

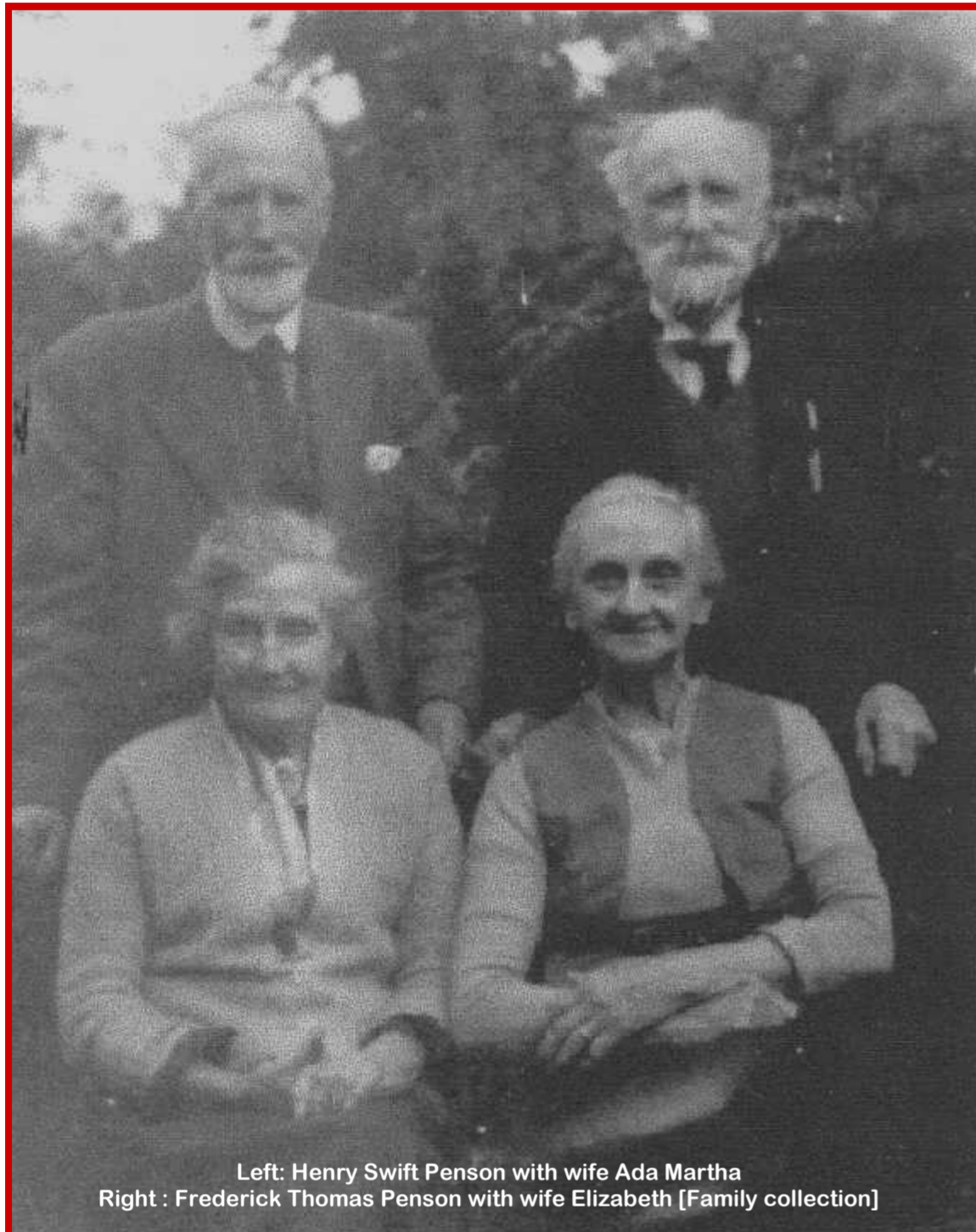
The Penson Family

The Penson family association with the Levesons may be traced back to the 16th century when a Penson ancestor returned to England with Sir Richard Leveson, an ancestor of the Sutherlands, after the defeat of the Armada.

During the 17th and 18th centuries several generations of the family provided men for the role of park keeper at Trentham. The first being James during the mid-1700s and the last his great grandson George Penson, who was park keeper until 1889.

Penson women were also valued servants. Elizabeth was a house maid at Trentham Hall in the first half of the 19th century and Mary, the widow of Thomas Penson, was Duchess Harriet's maid for many years. When Mary died, Duchess Harriet wrote: *"We have lost the truest, kindest, and best of friends, good and faithful Penson. I hope...to go someday to dear Penson's grave"*

There are Penson burials in Trentham churchyard and plaques commemorating family members in the church.



Left: Henry Swift Penson with wife Ada Martha
Right: Frederick Thomas Penson with wife Elizabeth [Family collection]



HENRY SWIFT PENSION 1868-1951

Henry Swift Penson trained as an artist and exhibited mythological subjects at the Royal Academy in the early 1890s.

He taught at the Stoke School of Art and was subsequently employed as a designer / draughtsman at Minton Hollins Ltd and the Campbell Tile Company.

He was married in 1893 at Trentham to Ada Martha Penson. There were two sons, Charles Henry, born 1893, and Edward Richard, born 1895.

The 1911 census shows Henry Swift Penson living at Trentham Institute where he was the steward.



FREDERICK WILLIAM PENSION 1844 - 1926

Father of Frederick and Henry, a coal merchant by trade, living in Stoke on Trent in 1911. This portrait of Frederick, in his Sgt's uniform of the Staffordshire Rifle Volunteer Corps, was painted by his son Frederick. Sgt Penson was a crack shot and won shooting several competitions. [Family Collection]

EDWARD RICHARD PENSION 1895-1970

Edward Penson, son of Henry and Martha, was an elementary school teacher. He enlisted on 4th August 1915 at Stoke-on-Trent. He joined the 10th (Res) Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. He was promoted acting corporal in the 4th Training Reserve, but he was discharged on 15th November 1917 as no longer physically fit for service.

The report of the Medical Board described the condition as a "valvular disease of heart", which originated in December 1916 at Rugeley. It was judged as "not caused or aggravated by military service and uncertain if permanent".

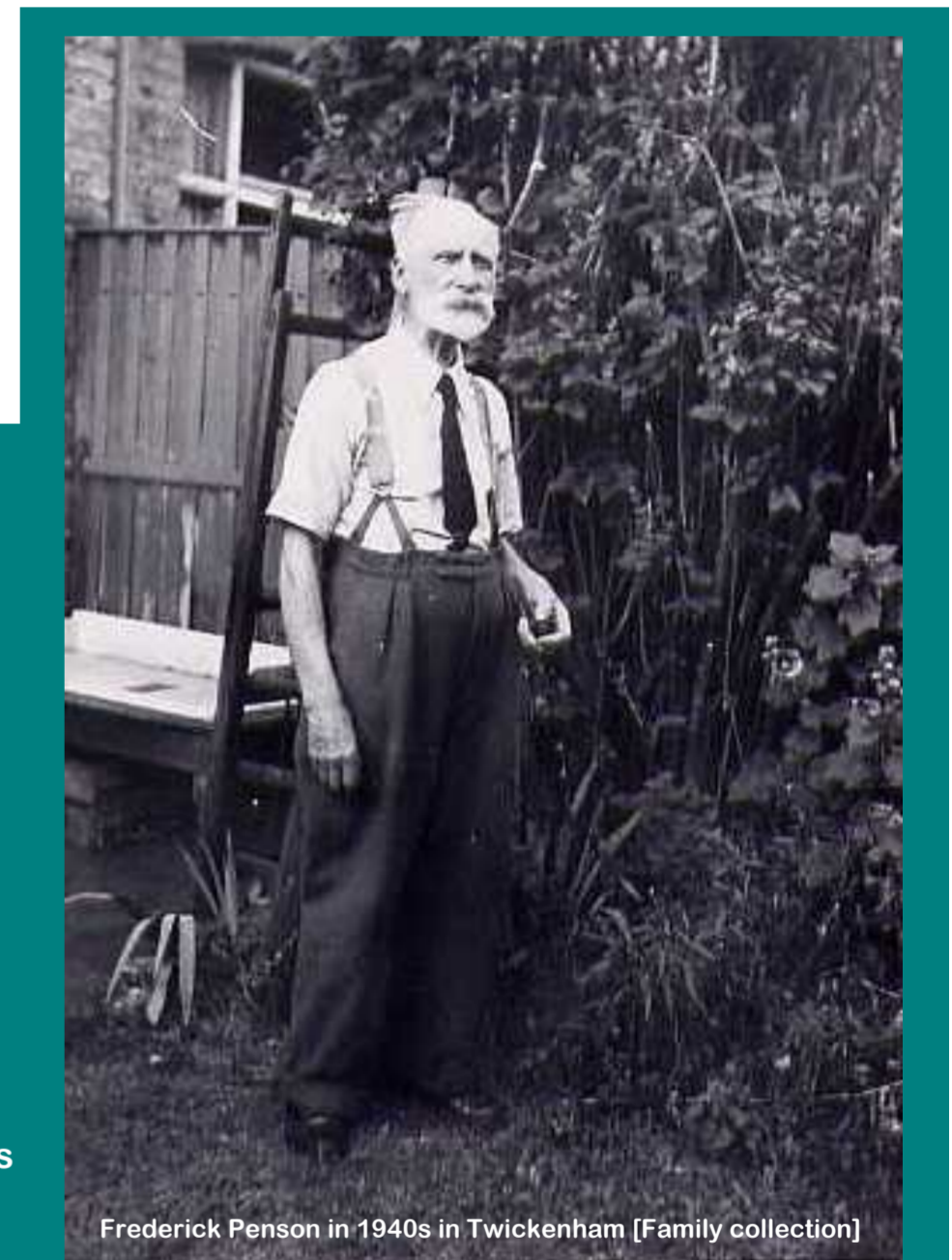
In 1923, Edward married Doris Furnival, who lived in Crown Cottage, across the road from his home at the Trentham Institute.

FREDERICK THOMAS PENSION 1866-1951

Frederick Penson, brother to Henry, was an accomplished watercolour artist. He studied at Stoke School of Art and in 1883 won a national scholarship to attend what is now the Royal College of Art in London.

He produced many pictures of Trentham Park. These show the passing of the seasons and a particular focus on depicting trees.

His family donated a large number of his works and archive material to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in 2015.



Frederick Penson in 1940s in Twickenham [Family collection]



July, Trentham Woods - Frederick Thomas Penson [Collection: Potteries Museum and Art Gallery]



Winter Scene - Frederick Thomas Penson [Collection: Potteries Museum and Art Gallery]