

# Harold George Messel

7 February 1877 - 25 August 1920

Harold George Messel was born on 7th February 1877 in Kensington, London. His father was Ludwig Ernst Wilhelm Messel and his mother was Anne Cussans.

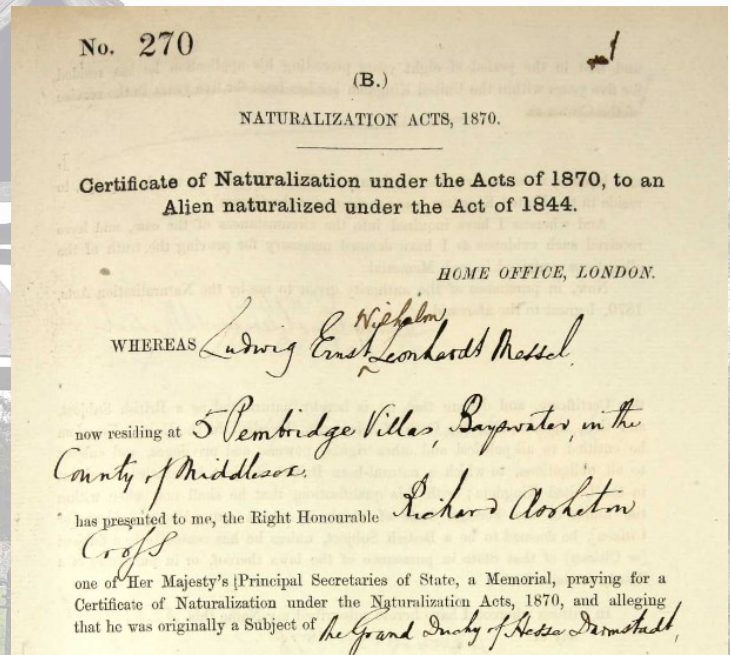
He married Leonora Putnam Gibson on 18th November 1903, in New York . They moved to England and settled in London and Danehill, Danehurst being their country home. They had two children, Randolph and Phoebe Messel.

Harold 's occupation was a stock broker at the time of his death on 25th August 1920. He died at Upper Berkeley Street, London, aged 43. He left £350,480 3s 1d. He was buried at Danehill cemetery on 28 August 1920.

## Ludwig and Anne Cussans



Ludwig Ernst Wilhelm Messel came from Darmstadt, Germany. He became a naturalised British subject and the family settled in England.



**Left: The Messel family**

**Above: Certificate of naturalisation for Ludwig Messel**

**Below Left: From left to right; Anne Cussans, Matilda Ann Goodman Cussans (nee Southwood), Jane Cussans, and Georgina Cussans**

Ludwig owned Nymans the house and gardens in Handcross, now run by the National Trust.



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## Leonora Putnam Messel (nee Gibson)

25 April 1882 - 19 May 1938

Leonora Putnam Gibson was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA on 25th April 1882, her parents were Robert Gibson and Jenny Putnam.

Leonora studied in Hamburg, Germany for 3 years.

At some time she met the Englishman Harold George Messel and they married in New York on 18th November 1903. They moved to England and settled in London and Danehill, Danehurst being their country home.

Two children followed shortly after marriage, a son, Randolph Putnam Messel in 1904, and a daughter, Phoebe in 1907. The 1911 census records the family living at 8, Gloucester Square, London, the house had 19 rooms.

Employed by the Messel family were a governess, nurse, cook, 2 kitchen maids, a ladies maid, a between maid, butler and a footman.

At the time of her death on 19th May 1918, Leonora was living at Danehurst, Danehill. She was 43 years old. She was buried in Danehill cemetery on 21 May 1918.



Harold and Leonora Messel are buried in Danehill cemetery



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After, Leonora's death, her husband Harold, donated some money to the Danehill community to build the village hall. There was not quite enough to complete the building but the majority of the money came from the donation from Harold. The hall was dedicated to Leonora and a plaque is displayed within the hall to this day

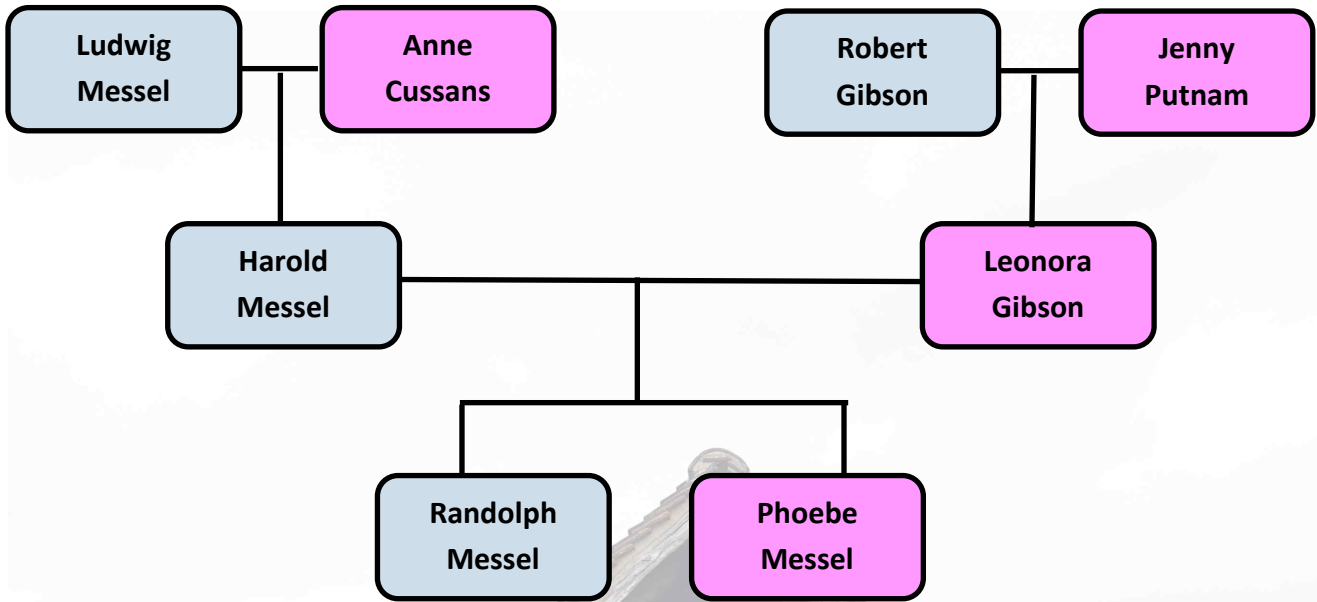


Above: the memorial hall.

Below: the plaque displayed within the hall in honour of Leonora



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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](mailto:dphs@outlook.com). We'd love to hear from you



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