

## Some Essex Families

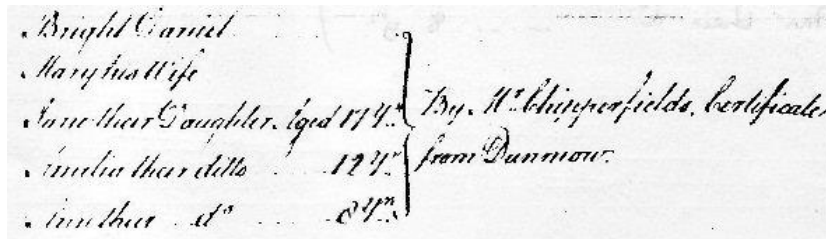
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## SETTLEMENT TO JUBILEE

### *Brights Move to Terling*

According to the book *Terling* by C. A. Barton, Daniel and Mary Bright moved to Terling, from Great Dunmow, on a Certificate of Settlement. Although the certificate was dated 1765, they probably moved the year before. They had with them a young daughter, Jane.

Daniel and Mary went on to have four more children: Edward in 1764, Mildred "Milly" in 1766, William in 1767 and Ann in 1770. William, unfortunately, didn't last many days: he was baptised on 11th October and was buried on 23rd October 1767.



In a list of labouring persons and their families taken by Henry Tyler, the Vestry Clerk, on 7th July 1778, the section titled "Labouring Persons residing in the Parish

that does not belong to it" includes Daniel Bright (certificate from Dunmow), his wife, Mary and three daughters, Jane (17), Amelia (12) and Ann (8). Their address was "By Mr. Chipperfield's". It is likely that Mr. Tyler wrongly recorded Mildred as Amelia as she was known as Milly. Sadly Milly died some ten years later, in June 1788.

Daniel was admitted to the Chapel on 29th January 1789 and Mary, much later, on 1st January 1797.

On Christmas Day 1789, Edward Bright married Sarah Searle of White Notley. She was the daughter of John Searles and Ann, née Bigs. The couple went on to have four sons in the next few years: Edward (1791), William (1793), Daniel (1797) and James (1800).

Edward appears in the 1801 Census, the household consisting of five males and one female, three engaged in agriculture and three other. From this, it appears that Edward Junior and William were already working at the ages of 9 and 7.

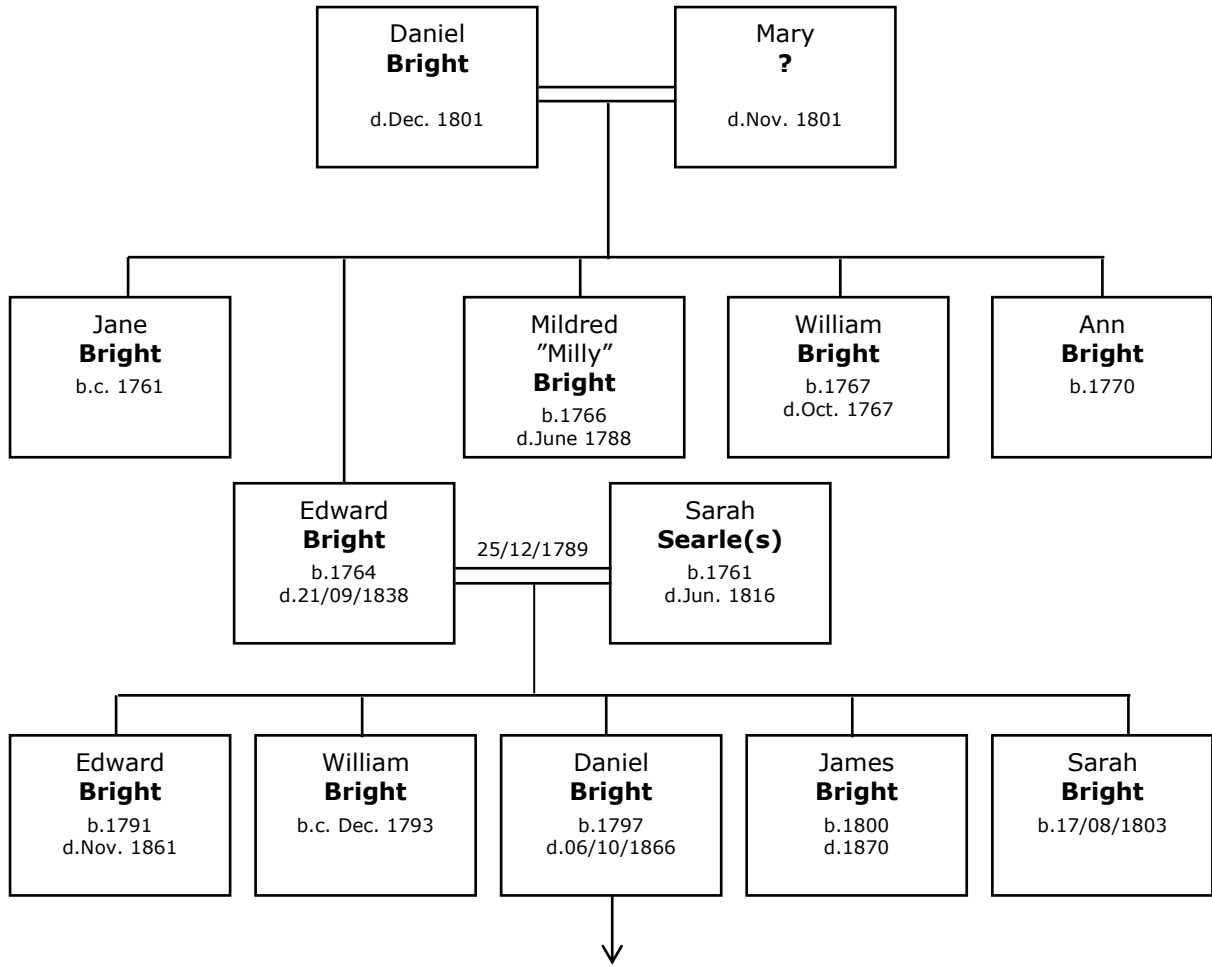
Edward's parents, Daniel and Mary, both died that year; Mary in November (the burial record includes the entry "Buried by me William"), and Daniel in December.

Edward and Sarah, recorded as dissenters (non-conformists) then had a daughter, Sarah, born on 17th August 1803.

King George III's Golden Jubilee celebrations were held on 25th October 1809. It seems, that in those days, such occasions were celebrated at the beginning of the anniversary year. Terling's participation is well recorded in Mercia "Bidly" Langstone's *Terling in 1840, Part 2*. Tables were set up on Church Green and boiled beef, bread and beer were consumed, the festivities going on until dusk. Edward, an agricultural labourer, and his family – seven in total – sat at Table 3. The carvers for that table were Richard Alger, William Taylor and William Carter.

On 24th April 1791, a Samuel Bright was baptised at Fairstead. He was the son of John Bright and Amy, née Goodey. Samuel was the ancestor of the other Bright family of the village, including Al Bright (who married Edith Cloughton) and my uncle Des Bright. These Fairstead Brights may well have been related to the Terling Brights but, to date, I haven't been able to prove a connection.

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**POACHING*****And Other Unlawful Behaviour***

Edward and Sarah Bright's third son, Daniel went on to marry Sarah Raven, the 22 year old daughter of Robert and Sarah, in Terling Church on 11th December 1820. Edward was 23. Daniel and Sarah had seven children over the next 18½ years. Daniel came first, born in 1821. Then came Edward (1824), Jane (1826), James (5th February 1830), Ann (1833), Thomas (1836) and Phoebe (1839). Out of the seven, only Edward died in his early years - September 1827, aged 3.

Francis's Green	1	Joseph Thugood	60	Ag Lab	4
		Sarah do	60		4
		Stephen do	15	Ag Lab	4
do	1	Daniel Bright	40	Ag Lab	4
		Sarah do	40		4
		Jane do	14		4
		James do	11		4
		Ann do	7		4
		Thomas do	4		4
		Phoebe do	2		4

The family, at least from 1841, lived on Francis/Gambles Green, Daniel being recorded as an Agricultural/Farm Labourer. Note: in the 1841 Census (shown here), adults' ages were rounded to the nearest 5 years.

Ann's story will be covered in the next section. This part will deal with James and his family.

As head of a poor family, Daniel received 2 shillings & 6 pence (12½p), a loaf of bread & 7lb of beef on 24 December 1843. [Biddy Langstone's "Terling in 1840, Part 2", page 38.]

On 6th December 1851, James married Susanna Wager, known as Susan. She was the daughter of James and Sarah Wager, and was some 7 years older than James, who was just 21. Their first child, a daughter named Phoebe was born less than 2 months later, on 31st January 1852. How can this be possible?!

Less than a month after Phoebe's birth (24th February), James appeared at the **James Bright, Thos. Nevill, and Alfred Bright, were fined 10s. each, with costs, for trespassing in search of rabbits on the land of Lord Rayleigh, at Terling;** Witham Petty Session for the good old country pursuit of poaching. His crime had taken place on Lord Rayleigh's land. He was fined 10 shillings (50p).

James, an agricultural labourer, and Susan went on to have two sons: James, later known as "Rupper", on 1st December 1853, and Thomas "Tom" in 1859.

At the time of the 1861 Census, the family was living in the Norman Hill area. James's father, Daniel, by then a widower (his wife, Sarah having died on 23rd March 1854), was in the Monkey Lane/Owls Hill area, boarding with his daughter, Ann and her family.

Susan Bright died in April 1870, aged about 77.

"Like father, like son", the saying goes. In October 1870, James "Rupper" Bright (pictured right) appeared in court for poaching game on 19th October. The case was adjourned and he re-appeared the following month. He was found guilty, his punishment being either a fine of 5 shillings & 9 pence (29p) or 7 days' imprisonment. I wonder which he chose.

In the 1871 Census, young Rupper was lodging with John & Mary Wood, near Norman River (probably Norman Hill). His



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father, James Bright senior was living at *Cuckoos* (probably Waltham Road) with his children, Phoebe & Tom.

**TWO CHARGES AGAINST AN OLD OFFENDER.—** H. Harris was charged with stealing two ferrets, the property of R. Smith, valued at 9s., from a barn at Terling.—He had sold them to H. Smith.—Sentenced to two months' hard labour.—Prisoner was also charged with wilfully breaking a mug, the property of John Smith, Rayleigh Arms, Terling, on January 2, and sentenced to seven days' further imprisonment.

**WILFUL DAMAGE.—** James Bright was also charged with breaking a mug at the same time.—Fined 1s. 8d., costs 8s., mug 4d., or in default seven days.

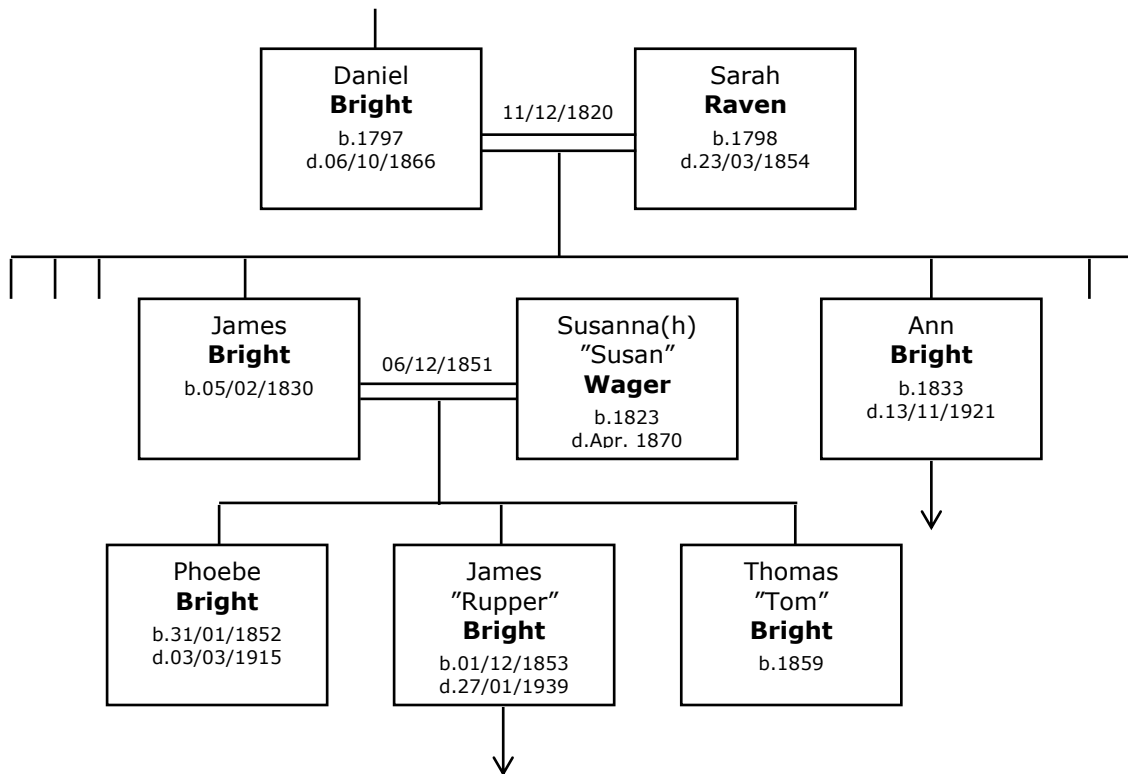
**BROTHERLY LOVE.—** Walter Harris, brother of Henry Harris, was charged with assaulting P.c. Chase, at Terling, on Jan. 6. When the officer went to the Rayleigh Arms to apprehend defendant's brother prisoner assaulted him and said he should not take his brother. He several times struck the constable, who hit him with his staff.—W. Gilder corroborated Chase's evidence, and prisoner was sentenced to two months' hard labour.

Rupper didn't learn his lesson. In January 1873, he was in court again, this time for wilful damage - he broke a mug in the Rayleigh Arms. Note: alcohol seems to appear in a few of my family stories... On this occasion, he was fined 1 shilling & 8 pence (8½p), with costs of 8 shillings (40p) and 4

pence (1½p) for a mug.

James "Rupper" Bright married his cousin, Eliza Bowyer in Fairstead Church on 23rd September 1876 (details of her and their family follow in later sections).

Unfortunately married life didn't improve his behaviour. In May 1889, he was in court again, this time for stealing partridge eggs on the 2nd. He was fined 10 shillings (50p) with costs of 9 shillings (45p).



Phoebe Bright married Theophilus "Oph" Harris (1846-1910). Their daughter, Rose (1882-1956) married Frederick Twin (1874-1969). Their daughter, Isabel Mary "Cis" (1907-1957) married her cousin, Fred Twin (1899-1980). They were the parents of 6 sons: Freddy, Will, Den, twins Des & Doug, and Clive.

## BRIGHT, BOWYER, COTTIS...

### A Sad Story

On 28th January 1854, Ann Bright, the daughter of Daniel & Sarah, married William Bowyer in Terling Church.

The young couple didn't waste any time in starting a family. Jane was born in that year, 1854, William in 1856, Eliza (13th April 1858) and Sarah (31st July 1860).

The 1861 Census shows the family living in the Monkey Lane/Owls Hill area. Ann's father, Daniel, by then a widower, was boarding with them. William was an agricultural labourer.

Then the first tragedy struck the family: in February 1864, William junior died, aged 7. Later that year (or possibly early the following year), another son, George was born.

In May 1867 William, head of the family, died aged just 39. Could he have been an early victim of the then undiagnosed "Terling Fever" (typhoid fever)? He was buried in Terling churchyard on 22nd May.

By late 1869, Ann appeared to have overcome her loss, and had a relationship with a Simon Cottis, an Army Pensioner of Fairstead. On 12th August 1870, Ann gave birth to an illegitimate son, Simon Cottis Bowyer. It is likely that he was

born in the Witham Union Workhouse (later Bridge Home/Hospital), as that is where the

<i>Ann Bowyer</i>		<i>Simon Cottis</i>	<i>1870</i>
<i>Sarah Bowyer</i>			<i>11</i>
<i>George Bowyer</i>			<i>6</i>
<i>Simon Bowyer</i>			<i>1</i>

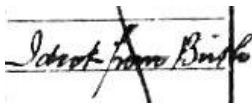
family was in the 1871 Census. Ann was listed as a pauper and widow and had with her Sarah, George and Simon. Simon Cottis senior was living near Fairstead Rectory.

Within the next year it seems that the family escaped the Witham Workhouse for, on 19th September 1872, Minnie Blanch Mary Victoria Cottis was born at Terling.

Simon Cottis finally did the honourable thing - he married Ann, at Witham Register Office, on 9th July 1873. The couple had some five years of married life, probably in Fairstead.

Then, on 26th August 1878, Simon died from Phthisis, aged 53, at Fairstead. He was buried at Fairstead. And, whether she knew it or not, Ann was pregnant again.

In 1879 (possibly late 1878), Edgar Robert Cottis was born at Terling.



The 1881 Census shows Ann living in the Old Workhouse, Terling (Sebbys Gardens), with George, Simon, Minnie & Edgar. Simon is described as an "Idiot from Birth".

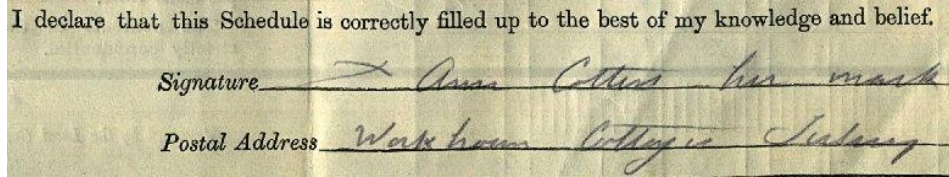
The next tragedy to hit the family was George Bowyer dying, aged 24, in April 1889. He was buried at Terling.

Ann and Edgar were living in the same place in the 1891 Census. By that time they had taken in a lodger. Simon, at that time, was an inmate and imbecile in the Bocking Union Workhouse. He died there, aged 29, on 3rd April 1900.

1901 Census: Ann & Edgar still living at Workhouse Yard, Terling.

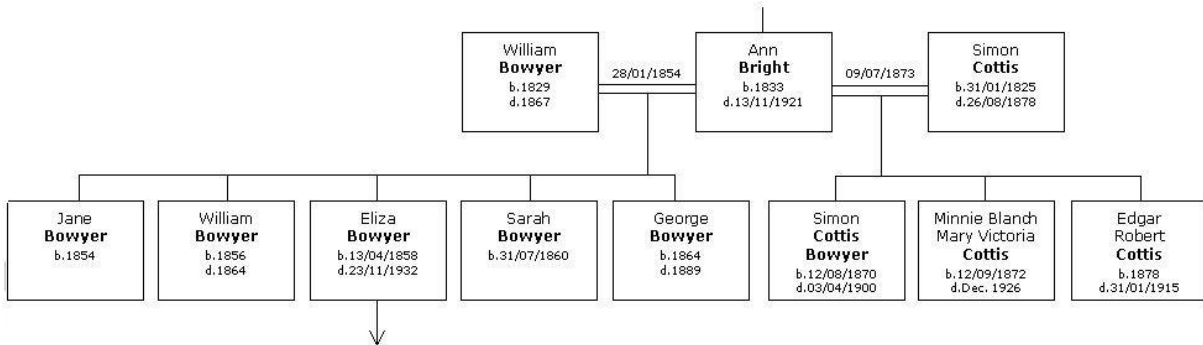
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1911 Census: Ann, aged 77, living by "Private Means", at Workhouse Cottages.



Edgar Cottis died in Essex & Colchester Asylum on 31st January 1915, the cause being lobar pneumonia (3 days duration). He was 36, and had married and fathered 5 children.

Ann finally passed away on 13th November 1921 at 2 Riverside, Springfield. She had been living with family members. She was 88, her cause of death being "senile decay". She was buried at Springfield 6 days later.



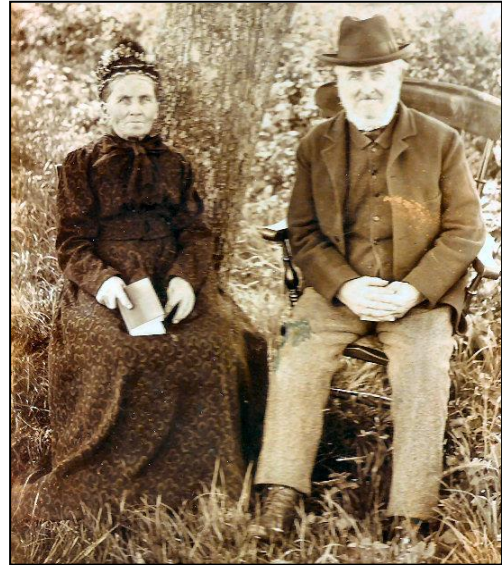
*This may be Ann  
Bright/Bowyer/Cottis  
Further research required*

## CORNERWAYS

### *Also Taylors Farm and Six Elms*

George White was born in Cressing on 21st December. The year 1812 fits the parish registers, but it may have been 1813 or even 1814. Emma May was born at Terling on 28th March 1814 and baptised in Terling Church on 8th May. On 4th December 1835, the couple were married at Terling.

George, an agricultural labourer, and Emma (pictured right) had 6 children – 4 girls and 2 boys – over the next 17 years: Hannah (born 1836), Emma (c.1839), Mary (1844), George (1848), William (1850) and Selina (25th November 1852).



The family lived at Farsleys Farm, later called Taylors Farm, until about 1868, when they moved to Cornerways, Fuller Street. In those days, that area of Fuller Street was a part of Great Leighs. George and Emma ran their cottage as a shop and off licence. Emma, recorded as a Grocer in the 1871 Census, baked bread for the village and they sold oranges, nuts, sweets and beer. Family stories included mention of a game where

ginger beer, corked and in a stone bottle, was bought. The idea was to shake it and gradually ease the cork out to see whose cork jumped out the farthest, wasting half the bottle. The more cheeky customer would ask for half a penn'th of rice pudding in a bag and ask how much it would cost!

Sixteen-year-old Selina met local lad, Walter Cloughton, who had been brought up in Great Leighs. Still aged 16, Selina gave birth to a boy on 6th October 1869. She named her son Herbert Cloughton White. He was raised by his grandparents, George & Emma.

Selina married Walter Cloughton at Great Leighs on 4th December. She was, by then, 17. Walter was 24. Herbert was baptised at Great Leighs on Boxing Day.

Just a few days later – 5th January 1870 – the Cornerways shop (pictured) was



burgled by a William Turp. He had removed a window pane, climbed in and stole "a quantity of articles of food", some farthings and sweets. George White junior discovered the crime. The burglar was soon found: the amateur detectives followed his footprints in the snow to a haystack about a mile away. The miscreant was hiding under some straw at the top of it; he had the property in his

possession. Turp was later charged.

Perhaps the police continued keeping an eye on the shop, as a P.C. Fenner visited the premises on the evening of 2nd April, just 3 months after the burglary. He didn't like what he found, and subsequently reported his findings. It appeared that George White senior was using the cottage as a pub. Several men were present, two pint mugs were on the table, both containing beer, and there was also a set of dominoes on the table. Twelve days later George senior



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appeared at the Chelmsford Petty Session. His defence was that the men had been waiting for shop goods and the beer had been for his sons [George junior & William]. The case was dismissed.

Walter and Selina Cloughton had a daughter, Edith Annie, on 28th March 1871. The Census, which took place a few days later, showed that the couple and their baby were living at Ridley Hall, Terling, with Walter's half-sister, Sarah. George and Emma White were still at Cornerways with their sons, George & William and their grandson, Herbert.

Over the next 8 years, Walter, an agricultural labourer, and Selina had a further 4 children: George Walter (born 25th September 1872 at Great Leighs) and Florence Emma (31st May 1875), Anna Mary (14th May 1877) and Fred (14th September 1879), all born at Fairstead.

By 1881 Walter & Selina were living at Six Elms, Fuller Street, their home for a number of years. Selina's parents, George & Emma White, were still at Cornerways, along with Herbert and two lodgers.

Walter and Selina had 4 more children in the 1880s: Elsie (10th March 1883), Caroline Kate "Carrie" (25th October 1884), Charles "Charlie" (3rd February 1886) and Ethel (15th March 1888).

1890 saw Herbert Cloughton marrying Kate Seabrook at Great Leighs. Having their eldest child wedded didn't stop Walter and Selina adding to their own litter! On 27th April that year, Ellen Beatrice "Nell" was born and, on 7th June 1892, their last child William "Little Willie" arrived.



*The photograph shows Walter and Selina with two of their younger children, Nell and Charlie.*

Then some unhappier times arrived. On 4th February 1895, Little Willie died from meningitis. He was just two years old. The following year (18th August) Herbert, who had been living near Three Ashes Farm, passed away at the age of 26. The cause of his death was *Mycosis Fungoides Exhaustion*. He left behind his wife, Kate and 4 children – Bertha, Harry, Frank "Cherry" & Leonard.

Later on in 1896, Emma White passed away and, two years later, her husband George followed 2 years later.

At some time Walter and Selina Cloughton moved to Cornerways to live, following in the footsteps of Selina's parents. With them were Fred, Charlie, Ethel and Nell.

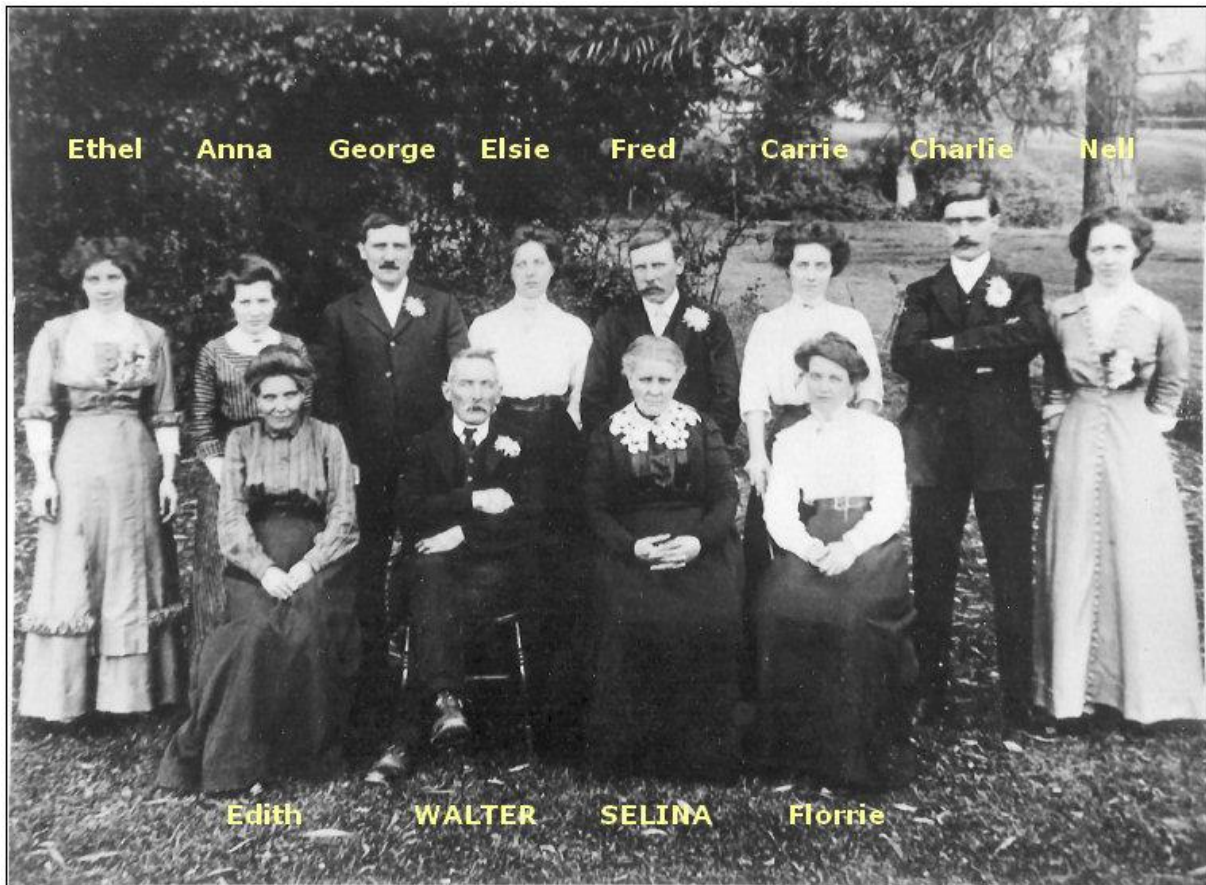
Selina liked to gather her family around her to sing songs as she played her "squeeze box". Being a religious family, on Sundays they sang hymns.

Just like George and Emma White before them, Walter and Selina were also victims of a burglary. It happened in July 1906, the burglar being George Richmond, alias William Robinson. He was seen by next-door neighbour, Mrs. Minnie Monk climbing over the fence, looking through windows, going in through the front door and coming out carrying something. He had stolen some bread, a

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bottle of vinegar and a tea caddy. He was arrested, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

The photograph below shows Walter and Selina with their 10 surviving children in October 1912.



At the time of the 1911 Census, the couple were still living at Cornerways. Only Fred was still living with them.

In February 1915, Walter and Selina lost a daughter. Edith, who was married to Al Bright, passed away at the age of 43. Then, on 2nd December 1917, Charlie was killed in action in the Great War. He was 32 and described as "A local lad".

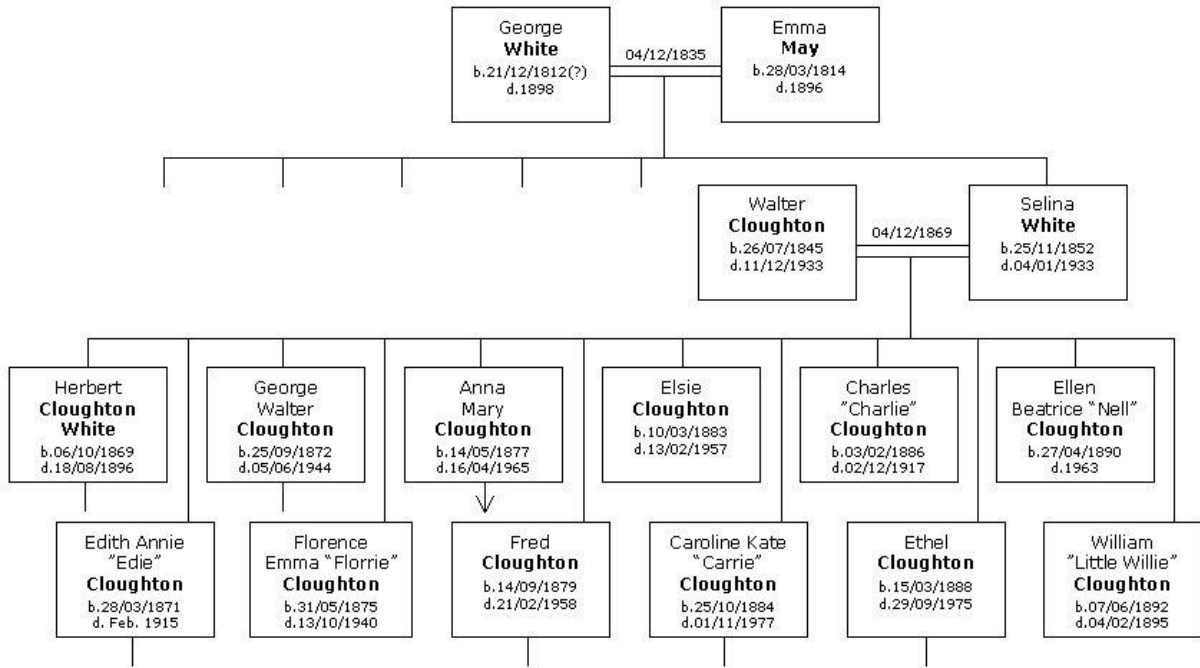


The Cloughton couple later moved to 1 Whites Cottages, Fuller Street. They went on to celebrate their diamond wedding on 4th December 1929. The party took place at Terling Hall, the home of their daughter, Anna. Walter and Selina finally passed away in 1933, Selina in January and Walter in December. They were buried at Fairstead.

There have been a few more famous descendants in the family. Carrie's grandson, Neil Jones wrote a book, "The Limping Flamingo" when he was just 14. His sister, Geraldine McCaughrean is a writer of many books and twice winner of the Carnegie Medal. Geraldine's daughter, Ailsa Joy is an actress who has appeared in an episode of ITV 2's *Plebs*. Another granddaughter of Carrie is Liz Jones, journalist with the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*.

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Walter and Selina



## TWO BROTHERS AND A SISTER

### *Married Two Sisters and a Brother*

On 29th March 1878, Charles "Charlie" Cook and Sarah French were married in the Independent Chapel, Wethersfield. Charlie, an agricultural labourer, was the son of James and Eliza (née Dace) and it was his 19th birthday. Sarah, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (née Moore), was just 18. Elizabeth is pictured here with her youngest 2 children, Elizabeth & Arthur. This picture was taken, using a cheap camera, of a glass plate photograph.



Just 3½ months after their wedding, 14th July, a daughter was born. They named her Eliza. A son, George followed on 27th January 1880. At the time of the 1881 Census, the family was living at School Green, Wethersfield. Another daughter, Elizabeth "Lizzy" was born on 2nd February 1882.

Tragedy struck the family on Boxing Day, 1883 when Charlie's father, James died in mysterious circumstances. James, a hawker, was 70 and had lived alone since his wife passed away in 1875. He had previously been a butcher in Wethersfield. About a week before his death, James Cook had had his goods seized and he was turned out of his house, possibly due to unpaid rent. On the day of his death, James had been very drunk from about five o'clock in the afternoon. Later that night he was seen standing against some palings by a Mr. Killingback's house in Blackmore End. His son Harry, a blacksmith, failed to make James leave there, and he was found dead, hanging from the palings, his coat collar and 2 scarves pulled tight around his neck, the next day. "Accidental death" was the verdict of the inquest.



A daughter, Alice was born to Charlie and Sarah (pictured left) on 3rd February 1884, and a son, Walter "Wal" followed on 2nd February 1887.

It was in late August 1888 that Charlie, a farm labourer, had an unpleasant surprise. He went into an empty house near Widley brook to shelter from the rain, and discovered the body of John Harrington, a horse clipper. He had apparently been dead for a few days, the cause being heart disease. Charlie's mother-in-law, Elizabeth French, the deceased's aunt, gave evidence at the subsequent inquest.

Charlie and Sarah Cook went on to have 2 further children: Louisa "Louie", born 6th October 1890 and Frederick Charles "Fred", born 7th February 1897. At the time of the 1891 Census, the family was living at Stammers Green, Wethersfield.

At some time between Fred's birth and the 1901 Census, the family moved from Wethersfield to Fairstead. In that Census they were living on Witham Road, Fairstead, though Eliza was no longer living at home. She was to marry Fred Gunn in 1903. Charlie was then a farm horseman.

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Then the Cook family and the Cloughton family became romantically involved. "Two brothers and a sister married two sisters and a brother."

**Certificate of Marriage.**

I Marriage Solemnized at the parish church in the parish of *Great Leighs* in the County of *Essex*

No.	When Married.	NAME AND BIRTHDAY	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	WITNESS'S NAME AND BIRTHDAY	Rank or Profession of Witness.
349	<i>Twenty fifth December 1905</i>	<i>George Cook</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>bachelor</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Fairstead</i>	<i>Charles Cook</i>	<i>Labourer</i>
		<i>Anna Mary Cloughton</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>spinster</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Great Leighs</i>	<i>Walter Cloughton</i>	<i>Labourer</i>

Married in the *parish church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England*  
 (s) after *Names* By me, *Andrew Clark*

The Marriage was solemnized between us, *George Cook* and *Anna Mary Cloughton* In the presence of us, *Fred Cloughton*, *Alice Cloughton*, *Alice Cook*

The above is a true Copy of the Marriage Register of the *parish church of Great Leighs* aforesaid, the said Register being legally in my custody.  
 Extracted this *Twenty fifth* day of *December* in the year of our Lord  
*One thousand nine hundred and five* By me, *Andrew Clark*  
*Rector of Great Leighs*

On Christmas Day 1905, George Cook married Anna Mary Cloughton at Great Leighs Church. The couple then lived at Fuller Street. The marriage was somewhat forced upon the couple because, early the next year, Anna gave birth to a stillborn son - weighing 16 pounds!

George and Anna are pictured here at the time of their Golden Wedding, in December 1955.



At the time of the 1911 Census, Charlie and Sarah Cook were living at Little Loys, Fairstead. Jessie Atkins, who was the daughter of Sarah's brother William French, remembered them living there. Jessie and her father used to visit her Aunt Sarah, who she described as "very lady-like", on Christmas Day, and they all used to sit up for the whole night. Then, at 6 o'clock on Boxing Day morning, they would eat a large rabbit pie. William and Jessie would then return to their home.



Another Christmas Day wedding took place in 1911, when Alice Cook married Fred Cloughton. This also took place at Great Leighs.

Fred & Alice Cloughton are pictured left, along with their 4 children. Standing, left to right: Eric, Ruby (later Ross) & Charlie. Seated next to his mother is the eldest, Alan.

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

The third inter-family wedding took place on 6th October 1912, also at Great Leighs. Walter "Wal" Cook married Ethel Cloughton. Thanks should go to Adrian Bass for the photograph below.



*All Left to Right:*

*Back Row – ?, ?, Anna Cook (1877-1965), Elsie Cloughton (1883-1957), Carrie Jones (1884-1977, married Arthur Jones, 1909), Florrie Cloughton (1875-1940), ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, Fred Cook?*

*Middle Row – ? (in front), ? (behind), Fred Cloughton (1879-1958), ?, ?, George Cloughton (1872-1944), Charlie Cloughton (1886-1917), Nell Cloughton (1890-1963), ?, ?, Edith Bright (1871-1915), Al Bright (b.1868), Kate Russell?*

*Front Row – Charlie Cook (1859-1941), Sarah Cook (1860-1934), George Cook (1880-1970), Walter Cook (1887-1972), Ethel Cloughton/Cook (1888-1975), John "Jummy" Russell?, Walter Cloughton (1845-1933), Selina Cloughton (1852-1933).*

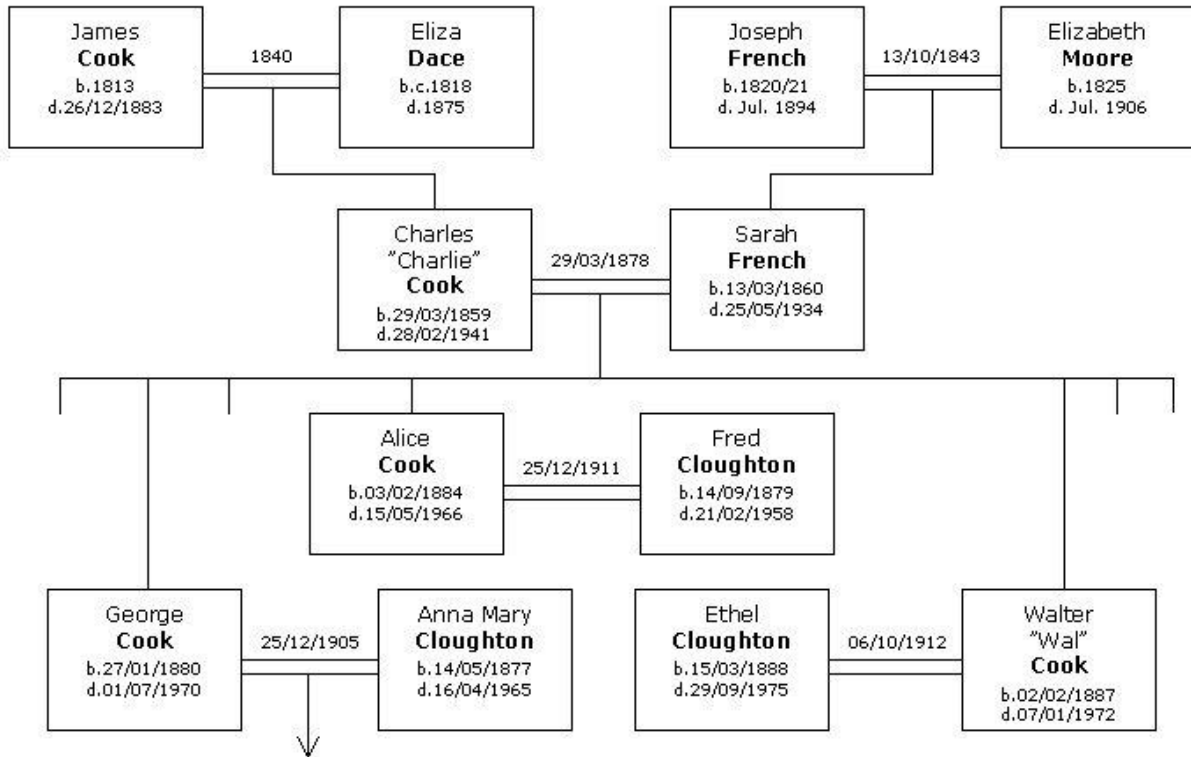
*Note: Fred Cloughton had married Alice Cook on 25/12/1911. Their first child, Alan, was born on 06/10/1912 - the day of this wedding!*

*Others probably in this picture - Fred & Eliza Gunn (née Cook), Ernie & Lizzy Bannister (née Cook), Louie Cook, Bert Turner (her future husband), Ada Cloughton (George's wife), Arthur Jones (Carrie's husband).*

*Further research is required to attach more names to the people.*

A simplified Cook family tree is on the following page.

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES



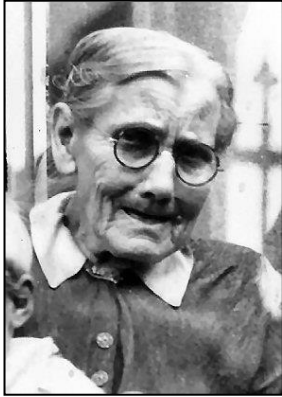
This photograph shows the six surviving siblings, probably taken in December 1955. Lizzy, unfortunately, had died in 1945. Left to right: Walter, Louie (Turner), Fred, Alice (Cloughton), George and Eliza (Gunn).

The photo was taken outside the thatched cottage, near What Hobbs in Waltham Road, where George & Anna then lived. George's father Charlie had had the cottage built. He had then lived in it, with his daughter and son-in-law, Eliza & Fred Gunn, until his death in 1941.

## THE GREAT WAR

### *And Other Losses*

Various branches of my family had members, who fought in the Great War, but I'll start with a branch I haven't yet covered.



In 1886, William Olley and Emma Jane Cullum (pictured here in later life) were married in the district of Maldon. He was born in 1860 at Tollesbury, the son of William & Elizabeth Emma, and she on 13th May 1866 at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, the daughter of Charles & Caroline. Emma went by the name Jane and had a clubfoot.

William and Jane wasted no time in starting a family. Elizabeth Maud "Bess" was born later in 1886 at Wigborough, Charles "Charlie" in 1887/8, also at Wigborough, and William Leonard in 1890 at Messing. At the time of the 1891 Census, the family was living in Newbridge

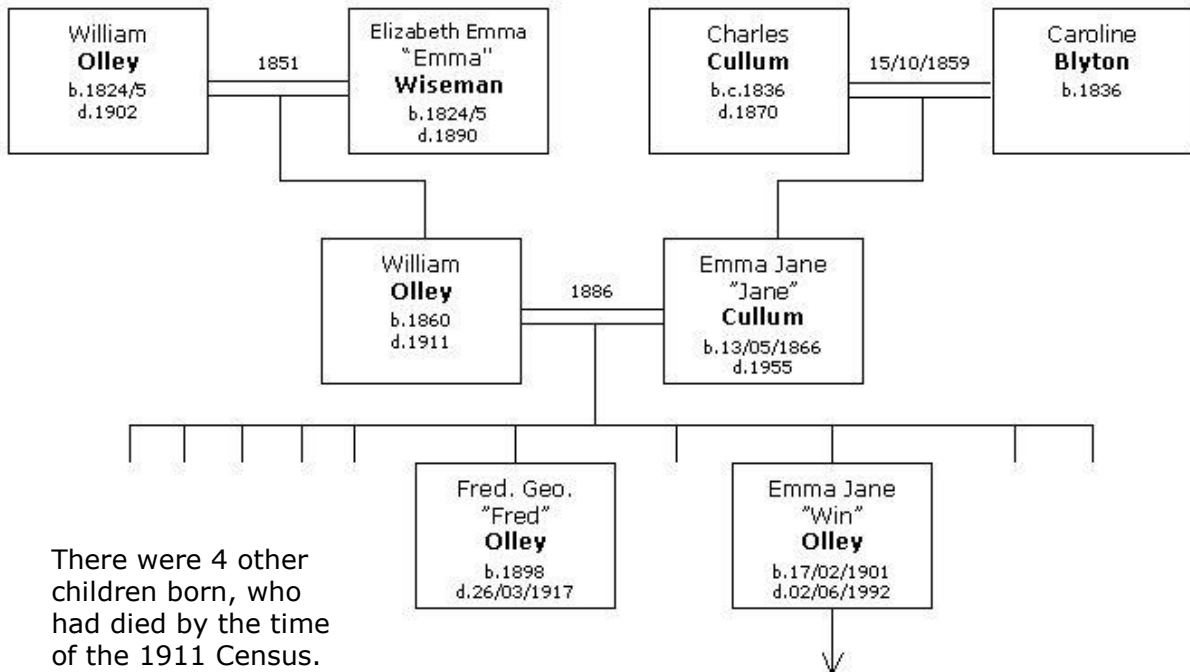
Road, Messing. Sadly, William Leonard died the following year.

On the right is Jane's pre-marriage signature inside her 1876 Bible.



Emily Alice "Pem" in was born in 1892/3 at Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Then the family moved to Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel. More children followed: Ethel Kate (1897), Frederick George "Fred" (1898), Bertie Edward "Bert" (1899), Emma Jane "Winnie" (17th February 1901). William was recorded, in the 1901 Census, as a Stockman on Farm (cattle). Another loss of a child took place in 1902, when Ethel passed away. William and Jane had two further children: Elsie May (19th January 1904) and Stanley Walter (6th January 1908).

At some time in the next few years, the Olley family moved to Bartholomew Green, Felsted. It was there, in 1911, that William died suddenly, aged just 50.



There were 4 other children born, who had died by the time of the 1911 Census.



## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

Now I shall return to the Cook/Cloughton branch of the tree.

On 6th November 1906, George & Anna Cook had a daughter, Florence Elsie "Elsie". They were living at Fuller Street, and continued to do so until 1911, when they moved to Three Ashes.



*Fairstead School, 1914. Elsie is standing behind the middle of the 3 front-row boys. The Russell sisters are also in the photo: Em, far left (Infant Teacher), Flo, 3rd female from left (next to Em) and Doll, front row, 3rd from left (next to girl holding slate).*

On 3rd October 1916 – right in the middle of the Great War – George, Anna and Elsie moved to Langford Hall. George then became a Special Constable. His truncheon with which he was issued is shown on the right. Thanks to Jackie for the photo and John for the temporary loan of the weapon!



Elsie tried to help the war effort too. On moonlit nights she would go up onto the bridge at Langford and try to blow out the moon, so that the Zeppelins wouldn't be able to find their way!



On 16th November 1917, another daughter was born to George and Anna. She was named Violet Edith, the Edith possibly coming from Anna's sister Edith, who had died in 1915. This is the only known photograph of Violet to exist.

So, on to those in my family who fought in the Great War.

Details are on the following pages.

SOME ESSEX FAMILIES



Frederick George "Fred" Olley [My father's mother's brother]

Private 251089, 1/5th, Essex Regiment.

Born: 1898.

Joined up: August 1915.

Service: Egypt.

Killed: Gaza, 26/03/1917.

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal.

At the moment of his death, his mother awoke from a dream, saying that Fred was calling her.

*The photograph may be him. It might be his father, William.*

*It may be neither.*

*The other photo is of his "Death Penny".*



Frank "Cherry" Cloughton [Mother's mother's mother's brother Herbert's son]



Private 40049, 11th Batt., Essex Regiment.

Born: 30/12/1892.

Joined up: January 1916.

Service: France, September 1916.

Wounded: France, 12/07/1917.

Died: France, 13/07/1917.

Buried: Maroc Cemetery, Grenay, France, July 1917.

*Frank's grave is shown on the right.*



Charles "Charlie" Cloughton [Mother's mother's mother's brother]



Private 3913, Sergt. C. H. Brothers' Squad, 5. Cy. 2nd. Reserve Batt., Welsh Guards.

Born: 03/02/1886.

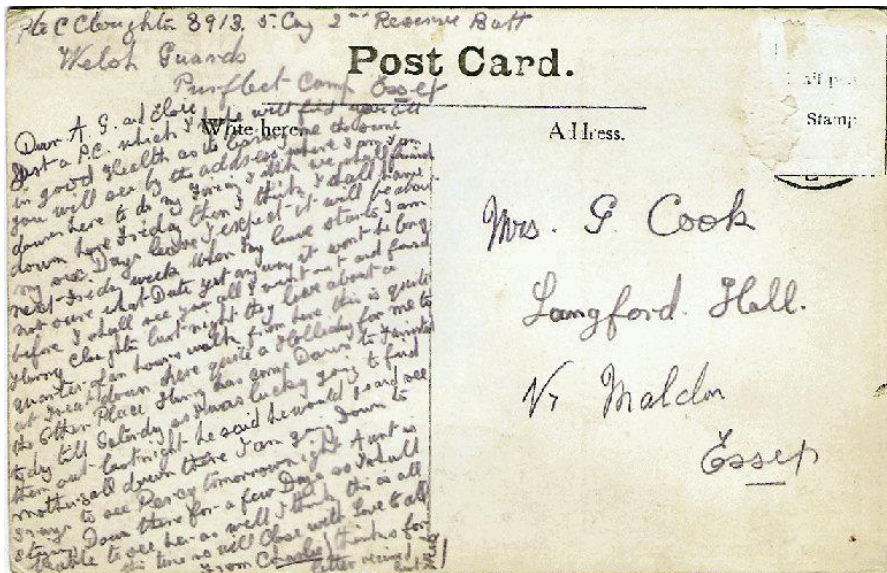
Joined up: Woolwich, Kent.

Killed: The Somme, France, 02/12/1917.

Buried: Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand, The Somme, France.

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal, issued 31 March 1921.

SOME ESSEX FAMILIES



A postcard Charlie sent to his sister, Anna less than 3 months before his death.

James William "Will" Bright [Father's father]

Private → Acting Corporal 14113, Essex Regiment.



Born: 22/09/1896.  
 Service: Dardanelles/Gallipoli (1915).  
 Ypres (Third Battle of, 1917). Taken  
 Prisoner of War – spent one year in a German Jail.  
 Medals: 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory  
 Medal (shown right).

Ended his service as a Lance  
 Corporal. Survived the  
 Dardanelles. Was once told, by

a more senior soldier, that he would win promotion for taking part in a likely suicidal mission. He responded by telling the person what to do with his stripes. Will never liked to talk about the war.



Lewis Frank "Lou" & Norman Alfred Bright [Mother's mother's mother's sister Edith's sons]

*This photograph shows Lou (top) and Norman.*

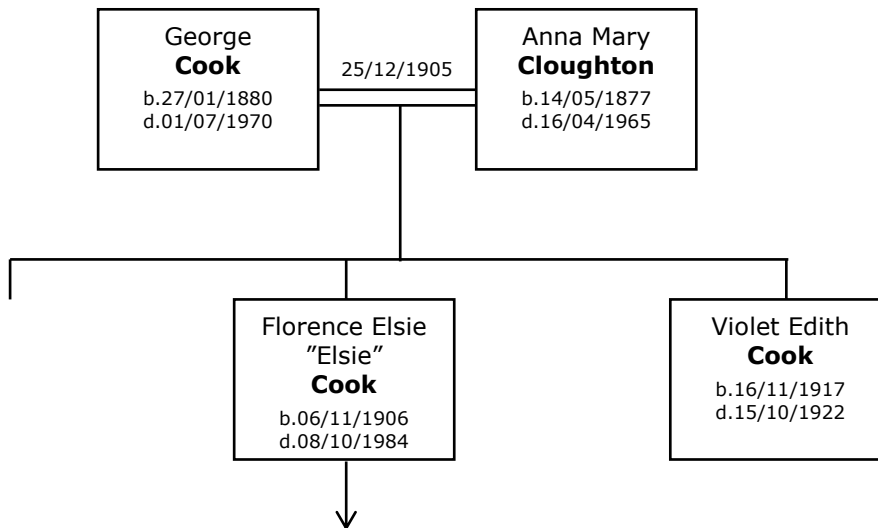
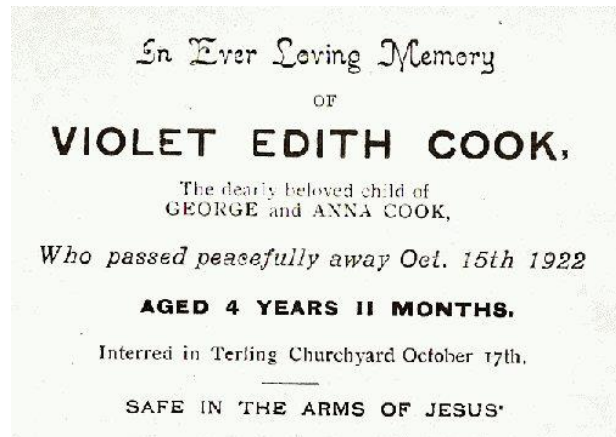
The Great War eventually ended.

In April 1919, George, Anna, Elsie and Violet Cook moved from Langford Hall to Terling Hall. They lost a doormat on the way – it fell from the wagon near to Ernie Doe's at Ulting.

In 1922, Violet caught Scarlet Fever. At that time there were no antibiotics and, on 15th October, Violet died from the disease. She was just four. Anna was

SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

devastated and became extremely depressed. She took to wandering the streets, George having to go out searching for her. After that Anna had a somewhat melancholy disposition, often saying, "Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear".



## COINAGE OBSESSION

### *And Travels By Bicycle*



My great grandfather, George Cook (shown here on 28th March 1932) was something of an enigma. He had so many stories to tell of his work life, his travels and his generosity. How much is true?

*"I left school the day I was 'leven and I went to work the next day. I worked six days a week, six till six; fourpence a day, two bob a week."*

This was a story told to his grandchildren and great grandchildren many times. George, being born on 27th January 1880, had his 11th birthday just 2 months before the 1891 Census. In that census, George's occupation was given as *Scholar*. Were his parents covering up the fact that their son was out at work, or was he actually still at school? The story could well be true, because another of his anecdotes was that, when he first started work, he was so short he had to stand in the manger to harness up the horses.

In the 1901 Census, George, living in Witham Road, Fairstead, was listed as *Horseman on Farm*. This was an occupation he continued for some time.

George married Anna Mary Cloughton, at Great Leighs, on Christmas Day, 1905, and their daughter, Florence Elsie, known as Elsie, was born on 6th November 1906. They were living at Fuller Street at the time.

It may have been in the following years, before the Great War, that George's claims that he cycled all around the country occurred. He said that he used to cycle to Great Yarmouth, London and Sevenoaks. It is true that his sister, Lizzy married Ernie Bannister in 1907 and the couple then lived at Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent.

*Lizzy is shown here (on the left), along with husband, Ernie.*



Later in 1911, George and his family moved to Three Ashes, Terling, then, on 3rd October 1916, to Langford Hall. It was there that George became a Special Constable, based at Langford Station, for the War.

George & Anna's daughter, Violet Edith was born on 16th November 1917.

It may have been whilst living at Langford that George's claims of making considerable loans began. He claimed to have loaned Ernie Doe (a friend) £200, with which he started his Ernest Doe tractor company at Ulting. He also claimed to have loaned £100 to Jimmy Wilkinson, who started Wilkinson & Sons at Nounsley, at first a bus company, later lorries.

In April 1919, George, Anna, Elsie and Violet moved from Langford Hall to Terling Hall. George was, or became, a Farm Bailiff.

It was probably around this time that George claimed to have made a loan or donation to the Terling Provident Society to "get it going". This too is a mystery, as the Society started in 1876!

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

Violet Cook passed away from Scarlet Fever on 15th October 1922, aged just 4. George had to work hard to support Anna who, it seems, had a breakdown and took to wandering the streets.

It may have been about this time that George bought Elsie a piano on the understanding that she learned to play it. Elsie did indeed learn how to play.

On 27th October 1927, George appeared as a witness in Maldon County Court on a case where farmer John Thompson had failed to pay for some seed potatoes.

George ended up in Chelmsford Hospital on 18th September 1936 after he was knocked off his bicycle by a car at Hatfield Peverel. He sustained head injuries.

George also used to help his daughter Elsie and her family financially following her marriage in 1927.



*George is pictured here (wearing bowler hat) participating in the 1940 Lord Rayleighs Farm's shoot.*

During the Second World War, George used to put half-crowns (12½p) in his grandchildren's Christmas puddings – a considerable amount in those days.

It was about 1949 that George purchased the thatched cottage in Waltham Road (pictured right), Terling from his sister and her husband, Eliza & Fred Gunn. His nephew, another George Cook (son of Walter & Ethel) then moved into Terling Hall, and that was in 1949.



On 20th May 1950, George was presented with a long service certificate (42 years) and clock, by Gerald Murray Strutt, on behalf of Lord Rayleighs Farms.

George was a good friend of Sir Nigel Strutt, who used to say that it was George Cook who taught him how to walk the fields.

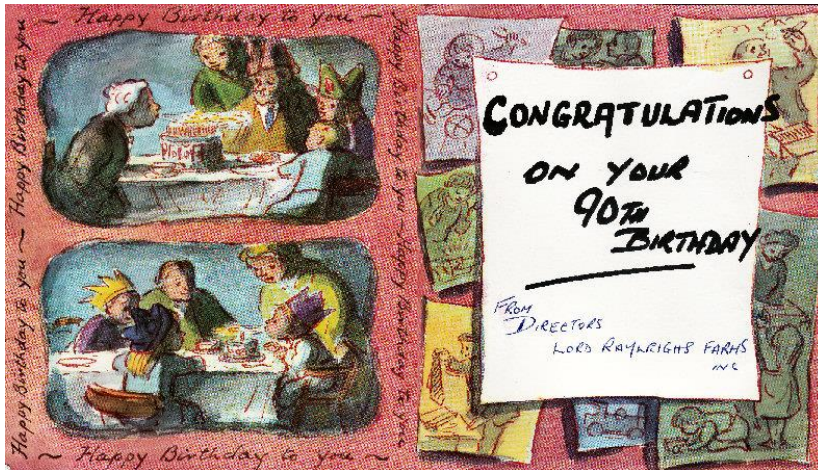
## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

In the 1950s, George and Anna became great grandparents. George presented the eldest child of each of his grandchildren with some of his unusual coins. I was the first to arrive and survive (in 1956) and was presented with a 1912 gold sovereign. An amusing fact is that George had trouble remembering the name "Mervyn", so called me Isaac instead!



Malcolm Dawson was born later in 1956 and received a 4-shilling (20p) coin, and Jackie Bright came along in 1959 and was given a Victorian crown (25p).

George's wife, Anna died on Good Friday, 1965. George continued living in Waltham Road, before moving in with his daughter, Elsie at 2 Viner Cottages, possibly in 1967.



George celebrated his 90th birthday on 27th January 1970, and passed way on 1st July later that year.

*This is the telegram George received from the directors of Lord Rayleighs Farms on the occasion of his 90th birthday.*

Could it be possible that George had hidden wealth? In late 2016 piano tuner, Martin Backhouse discovered a hoard of gold sovereigns, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, hidden under the keyboard of a piano he was repairing. The hoard consisted of 913 gold sovereigns and half sovereigns dating from 1847 to 1915, from the reigns of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V. *The piano was identical to the one bought for Elsie by George.* Could it possibly be the same one?



Elsie had sold her piano when alterations were made to Viner Cottages in the early 1970s.

The piano that had contained the gold was manufactured by Broadwood and Sons of London, and was sold to a music shop in Saffron Walden, Essex in 1906. The shop sold it to two music teachers in Saffron Walden.

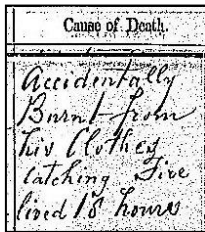
The piano was purchased by Graham & Meg Hemmings in "the Saffron Walden area" in 1983. They moved to Shropshire and donated the instrument to the Bishops Castle Community College in the summer of 2016. The college had the piano tuned and repaired by Martin Backhouse and, thus, the treasure was discovered.

## THREE BROTHERS

### *Married Two Sisters and a Cousin*

Two branches of the Bright family were reunited when James "Rupper" Bright, the son of James & Susan, married his cousin, Eliza Bowyer, the daughter of William & Ann. Both were grandchildren of Daniel & Sarah Bright. The wedding took place at Fairstead on 23rd September 1876.

Children came along every couple of years. First born was Ellen "Nell" in 1878. Then came Charles "Charlie" in 1880. The 1881 Census shows the family living in Waltham Road, Terling, Rupper being an Engine Driver (Agricultural). They continued living there for over 20 years, Rupper's occupation being Agricultural or Farm Labourer.



Daughter Ada was born 15th May 1883. Then tragedy struck. On 2nd February 1884, Eliza popped out for a few minutes, leaving the children alone. When on her way back, young Charlie came running towards her with his clothing on fire. He died the next day having survived 18 hours.

Seven more children came along in the next few years: Arthur (1884), Minnie "Min" (7th May 1887), Bessie "Bess" (1890), George Thomas (1892), Ernest "Ern" (20th March 1894), James William "Will" (22nd September 1896) & Albert Victor "Bert" (1901).



Here is the family, probably later in 1901. *Left to right: Bess, ELIZA, Bert, Nell, Ern (standing), Will (seated), Arthur, JAMES, George.*

This picture showing Bert as a baby may be the only one existing of him because, sadly, he died from diphtheria in 1910.

At some time before the 1911 Census, the family moved to Francis (Gambles) Green, living in one of the wooden thatched cottages on the right.



## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES



It was after this the Bright and Olley families commenced their inter-marrying. In 1913, Arthur Bright married Elizabeth Maud "Bess" Olley. Their descendants continued as Terling families – daughter Eva (who married Vern French and lived at Dancing Dicks) and grandchildren, Colin & Elizabeth French.

In 1919, Ern Bright married Bess' cousin, Ethel Agnes "Eff" Olley, who was the daughter of John & Agnes, John being William Olley's brother.



The third of these weddings took place on 10th December 1927, when James William "Will" Bright married Emma Jane "Winnie" Olley. The wedding took



place at Hatfield Peverel, Winnie being given away by her brother, Charlie. Will's brother, Arthur was Best Man. Winnie had previously been a maid at Terling Place, working for the 4th Baron Rayleigh. She liked to relate stories of that time, one being about peas being spilled all over the place when dinner was served. She also saw Rudyard Kipling, who used to stay there as a guest. According to Winnie, he was a cousin of Lord Rayleigh and had "big bushy eyebrows". Following his exploits in the Great War,

Will spent his working life as a Cowman for Lord Rayleighs Farms. After he retired, he continued to work, as a Gardener at Whitelands, until he was about 79. When he was in his 80s, he injured himself falling out of a tree when picking apples!

Will & Winnie lived at Gambles Green in one of the houses opposite the road, near to Will's parents, Rupper & Eliza. They moved temporarily to the first house in Porridgepot Hall Chase whilst their own home was converted from 3 into 2. In 1973 they moved to Rose Cottage on Owls Hill.

Will & Winnie had 2 sons – Stanley William, born 27th April 1931 and Eric Charles, born 8th June 1934. Winnie once joked that she had 2 sons and 2 daughters, making it possible that she miscarried 2 girls. As a young lad, Stan watched the filming of the 1937 movie, *Oh, Mr Porter!* on Terling Windmill. Other villagers watching were Stan Aves, Em South & Daph Dawson.

There are points of interest regarding two of James "Rupper" & Eliza's daughters. Min married a Scot, Danny McClarren, and the couple emigrated to Canada. It was 1912, and Min wished to sell her bicycle, so it was sent on after her. It never made it – the bicycle was on the Titanic! Bess, who married Alfred Keeble, claimed to be a spiritualist. On one occasion, when she was visiting her brother Will at Gambles Green, she said she could see lots of people in the orchard behind the house. Will retorted: "All I can see are bloody apples".



Will & Winnie, 1972



Pem & Winnie (née Olley)

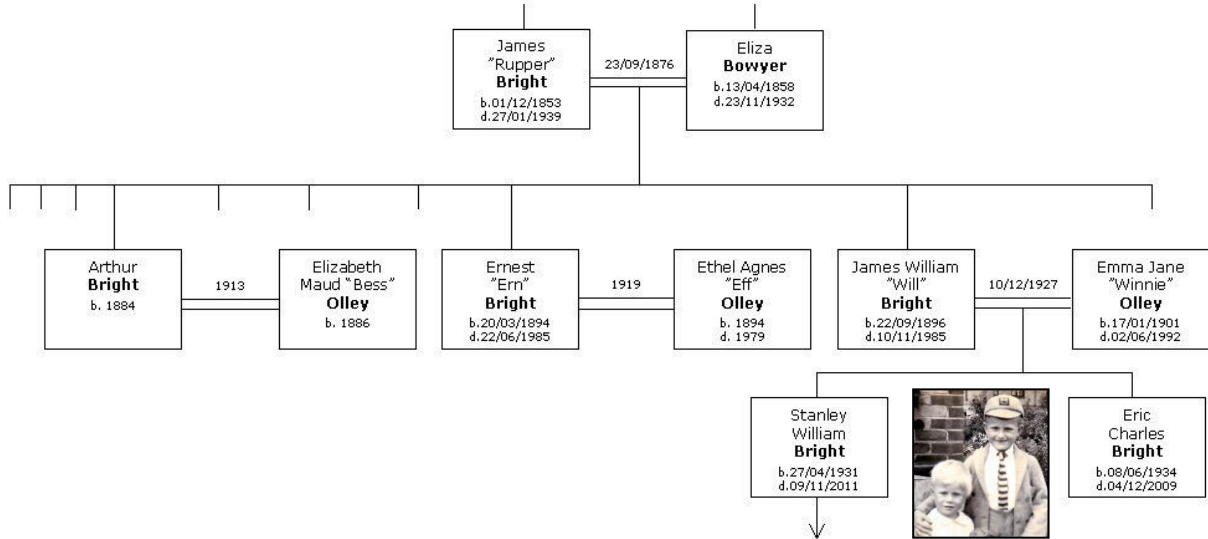


Min, Will & Ada, 1973

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

Some of my own memories of Winnie (my grandmother) are of cycling to Dancing Dicks Farm with her to visit her niece, Eva French, and visiting old Mrs Rush at Norrells.

Eliza Bright died on 23rd November 1932, aged 74. Her husband, James "Rupper" passed away on 27th January 1939, aged 85. Their son, Will died on 10th November 1985, aged 89, in Broomfield Hospital, and Winnie on 2nd June 1992, aged 91, in Wickham Bishops Nursing Home, Hatfield Peverel.



James "Rupper" and Eliza Bright



James William "Will" & Emma Jane "Winnie" Bright  
At the time of their wedding      Golden Wedding, 10 December 1977

## PART OF THE FAMILY

### *Byfords, Dawsons & Russells*

This section is mainly devoted to the ancestry of the fourth of my grandparents, my maternal grandfather.



In 1871, labourer John Stephen Byford married Sarah Ann Gould (pictured left), probably in the Essex village of Shopland. John was born circa 1848, the son of Henry Byford & Mary Ann, née Flack. Sarah was born on 3rd June 1851, in Shopland, the daughter of John Gould & Eliza, née Hales.

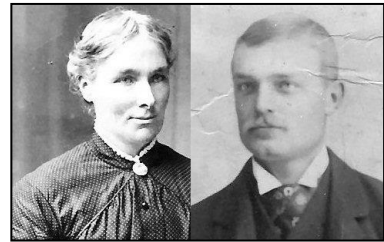
Their first child, Grace Ellen, was born at South Fambridge on 23rd January 1873. Soon after, the family moved to Althorne; the 1881 Census recorded them as living in Burnham Road, Althorne. Three sons and three more daughters were born at Althorne: Albert Arthur (1876), Henry George (known as "George", 10th December 1877), William John "Billy" (17th April 1879), Jessie Alice (1881), Edith Mary "Edie" (1882) and Minnie Rose (1883).

The family then moved to Mundon, where 2 more sons came along: Walter (1887) and Percy James (3rd June 1888).

It was whilst living in Mundon that John & Sarah took in a lodger. His name was William "Bill" Pudney, later known as "Bill the Drover". Grandchildren of John and Sarah told the sad story of there being no love in the family so far as John was concerned; apparently he wasn't a kind man. The marriage was, in effect, over for many years, though they continued to live together. Bill Pudney became Sarah's "live-in boyfriend" and fathered a daughter, Annie May, known as "May", in 1889. He became the father of the family that they had never had.

Shortly after Annie May's birth, they all moved to Wilderness Cottage, Woodham Walter. By now, John Stephen was a shepherd.

On 19th September 1896, John & Sarah's eldest child, Grace Ellen Byford married Frederick John Dawson, known as "John", at Woodham Walter. He was born on 13th October 1874 at Woodham Walter, the son of John Dawson & Emily Sarah, née Keys, she in turn being the daughter of Master Shoe Maker, George Edward Keys. John, at that time, was an Agricultural Labourer.



John & Grace's first child, William Percy John (known as "Will"), was born on 27th November 1897 at Woodham Walter (or possibly Woodham Mortimer). At the time of the 1901 Census, the family was living at Brook Cottage, Woodham Mortimer. By then, John was a "Horseman on Farm". Within a year they had moved to Little Braxted.

Times must have been hard for the young family because, when on 10th March 1902, twins Cyril Frederick "Fred" & Ivy Beatrice were born, John and Grace couldn't afford to bring up both. As they already had a boy, they decided to keep Ivy. Fred was farmed out to his maternal grandparents, John & Sarah Byford, and brought up by them.



## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

On 14th June 1904, another son, Arthur George (later nicknamed "Orfie") came along. He was possibly born at Tollesbury, but it is more likely that the family moved there when Arthur was very young. They moved again in the next few years, this time to Little Totham/Goldhanger.

On 29th June 1909, Grace's sister Edie gave birth to an illegitimate son. She named him Mervyn Ernest Clifford John Byford (perhaps she didn't know who the father was!). Back in those days, it was usual in such situations for the child to be raised by the grandparents, but in this case he was brought up by John & Grace as Cliff Dawson. He later became known as Tam Byford. In the 1911 Census he was living with the family at Bakers Green, Little Totham (in truth, probably Goldhanger). John was still a horseman.

In the meantime, Grace's parents, John & Sarah Byford, had adopted a daughter, Beatrice Ward (born 1894/5) and had moved to Mill House, Little Braxted. At the time of the 1901 Census, John was a Farm Foreman.

At some time, Edie (Tam's mother) married Sidney Miller, a "black man" from British Guiana. They had a daughter, Alwyn. Later investigations by a firm of solicitors concluded that she was adopted, but some family members insisted she was their own child.

In 1902, Jessie Byford sadly died.

The following year, Minnie Byford followed her sister's example and gave birth to an illegitimate child, Muriel. She was brought up, along with her cousin, Fred Dawson, by her grandparents, John & Sarah. Muriel was later to marry Stanley Elnaugh, who started the Elnaugh electrical business in Baddow Road, Chelmsford. Their grandchildren include Rachel Elnaugh, who founded *Red Letter Days* and was a "dragon" on the first series of *Dragon's Den*, and the actor, John Elnaugh.

On 15th November 1907, Minnie had another illegitimate daughter. This one she named Winnie. Minnie's brother Albert, along with his wife, Rose, adopted Winnie. Albert was a "Lay Preacher of Terling Hall". Minnie eventually married Charles Cottee (1912) and had 2 sons with him.

Let's now return to John & Sarah Byford and a selection of their children's exploits.

Percy Byford emigrated to Canada on 26th March 1908, where he married and raised a family.

In the 1911 Census, John & Sarah were living at Rumbolds ("Rumbles" Farm), Danbury, along with Walter, May, Fred, Muriel and Bill Pudney. John was now a Farm Bailiff.

John Stephen Byford died on 24th March 1916. The family had, by then, moved to Great Baddow.



George (Henry George) Byford joined the Royal Flying Corp in the Great War. He later became a fruiter & greengrocer, living in Yorkshire. During the General Strike of 1926, some miners broke his shop windows - and a policeman stole some of his pears!

One of May (Annie May) Byford's great grandchildren, Tara Dayer-Smith (later Tara McLay-Kidd) became a professional golfer on the European Tour.

Sarah Ann Byford soldiered on for many more years. At the time of the 1939 Register, she and Bill Pudney were

H	ditto	779	1	Byford, Sarah A.	F	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 51	W	x	Unpaid domestic duty
			2	Pudney, William J.	M	9 <sup>th</sup> June 65	S		Retired Horseman

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

living at 4 Lorne Terrace, Baddow Road, Chelmsford. She finally passed away, aged 88, on 5th February 1940. She was buried at Great Baddow.



Back to the Cloughtons. Following Walter & Selina's first-born Herbert's death in 1896, it didn't take his widow, Kate too long in finding another husband. In 1898 she married cowman John "Jummy" Russell (born in 1868 at Terling). He became stepfather to Bertha, Harry, Frank & Leonard, and was fully accepted as part of the family. Jummy, who fought in the Boer War, and Kate (pictured left) went on to have 6 children of their own, 2 dying before the 1911 Census. The 4 who survived were: William George "Will" (1899, White Notley), Emily Victoria "Em" (14th May 1900 at Westocks Farm), Florence May "Flo" (18th March 1904, Hatfield Peverel) & Dorothy Catherina "Doll" (28th February 1907, Hatfield Peverel).

Will Russell later married Hilda Bright. Albie Russell was their son. Flo went on to marry Bill Cheek, and Doll married Cecil Franklin, Bob Franklin being their son.

The 1901 Census shows Kate living at Westocks Farm, along with her children, Bertha, Harry & Frank Cloughton, and Will & Em. Jummy was absent, presumably fighting in the Boer War. In 1911 Kate & Jummy were living in Three Ashes Cottage with Will, Em, Flo & Doll.

Confusing, I know, but it's now time to reintroduce the children of John & Grace (née Byford) Dawson. In 1923 Will Dawson married Em Russell. Their children were Betty (later Newman), John & Daphne (later Eaton).

On 14th May 1927, Arthur Dawson married Elsie Cook. It happened to be Elsie's mother Anna's 50th birthday.

In the following year, Fred Dawson, who had been raised by his grandparents, married Nellie Turner. They had a son.

On 4th June 1930, Fred's twin sister, Ivy married Frank Steele at Terling. They became parents to 2 daughters - Eileen (later Batchford) & Pamela (later Guilder).



Ivy & Frank's wedding. Names follow on the next page. All left to right.

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

Back row: Mrs Boutell (Algar), Anna Cook, Annie Steele, Bob & Ena Steele, Olive Wagstaff, Doris Steele, James Bowles, Walter Russell, Winnie Byford, Cis Byford, Hilda & Will Russell.

Middle row: Walter Cloughton, Selina Cloughton, Bill Steele, Arthur Dawson, John, Alf Steele, Cecil Franklin, Doll Franklin, Flo Fisher, Grace Steele, Rose Byford, ?, Lily Mundon/Munden, Cliff (Tam) Byford, Jane Steele.

Front row: Mabel Steele with Winnie, Elsie Dawson with Phyllis, William & Annie Steele, Frank Steele, Ivy Steele, Grace Dawson, Emily Dawson with John Dawson, Will Dawson, Flo Cheek with Eric Cheek.

Children's row: Rita Algar, Percy Steele, Derek Steele, Elizabeth & Rosemary Strange (twins), Ruby Wagstaff (Boon), Betty Dawson.

A family tragedy occurred on 18th November 1932, when farm labourer Will Dawson dropped dead from a heart attack in a sugar beet field. He was only 34. Will had fought in the Great War, was a bell ringer at Fairstead Church and a member of the British Legion. His widow, Em went on to marry Harry South.



Newly-weds Arthur & Elsie Dawson moved into a brand new house, 2 Council Houses (later Viner Cottages), Terling on 1st April 1928. It is where they spent the rest of their lives.

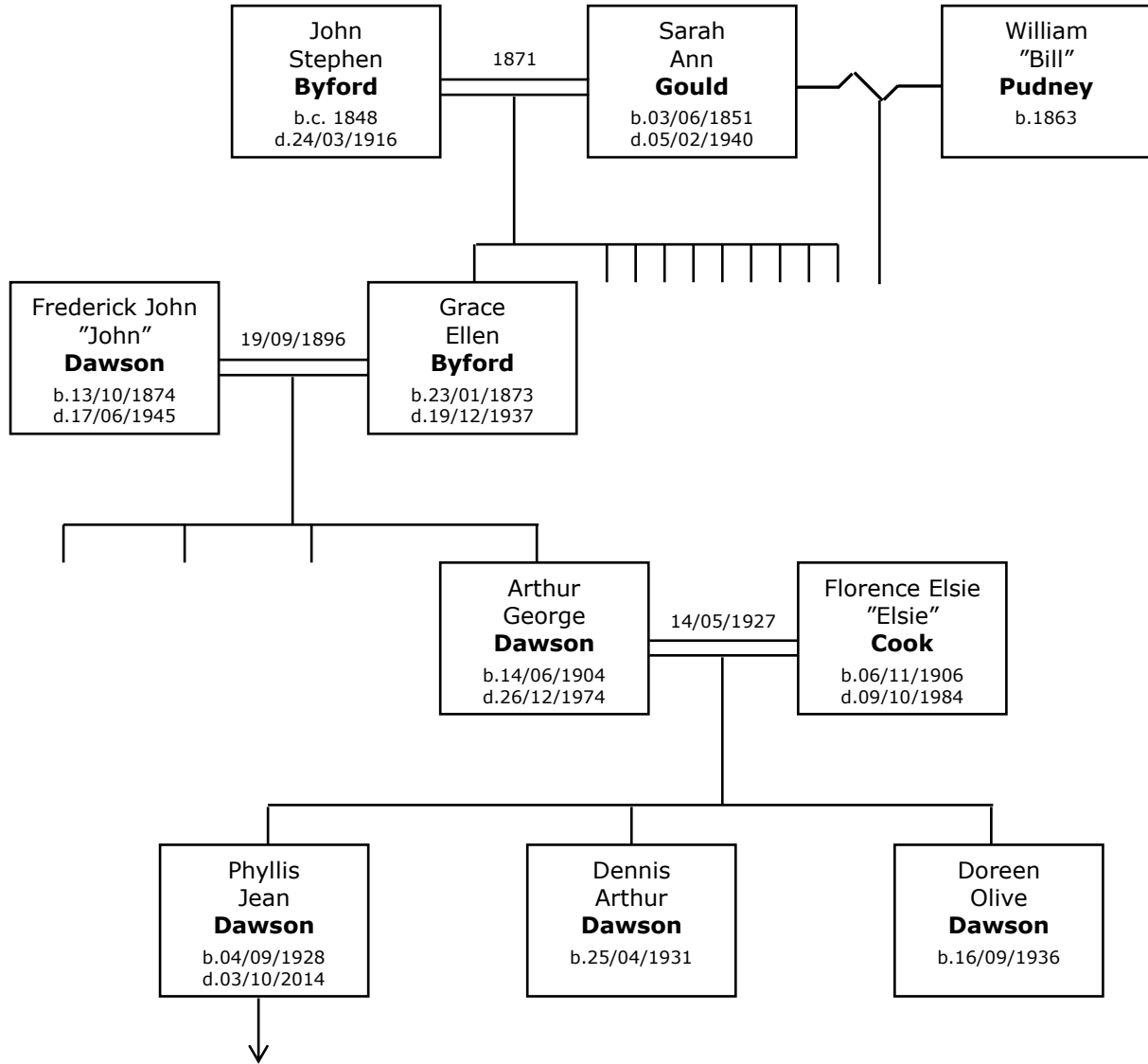
*Arthur & Elsie are pictured here (on the right), the other couple being Doll (née Russell) & Cecil Franklin.*

Arthur, who was a bricklayer by trade, and Elsie Dawson went on to have three children: Phyllis Jean (4th September 1928), Dennis Arthur (25th April 1931) and Doreen Olive (16th September 1936). All three were born at home – 2 Council Houses (Viner Cottages). One of Phyllis's godmothers was Doll Franklin.

John and Grace Dawson were living at Six Elms, the closest of the 3 houses to Fuller Street. On one freezing cold night – 19th December 1937 – Grace needed the toilet and, refusing to use the pail indoors, made her way to the outside toilet at the bottom of the garden. She didn't make it; she collapsed and died. Grace had passed away whilst her mother, Sarah was still living in Chelmsford.

John then went to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Ivy & Frank Steele, in The Street, Hatfield Peverel. John, who had been a foreman at Three Ashes Farm, became ill from the Spanish Flu pandemic (he claimed) after the Great War, and probably never worked again. He had been left with a weak heart. When Grace, his wife was still alive, she used to take him out in a wicker bath-chair. He was remembered in later life as staying in bed in striped pyjamas, at Six Elms, and having a small jar of bulls-eye sweets next to his bed, which he would hand out to his grandchildren. He finally passed away, aged 70, on 17th June 1945.

SOME ESSEX FAMILIES



## DOODLEBUGS AND JOCKEYS

### *World War Two*



Phyllis, Dennis and Doreen Dawson spent a normal childhood in the 1930s, living with their parents, Arthur & Elsie, at 2 Council Houses (Viner Cottages), Terling.

The third of September 1939 was different. The children were told that they could play outside until 11 o'clock, it being a Sunday, and then had to come in to listen to a speech on the wireless. So, at 11, the family was gathered around the wireless and heard, from Prime

Minister Neville Chamberlain, that the country was now at war with Germany.

"Typical!" exclaimed Phyllis, "the day before my eleventh birthday." Her plans had to change, as she was soon to start at Witham Senior School (later Bramston) and, because of the War, she had to stay on at Terling Primary School for a few more months.

Elsie Dawson was a very nervous person. As soon as the announcement of War was made, she found out all their tinned food and prepared their gas masks. As Doreen was so young, she didn't have a mask, so Elsie was ready with a wet towel and blankets.

Arthur Dawson made an air raid shelter for the family: he dug a huge hole in their back garden, about halfway along the path from the house, on the right hand side. It was basically an underground shed containing a small seat and a larger one. A blanket was hung at the back to act as a hammock-bed for Doreen, whilst Phyllis & Dennis had their beds under the seats.

A mother and her 2 boys from across the road used to join them, whilst the boys' father would stay outside, watching for planes with Arthur. Flatulence was a problem in the shelter – with one person, in particular. On one occasion, one of the billeted soldiers, who was in the shelter at the time, asked, "Is that Nancy's knees knocking?" to which came the reply, "No, it's just Den letting rip." Sorry, uncle! Could the neighbours have been Nancy & Charlie White?

Arthur was considered not fit enough for service, but his building services were required undertaking war work at Boreham Aerodrome, where he had to cycle each day. Phyllis eventually moved to Witham Senior School in May 1940. She left again on 18th December 1942.

The family abandoned the upstairs part of their house once the war started, all sleeping downstairs. There was a double bed in the front room, with a letdown sofa at the end. Elsie slept in the bed and Phyllis & Dennis took it in turns to sleep with her or to use the sofa. There was a cot at the side of the bed for Doreen, and Arthur slept on a single bed in the living room.

As the upstairs wasn't being used, Elsie & Arthur couldn't refuse to house a family of evacuees, which was regrettable for them, because the family – man, woman & child – used to have loud arguments and fights. Fortunately they weren't there long.



## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

After that, the Dawson family had Scottish soldiers billeted with them, and they were well received. The names of those who stayed at various times were Irving, Mac, Alec and Adam.

Christmas dinners took place with Elsie's parents, George & Anna Cook, at Terling Hall. There was always a houseful, with 3 or 4 aunts, 2 uncles and even the shooters from the Lord Rayleighs Shoot. One year they even took the billeted soldiers along with them. When Christmas pudding was served, George Cook used to tell his grandchildren to look out of the window at what the rabbits were getting up to. When they looked back, they found half-crowns (12½p) in their puddings.

The Terling villagers would often witness fighter planes engaged in dogfights and, at night, see the searchlights in action. Shrapnel would often rain down. On one occasion, a dogfight was taking place over the Coach Road whilst the Flower Show was being organised in the school meadow. This was probably during the 1940 Battle of Britain, and was probably the same occasion when Will Bright, living at Gambles Green, dived for cover in his rhubarb patch whilst preparing for the Flower Show.

The German V1s, or Doodlebugs, were also a menace. One evening, after Phyllis had finished work (for 'twas a long war), she was walking to the Village Hall – the Old Hut or Red Triangle Hut – and a doodlebug approached. Phyllis dived onto the side of the road, but the V1 continued on to Boreham. Another time she was at work in Witham Woolworth's when a doodlebug passed overhead. Everyone in the shop dived for cover, but Phyllis got to her feet again to look at everyone else. The weapon crashed between Witham & Terling.

Arthur related an occasion when, in his words, one was so low, it passed between his house, number 2 and next door. Later on in the War, Arthur also used to see vapour trails left by V2 rockets, when he looked along his back garden and to the right.

Bob Felton (pictured here in later years when he worked at the Stores), who was related to the Felton band, was evacuated from London, and came to live at number 3 Council Houses with Gert King and her brother, Charlie Joyce. Gert's husband and son and possibly another lodger lived there too. Elsie Dawson liked to hold children's parties in her house, in order to keep the spirits up. Later on in the War, one such party was taking place and there came a sudden rap on the window. Arthur was out in the garden, watching, as usual, for any signs of enemy aircraft. Elsie, taking the knocking as the sign of an air raid, made everyone dive under the table. In walked Bob Felton, dressed as a jockey. He was just trying to make the children laugh, but it was he who was amused, seeing lots of bottoms sticking out from under the table!



As a friend of Dennis Dawson, Stanley Bright, son of Will & Winnie of Gambles Green, used to attend Elsie's parties. *Postman's Knock* was being played at one of these parties (inappropriate, I know – but NOT in those times), and Phyllis (or Phyl) often found herself paired with Stan. So they started dating. Gradually they drifted apart – Phyl felt that Stan was really too young for her – that was until Stan started dating Vida Russell, and Phyl fought to win him back. Vida, incidentally, went on to marry David Cook, a son of Fred Cook, George's youngest brother.

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Stanley William Bright and Phyllis Jean Dawson were married in Terling Church on 18th July 1953. Stan started his working life as a wheelwright, before going on to be a forestry worker.

On 13th November 1954, a son was born by Caesarean section at St John's Hospital, Chelmsford. He had *spina bifida*, and never left hospital. He was named John. He passed away in January the following year. Stan and Phyl had 2 more children at St John's: Mervyn Alan on 1st February 1956 (forceps) and Anita Cheryl on 14th March 1960. When Phyl was expecting Anita, she asked the family G.P., Doctor Foster what she should expect, as she had had one child by Caesarean and one using forceps. Dr Foster's reply? "Arse first." Anita's birth, needless to say, was normal.

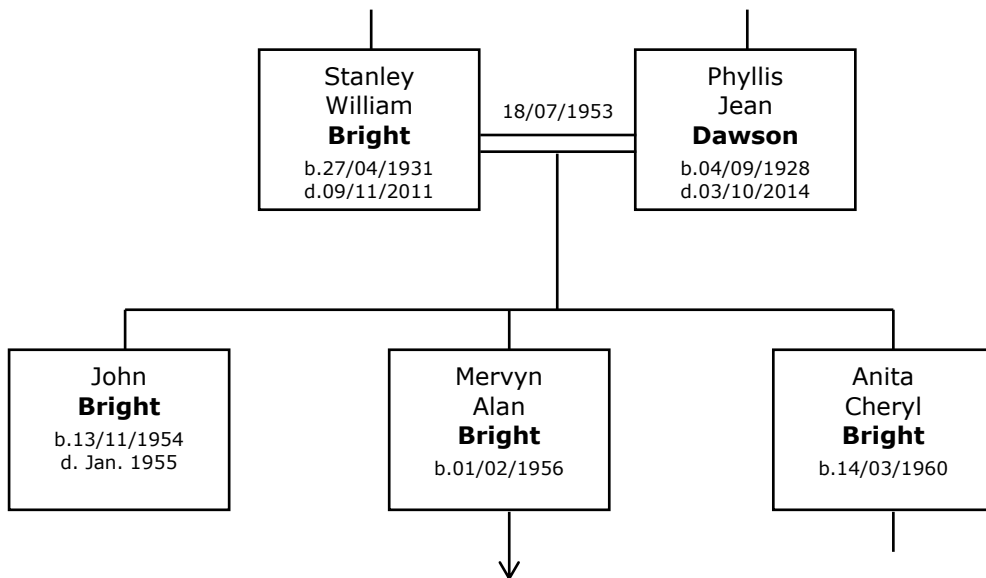
Phyl & Stan started their married life living in the Bungalow, Braintree Road, before moving to the Street Corner in about 1957. They then moved to 3 Brick Cottages, Monkey Lane in January 1967.

Dennis Dawson married Ruby Elsie Webb, at Terling, on 19th February 1955. They had 5 children. Doreen Dawson married Desmond John Bright on 24th January 1959, also at Terling. They had 2 children.

Arthur Dawson died on Boxing Day 1974 in Black Notley Hospital. He was 70. Elsie passed away in Broomfield Hospital on 8th October 1984, aged 77. Stan Bright died on 9th November 2011, aged 80, and Phyl followed on 3rd October 2014, aged 86.



*Arthur & Elsie Dawson are pictured here in later years.*



## YOURS TRULY

### *Assorted Memories*

From what I remember of my early life, I was probably, what would be called today, mildly autistic, possibly of the Asperger's Syndrome type. When I was very young, I had trouble communicating and couldn't talk properly for years. I have to process things sequentially, usually making lists, and can't concentrate on masses of written or printed words, preferring to have pictures and/or illustrations. It doesn't worry me – that's who I am.

Anyway, here is a selection of my memories. Every time I remember something of importance in my unimportant life, I add it to a text document entitled *Memories!*

#### Wardrobe Keys

One day, when living at The Street Corner, Terling, I threw all the wardrobe keys out the bedroom window(s). It was not long before we were due to go on our annual Jaywick holiday. My mother was panicking about not being able to get to the clothes to pack. My parents managed to recover the keys.



#### Earliest Memory

According to my Nanna Bright, I was 2 when I did this. I was at my grandparents' house at Gambles Green, Terling, and I completely dismantled the companion set (poker, brush, ashtray, etc.) in front of their Rayburn.

#### Postmen

When I was little I used to look out of my bedroom window at The Street Corner, Terling and gaze at the gateposts outside Terling Place. They were square brick structures surmounted by large acorn designs. I thought these looked like heads, and having heard of postmen, thought that is what those posts were!

#### Being A Pageboy

I was twice a pageboy, the first time for Uncle Eric & Auntie Audrey, which I don't remember, the second time for Auntie Doreen & Uncle Des. I remember going to a house, opposite Terling church, the Bromwell Leaze side of the Timber Yard, for clothes fittings. I remember part of the wedding itself (Saturday 24 January 1959): I was standing in the church aisle, behind the couple; my cousin Malcolm was on my left. I felt "concerned" when Des & Doreen went forward to the end of the church, not knowing whether to follow them. As Malcolm (and Linda Eaton, bridesmaid & my second cousin) remained, I was happy to do the same!



*I'm on the right in this picture, with cousin, Malcolm Dawson and second cousin, Linda Eaton (later Lee).*

#### Outdoor Toilet

At our Street Corner house, we had a flushing outdoor toilet. On one occasion, I was sitting on it, with the door open, watching the birds on the bird table. I made up a poem:

...  
... *swinging round on the bacon*  
*and eating it*  
*'coz they are hungry [hungry]*  
...  
*That's why, that's 'coz*

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

*Says the funny old puss  
... funny,  
Isn't it. Mummy?  
...*

On another occasion, my father commented that there was "a money spider in the toilet... it's as big as a ten shilling note".

### Teddies

I had 2 teddies. The first was an orange one with jointed limbs. I called it Howard, after Teddy Howard (neighbour across the road & my dad's work colleague). The second was a small blue one (from my Bright grandparents, I think). I named it William after T.V. comedian, Howard Williams. These teddies may have been named the other way round – help me out, Shell.

### Family Pets

My nanna & grandad Dawson had a tortoiseshell cat (very thin) called Tibby. They also had a blue budgie called Bobby, later replaced by a green one called Cindy (c.f. cinnamon!).

My nanna & grandad Bright had a black & white cat called Fluffy.

We had a black cat, the daughter of Fluffy, called Sooty. When we moved from the Street Corner to Monkey Lane, it kept returning to its old home, finally disappearing. Later we had a ginger & white cat called Sandy. It died from poisoning.

### Football

One happy memory is being with my Dad & Uncle Des in my outer back garden at The Street Corner Terling. My Dad & Uncle continually kicked a ball high into the trees there, and I loved watching the narrow leaves come fluttering down, twinkling in the spring sunlight. I am fairly certain this was at the gathering following my sister Anita's Christening on Sunday 17th April 1960.

### Maps

When looking at atlases and globes, I used to think that Britain looked like a kangaroo and Ireland looked like a teddy bear.

### Exercises

I had to do exercises when I was very young because of my flat feet. E.g. picking up a pencil with my toes, and walking along the passage between the living room & front room clutching pencils in my toes.

### Speech

I had trouble speaking properly for years, and had numerous alternative words.

Dadd'n	Grandad
Po Owwa	Post Office
Owa	Water
Back Miaow	Mr Wylds (Black Mr Wylds)
Pippy Miaow	Mrs Wylds (Pretty Mrs Wylds)
Didd'n	Wendy (Wood)
Didd'n Mum	Vi Wood
Didd'n Dad	Harold "Tuggy" Wood
Paggie	Passage
Exerguggles	Exercises
Ee-ork ee-ork ee-ork	Walk walk walk (whilst doing my walking exercise)
Barb'm	Malcolm (cousin – once he retorted, "If you call me Barb'm, I'll call you Brighty.")

### Being shy / saying "hello"

I was extremely shy as a small boy (particularly of my Auntie Audrey's sister, Sheila), and couldn't bring myself to say "Hello" to anyone. One day, I was indoors (The Street

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Corner, Terling) with my mother and, somehow, I managed to say the word. My mum sent me outside to where my father was gardening to say it to him, which I did. I think he replied with a "Hello", but I remember thinking that he didn't seem impressed!

### Nightmares

My early nightmares were of Frogs & Bones. I remember one where I had bones down the front of my shirt, and they were eating me!

In one I was sitting/playing on the floor of our living room, in front of the sideboard, in our Street Corner, Terling house. There was a noise from the passage - I was frozen in fear where I sat. A man burst through the door from the passage, wearing a gas mask (OO for eyes, O over nose/mouth), and came up to me and put his face in mine. I woke up.

In one I was at the pantry window end of the back yard of my Nanna & Grandad Bright's Gambles Green, Terling house. There came a loud rumbling from the adjoining shed, and a large bull burst out through the door. It started to eat me and I didn't awake until I was disappearing, feet-first, down its throat.

One night, my mother heard me talking in my sleep. Some of what I was saying was: "Mummy and Anita and bread and butter".



### Street Corner Neighbours

Crow Road end: Mr & Mrs Wylde.

Then us.

Then Harold (Tuggy), Vi & Wendy Wood\*; later Mrs Baker too (Vi's mother).

Adjacent to Terling Place gates (Butler's Lodge): Mr & Mrs Jones.

Opposite Terling Place gates: Cyril & Mrs Parrish.

Then Ted & Ella Howard and, for a time, Elijah Norris (Ella's father).

Then haberdashery shop (or unused).

Then, next to footpath, Bob & Elsie Bass, plus Adrian, Sandra & Tim.

Elijah Norris had a glass eye. The Howards used to have a budgie. Because of being only partially-sighted, Elijah accidentally allowed the budgie to escape to the great outdoors.

\*Wendy Wood related an account of when she attended a Peter & Gordon concert. She and other fans chased one or both of the performers down (or up) a long (spiral?) staircase.

*The above photo shows my Mum in our back garden. In the background are the Woods' and the Jones' houses.*

### Space

Even as a young boy, I was extremely interested in space and space travel. There was a rusty old milk churn against the fence of Mrs Wylde's (in the outer back garden). I used to sit in it with an enamelled light shade on my head, pretending I was in a rocket. The light shade was, as far as I remember, white, with a blue trim.

### Humming Wires

Telephone wires used to hum: eerie sounds, days of warm breeze, e.g. along past Sandypits Farm, lonely spots.

### Sunday Vest

When we were at my Dawson grandparents' (e.g. Saturdays) we used to see old Mrs Russell (Josie's mother) of Helston, Braintree Road walking down to the standpipe inside the outer gate opposite (Uncle Eric's) with a bucket to fill. Helston had no electricity or

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water. Mrs Russell used to be rather scruffy. It was remarked (probably by Dad or Uncle Des) that she was in her Sunday vest (c.f. Sunday best).

### Kittens

My Nanna & Grandad Dawson's neighbours at 3 Viner Cottages, Charlie Joyce, Gert King (his sister) & Bob Felton (war evacuee) had a cat. Once, soon after it had had kittens, I was up my grandparents' cherry tree (nothing unusual). Charlie came out with a sack, obviously containing the kittens, went to his water butt, put the sack in and held it under until the kittens were dead.

### Bonfires

We had bonfires to celebrate Guy Fawkes in various places: outer back garden at The Street Corner, the Pit (old gravel pit) beyond outer back garden, Nanna & Grandad Dawson's back garden at 2 Viner Cottages, rough ground outside Nanna & Grandad Dawson's back garden, Bromwell Leaze (Youth Club event). When I was older, my cousin, Malcolm Dawson & I used to collect branches etc. and tow them behind our bikes to the bonfire. We had homemade cardboard signs on our bikes: "LONG LOAD" & "WIDE LOAD". Once, as we pushed our bikes along the road from the Lodge to the Crossroad, a police car stopped and the policeman warned us to take care.



**Outer Back Garden:** After one bonfire, I put a mat from my little house over the ashes. I returned a while later and it had burned away. *The bonfire was roughly where I'm standing with my Dad and sister, Anita.*

One year (at The Street Corner), coming up to Guy Fawkes night, Dad made a life-size guy, including a guy mask, for our bonfire. One dark night he took it to our next-door neighbours' back door, stood it in front of him and knocked at the door. It was opened by Violet (Vi) Wood who screamed, and ran out of their front door, along with her daughter, Wendy. Her husband, Harold (Tuggy) didn't move far, asking questions, such as "Who is it, then?" A few seconds later, there was a hammering at our front door as Vi & Wendy sought sanctuary! Mum found it hilarious.

**The Pit:** My family used to share this bonfire & fireworks with Tim Bass. Sometimes his mother had us round afterwards for food & drink. One year there was a story about exchange of rockets: one of Kevin Aves's rockets was supposed to have landed in our bonfire and one of ours was supposed to have landed in his. On days after the bonfire we used to wrap up the ash in dock leaves to use as bombs against our enemies.

**Back garden of 2 Viner Cottages:** Dad's favourite firework was the Air Bomb Repeater (2 loud bangs). I didn't like loud fireworks, preferring pretty ones, e.g. Traffic Lights.

**Rough ground outside Nanna & Grandad Dawson's back garden:** One year, when my cousin Malcolm Dawson and I were building the bonfire, my Grandad Dawson kept insisting it was too close to his hedge. Although Malcolm and I argued, Grandad eventually moved the bonfire further away on his own. On another occasion, Malcolm used to buy and light bangers before Guy Fawkes Night. Once he threw one into a large metal hopper at the Pea Sheller. It fell out the bottom onto a metal plate just above the ground and, although I tried to back off quickly, it exploded and a piece hit my Wellington boot, causing a scorch mark.

### Halloween

One year, probably very early 1970s or late 1960s, it fell on a Saturday, and, as usual, I was at my Dawson grandparents' for tea. My sister, cousins & I set up an electrical circuit

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with a torch bulb and lit up a small grotesque foam rubber mask in my grandparents' front hedge every time somebody came past (probably on the way to the pub).

### Christmas

One Christmas, when I was living at The Street Corner, I left a thankyou note for Father Christmas. On Christmas morning, I found a reply covered, with what I thought, were sooty fingerprints. I later discovered that my mother had written it and used coal dust for the fingerprints.

At Christmas time in a later year, my sister Anita was talking about Father Christmas. Just to wind her up, I said that there was no such person as Father Christmas (although I believed there was). Dad quietly said to me, trying to get me not to disillusion Anita, that it's nice to believe, though. What a way to find out – served me right!

### Friends & Enemies

There used to be alot of stone-throwing.

#### **Friends**

David Palmer, Tim Bass  
Malcolm Dawson (cousin)

#### **Enemies**

Paul Twin, (Kevin Aves), Robin Alliston  
The Palmers (Tony, Robert & Terry), the Barrells (Kevin & Graham)

The Palmers used to make rafts out of old tin baths with large fuel cans ties onto each side with baling string. One dark Saturday night, I regret to say, I crept down behind Garnets Mead (where they lived) and, using a penknife, cut the strings and set them adrift on the River Ter. One day I was down there again, but the Palmers spotted me. I escaped by running along the riverbank to the Dismalls and continued on to the Old Dairy. I crossed the bridge and crept back through the trees on the other side of the river, heading back to the Dismalls. As the Palmers were close, I lay down on my stomach. Suddenly came an intense pain in my backside. Robert Palmer, creeping up behind me, had fired a stone from his catapult. I thoroughly deserved it! Sorry, Robert.

### Jaywick Holidays

We had family holidays in Jaywick from 1957 to 1974: my own family, my aunty Doreen & her family and my Dawson grandparents, all staying in the same house. In the early years, before we had a car, we went with Boons, the Boreham coach firm. At least once was on a proper coach, combining taking "old" people to Clacton. Either old Mr Boon or his son, Hector drove. Old Mr Boon was somewhat fast and reckless in his driving: when he picked us up from The Street Corner in his VW dormobile, he would swing the vehicle round outside the gates to Terling Place, often hitting the hedge on the other side of the road, where Mr & Mrs Parrish lived.

Golf Green Road: There were water-butts at various corners of the house. I was obviously warned that it was dirty water. I used to take my cousin Jackie, when she was really small (1960 or 1961) around to show her the "dutty water".

### All The Seaside Towns

I was always extremely excited at the thought of our Jaywick holidays. On one occasion, during morning break at Terling School, I was on the school field, drinking my milk and talking to friend, David Palmer. He mentioned Jaywick and I jumped, made a noise sounding like "Wit" and spilt some of my milk. That became the sound for Jaywick. Gradually other sounds were introduced for other seaside towns:

Jaywick	Wit	
Clacton	Ding	
Walton	Bzzz	
Felixstowe	Dong	
Southend	Dit	
Maldon	[Raspberry]	
(Great) Yarmouth	Boo	because my Dawson cousins had their holidays there!
Burnham	Boyng	
Bradwell	Doyng	

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David Palmer also introduced the name "The Bright Clan" for the 10 of us who went on holiday together.

### Injuries

Dad used to brew wine on an open fire in our outer back garden at The Street Corner. On one occasion I put a piece of metal (possibly part of a TV aerial) in the fire. Later I went to pick it up by the end sticking out of the fire and was surprised to be burned. I had blisters and had discovered conduction!

One Sunday (before 1965), I was with my family at my great grandparents' (George & Anna Cook), Thatched Cottage, Waltham Road. I was watching out for my Nanna & Grandad Dawson, who were also going to tea. When I saw them walking up the road towards me, I ran to meet them, tripped over and cut my left knee badly on the road. I cried! It took ages for the bleeding to stop - it should have had stitches. I believe the following day my mother took me next door so that Mrs Wylds could have a look at it. I was left with a permanent scar.



I was playing in the outer back garden close to the outer fence and near the nursery end. I was, as usual, throwing stones and other things. I picked up a piece of broken glass and threw that. As it left my left hand, rotating, it sliced through my skin between my thumb & forefinger. It bled a great deal. I was given the all-clear at the Terling Surgery.

*The picture is of my Dad in our back garden at The Street Corner.*

One Sunday I was at my Nanna & Grandad Bright's for tea, Gambles Green. I was playing with Gary Russell next door. We were taking it in turns to ride on a small trolley-type cart (probably pushing each other). On one of my turns in the trolley (I was kneeling), I was going along the side of the house. The right front wheel of the trolley hit the front edge of a raised drain surround, I lurched forward and my tooth (upper front left) hit the rear edge of the drain and broke. I cried! I was taken into my grandparents' bathroom and someone used a nail file on my sharp broken tooth. Later (not that day) I went to the dentist to have it filed properly.

### Remember

One dark Sunday night we were cycling back from tea at my great grandparents'. We had already "dropped off" my Dawson grandparents and were passing the school, entering The Street. I was on my own bike and had an extremely itchy bottom! I thought to myself, "Remember" and I would always remember that moment. It worked!

### Birthday Parties

I used to have several friends (& family) to my birthday parties at the Street Corner. I seem to remember Malcolm Dawson, Tim Bass, Kevin Aves, Susan Dixon, Catherine Webb, Gail Russell, Wendy Wood and David Palmer.

Tea time was always messy! One year there was a story (probably exaggerated) that, at blowing-out-the-candles time, Kevin Aves blew a cake onto the floor. My Nanna Dawson's cream horns were popular. My friends would bite off the bottom and then blow the cream out.

Murder in the Dark was a popular party game, played in the front room. Everybody drew a piece of paper. Most were blank, but the person who drew one with the letter 'M' kept it secret and was the murderer. The one who drew a 'D' was the detective and had to leave the room. Then the light was turned off and everybody mingled. The murderer would put his/her hands around a victim's throat and they would fall to the floor. Someone would shout "Murder", the light would go back on and the detective would return and question those present to ascertain who the murderer was. On one occasion I wanted a bit of fun. Although I wasn't the murderer, I "murdered" several people and dropped to the floor myself. When the detective returned and asked "Who's been murdered?", David Palmer,



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from the bottom of a pile of bodies, squawked "Me". I laughed so much that, I'm ashamed to say, I slightly wet myself.

### Terling C Of E Primary School (1961-1967)

2 or 3 days before I was due to start school (Saturday?) - January 1961 - we were at my Bright grandparents' home at Gambles Green, because Derek, Pam, Teresa & Nigel Harris were there. Derek's mother, my great aunt Elsie, was probably there too. Derek, Pam, Teresa & Nigel were about to emigrate to Australia. The next day (Sunday?) they visited my home at The Street Corner, Terling. I played with Teresa & Nigel, including at the Wylds end of the outer back garden. I didn't know, but Teresa & Nigel had measles...

A day or two later, I started at Terling School. I walked down The Street with my mother. Stephen Ambrose, who was about my age and lived on the left hand side, wasn't there - must have already gone to school. On arriving at the school gate, Mum spotted Susan Dixon (& her mother) of Mill Lane, another new pupil. Mum tried to get me to hold Susan's hand to go up the steps to school. I wouldn't. Our classroom was the furthest one from the steps. My teacher was Mrs Carey, a very strict, scary woman. At morning break we used to have a bottle of milk (third of a pint) to drink. That day I didn't want to drink all of mine. I was granted my wish.

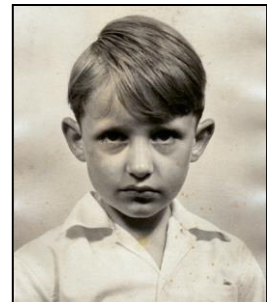
The next day, again I didn't want to drink all of my milk. This time I was made to drink it - by scary Carey.

The next day, I was ill with measles. I stayed at home in bed with the curtains drawn. I remember the loud-knocking, booming Dr Foster visiting.

When I finally returned to school, Stephen Ambrose & I were the only pupils in the entire class. The rest were off with measles. Stephen had already had it. Mrs Carey read stories to us, sitting close to the tortoiseshell stove.

Teachers: Class 4	Mrs Carey	
Class 3 (middle room)	Mr Taylor(?)	
Class 2 (Village Hall)	Mr Elliott	The large end room of the (new) village hall was used
Class 1 (large room)	Mr Hobbs (Headmaster)	

On one occasion we had pupils from higher classes come in to help us with arithmetic. The one with me (probably not Catherine Webb, but she's who I think of) asked me a question regarding multiples of 11 (e.g. what is  $11 \times 2$ ?). I had no idea of the answer, but, looking at patterns of numbers, came up with the correct answer!



When I was in the Infants (it may have been after the Infants, and we were just using that classroom for Music & Movement), we used to have Music & Movement, which we did on the floor cleared of desks & chairs to a radio programme. On one edition, we had to repeat out loud the names Timothy, then Malcolm. I was terrified that Mervyn would come later making me the unwanted centre of attention. I thought that Timothy was referring to Timothy Bass and Malcolm to Malcolm Dawson (my cousin). Both were in the class.

I once announced to people (Nanna Dawson, I think) that I was going to marry Carol Bright (in my class) so that she wouldn't have to change her surname.

When I moved up to the next class (next door), the teacher had become Pam Palmer (my friend David's mother). Whilst I was in that class, Mr Luton took over as headmaster. Also work was being carried out on the school, creating 2 new classrooms. What later became the hall was still then a yard.

When I moved up to the new building, tuck was sold at morning break in the corridor.

### **My classes:**

Class 4: 1961-1962	Mrs Carey
Class 3: 1962-1964	Mrs Palmer
Class 2: 1964-1965	Mrs Lipson

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Class 1: 1965-1967 Mr Luton



I was useless at football, but there was a funny story (probably exaggerated) regarding my team in one game: an opposition player (possibly Trevor Cook) took a shot at goal, the ball passed Kevin Aves (Full Back), who turned to chase it. Goal Keeper, Tim Bass dived too early, Kevin tripped over him and headed the ball into the goal.

Rounders: I only seemed to be able to hit the ball behind me and often hit it into Winnie Ward's garden. It used to score half a rounder until Mr

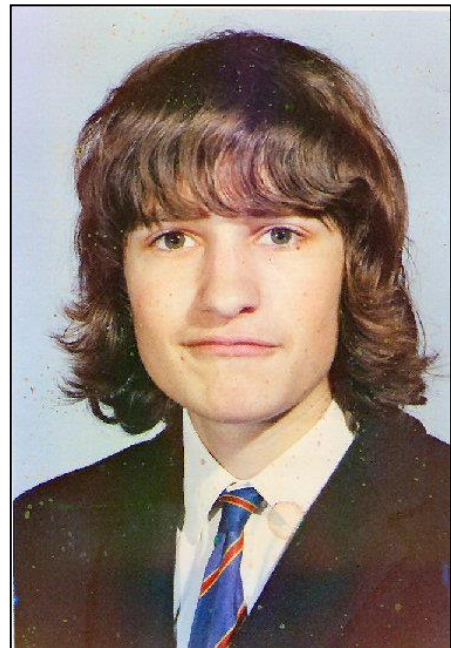
Luton decided it meant OUT!

Long Jump: My best was about 11'.

High Jump: My best was 3'6" (scissors).

### Chelmsford Technical High School (1967-1974)

On my first day, I declined the offer of a lift to school - I had had my bus procedure drilled into me so I couldn't change it. The 2 others from my year - David Palmer & Eleanor Ross - accepted the lift, so I was on my own. On catching the bus, I dumbly handed over my fare (4d). That was a half single fare to Hatfield Peverel. Our season tickets only covered us for journeys between Hatfield Peverel and Chelmsford. School buses were laid on between the bus station and the school. A contract minibus would take us home from Hatfield Peverel in the afternoon. The first minibus was from Cables (Cable's Corner garage at the junction of Station Road & The Street). It was, I believe, a VW. It was driven by Mr or Mrs Cable or by their daughter or son-in-law (the Does). The second minibus was Canfield's(?) of Nounsley(?), driven by Mr Canfield(?). We Terling students also had a priority pass so that, at the end of the school day, we could pass the rest of the queue for buses so that we made sure of a seat. On that first day I wore a school cap (which had been on the uniform list), only to find out that it was no longer compulsory. On arrival at school, we first years gathered in the gym so that we could be divided into our classes. I was in class 1F (French, the others being Crompton, Hoffman & Marconi). My classroom was D1/2 (a partitioned room with the partition open) on the first floor next to the library in the main part of the building. My form teacher was Mr (Donald) Cobb, complete with beard. A short ginger boy, Andrew (later Andy) Crabb from Roxwell made friends with me and became my desk partner. We sat near the back of the room on the LHS. I was against the wall. At the end of school on my first day, I hadn't a clue what to do. I found myself with David Palmer. Having missed all the school buses, we walked down Patching Hall Lane to Broomfield Road and caught a bus to the station. From there we decided to walk home! We reached Springfield and the late Terling bus passed us. We then waited for another bus at the stop near the end of Springfield Road, near the Oasis garage. We caught a bus to Hatfield Peverel, where David's father gave us a lift home.



The picture above is my school photo from 1972.

Late 1960s, Winter, end of morning break: I was queuing to get back into school at the back door that fed from the playground. I looked up into the clear blue sky, roughly in line with the corner of the building. In the sky was a star-like object in the shape of a cross. It was stationary; there was no noise. It appeared larger than a star and was like no star I had ever seen.

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

Referring to by strange behaviour, colleagues compared me with Monty Python. One friend (Tim Coates, I believe) disagreed. He said that Monty Python were sensible people trying to be silly and that I was a silly person trying to be sensible.

In my later years (6 & 7) I gave myself letters after my name:  
Mervyn Bright, C.E.I., R.B., Y.C., U.S.I.F., E.S., A.S.

C.E.I. - Crazy Engine Inventor(s)  
R.B. - Red Book  
Y.C. - Yellow Cover  
U.S.I.F. - Underground Society of Intelligence and Forgery  
E.S. - Engineering Shop  
A.S. - Agricultural Scientist

### Mid Essex Technical College / Chelmer Institute Of Higher Education (1974-1978)

O.N.C. Engineering (1974-1976)

H.N.C. Electrical & Electronic Engineering (1976-1978)

Because I didn't have any practical qualifications from school, I had to take Engineering Drawing in my 1st year - against my wishes.

We were all known as Mr \_\_\_\_\_.

From the start, besides myself, there were: Peter Dunn (had 4 fathers & 3 mothers (real & foster), Robert Maxwell-Smith & Mr Woollard. The Hon. Richard Willoughby joined us a bit later. Later still a large bloke, with whom I didn't get on, Mick Cable joined us. During H.N.C. years, several more joined us, including a cheerful bloke from Israel and a miserable bloke from Egypt. Another was a black African bloke called Mr Tabé, who I called Mr Tar-Boy! I wasn't being racist, it was the times. I was a friend of his, helping him and allowing him to borrow/copy my lecture notes. Others had no time for him.

The lab technician there was Mike Smith, later a T.V. personality. He was into racing cars, as was his friend, Mick Cable, and their mutual T.V. friend, Noel Edmonds. I think Mike Smith thought I was a bit weird, as I used to flick my pen out of my hand, spinning end over end (as though it had exploded out of my hand), then snatched it out of the air as though it had escaped.

In 1977 (Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee year), it seemed we students attached the word "jubilee" to everything, such as "jubilee homework".

### Rainbow

On one occasion, when I was standing at the end of my nanna & grandad Dawson's garden (2 Viner Cottages), next to the gate to the Garden Field, a rainbow formed and I was actually in the end of it. I was aware of a great brightness and many twinkling colours around me.

### Radio 1

On the day Radio 1 started (1967) I took my transistor radio into my parents' bedroom so we could listen to the start together. First song: "Flowers in the Rain" by The Move.

In later years, my Dad used to make sure I was awake by switching on my radio in my bedroom. On one occasion the song "Pretty Love Songs" by Wings played. I hated it - very jarring on the nerves for that time of the morning.

### Bath Socks

Our home at 3 Brick Cottages, Monkey Lane. I was in bed following a bath (obviously a messy one). Dad went into the bathroom and I could hear him complaining loudly to my mother about the state of the bathroom and the water that was everywhere. "The bath salts are swimming in water," he said. I thought he said, "The bath socks are swimming in water." I couldn't stop laughing for ages, putting myself in danger of a spot of corporal punishment!

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

### Youth Club

In 1971, Paul Stewart gathered a group of us boys together to discuss the setting up of a Youth Club at Terling Village Hall. Paul wanted it to be for boys only - "Girls just sit about, tickling their fannies," he said. It was probably the next day, I was on the bus going to school, and I whispered what Paul had said to Martin Royce. Anne Thurgood wanted to know what I had said. Martin told her, but left out the reference to the part of the anatomy. Anne kept pestering him until he said that it was a pastry cook on the television [Fanny Craddock]. Anne became very indignant: "We do NOT....". Girls were allowed to join!

We used to have a record player in the middle room next to the kitchen, where the smaller snooker table was. My favourite records were:

Strange Kind of Woman/I'm Alone - Deep Purple  
Brown Sugar - Rolling Stones  
Come and Get It/Rock of All Ages - Badfinger

### Paul Stewart

Paul & his girlfriend/wife Sue used to do the Terling & Fairstead paper rounds and ran first the Off Licence, then The Stores. Paul also set up the Youth Club, as detailed above. I worked for him doing the Fairstead paper round at weekends, helping out with other rounds, then serving etc. at the Off Licence, then serving, cleaning, etc. at The Stores.

One amusing incident occurred regarding the village paper rounds. For obvious reasons, Paul had addresses written on the front of the newspapers to be delivered. One such paper was for the Dixon family of 2 Mill Lane. Thus, *2 Mill Lane* was written on it. One day, Mr Dixon (who was the father of Susan from my first day at school) came out and had a go at Paul, saying that his address wasn't 2 Mill Lane. Paul pointed out that he lived in Mill Lane, between numbers 1 & 3, but still Mr Dixon argued. The next day, Paul wrote *Dock Green* on his paper.

Paul told the tale of a cricket match he played in (at Hatfield Peverel?). One player was struck on the leg by a ball and his trousers caught fire. Apparently he had a box of Swan Vestas (non-safety matches) in his pocket.

Paul was also a maths teacher at Bramston School in Witham. This story came to me via Malcolm (cousin). Paul said that once, when he was at home, he received an electric shock, which blew him through 2 or 3 rooms; Sue waved to him as he passed through one of the rooms!

### Paper Round

My round was Fairstead at the weekend. When I started, in the early 1970s, I earned 70p: 40p for Saturday (20p + 20p for collecting the money) & 30p for Sunday (time and a half).

### Being A Prat

It was probably in the late 1960s, when we were living at 3 Brick Cottages, Monkey Lane, that I discovered my mother's Dr White sanitary towels in a black bag at the bottom of the stairs (outside the bathroom). I persuaded Anita, my younger sister, to ask Mum who Dr White was.

One November Saturday evening in the early 1970s, when I was, as usual for a Saturday, at my Nanna & Grandad Dawson's house, the "Poppy Show" was on television - the Remembrance Concert. I was messing about and making a row (because I was bored). My grandparents, who liked to watch the show, told me off for making such a noise. It caused me to fall out with them and I didn't visit them again for quite a time.

Yes, I still hate myself for all my past misdemeanours.

### My Grandad Dawson's Dream

Once he had a dream that he was standing on the middle tier of a 3-tier ladder up against Terling Church spire. Arthur Frost was on the top tier and Tommy Algar on the bottom tier. All the people who lived in Monkey Lane were doing the Hokey Cokey around

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

the bottom - Ed & Ede Joslin, Evelyn & Margie Joslin, Bert Wager, Mrs Worledge with Hubert & Edie, Ted & Babs Jiggins, etc.

Sometimes, when asked what he had dreamed about, would say: "I dreamt that my bum was an orange and you were sucking it".

### David Algar

David Algar, born 16 September 1907, was the brother of Tommy (Thomas William) Algar, born c.1904, who featured in my Grandad Dawson's dream. Their father, William had committed suicide in the early part of 1910 by drowning himself. David wore thick glasses and had a dent in his cheek, as though it had once been pierced.

David Algar, who lived with his wife Hilda on Owls Hill, had an allotment at the back of where I lived (approximately at the rear of 1 Brick Cottages, Monkey Lane). When I purchased my 10x50 binoculars (late 1960s(?)), he used to love to look through them, saying that he couldn't believe how close everything looked.

David started to have mental problems, then one day, in the May 1971, disappeared. I heard about it on Wednesday 12th. Lots of villagers went out looking for him, especially in water. I went out to Bluebell Wood, with Malcolm Dawson, Trevor Hambling & Tony Palmer, in the evening of Thursday 13th. His body was found, by Graham Twin, in the 2nd(?) pond when walking across the fields from Monks Barn to Stockley Wood on Saturday 15th. I walked over the fields also, but could only see (thankfully) some clothing floating on top.

There was a play that evening, in the Village Hall, by Terling Amateur Dramatics: "Madame Louise".

### Ronnie Barker

Once, when returning from school (early 1970s) in the minibus driven by Mr Canfield(?), we had to stop, just on the Hatfield Peverel side of the Lodge in Terling. A T.V. scene was being filmed, featuring Ronnie Barker. Our driver turned off his engine. Ronnie Barker, dressed for a wedding, and with cycle clips, was walking about, at one time just outside the LHS of the minibus, within inches of me. Behind the hedge on the other side of the road, near to the Coach Road, was a mattress. The other side of that, crouching down, was a young couple.

The scene: Ronnie Barker was cycling to his daughter's wedding. He wheeled his bicycle across the road and threw it over the hedge (onto the mattress). Immediately the young couple hurried to the hedge, still in a crouching pose so as not to be seen, then stood up (so their heads could be seen), appearing as an annoyed and disturbed couple.

The wedding was filmed at Terling Church. Villagers were used as parts of the congregation. Mrs Marks was one of these. It was part of a series called "His Lordship Entertains". My memory is that we watched the episode at Ed & Ede Joslin's at 2 Wood Cottages, but it's probably my imagination. Only one episode of the series now exists.

### Voting

I was 18 on 1st February 1974. Since the last General Election the voting age had been lowered from 21 to 18. I voted in the General Election on 1st February and at the next one on 10th October, i.e. twice while I was still 18.

At my first election I voted Labour as my mother said that's what I should vote. In the 1975 referendum on staying or leaving the Common Market, I didn't vote - as my mother said it was a waste of time.

### Supernatural Experiences

I apologise for repeating some of these, but I feel this is a good place to group some relevant memories.

**Frederick Olley:** At the moment my great uncle was killed in Gaza in the Great War (26/03/1917), his mother Emma (my great grandmother) awoke, crying out that Fred was called for her.

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**Cross in the Sky:** Late 1960s, Winter, end of morning break at Chelmsford Technical High School, Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford: I was queuing to get back into school at the back door that fed from the playground. I looked up into the clear blue sky, roughly in line with the corner of the building. In the sky was a star-like object in the shape of a cross. It was stationary; there was no noise. It appeared larger than a star and was like no star I had ever seen.

**Pot of Gold?:** On one occasion, when I was standing at the end of my nanna & grandad Dawson's garden (2 Viner Cottages), next to the gate to the Garden Field, a rainbow formed and I was actually in the end of it. I was aware of a great brightness and many twinkling colours around me.

**Ouija:** Sometimes, on a Saturday evening at my Nanna & Grandad Dawson's (2 Viner Cottages, Terling), we would set up the table in the living room and, using all the letters of the alphabet plus "Yes" & "No" and an upturned glass tumbler, we would try communicating with the dead. We apparently had some results. On one occasion (I remember my Auntie Doreen was participating) the glass went from normal slow movement to extremely fast, and I remember the episode as frightening.

We also tried this (possibly with my Ouija board) at my Nanna & Grandad Bright's (Gambles Green, Terling) on a Sunday evening. The name Emma came up, and my Mum suggested Emma Patience who used to live next door. My Mum may have been behind this as a joke, as my Nanna's real name was Emma, not Win. It must be remembered that her mother - mentioned above under "Frederick Olley" - was also Emma.

**Grandad Dawson:** Went home late night the day he died - 26/12/1974. Christmas cards had fallen down, including the one from him & Nanna.

**My Dreams:** On the morning that Marc Bolan died in a car crash (before 05:00, 16/09/1977), at about the exact time, I dreamt that the radio was on and "Get It On" by T. Rex (his band) was playing. The song was constantly fading out but never ended.

At the time the exiled Shah of Iran died (27/07/1980, Cairo), I was asleep (again, soon before waking), dreaming that the radio was on, and the newsreader was saying that the Shah had returned to Iran.

**The Ward Ghost:** Benjamin Ward, born 1864/5. Built Stone House (near the Timber Yard) at Terling for his daughters Elizabeth & Edith. He lived in a 'shed' in the garden. His ghost was supposed to have haunted Stone House in the 1970s (& early 1980s?), witnessed by the Packford family who lived there (from about 1975), ceasing when both the above daughters had died.

**Bert Nunn's Ghost:** At the time Bert Nunn lived at Dines Hall, near the Ranks Green end of the chase that runs from Fairstead Hall, past Beauchamps, the house was said to be haunted - said by many people.

**My Wife, Bet ((circa) 1978):** Without Darren (my stepson) in room, she hid various objects (toys etc.). He'd return. She looked into his eyes and he finding them without any problem.

We were upstairs (possibly Saturday 08/04/1978, but maybe not) and she told me that Brian Smith (my old school friend) was going to turn up. As far as I knew, Brian was in France, but, shortly afterwards, he did turn up. He had returned early from France.

She told me (Wednesday 28/06/1978) that I would see our friend Nicky Clark the next day. The next day (Thursday 29/06/1978) I was in Chelmsford for college. At lunchtime I was in W H Smith's, on the way out, and bumped into Nicky. I was in Chelmsford once a week for college, but I had never bumped into her before.

That evening (Thursday 29/06/1978), she had a feeling that something bad, but not too bad, would happen shortly. The next day (Friday 30/06/1978) the school bus, carrying Bet's neice, Tamson Twin, crashed. Nobody was hurt.

There have been many instances since then when she has spoken about something somebody else in the room was thinking about, or about someone and they telephoned her immediately.

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

**After cat Stumpy died:** Both Bet & I thought we heard him in kitchen, behind us where his food bowls had been.

I thought I heard him, at night, behind curtains in lounge front window.

### **Unpleasant Feelings of Ghosts:**

Upstairs in the storerooms of Terling Stores.

Borley Church.

Cotswold Holiday July 2001: Nailsworth, Gloucestershire: Really strong feeling of haunting/dread on the staircase between the ground & first floors.

## INTO WHICH I MARRIED

### *Woodham Walter Families*

At around 1832, Maria Brown was born in Woodham Walter. She was the daughter of William and Kesiah Brown. At the time of the 1841 Census, the family was living in Burnt House Street, Woodham Walter. Ten years later, Maria was a Servant, living on Maldon High Street.

It seems that Maria wasn't a person to do things by half measures – she had 3 illegitimate children: Edward Brown (1852, Woodham Walter), George Guttridge Brown (1855, Maldon) & Ann Maria "Annie" Brown (1858, Woodham Walter).

Maria and her children were living in Woodham Walter at the time of the 1861 Census and, in 1871, they were living with Maria's mother, Kesiah, by now a widow, in Burnt House Street, Woodham Walter.

In 1873, Maria married George Webb and, the following year, a son, Arthur William Webb, was born at Woodham Walter. He was the grandfather of Geoff Webb of Terling.

Annie Brown married Woodham Walter man, Isaac William Campion in 1879. He was born in 1852, the son of William & Mary Ann. Isaac was an agricultural labourer. The 1881 Census shows them living in a cottage in Woodham Walter, whilst Annie's mother, Maria Webb, along with husband George, was living in Wood Hill Road, Sandon.

Isaac & Annie Campion had 4 children in the next 4 years, all born in Woodham Walter: Ada Maria (1881), Edward William "Ted" (1883) and twins Emily Lydia "Em" & Anna Maria "Annie" (4th September 1885). Sadly, Annie, one of the twins, died in 1887, aged just one. The following year, another daughter was born at Woodham Walter. She was named Ellen Kezia and was later known by family members as "Aunt Kiss".

In 1891, Isaac, Annie and their family were living at New Bassetts, Woodham Walter. By this time, George & Maria Webb were living next door. Later that year, Isaac & Annie had another son, Abram John, known as John.



In 1892, Isaac Campion died aged just 40. It seems highly likely that his widow, Annie then suffered from severe depression because, by the time of the 1901 Census, she was a patient – labelled a lunatic – in the South Weald Lunatic Asylum (shown here), and her children, Ted, Em, Kezia & John, were living with their grandparents, Maria & George Webb.

On 12th February 1902, Ada Maria Campion married Arthur Joseph Yell at Woodham Walter. Arthur was born in 1881 at Rawreth, Essex, the son of George & Eliza Hannah. Three children came along quickly, all born at Woodham Walter: Ellen Jane "Nell" (25th July 1902), Alfred George (1904) & Herbert William (18th April 1906). Alfred, unfortunately, died in 1912.

Now the story shifts to Ada's younger sister, Em. It was round about 1903 that Emily became a Domestic Servant to a Mrs Simpson of Holly Villa, Hayes, Middlesex. In the summer of 1906, Em had a relationship with a man she described as a Norwegian or Swede.

At some time in early 1904, Em communicated to her sister, Kezia that she was pregnant. Kezia told Em to tell her "grannie", Maria Webb and her employer, Mrs Simpson, but Em threatened to do away with herself.



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Around 10th April, Kezia temporarily took Em's place as servant to Mrs Simpson and, on 13th, Em returned home to her grandmother saying, "A darling would be born about the end of May."

On 28th April 1907, Em, helped by her grandmother, gave birth to a baby boy, weighing 8lb ½oz. In all probability, the baby was stillborn.

The family fully intended to keep the birth secret, as, the following day, Maria handed the deceased baby to her grandson, Ted to bury in his garden, Ted's home being about 150 yards distant. Ted did as he was asked, at some time after 7 o'clock that evening.

Soon after this, somebody reported to the police the fact that although Em had been pregnant, no baby appeared. On 7th May, a P.C. Pearson and a P.S. Jordan questioned Maria Webb at her home. Maria denied there had been a birth, claiming Em had been suffering from a "bad bilious attack".

On 8th May, Em sent a telegram to Mrs Simpson, asking to meet her at Liverpool Street Station. Mrs Simpson agreed and the two, along with Kezia, met there. Em admitted the premature stillbirth and burial to her employer. She also stated that her "grannie" wanted Mrs Simpson to take Kezia to a doctor for an examination in order to be issued with a certificate stating that she, Kezia had not had a baby, therefore completing a cover-up.

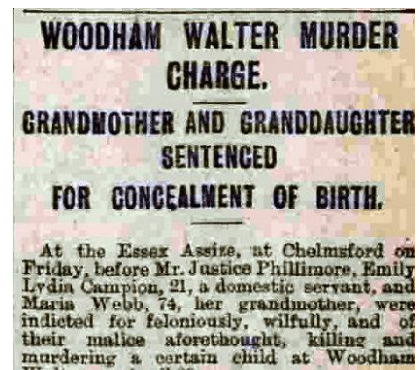
Mrs Simpson, however, took Em back to Woodham Walter, met with her grandmother, and reported the matter to the police. She then took Em back to Hayes.

On 10th May 1907, Ted Campion was interviewed by a D.I. Scott and P.C. Pearson. Ted showed the policemen the grave, which was near his rubbish heap. The body was buried 10 inches deep and wrapped in paper. There appeared to be a white depression around the baby's neck. A post-mortem was performed by Mr Price and Dr Lyster, the conclusion being that the baby had a "natural cord" that was probably not tied, and that it was likely the baby bled to death.

An inquest took place on 13th May. Maria Webb claimed that the baby had been born black, with the cord wrapped twice around its neck, and was stillborn. Mr Price and Dr Lyster reported that the baby had breathed for about 5 minutes and had been strangled by a foreign object.

The trial took place at the Essex Assize, Chelmsford on 14th June 1907. Maria Webb was charged with murder and her granddaughter, Emily Campion, who was described as a "fine-looking woman", with concealment of a birth.

The jury was sent out at 6.55 and returned at 7.40. Emily was found guilty, but Maria, a "small person, dressed in black" was found not guilty. She was, however, found guilty of concealment of a birth. Both were sentenced to 6 months' hard labour.



Within a few hours of the sentences, a petition bearing 120-150 names was sent to the Home Secretary, asking for reconsideration of the sentence. No change was made. However, in July 1907, the Home Secretary granted remission of part of Emily's sentence, so that she could return to service.

1908 turned out to be a year of mixed emotions. Kezia Campion married Alfred Joseph Searles (they went on to have 2 daughters and grandchildren), but poor Maria Webb died, aged 75 or 76.

## SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

In the 1911 Census, Annie Campion was still a "lunatic" in the South Weald Lunatic Asylum. Her daughter, Em was with Mrs Simpson at Hayes, and a visitor staying there was 41 year-old Walter Henry Peters. Later that year, Em married Walter Peters in Middlesex. They went on to have a son, daughter and grandchildren. Em finally passed away in 1970, aged 84.

Annie Campion died, aged 55, in 1914. She was still in the asylum. Later in the year, her son, John married Gladys Mary Jopson of Hampshire. On Christmas Eve 1914, whilst serving in the 2nd Grenadier Guards, he was killed in action near Festubert, France. He was 23.

Back to Arthur & Ada Yell. In the 1911 Census, Ada, a Post-Woman, was living with Nell, Alfred & Herbert in The Street, Woodham Walter. Arthur, a farm horseman, however, was a patient in the Maldon Union Workhouse.

Arthur passed away on 13th March 1912, aged 30, and Alfred, his son, later in the year, aged 8.



Remarkably, Ada Yell had another daughter on 3rd November 1916. She was named Gladys Mary, known later as "Glad", and was thought to be the daughter of David Frederick Yell (known as "Frederick"), the younger brother of Ada's late husband. Frederick, who was in the 6th Battalion of the Royal Kent Regiment, was sadly killed in action in the Great War, passing away on 3rd May 1917. Ada lived until 1943, dying at the age of 62. *Glad (left) & Nell, with great nephew, Neil Twin.*

Ada's son, Herbert married in 1940, his wife being Elizabeth Ethel Florence Waite. She was known as "Ethel", and had been born on 2nd March 1912, the daughter of Thomas George and Elizabeth Caroline (née Fribbence) of Berkshire. *Herbert & Ethel are pictured in 1972, with grandson, Darren Twin.*



Herbert & Ethel Yell, living in Danbury, had 4 children: Brian John (2nd September 1942), Derrick William (8th August 1944), Mary Elizabeth (24th May 1947) & Betty Susan (16th April 1950). All married and both sons had families.

Betty married Gordon Harold Twin – a descendant of Phoebe Bright – at Danbury, on 11th July 1970. They had 2 sons: Darren Robert (16th March 1972) & Neil Gordon (20th March 1974). In December 1978, Betty & Gordon were divorced. Both Darren & Neil married and had families.



On 11th August 1979, Betty married again at Braintree Register Office, this time to Mervyn Alan Bright. The couple moved from Terling to White Notley, with Darren & Neil, on 1st March 1980. A daughter, Nicola Susan Selina, was born to them on 10th July 1980. Nicola went on to marry and have children, Anais & Will.

Herbert Yell passed away at home in Danbury on 6th May 1979, aged 73, and Ethel in Broomfield Hospital on 28th December 1995, aged 83.

SOME ESSEX FAMILIES

