

# The Barrington-Kennett Family



Lt Colonel Brackley Herbert  
Barrington-Kennett  
in 1912

**In March 1828** Vincent Kennett married Arabella Barrington at St Ann's Church of Ireland in Dublin. Their first son was christened Vincent Kennett-Barrington (later to become a distinguished diplomat and knight bachelor). Interestingly their second son, born March 29th 1848 near Calais, was christened Brackley Herbert Barrington-Kennett with the joint surname transposed.

**On August 21st 1867**, at the age of 21 years and five months, Brackley was commissioned into the 51st Light Infantry. He was promoted to Major and served in the UK, India and Afghanistan. He was wounded in Afghanistan on June 16th 1880 and returned to England. After a spell in the 1st Durham Light Infantry he retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; he became a member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, a Royal bodyguard.

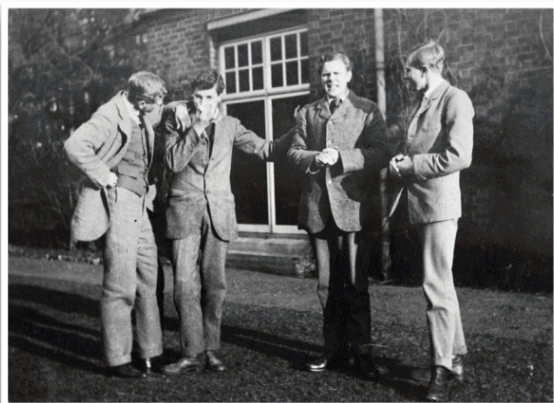
**Brackley married** Ellinor Frances Austen in early 1884 and they lived for a short while at Ellinor's family home in Brighton.

**Basil Herbert** was born in 1885 and his brother Godwin Austen made his appearance the following year. Soon afterwards the family moved to London and the 1891 census shows them settled into 23 Sloane Gardens, Chelsea now with four sons, Basil Herbert (6 years), Godwin Austen (5 years), Victor Annesley (3 years) and Aubrey Hampden (7 months). By 1888 the family had moved to the more prestigious Eaton Square.



The four boys as children (left to right) Aubrey, Victor, Godwin and Basil

**By 1901** the family has moved to Burton Firs, Barlavington, West Sussex, but sometime before 1911 they move again to Tillington House, Tillington where the census shows Brackley and Ellinor living alone with their servants; the three eldest boys are with their new regiments and the youngest, Aubrey is finishing his Oxford education. They kept the family house in Tillington until at least 1914, but they also had a London house in Chelsea and later South Kensington.



The four brothers (left to right) Basil, Godwin, Victor and Aubrey

**All four boys fought** in WW1, but only Godwin survived. On December 1st 1909 Godwin Austen Barrington-Kennett was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (*London Gazette January 28th 1910*). We then lose him until 1914 when, surprisingly, he appears in Africa. On 15th January 1915 Godwin joined the East African Mounted Rifles, but by late 1916 he had transferred to the Kings African Rifles and was promoted to temporary Lieutenant (*London Gazette August 28th 1917*). He fought his war in East Africa which was not with tanks, machine guns and poisonous gas; it was an old-fashioned war with bayonets and old guns, but the fighting against German East Africa was just as bitter.

**In the summer of 1918** Godwin travelled to London where he married Beryl Malcolmson. Together they returned to Africa, where after a short time Godwin contracted Blackwater Fever and was advised to return to England. Arriving back in early 1919 they settled close to Haywards Heath in West Sussex. Their daughter Jean Violet was born March 23rd 1920. Her father told such wonderful stories of Africa and from an early age she knew it was the only place she wanted to live. Jean spent most of her life in Kenya and married her second husband Alexander Hyde Duder in Nairobi on December 20th 1952. They had two sons, Michael and Nicholas. Jean was the last of the Barrington-Kennett line and sadly the name has now been lost. However, Nicholas currently lives with his wife and two sons in Jakarta, Indonesia. His first son bears the family name Barrington as one of his forenames, which is complemented by Kennett in his youngest son's name.

*I am sincerely grateful to Nick for all his help and enthusiastic support for this project.*



Godwin Austen Barrington-Kennett 1913