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This is the life story of Eveline Sophia Pratten
started on the 5th Oct 1968 on her 88th birthday
My Parents lived to the age of 90 & 88, Henry
Prior & Emily Prior, I had 4 brothers. My first
recollections are I think at the age of 4 1/2 yrs old when
I was taken to Pontypool, St. Wales to stay with my
Aunt & Uncle for a month, I was put to sleep with
a relation, she was not really old, but to my children's
mind look^{ed} very old, I cried all night, & the next
night slept with my Aunt & Uncle, but was so restless
had to sleep in a bed in their room, My Aunt
had been a nurse in a large house, so I always
had very lovely clothes which was passed on to
me, It was said, The Grandfather of the family
a foundling & was named Bythway, afterwards
allied to Bythway, They were rich lawyers, The sons
& my Uncle managed one of their farms, I also
remember going to prayer meeting several nights a week
where all the people met & prayed. We also always had
evening prayer, always turning down the lamp to save
oil, They were very religious. The next thing I can
remember was the nurse coming to the house with a
black^{ish} & telling us she had brought a baby brother.
Christening day came & I was christened with my baby
brother & I caused a sensation by answering the preacher
when he asked me if I knew about God & I said No,
I was an only girl with 4 brothers, so had a lot of
teasing, I was sent to school in the usual way, we
had to take our school money every Monday morning.

When he asked me if I would do it, I said yes. I was an only girl with 4 brothers, so had a lot of teasing. I was sent to school in the usual way, we had to take our school money every Monday morning. 4 p. m. for a few years nothing of importance happened. We moved house several times. Every week we went to Band of Hope on Tuesdays. I remember learning to knit & have carried on ever since. The aunt I stayed with at Pontypool came to Kingwood to see a specialist, I was 10 yrs then, she stayed with us for a few months but died eventually of a growth. At her funeral I was dressed all in black, mostly crepe, which every one then wore for mourning, deep black 12 inches half mourning for the first 12 mths. My eldest brother was apprenticed to the clicking in a big boot factory, Portland Square, Bristol. & as there was no transport he walked every day in & out from Kingwood to Bristol a distance of 4 miles each way for 7 years. He had to wear spectacles as his eyes were weak, but at that time very few people wore them, he was teased & called double eyes, so he took them off when ever possible.

unfortunately my eyes were not good & in sewing
Class I could not see properly, but through my brother
being so much trouble with his glasses my mother used to
say it was fancy. My Father was the Manager of a boot
Factory so we moved to a new house next door. He always
rang a bell at 6-30 AM for the work people & at 1 PM for
dinner 5-30 PM. Some times they had to work over
until 8-30 PM. Kingwood at that time had many boot
factories & plenty of work. I was still going to school &
my 2nd brother was training to be a teacher. My next
brother 2 yrs older, Oliver, was always interested in books.
My eldest brother got engaged to a Warrington girl, & every
evening after walking home from Bristol used to walk
to Warrington a distance about 1½ miles, after a year or two
my father decided to open a Factory with my Uncle who
had come to live with us after my Aunt's death.
But my father was a wonderful ^{ful} servant but had no
ideal of running the business side, so after a few
years of hard work with no good results, they had to
give up. One traveller they had let them down at
the finish. The factory was closed down with all their
savings gone, so my father got another job as manager.
I had to give up my music lessons & we had to
economise. Soon after this my uncle was taken ill &
my brother nursed him with Bronchitis. He had never
mentioned making a will, but one night he said I will

Economise, Soon after this my uncle was taken ill & my brother nursed him with Bronchitis. He had never mentioned making a will but one night he said I wish to make my will & truly, At that time there was no solicitor in Kingswood but a solicitor's Chief Clerk, so he came & after making the will, my Father said, now I must find two witnesses, The Chief Clerk a Mr Cook said, only one, you have not been left a legacy only your wife so you can sign, my father was rather doubtful but signed. My uncle died a few days afterwards, The will was sent to the lawyer at Ponty pool. On the day of my Uncle's funeral, the lawyer came with the will & told my parents the will was void, owing to my Father's signature, It was a great blow to them as my Mother was sole legatee, the money my Uncle had put in the business had to be paid back into the estate, & all had to be divided up to husband & wife, my Mother only had a very small share. It was a very sad time for us children, even our furniture had to be bought back as they took a bill of Sale on that because of business closing. & our savings as well, Eventually my Father had another situation as Manager

in another book & Shoe Factory in Soundwell.
We had a nice big house adjoining the Factory.
At this time my brother Sidney had been in for his
exam & failed. The School Master was not really
Capable of bringing the teachers on. That was another
great blow to my Mother. It was decided then he
should have a Corresponding Class, he worked
very hard for a few years & passed. Later he went
to Cheltenham College for 2 years & we were all
much happier. At that time I was not very interested
in school, but bitterly regretted it all my life.

A lady had come from Torquay & opened a
Millinery business in Rognwood & wanted an
apprentice. A friend of my Mother (who knew her)
gave me a good recommendation. I was always
rather proud of reading it when she said I
was a little lady. However I was every happy
with her & used to sleep with her & stay three
week ends. She grew very fond of me & as I
was very fond of jewellery at that time, used to
give me her jewel box to tidy. I loved putting on
her rings & bracelets etc. She really nearly parted
me from my own people. I was happier with her
than home. One day she went away for a holiday
to Torquay & brought me home a lovely little

than home, one day she went away for a holiday
to Tongue & brought me home a lovely little
Silver Watch & Chain, Oh! how proud I was of that
she gave me a ring & several pieces of jewellery.

But Ringwood proved too cold for her in the winter
after Tongue & she sold the business, saying I
must come & stay with her later. She opened a
sort of private business in Tongue & really did
very well. I went down & stayed 2 months with
her & she offered to leave me all she had if I
came with her, but by that time I was getting older.
The people who bought the business made it into
a Drapers Shop & I did not like that. I was
16 then & I went to Regent St. Clifton as an imprinter.
I had to go to Staple Hill Station every morning to
catch the 8-11 tram, change at Fishponds & go to
Clifton Down Station, & walk $3\frac{1}{4}$ mile to business.
I met nice people going & coming, there was a nice
young man in Smith's Club where they had a library
we used to get me all the latest books, all of
Marie Corelli's I was able to read, when at that
time it was difficult to get one to read.

He wanted to come home with me but I could not have reciprocated. One young man I got very fond of. He was a medical student at the Medical School. He used to always get into the same compartment, & walk from the Clifton Station to Regent St. Mornings with me. but he would always say he had to marry money. & indeed he did marry a niece of 3 rich old ladies & I think & went to Cornwall in a practice. It was a very select business. Very little to do. The milliner was a Court milliner & used to come into the work-room bustling sick. She always had her dresses lined in silk. I did not know at the time but the lady who ran the business, Madame Constantine, was the great friend of a gentleman who used to come & stay week-ends often. & was not really run to make money. I had to go to a riding school 3 mornings a week to order a horse for Madame. She was fond of horse riding. She used to let two of us, (there were only 4 besides the milliner & a servant) go for a walk across the Downs some mornings. One girl was a great friend to me for years. Then one day the blow fell Madame sent for us separately to say she was closing down. It was after one of days the

to me for years. Then one day the blow fell
Madame sent for us separately to say she was
closing down. It was after one of days the
gentleman had been slaying, his eyes were red
with crying. She said she was going on the
Continent & should be travelling.

The business was sold to a Bath Milliner who
ran several shops, a very different business to
the other. They also had a shop in Park Street.
I don't think it could have paid as after 6 months

The business was transferred to Park St.
A fresh Milliner came & more assistants. I think the
name of Wmdebarke is still on some of their shops
to-day. Up to that time Miss Drew still wrote me a letter
often. She had given up her business & made her money
over to a niece who had a very nice gentlemen shop
in Paignton & she lived with them in a nice house & was
well looked after. Indeed after I was married & could
drive a car I took my brother & his wife to Paignton to
see her. My brother Oliver had a boot factory of his own
then & was in good circumstances. We had a lovely
week end there & stayed at a post Hotel & I was able
to take Miss Drew out a few times.

She was an old lady then & a little while after her niece wrote to say she had passed away. I was rather disappointed she did not leave me anything but thinks her money had all gone in the Bee's business. By this time I was eighteen & was quite experienced in Millinery, but I had the chance to go into an office, the same form my Father was in. So I thought a change would be good. I was in the Costing office & stayed there one year, afterwards going back to the same shop of Windebanks. I used to make hats for my friends & they were so proud to tell their friends when they asked if they had their hats in Park St. they would say, I couldn't afford Park St. but a young lady who works there does mine. It was quite a happy workroom. We had hats to copy which the owner brought from Paris. They had to be copied exactly like the expensive one & was very complicated at times. One of the girls lived at the Y.W.C.A. & we went to a party there; it was the first party I had ever been to & enjoyed it very much. By this time I had met my future husband. At that time he had just finished eight years apprenticeship, £100 premium & when he had finished his time earned the large sum of -10/- & up.

husband, at that time he had just finished eight years apprenticeship, £100 premium & when he had finished his time earned the large sum of -10/- a wk. He did not care for tailoring really & should have been put to farming, his heart was with animals. His parents thought he was delicate & he had gone to a private school at a place in Eastville about 3 miles from his home, he walked that for 6 years twice a day & I think it had really made his health quite tough. My Father had retired from work & lived at Staple Hill Rd. My brother Oliver had his own boot factory, was married, My brother Hedley, a school master was married to a school mistress, My eldest brother had married the girl he walked to Hanham every night to see. There was only my younger brother home & he was with a firm in the timber trade. 2 brothers had been left money from their father who was elderly & married a young wife. They were from Scotland & after their father died came to Bristol & bought a timber yard. My brother Stanley went to St George Secondary School & was able to have a good education. I went with him when he applied for the situation. They were very nice young men & took a fancy

to my brother, gave him presents & invited him to
their home in Clifton, It was a pity really as they
gave him a liking for spirits etc, The younger
brother played football in his matches, but owing to a
very wet winter he contracted 'Consumption', he went to
Switzerland & altho' he had just married a Clifton doctors
daughter died at the age of 29. The other brother who
had been crossed in love, seemed to lose interest in
everything died & the business was eventually closed
down which was a great loss for my brother as he had
risen to manager & was in a good position, at that
time work was very bad & he was out for 2 years,
I must remember the lovely holiday I had in Cornwall, when
I was 17, a little place called Polruan, Mr Fowey,
It was the home of my brother Hedley's wife, This was
before they were married, Her name was Ada Tadh & she
was a teacher & when Hedley was away in Cheltenham
College used to spend all her spare time & week ends at
our house, so this holiday was a lovely experience for me,
Her father was a chemist & as they had 2 more children
Ada was left with her Grandmother when they moved to London,
indeed she never went to live with her own people as
she got the situation as teacher at the same school as
my brother, we had a lovely time, Oh morning we could
go out to the market, little country place by the sea

She got the situation as teacher at The same School as my brother, we had a lovely time. In morning we could go out to The Market, little Country place by the sea & get the most lovely Cream I have ever tasted 1/- lb.

While there I was taken out by a nice young man a teacher home from College, he wrote several letters after I came home, but my writing was so bad I was ashamed to write back & it fizzled out but that was a stimulant to me, for years after that I would practice writing every night, never missing, & at one time my writing was almost Copper plate, & I took care it never went back, we went rowing in a small boat & it was a lovely fortnights holiday. Ada really never met her other brothers & Sisters until they were grown up, she was a great friend to me when my brother was away, a very clever person, from whom I learnt a lot, my brother used to go to night school & teach so they grew better off, they had 2 children Vyvan & Ida, at this stage they were taken up with Christianity Science & followed it faithfully. They would not think to have a Doctor, & I remember one day Ada sprained her wrist & Hedley had absent treatment. By then he was Head Master of an endowed school with a very big house & underground passage, Ada who had

really been a very poor house wife & we used to
think teachers made poor wives, suddenly blossomed
out & made a great success of the school, & many boys
in after years visited my brother when he was retired
gave him a wonderful reference. The school was
in Stokes Croft but in the first war was burnt to
the ground, there was an old peoples home attached
to the school but no one hurt, they continued to
be Christian Scientists for many years, Ida grew up &
was married but suffered badly from asthma, she
would not go to a doctor & she passed away at the
age of 30. Then Ada started complaining but would
not see a doctor, eventually she was taken to a
nursing home, Mary's in Bristol, she had a very
major operation & came home to die, she had 3
trained nurses for a month but passed away, Hedley
seemed to give up the Christian Science after then,
Vivyan was only slightly interested, there is no doubt
if Ada had not stuck to Christian Science & seen a
doctor in the early stages she would have lived, but
the C S Chapel still goes on & increased, my mother &
father were living very quietly at 98 Staple Hill Rd still,
Oliver was making money at the boot business, one
morning I remember he had a great shock, his factory
was all on one floor with a mostly glass roof, he had

Oliver was making money at the boot business. One morning I remember he had a great shock, His Factory was all on one floor with a mostly glass roof. He had bought a safe he was told was as safe as the Banks of England, he used to save some money for himself as

a little nest egg, in fact he intended buying another car. One morning when his son in law who always opened the factory found it had been burgled £1,500 stolen. it was a great blow as nothing was ever heard of the money after, all in £10 notes. He eventually retired from

the business leaving it in charge of his daughter & her husband & is still working to this day. My eldest brother Herbert died in the first war from bronchitis, & his wife lived to 86 & died a few yrs ago, leaving 2 grand children.

There are not many descendants from my family the Priors left as they had small families. Vygon Prior, retired is living in a nice bungalow at Clevedon. he has one son a Solicitor & 3 grand children. I remember my Father telling me he saw the Suspension Bridge built over the Avon Gorge at Clifton. I was married in 1906 at the age of 25. My husband Henry Clifford Pratten was 29. I mentioned he did not like the tailoring. after his apprenticeship was over. Trade was very bad & he was out of work for some time. His Father & Grand

Father had a Bakery business, also an Uncle, so he went in with his Father, at that time Prather's bread was much appreciated, he liked the baking much better than tugging, I forgot to mention before he worked with his Father, he went into a hedspeke shop with another young man which cost his Father \$50, but that didn't prosper & the money lost which was the reason he went into his Father's baking business, He was working in this business when we were married, we rented a house in Cassel Rd 4/6 wk, & lived there

5 yrs, My husband never minded the early morning & often would be going to the bake house at 3-30 AM, His brother & Father lived at Fern Villa, Staple Hill & he had a brother 11 yrs older, 2 Sisters younger, Gertrude & Muriel, His brother Eddy was a Commercial Traveller & did very well, working South Wales from Monday to Friday, His Grand Mother died when we married so I never knew her, She was a very religious woman, She lived with her son & daughter till her death, He was called Uncle Oph, a bachelor who only thought of money, he used to say it's the pennies that count, he was really a miser, & had a boot shop where he made boots himself for his customers. He used to buy houses & have them done up & let them & were let to anyone who could not pay their rent, he would take anything from

have them done up & let them & was beside anyone who
could not pay their rent, he would take anything from
their home to pay the rent. I think he was dressed, &
There is still an opening by the side of his house to a
lane, called Pratten's Lane, His sister Rose Pratten
kept home for him & it was not always pleasant, he
used to be very friendly with the farmers round the
country & go shooting, it was his only hobby, he also
made boots for South Wales & he & his man would put
a cart full of boots into Bristol & send them off.
At that time there were no trams or even a train at Stapel
Well, I have heard them say his brother would walk into
Bristol & back to shop. They lived adjoining the bath house
his shop was the front, at that time there were 3 brothers
Grandpa Pratten my husband's father, Uncle Eph & an Uncle
Herbert who had a nice grocery business beginning of
Fishponds, he had 3 sons & a daughter May Pratten,
one of his sons went to Australia & became a Senator & some
of the family are still living in Sydney & I think very wealthy.
& one son Gilbert Pratten was in the printing business &
did a very rich man, leaving 2 sons who still carry on
his business in Portland Sq. Bristol, they also are rich

The other son Austin kept on his Father's Grocery business but had a major operation when he was 40 & died, May Pratten was very well off lived in a nice house & kept a companion, The 3 brothers used to sit in Uncle Oph's sitting room every afternoon & drink tea until Uncle Herbert's death, People who have returned from Australia have told us there is a Park in Sydney called Pratten Park, but they gradually stopped corresponding & have not heard about them for years, Aunt Rose kept house for Uncle Oph many years but one day when on holiday with her niece May Pratten suddenly died, it was a great shock for her brother but May found him an excellent house keeper, a nice woman who suited him well as she was very careful, May Pratten married a widower when she was 50ish, they had been friends for many years, she played the organ at the Baptist Chapel & he Mr Reese was the conductor of the choir, she bought a very nice house at the bottom of Wernhill Road where they lived after she married, it was her money kept the house going with 2 servants, but after 3 yrs she had heart trouble & became an invalid, having for months 2 have 2 nurses in attendance, it was sad to see her become so frail & after a few years of great suffering she died, while her husband who benefited from all his money lived in the house until he died, he was a few years older

her become so frail & after a few years of great suffering she died, while her husband who benefited from all her money lived in the house until he died, he was a few years older than Mary & he left the Pratten money to his sons by his first wife. They did not enjoy what she had wanted for, for years. it was really very sad. The Beese family benefited from Pratten's money really worked for in the past. Uncle Oph closed his business down when he was 70, always very careful of his money which was increasing. He always expected my husband to be at his beck & call, really he was a lackey to him all his life, just at this stage there was some unpleasant & Grand Pa Pratten fell out & did not speak to each other for years, the rest of the family Eddy, Gerty & Muriel stayed away & did not visit him. Uncle Oph was a great hater & everyone was afraid of him. As I have mentioned before I had been married 1 year & 3 weeks when my son Harry was born, he was a lovely fair haired baby & my brother always called him snow ball. We still lived on in Cursd Road house for a few years. Cliff still working up the bake house but many bakeries were opening up & it was difficult to keep on the business. Trade was bad & was looking in the future Grandpa Pratten decided to close the

the business down rather than keep losing more money,
My husband obtained a situation with a very old
firm by the name of Budget Bros, as a flour tester.
He worked very hard for them until he retired at 70,
We lived in Cassel Rd until my other son Maurice was
born nearly 5 yrs longer. Then his father bought a house
on the main Rd very cheap \$195, property was almost given
away then & we moved to 46 High St. Staple Hill & lived
there nearly 60 yrs. My husband when he came home ev-
evening always went up to see his parents every night.

Maurice was 3 months old when we moved to 46, my
health had not been very good for nearly 3 yrs I had
something like hay fever all the time. Every few days it
would start & my eyes & nose ran streams, some day it would
start in the morning & continue all day & I would have
a shirt quite wet with the water that ran from my nose
& eyes. Sometimes it would start as I went to bed, it was a
most distressing complaint, our ordinary doctor didn't
understand it. So I went to a specialist Dr Burphay Baron
on White Ladies Rd. I was under him for nearly 12 mths
& was very expensive 1 gnu. ch time, & he was seeing me a
little cheaper. I had my nose cauterized twice but with
no good results. At the back of our home in Cassel Rd there
was a market garden, that may have been the cause,
any way after my son Maurice was born & we moved, it ceased.

in good results. At the back of our home in Cassel Rd there
was a market garden, that may have been the cause,
any way after my son Maurice, was born & we moved, it ceased
& it was wonderful to be free of all the punning from my
eyes & nose. Harry was going to a Rindergarten School up
till then, when he was 8 yrs a friend's son who was older
was going into Bristol to quite a good free School, St Marys
Redcliff so he started with Frank Cardley. They went to
St Phillips Station every day by train & he continued for
a few years. Maurice when he was old enough went to the
Shaple Hill Council School & they both got on well.
Then I had a very bad time, I had to have a major
operation which upset everything, relations helped all they
could & my brother was still able to come to see & things.
Some how that was a very difficult time for every one, I
came home an invalid, & had to be waited on quite a lot,
I remember a woman Mrs Selwood who came to work for us
she was very good & kept the house going as she lived near.
At that time my husband was called up to serve on the
first war, altho he was 38 or more he had to go. our Dr
wrote letters stating our case it was of avail. He had only
just recovered from a serious illness Pneumonia, the only
illness he really ever had, he was very ill & walking with