

*Was Nellie
Drury a
Gold Digging
Black Widow
or a Dear Wife?*

A Genealogy
Mystery

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Was Nellie Drury a Gold-Digging Black Widow or a Dear Wife”? A Genealogy Mystery

by Godfrey J. Ellis

A “gold digger” can be defined as “a woman who associates with or marries a man chiefly for material gain” (www.dictionary.com). A “black widow” wife can be defined as “a disingenuous woman who exploits her position in a relationship to the detriment of her partner” and even “a female who feeds off the mental, physical, and material means of a male and then leaves him for dead” (www.urbandictionary.com). Was Nellie Drury Lowman, the third wife of my great-grandfather, Charles Alfred Lowman, a “gold digger” and a “black widow”? Or was she the “dear wife” Charles describes in his will and over whom he was “soppy” (to use my mother’s word)? This little write-up will consider those questions.

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In the late 1800s, George Lowman ran a successful tailor shop in Crewkerne, Somerset. At one point, he landed an account making boys’ school uniforms for a large, private all-boys school in Sherborne, Dorset. It was an opportunity to expand the business and he dispatched one of his sons, Charles Alfred Lowman to Sherborne to open a tailor shop in the town to annually service the school as well as provide services to the local residents. They opened a shop in Cheap Street, the main shopping street in Sherborne and Charles joined the Methodist congregation, who had a large Chapel behind the school and just off Cheap Street.

Young Charles did very well. At just 21 years old, he already had a home on Greenhill in Sherborne. Charles was seeing a local beauty, the 22-year old Mary Jane Hatcher who, we think, went by the nickname, Jennie. Nature being what it is, Mary Jane soon found herself expecting. He quickly married his love on 20 May 1876. Some two or three months later, a son was born to the couple. They named him after his father, Charles Alfred Lowman, although he went by Alfred or Alf during his lifetime. Consistent with the customs of the time, he was christened in the state Church of England, not in the Methodist Chapel.

The little family prospered over the next 17 years. In all, Charles and Jennie had 9 living children (and 2 stillbirths) including my grandfather, George, who was named after his grandfather, still living in Crewkerne. It appears that they were raised in the apartment above the tailor shop on Cheap Street.

Charles and Jennie may have had more children except for the fact that Mary Jane Lowman contracted double pneumonia in 1896. She tragically died of that pneumonia and likely-related cardiac failure at the very young age of 42. Charles was by her side as she passed. She left her grief-stricken husband, now 41 years old, with eight children; four of them were under the age of ten with the youngest being just three.

Charles would have had great difficulty running a thriving tailor business with all those small children to care for. He waited a decent nine-month mourning period, but he had to have a mother to raise the large family. He made an offer of marriage to Louisa Tizard, a woman of 33 years old, living in Scholing, now incorporated as a part of Southampton. We do not know how they met. Southampton is some 70 miles straight east of Sherborne and we have no reason to believe he ever went there, unless it was to arrange for fabric or something like that. It certainly appears to have been a marriage of convenience for both of them: he had to have a mother for his children and she was still unmarried at 33 with no other prospects for marriage at an age when women had great difficulty surviving alone. On the 28 July 1897, they married in her parish in Scholing. The only witnesses, and likely only ones in attendance, were members of the Tizard family.

My mother, Ruth Lowman Ellis Roy, remembered Louisa Tizard Lowman fondly, although she only knew her as a small child. In 1999, I helped her write a book of memories entitled, *Real People: Family Legacies of the Lowman and Nash Lines* (available online through FamilySearch.org). When I quote my mother (below), all quotes are taken from that book. According to my mother's memories, Louisa Tizard Lowman filled her part of the marital bargain in an admirable manner. She remembered her as:

...a short, plump lady with a very high bosom that caused shortness of breath and asthma. She was a very jolly person who laughed a lot until her body wobbled like jelly. I remember that, very well! I also remember the hats! Oh, the hats! They were elaborate affairs, resplendent with flowers, fruit, or feathers! Yes, Grandma Louisa was a wonderful, comfortable person who brought up the entire family and was a real mother to them (p. 37).

Charles and Louisa lived together, apparently quite happily, for the next 27 years. At some point, the family moved into a larger home on Newland Street and, eventually, into a lovely home that they named "St. Valerie" on King's Road, a comfortable residential area just a short walk north of the shopping district. By all accounts Louisa was graciously loving in her care of his children. She was also loving to Charles and bore four children of her own. Sadly, none of them survived. The first two died before the age of 2 and the last two were stillborn.

On the 24th of February, 1927, after 27 good years together, Louisa passed on. Like Mary Jane, Louisa also died of pneumonia, leaving Charles a widower for the second time.

Charles Lowman was now 70 years old and, apparently, was fairly ill himself. He eventually died of rectal cancer, but that wasn't for another 9 years, so we don't know exactly what his health challenges were just after Louisa's death in 1924. However, they appear to have been serious. My mother describes her grandfather as "older and quite sick, confined to bed much of the time" and reports that he required in-home nursing care. She goes on to say that:

He was cranky and impossible to please. One nurse after another had been hired but, after two or three days, had either quit or Grandpa had thrown them out. All he wanted was Winnie, (Mum). One was different from the others, however. Nellie Drury seemed able to deal with Grandpa. I don't know if she did more for him, or just wouldn't put up with his nonsense. Somehow she got Grandpa's confidence. He gradually grew dependent on her and then began to feel affectionate. Before long, he was downright "soppy" on her, and loudly proclaimed his love for "his Nellie." He had to marry her.

The family was probably very concerned about his notion of marriage, but he had definite ideas that he declared forcibly. By all accounts, Charles Alfred Lowman was not one to be thwarted. And, sure enough, he and Nellie were married in the Wesleyan Chapel in Sherborne, Dorset, on New Year's Day of 1926. It was just under two years from the death of Louisa. At the time of the marriage, Charles Alfred was turning 71. Nellie Drury was just 44 years old. That put her as the same age as his children – in fact, six years younger than his oldest child, Alf and close to the same age as my grandfather, George. According to my mother, the family was shocked and stunned by this marriage.

Charles Lowman and Nellie Drury's marriage certificate is reproduced below. It is faint and hard to read with tiny writing, so we will transcribe it here. The certificate is dated 1 January 1926 and the marriage is shown as having been solemnized at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Sherborne in the District of Sherborne, County of Dorset. Charles Lowman is listed as 70 years old, "Widower," and "Retired Outfitter." His address is listed as St. Valerie, Kings Road, Sherborne. At the time, the British named their houses and St. Valerie was the name of his home. His father's name is given as "George Lowman (deceased)." Just below that name, the transcriber mistakenly wrote the name of Nellie Drury's father and then drew a line through the incorrectly placed name. Under "occupation" the clerk mistakenly entered the occupation of Nellie's father and then crossed it out and replaced it with George Lowman's occupation as an "Outfitter" (in Crewkerne, Somerset).

On Nellie's line, we see her name, age as "44 years," "Spinster" (single woman), and address as "King's Road, Sherborne." George Lowman's name was mistakenly written and then stroked through and replaced with the name of Nellie's father, "Percival Richard" on one line and "Drury (deceased)" on

the second line. Under father's occupation was written "Outfitter" which was then stroked through and replaced with her father's occupation, "Solicitor's Managing Clerk" (i.e., an assistant attorney).

Below the identification section, it says that the couple were married in "said Chapel" according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the "Wesleyan Methodists" by "License." It is signed by "C. Lowman and N. Drury" in the presence of "C.A. Lowman" (Charles Lowman's oldest son) and "F. A. Cox" (the husband of Charles Lowman's oldest daughter, Lillie).

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

1926. Marriage solemnized at <i>Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Sherborne</i> in the District of <i>Sherborne</i> in the County of <i>Dorset</i>								
Column No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
49	First 1926	<i>Charles Lowman</i>	<i>70</i> <i>Years</i>	<i>Widower</i>	<i>Retired Outfitter</i>	<i>St. Valerie Kings Road Sherborne</i>	<i>George Lowman (deceased) Sherborne County Dorset</i>	<i>Outfitter Sherborne Dorset</i>
		<i>Nellie Drury</i>	<i>47</i> <i>Years</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Kings Road Sherborne</i>	<i>George Lowman (deceased) Sherborne Dorset</i>	<i>Outfitter Sherborne Dorset</i>
Married in the <i>said Chapel</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Wesleyan Methodists</i> by <i>License</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>C. Lowman</i> <i>N. Drury</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>C.A. Lowman</i> <i>F.A. Cox</i>		
						And in the Presence of <i>C. Lowman</i> Authorized Person for the said Chapel		

Marriage Certificate for Charles Lowman and Nellie Drury

My mother writes: "Whether this was the real thing, or just the 'love' patients typically think they have for their caretakers, I'll leave you to judge." However, she does *not* leave it to her readers to judge, but goes on to share her strongly-worded opinion. She writes:

It was a ridiculous marriage. He was in his 70s and she was 27 years his junior. ...Even though she had inherited the home for as long as she lived there, she soon returned to Yeovil. I hope it wasn't because the family rejected her, but it could have been – I don't remember. When I was a young adult, going to art school in Yeovil, I was once invited to go to "tea" at her home. She was living with her elderly mother (p. 38).

This "mother" was actually Nellie's step-mother, Fanny Burdass Drury. Interestingly, Fanny Drury was then almost exactly the same age as Nellie's late husband, Charles Alfred Lowman. My mother continues:

I always thought that Nellie seemed much more at home in that little house than she ever did with Grandpa. She was a real spinster still, even if she wore a wedding ring! Ironically, she was buried in the same grave with Charles and Louisa in Sherborne! It was common at the time for several caskets to be stacked on top of each other in the same grave. We've often wondered how the two wives got on, laying one on top of the other! (p. 38).

Now, let's pause here and put my mother's strong words into context. First, we need to remember that she was only 11 years old at the time of Charles and Nellie's wedding. As a child, her perceptions

of the events may have been misperceived or exaggerated at the time. She was 18 at the time of her grandfather's death and Nellie rented out the house and moved soon after that.

Second, my mother didn't record her childhood recollections until we worked on her book almost 70+ years later. Mother was then 84 years old and, while still mentally sharp, the considerable expanse of time between the events and her recording of the events may well have further blurred the details. That is only natural. But it leaves us needing to evaluate the veracity of her opinions.

There is evidence that both supports and questions my mother's strong views. The evidence *supporting* her view is three-fold.

First, there would be nothing new or surprising about adult children experiencing mixed feelings as they watch their aging parents remarry, especially in this case where Charles didn't know Nellie well. She was, in essence, his employee (his nurse), and there was a considerable age difference. His adult children could well have thought his decision was rash and ill-advised and rejected that marriage, as my mother suggests.

Second, Mother was a direct eye-witness, and her opinion would be considered by genealogists as a primary source. She wrote what she wrote as a witness to the events. Her opinions cannot be simply ignored.

Third, there is the matter of the will, a copy of which can be found in the appendix. Although not a wealthy man, Charles had considerable assets. He owned a large home on King's Road, two stores (a tailor shop and a grocery store) with apartments above them, and held a six percent share in the Sherborne Gas Company.

One year and three months after the wedding, Charles made out a new will. It was another shocker. It must have confirmed some of the family's worst fears about Nellie being a black widow: "...a disingenuous woman who exploits her position in a relationship to the detriment of her partner" (really, the Lowman family).

Charles Lowman's new will named his much younger third bride as the main beneficiary of the bulk of his estate. She got St. Valerie on King's Street, both house and grounds, and everything in it including "furniture, ...linen, china, books, pictures, and works of art." She received "all cash that may be in the house." Further, she was given the "net income" of the Lowman Tailor shop on Cheap Street with the apartments above it, "occupied by my sons, Alfred (his oldest) and George" (my grandfather). (Both of them later had their own homes in Sherborne, but it sounds (from the will) as if they were living above the stores with their families in 1927.) Nellie was also given the "net income" from the "Fruiterer and Greengrocer" shop and the occupied apartments above that. "Net income" was

presumably rent, which was to be paid by Alf, six years older than his “step-mother” and George as well as the grocer. If Alf, George, and the grocer wanted to purchase their shops and apartments, they could purchase them from Nellie “at a price to be determined by the valuation of two indifferent persons” and if they wished to sell, then the “proceeds from such sale” would be paid to Nellie. Whatever was not “otherwise disposed of” was to be sold and the money divided among his children, but Nellie got 90 percent of everything. In other words, Nellie was most comfortably set up; she never had to work another day in her life. And what had she done to deserve this massive windfall? From the perspective of his children, nothing! ...except to have worked for a time as Charles Lowman’s hired nurse.

Under British law, the properties would revert to the biological children following Nellie’s death (or remarriage), but when would that be? She was only 44 years old. Until she died, she had “full use and enjoyment” of the family home and the “assets” (presumably rent) from the two shops/homes on Cheap Street. As it turned out, Nellie was to die only 7 years after Charles, at the relatively young age of 58, but the family didn’t know that would happen at the time.

As my mother put it, “It appeared that the children had lost their inheritance” (p. 38). George and Alf, would not be inheriting the tailor shop as they had been expecting but, instead, would be paying rent to a young nurse who had suddenly appeared and impulsively married their father. Writes Mother, in what sounds like a classic understatement, “That must have gone down hard!” In fact, the family must have been outraged!

A year and a half later, Charles modified the will by adding a codicil (see the appendix). This addendum to the will revoked the clause requiring George and Alf to pay rent to Nellie. The rent from the tailor shop was replaced by “income or dividends of all my 6 percent Debenture Stock in the Sherborne Gas Company during her lifetime.” She apparently continued to receive rent from the grocery store. Either way, Nellie was still a rich woman.

In making this change to his will, had Charles capitulated to family pressure? It seems likely, and this is further evidence that my mother may have been right in suggesting that the family had rejected Nellie and the new marriage. It sounds like a classic example of a black widow opportunist exploiting a vulnerable, dying man.

On the other hand, there is also evidence *questioning* Mother’s perception.

First, and as can be seen in the marriage certificate discussed earlier, his oldest son, Alf, and his oldest son-in-law were at the wedding and served as witnesses to the marriage. They could not have been totally opposed to the marriage if they had been willing to sanction it in this manner.

Second, we have another direct eye-witness to these events; another primary source. Just as we cannot dismiss my mother's words without considering them carefully, so we cannot ignore her grandfather's words. Charles Alfred Lowman did not think he was being taken advantage of by an opportunistic woman. Two time in his will, he called her his "Dear Wife" and that means something we cannot simply dismiss.

Third, there was at least some association between Nellie and the extended family, as can be seen from the group photograph reproduced on the front cover. This is a *family portrait* with my grandfather, George Lowman, standing right behind his father. That photo shows some degree of acceptance of Nellie Drury.

Third, although Nellie moved back to Yeovil to live with her step-mother, after her death her body was returned to Sherborne to be buried in the family grave with the bodies of Charles and his second wife, Louisa Tizard. (Mary Jane Hatcher Lowman is also buried in the Sherborne Cemetery but has her own separate grave.) That arrangement seems to indicate at least some degree of acceptance of her position as one of Charles legitimate wives. Her mother mentions the family joking about it; but they did allow it.

The truth is probably somewhere in between the two extremes of total rejection of Nellie and the "ridiculous marriage" (as Mother labeled it) and total embracing of a new, in-marrying family member. At 11 years old, Mother may well have misinterpreted how upset the family was. She would not have fully understood the politics of the new marriage. Her perceptions were surely influenced by her family, most likely her parents. She undoubtedly overheard them whispering and making private comments, some of which were vented frustration that would never have been expressed publicly and some of which she wouldn't have fully understood. It is likely that the family publicly tried to put the best face on a situation that they privately considered ... unfortunate. They may well have seen Nellie as somewhat of a "gold digger" – defined earlier as "a woman who associates with or marries a rich man in order to get valuables from him." That seems to pretty much sum up what might have been the Lowman family's private view of the new Mrs. Lowman. But, if the extended family saw Nellie as an unprincipled opportunist and Charles as a doddering old fool who didn't know his own mind, were those allegations really fair? Were they correct? Was this truly "a ridiculous marriage" of a bed-ridden invalid who was about to die being attacked by a black widow? We may never know the full answers to such questions. However, there are a few hints that might help resolve the mystery.

The first of the hints come from Ruth Roy's own book. Although Charles may have been ill and may have needed a nurse, he was far from incapacitated. He lived for seven and a half years following

his marriage to Nellie. More than that, the Lowman patriarch was, at least according to my mother's recollections, a tower of emotional strength, even as late as 1933, just before his death. Mother recalls:

Even though Charles was sick during those years with Nellie, he still exercised a great deal of control over the family and the family business. When George, my father, needed treatment for his alcohol problems in 1933, it was Grandpa who took over, at the age of 78. He sent Dad off for treatment ...and Dad went! No one argued with Grandpa Lowman! (p. 43-44).

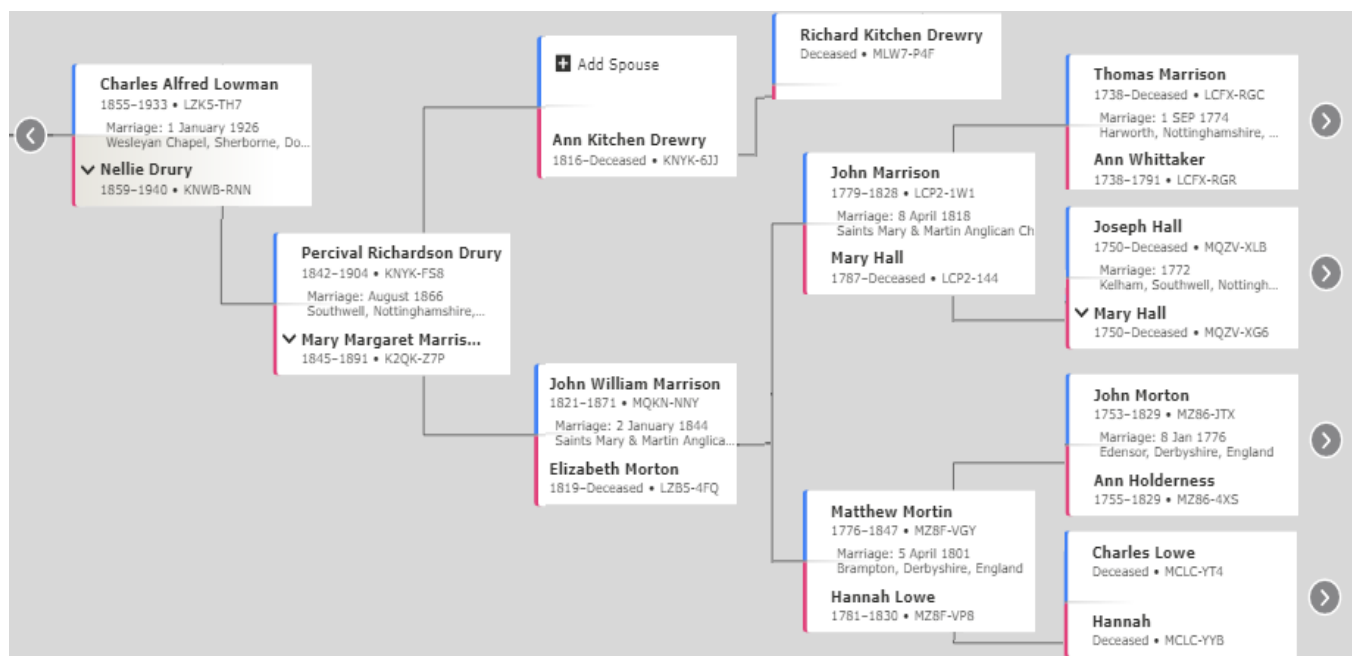
A second hint comes from two photographs (reproduced on the front cover – see also pp. 38 and 79 of *Real People*). Charles is shown next to his third wife, Nellie. In one photo, he is standing up, dressed in a three-piece suit, and looking happy and healthy. In the other, he is again in a three-piece suit and sitting in what looks like a deck chair, but could be a wheel chair. The idea of Charles languishing in bed at death's door is clearly not supported by these photos.

Third, it may be none of our business whether this marriage was consummated or not. However, the question seems relevant if we are, as my mother invites us, to judge whether or not this was a real marriage. Charles sired 10 children with Mary Jane (Jennie) and four more with Louisa. This was a sexual man and surely still sexual at 71. It is unlikely, given my mother's description of him (above) and his rather robust appearance in the photos, that he wouldn't have consummated a seven-year marriage with a younger woman. It is clear he found her attractive. He called her "my dear wife Nellie" in his final will (see appendix) and my mother's says he was, in her words, "downright sappy on her" (p.37). It seems doubtful that the marriage was only a marriage in name and not a true marriage in form and deed. They had over seven years together in which they appear to have been friends, companions, and likely sexual partners. By any definition, that constitutes a marriage.

A fourth hint comes from their ages. Charles was 71 years old at the time of his marriage and that is not particularly old. Nellie was 44. Both were of the age of majority and had the right to make adult decisions. Nellie, who was unmarried, may have seen an opportunity for an alliance that was unlikely to reappear. It was her best, and likely only, chance for a marriage. The fact that the suitor had money may or may not have been a driving force – more like icing on the cake, perhaps. Not surprisingly, she accepted his offer.

Nor was there any evidence that Charles was a victim of a gold digging black widow. Nellie was likely his only chance for female company and a sexual relationship. There is no evidence that he was senile or otherwise incapable of expressing rationale preferences. If he wanted to marry a younger woman, he surely had the right and ability to do so. If he thought he loved her, who is to say he didn't, even if the affection was somewhat impetuous? The family's claim that this marriage was "ridiculous" (to the extent that this is an accurate portrayal of their position) may have been based on nothing more than the adult children's sour grapes about potentially losing their inheritance.

Given that Nellie Drury became Charles Lowman's legal third wife and lived with him for over seven years, it seems well worth learning more about her. Her full story actually begins two generations earlier with her two sets of grandparents.



The question with which we close is the question with which we started: was Nellie a piarrah? A black widow or gold-digger who took advantage of a dodderly old man. We think not. In fact, an interesting question comes to mind. How was her marriage of convenience any different from the second marriages of convenience of her father, Percival Drury, or of Charles Alfred Lowman's second marriage with Louisa Tizard?

Percival's second wife, Fanny Burdass Harvey was a widow; C.A. Lowman's second wife, Louisa Tizard had never married for whatever reason. Other than that, the story sounds the same. Both C.A. and Percival lost their first wives when they were just in their early 40s. Both first wives had left small children at home. Both husbands crossed the country to find new wives who they almost definitely didn't know. Both marriages took place in the wives' home towns. Both husbands married wives who were 10 years younger. Both new wives took on other women's children. In short, both husbands needed partners and mothers; both wives needed financial support. While somewhat startlingly to modern sensibilities, which place a tremendous value on marriages based on only on attraction, 19th century reality demanded practical alliances. And, even though both new marriages were marriages of convenience, both new marriages produced additional children.

Nellie Drury's story was not all that different. Like Louisa Tizard, Nellie had never married. Like both Louisa and Fanny Burdass, Nellie didn't know her future husband all that well but recognized an

opportunity for an alliance that improved her financial support. All three women married husbands who were 10 or more years older. All three convenience marriages were social and sexual.

Of the marriage of C.A. Lowman and Louiza Tizard, my mother wrote:

Grandpa must have desperately wanted a mother for his children and I think she filled the gap just expertly. ...Dear Louisa was a very jolly person... Yes, Grandma Louisa was a wonderful, comfortable person who brought up the entire family and was a real mother to them.¹

Of the marriage of C.A. Lowman and Nellie Drury, she wrote:

Nellie Drury...was a real “middle-age spinster” in every way. ...It was a ridiculous marriage. ...She was a real spinster still, even if she wore a wedding ring!²

I don't get it.... True, Nellie didn't raise any children, but she fulfilled her side of the convenience alliance in other ways. For over six years, Nellie provided companionship, friendship, and almost certainly, intimacy until C.A. died. She undoubtedly performed domestic work and likely nursed him as his illness progressed. Why was his second marriage with Louisa, “wonderful” and his third marriage with Nellie, “ridiculous”? One could even make the argument that, of the three convenience alliances (Percival and Fanny, C.A. and Louisa, and C.A. and Nellie), C.A. Lowman's marriage with Nellie was the *most* based on attraction and love, not the least. Percival Drury and C.A. Lowman heard that Fanny and Louisa were available as mother replacements and married them primarily for that purpose. At least with Nellie, the alliance was based on his feeling “downright sappy” (as my mother put it).

No, I have concluded that, for me, the marriage of C.A. Lowman and Nellie Drury was far from ridiculous. If I am left alone and lonely at 70, I hope that I am fortunate enough to find a partner like Nellie Drury.

¹ Roy and Ellis (1999). *Real People*, p. 36.

² Roy and Ellis (1999). *Real People*, pp. 37-38.

Appendix -- The last will and testament of Charles Alfred Lowman:

Sherborne 1933 p.1

I, CHARLES LOWMAN of St Valerie Kings Road Sherborne in the County of Dorset Gentleman hereby revoke all testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last will. 1. I appoint my son CHARLES ALFFED LOWMAN and my sons in law FRED ANTHONY COX of Sherborne aforesaid jeweller and CHARLES WILLIAM HOBBS of Sweet Fields Privett Road - - Alverstoke Hants Gas Company's Secretary to be the EXECUTORS and Trustees of this my will and I declare that the expression my Trustees in this my will shall (where the context permits) include the Trustees or Trustee for the time being hereof whether original or substituted And I appoint my Trustees to be Trustees hereof for all the purposes of the Settled Land Act 1925. 2. I bequeath all my household furniture plate plated articles linen china books pictures and works of art to my Trustees upon trust that they shall permit my dear wife Nellie to have the use and enjoyment thereof during her life so long as she remains my widow and after her decease or second marriage shall divide the same equally between such of my children as survive her in such manner as my Trustees in their uncontrolled discretion shall think proper And I direct as follows: So soon as conveniently may be after my death my Trustees shall cause an inventory to be made of the said furniture and effects and the same shall be signed by my said wife and retained by my Trustees and a copy thereof signed by my Trustees shall be delivered to my wife. 3. I bequeath the following pecuniary legacies: To my dear wife all cash that may be in the house at the time of my decease To my niece Vera Kathleen Tizard of "Bewens" Broad Lane - - Lymington Hants the sum of Fifty pounds and to my nephew - - Arthur Leslie Tizard also of "Bewens" Broad Lane Lymington aforesaid the sum of Fifty pounds And I declare that the said legacies shall be paid free of legacy duty. 4. I devise my freehold messuage land and hereditaments known as St Valerie situate in King's Road Sherborne and also my two houses and shops in Cheap Street (one being occupied by my sons Alfred and George and the other by William James Glover as a Fruiterer and Greengrocer) subject as hereinafter mentioned to my Trustees upon trust that my Trustees shall permit my said wife to have the use and enjoyment of St Valerie aforesaid during her life (so long as she remains my widow) she during that time at her own expense keeping the said messuage and premises in good repair and insured against fire to the full value thereof in some office of repute and to the satisfaction of my Trustees in all respects And further my Trustees shall pay the net income from my two said houses and shops in Cheap Street to my said wife during her life or widowhood and after her death or re-marriage (which shall first happen) my Trustees shall stand possessed of the said premises Upon trust for sale and to divide the net proceeds between all my children (hereinafter mentioned) in equal - -

shares share and share alike subject to the like proviso with regard to a child dying in my lifetime as is hereinafter - - mentioned with reference to my Residuary Estate. 5. I devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate not hereby - - otherwise disposed of and subject as aforesaid unto my Trustees into money the same or such part thereof as shall not consist of money and shall stand possessed of the moneys produced by such sale calling in and conversion and of my ready money and the investments for the time being representing the same subject to the payment thereof of all my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses and the legacies bequeathed by this my will or any Codicil hereto In trust for such of my children namely Charles Alfred, George, Thomas, Lillie, Ada, Daisy and Gertie as shall be living at my decease in equal shares share and share alike Provided always that if any of my said children shall die in my lifetime leaving a child or children who shall survive me and being a son or sons shall attain the age of twenty one years or being a daughter or daughters shall attain that age or marry under that age then and in such case the last mentioned child or children shall take (and if more than one equally between them) the share which his her or their parent would have taken under this my Will if such parent had survived me and attained the age of twenty one years And I declare that if my sons Charles - - Alfred Lowman and George Lowman or the survivor of them if one of them shall predecease me shall desire to purchase the dwellinghouse shop and premises in which they now carry on business situate in Cheap Street Sherborne aforesaid and they or he shall signify their or his desire in writing to the then Trustees within three calendar months after my decease then and in such case the said dwellinghouse shop and premises shall be sold and conveyed to my said sons Charles Alfred Lowman and George Lowman or the survivor of them - - (notwithstanding that the said Charles Alfred Lowman is a Trustee) at a price to be agreed on between them and the remainder of my surviving children or if they are unable to agree at a price to be determined by the valuation of two indifferent persons one to be nominated by the Purchasers and the other by the remainder of my surviving children or by an Umpire to be chosen by the two valuers before they proceed to act in the valuation And I declare that upon any sale made by my Trustees after the expiration of three - - calendar months after my decease the statement in writing of my Trustees that no notice of intention to purchase has been given by my said sons or either of them shall be conclusive evidence to the Purchaser of the fact so stated And I further declare that if my daughter Lillie shall be desirous of

purchasing the dwellinghouse known as St Valerie Kings Road Sherborne aforesaid in which I now reside and she shall - - signify her desire in writing to the then Trustees within three calendar months after the decease or remarriage of my said wife whichever shall first happen then and in such case the said dwellinghouse and premises shall be sold to my said daughter Lillie upon the same terms and conditions so far as applicable as those hereinbefore set out with regard to the option given to my said sons Provided always and I hereby declare that if my said sons Alfred and George or either of them shall - - purchase the shop and premises now in their occupation during the lifetime or widowhood of my said wife or if the said William James Glover shall purchase the shop and premises at present in his occupation in accordance with the option - - contained in his tenancy agreement during such lifetime or widowhood of my said wife then my Trustees shall invest the proceeds from such sale or sales as the case may be and to pay the resultant income thereof to my said wife during her life or until her re-marriage and after the death or re-marriage of my said wife such investments shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate And I declare that my Trustees shall have the following powers namely (1) To postpone the sale and conversion of any part of my residuary estate for so long as they may in their absolute discretion deem fit without being answerable for loss (2) So long as any real property forming part of my residuary estate shall remain unsold to manage the same with the powers of absolute owners And I also declare that all sums of money which I have advanced or may hereafter advance to any of my said children or the husband of any daughter of mine shall be brought into hotchpot in the division of my residuary estate and accounted for accordingly In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand to this my last will and testament contained on three sheets of brief this twenty ninth day of April one thousand nine hundred and - - twenty seven -----

----- Charles Lowman -----

Signed by the said Charles Lowman as his last will in the presence of us both being present at the same time who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto - - subscribed our names as witnesses -----

----- W.Pearson The Lindens Kings Rd Sherborne Accountant
E.Pearson The Lindens Kings Road Sherborne married woman.

THIS IS A CODICIL to the last Will and Testament of me CHARLES LOWMAN of St Valerie Kings Road Sherborne in the County of Dorset Gentleman which Will bears date the twenty ninth day of April one thousand nine hundred and twenty seven Whereas by my said Will I devised inter alia my house shop and premises occupied by my sons Alfred and George in Cheap Street Sherborne aforesaid to my Trustees Upon trust to pay the net income thereof to my dear wife Nellie during her life or widowhood and after her death or remarriage (whichever should first happen) I directed that my Trustees should stand - - possessed thereof (inter alia) Upon trust for sale and to dispose of the proceeds as in my said will mentioned Now I hereby revoke the bequest of the income of the said house shop and premises occupied by my said sons in Cheap Street aforesaid or in case of sale of the income of the proceeds thereof to my said wife during her life or widowhood in my said will - - contained and direct that upon my decease my Trustees shall stand possessed of my said shop and premises occupied by my said sons on other the trusts concerning the same contained in my said Will and in the place of the bequest of income to my said wife so revoked as aforesaid I bequeath to her the income or dividends of all my £6 per cent Debenture Stock in the Sherborne Gas Company during her lifetime or widowhood and after her death or remarriage (whichever shall first happen) I direct that my said Debenture Stock shall fall into and form part of the residue of my estate Provided always and I hereby declare that if my Trustees shall dispose of my said Debenture Stock after my decease my Trustees shall invest the proceeds of such sale and pay the resultant income to my said wife during her life or until her marriage and after her death or re-marriage such investments shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate And in all other respects I confirm my said Will In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand to this Codicil to my last Will this seventeenth day of September one thousand nine hundred and twenty eight -----

----- Charles Lowman -----

Signed by the said Charles Lowman as a Codicil to his last Will in the presence of us both being present at the same time who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses -----
 Henry Turner Dulce Domum, Edgwarebury Lane Edgware Gentleman
 Ejou Edelbert Schuler Dulce Domum, Edgwarebury Lane Edgware
 Middx Company Director -----

On the 5th day of October 1933 Probate of this Will (with one Codicil) was granted at Blandford.

A correct copy *H J C. de Crespigny*
 District Registrar