

PS

Grandad bought his piano & violin	29 Holden Ave
out of his pocket money, he also	Burslem
paid for lessons. It took some years/	Staffs
I still have the account.	April 28/73

Dear Billy,

I am starting this long epistle, but I don't know when I will finish it. Of course I am only recording the most outstanding things, it would need a book to write all I can remember. To commence with, grandad, he was born at Etruria on March 28 1876 & died on Nov 8 1940 he was 64 & in many ways a young man. He was very intelligent hardworking & had many interests. He loved music & was a member of Stoke on Trent city orchestra & Newcastle orchestra. He could play the violin, viola & clarinet as well as the piano. He was a great reader also. He was a very good workman & respected for his high standards he was a potters turner, & worked for many years for Gibsons of Burslem now closed.

As a lad he did well at school I still have his examination awards he won a small writing desk & a glass inkstand, also two certificates one for Drawing in 1886 he would be 10, 1887 excellent in French and drawing & another for Geometry in 1887 also excellent. He had some good opportunities when he left school one as a pupil teacher another apprenticed to a chemist & then a job as office boy in Wedgwoods who were then at Etruria. However he could not stay at any of them the wages were not enough as his Father was a sick man & his mother could not keep the family going without more money, so poor Grandad entered the Wedgwood factory as a Turner he got on very well & as he was piecework & a hard worker his wages were much better. The family finally moved to Tunstall where he met my mother, your grandmother they went to the same church.

She was a decorator like your mother & I used to be. They were married & lived for a year or so at Tunstall where I was born also your Dad. Then we moved to Burslem as father was then working at Gibsons in Burslem close to the park. We lived close to the park & also the school & church to which I still belong.

It was in the Park estate that the others were born Auntie Gertie, Auntie Sallie & Uncle Syd. We all went to the same school etc though we moved house several times before we finally left Park estate & came to Holden Ave, where we have been since, about 43 years now. It is still my home & I wouldn't like to leave now. Its main feature is its convenience to buses & the shopping centre in Hanley. As we had no car it was thought a very suitable place for us. Grandad had a great influence on our lives, your Dad & he were always great friends & in times of no work they would go on hikes together weather permitting. Grandad loved his music he was in the orchestra at Hanley theatre for many years when

there were operas etc & of course the money he earned helped to buy the house. His standard of life was very high, he loved his home & family & was an example to us in living.

Grandma too was very industrious & always had a meal ready & the work in hand. We enjoyed a happy family life & Grandad & all of us pulled together.

But I guess you are most interested in J.W.D. your Dad. Well he was a hard worker & when times were bad he would tackle any job that came along. Selling papers, or chemists things from door to door. He worked at Bagnall Hospital helping in the gardens etc. I can't remember all the jobs he had, he began in the Coop shop for about a year. He finally persuaded Grandad to take him to Gibsons. But he took every opportunity that came along & eventually he had the opportunity to go to Canada after many years.

Well about things he made he made a wireless set in the early days of broadcasting & very good it was.

He made a very good wardrobe for us girls in the big bedroom at the other house.

He made a fitted tool box I have only recently parted with it. I still use the stool he made for the bathroom. And the linen chest is still in use, it was an old box but he covered it & it is fine. Then there were countless jobs in the house & garden fences, paths etc. he & Dad worked together.

He was a very good gardener & his Dahlias were much admired. If he had a day or two off he would help in the house with washing or decorating etc.

He had a keen sense of humour like his Father & would play tricks on us girls when we were all young. He would put my hat on top of the high cupboard & pretend he had never seen it. Grandad would be laughing too! I would have to get a stool & a walking stick to get it down! Of course we played tricks on one another.

His standard of life was very high he was honest & fair in his judgements.

He liked a good play & would go to the theatre when Grandad was playing there.

In his younger days he liked skating on ice & he liked boating & hiking in the summer. He loved the country & most week-ends he would be off with his camera. He was always taking pictures of scenes. He was clever with tools he used at work & improved many of them. Grandad & he liked the microscope & would spend hours with it. Well I guess there is a lot more, but one thing you can be sure of he was a reliable character always willing to pull his weight wherever he was & he was popular & I am sometimes reminded by old friends of "good old Bill".

Of course like all of us he had his faults but nothing serious. Uncle Syd reminded me of the wireless set he made in those early days of earphones. Margaret reminded me of the "tool box" he made & fitted when she was a little girl she remembered Uncle Bill making it.

She wants me to leave her the linen chest he made, she always admires it, not too big & yet nice looking she always says. Well you are a worthy follower in his footsteps making the world better & not worse. And I must say how highly he always spoke of your mother he respected her judgments and said she was one of the best & indeed I think he was a very happy man & he had a great love for you too & proudly displayed your picture. He told us how you could distinguish the various tools & how he would have to guard them so you didn't do any harm to yourself. He took you to Sunday School & when he was over here he asked me to show him our old Sunday School. We have a new one now. By the way your Dad passed several scripture exams I still have his certificates.

I think I had better stop now & if I have missed anything that you would like to know just write & ask me. All the best. I hope you can read it all –

Love & God bless You

Auntie Flo XX