Ivy's Story

Janet Few

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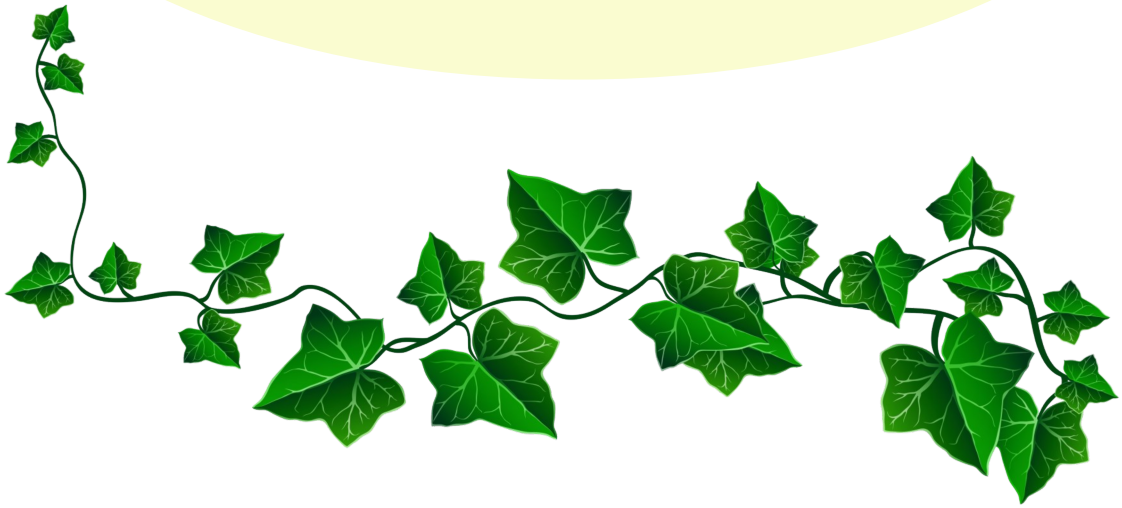
Ivy Gertrude Woolgar

4 January 1893 – 25 April 1963

I loved my Granny. She died a few weeks after my seventh birthday but she stares at me each time I look in the mirror.[i] She lives on in my memory and in my DNA. We are bound by an invisible cord and by love.

This is her story.



The dark days of winter held the country in its grasp. The air was cold, the frost severe and snow was falling. The elderly Queen remained secluded at Osborne House, Marie Lloyd was performing in the pantomime Bo-peep at Drury Lane, Fashionable ladies donned their fur coats and headed out to skate on the frozen lakes. In the London suburbs, folk stoked their fires, worrying about keeping warm and the price of coal.

In a small terraced house in Dulwich, Clara Woolgar was in the early stages of labour. This was her fourth confinement, so she knew what to expect. Little Philp and Ella pressed their noses to the window pane, their warm breath making holes in the patterns left by Jack Frost. They longed to go out in the snow. Percy stared solemnly, gripping the bars of his cot, his thumb firmly in his mouth. She'd have to dip his thumb in pepper to break the habit, Clara thought. Now was not the time, she grimaced as the next pain surfaced, now she had other things on her mind.

Ivy Gertrude Woolgar was born on Wednesday the 4th of January 1893, at 7 Chalford Road in Dulwich. Her middle name, Gertrude, was that of her twelve year old cousin, Gertrude Fanny Leighton.[ii] Might Gertrude have been Ivy's godmother, or was this coincidental? Ivy's parents were Philip James and Clara Woolgar née Dawson.[iii]

Ivy was the fourth and youngest child in the family.[iv] Her eldest sibling, Philip Cecil Thomas, had been born on the 3rd of May 1888,[v] her sister, Ella Mary, on the 21st of July 1889[vi] and her brother, Percy James, on the 3rd of July 1891.[vii] So, when Ivy arrived, there were four children under the age of five in the household.

Philip James Woolgar

Clara Woolgar née Dawson

Number 7 Chalford Road[viii] was a rented property. In 1910, the Woolgars were paying eight shillings[ix] a week, with the owner being responsible for rates, insurance and repairs. At that time, Philip was working as a gardener and probably earning about one pound four shillings a week.[x] Their landlord was Joseph Gardiner, who owned the whole of that side of the road; a Miss E. Bayspoole[xi] owned a freehold interest. In 1911, Joseph Gardiner was living at 205 South Croxted Road, very close to the Woolgars.[xii] Gardiner was a builder and was almost certainly responsible for building Chalford Road. He had been born in Chalford, Gloucestershire, so presumably named the road after his birthplace.[xiii]

In the 1910 Inland Revenue Valuation Survey, 7 Chalford Road was described as, a "two-storey terraced cottage, lean-to, scullery and WC. Narrow forecourt enclosed by iron rail upon dwarf wall. Brick built (front cement dressings), slated roof. Accommodation: 1st floor 2 rooms. Ground floor, 2 rooms, scullery and WC." The condition of the property was said to be fair, with the comment, "the backs need pointing".[xiv]

Clara Woolgar outside 7 Chalford Road

It would have been traditional for the downstairs front room to be reserved as a parlour. The sleeping arrangements, especially when there were adult children of both sexes living there, remain a matter for speculation. It would not have been unusual for a member of the family, possibly Percy, to sleep downstairs. Alternatively, some families divided a bedroom with a curtain, to ensure a modicum of privacy as children grew to adulthood.

Ivy's was a typical Victorian home on the south-western edge of Dulwich, some would consider it to be in West Norwood. Although now part of Greater London, Dulwich was comparatively rural when the Woolgars moved in, as the name "Dulwich Village" suggests. As can be seen from the map on the next page, the terraced housing to the west of Croxted

Road, including Chalford Road, was very different in scale to the grand Dulwich Village villas in Alleyn Park to the east. The small semi-detached houses in South Croxted Road and the larger semi-detached homes in Alleyn Road, formed a buffer between the two.

Map Showing 7 Chalford Road
From the 1910 Inland Revenue Valuation Survey

The house in Chalford Road would have been heated by coal fires in the downstairs rooms. Even if there were fireplaces in the bedrooms, these would perhaps have been used sparingly, for economy's sake. Even by 1919, only 6% of homes had electricity and it was the 1930s before two-thirds of homes were connected to the grid.[xv] In 1893, electricity would have been a luxury, even for the mansions in Alleyn Park. When Ivy was born, the home may have had gas lighting but this would

probably have been limited to the downstairs rooms; oil lamps and candles would have been more likely. Would Clara have given birth in the parlour where a fire could be lit? Boiling water would be needed. This would almost certainly have been heated on a copper in the scullery.

Philip Woolgar

Ivy's paternal grandmother, Mary Woolgar née Cardell, had died the year before Ivy's birth[xvi] and her paternal grandfather, Philip Woolgar, had died in 1884.[xvii] Her mother's parents, Thomas and Mary Archer Dawson née Bowyer, were living two and a half miles away, at 6 St. John's Cottages in Penge,[xviii] when Ivy was born. At this time, it was usual to give birth at home. Clara may have been assisted by a local midwife but it is more likely that she relied on family members or

Mary Woolgar née Cardell

Thomas Dawson

neighbours; perhaps Clara's mother was in attendance. Living ten miles away in Notting Hill, Clara's elder sister, Sophia, was not within practical reach and in any case, she had five young children of her own to care for.[xix] Clara's younger sister, Alice, was close at hand however, as she still lived with their parents. Although she was unmarried, Alice had had a child herself, so she too may have assisted at Ivy's birth, if her work as a cook allowed.

Mary Archer Dawson née Bowyer

Childbirth was still a hazardous process in the 1890s. The infant mortality rate had peaked at 15% in the year of Ivy's birth; this second highest ever rate was attributed to increasing urbanisation. In the 1890s, one in every two hundred pregnancies led to the death

of the mother;[xx] the main causes of maternal death being puerperal pyrexia or childbed fever, resulting from infection, haemorrhage and toxaemia. There were no blood pressure checks at the time of Ivy's birth. In Dulwich, the infant mortality rate was 126:1000.[xxi]

Advice, given in various manuals, provides an idea of the childbirth practices at the time, although it may be that some of these suggestions would not have been adhered to if there was no professional midwife present. A book, published in America, recommends how the mother should dress during labour.

> *"Probably the best way to dress a woman for the lying-in-bed is in short undershirt or under vest, shirt-waist[xxii] and a skirt or petticoat, warm stockings and bed-room slippers. The supreme advantage of this method of dressing lies in the fact of the easy removal of the soiled garments. When labour is over, the skirt or petticoat is removed over the feet, the shirt waist taken off, and a clean night gown put on."*[xxiii]

Other preparations that were advised were a soap and water enema and plaiting the hair. Pads of newspaper were put on the bed to save the mattress.

Fry, writing in 1907, dictates that,

> *"The nurse should give particular attention to cleansing and preparing the skin of the abdomen, thighs, and external genital parts. First scrub with warm sterile water and soap, then rub dry, and afterward bathe the parts in a bichloride solution 1-1000, or solution of Lysol,[xxiv] one percent. It is particularly difficult to render the external parts surgically clean. The hair around the genitalia should be cut short with scissors or shaved, scrubbed with hot sterile water, and bathed with bichloride solution."*[xxv]

Some of Louis Spaeth's advice sounds surprisingly modern, although couched in the language of an earlier era.

> *"Don't worry. Don't hurry. Simplify. Spend less nervous energy each day than you make. Work well while you work but don't be a slave. Avoid passion and excitement. Associate with healthy people; health is contagious as well as disease. Be cheerful; laugh. Eat plain food only. Drink nothing but plain water. Take a friction bath with a coarse towel, or a tepid sponge bath every morning. Exercise several times daily. Spend at least an hour daily in some out-of-door pastime, such as walking, riding, boating, or in other sports or games."*[xxvi]

How much of this advice Clara, with three small children to care for, would have been able to follow, is debateable.

Although Queen Victoria had popularised the use of chloroform, Clara would probably not have had access to this luxury. Instead, she might have pulled on a towel tied to the bedposts at the head of the bed. It may be that she would have been encouraged to lie on her side for the final stages of labour. Following childbirth, the placenta would be burnt on the fire and Clara would be encouraged to rest in bed for at least two weeks. Again, this may not have been possible, unless her mother was able to look after the older children.

There are no family stories of Ivy's being a difficult birth. For whatever reason though, Ivy was to be the last child in the family. Her mother was still only thirty-five, so might have been expected to continue childbearing. Contraception in the 1890s was both unreliable and not readily available. Condoms and pessaries were in use but it seems unlikely that these would have been easily obtainable by a working class family. Marie Stopes did not set up her first birth control clinic until 1921. Aside from this, contraception was generally disapproved of and regarded as being contrary to Biblical teaching. Clara was a regular churchgoer, so she may have been unwilling to consider this kind of intervention, even if it was obtainable.

We do not know whether limiting their family was a conscious decision. If it was, the closeness in age of

Ivy and her siblings and the death of the eldest child, Philip, in 1894, might have led Philip and Clara to feel that they did not want to add to their family. If this was the case, we do not know if they achieved this through abstinence, luck, or by some other method.

In 1893, the year of Ivy's birth, Queen Victoria was in the final decade of her reign. It was the year that her grandson George Duke of York, the future George V, was to marry Princess Mary of Teck. William Gladstone was the Liberal Party Prime Minister. Reflecting the move towards more equality for women, St. Hilda's College, Oxford for women was founded by Dorothea Beale. W. Britain patented his hollow cast lead soldiers and the school leaving age was raised from ten to eleven.

On Sunday the 26th of March, Ivy was taken to St. Emmanuel's Church, at the end of the road, to be christened.[xxvii]

At this time it was common for babies to be fed cows milk, or condensed milk, as an alternative or supplement to breast feeding. Bottle feeding often led to sickness if sterilisation was inadequate.

On the 2nd of April 1894 Philip Cecil Thomas and Ella Mary were enrolled in Salter's Hill School. It is not known why Ella did not start earlier. As Ivy began to find her feet, Clara was probably grateful to have at

least some of her children out of the house during the school day.[xxvii]

On the 6th of May 1894, three days after his sixth birthday, Ivy's oldest brother, Philip Cecil Thomas, died of croup and asthenia.[xxix] He was buried on the 10th of May at the South Metropolitan cemetery in Norwood, in a private grave under a flat stone. The child was laid in a white-covered, elm coffin and the hearse and mourning carriage were pulled by horses; in a funeral costing nine pounds ten shillings.[xxx]

Philip Cecil Thomas Woolgar

The River Thames at Rotherhithe in 1895

As Ivy turned two, following an unseasonably mild December, when primroses and daisies were in flower, the weather grew colder. For several weeks, The Great Frost gripped the country. Rivers, including the

Thames, froze. This saw skaters take to the Serpentine but more seriously, shipping was disrupted. As a result, coal was in short supply and there was mass unemployment. Fortunately for the Woolgars, Philip's job as a milkman was secure. Although there was no snow, on February the 11th, the temperature fell to minus seventeen degrees fahrenheit, believed to be the coldest for 180 years. The severe frost fractured water and gas pipes.[xxxi]

On the 11th of August 1895, when Ivy was two and a half, the Sons of Phoenix[xxxii] parade left Salters Hill School at 1.30pm with bands and banners. This event was to raise money for a local orphanage. It seems likely that the Woolgar children would have watched this. Another cause for local celebrations would have been Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee on 22 June 1897.[xxxiii]

Ella, Philip James, Ivy Gertrude, Clara and Percy James Woolgar c. 1897

A larger version of this photograph, taken about 1897, survives but it is in very poor condition. It shows the two girls

in mid-calf length pinafores embellished with lace and Percy in knee length trousers and dark stockings. Clara's full-length dress has a lace collar, leg-o-mutton sleeves and tucks in the bodice. The bustle would no longer have been in fashion. Clara's sisters, Sophia and Annie, were both dressmakers and it is very likely that one of them made these clothes.

Ivy and Ella both have their hair drawn back from their faces and left loose down their backs. It is interesting that Ivy's hair appears to be wavy here. In real life it was very fine and straight. These waves were probably achieved by the rolling of her hair in strips of rag overnight. No attempt seems to have been made to curl Ella's hair. Ella had much thicker hair and perhaps it did not respond to attempts to make it curl. In the full-sized photograph, the family cat can be seen on Clara's lap.

The only toys that survive in the family, that are believed to have been Ivy's, are some tiny, china dolls, sometimes known as frozen Charlotte dolls. It is unlikely that the family would have been able to afford many toys. Ivy and Ella have had homemade rag dolls, rather than the expensive china-headed variety. Ivy's childhood pre-dates the popularity of the teddy bear but other stuffed animals were a possibility. A rocking horse would have been beyond the

One of Ivy's Frozen Charlotte Dolls

family budget but perhaps the Woolgar children had a hobby horse. Bicycles too would also have been expensive but outdoor toys, such as hoops and skipping ropes would have been popular and games like hopscotch required no financial outlay. At this time, many toys were made at home, so the Woolgar children might have had wooden bricks, or even carved animals.

Tops, jigsaws, automata and wind-up toys were popular, as were Zoetropes. Games such as Snakes and Ladders and Tiddlywinks were invented at the end of the nineteenth century and Ludo was patented in 1897 but the Woolgars were more likely to have had card games. In later life, Ivy loved to play various forms of Patience.
Comics date from the 1880s but again, these might not have been available to Ivy and her siblings. Books were probably limited to those that were awarded as school, or Sunday school, prizes, although none for Ivy have survived in the family.

Ivy at School c.1904

On the 7th of July 1897, at the age of four and a half, Ivy joined her elder siblings at Salter's Hill School. She transferred to another school, possibly the junior department of Salter's Hill, on the 2nd of July 1900.[xxxiv]

Ivy c.1906

During Ivy's schooldays, the emphasis was on reading, writing and arithmetic, with plenty of leaning by rote. Children began by writing on slates, progressing to paper and pencil, or a pen, that would be dipped in an inkwell on the desk, as they got older. Nature study, drawing, scripture, singing and for the girls, sewing, would enhance the curriculum. Physical activity was restricted to drill, a series of exercises carried out in the playground. Geography required pupils to name and identify on a map, countries and geographical features, such as principal rivers and mountain ranges, as well as learning capital cities. History was largely a matter of reciting the dates of the reigns of monarchs and important battles. The concept of the glory of the British Empire was upheld and from 1902, annual Empire Day celebrations were held on the 24th of May. Ivy received a medal from London Council for 'punctual attendance' for the year 1905-1906.

Children progressed through various "standards" during their school career, beginning at standard one. Providing they completed the required number of attendances, they would sit the standard examination and if successful, would move to a

Ivy's Attendance Medal

higher standard. Children usually sat in rows on long benches, or forms, with the children in the lowest standard at the front. As they moved to a higher standard, they would move backwards to the next form. Playgrounds were usually segregated by gender, except perhaps for the infants. It would be normal for children to go home for their midday meal. At this period, the school leaving age was being increased. It rose from eleven to twelve in 1899 and then to fourteen the following year. Ivy almost certainly left school at fourteen, in 1907.

It is difficult to find out very much about the history of Salter's Hill School. It appears that it is now the school that is known as Kingswood School. It is an imposing Victorian building,

spread over three floors. In 1904, plans were announced to extend the school to accommodate 344 more pupils. This was because there was a lack of space for children chargeable to the parish.[xxxv] The *Norwood News* announced the death of Mrs Frances Thwaites Ollis, former headmistress of Salter's Hill School, in 1909; perhaps she had been Ivy's headmistress.[xxxvi]

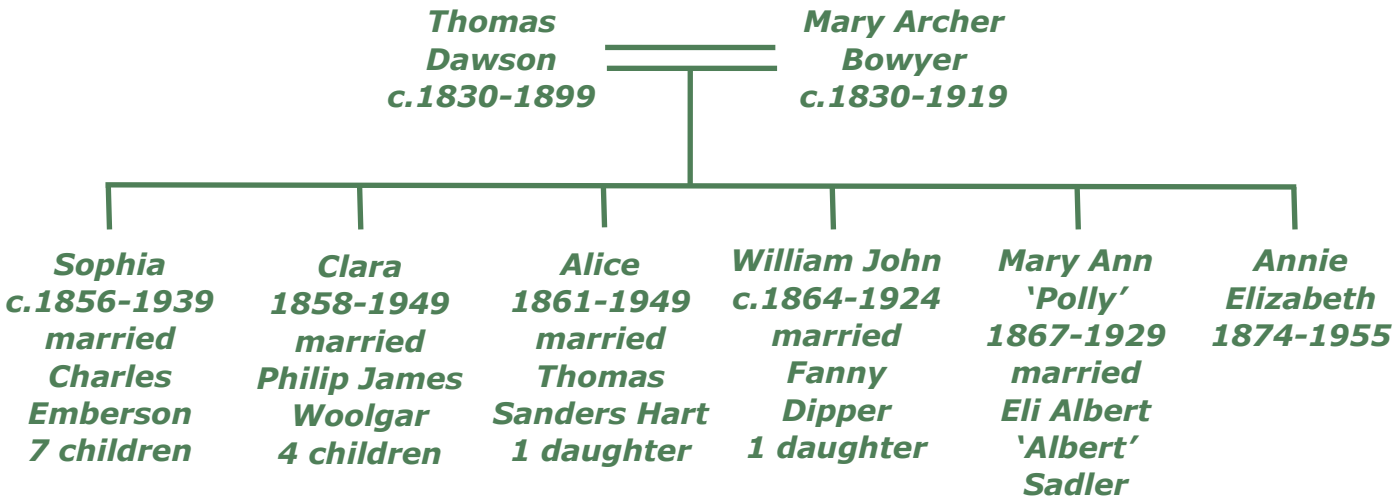
The handful of surviving dairy farms in and around Dulwich were a legacy of the area's agricultural past; an era before the coming of the railways absorbed Dulwich into the suburbs of London. From about 1891 to 1899, Ivy's father, Philip James Woolgar, was employed by Wraight Dumbrill & Co., milkmen,

Wraight, Dumbrill and Co.
Philip James Woolgar fourth from the left

of Croxted Road, Norwood[xxxvii] and he almost certainly worked for them for a much longer period; his father had been a cowkeeper in 1871.[xxxviii] The firm existed at least as early as 1881, when James Dumbrill and his wife Elizabeth née Wraight were working as cow keepers at 8 Croxted Road.[xxxix] At the same time, Elizabeth's mother, Harriet Wraight, was living at 3 Rosendale Road,[xl] close to the Woolgars' home.[xli] Photographs show that Wraight Dumbrill worked from Alleyn Farm Dairy.

Philip James Woolgar and Percy c.1896

During Ivy's schooldays, there was a local tragedy, which no doubt would have had an impact on the Woolgars. In August 1898, three year old Reginald Edward Hathaway, who lived just four doors away at 15 Chalford Road, was killed by being run over by a horse and cart, when buying sweets from shop in nearby Clive Road. The Hathaway children went to school with Ivy and her siblings and their father was a milk carrier, so almost certainly worked with Philip.[xlii] Another local tragedy was when the Woolgar's neighbour, Philip Walker, discovered the body of someone who had taken their own life in nearby College Road.[xliii]

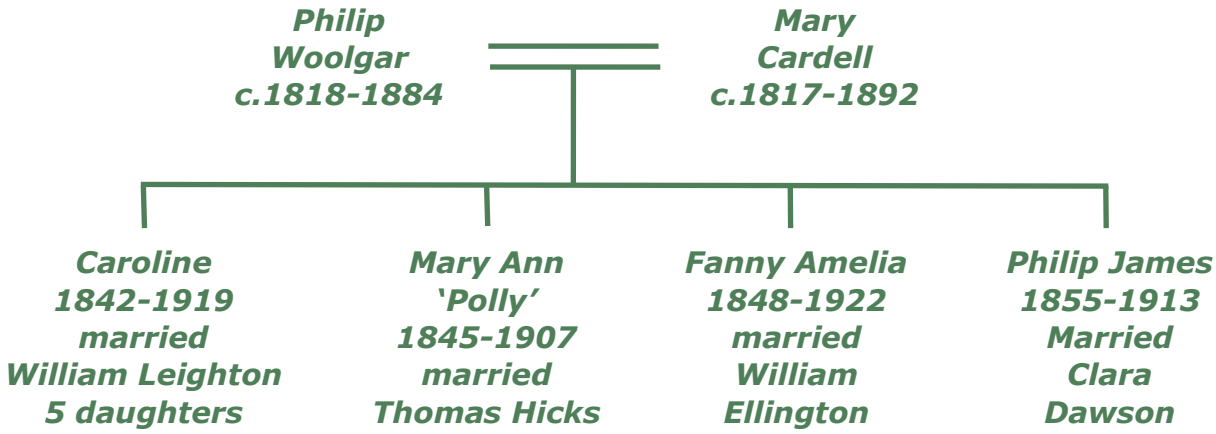


The Dawson Family

There were family events to celebrate. Several Dawson cousins were born in the 1890s. Ivy's Aunt Sophie gave birth to William Cyril Emberson "Cousin Willie" in 1893. Aunt Polly's second son Norman Gerald Sadler and Uncle William's daughter Kathleen Mary Dawson were born within a month of each other in 1895.[xliv] In 1899, when Ivy was six, her paternal grandfather, Thomas Dawson died of kidney failure.[xlv]

Ivy's childhood would have been dominated by news of the Boer War and the siege of Mafeking, which began just a couple of weeks after her grandfather's death. In the January of 1900 an influenza epidemic broke out in London and it may be that those in the Woolgars' community succumbed. Better news came in the May of that year with the relief of Mafeking.

Just after Ivy's eighth birthday the country was plunged into mourning with the death of Queen Victoria. Six monarchs would be on the throne during Ivy's lifetime. In 1901, the family were still at Chalford Road. Ivy's father was no longer a milkman but had returned to an occupation that he followed in his twenties and was working as a domestic gardener. In the 1901 census his occupation includes the word "invalid". This seems strange. If Philip was indeed an invalid and there's no other suggestion that he was, would he be working as a gardener? Does this mean that he was working as a gardener for an invalid?[xlvi]



The Woolgar Family

There were many gardeners in Dulwich. Green says that this filled the gap in the local market caused by the wealthier arrivals' desire for flowerbeds and shrubberies. The Victorians' passion for their gardens made their maintenance the second largest occupation in Dulwich.[xlvii]

The family remained at the same address. The occupation column of the 1911 census suggests that Philip was gardener for a local institution.[xlviii] It is not known who his employer was, might he have worked for nearby prestigious Dulwich College? Family stories suggest that, in later life, he did odd jobs for a Mrs Allen who was Clara's friend and lived in an adjacent road.[xlix] This was almost certainly Annie Copley Allen, wife of a grain merchant's clerk, who lived at 169 South Croxted Road.[l]

The Coronation Procession through the Streets of London

With the rest of the country, the family no doubt celebrated the delayed coronation of Edward VII in August 1902, sharing in the relief that the king had recovered from appendicitis. Would the family have gone to watch the procession? If so, no accounts of this were passed down to present generations.

The early years of the new century, which coincided with Ivy's schooldays, brought many changes. The first motor bus arrived in London in 1899 and motorised transport was

becoming less of a novelty. Dulwich became increasingly well served by the tram network. In 1902, Conservative Arthur Balfour became Prime Minister. Just prior to taking office, he had overseen the disbanding of School Boards, replacing them with Local Education Authorities. This upset the non-conformists, who resented subsidising Church of England schools. It did lead to the provision of more opportunities for secondary education but it doesn't seem that Ivy benefitted from this. In 1903, the Employment of Children Act prohibited the employment of children before 6am or after 9pm.

Just before Ivy left school, a new wing of Salters Hill School was opened by Mr A J Shepheard of the London County Council.[li] This could refer to the boys' section of the school but Ivy and her classmates may have been involved. Shortly afterwards, in 1908, London County Council restricted school class sizes to sixty, prior to this some infants' classes had had a hundred pupils.

This was an era of gradual social reform. The 1902 Midwives Act regulated midwifery practice and improved maternal care. Ivy's mother, Clara, is reported to have acted as an unofficial midwife, delivering babies locally.[lii] The act would have curtailed this activity.

Under Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who was the Liberal Prime Minister from 1905 to 1908, more measures were introduced, such as the provision of free school meals for poorer families. In 1907, school medical inspections were introduced. The Liberals continued in office, under Herbert Asquith, who took over from Campbell-Bannerman and was Prime Minister until 1916 and more reforms ensued.

Ivy's father did not live long enough to benefit from the provisions of the 1908 Old Age Pensions Act. From 1909, on reaching the age of seventy, a single person would receive five shillings and a couple seven shillings and sixpence a week. This was however means tested and restricted to those "of good character".

From the left: Sophia Emberson née Dawson (Alice's mother), Alice May 'Ellie' Wellard née Emberson, Constance Sophia Mary 'Sophie' Emberson (Alice's sister), Richard Wellard c.1908

Very little is known of Ivy's life during the first few years after she left school. It was a busy time for the family. There were family weddings. In 1898 Aunt Alice had married Thomas Sanders Hart.[liii] Given that Alice had

already had a child and her husband was a widower, perhaps this was a low key affair but it is almost certain that the weddings of Ivy's cousins would have been family occasions. In 1906, cousin, Clara Emberson married James Mack in nearby Penge.[liv] Two years later Alice May 'Ellie' Emberson married Richard Wellard in Croydon.[lv] This was followed by cousin Gertrude Fanny Leighton's marriage to George Benjamin Witt at St. Paul's, Herne Hill in 1909.[lvi]

Mary Ann 'Polly' Hicks 1845-1907

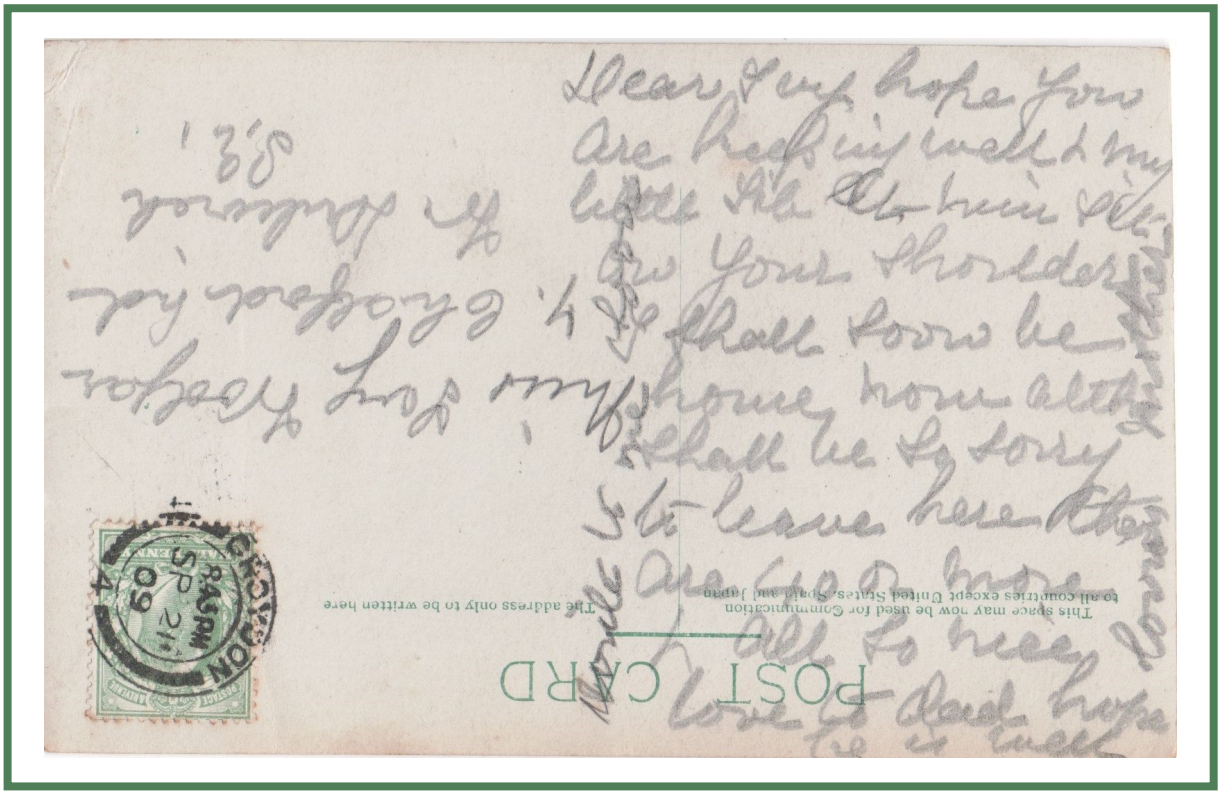
There was sadness too, June 1907 brought the death of Ivy's paternal Aunt Polly who lived close by in Croxted Road. As a childless widow, would Mary Ann "Polly" Hicks have been close to her brother's children? She was buried in the South Metropolitan (Norwood) Cemetery.[lvii]

There were opportunities for days out within easy reach. Crystal Palace, a legacy of the 1851 Great Exhibition, was relocated just over a mile from Chalford Road, in an area that was to take its name from the palace itself. The surrounding parkland boasted fountains, gardens and a helter-skelter. It

was also the venue for ballooning events. In 1901, Horniman's Museum, formerly located in a private house, opened in its new location, not far from Ivy's home. The 1908 Olympics, held at White City Stadium, probably did not impact on the lives of the family but it is likely that the Woolgars were amongst the crowds who gathered in Lordship Lane and a field near Dulwich Park on three consecutive nights in January 1910 to see Haley's comet .[lviii]

1910 also brought the death of Edward VII and the accession of George V, with the coronation taking place the following year. Dulwich Park, which opened in 1890, was in itself an attraction; Queen Mary used to drive round the park each year to admire the rhododendrons.[lix] The family were regular church goers, usually attending nearby Emmanuel Church,[lx] unless they went to hear Percy sing in a choir elsewhere.[lxi] Beginning at the age of five, Percy was a member of the choir of All Saints Church for fifty years.[lxii]

Percy James Woolgar



Postcard sent to Ivy from her mother, Clara, in 1909

Several family postcards survive. In 1909, Clara wrote to Ivy. Clara had obviously been staying away from home, although the Croydon postmark suggests that she wasn't far away. Was she visiting family perhaps; although they would have been near enough for a day trip? Maybe she was looking after her elderly mother, to give her sister, Annie, a break. The reference to "40 or more" suggests that Clara might have been in a hospital, convalescent home or asylum.

The writing is difficult to read but it seems to say, "Dear Ivy hope you are keeping well and my little Tib *[presumably a pet]* let sit on your shoulder, I shall soon be home now although shall be sorry to leave here. There are 40 or more. All so nice. Love to dad hope he is well. Write to me soon. Loving Mother".[lxiii]

Emmanuel Church

In 1911, Ivy and her siblings were all still living at home in Chalford Road. Ivy's occupation was described as "cashier for a grocery".[lxiv] Family memories suggest that it was in the September of 1911 that Ivy went to work for John Gardner and sons wholesale butchers, at Leadenhall and Smithfield market in London as a cashier and bookkeeper.[lxv] The census entry is not incompatible with her working at Gardners, so maybe the September date is incorrect, or perhaps Ivy worked more locally until the autumn. Ivy was reported to have been her father's favourite and he accompanied her to work on her first day.[lxvi]

Leadenhall Market c.1910

John Toulson Gardner had set up a butcher's shop in Leadenhall Market in 1886. He later expanded the business into ship's chandlery; in 1904 he secured the contract to supply Russian ships that were anchored off Hull, during the Russian war with Japan.[lxvii] Between the wars, Gardner built up a retail and wholesale supply business, as well as a chain of restaurants. His empire was eventually absorbed into Trust House Forte.[lxviii] The Gardeners were living very close to the Woolgars at this time, in fourteen rooms at Croxted House, Croxted Road.[lxix] It may be that Philip worked for them.

Ivy was joining an increasingly large female workforce; according to the 1911 census for England and Wales, a third of all clerks were female. The number of women undertaking clerical work had been steadily increasing since the 1870s.

Ivy (second from the left) with friends from the office of John Gardner & co. at Tower Hill

Ivy c.1920

Women were a cheap option, being paid half the wages of their male colleagues. The rising number of "white blouse women" was accompanied by an increasing mechanisation of the role. In 1910, Murray Fernie, describing what was on show at an exhibition of office equipment, referred not only to typewriters but "calculating machines, billing machines, addressographs and copiers".[lxx] Loose leaf files

had replaced bound ledgers, allowing for more flexible filing systems and facilitating the retrieval of information. Ivy would have benefitted from the National Insurance Act of 1911, whereby employers and workers paid contributions so that sickness and unemployment benefits would be available to anyone earning under £160 a year.

It was while she was at John Gardner's that Ivy met her future husband Frederick Herbert Smith, when he visited the firm as a junior audit clerk. Allegedly, this was in 1911 or 1912 and they had their first date the following year.[lxxi] Accounts of their personalities, make them seem an unlikely pairing. Frederick was reserved, studious, precise and not fond of socialising. His hobbies were train-spotting and stamp-collecting. Ivy, on the other hand, had plenty of friends and is often photographed laughing infectiously.

Frederick Herbert Smith

'Reidie'

Several photographs survive of Ivy and her work colleagues. One is labelled "Reidie" and this is thought to be Winifred Alice Reid (1891-1969) who was a typist at Gardner's in 1921 and had almost certainly been working there for a decade.[lxxii] Another photograph, taken in the same setting, is labelled "Carlie". Interior photographs are usual at this date. Were these taken at work? It certainly doesn't look like an office setting, or even a staff room. Perhaps this is the home of Carlie, or a room in the Alfred's Head Tavern, 49 Gold Street, Mile End where Reidie lived.[lxxiii]

'Carlie'

Ivy and a Friend from John Gardner's

Ivy and a Friend from John Gardner's

Philip James Woolgar

On the 16th of January 1912, Ivy's father, Philip James, underwent a tonsillectomy.[lxxiv] The following year, radio-therapy began to be advocated, as an alternative to surgery. In March 1912, Ivy's cousin, Alice Wellard née Emberson, emigrated to Canada with her husband Richard and daughter Nellie.[lxxv]

In 1913, Croydon's Medical Officer of Health reported a serious outbreak of diptheria in Upper Norwood, not far from Chalford Road.[lxxvi] 1913 was not a good year for the family, two of Ivy's maternal aunts. Alice Hart and Sophie Emberson, were widowed.[lxxvii] Sophie had moved nearby and was living with her disabled husband at 2 Woodbine Cottages, Penge at the time of his death.[lxxviii]

Ivy's father, Philip James Woolgar, died at home at 7 Chalford Road on the 19th of March 1913, from exhaustion as

a result of a tumour that developed following the previous year's tonsillectomy. He was fifty-seven.[lxxix] Life expectancy for men of his generation was forty; although the average is affected by the high levels of infant mortality in the Victorian era. James Robertson, who signed the death certificate, as he had Philip Cecil's nearly twenty years earlier, was the Woolgar's doctor for many years.[lxxx]

Philip James was buried in grave number 25831 at the South Metropolitan Cemetery, Norwood on the 22nd of March. The family paid an extra seven shillings and six pence in order to hold the service before three o'clock; in fact it began at 1.15pm.[lxxxi]

Would the family have gone into mourning following Philip's death? Mrs C.E. Humphrey wrote in 1904,

> *"When a death occurs in a family, the accepted mode of making the fact known to the outside world is by drawing down all the blinds and tying up the knocker with a piece of crape. An announcement of the death is sent to the papers for insertion in the obituary column, and letters are written to relatives and very intimate friends giving them the sad news."*[xxxii]

It was the first world war that was to change people's attitudes to death and formal mourning. There had been some relaxing of rules since the dawn of the new century but it is likely that, in 1913, Clara would have worn black, in acknowledgement of her husband's death, or at least a black crepe trim on her skirt for eighteen months to two years. The only jewellery that was acceptable was jet and some broken jet beads and trim survive in the family, which may date from this period. Mourning for Ivy, by then twenty, may not have been so strict, although in some households, the death of a parent meant seclusion from society for six weeks to two months. Ivy was working at this time, so this may not have been practical but she would probably have remained in the house until after the funeral. It is also debatable whether she would have gone to her father's funeral. The idea

that women might be emotionally stable enough not to succumb to their emotions when attending a funeral, was still a new one.

Ivy in 1914

On 28th of July 1914, international tensions in the Balkans, culminated in the assassination of Duke Franz Ferdinand. In an era before radio had found its way into people's homes, all news would have reached the Woolgars via the newspapers, or gossip. Ivy would have sensed the tension and read the news vendors' placards as she travelled to work in London.

The diaries of Vera Brittain, who was, like Ivy, born in 1893, convey the pent up excitement and restlessness, tempered by concern, that Ivy's might have felt. With an insight greater than many, Vera wrote, "*the situation is absolutely unparalleled in the history of the world. …. Attack is possible by earth, water and air, and the destruction attainable by the modern war machines used by armies is unthinkable and past imagination."* She wrote of the quest for definite news, the

gossip in public places and fears for the menfolk. Mobilisation orders were posted on Town Halls, ordering army recruits and members of the Territorial Army to report for duty.[lxxxiii]

Young men in Vera's world were eager to fight;[lxxxiv] who might Ivy have feared for? As regards her family, her twenty three year old brother, Percy would have been her immediate concern. There were also four cousins on the Dawson side of the family who were of an age to join up. Friends too would have been uppermost in Ivy's mind. She had already met her future husband but it may be that this was still a casual relationship. She spoke to her daughter of a wartime boyfriend with the surname of Prince, always referred to as 'Old P', who allegedly sang opera to her in train going through the Penge tunnel on the train. His favourite being *Goodbye* by Tosti.[lxxxv] The depth of this relationship is unknown. It may have been serious, he may have been someone whose attraction to Ivy was unrequited, or anything in between. A candidate for 'Old P', is Frederick George Prince of nearby Rosendale Road.[lxxxvi] He was two years Ivy's senior but had a sister who might have been Ivy's contemporary at school, although she can't be found in the Salter's Hill admissions registers. Frederick was to join the RAF and be killed in Italy on 17 May 1919.

Alternatively, just a little younger than Ivy and living a couple of miles away, at Dunstan Road, was Arthur William Prince, who, in 1911, was a clerk in a hotel company.[lxxxviii] Of the two, Frederick seems the more likely.

Percy Woolgar 1918

The Military Service Act, of January 1916, compelled all men between the ages of eighteen and forty one to sign up. On the 28th of February 1917, Ivy's brother, Percy, who had been working as a commercial clerk, enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps as a rigger, transferring to the newly created Royal Air Force on the 1st of April 1918. He was described as being 5 foot 7 inches tall. It is not known why he was not called up sooner. There is no record of him having been in the army before he entered the Royal Flying Corps. Might it have been his fitness that delayed his call-up? On the 22nd of May 1919 he was discharged as no longer being fit and was awarded the Silver War Badge.[lxxxix] His poor eyesight and a defect of his foot preventing more active involvement. He spent much of the war in Scotland where he met a young lady called Jean, whom he planned to marry. Ivy

still living at home, his mother vetoed the idea of her only son moving to Scotland and Percy never married.[xc]

Ivy 1917

The impression is often given that, apart from the obvious traumatic impact of the fear for and loss of, loved ones who were at the front, the First World War, unlike the Second, had little day to day impact on non-combatants. What would wartime have been like for Ivy, working in London and living in the suburbs? Jerry White wrote that

> *"London became the hub of an ever-enlarging leviathan of total war. The Londoners almost without exception were caught up body and soul in its maw. The war utterly dominated the city's life. It changed everything."*[xc1]

Naïve young men, eager to do their bit joined the queues at recruiting offices. Servicemen in unfamiliar uniforms embarked from London's stations for the hell that was the Western Front. The wounded returned home to those same stations, forever marked in body andmind. Belgian refugees

arrived on our shores and racist attacks on those who were believed to be of German origin began. Anti-German rioting was at its height after the sinking of the *Lusitania* in May 1915, with civil unrest and demonstrations that began in Liverpool spreading across London, with property destroyed and shops looted.

White continues:

> *"It was London that epitomised the wholehearted commitment – and from time to time the fearful stresses and disturbances – of a nation under nerve-breaking strain, daily affected by the shifting fortunes of total war…… small wonder that the very notion of 'civilian' should be blurred when so many adult Londoners were effectively mechanics in this great machine of war."*[xcii]

The war undoubtably impacted of the daily life of Ivy and her family. Until rationing was finally introduced in 1918, food shortages would have affected the Woolgars and Clara would no doubt have had to queue for supplies. Dairy products, such as milk, butter and margarine, along with sugar, flour and meat, were all restricted. With the wind in the right direction the sounds of the shelling in the trenches of France and Belgium could be heard in the Woolgar's home. When there was an explosion at Silvertown munitions factory at West Ham on 19

January 1917, the blast could be heard on the south coast; that too must have been very frightening, particularly as there was no immediate way of receiving news of what was going on.

There is no suggestion that Ivy did any kind of war work, although no doubt she knitted socks and scarves for soldiers. The labour shortage did mean that many women did take on the jobs left vacant by servicemen, or they worked in the many munitions factories in and around London. The National Aeroplane Factory, which opened at Waddon, six miles from Ivy's home, also employed many women.

With its key role in the war effort, from May 1915, London became the focus of raids by German bombers and Zeppelins. As a result there were 668 fatalities and nearly 2000 were injured. There were no shelters provided; Londoners sought refuge in the underground. The summer of 1917 saw the two worst attacks. Despite this, there was no air-raid warning system until the government finally gave in to public pressure in 1918. The reasoning was that warnings would give rise to panic. London blackouts were imposed from 1916 and by 1918, barrage balloons were in use across Greater London and beyond.

On the 18th of March 1918, it is likely that the family came together to celebrate the marriage of 'Cousin May', May Bula Dawson aka Hart, at Beckenham in Kent, some four miles away on the far side of Crystal Palace Park.[xciii] With so many young men killed and at the age of twenty eight, one might have regarded May as being 'on the shelf'. Her husband, William Dear, had been a regular soldier before the war and served until 1916 but by the time of their marriage, was a warehouseman. Had he perhaps been invalided out of the army? He service record provides no clues.[xciv]

Six weeks after May's marriage, tragedy struck when another of Ivy's cousins, William Cyril Emberson, of the 8th City of London Battalion of the Post Office Rifles, was killed on the Somme.[xcv] At the end of the summer, on 28 August, Ivy's sister, Ella Mary, married William Bird at Herne Hill. Interestingly, the marriage register describes Ella as a war worker but no account of what she did has been handed down in the family.[xcvi]

The Armistice, when it came on 11 November, must have been an unbelievable relief, even though many servicemen would not return until the following year. There was however something new to fear, in the shape of the mis-named Spanish Flu. Three waves hit London between June 1918 and April 1919, killing over 18,000 people. News about the pandemic, that was to kill fifty million people worldwide, was hard to come by

as it was under-reported in order not to affect morale in war time. It was first reported as having hit Spain in May 1918. In measures that were remarkably similar to those of the COVID 19 pandemic, people were urged not to mix and to wear a mask. Some schools, workplaces and cinemas closed. Various preventatives and 'cures' were suggested; may blatantly obviously ineffective. The first wave hit London in July 1918, with a severe peak in cases in November. The final spike in London cases was in March 1919. The highest mortality rates were amongst young adults in their twenties and thirties, with poor nutrition being thought to impact on the likelihood of survival.[xcvii]

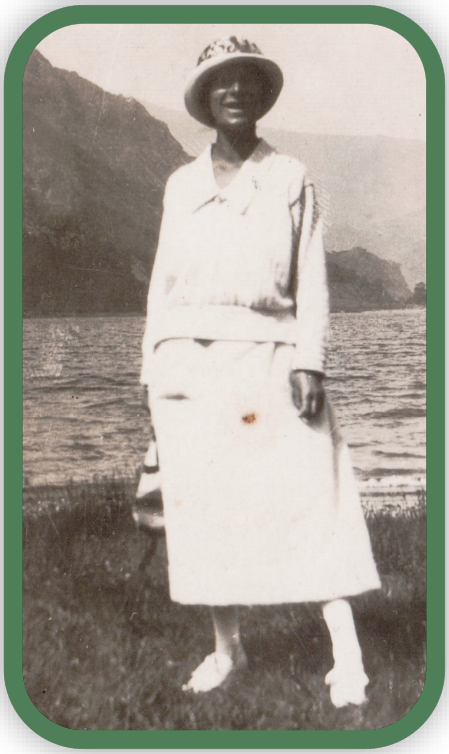
Just as the flu was abating, I April 1919, Ivy's maternal grandmother, Mary Archer Dawson, died at her home in Penge. The cause of death was 'nephritis intestinal and cardiac failure'. She was eight nine,[xcviii] so not the target age for the flu epidemic but flu was known to cause nephritis-like symptoms.

Building on the work of his predecessor, Asquith, Liberal Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, introduced various social reforms. Mother and baby clinics were set up and the Fisher Act raised the school leaving age from twelve to fourteen. Women from the age of thirty were granted the right to vote and in 1919, the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act

opened up various professions to women, allowing them to be awarded degrees, sit on juries and hold civic offices.

On the family front, Ivy's aunt, Caroline Leighton, died at the end of September 1919.[xcix] The following week, cousins arrived from Canada for a visit. Alice Wellard née Emberson and her young daughters Nellie, Dorothy and Marion disembarked in Liverpool to visit Alice's mother Sophie at 2 Woodbine Cottages.[c]

Ivy spent these years of her twenties, continuing to live with her mother and brother and working in Leadenhall Market for J Gardener.[ci] The Finance Act of 1921 had aided white-collar workers by providing tax relief on pension scheme contributions and making workplace pensions more common. Trams and trolley buses provided and alternative method of travelling and Ivy's was a generation where women had a little more independence. The decades just before and after the war saw upsurge in the formation of women's organisations; the Women's Institute in 1915 and the Women Citizen's Association in 1917. The post-war period also saw an upsurge in membership of existing organisations. There is no evidence that Ivy belonged to any such group; perhaps, like her daughter, she was not a 'joiner'.



Ivy c.1921

Photographs taken about this time suggest that Ivy was keen to keep up with changing fashions, as she is wearing straight shirt-waist dresses and cloche hats. Two pictures show her holidaying, or on a day trip in an unknown location. Throughout her life pictures reflect Ivy's love of animals and her sense of fun; she is so often laughing.

Ivy 1921

Ivy 1921

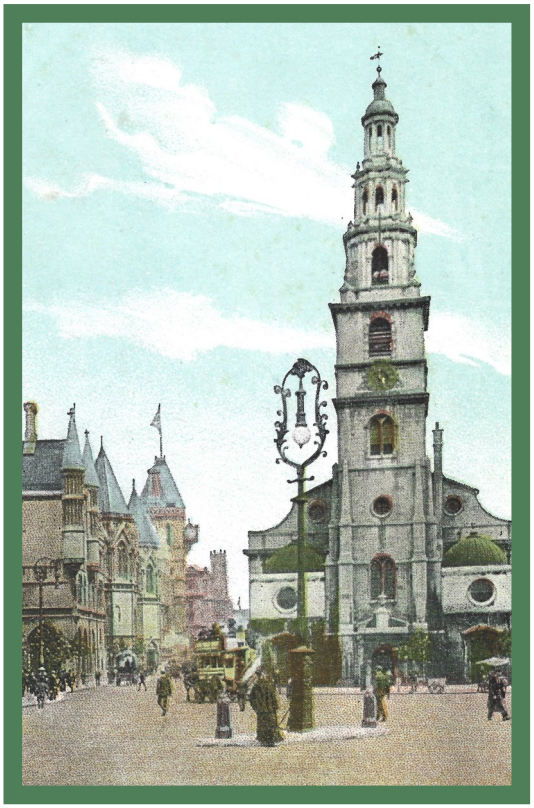
1921 did bring sadness. Ivy's niece, Ella's eldest daughter, Margaret Jean, known as Peggy, lived for just eight weeks.[cii] Both Ivy's aunt, Fanny Amelia and her cousin Ada Leighton spent time in asylums and Fanny was to die at Cane Hill Asylum in 1922.[ciii]

Muriel Chown Bird
Ivy's Bridesmaid

There was happiness too, as Ivy's relationship with Frederick Herbert Smith was blossoming and they married, after banns, at St. Clement Danes in the Strand, London. The witnesses were Ivy's mother and brother, Clara and Percy, Herbert H Smith, Frederick's father and Muriel Chown Bird who was the sister of Ivy's brother-in-law William Bird. Strangely, although a piece of Ivy's ivory, silk wedding dress has been kept, there is no wedding photograph, despite one surviving of her bridesmaid, Muriel. Although Frederick did not like having his photograph taken, they were in a financial position to have one and it seems extremely unlikely that

there was no photographer. Why has it not survived? Was it proudly displayed in a frame, so not put with others in the family album? That does not explain why was it was not kept. Did the glass get broken in the Blitz? If this was the case, surely it would still have been retained, even in a damaged state, or, at the very least, a story of its demise would have been handed down.

The Card that was Sent with Ivy and Frederick's Wedding Cake



St Clement Danes

This card, that was presumably sent with pieces of wedding cake after the ceremony, is the only clue that Frederick and Ivy did not start married life in the home that was to be theirs for the rest of their lives.[cv] Carshalton Grove, in the London suburb of Sutton, was a street of respectable-looking, Victorian houses, with small front gardens and attractive bay windows. Number 38 seems to have been renumbered and is now number 58. It was a semi-detached property, with three bedrooms, close to the common

and convenient for the trams.[cvi] It seems likely that this was a rented property and perhaps Frederick and Ivy occupied only part of it.

In the world beyond Ivy's immediate sphere, 1922 saw the Criminal Law Amendment Act raise the age of consent to sixteen, Andrew Bonar law beginning a short term as Conservative Prime Minister and the partition of Ireland. Closer to home, Ivy's cousin, Norman George Sadler married Beatrice Eden Watson.[cvii] Another cousin, May Bula Dear gave birth to a short-lived son Colin[cviii] and in November, Ivy's sister, Ella's son, Philip Edward Bird was born.[cix]

159 Davidson Road

On the 19th of December 1923 Frederick and Ivy purchased 159 Albert Road (later to be renamed Davidson Road), Addiscombe, with the aid of a mortgage from the Temperance Building Society.[cx] This property had been built in 1894 and was a typical suburban terraced house, with three bedrooms and two reception rooms. The garden backed on to the railway line, much to Frederick's delight, as he was an avid train-spotter.

Addiscombe had come to prominence with the establishment of the East India Company Military Seminary in 1809. This was a training college for East India Company cadets. After the college closed in 1861, the land was sold off to speculative builders and a series of roads containing Victorian terraces were built. By the dawn of the twentieth century, Addiscombe was becoming a commuter suburb for London businessmen and a comfortably-off professional class, to which Frederick and Ivy aspired, made Addiscombe their home. Lower status housing provided for the tradesmen and servants who serviced the community. In 1918, Addiscombe College a co-educational prep school opened.

By the 1920s, when the Smiths moved in, the borders of Addiscombe were blending with those of Croydon, the neighbouring, flourishing town. Addiscombe Road station provided train links to London, or it was possible to take a tram to East Croydon for a faster train service to the capital. By 1924, there were thirty eight steam trains to London from Addiscombe Road each weekday and fifteen in a Sunday. Davidson Road, being on the western edge of Addiscombe, was equally close to East Croydon Station. The tram service was deemed to be unsatisfactory and an anonymous letter was published in *Addiscombe, Woodside and Shirley Notes* on the 9th of February 1924 reading,

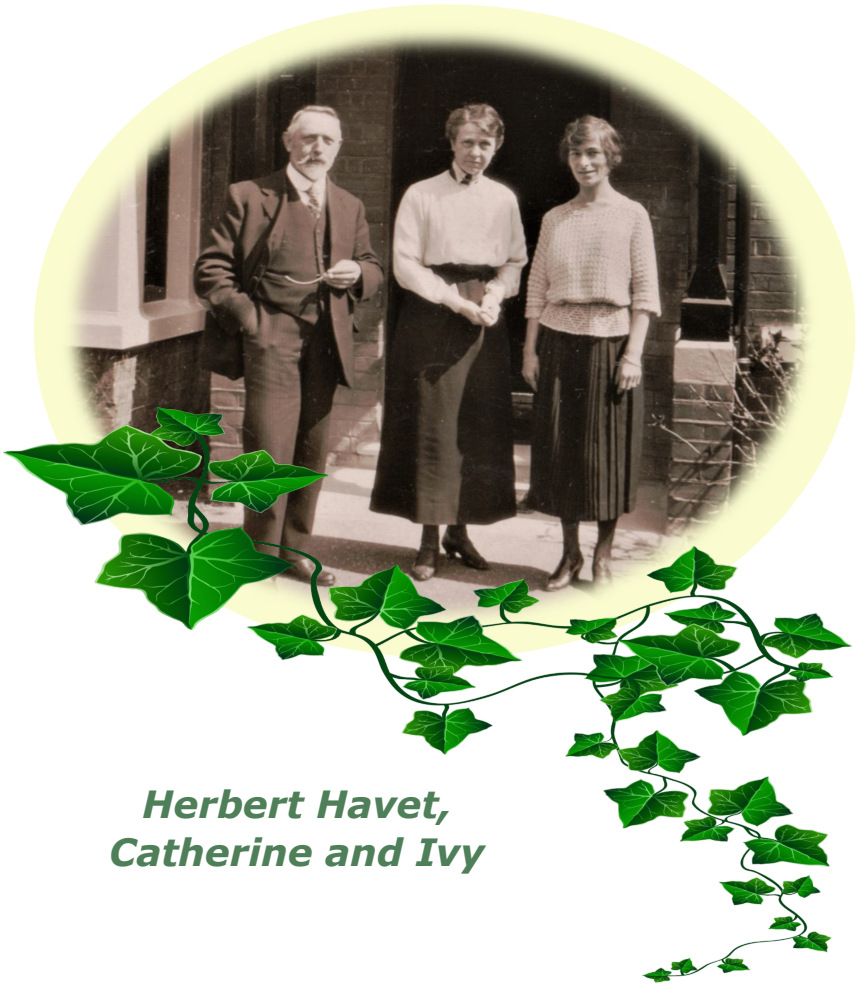
> *"Apart from the rough passage one endures on a tram-ride at present, there is a loss of time caused by those irritating waits at loops or behind slow-moving traffic, and with ever increasing danger of crossing from the kerb to the fixed tram, or vice versa, to be considered … It is quite hopeless to expect Lower Addiscombe Road to be a quiet residential one, shops are springing up and more are planned, and where there is a shopping centre there must be means of locomotion."* [cxi]

In 1927, the trams would be replaced by a bus service from the Lower Addiscombe Road to Croydon.

Ivy and Billie

Living in Davidson Road, meant that local shopping might be in the Lower Addiscombe Road, or in the parade of shops in Cherry Orchard Road. When Ivy and Frederick moved in, the property was lit by gas and coal for the fires was delivered by Harris and Bailey on their horse-drawn cart.

The couple settled in to early married life. It is likely that Ivy gave up work when she married but Frederick was travelling daily to London, working for W F Kidson and sons chartered accountants, as he was to do for the rest of his working life.[cxii] Ivy kept in close contact with her mother and siblings and regular visits were paid to Frederick's parents, at this time moved from Southend-on-Sea, Essex[cxiii] to one of a block of three flats in Westcliffe, Bournemouth.[cxiv]



Herbert Havet, Catherine and Ivy

Times were gradually changing. In 1923, Ivy, now aged thirty, would have been able to vote. In the same year, the Matrimonial Causes Act reduced the discrepancies between men and women in cases of divorce and in 1924, women were given equal rights with men regarding the guardianship of children when a marriage broke down. 1924 was also the year when Ramsey MacDonald replaced Stanley Baldwin to become the country's first Labour Prime Minister.

At the end of September 1924, Ivy's sister gave birth to a daughter, Muriel Olive, to be known as Olive.[cxv] Ivy, herself in the early stages of pregnancy must have shared her sister's excitement. On the 27th of

Billie

Ivy and Gwen 1925

February 1925, Ivy's daughter was born at home. They named her Gwendoline Catherine,[cxvi] although she was always referred to as 'Cookie' by her parents and was known as 'Dobs' to Ivy's mother, Clara.[cxvii]

Although the health reforms of the Liberal government in the 1910s had improved infant mortality rates, 76:1000 babies still died at birth. To underline the fragility of child health at the time, Ella's son died in May 1925, tarnishing the joy of Ella and Ivy who would have been delighting in their baby daughters. With Ivy's brother and nephew, both named Philip, dying in infancy, the name was considered taboo in later generations; although one of Ella's daughter's did refer to her stillborn child as Philip.[cxviii]

Ivy and Gwen 1925

Ivy and Gwen 1925

In August 1925, Ivy sent a postcard to her brother, Percy, saying that Fred had just arrived back from Scotland;[cxix] perhaps this was a train-spotting trip with friends. Another niece arrived for Ivy in 1926, with the birth of Ella's daughter Cynthia. She was to be followed by Marjorie in 1928 and Beryl in 1930.

Ivy with her Friend Midge Taylor

At Bournemouth 1926

With Frederick's 'white-collar' job and a reasonable income, the General Strike of 1926 was probably no more than a minor inconvenience, as attempted to Frederick travel to work. The 1928 Equal Franchise Act, which gave women the right to vote on the same basis as men, did not affect Ivy, as she was already old enough to vote. In 1929, Ramsey MacDonald, once more led a Labour Government and the legal minimum age of marriage was raised to sixteen, in line with the age of consent.

There were several family deaths. Uncle William Dawson in 1924, followed by his sister Aunt Polly (Mary Ann Sadler née Dawson), in 1929.[cxx] William was sixty and Polly sixty-two, in

Ivy and Gwen

line with average life expectancy at this time. In 1931, cousin Gertrude Fanny Witt née Leighton died.[cxxi]

Ivy and Gwen

Slum clearance began in London and its suburbs in the 1930s but this did not impact on Ivy, whose own home was now equipped with electricity. Gwen was growing up fast, attending a private local

Ivy and Fred

Ivy and Gwen
1926

school, Stebbinga House and buying sweets Whitlock's shop in Leslie Park Road. In Croydon, the department store, Kennards, defied the depression, opening a restaurant, complete with palm trees and a ladies' orchestra. Addiscombe's Bingham Road railway station reopened in 1935, having been closed since the war; thus providing Frederick with an alternative route to town.

Ivy

Ivy and Gwen 1929

At Bournemouth 1932

There is no suggestion that Ivy was politically active, or an advocate of women's rights but in 1935, the Property Act, following similar acts of 1922 and 1926, gave women equal rights to men regarding owning and the disposal of property; although married women would still need to defer to their husbands In later life, Ivy enjoyed reading magazines. Would she have purchased copies of *Miss Modern* in the 1930s, or was this more likely to appeal to younger, unmarried women? No doubt, Ivy made good use of the local library when she wanted to read; she was a fan of romantic novels.

Ivy and Gwen 1935

Photographs reflect the changing fashions of the inter-war period but Ivy was never particularly fashion conscious. We see her with her daughter, her friends and her in-laws but not with her mother and siblings and rarely with her husband, who was, it seems, the family photographer. It is unlikely that Ivy was a pacifist, so she probably was not one of the eleven and a half million people who signed the peace pledge in 1935, as Europe rumbled towards another war. By

1936, Conservative Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, was in office. The King, George V died and the country went through the abdication crisis, as Edward VIII, sacrificed kingship for his relationship with Wallis Simpson, leaving George VI on the throne. Young men left to fight in the Spanish Civil War and peace looked increasingly precarious.

Crystal Palace in Flames 1936

On the 30th November 1936 the family watched the flames as Crystal Palace burned to the ground. A postcard from this year, addressed to Gwen and signed 'Mummie' survives, probably sent for a birthday.[cxii] In 1937, Fred was invited to join the Freemasons, giving him another interest in which Ivy could not participate. This does not seem to have been a problem and Ivy pursued her own hobbies. She liked the theatre but rarely went, Trips to the cinema were more frequent and Nelson Eddy was a favourite. Back at home, jigsaws and games of patience occupied Ivy's spare time, when she wasn't knitting, sewing, rugmaking, looking after

the latest family dog, or decorating. She enjoyed wallpapering but was less keen on painting.[cxiii]

Ivy and Gwen at the Beach 1926

By 1937, a third of the country took holidays and photographs show that the family visited Folkestone, Southsea and Sidmouth, as well as outings to Frederick's parents in Bournemouth. Folkestone and Southsea were day trip destinations from Addiscombe but Sidmouth must have been a holiday. By 1938, companies were offering employees paid holidays.

Ivy and Gwen

Folkestone 1929 and Sidmouth 1936

There were more deaths in the 1930s, cousins May Bula Dear née Dawson/Hart and Harold Sadler, as well as Frederick's mother in 1938 and Ivy's aunt, Sophia Emberson née Dawson, in 1939.

Ivy at Southsea with Judy the Dog

Prime minister Neville Chamberlain's support for Poland, led to Britain declaring war on Germany. It had seemed inevitable throughout the summer of 1939 and in August, London and its suburbs, including Ivy and Fred in Addiscombe, practiced their blackout drill. The 1939 Register, drawn up in the first days of the war, shows Fred and Ivy at 159, as it was always referred to, sandwiched between the Paynes and the Careys;[cxxiv] Mrs Payne and Mrs Carey, were life-long friends. Little did they know what the next six years would bring.

Ivy and Gwen, North End, Croydon c. 1938

References

i. According to Family Search's face comparison software www.familysearch.org/discovery/compare, we are 41% the same but my eyes tell me it is more than that. The photograph on the first page, taken in July 1956, is of my Granny and I. When she was 2½, my own granddaughter looked at this photo and thought that it was me holding her.
ii. The General Registrar's indexes of birth.
iii. Short birth certificate of Ivy Gertrude Woolgar 1893, in family possession. Birth certificate of Ivy Gertrude Woolgar from the General Register Office (pdf).
iv. 1891 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG12 417 folio 156. 1901 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG13 438 folio 36.
v. The General Registrar's indexes of birth. 1891 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG12 417 folio 156. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar.
vi. 1891 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG12 417 folio 156. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar.
vii. The short birth certificate of Percy James Woolgar 1891, in family possession.
viii. I may have visited this property as a child but I was certainly not a regular visitor and I have no recollection of it.
ix. This is pre-decimal currency, when there were twenty shillings in a pound.
x. The average wage in 1910 was £70 a year, or about £1 7/- a week. Various newspaper advertisements suggest what a live-out gardener might have earned. All three children were still at home and earning at that time, which would have boosted the household income.
xi. Elizabeth Bayspoole 1844-1934.
xii. 1911 census for 205 South Croxted Road, Dulwich, Surrey RG14 2134 SN 99.
xiii. 1911 census for 205 South Croxted Road, Dulwich, Surrey RG14 2134 SN 99.
xiv. 1910 Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey IR 58 45699/3231 and associated map accessed via www.thegenalogist.co.uk 29 January 2022 (no reference provided for the map).
xv. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/everyday-wonders/electric-lighting-home accessed 31 January 2022. The first domestic electricity in Britain was installed in 1878.
xvi. The death certificate of Mary Woolgar 1892, from the General Register Office.
xvii. The death certificate of Philip Woolgar 1884, from the General Register Office.
xviii. 1891 census for 6 St John's Cottages, Maple Road, Penge, Surrey RG12 599 folio 102. Death certificate of Thomas Dawson 1899 from the General Register Office.

xix. 1901 census for 19 St. John's Place, Kensington, Middlesex RG13 23 folio 162.
xx. CAMPOP: Populations past https://www.populationspast.org. Geoff's Genealogy: Life and Death in the Nineteenth Century http://www.geoffsgenealogy.co.uk/other-articles/life-death-in-the-19th-century both accessed 27 January 2022.
CAMPOP: Populations past https://www.populationspast.org. accessed 29 May 2022.
xxii. A blouse.
xxiii. Spaeth, Louis A. *Coming Motherhood* (1907). Although this book was published in 1907, the original edition was produced in 1863 and it is unknown how much the text had been updated, if at all.
xiv. Lysol was a caustic disinfectant. The equivalent of Dettol.
xv. Fry, Henry Davidson, *Maternity* Neale (1907).
xxvi. Spaeth, Louis A. *Coming Motherhood* (1907).
xxvii. Baptism register for Emmanuel Church, West Dulwich, Surrey via www.ancestry.co.uk originals at London Metropolitan Archives.
xxviii. Admissions' Registers for Salter's Hill School, Lambeth, Surrey LCC/EO/DIV08/SAL image via www.ancestry.com, originals at London Metropolitan Archives.
xxix. Asthenia is weakness and lack of energy. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar. Correspondence re: the funeral of Philip Cecil Thomas Woolgar, in family possession. The Death certificate of Philip Cecil Thomas Woolgar 1894 from the General Registrar.
xxx. Correspondence re: the funeral of Philip Cecil Thomas Woolgar, in family possession.
xxxi. The Victorianist Blogspot http://thevictorianist.blogspot.com/2010/12/weatherwise-are-predicting-hard-winter.html accessed 30 March 2022.
xxxii. The United Order of the Total Abstinent Sons of the Phoenix Friendly Society was a temperance society.
xxxiii. *Norwood News* 17 August 1895 p. 7 col. b.
Admissions' Registers for Salter's Hill School, Lambeth, Surrey LCC/EO/DIV08/SAL image via www.ancestry.com, originals at London Metropolitan Archives.
xxxv. *Norwood News* 19 March 1904 p. 7 col. d.
xxxvi. *Norwood News* 7 August 1909 p. 5 col. b.
xxxvii. 1891 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood Surrey RG12 417 folio 156. Photographs in family possession.
xxxviii. 1871 census for 1 Rosendale Road, Norwood, Surrey RG10 692 folio 59.
xxxix. 1881 census for 8 Croxted Road, Norwood, Surrey RG11 0669 folio 112.
xl. 1881 census for 3 Rosendale Road RG11 0626 folio 66.
xli. In 1871 and 1891 but not 1881.
xlii. *South London Press* 13 August 1898 p. 8 col. d.

xliii. *South London Press* 23 August 1902 p. 3 col. a.
xliv. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith. The birth indexes of the General Registrar.
Death certificate of Thomas Dawson 1899 from the General Register Office.
xlvi. 1901 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG13 438 folio 36.
xlvii. Green, Brian *Victorian and Edwardian Dulwich* Barracuda Books (1988) p. 81.
xlviii. 1911 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG14 2134 folio 190.
xlix. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
l. 1911 census for 169, South Croxted Road, Dulwich, Surrey RG14 2134 folio 81.
li. *The Globe* 3 April 1906 p. 9 col d.
lii. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
liii. The marriage indexes of the General Registrar.
liv. Index to the marriage register for Penge, Surrey via www.findmypast.co.uk.
lv. The marriage indexes of the General Registrar.
lvi. Marriage register for St. Paul's, Herne Hill, London via www.ancestry.co.uk.
lvii. Burial register for South Metropolitan, Norwood Road Cemetery, Lambeth, Surrey via www.ancestry.co.uk originals in London Metropolitan Archives.
lviii. Pullen, Doris *Dulwich* Pullen 1983 p. 22.
lix. Pullen, Doris *Dulwich* Pullen 1983 p. 13
lx. This is no longer standing.
lxi. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxii. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxiii. Postcard in family possession.
lxiv. 1911 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG14 2134 folio 190.
lxv. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxvi. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxvii. The Caterer – Gardner Merchant Company Profile 1886-1994 www.thecaterer.com/news/foodservice/gardner-merchant-company-profile-1886-1994 accessed 17 January 2022.
lxviii. The Caterer – Gardner Merchant Company Profile 1886-1994 www.thecaterer.com/news/foodservice/gardner-merchant-company-profile-1886-1994 accessed 17 January 2022.
lxix. 1911 census for Croxted House, 36 Croxted Road, Dulwich, Surrey RG14 2457 SN 284. Electoral Rolls for 59 Leadenhall Street, London held at The British Library reference SPR.Mic.P.394/BL.L.71 available via www.findmypast,co.uk.

lxx. Fernie, Murray *The Clerk* February 1910 p.20 quoted in Heller, Michael *London Clerical Workers 1880-1914: the search for stability* unpublished PhD thesis for University College London (2003) p.178.
lxxi. Handwritten notes by the late Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxxii. 1911 census for Alfred's Head Tavern, 49 Gold Street, Mile End RG14 9400 SN132. 1921 census for Alfred's Head Tavern, 49 Gold Street, Mile End RG15 1623 SN165.
lxxiii. 1911 census for Alfred's Head Tavern, 49 Gold Street, Mile End RG14 9400 SN132. 1921 census for Alfred's Head Tavern, 49 Gold Street, Mile End RG15 1623 SN165.
lxxiv. Death certificate of Philip James Woolgar 1913 from the General Register Office.
lxxv. The passenger list of the *Virginian* 1912 BT27/749.
lxxvi. Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Croydon County Borough 1913 https://iiif.wellcomecollection.org/pdf/b30431219 accessed 15 April 2023.
lxxvii. Death indexes of the General Registrar.
lxxviii. 1911 census for 2 Woodbine Cottages, Penge, Surrey RG14 3411 SN 124.
lxxix. Death certificate of Philip James Woolgar 1913 from the General Register Office.
lxxx. Death certificate of Philip James Woolgar 1913 from the General Register Office. Death certificate of Philip Cecil Thomas Woolgar 1894 from the General Register Office. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxxxi. Correspondence re: the funeral of Philip James Woolgar, in family possession. Burial register for Norwood Road Cemetery, Lambeth, Surrey via www.ancestry.co.uk originals in London Metropolitan Archives.
lxxxii. Humphrey, C. E. *Etiquette for Everyday* Alexander Moring (1904) p.408.
lxxxiii. Brittain, Vera *Chronicle of Youth* Fontana (1982) pp. 102-105.
lxxxiv. Brittain, Vera *Chronicle of Youth* Fontana (1982) pp. 102-105.
lxxxv. Handwritten notes by the late Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
lxxxvi. 1911 census for 47 Rosendale Road, Dulwich, Surrey RG14 2135 folio 102.
lxxxvii. Admissions' Registers for Salter's Hill School, Lambeth, Surrey LCC/EO/DIV08/SAL image via www.ancestry.com, originals at London Metropolitan Archives.
lxxxviii. 1911 census for 40 Dunstan's Road, East Dulwich, Surrey RG14 2452 SN 71.
lxxxix. Air Force Service records for Percy James Woolgar AIR79/577 63245

xc. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
xci. White, Jerry *London in the First World War* www.cairn.info/revue-cahiers-bruxellois-2014-1E-page-139.html accessed 6 July 2023.
xcii. White, Jerry *London in the First World War* www.cairn.info/revue-cahiers-bruxellois-2014-1E-page-139.html accessed 6 July 2023.
xciii. The marriage certificate of William George Thomas Dear and May Bula Hart 1918, via www.ancestry.com.
xciv. Army service record for William George Thomas Dear WO363.
xcv. www.ipswichwarmemorial.co.uk/william-cyril-emberson/ accessed 17 July 2023.
xcvi. The marriage resister of St. Paul, Herne Hill, Surrey via www.ancestry.co.uk.
xcvii. British Newspaper Archive Newspapers from the Pandemic: reporting on the Spanish Flu https://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2021/01/14/spanish-flu-pandemic-newspapers/ accessed 17 July 2023.
xcviii. Death certificate of Mary Archer Dawson née Bowyer 1919 - from the local Register Office.
xcix. Indexes of the Principal Probate Registry.
c. Passenger List of the *Metagama* BT26 657 via www.ancestry,co.uk.
ci.1921 census for 7 Chalford Road, Norwood, Surrey RG15 2179 0607 sn303.
cii. Unidentified newspaper cutting in family possession. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar and Muriel Olive Bransden née Bird.
ciii. Death certificate of Fanny Amelia Ellington 1922 from the General Register Office.
civ. Marriage register for St. Clement Danes, Strand, Middlesex via www.ancestry.co.uk originals at City of Westminster Archives. cv. Marriage certificate for Frederick Herbert Smith and Ivy Gertrude Woolgar 1922, in family possession.
cvi. Wedding cake complements card, in family possession.
cvii. 1910 Inland Revenue Valuation Office Survey IR 58 809 24/0347 and associated map accessed via www.thegenalogist.co.uk 9 August 2023 (no reference provided for the map).
cvii. The General Registrar's indexes of marriage.
cviii. The General Registrar's indexes of birth and death.
cvix. The General Registrar's indexes of birth. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar.
cx. Papers relating to the purchase of 159 Albert Road, Addiscombe, Surrey. In family possession.
cxi. *Addiscombe, Woodside and Shirley Notes* 9 February 1924, quoted in Canning and Clyde Road Residents' Association and Friends *The Book of Addiscombe Volume 11* Halsgrove (2002) p. 35.
cxii. 1921 census for 6 Preston Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex RG15 09052 0117 sn58.

cxiii. 1921 census for 6 Preston Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex RG15 09052 0117 sn58.
cxiv. Electoral Rolls for 1925, 1926, 1928, 9 Cambridge Road, Westcliffe, Bournemouth, Dorset, accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk.
cxv. The General Registrar's indexes of birth. Oral evidence from Ella Mary Bird née Woolgar.
cxvi. The birth certificate of Gwendoline Catherine Smith 1925, in family possession.
cxvii. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
cxviii. Oral evidence from Gwendoline Catherine Braund nee Smith.
cxix. Postcard in family possession.
cxx. The General Registrar's indexes of death.
cxxi. The General Registrar's indexes of death.
cxii. Postcard in family possession.
cxxiii. Handwritten notes by the late Gwendoline Catherine Braund née Smith.
cxxiv. 1939 Register for 159 Davidson Road, Addiscombe, Surrey RG101/1289J/023/10 Letter Code CLJB.