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Gotherington  
Glos. GL52 4EZ

8<sup>th</sup> March 1999

Dear Jenny,

I'm sorry to have been so long in replying to your letter. It's one of many we get asking for details of family history. What has made it more difficult recently is that our registers are being put on to a computer data base in order that we can deposit the original registers in the Gloucester Record Office, which is where they really ought to be, and I've had to wait for the return of the relevant registers from the volunteers who are helping me with this task. A mammoth one when you consider that we have an unbroken list of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1563 onwards – give or take the odd blank page in the Civil War!

Unfortunately, your grandmother was not baptised in St Michael's, nor were your great grandparents married here either. There were other Lane family members in the registers resident in B.C. and Gotherington but not your particular branch.

However I looked in the 1891 Census returns for you when I was in the Record Office and found your family living at 56 Woodmancote Road in Bishop's Cleeve at that time as follows:

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Christ.Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Status/Occupation</b>	<b>Place born</b>
LANE	Herbert	26	Head /Baker	Alstone, Glos.
LANE	Elizabeth	24	Wife	Bishop's Cleeve
LANE	Edith	3	Daughter	Bishop's Cleeve
LANE	Sydney	1	Son	Bishop's Cleeve

Your g.grandfather was born in the nearby village of Alstone, not part of B.C. parish. I have no idea why Edith and her brother Sydney or any of the later children who might have been born in B.C. (before the family moved) were not baptised in B.C. Perhaps they were baptised in Alstone.

I haven't found any record either of your g.grandparents marriage in our registers despite the fact that according to the 1891 census your g.grandmother was born in B.C. However I did find a marriage on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1888 between:

George Lane aged 27, bachelor, blacksmith of B.C. son of George Lane, labourer, and

Mary Ann Mason aged 25, spinster of B.C., daughter of James Jerry Mason, labourer

The two witnesses, who both signed their names were Herbert Lane and Elizabeth Lane – I assume your g.grandparents. It looks as if George might have been the older brother of Herbert, and if so your great great grandfather was George Lane.

I cannot find any record of Elizabeth Beech having been baptised in B.C. either, again despite the fact that she was born in B.C. according to the 1891 Census. Perhaps they didn't believe in baptism, were baptised elsewhere, or belonged to a non-conformist chapel somewhere. The

*best avenue of research for you is obviously through the Census returns or the IGI (the Morman index) so that you get the place of birth.*

*When you visited B.C. in the 1960s I think there was only one bakery, at Eversfield House on Station Road, the road leading to Woodmancote. I imagine this is the same road referred to in the 1891 Census as Woodmancote Road. Eversfield House has never had a number, though, as far as I am aware. In his book on Eversfield House (which I am enclosing for you) David Denley mentions that there was already a bakery at the house when his family bought it in 1891. The position of the house, the date, and the fact that there was a bakery and your g.grandfather was a baker, seem to point to the fact that this was your family's home; although as far as is known the house has never been called Cleeve House.*

*I know the Denley family, particularly Nancy, David's sister, who with her husband Charles Minett is a member of our Church of St Michael's. I have asked her if she knew the name of the family who owned Eversfield House before her family and she thinks it might have been Lane but is going to ask David when she next contacts him as he has seen the deeds of the house more recently when it was sold. David now lives in Cornwall.*

*As you can see from the book, Eversfield became quite famous for its Pleasure grounds, and I heard many older villagers refer to them when I first came here to the school. Please keep the book if you would like it, otherwise let me have it back some time.*

*On a more personal note, I spent 10 years in Germany from 1965 to 1975, teaching with Service schools in Verden/Aller near Bremen, RAF Geilenkirchen near Munchengladbach, Munster/Westphalia and the last 5 years as headteacher of Krefeld Primary school near Dusseldorf. I enjoyed it all tremendously and returned here in 1975 as head of Bishop's Cleeve Junior School (500 children) which eventually became a primary school of about 450 under my headship when the birthrate went down and both the Junior school and the separate Infants School reduced in number. It has risen again to over 500 pupils and B.C. has had an enormous addition of many new houses. I retired in 1988 and have spent the last years pursuing my interest in local historical research among many other things. I can certainly subscribe to the usual comment of retired people, "I can't think how I ever found time to go to work".*

*In my spare(?) time I am trying to write a history of the old school in Bishop's Cleeve which was the one I came to in 1975. I have all the old Log Books on loan and there are certainly references to a Miss Lane; this was your grandmother I presume. Incidentally, the photograph on the back of the Eversfield book is of Mr Boardman, the Headteacher of the school, with a school party. He joined the school in 1924 when Miss Lane was on the staff - I am not sure when she left. Could either of the three ladies on the photograph be your grandmother, or is that stretching coincidence too far?*

*I hope all the above is of some interest and use in your search for family history, and not too rambling. If I learn anything else I will let you know. Meanwhile the best of luck with the search.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Eunice*

*Eunice Powell (Miss)*