

Four Oaks, Rowhills Estate



What was it like being the first people to move in to a new property on Rowhills Estate in 1933? Maybe military personnel moved about so much that it was just taken for granted, moving into somewhere new.

The new residents renting Four Oaks from the Wells family were a little different. In 1933, Noel Victor Williams (1889-1962) and Lucy Myrtle Williams née Noble (1892-1968) moved into Rowhills and Noel did not solely have a military background.

| Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Noel Victor Williams |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Farnham > 1933   |                      |
| Williams, Noel Victor  | Four Oaks, Heath End |
| Williams, Lucy Myrtle  | Four Oaks, Heath End |

Noel was born in Aston, Warwickshire, later living at a Handsworth address in north Birmingham. When Noel was 21 in 1911, both he and his older brother Campbell Pugh Williams had been bank clerks. They lived at 13 Freer Road, Handsworth, Staffordshire. War came and along with so many compatriots, Noel served in France.

| Name        | Corps      | Rank  |
|-------------|------------|-------|
| WILLIAMS    | 28/ Lond R | x Pte |
|             | * D.L.I.   | 2/Lt  |
|             | * M.G.C.   | Capt  |
| Noel Victor |            | Major |

Noel enlisted as a Private in the 28th London Regiment but was subsequently commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Durham Light Infantry Regiment, serving in France in 1915.

| 28th LONDON               |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| SUBSEQUENTLY COMMISSIONED |  |
| ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS       | entitled to the Victory Medal and <del>for</del> British War Medal |

|      |     |                      |             |
|------|-----|----------------------|-------------|
| 2371 | Pte | WILLIAMS Noel Victor | 28th Lond R |
|------|-----|----------------------|-------------|

|        |                 |               |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2nd Lt | 2nd D.L. Inftry | B. 14. 8. 15. |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|

In 1918, Noel was marked as an absent voter on the electoral register from 13 Freer Road, Birmingham, when he was a Captain in D Company, 62<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps.

FREER ROAD.  
 Williams, Noel Victor      13      Capt., D Co., 62 Bn., M.G.C.

The next entry for Noel is the London Gazette, reporting in 1919 on his award of the Military Cross.

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| First name(s)                      | Noel Victor             |
| Last name                          | Williams                |
| Year                               | 1919                    |
| London Gazette reference 1st award | LG:31119/11 Jan 1919(C) |

T./Lt. (A./Capt.) Noel Victor Williams, 62nd Bn., M.G. Corps.  
 When temporarily in command of his company he was called upon, at short notice, to draw up a plan of action for launching his company to an attack. He carried out his task with conspicuous ability, and after the objective had been gained, he made a personal reconnaissance of the guns, under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, co-ordinating their dispositions so as to meet the tactical requirements of the situation. His courage and energy set a splendid example to all ranks.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Medal type  | Military Cross, 1914-1918                                   |
| Decorations | MC  |
| Country     | Great Britain   |
| Record set  | Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards |

Marriage in 1919 showed that Noel Victor Williams was by then Major Williams. His bride was school teacher Lucy Myrtle Noble.

1919 Marriage solemnized at *Christ Church* in the Parish of *Hampstead* in the County of *London*

| No. | When Married. | Name and Surname.    | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|-----|---------------|----------------------|------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 61  | Jan 24 1919   | Noel Victor Williams | 29   | Bachelor   | Soldier (Major)     | 13 Rudall Crescent Hampstead N.W.2 | Campbell Williams          | Company Manager.              |
|     |               | Lucie Myrtle Noble   | 26   | Spinster   | School Teacher      | 7 Haughton Rd. Hampstead N.W.2     | Edward Noble               | School Master.                |

Married in the *Christ Church* Parish according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* licence or after \_\_\_\_\_ by me,  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Noel Victor Williams* and *Lucie Myrtle Noble* in the Presence of us, *Edna Priscilla Shelton* and *Edward Noble*.  
*J. Thomas Waters*  
*hemera Wright Partridge*

Lucy was born in Wombwell, Yorkshire in 1892. Lucy's father Edward Noble was a headmaster of a York County Council school and in 1911, the Noble family lived in the Schoolhouse at Bubworth, Selby. Lucy trained at Sheffield City Training College and from 1913-1919, worked as an Assistant Mistress at Aston Lane School. She will possibly have met her husband in this area.

Once married, the couple moved to 90 Victoria Road, London, N22. Lucy gained her Board of Education certificate in 1920 and started teaching at Gifford Street School in Islington with pupils from a mix of nationalities being English, Irish, Italian, Polish, Greek, Cypriot and Jamaican.

**TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL.**  
 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION.  
 (Constituted by ORDER IN COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 29th, 1912.)

Register Entry concerning: **WILLIAMS, LUCY MYRTLE.**

Date of Registration: **1st July 1920.** Register Number: **37589**

Professional Address: **Gifford Street School, ISLINGTON, N.1.**

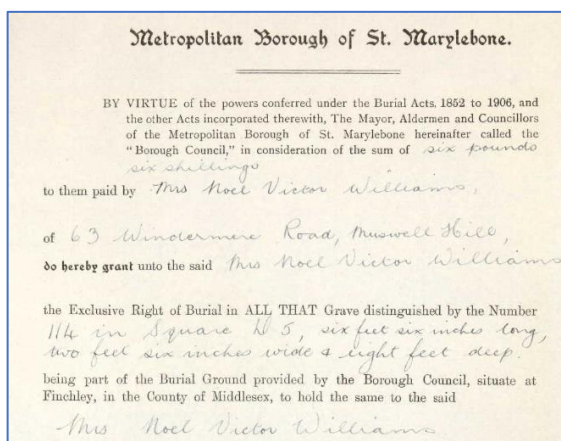
Attainments: **Board of Education Certificate.**



The 1921 census showed that Noel had left the Army and was pursuing a career in banking. He was a bank clerk at the Head Office, London Joint City & Midland Bank Ltd, at 5 Threadneedle Street, London. (The Birmingham and Midland Bank had merged in 1891 with the Central bank of London to become the London City and Midland Bank. Two years later, the name changed to Midland Bank Ltd.) The Imperial War Museum holds a large database of members of Midland Bank staff who left the bank to serve in the Great War and Noel Victor Williams is amongst those names.

| (P)                             | (T)  | (M)  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Head Office Bank Clerk<br>939/6 | London Joint City & Midland Bank Ltd<br>Midland Bank Ltd Bankers | 5 Threadneedle St<br>14480/008 C.2                       |
| School Teacher<br>850/6         | London County Council  | Pifford Street<br>Council School<br>Salisbury N1<br>1210 |

The Autumn of 1926 will have been a time of great joy when their son John was born but that same year, he died. Mrs Williams arranged for a burial site in the Metropolitan Borough of St Marylebone. Their address was now 63 Windemere Road, Muswell Hill, London and Noel's career prospects were improving.



Son David was born in February 1929 and then in 1933, Mr and Mrs Williams moved from Muswell Hill, London to Four Oaks in Rowhills estate. This begs the question, why? They appeared to have no family in the area, so was it due to employment. The Midland Bank was growing, and were opening new branches. Aldershot was certainly growing so maybe there was a new branch there.

Four Oaks was a large property for a busy couple and they employed Doris Grainger in 1933 until 1935 for household duties. Nothing more is known about Doris.



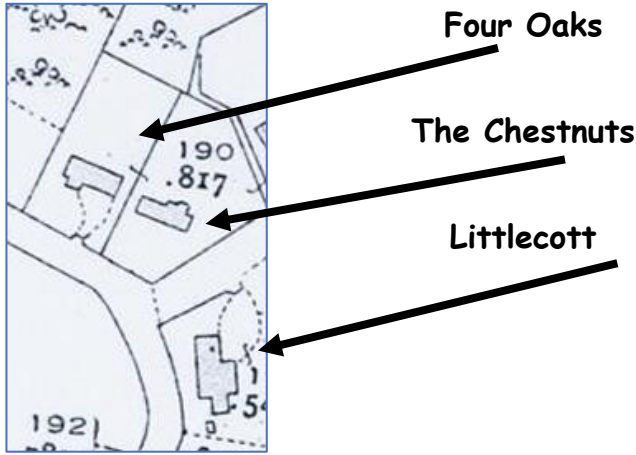
The 1939 Register for Four Oaks showed Noel Williams with his date of birth in 1889 and his profession as a Bank Manager. The line beneath Lucy Williams was redacted for their son David J Williams.

The 4<sup>th</sup> line showed Kathleen Jessie Harris, born 1919. She was the daughter of Henry and Emily Harris who had moved into the road at 1 Rowhills Cottages in 1928. It would seem that she was the live-in help.

|                                   |   |              |   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Williams, Roll 2                  | M | 14 Oct 89    | M | Bank manager      |
| Williams Lucy M.                  | F | 17 Sept 92   | M | Unpaid Domestic d |
| This record is officially closed. |   |              |   |                   |
| Napier, Kathleen J.               | F | 15 Sept 19 5 |   | Unpaid Domestic d |

Staying in the 1930s period, let us look next door to see who rented The Chestnuts.

### The Chestnuts, Rowhills Estate



The £700 loan that John Henry Wells took out in 1931 to build new houses on Rowhills Estate, specifically mentioned The Chestnuts, so a name was already chosen. It was possibly built by 1932, about a year before Four Oaks. The two houses even had the same door-bell pushes. It was not uncommon for some Aldershot military officers to rent large, local properties and this was what happened with The Chestnuts.

In 1932 Captain Robert James Merrell (1893-1944) and his wife Gladys Evelyn Merrell née Marjoram (1902-1940) were the first to take up residence.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Robert James Merrell |                      |
| Farnham > 1932   |                      |
| Merrell, Robert James<br>(Capt.)   | Chestnuts, Heath End |
| Merrell, Gladys Evelyn   | Chestnuts, Heath End |

Robert was born in 1893 in Ham, Surrey with his father being an engineer's labourer. By the age of 17, Robert was an engineer's apprentice for a Hot Water company in Stockwell, London. He received further engineering training at W. G. Cannon and Sons, Ltd., of Southwark where he held the position of Assistant Manager to the Company until he joined the Army in 1914.

|                     |   |                    |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| Pte.                | MERRELL   | R.A.S.C. M2/021800 |
|                     | Robert James.   | Private.           |
| e) Taken into Stock |   |                    |
| Tank Corps          | Entered in B.M.<br>Dis. 27.4.17. on Appt. to a<br>Commission in M.G.C. (H.B.) |                    |

Robert commenced his military career in 1914 with the Royal Army Service Corps, Motor Transport Division, the only mechanised unit in the Army at that time.

Private Merrell was awarded a commission and moved in 1917 to the Machine Gun Corps, working with the Tank Corps. Robert was mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished services in the field, with the Tank Corps.

1922 meant a promotion as an engineer officer with the rank of Lieutenant and a move to the battalion at Bovington Camp, Wareham in Dorset with Tank Workshop training. By this time, Robert was already married to Gladys Evelyn Marjoram. They had married in 1921 at the Hither Green Wesleyan Chapel, Lewisham, Kent. Robert's address was Worgret Camp, Wareham.

|                                       |                 |                            |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Name                                  | Rank            | Regt.                      | No.       |
| MERRELL                               | R.A.S.C.        | P.                         | M/021800. |
| P. J.                                 |                 | Tank Corps. Capt.          |           |
| Robert James                          | Regt.           | R. Exell 100/101/11/1871   |           |
| Victrola                              | Deck 226        | 134                        |           |
| 15. MAR                               | R.A.S.C./18 726 | UX 7804-24/1/21. NW/3/1346 |           |
| Theatre of War served in (1) France.  |                 |                            |           |
| Date of entry therein 18-12-14        |                 |                            |           |
| Cumbria LX 17801 24/1/21 = NW/3/1346. |                 |                            |           |

| 1921. Marriage solemnized at <u>Hither Green Wesleyan Church</u><br>District of <u>Lewisham</u> in the County of <u>London</u> |                     |                        |                        |                       |                            |                                    |   |                               |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| No.  | When Married.       | Name and Surname.      | Age.                   | Condition.            | Rank or Profession.        | Residence at the time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname.                            | Rank or Profession of Father. |
| 40   | Sixteenth July 1921 | Robert James Merrell   | 27 years               | Bachelor              | Lieutenant Royal Engineers | Worgret Camp Wareham               | Robert Merrell (deceased)                             | Engineer                      |
|  |                     | Gladys Evelyn Marjoram | 19 years               | Spinster              |                            | Hazelbank Road Catford             | Fredrick Charles Marjoram                             | Clerk                         |
| Married in the <u>Wesleyan Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Wesleyan Methodists</u> by Certificate   |                     |                        |                        |                       |                            |                                    |   |                               |
| This Marriage was solemnized between us,   |                     | <u>R. J. Merrell</u>   | In the Presence of us, | <u>J. E. Marjoram</u> | And in the Presence of     | <u>H. R. H. Allan</u>              | Authorized Person for <u>Lewisham Wesleyan Church</u> |                               |

Gladys Evelyn Marjoram was born in 1902 in Lambeth. Her father was initially a commercial traveller selling furniture then becoming a clerk for the Singers Sewing Machine Ltd Co, Chiswell Street, London, a world-famous manufacturer. Finally he was a cashier.

The Merrells had two sons Maurice Robert born 1924 and Graham Rex born 1925. To assist with household management, the Williams employed Nellie Woodhouse.

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Nellie Woodhouse |                      |
| Farnham > 1933   |                      |
| Woodhouse, Nellie  | Chestnuts, Heath End |

After two years in Farnham, the Merrells left for Woolwich. where Robert became initially a Lieutenant Colonel for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and then a full Colonel.

The brief interlude with the Merrells, was followed by new residents in The Chestnuts being William and Joan Turner in 1934. Some nice plain names here but it then becomes a little more complicated.

1933 - the Hon. Joan Yerburch at Aldershot Races



Joan (1913-1999) was the Hon. Dorothy Joan Yerburch, elder daughter of Robert Daniel Thwaites Yerburch, MP for South Dorset and 1st Baron Alvingham, of Woodfold, co. Palatine of Lancaster. Joan's paternal grandmother was Elma Amy Thwaites (1864-1946), heiress to a fortune. Elma was the only child of millionaire father Daniel Thwaites (1817-1888), a Lancashire brewer and MP for Blackburn.

The Yerburch family, which is believed to hold the record for Parliamentary representation, settled in Lincolnshire before the Norman Conquest, and has been sending members to Westminster almost continuously since the earliest days of Parliament

Elma married Robert Yerburch, MP for Chester and with her new husband, she continued expanding the Thwaites brewery business very successfully. (2007 was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Thwaites Brewery. In 2015 Thwaites was sold to Marsdens.)

William Aspinall Turner (1904-1994) was born at Porthamel Hall, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Anglesey, Wales in June 1904, son of a gentleman Colonel James Aspinall Turner.

| BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Llanfairpwllgwyngyll</i> in the County of <i>Anglesey</i> in the year One thousand eight hundred and <i>four</i> |                         |  |               |                       |                                |   |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| When Baptized.   | Child's Christian Name. | Parents' Name.   |               | Abode.                | Quality, Trade, or Profession. | By whom the Ceremony was performed.     |
|  |                         | Christian.   | Surname.      |                       |                                |   |
| <i>1904</i><br><i>July 27th</i>  | <i>William Aspinall</i> | <i>James Aspinall</i><br><i>&amp;</i><br><i>Dorothy Turner</i> | <i>Turner</i> | <i>Porthamel Hall</i> | <i>Gentleman</i>               | <i>H. J. Morgan Curate of Beaumaris</i> |
| No. 393  |                         |  |               |                       |                                |   |

Not surprisingly for the son of a gentleman, William gained his Aviators' Certificate in 1929.

Great Britain, Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificates, 1910-1950  
Index Cards > T > Tse, Wang - Tzabbetakis, George Panagiotis > ALL

**TURNER, William Aspinall** **8884**

Silverholme, Lakeside, Lancashire

Born 12th June, 1904 at Llanfair P.G., Anglesey  
Nationality British  
Rank, Regiment, Profession Army Officer  
Certificate taken on D.H.Moth 60 60/80 h.p. Cirrus II  
At Cinque Ports Flying Club.  
Date 1st November, 1929



At the time of his marriage in March 1934, Lieutenant William Turner was serving in The Queens Bays and his family home was Broughton Grange, Field Broughton, a small hamlet near Cartmel, north Lancashire (as then). The bride was from Shottersley, Haslemere, Surrey.

The marriage took place at Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, Kensington and was a major society event

The **Hon** Joan Yerburch, daughter of Lord Alvingham, who will be a bride next month, said: "I am going to have a platinum ring, not because I dislike gold, but because all rings are set in platinum nowadays, and a gold wedding ring worn with other platinum rings would look ugly and odd."

| 1934 |                             | Marriage solemnized at <i>The Parish Church of Holy Trinity Kensington Gore</i> |      |            | in the Parish of <i>Middlesex</i> |                                    |                                 | in the County of <i>Middlesex</i> |  |
|------|-----------------------------|---|------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| No.  | When Married.               | Name and Surname.   | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession.               | Residence at the time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname.      | Rank or Profession of Father.     |  |
| 22   | March 12 <sup>th</sup> 1934 | William Aspinall Turner   | 29   | Bachelor   | Lieutenant in HM Army             | <i>25 Kensington Gore</i>          | James Aspinall Turner           | Colonel (retired)                 |  |
|      |                             | Dorothy Joan Yerburch   | 20   | Spinster   | The Honourable                    | <i>25 Kensington Gore</i>          | Robert Daniel Thwaites Yerburch | Peer Baron Alvingham              |  |

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Established Church* after *Banns* by me,  
*William Aspinall Turner* in the Presence of us, *Dorothy Joan Yerburch* *Alvingham* *Robert Daniel Thwaites Yerburch*

A reception was afterwards held at 25, Kensington Gore (lent by Mrs. R. A. Yerburch, grandmother of the bride), and then the bride and bridegroom left for their honeymoon, which is being spent touring in France. The bride travelled in a dress and coat of fine duck-egg-blue tweed, with a nigger-brown hat.

The couple moved into The Chestnuts after their honeymoon in France. One wonders how well the 20-year-old bride managed, running her new home since the bride had been living in a mansion with five live-in servants assisting.

| Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for William Aspinall Turner |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Farnham > 1934  |                          |
| Turner, William Aspinall  | The Chestnuts, Heath End |
| Turner, Dorothy Joan  | The Chestnuts, Heath End |

A telephone was installed in the new house, essential (?) for one's social life.

Turner W. A, The Queens Bays,  
The Chestnuts Heath End.....Aldershot 232

Help came to hand in the form of nineteen-year-old Mary Marshall (1915-1987), employed as a "domestic". Mary was London born but raised in Grayswood, Haslemere.

| Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Mary Marshall |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Farnham > 1936  |                          |
| Marshall, Mary  | The Chestnuts, Heath End |

In 1935 Mary was in a friendship with a 19-year-old soldier John James Kemp from Headley. He was serving in the Royal Engineers, stationed in Aldershot and employed as a batman at Crondall. When the friendship ended, John broke into The Chestnuts, supposedly to recover his letters. He just happened to know that Lieutenant Turner was away on manoeuvres. Once inside, John drank some whisky and then felt "tempted" to take two revolvers, an alarm clock, a wireless set, some clothes and other items, which would fit nicely into pockets. The theft was discovered by Queen's Bays Trooper Robert Hugh Merrilees, groom to William Turner, who made daily checks on the property.

**SOLDIER BOUND OVER**  
 John James Kemp, 19, Royal Engineers, Aldershot, was bound over at the Old Bailey, charged with breaking into the house of Lieut. W. A. Turner, at Farnham, and stealing property belonging to him.  
 Kemp said that he became friendly with a maid employed by Lieut. Turner, and broke into the house to recover some letters he had sent to her. He drank some whiskey while he was there, lost his head, and stole the revolvers.

**SOLDIER'S LETTERS TO MAID**  
 John James Kemp (19), a soldier serving in the 12th Field Co., Royal Engineers, whose home is at Headley, was committed for trial by the Magistrates, on Friday, on a charge of breaking and entering The Chestnuts, Heath End, and stealing a wireless set and other articles, value £29 5s., the property of Lieut. W. T. Turner. P.s. Bishop

John Kemp was caught in Aldershot High Street, attempting to sell the revolvers, claiming they belonged to his uncle. His trial was at the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey and he was bound over for two years. Three months later, John was back in court and found guilty of stealing a driving licence, a car insurance certificate, as well as stealing two cars in Aldershot and crashing one. He was sentenced to three months imprisonment and hard labour.

A sad part of this tale is that Corporal Robert Hugh Merrilees was killed in action in the Western Desert in 1942, part of the Royal Armoured Corps theatre of war and was buried in El Alemain War Cemetery, Egypt, one of 11, 870 casualties.

UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921 and 1939-1947 for Robert Hugh Merrilees  
 1939-1947 > Egypt > El Alamein War Cemetery Part 5 (Mad-Pya)  
**MERRILEES, Cpl. ROBERT HUGH, 406526.** The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), R.A.C. 26th October, 1942. V. G. 21.

The Turners and Mary Marshall were still in Rowhills in 1937 but life in the cavalry was changing. The Queens Bays was the 2nd Dragoon cavalry regiment which in 1937 mechanised into light tanks. Hence cavalry soldiers moved in 1939 to Lulworth, Dorset for Vehicle Training School in the gunnery ranges.

Captain Turner became an instructor at the Vehicle School as well as doing voluntary ambulance work during the war. The Turners employed a married woman Mary Jarvis as their cook.

1939 England and Wales Register for William A Turner  
 Dorset > Wareham and Purbeck Rd > Wiji

|                        |   |            |   |   |                                 |
|------------------------|---|------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Turner William A.      | M | June 12 04 | M | Platoon at Vehicle School<br>Queen's Bays, Lulworth               | Capt in Queens<br>Army Fighting |
| Turner Dorothy J. Home | F | Apr 12 13  | M | Vol. ambulance driver for a R.<br>Unpaid domestic duties (Dorset) | Vol. Ambulance                  |
| Jarvis Mary            | F | Jan 9 15   | M | Cook General  |                                 |



But we have met Mary before when she was single. Mary Marshall stayed on, working for the Turners as a cook when they moved to Dorset. In 1939 Mary met and married Thomas Walter Jarvis at Bere Regis, Dorset.

William Aspinall Turner rose in the ranks to become Lieutenant-Colonel. He and his wife stayed in Dorset where they raised their two children.

Back to The Chestnuts, Rowhills in 1938 with the new arrival of Arthur Benjamin Barton (1906-1983) and Joan Sara Barton née Walker (1909-1990). Arthur was London born in 1906 and his father also called Arthur Barton was a chauffeur.

Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for Arthur Benjamin Barton  
 Farnham > 1938

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Barton, Arthur Benjamin | The Chestnuts, Rowhills Estate,<br>Heath End |
| —J                      |  |
| Barton, Joan Sara       | The Chestnuts, Rowhills Estate,<br>Heath End |



The address used the term Rowhills Estate, which is what the road had been called in 1915 when builders John Henry Wells (1859-1932) and his brother Alfred Wells (1862-1929) owned land.

| Surrey, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1962 for John Henry Wells |  |   |                      |
|--|--|---|----------------------|
| Guildford > 1915   |  |   |                      |
| Wells, Alfred<br>Wells, John Henry                                   | Abercarn, Church lane, Aldershot<br>Woodlands, Rowhills estate, Hale | Freehold land<br>Freehold house and<br>land | Rowhills<br>Rowhills |



Joan Sara Walker and her two brothers were born in Rajbutana, India of Irish parents, who had married in Bombay in 1906. Their father Gerald Leyns Walker had gained his BAI (Baccalaureus in Arte Ingeniaria), as a civil engineer from Trinity College, Dublin. He then worked for the B.B. & C.I. Railway company. The Bombay Baroda & Central India Railway was the first suburban railway in India from about 1855.

Joan returned to Liverpool in 1933 when she was 23 and she gave her family address as Cloneymore, Athboy, Co. Meath (north west of Dublin).

Joan had met Arthur in India where he had been serving in the Indian Army since 1928, not attached to any specific regiment. Arthur returned to Southampton from India in 1931, giving Southwater, Horsham, Sussex as his address, and joined a Cheshire Regiment.

Joan and Arthur married in Rathdown, Ireland in 1936 and not much later, Arthur served with, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Cheshire Regiment in the Mandatory Palestine and Trans-Jordan region during the Arab Revolt against British rule.

**MILITARY REWARDS**  
The King has approved certain rewards for distinguished services rendered in the field in connection with operations in Palestine, April-October 1936.

The Military Cross is awarded to:—  
Lieutenant **Arthur** Benjamin Barton, 2nd Battalion The Cheshire Regiment.

Arthur was awarded the Military Cross for his action during the Arab Revolt and it was on his return from the Middle East, that he moved to Aldershot.

| British Phone Books, 1880-1984 for A B Barton   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1920-1939 > 1938 > Essex/ East Suffolk/ East Hertfordshire / Norwich/ Cambridge / South Midland / Guildford / Canterbur |                       |
| West Garth Shortmeath Rd.....   | Parham 5190           |
| <b>Barton A. B, M.C, Cheshire Regt,</b>   |                       |
| <b>The Chestnuts Heath end.....</b>   | <b>Aldershot 1241</b> |

By 1939, Arthur was stationed in Abingdon, Berkshire where the Cheshire Regiment was based. Consequently, Joan and her baby son Sean Michael Barton moved from Heath End to Abingdon. (Arthur became a Colonel then Brigadier. In 1958 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, received an OBE and in November 1959 retired.)

1939 and The Chestnuts, Rowhills Estate was now empty.

Two more properties built by the Wells family appeared around the corner in Rowhills Estate. They were named Hazelwood and Firbank with both properties having tenants. Shall we visit them next, once we have read the 1934 document relating to The Chestnuts, Rowhills Estate?



TO :- MR RAYMOND LIONEL WELLS

"Littlecot" Heath End nr Farnham,  
Surrey.

WE, ALBERT JOHN WELLS of Aldershot in the County of Hants Engineer  
PERCY DOUGLAS WELLS c/o The Post Office Treslove via Norseman Western  
Australia Farmer, the said RAYMOND LIONEL WELLS and MAURICE DENNIS WELLS  
of The Squirrels Southmead Road Aldershot aforesaid Engineer who retain  
possession of the document of title specified in the Schedule hereto  
which relates to property known as "The Chestnuts" upon the Rowhills  
Estate at Heath End near Farnham aforesaid belonging to the said  
Raymond Lionel Wells as well as to land held by us as Trustees for  
sale situate in rear thereof hereby acknowledge the right of the said  
RAYMOND LIONEL WELLS to production of the same document and to delivery  
of copies thereof.

DATED this *thirtieth* day of *December* One  
thousand nine hundred and thirty-four.

THE SCHEDULE above referred to.

24th June 1912.

CONVEYANCE.

1. John Henry Wells.

Percy Harold Edward Wells.

2. John Henry Wells.

*A. J. Wells,*  
*For P. D. Wells*  
*his Attorney Raymond Wells.*  
*Raymond Wells*  
*M. D. Wells*