

The search for Sylvia Tatham

Sylvia Tatham a Gardnerian Witch and High Priestess who worked with Alex Sanders.
She immigrated to Australia in 1965. Some information found on her.

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The Exile's Publications ~ August 2, 2021 ~ W-015 ~ Edition A

The Search for Sylvia Tatham.

Researched and compiled
by William Wallworth

This 1st published version done on August 2, 2021 Monday 12:47 AM.

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Sylvia Tatham

Been interested in finding out more on Sylvia Tatham for a while.

She was mentioned as being at the beginning of Alex Sanders when he was first initiated in the Gardnerian tradition. Also according to Bill Liddell, Sylvia Tatham initiated him to the 3rd Degree Gardnerian and Alexandrian.

A month or so ago, I found an Incoming Passenger Card on a Mrs. Sylvia Tatham that went on a flight from London, England to Perth, Western Australia in 1965. She went with the intent of settling in Australia.

This ties in with the Sylvia Tatham story about her immigrating to Australia.

At first, the fact that this person was a divorced woman with a birth date of 1927 made me wonder if it was the same woman or not. She would have been 36 and married/or separated/or divorced at the time when she was with Pat Kopinski and Alex Sanders in 1963.

Perhaps my mind was expecting that the women who joined the covens would all be like Maxine Sanders young like early 20's and single. Then I think of all the witches I know in my circle of friends, These ladies are all in their 30's to early 50's and they all have been divorced before.

The ongoing research I done below is accurate for the Mrs. Sylvia Tatham who immigrated to Perth, Western Australia in 1965 and who died in 2007 in Victoria state, Australia.

Just wish that I found more information from outside sources such as from some of the people that were initiated by them in 1963 to 1964 that may have remembered them and perhaps confirm that Sylvia did come from Nottingham, or born in Guatemala, or who travelled around the world as a child and or was a married woman in her thirties, etc.

May be hard to find that kind of sources as to be a person that was initiated by them in 1963-1964 would now be of the age of 76 or older (if was 18 or older in 1963).

Also, no information was found about Mrs. Sylvia Tatham between her arrival to Australia in 1965 to her death in 2007 in Victoria. She is not in the Australian Electoral Rolls for the period of 1965 to 1980 (database current cutoff date is 1980). Perhaps she didn't want to register to vote or she was going around with a different name. Will try to find more information about her as time go by.

It is 1963, Gerald B. Gardner was in the last year of his life and Alex Sanders was at the beginning of his Alexandrian Wicca.... And me ? I was just a kid watching Leave it to Beaver on the television set in New York state.

The following two articles will explain the significance of Sylvia Tatham in the beginning of Alex Sanders and her part with Bill Liddell. Then follows my research on her.

From an article on Forever and a Day:

Under the article about Alex Sanders and Maxine Sanders.

Alex, was initiated into Gardnerian Wicca on March 9, 1963 by Medea of the Derbyshire Gardnerian Coven. Medea also initiated Sylvia Tatham and raised Patricia Kopanski to the Second Degree.

Patricia Crowther had refused to raise Kopanski to the Second Degree in her Sheffield Coven, so Pat left. When Medea's husband suddenly died, she closed her Coven and left the area, leaving Pat, Alex and Sylvia without a Coven or a complete BOS. They started their own Coven in Manchester, with Pat as HPS, Alex as acting HP and Sylvia as Maid.

After Sylvia received her Second and Third Degree Initiations from Scotty Wilson (Loric) at Gardner's Witches' Mill Coven, she initiated Alex to the Third Degree, and brought a complete BOS from the Witches' Mill. Pat left the Coven when Alex refused to marry her, and Sylvia became the HPS. After Sylvia left for New Zealand and the Coven dissolved, Alex formed a new coven with Paul King and Maxine Morris in late 1964. Alex made Maxine,, his High Priestess.

From an article on Wica Gardneriana, Who is George Pickingill:

The information dealing with Sylvia Tatham according to Bill Liddell.

It is worth stressing that neither Mike Howard nor myself is anti-Wiccan. Mike Howard is a Gardnerian Third but now concerns himself with the Traditional Craft, I am a Gardnerian Third and an Alexandrian Third per courtesy of Sylvia Tatham, who was both my High Priestess and my handfast wife when we lived together in New Zealand.

It may cement differences between Craft Traditions if Sylvia Tatham's role in the Alexandrian segment is recounted.

Professor Ron Hutton has advised me (personal correspondence dated 28th July 1998) that Sylvia Tatham's name is mentioned in Pat Kopanski's letter to Gerald Gardner. This letter is dated 5th September 1963, and is preserved among Gardner's papers in Toronto. Kopanski relates that she had left Pat Crowther's Sheffield coven because of petty differences in 1962. She began working with Medea's coven, and inveigled 'Medea' to arrange initiations for Alex Sanders and Sylvia Tatham.

Medea's coven was independent of and hostile to Pat Crowther's coven. Professor Hutton elaborates on the initiation details outlined in Kopanski's letter to Gardner : "On 9th March 1963 Alex got his first degree in Medea's coven, and the next evening Sylvia got her first and Kopanski was raised to the second. The coven then collapsed on the sudden death of Medea's husband, and her withdrawal from both the Craft and the area.

The trio of initiations, however, meant that Kopanski could found her own, with Sylvia as Maiden and Alex as the only man..... Their main problem was that they had been cast loose before they had all the rituals of the Craft, and asked Gardner to help them in this matter; she and Sylvia very much wanted to meet him."

I replied to Professor Hutton and explained that Sylvia subsequently went to the Isle of Man. She received her third from "Loric", the husband of Monique Wilson. Sylvia returned to Sanders and gave him his third. She brought the complete Gardnerian BoS with her. Pat Kopanski left Sanders because he would not marry her. Sylvia replaced her as Sander's High Priestess until Alex met Maxine Morris, Sanders appointed Sylvia his High Priestess for Australia.

She came to live with me in New Zealand. When Sylvia left me and went to Perth, Alex Sanders appointed me his High Priest for New Zealand.

If it had not been for Professor Hutton's revealing the contents of Kopanski's letter to Gerald Gardner, the Craft world would never have heard of Sylvia Tatham.

Sylvia Tatham

Sylvia Helen Gamble (1927-2007)

Wife of Leslie Camm and then Jack S. Tatham

1. **SYLVIA HELEN GAMBLE** was born 28 Feb 1927 in Quirigua, Izabal, Guatemala.

Father: Frederic Grant Gamble

Mother: Dorothy Anne White

Her father was born in Indiana, United States. He was involved with the military and travelled to many places around the world.

Her mother was born in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire England. The White family been in Nottingham for 4 generations.

After travelling to many places, Dorothy, probably grew tired of it and in the 1930's went back to Nottingham with her three children.

~ 1927

The birth date came from the Find A Grave Index. The Birth place came from the 1930 Passenger list. The birth year of "1928" was given on the 1965 passenger list.

Sylvia Helen Gamble was born in Quirigua, Izabal, Guatemala.

There is a Mayan site near Quirigua.

From Wikipedia:

"The archaeological site of Quiriguá is named after the nearby village of the same name and is located a little over 200 km (120 mi) northeast of Guatemala City"

"Quiriguá is an ancient Maya archaeological site in the department of Izabal in south-eastern Guatemala. It is a medium-sized site covering approximately 3 square kilometers (1.2 sq mi) along the lower Motagua River, with the ceremonial center about 1 km (0.6 mi) from the north bank."

~ 1928

Sylvia Gamble, age 1 year, was with her parents, Frederick and Dorothy Gamble, when they were on the ship, Teutonia, that sailed from Puerto Barrios in Guatemala and arrived at Plymouth, England on 5 October 1928.

From the UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists:

Date of Arrival: 5 October 1928

Ship's Name: Teutonia

From: Pto. Barrios

To: Plymouth

Name / Proposed Address in the United Kingdom / Class / Profession / Age / Country of Last Permanent Residence /

Frederic Gamble / London N. 16 41 Boly Road / III. / Accountant / 44 M / Panama /

Dorothy Gamble / " " " / III. / Housewife / 30 F / " /

Sylvia Gamble / " " " / III. / Child / 1 F / " /

~ 1929

The family were living in Manila, Philippine Island where Sylvia's brother, Frederic Cadmus Gamble, was born.

~ January 1930

Dorothy, Sylvia and Frederic Jr. sailed 5 January 1930 from Hong Kong to Los Angeles, California on the S.S. Taiyo Maru.

From the U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew List:

Passenger list of the S. S. Taiyo Maru sailing from Hong Kong January 5th 1930. To Los Angeles, California.

Surname / Name / Age / Sex / Marital Status / Occupation / Read / Language / Write / Nationality / Race / Birth Country / Birth City / Type of Visa / Place Issued / Date / Last Permanent Residence - Country / ----- City /

Gamble / Dorothy A. / 31 / F / M / Housewife / Yes / English / Yes / England / White / England / Nottingham / Temporary 331 / Manila / 12-27-1929 / P. I. / Manila /

Gamble / Sylvia H. / 2 / F / S / Child / No / " / No / U.S.A. / " / Guatemala / Quirigua / ---- / ----- / ----- / " / " /

Gamble / Frederic C. / 3 / M / S / " / " / " / " / " / " / Philippine / Manila / ---- / ----- / -
----- / " / " /

~ April 1930

In 1930, Sylvia H. Gamble, age 3 years, was living with her parents, Frederic and Dorothy Gamble, on Gough Street in San Francisco, California.

From the 1930 census of San Francisco:

Enumerated on April 18, 1930

*Name / Relationship / Sex / Race / Age / Marital status / Read & Write / Birthplace /
Father's birthplace / Mother's birthplace / Occupation*

Gough Street

Gamble, Frederic G. / Head / M / W / 46 / M / 35 / Yes / Indiana / Ohio / Illinois /
Accountant - Office /

----- Dorothy A. / Wife / F / W / 32 / M / 28 / Yes / England / England / England /
None /

----- Sylvia H. / Daughter / F / W / 3 / S / --- / ---- / Guatemala / Indiana / England /
None /

----- Frederic C. / Son / M / W / 5-12 / S / --- / ---- / Philippine Islands / Indiana /
England / None /

Other information from the census:

Frederic G. Gamble / Veteran - Yes / War - WW (World War I)

Dorothy A. Gamble / Immigration year - 1930 / Naturalization status - Alien

~ 1932

The Gamble family were living in Hawaii at the time Sylvia's brother, Robert E. Gamble, was born in 1932.

~ somewhere between 1932 and 1939

Sylvia's mother, Dorothy A. Gamble, decided to go back and live in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire in England and brought her 3 children.

The parents appeared to be separated. When Dorothy arrived in Perth, Western Australia in 1967, she stated that she was a widow. But the husband was still alive at the time.

Sylvia's mother became a school teacher in Nottingham.

~ 1939

In 1939, Sylvia Gamble and her mother, Dorothy A. Gamble, were living at her grandmother, Clara White's, home at 33 St. Matthias Road in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.

Her mother was a School teacher.

From the 1939 Register of Nottingham:

Name / Sex / Birth date and month / Birth Year / Marital status / Occupation

33 St Matthias Road

No. of Schedule 16 / White Clara / F / 31st July / 65 / W / House Work Unpaid

No. of Schedule 17 / Gamble Dorothy A / F / 14th Apr / 98 / M / School Teacher

There were three entries that were blacked out and mentioning "This record is officially closed." These would be the 3 children of Dorothy A. Gamble including Sylvia.

~ 1947

Sylvia H. Gamble married **LESLIE CAMM** in the 4th quarter (Oct-Nov-Dec) of 1947 in the Basford registration district of Nottinghamshire.

From the England & Wales, Marriage Index:

Name / Spouse name / Date / Registration district / County / Vol. / Page

Sylvia H Gamble / Leslie Camm / Oct-Nov-Dec 1947 / Basford / Nottinghamshire / 3c / 181

Leslie Camm was living in Nottingham until his death.

A check in the Birth Indexes of England and Wales, revealed that there were no children born to them.

~ 1952

Sylvia H. Camm married **JACK S. TATHAM** in the 2nd quarter (Apr-May-Jun) of 1952 in the Pancras registration district of Middlesex.

From the England & Wales, Marriage Index:

Name / Spouse name / Date / Registration district / County / Vol. / Page

Sylvia H Camm / Jack S. Tatham / Apr-May-Jun 1952 / Pancras / Middlesex / 5d / 753

Jack S. Tatham was living in Nottingham until his death.

A check in the Birth Indexes of England and Wales, revealed that there were no children born to them.

~ 1965

Sylvia Helen Tatham on 3 October 1965 boarded a flight from London, England to Perth, Western Australia, Australia. She went under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme.

- From the National Archives of Australia (NAA)

Item details for: A1877, 3 OCTOBER 1965 TATHAM S H

TATHAM Sylvia Helen born 28 February 1927; travelled per aircraft departing UK on 3 October 1965 under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme.

From the Incoming Passenger Card:

Name: Tatham, Sylvia Helen

Nationality: British, United Kingdom

Country of Birth: Guatemala

Date of Birth: 27/2/1928

Sex / Marital status: Female / Divorce

Usual Occupation: Short Hand / Typist

Country in which I will stay for 12 months or more: Western Australia

Purpose of Journey to Australia: Settling in Australia

Intended address in Australia: Crystal Private Hotel, Hay St., Perth (Temporary)

From the Passenger List:

Page 1

Department of Immigration. Inward Passenger List.

Aircraft G-AKKA - Flight of / EG172103 At Perth Airport - 5. 10. 1965

London to Perth.

Page 3

Name

Nationality

Tatham, Mrs. Sylvia Helen

British

Image of the Incoming Passenger Card:

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA	INCOMING PASSENGER CARD	Serial Number
To be completed in the English Language		
1. Name	<u>TATHAM</u> <u>SYLVIA HELEN</u>	29
	<i>Surname in Block Letters</i> <i>Given Names</i>	
2. Nationality (if British specify country of citizenship).....	<u>BRITISH-UNITED KINGDOM</u>	3. Passport or other Travel Document No. <u>293336</u>
4. Country of Birth.....	<u>GUATEMALA</u>	5. Date of Birth <u>27/2/28</u> <i>day month year</i>
Please MARK APPROPRIATE BOX THUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
6. Sex:	7. Conjugal Condition:	
Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Never Married <input type="checkbox"/>	Widowed <input type="checkbox"/>
Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Now Married <input type="checkbox"/>	Divorced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Usual Occupation.....	<u>SHORTHAND / TYPIST</u>	
9. Country in which I last stayed for 12 months or more.....	<u>U.K.</u>	
10. Country in which I next intend to stay for 12 months or more..... <i>(If Australia, specify State or Territory.)</i>	<u>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u> 5	
11. Purpose of Journey to Australia:		
(i) Returning to live in Australia <input type="checkbox"/>		
or (ii) In Transit <input type="checkbox"/>		
or (iii) Visiting; mainly for:		
Business <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/>		
Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> Other Purposes <input type="checkbox"/>		
or (iv) Settling in Australia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10		
12. Intended Length of Stay in Australia:		
..... Years..... Months or..... Days (Give figures or write "Permanent", "Indefinite", &c. <u>PERMANENT.</u>)		
13. Last Permanent Residence: Australia <input type="checkbox"/>		
Overseas (incl. Papua, N. Guinea) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If "Australia", how long since you were last in Australia?		
..... Years..... Months or..... Days		
14. Intended Address in Australia <u>CRYSTAL PRIVATE HOTEL,</u>		
<u>HAY ST., PERTH. (TEMPORARY.)</u>		
Signature of Passenger <u>S. Tatham.</u>		
(The completion of this card is required by the Migration Act 1958-1964.)		
National Archives of Australia NAA: A1197, TALLMAGE-TAYLOR F		

Image of part of page 1 of the passenger list:

operations

W 65/1618

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION
INWARD PASSENGER LIST
AIRCRAFT G-ARKA - FLIGHT QF/EG172103
AT PERTH AIRPORT - 5.10.1965

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NATIONALITY</u>
<u>London to Perth</u>	
MILES, Miss Helen Beryl	British
MILES, Miss Julie Diane	British
MILES, Miss Linda Anne	British
MILES, Mrs. Ivy Lavinia	British
MILES, Master Richard Charles	British
MILTON, Miss Patricia Ellen	British

RECEIVED
- 8 OCT 1965
IMMIGRATION DEPT.
PERTH

Image from part of page 3 of the passenger list:

STOCKS, Miss Veronica Ann	British
TATHAM, Mrs. Sylvia Helen	British
TAYLOR, Master Daniel David	British

~ **1967**

On 3 December 1967, Sylvia's mother, Dorothy Ann Gamble, arrived from England to Perth, Western Australia for a long stay.

The address given on the Incoming Passenger card was 219 Causeway Flats, Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia.

That is probably where Sylvia Tatham was living at the time.

~ **2007**

Sylvia Helen Tatham died on 25 October 2007 and was buried at Northern Memorial Park cemetery in Glenroy, Moreland City, Victoria, Australia.

From the Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index:

Name:	Sylvia Helen Tatham
Birth Date:	28 Feb 1927
Death Date:	25 Oct 2007
Cemetery:	Northern Memorial Park
Burial or Cremation Place:	Glenroy, Moreland City, Victoria, Australia

From the Victoria Wills & Probate Index:

Name / Occupation / Residence / Death date / Grant date

Sylvia Helen Tatham / Pensioner / Northcote, Victoria, Australia / 25 Oct 2007 / 31 Dec 2007

~ 2007 and 2012

In 2007, the Northcote police found Sylvia Helen Tatham dead at her home and she had no Will made. The government also searched her papers and belongings and found no references to any family members. The bank handling her account had no references to a next of kin in their records either.

It appears that she wanted nothing to do with her family in England after her mother died.

In 2012, five years after her death, the government found a next of kin, her brother in England.

From the records of the Probates of Victoria:

In the Supreme Court of Victoria in its Probate Jurisdiction

On the first page:

In the matter of the Estate of Sylvia Helen Tatham deceased intestate.

Filed on 21 December 2007.

Surname: Tatham

Given Names: Sylvia Helen

Last Residential Address: 8/30 Aberdeen Grove, Northcote Victoria

Occupation: Pensioner

Date and place of Birth: 28 February 1927 Guatemala

Date and place of Death: found dead on 25 October 2007 Northcote Victoria

On another page:

3. The deceased was found dead on 25 October 2007 leaving property in Victoria.....
5. The deceased was a divorcee at the date of death.
6. The marriage of the deceased to Jack Stuart Tatham was dissolved by decree nisi which became absolute on 26 May 1965.
10. No relation or next of kin of the deceased nor any other person entitled is ready to take a grant of administration of her estate....
11. State Trustees Limited has made careful enquiry but is unable to find any Will of the deceased.

12. The deceased left:

Personal property in Victoria to the value of \$ 398,306.77

On another page:

Personal Estate

Bendigo Bank, Bendigo Retirement Account No. 121780191	\$ 395,778.67
Jewelry	770.50
Cash in hand	1,757.60
Total of Personal Estate	\$ 398,306.77

On another page:

2. The death of the deceased was reported to State Trustees Limited by Northcote Police who have no knowledge of any next of kin.

3. A search of the deceased's personal papers and personal effects failed to locate any information as to the names and addresses of any next of kin.

On another page:

In the matter of the Estate of Sylvia Helen Tatham deceased.

Supplementary Affidavit of Administrator

Filed 25 Nov 2012

2. State Trustees Limited has now completed its genealogical proofs of kinship in this estate and the only person entitled by law to share in the estate of the deceased is her brother Frederick Cadmus Gamble.

Sources:

1. About Sylvia Tatham. Alex Sanders and Maxine Sanders. On a website: Forever and a Day, New Age Emporium. <https://www.foreverandaday.biz/alex-sanders-maxine-sanders>. Searched on July 29, 2021 Thursday 8:41 PM.
2. About Sylvia Tatham. Who is George Pickingill. From a website, Wica Gardneriana at http://www.wiccagardneriana.net/Who_is_George_Pinckingill.pdf. Searched on July 29, 2021 Thursday 9:45 PM.
3. About Quirigua, Guatemala. From Wikipedia online. Searched on July 27, 2021 Tuesday 9:34 PM.
4. 1928 the Gamble family on a passenger list. UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960, online at Ancestry.com. Plymouth, England, 1928, Oct, image no. 37. Searched on July 25, 2021 Sunday 11:22 PM.

5. 1930 The Gamble family on a passenger list. California, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1959, online at Ancestry.com. M1764 - Los Angeles, Selected Suburbs, 1907-1948, 025, image no. 929. Lines 20-22. Searched on July 27, 2021 Tuesday 8:12 PM.
6. 1930 census of California, San Francisco, San Francisco (Districts 251-409), District 0301, image no. 25, online at Ancestry.com. Enumeration District No. 301, Supervisor's District No. 6, Sheet No. 13 B. Lines 67-70, Family No. 175, household of Frederic G. Gamble. Searched on July 25, 2021 Sunday 11:59 PM.
7. 1939 England and Wales Register, Nottinghamshire, Nottingham CB, RMDb, image no. 3, online at ancestry.com. No. of Schedule 16, household of Clara White and No. of Schedule 17, household of Dorothy A. Gamble (both at same address). Searched on July 25, 2021 Sunday 12:48 AM.
8. 1947 marriage of Sylvia H Gamble and Leslie Camm. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Oct-Nov-Dec 1947; Registration district: Basford; County: Nottinghamshire; Vol.: 3c; Page 181. Searched on July 22, 2021 Thursday 10:36 PM.
9. 1952 marriage of Sylvia H Camm and Jack S. Tatham. England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916-2005, online at Ancestry.com. Date: Apr-May-Jun 1952; Registration district: Pancras; County: Middlesex; Vol.: 5d; Page 753. Searched on July 5, 2021 Monday 10:18 PM.
10. 1965 Sylvia Helen Tatham immigrated to Australia. From the National Archives of Australia (NAA). <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=7414312&isAv=N>. Citation NAA: A1877, 3 OCTOBER 1965 TATHAM S H. Item ID 7414312. Location Canberra. Records authority class number 1021672. Date registered 07 Sep 2004. Searched on July 5, 2021 Monday 8:31 PM.
11. 1967 Dorothy Ann Gamble on an Incoming Passenger Card. From the National Archives of Australia (NAA). Dated 3 December 1967. Searched on July 5, 2021 Monday 8:31 PM.
12. 2007 death and burial of Sylvia Helen Tatham. Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s-Current, online at Ancestry.com. Birth Date: 28 Feb 1927; Death Date: 25 Oct 2007; Cemetery: Northern Memorial Park; Burial or Cremation Place: Glenroy, Moreland City, Victoria, Australia. Searched on July 5, 2021 Monday 9:20 PM.
13. 2007 Sylvia Helen Tatham in the Probate Index. Victoria Wills & Probate, online at Findmypast.com. File number 1293514. Order link VPRS 28/P38, unit 474. Searched on July 5, 2021 Monday 8:10 PM.
14. 2007 and 2012 Probate records on Sylvia Helen Tatham. From the Public Record Office Victoria in Australia. Received by email dated Wednesday 28 2021 9:56 PM.