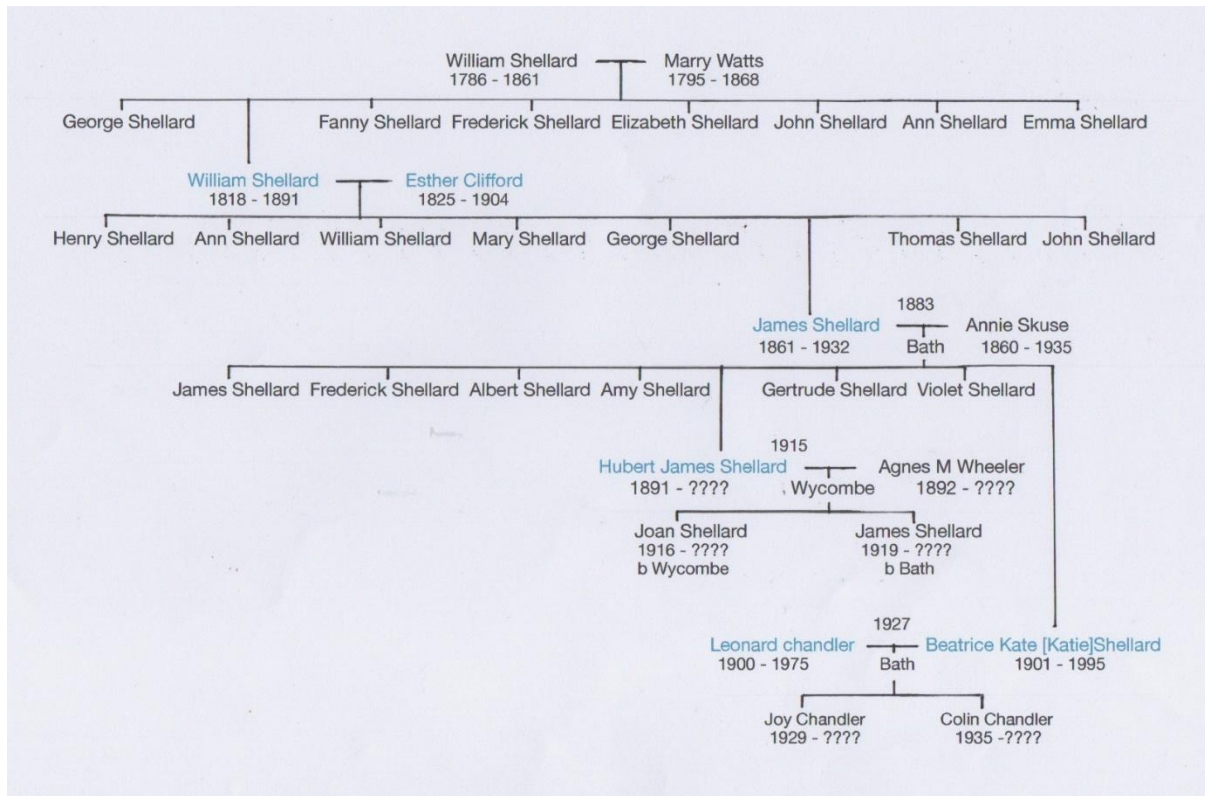


**SHELLARD FAMILY HISTORY – RESEARCH BY DAVID WESTON, MAY 2025**

## Shellard Family Tree



## The Old Thatched Cottage, Frome Road – William and Esther Shellard



I came across this old photo which a few decades ago my parents found interesting enough to scribble a few notes about. It is The Old Thatched Cottage, Frome Road. It was pulled down about 1908, although it looks in quite good condition since the photo was taken about that time. It is James Shellard's house (centre), his brother Bill Shellard is to the right. They are both stone masons. The girl on the left is his daughter Katie who married Len

Chandler. The Shellard brothers were not part of the Tower House/Stoneleigh Shellards who owned quarries and developed Bloomfield Drive and Bloomfield Rise. James moved to Hubert Cottage, Bloomfield Road which I think is now called Mason's Cottage. There is a plaque to the old cottage on the house which replaced it. The plaque even has a sculpture of the Old Thatched Cottage!



*Plaque commemorating the old thatched cottage*



*House today*

William and Esther Shellard [James's parents] lived in the Thatched Cottage on Frome Road until their deaths. William died in 1891 and his burial record gives his occupation as Road Foreman. Esther died in 1904. They had 8 children. The two that made the most impact on Odd Down were Henry who was their first son and went on to found a building and quarrying company. He built and lived in Rock View [now renamed the Tower House]. Their 6th child James was also a mason and lived in a house he built in Bloomfield Road - Hubert Cottage.

**Rock View, Bloomfield Road – Henry and Emily Shellard and then Henry and Anna Shellard**



Henry and Emily Shellard had 7 children. Emily died in 1883 just after the birth of her 7th child. Henry married Anna Maggs a year later in 1884. They had a further 2 children.



## James and Annie Shellard

James Shellard was born in 1861 to William and Esther Shellard of the Thatched Cottage, Odd Down. He married Ann Maria Skuse in 1883. They lived in 3 Cresnet Cottages until at least 1899. In 1897 James Shellard wrote a letter with an accompanying plan to Charles Fortune, The Bath City Surveyor. "Sir, I beg to hand you plans for a new cottage I propose building in Bloomfield - will you kindly obtain the necessary authority from your committee for so doing and will be obliged. Yours obediently James Shellard" A poor quality photograph of the plan is shown below together with a photograph of the application to join the sewer. When built he gave it the name of Hubert Cottage, you can still see the name today on the gateposts. The house was recorded as being occupied by 1901. James and Ann lived there until their deaths, James in 1932 and Ann in 1935.



## Plans for Hubert Cottage



Hubert Cottage 2024





Hubert was his son, born in 1891. James and Annie Shellard had 8 children – James, Frederick, Albert and Violet all died very young, possibly still born but all before the age of 2. Hubert, the only surviving son, was 23 at the outbreak of the 1914 - 1918 war. Hubert is an unusual name and so I am reasonably sure I have been able to trace him. He appears to have married Agnes Wheeler in Wycombe in 1915. They had a daughter in 1916 who was born in Wycombe. After the war he appears to have returned to Bath where his son James was born in 1919. No trace of him and his family from then on, but a Hubert Shellard is recorded leaving for Canada in emigration lists.

**Touch Down**
**Winter 1995**

# Christmas Past

Through the early years of this century, Odd Down people had to struggle with war and often with hardships. But Christmas was traditionally a time for festivity and fun when everyone pushed the boat out and celebrated in style.

### Party Time

Katie Chandler, now 94 and still living at her birthplace in Bloomfield Road, was the youngest of four children born to a stone mason and his wife. She does not remember any special festivities at Oldfield School on Wells Road, but at church and at home Christmas was a time for parties and family get-togethers.

She recalls with fondness the Christmas parties organised by Mr Saxty, a tailor working in Milson Street who ran the little mission church next to the school on Frome Road. These were special family occasions where adults and children alike were welcomed and entertained. Home-made cakes and other goodies were provided and everyone played games or sang a song.

### Decking The Hall

The church itself, together with the nearby golf links, have long since been replaced by a modern church and housing. In Katie's youth it was decked out for Christmas with evergreens. The congregation sang traditional carols, accompanied on the organ by Miss Noad, a maiden lady who taught with her sister at the school. Mr Noad played his part by standing at the back and keeping an eye on the youngsters. Any unruly boys would be yanked out of their pews and ejected from the service.

Katie and her parents walked to church in Sunday best, father wearing his best suit, a bowler hat (caps were for work days), his watch and chain and carrying a walking stick. Mother usually wore black, and she and her daughters always wore hats.



At home, Katie would watch her mother make the Christmas pudding on the copper, decorate the walls with the cards she had received and set up a Christmas tree. Katie would help prepare for the big day by collecting holly and ivy from the Tumps behind her cottage. "It used to be like our private garden then", says Katie. "We children had the place all to ourselves."

### Family Feast

After opening her presents on Christmas morning, Katie would look forward to seeing her grown up sisters who had left home, and would think of her brother away at war. There would often be ten or twelve friends and relatives sitting down to a big Christmas dinner of beef with all the trimmings. Katie's father always received a joint from his employers as a Christmas bonus.

Later in the day family and guests would gather around an old mahogany table-top piano. "It sounded pretty dreadful, and the keys were yellow with age, but I learnt to play hymns on it", recalls Katie. In fact hymns were all she was allowed to play on Sundays. A small crowd would gather in her parents' living room after the service for a musical evening, when sister Gertie would play the old piano and everyone would sing. "My mother loved to entertain", recalls Katie, "and Christmas especially was a lovely family time".

Katie Chandler and her mother in 1917.

Another post reproduced a page from a 1986 era 'Touch Down' and recorded Katie Chandler's [Beatrice Kate Shellard] memories and included a picture of her and her mother [Annie Skuse] in 1917.