

The Grinsted Family

Joseph Frederick Grinsted

The Grinsted family of Chelwood Common originated in Wisborough Green, West Sussex. Joseph Frederick Grinsted was born there into a family of farmers and butchers. He was one of 11 children. He married Violet Nora West Pinker, who was from Chelwood Common, on 14 November 1925 at All Saints Church Danehill.

Violet Nora West Pinker

Violet's parents were Walter and May Pinker. Walter was a fruit grower and lived in Chelwood Common. Walter and Mary had 9 children; Edith, Gertude (1884 - 1965), Batrice, Dorothy, Violet, Reginald, Frederick, Walter (4 November 1881 - March 1952) and Nina. Violet married Joseph Frederick Grinsted on 14 November 1925 at All Saints Church Danehill. They had two daughters:

Rosamund Stephens (nee Grinsted)

1926 -

Rosamund was born in 1926. She married Leonard Stephens in 1959 at All Saints Danehill, In 1939 they were living with their parents at Shocks Bank, Chelwood Common. This was next door to Birch Farm but has since been renamed. Rosamund died in 2003.

Pauline Ruth Bowhay (nee Grinsted)

1931 - 1 April 2015

Pauline was born in 1931. She married Thomas Richard Bowhay (1924 - 2016) on 1 March 1954. Pauline died on 1 April 2015 aged 84. Richard died on 10 May 2016, aged 92. They are both buried at St. Andrews in Calstock, Cornwall.



Pauline and Thomas Bowhay are both buried at St Andrew in Calstock, Cornwall



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Percy Ernest Grinsted

Joseph's brother's, Percy Ernest Grinsted, married Mary Grace Tunks in 1938. (see Mary Grace Grinsted in burial ground records).

Gertrude Mitchell (nee Pinker)

Violet's sister Gertrude, married Frank Mitchell on 15th July 1909 also at All Saints Danehill. On the marriage certificate Frank's occupation is listed as a clerk in the Post Office but according to his family he was a baker and kept a shop just along the road from Shocks Bank.

Douglas Collyer Pinker

1869 - 1902

Walter Pinker's brother, Douglas Collyer Pinker (1869 - 1902) married Amelia Jane Wallis and had 4 children:

Ronald Douglas Pinker

1890 - 1968

Ronald Douglas Pinker was born in 1890. He married Queenie Elizabeth Dix and they had 2 sons; Kenneth Hubert Pinker (born 15 September 1919) and Sir George Douglas Pinker (6 December 1924 - 29 April 2007) who was an Obstetric and Gynaecology consultant at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington and also the Queen's Gynaecologist.

Information supplied by Dr. Andrew Bowhay.

If you have any more information about this family that you believe would be of interest please contact the Danehill Parish Historical Society dphs@outlook.com. We'd love to hear from you



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Sir George Douglas Pinker, KCVO

6 December 1924 – 29 April 2007

George Douglas Pinker was born on 6 December 1924 in Calcutta, India, the second son of Queenie Elizabeth née Dix and Ronald Douglas Pinker, a horticulturist who worked for Suttons Seeds for 40 years, and headed the bulb and flower department for 25 years. At the time of George's birth, he ran Sutton Seeds Indian Branch in Calcutta. His older brother Kenneth Hubert was born in Reading on 15 September 1919.

From 1928 aged four, Pinker was educated at Reading School. In 1942, he began medical training at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, London, qualifying as a doctor in 1947. As a student in 1946, when the Music Society put on its first post-war production *The Mikado*, he sang one of the leading roles. He turned down a contract with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company to pursue a career in medicine. Queen Elizabeth attended the performance as patron of both the hospital and the medical school, accompanied by the two young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret.

George married former nurse Dorothy Emma Russell in London on 31 March 1951. The couple had four children: Catherine & Ian (twins), Robert and William. His wife died in 2003.

Pinker enjoyed all music, but particularly opera. He became assistant concert director of Reading Symphony Orchestra, and then in 1988 vice-president of the London Choral Society. He was a keen skier, sailor, gardener and hill-walker.

Deciding to specialize in obstetrics, he served his National Service as a lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Singapore, where he did much of his specialist training under Benjamin Henry Sheares at the British Military Hospital, Singapore. Returning to civilian life at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, in 1958 he was appointed a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology to St. Mary's Hospital and Samaritan Hospital for Women, both of which he served for the next 31 years. While at St Mary's Hospital on May 27, 1971, he assisted in the first ever Caesarian section birth under an Epidural anaesthetic. He later also held the position of Consulting Gynaecological Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital; Soho Hospital for Women; Bolingbroke Hospital, Battersea; and the Radcliffe Infirmary from 1969 to 1980.

He accepted an increasing involvement with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, serving as Honorary Treasurer, 1970–77. He was a past president of the British Fertility Society and supported the research that led to the birth in 1978 of Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby.

His work at the Royal College earned him international respect amongst obstetricians and gynaecologists. In 1980 he was elected vice-president and finally President in 1987.

He was President of the Royal Society of Medicine from 1992 to 1994.

In 1964 he and several distinguished colleagues founded the Childbirth Research Centre.^[2] Changing its name to Birthright in 1972, it is now Wellbeing of Women. Diana, Princess of Wales, whose two sons had been delivered by Pinker, became a patron in 1984.



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On 12 October 2011, the Right Reverend Vincent Nichols gave the first annual Sir George Pinker Memorial Address.

In 1973 he succeeded Sir John Peel as surgeon gynaecologist to Queen Elizabeth II. The youngest person to be appointed to the post, he delivered nine royal babies: Earl of Ulster; Lady Rose Windsor; Lady Davina Windsor; Lord Frederick Windsor; Lady Gabriella Windsor; Peter Phillips; Zara Phillips; Prince William; and Prince Harry. All of these births took place at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a significant break with royal tradition as all prior royal births had taken place at a royal residence.

In 1990, he was replaced by Marcus Setchell CVO.

George was appointed a CVO in 1983, and a KCVO in 1990. In the same year he authored the book 'Preparing for Pregnancy'. In 1991 he edited 'Clinical Gynaecological Oncology'. He also contributed to several books - Diseases of Women by Ten Teachers (1964), Obstetrics by Ten Teachers (1964), A Short Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (1967).

In his last years, he was disabled by Parkinson's disease and partial blindness. George died in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on 29 April 2007.

A Memorial Service was held in October 2007 St Marylebone Church, London, attended by the Duchess of Gloucester and Queen Anne-Marie of Greece.

Sir George's obituary was published in The Telegraph on 1 May 2007

Sir George Pinker, who died on Sunday aged 82, was the Queen's surgeon-gynaecologist from 1973 until 1990 and attended nine royal births; in 1982 he delivered the infant William, the first child of the Prince and Princess of Wales and second in line to the throne, and two years later his brother Harry.

The deliveries took place not at a royal palace but at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where Pinker was head consultant in the private Lindo wing, a favourite with royal mothers.

For William, Pinker had been under pressure from the Princess to induce labour, but insisted: "Birth is a natural process and should be treated as such."

His involvement had begun after a melodramatic gesture by the Princess, who was three months pregnant but whose relationship with her husband was already unravelling. She threw herself down a staircase at Sandringham in January 1982; while a local doctor was summoned, Pinker left London to attend to his royal patient and found that although she had suffered severe bruising, the foetus was uninjured.

It was a difficult labour the following June. It lasted 16 hours and at one stage Pinker and his medical team considered performing an emergency Caesarean section, but in the event the Princess gave birth naturally to a boy weighing 7 lb 10 oz.

In 1977 Pinker had also been present when Princess Anne (now the Princess Royal) gave birth to her first child, Peter Phillips, after a six-hour labour; in the same year, with the Queen's physician Sir Richard Bayliss, he attended the Duchess of Kent when she lost a baby after a five-month pregnancy



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at the age of 44.

When Pinker became surgeon-gynaecologist to the Queen in March 1973, on the retirement of Sir John Peel, he was, at 48, the youngest man ever to hold the post. Pinker's first royal call came in October the following year, when he delivered the Earl of Ulster, the child of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

The baby's arrival took everyone by surprise: at 4pm that afternoon the Duchess had been in the House of Lords watching her husband take the oath as a new peer. By 1am her child had been born.

Pinker's prescription for a normal pregnancy was simple: "Lead as normal a life as possible without indulging in excesses, neither eating for two nor walking two miles a day if you are not used to it."

A shy, softly-spoken man, Pinker had a reputation for being genuinely sympathetic, prepared to listen and to cut hospital red tape if necessary. He was a keen advocate of more medical research into miscarriage. During moves towards more natural births in the 1970s, he argued that "it is very important for mothers to accept modern medical assistance and not to feel guilty if they need epidural or a Caesarean."

When Pinker was spotted at Balmoral a month after the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in August 1981, the result was the front page of one French daily paper awash with photographs of the Princess and the headline Enceinte (pregnant). In fact, Pinker had merely joined the party as a guest of the Queen.

In 1978 he gave his full backing to the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown. On Woman's Hour he said he thought there were no ethical problems and offered his whole-hearted support to the technique, although he thought it would take years before it became readily available to women.

That year Pinker's name cropped up during the case of a secretary at the United States Naval Department, Alvada Kooker, who had gone on the run after shooting dead her friend, Margaret Philbin, at a bus stop. She had formed an obsession about a hysterectomy which Pinker had carried out and blamed her friends - and Pinker - for the removal of her organs. Along with others, Pinker was given an armed police guard until she was arrested. The woman was later imprisoned for life.

George Douglas Pinker was born on December 6 1924 in Calcutta and educated at Reading School and at St Mary's Hospital, qualifying as a doctor in 1947.

In 1952, as a lieutenant in the RAMC, he was posted to the British Military Hospital Alexandra as a specialist in charge of obstetrics and gynaecology and worked under Benjamin Sheares, the distinguished obstetrician who became president of Singapore in the 1970s.

Pinker was appointed a consultant gynaecological surgeon and obstetrician at St Mary's Paddington in 1958, and he took similar posts at the Middlesex Hospital in 1969 and at the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers in 1974.

His many other appointments included the presidency of the British Fertility Society in 1987, and he held several honorary degrees; Pinker also co-wrote a number of textbooks in his field, including the student classic A Short Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (1967).



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Away from medicine, Pinker's chief recreations were sailing, fell-walking and the opera.

George Pinker was created CVO (1983) and a KCVO in 1990. His wife Dorothy, a former nurse, died in 2003; they had three sons and a daughter.

Obituary: Sir George Pinker KCVO FRCS FRCOG

(take from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists newsletter May 2007)

It is a privilege to be able to pay my respects to Sir George Pinker who served this College so well as Treasurer, Vice President and finally as President. The first, I believe, to hold all three offices.

I was lucky enough to know him for the last 27 years – initially as his SR and later as a friend and colleague.

Obstetrician, gynaecologist, royal accoucheur, diplomat, teacher, role model, philanthropist, skier, sailor, walker, opera lover, devoted husband, son, brother and father of four, he was a man of many parts, all of which he played in a quiet, unassuming manner.

George Douglas Pinker was born in Calcutta in 1924 and came to England aged four. He completed his education at Reading Grammar School before taking up his medical studies at St Mary's Paddington in 1942, an institution to which he remained forever loyal.

His first contact with royalty was when he sang the role of Pish Tush in the Mikado in 1948, a performance, which would lead to an offer from the D'Oyley Carte Company to join them.

In the audience were the two young princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret. Little did they know that the handsome, young medical student with the fine baritone voice would one day play a vital role in both their lives!

He quickly obtained MRCOG and FRCS and was appointed Obstetric and Gynaecological consultant at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington in 1958, a post that he held until 1989. He later held posts at the Middlesex, Bolingbroke and Queen Charlotte's and King Edward VII Hospitals.

He was appointed Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the Royal Household in 1973 – at the age of 48 – the youngest ever to hold the post. In this role he delivered nine Royal babies with great skill and the discretion, which was his trademark. He was the first holder of this post to insist that confinements took place in hospital.

He was practically invisible to the press and never, ever made any public comment regarding his royal patients. It was even rumoured that he kept full Arab dress in 96 Harley Street, and would put it on and slip out, past the waiting paparazzi, who never gave a second glance to the slightly tubby, Middle-Eastern gentleman striding off down the road – although they might have thought twice if they had observed him getting into his rather shabby old Rover filled with enormous piles of notes, held together with rubber bands.



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George was very committed to College affairs and served as Treasurer from 1970 to 1977 and as Vice President from 1980 to 1983.

As President of the College from 1987 to 1990 he was, as ever, a safe pair of hands, the ultimate diplomat, able to find a solution to the trickiest of problems. Some would say he avoided controversy but he was a superb ambassador and role model for our profession, and significantly the last but one non academic to hold this office in the College – do I hear cries of "shame"?

One of his greatest achievements was to found Birthright - now Wellbeing of Women, the charitable arm of this college – and to persuade Princess Diana to its Patron. The charity flourished under her patronage and brought about heady days at 27 Sussex Place.

He was a safe obstetrician and gynaecologist and an excellent bedside teacher, and I was lucky enough to be appointed as his SR and he taught me so many valuable lessons.

I learnt from him always to keep the patient at the centre of any clinical situation – especially when teaching. He gave his patients his absolute individual attention and treated all women with the same dignity and respect whatever their circumstances. They all got as much time as was required. Even though he could be running an hour behind schedule, his patients did not mind. They knew that they too would get as much of his time as they needed.

George was not a flamboyant man and cared little for clothes but knew exactly what the occasion demanded. He kept a best suit for special occasions and always wore a college tie. On one Saturday morning I arrived at the Lindo Wing to see a patient, dressed in smart trousers and a jacket but with no tie. George was coming down the steps "Good Lord, Roger," he said, looking me up and down with that little smile of his "I had no idea you were on holiday".

George never carried a bleep, but as his SR, and with assistance from his devoted secretary Carolyn and his storm trooper midwives at the Lindo Wing, you always knew how to get hold of him – whether it was at Balmoral, Sandringham or more commonly Covent Garden. The House Manager at Covent Garden was usually aware of George's seat number and occasionally he was summoned just likely at the right moment. There was one night however when the call came through during the interval. The Crush Bar was heaving as always so the House Manager banged his cane and shouted "does anyone here know Mr George Pinker?" A hundred women raised their hands!

He was a member of the Gynaecological Travellers and served as its secretary for seven years and was arguably responsible for making it one of the most significant travelling clubs in the UK, with a remarkable record in producing RCOG Presidents and Council members, nine of whom are here today.

Married to Dorothy in 1952, and with four children, they kept open house. Hospitality at Medley with its beautiful garden was legendary, with good company, fine wine and often silly games. Dorothy was always at his side at all the social functions great and small which became his lot – she was his huge support and despite frequently muttering "Oh George!!!" about how he really ought to lose a bit of weight, she could usually be persuaded to provide him with his beloved pecan and butterscotch tart.



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Their home was filled with artefacts and souvenirs from overseas visitors – he and Dorothy loved travelling and it is a bitter irony that one of their post retirement wishes was to travel again to many of the places they had visited while representing the College.

George was honoured by degrees from the USA, South Africa, and Australia. He received a personal knighthood, KCVO, from the Queen in 1990. His final role before retirement was as President of the Royal Society of Medicine.

He was a Wagnerian through and through, loved skiing in Val d'Isère with a passion, and was hell to keep up with on his short scorpion skis. He was an enthusiastic gardener, sailor and fell walker.

In addition to his professional achievements he was also Vice President of the London Choral Society and a member of the Council of the Winston Churchill Trust. He was also a confident sailor and fell walker. He was also President of the St Mary's Music Society. How he found the time for all this is a mystery to me!

On his retirement, a surprise party was held for him at the Grosvenor House, over a thousand women came to honour him – including two queens, one princess, two duchesses and countless countesses – all of them grateful patients. Sir David Frost who was one of his greatest fans did a 'This is Your Life'. It was obvious that for George, his greatest achievement was that of his family, who gathered that day to honour him.

Sadly, the many plans that he and Dorothy had for retirement were cruelly hijacked by the onset of severe and progressive medical problems. Like everything else in life, George faced these problems stoically and with good humour. He never complained and was even able to joke that "With Dorothy being all body and no brain and me being all brain and no body, we just about make up one rather good human being".

Dorothy died in 2003 and George remained in his beloved Cotswolds in the hands of his loving family and devoted carers. It was said at his funeral that his diary during the week before his death, was full!

He died with his favourite Wagner playing, surrounded by his family.

He was truly a remarkable man – I owe him a great deal for all he did for me and for my family. He inspired his SR's or George Pinker's "boys" as we were sometimes known – to become good, caring doctors. His enthusiasm led me to a love of opera, of skiing, of entertaining, of travel and of pecan and butterscotch tart. I loved him greatly and will miss him very much, as will his family, friends, colleagues and of course this College.

Roger Marwood, May 2007

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Sir George Douglas Pinker received his Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in the 1983 Birthdays honours list.



Sir George Douglas Pinker



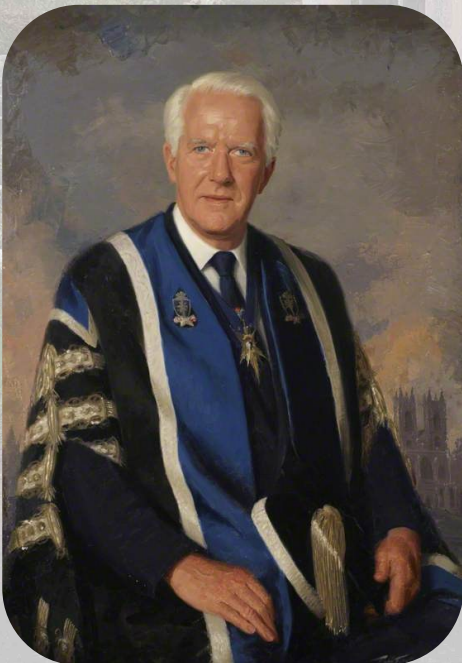
British gynaecologist George Pinker (1924-2007) in conversation with Princess Anne who stands beside her husband, British equestrian Captain Mark Phillips, as Sister Zohra Ahrov carried a Paddington Bear soft toy and midwife Delphine Stephens carries the Royal's newborn son Peter Phillips, among hospital staff, as they leave the Lindo Wing of St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London, England, 17th November 1977



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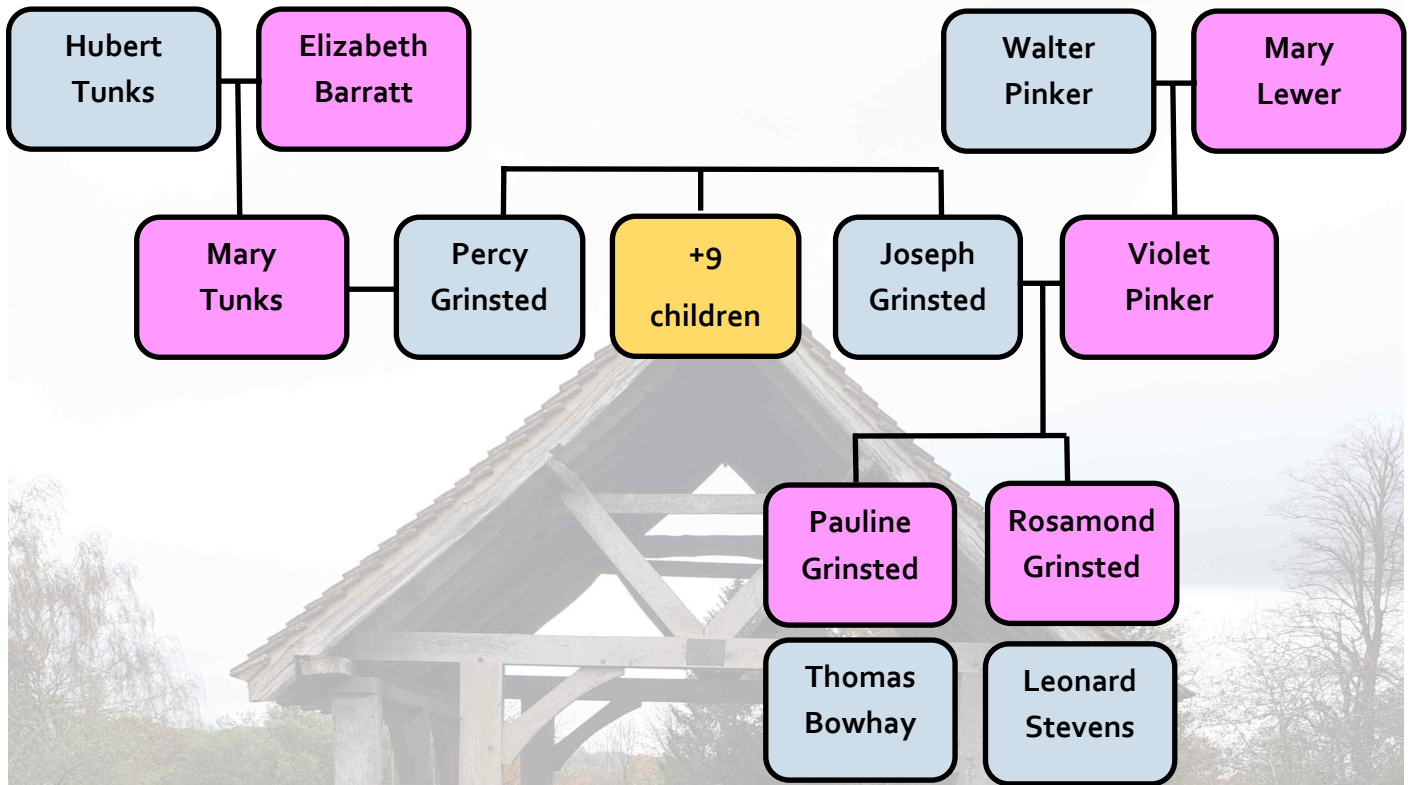


Sir George Douglas Panker is buried with his wife, Dorothy Emma Panker at Willersey Parish Cemetery, Cotswold District, Gloucestershire

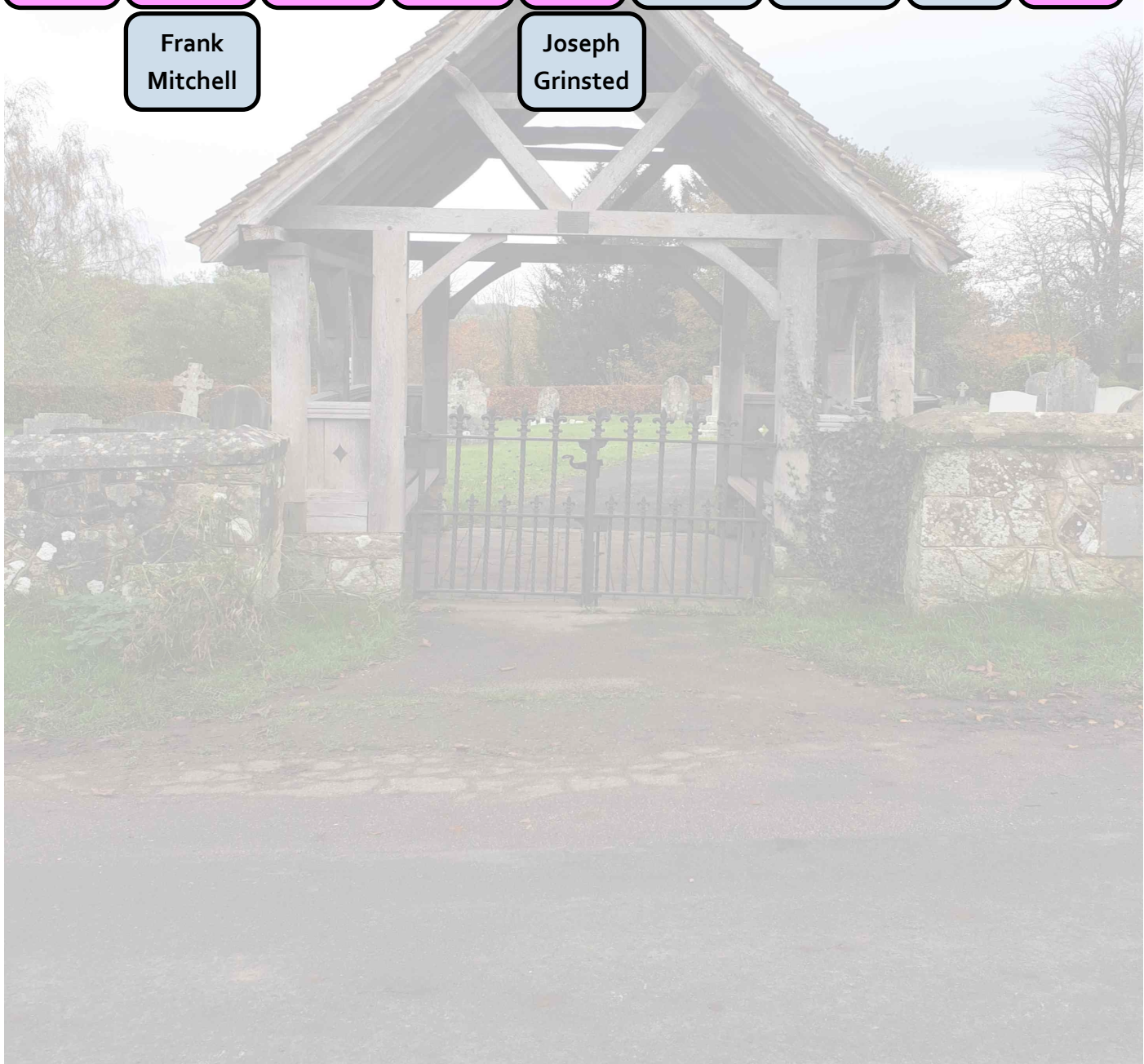
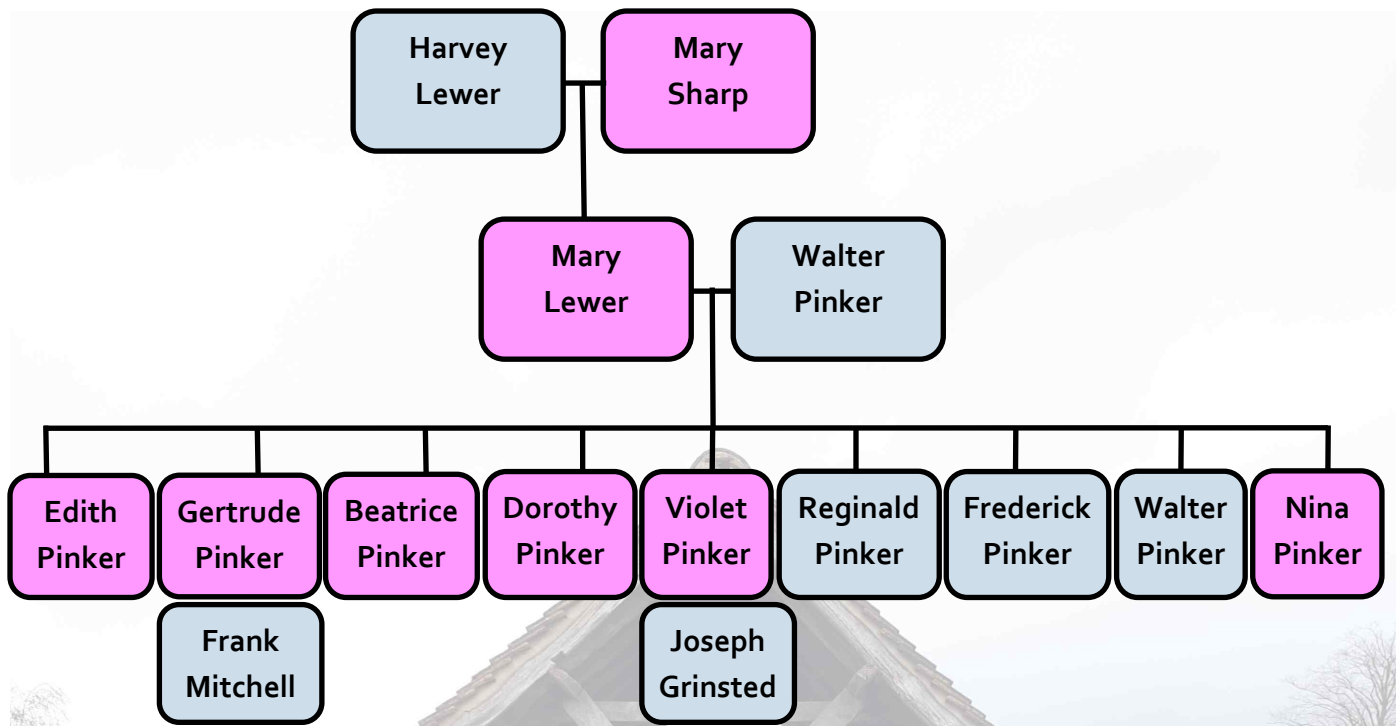


Sir George Douglas Panker (1924–2007), President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (1987–1990), painted by Paul Fitzgerald (1922–2017)

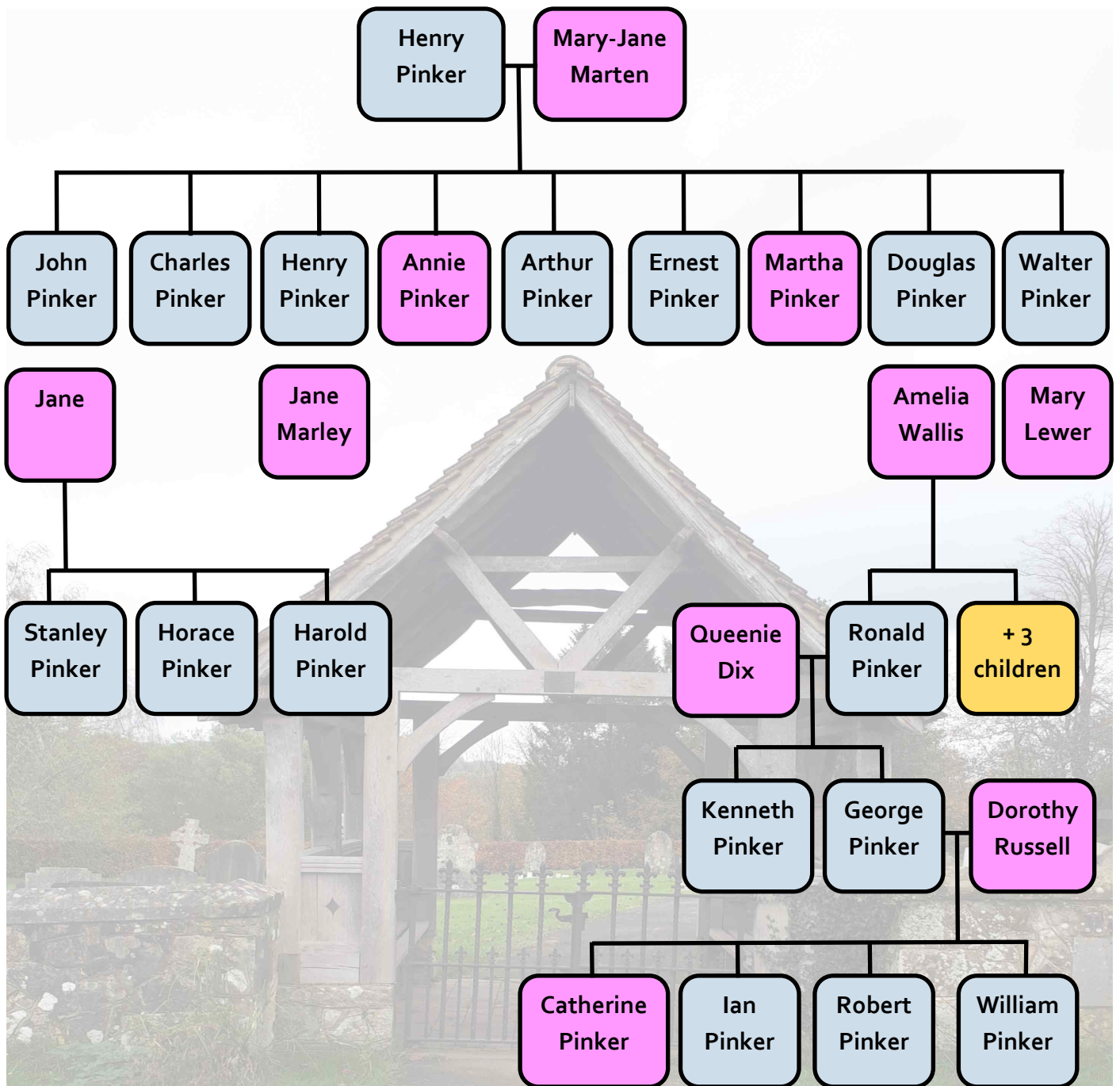




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