

Shorters and Turners in Wheatley

(A resume of the Shorter and Turner families, by Peta Simmonds)

‘ As my family has had quite a long involvement with the village, I thought this collection of photographs would be of interest.’

Joyce Shorter married Ronald Turner, and they had three daughters: Shirley , Hazel and Peta.

The Shorter family has been in the village for many centuries. (*I have been told that there is a reference to the Shorter family in Dr Hassall’s book, ‘The Wheatley Records ’.*) My grandfather, Charles Thomas Shorter, was born in the Manor House when it was divided into three dwellings. He was the son of Charles Shorter and Elizabeth Ann Cherry. Charles Thomas lived at Sunnyside, London Road, where he had a butcher’s shop. Later, he worked at the Pressed Steel factory in Cowley and, in his semi-retirement he worked for Sam the butcher (Samuels) in the village. My mum, Joyce, was born at Sunnyside and so was her brother, Roy. Sadly, Roy, who was a haemophiliac, died as a child.

My Mum married Ronald William Turner, the son of Edwin William John Turner who was born in Bampton. Dad was born in Stanton St John, but the family moved to Forest Hill where Grandad ran a bicycle shop and an early electrical store re-charging batteries etc. Later, the family moved to Wheatley, and ran a garage called The Firs, on the corner of Church Road and Holloway, opposite the Roundhouse. Later still, they moved to ‘Turners Motors’ on the London Road, next to the King’s Arms.

My Dad and his elder brother, Sidney, joined the business, as was normal. Sid later joined the Police at Thame but, tragically, he was killed in a motor-cycle accident on the river bridge before he could start work. He is buried in the churchyard.

Later, Dad moved to a garage in Old London Road, and eventually ran his own business at Brookside Motors on London Road, next door to the Last Chance Cafe. When Dad sold the business in 1974, he worked at Oxford Polytechnic (now Brookes University) until he retired.

Dad’s second brother, Edwin Henry (Ted), took on the radio and bicycle side of the business, which was run from his premises in the High Street. He married Joy Badcock and they had five children: Stephen, Keith, Ann, Jeremy and Martin.

His third brother, Derek John, died when I was only five years old, so I have few memories of him.

My Turner grandparents retired to the bungalow called The Retreat, on Old London Road.