

## **DOP/01/019**

Mrs Florence NUTT (nee Ashby) born 1891  
91 Stratford Road  
WOLVERTON

012 Born in Northampton. Moved to Wolverton in 1913 when got married. Her husband was a blacksmith. Family had four forges, one in Bradwell, Old Bradwell, church Street, Wolverton and Haversham.

024 Knew husband's sister, met husband through her. They lived at Old Bradwell. Visited every weekend.

030 Thought Wolverton was the last place on God's earth – 2/3d return from Northampton. Met at station by pony and trap by husband and taken to his house at Old Bradwell.

036 Married at Wesleyan Chapel in August 1913 and went to live at No 3 West View, New Bradwell. houses belong to Dr. Miles. Fairly newly built.

045 Men on manoeuvres bombarded Bradwell Hill. Wiley was the farmer then. Men came up over hills. I can tell you I burnt me copper through looking at the soldiers. Westview on their own with the Vicarage and Wiley's house. Fetched their own milk. On manoeuvres where Stantonbury Campus is now.

056 If you wanted to come to Wolverton you came down the double hedge and across the railway line and up by the Works. No buses then. She'd cycle.

067 Had forge in No. 32 Church Street. Had shop at front and forge in back.

075 When war broke out believes she was up the common land at Bradwell looking for mushrooms – there when someone came and told her. Came back to Blacksmith's shop and got in trap and came home. Had expected it.

090 Husband did shoeing. During war worked on army horseshoes, worked till ten at night. Did Wiley's Railway works' goods sheds, Print. Father had forge built where Labour Hall is now, did coach building, made an Evangelistic van. ON Sunday morning when they took it away they had all people of Bradwell around it singing. Made Co-op vans there too. Only forges in the district.

119 No members of husband's family went to war. Two brothers went to war. One torpedoed, another a stretcher-bearer, wounded in back.

135 Had to queue for everything. Boy born in 1918. worried about him being born. Husband's father told her not to worry. Husband had to go before Tribunal to get exemption from War Service. Father-in-law said they wouldn't take him because his wife was pregnant and our work will keep him back. It did. Called up several times, but didn't go.

156 Went to give him breakfast one morning and the back way was all horses. They were being roughed up for frosty mornings.

174 People confident war would be over, quickly. can't say people grumbled much. Doctors very good.

187 Son born in Stratford Road near W.M. Club. Had disagreement over shoeing with Dr. Miles. She was expecting and being seen by Dr. Penny. Dr. Miles said What's Dr. Penny doing in there? Nurse said, Oh Mrs. Nutt's going to have to have a little one. He was awful. You tell her I'm going to let this house. Upset her. Told father-in-law. I'll soon tell him. Went to surgery to see him. you can take your bloody horses where you can take your house. They were shoeing Dr. Harvey's horses. He said Blacksmith don't worry over that; get in my house on the Stratford Road tomorrow. Her present house used to be Dr. Harvey's surgery.

224 Short of everything. Day son was born store said they had sugar. Went and stood in queue. When heard of anything coming in would queue outside for hours. OK for meal. Looked after butcher's horses and were well supplied with meat. son-in-law went ferreting for rabbits.

250 No rivalry between doctors. Dr. Miles funny old devil. Westview house. 5/- a week rent. 10/- for Dr. Harvey's house.

263 Armistice – we nearly all went mad. At home looking after baby. Thinks husband came home and told her.

283 Husband came home with shirt ringing wet. Woken at 4.30am. to rough the Co-op horses – putting rough nails in to stop slipping. Came home 10.30 am for breakfast. Went to Goods Sheds to do Works horses.

307 Remembers coming up from Bradwell with husband. Horse and cart stuck on hill. Husband took harness, got him up like winking. Had special way with horses. Man came in swearing at horse, husband told him off. Sometimes would put red hot iron in mouth to burn the gums off to let new teeth through.

338 Mr. Norman from Stacey Hill Farm saw this, had horse with a foot as big as your head. Went up on bike. Had to sterilize knife, put horse's foot in boiling bran and bandage it to get the bad matter out.

378 Did a lot of sewing. Had two men come in to lunch from Works – did it out of kindness, not lodgers. Lived fairly well. Had allotment, plenty of meat. Was sent meat parcels for relations in Canada, sugar, tea and tinned stuff. No charge on war parcels.

440 Went to cinema. Young Thorneycroft (the photographer) used to play the piano. She went there once they were showing a film of the sinking of the Titanic. Her father-in-law told them she knew a recitation about the Titanic. She went there and recited whilst the film was showing. Out from the Docks of Southampton sailed on her maiden voyage the magnificent Titanic. Used to do a lot of reciting especially when single, normally used to do it at home. Used to go to elocution lessons. Only did that one professional appearance.

505 Dad a sidesman at the Wesleyan Chapel. Husband played the organ. Always been Conservative.

525 Not so much talked about politics in those days.

541 Can't remember white feathers being given out.

561 Husband organist played at funerals, e.g. in Deanshanger.

571 In evenings had plenty to do did knitting for soldiers amongst other things.

593 Another lady living next door at Westview was from Northampton. Husband a teacher at Bradwell School, was killed. Had farewell party and he said, ta, ta, to all of you. I shall come back don't you bother, the old Germans won't have me. Went to war early possibly in Territorials. Party was just for neighbours.

617 Wife went back to Northampton to live after he died.

630 Day she heard, very close, next door neighbours, both from Northampton. Had windows decorated alike. She said Aw look here what I've got, and it was from the War Office that he'd been killed.

661 Father Guest Lived just below them. Frequent visitor. A jolly good old sort, some didn't like him, but she got on with him. When she first moved in he visited and tried to get her to come to his church. A funny peculiar man never got on with wife, wife left him, two children, son and daughter. Daughter cleared off and left him.

682 He wanted a lot of understanding. Made a lot of disturbance when Salvation Army opened up. F.N. went to sing there. When came out he raved at them. He was bigoted. Never liked the Salvation Army. He wasn't liked. Hysterical would go off raving and shouting. If he was anything that he didn't like he'd shout at them. I always used to say he wasn't sharp.

715 Got on Bradwell Hill on bike and would come down at full speed with feet on the front. very erratic.

730 At opening of Salvation Army headquarters they said, you go and talk to him, Mrs. Nutt, I said, No fear, he might clout me one.

738 Most erratic man. Did physical jerks in garden. If he didn't want to see anybody he wouldn't.

## Side Two

008 In New Bradwell for years – loved to go and sit in blacksmith's shop and talk. They'd get fed up with him.

011 A big stalwart man, bald headed. About 50 when she met him. Wife cleared off and left him, couldn't live with him. Half sharp most of his time. Not a fitting man for a parson. can't think why they didn't get rid of him.

022 Didn't like Mr Wyle.

028 Didn't die in New Bradwell. Got on to F.N. once because she took a young women's class at the Salvation Army, asked to by Mr. Tompkins. Eleven or twelve, two or three married. First on Sunday afternoon, then on Wednesday evening for sewing class. Father G rattled on to me dreadful. Thought she was wicked to help them out.

043 He was a madman at times, there. Good musician, only thing her husband used to agree over. Hours of talk together – used to play duets on piano at Father G's house. Got on with the right people, but if you rubbed him up the wrong way he'd take a big dislike to you.