

## **Yvette Staelens interviews Holly Baker Ballinger on 7th July 2015**

**Yvette:** Holly, tell me a bit about yourself? When and where were you born?

**Holly:** I was born in Evanston, Illinois in December 2nd 1967.

**Yvette:** Okay.

**Holly:** And so and I lived there with my older brother Ian and my mom, Alison, Craigy Mead Baker and George Baker and then we moved to Southern California, so I was actually raised in Southern California on Leo Island, but my mother was raised in Indianapolis and that's where the Mead and Williams and Gunn families are all from Indiana. And so, so when I went to, what you all call, university, I went to Belmore university, which is back in Indianapolis. So I left Southern California and went there to school and my mother said "Wherever you go to school is where you will live" and I thought "Well, no" but she was right, 'cos now I lived longer in Indiana then I lived in California. But and then my mother, who spent time here at Halsway as a child, we moved her back to Indiana, about five years ago, and so she lived with us, not with us but in a special assisted home for the last five years of her life.

**Yvette:** Wow, so tell me about your connection with Halsway Manor.

**Holly:** So, um, I'm going to see if I get all the greats right. So my great, great aunt, Tryphena Gunn Mitchell Mitchell, so her maiden name was Mitchell and she married William Nelson Mitchell, owned Halsway Manor. It would seem from, in the 1920s until 1937. And I want to say they bought the house in 1924, I think, it was 1924 and then sold it in 1937. And so, I just lost my thought, William, rather, was the head of Imperial Tobacco. And the Gunn family, so again Tryphena Gunn Mitchell, the Gunn family was also in tobacco and they, the Gunn, its clan from Scotland, the Scottish Highlands and then again uncle William was in Bristol running Imperial Tobacco. So Tryphena's mother, Margaret, but she went by Koogie and I don't know how we got such unusual names in our family but Koogie and Tryphena decided to come to a Gunn family reunion in Bristol, as I understand it. I'm trying to remember the right cities, here. And Tryphena had gone to school to be a librarian and was a librarian in Madison, Wisconsin, at the time. So she and Koogie, her mother came over for the reunion and William was here with his four sons from a previous marriage. He was widowed. And so, so they met the American, Tryphena and the story goes, that one of his sons, I think that they were all taken with her, she was very beautiful. One of his sons said "Father, I intend to ask the American to marry me" and William said, again much older, "You will not ask her to marry you, because I am going to ask her to marry me". And he did and they were married. And so it was Tryphena's first marriage and William's second marriage and pretty quickly, a little over a year, they had a son of their own, John Howard Mitchell. And, but they didn't move to Halsway Manor, they didn't purchase and move to Halsway Manor until John Howard was thirteen, I think it was, eleven, twelve or thirteen, in that range. And again, as the stories have been told to me from my two uncles and my mother, who came as children, was that uncle William and Tryphena, they were so in love with each other and because of uncle William's job or profession, apparently money was readily available and so I've been told that he often said to Tryphena, whatever you want you can have. And so, I've never understood her to take advantage of that but I presume she enjoyed that kinda of the same

time. So, so again the stories always been shared that she had Rembrandts and they had multiple cars. And she, one of my favourite stories is that she wore a particular fabric and dress made by Fortuny, which is out of Italy. And it would seem that she would travel there to pick the fabrics and have the dresses made but I believe that Fortuny also provided some of the draperies that were in Halsway. And then also some of the, there was another company that she ordered through, but, but she wore these Fortuny gowns and we discovered, my mother and her two brothers discovered the Fortuny gowns actually in the attic of my grandmother's house in Indianapolis and we were able to and that was in 1984. And we were able to donate those dresses, so Tryphena's old dresses, to a museum in Indianapolis and they're going to, hopefully, in the next two years, do an exhibit of clothing and those dresses will be, will be there. But they, they adored one another and and lived a wonderful life. And she, they entertained a lot but it's, but I've also read and been told that she chose Halsway over other places they loved because it really provided a nice level of privacy. And so well she had to entertain and did that. I think she liked being away from peering eyes, maybe, so um, but so I've heard about Tryphena, our aunt T and uncle William all of my life and so we decided to come back. And what was fun, though, before my husband, my son and myself, before we left, we went and met with my uncle again and looked at his album and his books and pictures and he, you know, relayed again the story to us about Halsway. She did sell, so uncle William died in 1937 and she and John Howard did decide to sell the manor. I would think it was probably more than anyone person or two people would want to take on. And they did have drivers and servants and that but. She then moved to Bath to Sovereign House, which I guess must be just a, some houses have names and so she lived there but ultimately John Howard died during World War Two. He was on leave and he drowned off the coast of Africa. So her only son and the love of her life were both gone. So she did move back to Indiana, to Indianapolis and then towards the end of her life actually lived in Carmel, California. And she died March 10th of 1971. I was three, I don't remember meeting her. I don't know that I did, maybe I didn't. I have a feeling I did though because my mother was so fond of her. And so, but she had such an impact on my mother and her two brothers and just and I think my grandmother, Margaret Mead, who was Tryphena's niece, first niece, they had a wonderful relationship because Margaret was an only child and Tryphena had only one sister, Alice and Margaret was Alice's daughter. So, so Margaret kinda became Tryphena's child when John Howard passed. And John Howard, I think, was probably one of the single most handsome men I have ever laid eyes on in a picture. I mean he is, almost, I will look through the pictures and friends will look at them and we're like "Holy Mackerel", he is the most handsome man, we think, we have ever laid eyes on. But the other thing that I think is very special is, we have, each one of us, so my aunts, my uncles and my cousins, we all have a little bit of Halsway Manor in our own homes in the USA. I have a corner cabinet, in particular, that is very beautiful. It was my grandmother's. It was then my mother's and now it's in my home and it came from Halsway. And then there's some other chairs and artefacts. So we all have a little piece and to think that those, some of those pieces came all the way over, is really amazing. I also, I think it was her ring, I have a beautiful ring of hers and ah, so we all have a little bit of her which and a little bit of Halsway. So it's a treat to be able to come back.

**Yvette:** So this is your first visit. Tell me about your impressions when you came here.

**Holly:** I get a little choked up. I, you know, I was so excited to be able to come, 'cos again, I've heard about Halsway Manor, all my life. And I remember being younger I thought "Why, why did we sell it?" But really, we couldn't've kept it. But when we pulled, when the

three of us drove up, I actually got very choked up because it was as beautiful as the pictures. And I had just hoped that there would have been one trip that I could've made, you know, with my mum. But, she's here and eh, in spirit. And um, but it was, I mean, it took my breath away, when I first saw it and when I walked in, it was, it was amazing. Now my cousins all said, I'm the baby, so my cousins, who were there for my mother's funeral, in January, in Indianapolis, they were saying "Ask if you can stay in aunt T's room." I was like, really "We don't even know if we can stay at Halsway" because we weren't part of a group. And we emailed and firstly the answer was "No, it wouldn't be possible but please come for a tour." Well then, we kept going back and forth and so we would stay three nights. But my cousins all said, in front of my eleven year old son, "Well you know her ghost is there" and I was like "What, stop, please don't say that in front of my eleven year old" So my husband and I have lied, on this trip, to our son with my son because we are staying at aunt T's room.

**Yvette:** Which room was that?

**Holly:** which is number three. But we've told John it's number eleven because he would not sleep, if he knew that. So it's been very, I mean, so, it's been so, it's been a little overwhelming 'cos it's been very moving to actually again be here. And to have, really to have the privilege to be able to come over, to travel here and to come see this. 'Cos it's, I'm painfully aware that not everyone gets this opportunity, so um, so it's been very special. And my husband has become extraordinarily interested and involved in learning all of this too, so, which I think is special. So, my first impressions were probably everything I thought it would be.

**Yvette:** Good.

**Holly:** It is, it's magnificent. I would like to travel back in time to have one night, when they entertained. I mean just and as corny as this sounds, I do watch Downton Abbey. And it's funny, 'cos when I've watched it, before we came, I said "Gosh, I wonder if that's what it's like" and it is like that. Maybe a little smaller but, but it's you know, it's just extraordinary. And what I think too and again, I didn't know Tryphena, personally, nor William, but I think that they would both be very happy to know what Halsway is today. I mean that it is supportive of the arts and music and culture. That's been a part of my family for years and so I think they'd be very happy

**Yvette:** And you have a lot of

**Holly:** I do

**Yvette:** photographs and

**Holly:** I do and so the first one, this is my second favourite photograph and you'll see why it's the second favourite, in a minute. But, so this is Uncle William and he was in a wheelchair and quite, quite old at this visit. But that's my mum.

**Yvette:** Wow and that's the door by the library, I believe.

**Holly:** Yes, I think it is. And this is her, my mother's older brother David Mead and their uncle Mitchell, well he goes by Mick. So my mother would've been five here. This one, six and this one, three. And um, my mum didn't smile much as a child in pictures but um but they all remember coming and visiting and and just how marvellous it was. And but it all seemed very normal to them, I mean, when they talk about it today, I think, I don't know how this could've seemed normal to anybody but it was just where aunt Tryphena lived. And so um, but my favourite picture is this one. So that's John Howard and then my mother, uncle David and my uncle Mick there.

**Yvette:** That's wonderful.

**Holly:** And so, I've also been told, uncle Mick just shared the story with us, a couple weeks ago, that, when they would come, John Mitchell, although obviously an older cousin, but John Mitchell played with them, just nonstop and he would hide from them and tease them and chase them and they just had a ball. And so, I think everyone had in the family has this photo now because it's just, I don't know, it's just marvellous. I can see my grandmother also putting them all in the matching shirts and what not, not a bit surprised by that but that's my favourite photo. And then, so Tryphena's mother, Margaret or Koogie

**Yvette:** How do you spell that?

**Holly:** Koogie. And this is uncle William and John Howard in front of one of his cars, I guess. And then again, I don't know how Mick said he had one or two cars and a driver. I mean it's just very different then how we've lived and the gardens were different. Excuse me, I'm sorry. So they have this, kind of, cut out, you know and these were roses, I think, from what I've gathered but it's profoundly the same. I mean it just, I guess this, is it this tower has come down, crumbled down, not the big one but this little one here.

**Yvette:** I think this one has gone

**Holly:** Oh has the big one gone too?

**Yvette:** Yeh. gosh

**Holly:** But then, but it's, in fact John Brent and I just sit on the wall tonight and have someone take our picture because everybody's done that in our family and we were told we must do that. So this is fun. So this is aunt Tryphena and uncle William, I don't have any idea who that handsome man is, but, I don't know if he's family, friend or whom ever, but he's handsome. But then, this is again a visit with the children. So there's my mother and Dave and Mick and uncle Mick didn't remember necessarily who all these children are but he thought maybe they were children of some of the folks that worked here at the house.

**Yvette:** Yeh and they are just outside having tea, aren't they?

**Holly:** I think so and they would go on picnics together and it sounded marvellous. And then I think that

**Yvette:** A magnificent car.

**Holly:** Isn't that gorgeous?

**Yvette:** It is.

**Holly:** And we love cars. The three of us love them so. I do like this because its again. So this is Koogie, so, John Howard's grandmother and then Tryphena and he was, oh my gosh,

**Yvette:** He is, isn't he, smart.

**Holly:** He almost reminds me of, would it be Cary Grant.

**Yvette:** Yeh.

**Holly:** I mean, just that dark hair and the

**Yvette:** Yeh. No, he's incredibly handsome. Striking, you're right. Golly and smart, really smart. It is just a huge difference.

**Holly:** Well it does. And this, we don't know even know if this is here or not. That kinda came up as a question last night when we were looking through. Because it's not this building. And then one of the guy that was working at the front desk yesterday. She was commenting how square the corners are and how different the roof it. So it's possible that this is not one of them. But.

**Yvette:** I bet we could find out. It's worth having a copy and getting it researched. Anything we find out about these photographs, obviously, we feed back to you. It's part of the family history.

**Holly:** Yes, it is.

**Yvette:** There are working people who will know, we can trace that. That's a good photograph.

**Holly:** It is well, it is just beautiful.

**Yvette:** Look at that.

**Holly:** So there's Koogie and Tryphena. I loved how they dressed.

**Yvette:** Yes. Ohh.

**Holly:** They sit here looking like, that's over in the US. That is in my aunt's

**Yvette:** What's that a daybed, what

**Holly:** Well, you know, it's interesting, I have one of the family's daybeds, that was never here, I don't think. Okay, but this, is my uncle calls it still lounge. It's beautiful and his ex-wife, you know, how that happens. His ex-wife, I believe, it's part of her possessions now so one of her two daughters will receive it but it is, it is stunning.

**Yvette:** That was at Halsway?

**Holly:** Yes, this was at Halsway. And then, so this is my uncle Dave. So, he came over more than once, 'cos he's a wee little and to know him is to know probably one of the greatest men that I've ever known so and he's so cute and then Koogie again. And uncle William

**Yvette:** And an interior shot here.

**Holly:** And we have several more interior shots.

**Yvette:** Yeh, good because they are quite difficult to come by. Lots of people take pictures outside because of the lighting issue.

**Holly:** So there's Tryphena

**Yvette:** Wow, she's

**Holly:** And I'll tell you a little secret, the long strand of pearls, so this is why I thought maybe the ghost would come back and haunt me. I don't wear pearls, they were my mother's. I had them, I took, well they flown to New York to have them looked at and so on and they are very beautiful. So the irony is, about a month ago, I had them sold and so I don't have Tryphena's pearls and when I saw this picture, I was like, ooooheek, she's going to come back and haunt me. But there is a lovely woman in Indianapolis, who, who has them and I know will wear them and she will look beautiful in them and I would much rather have someone wear them and enjoy them then have them sit in a safe.

**Yvette:** She looks like she is on that

**Holly:** She is, she is and I just think her eyes are so beautiful. I know this photo is just very indicative of that time.

**Yvette:** Oh it's beautiful.

**Holly:** But she um, but she's beautiful. And this was the water garden, I guess, which is down, is it, down that way? But I don't think it's the water, I don't think there's water any longer.

**Yvette:** There isn't anymore. I don't know about that.

**Holly:** I think that's beautiful. So then a few more interiors.

**Yvette:** Ohh, my word.

**Holly:** So.

**Yvette:** That's wonderful.

**Holly:** And this would've been when they lived here 'cos that painting isn't in the US, I believe.

**Yvette:** Do you know what it is?

**Holly:** Well, that's a very interesting question. And I don't know what the subject, I can't remember the subject matter but let's see if I can get this correctly. Raven, Raven, there was an artist who did, there's two more. I love that, look at that, I'm sorry, these two.

**Yvette:** Okay, so they are portraits.

**Holly:** They are portraits. This was Queen Elizabeth. No idea who this guy is but he is in my uncle's house. And then this one hangs in my other uncle's house. Raeburn, Raeburn, it's a very

**Yvette:** You can let me know.

**Holly:** Yes and I will re confirm but

**Yvette:** And all this panelling and decor. Whose is that, was it here when they came.

**Holly:** She brought it.

**Yvette:** So tell me more.

**Holly:** So the story goes, I'm going to read it to you so I don't misquote. Let see, "When John was thirteen another chapter of her story opened with the purchase of Halsway Manor. Several houses had been considered in the Mendips and the Cotswolds but she was drawn to the warm, secluded comfort of the Manor. Bet Walker had written of a feeling of repose about the old house and had been apprehensive that future reconstruction would reduce its charm" Let's see, I'm getting to where it talks about, here we go, "With William's encouragement, she (meaning Tryphena) selected panelling, plasterwork and ornamentation from other country houses which were undergoing demolition or rebuilding, using the material to transform the old house. One major reconstruction was in the lounge where the whole upper floor level had to be raised in order to accommodate the taller panelling plaster and ceiling from Standish Hall in Lincolnshire. This in turn made it necessary to construct the steps in the upstairs corridor to the raised floors of the rooms above. She installed a chamber organ" so the one that's in Victoria now "in the strengthened minstrel gallery and the hall and

commissioned new plasterwork in many parts of the house” I like this just because we all have a copy of the Gunn badge but. “The Mitchell crest and the Thistle Rose emblem were added to the Tudor ceiling in the library. And the Gunn badge replaced one of the bosses in the hall” and it’s still there.

**Yvette:** Terrific.

**Holly:** So it would seem she again, he, anything she wanted to do, she could do. I’m like, I like that. So, so, a lot, a lot of the antiques have come and the one thing I am curious about and I don’t know that anyone can answer this question. I have several sets of china, several and I am curious what sets were Tryphena’s. Because I’m sure they used them and it would be really kinda fun to send some sets back, so that Halsway could have them. I mean it’s not, I have a cousin, who wanted to send a lot of furniture back but the cost was prohibitive to do that and I thought, maybe we could come up with something else. But um, but yeh so, it’s, so, there has to be someone who can answer that, I’m thinking maybe my uncle’s wife ‘cos she did a lot of genealogy and was very interested, so,so she might be able to tell me.

**Yvette:** That’d be great.

**Holly:** Well it would, again, instead of having it in a cupboard, which is fine, I suppose but you know it’s, it would be really fun to have it be used properly.

**Yvette:** Yeh, and with that association which makes it really, really precious.

**Holly:** Yes it does.

**Yvette:** To bring it home.

**Holly:** Yeh, exactly, where it should be.

**Yvette:** Yeh.

**Holly:** Not in the middle of a cornfield in Indiana. As lovely as the cornfields are. So this is, I don’t know how old this photo is, but here’s something that’s interesting. So this is the library and up here in the plaster you see that there is that old, or that circle is empty, however, I am getting there, (rustle of papers)

**Yvette:** Ahhh,

**Holly:** John Howard Mitchell. Isn’t that interesting. ‘Cos I had this picture and the three of us, we were standing in the library and I said “Are we in the lib..” I kept saying to my husband Brent, “are we in the library?” and he said “Well yes.” I said “But look, it’s not there anymore” ‘cos it’s now just an open circle. And so that was me, I’m so glad that we have that

**Yvette:** As a record.

**Holly:** As a record to know, I mean certainly, of course, more than fine that it's not there anymore because if didn't know who he was, why would you have his initials up there. But um, my uncle in Westfield, Indiana has this rug still, although he has it folded in a chair, it is not down on the floor. But um, but anyway so, we thought that was very interesting that his initials no longer exist there. And then, so this is, my, I have, the other question I have about, is not only, including the china, so one, two, three, four, those are his elder sons, older sons and this is John Howard, again "Hello handsome" and then William, uncle William. Nobody seems to know what happened with these fellas. I don't know that anybody in my family has bothered to try to find out but I would be, I would be curious, I mean, because they would all have a connection to Halsway as well. I don't know the name of his first wife. I don't know the names of his other sons but I love that picture. I mean it just seems very appropriate for the time. I also notice that uncle William was the only one in a white tie and I assume that has something to do with maybe being the head of the Manor. I don't know, I might be putting a little too much romance in to it but, but anyway, but I do love that. And this is the entry way, you know, we call it a foyer.

**Yvette:** The porch?

**Holly:** Foyer, a porch, yeh.

**Yvette:** Umm, terrific.

**Holly:** And then, the organ, of course.

**Yvette:** And the Long room, gosh.

**Holly:** Yeh, which was a sitting room. I thought, maybe, it was just a really big dining room, because of the location with the kitchen, but I was corrected last night. I was also told that this particular piece and several others were sold at auction at Sotheby's, which I think is lovely too. Again, somebody's enjoying them.

**Yvette:** You'll find them in a catalogue somewhere, Sotheby's catalogue you'll find available so you'll find them, yeh.

**Holly:** They are beautiful.

**Yvette:** That looks later because

**Holly:** It is later but I don't know the date. I wish there were more dates on photos. I mean we can kinda guess by things but only if there people in them. And then the organ again. And then that's Koogie, so Tryphena mother standing there and I assume

**Yvette:** Is that a fountain, a sculpture or

**Holly:** I think so, right, not far from the beautiful, commemorative fiftieth anniversary pieces. That's a lovely piece, my son started to step on in. I was like "Get off" For the love, but I love, she was a beautiful lady.

**Yvette:** It's a lovely photo.

**Holly:** And then the beautiful car, again, just the lines of the cars.

**Yvette:** Yeh, yeh.

**Holly:** This, we don't believe is actually here and I'm wondering, we were talking last night, I'm wondering if this was from Sovereign House, where she lived afterwards.

**Yvette:** We have no ceiling like this.

**Holly:** Right, so.

**Yvette:** And no fireplace. Actually umm, no, we don't have a ceiling like that, we just don't.

**Holly:** So it's very possible it doesn't even belong in here but and then, here's some more. John in his uniform with Tryphena.

**Yvette:** This is wonderful.

**Holly:** John and then, these, I love this one too, so this is my grandfather, Raymond Mead and my grandmother, Margaret Mead. Tryphena's standing between them and my mother's on uncle William's lap and kinda pushing uncle William out of the photo, I don't know. And then, of course, John Howard.

**Yvette:** Yeh.

**Holly:** Uncle Dave and uncle Mick.

**Yvette:** And they're playing croquet on the lawn, they still do that here.

**Holly:** I love that, we saw that when we arrived. We were like "Look at that" Yeh. And I don't know how old this is. Is that the statue?

**Yvette:** Looks like it.

**Holly:** Yeh, so the statue, so I guess it maybe wasn't further down, but. And then, oh, these pieces are over in the US, at my uncle Dave's.

**Yvette:** Where was this, this is not Halsway.

**Holly:** I'm thinking that this, see there was a conversation about these two last night too, were these at Halsway or not. But this is a big bay window that doesn't. I'm thinking this was Sovereign House. But this furniture would've been

**Yvette:** It is beautiful.

**Holly:** It is gorgeous still today. My aunt and uncle recently moved from the house they lived in and raised six children in, to a retirement community and that's one of the pieces they took. And it is just beautiful.

**Yvette:** It looks like a Chippendale sort of triple chair. Do you know what it is, the history of it?

**Holly:** Well it's interesting because it could be argued that it is Chippendale or Chippendale style, of course and so the, the, I will say on the bottom of several of the chairs it has a sign that says "Bristol" on it. Now whether, what that means in terms of Chippendale, non Chippendale, I don't know.

**Yvette:** A furniture expert would tell you, definitely. That's wonderful furniture really stunning. Gosh it is in the US, that's fantastic.

**Holly:** Yeh, yeh. And then I don't recognise too many pieces from this room. But again the floor was wet, no one could figure out if it was here and they didn't think it was here, so.

**Yvette:** No, no.

**Holly:** Just another inside room.

**Yvette:** That's the bookshelf, isn't, in

**Holly:** Yeh. With that isn't that beautiful? Uncle William.

**Yvette:** Lovely. Oh gosh.

**Holly:** And this was his boat.

**Yvette:** So where's that then? Was it here?

**Holly:** Well that's what I was told.

**Yvette:** Yes I think you are probably right.

**Holly:** We went to the coast, to the what, the Bristol channel?

**Yvette:** Yes.

**Holly:** I was trying to find that. I kept looking out and I thought “well maybe that’s it”

**Yvette:** Those islands on, those little islets are not familiar to me but it’s not here. He could have sold it anyway couldn’t he and had this photo taken, I suppose. Goodness gracious.

**Holly:** I know. John Howard

**Yvette:** That’s what I mean t r y p h e n a, where does that come from, do you know?

**Holly:** I have no idea, unless it is of Scottish descent. But I really don’t know.

**Yvette:** It’s a very unusual name Tryphena.

**Holly:** I know. It’s quite a mouthful

**Yvette:** Yeh, this is nice. Did he play the violin?

**Holly:** Hmm, hmm. I guess so, I don’t know how well he played, but yeh.

**Yvette:** Oh that’s wonderful. And those will be on the boat, I’m guessing.

**Holly:** Yes, I think so.

**Yvette:** Wow, who’s that?

**Holly:** That’s him, that’s John Howard again. I know, see.

**Yvette:** He looks like a film star.

**Holly:** I mean he’s ridiculously handsome.

**Yvette:** That’s wonderful. That’s a painting isn’t it? Where’s that?

**Holly:** That my uncle has and we also have a bust of him which is in one of these pictures. Because doesn’t everyone have a bust of their child? I remember thinking “Hmmpf really” right there

**Yvette:** Oh Really? That is interesting.

**Holly:** And he’s in there, my uncle again moved into a senior home or area. He’s in their apartment. Sometimes we’ll put hats on it, like have a little fun. But this is wonderful. This obituary is beautifully written and just kinda speaks more about the character.

**Yvette:** He went to Harrow, North Somerset uni, goodness. I would love a copy of that as well actually.

**Holly:** Yeh, yeh. He did sound like a very really warm good friend, good family person, not married.

**Yvette:** No. What a tragedy.

**Holly:** And he could swim, so I don't know anything about the currents off Africa It was a freak, freak situation. So.

**Yvette:** His poor mother, her only son. It's beyond belief. It's just such a tragedy.

**Holly:** Oh I can't

**Yvette:** Can't imagine it.

**Holly:** I can't wrap my head around that one.

**Yvette:** No. There's your four poster bed.

**Holly:** Yes, that's what I think John was imagining. That bed, that bed was donated to something or the other. And I can't, I will find out where it was donated. And then this, I have an ink drawing of, that's Peter Pan from, the statue, in the garden

**Yvette:** In Kensington Gardens, yes.

**Holly:** Yes and I guess that was beloved by my mum.

**Yvette:** How lovely.

**Holly:** and her brothers so,

**Yvette:** Ohh, that's wonderful.

**Holly:** And then just the library again.

**Yvette:** So why and when did you put this together?

**Holly:** Well I am not as much of a planner as my husband, so he planned the trip and all of a sudden I said "You know, I'm not going to get through all my mother's photos before we leave and so let's see what uncle Mick has" because he's a bit more organised than I am, at this point. And so we went up and this is his photo album actually.

**Yvette:** Okay.

**Holly:** And so Brent took us to his office, scanned everything, printed it out. We were so busy before we left town so I said well I'd read it when we were on the plane and I did and looked through it and but what I realised once I got here, we have a lot of duplicates of these photos. And so it will be, we can scan them and e mail them, we can send you some of the originals for you to keep, but I mean

**Yvette:** That will be wonderful.

**Holly:** Yes it's just

**Yvette:** Wonderful, we don't have anything much from this phase of the Manor's life really, because, as you say, the family went to America and took their things with them.

**Holly:** And Tryphena came, they brought her back to be laid to rest next to uncle William.

**Yvette:** So where are they buried?

**Holly:** Okay, shoot. Let me look this up and I can tell you exactly. I can tell you where in the cemetery they are, Bicknoller.

**Yvette:** Oh, just up the road.

**Holly:** Yes

**Yvette:** The church is beautiful.

**Holly:** It's beautiful, in fact, they're adding a toilet. I was laughing. I've been in fundraising and PR all of my life and there was a fundraising flyer for a toilet and I thought "All right, I've never done that" but there was a gentleman working on the church and it was yesterday morning and of course it was raining. We were trying to find Tryphena and William. I said "we'll come back." I thought the church was locked actually but it wasn't and so we went in.

**Yvette:** So William was buried here?

**Holly:** William was buried here

**Yvette:** She was in the States and her ashes were brought back or her body.

**Holly:** I assume her ashes but you know, I don't know, there's no indicator at their grave site but um.

**Yvette:** And is there a tombstone? Is it easy to find?

**Holly:** It is easy to find. And I mean it is a bit more worn than in 1979 when my uncles were here 'cos they went to see it. and you could read the writing on it a little bit more but it really

is, it's beautiful. It looks very much like there's a, what I would say, a celtic cross, tall. And it says, something to the effect of, you know, it lists him first, of course and then his wife, Tryphena Gunn Mitchell Mitchell and together, together again for ever or something like that and you know, that they could at least, they were together in this life and could be together again. So.

**Yvette:** It's a beautiful church and a beautiful churchyard and they ring the bells regularly there as well.

**Holly:** Do they?

**Yvette:** It's a very special place.

**Holly:** Well it, just even walking in, I mean it was just gorgeous. Koogie, Tryphena's mother was Catholic, so it was interesting, because I thought well, I don't know if Tryphena was raised Catholic then but they went to St Mary's of the Wood, which is in Terre Haute, Tere, yeh, Indiana and and in going through things from the university or the college, rather, you know, lots, lots of Catholicism and so on but that church is not Catholic as I understood.

**Yvette:** No it's not, it's Church of England.

**Holly:** So, I thought that was interesting as well.

**Yvette:** It is, isn't it. Well what a journey you've had. Nostalgia and joy to find the Manor in good heart and being used in a wonderful way. It must be fabulous for your family.

**Holly:** It is, it is and we were told, I guess my uncles and my mother joined the society many years ago so we will, we will be honoured if we could join before we leave, as well.

**Yvette:** Fantastic. Keep in touch with us. This has been an absolute pleasure. Honestly I've enjoyed all this. You know, Like you, I feel I have fallen into these photographs, you know and I can feel the time and love and all the joy they had here and didn't want to come back and tell us everything.

**Holly:** It does tell everything.

**Yvette:** Very special.

**Holly:** Because when I mention that, people are quite surprised by that, I mean, it must not have been a very common occurrence to do something like that.

**Yvette:** And they would have been left for how many years? About thirty years, forty years?

**Holly:** Yes, because, let's see well he died in '37 well '36, '37. So I mean it was years,

**Yvette:** That he was here.

**Holly:** They just loved each other.

**Yvette:** Is there anything else you want to share before I

**Holly:** I don't think so

**Yvette:** Okay, I guess, my last question, is what does Halsway mean to you?

**Holly:** Family.