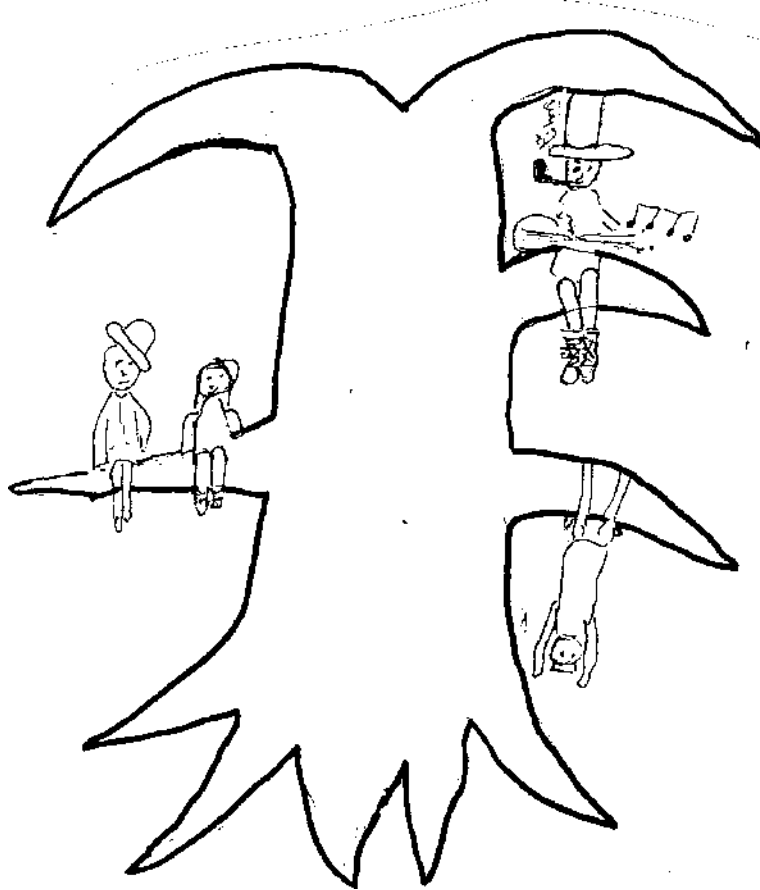


GOOD HISTORY

**Journal
of the
Eynsham Junior
History Group**



**Number 2
Winter 1995**

GOOD HISTORY

The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

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Front cover based on a design by Roland Law. Title suggested by Claire Winter.

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EDITORIAL

For the second issue of our Journal we have concentrated on family history. During the summer term we visited the local churchyard to see what information could be found from reading gravestones and during this past term we have looked at a variety of documents and explored other ways of finding out what happened to people in the past, particularly members of our own families.

It has always been the philosophy of the school that we were a community like a family and that the school in its turn was part of the 'family' community of the village. It was therefore felt more than appropriate that we should include in this issue some of our memories of our friend and 'family member' Mollie Harris.

Sadly, this term because of work and timetabling commitments our Bartholomew School members have not been able to join us. This has meant of course that the younger members of the group have had to work harder, all having tried to draw up family trees. I would like to thank all long suffering parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who have helped them. We would also like to thank Mr Keates and the school for their continued support.

Pamela Richards, Senior Member & Editor

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY by Gregory Neilson

If you wanted to find out about your family's history the first thing you could do is to ask your Mum or Dad or any other relations you have. But what happens when you don't have any relations. Then you have to turn to documents such as photographs; birth, marriage and death certificates; divorce papers; naturalisation papers; property deeds etc. as well as wills to find out dates, names and who was related to whom. If you couldn't find any papers you could go to a graveyard to look at the stones. If you want to know what your family was doing a long long time ago you could go to the General Registry Office because it has all the dates of birth, marriages and deaths in England and was started in 1837. If you lived in Scotland you would need to go to Edinburgh and in Northern Ireland to Belfast.

Although it has nothing to do with my family I looked at and transcribed a will which was important to some people who lived in Eynsham in the 18th century.

In the name of God Amen. I William Plasterer of Stanton Harcourt in the County of Oxon, yeoman do make constitute and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I give and bequeath my soul unto the hands of Almighty God my creator and redeemer And my body to be decently buried by my Executrix hereafter named And as for that small estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me I give to the poor children of Kidlington in the County of Oxon aforesaid twenty pounds to be set to use the interest to be employed yearly to the setting poore children to school. I give to the poor children of Cassington twenty pounds to be employed as aforesaid. I give to the poor children of Ensham in the County aforesaid twenty pounds to be employed as aforesaid I give to the poor children of Standlake thirty pounds to be employed as aforesaid I give

to the poor children of Stanton Harcourt thirty pounds to be employed as aforesaid. All other my goods bills bonds and mortgages I give to my loving wife Anne whom I make my whole executrix I do make Thomas Barfoot and William Enstone trustees of this my last will and Testament and I do give them to take care that the six score pounds given to the poor children of the five towns do carefully set forth and I do give them one whole years interest of the six score pounds next after my decease which I have disposed of as aforesaid in witness whereof I have set my hand and seale this twenty fourth day of Aprill 1711. The mark of William Plasterer.

In the name of God Amen I William Plasterer of Stanton Harcourt in the County of Oxon yeoman do make constitute and ordaine this my last will and Testament in manner and forme following first I give and bequeath my my soul into the hands of Almighty God my Creator and Redeemer And my body to be decently buried by my Executrix hereafter named And as for that small estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me I give to the poor children of Keddington in the County of Oxon aforesaid twenty pounds to be set to use the interest to be imployed yearly to the setting poor children to schools I give to the poor children of Staffington twenty pounds to be imployed as aforesaid I give to the poor children of Eynsham in the County aforesaid twenty pounds to be imployed as aforesaid I give to the poor children of Standlake thirty pounds to be imployed as aforesaid I give to the poor children of Stanton Harcourt thirty pounds to be imployed as aforesaid All other my goods bills bonds ^{and} mortgages I give to my loving wife Anne whom I make my whole Executrix I do make Thomas Barfoot and William Enstone trustees of this my last will and Testament and desire them to take care that the six score pounds given to the poor children of the five towns be carefully set forth and I do give them one whole years interest of the six score pounds next after my decease which I have disposed of as aforesaid in witness whereof I have set my hand and seale this twenty fourth day of Aprill 1711

The mark  of
William Plasterer 

signed sealed published
and declared in presence
of

John Wood
Will. Parrott

Christian
Baker

William Plasterer died in the following May and the money did come to the children of Eynsham to go with the money set aside by John Bartholomew.

MY ITALIAN RELATIONS by David Luna



COMUNE DI BOLLINGO
(Prov. Torino)

CERTIFICATO DI CITTADINANZA

L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile dichiara e certifica che la Signorina **LUNA TIZIA** Virginia figlia di Felice e della Signora Maria nata a Bollengo il 21 dicembre 1916, residente in Bollengo, è cittadina Italiana e che come tale figura nei registri dello Stato Civile.

Bollengo 14 ottobre 1960.

L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile



Viola Francesco N° 3989
boati

TRIBUNALE CIVILE DI IVREA

V° si legalizza la firma del
sig. *Viola Francesco*
Ufficiale dello Stato Civile di *Bollengo*
Ivrea, 17 GIU 1960

IL CANCELLIERE

Francesco

I have Italian relatives because my father's grandparents were all born in Italy. They live in Ivrea, in the north of Italy, near Turin. Their ancestors were all farmers. Some of them still own fields. My great grandparents were farmers all their lives. They grew maize, grapes, peaches and plums, which my great-grandfather sold at the local market. He died when he was 96. He used to make his own wine.

My father's grandparents came to England before the First World War because Italy was a poor country then and England was richer. I have visited my great-aunt in Italy and we keep in touch with her. Her name is Silvia.

This application should be completed, subscribed and submitted in **DUPLICATE 1, 48106.** Form R. 3

BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT, 1948, SECTION 6 (2)

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES UNDER SECTION 4 (1) OF THE ACT MADE BY A WOMAN WHO HAS BEEN MARRIED TO A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES.

[This form is for the use of women who are British protected persons or aliens. Women who are already British subjects but not citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies should apply on Form R. 7.]

Name and address (fill in block capitals)
1. *Virginia Luna*
26 The Pavement Clapham London SW4
was born at *Bovengo ITALY* on *21. 12. 1916*

Deless words (in) which do not apply
2. My father's full name (1) (was) *FELICE LAGNO TIZIA* and he was born at *PALAZZO ITALY* on *Sept. 1889*

Deless words (in) which do not apply
3. I was married at *St Marys Clapham SW4* on *12. 11. 1950* to (full name of husband) *John Frank Luna* (19) (husband's address or last address if deceased) *26 The Pavement Clapham London SW4*

Deless words (in) which do not apply
4. My husband was born at *Hammermith LONDON* on *28. 8. 1902*

Deless words (in) which do not apply
5. My husband's father's full name (2) (was) *PAUL LUNA* and he was born at *Lovara ITALY* on *3. 7. 1877*

Deless words which do not apply
6. My marriage is still subsisting OR my marriage has terminated by reason of (specify whether by the husband's death or by divorce)

Deless words (in) which do not apply
7. My husband (2) (was) a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by reason of the fact that (state more the grounds on which it is claimed that the applicant's husband is or was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies)

Deless words which do not apply
8. (a) I am a British protected person by reason of my connection with (here state the protectorate or other territory from which the applicant derived her status as a British protected person, and her connection therewith.)
By BIRTH
British Passport N° 654549. Issued 10th July 1947

OR (b) I am an alien and a subject or citizen of the following foreign countries, that is to say, (insert name of country or countries) *ITALY*

OR (c) I am a stateless alien and was formerly a subject or citizen of the following countries, that is to say, (insert name of country or countries) and ceased to be such by reason of the following facts: (here state the facts whereby the applicant ceased to be a subject or citizen of the countries in question, whether those are countries mentioned in section 1 (1) of the Act, the Republic of Ireland or foreign countries.)

* The countries so mentioned are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, The Union of South Africa, India, Pakistan

ABOUT MR WHELAN'S RESEARCHES by Victoria Field

Mr Whelan has talked to us about different documents and how he has done some of his family history. He told us what he had found out about an uncle and a cousin that he had never met.

His uncle was Mr. Alfred Burton who was born on 9th August 1856 and died on the 25th September 1926. He was 70 years old when he died. His wife had died in 1914. He had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Alfred had lived in Gloucester all his life. He worked for the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co. for many years. He was a Justice of the Peace.

One of his sons was called Frank. He married and had 2 sons. He was the District Manager of the Co-operative Insurance Co.Ltd. Like his father he also took a part in public life. At the time of his death, which took place within a few days of his father's, he was a City Councillor and was strongly associated with the labour party. During the first worldwar he was in the 5th Battalion of the Gloucester Regiment. He also liked football.

MY PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER by Elizabeth Mittell

My paternal grandmother lives in Eynsham so I was able to visit her and ask her about when she was young. These are some of the things she told me. We call this oral history.

"I was the fifth child in my family. I had three elder brothers and an older sister and after me came another sister and one more brother. I was born in Surrey but my first memories are of Chelmsford in Essex where my father managed a chemist's shop. Later he had his own in Great Dunmow."

"One of my first memories is of the birth of my younger brother. Babies were usually born at home in those days (the 30s) and I remember running up to see him as soon as the doctor had gone."

"I used to cycle to school each day. It must have been about two miles through the town centre. Luckily there wasn't much traffic about. I remember cycling past the bus station one day when there was a strike. All the men and women were sitting down on the kerbs around the bus station. It was all to do with politics but I wasn't old enough to worry about them. However, one of my brothers who was at grammar school became quite involved going to a rally in the park with his friends to throw rotten eggs at Oswald Mosely and his Blackshirts (Fascists). He also tried to join the International Brigade to go to fight against the fascists in Spain. When war was declared in September 1939 I remember my mother burst into tears. At that time I did not understand what 'war' meant."

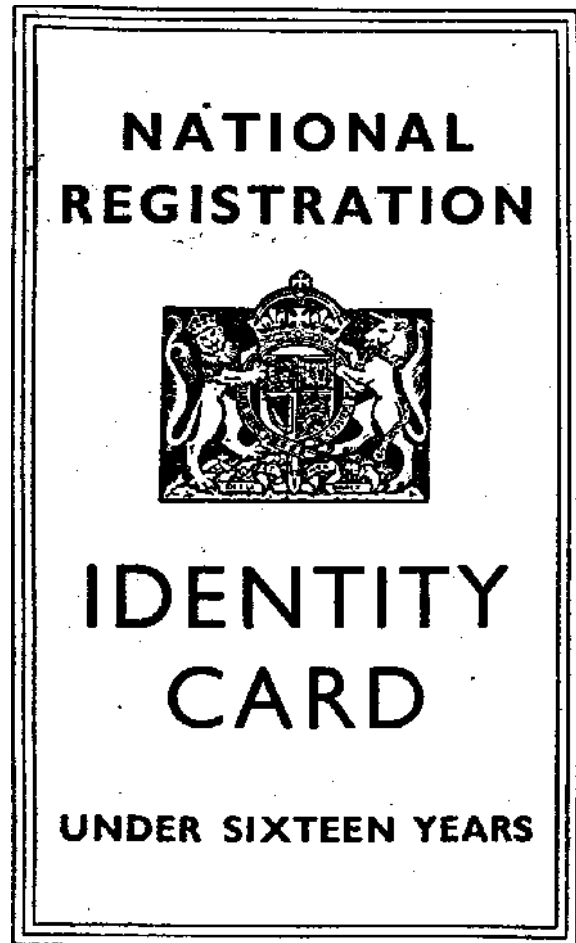
"My eldest brother didn't wait to be called up but immediately joined the R.A.F.V.R. to become a pilot. Unfortunately, he was sent to Singapore and was taken prisoner by the Japanese and spent many years in Changi Jail. He was one of the lucky ones to come home eventually."

"My second brother joined up when he was underage, but luckily his true age was discovered before he could be sent to Dunkirk. When he was 18 he served in North Africa and Italy. My third brother joined the navy."

"I remember that during wartime we not only had to take a satchel with our school books but a cardboard box with a gasmask. I remember helping my mother to put wide sticky tape over the windows to stop flying glass if the windows should be broken by bomb blast. Besides the tape on the windows we had to put up 'blackout' curtains. If these were not properly pulled the Air Raid warden came and shouted "put that light out". We had an Anderson shelter in the garden but in the house we had a Morrison shelter. This was like a large table with a metal top and wire mesh sides, rather like a cage. Like many others we used it as a dining room table. During a raid we could get under the 'table' It was meant to protect you if the house should fall down if it was hit by a bomb."

"In Chelmsford we only had about one big raid which concentrated on the big factories. My sister worked in one of these in a 'reserved occupation' which meant she did not have to go into the Land Army or one of the Women's services. But we knew about the bombing of London. On most nights during the blitz we would hear the drone of German bombers following the railway line into London and I would look out of my window and see a red glow which I knew was 'London burning'. Just before the end of the war we had V1 and V2 doodlebugs' flying over London. These were unmanned rocket propelled bombs and the forerunners of the space rockets. Scientists who had been forced to work for Hitler later went to America to work on the space programme."

"We had celebrations at the end of the war with people dancing in the street. We thought it was wonderful but one elderly neighbour told my mother it wasn't as good as Mafeking night."



[The seige of Mafeking during the Boer War was lifted on 17th May 1900. Baden-Powell, later founder of the Scout movement had commanded the beseiged garrison. Ed.]

For our family the war really ended when my eldest brother returned. He had had to stay in hospital in India for some time because he had beri-beri'. He also lost one lung and the hearing in one ear from an unattended mastoid but he is still alive today."

[Elizabeth's 'paternal grandmother' is Mrs. Jean Mittell.]

MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS by Hayley Blackwell

My great grandma and grandad are called Ede and Joe Greenan. They live in Poole. Ede is 73 and Joe is 74. Joe was born in Middlesbrough and Ede was born in Doncaster. Ede had a job as a nanny and Joe was in the Navy. During the 1939-45 war he was one of three survivors of a famous battleship called HMS Hood. He survived because he was blown off into the sea. They had 9 children, 3 girls and 6 boys. One of the boys died when he was a baby.

Mr. Whelan [Senior Research Assistant] helped me find out about the battle in which HMS Hood was sunk. During the Second World War the German battleship 'Bismarck' and the heavy cruiser 'Prinz Eugen' were sheltering at Bergen in Norway.



A photograph of the sinking of HMS Hood

It was decided that they would try to break out secretly into the Atlantic in order to destroy Allied ships. The Royal Navy quickly became aware of this and sent out ships to attack them. This was in May 1941. On 23rd May the 'Bismarck' and 'Prinz Eugen' entered the Denmark Strait between Iceland and Greenland pursued by the British cruisers 'Suffolk' and 'Norfolk'.

On May 24th HMS Hood and HMS Prince of Wales made contact with the German vessels and opened fire. A shell from the Bismarck went through HMS Hood's armour protection and detonated over 100 tons of ammunition in one of her main gun turrets, causing the whole ship to blow up and sink in a few moments. More than 1,000 men died and there were only three survivors, and one of them was my great grandad.

MY GRAN'S CHILDHOOD by Alison Retz

My maternal gran lived in Scotland between Glasgow and Cumbernauld in a farm called The Mollins all her childhood. She was the eldest of eight and had two brothers and five sisters. There were two sets of twins and three children died in infancy. Andrina died of the measles when she was 2 years old. Mary was 6 weeks old and died of a weak heart and William died of diphtheria when he was 11.

On the farm they helped out doing things like milking cows and baling hay. They used a lot of horses on the farm. The farm house was quite old even when they came to live in it. Downstairs in the house there was a dining room, a living room, a kitchen and a scullery.

Upstairs there was one big bedroom and two small bedrooms, a drawing room and a bathroom. Outside there was a small pile of rocks which they called the Craggs. They had a lot of land.

In the war she was stationed near Cirencester in a gun site called Dogling Worth, spotting planes. She was called back to Scotland because her mother had died of a brain tumour. My gran lived through the war but shortly after the war her father died of a stroke. The Mollins was passed on to her younger brother David. Sadly all the farm pieces got auctioned and now Mollins is just a normal house.

LEONARD ROSSITER by Jack Rossiter

My great uncle Leonard was born in the mid 1920s and died when he was in his 60s. His father had been a barber and illegal bookmaker. Leonard left school at sixteen. He had wanted to go to university but he couldn't because there was no money. His father had died in the war in an ambulance near where a bomb had exploded. Leonard became an insurance salesman and joined an amateur drama group in Liverpool. From there he went on to join the Bristol Old Vic Company. His first television appearance was in Z Cars and his first film was 2001, A Space Odyssey. He became famous with his series The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin and then Rising Damp. He died in hospital after he collapsed on stage. His favourite hobby was squash. I never met him.

AN EYNESHAM SCOUT

Jessica and Sam Scott's grandfather, Derek Parker,
who was made patrol leader of the Beavers, Eynsham Scouts in 1944.

FREDERICK BULLARD by Katy Bullard

My ancestor, Frederick Bullard, was the village baker and had his own shop. He had to stay up all night baking the bread and his children had to take bread to customers every morning at 5.00 am. with the horse and cart. He gave up when he was 65 and went to work in a tobacconist shop when his wife died. He married again when he was 80.

MOLLIE HARRIS 1913-1995

We have put together a collection of memories about Mollie and her connection with school. Mollie Harris lived in Mill Cottage in Mill St. She was born in Ducklington. She wrote books and made tapes about Christmas and other things. She was on the radio and in *The Archers* she was also on TV. She knew a lot about the countryside. She also wrote about wine-making. She loved talking to people about when she was young. She used to come to school and talk about her books. She came once to the Infants to talk about Christmas and she told about getting a doll with a wax head as a present and sitting by the fire and suddenly realising that the head was melting.

We also learned that at one time Mollie had worked for Mr. Keates' maternal grandfather in Witney. Mollie once came to talk to an Assembly about her book on privies (outside toilets) and told about her brother who fell into the 'hole' at the bottom of their garden.

We had been looking forward to her coming to talk to the Upper Juniors about her book *The Stripling Thames* this term but sadly she died a few days before her planned visit.

HILDA WHELAN by Katy Bullard

When we were talking to Mr. Whelan about Mollie Harris he told us that his wife had known her well and helped her with her first book, *A Kind of Magic*. I went to talk to him and asked him to write some things down for me.

"Hilda Whelan came to Eynsham in 1954. She took a keen interest in village activities and in 1959 helped to form The Eynsham History Group. She often wrote poetry for her own

pleasure and some of her poems were published in magazines in this country and America, India and New Zealand. In 1962 a small collection of her poetry with the title *Today it is Birds* was published."Hilda and Mollie Harris were friends and enjoyed doing country walks together. She helped Mollie to produce her first book called *A Kind of Magic*, which was published in 1969.

[The copy given by Mollie Harris to Mrs Whelan in 1969 was inscribed as follows:
To Hilda from Mollie with grateful thanks for your kind advice and guidance which helped to make *A Kind of Magic* possible.]

When Hilda died in 1989, her husband published a further collection of her poems entitled *My Song*.

Mr Whelan has given permission to include one of Hilda Whelan's poems in this issue.

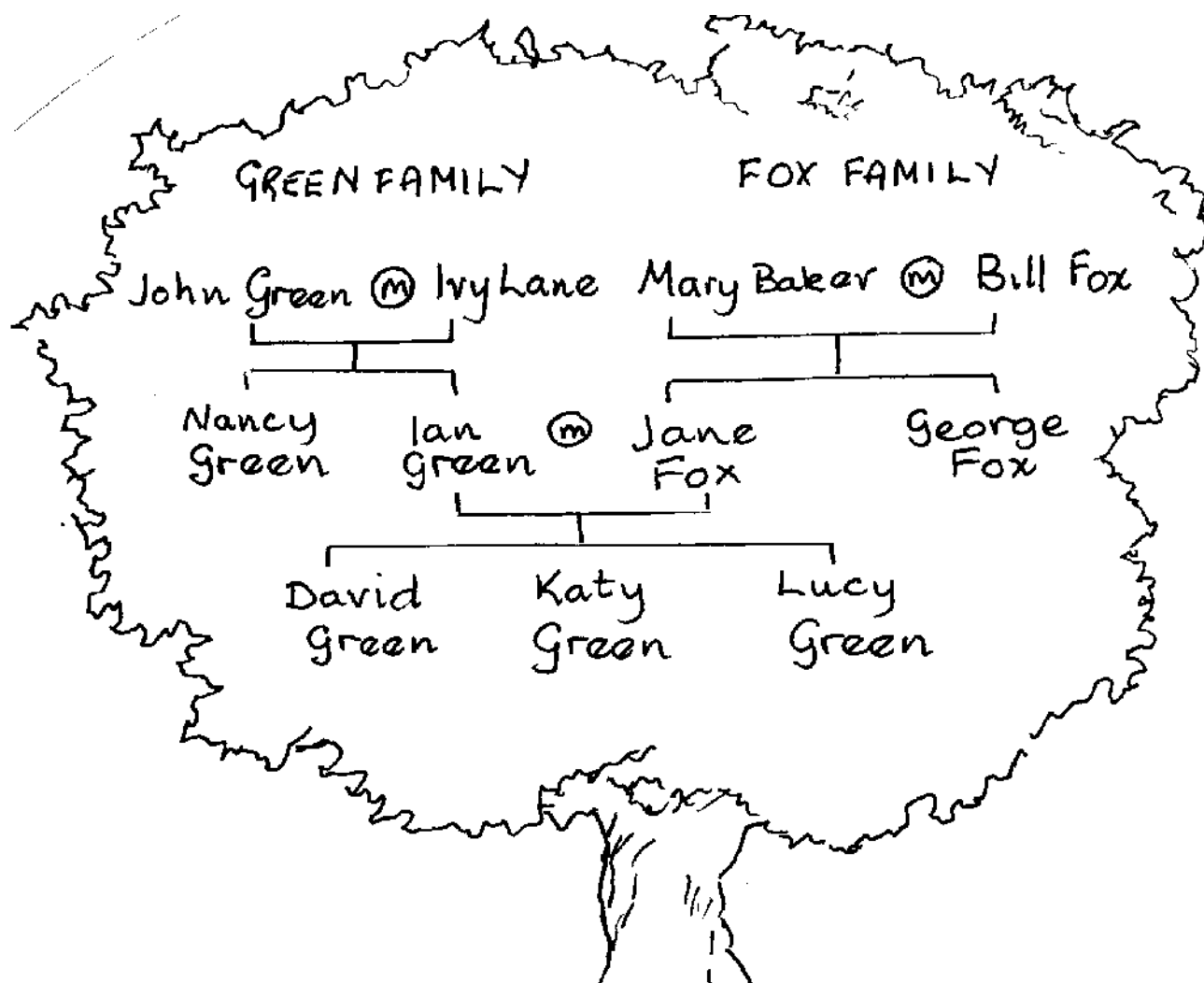
THE FOLLOWING OF THE STAR

At first they were hardly aware
of their quest
so lightly did it rest
upon them, as they went from one
place to the next.
Stopping only long enough
to compare what they saw;
and even when the country
around them grew strangely bare,
they were not dismayed, for expectancy
was still in the air.
Only when their footsteps began
to flag and they knew that
something vital was gone
did they question
the wisdom of going on: some actually turning back,
while others, intent on the track
needed to cheer themselves
with small snatches of song.
It being difficult to relate
what they now saw
with anything they had known before.
And it was not until they had learnt to accept
what there might be in store,
did the star come to rest;
having led them through every
conceivable test. And they knew
what they now saw and must explore
was beyond the capacity
of any faculty
they had used before.

FAMILY TREE

A "family tree" is a diagram that shows how a family is built up over several generations. Look at this family tree and then try to answer the following questions.

[m means "married"]



Questions:

- Who did John Green marry?
- Who had three children?
- Who is George Fox's nephew?
- What are the names of Katy Green's two grandmothers?
- What is the relationship between Lucy Green and George Fox?
- How many nieces does Nancy Green have? Who are they?
- Who is David Green's maternal grandmother?

Now it's your turn to draw your family tree!