

WHAT IS THIS? IT CLAMPS ON TO THE TABLE AND THESE THINGS PULL OUT?

That is a wool winder. You put the skeins on to that and wind your wool. The skeins fit into this you see and you make them bigger or smaller according to whether..... The dozens of skeins of wool I've wound on that!

WHAT DATE IS THAT?

Oh, that dates from the same time. It was Granny's and I wound wool for Granny when I was not more than 5 or 6, but it was quite an occupation!

IT IS EARLY VICTORIAN ANYWAY? Granny was his daughter you see,

Very much so. I have loaned it to other people to wind wool with. When my Mrs. Kissack had - (I've forgotten how much wool she had) - several pounds, as she was knitting things to go to New Zealand, and I said "would you like the winder?". That is why it is out. It was otherwise in the ottoman under the window.

THE CLAMP PART AND MAIN STEM LOOKS LIKE WALNUT?

Yes I think so.

EXTENDING THE ARMS CAN GIVE YOU ANY SIZE OF SKEIN?

Yes.

WHAT IS THE LITTLE THING ON THE TOP?

If you were held up you could put your ball in there and leave it until you could go back and finish it.

THIS WOOD ON THE TOP HERE IS RATHER NICE. IT LOOKS LIKE PEACH WOOD. CONTRASTING COLOUR.

Yes. Instead of holding out your hands. If it was an odd skein you didn't bother to get it out, but if there was more than one skein out it came.

IN YOUR CHILDHOOD DAYS DID YOU USE WOOL YARN FROM 'ACROSS' OR MANX WOOL OR BOTH?

We used both. Granny knitted beautifully. She knitted fine things for us when we were babies, and when my cousin had twins she made a lot of things for them. It was always "Ladyship" wool from Halifax.

THE BIG PORTRAIT OVER THE CHIMNEY PIECE. IS THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER?

Great Grandfather. Granny's father - James Blake. He was a direct descendant of the Admiral Blake who swept the English Channel - a direct descendant of his younger son. The Admiral apparently had two sons. This man (James Blake) sailed the world. He was a ship's surgeon, and at about 40 he retired and married, and he and his brother ran a soap

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works at Bristol for a time, but his headquarters were always at Liverpool.

THEY WERE ORIGINALLY A LIVERPOOL FAMILY?

Yes, I think so. Really they came from somewhere in Northumberland in the beginning. And that was his eldest grand-daughter. She was about 6 or 7. He was getting on for 80 when that was taken (Painted. Ed.) He married late in life - he was 40 before he married.

THAT WAS YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S NIECE?

No. Granny's eldest daughter. Granny was his daughter you see, and the girl was Granny's daughter.

THAT IS YOUR AUNT ELIZABETH?

Yes. Father's eldest sister. There were 4 girls and 3 boys. Father was the only one who lived to grow up of the boys. The girls all survived.

THAT PICTURE MUST GO BACK TO ABOUT 1845

She was born in 1831 I think. She was about six.

IT IS ABOUT 1840?

Yes. It was before photographs had come in.

THE OLD GENTLEMAN SIDE FACE ON? (Pen and ink sketch left of fireplace)

That is What's his name? The engineer. Steam Engine? Watt.

WHICH IS YOUR GRANDFATHER OF THESE? ((Gills on South wall))

He is "across there" (West of S. window), and Granny always said it was a very bad likeness. He got some young man who needed the money to paint him, and she wouldn't have it in the house.

THAT WAS YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER? YOU DON'T KNOW WHO PAINTED IT? (over fireplace)

No! They say it is good. A man who got in here by mistake (we thought he was the piano tuner) and he came to buy pictures of anything else we had to sell, and what a job we had to get rid of him! The other pictures he said were quite good, but that he said really was a good picture (James Blake and granddaughter). In the end I think he suggested he should perhaps come back again, and we said 'No'.

THE LADY IN THE LACE CAP? (Right of fireplace).

That was a Mrs. Clare (who was the Mother-in-law of James Blake), and her daughter is this man's wife. These were his two daughters (left of door E.wall) Granny aged about 20, before she married (the one nearer the door) and her sister is this one. You can't see them very well in this light.

YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS THE ONE WITH THE LOCKET AND YOUR GREAT AUNT IS THE ONE WITH THE CHAIN HANGING DOWN? THEY ARE EVER SO ALIKE AREN'T THEY?

Yes, they were very much alike, but then of course the hairdressing being alike. But even in older age in photographs in the drawing room they are quite alike.

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