

Subject: Family Trees

From: "Penny Sperring" <penny@brookside35.fsnet.co.uk>

Date: Sun, 28 Apr 2002 21:21:07 +0100

To: "Paul Gardener" <paul.gardener@effect.net.au>

Hi Paul

Mum (Val) has asked me to email a reply to your letter. She's sorry it's taken longer than she hoped to get some information to you but she returned from Oxford where she was dog sitting for my brother for two weeks, with a rotten cold and she's just getting back to her normal (very fit and healthy) self.

I'll just copy out her letter

"Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter and the CD. I will try to answer your questions and queries.

I first met your mother and father - I have no doubt Andre was your father - when they came to live at Northcliffe Lodge in Penarth. Gerrard was eighteen months to two years old and I babysat for them

They moved to London and I did not hear from them until you were born and your mother needed help - I think you were two weeks old when I started to look after you. Gerrard's name on his ration book was Sawyer and I understood that John Sawyer, who your mother must have been living with, was his father. By the way you were born in Earls Court which is now known as Little Australia.

The man in the photograph that you sent of you and Gerrard in the garden at High Elms, was a business partner of your father, his name was Bob Kerr.

I can confirm that the man I knew as Andre Williams was the same man who's trial I attended at the Old Bailey and afterwards spoke to in the cells before he went to prison and he was then known as Willoughby Walmisley, you will have to tell me exactly how you want me to word a Statutory Declaration. I only saw him once again after that. To the best of my knowledge you were christened in East Molesey but I cannot remember any of the details.

I cannot understand why your mother did not explain everything to you as she was the only one who knew the whole story. I am sure that Gerry would be able to fill in some gaps as he lived with your father for a long time during his teens.

I will let you know if I remember any other details.

As you know I have three children, Penny, Tricia and Gerrard. The girls married twin brothers. Penny is now divorced and has two children, Rachel who is 27 and Christopher who is 20. Tricia and Mike have a son, Kevin who is 26. Gerrard married two years ago, he and his wife Sue have no family but Sue has two grown up sons."

Well I'm the "divorced Penny" and I think we last met about 35 years ago!! You were travelling back from a holiday in Devon or Cornwall and called in to Mum's in Cannington on your way home. It must have been school holiday time.

I often went with Mum up to Bristol to see Iris, I remember once even decorating her kitchen, and can't really recall how then came to lose contact with one another. Both being bloody minded I expect.

Mum will be in touch again, probably with a long letter, she's trying to find photographs of us all so that we can scan them and send them on to you. She is 71 in June and very fit and healthy (usually). I can't keep up with her when we go shopping. She does shopping runs for some friends who run the village pub, plays in a skittles team and has a large garden to look after (with help from me). She was surprised and very pleased to hear from you.

Very best wishes to you and Janet.

Penny