

Note: The original of this biography has been edited to exclude any direct references by name to any person likely to be living as at October 2012.

Maternal Grandmother Margaret Lindsay (1871 – 1943)



**Margaret. Studio portrait taken in
Windermere circa 1900**

My maternal grandmother, Margaret LINDSAY is, as an individual in her own right, the most fascinating and glamorous of my ancestors. Not only that, but her occupation, in domestic service, brought her into contact with some illustrious names of the late nineteenth and early and mid twentieth century. I have had almost as much pleasure in researching those families as I have my own. Her family secret provides, conjecture and a quest for available records both public and private. Last but not least she provides an enduring topic of conversation with family, friends and fellow family historians.

It seems quite possible that if I wait until all available information about her comes into my hands that the present task would never be started, let alone completed. The quest could only commence on the death of my widowed mother in 1996. That alone, and

the lack of family, was an indication that any traceable person who had ever known my grandmother was likely to be dead. There were in fact a few still living, who had first to be found; they are not relatives; all but two of those are now passed.

Part 1: The Records

Margaret was born on 19 November 1871ⁱ at the Schoolhouse Preston Mill Kirkbean on the Solway Firth, in what was then the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. The nearest town of any size was Dumfries, historically famous as the place where Robert the Bruce arranged for the killing of his rival, John Comyn. More recently the last public hanging to take place in Scotland, of nineteen year old Robert Smith for murder, in May 1868, had been in Dumfries.

She was the seventh of nine surviving children of Robert Bruce Logan LINDSAY, (1823-1877), the schoolmaster at Preston Mill, and his wife Agnes THOMSON, (1835-1882). Robert and Agnes had been married in 1854,ⁱⁱ the year before Civil Registration was introduced in Scotland. In January 1855 Robert had the sad task of registering the birth and deathⁱⁱⁱ of their unnamed baby daughter and the registrar had as his first official duty the job of registering the birth and the death.

Robert had been born in Edinburgh, the fourth of ten children. Only three years before his birth James Wilson was hanged and beheaded in public at Glasgow and others at Stirling for treason for their part in the Radical War, or Scottish Insurrection, evidenced by strikes and riots.

Robert's father, Andrew, has been described variously as a ploughman, farm bailiff and farm manager in records. Agnes was the youngest of the ten children of Samuel THOMSON, a shepherd (who had lost out on an inheritance of the family farm by virtue of his well documented illegitimacy) and Samuel's wife Catherine MCCUBBIN, herself of doubtful ancestry. Agnes had been brought up in a cottage at Troqueer which is even today a long way from other habitation but by 1851 had gone to live with her married sister Mary at Kirkbean where she is described as a 'farm labourer'.

Kirkbean was at the time of Margaret's birth, and is still a largely farming community. It had strong maritime links with the port of Liverpool and Kirkbean churchyard has many family memorials indicating young men as 'died at Liverpool'; 'lost at sea..'

Life must have been quiet for the Lindsay family. The children however would not have wanted for an education in view of their father's profession, and no doubt lived relatively comfortable lives.

However, very suddenly and without warning, tragedy struck at the Schoolhouse. On 20 March 1877 Margaret's father Robert, 'in his usual health', was visiting a friend, Mr James McGill, at Torrorie farmhouse near Kirkbean. The local paper the 'Dumfries Saturday Standard,' in between reports of bowling matches, noted Robert had been walking outside, smoking, when Mr. McGill called him into the house. Robert immediately fell forward on to his face and could not be revived.^{iv} His five youngest children were aged between three and 13. His eldest son, Andrew, was only 18. It is not known whether any of the children were working.

Some assistance arrived in the form of a local collection as on 28 April 1877 there appeared in the 'Saturday Standard' a report of a collection following an appeal in the area for the benefit of the bereaved Lindsays; ('Mrs. Lindsay and large young family'). The collection raised £110, approximately £7,400 in today's currency. The press report further noted that Robert had laboured 'with rare devotion to his duties and success in his work.'

By 1881 however things seemed to be more favorable for Margaret's widowed mother and her family. Margaret's eldest brother, Andrew, had secured a position in a railway office as a boarder (booking) clerk in Ayr, her second brother Thomas had reverted to his grandfather's profession of shepherding and had a position at Balmaclellan Kirkcudbrightshire. A sister, Agnes, was a servant at nearby Arbigland House, even then famous as the birthplace of John PAUL JONES, founder of the American Navy. Margaret, her older brother Robert and younger sisters Isabella and Marion were all scholars. They were still living in the School House and with them was the replacement schoolteacher, 24 year old Jessie Johnstone from Invernesshire.

In May 1879 Margaret's eldest sister Mary had married. Though the groom was a local man, David HASTINGS, a ship's engineer, David and Mary had married at St Mary's Church Kirkdale, Walton on the Hill Liverpool.

However disaster was never far away. On 14 January 1881 Mary gave birth to her first child, Davina at home in Bianca Street Bootle Liverpool near the Docks.^v On 7 February 1881 the ship the 'Bohemian' on which David HASTINGS was serving as second engineer sank off the Cork coast^{vi} with the loss of many lives including those of all the engineers.

The subsequent enquiry into the wreck^{vii} found that the Master was not at fault but that, as the result of a mishearing of a command to steer away from land, the ship had been steered on to rocks, the ship sank suddenly and the lifeboats were disabled.

The outcome of this tragedy was that Mary returned to Kirkbean with her baby to live with her mother, youngest brother her sisters and the new schoolmistress. The outlook must have been grim for her children when on 9th December 1882 Agnes Thomson LINDSAY died^{viii} leaving three children under the age of twelve.

However not only were Robert Bruce Logan LINDSAY's children inheritors of his work ethic and admirable qualities which excited such sympathy at his death, but a knight in shining armour, though he took some time in coming, did appear. The arrival, or rather the return, of this personage was to result in the remaining Lindsays leaving Kirkbean and would remove Margaret to a place and sphere of influence very different from rural Preston Mill and the Solway Firth.

William Marshall CAMPBELL was born at Kirkbean in 1855, the youngest son and child of a labourer. In 1881 he is recorded on his marriage to Jane SMITH of Glencairn as being a journeyman joiner living at 3 Trafalgar Street Manchester. Jane SMITH at her birth was recorded (as were her four siblings, though their parents did subsequently marry) as being the illegitimate child of Alexander SMITH, a local farmer, by his servant Jane TODD.

William and Jane CAMPBELL had two children, also Jane and William, but in 1887 Jane Smith CAMPBELL died leaving William with six year old Jane and baby William.

Doubtless William CAMPBELL had known the Lindsays most of his life and had possibly been taught by Robert LINDSAY. No doubt he had also heard of Mary's widowhood. On 23 November 1888 William Marshall CAMPBELL and Mary Lindsay HASTINGS were married at Kirkbean Schoolhouse according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Scotland.

However the rescue from difficult times resulted in the breaking up of the Schoolhouse household. Margaret's two younger sisters, Isabella and Marion and youngest brother Robert, by this time a steam engine fitter, went to live in Ayr with their brother Andrew. Janet, Margaret's second sister had gone into service in London and in 1886 had married another Scottish servant, William THOMSON, who appears to have been no relation. Thomas was still

shepherding (as he did all his life) and had married in March of 1887 and Agnes was a stillroom maid at Balbirnie House, Fife.

Margaret herself joined the newly married Mary and William CAMPBELL, William's two children, Jane and William and Mary's daughter Davina HASTINGS. In the 1891 census they were living at 50 Melbourne Street Higher Broughton Salford with Mary and William's children Christopher James then 1 month and Robert Lindsay aged 1 and William's children from his first marriage. Margaret, aged 19 is described as the sister-in-law of the head of the household and a cook.

Between 1891 and 1901 Margaret had made a decision to continue a career in domestic service and, it would appear, to be upwardly mobile. In the census of 1901 she was cook and senior female servant in the household of Lady Emily Hill. Lady Emily was the widow of Sir John Hill, late Chief Charity Commissioner for England and Wales who had died in 1875, two years after being knighted by his Sovereign at Windsor.

Lady Hill's household in 1901 was at Lindeth Howe, Windermere, now a country house hotel. At the turn of the century it had been bought by a retired Guards Captain who let it out to friends, one of whom must have been Lady Hill.

Other friends of the Captains included Miss Beatrix Potter and her family. The Potters stayed at the house and Beatrix's father took photographs of it. After the death of her father Beatrix bought the house in 1915 for her mother to live in. Beatrix's books *Timmy Tiptoes* and *Pigling Bland* are known to have been illustrated by her whilst staying at Lindeth Howe.



Lindeth Howe in about 1911

However Lady Hill's association with the house ended with her death in 1904. The Grant of Probate to her will indicates she was living there at her death. It is not known whether Margaret was in Lady Emily's service when she died; certainly there is no bequest to Margaret or indeed any domestic servant, either general or specific, in Lady Emily's will.

The next positive sighting of Margaret LINDSAY on her upwards journey through the ranks of domestic service is in Congleton Cheshire in 1911^{ix} at the age of 39 in the household of John Coutts ANTROBUS at Eaton Hall. She is described as cook/domestic and has a scullery maid and kitchen maid under

her. There is no resident housekeeper but a lady's maid, children's nurse, two laundrymaids and three housemaids.

John Coutts ANTROBUS is recorded in Burke's^x. From Margaret's point of view her mistress, John's third wife, was probably the more interesting of the pair and perhaps the reason Margaret was able to obtain what was undoubtedly a good position.

Mary Edigia COUTTS nee LINDSAY was twenty three years younger than her husband. She had borne seven of his fifteen children and in 1911 was aged 59. Her grandfather was James LINDSAY 24th Earl of Crawford and Earl of Balcarres; she was niece of the 25th Earl of Crawford and aunt of the 26th Earl, the brilliant James Ludovic LINDSAY. The Earls of Crawford had been hereditary Chiefs of the clan LINDSAY since the thirteenth century.

Even Mary ANTROBUS' middle name had historical significance. Egidia (also known as Jill) STEWART was the daughter of Robert III Stewart King of Scotland c1337-1406 and his wife Annabel DRUMMOND but Princess Egidia died young. Her name had been strictly a Stewart name till it was introduced into the Clan Lindsay by another Egidia STEWART, who also was known as Gille STEWART, the daughter of Walter STEWART, 6th High Steward of Scotland and his third wife Isabella GRAHAM. Egidia (Gille) married as her second husband Sir James de LINDSAY of Crawford, son of Sir David de LINDSAY of Crawford and Maria ABERNETHY, on 21 April 1346 and thereafter the name Egidia came into usage amongst the LINDSAYS. Egidia (Gille) was half sister to King Robert II of Scotland, her father's first wife having been Lady Marjorie BRUCE, daughter of Robert the Bruce.

No doubt it amused Mary ANTROBUS to have a LINDSAY as a servant, and one moreover who had the same name as her sister and a sister with her name. Perhaps this helped Margaret obtain the position in what was undoubtedly one of 'the very best houses' Margaret worked in as recounted by her daughter, shortly before Mollie LINDSAY's death.

At around this time and the years leading up to 1911 Margaret undoubtedly needed all the help she could get because in 1907 something which was not at all uncommon in the lives of Edwardian servants, but which brought the downfall of many, must have threatened not only to bring her promising career down around her ears but to ruin her reputation, character and chances of future employment.



Though the 1911 census was the first official sighting since 1901 of Margaret LINDSAY, in her role of unmarried domestic servant, in December 1907 Margaret had presented herself to the Registrar of Births Marriages and Deaths at Stone in Staffordshire as Margaret LINDSAY maiden surname THOMPSON (sic), mother of a baby girl Mollie LINDSAY born on 12 November 1907 at Butterson, near Stoke on Trent, of whom Philip Henry LINDSAY, coachman, was stated to be the father.^{xi}

The same untruths^{xii} were recorded in the Parish Register of St Thomas' Church Butterson when 'Molly' (sic) (pictured left) was baptised there on a Wednesday afternoon, 4 December 1907, by a young Welsh curate with excellent connections, rather than the vicar^{xiii}.

In the absence of a chance find of document, letter or diary it may never be discovered how Margaret found herself in what would have undoubtedly been a predicament of the most

serious order and what had taken place in February 1907 or indeed, where she was working at that time.

The reasons both Margaret and Mollie found themselves in a position of danger arose from Margaret's position in the society of the time, its views about illegitimacy and servants and the limited available options for women in Margaret's situation.

Ironically Margaret's own pedigree and the records of her ancestors contain several illegitimate births. Her own grandfather, Samuel THOMSON, was illegitimate; the fact was never disguised either in formal records^{xiv} or within his family^{xv}. Whilst the Kirk may have fined couples for entering into 'irregular' marriages and railed against illegitimacy, in rural eighteenth and nineteenth century Scotland there seems to have been generally a social acceptance of the situation.

But of course early twentieth century England was a far cry from eighteenth century rural Scotland. What was acceptable there and then was not acceptable in a servant to the upper or middle classes in 1907.

Abortion has always been practiced in all societies, and was widely in Victorian and Edwardian England but was illegal and dangerous to the health of the mother.



Mollie aged about 3 years

Margaret was unmarried without obvious means of support apart from her own resources, so that to retire to enjoy motherhood was not an option. To place a child appropriately on her own resources was also probably not an option. It was also not without danger to the child; in 1907 Rhoda Willis was hanged in Wales for the murder of a charge placed with her and she was the last of a line of 'baby

farmers' to be hanged for neglect, murder or manslaughter of children placed with them.^{xvi} Other alternatives were abandonment, to leave the child at the workhouse, or to arrange entry into a charitable institution for waifs and strays. However Margaret resorted to none of these solutions.

Contrary to the pictures painted in 'Upstairs Downstairs' and 'Downton Abbey' on the whole Victorian and Edwardian servants were not well treated. They worked extremely long hours, could be dismissed on a whim, lived in cramped unsanitary conditions, were poorly paid, and were often despised by their employers. Servants of both sexes could be made the subject of unwelcome sexual advances and if they resisted or things went wrong dismissed without the reference needed to secure a good 'position' elsewhere or with their 'character' in ruins.



Aged 9 months and below the family message at footnote xv on the reverse



However Margaret, as we have seen, was subsequently able to obtain positions in a distinguished household without problems of having to explain why she had left her last position, wherever that was, and was able either to produce a reference or deal with the lack of one.

Mollie, we know, had been born in Butterton, probably^{xvii} at the house where she was brought up and lived till her marriage in 1935. That was Millstone Green Farm, the home of a respectable married couple Arthur Thomas GOODALL a housepainter, wheelwright, coffin maker and farmer, his wife Rachel and their daughter, Winnie, born in 1893.

Arthur and Rachel had previously fostered another child, Ethel CORDON, who by the time of Mollie's arrival, had emigrated to Canada and married, but Ethel had had a family connection with Rachel GOODALL^{xviii}.

One of the mysteries of Margaret's life is how she found the Goodalls, or were they found for her? Rachel GOODALL had been in service and would have been part of a network of servants. Moreover Margaret's older sister Agnes worked at Meaford Hall at Stone where her mistress was Lady Parker- Jarvis, formerly a Miss Caveneagh-Mainwaring, daughter of the Lord of the Manor of Whitmore, the next village to Butterton. . Was Agnes a party to the secret of the pregnancy?

In 1911 Margaret was of course with the ANTROBUS family at Eaton Hall but in July of that year Mary ANTROBUS died leaving all her estate to her husband. John Coutts ANTROBUS died in 1916 and by his will gave legacies to those in his service 'and not under notice, given or received' at the time of his death. Margaret's name does not appear in the list of bequests to servants deposited at Stafford Archives.



Margaret in middle age

Shortly after an inspection of that list the reason for Margaret's exclusion became clear. Her whereabouts in 1916 are evidenced by the will (itself a fascinating document^{xix}) of her brother Robert, made in 1916 and proved by Margaret's oldest sister, Mary Lindsay CAMPBELL in tragic circumstances when, in February 1918, the merchant ship SS. Merton Hall on which Robert was serving as a second engineer was sunk by a U boat in the Channel.

The will gave bequests to various members of Robert's family, a friend, his surviving brother, Thomas (Andrew had died in 1901) and sisters, nephews and nieces (he was unmarried). Nothing was left to Mollie, the probability being that Robert did not know of her existence. Margaret stated to be 'of Copgrove Hall, Leeds' was left £10.

Copgrove Hall where Margaret was in service in 1916 was the home of Sir Francis Bridg(e)man BRIDGEMAN and his wife Lady Emily (nee SHIFFNER).

Sir Francis and Lady Emily were childless having married when Sir Francis was 40 and Lady Emily 46. To say simply that Sir Francis was the son of a clergyman is initially misleading. His father was William Bridgeman SIMPSON^{xx} (Francis appears to have changed the SIMPSON to BRIDGEMAN in his own name after his marriage in 1889) the Rector of Babworth Nottinghamshire. In the Census of England of 1851^{xxi} there were five members of the family and fifteen servants in residence at Babworth Rectory. The Rector's wife, and mother of Sir Francis, was Lady Frances FITZWILLIAM, daughter of Earl FITZWILLIAM. When Rev. William Bridgeman SIMPSON died in 1895 he left a net estate of £36,676:11s:1d^{xxii}).

Sir Francis had a glittering naval career. He was Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII between 1901 and 1903. From 1907 to 1909, he was Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet; from 1909 to 1911 he was Second Sea Lord. In 1911 he was appointed first Sea Lord but by 1912 had clashed with CHURCHILL on the question of Naval traditions (CHURCHILL indicated BRIDGEMAN'S 'ill health' as the reason for BRIDGEMAN'S retirement) and in 1912 was replaced by Prince Louis of BATTENBERG. In 1913 he was placed on the retired list and went to live the life of a country gentleman at Copgrove, a property inherited by his wife.^{xxiii}

It was into the exalted household that Margaret took up a post sometime between 1911 and 1916, without, it seems, the difficulties encountered by many female servants in her position. Quite what that post was is unclear but it seems reasonable to suppose it was as either cook or housekeeper or cook/housekeeper.

It is not known how long Margaret served at Copgrove or when she took what was to be her final post, or indeed what other positions she held in the meantime. Certainly she was not named specifically in the Will of Sir Francis BRIDGEMAN when he died in 1929, though some of his servants were. Lady Emily BRIDGEMAN had died some years before her husband, leaving all her estate to him.

Margaret's daughter, Mollie, recalled in the late 1960s that Margaret had on some occasion in her life, broken her leg and thereafter could no longer carry out heavy domestic duties and as a result took up what was to be her final post.

Margaret died on 14 April 1943 at Summerhill Cottage, Sugar Street, Rushton Spencer Leek aged 71. She is described as being 'of Bagstones, Wincle Macclesfield. Spinster, formerly a Housekeeper (Domestic). Daughter of Robert Lindsay Elementary Schoolteacher (deceased)'. The cause of death was intestinal obstruction, secondary growths in the pelvis and carcinoma of the stomach. The informant was her niece, Davina JOHNSON (nee HASTINGS).



Margaret and Agnes' grave

Her will made when she was living at the Bagstones in 1939 was proved in the summer of 1943 by Roland HIGGINS, corporal in the Royal Air Force. The will of Margaret's brother Robert, referred to at footnote xvi, was chatty and convivial in tone and contains a wealth of family information. Margaret's commences in the same vein by leaving one hundred pounds to each of her sisters, Marion and

Isabella then impetuously 'another hundred to Isabella.' (All her siblings apart from these two sisters, her sister Agnes and brother Thomas had predeceased her). The tone then changes and the will continues to leave 'all else to Mrs. Mollie Higgins.....her husband to be the executor'. The will is witnessed by Ellen Elizabeth ROBERTS and Phyllis Mary GEE, both of the Bagstones Wincle.

Margaret's net estate was in excess of £1,800^{xxiv} and dutiable.



Remembered at
Kirkbean

Margaret is buried in the churchyard of the very old and historic church of St Lawrence at Rushton Spencer^{xxv} near Leek with her sister Agnes who died in August of 1943 at Meaford Stone where she had worked continuously from at least 1911 till her retirement and at her death had been housekeeper (retired).

Margaret and Agnes are also remembered together with their brothers and sisters on the gravestone of their parents in Kirkbean Churchyard in accordance with Scottish custom.^{xxvi}

Part 2: The Family sources

The forgoing had been the information obtained from the more 'conventional' resources of family research, the birth and death records, census returns, histories and family papers in archives relating to the families Margaret worked for.



Rachel Alice Goodall (nee
Harding) 1863-1935

But where had Margaret been between 1916 and her arrival at the Bagstones? What of her as a person? What was her personality; as a sister and above all as a parent and how had she coped with the problem she found herself with in the early part of 1907? How did she deal with the separation from her child? What were the visiting arrangements? Certainly my mother had always made it clear despite the overall secrecy, that Margaret and not Rachel GOODALL was 'Mother?'

Certainly grandmother was at some time in Derby as I have two photographs of her in middle age taken at the society photographers, W.W. Winter of Derby



Arthur Thomas
Goodall 1859-1938

Indeed it was only in 2009 that I first saw a photograph of 'Grandmother GOODALL' though photographs of Margaret fell out of almost every drawer at home. Indeed she must have been one of the most photographed of servants who ever cooked a meal.

In 2006, having previously made some rather desultory enquiries at the pub 'The Ship' in Wincle shortly after my mother's death, I became determined to find whatever information there might still be about my grandmother. The aim was, of course, to try and discover the identity of my maternal grandfather and the events of almost one hundred years previously. In this I was encouraged by my husband, a war baby, with a similar quest to find his birth father.

My archive enquiries had shown one of the three pieces of information given by my mother ten years before to have been correctalways in the very best houses...', and '.....first Lord of the Admiralty....'as being true in substance if not precise fact. '.....Lady Brocklehurst....'was therefore the line of investigation to take, combined with 'The Bagstones' and Summerhill Cottage

Previous enquiries coupled with my stay with my parents at the farm in Wincle when I was eight and chance remarks about Wincle by my mother soon tracked down Lady BROCKLEHURST.

Lady Annie BROCKLEHURST (1858-1951) became by reason of his death, in 1904 the widow of Philip Lancaster, 1st Bt. BROCKLEHURST of Swythamley. Lady Annie, only 46 at the time she was widowed, in due course established her dowager household at The Bagstones in Wincle. Her elder son, who became 2nd Bt. at the age of 17 while still at Eton, settled down at the family seat of Swythamley Hall some two miles down the road.

The BROCKLEHURSTS had made their money some generations before, in banking and then silk production of which nearby Macclesfield was the centre. During the years between the World Wars the Swythamley Estate was run in what was fast becoming an old fashioned style with Sir Philip Lee BROCKLEHURST the 2nd. Bt., being very much the Lord of the Manor in relation to his tenant farmers.



**Lady Annie Brocklehurst
aged 90 in 1948.
Birthday photo at The
Bagstones**

If my grandmother is the most interesting of my relatives then the BROCKLEHURSTS are the most interesting of her employers thus far discovered, both from the point of view of the daring exploits and achievements of Lady Annie's two sons, Philip and Henry, and their eccentricities. These are well documented elsewhere and this is a biography of my grandmother, not her employers. Suffice it to say that at the age of twenty one in 1907 Philip Brocklehurst accompanied Shackleton on his 'Nimrod' expedition to the Antarctic as the party's geologist, losing some toes in the process, and in 1930 drove with his wife, the former Gwladys Gostling MURRAY, across the Sahara accompanied only by an estate worker. He introduced the grey squirrel into Britain, kept a pet badger, was a champion boxer and after his death because of his impetuosity and undoubtedly generous nature his estate became the subject of a legal wrangle.^{xxvii xxviii}

The younger son, Henry, was a game warden in the Sudan, the first Englishman to shoot a panda and as a trustee of the London Zoo arranged for many of its animals to be evacuated to

Swythamley in the Second World War. Unfortunately the first winter there was so cold that all the camels died. Wallabies escaped onto the Roaches, the local moorland where their descendant have been seen in relatively recent times.

Lady Annie, Margaret's employer, had arranged for her late husband to be interred at Merebrook, some way from Swythamley due to a quarrel with the Vicar of Wincle before Sir Philip's death in 1904. A private Chapel (now a private house) was in course of being built at Swythamley at the time of Sir Philip's death and when it was completed he was reinterred there. Lady Annie and at least one servant were in due course buried in the Chapel.

It was with this illustrious if slightly eccentric family that my grandmother found her last post, at the Bagstones as cook/housekeeper to Lady Annie.

Fortunately for me and my quest the fact that Sir Philip had given his tenants the right to buy their properties by his will meant that some thirty years after his death there remained those who remembered him and one particular lady who had worked for him and remembered my grandmother.

A visit to the 'Ship Inn' Wincle, within sight of the Bagstones, some ten years after my initial visit, produced almost instant success. An enquiry at the bar put me in touch with the Swythamley Historical Society and the lady referred to, sadly now deceased.

She and her late husband had worked at Swythamley and a relatively brief conversation elicited all sorts of information about 'Mrs.' Lindsay, the household at the Bagstones and some details of Margaret's private and social life, and indeed some romance.

*'Mrs. Lindsay, Scottish, the cook/housekeeper, baked beautiful cakes some of which would be handed to passing children from the windows of The Bagstones'... kitchen. She walked out with a **very** tall man called Mr. Hyde, a relative of the people at the farm..... She was always called Mrs^{xxix}. Lindsay. She wasn't very tall but Mr. Hyde was; he always wore a hat. It was a very happy household. Ellen Roberts and the housemaid Ellen Taylor. Ellen always cheerful, laughing and joking.....Remember [Ellen} saying 'don't ask me to cook, I couldn't boil an egg'... Lady Annie very kind...we asked and she let us be married in their private chapel....a very happy household.'*^{xxx}

Well, there were two gems there. Mr. HYDE was clearly a relative of 'Uncle' Arthur and 'Auntie' Nellie (HYDE) where we had gone to stay when I was eight; the farm was opposite the lane to the Bagstones. Just as clearly Ellen TAYLOR was Auntie Ellen or 'Auntie Laugh' who was a visitor to our home in Birmingham and always used the back door.

But what of Mr. HYDE? I realised he couldn't be my grandfather as he and Margaret were well past middle age when the 'walking out' took place. Not then knowing any HYDES (Nellie and Arthur's daughter I knew had gone to Australia many years before and was probably dead. Their son was I assumed probably also dead and if he wasn't how was I to find him?) A construction of the Hyde family tree drew a blank and I had no forename to give a further clue.

An insertion of two photographs in the local Wincle magazine, under the heading of 'A Wincle (and Rushton) Mystery', elicited a further response from my original informant to the effect that one lady photographed with my grandmother was Ellen 'Nellie' Roberts, fellow servant of Margaret's and a witness to her will and that the other witness was a relative of my informant's believed at that time still to be living, though sadly a letter addressed to her elicited no response.

Other sources confirmed that the pictures were taken in the grounds of The Bagstones

And what of Margaret's relationship with Mollie, her only child while she was living in the houses, albeit in service, of the rich and famous and doing some 'walking out'?



**Servants or the chatelaines of
The Bagstones?
Nellie Roberts, unknown and
Margaret abt 1940 at the
Bagstones**

I had long realised that my mother had been nicely brought up. Just as Margaret was a very much photographed servant Mollie was a much photographed child. In her photographs she is always nicely dressed, perhaps because the photos are taken in a studio, possibly for the benefit of Margaret. She initially attended the local Church of England School (where she later briefly taught) and subsequently attended Stafford Girls' High School.

By registering Mollie's name as 'LINDSAY' Margaret ensured that Mollie had her name. My mother was always known as LINDSAY apart from the time when she attended the local school where she was registered as Mollie GOODALL,^{xxx} no doubt so that she would not be subjected to the taunts of the local children. In 1911 she is described as a 'boarder' in the Goodall household and it appears that Margaret may have entertained some idea that she would have Mollie to live with her if circumstances ever permitted. Quite what the GOODALLS

would have done had that happened remains open to speculation as Mollie appears to have been a well loved child at Millstone Green. However clearly they could not at that time have acquired

any legal rights to keep her at that time.^{xxxii}

It was only in 2009 that I luckily made some new and very important contacts. Several of these came when I was contacted by an Ancestry member researching the GOODALL family. She had been in touch with a local committee in Butterton who for the Millennium had prepared a local history of the Village which included references to my mother having taught at the school and being 'fostered' with the Goodalls. I have been fortunate in obtaining a copy.

The Ancestry contact had in her possession one of those notes which one hears of being produced at funerals when people start talking and which had been handed to her father at



**L to R Mrs Poole, (note on back) Nellie
Roberts and Margaret at
The Bagstones**

another relative's wake by a cousin, a great nephew of Arthur GOODALL'S. The relevant part of the note reads

'The name GOODALL (Granma RILEY's maiden name) died out when Great Uncle Arthur died about 20 or 30 years ago^{xxxiii}. He had [an adopted] daughter.....Molly (sic) (Don't know if she married or what her name would be if she did)'

So others knew about Mollie.

I had known about my mother's 'sister' Winnie and her husband Tom from being a child but only as names with presents and cards at Christmas and on birthdays, not as anyone who might be considered a 'real' relative.

Peter and Hubert are dead, Hubert as the result of a car accident when I was a child and I remember the letter giving my mother the news arriving at home.

Peter did however have an input into the Butterson Millennium book^{xxxiv} and recounted to the compilers a memory, not included in the book,^{xxxv} of Margaret arriving in Butterson in grand style in a coach with horses to visit Mollie to the great amazement and bemusement of some of the villagers. As that incident was in the memory of Peter who was born in 1928 it cannot have happened much before Mollie's marriage in 1935. But whose were the carriage and horses?

An insight into Margaret and her demeanor and style has been given to me by a private correspondence with a living member of the GOODALL family:-



Mollie aged about 9

'.....The fact that it was Miss Lindsay who visited from time to time



Hat but no veil

and not Mrs. Lindsay was not a relevance that we noticed, but Miss Lindsay had a great presence, so that small boys only spoke when spoken to. This great lady wore expensive, mainly black, clothes with hat and veil to match, also beautiful fashionable shoes, and she carried a rolled umbrella. To me she looked like...Queen Mary.....I was in awe....
^{xxxvi}

....I was always under the impression that Miss Lindsay was in service at the Earl of Harewood's residence (Lascelle's home), was it Knaresborough in Yorkshire, perhaps this was a mistaken impression...^{xxxvii}

Another person I have been fortunate to find through the Swythamley Historical Society has confirmed that the 'very tall' Mr. HYDE who

walked out with Margaret was his great Uncle John who lived with Arthur and Nellie HYDE at Mellor Knowl Farm Wincle. John was a bachelor and older than Margaret though he outlived her as did Lady Annie BROCKLEHURST, her last employer.

I know that Margaret took Mollie on holiday as a child^{xxxviii} and that Mollie and my father holidayed with Margaret. There are photographs of Margaret and Mollie together when Mollie was an adult but no mother and baby pictures and nowhere, not even in her will, is there an acknowledgment by Margaret that Mollie was her child. Mollie recalled being taken by her mother to the gallery of some grand house where a smart party was going on in the salon below. Mollie was urged to look at the assembled company but was too shy to do so. It was not her existence, but the relationship which was the secret. Was Margaret perhaps sworn to secrecy in exchange for a position and the placement of her child in a good home?



**Mollie and Margaret
On holiday circa 1939**

Grandmother certainly had style, looks, determination was a good cook, had a nice speaking voice^{xxxix}, and, according to Mollie ‘always did her very, very best’. But how did she amass a relatively large sum of money on a servant’s wage^{xl}, who helped her keep her child, and, most importantly, what was her secret?



**Two ladies enjoy a summer afternoon
sometime in the 1930s
Margaret on the right. Unknown (but
possibly Margaret’s niece, Davina JOHNSON
nee HASTINGS) on the left.**

ⁱ Kirkbean Statutory Births 870/00 0020 Scotland’s People online Resource

ⁱⁱ Kirkbean Statutory Births 870/00 0001 Scotland’s People online Resource. During the first year of civil registration in Scotland parents registering the birth of a child were required to give further details as to the date of their marriage and how many other children they had living or dead.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kirkbean Statutory Deaths 870/00 0002 Scotland’s People online resource

^{iv} The death was registered by his son Andrew in the registers of Kirkbean Statutory Death Register ref 87/00 0005 Scotland’s People online resource. Cause of death heart disease – seen by Dr. Fold after death. Certified by the Procurator Fiscal.

^v Birth certificate Davina Hastings.

^{vi} Statutory Deaths Maritime Register 021/MR 0222 Scotland’s People online resource

^{vii} Conducted at St George’s Hall Liverpool by the Stipendiary of Liverpool, Thomas Stamford Raffles, son of the founder of Singapore

^{viii} Statutory Register of deaths Kirkcudbright 870/00 0014 of 'lung consumption 1 year'. Scotland's People online resource

^{ix} 1911 Census Ref RG14PN21492 RG78PN1280 RD444 SD5 ED5 SN7

^x <http://thepeerage.com/p2096.htm>

^{xi} Birth certificate of Mollie LINDSAY

^{xii} A different untruth was recorded on Mollie's marriage certificate when Mollie's father's name is given as 'John Lindsay' (though still a coachman) at a ceremony performed at 8 o'clock in the morning on an August Bank Holiday at St Thomas' not by the usual Vicar.

^{xiii} Butterson Parish Register of Baptisms, Repository Staffordshire Archives. Viewed on microfiche

^{xiv} Troqueer Statutory Deaths 1874 ref 882/00 0007 Scotland's People online resource

^{xv} The arrangement of the graves at New Abbey cemetery show the relationship between in particular Samuel and his paternal grandmother. Because of the openness of the records Samuel's ancestry can be taken back to his great grandfather William THOMSON b. 1865

^{xvi} http://www.crimezzz.net/serialkiller_index/by_type/babyfarmers.php

^{xvii} Certainly Mollie was at Millstone Green from a very young age. The photograph of her aged 9 months was produced in the form of a postcard which Rachel Goodall sent to her niece Mabel East, who was then about ten and lived in Crewe, with good wishes and family news. The card was sent when Mollie was about 1 year old. The message reads : *Butterson/ Dear Mabel Just a line on Molly's (sic) photo hoping it will find you all well and your mother's cold better we shall be glad to hear from you to say how all are going on. We are all well here and all send best love even Molly says Yes. Your Afct Aunt RG.*

^{xviii} 1911 census reference RG14PN16377 RG78PN1014 RD358 SD1 ED12 SN46.

^{xix} In Robert's own hand it was made when he was stationed at Suez. Its tone is conversational. It has an unwitnessed codicil admitted to probate as a privileged document on production of handwriting evidence. The codicil appoints Mary executrix according to its tenor. Robert is taken to have acquired a domicile of choice in England and Wales for the purpose of proving the Will.

^{xx} The alumni records of Trinity College Cambridge give William Bridgeman SIMPSON'S details as:- ' Adm. pens. at TRINITY, July 3, 1832. [8th s. of the Hon. John Bridgeman, of Babworth Hall, Notts. (and Grace, dau. of Samuel Estwicke). B. Sept. 9, 1813. School, Charterhouse.] Matric. Michs. 1832; B.A. 1838; M.A. 1842. Ord. deacon (Lincoln) 1837; priest (Lincoln, for York) 1838. R. of Babworth, Notts., 1851-95. J.P. for Notts. Married, June 23, 1837, Lady Frances Laura Wentworth Fitzwilliam, dau. of the 5th Earl Fitzwilliam. Died Apr. 1, 1895. (*List of Carthusians; Crockford; The Times*, Apr. 3, 1895; R. L. Arrowsmith.)'

^{xxi} Class: *HO107*; Piece: *2121*; Folio: *506*; Page: *1*; GSU roll: *87750-87751*.

^{xxii} £33,700,000 Equivalent value share of the GDP as at 2007

^{xxiii} [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Bridgeman_\(Royal_Navy_officer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Bridgeman_(Royal_Navy_officer)) and http://www.dreadnoughtproject.org/tfs/index.php/Francis_Charles_Bridgeman_Bridgeman

^{xxiv} £249,00 in 1970 share of the GDP

^{xxv} After their quarrel with the Vicar of Wincle the BROCKLEHURSTS attended Rushton Church.

^{xxvi} The inscription reads 'In memory of Robert Lindsay Schoolmaster at Preston for 31 years who died 20th March 1877 aged 56 years also Agnes Thomson his wife who died on 9th December 1882 aged 48 years also Andrew their eldest son who died at Kilmarnock 9th September 1901 aged 43 years also Robert Bruce their youngest son who was lost at sea on 11th February 1918 aged 51 years also Janet their second daughter who died at Duns 7th December 1921 aged 61 years also Mary their eldest daughter who died in Cheshire 2nd February 1926 aged 69 years Margaret died in Cheshire 14th April 1943 aged 71 years Nan died in Staffs 23rd August 1943 aged 78 years Thomas died at Newcastleton 7th September 1943 aged 83 years Marion died at Kilmarnock 9th October 1957 aged 83 years Isabella Thompson (sic) Lindsay died at Kilmarnock 8th October 1959 aged 90 years'

^{xxvii} In Re: the Estate of Brocklehurst dec'd 1978 Ch14. BROCKLEHURST had given, in the last year of his life, a lease of the shooting rights attaching to Swythamley to a friend, a local garage owner. After his death in 1975 BROCKLEHURST'S Executors unsuccessfully claimed undue influence by the friend and the return of the rights to the estate.

^{xxviii} Sadly in the days before his death in 1975 Sir Philip systematically burnt all the estate papers and records in the stable yard of Swythamley. As a result there are no papers of interest or value relating to the estate in any archive though papers of his are deposited at Cambridge University relating to the 'Nimrod' Expedition in 1907.

^{xxix} The courtesy title of a nanny, cook, housekeeper or cook/housekeeper whether married or not. Conversely a lady's maid was 'Miss' even if married. <http://www.hinchhouse.org.uk/ninth/ech.html>

^{xxx} The BROCKLEHURSTS appear to have been generous to their staff. Lady Annie in her will left Ellen ROBERTS and Ellen TAYLOR a year's wage. There appears also to have been an element of relative informality with the servants, Ellen TAYLOR was known as 'Monkey' within the family by reason of her love of jokes and practical jokes, though the familiarity may have been one sided. A correspondence appears to have continued between Ellen TAYLOR and Sir Philip BROCKLEHURST to the end of their respective lives (both died in 1975) as in a letter to a friend Sir Philip refers as having heard from Ellen.

^{xxxi} Records of St Thomas' School Butterson held locally

^{xxxii} Adoption was only introduced into England by the Adoption Act of 1926. Before that date a number of mothers in Margaret's position had successfully applied to the courts for the return of their children placed with other families. At the time Mollie was placed there was no security in relation to the child for the 'foster parents'.

^{xxxiii} Putting the date of the wake and the memory 1957-1967

^{xxxiv} Butterson Folk: A Social History

^{xxxv} Recounted to the writer by one of the Millennium Book Committee

^{xxxvi} Mollie HIGGINS nee LINDSAY described her mother as being 'very Victorian' that being given as the reason question of Mollie's paternity was never discussed. The same epithet was used by the great granddaughter of Mary LINDSAY HASTINGS CAMPBELL when describing Isabella Thomson LINDSAY Margaret's next youngest sister.

^{xxxvii} In fact the heir to the Earl of Harewood (Viscount Lascelles) traditionally lived in Knaresborough. There is no ascertainable record of Margaret having worked at Harewood House. Goldsworthy Hall has yet to be investigated at Wakefield Archives.

^{xxxviii} Mollie recalled her mother as having a delightful Lowland accent

^{xxxviii} <http://www.hinchhouse.org.uk/ninth/ech.html>