

Frank Hazel Liddiard (1867-1954)

I am the last remaining grandchild of Frank Hazel Liddiard who in his day was a well known resident of Faringdon, Berkshire.

As grandchildren he was always known as Gump to us.

Frank was born in Aldbourne on 15th May 1867. His mother was Eliza Anne Lewis who was born around 1834 in Berkshire and his father was George Liddiard who was born in Aldbourne in 1828 and was five years older than his wife. They were married in 1858.

Frank had seven siblings: Alice, George, Arthur, Mary, Dudley, James and Ellen.

Frank married my Grandmother Lilla Sophia Tarrant on 8th July 1892 at the age of 25 years. Lilla was born in 1870 and was 21 years old when they were married and four years younger than her husband. They had three daughters who were all born in Berkshire (as it was then known but now comes under Oxfordshire).

Their eldest daughter, Muriel , was born in 1894 when Frank was 27 years. Their second daughter Dorothy Margaret was born in 1896. These were both aunts to myself and my two sisters.

Frank and Lilla's third daughter was Hilda Mary who was my mother and had been born in 1900 when Frank was 33 years. My mother married Percy Frowd Keevil, my father, in 1926 at All Saints Church, Faringdon.

In 1942 Frank married Ida E Maycock in Christchurch ,Hampshire. I remember Ida well but my maternal grandmother had died just after I was born. Ida was 36 years younger than Gump and slightly younger than her three step-daughters having been born in 1903.

Early in his working life Frank left his partnership with his father and his brother's grocery business and set up on his own as a Grocer and Provisions Dealer. By the time that I was born in 1939 Gump was in his seventies. His first grandchild, Janet was born in 1928 and Valerie in 1931.

My grandparents lived at The Lindens (as it was known then) with a very large garden with a nut walk, vast walled vegetable garden, a large greenhouse with a vine and a lawn up to the rear of the house. We recently visited Faringdon and from the Library Car Park I think I could still recognise parts of the garden as I knew it in the 1940's until my grandfathers death on 9th January 1954 aged 86 years.

During his lifetime Frank had strong connections with Faringdon Bowls Club. He was President up to his death and won various competitions.

Frank and Lilla's second daughter was christened Dorothy Margaret but always known as Madge. She was an accomplished artist and taught art at Faringdon Girls Grammar School and we have a number of her paintings and sketch books.

My Grandparents and Madge are all buried in All Saints Church, Faringdon and I have fond memories of visiting the town in my young days.

Bridget Evans (born Keevil).

May 2022