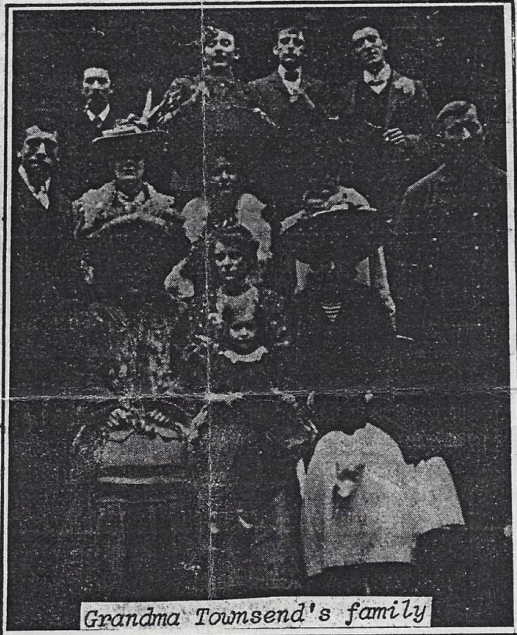


Memories of Lucy Townsend (née Ackland)

Dorothy (Doris) Freak, daughter of Elizabeth (Lizzie) Presland (née Townsend), wrote down the following memories of her visits to her grandma, Lucy Townsend.

GRANDMA TOWNSEND

I used to go on Saturdays to stay, come home Sunday. My first welcome was a cup of chocolate and slice of cake, then to work, putting cotton in needles. Time I was finished, the pin cushion looked like a rainbow. Help to wipe up china, which was 'Royal Dawton' with green flowers on, as I was careful.



Grandma Townsend's family

Saturday night was a sing song round the piano, drinking - they came with it in jugs. I was put to bed with curlers in my hair, "lumps of rag".

I climbed through a hole in the fence, to a field they called the Rope Ground, picked the dandelions, which my grandmother thanked me for and put in a jam jar. Given 6d to spend and go straight home and speak to nobody. I lived two streets away.

Dorothy Freak

The picture shows Elizabeth seated in the centre, with Dorothy (aged 2) on her lap. Grandma Lucy Townsend is also seated. The third seated woman may be one of Elizabeth's aunts, possibly Clara Townsend who lived nearby. The two girls in the centre row are probably Elizabeth's sisters Ellen Maud and Edith May, aged 18 and 15 respectively. The woman centre left is very likely their oldest sister Louisa Mary, then aged 28, and next to her Albert Presland, her husband. The man on the right hand side of the centre row is possibly Elizabeth's husband Frank Pullen.

According to Robert Francis' daughter Olive May, Elizabeth's brother Ernest Alfred (Ern, age 20) took the photograph. This being so it is difficult to identify all of the young men in the top row. Undoubtedly Elizabeth's other two brothers Henry James and Robert Francis and there, then aged 26 and 22 respectively. Robert is possibly on the far left.

Given Dorothy's prominent position in the photo, and the fact that Louisa and Albert's 4-year old daughter Irene was not present, it is very likely that this was a celebration for Dorothy's second birthday on 2 March 1906.