Family Memories

To celebrate
Monica Johnston’s
80th Birthday

19th June 2003
Foreword

This book is compiled from memories of family members as recalled by Monica and others, and contains pictures and letters that she has in her possession. These anecdotes and stories of people are a record of the family that are too interesting to be lost.

It is not intended to be a full family history; rather, it is a collection of memories of people and occasions that form part of the structure of the heritage of the family.

However details such as dates and siblings can be found in the family trees included at the end of each chapter.

The book starts with a brief history of the family as written down by Monica. This is followed by four chapters giving details of family members including photographs and anecdotes where available. These chapters are:

- Monica’s Family
- Lineage of James Allner
- Lineage of Olive Taylor
- Lineage of Noël Johnston

It is interesting to note that another member of the family, George Scutt, had very much the same idea in when he wrote down some similar memories of his family around 1930. These memories are replicated in Chapter 6.
Contents

Chapter 1. The Story Starts at Icen School  1

Chapter 2. Monica’s Family  4
  James & Olive Allner .................................................. 4
  Noël & Monica Johnston .................................................. 7
  Peter Johnston & Family .................................................. 10
  Pat & Marion Ashe and Family ........................................... 13
  Cedric Allner & Family .................................................. 15
  Auster ............................................................................. 16

Chapter 3. Lineage of James Allner  21
  James Allner ........................................................................ 21
  Allner Family ..................................................................... 22
  Scutt Family ...................................................................... 23
  Drew Family ...................................................................... 25
  Housden Family ................................................................ 27

Chapter 4. Lineage of Olive Taylor  32
  Olive Taylor ....................................................................... 32
  Cedric Taylor ..................................................................... 33
  Taylor Family ..................................................................... 34
  Priddle Family .................................................................... 39

Chapter 5. Lineage of Noël Johnston  46
  Noël Johnston ..................................................................... 46
  Marion Johnston ................................................................. 47
  Frank and Gladys ............................................................... 47
  Johnston Family ................................................................. 49
  Head Family ....................................................................... 50

Chapter 6. Notes by George Percival Symes Scutt  55

List of Figures  69
Chapter 1. The Story Starts at Icen School

Our recent family history all began at a girl’s boarding school in Dorchester in about 1870. The school was called Icen Cottage (probably situated in Icen Way which is a road on the right from the main street as one enters Dorchester from the Poole direction). At this school were five girls whom I knew many years later when they were old ladies, and a sixth who was to become my maternal grandmother, but she died before I was born.

Harriot and Emmie Scutt were there. The Scutt family had a farm at Affpuddle near Bere Regis but their father had died when Harriot was 12 - their mother (blind in her later years) carried on the farm for a while helped by her son Tom. There were two elder sisters, Tina and Lucy, and then Tom; Harriot and Emmie were referred to as ‘the little ones’.

Two other sisters of similar ages were Margaret and Bessie (Elizabeth) Priddle, also the youngest two of a large family. The others were Emma, Ellen (who married a widower Mr. Elben when she was in her forties), Jane, who died of consumption aged about 15 (she had caught it from a cousin whom she had been asked to nurse and keep company), Kate (later Robinson) and two brothers who later settled in Australia - hence our
Australian cousins. The family lived at Swaythling near Southampton.

The two other girls who concern us here were Janie Allner and Nellie Chilcott, who was later to become her companion.

Janie had one brother George who was two years older, but her mother had died when she was born and her father who also had a farm died when she was eight. George and Janie were brought up after that by their father's sister Maria and lived at Puddletown. Later George was sent to Taunton public school as a boarder, and then went into the National Provincial Bank.

Janie Allner must have been about 4 years younger than Harriot Scutt but the Scutts and the Allners must have known each other maybe through the school or possibly as neighbours, for Harriot was to marry George Allner and so they became my paternal grandparents, their only child James being my father.
Now Harriot Scutt and Margaret Priddle were much the same age and were school friends. After school Harriot went for a while to Vevey in Switzerland as a pupil teacher and both she and Margaret became governesses before they married.

Harriot married when she was 26 (and George 24) in 1883, and Margaret must have married about 1889 or 1890 to Charles Warmsley Okey Taylor of Reading.

For five years they had no children and Margaret wanted to adopt a niece but Charles was against it and this turned out to be wise, as, to their great joy, Cedric Charles Okey Taylor was born on Jan 6th 1895 and Olive Margaret Okey Taylor on October 15th 1896.

Harriot and Margaret kept up their friendship and visited each other. When Olive was about 10 she was invited to stay with the Allners who were also having a girl of the same age to visit them. (Esther Boyt - later Housden - younger daughter of Harriot’s sister Emmie).

The two children became lifelong friends and this visit was when Olive first came to know James Allner who was 12 years her senior and many years later married him on 3rd April 1919.

So my parents, James and Olive were children of these two school friends from Icen Cottage.
Chapter 2. Monica’s Family

James & Olive Allner

James Allner was articled to a church architect, and gained his ARIBA, later becoming a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA).

When his parents moved to Sturminster Newton where his father was a bank manager, James set up an architects’ practice in Poole, buying a house in Poole for £900 to use as an office. The business was just beginning to go well when the First World War started. James joined the Royal Engineers and was sent to Selonica from 1917 to 19, having become engaged on 16th December 1916 to Olive Mary Okey Taylor, whom he had known since a child. She was 12 years younger than him, and had been invited to stay by his mother to keep a cousin, Ester Boyt, (Susan Brown’s mother) company. Olive’s and James’ mothers had been friends at Icen Cottage School.

They were married as soon as James returned from the war on 3rd April 1919. Olive was alone, living with
the Craven Road Aunts, having lost her father, brother and mother. James & Olive settled in Sterte in Poole, where they had two children, Cedric, born in 1920, and Monica, on June 19th 1923.

In 1924 James and Olive built their own house 'Auster', in Parkstone, in what was first called Island Road and then became part of Orchard Avenue. The family moved in on 5th November 1924.

Business had picked up again for James’ architectural practice, by now called Allner, Morley & Bolton, and was going well when World War Two started. Again there was a slump in building, and his only work was as Diocesan Surveyor for the Salisbury Diocese. James had no staff so was kept busy, doing all his own secretarial work.

By now the family were young adults.
Cedric joined up and fought in the Far East, and Monica married Noël Johnston in 1944.

After the war Cedric went to Oxford University, married Jane Swallow and they set up their own home.

The family attended Longfleet Church in Poole, later moving to their daughter church St. George’s, Oakdale, which became a parish church in its own right.

James belonged to the Poole Rotarians, and attended their meetings.

Although James never built a church he designed many pubs in east Dorset, such as Fleetsbridge. He also designed the war memorial in Poole Park.

James wrote poems and limericks, which were sometimes published in local papers often illustrated with his own pen sketches. He had a natural artist’s eye, which no doubt had
contributed to his choice of profession.

In 1952 James fell ill with creeping paralysis and he died at Auster on 24th February 1955. Olive remained at Auster. She became Enrolling Member of the Mothers’ Union at Oakdale Church, a position later filled by Monica.

Olive had a stroke in 1975 and died in 1976.

James’ and Olive’s early lives and ancestors are described in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 respectively.

**Noël & Monica Johnston**

As a child, Monica gained the nickname of Bunty, a name still used for her by people who knew her in those days.

Her schooling started at Miss Wintle’s, a small local school, for five years. Then Monica went to Sandecotes School in Parkstone. The family had a beach hut at Sandbanks, and when Monica was twelve she first met Marion Johnston at Sandbanks, then aged around fifteen. Marion was at a nearby beach hut belonging to Mrs Lansdown, who lived in Parkstone and took in boarders.

Marion spent many school holidays with Mrs Lansdown as she was at school in England but her parents lived in Egypt. It would have been too expensive to fly to Egypt every holiday.

Marion’s father was Archdeacon at Port Said, and later bishop of Egypt and Libya.

Monica and Marion became friends, and through her, Monica met Marion’s brother Noël, when she was 14 and he was 16. Noël boarded at Dean Close School, Cheltenham.

Monica remembers her first meeting with Noël. He was buried in sand at the beach, and it was only when he stood up that she realised how tall he was!
Noël had been at school in England for longer than Marion, but had been staying during holidays with his aunt, Daisy Eustace, who lived at ‘Wee-Un’, a small house at Sandbanks. The name was very suitable - the house wasn’t big enough for Marion to stay there as well, which is why they both stayed with Mrs Lansdown instead.

When Noël returned to Egypt in the summer of 1939, he was unable to come back for his final year at school as war had been declared, so he joined the RAF in Egypt and was sent to
Rhodesia to gain his ‘Wings’. After this he went to West Africa in the Air Sea Rescue service. He was later sent to England to train RAF pilots.

Meanwhile, Monica was very talented musically, and from January 1943 to 1944 she became music teacher at St Helen & St Katharine School, Abingdon, a sister school of St. Mary’s, Wantage.

Noël and Monica became engaged, and married on April 21st 1944, and then lived at Hilton Cottage in Alness near Invergordon in Scotland, where Noël was posted.

Whilst in West Africa Noël had showed outstanding courage in rescuing five members of the crew from a Sunderland aircraft which had crashed and was sinking, then a sixth crewman who had been washed downstream. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for this in 1944, a month after his marriage.
Noël piloted Sunderland flying boats in the war and was tragically killed in a flying accident caused by metal fatigue on 3rd January 1945. Monica returned to live with her parents at Auster, where her son, Peter Noël, was born on 20th June 1945.

Monica returned to playing and teaching music. Firstly, she taught at Dorchester School in Parkstone, then for a short period at Bournemouth High School. She then worked for several years at Parkstone Grammar School where as Head of Music she led the choirs to many victories in the local music festivals, especially Bournemouth.

Monica bought a Hobby scooter to travel to work, which was not uneventful. When taking her driving test she fell off the scooter in the middle of a busy roundabout! Later she bought a car and passed her test at the third attempt. One ‘failure’ was because she couldn’t read a car numberplate at the required distance – she had forgotten to take the right spectacles!

Noël’s early life and ancestors are described in Chapter 5.

**Peter Johnston & Family**

Peter grew up at Auster with his mother and her parents, attending Buckholm Towers School, then Castle Court School, both in Parkstone.

He then went to Dean Close School, Cheltenham, following in his father’s footsteps. He wasn’t good at sports like his father, though, although he enjoyed them. Peter was head boy for his final year at the school.

Peter then went to Clare College, Cambridge University, where he graduated in Engineering, played too much bridge, and met Pamela Page.
Peter and Pamela married on 23rd August 1969 at St. Martin’s Church, Liskeard.

For two years they lived in Liverpool, where Peter worked for a London based consulting engineering company as a civil engineer on the construction of the Seaforth Dock, and Pamela worked at Liverpool University on cancer research.

They then moved to Farnborough where their two children were born. Michael was born on 13th March 1973 and Rachel on 3rd November 1975.

After qualifying as a Chartered Civil Engineer, Peter worked in construction with John Laing and then John Mowlem.

He then changed to management consultancy, working with PA Consulting Group and becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants.

He managed several national projects and, like his maternal grandfather, was an inveterate pipe smoker. An article in the Daily Telegraph about his management of the Police National Computer System project said he worked “with his computer and his pipe producing the project plan”!

After working as a laboratory technician at Guildford Technical College, Pamela became a teacher.

Later, when the children were older, she worked as a laboratory technician at Fernhill School, Farnborough.

Pamela was also heavily involved with the Girl Guide movement where she became District Commissioner (as her
mother had been, at Liskeard) then Division Commissioner.

The family attended St. Peter’s Church in Farnborough, where Peter became treasurer in 1984 and Pamela led the catering team.

Michael went to Charterhouse School then took a degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering at Imperial College, London. He then joined a consultancy company in Alton and later returned to them after a year with another consultancy. He is currently a team manager.

Rachel went to Farnborough Hill Convent School then Durham University, where her degree was in Mathematics.

On graduation she went into the defence industry, working firstly with Racal and then Raytheon where she currently manages bids for the defence sector market.
Pat & Marion Ashe and Family

On June 18th 1940, Noël’s sister Marion married Capt. John Bamber of the Royal Artillery at All Saint’s Cathedral Cairo. He died in Eritrea in February 1941, and four months later, Marion decided to return to England to train as a nurse.

The war prevented ships sailing through the Mediterranean, so the trip back was long - sailing to Durban, Cape Town, Trinidad, Halifax (Canada) and finally Liverpool. When the ship was docked at Durban a plane flew low overhead, which Marion later found out was piloted by Noël who had found out her route!

After a year’s training Marion was asked to return to Egypt to continue a confidential decoding job she had before. Just after sailing, Noël was killed but she did not know until she reached Port Said and her father came on board with the pilot to tell her. A year later Marion returned to England to complete her nursing training at Guy’s Hospital.

At a service in Southwark Cathedral Marion met Pat Ashe again, having first met him several years before in Port Said, where, as a curate, he had offered to help at Cairo Cathedral. Francis Patrick Bellesne Ashe was born in 1915 and spent much of his youth in Smyrna, Turkey, where his father was chaplain.

After the war Pat became curate at St Mary’s Woolwich, and in 1947 became Chaplain for Youth at Southwark Cathedral, and in that capacity led the service for the nurses from Guy’s Hospital at which he met Marion again.

Pat and Marion were married in Southwark Cathedral on 21st
February 1950 and in due course had seven children including two sets of twins. In November of that year Pat became vicar of Blindley Heath, Surrey, where their first daughter Löis was born and, in 1953, the twins Robert and John. The family moved to Otley in Yorkshire in December 1956 where Pat became incumbent, and where they had another pair of twins, Andrew and Islay Jane. They adopted Ruth in thanks to God for their five children, then David was born in 1963.

Pat’s ministry continued at Leamington Spa, where he and Marion set up the charity PVO (Project Vietnam Orphans) after Marion saw the plight of orphans in Vietnam when watching a documentary on the television. Two incidents stand out from the start of this charity. Pat flew to Saigon to try to establish links there, but with no contacts and not knowing where to start. The airport had been bombed, and Pat was unable even to get the local currency. As he stood, a Vietnamese man going to the only car in the airport car park asked “What’s the matter, want to go to Saigon? Come with me!” He turned out to be an advertising executive who had all the contacts needed to help PVO get started. The Charity later became Christian Outreach working in wider areas and then CORD, Christian Outreach – Relief and Development.

On another occasion Pat lost his spectacles. He told a taxi driver who had found a pair, and they were just right for Pat!

In April 1972 the family moved to Church Stretton, where Pat was vicar until they retired to Marion’s parents’ bungalow in Godalming.

Löis trained as a nurse at Guy’s Hospital, then worked in various refugee areas, as well as for PVO in Vietnam. She and Pat were on the last plane from Saigon before the city fell to the Vietcong - bringing orphans back to England for adoption. Löis married Ken Boullier who became vicar at Hereford. They then had a spell in the north of North Island New Zealand,
before returning to Nailsea near Bristol. They have three daughters, Mary, Zoe and Esther. Their two sons, Timothy and Paul sadly died as babies.

**Robert** established what came to be known as the 'land bridge' between Cambodia and Thailand to enable Cambodian farmers to collect food and rice seed so that they could re-establish their lives after the tyranny of Pol Pot. He was awarded the MBE for his work, the youngest civilian recipient of that honour. Later he was captured by Vietnamese troops on the border and released four days later, on the morning of his twin brother John's ordination in Guildford Cathedral. Robert married Var Hong, a refugee whom he helped to 'smuggle' out of Thailand. Their son Peter was born in 1984. Robert continued to work with refugees, first in the Sudan, then at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, where he married Aam after he and Var were divorced. Robert then moved to Indonesia as the UNHCR regional representative.

**John** read metallurgy at Sheffield University then theology at Ridley Hall Cambridge, and was ordained at Guildford Cathedral. He married Shelagh Prouse before becoming curate at Ashstead, Surrey, then Rector of Pyrford and Wisley then moving to Godalming as Vicar. They have three daughters, Joanna and twins Lucy and Suzanna.

**Andrew** has a computer business and lives in Maidenhead. He married Eve Millard and they have five children, Rachel, Lois, James, Patrick and Xanthe.

**Islay Jane** trained as a nurse, then worked for BP oil. She married Mike Downey, and they live in Purbrook, Hampshire with their two daughters Amy and Beth. She is a Family Counsellor.

**Ruth**, also a nurse, worked in many refugee areas including Honduras, Sudan, Somalia, Peru, and Cambodia where she met and married Yves Coyette a Belgian doctor. They have now returned to Belgium with their two adopted Cambodian girls Sophie and Akkara.

**David** married Rose Thompson, a photographic artist. He runs a computer and graphic business in Maidenhead, and at the time of writing this account they are expecting their first child.

**Cedric Allner & Family**

Cedric was three years older than Monica, and went to school at Dane Court School in Parkstone, then Bradfield College, near Reading in Berkshire. He then went to Exeter College, Oxford University, and served in the Far East in the Second World War. Cedric then joined Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) who were to remain his employers throughout his career.

In 1952 Cedric married Jane Swallow from Kempsey in Worcestershire, and for several
years they lived at Weaverham near where Cedric worked at Northwich in Cheshire. Later the family moved down to Harpenden in Hertfordshire when Cedric’s work took him to Welwyn Garden City. The family stayed at Harpenden when Cedric worked later in London, and after his retirement until his death in 2002.

Cedric and Jane had a big passion for sailing, and they and their three children, Andrew, Elizabeth and Christopher often returned to Poole to sail, either staying at Auster or at a houseboat at Studland just inside Poole Harbour. Starting with a Firefly dinghy, they progressed later to larger sailing cruisers in which they sailed across to France.

Andrew went to Exeter College, Oxford University then joined Price Waterhouse. He then became Finance Director and then Chief Executive for various companies. He married Sue McCann and they have two children, Katie and James.

Elizabeth studied the history of art in Oxford and married Peter Nolan and they live in Wimbledon. They have three children, Oliver, Thomas and Emily.

Christopher also went to Exeter College, Oxford University then made his career in finance including venture capital management. He married Kate Brook and they have three children, Harriet, and twins Victoria and George, and live near High Wycombe.

Sailing was in the blood. Both Andrew and Christopher have owned boats and return to the area when they can. Although they live in Barnes, London, Andrew and his wife, Sue, have a house in Studland in the Purbeck Hills, and Chris and his wife Kate now own the houseboat that the family used to stay in and often visit it.

Auster

Monica has lived at Auster for most of her life. The house was designed by her father James Allner, an architect, and James &
Olive and their family moved into it on November 5th 1926 when Monica was two. Later, when her husband Noël died, she returned there to live with her parents and it was there that her son, Peter, was born, and Monica has lived there ever since.

Auster (which means ‘west wind’) is in a lovely position on a little cliff near Poole Park, looking out over Poole Harbour. It was the first house to be built on the Park Estate, as can be seen in the aerial photograph taken at the time.

Later, James Allner added a study at the front of the house, shown in this recent photograph.
Over the years, other slight changes were made internally, such as building an alcove off the dining room into what had been the ‘backplace’, and enlarging the sitting room with new picture windows.

Auster has also been modernised in recent years, such as by adding central heating and replacing the original leaded light windows, but otherwise has changed little.

When Auster was built, the road was called Island Road, because of the wonderful view to
Brownsea Island. However an incident occurred in the 1950s when a fire engine went to a wrong address in Poole because the road name had been misheard over the telephone, so the Borough changed road names where this could occur. ‘Island Road’ could be confused with ‘Highland Road’, so the name was changed to Orchard Avenue – a road it already led to.

Some other pictures taken whilst the Park Estate was being developed show Auster in the background. The ‘tornado’ near Auster in the middle picture is just damage on an old photograph!

The view from Auster still remains as lovely as ever, as the following picture shows.

Poole Park Lake is in the foreground, separated from the harbour by the main Waterloo to Weymouth railway line. Beyond that is the spit of land known as Baiter which years ago had an isolation hospital built on it.

Brownsea Island can be seen extending from the left of the picture, and the Purbeck Hills beyond. Corfe Castle is in the dip in the hills near the middle of the picture.
Chapter 3. Lineage of James Allner

James Allner

No second name could be agreed upon by his parents, so he was not given one.

James was born 6th December 1884, in Bristol, where his father was a bank manager.

The family moved to Manchester, to another bank, where James went to Hume Grammar School. Later he was sent as a boarder to Weymouth College, both parents being of Dorset farming stock, owning their own small farms at Wool.

Figure 38 James Allner, Bristol c. 1885

Figure 39 James Allner at Clifton, Bristol

Figure 40 James Allner
George

George Allner, James’ father, was not well known to Monica, as she was not quite 5 when he died. She does remember, however, being very fond of him and she used to say “Sir, Grand-daddy” as he was shaky and had to be helped to a chair.

He was only 68 but had had a stroke. He gave the impression that he was a serious young man, he had lost both parents by the time he was 10 and had then to become the ‘man’ of the family.

When he became engaged to Harriot he said that he was going to marry “the daughter of a good woman”.

Janie

Janie Allner was George’s sister. She became crippled with rheumatoid arthritis - it may have started when she was 21 and was always said to have been caused by her sitting on wet grass after playing tennis. It is doubtful whether that would be considered the cause of it in the light of more recent medical knowledge.

She lived at the house in Puddletown and asked Nellie Chilcott (also from Icen Cottage) to be her companion. It was a very suitable choice - Monica remembers Auntie Janie (Monica’s father was very fond of her) sitting at her table day in and day out; movement on two sticks had just been possible when Monica was a small child and she had a big basketware wheel chair - but in later years she just sat at the table - and was always so pleased to see family members and never made any complaint. She used to give brother Cedric and Monica little red apples “Beauty of Bath” from her garden. They often had maggots in them but they had the most delicious flavour and it is a pity one cannot get them in the shops these days. Nellie Chilcott was so devoted in her attention and remained with her until Auntie Janie’s death in February 1940 or 41.

The house in Puddletown is in the High Street in the left side travelling toward Dorchester - the last one of a terrace just before the traffic lights. Janie’s maternal grandfather, a member of the Saunders family, had bought a house in the High Street Puddletown many years earlier.
so it is possibly the same house. It has a small frontage but goes back some way with a large back garden. When Auntie Janie died, the best furniture was kept but much was sold - Monica recalls a sale at the house. Unfortunately quite a lot of the furniture was no good owing to woodworm nevertheless if the sale were held today we should find a great many antique things that 'went for a song'.

Monica lists some of the items that we had from Puddletown, as this is of interest to the family:

“Auntie Janie left Cedric her carriage clock and me her jewellery. Cedric had her claw and ball mahogany table and a very old oak chest. I have the grandfather clock (which was left to Peter by my mother) and a lovely worktable. The harlequin tea set was hers and the little silver teapot, jug and sugar bowl. The family also produced a good many decanters as when Cedric and I came to divide them out there were 14 between us!! Cedric had her little sherry glasses that go down to a point.”

Scutt Family

Harriot

George Allner’s wife, Harriot, was the fourth of five children. As a child she suffered from her hair; long and very curly, so it tangled easily. She had clear, pale blue eyes. Like all the Scutt
women, she had a determined nature, and was quite a force to be reckoned with but she had a great feeling and kindness for the under-dog - very evident in her fondness for her nephew, Arthur Lithgow, who lived with her and who she always thought she managed!

Harriott was adored by her husband and her son, Monica's father, James. In 1926 or 27 she and her husband George Allner came to live in a house designed for them by their son, called Sandywick, 60, Orchard Avenue which is a stone's throw away from Auster which is 97, Orchard Avenue.

George died from a stroke in April 1928 and after that Harriott lived alone - or mostly - Arthur was with her. Her son James used to visit her daily before he went to the office, at lunchtime and every evening.

Olive and James often went to Sandywick to play cards, mostly solo whist. At 10am each morning Olive went with anyone else from Auster for a chat and Harriot read interesting parts from her letters, so she was not neglected.

Monica used to enjoy Harriot telling of her childhood and remembers the story of an occasion when her father was travelling by horse to Bere Regis and was held up by a highwayman and 'relieved' of his gold watch. They had a farm at Alfpuddle, where she used to play, sometimes in the chalk pit that is still to be seen on the right of the road near Bere Regis when travelling from Poole. They had a governess cart that was used to take the children shopping and to school. Her father died when she was 12 or a little older and after that she and her sister Emmie were sent as boarders to Icen Cottage.

Tina

Tina (Valentina) Harriot's eldest sister married and had eight or nine children - her husband was much older than she was and died soon after Arthur Lithgow the youngest child was born. Tina died young, from consumption when Arthur was 9. The children were then taken into the homes of Tina's sisters (and probably brother) - Harriot had the eldest Lucy, who was almost grown up and soon married, and the youngest Arthur who lived with her except for occasional jobs away, until she died. It was strange, it had always been wondered what would become of Arthur when Harriot died, but this is a case where one must try not to look ahead with anxiety.

Arthur fell off his bike at Whitsun 1951 and had a short spell in hospital and soon after that Harriot died, really from old age, she had caught a chesty cold. Arthur was a Scoutmaster and went off to Scout camp in August where one morning he had a fatal heart attack.

It is sad that of all the Lithgow family no descendants are known. Lucy's daughter died as a child. Walter married but had no children. Agnes became a nursing sister having trained at Guy's and never married. Jimmy died young. There could be some descendants as one brother is thought to have gone to Canada and it is not known what became of him.
Lucy

Lucy Scutt was the pretty one - she married James Spicer a farmer. Monica recalls going to their golden wedding celebrations at Bovington Farm when she was a small child and still remembers the disappointment she felt that Lucy was not dressed in gold!

Drew Family

Lucy Scutt's daughter Esther, married a farmer, John Drew, in Wool in Dorset, where they lived in a large house next to the church.

John and Esther had seven children and hosted large family parties in the summer, to which all the cousins including Monica and later, Peter, were invited. These parties are remembered with great affection.
After her husband died Esther went to live in Swanage where she used to swim every day, even at the age of 80.

John and Esther’s eldest daughter Mary also married a local farmer and still lives in Dorset. Humphrey was a Major during the second world war. Geoffrey was in the regular army and died of a fever during the war. John was also a Major in the regular army and later a headmaster of a school in Fleet, Hampshire. He and his wife Maisie lived in Farnborough, the town where Peter and Pamela now live, and attended the same church, St. Peter’s.

As a child Peter stayed one summer holiday with John and Maisie and their sons, David and Christopher. The Farnborough Air Show was in progress, and Peter remembers hearing the loudest sound of his life when a Vulcan bomber flew low overhead. At the time Peter was looking at a church tower – the church he was to join many years later.

John and Maisie also had a daughter, Susan, who was sadly killed in an accident while doing Voluntary Service Overseas in her late teens.

David served in the RAF and was awarded the DFC. Tragically he was killed in March 1945 possibly over Holland. Susan was for many years a schoolteacher and then retired to Swanage, to the house where her mother lived.

Michael was in the Merchant Navy, and went to the Gilbert and Ellis Islands in a kind of ambassadorial role. He and his wife had 3 sons and a daughter of their own and later adopted a ‘native’ girl.
Tom

Tom had a number of sons - one became a schoolmaster and one is thought to have been a farmer. His wife died many years before he did. Uncle Tom lived alone at Wareham - he was in the church choir for many years.

He used to come to Auster for Christmas and with his white beard and moustache looked like Father Christmas himself. Cedric and Monica always looked forward to his arrival when their father fetched him on Christmas Eve.

Uncle Tom had a great sense of fun and took a delight in trying to shock his sister Harriot with his stories; especially one about dating a young lady and having a rendezvous with a flower in his buttonhole, and darting away from the scene when he saw her! Probably none of it was true. He always went to sleep after Christmas dinner and snored happily in his armchair!

Emmie

Harriot’s youngest sister Emmie was the mischievous one. She married Joseph Boyt, a farmer, and a Roman Catholic. They had two daughters, Tina (Monica’s godmother) and Esther.

Tina had dark hair and there is a nice story of a lady visiting their home one day. Tina had climbed into a tree and when the lady was greeted by Aunt Emmie she said “Mrs. Boyt, I did not know you kept a monkey” to which Aunt Emmie replied “That is my elder daughter!”

Tina never married - she went into the National Provincial Bank during the First World War and remained at the Bank until retirement. She and her mother lived at Salisbury after Uncle Joe’s death and then at Ringwood. They both ‘turned’ Roman Catholic so James (Allner) then considered that Tina was no longer fit to be Monica’s godmother!

Housden Family

Emmie’s second daughter Esther became a close friend of Olive. She married Leslie Housden, a doctor who specialised in treating children.

They had four children - Janet is married and now living in America. She has two sons Jamie and Rory, and has become a priest.

Biddy tragically died from an anti-tetanus injection given to her by her father. She had received a graze on the head while making jumps for her pony - Uncle

Figure 46 Biddy Housden, Easter 1944
Leslie considered an injection wise because there were horses in the field. This was in 1944 and it was not usual to give the injection in small doses first. Biddy was allergic to the serum and died in a few minutes before he even had time to get the antidote from the car.

Biddy was a lovely, laughing girl, she had blue eyes and fair hair unlike her brother and sisters and everyone loved her dearly. She, and sometimes the others stayed at Auster when they were children. Biddy was Olive’s goddaughter. She died at sixteen and her father never got over it.

The next sister is Susan who is married to David Brown a consultant gynaecologist. They have 5 daughters including identical twins.

It apparently used to be said of the girls that ‘Janet wouldn’t, Biddy couldn’t, but Susan did’.

John is the youngest of the Housdens and he went to Charterhouse and Peterhouse, Cambridge, and into the diplomatic service, and is married with children.

William Scutt

William Scutt (1819 – 1872) and his wife Esther (nee Jones) were the parents of Valentina (Tina), Lucy, Thomas, Harriot and Emma (Emmie). He came from a large family and had 4 brothers and 5 sisters.

All the five Scutt children married and died in the order of their birth.

Prayer Book

Monica has in her possession a small book of poems and prayers written on very old discoloured paper, which has ‘William Jones’ written inside the front page. ‘Maria Jones her book March the 9th 1797 Her hand and pen’ is inscribed after the last poem. Is it possible that they were the parents of Esther, William Scutt’s wife? A couple of examples are printed here.

'The Universal Prayer'

Father of all in ev’ry age
In ev’ry clime ador’d
By Saints by Savage, and by sage
Jehovah, Jove or Lord.

Yet give me in this dark Estate,
To see the good from ill;
And binding nature fast in fate,
Left free the human will.

Thou Great first cause, least understood
Who all my Sense confin’d
To know but this, that thou art good
And that myself am blind

What conscience dictates to be done,
Or warns me not to do,
This teach me more than Hell to shun
That’s more than Heav’n pursue.
What Blessings thy free Bounty gives,
Let me not cast away;
For God is pay’d when Man receives,
’T enjoy, is to obey.

Yet not to Earth’s contracted Span,
Thy Goodness let me bound;
Or think Thee Lord alone of Man,
When thousand Worlds are round.

Let not this weak, unknowing hand
Presume Thy Bolts to throw,
And deal Damnation round the land,
On each I judge thy Foe.

If I am right, oh teach my heart
Still in the right to say;
If I am wrong, Thy Grace impart
To find that better Way.

Save me alike from foolish Pride,
Or impious Discontent,
At ought thy Wisdom has deny’d,
Or ought thy Goodness lent.

Teach me to feel another’s Woe;
To hide the Fault I see;
That Mercy I to others show,
That Mercy show to me.

Mean tho’ I am, not wholly so
Since quicken’d by thy Breath,
O lead me wheresoe’er I go,
’Thro’ this day’s Life, or Death:

This day, be Bread and Peace my Lot;
All else beneath the Sun,
Thou know’st if best bestow’d, or not;
And let Thy Will be done.

To Thee, whose Temple is all Space,
Whose Altar, Earth, Sea, Skies:
One Chorus let all Being raise!
All Nature’s Incense rise!

**Beggars - a poem**

Although I’m a beggar so poor,
I beg that you’ll hear my Petition;
Contribute to add to my store;
Nor frown on my humble condition;

Whatever you think of your worth,
Whatever your Pride may suggest;
We all are but Beggars from Birth,
Tho’ some are perhaps better drest.

The infant with pitiful tears,
Intreats of Mamma for the Breast;
He sucks away all little cares,
Then sinks on her Bosom to rest.

As soon as he’s able to mutter,
His wants with his Stature increase;
He begs hard for Bread and for Butter
And till he is full there’s no Peace.

In our youth we are begging for toys,
In our manhood we’re craving for wealth;
To obtain it we murder all joys;
And in age go abegging for health.

Then since we are Beggars alike,
As by reason is well understood,
A bargain immediately strike,
And let us all beg to be Good.
Chapter 4. Lineage of Olive Taylor

Olive Taylor

Olive’s father died when she was very young, and then she was diagnosed with a ‘patch’ on her lung, at the time seen as an early sign of TB.

It was the custom to take patients to the pure air of Switzerland for a cure, so the family went to stay in Vevey. The cure was effective; Olive made a complete recovery.

After the death of her brother Cedric, Olive and her mother lived in London where she had a job opening and checking parcels for the war office. She retained the skill of wrapping and tying parcels with the minimum amount of string.

When her mother died, Olive went to live in Reading with ‘The Craven Road Aunts’ until her wedding to James Allner whom she had known for many years.

See the Family Tree on page 45

Figure 47 Charles & Margaret Taylor with Cedric & Olive, c. 1896/7

Figure 48 Cedric & Olive Taylor aged c 4 & 3

Figure 49 Olive Taylor, c. 1916. Photographed by W S Stuart, The Quadrant, Richmond
Cedric Taylor

In the First World War, Olive’s brother Cedric went to the front on Saturday September 25 1915, where he was attached to a trench mortar battery.

He was sadly killed in action on Sunday, December 3 1916, on the eve of coming home for ten days.

Cedric’s grave is at Arras, and was visited by Monica, Peter & Pamela in 2000.
Taylor Family

Charles

Olive’s father Charles Walmsley Okey Taylor was the eldest child of John Okey Taylor, who married Margaret Priddle in about 1889 and died in 1901 aged 41.

He had a high fever which could not be brought down.

He was walking home in London in thick fog and met a woman who was completely lost. Although feeling wretched he escorted her to her home and this act of kindness may have contributed to his death - he went straight home to bed and died a few days later of rheumatic fever.

Figure 52 Charles & Margaret Okey Taylor, taken at Scarborough, maybe on honeymoon

Figure 53 Cedric & Olive Taylor, Reading

Figure 54 Cedric & Olive Taylor, Reading
Charles had four sisters and a brother. **Maud** married George Trendell, a clergyman. They had two sons, Cuthbert and Claude, who were first cousins to Monica’s mother, and one of them had a son Nigel.

The Trendells also had a daughter, Gwen, who married Walter Iliffe who was for a number of years Vicar of Bassenthwaite - he was Monica's godfather but she only met him once.

The Iliffes had three children, Joyce, Biddy and Peter - none of whom married. Biddy died around 1985 and Joyce and Peter live together at The Cottage, The Vicarage, Keswick, which is the old servants’ quarters of the Vicarage.

**Florence, Edith and Connie**

The other three sisters were known to Monica and Cedric as the ‘Craven Road Aunts’, **Florence** the eldest was musical and ran a small orchestra in the First World War to entertain troops or hospitals in Reading. Monica did not know her as she died young, but she does remember Aunts Edith and Connie (Constance).

Aunt **Edith** was plump and rather jolly, and occasionally she came to stay at Auster. She had diabetes in her old age and had her saccharin and Energen rolls, but apart from that it did not
affect her too much. **Connie** was painfully thin and was what would now be called anorexic, with strange eating habits. Monica’s only remembrance is of visiting her when she was in bed with her frail illness.

Their brother **William** became a clergyman but never married. In his old age he lived in a nursing home.

In 1938, when Edith died she left her portion of her inheritance to Connie, who on her death 6 months later left the bulk of her legacy to Maud’s grandchildren, leaving only £50 to her brother’s children Cedric and Olive, who bought a piano with her share. Gwen Iliffe was also left a watch and Olive a necklace, which in due course Monica gave to Rachel Johnston. Monica also had garnets from this family (she was offered the choice of garnets or corals on her marriage) and the corals have since been given to Elizabeth Nowlan.

As children, Monica and Cedric were, naturally, interested in Christmas presents and can remember Auntie Maud always sending something nice, but the Craven Road Aunts (Edith and Connie) always bought their presents at church bazaars and these were not usually so eagerly awaited by the youngsters!

**John Okey Taylor**

The father of Charles and his siblings was John Okey Taylor, who was known in the family as the ‘Grand Old Boy of Reading’. John Taylor married Margaret Edkins and lived to be over 90, surviving his wife and son by many years.

He became very deaf indeed. On one occasion he was very upset when his dog bit him because he had stood on its tail and did not hear its complaint.

He was fond of birds and had a daily routine when he fed and watched them at the same time every day.

John was for many years Chairman at the Reading Gas Company and drove one of the first motorcars in Reading. He owned a big house that was later the residence of the Headmaster of Reading School. This house, ‘Cravenhurst’, in Craven Road had a very large staff including a gardener and an undergardener, and big family gatherings were held there every Christmas.

John expected his four daughters to marry clergymen - and the clergy did not comply! This is why three were unmarried and only Auntie Maud married George Trendell, who of course was a clergyman.
John did not give his unmarried daughters an allowance. As was usual for the daughters of a gentleman, they did not have paid employment, but were kept busy running his house and doing good works in the church. He allowed them to buy what they wanted from the two large stores in Reading and charge it to his account. This was an expensive tradition for him as Connie liked a new outfit every spring, summer, autumn and winter so her sisters thought that they, too might just as well have the same.

On one occasion one of the shops, Heelas, sent an account rendered which was a mistake. The old man was so annoyed that the girls were not allowed to use that shop ever again.

Olive, his granddaughter, was very fond of him.
Monica has given Peter Johnston a silver tray and trowel which belonged to John Taylor and bear the following inscriptions:

"Presented to
J. Okey Taylor Esq. JP.,
CHAIRMAN OF THE
READING GAS COMPANY,
by the Officers
as a mark of esteem & respect
on the completion of 50 years
as a
Director of the Company
July 1905"

"PRESENTED
TO
John Oakey Taylor Esq:
Chairman of the Reading Gas Co.
by
JOHN AIRD & SONS
on the occasion of
LAYING THE FIRST STONE,
of the
Kings Road Gasholder Tank,
June 27th 1870"

Note the incorrect spelling of his name on the trowel!
Priddle Family

Margaret Mary Priddle

Charles Taylor's wife (and Olive's mother) was Margaret Priddle. The Priddle family lived at Swaythling near Southampton, and a picture of Swaythling is in Monica's bedroom at Auster (also possibly the lower of two pictures behind the door in the sitting room).

Margaret was the fourth daughter of five: Emma, Ellen, Jane, Kate (later Robinson), Margaret and Elizabeth (Bessie).

Figure 60 Margaret Priddle, taken at Southampton before she married

Figure 61 Margaret Priddle, wife of William. Taken at Southampton

Margaret's parents wanted to call her 'Margaret Marian', but this was thought by her godmother to be too fanciful, so at her Christening she called her 'Margaret Mary-Ann'.

She always signed herself 'Margaret Mary Ann' (three names). Much later in life she found a birth certificate with her correct name 'Marian' - she wished she had known earlier.
Margaret was married about 1890, aged over 40. She wanted to adopt a niece, a daughter of Kate's, but her husband did not want to. Then Charles and Margaret had two children of their own, Cedric and Olive.

However the family business of Warmsley failed and Charles died young when the children were aged 7 and 5, and Margaret was left very badly off. Their home was ‘Lendor’, St. Peter’s Avenue, Caversham, Oxfordshire.

Later she took in paying guests to help make ends meet.

When two years later it was discovered that Olive had a ‘patch’ on her lung, Margaret took Cedric and Olive to Vevey in Switzerland. This was in late 1902 or the beginning of 1903.

It must have been a very worrying time for her as she had lost her sister Jane to the disease some years earlier.

The poem on the next page was written by Margaret in 1903 after visiting Chillon, a town with a dramatic 13th Century castle which is built out into Lac Léman (or Lake Geneva). Obviously the visit brought out some deep emotions, recalling happy days with her husband and facing loneliness and the responsibility of bringing up the children on her own.

Figure 62 Margaret Taylor, recently widowed with Cedric and Olive. The photograph was taken by Francis de Jongh of Lausanne, Switzerland, who is known to have photographed in Vevey where the Taylors were staying.

Figure 63 The Castle at Chillon
Chillon Woods

Near Lake Léman, across the leas,  And hark! A bird is carolling,  
Sweet-scented by the fresh-felled trees,  In February's early spring,  
Primroses perfuming the breeze,  May Hope be somewhere hovering  
I wander to Chillon.  In woods of old Chillon.

The skies are sapphire, sunshine fills  Though loneliness is left with me,  
Veyhaüs embosom'd 'mong the hills,  Though all the branches bare must be,  
From Rocks of Naye the tumbling rills  Yet Charlie's children gleefully  
All hasten to Chillon.  Are playing at Chillon!

You belting crags of limestone crown  'They gambol round the beeches bole,  
Stretches of pasture, wood and down,  And cry: - 'We're darfs without a soul',  
The chasm'd gorge's distant drone  'They swing upon a 'monkey-pole',  
Is threatening Chillon.  'In gladsome, gay Chillon!'.

Anon a climb to Champtabeau,  'We're fairy-folk with leafy frocks'  
Where Byron pictur'd long ago,  'We live in caves beneath the rocks'  
The 'Prior of St Victor's woe,  'Drink dew from coral-fungus crocks',  
As 'Prisoner of Chillon'  In frolicsome Chillon!

Some wild enchantment here holds sway,  'Don't think we're mortal, Mother dear!'  
Since half the crag was hurl'd away,  'Like Ariel we know no fear',  
Huge boulder-blocks bestride the way,  'But scale the mountains, skim the mere',  
From Souchaux to Chillon.  We elfies of Chillon!

Each moss-grown trunk by ancient stone  Alpine Hepatica they spy,  
Is fetter'd fast, or sideways thrown,  With downy stalk, and glances shy,  
Perchance their history was known  Deep-veined leaf to Violet eye,-  
To founders of Chillon.  Woodmaidens of Chillon!

For me a halo wreaths the place,  Welcome wee flow'r! Your charms are rare!  
I'm haunted by a dear dead face,  Come little untamed dwarfie pair!  
Hands clasp'd, again we seem to pace  I'll lead you home and train with care,  
The glens of grey Chillon.  Afar from wild Chillon!

To rove, as once in flowering May,  Already sober'd, see they come  
Then trees were green and woodlands gay,  With ivy-trail and 'drainium'*.  
Now brown and leafless is the spray,  'For Daddy's grave, when we go home',  
And lonely lies Chillon.  'We wish t'were at Chillon'!

Lonely the paths I now pursue,  *Olive's word for wild geranium.  
Perchance I gain a clearer view  
Through leafless trees, of Heaven's blue,  
Encircling still Chillon.
Fortunately Olive made a complete recovery, and Margaret and her children returned to live in Reading where her father-in-law was chairman of the Gas Company. However he laid a great deal of store on the possession of money, so he was not very kind to her.

Margaret lived in London during the first world war, perhaps because she had a war job. Certainly, Olive opened parcels and rewrapped them for the government.

Margaret was always the life and soul of the party then she flopped after everybody had gone.

She was very badly affected by the death of her son, Cedric, on December 3rd 1916. She died of heart trouble in October 1917 just after the 21st birthday of Olive who nursed her in London.

**Margaret’s sisters**

**Ellen,** the second daughter married Lewis Eburn a widower when in her 40s. She was Olive’s favourite aunt and was also very fond of Cedric; they always looked forward to her lovely Christmas parcels. Monica stayed with them at their home in Milnthorpe, Westmoreland when she was about four years old, and was surprised when they experienced an earthquake!

Ellen died in 1937 leaving her money to her younger sister Bessie, who was not well off. There was no jewellery and less money than expected, possibly because their maid Beatrice was found to be saving to build a bungalow and the family suspected she was cashing cheques.

**Bessie** Priddle was the youngest of the family, and remained a spinster. She was meant to be delicate but lived to be over eighty!
Bessie always came to Auster for Christmas. She was very vivacious (much to the family’s embarrassment!). She was always cheerful, and loved animals. Bessie lived as ‘companion’ and didn’t have much money till she inherited late in life from Ellen.

Jane died of TB at about 15 years old after nursing a cousin who had it.

In those days if someone had tuberculosis it was quite usual for them to be nursed by a sister or cousin who would sleep in the same bedroom as the patient - with all the windows closed - and consequently the ‘carer’ often caught the illness.

An interesting letter from her mother Margaret Priddle to one of the other daughters describes how the illness was progressing. There was no cure and it shows the acceptance of them all, including Jane, that she was getting progressively weaker and would not recover.

There were also two brothers who went to Australia at the end of the 19th century and took up sheep farming. One went and did well so he urged the other to follow, but he did not do so well.

Margaret & Bessie went to Icen Cottage School in Dorchester, a school for young ladies. Bessie became a governess, she was gifted musically and she wrote poetry.

The square miniature in Auster sitting room is of her great grandmother Margaret Wills’ (nee Burrows) husband William (miniature above). They had 10 daughters, dates on pictures. They were members of the Wills tobacco family.
William Priddle

Two pictures shown here are of William Priddle, Margaret’s father.

Figure 67 William Priddle, Olive Allner’s grandfather

Figure 68 William Priddle
Chapter 5. Lineage of Noël Johnston

Noël Johnston

Francis Noël Johnston was born on December 27th 1921 in Egypt where his father Frank Johnston was chaplain of the Church of the Epiphany in Port Said.

His early education was in local schools, but the standard of education wasn’t very high. When his parents found that Noël’s school was attempting to teach him to knit they realised that he needed better education!

He was sent to Fortfield, the junior school of Dean Close School in Cheltenham at the age of 7 or 8, and then on to the senior school. As Noël progressed up through the school he developed into a very good sportsman, and was captain of cricket.

He went home to Egypt during the summer holidays, and while there he played cricket for the Gezirah Club in Cairo. On one occasion he embarrassed his sister who told him his shirt was hanging out. “Never mind that” retorted their father “Look at all the runs he’s scoring!”.

When they were young Marion and Noël used to swim across the Suez Canal, but they had to look out for passing boats, although
they could be seen approaching, looking as if they were sailing across the fields.

Whilst at Dean Close School Noël had to spend Christmas and Easter holidays in England because of the prohibitive cost of flying back to Egypt each holiday.

In the early years he stayed with his aunt, Daisy Head. Later, when his sister Marion attended an English school, they both stayed with Mrs Lansdown who owned a large house in St Peter’s Road Parkstone, and took in ‘boarders’.

**Marion Johnston**

Marion Islay Johnston was born on November 11th 1920 in Port Said. She was sent to Ashford High School when she was 13, and, like Noël, went home for the summer but spent other holidays with Mrs Lansdown in Parkstone.

When her father became Archdeacon at Cairo, Marion and her mother Gladys Johnston acted as hostess at many functions associated with the cathedral as the Bishop, Bishop Gwynne was unmarried.

**Frank and Gladys**

Marion and Noël’s parents, Francis (Frank) Johnston and Gladys Head were married in Alexandria on June 2nd 1919. After they were married, Frank left the army and became chaplain at Church of the Epiphany, Port Said where he stayed until 1933. They had two children, Marion in 1920 and Noël in 1921.

In 1933 Frank was made Archdeacon in Egypt by Bishop Gwynne, and he and
Gladys were instrumental in getting the new cathedral in Cairo built, and it was consecrated in 1938.

They served in Cairo throughout the war. Frank was awarded the CBE in 1944, and Gladys was 'mentioned in dispatches' for her caring work among the troops.

They moved to Alexandria for a short time after the war, then Frank was made Bishop of Egypt and Libya on July 25th 1952 at a service in St Paul’s cathedral.

After living in Egypt for 38 years, their time there was brought to an abrupt end by international politics. In the Suez Crisis of 1956, relations between England and Egypt were broken and a trumped-up charge was brought against them of running a spy ring from the cathedral. They were given one week to leave the country and allowed to take just one suitcase each. Leaving their work and friends so suddenly was a big wrench for them both.
Frank was never allowed to return to Egypt. After working in Libya, Cyprus and Cyrene for two years he resigned as bishop and returned to England, where he was appointed Vicar of Ewshott, Surrey and Assistant Bishop of Guildford in November 1958. Due to poor health he resigned as vicar in April 1963, and they bought 'Annandale', a bungalow in Bushbridge Lane Godalming where Frank continued to work as Assistant Bishop until his death on Sept 17th 1963 when he collapsed with a heart attack whilst preaching during the Arnhem Memorial Service at Aldershot.

Frank is buried at St Martha’s church near Guildford on the Pilgrim’s Way, next to the grave of Earl Montgomery’s brother in law, who was once churchwarden at the church and when Frank went to a service there he loved the position and expressed a wish to be buried there.

Gladys continued to live at Godalming until she died in 1971, and she is now buried beside her husband at St Martha’s.

**Johnston Family**

**Frank Johnston**

Francis Featherstonehaugh Johnston was born in Lambeth on April 21st 1891, the third of five children; the rest of the family were born in Scotland. He worked as a reporter and as a solicitor’s clerk in Farnham and Hastings before going to Hatfield College, Durham University, in 1912 and taking a course in Theology. He served as a curate in Bristol.

In 1916 he joined the army as a chaplain, serving in France, Gallipoli and Palestine.

Whilst in Ras-el-Tin hospital as a patient he met Gladys Katie Head a Queen Alexandra nursing sister, whom he married on June 2nd 1919 in Alexandria.
**Walter Mowbray Johnston**

Frank's father Walter Mowbray Johnston joined 1st Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment in 1859. He then worked in India for many years as Traffic Manager of the Indian State Railway, before he was invalided home in 1882. He married Florence Marion Dunne by whom he had five children, Walter who lived in South Africa, Arthur settled in Rhodesia, Francis Featherstonehaugh, Hope and Sheila

**Head Family**

**Gladys Head**

Gladys Katie Head was born on Oct 13th 1891 in London, the third of seven children of Frederick John and Kate Head.

Her father, a Police inspector, died young and the family were left very badly off. Gladys was sent to the Metropolitan and City Police orphanage in Middlesex between 12th Jan 1900 until 2nd Dec 1906, probably because her mother could not afford to keep her at home. Later her brother Frederick went there for six years.

*During the First World War Gladys joined the Queen Alexandra nursing service and was sent to Alexandria, where she met Frank Johnston.*

**Frederick Head**

Gladys' father Frederick John Head was a police inspector whose duties sometimes took him to Buckingham Palace. He had to give up work when he developed TB and the family moved to Parkstone Dorset where he spent a lot of the time sleeping in a tent in the garden – fresh air being the only known 'cure' for the disease.

He died in 1899 and is buried in Parkstone cemetery along with his wife Kate and eldest daughter Betty.
Daisy

Daisy was the fifth child of Frederick and Kate Head, and married Alfred Eustace who unfortunately was gassed in the First World War and subsequently suffered ill health. They lived in very small bungalow called ‘Wee-un’ at Sandbanks.

Noël and Marion visited there during their school holidays and it is during this time that they met Monica Allner (later Johnston).

Ray Head

Joseph Curtis Raymond Head was the younger brother of Gladys. He and his brother, Frederick married two sisters, but Ray’s marriage ended in divorce. He then married Audrey and they had two children, Georgina (Georgie) and Nicholas. Ray became a director of John Mowlem Construction and built amongst other things the landing strip at Jamaica airport, and was responsible for repairing the Houses of Parliament after
bomb damage, and the demolition and reconstruction of London Bridge in the USA.

Ray later married Ilsa Julie, and together they built a house at Mill Reef, Antigua, which was their home until he died in 1988. She died in 1996, and both are buried at Eshing Cemetery Godalming.
Chapter 6. Notes by George Percival Symes Scutt

Monica wrote “Evidently written by George Percival Symes Scutt (b 1874)”, who was the great grandson of John (1758 – 1837) and Ann (1771 – 1805) Scutt shown in the family tree on page 31.

HISTORICAL.

It has often struck me how little most people know about their ancestors, even of those of comparatively recent times. They can usually tell you practically nothing about the latter except their names, ages, occupations and whether they made successes or failures of their lives. To me it would be very interesting to know what manner of men and women were my progenitors of a few generations ago, what kind of lives they lived and what were the outstanding incidents of their careers. Their minor experiences, joys and sorrows would also be matters of interest, as bringing out traits of individuality, and throwing some light on the times in which they lived.

I am penning these lines with the idea of their being handed down to my children, and possibly to their descendants, with the view of leaving some record of matters, both serious and the reverse, which seem to me to be worth setting down on paper.

To begin with, I will take the two families of Scutt and Symes from which I am immediately derived, and will put down what little I know about them.

There seems to be nothing absolutely definite as to the derivation of the name Scutt in its various forms of spelling. In his glossary, Barnes quotes "Scute" as being derived from the Anglo-Saxon verb "sceotan" meaning "to pay", and also mentions "scot" as being used to denote "a reward" in West Dorset. This Anglo-Saxon origin of the name seems to be its probable derivation. In view of its essentially Wessex, or at any rate South Country origin, it seems equally unlikely that it is a derivative of "Scot" signifying a Scottish descent, or of "scut", a Lancashire provincialism for the tail of a rabbit. An uncle of mine, William Francis Scutt, who died in January 1928, was a firm believer in the view that the inhabitants of these islands were descended from the lost tribe of the House of Israel via the Scythians, alias Southes, which some think eventually developed into "Scots". He agreed this, and went further by tracing the name "Scutt" from the same source. To my mind, the arguments are all much too far fetched to have any likelihood of being correct. All one can say is that the name of Scutt is believed to be of purely Dorset origin, but it has at different times also been heard of in Somerset, Wilts, Suffolk and Sussex. In fact, in the last named county, particularly in and near Haywards Heath, where curiously enough I am now settled, it is by no means an uncommon name.
The Dorset stock can be definitely traced to two main sources - Affpuddle and Poole. Which of these represents the true parent trees, I have no means of knowing, though the records show the name in Affpuddle over a century before there seems to be any trace of it in Poole.

For several centuries, until perhaps about a hundred years ago, the name of Scutt was a very common one in Affpuddle and the surrounding neighbourhood. I have in a more or less perfunctory manner searched the village records, and it would seem that there was a straight line of Dorset yeoman stock from which I am immediately descended - and also, particularly in the more distant past, a distinct clan of farm labourers and the like bearing the same name.

I have worked out the following pedigree commencing from the date when the Affpuddle Church registers now in existence begin. It may or may not be strictly accurate.

(1) Thomas Scutt (died 1599) m, Ellen ?
   I
(2) Benjamin Scutt ?
   I
(3) Nicholas Scutt (died 1616) m. Agnes Meaden.
   I
(4) Thomas Scutt m. (1640) Elinor ffigg & secondly Christian ?
   I
(5) Robert Scutt (b. 1656 - d.1727) m. Elizabeth Bridle.
   I
(6) John Scutt (m. 1732) Mary Oliver.
   I
(7) Charles Scutt (m.1753) Mary Gosellen.
   I
(8) John Scutt (b.1758 d. 1837) m. Ann Compton, (b.1771 d.1803).
   I
(9) George Scutt (d.1879) m. Susannah Sly.
   I
(10) George Scutt (b.1834 d.1910) m. Sophia Symes (b.1840 d.1915).
   I
(11) George Percival Symes Scutt (b.1874) m. Elsie Isabel Williamson.

Notes.
(1) Will at Somerset House (78 Kidd 1599).
(3) " " " " " (65 Cope 1616).
(4) Thomas was the third son of Nicholas.
(5) Robert was by his father's second wife Christian.
   His tomb is in Affpuddle Church.
(6) (7) (8) Affpuddle Church records.
(9) (10) (11) Martinstown Church records.
On the next page is a more detailed pedigree of recent years.

The wills of Thomas Scutt, who died in 1599, and of Nicholas Scutt, who passed away in 1616, make interesting reading as throwing some light on the times in which they lived. The following is a copy of the will of the former, as well as I could pick it out. The old English characters are, however, sometimes very difficult to read.
Below is a more detailed pedigree of recent years.
"In the name of God, Amen. The fourteenth day of September
"in the one and fortieth year of our Soveraigne Ladie
"Elizabeth by the grace of God queen of England ffrance and
"Ireland defendresse of the raythe I Thomas Scut the younger
"of Affpuddle in the Countie of Dorset being fraile of bodie
"but of good and perfect memory, thanks be to God, doo make
"and ordaine my last will and testament in manner and forme
"followinge First I commend my soule in the hands of
"Almightie God my maker hoping assuredlie through the onlie
"meritt of Jesus Christ my Saviour to be made partaker of
"bliss everlasting and my bodie to be buried in the Church-
"yard of Affpuddle. As for my corporall goods I gyve and
"dispose them as followeth: Item I gyve to my sonne Benjamin
"Scutt my lease of the tenement Knighton in the parish of
"Stokewood Byndon The rest of my goods moveable and immmoveable
"my debts and legacies paid and satisfied I give to Ellen my
"nowe wife whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will
"and testament".

"Witnes: Thomas Scutt, the brother of the said
"Thomas Scutt deceased, and Joane his wife, Robt.Scutt".

(According to Hutchins I.3599 "Stocwood" was a tenement in
Winfrieth Newborough, without the Abbey of Bindon and Knighton,
and belonging to Bindon Abbey).

The foregoing gives a noteworthy example of the practice
amongst old English yeoman stock of having two or more brothers
of the same name – in this case "Thomas". The reason for this
was that leases on land were often granted, not for a period of
so many years, but during the lifetime of say three specified
persons. Thus, if a man taking a lease named his young son John
as one of the lives, he would obviously be in a better position
if he had two or more sons of that name!

The will of Nicholas Scutt, proved in 1616, is a much more
long-winded document. He appears to have had greater
possessions, also a much larger family. He too specified that
his body should be buried in Affpuddle Churchyard. Towards the
restoration of that Church he gave ten shillings, to the Vicar,
one Abell Perkyns, "a bushell of "malt", (the worthy vicar, by
the way, was a witness to the will and, according to our modern
laws, would seem to have thus forfeited his legacy! It is also
possible that he drafted the will as the only person in the
Parish capable of so doing), to Peter Scutt, the Parish clerk, a
bushell of malt and to the poor of the Parish five bushells of
barley. To his son Nicholas he left a cart and a bull, each with
"the furniture belonging thereto", also three forks. These items
were not to be delivered to him until the remarriage or death of
his Mother, Ellen Scutt.
Nicholas the younger also came in for “one hand mill and cubbard and table boards and fortie sheep”, the latter to be delivered after the shearing next following the death of the testator. An undecipherable number of “kyne” were also bequeathed to Nicholas, together with “two bulloches valoused worthe “twentie shillings apiece”, these to be handed over at the remarriage or death of his Mother. The testators eldest daughter, Agnes, came in for thirty-five pounds, a goodly sum in those days, together with
"fyve pounds more in lieu of a colt given her by her Uncle "Nicholas "Meaden". His second and third sons Robert and "Thomas were to have £40 each on attaining their respective "majorities. His younger daughters Johane, Maude and Symonde "were left £25 apiece to be paid them at 21 years. An unusual "legacy was the bequest of a hogg to his God-daughter, Margaret "Tanner. His other God-children came in for twelve pence each, "which makes one wonder exactly how much "a hogg" was worth in "those far off days. Several servants were also bequeathed a "hogg apiece. The remainder of his "goodes and chattells" the "worthy Nicholas left to his wife, Agnes, whom he appointed "executriz to act in conjunction with "mine honest neighbours "and friends Edward Scutt, Hugh Hearn and Robert Scutt and John "Sare myne overseers and for their paynstaking herein do gyve "each of them five shillings".

His will is a lengthy and thoughtfully compiled document, betokening a clear mind and a fair disposition.

"Good night, Nicholas".

A little delving into the official records at Somerset House and elsewhere has brought to light traces of quite a number of Scutts in various other parts of Dorset. It will however serve no useful purpose to detail particulars of those living elsewhere than in Affpuddle and the neighbourhood. Several of these appear in the foregoing pedigree. Others of note are:

John Scutt, of Affpuddle, died 1615, leaving a widow, Barbara.

John Scutt, of Affpuddle, died 1659, leaving a widow, Avice.

Both these represent administrations granted. - Exactly where these work into the family trees I cannot trace.

There is a record of the Homer family pedigree filed with the Society of Genealogists in London, In which the name of Scutt appears occasionally. The Homers seem to have originated from Bere Regis, and were a very similar yeoman family to the
Affpuddle Scutts. Other neighbouring yeoman families were the Samways, Sampsons, Hawkins and Symonds.

In 1642, the following Scutts signed the Protestation Oath in Affpuddle, all being over 18 years of age:

Robert Scutt Thomas Scutt
Edward Scutt Thomas Scutt
William Scutt Nicholas Scutt
John Scutt Robert Scutt
William Scutt Robert Scutt of Briantepuddle,
Thomas Scutt, Overseer

Nicholas Meaden, connected by marriage with the Scutts, was the other Overseer of Affpuddle in 1642.

The roof of Affpuddle Church was removed in 1852, and there were found attached thereto the names of the Churchwardens in 1499, One of these was a “Skutte” and presumably a direct ancestor, the first we can trace.

In addition to the foregoing, other variations of the spelling are “Skutt” and (in Burke) “Scutte”.

In the main body of Affpuddle Church, there is a flatstone inscribed as follows:

"Here lyeth ye body of Rob. Scutt, the husband of
"Elizabeth Scutt, who departed this life ye 19 day
"of May Anno 1727 aged 89 years."

This seems to have been my great-great-great-great-grandfather. He lived to a ripe old age, but his chief claim to fame as evidenced above appears to have been in his relationship to his wife, nee Bridle. Let us hope it was a snaffle and not a curb!

Affpuddle Churchyard also contains the tombs of my great grandfather and great grandmother. That of the latter, who died in 1805 at the age of 62, reads as follows:

"Dear loving faithfull Partner now farewell
"With whom it was my happiness to dwell
"With whom I was united heart to heart
"From whom it is so painful thus to part
"Yet shall the gracious Hand that took thee hence
"By love divine thy absence recompence
"Prepare me for the bliss thou hast
"And then eternally unite us fast.

Her husband survived her for many years and died in 1837, aged 79.
This couple had five sons and one daughter, and I am descended from George the youngest of the five. One who remembered the family once told me that these five were all "strapping big men".

With the death of John Scutt, the unbroken line of centuries of Scutts who had lived in the little old Manor House farm at Affpuddle was terminated.

My grandfather, George Scutt, started on his own as a brewer, maltster and farmer at Martinstown, and built up a reasonably prosperous little business, which in due course he operated in partnership with his elder son - my Father. My recollections of the former are of a somewhat choleric old gentleman sitting in the drawing room of the Martinstown house, with his foot swaddled up in wrappings, as he was suffering from a bad attack of gout - a complaint which I appear to have inherited from him! I remember suggesting that he looked like a Jack-in-the-box, and being severely and rightly snubbed for my impertinence. I must have been under five years old at the time.

I recently heard of an interesting episode regarding my grandfather. His brother John went to see him at Martinstown, and the latter remarked "I have just been asked to go into partnership with one Eldridge who is starting a brewery in Dorchester. I refused however as I think I prefer being "independent". Edwin Pope, son of the Pope who took up the partnership which my grandfather refused, died in 1927 worth approximately a million and a half sterling!

In those old days, the annual pony and pleasure fair held at Martinstown was a great institution, and lasted several days. On these occasions my grandparents kept open house to their friends, and one of my most cherished possessions is a silver tea service with the following inscription:-

"This silver tea service is Presented to
"Mr. and Mrs. George Scutt
"by a few friends
"in grateful acknowledgment of the
"Hospitable Welcome
"annually afforded them at
"Martinstown Fair
"1854".
My paternal grandmother died before I was born. She was the daughter of one Solomon Sly of Weymouth, who was reputed to be a bit of a character. One story about him is to the effect that he distrusted such dashing affairs as stage coaches, and once went to London in a Bath chair, which he got tied on behind various farm waggons from place to place all the way to London and back. There is said to be a somewhat elaborate tombstone to him at Westham. (near Weymouth) Churchyard. He owned a large house on the front at Weymouth, which he sold to King George the Third. The latter Monarch, whose patronage did much to bring Weymouth into prominence at about that time, was often there incognito as well as an official visits. On the former occasions he went under the style of the Duke of Gloucester, and the house which he bought from Solomon Sly was called Gloucester House. It subsequently became, and is still, the Gloucester Hotel. The story goes that Solomon Sly brought back the purchase price with him in golden sovereigns from London in his Bath chair in the manner above related.

My grandparents are both buried at Martinstown.

My Father had a somewhat chequered career. Soon after he married, at the age of nearly 40, he dissolved partnership with his Father, took his share of the patrimony and purchased a brewery in partnership with another man at Ulverston in the Lake District. This was when I was a year or so old. The partner robbed him, and he lost the bulk of his money, and had to give up the business. For the rest of his life he was interested in the hop trade, in association with various London firms.

There is at least one story about his younger days which is worth recording. As a result of a wager, he rode his hunter from Martinstown to Bridport, rode inside a barber's shop and was shaved on horseback.

About the Scutt family in Sussex and London, I know nothing. They are mostly small tradesmen and the like, and I know of no link connecting them with the Scutts of Dorset.

Whilst in India, the only Scutt I ever came across was a "Captain" Scutt of the Salvation Army, who hailed from Sussex.

The name of Scutt has a long and more or less honourable record in the history of the County Borough of Poole. George Skutt was Mayor of Poole in 1621, 1631, 1635 and 1644. He was also M.P. for the town at the end of Charles the Second's reign. George Skutt, jr., presumably the son of the last named, was Mayor in 1652. It was however William Skutt who principally kept the family name well in the public eye in the stirring times of the seventeenth century. According to Hutchins (History of Dorset)

"On 23rd. April 1643, the garrison of Poole under
"Capts. Sydenham, Jarvis and Scutt commenced the siege of "Corfe Castle under the leadership of Sir Walter Earle".

The local Parliamentarians had previously possessed themselves of Dorchester, Lyme, Weymouth and other places. The following is an extract from the Royalist "Merourius Rusticus" of the time:-

"But on the three and twentieth of June the sagacious knight Sir Walter Erle (that had the gift of discerning treasons "and might have made up his nine and thirty treasons to forty by "reckoning in his own), accompanied by Captain Sydenham, Captain "Henry Jarvis, Captain Skuts, son of the arch-traitor Skuts of "Poole, with a body of between five and six hundred, came and "possessed themselves of the town, taking the opportunity of a "misty morning that they might find no opposition from the castle."

Who the father of the roundhead William Skuts was, and why he merited the title of "arch-traitor" history does not relate.

The whole story of the fall of Corfe Castle is a most interesting and thrilling one, and is well set out in the Guide to Corfe Castle by Ward Lock & Co.

On the 26th. Sept, 1644, there was an order for the delivery unto Capt. Scutt and Capt. Harding of eight pieces of ordnance for Poole and Branksea.

On 13th. March 1646, the House of Commons appointed Captain William Scutt as Governor of Poole. In 1657 William, Scutt was a Major. On 15th. July 1685, King Charles II came to Poole, and after dinner His Majesty was pleased to take Colonell William Scutt’s boat steered by the said Colonell, and rowed by six Masters of ships. On returning, the King and party, including the Duke of Monmouth, dined at Colonell Scutt’s house, and he was appointed Mayor of Poole. It may be added that he had also been Mayor in 1646 and 1657.

The family flag was next kept flying in Poole by Allen Scutt who was Mayor in 1677 and 1686. He, in conjunction with others, made a complaint to the King in 1681 denouncing one Samuell Hardy, a parson, for sedition and non-conformity.

The following from Treves’s "Highways and Byeways of Dorset" depicts one of the activities of the worthy Allen:- "Poole was a little involved in Monmouth’s rebellion, and "did not escape the attention of Judge Jeffreys, as the following "warrant, dated Sept. 22nd. 1685, and signed by Allan Scutt, "Mayor, will show. The warrant is directed to "the cunstable "or tythingman of Upper Litchett" by order of the Rt. Hon.
"George, Lord Jeffreys, Lord Chief Justice of England. "I doe hereby will and require you to take unto your care and custody two quarters of the several persons executed within this towne and county and herewith sent to you by Charles Barfoot of Sturminster Marshall, husbandmen, and to affix them on poles or spykes in the most notable places in Upper Litchell, and hereof fayle not at your perills". The foot note to this order is interesting, there being no parcel post in those days: "The officer to pay 5/- for carridge".

The somewhat bloodthirsty Allen was succeeded by an other William, who was Mayor in 1709.

We next come to two Benjamin Skutts, presumably father and son. The former of these in 1683 was deputed to present an address from the Mayor etc. of Poole to the Sovereign, and correspondence took place describing the interview with the King.

Benjamin Skutt the younger, was Mayor of Poole in 1717, 1718, 1726/7 and 1742/3. In 1727 the Town House of Poole was built. This was rebuilt in 1828, and Benjamin Skutt’s likeness may still be seen sculptured in bas-relief over the entrance. This curious tablet, nestling under a gable end, shows Benjamin Skutt, according to Sir Frederick Treves, "as a fat much overdressed but contented man, with a voluminous wig."

When the activites of enemy shipping and privateers permitted, Poole used to do a thriving trade with Newfoundland, and William Skutt, son of the last named Benjamin, died out there, letters of administration being granted to his Father. This was in 1732.

It will be noted that the name was sometimes spent with a "k" and sometimes with a "c". It seems to have been largely a matter of choice. The family still exist in Poole, the name being spelt "Scutt".

In former days, some of the Scutts were quakers, for Hutchins tells us that one Bartholemew Scutt, of Hillvil, 1696-7, was buried in the Quakers Burial ground at Ryme Intrinsica.

From a casual search in the British Museum records, I find that the Scutt coat of arms was granted to William Scutt if Mickleford, Suffolk, on 20th. May 1664. (Harleian M.S. 1105 fo.39b. – Bysshe grant No.31). Curiously enough, at the same source I discovered by accident that the Scutt quarterings were granted to the Sergison family, of Cuckfield Park, near where I am now living, in 1895, on an intermarriage of the two families. The sergisons are still a name to conjure with in these parts, being one of the old county families of Sussex.

In contradistinction to the foregoing, Burke, in his "Encyclopaedia of Heraldry and General Armory" gives the blazon, which is detailed below, as belonging to "Scutte of Dorsetshire". It rather looks therefore as if the coat of arms was granted to the Dorsetshire family, and the Suffolk branch allowed to use it. This, however, is conjecture, as I have so
far been unable to ascertain any definite facts bearing on the matter other than those herein given.

Blazon. (According to Burke)
"Or, three hinds passant, ppr.; on a chief, "gules, a tower between two inescutcheons "of the first. Crest, a crane with wings "elevated, azure, beaked and legged, gules, "having in the beak a roses ppr."

Since writing the foregoing, I have been in communication with the Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms at the Heralde College, Queen Victoria St., London, E.C. As a result of researches made by him, he has kindly furnished me with the following particulars which speak for themselves,

Family of Scutt
Extracts from the Records in the College of Arms.
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(1) In Barker’s grants at the time of Henry VIII (1509-1647), arms were granted to John Scutt of Staunton, Co. Somerset, as follows
Or, 3 hinds passant azure, on a chief gules a tower between 2 inescutcheons, or,
Crest. A bustard azure, collared or, in the beak a rose or, slipped vert.
(2) The funeral certificate of Sir John Cooper of Rockbourne, who married Martha daughter of Anthony Skutt (Scutt) of Staunton Drew Co. Somerset, gives a coat of arms showing Cooper impaling, quarterly Scutt and Malt. The arms of Scutt are given as - Or 3 hinds passant proper, on a chief gules, a tower between 2 escutcheons or -
(3) Visitation of Wilts and Dorset. 1623 gives a pedigree from Thomas Scutt, temp, Henry VIII 3 generations to Edward Scutt of Warminater, whose daughter and heiress married Hastings of Woodland, Co. Dorset. No arms are recorded.
(4) Visitation of Suffolk, 1664. Gives a pedigree from John Scutt of Mickleford. 3 Generations to William Scutt of
Mickleford living 1664. The arms for Scutt, of Mickleford, granted by Byssne to William Scutt in 1664 are given as – Gules, 3 hinds passant or, on a chief or a tower between 2 escutcheons gules –

There are several points worthy of note in the foregoing. To begin with, the crest as detailed by Burke as pertaining to the Dorsetshire “Scuttes” embodies a “crane with wings elevated” whereas the Somersetshire family are entitled to use as crest a bustard with a gold collar, these birds in each case carrying a rose in their beaks. In this connection it will be noted that a crane is quite a differently shaped bird, and indeed of a different family to the bustard.

The “visitations” mentioned refer to visits by the Kings-of-Arms and Heralds, acting under the Earl Marshall, to the different counties of England “to take cognizance of the arms, pedigrees and marriages “of the nobility and gentry of England”. They went on at varying periods from 1528 to 1794.

Of the origin of the Symes family, I really know very little. They are very ancient yeoman stock of the County of Dorset and, as far as I can judge, an exact counterpart of the Scutts. There are various references to the name in Hutchins, from which it appears that the family in the early part of the seventeenth century was domiciled in the Melplash and Netherbury neighbourhoods. East Melplash farm was owned in 1629 jointly by John and Philip Symes. One Richard Symes appears to have bought Mangerton Manor, Netherbury, in 1656, and from him it descended to Richard Symes, Barrister-at-law, of Beaminster. The latter also inherited other property at Melplash which had originally been owned by one Nicholas Symes several generations earlier. In the death of Richard Symes, Bar-at-Law, in 1785, these several properties passed to his daughter Ann, and subsequently to her husband Lt.Col Samuel Symes Cox. One suspects that the latter assumed the name of Symes on acquiring these inheritances, as he had on an earlier occasion been alluded to as Lt.Col. Samuel Cox.

Other records show that certain farm properties, viz. Chartknolle Farm, Stoke Abbas, and Horsehill Farm, Stoke Abbas, belonging to one Henry Sammays, to whom a monument exists in Beaminster Church, descended to Joseph Symes of Charmouth and Francis Symes of Horsehill respectively.

My own grandfather was Samuel Symes, but I have no information directly linking him with any of the foregoing. He, together with his brother James, started in life as farmers at Winterbourne Abbas with a very modest joint capital. After the death of James Symes, his brother moved to Nether Cerne, and it is there that I remember him. My recollections of him are of the kindliest. He was generous, upright to a degree and much respected. As a business man he was successful, and must have accumulated something like £40,000 in his lifetime. He was partly paralysed during his last few years, and then lived with
his several unmarried daughters at Godmanstone Manor nearby, whilst his only son, my uncle Fred had taken over Nether Cerne.

SAMUEL SYMES
M
Elizabeth Foreman.

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<th>SOPHIA MARY HENRIETTA</th>
<th>ANNIE</th>
<th>FRED AR-</th>
<th>OLIVIA</th>
<th>FOREMAN</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Figures

Figure 1 William Scutt with his two youngest daughters, Harriot & Emmie
Figure 2 Charles & Margaret Okey Taylor, taken at Scarborough, maybe on their honeymoon
Figure 3 George & Harriet Allner, taken in Bournemouth
Figure 4 Margaret Priddle, taken at Southampton before she married
Figure 5 Esther Boyt and Olive Taylor, taken at Sturminster Newton. Probably staying with Allners
Figure 6 James Allner and Olive Allner (nee Taylor) on their wedding day, April 3 1919
Figure 7 Monica Allner 1926 in ‘Nippy’ fancy dress
Figure 8 Olive Allner with Cedric & Monica, c. 1926
Figure 9 Cedric & Monica Allner, Christmas 1930
Figure 10 Allner family, l. to r. Olive, Cedric, Monica & James. Olive is wearing her pearl ivy leaf brooch, an engagement present from James, and now owned by Elizabeth Nowlan
Figure 11 Olive Allner with Keiller, the family’s ginger cat, taken by the pond at Auster c. 1941
Figure 12 James & Olive Allner, and Peter, at Auster
Figure 13 Olive at Auster
Figure 14 Noël & Monica 1942
Figure 15 Noël & Monica
Figure 16 1943 “From your always very loving Noël”
Figure 17 Official wedding photograph: Ernie Foster (best man), Noël, Monica, Sheila Berry (bridesmaid)
Figure 18 Noël & Monica, October 1944, in their sitting room at Hilton Cottage
Figure 19 Autumn 1944 – Noël at Hilton Cottage
Figure 20 Autumn 1944 – Monica at Hilton Cottage
Figure 21 Monica Johnston on her Retirement
Figure 22 1947 Peter Johnston aged 2
Figure 23 Peter Johnston at Auster
Figure 24 Peter & Pamela’s Wedding, 23rd August 1969
Figure 25 Peter, Pamela, Michael & Rachel with Wendy at home at The Granary, Farnborough, 1982
Figure 26 Rachel Johnston c. 1981
Figure 27 Michael Johnston c. 1978
Figure 28 Marion in Egypt, with Figaro
Figure 29 Cairo, Frank & Gladys Johnston, John Bamber, Marion & Noël Johnston
Figure 30 Pat & Marion Ashe with their children (from left) Ruth, Andrew, Jane, John, Robert, Lois & David
Figure 31 Cedric & Monica Allner c. 1926
Figure 32 Cedric Allner
Figure 33 Cedric & Jane, Andrew, Elizabeth & Chris, with Olive and Monica at Auster
Figure 34 Auster from the air in the 1920s
Figure 35 Auster in 1990
Figure 36 Park Estate Development, with Auster already built in the background
Figure 37 View from Auster
Figure 38 James Allner, Bristol c. 1885
Figure 39 James Allner at Clifton, Bristol
Figure 40 James Allner
Figure 41 George Allner, son of James, father of James
Figure 42 Finishing school, Vevey, Switzerland. Harriet Scutt 2nd from left, back row
Figure 43  Lucy & Jim Spicer's golden wedding. Lucy was James Allner's aunt.
Figure 44  Drew family. Left to right: David, John, Humphrey, Geoffrey, Mary holding Susan.
Figure 45  Drew family at their home in Wool. Left to right: Mary, Humphrey, Geoffrey, John, David, Susan and Michael.
Figure 46  Biddy Housden, Easter 1944.
Figure 47  Charles & Margaret Taylor with Cedric & Olive, c. 1896/7.
Figure 48  Cedric & Olive Taylor aged c 4 & 3.
Figure 49  Olive Taylor, c. 1916. Photographed by W S Stuart, The Quadrant, Richmond.
Figure 50  Cedric Taylor.
Figure 51  Cedric Taylor.
Figure 52  Charles & Margaret Okey Taylor, taken at Scarborough, maybe on honeymoon.
Figure 53  Cedric & Olive Taylor, Reading.
Figure 54  Cedric & Olive Taylor, Reading.
Figure 55  Taylor family, Charles, Margaret & Olive on left, George (and aunt?) on right.
Figure 56  Taylor family in their boat. Charles Taylor rowing, Margaret with sunshade. Olive is the child with the large hat and her hand in the water, and Cedric is sitting next to his mother.
Figure 57  Edith Taylor, one of the Craven Road aunts, "With much love and all Xmas good wishes from over the other side." Christmas 1918.
Figure 58  John Okey Taylor, Chairman of Reading Gas Board.
Figure 59  Silver Tray and Trowel presented to John Okey.
Figure 60  Margaret Priddle, taken at Southampton before she married.
Figure 61  Margaret Priddle, wife of William. Taken at Southampton.
Figure 62  Margaret Taylor, recently widowed with Cedric and Olive. The photograph was taken by Francis de Jongh of Lausanne, Switzerland, who is known to have photographed in Vevey where the Taylors were staying.
Figure 63  The Castle at Chillon.
Figure 64  Ellen Priddle (later Elburn), sister of Margaret.
Figure 65  Ellen Elburn with her husband, Lewis Elburn.
Figure 66  Bessie Priddle.
Figure 67  William Priddle, Olive Allner's grandfather.
Figure 68  William Priddle.
Figure 69  Noël Johnston, first term at Dean Close School.
Figure 70  Noël in Dean Close School cricket team, c. 1936-7.
Figure 71  Marion & Noël 1930.
Figure 72  Frank & Gladys Johnston.
Figure 73  Gladys, with Marion & Noël.
Figure 74  First time Monica met her 'in-laws'. July 1946.
Figure 75  Francis J Johnston.
Figure 76  Frank Johnston, Hastings, July 1917.
Figure 77  Gladys Head "Sister" at Ras-el-Tin Hospital, Alexandria.
Figure 78  Back row: Kate (Melville) Head, Betty, Frederick, Mabel; Middle row: Fred, Peggy; Front row: Daisy, Gladys. (Raymond not yet born).
Figure 79  Daisy Head, later Daisy Eustace.
Figure 80  1942. Noël, Marion, Daisy Eustace, Ray's 2nd wife Audrey & their children (Georgie & Nicholas).