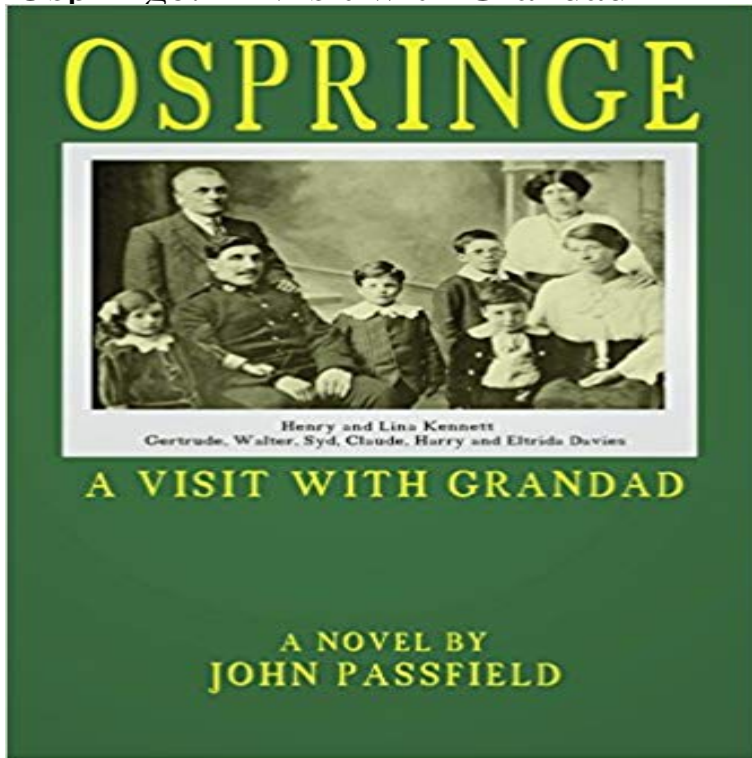


Ospringe: A Visit with Grandad



Ospringe - a novel On a Saturday morning in May 1920, two of the Davies children eight year-old Gertrude Violet Davies and her thirteen year-old brother, Claude Laverne Davies leave their home at the Mill House, on Water Lane in Ospringe, Kent, and walk to 2 Middle Row, in the nearby market town of Faversham, where their grandad, Henry Kennett, lives. After polishing the firemens buttons, the three of them go for a walk, during which they share their cheerful chatter and think their private thoughts. The Kennett / Davies Family Henry Kennett the childrens grandad Melina Clothilda Ellen Kennett grandmother, deceased in 1920 Lina Kennett - the childrens aunt Eltrida (Triss) Kennett Davies - the childrens mother Walter Davies the childrens father Eltrida (Triss) Kennett Davies the childrens mother Claude Davies Gertrude Davies (later Passfield) the authors mother Sydney Davies Harry Davies Edna Davies born after the date of the story, in 1921. Family History This novel is based on interviews which I made with my mother, Gertrude Violet Davies Passfield, in 1983, when she was seventy-two years-old, and with my uncle, Claude Laverne Davies, in 2000, when he was ninety-three years-old. The Davies home of 1920 The Mill House is now a private residence which faces Water Lane, in Ospringe. The home of Henry Kennett and his daughter, Lina Kennett, of 1920 2 Middle Row, in Faversham was originally a police station and is now known as The Age Concern. Henry Kennett lived there, as a widower, from 1915 until his death in 1935. It was a very emotional experience to visit both buildings while I was exploring my ancestral roots in Ospringe and Faversham in 2000, 2002 and 2004. The Davies family left England for Canada in 1923. The Passfield family left Poplar, Middlesex, for Canada, in 1908. My mother and father met and married in

Canada. The Making of Ospringe a reflective journal This journal records my reflections on the process of the crafting of the novel as it evolved through the stages of planning, writing, editing and polishing. It constitutes an effort to be as conscious as possible of the process whereby the single idea that suggested the topic of the novel was expanded into a complex work of art. Topics range from the nuts and bolts of novel-building to the nature of the novel as an art-form. Planning Ospringe a planning notebook During the writing of the novel, I kept a hand-written notebook which records the day-by-day development of the novel as it found its shape and style. The notebook now in print form reveals how a vast cluster of thoughts was sifted, selected, structured and polished into novel-form. The Project Together, this novel, journal and notebook comprise the fourteenth installment in an on-going novel-writing project in which I am exploring the concept of form and meaning in the novel, and of the novel as a form of expression in the 21st Century. All of the published journals and notebooks are available for free download at www.johnpassfield.ca. John Passfield Cayuga, Ontario, Canada.

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