

#### Dedication:

This article was written as a tribute to and in memory of Gillian N B Thompson who died in Sept. 2019 aged 79. Gill had retained fond memories of her childhood spent in Well House, Old Bletchley, and of the many subsequent family visits to her grandfather, John Garner, and her Aunt Nora and Uncle Tom.

In 2008 Gill had deposited in the Living Archive facility in Bletchley Library, Milton Keynes, a collection of letters written between the years 1885 and 1900 by the family of her great grandparents, John William Jones and Eliza Ann Jones, of Well House. Digital copies of the collection, comprising over four hundred family letters, have now (2020) been made available for viewing online at the Archive's website under the heading of "Well House letters". The content of the letters offer a first-hand insight into the social and working conditions of the time, often with particular reference to Old Bletchley Village activities, and also show the warmth between family members while making many references to their tribulations. The letters also offer an indication of both the inequalities of wealth and, for some, the insecurity of income and also give a reminder of the prevalence at that time of the Armed Forces as a means of earning a living for the men and of domestic service for the employment of women while giving an indication of how these occupations affected their lives.

Over the years Gill had accumulated a significant amount of information and photographs regarding her family and its ties to Well House and this article is an attempt to record some of it with two purposes in mind, firstly, to provide some family background information to the "Well House letters" collection by giving details of the Jones family and key family dates and secondly, for a local history interest, to record the story of a family resident in Well House, Old Bletchley, involving four generations and a time period of 116 years.

Gill was gifted academically and gained a Bsc(Hons) Degree in Physics from Liverpool University. She entered employment in the Vickers Shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness in 1963 and was the first women employee to hold an engineering design post and later continued to pioneer women's role in engineering by becoming the first women to lead a design group in the Shipyard.



2019

Gillian Nora Beatrice Thompson  
(1940 - 2019)