

People who told me these stories.



[Diana de Bosmelet](#) (nee Mathias) born 1908 died 1987 at 79. My grandmother was 52 when I was born, so I knew her for the last 27 years of her life. Our family would visit Bosmelet almost every holiday vacation. I learnt her stories from what she told me and from those things that she never talked about. My sisters and I agree that she was an amazing grandmother to each of us. After my grandmother died on the de Bosmelet estate there was a service at the chapel. Her memorial took place on September 20, 1987. Diana's ashes were scattered in the woods at her favorite spot, the crossroads deep in the wood where looking through to trees you can catch glimpse of the East wing of the Château de Bosmelet. There is a bench at that spot, that she had installed, which is under the three tulip

trees, that she also planted. When alive she would often walk to this spot and sit on the bench to reflect upon her adventurous life.

[If you want to read a list of the music that was played at her funeral click here](#)

[Pierre Soyer de Bosmelet](#). Because he abandoned his family around 1946/7 and returned to in the Cameroun, we did not have much contact with him. He lived in the Cameroun until independence in 1960. Pierre then came back to Paris.

He ran for political office in 1973 and this was the time I first met my grandfather, we lunch and a walk, with his then only surviving son, Robert de Bosmelet. In 1980 my parents, Hélène and Tom Chetwynd took the family on a six weeks holiday to be near him.



[To see pictures of Pierre on that holiday click here.](#) We stayed in the village in the Pyrenees mountains, near the home of Pierre and Jeannine, his partner. Pierre died in a retirement home in 1985.

Hélène de Bosmelet was born in the Château de Bosmelet, 1940. My mother has shared stories with me in the past but no longer wishes to do so. Out of respect for my mother's wishes in regards to doing such a historical family project we have agreed to maintain a code of silence about these stories. My mother is living in France.



Robert de Bosmelet Born

after the war in London on July the 4th 1946. Robert became the Baron de Bosmelet when he turned 21 in 1967, but in deference to his parents he did not take over running the Chateau until 1987. I had rather lost contact with my uncle only exchanging Christmas cards until my daughter wanted to go to French summer school with a chum of hers. My daughter and I stayed at the Château de Bosmelet estate for June and July of 2008. During those two months Robert and I became close. He told me many of the family stories. Robert, was always the kindest of souls. He told me that his goal in life was to redeem the family name. He died, March 2012 at a hospital in Rouen, and is buried in the Bosmelet tomb.

Kate Macintyre knew Diana de Bosmelet because her father had helped the family when Robert has his terrible car accident at Oxford in mid sixties. Years later when Kate was eighteen she helped Diana recover from her hip operation. My grandmother and Kate were close for the six years until Diana's death in 1987. Diana told Kate bits and pieces about her courtship with Pierre, her marriage and their break up.

James Lander, is an historian and published biographer. Jim is writing a war history about Bosmelet and my grandparents. Robert de Bosmelet gave him access to information at Bosmelet. Jim has read Pierre and Diana's diaries. Jim's help has been invaluable for verifying information, sharing documents, editing my documents and as a sounding board for developing my storyline.



My sisters [Natasha and Bridget Chetwynd](#). The best sisters anyone could have. They have been so supportive to this project.



Lucinda Stevens, niece of the late Joan Conway. Although Lucinda is not a blood relative she is a close family friend. She has been very helpful in both tracing information and confirming stories. I'm indebted to her help and thank her for her endless kindnesses since childhood.

Joan Conway, nee Cicely Young born on Sep 13 1898 and died Nov 10 1995, the longest hold out of that generation. Joan adopted Lucinda Stevens her sister's daughter. Joan was also my grandmother's Aunt. Joan married Conway Wertheimer. Her husband changed his name during the First World War because there was much discrimination against Germans living in Britain during the WWI, despite the fact that Conway was in the second generation to be born in Britain. He changed his name to Conway Conway. I did meet Joan on several occasions but she did not tell me any of these stories. She did tell Lucinda Stevens and Kay Mathias.

Kay Mathias, Kay studied anthropology at Stanford CA just after the Second World War. My great aunt, married my grandmother's youngest brother, David Mathias, in 1948. Kay just celebrated her 90th birthday in 2012. Kay has become the family genealogist. She is one of the most open-minded people I have come across. She told me many stories about my family that have been very helpful in this project.

Diana Mathias, named after my grandmother, is one of Kay's daughters who had Suresh and I stay this summer while her mother was visiting.

Tom Chetwynd born in Chelsea London in April 1938. My father told many stories about Pierre and the family. Tom died in France in 2012.

Julien Mathias My grandmother closest nephew, has been very helpful in putting me in touch with both Jean Strouse and Hugh Wilding. He has been a solid sounding board helping me with the pitch of this story.

Jean Strouse, biographical historian, interested in the Wertheimer portraits painted by John Singer Sargent.

Hugh Wilding is a genealogist that became interested in researching the Wertheimer family.