



# FRANCES CORNFORD

March 30, 1886 - August 19, 1960

# FAMILY

CHARLES DARWIN // GRANDFATHER

FRANCIS DARWIN // FATHER

ELLEN CROFTS // MOTHER

BERNARD DARWIN // HALF BROTHER

GWEN RAVERAT // COUSIN

FRANCIS CORNFORD // HUSBAND

HELENA CORNFORD // DAUGHTER

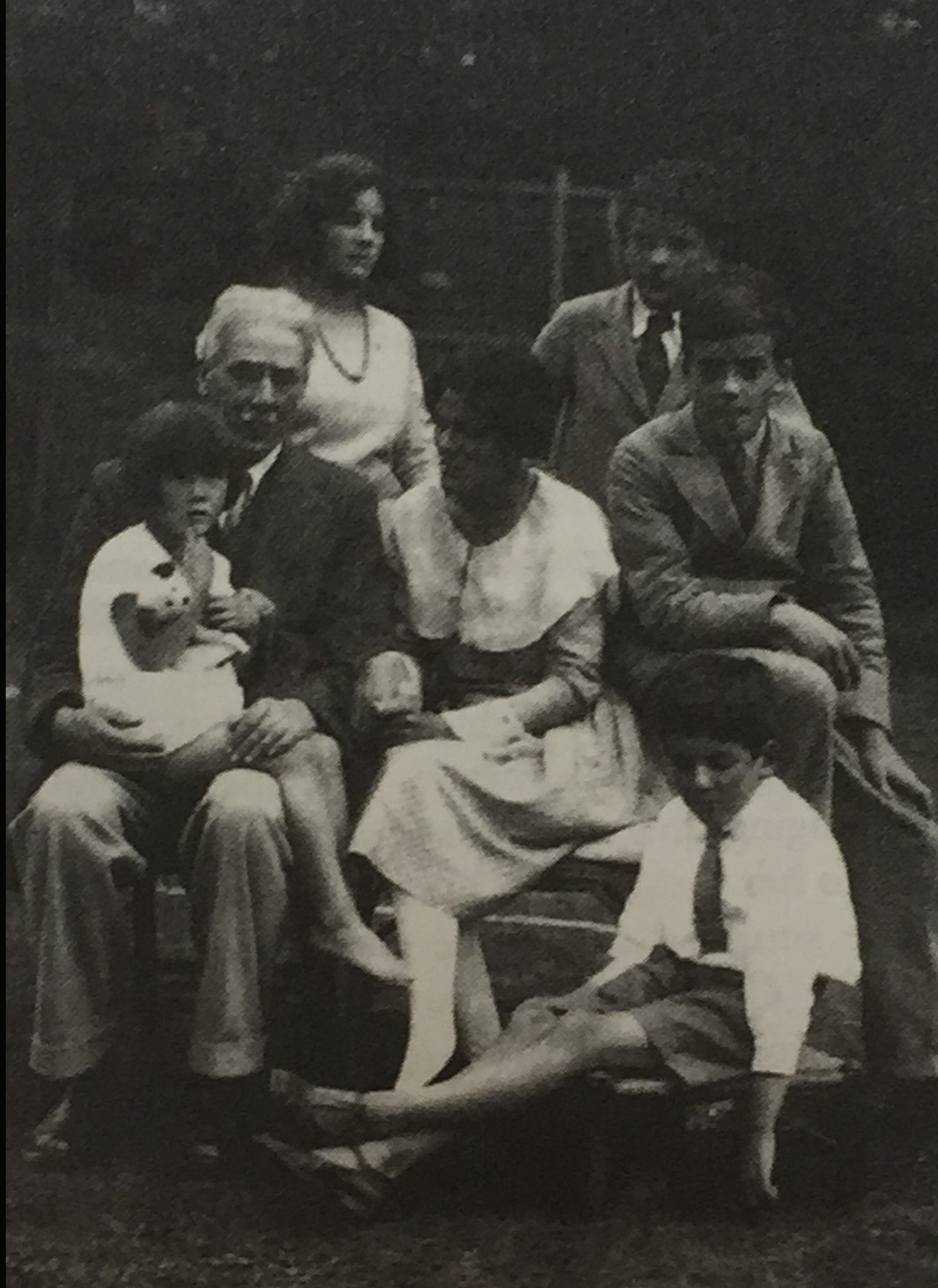
JOHN RUPERT CORNFORD // SON

CHRISTOPHER CORNFORD // SON

HUGH WORDSWORTH CORNFORD // SON

RUTH CLARE // DAUGHTER

JAMES CORNFORD // ADOPTED SON

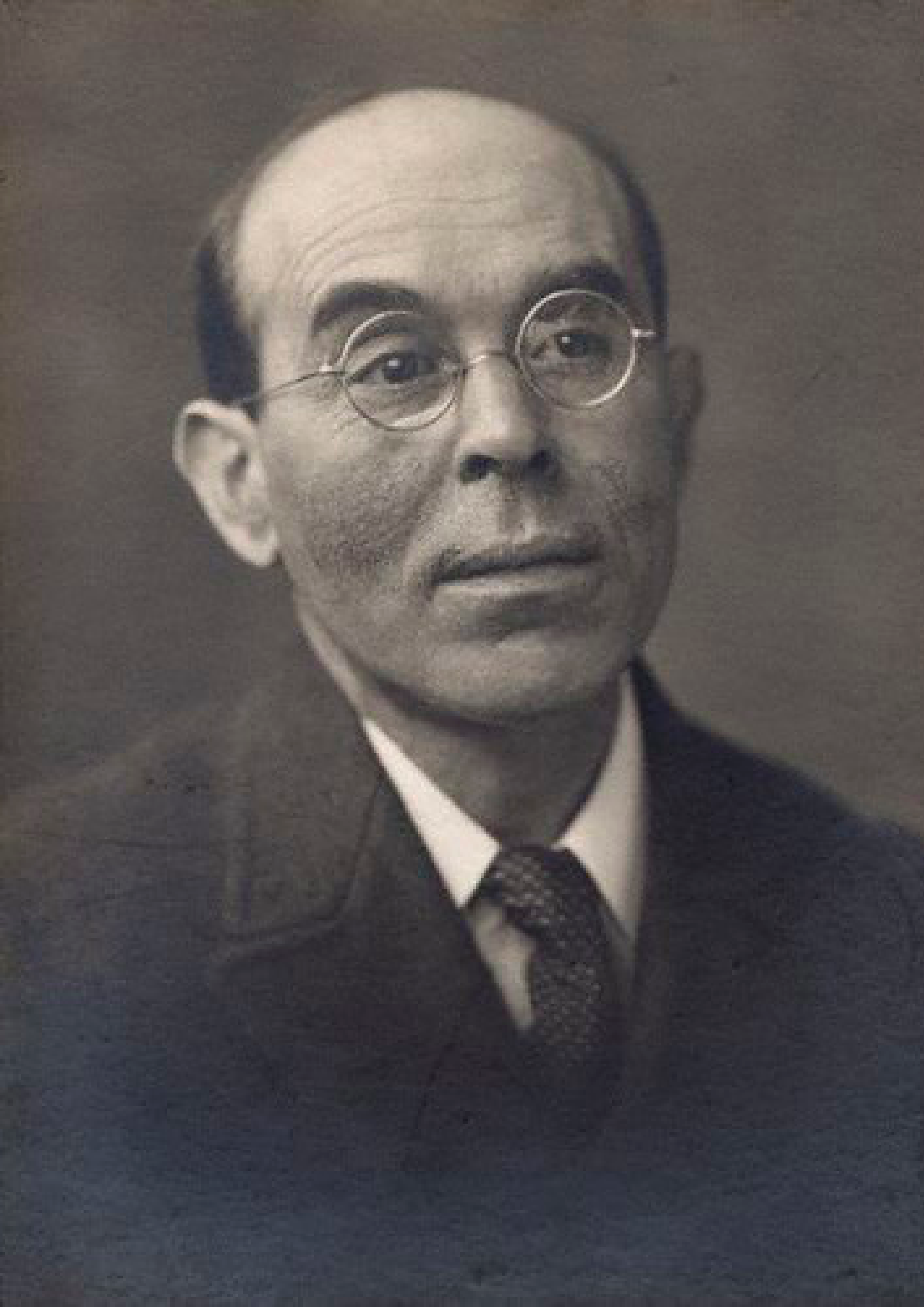


# UPBRINGING

- Cambridge society
- Upperclass, intellectual
- Victorian propriety and morals
- Was both happy and ill at ease
- Privately educated



*Illustration by Gwen Raverat*



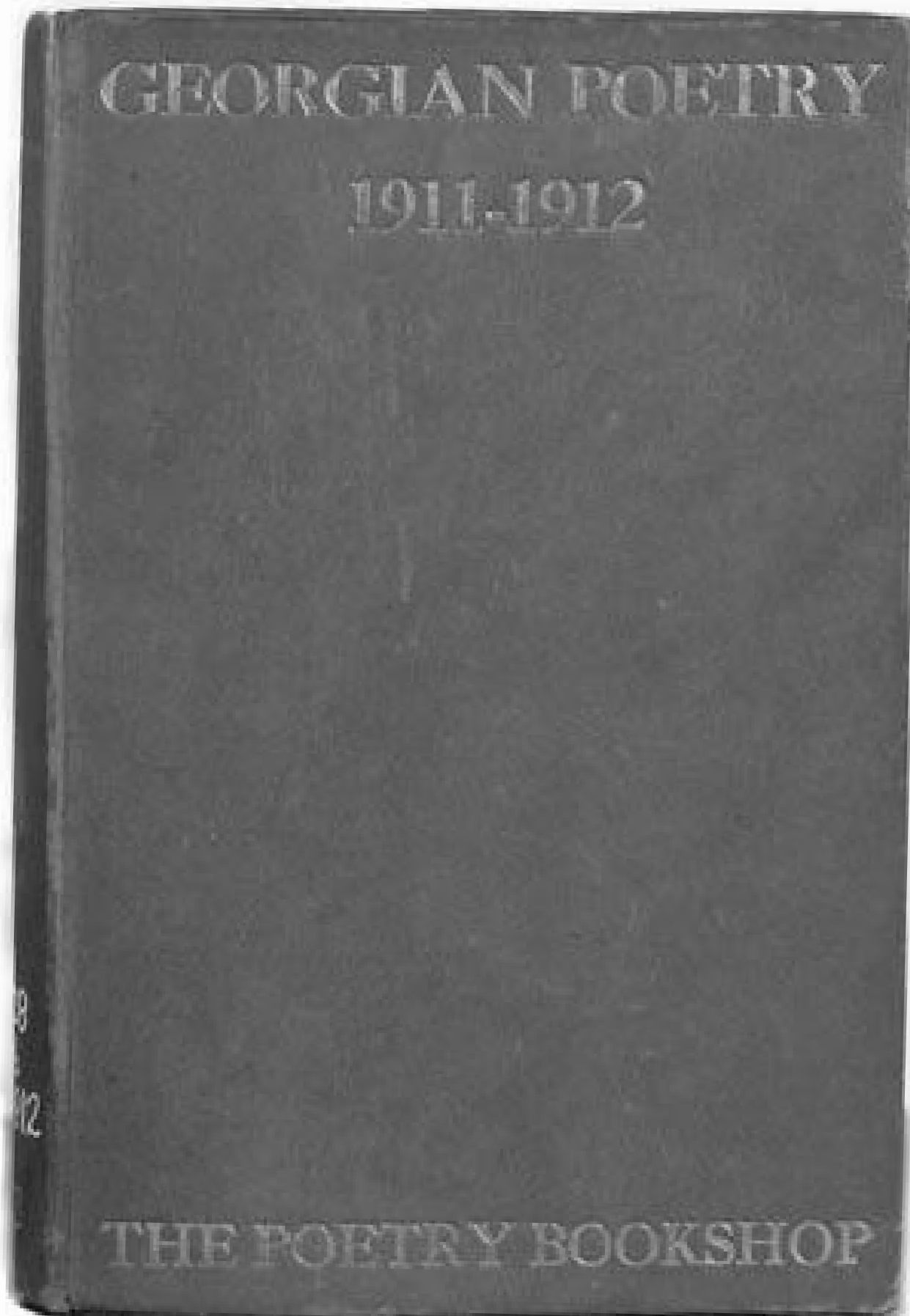
# UPBRINGING

- Poetry, art and creativity encouraged
- William Rothenstien mentor at 16
- First person to suggest her verses could amount to real poetry

# DEPRESSION

- Suffered for most of her life
- Three very serious bouts which spanned years and left her bed-ridden
- 1940 ended and never returned





## CAREER

- Georgian Poet
- Large readership during reign of King George
- *Georgian Poetry* Anthologies 1912-1922
- Poems largely sentimental and pastoral
- *“a poet should write in simple language about the life of his own times”*





# CAREER

- Inspired by Cambridge
- Address the subject of female lives away from the main stream
- Subtle complexity, neither conventionally maternal or overtly feminist
- Sharp, surreal and memorable imagery
- Very popular early on, career wained later on





# CAREER

Poems (1910)

Spring Morning (1915)

Autumn Midnight (1923)

Different Days (1928)

Mountains and Molehills (1935)

Poems from the Russian (1943)

Travelling Home and Other Poems (1948)

Collected Poems (1954)

On a Calm Shore (1960)

Fifteen Poems from the French (1976)

*Awarded Heinemann Prize for Poetry (1948)*

*Awarded Queens Medal for Poetry (1959)*



# CAREER

## *To a Fat Lady Seen from the Train*

O why do you walk through the fields in gloves,  
Missing so much and so much?

O fat white woman whom nobody loves,  
Why do you walk through the fields in gloves,  
When the grass is soft as the breast of doves  
And shivering-sweet to the touch?

O why do you walk through the fields in gloves,  
Missing so much and so much?

## *Youth*

A young Apollo, golden-haired,  
Stands dreaming on the verge of strife,  
Magnificently unprepared  
For the long littleness of life.



## THE HOGARTH PRESS

*Different Days* (1928)

500 copies, 4 shillings & sixpence

First of Hogarth Living Poet Series

*“Her quietly lyrical volume was a safe choice with which to start the new series for readers accustomed to the classically restricted voices of the other Hogarth press poets.” -JH Willis*





# THE HOGARTH PRESS

*Broadcast Anthology of Modern Poetry (1930)*

Edited by Dorothy Wellesley

130 copies, 4 shillings and sixpence

17 Hogarth Living Poet Series

Many of the other poets were Georgian

*Youth or To the Fat Lady*

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