

\*\*\*\*\*

Disclaimer: This document was written in the 1930s and concerns memories of 1930s life; as such there may be opinions expressed or words used that do not meet today's norms and expectations.

- \* Transcript ID: KS-22-004PW002
- \* Scan ID: KS-22-004PW002
- \* CCINTB Document ID: NA
- \* Number of pages: 2
- \* Date sent: 1 June 2022
- \* Transcribed by: Annette Kuhn/Standardised by: Annette Kuhn
- \* Format: Essay
- \* Details: Document attached to an email from Margaret Marks to Annette Kuhn describing the diaries kept by her aunt, Kathleen Southworth, during the 1930s. The diaries were loaned to CMDA and selected passages transcribed.
- \* Notes: This transcription has rendered the original text as written, including punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kathleen Ruth Southworth**      **[REDACTED] 1921-[REDACTED] 2019**

**Family**

Born on [REDACTED] 1921 in Bolton to Janet Isabella and John Southworth both teachers.

One older brother, Alex born in 1916 and one younger brother Roland born in 1924 both now deceased.

Sisters in law Winne and Alice also deceased.

One nephew and three nieces: Alex's children: Peter and Yvonne. Roland's children: Margaret and Olwyn.

The death of her father is written about in her memoirs

Kathleen took early retirement to care for her elderly mother who lived until her 99<sup>th</sup> year.

She was extremely proud of her nephew Peter who was a musician and her Godson. She loved to tell visitors about his music and his career.

She was also very fond of her nieces and loved to receive their visits and the frequent phone calls from Yvonne and Peter.

**Occupation**

Kathleen spent most of her working career as a secretary to various Solicitors and also as a wages clerk at a garage where she notes that she was "Oh! So happy there",

From 1943-1946 she was in the WAAF working as a telegraphist. This continued with a short term of employment at the GPO.

In 1951 she was very proud to have passed a two-hour examination and interview for a job with the Health Department. She continued to work there until her retirement firstly as Secretary to the Chief Nursing Officer and then as Secretary to the Borough Analyst.

### **Interests and hobbies**

In her youth Kathleen loved films and when at home later in life enjoyed watching the old movies.

She was a keenly intelligent lady and very proud of being a member of MENSA.

She was a long-time member of the St John's Ambulance and one of her proudest moments was travelling down to London with her mother to receive a Queens Award.

She was a lifelong Methodist and was a Sunday school teacher: First at The King's Hall Methodist Mission in Bolton and later at Wesley Methodist in Radcliffe.

She enjoyed days out with her friends. Monica recalls happy times in Blackpool or visiting the Southport show. She also loved returning to Chapel-en-Le Frith where her family originated and where she recalled happy times at the home of her Grandparents.

In later years she helped out at a charity shop and attended pottery painting classes where she was able to demonstrate some considerable artistic skill.

Kathleen loved dogs, particularly her own. The last two who were Judy and Heidi. After Heidi died, she painted pictures of her and even wrote a poem to Heidi which, to her delight, was published in an anthology.

### **Health**

Kathleen was a delicate child. Her mother apparently considered her not strong enough to enter the Nursing profession. Despite this she survived cancer twice and overcame several serious infections. Eventually however severe arthritis took its toll and Kathleen was no longer able to live independently, a broken hip could not be replaced and she spent her last three years unable to walk.

### **Personality**

Kathleen could be sweet and charming. She could be sociable and good company but she could also be quite challenging.

In recent times she always wanted to be remembered to everyone and always expressed gratitude for the smallest of favours or tasks. She loved having visitors and the family will always be grateful to Jackie for her regular visits. She was delighted when her Great niece Elizabeth was able to bring her two small children to visit and loved looking at photographs of her other Great-Great nephews and nieces. She seemed genuinely content whilst in the care of Starmount Villa and I am sure that she felt very loved whilst there.

Although we had repeated instruction from Kathleen not to grieve, we will miss her.