Walter Leslie Harold Dixon

1892- 11 August 1952

Walter was the 6th of 7 children born to William 'Wally' Dixon (1856-1913) of West Hoathly and Emily Winter (1857-1946) of Ardingly. His siblings were Thomas William (1881-1933), Oliver Hamlin (1883-1947), Gilbert Louis (1885-1956) (he was the father-in-law of Bill Cottenham the village baker), Jack Hampton (1887-1959), Kate (1890-1949) and Robert (1896-1964).

By the 1901 census the family were living on Chelwood Common and working for the Wickens family. In 1923 Wally married Annie at Danehill Church and in 1924 their son Alec Leslie H Dixon was born.

Wally worked for East Sussex County Council as a lengthsman in Danehill parish covering the A275 from Wych Cross to Sheffield Park which is why he and Annie had a tied cottage. In 1950 Wally was involved in a serious accident when a drunk driver collided with his mowing machine on the straight road between Paygate Cottage at Furners Green and the Sheffield Arms. He never recovered and died the following year. Annie and Violet had to leave the tied cottage and were re-housed in the newly built council houses in Maresfield.

Walter died on 11 August 1952, aged 60 and was buried on 16 August 1952 at Danehill cemetery

Walter Dixon is buried at Danehill cemetery

Annie Edith Dixon (nee Punnett)

1903-1985

Annie's parentage is complicated. Her mother was Ada Esther Penfold (1877-1963) but by the time Annie came along in 1903, Ada's first husband, Arthur Augustus Punnett (1873-1898), was dead. Ada and Arthur had a son Harold Arthur Punnett (1898-1982).

Ada was now living at Stone Cottage, Brookhouse Bottom and Annie's father was in fact her neighbour Thomas Henry Bennett (1849-1934), who lived at Rough Acre. Now this was something of a problem as Tom Bennett was still married to Harriett Talbot and father to 2 girls.

We will never know how Ada and Tom got together, but he was involved in her life and in the 1911 census she was listed as a visitor at his house. In later life she said that Harriett treated her as a skivvy whenever she was there and she was expected to wait on her older half-sisters. Tom Bennett was Besom Broom Maker to the Royal Mews and his brooms used to be sent up to Buckingham Palace from Sheffield Park Station.

Ada had a child with Horace Punnett, Alfred William Punnett (1908-2001). Horace was her dead husband's brother but their marriage in 1919 was technically illegal as you could not marry your dead husband's brother until the law was changed to allow it in 1921. Whilst in Danehill, Annie took in washing to make ends meet and was also caretaker of the Zion Chapel next door to the village shop. Annie spent the rest of her life in Maresfield but is remembered by older villagers as she worked for Chris Stevens at his wireless shop near the Mid Sussex Garage at Chelwood Gate and latterly in Nutley.

Annie died in 1985

Alec & Avril Dixon

Alec, their son, joined the RAF as soon as he could and was sent to Rhodesia for training which is where he met his wife, Avril. After the war he became the village policeman in Buxted but he and Avril emigrated to Rhodesia in 1954 where he worked on the railways. He never saw his mother again.

Gilbert Louis Dixon
23 August 1884 - 31 January 1956

Gilbert Louis Dixon was born on 23rd August 1884 in Ardingly. His parents were William Dixon (1856-1913) from West Hoathly and Emily Winter (1857-1946) from Ardingly.

Gilbert was the brother of Walter Leslie Harold Dixon.

Gilbert's occupation was a general labourer, he married Mary Baker in January 1916, and they had 4 children; Margaret Louise (1917-1998) who married William Cottenham, Doris Mary (1919-1994) married Maurice Burley, Josephine (1922-1984) married Thomas Dubber and Jack 1925-1990 married (Dorothy Lang).

Gilbert died on 31st January 1956. He was buried at Danehill cemetery on 4th February 1956

Mary Dixon (nee Baker)
1887 - 4 December 1949

Mary Baker was born in 1887 her parents were William Baker (1853-1929) born in Danehill and Jane Ann Tester (1857-1927) who came from West Hoatlhy. William was a general labourer and at the time of his death was living at Lilac Cottage, Chelwood Common. They had previously, in 1891, lived in a cottage next to Clay Cottage, also in Chelwood Common. William left £437. 5s in his Will.

In the 1939 register Mary and Gilbert were recorded living at The Corner Bungalow, near to The Rosary, in Tanyard Lane, Chelwood Common. With them were 3 daughters Margaret Louise Cottenham, Josephine, and Doris all the daughters listed as seeking work.

Mary died on 4th December 1949. She was buried at Danehill cemetery on 8th December 1949.

Gilbert and Mary Dixon are buried at Danehill cemetery

Abigail Mary Rose Dixon (nee Dier)

1861 - 24 November 1931

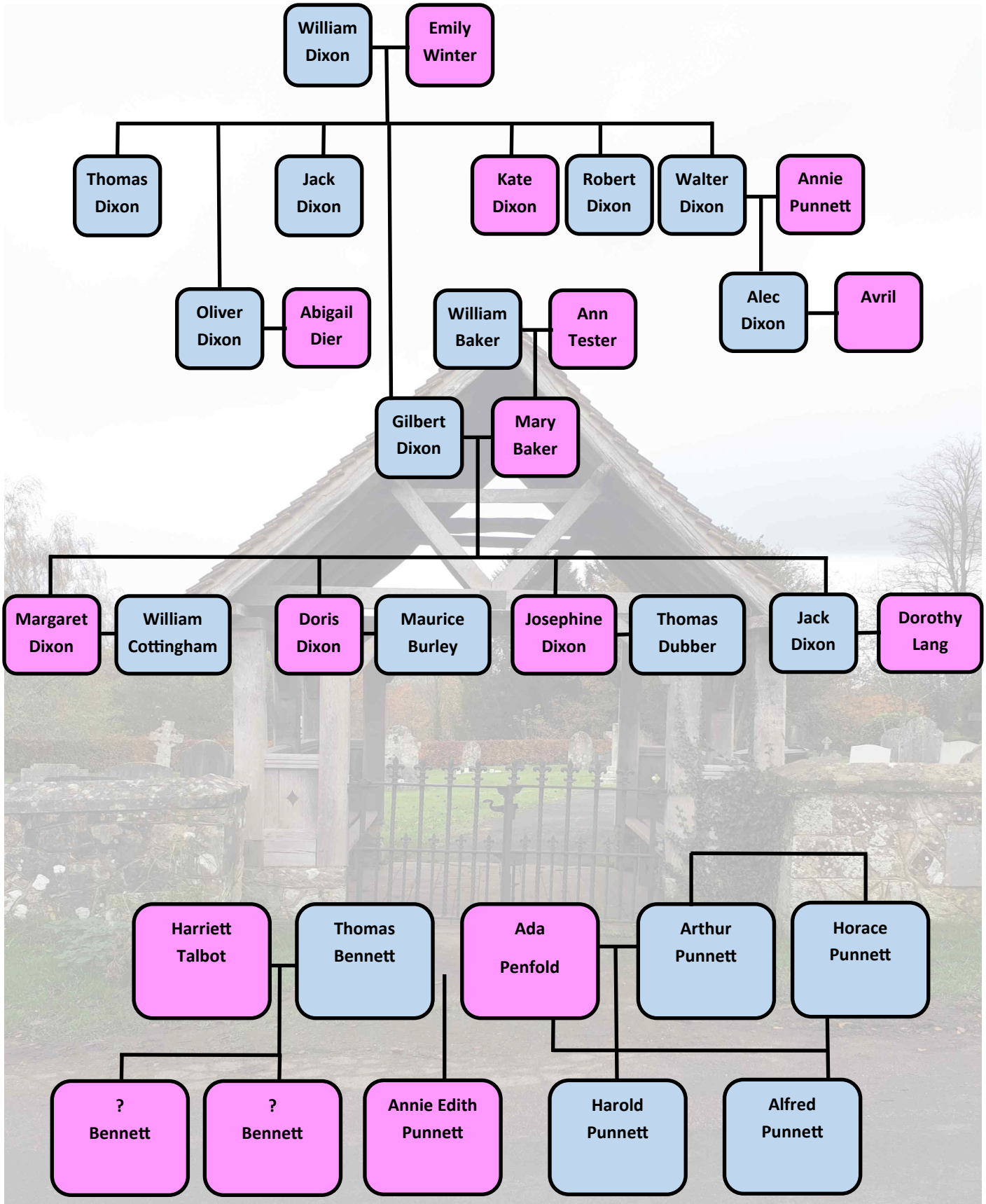
Abigail Mary Rose Dier was born in 1861. She was the daughter of Joseph Dier (04/11/1839 - 13/11/1891) and Mercy Ann Martin (1839 - 18/10/1909) (see Dier family biography.

She was one of 7 children; Mark (born in 1858, a year before their marriage), Abigail Mary Rose, Joseph Benjamin, Mercy Ellen Kate, Elizabeth Blanche, Lillie Ada and William George.

She first married Richard Luck and after he died in 1913 she married Oliver Hambling Dixon, who was the brother of Gilbert Louis Dixon.

Abigail Mary Rose Dixon died at Ivy Villas, Framfield on 24th November 1931, aged 69. She was buried in Danehill cemetery on 27 November 1961

Abigail Dixon is buried at Danehill cemetery



If you have any more information about this family that you believe would be of interest please contact the Danehill Parish Historical Society dphs@outlook.com. We'd love to hear from you

Danehill Parish Historical Society