

George Lloyd – Antecedents – Frances Lloyd and The Making of a Bohemian

George Lloyd's grandmother, Frances, was impractical at domestic work of any kind, did not see dust at all and lived in a terrible muddle. She was also an opera singer, a fine painter, and a pioneer early member of the St Ives Artists' Colony.

In 1876, at the age of 21, Frances Powell, daughter of the renowned American artist [William Henry Powell](#), left New York for Paris to study painting in the studios of Henri Lucien Doucetⁱ at the [Académie Julian](#). There she met a retired English naval officer, Captain G.W.E (Walter) Lloyd, who was 48.



Captain Lloyd had joined the Royal Navy at 14, and seen service in the Chinese Opium Wars, the Crimean War and in the Baltic, where he was decorated for bravery. When sailing ships were replaced by steam ships he took up duties as a military courier, carrying Royal Navy intelligence through Syria and Palestine for Imperial Britain. Capt. Walter Lloyd kept extensive journals and made many watercolour paintings of any scene which interested him. When he retired from the Navy, he too opted for the painting lessons of M. Doucet in Paris. Frances and Walter fell in love and were married in London on 17th Oct. 1876. Frances was diminutive, with auburn hair and blue eyes, as can be seen in the fine portrait by Doucet. She showed talent as an artist, and several of her works from her time in Paris have remained in the family, including a striking self-portrait in charcoal.

Their first child, George Eugene, was born in 1879, died in infancy in 1880. Shortly after the bereavement they moved to Rome, where it was possible to live in reasonable comfort on Walter's naval pension of £180 per year. There in 1885, they had a second child, William, who was to become the father of the composer. The Lloyds would take rooms each year in a village near Rome and spend the summer painting the magnificent landscape, the village scenes and local costume. In 1889 Captain Lloyd travelled Olevano Romano, a village in the hills outside

Rome, to look for studio rooms for their summer lodgings, and stayed in a *pension*. The owners omitted to tell him that the last person to stay in the bed where he was sleeping had died of cholera. A few days later, Walter was dead, leaving Frances with her 4 year-old son, Will, and her naval widow's pension of £90 a year.

Frances and her young son returned to England where she wished to bring up the child as an Englishman rather than as part of New York society. She was soon drawn to St. Ives, where a colony of painters had already established themselves on account of the glorious light, picturesque scenes, and a bohemian lifestyle in that Cornish fishing town. Within a year of her husband's death, Frances Powell and her young son William moved to Albany Terrace in St Ives and they often stayed as 'paying guests' in nearby Zennor, where William grew up among the wild moors, soft sea breezes and brilliant colours of West Penwith.

When he was 19 years old, a rich and childless uncle left William a substantial property at Cowesby in the North Yorkshire Moors, and he became a young man of independent means. He took a respectable interest in the estate, constructing almshouses and attending to the necessary administration. The combination of landed wealth and bohemian charm attracted the attention of a beautiful young woman from Halifax, Constance Rawson. They married, and within a few years had a daughter, Marianne, and a son, George.

When war broke out in 1914, William volunteered and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the West Yorkshire Regiment. He went with the British Expeditionary Force to France, where he witnessed the horrifying scenes at the Somme, Verdun, and Passchendaele, and was awarded a Military Cross. On his return, after 5 years as a munitions and supply officer on the front line, his mind was changed irrevocably; he could no longer stomach the life of an English gentleman, sitting pretty in a Yorkshire estate. After his mother died in 1921, at the age of 66, he abandoned his country estate, settling back at St. Eia, a fine house overlooking St Ives Bay, which had belonged to the painter Julius Ohlsson. He turned his mind to his love of Italian opera and poetry, to the St Ives Arts Club, and to the musical education of his young son George, who at 8 years old was already showing precocious talent as a composer.

Several of Frances Lloyd's paintings are now in the care of The George Lloyd Music Library.ⁱⁱ

See next page for Timeline and Notes

Frances Lloyd (nee Powell) Timeline:

Frances Powell Born 1855

William Henry Powell (Father) Born 1823 Died 1879

Frances Powell studied in Paris from 1876, where she married Capt. Walter Lloyd, RN

Son George Eugene born 1879. Died 1880. Paris.

William Alexander Charles Lloyd Born 1885, Rome

Capt. Walter Lloyd died 1889, Olevano Romano, near Rome

WAC Lloyd Married CP Rawson September 1907 Sowerby Yorkshire

George Lloyd Born 1913 St Ives

Capt. WAC Lloyd, West Yorkshire Reg, awarded Military Cross, New Year's Honours 1918.

Frances Lloyd Died 1921, St Ives

Capt. WAC Lloyd Died 1951, Zennor

ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henri_Lucien_Doucet

ⁱⁱ further information about her life and art can be found in a series of books by art historian David Tovey.

<http://cornishmuse.blogspot.com/2010/09/sea-change-art-in-st-ives-1914-1930.html>



William Henry Powell



Frances Lloyd (nee Powell)



William Lloyd



Constance Lloyd (Nee Rawson)



Constance Lloyd



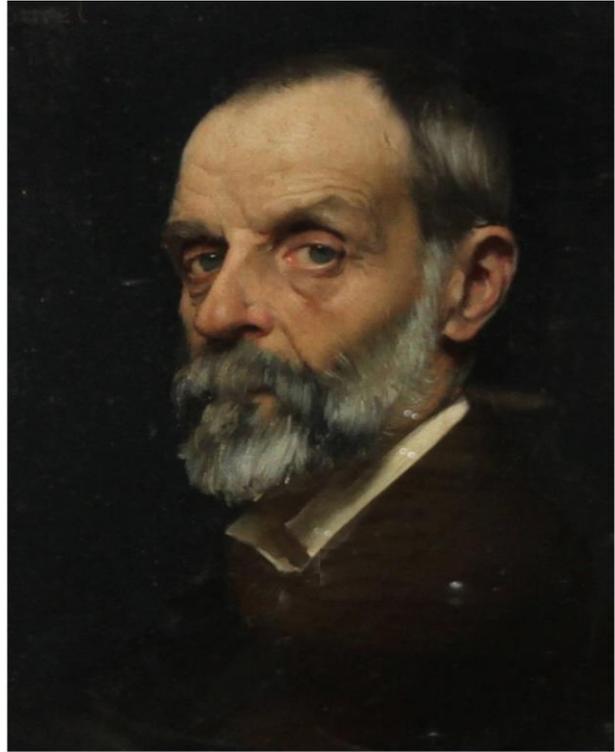
Constance and Will Lloyd



Marianne Lloyd, Frances Lloyd, Constance Lloyd, George Lloyd



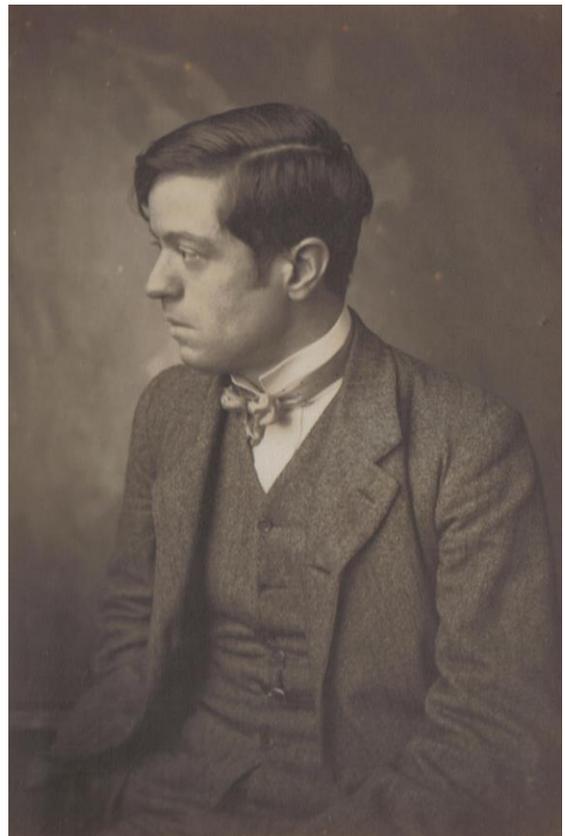
Frances Lloyd



Captain Walter Lloyd RN



Constance Lloyd (nee Rawson)



William A C Lloyd