

## **Mrs. Catherine Annie Power-Clutterbuck.**

Mrs. Clutterbuck was the tenant of Rockstowes House rented from Miss Phillimore, when my father bought Rockstowes Hill, whose fields adjoined, in 1919. So I knew her really all my life. My father was her Solicitor and the Agent for the Newark Estate, which she owned, and I succeeded him. My mother visited her regularly, but I do not remember her coming to tea or making social calls. I think that up to 1939 she had her own social life. She kept a pony carriage and pair of ponies and these may have been put down when her coachman/groom committed suicide. She had, if I remember rightly, two female servants, May Archer and another as cook, possibly her sister.

“The other” I think died during the war. I think she had also two brothers, Brown, as Gardener and Coachman who lived with their sister, Mrs. Taylor, in the Rockstowes Cottages, one building. Carter, who was a former Stud Groom succeeded Brown as Gardener/Handyman.

I think she was probably a Bridge player as long as she kept up the carriage.

She was very much a lady of her generation, social class and upbringing, courteous and kind, but not to be trifled with. She was musical and I think this may have been one of her social activities. I remember her best when I took over as her Solicitor. She retained Sawcombe Farm, not given to the National Trust until the tenant, Chappel, died when it was sold. He was a dowser and was employed to find a source of water for a trough in a field off the back drive.

Physically she was small with an arthritic knee, possibly from a riding accident, always dressed in black and wearing a hat. May outlived her Mistress and lived at Newark when it was a Nursing Home. She died in January/February 1963, the last really hard and lasting snowy winter. She is buried in Ozleworth churchyard. I was worried the ground was too hard for the grave to be dug. We had a fierce journey by Landrover from Wotton along Nanny Farmers Bottom to get to the Church.

Atkyn's History records Timothy Law as Lord of the Manor of Ozleworth with a handsome seat called Newark built by Sir Nicholas Pointy out of the ruins of Kingswood Abbey.

Rudder records James Clutterbuck, died 1776, as Lord of the Manor but does not name his successor. Mrs. Clutterbuck became entitled to the estate under the Will of Lewis Clutterbuck and executed a Disentailing Deed 31.7.1897. She never lived at Newark, which I believe was let to Tom King, who kept and trained race horses and subsequently to the Miss Kings, and was given to the National Trust after the death of the last Miss King.

The Deeds of the Estate were loaned to the County Records Office and purchased from Mrs. Clutterbuck's Executor, the Public Trustee, after her death. From what she said to

me the estate had included Lasborough, but slow horses and fast women had lead to it being reduced to Sawcombe, plus what she gave to the National Trust. I have had dealings with Lasborough but did not have to research into earlier Wills.

I do not know who her mother was. Her father, J.E. Clutterbuck, became a Surgeon General. She was born on the N.W. Frontier and her father was told by his colonel that he ought to take his wife and daughter back to England. He said he could not pay the fares so the Colonel paid them for him. Her mother must have died when she was very young as she always talked of living with "Daddy", whom she clearly worshipped. Who looked after her or how she was educated, I do not know. She married Major Power, R.A.M.C. and had two children. A daughter, who died of meningitis? aged 12, and her son, who was killed when serving in the Royal Flying Corps. This was 1917 or 1918, as we had moved to Rockstowes Hill before his death.

She was a keen and knowledgeable gardener and a Member of the R.H.S. Her son laid out the former Mill pond at Rockstowes House as an Alpine Garden. It was destroyed by a flood during World War II. She planted a row of gorse bushes along the drive but the gardener accidentally scythed them off. I think she also made the Tennis Court for her children.

Major Power contracted cancer of the throat and they went to the U.S.A. for treatment but to no avail. He is buried in Ozleworth Churchyard, and I suppose her daughter is also.

She considered herself an authority on "the horse".

In the 30s, Ozleworth Park was owned by the Harpers. The son, John, was killed in N. Africa serving with the Yeomanry. His parents sold and moved to Ireland.