



William Hawkes was born in 1857 at Grafton Underwood
In 1857 to William Hawkes and Rose Ann Holland.

In 1869 William Hawkes his father died leaving Rose Ann
With seven children to feed and one on the way
So on the 1871 census at just 13 William is working as
An Ironstone Labourer.

On the 1881 Census however William is found working as
Footman for Margaret Dunn and her son Edward at Standen
Manor near Hungerford Berkshire. Margaret is a widow and
Listed on the Census as a Landed Proprietor.

The household was very large with 14 servants very much Downton Abbey and William and is one of two Footmen.

William must have been well thought of either that or his employer was the exception to the rule as on October 2nd 1884 William married Sarah Alder at Kintbury and his position in the household is given as Butler on his marriage certificate. This would be a very unusual situation for the time of day as servants were usually single and followers were not encouraged.

But a recent look at the newspapers of the day might shed some light on this as Margaret Dunn his employer did many good works and was a philanthropist for example she installed a gas laundry in Kintbury so the villagers could bathe and do the laundry something which was very much ahead of her time.

Rosa Mary Hawkes arrived on June 29th 1885 and William's occupation is still being given as Butler and the address is still Kintbury and by 1890 a further 2 children have been born.

In that same year very sadly on May 22nd 1890 Williams employer Margaret Dunn died and at her funeral William and his staff led the mourners to the family vault in front of the Funeral Car.

On the 1891 census William is working for Edward Dunn as a Domestic Man Servant and they are living At Woolstone which was 17 miles away from where Sarah and the children were living still at Kintbury. The household was small and consisted of just a Cook, a Housemaid, and a Groom.

Standen Manor known as Inglewood was sold in 1893 to Mr H J Walmsley for fifty three thousand pounds. Arthur James Hawkes was born in 1892 and Frederick Percy Hawkes in 1894 both born at Kintbury.

In 1901 another child is born Robert Edward Hawkes but this time Sarah and the children have moved to East Challow Just two miles from Childray Manor Wantage where William and his staff are found on the 1901 Census Still working for Edward Dunn but the household is again much reduced to a cook and two housemaids which for such a large property of 22 rooms must have been hard work.

On the Census for 1911 William is still at Childray and the household Staff now consists of 2 housemaids, a kitchen maid, a housekeeper, And a footman.



In 1918 just before the end of the First World War tragedy struck the family. Rosa Mary Hawkes, William & Sarah's first born child succumbed to a combination of Spanish Flu, Pneumonia, and Chronic Pulmonary Tuberculosis at Camberwell Infirmary London on the 29th Oct 1918. Rosa had been working as a Nursery Governess at Forest Hill in London. The informant on the Death Certificate is her mother Sarah.

On Jan 26th 1926 Edward Thomas William Dunn passed away and the entire estate was passed to his nephew Keith Frederick William Dunn.

Further tragedy happened to the family with the death of their youngest child Robert Edward Hawkes on the 18th Feb 1934 he was found dead at 18 Cleveland Road Throston Hartlepool.

Robert was working as an Instrument Maker for a chemical works in Hartlepool and living at Watson Street with his wife Catherine who he had married in 1929 and their two young sons Peter Robert, and Terrence.

The cause of death was given as Coronary Thrombosis and the informant on the Death Certificate is the Deputy Coroner Norman Graham.

We next find William in the 1939 Register living at 5 Park Terrace East Challow which was the family home since about 1901. Sadly he is alone Sarah died that year but William is not long in following her and dies On Feb 17th 1940 and leaves in his will many bequests to his children and grandchildren and his executors are his Brother Albert Hawkes And Nephew Arthur Hawkes.