









Beth Fearn, now Mrs Beth McKinless, moved into Plantation Cottages during WWII. Beth sent these memories to the Archive in September 2014

“The plantation homes. I think there were 2 attached brick homes. I can't remember the first people that were there when we moved in, but I do remember their dog bit my face and Dr. McCartney stitched it up and I still have the scar to this day. The next people were Mr. Steven & Mrs. May Card, their son was Dennis. I am pretty sure Steven worked on the land. The last address I have for them was 2 Hastoe Row, Hastoe, Nr. Tring, Hertfordshire. They would have passed on by now. I also think Dennis married and lived in the same area. Now to Bampton School: yes there was a teacher by the name of Mrs. Gomm. Also Miss Farmer, Miss Farman, Miss Hobbs, Miss Perry, Mrs Miller, (she died and was buried in Bampton Cemetery when she was quite young), Mrs Pratt, & the Head master was Mr. Fry. My Mother worked in the School Canteen. I can't remember how long it took us to walk or ride our push bikes to School or to the village. My mother used to play the organ in the Methodist Church, I think Terry,s Mother (Honor Rouse) did as well. I will always remember the day I just arrived home from school & I said to Mum there are German planes coming. She said don't be silly not in daylight; next thing they flew over the top of the house and bombed the aerodrome. (Brize Norton) Mum went into a panic because Dad was there. I think the spitfires got some down. They would have the records of that at the Drome, I wouldn't have a clue of the day or date. That was when we lived at the Plantation. I have found telegrams that Dad received when his Mother died February 8th 1943 addressed to him as Fitter Fearn Air Ministry Works Dept. He had to apply for leave to attend her Funeral. She is buried in the Congregational Church Cemetery In Tubury, Staffordshire. I also remember during the Battle of Britain Dad didn't close his eyes for about a week. Our last address was 2 Aston Road Bampton then we stayed a few days with Mr Reg and Mrs Honor Rouse at Weald Farm farmhouse before we left for Australia.”

Don Rouse recalled the following in January 2018

“They lived with us whilst waiting to go on the Stratheden Ship back to Australia. They were actually with us when the Aeroplane crashed in Clays furlong.

Her brother Bob was great friends with Brian Lawrence whose Dad Jack was quite an individual who served Bampton well at the time of the Bampton Bullets etc.

Barbara Lawrence also appears on some of those 'Crusty ' Owens photos. (Crusty Owens was the nickname for Lloyd Hughes Owens who was the headmaster at the National School in Church View.)