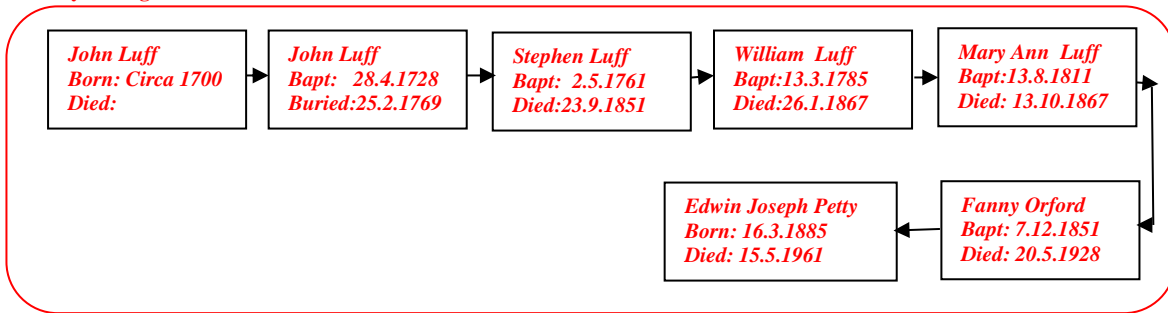


## Betty Eileen Petty 1923 - 2002

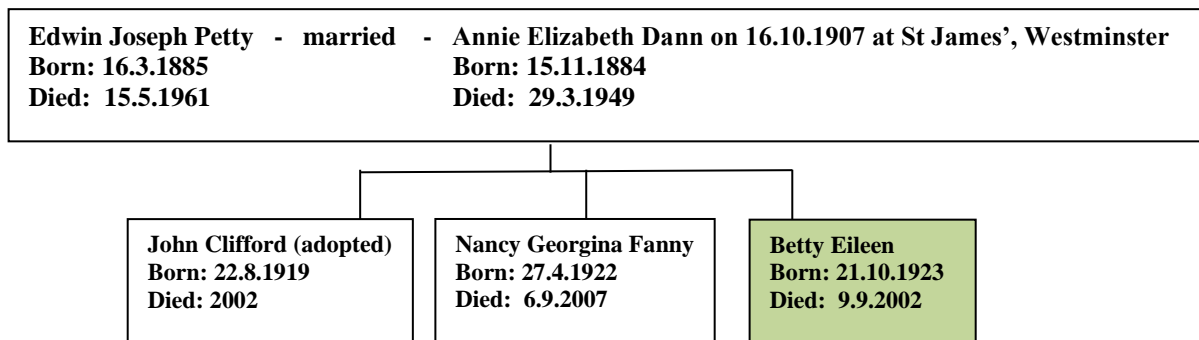
(The author's 3rd Cousin once removed)

web-site [www.mike-jl.co.uk](http://www.mike-jl.co.uk)

### Family Lineage:



Betty Eileen Petty was born in Belvedere, Kent on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1923. She is the daughter of Edwin and Annie Petty.



The 1939 Registration Record shows Betty living with her family at Crabtree Farm. The amendment made to the record shows she later married under the name of Gunner. Betty is shown as being a factory worker.

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		See INSTRUCTIONS.				
ADDRESS.		SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.		BIRTH.		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Crabtree Farm	168	1	PETTY EDWIN J	M	16	Apr	85	M	General Farmer	
		2	PETTY ANNIE E	F	25	Nov	84	M	Unpaid Domestic	
		3	PETTY JOHN C	M	22	Aug	19	S	Const. Farmer	
		4	PETTY NANCY S	F	27	Apr	22	S	8 Bells (Cable Works)	
		5	PETTY BETTY E	F	21	Oct	23	S	Turp Oil Worker	

In December 1938 it was announced in the House of Commons that in the event of war, a National Register would be taken that listed the personal details of every civilian in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This Register was to be a critical tool in coordinating the war effort at home. It would be used to issue identity cards, organise rationing and more.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1939 Germany invaded Poland, putting the wheels in motion for Britain to declare war on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the National Registration Act received royal assent and Registrar General Sir Sylvanus Vivian announced that National Registration Day would be September 29<sup>th</sup>. Having issued forms to more than 41 million people, the enumerators were charged with the task of visiting every household in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to collect the names, addresses, martial statuses and other key details of every civilian in the country, issuing identity cards on the spot.

The identity cards issued were essential items from the point the Register was taken right up until 1952, when the legal requirement to carry them ceased. Until that point, every member of the civilian population had to be able to present their card upon request by an official (children's cards were looked after by parents), or bring them to a police station within 48 hours. The reasons were numerous – it was essential to know who everyone was, of course, and to track their movements as they moved house, as well as to keep track of the population as babies were born and people passed away. The 1939 Register, then, represents one of the most important documents in 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain. The information it contains not only helped toward the war effort, it was also used in the founding of the NHS.

In addition, the 1931 census was destroyed during an air raid on London and the 1941 census was never taken. The 1939 Register is therefore the only surviving overview of the civil population of England and Wales spanning the period 1921-1951. It bridges a census gap that risked losing an entire generation, and is a fascinating resource for anyone interested in understanding 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain and its people.

**Betty Eileen Petty married Frederick R Gunner in Dartford in July 1954.**

**Betty Gunner died in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, on 9th September, 2002.**

**I have been unable to establish if there were any children from her marriage.**