

CHAPTER ONE

The families concerned

1.1 The Trinder family of Heckfield

We will begin our story with my great-great-great-grandfather, George_{T1} TRINDER, who was born around 1799 in the Hampshire village of Heckfield, which lies between Reading and Basingstoke (see Maps 1 and 2).

On 29 September 1823, the 24-year-old George_{T1} married a 29-year-old widow called Elizabeth_{WM} MULLISS in St John the Baptist Church, New Windsor. Elizabeth_{WM} MULLISS was born Elizabeth_{WM} WESTON, in the village of Stratfield Saye, which is very close to Heckfield. Elizabeth_{WM} had previously been married to William MULLISS of Heckfield and they had a daughter, Jane MULLISS, who was born in 1818.

Page 78

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of ST. MARY-LE-BONE, in the County of MIDDLESEX, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighteen.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	BORN.
		Christian.	Surname.			By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1818 March 26 No. 517	William Locket	William Mulliss	Turner	St Mary bone	Surgeon	25 March
" No. 15	Artemesia Maria Doy	Richard Mary	Chilpe	"	Mariner	13 April 1817
" No. 519	Jane Doy	William Mulliss	Mulliss	"	Serv.	4 March

[March 26] [1818]	Jane	William & Elizabeth	Mulliss	[St Marylebone]	Servant	4 March
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Figure 1.1: Baptism record of Jane MULLISS, 1818

London Metropolitan Archives

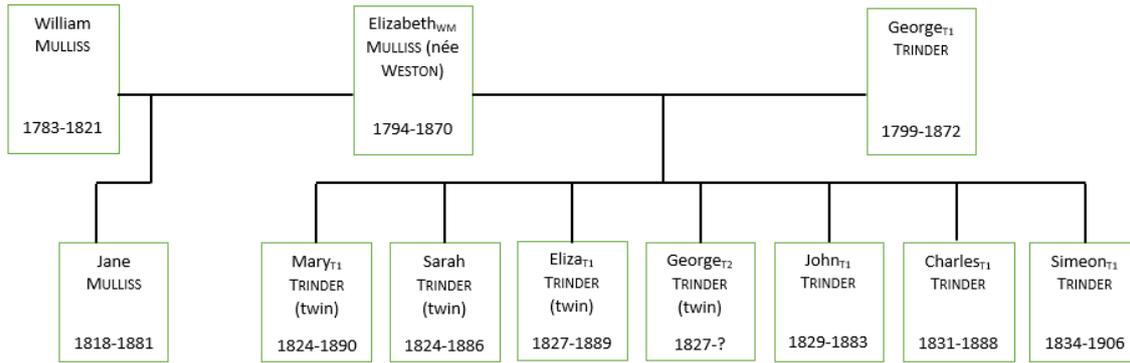


Figure 1.2: The family of George_{T1} TRINDER and Elizabeth_{WM} MULLISS

It would seem that William and Elizabeth_{WM} had moved to London, and were servants, most probably in the household of one of the wealthy families from Heckfield, a number of whom also had town houses in London. The record of the baptism of Jane MULLISS in St Marylebone Church, Marylebone (London), on 26 March 1818, gives her birthdate as 4 March 1818, and the occupation of her father William as a servant. William MULLISS subsequently died in 1821, leaving Elizabeth_{WM} a widow with her three-year-old daughter, Jane. It was two years later, in 1823, that Elizabeth_{WM} MULLISS married George_{T1} TRINDER.

1.1.1 The family of George_{T1} and Elizabeth_{WM} TRINDER

In addition to Elizabeth_{WM}'s daughter Jane MULLISS by her first marriage, within the next ten years Elizabeth_{WM} gave birth to seven more children: twins Mary_{T1} and Sarah (born 1824), twins Eliza_{T1} and George_{T2} (born 1827), John_{T1} (born 1829), Charles_{T1} (born 1831) and Simeon_{T1} (born 1834). The children were all born and brought up in Heckfield and so Jane MULLISS grew up as the oldest half-sister in a family of eight children, which included two sets of twins with only three years of age between them. We can imagine that Jane was expected to help her mother in caring for them and became very close to them. As an adult Jane led an interesting life and we will learn more about her in Chapter Four (see 4.2). But for the time being, we should remember her surname, because Mulliss is a recurrent given name in the family, perhaps reflecting the affection in which her younger half-siblings held her.

Of George_{T1} and Elizabeth_{WM} TRINDER's children there are three who are of particular interest and have a part in the story of the family connection to the Isle of Wight: Eliza_{T1}, John_{T1} and Simeon_{T1}. We will discover more about how John_{T1} and Simeon_{T1} became part of the story in Chapter Two (see 2.1).

For now we will look at Eliza_{T1} TRINDER. Eliza_{T1} and her twin brother George_{T2} were born in Heckfield in



Figure 1.3: St Michael's Church, Heckfield



Figure 1.4: The school in Heckfield which the Trinder children may have attended

1827 and were baptised in St Michael's Church, Heckfield, on 4 March 1827. We next come across Eliza_{T1} in 1851^C, when, at the age of 24, she was single and living in Heckfield with her mother (Elizabeth_{WM}), and her two-year-old nephew, William_{W2} WARE, who was the first surviving son of her older sister, Mary_{T1} and her husband William_{W1} WARE. In 1851^C Eliza_{T1}'s occupation was listed as 'formerly servant'.¹

It was in 1861, as mentioned in the Introduction, that George_{T1} and Elizabeth_{WM} TRINDER's daughter Eliza_{T1} became the second wife of George_{K1} KIMBER, a widower from Winkfield in

Berkshire, so establishing the first link between the two families (see Map 3).

To complete the story of Eliza_{T1}'s parents, in 1861^C there is a record of a George and Elizabeth Trinder living at the Stables of the Rectory in Silchester (eight miles from Heckfield), where George was employed as a coachman. Although the ages recorded do not match up exactly, this could simply be an error on the part of the census enumerator and it seems quite likely that these were George_{T1} and Elizabeth_{WM}, since in 1871^C, at the age of 75, George_{T1} is recorded as a retired coachman, and is living back in Heckfield with his step-daughter, Jane MULLISS. Two of his granddaughters, Eliza Trinder WARE, aged sixteen, and Jane TRINDER, aged thirteen, were also recorded in this census: Jane TRINDER as a scholar living with them and Eliza WARE as a visitor.² Elizabeth_{WM} died in Heckfield in 1870 at the age of 76, and George_{T1} himself died in 1872, aged 73, also in Heckfield.

1.2 The KIMBER family of Winkfield

We now need to leave Heckfield to follow Eliza_{T1} as she becomes part of the KIMBER family, and travel sixteen miles to the Berkshire village of Winkfield, five miles south-west of Windsor, to look at the origins of George_{K1} KIMBER (see Maps 3, 4 & 5).

George_{K1} had been born in Winkfield in 1830, the third of seven children born to a Winkfield couple, Thomas_{T1} and Elizabeth KIMBER. We find that Thomas_{T1} was a bricklayer by trade (1841^C) and that George_{K1} became a tailor.

1.2.1 The family of George_{K1} KIMBER and Maria SUMPTON

On 13 July 1852, George_{K1} married Maria SUMPTON, who was also from Winkfield, in St Mary's Church, Winkfield, when he was 22 and she was 33. Within the next seven years, between 1853 and

¹ Her father, George_{K1} TRINDER, was not listed in this 1851^C entry and it later became evident that this was because at the time he was working as a servant in the London home of the wealthy Piggott family in Portman Square (see Chapter Five). The Piggotts were one of the wealthy Heckfield families who also had London houses and took their servants with them.

² Eliza Trinder WARE was the daughter of Eliza_{T1}'s sister Mary. Jane TRINDER (christened Elizabeth Jane) was the daughter of Eliza_{T1}'s brother Charles_{T1}.

1859, George_{K1} and Maria had four children: Mary Elizabeth (who was known to my mother as Aunt Bet, born 1853), Joseph George (born 1854), Marlow_{K1} Willis (born 1857) and George_{K2} Thomas (born 1859). All the children were born in Winkfield apart from Marlow_{K1}, who was born in Hounslow (Middlesex). On 4 June 1859, only a few months after the birth of her last son, George_{K2}, Maria died aged 40. Her death certificate records that she died of 'diseased kidneys and enlargement of the heart'.

1.2.2 The family of George_{K1} KIMBER and Eliza_{T1} TRINDER

With four young children under the age of seven to look after, it was not at all unusual for a widower in such a position to seek a new wife quite quickly. And so it was, eighteen months later, on 1 January 1861, that George_{K1} KIMBER, then aged 30, married 33-year-old Eliza_{T1} TRINDER in St Mary's Church, Winkfield. I would imagine that the reason they married in his parish church, rather than Eliza_{T1}'s own parish church of Heckfield, would have been practical, since George_{K1} had his four young children to look after. We do not know what brought them together, given that their family homes of Winkfield and Heckfield were sixteen miles apart. But it is quite possible that by that time Eliza_{T1} might have been a servant in the Winkfield area, or perhaps George_{K1}, being by then a master tailor, had been a tailor to someone in Heckfield, where Eliza_{T1}'s father, George_{T1} TRINDER, lived and worked as a servant. Heckfield had a number of houses and land belonging to wealthy and important people, so the potential for work there as a tailor was probably quite high.



Figure 1.5: George_{K1} KIMBER



Figure 1.6: Eliza_{T1} TRINDER

The 1861 census took place on 7 April, just three months after their marriage on New Year's Day, and records that George_{K1} was a tailor employing one man, and that George_{K1} and Eliza_{T1} were living in Hatchett Lane, Winkfield, near to St Peter's Church, Cranbourne. The four children listed in this census entry are those of George_{K1} and his first wife, Maria.

Name	Relation	Condition	Age	Rank, profession or occupation	Where born
George Kimber	Head	Married	30	Tailor employing 1 man	Berks Winkfield
Eliza Kimber	Wife	Married	33		Hants Heckfield
Mary E. Kimber	Daughter		7	Scholar.	Berks Winkfield
Joseph G. Kimber	Son		6	Scholar.	[Berks Winkfield]
Marlow W. Kimber	Son		4		Middx Hounslow
George T. Kimber	Son		2		Berks Winkfield

Name & Surname	Relation to Head of house	Condition	Age Male	Age Female	Rank, profession or occupation	Where born
George Kimber	Head	Married	30		Tailor employing 1 man	Berks Winkfield
Eliza Kimber	Wife	Married		33		Hants Heckfield
Mary E Kimber	Daughter			7	Scholar.	Berks Winkfield
Joseph Kimber	Son		6		Scholar.	[Berks Winkfield]
Marlow W Kimber	Son		4			Middx Hounslow
George T Kimber	Son		2			Berks, Winkfield

Figure 1.7: 1861 England census entry, showing George_{K1} and Maria's children, and his new wife, Eliza_{T1} (née TRINDER)

George_{K1} and Eliza_{T1} soon produced five children of their own: Annie Mulliss (born 1862), Charles_{K1} (born 1864), Maria (born 1865), Frances Emily (my great-grandmother, born 1867) and Gertrude_{K1} (born 1869). We note that Annie, who was Eliza_{T1}'s first baby, was given the second name Mulliss, which seems to suggest that Eliza_{T1} wanted to recognise her half-sister, Jane MULLISS, who was nine years older than her. By 1871^c the family had moved to the adjoining road, Lovel Road. Of George_{K1} KIMBER's nine children, by his two marriages, five were to have a connection with the Isle of Wight: Mary Elizabeth (Aunt Bet), Annie Mulliss, Maria, Frances Emily and Gertrude_{K1}. Their stories follow in the subsequent chapters, and there is more about the other Kimber children in Chapter Five (see 5.4).

Eliza_{T1} died on 23 February 1889, aged 62, in their family home in Lovel Road. Her death certificate records the cause of death as 'cerebral softening 5 years'. She had been mother to five of her own children, and to four step-children, and in 1870, at the age of 43, she had all nine children between the ages of seventeen and one to care for. Aunt Bet, being the oldest of the nine, must have learned a lot about caring for children.



Figure 1.8: St Mary's Church, Winkfield, and the font where the Kimber children were christened

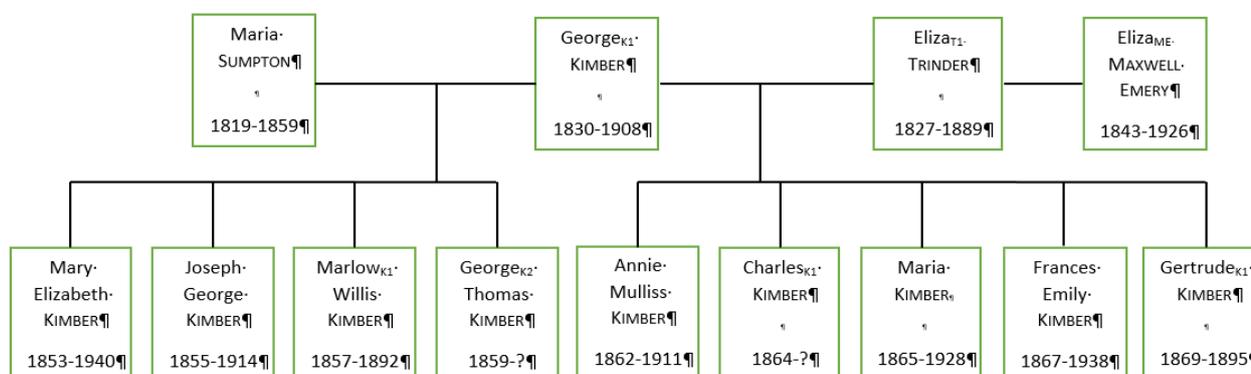


Figure 1.9: The family of George_{K1} KIMBER and his wives, Maria SUMPTON, Eliza_{T1} TRINDER and Eliza_{ME} MAXWELL EMERY

1.2.3 George_{K1} KIMBER marries his third wife, Eliza_{ME} MAXWELL EMERY

On 1 November 1890, the year after Eliza_{T1}'s death, George_{K1} married another Eliza (Eliza_{ME}) in St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, which is very close to Winkfield. Eliza_{ME} was Eliza MAXWELL EMERY, born Eliza MAXWELL, and was the widow of Alfred James EMERY.³

George_{K1} was 59 and Eliza_{ME} was 47 when they married. Eliza_{ME} did not have any children herself, and in 1891^C, a year after their marriage, none of George_{K1}'s children was recorded as living with them. Eliza_{ME} was the matron of a convalescent home for ladies in North Street, Winkfield (but closer to Cranbourne and to George_{K1}'s family home in Lovel Road, Winkfield). George_{K1} was still working as a tailor as well as being a Parish Clerk.

The 1891 census also tells us that living on the same road, a few doors away at 5 Wesley Place, was George_{K1}'s younger brother, John_{K1} KIMBER (aged 57), his wife Sarah BRETT (aged 66) and their daughter, Charlotte (aged 31). John_{K1} was a bricklayer and labourer. The eldest of John_{K1} and Sarah's two

³ Her surname appears as Mansull in some records.

children was a son, John_{K2} KIMBER, who subsequently named his first two children John_{K3} and George_{K4}, thus perpetuating these Kimber family names in a further generation.



Figure 1.10: 5 Wesley Place, North Street, Winkfield



Figure 1.11: The house in North Street, Winkfield, which may have been the convalescent home run by Eliza_{ME} MAXWELL EMERY

Within the next five years George_{K1} and Eliza_{ME} were to move to live in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight, where George_{K1} died in 1908 and Eliza_{ME} in 1926. We shall see how this move came about in Chapter Two (see **2.8.3**).

1.3 The NASH family of Kent

Finally we introduce the Nash family and explain how Benjamin Edward NASH, my mother's paternal grandfather and my great-grandfather, became part of the Kimber family.

1.3.1 John_{N1} NASH marries Sarah LINSTAD

The Nash family originally came from Kent, and I have been able to establish a family tree for them which goes back many generations. However, for this story, we will begin with John_{N1} NASH, who was born in 1804 in Oxted (Surrey) and subsequently lived in Bromley (Kent). The Nash family largely came from Shoreham in Kent which was only ten miles away from John_{N1} NASH's birthplace of Oxted in the adjoining county of Surrey. Although in a different county, Bromley is only fifteen miles from his birthplace (see Map 6).

In 1850 John_{N1} married Sarah LINSTEAD, who had been born in Tonbridge (Kent) on 9 March 1813. The name Linstead features subsequently in various ways in the Nash family, as will become evident. John_{N1} and Sarah lived in Bromley (Kent), where John_{N1} had a draper's shop at 120 High Street. They had four children, all born in Bromley: my great-grandfather Benjamin Edward and his twin sister Hannah (born 1851), John_{N2} (born 1853) and William Lancelot (born 1858).



Figure 1.12: John_{N1} NASH and Sarah LINSTEAD

1.3.2 John_{N1} NASH marries his second wife, Priscilla LESTER

Sarah died in 1865 when Benjamin and Hannah were fourteen, John_{N2} was twelve and William Lancelot was only seven. Their father John_{N1} was 61 and had four children to look after. Just as we have seen previously with George_{K1} KIMBER, John_{N1} no doubt needed someone to look after his children, and in July 1866 he married a 38-year-old widow, Priscilla Eliza LESTER (née ALLCOTT⁴), in her place of birth, Portsea (Hampshire), although in 1861^c she is recorded as living in London. Priscilla was the widow of Walter LESTER and she already had two daughters, Anne Allcott LESTER (born 1856 in Kentucky, USA) and Edith Allcott LESTER (born 1860 in Portsea). By the time of her marriage to John_{N1}, Anne was nine and Edith was five, so there were six children between the ages of fourteen and five to care for in the new household.

⁴ Sometimes spelled Allcot.

1.3.3 Benjamin NASH and his siblings

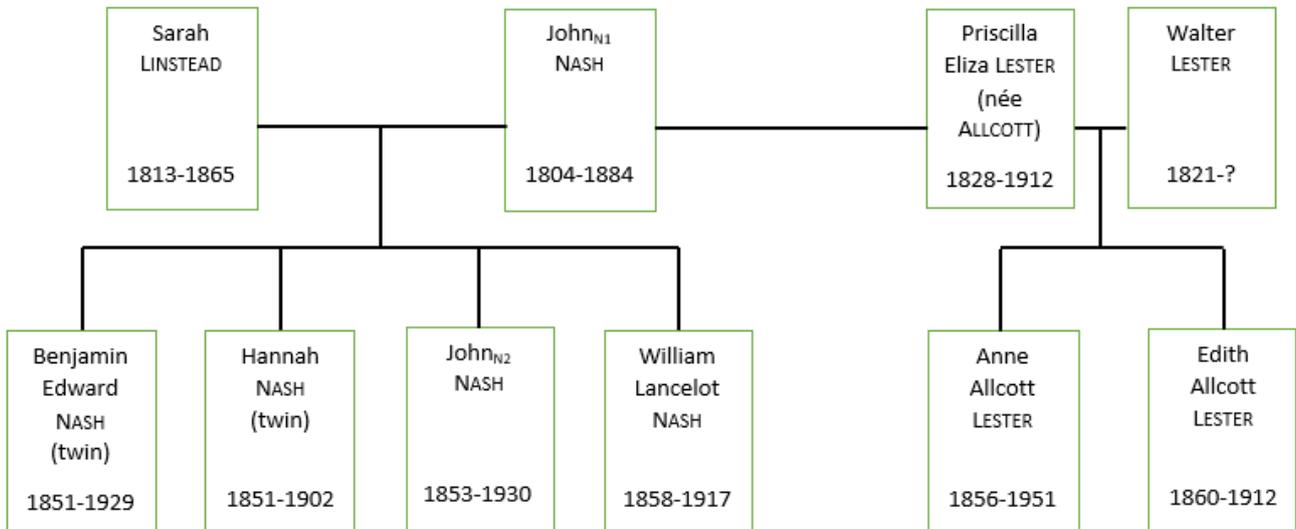


Figure 1.13: The family of John_{N1} NASH and his two wives, Sarah LINSTEAD and Priscilla LESTER (née ALLCOTT)

Benjamin trained as a draper, following in his father John_{N1}'s footsteps, and in 1871^c, when he was twenty, he was working as a draper's assistant, living in Hitchin (Hertfordshire) with his step-mother Priscilla's sister Sarah (née ALLCOTT) and her husband James NEAL. (Priscilla was listed as a visitor there at the time of the census). At the same time we find that Benjamin's twin sister, Hannah, was living with her father, John_{N1}, at 85 Widmore Road, Bromley, with two servants in residence, and was recorded as 'unable to walk'.

Moving on ten years, John_{N1} and Priscilla NASH had moved to live 30 miles from Bromley at a house called 'Oaklands' in East Farleigh, near Maidstone (Kent).⁵ So in 1881^c we find John_{N1} and Priscilla living there with Benjamin's twin sister Hannah, then aged 30 and recorded as an invalid, his younger brother John_{N2} (aged 28) and Priscilla's daughters by her first marriage, Anne Allcott LESTER (aged 25) and Edith Allcott LESTER (aged 21). Meanwhile, the youngest of Benjamin's siblings, William Lancelot, aged 23, was, on the night of the 1881 census, a patient in The London Hospital on Whitechapel Road, London, now The Royal London Hospital. There is more about Benjamin's siblings in Chapter Six.

In 1881^c Benjamin himself was recorded as a lodger at 2 Helena Terrace, Kings Road, New Windsor (Berkshire), and was working as a draper's assistant.

Two years later, in 1883, in East Farleigh, Benjamin's 30-year-old brother John_{N2} married their step-sister Anne Allcott LESTER who was 27. John_{N2} and Anne had grown up together since their parents, John_{N1} and Priscilla, had married when John_{N2} was thirteen and Anne was ten.

In 1884, Benjamin's father, John_{N1}, died at the age of 80. He seems to have had a successful and prosperous life, indicated by the value of his estate and the title Gentleman in The National Probate Calendar. This record shows that after John_{N1}'s death Benjamin was still working as a draper's

⁵ 'Oaklands' in East Farleigh is now a Grade II listed Georgian country house believed to date from about 1820, which was on sale in 2016 for £1,850,000. <https://realla-media.freetls.fastly.net/uploads/property/brochures/original/90SQTg0IEZkhMG9HxrkrYg> (accessed 15 Jan 2020).

assistant, but was now living at 25 High Street, Windsor, which was the draper's shop Rodgers and Denyer (opposite Windsor Castle and currently an HSBC bank and a Glorious Britain shop).⁶



Figure 1.14: 'Oaklands' in East Farleigh, near Maidstone⁷

NASH John.

Personal Estate £11,926 19s. 6d.

10 October. The Will with a Codicil of John Nash late of Oaklands East Farleigh near Maidstone in the County of Kent Gentleman who died 13 September 1884 at Oaklands was proved at the **Principal Registry** by Priscilla Eliza Nash of Oaklands Widow the Relict and Benjamin Edward Nash of 25 High-street Windsor in the County of Berks Draper the Son and Robert Gordon Mullen of the Dargle Elmfield-road Bromley in the County of Kent Gentleman the Executors.

Figure 1.15: Probate record for Benjamin's father, John_{N1} NASH, 1884 [£1,493,234*]

The shop has an interesting connection: just inside, there is a plaque commemorating the fact in 1880 the author H. G. Wells also worked as a drapers' apprentice for Rodgers & Denyer at 25–26 High Street (see Figure 1.16 & 1.17). It seems very likely that the Nash and the Wells family would have known one another, and indeed they do both appear in the same trade directories of that period. John_{N1} NASH's draper's shop was at 120 High Street, Bromley, and just along the road at number 47 was the china, glass and pottery emporium which Joseph Wells, the father of Herbert George Wells, had inherited.

⁶ England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966, 1973–1995.

⁷ <https://realla-media.freetls.fastly.net/uploads/property/brochures/original/90SQTg0IEZkhMG9HxrkrYg> (accessed 15 Jan 2020).



Figure 1.16: Rodgers & Denyer's premises, Windsor
Image capture 2017 ©2018 Google



Figure 1.17: The white plaque inside
26 High Street, Windsor
Photo by permission of Maggie Jones

Herbert was known as Bertie, but later became famous as the author H.G. Wells. His father, Joseph Wells, had been a gardener and a professional cricketer, which had supplemented the family income from their not very successful business at the emporium, but breaking a leg put paid to both of these activities, and as a result Joseph and his wife Sarah (née Neal) had fallen on hard times. Sarah had to return to being a housemaid at Uppark House, and Bertie was required to take up an apprenticeship at the age of fourteen. Since John_{N1}'s son Benjamin was a draper's assistant at Rodgers & Denyer in Windsor, it would seem very likely that it was John_{N1} who helped Joseph Wells to secure Bertie an apprenticeship there. Bertie's experience was not a positive one: an account of his life as a reluctant draper's assistant can be found in Ferrell (1983:20–23) and in his autobiography, Wells (1934:113). These accounts shed some light on the life led by my great-grandfather Benjamin, who is mentioned by name in the latter, as he made his way in this profession. H.G. Wells wrote:

'And it is a queer thing about that place that though I stayed there a couple of months, I do not remember the name of a single individual except one assistant named Nash, who happened to be the son of a Bromley draper and wore a long moustache. But all the other figures who sat with him at the downstairs dinner table are now nameless figures.' (Wells 1934:113)

1.4 The Nash and Kimber families unite

Unlike Bertie, Benjamin seems to have flourished as a draper, and in April 1886 he married Frances Emily KIMBER in St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, near Winkfield, when he was 34 and she was only nineteen. As we have seen, Frances's family were from Winkfield, which is just six miles from Windsor, and her father, George_{K1} was a tailor, so it is possible that Benjamin met Frances as a result of a professional connection with her father. Moreover, Frances herself worked in the same trade as her



Figure 1.18: St Peter's Church, Cranbourne

father; in 1881^C, at the age of fourteen, she was recorded as living with her parents but working as a tailor's showroom assistant. Although we do not know where, this could have been with her father's business in Winkfield, or even in Windsor, where Benjamin was working at Rodgers & Denyer.

George Kimber	Head	Mar	50	Tailor	Berks Winkfield
Eliza Do	Wife	Mar	54	Wife	Hants Heckfield
Joseph J Do	Son	Unm	26	Coachman Dom	Berks Winkfield
Marlow W Do	Son	Unm	24	Tailor	Middlesex Hounslow
Annie M Do	Daug	Unm	18	No Occupation	Berks Winkfield
Frances E Do	Daug	Unm	14	Tailor's Show room assistant	Do Do
Gertrude Do	Daug	Unm	11	Scholar	Do Do

Name & Surname	Relation to head of house	Condition	Age M	Age F	Rank, profession or occupation	Where born
George Kimber	Head	Mar[ried]	50		Tailor	Berks Winkfield
Eliza [Kimber]	Wife	Mar[ried]		54	Wife	Hants Heckfield
Joseph [Kimber]	Son	Unm[arried]	26		Coachman/dom[estic]	Berks Winkfield
Marlow W [Kimber]	Son	Unm[arried]	24		Tailor	Middlesex Hounslow
Annie M [Kimber]	Daug[hter]	Unm[arried]		18	No Occupation	Berks Winkfield
Frances E [Kimber]	Daug[hter]			14	Tailor's Show room assistant	[Berks Winkfield]
Gertrude _{K1} [Kimber]	Daug[hter]			11	Scholar	[Berks Winkfield]

Figure 1.19: 1881 Census entry showing Frances KIMBER as a tailor's showroom assistant

1.4.1 The family of Benjamin NASH and Frances KIMBER

After their marriage, Benjamin and Frances NASH lived in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, which was 21 miles from Benjamin's home town of Bromley, but near Tonbridge, where Benjamin's mother Sarah Linstead had come from (see Map 6). Their first child, Gerald Kimber NASH (my great-uncle, Uncle Gerry) was born there on 4 August 1887. Their second son, Basil John NASH, my grandfather, was born in 1890 in Winkfield, Frances's home village. However, in 1891^C, at the age of ten months, he is recorded as living with his mother, older brother and his aunt (Annie Mulliss KIMBER) in 'Oaklands', Heathfield Road, Bromley, while his father, Benjamin, was listed as boarding twelve miles away in

Sevenoaks and working still as a draper's assistant. We may recall that 'Oaklands' was also the name of the house in East Farleigh where Benjamin's father lived with his family in 1881^c: it happened quite often that houses were named, or renamed, to maintain an association with a place previously lived in, or a person within the family.

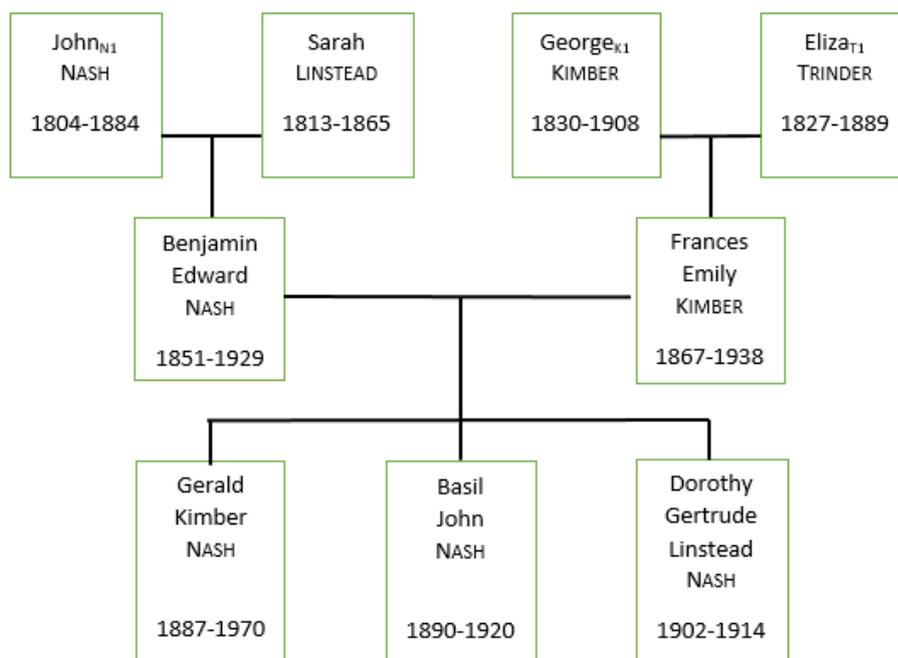


Figure 1.20: The family of Benjamin NASH and Frances KIMBER

Soon after 1891^c Benjamin and Frances moved to live at 'Rosemede', 2 Slough Road, in Datchet (Buckinghamshire)⁸, three miles from Windsor and only eight miles from Frances's family home of Winkfield. In 1893, at the age of 42, despite his training and many years working in the drapery business, Benjamin changed his profession and began working from home as a Prudential Insurance agent in the Datchet district. Frances was then 26 and their sons Gerald and Basil were six and three. Their third child, Dorothy Gertrude Linstead NASH, was born in Datchet in July 1902.

The Prudential Insurance Company had started in 1848 with a very small team of agents, but after the Industrial Department opened in 1854 to sell insurance to the working classes, the team grew massively so that by the turn of the century there were 10,000 Prudential agents and they had sold insurance to one third of the population. Benjamin's starting weekly salary was 19 shillings and 2 pence, [£128*].⁹

Once again we see the common occurrence of choosing children's names to maintain a connection with other family members. Gerald's second name was Kimber, his mother's family surname. Dorothy's second name doubtless recalled Frances's younger sister Gertrude_{K1}, who had died in 1895, aged 26 (see 2.2.2). Her third name was Linstead, which was the surname of Benjamin's mother Sarah,

⁸ Datchet was transferred to Berkshire, under the Local Government Act of 1972.

⁹ I am grateful to the Archives Department of the Prudential Insurance Company for information about Benjamin's department.

who had died when he was only fourteen. Basil's second name was probably given to perpetuate the memory of his grandfather, John_{N1}.



Figures 1.21 and 1.22: Basil John NASH as a day chorister at Eton College Chapel and as a young man

We already knew from family photos and conversations that Basil was a day chorister at Eton College Chapel from 1899 to 1904. As a young man he was employed by Wellman Bros Ltd in Windsor (Wholesale Builders and Furnishing Ironmongers) from 1906, when he was sixteen, until 1911, when he was 21. In August 1913 he emigrated to Canada, returning a year later in the summer of 1914; he worked there as a material checker and rodman for the Canadian Pacific Railway on the stretch of line between Chaplin and Java in Saskatchewan.

In 1911^c, Gerald, aged 23, was living with his parents and his brother and sister at the family home in Datchet. He was at the time employed as an engineer's turner at Berks and Bucks Garage. He had done a practical apprenticeship with a German company in the Slough area and at the start of the First World War he went to work as a foreman in the toolroom at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, which did precision engineering. At the end of the war, however, he decided to give up his permanent job there and start his own motor business, a decision which resulted in his moving to the Isle of Wight (see **3.2**).



Figure 1.23: Frances Emily KIMBER



Figure 1.24: Dorothy Gertrude Linstead NASH

Dorothy's life was tragically cut short when, in 1914, she died aged only eleven. Her father, Benjamin, greatly affected by the loss of their daughter, suffered a breakdown. As a result, Basil, then aged 24, returned from Canada to help his father in his work as an insurance agent, as well as working in the Accounts Department of the Royal Ordnance Factory in Farnborough. He arrived in Liverpool on the SS Finland on 24 September 1914 and had given his home address as Montagu Road, Datchet, so Benjamin and Frances had clearly moved to a different house by then.¹⁰ Benjamin resigned from his job with the Prudential Insurance Company in 1919, aged 67, on the grounds of a breakdown.¹¹

More about Basil's story and Gerald's business venture, both of which are central to my own connection with the Isle of Wight, follows in Chapter Three.



Figure 1.25: Gerald Kimber NASH

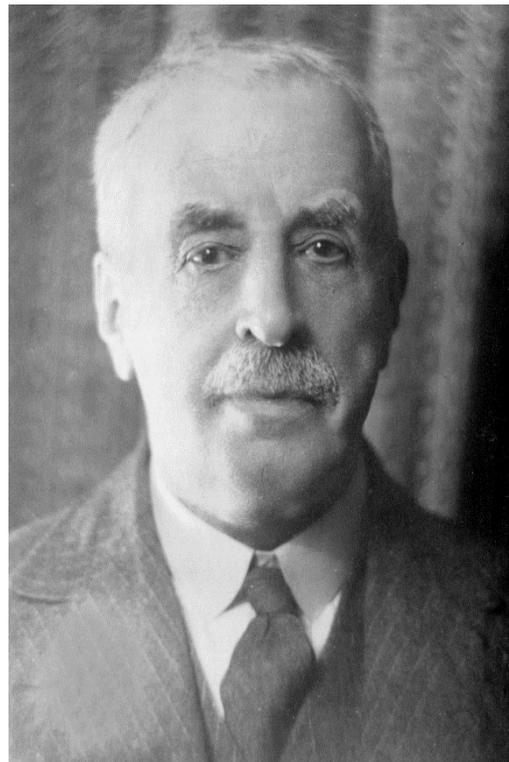


Figure 1.26: Benjamin Edward NASH

¹⁰ UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960.

¹¹ Archives Department of the Prudential Insurance Company.