

# In Search of a Glemsford Family

## The Martha and Minnie Letters

*Sandra has transcribed a whole sheaf of letters.*

*The first set are from members of her family to Araminta, 3 from Martha, and 2 from mother, Susannah.*

*The rest - the major batch - are those sent from Emma Savage to her "dear friend", Araminta.*

**Martha was born Martha Asenath Brown on 17th May 1880. She appears on the 1881 Census, at the age of 10 months, when she, George, Susanna (sic), Artementer (sic) and William were living at Earl Street, Skerton, Lancaster.**

**It is interesting that her birthplace is given as Glemsford, which suggests that the family moved to Lancashire between May 1880 and March 1881, when the Census was taken.**

**Gershom, the next surviving child (recorded as being 6 in the 1891 Glemsford Census) was also born in Glemsford, so the stay in Lancaster must have been relatively short.**

***Martha is somewhat elusive. She is not recorded as being with her parents in the 1891 Census, but, after much searching, we have placed her, as a servant, at "Brick Kiln Cottage", on the Lower Road. She is recorded as being 13. An early example of Creative Accounting, perhaps.***

***The only other person registered there in 1891 is a 17 year old servant, called:***

**Arraminta Brown.**

***Both girls are recorded as being born in Glemsford.***

**Brick Kiln Cottage assumes a central role as the story develops, creating a link between the Browns and [the Savages](#).**

**It seems clear that both Martha and her older sister, Araminta, were employed by the Savage family at Brick Kiln, in 1891.**

**Araminta, who is the focus of a whole batch of later letters, was born on 15th March, 1874. She was with her parents in Lancaster, at Brick Kiln in 1891, and, in 1901, appears as a "visitor" at the home of William Kelly, 37 Hainworth, Keighley, Yorks. She married, in Yorkshire in 1902, John McGuire.**

***More of the Yorkshire connection later!***

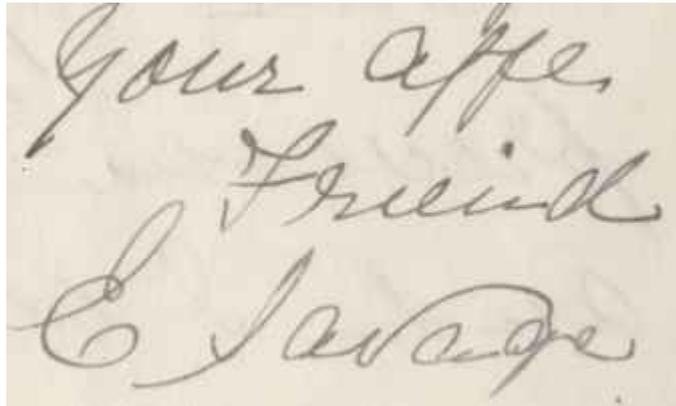
The first three letters are from Martha Brown to her Sister Araminta ("Minnie"), and, if we believe the earlier censuses, and the official registers, she was only 14 when she wrote these letters home.

- [February 6 1894](#)
- [February 16 1894](#)
- [February 28 1894](#)

The next two letters are from Susanna Brown to Araminta, her daughter:

- [February 20 1896](#)
- [March 5 1896](#)

Almost all the rest of the letters are from Emma Savage to Araminta.



A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The text reads "Your affe", "Friend", and "E Savage" on three lines. The ink is dark on a light-colored paper background.

- [June 10 1900](#)
- [August 21 1900](#)
- [November 12 1900](#)
- [December 21 1900](#)
- [March 8 1901](#)
- [March 18 1901](#)
- [April 23 1901](#)
- [June 27 1901](#)
- [December 19 1901](#)
- [December 1901](#) to "Min" from a different source
- [February 23 1902](#)
- [May 2 1902](#)
- [June 17 1902](#)
- [August 1902](#) - Minnie consulted a Palm Reader
- [January 21 1905](#)
- [January 15 1913](#)

Even just taken on their own, these are three fascinating documents, telling a brief story of life "below stairs" at the end of the nineteenth century.

*We have tried to reproduce these letters as accurately as possible. We have left the spelling as it appears in the original.*

*Where there are doubts about words, we have shown this with question marks or [square] brackets.*

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Read about what we know about the [\*Brown Family History\*](#) and something of their progress later [\*in the 20th Century\*](#)

Follow the search for the [\*\*SAVAGE FAMILY\*\*](#) of Cavendish, with several twists and turns, or go [straight to the start of our findings.](#)

## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

This is the first of Emma Savage's letters to Araminta Brown which Sandra has.

It is dated June 10th 1900. The sender's address is printed in red.

The address on the envelope is: C/o Mrs John Seeley, Althorpe House, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

The letter was posted in London - it is very difficult to see date, but luckily stamped on back of envelope is a "received mark" RYDE 4.15 JU12 00

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June 10th 1900

BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK

Dear Minnie,

I received both your letters but have been very busy but you know I have not forgotten you. I was pleased to hear you are getting on alright. I saw Captain J. Seeleys photo in the Graphic, he looks a nice looking

gentleman. The people in London went nearly mad over the [news from the war](#). They had a long procession called it a Carnival up the Hampstead Rd. Mr. Savage got in the crowd & was robbed of his gold watch. I was so sorry .

[Mr & Mrs Higgins](#) were down for Whitsun he went home on Wednesday. Mrs H went yesterday Saturday. We go back tomorrow I think we shall soon open the [Shakespeare](#) now [Rillo](#) is coming to us there.

[Gersham](#) nearly blew the place up he out of mischief turned the taps on of the steam boiler and turned the water off at the main a terrible noise he ran up to the [Trafalgar](#) to fetch Will him and the cook only just saved it in time, they have a rare trouble with him he always got a penny novel in his pocket and he is reading it at every turn the Master says forgets all his work I am afraid he will be another [Alva](#) Im sure I hope not - the other day Master set him to clean the tiles in the hall at the Shakespeare two hours after we both went down he was just doing the second peice. I asked him whatever he was thinking about he replied I left off to have my tea, he was so cheeky that I told him we should not turn you off in London because we respect your Father but unless you do the work Master set you to as you are under age I shall take you back to Glemsford and you will have to go into the factory again. he don't like the idea of that. I have not seen your Father since I have been down we went to Melford Fair but it rained very hard in the afternoon so the ground was like walking on soft soap. I am glad you have a nice place you ought to get as fat as butter and a colour like a rose. how is your sweetheart? I hope he is alright. [Annie](#) is alright  
With love from your sincere friend E.S.

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- [The Boer War](#). Pretoria, the Boer capital, was occupied by British troops between 31 May and 5 June 1900. This would explain celebrations in London at that time. Mafeking had been relieved on 17 May, and celebrated in Glemsford School on 20 May.
  - [I have not](#) been able to trace Mr and Mrs

- Higgins with any degree of certainty.
- [The Shakespeare Hotel](#) was at 88-90 York Road, Lambeth. In 1901 it was being managed by [William Savage](#)
  - [Rillo - Florillo William Brown](#) - born 18 January 1877 - is recorded as cook at the Shakespeare in the 1901 Census
  - [Gershom Dan Brown](#) born 18 May 1884. This is the first of many references to his "unsatisfactory" behaviour!
  - [The Trafalgar](#) seems to have been the Savage's main base. 60 York Road, Lambeth
  - [Alvah Brown](#), born 25 March 1878. What could he have done that was worse than Gershom? There are several references to Alvah not setting a "good example", but Tracey has established that later in life, he married, emigrated to Canada and returned to serve the Empire in the Great War, his hell-raising days well behind him.

His attestation papers show that he signed up for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on December 24, 1915.

He sent Minnie a Christmas Card with this photo of himself in uniform:



- **Melford Fair** still attracts the crowds, but it has

changed a great deal in character since 1900.

- I think this is [Annie Wright](#), resident at Brick Kiln in 1901. She deserves, and now has, [a section all of her own!](#)

<p>Read about what we know about the <a href="#">Brown Family History</a></p>	<p>Follow the search for the <a href="#">SAVAGE FAMILY</a> of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn</p>	<p>Emma's <a href="#">next letter to Minnie</a></p> <p>A list of all the <a href="#">letters from and to the Browns</a></p>
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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

Sent to Miss M.Brown, 2 Eastfield, Dover Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight; again the stamp on the back of the envelope: "received RYDE Aug 22 00".

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Aug 21st /00

BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK

Dear Minnie,

I was pleased to hear from you. We have opened the [Shakespeare](#) and are doing very well from the first start. [Rillo](#) is cook and I am very pleased to say he gets on very well with [Will](#) who speaks well of him and [Gersham](#) is certainly better since Rillo talked to him so we are getting on first class.

Master & I went to Ireland for a fortnight we went to Dublin stayed three days - the drink is the curse of Ireland and the Priests they are everywhere - we went to the Lakes of Killarney 200 miles from Dublin a beautiful place such lovely scenery but oh such poverty poor creatures, its a good job you did not go to live there its very well for a visit. The electric trams are grand they have a splendid system. from Killarney we went by coach through the mountains 42 miles it was splendid - then we stayed at Glengariff 3 days then on a coach 12 miles further to Bantry took the train to Cork stayed

there 3 days then back to Dublin for home we did enjoy ourselves.

[Kate](#) left while we were away she was always giving notice so this time Will said she had better go - we dont miss her a bit, [Annie](#) is alright her sweetheart is ordered to [China](#) he sends money up till now [baby](#) grows well so they says

how is your sweetheart  
have you had a rise?

Yours affec E. Savage.

- 
- [The Shakespeare Hotel, 88-90 York Road Lambeth](#)
  - [Florillo William Brown, Minnie's brother](#)
  - [William Savage, manager of the Shakespeare, Emma and George's nephew](#)
  - [Gershom Dan Brown - will his good behaviour last?](#)
  - [It is possible that the reference to a suggested move to Ireland is linked to Minnie's relationship with Mr McGuire, whom she married on his return from the Boer War](#)
  - [An Irish visit echoed by the Morris Men of Little Egypt in 2005.](#)
  - [Kate has not been traceable](#)
  - [Probably Annie Wright - she appears at Brick Kiln](#)
  - [Possibly to confront the Boxer Rebellion as a soldier](#)
  - [A baby? What can this mean? Annie's pages will reveal all.](#)

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Emma's [next letter to Minnie](#)

A list of all the [letters from and to the Browns](#)

**"Dear Minnie..."**

## ***Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown***

**Sent to Minnie Brown, Eastfield, Dover Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight. On the back of the envelope it is stamped Ryde 9.45am Nov 13th.**

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**Nov 12th 1900**

**BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK**

**Dear Minnie,**

I quite expected you would be at **Nottingham** or I should have written before. I was very pleased to hear from you - we had **an American** in for dinner yesterday and spoke of you. We are still rubbing on the same. do you still have your sweetheart money to mind - **Annie's** sweetheart is in Guernsey. he sends money very regular also 5/- for a birthday present - baby grows splendid at the grandmothers in Sudbury. **Mrs. Pegg** is living at the cottage with Ada and Edith. they made butter for Mr **Pettitt** last week. They were churning one afternoon and all next day till nearly 9 o'clock at night before the butter came - I do hope you will not get envious of them. Annie gets on well with her sewing machine she made herself a pair of gaiters out of a piece of brown cloth she had by her - took the pattern of mine but then put elastic 'broad black' to go under the boot and they are first class. She is always at work on one thing or another. You do have some lively times with [*indecipherable*] &c at Ryde I am glad **Mrs Blick** was there what is she doing now?

We were down here when the **C.I.Vs** came home we went up that night and at Liverpool St Station we could hear the roar of the mob. We could not get a cab for some time but did after waiting some time in passing the Mansion House the crowd was enormous we were glad to get safely to the **Trafalgar. Rillo and Gersham** are getting on alright. Gersham is very cheeky sometimes the Master scolded him the other day for something when he turned around and said I don't care plenty of other places about I can go somewhere else - I talked to him afterwards and pointed out where he was in the wrong he ought not to say what he had. So he

went off down to the [Shakespeare](#) and begged the Masters pardon & apologised for what he had said. So we are getting on a little smoother now. He told me he had sent his Father 10/- the previous week and I was very pleased to hear this and told him so. I always ask him. He says that Rillo and him are going to send a hamper between them at Christmas. There I think I have told you a budget of news. Annie send her love same from  
your affect.friend  
E. Savage.

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- [We do not know](#) what this reference to Nottingham is. Perhaps Minnie had been applying for another job.
- Nor do we know who [the American](#) was, but we think it points at Minnie having worked in one of the Savage hotels at some point.
- [Annie Wright](#) again. The reference to grandmother in Sudbury helps support our suspicions about the baby, [full details of which appear on her own page.](#)
- In 1901, Susannah Pegg was a 59 year old widow, living next door to Brick Kiln with her daughters Ada Sarah and Agnes Edith, 22 and 17. In 1891, they were living in Great Cornard, with Henry Pegg, husband and father, an Agricultural Labourer.  
The family originated from Great Waldingfield, although [Agnes](#) was born in Northamptonshire.
- In 1901, there were two Pettit families living in Glemsford, both on Tye Green; but there was also the family of [Edgar Pettitt](#), living on High St, Cavendish. Edgar's son Bernard was 24; in the September quarter of 1901, there is a marriage registration for Ada Pegg and Bernard Pettit in the Sudbury District registers. The Pettitts were bakers.
- Mrs Blick appears several times in the letters. All we know is that, in 1901, Lucy Blick, a 67 year old widow, and a domestic cook, was living on her own at 71 Arthur Street, Ryde. She was born in St Pancras.
- The [website](#) of the Worshipful Company of

**Upholders tells us:**

*"During the years 1899-1902 Britain was fighting the Boer War in South Africa. At the quarterly Court meeting held on 9th January 1900 at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street, a letter from the Lord Mayor dated 27th December 1899 was read. In it support was sought from the City Companies for the raising of a regiment of 1000 men to be called the City of London Imperial Volunteers for active service in South Africa. The Court agreed, along with most if not all of the other City Companies, that a donation be made to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Imperial Volunteers. The regiment was duly raised and served with distinction in South Africa."*

**They became known as the City Imperial Volunteers - the CIVs.**

**And the website of the [British Film Institute](#) has, dated 29 October 1900, a clip showing:**

**CITY IMPERIAL VOLUNTEERS: AT SOUTHAMPTON ON THE WAY BACK TO LONDON**  
*Shot of a train, its engine decked with flags and the letters `C.I.V.', moving out of the station, the troops waving from the windows to the people on the platform.*

***So this was probably the beginning of the celebration in which Emma got tied up.***

***Of course, the Savage hotels were all near Waterloo station, to which the troop trains from Southampton would have returned.***

- **The Trafalgar - [the Savage HQ](#) in Lambeth**
- **Rillo and Gersham - the two Brown boys working for the [Savages](#) - and it looks as though Gersham's good behaviour had not lasted.**
- **There is also some apparent concern about how much help the Brown boys are giving their widowed father back in Glemsford**
- **[The Shakespeare](#) - the second Savage Hotel**

Read about what we know about the [Brown](#)

Follow the search for the [SAVAGE FAMILY](#) of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly

Emma's [next letter to Minnie](#)

A list of all the

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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

Addressed to 2 Eastfield, Dover Street, Ryde Isle of Wight.

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Dec'r 21st 1900

BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK

Dear Minnie,

Very pleased to hear from you and shall be glad if you will come and spend a few days with me when you arrive.

We are down here now more, only going up occasionally to London when we think its necessary thats all-

Rillo and Gersham are getting on alright we are all pretty well - I am dying to have my fortune told. [Annie](#) is alright baby still at Sudbury. We are going to London for Christmas as usual wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - with love

Your Sincere friend  
E.Savage.

P.S. Before leaving ask Mrs Seeley to please give you a written character you may want it and you might not, but be sure and ask for it dont forget

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Even a short, "Christmas Greetings" letter of this sort offers us several glimpses into the lives of Emma and Araminta, and those around them.

- The Savage businesses were presumably doing well enough to allow them to spend more time "in the country", but London was the place to be for Christmas.
- Rillo and Gersham are still employed by the Savages
- The Fortune Teller reference coresponds with a [letter from a Fortune Teller among Araminta's letters](#).
- [Annie Wright and baby: there is now a separate page dedicated to them.](#)
- And this letter seems to imply that Minnie was leaving her

## employment on the Isle of Wight

Read about what we know about the [Brown Family History](#)

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[Emma's next letter to Minnie](#)

[A list of all the letters from and to the Browns](#)

## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

*We presume this is '01.  
There is an envelope with it:  
To Miss M Brown, c/o Mr Kelly, 37 Hainworth, Nr  
Keighley, Yorkshire.  
The post mark on the back is 10th March 01., and this  
would tally with the 1901 census.*

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March 8th

BRICK KILN FARM,  
GLEMSFORD, SUFFOLK.

My dear Minnie,

Glad you received the cheque alright. I left the envelope open for Mr. S to place the cheque in. I am glad you received it. We were in London last week Gersham said Minta never wrote to me or Rillo. I dont know why, if I knew her address I would write to her.

I did not say I knew but if I were you I think I would write to them, they would be pleased to hear from you.

Oh what a lot of rain day after day but I suppose its the same with you how are you getting on?

I had a letter from Mrs B she wanted to know was you married etc. when I answered her letter I never named you to her as I thought it was idle curiosity.

Trusting you are well and happy  
with best love

Yours affectionately.

E.Savage.

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As with one or two other letters, the brevity of this one cannot hide several important points:

- Araminta had moved to Yorkshire, as a domestic cook. Sandra's [outline of the family](#) explains this further. Araminta married John McGuire in 1902.
- The Savages were sending Minnie money.
- We can only guess at whether there was some family quarrel which led to Minnie ("Minta") not contacting her brothers, Gersham and Rillo. It is interesting to read the advice that Emma gives her, as a friend. By extension, we can also assume that Minnie had told Emma where she was, but not her brothers.
- Mrs B. is possibly Mrs Blick from the Isle of Wight. The social niceties of the time - it was not Emma's business to "talk" to Mrs B about Minnie's business - are worthy of note.

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Emma's [next letter to Minnie](#)

A list of all the [letters from and to the Browns](#)

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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

The envelope is addressed Miss M.Brown, c/o Mr Kelly 37 Hainworth, Near Keighley, Yorkshire.

It is just possible to see an "01" on the post mark.

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Mar 18th [1901]

BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD, SUFFOLK.

Dear Minnie

I should not take that place get a 'Daily Telegraph' on the front pages see the scale of charges. Send your advert there & when you get replies say you lived 5 years with

Mrs Savage

Hill House

Glemsford

you will sure to get answers take which you like - refer to me for character. You may have to wait out 3 years and dont start before you are ready.

We returned from town today. I write with haste to save post.

Yours with love E.S.

*On the back of the letter:*

March 21

I have had this letter returned? you must have given me the wrong address I shall send it to your old address - let me know if you get this -

Weather very squally here - you must always be careful in giving correct address.

E.S.

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### What do we make of this?

- **Araminta, having moved to Keighley, was looking for a job. Does this mean it was to follow Mr McGuire that she went, with the need for a job taking second place?**
- **We know she ended up working for the Lord Mayor as a Domestic Cook**
- **Emma was offering Minnie lots of advice**
- **We have clear evidence that, at some point, Minnie had worked for Emma, and not just in 1891, but for 5 years.**
- **There is an obvious pointer that Brick Kiln and Hill House are regarded as the same place.**
- **"To save the post" - in today's terms - "To catch the post"!**

Read about what we know about the

Follow the search for the **SAVAGE FAMILY** of Cavendish, with several twists

Emma's **next letter to Minnie**

Brown  
Family  
History

and a final, slightly  
embarrassing, turn

A list of all the  
letters from  
and to the  
Browns

## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

**We have, on the basis of other letters, and hints within  
this one, assumed that it was written in 1901.**

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**April 23rd**

**BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK**

**Dear Minnie,**

**I should like to know how you are getting on. The Lady to whom I gave your character wanted to know so much about you. I never had any Lady ask so many questions.**

**I suppose you are with her?**

**Rillo is getting on alright, but Gersham is very saucy they say it is a long lane that has no turning so we still live in hope of improving him.**

**Robert Clarke at Glemsford has failed I was astonished.**

**Annie's baby grows a beautiful girl so she says - she thinks of being married the end of the summer I shall miss her but cannot help it.**

**Bessie Salisbury who used to live with Mrs W. May, Drummond St., has died of Typhoid fever in London. I think you know her poor girl.**

**Mrs Blick wrote and inquired if you was married I did not answer her questions when writing. Let me know how you are getting on with love  
your affc. friend E.S.**

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- We cannot be sure who "the Lady" was, but assume the reference was the result of Minnie's search for work in and around Keighley.
- Rillo, Minnie's brother, cook at the Shakespeare Hotel
- Saucy Gersham, about whom many people worried
- The only Robert Clarke in the 1901 Census for Glemsford, was a "Grocer and Draper", on Egremont Street, aged 42.  
He lived with his wife and 3 children.  
In 1871, he appears as the 12 year old (second) son of Alfred ("Grocer and Draper") and Ann Clarke,  
from whom he, apparently, took on the business.  
In 1901, Robert's brother Oscar was a butcher on Tye Green.
- Annie Wright and her child feature in [an extra section of this work](#).
- Drummond St is near Euston Station.  
It is where Emma (née May) and George Savage were living at the time of their marriage.  
There is a registered death of Bessie Salisbury, in Marylebone, during the March quarter of 1901.  
This fits.
- We assume this is dear old Mrs Blick from Ryde, in the Isle of Wight.

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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

The address on the envelope is: Miss Minnie Brown, Manor Road,  
Halifax, Yorkshire.

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27 June 1901

BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK

Dear Minnie,

How are you getting on in this warm weather?

We are living down here now and I am glad of it only go up once a

fortnight.

Rillo is getting on alright but Gersham gives a lot of trouble.

We went to a Garden Party at Dr Kings Sudbury Tuesday and a concert we took Mrs Sam Garrett '- nee Katie Bird' we all enjoyed ourselves it was very good indeed.

For Whitsuntide we had Mr and Mrs George May and a nephew George Savage from Leicester.

Annie's sweetheart has behaved very shabby, but don't you tell a soul he paid up well till the child had turned 12 months old then he said he should pay no more nor yet marry her - she went to get a summons and was told by law it was too late as one must take a summons out before the first 12 months expires - so she has no claim, he had learnt that in the army of course it upset her very much.

Ada Pegg is going to marry Bernard Pettit they will live in the cottage near us.

With love I remain  
your affc. friend E.S.

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### Some more fascinating "human" detail here:

- the Savage businesses are obviously still thriving, that they can spend more time in the country.
  - Rillo continues to impress, but Gersham is still up to his old tricks.
  - Dr King: possibly, this was Herbert King of 52 Friars Street, "Medical Practitioner" according to the 1901 Census.
  - Mrs Sam Garrett/Katie Bird: daughter of William Bird, the brickmaker at the (Cavendish) Brick Kiln; Katie was 27 in 1901. She and Sam Garrett (33), Miller and Maltster, lived at Pentlow Hall Farm. William and Kate are mentioned in [the 1905 letter](#).
  - Despite frantic searches, we cannot be precise about either George May, or George Savage, the "nephew from Leicester". It is just possible that the George May may be the same person as the 5 year old living with his Savage grandparents in 1881.
  - Poor old Annie Wright! [Her story can now be told.](#)
  - Ada Pegg and Bernard Pettitt are first mentioned in the [letter of November 1900](#). It isn't clear, but it is possible that they would live in the same cottage occupied by her mother and sister at the time of the 1901 Census.  
Ada and Bernard married in the September quarter of 1901.
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Read about what we know about the [\*Brown Family History\*](#) and what we know about [their "future" in the 20th Century](#)

Follow the search for the [\*\*SAVAGE FAMILY\*\*](#) of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn

Emma's [next letter to Minnie](#)

A list of all the [letters from and to the Browns](#)

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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

**Sent to Miss M Brown, c/o Mr Longden, Thorne Croft, Keighley. Obviously Araminta didnt stay long in Halifax, and then she was working for the Lord Mayor of Keighley. It was from his home that she was married.**

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19th Decr,1901

BRICK KILN FARM,  
GLEMSFORD, SUFFOLK.

Dear Minnie,

I was pleased to hear from you. I could not imagine why you did not answer my last letter - but never mind as long as you are alright.

We all have colds. The Master has been in bed for some days with influenza he wont have a doctor. We have one day freezing hard the next a thaw & quite mild its no wonder so many are knocked up - Old Mr S. came down this morning both keep very well I am pleased to say.

I am glad you are comfortable where you are - I dont blame you for changing perhaps its all for the best.

The Glemsford band came the other night 10.30 we were all in bed we did not get up - they were so spiteful they banged on the knocker four times Nell barked but we refused to turn out of bed.

Gersham seems a littled better perhaps he will as he gets older. I saw Rillo the other Sunday he seems alright. How is your young man? I hope he has not got shot. I wish the tiresome war was over. Tom and Annie are still the same.

Wishing you a  
Jolly Christmas

Your sincere friend  
E.Savage.

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Another intriguing letter, both for the questions it raises, and for the minutiae of life around Christmas 1901!

- We can only guess that Minnie may have been too busy to write earlier.
- Throughout the letters, the passing references to the weather add to their interest; how typical of the time that Mr Savage would NOT call out a doctor!
- "Old Mr S.": this would be George Savage's father - and "both keep very well"!

[The 1913 letter](#) talks about their 73rd Wedding Anniversary in 1912, so by Christmas 1901 they had already celebrated their 62nd, and were roughly 81 and 83 years old!

- We are not entirely sure of the sequence of Minnie's (Domestic Cook) jobs, but she was working for the Lord Mayor of Keighley by now.
- One of my favourite mental pictures from all the letters is that of the Glemsford Band turning up at Brick Kiln, late evening, just before Christmas 1901, for some fun, and being ignored by the residents.

I don't blame Emma at all. Perhaps she should have let Nell out to sort them out.

But it goes to show, perhaps, that "modern" irritants like bad Carol Singers or Trick and Treaters are nothing new.

At a more serious level, there are few references to the Glemsford band. In "Glorious Glemsford", Richard Deeks has a photo of the Glemsford Brass Band, 1893: presumably, the same outfit.

- Is there hope for Gersham? Rillo potters on as normal
- We gather, again, that Minnie's young man was still in South Africa, fighting the Boers. We hope she was comforted by Emma's wish that he had not "got shot"!

We also assume that Minnie's young man was the John McGuire whom she married in 1902.

- Tom and Annie were, presumably, Tom Brown and [Annie Wright](#), the only occupants ("servants") of the (Glemsford) Brick Kiln at the 1901 Census.

---

Read about what

Follow the search for the

Emma's [next](#)

we know about the [Brown Family History](#) and what we know about their "future" in the [20th Century](#)

[SAVAGE FAMILY](#) of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn

[letter to Minnie](#)

A second letter to Minnie, [December 1901.](#)

A list of all the [letters from and to the Browns](#)

## "Dear Minnie..."

### [A Letter to Araminta Brown](#)

**This letter is not from Emma Savage, but Minnie's friend, Grace.**

*It was sent from Dover. Sandra has established that Araminta Brown probably trained in Dover as a Domestic Cook, and probably worked there too.*

**The envelope is dated Dec 01 and addressed to Miss M Brown, c/o Mr Longsdon, Thorne Croft, Keighley, Yorkshire.**

---

Hope old Ian gives Mrs B [a present like you returned hers]

*7 Effingham Crescent,  
Dover*

My dearest Min,

Many thanks for your letter. Do forgive me not writing as it really is [not?] my fault this time. I written you a long letter 2 days ago & find it I can't. I put it up to get a card but here goes for another. The card you sent Dear is sweetly pretty. I hope you will spend a happy Xmas & as merry as possible. I'll be in all day as the [HM?] goes away. Shall be very glad when its all over as it makes so much to do. R. went home on Sat. She sent her love, also [?] R said she would enclose in mine but she went off & forgot so if she don't write Dear you must excuse. I have never heard from Bill for ages. I wrote to ask him for that money but no answer.

Hope Mac is alright & that you will soon here that he is coming home. Remember me to him. I have not heard again from Teddie [Lizzie?] is in another [circle??] & seems much better. I not been to one dance as yet & don't think I shall. I am dead off. Oh for the old times. Old Gert is home & just as lively as ever she sent her love to you dear. Please excuse short letter promise longer next have got so many to write & so much to do that I am fed up

I don't forget you Min Dear though I am so long in writing, but you know the bounder I am. Enjoy yourself as much as possible then the time goes quicker. Shall I [come?] & go to the dances? Only wish I could. Au Revoir with much love & best of good wishes.

Hoping the New Year will bring better luck than the last.

Your loving friend

Grace

xxxxx

---

**Because this the only letter we have from "Grace", it has been more difficult to identify many of the references.**

**Also, although the handwriting appears clear enough, it is actually quite hard to decipher, particularly names.**

**However, it is still worth including here, if only as a link to Minnie's other friends beyond Glemsford and the Savages.**

**It also sits neatly alongside the contemporary letters from Emma around the end of 1901.**

**What we have been able to clarify:**

- **The 1901 Dover Census shows 7 Effingham Crescent occupied by John Ormsby, Doctor of Medicine, his wife Eliza, son Charles, GRACE Veazey, Domestic Cook, aged 24, and Charlotte Friend, Housemaid. So we are assuming that the letter writer was Grace Veazey.**
- **"Mac", we think, must have been Minnie and Grace's pet name for John McGuire, Minnie's**

sweetheart and husband-to-be.

This also suggests a link between Dover and that relationship

- Unfortunately, we cannot be more precise about any of the other names. It is just possible that "Mrs B" in the note added at the top of the letter was Mrs Blick of the Isle of Wight. Mrs Blick's age and frequency of mention does pose the question whether she had something to do with Minnie and Grace's training.
- We are charmed by the reference to dancing and the "old times". Nostalgia is not just a recent characteristic.
- At a trivial level, it is also interesting to note that Grace calls Araminta "Min", Emma Savage called her "Minnie", while brother Gersham referred to her as "[Minta](#)".

<p>Read about what we know about the <a href="#">Brown Family History</a> and what we know about <a href="#">their "future" in the 20th Century</a></p>	<p>Follow the search for the <a href="#">SAVAGE FAMILY</a> of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn</p>	<p><a href="#">Emma's December 1901 letter</a> to Minnie</p> <p><a href="#">Emma's February 2002 letter</a> to Minnie</p> <p><a href="#">A list of all the letters from and to the Browns</a></p>
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**"Dear Minnie..."**

***Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown***

**Addressed to Miss Minnie Brown, c/o Mr. Longsdon,  
Thorn Croft, Keighley.**

---

Had to borrow this envelope off Annie.

**February 23rd 1902**

BRICK KILN FARM,  
GLEMSFORD, SUFFOLK.

Dear Minnie ,

I have been away to Bournemouth for a fortnight. I have been poorly a thorough cold which I cannot shake off.

We came down a week ago Master spoke very strongly to Gersham about assisting his Father. Gersham said he intended to send 5/- that week so Mr. S. said I am going down I will take it he did he went and saw your Father and gave him 7 shillings he added 2/- to it. He has made up his mind to leave Glemsford and come to Yorkshire I hope it will turn out for the best.

Will Savage went one Sunday to the Sunday League Concert there were good seats 3d and 6d but Gersham was in the best seat 1/- he ought to think a little now.

We have had very bad weather here a week ago the 16th it froze the flowers in the greenhouse it was very severe there is a good deal of sickness about. Mr & Mrs Bixby at Melford both ill in bed.

Mr Prentice has broke owes over £2,000 business is very [quiet] hoping you are keeping well with best love your affectionate friend E.S.

---

**Another letter with lots of detail hidden within it.**

- **The "borrowed" envelope had a black border! Must have caused a bit of a shock when it arrived.**
- **Bournemouth seems to have been a popular place for Emma in 1902. The [May 1902 letter](#) talks more about it.**
- **The "advice" that Mr Savage was giving Gersham seems to highlight not a little friction, and possibly some problems, within the Brown family.**

**We suspect George Savage's action in "offering" to take the money to Glemsford was a classic example of bluff being called.**

**And yet again we find the Savages adding some of their own money to the income of the Browns.**

- This is the only reference to George Brown moving out of Glemsford, to travel north (to be near Minnie?). We don't think it happened.
- [Will Savage](#), George and Emma's nephew, manager of the Shakespeare Hotel, 88-90 York Road in Waterloo.
- Clearly, Emma is getting more and more frustrated by Gersham's feckless and extravagant behaviour.
- Charles and Emily Bixby ran a baker's business on Westgate Street, Long Melford
- In the 1901 Census for Cavendish, there are two Prentice families:  
William Prentice, aged 60, a butcher, on the High Street, next door to the "White Horse" (next door to the "Bull"),  
and  
further up the High Street, near the "George", Thomas Prentice, aged 37, a "Cattle Dealer".  
Both men had families of their own.  
The 1881 Census makes clear that they were father and son.  
It is not clear, at this stage, which of them had gone broke, although my money would be on the son.
- And of course more references to bad weather and illness.

Read about what we know about the [Brown Family History](#) and what we know about [their "future" in the 20th Century](#)

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Emma's [next letter to Minnie](#)  
  
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**"Dear Minnie..."**

**[Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta](#)**

## **Brown**

**The address is Miss Minnie Brown, Thorn Croft,  
Keighley. dated May 2nd 1902**

---

Quite cold today

**May 2nd 1902**

**BRICK KILN FARM,  
GLEMSFORD, SUFFOLK.**

**Dear Minnie,**

**I am so glad your father & the boys are getting on better.**

**I was away at Bournemouth when they started. I went for a fortnight came home for a few days then went off back again its a lovely warm place for the winter. March 10th we had tea on the sands the children were digging with spades & pails quite like summer time. The people were sitting about on seats in the sun reading, band playing on the pier every morning.**

**Master came down from Saturday till Monday, then he was not surprised I went back again. I was there a month.**

**I did get your letter alright in which you dont expect come to Glemsford again, but we never can tell what is in store for us. May 8th we shall be at the Trafalger for a week. Mr and Mrs S are going away for a few days as he has not been well.**

**Rillo is alright and very good & sensible, but Gersham is very trying.**

**I was very sorry your health is poorly the vaccination would do you more harm than good its all got up by Doctors to put money in their pockets, so they frighten people into it. More people get smallpox that are vaccinated than those who are not, in London where we live we never hear of a single case and not one of any of our friends are vaccinated but the doctor get a lot of lies in the newspapers expressly to frighten the people and laugh at them behind their backs. If you can get a holiday you can come to me for a rest perhaps a change would do you good. I have told you when I shall be at home.**

We are spring cleaning now. Mr Rice is painting the staircase a pale green & white it will look nice I think. Annie is polishing the furniture. Master is feeding the chicks and I am writing this in the kitchen. I am glad your sweetheart is alright. I do hope the war will soon be over now. Mr. Prentice broke again. Master bought that field 4 1/2 acres opposite us so we are all busy. Annie wishes to be remembered to you. Hoping this will find you better with love

Your affc friend  
E.Savage.

---

**So many items of personal and more general interest:**

- The opening makes it even clearer that their have been arguments in the Brown family, as suggested in the [February letter](#).
- Bournemouth again! It is a clear sign of their prosperity just how much time the Savages were now able to spend away from their businesses.
- Then there is the slightly ominous note that Minnie may never return to Glemsford, having chosen to find her new life in Yorkshire. Emma's "common sense" approach to life, and what it might hold in store, means she refuse to accept that this is certain.
- Gersham contnues to cause concern; Rillo, as ever, is fine.
- The question of vaccination worried alot of people. Emma here shows yet more of her healthy scepticism towards the medical profession, already displayed by her husband. Nevertheless, smallpox was a serious threat. A newspaper extract on the [Foxearth site](#) states:  
January 1st 1902  
*A case of small-pox is reported at North End, Little Yeldham.  
The man is named Cranfield and he had been working at Grays and had travelled from there to Yeldham a few days before Christmas.  
Steps have been taken to isolate the patient, fortunately the cottage where he is living is only occupied on one side.*

*Arrangements have been made with the Rural Council for the hire of some tents if the outbreak spreads.*

Yet again, Emma displays her friendship in inviting Minnie to come to stay to help get over her poor health.

- [Annie Wright](#) was still working at Brick Kiln.
- News has obviously come through to the effect that Minnie's sweetheart [has not been shot!](#)
- Father and son, Jack and George Rice, are the only men of that name in Cavendish in 1901. Plumbers and Glaziers, they lived on Poole Street.

However, on Brook Street, Glemsford, lived George Rice (49), a Painter and Decorator. More likely, this was Emma's man.

- The reference to Mr Prentice echoes other comments in the [February](#) and [June letters](#). The 4 1/2 acres opposite, the June letter tells us, came from Mr Prentice's creditors.

A newspaper extract on the [Foxearth website](#) carries the following item:

**August 8th 1900:**

*Gravelpit Hall Farm, Glemsford, 21 acres, near the railway station, dwelling house, excellent farm premises, in occupation of William Prentice, sold to William Prentice for £ 450.*

This could well be where the 4 1/2 acres were situated, since Gravel Pit Hall is just along the road from Brick Kiln (towards Melford).

This does raise questions, however as to whether it was Mr William or Mr Thomas Prentice whose business had failed.

- And finally, the rural idyll of George Savage, hotel keeper and wealthy man, "feeding the chicks"!

Read about what we know about the [Brown Family History](#) and what we know about their "future" in the

Follow the search for the [SAVAGE FAMILY](#) of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn

Emma's [next letter to Minnie](#)

A list of all the [letters from and to the](#)

## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

**Rarely, for Emma, this letter was not written on headed note paper. It is also addressed from "Hill House" rather than Brick Kiln**

---

Hill House  
Glemsford  
Suffolk  
June 17th 02.

My dear Minnie,

I suppose you are now in the seventh heaven of delight now peace is proclaimed and your sweetheart will be returning. I am very glad of it London is all alive for the Coronation the decorations are simply splendid better than London as ever seen before but the weather has been beastly rain day & night. We were in town all last week saw Rillo & Gersham they are alright.

I suppose you will have gay doings on your place.

I have had the house painted & the greenhouse and the staircase a pale green with white bannisters also steps & rises it does look nice. Mr. S has bought that field opposite us 4.1/2 acres. Mr Prentices creditors sold it for him. I suppose you heard he failed again. We only want the sunshine to make everything look lovely. Old Nell was pleased to see me last night.

I was going out for a ride but down came the rain, so I am writing letters instead. I was very pleased to hear your health was better may it continue so, always try & look on the bright side, wherever you are with luck  
Believe me

love

Your sincere friend

E. Savage.

---

This letter coincides with a very interesting time in national history - the end of the Boer War and the forthcoming Coronation.

- [Glemsford School log book](#) carries fascinating detail about the different ways in which the Relief of Mafeking, the new King and the end of the Boer War were celebrated in the village.
- Entries in the [Foxearth newspaper pages](#) also carry details of the Coronation celebrations in August 1902.
- Mr Prentice's bankruptcy was mentioned in the [February](#) and [May 1902](#) letters.
- Only a passing reference to Rillo and Gersham in this letter ...
- ... but at least Minnie's health has improved, and the imminent return of her sweetheart would open the way for her marriage later in the year.
- even if the weather is still cause for negative comment!

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## Something Odd

or at least different

*Minnie Brown Consults a Palm Reader*

---

Most of the other letters we have looked at have been sent from Brown to Brown, or from Savage to Brown.

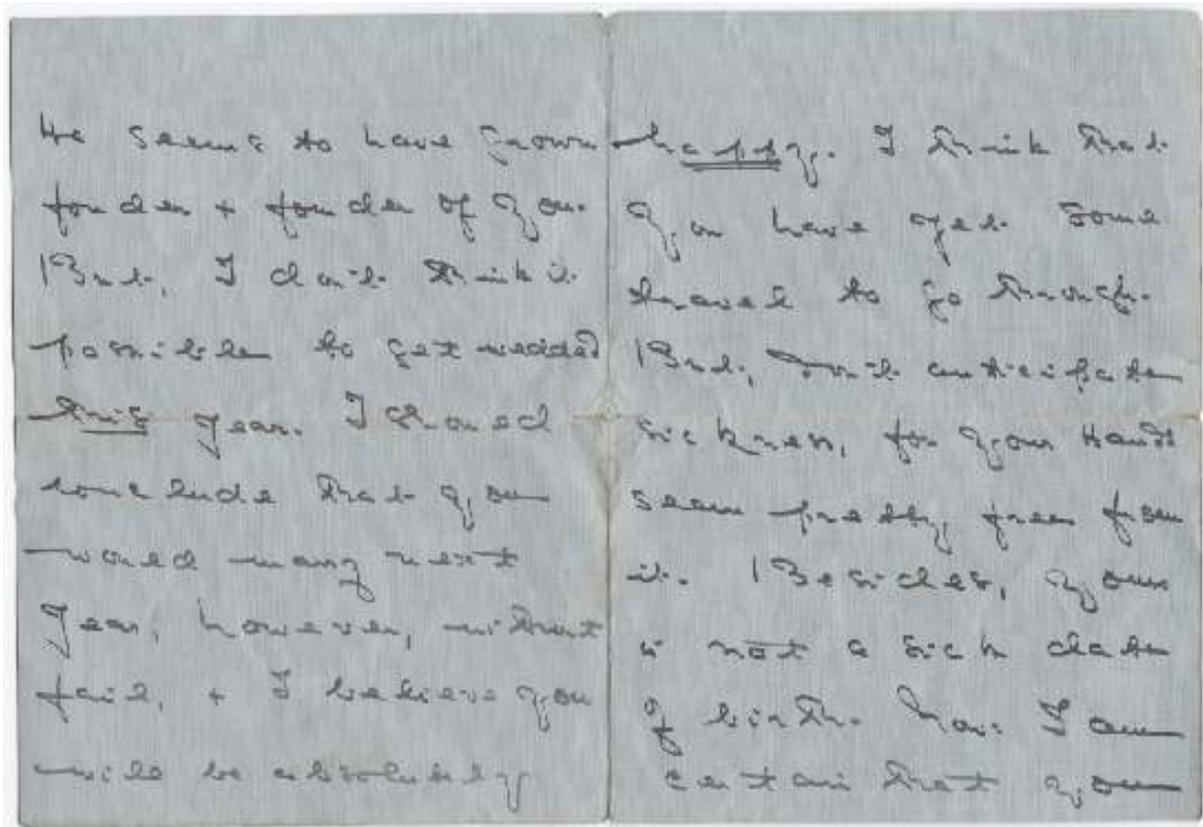
This one stands out as an oddity.

Apart from anything else, it is very difficult to read, and the subject matter, while true of its time, may seem a little odd today!

will find that 1908 just  
coming along, decidedly  
good, + can trust it.  
I wish you ever so  
much for your great  
business + recommending  
me to your friends.  
Stay where you are  
till marriage, as you  
are respected, + esteemed,  
+ liked there.

Miss Anna Theological Society  
Madam Colman - 11 Howley Road  
Reading, Berks - Aug: 1908.

If the premium be exact  
to your hand, I think  
that you two would  
do very wisely to take  
a little business together.  
Since I last looked  
at you last, your  
lover's influence has  
become much deeper.



---

Miss Mins [...]ological Details by  
Madam Coleier 11 Howley Road,  
Paddington W. August 1902

If I'm pressed on being exact to your hand, I think that you two would do very wisely to take a little business together. Since I last looked at your lines, your lover's influence line has become much deeper.

He seems to have grown fonder & fonder of you. But I don't think it is possible to get wedded this year. I should conclude that you would marry next year, however without fail, & I believe you will be absolutely

happy. I think that you have some travel to go through. But I don't anticipate sickness for your hands seem pretty free from it. Besides, yours is not a sick date of birth. Now: I am certain that you

will find this 1903 just coming along decidedly good & can trust it. Thank you ever so much for your great kindness in recommending me to your friends. Stay where you are till marriage as you are respected, & esteemed & liked there.

---

I have divided the transcript into the four "sides" of the original.

- The word in doubt in the address line may be chiroman-ological, but the first part of the word is very difficult to decipher.
- I wonder if "travel" is meant to be "travail".
- Araminta obviously took no notice of her as she married in 1902 - 2nd November.  
Her first child was born in July 1903.
- It is interesting to note that this was not the first time she had consulted the palm reader - and that she had been recommending the lady to her friends!

<p>Read about what we know about the <a href="#"><u>Brown Family History</u></a></p>	<p>Follow the search for the <a href="#"><u>SAVAGE FAMILY</u></a> of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn</p>	<p>A list of all the <a href="#"><u>letters from and to the Browns</u></a></p>
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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

Sandra and I disagree about this letter. Sandra is sure it is 1905; I think it may be 1903. All historians argue sometimes!

---

Jan'ry 22nd 1905.

BRICK KILN FARM  
GLEMSFORD SUFFOLK

Dear Minnie,

I was sorry to hear you have has such bad luck [...], they always say one thing never comes alone. I've had Master very bad again he is up today and I am glad. Its the old complaint, he has been in bed living on hot distilled water only and a hot water bottle to his feet. Directly he eats anything he was in fearful pain so he could not eat until he was right down obliged to take some milk. I had a letter from town. Mrs S said it was black fog there she had the toothache & had it out. [King Brown](#) had a sore throat [Will](#) made him have a warm bath some bread & milk & go to bed next morning he telegraphed for his Mother to come up & he went off to

his young womans.

John had slip[t] down the kitchen stairs at [the Trafalgar](#) & bruised himself. Syd had gone down to give [Rillo](#) a little help Rillo asked Syd to hold the meat for him to chop & he had chopped Syds hand instead nearly to the bone. He had been to the hospital to have it sewn up, they are afraid he will lose his middle finger - [Albert Beavis](#) was laid up with Quinceys in the throat & the housekeeper was poulticing his throat and he was better.

I suppose you know [Gersham](#) has left sometime ago, Master discharged him, he would only do what he liked, and in business that dont do.

[Mr Bird](#) has left the Brickiln he lives alone in a cottage by the Style in Water Lane. Kate goes over everyday & looks after him. [Annie](#) is alright her baby is nearly 3 years old she never gets a penny from him. I enclose you a postal note for 10/- and sincerely hope as the days brighten so will your future - with love & good wishes.

Yours truly

E.Savage.

- 
- [King Brown](#) is a familiar name in Glemsford. In 1901 there were two living there, one on Fair Green and another on Hunts Hill. At this stage, we think one of them may have a direct family connection with "our" Browns: Tracey has tracked King Brown, living on Fair Green, back to John (George's father)Brown's brother Thomas' line!
  - Presumably [Will Savage](#), again. Manager of the Shakespeare in 1901
  - Beavis/Beevis is a familiar Glemsford name. Possibly, this refers to Albert Beevis (spelling from the Census), who was the son of James and Sophia Beevis of Hunts Hill. He was 16 in 1901. His father was a "Cocoa Mat Maker"; in 1901, Albert was a "Yarn Winder - Hemp".
- [BACK](#)
- [The Trafalgar](#). 60 York Road Lambeth. the main Savage hotel
  - Florillo [William Brown](#), of our Brown family
  - From what we read earlier about [Gersham](#), this

- was not a surprise!
- William Bird had been a brick maker in Cavendish since at least 1861. Since at least 1871, he, and his family had been resident at Brick Kiln, which occurs on the Cavendish census, but next door to the Brick Kiln/Hill House which appears on the Glemsford census. His daughter [Kate](#) was 27 in 1901; she was married to Samuel Garrett, Miller and Maltster, and was living at Pentlow Hall Farm. In 1891, she was staying with her grandparents, John and Mary Ann Cooper, at Great Holland in Essex. John Cooper was a retired brickmaker.
  - [Annie Wright](#) again? [Her own page is now online.](#) *(It's this reference that makes me think this was 1903. Sandra disagrees! But I'll admit it is possible that the age of the child is given as 6, rather than 3, and the "baby" reference is ironic.)*

<p>Read about what we know about the <a href="#">Brown Family History</a></p>	<p>Follow the search for the <a href="#">SAVAGE FAMILY</a> of Cavendish, with several twists and a final, slightly embarrassing, turn</p>	<p>Emma's <a href="#">last letter</a> to Minnie.  A list of all the <a href="#">letters from and to the Browns</a></p>
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## "Dear Minnie..."

### *Emma Savage's Letters to Araminta Brown*

**This is the last letter that we have from Emma to Araminta. There seems to have been a big gap between their writing to each other.**

**Inevitably, there seem to have been a lot of changes. Emma has gone blind; we suspect that the writing of this letter may have been done by G M Brown, referred to in the Foxearth detail of the family.**

**It was also this letter which finally led us to the [Savage family](#) of Cavendish.**

---

HILL HOUSE,  
GLEMSFORD,  
SUFFOLK

15 Jan'ry 1913

Dear Minnie,

I was so very pleased to hear from you and on my birthday too. Saturday was a terrible day here we had quite a blizzard. We were going to London, but I was taken ill and was unable to go so the master went to Sudbury and sent [Mr Willie](#) instead. I have often thought of you and wondered why you never wrote.

Its quite true I am blind and cannot write, but my thoughts is as keen and clear as ever.

I hope you will not let Hilda go into the mill, teach all your children if you can the value of cooking, it will never go out of fashion.

I was very glad to hear your husband is in work again and trust he will make the home better and brighter for you all.

Fancy [Ethel and Olive](#) grown to young woman, what a little temper Ethel had but I am glad she is getting on alright. Your father wished he was back in Glemsford and I wished so too - you will remember [Mr Paton](#) the schoolmaster he is very ill and has sent in his resignation - poor things they dont know where to go the doctor has ordered him to live in Surrey he has least trouble he turns quite blue in the face. Their youngest son went to America 3 years ago and has been doing well so he is coming home this year for a holiday. The daughter Emmie is engaged to a young man who has gone to Australia and she is going to join him in October. Mrs Hall is deeply grieved they are leaving.

Mr Savages [father and mother](#) are in fairly good health for their age - on the 9th of November last they celebrated their 73rd wedding day - The King sent them a telegram of congratulations they were so pleased, they skipped about as if they were 50 instead of 92 and 94. I hope you will be able to come down in the summer - as you know how pleased I should be to see you.

[Mrs Blick](#) is still living at Ryde I.W. but she is very discontented, she has 10/- a week to live on 5/- of the old

age pension and the other I allow her, but she has had so many different lodgings and falls out with the various people that I really don't know what to do for her.

There is not very much alteration in the place about here. No new buildings and Colleys factory is still empty.

[Mr and Mrs E. Watkinson](#) at the shop are living in the house where Mr Marshall lived. They have sold their shop.

[Enoch Watkinson](#) is still working at the little factory next the Three Turns - one daughter is still school teacher at Glemsford the other is in service, but poor thing she has very bad health - and his son that he meant for a schoolmaster did not like it and went to a situation in London at the Carlton Club he was doing well and they all liked him so much - but his health broke down and he is living at home with his father and has never been fit to go to work since, its very hard on the Father and Mother for they have tried very hard to get on.

Our storeroom here we have made into a bathroom and W.C. at the end - we can have a warm bath at any time - we have a new kitchen stove and a cistern on the top of the house so the bath is supplied with hot and cold water . The man pumps up the water every morning - it is such an improvement. We have had it about 5 years - Miss Alices husband Mr Higgins designed it and saw it all done in a proper manner. They have bought a farm at West Bergholt near Colchester call the Manor Farm there is 96 acres and they are having very extensive alterations it will be a lovely place when finished - she has such a good husband - he thinks the world of her, they have no children but they are very happy together - you remember [Miss Annie](#) who came to spend her honeymoon with you well she married a second time to a widower with one daughter and she is very happy and comfortable. She has a nice house at Clacton and another private house in London of 14 rooms and her daughter Poppy and his daughter are companions.

Mrs Spraggs name is now Mrs Coan - she sent her daughters to a school for cookery and they are both splendid cooks and the strange part is that every servant they have are always anxious to imitate them

and learn cooking. Mrs Coan says that if ever they are reduced in life they will never be reduced to want while they have that trade now dear Minnie I must conclude and wishing you all a bright and happy New Year and may each year, be better for you and yours, than the last one  
with love  
I remain  
yours sincerely,  
E.Savage.

---

- Presumably, [William Savage](#), of the Shakespeare Hotel, Emma and George's nephew.
- Ethel and Olive were Araminta's young sisters. In 1901 they were 10 and 8 years old. They went to live in Keighley with Araminta and John which probably explains the tone of this reference.  
[BACK](#)
- In 1901, William Payton, his wife and 4 children, lived in the Board School on Lion Road. The house went with the job. He was 45 then. His daughter Alice (20 in 1901) was a trainee teacher, and several Paytons feature in the Log Books of the Primary School.  
[BACK](#)
- John and Jane Savage, from whom this remarkable family grew.
- This possibly refers to Ernest Watkinson who, in 1901 was a Grocer Shopkeeper on Hunts Hill. There were 4 Marshall families in the village in 1901. The nearest one to the Watkinsons was just 2 doors away on Hunts Hill.  
[BACK](#)
- In 1901, Lucy Blick appears on the 1901 Census for Ryde on the Isle of Wight as a domestic cook, living on her own in a single room at 71 Arthur Street.  
She was already 67 and a widow.  
[BACK](#)
- In 1901, Enoch Watkinson was living, with his family, on Angel Lane. He was a "Cocoa Mat Maker". His daughter Eliza, then 17, was a pupil teacher at the school. His older son, Arthur, then

16, is the only person in the 1901 Glemsford Census returns to be recorded as a worker in the Flax or Linen industry.

[BACK](#)

- We are not sure about the other references. The Higgins are mentioned in the 1900 letters, and (we hope) "Annie" may be Annie Wright [who featured so much in the early letters.](#)
- And, in passing, here is some fascinating detail about the progress of house improvements at that time.

Read about what we know about the [Brown Family History](#)

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A list of all the [letters from and to the Browns](#)

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September 5 2005

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