

Census 1911

The Inhabitants of Swannington House



If you use an internet site to search for people at the time of the 1911 census you will be able to see copies of the census records. The one left (*from ancestry.co.uk*) is for Swannington House in Main Street, the home of Lady Lillie Beaumont. The house eventually succumbed to mining subsidence and was demolished to be replaced by numbers 64-70 Main Street a couple of decades or so ago.

What do we know of the nine people who were in Swannington House at the time of the 1911 census?

Lillie Ellen Beaumont, Head, 52

Lillie Ellen Craster was born on the 22nd January 1859 at Lucknow Dude, India, the second daughter of Major General George Ayton Craster of the Royal Engineers. She married Sir George Howland William Beaumont on 24 February 1880 at St. George's Church, Agra, India. As she cannot be traced on the censuses of 1861 and 1871 it is possible that she had never left India before her marriage. At the 1881 census Lillie Beaumont was living at Coleorton Rectory as a guest of her husband's uncle, Canon William Bereford Beaumont (brother of Sir George Howland Beaumont, 9th Bt.). She is listed as Lillie E. Beaumont 22, wife Of Lieut.G.Beaumont R H A, their son George A.H. Beaumont was 3 months old and had been born in Killyleagh, Ireland (*see Norah Rowan Hamilton below*).

During the 1891 census "Lilly" Beaumont was living in London with her parents. Her 60 year old father had retired from the army and with his wife Charlotte had an apartment at 39 Emperors Gate, Kensington; near the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Lady Beaumont was already resident in Swannington House by the time of the 1901 census. Living with her at the time were her 20 year old son, one visitor and four members of staff. Coleorton Hall was rented to Alfred R Donisthorpe, who owned Donisthorpe Mill and other businesses in Leicester.

There are very few census references to Lady Beaumont's husband who had become the 10th baronet in 1882, he died in France in June 1914. Lady Beaumont continued to live in Swannington House until her death on the 17th August 1946, aged 87.

Gwladys Corbett, Visitor, 22

There is not much information available about Gwladys Corbett, although she does appear on the 1901 census with her name anglicised to Gladys Corbett. She was a boarder at the Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army at Lansdown in the Rural District of Bath.

The school opened in 1865 and in 1901 had 16 officers (superintendents) and 122 girls aged 10-18 supported by 25 servants (cooks, laundry maids, housemaids, gardeners) and 6 family members.

The Royal School was privately funded, relying on a mixture of subscriptions, legacies and other gifts, and fees. Subscribers were eligible to vote on which girls would receive admission at reduced fees (initially twelve pounds). Greater contributors received more votes.

As Lady Beaumont's husband was in the army, that possibly provided the connection between Lillie Beaumont and Gwladys Corbett.



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Florence E Fishe, Parlourmaid, 43

Florence Fish was born in Matlaske, Norfolk, 9 miles from Cromer in 1868. The 1871 census lists three year old Florence living with her father William a 39 year old carpenter, mother Sarah 35, brother Walter a 16 year old agricultural labourer and Mary 10, Selemina seven, Rachel six and George a year old.

By the 1881 census Walter, Mary and Selemina were no longer with the family. Rachel was a 16 year old servant and Florence is described as a 13 year old scholar along with George 11, plus new additions to the family Benjamin eight, Walter five and Edith three. The addition of a younger brother named Walter suggests that her older brother of the same name had died.

It is probable that the 20 year old Florence E Fisher born in Matlaske, Norfolk who was a parlourmaid at Swannington House on the 1901 census was the same Florence E Fishe on the 1911 census. Why Florence's age and name were incorrect is not known.

Florence E Fish died in December 1961 at North Walsham, Norfolk, at the grand age of 93.

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Lucy West, Housemaid, 22

The 1911 census lists Lucy West as being born at St Ives in Huntingdon. The 1891 census records the West family as living at Wigan Farm, St Ives Road, Woodhurst (there is a Wiggin Hill Farm on the current OS map). Joseph West 28 was an agricultural labourer, married to Catherine 31. They had six children: Richard nine, Bertha seven, Elizabeth five, Sophia four, Lucy two and Ada Edith one.

By the 1901 census Lucy West had moved about 20 miles north and was a 12 year old general servant at 50 Lincoln Road, Peterborough (now the A15 heading north). She was the only live-in staff in the household of Sarah A Jellis 64, her sister Jane Jellis 67 and nieces Harriet Jellis 14 and Sarah Jane Jellis 33.

A mile or two away at South Court, Stanground, Peterborough was Lucy's family: father Joseph 38 was now a domestic gardener, her mother Catherine 41 would have been busy with seven children living at home - Elizabeth 15 a general servant, Edith 11, Mabel eight, George six, Catherine four, Constance two and Beatrice under one month.

At the time of the 1911 census Lucy's father Joseph was a domestic gardener in Thurcaston (near Cropston) possibly for the solicitor in the next property. He had probably been there for four or five years as his two youngest children were Cecil aged six born in Stanground and Joseph (junior) aged four born in Thurcaston. Lucy's mother Catherine had given birth to 13 children who were all still alive.

It is thus likely that Lucy West had moved to Leicestershire with her family and had somehow found employment in Swannington.

Ellen Nicholas, Cook, 27

Ellen Nicholas was born in Shrewsbury. By the 1901 census she was at Albrighton Hall (between Telford and Wolverhampton) as a kitchenmaid working for Alfred C Lyon the director of an Estate Agency. The reason behind her move to Swannington is not known.

Gertrude West, Nurse, 28

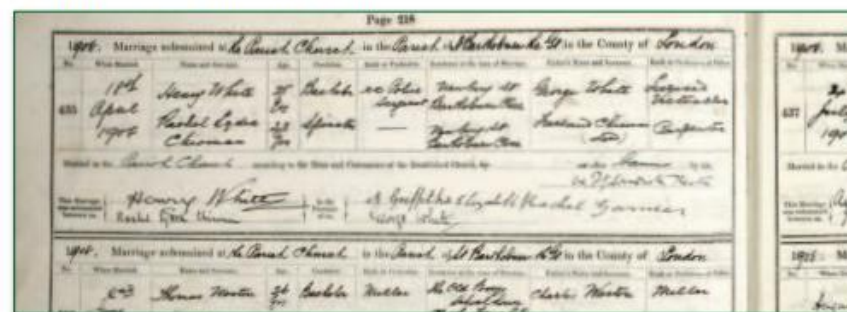
Gertrude West was born in Tolpuddle, Dorset, the home of the famous Tolpuddle Martyrs, six agricultural labourers transported to Australia in 1834 for swearing an oath as members of a Friendly Society.

At the 1891 census Gertrude's father was in Tolpuddle, Maurice West 32 was a coachman and her siblings were Christina 10, Ethel seven and Cecil five. Gertrude and one year old Winifred had accompanied their mother Sarah 30 to visit her paternal grandparents a dozen miles up the road in Pimperne. George

Ford 62 was a woodman married to Mary 60, their son Walter, a 19 year old labourer, lived with them. Sarah's sister Maud White 26 and her son Victor White nine were also there.

By the 1901 census Gertrude West had moved nearly 20 miles east of Tolpuddle to Wimbourne Road, Bournemouth. She worked in the house of Isabella E Collinson 53, her sister Kate L Collinson 42, nephew Charles W Eales 7 and brother-in-law Clement B Harris 55. Nineteen year old Gertrude West was a nurse housemaid.

Why Gertrude ended up 150 miles to the north in Swannington is not known. Gertrude married George C Cooksley a boot and shoe maker in 1922. Gertrude died in Exeter, Devon at the age of 96.

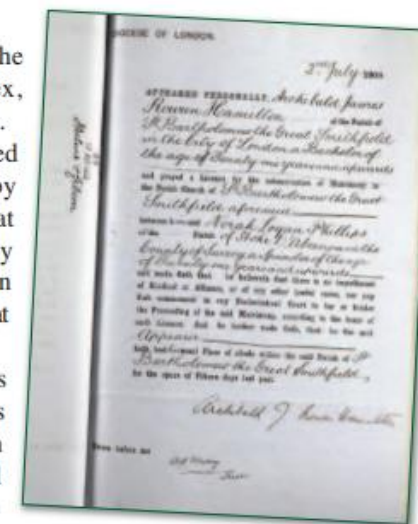


Norah Rowan Hamilton, Visitor, 31

Norah Logan Phillips was born during the summer of 1877 at Westhamnett in Sussex, the daughter of Frederick Abbins Phillips.

On the 4th July 1908 Norah married Archibald James Rowan Hamilton by licence at St Bartholomew The Great Smithfield. Because they married by licence Archibald had to swear an allegation on the 2nd July to confirm that they were free to marry.

At the time of the 1911 Census Archibald James Rowan Hamilton was boarding with a Mrs Hobbs at 34 Craven Terrace, Paddington where he was listed as a composer of music. He fought in the



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Boer War and again in the First World War. He died on 21 October 1915 at age 38, killed in action at the battle of Loos.

Lady Beaumont's husband had a younger sister Lina Mary Howley Beaumont, who had married Gawen William Rowan Hamilton of Killyleagh Castle. Their son was Archibald James Rowan Hamilton.

Lady Beaumont's son had been born at Killyleagh.

Sheila Rowan Hamilton, Visitor, 3 months

Sheilah Hermione Catherine Rowan-Hamilton was born on 3 January 1911 She graduated from London University, London, England, in 1938 with a Diploma of Public Administration. She was with the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938 and retired from the military in 1947, with the rank of Major, late of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Developments at Hough Mill

By Bill Pemberton

At first glance there have been few changes at the mill since the official unveiling of the new brake wheel last year. However, the mill maintenance team and other volunteers have been busy continuing the refurbishment of the mill and adding new items to it.

While the scaffolding was up inside the mill, new teeth were made for one set of stone nuts. They were then fitted onto the shaft which was then hoisted into position. One pair used the chain hoist on the stone floor to pull the stone nuts up and the other pair pushed from the meal floor below.

The stone nuts drive the mill stones that grind the wheat into flour. The stone nuts have been positioned so that they can now mesh with the great spur wheel.

As the stone nuts are now in position, the shoots that

bring the flour from the stone floor down to the meal floor have been reinstalled.

The team are currently constructing the wallower, which will be installed in the cap to fit at the top of the vertical shaft and engage with the brake wheel on the windshaft. This is being constructed in the Neaverson Centre. It is considerably



smaller than the brake wheel but no less a complex task.

The main body of the wheel is made out of oak but the teeth, which engage with the cast iron teeth on the brake wheel, are made out of hornbeam. Each one has to be individually cut and shaped, and given that there are 46 of them, then

this is a time consuming job.

The ground floor has been tidied up and much of the previous clutter has either been moved elsewhere or disposed of. We have also rearranged some of the exhibits to make them easier to view. Weather permitting; these are now taken outside on special event days for people to see them more clearly.

We have installed two new display cabinets to display and promote the Trust's various publications.



Later this year we will be erecting some new display boards in the mill describing the flow of grain through the mill, Also a series of photographs showing the restoration of the mill will be on display.

We still need volunteers to man the mill on our open days. You don't need to be a mill expert since initially you will work with an existing volunteer. The work involves spending 3 hours on a Sunday afternoon at the mill meeting visitors. A reasonable level of fitness is required since you need to be able to climb the mill stairs. Please let us know if you can assist.