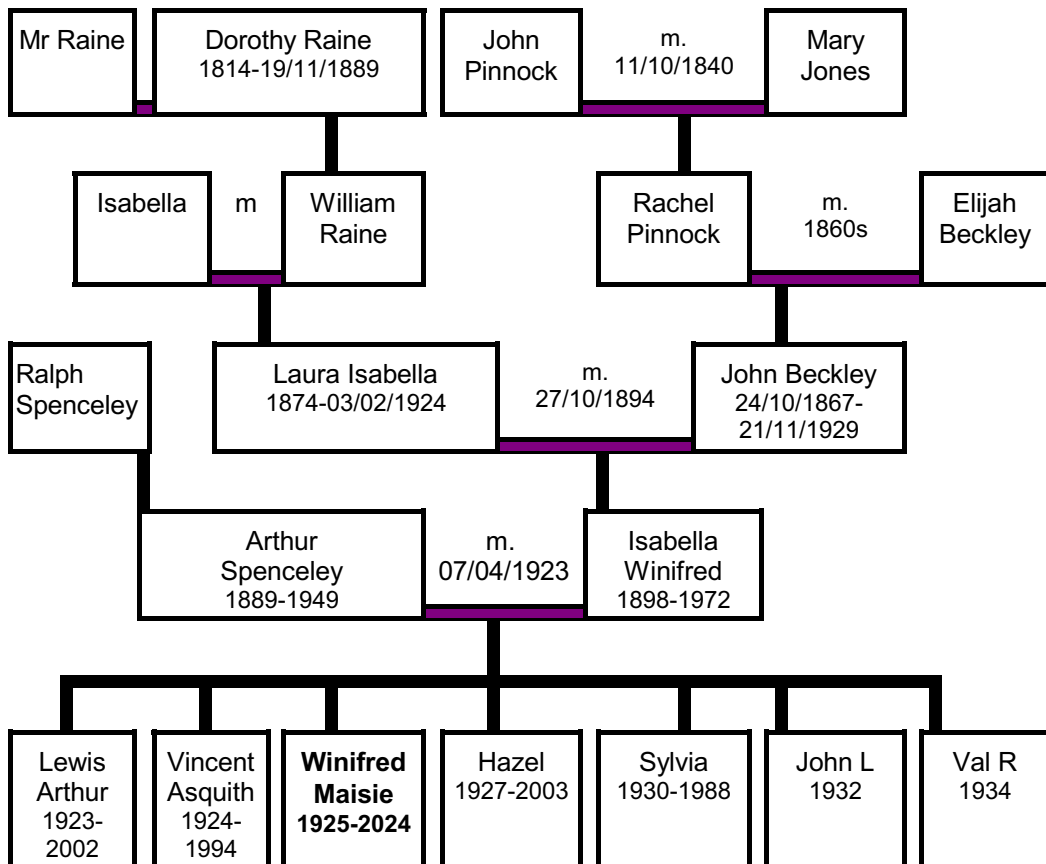




1946

1814-2024



The Napoleonic Wars had little more than a year to run when an event took place in Osmotherly, North Riding of Yorkshire, without which we would not be here today. Sometime in 1814 a little child, Dorothy, was born. She was Maisie's grandmother's grandmother. We do not know when but she married a certain Mr Raine, and they had a son, William, who later married Isabella. Together they had a daughter, who took her mother's name, Laura Isabella Raine who was born in 1874.



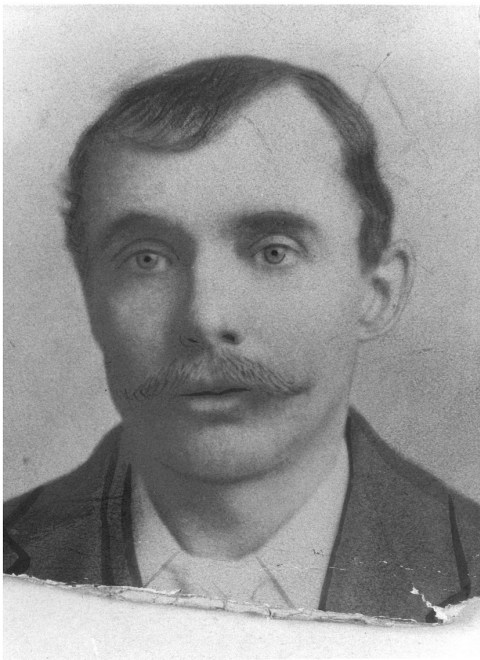
Isabella and her daughter Laura Isabella Raine

Whilst all of this was going on, somewhere near Dudley in Staffordshire, John Pinnock met Mary Jones, whom he married in October 1840. It was their daughter, Rachel, who introduced the Beckley family name when in the early 1860s she married Elijah Beckley. John Beckley was born to them in October 1867.

Out in the wings was a gentleman called Ralph Spenceley, who at this stage of the story had no known part to play. We have to wait almost fifty years for him to walk onto the stage. We know little about him. If you can assist, please do let us know.

How the next event came to take place is a mystery. Laura is from the North Riding, and John from Staffordshire.

Laura Isabella, from Osmotherly in the North Riding, and John Beckley, from Dudley in Staffordshire, met and married in October 1894. They had several children. Isabella Winifred was born in 1898. One of the others, Robert, had, through his wife, a significant influence on the writer of this note and his brother, but no more of that here.



Laura Isabella and John Beckley

Meanwhile Ralph had also married, having a number of children, among whom was Arthur Spenceley. Ralph at last appears on the scene at the wedding.

Isabella Winifred married Arthur Spenceley in April 1923.



They were to have seven children, four boys and three girls. John Beckley saw the birth of a granddaughter, their first daughter, and their third child, Winifred Maisie, but Laura had died in February 1924.

Winifred Maisie Spenceley did not know Laura, her maternal grandmother, and John, her maternal grandfather, died later just short of her fourth birthday.

Roland (a cousin), Lewis, Vincent, Hazel, Sylvia, Maisie, Val, John and yet again, Maisie.



The siblings + one



In December 1947 **Maisie married William Moffatt**. They were together for 59 years.



After Bill had retired they forsook the North Riding, and moved to Lindsey, following her brother Vin, who had earlier followed his own son David to those parts of Lincolnshire. She was to be there for twenty years before removing, following the death of her husband, to Putney, London, where she built a new life around new friends many of whom she outlived.

Maisie lived ninety-nine years to bear two sons, see six grandchildren, Louise, Paul John, Kate, Ashia and Peter, and four great-grandchildren, Zoe, Natalie, Caitlin, Jasmine and Bunnie. She did not have the opportunity to meet Bunnie face to face, except through the medium of the video call.

We thank God for his kindness to her, her long life and strength over more than ninety-eight years, and holding her up in the latter days of weakness and pain.

SM