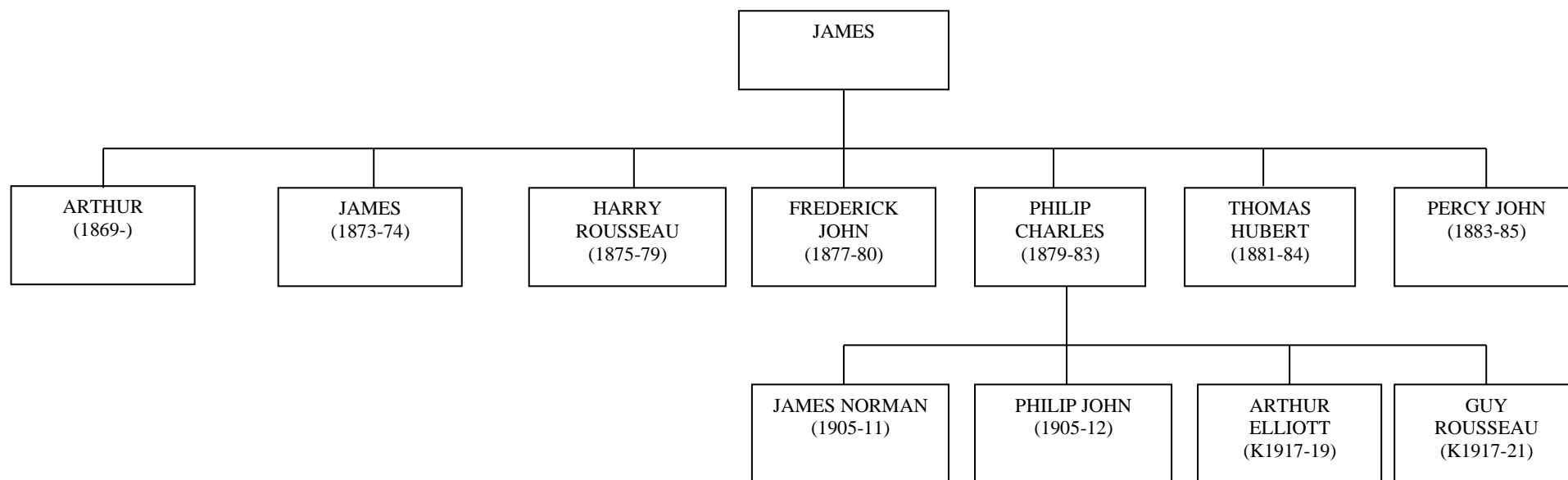


## BENNETT FAMILY (Dates shown are years at Framlingham)



We are indebted to Mary Montefiore (granddaughter of Philip John Bennett) and Nigel Edwards (grandson of Guy Rousseau Bennett) for helping us piece together the Bennett family at the College and for providing much of the following information on members of the family. As you will read below, it is clear that Framlingham inculcated in these Bennetts a great love a sport, and several of them pursued this to a high level after leaving the college.

**ARTHUR (1869-)** Cricket XI 1870. Became head brewer at G Shaw & Co Leigh Brewery for 30 years. This notice posted at the time he retired.

**JAMES (1873-74)** - James played for Gloucester Rugby Club in the late 1870s. But more notably, he and his brother, Frederick, were both working in Argentina where, among other things, they played polo. In October 1894 they were members of the Flores Athletic Club's Polo Team that won the River Plate Championships at the Hurlingham Club in Buenos Aires (see attached photo taken at the time of the winners – left to right: H.S. Robson, T.S. Robson, Frederick Bennett, James Bennett). Frederick was the captain. Today, this is now known as the Argentine Open Championship, the fifth oldest in the world and regarded as the most important event in the sport. James, unfortunately, was murdered in Argentina. He had his own ranch at El Guaycuru, Longuimay Pampa, in the central Argentine. He appears to have been shot dead in his bed (suffering from 'flu) by an Argentine gaucho in what may have been a dispute over a payment.

RETIREMENT OF A LEIGH BREWER.

After being in the employ of Messrs. G. Shaw and Co., Leigh Brewery, for 30 years as head brewer, Mr. Arthur Bennett has now retired. On Monday the opportunity was taken to make him several presentations. The directors gave him a cheque for £100, and silver plate to the value of £25. All the workpeople and staff assembled to show their high esteem of him, and Mr. J. H. Unsworth, who has also been employed at the brewery for 30 years, and Mr. T. M. Frankland, head of the building department, paid high tributes to Mr. Bennett's worth. The presentation from the staff and workpeople comprised a large travelling suit case, specially fitted up with all requisites, whilst the building department gave him a beautiful leather golf bag. Mr. Bennett, who seemed to be very much affected by the kindness shown to him and the warm expressions of regard, heartily thanked everybody. The company have appointed Mr. John Hutton, of St. Helens-road, Leigh, Mr. Bennett's assistant as a head brewer.

## HARRY ROUSSEAU (1875-79)

**FREDERICK JOHN (1877-80)** – Monitor. Cricket XI, Football XI. James played for Gloucester Rugby Club in the late 1870s. But more notably, he and his brother, James, were both working in Argentina where, among other things, they played polo in the 1880s. They were instrumental among other things in setting up the Flores Athletics Club in Buenos Aires and developing polo and other sports there. This photo on the right has Frederick (standing third from left) as a member of the Buenos Aires Football Club photographed in 1891 when they were the rugby champions.

In October 1894 they were members of the Flores Athletic Club's Polo Team that won the River Plate Championships at the Hurlingham Club in Buenos Aires (see photo on left taken at the time of the winners – left to right: H.S. Robson, T.S. Robson, Frederick Bennett, James Bennett). Frederick was the captain. Today, this is now known as the Argentine Open Championship, the fifth oldest in the world and regarded as the most important event in the sport.



Frederick was a founder member of the Polo Association of the River Plate, serving on its governing body. This is today the Argentine Polo Association. Frederick (this time without James) won the Championship again in 1899, this time playing for the Hurlingham Club in Buenos Aires. Frederick starting a rugby club in Buenos Aires, being a rugby reserve for Wales, playing for Monmouth County and Newport. Won Ayrshire & Grand National, Buenos Aires. Devonshire & Argentine Clubs. Advertising contractor, Buenos Aires. Retired to England 1912 and farmed in Bucks



EQUIPO DE 1891. — Primer año en que el club otorgó "cups". — De pie, izquierda a derecha: R. W. Anderson, F. Jacobs, F. Bennett, P. W. S. Tucker, L. Coery-Smith (primer presidente de la Unión de Rugby), G. S. Anderson, J. T. Leitch, W. E. Johns, N. N. y M. F. Gilderbale. — Sentados: C. Webster, P. W. Steed, Adam Goodfellow (capitán), A. Lacey y N. N.—En el suelo: J. L. Findlay y W. R. S. Dalkie (primer capitán, en 1886).

**PHILIP CHARLES (1879-83)** Monitor. Cricket XI 1879 1880. Football XI 1879. Farmer and auctioneer.

**THOMAS HUBERT (1881-84)** - played football for Woolwich Arsenal (Arsenal today) and for Swindon Town FC in the late 1880s and early 1890s scoring goals in FA Cup matches. I'm grateful to Noel Ponting for providing the following additional information "*After Tom leaves Framlingham in 1884, the next record I have of him is making his debut for Swindon Town on 23rd October 1886. His last senior game was on 5th October 1889 although he was later part of the side that won the Wilts Cup in May 1890. He played there as an amateur only and his senior record was 5 appearances and 2 goals (of which at least one was scored in the FA Cup).*

*He moved to Royal Arsenal for season 1890/91. He played for them at home (in Plumstead) v Cray Wanderers on 4th October 1890 and it appears he was on the bench away at Gravesend on 11th October 1890. His last appearance appears to have been a fixture versus Upton Rovers on 6th December 1890. His record there at Royal Arsenal was just 2 appearances in friendly matches (and I strongly suspect on both occasions in the 2nd eleven only). Nil goals.*

*The next record I have is of him arriving back in Liverpool from New York in 1894 - where he is listed as a 'farmer' on the manifest.*



*By 1897 he is living in Braintree and by 1900 he identifies as an engineer and in 1901 as an Ironworks Manager.*

*In 1904 he once again travels to the USA to visit the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, identifying as a 'Loco Engineer' on the manifest.*

*By 1911 he is farming nr Ross on Wye and by 1939 he has retired to Alton, Hants. He passes away in Ealing in 1950."*

### **PERCY JOHN (1883-85)**

**JAMES NORMAN (1905-11)** - Cricket X1. 1910, 1911. Football X1. 1910. Hockey X1. Athletic and a fives caps. Served in 1st World War, Australian Light Horse, Lt.; killed in action near Nordenhoek 4.10.1917, aged 22 War Memorial in Chapel – see <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20061106180201469>



**PHILIP JOHN (1905-12)** - Cricket X1. 1912. Football X1. 1911-12. June. Victor Ludorum 1910, 1911. Springfield Cup 1912. Served in 1st World War, volunteering for Shropshire Lighthorse when 18 and then Camel Corps in Palestine followed by the Machine Gun Corps in Flanders, France, 2nd-Lt. Severely wounded in the Le Mans trenches (had half of the top of his head blown off and a large section of his upper arm – always wore a headband.). Went to Kenya in 1919 after the war and worked initially for Hugh Bartley at Nakuru. In the late 1920s he bought a small farm of 500 acres. In the early 1930s involved with Kitale Transport Company taking food to Lake Rudolph. This was the first motorised transport in the district. In 1946 bought "Gidea" farm of 3500 acres in Kitale District, north west Kenya abutting Uganda. Taken over by his sons after his death. Manager of the Kitale branch of the Kenya Farmers Association 1940-49 before retiring. Believe he founded the Kitale Rugby Club in Kenya, which is where he lived for the rest of his life after emigrating to East Africa after the First World War. On the left he is pictured left front row in a football team possibly at Framlingham and on the right is a photo of him in army uniform. He died of cancer in 1952.



**ARTHUR ELLIOTT (K1917-19)** – Cricket XI 1919. Farmer

**GUY ROUSSEAU (K1917-21)** – he was at Framlingham during the latter part of the First World War and used to recall seeing the Zeppelins passing by Framlingham. He had a photo of Framlingham College (which I took in the 1980s from the castle) on a chest of drawers near his bed when he died. He played hockey for Herefordshire and was also cricket captain for the club at Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire. Owned and ran the Central Garage in Ross-on-Wye from 1938 until the late 1970s.

A Ross-on-Wye website contains the following information on Guy or "Laddie" as he appears to have been known :



*"Laddie was born at Ingestone, Foy, in 1905 and grew up there and at Brampton Abbots. He came from a long line of Bennetts known to have been in and around the Ross area for 500 years. He worked for Dampier & Wigmore (auctioneers) before learning the motor trade with Longford & Hicks and starting up his own business around 1938 in Edde Cross Street. When the garage was requisitioned by Multicore Solders in 1939 he became a wartime reserve constable. After the war, he re-started his garage business and continued until he retired in the late 1970s, giving the business to his chief mechanic, Sandy Lane. After Sandy retired in the mid-1980s the premises was sold to Alan Porter*

*In his youth, Laddie was highly active among the sporting and charitable bodies in the town, being at various stages captain of Ross Hockey, Ross Cricket, the Larruperz, and a member of the Vitruvian Lodge of Freemasons. Following a long family tradition, he was an active shareholder and director of the Alton Court Brewery (like his father and grandfather before him) and became its last chairman in the 1950s, a position which unfortunately led to him heading its inevitable sale to the Stroud Brewery, which closed it down with the loss of all jobs. It was a decision which weighed heavily on him for the rest of his life and cost him many friends in the town and many people in the town refused to speak to him. It was made worse as it was a time of high local unemployment but it was an unavoidable decision.*

*The Vitruvian Lodge was the first Freemason's Lodge set up in Ross and most of the Ross worthies of the late 19th and early 20th century belonged to it. It was highly influential in the "politics" of the town and Laddie's father, Philip Charles Bennett, was a Worshipful Grand Master at one stage but he seemed to loose interest as time progressed.*

*Another member of the family, James Lewis who died in 1897, had a big Freemason's funeral in Ross, according to the Ross Gazette. The Lodge paraded with the coffin through the town carrying acacia branches which they afterwards threw into the grave. The villa where he lived in Over Ross Street was called Acacia Villa too. He was also a member of the town council and a local builder. "*

Nigel finishes off by saying that what made all this possible was the establishment of the railways. The Bennett boys from Herefordshire, for both generations, were put on the first train from Ross-on-Wye and reached Framlingham Station at the end of the day. In between, a hamper was loaded onto the train by Great Western staff at somewhere like Reading for their lunch.

This picture was taken at Ingestone on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1878. The photo includes all seven sons who went to Framlingham, the three daughters, and the parents. At this time, Arthur (*back row, right*) and James (*back row, left*) had already left Framlingham. The two boys standing in the centre, Harry (*left*) and Frederick (*right*) were still at Framlingham and the remaining three boys. Philip (*standing, left*), Tom (*standing, right*), and John Percy (*centre, seated*) were due to go.

