



Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

Louisa Sheaf- from the memories of Elizabeth Viney

Hello Chroniclers!

I have been researching the Sheaf family for quite a few years and recently came across your article on the Gertrude Myers Home built at Cleeve Prior by Leopold Myers. I can add a little family information that may go some way to explaining why CP was chosen.

My 3 x great aunt was Louisa Sheaf, who died at "Sunnyside" Cleeve Prior in April 1932. She was something of a legend in the Sheaf family and even members of the family here in Australia have heard stories about her!

When I was researching her life, I discovered that in the 1861, 1871 and 1881 censuses, Louisa was living and working with the Myers family in Edgbaston. She was first employed as a domestic servant, but by 1881 she was acting as a domestic nurse in the Myers household. By 1891 Great Aunt Lou had left the Myers family and was living with her brother Thomas Holland Sheaf at Bidford on Avon; but in 1901 she was visiting the family of Lilla Myers (now Samuels) at their home at Hampstead Kilburn, London. She was described in the census as a friend. In 1911, Louisa had moved to Cleeve Prior to live with her niece by marriage Kate Sheaf (was Careless). It is quite likely that if Gertrude, the wife of Leopold, came to Cleeve Prior to convalesce after her surgery in 1912, that Great Aunt Lou was somehow connected. She may have even nursed Gertrude during her time in CP, taking up again the role that she had served in the family back in 1881. When Louisa died in 1932, Leopold was the executor of her will and the probate was granted to him.

Thank you for the work you do on your website. It has been extremely useful to me in a number of ways as I do my research here in Australia. I do hope that you are all managing to stay safe and well in these difficult times.

Kind regards,
Elizabeth Viney