

Summary Sheet R0088 page one

Abbreviations used: (G)GF/M/P/U = (Great)Grand Father/Mother/Parents/Uncle

pp 1-2. Interviewer shown photographs of great-great-grandparents and children. Children include her GGF born 1828, the youngest son, sent to Ayton School then to Liverpool to study accounting, then to Stoke-on-Trent to learn tailoring. Here he met respondent's GGM, from Castle Street, Kendal, who was training as a confectioner in Stoke. Previously at Manchester School of Art. and talented at needlework and design. Her elder brother also went to the School of Art but returned home with his sister to help their mother when their father died. Her GGP returned married to Kendal and lived in a house south of the Town Hall.

pp 2-3. GGM ran a confectionery business in their home (where Rigg's café was). GGF was a carpet cutter at Gandy Mills and did this until he died in the 1870s. GGM's family were Quakers from Sedbergh and her parents married at Brigflatts Meeting House. The family had Birks Mill for many generations. GGM had two brothers, the younger trained as a pharmacist (took laudanum) then went to America in 1872. He possibly had polio. The older brother was a designer, he did etching. He worked in Manchester for Bradshaws(of railway timetables) in Manchester until father's problems. He died before his brother. Many other siblings, dying of infectious diseases. GGM had one younger sister who with her survived her mother.

pp 3-4. GGP had three surviving children, including Arthur Simpson. His brother lived at Nether Wells between filling station and Sizergh on dual carriageway south of Kendal) at White Post Hill (no longer exists). He kept many horses at the County Mews and stables(which he owned), and supplied vehicles. He provided a service to care for farmers' horses on market days. Business declined 1910-15, with advent of motor vehicles, business sold then all horses involved in World War 1. Mews became a cinema and now flats. One sister died young the other taught at the High School when Miss Warren head mistress. She was a naturalist and studied university examinations in Kendal. Certificates with the Records Office. She lived at Sunny Hill, Brigsteer, with a colleague. Details of home given few modern facilities. She was skilled at crafts and made a present for every child in the village. She died in 1947.

pp 4-6. Great-aunt's craft skills detailed, gifts for children included dolls, tops, and a leather work box. Arthur Simpson's education started by truanting from the Dames school. Practically skilled and eventually sent to Rawden school,near Leeds. Rawden and Ayton were both Quaker boarding schools. Ayton near Middlesborough was agriculturally biased. Rawden near Leeds, did not give an academic education but taught practical skills such as woodwork and needlework. Arthur two years. Then went to Stramongate school, Kendal. 1912 when well qualified made president of Old Boys Association at Rawden, and gave a carving demonstration and a gift of a carved six foot frieze. Respondent researched the whereabouts of the carving and possibility of its return to Kendal area(Blackwell thought most appropriate).

pp 6-7. Arthur made much of Blackwell's furniture. Discussed how he (AS) learnt carving. As a child he made whistles, walking stick handles, whip and tops for school friends. On leaving school worked for joiner/undertaker in Green Howes Yard on top of Highgate. Disliked dealing with corpses, left to work at Gillows (in Lancaster).

pp 7-8. Gillows work repetitive and needing accuracy –dentilling, Arthur there until 21 years. His foreman from Barrow. Occasional week ends he returned home and often walked from Lancaster. He called himself a "craftsman in wood, designer and carver". He stayed at Gillows for nine months then went to Leicester. He lived with a maternal aunt and worked at a firm Osmonds. One year later he returned to Kendal and tried to set up a shop, with a £300 loan from a GU who lived at Bolton-le-Sands and Arthur visited him when in Lancaster. The

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shop/workshop was upstairs next to Titus Wilson's old building (Highgate), but was not a success so he left again. Advised to go to London. Was employed at Ammonieres, and stayed there for ten months. 1884 went to Manchester to work for Faulkner Armitage (did work on Pull Wyke west side of Windermere). Stayed a few months and again returned to Kendal (health concerns) to establish himself.

pp 8-9. Arthur had an exhibition in Kendal 1885. Established carving classes in several places, including Milnthorpe, Kendal, Burneside and Hincaster. He was paid and he walked to the places. He worked alone in Kendal in a workshop over a shop in Finkle Street, adjacent to Berry's Yard (where the plaque is). He lived with his parents and married in 1888. He was friends with a second cousin, who worked for Farrers. They walked together and the cousin went to the Zion chapel (now the United Reform Church), where respondent's future GM attended. Although Arthur did not attend Zion chapel, he was introduced to her. Respondent's GM was a qualified nurse. The first qualified nurse at Kendal hospital.

Respondent describes how Arthur (AS) walked home from London after leaving Ammonieres. Via St Albans, Nottingham, Leicester sleeping out and talking to old soldiers, down and outs. He wanted to return for his cousin's wedding. He then went to Manchester. His cousin lived on Castle Garth after marriage.

pp 9-10. Respondent's GM was appointed to the hospital in 1887 (records in archive). She met Arthur when he was 32 years. She worked at the hospital at the top of Captain French Lane (previously Kendal Memorial Hospital now a nursery). She was a children's nurse. Arthur would visit her there. They married in March 1888. GM left nursing on marriage. Their first home in Gandy Street. Respondent's father born there. Then more children born in a cottage at the bottom of the Greyhound, Birds Park /Lane (goes to Birds Park Reservoir). Three further moves: to Town View, bottom of Lowther Street, then Greenside. Rented a cottage at Gill Head in the summers. Arthur traveled into Kendal and Windermere. Carving students came to Gill Head, and stayed as paying guests. His best student was a Howard Stabler, who seems unknown to many.

pp 10-11. Harold Stabler was from Levens, and was with Arthur for a number of years. He went to Sir John Sloane class, London, eventually became Head of Arts and Crafts there. Then to Poole Potteries as a designer, who had close association with the Arts School in Kendal. There was an Art School in Kendal which respondent attended. It was part of the Allen Tech and based down Kent Street, near Berry's Yard. When art school staff absent, a Simpson's employee would come to teach.

Respondent's father left school at 16 years (in 1904 p.12), and worked for Simpsons until he was 21 years. He also worked at Garden Crafts Ltd, Staveley, and Ribbey Hall, in the Fylde. Also he was sent to Manchester to work for Kendal Milne, to gain customer experience. Then he went to Aberdeen on finishing his apprenticeship in 1910(p.13) in Kendal.

pp11-12. Respondent's father worked at Galloway & Sykes in Aberdeen until 1911. Made two chest of drawers. Comparisons with Kendal workshop work. Diary details of life in Aberdeen. Return to Kendal (all this from diary). Returned Christmas Eve 1911. He left Aberdeen, arrived at Oxenholme and walked home to Greenside. Wagedetails. Respondent had difficulties dating her father's activities after school leaving from his diary, mainly football and girl friends.

(p12) Diary details given randomly in no order. 1919 father home from France. In RAMC. Compassionate leave as Arthur ill. Demobbed at Oswestry Jan 1919.

pp12-15. Respondent's father did a year with the family firm in 1910 then went to Aberdeen in early 1911 for a year. 1912 he returned to work with his father and had increased responsibility included interviewing customers and drawing. Respondent refers to diary, 1912 visit to

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London, people visited include the Stablers. Shared a flat with Mawson (the gardening/architect). South Kensington also mentioned. Visits to significant places such as Whistlers house, Richmond Park, Hampton Court. Arthur also came to London meeting others including Voysey. At Olympia Exhibition respondent's father was left alone and sold the entire exhibits over two weeks.

(p13) More details of R's father's time in WW1. Volunteered for RAMC in 1914. As a Quaker. Initially in Kendal living at home and trained in nursing procedures at the County Hospital, drilled at Gandy Mills or Market Hall, pitched marquees in showfield, Appleby Road. After six months he went to a camp at Warton and Raygreen. Also helped with hundreds of Belgian refugees that arrived in the area, his father was secretary for them. The respondent wrote an article on this in 1999/2000.

Respondent's father involved with Somme offensive, Dr Cockhill Medical Officer for Westmorland 1913-1945, was his Commanding Officer. In France from 1915 until late 1918. Returned to work with his father who was still involved with the Belgian refugees helping with housing and furniture. Arthur (AS) discovered the skills they had as patten-makers and helped them set up a market stall to sell their products. Patten shoes became a popular for visitors to purchase and support the refugees.

pp15-17. Respondent's father married on leave in 1918. A Kendal woman, whose father lived in Castle Crescent. They moved to Aynam Road. The respondent was their first child, two brothers followed later. She was born in a nursing home on corner of South Road and Milnthorpe Road (now a Chinese restaurant). Her first outing at three weeks was to view the screen made for Kirkby Stephen Church at the shop, then in Queen Katherine Buildings. Her mother had been a teacher in Bowness and employed an ex-pupil as a maid. Taken for walks by maid and Arthur. When respondent's first brother was born and she stayed with her GPs. Respondent's maternal GM was a milliner and one of her employees helped with her care after respondent contracted polio (aged 3-4 years, p17-18). This lady lived in the Douthwaite Almshouses. She taught her how to make bows.

Respondent developed scarlet fever 1924 and was placed in the Kendal Isolation Hospital, by the canal. Spent six months there. She contracted measles while in the hospital, Authorities refused to allow her home as her baby brother there. Her mother appealed for her discharge as her health was deteriorating (ear infection plus poor nutrition), and her brother was placed in a nursing home. Her ear improved but a mastoid developed at aged 12 years.

pp 17- 21. Her mother discovered a child with measles had shared the respondent's bed in the isolation hospital. She complained to the Medical Officer for Health. Within two months of hospital discharge, she contracted polio and was hospitalised again in September 1924, in Ethel Hedley Hospital for six months (p19). Describes her collapse when staying with her GPs at Littleholme when parents had gone to London to the British Empire Trade Exhibition. They returned urgently, details of their return journey by their first car (previously had a motor bike). Three cases of polio in Kendal, one child died. She was in a room overlooking the kitchen gardens and had anxieties that Mr McGregor of the Beatrix Potter story (*Peter Rabbit*) was there and would put her in a plant pot.

Nursing care was harsh, smacks for soiling her bed in a full plaster and only three years old. Enema episode caused terror. Attempts to educate her with matching pictures/words rejected by the respondent. Discharged home after six months with two full length calipers, her mother was given no support nor physio given.

pp.17-21 At five years respondent started Kirkland School. Was frightened. Showed a card she had made. Two memories of Kirkland School, one a prize day, received a prize Tom Tits Annual, anxieties about going to receive it. The other being taken to the toilet by a teacher, who forgot her and the caretaker operated a flush system for all the toilets and a waterfall flowed underneath her.

Every summer the family moved out of Kendal into the country. Mother found Kendal people forever asking questions about respondent, she preferred village community. Two summers spent in Hartsop, one in Underbarrow, and one in Brigsteer. She did not attend school consistently until moved to Heversham aged seven years (1928 p.22).

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pp 21-22. Lived for six months in a house called The Hyning, at top of Dukes Hill, part of the Heaves estate. Brother was unwell with asthma, so move to a rural location. Aynam Road untarmaced so dusty and near gas works. Brother developed pneumonia in Heversham. Moved to a house near Heversham school. Memories of the Prince of Wales. His 1927 visit to Kendal recalled. Given window seat (on glass shelf) in Vogt's chemist which caused great discomfort. Shoes from Clifford Turners given to the Prince.

pp 22-23. Respondent attended boarding school for five years. On leaving went to train as an occupational therapist(OT) in Bristol under Dr Casson. 1937/38 OT profession just developing. Started initially with mental health work and developed work with physical health concerns. The respondent was one of the first OTs to focus on physical aspects of the work. Training details given. Blitz and bombed out so moved to Barnsley Hall in Bromsgrove to complete her training (work here with wounded WW2 soldiers). First job in Exeter, again bombing there, worked at the Training School for Disabled People. On staff and no longer "poor little thing". Moved to Birmingham Accident Hospital, all accident work with her work all burns and hand surgery. Moved to Preston Royal Infirmary and stayed for 17 years.

Returned to Kendal as parents health deteriorating (mother especially) obtained post of OT, Kendal Green Hospital. Worked there until poor health stopped her.

She describes the impact of leaving Westmorland, the awfulness of the blitz in Exeter, and the difficulties she had in understanding the language. But was warm for once, and she did enjoy it. Birmingham work meant she was returning north and when in Preston she could go home at week ends.