

## Percy H. Shearman and his Family in New Buckenham

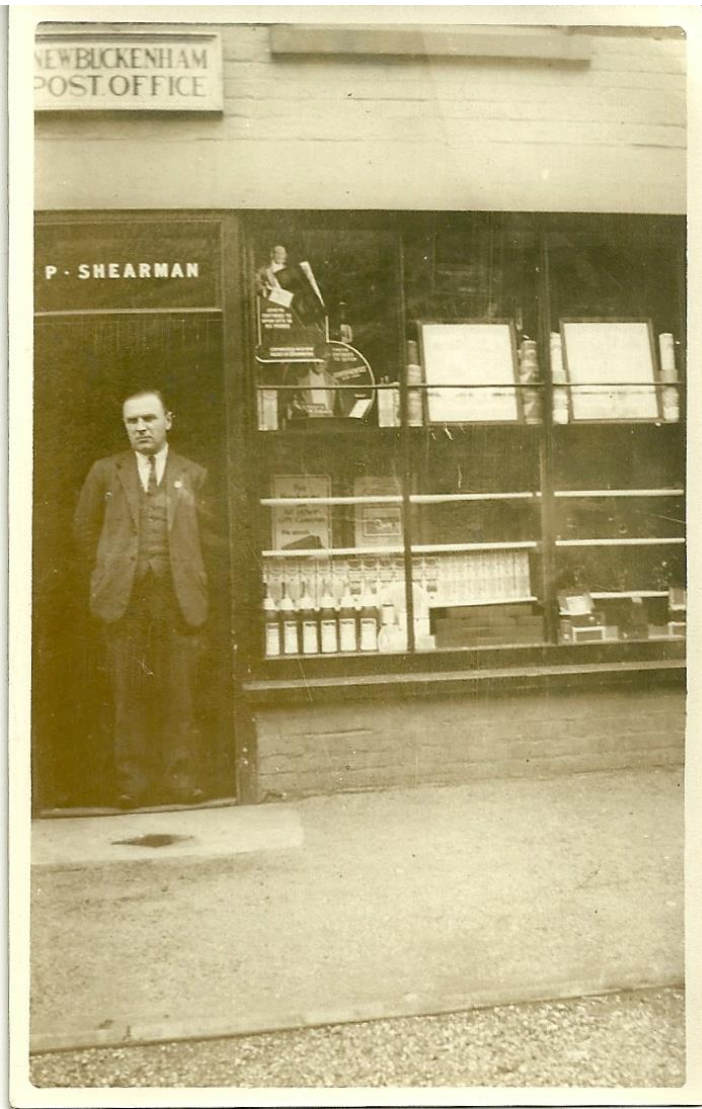
Percy Herbert Shearman, the first child of John Samuel and Henrietta (Hetty) Shearman was born on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1895. John Samuel had bought premises to open a chemist's shop at 156, King Street, Great Yarmouth the year before and Percy was born in the flat above the shop. The shop was beside Kitty Witches Row one of Yarmouth's famous 'Rows'.

As the family grew (Percy had two sisters and three brothers) then they moved first to Crown Road and then to Bath Hill Terrace still keeping the shop in King Street which was now also an opticians and offered photographic supplies. Percy attended Yarmouth College and later during WW1 was in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment where he was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal, the 1914-18 Star and the General Service Medal, S. Persia Campaign.

Percy's parents moved to Haverhill in Suffolk in 1919 opening a chemist shop on the High Street and after leaving the army, Percy studied at the South of England College of Pharmacy in London and also helped in his father's shop. He met local girl Olive Jarvis, youngest of seven children of George William Freestone Jarvis and his wife Frances who owned the local butchers. Olive worked with one of her sisters as a milliner in the local Co-Op and she and Percy married in 1921 and lived with Percy's parents in the very large building that came with the chemist's shop.

Their first daughter Margaret Rose arrived in 1922 and by 1924 Percy, Olive and Margaret had moved to King Street, New Buckenham where Percy ran the Post Office and Chemists. They went on to have three more daughters while living here – Joyce in 1924, Olive Elizabeth (Betty) in 1929 and Anne Gwendoline in 1931. While living here they became very actively involved in local village life – Percy especially with the British Legion and the Football Club and Olive with the WI.





Percy outside his shop on King Street in New Buckenham



The officials of the British Legion Sports and Fete held at Old Buckenham on a Whit Monday. (Percy is kneeling on the right)



Percy with daughter Betty presenting flowers to Mrs Everitt at a Gala in New Buckenham held in 1934



Newspaper cutting - Sat August 8<sup>th</sup> 1931

The Annual Flower Show and Fete held in the Rookery Grounds, New Buckenham. Percy is 2<sup>nd</sup> from right with the officials and Miss Godfrey J.P. opening the Fete



The garden at the rear of the shop in New Buckenham.

## **NEW BUCKENHAM.**

### **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.**

Mrs. Milburn has again been elected president, Mrs. Kinloch-Jones and Mrs. H. Powell, vice-presidents, and Messrs. Felpham, Kenworthy, Harrison, Syzling, Shearman, Reilly, Powell, Myhill, Chenery, Miss Lawrence, and Nurse Jolly for the committee.

THE DISS EXPRESS AND NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK JOURNAL—FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 1928.

## **NEW BUCKENHAM.**

The New Buckenham Football Club held its annual meeting at the King's Head Hotel on Friday, when the retiring secretary Mr. A. F. Reilly reported that last season could be considered very successful. Of 18 matches, 9 were won, 1 drawn, 8 lost. goals for 46, against 42. The accounts showed a balance of £3/18/-. Officers elected were: President, Dr. L. Milburn; chairman, Mr. P. Shearman; hon. secretary, Mr. W. G. Saunders; captain Mr. H. Howling; vice-captain, Mr. H. Weatherington; treasurer, Mr. A. Reilly; committee, Messrs. G. Cooper, W. Deeks, R. W. Feltham, G. Harmer, and the officers. It was decided to enter the Wymondham and District League.

THE DISS EXPRESS AND NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK JOURNAL—FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1928.

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**W. T. Gibson, Chemist, Diss.**

**P. H. Shearman,**

**New Buckenham.**

THE DISS EXPRESS AND NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK JOURNAL—FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 1931.

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THE DISS EXPRESS AND NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK JOURNAL—FRIDAY JUNE 17, 1932.

wedding.

## THE BUCKENHAMS.

### BRITISH LEGION.

At the sixth annual meeting of the Old and  
New Buckenham branch of the British  
Legion held at the White Horse Inn, Old  
Buckenham on Monday, the retiring Chair-  
man, Mr. R. Rodwell, presided over a large  
attendance, and was supported by Mr. R.  
Clowes (president), Capt. J. H. Thacker, Mr.  
R. W. Feltham (hon. secretary), Mr. J. H.  
Powell (hon. treasurer), and Mr. J. Kemp  
(hon. treasurer).

Mr. Feltham reported that the branch  
continued to flourish. The strength was  
now 170 ordinary and 21 honorary members,  
increases of twelve and four respectively  
during the year. He doubted whether those  
numbers could be beaten by any other  
branch covering a like area. About 250  
wives and children attended the annual  
Christmas tea. Naturally such popular  
events and the provision of buses at various  
times were not without expenses, and to  
counteract these the Entertainment Com-  
mittee had held whist drives and dances  
with satisfactory results. The annual sports  
were revived after lapsing for a year and  
added nearly £20 to the funds. The branch  
was represented at dedication services at  
Lopham and Tibenham, but its greatest  
achievement was its wonderful muster  
at Colchester, when 104 members turned out  
on parade. To go further, they paid half  
their bus fares. He referred with much  
regret the recent losses by the branch. They  
could ill afford to lose two such stalwarts as  
Major Rodwell and Mr. P. Shearman. Each  
was the recipient of a present from the  
branch in grateful recognition of their  
splendid services.

representing services.

Mr. Powell presenting the financial state-  
ment, said receipts had increased from £84  
to £148, accounted for by the annual sports.  
Expenditure was also up, from £102 to  
£134. The balance in hand was now  
£25 0s. 4½d.

Mr. S. Loveday said £9 5s. had been given  
in relief, not so many cases being dealt  
with as in the previous year.

Officers elected were:— President, Mr. R.  
Clowes; vice-presidents, re-elected en bloc  
with the addition of Col. Corbyn, Mr. D.  
Haughton, Mr. A. M. Strachan (Kenning-  
hall), the Rev. E. Kinloch Jones (Bunwell),  
and Major H. Rodwell; chairman, Capt. J.  
H. Thacker; vice-chairman, Mr. H. J.  
Powell; hon. secretary, Mr. R. W. Feltham;  
hon. treasurer, Mr. H. J. Powell; assistant  
secretary, Mr. J. Kemp; general commit-  
tee—Old Buckenham Messrs. S. Loveday, T.  
Gedge, H. Orford, E. Merrick, S. Taylor,  
G. Lancaster and A. Richmond; New  
Buckenham Messrs. F. Myhill, C. Gibbs, O.  
R. Brown, G. Howling, W. Deeks, W. J.  
Symonds, and F. Deresly; Carleton Rode  
Messrs. W. Chapman, J. Scott, and E.  
Chaney; Banham Mr. H. Aldous; standard  
bearer, Mr. F. Deresly.

THE DISS EXPRESS AND NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK JOURNAL—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1933.

78 NEW BUCKENHAM.

NORFOLK.

[KELLY'S

Goulder Horton, grocer  
Holl Ernest, horse, cattle & dog  
infirmary. T N 8  
Howling George Fredk. boot repairer  
Lawrence Lydia (Miss), music tchr  
Mapes Jn. chimney sweeper, Marsh la  
Myhill G. & Sons, butchers  
Peake Charles, watch repairer  
Powell C. P. (Mrs.), butcher  
Powell Horace Jack, farmer & live-  
stock dealer, Chapel street. TN 13

Powell Robert Horace, farmer &  
landowner, Church farm  
Read Frederick William, cabinet  
maker  
Reeve Arthur, blacksmith  
Reilly Arthur Fdk. King's Head P.H  
Robins Reginald G. shoe maker  
Rush Arth. smallholder  
Saunders Arthur George & Son, car-  
penters

Seville Horace, boot & shoe repairer  
Shearman Percy Herbert, drug &  
photographic stores, confectioner &  
tobacconist. T N 6  
Smith Fredk. & Sons, cycle agts  
Spalding Henry, grocer, draper,  
clothier & hardware dealer. T N 3  
Symonds Wm. J. H. fishmonger  
Tooke Bertie Elisha, builder  
Woodrow Charles, White Horse P.H

Kelly's Directory 1933



The house/shop as it is today, next to the tall thatched cottage – the ‘thermometer’ is still on the wall.

The family moved back to Haverhill around 1934 and Percy signed up to the Suffolk Regiment near the beginning of WW2 and was posted to Singapore only to be captured by the Japanese almost immediately, he was held as a Prisoner of War until the end of 1945. The Suffolks had made him a medical orderly and he did much to relieve the suffering of many men in the makeshift hospitals connected to the notorious death railway and he received many compliments afterwards from grateful patients who nicknamed him ‘Doc’. He was awarded the BEM for all his work.

Unfortunately, Olive died at a young age in 1953, Percy continued working in the local Boots Chemist who had by then bought his father’s shop in Haverhill. Percy was very involved with the Haverhill branch of the British Legion and after his death they named their local care home after him. Percy died in 1966 age 71.

Elizabeth Nally, (granddaughter.)

16/04/24