

April Walker audio file

April Walker is the grand daughter of Bernard Southcombe of Ensor (and Southcombe) tanning, glue and glove factory in Milborne Port. April describes growing up in the village in the 1940s and 1950s as 'idyllic'!

Running Order (approximate minutes and seconds)

Start - early days in Milborne Port during the war at Tol Pedn/Springfield House, buildings and views

1.09 – Ensor's (later Ensor and Southcombe) and Dyke's factories – religious and political affiliations

1.50 – home life with family and evacuees

2.29 – 1947, family's purchase of Cross House (at the turn of the century from the Medleycott family) and life there, garden and history

4.09 – 1947, 5th November, Uncle Hector's unconsciously prophetic words, fire at Ensor's and its effects on family and village

5.40 – a thriving village, shops and services

7.11 – Mrs Ashford in Higher Kingsbury

7.47 – North Street's trees

8.15 – Cross House residents, a matriarchal household!

8.30 – factory lorries and maintenance garage and Mr and Mrs Williams – April's mechanical skills!

9.35 – early education at Windy Ridge/Kingsbury House and Mrs Smith – 'no messing about!'

11.02 – 'homing instinct' back to Milborne Port – so much change, too many houses!

11.48 – rescue of Thomas Ensor’s factory by Bernard Southcombe
1898/1899, family at Cross House

13.12 – war-time glove production

12.57 – Ensor & Southcombe, tanning, glue and gloves! – quite a
process and pungent smells! Health and safety?!

15.25 – Reynold’s Loft and the factory gates and buildings

16.16 – ladies at work making gloves

16.47 – Mr Gay and April’s first pair of gloves

17.50 – transporting the gloves

18.24 – Mrs Hann, Buddy the dog and walks around the village

18.46 – Tozy Dover of Rosemary Lane

20.54 – cousins and friends at school

22.17 – the village cross, lurking and leering boys!

In the photos below: April's grandfather, Bernard Southcombe, with April's mother, Gwendolen (a.k.a. Queenie), 1905; April third from the right dressed as Marie-Antoinette at Ven House in the early 1950s.

