

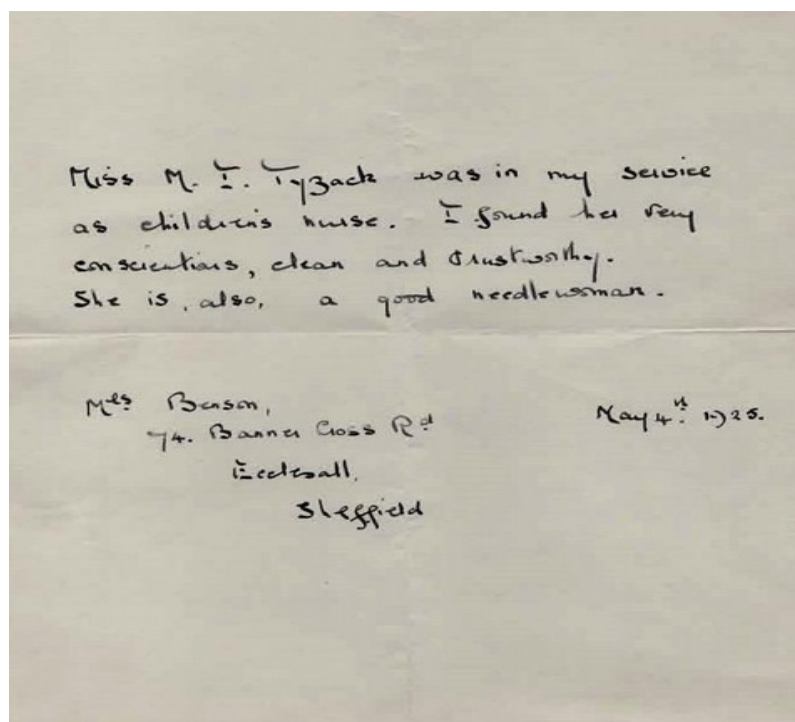
Mary Irene "Cissie" Tyzack
13.6.1896 – 3.5.1982



Cissie was born to Walter Tyzack and Mary Robinson in 1896, the 6th of 9 children in Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

By 1901 they were living at 12 Irving Street, Attercliffe-cum-Darnall but 10 years later in 1911 the family had moved to 49 York Road, Darnall, Sheffield. Walter was a Coach Painter and Mary a housewife while Cissie was living at home with her parents but not employed.

Over the next few years she gained employment as a nanny and was given a letter of reference from a Mrs Benson of Banner Cross Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield in May of 1925.



The date would suggest that Cissie had applied for a position of nanny / nurse, either directly or maybe through an agency with the Assheton family at Downham Hall in Clitheroe, Lancashire.



Downham Hall had been in the hands of the Assheton family. The Ashton or Assheton (as the name came to be spelled) family are one of the most important and oldest gentry families of central Lancashire. They take their name from Ashton-under-Lyne near Manchester, where they are recorded as holding the manor from the 12th century onwards. It descended to Sir John de Assheton (d. 1427), a knight who fought at Agincourt and was employed as an administrator in France in his later years. His eldest son, Sir Thomas Assheton (c.1403-60), who inherited the Ashton-under-Lyne estate, was bred up as a knight but had very different interests, and in 1446 was given a licence to practice alchemy. His descendants held Ashton until the early 16th century, when it passed to the Booth family by marriage.

Sir John's younger son, Sir Ralph Assheton (c.1425-88), the half-brother of Sir Thomas, was a Yorkist knight with an unenviable reputation for violence and brutality, who held high office under King Richard III but seems to have avoided being present at Bosworth field, when Richard was killed and Henry Tudor seized the throne. His first wife was heiress to the Middleton estate, but he seems to have lived in the early part of his career mainly at Fryton (Yorks NR) where he held appointments in the Honour of Pickering, and later on at Westenhanger (Kent), where his second wife brought him property and he had grants of land from the Crown.

From Sir Ralph the Middleton estate passed to his eldest son, Sir Richard Assheton (d. 1507) and grandson, Sir Richard Assheton (c.1482-1549), both of whom were knights in the military service of the Crown. The younger Sir Richard distinguished himself at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, and commemorated his part in that devastating English victory against the Scots through the remodelling of Middleton church and the installation of a window depicting his troop of archers. Both men, however, received royal pardons for civil offences, suggesting they may have inherited some of Sir Ralph's lack of self-control.

Sir Ralph's second son, another Sir Ralph Assheton (fl. 1501) married Margaret, the daughter and

heiress of Adam Lever of Great Lever near Bolton, and they established a junior branch of the family at Great Lever. This Sir Ralph was succeeded his son, Ralph (fl. 1509) and eldest grandson, Ralph Assheton (d. 1559), whose younger brother, Richard Assheton (d. 1579), no doubt a lawyer by training, became one of the senior officials of the Court of Augmentations. Through his position there, he was able to acquire former monastic properties in three counties, including the site of the Cistercian abbey of Whalley, where he converted part of the conventual buildings into a house. In 1558 he also purchased the manor of Downham, which had always been in lay hands. Having no children of his own, he divided his estates between his great-nephews Ralph Assheton (c.1552-1616) of Great Lever, who received Whalley, and his younger brother Richard Assheton (fl. 1595), who received Downham; this established a third branch of the family.

In 1614, Radclyffe Assheton (1582-1645), a younger son of Ralph Assheton (c.1552-1616), joined with his father to buy the manor of Cuerdale near Preston, and there established a fourth branch of the family, so that at the outbreak of the Civil War the family were established on estates all over south and central Lancashire: Sir Ralph Assheton (1579-1644), who was made a baronet in 1620, inherited Great Lever Hall and Whalley Abbey, but sold the former in 1629 to the Bishop of Chester and lived thereafter at Whalley. Another Ralph Assheton (1606-51) had inherited Middleton Hall as a minor in 1618, and was to play a leading role in the Civil War in Lancashire as one of Parliament's Major-Generals. Radclyffe Assheton (1582-1645) was at Cuerdale Hall, and Richard Assheton (d. 1657) was at Downham Hall.

In 1657 Richard Assheton of Downham Hall died without issue and left his estates to Sir Ralph Assheton (c.1611-80), 2nd bt., of Whalley. Sir Ralph also had no surviving children, and since he was on poor terms with his half-brother and heir, he settled the Downham estate on his cousin Richard Assheton of Cuerdale in 1678, while Whalley, which was entailed, passed to the half-brother, Sir Edmund Assheton (1620-95), 3rd bt., a London lawyer. Sir Edmund contested the settlement of Downham, but to no avail, and since he was unmarried and without issue, when he died Whalley passed briefly to his brother, Sir John Assheton (1622-97), 4th bt., and then to his sister's son, Sir Ralph Assheton (1657-1716), 2nd bt. of Middleton Hall. When Sir Ralph died without sons, the Middleton Hall estate passed with the baronetcy to his nephew, Sir Ralph Assheton (1692-1765), 3rd bt., but Whalley was left to his youngest daughter, Mary (c.1694-1776) and her husband, Sir Nathaniel Curzon (1675-1758), 4th bt. of Kedleston (Derbys), and passed out of the family. In 1765 the same fate befell Middleton, when the 3rd baronet died without sons, and the estate passed to his eldest daughter Mary (1741-1823) and her husband, Sir Harbord Harbord, 2nd bt. and later 1st Baron Suffield.

So with hindsight, the Civil War - when four branches of the family held five estates between them - was the highwatermark of the family fortunes. By the late 18th century only Cuerdale and Downham were left in Assheton hands. William Assheton (1758-1833), who inherited the estate as an infant, came of age in 1779 and immediately embarked on a remodelling of the old house at Downham. Perhaps because of a shortage of funds, however, his transformation was abandoned unfinished, and he lived in York rather than on his estates. It was left to his son, William Assheton (1788-1858), to bring in George Webster to complete the remodelling in 1834-35, and from this time onwards at least, Cuerdale Hall seems to have been used as a farm only. William was succeeded by his son Ralph Assheton (1830-1907) and grandson, Sir Ralph Cockayne Assheton (1860-1955), 1st bt., who had business interests in the coal and banking industries which brought new wealth to the estate. Downham Hall was restored and remodelled in the years either side of the First World War, creating the house that exists today.



Sir Ralph Cockayne Assheton

Sir Ralph's daughter Dorothy married Captain Robin Coventry Barrett whose family seat was Skipton Castle. They had two children, Hazel Monica Barrett and Robert Assheton Barrett and it was these that Cissie Tyzack was hired to care for as nanny and nurse.

A momentous occasion was recorded on 1st October 1927, when Princess Mary arrived in Clitheroe to commission a new Girl Guide Training Centre at Waddow Hall. Mildred and Sir Ralph had met with Queen Mary on several occasions and greeted Princess Mary at Downham Hall, along with local Girl Guiding organisers.

In the photograph of the occasion, below, Cissie is seen far left holding Hazel Monica Barrett and standing next to Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe Hall. Rachel was the County Commissioner of the guides in North East Lancashire. She was also instrumental in creating a museum of textiles which can still be visited at Gawthorpe Hall, now a National Trust property.



The Honourable Rachel Key-Shuttleworth



L to R: Cissie Tyzack, baby Hazel Barrett, Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, Lady Mildred Assheton, Dorothy Barrett, Sir Ralph Assheton, Capt Robin Barrett, Princess Mary, Miss Pilkington, Mrs Birley

Hazel Monica Barrett was born on March 22, 1926 at Skipton to Captain Robin Coventry Bell Barrett and his wife Dorothy Winifred Barrett (nee Assheton) to be followed in December 1927 by Robert Assheton Barrett.



Hazel married Raymond Michael Martin on June 21, 1929 and they went on to have 5 children.

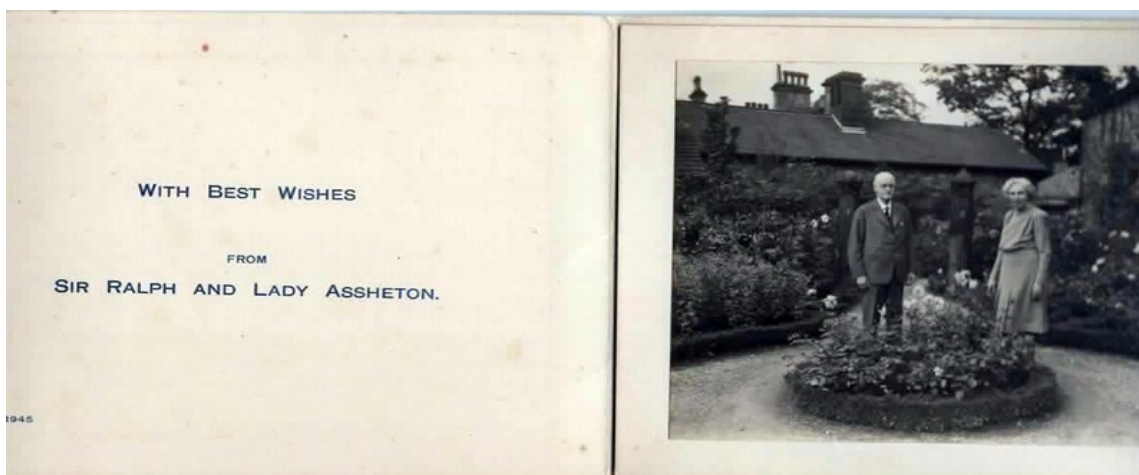


Marriage to Raymond Michael Martin 21.6.1949



Christopher, Catherine, Sally, Robert and Elizabeth Martin

In 1945, Cissie received the Christmas card below from Sir Ralph and Lady Mildred.



Robert Assheton Barrett married April Joy Marsden on 22nd June of 1957 and Cissie was invited to the wedding in Childe Okeford near Blandford in Dorset.



This marriage produced three children, Robert James, Juliet Susannah and Anthony Charles Barrett.

At some point around the early 1960's, Cissie's employment with the Barrett's came to an end and my belief is that she found a new position with the family of Thomas and Marjorie Hoyle of Holdsworth Hall in Halifax.

The Hoyle Family

Thomas Hoyle (1819 – 1866) was a worsted manufacturer and formed Hoyle and Greenwood in 1864 although this was dissolved the same year. He then formed Thomas Hoyle and Sons.

Thomas married twice and by his first marriage had John and Eliza and by his second marriage had Jane and Thomas. After Thomas' death in 1866, the business was headed by John and Thomas jnr. They employed 20 men, 28 women, 12 boys & 10 girls [1861] and 162 hands [1871]. They were at Holme House Mill, Luddendenfoot [1871-1877], Green Lane, Halifax [1881], Ellen Royd Mills, Halifax [1893-1927], and Copley Mills [1932-1960]. Between 1871-1877, they were also at Charles Street, Bradford.

Thomas Hoyle's son, Thomas Ashworth Hoyle married Marjorie Ayrton Broadhead in 1933 and at least part of their family were Judith Gay Hoyle and Caroline Wendy Hoyle, 1935 and 1939 respectively and Hazel Katrina and Jane. The girls became the charge of Cissie Tyzack at Holdsworth Hall and perhaps at Low Askew Farm.

Judith was known by her second name of Gay and she married Frederick Clough in 1966, who it would appear, made a career in the Foreign Office.

Gay and Frederick had Judith and Amanda.

Caroline was also known by her second name of Wendy and she married Roger Robinson in 1962.

Wendy and Roger had Vanessa and Caroline.

Hazel (also known by her second name) Katrina married P Copland and they had Philippa and Judith.

No information on Jane.



Holdsworth House



The Hoyle daughters Hazel Katrina, Judith Gay, Jane and Caroline Wendy



Cissie