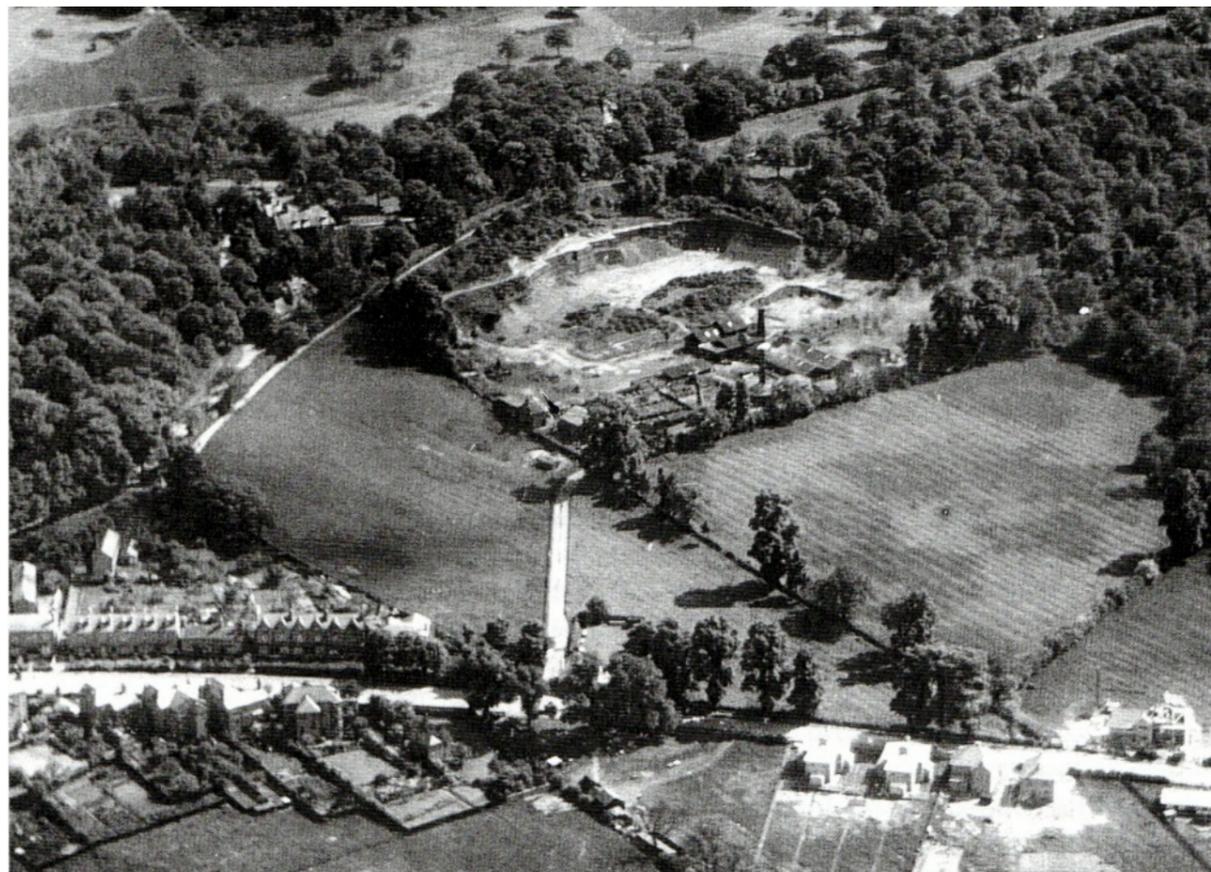




Her Dad and Ferny Hill Brick Works



The site at Ferny Hill Brickworks

Image from the RLHS archives.

My Memories of the Frequent Visits to stay with the Grandparents 1930s to 1950s The activities on the Brickyard , playing with cousins and brothers, were very similar to those described in your enclosed document.

We ran wild and were told off frequently by the workmen for our behaviour, but they kept an eye on us and put a stop to dangerous activities like making rafts to sail on the clay pit. Grandpa used to let us earn a bit of money by wheeling bricks about and we had to feed all the chickens running about and collect their eggs.

It was a happy childhood.

My father was Percy John Hughes and he lived at Ferny Hill House in Muscatts Way, Redditch.

He was born in 1874 in Fenton, Stoke on Trent. His father died early and his mother married again to someone called Dimmock. Percy hated his stepfather so left home when he was 7 and went to work for a baker. He delivered bread and slept behind the ovens at night. Later he went to work at a local brickworks and by the time he was 16 he was the foreman and had saved some money.

He met and married a barmaid from Mexborough in Yorkshire and he leased the Brickworks in Redditch. He purchased the works in late 1909 and they lived in a cottage on the works site. In the late 20s/ early 30s he built Ferny Hill House on Muscatts Way at the top of one of his fields. He had five children and one of his sons, Basil (who lived in Greenways on Muscatts Way), was involved in the brickyard with his father and took over when his father died. The brickyard was closed in the early 50s and the land sold for building.



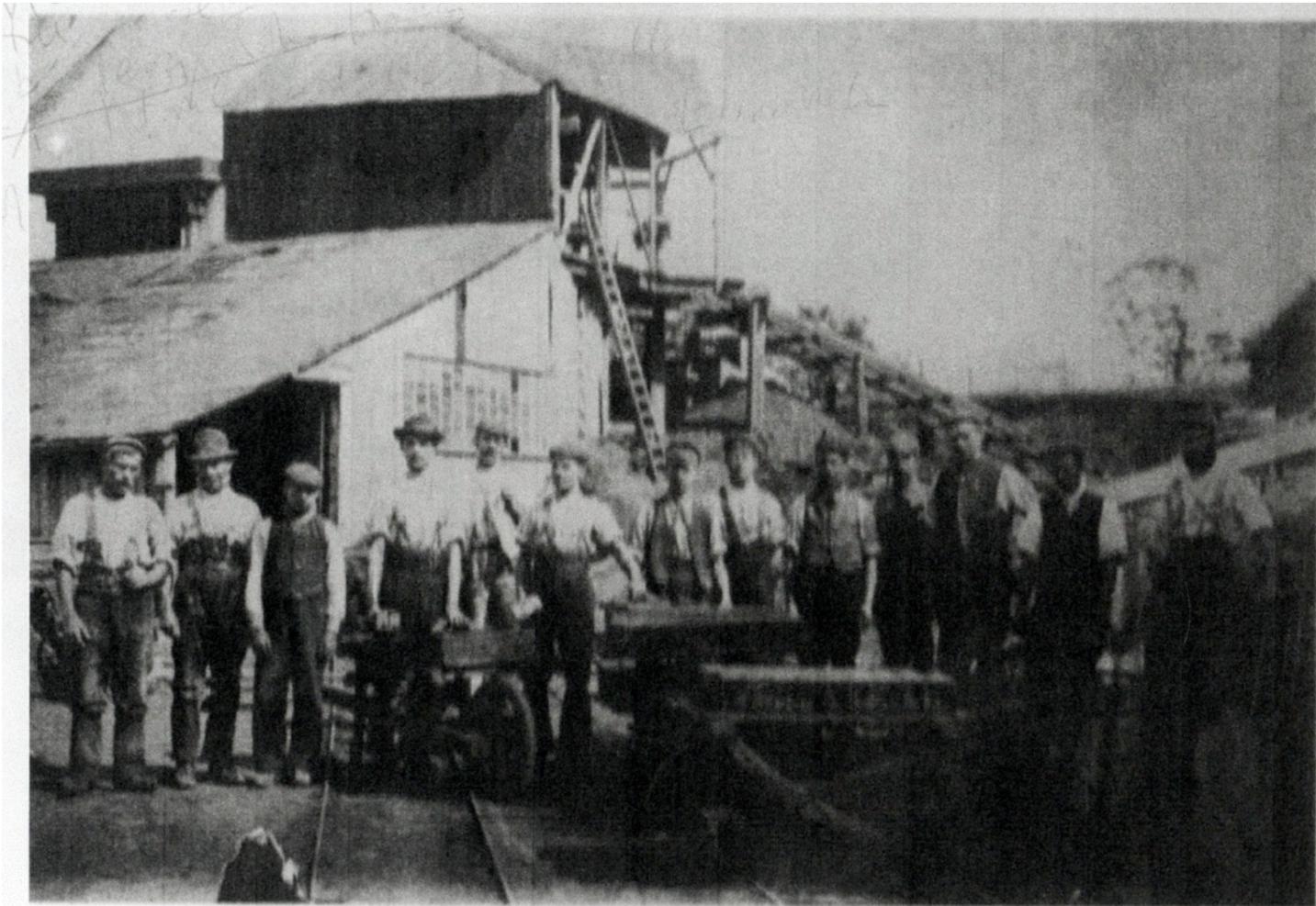
The workforce at Ferny Hill Brickworks

Image from the RLHS archives.

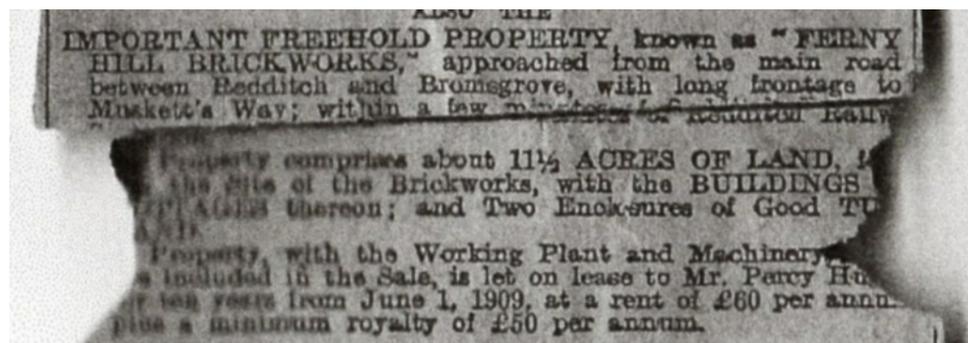
Anne Blandamer

Anne Blandamer Remembers.....

Her Dad and Ferny Hill Brick Works

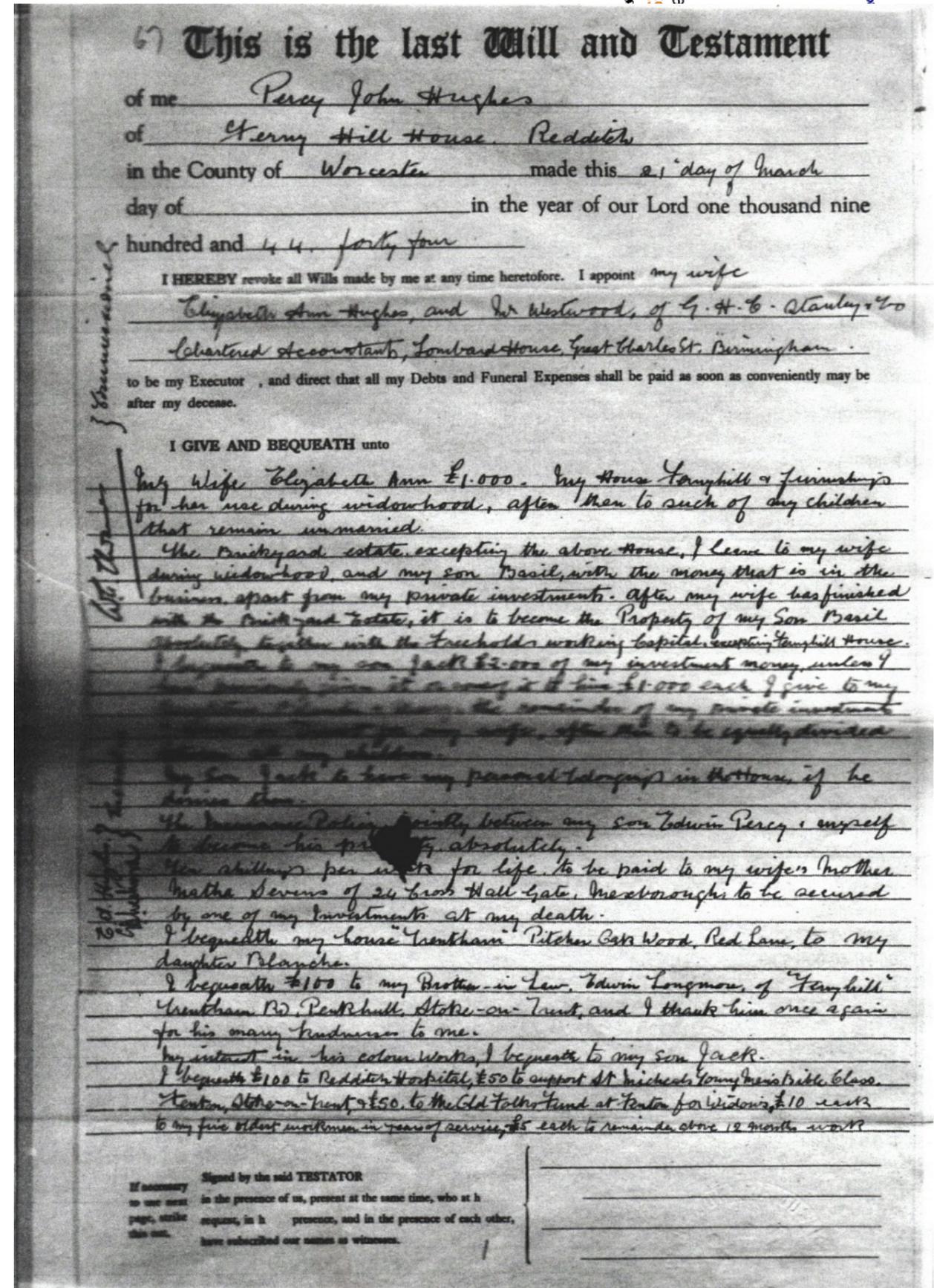


Ferny Hill Brickyard, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch, circa 1905.



Photographs, newspaper cutting and the will of Percy John Hughes. Some of the memories of Anne Blandamer's early life in Redditch.

Image: courtesy of Anne Blandamer



Life In Redditch in the 1940s & 50s



A gathering of family and friends on the day of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In the background is Ferny Hill House built by Percy John Hughes which was his family's home.

Image: courtesy of Anne Blandamer

I picked up on community life in Redditch while staying with my grandparents. They had arrived in Redditch to take over the Brickworks and found it a snobby and a difficult place to move to. A lot of the people were owners of needle and other engineering works and had money.

I remember that when we used to go, as a family, to St Stephen's Church we always sat in the same pews in the far left aisle, away from the main chancel pews. This was because when my grandparents first arrived and went to church they found that all the main chancel pews were bought and labelled with the names of the owners and there was no room for outsiders.

My grandparents were both offspring of miners and didn't fit in at all so they sat in the side aisle and always did until they died as though making a statement. They did make their way in society eventually as my grandfather was a founder member of the Redditch Building Society and my grandmother ended up as President of the Hospital Ladies Linen League. But it was hard work to be accepted. I remember, when I was a little girl, being taken by my grandmother to take tea with the wife of the famous knitting needle family and I was dressed in my very best clothes and was lectured on my way there about not eating cake until I had had bread and butter first and when I had to say please and thank you. I was terrified!

Anne Blandamer