

10 Jan 1941 | The Nuneaton 'Tribune' reporting on Louisa LINNELL's 100th birthday which had happened the day before.

NUNEATON CENTENARIAN

Mrs. Linnell Celebrates 100th Birthday

Mrs. Louisa Linnell, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Street, at 12, Old Hinckley Road, Nuneaton, yesterday celebrated her 100th birthday.

She was the recipient of a number of congratulatory messages, in letter and telegram form, but the first callers to see her in person were Ald and Mrs. J. Bates (the Mayor and Mayoress of Nuneaton).

Mrs. Bates handed the old lady, who was in bed, a beautiful bouquet of flowers, consisting of orchids, chrysanthemums and primulas, etc., and both she and the Mayor offered her hearty congratulations on her splendid achievement. To the Mayor and Mayoress's congratulations Mrs. Linnell replied "God bless you both, as he has blessed me. At the beginning of this week I did not think I would live to see this day, but God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

Faculties Still Very Keen

Mrs. Linnell conversed in bright fashion with Ald. and Mrs. Bates, the "Tribune" reporter and another journalist, who were also present she told the interested little gathering of events which had happened in her lifetime, showing that her faculties are still very keen.

Her only regret was that she could not see the flowers the Mayoress had brought her, for she is blind, but after feeling them she exclaimed "They are beautiful aren't they!" "You are both very kind," she said, when the Mayor and Mayoress made monetary gifts to her.

Birth Verified.

The Mayor told the old lady that he had verified the fact, in conjunction with the Rev. Mark Salisbury, Vicar of Silverstone, near Towcaster where the old lady was born and married - that she was actually one hundred years old. According to the registers, she was born on January 9, 1841 and baptised on February 14 of the same year, her name before she was married being Louise Wait.

He had sent these particulars to H.M. the King and had been assured by His Majesty's private secretary that a letter of congratulation would be sent from the King to Mrs. Linnell.

Amongst the many messages of congratulation sent to Mrs. Linnell yesterday was one from Mr. and Mrs. James Coleman. Mr. Coleman, a cousin, was for many years sexton of Silverstone.

King and Queen's Telegram.

Later in the day she received the following telegram from their Majesties, the King and Queen "Buckingham Palace, - The King and Queen send hearty

congratulations and best wishes for your diamond wedding day. - Private Secretary."

It will be observed that an error occurs in the telegram, the congratulations being for "your diamond wedding," instead of for attaining her centenary. The Mayor, it is understood, is writing the King's private secretary on the matter.

As previously reported Mrs. Linnell's eldest son is 76, and her other children are aged 73, 70, 63 and 57. The son 70 is at present with his mother, and the daughter 57 is Mrs. Street, with whom she lives.