

William Shuttlewood and his Family

Quorn Photographer 1905 to 1910

William Shuttlewood lived in Quorn with his wife and three children for a relatively short period - from 1905 to 1910. However he obviously enjoyed photography and Quorn owes him a great debt for the wonderful pictures he took. Many examples of his work can be found in the collection.

William Ernest Shuttlewood was born on the 29th May 1864 in Walton on the Wolds, Leicestershire. He was the middle child of seven boys:

Harry Mundy 1860 – 1932

Percy 1861 – 1940

John Wilkinson 1862

William Ernest 1864 - 1939

George Rouse 1867

Carlton Aubrey Hamilton Cecil 1869 – 1931

Charles Jesse 1869

His parents, Jesse and Sarah, appeared to live on a large farm and had servants, however shortly after William was born, the family moved to Dartmouth in Devon, and Jesse kept a tobacconists shop.

According to the 1881 census, William was 16 and a chemist's apprentice in Dartmouth. By 1891, Jesse, Sarah and William had returned to Leicestershire. William was a chemist's assistant and the three of them were living in Sileby where Jesse had been born 65 years earlier. However, it would seem that all connections with Devon had not been severed and in the winter of 1893, the 28 year old William married 24 year old Susannah Forde Northmore from South Brent in Devon. Unusually the wedding took place in our local area.

William and Susannah had three children, Sarah in 1895, Jack in 1897 and Kathleen Estella (always know as Estella) in 1900.

In 1901 the young family were living in Malpas, Cheshire. A transcription of the census return is shown below.

Forename	Surname	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Where born
William E	Shuttlewood	Head	M	36	Chemist Drug Manager	Leics, Walton on the Wolds
Susannah F	Shuttlewood	Wife	M	32		S. Brent, Devon
Sarah W	Shuttlewood	Daughter	S	6		Ches, Malpas
Jack W	Shuttlewood	Son	S	4		Ches, Malpas
Kathleen E	Shuttlewood	Daughter	S	1		Ches, Malpas

Meanwhile Jesse and Sarah were living in Quorn at number 1 Beacon Terrace in Quorn, which is now 41 Loughborough Road. Interestingly it looks as though on the night of the 1901 census, one of Susannah's sisters was staying with them.

Forename	Surname	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Where born
Jesse	Shuttlewood	Head	M	75	Living on own means	Sileby, Leics
Sarah	Shuttlewood	Wife	M	71		Sutton Bonnington, Notts
Ethel M	Northmore	Visitor	S	22		S. Brent, Devon

During 1905, probably in June, William and his family moved to Quorn. William ran the chemists shop in the village and they lived on the premises. This was on High Street where James Alvey the hairdresser is now [2009]. Susannah sent the postcard below to one of her sisters (Miss Northmore) at South Downs, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, Devon. The card shows Quorn High Street looking from the direction of The Cross. On the left is the old Bulls Head Pub (now a private dwelling), followed by the chemist's shop. The sign for the White Hart can just be made out in the middle of the picture. It is probably one of the first photographs William took in Quorn. The message said:

"My dearest N. A PC view of our own house and shop, Estella in door on left. I upset myself removing [ie moving house] and have been very seedy. Let -- know if you have any poultry (ducks or chicks) and I will send PO for one. We had a couple of ducks last week but the children said they were not as good as Aunty Nan's. Jack wants to come down for his holiday, can you do with this? S wants to come too but I rather fancy she is expected at Swansea on a visit to her cousins."



The cousins in Swansea, referred to William's brother Percy's children.

The correspondence is next picked up on 17th October 1905. It sounds as if one of Susannah's other sisters may be helping William in the shop.

This is a picture of the old vicarage, which now forms part of Rawlins school. The lady standing by the door is almost certainly Frances Foord-Kelcey, the wife of the Reverend Edward Foord-Kelcey.



Again it is addressed to Miss Northmore in Devon and says:

"Will write a letter soon.

My dearest. I am afraid you think me lost have been so busy lately, am now having a few days holiday - We are all well & hope you all are - I am going to Leicester today shopping. Am going to a Whist Drive next Wednesday and have an invitation to another the following Wednesday. Will & Sissie are going to London tomorrow, so I shall have a day at business but we close at 1 o/c for the half day. Jack and S are getting on well at school but they get no spare time. S has joined the hockey club & J the football. So what with sports and home lessons they are full up but Jack must write you some wet evening when they can't play. The weather is glorious now is it not. Fond love to all SFS [Susannah Forde Shuttlewood]"

The next postcard is dated 27th October and follows on with details of the trip to London and the whist drive mentioned on the previous card. The writing is very small and tightly packed.

"Thursday My dearest Nan, Your kind letter received this aft will send at once but am afraid you will not get tomorrow. Jack shall write, it is their speech day and prize giving next Wednesday - it is a great day for them, the pupils give an entertainment and their drawing and other work is exhibited to parents and friends. We went to the Whist Drive last night enjoyed it immensely but was not lucky enough to get a prize. There were some lovely prizes - 3 for ladies and 3 for gents. The ladies 1st was a handsome silk umbrella with a silver handle worth 25/-. Will is going to another next week - Sissie will write and tell you all about her visit to London. She saw the King & Queen opening the new Kingsway. They were standing close to Buckingham Palace gates as the royal procession passed out & again saw them from the balcony of the hotel where they were lunching with Will's friend Mr Phillips. This is a view of granny's house. I have put a cross against chimney and gate. If you have this already - give this to one of the others. Fond love to all"



Susannah has marked the house where 'granny' lives, ie William's mother and father. The houses on the far left of the picture, (no bay on the first floor), are now numbers 45 and 43, followed by 41 to 31 (Beacon Terrace), the entrance to Barrow Road, then number 29. Although the crosses aren't absolutely clear, they seem to be indicating number 41, ie 1 Beacon Terrace – where Jesse and Sarah Shuttlewood lived in the 1901 census.

Over the next few years William took a vast number of photographs. They were all printed as postcards, although some were intended for general resale and others simply as family pictures for the album. The new houses on Chaveney Road provided him with a rich source of business. The quality of his pictures is amazing. The 'negatives' would have been glass plates, far bigger than the 35mm negatives we were used to before digital cameras took over. This means that fine detail was captured. If some of his photographs are scanned at a very high resolution and enlarged, the detail can be breathtaking.

On the 11th April Susannah again writes to one of her sisters, this time in Paignton, Devon.

"I have mislaid your letter with address but sis says this is right. Hope it will find you. How are you getting on - I have finished spring cleaning yesterday & feel done up. We are all going to Matlock for Easter. Spent a lovely day at Woodhouse Eaves last Sunday - chicks all home from school till 26th - do you see Estella on this with white tam [tam o'shanter] taken outside her school between 2 school fellows. Love to all write soon"

The photograph was taken on Loughborough Road, looking towards the Loughborough direction. The houses on the far left are called Orton Villas, built in 1904 (numbers 18 & 20), starting with number 18 on the left. The Orton Villas plaque can be clearly seen today. It was quite common for ordinary houses to be set up as small schools. They could spring up and fold quite quickly. Estella is second from the left.



The quality of the photograph is such that when a section is blown up, it can even be seen that Estella is smiling

It would have been interesting to discover which sister Susannah was writing to and which sister was helping in the shop in Quorn.

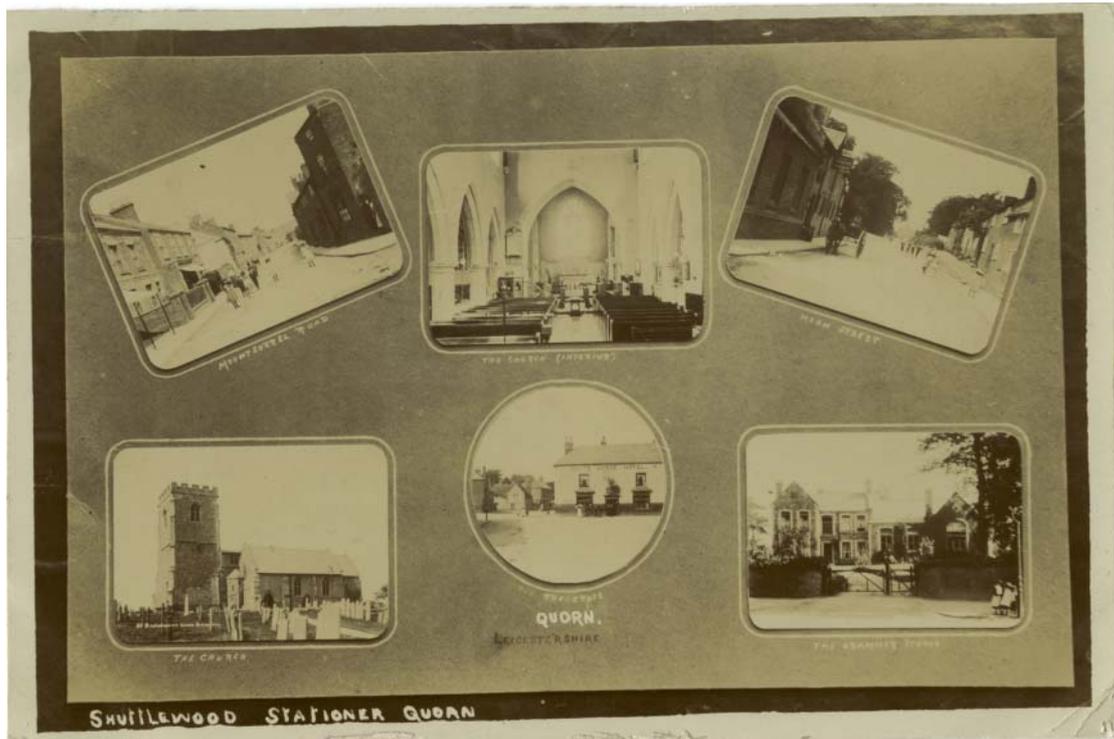
By referring to the 1881 census in South Brent, Devon and again in Stoke Gabriel, Devon in 1891 and 1901, it was ascertained that Simon and Ann Northmore (Susannah's parents) had at least 8 children. These were (with approximate dates of birth):

- Susannah Forde 1869 (later William's wife)
- John Dawe, 1871
- Temperance Mary, 1874
- Annie Louise, 1877
- Ethel Margaret, 1879
- Gertrude Mabel, 1882/3/4
- Ida Helen, 1884/5,
- Dorothy Dawe (or Dorothea), 1886

It is not possible to say with certainty who Susannah was writing to, but the most likely contender is Annie. Temperance had married early in 1901, but marriages for the other five sisters could not be traced up to 1906. However 'Nan' is a recognised diminutive for Ann, but this is not conclusive proof.

The last traceable postcard from Susannah is on 25th August 1906, when she is again writing to her sister in Paignton. This time it is on one of William's 'multiview' cards.





"Was joining in wishing you very many happy returns of the day and love to all ... hoping the chicks are very good ... SS"

It sounds likely that the children were staying with their Aunt.

Sarah and Jesse Shuttlewood (William's parents), died within 8 months of each other in 1907 and 1908 and are buried in St Bartholomew's churchyard. Jesse had died in Swansea while staying with his son Percy, but was brought back to Quorn to be buried with Sarah.

As for William, Susannah and their family, they seem to have hit hard times, and on 20th January 1910, the following notice appeared in the local newspaper:



William's business had failed leaving him with debts of £47 5s 6d. He was ordered to pay 5s (25p) in the pound (total nearly £12), at the rate of 5s (25p) a month (ie for 4 years)

Four months later in May 1910, William left Quorn forever to start a new life Canada. He travelled alone on the 'Megantic' from Liverpool bound for Montreal, but the rest of the family followed him later. Jack went over on his own, at the age of 15, on the 'Empress of Ireland' in January 1911. Susannah, Sarah and Estella followed in April

1911, also on the 'Megantic' which was bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, although their final destination was recorded as Revelstoke, British Columbia.

This sounds like a very drastic decision, but must be considered in the context of the times. Many people were emigrating and there were grand tales of how wonderful life was in the 'new world'. William was in debt, his parents had died and three of his brothers (Harry, Percy and Carlton) had either already emigrated to Australia or were about to.

Susannah and William lived to reasonable ages. They died in Vancouver in 1935 and 1939 aged 66 and 75. Jack & Sarah, their two eldest children died in 1954 and 1952 both aged 57 also in Vancouver. Sarah had never married.

This was thought to be the end of the story and no trace could be found of Estella [Kathleen Estella]. However on the 7th July 1958 a Canadian ship called the 'Empress of England' docked at Liverpool. On board was a single lady in her 50s called Kathleen E Shuttlewood, bound for 'The Glen', Saltash, Cornwall, on a visit for 5 weeks. Her date of birth was stated as 6th January 1905. But was this accurate? It is believed not. Kathleen Estella Shuttlewood, daughter of William and Susannah was born on the 6th of January 1900. This has been confirmed to her birth certificate and the coincidence of dates surely indicates that the year was incorrect on the shipping record. After her family in Canada died, it would seem that Estella just had to make contact with her English roots once more.