

THE MANSTON FAMILY IN DAMERHAM



Arthur Manston and Elizabeth Edwards, both members of local families, married around 1900 and settled in Damerham. They lived first at Greenbank, then at Mill End and from 1928 at The Common.

They raised four children to adulthood:-

(1) Ethel who became Mrs. Horace Hooper, lived at Mill End, and had two sons, Cyril and Trevor.

(2) William ("Bill") and (3) Fred, both of whom lived as neighbours at The Common.

(4) Kate, who left the village when she married.

Arthur spent much of his working life in the building industry, latterly as a brickmaker. Bill also worked in brickmaking. Fred worked on local farms, then delivering milk and later for the Avon and Stour River Authority.

Arthur died in 1936, just before his seventieth birthday, but Elizabeth lived until 1981 when she was 104 years of age. She loved wild flowers and walking and was well known, latterly as "Granny Manston", to all who lived in Damerham during those years. She remained remarkably active in her old age and extended an open invitation for village people to join her in the village hall to celebrate her 100 birthday.

Bill and his wife, Ivy, were married in 1928 and had one son, Roy. He left the village in 1949, but returned regularly to visit the family and play cricket for the village. He married a Damerham girl, Molly Ings, in 1956. Although no longer residents, all of their children were baptised in Damerham Church. Bill was active in village life. He was a parish councillor and a member of the Village Hall Committee for many years. He took a particular delight in supporting the annual Christmas Party for the village children and also Damerham Cricket Club. He, Ivy and Fred were regular spectators at the club's matches. He was also an enthusiastic advocate for retaining the footpaths in the village and devoted much of his energies to keeping them open, particularly from 1950 to 1970 when they were in danger of being lost.

Bill and Ivy died in 1980 and 1981 respectively. Fred, a retired bachelor, then left Damerham to live near Roy and Molly and their family. The only descendant of Arthur and Elizabeth still living in Damerham in 1999 is Cyril Hooper of Mill End. He is one of their four grandsons. Living elsewhere there are seven great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

From Roy & Molly Manston, previously of The Common