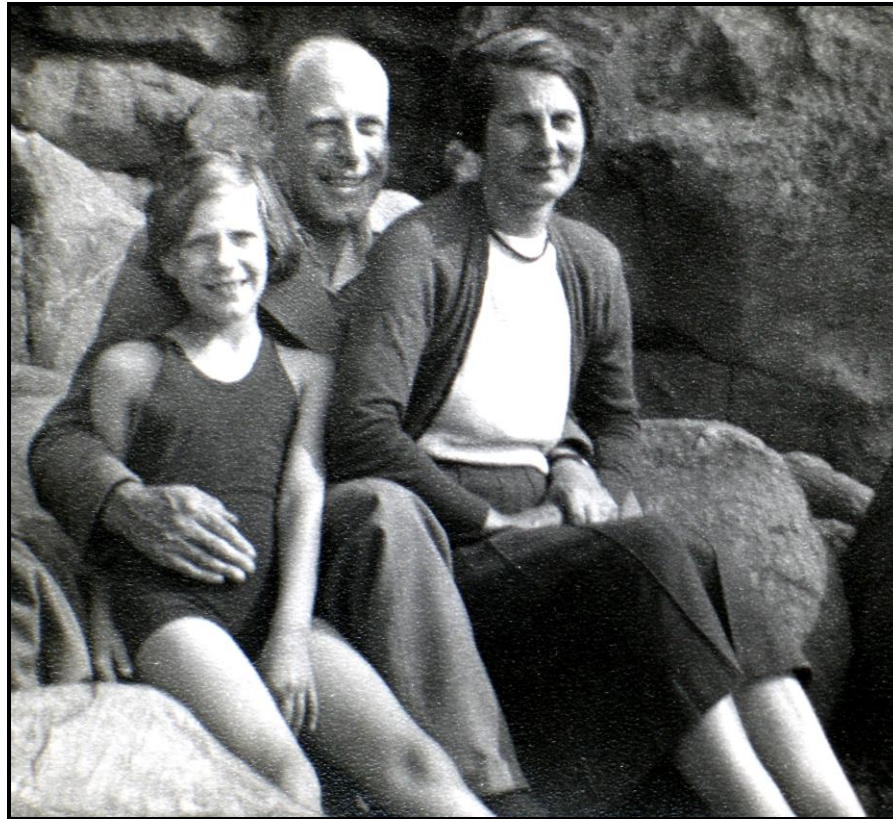


The Colletts of Barn Bridge

Dinah Collett (1911-1955)

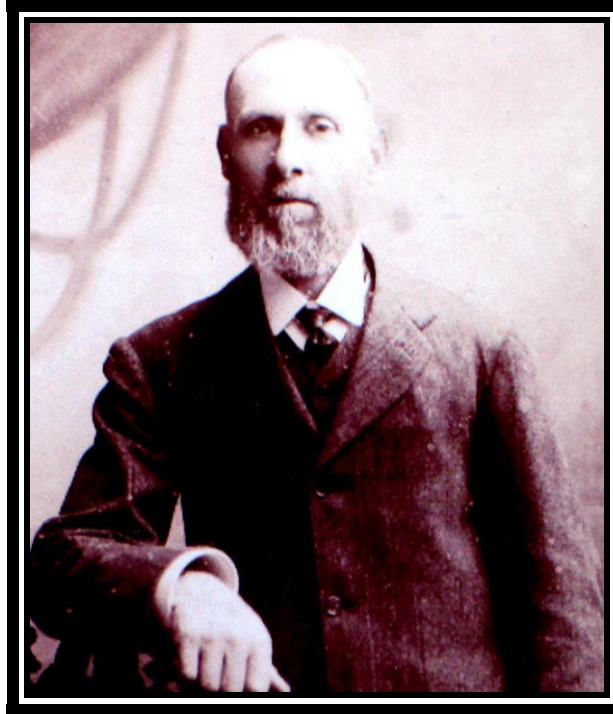
A tragic and most sad death



Dinah Collett, pictured above with her husband Gerald, and daughter Mary (born 1946), must surely be one of the saddest stories in the Moravian burial-ground in east Tytherton. The photograph is likely to have been taken shortly before her death, by suicide, at the age of 44. What led such a beautiful and attractive woman to do such a thing? We know that, some time before she gassed herself, that she had been in a motor accident. It may also be that she suffered from severe post-natal depression that contemporary treatments had not successfully resolved. Both of these factors could be implicated, but most probably we shall never completely know.¹ Gerald, who loved wild flowers and photography, married again, but some years later. He always kept photographs of his tragic Dinah, whom he must have loved deeply. Dinah is buried near to her Father, Walter Pocock, and her mother, Emily Marion Pocock (*née* Long).

¹ Personal correspondence with Michael Collett, Dinah's eldest son, 2009.

The Collett Family



William James Collett (1860-1927) husband of Alice Maude, and father of Thomas Gerald

Wm. Collett died this afternoon after a comparatively short illness - Three weeks before he was present at the morning service - He was most faithful in his attendance at the Sanctuary - in the work of the Sunday School - & in his service on the Committee. The funeral service was held in our Church on Friday, Feb. 25th - & the interment ^{took place} at Melksham.

Death of William James Collett, February 21st, 1927²

² Moravian Congregational Diary

Transcription

Feb. 21st

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Alice Maude Collett (c. 1869-1949, *née* Bown) was the mother of Thomas Gerald Collett, and is buried at East Tytherton. The family lived in Barn Bridge (*below*), East Tytherton



(Above): We cannot positively identify all these people, but it appears that Olive Collett (died aged 26, in 1920) is on the left, with her stepmother (who married William James Collett 15th September, 1909), Alice Maude Collett (standing, centre). The baby could be Thomas Gerald Collett (born April, 1911). If so, Alice was about 43, and Olive 18. The location is *Barn Bridge*. The woman holding the baby is probably a nurse, rather than a relative – she is the only person in what appears to be in a one-piece uniform. Could this have been Nurse Annie Turk, from Calne?



(Above): *Barn Bridge* before World War I. The figure on the right, on massive enlargement, seems to show a beard. Could this be William James Collett?



(Above): *Barn Bridge* between the wars. The young man to the extreme left, may be Gerald Collett. Enlargement seems to show a boy of about 12-13 years, and a man of 25-30 years. Could this be Gerald with (half-brother) Gilbert Collett? The 'parting' of the boy is on the same side as Gerald's. If this surmise is correct, then this picture was taken in around 1922-23. Remains of the pre-1914 virginia creeper can still be seen on part of the left-hand side of the house – perhaps cleared in the previous 12 months or so?³ Gilbert was Gerald's half-brother. Gerald's half-sister, Olive, was about 17 years older than him, so the above suggestion is not inconsistent.

³ Michael Collett writes that 'Gilbert subsequently planted virginia creeper at Fiveways and it covered the front and side of the house.'

Emily Marion Pocock (*née* Long) and her family



Emily Marion Pocock's (*née* Long) 67th birthday, c. 26th July, 1946?

Standing: Gerald Collett, Henry Rendell, James Pocock, Kenneth Pocock, Leslie Ferris

Sitting: Dinah Collett, Molly Rendell, Joan Holt, Anne Pocock, Dorothy Ferris

Children: Joyce Ferris, David Ferris (born 9/1942 [Emily Marion Pocock],

Mary Collett (born 3/1946), Barbara Ferris

Dog,⁴ Ann Collett (born 6/1942), Sheila Pocock (born 1/1942), Judith Holt (born 11/1942),

Simon Holt (born 4/1940)

⁴ The author was originally told that this was 'Shot', and that this was Kenneth's dog. Sheila Edwards (correspondence, 8/2010) thinks this is incorrect, as Shot had probably died 'at least two years before'. Sheila wondered if this was possibly Molly's dog, as, as far as she knew, only Molly had a dog?