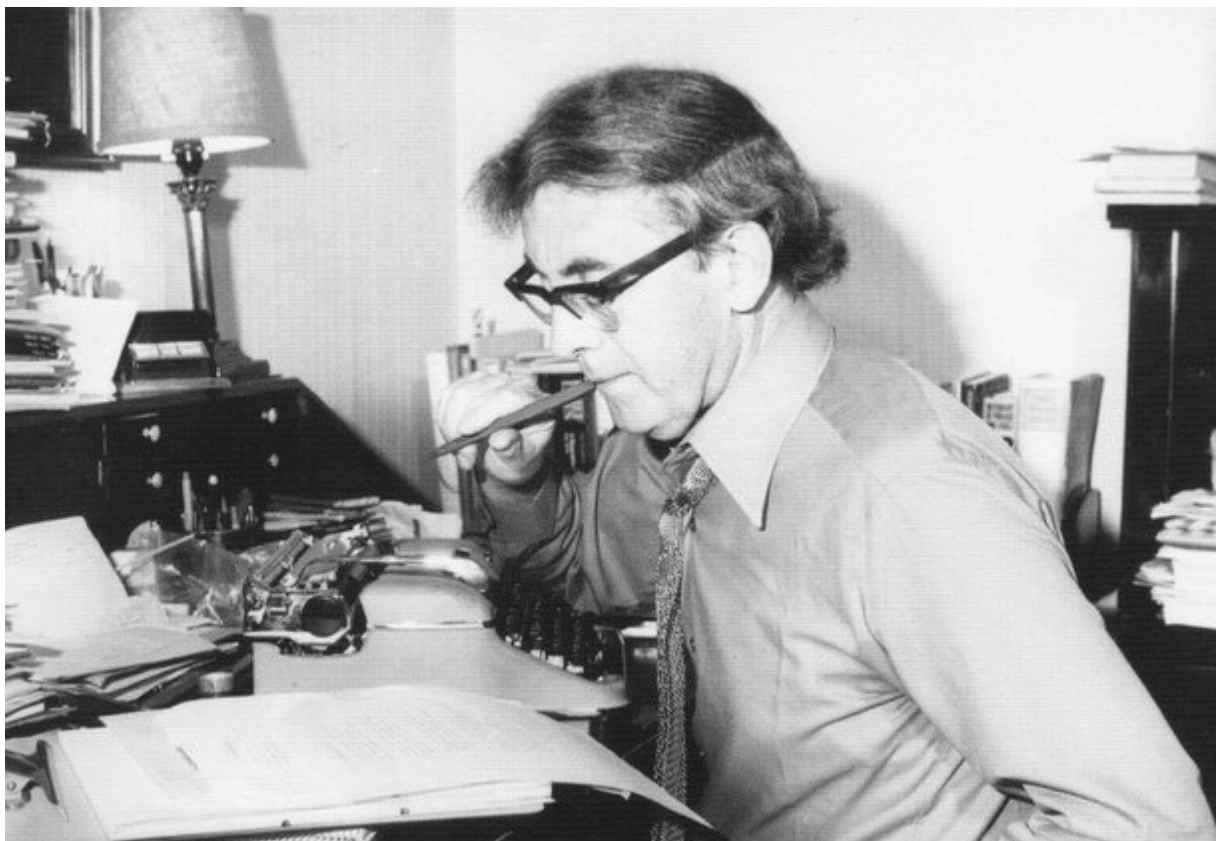


Although Charles Causley (1917-2003) is thought of as a Cornish poet, this derives from his maternal line. The Causleys were thatchers in Devon for many generations; the poet's father was the first Causley to cross the Tamar.



First Generation

1. **Humphrey CAUSLEY** married **Mary GUSCOTT** on 11 September 1767 in Ashton, Devon. At the time of the marriage Humphrey was a thatcher. Humphrey died in 1812. He was buried on 21 April 1812.

Mary GUSCOTT was born in about 1744. She died in 1808 and was buried in Ashton on 5 May 1808.

They had the following children:

- 2 William CAUSLEY (1768-). *William was born in 1768 in Ashton.¹ He was baptised on 14 October 1768 in Ashton.¹*
- 3 Susanna CAUSLEY (1771-). *Susanna was born in 1771 in Ashton.¹ She was baptised on 23 June 1771 in Ashton.¹*
- 4 John CAUSLEY (1777-). *John was born in 1777 in Ashton.¹ He was baptised on 8 June 1777 in Ashton.¹*
- +5 Humphrey CAUSLEY (1779-) See below.
- 6 Samuel CAUSLEY (1782-). *Samuel was born in 1782 in Ashton.¹ He was baptised on 1 September 1782 in Ashton.¹*
- 7 Frances CAUSLEY (1785-). *Frances was born in 1785 in Ashton.¹ He was baptised on 20 February 1785 in Ashton.¹ He clearly found it difficult to find work, and to settle, as in 1817, when he was working as a day labourer in Chudleigh, Devon, a settlement examination for the Chudleigh justices recounted his work record since the age of 9.² He was first*

apprenticed to John Phillips of Christow, and he then agreed to work for Edward Stooke of Ruggadon in Chudleigh for a year. He was drawn into the militia and served for 5 years. Then he joined Farmer Wolland at Bramble in Ashton as a week labourer for 13 months. After that he worked for Mr Bastard in Yealmpton; then went to Brixton near Plymouth as a week labourer. He then worked for 5 months in Plymouth and next went to Simon Coleridge in Halberton for 15 weeks. He was then with Joses Ellis of Filleigh in Chudleigh for 11 weeks, and since then had been working as a day labourer in Chudleigh.

Second Generation

5. **Humphrey CAUSLEY**,¹ son of Humphrey CAUSLEY and Mary GUSCOTT, was born in 1779 in Ashton, Devon. He was baptised on 2 January 1780 in Ashton. He married **Mary POTTER** on 5 November 1805 in Trusham, Devon.³ Mary was born in about 1781. There were several Potters in Trusham, so it is likely she was a local girl. She died aged 54 and was buried in Trusham on 22 November 1835².

When Humphrey appeared in the census on 6 June 1841 in Trusham village he was living with daughter Sarah.⁴ He was a Thatcher.⁴ There was also a Jane Holman living with them, a female servant, aged 30. By 30 March 1851 Humphrey had fallen on hard times. He was still living with daughter Sarah, and Jane Holman, in Trusham village,⁵ but he was then recorded as a Pauper Thatcher, Sarah as a Pauper Schoolmistress and servant Jane Holman as a Nurse.⁵

Humphrey died in Q1 1853²⁵

Mary POTTER³ and Humphrey CAUSLEY had the following children:

- +8 Samuel CAUSLEY (1806?-1878)
- 9 Mary CAUSLEY (1808-). *Mary was born in 1808 in Ashton.¹ She was baptised on 17 April 1808 in Ashton.¹*
- +10 Sarah CAUSLEY (1811-)

Third Generation

8. **Samuel CAUSLEY**, son of Humphrey CAUSLEY and Mary POTTER, was born in 1806 in Ashton, Devon. He was baptised on 10 August 1806 in Ashton.¹ Samuel married three times. He married **Margaret HOLMAN** 1 January 1840 in Dawlish, Devon.^{55,60} Banns were called 15, 22, 29 December 1839.⁵⁶ He appeared in the census on 6 June 1841⁷ at Shortridge, Trusham, where he was a Thatcher. Wife Margaret was not with him. After Margaret's death he married **Joanna HOLMAN** at Exeter Registry Office 24 June 1850⁶¹. Joanna was the elder sister of first wife Margaret.

On 30 March 1851 he was living in the New Inn, Trusham village. He was recorded there as a Thatcher and Innkeeper.⁶ With him was second wife Joanna. In the 1851 Kelly's Directory Samuel Causley was recorded as vict.[ualler], New Inn, Trusham. After Joanna's death he married third wife **Charlotte PALMER** Q4 1856 in Exeter, Devon.⁸ He appeared in the census on 7 April 1861 in Trusham.⁹ at Hill Cottages, Trusham when he was a Thatcher⁹ with third wife Charlotte. In 1865 he was recorded by his son as a thatcher in Charles and Emma's marriage register entry. And thatcher Samuel next appeared in the census on 2 April 1871 in Trusham¹⁰ still at Hill Cottage.¹⁰ His age was oddly recorded as 54, instead of the correct 64 or 65. He died on 21 November 1878 in Trusham.¹¹ His estate probated on 24 April 1879 in Exeter, Devon, valued at a personal estate under £800. The will was proved by executors Elon Wright and John Albert Wright, both yeomen of Trusham. Although recorded previously as thatcher and innkeeper in various documents, when Samuel drew up his will on 26 October 1878, probably on his death bed, he described himself as a yeoman. By then he was certainly a man of property, both owned and

leased in Trusham. He held the mortgaged leasehold for his house, Mount Pleasant, and for the cottages called The Hill, and Vinnicombe, the former being where he had lived for many years. In 1863 there is a record of him leasing a field in Trusham from baronet sir Lawrence Palk. Samuel bequeathed to his wife Charlotte the household items, books and wearing apparel that belonged to her before her marriage (!) and confirmed their marriage settlement, and bequeathed all properties and money detailed in the settlement to her absolutely. And he left in trust for his wife, Mount Pleasant and its contents, and all other dwelling houses, gardens etc that he owned or was leaseholder, all the rents and income from the same, after all debts were paid. And after his wife's death these were left to his son Charles and his wife Maria, to be shared equally. There was no mention of sums of money- all bequests being occupation of or income from property.

Charlotte PALMER was born in 1808 in Hennock, Devon. She appeared in the census on 7 April 1861 in Trusham⁹ at Hill Cottages. On 2 April 1871¹⁰ she was still at Hill Cottage with her husband, and also in the census on 3 April 1881, now widowed.¹³ Charlotte died on 15 March 1883 in Trusham.^{14,15} She had her estate probated on 5 April 1883 in Exeter, Devon, valued at a personal estate of £500 11s 4d. It was proved by the executrix, Charlotte's sister Maria Reece, of Chesterfield House, Coronation Road, Bristol.

Joanna HOLMAN⁶, daughter of Thomas HOLMAN (1766?-) and Margaret PETERS (-1841), was born on 19 April 1798 in Dawlish, Devon.^{6,62} She was baptised at Dawlish on 6 May 1798⁶². She appeared in the census on 30 March 1851 in Trusham with Samuel at the New Inn.⁶ She died on 21 November 1856 in Trusham.¹²

Margaret HOLMAN, daughter of Thomas HOLMAN (1766?-) and Margaret PETERS (-1841), was born on 3 December 1802 in Dawlish, Devon⁶². She was baptised in Dawlish on 17 December 1802⁶². She appeared in the census on 6 June 1841 in Dawlish.⁵⁷ Having just given birth, and having just lost her mother, she may have been staying temporarily at Little Park Road, Dawlish, where her father and sisters were, whilst husband Samuel was in Trusham. Margaret died Q1 1849 in Newton Abbot Registration District, Devon,⁵⁸ She and Samuel CAUSLEY had the following children:

+11 Charles CAUSLEY (1841-1914)

10. **Sarah CAUSLEY**,¹ daughter of Humphrey CAUSLEY and Mary POTTER, was born in 1811 in Ashton.¹ She was baptised on 23 June 1811 in Ashton.¹ It is probable that in 1820 she was apprenticed in Ashton¹⁶ to John Cornish, Yeoman. Sarah appeared in the census on 6 June 1841 in Trusham village, with her father. She was unmarried⁴. She next appeared in the census on 30 March 1851 still in Trusham with her father.⁵ She was then described as a Pauper Schoolmistress.⁵ This may be an error by the enumerator, as in the 1851 Kelly's Directory entry for Trusham, Sarah Causley was recorded as schoolmistress and was apparently working.

Fourth Generation

11. **Charles CAUSLEY**, son of Samuel CAUSLEY and Margaret HOLMAN, was born in 1841, supposedly in Shaldon, Devon.^{6,59} On occasions Charles gives his place of birth as St Nicholas, which is the parish where Shaldon is located. He was not baptised in that parish however. Charles was baptised in the parish of Dawlish on 23 May 1841, and there is no reason to suppose that he was not born in the same parish, where his mother was residing. In the GRO his name has been recorded as Cansley.

Young Charles inherited £5 from his grandfather Thomas Holman, when daughter Margaret, Charles's mother, pre-deceased her father.⁶³

Margaret and new-born son Charles were not with Samuel at the 1841 census, but with Margaret's father and sisters. Perhaps because her mother had just died, and her new baby just born she needed to be with her sisters. So Charles appeared on 6 June 1841 in Dawlish, Devon,⁵⁷ at Little Park Road, Dawlish, where his grandfather and aunts were in service. Charles next appeared in the census on 30 March 1851 in Trusham, Devon,⁶ with his father and stepmother at the New Inn, Trusham village. In the census of 7 April 1861⁹ he

was at Hill Cottages, Trusham with father and second step mother, with no occupation recorded. Some time after that Charles seems to have moved to London, for he married **Emma GREENSLADE** in July 1865 at Trinity Church in Holborn, London.^{17,18} The couple both appeared to be living in Grays Inn Road, London. Curiously, as well as a James S Arnold who witnessed many weddings at Trinity Church and was probably a Parish Clerk, on the 31st July when Charles and Emma were married, their second witness was a Mary Maunder who had also witnessed another wedding on that day - that of William Hall and MaryAnn Godard. Charles and Emma unusually had a third witness - Eugenie Howard (? – an illegible surname). On the marriage register, Charles had given his occupation as a Miller. Perhaps that is how he had come to know miller's daughter Emma.

Charles was recorded in the census with his wife on 2 April 1871 in Westminster, London.¹⁹ Their address then was 16 New Street, St Johns, Westminster. At that time Charles was working as a Porter in Westminster.¹⁹

After Emma's death he returned to Devon. He married **Maria WEBBER** Q2 1875 in Newton Abbot, Devon. He appeared in the census with his second wife on 3 April 1881 in Highweek, Newton Abbot.²⁰ They were then living at Cricket Field Cottages, Highweek. Charles was working as a Carter.²⁰ The family decided to try emigration. In 1883 Charles went ahead, sailing on the *Circassian* from Liverpool to Quebec, where he arrived on 7th May 1883. Maria and the rest of the family followed. When their son was born in 1886, Charles was working as a labourer.⁵³ Perhaps for this reason, Canada did not work out for the family, and before 1890 they had returned to England, settling at Highweek, Newton Abbot again.

By 5 April 1891 the family were living at 8 Elm Terrace, Highweek. Then Charles was describing his occupation as Haulier, sounding rather grander than Carter.²¹ By 1895, at the time of Edith's death, the family had moved back to Trusham. Charles was then described as a labourer.⁵⁴ When the family appeared on 31 March 1901 census²² they were living at Mount Pleasant, Trusham. Charles then was working as a Market Gardener.²² But by 2 April 1911 there seems to have been another change of family fortunes, for though they were still at Mount Pleasant,²³ Charles was by then working as a Builder's Labourer.²³ He died Q2 1914 in Trusham.²⁴

Emma GREENSLADE,²⁵ daughter of miller Thomas GREENSLADE (1803?-) and Elizabeth CANN (1806?), was born in 1840 (approx.) in Cheriton Fitzpaine, Devon. The Greenslades originated in the north-east of Devon: Greenslades had been and continued to be millers for many generations. When Emma was born her father was a miller at Cheriton Fitzpaine, where Emma was with her family in the census on 6 June 1841.²⁶ Then Emma's father settled the family at Prioriton Mill, Sandford. She was with her family there in the census on 30 March, when she was at school in Sandford.²⁷ By 7 April 1861²⁸ she was working herself at Upham, Cheriton Fitzpaine where she was a House Servant. At some point in the next three years she moved to London, either because she was working for a family that moved there, or because she was seeking work there. We do not know if she met Charles before she moved to London, or some time after she moved there. He gave his occupation at the time of his marriage as a miller. She appeared with her husband in the census on 2 April 1871 in Westminster.¹⁹ living at 16 New Street, St Johns, Westminster.¹⁹ She died Q2 1873 in St Georges - Hanover Square, London.²⁹ She and Charles CAUSLEY had the following children:

- 12 Charles Froude CAUSLEY (1869-1870). (*Froude was a family name used by the Greenslades. Emma had a brother called William Froude Greenslade*) Charles was born Q4 1869 in St Georges - Hanover Square.³⁰ He died Q4 1870 in St Georges - Hanover Square.³¹
- 13 Louis Greenslade CAUSLEY (1872-1873). *Louis was born Q2 1872 in St Georges - Hanover Square.³² He died Q2 1873 in St Georges - Hanover Square.³³*

Maria WEBBER,³⁴ daughter of Samuel WEBBER (1819-) and Sarah MOGFORD (1822-), was born in 1851 in Brushford, Somerset. She appeared with husband Charles in the census on 3 April 1881 in Highweek, Newton Abbot.²⁰ When the family emigrated to Canada, Maria and the children followed husband Charles. She arrived in Quebec City, from Liverpool on 9 July 1883, on the *Samartian*, with children Hephzibah, Maggie and Edith. Whilst in Canada, Maria lost one child, stillborn, and gave birth to her first son,

Charles. The whole family returned to England before 1890. Maria and the children were with Charles on 5 April 1891 in Highweek, Newton Abbot.²¹ And Maria returned to Trusham with Charles and the children, appearing there in the census returns of 1901²² and 1911²³. She died Q1 1920 in Trusham.³⁵

She and Charles CAUSLEY had the following children:

- 14 Margaret Holman CAUSLEY (1875-1877). *Margaret was born Q4 1875 in Newton Abbot.³⁶ She died Q2 1877 in Newton Abbot.³⁷*
- +15 Hephzibah Holman CAUSLEY (1877-1893)
- +16 Maggie CAUSLEY (1880-)
- 17 Edith Alice CAUSLEY (1882-1895). *Edith was born Q4 1882 in Highweek, Newton Abbot.³⁸ She went to Canada and back with the family. She was in the census on 5 April 1891 in Highweek, Newton Abbot²¹ at 8 Elm Terrace, Highweek, when she was a scholar. On 6th May 1895 Edith had been playing with friends in some gorse about a quarter of a mile from their home at Trusham. One of the girls had some matches and set light to the furze. A visitor saw the gorse alight and on going to investigate found Edith on the ground crying. All her clothes were burnt off with the exception of her stockings. Although conscious, the girl could not explain how she came to be burned. Mother Maria took her daughter home and sent for the doctor. He advised that she be sent to the hospital in Exeter. She was taken there the next day, where, the surgeon testified, she was found to be suffering from severe burns to the chest and abdomen. Her condition deteriorated on the following day, the Wednesday, when she died. The coroner brought a verdict of accidental death and attached blame to no one. Edith died 8 May 1895 in Exeter, Devon.³⁹*
- 18 Baby CAUSLEY (1885-1885). *Baby was still born on 26 February 1885 in Elgin - St Thomas Ontario, Canada.⁴⁰*
- +19 Charles Samuel CAUSLEY (1886-1924)
- 20 Lewis CAUSLEY (1890-). *Lewis was born Q1 1890 in Wolborough, Newton Abbot, Devon.^{21,41} He appeared in the census on 5 April 1891 in Highweek, Newton Abbot.²¹ at 8 Elm Terrace. He appeared in the census on 31 March 1901 in Trusha.²² at Mount Pleasant.*
- 21 Norah Edith CAUSLEY (1897-). *Norah was born Q1 1897 in Trusham.^{22,42} She appeared in the census on 31 March 1901.²² at Mount Pleasant. On 2 April 1911²³ she was still at Mount Pleasant, Trusham with her family.*

Fifth Generation

- 15. **Hephzibah Holman CAUSLEY**,⁴³ daughter of Charles CAUSLEY and Maria WEBBER, was born Q3 1877 in Highweek, Newton Abbot, Devon. Unsurprisingly her forename appears in a number of variations. She was with her family in the census on 3 April 1881 in Highweek, Newton Abbot²⁰ at Cricket Field Cottages, Highweek. She went to Canada with her mother and returned to England with the family, to appear on 5 April 1891 in Highweek, Newton Abbot.²¹ at 8 Elm Terrace, when she was at school. She died Q2 1893 in Newton Abbot, Devon.⁴⁴
- 16. **Maggie CAUSLEY**,²⁰ daughter of Charles CAUSLEY and Maria WEBBER, was born Q1 1880 in Newton Abbot.^{20,45} She was with the family in the census returns for 3 April 1881 and on 5 April 1891^{20,21} when she was at school. She had made the trip to Canada and back with her mother. On 31 March 1901 and on 2 April 1911 she was with her family at Mount Pleasant, Trusham, Devon,^{22,23} In 1901 and 1911 she was working as a Laundress on her own account at home.
- 19. **Charles Samuel CAUSLEY**, son of Charles CAUSLEY and Maria WEBBER, was born on 29th November 1886⁵³ in St Thomas, Elgin, Ontario, Canada. His family returned from Canada not long after Charles's birth, so he first appeared in the English Census on 5 April 1891, with his parents in Highweek,²¹ at 8 Elm Terrace. He was recorded as a scholar.²¹ He was still at school on 31 March 1901 in

Trusham, then living with his parents at Mount Pleasant.²² He appeared in the census on 2 April 1911 in Teignmouth, Devon,⁴⁶ at *Pezula*, in New Road, Teignmouth. He was working for Irishman John B. Rodwell, of independent means, and his family. He was described as a "Groom Gardener Domestic".⁴⁶ The census described him as a British subject by parentage.⁴⁶

It was whilst he was working in Teignmouth as a groom and gardener, at that time supposedly for a doctor, that Charles met his wife-to-be Cornish girl Laura Jane Bartlett, when she was working as a cook in service in the house next door. But the outbreak of the First World War intervened and Charles was to sign up for King and Country before he could be married.

He enlisted in Torquay on 11 November 1914, very early in the war. Charles's Military Service No. was '244325', which superseded the original number, 2137. According to his military records, at the time of his enlistment his height was 5ft 5¾ ins, hair 'brown', eyes grey. His complexion was 'medium' and his weight was 132lbs. He signed on for one year, joining the 2/1st SW Bde Coy Wessex Field Ambulance, at the rank of Driver. That company transferred to the Army Service Corps in 1916. Charles went to France on 11 Feb 1917, and wounded, was returned to England on 8 July 1917.

It seems that Charles was wounded in the arm, and lost an index finger. It is difficult to interpret his military record, but it appears that he left the army with a disability that was incurable and long-term. He was invalided out, demobbed, on 26 June 1919 from Woolwich Depot, Royal Army Service Corps. He had worked as a groom with the Ambulance Brigade. His army reference stated that he was a "first class worker and quiet and kind in his treatment of horses and is generally a good soldier". He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal in 1919.

He managed to fit in with his war service his marriage to **Laura Jane BARTLETT** on 6 February 1915 in Launceston, Cornwall.

Conditions in the trenches and the effects of gas left Charles with a diseased lungs. He never recovered from the effects of the war, and died of TB in Q4 1924 in Launceston.

Laura Jane BARTLETT, daughter of Richard Dawe BARTLETT (1855-) and Mary Jane CONGDEN (1851-), was born on 18 December 1887 in St Stephens by Launceston, Cornwall.⁴⁷ Mary Jane Congden had been born illegitimate, in Launceston Workhouse in 1851. On 5 April 1891 Laura was with her parents in Langore Village, St Stephens by Launceston.⁴⁸ She appeared in the census on 31 March 1901 in Launceston.⁴⁹ at Bridge Cottages, St Thomas, Launceston with her widowed mother. On 2 April 1911 we find her working as a cook domestic in Teignmouth, in the household of Matthew, a Draper, Dressmaker, and Milliner. His wife was from Launceston, which may be how Laura got the job with the family.⁵⁰ She died Q3 1971 in Launceston.⁵¹ She and Charles Samuel CAUSLEY had the following children:

22 Charles CAUSLEY (1917-2003). *Charles was born on 24 August 1917 in Launceston. He died on 4 November 2003 in Launceston.*

Sixth Generation

19. **Charles Stanley CAUSLEY**, son of Charles Causley and Laura Bartlett was born in Launceston, Cornwall on 24 August 1917. Charles's first home in Launceston was his grandmother's cottage by the river Kensey, which was inclined to flood. His mother, who was to be an important influence on his life and career, was worried by this, and further concerned when she saw a rat in the house. She decided to move, and for the next 10 years the Causleys lived higher up the town in a house with an outside tap, where they shared the lavatory with three other families.

His father never recovered from the effects of his time in the trenches and died in 1924, when Charles was seven. His mother had to do menial work to support them; but there were books in the house and he never felt any sense of deprivation.

Educated first at the local elementary school, only 500 yards from his home, he then gained a scholarship to Launceston College. As a youngster he had enjoyed reading and writing poetry, influenced by the romantic novels his mother read: he began a novel at the age of 9. But it was later in his teens, on a first visit to London, that he bought a copy of Siegfried Sassoon's 1919 War Poems and this - giving him that first clear view of his father's world - led him on to read Robert Graves, Edmund Blunden and Wilfred Owen.

He had just taken his school certificate when his mother announced that she had got him a good job in a builder's office and he was obliged to leave school at 15. After that he worked for an electrical company, reading all the while and experimenting with writing. His particular admirations were for Hardy and for D. H. Lawrence. At this time too he played the piano in a dance band. He began writing plays for local performance, and his first play, *Runaway*, was published when he was 19. His second, *The Conquering Hero*, in the following year.

In the 1930s he felt an affinity with the artists and writers opposing the rise of Fascism, and in 1939 — not wanting to follow his father into the poor bloody infantry — he joined the Navy. He was at first posted to a shore establishment — HMS Royal Arthur — a former holiday camp which was surprisingly comfortable. His tastes of service at sea however, at Scapa Flow and the Mediterranean, were not pleasant, as he discovered he was a bad sailor, and the seasickness was more menacing than the U-boats. He was a coder in the communications department, and whilst he resented the loss of personal identity imposed by the uniform, he was promoted to ordinary coder and eventually to acting petty officer.

It was his life and experiences in the Royal Navy that really kick-started his career as a poet. He began writing poems about his experiences in 1943, partly as a way of withdrawing from the queasiness and fear. His first book of poems, *Farewell, Aggie Weston*, was published in 1951 by Erica Marx's Hand and Flower Press, as was *Survivor's Leave* (1953).

Naval service made a deep impression, and many of his later poems retell tales of comradeship, adversity and loss. He also wrote a book of sea stories, *Hands to Dance and Skylark*, named after an old naval order to ratings to work off their high spirits.

On demobilisation Causley trained as a teacher at Peterborough Training College, where he studied English and history. On qualifying he returned to Launceston to teach in the school where he had studied as a boy, to serve, as he had it "thirty years in chalk Siberias". He discovered early on how a classroom of unruly children could be enchanted by hearing ballads read aloud. The publication of *Farewell, Aggie Weston* established his reputation as a poet. He was to remain in Launceston for the rest of his life, leaving there only rarely. He never married.

For three years in the mid-1950s he was literary editor of two BBC magazines, *Apollo in the West* and *Signature*, and from 1962 to 1966 he was a member of the Arts Council's poetry panel. His experience as a teacher gave him particular insight into the spirit of young people, and he developed a skill as a children's poet that earned him as much recognition as his other writings.

In 1966, two years before Causley was to publish the collection, *Underneath the Water*, certainly his finest up to that time, his mother suffered a stroke. Spending much time with her, talking about her youth, he found himself "through the simple, clear glass she held up . . . able to observe, as if with new eyes, my own childhood; and I wrote about it in poem after poem". He chose to nurse her at home for six years until her death.

Despite his reluctance to leave Launceston, he clearly took pleasure from the time he twice spent in Perth, Western Australia as a visiting Fellow at the University of Western Australia, and at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Canada. He wrote with relish about travel in these countries and the United States.

He retired from teaching, a deputy head, in 1976, and published collections which reflected these travels: *Secret Destinations*, 1984, *A Field of Vision*, 1988, and updated *Collected Poems* in 1992, 1997 and 2000.

He was much in demand at poetry readings in the United Kingdom. He made many broadcasts and was a regular contributor to BBC Radio Cornwall.

An intensely private person, he was nevertheless approachable. He was a friend of such writers as Siegfried Sassoon, A. L. Rowse, Jack Clemo and Ted Hughes (his closest friend).

He was Visiting Fellow in Poetry at Exeter University in 1973/74; in 1977 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the same university.

Charles Causley received many honours. In 1958, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He was twice awarded a travelling scholarship by the Society of Authors. He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1967, and a Cholmondeley Award in 1971. He won the Ingersoll/TS Eliot Award, and was presented with the Heywood Hill Literary Prize in 2000. He was appointed CBE in 1986 and, in 2001, elected one of the 10 Companions of Literature by the Royal Society of Literature.

Charles Causley died on 4 November 2003, aged 86. He is buried in Launceston, next to his mother.

After the death of Sir John Betjeman there was a strong lobby for Causley to be appointed Poet Laureate, but his friend Ted Hughes got the post. In Launceston he is certainly known as "the best Poet Laureate we never had"

Over a period of 50 years, he gained a reputation, not only as a major poet, but also as an editor of poetry collections, as a playwright and as a writer of prose. He also collaborated with composers to produce librettos and the setting of many poems to a musical score.

His works are too numerous to list completely. Listed below are most of his collections of poetry. Although Causley himself would probably have objected, titles with an asterisk indicate that the majority of poems are aimed at children.

Title	Publisher	Pub date
<i>Farewell Aggie Weston</i>	The Hand and Flower Press	1951
<i>Survivor's Leave</i>	The Hand and Flower Press	1953
<i>Union Street</i>	Rupert Hart-Davis	1957
<i>Johnny Alleluia</i>	Rupert Hart-Davis	1961
<i>Underneath the Water</i>	Macmillan	1968
<i>Figure of 8</i>	Macmillan	1969
<i>Collected Poems 1951-75</i>	Macmillan	1975
<i>Figgie Hobbin*</i>	Macmillan	1970
<i>Figgie Hobbin*</i>	Walker	1973
<i>Secret Destinations</i>	Macmillan	1984
<i>Early in the Morning*</i>	Viking	1986

<i>Twenty One Poems</i>	Celandine Press	1986
<i>Jack the Treacle Eater*</i>	Macmillan	1987
<i>A Field of Vision</i>	Macmillan	1988
<i>Figgie Hobbin*</i>	Macmillan	1990
<i>The Young Man of Curie*</i>	Macmillan	1991
<i>Bring in the Holly*</i>	Frances Lincoln	1992
<i>All Day Saturday*</i>	Macmillan	1994
<i>Going to the Fair*</i>	Viking	1994
<i>Collected Poems for Children*</i>	Macmillan	1996
<i>Selected Poems for Children*</i>	Macmillan	1997
<i>Collected Poems 1951-1997</i>	Macmillan	1997
<i>Collected Poems 1951-2000</i>	Macmillan	2000
<i>Figgie Hobbin*</i>	Macmillan	2002
<i>Jack the Treacle Eater*</i>	Macmillan	2002
<i>All Day Saturday*</i>	Macmillan	2003
<i>The Young Man of Curie*</i>	Macmillan	2003
<i>I Had a Little Cat*</i>	Macmillan	2009

I am indebted to Michelle Ryan for first drawing to my attention the Causley family connection, and then for generously sharing her information with me.

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