



Tell Us Your Story

Ros Cresswell

I think we are probably what counts as accidental immigrants. No fleeing or adversity drove us – just a job offer and a what if? Family pioneers with no greater idea than a chance to try something new and see how it works out. Perhaps that is British understatement at its best.

Eighteen years and two adult children who have grown up largely here, we still suffer from the immigrant experience of uncertainty. We are resolutely English, although we visit the family with increasing puzzlement while they see us firmly as American. In Yorkshire where I was born they'd say "neither nowt nor summat".

My genealogy shows only British blood going back to the 1700s. Most worked on the land including a great great uncle, William Cresswell, who was a gardener at Audley End and whose family lived in an earlier house where the Vicar lives in the TV series "Grantchester". A mystery remains that his brother Johnny, my great grandfather, who reputedly once *had* to "leave the country" for a while, may have come to America. My grandmother's recipe book used to contain a recipe for "Bawston" Cream Pie. That seems like a pretty big clue to me!

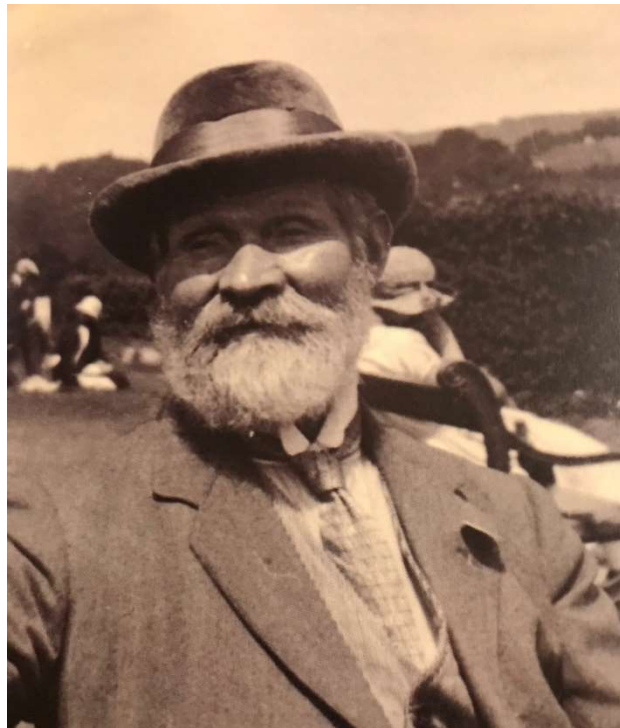


Photo: William Cresswell

