Napoleon and then with much less intensity.

Appendix B

The Moravian Church

Moravia is in an area of much historical conflict and boundary change - north of Austria, south of Poland and covering most of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, parts of Hungary and Germany. Moravia was part of the Kingdom of Bohemia and had several languages but for many inhabitants their language was German.

In the early 1400's there was much movement towards gaining freedom of expression in religious matters – in Europe the writings of Englishman John Wycliffe were having much influence and in Moravia in 1457 the Unitas Fratrum, or Moravian Church, began its distinct life with a strong emphasis on practical Christianity rather than on doctrinal thought or church tradition; its numbers grew rapidly.

Luther in the period between 1500 and 1540 exposed the rift between Catholic and Protestant thinking and by 1521 he had been excommunicated and declared an outlaw of the state. Although an uneasy peace followed, the days of the ancient Unitas Fratrum came to an end when the Czech armies and their allies were defeated in battles in 1620. It was probably at this time that Oswald Reichel's family was granted a barony in Moravia and maybe connected with Reichel's claim that he was 8th in descent of Michael Reichel of Bohemia who fought "under the bridge at Meissen". The Habsburgs eventually were victorious and were determined to forever put an end to the "Czech heretics" through public executions, imprisonment, torture, confiscation of property and forced exile. Czech nationality was wiped out and the last remains of the Czech Protestant Reformation were rooted out by the governing Catholic Habsburgs. The population of Bohemia was reduced to one half, one third of the farmland was left untilled and the whole country became impoverished. The Habsburg rulers would rather have their lands desolate than inhabited by "heretics." The Unitas Fratrum went "underground" for 100 years.

Between 1722 and 1727, some families from Moravia, who had kept the traditions of the old Unitas Fratrum, found a place of refuge in Saxony, on the estate of a Count Zinzendorf, and built a village which they called Herrnhut. Zinzendorf gave up his position in state service and became their spiritual leader, as well as their patron and protector. The exiles' families left behind in Moravia were severely punished and followers of the church were expelled from their homeland, initially joining those at Herrnhut but many then migrated to North America. The arriving Moravians were pacifists and as a consequence their first colony in Georgia, established in 1735, was a failure because they refused to bear arms against the Spaniards. Forced to leave Georgia, they moved on to Pennsylvania where they arrived in 1740. Among the immigrants from Herrnhut were Miloslav Reichgel and his family

The Moravian zeal for educating their children went back to the 17th century and in Pennsylvania they built a settlement with a school at a location they named Nazareth. Boys were taught the value of order and discipline, at meals they sat in complete silence and were under constant supervision. German was spoken on three days of the week and English on three days; on Sundays both languages were spoken.

The Rev. Charles G. Reichel was the school principal at Nazareth from 1781; he had been born in Germany (probably a son of Miloslav Reichgel – the refugee, above). The second son of Charles Reichel was Samuel Reichel, born at Nazareth in 1787, the father of Oswald.

Samuel Reichel married Sophia Hartley in London in 1820 and they had two daughters and three sons. The daughters did not marry and became governess/school teachers; the elder, Sophia, lived in Yorkshire, Rhoda lived in Herefordshire; they became half-sisters to Oswald Reichel after Samuel's wife, also called Sophia, died young and he again married; his second wife was Matilda Hurlock.

The original vision of the Moravians was not that they should be a separate church but should rather form societies within established churches, to encourage work already being carried on. This aim, however, was not realised for various reasons, and eventually a separate church was formed. It was never intended to set up churches in England because that was the domain of the established church and missionaries only gathered in London en route for America and the West Indies. However, as these missionaries spent time in London awaiting their sailing dates, they met and worshipped with other devout Christians in the City and eventually a chapel was built near Fleet Street. John Wesley travelled to the USA on a vessel that also had many Moravian emigrants and he initially joined the Moravian church before deciding to break-away and form the Wesleyan Methodists. The Moravians were enthusiastic missionaries and sent teams to Labrador, South & Central America and the Caribbean.

Further Moravian congregations were established in Britain, generally by invitation, as Moravian workers moved to the larger conurbations. There are now 38 Moravian churches in this country an increase in recent decades due to an influx from the Caribbean, the results of previous missions there. The three main U.K. centres are at Gracehill near Belfast where there is a settlement and a private school and similarly at Ockbrook, six miles out of Derby while at Fulneck (near Pudsey Yorkshire) there is a settlement, a school and a museum. All three boarding schools are very well regarded and in great demand.

The Gracehill settlement was established in 1768 and is of Georgian architecture with the homes ranged around the church. Historically there were communal houses for single men and for single women and widows. Day and boarding pupils attended the school, children not going on to higher education were taught practical skills and the apprentices were sought after throughout the country. The Gracehill church had doors for men and for women who then sat on separate sides. The burial ground was called "God's Acre" with men buried to the left of the path to the church, women to the right. Everyone was considered equal after death so headstones were of similar size, shape and design and laid flat on the ground. Ockbrook and Fulneck are broadly similar, the museum at the latter providing an interesting visit.

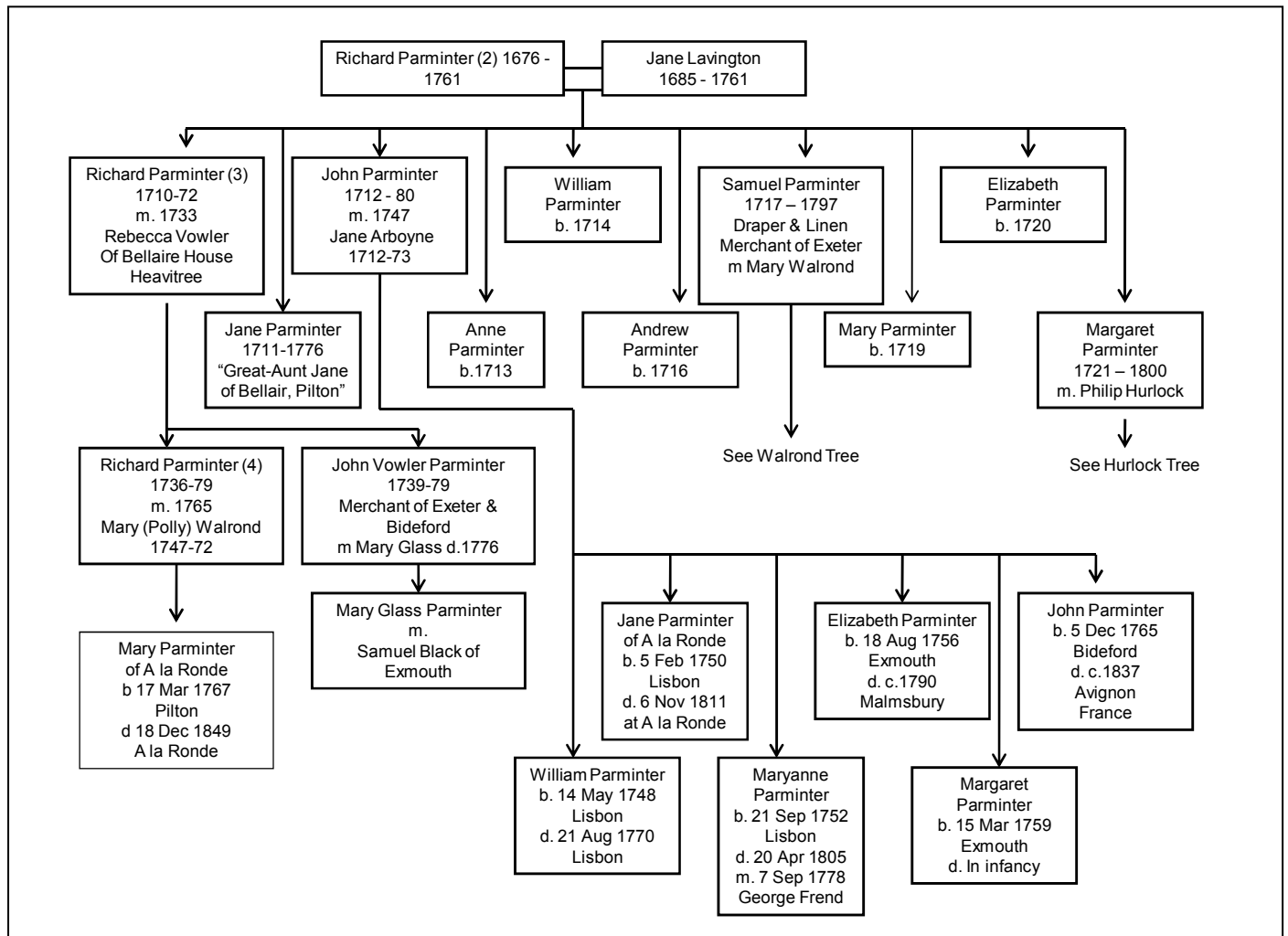
The children of Samuel's first marriage were born at Gracehill but Samuel had moved on to Ockbrook during his second marriage and it was here that Stella, Oswald and Lucius were born. Samuel died in 1857 during a conference at Herrnhut, the then centre of the Moravian denomination; there is a Reichel family grave in the Dublin Moravian cemetery but the place is locked and completely overgrown and the Dublin authorities could suggest no contact to approach regarding its history.

Moravia remained a Hapsburg possession until 1918 and with the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire became part of Czechoslovakia. In 1945 the two million German-speaking ethnic minorities were expelled and found new lives - mainly in East and West Germany.

The question is often raised as to how Oswald Reichel was a C of E priest when his family had been strongly of the Moravian persuasion. Historically Unitas Fratrum never saw themselves as a separate church but only as a group within established churches. They still announce themselves as firmly within the Protestant tradition with the rituals of the Moravian church being similar to the C of E. Oswald was not the first Reichel to enter the Established church; beside the A la Ronde main stairs is a lithograph of Rev C P Reichel, who was a Bishop of the Church of Ireland; he was the brother of Samuel – an uncle of Oswald.

Appendix C

Family Tree of descendants of Richard Parminter (2) and Jane Lavington



Appendix D

Oswald Reichel's explanation of the method of his acquisition of A la Ronde.

In this undated letter written by Oswald Reichel, the person described as "the daughter of Glass Black" is Louisa Black, the ultimate reversioner from whom he (indirectly) purchased the property.

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Mary Parminter bequeathed it to my two aunts for life, to my sister for life, to

the daughters of Jacob Melhuish for life with an ultimate reversion to the daughters of Glass Black, the tenancy of each to be defeated by marriage. My sister bought the reversion at my instigation from the reversioner I sold it to me. And I have many family papers.

References

- ¹ Parminter/Reichel papers; Devon and Cornwall Record Society - Sir Oswald Murray Bequest
- ² Papers held at North Devon Record Office
- ³ Margaret Read, *Pilton – Its Past and its People* pp 190-192
- ⁴ The Seaborne Trade of Barnstaple, Bideford and Instow, Nixon, pp 20,22,30
- ⁵ Tattersfield, *The Forgotten Trade 183*, 306
- ⁶ His title was "Salt Officer", a commodity used for the preservation of fish catches and highly taxed on export
- ⁷ Family Names in Great Britain, Henry Guppy, 2009, p 160
- ⁸ Devon Life Article 2002
- ⁹ International Genealogical Index – at Cross Street Independent Chapel
- ¹⁰ Between 1738 and 1769 - Surman Index of Congregational ministers
- ¹¹ The vault bears the inscription "In memory of Harriet daughter of Richard Parminter Esq. and of Mary his wife of Broadgate who died April 1770 also of Mary, Mother of the above Harriet who died April 1772 and also of the above Richard Parminter Esq who died 19 December 1779 aged 43". The tomb is in bad repair and the inscription will soon be completely un-readable.
- ¹² A la Ronde Archive
- ¹³ MSS letter from Thos.Jacomb, Lisbon archives
- ¹⁴ Devon Life 2002
- ¹⁵ The Baptisms Register entry of Maryanne changed over some years to become Mary Anne
- ¹⁶ From Exeter Court Books quoted in "Exeter Freeman 1266 -1767"
- ¹⁷ *Nouvelle Description des Glaciers de Savoie, (1791)* which reported that three Miss Parminters climbed Mont Buet in the Alps, and the Belgian journal *L'esprit des Journaux Francois et Etranges* of November 1786 that recorded (translation) "Three English ladies (Miss Parminter) this summer climbed the glacier of Mont Buet led by M. Berenger and the guide Jean-Baptiste Lombard".
- ¹⁸ Reichel papers; Devon & Cornwall Record Society – AJP Skinner bequest
- ¹⁹ Conveyance held at North Devon Record Office
- ²⁰ George Frend was a partner in a business at Porto (Portugal). A bill of lading for a vessel that sailed in 1787 was in the A la Ronde archives (ALAR/Doc 29 now at Devon Record Office). The cargo was wine being shipped to England, Ireland, America, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Petersburg, France, Holland, Genoa, Angola, Brazil and Lisbon – probably by George Frend.
- ²¹ Land Tax Assessment Returns
- ²² Conveyance – ALAR/Doc 47 and 52 held at Devon Record Office
- ²³ Conveyance held at North Devon Record Office B/464/1
- ²⁴ Reichel papers, Devon and Cornwall Record Society – AJP Skinner bequest
- ²⁵ Oswald Reichel - Paper to the Devonshire Association, 1902 "a house erected twelve years previously" (to her death in 1811)
- ²⁶ *Magna Britannia* by Samuel Lysons 1822 – Vol.6 page 320
- ²⁷ Now at Devon Record Office
- ²⁸ Clipping from the Exmouth Journal held in the Reichel papers at West Country Studies Library – no author or date.
- ²⁹ Exmouth Journal 24 June 1911
- ³⁰ Reichel papers, Devon and Cornwall Record Society – AJP Skinner bequest
- ³¹ Ursula Tudor-Perkins interview in "The Antique Collector" February 1991
- ³² The Exmouth Journal 24 June 1911
- ³³ Trewman's Flying Post, 26 Nov. 1840
- ³⁴ Elizabeth Langton – 1841 census
- ³⁵ The Will of Mary Parminter 1847 now at Devon Record Office
- ³⁶ The Will of John Parminter 1837 – The National Archives
- ³⁷ By Mrs Tudor-Perkins in "The Antique Collector of February 1991
- ³⁸ Minutes of the Meetings of the Trustees of the Mary Parminter Charity
- ³⁹ Exmouth Journal 24 June 1911
- ⁴⁰ Minutes of the Meetings of the Trustees of the Mary Parminter Charity
- ⁴¹ ALAR/Doc 146 now held at Devon Record Office
- ⁴² 1861 census, 2 Cambridge Villas, Harrow
- ⁴³ A description in detail of the events at this time appears in a booklet entitled *The Vicar, the Bishop and the Provost (Kay)* held in the Library of Exeter Cathedral.
- ⁴⁴ A Mrs Sergeant of Exeter wrote this in 1993 in a letter to the National Trust at Killerton (Hugh Meller).

⁴⁵ Two examples of reverse sides used – Notice of a Board Meeting of St Thomas Union 20 Jan 1913 and an Appeal for Funds for the restoration of St Keverne Church, Cornwall in 1913; these were among loose papers in box files at Leicester Univ.

⁴⁶ Reichel Obituary July 1923

⁴⁷ Western Morning News 10 June 1996 – letters section,

⁴⁸ By a Mr Crabbe in a letter to Hugh Meller of the National Trust at Killerton in 1993

⁴⁹ Reichel had sold one of the farms in 1891

⁵⁰ Associate of the Royal College of Music

⁵¹ Doc 155 now held at Devon Record Office

⁵²⁵² In a conversation with Hugh Meller of the National Trust at Killerton in 1993

⁵³ The menu is at Doc 211 now held at Devon Record Office

⁵⁴ AIR papers at Devon Record Office – Plan for ten maisonettes etc. Doc 234; for a maze, museum and lake Oct. 1981 Doc 235; for tea room and pizzeria Doc 254