

01243-788169

29, Parklands Road,
Chichester. PO19 3DX
West Sussex.

12th September, 2006

Dear Mrs. Monkeith,

Thank you, most sincerely, for telephoning
me on Monday, 4th of September.

I have been so pleased to trace any news
of "Ferry Craig" which was my parents' first
home.

They were married on my mother's 21st birthday
in St. Anne's church, Kew Green. My father
would have been 40 years old in the October.
He was chief engineer in the firm of Eadon Gibbs
and Partners - civil engineers. When

responsible for the building of a new road-
bridge over the Thames at Kew he lived in
lodgings. His landlady invited him to go with
her to a "musical evening" where a girl of
14 years would be playing the violin and was
said to be exceptionally good. To cut a long

long short he waited seven years until she was 21. Her name was Dorothy Frances Horne.

As soon as Kew Bridge was finished he was sent as senior engineer for the building of Rosyth Dockyard - still employed by the firm of Civil Engineers, Easton Gibb and Partners.

My father had a very inventive mind and during the Great War submitted full-scale drawings to the Admiralty. They showed a line of floating towers which would prevent any "U-Boats" passing up the English Channel - (Later to be known as "the Mystery Towers")

At first his idea was declared completely impossible by the Admiralty. A few months later

he received a message to go to London "at once" where he was made Director of Special Construction!

The family moved South to Kew. Prior to this move they had

Moved from Ferry Craig to Dunfermline where my second brother was born. (Sadly a first son had died in North Queensferry)

Ferry Craig was rented by my father and unfortunately, I do not know the name of the owner. When he heard my parents were leaving he told them he would sell the house, but they must have any of the furniture they would like - hence I am sitting on one of the chairs! I must not ramble on - you will be bored.

Thank you and everyone for your help. I am 84 yrs. and had always longed to see the house - I had ^{heard} so many stories about my parents life there. Mother must have been desperately lonely, but there was a family by the name of Elder who had a son who played the piano. So, accompanied by a chaperone, mother would be able to go to the Elder's house and play the violin. I believe

the Elder family was connected to the "Elder Dempster Shipping Line"? Perhaps I'm just crazy. I watched the last of the Promenade Concerts, at the Albert Hall, last Saturday night, on television. The conductor was Mark Elder!

Enough - I will enclose a few old photos which might be of interest. I don't need them returned.

Yours sincerely,

Phyllis H. Menzies

PS/ Please forgive my delay in writing, but I have just lost a dear school-friend in Oxford so had to be away 2 days. PHM.



Thomas Graham Menzies.
B. 1869 - D. 1958



H. Colquhoun & Co.
London, B.

166063

Dorothy Frances Horne,
B. 1888 - D. 1964.



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My Mother and ? her cousin.
My Father's car. (A Dodiakubon)
1909 —



