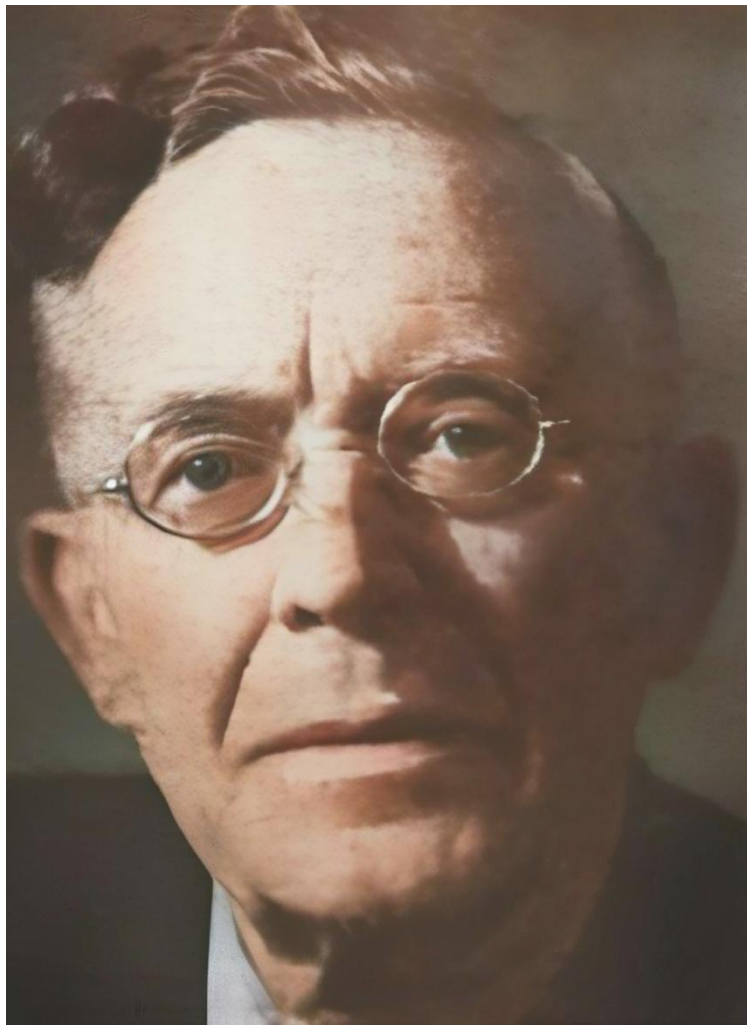


# **THREE GENERATIONS OF THE FAMILY OF AUTHOR SYDNEY FOWLER WRIGHT (1874-1965)**

**Ken Faig, Jr.** (genealogy)

and

**David Haden** (introduction and additional pictures)



S. Fowler Wright in his later years.

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## THE MAN AND HIS WORKS

S. Fowler Wright: the author of the seminal and influential fantasy science-fiction novel known as *The Amphibians* / *The World Below* (1929).

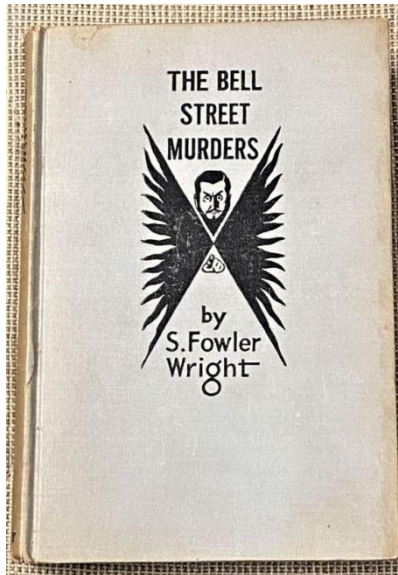
S. Fowler Wright was born in Holly Street, Smethwick, an industrial town sandwiched between the mighty city of Birmingham and the industrial Black Country, in the West Midlands of England. He came of age in the town of Smethwick in the late 1880s, and then would have been venturing into the city of Birmingham by age 16. Amid the bustle and rich opportunities of the British Empire at its height, he took a mundane but lucrative career as an accountant. Like Tolkien he went to King Edward's School in New Street, in the centre of Birmingham, and had a strong education. He was later a conservative activist, in that staunchly pro civil-liberties, pro procreation and anti big-business mould which might be pithily summed up as "freedom, family, and fuck off" — and which today would more politely referred to as old-school libertarian. From what I read, intellectually he appears to have been one of those rare 'conservative anarchists' who so puzzle the pigeon-holers. In this he was similar to Tolkien, and like Tolkien he would come to loathe the growing car-culture in England and its many deleterious effects.

His early interests were in poetry and Arthurian and heroic literature. He wrote a vast Arthurian poem (lost in a bombing raid, rewritten in old age). He greatly admired Sir Walter Scott, to the extent that he wrote the man's biography and later finished one of his unfinished novels. He was a fine verse translator of Dante and also what then passed for 'erotic' verse. As a publisher and editor he was a founder of the Empire Poetry League, the editor of its journal *Poetry and The Play* from 1917-1932, and the operator of its press. Despite his key place in the history of science-fiction accounts of his life are scarce and very patchy, yet one account says he founded the League, possibly with the support of G.K. Chesterton who was a member. Wright edited a large number of anthologies, including one for children, several for the League, and edited *The County Series of Contemporary Poetry*.

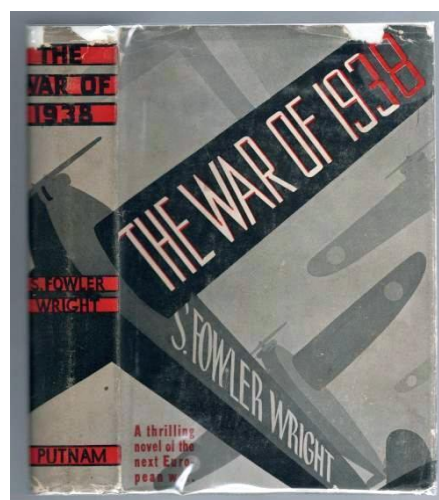
He turned to self-publishing his own novels from 1927, an approach which was unusual for the time. But his boldness paid off when he sold his epic disaster book *Deluge* (1927) to Hollywood for a 1933 movie version. J.E. Clare Mcfarlane states the book sold one hundred thousand copies via book clubs, and thus "earned him the active animosity of established publishers" who sold their wares via bookshops. These publishers were then said to have aided in the demise of Wright's Empire Poetry League.

Wright passed away in 1965 and is thus not public domain in the UK. But all his works are now all online for free in good HTML at <http://www.sfw.org.uk/about.shtml>, the site presumably run by one of his descendants who holds the rights. On this website one can find his son talking of Empire League meetings held at "our home in Handsworth Wood" in the early 1920s. In which case his accountancy work must have enabled him to escape grimy Smethwick. Nearby Handsworth Wood is in suburban north-west Birmingham. Although at that time Handsworth Wood was said to be almost as grimy as Smethwick and, long-since denuded of its wood, it would only become leafy again many decades later.

This new home appears to have been a product of his second marriage to a young wife in 1920, and once settled in he started writing some wild science fiction with *The Amphibians* (1924). This groundbreaking novel became the first part of the seminal *The World Below* we know today. With his new wife Wright had a son and three daughters. After 1930, as the Great Depression took hold and with a young family to support, he produced a long string of popular crime mysteries under a pen name. I have not seen these and they are said to be mostly pot-boilers, yet it would be interesting to know to what extent he might have used Birmingham or the Black Country as a backdrop.



He appears to have had some national fame toward the end of the 1930s, and the list of his books suggests he may have been a part of the debates about the orderly divestment of the British colonies, and about the state of traditional British liberties and policing. He doesn't seem to have been the sort of man who would hold back on robust 'letters to the editor' or 'op-eds', either, of the type to be found leavening the poetry in his journal *Poetry and The Play*. He broadcast on the radio, and visited Germany in 1934 to write a series of newspaper articles for *The Sunday Despatch*. He also wrote for the *London Evening Standard* and *The Daily Mirror*. Brian Stapleford noted that *The Daily Express* called him one of "the ten best brains in Britain" in the 30s. In those days both the *Mirror* and the *Express* were reputable newspapers.



In 1965 Sam Moskowitz surveyed his long out-of-print imaginative works and compared him to Ayn Rand (*Atlas Shrugged*), though presumably for the libertarian sentiments expressed in his fiction rather than for his outright political/philosophical writing. Moskowitz's essay can't be obtained online, but apparently he frowned on Wright's 1930s concerns about the advent of easy birth-control and mass car ownership. Though to me this seems exactly the right analysis of the coming forces that would, in short order, fundamentally change traditional society. That Wright became something of a bore about such matters, and that such forces were triumphant by the time Moskowitz was writing, does not invalidate Wright. He was both prescient and correct.

What of any influence on H.P. Lovecraft? Despite Lovecraft's awareness of the British scene it seems the master only became aware of Wright's novels in 1933, when he wrote in a letter of a gift he had been given...

"Another gift was the fairly recent scientific novel *The World Below*, by S. Fowler Wright."

Lovecraft would, however, have seen stories like "Automata" and "The Rat" in *Weird Tales* in 1929, and possibly others elsewhere, and thus for a while must have been aware of Wright as a story writer and fellow contributor to *Weird Tales*.

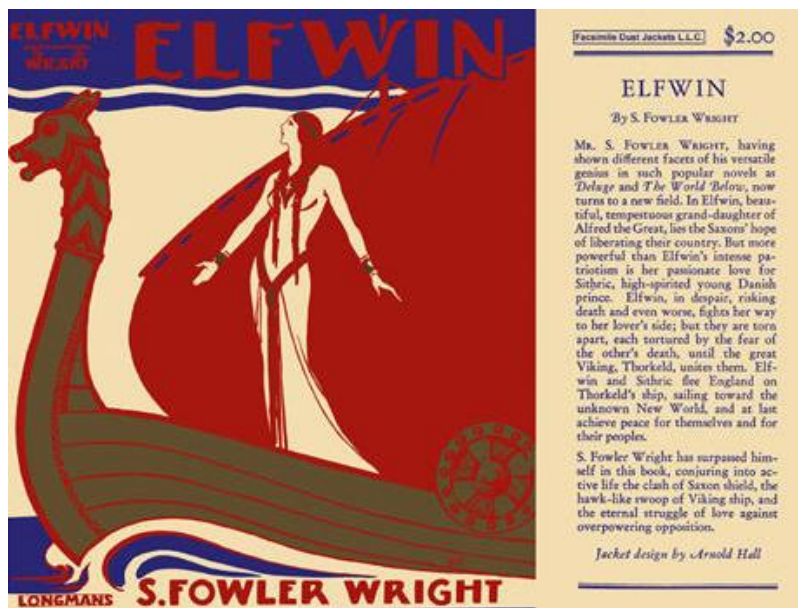


There is later evidence that Lovecraft considered him one of only three 'masters' still writing, and that this was for his novel. But I can find no more precise evaluation that that. What posterity would give, to have a few in-depth book reviews of such authors from Lovecraft. I suspect though, as I have documented elsewhere, that *The World Below* had several points of influence on Lovecraft's classic "The Shadow Out of Time" (written Nov 1934 – Feb 1935).

Like most Chestertonian conservative thinkers of the 1930s, as an intellectual Wright appears to have been swept away by the war and forgotten by the late 1950s. His philosophical and social writing, often embedded in his novels, remains to be assessed and perhaps collected. Though his key fiction lasted beyond his death, with magazine reprints and affordable Galaxy Novel reprints in the USA in 1950 for *The Amphibians* / *The World Below*, followed by a Panther paperback reprint in the UK in 1954.

An article by his son recalls that during the Second World War his father ran a literary and distribution agency in Fetter Lane, London, but it was soon bombed out and he then opened a large bookshop selling new books, opposite the British Museum. In 1951 this moved to Kensington High Street and the trade lasted until 1954, the shop then being closed by a combination of petty post-war government restrictions and the mass take-up of television.

After the war he was largely known as a prolific crime and mystery novelist. But it seems quite possible he was not entirely forgotten by some as a historical novelist. After the science-fiction classic *The World Below* (1929) he had published *Elfwin: A Novel of Anglo-Saxon Times* (1930, re-subtitled 'A Romance of History' in the U.S.), a stirring novel of Ethelflaeda of Mercia. Apparently this was his first historical novel, and he drew on his own locality and its most famous female warrior — ancient Mercia more or less maps onto the modern West Midlands, albeit with an extension to Northumbria. The 1930 date suggests a novel written at the height of his powers, and probably side-by-side with *The World Below*, but the few science fiction historians who have considered his works focus on his Wellsian scientific romances — *Elfwin* goes unmentioned.



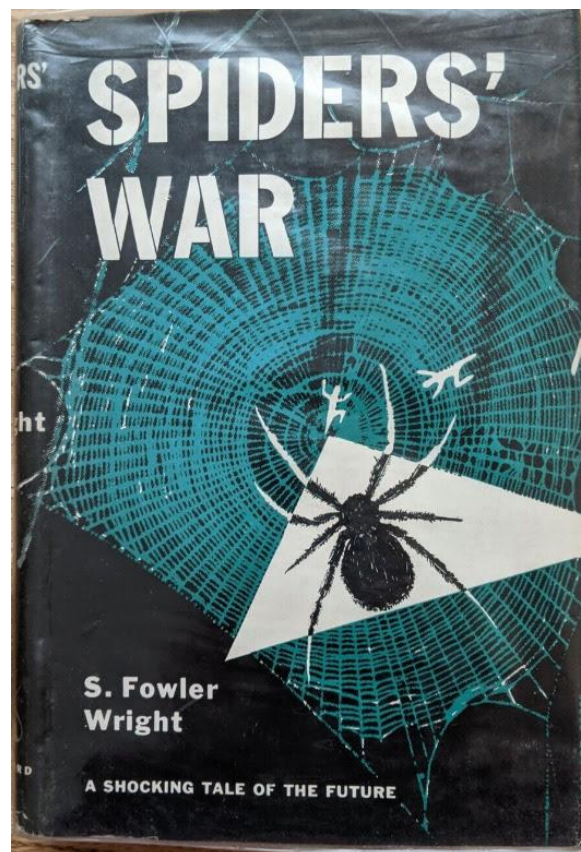
Yet I have found some asides that suggest *Elfwin* once gave him the most acclaim from the mainstream, before such books went out of fashion in the 1960s, as a quality and brisk historical novel with what are said to be many heroic supporting characters. The central heroine is apparently rather annoying to modern readers for much of the novel, but perhaps less so for the readers for whom she was intended. *The Spectator* review of 1930 had...



“All who like tales of high romance and valour will enjoy Mr. Fowler Wright’s latest book when once they have made the acquaintance of its innumerable characters. The first chapter is not easy reading: the pages are littered with Danish and Saxon names, and those who are not historically minded may find it a little difficult to understand what is happening. Yet Mr. Fowler Wright avoids the sentimentalities common to those who write of chivalry, and tells his tale of intrigue with the utmost directness.”

As a novel *Elfwin* is said to lack most of the author’s usual digressive asides and hobby-horse speeches. One thus wonders if the new breed of sword & sorcery historians might find something of interest in this novel, even though it lacks the required sorcery? Also, it seems difficult to imagine that Tolkien did not read the novel circa 1930-33, as he was likewise fascinated by ancient Mercia. Admittedly it had no reprint after 1930, but presumably it must have sold well and could thus be found in used bookshops and public libraries into the 1950s. Tolkien was, admittedly, very busy and distracted in this period and may not have much time for long leisurely reads. His authentic Biblical epic novel *David* (1934), which includes military campaigns and is said to be the best of his historical novels, may also bear some investigation by sword and sorcery historians. There are a wide variety of other historical and science-fiction novels to be found.

There is some evidence that Fowler Wright continued to self-publish his best works as reprints after the war, to keep them available, since Robert Silverberg states he had his signed copy of *The World Below* direct from England in that way.



There may be yet another local aspect to his work. Sampling a few fragments of his more local satirical fiction, one immediately catches the wry tone of Arnold Bennett. We might assume that this south Staffordshire author read and admired the best local work of north Staffordshire's Bennett (the *Five Towns* series, *The Card*, "Simon Fuge", etc), as well as the early H.G. Wells. Arnold Bennett was on *The Evening Standard*, a paper with which Wright was associated and for which he wrote, so there might even have been a personal connection.

There is no book-length biography. The only book on Fowler Wright appears to be the short survey monograph that forms #51 in the Milford Series, 1994 This surveyed the major published works by theme. His entry on the modern *Science Fiction Encyclopedia* usefully boxes up and signposts his imaginative and detective series for potential collectors and readers.

The venerable scholar of early science fiction Brian Stapleford published a late novel, *The World Beyond: A Sequel to S. Fowler Wright's The World Below* (2009), forming a third part after *The Amphibians* / *The World Below*. There are hints that this is based on a loose outline by Wright himself, though I can't find any reviews of *The World Beyond* that might confirm this. Audible also has the original *The World Below: A Novel of the Far Future* as a 9-hour audiobook released in 2012, read from an edition "edited by Brian Stableford". One assumes Stableford went through the text and created a definitive error-free version for his 2012 reading.

The restored 1933 movie of Fowler Wright's science-fiction disaster classic *Deluge* (1927) became available to stream in 2020...

"Once a lost film and for decades only available in an Italian language print with English subtitles, it was recently restored from a newly-discovered 35mm nitrate negative with the English language soundtrack by Serge Bromberg's Paris-based Lobster Films. Kino Repertory picked up the film for a limited theatrical re-release in the U.S. and now Kino Lorber Studio Classics presents the stateside disc debut of the Lobster restoration. It looks very good for its age, especially considering the original elements suffered partial decomposition. Digital tools have restored much of the image and the sharpness and the soundtrack is even more impressive, with a clarity not often heard in orphaned films of this vintage and a dynamic range to the musical score."

Apparently the movie's distributor went bankrupt shortly after it was released in 1933, and then the movie was abruptly pulled from cinemas and cannibalised — the spectacular and costly special-effects scenes were extracted and crafted into new "Destruction of New York!" shorts that could generate long-term profits for creditors. This catastrophe scuppered any hope of a Hollywood script-writing career for S. Fowler Wright, and he returned to England.

This was perhaps a fortunate return for England, since S. Fowler Wright apparently went on to become one of Churchill's key wartime industrial-production consultants. Much more about Fowler Wright awaits discovery, and a full biography of the man has yet to be written.

Fowler Wright's



THE WORLD  
BELOW



# THE FAMILY HISTORY

## GENERATION ONE

**1. WILLIAM WRIGHT.** Born 1801 Lavendon, Buckinghamshire, died Q1 1893, age 93, King's Norton, Worcestershire [6c:257]. [Baptized Sept. 30, 1801, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Wright, St. Martin, Birmingham, Warwickshire.]<sup>1</sup> Married (1) Eliza ---- (born 1805/06 [UK 1841]).<sup>2</sup> Married (2) Mar. 14, 1854 (All Saint's, Hockley, Birmingham) Sarah Foxall (stated age 35)<sup>3</sup>, spinster, daughter of John Foxall, laborer. The ceremony was performed by Thomas Taylor, curate. The bride and groom, both residents of Digbeth, made their marks. The witnesses were Eliza and George Lee. The 52-year-old groom, a widower, was a brass founder, the son of Joseph Wright, a steel toy maker. Married (3) before Apr. 2, 1871 Frances ---- (born 1822/23 Gravesend, Kent).

UK 1841, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, builder, age 35, with wife Eliza Wright (age 35) and children John, Mary Ann, William, Thomas, Eliza, Edwin, Theoph, Joseph and Stephen Wright.

UK 1851, 11 Cap Heath, Solihull, Warwickshire, retired builder, with wife Sarah Wright (age 58, born Birmingham, Warwickshire), daughter-in-law Mary Ann Price (age 28, born Umberslade, Worcestershire<sup>4</sup>) and children Eliza Wright, Theophila Wright, Joseph Wright and Stephen Wright.

US 1861, Cornwall Cottage, Solihull, Warwickshire, retired builder, with wife Sarah (age 68, born Birmingham, Warwickshire) and son Stephen Wright, daughter-in-law Sarah Wright, and granddaughter Sarah Wright.

UK 1871, Shepherds Bush, Bickenhill, Warwickshire, retired builder, with wife Frances Wright (age 48, born Gravesend, Kent).

UK 1881, Cotton Lane (Lavendon Lodge), King's Norton, Worcestershire, retired builder, with wife Frances Wright (age 58, b. Gravesend, Kent) and one servant.

UK 1891, Moseley, King's Norton, Worcestershire, own income, with housekeeper Matilda Tyrer (age 48, single, born Birmingham, Warwickshire).

Children<sup>5</sup> (by first wife Eliza ----):

- i. John Wright, born 1825/26 England. Age 15, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. Can he be identified with the John Wright, age 26, widower bricklayer, residing in Lichfield Street, son of William Wright, bricklayer, who married Aug. 16, 1852 (St. Phillips' Church, Birmingham, Warwickshire) Mary Ann Houldcroft, age 35, widow, residing in Lichfield

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<sup>1</sup> I am not certain that this baptism pertains to our William Wright. Evidence in support includes: (1) William Wright's father stated as Joseph Wright in William's 1854 marriage record; (2) Eliza[beth] Wright and Joseph Wright among the children of William Wright.

<sup>2</sup> Familysearch ID L691-Zm2 for William Wright indicates that he married Ann Miles (Familysearch ID L691-Z6B) (born ca. 1805 Birmingham, Warwickshire) on Jan. 16, 1826. The death record for William's son John Wright (see below) indicates that his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Swimburn.

<sup>3</sup> Note the conflict with her stated ages in UK 1851 and UK 1861, which imply a year of birth about 1793. If William Wright had married a 35-year-old woman in 1854, it might have been expected that he would probably father more children with her. So it is possible that Sarah's age from the 1854 marriage record is a mistranscription. Perhaps she was Sarah Wright, age 76, who died Q2 1870 Aston, Warwickshire [6d:197].

<sup>4</sup> Locality near Hockley Heath, Solihull, Warwickshire.

<sup>5</sup> See Byron-Morgan Family Tree on Ancestry for some of the possible identifications of children of William Wright.

Street, daughter of Thomas Priest, coachman? Or can he be identified with the John Wright, who died Oct. 17, 1896 at 120 Centre Street, Boston, Massachusetts, age 71 years 6 months 4 days (inferred date of birth May 13, 1825), born England, shipper, whose parents were William Wright (born England) and Elizabeth Swinburn (born England)? A woman named Elizabeth Swinbourne, the daughter of Thomas and Mary (---) Swinbourne, was christened in Solihull, Warwickshire on Nov. 8, 1784. However, she would have been a very old mother for the children of William Wright born between 1825/26 and February 1841.

ii. Mary Ann Wright, born 1828/29 Umberslade, Worcestershire. In parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. As "daughter-in-law" Mary Ann Price, age 28, in household of father William Wright and stepmother Sarah Wright in UK 1851.

iii. William Wright, born 1828/29 England. Age 12, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. Can he be identified with William D. Wight (born Q1 1828 England, died 1904 Denver, Colorado)?

iv. Thomas Wright, born 1830/31 England. Age 10, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. Can he be identified with the Thomas Wright whose birth on Aug. 11, 1831 was registered by Thomas Swan, minister of the Cannon Street Meeting House (Baptist), Birmingham, Warwickshire?

v. Eliza Wright, born 1832/33 England. Age 8, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. Age 17, in household of father William Wright and stepmother Sarah Wright in UK 1851. Can she be identified with Eliza Wright, born Dec. 2, 1833 Hanley, Staffordshire, who died Q1 1907 Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire?

vi. Edwin Wright, born Oct. 23, 1835 Edgbaston, Warwickshire.<sup>6</sup> Age 6, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. Probably head of household at Spark Hill, Yardley, Worcestershire in UK 1871: Edwin Wright (head), farmer, age 35, born Birmingham, Warwickshire; Sarah A. Wright (wife), age 34, born Solihull, Worcestershire; Francis E. Wright (son), age 13, born Solihull, Worcestershire; Sarah M. Wright (daughter)<sup>7</sup>, age 10, scholar, born King's Norton, Worcestershire; Kath[erine] E. Wright (daughter), age 7, scholar, born Yardley, Worcestershire; Fanny E. Wright (daughter), age 5, scholar, born Yardley, Worcestershire; William G. Wright (son), age 3, born Yardley, Worcestershire; Mary A. Wright (daughter), born Nov. 6, 1870 Yardley, Worcestershire.

vii. Theoph[ilus]/Theophila Wright, born 1836/37 England. As "Theoph Wright," age 4, son, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. As "Theophila Wright," age 13, daughter, in father's Solihull, Warwickshire household in UK 1851. Can he/she be identified with Theophila Wright, born Q4 1837 King's Norton, Warwickshire, who died Q3 1907 Bristol, Gloucestershire?

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<sup>6</sup> His parents were residents of Balsall Heath Road in Edgbaston, Warwickshire when his birth was registered by Thomas Swan at the Cannon Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Warwickshire on Apr. 15, 1836. His father's profession was stated as carpenter.

<sup>7</sup> Possibly Sarah Mabella Wright, born Q2 1861 King's Norton, Warwickshire [6c:432].

viii. Joseph Wright, born 1838/39 England. Age 2, in parents' Edgbaston, Warwickshire household in UK 1841. Age 11, in household of father William Wright and stepmother Sarah Wright in UK 1851.

ix. Stephen Wright [2], born February 1841 Edgbaston, Warwickshire

## GENERATION TWO

**2. STEPHEN WRIGHT.** Born February 1841 Edgbaston, Warwickshire, died Jan. 27, 1936 Los Angeles, California. Married (1) Sarah ---- (born 1836/37 Solihull, Warwickshire). Married (2) Q3 1865 (Birmingham, Warwickshire) [6d:257] Emily Gertrude Fowler (born 1843 Coton, Staffordshire, died Q3 1882 King's Norton, Worcestershire), daughter of Benjamin Smart Fowler (1801-1852) and Hannah Mary Fowler (1814-1889).<sup>8</sup> Married (3) Q3 1884 (King's Norton, Worcestershire) [6c:669] Isaline Victoria Fowler (born Q3 1845 Tamworth, Staffordshire [16:479], died September 1928<sup>9</sup> Los Angeles, California), sister of first wife.

UK 1841, Edgbaston, Warwickshire. Age 4 months, in household of parents William Wright, age 35, builder, and Eliza Wright, age 35, with eight siblings.

US 1851, 11 Cap Heath, Solihull, Warwickshire. Age 10 (born Solihull, Warwickshire), in household of father William Wright and stepmother Sarah Wright, with siblings Eliza Wright, Theophilus Wright and Joseph Wright.

US 1861, Cornwall Cottage, Solihull, Warwickshire, age 20, draper, with his wife Sarah Wright (age 24, born Solihull, Warwickshire) and their daughter Sarah Wright (age [<1] m[onth], born King's Norton, Worcestershire) in the household of his father William Wright (age 60, retired builder) and his stepmother Sarah Wright.

UK 1871, 52 Lee Crescent, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, commercial traveler (born Birmingham, Warwickshire), with wife Emily Gertrude Wright and children Percy Stephen Wright and Eva Mary Wright in household of mother-in-law Hannah Mary Fowler (age 56, widow, born Tamworth, Staffordshire) and sister-in-law Isaline V. Fowler (age 25, single, governess, born Tamworth, Staffordshire).

UK 1881, 53 St. Paul's Road, King's Norton, Worcestershire, accountant. With wife Emily G. Wright and children Eva M. Wright, Amy S. Wright, Sidney F. Wright, Herbert V. Wright, Horace B. Wright and Alfred E. Wright.

UK 1891, 55 Gough Road, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, accountant. With wife Isaline V. Wright and children Eva M. Wright, Amy S. Wright, Sidney F. Wright, Herbert V. Wright, Walter C. Wright and Horace B. Wright.

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<sup>8</sup> Her parents married on Dec. 7, 1841 in Tamworth, Staffordshire. Her paternal grandparents were Joseph Fowler (1769-1818) and Sarah Smart (1771-1856). Her paternal great-grandparents were William Fowler (1713-1795) and Hannah England (1731-1808).

<sup>9</sup> She was buried on Sept. 10, 1928 in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California. Her newspaper obituary appeared on Sept. 9, 1928.

US 1900 (1826 Nevada, Colorado Springs, Colorado): accountant, emigrated 1895. With wife Isaline Wright and children Walter C. Wright, Horace B. Wright and Eva M. Wright.

Minnesota state census 1905 (212 West Grant Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota): age 64, accountant, with wife Isaline and children Herbert V. Wright, Walter C. Wright and Horace Wright.

Los Angeles, California 1907 directory: accountant, residence 621 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. His son Walter C. Wright, also an accountant, had the same residence.

Los Angeles, California 1910 directory: public accountant, house 136 N. Vine, Hollywood.

US 1910: 136 N. Vine Street, Los Angeles, California, accountant, emigrated 1895, naturalized U.S. citizen. With wife Sodian [sic] Wright and son Walter Wright.

Los Angeles, California 1913 directory: vice-president, The Audit Company of Los Angeles, residence 1732 Ivar Avenue. (His son Walter C. Wright resided at the same address and served as president of The Audit Company of Los Angeles.)

Los Angeles, California 1916 directory: accountant, residence 1732 Ivar Avenue (with son Walter C. Wright).

Los Angeles, California 1917 directory: accountant, residence 1930 Cheremoya Avenue (with son Walter Coleman Wright).

Los Angeles, California 1918 directory, auditor, house 1930 Cheremoya Avenue. His daughter Amy S. Wright and his son Walter Coleman Wright lived at the same address.

US 1920, 1930 E. Cheremoya Ave., Los Angeles, California, accountant, emigrated 1895, alien, with wife Isaline V. Wright and daughter Amy S. Wright in household of son Walter C. Wright.

Los Angeles, California 1924 directory, resided at 1768 N. Bronson Avenue with daughter Amy S. Wright.

US 1930 (1160 N. Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, California): accountant (instructor), emigrated 1895, alien, with daughter Amie S. Wright and one lodger.

According to Stableford (p. 12), Stephen Wright was a Baptist lay preacher.

Children (by first wife Sarah ----):

- i. Sarah Wright [3], born ca. 1860 King's Norton, Worcestershire

Children (by second wife Emily Gertrude Fowler):

- ii. Percy Stephen Wright [4], born Q3 1866 King's Norton, Worcestershire
- iii. Eva May Wright [5], born Jan. 3, 1870 Edgbaston, Warwickshire
- iv. Amy Seymour Wright [6], born July 2, 1872 Smethwick, Staffordshire
- v. Sydney Fowler Wright [7], born Jan. 6, 1874 Smethwick, Staffordshire
- vi. Herbert Victor Wright [8], born Q4 1875 King's Norton, Worcestershire
- vii. Walter Coleman Wright [9], born Mar. 21, 1877 Edgbaston, Warwickshire



viii. Horace Bankart Wright [10], born May 25, 1878 Edgbaston, Warwickshire

ix. Alfred Ernest Wright [11], born Q1 1881 Balsall Heath, Worcestershire

### GENERATION THREEE (SYDNEY FOWLER WRIGHT AND HIS SIBLINGS)

**3. SARAH WRIGHT.** Born ca. 1860 King's Norton, Worcestershire.

UK 1861 (enumeration date Apr. 7, 1861): infant ([1] m.), in parents' household in Solihull, Warwickshire.

Perhaps Sarah Jane Wright, born Q4 1860 King's Norton, Warwickshire [6c:386] or Sarah Mabella Wright, born Q2 1861 King's Norton, Warwickshire [6c:432].<sup>10</sup>

**4. PERCY STEPHEN WRIGHT.** Born Q3 1866 King's Norton, Worcestershire [6c:409], died before Mar. 31, 1901. He married Q4 1892 (Birmingham, Warwickshire) [6d:309] Lydia Parker (born 1871 Birmingham, Warwickshire, died Q2 1962 Birmingham, Warwickshire), the daughter of Henry Parker and Sarah (----) Parker.<sup>11</sup>

UK 1871: age 4, in Edgbaston, Warwickshire household of widowed maternal grandmother Hannah Mary Fowler (age 56, born Tamworth, Staffordshire).

UK 1881: age 14, scholar, in household of his maternal grandmother Hannah Fowler (age 66, widow, born Tamworth, Staffordshire) at 52 Lee Crescent, Edgbaston, Warwickshire. His brother Walter C. Wright and his aunt (and future stepmother) Isaline Fowler (age 35, born Tamworth, Staffordshire) were also members of the household.

UK 1891: age 25, single, jewelry factor (agent), boarder in the household of Emma Newbold (age 65, widow, born Birmingham, Warwickshire) at 29 Balsall Heath Road, King's Norton, Worcestershire. Emma Newbold's daughter Nelly Emma Newbold, age 25, single, dressmaker (born Aug. 14, 1865 Birmingham, died Q4 1950 Birmingham) was also a member of the household.

UK 1901 (59 Flower Street, Balsall Heath, Worcestershire): Henry Parker (head), age 70, born Birmingham, Warwickshire, brassworker in clerestory[?] glasswork; Sarah Parker (wife), age 70, born Toddington, Gloucestershire; Lydia Wright (daughter), age 30, widow, born Birmingham, Warwickshire, silversmith's clerk.

UK 1911 (Balsall Heath, Worcestershire): Lydia Wright (head), age 48, widow, born Balsall Heath, Worcestershire, forewoman, steel manufacturer; May White (boarder), age 31, single, born Coseley, Staffordshire, commission agent, Provident Clotting[?].

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<sup>10</sup> It is possible that Sarah Mabella Wright was the daughter Sarah M. Wright, age 10, born King's Norton, Worcestershire in the Yardley, Worcestershire household of William Wright's son Edwin Wright in UK 1871.

<sup>11</sup> I have not to date found a death record for Percy Stephen Wright. He apparently died before the enumeration date of UK 1901 (Mar. 31, 1901), wherein his wife Lydia Wright was described as a widow. I have not obtained the marriage record which would positively identify Lydia Parker as the bride in the Q4 1892 Birmingham wedding, but she is the only good match.

**5. EVA MAY WRIGHT.** Born Jan. 3, 1870 Edgbaston, Warwickshire, died Feb. 11, 1958. She married Oct. 10, 1904 (Longmont, Boulder County Colorado) Abram F. Newman (born Feb. 18, 1867, died Oct. 3, 1933).

UK 1871: age 1, in Edgbaston, Warwickshire household of widowed maternal grandmother Hannah Mary Fowler (age 56, born Tamworth, Staffordshire).

UK 1881: age 11, scholar, in parents' King's Norton, Worcestershire household.

UK 1891: age 21, governess, in father's Edgbaston, Warwickshire household.

US 1900 (Colorado Springs, Colorado): age 30, emigrant of 1897 in her father's household.

US 1910 (Sunnyside, Weld County Colorado): Abe S. Newman (head), age 42, in first marriage for five years, born Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania-born parents, farm laborer (working out); Eva Newman (wife), age 40, in first marriage for five years, 4 children borne, 4 children living, born England of English-born parents; Steven Newman (son), age 4, born Colorado; Gordon Newman (son), age 3, born Colorado; Walter Newman (son), age 2, born Colorado; Otis Newman (son), age 11 months, born Colorado.

US 1920 (North Berthoud, Larimer County Colorado): Abe F. Newman (head), age 53, born Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania-born parents, carpenter (general work); Eva Newman (wife), age 50, emigrated 1896, naturalized U.S. citizen, born England of English-born parents; Stephen F. Newman (son), age 14, born Colorado; Gordon J. Newman (son), age 13, born Colorado; Walter C. Newman (son), age 12, born Colorado; Otis D. Newman (son), age 10, born Colorado; Constance L. Newman (daughter), age 9, born Colorado; Lester W. Newman (son), age 7, born Colorado; Lillian [A.] Newman (daughter), age 5, born Colorado.

US 1930 (Fifth Street, Berthoud, Larimer County Colorado): Abram F. Newman (head), age 63, married at age 37, born Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania-born parents, house carpenter; Eva M. Newman (wife), age 60, married at age 34, born England of English-born parents, naturalized U.S. citizen; Otis D. Newman (son), age 20, born Colorado, laborer (odd jobs); Lester W. Newman (son), age 17, born Colorado; Lillian A. Newman (daughter), age 15, born Colorado.

US 1940 (Berthoud, Larimer County Colorado): Eva May Newman (head), age 70, widow, born England; Lillian Newman (daughter), age 26, single, born Colorado, saleswoman (notions). Both members of the household had resided in the same place on Apr. 1, 1935.

Eva and her husband were buried in Greenlawn Cemetery, Berthoud, Larimer County Colorado.

Children:

- i. Stephen Fremont Newman, born Aug. 9, 1905 Berthoud, Colorado. He married Eleanor Powers (born 1905/06 California). In 1940, they resided in Orchard City, Delta County Colorado and had children Stephen Newman Jr., age 12, born California; George Newman, age 11, born Colorado; John Newman, age 9, born Colorado; Gerald Newman, age 4, born Colorado; and Margaret Newman, age 1, born Colorado. Stephen's mother-in-law Eleanor Powers (age 56, born Nebraska) also resided in his household. Stephen worked as superintendent of the water project for the Orchard City Irrigation Department.

ii. Gordon James Newman, born Sept. 23, 1906 Berthoud, Colorado, died Sept. 24, 2001 Estes Park, Colorado. He married Oct. 5, 1926 (Brighton, Colorado) Georgia Anna Hunt. They had a daughter Dorothy Newman (born 1938, Colorado).

iii. Walter Clifton Newman, born Nov. 16, 1907 Berthoud, Colorado, died June 9, 1991. He married May 29, 1929 (Berthoud, Colorado) Margaret Mary Kee. They had a daughter Lena Newman (born 1930/31 Colorado) and a son Donald Newman (born 1934/35 Colorado).

iv. Otis Doyle Newman, born May 9, 1909 Berthoud, Colorado, died July 1962 Phoenix, Arizona. He married July 11, 1930 (Berthoud, Colorado) Mary Marguerite Turner (born 1911/12 Colorado). His death was published in the Phoenix newspaper on Aug. 1, 1962; his residence at the time of his death was 1538 W. Hazelwood. He was buried in Scottsdale, Arizona. In 1940, Otis and his family resided in Cheyenne, Wyoming; he worked as a retail automobile salesman. He and his wife Margaret had sons Chester, age 8, and Bryan, age 2, both born in Colorado.

v. Constance L. Newman, born Aug. 20, 1910 Berthoud, Colorado, died Jan. 21, 1994. She married July 14, 1934 (Denver, Colorado) John H. Green.

vi. Lester Wright Newman, born May 20, 1912 Berthoud, Colorado, died Dec. 8, 1998. He married May 16, 1938 (Denver, Colorado) Rose May Green (born Nov. 27, 1914, died May 26, 2008).

vii. Lillian Amy Newman, born Apr. 7, 1914 Berthoud, Colorado, died November 2000 Berthoud, Colorado. Her death was published in the local newspaper on Nov. 7, 2000.

**6. AMY SEYMOUR WRIGHT.** Born July 2, 1872 Smethwick, Staffordshire, died Dec. 27, 1954 Los Angeles, California.

UK 1881: age 8, scholar, in parents' King's Norton, Worcestershire household.

UK 1891: age 18, governess, in father's Edgbaston, Warwickshire household.

Amy filed her U.S. citizenship intention on Apr. 27, 1948, but apparently never became a citizen (she had alien registration number 5823145). She worked as a Baptist missionary (q.v., Stableford, p. 12) and stated that she had arrived on the *S.S. Ventura* in San Francisco, California on Dec. 19, 1915, having sailed from Sydney, Australia and having previously resided in Durban, South Africa.

The 1918 Los Angeles, California directory listed Amy S. Wright, missionary, at 1930 Cheremoya Avenue. Her father Stephen Wright, auditor, and her brother Walter Coleman Wright, CPA, at the same address.

US 1920 (Los Angeles, California): age 46, single, foreign missionary, emigrated 1895, alien, in the household of her brother Walter C. Wright.

US 1930 (1160 N. Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, California): age 57, single, in her father Stephen Wright's household.

US 1940 (1317 Spruce Street, Pasadena, California): age 67, single, alien, in the household of her brother Walter Wright.

In 1948 and 1951, Amy resided at 632 Imogene, Hollywood, California. Amy was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.





From top: Handsworth Wood, Smethwick, Edgbaston centre and Cannon Hill, in relationship to the centre of the city of Birmingham (red dot). Late 1890s O.S. map.





**7. SYDNEY FOWLER WRIGHT.** Born Jan. 6, 1874 Smethwick, Staffordshire<sup>12</sup>, died Feb. 25, 1965 Midhurst, Sussex (5h:810). Married (1) Jan. 5, 1895 (Birmingham, Warwickshire) Julia Ellen “Nellie” Ashbarry (born Mar. 4, 1866<sup>13</sup>, died Apr. 7, 1918 Bromsgrove, Warwickshire<sup>14</sup>), the daughter of Joseph Ashbarry and Esther Clarke (born 1841 Alvechurch, Worcestershire, died Q4 1911 King’s Norton, Worcestershire [6c:406]).<sup>15</sup> Married (2) Q4 1920 (Atcham, Shropshire) [6a1839] Anastasia Gertrude (“Truda”) Hancock (born Jan. 22, 1900).<sup>16</sup>

UK 1881, age 7, scholar, in parents’ King’s Norton, Worcestershire household.

UK 1891, age 17, clerk to accountant, in father’s Edgbaston, Warwickshire household. Was he clerking for his father?

UK 1901 (“The Cottage,” Great Packington, Warwickshire): age 27, public accountant, with wife Nellie Wright (age 34, born Edgbaston, Warwickshire), daughter Isaline Wright (age 5 months, born Great Packington, Warwickshire) and mother-in-law Esther Ashbarry (age 56, born Alvechurch, Worcestershire). There were also in the household two servants: Thomas S. Harrison, age 22, poultry keeper and groom, born Croydon Surrey, and Edith Thomas, age 16, domestic servant, born Winchester, Staffordshire.

In 1901 and 1906, Wright was employed as an accountant by Clarence Property Company, Limited of Clarence Chambers in Birmingham.

UK 1911<sup>17</sup> (Beoley, Worcestershire): chartered accountant, age 37, enumerated with wife Nellie Wright and children Isaline Fowler Wright, Gilbert Fowler Wright, Esther Margaret Fowler Wright, Roger Bankart Fowler Wright, Allan Seymour Fowler Wright and Katherine Mary Fowler Wright. Nellie Wright’s mother Esther Ashbarry (age 69, widow, born Alvechurch, Worcestershire) and servant Alice Furman (age 19, single, born Birmingham) were also members of the household.

1920s Wright was writing seminal science-fiction at a large house called ‘Oaklands’, “our home in Handsworth Wood”, north Birmingham. His second wife and growing family also lived there.

In 1939, Wright and his second wife Truda F. Wright resided at 25 Lancaster Terrace in Paddington, London (Met B). Wright was an author and his wife a homemaker.

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<sup>12</sup> His birth registration (Q1 1874) is under King’s Norton, Worcestershire [6c:501].

<sup>13</sup> Julia Ellen Ashbarry was baptized at St. George’s Church, Edgbaston, Warwickshire, by S[abine] Baring-Gould (1834-1924), curate. Her father Joseph Ashbarry worked as a packer and resided in Waterworks Lane.

<sup>14</sup> Nellie Wright was buried in St. Leonard’s Churchyard, Beoley, Worcestershire. Her daughter Esther Margaret Fowler (Wright) Blair-Kerr, wife of Sir Alastair Blair-Kerr, was also buried there.

<sup>15</sup> Joseph Ashbarry, packer, resident of Bell Barn Road, son of Joseph Ashbarry, gentleman, married Esther Clarke, spinster, resident of Sherlock Street, daughter of Joseph Clarke, brick maker, on Nov. 20, 1865 in St. Martin’s Church, Birmingham, Warwickshire. Their wedding ceremony was performed by William Barker, Curate. Esther was a widow by Apr. 3, 1881, when she was enumerated for UK 1881 as a dressmaker at 3 Ryland Terrace, King’s Norton, Worcestershire, with her daughters Julia E[llen] Ashbarry, age 15, born Edgbaston, Warwickshire, pupil teacher, and Emily Ashbarry, age 11, born Birmingham, Warwickshire, scholar.

<sup>16</sup> Can she be identified with Annie Gertrude Hancock born 1900 in Staffordshire, England in the Newcastle-under-Lyme registration district?

<sup>17</sup> In UK 1911, Sydney Fowler Wright, age 37, married, accountant, born Birmingham, was also enumerated as a boarder in the hotel of John Hooker (age 81, widower) in Whitechurch, Hampshire. Perhaps Wright was travelling on business on the census enumeration date.

In 1951 Wright resided in South Kensington.

In 1955 Wright resided at Hillcrest, Devonish Road, Lummingdale, Berkshire.

*A partial chronology of Wright's life and works can be found in Weinkauff (pp. 5-8).*

Children (by first wife)<sup>18</sup>:

- i. Isaline Fowler Wright, born Q4 1900 Meriden, Warwickshire [6d:448], died 1936 (McFarlane Family Tree, Ancestry).
- ii. Gilbert Fowler Wright, born Q2 1902 Aston, Warwickshire, died Q1 1936 Southwick [1d:13].
- iii. Esther Margaret Fowler Wright, born Mar. 18, 1905 Aston, Warwickshire, died Jan. 11, 1990 Devonshire. She married Justice Sir Alastair Blair-Kerr (born Dec. 1, 1911, died Dec. 1, 1992). He served in Hong Kong and as president of the Court of Appeal of the Commonwealth of Bahama (1978-1982). Esther was buried with her mother in St. Leonard's Churchyard, Beoley, Worcestershire.
- iv. Roger Bankart Fowler Wright, born. Apr. 2, 1906 Aston, Warwickshire, died May 10, 1982 Mayford, Woking [Surrey SW (17:1127)]. In 1939, he was a journalist and subeditor, residing with his wife Patricia L. (----) Wright (born May 6, 1912) in Wolh, Plymouth, Devonshire.
- v. Allan Seymour Fowler Wright, born May 12, 1907 Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, died Nov. 12, 1999 Greenwich, London.
- vi. Katherine Mary Fowler Wright, born Q4 1908 Bromsgrove, Worcestershire<sup>19</sup>, died Oct. 6, 1940. She married Ralph Perry Latham (1913-2001) by whom she had a son George Latham (born Aug. 19, 1940 Mount Pleasant, Middleton, Lancashire, died Oct. 20, 1940 Mount Pleasant, Middleton, Lancashire).

Children (by second wife).

- vii. Valerie Fowler Wright, born 1924. She married ---- Dreeson.
- viii. Yolande Fowler Wright, born 1926, died 1995.
- ix. Diana M. Fowler Wright, born Q2 1927 West Bromwich, Staffordshire [96b:1269]. She had three children by her husband Frederick H. Pick.
- x. Nigel R. Fowler Wright, born Q1 1932 Solihull, West Midlands (6d: 1135), died 1987.

**8. HERBERT VICTOR WRIGHT.** Born Q4 1875 King's Norton, Worcestershire [6c:475], died Dec. 25, 1934 Christian Science Rest Home [Arden Wood], 445 Wawona Street, San Francisco, California. He married Jan. 3, 1907 (Los Angeles County California) Cora Isobel Carr (born Sept. 22, 1872 Minnesota, died Oct. 27, 1950 San Luis Obispo California), the daughter of Levi Carr (born Mar. 20, 1841 Indiana, died June 14,

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<sup>18</sup> Given Wright's advocacy of large families, it is surprising that his first child was not born until Q4 1900. It is possible that his wife experienced miscarriages or stillbirths before then.

<sup>19</sup> Alternatively, Jan. 18, 1909 Finstall, Warwickshire (Ancestry Family Tree).

1917 Larimore, Grand Forks County North Dakota) and Henrietta Scriven (born Mar. 1, 1853 New York, died Sept. 18, 1940 Los Angeles, California).<sup>20</sup>

UK 1881: age 6, in parents' King's Norton, Worcestershire household.

UK 1891: age 15, clerk to merchant, in father's Edgbaston, Warwickshire household.

Minnesota state census 1905 (212 West Grant Street, Minneapolis): age 30, bookkeeper, in his father's household.

Los Angeles, California 1907 directory: Herbert V. Wright, bookkeeper, C. C. Desmond, house 209 Thorp.

Los Angeles, California 1910 directory: H. Victor Wright, auditor, Brock & Feagas, house 216 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Place.

US 1910 (as "H. Victor Wright"), age 34, auditor (jewelry store), emigration year 1897, U.S. citizenship pending, as head of household at 216 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Place, Los Angeles, California. His wife Cora I. Wright (age 36, born Minnesota of Indiana-born father and New York-born mother) and his mother-in-law Henrietta S[criven] Carr (age 55, widow, 3 children borne, 2 living, born New York of New York-born parents) were also in his household.

US 1920 (as "H. Victor Wright"): age 44, secretary, jewelry organization, head of household at 216 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Place, Los Angeles, California. Also in his household were his wife Cora Wright (age 46, born Minnesota), his daughter Marjorie Wright (age 7, born California), his mother-in-law Henrietta Carr (age 63, widow, born New York), his wife's sister Lillian (Carr) Chase (age 43, born Minnesota)<sup>21</sup> and his wife's brother-in-law Lee Chase (age 44, collector, born Wisconsin).

US 1930 (as "Victor H. Wright"): age 54, assistant secretary (clothing store), head of household in Glendale, California, with wife Cora I. Wright (age 56, born Minnesota), daughter Marjorie C. Wright (age 19, born California) and mother-in-law Henrietta D. Carr (age 75, widow, born New York).

1926, 1930 and 1934 voting record: Herbert Victor Wright and Mrs. Cora I. Wright, 346 West Lomita Avenue, Glendale, California.

US 1940 (346 West Lomita Avenue, Glendale, California): Cora Wright (head), age 67, born Minnesota; Henrietta Carr (mother), age 86, born New York; Marjorie Allen (daughter), age 27, born California, new worker; Leland Allen (grandson), age 6, born California; Frances Myers (lodger), age 10, born California; Leolta Gothard (lodger), age 19, born Los Angeles, California, tea room waitress.

Herbert was buried with his stepmother Isaline Victoria Wright in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California. His wife's brother-in-law Lee Edmund Chase made the arrangements for his funeral and burial.

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<sup>20</sup> Henrietta (Scriven) Carr was buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.

<sup>21</sup> Lillian May Chase was born in Minnesota on May 31, 1876 and died in Los Angeles, California on Feb. 14, 1955. She married Dec. 23, 1902 (Hennepin County Minnesota) Lee Edmund Chase (b. Oct. 24, 1875 Wisconsin, d. Oct. 24, 1965 Los Angeles California). US 1930 and US 1940 enumerated them at 425 Wing Street in Glendale, California. Lee Chase worked as a collector for a retail merchant in 1930 and as a collector for a jewelry store in 1940. In both years, Lee's aunt Eliza A. Ayers (born 1849 New York) was also a member of his household. Lee and his wife were buried in Grand View Memorial Park and Crematory in Glendale, California.

Children:

i. Marjorie C. Wright, born ca. 1913 California, died Feb. 18, 1998 Huntington Beach, Orange County California. She married ca. 1932 ---- Allen and had a son Leland Allen (born 1933/34 California).

**9. WALTER COLEMAN WRIGHT.** Born Mar. 21, 1877 Edgbaston, Warwickshire, died Mar. 4, 1959 Los Angeles, California. He married July 20, 1919 (Los Angeles, California) Elsie Frieda Hoefflin<sup>22</sup> (born October 1888 Iowa, died 1967), the daughter of John [Johann Friedrich] Hoefflin (born Nov. 13, 1842 Eichstetten, Baden) and Mary Ernestine Schutt (born Dec. 12, 1849 Denmark).

UK 1881: age 4, in household of maternal grandmother Hannah Fowler (age 66, widow, born Tamworth, Staffordshire) at 52 Lee Crescent, Edgbaston, Warwickshire. His brother Percy S. Wright and his aunt and future stepmother Isoline Fower (age 35, single, born Tamworth, Staffordshire) were also members of the household.

UK 1891: age 14, scholar, in father's Edgbaston, Warwickshire household.

US 1900 (Colorado Springs, Colorado): age 23, bookkeeper, emigrant of 1897, in his father's household.

Minnesota state census 1905 (212 West Grant Street, Minneapolis): age 28, accountant, in father's household.

Los Angeles, California 1907 directory: accountant, residence 621 West 4<sup>th</sup> (same as his father Stephen).

Los Angeles, California 1910 directory: manager, Audit Company of Los Angeles, 620-624 Laughlin Building, 315 South Broadway, residence Hollywood.

US 1910: age 33, single, accountant, emigrant of 1897, he resided in the Los Angeles, California household of his father Stephen Wright and his stepmother Isaline Wright.

Los Angeles, California 1913 directory: president and manager, The Audit Company of Los Angeles, residence 1732 Ivar Avenue. (His father Stephen Wright served as vice president and resided at the same address.)

Los Angeles, California 1916 directory: CPA, president, Audit Company of Los Angeles, residence 1732 Ivar Avenue. (His father Stephen Wright resided at the same address.)

Los Angeles, California 1917 directory: CPA, president, Audit Company of Los Angeles, residence 1930 N. Cheremoya Avenue. (His father resided at the same address.)

Los Angeles, California 1918 directory: Walter Coleman Wright, CPA, President, Audit Company of Los Angeles, house 1930 N. Cheremoya Avenue (his father Stephen and his sister Amy resided at the same address).

When he registered for the draft on Sept. 11, 1918, Walter Coleman Wright resided at 1930 N. Cheremoya Avenue, Los Angeles, California. He was a self-employed CPA, with office in [room] 709 H. W. Hellman Building. He named his father Stephen Wright as his nearest relative.

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<sup>22</sup> Marriage record states her name as F. Elsie Hoefflin. She has Familysearch ID L7XL-NYL.



US 1920: age 48, single, accountant (audit company), an 1897 emigrant, naturalized U.S. citizen (1915), and head of household at 1930 E. Cheremoya Ave, in Los Angeles, California. His father Stephen Wright, his stepmother Isaline V. Wright and his sister Amy S. Wright were also members of his household.

Los Angeles, California 1924 directory: Walter Coleman Wright, CPA, resident manager, Warwick [sic], Mitchell & Co., house 1750 Tamarind Avenue.

US 1930: age 53, accountant, emigrant of 1897, naturalized U.S. citizen, head of household at 1750 Tamarind Avenue, Los Angeles, California. Also in his household were his wife Elsie Wright (age 41, born Iowa), his daughter Carol Wright (age 3, born California) and his son John Mark Wright (age 3, born California).

US 1940: age 63, accountant, naturalized U.S. citizen, head of household at 1317 Spruce Street, Pasadena, California. Also in his household were his wife Elsie Frieda Wright (age 51, born Iowa), his daughter Carol Wright (age 14, born California), his son John M. Wright (age 13, born California), and his sister Amy Wright (age 67, born England, alien). All the members of the household except Amy Wright had resided in Eagle Rock, Los Angeles County California on Apr. 1, 1935; Amy Wright had resided in Hollywood, California on Apr. 1, 1935.

Walter C. Wright and his wife Elsie Wright were buried in Hollywood Forever Cemetery, Hollywood, California.

Children:

- i. John Mark Wright, born Oct. 22, 1924 California, died Mar. 17, 1974 Ventura, California.
- ii. Carol Joy Wright, born Apr. 9, 1926 Los Angeles, California, died Mar. 15, 2009. She served as RMI in the U.S. Navy in Korea and Vietnam, and was buried in San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, Merced County, California.

**10. HORACE BANKART WRIGHT.** Born May 25, 1878 Edgbaston, Warwickshire, died Dec. 25, 1960 Los Angeles, California. He married May Oddly (b. June 1, 1888 Gateshead, England, died Oct. 22, 1969).

UK 1881: age 6, in parents' King's Norton, Worcestershire household.

UK 1891: age 12, scholar, in father's Edgbaston, Warwickshire household.

US 1900: age 22, bookkeeper, an emigrant of 1897, in the Colorado Springs, Colorado household of his father Stephen Wright.

Minnesota state census 1905 (212 West Grant Street, Minneapolis): age 22, bookkeeper, in his father's household.

Horace evidently returned to England after 1905.

UK 1911 (Smethwick, Worcestershire, household of James and Christiana Oddly): Horace Bankart Wright, visitor, age 32, married, manufacturer's clerk (rubber goods), born Edgbaston; his wife Mary Bankart Wright, visitor, age 22, married, born Gateshead-on-Lyme; and their three-week old baby Bankart Wright, born Erdington, Birmingham.

Horace Bankart Wright filed his first intention for U.S. citizenship on Sept. 24, 1914. He then resided at 1157 Yosemite Drive in Pasadena, California, and had arrived in New York on Oct. 6, 1912. He refiled for U.S. citizenship on May 23, 1918, when he resided at 314 West Clarendon Street, Huntington Park, Los Angeles, California. He stated that he had sailed from Southampton on Sept. 28, 1912 and arrived in New York on Oct. 6, 1912. He became a U.S. citizen on Mar. 7, 1919.

The 1913 Los Angeles city directory listed Horace B. Wright, bookkeeper, United Wholesale Grocery Company, residing in Alameda, California.

The 1916 Los Angeles city directory listed Horace B. Wright, bookkeeper, Channel Commercial Company, residing in Huntington Park, Los Angeles, California.

The 1917 Los Angeles city directory listed Horace B. Wright, bookkeeper, Earl Cowan Company, residing in Huntington Park, Los Angeles, California.

When he registered for the draft on Sept. 12, 1918, Horace Bankart Wright and his wife Mrs. May Wright resided at 314 W. Clarendon, Los Angeles, California. He worked as a clerk for F. J. North at 127 S. Poe Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

US 1920 (125 N. Middleton, Huntington Park, Los Angeles, California): Horace B. Wright (head), age 40, born England of English-born parents, emigrated 1912, naturalized 1918, collector (accounts); May Wright (wife), age 30, born England of English-born parents, emigrated 1912, naturalized 1918; Kenneth B. Wright (son), age 8, born England of English-born parents, emigrated 1912, naturalized 1918; Althea M. Wright (daughter), age 5, born California of English-born parents.

US 1930 (2654 East Grand Street, San Antonio, Los Angeles, California): Horace B. Wright (head), age 51, born England of English-born parents, emigrated 1912, naturalized U.S. citizen, collector (wholesale stationery house); May B. Wright (wife), age 41, born England of English-born parents, emigrated 1912, naturalized U.S. citizen; Kenneth B. Wright (son), age 19, single, born England of English-born parents, emigrated 1912, naturalized U.S. citizen, office boy (cardboard box factory); Althea B. Wright (daughter), age 16, single, born California of English-born parents.

The 1936 Los Angeles County voter registration list included Horace B. Wright, collector, and Mrs. May B. Wright, housewife, at 4710 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Los Angeles.

US 1940 (4623 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Los Angeles, California): Horace B. Wright (head), age 62, born England, collection agency proprietor; May B. Wright (wife), age 52, born England; Althea M. Wright (daughter), age 26, divorced, born California, saleslady (department store); Kenneth B. Wright (son), age 29, married, born England, office clerk (wholesale paper); Constance B. Wright (daughter-in-law), age 27, married, born Oklahoma; Diana M. Wright (granddaughter), age 3, born California. All the members of the household except Diana M. Wright had resided in the same place on Apr. 1, 1935.

When he registered for the draft in 1942, Horace Bankart Wright resided at 5112 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, California. He named his wife Mrs. May Wright of the same address as the person who would always know his address. He was employed by the Dailey Journal Company, 121 N. Broadway, Los Angeles, California.

The 1944 Los Angeles County voter registration list included Horace B. Wright, collector, and Mrs. May B. Wright, housewife, at 5112 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles.

The 1948 Los Angeles County voter registration list included Horace B. Wright and Mrs. May B. Wright at 2802 Glenn Avenue, Los Angeles.

The 1954 Los Angeles County voter registration list included Horace B. Wright at 1812 S. Primrose Avenue, Los Angeles [Alhambra].

The 1958 and 1960 Los Angeles County voter registration lists included Horace B. Wright and Mrs. May B. Wright at 122 W. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles [El Segundo].

Horace, his wife and their son Kenneth Stephen Bankart Wright were buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park (Hollywood Hills), Los Angeles, California.

Children:

i. Kenneth Stephen Bankart Wright, born Mar. 14, 1911 Birmingham, England, died June 22, 1987. Married Constance B. ---- (born 1912/13 Oklahoma). They had a daughter Diana M. Wright (b. 1936/37 California).

ii. Althea May Wright, born Mar. 17, 1914 Pasadena, California, died Sept. 20, 2000. She married (1) July 7, 1934 (Los Angeles County, California) John A. Fray [1229:127] and (2) Feb. 11, 1937 (Los Angeles County, California) Reuben Borkgren [1413:111].

**11. ALFRED ERNEST WRIGHT.** Born Q1 1881 King's Norton, Worcestershire [6c:81], died Q2 1881 King's Norton, Worcestershire [6c:373].

UK 1881: age 1 month, in parents' King's Norton, Worcestershire household.

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**Known pseudonyms:** Sydney Fowler, Anthony Wingrave, Alan Seymour.



Marker for Nellie (Ashbarry) Wright and her daughter Esther Margaret (Wright) Blair-Kerr at St. Leonard's Churchyard, Beoley, Worcestershire. *Credit: Find-A-Grave.*



# S. FOWLER WRIGHT'S SHORT STORIES

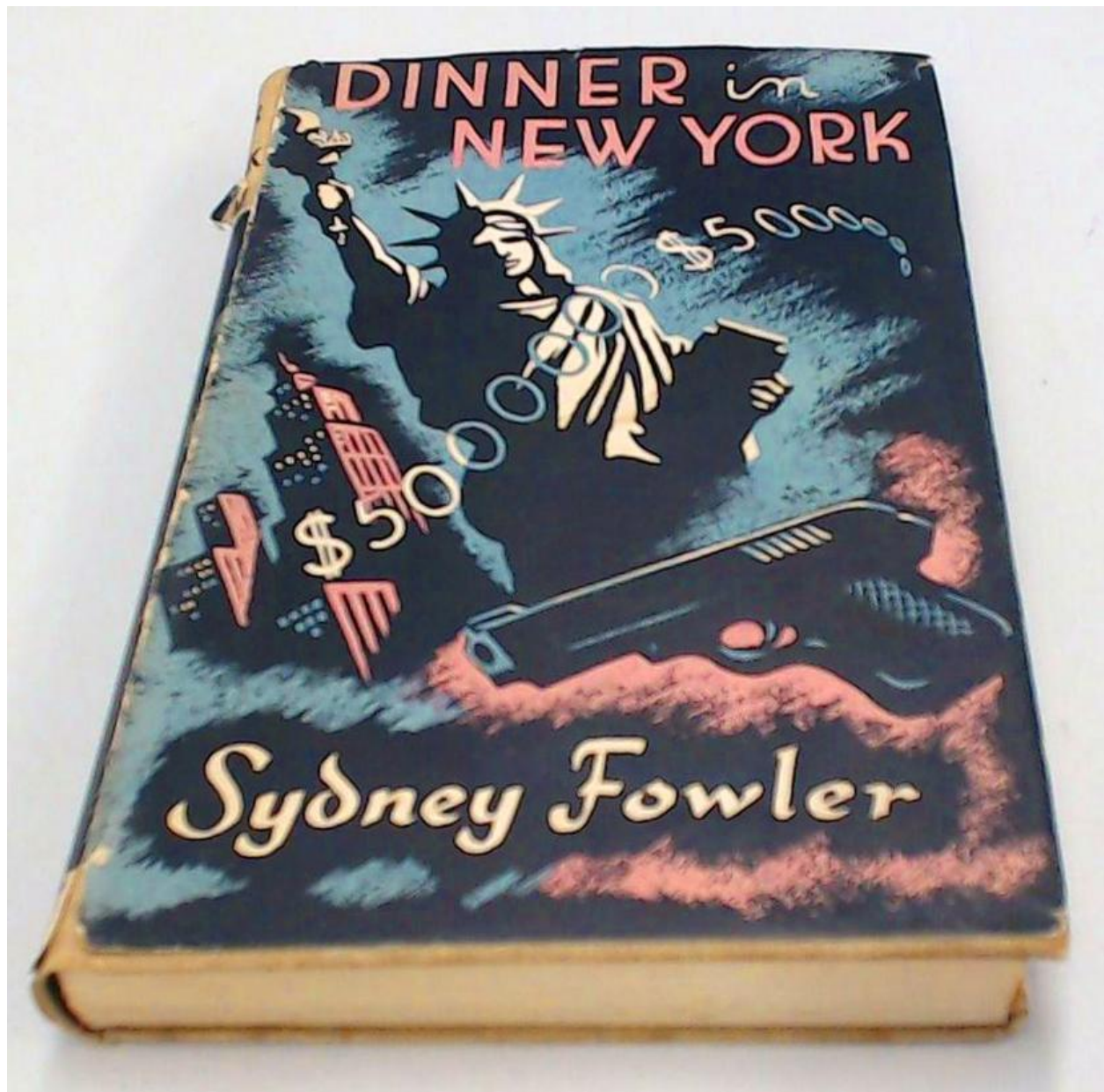
BY S. FOWLER WRIGHT



Foreword by Brian Stableford M.A. D. Phil.  
Incorporating a 'Reader's' list of S.FW's works.

Book cover showing the young S. Fowler Wright. The 1890s style of the clothes suggest we also see his first wife Julia Ellen "Nellie" Ashbarry (died 1918).





*Dinner in New York* (1943), one of his 26 popular mystery-crime novels written under the name Sydney Fowler and published between 1930 and 1954. In this novel Mr. Jellipot — a London lawyer — meets the gangster Al Capone who is trying to move ill-gotten mob money to an English bank.

His key series characters included Mr. Jellipot, Professor Blinkwell, Inspector Cauldron and Inspector Cleveland, and the comic 'Mildew Gang'.