

# THE DOWDELL FAMILY OF BARTON STACEY PARISH 1890-c.1915

by **Linda Moffatt © 2018**  
for the Barton Stacey History Group

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**THOMAS DOWDELL** was born early in 1849 in West Overton, Wiltshire, a village commonly known as Overton and not to be confused with Overton in Hampshire. He was baptised there on 25 March that year, son of Elizabeth Dowdell. Elizabeth was the daughter of George and Grace (Swanborough) Dowdell of Overton.

By the time of the 1851 census Elizabeth was living at Shaw in Overton parish as the wife of Thomas Maslen (also known as Pearce), a farm worker.

On 24 October 1874 at East Kennet parish church, Wiltshire, Thomas Dowdell married Louisa Collier (daughter of Thomas Collier, a labourer of East Kennet). William Pearce and Elizabeth Maslen were their witnesses. Thomas and Louisa Dowdell raised a family in Boreham, Lockeridge in Overton parish, moving around 1881 to the parish of Netheravon, Wiltshire. It was in Netheravon that Louisa Dowdell died in 1899 aged 44.

Soon after, and before the time that the census was taken in 1901, Thomas had moved with his children Susan, George and Fanny to Barton Stacey parish, and were living in one of the cottages in Bransbury hamlet called The Barracks. He was almost certainly working for farmer Stidston of Church Farm.

His son John remained working in Netheravon, where he lodged with the family of Frank and Elizabeth (Scratchley) Wise. In the early 1900s the Wise family, together with John Dowdell, also moved to Bransbury and lived in a cottage close to, if not adjacent to, that of Thomas Dowdell. Thomas Dowdell died in 1914, before the outbreak of war, aged 62. There was no-one in Barton Stacey parish with the surname Dowdell registered to vote in 1920 and it appears that John, Susan, George and Fanny Dowdell had moved away from Barton Stacey during or soon after the war.

## **Children, as known, of Thomas and Louisa (Collier) Dowdell,**

born in Boreham,

- i. William, born 1875.
- ii. James, born 1878.

born in Netheravon,

- iii. JOHN, born 2 June 1881. John was a farm worker in Netheravon but after he moved to Bransbury became a bricklayer. He married Lily Elkins in 1914 and they lived in Andover.

He appears on Barton Stacey Roll of Honour. T4/056538 A/WO2 John Dowdell served with the Army Service Corps in Egypt from 3 April 1915 until the end of the war.

A daughter Hazel A. and a son John H.

- iv. Susan, born 1883. In 1902 she married William Henry Sawyer, a bricklayer's labourer from Fittleworth, Wiltshire and moved from Bransbury to nearby Longparish around 1910.  
Children - Louisa Emily, John Henry, Gladys May, James A., Cyril S.
- v. George, born 1886. He was perhaps the George Dowdell who died in Winchester registration district late in 1911, aged 25.
- vi. Fanny, born 13 August 1895. In 1926 she married Rupert Canning (1889-1977) and lived in Guildford, Surrey. Mrs Canning died in 1945 aged 51.

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