

Leopold Larmuth

Born 1855. Ear surgeon.

Life story by Gwyneth Wilkie.

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1. Dr Leopold Larmuth (1855-1941) and his Family Connections

My curiosity about Dr Larmuth has been of the slow-burning variety. After the end of the Second World War my parents moved into the house in Ambleside known as Gale How, which he had occupied during his retirement. He and my parents trained at the Manchester Medical School, although at different dates. Researching the history of the house brought to light quite a lot of information about Dr Larmuth and it seemed a shame that a man of so many talents should be forgotten.



Gale How, Ambleside.

In Ambleside he seemed to be remembered only as a reclusive 'off-comer' who lived in a house largely hidden by trees. Joan Newby's reminiscences are a good sample of how he was regarded by local children: 'Dr Larmouth's house, always these grounds were surrounded in mystery for us, high walls and no way of seeing what was hidden away, nothing I am sure, I think he was a recluse who loved nature.'¹

His obituary, which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* on 5 February 1941, p 8, fills in some of the picture:

'We regret to announce the death of Dr Leopold Larmuth at his home in Ambleside, where he had been living in retirement.

Dr Larmuth, who was eighty-seven years of age and formerly practised in Manchester, came of Huguenot stock. His forbears had settled in Somerset. He came to Manchester in the late seventies, staying with his uncle, Dr John Hamilton,² who was in practice at Sale Moor then but who later moved to Guernsey. He entered Owens College and the Manchester School of Medicine, gained the Platt Physiological Scholarship in 1880, and qualified to practise in 1882 by taking the London MB degree. After qualifying he worked at Vienna as assistant pathologist to Bamberger.

When he began private practice he occupied his spare time in work for medical and lay journals and was appointed to the honorary staff of the Ear Hospital and also as consulting surgeon to the Royal Schools for the Deaf. He was very successful as a surgeon for diseases of the ear, throat and nose, the fine operations required in such work being eminently suited to his mobile hands and delicate, sensitive fingers, which could manipulate the finest parts and screws of the smallest watches with ease. He often modified instruments or made new ones for his own work. For many years he had a large practice. He was a good chemist, trained under Bunsen at Heidelberg. He could calculate formulae of lenses and had his own made by his friend Abbé, director of the Zeiss optical works, Jena; and as a physiologist he worked under Arthur Gamgee. He was a first-rate botanist and horticulturalist.

¹ <http://www.ambleside-history.co.uk/extras/img159.htm>

² Dr John Hamilton Larmuth. For further detail see the Manchester Medical Collection Biographical Files GB 133 MMC/2/Larmuth. For Leopold Larmuth see GB 133 MMC/2/LarmuthL

He travelled a great deal over Europe, the Near East and the Americas. He is a linguist with extensive knowledge of many languages and a reading and speaking knowledge of others. He once recognised a type of African in Cross Street and surprised him by greeting him in Swahili dialect of Coptic.'

Larmuth distinguished himself as a medical student and was ready to qualify in the last year before the Victoria University of Manchester was granted the Charter which allowed it to confer its own degrees. Thus his qualification was a London one, although his early training was in Manchester. In my parents' day some students still made the journey to London to see if they could add the qualifications MRCS, LRCP to their Manchester MB, ChB. This was looked upon as an insurance against failing the Medical School finals, reputed to be tougher, and as a worthwhile strategy if you could afford the extra fees since preparation was the same for both sets of exams. Furthermore prospective patients might be impressed by the extra eight letters after your name.

Like many aspiring Manchester medical men, such as Daniel John Leech, Larmuth then went abroad to learn as much as he could from Europe's leading specialists. He spend enough time in Vienna and Heidelberg to have gained a thorough knowledge of German and in later life was looked after by servants born in Switzerland, which perhaps helped him to keep up his language skills.³

He set up in practice in Manchester in 1886, after studying aural surgery under the renowned Professor Politzer.⁴ His interest in photography led him to play a role in assisting Professor Schuster when the first X-ray photograph to be processed in England was demonstrated at Manchester.⁵ His own photograph of the MP John Morley was used by Percy Martindale to produce an engraved mezzotint which was mentioned in several newspapers in 1905.⁶ Microscopes, cameras and lenses featured amongst

³ In 1939 he had a housekeeper, Mary L Powell, assisted by Gertrude Moore.

⁴ Letter of application for the post of Honorary Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, dated March 1899. Found at Gale How, printed and bound with all the supporting testimonials, this is now in the Manchester Medical Collection.

⁵ See the *British Journal of Radiology*, 1932 p 201 and EJ Burrows *Pioneers of the Early Years, A History of British Radiology*, 1986, p 35. Nora H Schuster mentioned him as her father Arthur Schuster's 'principal medical collaborator.....Leopold Larmuth, a versatile, rather eccentric aural surgeon in Manchester', 'Early Days of Roentgen photography in Britain', *British Medical Journal*, 3 Nov 1962, p 1164.

⁶ See for example *Manchester Evening News*, 3 Oct 1905 p 3

the items from Gale How sold after his death.⁷ One of the attic rooms had been fitted with a sink and would have made a convenient dark-room for developing his negatives. He had apparently travelled extensively in the East and amassed a number of curios which featured in the sale.

He also collected books on a wide range of topics. In his Will he bequeathed 'free of duty to John Rylands Library, Manchester, such of my books as they may desire.' They desired no fewer than 869 of them!⁸

When Gale How was advertised for sale in 1906 it came with 1 and a third acres of land. This had been increased to over 6 acres by the time of Larmuth's death, no doubt allowing extra scope for his botanical and horticultural interests. Much of the new area was, by 1948, woodland, and a pigsty had been built in the old quarry. It is likely that Dr Larmuth had planted many new trees. One feature mentioned in the 1906 sale particulars had vanished. At that time the sanitary arrangements were reported to be good. One of Dr Larmuth's eccentricities was a dislike of water closets, so he had them removed. The household had to rely on the two earth closets built between the barn and the house. The emptying of these had fallen to the lot of his gardener, James Sumner, who used to express his views on that decision pungently and at considerable length even though reverting to such an out-dated system may have helped the large kitchen garden to flourish.

Whether the 2-stall stable was used at all in Larmuth's day is not clear but he had certainly had some experience of motoring: in 1909 he was thrown out of a car which came off the road while he was driving through Marple, near Stockport, leaving him shaken and bruised.⁹ The 1901 census shows him living at Braemar, Bowdon Lane, Marple, and by 1911 he had moved to Gale How. Whether the accident had any bearing on his decision to retire is unknown but clearly the kind of surgery he was performing needed immense dexterity.

Dr Larmuth did not marry or pass on his skills to any descendants but he came from a large family and over several generations it is possible to see some of the same interests and abilities cropping up amongst them. A

⁷ *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*, 3 May 1941 p 3

⁸ *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, Vol 26 1941 pp 46-7. This was hailed as 'the principal benefaction of the year'.

⁹ *Derry Journal*, 1 Oct 1909, p 3

detailed tree involving 284 people has been placed on Ancestry so what follows is only a small part of the picture.

2. Dr Larmuth's Early Life

He was born on 6 November 1855 and baptised on his first birthday at Manchester Cathedral. Most unusually this is the only online record linking him to his parents. In 1861 he is to be found with his maternal grandparents Joseph and Mary Taylor of 14 Islington Street, Salford, and in 1871 with his other grandparents Thomas and Mary Larmuth, who had moved from Salford to Washway Road, Sale. In 1881 he was at 6 Seedley Road, Pendleton, with two of his uncles and an aunt. At least one room was let, so Leopold, a medical student approaching his final year of study, may have been visiting or perhaps lodging there on a more permanent basis.

His father, Thomas Larmuth, had been living in Cheetham at the time of his first son's birth and following the family trade as a 'machinist', designing and manufacturing machinery. While still living with his parents in 1851 he had been working as a 'machine and chain maker'. By 1861 he had moved his growing family out to Frodsham in Cheshire. Two more children had been born, Rowena in 1858 in Cheetham and Joseph Taylor Larmuth at Frodsham in 1860. Another girl, Rachel Adelaide, would complete the family in 1862.¹⁰ Thomas seems temporarily to have turned his back on business. The enumerator recorded him as 'out of business formerly bone manure manufacturer.' The *London Gazette* gives a bit more detail. He had recently withdrawn from a partnership with Robert Lee at Frodsham manufacturing bone dust, glue and size, leaving Lee to carry on the business.¹¹ As many of the factory's raw materials were the body parts of dead animals this may have been how young Leopold first became interested in anatomy.

Thomas then disappears from the records and it was only when searching for the death of one of his brothers that a death notice was found. On 17 January 1866 he drowned in the Mississippi River.¹² How this occurred, why he was there, and in precisely what part of the United States is still unknown, although a close family member believed that he had joined the

¹⁰ Rowena went on to be an Elementary Teacher, Joseph to be a Pattern Card Maker and Rachel Adelaide married Samuel Lomas. The younger of their two sons was called Leopold.

¹¹ *London Gazette*, 16 Oct 1860, p 3736

¹² *Manchester Courier* 5 May 1866 p 12

Confederates. There was no entry in the *National Probate Calendar* which might have given some idea about the family's financial circumstances following the death. Leopold's mother née Rachel Adelaide Taylor can be found with her parents in 1871 at 3 Grove Street, Ardwick, but it is her name which appears in the Manchester Rate Book of 1873, confirming that she was the head of household. Her occupation is given as 'pianist' so she may have been able to earn a living by using her musical talents. Her son Leopold had four violins in his possession when he died so this is another skill he may have acquired as a child.

3. The Wider Larmuth Family

The obituarist was right to say that Leopold's ancestors 'settled in' Dorset. His great-grandfather Matthew Larmuth (1771-1846) died before the census enumerators were tasked with recording precise places of birth, so we learn only that he was not a Lancastrian. It is probable that he was born in or near Darlington and we know that he was buried in Kidderminster. On 26 August 1793 he married Eleanor Churchill at Ottery St Mary, Devon. Their son Thomas (Leopold's grandfather) was baptised at Exeter St Mary on 22 Jan 1797, and they then settled for a while in Burton Bradstock in Dorset. The births of the following three children (Mary Ann 1799, Matthew 1803 and Fanny 1807) were recorded in Nonconformist registers. Frances Augusta was baptised at Bridport St Mary on 5 July 1809. Fanny died in the year following her birth and no further trace has yet been found of Mary Ann.

Some idea of what the Larmuths were doing in Dorset may be gleaned from a notice in the *London Gazette* of 3 August 1827, p 1667, which stated that 'We the undersigned, Thomas Larmuth and Matthew Larmuth, of Bridport, in the County of Dorset, Flax, Tow and Worsted Machine-Makers and Gun and Jobbing Smiths, have this day dissolved the partnership existing between us by mutual consent; and that all debts due to the said partnership are to be paid to the said Thomas Larmuth.' It seems most probable that these are the sons of Matthew Larmuth rather than a father and son combination, in which case Matthew's name would have probably gone first. Thomas at the time would have been about 30 and Matthew 24. The notice gives a good idea of the array of capabilities they had.

The family centre may already have shifted by 1827 to Kidderminster. This was a town well known for carpet-making and in which machines to make worsted would have been much in demand. Three family events took place there. In 1819 Thomas Larmuth married Mary Oliver and in 1824 his sister Eliza wed Edwin Haswell Cooke, a local carpet-weaver. Although most members of the family moved on to Salford, Matthew Larmuth senior was buried at Kidderminster St Mary on 20 August 1846, perhaps because his daughter Eliza Cooke still lived in the town.

Matthew's wife Eleanor had predeceased him, dying at Salford on the 6th or 7th of February 1837. She was described as 'the wife of Mr Matthew Larmuth, machine-maker, of Salford, in the 69th year of her age.'¹³ Her original surname, Churchill, would continue to be coupled with that of Larmuth for several generations to come. Amongst the last to bear the name was Alfred Churchill Larmuth, an ex-RAF airline pilot whose plane, empty of passengers, crashed on the approach to Belfast Airport on 3 July 1938 and Percy Churchill Larmuth who died at Castletown, Isle of Man, in 1968. Like 'Churchill Larmuth', 'Hamilton Larmuth' is also a marker for Matthew Larmuth's descendants but no obvious reason for that has yet come to light.¹⁴

Salford, with all the opportunities it offered, was to become the main centre for the family and various relatives continued to move there over quite a long period of time, several of Eliza's sons and daughters amongst them. Matthew senior appears there in the 1841 census. A widower, he is in the household of John Winthrop, a smith and farrier, of Boond Street, Salford, and is described as a 'machine maker'.

His two sons, Thomas and Matthew, were established there and bringing up their own families. His daughter, Frances Augusta, had recently married George Hollinshed, a composition ornament maker, and was living on the corner of St Stephen's Street and Mottram[?] Street.

A few glimpses can be gained of Matthew junior's working life. In 1828 he was working for Messrs Bowman & Galloway, machine makers, and was

¹³ *Manchester Courier*, 11 Feb 1837, p 3

¹⁴ The only event so far found which couples the two surnames is the marriage of Andrew Learmouth to Agnes Hamilton on 5 August 1720 at Abercorn, Linlithgowshire but there is as yet no proof that they are amongst Leopold's forbears. Modern surname studies suggest that Larmuth is a variant of Learmouth rather than being an indication of Huguenot descent.

responsible for paying two men working directly under him. When it was rumoured that the men had been underpaid he was seized and thrown in the nearby canal and then into a hole specially excavated for him in a privy, where he thought he was about to die. The matter had to be sorted out in court.¹⁵ Slater's 1851 Directory of Manchester lists him as a manufacturer of Roman cement and plaster of Paris at Nuttall's Buildings, Brighton Street, Salford. At the time of his death in 1881 he had been a manager at William Higgins & Sons works.¹⁶ *Grace's Guide* mentions that the firm was based at the King Street Iron Works. They exhibited at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and the King Street works were wound up in 1881. Amongst other things, they manufactured textile machinery.¹⁷

Thomas Larmuth (1797-1873) was Leopold's grandfather. In 1841 he was the head of a large family living in Queen Street, Salford, and running his own machine manufacturing firm which would eventually occupy the Todleben Iron Works. Three of his sons would follow in his footsteps — James William (1821-1902), Thomas (1826-1866) and Matthew Henry (1831-1908). We have seen already that Thomas's path diverged from those of his brothers but James and Matthew continued to work for Thomas Larmuth & Co. The firm went on to produce boilers, steam cranes, rock drills and many kinds of machine used for manufacturing. Again *Grace's Guide* has much useful background information. The company went into voluntary liquidation in 1925.¹⁸ Other members of the family were involved with Bulmer and Larmuth which was taken over in 1965 by Mono Pumps, according to *Grace's Guide*.

Leopold's father, Thomas, had died when he was only 11 and it seems very likely that the path followed by two of his uncles, Mark Oliver Larmuth and John Hamilton Larmuth, had some influence on his choice of career. By 1841 Mark Oliver Larmuth was already a surgeon's apprentice. The *Manchester Courier* was able to report in 1843 and 1844 that he had won various prizes for being placed top in his exams. He became a Licentiate in Surgery of the Society of Apothecaries in 1844 and followed this up by

¹⁵ *Manchester Courier*, 8 Nov 1828, p 4; *Manchester Guardian* 8 Nov 1828, p 3. For information about Bowman & Galloway see Wikipedia.

¹⁶ *Manchester Courier* 8 May 1881, p 8

¹⁷ <https://www.gracesguide.co.uk>

¹⁸ *London Gazette* 24 April 1925, p 2793

becoming a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1851.¹⁹ In May 1863 he became Medical Officer to the Salford Union Workhouse.²⁰ His marriage to Rachel Mary Ellam in 1853 resulted in the arrival of three daughters and four sons. But in the space of six years, between 1860 and 1866, their fortunes changed abruptly. By the end of 1865 three sons and one daughter had died and Mark's own death would take place in 1866. The one surviving son, Harry Oliver Larmuth, died in 1877 in his seventeenth year. In the circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that the two remaining daughters, Emma Churchill and Eliza Ellam Larmuth, did not marry. Leopold was aged 11 when Mark Oliver Larmuth died only a few months after he had lost his own father but he would have known at least something about him.

John Hamilton Larmuth, Mark's brother, also became an MRCS in 1859 but little knowledge of his life can be gleaned from the censuses or from the *Medical Directory*. In 1851 he was lodging at 33 Whitecross Bank in Salford and was apprenticed to a chemist and druggist. Whether this was a first step towards qualifying as a doctor or whether he changed his career path is not clear, but most aspiring surgeons at this date started by being apprenticed to a surgeon, as his brother Mark had done. Helpfully the Manchester Medical Collection²¹ reveals that he trained at the Pine Street Medical School in Manchester before setting up in general practice in Sale Moor. The 1863 *Medical Register* gives his address as Hamilton House, Sale Moor. The census shows that on 2 April 1871 uncle and nephew were under the same roof, staying with Thomas Larmuth senior and his wife Mary at their house in Washway Road, Sale. There is no way of telling whether they were just there for a night or two or whether their contacts were more prolonged. Maybe this was the occasion for a family conference? Leopold was aged 15 at the time and must have been considering various career options. His grandfather and other uncles could

¹⁹ According to the *University of London Student Records 1836-1945*, Part 1 to 1890, p 101, he matriculated in 1848 and was receiving private tuition. The 1851 Census entry finds him with his family in Bolton Street, Salford, listed as 'surgeon undergraduate, London', so obtaining the higher qualification was not a quick process.

²⁰ *Manchester Courier* 17 June 1843 p 8 and 28 May 1844 p 6; *The Morning Advertiser* 7 May 1863 p 3, all accessed through the British Newspaper Archive.

²¹ John Hamilton Larmuth, d [18-?]. Manchester Medical Collection: Biographical Files H-Q. University of Manchester Library. GB 133 MMC/2/LARMUTHJ. He had moved to Guernsey by 1878 when a notice appeared in the *London Gazette* of 24 September 1878, p 2488, placed by him as executor of the Will of Sara Lucie Karstendick of Sale, which had been proved in April that year.

well have been responsible for engaging the boy's interest in the mechanisms and tiny parts of watches, developing the deftness which would later allow him to operate on the delicate structures of the ear. According to an outline of his life written by a member of the family Leopold 'was brought up by his grandfather Thomas – later his Uncle Dr John Larmuth took him in hand'.

By 1879 Dr JH Larmuth's address in the *Medical Directory* has changed to Morrienne Cottage, St Martin, Guernsey. In the 1891 and 1911 censuses he is living in the same area at a house called 'Le Repos', which may indicate that he had retired from general practice. His niece Sarah Ann Larmuth, daughter of his eldest brother James William and Harriet Broom, is with him on both occasions, suggesting that this may have been a long-term arrangement. He died on the island on 28 June 1912 according to the *National Probate Calendar*. Sarah Ann later returned to live near other members of the family in North Wales.

Mention should be made of a further uncle of Leopold's — Alfred Augustus Larmuth born in 1835. He became a dentist but also was a partner in the intriguingly named Prince of Wales Hat Ventilating Company. The partnership was dissolved in 1864.²² He took out patents as the inventor of modifications to industrial machinery. This may recall some of the qualities noted in Leopold Larmuth's obituary – his ability to modify, make or design the delicate instruments with which he operated.

Before his retirement Dr Larmuth was a member of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society and of the Reform Club whose Secretary drew attention to his geniality and many expressions of kindness to members. PJ Hartog, a former colleague and friend, concurred with this, describing him as 'a very keen Liberal' and recalling how he had visited the West of Ireland to investigate the living conditions there, afterwards giving lectures about

²² *London Gazette* 2 Sept 1864, p 4299. Rather like Leopold's father, who died abroad, Alfred Augustus disappeared from records such as the electoral rolls in about 1872 and no entry could be found in the GRO Death Index. The Monumental Inscriptions Database on the M&LFHS website listed his wife and several children who had been interred in Brooklands Cemetery (MI no F1916) but not him. He died apparently on 18 April 1873 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, but it must have taken almost two years for his relatives to discover that as his death notice only appeared in the *Manchester Times* on 20 March 1875, p 8. It is possible that both he and Leopold's father, Thomas Larmuth, had gone abroad to seek new orders for T Larmuth & Co as one went to a cotton-producing area and the other to a country then developing its gold and diamond mining capabilities. In Thomas's case he was in America 7 months before the Civil War was formally ended.

them. He added 'He was, perhaps, the most skilful man in the laboratory I have ever known, and he was a first-rate photographer.' 'A more many-sided and gifted and, I may add, kind-hearted man was rarely seen.'²³

Like his uncle Mark, Leopold had been an outstanding medical student. The testimonials found at Gale How which were written by many well-known medical specialists in support of his application in March 1899 to become Honorary Aural Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary²⁴ show that he was held in high regard. His knowledge of languages helped him to keep abreast of developments in aural surgery on the continent. His dexterity and understanding of structures and mechanisms allowed him to make a real difference to the lives of many patients. These achievements, distinct from those of other members of his family yet based on shared talents and interests, deserve to be remembered.

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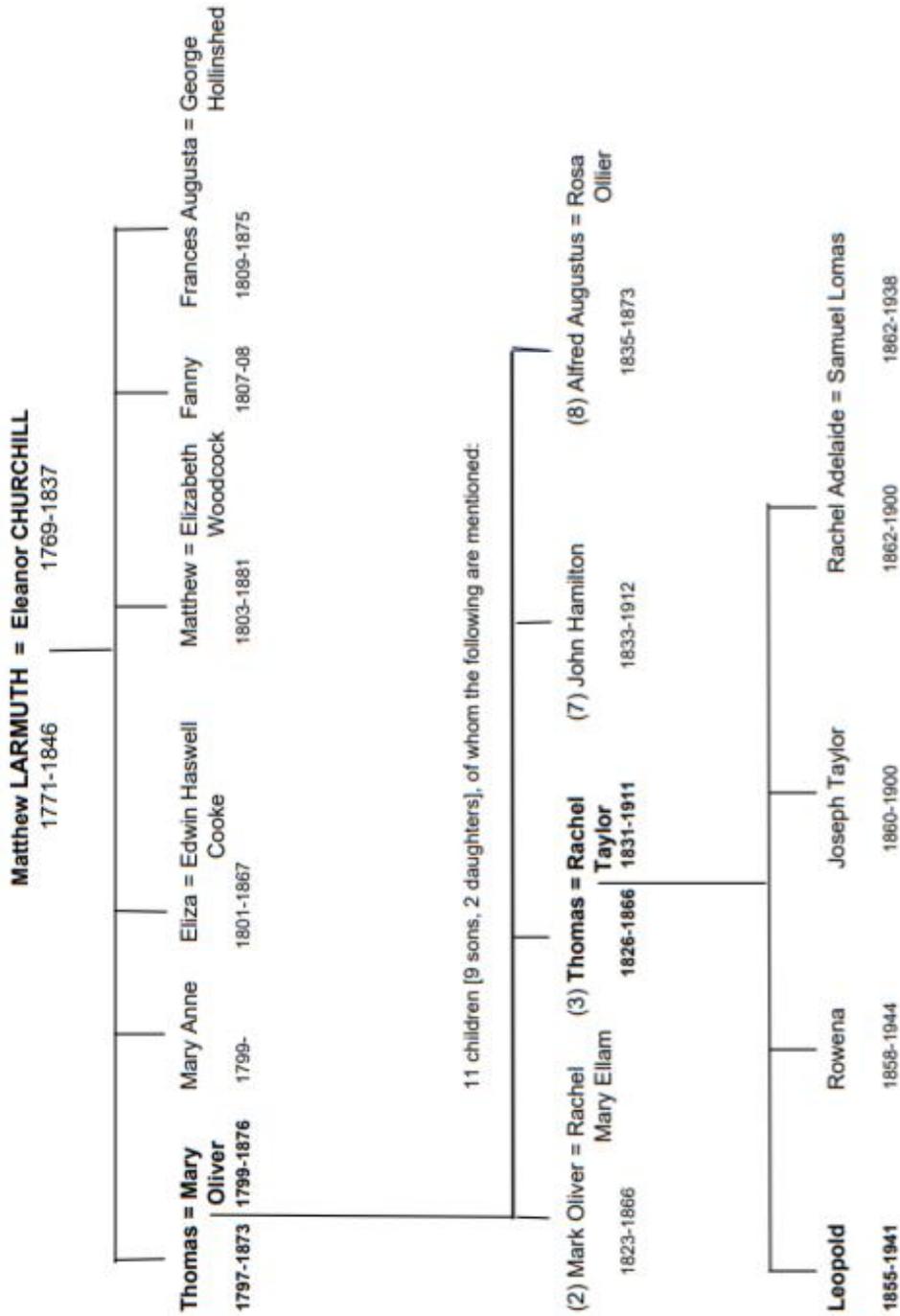
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²³ *Manchester Guardian*, 25 & 27 Feb, both on p 10.

²⁴ Now to be found in the Manchester Medical Collection

4. Larmuth Family Tree



5. Appendix: Anonymous Biographical Note

There is still some vineyard country of the name
"somewhere" in France

The Larmuths (originally De la Meth) were French Huguenot refugees and came to Plymouth in 1689 after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 - during the years some settled in the South some in the Midlands and the North. Dr. Larmuth - son of Thomas who was killed on the Confederate side during the American Civil War - was brought up by his grandfather Thomas who founded the Plymouth firm of D. Larmuth Sons (now Larmuth & Buckner) in 1840 - later his uncle Dr. John Larmuth took him in hand (Merchant created you of his attainments) He was at one time assistant to Herr Politzer (POLITZER) the then most famous oculist in Europe) at the Vienna Infirmary - he has held many official positions (by the way you will find a signed photograph of Dr. Politzer in the Library - it belonged to the Manchester San Hospital) - He had a very heavy tongue and could, and did use a few Latin words - no matter, he had a strong and hearty - was a hard worker and did undertake a many great ways as one saw ever done of - in town the sick and unfortunate poor had a new friend. There is some mistake, malicious or otherwise - a notice appeared in the Ambler Local paper that Dr. Larmuth's parents were Quaker - this is untrue - Dr. Larmuth had a great respect for the Jews and had a goodly number of real friends of their nationality - many of them well known in the scientific and legal worlds. He was fortunate in those who served him. His old housekeeper Berta Doering was with him 50 years and Mary Powell who was his last time teacher and his Mother and servant for over 30 years. His man James Sumner served him faithfully for a like number of years.

3/4/41

Anonymous account of Dr Larmuth's life found among papers of Drs RH and MG Tootill

The Larmuths (originally De La Meth – there is still some vineyard country of the name 'somewhere in France') were French Huguenot refugees and came to Plymouth in 1689 after

the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 — during the years some settled in the South, some in the Midlands and some in the North. Dr Leopold Larmuth – son of Thomas who was killed on the Confederate Side during the American Civil War – was brought up by his grandfather Thomas who founded the Engineering Firm of T. Larmuth & Sons (now Larmuth & Bulmer) in 1840 – later his Uncle Dr John Larmuth took him in hand (M..... will tell you of his attainments).

He was at one time assistant to Herr Politzer (POLITZER) (the then most famous Aurist in Europe) at the Vienna Infirmary – he has held many official positions (by the way you will find a ‘signed’ photograph of Politzer in the Library – it should go to the Manchester Ear Hospital). He had a very nasty tongue and could, and did, use it often like a sword – no matter, he charm and humility, was a hard worker and did untold good in many quiet ways no one will dream of - in him the sick and unfortunate poor had a never failing friend.

Through some mistake, malicious or otherwise, a notice appeared recently in an Ambleside local paper that Dr Larmuth’s parents were ‘Austrian Jews’ – this is untrue – Dr Larmuth had a great respect for the Jews and had a goodly number of real friends of their Nationality – many of them well known in the scientific and legal worlds. He was fortunate in those who served him. His old Swiss housekeeper Berta Doenny was with him 50 years and Mary Powell who was with him till his death was Mother and Servant for over 30 years. His man James Sumner served him faithfully for a like number of years.

3/4/41

Author? Unknown, someone close enough to have known details of LL’s early life and final phase at Ambleside but less precise about his medical career. Someone close enough to have felt the rough side of his tongue and to have resented it. The last of his siblings, Rowena, died in 1944, so it is very possible that she was the author.

Date? Feb – March 1941. Written in past tense, so after his death. Received somewhere on 3 April 1941 according to date at bottom.

Recipient? Unknown but comment re destination of Politzer photo suggests may have been someone concerned with disposal of LL’s effects. Executors were George Harold Larmuth, auctioneer & valuer, & Frank Augustus Padmore, solicitor. Punched holes suggest this may have been filed in an office.

Purpose? Not exactly a formal obituary. Could have been written by one family member for another, younger, one interested in the family’s history.

Provenance? presumably connected in some way with the purchase of Gale How, Ambleside. Could have been passed on by estate agent or solicitor around 1946/1947. Paper has ‘Conqueror London’ watermark.

Further steps I would have liked to find sample of Rowena Larmuth’s handwriting. No Will probated. Impasse?

Gwyneth Wilkie (June 2020)
