

New Gibbs Family Tree Newsletter - May 2017



GIBBS FAMILY TREE

This is my first attempt at a newsletter since I took over maintaining the family tree website from my cousin Sarah at the beginning of the year. I lack her deep involvement in the family from compiling the web version from the book edition of our tree that her mother Rachel last edited, and her experience in email communications. However I am very keen to keep the Family Tree alive and thriving, and to explore ways to make it a more informative and interactive family history insight. For this I need your help!



Dear Cousins, A plea for your support

1. Please forward this newsletter to your family and invite them to subscribe to this Gibbs Family Tree newsletter by emailing me at gibbsftree@gmail.com

2. Please check your family tree entry at www.gibbsfamilytree.co.uk and send me updates both on new events in your family (births, marriages, deaths etc.) and information on what people are doing (occupation, achievements, interests etc. that form the Biography and Notes that bring the tree alive).

When I took over the mailing list from Sarah I was struck both by the large number of bounced or unopened emails (people change email addresses or cease to read them) and by the limited distribution, often to only senior members of the family, and with very few of the middle or younger generations receiving the email directly. If we don't engage directly then interest in the family tree and history will fade away. I propose to monitor responses to this newsletter and in future add a "list of the missing".

About me - your new Family Tree keeper



I am Michael Alban Gibbs ([#502 on the web tree](#)) and have lived in Cambridge for the past 24 years with Juliet, son William (at Cambridge Assessment) and daughter Louisa (teaching in Colombia), who were both born while we lived in Guatemala, and started school in Paris (born linguists). Also in photo are parents John Michael and Margaret, who have recently moved to London next door to sister Carol(ine) Misch and brothers Dominic (Godalming) and Peter (New Zealand). I have recently retired (occasional consulting), enjoy cycling and have had an interest in family genealogy for past ten years.

Family Updates - hatches, matches, dispatches ...

Please do let me know about family births, marriages and deaths and other family news, not only so that I can keep the Family Tree living and accurate, but also to let the wider family know via the newsletters.

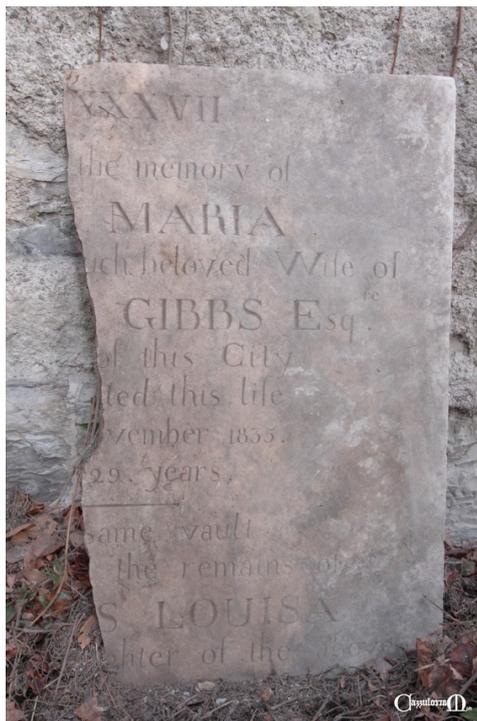
- [Jessica Gibbs](#) (Vicary, Lord Aldeham's daughter) married Joshua Thomas Allen-Back
- [Jack \(John\) Gibbs](#) advised that his two eldest daughters Nancy and Anna became engaged

- Jack's Aunt, [Sheila Morton](#)'s granddaughter Sarah Callender got married and is expecting; and Sheila's grandson John Aberdour got married.
- His father [Beresford Norman Gibbs](#) died last year; Beresford's sister Sheila also died and so did Sheila's husband John Sholto Douglas, Earl of Morton.
- [Nigel Gibbs](#) (ex Zimbabwe) died in Fairford, Gloucestershire, just before Christmas

I am sure that with such a large extended family there must be many more events that I don't know about, so please keep the news coming!

Gibbs Family Tree Website Enquiries

- Marco Cazzulo is cataloging the burials in the overgrown old English cemetery in Genoa, Italy, and came across 3 Gibbs graves from our merchant banker past: [Charles Gibbs](#) (d. 1857); Ellin Maria (wife of John Ley Gibbs), child Frances Louisa.
- Tobias Feilding-Crawley (descendant of Rev. Charles Crawley whose daughter Caroline married [George Henry Gibbs](#)) is a Bristol based architect working on the restoration of Belmont House, previously in the grounds of Tyntesfield. He was interested in family history of the house.
- Mike Drake was a student at Lesotho Primary School in 1960s; keen to trace his great teacher - my Aunt Bridget Perry.
- Gabriella Legrandi wondered if her grandmother Elizabeth Gibbs was related; she eloped to Hungary in 1930s with a hairdresser and was disowned by her banking family (I found no trace)!



Future of the Gibbs Family Tree

The web version:

The Gibbs Family Tree website has become outdated and inflexible as web technology has moved on, with the tree software used by only one other family ([Cobbold Family History Trust](#)), though their site is more developed and enhanced than ours. I have been researching alternatives and it is highly likely that I will recommend migrating to a commercial web software which has better support for mobile devices (iPhones and Tablets etc.), more display options (Ancestors, Descendants, Family) and more privacy control for living tree members. This would also enable me to add a lot more history, anecdotes and photos and potentially things like an album when we have family reunions - ideas welcome. So watch this space (if you are technically minded I am testing [TNG](#) with [WordPress](#))!

The book version:

In her last September newsletter Sarah gave an indication of the cost and effort to produce a new Hardbook Pedigree edition to update the 1981 book (printing costs \pm £100 each for a run of 100 copies). There would be considerable additional effort to update people, biography and recreate charts. This is not in my current plans, but if there was considerable interest I could investigate further.

General:

Two topics caught my attention when I engrossed myself in our family tree:

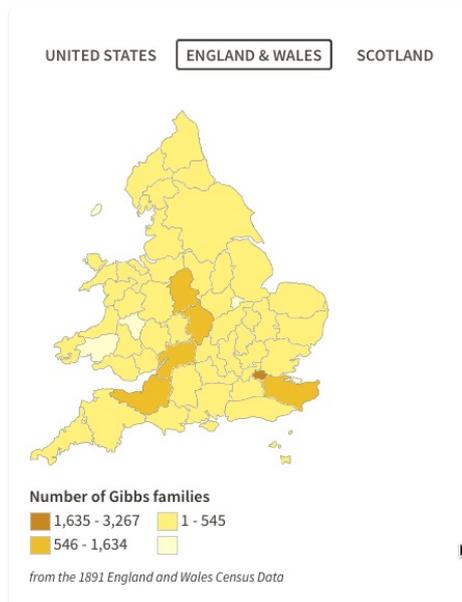
1. How very many children people had in past centuries and how many of these didn't survive to adult, plus the impact of the wars on young men. We do live in very fortunate times!
2. Many Gibbises married very well into equally interesting families. Is it too chauvinistic in this modern era to follow only the male lines in our tree? I would like to give equal evidence to these related lineages and descendants of Gibbs daughters.

Gibbs Family Tree Trivia

This map gives this distribution of Gibbs families in England and Wales from the 1891 census; it shows Gibbises in every county except Rutland and 2 counties in Wales, with highest numbers in West Country and London. This matches closely to our own family tree.

But the 1881 census indicated that there were approximately 14,713 people named Gibbs in the UK, now up to 30,645 so the 643 Gibbises in our tree represents only a small drop (or we have many distant cousins with whom we have yet to establish a link!

The Gibbs surname is even more prolific in the USA, with 62,514 people, and another 4,292 in Australia.



You are receiving this email because you expressed an interest in the Gibbs Family Tree.
Please add gibbsftree@gmail.com to your address book so that we'll be sure to land in your inbox!
You can also contact me on +44 (0)7718 585275
Share on [Facebook](#), [Forward to a Friend](#), [Subscribe](#), [Unsubscribe](#) [Update Email Address](#)