

“Tree covered mountains and half way up them could be seen three or four pointed roofs, and a bit to the right of these a winding road up to a large chestnut tree and a wee white house; these were at a little bit higher level than the pointed roofs. It all looked charming, and I said to my wife, ‘If I was given my choice of places to live in on that mountainside, that is the place I’d pick,’ and she said, ‘Me, too!’

Next day, Mr. Whitehead sent the carriage for us, and we were taken to see ‘Byrdcliffe’ which turned out to be the ‘pointed roofs’; and after a mile and a half drive along the mountainside, we arrived at the chestnut tree and the wee white house, and said Mr. Whitehead, ‘this is your summer residence!’ Talk about coincidence; and there is more foor [sic] for thought, for Mr. Whitehead added, ‘And, oh yes! We call it ‘Camelot’ .’ Now Guildford in Surrey is five miles from Milford where I lived as a boy. Alfred Tennyson used to visit in Milford at Lady Thelasson’s and he wrote a number of his poems in her house, and of course I saw him a number of times as a kid, but he didn’t mean a thing to me, as a matter of fact, he was practically unknown at that time. In his ‘Lady of Shalot [sic]’ he refers to Camelot and Guildford is it? How things do catch up with you!”

Dawson-Watson, Dawson, Manuscript Memoir, Dawson-Watson family archives.