

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY JAMES MASTERMAN OF SCARBOROUGH IN SEPTEMBER 2011.**

My interest in the Ryde website is mainly to do with my maternal Grandmother's aunt, Mary Elizabeth Wright (born 1852 in Spalding, Lincs). She lived with her two aunts Mary Hogg & Lydia Parsons both of whom were born in Baston, Lincs, a village from where an earlier generation in the Wright family tree had lived. Mary Elizabeth (Old Auntie, as she was called by the family) eventually left the Isle of Wight to live with her niece, my grandmother in Hurworth upon Tees, near Darlington and died there on 31 July 1940 and is buried there. As a 9-year old boy in late 1939 to early 1940 I knew Old Auntie as a well educated and lovely, gentle old lady - how I wish I could talk to her now!

In November 1851 Mary Elizabeth Wright's father James Wright married Elizabeth **Burton** (his second marriage) who was born at **Moulton**, Lincs. It was James' second marriage, his first wife, Mary Depear having died in 1850 leaving James with a 22-month old daughter Eliza to bring up.

In 1861 Mary Elizabeth was 8 years old, living in Spalding, **not** with her father and mother who were in Spalding, but with a widow, Lydia Parsons, aged 53 and John **Burton**, aged 15, a tailor, born in **Moulton**, Lincs.

By 1871 she was at Florence Cottage, Holy Trinity Parish, Ryde Head of Household was Mary Hogg (67) and Lydia Parsons (63) Mary Hogg's sister. Mary Elizabeth Wright (18) was Niece, a Pupil Teacher.

As James Wright only had one sister, Lucy, who never married, and for Mrs Hogg and Mrs Parsons to be sisters to each other and aunts to Mary Elizabeth Wright they must have been sisters to James' wife Elizabeth Burton.

In 1881 Mary Hogg, Lydia Parsons and M E Wright were still at Florence Cottage, Mary E Wright being now a Daily Governess aged 28.

Lydia Parsons died in 1882 and Mary Hogg in 1888 - information from your website, for which very many thanks are due to you.

In the 1891 Census for Ryde, All Saints (no further address given) Mary E Wright was aged 38, a Visitor, at the household of Washington Gimblett, (42) Head, a Chemist, born at sea off Lanary, Ireland. In the Gimblett household were his wife Fanny (35) born Watchet, Somerset, daughter Mary Gimblett (10) and son John H Gimblett (8). I assume they were the children of Washington and Fanny, I hadn't copied the relationships down when I took the information from ancestry.co.uk about five years ago. Washington and Fanny Gimblett are commemorated in Ryde Cemetery [from your website]. Mary E listed as a visitor, was she really a Governess to the Gimbletts' two children.

By 1901 Mary E, a School Governess, was aged 48, living at 72 **Moulton** Street, Ryde with her cousin Lydia **Burton**, (50), a single woman on own means, born **Moulton** Lincs. Note the **Moulton** Street - did they have a hand in naming the street or was it just a coincidence?

I have a photocopy of a letter from Mary E addressed to a distant cousin in Canada, dated December 1913 from Broadlands House, Newport, IoW in which she says "I have left Ryde

to come to live at this wonderfully good Home for Ladies of Limited Means". On a website I found that Broadlands House on Staplers Road, Newport is now used as offices for the local Council as a Jobcentre Plus.

In my mother's family the story was that Old Auntie (Mary Elizabeth Wright) had been the Governess to the children of a Governor of the Bahamas. The fact that Washington Gimblett was born at sea off Southern Ireland suggests his parents might have been on their way back to the UK when he was born. I found a listing of Governors of the Bahamas going back to the early 1800s but no sign of a Mr Gimblett senior amongst them.

Some biographical information for you on Washington Gimblett:

In the 1871 Census he was at the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew at College School, Bishops Hull, Taunton, aged 22, Relationship to Head: "Shopman", born: "at Sea Near of Lanary, Ireland" [sic].

In the household were:

John Martin aged 55, Harriet Martin (55), Harriett R Martin (27), Emily Martin (26), Edwin R Martin (17), Washington Gimblett (22), Emily A Osmerd (21), and Harriett Coles (20).

I hope this will be of some interest to you as biographical information of previous residents of Ryde

With best wishes and wishing you good luck with your RHSG website,

James H Masterman  
Scarborough  
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