

is donkey or dog. Pip finds a 'nemerl' and there are lots of other pointers. I should have thought Kezia to be between seven and ten (the very most). Could she have been only six? The boy can turn over; he has dark-blue, baby eyes and a toothless smile. Leslie Beauchamp was born in 1894.

It is probable that memories of several years' holidays were telescoped, so that small age discrepancies will not matter. But I would not expect to find large discrepancies and it is my belief that the Burnell family was already staying 'at the bay' when Kezia-Katherine and her little sisters were still very much in the bucket-and-spade phase. This means the nineties.

It is worth remarking that in another 'family' story, 'Prelude', there is much accurate attention to detail. Kezia is younger. When the Burnells moved house Lottie and Kezia, 'in their coats with brass anchor buttons and little round caps with battleship ribbons . . . hand in hand . . . stared with round solemn eyes . . .' It is known that when the Beauchamp and Waters families moved to Karori Katherine was four and a half years old. The cousins had the same dog, Snooker. Perhaps he was given to them when they moved to the country.

I do not believe that Katherine Mansfield would have placed these characters on a stage with scenery acquired years later and for that reason alone would reject the Downes Point house known only to the eighteen-year-old Katherine. Does the same difficulty arise with regard to The Glen?

According to a footnote to Mrs Morris's paper a Deeds search has disclosed that from March 1903 until February 1913, The Glen was owned by Mrs Ann Barraud, wife of a Bank of New Zealand officer. The note suggests that Barraud 'would have been a close business associate of Beauchamp's and hence could have rented the house to him'. It may have been so but that would not make The Glen the house 'at the bay' for two reasons. Firstly Katherine was in her fifteenth year in March 1903. Secondly, she was not in New Zealand. She had sailed for England in January 1903 to attend Queen's College, London. By the time she returned Beauchamp had acquired and probably already built on the Downes Point land. One would have expected her to stay at the new house and that, of course, is what she did. And her father remained the owner until long after Katherine had left New Zealand again.

For The Glen to be the house of the story there would have to be an earlier letting, and if it were not built by the late nineties I would reject it on that account alone. A further Deeds search might, if considerations are expressed in earlier conveyances, reveal the approximate date of erection.

There is further evidence that the house of the story belongs to the nineties. The family moved from Chesney Wold, Karori, back to