

## Ellen Nussey – Worksheet 2

Ellen Nussey wrote to J A Erskine Stuart an author who had published a book called *Bronte Country: Its Topography, Antiquities and History*. Stuart's book was originally published in 1888. Using the source transcription, try answering the following questions:

1. Why do you think Ellen Nussey decided to write to J A Erskine Stuart?

2. Stuart's book appeared to contain an error. How can you try to ensure that the information you're putting in your essays is correct?

3. Thinking about oral history, and people remembering events from the past – how could this account for Mrs Grant's or Ellen Nussey's claim that she was Bridesmaid to Charlotte Bronte? Who do you believe and why?

4. To get an idea of oral history, and information being passed on and possibly changed and distorted over time – have a game of Chinese Whispers in class.... Write in the boxes below the original sentence, and the final sentence. Is there a difference between them?

**Original Sentence:**

**Final Sentence:**



Fildeshead  
Apr 12<sup>th</sup> 92

Dear Sir

M<sup>rs</sup> Grant must have been  
dreaming when she said, she was  
Bridesmaid to C B - she was  
not even in the Church - she  
only persons present - was the  
Procurator who officiated - the  
Clerk - M<sup>rs</sup> R. C. B. Miss Norton  
& myself as Bridesmaid -  
Miss Norton saw C B away.  
M<sup>rs</sup> Grant had joined the

12<sup>th</sup> April 1892. BSVIII;  
From EN to JA Erskine  
Stuart, BSVIII/L495/002  
Bronte Parsonage Museum  
(GB 0533)

<http://www.historytoherstory.org.uk>