



Nathaniel Frary Miller
Grandfather of Agatha Christie



Martha Miller
Nathaniel's mother.

Below
Picture held by the
Greenway House
Museum, Devon

Artist - Nicholas Biddle Kittell (1822-1894)
on display at Greenway, Devon.

In 2006 the pictures were donated to the
National Trust by relatives
of Agatha Christie.

Permission given by National Trust Images



Nathaniel Frary Miller

Born 21 October 1821

Massachusetts USA

Died 9th May 1869

Prinsted, West Sussex

Buried 11th June 1869

Green-Wood Cemetery NY

Married Martha Messervey about 1845

One son Frederick Alvah Miller (b1847 - d1901)

In 1878 he married Clarissa Boehmer (b1854 - d1926)

Their youngest daughter was

Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie (nee Miller)

15 Sep 1890 - 12 Jan 1976



Picture by Brian Baines

West Window, St. John the Evangelist - Dedication

In loving remembrance of Nathaniel Frary Miller of Mass U.S of America born 21 Oct 1821 died May 9 1869 erected by his widow.

St. John the Evangelist Church, Southbourne, West Sussex PO10 8LB
www.stjohnssouthbourne.com

In 1878, the Chapelry of Southbourne was created. Until then Hermitage, Lumley, Prinsted and Nutbourne were in the parish of Westbourne. The stained glass window dedicated to an American, Nathaniel Frary Miller raised the question of who was he and who was his widow and their connection to our community? A simple computer search found that he was Agatha Christie's grandfather, but then the real detective work started.

Who was his second wife, that donated the window?

A Victorian house called 'Fraryhurst' and Frarydene in Prinsted, what was the connection? Land searches confirmed that Nathaniel Frary Miller, a partner in H.B.Chafin & Co., New York, purchased a plot of land from Richard Kelsey in 1866. Richard was Margaret West's uncle and a landowning Prinsted farmer. Records show him owning land from the Manor House to Main Road to The Crescent, and the 1861 census says 161 acres, employing 8 men and 3 boys.

We believe 'Fraryhurst' was built in the mid 1860's by Nathaniel Frary Miller and after his death was owned by Margaret Miller (nee West) until 1909.

Margaret Miller nee West born 1830

married Nathaniel at Westbourne Church on 18th April 1863.

She was born in Chichester and, along with her 9 siblings, was an orphan and lived with relatives.

Agatha Christie (nee Miller) (aged 20) was with Margaret (aged 82) in Ealing for the 1911 census.

In her autobiography Agatha describes Margaret as her aunt/step grandmother, she was a feisty, intelligent lady and the basis for her Miss Marple character.

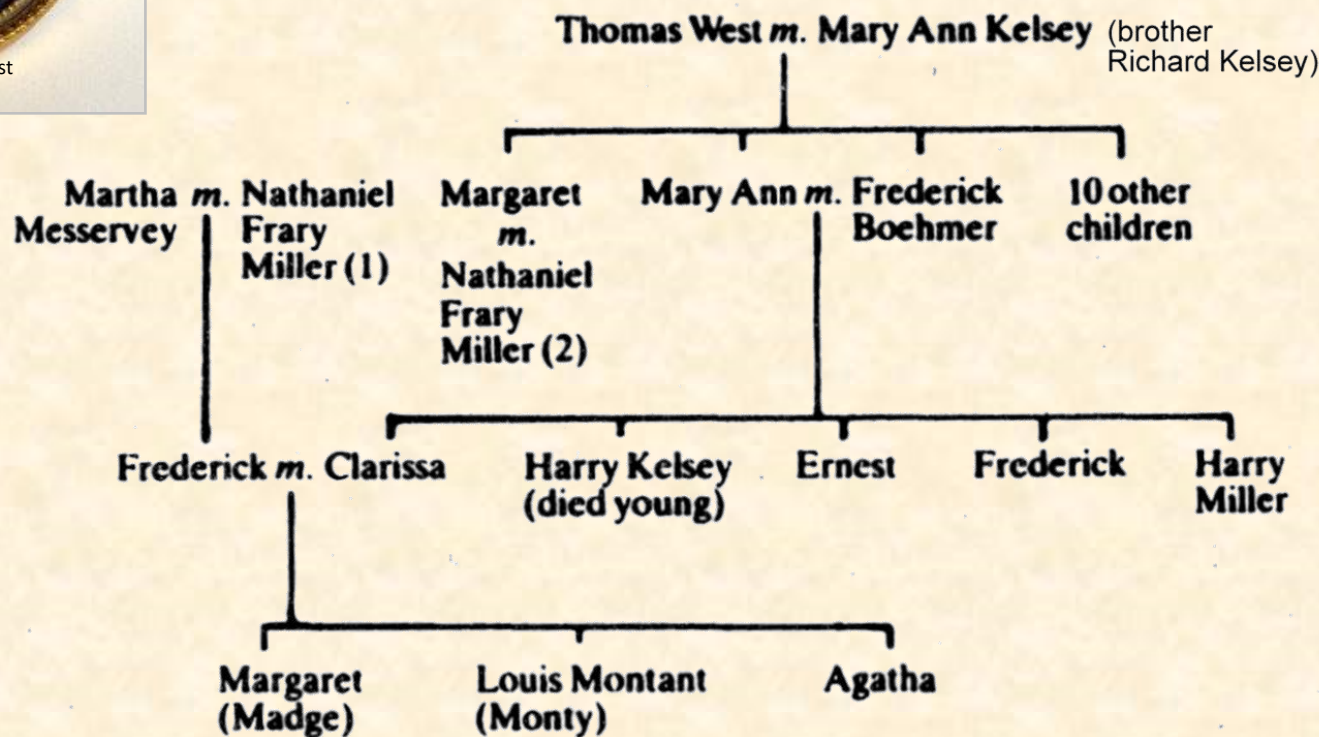
Margaret donated the stained glass window in the church.

1863. Marriage solemnized <u>at the Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u> of <u>Westbourne</u> in the County of <u>Sussex</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
318	April 18.	Nathaniel } Miller	full }	Ladwen	Merchant	New York	Alvah Miller	Scutcheon
		Frank } Margaret West	age }	and Spinster	---	Westbourne	Thomas West	Painter
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by me, <u>Richard Kelsig</u> <u>Officiant</u> <u>Ann Asperling Water</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <u>Nathaniel Frank Miller</u> <u>Margaret West</u>		in the Presence of us,		{ <u>Richard Kelsig</u> <u>Eliza Bridgman</u> <u>Robert B. Vera</u>		



Margaret West's uncle and Agatha's Great Great Uncle, Richard Kelsey (b1802 - d1879) was the first People's Warden at St. John's Church.

There is no evidence that Agatha Christie ever visited Prinsted as her aunt, Margaret who inherited Fraryhurst and owned it until 1909, moved to London after Nathaniel died. Margaret's sisters lived in Fraryhurst.





**IN MEMORY
OF
NATHANIEL FRARY MILLER
WHO DIED AT
PRINSTED, SUSSEX, ENGLAND
MAY 9TH 1869
IN THE
48TH YEAR OF HIS AGE
NEARER MY GOD TO THEE**



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 4558533-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		WESTBOURNE							
1869 DEATH in the Sub-district of Westbourne		in the County of Sussex							

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
370	May 9th 1869 Prinsted Westbourne	Nathaniel Frary Miller	Male	47 years	Houseman	Inflammation of the lungs with abscess Certified	Harry Ann Rodmer present at death Prinsted Westbourne	Twelfth May 1869	Charles Fisher Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 7th day of January 2013

DYD 420372

See note overleaf

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

IPS 046657 39900 03/11 3MSPSL 028905

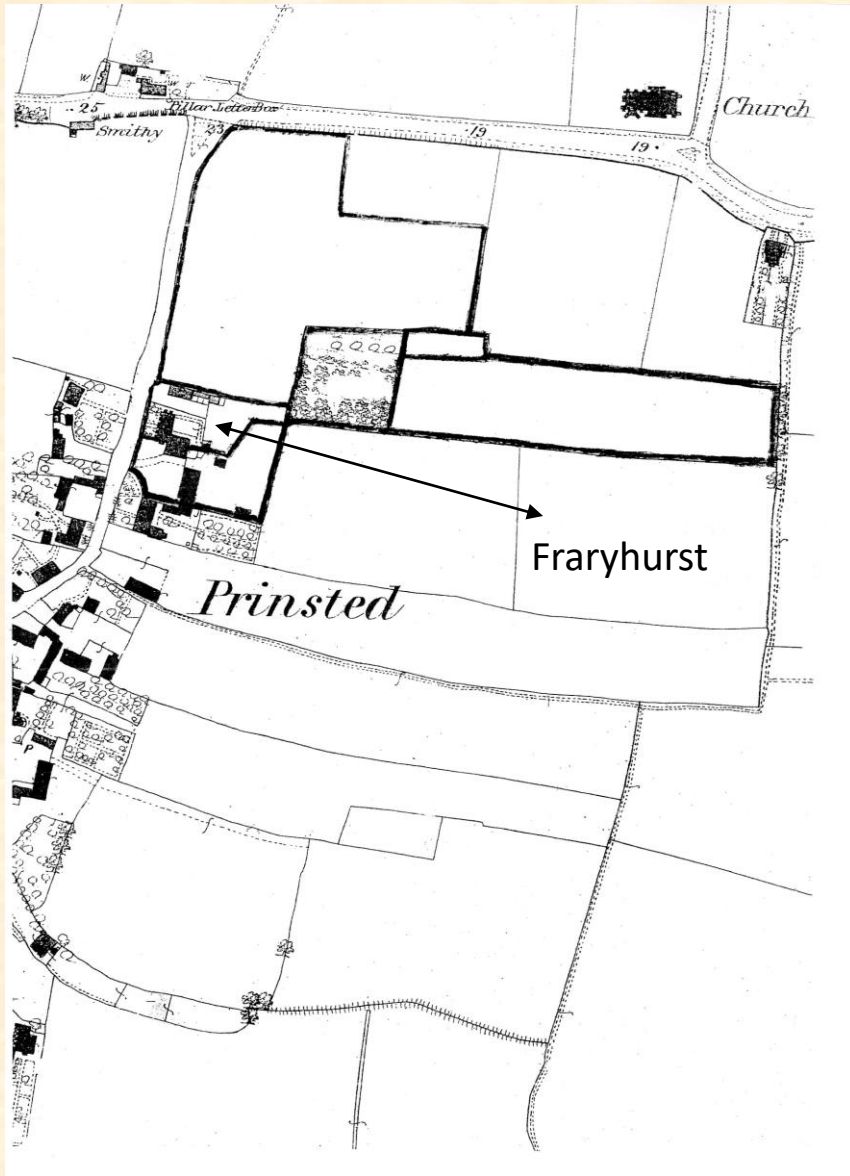
GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
ENGLAND

Died 9th May 1869
Prinsted, West Sussex
Buried 11th June 1869
Green-Wood Cemetery NY



‘Fraryhurst’ a Victorian flint fronted house, built mid 1860’s, inherited by Margaret Miller and owned by her until 1909, is located between the Coach House and the Manor House, Prinsted Lane.

Fraryhurst changed ownership in 2005.
In 2012 they extended and the Victorian glass name panel over the front door, indicative of its heritage, was removed.



I was curious about the name on the window
as I live in Frarydene,
there had to be a connection.

My research was done on the internet and I
googled the details from the window and
Nathaniel Frary Miller popped up.

Why did he have a window in our church?

David was aware of a connection with Agatha
Christie at Fraryhurst but had no idea about
the window in the church or what the
connection was as they assumed the name
would be Christie. His research was done at
the Chichester Records Office.

It took some delving to find the connection
and build the story.

Obtaining marriage and death certificates
and land registry to confirm.

Research by David Holman and Ruth Heelan

We hope this information will be of interest
to residents and devotees of Agatha Christie

1841 census transcription details for: Prinsted, Westbourne

at 35ne 1841

National Archive Reference:

RG number: HO107

Piece: 1104

Book/Folio: 3/19

Page: 40

Reg. District: Westbourne

Sub District: Westbourne

Parish: Westbourne

Enum. District:

Ecclesiastical District:

City/Municipal Borough: Prinsted, Westbourne

Address:

County: Sussex

Name	Relation	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation	Where Born
KELSEY, Richard		M	39	1802		Sussex
KELSEY, Frances		F	35	1806		Sussex
KELSEY, Harry		M	10	1831		
TIPPER, Henry		M	17	1824		Sussex
PHILLIPS, David		M	16	1825		Sussex
LAMBURN, Maria		F	18	1823		Sussex

1861 census transcription details for: Village Of Prinsted, Westbourne							
National Archive Reference:							
RG number:	RG9						
Piece:	628						
Folio:	189						
Page:	5						
Reg. District:	Westbourne						
Sub District:	Westbourne						
Parish:	Westbourne						
Enum. District:	19						
Ecclesiastical District:	Chichester						
City/Municipal Borough:	Village Of Prinsted, Westbourne						
Address:							
County:	Sussex						
Name	Relation	Condition	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation , Disability	Where Born
KELSEY, Richard	Unmarried	Head	M	59	1802	Farmer Of 161 Acres Employing 8 Men & 3 Boys	Westbourne, Sussex
KELSEY, Margaret	Sister	Unmarried	F	57	1804	Formerly Hotel Keeper	Westbourne, Sussex
KELSEY, Frances	Sister	Unmarried	F	56	1805	House Keeper	Westbourne, Sussex
WEST, Margaret	Visitor Nurse	Unmarried	F	31	1830	Hotel House Keeper	Chichester, Sussex
WEST, Richard P	Visitor	Unmarried	M	21	1840	Draper Linen...	Chichester, Sussex
CROWDER, Fanny	Niece	Unmarried	F	21	1840		Southwick, Hampshire
CROWDER, Harry K	Nephew	Unmarried	M	16	1845		Portsmouth, Hampshire
CROWDER, Edward	Nephew		M	13	1848	Scholar	Portsmouth, Hampshire
PRATT, Rebecca	Servant		F	16	1845	House Servant	Stoughton, Sussex

1871 census transcription details for: Village Of Prinsted, Westbourne							
National Archive Reference:							
RG number:	RG10						
Piece:	1124						
Folio:	115						
Page:	20						
Reg. District:	Westbourne						
Sub District:	Westbourne						
Parish:	Westbourne						
Enum. District:	18						
Ecclesiastical District:							
City/Municipal Borough:	Village Of Prinsted, Westbourne						
Address:							
County:	Sussex						
Name	Relation	Condition	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation	Where Born
KELSEY, Richard	Head		M	69	1802		Sussex
KELSEY, Margaret	Sister		F	47	1804		Sussex
KELSEY, Frances	Sister		F	69	1806		Sussex
STEVENS, Ruth	Servant		F	23	1848		Sussex
CLARK, Edward H	Nephew in Law		M	34	1837		Hampshire
KELSEY, Fanny	Niece		F	32	1839		Hampshire
CLARK, Margaret F	Niece		F	5	1866		Hampshire
CLARK, Herbert K	Nephew		M	3	1868		Hampshire
MOODY, Matilda			F	21	1850		Hampshire

1881 census transcription details for: Traryhurst, Westbourne							
National Archive Reference:							
RG number:	RG11						
Piece:	1135						
Folio:	112						
Page:	11						
Reg. District:	Westbourne						
Sub District:	Westbourne						
Parish:	Westbourne						
Enum. District:							
Ecclesiastical District:							
City/Municipal Borough:	Traryhurst, Westbourne						
Address:							
County:	Sussex						
Name	Relation	Condition	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation , Disability	Where Born
KELSEY, Margaret L	Head	Single	F	77	1804	No Occupation	Binsted, Sussex
KELSEY, Frances	Sister	Single	F	76	1805	No Occupation	Binsted, Sussex
DAVIS, Olive	Servant	Single	F	25	1856	Domestic Servant	Binsted, Sussex

According to the Prinsted Conservation Area Appraisal 2008
Fraryhurst was built mid 1860s.
Richard Kelsey sold land to Nathaniel Frary Miller on 17th May 1866
Nathaniel married Margaret West at Westbourne on 18th April 1863
He died 9th May 1869
St Johns Church, Southbourne was completed in 1876
After his death Margaret moved to London and Fraryhurst was occupied
by relatives, until it was sold in 1909

1891 census transcription details for: Friaryhurst, Prinsted, Westbourne, Prinsted							
National Archive Reference:							
RG number:	RG12						
Piece:	850						
Folio:	58						
Page:	16						
Reg. District:	Westbourne						
Sub District:	Westbourne						
Parish:	Westbourne						
Enum. District:	6						
Ecclesiastical District:	Southbourne						
City/Municipal Borough:							
Address:	Friaryhurst, Prinsted, Westbourne, Prinsted						
County:	Sussex						
Name	Relation	Condition	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation , Disability	Where Born
KELSEY, Frances	Head	Single	F	86	1805	Living On Her Own Means	Prinsted, Sussex
DAVIS, Mary	Servant	Single	F	42	1849	General Servant	Westbourne, Sussex

1911 census transcription details for: 99 Uxbridge Road Ealing

National Archive Reference:

RG14PN6893 RG78PN343A RD128 SD4 ED26 SN347

Reg. District: Brentford

Sub District: Brentford

Parish: Ealing

Enum. District: 26

Address: 99 Uxbridge Road Ealing

County: Middlesex

Name	Relation	Condition/ Yrs married	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation	Where Born
MILLER, Margaret	Head	Widow	F	82	1829	Private Means	Chichester Sussex
MILLER, Agatha M C	Granddaughter	Spinster	F	20	1891		Torquay Devon
CHILDERS, Emily		Spinster	F	26	1885	H P Maid Domestic	Grimston Norfolk
HUNT, Elizabeth		Spinster	M	33	1878	Cook Domestic	Caversham Berks

Mary Ann and Margaret West and their ten brothers and sisters were orphans and were brought up on a farm in Sussex by childless relations. In 1851 Mary Ann met Captain Frederick Boehmer of the Argyll Highlanders, who pressed her to marry him. Since he was thirty-six and she sixteen, her family demurred but Captain Boehmer argued that, as his regiment was about to be sent abroad, the wedding should take place at once – and it did. Mary Ann and Frederick had five children in quick succession (one died as a baby) of whom the only daughter, Clara, was born in Belfast in 1854.

In April 1863 Captain Boehmer, then stationed in Jersey, was thrown from his horse and killed, at the age of forty-eight, leaving Mary Ann, now twenty-seven, with four children to support as best she could. She was an excellent needlewoman and, by embroidering pictures and screens, slippers, pincushions and the like, augmented her husband's tiny pension. As Frederick had lost what savings he had in some vague speculative venture, Mary Ann had a great struggle to make ends meet. It is little wonder that in an entry in a family 'Album to Record Thoughts, Feelings,

etc.' known as the 'Confessions', written eight years after Frederick's death, she gave her state of mind as 'Anxious'.

Meanwhile, Mary Ann's elder sister, Margaret, had been working in a large hotel in Portsmouth, a post found by an aunt who had for many years been its forceful and greatly respected receptionist. Margaret, already formidable herself, married when she was twenty-six, in April 1863. Her husband, Nathaniel Frary Miller, a widower, had been born in Easthampton, Massachusetts, and had become a successful businessman, a partner in the firm of H.B. Chaffin in New York City. Nathaniel and his first wife, a hospital nurse, had only one child, a son, Frederick Alvah Miller. After his mother's death, Frederick was brought up mostly by his grandparents in America, but, after his father remarried and settled in England, where his firm had business in Manchester, Frederick visited Nathaniel and Margaret there. Here he met Clara.

It was a fortnight after Margaret's marriage to Nathaniel that Mary Ann lost her husband. Margaret wrote immediately to her younger sister, offering to take one of the four children and bring it up as her own, and Mary Ann, now despairing, decided that Clara should go to live with her aunt and uncle in the North. The little nine-year-old was lonely and homesick in her new surroundings and Clara always believed Mary Ann had sent her away because she cared more for the boys, rather than, as seems likely, because she felt it would be less easy for a girl to make a career for herself. Clara's chief consolation was her favourite book, *The King of the Golden River*, which she brought with her from Jersey. She would read aloud to her uncle Nathaniel the story of its hero, a lonely but determined little boy, who conquered his desolation by being sensible and considerate. Clara, quiet and imaginative, knowing her aunt and uncle were being kind to her but feeling bereft and misunderstood, treasured this book all her life, as Agatha did in her turn.