

Rev Paul Henry Ellenberger (1868-1932)

(note: he changed his surname to Elmont in about 1916)

Childhood and early adulthood

Paul was born on 25 August 1868 in Clerkenwell, north London. The 1871 Census shows him, aged two, living at 32 Devonshire Street, Islington, with:

- his father Henry aged 40, born in Switzerland, type founder's clerk
- his mother Celina aged 43, born in France, and
- his sister Lydia May aged 3, born in Clerkenwell.

He was still at this address by the time of the 1891 Census, living with his mother (now widowed), his sister Lydia (a private governess), his brother John aged 19 (a stockbroker's clerk) and two other households. His employment is given as Assistant Teacher, Board School.

Ministry, Marriage and Family

He trained for the ministry at Handsworth College, Birmingham and was awarded a B.A. (London). In 1896 he entered the ministry and started four years in 'French Stations' as a Wesleyan minister (see extract, right, from the 1912 edition of *Alphabetical Arrangement of All the Wesleyan Methodist Ministers...* commonly referred as 'Hill's Arrangement').

In the first quarter of 1896, he married Cécile Rollhaus (not Cecilia Rollhans as shown in the *Methodist Who's Who*) in Fulham, London (she was born in le Havre in about 1864). Their first daughter Lillian E was born in 1899, their second, Ruth Mabel, in about July 1900, and their son Samuel in about 1908, all three born in le Havre.

His next station was in Jersey from 1900 to 1903, followed by Guernsey from 1903 to 1905, and then back in 'French Stations' from 1905 to 1909. The *Annuaire du Havre* for 1908 (right) shows that he was then living in le Havre and was minister at the [Wesleyan chapel](#) there, at no. 21, Place Gambetta.

ELLENBERGER, Paul Henry, B.A. (Lond.); b. Aug. 25, 1868, at London; s. of Samuel Henry Ellenberger; m. Cecilia Rollhans, of Havre; one s. two d. Educ. Islington Science and Art School; Handsworth Coll.; e. m. 1896. Address: St. Peters-in-the-Wood, Guernsey. W.

Extract from 'Methodist Who's Who' 1912

ELLENBERGER, PAUL H., B.A.	
1896 Fr. Stations	4
1900 Jersey, French	3
1903 Guernsey, &c., do.	2
1905 Fr. Stations	4
1909 Guernsey, &c., } Fr. }	
1912 Do. }	

Extract from 'Hill's Arrangement' 1912

WESLEYAN CHAPEL
Place Gambetta 21
Services : Sunday, 11.15 — School 3.0.
Rev. Ellenberger, rue de Pardieu, 21.

From the 1908 Annuaire du Havre

Wesleyan Chapel building



Place Gambetta (previously Place Louis XVI) looking north (late 1800s)

My family connection with Rev Ellenberger

For many years I have been researching the fascinating story of my great grandfather's step-sister Hannah Vimont, née Wells. She was born in Stepney in the London Docklands in 1823. In about 1848, then aged about 25, she left home and travelled to le Havre. She styled herself as a primary teacher and worked for a widowed lawyer, M. Emile Vimont, presumably to help bring up his son (born 1844). She lived with the father and son, later being variously described in the censuses as a servant or a housekeeper. After thirty years living in the Vimont household, she married M. Vimont in 1878; sadly he died only six months later. She remained in the apartment for another thirty years until she died in January 1908. Her death certificate names two witnesses: my grand-father Richard James Wells and Paul Ellenberger, 'pasteur and friend of the deceased'. We do not know whether Paul was with her because she had been a member of the Wesleyan chapel (which opened in 1850) for some or all of the sixty years she spent in le Havre or whether she had just known Rev Ellenberger socially in recent years.

Rev Ellenberger after 1908

Hall's Circuits and Ministers for 1912 and again for 1913-23 (below) show that Rev Paul Ellenberger was stationed in Guernsey from 1909 until 1914. Interestingly, a John S. Ellenberger also appears as a minister in the Guernsey circuit from 1908 – 1912; this is

Paul's younger brother [John Samuel Ellenberger](#) who was born in Islington in about August 1871.

1903-1904	Philip G. Adair, Paul H. Ellenberger, B.A., Lucien Meuret
1905	Philip G. Adair, Louis Parker, Moses Alain, Lucien Meuret
1906-1907	Matthew Gallienne, B.A., Louis Parker, Moses Alain, Frederic Rabey
1908	Matthew Gallienne, B.A., John S. Ellenberger, Moses Alain, Frederic Rabey
1909-1910	John S. Ellenberger, Matthew Gallienne, B.A., Paul H. Ellenberger, B.A., Frederic Rabey
1911	John S. Ellenberger, Matthew Gallienne, B.A., Paul H. Ellenberger, B.A., Henry J. Foss
1912	Paul H. Ellenberger, B.A., Walter Brée, Edwin P. Roussel, Henry J. Foss

Extract from 'Hall's Circuits and Ministers'
1912: Guernsey and Sark Circuit

	Guernsey and Sark (French).	
1913	Paul H. Ellenberger, B.A., Walter Brée, Edwin P. Roussel, Henry J. Foss	←
1914	Paul H. Ellenberger, B.A., Walter Brée, Edwin P. Roussel, Elie Vidal	←
1915	George Whitley, Walter Brée, Edwin P. Roussel, Elie Vidal	
1916	George Whitley, Edwin P. Roussel, Elie Vidal, J. Sydney Norman	
1917-1918	George Whitley, James Picot, Edwin P. Roussel, J. Sydney Norman	←
1919-1921	George Whitley, James Picot, Paul H. Elmont, B.A., J. Sydney Norman	←
1922	George Whitley, Paul H. Elmont, B.A., Frederick Rabey, Eugene B. Robin	←
1923	George Whitley, Frederick Rabey, Sidney E. Beaugié, M.A., Eugene B. Robin	←

Extract from 'Hall's Circuits and Ministers'
1913-23: Guernsey and Sark Circuit

Strangely, Paul appears in *Kelly's Directory* for 1913 where he is listed as a Wesleyan minister living in Broadstairs, Kent.

No further record could be found of him or of his brother John until I investigated the Channel Islands Archives and discovered that both Paul and John changed their surname to Elmont. The archive index card for Paul Elmont lists the following mentions of him in *The Jersey Methodist*:

- Aug 1902 – Biographical details. Photo.
- Dec 1923 – Biographical details. Photo.
- Sep 1927 – Present from Mr Harry Wakeford
- Aug 1929 – Appointment South Moulton [in Devon]
- Sep 1929 – Farewell service and presentation. Letter. Appreciation Magazine Committee.
- Jun 1930 – Visit to island
- Jan 1931 – Letter from Hon. Sec. Guild re illness. Letter thanks for sympathy.
- May 1932 – Obituary. Photo. Funeral.
- Sep 1936 – Appreciation from Birmingham.

Looking back at the Guernsey and Sark entry in *Hall's Circuits and Ministers 1913-23* (above), we see that Paul reappears as Paul Elmont in 1919. Therefore the brothers changed their surname between 1914 and 1919; the Ellenberger surname is of German and German Swiss origin so, during WW1, they decided to change it.

The two brothers' entries in *Hill's Arrangement* for 1922 are shown to the right. It seems as though Paul stayed on at his Guernsey station until 1915 before moving to Brixham in Devon and then in 1918 to North Hill in Cornwall. After a year he

ELMONT, JOHN S.	
<i>Institution—R.</i>	
1895 Gold Ct. Dt., W.A.	13
1908 Guernsey, &c. Fr.	4
1912 Ripley	3
1915 Driffield	3
1918 Epworth	1
1919 Holmfirth	3
1922 Evesham	
ELMONT, P. H., B.A.	
1896 Fr. Stations	4
1900 Jersey, Fr.	3
1903 Guernsey, &c., do.	2
1905 Fr. Stations	4
1909 Guernsey, Fr.	6
1915 Brixham, &c.	3
1918 North Hill	1
1919 Guernsey, &c. Fr.	4
1923 Jersey, Fr.	

Extract from 'Hill's Arrangement' 1922

moved back to Guernsey for four years and then to Jersey in 1923. *The Jersey Methodist* records above show that in September 1929 he moved to South Moulton in Devon. By the end of 1930 he became ill and died in about April 1932, aged 63. His will is listed in Jersey Wills for 1934.