

1940s Class notes

Bryan Overton (BSc Electrical Engineering with Radio, 1945)

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My wife died this winter. I am reasonably well and I walk every day, but speed and distance seem to be more difficult. In our village, we have another graduate from Birmingham.

Aron Szulman (MBChB Medicine, 1945)

I still reside in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We moved here in 1964 – the longest sojourn ever. I shall be 93 in May but continue a normal life, one of an Emeritus Professor who tries to keep up to date with genetics, literature etc. We were in England last December but did not manage to move beyond Cambridge (the weather did not help).

Nanette Wise [nee Gregg] (BA English, 1945)

I was at Birmingham from 1942-44 as Nanette Gregg. I was then called up at the age of 20 to work at Bletchley Park. I graduated in 1945 with an Honours Degree in English (unclassified).

Betty Broad [nee Hayes] (BA French, 1945; Dip Ed, 1946)

Now 88 and widowed. I have wonderful carers in my own home. Please contact me if you feel like it, you will remember my dear roommate Paddy (nee Court) whose daughter Christine Louise is my god-daughter and is a constant help to me.

Malcolm Hutton (BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1946)

I have lived in New Zealand since 1952, although I did work for about four years in the UK after leaving Birmingham, in diesel engine development at the English Electric. No doubt this closed years ago. I worked on hydro dam construction and in the logging industry in NZ. I have been retired for over 20 years now.

I have visited Birmingham once since and I remember Birmingham with affection. Professor Mucklow was my Professor.

Alan Blay (BSc Electronic & Electrical Engineering, 1947; MSc Electronic & Electrical Engineering, 1948)

I am 87 and have been in hospital after food started going into my left lung, pneumonia, and then having a peg fitted in my stomach for direct feeding.

Sir Godfrey Hounsfield (Nobel Lauriate), FRS, and Dr IR Young, FRS, both reported to me. Dr EW Williams, Director of Materials & Methods Research, was very talented and also a very cheerful and amusing fellow Director. W Percival DSc was an impressively capable consultant member of staff.

Our Family Tree © A.G. Blay, 2006. Possible Blay Origins & The Blay Tree. At present, the earliest Blay ancestors which I have identified and linked into the tree are my great-great-grandparents,

Richard Blay (ID46) and his wife, Charlotte (ID47) who, in the first half of the 19th century, lived in Clifton Campville, a village lying about five miles N.E. of Tamworth in Staffordshire. The 1841 census record for the village reveals that they were both born around 1770 but not in Staffordshire. In the 1841 records, the forms asked only for a yes/no answer to the question 'Born in County?'. Sadly, at present, this means that I do not know where they were born or where they were married. It is to be noted that Clifton Campville is close to the borders with Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, so they may well have come from nearby. The border with Derbyshire is less than a mile north of Clifton Campville, the nearby village of Netherseale was in Leicestershire until 1897, and the border with Warwickshire passed through Tamworth. The four counties meet somewhere in the region of Nomans Heath near to Clifton Campville.

My elder son Philip took his degree at Birmingham, and my younger son took his at Coventry.

Doris Hudson (Primary Teacher's Certificate, 1948)

I'm 86 years old and my achievements are things of the past – apart from teaching and wandering in Australia and New Zealand after my mother died in 1974, I have nothing to show for it. But I have happy memories of Edmund Street and dodging the sunset sparrows at the Town Hall – if only I had the courage, I'd drive through Birmingham and explore it all again.

John Hornibrook (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1949)

My Birmingham days are long past and I have been enjoying retirement for 20 years. I'm managing to travel worldwide, so life has been interesting.

