

Townscape Heritage Project

Building Timeline

148 HIGH STREET



INTRODUCTION

The research to create a timeline of the historic buildings of Stockton has drawn on resources such as trade directories, newspapers and census information. Whilst we have been able to construct some quite detailed pictures, there are gaps which we would like to fill. If you have any further information that could assist us, please contact Eleanor.blyth@stockton.gov.uk.

We would like to thank volunteers who have worked on the timelines.

C 1861 WALKER

148 High Street is associated with the flax trade through the Walker family's residence at the address in the 1800s. Richard Walker, a retired flax merchant is recorded at 148 High Street in the 1861 Census. He is living there with his wife and family and servants.

Richard Walker was a Justice of the Peace, he died on 3rd July 1867.

The Walkers would have been attracted to Stockton because of its status as the main port on the River Tees with trade routes developed with London and English coastal towns as well as with Dutch and Baltic countries. Locally produced flax was used to make clothing, linseed oil, and sails for ships. However, demand was such that flax became a major import via Stockton.

C1881 FALCONER

148 High Street was acquired by the church to become the vicarage. The transition of the address into a vicarage is explained in an article in the press in 1880 (Darlington & Stockton Times, Ripon & Richmond Chronicle - Saturday 14 August 1880).

It is stated that the original vicarage stood on Church Row and the land on which it stood was acquired by the council to create the cattle market therefore a house was purchased on the High Street to serve as vicarage.

In the 1881 Census David Richard Falconer is living at the address. He is the Vicar of Stockton on Tees. He lives with his wife Helen Maria, daughter Edith, sister-in-law Julia Hay-recorded as a fund-holder and two servants Elizabeth Davis and Jane Redford.

David Falconer originated in Scotland, the son of David Falconer, a Captain in the Royal Sappers. David Richard Falconer was appointed to Stockton in 1874. Prior to his appointment as Vicar of Stockton, he was at Hartlepool, recorded in the 1871 Census and before that he was Curate of Bishopwearmouth.

By 1891 David R Falconer is the Rector of Sedgefield, residing at the Rectory, according to the 1891 Census. He is still recorded there in the 1901 Census. He died on 2nd October 1903.



C1891 MARTIN

Henry Martin replaced David Falconer as Vicar of Stockton, moving into the vicarage with his family. He was a graduate of Clare College, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1867, his first parish being Chapel-en-le-Firth

He was born in 1844 in Dore, Derbyshire, the son of Richard Martin, a Chaplain and his wife Emma. In the 1861 Census, Henry's mother, Emma Martin is recorded as widowed and is a Superintendent of Brixton Prison. The family are staying with Henry's uncle, George Rose, Curate at Soothill, near Dewsbury, Yorkshire. Henry is 17 years old at this time. His siblings are not featured in this Census record. Evidently the death of Henry's father necessitated Emma's move into the role in the prison. Brixton Prison was Britain's first female convict prison, coming into being in 1853 when the transportation of female convicts ceased. When it opened in November 1853 there were 75 prisoners housed at Brixton. By June 1854 there were over 550 women incarcerated there.¹

CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT.—The Government have purchased the old House of Correction at Brixton, which was vacated by the board of superintendence of the Surrey prisons, on the removal of the Surrey penitentiary to the new county prison at Wandsworth. It is intended to establish at Brixton a depot for female convicts only, under sentence of transportation, and to place the new establishment under the Board of Superintendence of Convict Prisons. The female convicts under sentence have hitherto occupied a wing of the penitentiary at Millbank, the entire of which, after their removal from Brixton, will be available for the detention of male convicts only, under sentence of transportation. Mrs. Martin, the widow of a clergyman who was formerly in the convict service, is appointed matron to the new Female Convict Prison of Brixton. The Rev. J. H. Moran (transferred from the convict prison at Portland) is appointed chaplain; and F. S. Parkyn, steward to the same establishment.

Figure 1 Convict Carlisle Patriot (30 April 1853)

Emma Martin took command as superintendent from the outset. In December 1869, Brixton closed as an establishment for women.

By 1871 Henry is living with and is Curate to his uncle, who is Vicar of Ealsbeaton. In 1874 Henry married Mary Lunn, daughter of William Lunn a surgeon from Hull.

¹ Rachel Bennett 'Bad for the Health of the Body, Worse for the Health of the Mind': Female Responses to Imprisonment in England, 1853–1869 *Social History of Medicine* Vol. 0, No. 0 pp. 1–21



MARRIAGE OF THE REV. H. MARTIN.—
Yesterday being the day fixed for the marriage at Hull, of the Rev. H. Martin, M.A., the well respected curate of St. John's Chapel of Ease, to Miss Mary Lunn, daughter of a Hull physician, the event was celebrated in Sunderland parish by merry peals from the bells of the parish church, the flying of flags from the church tower and elsewhere, the "dressing" of the training ship at the Orphan Asylum, and other demonstrations evincing the kindly feeling existings between the parishioners and their curate. The marriage ceremony was conducted at Christ's Church, Hull, by the Rev. F. F. Goe, rector of Sunderland parish, and shortly after its termination the "happy pair" left Hull for Scotland, where they purpose spending their honeymoon. A few days ago the idea of making Mr. Martin a wedding present was mooted among the congregation, and taken up with an eagerness which resulted in the rev. gentleman being presented with a handsome silver teapot, coffee pot, and cream jug, on Monday evening before he left for Hull. Lack of time prevented the articles necessary to complete a tea and coffee service from being obtained for that evening, and they will therefore be presented on Mr. Martin's return home.

Figure 2 Marriage of the Rev: Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette (4 June 1874)

By 1881 the Census shows Henry Martin living in Villiers Street, Sunderland with his wife Mary and their children.

In 1885 Henry Martin's appointment as Vicar of Stockton was announced. Henry Martin is represented as an industrious and enterprising clergyman during his time at Saint John's Sunderland prior to his appointment to Stockton. In particular he was noted for his work in restoring the church from a dilapidated condition, for the establishment of recreation rooms with facilities for physical and educational activities, for the development of the local school and for his work in the temperance movement.



APPOINTMENT OF THE REV. HENRY MARTIN, M.A., TO A VALUABLE LIVING.

The Rev. Henry Martin, M.A., vicar of St. John's, Sunderland; and formerly curate of Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, has been appointed by the Bishop of Durham to the vicarage of Stockton, vacant by the removal of the Rev. Canon Falconer. Mr Martin (who was brought up by his uncle, the Rev. G. Rose, at Earlsheaton Vicarage) went to Sunderland from Hull in 1873 as curate, along with the Rev. F. P. Goe, who had been appointed by the Bishop of Durham to the livings of Sunderland and the Chapelry of St. John. At that time arrangements were pending for the division of Sunderland parish into two portions, and the constitution of St. John's into a church, with a parish attached. Mr Martin was given the care of St. John's, and at once proceeded to put the place—which was in a dilapidated state—in order. £118 was spent in the infant school repairs, £500 in repairing and cleaning the church, and £270 in rebuilding the organ. In 1874 an order was assigned making St. John's a parish church, and assigning to it a portion of the parish of Sunderland, and the Rev. H. Martin was then appointed to the vicarage. In this office he has shown himself eminently industrious. This portion of the parish had hitherto been left to the inadequate exertions of one curate. The working staff now consists of a vicar, two curates, two Scripture readers, and a Church Army captain. On the site of an old public-house he has established a "British Workman," where a good number of men spend their evenings in healthy physical or intellectual recreation. Two years ago he bought at a cost of £700 a large block of buildings in High Street East, where he spent nearly an equal sum in reconstruction, and where there are now mission rooms for boys and young men. This place is called the St. John's Parish Recreation Rooms, and the list of members is now nearly 200. For a long time Mr Martin exerted himself to raise a block of new schools on the site of the old infants schools, and a little over two years ago the foundation stone was laid by the Countess of Scarborough, and the schools have since been completed at a cost of £2,500 accommodating in the whole 1000 children. He was one of the active movers in the formation of a Durham Diocesan branch of the Church of England Temperance Association; he was the first honorary secretary, which office he retained until last year. In the organisation of the Church Army Mr Martin undertook the affiliation of a corps upon his parish, and the St. John's Church Army now numbers more than a hundred members. There are many other channels into which his labours have been directed; among others may be mentioned a savings bank for the poor. Since its institution, six years ago, the annual average investments have amounted to between £1,500 and £2000, the number of investors being considerably over 1000. His congregation will regret his promotion to Stockton, although the living is worth £1000, whilst the living of St. John's is worth £520 per year.

Figure 3 Appointment of the Rev: Dewsbury Chronicle and West Riding Advertiser (6 June 1885)



The congregation of the Parish Church took my advice, and have subscribed for the Rev. Canon Falconer a handsome testimonial. It is to be presented to-night (Friday), and consists of a library clock and suite of library furniture. St. Thomas's Sunday scholars are also presenting the Canon and his good lady with a case of silver salt-collars and spoons. Mrs Falconer is further to be presented by the associates and members of the Girls' Friendly Society with a case of silver fish knives and forks, and Miss Falconer will be presented by the teachers of St. Thomas's Girls' School, in which she has been a teacher, with a travelling bag and card case. I am sorry that the promoters of the congregational testimonial did not see their way to throw the subscription open to the whole parish, for, as I remarked before, many Dissenters would have been glad to testify their respect for the worthy Canon by subscribing. Canon Falconer really preaches his last sermon as Vicar of Stockton on Sunday, but it is not to be of the character of a farewell. He has issued a private valedictory address to the members of his congregation instead. He will be instituted into the Rectory of Sedgefield on Wednesday next, and the Rev. Henry Martin, the new Vicar of Stockton, will preach, I understand, in St. Thomas's Church for the first time the second Sunday in September.

Figure 4 The congregation Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser (1 August 1885)

INDUCTION OF THE NEW VICAR OF STOCKTON.—On Friday week the Rev. H. Martin, M.A., late of Sunderland, was inducted into the Vicarage of Stockton, rendered vacant by the preferment of the Rev. Canon Falconer, M.A., to the Rectory of Sedgefield. The Lord Bishop of the diocese officiated at the ceremony, which took place in the Parish Church, and delivered an appropriate address.

Figure 5 Induction of the new Vicar Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser (19 September 1885)

The Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette contains a series of advertisements throughout June 1886 detailing a number of properties for sale in Sunderland upon The Martin's departure from the town.





Under the occupation of the Martin family, 148 High Street was a busy household, the 1891 Census recording Henry and Mary Martin, Henry’s elderly aunt, seven children ranging from 24 to 8 years old and 4 servants living there.

The Martins were proactive in public life in Stockton. The Gentlewoman - Saturday 16 January 1897 gives an account of the efforts of various parties, including the Martins, in providing nursing facilities for the poor of Stockton. Mrs Martin was proactive in campaigning against women gambling.

Thanks to the Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 22 October 1898 there are images of Henry and Mary Martin related to their attendance at a Bazaar at Stockton, opened by Lady Londonderry.





The Martin family had their share of successes, joys and tragedies. The fortunes of the Martin children were as follows:

Henry Rose Martin

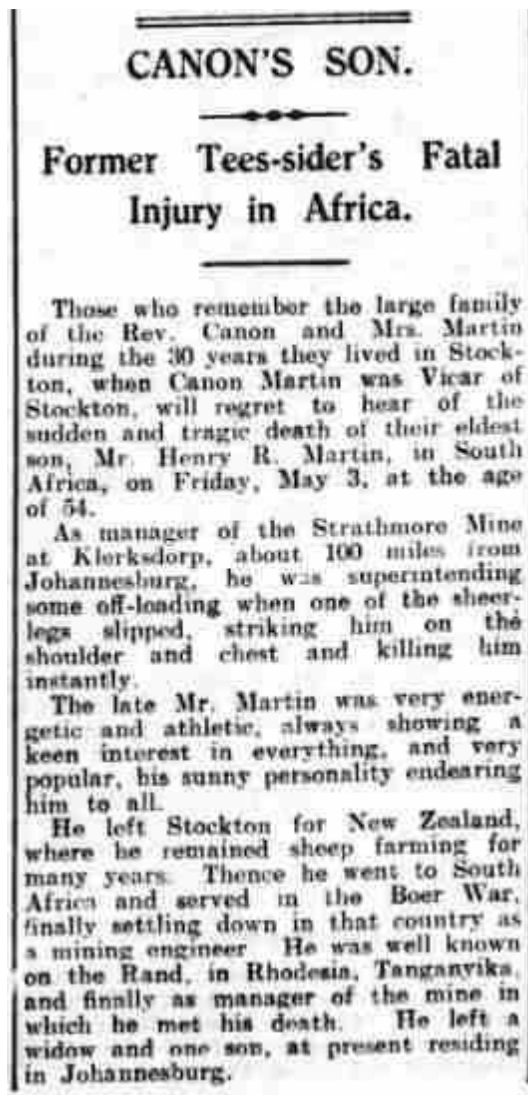


The eldest of the Martin children, Henry was widely travelled, having settled firstly in New Zealand and latterly as a mining engineer in South Africa.

The Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - Saturday 01 June 1929 contains details of a tragic accident that caused Henry's death in South Africa, leaving behind a widow and son.

[Henry R Martin Photograph Northern Mine Research Society](https://www.nmrs.org.uk/resources/obituaries-of-members/obituaries-of-members-names-beginning-with-m/henry-rose-martin/)
<https://www.nmrs.org.uk/resources/obituaries-of-members/obituaries-of-members-names-beginning-with-m/henry-rose-martin/>





Margaret E Martin

Margaret Edith Martin is recorded in the 1901 Census at 148 High Street, aged 24 years, her occupation being a painter.

Herbert C Martin

Herbert Craven Martin, a graduate of Clare College Cambridge followed his father's footsteps, being ordained at Durham Cathedral in December 1901.

The Reverend Martin spent time in India in his capacity as a clergyman. The Indian Daily News - Thursday 11 May 1905 records his appointment as Honorary Chaplain of the Calcutta Port Defence Volunteer Corps. In 1908 there is a record in the Englishman's Overland Mail - Thursday 12 November 1908 of the Reverend H.C Martin assisting at a wedding at St Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta.



Herbert married Brenda Langley, also of Stockton. She was the daughter of a solicitor who is recorded living at Cleveland House, Bowsfield Lane in the 1891 Census.

The 1911 Census records Herbert Craven Martin, aged 33 years, a clergyman, married to Brenda Martin. The Martins are living in Eastbourne with their infant son and a nurse. The Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 17 August 1912 gives an account of the wedding of Herbert's sister, Fanny Martin. Herbert C Martin is described in this report as the Reverend H.C Martin. He and his wife give gifts of Tibetan rugs

In the Great War Herbert was Chaplain to the British troops in India.

In 1939 the Martins are quite elderly, Herbert being 79 and Brenda, 82 years old. They are living at the Rectory in Dorking. Despite his advanced age Herbert is recorded as being an ARP Warden.

By the 1940s the family are in Herefordshire where Brenda died at Clifford Vicarage in 1949. Herbert Craven Martin died in Gloucestershire on 29th December 1959.

Ellen M Martin

From 1904 to 1907 the Ward's Directory records Miss E.M Martin Sanitary Inspector at the address of 148 High Street. This references the pioneering role that Ellen played in the town.

In 1898 Miss Ellen Mary Martin (known as Mary) enrolled as a student at Durham University. After graduating with a B.Sc in Biology, Mary returned to Stockton and applied for the post of Lady Sanitary Inspector. This necessitated her passing the Royal Sanitary Institute examination which covered a range of topics including law, building regulations, diseases of animals and people, factories and workshop regulation and housing. Aged only 22, Mary became Stockton's first lady Sanitary Inspector.

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette - Monday 24 March 1902 refers, erroneously to the appointment of Edith (rather than Ellen Mary) Martin, from 40 possible candidates, at a salary of 30 shillings a week. The Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 02 May 1903 describes the contribution made by Miss Martin. She was stated to have made 4,406 visits to 2,169 families over the course of the year. Her work included visits to all workshops in the area where females were employed, lectures on health matters to women and girls and during a measles epidemic she provided guidance on prevention. Mary Martin held the position until 1906. She was also Inspector of Midwives in Oxford.

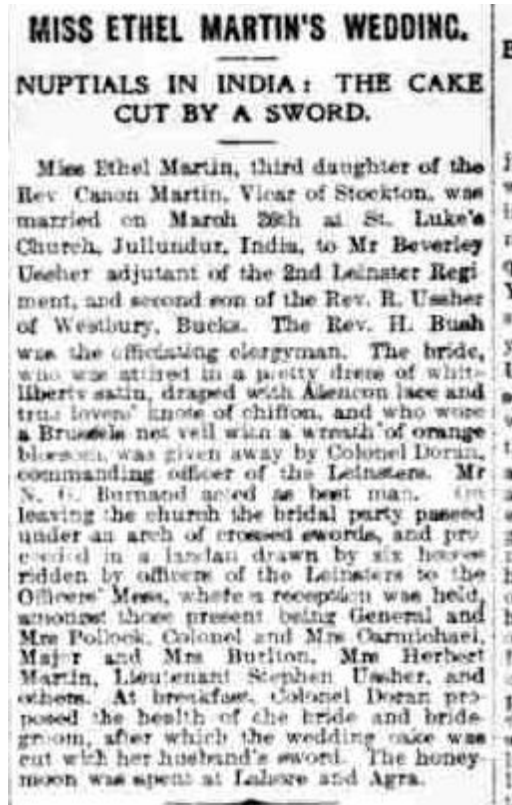
Mary married Norman Leslie in Canton, China in 1913. In 1972 Mary published a book entitled 'Through Changing Scenes'



giving an account of her career. Ellen Mary Leslie died on 6th July 1976.

Ethel Martin

Ethel married Beverley Ussher in Jullundur India in 1908. There is a description of the event in the Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 25 April 1908



Beverley Ussher was also a casualty of the war. Memorials were placed in Stockton Parish Church for John Kingsley Martin and Beverley Ussher.

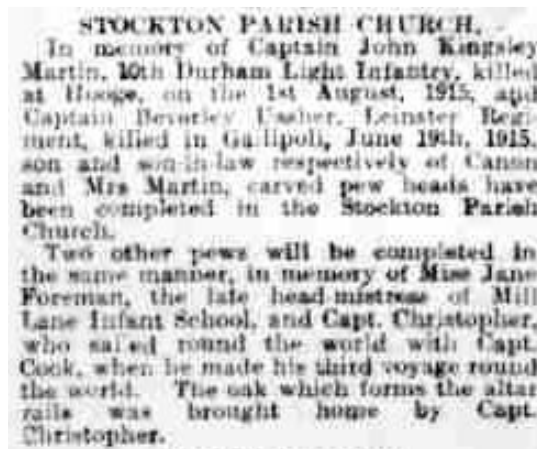


Figure 6 Stockton Parish Church: Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser (2 September 1916)



Photograph Saint Thomas' Church Memorial North East War Memorials Project



Ethel died in Pretoria, South Africa in September 1952.

Fanny B Martin

Fanny Beatrice Martin was the 6th child of Henry and Mary Martin. The 1911 Census shows Fanny living at the Vicarage, Stockton with her parents and sister Ethel and her daughter Kathleen, brothers John and Ernest. Fanny is stated to be a domestic science teacher at the municipal secondary school.

The Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 17 August 1912 gives an account of the wedding of Fanny Beatrice Martin to Edward Jocelyn, son of the late Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Jocelyn. The extent of the article, taking up almost two whole columns gives an indication of the standing of the Martin family in Stockton. The bride wore ivory satin, carried a bouquet of lily of the valley and white roses and had orange blossom in her hair. The bridesmaids wore Wedgewood blue dresses and Mrs Martin, the bride's mother wore a dress of cream brocade with pink flowers. The wedding guests included many prominent Stockton citizens.



John K Martin

In 1911 John Kingsley Lunn Martin is recorded at the Vicarage, Stockton with his parents. His occupation is noted as a solicitor.

The Martins were great supporters of the Temperance Movement. Indeed the Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 19 October 1907 reports the departure of the Reverend Martin to Dublin to deliver a series of lectures on temperance. John clearly supported his parents' views. John Bull of Saturday 27 March 1909 contains a letter mocking John Kingsley Martin's opposition to the sale of tonic wines.

To Mr. Kingsley Martin, Solicitor, Stockton.
SIR.—It has come to my notice that in opposing a licence being granted at the local Brewster Sessions to two chemists to sell medicinal wines, you stated that you “represented the clergy of Stockton.” This seems to be a slight inaccuracy, for the Rev. F. S. Willoughby, of St. John's Vicarage, Stockton, says you didn't represent him; but if you represented the others you must have had one of the funniest retainers ever given by a holy synod to an advocate at law. When I contemplate the spectacle of the clergy of Stockton rising in their might to promote the cause of temperance by preventing a chemist selling Doctor Dockem's Renowned Beef Tea Port and John Smith's Worldwide Oxtail and Malt Claret, I laugh you a great laugh. *Entre nous*, can you not get your client to summon a public meeting to protest against the devastating traffic in Levy's Liquid Mustard and Parkinson's Piquant Pickles? Just see what you can do, good sir. Slowly, but not the less surely, mustard and pickles are accomplishing the downfall of this great nation. All friends of temperance reform must be up and doing. Rally them to the flag ere it be too late.
JOHN BULL.

At the wedding of his sister Fanny in 1912, John K Martin is described as Captain Martin. He gives gifts of a bear rug and a genealogical map.

Just a few years later he was to lose his life in the Great War, like so many other young men.



MARTIN, JOHN KINGSLEY LUNN, Capt., 10th (Service) Battn. Durham Light Infantry, 3rd s. of the Rev. Canon Henry Martin, Vicar of Kelloe, Coxhoe, co. Durham, formerly Vicar of Stockton-on-Tees; b. Sunderland, co. Durham, 23 July, 1884; educ. Cathedral School, Llandaff, and the Grammar School, Stockton-on-Tees; was a Solicitor, and practised for several years in Stockton. In Dec. 1912, the Colonial Office appointed him to the Clerkship of the Island of Montserrat, where he also filled other important posts, and was acting Stipendiary Magistrate. He had joined the Stockton Volunteer Corps (now the 5th (Territorial) Battn. Durham L.I.) in 1906, becoming Capt. before going to the West Indies, and on the outbreak of war in Aug. 1914, was gazetted to the 6th South Lancashire Regt. Sept. following. The Colonial Office, however, refused him permission to leave Montserrat, and made him Commandant of the Island Defence Force, which he organized and trained until Dec., when any danger of invasion from German cruisers being over, he was allowed to return to England. He was gazetted to the 10th Durham Light Infantry 4 Jan. 1915; served with the Expeditionary Force in France, and was killed in action at Hooge 1 Aug. following, by the explosion of bombs caused by the bursting of a shell. Buried in the Sanctuary Wood there. He was a good sportsman, being a particularly fine swimmer, and was secretary of the Stockton Hockey Club, and played for Durham County. He was well known as an amateur singer, and took the tenor solos at the Parish Church, in connection with which he did much useful work, and was an active member as secretary or hon. solicitor of many religious and philanthropic institutions, and was also superintendent of one of the Parish Church Sunday schools; *unm.*



John K. L. Martin.

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[De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1919 Volume 2](#)

John Kinsley Lunn Martin is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Richard C Martin

In 1913 the wedding of Richard Clare Martin, the Martin's fourth son took place to Grace Martin, daughter of R Martin, the former Consul of Hankow, China. Richard is stated to be head of the Canton office of the Asiatic Petroleum Company.

Ernest W.L Martin

Ernest William Laine Martin Ernest also entered the church. He features in the Kelly's Directory for 1914 as Curate at Saint Thomas's living at 148 High Street with his father working as Vicar of Stockton and rural dean.

Ernest served in France during the Great War.

The Second World War brought a tragic ending for Ernest Martin and his wife, reported widely.



SAW PARENTS AND BROTHER SLAIN. KILLED WITH HUSBAND.

A woman missionary who as a child of seven saw her mother, father, and brother stabbed to death by Chinese bandits, has been killed with her husband also a missionary, during the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong.

She was Mrs. Kathleen Martin, wife of Rev. Ernest W. L. Martin, warden of St. Stephen's College, Hong Kong.

"During the boxer rising in 1895 Kathleen's parents (both missionaries) were killed," said Mrs. A. D. Stewart, of Barnet, sister-in-law of the dead woman.

"She hid with her small brother under a table and was brought back to England by other missionaries.

"With three of her brothers, she went back to China to do mission work, and met there and married Mr. Martin. We do not know how they were killed."

Mr. Martin, who was educated at Clare College, Cambridge, served in France with the Chinese Labour Corps during the last war as a stretcher bearer. He had been warden of St. Stephen's College, Hong Kong (a public school for Chinese) for 15 years.

Figure 7 Saw Parents and Brother Slain:Larne Times (12 March 1942)



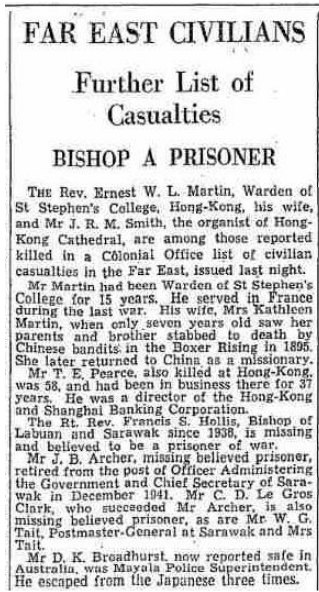


Figure 8 Far East Civilians: The Scotsman (18 April 1942)

Hong Kong was a British Colony, coming under attack by the Japanese from the Chinese mainland on 8th December 1941, just a day after their attack on Pearl Harbour. Massively outnumbered, the defending forces surrendered just less than three weeks. There were 3,000 casualties, and about 12,000 prisoners taken.

Oswald Lunn Martin

Oswald Lunn Martin was the youngest child of Henry and Mary. He was educated at Durham School and was a graduate of King's college, Cambridge.

In the Great War he served with the York and Lancaster Regiment and was wounded during the battle of Gallipoli, losing a leg. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre.



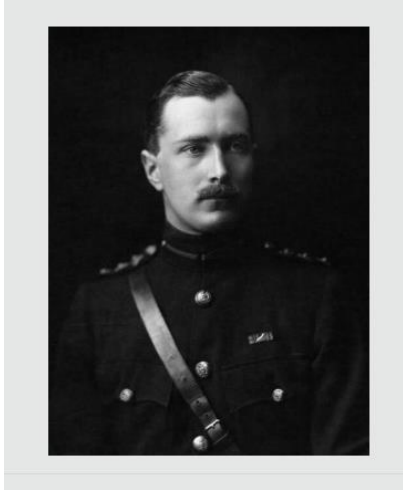


Figure 9 Photograph Captain O.L Martin Imperial War Museum

The Chelmsford Chronicle - Friday 05 November 1920 reports the marriage of Major Oswald Lunn Martin to Violet Methven. Violet died on 25th April 1924.

Oswald was ordained in 1924, serving in a variety of locations at home and abroad including port said and Suez. In 1930 he married Mary Stokes. They are found in the 1939 England and Wales Register at the Childwell Abbey Hotel, Liverpool. Oswald Martin is recorded as vicar designate of Prescott.



Figure 10 Reverend O. L Martin & Mrs Martin, Prescott Reporter, and St. Helens General Advertiser (27 October 1939)



Oswald died on 8th July 1958.

The Reverend Henry Martin left Stockton after many years there. The Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 22 July 1916 gives an account of the appointment of the Reverend Henry Martin, aged 73 years to Kelloe after 31 years in Stockton. He is credited, in the article, with raising funds to build a new chancel at Saint Thomas', installing a peal of 10 bells and a Hope-Jones electric organ.

The Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser - Saturday 23 September 1916 gives a touching and detailed account of the thanks expressed by the people of Stockton to the Martins. Gifts included an electric vacuum cleaner!

The vicarage at 148 High Street was put up for sale in 1921, described as the only site in High Street that had not been adapted to business premises.



Figure 11 Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer (22 January 1921)

The building is described as being approximately 1,617 square yards in size.

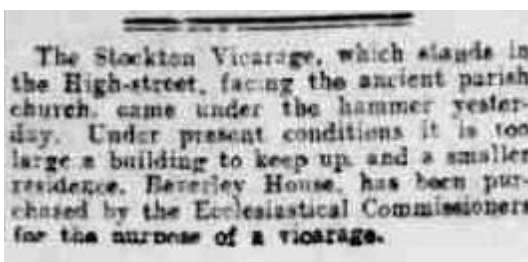


Figure 12 Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail (27 January 1921)

Reverend Henry Martin died on 13th June 1923, as reported in the Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette of that date. He was 79 years old and died at Kelloe Vicarage.

Mary died on 14th July 1923.



C1930 BURTONS

The wards Directories record Burton's Tailors at the address from its 1930-1931 edition through to 1938-1939. In the 1930-31 Directory, F Selby & Co. Accounts, F Wompar, Photographers, S.M Golightly Hairdressers are also recorded there.

