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Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>. 2003

Dear Philip and Annette,

Here as promised is a draft of the history of the East Ham Gould family. I began by thinking that one page would be sufficient, but I soon found it escalating out of control. It could have easily been ten times as long, but that amount would be too much for most people. I felt that most of it was a tale worth recounting, so here it is, warts and all.

I am enclosing two copies, to enable you to scribble notes on one to send back to me if you feel inclined to do so. After those corrections we could consider putting it out to a wider audience. If you can obtain any feedback from Kath, John or Betty, they lived through the story and their input would be valued. Your other best bet for information could be Vick, John's eldest son. Vick was born in Redditch, he lived at times in East Ham, Acton, Dunstable, South Devon and now of course in or around Redditch.

The tale is primarily about the family of seven who lived at East Ham pre WW2, and I have tried mainly to keep to those. Equally good tales could be told about the next generation, i.e. the East Ham and Redditch Humphreys, the Devonshire Edgells, and particularly the Redditch Goulds. I cannot offer to write those, but hopefully this treatise can give some guidance to anyone wishing to take the job on.

I can be contacted by letter or by e-mail, but please not by phone due to my deafness.

We had a very happy and rewarding Xmas with all our family here on the day. We now look forward in eager anticipation to 2004, with all its ups and downs.

Wishing you all well in the New Year.

Sincere regards,

# The Goulds of East Ham.

The family, the Devonshire, Acton, Redditch etc. connections.

These hazy and poorly memorised recollections inevitably contain several inaccuracies and omissions. Please advise me of anything in this draft found needing correction. Some doubtful details have been entered in italics or as question marks, but those will not be the only errors. Further details can be made available on request. AG. 27.12.2003 >>

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**The family:** The parents, Henry George Gould [H.G.] and Florence Rose Gould lived in East Ham and Forest Gate from the early 1920s until 1947. Their five children were, Kathleen Rose b. 1915; John Victor b. 1918; Doreen Marion b. 1922; Betty b. 1926; Alan b. 09.12.1927 (at no.10 Keppel Rd. East Ham)

H.G.Gould was born at St. Andrews, Plymouth 07.01.1889, the first son of George and Ellen (nee Mitchell). F.R (nee Dias) was born at Hendon, N.London 1892 daughter of ?.Dias (Portugal) and Rose (nee.?). The couple were married in 1914 at Hendon, where Kathleen Rose was born They moved to East Ham shortly after WW1.

The family lived first at Keppel Road, but mostly at 95 Stafford Rd., Forest Gate from early 1930s until 1947. They moved to 36 Stanley Rd. East Ham during 1938/40. That had been the London home of George and Ellen Gould and their daughter Kathleen (little auntie Kath, sister of H.G.). George and Ellen had died in mid-late 1930s, leaving Kath a spinster living alone. The arrangement foundered with the outbreak of WW2 when the family moved back to Stafford Rd. All seven members of the family were living together at Stafford Road until the move to Stanley Rd. *They never all gathered together again.*

During WW2, Henry George worked in Stratford, E. London and served with Civil Defence. Florence R. trained to become a nurse and worked on Red Cross Ambulances through the London Blitz. Kathleen R. spent a lot of time in Ontario, Canada with her husband William Reeves, then an RAF flight mechanic. John V. was conscripted into the RAF and spent much of the war in India. He married Maud Waterworth in Redditch in 1940. Doreen M. Married Ronald Edgell, tin-smith in 1943, Ron served in the Middle East as a soldier. Betty was evacuated to High Wycombe at the outbreak of WW2. Alan was evacuated first to Stalham, Norfolk, then to Stockton-Trent, Staffordshire. He was moved to 10 Other Road, Redditch in 1940. Betty and Alan returned home to East Ham in 1941/2. Betty married ex-serviceman Arthur Humphrey in 1947. All three sisters were married at St. Barnabas Church, East Ham and all wore the same wedding dress. Alan married Joan Margaret Deacon at Acton, W.London 14.02.1953. Joan wore the underslip of the same wedding dress and Arthur Humphrey was Alan's best man.

Lineage: George Gould ex of Gloucestershire was an orphan. He had attended *Christchurch(?) College*. An old family photograph showed him wearing blue stockings as part of that school's uniform. He married into the Plymouth seafaring Mitchell family. Ellen Mitchell's father fought in the China Opium Wars at Taku Forts, bringing back several interesting oriental relics. An ivory Buddha was kept at Stanley Rd. and a naval war map was at the home of William Gould (brother of H.G.) in Hitchin.

George's second son William (Uncle Billy) lived at Hitchin. He had a son called Peter who had only a daughter, thus that family line ended. Kathleen was a spinster. Another daughter of George called May, married a Somerville. Their son George Somerville became a celebrated musician and actor. Several of the family were musically talented. H.G and his sister Kathleen gave Sunday evening violin and piano recitals at Stafford Road with all joining the singing. H.G. usually gave a rousing tenor finale of 'The Fishermen of England'. The family talent for music was later seen in Barry Humphrey playing wind instruments. ??

Eldest son Gould line: George; Henry George; John Victor; Victor Anthony; Anthony; ?  
b. 1860 ? 1889 1918 1940/1 1965? ?



**The Devonshire connection (etc.):** Henry George Gould, Plymouth born, was always true to his Devonshire heritage. He and his brother Billy both became seafarers in the tradition of their mother's Plymouth family of Mitchell. H.G. sailed as an under-chef on liners out of *Plymouth in about 1905/10*. One trip in the Mediterranean Sea had the then Duke of Connaught on board as a passenger on a tour of inspection of British Middle Eastern 'interests'. The French Head Chef was often too seasick to work, so H.G. had to stand in for him. The ship was caught in a huge volcanic storm off Etna when the Duke nearly lost his life. Everyone on board was ill, but rather than professional sailors admitting to being seasick, they blamed it on H.G.'s cooking. He survived the experience, decided on a more shorebased career and arrived in Hendon London about 1913.

There he met a very lovely dark eyed girl, Florence Rose Dias, daughter of a Portuguese adventurer who had wed her mother Rose of Hendon. Senor Dias' forbears had owned business interests in Para, Brazil. He took his young family, the English Rose, son Victor and daughter Florence Rose by sea in about 1902/3 to make arrangements to move to Para and become Brazilian business people. On the return journey to England, Sr. Dias was taken ill, died and was buried at sea. His bereaved family returned to Hendon, where there are still some Dias descendants to be found. Rose Dias re-married to E. Whiting, of Rottingdean, Sussex, known later to the Goulds as Grandpa Whiting. Rose's sister Ellen, known later as Great Aunt Nell was married to gardener Adam White. The sisters lived together in Rottingdean, venue of many long sunny holidays for the Goulds in the 1930s.

Florence Rose not only had lovely dark eyes, she also had a flurry of jet-black hair. At the time when she was being courted by H.G., she was working in a munitions factory preparing shells for WW1 soon to come. The explosive chemicals turned the hair of all the factory girls bright green, much to their embarrassment. Much later when she asked H.G. why he had proposed to her, he explained that he was unable to resist the combination of her dark eyes, olive skin and green hair! It was a love match for life.

Summer holidays were mostly, but not all at Rottingdean. One year the family went to Elburton, S.Devon when H.G. was able to visit some long parted Devonshire relatives. Some of the relatives visited the family house at Stafford Road, including one Uncle Jack Trace, also of musical talent who scandalised the family by going round Forest Gate with an accordion and a tin can begging for 'coppers for a pint or two'.

Through the dark days of WW2, H.G. yearned for his native South Devonshire, but the first of the East Ham family to go and live there was daughter Kathleen. On her return from Canada, she lived briefly at Dunstable, to where John and Doreen also moved from London and lived for a short time. Then in 1946 sister Kath and husband Bill bought a cottage in (?), a tiny village of a dozen dwellings in Dartington to the North of the South Brent Road from Totnes. The exodus had begun. In 1947 H.G. & F.R. moved to Hazard Cottage in Harberton. Doreen and Ron Edgell with their three children Derek, Marion and Valerie lived at Hazard for a time, then moved to Rattery nr. South Brent. John and Maud also moved from Dunstable to Hazard with their growing family, later to move on to Redditch. Great Aunt Nell moved into Hazard at that time. Little Auntie Kath lived for many years in a caravan at a site on the Totnes to Paignton Road. Alan and Joan went to Haygrove, a dairy farm on Bodmin Moor in 1962, not too far from the family in the Totnes area. Betty remained always in East Ham with Arthur and their family.

Up to the time in 1947 when the parents moved from East Ham to S.Devon, Betty and Alan were still living with them at home in Stafford Road. Both had the option of moving to Devon with the parents, but neither of them did. Betty decided to get married, which needed a husband. Betty was a somewhat reserved girl and she was not too keen about some aspects of courting. She gritted her teeth and went to Forest Gate skating rink, not even taking her best friend (?) with her. There she regarded the mass of skaters whirling round the rink with some trepidation. She picked out a likely looking male, put out her foot and sent him crashing to the floor. Then she grasped his collar to help him up, a grip from which he never really escaped. 2-3 months later she became Mrs. Humphrey aided by her good friend as bridesmaid. Alan was by then an apprentice electrician. He moved to Acton, W. London to lodge with the Waterworths and continue learning his trade.



**The Acton and Redditch connection:** The 1920s and 30s were times of economic, social and industrial turmoil, with mass unemployment, the General Strike and the ever growing threat of another war in Europe. H.G. had set up a private business in East Ham making and restoring furniture, with the family living over the shop, but a return of Dropsy which he had first caught in WW1 trenches at the Somme in Flanders laid him low. He had to sell the business, keeping only his hand tools. He and the family experienced a very difficult time of unemployment for several years. John V. too was finding great difficulty in keeping in work and in 1938 he left the family home, then at Stanley Road, to look for work in West London.

John found employment at one of the factories on the Great West Road, Chiswick. There he befriended Douglas Critcher of Acton, who invited John to take lodgings with his parents, Charlie and Maud Critcher at 1, Evelyn Road, Acton, London W.3. Maud Critcher was one of the Waterworth family who lived around Acton Lane and Acton Green. Through that family John met Maud Waterworth, daughter of George Waterworth Snr. and Annie her mother. Other members of the Waterworth family in the area included Dorothy married to John Hunt who ran a newspaper, confectionery and tobacco shop in Acton Lane, parents of Raymond C. Hunt, now living in Cornwall.

George Waterworth Snr. had recently died quite young, leaving behind his wife Annie, son George Jnr., Maud and Joyce. Annie and daughter Maud were attempting to run a transport style café near to Greenford bus station. The café was seldom very busy, so John and Maud found it a convenient place to carry out some of their courting. One day a travel stained character came into the café asking for refreshment and having some difficulty in paying for it. The person was Charlie Cave, who had walked all the way from Redditch, Worcs. to London in the hope of finding work. Annie, a warm hearted woman, now widowed and at a crossroads in her life, took pity on Charlie. She took him to her bosom and before long they were wed.

Shortly after, at the outbreak of WW2, Charlie Cave took his new wife with her family back to Redditch where he had secured employment at Terry Springs. They lived at No.10 Other Road, by Studley Road. John followed his fiancée Maud to Redditch, soon to marry her there. The Redditch connection with the East Ham Goulds had been forged. During 1940, Alan was living in very unsuitable circumstances as an evacuee in Staffordshire. Maud, now John's wife and sister Doreen M. visited him there and immediately insisted that he should go back with them to Redditch to live. Alan went with them gladly. He attended St. George's Church School for some time. At Other Road he shared the company of Joyce, who was roughly the same age as his own sister Betty. They once visited the old pre-war Bull Ring in Birmingham, seeing rows of caged animals and birds on the circular walls. Later when the Bull Ring was bombed and set alight, local people risked their lives to open the cages and free the trapped livestock.

At the time, John was working at Britannia Batteries in Redditch. The factory was bombed and burned to the ground, leaving only the high distinctive factory clock showing the time of 02.10 hrs, the time it was bombed. John took Maud, Joyce and Alan to see the smouldering ruins next morning. He made light of the incident, but by that time he knew that Maud was pregnant and that his RAF conscription papers had arrived. John went off to India with the RAF and Maud soon had Victor Anthony, their first son and the first of the Redditch Goulds, born at Other Road.

Wartime difficulties, with rationing, bombing, restrictions and outbreaks of disease were making life uncomfortable for everyone. Scabies, impetigo, diphtheria and mumps were rampant in Redditch. The 12 year old son of the family next door in no. 8 Other Road died of diphtheria, and Alan had caught a bad case of scabies. Maud wanted to move back to her native Acton to be with her Waterworth family. It was also decided that Alan should return to East Ham. Maud took Victor, a babe in arms and Alan by coach back to London. The coach had to travel through the centre of Coventry on the day after that City and its Cathedral had been almost obliterated by fire-bombing. The coach picked its way past dead and injured people, while weary firemen, ambulance crews and civil defence wardens struggled to bring some sanity and order to that devastated City.

On returning to London from Redditch, Maud with son Victor took a flat in Acton Lane to await John's return from war service in India. Alan went back to his schooling in Monega Road School, East Ham. Betty came back from evacuation in High Wycombe and returned to her school in Shaftesbury Road, East Ham. Doreen had a flat in East Ham where her three children, Derek, Marion Diane and Valerie were born.

WW2 finally ended in 1945 and John V., Ron Edgell and Bill Reeves returned from service. Arthur Humphrey also returned from service in Italy, soon to meet Betty. They married in 1947 and rented a flat in Shrewsbury Road, Forest Gate, to begin their family, first with Philip, then Barry and Stephen. They later moved to Folkestone Road, East Ham.

When the parents left East Ham to go to Hazard Cottage in Harberton, Alan went to Acton to take lodgings, first with George Waterworth Jnr. and his wife Freda (nee Mogg of Redditch) in Acton, then with Maud and Charlie Critcher, where John had previously lodged. John, Maud and Victor were then still living in Acton Lane. They went to Dunstable, then to South Devon for a time, finally returning to Redditch in 1950. They lived in Cherry Tree Walk for many years, having six sons and Renita their daughter.

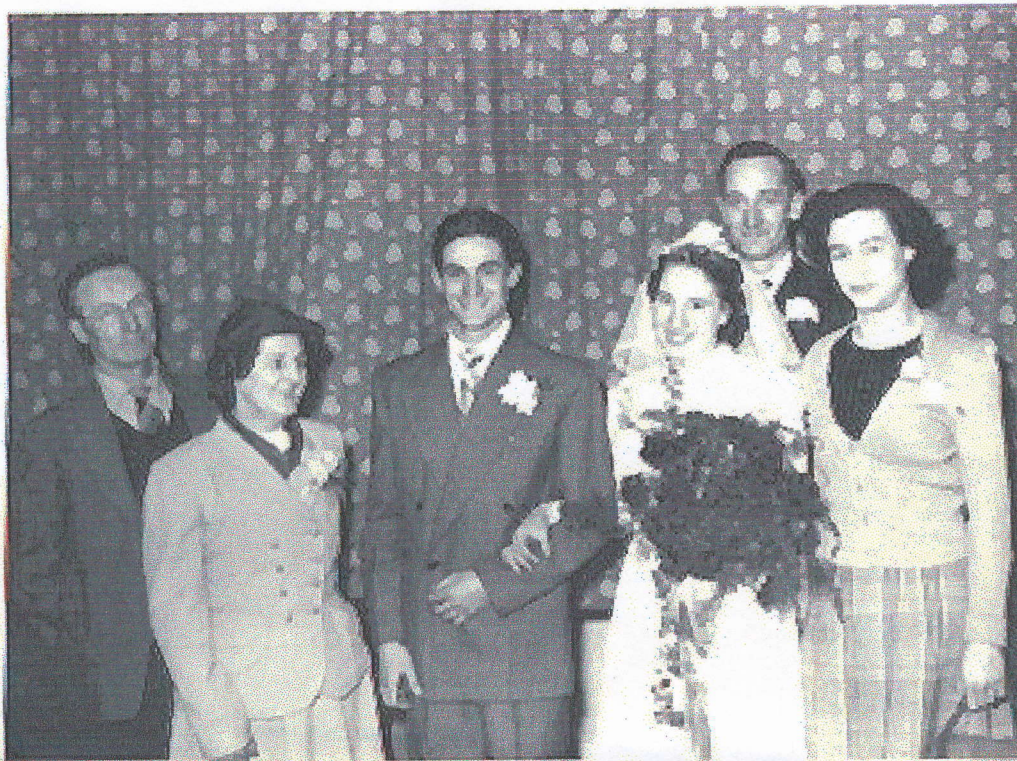
Doreen and Ron went to Dunstable for a while, then lived at Hazard, S.Devon with their three children until they took a house in Rattery. Alan married Joan in Acton in 1953 taking various flats, then moving to their house in Beechmount Avenue Hanwell where their two children Janice Ann and Brian Henry were born in 1960/61. They moved to Haygrove Farm on Bodmin Moor in 1962, then to Woodrow Estate in Redditch in 1969. In December 1978 they moved to Woodrising in Goxhill, North Lincolnshire where they still live. Janice remained in Redditch, working as a Dental Nurse. She married Lee Andrews of Redditch in 1981, living first in Prospect Road, then at Holloway Lane. They have sons Paul, and twins Michael and David. Their only daughter Laura died from leukaemia at age 2 in 1986. Brian remained briefly in Redditch, then he moved to live with his parents in Goxhill. He became a railway signaller on his 18<sup>th</sup>. birthday and still follows that occupation. He now lives in Barton-upon-Humber, North Lincs. where his partner Nicola and his daughter Stacey age 10 also reside.

Henry George Gould died in 1969 aged 81 in their bungalow at Tigley, S.Devon. Florence Rose then moved into a flat on the Woodrow Estate, Redditch to be near to her two sons and their families. She moved back to S.Devon to live with daughter Kathleen in Dartington where she died at age 88 in 1980. The couple lie together in peace and rest at Tigley churchyard, their lives well spent in honest endeavour and family love.

Family motto created by Henry George Gould:

**"Push, pluck, perseverance, backbone and sinew!"**





1953 Wedding of Alan to Joan in Acton.

l-r: Henry George Gould; Florence Rose Gould (nee Dias);  
Alan Gould; Joan Margaret Gould (nee Deacon)  
Arthur Humphrey (Best Man) Betty Humphrey (nee Gould)

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