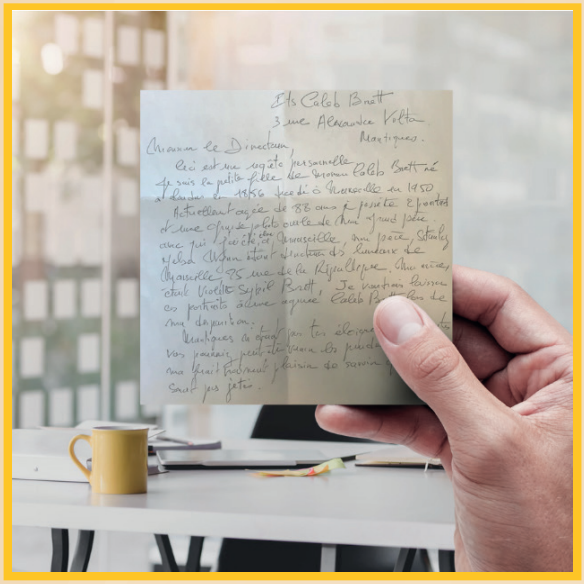
INTERTEK GAZETTE

ON THE TRAIL OF OUR HERITAGE

Meeting the granddaughter of Caleb Brett



« We were pleasantly surprised to receive a handwritten letter from Mrs. Daphne Mathon, introducing herself as Caleb Brett's granddaughter. »

It all began in early 2021. At one of our Intertek Caleb Brett sites in Martigues, France, we were pleasantly surprised to receive a handwritten letter from Mrs. Daphne Mathon, introducing herself as Caleb Brett's granddaughter.

Having a great admiration for her grandfather, she told us that she had some portraits of him that she would like to leave to us when she passes away. We learned that Daphne is 88 years old and that she grew up in Marseille with Caleb Brett. She confided to us that she would be delighted to meet someone from Intertek to talk about her grandfather who was, in her own words, "an extraordinary man".

Intrigued and excited, we contact her. Unfortunately, we were again in the middle of a peak of the covid 19 pandemic. Between the containment period and the resumption of activity, it was difficult to organise this meeting in the first part of 2021. We therefore had to postpone this meeting and nevertheless continued to check in regularly. Then, in the summer of 2021, no more news...

Finally, someone picked up the phone on 20 September 2021 and told us that Daphne was in hospital and away from home for at least three weeks.



Attempting to contact her by phone without success, we sent her a personalised card with our Martigues team's photo. And to our great joy, Daphne contacted us again, just after Christmas, thanking us greatly for our attention to her.

The reasons for her silence were due to health problems. While she recovers, we agree to contact again during spring period to arrange a meeting, as she was particularly keen to talk about her grandfather with us.

MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2022

Finally, on Monday 13 June 2022, Yannick Garcia, Managing Director of Intertek Caleb Brett South Europe, accompanied by Muriel Ulrici, our Recruitment and Employer Brand Manager, visited Daphne at her home in Carpentras in the south of France, where she has been living since her retirement.

Daphne, who turns 90 on 29 June 2022, spent over an hour and a half talking about her grandfather, her family and her history. We learn that Daphne saw one day a portrait of her grandfather on the internet and this is where the idea to contact us came from.

From this meeting, we (re)discovered facets of Caleb Brett, his history, his personality, his values and his beliefs, which explain, according to his granddaughter, his sense of ethics and his uprightness, and confirm his vision that inspired us for many years.

But we also discovered a man who was close to his family and in particular to his daughter Violette, Daphne's mother. On the death of his wife, Florence, who was English like him, Caleb Brett joined his daughter and son-in-law in Marseille, where they made their home, loving France very much and where Daphne was born in 1932. Caleb, born in 1856, was already retired by then.

Daphne, as a child (he died in 1950 when she was 18) remembers getting on well with him. She called him 'Grand Pa, of course'. He was a learned man, very religious, reading a lot, the Bible in particular, but he also used to fall asleep on the terrace and Daphne tells us that the bees were often around him. "I used to say to my mother, one day he will swallow a bee. "

Daphne continues her story; her father, Stanley Wynn worked in the family business, he had been appointed at the time by Caleb Brett to head the Marseille offices located at 25 rue de la République. Then the 2nd war started and the Consulate asked the English nationals to leave France.

So they left for England and after a spell with her mother's sister in Chislehurst, a district of the borough of Bromley in south-east London, they landed in Liverpool where her father worked for a while in the family business too. After the war, they returned to France and Daphne went to boarding school.



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« We're eating a piece of cake in memory of my grandfather. »

We pause briefly in this gripping tale, and as Daphne offers Yannick and Muriel a piece of cake, she shares a story about her grandfather. "We're eating a piece of cake in memory of my grandfather," she says with a mischievous look on her face; English cake was her grandfather's favourite cake, " he ate it every day! "

Back to the story, Daphne tells us that Caleb Brett and his family were members of the Quakers (also called the Religious Society of Friends), a religious movement founded in England in the 17th century by George Fox, preaching pacifism, philanthropy and simplicity of morals. Caleb Brett had many brothers and sisters and one of the peculiarities of the Quakers was that they all have Old Testament names.

Daphne also tells us that her grandfather was an adventurer who loved to travel. In his youth, he went to Russia and even wanted to go with his family to the United States to become a gold digger, but his wife Florence talked him out of it. In his character traits, Daphne says of her grandfather that he was "a decent man, who had a lot of compassion, and a lot of humour. He could act in surprising ways. He was like that my grandfather, he did things that were a bit curious", she tells us and concludes with "he was an excellent grandfather! "



MEMORY OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY...



In order to show her how important her grandfather has been and still is in the development of marine cargo inspection activities, Yannick and Muriel show her videos prepared by our teams, including a specific video created to show her how Caleb Brett is still alive and the video recounting her grandfather's story.

As soon as she sees his image, she says "that's what he looks like", then continues with "it's weird to see my grandfather's name on the facilities windows".

When she sees the development of the business, she says, "I'm not surprised at him".

Today, the name Caleb Brett is known all over the world, we have over 6800 experts who carry out inspections and laboratory analysis. We have over 250 offices and almost 200 laboratories in over 100 countries and carry out over 250,000 inspections a year.

And when Yannick and Muriel tell her about our business tagline "I will treat each cargo as if it were my own", she immediately agrees. "It sounds just like him."

This flashback confirmed what we had already perceived from one of our founding fathers and which is part of our corporate DNA today; Caleb Brett was a visionary who dared to undertake and push boundaries, keeping in mind honesty and loyalty.

This moment with Daphne reminded us of the essence of who we are and why we exist: Bringing quality, safety and sustainability to life by exceeding our customers' expectations with innovative and bespoke Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification services for their operations and supply chains. Globally. 24/7.

We deliver our TQA expertise consistently with precision, pace and passion, enabling our customers to power ahead safely.

« My grandfather was an adventurer who loved to travel. »



Written by C.Leleu / Notes and photos taken by M.Ulrici

intertek caleb brett