

Henry Wood (1855-1936) and his family

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by R. D. Wood

Henry Wood was born at Midley in 1855, the third son to have been born there to Thomas and Elizabeth Duff Wood. His older brother Thomas emigrated to South Australia towards the end of 1876, and (as the first born William had died of Typhoid Fever several years before at the age of only sixteen) Henry was from that time the senior of what was eventually a family of thirteen brothers and sisters in the Romney Marsh. Henry was 15 when the census was taken in 1871, already working, of course, as did all the brothers in the Romney Marsh as an 'agricultural labourer'. Around thirteen years later when young Julia Wood wrote back to Thomas when he made contact again after six or seven years in South Australia, her brief report from Lydd on Henry, or rather Harry as he was generally called, was merely "Harry he goes to work as usual". In May 1886 when Julia again wrote to Thomas in Australia after he had sent a photograph of himself, "your brother Harry and we all think you have altered a good deal". It is disappointing, indeed rather surprising, that Julia should not have said more about Harry in that last letter: for when she wrote it he had married, at the age of thirty, only a few weeks before, on 12 April 1886.

Harry and Rose had two daughters. When the youngest daughter, Daisy, married in 1920 a wedding photograph was taken with Harry and Rose on each side of the bride and groom. The other persons are unidentified, probably Daisy's husband Barnes family:



Harry died at Lydd on 17 March 1936, aged 80, as we can read from the account by his wife Rose written six months later to Thomas Wood's daughter Martha Browne in South Australia.

Mrs. H. Wood

Ash. Cottage
West Rife
Lydd, Kent.

Sept. 14.

My Dear niece Martha. Thanks you very much for your letter of sympathy and thanks to your mother and all for me. As your Uncle Henry passed away so peaceful on March the 17 had he lived until September he would have been ill 4 years, but a fortnight before he died he was in such awful pain his sufferings were great the Drs kept coming and going and could do him no good at all he died at 10 in the morning Tuesday. His sickness was bronchitis and heart failure oh I do miss him and as time goes more so. Mrs. B. says and I go every week to the cemetery and take flowers. One of the

oldest of by old families has nearly
 died out now. Mrs Miller came home
 to help me look after your Uncle
 Harry as I was poorly at that time
 but I am feeling a bit better now.
 you must excuse me not writing
 to you but I have not felt like
 it I hope your mother is well it is
 a good age 82. your Uncle would
 have been 82 in August 21st. We have
 not had much summer harvest is
~~late all the corn is rot in yet fruit~~
 is plentiful I hope you get a
 good harvest. farming is hard work
 and it needs a good harvest to
 repay the labour the summer
 here is nearly over. Give my love
 to your mother sisters Brothers
 accept the same yourself and
 I will write again later. I hope
 you receive this letter alright
 thank you very much for your letter
 I am now closing with my love to
 all the family your affec^d Aunt Rose
 Good night X X X

Almost certainly there was only one grandchild: Henry Barnes born in 1922.

The photograph on the right was presumably taken during the second world war. The last heard of Henry Barnes and his mother Daisy was of news passed in a round-about-way via Caroline Wood in Hastings in May 1959: "They both seem to be very well - just now she doesn't like the house they are in and wants to move to New Romney. I don't know if she will be lucky enough to get a house, if she did it would be near Henry's work" (See [Carrie_Letters.pdf](#)).



Henry (4) WOOD, b. 21 August 1855 Midley, Romney Marsh, Kent, d. 17 March 1936 Lydd, Kent
+Susan Rose Hannah [known as Rose] (4) FORD, b. circa 1863 Brookland, Kent, m. 12 Apr 1886
| Lydd, Kent, d. 17 Mar 1940
|— Annie Elizabeth (5) WOOD, b. April (chr. 29 Apr) 1888 Lydd, Kent
| +Frank Stanley (5) QUILTER, [b. Jan-Mar 1894 Greenwich, London?], m. 1 Jun 1925 Lydd
|— Daisy Kathleen (5) WOOD, b. July (chr. 19 July) 1891 Lydd, Kent
| +Spencer Frank [known as Frank] (5) BARNES, [b. 23 Feb, circa 1884-5?], m. 7 Apr 1920
| Lydd, d. 19 Jun 1940 Romney Marsh, Kent
|— Henry Spencer (6) BARNES, b. 6 March 1922 Eltham, chr. 16 July 1922 Lydd, Kent