



**Cicely Anne Lucas**

néé Neale

**A Memoir**

Cicely Ann Neal (1879-1970) was born in Westwood Heath which was then a part of rural Warwickshire. It is now a suburb of Coventry, close to the Warwick University campus. Her husband, Ernest Lucas (1878-1951), was born under a shadow as his parents, Eliza Orton and James Lucas (born 1854), were not married at the time. They later married and went on to have eight children together.

Cicely herself was one of four children. Her parents took charge of the new school house freshly built by Lord Leigh, for the village of Westwood Heath.



Figure 1 - St John the Baptist- Westwood Heath



Figure 2 Westwood Heath Village School



Figure 3 A picture from the 1960's in the school



Figure 4 Old map of Westwood Heath

I have a striking memory as a four year old boy, standing by a small table and chair, with light streaming through a grandly curtained Victorian window. We were in the first floor hotel room my Great-Grandmother took on Blackheath High Street. I was presented with an apple and apparently took lessons in reading and writing. These memories contain not a jot of trauma, though my mother assures me this is true.

When she died I also recall the 'after the storm' discussions between family members; humour, exasperation, pain, and admiration. I understand her as an interesting, determined, wilful, self-centred and courageous person and this appears to be her own self-confessed position.

My family moved to Hong Kong, and the next thing I knew was a story about how she had panicked while trying to cross Blackheath High Street, traumatising an innocent driver by falling beneath his wheels.

I pondered creating a title such as 'Mon Combat', but for someone who lived through two world wars, this seems somewhat distasteful. I am left with 'Memoir'. This is enough.

I note that her memoir is written for Elisabeth. This may be because it was written in a response to my aunt's request for 'a story'. My mother may warn that despite being a one time member of the communist party, she had her favourites. As a local journalist in Warwickshire for many years, she had also perfected the technique of 'journalises'. I muse that she would probably not be happy with her great-grandson, after all these years, taking the liberty of becoming her editor, but as she taught me to read and write, she started it. I leave you the reader to imagine how she may have responded.

Cicely Annie Lucas died aged 91.

Illustrations: This picture, painted by James Tissot, is likely not to be the picture Cicely saw in the Westwood Health School Room. James Tissot painted religious paintings towards the end of his life. These pictures were made into Lithographs in 1904. He was an Anglophile, and lived in St John's Wood, London, for some time. The story itself is fascinating as it links to a number of other ancient stories involving snakes. It is also noted that the Hebrew enjoys the alliteration *nehash nehoshet*, or snake bronze.



Figure 5 Biblical Scene by James Tissot



Figure Six Cicely Lucas Suffragette sash which she gave to Warwickshire Museum

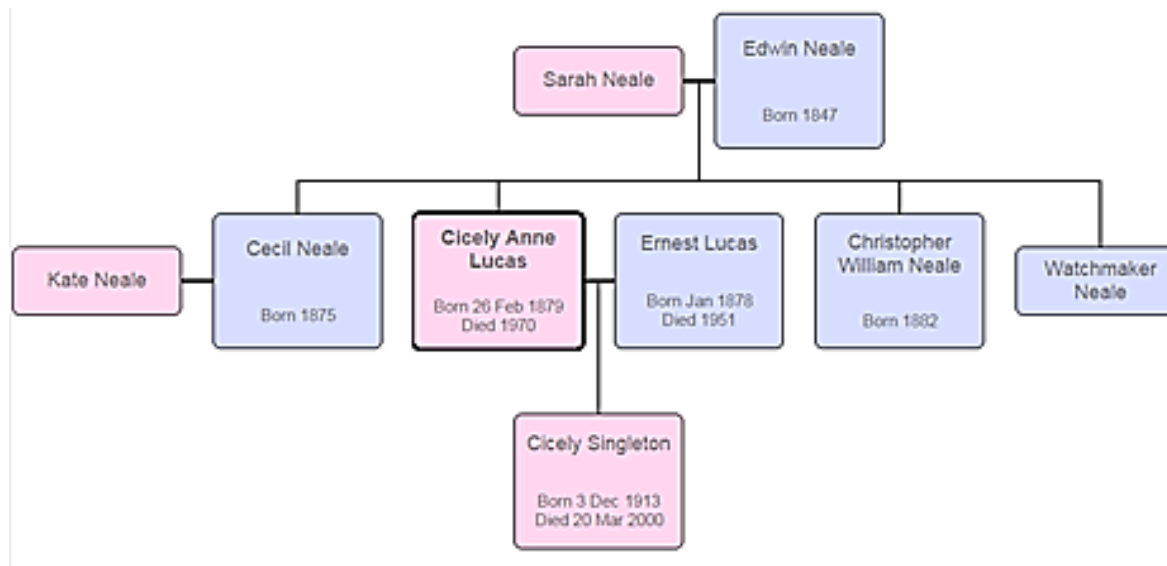


Figure Seven Family Tree of Neale family

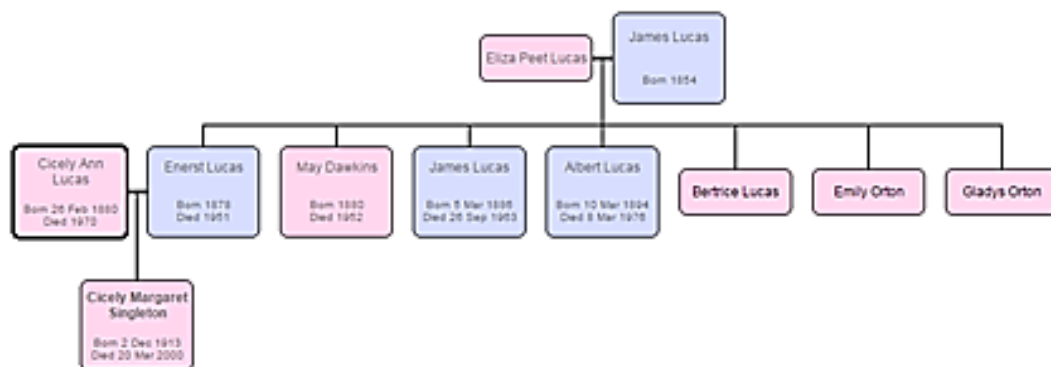
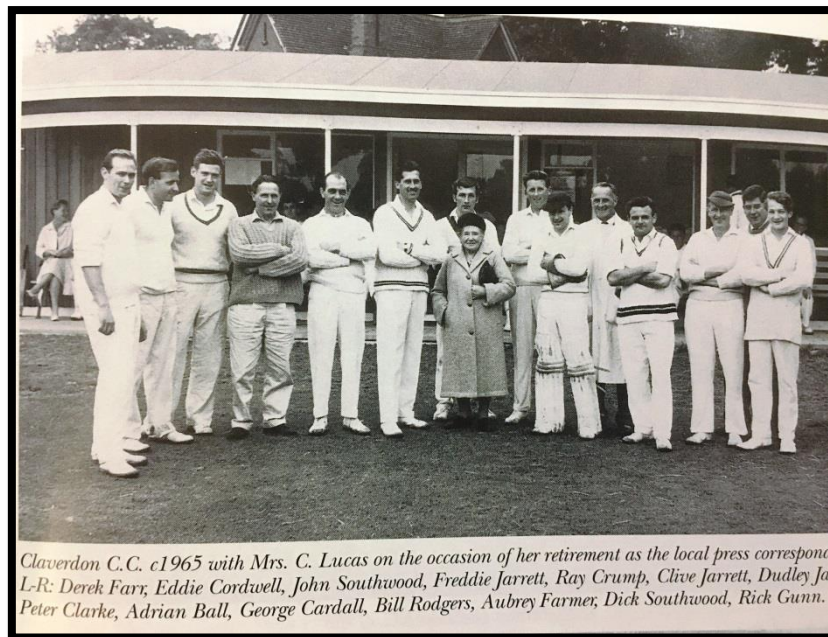


Figure Eight Family Tree of the Lucas Family

Some On-line search results -(1881,1891,1901 and 1911 census records)



Cicely Anne Neale. Born 1879 - Stoneleigh/Westwood died 1970 in Lewisham, London. In 1901, aged 22, she is recorded as a school mistress.

Edwin Neale. Born 1846 in Chetnole, Dorset, Died 1941 in Warwickshire. In 1851 as a 4 year old, he is described as a carpenter's son (Dorset). In 1861, aged 13, recorded as pupil teacher in Somerset. In 1871 he is living with his sister on the Bristol Road in Highbridge, Somerset and is a school master. I wonder whether their parents had died. He is recorded as school master until 1901. Then becomes a Contractors Clerk returning to Dorset. In 1911 Edwin is back in Warwickshire aged 64 and is living off private means. Interestingly Chetnole is a very small village, but it has a Neal's Lane. On Neal's Lane there is a listed House called 'Carpenters'.

Cecil Neale. Born 1875 died 1951 in Warwickshire, Stratford Upon Avon. A pupil teacher in 1891 and school master in 1901. In 1911 this becomes 'Frad Teacher' (Could be Head Teacher?)

Christopher William Neale. Born 1882 is in Dorset in 1901 as a journeyman wheelwright. In 1911 he is a carpenter in Dorset.

In 1939 I glean that Cicely and Ernest lived in the District of Stratford Upon Avon (Claverdon) with two other anonymous names mentioned.

Cicely and Ernest Lucas do not appear on the 1911 census. This could be because they had moved to France. However I note that there was a Suffragette campaign at the time to boycott the 1911 census.

Brother Eustace- emigrated to America with the watchmaking industry.

Ernest (born 1878) has the name Lucas in 1901, and recorded as a 23 year old Wine Merchants Clerk from Coventry.

The records show an Ernest Medwyn Orton married a Cicely Neale in 1902 in Worcestershire. Cicely says she was 21 when she was married, not 23 as this would indicate. Birmingham was in Worcestershire at the time.

Thank you to Sara Wear and Becki Morris from Warwickshire Museums who gave us an hour of time on Saturday to discuss the life of Cicely Lucas. Becki said she is one of only a few known Warwickshire suffragettes.

#### What we discovered.

Edwin's parents were Sarah and John, a carpenter. They lived in Chetnole, Dorset. Edwin was christened in 1st Nov 1846. Therefore this must be his year of birth. In 1871, aged 24 he is living with his sister Ellen (23) on the Bristol Road in St John's Highbridge, Burnham on Sea, Somerset. He is described as a schoolmaster.



Figure Nine St John's Church and School, Highbridge, Burnham on Sea

The house Cicely bought for her parents when they came back together was on Mary Road, Stechford, Yardley, Birmingham. When Sarah Neale, Cicely's mother (interestingly born in Winterbourne-Stoke, Salisbury) died, she was buried in the cemetery of St John the Baptist Westwood Heath, on 1st March 1910 by the Rev B Haywood- Browne, She was 67 years old. We could not find her grave. In 1911 only Edwin filled out the census form stating 'Daughter is a Suffragette'.



Figure Ten House on Mary Road, Yardley, Birmingham

having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)		Boatmen, or "Servant."	Ages of Males.		Ages of Females.	aged 15 years and upwards.	lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Total Childr Born Alive
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1	Edwin Neale	Head	64		Widower			
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								

Figure Eleven Census record for Lucas and Neale Family 1911

There is no mention of Ernest. Edwin describes himself as a widower of private means, aged 64, living at Mary Road in an 8 roomed house.

It was easy however to find Cecil and Kate's Grave in St John's Church yard.



Figure Twelve Grave of Cicely's Brother and sister in law

We were given the 1891 census result. Edwin 44, Sarah 50, Cecil F 16 (Pupil Teacher), Eustace E 14, Cicely A 12 and Christopher W 9.

Cicely does not feature in the 1911 but Edwin states that his daughter is a suffragette (confirming my suspicion that she joined the suffragette boycott).

In Cicely's 'Album' dated 1898, which collects best wishes from friends at DTC, and pictures and mementos from Ernest, Cicely has included signatures from three suffragette friends.

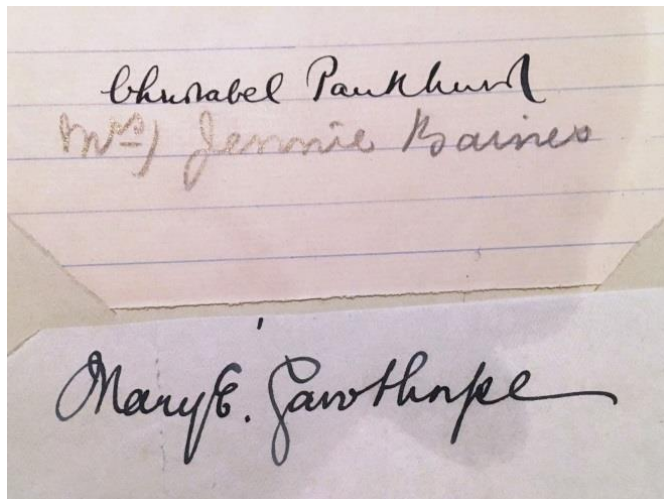


Figure Thirteen Signatures of famous Suffragettes



Figure Fourteen Mary Gawthorpe



Figure Nineteen Jennie Baines second picture is from her police file.



Figure Twenty Christabel Pankhurst

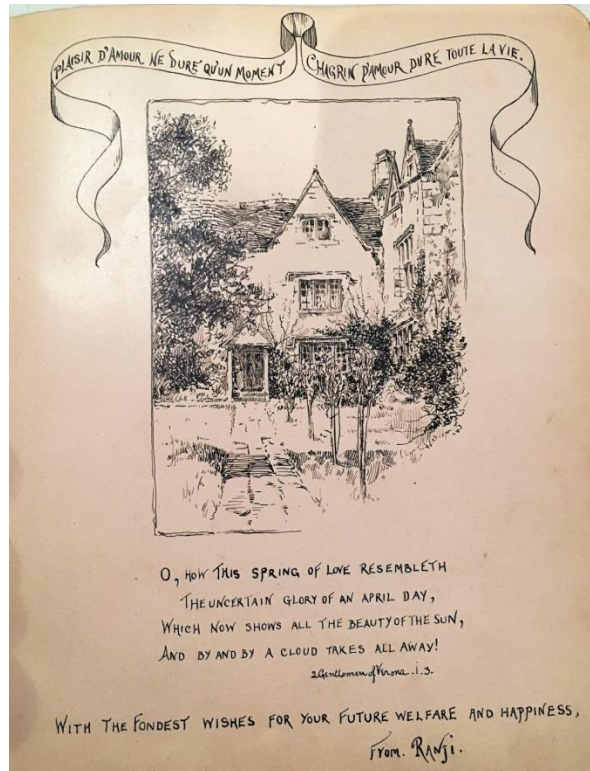


Figure Twenty One I keep sake from Ernest to Cicely

And what about Mill Lane, Warwickshire? Is it this view? (From Alcester)



Figure Twenty Two A traditional painting like the one described by Cicely that Ernest would sell to American tourists

I note that if the law had not been changed, my grandmother's maiden name would have been Orton.

Other interesting searches question my family's use of spelling. The baptism record at St John the Baptist says...

Cieley Annie Neale Parents Edwin, Sarah

Her birth record say Cycely Annie Neale born 1879.

I think I shall visit Westwoods Heath with my mother to see the famous Coussmaker Graves, the plaque to Edmund Roy, visit the great house at Stoneleigh, and see the school.



I am guessing the following schools are the schools Cicely refers to. She spells Boulton, 'Bolton'. I am guessing this is a confusion, having a son-in-law from a town of that name. Boulton is named after Matthew Boulton, Manufacturer and Engineer  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew\\_Boulton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Boulton).

Cicely describes her third school as Canterbury Road. I can only find a school called Canterbury Cross, so I am guessing this is the one.



First School - Highfield Road - Saltley, Birmingham



Second School - Boulton Road - Handsworth, Birmingham



Third School - Canterbury Cross School –  
Handsworth



Diocesan Institution for the Training of  
Schoolmistresses, Uttoxeter New Road, Derby



Now a College for Business and Law

Names of equal status in our family: Orton, Neale, Lucas, Singleton, Starr, Clark,



Cicely with her granddaughters, Elisabeth and Margaret



Ernest and Cicely with their daughter and son in law. Norman told me how to pronounce Cicely by saying "Cicely rhymes with Nicely".