APPENDIX B

THE BRANFORD, GURNEY,
AND GEDDES FAMILIES

Allardyce, Lady. See Elsie Stewart.

Branford, Archer Robert Francis (1912–1957). Born, in Fulham, Robert Francis Bailey on April 25, 1912. Natural son of Francis Robert Bailey (reputedly an illegitimate member of a branch of the Gurney family) and his wife Poppy Gwendoline Bailey (née Hyde). He and his brother were adopted by Victor and Sybella Branford because the parents were unable to look after them, and he was given the name Archer. Victor Branford expressed a wish that his Archie should be given a secretarial position within the Sociological Society and put him through training in bookkeeping. By 1931, however, he was a civilian clerk at the RAF Depot, Uxbridge. In 1936, he married Gertrude McCoy, though the marriage broke up during the war, when Archie was in the RAF and serving in India. He married Winifred Ethel Cooper in 1946 and, once again divorced, he married Barbara Wilby in 1952. For a while he worked as a “private secretary,” but then became a truck driver for a London sugar refinery. He had four children by his third wife and died from Hodgkin’s Disease.

**Branford, Frederick Victor.** See Frederick Powell.

**Branford, Hugh Sydney** (1913–?). Born on March 23, 1913, to the same parents as Archer Branford. Known as Hughie, he may have gone to work in South America for one of the railway companies with which his father was involved, as he sailed for Buenos Aires, aged fifteen, on the *Deseado* from Liverpool in August 1928. Paraguay was recorded as his place of future permanent residence.

**Branford, John Frederick Kitchen** (1869–1946). Brother of Victor Branford. Successively deacon at St. Andrew's, Edinburgh, priest at St. Andrew's, Brechin, curate of Callander for the Railway Mission, Crianlarich, and chaplain of St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. Married Annie More (d. 1936) at Edinburgh, St. George's in 1893 and immediately took up appointment as curate of Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. Returned to Scotland in 1898 as rector of All Saint's Mission, Jordanhill, Glasgow, succeeding his brother Lionel. Rector of All Saint’s Challoch, Newton Stewart from 1913 to 1938, though retaining a London home at 5 Hornsey Lane Gardens, Highgate. Retired to Bristol.

**Branford, Lionel William Ernest Catton** (1866–1947). Brother of Victor Branford. Returned to Scotland, in 1892, to marry Dorothy Cuthbertson, the daughter of a wealthy Edinburgh lawyer and fourteen years his senior. Held missionary posts in Auchterarder and Glasgow and by 1900 was living at Lye, in Binley, St. Mary Bourne, Hampshire, as vicar of Ashmansworth. Dorothy had married Lionel “in a moment of unguardedness” and the marriage was never consummated. She abandoned him in 1903–05 to live in Ardgay with her herd of goats and her nephew Freddie (Macgregor 1951). Lionel was priest-in-charge at St. Columba’s on Islay in 1909. From 1913 to 1921, private chaplain to the Marquess of Breadalbane and then a short period in the Mission to Seamen in Leith. Formally divorced in 1921 and married, three months later, Mary Mitchell. In the 1920s he adopted the additional surname Somers-Cocks and took a series of parish posts in Renfrew, Challacombe, Whissonsett, and Great Hampden. Collapsed and died in the street in High Wycombe.

**Branford, Mary Ann Kitchen** (1861–1907). Sister of Victor Branford. Took up acting and made a short stage career. In 1891, immediately after the death of her father, she married another actor, J. Frederick Powell, who later achieved some fame under the stage name Joynson Powell. Mary had some West End success in 1902 at Charles Hawtrey’s Avenue Theatre, in Northumberland Avenue, playing “Mrs. Daly” in “After All,” by Freeman Wills
and Frank Longbridge, and “Akulina” in “A Cigarette Maker’s Romance,” by Charles Hannen, listed in both playbills as “Mrs. Frederick Powell.” Mary died from lung cancer in 1907, aged forty-five. While the actors were traveling away from their Fulham home, their son, Freddie (Frederick Victor Powell), was looked after by Lionel Branford and his wife Dorothy.

**Branford, Matilda Elizabeth (“Bess”)** (1852–1915). Daughter of Isaac Smith, manager of Josiah Mason steel products firm. Sister of Martyn Josiah Smith. Married firstly James Farqharson Stewart in 1874, two sons (Martyn and Arthur), one daughter (Elsie); secondly, as his first wife, Victor Branford in 1897. Divorced by Branford in 1910, following the breakdown of the marriage, and lived in the care of Lionel Branford near Andover, Hampshire, where she died.


**Geddes, Arthur A. F.** (1895–1968). Son of Patrick Geddes. Studied for PhD at Montpellier. Married Jeannie Colin, niece of Elisée Reclus. Professor of geography at Edinburgh University, specializing in the geography of South Asia where he had spent much time with his father.

**Geddes, Norah.** See Norah Mears.

**Gurney, Archer Thompson** (1820–1887). Father of Sybella Gurney. On return from Paris worked as curate in Westminster (1872–74), Brighton (1874–75), Hastings (1877–78), Regent’s Park (1879–1880), Rhyador (1880–81), and Brecon (1882–83). Retired to Keble Terrace, Oxford and died on a visit to his doctor in Bath (WT 1887).

**Gurney, Gerald** (1860–?). Brother of Sybella Gurney. Clergyman who became actor with the Bensonian Shakespeare Players and with the Howard and Wyndham Players. Credits include “The Taming of the Shrew” (1889), “The Merry Wives of Windsor” (1890), and “The Lady of the Lake” (1890). Married Dorothy Frances Bloomfield in 1897. Resigned his living in 1919 on conversion to Roman Catholicism. Sometime actor-manager at Globe Theatre, Plymouth.

**Gurney, Harold Manby** (1874–1969). Cousin of Sybella Branford (née Gurney) and excutor to the wills of Victor and Sybella Branford. On staff of
Cecil Rhodes in South Africa, worked for The Times and for Incandexcent Fittings Co., and a stockbroker. Involved in businesses associated with Victor Branford.

Gurney, Vivian (1865–1935). Brother of Sybella Gurney. Suffered from congenital mental disability. Cared for by Sybella following his mother's death but lodged with family of Harry Yeo, a professional singer, in Boldre close to Sybella’s Hampshire home. Died in Cornwall.


Powell, Frederick Victor Rubens Branford (1892–1941). Son of Mary Branford, nephew of Victor Branford. Known as “Freddie.” Brought up by his aunt Dorothy and, after her separation from Lionel Branford, they lived in Ardgay, Scotland. An RNAS Captain in the 1914–18 war, he was shot down over the Belgian coast and swam ashore to Holland. Interned, but supported by Fred van Oss. Treated at Craiglockhart Hospital. Lived on a disability pension for the rest of his life. A war poet of repute, publishing under the name Frederick Victor Branford. He stopped writing poetry in 1923, disillusioned with the prospects for future peace. In 1937, he eloped with and married, as his second wife, his cousin Margaret Branford, playwright daughter of John Branford.


Stewart, Elizabeth (“Bess”) See Matilda Elizabeth Branford.