

# George Herbert Engleheart



George Herbert Engleheart was born in Guernsey, Channel Islands on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1851. He was the son of George Edward Engleheart and Winifriede Anna Engleheart (nee Dicker) who had married in the last quarter of 1847 in the district of Lewes, Sussex.

The 1851 census (taken on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1851) records that George E. Engleheart was a 32 year old Barrister at Law (Not in Practice). His wife, Winifriede A., was a 24 year old, only weeks away from giving birth to her second child – George Herbert. 2 year old Mary Augusta Margaret Engleheart is also included on the census. Mary had been born in 1848 in Lewes, Sussex. The family was living at 4 Upper Candie Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands with 2 servants – Ellen Worger (Nurse Maid) and Ann Pope (nurse).

The 1861 Census records that George Herbert Engleheart was a 9 year old, living at Number 1 Alma Parade, Scarborough, Yorkshire with his 28 year old mother, who was widowed and occupation listed as fundholder. Also listed in the house were twin 5 year old boys – Octavius Frederic Engleheart and Arthur Maximilian Engleheart – born in 1854 at Chichester, Sussex.

In 1868 George Herbert Engleheart won a prize of £15 for proficiency in General Education.

In 1869, George Herbert Engleheart was a scholar at Exeter College, Oxford.

The 1871 Census records George Herbert Engleheart as an undergraduate at Exeter College, Oxford. Meanwhile, Winifriede, George's mother, is recorded on the 1871 census as living at Cliff Terrace, St Peter Port, Guernsey with George's twin brothers, Octavius and Maximilian, aged 15 years.

The Oxford University Alumni for 1500-1886 records that George Herbert Engleheart matriculated 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1870, aged 18. He was a scholar from 1869-74 and received a B.A. in 1874 and M.A. in 1877.

The Littlebury's Herefordshire Directory for 1876-1877 records that Rev. George Herbert Engleheart B.A., of Exeter College, Oxford was the curate (assistant to the Parish Vicar) of Lucton village.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1878 George Herbert Engleheart married Mary Isabel Evans at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

Rev George Engleheart became the curate of St George's, Leicester from 1877 until 1881. During this time, the Englehearts had a son – Paul whose birth was registered in June quarter of 1879 at Leicester. Paul was born on April, 19<sup>th</sup>, 1879.

The 1881 census records George Engleheart, aged 29, living at 4 Hobart St, Leicestershire, with his wife Mary, aged 25 years, his son Paul, aged 1 year and Harriett Wempress, a general servant. George Engleheart's occupation was listed as Curate of St Georges.

Rev Engleheart then became the Vicar of Chute Forest – a forest stretching into the county of Hants bordering with Wiltshire.

Around the period after 1881, Rev George Engleheart, vicar of Chute Forest, Wiltshire, had begun experiments in daffodils. He was a good general gardener & had written on the cultivation of vegetables. Engleheart was related to William Herbert (1778-1847) who was described as "the original amateur

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hybridiser". Herbert was ordained as a minister in 1814 & in 1840 became Dean of Manchester and was then known as Dean Herbert. Dean Herbert was interested in most areas of gardening especially hybridizing various flowers & vegetables. In the first half of the nineteenth century, William Herbert was the foremost English authority on plant hybridization. He met & mentored Edward Leeds who gave his name to the section *Leedsii* in the old daffodil classification. Leeds raised hundreds of new seedlings, one of which he named '*Dean Herbert*'. Even though George Engleheart was born after Dean Herbert died, it appears that he inherited the scientific instincts of his ancestor & was also attracted to the hybridizing of daffodils.

Kelly's Directory of 1889 records the details for Chute Forest – Rev George Herbert Engleheart, position held since 1881, who resides at Appleshaw. (Appleshaw is a village in the county of Hampshire, lying on the Wiltshire border and is about 3 miles from Chute Forest.)

The 1891 census records George H Engleheart as a 39 year old, Vicar of Cute Forest, Wilts. He was living with his wife – Mary I Engleheart, aged 35, their 11 year old son Paul & 50 year old general servant – Martha C North. The family were residing at Rose Hill Cottage, Andover, Hampshire.

Rosehill Cottage is now a Grade II listed building in Appleshaw, near Andover, Hampshire.



*Rosehill Cottage, Appleshaw*

In 1892, Rev Engleheart's revolutionary new daffodil '*Golden Bell*' had received the Royal Horticultural Society's highest award of First Class certificate.

The 1895 Kelly's Directory of Hampshire records Rev George Herbert Engleheart as Vicar of Chute Forest, Wilts.

The Warren's Winchester Directory for 1895 & 1900 records Rev G. H. Engleheart at Appleshaw (Post Town - Andover).

In March 1897, Narcissus '*Ellen Willmott*', raised and shown by the Reverend Engleheart, won an RHS first class certificate. Ellen Ann Willmott was described by Gertrude Jekyll (an influential British garden designer, writer and artist) as being "the greatest of living women-gardeners." Ellen Ann Willmott was the recipient of the first Victoria Medal of Honour in 1897 and previously purchased daffodil stock from the Rev George Engleheart to begin hybridising.

In the March quarter of 1897, a birth was registered at Andover, Hampshire for Mary Catherine F Engleheart - a daughter for Rev George & Mary Engleheart.

In 1897, the British Museum purchased 33 objects from Rev George Engleheart. The items consisted of pewter bowls, pewter dishes, pewter plates, pewter cups, pewter fragments & a pewter flagon. Some of the items were found in 1849 at Icklingham, Sussex (not by Rev



Engleheart) & the remainder of the items had been located at Appleshaw, Hampshire. The items dated back to 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.

In 1898, Engleheart exhibited six bulbs of his seedling *Will Scarlett*, which had a striking orange cup, at the Birmingham Show. Three of the bulbs were purchased by John Pope, (1848-1918) a nurseryman of King's Norton, for £100. Rev Joseph Jacob (an eminent gardening parson) of Whitehall Rectory wrote "This was the first instance of so large a sum being paid for a daffodil, but proved so successful a speculation that others were encouraged to try their luck or judgement". Engleheart retained the other three for breeding. In later years, when there were many successful breeders obtaining high prices, Rev Jacob also wrote "it must be remembered that their successes have been obtained from flowers that Engleheart gave them to work upon." It must also be noted that patience is required in the hybridizing of daffodils – it takes five to seven years to bring a daffodil from pollination to seed.

At the first April meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1898, Rev Engleheart also showed a beautiful group of his new seedling daffodils – of these 3 were each given a first class certificate, one being *Lady Margaret Boscawen*.

The February 1899 edition of *The Antiquary* makes reference to Rev Engleheart continuing his search which led to the discovery of some remarkable pewter vessels close to Appleshaw. The vessels were found in a hole made in the floor of a room, believed to be a bath-house.

In 1900, Rev Engleheart was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society for his achievements in daffodils. The Victoria Medal of Honour is awarded to British Horticulturalists, resident in the United Kingdom & for whom the RHS Council considers deserving of a special honour by the Society.

The 1901 Census, taken March 31<sup>st</sup>, records George H *Ingleheart*, aged 49 years, a Clergyman C of England, living at Appleshaw. Also listed was Mary I, aged 45, Mary C. F., aged 4 and Mary Ambrose, a general servant, aged 43. Paul Engleheart, their son, is listed as a 21 year old boarder at Greenwich, London. His occupation is recorded as Marine Engineer (Pupil).

In 1901, Rev George Herbert Engleheart purchased property in Dinton, named Little Clarendon. The property consisted of some 27 acres in which Rev Engleheart could expand on the growing of many new varieties of daffodils. When the house was purchased by Rev Engleheart it was in a "dreadful state." Rev Engleheart & his wife set about its restoration & moved into Little Clarendon a year later, in 1902. Engleheart set up greenhouses and long numbered beds with broad grass walks between them for his daffodils of which he bred many important new varieties.



*Little Clarendon (Photo by Andrew Stacey)*



The Rev George Herbert Engleheart, M.A. was elected then admitted as an Honorary Fellow to the Society of Antiquaries on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1902.

The Kelly's Directories for 1903, 1907 & 1911 list Rev George Engleheart at Little Clarendon, Dinton.

Rev George Engleheart was an invited guest at the Third International Conference on Genetics in 1906, which was held by the Royal Horticultural Society (Great Britain).

In December quarter of 1906, Paul Engleheart, son of Rev George Engleheart, married Alice Mary A Hayden in the district of St George Hanover Square, London. In 1908, Paul Engleheart left England to travel to Mexico. He was a fully trained engineer and built a dam/power house and a railroad to Lago Botella in the Central Mexican Highlands.

The Roman Villa at Hemsworth was the title of a paperback book that was written by Rev G. H. Engleheart & published in 1909. Engleheart oversaw the excavation of the Roman Villa at Hemsworth, Dorset, in 1908, and the raising of 2 tessellated pavements. The Villa was first identified in 1831, when numerous mosaic floor tiles were found. The 2 pavements were presented to the British Museum in 1908 by the landowner, Lord Alington.

The 1911 Census records George Herbert Engleheart, aged 59, a Clerk in Holy Orders, as a visitor at the residence of John Charles Williams Esq. He was staying with the Williams family at the Caerhays Castle, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall. The Castle had 56 rooms & had 19 servants listed on the Census.

It is believed that Rev George Engleheart & John Charles (known as J. C.) Williams probably met at a daffodil display in Truro in 1897. The 1880's and 1890's saw the launch of commercial daffodil growing for the flower markets of London and the Midlands and it became evident that west Cornwall farmers might also benefit from the trade. This would have given J C Williams extra encouragement and purpose, so the Daffodil Spring Flower Show was held so that the public could see the range of varieties available at that time. J. C. Williams was its President & among the judges at that first show was Rev George Engleheart. This was to be the beginning of a lifelong friendship.

J. C.'s great friend and ally was his cousin Percival Williams ('P.D.') of Lanarth in St Keverne who shared JC's enthusiasm. Within three weeks of the first show, the two cousins had visited Engleheart's garden at Appleshaw in Hampshire and purchased a great many of the Engleheart daffodils which in turn were to become the basis of the new varieties produced by the cousins over the next thirty years or so. The central feature of the Spring Flower Show, and one of the reasons for its continuing success, was the developing rivalry between the cousins in the main classes. Small farmers in west, central and south-east Cornwall were given the opportunity to grow a new crop which was of great value and provided extra employment during the 1930's and the years of agricultural depression.

The Rev Engleheart & J.C. Williams became great personal friends, with Engleheart being William's chief guide with daffodil growing. Rev Engleheart came to Caerhays every spring up to about 1914.



Caerhays Castle, Cornwall  
(Photo by Nilfanion – Creative Commons Attribution – Share Alike)



Mary Isabel Engleheart, Rev Engleheart's wife, is recorded on the 1911 census as a 55 year old living at Little Clarendon, Dinton, Salisbury. Also listed at that address is her 14 year old daughter – Mary Catherine Frances Engleheart & 2 servants – Amy Rosina Smart (house Parlour maid) & Elizabeth Jane Williams (cook) both aged 25 years.

The Engleheart Cup, named in honour of Rev George Engleheart & his achievements, was founded in 1913 by the Royal Horticultural Society. The Cup is awarded annually to the display of the best 12 daffodils all bred & raised from seed by the exhibitor. It is the most coveted award at the R.H.S.'s Daffodil Show in London.

The Kelly's Directories for 1915, 1920 & 1927 list Rev George Engleheart at Little Clarendon, Dinton.

In 1921, Mary Engleheart had an outbuilding at Little Clarendon converted & furnished into a Catholic chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Pity.

The Veitch Memorial Medal was awarded to George Engleheart by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1926. The prize is awarded to "persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture."

In 1928, Rev George Engleheart donated 3 copper alloy coins to the British Museum.

In 1933, the late P.D. Williams wrote the following about George Engleheart – "*It is only natural that the first volume of the renewal of the Daffodil Year Book should be dedicated to George Engleheart, who is alone and outstanding as the producer of the most beautiful hybrid narcissii that is now so popular..... In 1923 his bulbs were badly attacked by eel-worm and fly, so he decided to part with his whole stock; he was over 70, and felt entitled to rest after a long and strenuous life. He now gave more time to archaeology and was closely connected with the investigation and excavation of Stonehenge. Engleheart is a highly-cultured man, well read and most appreciative of everything that is beautiful..... His home and its contents are as near perfection as most people attain.....his handwriting, at the age of 82, is still the neatest and most perfect I have ever seen.*"

In 1936, Rev Engleheart & his wife Mary received a letter from their grandson George Engleheart describing at length how his father Paul had drowned in a boating accident near his home in Central Mexico and the elaborate funeral arrangements.

Over the years, George Engleheart contributed several items to *The Times* newspaper, mainly Letters to the Editor on a range of subjects from Stonehenge, the effect of tar and trout, respect for County history, preventing pickpockets and saving the rain. The Times ran a full length column news article on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1936 on page 13. The article was written by George Engleheart on the topic of Stonehenge.



End column – article written George Engleheart. *The Times* March 14, 1936  
(see Section on Dinton page Letters to Editor – George Engleheart for full extract)



The day after the full length column article was published in *The Times*, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1936, George Engleheart died.

A death notice was placed in *The Times* newspaper on Tuesday March 17, 1936 –  
“Engleheart – On March 15, 1936. *GEORGE HERBERT ENGLEHEART*, in his 85<sup>th</sup> year. *Requiem and burial 10.30 Thursday, at Little Clarendon, Dinton, Wilts. R.I.P* “

Probate was granted on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1936 to Mary Isabel Engleheart, widow. *The Times* newspaper notice on this was placed on Tuesday June 23, 1936 –  
“Engleheart, *Mr George Herbert, F.R.H.S., of Dinton, Wilts (net personalty £7,952) .. ..£11,091*”

*The Times* newspaper had 2 Obituaries for George Engleheart & another was published in the *Catholic Herald*. (see Section on Dinton page under Obituaries)

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The 1939 Kelly's Directory listed Engleheart, Mrs Mabel Isobel, Little Clarendon, Dinton.

Mary Isobel Engleheart, widow of George Herbert Engleheart, died 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1948. Her age was 93.



**Rev George Herbert Engleheart**  
(Photo kindly supplied by Sally Kington – RHS Archives  
& thanks also to Northern Group of Daffodil Society)



*“the daffodil maker”*

*“Engleheart introduced many of the most popular daffodils grown today”*

*“The doyen of the cult”*

*“...especially Engleheart of Dinton, the most famous raiser of new 244 varieties who has ever lived”*

*“Beersheba - it was the daffodil which made him immortal, at least to the lovers of narcissus.”*

*“Father of the Modern Daffodil”*

*“Engleheart is responsible for many of our most beautiful daffodils”*

*“It was indeed a rare and intense pleasure to visit the Great Master Artist of Daffodils to hear all he had to say: and to see his marvellous flowers and spend a few hours in his company at his so wonderfully charming and beautiful little home.”*

*“Horace - George Engleheart’s greatest triumph.”*

*“Engleheart was valued by those most competent to judge”*

*“one name stands out alone- George Herbert Engleheart”*

*“universally known among horticulturists”*

*“Engleheart developed the daffodil to the high standard that exists today”*





**Rev George Engleheart (right) with Guy Wilson (left) C H Curtis (centre)**

*(Photo courtesy of Sally Kington – RHS Daffodil Archive & thanks to Northern Group of Daffodil Society)*



## **Engleheart Family Papers – held at Wiltshire and Swindon Archives**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Item</b>
C 1860	Child's notebook belonging to Mary Evans recording scripture, botany and geography lessons at school in Edgbaston with drawings.
1856-1896	Notebook entitled "Housemaids' Lists" containing list of silver, plate, cutlery, candles, glass, china, teacloths and dusters at Bredon?, the home of Mary Evans' parents.
1874-1875	Letters from Rev. George Engleheart staying with relations on Guernsey and elsewhere to his fiancée Mary Evans at Bredon, Worcestershire. (13)
1878	Notebooks with details of Mary Evans trousseau, furniture and house linen with expenses and details of materials, household expenses and measurements for curtains and shelves. (2)
1870-1887	Letters between Mary Engleheart, née Evans, and her husband and Cardinal Newman, other priests and her godfather John Shorthouse about her conversion to Roman Catholicism.
1873-1886	Notebook of Mrs. Mary Engleheart about religious matters and the failure of Protestantism.
1886-1889	Passports of Rev. G.H. and Mrs. Mary Engleheart. (2)



1889	Letter from Mrs. Mary Engleheart in Rome to her husband recording at length the eloquent sermons of Padre Agostino of Montefeltro in the church of San Carlo, Rome.
1896	Notebook of Mrs. Mary Engleheart about her retreat given by Father Bampton S.J. at Roehampton.
c1870 & c1920	Photographs of the Rev. G.H. Engleheart as a young priest and as a Victoria Medal of Honour holder.
1896	Photograph of Mrs. Mary Engleheart as a young woman, coloured botanical and ornithological paintings and watercolour of Bredon, her old home.
1910	Copies of letters recording an Italian journey by Mrs. Mary Engleheart and her daughter Catharine to her husband and father Rev. Engleheart.
1914-1935	Letters to George Engleheart and from him to his wife. (13)
1908-1940	Letters to Mrs. Mary Engleheart from a wide variety of correspondents, including her grandson, relations and Roman Catholic friends. (63)
1914-c1940	Letters to Catharine Engleheart from her mother and father. (16)
1901	Notebooks with details of costs and repairs done to Little Clarendon, Dinton, with size of rooms there and at Appleshaw, sizes of windows, doors, heights of seats, mantelpieces and dados, stone fireplaces, list of carpets and drawings of fireplaces. (4)
1901	Sale catalogue of the Engleheart daffodils bred by him at Appleshaw, Hampshire.
1909-1919	Correspondence and accounts between Rev. G. Engleheart and private daffodil growers, nurserymen and commercial bulb growers about his daffodils grown at Dinton.
1909-1914	Notes of daffodil bulb sales from Dinton stock and draft catalogue.
c1920	Photographs of Little Clarendon house and garden, the daffodil growing fields, a milestone on the old coach road, G.H. Engleheart fly-fishing on the Nadder near Dinton mill and the mill pool.
c1910-c1940	An account of the restoration of Little Clarendon, Dinton, by the Rev. G.H. Engleheart and his wife recorded by their daughter, and plans of the layout of the house.
1940	Correspondence and memoranda about the National Trust's acquisition of Little Clarendon, with an inventory of furniture in the house.
1921	Copies of letters from Catharine Engleheart to her parents from Central Mexico, where she had gone to stay with her brother Paul and his family. Paul ran an electricity generating business and the letters describe vividly their life, the countryside and the fauna and flora: also a photograph of an unidentified Mexican village and mountains.
1936	Letter of George Engleheart to his grandparents Rev. G.H. and Mary Engleheart describing at length how his father Paul had drowned in a boating accident near his home in Central Mexico and the elaborate funeral arrangements.
1937	Diary of Mrs. Mary Engleheart at Little Clarendon
c1950	Printed poem by Catharine Engleheart entitled "Mother".
c1950	Manuscript memoirs about Mrs. Mary Engleheart's life by her daughter Catharine with poems of Rev. G.L. Engleheart. Included is the detailed story of her conversion to Roman Catholicism, her Quaker background and the developing daffodil business of her husband's at Dinton.
c1950-1963	Letter to Margaret Spalding at Little Clarendon from Catharine Engleheart at the Taena Community (a religious house) in Gloucestershire.
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Miscellaneous notes, poems and papers of the Engleheart family.

