

STEDMAN COUSINS



Dear Cousins,

I am sure many of us have dreamed about receiving a piece of family history “dropping on the doormat” completely ‘out of the blue’. Well this happened recently to Cousin Pauline. Here is her account of what exactly happened.

“Those of us who research family trees know we often have contact from another member on the site. This happened to me a few weeks ago.

A person claimed to have in their possession, some items that could belong to my family, (scam, I thought). I decided to contact the person to see how they linked the items to me. They said they had been delving into the person by the name of Caleb Mower Stedman, and connected me by a cross I put for Caleb at the war memorial. If I would give them my email, they would send a picture of the items.

Email sent and information given to prove I was related. I told them his wife’s name and how many children he had had, where he lived and that my grandfather was his brother.

Email came with a page from a book with Caleb’s picture in it, on the Roll of Honour page, companies printed in their magazine, the death of their staff in the war. The magazine was Co Partners 1917 for The Gas Light and Coke Company (now British Gas), plus a brass plaque with the name W G Stedman, the Essex Regiment. (This was Cousin Lydia’s Dad). Additionally, there were two other cap badges, (I’m still researching these pieces). All these things were found under the floor boards in a house in London some 20 years ago.

The only place it could have been was 9 St John’s Terrace, Paddington, my old family home, which belonged to John William Stedman (Lydia’s and my grandfather). The items are now in my safe keeping, thanks to the researcher whose patience paid off. I just wanted to share the story with you all.”

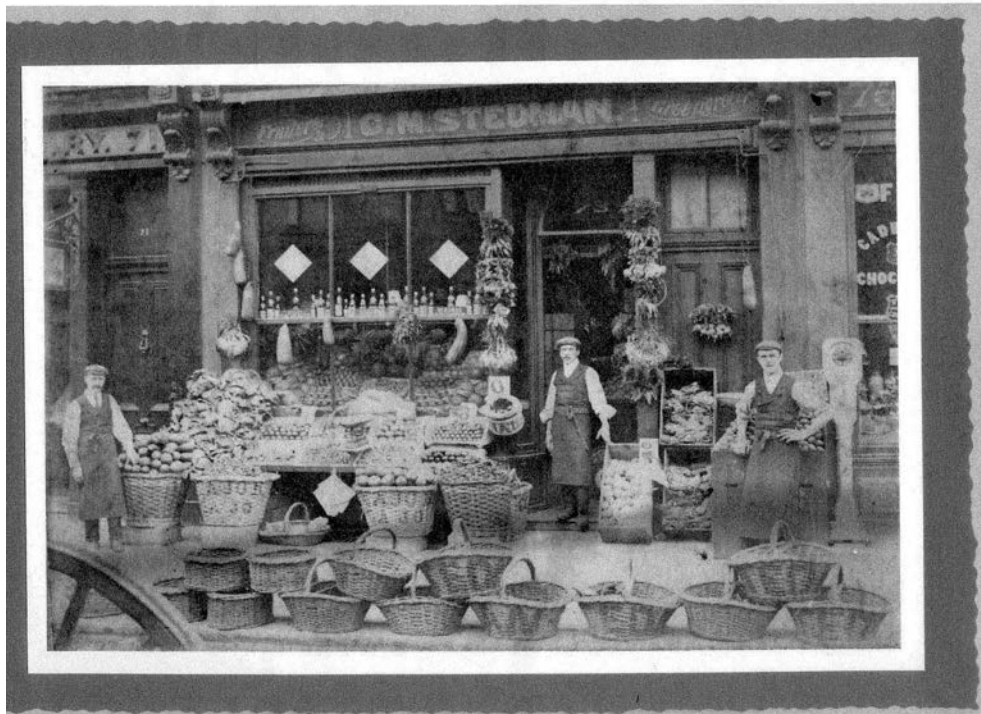
***Pauline Wheatcroft
(John William Stedman’s granddaughter)”***

The photos below show some of what was found beneath the floorboards:



Caleb Mower's grave in France (d. 16 July 1916)

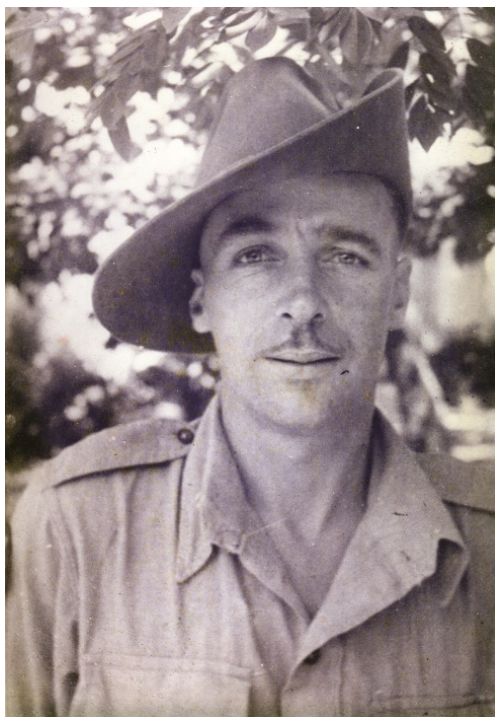
Caleb Mower Stedman b. 1875 (Cousin Michaela's grandfather), can be seen below standing outside their shop in Kensington (taken some time before WWI) John William on the left, Caleb Mower in the centre and Page on the right.



John William Stedman and Caleb Mower



William (Bill) Stedman's plaque



Bill was a Chindit and served in Burma during WWII.

I can imagine that Lydia will be overwhelmed to receive her father's plaque. This is a photo of Bill Stedman.

I hope you are all staying safe and well. Let's hope that life will return to some normality next year and we will be able to meet up for a Reunion again in the Summer.

Best wishes to you all.

Sandra