



JOSEPH DOUGLAS WELLS

1881 – 1956

Joseph Douglas Wells.

His father Frederick Wells (Born 10 January 1827 Chelmsford Essex and Baptised on 19 April 1827 at Badow Lane Independent Congregational Church). His father was William Collings Wells (1790-1865 Chelmsford Essex) and mother Lydia Woodcock (1789-1867 Chelmsford Essex. Frederick Wells died in Chelmsford Essex on 19 May 1908.

Frederick Wells was a firstly a Coal Merchant then Brewer and Wine Merchant by profession. He was married twice. They later lived at Oaklands Moulsham Street Chelmsford which is now the Chelmsford Borough Museum.

Marriage 1: 1850 Chelmsford Essex to **Clara Eliza Perry** (Born 1828 Springfield Essex).
(Marriage Reference 1850 – 3 Chelmsford Essex volume 12 entry 91).
She died 1873 Chelmsford Essex.
(Death Reference 1873 -3 Chelmsford Volume 4a entry 127 aged 45 years).

Children: **Frederick Arthur Wells.**
Born 1851 Chelmsford Essex.
(Birth Reference 1851 – 4 Chelmsford Essex volume XII entry 34).

Ada Clara Wells.
Born 1853 Chelmsford Essex. (Birth Reference 1853 – 1 Chelmsford Essex Volume 4A entry 119).

Constance Ellen Wells.
Born 1862 Chelmsford Essex.
(Birth Reference 1861 – 3 Chelmsford Essex volume 4a entry 145).

Marriage 2: **Jane Thompson Burns.**
Born 08 August 1844 Ireland.
Daughter of Presbyterian Minister Joseph Burns (Born 1812 and Elizabeth Thompson Born 1810 Ireland).
Married in Pancras 1875.
(Death Reference only Non-Conformist London Road Chelmsford says Jane Thompson Wells 1923).

Children: **Dorothy Jane Wells.**
Born 1880 Chelmsford Essex.
(Birth Reference 1880-1 Chelmsford Essex volume 4a entry 303).

Joseph Douglas Wells.
Born 1881 Chelmsford Essex.
(Birth Reference 1881-4 Chelmsford Essex volume 4A entry 322).
Died on 11 November 1956.
(Death Reference 1956-4 Brentwood Essex volume 4A entry 397 aged 75 years).

Hugh Thompson Wells.
Born 1885 Chelmsford Essex.
(Birth Reference 1885-1 Chelmsford Essex volume 4a entry 403).
The 1911 Census shows Joseph Douglas Wells married and a Medical Practitioner married to Kathleen Edith Foley (born 1887 in India).

Marriage 1: **Kathleen Edith Foley.**
(Marriage Reference 1908-1 London City Volume 1C entry 30).
(Died 1929-2 Swindon Wiltshire Volume 5A entry 9 aged 42 years).

Children: **Frederick Charles Francis Wells.**
Born 1909 Billericay Essex.
(Birth Reference 1909-2 Billericay Essex volume 4a entry 677).
(Death Reference 1964-2 Shrewsbury Volume 91 entry 171 aged 55 years).

Anthony Michael Wells.
Born 27 July 1915 Billericay Essex.
(Birth Reference 1915-3 Billericay Essex volume 4a entry 1156).
(Death Reference 1979-4 Exeter Devon Volume 21 entry 1139).

Marriage 2: **Clarice I. WAY (nee TIPPETTS)**

(Marriage Reference 1932-4 Chelsea Volume 1A entry 857).

(Death Reference 1960-1 Claro Yorkshire Volume 2C entry 163 aged 78 years.

The Probate for Joseph Douglas Wells O.B.E. issued on 13 May 1957 to Frederick Charles Francis Wells (Farmer) Anthony Michael Wells Solicitors Clerk and Edward Good (Brigadier H.M. Armed Forces) for £21120 14s. 11d.

More History:

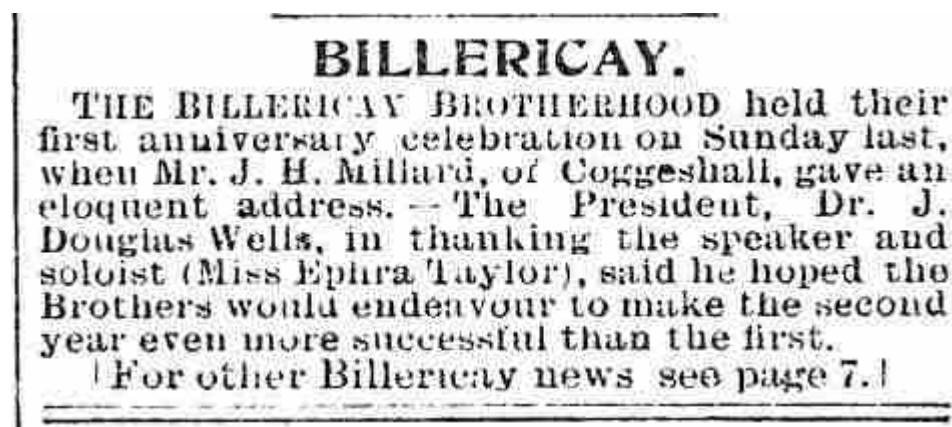
Dr. Joseph Douglas Wells was part of the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) in 1914 as a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C.) and disembarked on 09 November 1914 To Captain R.A.M.C.) Territorial Force (T.F.). His first attachment was to the 1/4 Staff Regiment of the RAMC.

During his post army career he was President of the Billericay Branch of the British Legion and was a leader in campaigns for fund raising for the (1939-45) war effort. He also served as a Medical Officer on the Armed Forces Medical Board.

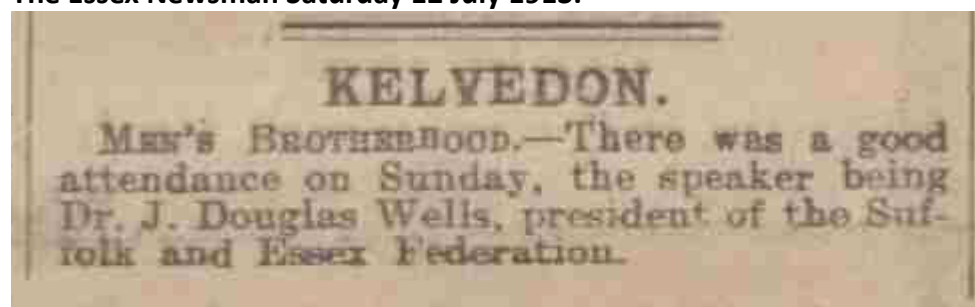
His full titles was (O.B.E. Military), J.P. Ch.B. (Edinburgh University). His O.B.E. Award was made sometime after 1917.

Newspaper archives:

The Essex County Chronicle Friday 17 March 1911.



The Essex Newsman Saturday 12 July 1913.

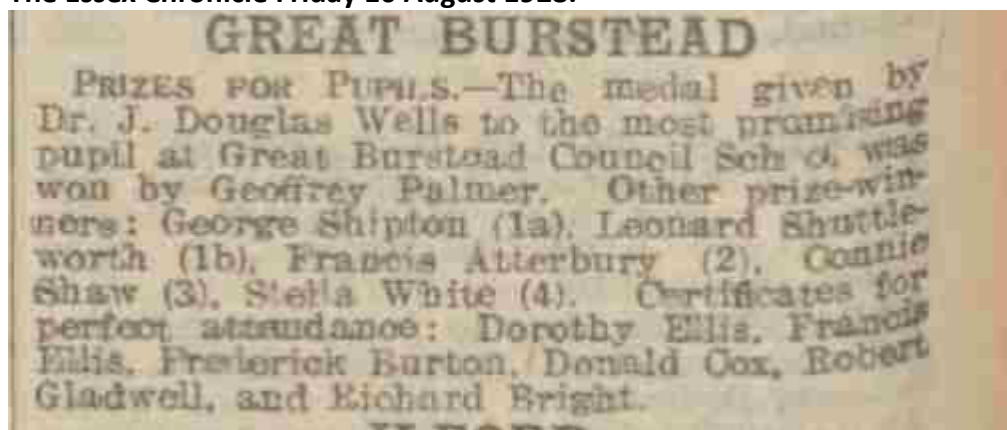


The Essex Newsman Saturday 9 January 1915.



It is noted that an article in the Essex Chronicle says he has returned home on 28 February 1919 from his exploits in WW1.

The Essex Chronicle Friday 10 August 1928.



DEATH OF MRS. J. D. WELLS

SAD LOSS TO BILLERICAY.

We regret to report the death, which occurred in a London nursing home on Saturday, following an operation, of Mrs. Katharine Edith Wells, wife of Dr. J. Douglas Wells, O.B.E., of High Street, Billericay, medical officer to the Billericay Guardians and Rural Council. Mrs. Wells, who was 43, had been ill only a short time, and was very popular in the district. She was a vice-president of the South-East Essex Conservative Association, founder of the Billericay branch of the Junior Imperial League, and an active supporter of the British Legion and of the R.S.P.C.A. Much sympathy is felt for Dr. Wells and the two sons.

There was a large gathering of sympathisers at the funeral at Great Burstead on Wednesday.

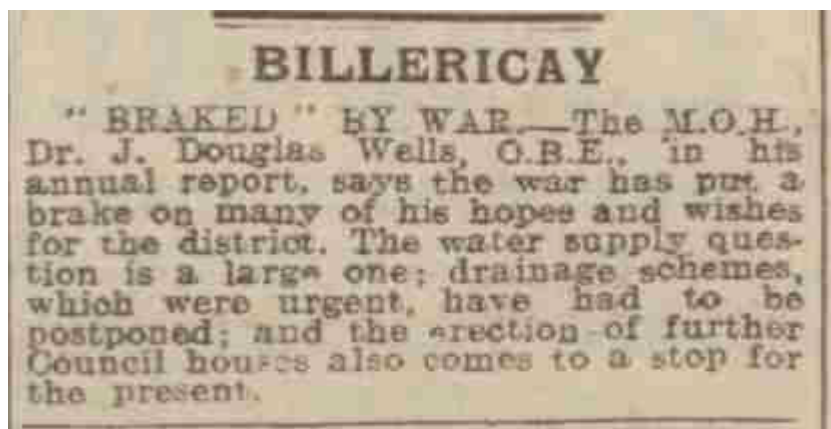
The Essex Chronicle Friday 30 January 1931.

BILLERICAY

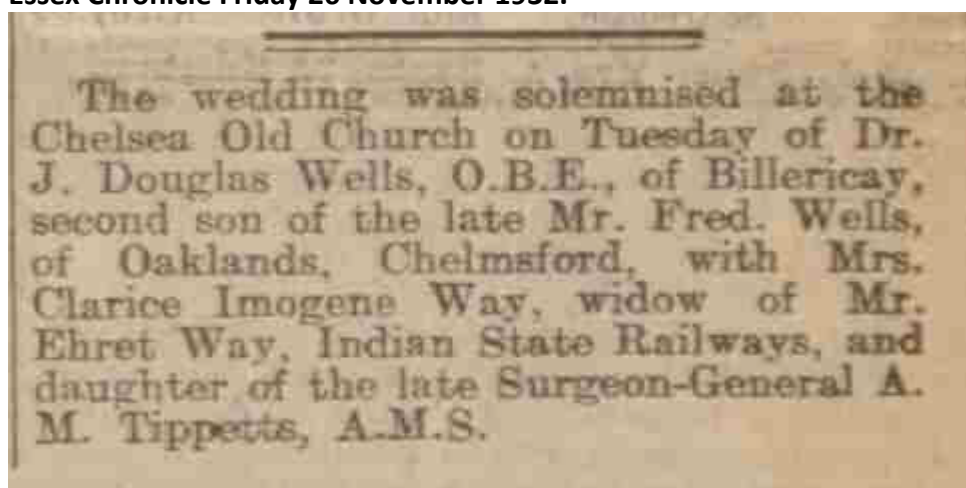
GREAT BURSTEAD CRICKET CLUB held their annual dinner at the Red Lion Hotel, the President (Dr. J. Douglas Wells, O.B.E.) in the chair. Mr. W. J. Cottis presented the bat to Mr. H. E. F. Padwick. A concert was given by Messrs. S. Griffith, F. Pearkes, W. F. Wyatt, D. H. Hennings, L. H. L. Hillary, F. R. L. Costeloe, and E. J. Rippin.

The Essex Chronicle for Friday 17 March 1933 mentions the election of three people including Dr. J.D. Douglas as Life Governors of Chelmsford Hospital.

The Essex Chronicle 15 November 1940



Essex Chronicle Friday 26 November 1932.



There are some two hundred and fifty plus newspaper archive entries in Essex about Dr. Wells and those shown above are a small representation only.

ROBERT FREW

Born: 8 June 1886.

(Galston Ayrshire Scotland).

Died: 1969 Wickford Essex.

(Death reference 1969-3 Brentwood Essex volume 4a entry 1026.)

Memorial in St. Catherine's Church Wickford Essex.



The photograph taken on their wedding day in 1915.

Mary Jane Wyllie SCADE Born 31 July 1891 Darvel Ayrshire.
She died in 1985. (Reference 1985-Q4 Chelmsford Essex Volume 9 entry 1956)

Memorial Inscription in St. Catherine's Church Wickford.

Children: John FREW.

Born 1920 Billericay Essex.
1920-2 Billericay Essex Volume 4A entry 1404).
Billericay Essex Volume 4A entry 453 aged 0 years).

(Reference
(Died 1920-3

Thomas Paterson. S. Frew.

Born 11 Jul 1921 Billericay Essex.
1921-3 Billericay Essex volume 4A entry 1199).
Brentwood Essex).

(Reference
(Died 1999-1

James M. FREW.

Born 1924 Billericay Essex.
1924-2 Billericay Essex Volume 4A entry 1095).

(Reference

Robert was awarded a Carnegie grant to study, he left school in 1902 when he became a pupil with a civil engineering firm. Deciding that engineering would be too desk-bound as a career, the young Robert then paid his own way through medical training, and graduated in April 1914, gaining the Arnott prize in physics in 1911, and a medal for clinical surgery in 1914. He then served in France with the Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War. It was there that he met his wife Mary, a nurse, marrying in 1915.

Although offered the chance to work as an anaesthetist in a London hospital, Dr. Frew chose to become a G.P., buying the Wickford practice from Dr. Mathieson. He started work in a small shed behind Lynton House, the upper windows of which are still visible above The Halifax in the High Street. In those days the surgery was lit with paraffin lamps, the glass of which had to be cleaned each morning.

Two years later he moved to Ladybrow, the surgery again being behind the house. It was there that Dr. Robert Frew practised for the rest of his working life, later joined by his two sons, Thomas and James, and later still in 1958 by Dr. Ronald Anderson.

The life of a village G.P. was very different back in the beginning of the twentieth century. Antibiotics were yet to be generally available and all births were at home. Antenatal care was non-existent. But these were exciting years in the history of medicine. One of the few benefits of the two wars was the huge leap forward in clinical and surgical methods, and the use of drugs. The immunisation programs protecting against tuberculosis, diphtheria and whooping cough were introduced, and the use of antibiotics came into force.

Dr. Frew was well ensconced in Wickford once the second World War broke out. His assistant was called up, and the doctor was left running the surgery alone. In those days all prescriptions had to be made up manually, and although already in his fifties, he would often be up until three in the morning making up prescriptions! As medical officer he trained the local Red Cross brigade, of which Mrs. Frew was Commandant. The brigade had to be on call 24 hours a day to assist casualties on occasions such as when the Pratt family of Swan Lane were killed in a bombing raid.

He was a real family G.P. He had time for people and is remembered with great affection by patients and those who worked with him alike. Many older people in the town remember the kindness the doctor showed to people in impoverished situations, and often he would not take his fee, or would reduce it. As commandant of the Red Cross Mrs. Frew was able to give practical help to families that her husband was best able to judge needed it. Mrs. Frew also set up the first baby clinics in the town with volunteer helpers, before the days of National Health.

At the height of his working life Dr. Frew had patients as far away as Bicknacre and West Fambridge. He had two branch surgeries in Woodham, one in a pub and the other in the front room belonging to a Mrs. Johnson, the station porter's wife.

In the early days Dr. Frew would travel to his further flung patients by motor bike, and once took a prescription to Battlesbridge by foot, walking along the river.

Always busy, he was elected to Wickford Parish Council. He was a manager of Wickford county school, president of the Wickford branch of the British Legion, honorary life member of the British Red Cross and a member of the Runwell Hospital management committee. He was Past Master of the Wickford Masonic lodge in 1924, and secretary for some years. He was an enthusiastic and respected Freemason. Dr. Robert Frew died in 1969, aged 83.

As the memorial plaque in the door-way of the Robert Frew medical centre says, 'Physician and friend to this community'. In memory of Dr. Robert Frew. *(Information courtesy of Wickford Community Archive)*

Newspaper Archives:

The Essex Chronicle for Friday 4 July 1919.

Mr. Robert Frew M.B. of Wickford who served in the RAMC during the War was appointed Medical Officer of Health for the fifth District at Chelmsford.

The Essex Chronicle for Friday 28 September 1928.

A Social gathering held at the High School Wickford at which the President of the Wickford Branch of the British Legion was in attendance.

The Essex Chronicle for Friday 26 July 1926.

150th Anniversary of Essex Masons. Yesterday the Annual meeting of the Essex Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons was held at the Bishops Hall Romford, the residence of Lord Lambourne Right worshipful Provincial Grand Master P.C. C.V.O. Among the promotions given was to Worshipful Brother Dr. Robert Frew Senior Grand Deacon (Past Rank).

Wickford Masonic Lodge No. 4220. (Extracts from Lodge records).

Wickford Lodge, No. 4220 in the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, was Consecrated on Monday, 25th April. 1921, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, by the Consecrating Officers listed on the opposite page and before the TEN FOUNDER MEMBERS in company with EIGHTY- EIGHT VISITORS. The Lodge was opened in the three degrees by the Provincial Grand Secretary,

Jeanne D'Arc Lodge No. 5 Rouen.

The Jeanne D'Arc Lodge No. 5 Rouen France founded in 1916 by British Soldiers who were fighting in the Somme region. Sadly there is evidence many of the Candidates who were initiated during the period of the war never lived long enough to be Passed (Second Degree) or Raised (Third Degree).

The Consecration of the Jeanne D'Arc Mark Lodge No. 1900 took place in Brussels of 7 December 2013. This mark lodge is descended from the Craft Lodge No. 5 Rouen affected by closure by the withdrawal of recognition by the French. Brussels follows the English Constitution.

| 220 Wickford Lodge | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|------|------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|
| N ^o . 4220 | | | | | | | | | |
| DATE OF INITIATION. | PASSING. | RAISING. | SURNAME. | CHRISTIAN NAME. | AGE. | RESIDENCE. | PROFESSION. | CERTIFICATE. | |
| Petitioners | From | 2369 | Leete | Joseph Thomas | | W. M. | | | |
| | do | 3634 | Day | Wilfred Ernest Lytton | | S. W. | | | |
| | do | 1734 | Gigney J. | James | | J. W. | | | |
| | do | 2469 | McLeod | James Findlay | | | | | |
| Warrant granted | do | 1734 | Patmore | Richard Weston | | | | | |
| 13.12.20 | do | 2237 | Woolorton | Herbert George | | | | | |
| | do | 742 | Haylock | Harry Burton | | | | | |
| | do | 1734 | Ruffhead | James Charles | | | | | |
| Consecrated | do | 1734 | Sparrow | Edwin Charles | | | | | |
| 25.4.21 | do | 1734 | Block | Albert John | | | | | |
| 1921 May 6 | do | do | Frew | Robert | | Wickford | Med. Practitioner | | |
| " do " | do | 1196 | Jones | Benjamin Hyde | | do | Banker | | |
| " do " | do | 1664 | Heslop | Thomas | | do | Farmer | | |
| " do " | do | 1599 | Burton | Henry Walter | | do | Broker | | |
| " do " | do | 3097 | Matthewman | Charles Robert | | do | Manufacturer | | |
| " do " | do | 1734 | Matthew | George Simkins | | do | Director | | |
| " do " | do | 2342 | Wilson | John | | Wexminster | Engineer | | |
| " July 14 | do | 3228 | Knightbridge | Alfred Percy | | Wickford | Merchant | | |
| " do " | do | 3336 | Connor | David Muir | | do | Comm. Traveller | 13.11.22 | |
| " do " | do | 1734 | Bygott | William | | Ragleigh | Solicitor | | |
| " do " | Sept. 8 | Nov. 10 | Cornish | John | 49 | Wickford | Manufacturer | 14.3.22 | 1/1920 |
| " do " | do " | do " | Debenham | Frederick Charles | 38 | do | Brook | do " | 1/4220 |
| " Sept. 8 | Nov. 10 | Jan. 1922 | Sullivan | John Herbert | 40 | do | Surveyor | do " | 1/1920 |

Trinity Lodge Rayleigh No. 1734

Joining member 14 April 1920.

From Lodge No. 5 France.

Urban Lodge No. 1196

Joining member on 12 October 1920

It mentions Rouen.

The history of the Urban Lodge opens at St. John's Gate, where the Lodge was consecrated. St. John's Gate Clerkenwell as it is known today, was originally the entrance gate to the Priory of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

After the Order had been disbanded in 1540 by King Henry VIII, the premises were used as a Hunting Lodge, an Armoury, a storehouse and for similar uses, at one time sheltering such scenery as Shakespeare used for his plays, until, in 1731, it became the headquarters of the " Gentleman's Magazine."

In 1781, the Magazine shifted its headquarters to Fleet Street, and subsequently the Gate House became " The Old Jerusalem Tavern," to continue as such until, in 1887, the Order of St. John resumed occupation of the premises, which today are the Chancery of the Order.

Wickford Medical Centre



The Robert Frew Medical Centre
Silva Island Way
Salcott Crescent
Wickford
Essex SS12 9NR

The practice was established in 1919 by Dr Robert Frew with consulting rooms at his home 'Ladybrow' in Wickford High Street, the site of what is now the Ladygate Centre. His two sons later joined Dr Frew in partnership. In 1970 the practice moved to premises in Franklins Way currently our branch surgery. We moved to our new building in 1998, offering more space for our team of medical profession