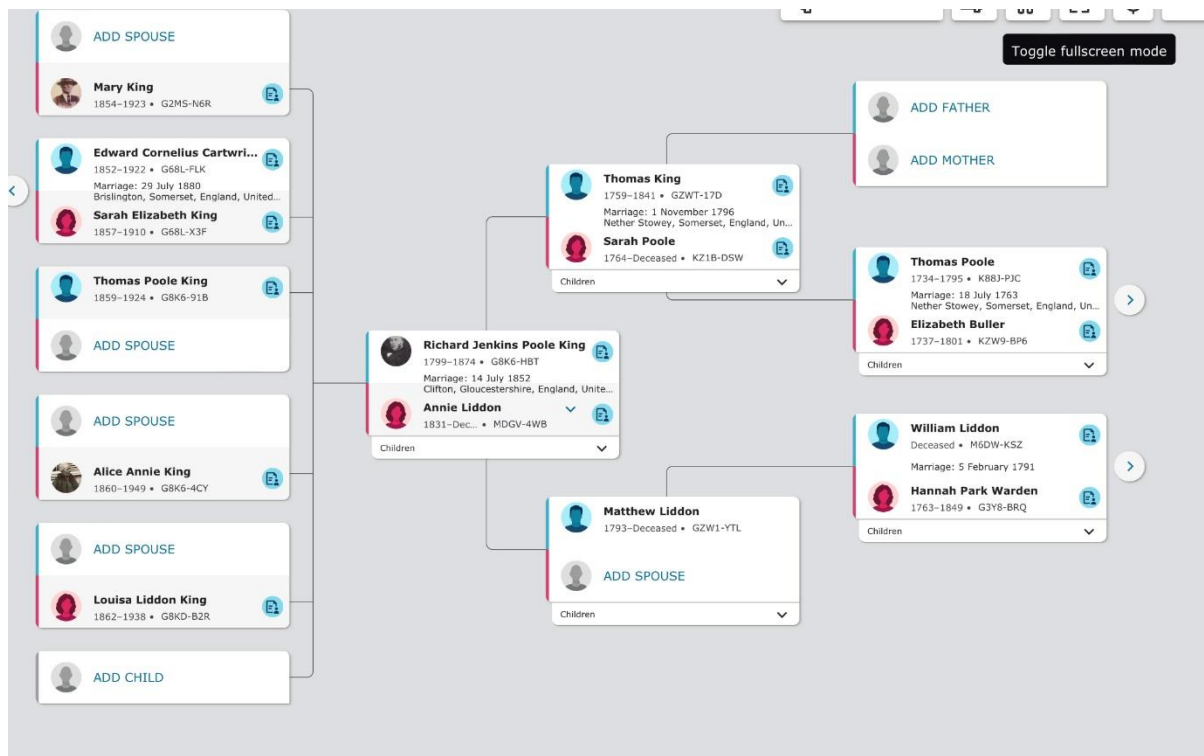


The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.

The King family occupied Newark Park for fifty years; they were the longest continuous occupiers of the house. The information below has been drawn from a memoir written by a relation, Edward R Cartwright; he was the grandson of Richard and Annie King. A memoir by Victoria Hawkey, another relative of the Kings. A memoir by Ellen Elms whose grandfather, Henry Cole, was the King family's devoted gardener. Other information is drawn from various sources.



Richard Jenkins Poole King (1799-1874) is descended from the King family of Alvediston near Broad Chalke, Wiltshire. Richard's great-grandfather harboured a strong desire to explore the high seas, and in 1690ⁱ, aged about fifteen, he left for Bristol; later, he would be responsible for setting the foundations of the family business of R. & W. King, Limited, shipping merchants. John served as a Sheriff of Bristol, and in 1732, he became Mayor of the city. The King family established themselves at Lodge Farm, Iron Acton, Gloucestershire; Most Kings, dating back to 1770, have been buried at Iron Acton, and a tablet in the Church commemorates family members.

John's grandson, Thomas King (1759-1841), sold Iron Acton and moved into No. 2 Redcliffe Parade, Bristol, where he developed the family business and turned it towards trading with West Africa. In

1796 Thomas married Sarah Poole of Nether Stowey, Somerset, and they were the parents of R.J.P. King.

Richard and his brother William were involved in their father's shipping business; later, they set up their own company, William and Richard King Ltd. Richard was President of the Chamber of Commerce, a city councilor, a Justice of the Peace, President of the Colston Parent Society, the first Chairman of the Docks Committee, and Mayor of Bristol in 1844. Richard encountered many interesting people through his mother and her family living in Nether Stowey. Richards's uncle, Thomas Pooleⁱⁱ, was the friend of many well-known contemporaries such as Coleridge, Wordsworth, Southey, Josiah Wedgwood, and Humphrey Davy.

Richard first married Penelope Anstice (1811-1849) by whom he had one daughter, Alice May; Penelope died young, and Alice eventually married Bristol Alderman, Francis Fox, whose family in the 1920s, owned Oil and Paint Works near Temple Meads Station. Richard married, secondly, Annie Liddon; they married at St Andrews church, Clifton, on the 14th of July 1852. Annie was the daughter of Captain Matthew Liddon, who, in January 1819, was appointed to command HMS Gripen. In this vessel, he sailed to the Arctic region to discover a Northwest passage. Richard's wife's eldest brother-in-law was Henry Parry Liddon, a leading figure in the Church of England and a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. Another of Annie's brothers, Edward Liddon, was a Doctor in Taunton; Edward was concerned by the plague of agueⁱⁱⁱ rife among those who lived in Somerset's Sedgemoor and Curry Moor areas. Edward was responsible for introducing withy trees and lived to see the ague become a thing of the past. Edward noticed, when traveling in France in the same sort of low-lying country, that many withy trees were planted along the streams and ditches, and no one there suffered from this ague.

Brislington had become a favored place to live by several Bristol merchants. In the late 1840s, Richard bought Kensington House in the village of Brislington on the outskirts of Bristol. The house had been built in 1810 and was described as situated on a rising slope of a park-

like verdant lawn. Richard and Annie would bring up their five children at Kensington house, Thomas, Sarah, Mary, Alice (Dottie), and Louisa. Apart from the family members, the household at Kensington House in 1871 consisted of a governess, butler, cook, upper floor maid, school room maid, under housemaid, and kitchen maid. Sarah, the eldest daughter, would be the only one of their children to marry. Richard died at Kensington House in 1874. By the 1880s, Bristol was beginning to encroach on Brislington, and Annie decided to sell Kensington House and, in 1883, moved to Standish House in Gloucestershire, which she rented at £150 a year from Lord Sherborne^{iv}. After 13 years at Standish, Annie downsized (in comparative terms) to a smaller house and 1896, rented Newark Park, Gloucestershire, from Mrs. Power Clutterbuck; Newark would remain the family home until 1949.

Annie made many improvements to the house, adding a wing, and according to the memoir of Edward Cartwright, Edward Salway^v was the architect; the wing was built by the building firm of Jotcham,^{vi} and the extra accommodation was for servants. The new wing also allowed a re-ordering of the arrangements to bring food from the basement kitchens into the dining room. A bungalow close to the stable block was built for the coachman and his wife (see illustration). Although Newark had stabling, Annie added two rows of Boulton & Paul loose boxes to house the family's 25 horses. It was the king family who replaced the leaded lights of the east front of the house with plate glass. In the 1990s the Trust would restore the lead lights.

Annie King died in August 1913; in her will, outside of family bequests, Annie left £100 to her gardener Henry Coles^{vii}, to her housekeeper Charlotte Byatt, her traveling clock, to her butler Henry Wood and her coachman George Griffiths £25 each. Annie's children would continue to live at Newark, although her son Thomas King also had a home at 10 Hanover Square, London.

Mary, the eldest daughter was a very accomplished horticulturist^{viii}, the gardens were not in good order in 1896, and Mary transformed them to a high standard creating a woodland garden immediately below the house with rockeries. The walled pleasure garden by the lake became a productive kitchen garden with fruit cages and hothouses.

In 1918 Mary was awarded an O.B.E. for her services to the British Red Cross; Mary had set up a Red Cross hospital at Standish House to care for wounded soldiers from the First World War; Mary was commandant of the hospital. Sarah was the only one of Annie's children to marry; in 1880, she married Edward Cornelius Cartwright (1852-1922). Thomas was a racing and hunting man. He had been a member of the Jockey Club, Chairman of Tattersalls, and Steward of most of the southern race meetings; he kept an extensive stable of hunters at Newark Park and regularly hunted with the Badminton and Berkeley packs. Thomas was a friend of the 5th & 6th Earl of Carnarvon^{ix} and a regular guest at Highclere Castle; the last time Thomas stayed at Highclere was June 1924, two months before his death. At Thomas's funeral, amongst the floral tributes^x were - 'In memory of my greatest friend from the Earl of Carnarvon^{xi}' and 'In affectionate memory from Almina Countess of Carnarvon'

As young women, all three daughters of Annie had been keen horsewomen, hunting with the Badminton and Berkeley packs; sketches of the siblings appear in an early 20th-century Berkeley Hunt Membership book (see illustrations). Louisa, the fourth daughter, was not very strong and lived a quiet life, but Alice, the third daughter, also known as Dottie, would survive all her siblings, living at Newark until she died in 1949. Annie and all her children, apart from Sarah, are buried in the churchyard at Ozleworth; Sarah is buried at St Peter & St Paul's, North Curry, Somerset. Annie's husband is buried in Arnos Vale cemetery in Bristol.

Mrs. Knott, the cook; Humphreys, the chauffeur; and his wife, who looked after the laundry, were all in the Newark household in 1943, also in the household in 1943 was Henry Cole, who had started as a garden boy with the family at Kensington House, he was now the only gardener at Newark; Henry was 76 years old and kept the gardens as best he could, given that the world was at war and the King family fortunes had diminished. Five years later, Henry suffered a stroke at work in the garden; he died on the 13th of January 1947 and is buried in the King family plot at Ozleworth churchyard. Henry's daughter Elizabeth, known as Lizzy, also worked for the King family, starting as a sewing maid at Standish House. Eventually, Lizzy became a confidant and companion to Dottie. After Dottie passed away,

arrangements were made for Lizzy to receive a pension and a house was bought for her in Bath; Lizzy affectionately named her home 'Little Newark.' Lizzy passed away in 1989 at the age of 101.

Incidental information:

- At a lunch party at the home of Sally Westminster, Robert Parsons and Michael Claydon met Prince George Galitzine 1916-1992, who told them that he learned to drive a motor car on the driveway at Newark.
- An audio CD of a conversation between Michael Claydon and Frank Parsons, who worked as a gardener for the Kings, is in the archive at Newark Park.
- Michael Claydon, talking with Kitty Cobham, who knew the King sisters told Michael that one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's sons was a frequent visitor to Newark, apparently courting one of the sisters.
- A visitor to Newark Park left a comment – Mr. Pullin lived in the top-floor flat at Newark Park. He remembers watching enemy aircraft flying over during the war, and he watched the bombing of Bristol. He knew Miss King and her companion Miss Cole. The cook used to make him Swiss rolls as a birthday cake.

ⁱ Elder Dempster Magazine, March 1927, page 10

ⁱⁱ Somerset tanner, philanthropist and essayist 1766-1837

ⁱⁱⁱ Archaic word for fever

^{iv} Edward Lenox Dutton, 4th Baron Sherborn

^v Edward Richard Salway 1843-1902, Civil Engineer, Salway's daughter, Isabel, married 1906 Edward Parry Liddon, a relation of Annie King.

^{vi} Jotcham was established in Wotton under Edge as a building firm in 1812

^{vii} Spelt Coles in the will, Henry would have been known to the family as Coles

^{viii} In 1980, Bob Parsons received a letter from someone who knew the Kings and regularly stayed at Newark; in the letter, it states that Mary King was a friend of Gertrude Jekyll, see attached papers

^{ix} George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert 1866-1923, famous amateur Egyptologist

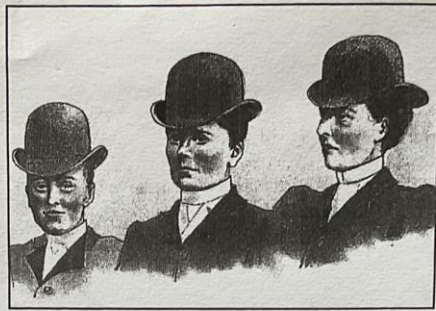
^x Dursley Gazette August 27th, 1924

^{xi} 6th Earl Henry George Alfred Marius Victor Francis Herbert 1898-1987.



Mrs. Annie King with her two sisters.

The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.



Louisa

Dottie

Mary



Thomas

The King siblings

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Mary King OBE



Alice Annie (Dottie) King outside the drawing-room window at Newark Park c1940s

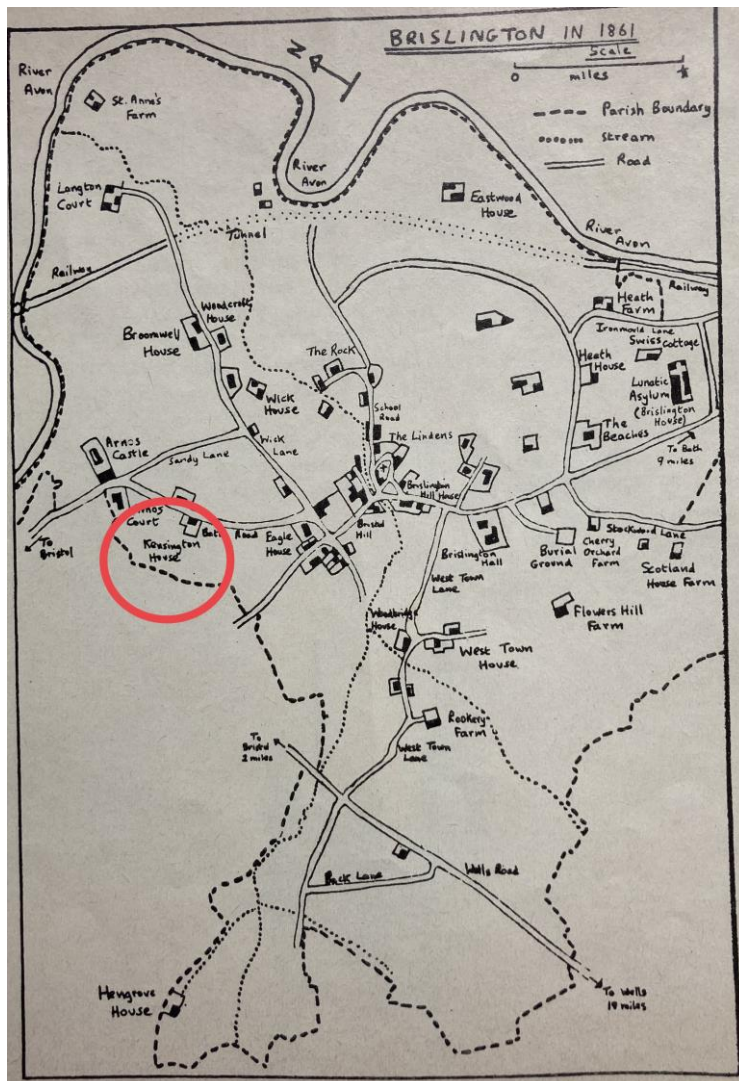


Kensington House, Brislington, 1973



Brislington as the Kings would have known it

The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.



Brislington in 1861, Kensington House circled.

The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.



Standish House



Newark Park 1893

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Newark Park with the wing that was added by the Kings



FLORENCE GERTRUDE. ELIZABETH ANNE WINIFRED ELLEN. IRENE MAUD.

JOHN HENRY COLE. ELLEN COLE (NEE BALL)

HILDA VICTORIA MARGARET

HENRY JAMES

YEAR 1910.

DAUGHTER DOROTHY ELA NOT IN PHOTO.

The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.

The Cole family at Reform Lodge Newark Park



Reform Lodge Newark Park at the time of the Cole family



The Cole family, a wedding at Newark Park, Harry Cole with a beard, probably the Miss Kings also in this photograph



Lizzy Cole in her nursing home c1985

The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.



The chauffeurs bungalow c1960

Boulton & Paul loose boxes

The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.

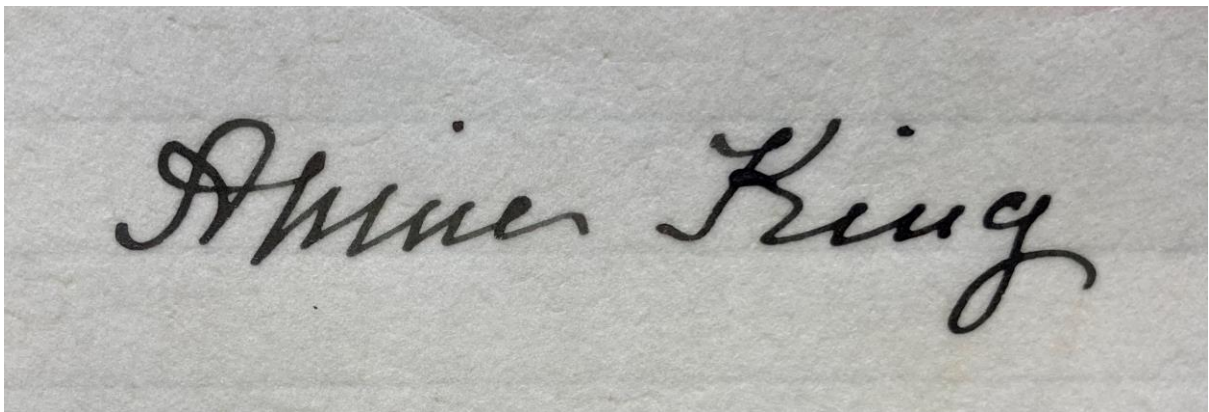


Mary King in the kitchen garden at Newark Park c1915

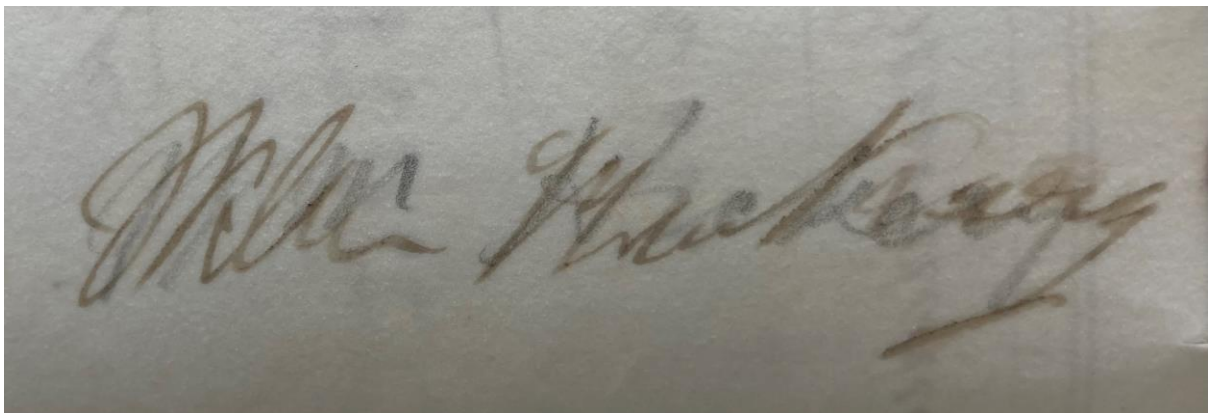


The lake and kitchen garden Newark Park c1915

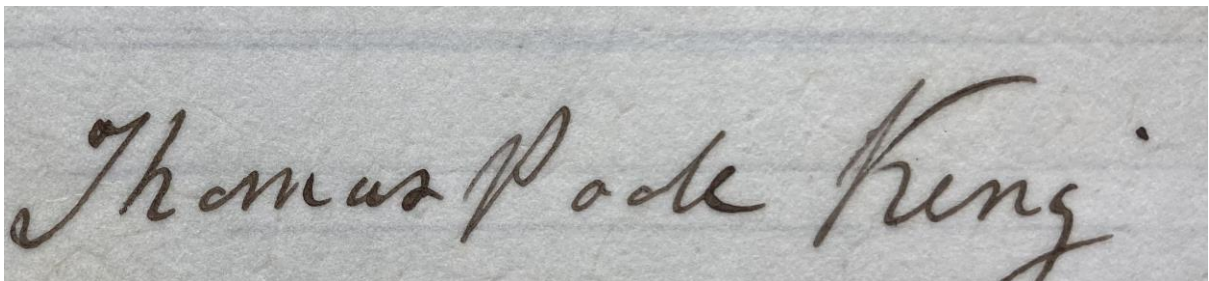
The King family of Newark Park, Ozleworth, Gloucestershire 1896 -1949. Compiled by Michael Claydon from papers in his archive, June 2023.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a piece of lined paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Annie King".

Mrs Annie King's signature

A photograph of a handwritten signature in brown ink on a piece of lined paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Mary Liddon King". The ink is significantly faded compared to the first signature.

Mary Liddon King's signature (Annie's daughter)

A photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a piece of lined paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Thomas Poole King".

Thomas Poole King's signature (Annie's Son)