

# *Northamptonshire in a Global Context*

*Mainstreaming Black History  
in the Curriculum*

*Key Stages 2 and 3*

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
**Black History**  
ASSOCIATION



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



First Published: 2009

Published by: Northamptonshire Black History Association.

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Northamptonshire Black History Association

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[www.northants-black-history.org.uk](http://www.northants-black-history.org.uk)

Printed: Almac, Piddington, Northampton

### **Acknowledgements**

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Northamptonshire Black History Association (NBHA) kindly thanks all those involved with the Association and its work for making this resource possible. Every effort has been made to trace the owners of copyright material in this product, we would particularly like to thank the following:

Oku Ekpenyon for giving permission to make use of her research on Ira Aldridge.

The National Portrait Gallery for permission to use the following paintings:

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*Titus Andronicus* by William Pain (reference NPG D17967).

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## Introduction

Paul Bracey  
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The 'Shaping the Future Project' seeks to ensure that pupils have a more inclusive map of the past that includes an appreciation of Black History within our locality as well as setting this in its wider national and global context. It follows research undertaken by John Siblon (2005)<sup>1</sup> where teachers identified the need for resources and teaching materials in order to promote this dimension in the curriculum.

Each of the key packs has consciously used local experiences to explore wider issues. We hope that by focusing on major themes such as slavery to emancipation, oral testimonies of people from Black communities in Northamptonshire, representations of empire through museum objects, and the experiences of Walter Tull, who was clearly a significant local and national figure, that the project provides a range of opportunities to promote diversity within the curriculum. However, selected topics by themselves run the risk of leaving Black History as a bolt-on feature of the curriculum rather than a natural part of children's learning experiences. The Shaping the Future Project seeks to go some way towards addressing this issue by providing contextual support by the publication of a Black History book, entitled *Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History* and three mini-teaching resource packs which can be integrated into wider studies and themes within your programme of study.

*Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History*, published in 2008, was written by local historians in the Northamptonshire Black History Association and provides valuable contextual knowledge and understanding for the teachers. The flavour is demonstrated in this extract from the book's introduction:

Did you know that Northamptonshire was home to a Saracen crossbow-maker in the thirteenth century? Did you know that parish registers record the baptisms and deaths of named Black individuals, from the sixteenth century onwards? Have you ever come across a Black servant's grave in a country churchyard? Does your knowledge of famous visitors to Northamptonshire include the stories of Susi and Chuma, guides to the African missionary David Livingstone, and of Dadabhai Naoroji, the first Black British Member of Parliament? Supported by the famous "Member for India", Charles Bradlaugh, Naoroji denounced the suffering inflicted by imperial rule at Northampton Guildhall in 1888. With hindsight, we can interpret this event as a warning of the future dismantling of the British Empire. It is very unlikely that the appreciative local audience either expected or wished for such an outcome. Northamptonshire people played a brave role in various imperialist wars during the following decades, before finally accepting the inevitable.

**NHBA (2008) *Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History*. Northampton: Northamptonshire Black History Association.**

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<sup>1</sup> Siblon, J. (2005) Black is also British: An investigation into the needs and opportunities for developing Black History within the schools curriculum in Northamptonshire: A Report commissioned by Northamptonshire Black History Project and University College Northampton. Northampton: Northamptonshire Black History Project and University College Northampton.

This teaching resource explores three different topics covered within *Sharing the Past*. These mini-teaching packs are intended to provide materials for one or two lessons either as a lead into or as part of a wider general topic. The packs relate to different periods in the past in order to promote the integration of a black dimension in both the recent and distant past as part of our multicultural society and wider world. The three packs include suggested activities and ways in which the exercise can be mainstreamed. We hope that you will build on this, to use other local black history resources in other areas of your programme of study.

### **1 James Chapple and the Daring Deed.**

Produced by Dean Smart, Lecturer in Education, University of West of England.

*James Chapple was a servant of Sir Christopher Hatton of Kirby Hall. James rescued Sir Hatton at an explosion at Castle Cornet in Guernsey in 1672.*

### **2 Ira Aldridge: A Charmed Life?**

Produced by Paul Bracey, Senior Lecturer in Education, University of Northampton.

*Ira Aldridge was a famous Shakespearean actor in the 19th century.*

### **3 Piecing together the Salem family jigsaw. How does this enable us to gain an understanding of family life during the Second World War?**

Produced by Angie Alloway, teacher at Studfall Junior School, Julia Curtis, teacher at Millbrook Junior School and Paul Bracey, Senior Lecturer, School of Education, University of Northampton.

*This pack investigates the part played by Godfrey Salem's family in World War 2.*

By reading *Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History* you will find many other opportunities to develop further packs using local resources from local libraries and especially Northamptonshire County Record Office. We hope that the resources produced for the '*Shaping the Future Project*' have made a useful start in supporting a more inclusive curriculum which all of us can build upon in future.

# James Chapple and the Daring Deed

## National Curriculum Subject Links and Objectives

NC Key Stage 3 (version 4, 2008)

Key questions	History	Examples of links with other subjects and dimensions
<p><b>James Chapple and the Daring Deed</b></p> <p>What does the story of James Chapple tell us about seventeenth century life?</p> <p>What does the Chapple story tell us about popular memory and memorialisation of the past?</p> <p>Are ballads and secondary accounts reliable sources for the study of history?</p> <p>Why might it be helpful to know more about the James Chapple life story?</p>	<p><b>This activity would give young people the opportunity to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>investigate the reportage of the life of James Chapple. By exploring class and issues related to ethnicity young people can be given opportunities to reflect on the concept of diversity in its social, cultural and ethnic dimensions- (History KS3 Diversity strand).</li> <li>consider the significance of events and developments associated with the life of James Chapple. Pupils should have the opportunity to explore the way that the story is recorded, and the inferences we might make about social class and master-servant relationships in their historical context as well as considering the nature of 'duty' and heroism. This responds to History KS3 strand 1.5 Significance.</li> <li>work collaboratively in small groups or individually to interrogate the sources, extrapolate information and form a coherent synthesis, to investigate specific historical questions related to James Chapple, and to work critically and with analytical and evaluative making and testing hypothesis. (This links to History strands 1.1, 2.1, 2.2 and 3 related to enquiry and hypothesis development and to communication).</li> </ul> <p><b>This activity would link to the history requirement to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand the impact through time of the movement and settlement of diverse peoples, from and within the British Isles;</li> <li>explore ways in which the past has helped shape identities, shared cultures and attitudes today;</li> <li>investigate aspects of local history related to James Chapple and explore how these relate to a broader historical context.</li> <li>make links between History and Citizenship, and with other subjects.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <p>This activity would give young people the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explore community cohesion and the different forces that bring about change in communities over time – (Citizenship KS3: Identities and diversity: living together in the UK strand).</li> <li>analyse and evaluate sources used, questioning different values, ideas and viewpoints and recognising bias – (Citizenship KS3: Critical Thinking and Enquiry strands).</li> </ul> <p>This could include a discussion of the long term presence of a black community in Britain and the nature of migration over time – (Citizenship KS3: strand 3).</p> <p>Pupils taking part in the activity would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss and debate the key questions in groups and in whole-class discussions, perhaps linking to topical and controversial issues related to class and ethnicity and drawing links to the experiences of James Chapple – (Citizenship KS3: strand 4a).</li> </ul> <p><b>English</b></p> <p>During this activity pupils should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engage with texts and ideas, consider validity and significance, develop an understanding of, and respond to the main issues related to, the James Chapple narrative – (English KS3: Critical understanding strand).</li> <li>make relevant contributions in groups, respond appropriately to others, propose ideas and pose questions KS3 English: Speaking and Listening strand.</li> <li>infer and deduce meanings, recognise the writers' intentions – (English KS3: Reading strand).</li> <li>participate in informal group or pair discussions.</li> </ul>



## James Chapple and the Daring Deed

Dean Smart,  
School of Education,  
University of The West of England, Bristol.

### James Chapple: The Hero of Castle Cornet

**Objectives:** Refer to matrix

#### Introduction

This teaching activity relates to the heroic activities of a man of African, or African Caribbean origin who settled in Northamptonshire, and who is mentioned briefly in a small number of historical sources. It provides the opportunity to link a local story to a discussion of values and attitudes in the past and the relationships between people of different social classes.

The historical accounts of the explosion of Castle Cornet on Guernsey in 1672 are reasonably limited, but together they tell the story of a terrible tragedy involving death and destruction. More information about Castle Cornet and a picture of the castle can be seen at: <http://www.museum.guernsey.net/castle.htm>

We know that lightening seems to have blown up a gunpowder store and with it the castle causing its collapse. It is also clear that one of the household, James Chapple made a daring and heroic rescue of his injured employer from the walls, and the family's small children from further into the shattered building. Sir Kit Hatton was so grateful that he rewarded Chapple with a generous lifelong pension. When Sir Kit retired to the family home at Gretton in Northamptonshire some of his staff also settled in the area, including Chapple who might have become a pub landlord using his 'pension'.

In the Georgian and Victorian periods relatives of Sir Kit rediscovered the story and one of them turned it into a ballad describing the events as if it were a rip-roaring *Boy's Own* adventure.

Little more is known, although historians are trying to investigate the historical records to see if they can come up with anything else to extend our knowledge.

#### Significance and Use

Chapple was one of a small black British community in the Restoration and later Stuart period, and the fact that we know about him and his bravery is almost an historical accident. His deeds raise interesting questions about bravery and heroism, the relationship between servant and master, and life in the period.

The narrative of the story is provided here in three sections: a first section which is short and which could be used by most pupils as an introduction; a second version with further details; and a third section which draws on the ballad extracts to allow teachers and young people to engage more with the 'ripping yarns' approach.

The teaching materials can be used together or separately, and there is scope for cross-curricular work, for example: with Art and Design to look at visual representations of events at Castle Cornet; with English to consider different genres of writing and in particular reportage or storyboarding/representations of events or with ICT.

You have the following support materials for this topic:

### National Curriculum Subject Links and Objectives – Key Stage 3

**An outline of the lesson(s) with suggested activities and ways of linking it to a wider study of the past.**

#### Resource 1

##### **Terrible Times at Castle Cornet**

This is a simple briefing sheet.

#### Resource 2

##### **Details of the Disaster**

This provides a further briefing and additional details.

#### Resources 3A, 3B and 3C

##### **The Ballad of Castle Cornet**

These are extracts from the melodramatic ballad account of the event created by relatives of the Hatton family.

#### Resource 4

##### **The Hero of Castle Cornet: Storyboarding Task**

Using a simple template and cartoon or sketch style drawings, briefing sheets are used to work out the key stages of the story and create a simple presentation to make a sales pitch as if to Hollywood executives interested in making a blockbuster period drama/action movie.

#### Resource 5A

##### **Remembering the Past and 5B Designing the Blue Plaque**

This task considers the nature of heroism, memory and memorialisation. Pupils are asked what constitutes a heroic deed, and if Chapple qualifies, to devise the wording for a blue plaque to be placed in Gretton and for a memorial to the event.

#### Resource 6

##### **Ripping Yarns**

This task is based around retelling the story as an article for either a modern historical magazine, retelling the Chapple story and commenting on the available evidence, or rewriting the story in the style of a Victorian magazine for young people.

Some useful references

- Fryer, Peter. (1984) *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain.*  
London: Pluto Press
- Gerzina, Gretchen. (1995) *Black England.*  
London: John Murray
- Myers, Norma. (1996) *Reconstructing the Black Past: Blacks in Britain 1780-1830.*  
London: Frank Cass
- Northamptonshire Black History Association. (2008) *Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History.*  
Northampton: NBHA
- Ramdin, Ron. (1999) *Reimagining Britain: 500 years of Black and Asian History.*  
London: Pluto Press

## Activity Notes

### Introduction

This activity is designed around a single key question:

**What does a small story of a daring deed tell us about the past?**

Which can be supported by considering five further Organising questions:

- What do we know about James Chapple?
- What does the Chapple story tell us about how people record and remember dramatic events?
- Are ballads and secondary accounts reliable sources for the study of history?
- What does the Chapple story tell us about life in the past?
- Why might it be helpful to know more about the James Chapple life story?

### Stage 1

#### Introduction

Introduce the activity by explaining that you are going to tell the audience about a heroic event from the past involving explosions, fire, possible witchcraft and predictions of the future and death and destruction.

### Stage 2

#### Context Setting

**This stage is intended to respond to the organising question:**

What do we know about James Chapple?

Use Resource 1: *Terrible Times at Castle Cornet* to brief the group about what happened, depending on the ability of the group you can also use Resource 2: *Details of the Disaster* which includes further briefing and additional details. Discuss the events at the castle, James Chapple's response and what they might have done in similar circumstances.

### Stage 3

#### Considering how the events were subsequently recorded and later re-told

**This responds to the organising questions:** *What does the Chapple story tell us about how people record and remember dramatic events?* and *Are ballads and secondary accounts reliable sources for the study of history?*

Use Resource 3: *The Ballad of Castle Cornet* to explore what the extracts from the melodramatic ballad account of the event, created by relatives of the Hatton family, tells us about dramatised and popular accounts of historical events.

Pairs and small groups could discuss the nature of the ballad and its style, the way that it might manipulate the story for effect, and how far the account matches and supports the other sources. Ask young people to consider *What the Chapple story tells us about how people record and remember dramatic events?* and *How far ballads and secondary accounts are reliable sources for the study of history?* There is potential to link to the Music and English curriculum in this activity, looking, for example, at ballads and poems as narrative genres in telling historical stories.

#### Stage 4

#### Storyboarding Task ‘The Hero of Castle Cornet’ (Resource 4)

This sheet provides an opportunity to use a simple template and cartoon or sketch style drawings to identify the key stages of the story and create a simple presentation. The scenario suggested is that young people are asked to prepare a sales pitch as if presenting to Hollywood executives interested in making a blockbuster period drama/action movie. This should provide an engaging ‘hook’ for young people, and provide a suitable focus for the activity which is intended as a further consolidation of the chronology, and a chance to build towards resolving the final organising questions and the overall key question.

The following two activities are optional – they offer the chance to reflect on how *popular* history is a narrative, sometimes drawing on creativity as much as evidence – and to raise the issue of the historians’ responsibility to base their judgements on more reliable evidence.

#### Stage 5a

#### Remembering the Past (Resource 5)

This activity provides a chance for you to encourage young people to consider the nature of heroism, of memory and of memorialisation. These concepts offer good opportunities to link into a variety of curriculum areas, and to engage young people in an interesting debate. You could ask young people ‘what constitutes a heroic deed?’, and explore if Chapple qualifies as a hero.

After some discussion, and an explanation of what a ‘blue plaque’ is, ask young to devise the wording for a blue plaque to be placed in Gretton, Northampton, to act as a memorial to James Chapple.

The English Heritage website carries further information about the Blue Plaques (London) scheme, including a streamed video excerpt at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.12638> and example plaques at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1494>

## Stage 5b

### Ripping Yarns (Resource 6)

This task is based around retelling the story as an article for either a modern historical magazine, retelling the Chapple story and commenting on the available evidence, or rewriting the story in the adventure story or 'ripping yarns' style of a Victorian or Edwardian magazine for young people.

See, for example: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boy's\\_Own\\_Paper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boy's_Own_Paper) and <http://www.collectingbooksandmagazines.com/bop.html>

This activity would link directly to the English curriculum for KS3, and to the Citizenship curriculum's critical awareness and media awareness strands as well as to the wider 'creativity' agenda and personal learning and thinking skills targets.

## Stage 6

### Debating the key questions:

**This final plenary activity should attempt to resolve the final questions which explore significance:**

- What does the Chapple story tell us about life in the past?
- Why might it be helpful to know more about the James Chapple life story?

Ask young people to consider what Chapple's story tells us about class and ethnicity in the past, what it tells us about loyalty and duty and why it might be important to know more about the case.

Chapple was one of a small black British community in the Restoration and later Stuart period, and the fact that we know about him and his bravery is almost an historical accident. His deeds raise interesting questions about bravery and heroism, the relationship between servant and master, and life in the period.

## Resource 1

### Terrible Times at Castle Cornet

Sir Christopher (Kit) Hatton was the Governor of Castle Cornet on the Channel Island of Guernsey in 1672. During the new year holiday a lightening strike in the middle of the night hit a store room and blew up over two hundred barrels of gunpowder.

One of the household servants, a young black man called James Chapple was thrown out of his bed by the explosion, and went to check what had happened. The castle was badly damaged and in the darkness smoke and rubble made it difficult to know what had happened. A voice was calling for help from the badly shattered castle walls, and Chapple clambered up to see if he could help. He discovered Sir Christopher, injured and covered in rubble, and carried him down on his back.

Returning to different parts of the damaged building by climbing over and through dangerous mounds of broken stones, room beams and furniture still on fire and passing walls which looked like they might collapse at any moment Chappell brought Sir Kit's three week old daughter out from her cot in the ruined nursery, safely collected the Hatton's middle daughter who was amongst the rubble with her dead mother and a dead maid, and rescued the last of the three children, a three year old girl from the same room.

It must have been a confusing and frightening experience. Several people were killed, including the Governor's wife and mother and a number of servants. Lots of others were injured and confused and it took some time before all of the members of the household were accounted for one way or another.

Several days later the bodies were buried, with the bodies of Lady Hatton taken to London by boat for burial.

## Resource 2

### Details of the Disaster

Sir Christopher (often called Kit) was the second Lord Hatton of Kirby. From 1683 he was also became Viscount Hatton of Gretton.

Sir Kit was appointed Governor of Castle Cornet, on the Channel Island of Guernsey and Ranger (warden) of Rockingham Forest to replace his father who had held the same job given by King Charles II.

It is said that just before going to bed on December 29<sup>th</sup> 1672 Lord Hatton had taken a walk on the castle walls at Castle Cornet to see what the weather was doing. A storm was coming from the South West. Lord Hatton is reported to have commented that there was one very bright star in the sky and that someone was going to have some bad weather.

As the storm worsened in the early hours of the morning a lightening strike ignited the two hundred and fifty barrels of gunpowder stored in the castle and caused a huge explosion destroying parts of the castle. This links to a story that a wise woman had stopped Sir Kit in the middle of nowhere years earlier and warned him a terrible disaster would happen. Sir Kit is reported to have sent the woman away as if she was mad or was a witch.

In the collapse of the building Lord Hatton and some of his family were injured and trapped. Lord Hatton's mother died in her bed, and Lady Hatton was killed by falling stones in the children's nursery. Lady Hatton had given birth to the youngest child three weeks before the storm. The Hatton's oldest child, three year old Anne, was found asleep under a large, partially fallen roof beam. The maid in the same room was killed whilst holding the Hatton's middle child, who survived. Elizabeth, the Hatton's youngest daughter survived and was rescued in her cradle.

Elsewhere members of the castle household were also injured and killed by the explosion and by falling masonry. Lord Hatton was blown onto the badly damaged castle walls, and was rescued by a twenty seven year old servant of African origin called James Chapple who had to climb over fallen stones and up broken walls to get to Lord Hatton, he was brought down to safety on Chapple's back. James returned to rescue three of Hatton's surviving family and was very generously rewarded by the grateful Hatton with a pension of twenty pounds a year, a very large amount of money at the time.

Documentary evidence of the events is very limited. Descendents of the Hatton claim that James Chapple recorded a statement of what had happened fifty five years after the event, in Gretton in 1727. The statement was reportedly seen by some of the Hatton family, but was later lost, although a copy of what was said was made by a vicar – the Reverend Finch-Hatton, the Rector of Great and Little Weldon. Chapple is believed to have become the landlord of the Hatton Arms public house in Gretton, where he died at the age of eighty-two in 1732, and was buried in St James churchyard in Gretton.



## Resource 3a

### The Ballad of Castle Cornet

A report in the Peterborough Standard of 1889 reprinted part of a longer account from 'The Woman's World' magazine of May 1889 written by Lady Constance Howard, daughter of Lord Winchelsea.

In 1889 Lord Winchelsea (George William Finch-Hatton) was the owner of Kirby Hall and its estate lands. He had got hold of a statement in 1825 which claimed that Kit Hatton had met an old woman who had predicted the future. Shortly afterwards Lord Winchelsea wrote a long ballad or song which described the event.

#### **Ballad Extract A**

##### **The Witch on the Moor**

Part of the song says that a weird old woman stopped Hatton when he was riding across some open land and made a prediction that something terrible would happen to Hatton. Kit Hatton, the ballad claims, dismissed the prophecy as nonsense and threatened the woman that she would be treated as a witch.

The ballad claims the woman said:

Kit Hatton! Kit Hatton!  
I rede ye beware  
Of the flash from the cloud  
And the flight from the air!  
When the star of thy destiny  
Looms in the sky,  
To others unclouded, but  
Red to thine eye,  
Though men see no sign in  
The threatening air-  
Kit Hatton! Kit Hatton!  
I rede ye beware!

“Avaunt thee, false witch”  
Then the cavalier said;  
“By the soul of the kingdom  
That lacketh a head  
The green of old Gretton  
To-morrow shall see  
How we deal in this forest  
With prophets like thee!  
For the stake and the faggot  
Of green wood prepare!”

## Resource 3b

### The Ballad of Castle Cornet

Ballad Extract B

#### **The Explosion at Castle Cornet**

The explosion is described in the ballad like this:

With shake and with shock  
To its base Castle Cornet  
Did shiver and rock;  
And down came the bastions  
And down came the towers  
The ramparts, and houses,  
And fair Ladies bowers.

Ballad Extract C

#### **The Rescue**

The rescue of Lord Hatton is described in the Ballad like this:

Then James Chapple, the Negro,  
So proper and tall, On his hands and his knees  
Brought his lord off the wall  
Safe into the guard-room,  
Free from danger and harm,  
For the garrison now  
Had got up in alarm.

**Resource 4**  
**The Hero of Castle Cornet**

Hollywood has become interested in the James Chapple story and are considering making an action film based around the events of Castle Cornet in 1672.

Your task, as a historical advisor to the project, is to prepare the short storyboard that will be used to tell the outline of the story when a presentation is made to film company executives and potential investors in the film.

A template has been prepared below to help you – and the Director says you should have no more than eight simple stages – some space has been left under each larger picture sketch for a written explanation of the key points of the scene

	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

## Resource 5a

### Remembering the Past

The modern media: the press, the TV and radio can use exaggerated language to sell a story, and sometimes portray people as heroes or villains. In reality lots of people have the possibility of being heroic or awful in the right (or wrong) circumstances.

**Task 1.** So what things do you think heroes 'do'? What is it that *makes* someone a hero compared to the rest of society?

Discuss this as a group and use the space below to write down the key qualities of a hero, and what you discussed and agreed.

**Task 2.** Was James Chapple a hero?

Explain your answer.

**Task 3.** Houses and buildings which were associated with famous and important people sometimes have a blue plaque placed on their wall so that passers-by can read about the things people did in the past.

Should a blue plaque be put on James Chapple's pub in Gretton or on Castle Cornet?

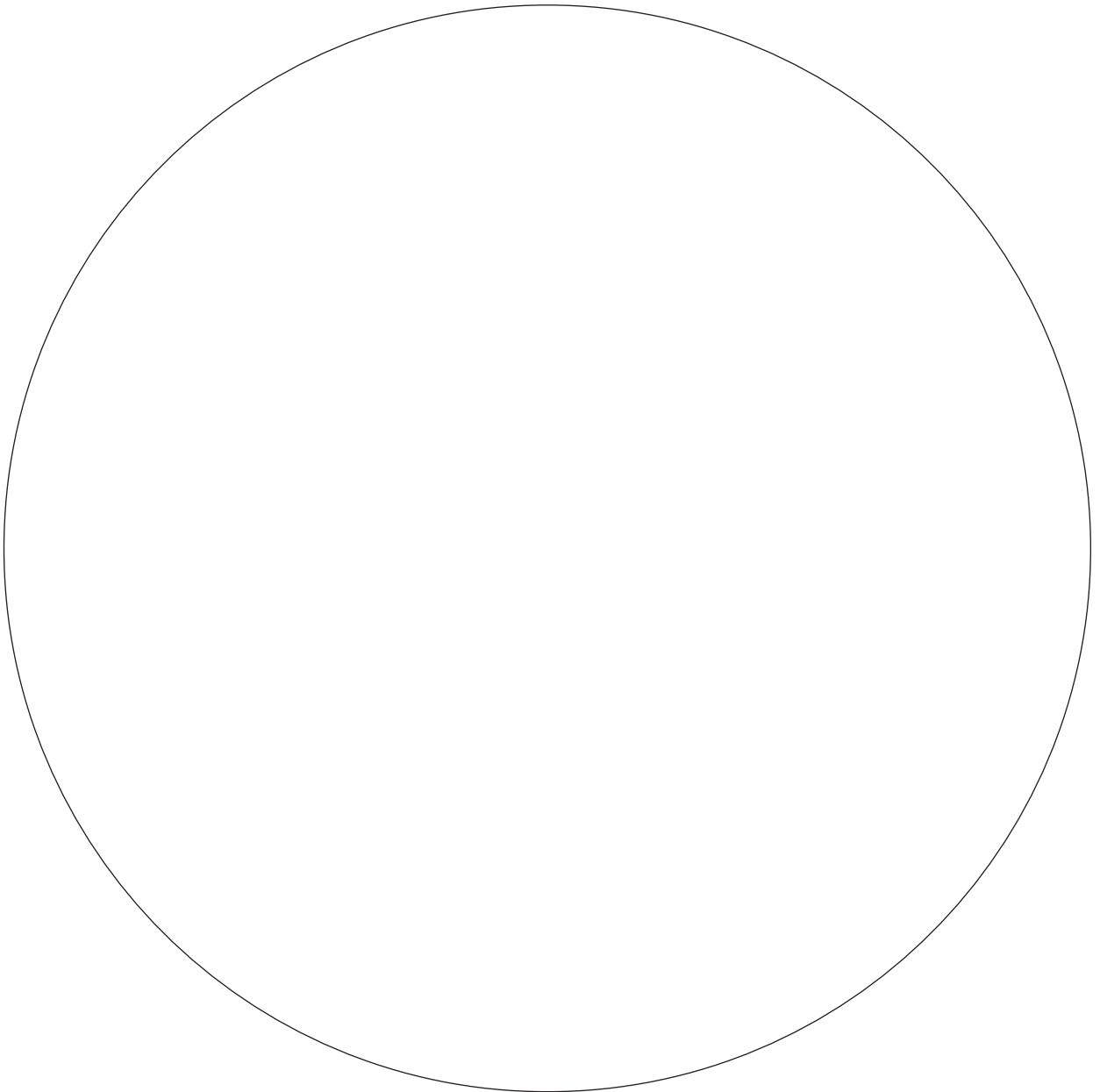
Explain your answer.

## Resource 5b

### Designing the Blue Plaque

Write the words you would on a blue plaque in the circle

My blue plaque would be at:  
Castle Cornet / James Chapple's pub in Gretton\*  
(\* *delete one*)



## Resource 6

### Ripping Yarns

Use the template below either to write a children's magazine story, in the style of 150 years ago, OR a modern popular historical magazine article about James Chapple's heroic deeds.

Eye-catching picture	Text
Title of Article	
Text	

# Ira Aldridge: A Charmed life?

## **Key Question: Ira Aldridge: A charmed life?**

Paul Bracey  
Senior Lecturer in Education  
University of Northampton

### **General Introduction**

This exercise is intended to form part of a study of different experiences faced by people in the 19th century at either Key Stage 2 or 3. At Key Stage 3 it could also provide opportunities to compare the experiences of people living at different times in the past or an introduction to a depth study related to the theme Slavery to Emancipation. Matrices have been produced which relate this activity to the National Curriculum at both Key Stages 2 and 3 leaving you to make appropriate adjustments to meet the needs of the age and needs of your pupils. It relates to a range of National Curriculum objectives but those that relate to historical enquiry, which together with diversity, are at the heart of the lesson, have been highlighted. Opportunities to mainstream this exercise have been indicated – with reference to the National Curriculum at Key Stages 2 and 3. There is also the premise that increased breadth and independence will be appropriate for older pupils. The activities provide opportunities for discussion and reflection and have particular contributions to make to History, Citizenship and Speaking and Listening aspects of English. The resources include a brief outline of the life of Ira Aldridge, which will be sufficient for your needs, although further reading has been indicated.

You have the following support materials for this topic:

**National Curriculum Subject Links and Objectives – Key Stage 2**

**National Curriculum Subject Links and Objectives – Key Stage 3**

**An outline of the lesson (s) with suggested activities and ways of linking it to a wider study of the past.**

**A brief outline of the Life of Ira Aldridge for the hard-pressed teacher.**

#### **Resource 1**

Black Entertainers who have come to Northamptonshire (this chart relates to the introductory activity)

#### **Resource 2**

A picture of *Ira Aldridge* by Nicolas Barabus for Stage 1 of the lesson (NBHA wish to thank the **National Portrait Gallery** for granting permission to use this picture for our resource pack)

#### **Resource 3**

*The Times* (1825) The Coburg Theatre. 10th October 1825



#### Resource 4

A picture of *Ira Aldridge as Aaron in Titus Andronicus* by William Pain. This illustrates his work as an actor for Stage 3 of the lesson. (NBHA wish to thank the **National Portrait Gallery** for granting permission to use this picture for our resource pack)

#### Resource 5

Northampton Theatre advertisement for Ira Aldridge (his stage name was African Roscius), September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1831 for Stage 3 of the lesson. (We would like to thank Northamptonshire County Council Libraries Department for use of this poster)

#### Resource 6

An Emotional timeline for Stage 4 of the lesson

#### Resource 7

Ira Aldridge: Critics and Supporters Cards for discussion in Stage 4 of the lesson

#### Resource 8

Ira Aldridge: Life History Cards for Stage 4 of the lesson

#### Resource 9

Context cards for the Review

#### Some useful references

- Lindfors, B. (2007) *Ira Aldridge. The African Roscius*  
New York and London: Rochester University Press.
- Ekpenyon, O. (2007) *The Ira Aldridge Teaching Pack. Cross Curricular History English and Drama at Key Stages 3-4*  
London: Culture Exchange through Theatre in Education.  
This provides useful insights into Ira Aldridge's life and the sources available. (NHBA wish to acknowledge support of **Oku Ekpenyon** who gave permission to make use of their research for this pack – especially the sources used for Resource 7)
- Fryer, P.(1984) *Staying Power. The History of Black People in Britain*  
London: Pluto.
- Northamptonshire Black History Association. (2008) *Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History*  
Northampton: NBHA.  
This provides an outline the range of Black Entertainers who have come to Northamptonshire since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century including Ira Aldridge.
- Ramdin, R. (1999) *Reimagining Britain. 500 years of Black and Asian History*  
London: Pluto.  
Chapter 2 includes Ira Aldridge in the context of Afro –Asians after Emancipation (1833-1900).
- The Times. (1825) The Coburg Theatre. *Times Archive*. 10th October 1825.  
Available from <http://www.achive.timeonline.co.uk/archive> [accessed 1st July 2008].

## National Curriculum Subject Links and Objectives

Key Stage 2 (NC 2000)

Key questions	History	Examples of links with other subjects and dimensions
<p><b>Ira Aldridge: A charmed life?</b></p> <p>What does his picture tell us?</p> <p>What did the Times Newspaper say about Ira Aldridge?</p> <p>What can we make of a poster?</p> <p>What does Ira Aldridge's life story suggest?</p>	<p><b>Pupils should be taught:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About the characteristic features of periods and societies, including the ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children in the past (2a)</li> <li>• To identify and describe reasons for and results of historical events, situations, and changes in the periods studied (2c)</li> <li>• How to find out about the events, people and changes studied from an appropriate range of sources of information, including ICT-based sources (4a)</li> <li>• To ask and answer questions, and to select and record information relevant to the focus of an enquiry (4b)</li> <li>• Communicate their knowledge and understanding of history in a variety of ways</li> </ul>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To realise the consequences of anti-social and aggressive behaviours, such as bullying and racism on individuals and communities (2e)</li> <li>• To appreciate the range of national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom (2i)</li> <li>• Think about the lives of people living on other places and times, and people with different values and customs (4b)</li> </ul> <p><b>English</b></p> <p><b>Speaking and listening Eng 1: Group discussion and interaction</b></p> <p>Vary contributions relevant to suit the activity and purpose, including exploratory and tentative comments where ideas are being collected together, and reasoned, evaluative comments as discussion moves to conclusions or actions (3b).</p> <p><b>Reading Eng 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use inference and deduction (2a).</li> <li>• Scan text to find information (3a).</li> <li>• Skim for gist and overall impression (3b).</li> <li>• Engage with challenging and demanding subject matter (5g).</li> </ul>

## National Curriculum Subject Links and Objectives

Key Stage 3 (NC 2008)

Key questions	History	Examples of links with other subjects and dimensions
<p><b>Ira Aldridge: A charmed life?</b></p> <p>What does his picture tell us?</p> <p>What did the Times Newspaper say about Ira Aldridge?</p> <p>What can we make of a poster?</p> <p>What does Ira Aldridge's life story suggest?</p>	<p><b>Pupils should be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the diverse experiences and ideas and attitudes of men, women and how these have shaped the world (Contribution to Key concept Cultural, ethnic and religious diversity 1.2)</li> <li>Consider the significance of events, people and developments in their historical context and in the present day (Contribution to Key concept Significance 1.5)</li> <li>Pupils should be able to identify and investigate individually and as part of a team, specific historical questions or issues, making and testing hypothesis (Key process Historical enquiry 1.1a)</li> <li>Reflect critically on historical issues. (Particular Contribution to Key process Historical enquiry 2.1b)</li> <li>Evaluate the sources used in order to reach reasoned conclusions. (Key process: Using evidence 2.2b)</li> <li>Communicate an understanding of history in a variety of ways, using chronological conventions and historical vocabulary (Key process Communicating about the past 2.3b).</li> </ul> <p><b>Pupils should be taught aspects of history including:</b></p> <p>The impact through time of the movement and settlement of diverse peoples, from and within the British Isles (Range and Content 3f).</p> <p>The nature and effects of the slave trade (Contribution to Range and Content 3f).</p> <p><b>The curriculum should provide opportunities for pupils to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore ways in which the past has helped shape identities, shared cultures and attitudes today. (Contribution to Curriculum Opportunity 4a).</li> <li>Investigate aspects of local history and how they relate to the broader historical context (Curriculum Opportunity 4b).</li> <li>Make links between history and other subjects and areas including citizenship (Curriculum Opportunity 4e).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <p><b>Pupils should be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore community cohesion and the different forces that bring about change in communities over time (Key concept: Identities and diversity: living together in the UK 1.3d)</li> <li>Analyse and evaluate sources used, questioning different values, ideas and viewpoints and recognising bias. (Key process Critical thinking and enquiry 2.1)</li> </ul> <p><b>This should include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migration to, from, and within the UK and the reasons for this (Range and Content 3j)</li> </ul> <p><b>Pupils should have opportunities to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debate in groups and whole-class discussions, topical and controversial issues, including those of concern to young people (Curriculum opportunities 4a).</li> </ul> <p><b>English</b></p> <p><b>Pupils should be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with ideas and texts, understanding and responding to the main issues. (Key Concept :Critical understanding 1.4a)</li> <li>Assess the validity and significance of information and ideas from different sources (Key Concept Critical understanding 1.4b).</li> <li>Make different kinds of relevant contributions in groups, responding appropriately to others, proposing ideas and asking questions (Process: speaking and listening 2.1g).</li> <li>Infer and deduce meanings, recognising the writers' intentions (Process: Reading 2.2b).</li> </ul> <p><b>The study should include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal group or pair discussions (Range and Content 3.1b).</li> </ul> <p><b>The curriculum should provide opportunities to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in specific activities that develop speaking and listening skills (Curriculum Opportunity 4.1b).</li> <li>Develop speaking and listening skills through work that makes cross-curricular links with other subjects (Curriculum Opportunity 4.1f).</li> <li>Develop reading skills through work that makes cross-curricular links with other subjects (Curriculum Opportunity 4.2c).</li> </ul>

## **Key Question: Ira Aldridge: A charmed life?**

**Objectives:** Refer to matrix

### **Introduction**

Pupils to think of different types of entertainment and entertainers that they know about (this can include films, music, sport etc) and share this with the rest of the class. Groups then match different entertainers to the countries that they have come from. After this they look at Chart 1 Black Entertainers who have come to Northampton and suggest what this shows about some entertainers who have come here in the past. The teacher focuses on Ira Aldridge to identify how far he was typical of the people on the list or those listed by the pupils.

### **Stage 1**

#### **Ira Aldridge: A charmed life? What does his picture tell us?**

The teacher shows the class a picture of Ira Aldridge and encourages them to respond to the following questions – what can we see? What does this tell us?

Working in pairs pupils decide three questions they want to ask about him and feed this back to the class.

The class discuss whether the picture suggests that he had a charmed (i.e. good, fortunate) life or not?

Pairs are then given five minutes to modify or extend their questions to a maximum of five questions that they record (if possible it is recommended that this is word-processed on the computer so that it can be modified and developed after subsequent activities).

### **Stage 2**

#### **A charmed life? What did *The Times* newspaper say about Ira Aldridge?**

Working in pairs pupils look at the review of Ira Aldridge's performance the Coburg Theatre (the Old Vic) by *The Times* newspaper on October 10th, 1825 ( **Resource 3**). It will be helpful to inform pupils that Aldridge used the name Mr. Keene and African Roscius) as follows:

- Underline in pencil any words the reporter uses to describe what Aldridge looked like.
- Using a different coloured pencil and underline any words used to describe the audience's response to him.
- Using another pencil underline any word used by the reporter which their opinion of him as an actor.

Pairs share their findings with another pair. The whole class then decides how far their assumptions about whether Ira Aldridge had a charmed life or not in the initial activity has changed.

Pairs look at their questions kept on file on their computer and to see if they can provide answers to some. They also have the opportunity to modify their ideas and add a further question if appropriate.

### Stage 3

#### What can we make of a poster?

Working in groups pupils look at the picture of Ira Aldridge acting and the poster advertising his performance at Northampton Theatre and produce mind maps or spider diagrams answering around the following questions:

- What can we find out about Ira Aldridge's history?
- What can we find out about Ira Aldridge, the actor?

The group then decides what this suggests about him – which they feed back to the class.

The class then discusses the differences between the poster and *The Times* – context, purpose of each of the sources and how far this changes their response to the key question.

Once again, pairs look at their questions kept on file on their computer and to see if they can provide answers to some. They also have the opportunity to modify their ideas and add a further question if appropriate.

### Stage 4

#### What does Ira Aldridge's life story suggest?

Working in groups pupils look at different responses to Ira Aldridge as an actor and decide how far they challenge the opinion given in *The Times* and try to suggest reasons for this (e.g. date and location).

The groups are then given a series of cards that relate to his life that they place on an emotional graph. The pupils should be told that the better the experience the higher it should be put above the line.

The group then decides what this suggests about how far his life matched the key question.

#### Review:

Groups feed back their decision to the class. They class is then given context cards related to moves to abolish slavery and they decide how far they affect their response to the key question.

Pairs make final modifications to their questions kept on computer files and decide how far they have been answered, which could be removed and any to raise with the rest of the class.

Note: References to Slavery and its Abolition are deliberately brief given the focus of this particular lesson. However, the questions raised by pupils at this point could serve as a stimulus to investigating the Slave Trade and its abolition.

**Mainstreaming this exercise**

This can be done in several ways such as:

At Key Stage 2 the study Ira Aldridge could be developed as follows, for example:

- 1) Repeat this exercise with another local person (e.g. Walter Tull) and compare their achievements (Local Study).
- 2) Use this exercise as a model for comparing the issues and achievements of one or more men and women who lived in Victorian Britain such as Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale or Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

At Key Stage 3 it would be possible to use the study as a model for more independent studies such as:

- 1) Using the Ira Aldridge exercise as a model for independent group work looking at the experiences of a range of people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century such as Mary Seacole, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Annie Besant and Fergus O'Connor. Following the independent study Ira Aldridge could provide the basis for the following class debate – who overcame the most obstacles? Alternatively, groups could approach this issue by producing TV documentaries to present their case. The latter could extend the Ira Aldridge study to model how this should be done.
- 2) Comparing the experiences of discrimination in different contexts and times. The Ira Aldridge exercise could be used as a starting point and model for comparing the lives of Olaudah Equiano, Mary Seacole and Walter Tull.
- 3) The experiences of Ira Aldridge and the questions raised at the end of the topic could lead into a depth study of Slavery to Emancipation.

## **Ira Aldridge's Life History**

Ira Aldridge was born in New York on 24th July 1807. His father was a clerk and lay preacher who became a church minister. Ira went to New York's African free school and his father wanted him to become a church minister. However, after the city's free Black community set up its first African Theatre Ira decided to become an actor. He got some small acting roles but decided it would be difficult to do better than this in a country where slavery was very important. He therefore emigrated to England by working as a ship's steward.

Ira arrived in England in 1824 and got an acting role playing Oroonoko in *The Revolt of Surinam, or a Slave's Revenge* at London's Royal Coburg Theatre (which is now called the Old Vic) on October 10th, 1825. Talented actors were given the name Roscius because there was once a great Roman actor Quintus Roscius Gallus. Ira was soon called the 'African Roscius'. At first Ira used the name Mr. Keene, possibly a play on the name of Edmund Kean, Britain's greatest Shakespearean actor, who tried to help him. Ira played leading characters such as Shylock, Richard II and Macbeth in other Shakespearean plays as well as lighter comedy roles.

He married an English woman from Yorkshire called Margaret Gill in 1825 who died in 1864. He then married Amanda Pauline von Brandt in 1865. He had four children – one died and three became musicians.

Ira found it difficult in the 1820s and early 1830s. The Abolition Movement was fighting to get the government to pass a law abolishing slavery – which it succeeded in doing in 1833 but was opposed by supporters of slavery who had influence with the London press. Consequently, the Times Newspaper in London criticised Ira's acting in the Coburg Theatre in 1825 and made reference to his race. He continued to have difficulty in getting acting jobs in London but he was more successful in other towns where he acted to crowded theatres. He appeared in plays in Manchester, Sheffield, Halifax, Newcastle, Liverpool, Sunderland, Dublin, and Belfast and came to Northamptonshire to play Othello in 1831, and returned here in 1846.

Because he was not accepted in the London theatres Ira went to Europe in 1852 where he acted in Brussels, Cologne, Basle, Leipzig, Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg Munch Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Danzig, St. Petersburg, and Moscow. In Russia he became the highest paid actor in the world. After his successes in Europe he came back to Britain in triumph. By this time his situation had changed and he was invited to play Othello at the Lyceum Theatre in London. He went to work in Europe again and died in Poland on 7th August 1867.

## Resource 1

**Black Entertainers who have come to Northamptonshire**

When they came	What they did	Who they were	Where they were from
1818	Jugglers	A group	India
1625+	Actor	Ira Aldridge	United States
1875	Fisk Jubilee Singers	A group	United States
1903	Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show	A group of Native Americans	United States
1903	Musicians	Princess TE Rangī Pai and Maori Chief Rangī Wui	New Zealand
1908	Conjuror	Pasha Hayati	Turkey
1909	Comedians	Scot and Whaley	United States
1916	Magician	Amasis	Egypt
1932	Troupe	Tang Tee See Troupe	China
1933	Singers	Layton and Johnson	United States
1935	Pianist	Garland	United States
1935	Cabaret singer	Leslie Hutchinson	Granada
1930	Singers	The Peters Sisters	Santa Monica
1960	Political activist and singer	Paul Robeson	United States



## Resource 2

### A picture of Ira Aldridge

by Nicolas Barabas for Stage 1 of the lesson

(NBHA wish to thank the National Portrait Gallery for granting permission to use this picture for our resource pack).



## Resource 3

*The Times* (1825) The Coburg Theatre. 10th  
October 18

### THE COBURG THEATRE.

The appetite for theatrical novelty seems to spread rapidly, and because at this time of the year the managers have the playhouses pretty nearly to themselves, they are resolved to "fool it to the top of their bent." At Drury-lane they have Mr. Booth; at Covent-garden Mr. Warde; at the Surrey Theatre a man who plays a monkey in the most natural manner possible; and at the Coburg (not to be behind their neighbours) they have brought out what Mr. Doubilins calls "a genuine nigger" to act *Oroonoko*. It is extremely difficult to criticise a black actor, on account of the novelty of the spectacle, for, excepting Prince Anamaboo, who was engaged by the late Stephen Kemble to exhibit the true method of eating raw beef-steaks, we never remember to have heard of any sable candidate for histrionic distinction in England. It is true that his Royal Highness Prince Anamaboo turned out to be a Jew, who usually got his bread by selling sealing-wax; yet he nevertheless ate the undressed beef-steaks as well as a natural-born savage; that, however, was a mere accomplishment, and can never entitle him to be considered as the predecessor of Mr. Keene, the *African Roscius*, who last evening made his first appearance before an enlightened audience at the Coburg Theatre. This gentleman is in complexion of the colour of a new halfpenny, barring the brightness; his hair is woolly, and his features, although they possess much of the African character, are considerably humanized. His figure is unlucky for the stage; he is baker-knee'd and narrow chested; and owing to the shape of his lips, it is utterly impossible for him to pronounce English in such a manner as to satisfy even the unfastidious ears of the gallery. He played the part of *Oroonoko* perhaps as well as was necessary, because it is full of bombast and affectation. The audience wondered and laughed at him all through the play until he stabbed his wife, and then they applauded him loudly; but it was not until he killed himself that their delight grew outrageous.

Then, indeed, they seemed perfectly delighted. It appears from the play-bills (and who can doubt them?) that this gentleman is one of the principal ornaments of the African Theatre at New York, and for his own sake we regret that he did not stay there; not that he is worse than the ordinary run of such actors as are to be seen at the Coburg Theatre, but that there are already so many of them that his merits will hardly distinguish him; and excepting by his colour, he will not be known from the rest of the corps. In the mean time, as a mere wonder, the exhibition of this Mr. Keene is not likely to turn out very well. After the managers had been at the trouble of getting a starveling out of a parish workhouse to rival the *Anatomie Vivante*, and had succeeded so well, they might, if they were bent upon having a blackamoor, have procured one whose complexion was more *foncé*—the man who sweeps the crossings at the end of Fleet-market, for example: they would then have spared the gentlemen in the gallery, who looked for nothing lighter than a chimney-sweeper on May-day, the disappointment which they experienced on the first appearance of the African Mr. Keene. If, however, the managers mean to continue this African *Roscus*, we beseech them to change the black warsted stockings which the heroic *Aboan* wears; because, as he is the countryman of *Oroonoko*, it is not fit that their complexions should present so striking a contrast as they do at present, the one being but little darker than the dun cow, the other as black as a pair of new boots on which all the glories of Day and Martin have been shed.

#### Resource 4

### **A picture of Ira Aldridge as Aaron in Titus Andronicus by William Pain**

This illustrates his work as an actor for Stage 3 of the lesson.  
(NBHA wish to thank the National Portrait Gallery for granting permission to use this picture for our resource pack).



Resource 5

Northampton Theatre advertisement for Ira Aldridge

(his stage name was African Roscius)

September 21st, 1831 for Stage 3 of the lesson.

Theatre, Northampton.

Last Week, and last Night but two of the  
Company's performing.

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**Great Novelty.**  
*For ONE NIGHT only.*

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The Manager has the honour of announcing;  
**AN ACTOR OF COLOUR,**  
Known throughout America by the appellation of the  
**AFRICAN  
ROSCIUS.**

His success in New York and the principal Theatres of the United States, has induced him to visit England professionally. He is engaged by the proprietors of the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, on which stage he will make his first appearance, early in the next season; previous to which, he has been acting at the principal Theatres in Great Britain, viz. Bath, Bristol, Brighton, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. In each place his extraordinary abilities have been witnessed with astonishment, by brilliant and crowded audiences.

*As he is the only Actor of Colour, that was ever known, and probably the only instance that may ever again occur, the following brief sketch may be acceptable.*

*"The ancestors of the African Roscius, down to the Grandfather of the subject of this memoir, were Princes of the Foulah tribes, whose dominions were Senegal, on the banks of the river Gambia. The father of the present individual, was sent for his education to Schuectady College, near New York, in the United States. Three days after his departure from his native shore, an insurrection broke out among the tribe, and the King, the Grandfather of the African Roscius, fell a victim to his mutinous subjects. Deprived of the means of ascertaining his birthright, and to a certain degree cast on the world a cosmopolite, his father became a minister of the Presbyterian persuasion, and now officiates in Zion Church, New York. The subject of this memoir, born July 24th, 1807, was destined for the same profession, but preferring the sock and buskin, he departed from his father's roof, and wended his way to the shores of England."—Copied from the New York Courier.*

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On WEDNESDAY, September 21st, 1831,  
Will be performed, Shakspeare's Tragedy of  
**OTHELLO,**  
*Or the Moor of Venice.*

Othello, the Moor of Venice, by the African Roscius.  
Duke of Venice, Mr. YOUNG .. Cassio, Mr. MASON .. Brabantio, Mr. POWELL  
Montano, Mr. MILLTON .. Lodovico, Mr. BECKWITH  
Roderigo, Mr. BARRATT .. Leonardo, Mr. OWEN .. Messenger, Mr. COOK  
And Iago .. Mr. STUART  
Desdemona, Miss PENLEY .. Emilia, Mrs GREEN

End of the Play,  
"I've been Roaming," Miss STUART.  
"A nosegay once of varied flowers," Mr. Beckwith.  
A Comic Song by Mr. Barratt.  
A Scotch Dance, by Mrs. BARTLETT.

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**Resource 6**  
**An emotional timeline of Ira Aldridge's life**

Good times	1867
1807	Bad Times

## Resource 7

### Ira Aldridge: Critics and Supporters

Extracts of sources from Ekpenyon, O. (2007) *The Ira Aldridge Teaching Pack. Cross Curricular History English and Drama at Key Stages 3-4*. London: Culture Exchange through Theatre in Education.

<p>His performance ...was marked by feeling, devoid of the least extravagance, a quick perception, and...a degree of dignity.</p> <p><b><i>The Sunday Monitor,</i></b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> October 1825</b></p>	<p>He was a 'singularly gifted actor'.</p> <p><b><i>The Standard Newspaper in</i></b> <b>1833</b></p>
<p>The actress Ellen Shaw should not have been 'pawed on stage' by a black man...</p> <p><b><i>The Athenaeum</i></b> in 1833</p>	<p>There was 'a great deal of feeling and nature in his performance'...</p> <p><b><i>The Spectator Newspaper in</i></b> <b>1833</b></p>
<p>... we have formed a favourable opinion of his talents.</p> <p><b><i>The Athenaeum</i></b> in 1858</p>	<p>His whole performance is intelligent and energetic...</p> <p><b><i>The Illustrated Times,</i></b> August <b>1865</b></p>
<p>His Majesty has given you the golden medal for Art and Sciences...for your excellent productions.</p> <p><b>Baron von Mulsen, Berlin,</b> <b>January 1853</b></p>	<p>...the theatre was packed from floor to ceiling, so that already in the morning of the premier (first performance of the play), it was impossible to get a loge or stall.</p> <p><b>Panayev, I. (1858) <i>Notes of a Poet: St Petersburg Life</i></b></p>

## Resource 8

### Ira Aldridge: Life History Cards

Ira Aldridge was born in New York on 24th July 1807.	Ira's father was a church minister. Ira went to New York's African free school and his father wanted him to become a church minister.
Ira decided to become an actor when New York's free black community set up its first African Theatre.	Ira got some small acting roles but realised that it would be difficult for a black person to do more than this in the United States, a country that relied on slavery.
He decided to emigrate to England by working as a ship's steward.	Ira arrived in England in 1824 and got an acting role playing Oroonoko in <i>The Revolt of Surinam, or a Slave's Revenge</i> at London's Royal Coburg Theatre on October 10th, 1825.
Talented actors were given the name Roscius, remembering a great Roman actor Quintus Roscius Gallus and he was soon called the 'African Roscius'.	He played roles such as Shylock, Richard II and Macbeth in other Shakespearean plays and also comedy roles.
He married Margaret Gill, an English woman from Yorkshire, in 1825.	His wife Margaret died in 1864.
He came back to Britain in triumph in 1858 and was invited to play Othello at the Lyceum Theatre in London.	He went to work in Europe again and died in Poland on 7th August 1867.
He was more successful in other towns where he acted to crowded theatres. He appeared in plays in Manchester, Sheffield, Halifax, Newcastle, Liverpool, Sunderland, Dublin, Belfast and came to Northamptonshire to play Othello in 1831, and returned here in 1846.	Ira was not accepted in the London theatres so he sailed to Europe in 1852 where he acted in Brussels, Cologne, Basle, Leipzig, Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Munich, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Danzig, St. Petersburg, and Moscow. In Russia he became the highest paid actor in the world.
Life was not easy for Ira at a time when then the Abolition Movement was fighting to get the government to pass a law abolishing slavery- which it succeeded in doing in 1833.	In London, the Times Newspaper criticised Ira's acting because of his race in 1825 and from 1833 he found it difficult to get acting jobs there.
He then married Amanda Pauline von Brandt who came from Sweden in 1865.	He had four children – one died and three became musicians.



Resource 9  
Context cards

<p>The British Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, but slavery still existed in the colonies after this.</p>	<p>The fight to get rid of slavery continued after 1807. In 1833 it was removed in much of the British Empire.</p>
<p>Slavery supporters fought against the abolitionists and influenced London newspapers.</p>	<p>Slavery was a major cause of the American Civil War between 1861-65.</p>

# Piecing together the Salem family jigsaw

How does this help us to  
understand family life during the  
Second World War?

## Key Question

**Piecing together the Salem family jigsaw. How does this enable us to gain an understanding of family life during the Second World War?**

Angie Alloway, Studfall Junior School

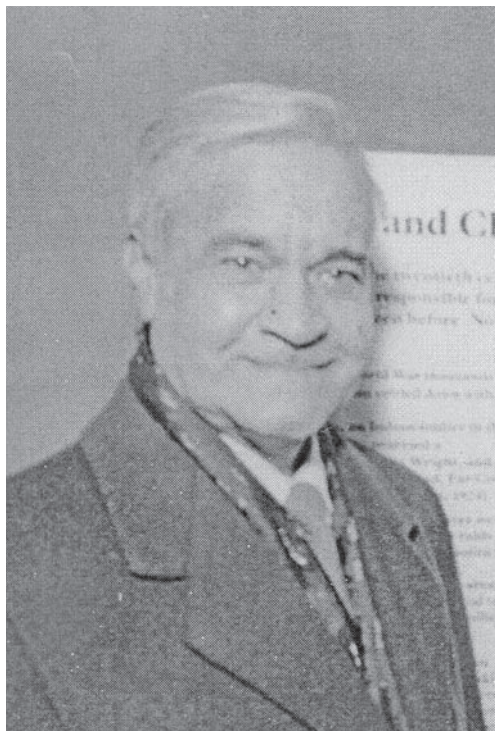
Julia Curtis, Millbrook Junior School

Paul Bracey, School of Education, University of Northampton.

## General Information

This exercise is intended to provide an introduction to exploring life during World War 2 through exploring Godfrey Salem's family. It is based on an interview with Godfrey in 2003 and is supported by some family photographs and memorabilia. The war years only reflect part of his story. Godfrey comes from a multicultural family who lived in Northamptonshire since c.1918. Godfrey was born in 1937 and provides an insight into what it was like to grow up during World War 2 as well as the way in which his parents, older brother and sister and brother in law contributed to the war effort. Abdul, his father was born in Calcutta in 1898 and came to Britain after serving in the Cheshire Regiment in World War 1 (1914-18) and worked in a munitions factory during World War 2. His brother, Albert and brother in law, Arthur Dimmer were in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army at the crucial Battle of El Alamein. His mother, Ida, supported the war effort as a nurse and his sister, Mooren, worked in the Land Army and a munitions factory.

The Salem family's story provides a valuable starting point for looking at the war as well as a model for pupils to undertake further investigations into either the experiences of different people during the war or themes



*Godfrey Salem Circa 2000*

such as the contribution of women or people from diverse cultures. It also raises questions about how well the contributions of people from different cultures are represented in other sources – an issue which could be investigated as a natural progression after exploring the Salem family. Matrices have been produced which relate this exercise to the National Curriculum at both Key Stages 2 and 3 leaving you to make appropriate adjustments to match the ages and needs of your pupils.

You have the following support materials for this topic:

[National Curriculum Subject links and Objects – Key Stage 2](#)

[National Curriculum Subject links and Objects – Key Stage 3](#)

[An outline of the lesson\(s\) with suggested activities and ways of linking it to a wider study of the past.](#)

- Resource 1** Pictures of Godfrey Salem's family  
Photograph A : Albert Salem (brother) 1940  
AWA Card: Abdul Salem (father) when he worked in a munitions factory c.1940  
Photograph of Ida Salem (mother)  
Photograph of Godfrey Salem,1941  
Photograph of Mooren Salem (sister) 1940
- Resource 2** Members of Godfrey Salem's Family whose World War 2 experiences you are investigating
- Resource 3** Reflective diary
- Resource 4** Transcript extracts about Godfrey's family  
Godfrey: extracts B,C,H, M  
Abdul (father) extracts E, L  
Ida (mother) extract F  
Albert (brother) extracts D, O  
Mooren (sister) extracts A, I, N  
Arthur (brother in law) extract K
- Resource 5** A transcript of Godfrey Salem's interview which can be used to produce an alternative approach to this exercise and as the basis for another topic.

#### Useful resources and references

BASS (2003) *We also served Education Pack: Testimonies of the contribution made in two World Wars by peoples of the Indian Subcontinent, Africa and the Caribbean*. Birmingham: Birmingham Advisory and Support Service.

[www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/print/ww2peopleswar/aboutlzone\\_school\\_blackasian.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/print/ww2peopleswar/aboutlzone_school_blackasian.shtml)

Imperial War Museum, (1988) *Together – The contribution made in the Second World War by African, Asian and Caribbean men and women*. A multi-media resource pack.

Northamptonshire Black History Association (2008) *Sharing the Past: Northamptonshire Black History*. Northampton: NBHA. Chapter 7 of this useful resource can provide teachers with an insight into the role of people from Black communities to World Wars 1 and 2 which draws on a range of personal experiences, including those of Godfrey's family.

**Further reading**

The following academic textbooks provide insights into migration from the Indian sub-continent to Britain.

- Fryer, P. (1984)        *Staying Power. The History of Black People in Britain.*  
London: Pluto
- Holmes, C. (1988)    *John Bull's Island. Immigration and British Society, 1871-1971.*  
London: Macmillan.
- Visram, R. (2002)    *Indians in Britain. 400 Years of History.*  
London: Pluto.

## National Curriculum Subject links and Objectives

Key Stage 2 (NC 2000)

Key questions	History	Examples of links with other subjects
<p><b>Piecing together the Salem family jigsaw. How does this help us understand family life during the Second World War?</b></p> <p>Who made up the Salem family in the war years?</p> <p>What can Godfrey tell us about his family experiences?</p> <p>How can our research help us to understand the experiences of Godfrey's family?</p> <p>How can we communicate the experiences of Godfrey's family?</p>	<p><b>Pupils should be taught:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• about the characteristic features of men women and children during World War 2 looking at Godfrey Salem's family (2a)</li> <li>• about the diversity of societies studied in Britain during World War 2 (2c)</li> <li>• how to find out about events, people and changes studied from a range of sources including photographs, transcripts, books, and the internet (4a)</li> <li>• to ask and answer questions, and to select and record information relevant to their enquiry about Godfrey Salem's family (4b)</li> <li>• to recall, select and organise historical information (5a)</li> <li>• to communicate their knowledge and understanding of history( 5c)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <p><b>Pupils should be taught:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that there are different rights are responsibilities at home, at school and in the community (2d)</li> <li>• to reflect on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues, using imagination to understand other people's experiences (2e)</li> <li>• to appreciate the range of national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom.(2i)</li> </ul> <p><b>English</b></p> <p><b>Speaking and Listening Eng 1</b></p> <p>ask relevant questions to clarify, extend and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• follow up ideas (2b)</li> <li>• make contributions relevant to the topic and take turns in discussion (3a)</li> <li>• vary contributions to suit the activity and purpose, including exploratory and tentative comments where ideas are being collected together, and reasoned, evaluative comments as discussion moves to conclusions or actions(3b)</li> <li>• qualify or justify what they think after listening to other's questions or accounts (3c)</li> <li>• deal politely with opposing points of view and enable discussion to move on (3e)</li> <li>• use dramatic techniques to explore characters and issues (4c)</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading Eng 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obtain specific information through detailed reading (3c)</li> <li>• identify the use and effect of specialist vocabulary (5a)</li> </ul> <p>(Note: Specific English objectives may be given more emphasis depending on which activities are undertaken)</p>

## National Curriculum Subject links and Objectives

Key Stage 3 (NC, 2008)

Key questions	History	Examples of links with other subjects
<p><b>Piecing together the Salem family jigsaw. How does this help us understand family life during the Second World War?</b></p> <p>Who made up the Salem family in the war years?</p> <p>What can Godfrey tell us about his family experiences?</p> <p>How can our research help us to understand the experiences of Godfrey's family?</p> <p>How can we communicate the experiences of Godfrey's family?</p>	<p><b>Pupils should be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand the diverse experiences of men women and children through looking at Godfrey Salem's family during the Second World War and how these have shaped the world (Key concept: Cultural, ethnic and religious diversity 1.2)</li> <li>to identify and investigate individually and as part of a team, specific historical questions, making and testing hypothesis (Key process: Historical enquiry 1.1b)</li> <li>to identify, select and use a range of historical sources, including textual, visual and oral sources (Contribution to Key process : Using evidence 2.2)</li> <li>communicate an understanding of history in a variety of ways, using chronological conventions and historical vocabulary (Key process: Communicate their knowledge 2.3b)</li> </ul> <p><b>Pupils should be taught aspects of history including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the impact through time of the movement and settlement of diverse peoples, from and within the British Isles (Contribution to Range and Content)</li> </ul> <p><b>The curriculum should provide opportunities for pupils to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explore ways in which the past has helped shape identities, shared values and attitudes today (Contribution to Curriculum opportunity 4a)</li> <li>investigate aspects of local history and how they relate to the broader historical context (Curriculum opportunity 4b)</li> <li>make links between history and other subjects and areas including citizenship (Curriculum opportunity 4c)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <p><b>Pupils need to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>explore the diverse national, regional, ethnic and religious cultures, groups and communities in the UK and the connections between them (Key concept: identities and diversities: living together in the UK 1.3b)</li> <li>reflect on the progress they have made, evaluating what they have learnt, what went well, the difficulties they encountered and what they would do differently (Key process: Taking informed and responsible action 2.3d)</li> <li>understand that the needs of the local community were affected by World War 2 and how these were met by Godfrey Salem's family through public services and the voluntary sector (Range and Content 3g)</li> <li>work individually and in groups taking on different roles and responsibilities (Curriculum opportunities 4e)</li> <li>take into account a range of contexts, such as local, regional, national, European, international and global, as relevant to their study of the experiences of Godfrey Salem's family (Curriculum opportunities 4h)</li> </ul> <p><b>English</b></p> <p><b>Pupils should be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make different kinds of relevant contributions in groups, responding appropriately to others, proposing ideas and asking questions (Process: Speaking and Listening 2 2b)</li> <li>extract and interpret information, events, main points and ideas from texts (Key process: Reading 2.2a)</li> </ul> <p><b>The study should include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>informal group or pair discussions (Range and content 3.1b)</li> </ul> <p><b>The curriculum should provide opportunities to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engage in specific activities that develop speaking and listening skills (Curriculum opportunity 4.1b)</li> <li>develop speaking and listening skills through work that makes cross-curricular links with other subjects (Curriculum opportunity 4.1f)</li> <li>develop reading skills through work that makes cross-curricular links with other subjects (Curriculum opportunity 4.2c)</li> </ul>

## Key Question

### **Piecing together the Salem family jigsaw. How does this help us to understand family life during the Second World War?**

**Objectives:** refer to matrix

#### **Introduction**

The teacher uses a section of Pathe news (refer to some useful references and resources above) from Second World War as initial stimulus material and raises the question – What is this about?

The class then sets World War 2 in context by a thought shower and create a time line of historical events which are familiar to them e.g. Mary Seacole, Fire of London etc.

The teacher then focuses on World War 2 and asks the question – What do you know about the Second World War? This could be recorded on the interactive white board (IWB) so that it can be returned to in the review and used for teacher assessment.

#### **Stage 1**

##### **Who made up the Salem family in the war years?**

The teacher explains to the children that they are going to be news reporters and shows them pictures of Godfrey Salem's family (Resource 1). The class thought showers responses to the question – What do they tell you about the family?

They could record this in a reflective diary (Resource 3).

The teacher explains to the children that they are going to interview these people as though the war has just finished.

Working in pairs pupils think of two questions they would like to ask each member of the family. Pairs are then given an A3 sized copy of the Salem family tree (you need to enlarge copies of resource 2 from A4 to A3) and family pictures (Resource 1). Pairs match the pictures to the family members on the family tree. They then use this information to see if they can answer earlier their questions. Once that has been done the children can suggest further questions based on the new evidence.

Pupils could record this in a reflective diary (see Resource 2).



## Stage 2

### What can Godfrey tell us about his family experiences?

Working in pairs / or groups, pupils read transcript extracts and match them to the family member.

The class reviews the exercise through the following questions – What have you found out? What do you still want to find out? This can be recorded in individually in reflective diaries. Draw children's focus to the highlighted words.

## Stage 3

### How can our research help us to understand the experiences of Godfrey's family?

The teacher explains to the children that they are going to take part in a jigsaw activity. This involves each home group finding out about the family by members going to other groups to research a specific family member i.e. Abdul, Ida, Albert, Mooren and Godfrey.

The pupils investigate the key highlighted words indicated in bold in the transcripts which affected the lives of their character. For their research they can use books, the internet and other sources and use this to interpret how their characters life may have been affected (the intention is to set the family's history in its context in the same way that TV documentaries use wider contextual information).

The pupils can use a KWL grid or the reflective diary used in stage 2 to structure their research.

#### Glossary:

A KWL grid involves the children asking the following questions:

- What do I **Know** about this topic ?
- What do I **Want** to know about it ?
- What have I **Learnt** about it ?

## Stage 4

### How can we communicate the experiences of Godfrey's family?

The pupils return to their home groups and disseminate the information they have found. In their home group they create a presentation of the Salem family using hot seating, newspaper reports, Moviemaker, PowerPoint, Digi blues, etc.

#### Review

The teacher asks home groups to feedback to the whole class using the question – what have you found out about the Second World War through the experiences of the Salem family? They add to the timeline used in the introduction and / or their reflective diaries.

The teacher gets pupils to revisit their research drawing out the following – What are the key cultural characteristics of the Salem family? Pupils then select and examine the content in a school textbook using the following question – How well does my textbook show the part played by people from different cultures in World War 2?

**Mainstreaming this exercise**

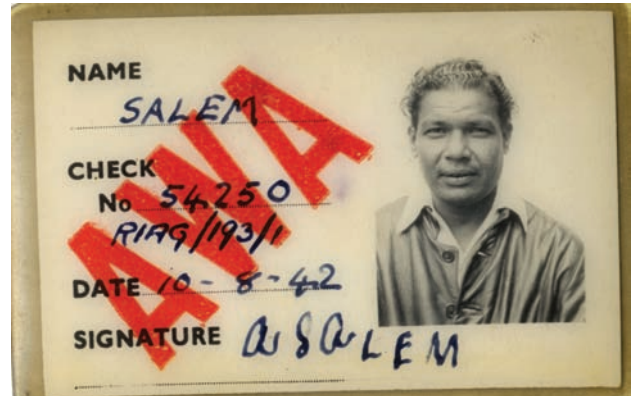
**This can be done in several ways such as:**

- Contrasting the experiences of Godfrey Salem's family with a local family or a family living elsewhere in Britain or the wider world.
- Explore one thread in more detail: i.e. the role of women or children during the war.
- Explore and compare the significance of key events such as El Alamein with Stalingrad and D-Day etc.
- Develop the review more fully. Consider the contributions of people from different classes, ethnicities and religions in a range of textbooks and resources. How well do you think that these groups are reflected in school textbooks? Pupils could then go on to suggest ways in which a school textbook could be improved in order to value the contributions more fully.
- Compare the family experiences during World War 2 with recent and contemporary conflicts.

Resource 1  
Pictures of Godfrey Salem's family



*A. Albert Salem 1940*



*B. AWA Card showing Abdul*



*C. Ida Salem 1940*



*D. Godfrey Salem 1941*

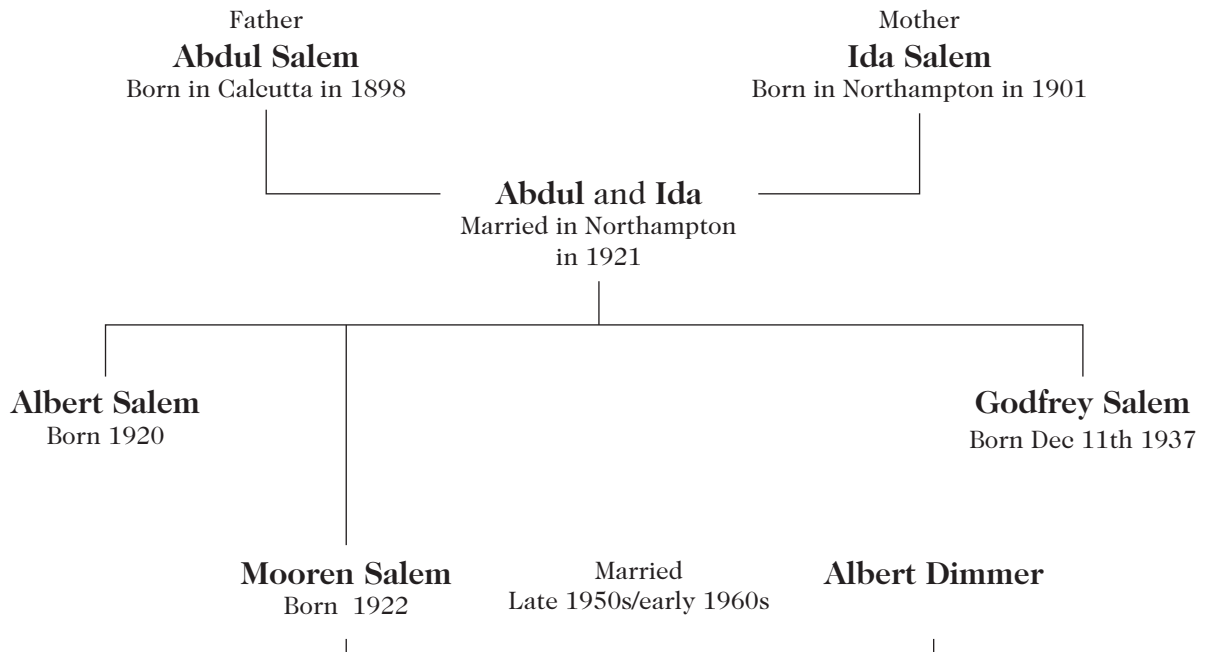


*E. Mooren Salem 1940*

## Resource 2

### A family tree of Godfrey Salem's family shortly after World War 2

(For this topic Godfrey's family tree has not taken up to the present day).



**Some background information about Godfrey Salem and his family not related to World War 2.**

Godfrey was interviewed in 2003 and the information about World War 2 that has been selected for the exercise you are doing is only part of his life story. In the rest of the interview Godfrey tells us about when he married his wife Jean at St. Mary's Church, Northampton and his life since the Second World War. He also tells us that his father had been a drummer in Bengal Lancers in 1912 and joined Cheshire Regiment during World War 1 (1914-18). His name appears on the Roll of Honour and he came to Northampton after he left the army. His brother Abdul was a talented footballer and cartoonist and he had a son called Rodney.

**Resource 3**  
**Reflective diary**

A reflective diary of my investigation of Godfrey Salem's Family experiences during the Second World War.	
<b>Pictures of Godfrey Salem's family</b>	What do the photographs tell me?
<b>Godfrey Salem's family tree just after World War 2</b>	What does the family tree tell me?
<b>Research exercise</b>	What do I need to find out about?
<b>Review</b>	What has looking at Godfrey Salem's family told me about life in World War 2?
	What do I still want to find out?
	What do I still want to find out?
	What have I found out?
	What questions have I still got?

## Resource 4

### Transcript extracts about Godfrey Salem's family during the Second World War

(Preparation: These will need to be cut out)

**A**

Interviewer: Do you know why she changed from [working in] the Land Army to [a] munitions factory?

Godfrey: I think the Land Army had finished. I think it must have been towards the end of the war.

**B**

Interviewer: When was it that you lived in Rosedale Road?

Godfrey: We left there in '47 so I think offhand I must have been about five so when we moved up there

**C**

I can remember taking **paper, newspaper to help the war...** I can also remember having powdered egg. All the kids we used to get powdered egg and chocolate, powdered chocolate, **rations** you know.

**D**

My brother I mean he was in the **Eighth Army** during the war and he used to learn the people to **drive tanks** ... He was at **El Alamein** in North Africa, where an important battle took place]. He went there I do know that. **Italy**, he was in Italy for a while, **South Africa**...He must have gone near enough everywhere, **Tripoli**.

**E**

He [Abdul] went to work over at Armstrong Whitworth ... to the **aircraft** place in **Coventry** and there was an old lady who used to make him a cup of tea when he got off the train at Coventry and one morning he got there and of course Coventry was **blitzed** well in the war, the houses wrecked, it was ruined and well the poor lady I don't think she lived, she couldn't have lived because it was down through the ground so my dad said.

**F**

My mum she was in **St. John's Ambulance** and I can remember at Rosedale Road she used to be on duty at the Savoy. It was the Savoy then, in the new Theatre in case anyone passed out etc. or was ill and one thing that I can remember, my mum she was frightened to death of cows. They scared her. And one night during the **blackout** she was coming down Rosedale Road and of course there were no lights or anything because it was wartime and a gentleman who lived at the top of Rosedale Road, he had been out drinking and he fell over. My mum picked him up and she knew who he was, started walking down Rosedale Road with him to his house and somebody had let the cows out at Lackeys Farm. There used to be a farm up Kingsthorpe called Lackeys Farm and this cow come running down the street, down Rosedale Road. My mum seen it coming, she dumped the poor fellow over the garden wall. [laughing] and dodged in the gate herself.

**G**

My sister's husband, his name was Arthur Dimmer. And he was at **El Alamein** during the war but I think he was a Sergeant whereas me brother was a Private... I've got... Arthur's medals.

**H**

Interviewer: Do you remember much about the war at all?

Godfrey: Not a lot. I can remember the **blackout** as I referred to with me mum coming down the street you know and she had to have a **little torch** when she had been on **duty**. I can't remember a lot about it at all. Only the happy things that you think of like when me **brother came home on leave**.

**I**

Interviewer: Did she join the **Land Army** at the **beginning of the war**?

Godfrey: I think it might have been a **year after it started** I believe it would be, I can only reflect how I was, I was only a youngster. I know when she came out she had the **Land Army hat** and you know the **badges** what they had and I took her hat and used it as a cowboy hat. [laughs]

**J**

Interviewer: And it was still during the war that she went to the **Munitions Factory**.

Godfrey: Saleey Forest that was. I don't know what it was called or nothing but I know it was at Saleey Forest, situated in the Forest itself.

**K**

He'd served in the war. And he was where my brother Albert was, in the **Eighth Army**. But they [Mooren and Arthur] never met up during the war. It was only after me sister married Arthur [ in the late 1950s/ early 1960s] that him and Albert got together.

**L**

He worked in Armstrong Whitworth during the war with the **aeroplanes** and that and well I've got his pass there, what he used to have to get into the work

**M**

I think one of my earliest [childhood] memories is down Dunster Street... they used to have **air raid shelters** down Dunster Street during the war like. One day me mum sent me down for a loaf of bread and there was a girl lived down there, Iris Odell and she was a bit older than me and she took me down the shop to get this loaf of bread and we were missing. Me mum didn't know where we were. She finally found us in the shelter. I was eating the bread from the middle of the loaf. I left the crust on the outside. [laughing]

**N**

She [Mooren] went into the Land Army and she was working on a farm in Kingsthorpe. After she came out of there she went to work in a **munitions factory**. She worked there, over Salcey Forest. She was there for quite a while.

**O**

He [Albert] was an excellent artist and he used to send cartoons back when he was in the **Army** for the Chronicle & Echo [newspaper] to publish.

**Circa 1941**





## Resource 5 A Transcript of Godfrey Salem's Interview

### Mr Godfrey Salem Transcript

Date of Birth:	1937
Ethnic Origin:	Dual heritage
Religion:	
Language of Interview:	English
Equipment:	Minidisk, STEREO LP2
Date of Interview:	07.02.2003 and 14.07.2003
Place of Interview:	Interviewees home
Accompanying Materials:	Copy of family archive materials
Reference Number:	NBHP2003.36c
Interviewer:	Julia Drake and Paul Bingham
Transcript:	Maria Patten
Transcript checked by:	Michael Drake
Copyright:	NBHP Restrictions Apply

### Notes

[000] refer to counter number on audio cassette

Paul Bingham has done research on Mr Salem and his family and was present at the interview.

**It's the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003. This is Julia Drake (JD) and I am interviewing Mr Godfrey Salem (GS), Northampton.**

JD: First of all if I could just ask, if you don't mind me asking when and where were you born?

GS: I was born in Northampton, Barratt Maternity Home, December 11<sup>th</sup> 1937.

JD: Did you have any brothers or sisters or, did you have any brothers or sisters?

GS: Sorry, I couldn't hear that.

JD: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

GS: Yeah, yeah one brother, one sister. Me brother has passed away and me sister's in a home at the present moment. They were both older than me. I was the youngest one. I was the baby. [laughing]

JD: When were your brother and sister born?

GS: Me brother was born in 1920 and me sister was 1922. I don't know where, they were born in Northampton but I don't know whether they were home births or whether they went into the hospital for it, I don't know. That's all I can say about that. [laughing]

JD: Keeping talking about your family, if we could talk a bit about your parents. What sort of memories do you have of your parents?

GS: Well all I can relate to is things that have been told to me by me mum. I mean my mum's passed away now but things that she said you know. I know me dad on the Marriage Certificate he was born in 1898 and he joined the Bengal Lancers as a drummer boy when he was 14 years old and after a while they transferred him into the Cheshire Regiment where he served in the First World War and he's on the Roll of Honour for the Cheshire Regiment. When he was demobbed he must have come to Northampton and met me mum. They must have hit it off, got married. They found it a bit hard being White and him being Coloured but they managed to fight their way through it all. In fact me dad he couldn't read or write and he used to work on the buildings as a bricklayer's labourer. Then he worked at Armstrong Whitworth over at Coventry. And me mum she took up nursing for St. John's Ambulance and so they seemed to fit into the category of life out here. People, I can remember when I lived down Rosedale Road with family people used to come around if there was ulcerated legs or anything like that me mum used to go and see to them and dress them.

JD: So I've got a list here that Paul gave me of places that the family have lived. When was it that you lived in Rosedale Road?

GS: We left there in '47 so I think offhand I must have been about five so when we moved up there so what would that be, five year. I'd be 11, so six years, I think anyway. I think that's it anyway. [laughing] I know I was 11 when I left coz we moved down to Far Cotton, well Delapre then. Well it is as I say my brother I mean he was in Eighth Army during the war and he used to learn the people to drive tanks.

Also when he was demobbed, before he went into the Army he played football and when he came out he played football for Kingsthorpe Wanderers and Kingsthorpe Rangers. He was leading goalscorer every season and Coventry and Leicester came down to watch him. He knew they were coming down and me dad didn't want him to go, wouldn't let him go at the time. Also when me brother was younger my mum told me that he used to run around the Racecourse for pennies, races and give me mum the money, the pennies if [032] he won it. He was also a good artist and he used to produce cartoons for the Chronicle & Echo and he also used to paint on glasses, huntsmen on horseback with the hounds and years ago at the old White Horse up Kingsthorpe they used to have a Publican called George Cooke and he asked Albert my brother to do him a set of glasses with the huntsmen on horseback which he did and he had them on display. He said 'I'm not going to use them. They're going on display' and they were behind the bar down the White Horse as long as he was there. Of course they are not there now but they were at the time. I can't think what else to say.

JD: Do you know what happened to the glasses? Were they,

GS: Mm.

JD: Do you know what happened to the glasses at all or were they just lost?

GS: I don't know what happened to them to be honest. They were behind the bar down there for years and years but of course I think George Cooke passed away now, the bloke because it has been some time ago, but he was an excellent artist and he used to send cartoons back when he was in the Army for the Chronicle & Echo to publish which we've got some copies of. Not much to say about me sister and meself because we weren't gifted for anything but me sister was in the Land Army during the war. She was stationed at Salcey Forest. As I say now she's in a home. She's not really very well at all. I will give it to you for nothing. There's no story with me. [laughing] This is the story.

JD: If we can go back, did your father ever talk about his life before he came to England at all?

GS: No, no. We didn't, well I didn't know that he had been wounded twice in the war until Paul got the paper from the Cheshire Regiment showing he was on a Roll of Honour. He never spoke much. The only thing he did say people used to ask him if he would like to go back to India, Calcutta, that's where he came from, if he wanted to go back and he used to say 'no, he didn't' because there was a rich part and a poor part and he was so young when he left he said he could pass his brothers and sisters in the street and he wouldn't know him so no, he weren't keen on going back.

JD: You mentioned Albert, there was a few stories when I was here last time you mentioned about Albert.

GS: Not the hospital one. [laughing] I can't remember which one.

PB: Twinkle Toes. His name was Twinkle.

GS: Oh yeah, yeah. My brother Albert used to play for Kingsthorpe Wanderers. He got a nickname, people used to go and watch and they used to say 'watch them twinkling toes, watch that Swanee River' when our Albert got the ball and they had a goalkeeper in the later stages, Kingsthorpe Wanderers, Arthur Marlowe and he played against me brother first of all and my brother Albert scored six goals in the first half against him and the second half started and my brother Albert got the ball, ran forward with it, dribbled around Arthur Marlowe, stopped the ball, stood on the ball on the goal line and said 'here you are Arthur, I don't want to embarrass you any more'. [laughing]

JD: You did actually mention the hospital story as well but it's up to you whether, [laughing]

PB: What about the time when your father was in Dunster Street and a rat,

GS: Oh yeah me dad, when we lived down Dunster Street I was very very young. I can remember, I mean everybody that lived down there were friendly.

[084]

Everybody had got nothing and they was always there to help you. My dad had been and had a drink somewhere on a certain day and he walks down Dunster Street and there was a rat running across the road and he kicked it and he kicked it all down Dunster Street until he got to our house.

PB: You can remember that, you saw him do it?

GS: Vaguely, in the back of my mind.

JD: You mentioned some of the jobs that your father did, I don't know if you could go into a bit more detail about what he did over the years for work?

GS: My dad, yeah he worked as I say on the building sites, bricklayer's labourer, carrying bricks up to the builders etc. and at the time he could carry the most bricks on his head up the ladders. As I say he couldn't read or write and that's the only kind of work he could do at the time and it was, well it weren't funny but me mum told me that every time it got around to holidays he was always laid off with other people as well because they didn't want to pay the holiday money. Then he went to work over at Armstrong Whitworth as I said to the aircraft place in Coventry and there was an old lady who used to make him a cup of tea when he got off the train at Coventry and one morning he got there and of course Coventry was blitzed well in the war, the houses wrecked, it was ruined and well the poor lady I don't think she lived, she couldn't have lived because it was down through the ground so my dad said. And then when he finished work over there he went on to the buildings again and I think it was 1951 he fell off some scaffolding and he smashed his kneecap and he was in hospital for quite a while and he had to walk with a stick so his working days were literally over. He died in 1971 in Northampton General Hospital. He was rushed in and I don't know the details about it but I think it was his heart that let him down at

the finish. That was my dad. I mean I went to see him in the hospital and it broke my heart really because he said 'you're my son, you're my flesh and blood, get me out of here'. And of course I couldn't do nothing and the same thing I was situated with my mum. She was in an Old People's Home because she got Alzheimer's and she used to say to me 'come on you're my pal, get me out of here, help me get me out.' Of course it hurt me but I could not do nothing. She eventually she caught Pneumonia and she passed away and me brother passed away in 1981. He was in hospital and he liked his drink. He liked a drink and people had warned me coz he had to go to a hospital before about his drinking and they told him to stop. People said to me 'why don't you stop him' and I said 'well I've been smoking since I were 14'. I said 'I will ask him' so I did. I said 'Albert why don't you stop your drinking' and he said 'why should I'. He said 'I can sit at home and be miserable and pass away. I might as well go out and enjoy myself' he said 'and do it that way'. We had a call on a Sunday when he was in hospital that he was in a poor way, more or less on his last legs. We went down to see him and he was on morphine and he knew someone was there but he didn't know who. And he muttered something and we thought he said he wants a sweet so my sister said 'Do you want a drink, me duck' coz there were no sweets there. He had got a bottle of orange on his cabinet, also a jug of water and a glass. And my sister said 'do you want a drink, me duck' and he said 'yes please, yes please'. She poured him his drink and mixed it and gave it to him. He took one sip and he said 'Al, Al [ph] what's this'. But that was my brother, he thought he was getting a pint because he was so used to the taste. Another time, I know I'm going back when I should be going forward but I was at school at Kingsthorpe Grove and me brother came home on leave and he said to me at the dinner time, I'd come home for my dinner and he said 'do you want to go to the pictures?' And I said 'yeah I wouldn't mind going' I said 'but mum'. He said 'don't tell mum' he said 'just wait for me at the top of the street' which I did and we went to see a film called Beau Geste at the Foreign Legion. I can remember that. We came out and me brother said to me, he said 'you go down first and go in the house first' he says 'and then mum won't know where we've been'. I walked in the house. My mum says to me 'how was school? And I said 'oh not too bad', I said 'same difference, more or less' I says. She said 'have you been to school? I said 'yes [158] yes' 'it's funny' she said 'there's a friend of yours in the kitchen, Mr Eddie Tapp [ph]. He's come round and wanted to know why you didn't go to school this afternoon'. [laughing] My brother used to take me, when he was on leave, he used to take me down town and buy me lead soldiers and also I forgot to mention my dad did work on the market for a little while. He made, I don't know what they call them, it was like, he'd got a pattern of I don't know what you call it, we used to get clay from up Kingsthorpe and a clay pit at the time and he used to mould it. He got these tin moulds, he used to mould a little clog, cup it was and he'd cover it with this strong paper and he put a bit of string in the middle of it and attach it to a little rod and when you swung it around it used to make a noise. He did that and then he went on to the market with it and when he used to come back he'd always bring me something, some zoo animals or soldiers or even ice cream he used to bring, bring back with him what he'd got off the market and I think he worked at Leicester market. I don't know whether he

worked on Northampton market. I can't remember but you know he was a good bloke, he only hit me once and that was my own fault. I scratched a sideboard, our sideboard with a coin [laughing] and he clouted me but that's the only time. He used to tell me off mind you but I can remember as well when I was what 12 years old I used to want to go to the pictures with my mates down the Tiv [ph], down Far Cotton. I used to stand around on the Thursday night and he knew what I was waiting for, some money and he would always give me the money to go to the pictures.

PB: Did you know any of your dad's friends?

GS: No, I don't know any of my dad's friends. I know my, this is going back again, back to my brother, I know that I told you he was a good artist and I can remember two of the Cobblers players coming up to Rosedale Road and he had done cartoons of them both, Jimmy Briscoe and Archie Garrett and they were pleased with them and they took them away and I think they have both passed away now. I know Archie Garrett passed away about two or three years ago. Another time as well with my brother, it was when they lived up Market Street, I mean I weren't thought of then but me mum told me, there used to be a policeman around regular on a beat around there, and my brother drew him on the pavement in chalk and the policeman happened to come down and me mum was cleaning the step, the doorstep and my mum said 'I'm sorry' she said 'you know about it, what he's done' she said 'our Albert'. And the policeman turns around he said 'don't be sorry' he said 'if I had a pick I would take it up and take it home with me'.

PB: I came across a newspaper cutting in your collection about this boy rescuing someone.

GS: Yeah that's right. Me brother, we found this cutting which me mum kept and now we think it must have been him because in the paper it says that a gang of lads were playing football on the Racecourse and a young boy walked into the middle of the road just when a bus was coming up and we presume it was my brother, a dark lad and there wasn't many dark people around then, a dark lad ran from the racecourse and picked him up and got him across the road safely. It said that they didn't give no name. It said the young boy left before he could be interviewed so we are just surmising. I mean my mum kept the cutting so it must be about right, my brother loved football. He played it on the racecourse etc. and he was only a child then. But as I say he has done everything and I've done nothing. [laughing]

JD: What did your mother do? You mentioned that she was with St. John's Ambulance.

GS: Yeah my mum she was in St. John's Ambulance and I can remember at Rosedale Road she used to be on duty at the Savoy. It was the Savoy then, in the new Theatre in case anyone passed out etc. or was ill and one thing that I can remember, my mum she was frightened to death of cows. They scared her. And one night during the blackout she was coming down Rosedale Road and of [241] course there were no lights or anything because it was wartime and a gentleman who lived at the top of Rosedale Road, he had been out drinking and he fell over. My mum picked him up and she knew who he was, started

walking down Rosedale Road with him to his house and somebody had let the cows out at Lackeys [ph] Farm. There used to be a farm up Kingsthorpe called Lackeys Farm and this cow come running down the street, down Rosedale Road. My mum seen it coming, she dumped the poor fellow over the garden wall. [laughing] and dodged in the gate herself. As I say that's the only thing that frightened my mum. I mean she was a nurse and she used to say 'the more blood the more she liked it' but I am totally different and to be honest me dad was totally different. I can remember when that programme was on the telly, Your Life in Their Hands where they performed operations on the television. I mean my mum would sit there intrigued, she'd watch it. She loved it. But me dad would get the clothes horse usually with all the clothes airing and he'd put that around him while he ate his supper so he didn't have to watch the telly and as I say I'm just like him, I am if I see an accident I'd rather not look.

PB: Did your dad mention anything about the war to you?

GS: No.

PB: Did your mum?

GS: No Paul.

PB: About what he saw?

GS: As I say you know he never said a thing about it. I didn't know anything until you got that Roll of Honour. I knew he'd been in there, in the Army and that because I went and got his demob papers etc. which my mum kept and I've got now. He's up the Crematorium, me dad is and my mum is aside of him, by the side of him and also me nephew, our Albert's boy. He was in the Army for eight years in the Catering Corps and he learned everything he could about cooking and after eight years he came out. He had a motorbike, he was in Germany. He came out and he got a job up in Tescos as the head Baker and there was a bread shortage at a certain time and he used to come down and take our mam some bread and rolls because my mum was on her own then. My dad had passed away. He went fishing on Boxing morning, Rodney his name was. He went fishing on Boxing morning and we got two photographs of him while he was fishing with his mate, his friend. His friend came from the Vocal [ph]. I think he's passed away now as well but anyway they went fishing. It was Boxing morning and in the afternoon Northampton, the Cobblers were playing Lincoln City and he went up to watch them up the County ground and when he came out, he come along Hopewood Road [ph] and the giveway sign had been broken and he went across and two cars hit him so, another one with a great future cut short. He was a nice lad our Rodney.

JD: When did Albert get married?

GS: Oh you're asking me. I can't remember, we ain't got no photos. We've got pictures of him in the war but not, I mean Ev [ph] would know, his wife she's still alive but.

JD: I mean you mentioned his service, that he did service during the war. Where did he go during the war? Where was he based?

GS: Who's that, my dad or my brother?

JD: Albert.

GS: Albert yeah he was at El' Alamein. He went there I do know that. Italy, he was in Italy for a while, South Africa. We got pictures of him with his friends in [320] South Africa, his mates, soldiers. He must have gone near enough everywhere, Tripoli. He learnt people to drive tanks and yet I don't think he could drive a car funnily enough. We'd never had the money to buy a car but I'd never seen him you know, if a friend's got a car or anything I've never seen him driving a car. Any yet he learnt people to drive tanks.

JD: Going back a bit you mentioned your mum worked at St. John's Ambulance and she was in the war, she was doing nursing during the war. What did she do before and after the war? Was she working or was she a housewife or?

GS: No me mum was a housewife. I mean she did work at a place called Reason & Pickles [ph] for a while. I don't know what they done but I can remember the name, it was in Northampton. But then she finished there. I don't know whether they made her redundant or whether she left of her own accord but she never worked again. She was as you say a housewife and of course when me dad had his accident she was more or less looking after him and at his beck and call as well.

JD: When your dad had his accident how did the family cope?

GS: Well I weren't all that old meself but I can remember going up Manfield Hospital to see him coz he had his operation and he laid there and we took it pretty bad but not to the extent that we'd let on to him. He adapted well with his stick. I mean he used to have to walk around everywhere with it but he adapted well to it and we used to go on outings, days out on the bus, on Yorks Bros. buses and my mum and dad used to pay for me to go with them and later on Jean my wife, they paid for her to go. We've been to Norfolk Broads. We went to Norfolk Broads and he used to go around with his stick alright, you know so I don't, either he didn't let on that it was painful or else he got accustomed to it. I don't know. I can't think of anything offhand now, what to say about me dad. I know when me brother did get married I can't remember what year it was but he lived with us for a while, him and his wife and Rodney his son who got killed, I can remember him being born on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1947 and it was when we had all the drifts of snow and our front windows at Rosedale Road were covered. It had drifted right over the windows themselves and we had to dig our way out and me and some more of the lads in Rosedale Road, we made igloos in the street on the bar [ph]. It was that bad but you know it sticks in my mind that does because our Rodney were born on that day.

JD: Was he born at home in the house?

GS: Yeah.

PB: What about your sister Mo, what work did she do and did she get married?



GS: Yeah, she worked down Reason & Pickles [ph] with my mum as I say for a while. I don't know how long it was. But her main occupation, she worked at a place called Travers. They pack tea and wine, port wine etc. They used to pack and she worked there for quite a while. I think it was around Greyfriars Street it used to be. Of course that's gone now isn't it? because the Grosvenor's there but, after she'd finished after that finished there she went to work in a factory somewhere, I don't know where it was for a while. Later in life when her husband passed away she took a job at the cleaners, Zettlers Bingo on the Market Square and she was in charge of the cleaners then. She was good hearted I mean whenever I told her I'd got no money or anything and she used to give me money and times when I've been out of work and I mean Jean will tell you she used to come up and bring some stuff up, tins of stuff what she had bought for us you know, so we didn't go hungry and that. She'd got a heart of gold. It's a shame to see how she is now in that home, how she's deteriorated.

PB: Do you know when she got married and what's the name of her husband?

[397]

GS: My sister's husband, his name was Arthur Dimmer. And he was at El' Alamein during the war but I think he was a Sergeant whereas me brother was a Private. But I've got me brother in law Arthur's medals coz when we cleared me sister's flat out when she went into the home we brought things up here and I've got his medals, what he won. I know his brother's died so, I was thinking about if he'd got any family anywhere. I know he had a brother but he passed away. He lived down the road here just at the bottom of the street somewhere and he passed away so I couldn't put the medals on to him so I've still got them.

JD: You mentioned earlier on that your parents, it was a mixed race relationship there was some tensions there. Do you ever remember anything?

GS: Not really, there was tension. All I can remember was sometimes, not very often me dad would come home and he'd had a cut lip or ear bleeding and he'd been fighting with people in the pub. I suppose it was, although my dad never said it was racist I'd put it down to it because when me dad had a drink he weren't violent. [laughing] I know I said he kicked the rat down the street but he weren't a violent person. He hadn't got that attitude. So I'd put it down to that although as I say I was only a youngster. Another thing about me dad as well, when he worked on the buildings he used to come home and me mam used to have his dinner ready and I was, I must have been about four year old I think and I used to sit on his lap and help him eat his dinner. Now for years and years now, oh I don't know how long I haven't eaten meat or fish and yet I used to help him eat his dinner and he used to have meat. Me mum used to do him meat etc. and I used to, about three year old I'd eat it and I ain't touched it since but I think my mum got it right when she said she used to take me up the butchers, up Wellingborough Road, Litches [ph] butchers and we used to see all the rabbits hanging up outside shops and she reckons that was what put me off eating meat. And I don't like fish anyway, I don't like the smell of it so. [laughing].

JD: Is there any more questions you'd like to ask about the parents before I move on to another?

PB: No I don't think so.

JD: Is there anything more that you'd like to add about your parents before I move on to another topic?

GS: I can't think of anything else at the moment. As I say they were good parents to me anyway. I think my dad got some compensation when he fell off the scaffolding. Nothing to what they get today but it was a bit and I remember I got a bicycle out of it, brand new bike.

PB: Did he enjoy special television programmes or anything? Did he have any hobbies?

GS: He liked westerns and I wish he had seen my favourite western because he would have loved it but he never did see it, the Magnificent Seven. So I reckon that's a fantastic film. One thing he did love was playing skittles. He used to love a game of skittles and me mum was going away for the day with my sister. I don't know where they were going. They were going somewhere and me dad says 'right' he says 'you and Jean', Jean's my wife, he says 'you and Jean come with me' and he took us down the Black Lion down near Castle Station and he said 'come on we'll have a game of skittles' Another time he took us up to the Crown I think it was up at Hardingstone or the Sun, one of the two up there to play skittles. It was when me mum's back was turned. [laughing]

JD: Actually that's interesting, what's your, is there a particular memory that really sticks out for you about your father, about his personality? Is there something that sort of you can think of that sums up what you?

[457]

GS: Well the thing that is in my mind, I mean they had a hard life when they were first married. They made the headlines in the Independent in 1924, I think it was '24 or '28 one or the other and it must have been a friend of me dad's, he'd got a house down Blenheim Road and they rented, sublet it to me dad and me mum and me brother Albert and me sister Maureen were born then as well. And the Council kicked them out because they said no subletting and there's a picture of them standing outside the property. Me mum's got me brother and my dad's got me sister in her arms. And when me dad went to see about what they could do and that they said 'well, go back to India'. And me dad said 'I can't'. He said 'because I have eaten bacon' and that's against their religion. He said 'I can't go back' and he asked for work, me dad. He asked them to find him some work and that and they said 'go to the workhouse'. They sent him to the workhouse to work. As I say I weren't born then. It's just what's in this Independent magazine. There's not a lot I can say about it only the fact that the picture's there to show you and the write-up. I think the thing that sticks in my mind is I mean I think it was racist with me dad coz he was one of not many coloured people at all in the town at the time. And I think him sticking by his guns, I know he couldn't read or write and sticking with me mum, me mum doing her

nursing at St. Johns Ambulance, helping people neighbours etc. when anything was wrong and me brother playing football and making a career in, well not a career but painting on glasses and doing cartoons for the Chronicle & Echo, I think that put us more into the community. If they had just sat back and let it be I don't think we'd have been really accepted into the community. That's me own opinion. That's the opinion I've got of my family.

PB: Did your father know any other Black people in town?

GS: Eh, there was one, Jim Maloney. He used to be a boxer, I mean me mum, I never met him meself but me mum told me that he was a really good bloke and he had done a lot for charity as well. He used to box for charity, different charities and he passed away before me dad did, I believe and although I can't think of any more coloured people that he knew. As I say I don't think there was a lot of them around at that time.

PB: Do you know how your dad met your mum?

GS: No.

PB: They never talked about it.

GS: No. I know on the Wedding Certificate me dad was lodging at the Cross Keys in Sheep Street when he come out of the Army and me mum lived in Almer [ph] Street, St. James. I don't know how they met but thankfully they did, else I wouldn't be here. [laughing] As I say there's not a lot I can tell you really, it's just things in my mind and things that well Paul, what he found about me dad with that Roll of Honour. I mean I didn't know anything about it. Me dad never spoke of it at all but I don't think I'm a lot of help.

JD: Well this is where only you can answer these questions coz if we talk a bit about you now if that's okay. Let's move on. What's the earliest memory that you have?

GS: I think one of the earliest memories is down Dunster Street, that's it, the first place although I think I were born up Ryland Road, Kingsley and that's only from a lady who worked as a cleaner with me sister at Zettors. She said she can remember me being born at Ryland Road. But the farthest back I can do is Dunster Street, when we lived down there and the thing that sticks in my mind is there was two gentlemen who lived down the road, not with each other, they'd both got families, Mr Sherry and Mr Aspinall. They seen me in the street and they give me a penny. Every time they saw me they gave me something. I mean once they gave me a pencil and it was like a cigarette. It looked like a cigarette. I can [528] remember that. Also there was an old lady Mrs Banks. She lived next door but one to us and she lived on her own. She was a widow and she had got an accordion and a piano and I was only a kid and I used to love this accordion and I was always round her place. One Sunday me mum was looking for me, couldn't find me. Finally she went to Mrs Banks' house and said 'is our Godfrey there'. Mrs. Banks said 'yes' she said. 'he's in here'. Me mum said 'well I've got his dinner ready'. So Mrs Banks said 'oh he told me he ain't got no dinner' she said 'and so I done him a few baked potatoes'. You know it's things like

that that everybody as I said they helped one another in them days. Everybody knew each other. Nobody had got anything but they was always there to help. The poor lady she passed away. She got up one morning. She was lighting a fire and she had a heart attack, but luckily the fire didn't light and well she had gone. And another thing I can remember, they used to have air raid shelters down Dunster Street during the war like. One day me mum sent me down for a loaf of bread and there was a girl lived down there, Iris Odell and she was a bit older than me and she took me down the shop to get this loaf of bread and we were missing. Me mum didn't know where we were. She finally found us in the shelter. I was eating the bread from the middle of the loaf. I left the crust on the outside. [laughing] They're the first memories I can ever remember.

JD: Do you remember much about the war at all? Do you remember much about the war at all?

GS: Not a lot. I can remember the blackout as I referred to with me mum coming down the street you know and she had to have a little torch when she had been on duty. No I can't remember a lot about it at all. Only the happy things that you think of like when me brother came home on leave. There's not much I can remember about it.

JD: School, you mentioned Kingsthorpe Grove, was that lower school or was that?

GS: It was the infants one.

JD: Infants School.

GS: I think they've changed them all around now. I think they've changed them all around now and I don't know if it's the infants or juniors or what they call it now but I was at the infants there and the juniors, lovely school. I think it still is. It still looks bloody perfect to me. From there when we moved to Delapre I went to Rothersthorpe Road as it was called then which is now Delapre Secondary Modern but it was Rothersthorpe Road. That was a good school but there was a certain teacher I didn't like and the certain lesson that I didn't like and he took you for that lesson and he used to frighten you to death. Mr James his name was and it was geography. And I used to, when we got him, usually in the afternoon we got him for geography I used to go down the train bridge down Far Cotton, get train numbers and names coz they used to have names then. I mean I used to spend no end of hours getting names on trains. You know playing truant it was and later on me mum said to me about it, she said 'you've been going down that train bridge, ain't you' and to this day I still can't think how she knew because we'd had no letters from the school or anything saying that I weren't there for certain lessons. I still can't, until this day I cannot think how she knew that I didn't go to school.

JD: What's your memories of Lower School, when you first went to school. You said it was a lovely place. What sort of?

GS: Yeah it was. It was a lovely place and there was one teacher. She was really nice. I mean she must be passed away herself now, Miss Andrews. But she were really nice. We used to go in the playground at play time and play like they do everywhere. One year they hadn't

got enough classrooms for us. This was when I first moved up to the Juniors. That was still near Kingsthorpe Road though. [601] They hadn't got enough classrooms so they put us down Trinity Church and we stopped there and that is the best time in my life, school life. It was marvellous. We got one teacher and he was a gentleman he was. He used to let us play near enough all day in the grounds of the church like you know. We used to play football and that. That's all been built over now. They've put a building over the top where we used to play. We didn't play in the grave stones and that, not that part it was another part and there was a bird had nested in the clock at Trinity church and I can remember I don't know who went up there, it was a bloke, a bloke must have gone up there and brought it down coz it was stopping the clock. This teacher, he got some eggs and he give me a bird's egg. But we used to have fun there you know. I mean the weather used to be beautiful as well. We used to have really hot summers then and it was about summertime when we were down there you know, running around and playing. I can't even remember the teacher's name though who took us down there. It was only as I say because they hadn't got enough classrooms. I can remember taking paper, newspaper to help the war. A lot of kids done that. And they give me a little document saying that after the war I'd take in newspaper and that. I can also remember having powdered egg. All the kids we used to get powdered egg and chocolate, powdered chocolate, rations you know. They used to give all the kids it and I used to love them powdered eggs. They were really nice they were. You know when you mixed them up and put them on, it's as if you got the yoke all the while. You got no white, it was all yoke. I used to love it.

JD: Do you remember, did you have lots of friends there, was there lots of other children around you? Do you remember who your friends were at the time?

GS: I can remember at the Juniors, at the infants when I was there there was a mate called Tony Marks, Jerry McAllister, Harold Barnes, Peter Fields and of course they moved up to the Juniors with me as well. Peter Fields used to come around my house. He lived down Kingsthorpe Grove at the time and his dad used to keep greyhounds and run him and he used to come up my house at Rosedale Road and he would always have his wellingtons on, [laughing] always wear wellies. I've only seen one of them, unless they've altered that much I've never noticed them. I've only seen one of them, that's Tony Marks and I happened to see him up the Cobblers once and he has not altered. I don't remember I don't think, well I haven't seen any of the other ones around, Harold Barnes, Jerry McAllister. I ain't seen them. As I say when we moved to Delapre, it was Briar's Hill Road then, you got your mates there and we used to go and play football on Far Cotton Rec. and when I first started work I started work at Barratts Boot & Shoe and I used to play football. I used to bike home up to Delapre, Gloucester Crescent where we lived and me mum would have me dinner ready on the table. I used to gulp me dinner down and go down the rec., meet the other lads, play football and then go back to work, bike back to Barratts at Kingsthorpe Hollow. [laughing]

JD: How old were you when you left school?

GS: 1952, what was that, is it 14 or 15? I can't remember, 15 ain't it? 15 year old when I left.

JD: When you were at school did anyone sort of say anything about the fact that you were of mixed parentage or anything like that? Was that ever,?

GS: No not to meself [ph]. Nothing like that. I put that down as I said to me dad and me mum getting into the community and me brother but no, the only time that there's ever been anything like it was later on in life when I was working and I was out of work and I went to, down Grafton Street to the Job place to see what vacancies they'd got and they'd got one for someone in a warehouse at Rest Assured which was down, what's the name of that street off Regent Square, it runs parallel?

JD: Is it Broad Street?

[700]

GS: Broad Street, that's it, yeah Broad Street. They had a place, Rest Assured. Well as you know Grafton Street, Broad Street, it's not far to go and they gave me a card. They phoned up and asked if it was still vacant, the job and they said 'yes' so they gave me a card to take down. I walked in there and I said 'I'm coming about the vacancy' and they took one look at me and they said 'it's gone, the job's gone' and I put that down to a bit of racist but that's about the only time that I've ever been involved in it. It seems odd to me that the job's gone while I was walking down. [laughing]

JD: Okay

GS: There's not a lot I can say about me sister though, coz she's like me. [laughing]

JD: Your story is just as important as anybody, everybody else. You mentioned when you left school you first went to work at Barratts, did you work there for long or?

GS: Well I was like a yoyo to be honest at Barratts, I think I was there, must have been there for about ten year. I left, I went back, I left, I went back, they kept having me back. I went back about four times. They still had me back. And then when they got took over by Stylo I worked in the warehouse there for Stylo. They wanted somebody in Customer Service Department and they dragged me into it and I must have been a success in that because they wouldn't let me go back into the warehouse and the foreman of the warehouse Jim, his name was, Jim somebody he wanted me back in the warehouse. He said 'you pinched one of my best workers' he says, so they said 'you're stopping in CSD, Customer Services, stopping in there' and the boss in CSD he said to me, he said 'I've just had Jim again. It's like a red flag to a bull' he said, 'talking to him' he says. [laughing] As I say I worked there and then that closed down and I left. I'm trying to think where I went to then. See in my career, in my career I've been no end of places. I mean people could come and ask me for a reference for a place and I could tell them what it were like coz I'd been there, whereas you can't these days. You can't get jobs but at the time, I can't remember. That's right, I went down Earey [ph]

Controls down Far Cotton, Earey Controls and I worked in the stores there and I was in charge of the stores, got made redundant coz they closed down, [laughing] went Jaybeam [ph] Aerials and they put me in charge of these rotary clothes lines. I was in charge of them. And one day a woman swung one of the things around, they got them standing up you know, like putting the string in and she swung it around and it hit me in the eye and it didn't half bleed. They took me to the hospital. Then Jaybeam moved up to Moulton Park from Far Cotton coz they were down Rothersthorpe Avenue and they moved up there. I went with them and I was making these little push chairs things. I got fed up of it and I left there, [laughing] I left there and where else did I go? I also worked down Prestoes as it was then on the trolleys when Prestoes first opened.

PB: A supermarket?

GS: Yeah, I mean it's Safeway now, don't know how long for but I worked on the trolleys down there and getting bags and everything, whatever they needed you know, a jack of all trades I suppose you could call me, master of none. Then I worked at Derngate cleaning, as a cleaner and that's when I had my first heart attack there. Of course I couldn't do the job, reaching and cleaning the tiles down etc., I couldn't do that so that finished me off and then I had two more heart attacks. I haven't worked since 1990. I think it were 1990 the last time I had any money from anywhere because I got disablement benefit which was £26.00 something a week and I had to go up Gladstone Road for a medical and they gave me £26.00 something a week and that was after I'd had two heart attacks. I had to go back twelve months later for an assessment, examined again and it was a different doctor I seen to the first time and I'd had another heart attack and been in hospital and they took me money away from me and I had had a third [753] heart attack. They took it away. We went to the Tribunal at Nottingham, me and Jean and well the way they treated you there was terrible and of course we knew it was a waste of time before we went but we did go and they treated us like dirt and Jean said 'I wouldn't put you through it again' and so from 1990 up until I got me pension last month I didn't receive a penny from anywhere so I was banking on Jean with her money, her wages to pull us through. It's just the way things go. [laughing] I met Jean at Barratts, when I worked at Barratts.

JD: Just when we were finishing you mentioned that you met your wife at Barratts.

GS: At Barratts yeah, although I'd known her for years because she is a Cotton girl she lived down Penrhyn [ph] Road, her mum and dad did and we lived at Gloucester Crescent and we both used to bike to Barratts. She worked in the office and I worked in the Making Room at the time. And I knew her because when we was younger we both, well a lot of kids used to go down the fields there getting the train numbers and names as I said earlier and she was one of them that used to go down, Jean and then in the winter we used to catch a bus to Barratts and of course I lived up Delapre and I used to get on the bus first and she always waited for that bus to come down with me on so she could have a cigarette coz she smoked at the time. She used to go upstairs and cadge a cigarette off me. And I think it was

1957. The Cobblers were playing Arsenal in the cup and I mentioned I said I was going to get the ticket. I said 'do you want to go?' and she said 'yeah' so I got her a ticket as well and that's what started it all together. We become an item then we did. As I say we got married on Jean's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and we had a reception down at Co-op Hall, Leonards Road, married at St. Mary's Church. We had a flat down Marriott Street and they are all old houses down there, we had a flat down there for a while, and then we moved up to Freehold Street into one of Barratts Houses coz we both worked at Barratts. They let us have a terraced house up there. We stopped up there for a while and then we were thinking of buying a house somewhere and we decided to go down to Penrhyn Road, Cotton. This bloke Mr Webb he was selling his property and he put a Conservatory on the Kitchen etc. and we bought it. Well I say we bought it, we got a mortgage for it. We lived down there oh some years and then I got a bit fed up down there and I said we could move again. In 1978 we moved up here, so we've been in this house since 1978. As I say you know I mean with me getting no money and that and she paid all the bills and that, I couldn't have had a better person really. I mean anybody else would have said 'well you're getting no money, get out' more or less you know and I wouldn't have blamed her but she didn't. And now I'm thinking of winning the lottery and moving to Malta because I love Malta. I go there on holiday, me and Jean. We go to the same place, it's cheaper. The atmosphere is totally different. I know it's only a small island. There's not much crime because they can't get off the island. Most of them speak English, the people out there and I think the weather is beautiful, the sunshine because I suffer with Angina but out there it don't affect me. I think it's the warmth of the sun you know and I do the lottery on a Wednesday night, one line and I have five lines on a Saturday. I've had four numbers twice but I still can't get the jackpot. I suppose when I do get it there'll be about 50 people in it. [laughing]

JD: You mentioned that you worked at a number of places over the years, what sort of job were you actually doing? You mentioned some of them a little bit but perhaps a bit more detail about what sort of work you actually did.

GS: Well I started at Barratts and the job I had, we used to have, a ticket would come around with each rack of shoes and you had to tear that ticket off and put it in your book for your wage, saying how much you'd done, like piece work more or less and on the ticket for me it had got bottom filler, that's what the job was called and it was filling the sole of the shoe. You got a machine and you got this cork, like cork stuff. You used to have to put it in, put it in the machine. You used to cramp it down and press it all in. They call that bottom filling. That's the job I done there most of the time anyway. When I first started I was on tack drawing, [820] that was getting the tacks out of the insoles on the machine and I was a bit dippy one day, I put my finger in didn't I and ripped me nail off. [laughing]

PB: Oh God.

GS: And then down Earey Controls, as I say I worked in the stores there supplying different things to people who needed them. Jaybeam Aerials, as I say we made these rotary clothes lines and my job, I was



put in charge of them, all I'd got to do was to go around, coz they were mostly girls that worked there to see that they were doing it properly and if they weren't showing them how to do it etc. Well me cleaning job was just ordinary cleaning you know, buffing floors etc. and cleaning the walls, tiles down at Derngate. Prestoes I was pushing trolleys around what people had left out and going to fetch stuff what some, like the girls on the tills they might want some carrier bags and they'd ask me to go down and fetch them for them and things like that. There's no real how can I put it engineering background to my career. [laughing] That's what I was saying, I'm just a peaceful soul. There's no painting and things on glasses and things like that with me. I ain't talented enough. [laughing]

JD: Were you ever involved, did you ever join a union or anything like that over the years?

GS: No, union?

JD: At work, you know like the Transport and General Workers Union or I mean that would be bit but you know as in work, you know employment union.

GS: I was in the Boot and Shoe Union when I worked at Barratts. As I say umpteen times I went back there and they had me back. I was in the Boot and Shoe Union there and I know at that time if you were sick you had to have a Certificate and you had to take it into work first and then you had to take it down the trades, boot and shoe trade. They had their offices down Overstone Road and you used to have to go in there and they'd mark your card and I can't remember how much money they used to give you, not a lot. They used to give you some money a week you know while you were sick, while you couldn't work. That's the only union that I have been in, I'm certain of that. There was no other union I was in. No, there's no more.

JD: Were you ever involved in any sort of strike activity or anything like that coz the '70s were sort of an era where there was a lot of strikes going on?

GS: What do you mean, like football or anything like that?

JD: Just for example there was a period where they had, was it the three day week? And you know it was an era where there was a lot of strike activity among workers, where they protested conditions, workers' conditions.

GS: No, no I never had any of that. I've got a little Empey [ph] record. It's only like a paper one and that's Acker Bilk and he is singing the Union Song for the boot and shoe workers. I kept that. I've still got that but I've never been involved in any big strikes or anything or time off.

JD: One of the things we sort of, we've touched on over time briefly was where you've lived over the years. But I wondered if perhaps you could sort of talk a bit more about what kind of houses you lived in and what the areas were like.

GS: Dunster Street, it was the first one I can remember. It was an ordinary terraced house. I think it had got two bedrooms, two

downstairs rooms which we used one as a bedroom for me sister and Rosedale Road was three bedroomed. The bathroom was off the kitchen, front room, just a basic house really, front room, kitchen, bathroom off the kitchen, three bedrooms. That was Rosedale Road. Delapre had got two downstairs rooms, one termed a dining room, the [881] other a lounge, three bedrooms again, whacking great garden which me mum used to love doing, gardening. As I say when we got married we went up Marriott Street when we first married and we had a one bedroomed flat with a kitchen and we weren't there all that long 'til we got a Barratts house and that had got a lounge and a dining room, terraced house, old terraced house, three bedrooms, an attic and a cellar. And there's a bit of a story I'll tell you about that. I just recalled it. I was going out with me mates for a drink one night. It was during the winter and Jean had two of her friends around to stop in with her. Well I come back a bit early and they were still there. I knew that so I crept in and I went down into the cellar and I got a broom down the cellar and I banged on the cellar ceiling so it come out where they are sitting in the front room. And they wondered what was happening. We had a little dog then Tiger, white bull terrier and they come down to see what was happening and one of them got the hearth brush out of the hearth, another one had got the poker and the other one got a shovel, little shovel what you used to have you know condiment set, what they had for them bloody fires and the old dog was behind them all. They thought the dog would be in front, it was behind them, letting them go first. They had a laugh about it. I was called everything under the sun I was. But I think I mean I like it up here. As I say in '78 we come up here. We had this bedroom knocked out. It was a two bedroom one and we had it knocked out to make the lounge bigger so we have only got one bedroom but it suits me and Jean but eh I wouldn't, there seemed to be so much trouble going on everywhere. I mean they come up from the pub smashing glasses and bottles and everything you know. They can't seem to rest now. You've got to have your ears and eyes open and if your curtains are drawn at night, as they usually are in the winter you never know what's going on. You hear them screaming and that and shouting around. You don't know if someone's being attacked or not, or are they just having fun as they call it. But that's why Malta's calling me.

JD: When we were talking earlier you mentioned some of the people that lived in the neighbourhood where you first remember living.

GS: Dunster Street.

JD: Yeah Dunster Street but what have people been like in the areas you have lived since then? Are there any memories of those?

GS: Well when we had the flat I mean we was on the top floor so it was a house being converted into flats so I mean there were two Irish girls. I know they lived in one of the flats below but same as the rest of them that lived there in flats we didn't see much of them. We were both out working and that and coming home and coming straight up the stairs. We had to go upstairs to get into our flat. We didn't see much of them. And down Freehold Street we know the next door neighbour coz he worked at Barratts. We knew the fellow over the road, Mr Bell. He's passed away now. He worked at Barratts.

I think there was a big family, Frobishers that lived down there. We knew them but otherwise we didn't know anybody else in Freehold Street. Far Cotton when we moved down there we knew about a dozen people that lived near us like. We got on quite well with them, neighbours etc. We got on alright with them but up here how things have altered since Dunster Street that is, people you can't blame them, they're frightened of opening the front doors, speaking to you so we know the immediate neighbours both sides. We know their neighbours, but we might know the person who lives opposite as we do and the woman who lives next door to her opposite, but all the rest of the street, no. We know them by sight but we don't know the names. You know in Dunster Street everybody was friendly and happy leaving the front doors open and helping one another out, whereas now they can't do that because there's all these con people going around and they don't know who they can trust and who they can't trust. It's a shame for the elderly people when you see it in the paper when they've been conned because they are older than me according to the papers and they have been brought up I suppose with leaving your front door and trusting people and they can't change. They think it's [961] alright to let people in but it's not. I don't know. I'm on a soapbox now I know. It's just the way I see things from past to present.

JD: Have you always lived with neighbours who were a predominantly White population or have they been mixed or?

GS: No, it's always been White people. I think there was an Indian family lived just up the road here but they're gone out. They've moved now. But no they've mainly been White people where I've moved to, where I've lived.

JD: Have you had any links at all with the Asian communities as they've grown and developed in Northampton and Northamptonshire?

GS: No, no. No I haven't. I mean people have often asked me if I could speak Indian but I can't. I can't say a word of it. I suppose it's because me dad come from India but he never spoke Indian, he spoke English.

JD: What sort of people ask you that, just people at work or people just?

GS: Well anywhere Julia, in the pub you might be talking to somebody and they might say you know where do you come from? And you say Northampton, I was born here. And they say can you speak any Indian? I say 'no', which I can't, coz I was born here. [laughing] With me dad not speaking Indian I got no way of learning it. It's not as though I wanted to though, I didn't want to, but eh.

JD: Over the years what have you done in your spare time, social life?

GS: What, since I was, couldn't go to work?

JD: Just over time, you mentioned you know going to football and playing football and things like that, is there any other sort of hobbies or just places that you used to go?

GS: I do like a game of darts now and again, go down the local pub. I mean Jean, the Mrs. plays darts, she's captain of them and this

season they are top of the league. They are two points in front and they've one game to play next Thursday, the last game. So if they can win that they'll have won the league and it will be the first time. They've finished second and third but they've never won it. So we've got to keep our fingers crossed. I like a game of darts although I've had two pubs wanted me to play for them. They've seen me having a game and they've wanted me to play for them, but the one thing that puts me off is when you play darts you've got to be able to chalk the scores down and I wouldn't be quick enough and that's what puts me off being attached to a team. Jean can do it but you've got to be quick. While they throw three darts and then the next one's up flying and I wouldn't have the know-how. You know when I'm playing I'm alright, I can sort out what I want you know if I want an odd number, I know what to go for but as for chalking, no way. [laughing] But there's nothing else, the Cobblers I go up there occasionally, although I haven't been up there as much as I'd like to because the new ground, Six Fields you have to walk up a gradient and it's really a slope and it's terrible. It brings your Angina on, especially in the cold weather which the football season is in cold weather. I remember the first game when the stadium opened, the first game against Barnet. After it finished, coz Jean come with me and we were walking up the slope and well she always does, she says 'take your time, have a rest if you want one' and there was this fella and he were laying down on the ground and a little boy with him and the ambulance blokes was there and we found out later, it was in the Chronicle & Echo that he had passed away. He'd had an heart attack and the slope must have played on him and he took his grandson up for the game and that was the little boy. I mean the Cobblers, the players and that put it in the paper in his deaths [ph] and that [counter reference around once] [046] but it's no consolation is it? So I don't go up so much now. It would be nice if they played football in the summer.

JD: Well they do now don't they, they pretty much do at the moment. Have you ever been involved in any community organisations or activities?

GS: No, not that I can recall, I haven't no. As I say you know I mean people do this Neighbourhood Watch thing and that but up here you're more likely to be picked on if you do anything like that. If they know that you are looking at them like or watching them or anything you know, you are liable to have a brick or something chucked at your window. That's how people are scared.

JD: Do you have a particularly strong religion or go to church very often?

GS: You know, I'm Church of England. I don't go to church much, I've got to confess it but I'm Church of England. As I say I was married at St. Mary's Church. I'm not a religious person really you know. I do believe in the Lord but I feel sorry when the people come around the door. I know people moan at them and this, that and the other, Jehovah Witnesses etc. but the way I look at it is they got to believe in what they're doing, else they wouldn't be walking around and you can't call somebody that believes in something so much. You just, if it's ran down your throat and that yeah, you get fed up of it, but I mean they're just trying to get their religion going around which is fair enough. Same as in Ireland I mean it's not so bad now, thank God

but I mean Protestants and Catholics fighting for years and years. Now I can't understand why they can't live together peacefully. I mean you've got your religion fair enough, they've got their religion. There's no need to kill each other. It's going right over the top and that's why I do feel sorry for them sometimes when they come round you know and you tell them 'no I'm not interested'. As I say I'm Church of England anyway.

JD: Was your mum, your mother Church of England?

GS: Me mum was Church of England yeah, yeah. As for me dad, I don't know. He didn't, he never said nothing. He never went to church or these Indian places, well they didn't have many then, did they? They've got more built now. He never ventured out to any of them so, he was an easy bloke religious wise I suppose you know, he weren't bothered. I don't know how you could put it, he just weren't the kind, he used to say 'I pray to God' and this, that and the other. He did say that, a few times I've heard him say it but as for going to church or anywhere like that, he was at me wedding at Mary's Church but otherwise no. I've just thought of something else as well with me dad when we lived at Gloucester Crescent. He had toothache, one of his big teeth at the back and like everybody I mean these people who say they're not frightened of the dentist are liars, I think anyway. Everybody's frightened of going to the dentist. He was and it was a dentist down Towcester Road towards where the Rec. is, a dentist down there. And me mum sent him down coz he were driving her mad with his toothache. He got through the gate, walking up the path and he turned back, he wouldn't go in. Me mum had gone shopping. Me mum come back from shopping and there he is in the house, got a pair of pliers and a handkerchief trying to pull it out himself, rather than go to the dentist. He was frightened. I've just thought of that.

JD: I mean did your dad ever pass on anything of his sort of Indian culture, like food or did he sort of?

GS: No, no. I have got some of them brass things what he brought from India, he must have brought them over when he came over, not all of them, not the kettle and the big things, just them little things here. The ashtray is one of them, that ashtray, and [showing ornaments], he brought this as well.

JD: Some films and eh, that's like a sort of small cooking pot or something, that thing there...

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GS: I've also got a wallet somewhere of his, what he had in the Army and it's got my tooth marks on it. I did show Paul it when I was teething, biting on it.

PB: I thought you said he cooked.

GS: Oh curry and rice.

PB: Yes.

GS: Yeah he loved his curry and rice. And Jean loved it. I mean when she comes in you can ask her about it. It was only a few days ago she

said to somebody 'I'll never have any curry and rice like Goff's dad made, used to make'. I've known her to have two plates full. Now I wouldn't touch it coz it's got meat in. He used to put meat in it you see. I wouldn't touch it. And my dad used to say 'I wish my bloody kid would eat like that'.

PB: And your mum liked it?

GS: Our mam did yeah. But I've known me dad to make it and it's been that hot the sweat's been running down his nose, [laughing] when he's eating it.

JD: One thing you've talked about a bit is sort of race relations and you know you've talked a bit about your experiences, but I wondered what your opinions were on changes over time in terms of that situation.

GS: What do you mean, like Black men and White? There's more of it now than there was years ago and I think it's a good thing really, mixing the communities together. I mean if they got a feeling for one another and they love each other, fair enough. I've got nothing against it at all but then again me mum and dad, near enough one of the first ones that I know of anyway and that worked out.

JD: Perhaps in a more general way in terms of how the different communities get on together, just generally over time. As you were saying to begin with you know I mean there was tensions and you think your dad did experience some racism. Do you think that that has changed over time at all?

GS: It's hard to say. I think it could get worse. I hope it doesn't but you know I've got an idea it might get worse. I mean I'm not afraid to say it, I don't think this BNP are good. They got their opinions, fair enough but I don't think they are good. They've been getting in up North and well I think it was in the '70s when you used to see National Front everywhere and graffiti about it and this, that and the other. I think on the course it's going if they do get a foothold these youngsters, they've got no brains half of them, they just want to go around hitting people, smashing faces up and graffiti and everything else so I mean touch wood I've had none of it apart from that racist thing that I thought when I went for a job down Rest Assured but I don't think any good will come of it because you'll always have kids that try and be big and smash everything up or if you're a different colour they don't like you. I don't know, I was told I mean the home that me sister's in there's a lot of Coloured nurses work there and I was told by the bloke who runs it that she lived at Kingsthorpe, one of them did and they set fire to her house coz she was coloured. Whether she'd done anything to upset them I don't know but she's a nurse.

JD: Was that quite recently or?

GS: It was last year I think yeah. As I say I mean these ones that set fire to people's cars. I mean that's not racist, fair enough but where's the fun in it. I mean the old lady who used to live next door when we first moved up here, she lived on her own and they used to come up drunk, I mean the Vault weren't there then, it weren't there but they

used to come up from the Five Bells etc. and them pubs drunk and she's had a milk bottle chucked through her window at night, [168] early morning. That's going back to when we first moved up here. Can you see the mentality? I can't. I mean we've had kids up here. They think, they pretend they got a rope over the road and when a car comes up the hill, they pretend to pull the rope and the cars jam the breaks on. Well it only needs icy weather or something and people who've parked their cars outside the bungalows and it would hit them, the car would hit them if it skidded.

JD: When we were here last time, you mentioned something about Coventry, you went to Coventry once to a Working Men's Club or something like that?

GS: Oh yeah it weren't in Northampton, as you say it was Coventry. We went to see one of Jean's uncles and he took us out. I don't know if it's Coventry. Jean would know the name of the village. I can't remember, it's one of them. Fallshill, I think it was? We walked into one club and they said 'I'm sorry, you can't come in, no entry'. So we come out, went into another one and we got it again. They wouldn't let me in and Jean's Uncle had a row with them about it. We never did get in there but I've said about that was the only racist thing that's happened to me, Rest Assured, I'd forgot that one but then again that was Fallshill, Coventry. It's not in Northampton. So we found another club and we went in there and they accepted us straight away you know. We just went straight in and they were White people that were on the doors etc., so just different people you see.

JD: I think we agreed that was probably in the '70s.

GS: Yeah it was in the '70s but then again it was in the '70s when they were putting the National Front everywhere and things like that. [laughing].

JD: With that, did they hand out leaflets or was it just graffiti on the walls, the N.F. symbol?

GS: I suppose they did have leaflets, I think I seen in the Chronicle & Echo at the time that they had been distributing leaflets. In that jitty [ph] opposite on the fence there they had put National Front, they'd put on there. Someone, kids had put it on it and there has been some cases last year about racist graffiti being put on people's cars and on the walls in the Mounts.

PB: After September 11<sup>th</sup> a guy who lived in Moulton or Sywell did it.

JD: It was just in the '70s I was reading some articles from the '70s and it was talking about skinhead activities in the town centre. I don't know if you?

GS: I've never run into any of them. I've seen them but I've never had any trouble with them although they were trouble with the Doc Martin boots on as well. [laughing] But eh no, it's just a fad but I mean if you're going to try and find a reason there's no reason really apart from people are different and they don't like it. That's the only thing I can put it down to. But I mean in the Chron, I think it was a fortnight ago they said that the BNP are on about putting a candidate

in for Kingsthorpe and the Anti-Nazi are trying to stop him. You see there's a lot of decent people, I call them decent people live and let live like myself who are against them, try and stop them but they only thing there is these people that have lived through the wars and everything else and know what Nazis and things were in the war, they are dying away and these youngsters don't know, they don't know what it was like during the war and that and they are the ones that might go 'BNP, BNP'. As I say I don't know but it's just the way I think. Whether I'm right or not I don't know. People that have been in Concentration Camps etc. and know what it's like you know. They are, well they've got to be knocking on now and they pass away and you just got these bits of kids and they just vote for the sake of putting an X down somewhere, half of them in my opinion and they might turn around and say 'oh well the Blacks are coming over and taking our jobs and this, that and the other but half of them don't want to work. Half of them don't want to go to school. You go down town and you see them all in that

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Grosvenor Centre, down there. I mean that's not only White people, it's Coloureds as well, and they say they're going to get a truant squad out to catch them. And yet they still remain, I mean when I was at school we used to have a School Board man who used to be called, when I was at Kingsthorpe that was, not down Far Cotton, up Kingsthorpe and he used to come around your house if you weren't at school. Say you was away for a day or two days, he would be around.

JD: Did you ever have that when you were doing your, because of your train spotting or anything like that? Did anyone ever?

GS: No, no that was when I was up Gloucester Crescent that was, up Delapre you see but Rosedale Road used to come round but as I said when me brother took me to the pictures it was just an afternoon. It weren't a day. I'd been to school in the morning [laughing]. I can't remember the bloke, I don't know if his name was Hewitt or Newitt or something like that, he used to be called the School Board man and the kids, it shows how things have altered because the kids used to be frightened, same as they used to be frightened if they see a policeman, frightened what would happen whereas today they don't care. They know the police ain't going to do nothing.

JD: In terms of politics have you ever supported a particular political party or had any involvement in politics?

GS: No. To be honest and truthful, when I vote I have to go and vote, I vote for Liberal purely for the fact that up Kingsthorpe, since we lived up here they send leaflets through either monthly leaflets letting you know what they've put forward, what they want doing and people with pavements that are up and things like that or you know bus shelters that have been vandalised and things like that whereas the other two parties, the only time you hear from them is when it's election time, when they want your vote so, but that's the only political thing that I've been involved in here, elections.

JD: Did your parents have particular allegiance to any party?



GS: Yeah, yeah they did. They were Labour, always voted for Labour. I mean I can't remember, I suppose at the time Labour done more for the working class people. I don't know. I think Jean's dad was Labour as well. As I say they must, different to today I mean they don't do a lot for us today but they must have done something then because most working class people voted Labour in them days as far as I know anyway.

JD: In terms of politics and race relations, there has been a number of sort of Acts over time that's tried to improve on race relations, but also Acts that have made things worse because of the Immigration Acts and things like that, were you ever aware of any of those or had an opinion on any of those?

GS: The opinion I've got I mean all these people coming into England from Bosnia say and things like that, I think you've got to look into it. People have got to look into it more. You see when the Bosnian War was on there was a young lady, 24 and she had had enough and she hung herself. Now she wanted help. She needed help and I think that people like that, the families especially that are really frightened, they should look into it and let them come in but I don't like these single ones that try and get in unless they've been frightened. They got to look into their past and see what's happened because I think a lot of them are coming over just for to get free money and housing and whatnot. I bet that sounds odd coming from me after I been talking don't it, but that's the way I look at it. I mean people that need it yeah, that need help. I mean some of them they must have gone through hell in their countries, to travel all these miles and try and get into the country but these ones that come along on the, what is it? Eurolink, smuggling through the Tunnel and this, that and the other. I'm a bit [305] dubious with them because you don't know what you're getting. I mean if they can smuggle themselves in they can smuggle guns in. And Lord knows we've got enough guns in this country now. They are coming from somewhere. I mean I'm not blaming it all on them. Lorry drivers can bring them in but we are getting too many guns, there's too many gun crimes going on, its getting like America.

JD: I also wondered what about if you were aware of in the '60s there was quite a big uproar about a number of Immigration Acts then. I just wondered if you were aware at that time of any of the?

GS: I was aware of it Julia but it didn't, although it was in the back of me mind nothing ever happened to me. You know I was always in doubt whether it should, whether it would I should say, whether it would. But it never did you know, so nothing happened to me personally in that aspect of it. I remember, what was his name? Enoch Powell. He was '60s weren't he? when he said Britain's taking too many Coloureds in which he might be right now. But you got to look at it another way, they have all colours that are coming in now. I mean they can have race riots against Coloureds and that but they are not all Coloureds that are coming in, are they now? As I say it's so confusing.

JD: One thing actually I haven't sort of talked about is, I suppose it might be linked in a way but how do you see that relationships between the

various communities and the police has developed over time? I mean you mentioned your memories of the policeman walking on the beat, walking around the roads and seeing that picture that your brother had drawn. I just wondered how sort of you see the relationship with the police changing at the time.

GS: To be honest I haven't got much time for them, for the police today. The kids don't respect them. They don't come out for important things, I mean last April I sat here at half past six and it was light out. I sat here watching the telly, watching the news. Jean was in the kitchen washing up and there was this bang and I'd seen these two youths, 18 year olds with two girls standing in the entry opposite my bungalow, and they had pulled a neighbour's wall down, literally pulled it down, that was the bang I heard. Jean heard it in the kitchen. She come running through just as the woman next door, she lived on her own, Annie but she was young. She come out and they seen what was happening and they chased the group of them round into the next street, Norton Road. That was at half past six. As soon as that happened and Jean had gone out I phoned the police up and explained it. I said 'there's been some vandalism' I said, 'a neighbour's had a wall pulled down'. I said 'four youths done it'. 'Oh I'll send somebody round'. That was half past six when it first happened. Jean come back at twenty-five to seven and said they pulled a gun on her. I phoned the police up. I said 'there's a gun involved'. I said 'whether it is a gun or a replica I don't know' I said 'but you don't argue'. I said 'alright, alright'. Jean went out again in the car twice and seen them twice. She seen them coming up Norton Road and she seen them coming along Military Lane. She come back here. The police arrive at ten to eight. Ten minutes to eight they turned up. If they had come earlier they could have got them but they're not interested and that was with a gun. You have got to have somebody shot or something before they turn up. I mean the times when there's been vandalism outside here and we phoned up and that they ain't bothered. We had a car, well I say a car, we had eight cars in one year been pinched and dumped over there and it was one chap doing it from Mill Road, other road. He got a cheek. He pinched one car and he parked it opposite here and next morning he come out and getting it again and go down the shop, bring it back, dump it again and of course I reported it as I reported the other eight. And a policeman come up with a police girl, they both come up and they says 'is it the same bloke' and I says 'yeah' I said. I said his name in fact and they said 'well he has got a bit of a record' they says. 'it'd be good if you got a camera up here to watch him'. I says 'no'. I says 'it's too dangerous', I says you know. 'What would happen afterwards?'

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The police went and he come through after they'd gone. He got in the car and he went down the road and he'd just started the car up and the police car come round the corner. It must have been parked around Nursery Lane. And me and Jean were at the gate coz we see him go off and we are trying to tell them 'follow the car, he's just gone' you know and the kid must have sensed that the police car was behind him, going down the hill and he turned round onto the pavement, he turned round and he come up and he hit the police car with his car, smashed into it coz he was trying to block it from getting

any farther. They got him at the finish but that's the only time that they really showed a response up here. We had a car on a Saturday dinner time and it was all smashed in. I mean I was having a shave coz we were going to a Wedding Reception. I was having a shave and Jean said 'how long has that car been there'. I said 'I don't know' and all the front was smashed in. I phoned up, told them the number. They said 'oh we've been looking for that' the police did, 'we've been looking for it' and then they didn't bother coming up. Monday night we sat here, curtains were drawn and saw all this flashing. They'd set fire to it. The poor old bloke's bungalow, his guttering and that, that was all scorched. I phoned the police up, well we phoned the Fire Brigade up first. Jean went outside and moved her car out of the way and she put her hand on the horn, letting everybody else know to come and move their cars out of the way. Annie next door moved hers out of the way. The firemen come. He'd got a tank full of petrol in it, so they said. The Fire Brigade were putting it out. They had to send one of the firemen up the road, on the corner of Nursery Lane to stop the traffic from coming down. There weren't a policeman in sight. That's their job. They should direct traffic. It shouldn't be left to the firemen who are supposed to put the fires out. And Jean said does the police know about it. And they said 'yes, it come straight through to them as well as us' so Jean was mad, she picked the phone up and phoned the police. She said 'you know that car that was reported stolen in Abertop [ph] Road and I think it must have been a woman, she must have said 'yes' so Jean said 'well don't bother now, it's been torched'. [laughing] But you know going back to it in the old days you used to be frightened of the police. You know on the old push bike or even walking. People used to be frightened of them. I know once I went scrumping over the allotments and I've got a chap next door and you know he was a bit, how can I put it, he weren't all there. I'd got him with me and we got these apples and we come along the entry into Towcester Road and a copper was coming up with his bike, pushing his bike and we had been alright, just walked by him but young Derek, as I said he was a bit loolah, he says 'I ain't done nothing, I ain't done nothing' he was saying to the copper when we passed him. Of course the copper says 'what's your name', so he says 'I ain't done nothing, I ain't done nothing'. [laughing] and the apples stuck in our jumpers. He found out anyway but you know he didn't press charges. He said 'don't do it again' you know more or less warned us and that 'frit' us to death. We wouldn't do it again. He got his word, frightened us. I think the town is getting too big as well, expansion and that but most of the time you see the police sitting in their cars, catching traffic offenders more or less most of the time. I mean there's the crime rate, I mean there used to be a family lived opposite us up here and their son was a policeman and he was in Wellingborough though and he said 'it's different in Wellingborough than here'. He said 'it's worse'. He said 'the drugs in Wellingborough' he said 'it's terrible'. And in me own mind it makes me wonder if they are coming from Wellingborough and doing jobs here to get money mugging people, raiding shops to get money for drugs and going back to Wellingborough. I don't know.

JD: You mentioned earlier, Paul you were mentioning about how Northampton has expanded, and particularly when you were saying in the 1970s with sort of people coming up from London, was it Newtown or?

GS: The Eastern Districts, that's where most of them were housed. There still is a lot up there. It's not funny but it's odd but there's more crime up there. I mean Blackthorn, that's supposed to have been the worst one. So many robberies and house burglaries in a week. The police done a thing out there called Casper [ph] and in the paper they said they'd stopped the majority of it. They'd cut down on it. [484] And you get the next night's paper and they are at it again up there, burglaries and that you know. I don't think they give them a stiff enough penalty when they do catch them, to be honest and that's not very often. I mean there's good and bad everywhere. I'm not saying they are all rotten people who come from London, because they're not but it's just so odd that they all seem to get it up there. They got all the criminals up there, and when they misbehave they move them out. People's neighbours start creating, they've been a nuisance, they move them out and I think they put them up here. You never know where they've been moved out to.

JD: Just one sort of last question sort of to finish off really, when you talk about yourself to people how do you describe your identity?

GS: I don't know, I mean I'm not a rough head, em I mean I go down the club as I said and meet different people, just say hello to them, how are you? If they want to speak they'll speak to you, if they don't fair enough. You leave them alone. No, I think I'm easy enough to get on with really like you know. Unless you got a bloke standing there with a gun in your back saying 'how are you' [laughing]. There's a different story. But no I am, I mean me brother Albert he used to, if any trouble happened he'd be there straight away. Like he took me for a drink once down the Merril [ph], the Green Dragon, the name of the pub. And I sat in there with him and there was a fella at the bar and he had had enough to drink and they wouldn't serve him and he got this bottle off the counter and he smashed it, 'frit' me to death. My brother got up, 'don't worry'. He went over to him, talked to him and got him outside, away. Now I daren't of done that. He didn't mind trouble, he didn't. Whereas me I try and avoid it if I can and that is the truth. I mean I can look after meself at a pinch but I don't go looking for trouble. So I think I'm an easy enough bloke to get on with. [laughing]

JD: Would you sort of describe yourself as a Northamptonian for example?

GS: I would do because apart from going to Malta for me holidays and well South Africa for me holidays and that, my life has been in Northampton. As I say I was born here so I gotta be, I can't speak any other language. Yeah I'd say I was Northamptonian.

JD: Would you sort of make any reference to your father's cultural background or do you see that as you are now Northampton born and bred so that's where your identity is?

GS: Yeah that's it, I was born here and I lived all my life here. I've never known any other culture, Church of England as I said I am, I mean me dad never mentioned it so you know that's the way it is. It's just I'm a Northamptonian and that's it.

JD: Do you have any children at all or?

GS: No.

JD: Finally is there anything that we haven't talked about that perhaps would sum up your life experiences. Is there anything that we've missed, you know topics that we haven't covered or anything important?

GS: I can't think of anything, Julia. I suppose there is but I can't think.

JD: Is there anything you wanted to ask us, that we haven't covered?

PB: I suppose how did your mum and dad get on? What was their relationship like?

GS: Well they got on well, Paul. As I said me dad liked a drink, He couldn't read or write so me mum practically carried him really. I mean he went to work, fair [534] enough but I mean bills etc. me mum would have to look at them and that, wouldn't she and sort the money out for them.

PB: Did they joke a lot?

GS: Yeah, yeah they used to have a laugh together like you know. As I said earlier our mam used to laugh when that Your Life In Our Hands was on, when she used to see him get the old clothes horse with the clothes airing around him. They got on alright together.

PB: Did they nag each other?

GS: Well everybody has rows now and again I suppose but nothing drastic. No, I mean I suppose she did get on to him although I didn't know. I suppose she got on to him when he used to come home with his lip cut or whatnot from fighting but. [laughing]

PB: Did your mum ever want to go to India?

GS: No. Same as me, I wouldn't want to go to India. I like people saying how nice it is and that but as I was saying earlier about South Africa, you know things are going on there, poverty etc. but to see it, no no way. I wouldn't enjoy meself and India is supposed to be rich and poor, well according to me dad. That's the only thing he did say about India, rich and poor side.

PB: Did your father ever say anything about how many brothers he had or how many sisters?

GS: No, no all he says was he wouldn't know him if they walked towards him down the street. He never did say. But I mean he was fourteen when he left so.

[Interview 2]

PB: You don't know whether he was the oldest or the youngest or whereabouts he would be?

GS: No. With me sister she was born in 1922 and I was born 15 years later. I'm the youngest one. But me sister she used to help me in a sisterly way. She'd give me money and she'd buy me clothes coz me mum hadn't got a lot of money and me mum used to work at home, housewife and me sister started work and she worked first of all at,

I can't remember em, I can't think now where it was. It wasn't the tea place coz that tea place was before she worked at Zettlers and Zettlers was the last job she had. She was in charge of the cleaners down there. Reason [ph] & Pickles, it was an Engineering Works somewhere in Northampton, Reason [ph] & Pickles. That was the first job I think she had and she was there for quite a while and then she went into the Land Army and she was on a farm up Kingsthorpe somewhere, working on a farm up Kingsthorpe. After she came out of there she went to Ammunition factory. She worked there, over Salcey Forest. She was there for quite a while as well. As I say she always looked after me and when she eventually left after the war she went to work at the tea factory, Travers it was called around Greyfriars Street it used to be. And she used to bring the tea home, you know they used to give 'em tea and she used to bring tea home for me mum. And then after she finished there, I mean there was one particular time when she was working at Travers and I broke me arm. I fell over and broke me arm, and me mum had took me down the hospital, no I'd got it in a sling and we went to meet me sister out at work and we were going up the old Emporium Arcade as it used to be and my sister was coming down and my sister had a shock when she seen me arm in a sling. She wondered what the hell had happened. But after she left that tea factory she got a job at Zettlers Bingo in charge of cleaners and I got a job there for a little while as well helping her out like you know. And it's funny because I was on buffing, I used to buff the entrance at the top of the Zettlers place and she'd leave ten pences here and there for me to find, you know and she'd put it there and she wouldn't let me know it was her that put it there. She'd make believe somebody had dropped it or [591] something you know. So that was the kind of person she was you know. And in later life her husband passed away, Arthur and she was on her todd and she got a flat at St. Barnabus House, off the Merrill [ph] and she was alright for a while and then she had the door smashed in one night. They never did find out who done it. But the door was smashed in. And of course that upset her and she'd always look after me mum because me mum lived in St. Marks House at the time. She'd got a flat there on her own like because me father had passed away, and my sister used to go around and make sure everything was alright and make sure she got something to eat. Me mum had got what they term as Alzheimer's now. My sister would go around, I'd go down on a Saturday, Saturday morning and on this particular Saturday I went down and me sister was around there, around me mum's and she made us some soup and put some bread in it for her and she brought it in and my mum said 'I ain't having that it's poison, you're trying to poison me' and that's how this Alzheimer's affects people. You know we found out since and another time me sister said to me mum 'would you like a yogurt' and so me mum said 'yes'. So me sister said 'I've got a couple in my fridge over in my flat. You stop here' she said, 'I'll go and get them'. And she went to get these yogurts and when she come back me mother weren't there, she'd gone. Of course me sister was panicking. She went up to the shop, the corner shop on St. Andrews Road and there was me mother in there, and she says 'come on mum, I've got these yogurts for you'. 'I ain't coming, I ain't coming' she was saying. And the bloke in the shop he said 'she's told us, she come in here and told us to get the police'. And me and Jean went down to see her and

she wouldn't have the television on, me mum wouldn't. She would not have the television on, if you said 'put the telly on' you'd get a mouthful back from her. And once one particular time me and Jean went down and as soon as we were in there she locked the door and hid the key so we couldn't get out. You know we eventually found the key and that you know. Of course they put me mother into a home and my sister was there every day up to the Farthings [ph]. It was in George's Avenue at the time, St. George's Avenue. And my sister was up there visiting her and taking her bits up and this, that and the other and looking after her. And then me sister deteriorated that much herself. I don't know if it was the pressure of me mum and that but she deteriorated and when me mum died we went down for me sister and told her mum had passed away but she'd lost her memory by then you know. It was a terrible situation to accept really for me and Jean. And we told me sister when the funeral was and we called down for her to fetch her, to take her to the funeral and she was still in her pyjamas and she hadn't had no breakfast or nothing, And that's when we knew that something had got to be done with me sister, so we contacted the Social Services etc. and they come down and they took her up to St. Crispins I think it was, they took her up there. And we was there and they give her some questions to answer and there was a fair few questions that she had to answer but none of them were right. She didn't give a right answer. One in particular I can remember, they said 'who's the Prime Minister' and she said 'Maggie Thatcher'. Well Maggie Thatcher was a long while before the time. I think it was John Major, I think it was at the time but anyway they put her in Princess Marina Hospital for a while and then they transferred her to what's that other place, oh God, Kingsley, the house up there for elderly people. And she didn't like it up there and me and Jean didn't like it ourselves when we went up to see her. So we made some enquiries etc. and we got her into the Farthings where me mum had passed away. And she was in there at George's Avenue for quite a while and then they moved the old place, they left Farthings there and they moved up to Mansfield, not Mansfield, the hospital on Kingsley, the old hospital on Kingsley Road. It used to be a hospital up there and,

PB: I can remember it, near the White Elephant.

GS: Yeah, near the White Elephant, up near, opposite the White Elephant, a big place. And they'd had that all done up into a residential home for the elderly people and of course me sister and the rest of them from George's Avenue moved out with them and they moved up to there. And she was up there for quite a while. I think it was about seven years she was there and we used to go and [653] see her and she was alright for a while you know. She couldn't think of things like at present. You could go up to see her one day and then go up the next day and say 'oh we come and see you yesterday' and she wouldn't know. But in the back of her mind she could think of things from way back years ago but nothing at the present like. She just deteriorated. She wouldn't eat and she retired all the while when we'd go up to see her. She used to say 'I want to go asleep, I want to go asleep' and the people at the home they tried to get her up. I mean she'd stop in bed, they'd get her up and she'd go back to bed, she'd creep upstairs to bed. And she did deteriorate and as I say she had

a fall and broke her hip and she went into hospital and they fixed it for her but it was a shame when she came out because she was that thin from not eating and she was kind of doubled up and she looked like a real old lady walking along, round shouldered old lady and then she was taken in again into hospital with Bronchitis and that's when they informed us that if her heart was very very weak and if I'd give permission you know not to resuscitate her if anything happened and although it was a terrible decision for myself to make to see her in the state she was and knowing that her heart was very weak what the hospital had said. You know I did give her permission and sadly she passed away on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2003. You know I miss her a hell of a lot because she done so much for me. I can't, she was cremated up Milton Crematorium and we have had a special plaque made because me mum and dad were up there and we had this special plaque made with Maureen on it and me mum and me dad, they're all on it so she's with me mum now because when she first went in the home she was always saying 'I wish mum was here, I wish mum was here'. She missed me mum a lot. And in her own way I hope she's up there in heaven with them.

JD: I mean when you were talking earlier about what your sister was like you mentioned that you went to Brighton, was it in 1951 coz that was before I pressed the record. Were you away on holiday for a week or something?

GS: To Brighton yeah. Yeah and I did have a snap of myself and you'd be surprised really because we were down the seafront and I always keep me tee-shirt on like, I used to and on this particular day down the seafront it was that hot I took me tee-shirt off and they took a picture of me and me arms were Black and the rest of me body was White underneath. But another thing as well when we were down there same day, I mean I can't swim. Jean can swim a bit and Jean was in the sea and she was saying 'come on in, come on in' you know. I gingerly went down there and got in the sea with her. And I only got in about knee height in there and Jean splashed me. [laughs] I come out with a mouthful, 'don't you do that to me'. This is keeping it clean a bit. 'don't you do that to me'. [laughs] All of a sudden she was laughing at me and I was giving her a mouthful and what she was laughing at was a ruddy great wave come splashing on to me and knocked me over. [laughs].

JD: Okay. You mentioned that you were going back again. I mean you mentioned that your sister was in the Land Army and worked in a farm up in?

GS: It was in Kingsthorpe yeah. And I don't know which one it was. I know from being a youngster myself there was a farm up there called Lackeys Farm. Course it's not there now, there's all houses and whatnot built all down there now and the way up there, up to Lackeys Farm that's gone because the King David and the flats are all down there now so I don't know if it was Lackeys Farm. That's the only one that I know about.

PB: So it's where the shops are down the David Estate?

GS: It's where the King David pub is, Newland Road.



PB: Yes that's right and there's some shops there as well.

GS: And the flats are down there as well.

[711]

PB: An Old People's Home down there.

GS: Yeah and as I say when I was a kid they weren't there and there used to be clay pits as well. We used to get clay from there.

PB: This is what your dad used to make the toys with. Yeah me dad used the clay to make little toys what he used to sell in the market at one time but that's all gone now and it was all houses. [laughs] I heard on the news today that Timkens coming down, they're on about building hundreds of houses up there so.

JD: Did she join the Land Army at the beginning of the war?

GS: I think it might have been a year after it started I believe it would be, I can only reflect how I was, I was only a youngster. I know when she came out she had the Land Army hat and you know the badges what they had and I took her hat and used it as a cowboy hat. [laughs]

JD: That was probably about 40, 1940 ish.

GS: Yeah, yeah.

JD: And it was still during the war that she went to the Munitions Factory.

GS: Yeah Salcey Forest that was. I don't know what it was called or nothing but I know it was at Salcey Forest, situated in the Forest itself.

JD: Do you know why she changed from the Land Army to Munitions Factory or was it just?

GS: I think it finished. I think the Land Army had finished. I think it must have been toward the end of the war. It must have been.

PB: Maybe they scuppered [ph] the U Boats in the Atlantic and the food [ph] was coming through maybe?

JD: When was it that your sister actually got married?

GS: Now you're asking me. I can't remember.

PB: Before the war.

GS: I know the date she got married, December 6<sup>th</sup> but I can't remember, no it weren't before the war Paul. I can't remember if it was the fifties or early sixties when she got married. But December the 6<sup>th</sup> I know that was the date when she did get married.

JD: Do you know where she got married, do you remember where?

GS: No I can't remember that year. I don't think it was a church wedding because her husband Arthur had been married before. I can't think.

PB: It was in Northampton though.

GS: It was in Northampton somewhere yeah. It could have been Registry Office, probably was.

PB: You can find the date from the Civil Registry Office.

GS: That's when she become Mrs. Dimmer.

[750]

PB: It wasn't Dimmer, it was Dummer.

GS: Dimmer, *Dimmer*.

PB: I can't read my writing.

JD: Did you laugh with her about that one?

GS: No. [laughs] I think her husband, I think he was a Detective Sergeant in the Police Force. He'd served in the war. And he was where my brother Albert was, in the Eighth Army. But they never met up during the war. It was only after me sister married Arthur that him and Albert got together more or less.

JD: And found out that they actually had?

PB: They knew each other in the war yeah.

JD: Did your sister have any hobbies or anything like that, was she in any community?

GS: No, she used to, she hadn't got no hobbies but she used to, when she lived in St. Barnabus House after her husband died she used to do some shopping for the elderly people, people that were older than her. They couldn't get around. She used to nip down town and get their shopping for them you know and bring it back for them. She was very active and I think that's why you see such a change in her you know over the last few years of her life because how she deteriorated. She was full of life really you know, help anybody and she helped me.

JD: Did you have anything [to Paul]?

PB: What was I suppose like, you were 15 years younger than her so you must have been very special to her.

GS: Yeah she was 1922 and I was 1937.

PB: So when she was in her twenties you were just a little boy so you wouldn't know much about what she was doing in that time, in her early life?

GS: No, no.

JD: Do you know if she got much of an, did she stay on at school at all? Do you know anything about that or did she work quite?

GS: No I think she left school, she left school when she should have done. I don't know what age.

PB: You don't know what school?

GS: I know she went to Vernon Terrace School because they lived in

Market Street at the time. That was before I was born, both her and me brother went to Vernon Terrace School. And then me brother passed to the Technical College as it was called then but me sister I don't know, I know it's Vernon Terrace but I don't know any other schools. I've heard that was the only one she went to.

PB: That's a Primary School, a lower school though isn't it?

GS: It was as far as I, well I can't think meself but me mum said that me brother, he'd be about 10 or 11 I should think, there used to be a gang of them, a gang of boys up that way and me mum always said they'd got their own call. They'd be sitting on the wall of the school, school walls and a policeman come round they used to have their own thing, they'd shout, instead of shouting 'run boys copper [802] coming' they'd do it in the initials RBCC, you know 'run boys copper coming' so he must have been about 10 or 11 year old I should think then at the time and going to Vernon Terrace so that might.

PB: The Technical College is on St. George's Avenue.

GS: It was yes, yeah. Of course he passed through that, he passed the exams but I think it was the drawing that done it, you know got him through there to there coz he was a good artist. As I say me sister, it's only Vernon Terrace I can think of.

JD: Did your sister ever talk to you coz she was the older sister about any issues surrounding the fact of being mixed race? Did she ever talk to you about any experiences?

GS: No. She never spoke or anything about it.

PB: Did she have a nickname or anything that she ever talked about?

JD: Is there anything else that you wanted to [to Paul]?

PB: Pardon, about Albert, you didn't really talk much about his job did you either?

JD: Do you want to?

PB: About you know the work he did at Slimms [ph], printer at Slimms after he left Technical College, what work did he do?

GS: Once again Paul I don't know. I know he worked at Slimms and I know it was a printing place but I don't know what he was doing there but,

PB: Then after that he went to a Grocers.

GS: Yeah and then he went to Ideal Motors, Lester [ph] Street it used to be. I don't think it's still there. Paint spraying, spraying cars. He was the best paint sprayer in town, so I was told at the time.

PB: And how did he meet his wife? Where did me meet Evelyn?

GS: I dunno.

PB: Well I've got here Wedgwood [ph] Café, dance during the war. You tell me. [laughs]

GS: Yeah it was during the war.

PB: A dance at the Wedgwoods. You don't remember saying that.

GS: No em, I don't know where he met Eve, his wife. I know she lived down Brook Street down Semilong. I know she lived down there.

PB: Right.

GS: Before they were married and then they lived with us up Rosedale Road when they first got married coz they hadn't got a house. And then they moved into St. David's Road, council house. And that's where they stayed. I know me brother has passed away now but his wife still lives down there in that house. They have had it all done up. Me nephew Martin and his wife had it all done up for them so it looks a picture really outside. You wouldn't think it was a council house.

PB: Did they buy it?

[849]

GS: I think they did, yeah. But Martin me nephew, his wife and him have parted, but he's still with his mum. I think, I don't know I think she put the percentage of the money down for the house but the last thing I knew she was, his wife was living in Luton, moved to Luton, so.

PB: Oh, they didn't have any kids?

GS: No, his first marriage he did, he had two daughters, his first marriage, our Martin, Donna and Charlie. And they live with their mum. They were around Cecil Street area, they live. I don't know if they still do. But he didn't have any with his second marriage.

PB: You told me, you said there was a nickname. Who was known as Darkie Salem?

GS: Darkie, our Albert. He was known as Darkie.

PB: Yeah.

GS: He was known as Darkie.

PB: Oh right.

GS: And me dad was up to, but he was Darkie Joe they called him, Darkie Joe. I mean they didn't call him Abdul his proper name.

PB: Did it upset him or?

GS: No, no it didn't bother him at all.

PB: And Albert?

GS: No. I mean Albert they called him Darkie Salem but when he was playing football they used to say 'Watch that Swannee River' when he got the ball because he was such a good footballer.

JD: When you say they do you mean sort of people generally? It wasn't like a nickname in the family. It was actually a general nickname that sort of?

GS: Well they never called me it. I've never been called it. But as I say Darkie Joe they used to say to me dad and well me dad's name was

Abdul. But they rarely used that name, his real name. I mean even me mum called him Joe.

PB: And Darkie Joe you told, did she actually call him Darkie Joe sometimes?

GS: Well other people called him Darkie Joe but me mum used to just say 'Joe'. When she was dying in Hospital me mum, she was calling for him 'Joe where are you? Joe where are you?' You know bless her. The only thing they called was Goff, that's short for Godfrey. [laughs]

PB: You didn't actually talk about your dad and his work, some of the buildings, he was a bricklayer's labourer. Do you know what buildings in Northampton he helped to build?

GS: There is only one Paul that I know of. He did do a lot of work. He was a labourer and he had to go where the work was. There must have been a fair few buildings but one in particular that he did tell me about. I don't think it's there now, was those three, there used to be three towers down the Meadow [ph], Cooling Towers were they? Big things, I don't think they're there now. But I know he helped build them. He was labouring for them when he built them but otherwise I don't know. I mean he used to travel to Coventry to work and that. I [916] mean he worked in Armstrong Whitworth during the war with the aeroplanes and that and well I've got his pass there, what he used to have to get into the work. Me mum kept that back of course. But as for building work I don't know. He was here, there and everywhere. And that is the only one that em, I suppose it was because it was so big and like a landmark that he pointed it out to us and it's always stuck in my mind that has, that one place.

JD: Is that the egg cups, is that what was referred to, they were called that coz they looked like egg cups?

PB: Yeah they looked like egg cups.

GS: They used to be like big chimneys, weren't they? Wide.

PB: You know them.

JD: Mmm.

PB: Power stations.

JD: Did they used to be where, near where Avon is now? Down that way.

PB: That's right.

GS: Yeah, yeah.

PB: Becket's Park.

JD: That was the things I had.

PB: Are you finished?

JD: Yeah.

PB: What about the friends that your dad and your mum knew? I've got here people like John Gardiner, Frank Tero.

GS: Well John Gardiner,

PB: Jim Maloney.

GS: John Gardiner, he was only a kid. He lived up Rosedale Road when we lived up there and me mum used to, she was in St. John's Ambulance and anybody, not only John Gardiner but anyone that had an accident used to come running to me mum for help. I mean me mum treated people with ulcerated legs and such and John Gardiner, I think if my mind treats me right he scalded his leg or something, he done something with his leg and me mum had to treat it and as I say he was only a youngster then but he has never forgotten. He was on Radio Northampton about three or four year ago and he was doing a charity thing for St. John's Ambulance and they asked him why he picked St. John's Ambulance and he said 'there was a lady who looked after me when I hurt me leg' he says, 'and she lived down Rosedale Road. He didn't say no names, he said 'she lived down Rosedale Road, and she was in St. John's Ambulance' he says 'and I've always had a thought about that' he said 'and that's why I am doing the charity for her'. I mean he was only a youngster at the time when it happened. He weren't a Councillor then, not by a long way.

PB: And Frank Tero? *Tero*, Frank Tero.

GS: Oh yeah, that was me brother. He was friends, he used to play football. He could have been in the gang. He could have been in the Vernon Terrace gang what I said about earlier. They used to call him 'Tanky', Tanky Tero.

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PB: Coz he became a Councillor as well.

GS: Yeah, yeah a Labour Councillor isn't he?

PB: Yeah.

GS: When I worked down in Prestos it used to be Prestos when it first opened. I mean it's Safeways now but it was Prestos. When I worked down there and he happened to come in and he recognised me and you know I had a word with him and that but I haven't seen him since so I don't know if he's still with us or not. So I mean I didn't know him but he knew me and when he said his name I could remember the name from me mum and me brother saying about him. I think they must have lived down Market Street area. I think that's how they must have got to know each other more or less.

PB: Jim Maloney, the boxer.

GS: Yeah he was a friend of me dad's. I don't know how me dad met up with him and whether it was when he went out to have a drink or something, they might have seen him. But him and me mum had great affection for Jim Maloney. They both loved him more or less because he done a lot for charity, a lot of charity work, boxing for charity and the money was given to different charities etc. and yet when he passed away there was very little said about his charity work etc. and that he was just forgotten more or less you know.  
[drink being poured]

PB: I didn't know about that. Do you know what charities he worked for?

GS: No I've got no idea Paul. I know it was a lot of charities he gave money to.

PB: Did you know, I mean you didn't hear the name, did you know the family called the Georges? One George or the George family who lived in Semilong, Springs Borough?

GS: No.

PB: They were a Black family. The father was, I know them. He died in 1926.

GS: That was before I was born.

PB: His children were [inaudible]. I think that's that. I can't think of anything else. What about Travers? Oh yes, Travers tea factory, Kingsthorpe Wanderers?

GS: That's Albert.

PB: Albert's football team.

GS: Kingsthorpe Wanderers, Kingsthorpe Rangers he played for them both. Also Royals [ph] that was his first team he played for and that was for Merrill down Vernon Terrace way [?]. The bloke who run it he em, the first game they played he said to our Albert he said 'you score a goal I'll give you a tie', what you put around your neck, a neck tie and our Albert scored six. So he give him six ties. [laughs] I think, I ain't quite sure, I think his name was Mr Dribble, or Quivvle [ph].

PB: [laughs]

GS: One or the other.

JD: That's a great name to have. [laughs]

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PB: What about, I've got something about a village called Gangoyne [ph] between St. Culley, [ph] St. something and Culley in Brittany. Have you got any connection?

GS: Oh.

PB: In France, is it your nephew Martin?

GS: It's me niece, lives over there.

PB: Martin's sister?

GS: Albert's daughter.

PB: Albert's daughter?

GS: Yeah he had two sons and a daughter.

PB: Aah, I didn't know about Albert's daughter.

PB: Maureen, called Maureen as well?

GS: Yeah.

PB: And she married twice?

GS: Yeah.

PB: So her first husband, did he die or was it a divorce or?

GS: No she weren't, oh wait a minute yeah she was married before. I think they just divorced. Yeah I think, I can't, I think he come from down Nuneaton way. I ain't sure, her first marriage. I was looking puzzled then when you said that Paul and then it come to me.

JD: Is there anything else that you would like to add to it? Is there anything else?

GS: I can't think of anything Julia to be honest. I mean I ain't been much help as it is because a lot of it happened before I was born. [laughs]

JD: Yeah that has been really useful.

GS: Well you've got these photos and that to take with you.

JD: Thank you very much.



## Teachers Panel

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