A BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM JOHN AND LYDIA LUCY AINSWORTH AND THEIR ANCESTORS

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Preface

In 2005 I prepared a draft history of the ancestors of William John Ainsworth (1855-1943) and Lydia Lucy Ainsworth (nee Willway) (1852-1926), my great-grandparents. I then decided to incorporate their own biographies and enlarge on the information about Lydia's mother Lucy Hannah Willway and her family

My original work was based primarily on research that I carried out in 1964 when I inspected various public records' including visiting the parishes where some branches of the family originated; looked at documents in the possession of family members; and met or corresponded with Lucy Wates, Bernard Wates, Winifred Ainsworth, Margie Ainsworth, Philip Lace, Norman Willway, Brig. Cedric Willway and Irene Willway. Most of these documents, but not those that Margie Ainsworth had, are now in my possession and will be donated to the City of Bath Archives office. I would like to take this opportunity of mentioning my uncle, Bernard Wates, in particular. He had taken a great interest himself, having perused many of the documents, leaving his own comments. He would have been delighted to see this book which in some ways he initiated.

The internet has now enabled public records to be accessed much more easily which has enabled me to obtain much additional information.

The lives of William and Lydia and Lydia's parents, with some effort at providing information on their characters, are based on the archives that have been passed down including a large number of letters and various diaries. Many of the letters that survived are those deliberately kept because they are of interest. They contain much information which I have not attempted to use, such as food prices and discussions about clothes, which could be of interest to anyone researching such matters.

My original draft was intended just to be record of the facts as I had ascertained them with references in footnotes to the sources. This work is more informal and I have not attempted to provide comprehensive information on sources. Sometimes, and probably in most case, I have included it in the narrative and there are occasional footnotes. Reference can be made to the sources given in the original draft. The Wates Family Chattels Trust referred to there has since been disbanded and the ownership of items transferred to the custodians. As ownership is likely to change I have only on one or two occasions given the identity of the person who has the particular object referred to.

The original draft is available on my website www.brian-wates.co.uk This is being archived by the British Library so when it no longer exists it should be possible to access it through them on www.websarchive.org.uk. It can also be accessed on the site www.web.archive.org

The ancestors' part of the history is divided into three sections as there are three main strands about which information is available. I start with the Ainsworth line itself, originating in Dorset and then in the Salisbury area down to the childhood and youth of William. To avoid confusion with other William Ainsworths I refer to him initially by his initials WJA. Next is the Willway line originating near Bridgewater in Somerset and then in Bristol down to the first marriage of Lydia's father James W.C.Willway. There is then a chapter dealing with another branch of the Willway family which is of interest because of an intermarriage between the branches. This is followed by two chapters on the Bath family of Lydia's mother, Lucy Hannah Davis and Lucy herself. The rest of the book

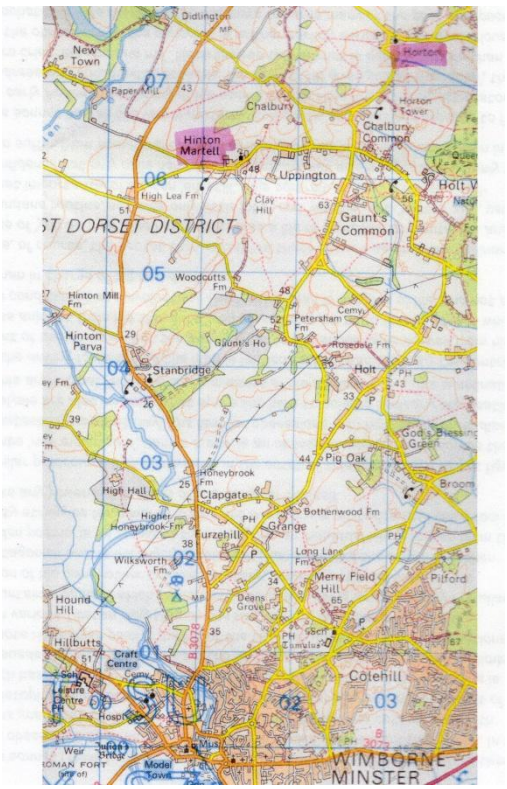
covers Lydia's youth, marriage and then the joint lives of her and William including the early parts of their children's lives. Lydia was always known as Lyddie so I use that name.

When referring to monetary sums I have not attempted to suggest the equivalent today as this soon gets out of date and does not always give a true comparison. As there was little inflation during the period covered comparing figures which I have given will provide some idea of value.

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Chapter 1 - Ainsworth family

Early Answorths at Horton, Dorset



The earliest records are to be found in the parish registers of Horton in Dorset. Horton is a village north of Wimborne and about 11 miles from Poole. It is not far from Hampshire and Wiltshire, being about 17 miles south-south-east of Salisbury. It and the neighbouring village of Hinton Martell, where records of the family are also to be found, are still small, rural villages. No doubt much of the land farmed by the family is still being farmed today.

The parish records go back to 1563 and the earliest record is of the marriage of Daniel Answorth to Agnes Flower in 1606. There is however, no evidence that he was a direct ancestor. This distinction lies with John Answorth who married Martha Poor in 1643. It was not until the end of the 18th century that the spelling 'Ainsworth' began to be used.

We know nothing of these early Ainsworths other than the records of births, marriages and deaths from which a family tree can be constructed. A clear male line can be identified. There may have been males that migrated elsewhere but it seems unlikely that there were many, so it is probable that others with the name of Ainsworth are not related. The direct line is as follows:-

John (died 1687)
m. (1643) Martha Poor

Francis (1652-1698)
m. (1674) Ann Jewin (? -1702)

Joseph (1677-1748)
m. Elizabeth (? -1729)

Joseph (1720-1761)
m. (1745) Susanna Budden

William (1746-1811) | John (? - 1775) | Joseph (1749- 1792) | James (1757-1822)

William	James	Frances	Susannah	John	Mary
1775-1847	c.1777-1843	c.1780-1852	c.1783-1853	c1788-1861	?
Page 6	page 15	page 6	page 8	page 8	

They seem to have been fairly wealthy farmers. The elder Joseph made a will under which he left his widow what was then a substantial income of £400 per year, to be paid out of his copyhold estate at Hinton Martell. His wife Elizabeth had died so he must have remarried. They had a daughter Mary who was left £40 when she was 21 and an annuity of 50 shillings per year if her mother agrees. There is also provision for a daughter Ann. His youngest son Joseph was appointed his executor.

This Joseph, dying comparatively young at the age of 41 in 1761, appears not to have made a will and letters of administration to his estate were taken out by his widow Susanna. The value of his estate was £738 including livestock, wheat, oats and barley at Hinton Martell and Horton, two barns and one leasehold house valued at £36.

Susanna must have had a hard time thereafter. Her son William was only 15 and her youngest son Henry, was 2. There are records of five other children, John, Joseph, Thomas (who must have died young as there is no other record of him), Susannah and James.

William (b.1746) our ancestor, left home as a young man. We do not know where his eldest sons, William (b. 1775) and James, (WJA's maternal great-grandfather), (b. about 1777) were born or the name of his wife. However, their next three children were born in Hale, Hampshire. Hale is about 10 miles south of Salisbury, in the Avon valley, and 17 miles north-east of Horton. He presumably had a farm there but there is no evidence of this. These were Frances in about 1780; Susannah in about 1783, and John (WJA's paternal grandfather) in about 1788. From his will (see below) there was another daughter, Mary. No information about her has been found but see the conjecture below on page 8.

In the meantime, his mother Susanna must have died, as in 1775 his brother John died leaving his estate to his brothers Joseph, James and Henry. Henry also died young at the age of 22.



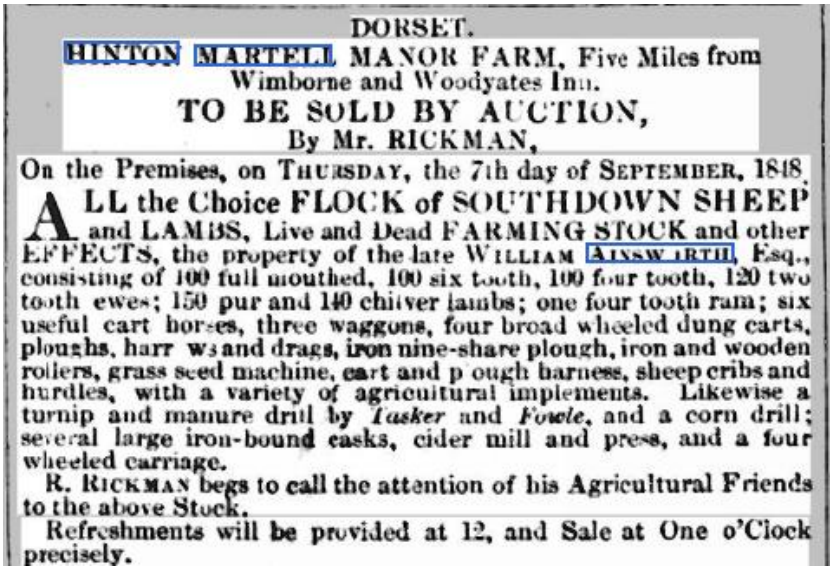
Joseph (b.1749) must have inherited the farm in Hinton Martell. In that year, he owned land with a value for Land Tax purposes of £1.5.0d and rented land from the Earl of Shaftesbury valued at £12.11.0d. Joseph was an assessor and collector of this tax which is presumably an indication of his standing in the parish. However, he died in 1792 aged 43, his estate being inherited by his brother James. (b. 1757).

William's life is continued below but in the meantime that of two of his children is covered as they maintained the link with Horton and Hinton Martell.

William Ainsworth (1775-1847)

Although no longer living at Horton William owned some land there, possibly inherited from his mother, which was rented to his brother Joseph, and then to his brother James. By 1800 he had set up his son William (b. 1775) as a farmer at Horton.

William junior married Wilhelmina Templeman on 19th May 1808.They had a son who died in infancy in 1810 and a daughter Lucy Elizabeth in 1811. Wilhelmina herself died at the age of 38 in 1813. His uncle James died in 1822, aged 65, a bachelor and William inherited his farm. He died in 1847 at the age of 72 and here is an advertisement for the sale of his farm effects.



DORSET.

HINTON MARTELL MANOR FARM, Five Miles from Wimborne and Woodyates Inn.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By Mr. RICKMAN,

On the Premises, on THURSDAY, the 7th day of SEPTEMBER, 1848,

ALL the Choice FLOCK of SOUTHDOWN SHEEP and LAMBS, Live and Dead FARMING STOCK and other EFFECTS, the property of the late WILLIAM AINSWORTH, Esq., consisting of 100 full mouthed, 100 six tooth, 100 four tooth, 120 two tooth ewes; 150 pur and 140 chilver lambs; one four tooth ram; six useful cart horses, three waggons, four broad wheeled dung carts, ploughs, harr ws and drags, iron nine-share plough, iron and wooden rollers, grass seed machine, cart and p ough harness, sheep cribs and hurdles, with a variety of agricultural implements. Likewise a turnip and manure drill by *Tasker* and *Fowle*, and a corn drill; several large iron-bound casks, cider mill and press, and a four wheeled carriage.

R. RICKMAN begs to call the attention of his Agricultural Friends to the above Stock.

Refreshments will be provided at 12, and Sale at One o'Clock precisely.

His daughter had married Thomas Mayo of Wimborne Minster in 1837. He was of independent means according to the 1851 census. They had a son, named William Templeman, in 1838 when living in Bath, but he died in 1857 after receiving education through the University of London. Lucy was admitted to a mental home in 1856 and died in 1858. The home was in the Salisbury area and the death registered in Alderbury so may be this was chosen as being near the rest of the family.

In the absence of his mother her cousin Sarah Newman (see next section) cared for their son during his last illness. In recognition of this Thomas left her a legacy of 19 guineas by his will of 1879.

Thomas died in 1884 at which time he was again living in Bath. As will be seen on page 116 that there was some dispute over "Mayo's money"

Frances Newman (neé Answorth)(c.1780-1852) and William Newman (c1777- 1854) - Chalbury

William senior's son, James, married in 1801 but we will return to him later. His daughter, Frances (known as Fanny), may have gone with her brother, William, to Hinton-Martell, as on 26th May 1808 she married William Newman there. This was just seven days after

her brother's own marriage. Her husband was a farmer from the neighbouring village of Chalbury. That was where they lived and where she died in 1852. Their children were Charles born in 1814, Sarah about 1816, Elizabeth about 1817, John about 1821 and Robert 1822. Charles became a miller and married in 1847 but both he and Elizabeth died in 1848, presumably from the same disease, William died in 1854 and Robert either took over the farm and expanded it or relinquished it and took another. William's - Chalbury Hill - was 528 acres and Robert's - Miles Down or South Farm - 700 acres. His sister, Sarah lived with him and neither married. As John married his cousin Mary Ann, James' daughter, we shall return to this family later on page 18.

Ainsworth spelling

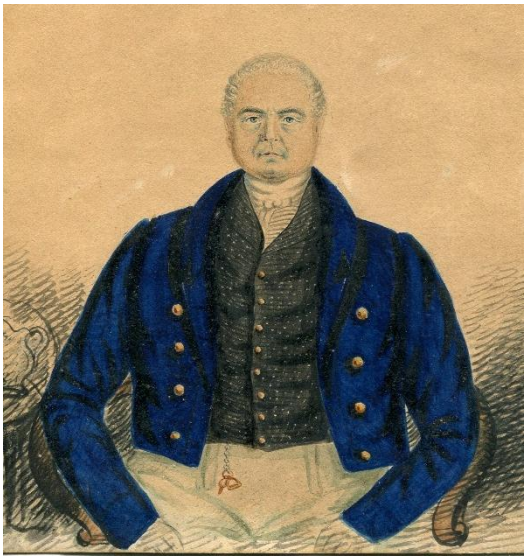
Until around 1800 the name was always spelt Answorth. This was the spelling used for William snr for his second marriage in 1805 and his will. It was used by his daughter Frances on her marriage in 1808 but Ainsworth was used for his son William's marriage that year.

Clarendon Park

William Ainsworth (1746-1811)

I have covered his marriage and the births of his children and probably farm at Hale above. He then moved to Clarendon Park, near Salisbury.

His first wife must have died around 1800 as in 1805 he married Jane Bocock in Salisbury. She was a spinster aged about 46, he being about 59. She came from South Collingham, Nottingham, where she had a brother and sisters. What she was doing in Salisbury is not known! He was then living in Clarendon Park. He is not mentioned in the Land Tax returns in 1798 but his son, James, was resident there at the time of his marriage in 1801. In 1804 there was an advertisement for the letting of Queen Manor Farm, then in the occupation of William Ainsworth for 7 or 14 years. It consisted of 446 acres of arable and 10 acres of home close and pasture. As will be seen below Queen Manor Farm was later occupied by his son John. May be William had had a seven year lease which was coming to an end and although it was advertised he took on a further lease which later was taken over by John. This would place his arrival in Clarendon Park and departure from Hale in 1797.



A story has been passed down that he was the strongest man in the West Country and could mount a ladder or steps into his hay loft, with a hundredweight sack of corn on each shoulder. These portraits of him and his wife Jane (on next page) have passed down in the family and at the time of writing are held by the family of Elisabeth (neé Ainsworth) in Calgary, Canada.

Clarendon is about 3 miles west of Salisbury. According to an 1859 directory it was an extra-parochial liberty in the parish of Alderbury, which also included the chapelries of Farley and Pitton. Clarendon had 187 inhabitants. The following information is given:- "Here formerly stood a royal palace, which was a frequent residence of the English kings, and was visited by Queen Elizabeth. Henry II assembled a parliament here in 1163 which enacted the celebrated "Constitutions of Clarendon" to restrain the encroachments of the Court of Rome. The only remains of the palace are part of a wall overgrown with ivy. About a mile from the ruins is Clarendon Park, the seat of Sir Frederick H. Bathurst, Bart. Near it formerly stood an Augustine priory, founded by Henry II." Sir Frederick Bathurst was one of the chief landholders and lord of the manor.



William died in 1811 or 1812, aged about 65. By his will dated 25th July 1810, he left £300 on trust for his widow, Jane, and legacies of £100 to Frances, £10 to James and £200 to Susannah. Stating that he had sufficiently provided for his son William in his lifetime he left the residue, including his leasehold property at Hinton Martell, to his son John, then aged about 22, and daughter Mary. The executors and trustees were William Absalom of Hale, a butcher, and John Reeves of Downton (just north of Hale), a maltster.

As will be seen later, James was well established which is probably the reason for the nominal amount, and Frances was married. We know nothing about Mary so do not know the reason for the distinction between her and Susannah.

In 1822, at the age of about 40, Susannah married William Ratty in Salisbury Cathedral. Her address was given as Clarendon Park so she had presumably been living there with her brother John. According to census returns William Ratty was of independent means and they lived in Winterbourne Gunner, a little north of Salisbury. She died in 1853 at the age of 71.

William's widow, Jane, died in 1827 in Breamore, Hants which is about 2 miles from Hale. One of the witnesses of her will was William Absalom of Hale, one of William's trustees.

John Ainsworth (about 1788 – 1861)

John, aged 21, and his sister Mary thus inherited the farm at Clarendon in 1811. It is not known what became of Mary, but see the conjecture below. John is shown in the Land Tax assessments for 1825 and 1826 as the occupier of land with a rental value of £18.2.0, the proprietor being Sir F.A.H.Bathurst.

On 24th August 1816 John married Sarah Susannah Maton (1795-1879) of the neighbouring parish of Pitton. The Matons would seem to have been a well-established farming family in the parish and neighbourhood. Her father was James Maton (1766-1830) and mother Anne Burt from Lockerley, Hants. There were four Matons, including James and William (see below), in the Land Tax assessment for 1798. Sarah's sister,

Letitia (1801-1867) married another William Maton (d. 1849), a farmer in the parish of Downton, which is down the river from Alderbury and just north of Hale.

John and Sarah Ainsworth, WJA's paternal grandparents, had six, or possibly seven, children; - Anne (1821), John (c.1824), James (WJA's father) (1826), Charlotte (c.1828), Elizabeth (baptised 1830), Mary (baptised 1830), and Letitia (baptised 1841). The years of birth of Anne and John are based on census returns, and in Anne's case death registration, so may not be accurate. James was baptised on 28th January 1826 and WJA said that he was born on 1st January 1826. Although Elizabeth and Mary were baptised on the same day, they are given different ages in the 1841 census (although the ages in that census are very unreliable) so Elizabeth's may have been a late baptism rather than they being twins. We know nothing else about Letitia. Sarah would have been 45 in 1841. The baptism was on 14th January but she is not mentioned in the 1841 census so maybe she had died.

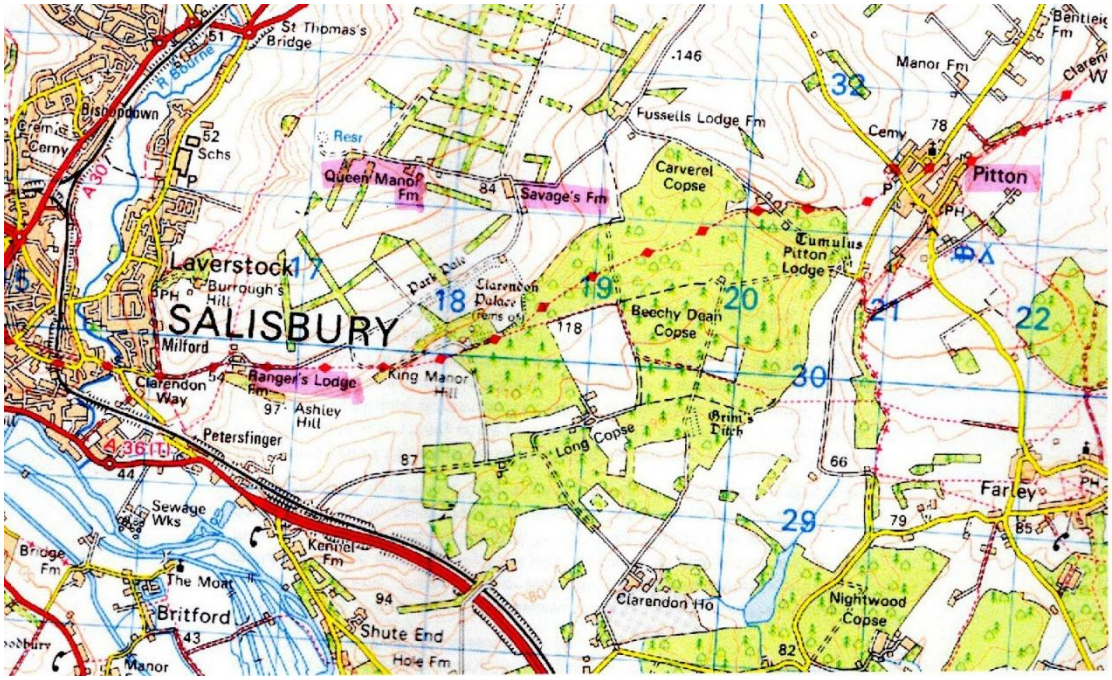
In 1841 all the children were at home at the farm in Clarendon Park, probably Queen Manor Farm, their ages ranging from 20 to 11. A Letitia Ainsworth was also living with them aged 43 but she is unidentified. She died in 1847. If she was a sister of John why was she not mentioned in his father's will? Perhaps she was the daughter Mary who shared the residuary inheritance with John and had two names.

John's daughter Mary died in 1843 aged about 13 and was buried at Laverstock, which is just north of Milford, on 5th July.

John Ainsworth (c1788 – 1861) m Sarah Maton (1 795-1879)

Anne	John	James	Charlotte	Elizabeth
1821-1914	c1824-1864	1826-1900	c1828-1871	c1829-1900
m	unmarried	m	m	m
James Humby		Matilda Blake	Hugh Maton	Samuel Cusse
2 children		WJA and others	no children	7 children
pages 11,25,154. page 12		pages 12,116	page 11	page 11

Sometime before 1851 John and Sarah moved to Bishopsdown Farm, Milford., a 500 acr e farm employing 20 men. This farm is on earlier Ordnance Survey maps but the area is now developed. The name Bishopsdown can be seen in the top left corner of the map below. The farm in Clarendon would seem to have been taken over by John and James, or by John assisted by James. This is described in the 1851 census as a 500-acre farm employing 7 men, 2 women and 3 boys and known as Queen Manor Farm. Their sister Charlotte was living with them as housekeeper and they had a servant girl and three labourers living in the house. This farm still exists and can be seen on the Ordnance Survey map below.



Sometime between 1853 and 1858 when he made his will, John retired, the farm being taken over by his son-in-law Samuel Cusse, and they went to live elsewhere and ultimately in the village of Pitton, where they were in 1861 at the time of the census. There is no name for the house in the census. In the will he gives his address as Lobcombe Cottage, near Salisbury (which could be anywhere!) and in an advertisment for creditors after his death he is described as formerly of Lobcombe Cottage and late of Pitton. He died on 23rd April 1861 and was buried in Pitton.

His estate was considerable, being about £9000 and he had already made gifts to his sons and sons-in-law totalling £7430, which were to be brought into account in the distribution of his estate. He gave an annuity of £99 to his wife and the residue was divided equally between his five children with the daughters having life interests, their shares ultimately going to their children. His executors were his son John and friend Stephen Seaward, another local farmer. He also appointed his nephew James (see page 16) but he did not prove the will. He is described as a landed proprietor on his death certificate and his will refers to a freehold property in Romsey and two leasehold properties in Pitton

WJA would have been only five years old at the date of his grandfather's death so presumably had little memory of him. His grandmother, Sarah, lived to be 84 being buried with her husband in 1879. She did not stay in Pitton and would have moved to be near her daughter Elizabeth Cusse. In 1863, when her son John made his will she was at Ford which is near Bishopsdown; in the 1871 census she was somewhere in the parish of Laverstock, her granddaughter Rachel Cusse being with her; and at her death she was at Elm Grove, Milford with the Cusse family. As WJA was living close by until he was at least 12 he must have had recollections but nothing was mentioned by him, unlike about his maternal grandmother.



The grave memorial is substantial, an indication of his wealth, and can be seen in the above photograph under the window to the right of the church entrance. The wording on the side of the tomb is:-

John Ainsworth
Died April 23rd 1861. Aged 73 years
In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up
In the evening it is cut down and whithereth

The inscription on the opposite side is:-

In Memory of Sarah
Relick of John Ainsworth who died on 21st March 1879



John Ainsworth's daughters – Humby, Cusse and Maton families

On 10th February 1849 Anne, aged about 27, married James Humby, six years younger. In 1851 they were living in Milford and he was described as a banker's accountant. He was to play a notable part in WJA's life. Their first child, Margaret Sarah, was born that year. For further information on this family see page 25

On 17th November 1850 Elizabeth, aged 21, married Thomas Blake, a farmer in Winterbourne Earl, about 4 miles north of Salisbury. Her sister Charlotte and Anne's husband James Humby were witnesses. Thomas Blake was a widower aged 36 but within a few months he was dead as in the 1851 census she was described as a farmer's widow. She presumably returned to her parents as she was living in Milford at the time of her second marriage on 18th May 1853 at St.Martin's, Salisbury to Samuel Cusse. He was described as a maltster but was the second son of a farmer in Idmiston, north of Salisbury. Charlotte was also witness to that marriage together with their brother, James.

Samuel Cusse went back into farming and took over Bishopsdown Farm from his father-in-law possibly soon after the marriage and they were there in 1861 They had four children by then and three more came later. By 1864, at the time of the death of Elizabeth's brother John, they were in Idmiston. Samuel's father died in 1865 so may be he had returned to help., but by 1871 he had given up farming and was in Milford, eventually in Milton Cottage, Elm Grove. In 1891 he was described as land measurer. In that year their daughter Rachel was with her uncle' WJA's father James' and James' daughter Sarah in Breamore,

In 1853 Charlotte herself, aged 24, married into the Maton family. Her husband was Hugh Maton (1829-1885) whose father, Thomas (b.1800), was a son of the William mentioned above. Charlotte's brother, James (WJA's father) was a witness. The relationship between William Maton and Sarah's father, James Maton, has not been established. Both Thomas and Hugh appear in the Clarendon directory of 1859 as farmers. In 1861 Hugh and Charlotte were living at Rangers Lodge, Clarendon with a 306 acre farm employing 8 labourers and 4 boys. This can also be seen today on the Ordnance Survey map. There is no record of any children. After 1865 they moved away from Clarendon but not far as in 1871 they were at Breamore and had a 318-acre farm there, but Charlotte died later that year. Hugh must then have given up farming as by 1879 he was working with James Humby (see page 25).

James Ainsworth (1826-1900) and brother John Ainsworth (1824-1864)

In the meantime, on 23rd December 1852, James (WJA's father) married his cousin Matilda Blake and details of her family are given in the next chapter. We now have WJA's own recollections in addition to public records. These recollections were recorded by his daughter Lucy Wates in 1941 when he was 86.

The Fire

According to WJA's own account they had a farm in Pitton which is where he was born in 1855. He recounts that this farm was burnt down: - "I think I might have been partly responsible for it. We were playing in the barn and piled up a lot of inflammatory material. Someone must have set it alight. The barn caught fire, then the other barns, then the house and another house and all our furniture. We moved to Clarendon Farm and what was left of our belongings we carried there."

This story corresponds with a newspaper report on 7th May 1861 about a devastating fire at Pitton which resulted in the destruction of two farm houses and out-buildings and three cottages. It started in a barn and spread to Mr Maton's house and a cottage and shortly afterwards reached the farm-house occupied by Mr Ainsworth. It states that the fire is supposed to have originated from two children playing with a box of lucifer matches. The report indicates that this was in the village of Pitton.

There is however a puzzle. According to the census in 1861, carried out on 7th April, they were at Savages Farm in Clarendon. Savage's Farm may be the farm WJA described as Clarendon Farm but they were already there before the fire! The other inconsistency is that the public records, including his own birth certificate, show that all James' children were born in Clarendon and not Pitton. They all show their place of birth in subsequent censuses as Clarendon and this is their place of abode in baptism records. The baptisms were at St.Martin's in Salisbury which would have been their mother's church. The three eldest children were born before 1861.

To add to the puzzle, or possibly solve it, at the time of the census James' father John was living in Pitton but he died on 23rd April before the fire. Included amongst his neighbours was Henry Maton, a farmer and Henry Cundick a labourer. Henry Maton was the brother of his son-in-law Hugh. The newspaper report says that the fire spread to two cottages one of which was occupied by Henry Cundick. Although the report says a farm-house occupied by Mr Ainsworth and John Ainsworth was dead, could it be that that was the house that was destroyed and WJA's memory was muddled? He was, after all, only five and the information was passed on 80 years later. Perhaps his grandmother Sarah moved then nearer to the Cusse family as she did not have a house to live in.

Savages Farm and Queen Manor Farm

Savages Farm is very close to Queen Manor Farm and can be seen on the map. WJA described the latter, which was owned by his uncle John, as "the upper farm". It can be seen on the map as being up the lane from Savages Farm. In 1851 Savages Farm was occupied by a farmer aged 70 so presumably he retired giving up his lease and James took it on after his marriage. The description in 1861 was 420 acres employing 4 men and 3 boys.



The land is adjacent to the remains of Clarendon Palace. This is now looked after and more of the ruins are visible than in the description given in the quotation at the beginning of this chapter. There are notice boards giving descriptions of the buildings as they would have been.

John Ainsworth

James' brother John never married. In 1861 there was a James Maton, as bailiff, with him at Queen Manor Farm and Mary Lock, the housekeeper. He died in 1864 at the age of only 40 and was buried in Pitton. There is no sign of the grave. WJA said that he was a "terrible" drinker and died from it. This is borne out by the death certificate which gives the cause of death as chronic disease of the liver.

He must have been seriously ill in October 1863 when he made a will, witnessed by Mary Lock, giving his estate to his mother subject to one legacy and appointing Samuel Cusse and James Humby as executors. In that month there is also an advert showing that he gave up the farm' selling the live and dead stock. So ended the family's occupation of Queen Manor Farm after probably 66 years. He seems to have moved to Winterbourne Gunner where he was cared for by Mary Lock to whom, in thanks, he gave all his personal belongs in a codicil to his will of 29th September 1864. On the 24th October he made a further codicil amending the will so as to give his mother a life interest with remainder to his four siblings. His death three days later death was registered by Mary Lock, as being present. His estate was about £600 so he would have been living on his inheritance. In 1871 Mary Lock was a publican in Ford.

Departure from Clarendon

Thus in 1861 four Ainsworth families had farms in Clarendon or nearby – John in Queen Manor Farm, James and Matilda in Savages Farm, Elizabeth and Samuel Cusse in Bishopsdown Farm and Hugh and Charlotte Maton in Rangers Lodge Farm. The farms in Clarendon Park would all have been leased from the landowner, Sir Frederick Hervey-Bathurst, 3rd baronet who resided in Clarendon House and was a notable cricketer. The directories for the 1850s show him, John and James Ainsworth, Hugh and Thomas Maton and about three other farmers. In addition, their parents were in Pitton and sister Anne with James Humby in Milford.

By 1871 they were all gone, except the Cusse family living in Milford, but not farming, and grandmother Sarah, thus bringing the long family connection with Clarendon Park to an end.

The last record of James in Clarendon is in an 1867 directory. WJA recounted that he was given notice to quit as he had been caught shooting rabbits and other game, which had been destroying his crops. James could not make his farm pay because of the pests and it was illegal to destroy them. He complains that brother John also shot game but "nobody said anything to him about it!" Lord Bathurst (should be Sir F.Bathurst) sent in a notice and his mother read it. "I remember her reading it and weeping – she saw her home again taken from her"

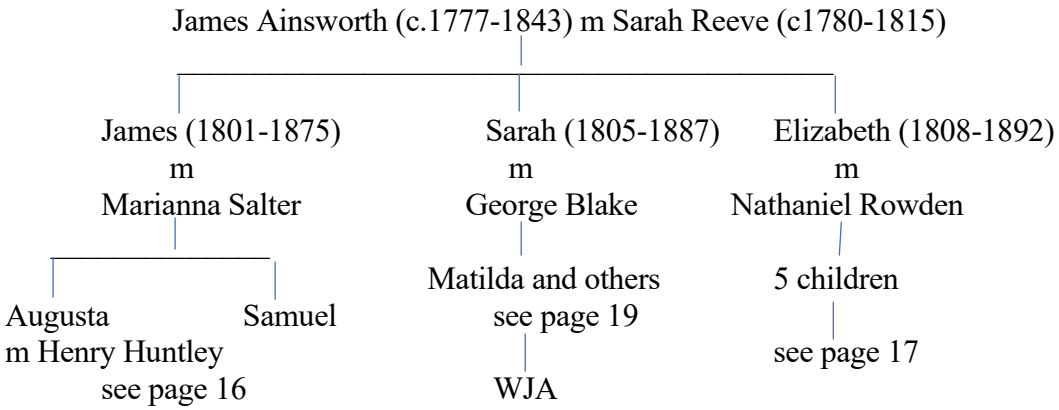
Salisbury

Let us now return to WJA's mother, Matilda. She was his father's first cousin once removed, her grandfather being James (b. about 1777), brother of his grandfather John (b.1790) When giving accounts of their father William's children on page 5 and 6 it was stated that we would return to James later.

James Ainsworth (about 1777 – 1843)

Unlike the rest of the family he did not go into farming but became a maltster. Technically a maltster is a maker of malt for use in brewing, but it seems the description may have been used for anyone involved with the making or selling of beer. On 12th Sept 1801, at the age of about 23, he married, in Salisbury Cathedral, Sarah Reeve of Laverstock, a village between Salisbury and Clarendon, just north of Milford. She may have been a relative, even daughter, of John Reeve, a maltster, who was an executor and trustee of William's will. The will was made in 1810 and John Reeve was then living in the village of Downton, which is just north of Hale. Assuming that he had always been living there he may have been a local friend of William. Maybe James was apprenticed to John Reeve and that is how he met his wife. Marriage in the cathedral may indicate some status. James was successful and ultimately wealthy. Possibly he was helped initially by the Reeve family, but this is all conjecture. By 1811 he must have been well established as his father, William, only left him a nominal amount in his will prepared that year (see on page 8)

Their son, James, was born on 2nd December 1801, only three months after the marriage, and baptised in Laverstock the following June. There were two more children - Sarah (WJA's grandmother), born 22nd August 1805 and Elizabeth, baptised 21st October 1808 at St.Thomas's, Salisbury. Sarah herself died in 1815 at the age of only 35 and was buried in Laverstock.



By 1819 he had married again to Elizabeth Bebe. We know nothing of her. We know the first name from the baptism of their first daughter and the surname from a letter written by Annie Huntley (see two pages below). Their daughter Fanny Eliza was baptised at St.Martin's, Salisbury on 18th May 1820 and their second daughter Mary Ann was born in about 1823.

The family lived in Brown Street where he had a malthouse and the Star Inn as mentioned in a directory of 1822. By the time he wrote his will in 1837 he had acquired other public houses, all freehold: - The George and Dragon in Castle Street, Salisbury, The White Horse Inn, also in Castle Street and The Crown Inn in Fordingbridge, 12 miles from Salisbury down the Avon. An advertisement for letting in 1833 indicates that he also owned a substantial four-story house near to the Crown Inn.



Other than The White Horse, these inns are standing today and protected as Grade II listed buildings. The White Horse Inn seems to have been rebuilt at the end of the 19th century. The Star Inn is at present called The Rai d'Or (see 2023 photo above). In 1830 The George and Dragon (2023 photo below) was occupied by William Reeve so another possible family connection, although according to his will he bought it from the estate of someone else. He bought the White Horse Inn from Isaac Petty who owned it in 1822. but it is not mentioned in the 1830 directory. WJA had a recollection of the White Horse Inn from when he was about 8 years old – maybe he had just been told that his great-grandfather had owned it and it may have still been held in trust then – see below.]



James Ainsworth junior (1801 – about 1875) and Huntley family

His son, James, went back into farming, acquiring a farm, presumably with his father's financial assistance, in the parish of Winterborne Tomson, south of Blandford Forum in Dorset. This must have been some time in the 1820s and he may have been accompanied by his sister, Sarah, as she was married in that parish on 1st November 1827 to George Blake. He was from the parish of St.Edmund in Salisbury so they would have known each other in Salisbury. It was another eight years before James, himself, married Marianna Paull Davies, neé Salter, a widow,in 1835. She was born in about 1811 so some nine years younger. Her previous marriage in 1832 in Poole, where she resided, was to John L.Davies from Middlesex but the witnesses were James' uncle William Ainsworth from Hinton Martell and William's daughter Lucy Elizabeth (on page 6). This is curious, from which various conjectures as to how they met can be made. They had three children – Augusta Elizabeth born in 1838, James born the following year, but he died at the age of 10, and

Samuel Salter born in 1841. Their house was Tomson House or the Farm House, Tomson so presumably the main farm of the village and it comprised 470 acres employing ten men, and four boys. Marianna died in 1866, aged 54, and James in 1875, aged 74. Samuel took over the farm, married in 1877 and had two children but died in 1885, aged 43.

In 1851 Augusta was a boarder, with five others, at a girl's school in Wimborne Minster. May be this education paid off as in 1859 she made a very successful marriage to Henry Evan Huntley. He lived in Tarrant Keyneston, about 6 miles away. His father, Thomas Huntley, who died two years earlier, was a partner in Huntley & Palmer, the famous biscuit makers in Reading. Henry did not go into the business so the partnership was wound up, although the Huntley name retained, and he received £30,000 for his share – a huge sum in those days. He bought an estate at Charlton Marshall nearby. They had a son, Henry, and daughter Ada (known as Annie). This family may have played a significant part in WJA's life as will be seen later. By coincidence WJA's son, Norman, married someone from the Palmer family about 100 years later.

Rowden family and Overton connection

Returning to Salisbury and the household in Brown Street, Sarah (WJA's maternal grandmother), as already noted, had left to go to Westborne Tomson with her brother in the 1820s and then married George Blake returning to Salisbury to live in Exeter Street. We will return to them later. In 1834 her sister Elizabeth married Nathaniel Rowden.

Nathaniel was a farmer with a farm at North Oakley, a hamlet half way between Kingsclere and Overton in Hampshire, west of Basingstoke, comprising about 370 acres and employing 8 men and 4 boys. They had five children, only three of whom survived. Following, or probably before, Nathaniel's death in 1873 aged 75 the farm was taken over by his son John Rowden (born 1843) who married and had two children and died in 1901. Nathaniel and Elizabeth's daughter, Elizabeth, born 1834 married in 1857 a local farmer, Anthony Budd, who had a much larger farm, Quidhampton Farm, Overton, comprising 760 acres and employing 13 men and 11 boys. Elizabeth, herself, lived to be 84, dying in 1892, and lived with the Budd family in her last years. As will be seen on page 151, which includes a photo with both Sarah and Elizabeth in it, other members of family later came to Overton, the connection between Salisbury and Overton possibly being aided by the new railway connection, Overton being on the line to Basingstoke and London.

James Ainsworth snr last years and will

It seems that he decided to retire in 1933 at the age of about 56. He was probably actively managing the Star Inn until that year when there is an advertisement to let it and a notice in January 1834 for debtors and creditors as at 25th December 1833, describing him as "late brewer"

Sometime prior to the making of his will on 23rd November 1837, and possibly shortly before then as it may have prompted it, James' second wife, Elizabeth, died and thereafter he was living with his two daughters by that marriage, Fanny Eliza aged 17 in 1837 and Mary Ann, about 13. He died, aged 66, on 21st April 1843 and was buried, as requested in his will, in the grave of his first wife, Sarah, at Laverstock. A quick walk round the graveyard at Laverstock did not reveal any grave stone. His name in the burial register appears just before that of his brother John's,daughter Mary (see page 9). This is a

photograph of a painting of the church in 1804 taken from the website of the Laverstock and Ford Local History Group. The present church was built in about 1855.



By his will, as amended by a subsequent codicil he gave his house and other properties in Brown Street to his son James, then various properties in trust for his daughters for life with remainder to their children. The properties were a freehold property to Sarah, the George and Dragon to Elizabeth, the Crown Inn in Fordingbridge to Fanny Eliza and The White Horse Inn to Mary Ann. After providing for certain annuities that he had given to his sister Susannah (described as Susan) and her husband William Ratty (on page 8) he gave the residue to his five children in equal shares but Sarah's and Elizabeth's to be held in trust for them for life with remainder to their children. The trustees were his son James, his brother John in Clarendon and his nephew Charles Newman, son of his sister Frances (on page 6). He also appointed his brother John's son, John, but he was underage, being only 19, at the date of his death.

Newman family

William Ainsworth 1746-1811

Frances c.1780-1852 m William Newman c1777-1854

James c1777 – 1843 m Elizabeth Bebe ? – c.1837

Charles 1814-1848 John 1820-1892 m Mary Ann c1823-1873 Fanny c1820-c1893

For completeness I am supplying such information as I have found about James' daughters by his second marriage, Fanny and Mary, although there would not seem to have been any lasting connection with WJA. They presumably remained in Brown Street after their father's death until Mary, at the age of about 21, married on 4th June 1845 her first cousin, John Newman, aged about 24, brother of Charles Newman mentioned above, and son of James' sister Frances. As recounted on page 6 the Newman family had a farm at Chalbury, between Hinton Martell and Horton, although at the time of the marriage John, although described as a farmer, was resident in London and they were married at St.Martin's in the Fields, Westminster, Fanny being one of the witnesses.

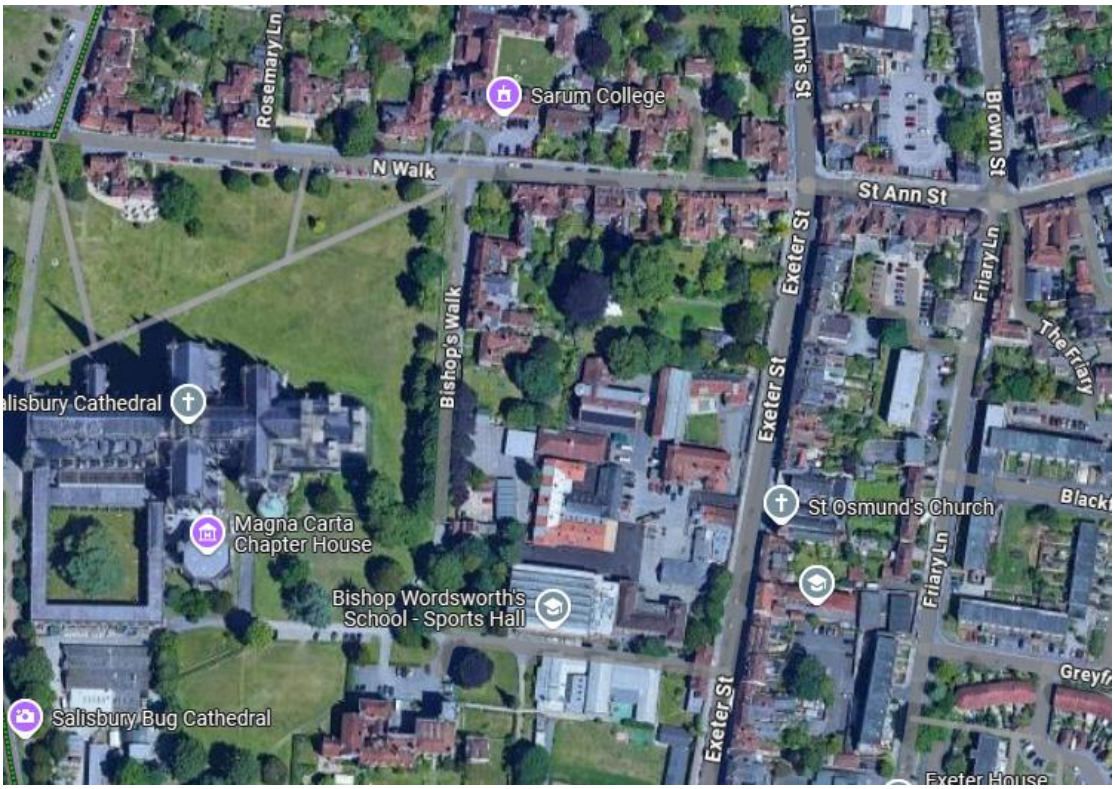
They had a son William Ainsworth Newman born near Devizes so this must have been their initial home before they moved to Didlington Mill, near Chalbury. The evidence from the census returns is that the family had acquired this mill before 1841 when John's brother, Charles was living in Didlington and described as a miller, Having married in

1847, Charles died the following year. John must then have taken over the mill as in the 1851 census he and Mary Ann are living in Didlington and he is described as a mealman. There was a small farm attached to it and John describes himself thereafter as a farmer, the farm being known as Mill Farm. Mary Ann died in 1873, aged 50 and John continued living at Didlington Mill until his death in 1892.

Fanny Eliza never married and she would seem to have lived most of the time with her sister Mary Ann and after her death with John Newman. However in 1861 she was with her half-brother James Ainsworth in Tomson (on page 16) and described as a servant. Mary Ann happened to be there also. described as a visitor. so may be Fanny was living there for a time to help out and Mary Ann was visiting her.

Sarah Blake (22.8.1805-30.7.1887)

Having now followed the lives of all of James' other children, although these have taken us away from Salisbury to various farms, we will return to WJA's grandmother Sarah. As already stated, on page 16 she married George Blake, aged 21, on 1st November 1827.

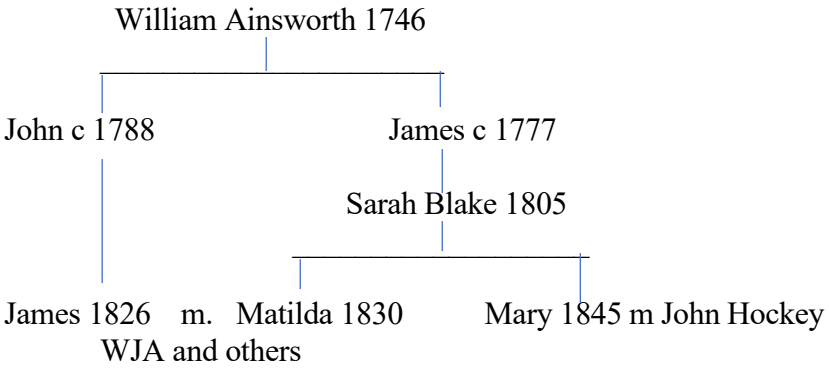


Little is known of his family. His parents James and Maria Matilda were resident in St.Martin's parish, Salisbury. His mother was not able to sign her name at her marriage, was baptised by her mother Sara only and bore her mother's surname - Peavy. There would thus not seem to have been a farming background but he became a farmer in Romsey, Hampshire, perhaps through Ainsworth connections. As mentioned above on page 10 Sarah's uncle John Ainsworth owned property in Romsey.



Their daughters, Sarah Elizabeth and Matilda Maria, WJA's mother, (clearly named after George's mother but with the names reversed) were born there in 1828 and 1830 but Sarah died the following year. Although in 1841 they were back in Salisbury he still described himself as a farmer in the census. A daughter, Mary Ann had been born in 1839 but died in 1842. Their home was ultimately in Exeter Street, Salisbury (WJA thinks it was No.39), just round the corner from Sarah's childhood home in Brown Street and the Star Inn (see Google map above, the inn being on the north-eastern corner of Brown Street and St.Ann Street), but when their daughter Eliza Mary was born on 12th January 1845 they were living in Bemerton on the road out of Salisbury to the west to Wilton. George was described for the baptism as gentleman. Eliza Mary was a twin but her twin sister, Fanny Louise, only lived for eight months. She was known by her second name of Mary and is referred to hereafter by that name. Sarah's father having died in 1843, Sarah would have been benefitting from her inheritance so perhaps they were living on that. Or may be the house in Exeter Street was the property that was left in trust, the address of which was not given in the will.

Sarah recorded the dates and times of the birth of her children and the deaths of those who did not live long in a bible which had been given to her shortly before her marriage. Some of the information above comes from this. As to the history of the bible see page 152. George died in 1847 at the age of 41 and was buried at St. Martin's, his address being given as Exeter Street. In the 1851 census Sarah is described as a proprietor of houses, but that might be a simplified way of saying that she had a life interest in houses. Thus, Sarah was left alone with Matilda aged 17 and Mary aged 2 until Matilda, aged 22 married her mother's first cousin James Ainsworth in 1852 as already narrated on page 12 and see diagram below. At the time of the 1861 census Sarah was with Matilda and James in Clarendon, presumably helping with the children but her home was still Exeter Street. Mary's whereabouts is not known. Perhaps she was at a school somewhere.



Mary married John Hockey at St.Martin's on 16th June 1866, James and Matilda being witnesses. He was described as a farmer from Overton although in the 1861 census he described himself as a farmer's assistant. Perhaps he was working on the Rowden farm at North Oakley, Overton and that was how they met on visits by Mary to her aunt Elizabeth. He did not remain in farming but became a corn merchant. Their first child, Sarah Jane was born at Exeter Street on 3rd February 1867 and there was a second child named James Ainsworth Hockey the following year born in Overton.

Sarah must then have decided to leave Salisbury and go to live with the Hockey family as by the 1871 census she is living with them. We will return to the families in Overton later in Chapter 10 on page 151 but now go back to WJA and his parents

W.J Ainsworth's childhood and youth

James Ainsworth (1826-1900) m 1852 Matilda Maria Blake(1830-1875)

Sarah (1854-1938) William (1855-1943) Lettie (1856-1939) Louie (1863-1874)

James and Matilda had four children: - Sarah Victoria b.25.5.1854 (baptised 25.6.1854), William John b.18.9.1855 (baptised 17.10.1855), Letitia Mary 10.11.1856 (baptised 2.12. 1856) and Maria Louisa 16.11.1862 (baptised 1.1.1863). They were all born at Clarendon Park but baptised at St.Martin's in Salisbury, being the church of their mother and grandmother Sarah Blake, except Sarah who was baptised at Laverstock. Their childhoods were at the farm until, as recounted above (page 14) they had to leave in about 1868 when William would have been 12 or13.

His grandmother, Sarah Blake, arranged for William to go to school in The Close in Salisbury, the name of the school master being Dicky Lloyd, and he had his dinners at her house in Exeter Street. He walked three miles to school and back every day. This would have taken him down the valley from Savage's Farm, passing the site of Clarendon Palace up on the left, past his aunt and uncle's farm Ranger's Lodge, across the River Bourne and up into the town. See the map on page 9. I walked down the path from the fam in 2023 and this is a photo of a section between the palace and Ranger's Lodge Farm.



He described the house in Exeter Street as being just opposite the wall of the cathedral grounds and it was subsequently pulled down. In fact, it would seem from inspection that it would have been on the boundary of the cathedral grounds and that all the houses on that side of the road were pulled down and replaced by a wall. (see map above on page 19) It was a rendezvous for all the district farmers on market and fair days – whether he meant the house or the road is not clear

William recounted that after leaving Clarendon they moved south to Lymington and had a dairy-farm there with 40 cows for a short time but James was not cut out for a dairy farmer. He was a heavy drinker and his misfortunes made him worse. They then moved to a small house in Christchurch and those were 'thin times'. His mother struggled on

heroically and his grandmother came from Salisbury to live with them and help. William sang in a choir in Christchurch.

William has recorded that he left home for the first time on 21st December 1870 (aged 15). It is not known what he did for schooling after leaving the school in Salisbury. His sister Sarah must also have left home about then as in the 1871 census she, at the age of 17, was with a family in Brading, Sandown, Isle of Wight described as a governess.
The 1871 census shows James and Matilda as being in Christchurch with children Letitia (aged 14) and Louisa (aged 8) and a lodger. James is described as a retired farmer. Sarah Blake was not with them at the time of the census but, as already mentioned, was with her daughter Mary in Overton.

Reading

On leaving home William seems to have gone to Aldershot as he recorded that he left Aldershot on the 18th January 1871 to go to Reading. He was thus only there for about three weeks and who he was with and what he was doing is not known. It must have been a short break before commencing a four-year apprenticeship from 8th March with Shepherd's, a grocer, in Reading. This apprenticeship had been arranged by his grandmother, Sarah Blake, for the payment of £30. How did she have a contact in Reading? This must have been through her brother, James Ainsworth, and/or niece Augusta Huntley, the Huntleys having family and the connection with Huntley & Palmers in Reading (seeon page 17). William said that his grandmother was very good to him and she was clearly a very strong support for him in his early life. Later there were frequent visits to her at Overton where she was living with her daughter Mary and the Hockey family.

After about two years at Shepherd's there was an incident. He got at loggerheads with one of the assistants, a married man much older than himself. This man "attempted to punch my head, but didn't succeed. His head (presumably the man's) was covered in bruises. For this I was sent for by Shepherd and told to go home." His grandmother went to Shepherd and told him that he could not terminate the arrangement like that as she had paid for his indenture. He stayed on but only for a short while. He left on 7tth July 1873. He was friendly with another grocer, Parfitt, who was secretary of the cricket club, and Parfitt took him on in his shop on 2nd August 1873

Reading was William's home for five years, formative years between ages 15 and 20. The family background seems to have been very Church of England. There is no sign of non-conformism and he and his siblings were all baptised in his mother's and grandmother's parish church. However, presumably influenced by friends and acquaintances in Reading, he became a Baptist and he recorded that he was baptised at the Kings Road Chapel on 10th May 1874. The Reading Central Library is now on the site of that chapel. William's religion was to become a dominant feature of his life.

Deaths of mother and sister



There were two sad events during those years which were very distressing for him. His sister, Maria Louisa, known as Louie, died on 30th August 1874, at the age of 12. He thought the cause of death was measles. The death certificate states fever and effusion of water on the brain. He was very fond of her and kept a lock of her hair which is still with the family archives. This is a photo of her at a younger age.



The following year on 10th May 1875 his mother also died, aged 45, the cause of death being cancer of the uterus. They both died and were buried in Wylye. This is about 8 miles to the north-west of Salisbury so sometime between 1871 and 1874 they had moved there. The reason for the move is not known but may be James had found some work through a contact in Salisbury. His occupation on Louie's death certificate was given as labourer but on Matilda's as retired farmer.

William's sister, Letitia (known as Lettie), was aged 18 at the death of their mother. It seems probable that she went to live with her aunt Mary Hockey and grandmother in Overton as in 1879 she became engaged to Thomas ('Tom') Henry Loveridge, whose father was a draper and grocer with a shop in Winchester Street there. William recorded in his diary that the father was to retire from the business and pass it on to Tom. He was satisfied with this engagement which was so different from the former one, of which there are no details. For a photograph of the family at this wedding, which took place in September 1880 see page 151.

With so many of his relatives living in Overton this became a frequent stop for William in later years.

Engagement

The other event while in Reading was that he became engaged to Nellie Cooper. This seems to have been a formal engagement made on 17th June 1875. We don't know anything about her except that her family was probably a connection of Mr and Mrs Parfitt. There is a public record of an Ellen Sarah Cooper, born in 1851, the daughter of an architect and auctioneer in Castle Street, which may have been her.

Woolwich

He left Parfitts and worked for another firm, presumably also grocers, from November 1875 to Feb 1876. He then made a big move, leaving Reading and moving to London where he was employed by Topleys in Woolwich from 7th March. The family's information is that this was on the site of the future Woolwich Equitable Building Society offices. However, a photo from about 1868 in Wikimedia Commons shows a building on

the west side of Beresford Square as a Tea Coffee Provision Warehouse. The only thing known about his stay in Woolwich, although this was very significant later and the reason why it is known, was that he became friends with George Frederick Wates. The story is that they met through doing voluntary work at the Conduit Road Ragged School in Woolwich but it may be simply that they went to the same Baptist chapel. George was about two years younger. He came from a family who were Baptists, devoted much of his time to church activities and at about this time at the age of 19 gave his first sermon to the Baptist Mission at Deptford. Their friendship was renewed in 1882/3 when William was living in Holloway and George in nearby Stoke Newington where, having become a Congregationalist, he was choir master at Raleigh Memorial Chapel.

The very precise dates mentioned above come from his own record which has survived. He also recorded his wages which may be of interest to note. They rose from £14 per year to £25 per year while at Parfitts. They were £35 at the next firm and then £75 at Topleys rising to £1.12 per week. (which is about £83 per year)

James Humby

He was not there for very long as early in 1877 he was taken on by his uncle James Humby, the husband of his father's sister Anne whom we last noted as living in Milford, Salisbury, in 1851 and giving his occupation as banker's clerk. (page 11).A second daughter, Mary Letitia (known as Polly) was born in 1855 in Devizes. In 1863, when his brother-in-law John Ainsworth made his will, they were living in Dalston, London. James had become an entrepreneur. In 1871 they were living in Eden Vale House, Westbury and he described himself as an iron master and merchant. Polly, aged 19 married James Pocock Hall in 1874 in Westbury, where they continued to live and had three children. By 1876 James and Anne had moved to Bath and Margaret, aged 26, married Ezra James Knight there in that year. He had become involved with coal mining in South Wales, being described as a colliery proprietor in the 1881 and 1891 censuses, and also having an office in London in Finsbury Circus.

He seems to have helped Anne's sister Charlotte's husband, Hugh Maton, after he retired from farming following Charlotte's death (see page 12). From an entry in William's diary mentioned below it may be that part of Charlotte's inheritance from her father, in which Hugh would have had a life interest after her death, was invested in the business. He worked briefly at a depot in Trowbridge in 1879 before it was sold, although William had predicted that he would take to drinking again and lose the business. Other work must have been found for him as at his death in 1885 he was living at Llangonoyd, near Bridgend in Glamorganshire and described as a colliery manager. Although buried there, a memorial was added to Charlotte's grave in Braemore.

Why James Humby came to Bath is not known. Maybe it was a convenient place from which to manage the business in Wales with a good connection to London. They lived at Rosewyn Villa, 4 Cambridge Place from 1876 until at least 1884. There is a Cambridge Terrace off Widcombe Hill so maybe it was near there.

Working for Uncle Humby



So, William, aged about 22, came to Bath to join him. His address by 1879 was 2 St. Matthews Place, Pulteney Road. This is at the bottom of Widcombe Hill so is possibly a place that "Uncle Humby" found for him. Once in Bath he naturally would have sort out and joined the Baptist Church, of which more later.

There is no information as to what the financial arrangement with his uncle was, whether he just received a salary or whether there was some sort of profit sharing. The office was at his uncle's house and his uncle was frequently at his office in London. The fortunes of the business were clearly a great worry to him, but whether this was because his income was affected or it was just part of the job is not clear. His uncle speculated resulting in a constant struggle to remain solvent and he resented being brought into it..

William kept a diary for a few months from September 1879. Over the period of the diary there was a continual struggle with various schemes to borrow or raise up to £15,000 to save some deeds deposited with a bank which was in liquidation. In his summary of the year to May 1881, being the last entry in the diary, he wrote that the long business struggle not yet over but some hope. There was always some hope! One aspect of the hope was the possibility of a company being promoted to purchase the business for £135,000 which gives some idea of the scale of it.

Here are a few quotes from the diary:-
"Business is just one long effort to keep our creditors and not pay our debt and thus it has been for three weary years until the whole heart is sick of the thing."
"Uncle's only love in life is business – cares nothing for music, poetry, literature, society his wife, religion, his God"
Wishes his uncle was guided by principle and not impulse and expediency. Does not like his spirit of concealment and lack of openness. ,
"My heart not in this 'company' business – I shall never be at home in it". In the event, the rest of his life was in it, using the experience he had gained with his uncle.

His story continues in Chapter 7 on page 100

Chapter 2 - Willway family

Early Willways at Puriton, Somerset

The earliest records are to be found in the parish registers of Puriton, a village just north of Bridgewater in Somerset. It can be seen now when you are driving south on the M5, situated on the left just before junction 23. This photograph of the parish



church was taken in 2010.

The first record is of the marriage on the 18th Nov 1566 of John Willway and Elnor Edmington, but the earliest record to which we can trace the line back is that of the marriage of John Willwaie (various spellings were used) to Joane Conuall on the 10th Jan 1633. They had a son John who was baptized on the 21st Sept 1634 but Joane died in childbirth.

John Willway
m. (1633) Joane Conuall (d.1634)
|
John (1634-1693)
m. (1669) Joane Prixott (d.1682)
|
Richard (1673 - ?)
m. Joan (d.1708)
m. (c1709) Mary
|
John (1705) | Robert (1710) | Thomas (c1712)
?|
Thomas (? – 1792)

John married Joane Prixott in 1669 and they had four sons. John, born in 1670 who died in 1704, Richard, our ancestor, born on 1st Aug 1673 and two others who died as children. There may also have been a daughter Mary, as there is a record of a marriage to George Dribble in 1718.

We know nothing else about them with the exception of Richard. From the parish records we know he had a wife Joan, who died in 1708 and by whom he had a son John born in 1705. He then married Mary, by whom he had a son Robert in 1710. There is a lease to him which survived of about 30 acres of farmland, although Richard is described in it as a weaver, mainly in Downend (now on the other side of the motorway to Puriton) but with one meadow in the parish of Bawdrip to the East. The lease was for a period of 99 years or the lives of Richard and his three sons John, Robert and Thomas. So we know that there was a son Thomas born in 1711 or 1712.

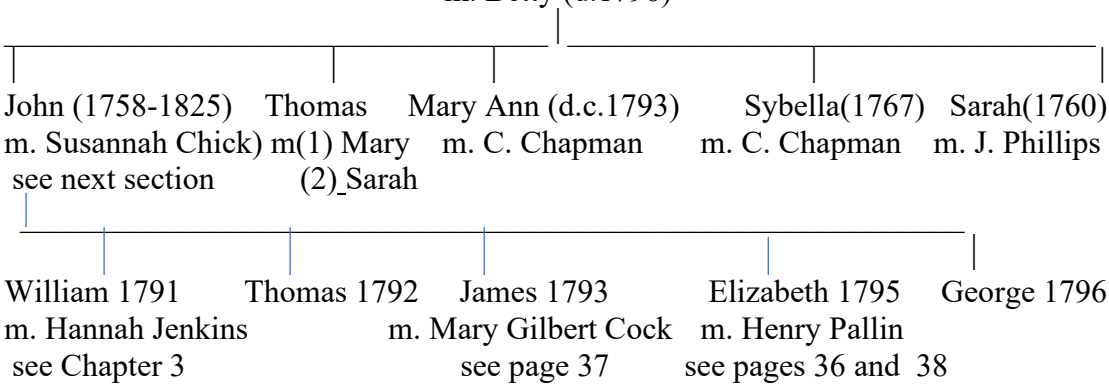


The parish records are sporadic thereafter and cease in 1750. There are no more Willways recorded. There is now a gap in our knowledge filled only by a pewter plate, which was retained in the family. This photograph is of the reverse of the plate with the inscription: - "The Gift of John Willway to His Nephew Thomas Willway Bridgewater. 29th May 1765." John is probably the John born in 1705 and Thomas would be the son of Robert or Thomas. In view of the tendency to name the eldest son after the father, I have assumed he was the son of Thomas. Robert may have become a weaver as there is reference to Robert Willway in a book on the Guild of Weavers.

Perhaps Thomas senior had moved to Bridgewater from Puriton and Thomas junior was born there. From an Assignment dated 1798 in the possession of the family we know that Thomas junior married Betty and had five children John, Thomas, Sybella, Sarah and Mary Ann. There is a record of the baptism of Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth on 24th July 1763 at St.Mary's church, Bridgewater. There is also a record of the baptism of Sibylla, daughter of Thomas and Betty at St George's church, Bristol on 20th December 1767.

Bristol

Thomas Willway (? – c1792)
m. Betty (d.1796)



Betty's properties

In 1781 or shortly thereafter, Betty inherited a cottage in the parish of St George in Bristol from a friend. The family had settled in St George's parish where presumably Betty had connections. This is to the east of the city centre. We do not know what her maiden name was. Betty died in 1796. Thomas had died prior to 1793 when Betty made her last will. In addition to the property she had inherited, which she was not occupying, she owned two other adjacent properties in 1793, one of which she occupied, situated near the church on the Marshfield in the parish of St. George. These appear to be additional properties because by her will she left the one she occupied to her daughter Sibylla and the other to her son-in-law James Phillips, whereas the inherited property was inherited by all the children. This would either indicate that Thomas was successful in whatever he did on coming to Bristol or there was more inherited wealth. Betty signed her will with a cross so presumably she was illiterate.

Thomas Willway jnr and Sarah Willway

Thomas' sons John and Thomas were both cordwainers (shoemakers).. In 1798 he purchased a lease of a small cottage and garden on White Hill in the parish of St George for the price of £14. It was John who went into the dying business which is dealt with in the next section. Thomas married Mary Milsom in 1784. They had two children, Thomas Milsom in 1785 who lived for eight years and Mary in about October 1788 who lived for only 11 months. Mary herself died in December 1788, perhaps as a result of complications from the birth. Thomas married again to Sarah Craddeck in 1793. There were no children of this marriage. Thomas died in 1817 at the age of 54 but curiously his abode on the burial record at St George was Workhouse. This is strange as his widow Sarah was wealthy at her death in 1834, owning three properties in St George's parish including that in which she lived and investments providing £43 per year.

Thomas and Betty's daughters

Of Thomas and Betty's daughters, Sarah married James Phillips on 16th April 1797, Mary Ann married Charles Chapman but died young before 1793 and Sybella then

married Charles Chapman on 16th April 1797. In 1798 James Phillips bought out the shares of the other members of the family in the inherited cottage for £42, Charles Chapman receiving the shares of both his wives. James Phillips was a ship's carpenter. Sybella had a son Charles in August 1798 but died in March 1800 and their son in 1811 at the age of 14.

Phillips family and Captain Phillips' diary

This history is not concerned with the Phillips family but one of the documents that passed down within the Willway family was the diary of James and Sarah's son, Captain John Willway Phillips. One of the Willway descendants, Deborah Klein with the assistance of her husband Peter Klein, has written a very interesting account of the family as a whole as a background to this diary. This was written in 2008 and thus subsequent to my original draft history upon which this book is based. It contains much additional information and rather than repeating it here I will make reference to it when necessary. It can be downloaded from my website on the following link https://www.brian-wates.co.uk/AinsworthFamily/JWPhillips%20diary%20etc.pdf
I will refer to it as Debby Klein's account with this page number

John Willway (c1760-c1826) and the dyeworks.

John's family and residences

John married Susannah Chick on 31st August 1786, his brother-in-law James Phillips being a witness. This was at the parish church of St. George's parish where they were both residents. They had eleven children, only five of whom, William (b.1790), Thomas (b.1792), James (b.1793), Elizabeth (b.1795) and George (b.1796) survived to adulthood. Some of the baptism records give their residence. In 1794, 1795 and 1796 they were in Cheese Lane (which still exists) and John's occupation given as a cordwainer. In 1798 they were in Cole Street. On that occasion John's sisters Sarah Phillips and Sybella Chapman also baptised children and were also shown as living in Cole Street. In 1803 the address was College Street

They had their first child in 1788 whom they named John Sweet. Their grandson by their son James was also named John Sweet. It has previously been assumed that Susannah's maiden name was therefore Sweet. I have found no clue as to where the name comes from. Possibly it was John's mother Betty's maiden name.

Dyeworks

John's brother-in-law, Charles Chapman was a silk dyer. Did John give up shoemaking and join him? The earliest record found in a trade directory is that in 1805 of John Willway, dyer and calenderer (a person who operates a calender machine to dress, glaze and finish cloth by hot-pressing with rollers), at 27 College Street. There was no record in 1800 but no directories between the two dates. He appears in all directories after that but moving to 6 Denmark Street in 1812, at which address the firm remained for many years. From 1829, adverts show the firm as having been founded in 1797 which could be correct, there being no record of his being a cordwainer after 1796.



This is a photograph taken in 2006 of 6 Denmark Street on the left and No.7, also used by the business, in the centre

Business split between sons William and James

John and Susannah's sons William and James were brought into the business. In 1814 there is the firm of J. and W. Willway, silk, cotton, linen and woollen dyers in Lower Castle Street, so John had probably set up a second business with William. In 1818 William's name appears alone so John had presumably handed it over to him. By 1821 the business at 6 Denmark Street was called John Willway and Son so James had joined him. In 1826 the entry appears as S. Willway & Son, John having died on 22nd January 1825 leaving his estate to Susannah who took over his share of the business. She died on 7th March 1835. James acted as the administrator of her estate.

Some idea of the work of the business can be obtained from an advertisement for S.Willway & Son:-" Silk, velvet, bombazines, morine, crapes, gauze, calico and cloth of all descriptions cleaned and dyed; silk and other shawls, pelisses etc cleaned or dyed; printed calico bed and window furniture cleaned, stiffened and glazed, so as to equal new; calico furniture linings cleaned or de-dyed, morine furniture dyed or dipped and watered; blankets, druggets, carpets etc cleaned; straw and leghorn bonnets dyed black for mourning at shortest notice"

Funeral and wills

John's funeral was at St.Philip's Methodist chapel, Old Market Street, the first indication that by that time the family were non-conformist.

The wills show that John owned two freehold properties in Bath Buildings and one in Union Place, both near Rennison's Bath in St.Paul's parish, Bristol. These were presumably investments that he had made following the success of his business. Susannah left the former to William and the latter to Elizabeth, John receiving her share of the business at Denmark St. The only information that we have about their sons Thomas and George is from Susannah's will. George was clearly disabled in some way as James is requested to provide for him. An annuity was to be purchased for Thomas with £50. The tax account for Susannah's estate in 1835, which has survived, gives the value of her personal estate as £618. This included leasehold properties, presumably 6 and 7 Denmark Street of £430, but not the freehold properties.

William continued in business on his own at 5 Lower Castle Street. The two branches of the Willway family continued in the separate businesses. James is the grandfather of Lyddie Ainsworth so this narrative will continue with that branch. However, William is the grandfather of Margaret Irene Willway who married Lyddie's son Reginald and is therefore the ancestor of part of the family. The history of his family will be covered later in chapter 4 (see page 44).

Traditional story

The traditional story about the dyeworks is told as follows in a history from about 1960 of the Guaranteed Laundries and Cleaners Group, which had taken over Willways in 1956 (see below on page 149): - "Willways itself was founded on a protest. Young James Willway, a farmer's son from Bridgewater, came up from the green pastures of Somerset to work in Bristol, and was shocked by the grime and dirt

which abounded in the city, slowly awakening to industrialisation. So he opened a dyeworks and cleaners – and never looked back. Shops were set up at varying periods in College St, Denmark St and Christmas St, at the foot of Christmas Steps. This shop, of course, still remains, and to this day is a retail branch of James Willway's old laundry."[1]

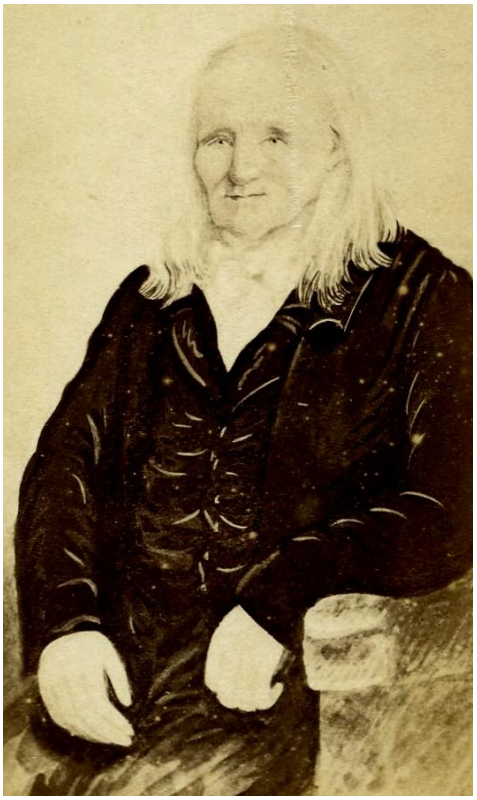
As will have been seen above, this story is quite inaccurate. it was Thomas who came to Bristol from Bridgewater sometime between 1763 and 1767 and his son John who founded the dyeworks. James came later. Thomas may have been a farmer's son but we do not know what his occupation was when he came to Bristol.

I mention here an undated letter written by Mercy Willway, in about 1880, because it illustrates the interest the descendants took in their background which in many cases has provided useful information. In this case it does not make much senses. She recounts that she and her brothers went to Bristol to the office of Mr. Coates in Broad Street to sign a document. Mr Herbert Coates was the Willway family solicitor. She recounts that she saw the will of their great-grandmother dated 1808 and found that "our great-grandfather Thomas Willway was a yeoman about 100 years ago." Thomas was her great-great-grandfather, her great-great-grandmother Betty's will was dated 1793 and her great-grandmother Susannah's will was dated 1826!

[1] Pamphlet No.46 of Histories of Bristol Companies.

William Cock (11.8.1751-9.6.1843)

In 1822 James Willway, aged 29, married Mary Gilbert Cock, aged 20, a daughter of William Cock, at Westbury-on-Trym Parish Church. He also, like the Willways, came from Bridgewater where his father was a farmer. William was a cabinetmaker living in Kingsdown, Bristol. He was apprenticed to Mr. Nichols and then became his partner. By his first wife Betty he had eleven children between 1774 and 1792.



One of his sons by this marriage is believed to have been a ship's captain under Nelson. There is a record of a Capt. Henry Cock in the Bristol directories living at Hotwells between 1823 and 1847 and there was a son Henry born in 1779.

New York and second marriage

In 1794 he sailed to New York with his wife. It is not known which, if any, of the children went with them. The purpose of the trip was to find a supply of mahogany and he may also have gone to the Leeward Islands. Unfortunately, Betty died on the voyage in June.

While in New York he was married to Sarah Nichols on 7th December 1795 by the Reverend John Sandford of Baptist persuasion, and their first child was born at Cliff Street, New York in Sept 1796 and baptized at John Street Chapel. This information together with detailed information about all his children and the death of Betty, giving the precise latitude and longitude of the ship at the time of her death, comes from a hand written genealogy in the family papers. It is probably copied from a family bible.

They had returned to Kingsdown, Bristol by June 1798 where the second child was born. Tradition has it that while in New York William made a portable writing desk for George Washington's aide-de-camp General Gage. It had a secret drawer for secret dispatches to England. He also made a sideboard for George Washington. (Washington was President from 1789 to 1797).

Background of his second wife, Sarah

Tradition also has it that Sarah Nichols was descended from the Gilbert family of Antigua. This was a leading family in Antigua and the pedigree well documented but it has not been possible to find the link. The genealogy mentioned above has a pencilled note describing her as 'Seymour widow'. Her history is in some way reflected in the second names of her children. Her first son Alexander had the name Nichols, the second son George and first daughter Mary (our ancestor), the name Gilbert and the fourth son John, the name Seymour.

In 1882 Mary told two of her grandchildren something about her family and this was recorded by her granddaughter Bessie in her diary. She told them that her mother had said that she was the daughter of a West Indian planter in Antigua and her name was Gilbert. She married first a Mr Seymour and had one child who died. Her husband died and she married Mr Cock.
The only way to reconcile these facts and various versions that have been passed down would seem to be that Sarah had another marriage to a Mr Nichols, or a change of name, after Mr Seymour's death and before marrying William Cock.

William and Sarah had six children in all between 1796 and 1807 but the second daughter Sarah died after one week.

Skilled craftsman

William Cock was clearly a successful craftsman, although his daughter thought he could have done better for himself if he had had premises in the city rather than in Kingdown. Passed down in the family are a mahogany dining table, a mahogany sideboard, a writing desk and a clock. The portrait of him at the age of 90 at the beginning of this chapter was in the possession of Philip Lace (see page 81), who gave it to the Bristol Art Gallery. There was also a tallboy believed to have been made by him which was also given to the Bristol Art Gallery by Philip Lace, but they have ascertained that it was made before 1750 and therefore could not have been his.



This is a photo of the sideboard in 2024 in the house of the widow of his great-great-great-grandson John Ainsworth. See also references to this and the dining table on page 71 and the clock on page 84

Business premises

His business premises were in Hillgrove Street. He appears in the Bristol directories there in 1791 and 1792 as cabinet maker. In 1818 he is described as a clock-case maker with premises also in Bush Street. From 1821 to 1838 he is described as clock-case maker, cabinet maker and camp-writing-desk inventor and manufacturer, the address being Cock's Building, Hillgrove St. There are no entries in 1841 or 1844. But there is a deed, made by William Cock, dated 11th August 1842 relating to the property granting a right of way and referring to two wells on the property which states that the buildings were begun in 1782.



Last years and sons

Sarah died in 1838 and William in 1843 at the age of nearly 92. In 1841 he is shown in the census as living with his daughter Mary Willway's sister-in-law Elizabeth Pallin (neé Willway) and her husband Henry Pallin. He must have given up work some years before that despite the reference to the business in the directories. What happened to the business? His son Josiah (b. 1799) was in business as a watch and clock maker in Bridewell Lane and then in Upper Arcade between 1822 and 1826, but then moved to Swansea where he is recorded as a grocer in the 1841 and 1851 censuses but listed under musical instruments in an 1849 directory. See also page 60 about Josiah.. William's son George Gilbert Cock (b. 1798), was in business at 3 Lower Montague Road in 1826 and 1829 and at 'Sea Horse', Upper Maudlin Street as a cabinet maker in 1835. He then appears once more in 1848 at 2 Hillgrove St so perhaps he took it over. According to his sister he died in America in about 1862



William was very fit and the following is inscribed (probably by Lyddie and with two corrections I have made), on the back of a photo of this other portrait of him taken by Theophilus, Lyddie's brother: - 'Grandmamma Willway's Father, William Cock, lived to be 92 and when over 80 walked from Bristol to Bridgewater and at 90 walked from Bristol to Bath. Great-Grandfather was an early riser. He got up regularly at 4 o'clock. He was one of the best cabinet makers in Bristol, and made the 8-day clock'.

James (1793-1865) and Mary (1802-1888) Willway

(Lydia's grandparents)

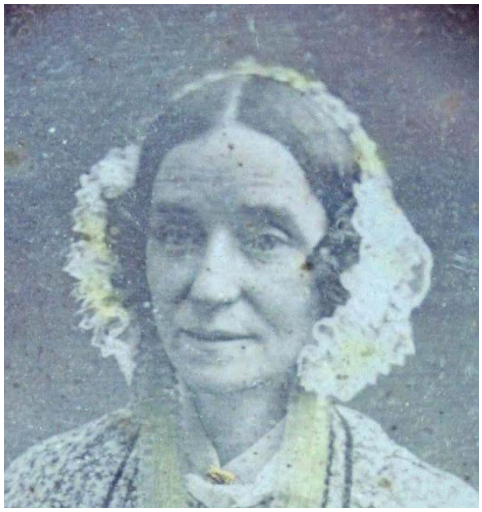
James and Mary had four children between 1822 and 1828, the youngest dying before her second birthday as a result of an accident. The eldest was Tabitha, then Lydia's father, James William Cock Willway, born on 8th Feb 1825 and a second son, John Sweet Willway.

James (31.12.1793-12.4.1865)
m. (20.1.1822) Mary Gilbert Cock (1.6.1802-28.6.1888)

Tabitha (1822-1863)	James (1825-1860)	John (1826-1914)	Mary (1841-1868)
m. (1847) W. Jack	m. (1847) Sarah Wallace		m. (1864) F. Powell
(8 children)	m. (1849) Lucy Davis	(6 children)	(2) children)

In this connection we know that he invested in railway companies as there have survived copies of or notes of requests for shares in 1845. The maximum was for 75 shares at £25 each.[2]. An important investment as evidenced by their wills mentioned below was shares in the Bristol Waterworks Company.

They were clearly well off and sent their sons away to a private boarding school. This was initially at Sommer Hill House, St. Georges, in Kingswood, Bristol. James wrote to them there on the 29th Nov 1838 on the death of their grandmother Sarah Cock: - "Tell Mr. Stone please to let you come home as your grandmother is no more. She died at 1 o'clock this morning. Your mother and grandfather bear it as well as possible." They then went to Mr. Elias Neel's Academy, Sion House, St. Saviours, Jersey where the basic fee was about £30 per term This was the beginning of the Jersey connection which lasted about 100 years and of which much more later.



A late child was born in 1841 when Mary was 39 and named Mary Elizabeth. James junior, (aged 16) wrote in his diary that on arriving in Southampton on his return from Jersey: - "asked for a letter at the toll keepers and was never more surprised when upon opening it found there was an addition to our family."

Residences

They lived at Durdham Down, Bristol. In 1845 the address was Down Cottage and at the date of James' death in 1865 it was Heathfield House. However, James jnr in his diary in 1841 refers to going to see his mother "on the Down," so the premises in Denmark Street were presumably also a home, as is born out by the 1841 census which merely records Tabitha as living there with a servant. James jnr was in Jersey at the time of the census. But in 1851 the whole family is recorded as living at 7 Denmark St.

[2] Archive doc.

Elizabeth Pallin

Also living with them in both 1851 and 1861 was James' sister Elizabeth Pallin, then widowed. It was mentioned above that Mary's father, William Cock, was with Elizabeth and her husband Henry Pallin, a solicitor, in 1841.

Dyeworks

James carried on the dyeworks business in Denmark Street, initially in partnership with his mother and after her death in 1835, on his own. In 1842 there are two entries in the directory; one is in his name only at 6 Denmark Street and one as Willway & Son at 7 Denmark Street. His son, James, was probably by then working in the business but he was never a partner.

Investments and property

He was successful in the business and invested in shares and properties. In the family archives are copies of applications in 1845 for shares in the Bristol and South Wales Junction Railway, the Bristol and South Wales Junction Railway Extension Line, the Bristol and Liverpool Junction Railway and the Galway and Kilkenny Railway. This was the time of the "Railway Mania" and whether he made of lost money is not known. His son, James, was involved in making the application for the last and expressed the view in his diary that he was acting foolishly. See also the note about not following his wife's advice on page 79. Successful investments are shown by their wills.

His attitude to property and marriage was illustrated in his son's diary when recording a letter from Tabitha in May 1845. She had received an offer of marriage which she had accepted. However, their father opposed it and James writes that he had the wisdom to express his sorrow and regret rather than determined opposition. His promise to settle the Hillgrove property on her if she married as he wished induced her to change her mind. Early the following month he approved of her marriage to William Jack. Whether the property was settled on her is not known. This is conjecture, but may be the property was Cock Buildings at 2 Hillgrove Street which, although occupied by George Cock in 1848 might have passed to Mary on her father's death in 1843. Unfortunately, we have no information about his will.

James' will

By his will dated 1862 James left all his freehold and leasehold properties, except one, and his 20 shares in the Bristol Waterworks Company to Mary for life and the rest of his estate to her absolutely. The one exception was the freehold property known as The Dove at Moorfields, St George. I see from the map that there is a Dove Lane there so perhaps that is where it was. This was left to his son James' widow Lucy (see the next section below) for her life and thereafter to her children. I have not come across any other reference to this property or the income from it until after Lucy's death in 1905, as to which see page 157.

After Mary's death 5 of the Bristol Waterworks shares were to go to Lucy for her life and then to her children; the freehold properties The Rising Sun Inn at Cathay, St Mary Redcliffe and 15 Vine Row, Old Park, St.Michael and 5 shares to his son John; the leasehold property 7 Denmark Street to Tabitha for life, then to her husband and then her children absolutely; the leasehold property 6 Denmark Street, and the

freehold cottage on Durdham Down (perhaps this was Down Cottage where they originally lived) and 10 of the shares to their daughter Mary for life and then to her children if any (this was before her marriage) at the age of 21. The value of the estate was about £4000.

Of their children, Lyddie's father James William Cock Willway is dealt with in the next section and the rest of the family after James' death in 1865 in the Chapter 6. (page 79)

James William Cock Willway (8.2.1825-8.11.1860)

(Lydia's father)

James kept a diary as already mentioned. Entries have survived from January to June 1841 and April 1845 to June 1846, together with notes of some important events..

School

The early entries were made when he was at school at Elias Neel's Sion House Academy, Longueville in Jersey. He went in July 1840 and was there until June 1841 including staying over the Christmas holidays. The entries are fairly typical of a 15-year-old – frequent reports on the weather and incidents of boys being punished. He refers to a couple of friends and walks either alone or in groups with some vivid descriptions of the scenery. The Neel family were Wesleyans and religious teaching was important. He refers to going to chapel normally twice on Sundays. This was either in school or to a chapel in the town. He took much interest is talks by missionaries. In June he was working hard for public examinations which took place at the end of the term. There were 70-80 people for the music exam, only 20 for electricity, galvanism and magnetism. He was also studying book keeping.



Letters were obviously very important. He corresponded with both parents, his sister Tabitha and records exchanges with his cousins, John, Charles and William Willway (see tree on page 44), sons of his uncle William, and his grandfather William Cock. There is no reference at all in the diary to his brother John, although only 18 months younger.

We only have the record of the one year so whether he returned for the following year is not known.

James Willway & Son

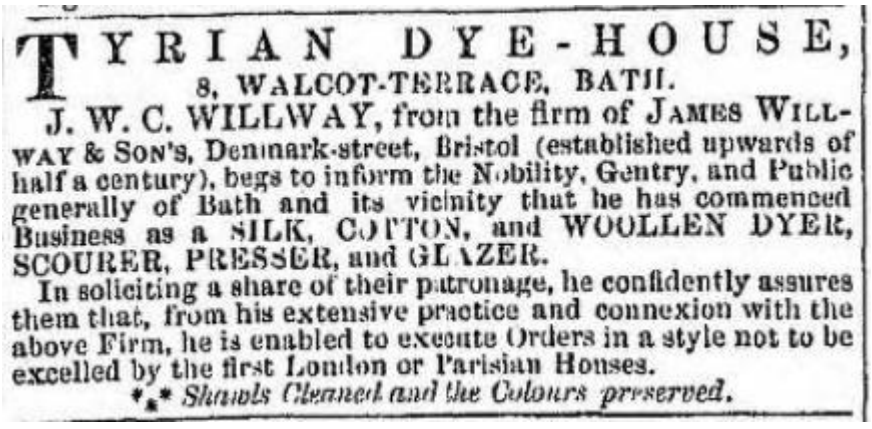
In an advertising article published in 1857 he refers to having 15- or 16-years' experience, so he must have started working at his father's dyeworks at 7 Denmark Street upon returning from school in 1841 or 1842 at the age of 16 or 17. This corresponds with the business name being James Willway & Son in 1842. By the commencement of the surviving diary in 1845 he was clearly working for his father, whom he referred to in the diary as the Governor. Although the business was using the name of James Willway & Son, there is no indication of partnership. On the contrary there is clearly a wish and intention to have his own business for which his work with his father was training him.

He recorded his criticism of the long hours that the men have to work – 6 am (although they come at 7) to 10 pm (meals excepted perhaps). They spin out the time and their health suffers – not only impolitic but sinful. When he is in business he will show an example of practical Christianity. No man ought to work more than 10 hours (6 am to 6 pm with 2 hours for meals. He was again critical when the task of paying their wages fell on him when his parents were away on holiday. On the occasion of his 21st birthday in February 1846 his father gave the men (12 of them) a supper and they presented him with a pair of silver salt spoons as a mark of respect from the persons in his father's employment.

Sarah Wallace and 8 Walcot Terrace

In August 1845 he wrote that he was improving in business and hopes he shall soon have his own and able to marry Sarah. This was Sarah Wallace. She lived in Finsbury, London so he must have stayed in London on some occasion and met her then. He records frequent correspondence with her. He had stayed in London for about a month in June that year ostensibly to try to find work there for which he was unsuccessful. As he wrote before departing, he did not like going to work in London but liked going to see Sarah. On this occasion he also met her family.

His desire for his own business reached fruition by November 1946 when he recorded that they were treating for a house in Bath and he prayed for guidance. The purchase of 8 Walcot Terrace was completed in Bath on 21st December 1846, with his father in attendance, and he took possession on 2nd January 1847, sleeping there for the first time on 3rd January. The purchase price was £340 for a 40-year lease at a ground rent of £5 – 10s. Here is an advert that appeared in the Bristol Mercury in June and August 1847. The name Tyrian would seem to come from Tyrian Purple Dye; a very expensive dye produced from the secretion of snails.



TYRIAN DYE-HOUSE,
8, WALCOT-TERRACE, BATH.

J. W. C. WILLWAY, from the firm of JAMES WILLWAY & SON'S, Denmark-street, Bristol (established upwards of half a century), begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Public generally of Bath and its vicinity that he has commenced Business as a SILK, COTTON, and WOOLLEN DYER, SCOURER, PRESSER, and GLAZER.

In soliciting a share of their patronage, he confidently assures them that, from his extensive practice and connexion with the above Firm, he is enabled to execute Orders in a style not to be excelled by the first London or Parisian Houses.

*** *Shawls Cleaned and the Colours preserved.*

This enabled him to marry Sarah and the marriage took place on 13th January 1847 at Finsbury Chapel. A child, Emma Wallace Willway, was born on 28th May 1848 but died on 16th October, aged 5 months. Sarah died on 25th January 1849 at 8 Walcot Terrace, her death certificate giving the cause of death as phthisis, which is tuberculosis. Unfortunately, the pages of the diary which would have covered this period were cut out. As is recorded later, he then married Lucy Hannah Davis, Lydia's mother, who never spoke of his first wife, it being something to be kept quiet about. She was jealous that James should have loved someone else before her and it is assumed that she was responsible for destroying the pages.

Aspects of character

He was a very religious man and became a Baptist lay preacher. It is rare to find any letter without some reference to thanking God or seeking guidance. He became a member of the Castle Green Congregational Chapel on 25th April 1845 and on 3rd August received the sacrament for the first time. The chapel was situated in the area of the old Bristol castle. On the 28th June 1846 he records that he preached his first sermon. He taught at a Sunday school in the chapel. It is not known how far back the family's connection with this chapel extended but his sister Mary was baptised there in 1841 and his sister Tabitha married William Jack, the son of the pastor John Jack. For more about the Rev John Jack and this marriage see page 44 of Debby Klein's account (referred to on page 30 above). In February 1864 he recorded that he had signed the Pledge (i.e. to abstain from alcohol).

He seems to have had a close relationship with Tabitha ('Tab') and they corresponded when he was away from home. In May 1845 she wrote to him twice about possible marriages which are referred to above in connection with his father.



His religious devotion did not prevent his sense of humour and here are two examples from his diary. At a 2 ½ hour service in a church in Wales with a speaker in Welsh, which he could not understand, they were "-entertained at intervals by singing as musical as a ship's windlass or a fine toned kettle drum having as much harmony as may be imagined to exist between the bray of a donkey and the creaking of cast iron gate". On one occasion a friend said to him that the only comfort he has since his marriage is his cigar. "If so what comfort shall I have when married as I do not smoke – mais n'importe".

In addition to religion, he had wide interests in social and political affairs and science. Books mentioned in his diary are Cobbett's "History of the Reformation", Coombe's "Moral Philosophy", Brandt's "Chemistry". His notebook of 1853/4 contains numerous recipes, medical remedies, gardening, poultry rearing, wine making amongst other notes.

He served on a committee to revise the Rules of the Mental Improvement Society and one to enquire into the scriptural duties of war. He refers to putting his science laboratory in order. In August 1845 on a wet day, he writes that should the harvest prove a bad one it may be instrumental in repealing the corn laws in the next year. He was right! At a public meeting of dyers in October 1846 he was the proposer of a resolution that "the fact of our declining trade calls upon us, as operatives, to use

strenuous exertions for obtaining the Freedom of the Port". In one entry in the diary following his involvement in a fire and disturbance at some barracks he wrote about how criminals should be reformed rather than imprisoned which was just revenge.

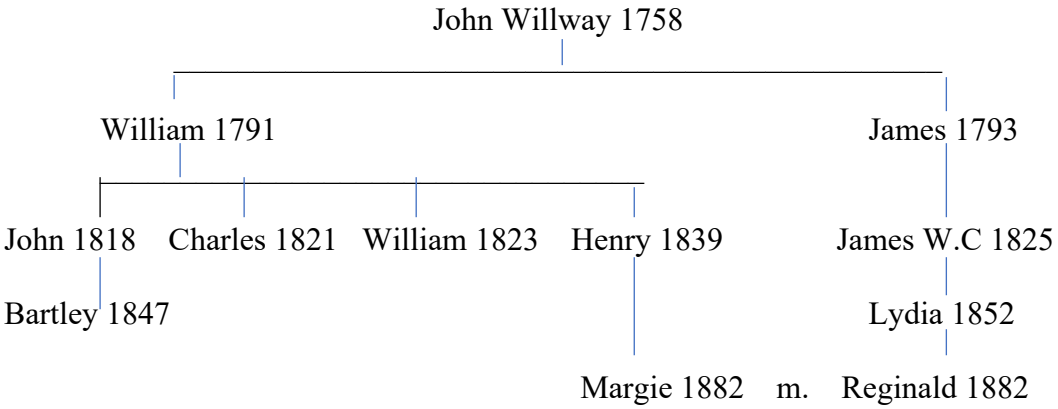
On the matter of war, the committee resolved that war is in no case justifiable, that a purely defensive war was perhaps never known and that defence of our lives and the lives of our families is alone justifiable. "May God keep me from either the army of the militia is my constant prayer to Him – should I be drawn may I have Grace to resist by all peaceable means even to imprisonment of death." His children knew of this, either from reading this or it being passed down by their mother and is referred to below on page 159 .

There is also mention by his children of his sympathy for Jews. "Christians are much to blame for not treating the Jews with Christian kindness". But nevertheless, he supported the Society for Converting the Jews to Christianity.

The next chapter deals with the other branch of the Willway family and we return to his marriage to Lucy Davis and the family in Bath later.

Chapter 3 - William Willway's branch of the family

William Willway (8.1790-1864)



As previously mentioned, John Willway set up his son William (1791-1864), at the age of 23, in business with a dyeworks in Lower Castle Street in 1814. The firm there was described as J & W Willway until 1818 when it was just William Willway. In 1820 he acquired the business of the late John Davies at 15 Christmas Street. The subsequent claim to have been established since 1740 presumably relates to Mr. Davies' business. In 1856 the directory entry claims that the firm was established in 1727, although the advertisement still states 1740. It was the 1727 date that was always used thereafter but there is no information as to how it originated. He remained in business on his own at this address quite separate from his father's, and subsequently his brother's, business in Denmark St. Both firms in adverts made a point that they were not associated with any other firm in Bristol so there seems to have been some rivalry between them.

On 21st January 1816 he married Hannah Jenkins, born 1795. She may have belonged to another family of dyers as there is record of an Edward Jenkins at 61 Old Market Road from 1805 to 1820 and of a Thomas Jenkins at 45 Merchant Street from 1814. Her mother was Elizabeth whose maiden name was Norton. The Nortons also seem to have been dyers, there being a James Norton at Old Market Street in 1787 and a Peter Norton at various addresses from 1787 to 1815.

William was a freeman of the City of Bristol.

William and Hannah had ten children, between 1816 and 1839, the youngest, Henry Phillips being born when Hannah was 44. Of these, six or seven lived to adulthood. Their eldest son John (1818-1888) is covered in the next section. The second son Charles William, born 1821, was living at home at the time of the 1841 census and was described as a boot maker's apprentice. He was in business as a boot and shoemaker at 29 Christmas Street in 1847. The third son William Henry, born 1823, became an accountant and was in practice at various addresses in Bristol from 1853 to 1860 when he emigrated to New Zealand (see page 63). At the time of the 1851 census, William and Hannah were living at 15 Christmas Street with their then unmarried daughter Martha, aged 22, and the late child Henry, aged 12.

More detailed information about William's family is given on pages 33ff of Debby Klein's account (see page 30) as William and his family had a close relationship with the Phillips family.

John Willway (17.3.1818-3.9.1888)

He worked in his father's business at Christmas Street but set up on his own at the age of 24 at 27 Redcliffe Hill.

He then married Hester Antrobus on 1st June 1843. She was a widow aged about 22, her first husband Ebenezer Antrobus having died in October 1841 by drowning off Cape Lopez, Africa. She had a son by this marriage born that year, who also died at sea at the age of 15. Her maiden name was Bartley and her mother's maiden name was Trout, hence the second names of her two eldest sons, John Bartley and William Trout. I have not researched this in detail but from a brief look at an index of Bristol Archives she may have inherited property in the Bedminster area of Bristol through one of these family, reference being made to Clarke Street. Papers held by the family indicate inheritances from the Trout and Bartley families. It seems probable, and this was the view of Philip Lace (see page 81), that Willway Street and Bartley Street, which are there, derive their names from development of this property.

John's father would seem to have retired in 1863, shortly before his death in 1864, his business being merged with John's who carried on under the name of William & John (or W & J) Willway from both addresses, 15 Christmas St and Redcliffe Hill. His mother, Hannah, had died in 1859. His brother Henry joined him in partnership (see next section).

John appears to have retired from the business by 1875, having handed over his share to his son John Bartley Willway, (1847-1929) known as Bartley. He was the eldest of nine children, three of whom died as children. Bartley had moved into the Redcliffe Hill premises and John retired to a property in Ashley Road (initially Norwood Villa No.113 and then Ashford Lodge No.137) where he died in 1888 aged 70.

Henry Phillips Willway (26.4.1839-28.7.1932)

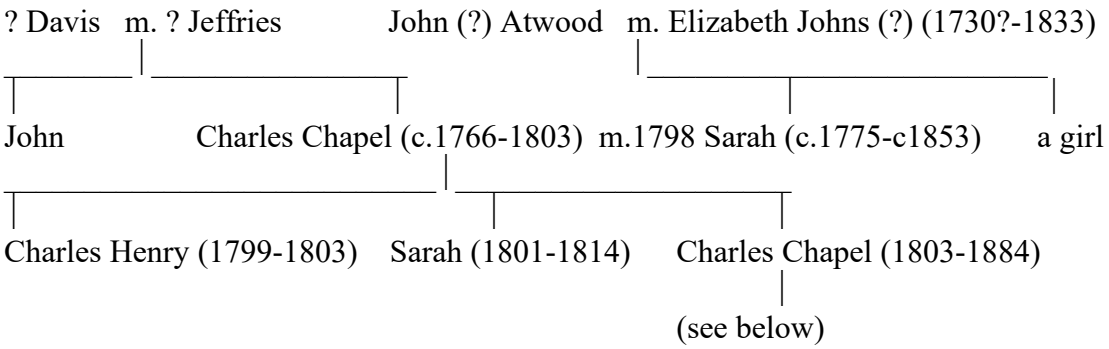
John's brother Henry Phillips Willway was born on the 26th April 1839, his second name presumably coming from the close association with the Phillips family. Indeed, as recorded in the diary he spent some time as a young boy with the family. On the 25th January 1866, he married Elizabeth Ann Olive (b. 11th August 1842) and initially they lived at Highfield Cottage, Arley Hill. He went into partnership with John, opening a new branch of the business at 15 Park Street. According to the family bible they lived there from 1867 and the 1870 directory shows the business as Henry & John Willway & Co, with the three branches at 15 Christmas Street, 11 Redcliffe Hill and 15 Park Street. The firm continued after John's retirement at those addresses under the name Willway & Co, although 11 Redcliffe Hill became 71 Redcliffe Hill and 15 Park Street became 59 Park Street.

Henry and Elizabeth had seven children, five of whom lived to adulthood. In 1879 they moved to Waterloo Street, Weston-super-Mare, where Henry set up a branch of the business and it was there that Margaret Irene ('Margie') was born on the 29th Dec 1882. At some time after 1889 he left the family business, moved to Swindon and either bought or managed an ironmonger business there. There is a suggestion that he had lost his money in a fraudulent scam and the shop was owned or bought by Elizabeth's family. William and Lyddie Ainsworth were in Swindon, which led to the friendship between the families as to which see page 127. For more about Henry and his descendants with some photos see pages 36ff of Debby Klein's account (page 30).

Bartley Willway carried on the business but he was not a good business man and it declined. It eventually became part of Willway's Dye Works & Laundry Co. Ltd as to which see page 148

Chapter 4 - Davis family

Bath ancestors



As the name is common it is difficult to trace the origins of the family from the public records. The earliest definite record that we have is the marriage on the 29th May 1798 at St.Swithin's church, Walcot, Bath of Charles Chapel Davis to Sarah Atwood, followed by the births of their children Charles Henry in April 1799, Sarah in May 1801 and Charles Chapel in 1803. There being two ancestors with the name Charles Chapel Davis has led to confusion. They are referred to here as CCDI and CCDII. CCDII is referred to later as CCD when there can be no confusion.

One of the witnesses to the marriage was John Attwood, who may have been Sarah's father. There is a marriage of John Attwood to Elizabeth Johns in 1771 so these may have been Sarah's parents. The other witness was Mary Jefferies and the belief has been passed down in the family that CCDI's mother was a Jefferies. CCDII refers to Uncle Jefferies below.



Sarah Atwood's mother is believed to have lived to be 102 and her date of birth is given in family records as either 1730 or 1739. This portrait survives

Fortunately, we have the autobiography of CCDII in which he records his knowledge of his ancestors and I cannot do better than to quote it, the italics being inserted by me, and then to add a few other stories. He was a deeply religious man and religion clearly dominated his life so that the autobiography has an overwhelming emphasis on his religious side. A scanned copy can be downloaded from my website - https://www.brian-wates.co.uk/AinsworthFamily/CCD_biography.pdf

"Of my immediate ancestry with respect to their position I cannot say they were noble nor ignoble as they neither sprang from the lowest grade nor did they drop down from the aristocratic element, for my father, grandfather and great-grandfather were 'Sons of Crispin' (boot and shoe makers). My father *[CCDI]* commenced and carried on a promising business in Kingsmead St till consumption disabled him. He removed to

Ballance St. where he died in March 1803 in the 35th3 year of his age *(Somerset Street Baptist church registers record the burial of Charles Davis, shoemaker on 10th Mar 1803 aged 37)* , leaving a son and daughter. My mother *(Sarah nee Atwood)* gave birth to me the following Aug 15th according to the family record in the Bible. In addition to these trying circumstances my mother had a very aged mother *(possibly Elizabeth nee Johns)* to care for who eventually lived to be at least 102 years old. My brother *(Charles Henry)* died soon after my father but my sister *(Sarah)*, 2 years older than myself, lived to be 13 years and I then was left alone to my mother. She was an honest industrious hard-working woman and by the business of laundress to which she applied herself she paid her way and maintained those dependent on her, so that I never wanted a meal of food and was always well clothed and had the rudiments of education."

"I have often thought of God being to my mother and me the 'husband of the widow and father of the fatherless'. Glad should I be if I could state that among my mother's excellencies was 'the fear of the Lord' but this I cannot, - she knew him not, and consequently she could neither value nor care for her own soul or mine as could be wished, but I am not without hope that she was called in the 11th or 12th hour, from what preceded and attended her death."

"I know very little of the relatives on my mother's side, but her father was an intemperate man and left his home and wife. Where he went was never discovered. His daughter, my mother's sister, believed he emigrated and she expected he would someday return with wealth, and this her folly by the prediction of some fortune teller whom she consulted was encouraged. I scarce need say she died disappointed. My mother's mother had a stroke of paralysis in her 50th year *(it is interesting that she yet lived to be over 100)* which entirely for a time deprived her of speech and which was only very partially restored, so that it would have been very difficult to obtain of her information respecting her family."

"My father's father and mother were good Christian people, were members of Argyle Independent Church for many years,….. both living to be over 80 years. My grandfather was a man of 6ft and lion like in his youth, deeming it unmanly not to resent an insult, the result of his father's principles and training as well as his natural disposition. My father's brother John was also a truly Christian man. He was a member of the Baptist Church at Somerset St under the pastorate of Mr. Porter. He was a very intellectual and intelligent man and I believe a self-taught Hebrew scholar, as I have heard that Mr. Porter used to consult him on Hebrew. He gave out the hymns till ill-health prevented him."

"From what I can learn I am led to think my father was an intellectual and intelligent man. He had a great thirst for knowledge. Shoe-making was not in that day brought to that pitch of taste and fashion as it is now, so that a journeyman might take his kit (all the tools he required save his lapstone) and carry it with him. ….Being almost sure of work everywhere he took a delight in travelling……His mother, who was very fond of him, regretted his roving disposition and often begged him to come home. He spent

considerable time in London and would there endeavour to get into the company of superiors, would attend debating and discussion societies to gain knowledge….."

There is a story that his father, before marrying Sarah Atwood, ran away with a ward in Chancery who was an heiress. They were both underage so her money was taken away. They used to see each other through windows of opposite houses.

Sarah was known as Pretty Polly Atwood or Pretty Sally Atwood. For her portrait in later years see page 52.

Sarah Goulter remembers her grandmother, Sarah Davis (nee Atwood) telling her about a wealthy uncle (Not clear whether this was on the Davis or Atwood side) who she thought had a large pastry cook's business. There was a story that he once ate so many cheese cakes that he could not bear the sight of them for long after. Her grandmother remembered the silver buckles on his shoes, long black silk stockings and frilled shirt

Of his brother Charles Henry, CCD writes he "was evidently a quick child, for he could read an ordinary chapter in the bible at 4 years of age. Something affected his mind and produced a dullness and this damped the hopes of his father and he used to call him 'stupid' but the poor little fellow's death proved the dullness was the result of illness."



His sister Sarah "was a sprightly and vivid child of retentive memory, as proved by one of her holiday lessons being the 119 Psalm which she learnt and repeated perfectly. A lady having heard her repeat one of 'Dr. Watt's hymns for children' promised her two pence each for all she would learn. She learnt every hymn the book contained and went to recite them. The lady heard a few of them and closed the book and gave her a shilling to the great disappointment and discouragement of the child who had reckoned how many shillings she should have. The samplers also worked by her, one at 6 and the other at 8 years (this photo), show her handiwork and prove her a somewhat clever child." The samplers are still in the family.

Charles Chapel Davis II (15.8.1803-2.3.1884)

(Lyddie's grandfather)

Of all of the eight grandparents of William and Lydia Ainsworth, Charles Davis is the one about whom we know the most, because of his autobiography, written in 1880 when he was 77, in addition to other records.

Early life and apprenticeship

He writes about himself as a boy, remarking that his slowness formed such a contrast to his sister's vivacity that it procured him the title of 'The old man', but he records that he worked hard at school. He was not allowed to 'beat the streets' as his mother used to call it, but often was sent to bed early where he and his sister used to lie and sing Dr. Watts' hymns.

After various jobs from age of 13 with a grocer, pastry cook and draper, in 1818 at the age of 15 he was indentured to Abel Vivian, a bright smith, (metalworker with tin or polished ironwork) for an apprenticeship of seven years, for which his mother had to pay £6. Mr. Vivian's premises were at 5 Wine Street. Charles seems to have had some sort of religious conversion at about the age of 19 as he records that he 'walked in church fellowship for about three years' before the expiry of his apprenticeship in 1825. Prior to his 'conversion' he had met Lucy Haines Garlick. The story is that he met her when he went to the house in which she was a maid, to carry out some repair. Before marrying her, he needed work and probably insisted that she be baptised, which was done by Mr. Porter at Somerset St in 1826.

Although he does not mention it, his father, (as well as his uncle John as mentioned above) would also seem to have been a member of the Somerset Street Baptist church, as his burial is recorded there. This was the commencement of the family's connection with that church and its successor in Manvers St, which continued with one interruption until the death of Irene Willway in the 1970s. The register of births and deaths kept by the church from 1784 to 1837, recorded many births and burials of the children of an Edmund Davis by two wives, between 1786 and 1814. He is described as a shoe-maker so he may have been related; possibly another brother of Charles or a cousin, and it may be relevant that CCD named his son Charles Edmund.

Marriage, family and business

Lucy Haines Garlick (born 1801) was the daughter of a barge owner in Wootton Bassett, just west of Swindon. The story is that she ran away from home because her father was too strict, came to Bath and took a position as a maid with Mrs. Sims of the Pepperbox (Montebello), Bathwick Hill. She was born in October 1801 and grew up to be small and pretty. Her father was John and her mother Hannah. Her mother's maiden name may have been Haines but we have no information about that. We know nothing else about the family, but the story is that her father's brother was a coach builder in London and believed to be rich. One Christmas he sent a model of the Lord Mayor's coach for Lucy's children. She always thought that he was the Lord Mayor and that he must have left a great deal of money. At the time of the 1851 census an Edward Garlic was a visitor, so probably a relative.

Charles Chapel Davis ((1803-1884)
m. (1826) Lucy Haines Garlick (1801-1861)
m. (1862) Elizabeth Flewelling

Charles Edmund	Lucy Hannah	John	Sarah	Mercy
1827-1913	1831-1905	1835-1873	1839-1924	1843-1869
m. Jane Cox	m. (1849) James Willway		m. (1860) Ezra Goulter	m. (1868). John Davis

Upon completing his apprenticeship CCD obtained work in Cheltenham and was employed as a foreman over five men. His intention had been to spend 6 months there and then to travel to London and Brighton before returning to Bath to marry and settle down, but there was a general economic crisis and he was not sure of getting work, so he married at St.Swithin's church, Walcot, Bath on 23rd April 1826. The marriage was not witnessed by any family member. The couple settled at 10 Fairview Crescent, Cheltenham where their son Charles Edmund was born in February 1827. He was in Cheltenham for about two and a half years, so would have returned to Bath in 1828 or 1829.



On the return to Bath he set up in business on his own as a bright smith at 3 Kingsmead Street. His Uncle Jefferies lived in the street and he found the premises when going to visit him. Lucy Hannah was born here on the 11th July 1831. By 1836 when their son John was born, they had moved to 21 Thomas Street. Sarah was born there in 1839. The last child, Mercy, was born in 1843. Although in 1842 the business address is 26 Walcot St., in the electoral register for 1846 his abode is given as Thomas Street. His son, Charles, married Jane Cox in 1846 and in a record of his addresses he states that his first address was 21 Thomas Street. He was there at the time of the census in 1851. In 1848 the business address is 12 Walcot St. and so the rest of the family had presumably moved there. The business address later was always given as 12 and 26 Walcot Street, No 12 being partly residential and partly workshop.

Although his place of abode was given as Thomas Street in the electoral register in 1846, he was qualified to vote by virtue of two freehold properties, 20 Avon Street and Pickwick Mews. Nothing else is known about these properties or how or why he acquired them, At the date of his death he owned 21 Thomas Street and 12 Walcot Street, presumably as long leases or freehold.



It is not known when his mother, Sarah, moved in with him and the family but she was there at the time of the 1841 census. This large portrait of her would have been done about 1851. It was painted by a young artist called James Hardy who would have been 19 at that time. His father was a Baptist preacher who used to accompany CCD on his preaching journeys and the son asked permission to paint his mother, as she had such a 'fine old lady's face'. She died in about 1853. The portrait was left by CCD's will to his son Charles. For its future history see page 173.

Religion and politics

The autobiography mainly relates to his religious experiences, church affairs and politics. He records that he preached his first sermon at Dunkerton, Bath in December 1832. He preached regularly every week, walking to places around Bath including Acton Turville, and Luckington (a 32 mile walk there and back). His granddaughter, Lyddie, when writing about her mother (see below) wrote: -"He was a Calvinistic Baptist, a strict old puritan, an upright Godfearing conscientious man, who laboured much for the cause he believed in, going out to different villages to preach each Sunday."

Acton Turville is a village about 13 miles north of Bath. He recorded in his autobiography that he first preached there in January 1833 when he was met by Farmer Goulter in the absence that day of Mr Baker, the chief person. The friendship with Mr James Goulter was significant for the family history as will be seen. He was asked to come again and continued monthly for 26 years and one month (i.e. until February 1859) and was "considerably the means of building the chapel". He in effect served as a semi-pastor. This continued until after the deaths of Mr Baker and Mr Goulter and a rupture that he had with the church. He then did not preach there again for nine years but after that preached for a further five. Mr Baker died in 1846 and Mr James Goulter on 4th March 1857 (This date and other information about the Goulter family and their farm comes from "Goulters of the Cotswolds" by Judith Bush and James Goulter which can be downloaded from my website https://www.brian-wates.co.uk/AinsworthFamily/Goulter_history.pdf (page 131 onwards)

His obituary in the Bath Chronicle records that he enrolled as an abstainer on 14th July 1836, one of the first after the establishment of the Bath Temperance Association on 15th June 1836, and was an active worker thereafter. The Bath Chronicle published a letter sent to his widow after his death by the Association including the sentence: -"As a veteran pioneer of the temperance movement in this city, his rare natural abilities found a sphere of activity congenial to his sympathies." His daughter, Lucy, records that he was teetotal thereafter. His friends had warned him that his health would suffer, but he found that he felt fitter and was better able to take his long preaching

walks. She attributed his long life to his abstinence. He also enjoyed puddings and pastry very much after abstaining whereas he had not cared for them before.

The obituary also records that he was a pronounced Liberal, took an active part in the agitation for Reform which preceded the 1832 Act, was a supporter of the anti-slavery movement and of the Sunday closing movement. On more than one occasion he declined to be put forward for nomination to the Town Council.

Davis and Son – gas cookers

A story is told by his grandson, Ted Davis, of how CCD had invented a gas stove. In about 1840 his son Charles, aged 13, came home from school one day and smelled some cooking. He went downstairs and saw that his father had made a rough oven in the bottom of which he had a gas burner and in which he was cooking some cakes. He watched for some time, saw that the cakes were cooked perfectly and then he ran all the way up to Beacon Hill, where his mother had gone out to tea, to tell her how beautifully his father had been cooking by gas. However, CCD did not take it further at that time.

CCD was described in the directories as a brightsmith and bellhanger, with gas fitter added in 1852. In 1854 he went into partnership with his son, Charles, after which the business was known as Davis & Son, and by 1858 they were described as gas engineers and general smiths. An advertisement in the directory for 1862 states that they were 'manufacturers of gas cooking apparatus for 11 years. They also made gas heating stoves. At that time, they had a virtual monopoly of gas cookers in Bath. Modern gas cookers emerged following the Great Exhibition in 1851.The 1857 Bath Rambler includes an advertisement proclaiming that 'another year of extensive patronage proves the growing reputation which Davis and Son Gas Cooking Apparatus is attaining'. In 1854 CCD registered a patent for a portable blow-pipe apparatus and a patent was registered by Charles Edmund Davis in 1864. The census records him as employing 5 men and ? boys in 1851, 7 men and 6 boys in 1861 and 8 men and 7 boys in 1871. A sales brochure of about 1873 gives the address of the business as 12 and 26 Walcot Street and Back Street Quay. It also indicates that it was awarded a prize medal for cooking and heating by gas in 1870 at the Workmen's International Exhibition



He used gas at some stage to create an illuminated sign for 'Davis & Son'. This was preserved in the Camden Works Museum, Morford St, Bath, (now the Museum of Bath at Work, Julian Road).

He retired from the business on 12th December 1878, a notice of dissolution of partnership being published in The Bath Chronicle. His son advertised the continuation of the business under the name of Davis & Son on the basis that his sons were involved but this seems to be a fiction. In addition to gas apparatus and hot water circulation for conservatories he advertises other metal works such as pneumatic bells, locks and repairs. For continuation see pages 108 and 146

Somerset Street and Manvers Street Baptist churches

At some stage CCD must have fallen out with the Somerset Street chapel as he became a member of the Providence Chapel, Lower Bristol Road, which was where his daughter Lucy married James Willway in 1849. In about 1860 he was dismissed from the membership of that chapel. His wife then attended Somerset Street and he sometimes preached there, but felt he could not join.

Thereafter the Somerset Street chapel was central to the family's life. In addition to regular attendance. two or three times every Sunday. friendships and romantic attachments developed there, two of the pastors marrying members of the family. Mr John Porter, who has been mentioned above as having baptised Lucy's mother, was pastor from 1780 until his death in 1832. After an interval with two other pastors, he was succeeded by Mr David Wassell in August 1839 and he was still there during the 1860s when the family were members. In 1866 Mr John Davis became his deputy and he married Lucy's sister, Mercy, on 12th August 1868. In 1871 the building of the new chapel in Manvers Street commenced, being opened on 1st October 1872. This photograph was taken in 2005. Mr Wassell had laid the memorial stone but on the last Sunday at the old chapel the news was given of Mr Wassell's illness and he did not live to fulfil his wish of preaching in the new chapel. He died in 1873 and John Davis took over as pastor. He retired from the pastorate, moving to Clifton in Bristol, in 1876 being succeeded by James Baillie, who married Lucy's daughter, Bessie, on 17th August 1880.



Death of wife and second marriage

CCD believed that the break with Providence Chapel contributed to his wife's death which occurred on 7th October 1861. He wrote: - "We spent thirty-five years together in wedded union and a more affectionate, kind and self-sacrificing wife and tender mother never I believe appeared in human form. I have many times felt unworthy of her, and I learnt her value more after I had lost her."



Her daughter, Lucy, wrote of her in a letter to her daughter, Bessie, after Bessie's marriage. She had been for a short holiday to Weston-super-Mare and wrote of the warm welcome she received from the friend she was staying with. There are people like that who give all they have - "My own beloved mother was like that. She gave herself - her time, her strength, her comfort was all she had and all that she devoted to her children. I am not worthy to be compared to my mother. I may bear some slight resemblance to her but that is all, for she was meek and lowly and clothed herself with humility so entirely that herself was entirely out of sight."

Bessie wrote in her 1889 letter to Aunt Sarah (see page 61 for the letter):-"My dear little Grandmama Davis I remember quite well . Sometimes I used to sleep at Walcot St and then she would carry me down those dark kitchen stairs on her back and set me in a chair to watch her as she made the toast and for a treat she would give me sugar on my bread and butter. Childish recollections, but whenever Mama speaks of her sainted (if ever saints lived on earth, she was one) mother, of her loving unselfish work my heart instinctively affirms the truth of her words, as I think of her gentle face and sweet voice and her kindness to a little child."

CCD records how he then set about finding another wife and decided to approach Miss Flewelling of Castle Combe, who was a member of the little church of Particular and Strict Baptists. An exchange of letters took place and they were married by Mr. Wassell, the Somerset Street pastor, but at the chapel at Corsham between Bath and Chippenham on 14th Oct 1862. She was a little over 40 years old so some 20 years younger than her husband. She was always just called Mrs. Davis by the family. She seems to have been accepted as a member of the family but I have not come across any comments as to her character or what they thought of her. She must have had to provide whatever care John needed and, as will be seen later, she helped care for her husband's daughter Mercy.

12 Walcot Street

12 Walcot Street had been the family home from about 1847, the family at that consisting of his mother Sarah, his wife Lucy, daughters Lucy, Sarah and Mercy and son John. His mother had died in 1853, Lucy was married in 1849 and Sarah, as will be seen below on page 62, in 1860. Following his wife's death and his subsequent marriage there were just the two of them and John and Mercy

Some description of 12 Walcot Street is contained in Bessie's letter in which she describes some changes. "The front shop and the little back room level with the street are thrown into one; the drawing room and little office are used for … all kinds of "stock", the room Mama used to sleep in and Grandma's bedroom are thrown into one. Mama says she often looks up, in passing, to the window of her old room where

Uncle John used to sit and down to the dark kitchen where Grandma spent so much of her life and Grandpapa worked so hard."

John Davis (14.3.1836 – 12.5.1873)

No information was passed down within the family about his son, John, and initially the only information I had about his existence was from public records. It seemed that he had some abnormality and perhaps this was something not to be talked about. In the 1861 census, then aged 25, he is described as unable to follow any employment and dumb (although this word is used generally for a mental abnormality). He is not listed in the 1851 census as being at home.

Fortunately, I was contacted in 2008 by Mr David S Stewart, head teacher of a special needs school which revealed a rather remarkable story. He was preparing a paper on the history of special education with particular reference to possibly the first school in England for children with learning disabilities which was established in Bath in 1846 with the name Institution for Idiot and Imbecile Children, initially at 5 Walcot Parade and then 35 Belvedere. One of the first pupils was John Davis. His father having the unusual middle name of Chapel, a Google search revealed my history. John was one of the pupils whose details were given in some promotional booklets.

At the age of 2 he had a stroke of paralysis which deprived him of the power of speech and almost entirely the use of the left side. He was subject to fits and any attempt at physical or mental exertion caused distress. At the institution he learned to read and write and therefore to be able to communicate in writing although not being able to speak. After Lucy's marriage in November 1849, he wrote to her: -"I hope to go home at Christmas for 5 days, I hope you come home too, and no more die (*sic)* to home. I am glad you have ring, I love your husband he read Bible, and pray God". The women who ran it came mainly from the Octagon Chapel, a fashionable Anglican church, and religion was an important part of the education. He returned home in December 1851 "but pays an occasional visit…which affords him great delight"

Other than that period in the school, it would seem that he always lived with his father and mother or step-mother, and there are references in inter-family letters and in Lyddie's diary to "Uncle John" who would have been with his father when they visited 12 Walcot Street or come with him to Walcot Terrace for tea or supper.

Bessie gives further information in her letter of 1889 to Aunt Sarah (page 61). He was very fond of them as children and used to like to come to tea and talk to Mama and they could understand what he wanted to say, so presumably had some speech. His face used to beam with joy if anyone spoke to him of the Lord Jesus, and he used to look forward to Mr Wassell, the pastor, making a point of speaking to him after the morning service when he would always have a slip of paper ready for him with some question

In a letter written to Lucy by her future husband, James Willway in 1849 he mentioned that he had met her dear brother on returning from somewhere – "dear fellow he knew me from before I came up with him and seemed pleased to see me. I trust the Lord will give him his peculiar presence and make him very happy in the enjoyment of himself and remove from him the fear of death"

Chapter 5 - Lucy Hannah Willway (nee Davis) (1831-1905)

(Lyddie's mother)

Childhood

As has already been recorded, she was born at 3 Kingsmead Street on the 11th August 1931. This is a portrait of her as a young girl.



One result of her father's friendship with James Goulter mentioned above on page 52 was that his children frequently visited and stayed at Acton Turville. By his second marriage James Goulter had nine children who survived childhood, eight of whom were boys, the dates of birth ranging from 1825 to 1843. CCD's children's dates ranged from 1827 to 1843.

Sometime in her later years Lyddie started to write something about the family history and what I now write about her mother's childhood comes from this. Lucy owed a good deal of her child happiness to the Goulter family. For a short while she attended a school there. Whether she boarded at the school or with the Goulters is not stated

"Many a happy holiday she spent at the farm, among the horses and dogs and cows and the various animals inhabiting a farm yard. Of course, she became a pet among all these handsome boys - her love of animals, her courage and fearlessness delighted them." The farm was Limes Farm. This is a Grade II listed building and here is a photo.



Limes Farm - Historic England Archive Reference:1OE01/06834/05 Andrew Maybury 2002

Lucy was educated at a boarding school in Chippenham run by Mr. and Mrs. Brinkworth. We don't know the dates but there is a letter to her from her father in 1843, when she was 11, and two from her to her parents in 1844. Lyddie writes:- "Here she learnt among other things to speak correctly, to sew beautifully and to write perfectly. Her holiday letters (these are the letters mentioned above which were to give her parents information on holiday dates) were written in a small fine round hand but just like copper plate. She must have been a charming child, vivacious and full of fun, much fonder of playing games, walking over the backs of the school-room forms, or any other amusement of a climbing nature, than soberly doing needlework."

She loved animals and the climbing seems to have been in imitation of a monkey they had at the school. There was a story about when she was reading aloud a poem about a cat who was being beaten for having killed a canary, she burst into tears and had to leave the classroom. "She had a vivid imagination and exquisite sensibility. Her love of animals made her keenly alive to their sufferings."

"She was a general favourite and dearly loved by one the teachers, Miss Elliott. Her bright dark eyes and curly hair and vivacity no doubt helped in this, but she was also docile and very tender-hearted."

Miss Elliott later took over the school and she was the owner when Lucy's sisters, Sarah and Mercy attended. We know that Sarah was there in October 1852, aged 13, from a letter she wrote then to Lucy

One of the stories relating to Lucy's marriage refers to her being apprenticed, presumably after leaving school, to Miss Titley, a tailoress. The apprenticeship was until November 1849 so, if it had been for four years, she would have commenced at the age of 14 but there is no other information about this.

Lyddie continues: -"Years passed on and Lucy grew into a most alluring girl. She had many lovers and one at least of the sons in farmer Goulter's family fell in love with her. He eventually became allied to the family but not as her husband. After a quarrel with his father over a donkey he set off for Australia and there made a considerable fortune at the gold diggings. Years afterwards when he came back my mother was married and I was a child of six or seven years." This was Ezra. See below on page 62 for further information about the Goulter family and the Davis family connection with them.

Marriage

There are two versions of the story of how she met James Willway which have passed down.

"She came to ask permission to use the pony carriage to drive a friend to Bristol (a young lady at Miss Titley's, the tailoress where she worked). She was 17, pretty and vivacious – her apprenticeship would have been up in Nov. J. Willway fell in love at first sight in May. Married in November." This all occurred in 1849; James's wife Sarah having died in January. For his first marriage see page 41

The other version is that James went to Lucy's father to have his pony trap repaired and took Lucy for a ride in it. James' connection with Lucy's father may have been through religion, as he was also a lay preacher and they were near neighbours, the Davis family being at 12 Walcot Street. It seems quite possible that this connection might have arisen before Sarah's death.

There is a 20 page letter that James wrote to Lucy on her salvation in May. He writes on the opening page "You know the text which has laid somewhat heavily upon my heart viz 'be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers'. Although he does not suggest she is an unbeliever he wants her to be convinced and to be baptised. This would seem to indicate that they were already in effect engaged by May.

There is an exchange of correspondence between them in August 1849 when Lucy spent a week in Acton Turville. She stayed with Mrs Baker, the widow of the former pastor (see page 52) but visited Mrs Goulter and went riding with George and Mary. She writes that James should have seen her cantering and galloping on a beautiful large grey horse.

James had had Mercy and Sarah to tea. When they are married, he would like to invite some of his brethren (we don't know anything more about which religious establishment he is referring to) so she will have to screw up her courage to sit at the head of the table. He adds a PS to one of the letters "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved."

On the 5th Nov 1849, James' diary records that the marriage was to be on 13th November, he is thankful to the Lord that his dear Lucy is a believer in Jesus and hopes she will be baptised on Sunday, November 11th. He then records the baptism near Acton Turville and marriage at Providence Chapel, Lower Bristol Road, Bath with David Wassell as the minister. Both fathers were present. Providence Chapel was the chapel that Lucy's father belonged to but Mr Wassell was the pastor at Somerset Street.



This photo is of Lucy but the date unknown.

Children

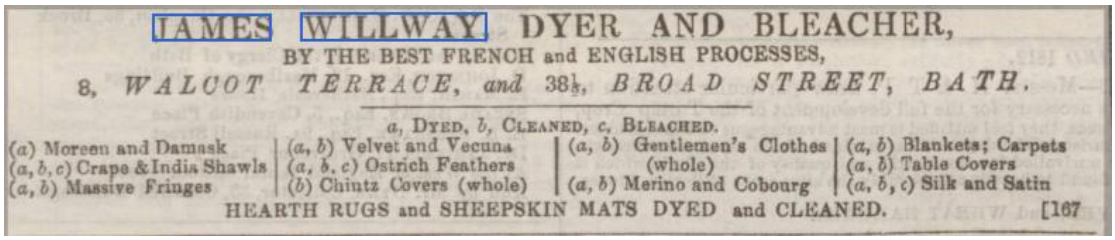
On 8th Feb 1852 the diary states that on his 27th birthday 'a daughter born to Lucy at 2.00 a.m'. He was thinking of naming her Lydia- "may be she will be like Lydia of old mentioned in the Act of the Apostles." Thus, her birthday was on the same day as her father's. She was always known as Lyddie and this is how she is referred to in this narrative.

Other children were born during the following years: - William James (Willie) in 1854, Elizabeth Mary (Bessie) in 1856, Mercy in 1858 and Theophilus (Offie or Theo) in Feb 1860. Mercy contracted smallpox but survived and this is referred to later – page 74

The business

The business employed a man and two apprentices in 1851 and one maid was employed in the house. There is a record in his diary that Charles Packer (or Parker) was apprenticed on 12th June 1848 for 6 years so he was presumably one of the apprentices. There are a number of later references to Charles so, if it was the same, he worked for the business for many years.

In 1857 James was still advertising under the name Tyrian Dye House (see page 41) but from 1858 he uses the name Willways Velvet, Damask, Moreen & Silk Dyehouse. However, that name was not used in this 1859 advert in the Bath Chronicle. It also includes the address 38 ½ Broad Street. This would have been a retail outlet nearer the centre of town.



JAMES WILLWAY DYER AND BLEACHER,
BY THE BEST FRENCH and ENGLISH PROCESSES,
8, WALCOT TERRACE, and 38½, BROAD STREET, BATH.

a, DYED, b, CLEANED, c, BLEACHED.

(a) Moreen and Damask	(a, b) Velvet and Vecuna	(a, b) Gentlemen's Clothes (whole)	(a, b) Blankets; Carpets
(a, b, c) Crape & India Shawls	(a, b, c) Ostrich Feathers		(a, b) Table Covers
(a, b) Massive Fringes	(b) Chintz Covers (whole)	(a, b) Merino and Cobourg	(a, b, c) Silk and Satin

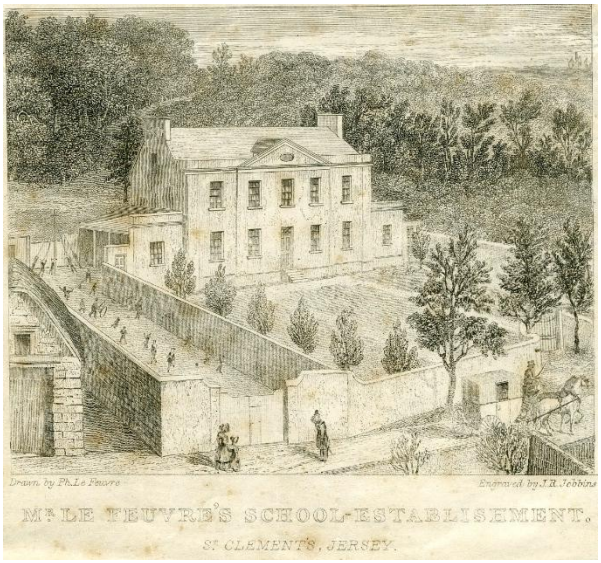
HEARTH RUGS and SHEEPSKIN MATS DYED and CLEANED. [167

In 1859 James wrote to Lucy from Swansea that Swansea was a thriving place and he would readily shut up Broad Street and open there and even consider moving there with the family. The connection with Swansea was with his uncle Josiah Cock (see page 36) and his wife with whom he was staying. He had stayed with them or used them as a base for about a month in 1845 apparently on holiday or may be for health reasons. This may have led to other connections in South Wales. There is part of a letter in 1857 from Milford, Pembroke which also mentions an order in Haverfordwest. As will be seen, this connection was expanded by Lucy. This close connection with his uncle may explain the confusion in the family who frequently labelled photos and other information about William Cock as being Josiah.

In 1858 he was advertising the use of a patent hydro extractor to enable textile fabrics to be dyed and cleaned without wringing.

James' health and Jersey

On the 30th April 1853 he records: "Health not good." There is then a sentence describing a cough which is scratched out, followed by "Wife and Lyddie in good health". This illness would have been the tuberculosis, or consumption as described then, from which he eventually died



Presumably the tuberculosis had been getting worse.as in 1854 he stayed in Jersey for a time in the hope that this would help and he recorded later that after two months he was feeling better. He must have contacted or been in touch with his former teacher Elias Neel, who introduced him to his sister and brother-in-law Mr and Mrs Le Feuvre of Eden House, St.Clements where Mr Le Feuvre had a school with a few boarders and 20 or 30 day scholars. He lodged with them for 15/- per week for lodging, food and washing. This was the start of a friendship with the Neel families that lasted for nearly a century and plays an important part in this narrative. For the continuation and a family tree of the Neel family see page 95.

Homes

In about 1855 the family moved to Nightingale Cottage, Gloucester Road, 8 Walcot Terrace being retained for the business with the main rooms being let out. There is a letter of about this time sent to Lyddie (aged 3) by James' sister Mary (aged 14) in Bristol addressed to Nightingale Cottage, in which she writes that she is glad to know she is "up at the cottage" and hopes to see it. Some twenty years later in a letter to Willie, Lucy recorded walking to Nightingale Cottage which brought back memories "for often I have gone into business with you a little baby and left Papa and Lyddy at home"

Then they were at a cottage Rock Hall in Prior Park, Combe Down. According to the 1861 census Theophilus was born there. The others were born in Bath. As will be seen from the envelope shown below on page 63 it seemed to be sufficient to address a letter to Mrs Willway, Coombe Down!

When reminiscing in a letter written in 1911, Lucy's sister Sarah remembered how she spent many happy times with their sister Mercy and James' sister Mary, the latter being two years younger than Sarah and two years older than Mercy, at Walcot Terrace, Combe Down and Nightingale Cottage – they felt as much at home as though it was their own.

In 1889 Bessie wrote a long letter to Sarah in Australia giving her details about her life and that of the family since Sarah's departure in 1860 (see next paragraph) and copied it into her diary. I will be quoting from that letter on a number of occasions. On the first page she wrote "I seem to see myself (she was 4 years old) in the garden at Rock Hall in Combe Down walking on the low wall that bordered the sloping lawn with a very pretty slender young lady and tall handsome gentleman taking it in turns to lead me by the hand. The scene is quite clearly pictured in my memory. The lady and gentleman are Aunt Sarah and Uncle Ezra. I have always felt glad to remember

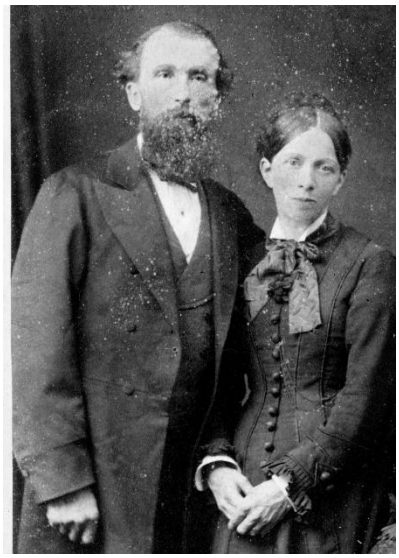
you both because that one picture makes you seem real to me when Mama talks about her beautiful sister whose fairness she is never tired of praising."

Goulter family

The reference to Aunt Sarah and Uncle Ezra above takes us back to the Goulter family. See pages 52 and 57. I quoted there from Lyddie's history that Ezra, having fallen in love with Lucy then went to Australia but when he came back, she was married and Lyddie was six or seven.

Lucy's brother, Charles, and sisters, Sarah and Mercy, also spent holidays with the Goulters and so other friendships would have developed.

Ezra was born in 1826. His brother Eber, born in 1827, sailed for South Australia in Nov 1848 and after a couple of years spent time in the gold fields in Victoria before setting up in farming in South Australia. George, born in 1832, also emigrated to South Australia in 1850. There is no shipping record of Ezra emigrating but Charles recorded his departure on 27th Mar 1849. There are some records of an Ezra Goulter in Australia between 1850 and 1855. As Lyddie states that he made a fortune gold digging it seems probable that he followed a similar course to Eber but instead of going into farming he returned to England' perhaps with the intention of returning, possibly after marrying.



If Lyddie was six this would have been about 1858. He would have got to know Sarah after his return (she would have been only 10 when he left), particularly as she was friendly with the only daughter, Mary, they fell in love, he proposed on 27th January 1859 and they married on 28th March 1860. They emigrated to Australia soon afterwards in June and were joined by Sarah's brother-in-law James, as to which see below. Sarah's father accompanied them to Liverpool to see them off. Ezra made his living in Australia as a photographer and there is a record that he worked for J.G.Newport, photographer of 30 Milsom Street, Bath in 1859 and 1860.

Ezra's brother, Alfred, born 1841, emigrated to Melbourne in 1865 and lived with them for a few years, partaking in the photographic business. It is said that he wanted to marry Mercy but said nothing before departing and when he came back she was engaged (but there is no record of his coming back). Sarah, when writing about him in March 1869 mentioned that she believed he was very fond of Mercy and does not seem to think of any other. She was writing before being aware of Mercy's death that month (see page 68).

Probably the last occasion of a visit by the family to Limes Farm was in August 1867 when Mercy spent a holiday there. By that time Charles Goulter had died and one of the brothers, Theophilus Goulter was the farmer. When writing to Bessie (aged 11) she said that his dog did not like it when she played the piano.

James' journey to Australia and death

Bessie's letter: - "I remember quite well when I said goodbye to Papa. June 1st 1860. I did not understand what that parting meant, but we stood at the door (presumably of Rock Hall cottage), a little group watching the cart with the luggage as it went off and kissing Papa with a feeling of awe. What a blessing it is that as children we know very little of what sorrow means."

Emigration

As mentioned above James sailed with Ezra and Sarah Goulter to Australia from Liverpool, the ship setting sail on 8th June. He wrote a number of letters to Lucy while on the ship waiting to leave and for a few days afterwards while it was still possible for letters to be sent. From these it seems clear that the intention was to emigrate. He would go first and Lucy and the family would follow. He wrote giving advice as to what she should bring and how she should travel – it would be better to sail from London. It was presumably also hoped that the climate would help his health and the venture would be dependent on this.

He had formed the intention of emigrating some years before. In his notebook in 1853 he noted the best months to emigrate, what to take, names of contacts in Auckland and the name of a dictionary and grammar of the Maori language. When in Jersey in 1854 he had asked Lucy so send him the Australian Gazeter. In one of the letters, he wrote that many years ago he had written to his father of his desire to emigrate but he had objected and he had honoured him by letting it drop but now the Lord has "opened the heart of my Father to send me of his own free will."

His reasons for wishing to emigrate are not known. Did he anticipate that the dyeing business would not be profitable, although his father's and grandfather's had been very successful, or did he just hope for a better life of some sort like so many others who emigrated at that time? He does not seem to have had in mind starting a dyeing business but rather to purchase some land to cultivate. He had clearly been taking an interest in horticulture. He would do this in New Zealand, but not at that time because of the Maori war there. There was even a suggestion that Lucy's father and brother Charles might come out as he wrote that this was not desirable because of the depressed conditions in Melbourne. Another relative who had emigrated was his cousin William Willway, son of his uncle William (see page 44). He had just arrived in Auckland in New Zealand and there is a letter from James to him advising that he is better off there than in Melbourne.

Voyage and Melbourne

He kept a journal on the voyage and sent it to Lucy from Melbourne. In view of its weight he did not use the usual mail and I assume it never arrived as it is not in the archives. Although the journey to Melbourne was nearly three months, the post seemed to be quicker, taking about six to eight weeks. It was sent via Marseilles which must have been faster than the direct route



They arrived on 1st September but his first letter is dated 15th. His health had deteriorated on the voyage and he was much weakened. He was therefore glad that she had not come and the business sold because with him being so sick they would have been in great straits. He was very weak and could not walk more than a mile but was hopeful that with rest he would improve. He recollected that when in Jersey it was two months rest before he improved.

Ezra had taken two 3 room houses next to each other but he did not like being in an empty house and wanted to be with people. He therefore contacted "the saints". This expression I take to mean members of the church whom he refers to as brothers and sisters. He presumably had some contacts which he followed up and they were very kind. Mr and Mrs McKenzie at an address in Coventry Street, Emerald Hill had taken him in. On 20th October he wrote that he was still with them and he was not without hope that the Lord would raise him up. On that day he also wrote to his mother that doctors had advised him to leave Melbourne and go to Moreton Bay, Brisbane. In writing to Lucy later, after his death, Mr McKenzie said that James had an idea that he might not get better and be able to send for her and the children but he would not acknowledge that he was dying and always had hope. He was not anxious about them as they were in the hands of the Lord. The idea of going to Brisbane raised his hopes and he insisted on going alone.

Sarah Goulter, who had been keeping in touch, recollected seeing him one day when he did not say anything about leaving. She wanted to come back the following day but did not like going alone and when she went with Ezra two days later, he had gone. He had not said anything to her and she wondered whether if she had seen him, she could have persuaded him not to go, but that seems unlikely.

Journey to Sydney and death

He sold some of his belongings to pay for the voyage and, with the assistance of Mr John McKenzie and Mr Charles Davies (mentioned below), was put on board the schooner Mimie Dyke on 3rd November to sail to Sydney as the first stage of the voyage. He died on 8th November just as the boat was about to arrive in Sydney. The captain, who was aware of his condition when he embarked and to whom James had given Mr McKenzie's address when he did not think he would survive the journey, wrote to him on the 10th November to inform him of the death. He had been with him holding his hand when he died so peacefully that he was not aware of it. He reported

that he handed over the body to the coroner who held an inquest and his cash and belongings to the Curator of Intestate Estates who would sell them. He wrote that it was proved at the inquest that he was a Jew so the body was handed over to the Jewish synagogue for burial. This has always been a mystery but the only explanation must be that he was either circumcised or looked as if he may have been.

The secretary of the synagogue wrote on 21st November to James' father at 7 Denmark Street having found this address amongst his papers. They were aware from the papers that there was a wife but no name or address. Charles Davies, another of the 'brothers' who had visited James regularly at the McKenzies giving help, including arranging for the doctors, and who was a solicitor took on the task of informing Lucy. This he did by writing to James' father on 23rd November with a letter for him to forward to her. Which letter was received first is not known. A letter having been received from Tabitha, Mr Davies also wrote to her on 28th November. She received this on 27th January and immediately wrote to Lucy with her condolences.

Formalities following death

Mr Davies also dealt with the formal matters of dealing with James' belongings and the cash with the Curator, advising that someone needed to be appointed in Sydney to deal with this. He understood from Mr Goulter, Mr McKenzie and Mr Davies having always been in touch with the Goulters, that there was someone that the family knew. This was a Mr Towson, a solicitor whom Lucy's father knew and the latter corresponded with him thereafter dealing the formalities including obtaining a death certificate to enable his will to be proved in England. This, dated 8th May 1856, giving his estate to Lucy and appointing her as the executrix with her father as one of the witnesses was proved on15th July 1861. The net estate was stated to be under £450

Alone

Following her husband's departure for Australia and subsequent death in 1860, Lucy was left with the five children to bring up and the business to run. In addition, her mother died during the following year on 7th October aged 60. This was also caused by tuberculosis which had lasted one year. She died at 8 Walcot Terrace so Lucy must have been caring for her. The family had moved back there from the cottage in Coombe Down as Lucy had to be there to manage the business.

Bessie recorded in her 1889 letter to Aunt Sarah (see page 61):-"Then came the removal from the Prior Park cottage on Combe Down in March 1861, which is stamped upon my mind mainly by the delight I felt when we rode down to Walcot Terrace and the sorrow Lyddie felt over the loss of her lovely tortoiseshell cat. Mercy too cried piteously to be taken back again to the parlour where the piano was." The reference to the piano must be because she thought it was being left behind. I expect it was moved later. They always had a piano.



It must have been a struggle and maybe she received support from her father. There would also have been support from her father-in-law, James Willway, in Bristol. It would seem that the business was always quite separate from the Bristol business but to indicate the link the adverts both for James and Lucy, at least until 1865 when her father-in-law died, include the words: -"from the firm of James Willway & Son, Bristol". See the advert shown below. Thereafter her mother-in-law, Mary Willway, always seems to have been supportive, she now managing the Bristol firm in partnership with her son-in-law, William Jack. This conjecture is in some way corroborated by Bessie's above-mentioned letter in which she writes that "Grandpa and Grandma Willway stood by to see whether she would learn to walk alone and when they found she managed without tumbling down, they thought it best to let her go on her way alone."

Bessie wrote that to her as a child "she seemed a grave quiet woman always in black, speaking gently but rarely smiling. When we were naughty the look on her sad white face so full of grief seemed worse than any punishment indeed"

She continued: - "We were always poor; our dresses were not costly nor numerous and our furniture certainly not fashionable but Mama kept us all at school as long as she could. Mercy, Lyddie and I left school at seventeen and the boys not much earlier".

Lucy often mentions in letters how tired she is and having to work late, so not having much time to write letters. Bessie does not remember her playing with the children.

Help came from various sources. There was Mrs Demerel, who came when Bessie was a baby, who helped possibly in the house and business and Lucy's sister, Mercy did also. Bessie writes that there were two or three young people in the workroom and the girls were always ready to play with the children. There are also references to Mrs E. Loader and Bessie mentions that Lizzie Loader used to tell them stories. It was she who registered the death of Lucy's mother as being present. There is a letter from her to Lucy in Swansea in 1866 reporting on various matters relating to the business. There was also a nurse and Bessie mentions that one used to take them for walks.

Lucy's sister, Mercy, helped. I assume that she walked up from 12 Walcot Street. She is shown in the 1861 census as being there and in June of that year when Lucy had some business in London and their Willway grandmother was staying to look after the children' Lyddie (aged 9) in a letter to her wrote that Willie had gone down to Aunt Mercy's to sleep – interesting that it was Aunt Mercy's rather than Grandpapa's. Mercy accompanied Lucy when away on business in 1863 and from a letter to them from their father Mrs Demerel was looking after the children.

Bessie wrote: - "We loved Aunt Mercy dearly. Whenever her bright face looked through the glass window in the door leading from the shop to the parlour it was the signal for a glad time. She and Mama were drawn very close together in those days."

The children learned from an early age to help in the house and in the business. In return they were allowed to spend long periods away to stay with friends and relatives, which needed careful coordination. In 1873 Lyddie was receiving 2/6d per week from her mother, presumably either as an allowance or payment for work or a bit of both.
Lyddie sometimes records being very busy.

The elder children looked after the younger ones, or even vice versa as in the following story. Bessie recorded in her diary that when canvassing for the Liberals in the 1906 General Election she happened to visit the house where Mr Stedley's School was, in or near Park Street. This was the school that Willie attended and she, aged 8, used to go there to collect him, aged 10, because he used to get teased by other boys. This would have been a 15-20 minute walk each way. When asked by the school master on one occasion why she came, she replied because her mother told her to!

Mercy Davis (19.4.1843 – 12.3.1869)

Bessie wrote that she was considered high spirited and proud before her mother's death but she only remembered her as the gentle dignified kind auntie whom they all obeyed with gladness. And how beautiful she was. It seemed natural that she should be admired. She was always in some difficulty about her many lovers so when Mr Davis came, she supposed "she chose him because he was bound to decide to marry and end all these distracting claims". Lucy no doubt influenced her in this choice. As mentioned on page 54 John Davis (born 1829 so 14 years older) was the deputy pastor at Somerset Street chapel. They married on 12th August 1868. This was his second marriage. They lived at Prospect House, Beechen Cliff.



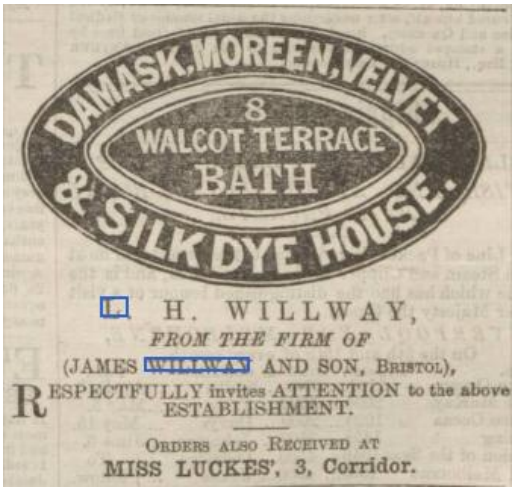
However, Mercy had consumption (tuberculosis). It was said that she caught this because of working in a jeweller's shop (Bullocks) where there was no heating in winter. Signs of this appeared in about 1865. In the spring of 1867 she had an attack and went to Weston-super-Mare for a time to recover and then in August to the Goulter family for a holiday (see page 62). She was not well on the return from the honeymoon and deteriorated thereafter.

When commencing her diary in October 1868 Lyddie writes about her illness and fears that she will not live. She frequently mentions how she is and that her mother goes to see and stay with her – it was probably about a 40-minute walk. Lyddie and the other children also go. She was very bad just before Christmas but was a bit better on Christmas Day. On 3rd January "Uncle John" preached at chapel indicating that she was not worse. She was up and down during January and February. At the beginning of March she was worse. Lyddie went to see her on the 11th. I have included her diary entry for this day and Mercy's death the following day in Appendix 4 (page 193) as it would be difficult to abbreviate it here.

There is a moving letter from Lucy's and Mercy's sister Sarah in Australia written in May to Lucy after receiving the news, which she had been fearing. At the end she writes "Tell dear John (their brother) with my kind love that although Mother and Mercy and James are gone, there are some at home yet. I would come home, perhaps I may, but if not we shall I trust and believe meet where we shall never part again". This belief in meeting in the aftermath was very strong in the family and gave comfort. She did not come home.

This wedding photo is the only surviving photo of Mercy. The wedding dress was kept in the family until about 1980 when it went to a costume collection. It was used in an exhibition in 1993 at Tetbury Parish Church, Gloucestershire but its whereabouts is now not known. John Davis remarried on 15th February 1872 to Emily Bidmead. He became pastor at Manvers Street in 1873 and moved to Clifton in Bristol in 1876.

The dyeworks business

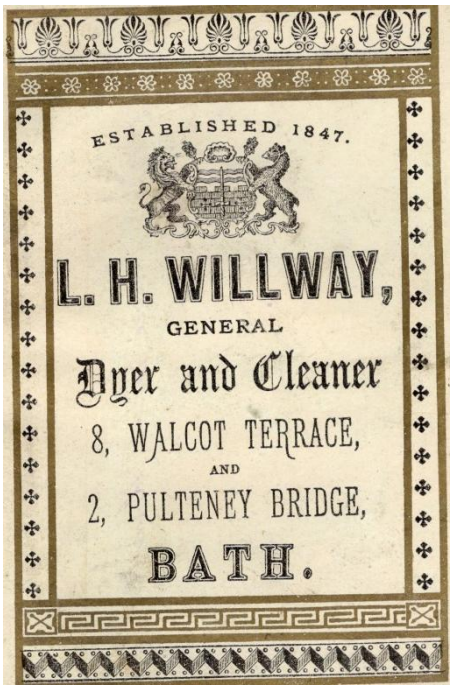


This advert is from 1863. Lucy had continued with the name used by James from 1858 but after 1865 she just used her name – L.H.Willway

An advert of 1867 gives a description of the activities of the business:- "Establishment for dyeing and cleaning silk, woollen and cotton goods, carpets, blankets etc. Feathers (in larger letters). Silks – moire antiqued and printed in a variety of colours and pattern. Black dyed every Wednesday. Table covers, shawls, astrachan and other jackets, dresses etc cleaned every Thursday. The carriage of parcels paid one way."

So customers would have sent goods for cleaning or dyeing and the business returned them. A booklet from probably the 1880s provides information on postage rates and recommends sending by rail if over 12 oz.

Alternatively, they would bring them and presumably collect them. 8 Walcot Terrace was a little out of the way (the 1867 advert describes it as being opposite Vezey's coach manufactory) so it was presumably best to have a contact point in the centre of town. In 1859 there had been the branch in Broad Street. In 1863 it is stated that orders also received at Miss Luckes', 3, Corridor. There is then no branch mentioned in adverts until 10 Barton St., Queen Square in 1868. By 1871 and until at least 1883 there was a branch at 2 Pulteney Bridge. In 1889 it was at 14 Northumberland Place This, of course, had to be manned by someone. When the children were old enough, they were able to man 'the shop'. There is evidence of their doing so between 1874 and 1879 in that they were able to use their spare time there in writing letters.



This is the frontispiece of a 16 page brochure describing the work that can be done and giving a rough price list e.g. table covers cleaned from 1/6 to 4/6 and dyed from 2/- to 6/6

Work in connection with feathers seemed to be good business. Prominence is given to this in the 1867 advert. In a letter that year Lucy writes that she had sent 12 feathers that night and 4 more were to go the next day, presumably meaning these were being returned to customers. James' 1859 advert refers to ostrich feathers being dyed, cleansed or bleached. Lydie in her diary in 1868 writes that she was very busy with curling feathers. This relates to the craze in the latter part of the 19th century of

decorating hats and headdresses with ostrich and other feathers. The cost was 6d to 2/6 for cleaning and curling and the same for dying and curling. Whether Lucy had any opinions on the fate of the birds is not known!

Between January 1877 and January 1881 there are many references to working at 14 Westgate Street and letters written from there. This may have been a place for doing certain work instead of at 8 Walcot Terrace. Lyddie recorded a discussion between her mother and Willlie in April 1880 as to whether it should be sold so presumably a lease was owned.

Tenby and Pembroke



As mentioned above, James had connections in South Wales and Lucy expanded the business to Tenby in Pembrokeshire and the surrounding area. Orders were obtained through agents in Tenby, Pembroke, Pembroke Docks and Haverfordwest. In 1876 she wrote that there was more business per inhabitant from Tenby than from Bath. She enjoyed going to Tenby for holidays and that area always remained a favourite place for her and the children. See the description of a later holiday in Manorbier in the appendix. Initially her agent in Tenby was Mrs Morgan, the first reference to her in letters being 1863, and she and/or the children used to stay with her and her husband on visits, which were at least once per year. She had a business, possibly clothier, and was later assisted by her daughter, Polly (in photo), probably about the same age as Lyddie, with whom Lucy's children became friendly. However, Polly died in 1878 and there were other agents in Tenby after that. In Pembroke the agent was Mr Edwin Thomas who had a shoe shop there. There was a long-standing friendship with him and his family and she and/or the children used to stay with them.

Lucy would travel either by train or packet steamer (i.e.boat) from Bristol but she did not like sea travel and preferred to avoid it. Journeys used to involve visits to Tenby and Pembroke and sometimes surrounding areas where there were customers. In one letter Lucy wrote that she had walked 11 miles in scorching sun having business in Milford Haven and Haverfordwest before returning to Pembroke. In another she visited someone who hadn't paid a bill for four years. Reflecting on this later in her diary Bessie wrote: - "We can never know what all her love and care cost her when she came to see her …. agents and she took long walks on business, brave and fearless little mother."

8 Walcot Terrace

There would normally have been at least one servant living in the house (the 1861 census shows two) and men were employed in the dyeworks. The 1851 census states one man and two apprentices, there is no information in 1861 and 1871 but in 1881 Lucy is described as a general dyer and cleaner employing 3 men. In September 1873 Lyddie reckoned that they employed 13 people but that might have included the family. There are occasional mentions of the names of men but the one that appears frequently is Charles whom James took on as an apprentice in 1848. In January 1877 the men were invited to a supper and he was presented with a watch and chain. Bessie in her diary gives the names of four others and writes that she, Lyddie and Mercy waited.



Lyddie recorded in her diary the usual sort of problems with servants – coming and going, some good, others not and records one particular story in 1869 when the servant, Mary, disappeared after going on an errand with some money to purchase provisions. She was eventually found and brought back after having got drunk with a friend and met up with some soldiers. Lucy forgave her although she left a little later. Lyddie was impressed as to her mother's handling of it and her reading "Judge not that ye be not judged".

There is a description of the house and dyeworks in the Appendix 1 on page 183 This appendix is an account written by Lucy's granddaughter, Lucy Wates, of the latter's brother, Reginald's, youth. To avoid the confusion of the two Lucys I will refer to her when referring to the appendix as LWW. This is a source of much information and is written from personal recollections in a style which I could not repeat here and gives a real picture of family life even though the emphasis is on Reggie. I will use information from it, referring where necessary to "Lucy's biography", but it needs to be read.

This photo of the road front was taken in 2011. The land at the back sloped down to the river so that there would have been a room or rooms on a lower ground floor. It is difficult to reconcile the various descriptions I have come across. There is reference to a parlour where the family would normally have gathered. Maybe this was the kitchen mentioned by LWW or adjacent to it. There was a drawing room presumably on the upper ground floor but was this the 'shop' described by LWW? Correspondence in 1867 mentions that they were living in the front drawing room because the parlour was being cleaned – it is so comfortable and they will be sorry to go down again.

LWW refers to the sideboard and large table in the large back room. These were those made by William Cock and referred to on page 35. For further history of the sideboard see page 143.

It is not known how many bedrooms there were. There must have been one for the maid servant. The photo shows a loft room but that may not have been there 150 years earlier. The same correspondence from Bessie in 1867 to Lyddie when she was away at school indicates two bedrooms for the family, Willie and Mercy in one and Bessie, Offie and Mama in Mama's room. There was the possibility of letting a third room or rooms and in 1869 there was a lodger. The children did not like having lodgers but accepted that the income was needed. As will be seen later there were frequently friends staying for quite long periods. Bessie wrote that her mother was naturally hospitable. There must have been at least one spare room but otherwise it was probably a matter of sharing. At the present day the building is divided into five flats

LWW mentions the small garden where there were once fowls and the garden on the other side of the river. From correspondence it seems that the children each had their own plot in the garden (presumably the one across the river). There were always chickens, and on one occasion reference to a goat. Various fruit trees are mentioned including plums, and red currants. James had taken interest in horticulture and in his last correspondence with Lucy there is reference to a Field which he was anxious about. This may have been the area across the river.

By the early 1880s Bessie and Lyddie had left home following their marriages which are covered later from page 102. Willie was presumably still living there but he married in 1885. Thereafter there were just Mercy and Theophilus at home and when the opportunity occurred to move to the house that Bessie and her husband were occupying, they must have decided to take it.

Shirley Villa

In 1886 Lucy took over the lease of the property Shirley Villa, Beechen Cliff. The background to this is on pages 106 and 142 and see the map on page 165. She moved there with Mercy and Theophilus but she and Mercy went to Walcot Terrace each day, about a 40-minute walk. The living accommodation at Walcot Terrace was let out. The lease was initially in her name only, although Theophilus paid part of the rent. This, however, deprived him of the right to vote as evidenced by a newspaper report in 1892, when the Conservatives challenged his right, so he then became joint tenant.



This was a semi-detached house with three stories, as can be seen from the modern photo on page 161. James and Bessie Baillie are at the lower window, which dates the photo to the late 1890s and Mercy is in the upper window, the photo presumably being taken by Theophilus. There must have been four bedrooms, one for Lucy and Mercy, one for Theo, one would have accommodated visiting grandchildren and there was a servant and/or lodger. In 1896 Mr Spear had an extra room constructed by converting the old fowl house, although the 1911 census states that there only six rooms. They had chickens and grew vegetables. See also LWW's description in Appendix 1 on page 184

Between 1890 and 1901 there are many references to the dog Toby but no mention of his breed. LWW also writes about him on the same page.

Willie

Lucy continued to run the business until it was eventually taken over by her son, Willie. This was probably about 1890. I assume that Willie was assisting her before that but it is not clear nor what else he might have been doing in the meantime. In 1887 when Lucy was in Jersey she seemed to be relying on Mercy in her absence although also gives advice to pass on to Willie. It seems that he helped out, as the other children did, in the 1870s with manning the branch and helping on visits to Tenby and Pembroke. He spent some time in London when he was 18 and again when

20 but what he was doing is not recorded. In 1874 (aged 20) he wrote to Lyddie that he did not just want to stay in the business and was critical of the way his mother was managing it. He was thinking of going to America and Australia but nothing came of that. See page 143 for later information about him and his family.

Mercy Willway (8.3.1858-6.1952)

Mercy was a great support to her mother both in the business, managing the house or houses, looking after visiting grandchildren and caring for her in her old age. Some letters show her early involvement in the business. In 1874 (aged 16) she wrote to Lyddie that there was very little work to do as Charles and Joseph (the men working in the dyehouse) do all the work and there is no 'framer'. In 1878 she wrote to her mother in Pembroke that she had sent some feathers to Tenby but did not know for whom as her mother had the book. In a letter from Lyddie to her mother at that time she writes that Mercy is so dependable, they could not do without her. She takes everything on herself so calmly and cheerfully.



Mercy had had smallpox and her face was disfigured as a result. This information was passed down through the family. I have not found any reference to it in correspondence but it was probably as a young girl. This is the only photo of her other than group photos where she normally wears her hat forward to partially hide her face. I happened to be reading Bleak House by Charles Dickens when writing this. This shows how a girl's chances of marriage are likely to be destroyed by the disfigurement caused by smallpox. Her life was that of the typical unmarried daughter, helping her mother and after her death keeping house for her unmarried brother, Theophilus. She always slept with her mother.

In her old age she was blind, or nearly blind, and it may be that her sight was always bad as a result of the smallpox. The last surviving letters from her are in 1910/11 and are very difficult to read. Earlier letters up to 1894 are quite legible so the blindness must have developed between those dates. From the earlier letters one can see that she had the same literary ability as her sisters.

There are many complimentary remarks about Mercy. Bessie in her 1889 letter to Aunt Sarah (see page 61): - "Mercy is the cleverest of the family and the most unselfish. If she had been spoilable, she might have been spoilt for we all readily gave her the best. ….Mercy had always most consideration but then we have thought of her as one consecrated by suffering (presumably a reference to the smallpox). Her character is so exalted that in her life is being fulfilled the text James gave her at her baptism (page 102) – 'When He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold'.

Another story told by Bessie is that when Mercy found her mother's spectacles which had been lost in the garden her mother said to Willie's children who had been present

at the time: -"If ever there was an angel upon earth it is your aunt Mercy. If she were to die, I should die too. I could not live without her."

Under her mother's will Mercy inherited her estate which included her mother's inheritance from her grandfather, Charles Chapel Davis, which after the death of her step-mother in 1910, gave her additional income. See page 108

Theophilus Charles ('Theo') Willway (12.2.1860-2.7.1927)



There is no evidence that Theo, or Offie as he was known as a boy, helped in the business. His health does not seem to have been good. In 1876 he was seriously ill with some form of fever and Lucy thought he was going to die. He became a photographer. Bessie recorded his first attempt at a photo of her in 1877. He trained under William Friese-Green, who had his first studio at 34 Gay Street, Bath and who became famous as an early pioneer of motion pictures. He set up on his own at 15 Royal Promenade, Clifton, Bristol in 1886, sharing with Friese-Green. He advertised as a children's photographer and copier of old photos. He did not marry and there is no record of any relationships with women. Except for a period around 1890 when he was in Bristol, he lived at home with his mother and sister Mercy and later, by 1900, set up his studio and conducted his business from there. There are several photos under his name in the family collection which are copies of older ones.

Here is some brief information on the rest of his life. He was active in church matters. According to his obituaries he was superintendent of the Sunday School at the Vineyards for about 10 years and assisted at the services at Trafalgar Chapel, Upper Weston; and then for about 18 years assisted at the Dolemeads Mission as their organist, acquiring a new organ from the Baptist Chapel at Abergevenny in 1913 when Bessie's husband, James Baillie, was pastor there, and superintendent of the Band of Hope. He loved children and was devoted to the Temperance cause. His nephews and nieces seem to have been fond of him.

A note in the family bible records that he had the great pleasure of hoisting the Union Jack on the Abbey Tower in the morning on the occasion of the signing of the armistice at the conclusion of the Great War November 11th 1918.

Lucy's death and character

There were various occasions when Lucy was seriously ill and the family doctor, Dr. George Norman said that Mercy by her care and nursing had prolonged her life for years. In 1877 she was ill for 3 months and missed 14 Sundays at chapel. She was attended then by Dr Morgan and Dr Norman. Dr Norman had probably recently joined Dr Morgan, who had been the family doctor until then, and he was the family doctor until at least 1919, so for over 50 years!

She was again seriously ill in March and April 1900 and her children were afraid she might not live. Her death certificate confirms that she died of pneumonia so these may have been earlier infections.



Mercy wrote about her death in 1905. On Friday 3rd March she made the bread and helped with other things. On the following day she complained of feeling chilly and nothing could make her warm. She got her to bed and lit the fire and Lyddie came from Swindon. On Tuesday the doctor thought she would recover but on Thursday he said it was critical and advised that Bessie be informed and she came from Cardiff after being telegraphed. On the Sunday morning when Lyddie was giving her something she said it was no use and she must go. Theophilus said "I'll meet you, mother", Bessie added "We will all meet you". They all then heard her distinctly say "By the Grace of God" and died. Mercy added that the faith on which she lived all her life supported her in death, her great reverence and her strong confidence were very remarkable. Although she does not record it Willie was probably also there.

These are the words engraved on the tombstone in St. James Cemetery:-

In loving memory of our dear father
JAMES WILLIAM C.WILLWAY
Who died on entering Sydney Harbour Australia
On November 8th 1860 aged 36 yrs.
Also of our sweet mother
LUCY HANNAH WILLWAY
Whose earthly life of supreme faith in her
Saviour and absolute devotion to her fatherless children
Closed on March 12th 1905 aged 73 yrs

Character

Bessie, in a letter to someone after the death as recorded in her diary wrote:- "Only very few could know how our mother belonged to every joy of our life, how she entered into all its interests, she was so much to us, her wise counsel, her unfaltering faith, her absolute belief in the word of the living God, how these things have influenced our lives and then her love and gentleness it glorified earth and made all one's days beautiful. She never grew old; her spirit was young and fresh and helpful."

Lyddie wrote to her husband, William, on 24th June 1882: - "She certainly is a remarkable woman. She seems to have an inexhaustible fund of energy, and an indomitable courage of some sort. How she gets through the work she does is perfectly marvellous. Her business of itself is quite as much as any ordinary person could manage, but besides that she has the wants of the household to attend to, and two invalids to wait on. It can't be strength that keeps.her….so I suppose it must be spirit". One of the invalids was Lyddie expecting her first child, Reginald, who was born on 2nd July.

When writing to her mother prior to that occasion, when William was agreeing to her going to her mother, she wrote that he had said that his ideal of a Christian was her mother. She was the most sanctified being he knew and the best of it is she doesn't know it herself. She does not make you feel wicked by contrast with her own goodness but unconsciously her very presence makes you a better Christian.

In 1912 when writing about her own worries Lyddie wrote that with such a mother as she had she could not be gloomy. When her mother had business problems she would go upstairs and tell Lord Jesus about it and come down with courage

LWW writes as follows: -
"Grandmamma was small frail and delicate but of indomitable will and her influence over her children was such that no important step was ever taken by them without her advice, even when her two sons and three daughters had reached middle age. In times of trouble, she was always their refuge."
She, and no doubt the other grandchildren, were very fond of her and this large framed portrait hung over her bed at her home, Rowhill Grange.



Her religious beliefs of course came from her father and no doubt reinforced by her husband. They were passed on early to her children; writing to Lyddie aged 9 in 1861:-"read the bible for the Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise unto Salvation.."; to all the children in 1863 when she was away - they must be sure to say blessings before eating and would like them to sing certain hymns and to chapel at least twice on Sunday; and that year to Lyddie and Bessie staying with their grandparents in Bristol – remember to read bibles every day – she is anxious but commits them to their Father in Heaven.

In her letter to aunt Sarah in 1889 (page 61) Bessie wrote that she can trace her grandmother's character (see page 55) in her just as she sees her grandfather's allegiance to principle.

The children grieved much for her after her death in 1905 remembering her on various anniversaries and in some way comforted by the thought of meeting her again after

their deaths. In 1915 in reflecting on memories of Shirley Villa, Bessie's husband James wrote:- "Will see her again in the Better Land but perhaps she will be too exalted amongst the saints."

This belief in meeting again in heaven was held by Lyddie's daughter Lucy, my grandmother, who said to me when I saw her for the last time that we would meet again.

Chapter 6 - Mary Gilbert Willway (1.6.1802-28.6.1888)

(Lyddie's grandmother)

Mary survived her husband, James, by 23 years and outlived all her children other than John. See page 37 for earlier details and family tree.



In directories of 1870 and 1872 Mary's address is given as 1 Miles Cottages, Durdham Down. In the 1881 census she was at 65 Hampton Park, Redland. Her address at the date of her will in 1885 was 1 Royal Colonnade, Park Street.

The Bath family, the children of her son James, were fond of their grandmother who frequently came to stay with them in Bath and welcomed them to stay with her in Bristol.

Here is a description by Lyddie in her diary of 1869 of a visit to her in Bristol:-"Good to see the same steady servant Ellen – looks as though she hadn't laughed since creation. Grandma with her pretty face, much prettier than some of the girls now-a-days… I sometimes fancy in my mind how she must have looked as a young girl - a rather wild scapegrace sort of girl…though she is so different now, but by what she has told me I can see that she has not been always the same. She said that Grandpa used to feel quite pained about her frisky ways because he was ten years older and was half afraid she was too young for him".

Although she tends to look severe in her photos a closer look does reveal the pretty face.

Lyddie also recorded how it was nice having her stay in Bath. It took some of the care off her mother and was a comfort to her.

The following notes were made about her on a letter she had written to Lyddie in 1869 relating to Mercy Davis' imminent death (She had written on the letter "Mind you burn this"): "Grandma Willway hated school and persuaded her mother to let her stay away. 'Foolish woman! I have regretted it all my life. Fancy listening to a child like that!' Thus her lack of education – and her request to 'burn this'. She was a clever woman. When her husband followed her advice in his investments, he was successful – they saved £8000 – 'It might have been £16,000 if he had listened to me.' When he did not, he lost money". A birthday letter to Lyddie of 1873 also said, "I hope you will burn this letter if not I shall not write you another." As this letter was preserved and there are no others, perhaps she carried out her threat!

In Sept 1887 she made some dolls clothes for her great-granddaughter Lucy and Lyddie was very impressed that she could make clothes like that at the age of 85.

On her death in 1888 Lyddie wrote to her mother: - "Whatever her faults she was a good Christian and I thought of her yesterday, spending her first Sunday in heaven, and how different she would be with all the sharpness and angles worn off".

She then wrote after receiving a letter from her mother, presumably about the terms of the will, that it was such a relief that she and Mercy would be provided for and she would not need to slave and toil all her life. It was good of her to give Mercy the £400. In August 1885 Mary must have spoken to Lucy about the terms of the will, which had been made in April that year, as Lyddie wrote to her mother that it was a great relief to know that she, who had worked so hard, will still be independent.

Mercy was given a legacy of £140 and 6 Bristol Water Company shares so presumably the value of the shares was about £260. It is however a puzzle about the apparent relief for Lucy. She merely received a legacy of £10, which was the same as that of her other daughter-in-law Sarah, her son John's wife. There is no other mention of her in the will. It is as though Mary could have taken some action which would have deprived her of the business but there is nothing to indicate that Mary had any interest in the Walcot Street business.

As to her own legacy of £140 Lyddie would invest it to so that it grows and helps with the children's education. She did not love her for what she hoped she would give her. They all tried to make her happy and she was never so happy as when staying at Walcot.

I will now give information about her children and grandchildren, other than the Davis family.

John Sweet Willway (6.8.1826-1914)

John Sweet Willway did not come into the dyeing business. He became a gas fitter and in 1853 was in business on his own as a gas fitter and gas stove and cooking apparatus manufacturer at 29 St. Augustine's Parade. He carried on a very successful business there for half a century, being succeeded by his son Alfred Bush Willway. There are a number of registered patents in both their names. He dabbled in other matters - patented a combined doormat and scraper, and a bottle rack; sold penny farthing bicycles; sold sewing machines; and invested in property. Further details of his activities are given on page 43 of Debby Klein's account referred to on page 30 above.

In 1867 Lyddie wrote to her mother describing his house as 'rather grand with 8 rooms downstairs and 6 upstairs, only wanting a carriage and pair to complete it'.

As a successful businessman, he seems to have become involved in the business and financial affairs of various members of the family. He acted as executor and trustee of his mother's estate and, as will be seen later, of his brother James' father-in-law, Charles Davis. He may also have been involved in saving the dyeworks businesses as mentioned below.
He had five children but only three grandchildren and other than one great-grandchild who died young no further descendants.

His eldest daughter Alice (born 1861) was an art teacher and unmarried. She is mentioned later.

Alfred (1863 - 1912) is mentioned above and was unmarried. The company J.S.Willway & Sons Ltd, as well as continuing as gas and electrical engineers, expanded into other activities including cars. In the 1911 census he is described as a motor engineer and his father as a retired motor engineer.

Herbert (1865-1949) would have been involved in the company but also managed the Dye Works and Laundry company (see page 149). He had one son, Norman (1893-1975), who married and had a son who tragically died at the age of 23 from polio. Norman took over the management of the laundry company.

Ellen ("Nellie") (1867 - 1954) married and had one son Philip Lace (born 1903). He was interested in the family history and some of the information recorded here comes from him. He acted as his cousin Norman's executor and acquired a family bible. The bible itself was bulky and of no interest so when I met him in 1983 he tore out the relevant pages and gave them to me! He also acquired the portrait of his great-great-grandfather, William Cock which he gave to the Bristol Art Gallery. The portrait is on page 34.

The youngest child, Mary Gilbert (born 1871), the same names as her grandmother which is confusing, was unmarried and died in 1915 aged 44 from tuberculosis. The three unmarried children seem always to have been living with their parents.

Tabitha Jack (8.12.1822-7.11.1863) and the firm Willway & Jack

Tabitha married William Jack in January 1848. He was the son of the pastor of the Castle Green Chapel as to which see page 40 above. She was called the Belle of Bristol because of her beauty. She was said to have violet eyes and golden hair. He was in business as a hatter and they lived in Newport, Wales. Their eldest child, Jessica ('Jessie'), was born in Bristol in 1849 but the next six children were born in Newport where they were still living in 1861.



The dyeworks business is advertised in May 1864 under the name of Willway & Jack, so it seems that, perhaps because of ill health, James had brought Tabitha's husband into the business. He had been acting as agent for the business in Newport. As Tabitha's youngest child was born in Bristol in 1862 this may have been sometime in 1861 or 1862. They moved to Roslin Villa, 48 Hampton Park, Redland, Bristol. Tabitha sadly died there in November 1863 at the age of 40 when her youngest child was only 18 months old. Her mother was with her when she died and registered the death, the death certificate stating that she died of a disease of the spleen. How the children were cared for after her death is not known. Jessie, the eldest child was 14 and would have helped and no doubt Tabitha's mother

did but in 1869 William married Amy Priscilla Thomas, aged 25, by whom he had two sons.

With James' death in 1865, his widow Mary took his place and the business continued to be described as Willway & Jack at 7 Denmark Street. At the time of the census in 1871 the Jack family were still at Roslin Villa, Hampton Park. William was described in the census as a dyer employing 10 hands and three of the four eldest children, Jessie, Mary and William were working in the business. Later that year they moved to 51 Park Street, Bristol. An advertisement in December announces the opening of a branch there where orders can be received and information given, the house being named Argyll House and being opposite the end of Great George's Street. The family would have lived in the accommodation over the shop.

Tabitha Willway 1822-1863 m William Morrison Jack 1821-1881

Jessica	Charles	Mary	William	Frederick	Sophia	Lilias	James
1849	1850	1852	1854	1856	1859	1860	1862
	died 1876	died 1877	died 1877		died by 1871		
m 1883 Edwin Moxley			one child	m Esher Langston			
James Morrison 1885				4 children		died 1943	died 1938
She died 1934							

By the time William Jack died in 1881, of the eight children only four were still living. I have seen the death certificates of Mary and William, mentioned above, who both died in 1877, aged 25 and 23 respectively, from some form of tuberculosis. The others who had died were the eldest son, Charles, died 1871 aged 21, and Sophia, born 1859. She is not mentioned in the 1871 census so may have died before that.

The youngest daughter, Lilias, born 1860 was by 1877 working in the business and her cousin Nellie, John Willway's daughter, at the age of 11 remembers visiting the dye works about then and being appalled at the conditions under which she was working.


WILLWAY & JACK
DYERS, SCOURERS, FRENCH CLEANERS, &c.,
7, DENMARK STREET, BRISTOL.
WORKS ESTABLISHED 78 YEARS.
All kinds of Curtain Materials and articles of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Dress Cleaned or Dyed in the best manner.
Carriage of Parcels from Weston-super-Mare paid either one or both ways.
No connection with any other Shop in the own.

Although the business continued using the name Willway & Jack, at some point Mary retired from it although she still owned the property at 7 Denmark Street. This is an 1875 advertisement in the Weston-super-Mare gazette.

William died from a stroke and pneumonia after the census in 1881. In this he is shown as a dyer employing 16 men and 7

women. Jessie is there as a dyer's assistant and the youngest of Tabitha's children, James, as a dyer hotpresser. Lilias was with her Willway grandmother.

By his will William left the business as to one third to his daughter Jessie and as to two-thirds to his wife. Legacies were left to Lilias and James. The intention was presumably that Jessie would continue managing the business. However, William's death was probably sudden and it must have been difficult for his widow and Jessie. Furthermore, in February 1883 Jessie married Edwin Moxley and William's widow at some later date emigrated to Australia with her two children. . Later census returns show that Lilias was able to live on her own means and in 1901 was with Jessie. James became a grocer.

It is probable that John Sweet Willway stepped in to help at some stage. In 1883 the business was at 7 Denmark Street and Royal Arcade, Whiteladies Gate, Redland but this is the last record of it. It was merged with the other Willway business (see page 148) but I have no information as to when. It seems probable that this was soon after William's death

The only one of Tabitha and William's children not mentioned in the will and who does not seem ever to have worked in the business was Frederick, born 1856. He was with his father at his death and registered the death. Further information about him and about William Jack's father can be found on pages 44 and 45 of Debby Klein's account (see page 30), Debby being Frederick's descendant.

Mary Powell (10.6.1841-6.1.1868) and the Powell family

Mary Elizabeth Willway, the late child of the family, married Frederick ('Fred') Gover Powell in March 1864 when she was 22. and they had two daughters, Minnie born on 31st January 1865 and Lydia ('Lilly') born on 16 August 1866. The Powell family, living at 3 Lower Park Row, would seem to have been part of a circle of friends with the Willway family. The father, George Frederick Powell was a newspaper editor and the local Registrar of births and deaths. Fred was a mariner. Tragically, Mary died on 6th January 1868 of typhoid after 16 days fever, aged only 26. Their address given on the death certificate was 9 Ruyadael Place, which is in Triangle South, Queens Road at the west end of Park Row but Fred gave his address as his parents'. The death certificate is also signed by his father as Registrar, as are all the other family death certificates that I inspected! Her cousin, Sarah Davis, who was friendly with her (see page 61) wrote that the short marriage was not a happy one.

Fred described himself as an ale and porter merchant on the death certificate. In 1881 he is described as a vinegar manufacturer. More information about his careers can be found on page 42 in Debby Klein's account (referred to on page 30 above). As to his fondness for Lyddie see page 92.

Fred returned to his parents' home with the children although Minnie seems to have spent some time with her Willway grandmother. He married again on 18th September 1873 to Adelaide ('Addie'), aged about 20. They had a house in Fishponds in the north-eastern suburbs of Bristol. Minnie and Lilly lived with them there initially. After the birth of Addie's first child, she went to visit her mother in Dublin with the baby in the autumn of 1874 and their Willway grandmother came to look after the house and children. Later, perhaps after the birth of the second child, they returned to

their Powell grandparents where they were at the time of the 1881 census. Minnie did not marry. Lilly married but had no children.

For more about the families in Bristol see page 91.

Death and will

Mary made her will in 1885 when her address was 1 Royal Colonnade, Park Street. At the date of her death she was living at her son John's residence, 1 Camden Terrace, Cotham Road South.

She died on the 28th June 1888 aged 86 having outlived all her children except John. Tabitha and Mary would thus not have benefitted under their father's will (see page 38) and their children would have inherited their shares. There is no information as to what changes may have taken place between their deaths.

She disposed of 20 Bristol Waterworks shares under her will, so either her husband's had been released to her or she had some of her own. These were £20 shares worth possibly £40 each. 5 went to John and 1 to each of his five children, 2 to James Jack, 6 to Lucy Willway's daughter Mercy, in recognition no doubt of her greater need, and 2 to Lucy's son Willie. There were pecuniary legacies to Lucy's children, as mentioned above, and the Jack children. Minnie Powell received a £3 – 14s annual rent charge on Dunraven House, Durdham Down and Lilly Powell a £3 annual rent charge on Apsley, Durdham Down. She had purchased the leasehold interest in a warehouse in Mark Lane to the rear of 6 Denmark Street so she gave this to Minnie and Lilly as they received the lease of the property under her husband's will. The residue was left to her son John who was one of the two executors.

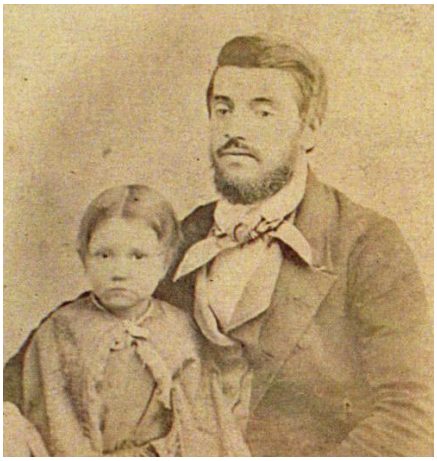
A clock in a mahogany case was given to Lucy. This is probably the clock made by her father now held by a descendant of Lucy's son Reginald Ainsworth.

The value of the estate for probate was £2529.

Chapter 7 - Lydia Willway's childhood and youth

1861 - 1869

She was always known as Lyddie, Lyddy or (by her siblings) Lyd. I will refer to her by the first. She was eight when her father left for Australia so she would have had memories of him and there are references in her letters as to what his attitude would have been in particular circumstances. From a young age she would have assisted in looking after the younger children. This is believed to be a photo of her with her father.



There is a letter to her in July 1861 from her mother when she was staying with a Mrs Jones. This may have been a school but there is no other information about it. In the letter she writes that she had taken Willie and Bessie to school and Bessie was pleased to go. Bessie was five so perhaps this was when she first went. Except for this possible period with Mrs Jones the girls went to Miss Sturge in Bath. The school system seems to have been that individuals set themselves up as schools with quite a small number of pupils and did most of the teaching themselves assisted by one or two others, the pupils often boarding as Lyddie's mother and aunts had done. This, of course, had to be paid for so the cost of educating five children must have been considerable particularly when they were boarding. In 1865 and 1866 Willie (aged 11 and 12) was at Mr Greening's school in Bideford in Devon known as Queen Street House Academy, the Greening family seeming to be friends in Bath. This was a long journey either by train or packet steamer.

In her diary in 1869 Lyddie gives a description of herself at about the age of 10 when reminiscing about her first visit to the house of the Powell family in Bristol (see page 83) with her aunt Mary Willway :-"…a timid little mortal as ever lived, painfully conscious of my awkwardness and bashfulness and dreading to see strangers…Could I have seen myself then as I am now and in the same position, I never could have believed it. I had such a small opinion of my own merits that I was afraid to tread in such a splendid room". She was not surprised people did not take to her "being what people call a 'strange' child never making friends with anybody but liking to be myself where I certainly should have no superior, a thing I disliked because everybody seemed busy with their own affairs and did not want me." She had certainly changed by the time she wrote this.

Education

When she was 15 in April 1867 Lyddie was taken to her mother's old school in Chippenham, now Miss Elliott's. She was very unhappy there as evidenced by the correspondence that she received from her mother and aunt Mercy, initially encouraging her that it would get better and then from aunt Mercy and Willie sympathising for being unhappy. About 18 months later she recorded in her diary, on the visit of an acquaintance from the school, that she did not envy her going back and although it was good to hear about the old school associations her recollections were

not very pleasant. She must have made it clear that she did not want to go back as she was only there for the one term.

One outcome of the stay in Chippenham may have been the friendships with Maggie Mills and Lizzie Longdon. Aunt Mercy, in one of her letters writes that she is glad the Mills's are kind to her so this goes back to the previous generation. They became one of the circles of her and Bessie's close friends, particularly Maggie, with frequent visits to Cheltenham and of them to Bath. For more on this family and a photo see page 91.

She kept many of the letters she received when at the school and they, particularly those from Bessie aged 11, throw a light on the family life and record aunt Mercy's illness, stay in Weston-super-Mare and return home. Grandpa (Charles Chapel Davis) had been to Ramsgate and Abingdon and was going on a journey again to preach; Bessie had asked if she could learn French; had been going for a walk with Grandpa to Lincoln Vale but it rained so Grandpa and Uncle John came to tea; seeds had been sewn in their gardens; Offie walking on the veranda and Fan, the dog, barking as usual; cats Polly and Tabby; Willie had been playing cricket; mother very tired; Bessie mending clothes in her place; she cuts the bread and butter but cannot make the puddings and pies; using the drawing room which is very comfortable because the parlour is being cleaned; Willie working in garden and has a rabbit; Aunt Mercy making puddings and pies now she is feeling better; silk worm eggs hatching; Bessie's quarrel with cousins Nettie and Nellie; took lilies of the valley to Miss Sturge who treated it as peace offering for being late; Willie threw Polly in the water; Mr Davis, our minister, playing draughts with Willie (the only reference to his friendship with the family leading to his marriage to Mercy in 1868); tea in the garden and more about silk worms; Bessie hurt her knee falling in the dye-house and was off school; Lyddie had written to Willie in French but he could not read it. (The letter was kept and shows her proficiency in French.) Offie, aged 7 even wrote by dictation to Mercy, aged 9, but the letter is not very readable – a reference to playing with his train.

Back in Bath in the autumn of 1867 she went to school with Mrs Davies who taught at the Grand Pump Room Library, which sounds like a grand venue. Her mother must have been satisfied with her education there as in January 1869 she decided to send Bessie and Mercy there instead of to Miss Sturge although Mercy did not start until the following term (or quarter as they were then known). Lyddie did not go that term but she went again in the summer term and that appears to have been her last. From the school reports the subjects taught were English reading and composition, History, Geography, Drawing, French, Biblical studies, Natural philosophy. The reports in all subjects were very good or excellent with a few "improving". Two of the three surviving reports also contain General Behaviour – very good indeed and very good – and Manners – rather abrupt in June 1868 and improved in Dec. These items are not on the final report in June 1869 and look as though they may have been cut off!

There was a certain amount of further education. In 1873 she records attending weekly music and French lessons. Later she and Bessie both learned Latin and Greek, attending weekly classes and taking exams. She often attended public lectures and noted in one entry that it was good to have an uncle, namely uncle Charles, to take her to lectures. Talks were also given at the chapel, mainly of a religious nature but sometimes quite different. She enjoyed one on King Alfred and that on Milton

was good, although she does not like Milton. 'Uncle John' gave a lecture on volcanoes at chapel which she found very interesting.

Diary



This photo is dated November 1867. In October 1868 Lyddie decided to keep a diary which she kept fairly regularly at first and then sporadically until October 1870. Later she used pocket diaries with very small writing in 1873 and part of 1874. There were other diaries that have not survived until the final one commencing in Feb 1880. I will quote some of her introduction to the first diary which introduces a picture of herself: -

"I am a young girl of sixteen full of life and spirits, at least sometimes, but perhaps one day if I still keep this diary I may have to put down 'I am an old woman of sixty' and then what will be the difference, only that then I shall have seen life and now I have only heard of it……It is very nice to be young and have a lot of nice friends. I should like never to grow old and so would all the world but that can't be. I think sixteen is a very pretty age because you are not full bloom; to use a poetical term it is like a nearly opened rose bud. I am rather of a poetical turn of mind as I daresay this diary will testify as it goes on. I ought to be very happy though we aren't very rich and I have only one dress to wear, but then what can't be cured must be endured and it is much better done with a good grace. We ought to be very thankful that we are all well for Mama used to be very poorly but now she seems much better, Poor dear aunt Mercy is the only one ill. Last year my dear Aunt Mary died, it seemed so hard to be cut off in the midst of her youth…."

Aunt Mary was the sister of her father, whom he was surprised to find had been born upon his return from Jersey (see page 37 and page 79 about Lyddie's cousins in Bristol). She died at the age of 27 leaving two small children. So Lyddie lost two aunts, both only about ten years older than she, to whom she was close within little over one year. Mercy died from tuberculosis and Mary from dysentery.

An early entry in her diary records her resolve as to how to apportion her time. I doubt whether it was adhered to but it gives an idea of her activities. She would get up early and have one hour's practicing before breakfast. I assume this was piano practice. She and her siblings and later her children all played the piano and engaged in other musical activities. At a party Lyddie would play the piano for dancing – no recorded music in those days! If there was any time over, she would draw a little. She was also proficient in this and was taught at school. After breakfast she would read English history until it was time to go to school. After dinner she would use up the odds and ends of time to read her book from the school library until teatime. In the evening Mondays and Tuesdays must be devoted to mending; Wednesdays to "fancy work" unless she was going out which she generally does that evening; Thursdays and Fridays to making new clothes; and Saturdays to mending and trimming bonnets and feathers. The rules are to be broken if extra work needed on bonnets and feathers.

The bonnets and feathers were presumably in connection with the business and mending and making clothes would have been for other members of the family as well as herself. She would also have helped in looking after the younger children.

The siblings

In describing fireworks night in November 1968 in the diary she wrote that Offie, [aged 8] had been gathering leaves – he has so much energy while Willie [aged 14], is such an easy indolent boy. He never takes part in boyish games and if he does it is in a careless indifferent manner. If Offie's inclinations are turned the right way he will make a bright man for whatever he takes in hand and will put all his energy in it. He is not at all fond of learning now and it is to hoped he will someday. Given the difference in ages probably not a fair comparison!

There is a description of the family written by Bessie in about 1870 when she would have been about 14 (the photo is of her at this age) which is worth quoting: - "Mamma is very gentle but firm – such a dear Mamma I could never do justice to her so will leave her and go to my brothers and sisters. Lyddie, the eldest, is about eighteen years of age. She is generally called handsome. Somehow, she is also generally liked and admired. She is very firm and makes us do what she wants which is nearly always right though I am often rebellious. She is very haughty when she chooses to and never runs but walks with a dignified air. Nevertheless, she is really nice and I am glad I have an elder sister to manage me sometimes as in her place I should often get into scrapes.



Then there is Willie, good natured old Will who has arrived at the age of sage sixteen. He is very good and steady, by steady I mean he never smokes or stays out late; all things like that I detest. I wish he wasn't quite so prosy and would not talk politics with everybody he can get to listen to him. He is tall and, on the whole, a very nice boy but I won't say more as he may see this.

Then there is me and "me" is Bessie scape grace. I am taller than Lyddie with the family characteristics of brown hair and eyes. Age fourteen. They used to call me Ginger beer because if anything happens about which I am pleased I go into ecstasies. They also say I am changeable but that charge I repudiate. I often manage to do exactly what I am not wanted to do. I also tease Willie dreadfully sometimes because he is so dreadfully unboyish. It's very naughty but I do love to do so.

Mercy comes next. She is twelve and a dear good little sister. She doesn't often get into a temper (as I do). She is very determined but will do almost anything we ask her.

Theophilus Charles Willway is ten. He has light curly hair fair and has very dark eyes. He is a regular little ?, can only just read and is as teasing as the day is long though as he is the youngest and very delicate, he is more tolerated and though he is such a naughty boy of course we are very fond of him

This ends our family chronicle"

Social life and friendships

It is evident from her diaries and the letters that she kept that the family had a very active social life. Although there are not many letters from her, what she has written is often reflected in letters from others. Whenever friends and family were not seeing each other on a daily or weekly basis they wrote, the postal service being frequent and reliable. Lyddie was a particularly keen correspondent and once in a 'Confession' (see below) put letter writing as her favourite occupation.

In Bath friendships were made through the chapel which was a weekly meeting place on Sundays with three meetings, in the morning, afternoon and evening. Everyone tried to go to at least one and often two meetings unless illness or the weather prevented it and afterwards, they would walk home in groups. Walks were often arranged at other times and outings to nearby beauty spots or on the river. They would go to each other's houses for tea and sometimes supper with musical entertainment afterwards. Friends often stayed at Walcot Terrace, presumably sharing bedrooms. There were visits to and stays with friends at Cheltenham, Bristol (where their father's family was (see page 79)), Tenby, Pembroke and Plymouth. Mention has been made of Polly Morgan with a photo at Tenby on page 70.

For those in their late teens and early twenties they were of course on the lookout for marriage partners so there was much flirting and comments on the relationships between particular individuals. On rereading her diaries in 1886 Lyddie wrote that the early ones quite disgusted her – 'they betoken such a frivolous pleasure loving, selfish nature, always craving excitement, never happy at home.'

I can do no better than quote here from Bessie's letter of 1889 to Aunt Sarah (see page 61): - "From fifteen to seventeen I was very fond of society. Both Lyddie and I loved parties and pretty dresses and all that ministers to a girl's vanity and pleasure. This was a sad time for Mama. She never allowed us to go into gay society, never let us learn dancing, but I am afraid our natural love of pleasure gave Mama very anxious times because she thought we were only going further and further away from the Kingdom of Heaven. Mercy was a Christian when quite a child and was her one comfort. Lyddie had a set of very gay friends in Bristol who constantly went to Balls and Theatres and of course wished her to go. She stayed with them very often and had it not been for Mama's intense hatred to theatres Lyddie would have gone."

Bessie goes on to write that neither Theophilus nor Willie smoked though both would have done so if Mama had not strongly disapproved of it. It seems to have been the done thing for men to smoke and there are a number of records of the girls approving of men because they did not smoke.

The friends used to get each other to complete a Record of Thoughts and Feelings which came in books with each one a blank on a page to be completed. They were known as Confessions. Both Lyddie and Bessie had one although later they seem to be used indiscriminately. They recorded such things as favourite authors, composers, flowers. Most of these were completed between 1872 and 1880 so give an indication of who their friends were during this period.

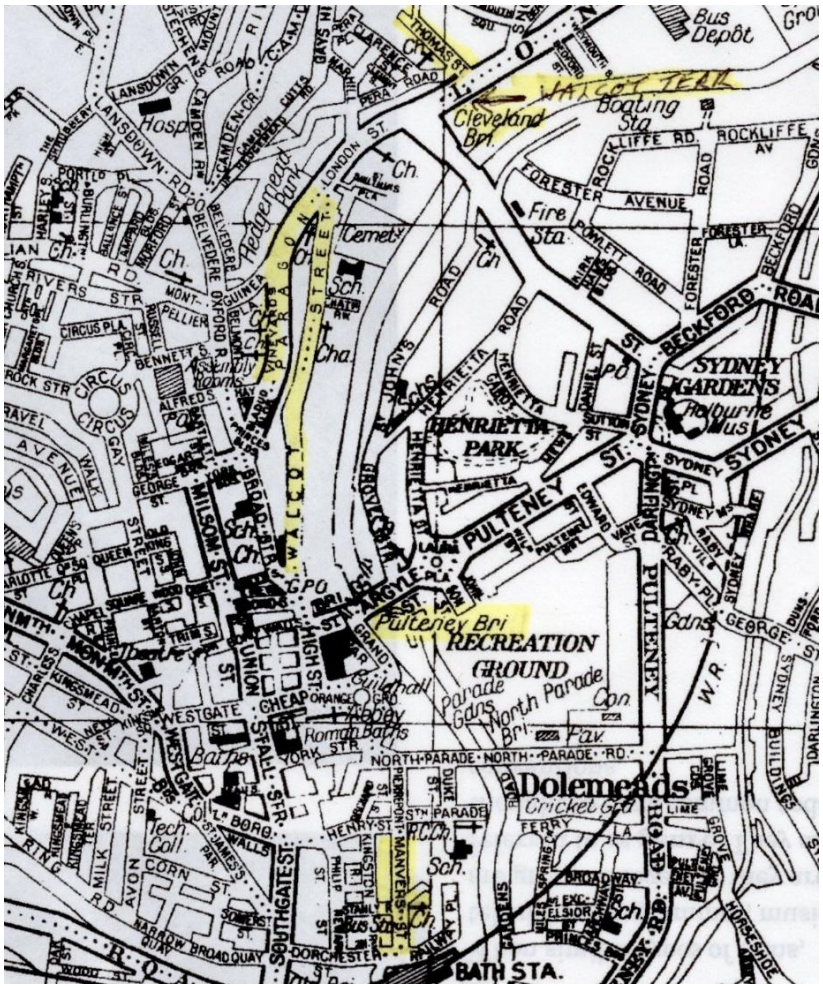
Davis cousins



There was a very close relationship with their cousins in Bath, the children of Lucy's brother Charles and his wife Jane. Aunt Jane seems to have been a particular favourite. This photo of her comes from Stephen Frost, a collector. See page 146 for a photo of Charles. They lived close by at 37 The Paragon. This was also known as 1 The Paragon as it was the first house at the upper end there being no numbers lower than 37. Charles had recorded that after leaving 21 Thomas Street (see page 51) sometime between

1858 and 1861 they were nearly three years at 3 Isabella Place, Combe Down (this is the same period as the Willways were in Combe Down) and then nearly 3 years at 9 Upper Campden Place before moving to The Paragon where they were for about 25 years. References to the family were always just "the Paragon", so they went down to the Paragon, or the people from the Paragon came to tea etc. It and 12 Walcot Street, where her grandfather and Mrs Davis lived until 1869, were on the way up from chapel so they were sometimes invited in to tea. The cousins were Charley (Charles Orlando born 1847), Fred (Frederick Walter b.1849), Edwin, later known as Ted (Edwin Alfred b.1852), Nellie (Ellen Jane b.11.2.1854 so almost exactly two years younger than Lyddie) and Nettie (Henrietta Mary b.1857 so about one year younger than Bessie).

Lyddie did not relate to Charley but there was a close relationship with Fred which included a certain amount of flirting (the first letter she wrote to a boy/man was to him); and she liked Edwin. Nellie and Nettie were very frequent companions of Lyddie and Bessie on outings. There was also, living with them, Harry Vincent and he was very much one of the family. He was a nephew of Aunt Jane by her sister Caroline and about the same age as Fred. It is not clear why he was living with them. He is there in the 1871 census but with his parents and two siblings in 1861. His sister, Alice, was a frequent visitor.



Bristol



There were frequent visits to Bristol by all the family, sometimes just for the day, sometimes for several weeks and once in 1874 Lyddie was there for three months. On these visits friendships were formed with friends of the families there, particularly the Allis and Cartwright families. They were connected in some way to the Powell family, Lyddie's aunt Mary having married Fred Powell. Her early visit to this family before Mary married Fred has been mentioned above on page 85. Florrie Allis, shown with her on the left in this photo, became a life-long friend. There were also the cousins in the Jack family, particularly the eldest, Jessie, and Willie whom Lyddie's brother Willie was friendly with. There are descriptions in her diary of Lyddie's admiration of Jessie's beauty, presumably taking after her mother.

Lyddie would usually stay with her grandmother but often also stayed with the Allis and Powell families. Her grandmother lived "on the Down" so it was a long walk and she would use public transport. The other families were within walking distance of each other, the Powells in Lower Park Road and Jacks from 1871 in Park Street. The Allises house was called Rupert House. It may also have been in Lower Park Road as she refers to going across to it, and the Cartwrights were also nearby as they "went over" from the Allises. She would also visit Aunt Sarah, her Uncle John Willway's wife and their family. They seem to have moved frequently and were further away.

Alfred ('Fred') Cartwright was the first man that she had possible romantic feelings towards. He intended to become a lawyer but went to Ecuador in South America in 1872 after marrying. She kept the matter-of-fact letters received from him between then and 1876. He became a diamond merchant and British consul in Ecuador.

Lyddie clearly enjoyed her stays in Bristol. It was not only a break from work at home, the times that members of the family being away from home always being carefully coordinated. It was also an opportunity to socialise and flirt, one of the objects of life at the time being to find a suitable partner.

Cheltenham

Both Lyddie and Bessie frequently also stayed with the Mills family in Cheltenham. They had a draper's shop in the High Street. Lyddie records staying there for ten days

in June 1869 when Maggie (in photo) was mostly in the shop and Lizzie Longdon in the workroom. There were walks, drives, fetes and concerts and "a comfortable amount of flirting, particularly with Richard Mills". Bessie spent a month there in the summer of 1873 and in the autumn of 1874. The business went into liquidation in 1879 and Maggie then obtained employment in London with Edward Collinson, a draper who had had a shop in Bristol and was one of the friends there. She was a bridesmaid at Bessie's wedding. The friendship with both Lyddie and Bessie was retained. Her brother Richard, or Dick or Dickie, became a minister in the church and went to Australia in 1874. A letter to Lyddie from 1892 was kept. She was with her brother at the Parsonage somewhere, not England. There is a photograph inscribed "Aunty Maggie" which may be her and would indicate that she was known to the next generation. Bessie recorded writing to her in 1903.



The Bristol and Cheltenham friends often came to Bath either for the day or to stay for a few days. Picnic outings were organised by the girls, particularly Maggie Mills, but they had to make certain that each girl had a male partner. In August 1874 she was trying to organise one which would have included Nellie, Nettie, Florrie (this is Florrie Porter mentioned below) Bessie, Uncle Charles, Ted, Willie, Mr Gill, Harry, Mr Ireland and she has alternatives of two Chippenham gentlemen she knows if any of the gentlemen can't come. Bessie kept a sort of sporadic diary for a time which has descriptions of outings. For example, in December 1872 Willie and Fred Jack came from Bristol and after calling at The Paragon were joined by Lyddie ('Lyd') , Maggie, Nellie and Nettie and Florrie at Carriage Road and went for a walk.

Fred Powell

I mention here the relationship with Fred Powell ("Uncle Fred") of whom this is a photograph. She always had a soft spot for Uncle Fred from her early visits to the Powell family before her aunt Mary's marriage and he for her. Before his second marriage in 1873 he came to Bath to tell her that he had loved her and, if it were not for her being his first wife's niece he would have asked her to marry him but, although she was very fond of him, there was no question of that in her mind. He again told her this in 1879 before her marriage. In the event, his second wife was the same age as Lyddie (see page 83) She recorded when first meeting her on their honeymoon in Bath that she liked her and she stayed with them at their home in Fishponds, Bristol on at least one occasion.



Plymouth

In 1874 Lyddie spent the summer in Plymouth and Willie was there for some of the time also, staying with Mr and Mrs Groper in North Devon Road. Edward Collinson, mentioned above, and his wife Elizabeth visited while she was there. There seem to

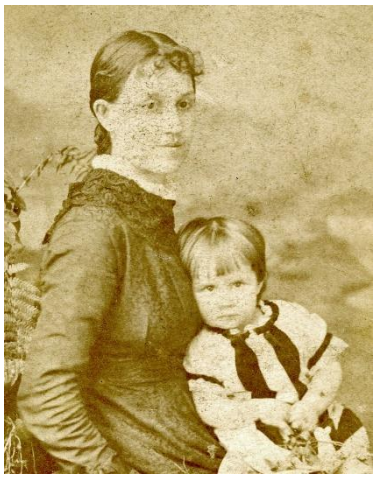
have been connections between the Bristol and Plymouth families but also the Davis family, as there is a record of Charles Davis being there and, as is mentioned later, Fred Davis. On one occasion Lyddie's mother was encouraged to go to Plymouth rather than Tenby 'where they would look after her better'.

In a letter written to her there from Uncle Fred he writes cheekily but in character. "How many conquests has my brown eyed niece made down in Devon – one or two I'll warrant".

Porter family

The Somerset Street, and later Manvers Street, church, or chapel as it was always called, was a place where friendships and contacts were naturally formed. The next paragraph relates to one particular friendship which I have included because of its interesting sequences. Others included the Spear, Bush, Archard, Long and Foster families. Fred Spear, Sydney Bush and Charles Long became leading figures in Bath..

Mrs Susan Porter came to Bath from nearby Frome sometime in 1871 with her daughter Florrie and they both became friends with the Walcot Terrace and Paragon families. Her husband, Thomas Porter, had recently died. He was a cloth and linen manufacturer. His father Samuel had been in this business and had been deacon of the Baptist church for 25 years. I wondered whether there was a connection with Mr Porter of the Somerset Street Baptist church but have not found any. Florrie was then 18. There were three older sons two of whom, including the youngest, William, were still in Frome in 1871 in a similar business to their father's. Frank was with his mother in Bath 1873/4. William went to Massachusetts, America. Mrs Porter was a teacher and she gave French lessons to Lyddie, Bessie and Willie. She became something of a confidante to Lyddie. She wrote very well and quite a few of her writings are in books of miscellaneous writings kept by Lyddie and/or Bessie.



William ('Willie') must have come back for a time in 1875 as he fell in love with Lyddie (this is referred to again below) before returning. Florrie was in the close circle of friends and fell in love with Ted Davis whom she married in 1877. Mrs Porter went out to stay with Willie in America and Ted and Florrie went to visit them there with the result that their first child, Evelyn, was born there in March 1878. The photo of Florrie and Evelyn is dated 1886. (It is not with the family archives but supplied by Stephen Frost, a collector.) Mrs Porter returned in May 1880 to live with Ted and Florrie. Upon being informed of her return Lyddie recorded in her diary her joy – 'my long-lost friend'. She died in 1883, aged about 71. A point of interest is that Mrs Porter's second name was Lydford, also the name of her eldest son and a name used by future members of the family. It is the name of the family from which she was descended that owned Lydford castle in Devon. See page 146 for a continuation of the contact with this family.

Politics

In opening her diary in 1868 Lyddie writes that the common topics of the day are the revolution in Spain (who in England knows anything about that now?), the coming election and the earthquakes, one of which they had just experienced the night before. She gives a vivid description of the day of the general election, which was the first following the Reform Act 1867, and rejoices at the win of the Liberal candidate writing “Three cheers for Mr Gladstone”.

The family were Liberals which was presumably related to their non-conformist religion

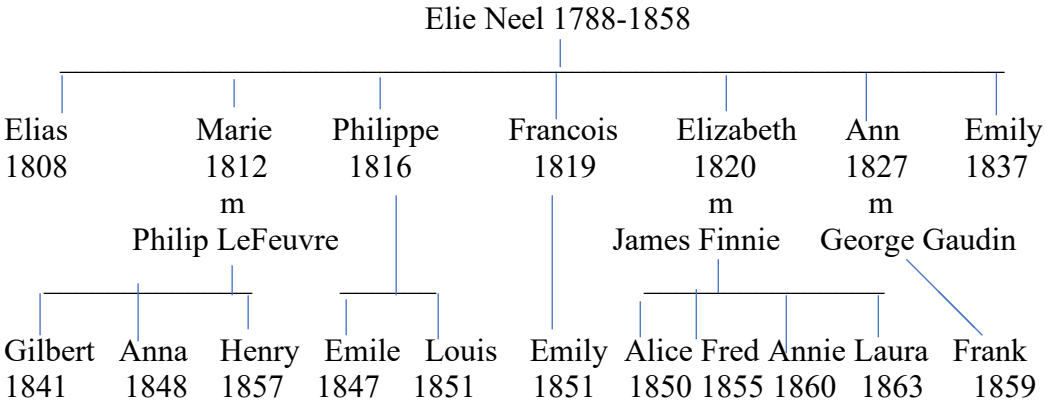
There is a letter from Bessie aged 18 to Lyddie when staying with Mr and Mrs Thomas in Pembroke. She describes a man who had been staying whom she obviously liked but makes the point that she had not fallen in love. They all know that she is particular to suit – he has to be clever, intellectual, a dissenter, teetotaller, Liberal and in possession of a capital appointment and really good income. She adds don’t let Mama see this if you think she will believe the nonsensical parts – presumably the last two items.

There are references to her grandfather’s republicanism. She recorded in the diary a long discussion with him over supper in which she disagreed with his favouring American style government. In another entry she writes that her brother Willie is one for republicanism and it makes her quite cross

Towards the end of the diary in August 1870 she writes about impending great war in Europe and the general condemnation of Napoleon as the aggressor. She ends the diary wondering how her grandchildren would wonder when she recounted how in 3 months the greatest nation of the earth was humbled to dust and her very capital, the gayest of the cities of the world, in a state of siege.

Jersey

There was another friendship formed in 1871 which had far reaching affects. In the summer Alice Finnie (aged 21) came from Jersey to stay with the family and she and Lyddie became close friends. Her mother, Elizabeth, was the sister of Elias Neel, Lyddie's father's school teacher at Sion House and of Marie Le Feuvre, whose husband Philippe had the school at Eden House, where he later stayed. There were thirteen children of Mr Elie Neel (1788-1858) and here is a tree showing those of them and their children who are relevant to this history.



Elizabeth Neel married James Finnie, who was also a school teacher. From public records I have established that he had a school known as Portway House Academy in Weston, Bath from 1857 to 1866 and their four youngest children, out of seven, were born there. Why he decided to establish a school in Bath is not known. Was it just chance or had it arisen from conversations that James Willway may have had with them when staying in Jersey or in subsequent correspondence? The two families must have been in touch in Bath and may be the children played together. Having returned to Jersey in 1866, James Finnie established a school at 10 Belmont Road, St.Helier. In addition to the seven children there were also living with them Elizabeth's sister Ann Gaudin, whose husband had died, and her son Frank, aged 12. The families presumably remained in touch giving rise to an invitation for Alice (aged 21) to come to stay with the family in Bath in the summer of 1871.

A close friendship developed on that visit between and Lyddie and Alice and it had been agreed that Lyddie would make a return visit to Jersey the following summer. In the meantime, there was a continuous correspondence between them with letters two or three times per week. The huge bundle of Alice's letters between September 1871 and November 1872 were retained by Lyddie. Alice enquires about the friends in Bath including Fred, Nellie and Nettie Davis and Florrie Porter and Aunt Jane. Alice had fallen in love with Fred, who does not seem to have returned it to the same degree, and much of the early correspondence relates to this.

Emile Neel

In the meantime, her cousin, Emile Neel (aged 24), had come to stay with them. Emile was the son of Philipe who had gone to France. Emile was brought up in

France and his English was not good. There had been problems and the family had agreed to help, he coming to Jersey to find work – it seems as a tutor. He seems to have been keen on Alice and various other women. She did not reciprocate and was frequently critical of him, finding him conceited. However, she decided to introduce him to Lyddie via correspondence and arranged for them to write to each other, she helping with translations, and send photos. The correspondence goes on to recount her own love affair with her five years' younger Finnie cousin Philip Romeril, which weans her off Fred and ends with their formal engagement.

Lyddie stayed with the Finnies from mid-June 1872 to the beginning of August and during this time she and Emile fell in love with each other. The following correspondence after Lyddie's return home records her doubts about the relationship and Alice's concerns about his character. One problem related to religion - "his present religion allows him to do and say many things that he likes and that he would not if he were good." He was not a Christian. He believed in a God but not in Jesus. Emile returned to France having obtained a tutoring job in November and Alice passed on his address. In the penultimate letter retained she passes on a message from Emile that he thinks he will be in a position to marry her in 3 or 4 years and still loves her as much as ever.

Neither Lyddie's mother, nor anyone else except Alice, ever knew of the relationship. Lyddie knew that because of the religious problem her mother could not accept him and it would not be possible to marry him. Correspondence continued between them secretly, his letters being sent to the Post Office in Bath to be collected or addressed to Alice when she was staying in Bath in June 1873. Lyddie's diary shows her impatience when there was no letter. That June, with Alice's encouragement, she decided that as she could not marry him it would be best to stop the correspondence. However, he was always in her mind and she took his letters with her whenever she was away from home to reread them. They were always kept and are in the archives. On two occasions she records dreaming that they were getting married.

Finally on 26th October 1875 she received a letter from Alice that he was engaged. She felt devastated but by chance that same day she went to see Mrs Porter and her son Willie was there preparing to return to America. He walked home with her and declared his love for her and a hope that she would marry him. A great calm came over her and she gave him hope that she would consider it when he had made a position for himself. She recorded that she respected, admired and esteemed him and that the right love might come. He asked her to notify him if she became engaged to another. There is a letter from him acknowledging hers informing him of her engagement in July 1879. There is no record of her seeing either of them again.

She drafted a letter addressed to Mrs Porter dated Dec 1875 but finished Spring 1876, in which she recounted the whole affair. Whether a fair copy was actually sent seems doubtful but it was her own record and kept with her papers. In addition to all the hope and agonies of the affair it includes a wonderful description of her happiness during the six weeks in Jersey.

It is understood that she always regretted not having been able to marry him. Some form of contact or information was retained. Two letters from Emile addressed formally to Madame Ainsworth some 40 to 50 years later were kept from one of

which it seems that Christmas cards were exchanged. There is also an undated extract of a letter from Anna Lefeuvre presumably referring to him, although not named, in which she writes that he speaks freely of her as our dear Lydia Willway and to tell her that her remembrance and her good advice are equally precious to him and that both have marks at the very depth of his heart.
See also the postscript on page 168

Emily Neel

Lyddie had been worried about travelling to Jersey on her own so Alice arranged for her cousin Emily Neel (aged 21), who was returning from England for the summer holiday, to accompany her. This cousin was the daughter of Francis Neel, another of the 13 siblings, who a couple years later emigrated to Texas with most of the rest of his family. She and her brother, John, also accompanied Lyddie on the return journey. She was teaching at a school in Chelsea, London. Millie, the name by which she was generally known, became a close friend. In January 1874 she stayed with Lyddie in Bath and thus became acquainted with the rest of the family and friends, there being a number of references in subsequent correspondence to Florrie Porter and her growing relationship with Ted Davis. Alice had been staying in Bath in December with her fiancé Philip but had had to return to Jersey when her mother died. Lyddie kept a number of Millie's subsequent letters from which her adventurous life and their close friendship can be seen. In April that year she took up a job as a governess in Germany and over the next three years had a number of such jobs in Germany and Russia with one interesting letter giving the description of working for a Russian aristocratic family. She had a love affair with a German but, perhaps unlike most women in those days whose main object at that age was to get married, she did not want to spend her life looking after a man. She was clearly an attractive and interesting woman and we return to her later.



1875-6

Lyddie returned to Jersey in 1875, three years after her 1872 visit, this time accompanied by Bessie, aged 19. Bessie recorded something of this visit in some diary notes that she made. She describes some of their activities and walks and mentions Alice, her sister Lyddie, Lucy, Harry and Frank. Lucy must be Annie Finnie, then aged 15. Although her name is Annie Margaret, she signed a 'Confession' (see page 89) with the name Lucy Annie Finnie. Although apparently using the name Lucy then, she was later always Annie. Harry was probably Henry Le Feuvre.

Frank Gaudin

Frank is Frank Gaudin, who, with his mother, was living with the Finnies. She also calls him Robin. Although she does not mention it in these notes, she and Frank fell in love on this visit and there is a letter from him looking forward to her visit in 1876 when she and Lyddie both went again and were met by him. Anna Le Feuvre is

mentioned in her notes on this visit and she mentions frequent walks with Frank or Robin. As emerges from Bessie's later diary entries, on the 8th July she and Frank made some form of commitment to each other. Thereafter, as is clear from Bessie's diary which she commenced in 1877, they corresponded regularly.

Alice Romeril (neé Finnie)

Alice married Philip Romeril in 1876 and they lived in the Lambeth area in London, where their sons Arthur and Herbert were born in 1878 and 1881, later moving to Ealing. There is a record of Lyddie staying with them in 1878 after Arthur's birth. Bessie recorded in her diary the birth of an earlier boy in April 1877 but he did not survive the birth. The friendship continued although not to the same initial intensity and, although there are mentions of letters, only a couple after a Jersey visit in 1906 were kept. There are records of meetings in 1890 and 1907 and Bessie recorded meeting her in 1897.

See also page 168

Fred Finnie

Another frequent visitor to Bath was Alice's brother, Fred Finnie, aged 17 in 1872 on Lyddie's first visit. In the 1871 census he was described as a printer's apprentice. He was presumably working in England and in November 1872 there is a letter from him to Miss Willway accepting an invitation to come to stay at Christmas that year in which he wrote how he thought what a lovely young lady she was when he met her in Jerey and could easily have a fallen in love. Lyddie clearly put him off, as in future correspondence he signs as 'brother Fred' and even wrote to her mother as Mama. He stayed some time at Walcot Terrace when looking for a job in 1877/78 and the impression is that they were glad to be rid of him! He was keen on Nettie Davis.

Engagements and marriages



As we have the benefit of Bessie's diaries the events of the next few years leading to her and Lyddie's marriages are recorded here in some detail. Lyddie probably also wrote diaries over this period but they have not survived until one she started in 1880 in which she made sporadic entries until 1916.

This is a photograph of Bessie with her mother at about this period.

James Baillie

John Davis resigned the pastorship of Manvers Street in August 1876. They were all sorry to see him go although, since his remarriage, they had not seen much of him. A number of students were asked to come to preach in his absence but the congregation was not impressed until Mr Baillie came. Lucy took an unusual liking to him and, although she did not normally take an active part in church affairs, urged the deacons to appoint him to the pastorship. On 1st January 1877 James Baillie took up the position. He came from Dundee in Scotland and had just completed his training at the Bristol Baptist College. In a letter that month Alice Finnie wrote to Lyddie that she was glad she liked the new pastor but it was naughty to tease Bessie. So there must have been an immediate attraction there. He made his first visit to the house on 15th January. On 28th January Bessie wrote in her diary, after writing about his sermon, that "Duke is splendid. I never saw a Christian whom I admire more." Duke was the name she used for him in the diary when not referring to him in his more official capacity as Pastor. This then changed to Artie or R.T. and eventually Laurie. By April 1877 he was coming to tea at Walcot Terrace quite frequently and she wrote that the pastor was very near heaven and she cannot write her thoughts.

Frank Gaudin



Frank Gaudin came to Bath at the end of June 1877 for just over a week and they met daily, he coming to the shop – 2 Pulteney Bridge – when she was working there. Before he returned to Jersey they had this photo taken. On 11th July she records having a long talk with her mother without coming to any conclusion, which presumably related to the relationship with Frank and growing friendship with the pastor.

Towards the end of the year she became more involved with the activities of the church and took on visiting poor people that the church was supporting. She was seeing 'Artie' nearly every day either at chapel or on his coming to tea or supper. I will refer to him as James hereafter.

Mr Ainsworth

One of these activities was a weekly Band of Hope class for boys. The Band of Hope was a temperance movement to teach children to abstain from alcohol. One of the people involved with this class was Mr Ainsworth and there are a number of references in the diary to him in November 1877. On one occasion she wrote that he gave a capital address on "Reasons why I am a total abstainer". By that time, he was presumably well established in the church and involved in its activities including probably a Sunday school which he referred to later in life. The only earlier reference to him is in a letter dated June from Mrs Porter in America to Lyddie. She refers to a letter from her mentioning a young man named Mr Ainsworth living in one of the streets going up from Walcot Street who had been to chapel with her and wanted to be introduced to Mr Baillie.

Bessie's decision

On 28th December 1877 Frank came from Jersey which caused some consternation and a crisis. On the 29th, after visiting the Davis family with Maggie Mills and Fred Finnie, who was in Bath, they returned home in the evening. James was there and surprised to see Frank. Mama was frigid. On 31st Mama said she would not have Frank in the house again. Bessie responded with the question whether she would give her up if she has Frank and her mother replied that she was prepared for that. It is not clear why her mother was opposed to the relationship with Frank – may be it was just conflicting with the growing relationship with James which she obviously would have favoured. It became clearer over the next few weeks that James loved her and there was much discussion and heart searching, her mother ultimately leaving it to her decision. On 28th January, after a long talk with James, Bessie made her decision and wrote to Frank. She wrote in the diary "Lord, bless him, comfort him, uphold him."

Lyddie wrote a 20-page letter to Alice recounting the events which was returned to her to keep. Her sympathies were with Frank and she wrote that it had been a terrible

time for all of them. “Looking back on it from first to last, I can only wonder why God has let it happen, but I feel sure that He has done so for some purpose of His own which we cannot see.”

On 19th March Frank came for a last meeting, with Mama’s agreement. James came in the evening and they were all three together. Later that year she records some doubts as to whether she made the right decision. In the autumn of 1878 she informed Aunt Sarah in Bristol that they were engaged but it was not made public until August 1879.William recorded in his diary that she wore her engagement ring for the first time on 17th December 1878.

Frank became engaged to another in May 1882 and married on 11th December that year. This information was passed to Bessie by Annie Finnie, who was then the main contact in Jersey following Alice’s marriage. On a visit to Jersey in 1887 Bessie and James met Frank’s wife, Marie, and their son whom she noted was very much like Frank.

Growing friendship with Mr Ainsworth

There are no further references in the diary to Mr Ainsworth until April 1878 when he and another friend joined James, Offie, Lyd (which is how she normally refers to Lyddie) and her for a walk on Easter Monday and thereafter fairly frequent references to him visiting. She refers to him initially as Fred Cartwright or Fred C, overwritten later with Mr Ainsworth, which might indicate that the connection with him arises because of the friendship with Lyddie, equating it with the former friendship with Fred Cartwright. An early record of the friendship is a Confession (see page 89) completed by him in May 1878. In June, when Bessie was away in Pembroke, she wrote to Lyddie that she hears he still visits Walcot Terrace “so you like him as much as ever.” On 26th May she recorded that she walked back from chapel with his sister Sarah whom she likes very much, later writing that she has a noble and unselfish nature. Sarah was in Bath until the end of September when she returned to Salisbury. She completed Confessions (see page 89) for both Lyddie and Bessie.

In a letter of September 1878 when Lyddie was staying with Alice Romeril (see page 98) Bessie wrote:- “How good he is! Mama can’t be angry with him even though he does argue with her about the inspiration for the epistles. His character is so beautifully loving and childlike in many things and I believe he almost worships our little mother, so reverent he is to womanhood.” By the end of the year William, as I will henceforth call him, was becoming one of the family. On Christmas Day he and James were with them in the morning and James then had lunch with him. They were both with the family all day on Boxing Day. In March 1879 Bessie recorded that he had become quite one of the family, a sort of brother and they all like him very much.

One of the families at the church that they were friendly with was the Foster family. Sophie Foster fell in love with William but he was not able to return it. He did however keep the card that she sent him on his birthday in 1879.

Lyddie's engagement

William was already engaged to be married to Nellie Cooper of Reading (see page 24). In May 1879 he broke this engagement thus freeing himself to marry. Bessie recorded in her diary that he seemed very sad after he told her. A couple of weeks later she recorded a long conversation in which Lyddie said that she would not give an answer until Xmas but Bessie thought it would be yes and she would like him as a brother better than anyone else she had known. However, Lyddie was concerned about what affect the breaking of the engagement might have had on Miss Cooper and William recorded in his diary that in November 1879 she made it clear that she was not prepared to marry if Miss Cooper was grieving. He accordingly made enquiries of the Parfitts in Reading as to how she was and to his joy was informed that she was well and engaged to be married. He wrote in his diary that even Mrs Willway could not now object to the marriage. On Christmas Eve he formally proposed and she accepted. William gave her an engagement ring on her birthday on 8th February 1880. Nellie Cooper married the day after Good Friday.

Baptisms

Religion was, of course, always an important part of the family's lives and the children became increasingly involved with church affairs, Lyddie taking a Sunday School class, Bessie's already mentioned above and Willie gave talks to the Band of Hope group. Lyddie's and Bessie's diaries always gave prominence to the sermons on Sundays, Bessie's in particular quoting at length and they were also mentioned in letters. Mercy kept a notebook with the text for every week's sermon from October 1876 (aged 18) to October 1880. However, Lyddie for a long time did not feel the total commitment that was needed. In writing the letter to Mrs Porter about Emile she specifically stated that she was not a Christian and it was because of her mother's convictions that she could not accept him. However, she records in her diary in December 1874 after attending a meeting at a different chapel that she could not resist the preacher's pleading 'to come to Christ'. It was not however until 1878 that she made the final decision.

Both Bessie and Mercy, presumably with the encouragement of the pastor, made the decision in February that year and all three were baptized together on 10th March. Maggie Mills attended having herself 'entered the church' four years earlier, this having made Bessie think about it. Willie followed on 26th May.

There was great rejoicing when Theophilus was baptized on 24th June 1883. His mother wrote to Lyddie on 7th June to inform her – "You must come. I could not bear you to be away at such a glorious time"

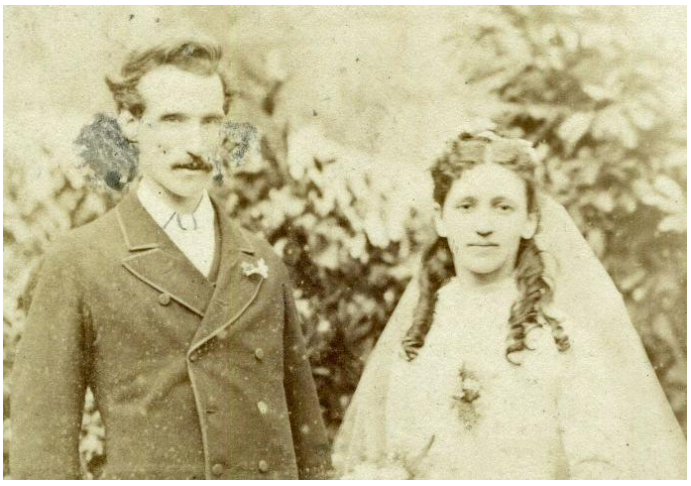
Marriages

Meanwhile in April 1879 Bessie wrote that she and James would probably get married in June 1880 so she must make up her mind to give up her freedom then. For both of them this is what marriage meant – committing themselves to a life of devotion to their husband and they were not sure it was what they wanted. It also meant leaving their beloved home and mother and it was going to be hard on her.

Lyddie in her diary writes that what she craved was William's complete all absorbing love and for her to be the centre of his life, but other than in the summer of 1879 she did not think that she would get this. Already other matters sometimes took priority – his classes, his meetings and his daily work. And this did apply for the rest of their lives – he was always out or away on business matters, church matters, other voluntary work and politics. He had a loving nature and was clearly good company. However, he was, as one of his granddaughters later described him, mercurial. Lyddie records in her diary in March 1880 how he was angry he was when they missed each other coming back from chapel, that he has a strong passionate temper and that she will need much patience and tact.

It is interesting that, although having children and possibly a large number of them, was generally an inevitable part of marriage, there is no reference to this in either diary before marriage. In the end it was probably having the children that made the marriage for Lyddie although she might have preferred not to have had so many. Bessie did not have children, presumably for some medical reason. In her diary in May 1883, when writing about Lucy's son Reggie, she thinks that if God gave her a baby, she should love it intensely but if He does not, she would be spared much anxiety of having a soul given her to train for eternity.

Bessie's marriage



In both cases the courtship and engagement periods were long and during all this time meetings were nearly always with others present. They had to be sure that a suitable home for the couple was affordable. James and Bessie ultimately married on 17th August 1880 with John Davis taking the service; Lyddie, Mercy and Maggie Mills as bridesmaids and Willie, Offie and William as groomsmen. Their mother left in the afternoon for a short holiday in Weston-super-Mare, the wedding supper being organised by Aunt Jane. Lyddie describes it in her diary, writing that Grandma [Mary Willway] was there – 'dear pretty old Grandma'. The bridesmaids gave her away - 'an old man spoke the words – her Grandfather' [Charles Chapel Davis]. They had a month's honeymoon in Scotland. After a blank Bessie wrote in her diary that they had settled into her new home and she was too busy with housework to write in her diary, and in December that year the account book had replaced the diary. Their new home was probably 20 Upper Camden Place where they were in 1883



From left:- John S. Willway, Willie, Mary G. Willway (Grandma), Mercy, William Ainsworth, Aunt Jane Davis, Lyddie, bridegroom, bride, Charles C. Davis (Grandpa), Theophilus, Maggie Mills, Lucy, Uncle Charles Davis.

Lyddie's marriage



There was much uncertainty as to when Lyddie and William could marry. As recorded earlier (page 25) there was always uncertainty and problems with William's uncle's business which directly or indirectly affected him and it was not a good foundation on which to get married. They both recorded in their diaries that William gave serious consideration on a number of occasions to making a career in the church and becoming a minister. This would have given him a secure income but meant two years at college She would be over 30 and she was afraid of losing her looks and he could be attracted to someone else. In March 1881 she did not know whether affairs would permit marrying that year but would start making clothes. She was not certain whether she wanted to marry but if she did it should be before she was 30. In July she bought her wedding dress but was not certain whether she would ever wear it. They finally married on 15th September 1881.

The only information about the marriage comes from the marriage certificate. It took place at Manvers Street with James Baillie taking the service. The witnesses were Jessie Jack (Lyddie's cousin from Bristol), Lyddie's brother Willie and Fred Spear. It can probably be deduced from this that Jessie was a bridesmaid and Bessie and Mercy were probably the others. We know that Fred Spear was the best man.

They honeymooned in Paris, spending a couple of days at Weymouth before crossing the channel by boat to Cherbourg and then train to Paris.

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Left to right seated:- Aunt Jane, Mercy, Mrs Davis (?), Grandpa Davis, Grandma Willway, Lucy, James Baillie, unidentified
Standing:- Uncle Charles Davis, uncle John Willway, Nettie, Charles Davis, Sarah Ainsworth, Willie, Nellie, bridegroom, bride, Florrie Davis (neé Porter), Fred Spear, unidentified, Theophilus, Bessie, Ted Davis, Fred Davis.

Of the unidentified women one may be Jessie Jack. The other might be Jeannie, the wife of Fred Davis or Louisa, the wife of Charles Davis. I have put a question mark after Mrs Davis as this is an assumption I have made. Assuming it is correct, it is the only photograph we have of her.

Fred Spear

Frederick W. Spear and his family were lifelong friends and helped James and Bessie on many occasions both in providing accommodation and financially. On one occasion he wrote that James was the Lord's steward and it was one of his greatest pleasures to do anything for him. See LWW's description of him on page 185. He always provided a turkey to the family for Christmas. He was mayor of Bath in 1915. His wealth came from the firm Spear Bros & Clark, provision merchants dealing in pork products. This was founded by his elder brother in Bristol in 1875 and he joined him the following year when aged 17. He must have come to Bath to run a branch there as in the 1881 census he was living in Southgate Street employing nine men. In 1891 he was living at Shirley Gate, next door to Shirley Villa (see page 73), later known as Shirley Cottage. This was the attached house so perhaps he had bought the pair in 1883 when he let the part he was not occupying to James and Bessie.

Chapter 8 - Charles Chapel Davis' later life

7 Larkhall Place

In August 1869 Charles Chapel Davis moved with his wife and son John to 7 Larkhall Place. 12 Walcot Street continued to be used for the business.

Their new home was farther from the rest of the family than 12 Walcot Street so they would not have dropped in for tea as they used to do but it was only a 20-minute walk and there were frequent visits.

John Davis

Bessie recounted in her letter to Aunt Sarah (see page 61) that John's life was much brighter there. He could sit in the garden and walk in the unfrequented road near the house by using a chair and sitting down when he was tired. They would talk to him cheerfully of the time when he would be able to walk as far as Walcot Terrace but that time never came, as they knew it wouldn't.

John died on 12th May 1873. Lyddie noted this in her diary stating that it was a great shock to all so it must have been sudden. Bessie gives an account. He was at the end of their pew in chapel in the Sunday after Mr Wassell's funeral when the pastor, John Davis, preached. (How did he get to chapel if his father was not attending?) Uncle John was much affected and told Mama that he had a pain in his chest and thought it would take him "Home" but hoped to see her on Thursday. However the next day "he too crossed the Jordan to the Land of pure delight" and the next Sunday Mr Davis had to speak of another soul in Heaven.



Photo

Here is a four generations photo. (It is not with the family archives but supplied by Stephen Frost, a collector.) Charles Chapel is seated on the right, Charles Edmond standing, the latter's son Charles Orlando

on the left and his daughter, Minnie. Assuming she is aged about 5 this would have been taken in about 1878.

Dispute with son

He retired from his business in 1878 as to which see page 53. Until then rent of £12 per annum was payable to him for 12 Walcot Street by the partnership. This was increased to £30 when he left. As an addendum to the autobiography (see page 50). written in December 1881, he records how he has been depressed by a dispute with his son upon realising that the additional £10 rent had never been paid. In his will dated 18th October 1881 he goes further than this, stating that the rent both before and after the termination of the partnership was never paid although entered in the books as though it had been, the entire amount with simple interest being over £800. The matter went to arbitration, although he only claimed for the period after termination, being awarded "unjustly" about £179. The will left the property to him but provided that unless he paid this debt he should continue to pay the rent for 6 years.

Last years and death

Lucy's family always seems to have spent Christmas Day at Larkhall and diaries noted how well Grandpa was until 1880 when he did not seem well. That was the year that he wrote his autobiography. At the end of 1882 Bessie wrote that he was getting very feeble and did not think they would have him for very long. There was an intention to have Christmas there in 1883 but no evidence as to whether that happened.

Bessie's diary records that he had a stroke on the morning of the 8th February 1884, Mrs Davis' servant coming to Walcot Terrace to ask Mama to go there. She stayed with him almost constantly until he died on 2nd March, aged 80. Willie had visited each morning and evening and they and Mrs Davis were with him when he died. "And so he went home and the long pilgrimage was over, the tired hands had finished their work and the feet weary with the hard dusty road are resting now, and one day they will walk with Him in White". Mr Robbins, in accordance with his wishes, performed the funeral service and John Davis preached the sermon.

Will

Under his will he left the house 7 Larkhall Place to his wife for life and all his investments, mainly shares in gas companies, in trust to pay £20 per annum to his wife with the rest of the income divided equally between her and his daughters Lucy and Sarah. After his wife's death this was to be divided between Lucy and Sarah. The rest of his estate being 21 Thomas Street, £200 life insurance and money in the bank was left to his wife, Lucy and Sarah equally. This inheritance must have been of some help to Lucy on her coming up to retirement.

Other than £10 to his grandson Charles which was to pay off a debt the only legacy to a grandchild was £200 to Mercy. This was a substantial sum and would have recognised her future need as being unlikely to marry.

Mrs Davis lived another 26 years at the same house dying at the age of 89 in February 1910 after a long illness and dementia.

Chapter 9 - William J. and Lydia L. Ainsworth

Early married life

William's address in Bath had been 2 Matthews Place, this being the address on the marriage certificate and there is evidence that he was there in September 1879. However, the address on his visiting card was 10 Belgrave Terrace. Whether they were living at either of these addresses or elsewhere after their marriage in September 1881 is not recorded.

43 Arthur Road, Holloway and Reginald's birth

Not long after the marriage, in February 1882 they had to go to live in London presumably because it had been decided that William should work at the Finsbury Square office of the business. When Lyddie's brother Willie met his uncle, James Humby, at Rosewyn, his home in Bath, in June 1882 he spoke of William most highly, trusted him with everything, never thought of looking into the books and thought William knew more about the business than he did.

On their visit to find accommodation, they arranged to stay with Mr and Mrs Collinson at their drapers' shop in Pimlico, where Maggie Mills was also living and working (see page 91). Lyddie describes their visit when they inspected flats and she met William's uncle James Humby for the first time, firstly at the company's office and then at his lodgings in Camden Road. She described him as a fine-looking man, rather handsome and thought his chief characteristic was self-confidence. The flat they rented was 43 Arthur Road, Holloway

Lyddie always returned to her mother for child births and the first child, Reginald (Reg or Reggie) was born at 5 Walcot Terrace on 2nd July 1882. She wrote to William that day, finishing the letter the following morning! She stayed until mid August when she returned to London.

The business no doubt continued to struggle from one crisis to the next as William had previously described in his diary (page 25). We have no definite information as to William's affairs other than what can be gleaned from the occasional letter that has been retained. His diary recorded that on a couple of occasions he had considered parting company with his uncle and he must have made this decision sometime in 1883, no doubt it being agreed with his uncle that he could make use of the business's contacts. In January that year he had been looking at purchasing a business in London for £125 plus half net profits which had been about £500 but nothing came of it.

James Humby went bankrupt in 1889. See below on page 154.

Fairhaven, Penarth and Lucy's birth

In September 1883 they moved to a house known as Fairhaven, in Penarth, just south of Cardiff, which was presumably a good location from which to conduct business.

He had gone into partnership with a Mr Lee. Letter-heading Ainsworth, Lee & Co refers to three businesses with address Bute Docks, Cardiff. The failure of this in 1884 threatened him with bankruptcy. He felt that he had been deceived by Lee. These business activities and problems involved frequent travelling between London, Bath and South Wales.



Lyddie was not in Penarth for very long as she came to Bath for the next birth in December. Lucy was born on 12th January 1884. She had to be named Lucy after her grandmother but possible second names considered were Maud Willway, Ida Willway or just Winifred. They preferred the last. There is no clue as to where the name Winifred came from. They presumably just liked it and used it later for their second daughter.

It seems that Lyddie never returned to Penarth. Their maid, Eliza, in Penarth had come with her to Bath, presumably to help with Reggie, but did not know they were going to be there so long and gave notice in May. William's sister, Sarah, kept house for William in Penarth although Lyddie was critical, writing that she stinted herself and was not fit to keep house alone. William would have spent much time in London during this time and Lyddie was pleased that he frequently visited Mr and Mrs Collinson and Maggie Mills in Pimlico.

11 Buccleugh Road, West Dulwich

The partnership with Lee was terminated in June 1884 and a deal was made with creditors in September. There was only one creditor who remained a threat. He continued his search for a new opportunity and in the meantime took a job in London. In October he rented Elcho Cottage, 11, Buccleugh Road, West Dulwich for £28 per year. There is no information as to what the new job was. It doesn't seem to have lasted long as in January 1885 William wrote that he was looking for a business to purchase and there were various possibilities including auctioneer, mineral water manufacture, electrical engineering, electrical sundries factory, partnership negotiator. One of these, only involving payment of rent and advertising and therefore without assets vulnerable to his remaining creditor, was acquired in February and kept him going until the end of the year when he was looking at other possibilities. Again, I have found no clue as to the nature of the business.

Lyddie found it hard looking after the house and both children. In January 1885 Lucy was ill and Reggie was taken to Bath where he stayed until April. They then employed a maid, Alice, costing about 12/- per week with incidentals which they could just afford and life was easier after that. Although their financial position was still difficult it was much better than the previous year.

Children

In a letter in May 1884 to William she writes that she dreads the idea of being ill again (by which she refers to becoming pregnant) especially "in present circumstances", namely their dire financial position at the time. This was of course a time before any form of contraception when the life of a married woman was a constant stream of children. She wrote in her diary on 22nd November 1885 that she was expecting another little life to be given in 5 weeks, but her present children were enough and it was a great responsibility for their souls.



Bertram was born on 22nd December. This photograph shows him with Reggie and Lucy. No information is available as to how long she stayed in Bath this time. Later, in one of her few diary entries she wrote in June 1894 that she now has five children and expecting another in a fortnight (this was Norman). She had not meant to have another but "God knows best". The children's souls are a great responsibility and she feels inadequate to train them for God.

In addition to going to Bath for the births of the children, Lyddie's mother and sister Mercy were always available to help by having the children to stay. Although there was always someone to help with the children, the pattern of the children going to stay in Bath continued and they frequently went to school there. This life is described by Lucy in her biography of Reginald in Appendix 1 referred to above on page 71

3 Claverton View, Wells Road, Bath

In her diary at the beginning of April 1886 Bessie recorded that it had been decided after Christmas that they would settle in Bath, William taking a business in Bristol. They had just moved and were settling in at 3, Claverton View, Wells Road. It is not

known whether William succeeded in finding work in Bristol or what work he was doing while they were in Bath.

They were not to be there very long. In December that year Bessie recorded that William was in London exploring a potential business and, if it answers, poor Lyddie will have to leave her home and go to London. Nothing came of this but in April 1887 they were again looking for a house in London. They stayed for a fortnight with Bessie and James at their home in Oakley Square (see page 142) with Reggie and Lucy, the baby Bertram remaining at their home in Bath where he was cared for by Mrs Frances Horder, the servant they had there, being taken to his grandmother at Walcot Terrace every day and to stay with her at Shirley Villa on Sundays.

The home in Claverton View was remembered by Lucy and probably Reggie as their home in Bath. Although they were only there for little over one year it would have coincided with Lucy's earliest memories. The family celebrated Christmas there that year, probably because it was the year that Lyddie's mother, Mercy and Offie moved to Shirley Villa (see pages 73 and 142) from Walcot Terrace.

2 Millbrook Villas, Park Road, New Southgate, London N.11

Although there are no retained letters earlier than September 1887, they presumably found this house in north London on their visit in April and moved shortly thereafter. Details of the business which gave rise to this move are recorded later on page 118. It was their home for over four years. Some of Lyddie's letters to her mother were retained and give some details of their life there – illnesses, anecdotes about the children, the changing servants

Winifred was born on 9th August 1888 while they were living there but the birth was at Shirley Villa.

The children frequently went to stay with their grandmother in Bath, sometimes for several months and going to school there. These stays can be gleaned from the letters but the details are probably not of much interest. As already mentioned, this life is described by Lucy in her biography in the appendix and includes something on the children's lives at Millbrook Villas (page 182).

Religion

Religion was a central part of their lives. They always went to church on Sundays, wherever they were, to a Baptist church if one was available, the merits of preachers and their sermons being discussed in letters. However, according to Lucy's biography they attended a Congregationalist church in New Southgate so perhaps there was not a neighbouring Baptist church. William frequently preached himself.

Their relationship

As to their relationship to each other, Lyddie throws some light on this in her few diary entries. On 22nd November 1885 she wrote: - "Does married life satisfy me? I would not care to be unmarried. I believe Willie still loves me very much at the bottom of his heart though he does not often show it. I would give a great deal for a few of the loving words he used to bestow on me so unsparingly". But she goes on that he is nevertheless very kind and unselfish and would make any sacrifice for her. She once reported to him of a conversation with her mother when they had been comparing him with Bessie's husband, James. Her mother agreed that James would not have suited her as he was not tender and considerate enough. On the last day of the century, she wrote in her diary that she has six lovely children and the best of husbands and her only real anxiety is that the children "should decide for Christ".

Emily Neel and Henry



We now need to return to Millie Neel (see page 97). There is no information available as to her movements between her return from Germany in 1877 and 1882. She is not in the 1881 census. She may have been abroad again as a governess. She would have met up with Lyddie and been introduced to William, possibly before their marriage, but there is no record until a letter from Lyddie to William in June 1882 in which she forwards a letter from Minnie enquiring about the address of a mutual friend and she asks William, who was in London, to look it up in the directory before Minnie leaves. She left for Sweden, may be for a governess job there, and sent back this photo taken in Stockholm in July. We know she was in Sweden in 1884 as she was given a book of Swedish poems by a friend that year. By July 1885 she was back in England and Lyddie wrote to her mother that Baby was very fond of her "golly" – a china one that Millie had brought her (possibly from Sweden). On 30th August she writes that Millie is going to Bath and can take certain things that needed delivering and bring some things back on her return. On 17th Sept she completed a page in Lyddie's "Confessions" book (see page 89). Some entries were: her chief characteristic – Impulsivenes; her favourite occupation – Study; where would she like to live – on board a yacht

Millie was clearly in close and regular contact with them at this time.

Lyddie was pregnant with Bertram who was born in December and it was in November that she made the entry in her diary quoted above. May be there were problems in the relationship at that time and William strayed. Millie was an attractive woman both in appearance and character. The result was the birth of William's son

Henry on 6th June 1886, as revealed to the family by Henry's granddaughter Nancy Robinson to Bertram's daughter Phyllis Connaughton in 2005, although, as will be seen, Bertram knew about it.



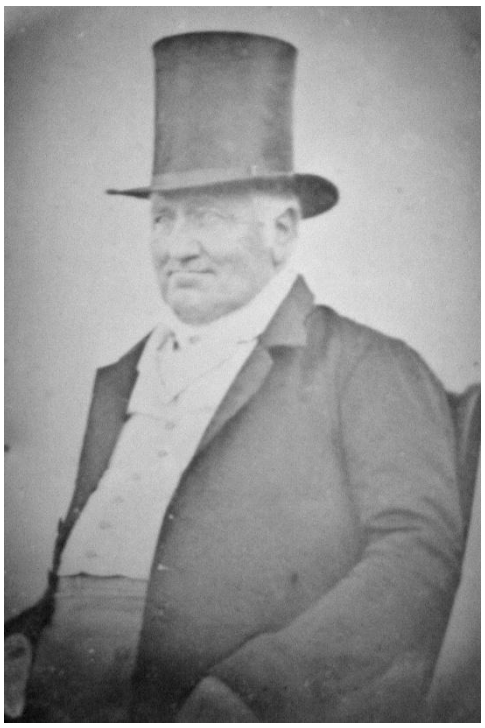
To avoid the disgrace that would have been involved at that time Millie returned to Sweden to give birth and Henry was born in Gothenburg. She arranged for him to be fostered and he grew up with the surname Lundgren on a tiny island just north of Gothenburg. She visited him frequently, contributed financially and there are photos of them together in 1893 and 1896. She kept the birth secret and it seems probable that no one else knew about it. The information provided by Henry's daughter is that William assisted financially and always kept in touch.

From 1898 to 1902 she was on the electoral register as living at 75 St Georges Road, Brighton with the 1901 census showing her as having a stationer's shop. there are directory entries of an Emily Neel in South Tottenham, London in 1905 and 1906. In the summer of 1906 she was in Jersey, staying with family in St Helier. Bessie and James were there that summer so she was amongst the family groups that they mixed with, whom Millie must have informed of her forthcoming journey to America. Bessie recorded in her diary that James, in conducting some prayers on their last day, prayed for her in her long journey to America and that she might take a blessing with her. Bessie then had a loving word with her at the close before saying goodbye. Lyddie was informed of the journey in a letter from Alice Romeril in Sept when she wrote that she had heard about it from her sister Laura in Jersey. Alice had been in Jersey, and had written to Lyddie mentioning that Millie was there, but must have returned to England before Millie gave the information.

It is probable that the family did not know about her son and that her reason given for going to America was to join her family there. We shall return to this later. The rest of her family had emigrated to Texas in 1873, settling in Guadalupe County, but four of her seven siblings, including John previously mentioned, had died within eleven years. Her father had died in Florida in 1888 but two brothers had married and had families still in Guadalupe.

The only other surviving letter to Lyddie referring to her is in 1915 from Anna Le Feuvre in Jersey. Knowing that Lyddie often asked for news about Emily Neel, she informed her that she was married at the age of 64 – "at last a haven of rest for her old age". We also return to this later.

James Ainsworth (1.1.1826-6.1.1900)



I am inserting here what little is known of William's father's life after his mother's death in 1875 (page24). William said, when his daughter Lucy recorded his memories in 1941, that he married again in Wilton and died there when he was quite elderly. Although no other record of this marriage has been found this is verified by his will and death certificate.

The relationship with William seems to have been distant. It is noticeable that he did not attend the weddings of either his daughter Lettie in 1880 or William in 1881 (At least he is not in the photographs). There is an entry in William's diary in 1879 that he was out of a situation again and came to Bath in response to an advertisement. He was very thin and worn, his hard working having been telling on him severely. He wrote that he did not feel towards him as he ought to feel to a father, yet he did feel for his destitution and sadness very much. He helped him by giving him 10/- per week for a few weeks until he found another situation which was for some months.

The only other record about him is that he was in Bath with his daughter Sarah for a time in 1882.

Inheritances

In 1884, presumably to help with his finances, he sold his wife Matilda's reversion in her grandfather James' estate, which he had inherited on her intestacy, to his daughter-in-law Lyddie in return for an annuity. Details of the will are on page 18. Matilda's grandfather had left property to her mother Sarah Blake for life and then to Sarah's children of whom Matilda and Mary had survived to adulthood. Sarah Blake was still alive so James gave up his potential inheritance in return for the annuity. Presumably William paid the annuity, although his own finances at the time were not good, and perhaps Lyddie's name was used to protect it against his own possible bankruptcy, which at that time was very real. Given his own precarious financial position at the time, it is difficult to see how he was able to pay the annuity but his father's position must have been worse.

In 1884/85 there is some references in correspondence to a court case involving "Mayo's money" from which it would seem that either William or his father stood to receive about £500. William discussed it with his grandmother Sarah Blake. Her first cousin Lucy, daughter of her father James' brother, William, had married Thomas Mayo and they had one son who had died young, so it probably relates to an inheritance from them (see page 6).

It does not relate to Thomas Mayo's own estate as that was left to his family. I conjecture that it may have arisen under William Ainsworth's will of which I have not seen a copy. It is possible that he left his estate to his daughter, Lucy, for life and then to her husband

Thomas Mayo for life. After his death, there being no children it would have devolved to William's family. Our William (WJA) was descended via Sarah Blake from William's brother James and his father from William's brother John. See trees on pages 4 and 20. The outcome seems to have been that his father received the money. William had been hoping that if he received it, it could be used to purchase a business. This no doubt did not help the relationship between them.

Public record information

Information from public records is that in the 1881 census he was a lodger in Milford and gave his occupation as a maltster. The Cusse family were still living in that area. In 1891 he was at Salisbury House, Breamore, which is south of Salisbury, with his daughter Sarah and his niece Rachel Cusse. His marriage must have occurred not long after this as he made a will in June 1892, his address being given as Breamore and his occupation as retired farmer.

Death and will

No other references to his father emerge from correspondence until his death. It seems that it was his daughters who maintained the contact with him. In May 1900 Lyddie wrote that he was very ill following an operation and unlikely to recover. William had gone to Salisbury on receiving a telegram – we don't know from whom. On 9th August 1900 he received a telegram while on holiday in Jersey informing him of his death that day and he returned for the funeral, which his son Regg was also to attend.

The will left to Sarah the contents of her bedroom and his piano "now used by her". The rest of the contents of the house he gave to "my dear wife Emma Ainsworth". She received nothing else under the will. His main concern seems to have been for Sarah. He left £500 in trust for her for life to go to his daughter Lettie's children after her death. Any residue was to go to Lettie and her husband, Tom Loveridge, was appointed the sole trustee and executor.

From his death certificate and probate, we know that he was living at the time of his death at Wishford, which is just north of Wilton, the death being registered by his widow E. Ainsworth. He died in hospital in Salisbury; the causes of death being enlarged prostate and cystitis. His net estate was £409 so presumably the whole was held by Tom Loveridge in trust for Sarah. This must have been what was left of the "Mayo money".

Nothing is known or emerges from public records of his wife after his death.

By coincidence his sister, Elizabeth Cusse, died on the same day, 9th August 1900, although she died at home in Milford and not in hospital in Salisbury.

The photograph above is the only surviving one of him. Lyddie had arranged for it to be framed for William after his father's death and the framed photo is in the family archives.

William's business activities from 1887

The move to New Southgate mentioned above (page 112) would have been in connection with a new job. Throughout his career he was very much an entrepreneur obtaining work through and participating in businesses through personal contacts, in some ways following his uncle in this respect but without taking the same risks or being obsessed with it as his uncle was. As has been seen, surviving family correspondence provides glimpses of this but few details, his merely being away or engaged in "business". Little information has been passed down as to his financial position at any time and what his annual income was. In the light of his varied business activities, it no doubt fluctuated considerably

Viking

What has been passed down in the family is that he had met a Mr Idris and obtained a job as manager of a department in his meat extracting factory in the East End known as Viking. In fact, at the time of their meeting Mr Idris would have been Mr. Thomas Howell Williams, who had built a very successful career in manufacturing soda water under the name Idris & Co. He was from Wales and the name came from a Welsh mountain. Later, in 1893 he adopted the name as his surname. It seems that he must have decided to branch out into meat extraction. This was the process of extracting particles from meat which were heated and reduced to a paste and sold as such. Oxo cubes developed from this. This was popular at the time. Mr Williams was a Baptist so it may have been through some connection with the church that they met.

From a newspaper report of a fraud trial in November 1887, where William gave evidence, it was stated that he was Secretary of the Viking Food and Essence Company of Hearn Street, formerly trading as Cox Extract of Meat Company. This company was incorporated in 1886. He gave evidence as to what happened in December 1886 but this may have just been from company records rather than his personal knowledge. If he had been involved since 1886, he would have been commuting from Bath but there is no surviving correspondence from that period. He was described in the newspaper report as Secretary of the company which indicates that even then he may have had a personal interest in it. It may be significant that in 1887 he would have inherited property from his great-grandfather James on his grandmother Sarah Blake's death. Certainly by 1890 he did have a personal interest as there are letters indicating that there were negotiations for expanding the company which came to nothing and that in September 1890 it was sold for £800, £250 to be paid to William at once and the balance in six months. This seems to indicate that he had become owner of the company.

Wilts and Berks Canal

In April 1891 he was appointed Secretary of the Wilts & Berks Canal and acted as its manager at its office in Swindon. Lyddie wrote to her mother on 19th April to inform her that he had been appointed and would get something over £200 per year – "Isn't that nice". This may have been through a contact in the coal industry as the transportation of coal was one of the canal's sources of income, and there were advertisements in 1891 for Somerset Coal Company showing him as manager. It may also have been through James Humby who revealed in his bankruptcy proceedings (see page 154) that he had made a profit by investing in it. The canal had been struggling. A 21-year lease had been taken by an organisation associated with Bristol Docks in 1882 but in 1888 after massive losses they surrendered it[4]. In 1891 it was purchased by a new company, United Commercial Syndicate Ltd, incorporated in 1890[5] and it was this that appointed William and provided his office in Swindon. I have not found any information as to the owners of this company with one or more of whom William must have had some contact. This work must have been very different from his previous activities but moving to Swindon, and thus nearer to Bath, would have been a major consideration.

Although the board were optimistic in their report in December 1891 and much money was put into improvements, the time for canals was over due to competition from the railways and there was a steady decline.

Some newspaper reports give examples of some of William's activities. His name appears as Secretary on a tender for dredging operations dated 26th May 1891 with the address Canal Offices, Swindon. In 1891 he served on a jury at an inquest on the death of someone who had been employed by the company for 50 years. In 1892 and again in 1894 he represented the company at a Board of Trade meeting considering rates to be charged to canals. In 1894 there was a dispute with Swindon council about maintenance of towpaths. In 1895 he was also on a deputation to the Board of Trade considering the possibility of transferring the Thames & Severn Canal to public ownership. In 1896 he gave evidence at the Magistrates Court concerning a charge of cruelty to a barge horse and at a prosecution, instigated by him, of some boys for throwing stones into the canal.



The plaque in this photo was at Costow Bridge, Hay Lane, west of Swindon. It is assumed to have been destroyed with the bridge

At the 1894 meeting to consider rates, tolls and charges he provided information about the company. It had a paid-up capital of £15,000. The total length of the canal was 68 miles, the largest town being Swindon. The tolls collected the previous year amounted to £575 but the company relied on rents from various properties totalling

[4] Some information on the history of the canal is from a book by L.J.Dalby viewed at Swindon archive office
[5] National Archives

about £1000 per year, the working expenses being £1700. No dividend had been paid since 1888. Something over £200 would have been his salary.

In an article published by the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust in 1979 it is stated that he used to supervise the canal on horseback, riding from place to place along the towpath. The information in this article came from two of his grandchildren so presumably passed down by himself.

By 1896 the canal was in decline due to the closure of the Thames & Severn Canal and reduction of the Somerset Coal Canal. In that year the business of running the canal was transferred to a firm of boat owners in Bath and Bristol but it failed within a year and went into liquidation. William's full-time employment must have ceased then but he remained Secretary of the company and manager after the management of the canal came back to United Commercial Syndicate. In 1897 Lyddie wrote about a canal dinner and a eulogy for William from the directors, so maybe this was connected to this partial retirement. The Syndicate applied for a warrant of abandonment but this was opposed by local authorities for various reasons. William said in his evidence to the Royal Commission in 1906 (see page 156) that the main opposition came from adjacent farmers who obtained free water from the canal.

So, as will be seen, William remained manager for many years to come and what, if anything, he was paid for his work is not known.

North Swindon Estate Co Ltd

In the meantime, presumably due to connections he had made while manager of the canal, in 1896 he became surveyor to and later manager of North Swindon Estate Co Ltd. As manager of the canal he would have been used to dealing with property matters as much of its income came from rents of properties it owned, so this was a logical move. This company was incorporated in 1890[6]. There is no information on the shareholding but the chairman was Mr Benjamin D.Pope of Bath. Mr.Pope, aged 36 in 1891 had just returned from South Africa where he pioneered railway construction and perhaps had made some money there. The company purchased about 285 acres[7] of land in Rodbourne Cheney, just north of Swindon, with a view to development. There are adverts in local papers from 1891 – 1893 for the sale of plots. William's function as surveyor was presumably the measuring out and sale of plots. He would also have been involved with the construction of roads and drainage. In his 1919 CV he described himself as agent and manager of an urban estate including water supply, brickworks, house property and building land. There is a record of the board having expressed satisfaction with him as manager in 1898.

Thereafter his activities seem to have expanded in various directions, presumably with the approval and cooperation of the board of the company.

Estate agent – Central Chambers, Regent Circus

For the purpose of selling, he had by 1899 an office in Central Chambers, Regent Circus, Swindon where he set himself up advertising in his own name as auctioneer

[6] National Archives
[7] From abstract of title, now with Swindon Archives

and estate agent – "auction sales arranged at shortest notice" and agent for North Swindon Estate. This was a prestigious position adjacent to the council offices and the Baptist Tabernacle. These adverts appeared until 1903. In the 1901 census he described himself as auctioneer and estate agent.

It seems that he bought this property. In 1911 he attended an art exhibition with Winifred and Kathleen at Central Hall, and wrote that he would go to it occasionally to show his interest as landlord. In 1918 he wrote that Central Hall was a bit of a white elephant and was not sure whether to let or sell it. In his will of 1919 he includes Central Hall as one of his possessions. I have not ascertained whether it was freehold or leasehold. His address remained Central Chambers until at least 1920 after which it was 29 Regent Circus. This would seem to be a change of name as the latter is included in his schedule of assets in 1931.

Ainsworth & Pilcher

In 1902, or earlier, he entered into some form of partnership with Mr A.A.Pilcher, an architect. From then until about 1910 the letterheading was Ainsworth & Pilcher, architects, surveyors, auctioneers, estate agents. Newspaper adverts show property auctions and council minutes record planning approvals over this period. He would have known Mr Pilcher through the Baptist Tabernacle (see next section page 125). He gave William's daughter Lucy on her 19th birthday in 1903 a volume of Macauley's Essays which I have in my possession.



W. J. AINSWORTH (Ainsworth and Pilcher) will SELL by AUCTION (subject to Conditions to be then produced), at the Angel Hotel, Purton, on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 1904, at 5 p.m., the following FREEHOLD PROPERTIES :—

LOT 1.

No. 4, HAILEY COTTAGES, THE HYDE, PURTON, now in the occupation of Mrs. E. Hale at a rental of £8 per annum, landlord paying rates. The house has a frontage of about 22ft. 6in., is strongly built, and contains, on the ground floor, front room, side room and scullery; on the first floor, three convenient bedrooms; outside, earth closet. The Garden is 162 feet by 26 feet, or thereabouts, and there is a joint supply of good well water.

LOT 2.

No. 4, THORN COTTAGES, GREAT FIELD, LYDIARD MILLICENT, now in the occupation of Mr W. Fisher at a rental of £7 per annum, tenant paying rates, and comprising DWELLING-HOUSE, Outbuilding and Large Garden, covering about 50 perches of productive land. The House has a frontage of 19ft. 6in., and contains: on ground floor—front room, side room and scullery. On first floor—two bedrooms. There is a well of good water, and a bakehouse shared jointly by the tenants of the four houses known as Thorn Cottages.

These Properties are always let, and are situated in districts where such houses are in much request.

For further Particulars and Conditions of Sale apply to

MR. A. E. WITHY,
Solicitor,
Regent Circus, Swindon;

or to THE AUCTIONEER,
Central Chambers, Regent Circus, Swindon.
Further entries solicited. [4435

North Swindon Estate (cont)

By then North Swindon Estate had presumably sold all building plots but it still owned a substantial part of the land and there are council records showing unsuccessful (because the price was too high) attempts to sell or let for allotments in 1908 and 1909. It was also involved with water supply. William continued as manager and presumably was receiving a salary. For later history see page 171.

West Wilts Land and Building Company

He was the Secretary of and a shareholder in a company called West Wilts Land and Building Company which built houses on a site in Melksham between 1903 and 1906 but there is no information as to who owned this.

Wiltshire Potteries and Lowden Syndicate

Some time prior to October 1903 he acquired a business known as Wiltshire Potteries. Its main works were at Lowden, Chippenham (a town midway between Swindon and

Bath), although there was also a small one at Semington, between Trowbridge and Melksham. The office was at 25 Market Place, Chippenham. A 1903 advert was for flower pots, agricultural drain pipes, facing and common bricks. North Swindon Estate company was involved in brick making, one advert for sale of plots making it a condition that the bricks be supplied by the company, so may be the acquisition of Wiltshire Potteries was connected with this.

The land in Lowden, which is in the south-west part of the town adjacent to the west side of the railway, was owned by Sir John Goldney. The Goldney family were wealthy landowners in Chippenham, his father had been the MP for many years and Sir John had been Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago. There was development potential there, particularly as a new road, Lowden Avenue, was being constructed. Amongst William's papers was an undated assessment, and another of 1906, of the possibilities both of selling land, there being 16 acres of building land with the possibility of 44 houses being constructed, and increasing production by the construction of a new kiln. He would need assistance in financing it and others, including Mr Pope of North Swindon Estates, were involved. Mr Pope in 1902 had gone into partnership with a Mr Westlake founding the firm of Pope and Westlake, stockbrokers in Bath.

It seems that as a first step William himself purchased the land from Sir John Goldney in March 1905 for £5000 with £4000 left outstanding on mortgage and £1000 being lent by Mr G.A.H.White, the solicitor in Chippenham acting for him. The name of his firm was Keary Stokes & White. Mr White seems to have been a frequent source of finance. William's house in 1931 was mortgaged to him. A company, The Lowden Syndicate Ltd, was then formed in 1906 and this purchased the property and business from him and took over the two loans. The subscribers were the solicitor's clerk, William, Mr Pope, Mr Pilcher and F.C.Mortimer of Chippenham. The last was a coal merchant, although his main occupation seems to have been selling fish and poultry. The directors were Mr Pope, William and Edward Linzey, a local builder. 3224 £1 shares were allotted, 2000 being issued to William for the land and business and the rest for cash.

I can only conjecture from other information as to who provided the cash – Mr Pope £250, Mr Mortimer £120, Mr White £500 and William the balance of about £350. At some stage the capital was increased to £3740 and William may have provided the further £500 in about 1910. Information concerning his borrowing this money is provided later.

Swindon

Following William's appointment as manager of the Wilts & Berks Canal they moved to Swindon. Their first home was at 2 Brunswick Terrace, on the Bath Road, although the first letter from Lyddie giving this address was in Jan 1893. There is a letter in Jan 1892 from Lindisfarne which may have been the name of the house (although it is not mentioned elsewhere) or a temporary home. Bath Road is in Old Swindon, the original market town on top of a hill, and would have been a good residential location. Brunswick Terrace no longer exists. Shops are nearby in Wood Street and not far away is a large open space or parkland known as The Lawns. Christmas was celebrated there in 1893, the first not in Bath (see page 134). Bessie described the house as being nice and large, 6 bedrooms on two floors, a large drawing-room and large dining-room and children's school room.



This photo was probably taken at Christmas 1894 outside 2 Brunswick Terrace by Theophilus. Back row from left – Mercy, James, Bessie, 2nd row – Lucy Ainsworth, Lucy Willway, Lyddie with baby Norman, William, front row - Winnie, Bertie, Kathleen and Reggie.

The new town was located at the bottom of the hill to the north and had expanded rapidly since the Great Western Railway located its main works there. The canal passed through that area and the office would have been in the vicinity. It is not known where he had an office when he started working for The North Swindon Estate company but probably in the Rodbourne area. As mentioned above, when he opened his own office in about 1899 this was in the very central location of Regent Circus where were the town hall, built in 1891 and the Baptist Tabernacle Church built in 1886.

Although Swindon was nearer Bath than London, Lyddie in Jan 1893 was still wishing she could live in Bath. This was however shortly after Kathleen's birth in November 1892 when she had been staying with her mother at Shirley Villa. There was a good railway connection between the towns and frequent journeys to Bath with one or other of the children staying there and, in some cases, going to school there.

Life generally was better as they were better off financially, presumably because of the regular salary from the canal company, and no longer had to worry.

Summerville

His financial position and presumably involvement in building activities were such, that by 1900 he was contemplating purchasing a plot and building a house for themselves. However, a nearby property came up for sale and Lyddie wrote to her sister Bessie in February that William had bought a freehold house "along the Sands" very cheaply for £775, which would not cost as much as building. This was 47 (later 103) Bath Road. The Sands was a name by which a stretch of Bath Road was known. The house was called Summerville, which name is carved in stone over the front door. It is a semi-detached house and the two were built by a Mr Smith in 1864 being the first villas in The Sands[8]. It seems to have been sufficient to address a letter to Summerville, The Sands, Swindon. It seems that they moved into it straight away but then moved back to 2 Brunswick Terrace, which was presumably rented, while refurbishment work was carried out.



It is a large semi-detached house with a garden of about half an acre. Lyddie's description taken from her letter of 1901(see Appendix 5 on page 195) is that the front door opened into a square lobby, then large glass doors opened into a hall with staircase up to the bedrooms ranged round three sides of the hall. There were three rooms downstairs, namely a dining room, study and drawing room. There was a cellar and according to a letter written by Lyddie at Christmas 1907 there were eight bedrooms! There certainly must have been many to accommodate the children when they were there together, although that does not seem to be often, and at least one live in servant. The house still stands, virtually unchanged (now let out in single rooms), and I can verify these details from my visit in 2023 when this photo was taken. The kitchen is to the left from the hall and there are rear stairs leading from the passageway to the kitchen to the first floor and then to two rooms on the second floor.

For the rear view in 1910 and 2023 see page 131

[8] Record of architects and builders in the Swindon Archives

Baptist Tabernacle and friendships

In Swindon they became involved in local affairs. They were active members of the Baptist Tabernacle which led to various friendships. Two families in particular should be mentioned – the Shawyers and Longlands. Mrs Shawyer and Lyddie were very friendly and their daughters Daisy and Lucy became lifelong friends. The Longlands' son Frank became a close friend of Reg. Daisy Shawyer and Frank Longland later married each other in 1910. To quote from the Longland family history written by their son, Cedric in 1983: -

"Frank was from a group of Swindon families all well known to each other. They included, besides the Longlands and Shawyers, the Jarvises, the Ainsworths and the Deacons; these are the names I can remember, more especially as I married a Jarvis (via Cripps) and an Ainsworth, Aunt Lucy Wates, became a courtesy aunt to whom and to whose family we were greatly attached. . This Swindon group of families was mostly shop-owning in that town. The drapers, Horders, by the way produced Lord Horder of Ashford, perhaps the leading London physician of his day. Evelyn Laye's (the famous actress) uncle, Edwin Lay was a jeweller in Bath Road."

Some of the information below also comes from this history and the rest from surviving copies of the church year books.



The Horders were Congregationalists, had a draper's shop and contact was maintained with some members of that family by Lucy's family. John Shawyer was a chemist at 12, Wood Street, which is an extension of Bath Road, James Longland was a grocer at the corner of High St. and Bristol St. and had other shops. John Shawyer, James Longland and Edwin Lay were deacons at the Tabernacle until about 1908 and John Shawyer superintendent of the Sunday School. James Longland was Treasurer until about 1903 and William was on the Finance Committee from 1896, being chairman for a few years from 1900. He was also a deacon briefly in 1908 and 1909 and involved with the Baptist Social Union (To provide opportunity for social intercourse and indoor and outdoor recreation for male members) as president in 1908 and chairman in 1909.

The reference to Cripps above is to John Ivory Cripps who became the pastor of the Tabernacle in 1908. He had stayed with the Ainsworths on his first visit to preach, before his appointment, and he and his mother became close friends. This had been arranged by the management committee, the letter coming from Edwin Lay. He was the pastor until about 1915, He married a Jervis and their daughter, Helen, married Cedric Longland in 1945. After William's death in 1944 he wrote a eulogy for the Baptist Tabernacle magazine acknowledging the debt that he owed to William's support, particularly during his long chairmanship of the management committee,

although there is no reference to this in the year books. As it is a very useful character sketch it is included in full as Appendix 2 on page 189.

It may have been this connection with the Lay family that lead to Evelyn Laye coming to open a garden fete at Lucy's home, Rowhill Grange, in 1938.

Local politics

John Shawyer and James Longland, particularly the former who was mayor in 1912, were closely involved in local politics, serving on the town council for many years. Probably as a result of this William also became involved. In 1894 he stood for election to the Old Swindon Council, but was presumably not elected. In 1900 he was elected to the new Town Council following the merger that year of New and Old Swindon (although Lyddie did not rejoice as it would take him away from home more!) and he served for one term until 1903. He took an interest in education, having unsuccessfully in 1895 stood for election to the Swindon School Board. While a councillor he served on the Swindon Technical Education Committee responsible for the Swindon & North Wilts Technical School, which as will be seen below his children attended, and in February 1903 on a special committee to propose a scheme for an Education Committee required under the Education Act 1902. He then served on that committee, of which John Shawyer was chairman, and as chairman of its Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee. He also served on the Lightings and Tramways Committee and, until February 1903, on the Watch and Pleasure Grounds Committee.

William's name also appears in the council minutes in his capacity as manager of North Swindon Estate Co dealing with water supply and as manager of the Wilts & Berks Canal. In April 1903 he appears to have absented himself from the Lightings and Tramways Committee when there was a report of a meeting with him concerning the contribution by the council to the strengthening of the Regent Street and Milford Street bridges over the canal 'which was approved.

He was a keen supporter, and presumably member, of the Liberal Party. In 1895 he was one of the proposers of Lord Edmond Fizmaurice as Liberal candidate for parliament. He lost but was successful at a byelection in 1898. In 1907 he, himself, stood for the Liberal Party in the County Council election for Calne ward (Southeast of Swindon near Chippenham) but lost with 278 votes to the Conservative candidate's 364. In November 1911 he attended, with Kathleen, a meeting in Bath at which Lloyd George spoke. At the reception afterwards Kathleen was thrilled to be introduced to Sir John Simon, then Solicitor General.

Local voluntary activities

Both William and Lyddie involved themselves in other local activities. Some examples extracted from surviving papers and newspaper reports are:
a lecture on Home Rule in about 1893 (in the newspaper report on this it was reported that he was looked on as a rising hope of the local Liberal party);
notes for sermons 1895/6;
paper on abstinence read before a debating society at the Town Hall in 1897;

Lyddie read a paper at the Ladies Evening of the Mutual Improvement Society on Mrs Barrett Browning that year;
a detailed report in The Swindon Advertiser of 4th December 1897 of his submission at the Victoria Street Debating Society that railways should be under state control;
in 1902 he led a debate against the Education Bill at the Tabernacle Social Union Literary Society;
in 1907 a lecture at the Victoria Street Debating Society on Luther;
in 1909 there is a detailed report of an amusing mock Town Council meeting held in the Tabernacle schoolroom in which Mr Pilcher, the Rev J.Ivory Cripps and Councillor Longland also participated;
in 1909 he presided over a meeting of the Chippenham Men's Own Brotherhood in the Primate Methodist Chapel there.

He was described by John Cripps (see above) as the best public speaker in the town and by a long way its best debater.

They were keen supporters of women's suffrage. In 1909 in Chippenham he intervened at a rowdy meeting successfully to restore order briefly. In Nov 1911 Mrs Millicent Fawcett, president and founder of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, stayed with them for the night on the occasion of a meeting in Swindon. He served on the national committee

Mr and Mrs Willway

He was a member of the Free Church Council in Swindon and president in about 1900. At a meeting in about 1893 William met Henry Willway, who was a Congregationalist attending Wood Street Chapel, and discovered he was related, being a first cousin of Lyddie's father (see family tree on page 44). As a consequence, the families became close friends, and the daughter, Margie, almost a member of the family. Henry's background and his coming to Swindon is dealt with on page 46. They lived in Avenue Road round the corner from Brunswick Terrace and later moved to a house next door but one to Summerville. Lucy's biography (Appendix 1 page 187) gives a description of Margie and the commencement of her relationship with Regg, whom she married in in October 1906. The parents left Swindon in 1907 to go to Newport where their daughter, Maude, lived. They stayed at Summerville a few days before leaving. They were always referred to as just Mr and Mrs Willway.

The children



I am now going to recount something of the education and career commencements of the children, although there is far more detail about Lucy. The strong connection with Bath continued with five of the children going to school there at various time and living at Shirley Villa during the term time. This photograph was taken in September 1900. Back row from left – Bertram, Reginald, Lucy. Front row – Lyddie, Norman, Winifred, Kathleen, William.

Reginald



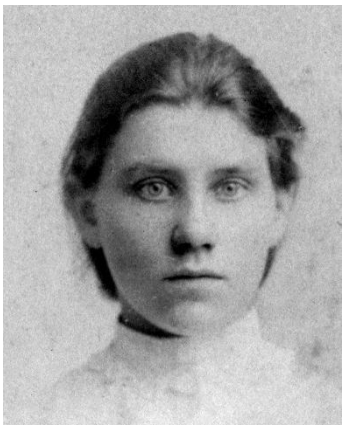
Lucy's biography gives information on Reg's education (see Appendix 1 page 180). A governess was employed initially on the move to Swindon and then he went to Mr S. Snell's school in Bath Road, known as Swindon High School. There he was recognised as being bright and was entered for a scholarship to the Swindon and North Wilts Technical School which he won. His subject was science and letters record various exams being taken in 1898 and 1900. This school has been mentioned above in connection with William's involvement as a councillor and at least four of the children attended at various times. The school year books include him in a list of distinctions for London University Matriculation exam Jan 1899 and Intermediate B.Sc.(London) Honors 2nd Division in 1900.

There is a record of his passing a London University exam in Chemistry in 1903 from Birkbeck College, London and private study. However, some arrangement was made for him to study for this in Cardiff, where he stayed with his aunt Bessie and uncle

James. It is understood that the reason for this was that his parents were worried about his being led astray in the big city! There is a report in the Swindon Advertiser in February 1904 that he was placed 16th in an open competitive examination for 24 situations as Assistant Examiner in the Patent Office He joined the Patent Office, taking a law degree, and this was his life's career. His marriage to Margie Willway was on 11th October 1906. Although at the Congregational church in Swindon, the marriage ceremony was conducted by James Baillie. They lived at Sherville, 2 Orchard Road, Barnet, north London, later, in about December 1919, moving to Twyford in Berkshire.



Lucy



Lucy herself presumably also had the governess and then went to Miss Dodd's school. This was at the semi-detached house, known as Highfield House, attached to Summerville, although this was before the family moved there. From an 1891 advert for the auction of the freehold it seems she rented it. The school was known as High School for Girls. All the girls in the family went there.

In January 1892 (aged 8) while in Bath her grandmother sent to her mother a drawing she had made of the dog, Toby. Lyddie was impressed "I think she will have a talent for sketching". We do not have that drawing but here is another drawn at that age.



For the autumn term of 1898 she went to Miss Silverside's school in Bath at 1 Prior Park Buildings, Widcombe, staying with her grandmother at Shirley Villa.

In January 1899 (aged 15) she went as a boarder to a school in Malmesbury run by Mrs Julia Clark known as Stainsbridge College. This is the 18th century building now Stainsbridge House, 101, Gloucester Road, now used as a care home. Daisy Shawyer (in photo) and Katie Longland also went to this school and the close friendship with Daisy developed there. The Boer War was a topic of conversation, many pupils having relatives involved and the newspaper being read every day. There is a story about the students coming down in nightgowns on hearing the abbey bells ringing to celebrate the relief of Mafeking in May 1900. Her father came to preach one Sunday in the town and everyone was very impressed. She and Daisy had left prior to



9th February 1901 when there is a letter from Mrs Clark thanking her for snowdrops, so probably in December 1900.

Lucy's art

William had written to Lucy in Feb 1900 that she must stick to drawing "as that will be her profession". Enquiries were made as to art colleges to go on to.

She then did some teaching before attending the School of Art at the Swindon and North Wilts Technical School in September 1903. The year books for 1903 and 1904 show innumerable passes in different aspects of art and a special award – Art Class Teacher's Certificate and Board of Education free Studentship for one year. The 1903/4 prospectus includes her in the list of teachers as Art Pupil Teacher. Daisy Shawyer was studying and teaching there also. This presumably continued for 1904/5 as at the time of her meeting with Leslie in Jan 1905 (see below) she wrote that she was working as an art teacher in Swindon.

She was at Bristol School of Art from sometime in 1905 until Dec 1906. She presumably commuted from Swindon but in November and December 1905 had lodgings with another art student at 8 Byron Place, Clifton. In January 1907, having passed various exams, she started teaching at Colston School, Bristol and had lodgings at 65 Cromwell Road. However, the work was hard – the only art teacher for 420 girls - and she was not happy. She said it was like a prison , the girls having to walk on tiptoe in the presence of staff. By May she had decided to look elsewhere. From September 1907 until December 1908 she taught at West Cornwall College, Penzance, Cornwall which she enjoyed. She then stayed at home in Swindon to study for her Art Masters, returning to the Technical School. A large collection of art certificates survives, many between 1901 and 1905 and again from 1909 to 1910, all First Class.

Marriage

In 1895, as a consequence of the friendship mentioned above on page 25 between her father and George Wates, which had continued, she had been invited, aged 11, to stay with the Wates family at their home 97 Tyrwhitt Avenue, Brockley in South-east London to make the acquaintance of their children Bertha and Leslie. There was another visit in 1899 and sporadic correspondence with Bertha thereafter. In 1905 on a visit to London she and Margie arranged to meet Leslie and thereafter they corresponded and occasionally met either in London or with Leslie coming to Swindon.



They became engaged in April 1909 and married at the Tabernacle on 1st September 1910 with James Baillie officiating and with the reception at Summerville.

Leslie had qualified as a solicitor in 1905 and from 1907 worked for his father's cousin George Whale in Woolwich, going into partnership with him on 1st January 1910. Their first home was nearby in Eltham.

George Whale was successful and prosperous and Leslie soon followed in his footsteps. The partnership was dissolved in 1913, following which the practice was Leslie's although continuing under the name of Whale & Wates. William and other members of the family very soon came to rely on him for legal advice and, in William's case, for some financial assistance.

Further details of their meeting and marriage and subsequent life together are in Lucy's "The Life of George Leslie Wates" which can be found on my website

This is a photograph taken at the wedding reception in the garden of Summerville



Some identifiable persons are from left Bernard Wilson, Leslie's friend, facing the camera, probably Lyddie behind the table, Regg on the right of that group, Willie standing on the left of the near group with his wife Alice beside him, James Baillie sitting with a hat, William standing and Norman behind him. The seated man on the right looking at the camera is Leslie's father.

This is a photo taken in 2023 of the same view.



Bertram



There is not much information about Bertram (initially Bertie and then Bert) but it seems clear from correspondence that his schooling from at least September 1894 at age 8 was in Bath. Initially this was at Miss Silverside's school. This would seem to have been a girls' school but took boys at a young age. In Feb 1896 there is a letter from him written from school about an exhibition of mechanical things (so his interest in such things was then apparent) which he wished Reggie could come and see and in May William writes that he will take Reggie to stay with Bertie in Bath. During term time he lived with his grandmother at Shirley Villa. William had in mind in 1898 of his qualifying as an architect or engineer. He was still in Bath in September 1900, when he joined a hockey club there, and in July when the school master Mr R.W.Morris died. From probably September 1901, aged 15, he was at home in Swindon and attending the Technical School. The year book of 1903 records that he passed the City and Guilds of London Institute of Technological Exam in Electric Lighting and Power preliminary stage. He also passed an exam in Building Construction.

There is no further information as to his further training but he seems to have turned to engineering and an interest in cars, which were in their early years of development. In about 1906 he obtained a job in Reading relating to cars, where he gave his mother her first experience of riding in a car in October 1907. In January 1908 he did not see a future there and in June started a new job with the Wolseley Corporation in

Westminster, London which included chauffeuring. As such, when chauffering a couple, he visited Penzance and was able to see Lucy who wrote that he leads a funny hop-scotch sort of existence and enjoys it. In June 1909 his employer wanted him to train to teach their drivers to drive, but he was inclined not to take it as his engineering and other experience should be more useful and he ultimately became assistant manager of the motor repair shop. See under First World War below for further career.

Winifred



Winifred ('Winnie'or 'Wyn'), after presumably attending Miss Dodd's school, was at Miss Silversides' school in Bath from Jan 1899 (aged 10) until at least the summer of 1903 so both she and Bertram were staying with their grandmother and Aunt Mercy for 2 to 3 years. I have found no clue as to her further education until she was at a teacher training college in Bristol studying for a Froebel Certificate for which she passed the final examination in January 1910. While doing this she stayed at least part of the time with Aunt Bessie and Uncle James who moved to Bristol in 1907. She was then away teaching, returning home during school holidays. There is reference to a girls' school - The Grange, Wellesley Park, Wellington, Somerset, and from January 1912 to Urmstone, Manchester. She was there until at least March 1913 and then took further exams before going to France at the beginning of October to a school in Auxerre, southeast of Paris, where she taught (presumably English).

Kathleen



Kathleen ('Kay') was at Miss Dodd's and went to Miss Silversides' in Bath from either 1906 (age 13) or 1907 until December 1909, when she passed her "Senior Cambridge". At this time the school was known as Clarendon School and was at 5 Widcombe Crescent. She also had artistic ability and, although she had written that she would not go to the Tech to study art because of the cost, it seems she went there to do a secretarial course. In 1911 she served as Assistant Secretary of the Swindon branch of the National Union of Suffrage Societies. Whether this was paid or voluntary is not known. As such she attended a demonstration in London and a letter from her describing the event was published in the Swindon Advertiser. Also from January 1912 she was "down at the business", meaning that she was with her father, and was quite a help with shorthand and typing. This continued until November 1915.

Norman

Little can be gleaned from correspondence about Norman's education, except that he went to Miss Dodd's and spent a year, probably 1903/04 in Bath. He received Wilts County Council scholarships at Swindon and North Wilts Secondary School, as it was then known, in 1910 and 1912, the latter being £50 for 3 years. In an interview given when he was 90 he said that his mother wanted him to go into the church, his father favoured banking but he wanted to do medicine. As this was long and costly he compromised with dentistry and, having obtained a scholarship to the school of the Royal Dental Hospital , part of the University of London, he was able to afford it with this and his county scholarship. While studying in London he had a room at the YMCA. This was interrupted by the war and he continued his training at Middlesex Hospital and the Royal Dental Hospital afterwards.

Swindon and North Wilts Technical School

This is a photograph taken in 2023 of the school (later Swindon and North Wilts Secondary School) which all the children, except possibly Winnie, attended at one time or another. For William's personal involvement as a councillor see page 126. It was at the bottom of Victoria Road, near the centre of the town, probably about a 20-minute walk



Holidays and Jersey

There is a wonderful description of a picnic and thunderstorm on an outing when they were on holiday in Tenby in 1899. This is in Appendix 3 on page 191. This is almost certainly written by Lyddie although the copy in the archives is not in her handwriting. James and Bessie, who were living in Cardiff at that time, were holidaying in a farmhouse in Manorbier, near Tenby, and the family met up with them on a number of occasions. James and Bessie frequently stayed at this farmhouse.

There do not seem to have been many family holidays like this, possibly because of the expense earlier and the elder children growing up later. In 1890 William went on his own to Skegness because they could not afford to go as a family. Other venues I have identified are Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight probably in 1902 when Margie was with them and Sidmouth in Devon.

The family did however love the surrounding countryside and there are frequent references in correspondence to local outings, walking and cycling. Below is a rare informal photo of the family on such an outing to Lechlade, north of Swindon, probably in 1899. Before identifying the people in the photo, it is necessary to return to the friendships with the Neel family in Jersey and the many holidays spent there.

Jersey – Eden House

The last visit to Jersey that I have referred to was Lyddie and Bessie's visit in 1876 (see page 97 and page 95 for a family tree). Following Alice Finnie's marriage to Philip Romeril the main contact seems to have been her younger sister Annie Finnie, born 1860. Following Bessie's marriage in 1880 there was a question of to whom to send pieces of wedding cake. It was not thought appropriate just to send to Annie, particularly as they had just been informed by another sister, Louisa, of the death the day before the marriage of their eldest sister, Adelina. Aged about 34, she had been ill with tuberculosis for some time.

At the time of the 1881 census Annie was with her sister Lyd (Elizabeth Lydia), frequently referred to in Lyddie's and Bessie's letters and diaries and now married to Francis Bossy. Annie did not marry and by 1887 was living with the Le Feuvre family at Eden House, St Clements. This was the family that Lyddie's father had stayed with in 1854 (see page 60). By 1881 Philip Le Feuvre had retired as a teacher and it does not seem that the school was taken over by any of the children, Gilbert, Anna and Henry ('Harry').



This photograph of Eden House is a little later showing Captain Enright (see below) sitting on the lawn with Anna Le Feuvre standing beside him, Annie Finnie lying down and Harry Le Feuvre standing on the left

In 1887, Bessie came with her mother for a holiday. This is the first record of a visit since 1876 that I have come across and the first and only visit of her mother. The background to this visit may be Bessie's illness as to which see page 142. Her mother wrote in a letter to Mercy that although everything was so lovely and full of sunshine, she would still prefer Tenby where she feels so invigorated.

They rented rooms but visited various members of the family and in particular paid visits to Eden House. They visited Marie, the wife of Frank Gaudin, to whom Bessie had once been committed (see page 100) and met their son. Lucy wrote to Mercy that Emily Neel, one of the Neel siblings and always known as Aunt Emily (not to be confused with Millie Neel), sang at an evening gathering as she had done to 'Papa'

when he was there. Annie's sister, Laura, whom she remembered aged 2 when they left England in about 1866, also sung. She liked all the sisters but Annie best.

Lucy worried about the business in her absence and Theophilus came and went back with her after about four weeks. Bessie remained and James came to join her after a few days. While on her own Annie came to be with her one night, Louisa (another Finnie sister) another night and she stayed a few days with Emily Neel.

There is no mention in Bessie's diary of Philip Le Feuvre but there is reference to visiting Mrs Le Feuvre at Le Hocq so may be the parents had moved there leaving Eden House with the children. Mr Le Feuvre died in 1890. At the time of the 1891 census Gilbert was still at Eden House but that is the last record of him. It seems that the family had sufficient investment income to live on and maintain the house.

Bessie and James came again in 1895 and 1896, on the latter occasion being joined by Lyddie and William for ten days on a sudden decision. They stayed at a hotel near Gorey. Regg being in Bath, Lucy (aged 12) was left in charge of the younger children with the maid Rose.

Captain Enright

By then Captain Enright was living at Eden House. He was a retired sea captain who had captained clippers to Australia in competition with the likes of the Cutty Sark. He had been a pupil at the school in 1839 at the age of 15 and on his retirement the children agreed to give him a home. Anna had been taking down his fascinating memoirs which she read to them.

In about 1899 Anna Le Feuvre and Annie Finnie came on a visit to England with Captain Enright and this was the occasion of this photograph. The old man at the back is Captain Enright and standing next to him is Anna Le Feuvre. The lady sitting to the left is Annie Finnie. The others in the photo are Margie Willway, standing top



left, with her father below her and her mother far right. In the front are Regg to the left with Lucy, Norman and Kathleen behind him and William on the right with

Lyddie behind him. In a subsequent letter that Captain Enright wrote to Norman he wrote that he thinks of the beautiful drive to the forest and how his father managed the horse so well all up and down the hills. Presumably a horse and carriage were hired for the occasion.

This visit created a bond between the children and Captain Enright and there is subsequent correspondence between them. Lucy records that she was in Jersey in 1899, aged 15, when she became fascinated by the writing of his memoirs. There is no other record of this visit.



This photo is of Captain Enright, Anna LeFeuvre and Annie Finnie (at the bottom).

In December 1896 Bessie received the news that the youngest Finnie sister, Laura, was engaged to her cousin Louis Neel, Emile's brother. They had met him and James thought highly of him – he was very different from Emile (see page 95) This was his second marriage. Bessie had written in her diary at the time of the 1887 visit that Laura, whom she had last seen as a small child, was very nice. Louis lived in France

Visits to Jersey 1900 - 1909

In 1900, William and Lyddie and Bessie and James went again to Jersey. On this occasion Mr and Mrs Willway were left in charge at Summerville and Lyddie's mother also helped out. William and Lyddie stayed at Eden House until they suddenly had to return because of William's father's death. Bessie and James had been staying in Gorey but were then able to stay at Eden House although James also made a visit to France. Laura and Louis were staying with Aunt Emily. Living with her was her niece Florence Neel ("Florrie") who is mentioned in letters. She was presumably a daughter of one of Emily's brothers but I haven't identified which. William and Louis got on well and went cycling together.

Lucy, aged 18, went on her own in 1902 and clearly followed her mother in falling in love with the place and the friends and they with her. She had been invited to Eden House and having been met by Anna was welcomed at the house by Annie, Harry Le Feuvre, Aunt Emily and Florrie. She then met Louis and Laura Neel (presumably again in Jersey for the summer) and having hired a bicycle went cycling with Louis and had outings with Harry and Captain Enright.

In 1903 Bessie and James went to stay at Gorey and Lyddie and Lucy joined them there. On this occasion Florrie Davis (page 146) looked after the children at Summerville. Louis and Laura were about to come to live in Jersey at a house called Chateaubriand which Lucy described as a charming house about half a mile from

Gorey. They invited her to come to stay with them there which she did in 1906 and 1908

In 1904 Anna LeFeuvre visited England and stayed for a time at Summerville in June and in September Lyddie was in Jersey with Lucy probably at Eden House

In 1906 in addition to Lucy staying at Chateaubriand with the Neels, Bessie and James also stayed somewhere in Gorey. Bertram came for a time. Bessie recorded in her diary visits to Eden House and to other members of the family in St Helier. Alice and Philip Romeril were there and also Millie Neel (see page 114)who was staying with Aunt Emily and whom they met on a few occasions.

Lyddie went on her own in 1907, 1908 and 1909 leaving William at home with Winifred doing the housekeeping. He presumably could not afford the time and never went again. Bessie accompanied her in 1909. It seems she always stayed at Eden House.

Lucy's last visit was in 1908 and she never returned after her marriage. The only record of a visit by Bessie or Lyddie after they both visited in 1909 is by Lyddie in 1923 which is covered below on page 168.

Captain Enright's memoirs

Captain Enright died in 1910 aged 95. Lucy was fascinated by him and his memoirs. She acquired two copies from his family and later had in mind publishing them. One remains with the family archives and I arranged the donation of the other to the Merseyside Maritime Museum.

Gardens

One of the attractions of Eden House was the lovely garden and letters were always full of descriptions of the flowers. Lyddie and William got much pleasure from their own garden and there are many references to sitting out in it, William doing some work or a gardener being employed. Years later, after Lyddie's death, Anna said that she could not look at a flower without remembering how she too loved the garden and rarely wrote without mentioning it.

Christmases

Lucy's biography describes Christmas time (Appendix 1 page 185) invariably spent in Bath until the organising became too much for Lyddie's mother, when following the move to Swindon they were able to host them there with her mother, Mercy, Theophilus and Bessie and James almost invariably joining them. See page 123 for a photograph in 1894. A turkey was always provided as a gift by Mr Spear (see page 106). Lyddie describes a Christmas in a letter to Anna Lefevre in Jersey and this is annexed together with part of Bessie's description in her diary of the same occasion. This was in 1901 and is probably the occasion of the photograph shown here. The



photograph would have been taken by Theophilus, who is therefore not in it. There is a letter from Lyddie asking that he brings his camera. The others going round the table from the left are: - Bertram, Lucy, James, Bessie, William, Norman, Kathleen, Mercy, Grandmama, Winifred, Lyddie, Regg. The window looks out onto the back garden.

In 1904 their mother did not feel up to the travelling and by the following Christmas she had died. On that occasion Bessie, as recorded in her diary, returned to Bath after Christmas at Swindon and she and Mercy prepared a Christmas dinner at Shirley Villa for Willie and family. They naturally talked about their mother and knew she would have been pleased at their attempt to make Willie and his family happy. In her description of the 1907 Christmas to Anna Lefevre Lyddie mentions the picture of her mother looking down from the wall in the dining-room

All the Ainsworth family, with the occasional exceptions, and almost invariably Bessie, James, Mercy and Theophilus gathered every year at Summerville for Christmas until 1915.

Religion

As already mentioned, religion of course was central to their lives, particularly Lyddie's. William frequently preached and could write at length about it but I get the impression that it was not quite so central. Lyddie's great concern was that the children "should decide for Christ" and should lead good Christian lives. Their decisions to be baptised were occasions of great rejoicing. Her diary entry on 31st December 1900 is that it had been a very happy year. Lucy was baptised on 30th September (aged 16) and she believes Reggie was "not far from the Kingdom". Upon hearing from Lucy of her decision she wrote: -"– There is nothing the whole world which you could have told me that would have given me so much joy! It is the one great wish of my life, before which all others are as nothing, that all my children should be saved and followers of the Lord Jesus. I am glad too because it has come from you, of your own accord, that is what I wanted."

There is a pencil note in the diary that Reggie was baptised on 27th October 1901 and this is also recorded in Bessie's diary. The baptism ceremony was conducted by James at Tredegarville Baptist Church in Cardiff, where he was the pastor and she kept the invitation to the Ordinance of Baptism in her diary. Writing to Kathleen (aged 13) in 1906 she added a postscript to a letter: - "I pray that God's Holy Spirit may touch your heart and that you may give yourself to Jesus." She was baptised at Manvers Street, as she was living in Bath at the time, in October 1908. Lyddie recollected her own baptism in the same place nearly 30 years before. Norman was baptised in October 1911. There is no reference in the surviving letters to the baptisms of Winifred or Bert. It is possible that Bert was not. Lyddie wrote to Bessie in 1906 asking her to write to him as it would encourage him and he would need all his strength and resolution.

In a letter of June 1908 Lyddie wrote to Lucy of her religion: - "Religion is a very real thing to me; Christ is my <u>real</u> friend and Saviour. The Bible is my most precious treasure, my chart and guide to the Heavenly Land, where I shall meet again my own dear mother." On Lucy moving into her new home after marriage she wrote to her that she would have given her a bible for family use if Uncle Willie had not done this. The daily reading "will hallow all your home life and make it a foretaste of heaven." Writing to Barbara on her first birthday in 1913 - "what Grandmamma hopes and wishes most of all for you is that as you grow older you will learn to love the dear Lord Jesus best and most of all…"

It seems that Lyddie's religious views did however create some tension. There are a couple of interesting letters from Lucy to Leslie in 1907. Mr R.J.Campbell had become a celebrity preacher at the Congregational church, The City Temple in Holborn. Presumably Lyddie did not agree with some of what he preached. In March that year he must have been criticised for something as Lucy wrote to Leslie that she agreed with him that he was being treated shamefully "but I dare not tell Mamma what a heretic I am. Isn't it trying for one's mother to think one thing and father the opposite. I have to be so careful and I do think we ought to be allowed to <u>think</u> as we like." Picture postcards of him were on sale and Lucy had acquired one. Unfortunately, the following January, after Lucy had returned to Penzance, Lyddie discovered this and wrote to her that it was a dreadful shock to think that one <u>her</u>

children should care to have such a thing etc. The photo was kept and is with the archives!

Lucy complains to Leslie that she has given up going to the theatre for her mother's sake etc but she should be able to think what she likes. She knows Papa agrees with her but says nothing. Although Lyddie may not have approved of the theatre it is clear that she very much enjoyed going to concerts. The disapproval of theatre was ingrained from her childhood (see page 89).

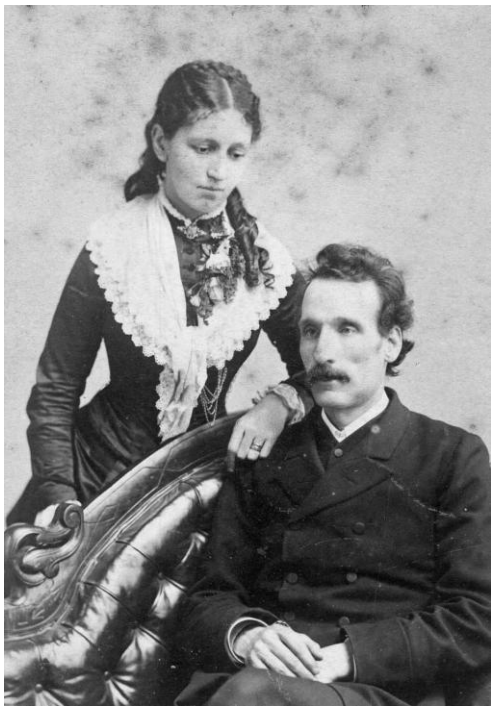
Chapter 10 - Extended families

There was always a close association with Lyddie's family, they living mainly in Bath and with the children frequently staying or living with her mother and sister Mercy and brother Theophilus and after her mother's death with Mercy and Theophilus. Lyddie had a close friendship with her sister Bessie and there were frequent visits to her and James wherever they were living. The relationship with her brother Willie does not seem to have been so close but there was frequent contact in Bath and friendships developed between the girls in the families, Winifred and Kathleen and Irene and Christine.

I have already written something above about the lives of Lyddie's siblings Mercy and Theophilus (pages 74 and 75) who remained at home with their mother and will now write something about Bessie and Willie who married and cousins with whom contact was retained in future years.

Elizabeth Mary ('Bessie') (26.3.1856-9.1.1941) and James Baillie (4.1.1850-29.4.1927)

James was the pastor at Manvers Street until 1886. He then had a number of pastorates as follows (with their home addresses):- Bloomsbury, London 1886 – 1896 (67 Oakley Square – just north of Euston Station); Tredegarville, Cardiff 1896-1907 (The Manse, 61 Claude Road); Cotham Grove, Bristol 1907-1911(Invergowrie,7 Clyde Park) ; Frogmore St. Abergavenny 1911-1915 (Invergowrie, Windsor Road). Invergowrie is a part of Dundee so presumably where James grew up and they named the houses after it. It is assumed that the houses they lived in were rented.



They moved from 20 Upper Camden Place to Shirley Villa, Beechen Cliff in June 1883. It belonged to the family friend Fred Spear (see page 105), and he asked whether they would like to take it. Bessie's description at the time in her diary was: - "It is a pretty place, very convenient, a little greenhouse is there and all very comfortable and the view is superb,magnifique." When they moved to Bloomsbury in 1886 it was taken over by Lucy and became, as already recorded, the family home.

In the summer of 1886 before the move to Bloomsbury she was unwell with a cough. After the move she got worse and was diagnosed with tuberculosis although she does not state this. She was advised to stay away from the London fog and for the next three years she lived mainly at Shirley Villa, particularly during the winter, leaving James on his own, although they did have some holidays together. Their family doctor

in Bath, Dr Norman, at one point did not think she would live but she survived and although it did not recur, she was frequently unwell for the rest of her life.

James was clearly very conscientious and hardworking and was everywhere respected and liked. He invariably seems to have increased the membership of the chapel with the result that in the end the work became too much. This was certainly his reason for moving from Tredegarville to Cotham Grove, although this move to Bristol was also influenced by being nearer the family in Bath. The reason for the move to Abergavenny was mainly for health reasons as they were affected by the fog in Bristol. Abergavenny was not so strenuous but his health deteriorated and Dr Norman strongly advised him to do less work. He became entitled to take his Baptist Union Annuity at the age of 65 and took this opportunity to resign on 31st December 1915

As already mentioned, they did not have children. This would however have given the time for Bessie to help with the pastoral work. They always welcomed the family and nephews and nieces seem to have enjoyed and looked forward to visits despite the rather strict regime. Lucy, aged 16, when writing to her father – "When we use 'awfully' they come down on us like a thousand bricks." Both Reginald and Winifred lived with them for a time when studying, Reginald in Cardiff and Winifred in Bristol.

William James ('Willie') (2 6.1854 –11.4.1949)

The dyeworks business



As already mentioned, (page 73), I have not found much clues as to his activities and the extent to which he was involved in the business in the 1880s but assume that he was working with his mother. The 1881 census shows that he was living at 8 Walcot Terrace and he is described as a general dyer and cleaner. His mother retired from the business in about 1890, and he took it over under his mother's eye. The original lease of the property would have expired in 1887 but at some stage, for which I have found no clues, he acquired the freehold. He is shown in the directories in 1897 and 1902 as a dyer and cleaner at 8 Walcot Terrace and 13 Pulteney Bridge. In 1907 there was a fire and following this he transferred the business to the Bristol company (see below on page 149, also for a photo from Pulteney Bridge) but retained the freehold of the building. In the 1911 census he describes himself as employed as manager of general dyer and cleaner and laundryman (and local preacher). In 1921 his occupation is general dyer and cleaner employed by Willway's Dye Works & Laundry Co Ltd of White's Hill, Bristol and gives his place of work as White's Hill and not Walcot Terrace. Bessie had recorded in her diary in 1918 that he was then working in Bristol and enjoyed it.

The Cock sideboard

He rescued the Cock sideboard (see pages 35 and 71)from the fire in 1907 and had it renovated and taken to his home. However, the family must have wanted to dispose of

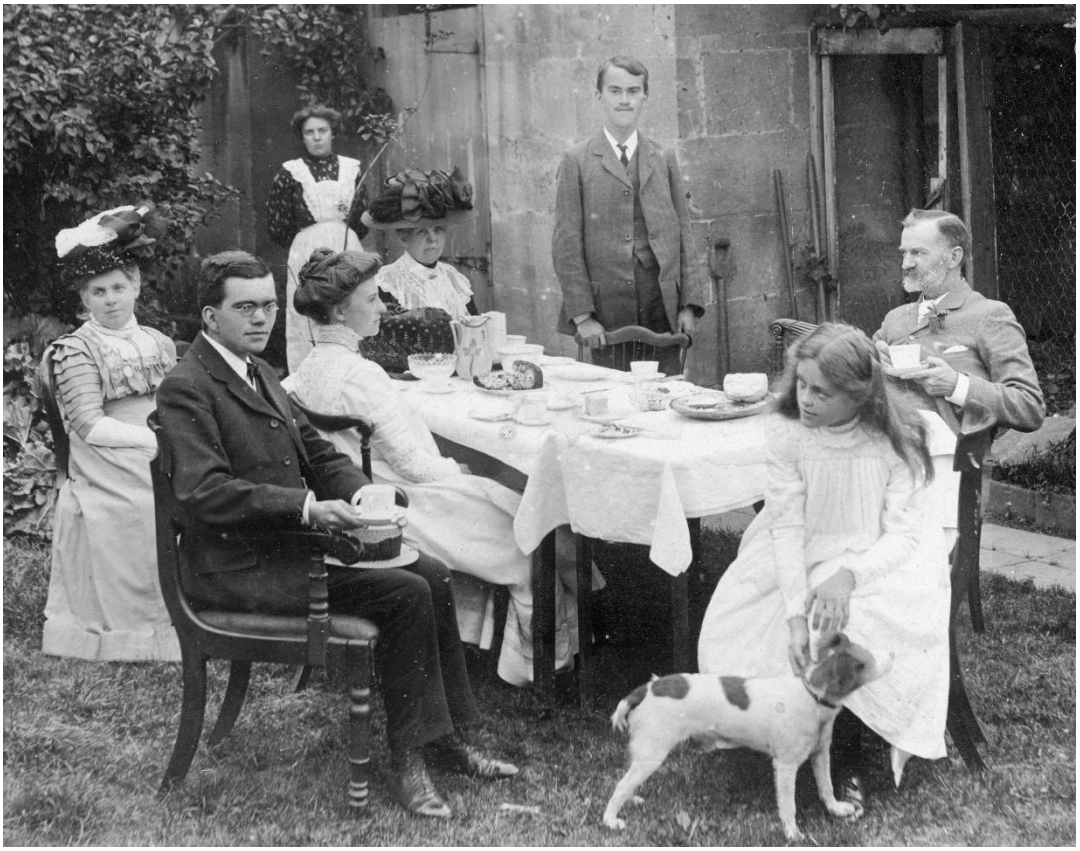
it later as in 1920 Lyddie purchased it from them for £20, a sizeable sum, presumably for the purpose of keeping it in the family.

Character

He adopted his grandfather's very strict religious ideas but did not inherit his business ability. He seems to have been a bit eccentric. He was an inveterate preacher, preaching, according to his obituary in the Bath Chronicle, in churches in North Somerset, Gloucestershire and parts of Wiltshire. The obituary records that he had an amazingly retentive memory for historical facts and that he was an enthusiastic cyclist, even in older age,

Marriage

There are records in correspondence in the early 1880s of family friendships with the three Miss Clarks, daughters of Alderman James Clark, a solicitor. Willie married Alice on 9th June 1885 at Manvers Street, James Baillie taking the service. Her sister Ada, three years younger, always lived with them. They had five children, but the third, Cyril, died in infancy. They were Edward, born in 1886, Irene in 1888, Theodore in 1894 and Christine in 1896. They lived at 3 St Saviours Terrace until sometime between 1901 and 1911 and then at 3 Sion Place, Bathwick Hill. Ada is probably the woman in the large hat in the photo below.



Edward, seated on the left, was a school master and became principal of Green Park College. Irene was also a teacher. Christine, with the dog, trained to become a missionary and a doctor and did go to India. Theodore, standing, had what we now call "learning difficulties" but did work as a gardener. Although Christine married there were no grandchildren. They all, except Christine, lived together.

Irene and Christine were friendly with their cousins, Lyddie's children, and Irene in particular had a close lifelong friendship with Winifred. Irene was interested in the family history and recorded information and pasted newspaper articles in a book which she passed to me.

8 Walcot Terrace

8 Walcot Terrace and the garden across the river were still owned at his death in 1949. The shop part was let to the Willways company and the residential part to tenants. There are records that the garden was still used by the family in the 1920s and 1930s for fruit and vegetables. By his will he left them to his children in the hope they would retain them as an investment but if sold his wish was that they be first offered to Willways Dyeworks Ltd. What happened I do not know but there was still a branch of the business there in 1963.

Davis family

This section deals with Lucy Hannah Willway's surviving brother, Charles Edmund Davis, and sister, Sarah Goulter. I will mention first Charles' sons before returning to him and his daughters.

Charles Orlando Davis (b.1847)

Charlie had married Louisa Mundy in 1871 and their first child, Minnie, was born in March 1873. They had six more children. They lived at 19 Westgate Street where he was variously a glass and china dealer, jeweller and watchmaker. There does not seem to have been much contact with this family.

There is a four generations photograph including Minnie which can be seen on page 107

Frederick Walter Davis (1849 – 11.9.1911)

There have been several previous references to Fred who seems to have been quite a favourite with women. See, for example, page 95..He spent some time in Plymouth where he was presumably working possibly with the family connections there. In May 1874, while in Bath, he suddenly and unexpectedly went to Plymouth, Lyddie recording in her diary that he had said to his mother something about an engagement. He married Jeannie Brown somewhere in that area. On Lyddie's stay in Plymouth in July and August that year he was living in Devonport and she saw quite a bit of him but was not introduced to Jeannie who was living near Sidmouth, probably with her parents, where their child Frederick Edmund was born on 27th July.

A daughter, Henrietta, was born the following year in Devonport but by 1878 they were back in Bath when a letter from Bessie mentions Jeannie being very ill but that Fred was a good nurse. Another daughter was born there in about 1882. In April 1891 Nettie wrote to Bessie that Jeannie was dying and in September 1892 Fred remarried to Louisa Mary Coles, a spinster aged 40 by whom he had two sons. His occupation was always given as a gas engineer. He died on 11th September 1911, aged 62. A

letter from Sarah Goulter in Australia to Willie suggests that this was a suicide by drowning.

Edwin Alfred Davis (1852 - 1935)



Ted Davis' marriage to Florrie Porter (1853-1943) has already been mentioned (page 93) and the birth of their daughter Evelyn. They had another daughter, Ethel, and three sons. Ethel died as the result of an accident when falling on ice in her teens. Ted was initially a gas fitter then an electrician but Mercy recorded that he made himself poor through drinking. He was believed in the family to have assisted Graham Bell with telephones when he was in America in 1878. I assume the regalia in the photo are masonic. The photo on the right is Florrie.



Because of their friendship with Florrie, Lyddie and Bessie remained in closer touch with this part of the Davis family and particularly with Evelyn ('Eve'). Lyddie and William attended her wedding in 1913 and there was some possibility of William having to give away the bride. Bessie recorded in her diary that she wrote to her sending the words of the exquisite poem written for her own wedding by "your own dear grandmother" (viz Susan Porter). She also sent roses for Lyddie and Florrie to wear.

As an addendum, sometime during WW2 Evelyn's daughter Elspeth turned up at Lucy's home, Rowhill Grange, unexpectedly. Lucy had not met her before but says she knew her immediately because of her resemblance to her mother. The friendship between the families thus continued and I and my cousin Alec were page boys and my sister Anita bridesmaid at Elspeth's wedding in 1947. Elspeth was interested in the family history and was a great support to me in my original researches into the Davis family.

Charles Edmund Davis (25.2.1827 – 1913) and daughters Ellen Jane Davis and Henrietta Mary Churchill



By 1881 there were only Nellie (born 1854) and Nettie (born 1857) still at The Paragon with their parents. This photo of Charles is probably from an earlier period. (It is not in the family archives but comes from Stephen Frost, a collector.)

Nettie

Nettie, aged about 28, married Sydney Churchill in April 1885 and had a child, Daisy, the following year so only Nellie was still at home. She was an art teacher and later taught Willie's children Irene and Edward painting. However, Nettie's marriage failed and she returned home with Daisy. She had been physically abused and her husband left her, probably in 1888 as Lyddie mentions in a

letter in July that year that she was “trying the London hospitals”. She must have had some nursing training before marriage and in subsequent census returns is shown as nursing in some capacity

Bankruptcy

In the 1881 census Charles is described as a gas engineer employing 5 men and 6 boys. But he did not make a success of the business and bankruptcy proceedings were brought in 1889, the alleged cause of failure being “illness and falling off in the gas stove trade, owing principally to the gas companies letting stoves on hire and becoming gas fitters, and the payment of law costs”. The addresses of the business were given as 45 Milsom Street, 12 Walcot Street and 37 Paragon. He gave the value of 37 Paragon as £450 but mortgaged for £600 and the workshops at 12 Walcot Street as £250 but mortgaged to cover an overdraft of £405. An offer of 13s 4d in the pound was made but there is no record of whether this was accepted or whether he was declared bankrupt.

Residences

37 Paragon was sold and they moved to Milsom Street, where they were in 1891. Lucy in a letter to Bessie in March 1889 describes how upset Charles was to leave the house where he had hoped to live and die and that Jane felt humiliated. Charles recorded that they were at Milsom Street for about 5 years. Jane died on 12th October 1893 so it was probably after her death that they moved to 20 Charles Street where they were for about 3 years, then Hay Hill House for about 1 and Randolph House, 7 Brunswick Place for about 1. The 1901 census records them as being at 12 John Street. Nellie was not there and may have moved out after the departure from Milsom Street as in the autumn of 1894 she was staying at Shirley Villa. Nettie, with her daughter Daisy, always remained with her father. In 1911 they were at 8 Chelsea Buildings.

Financial difficulties and last years

Nettie and her father were in financial difficulties and correspondence between his sister Sarah in Australia and Willie supplies some information on this. Sarah helped by sending money periodically to Mercy for this purpose. Lyddie writing to her mother in 1899 said how good it was of Aunt Sarah to give him so much and thought it was too much. Sarah suggested that Charlie should be able to help. He was never estranged from him as Fred and Ted were. Sarah was critical of Nettie and wishes her brother had a “Christian” daughter with him in his last days. He died in 1913, in May or June, aged 85. Lyddie had seen him on a visit to Bath on 27th April and did not think he had long to live. Sarah was glad that Mercy was with him when he died. There is a reference to Nettie being in hospital in 1918. She died in May 1926, aged about 69 when Lyddie wrote that she “is gone at last. A tragedy ended”. Theo went to the funeral.

Sarah Goulter (7.3.1839 – 1924)

Sarah and Ezra had many children and descendants in Australia and Sarah lived to be 85, corresponding with the family in England until not long before her death, firstly with her sister Lucy until she died and then with her children. She never met her sister Lucy or brother Charles again but kept a very keen interest in them and their families and helped Charles financially as mentioned above.



Information about the family and Ezra's business are contained in the book "Goulters of the Cotswolds" (of which details are given on page 52) from page 182 of that book. Page 185 gives some information about her children. She had eight children between 1861 and 1883(when she was 44) of whom five lived to adulthood. The three eldest married and have many descendants. The two youngest, Winifred (born 1876) and Kathleen (born 1883) would have been living with their mother until she died and Kathleen married in 1930. Winifred was a photographer and artist and remained unmarried.

With her letters were Ezra's photos of the family. Ezra is remembered as a pioneer photographer in Australia and these photos are now held by the Monash Museum in Melbourne together with some of her letters. These can be seen on my website together with transcripts made by Mike O'Shaughnessy, one of their descendants, who also provided some of the information in the book.

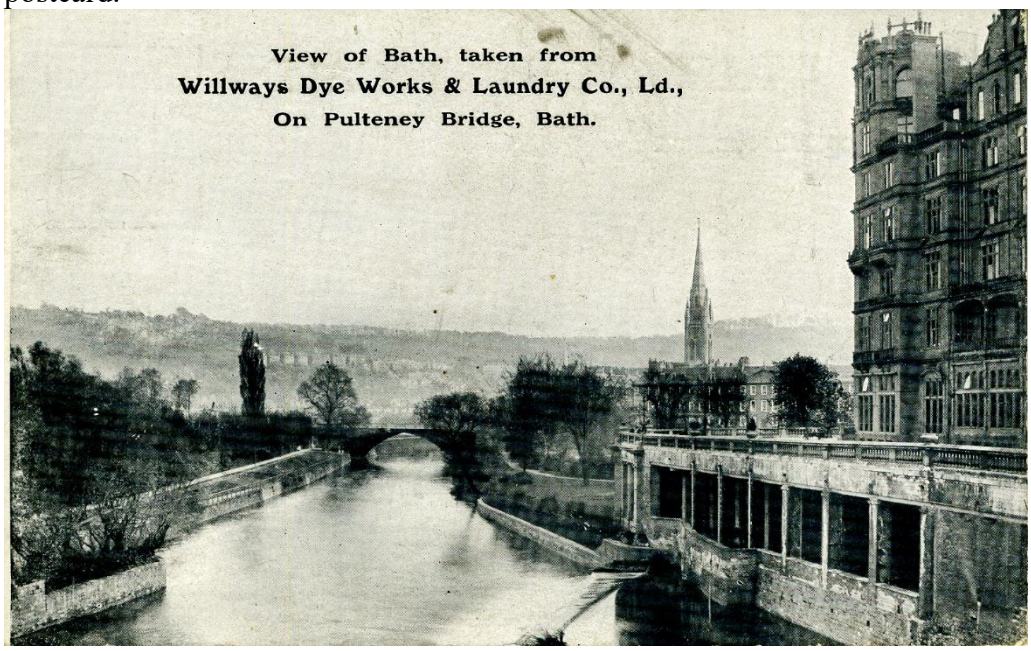
Winifred ("Winnie") and Kathleen continued the correspondence with their cousins in England and later with Lyddie's daughter Lucy. No members of the family met after Sarah's departure in 1860 until 1934 when Lucy's daughter, Helen, had the good fortune to be chosen to be one of a party of schoolgirls to be taken on a trip round the world under the auspices of the Victoria League. Arrangements were made with Winnie for her to meet members of the family on the stop in Australia. Winnie wrote later in 1940 that they were pleased to see the photos of Helen's wedding in 1939.

Willway's Dye Works & Laundry Co Ltd

All the Willway businesses eventually came together and became solely a laundry, which according to Philip Lace (see page 81), was situated at premises originally belonging to John Sweet Willway, on the Dundridge House Estate in the parish of St. George's. Presumably the various sites where the dyeworks had been became the retail outlets of the business. No information has been passed down as to how they came together but I have suggested above on page 83 that John Sweet Willway may have assisted with Willway & Jack at 7 Denmark Street after William Jack's death, his son Herbert James Willway (born 1865), who was a good businessman, taking over. At some stage Herbert must also have taken over the Christmas St business from Bartley Willway (see page 46)

The subsequent history would seem to be something like this. In 1903 a company was incorporated with the name Willways Dye Works & Laundry Co Ltd with Herbert Willway and his brother Alfred Bush Willway as shareholders (it is not clear whether they were the sole shareholders) based at White's Hill, Bristol, possibly the site mentioned above. Directories from 1906 show that it was operating under this name until at least 1944 with six or seven branches including Christmas Street, Walcot Terrace and Weston-super-Mare. The Denmark Street business seems to have been closed down by 1906, and may be not long after Mary Willway's death in 1888.

As to Walcot Terrace see page 143. This was probably taken over from William Willway in about 1907. The shop on Pulteney Bridge was still there and here is a postcard.



Herbert's son, Norman later took over the ownership and management until he sold it in 1956 to the Guaranteed Laundries Group of Wincanton, Somerset. In 1963 there were still branches at 15 Christmas Street and 8 Walcot Terrace. At some stage the name was changed to Willway's (Established 1727) Ltd and this company was dissolved in 2003.Guaranteed Laundries still exists and there are references to Willways in the history pages on its website

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Willway relatives

There is not much evidence of contact being kept with the Jack and Powell cousins (pages 81 and 83), except Jessie Jack after her marriage to Edwin Moxley (see page 157), but there is with Uncle John's descendants (page 80), possibly because of his greater involvement with the family in his capacity of an executor of his mother's estate and trustee of Charles Chapel Davis' estate.

His daughter Alice supported Lyddie's daughter Lucy when she was studying in Bristol and at least two of her paintings are in the possession of members of the Ainsworth family.

Contact was kept with his grandsons Norman Willway and Philip Lace and I met them both in company with my grandmother Lucy when gathering information about the family history in 1964.

Ainsworth family

James Ainsworth c,1777-1843

Sarah Blake 1805-1887 — Elizabeth Rowden 1808-1892

Matilda 1830-1875 m. James Ainsworth — Mary 1839-1881 m. John Hockey — Elizabeth 1835 m. Anthony Budd

m.1884

Sarah 1854 — William 1855 — Lettie 1856 m.Tom Loveridge — Sarah 1867 — James1868 — Alice 1858 3 children



This is the photograph taken at the wedding of William's sister Lettie Ainsworth to Tom Loveridge in September 1880. See page 24 for the background to this. It is noticeable that their father is not present. The persons are from left in the back row:- James ('Jim') Hockey, a brother of Tom, William J.Ainsworth, John Hockey, Mary Hockey, another brother of Tom, Tom's father. Those in the front row from left are:- Sarah Blake, unidentified boy, Sarah Hockey, Tom Loveridge, Lettie, Sarah Ainsworth, Elizabeth Rowden.

Sarah Blake and Mary Hockey

William's family were further away than Lyddie's, his unmarried sister Sarah Ainsworth mainly in Salisbury and his sister Lettie Loveridge in Overton. He frequently visited Overton on his travels, stopping off on journeys to and from London, particularly while his grandmother, Sarah Blake, to whom he owed so much from his childhood, was living. She lived there with her daughter Mary Hockey and her family

In May 1881 William recorded in his diary the very sudden death of Mary at the age of only 36 from "inflammation of the brain". There had been a letter from her daughter Sarah to say she was ill with a telegram an hour after its receipt for William's sister Sarah, who was with him at the time, to come quickly and then a second letter to say she was dead. "Poor Grandma has lost her only remaining child and is left alone. Poor aunt, in spite of her fondness for gossip, had a kind and loving heart and will be sorely missed. She is gone to join my own dear mother in the strange spirit land, what her state is there I know not, no one knows, they were neither Christians (according to Manvers St)"

Sarah Blake died in July 1887 at the age of 81

The property or properties from which Sarah Blake had been receiving her income would then have passed to her daughters' estates, they having both predeceased her. Matilda's share, as previously mentioned on page 116 had been sold by James to Lyddie in return for an annuity so would have passed to her, although she was probably only a nominee for William. Mary's share presumably went to her husband John Hockey.

Hockey family

Mary Hockey's two children, Sarah and James were aged about 14 and 13 at the time of her death. Interestingly, when William's sister, Sarah, was in Bath in July 1882 recovering from an illness it was Sarah Hockey, then aged 15, who invited her to come to stay with them pending going to stay with Lettie at the end of the month. She looks grown up in the above photograph at Lettie's wedding.

Mary's husband, John, remarried in 1884 to Alice Budd who was the granddaughter of Sarah Blake's sister Elizabeth Rowden, the first of the family to come to Overton (see page 17). Elizabeth Rowden (seated far right in the wedding photo and known as Aunt Rowden) herself lived to be 84, dying in 1892. John and Alice had three children, the youngest born in 1890. Sometime after that they moved to Southampton and at the time of the 1901 census Sarah Ainsworth was either staying or living with them. In 1917, when returning to France, Winifred Ainsworth stayed with them when there was a delay in crossing the Channel.

Loveridge family

There must have been the occasional reciprocal visits between the Ainsworth and Loveridge families as the cousins new each other and there seems to have been quite a close relationship. There were three children who survived childhood – Walter (b.1881), Ernest (b.1884) and Olive (b.1886).

There are some mentions in correspondence which I will list: -
1908 - Lucy had a nice time visiting on her way to Southampton for the ferry to Jersey when she was met at the station by Ernest and he and Olive accompanied her back.
1910 - Lyddie and William were planning to visit on Easter Monday.

1912, January - Ernest had recently married and was living in one of the Lowden properties in Chippenham (see page 155 below). Lyddie and William met them there when Lettie and her husband, Tom, were staying.



1912, March - Olive helped out by looking after Summerville while Lyddie was with Lucy following Barbara's birth and in 1916 Lettie was available to do so if necessary. 1913 - Bert, Regg, Margie and Norman visited en route on returning to London from Swindon by car and Lucy and Leslie had visited at Easter.
1926 - Lyddie wrote that William was planning to go to Overton and then on to London
1936 - Lucy wrote that she had called at Overton on her way when driving to Bath but Lettie was not in, only Walter. Walter was unmarried and presumably lived with his parents.

Lettie died in 1939 aged 82 and her husband Thomas in 1945 aged 90. Contact was maintained with Olive (in photo), who married Reginald Brown having three children, the eldest of whom was killed in action in 1945; and with William and his one child Joan Loveridge. Olive had her grandmother's bible mentioned on page 20 and was in the possession of her family in 1965.

Sarah Ainsworth

After William moved to Bath in 1877 Sarah seems to have spent some time there also. She made a favourable impression on the Willway family in 1878, Bessie describing her in her diary on one occasion as having a noble unselfish character. On one occasion she went with 'Mama' to 'Grandpa' for tea. She completed "confessions" (see page 89) twice, probably once for Lyddie and once for Bessie.

However, in 1881 William had recorded in his diary that her fits of depression were occurring again and she talked about destroying herself. Dr Norman (see page 75) was afraid for her mind and wanted to see her again.

Her eccentric character is probably due to this condition. To describe this, it is probably best to quote from a letter written by Lucy to Leslie in January 1909 upon returning home: -" I found Mother away in Bristol and a funny old aunt, a sister of Papa's staying here. She is a funny old thing. She had had hysteria all her life and lives all by herself in one room in Salisbury. She makes Winnie and Kathleen wild but I think she's amusing. She will come down about 11.30 am and remark first thing that she "feels as though wild lions were tearing her to pieces. She has a perfect mania for describing her sensations and will go on all day if you will listen to her. She is very clever in some ways…..She's a regular Dickens character". Another quote was passed down through the family. - when her breakfast had gone cold on being cleared away: "Hell is too good for you people"; and she was obsessed with the idea that everyone was going to propose to her.

There is evidence from William's diary that between 1879 and 1881 when not in Bath she was living with Lettie in Overton although in 1878 Bessie recorded that she was going to Salisbury when leaving Bath. The 1881 census does not reveal any information about her. She was in Bath in June 1882 and looking after the house in Penarth in 1884 (see page 110). Later she seems always to have lived in the Salisbury

area. In 1891 she was with her father and cousin Rachel Cosse at Salisbury House, Breamore, which is south of Salisbury, although in 1901 she was with the Hockey family in Southampton. In 1911 she was a lodger at 3 Hartington Road, Salisbury. William records in a letter in 1912 making a surprise visit to her on his way from Yeovil before visiting and staying with the Loveridge family in Overton.

There are quite a few references in letters showing that she came to stay occasionally and illustrating the oddity of her character. Lyddie's criticism of her keeping house is on page 110 above. In 1925 Lyddie wrote to Lucy that Aunt Sarah was there – she is just her old self saying odd things and making us laugh often. In 1934, when she was aged 80, William wrote to Lucy that she was returning to Salisbury after staying ten days – as usual, odd and non sequitur – always off the point.

There is no evidence as to what sort of income she had and what she lived on, although her father did attempt to provide for her in his will. See page 117.

Sarah died in 1938

Humby family

They kept in touch with the Humby family (page 25) with whom William was closely involved at the time that he worked with Uncle James Humby from 1877 to 1883. In 1884/5 James and Anne moved to Bathampton, Bathford or Batheaston - it is not clear which. The 1891 census shows them at Avon Dale, Batheaston.

In 1888 James was declared bankrupt with debts of about £20,000 owning the Garth Colliery, the Caradog and Llynvi Valley Collieries and the Crown Copper Works. However, he was discharged, paid some of his debts and commenced business again in 1890 this time acquiring a brewery company in Bath and restaurants in Bristol and Shoreditch. He also purchased the Bathwick Mills but never worked them and bought and sold two collieries. He went bankrupt again in 1893 and this information is from the newspaper reports.

In 1900 William wrote that he met Lyddie, Bertie and Norman at the Humbys in Bathford. At the time of the 1911 census Anne, then aged 89, was either living with or visiting her daughter Polly Hall in Bradford-on-Avon but her death in 1914 is recorded as being in Batheaston. There is no record of when James died, although a James Humby died in Eastbourne in 1903. Their daughter Margaret Knight always seems also to have been in that area. Polly became a catholic which was something which clearly made her stand out in the family. She never lived in Bath until the 1920s and 1930s .. William records visiting her there at her house on Widcombe Hill in 1926. She died in 1936 and Lucy wrote in Sept that she had visited her Roman Catholic cousin Lettie Hall when in Bath "who had recently lost her mother". Her house, where she had presumably been living with her mother, was on Lyncombe Hill.

Chapter 11 – 1900s

Business activities and finances early 1900s.

While Lyddie was busy with the children at home, William was leading a very busy and varied life and was frequently away from home. In a letter to Lucy in 1907 he describes what was probably a typical activity - he was going to audit the Tabernacle accounts, the next day he was chairing a lecture, and the following Monday he was at a board meeting in Chippenham in the morning and a meeting in London in the afternoon. In a letter to Winifred in 1912 he had been to Yeovil, presumably on business; then a surprise visit to his sister Sarah in Salisbury; on to his sister, Lettie and family in Overton where he stayed the night; then to London including tea at Eltham with Lucy's family; on to Barnet to Regg and family, staying the night,; back to London for a committee meeting of the National Union of Suffrage Societies; and a recital in the evening with Bert and a woman, possibly Bert's girlfriend. He presumably came home that night.

Lowden Syndicate

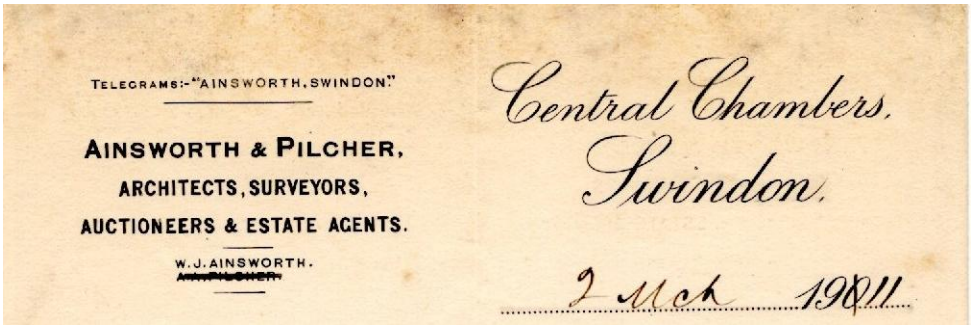
This is a continuation from page 121. Between 1906 and 1913 The Lowden Syndicate Ltd built and sold or let properties and sufficient profits were made from this and the brick production to reduce the loan from Sir John Goldney to £3110 although the loan from Mr White had increased to nearly £2000. They of course received interest on their loans so this was a good investment for them. Directors' fees of £50 were paid and a management salary of £120 which was presumably WJA's fee. At some time, Mr Linzey was replaced as a director by Mr Mortimer, presumably after all the building work had been completed.

In 1910 further investment was required to continue with the property development and the marriage of his daughter Lucy seems to have led him to approach her husband, Leslie Wates', partner George Whale for a loan of £500, which was made in g1911, with which he purchased further shares in the company. £50 was repaid in 1913. About half the loan was taken over by Leslie himself in 1914

North Swindon Estate and estate agency

At the same time as managing this company William was continuing to work as manager of North Swindon Estate Company dealing with problems relating to that property such as drainage and boundary disputes and possibly the occasional sale, and as also as manager of the canal. All work was done from his office at Central Chambers, Swindon with letterheading, until about 1910, jointly with Mr Pilcher as architects, surveyors, auctioneers, estate agents, so how to describe his occupation? His daughter Lucy advised her sister, Winifred, in 1909 in connection with completing application forms: - "For future reference Papa is not quite sure what he

is. He thinks he is an estate agent."! He described himself again in the 1911 census as auctioneer and estate agent


TELEGRAMS:-"AINSWORTH, SWINDON."

AINSWORTH & PILCHER,
ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS,
AUCTIONEERS & ESTATE AGENTS.

W.J. AINSWORTH.
~~A.H. PILCHER.~~

Central Chambers.
Swindon.

2 March 1911

Wilts and Berks Canal

In 1901 the canal was closed to traffic following an aqueduct collapse. Thereafter there would have been no income and it became neglected giving rise to problems which William, as Secretary, had to deal with. Newspaper articles reveal the following: -
1906 a complaint to Swindon about condition and request to be sent to company;
1909 request by council to repair Telford Road Bridge or the company would be charged;
1911 Warning that a bridge at Chippenham was in dangerous condition and legal action would be taken;
also, in 1911 request by the Secretary to Swindon council to remove a public convenience from canal land.

In 1906 he gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Canals. The annual income from rents from reservoirs and sundry cottages was then about £300 out of which rates had to be paid and the wages of four men and the cost of materials for repairs. Other money was raised from the occasional sale of land and grants of easements for crossing the canal. There would not seem to have been anything left to provide him with any remuneration and it is not known whether he received anything.

In his evidence he gave his opinion that there could only be any future for canals, and that doubtful, if all canals in the country were nationalised with a central administration. His knowledge of the canal industry was impressive.

Throughout this period there were debates as to what should be done with the canal and finally Swindon council promoted a bill before parliament for the canal company to be wound up and the assets transferred, in the case of the section going through Swindon to that corporation. This was the Wilts & Berks Canal Abandonment Bill. William appeared before the select committee of the House of Lords on 5th and 6th May 1914 when he gave detailed evidence as to the history and condition of the canal extending to 35 pages of the minutes. On being asked what was the financial position of the company he replied: -"One of extreme impecuniosity". He appeared again on the 20th May when financial arrangements were being discussed.

In a CV of 1919 he wrote that he had the entire conduct of the negotiations with the landowners and public authorities which culminated in the Act. Although his position as Secretary would have ceased to exist, he was involved in the winding up. In the CV

he states that the realisation of the canal site by sale to the adjoining owners was left to him. He was still showing Wilts and Berks Canal on his letterheading in 1925.

National Deposit Friendly Society

In the CV of 1919, he states that he was for 10 years Surveyor and Valuer for the National Deposit Friendly Society for Bristol and the West of England. Newspaper articles show him as being re-elected Valuer of the Swindon Division in 1918 and 1920.

Finances generally

Throughout his career, except perhaps in the first years with the canal company, William seems to have made his living through various enterprises, some probably successful and others not. Latterly the family lived reasonably well, purchasing and maintaining a large house, employing one or more servants and paying for education for the children, so clearly, he was successful in making sufficient money for this purpose. However, there are frequent references in correspondence to not being able to afford something such as a holiday and in 1909 Kathleen recognised that there would be difficulty in paying for her to go to the technical school. A letter from Lyddie in 1906 mentions that they are very short of money and William ought to take a holiday but business was difficult. This was the time of the founding of The Lowden Syndicate. As mentioned above Lowden was making sufficient to pay salaries but no dividends were paid so it had presumably not been as successful as hoped. There is reference in a letter in 1910 to the failure of some business at Chippenham – may be connected to Lowden.

In 1907 they stopped having a servant, may be to save the cost, and Lyddie wrote that she liked not having a servant but there was little time to write all the letters that she needed to write to the children. Following Lucy's marriage in 1910 there were two unused rooms so in February 1911 they decided to advertise for boarding lodgers. In the event they took someone they already knew and all their lodgers, referred to as PJs (paying guests) thereafter were from personal reference. They shared the living rooms and meals and were part of the family. This naturally involved additional work so that a full-time servant was needed and Emily was engaged that month. She was a great success and was with them until she married in August 1917. There were normally two or three lodgers, mainly young women teachers, and they were away during the summer holidays and at Christmas.

Their finances were kept separate. The house was purchased by William only, as no doubt would have been normal in the 19th century and he would have provided the money for household expenses although it seems that when they had lodgers the income from them and the expenditure was under Lyddie's control. Lyddie was however able to assist.

Inheritances

As mentioned above (page 80) Lyddie and her siblings received legacies from their grandmother Mary Willway, who died in 1888 (page 84. Lyddie kept an account of this. She received £180 which she invested at interest with the interest being accumulated. She does not seem to have spent any of it but did at various times lend it to William at interest. In October 1890 £60 was lent to the Viking company and

repaid in Feb 1891 following its sale. In June 1891 £10 was lent for the move to Swindon. In 1895 she lent him £100 at 5% for which there is a formal receipt. Perhaps this was in connection with the purchase of Wiltshire Potteries. By 1899 the loan had increased to £200, so £100 possibly in connection with the purchase of Summerville. The loan to William with accumulated interest in August 1901 was £261. Whether this was ever repaid is not known.

Lyddie and her siblings, but possibly not Willie, owned a property in Bristol known as Braeside, 75 Cotham Brow subject to a mortgage. There are occasional references to one or other of them arranging for repairs and collecting rent. There is correspondence in 1905 and 1906 about approaching Uncle John to clear up the will and about "the house". The conclusion I have come to is that this relates to the property The Dove, Moorfields, St George, Bristol that was left by their grandfather, James Willway, in his will to their mother for life and which passed to them on her death (see page 38). There is also reference to the property having been exchanged with Uncle John. There may therefore have been an arrangement under which he took The Dove (or whatever had replaced it) in exchange for Braeside, but they may have had to borrow to make up the value or may be to buy Willie out, as he does not seem to have been involved, or both.

In 1918 she took advice on value and selling from Jessie Jack's husband Mr Moxley, an ex-banker (see page 83). It was worth about £300 at that time and the advice was to delay any sale until after the war. There is a letter from Bessie to Leslie acknowledging £137 which was probably her quarter share of the sale proceeds which Leslie's firm must have handled.

First World War

The last family gatherings before the war were at Christmas 1913 and Easter 1914. The whole family, except Lucy and Winnie, but including Bessie and James, Mercy and Theophilus, who stayed there, were at Summerville at Christmas. Full use must have been made of the eight bedrooms! Lucy was not there because she was expecting her second child and Winnie had been teaching in France since October, so that Lyddie wrote that she had never looked forward to Xmas less than this because of their absences. The family would have included Regg and Margie's two children. They together with Norman were driven from London by Bert in a car. It is not known whether the car was his, hired for the occasion or a company car. At Easter the whole family, except Winnie, gathered, Margie and Lucy coming with their children by train and Regg, Norman, Bert and Leslie in a car driven by Bert.

In the year following outbreak of war men were enlisting to fight and the men in the family had to decide whether to do the same. Bert obtained a job in the army as recounted below. Norman volunteered in January, breaking his university courses. Lyddie was uncertain whether it was right or Christian to fight under any circumstances unless perhaps as a missionary going into danger. She wrote that her father would not have done it (see page 42) but her puritan grandfather (presumably referring to Charles Chapel Davis) would have done so. Bessie was horrified that he should go to destroy men's lives.

William, himself, joined the 1st Battalion Wilts regiment as a volunteer and there is a record of his doing some training. Regg wanted to enlist but his office was not prepared to release him, adopting a policy of releasing single but not married men. He therefore joined the Volunteers guarding vulnerable places by patrolling at night and became a Special Constable. Leslie applied but was rejected for health reasons for which Lyddie was not sorry – "we need a few men to stay at home and not be carried away by war fever". He did however join the anti-aircraft corps of the Royal Naval Air Service and did night time look out duty. Later when compulsory prescription was introduced, he was again rejected.

Bertram

On 2nd January 1915 Bert went to the United States as a temporary Lieutenant, Regimental List, Army Service Corp in the Inspection of Mechanical Transports. His father writes that he obtained this job through being known to Captain J.S.Critchley president of the Institution of Automobile Engineers of which Bert was a member, Capt Critchley having been appointed chief inspector of motor transport. His job was to test trucks being purchased for the British army. In June 1918 he was promoted to Captain and his father commented in one letter that while he was a Captain safely in America, Norman was just a First Lieutenant in constant danger.

One of his jobs was inspecting trucks made by Locomobile Company of America in Westport, Connecticut and the President of the company was Mr William Ryker. Bert got to know the Ryker family and by June 1915 was engaged to his daughter, Edith Ryker (photo on next page). Her father gave his permission on his undertaking to settle in America, which was very upsetting to Lyddie. The Ryker family were



wealthy and the wedding in November 1917 was elaborate but, of course, none of the Ainsworth family were able to attend. Capt Critchley was best man. However, wedding cake was sent to England and some sent on to Winifred in France. Bert had already been helping the family by sending money in 1916. Lyddie wrote to Bessie after the wedding: - "Riches was a thing I never prayed for for the children – but perhaps God has sent it as a gift". She imagined what pride Grandmama Willway (Mary Willway) and Grandpa Davis (Charles Chapel Davis) would have had. William wrote to Lucy that even her mother "with all her puritan ways is pleased to see Bert in such glorious surroundings"

After being demobilised, he was employed by the Locomobile company. They came to England briefly in May 1919, with their baby, born in October 1918, to introduce Edith to the family

Winifred

Winifred had returned from her year in France just before the outbreak of war. She was at home until Christmas 1914 and took a Red Cross nursing course. She was then away teaching until she again went to France in October 1916 for two academic years, but returning during the summer holidays in 1917, where she taught at a school in St.Germain-en-Laye in the western outskirts of Paris, and studied French language and literature in Paris. With her Red Cross certificate, she was able to join the French Red Cross and take part in caring for wounded soldiers on trains stopping there on their way to hospital.

In a letter written to her cousin Irene she writes of interruptions caused by an air raid warning, the sounds of gunfire and explosions and sheltering in the cellar. There was anxiety about the possibility of a German break through. In March 1918 William was concerned that she did not have the sea between her and the Germans. In June she was confident that the Germans would not break through, she had passed the Sorbonne exam and was studying for the Guild exam. She returned home in July 1918 and joined Kathleen at Bath War Hospital for a few weeks.

Kathleen

In about October 1915 Kathleen applied to do voluntary work with the Red Cross. The volunteers were part of the Voluntary Aid Detachment and known as VADs. There wasn't an opportunity in Swindon so she worked at the Bath hospital for one month to get training and then from April 1916 until January 1919 she worked full time at the new Bath War Hospital. This had been constructed for wounded soldiers. Fred Spear was Mayor at the time and instituted this at the request of the War Office Kathleen's extensive letters home recording her work there have been used by others in recording the history of the hospital and were displayed at an exhibition on the centenary of the hospital in 2016.

Norman



Norman, aged 20, had joined the army and William in Feb 1915 was hoping to use some influence to get him into a regiment which would be going to the front late. In the event on the 10th Nov he joined the 9th Battalion Worcestershire regiment as a 2nd lieutenant (later promoted to 1st lieutenant). He was to have gone to France in about July1916 but had a motor bike accident when at home in Swindon. This put him out of action for a few weeks and he was then sent out to India in the autumn but was stopped in Basra and saw active service in the Mesopotamian campaign.

His parents were naturally very anxious about him and awaited his letters, which could take many weeks to arrive, keeping Winnie in France informed. In January he reported they were not in the front line yet and he was in charge of machine guns in his battalion. They sent parcels but did not know whether they were received. A cable was received that he had been wounded on 11th April. A telegram was received on 21st November that he was well and had received the parcels sent to him. In the same month a parcel of presents had been received from him sent via India. In January 1918 Lyddie wrote to Winnie that he had received the Military Cross but they did not know what for – perhaps saving a machine gun. They were concerned that he might be transferred to France if fighting in Mesopotamia ceased. He remained there to the end of the war and landed in Southampton in Feb 1919. He kept a diary throughout his time there which is now at the Imperial War Museum.

The Military Cross was awarded for his part in the battle of Kut-as-Amara in January 1917 when an attempt to raise the siege of Kut failed, resulting in a humiliating defeat for the British. His regiment took part in an advance but then had to retreat. He was one of only two officers to survive and the only one not hit despite being the last soldier to return to the British front line after dusk dragging his Lewis-gun back.[9] According to a colleague "he took an active part in every bit of fighting we had and only got a slight wound in the last of all which did not send him to ambulance. He is at his best in a tight corner"[10]

William and Lyddie

William, himself, joined the 1st Battalion Wilts regiment as a volunteer and there is a reference to his being out "drilling" in October 1915. In the last year of the war from October 1917 and after its end he was employed by the Ministry of Munitions of War. The information from letters is rather sparce. In Nov and Dec 1917 he was supervising a munitions store in Coalville, Leicestershire, from March to June 1918 letters were from Burton-on-Trent, in January 1919 he made a will in Rugby, one of the witnesses being "C.C. Munitions Works, Rugby" and in October 1919 he wrote to Winifred from Birmingham. In April 1918 he wrote that he was sending in his resignations from the volunteers – as he was better just doing work as a stores officer.

[9] Worcester Regiment in the Great War by Capt Stacke
[10] Cyril Sladden article The Badsey Society 10/1/2019

He must have been carrying on his business activities to some extent, and came home for a weekend once a month, but Lyddie may have been helping.

This may have been his contribution to the war effort but most likely a way of earning money as his other activities would not have produced much during the war. For Lyddie it was important to keep the lodgers and ensure they were happy so that they had the income. She had to make certain that there was a member of the family there to deal with or supervise the provision of meals in particular. This prevented her going away much, although on at least one occasion it was decided that Emily could cope.

They provided some assistance to Belgian refugees including taking in one, simply known as Captain, as a paying guest. In addition to the anxieties about Norman they were worried about the families in London being affected by the Zeppelin raids, although one of these was a cause of great excitement at the beginning of October 1916 when it was shot down over Barnet. This was observed by Regg and Margie from their home there and Winnie who was staying with them prior to departing for France, and later Lyddie came back with a piece of it after inspecting the wreckage.

Norman had become a keen photographer and here is a photograph of the family at Summerville in 1916 when he was on leave. The quality is unfortunately poor as it comes from a photograph of the photograph in Norman's album.



From left to right:- Reg, Kathleen, Aunt Sarah (William's sister), Margie, Winifred, Lyddie, William.

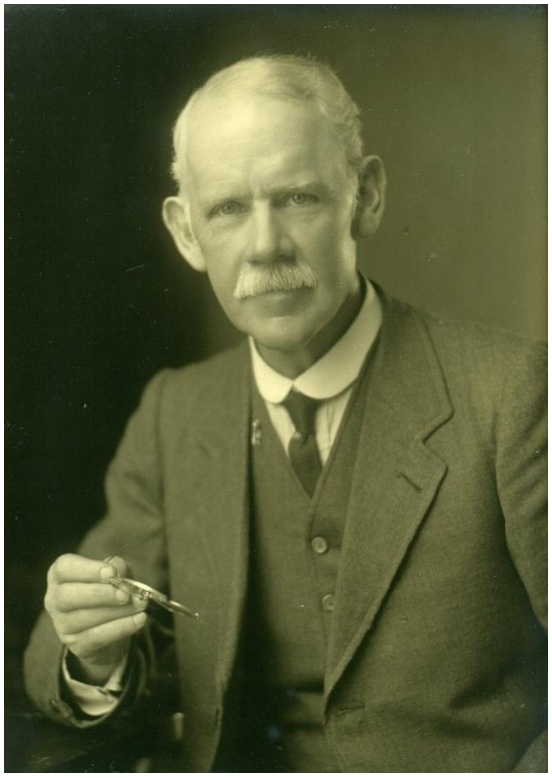
Christmases continued to be held at Summerville for all the family who were able to attend throughout the war although there was much debate about how extravagant to be, bearing in mind the food shortages and rationing. In 1916 James and Bessie, who by that time were living in Bath, were with Mercy and Theo at Shirley Villa.

Lyddie was keen to be able to assist Lucy with her growing family and enjoyed helping out by having the grandchildren. Lucy's first child, Barbara (in this photograph), had been born 12th April 1912 and Lyddie had been with her. She was not there for Ainsworth's birth on 6th February 1914 but was able to stay for a while afterwards to help. In August 1915, to enable Lucy and Leslie to have a holiday, they had Barbara and the baby with a nurse to stay, and Barbara on her own stayed in January 1916. Following Helen's birth on 22nd August 1916 Lucy was very unwell and towards the end of September Boy, as Ainsworth was known, was brought to Swindon by nurse and Lyddie felt able to leave him with Emily while she went to London to be with Lucy for a few days and then return with Barbara. Both children were with them until the middle of November when Lucy, after a holiday with Leslie in Bournemouth, came and took Boy home, Barbara staying until Christmas when both Regg's and Lucy's families were with them. Barbara stayed again in August 1917 but it is not clear for how long.



In 1922 William wrote an account of the part played by his children in the war headed "The Great War 1914-1918 – A Family Diary". After some pages of comments about the war and a description of the horrors of it he wrote "It is a source of satisfaction to me that all my family joined in the earlier stage of the war and by voluntary enlistment." He then recounted the activities of all the children and some of the information has helped in my above narrative.

Here are portrait photographs of William and Lyddie. The date is now known but I assume sometime between 1910 and 1920





Return to Bath

Upon James Baillie's retirement he and Bessie had moved to Bath in 1915, to Hill Crest, Longbourne, Odd Down, just off the Old Fosse Road. It had a garden and nice views. They were very happy there in summer but found the winters difficult, particularly because of the long walk into town so in 2017/18 and 2018/19 they found temporary accommodation near Shirley Villa. In 2019/20 they stayed with Mercy and Theophilus at Shirley Villa. Willie's sister-in-law Ada Clarke was lodging there and moved to Willie's house in Bathwick that winter.

William wrote to Lyddie in Feb 1918 that it was curious how the family have gravitated back to Bath and he would like to end his life there. By October 1919 they had decided to move and were looking at houses. None of the family were at home, Winifred teaching in High Wycombe, Kathleen travelling and Norman presumably in London. It was however always considered that their home was that of Winifred and Kathleen also.



1919 was the last Christmas at Summerville, although Regg's family only came on Boxing Day as Margie's parents were with them at their new house in Twyford, Berks, on Christmas Day. Christmas had probably been held there every year since 1901 except for 1918. In that year it was with James and Bessie at Fairlea, Beechen Cliff, the house they rented that winter, with Winifred and Kathleen staying at Shirley Villa (the righthand semi-detached house in this photograph from 2012) and William and Lyddie staying with the Spears at their home Esher House which was also nearby. Mr Spears always provided a turkey for Christmas and James and Bessie stayed at Esher House nearly every summer while they were on their summer holiday.

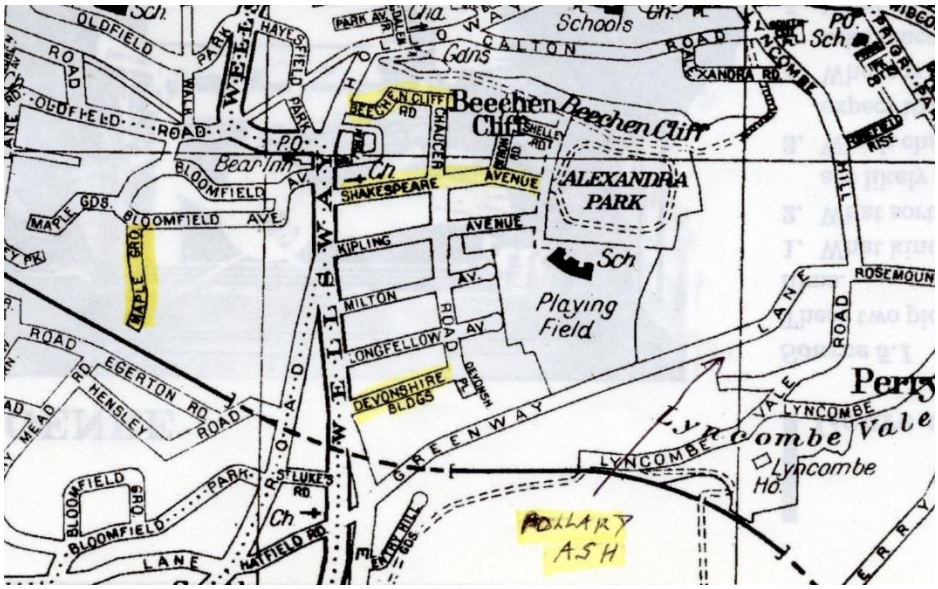
Clarendon, 7 Devonshire Buildings and other family houses

Sometime in 1920 William sold Summerville and bought 7 Devonshire Buildings, very near to Shirley Villa. This was probably towards the end of the year as Lyddie wrote to Lucy on 18th December that they had had their first meal in the dining-room. They accommodated Bessie and James for the winter from 13th December until April. The house was named Clarendon. Whether this name came with the house or whether it was named by them, possibly after William's birth place, is not known. That Christmas they went to Regg and Margie in Twyford, Winnie, Kathleen and Norman also being there.



Bessie and James were again at Clarendon for the winter 1921/22 but in May they saw a house for sale nearby in Shakespeare Avenue and Mr Spear offered to buy it and rent it to them. He was the owner of Shirley Villa which he had let to them in 1883 and then to Bessie's mother in 1886. They left Hill Crest on 21st August, staying temporarily at Shirley Villa before moving into 47 Shakespeare Avenue on 16th October 1922. This photograph was taken in 2012.

At about this time Willie and Alice moved from 3 Sion Place, Bathwick Hill to Clovelly, Maple Grove which was very near the other family homes. A letter from William to Lucy illustrates the involvement of the four families with each other. Aunt Mercy and Uncle Theo had come in to tea. They had been planning to go Clovelly but Irene had a cold so they came there instead. The following day there was a plan for Shirley and Clovelly "to combine forces" and go on an outing but Edward to stay at home as he also has a cold. Uncle James had also been in but Bessie had been ill with a cold and was staying at home. It was "a good thing that they are not up the hill where it was so difficult to get to them". On another occasion (letter from Lyddie to Lucy), or possibly the same, when Bessie was ill, Alice the servant at Shirley Villa went to her every morning and Mercy was able to get her her tea "as she is so near."



Grandchildren

They helped out with grandchildren sometimes. Lucy was seriously ill in the spring of 1923. Barbara stayed briefly and then Helen for few weeks after which Lyddie stayed with her at Sunnyside, her house in Eltham, for a couple of weeks. Lucy had also been seriously ill following Bernard's birth on 16th October 1920 but that coincided with the move so they were presumably not able to help. Early in 1925 Regg's son, Lyn, aged 17, came to live with them and went to school in Bath. This is because it was

thought that is asthma was not so bad when he was in Bath. It seems to have been his home until at least 1928. In January 1927 William “has not yet fixed up anything for him" but he did then get a job with Bath Cabinet Makers.

Winifred and Kathleen

In February 1921 Lyddie was in hospital for an operation for cancer. She wrote a note to William “if I should never come back” her main concern was “the two girls” and would like her savings amounting to £250 to go to them. She entreats him that if he should remarry not to let any woman turn them out of their home. The savings were accumulated income from the Cotham property.

It and the subsequent house, Pollard Ash, did remain their home, in Kathleen’s case until she married in 1932 and for Winifred for her life. They may not have always been there but it was their home. Winifred had teaching jobs, the details of which are not recorded, and although initially she was living away during term time later she lived at home. There is no record of any job that Kathleen had but she was active in church affairs and was a singer. There are various reports of her successes in singing competitions and performing at events. James Baillie thought that she had a special gift for singing in church and urged it as a religious vocation.

1921 visit to America

Following Lyddie’s recovery from the operation she and William had the adventure of going to America to visit Bertram and his family at their home in Fairfield, Connecticut. They stayed for about one month from mid-June to mid-July. They would have met his wife, Edith, for the first time on their visit to England in 1919 with their son born in Oct 1918. He was Bertram John and, presumably to distinguish him from his father, was always known a B.J. which became Bege (pronounced Beeg). By the time of their visit to America there was another baby, Charmian, born just three months before their visit. Their house, Whitegate, was about ten minutes’ walk from Mr and Mrs Riker’s house, By-the-Way. They clearly enjoyed their stay immensely being taken to places and visits to wealthy neighbours. Lyddie’s letters, as descriptive as ever, describe flowers in the garden, visits to Boston and Niagara, a journey down the Hudson River and expensive meals. They were amazed that everyone had a car and money seemed no object but she would not want to live there. William became anxious about business and they returned a week earlier than originally planned

Henry Lundgren

One visit that Lyddie does not mention is a visit to William’s son, Henry.

The circumstances of his birth are recounted on page 114. The story as passed down by Henry's daughter, Margaret, is that he ran away to sea at the age of 14 and worked for a shipping company. On visiting America he decided to try to migrate there. This was coordinated with his mother who arrived in America in 1907. This corresponds with the information given above on page 115 and is the date she gave as her date of immigration in the 1925 census. It is believed that she stayed initially with her unmarried brother who had left Texas.



Henry gave his date of immigration as 1906. There is a record of his arrival in New York as a sailor in April 1909 giving his last permanent residence as New York. This might indicate that his mother was living in New York and he considered that his home. In the meantime, he had married Esther Levina on 6th Jan 1909 in Gothenburg, Sweden and she arrived in New York on 1st July. Although Henry was always at sea, in one record described as a steward, New York was always considered his home as shown by Esther's passport application in 1920, whereas Esther stated that she had only been permanently resident from 1915. She made frequent trips to Sweden to see her mother and Margaret was born there in March 1914. There had been two earlier children, a girl who died a few days after their marriage and a boy born in New York two months after her arrival in 1909 who died in July of the following year. A son, Eric, was born in January 1918.

His mother, as previously mentioned, married in 1915. Her husband was Levi W. McCullum. They lived in Florida. The circumstances of his death in 1921 were tragic. He was killed in the crossfire in a gun battle between two men. She then moved to live with Henry and his family in New Rochelle, Westchester, New York. She was there until her death on 16th December 1930. It seems probable that she was not there at the time of the visit.

Records show that Henry was still serving as a crew member at sea during 1921 but he must have been at home in June/July as Margaret, aged 6, had a clear memory of her grandfather's visit. She also remembered that there was a woman with him who must have been Lyddie. Sometime between then and 1925 Henry gave up his seagoing career, presumably to be at home with the family, and thereafter worked on his own account as a painter/decorator.

His mother was always anxious that it should not be known that Henry was her son. Her relatives in Texas were under the impression that he was a former pupil and in the 1930 census she is described as a boarder.

Jersey postscript

In June 1923 Anna Le Feuvre had invited Lyddie to come to stay at Eden House in Jersey. She wrote to Lucy that she would like to see them once more but would prefer it is she could come with her. It was at the time of Lucy's illness and probably also for other reasons she could not come and Lyddie went on her own. She wrote to Bessie when there in August:- "As I sit in the garden and walk the rooms I hear the merry

laughter of young people. I see the gay bright faces and their forms glide before me or sit on the sofas and chairs. Sometimes I hear the cheery voice and song of the dear old man and then it all vanishes – two or three old people left and the rest far away or lying in their quiet graves"

The old people were Anna and Annie, who were both not well, and Anna's brother Harry. She did however also see Laura and Louis Neel. Two of those in their graves were Emile Neel (see page 95) and Captain Enright. Emile had been living in Jersey for a few years, formally immigrated there from France in 1920 and died there in 1922. They took wreaths to lay on their graves.



She wrote that Annie longed to see her, Bessie, but fears she "never will until Anna goes".

After Lyddie's death in 1926 Annie wrote to Lyddie's daughter Lucy that Alice was thankful she was able to visit her mother recently. She had lost her favourite sister and oldest and dearest friend in the space of four months. The sister would have been Lydia, or Lyd as she was known. Lyd had married Francis Bossy The Bossy family later moved to London and in 1921 were at Brockley in S.E.London. There is a record of Lucy meeting their two unmarried daughters there.

Alice's son Herbert was the Labour Member of Parliament for St Pancras South East in the 1923-24 and 1929-31 parliaments

After Anna's death in 1934, aged 86, Annie, then aged 75, did come to England in 1935 visiting Bessie in Bath and the above is a photo of her on her visit to Lucy at Rowhill Grange.

William's political and religious activities

William clearly took a great interest in the United States after their visit. Amongst his surviving papers are three lengthy papers about it based on his visit and what he learned there. Whether these were prepared as talks is not clear, but they probably were. Other surviving papers show his other interests and the talks he gave – a Message of Hope to the churches as president of the Bath Free Church Council; Christianity and the Nations; talk to the Girl Guides of the Bath Division on the League of Nations; various notes presumably for sermons; the Norwegian explorer Nansen and his role in support of the League of Nations; importance of public worship; British canal system (in which he had become an expert) address given to the Rotary Club in 1927



His keen interest in politics as a Liberal continued. His obituary notice in the Bath Chronicle was headed "Loss to Bath Liberalism". He was actively involved with the Liberal Association until at least 1929 and in October 1924, in the absence of the chairman, gave the tribute in the committee rooms to the former Member of Parliament Mr F.W. Raffety on his losing the seat in the General Election, which he had won in the previous election of December 1923.

However, his main activities were devoted to the League of Nations Union. He had been secretary of the newly formed League of Nations Union committee in Swindon in 1919 prior to the move to Bath and was a vice-president and active member of the Bath branch until at least 1935, several booklets being amongst his surviving papers. There are numerous newspaper reports of his giving speeches about the League of Nations. At the April 1924 annual meeting it was reported that he had literally put himself at the disposal of the regional representative as in 1923 and 1924 he visited many branches in the area, including Bristol, speaking at events to encourage membership. This included one in July 1923 at Twyford, Berks, where Regg and family had been living since 1919 and where Regg was chairman of the local branch. Other members of the family also became involved. Winifred and Kathleen took parts in a Pageant of Peace in September 1924, and Winifred and Christine Willway accompanied him to a League of Nations summer school in Geneva in August 1925. In an address to the Swindon branch in 1928 he said: - "There ought to be a branch of the Union in every church. It was the finest movement the world had ever seen next to the missionary movement."

In a chatty undated letter in the early 1920s to Lucy about the family he ends up "You will observe that this letter has no single word about 'politics' nor work – surprising still. about the League of Nations"! He did not mention that there was nothing about religion either. A letter written to Winifred in October 1919 was mainly an essay on the Sabbath.

The family naturally returned to the Manvers Street Baptist Church and William's involvement with church affairs and the Free Church Council continued. At a Manvers Street church meeting in 1921 he proposed that the church becomes a corporate member of the League of Nations Union, this being seconded by Willie's son Edward Willway and supported by Fred Spear and James Baillie and others. There is a record of his preaching at Manvers Street and in one letter he mentioned his monthly task of writing for the Manvers Street monthly notes. In November 1924 he was elected President of the Bath Free Church Council. This was an honorary position for one year but involved speeches at various churches during the year. The surviving speech mentioned above was that given on his inauguration. In the following year he was elected President of the Bath Sunday School Union, upon which he had been serving as a committee member. He had always been interested in Sunday School

education and in his inaugural speech referred to the class he had at the YMCA when he was first in Bath. This also was a year's appointment and involved attending and speaking at various functions such as prize givings.

Business affairs

His business affairs relating to the canal, North Swindon Estate and Lowden would have continued during the war to the minimum necessary and the work involved in the liquidation of the canal company has been mentioned. Following the end of the war he became more actively involved with the former two and had to ensure a livelihood from Lowden. Some financial help was received from Bertram and Leslie. William was especially appreciative of help given at the time of Lyddie's operation.

North Swindon Estate Co. Ltd

His will of 1919 indicates that he then owned shares in the company and also two cottages in Telford Road, Rodbourne Cheney. There is no information as to when and how he acquired these but the property was subject to a mortgage. His record of assets prepared in 1931 states that land at Rodbbourne Cheney had been sold with the purchase price outstanding and interest being paid.

The company was put into liquidation in 1921 with Mr Pope being appointed liquidator in 1922. William was involved as estate agent in selling properties. Part of the water supply for Rodney Cheyney was owned by the company and this was taken over by the council in 1923. William must have persuaded Leslie that he could make some money out of it as in 1925 the remaining land, including six building plots was sold to Leslie for £585. Over the next few years he acted for Leslie in selling on the plots and the land but from the evidence available he does not seem to have made much, if any, profit. There is the sale of a strip of land in 1936 which was perhaps the last.

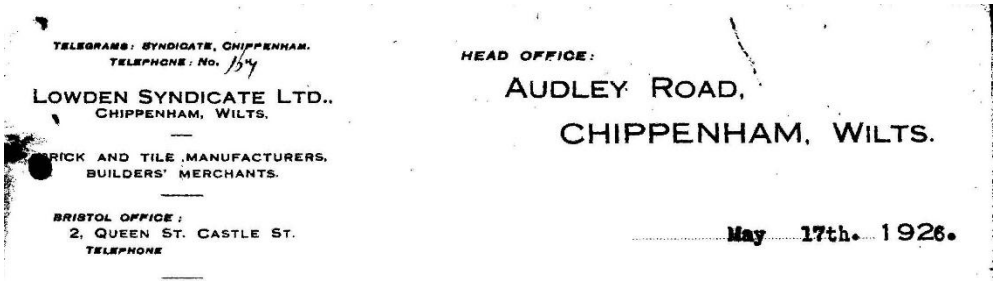
The Lowden Syndicate Ltd

During the war years Lowden suffered losses and only small sums were paid out as William's salary. There were some land sales in 1917, possibly the last. After the war William concentrated on making the brickworks profitable. There were profits in 1919 of about £700 and in 1920 of about £800 but the fees paid out to directors and secretary still small. Profits continued to be made but used to repay Mr White's loan. However, in 1922 the first dividend of £112 was paid after some pressure from Leslie so that William could repay some of his debt. In 1925 there was a good profit of £2200 and a dividend of £250 paid. William seems to have expanded the business as there was a new yard nearby at Saltersford and a separate account for Bristol. In 1926 a dividend of £525 was paid and a bonus to William of £250. He described in a letter to Lucy the meeting with his co-directors and shareholders, Mr Pope and Mr Mortimer of the negotiations for this bonus in lieu of a salary increase, pointing out to them that the company had all his time and was his sole means of livelihood. There was a bonus of £200 the following year but otherwise this seems to be the height of the success of the business. Mr Goldney's original loan had been reduced to £1700 by 1927, although he had died in the meantime, and his estate was repaid in 1930 with a bank overdraft

William's original loan from Mr Whale and/or Leslie had been repaid but he borrowed further money from Westminster Bank with Leslie's backing to buy out other shareholders

29 Regent Circus and change of address

By 1925 his only business activity related to Lowden so in October he moved his office to Chippenham. Initially this was at Dallas Chambers which seems to be some central location where the council offices were. Later it was in Audley Road, where the Lowden works were. Until then he had been commuting from Bath to Swindon. Chippenham was much nearer being only a ten-minute train journey. It is assumed that he travelled by train. There is no sign that he ever had a car.


TELEGRAMS: SYNDICATE, CHIPPENHAM.
TELEPHONE: No. 134
LOWDEN SYNDICATE LTD.,
CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.
BRICK AND TILE MANUFACTURERS,
BUILDERS' MERCHANTS.
BRISTOL OFFICE:
2, QUEEN ST. CASTLE ST.
TELEPHONE
HEAD OFFICE:
AUDLEY ROAD,
CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.
May 17th. 1926.

He owned 29 Regent Circus, Swindon so after vacating, it was let it out. His record of assets prepared in 1931 showed that it was mortgaged to secure a loan of £800.

Lyddie's illness, visit to America and death

In the midst of all this activity that William was engaged in, Lyddie's cancer returned in November 1924. Although she received some treatment, she knew that there was not much hope. When thanking Leslie for his offer to assist with expenses she wrote "When life is overshadowed by death spiritual things are seen more clearly and we know that 'Underneath are the Everlasting Arms'". She kept a diary of the illness for the first few months and from letters subsequently to Lucy her condition varied considerably. She wanted to see Bertram for probably the last time and felt well enough to make the journey to America which she did, accompanied by Lucy, in June 1925. In November she was planning for the whole family to come for Christmas but whether that happened is not recorded.



She enjoyed this second visit to America, which was for six weeks, in the same way as the first but this time with a greater involvement with her two grandchildren, Bege and Charmian (Phyllis was born a few months later). Here she is in this photograph with them and Bertram.

She marvelled at the wonders of the telephone and wireless. People didn't write to each other – they spoke on the telephone! Again, there were lots of invitations to dinners etc. Lucy wrote: - "My mother was very popular with the ladies of the wealthy society in which my sister-in-law moved. She seemed old-fashioned to them, always

natural and unassuming. In her grey silk dress and with her gentle quiet manner, she quite outdid me in any aspirations I might have had for popularity. She was invited everywhere and of course I accompanied her, but in the background."[11] The departure at the ship on her return must have been sad as she and Bert would have known they would probably not see each other again.

The end came very suddenly. In July 1926 she went for a holiday with Kathleen to Weston-Super-Mare and wrote a very happy letter to Lucy from there. Shortly after their return Kathleen had appendicitis with complications and had to go into hospital for a serious operation. Lyddie visited her with Winifred on 29th July. At the beginning of August Lucy and Leslie went to Switzerland for a holiday with their two eldest children. Lyddie wrote to her there that Kathleen was advised to stay in hospital for three weeks. On 9th August Lyddie died at home. The cause of death on the death certificate was carcinoma of stomach. Very few people knew of her illness. Lucy returned from Switzerland for the funeral and afterwards went with William and Winifred for a break at Newquay, Cornwall, but Kathleen was unable to attend.

That year at Christmas the only decoration in the house were holly garlands over the portraits of Lyddie and her mother. Christmas was celebrated at Sunnyside, Eltham with Regg and family (except two-year-old Rosemary) coming there.

Kathleen

Kathleen seems to have drifted from the Manvers Street church to the Argyle Congregational Church. In a letter to Lucy of February 1926 William wrote "Kathleen is gone to service, probably Argyle!". Here she participated with the Argyle Players in amateur dramatics. (Regg's son, Lyn, referred to above also was with the Argyle Players) and it was through this that she met Bob Down in 1927. He was hoping to become a missionary with the London Mission Society, they became engaged in 1928, he obtained a place in college in Bristol and after passing the exams there they married in 1932. In his recorded verbal auto-biography Bob recounts how he had taken the old-fashioned step of approaching William for permission to marry his daughter, notwithstanding that she was 39 years old and he 14 years younger! They lived in Bristol for a few years while he was training, he was ordained at Exeter in July 1936 and they departed to his mission in Madagascar not long thereafter.

Pollard Ash

Following Lyddie's death William began considering moving. In a letter to Bertram of January 1927 he wrote that he had no definite plans but he would like a south facing house with a decent garden and tennis court. However, he couldn't plan for the future until he knew how Lowden was going and referred to a new kiln being built and plans for another, the total costing about £2000.

[11] From The Life of George Leslie Wates

By April 1927 he had made a decision and had bought a building site in Greenway Lane for £285. He named the house Pollard Ash after the pollard ashes that were on the site. See the map on page 165. He naturally used bricks from the Lowden brickworks so that it is one of the few redbrick houses in Bath. This photograph is from 1965.



A letter from Kathleen to Margie in July 1928 indicates that preparations were being made for moving. The first letter retained from there is in November 1929. William had suggested to Lucy that Leslie might consider lending him the money but it was borrowed from his solicitor, Mr W.White, presumably the son of Mr G.A.H.White who had lent money on the original purchase of the Lowden estate. He recorded in 1931 that the total cost was £1800 and it was mortgaged to Mr White for £1000.

That he should be undertaking the building of a new home, with larger garden to be maintained, running the business and engaging in his various voluntary activities at the age of 72 is an illustration of his energy and determination.

William lived there for the rest of his life, initially with Kathleen and Winifred and after Kathleen's marriage with Winifred alone.

Willway families

Following Lyddie's death in 1926 both Theophilus (see page 75) and James died in 1927. Theophilus had cancer of the liver. James had suffered from heart problems since 1917 and had been frequently ill and requiring nursing care. Mercy (see page 74) moved to Shakespeare Avenue to live with Bessie but Shirley Villa was kept, with lodgers including Ada Clark.. They tended the garden with Willie's help. Bessie wrote that they made an annual gift of apples from the garden to the Dolemeads Mission in memory of Theophilus. It seems that Mercy's dog, Tip, continued to sleep there. In 1934 he had been ill for a week and was then glad to get back there to sleep!

Shirley Villa purchase

In 1929 Mercy purchased the freehold of Shirley Villa from Fred Spear for £650.This information comes the deeds of the property seen by someone researching the history of the house who had contacted me. There is no information in the archives so we do not know the background to this. Lucy mentioned that she had a good business brain so it was probably a combination of wanting to keep it and being a good investment of the money which she had at various times inherited. It also provided her with an occupation.

Sarah Davis portrait

The portrait of Sarah Davis (page 52) had been left to their uncle Charles by their grandfather's will. In order to help him in his financial difficulties Bessie, either on her own behalf or jointly with Mercy and Theophilus purchased it from him for £10. It is not known when this occurred and where it was situated before the sale, but it seems probable that it remained at 6 Larkhall Place for a time and was then moved to Shirley Villa. It was agreed between them that it should ultimately go to Lyddie's daughter Lucy and this probably occurred in about 1929 when Mercy had moved to 47 Shakespeare Avenue and Lucy had moved to Rowhill Grange

Rowhill Grange

Rowhill Grange has been mentioned on a number of occasions above as Lucy's home. This property at Wilmington, near Dartford, in Kent was purchased by Leslie in 1928 and the family moved there from Sunnyside in Eltham. It is the subject of a separate history which can be accessed on my website. Bessie and Mercy were invited to stay there for about a fortnight, probably every year, and they very much enjoyed their stays. The family referred to them as "the aunts". William would also have visited and stayed often.

Last years

Willie retired in about 1927. It seems that the accommodation at Clovelly for his family (see page 144) was restricted as Irene had a "hut" but it was cold in winter so she slept at Pollard Ash. However, in about 1936 they moved to 10 Bloomfield Avenue where they were when Alice died in 1937. The movements after that are not clear from the limited records available. Bessie died in 1941 and Willie moved to 47 Shakespeare Avenue to be with Mercy there (although the 1939 register or all persons in the UK at the outbreak of war, shows him there with Bessie and Mercy). After William died in 1943, 47 Shakespeare Avenue was vacated, Willie going back to his family and Mercy spending 3 months per year with them and 9 at Pollard Ash. Willie died in 1949 (Winifred told me he died at Pollard Ash), aged 96, and Mercy in 1952 aged 94. When I met Willie's family in 1964 they were living in Lyncombe Vale Road.

Mercy left her estate to Winifred and Willie's daughter Irene. They thus inherited Shirley Villa and sold it in 1959

Wiltshire Brick and Tile Company

The business at Lowden struggled on for a few years. A dividend of £200 was declared in 1927 but not paid until 1929. 500 shares were transferred to Lucy in 1927. The reason is not clear so may be Leslie had provided some money in exchange for the shares. In 1930 there was a loan to William of £330 to enable him to repay Westminster Bank. The business was presumably affected by the general downturn in the early 1930s following the Great Crash of 1929 and in 1932 there was a loss of £1787.

By 1932 the directors, in addition to William, were Regg, Norman and Lucy, the other directors' shares, Mr Pope's and Mr Mortimer's, having been bought out. In 1934 a further 200 shares were transferred to Lucy, when the last remaining non-family shareholder was bought out. William was now in his late 70s and clearly needed to

hand over the management to someone else. He accordingly in 1933 joined up with Warminster Brick & Tile Co Ltd which had works in Warminster and Corsham. Leslie acted in connection with the merger and William wrote how he had "miraculously" resolved some problem in the negotiations. A new company was incorporated -Wiltshire Brick & Tile Company Ltd owned jointly by Lowden and Warminster with William as chairman and Lucy on the board representing Lowden and Mr H.W.Hankey and 2 other directors from Warminster. The goodwill and property of Lowden, except for a couple of properties and a mortgage on another, were transferred to the new company in exchange for ordinary and preference shares and some cash.

Business continued to decline. In 1938 the works at Lowden and Salterford made losses but there was a good profit at Warminster. In 1941 there was an overall net profit of £3385 and work seems to have stopped at Lowden. By then the company had in effect been taken over by Yorkshire Brick Co Ltd, which had provided money in return for shares, although William was still on the board of directors in 1939

In the meantime, The Lowden Syndicate Ltd had in 1935 been put into liquidation and over the next nine years assets were realised raising about £7000 divided between Lucy's 700 shares and William's 3024. The Wiltshire Tile & Brick Co Ltd shares were divided between Lucy and William, the latter passing to Winifred as part of his estate. As a postscript, that company became nearly worthless and very small sums were received following its liquidation in 1960.

Family visits

There were frequent visits by and to Regg. Lucy, Norman and families. The whole family, except the Americans, gathered at Lucy and Leslie's home Rowhill Grange, for Christmas in 1931, where this famous photograph was taken.



They are as follows:-

Back row from left – Regg, Margie, their son-in-law Ron Horstmann, their daughter Lucy Horstmann, their son Lyn

Middle row – Norman's wife, Dorothy, Norman, Lucy's son Ainsworth, Lucy, Winifred, Regg's daughter Claire, Leslie, Kathleen, Bob Down

Front row – Lucy's son Bernard, her daughters Barbara and Helen, Regg's daughter Rosemary

Some of the family gathered again at Rowhill Grange for lunch following the wedding of Kathleen and Bob in May 1932 at a nearby church.

After the merger with Warminster Brick & Tile Co in 1933 William was presumably able to take life a bit easier. He immediately went on a holiday with Winifred to Tangier, partly financed by Lucy.

In May 1934 William's sister, Sarah, aged 80, came to stay for 10 days and he writes she is as usual – odd and non-sequitur – always off the point. She was living in Salisbury and died there in 1938.



In the summer of 1934 Bertram and family came from America and here is a photo of them with some of the family at Pollard Ash.
Descending on the left:- Claire, William, Regg, Bertram's son Bege, Rosemary
Descending on the right:- Lyn, his wife Joan, Winifred, Bertram's daughter Charmian, his daughter Phyllis, Kathleen with Bob standing on the right with the dog, Mac.

In a letter to Lucy of April 1935 William records a visit by Regg and family at Easter and going for an outing to Imber together with Winnie, Kathleen and Bob. On their way back they called at the Warminster yard and having climbed over the gate found Mr Hankey there working on his own.

Shortly after that visit William sailed for America to visit the family there. He had hoped that Lucy would come with him but he went on his own, now aged 80. He sailed to New York on 22 May and arrived back in Southampton on 18 July, the return being on the Aquitania, the ship that he and Lyddie had sailed to New York on in 1921.



This photo shows him with Bertram's family on the steps at By-the-Way, 458 Old Post Road, Fairfield, the home of Bertram's parents-in-law, the Rykers and which subsequently became his home

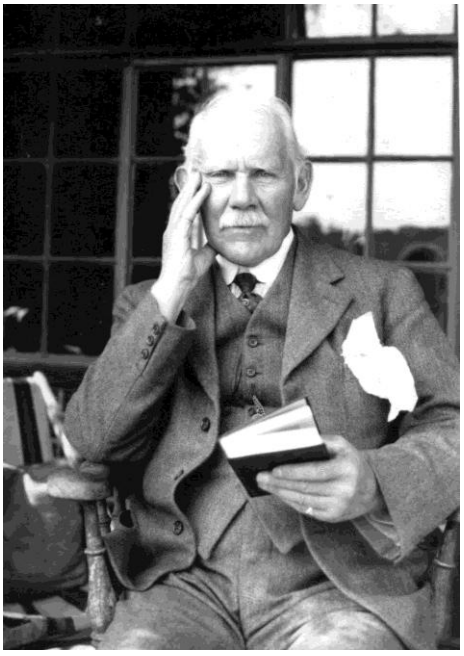
During his time there he again visited his son, Henry, as Henry's daughter Margaret remembered. Whether Bertram met him at the time or after the first visit in 1921 is not known but they certainly met and kept in touch after this visit. Henry's home in New Rochelle was only about 35 miles from Fairfield – a strange coincidence that the half-brothers, born within a few months of each other should both have emigrated to America and ended up living so close.

Amongst Henry's papers were various photos given to him by Bertram including the one at Rowhill Grange shown above and this one. Indeed, this photo and that on page 169 were supplied to me by Nancy Robinson, Margaret's daughter. Bertram did not pass on the information about Henry and no other members of the family knew of his existence. The information only came to light in 2005 when Nancy Robinson, who was doing some family history research, made contact with Bertram's daughter, Phyllis ('Phee'). Some of the information in this history comes from Nancy via her mother and from the relations in Texas with whom she made contact in the course of her research.

In January 1933 William had prepared a letter of wishes before making a new will and listed nine persons "who are outside my family connections but are friends or acquaintances" whom he would like to be informed of his death. Included was "Mr H.C.Lundgren, decorator of New Rochelle N.Y."

Final years

Letters from Lucy to her son Ainsworth record something of William's health. Occasionally she would stay at Pollard Ash to be with her father while Winifred went away or to help with aunts Bessie and Mercy living in Shakespeare Avenue. (see page 173) In September 1936 he had been having fits of dizziness. In June 1938 he is making a great effort to walk more and seems a bit better, presumably after some illness. He seems to have had walking problems thereafter. In Febuary 1941 he had influenza and she wrote that at 86 he may not get over it but has remarkable strong physique and may do so, which he did. In April 1941 he is increasingly feeble but still comes downstairs with the help of Violet, presumably someone living in or coming to help. He no longer reads or shaves and dresses himself but is very cheery and looks the picture of health. In August 1941 he seems pretty well but is suffering from some mental deterioration – impossible to talk to him as he gets mixed up, wanted to write to his wife , wanted his hat and coat as he was going into town! Winifred is to be admired for coping with him and also with Aunt Mercy. In August 1943 looks very well but weaker in the legs. It is a shock seeing him look like his old self but seeing him do childish things like tying his handkerchief in a knot.



He died on 6th December 1943, aged 88, the Bath Chronicle's obituary headed Loss to Bath Liberalism

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Reginald Ainsworth's biography

By Lucy W.Wates

Eldest of a family of six whose parents possessed little of the world's wealth, a condition of affairs which lasted through his boyhood, Reginald William Ainsworth was born in his grandmother's house in Bath on July 7th 1882

This house in Bath, 8 Walcot Terrace, was the business premises of Willways, dyers and cleaners, and had been run by his grandmother since the death of her invalid husband, James, in Australia in 1860.

In this home she had brought up with devotion and considerable sacrifice, her five children – the eldest Lyddie, Reginald's mother being only 9 years old on the death of her father.

Grandmamma was small frail and delicate but of indomitable will and her influence over her children was such that no important step was ever taken by them without her advice, even when her two sons and three daughters and reached middle age. In times of trouble she was always their refuge.

She liked to be with them in illness and so it came about that Reginald's mother was in her old home when the baby was born. It was a terraced Georgian house. Its windows at the back looked out over the valley across the river Avon to the hills beyond and the bedroom with curtained bed was peaceful enough in spite of the business being carried out on the floor below.

Reginald, or Reggie as he was called when a child, was born into a circle of admiring aunts and uncles. He was fair and blue eyed with a clear white skin. "He is sweetly pretty" his Aunt Bessie said in one of her letters.

In those days there were no cars or buses. All vehicles were horse drawn and a little horse drawn tram ran from Grosvenor to the Old Bridge every half hour, a tinkling bell round the horse's neck warning passengers of its coming.

Bath was a pleasant faded city as it lay drowsing peacefully in the valley of the Avon, dreaming of its past glories, and unspoilt by overcrowded streets, traffic jams and jerry building. To the sophisticated it was shabby and dull, but it was peaceful and beautiful to those who loved peace and beauty. The Roman baths had not yet been adorned by pseudo-Roman statues and the quiet 'abbey churchyard' had its queue of bath chairs with their ancient attendants

Primroses grew in the hedges of Greenway Lane, and in the Englishcoombe Lane, when Reggie walked and scampered with the old dog, were occasionally to be found white violets amongst the ivy in the banked up hedges. Only one or two cottages were there. Wellsway had houses only on one side and on the other side a wall edged the fields of the farm which extended to what is now Alexandra Park

Some years of Reginald's early childhood were spent in Bath as our father was in business there with an elderly uncle, a coal owner and speculator in South Wales, and for a short time lived at Penarth. Uncle Humby's speculations were a failure and came to nought when the family was living at Claveston View in Wellsway, and our father went to London to look for work there. This resulted in a move to London where for a short, but unhappy time for our mother, they lived in East Dulwich [This sequence is incorrect – see page 111]

By that time Reginald had a sister Lucy, who writes this, and a brother Bertram was born in December 1886. Our beautiful aunt Bessie, our mother's sister, being much of an invalid, was obliged to spend long periods at the seaside and on several of these visits she took Reggie. In her letters she speaks of his prettiness and lively endearing ways. His happiness on the sands romping with his Uncle Theophilus, her brother, is the theme of many of her letters. Once when she had a photograph of him sent her by Theophilus his grandmother says in a letter: "You would have thought it was Bessie's own little boy by her expression of delight. She took it to Eden House and they were all delighted with the picture, then she brought it home and put it in a frame on the shelf"

His grandmother also was exceedingly fond of him and also was anxious to help his mother by having him to stay with her in Bath. She knew that business was difficult and that our father's income was very small. Our father's financial affairs were always in a perpetual state of uncertainty. She says in one letter to our mother "I dream about you and the children by night and think of you in the day"

Later, when our father's position improved a little (He was then manager of a branch business run by Mr Idris of Soda water fame and a friend of his father's. It was a process of extracting essence from beef which was called Viking Brand) the family moved to 2 Millbrook Villas, New Southgate and was there for several years, but much of that time was spent in Bath with his grandmother, Aunt Mercy and Uncle Theophilus in a kind but strictly religious atmosphere.

He was taken regularly to the Baptist Chapel in Manvers Street and rarely to any other church but it seems that on one occasion he was taken to Argyle Chapel as his grandmother writes in 1885, Feb 7th "I took Reggie to Argyle this morning. He was very good, but fell asleep a little while, so he was bright this evening and did not go to bed till late. All the evening I have shown him pictures and told him stories. He listens with such wondering eyes. The other night he said he was 'fayed' so I told him he had asked Jesus to take care of him and he never went to sleep. He said 'not in a bed, but in a ship'". As Reggie was only 2 ½ years old this remark showed how well grounded he was in the story of the New Testament and what a familiar book the Bible was to him at that early age.

Another letter from his grandmother, "I love Reggie and feel that he is almost one of my children so that nothing I do for him ever becomes a duty

He always alluded to himself in the third person – "He wants someone to play with him", "He doesn't like it" and his playthings were mostly improvised and great treasures, such as an old cotton reel and penholder which was called 'pen-a-poke' and which was taken everywhere, even to bed with him, for several years.

One winter he had an attack of bronchitis which persisted and, on the advice of the doctor, the family took rooms in a cottage in Wells where we lived for some months. It was there that he first showed his propensity for collecting things that interested him and for searching in hedges, poking with a stick to find them. A dead grass snake was to him a thing on interest and he would carry it on the end of stick for the whole of a walk.

In 1889 when in New Southgate he and I went to school. It was a small private school at the other end of the road. There Reggie, being quick to learn, found plenty of time for mischief as well as lessons, and many were the scrapes he got into, I then being of an age to admire, aid and abet.

He was kind-hearted but passionate little boy, acutely sensitive to an embarrassing situation. At the time when he was promoted from the petticoats worn then by little boys into the knickerbockers which his age of 7 demanded, he was so shy of appearing in something new and strange that he retired under the table for a large part of the day – a day of depression for the whole family.

He learnt to read with some difficulty. Perhaps it was that 'Tot the Cat' did not appeal to his literary taste. In after years he became a voracious reader and would pore for hours over the Encyclopaedia Britannica or any book of general knowledge. There were few subjects on which he could not converse with knowledge and intelligence.

At Millbrook Villas we had a series of nursery governesses. One of these ladies was reported to have been seen somewhat the worse for drink when in charge of the children on one of their daily walks. She was dismissed with much sorrow on the part of her pupils as she was a clever and interesting teacher. Another, a Miss McFee used to bring white mice to the house and, on several occasions, they were hung in a wire cage from the chandelier during lesson time. Her drawings on a slate of incidents in the history of England impressed her small pupils to such an extent that one of them at least always sees the battle of Hastings fought on a slate in white chalk.

There was Congregational Church near by which the family regularly attended and where a friendship was started which with some intermittence has continued until the present day – that of the Barfields. Mr and Mrs Barfield were friends of our parents, Nina, their eldest, being about the same age as Reggie, and there were two younger boys.

There was a small garden attached to Millbrook Villas in which we three spent many hours of play, play which was often very mischievous such as 'posting' bogus letters, mud pies etc in the red letterbox which was just in front of the house. These letters had a purpose as they were sent to a familiar spirit called by Reggie Mr Cuttsey.. This imaginary person lived in East Dulwich, possessed a very real personality and provided a theme for many stories, some of a very thrilling nature told by Reggie to his sister and brother.

During school holidays Grandmother often had he and I to stay with her in Bath; and sometimes for very long periods when we went to school there – probably at the time when the family moved from London to Swindon. This was a school next door to the

‘dye works’ in Walcot Terrace. Our grandmother and aunt spent the greater part of their time there, taking the children with them in the morning from Shirley Villa on Beechen Cliff and returning with them at night.

There was plenty of interest for children in the dye works - the large room behind the ‘shop’ littered with pieces of cloth, trimmings and cuttings from the unpicking; the old sideboard at one end of the room in which was the ‘till’, sometimes containing very little money, hardly enough to pay the wages of the workmen at the end of the week; and the large table in the centre of the room round which and under which a child or children were always playing in spite of the busy business life that was going on around them. There was a basement kitchen and steep narrow stairs led to it, on which one hesitated to hear the crickets chirruping in the walls

The garden was hardly worthy of the name, but it had sparse patches of grass, a few vegetables and, at one time, some fowls. On either side were low wide walls on which it was possible to walk if one could avoid the eyes of Miss Barker, the schoolmistress next door, and a vigilant grandmother or aunt looking from the vine covered balcony windows of the ‘shop’.

The Dye House (now pulled down) was a solid stone building on two floors. On the upper one worked an ogre, Parker the presser, in an atmosphere of oppressive moist heat which was always unbearable. It was a temptation to plague him by throwing small pebbles through this window and escape by the skin of one’s teeth from the enraged Parker who, armed with a flat iron, threatened with dire punishment the fleeing boy

The dye was in great steaming vats and had to be stirred with long sticks or poles and the materials dipped and lifted until they were well permeated with the dye. These huge black vats, the dark steam enveloping figures of the men and the acrid smell of the dye gave a Danteesque impression to the scene, and it was with a somewhat awesome feeling that the children entered into it.

A newly installed wringing contrivance was used to extract the moisture from the dyed or cleaned articles by centrifugal force. When not in use this was regarded as a toy by venturesome children, but the use of it for that purpose was not regarded with favour by the foreman in charge.

Beyond the dye-house was the bank of the river and the dye ran into it through pipes or channels staining the river water with wonderful eddies of swirling colour.

Across the river was the ‘Garden’, a plot of land which had been in the possession of the family for many years and in which grew fruit and vegetables and straggling old-fashioned rose trees. This supplied the family with all they needed in garden produce and was reached by crossing the Clevedon Bridge at the cost of 1/2d per person or a ‘season ticket’

The dog Toby was a great companion for Reggie. ‘She’ was an animal of intelligence as mongrels often are and they had many good times together.

Literature in the Bath household was mostly limited to books of a religious nature and by the time he could read easily Reggie had exhausted many of the simpler ones, and would explore further into such books as 'The World of Wonders' and Fox's Book of Martyrs. There was also a child's periodical – The Little Gleaner.

The coming and going between the two houses, the little villa on the hill and the business house at Walcot Terrace, occupied a considerable amount of time and flavoured life with a sort of nomad atmosphere which was very stimulating.

Shirley Villa had a pleasant garden which opened on to Beechen Cliff with its magnificent view of Bath. The little low stone wall which edged the cliff was amusing to children as it was composed of uneven coping stones making mountainous hazards for a venturesome climber. Also from the vantage point of one cliff path it was fun to hurl fallen apples with a strong over arm throw, such as Regg always had, into the gardens below, and on the end of a stick they could be catapulted even into Holloway, causing pedestrians much surprise, though never injury. In spite of his mischievous nature Reginald was never cruel and was careful not to cause harm.

In the corner of the garden there was a small glazed 'summerhouse' built on a raised brick foundation so that it was possible to get a good view of the city over the heads of people walking on the path below. This contained the old family rocking horse, for long a favourite with the older grandchildren but later discarded as being too dilapidated. Reginald, having been scolded for clipping its mane or tail, reassured his grandmother by saying, "never mind, Grandma, it will soon grow again.". In its heyday it was a good beast with shiny mahogany 'coat', a well-carved body and head and with outstretched legs galloping on real rockers. Portions of its anatomy were found in the Shirley Villa Garden after the 1942 blitz in Bath, its remnants having been stored in the attic of the house itself.

Fowls were kept in this garden and were sometimes allowed to run loose. This was too great a temptation to Reginald and his younger brother Bertram and they chased them with sticks and whoops of laughter (though with no intention of being unkind) for the fun of seeing their queer antics as they ran, squawking hither and thither.

Reginald had a keen sense of the grotesque or the whimsical and his ways of amusing himself were often original and odd, such as rolling the dog Toby in an old sheet and then making the postman's rat-tat at the door. The dog would make frantic struggles to rid herself of the wrappings in order to reach her enemy – the postman – and in doing so would roll from top to bottom of the stairs barking and yapping and looking quite ludicrous, trailing ends of sheeting after her to the intense enjoyment of us all.

He had a most infectious laugh and would chuckle over a book he was reading until one felt bound to join in and laugh too.

In those days there were very few games organised at the day schools. The children were home for tea about 4.30 and afterwards, except for homework which took from an hour to two hours, time was to kill, either reading or inventing some mischievous scheme for amusing oneself.

There was rarely a period in the lives of the Ainsworth children when one or another was not living with the patient grandmother and aunt at Bath and going to school from Shirley Villa. Sometimes two of us were there at the same time. In our very young days we were sometimes accompanied by Minnie Brown, a precise young woman with her hair in long dark plaits who was a sort of general help.

Walks were to Coombe Down, Englishcoombe Lane, Lyncombe, Hampton Rocks and Sham Castle and sometimes, when on shopping expeditions, Grandmamma might give each child 2d and let them loose in Victoria Park. At that time there was a little rustic kiosk in the park where one could buy for 2d a good bowl of curds and whey with a large spoonful of clotted cream, and sit on high stools and eat it. This was a great treat.

Reginald had a more than usual propensity for collecting things and on one occasion his Aunt Bessie made a list of the articles found in his pockets by grandmother in 1890:- 12 Chestnuts, 3 latchkeys, 1 marble, 1 old bootlace, pieces of twine, whistle, 2 splints of wood dyed purple, old pencil case, 9 peas, a bard pointed leaf, an Indian coin, 2 pieces of candle moulded into marbles, some small old envelopes, 3 pieces of whalebone, 1 nail, a lead button, cork , a piece of charcoal, old bit of India rubber, a piece of gutta-percha, a piece of wood cut out for a gun carriage, a very small piece of mirror glass. Ordinary toys were few and expensive ones hardly ever possessed and indeed rarely longed for

Christmas time was spent in Bath at Shirley Villa during all the early years, until the effort of organising became too much for grandmother and the children too big to be stowed away to sleep in anybody's bedroom where there was an odd corner to be spared. These Christmases were a high spot in our lives. They seemed usually to be snowy Christmas card Christmases and the windows of Shirley Villa were sometimes sash deep in drifts of snow, making the interior of the room with its blazing fire dim and mysterious.

Into this room on at least two occasions a real Father Christmas came, red cloak and hat and a sackful of toys over his shoulder. He came through the front gate, which rang a little bell as it opened, and walked slowly up the snowy path. Four or five little heads peered excitedly, somewhat awesomely, over the snowdrifts and then ran to the door to welcome him. He was a personality in the eyes of all children as he loved them and had a magical way of commanding their attention. (He was Mr Fred Spear and had been Reginald's father's best man at his wedding, his great friend, a man of great generosity and kindness and a near neighbour) [See page 106 for more about him]

Later at Christmas time Grandmother and aunts and uncles joined the Ainsworths at their house Summerville in Swindon, and great was the excitement on their arrival; but the magic of these earlier times always remained in the memories of the children to be carried far into manhood and womanhood.

Parties were rare and invitations to them were received by Regg with nervous apprehensions. He objected on one occasion to a rather formidable party at the Spears' house but he was persuaded to go and his aunt in a letter says "he did enjoy it and was afterwards invited to a party at Mrs Sydney Bush's for little boys only"

This was about the year 1894 when the family was living at Swindon, Reginald's father being the manager of the Wilts and Berks Canal, which was navigable at that time and used a good deal for transport. There was a rather dilapidated houseboat kept for the use of the manager, and the elder children spent many happy hours in it, among the reeds and other water plants that grew by the side of the water.

The family went to Swindon in 1892 when Reginald was 10 years old and his parents were thinking more seriously and definitely of his education and that of the rest of the family. At first a governess was employed and a room in 2 Brunswick Terrace was designated as the "schoolroom", but Regg very soon outgrew the governess stage and was sent to a school kept by a Mr Snell, a private school in the same road as his home.

The standard at this school was not very high and he found the work easy, the other boys often coming to the house in the evenings to ask for his help in their homework. They sometimes called him 'Brain killer'.

He was a good cricketer especially as a bowler as his eye was accurate and his action powerful. He had broad strong shoulders, a well-balanced body and became quite a champion swimmer, but at this time there were few opportunities of following what became to him in later years a favourite sport in which he excelled.

It was at this school, with a room at the back in which lessons were done and a square asphalted playground, that Regg found one or two friendships that were to prove lifelong; but on the whole he was not a gregarious soul and was exceedingly discriminating in his choice of friends. Also he was quiet and uncommunicative, sensitive to ignobility and insecurity.

One of these friends, Frank Longland, son of a grocer in the town, a sunny adventurous boy, became afterwards in the course of a missionary career in the Congo a Commissioner in Tanganyika. He was perhaps the only lifelong friend. Stephen Pugh, the quiet, studious, motherless son of the Baptist Minister, was perhaps the originator of any interest Regg took in the science of engineering. He too became a missionary and a doctor and started and ran a large hospital in Darjeeling in India for many years, retiring to Wales as an ordinary practitioner and dying in early middle age. Bramal Williams, son of a Congregational minister, tall and lanky, died of TB in his early twenties.

There were other lesser stars in his small circle of friends but these were his principal companions in games, in the garden, or on Saturday expeditions to the wonderful Wiltshire Downs which always loved, as did his wife also in later years.

The long dusty roads not yet adapted for motor traffic, winding up to the bare lonely ills patched with shifting cloud shadows, and dotted by clumps of gaunt trees were to the thoughtful nature loving by an escape from the school routine, and gave him a taste of that life of romance and adventure for which his soul longed. Then they might plunge into the wood fringing these uplands, copses which lined the sides of the coombes cutting into the hillside, full of strange and sometimes rare plants, butterflies and birds, wild and very little frequented except by the farm workers or boys bent on exploration and discovery in pleasurable terror of the game keeper

These foothills and coombes were happy hunting grounds for botanists and entomologists and it was at this time we started our collections of flowers, butterflies and moths. In a few years Reginald had a good collection of the latter and could be found on summer nights, with a lantern and net peering (he was always short sighted) into the garden borders and fruit bushes, shaking them to make the moths fly out. Liddington and Chislehurst and villages nestling at the foot of the Downs were the haunts of the adventurous.

But the chief place of interest was Coate Reservoir, a sheet of water, almost a lake, lying in a cup of the hills about two miles out of Swindon. It was originally conserved for the supply of the Wilts and Berks Canal and was under the control of that company of which Reginald's father was the general manager. The Ainsworth family was therefore allowed to enter freely and many were the picnics and skating excursions made en famille to this spot. As an objective for the boys it was ideal, conker chestnuts in the autumn, swimming in the summer or rowing a boat if funds would run to that, and in the winter, which seemed long and hard in those days, skating. The very hard frost of 1897 made the ice so thick that an ice gala was held on it, and during this period daily pilgrimages were made to it, the whole family walking the two miles dangling little wooden skates. One sat on the icy verge of the lake or, if lucky, on a chair provided by an attendant and had them screwed on to the soles of ones boots.

Proof of his excellence at school was illustrated by an incident which happened on one of the family's excursions to Savenake Forest, a very favourite spot. His aunt writes in letter to her mother, "We met his (R's) schoolmaster and Lyddie (R's mother) asked how Reggie was getting on – 'He is a bright boy and top of his form; was the answer" He was winning the good opinion of all his teachers and it was advised that he should try for a scholarship to the Swindon Technical Schools. He won this easily and from that time on his education cost our father nothing.

Science was his subject although he was equally good on the classical side and at this period began to read voraciously. Although he complained of a bad memory all his life, his mind was a storehouse of knowledge on a great variety of subjects.

It was about this time, when he was thirteen that something occurred which affected his whole future life. - the coming of the Willway family to Swindon. Mr and Mrs Willway were Congregationalists and it was at a meeting connected with the Free Churches of Swindon that our father met him, our father being a Baptist. Our mother was quite excited when told that a member of her family had come to Swindon and plans to meet them were made.

Mr Henry Willway was a younger member of an older branch of our mother's family, be being our mother's father's (James Willway's) first cousin. He was a fine good looking intellectual man, inclined to be stout and wearing a small beard. His wife was short and also inclined to stoutness, very active, businesslike and house proud, and also very proud of their daughter Margie, the youngest of their family by 12 years



Margie was 13 and extremely pretty, tall for her age with a mass of brown curly hair worn with a full fringe. Her eyes were large and violet blue, her nose straight and a cupids bow of a mouth described by a girlfriend as most “kissable”. She was not only sweet to look at but of a sweet disposition and the Ainsworth family fell for her at once. By an almost imperceptible act she was received into the family and from that time forth has not departed from it. (the photograph is of Margie on the right and Lucy on the left)

She joined us in our walks on which we were accompanied then by the shy Reginald who shirked walking with the family on ordinary occasions. He even attempted an entertainment for her by making quaint shadows on the wall in the gas light with his hands, and on one occasion he thrust a small bunch of lilies over his shoulder from behind being too shy to present them in the orthodox manner.

He was sensitive to a degree of intense shyness at times, but was never known to over step the mark of propriety in his contact with others. He began secretly to resent the attention other boys paid to his cousin, especially a certain set of which he did not approve and asked his sister not to introduce her to one boy who was particularly anathema to him.

He was becoming a very studious schoolboy with a scientific inclination, getting much pleasure from his work in experimenting with various chemicals especially, in the early days, with explosives. The devices which he, with the aid of confederates, invented to alarm the neighbourhood were numerous and astonishing. Pellets of lead enclosing homemade explosive and catapulted into walls, bombs buried in the earth with fuses attached were the sort the sorts of menaces with which these boys employed their spare time, but although, on one occasion, burning his eyebrows and front hair off, Regg never came to any serious harm

It was about the year 1900 when we moved to a larger house, Summerville, in the same road but further from the shops, where the houses were larger and more modern. This was a semidetached house with a shady garden of about ½ acre, and here we lived for about 20 years

A little later Mr and Mrs Willway moved to a house next door but one, and between the two houses was the private school at which Margie became a teacher, but was at first a pupil.

Appendix 2 - John Cripps' Eulogy 1944

I confess that the invitation to write something about Mr Ainsworth for the Tabernacle Magazine gave me a thrill of gratitude and pride. For apart from the two nearest and dearest of all, both of them now in Heaven, and Sidney Bower who for twenty years in Birkenhead was father to me when I had lost my own, nobody who has ever crossed my pathway has left a deeper mark upon my life than he. On Sunday June 28th 1908 the Senior Student of the Midland Baptist College, Nottingham, preached "with a view" at the Tabernacle. He had already had a letter, still in a drawer of his desk, from Edwin J. Lay of blessed memory, telling him he was to stay for the weekend with Mr and Mrs W.J.Ainsworth on the Bath Road. He did so and that visit started a friendship with the whole family which still continues today.

The call had been nothing like unanimous, and as I wrote the fateful letter of acceptance I was uneasily conscious that a single false step might throw away the chance of a lifetime at a church like the Tabernacle. No live church is ever easy to manage or guide. The fact that I did not throw away that chance is due to Mr Ainsworth more than anyone else. I leaned upon him instinctively. He kept me from making some bad mistakes; so I learned to trust and love him more and more as the years passed. I can never even begin to pay the debt I owe. Let me try so sum up what I feel about him;

First of all, he towered above me intellectually. I felt I could never put less than my best and utmost when he was in the pew. He loved good books ad knew his English literature as few laymen I have known. All my time at the Tabernacle he was the best public speaker in the town, and by a long way its best debater. He had a richly-stored mind and could think quickly on his feet. His value to the Church in this department specially during his long chairmanship of the Management Committee, was beyond calculation.

But to me even more impressive than this, both in public and in private, was his value and example as a Christian man. Far more than most he had a certain poise of mind; the judicial outlook and temper. Not that he was indifferent or unconcerned but from the passion to be fair. He could see all round a subject. He could not only tolerate views which he detested, but he could be scrupulously fair to them alike in speech and in action. I never remember him rude or selfishly angry. His self-control was complete. He was never strung into mere retaliation, but always lifted the issue into the realm where people who are friends in Christ know how to differ in courtesy and love.

This was often his greatest contribution to a difficult meeting; he had completely changed the atmosphere when he sat down. This priceless gift was, I think, seen at its very best in the "Votes-for-Women" controversy. We were both in it at a time when it had reached almost the intensity of a civil war.

But in theology and in politics he was a convinced Liberal; that was why he attracted young people so powerfully, and was their natural and spokesman both inside and outside the church. At the same time, he lived close to the evangelical heart of the Gospel. Though in some ways a shy man there were glimpses of that hidden life with Christ of which he rarely spoke. No one who knew him intimately as I did could doubt this for a moment. All sorts of mental pictures of him come back to me now as

I write. But I must end by saying that again and again things I heard him say steadied and fortified me in the long day's task. Happy is the Christian community which even once in its history has had a man like him.

Appendix 3 - Picnic at Manorbier– 1899

By Lydia Ainsworth

We started by train to Manorbier at 10.15. James met us and we wandered through lovely lanes, between high hedges clothed with ferns and honeysuckle winding loving arms about the branches. Then we met Bessie in a big brimmed hat, rustically trimmed with purple heath. After a few preliminaries at the farm house where they reside, we all started off, each one armed with a basket or bag of provisions, bathing dresses and other picnic commodities. A beautiful walk over heath and moor and through some farm yards where the pigs came to investigate us, brought us at last to the cliffs and there lay before us, but far beneath, a wide expanse of glittering sea. It was a glorious sight you know. No words of mine can describe it. Steep cliffs sloped down to the beach covered with ferns and heath. The day was glorious, a cloudlessly and brilliant sun, but the heat tempered by the sea breezes. A little zigzag path led down to a very small sandy bay. Here we clambered down as well as we could with the children and the luggage. We had to be very careful for had we lost one footing we should have rolled to the bottom which would not have been pleasant. Imagine our party landed on the smooth sands of a little rocky bay, shut out from all the world by great cliffs, only one way down and that by the precipitous path we had come.

It was so enchanting that I could not help thinking of Shakespeare's words in "the Tempest", "Come unto these yellow sands and there your hands", and I executed a little dance joining hands with the children and singing the words. We were all wild to bathe, so we parted into two companies finding dressing rooms among the rocks, and then you should have seen us all like wild things racing about in our bathing dresses over the hot sands just as though we were at home. The slow green breakers swept in just rough enough to enjoyable. In and out of the sea we ran, drying for a few minutes and then going into the cool waves just to feel the contrast. It was the most delightful bathe I have ever had, but at last dinner was announced and we had to dress.

We spent the afternoon in the most luxurious idleness running about like a lot of children with no shoes or stockings on, paddling in the water and then drying our feet in the hot sand. But the day was not over yet - listen! Teatime came and we made a fire. We had a can to boil our water in, but of course it would not boil and the tide was coming up pretty fast. We must lay our clothes on the rocks above high water mark, for it was spring time and the bay would soon be full. Ominous sounds of thunder were heard in the distance. Tea was laid, all was ready but that water would not boil! A few more sticks and some dry fern, William hangs the can over the fire by a piece of wood, patience! it sings! Now then bring the teapot – bravo! it boils! Now then for tea and cream, clamber up the rocks, sit on any sharp fragments you can find, here we are, make haste! The thunder is more frequent and the clouds are gathering.

Anxiety sits on every countenance except the boys' *[Regg aged 17 and Bert aged 13]*and Mr Baillie's, who is busy getting more water to boil! We have triumphed, each one has his first cup of tea, when – what was that – a drop of rain, another and another, down it comes, no shelter except for a few jutting fragments of rock. We all huddle under these hoping to get some protection from our umbrellas. But all no use, little streams begin to trickle down the cliffside, we shall soon be wet through, consternation now possesses. We abandon ourselves to our fate, provisions,

everything is packed away in pouring rain and we clamber slip, trudge blindly on up the steep zigzag path.
Poor Norman! *[aged 5]* Sometime I see the soles of his shoes as he misses his footing on the wet slippery grass and William with a strong hand swings him up another foot or so! He protests and whimpers but he has to go, there is no mercy for any of us. Lucy *[aged 15]*, like a sensible girl, has gone on first pushing Kathleen *[aged 6]* in front of her. Breathless and frightened we all at last, one after the other, reach the top. The rain pours down in torrents, umbrellas are useless, the lightening comes in blinding flashes, and the thunder rolls reverberating over our heads. I think of the men who were killed by the lightening within the last few days and within a few miles of where we are. I view with satisfaction the fact that we are all straggling along one after the other so that we shall not all be killed together and the children may still have left them a protector. We walk in grim silence, only an occasional exclamation "make haste!", "get to the Hill Farm!".

Blinded and soaked with rain we plunge at last into the farm yard, where the pigs are running about squealing with fright and the cows bellowing. We wade through the unclean water of the yard and all stumble thankfully into a real Welsh kitchen and there stand a forlorn group, water pouring from every point of us. We look round and count each other. Only one is missing, Mr Baillie. "Where is he? Oh, William, do go and look for him." "No, Uncle James is all right, he is in the fowls' house!" say the boys. These words sound so comical in our half hysterical state that we burst out laughing and leave James to his fate in the fowls' house! Just imagine us if you can in the dark unevenly flagged kitchen, the raftered roof hung with flitches of bacon, a pale comely woman, the mistress, looking at us in consternation, each dripping forlorn figure adding to the pools of water on the floor, now and then peals of laughter at our desperate condition.

But we can't all stay here; the children are beginning to shiver. James arrives and elicits fresh laugher by mildly remarking "Its rather stormy, Mrs Hughes". Once more we set off to Bessie's residence, it rains a little less. We arrive and produce more consternation.

Appendix 4 - Death of Mercy Davis 1869

From Lydia Willway's diary

Thursday March 11th 1869. Went up to Aunt Mercy's this afternoon …found her very weak just sitting up in bed after washing – laid her back and pulled down her sleeves. She could scarcely speak for a minute, then only a little. That good for nothing old nurse went the day before – so delighted……I was so glad Ma was up there when it happened and she stayed with her all night. At tea I asked Aunty what she would like to have. She could not fancy anything but at last she said she thought a little watercress so I went and got some. I had to go down in town for it. She did not want me to go. When I got in Uncle J was trying to raise Aunty – she was so weak and half asleep. She enjoyed the cress and I was so thankful I got it for she could not have eaten anything else. Uncle John was obliged to feed her with it all and she did not open her eyes all the while. After tea she was very sleepy but got out on the sofa. In the afternoon she was very cold and shivering and I was obliged to warm a shawl and put all over her under the clothes but now she was so warm that she threw them off and perspiring very much. I fanned her for half an hour I should think and then brushed her hair for as long. She said "It is such a luxury. I have not had it done for a long time."
Uncle John thought he must go to the lecture. He had had a very bad night, or she had rather, and the agreement was that Mamma should go up if such was the case but it was so cold that I did not want her to come if I could help it. Uncle J said that unless she wanted her particularly, he would stay with her. She said:" Well dear I don't want you to stay up for you had scarcely any sleep, and I don't want Lucy to come for it is so cold" but Grandpa came in then and set it all at rest by telling us that Mrs Davis [Mercy's step-mother] was coming up, which she did soon after. I was very glad and so was Aunty – she seemed quite relieved. I then thought that I would go to the lecture too as I was not then wanted. Uncle John lifted her into bed again and then we went. She gave me two kisses when I wished her good bye. Dear Aunty – I don't think she will be here much longer, perhaps not more than a few days – she is so very weak. I intend to go up to see her tomorrow.

Friday March 12th 1869. It is all over and Aunt Mercy is dead – oh dear, to be no more numbered among the living, to think that I should have seen her, spoken to her, only last night and now her lips are cold and no more speech or movement can come from them. I feel as if I couldn't say any more just now and yet I think I had better.

I slept late this morning and when I went down in the hall Mama was sitting by the fire to my astonishment for I did not dream of what had happened. I thought she must be ill so I said "What's the matter Ma". She said nothing then I asked if she was ill. She looked so strange and dreamy that I asked her in a bantering tone if she had been to sleep and wanted to know why she didn't wake me up. Again, she looked at me very straight and said "Haven't you been awake, don't you know?". "Know what?" I asked. "I don't know anything" I said in a startled tone. "Don't you know Aunty's gone" she said and burst into tears. If a thunderbolt had fallen at my feet I could not have been more startled. I was perfectly dumbstruck. I could say nothing but sank down on the nearest chair. And this was the event I had been prepared for, the one I had thought of long before and yet now it was come it overwhelmed me. I sat there

without moving or speaking till Ellen [the servant] came to the door and I don't know how long that was, and then I heard all about it.

She had a very bad night being scarcely able to breathe. Mrs Davis would not go to sleep and she said that Aunty asked her once of twice to go to bed although she could scarcely speak. Mrs D called no one till about four and then she would wait no longer and Uncle J came in. She said that it was quite distressing towards the last. She asked them if they could not help her several times saying that she could not live unless she had some relief. Once or twice she called out "Oh Lord help me". She wished the Dr to be called and was sent for. She was impatient for his coming saying how long he was. When he came she asked him if he couldn't help her. He then gave her some mixture which seemed to compose her for she was then quiet. Neither Mrs Davis nor Uncle J thought that it was so near but she put her hand on the coverlid and Aunty put hers on it. Mrs D then clasped it with the other. They both stood looking at her till Aunty fixed her eyes on Mrs D and then on Uncle John and so died. It then was five o'clock. Emily was sent down at once and woke us at six – at least Mama.

In the evening I went up with Mama, Grandpa and Mrs Davis. Uncle Charles and Aunt Jane were with Uncle John and oh he did look so full of anguish. We went into her room and though I expected it, yet when I saw the bed it gave me a turn. Mama gave way to a paroxysm of grief. But oh the touch of her icy forehead - I started when I felt it and the room was so dim that it looked almost awful, oh I shall never forget it but her face looked so beautiful just like sculptural marble.

Appendix 5 - Christmas at Summerville 1901

Letter written by Lyddie Ainsworth to Anna Le Feuvre in Jersey

They all came Tuesday morning, bringing with them turkeys and a goose and other provisions. Bessie was in a flutter of excitement as one thing after another the case disgorged its contents. They said poor Mamma being the smallest was nearly buried beneath the parcels but of course that only added to the fun. At the station they said it was really ludicrous to see four of them (Bessie, Mamma, Mercy and Offie) marching one after the other, each one loaded to the eyes with rugs, boxes, hampers and what not. Well, they all arrived safely with no losses and Mamma none the worse for her journey.

We had a busy afternoon and evening, Bessie arranging your flowers in all the vases we could get, and afterwards making stuffing for turkeys. We were all so happy and merry preparing for Xmas. We could scarcely be happier when it came.

Santa Claus was not forgotten, at least he did not forget, and stockings were not hung up in vain. Early on Xmas morning, we were awakened by mysterious voices and little feet pattering about, Oh, the delights of Santa Claus! Who would not be a child with the imagination which really feels it to be true, while if he thought perhaps would know it was not.

Norman actually did write a note to Santa Clause and threw it up the chimney. He asked for a paint box and said he knew it would come, as last year he wrote a note for Santa Claus and he brought him what he asked for. I got the note down afterwards and kept it. Of course he got his box.

Directly after breakfast the men and boys went for a walk, while we women enjoyed ourselves immensely in the kitchen, laughing and chatting over our cooking operations.

Dinner was a complete success. The turkey the best we ever had (we always say that every Xmas), the table looked lovely with your flowers for decoration. Pudding and mince pies followed and there on the top of the pudding was your piece of holly. We did not forget the kind giver, nor any of the dear friends at Eden, who we knew were thinking of us as were of them.

I must tell you too how pretty the house looked. The front door opens into a quare lobby, then large glass doors shut you off from the house. You open these and stand in a sort of hall with a staircase running up to the bedrooms, which are ranged round three sides of the hall. The whole of the staircase and corridor above were wreathed with evergreens twined in and out the bannisters so that on entering you found yourself in a perfect bower of evergreen.

There are three rooms on the downstair floor, dining room, study and drawing room and these were all trimmed with evergreens, then there were flowers everywhere for I had ordered some before yours came and Bessie brought some more, so you can fancy how bright and beautiful and flowery it all looked, a fit shrine for the happy spirits moving about so buoyantly and joyously.

A short rest after dinner and a toilet performance and then came the presents! Something for everyone and everyone over and over again, for everyone had something for somebody. The children all joined in it this time, down to the youngest, for they hemmed teacloths for Aunty and Grandma and crocheted mats for Mamma and gave sweets to uncles.

Auntie Bessie as usual was the presiding genius. How she finds time to do it all I can't imagine! 'There was a lovely doll for Kathleen with all her clothes most beautifully made to take off and on and the loveliest pink brocaded silk dress I ever saw on a doll. The boys had a game of ping pong and I had a pair of exquisite Venetian vases, most beautiful and rare! All from James and Bessie. Many things were quite prosaic such as aprons, gloves and a plate basket to Bessie from me, but I knew she wanted it.

It must have taken nearly two house to get through this performance. Then came tea and then games, the children acting charades.

We had prayers about 8 and then the little ones went to bed tired and happy and looking forward to more play tomorrow. That is the best of our Xmas party, it lasts so long. We had 3 complete holidays. James did not go till Saturday and the others, none of them till Monday.

We had one Xmas party for the elder children, which everyone seemed to enjoy greatly. We had about 12 young people here beside ourselves. They had ping pong in one room, charades in another and supper was laid in the study. Everyone said it was a jolly party with no formality or stiffness about it.

Some of the charades were really ridiculous. One word they acted was Sandwich. The first scene was on the sands, two young men (one over six feet high and 18 years of age) played the children with buckets and spades and dressed in our children's sailor hats and pinafores, it was too utterly ridiculous and everyone was convulsed with laughter. Then Lucy, who was the nurse, brought two little jackets to put on the dear little boys and bring them home to mamma. Of course, they behaved as naughty spoilt children do, and when sweet complacent Mamma (Daisy Shawyer a pretty small girl of 18) was told by the nurse that she should leave, she only remarked "You must have patience Maria, you know they have behaved much better than they usually do."

The next scene was laid in Italy, the work to be acted – Witch. The gas was turned down and Lucy dressed in red was supposed to be the witch in some sort of grotto. A brigand comes to consult her. Some English tourist has stolen his lady love. Will he get her back? She says no, unless one of the should ide. He leaves. Frank, the 6 feet boy and Daisy Shawyer come next together. This is the lady and her English lover. [In real life they married each other 9 years later!] While they are having their fortunes told, the brigand is seen prowling about in the distance. He draws nearer, falls upon the tourist and there is a terrible fight, the lady screams and flies away the brigand goes too, the scene is ended.

'Sandwich' is brought in by a picnic in a wood, more commonplace than the others.

Ping pong is a capital game for young people. Lucy plays well; she beats them all at tournaments. She won a gold brooch the other day, she will become quite a champion soon.

I am afraid you will think this quite a frivolous letter.

Note at the end:- Please instead of burning this letter send it back to me if you don't mind, the children might like it someday as a record of one of the happiest Xmases we ever spent. [Hence it is now here]

Extract from Bessie Baillie's diary 1901

On Monday, December 23rd I left [Cardiff] for Bath by the 10.10 train. Theo met me and we got the parcels taken up on some trucks and Theo took charge of the set of

china which I was going to give Mama so Mercy did not see it at all. It was wet and very cold so Mama said she thought she could not go to Swindon. However, she said we would see on Tuesday and then it was much warmer providentially and by 12 o'clock all was arranged, our packages done up and with Toby [the dog] we got into the fly and drove to the station. We put Mama into the waiting room and when the train came in I managed to get a compartment with four seats on the side but oh what a procession of bundles and packages it was – rugs and turkey tin box cardboard box umbrellas. Theo said it was so funny to see us three all in procession that he fell out of line not wishing to make a fourth. Mama was very glad of my fur footstool as her feet were cold. The journey was short and how we laughed when at Swindon platform we marshalled all our bundles. I had two things to get from the luggage van and with my rugs could not carry them so I had to carry only a little way and then go back for the other. At last Mama was safely in the cab covered up with multitudinous wrappings and hemmed in with parcels of all kinds. Theo walked up and we soon arrived at Lyddie's beautiful house Summerville all decorated with evergreen and looking so cosy and bright.

After a nice dinner I arranged flowers and the evening was spent in different ways. Lucy, Reggie and Bertie were occupied with their presents writing inscriptions. Lyddie and William had to go out although it was very wet. They came in saying it was snowing and on Christmas morning it was quite a snow scene. So it was that night for the moon was up and the snow lay white and glistening over all. All the people who had work to do stayed at home. Lucy and William went to a hospital service. Reggie, Bertie, Offie and James for a walk.

Matilda Ainsworth, 22 Sarah Blake, 23