

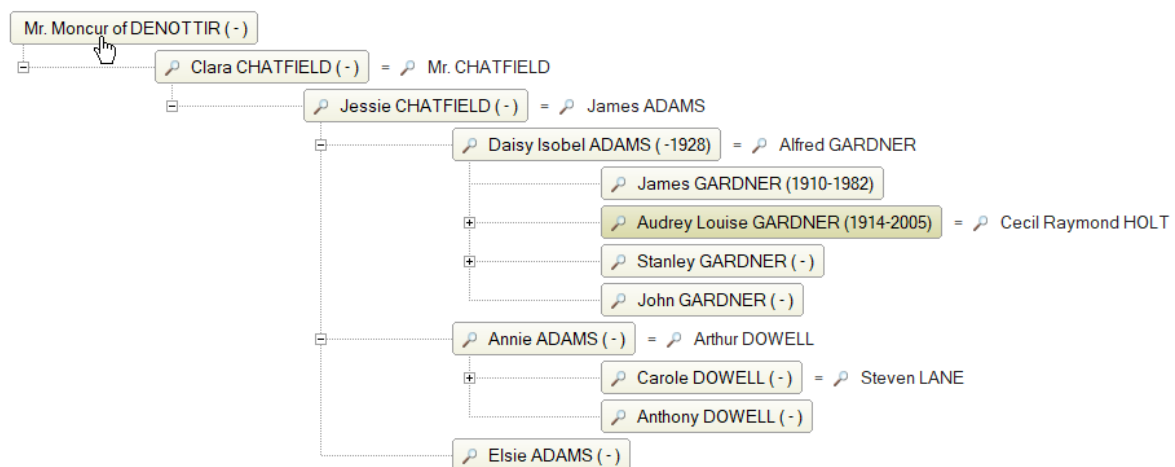
Audrey Gardners Line

Moncur

The oldest reference we have in Audreys line is the name Moncur who is thought to be Clara Chatfields father. They lived in or near Denottir Castle near Aberdeen in Scotland.

Moncur Name :Scottish: habitational name from a place on Tayside, or possibly of Norman origin from an unidentified place in Normandy. The first known bearer of the name is Michael de Muncur, who witnessed a charter in the first half of the 13th century.

Moncur families were found in and Scotland in 1841and Scotland in 1851and Scotland in 1861and Scotland in 1871and Scotland in 1881and Scotland in 1891and Scotland in 1901. In 1891 there were 28 Moncur families living in London.



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 he 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.

Daisy's Siblings

Annie, known as 'Nan' was a very talented artist and taught art. She married Harry Dowell who was in banking and her son Arthur is the father of Anthony Dowell, former director of the Royal Ballet, and his sister Carole Lane (who lives in San Diego).

Elsie loved reading. When Alfred bought a gramophone she hated the racket and used to go to the loo and read to get away from it. She ended up in Tyd ny Gwynt near Mold in North Wales. They went there on holiday as paying guests and just stayed on. When her father died Elsie did not want to leave because she had adored her father and wanted to be near where she buried him. So she stayed on and on in the house where he had died and became a friend of the family. It was also a working farm and she did all sorts of farm work with them ,hay-making etc and always looked terribly healthy. She sometimes used to go and stay with Alfred Gardner because Daisy was always so ill. She died very poor but used to send me (Clive) 2/6 (15p) postal orders every Christmas. Rod "I also remember going to see aunt Elsie with Mum. She lived in a single story whitewashed stone cottage with no running water or electricity, but a well in a cobbled courtyard from which she drew water. Very dark and lit by candles it was somewhere near Mold.And I remember the name Moncur and Scotland being mentioned."

Audreys Grandfather

Edward Gardner, brother Thomas Gardner and a Sister married to Charlie Anderson

!Edward had six children

Alfred.= Daisy Adams

Mabel. unmarried

Louie. unmarried

Charlie.

John.

Ada = Bidwell

Ada married a man called Bidwell – went to USA. They had a child called either Sam or Gordon. Mabel and Louie were both absolutely useless. All Mabel could do was make lemon jelly although it was supposedly a very good one. As was so often the case, the eldest brother (in this case Alfred) had to look after the two unmarried sisters. He gave them an allowance each week. They all had bicycles and Alfred always carried the mark on his knee when he fell off and also knocked out a tooth.

Alfred Gardner 1885 – 1949 and Daisy Adams 1888 - 1928

They had four children – James, Audrey, John and Stanley

Audreys father Alfred, was in the timber trade in pit props selling to the South Wales coal fields. He used to import from Sweden and had a partner called Cadman. Her mother Daisy, was one of four children of James Adams and Jessie nee Chatfield) . Daisy married Alfred in 1910. He had one of the first cars in Meols – a swedish open top Aral Johnson. He then bought an "Overland". There is a picture of Alfred sitting in his open top aral johnson outside "Thurston" in a crocheted hat. We called our house in Meols, "Thurston" and Mother hated it, because she said it sounds like 'We've got a thirst on'. Daisy was very dramatic, and she was very funny too. Joan and Jessie remember it. She never stopped talking. When she had been to a opera or theatre, she was so dramatic about it. 'Oh, it was sooooo.... "Amazing character my mother" (Audrey 1990)

Daisy became increasingly ill, as she approached 50 and had pernicious anaemia, following several miscarriages. In 1928 she was so weak that she had go into hospital for a blood transfusion and an incompetent doctor gave her the wrong blood type, and she died. Alfred was grief stricken and inconsolable, and soon began to drink. His partner Cadman took advantage of the situation and started to cheat Alfred with the end result the company went bankrupt, Cadman disappeared and Alfred was left with all the debts. The crash of 1931 and 1932 put paid to all hope of Alfred working again.

Audrey only remembered him talking about "that old Rat Cadman" and there was some ship broking affair that finished off the business partnership. He was only in his 60s when he died of Cancer. "He was very kind my father – never heard a word against him whatever." (Audrey 1990)

Audrey Brothers

James Edward Chatfield Gardner 1911-1982

Audrey's charismatic elder brother James was greatly loved by all of us. He was a tall good looking man quick to joke and laugh. He went to Birkenhead grammar school but spoke with a public school accent. He was a first class shot and represented the UK at Bisley. He had a gift for languages and emigrated to the Far East and made a name for himself in Singapore where he learned fluent Malay and some Mandarin.

James had had a dreadful war. A regimental tie I found was of the Royal Engineers but a load of spy equipment that we found in his Estate suggested MI6 at some point. At the fall of Singapore he was wounded in the kidneys and was taken a prisoner by the Japanese where he was put in the 'hospital' section of Changi jail. He would never talk about it other than that it was a 'long dark tunnel'. He came out of the hospital and had gone down to 40 kilos from 90. He then moved to Malaysia in the shipping business, and then with Mansfield Airways. He was very successful in this and he was decorated by the Tunku of Malaysia for services to the country and was a leading light in Kuala Lumpur. He spent most of his working life in Singapore, Penang and Kuala Lumpur and when he retired from Mansfield Airways at 55 He joined the accountants Price Waterhouse in Hong Kong in a role that he described as "mother hen". I met him there in 1975 where he was living in a very nice apartment with his wife, Marjorie, in Aberdeen, one of the most respectable parts of Hong Kong. He then came home after a few years and bought a house in Douglas, Isle of Man. They never had any children and Marjorie died of cancer around 1979, giving her considerable fortune to the local hospice. James died in 1982 and left all his money to Audrey was surprised to find a legacy of 300,000 that was to keep her in comfort until she died in 2005. James was closest to her of all the brothers although they argued mercilessly whenever they met. The whole family was known as the battling Gardners.

Stanley

In 1944 Stanley, who was living in Southampton rang Audrey and told her that his marriage had broken up and asked if she could have his little boy Richard. Audrey was already stressed partly by pressure from her in laws, Alfred's alcoholism, the war and that Clive was now 3 years old with Rodney due in August 1944. She refused Stanley and never heard from him again.

John a 'highly strung young man' according to Audrey. He joined the airforce and was made a rear gunner in Lancaster bombers. It destroyed him mentally to the extent that he acquired the mind of a twelve year old. He had to go to the mental asylum in Chester where he was given electric shock treatment in vain. I met him on the bus on my way to Kingsmead school in 1948. He introduced himself as "I am your uncle John." I instinctively liked him and had a nice chat to him but I was only seven at the time and cannot remember any detail except that when I returned home and told Audrey about this. She became very agitated and it turned out that he had escaped from his mental asylum, which he was to do several times until we lost touch. Rod: "I remember opening the front door of the White house to a man in a dirty old trenchcoat but was ushered out if the way by Mum. That was John during during one of his absconds from Deva hospital."