

Summary of Prince Family research – February 2011

The grandmother of my wife was Victoria Claire Prince, a French-speaking Cypriot who was baptised at Santa Crucis Roman Catholic Church in Nicosia as "Victoria Clara Prens". Tracing her early life and ancestry has been difficult. Pasted in below is an NGS Quarterly Descendant Ordered Report based on a few records, but also anecdotal data from family members that we have collected:

Descendants of Elise

Generation No. 1

1. Elise¹

Child of Elise is:

- + 2 i. Hanna² Prince

Generation No. 2

2. Hanna² Prince (Elise¹) He married **Chaoul Zirigoirich**

Children of Hanna Prince and Chaoul Zirigoirich are:

- + 3 i. Joseph³ Prince
- + 4 ii. Adele Chaoul Prince
- + 5 iii. Ernest Prince, born in Cyprus; died c. 1925 in Aleppo, Syria
- + 6 iv. Victoria Zirigoirich Prince

Generation No. 3

3. Joseph³ Prince (Hanna², Elise¹)

Children of Joseph Prince are:

- 7 i. John⁴ Prince, born c. 1884
- + 8 ii. Edwin Prince, born c. 1886
- 9 iii. Rosa Prince, born c. 1898; died c. 1972

More about Rosa Prince:

Note: Lived with sister. Moved to Algiers and lived there until 1960s. Returned to Cyprus then to claim 60 acres of orange groves taken over by Turkish government. Died in old folks in early 1970s.

- 10 iv. Elise Prince, born c. 1900; died c. 1972.

More about Elise Prince:

Note: Lived with sister. Moved to Algiers and lived there until 1960s. Returned to Cyprus then to claim 60 acres of orange groves taken over by Turkish government. Died in old folks in early 1970s.

4. Adele Chaoul³ Prince (Hanna², Elise¹)

Children of Adele Chaoul Prince are:

- 11 i. Elise⁴ Prince
- 12 ii. Ernestine Prince
- 13 iii. Charles Prince
- 14 iv. Henry Prince

5. Ernest³ Prince (Hanna², Elise¹) was born in Cyprus, and died c. 1925 in Aleppo, Syria. He married **Emma Cosma** in Cyprus, daughter of Lorenzo Cosma and Marianna Bosgiovich. She was born 1873 in Famagusta or Nicosia, Cyprus, and died c. 1957 in Aleppo, Syria.

More about Ernest Prince:

Note 1: The family was descended from crusaders

Note 2: Ernest was from a French family that originated in Toulouse

More about Emma Cosma:

Baptism 1: 21 January 1874, Church of Sta. Maria Gratinum, Larnaca, Cyprus

Baptism 2: 21 July 1873, Larnaca, Cyprus

Note: Austrian-Serb by background

More about Ernest Prince and Emma Cosma:

Marriage: Cyprus

Children of Ernest Prince and Emma Cosma are:

- + 15 i. Victoria Claire⁴ Prince, born 1892 in Larnaca or Nicosia, Cyprus; died 1971 in St. Alban's, Herts.
- 16 ii. Irma Prince, born 1894 in Nicosia, Cyprus; died c. 1985 in Beirut, Lebanon.

More about Irma Prince:

Address 1: 1973, Beyrouth, Lebanon

Baptism 1: 14 May 1894, Church of Sta. Crucis, Nicosia, Cyprus

Baptism 2: 3 May 1894

Note: Never married

- 17 iii. Edgar Prince, born c. 1896; died in France. He married Marie Gastebois

More about Edgar Prince:

Address 1: Lived in Aleppo, then Spain

Main occupation: None

Note: Died without issue

More about Marie Gastebois:

Note: Died without issue

- 18 iv. Henri Prince, born 1910 in Aleppo, Syria; died 1989 in Beirut, Lebanon. He married Marie Condegnica 1965; born in Armenia.

More about Henri Prince:

Address 2: 1973, Beyrouth, Lebanon

Main occupation: Insurance

Note 1: Lived all his life in Aleppo, then Beirut

Note 2: Died without issue

More about Marie Condegnica:

Note: Died without issue

More about Henri Prince and Marie Condegnica:

Marriage: 1965

6. Victoria Zirigoirich³ Prince (Hanna², Elise¹) She married **Nastri**.

Children of Victoria Prince and Nastri are:

- 19 i. Marie⁴ Nastri
- 20 ii. Antoine Nastri
- 21 iii. Albert Nastri

Generation No. 4

8. Edwin⁴ Prince (Joseph³, Hanna², Elise¹) was born c. 1886. He married **Rose E Keyrouse**. She was born 1888 in Larnaca, Cyprus, and died 1951 in Baltimore, MD, USA

More about Edwin Prince:

Main occupation: Policeman (Egyptian Secret Police)

More about Rose E Keyrouse:

Main occupation: Dressmaker (Ball Gowns)

More birth details: 26 September 1888

Children of Edwin Prince and Rose Keyrouse are:

- 22 i. William⁵ Prince, born 1913 in New York City, NY, USA; died c. 1996 in Econdido, CA, USA. He married <Unnamed> 1942

More about William Prince:

More birth details: 25 December 1913

More about William Prince and <Unnamed>:

Marriage: 1942

- 23 ii. Edwin Prince, died c. 1965

More about Edwin Prince:

Death or fact: Died in a mental hospital

- 24 iii. Walt Prince, died 1972

15. Victoria Claire⁴ Prince (Ernest³, Hanna², Elise¹) was born 1892 in Larnaca or Nicosia, Cyprus, and died 1971 in St. Alban's, Herts. She married **Harry John Wratlslaw** 1915 in Aleppo, Syria, son of Albert Wratlslaw and Gertrude Cumberbatch. He was born 1890 in Smyrna, Turkey, and died 1959 in Broumnana, Lebanon.

More about Victoria Claire Prince:

Address 1: 1915, Aleppo, Syria

Address 2: 1916, Istanbul, Turkey

Address 3: c. 1922, Aleppo, Syria

Baptism: 30 August 1892, Nicosia, Cyprus

Burial: 1971, FSt. Albans, Herts. (born about 1896)

More birth details: 3 January 1893, Baptised Santa Crucis Church (RC), Nicosia, Cyprus as "Victoria Clara"

More Notes: Lily was sure that her mother was born at Larnaca

Notes for Harry John Wratishaw:

Harry's birth is not to be found in the index of births registered in Consulates 1886-1900.

Harry had a good job with the government as Inspector of the Public Dette. Lily has no idea what that meant, but it was certainly a good job and for a while they had a house on the Bosphorus in Istanbul.

More about Harry John Wratishaw:

Address 1: 1 April 1901, Lydgate House, Cliff Road, New Hunstanton, Norfolk (aged 10)

Address 2: 1915, Aleppo, Syria (free prisoner in Aleppo)

Address 3: 1916, Istanbul, Turkey (free prisoner?)

Address 4: c. 1921, Aleppo, Syria

Baptism: 23 June 1890, Christened at Bournabat, Turkey

Death or fact: 18 January 1959, Died at Broumnana, Lebanon aged 69

Education: Rossall School, Norfolk

First occupation: 1901, Scholar

Main occupation: 1925, Inspector of Ottoman Public Dette

More birth details: 5 May 1890, Smyrna, Turkey

More about Harry Wratishaw and Victoria Prince:

Marriage: 1915, Aleppo, Syria

Place of marriage: Catholic Cathedral, Aleppo

Children of Victoria Prince and Harry Wratishaw are:

- 25 i. Sonia⁵ Wratishaw, born 1916 in Constantinople, Turkey; died 2009 in Paris, France. She married Jean Baptiste Journes 1933 in Aleppo, Syria; born c. 1908 in Puechabon, France; died 2007 in Paris, France.

More about Sonia Wratishaw:

Baptism: c. 1916, Baptised at San Sophia Church, Istanbul

More about Jean Journes and Sonia Wratishaw:

Marriage: 1933, Aleppo, Syria

- 26 ii. Heliane Gertrude Wratishaw, born 1917 in Constantinople, Turkey. She married Gwynn Evans; died 1980

Notes for Heliane Gertrude Wratishaw:

They lived in Aleppo as children in the "old fashioned way" - 15 in one house. With Ernest & Emma, 4 servants, the Harry & Victoria and their 4 children and Aunt Irma

and her two sons (Lily)

More about Heliane Gertrude Wratlslaw:

Baptism: 1917, Baptised at San Sophia Church, Istanbul

- 27 iii. Mary Wratlslaw, born c. 1923 in Aleppo, Syria; died c. 1980 in Harpenden, Herts. She married Denis Hessling 1943 in Aleppo, Syria; born in England

More about Denis Hessling and Mary Wratlslaw:

Marriage: 1943, Aleppo, Syria

- 28 iv. Charles Anthony Wratlslaw, born 1925 in Aleppo, Syria; died 1987 in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. He married Noreen Margaret Watt 1950 in Barnes, Middx.; born 1929 in Griffithstown, Mons.; died 1984 in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

Notes for Charles Anthony Wratlslaw:

Company Director

Royal Army Service Corps

Engineer, Service Manager & Plant Manager

Franciscan School & Marist College, Aleppo; St Joseph Jesuit University, Beirut

Chelsea College of Automobile & Aeronautic Engineering

Leopoldville, Belgian Congo

Harrogate, Yorks.

Barnes, Middx.

Aleppo, Syria

Rua general Joao de Almeida, 138 Luanda, Angola

Oak Hall Drive and 14 Cliff Road, Leigh-on-Sea

Telal Street, Aleppo, Syria

Died Rochford Hospital, Essex

More About Charles Anthony Wratlslaw:

Address 1: Bet. 1925 - 1935, Aleppo, Syria

Address 2: Bet. 1951 - 1952, Barnes, Middx.

Address 3: Bet. 1952 - 1956, Leopoldville, Belgian Congo

Address 4: Bet. 1957 - 1971, Rua general Joao de Almeida, 138 Luanda, Angola

Address 5: Bet. 1972 - 1974, Harrogate, Yorks.

Address 6: Bet. 1974 - 1987, Oakleigh Park Drive and 14 Cliff Road, Leigh-on-Sea

Death or fact: 15 February 1987, Died Rochford Hospital, Essex

Education: Bet. 1930 - 1943, Franciscan School & Marist College, Aleppo; St Joseph's Jesuit Uni., Beirut

Ist occupation: Bet. 1943 - 1947, Royal Army Service Corps

Main occupation: Bet. 1975 - 1987, Company Director

More birth details: 11 July 1925, Telal Street, Aleppo, Syria

More Education: Bet. 1947 - 1950, College of Automobile & Aeronautic Engineering, Chelsea

Other occupation: Bet. 1947 - 1975, Engineer, Service Manager & Plant Manager

Notes for Noreen Margaret Watt:

Speech Therapist

More about Noreen Margaret Watt:

Burial: December 1984, Cremated at Southend-on-Sea Crematorium

Death or fact: 1984, 14 Cliff Road, Leigh-On-Sea, Essex

Main occupation: Bet. 1951 - 1984, Mother/Homemaker

More birth details: 18 September 1929

Other occupation: Speech Therapist

Marriage Notes for Charles Wratishaw and Noreen Watt:

Kensington Registration District

More about Charles Wratishaw and Noreen Watt:

Marriage: 1950, Barnes, Middx.

Place of marriage: December 1950, Kensington Registration District

What follows is a slightly updated and abridged account of the family as posted by me on the website <http://www.cyprus-forum.com/cyprus1236.html> on 21st February 2005:

“My wife's father, Charles Anthony Wratishaw, was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1925. He was a British subject, being the son of an ex-pat called Harry Wratishaw. Harry spent most of his life in the East, being the son of Albert Charles Wratishaw (hereafter ACW), a decorated member of the (British) Levant Consular Service. The Wratishaws were typical English middle-class in the 19th century being solicitors, scholars and headmasters before ACW married a lady called Gertrude Evelyn Cumberbatch who was descended latterly from Caribbean plantation owners and formerly from the English and thereby European royal families of the Middle Ages. The name *Wratishaw* is Czech – Count Marc Wratishaw (great-grandfather of ACW) allegedly having immigrated to England from Bohemia during the religious fall-out from the Thirty Years War in 1770.

“Back to Harry, my wife's grandfather. He was born in Smyrna in 1890 and was back in England at a prep school in Norfolk during the 1901 census. The story of his life after this is rather vague. He is not to be found in the UK at the 1911 census and it would seem that he returned somewhere to the Ottoman Empire, whether or not living with his parents is unclear (ACW was Consul-General in Tabriz from 1903-1909, Consul-General for Crete 1909-1913 and Consul-General for Salonika during the Great War. According to Harry's daughters (Sonia Journes and Lily Evans) whom I have interviewed, he settled in Aleppo and during the War he was held as a "free prisoner" of the Turks at his home. Something like house arrest I suppose.

“At this point we meet Prince Family. Of all my extended family, the marriage certificate of Harry Wratishaw and Victoria Claire Prince is the only one I cannot find from the 20th century. I have been through British overseas records and to the Syrian government with no success. Lily Evans was told that they married in Aleppo in 1916 and that TE Lawrence was a witness. However, the secretary of the TE Lawrence Society has never heard of the name Wratishaw in any of his papers. This is his comment:

Date: 4/3/03 17:10

Chris, I can probably comment on this as usefully as anyone, so I'll reply off-list. As Lawrence's authorised biographer I've been through a huge amount of material relating to his wartime movements. On that basis, I'd say it is pretty well impossible that TEL was in Aleppo at any time during 1915 or 1916.

Are you sure of the date? If Harry John Wratislaw was a British citizen, he's fairly unlikely to have been in Aleppo (enemy-held territory) during WWI.

However, if the date was in the period 1911-14, when Lawrence was working as an archaeologist at Jerablus, then it's quite possible that he served as a witness, though I know of no record of that (the name Wratislaw doesn't appear in my index of people named in Lawrence's letters). The British Consul at Aleppo at the time was Ralph Fontana, and Lawrence often visited the consulate. Fontana's wife Winifred contributed to 'T.E. Lawrence by his Friends' (1937). If Fontana needed a British citizen to witness, and Lawrence was around, he might well have asked him.

I hope this is some help

Best regards

Jeremy Wilson

“We know that that Sonia Wratislaw was baptised in San Sophia Church, Constantinople in 1916 and was presumably born in that city in 1916, where again the family were probably "free prisoners" of the Ottomans. The Prince family were French-speaking and I guess that the Aleppo Wratislaws grew up with French as a first language with plenty of English and Arabic too. Harry went on to get a job as "Inspector of the Ottoman Dette (sic)" which I think took him up to retirement after WWII. His four children drifted back to Britain or France where they married and settled and all had children. CAW continued to be mobile until he settled with his and children in Essex, England in the 1970s, which is where I met my wife, Charlotte Claire.

“So going backwards with the Prince family, I don't have much information on Victoria Claire, except that she was baptised at Santa Crucis Church (RC), Nicosia, Cyprus as "Victoria Clara Prens" on 30th August 1893 showing the date of birth as 3rd January. Born into the French-speaking Catholic community in Cyprus and baptised in Nicosia, Lily Evans is sure that her mother was born in Larnaca. Her father was Ernest (or Ernesto - I think that Italian might have been the medium of the Roman Church in Cyprus at that time, hence the phonetic 'Prens' on Victoria and Irma's baptism certificates). I don't know much about him except that he moved to Aleppo (with his family) at some time between 1890s and his death there in 1925 according both to Lily and Sonia. Ernest had a brother who must have been the father of Elise & Rosa (I have these names from Ernest's probate papers). It was Lily who told me that Ernest was supposedly descended from Crusaders – a French family that once originated near Toulouse (the Lusignans?)

“Ernest married a lady – allegedly very beautiful – called Emma Cosma. Sonia holds Emma's baptism certificate at her home in Paris. She was born in 1873, and I think her family was also Catholic, but Italian speaking. The Italian element (the major ingredient of Cyprus' Latin Community) goes back to the occupation of the Venetians in the 15th-16th centuries, who dominated before the Ottoman capture of 1571. Emma's father was Lorenzo Cosma and his parents were Michael Cosma and Marie (interestingly) nee Prince. Lorenzo married a lady called Marianna Bosgiovich. Her Slavic name is explained by her father, Giacomo Bosgiovich emanating from Dubrovnic, or Ragusa as it was known under Italian occupation. I have names of her ancestors in Ragusa back to mid-18th century.

“Lorenzo & Marianna Cosma had 5 children apart from Emma and from them (via the Santi family) is descended both Benito Mantovani, who I understand is currently the political leader of the Cypriot Latins (2nd cousin to Charles Anthony Wratislaw) and Roberto Prince, the only contact in the family that I have in Cyprus (he is also a second cousin of CAW).

Roberto has been attempting to help me with research and confirms the legend of crusader connections and informs me of another branch of the family in Lebanon."

I was in touch with Roberto Prince between around 2002 and 2004 but the trail has gone cold there. Although called 'Prince', the proven connection with my wife's family is through his mother's line, the Santis. This is an extract of a letter I wrote to Roberto on 25th February 2003:

Mr. Roberto J Prince
PO Box 22253
Nicosia
1519
Cyprus

Dear Roberto

Thanks very much for sending me all that fascinating information about the Cosma, Santi and Bosgiovich families.

I am very interested that you have managed to get back so far, especially with the Bosgiovich family. It would be very interesting to know - if it is at all known within the family - for example why Giacomo Bosgiovich (1817-1888) came to Cyprus. Did he come after Ragusa was annexed to Austria in 1815? Also I wonder if Giacomo Bosgiovich (b. 1757) was related to this character about whom I found some information on the net (I'll also email you some other information):

"In addition to her consuls and various special envoys, the Dubrovnik Republic used prominent natives to perform important services in the capitals in Europe. They informed systematically the Dubrovnik Senate about military, political, and other events and trends." Among the natives of Dubrovnik occupying important positions abroad was R. Boshkovich, who left Dubrovnik at age 15 to become a Jesuit in Rome and came back to Dubrovnik for only one short visit. The Senate began asking his help in 1755, while he was still in Rome, and continued asking until his death." Boshkovich became the de facto Dubrovnik ambassador in Paris, informing on events in France, including an assessment of the personality of the new king, Louis XVI. In his letter to the Senate (1781), Boshkovich includes an article from the "*Gazette de Leyde*" interesting to Dubrovnik businesses in Morocco. He regularly sent the "*Courier de l'Europe*". In the same letter, he speaks of the mismanagement of Dubrovnik businesses in Marseille, citing the incompetence of its consul there. In 1781, Boshkovich wrote that he could no longer send letters to Dubrovnik, for he had been appointed chief of optics in the navy of France and was required to take French citizenship. In reply, the Senate of Dubrovnik sent Boskovich a special code to use in the future.

Also, I am interested to know (forgive my ignorance of Cypriot history) how so many Italians came to be in Cyprus. Also, why do you say that the Cosma family, again apparently Italian-speaking from their names, originate in Syria? (By the way did you know there is a business in Damascus called *Cosma Plast*?)

I must say that it is interesting to see how many times the name "Prince" comes up in the trees, with at least three Princes marrying into two of the families: Ernest Prince marries

Emma Cosma, John Prince marries Emma Santi, Marie Prince marries Michael Cosma. Do you think that these are all related?

I also notice that on some trees you have dates of birth and death and on others you don't. For my records I would very much like to have as many dates and places of birth, marriage and death as possible (sorry, I was trained a lawyer!)

Meanwhile, I look forward very much to any information you have on the Prince family.

I enclose all two consolidated trees from the information you have sent. Many thanks again for doing this.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

CS"

My last contact with Roberto Prince was on 18th April 2004. I telephoned Roberto on a number of occasions and he did send me some interesting information and this is a note of my last conversation with him:

"Roberto is going to Beirut in one month. A cousin in France is trying to do some research too. The key task to is track down is a family history of the Prince family written by a lawyer called Mussa Prince, who lived in Beirut. There are also cousins of Roberto who are looking for this book in Beirut. Roberto met Mussa in Beirut in the 1970s as a student. He apparently sought to prove that the name "Prince" originated from the fact that the family descends from an illegitimate child of a royal affair with a Cyprus girl.

"RP will get back to me after he has returned from Beirut."

Which he never did and as I say I let the trail go cold. Mussa Prince was a well-known author and lawyer and a short biography of his life can be found on this site <http://www.acam-france.org/bibliographie/auteur.php?cle=prince-moussa>

Any assistance in shedding light on the Prince Family would be welcome.

Chris Seaton

Bognor Regis, February 2011