

we kept a copy of this

SOME OF THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN FOSTER FORBES OF
ROSSIEMAY CASTLE, BANFFSHIRE.

JOHN FORBES retired to Banffshire after service in the Indian Army Mutiny.

His wife, MARY WARDELL (HUGENOUT). In India in her early twenties founded the Zenara Mission to emancipate Indian women and did other good works of a similar nature. In the meantime she was starting a family of eleven children. She went on to become an excellent amateur pianist and moved a lot in musical circles e.g. Frank Bridge and others.

She was a very devout Protestant and when she was older made a point of annually going to the Holy Land. She also kept in touch with African and Asian Churchmen. There were some whose eyebrows were lifted when she had the Churchmen to lunch at the Lyceum Club in the twenties and thirties. She helped to found the Womens' Institute both in England and Scotland.

Of her family the eldest son was IAN FORBES really only famous for doing nothing except marrying HELEN CRAVEN.

His two main offspring, VICTORIA and GEORGE were brought up more or less by their Mother in a civilised way. They were all Catholics, their Mother being born a Catholic and their Father having changed religion. Victoria never married and mixed more with her Mother's friends. I think there was a shady married lover somewhere of good birth. She produced a child fairly late by an authorⁱⁿ called Storrier Cluston. It was at this point that her brother George came to the rescue and helped the child eventually to get into Ampleforth.

I will not say much about George because the Ampleforth Magazine article does it better than I could.

George grew up, as many of us know, as a man of considerable stature in various ways.

Of the next three children, the two girls became nuns and the third girl distinguished herself as an excellent doctor.

The youngest one, CHARLIE, who was born very late to Lady Helen, became a monk after a silly childhood. If it hadn't been for George he would have come to a very sticky ending with the Police in Piccadilly Station lavatory. George had the matter hushed up.

Just a word about what my Father used to call the wicked Uncles i.e. the sons of John Foster Forbes.

Uncle HUMPH enjoyed dipping me in rough seas shouting "Cowardy, cowardy, custard". I was pulled out after I had swallowed gallons of sea water.

Uncle BILL I loved. Very good-looking but a bit of a rake and known as 'kissing Billy'. During the war he returned to the Navy and used to drink until he passed out in the local hotel in Aberdeen and my Mother, who was a very stable person and married to the Lord Lieutenant (second time around), used to receive a telephone call to come and pick up unconscious kissing Billy off the bar floor.

Another Uncle, too dull to mention - and then we come to the odd ones (who my Mother called 'late babies').

Uncle JOCK was very strange but could be wickedly amusing. Like

the other Uncles mentioned, he did no job except as Master in some Preparatory Schools but he ran into "that" trouble. In spite of those tendencies of which I hinted, he suddenly got married at the age of 39 to a woman of 70. After some time (Aunt Gwendy) she went to her Mother-in-Law and said Uncle Jock had never made love to her and what could she do about it!! He drank a lot and did all sorts of things he shouldn't have done. Suddenly he reformed in middle age (whether his separated wife kept up his allowance I don't know) but he helped to found a religious group called "The Order of the Cross". No more drink and he became an Evangelist.

Uncle GORDON, the youngest, committed suicide in India as he got into debt with money lenders.

Uncle RONNIE was nice but vague. My grandmother said he got shot in the head in the First World War but the general opinion was he was born that way. He did marry ROSITA FORBES for a short time and figures rather unfavourably in her autobiography.

My Grandmother's life was ruined in one way although she had this wonderful even temperament. Her sons would visit her at Rossemay Castle to extort money from her. It makes the Innes' seem very staid by comparison though there is a load of talent in the family.