

James Adams and Clara 'Jessie' Chatfield

Audrey's grandfather James Adams, was a well-to-do businessman in the paint industry and was a pillar of the local community and was mayor of Hastings. He was also a keen fly fisherman and spent a lot of time fishing. He was also a very good cook and insisted on high quality produce. He used to go into the butcher's and survey the scene then lay his gold handled cane on one of the joints, say to the butcher, looking him directly in the eye 'What does your conscience allow you to charge for that piece?' The butcher then told him whatever it was, say four and sixpence. He would then say 'Well, I am afraid my conscience will not allow me to pay that price.' He would also send in Joan and Jessie to ask for a pound of 'liver lights' and no trimmings. They lived in Chambers Road, Southport, in a three or four storey large Victorian House called Edderton house. They kept a carriage and pair. Then they went from Edderton House in Southport, to a house in Ainsdale.

They then moved to a big house on the Meols drive between West Kirby and Hoylake on the Wirral.

Jessie Chatfield was well to do and a cultivated woman but she then died of cancer having undergone the most primitive of treatments – they used a hot iron on her chest through brown parcel paper! Things began to get a bit difficult for James as he was now alone with Elsie. . Daisy had left to marry Alfred Gardner, Annie had left to marry Harry Dowell. Elsie was no good as a cook or anything else so James had to keep a housekeeper and maids. If anyone was away he used to go in the kitchen and had a marvellous game cellar downstairs. Pheasants were hung up. They had to hang so many days until they were high.

James eventually fell ill himself. The doctor said he needed to be high up with lots of fresh air (TB?) so Violets (Elsie) took him to Mold in North Wales for a rest and a holiday and they never left. They rented a house called Tyd ny Gwynt and loved it. It was a lovely place and very big. He and Elsie both had bedrooms and a sitting room of their own and the owners Ben, Jane and people in the village used to look after them. The old Bishop of Denbigh, gave James rights of fishing. The squire of the village did as well.