

**A Bedford and Smith Family History
for**

Katharine Annie Bedford

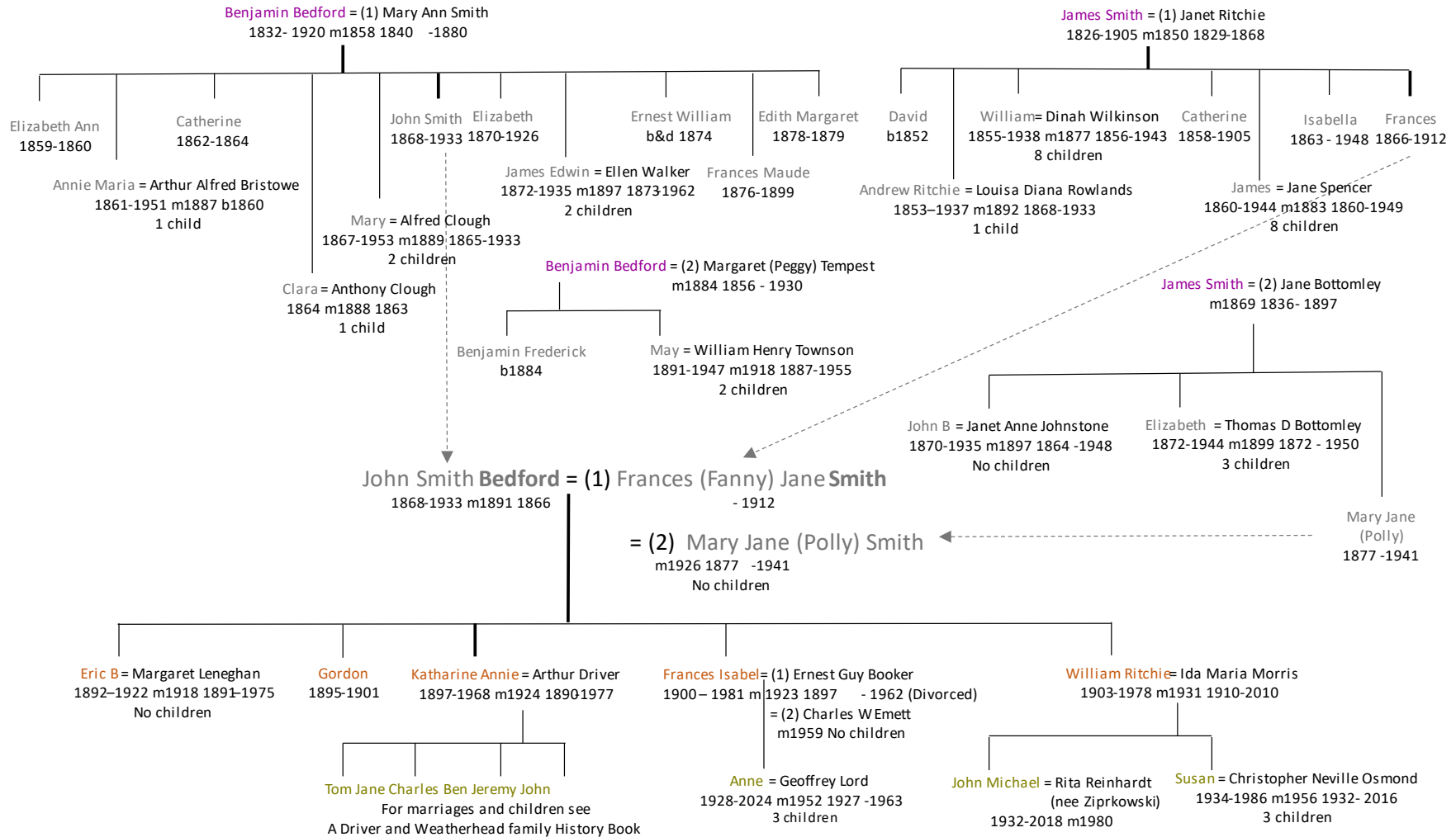
Researched and written by Kate Mawer



The Arthur and Kath Driver née Bedford Family
Arthur Jane Ben Tom Kath Jerry

John Smith Bedford & Frances (Fanny) Jane Smith

From 1826



KSM 25th February 2025

A Bedford and Smith family narrative for Katharine Annie Bedford

Although my Granny Driver, Katharine Annie Bedford, died when I was 7 years old, I remember her well. Perhaps that is due to the photographs and cine films or, more probably, that when she visited us, often during the summer holidays, she had the time to sit with us, teach us to knit and to play under and around her chair in the sun.

Our mother, Sheila, may have found the visits slightly more demanding. Sheila would reflect on how Yorkshire women were very particular and regularly cleaned their front steps. She told the story of how on one stay, in the 1960s, Granny Driver spent the week's housekeeping with one visit to the butchers.

Susan remembers ironing in Silsden and being reprimanded for not pressing both sides of Grandad's pyjama trousers! Sheila was mortified to think Granny would suspect Susan had not been properly brought up!

Our Granny, an infant school headmistress, mother, aunt and grandmother, certainly enjoyed the company of children.

The book, A Driver and Weatherhead Family History, shares Katharine's story with her husband Arthur on Page 82 under the heading.

52 • • • • • Arthur Driver and Katharine Bedford, R2.

It was not appropriate to include the full narrative for Katharine. This addition is provided for those related to Katharine Annie Bedford and will include;

- Family tree chart for Katharine's paternal relations, the Bedford family.
- Family tree chart for Katharine's maternal relations, the Smith family.
- Katharine's narrative prior to her marriage.
- Smith and Bedford family narratives.



Kate reading to Granny, Chandlers Ford.
Susan, Katharine, Jane and Kate.

Katharine Annie Bedford was born in Sutton Mill, near Sutton-in-Craven on the 10th October 1897, the third child of John Smith Bedford and Frances Jane Smith.

Known as Kath she grew up knowing both her grandfathers, Benjamin Bedford and James Smith, but neither of her grandmothers as both died aged 39/40 years old. Kath's grandfathers both remarried. Benjamin to Peggy Tempest, and James Smith to Jane Bottomley, who died the year after Kath was born. At the time of Kath's marriage to Arthur Driver, her only living grandparent was Peggy, her paternal step grandmother.

Kath was born into a large extended family. She would have been known to 10 aunts, 7 uncles and, of course, their spouses.

Kath had two older brothers, Eric and Gordon, a younger sister, Frances Isabel, known by her middle name, and a younger brother William, known as Bill. It is this family's narrative that will be provided first followed by the narratives of Kath's grandparents, the Bedford and Smith families.

Kath's parents, John Smith Bedford and Frances Jane Smith, married in Sutton-in-Craven, West Yorkshire, on 23rd December 1891. Frances, known as Fanny, was 26 years old and living in Eastburn. John, 23, was a bookkeeper at a mill, living at Beanlands, his parents' home in Sutton-in-Craven. Ten years previously Fanny, having left school, was a weaver. In 1891 she was visiting her brother William's family in Great Marsden near Nelson. Her occupation was cloth weaver. Fanny's parents and some siblings were living at 8 Skipton Rd in Steeton with Eastburn in 1891. It is assumed that she lived at home with her parents, like John, prior to marrying.

With both Fanny and John having experienced the deaths of their mothers at a young age, Fanny was 2 and John 12 years old, they had both benefitted from the support of older siblings and step mothers when growing up. The family tree chart gives an overview of the extended family.

To read more about Fanny and John's earlier lives see the Bedford and Smith narratives later in this publication.

One year after marrying, Fanny and John had their first child. Son Eric was born in December 1892.

On Eric's baptism record the family are shown to be living at Sutton Mill.

Sutton Mill was an area of housing developed for mill workers by the owners, T&M Bairstow. A new mill had been built in 1888, so it is likely that John was working for Bairstow's Mill as a bookkeeper, possibly in the General Office shown in this photograph.



In April 1895 Gordon, a second son was born, with the home on the baptism record given as Glusburn.

Glusburn, Cross Hills, Sutton-in-Craven, Sutton Mill and Eastburn are located to the south west of Silsden, see the map below. The Bedford and Smith family connections to these mill towns and villages are described later in this narrative. Kath grew up in Sutton-in-Craven and lived in Silsden through all her married life.



By the time of Kath's birth in 1897, the family home was given as Sutton-in-Craven. This would be the parish name for baptism. Having looked at the 1901 electoral register the family were living at Holmefield in Sutton Mill. All the houses in Holmefield were built by the Bairstows for the mill workers.

The photograph below shows Kath with her parents and her two older brothers, Eric and Gordon. This was probably taken during 1899.



The following year on 21st September 1900 a second daughter, Frances Isabel, was born.

Towards the end of 1900 and the beginning of 1901, the family moved a couple of miles into Glusburn to live on Lothersdale Road.

This photograph would become very special for the family as in February 1901, when Eric was 8 years old, Kath 3 and Isabel 5 months, Gordon died suddenly, aged 5.

A story within the family gives the details as follows, John came home from work on 'Legging Day'. On this day children played a game on their parents by trying to pull an adult's leg. It is told that Gordon, playing the game, collapsed and died. The death certificate gives the cause of death as cardiac failure.

Two years after the death of Gordon, on the 19th February 1903, the family was completed with the birth of William, known as Bill. He was given the middle name, Ritchie, his maternal grandmother's maiden name.

Shortly after Bill's birth and perhaps because of it, in 1904 the family moved from Lothersdale Road to Ashgrove in Sutton-in-Craven. There was a short stay at Woodbine Cottage, Crosshills, before the final move to number 9 Ashgrove.

So, with Eric, aged 12, Kath 7, Isabel 4 and Bill 1 this became the family home. Kath's parents lived here for the rest of their lives.

It is believed that the house move probably coincided with John changing jobs. His move back to Sutton-in-Craven linked to John working for Sir John Horsfall at Hayfield Mill in Sutton-in-Craven.



9 Ashgrove, Sutton-in-Craven



In 1910 John and Fanny had this photograph taken of Isabel (9), Bill (7) and Kath (13).

The photograph was taken at the Hall and Siggers Studio, that later became a place of work for Isabel.

Information shared by Anne Booker, Isabel's daughter, explained that Fanny had long periods in hospital in these years due to mental health issues.

Fanny's sister, Isabella, known as Aunt Bella, looked after the children at this time. Although we believe that she was also running her drapery business in Sutton Mill.

By 1911 John is no longer a bookkeeper or clerk at a worsted factory instead in the census he gives his employment as factory manager in the worsted spinning industry. The move to Hayfield Mill, where John's father Benjamin had worked, may also have been a promotion.

With the children aged between 8 and 18 we find that Fanny was not at home at the time of the 1911 census. Now, Mary Jane Smith, Fanny's youngest half-sister, known by the name Aunt Polly, was living with the family as the housekeeper, Aunt Bella living in Main Street, Sutton Mill.

One year later on the 16th November 1912 Fanny died at home, aged 47. She died because of breast cancer and had been living with the condition for two years. Fanny's older sister Kate had died of the same condition seven years previously, also aged 47.

Two years after Fanny's death WW1 began.

The family continued to live at 9 Ashgrove, with Aunt Polly (known later as Granny Polly) running the household. As a school student Kath took part in amateur dramatic performances. She is shown here as a cast member in 'Pearl the fisher maid'. A Spanish operetta, clearly shown with the number of fans! Kath would have enjoyed the music, singing and dancing.

Kath is sitting in the front row, third from the left.



This photograph was taken on the 10th February 1915, when Kath was 17 years old. She is on the left with her friend and cousin Frances Clough on the right.

Kath's enjoyment of the outdoors is shared through a series of photographs linked to the Cooperative Holiday Association. It is likely that Kath enjoyed these throughout her late teenage years.

The aim of the CHA, at this time, was 'to provide simple and strenuous recreative and educational holidays by offering reasonably priced accommodation and to promote friendship and fellowship amid the beauty of the natural world'. In many ways this sums up how Kath is often remembered.



The earliest photograph is dated July 24th and 31st 1915 when Kath went to Wharfedale, aged 17. Kath is sitting in the front row sixth from the right. Nine of her friends have signed the back with their addresses. They came from a number of the industrial cities of the north of England; Rochdale, Liverpool, Bradford and Manchester.



These holidays appeared to have had a significant influence on Kath, as once a mother she encouraged her children to enjoy the outdoors. The Wharfedale Guest House was in Hebden, near Grassington, and named The Bungalow. This raises the question whether Kath gave the name, The Bungalow, to the

small holiday house she rented each summer for her children at Cringles, during WW2, as it reminded her of these happy times in the outdoors.

She went on at least three holidays with CHA. Each year the number of friends signing the backs of the photographs increased. A couple added extra notes to their signature; 'pianist' and 'the camera friend'. Online descriptions of these holidays suggest that many a marriage resulted. Although this was not the case for Kath.

The following description outlines of the types of activities being enjoyed.

'The Cooperative Holidays Association holidays provided cheap, simple accommodation and an itinerary of walks, singing and evening lectures. Experts would instruct on geology, wildlife and botany. Later, painting, climbing and other pursuits were introduced. A holiday was subject to strict itinerary however, communal activities were not only provided but participation was a requirement. Daily walks of 18-20 miles were compulsory. Sing-alongs were encouraged, both on the walks and each evening. An official songbook was produced.'

The photograph at Lake Ogwen was no doubt one such walk when staying at Bangor in summer 1920. Kath is wearing the beret sitting on the rock near the centre.



These holidays overlapped with Kath's time at Bingley Training College, where she was training to become a teacher.

During the academic year of 1916/17, aged 19/20 Kath was living in Hild Hall at the college. The College opened in October 1911, set up as a college for the Women of the West Riding of Yorkshire.



'One of the most remembered speeches was by the new Principal who ended her speech by concluding that she hoped that: "Mental fresh air and mental sunshine would be developed in the students through their association with green woods and purple moors and the sight of a valley full of stars at night". Those latter words and image would be included in the College Song (1914) and repeated by students across the years to describe the beauty of the College location.'



1916/17 Hild Hall, Bingley Training College. Kath marked with arrow.

The course lasted two years. For Kath WW1 was spent in education. Kath's teaching registration document indicates that in 1918, aged 21, she took up

the post of Assistant Mistress at Sutton National School. She was probably working at the school when the war ended.

At the end of WW1, in 1918, the Keighley News noted the following;

'The sounding of buzzers at 11.30am informed the inhabitants of Cross Hills and district on Monday that the armistice had been signed. The mills of Messrs. Woodrow, at Junction, and Messrs. J. C. Horsfall and Sons closed down from dinner-time, and shortly after dinner Messrs T. and M. Bairstow closed down their large mills for the rest of the day. Messrs. Bairstow stopped work again on Tuesday noon until Thursday morning in celebration of the event.'

In the same year the family celebrated the marriage of Eric, now a chief draughtsman, to Margaret Leneghan, also an elementary school teacher. Perhaps this delightful photograph of three young 'sisters' in their hats was taken at this time of happiness.

Left to right Isabel, Katharine and sister-in-law, Margaret, known as Maggie.

It was not until the 1st July 1921 that Kath achieved her full teaching registration. She continued teaching at Sutton National School until 1923, most probably resigning at the end of the year prior to her marriage in January 1924 to Arthur Driver. A report of their wedding states that Kath had been the Headmistress of the Infants Department of the Sutton National School for the previous 5 years i.e. since leaving Bingley College in 1918.



The headteacher at Sutton National School was Alfred Clough, Kath's uncle by his marriage to Mary Bedford. Kath taught alongside her cousin, and close friend, Frances Clough. This photograph was taken in the garden at School House, Sutton.



While teaching, in 1920, Kath knew E. Owen Jennings, an art student, two years younger than Kath, although later to become a renowned artist. This may have been through Isabel, as E. Owen Jennings was a friend of Isabel's first husband Guy Booker, both having studied together at Leeds College of Art.

In February 1920 Owen, possibly somewhat tongue in cheek, gave Kath this pen and ink 'invoice'. Kath kept it with her photographs. As a family we looked at it alongside the photographs, but never really realised its detail and humour until years later. Possibly Owen had helped Kath with some jobs at the school.



'Jennings, Edgar Owen (1899-1985) was born in Skipton, Yorkshire in 1899. He was a painter, etcher, engraver, and illustrator and attended Skipton School of Art, where, under the guidance of headmaster W T Shuttleworth, he studied bookbinding, textile design and crafts. This was followed by Leeds College of Art and the Royal College of Art, where he was a silver medalist. He became principal of the School of Art at Tunbridge Wells, in Kent, 1934-65, after appointments at Doncaster School of Art, 1926-8, and Leeds College of Art, 1928-34. Jennings was elected RWS in 1950 and RE in 1970 and exhibited at the Paris Salon, in New York, Melbourne and Chicago and participated in British Council shows in Belgium, Poland, China and the Soviet Union. Official purchases of his work were made by the British Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum, and many other British and foreign collections.'

The 1921 census provides an insight as to how all the family, now over the age of 18, are employed. John was the manager at Hayfield Mills, working for John Horsfall & Sons, managing the worsted spinning factory in Glusburn. It is likely that this is where he was working in 1911 too. Aunt Polly is still living with the family as the housekeeper.

Kath is teaching, Isabel is employed by Johnson Brothers as the manageress of a dyers and cleaners' shop in Keighley and Bill, also working in Keighley, is an apprentice machine tool fitter at Eastwood tool works. Eric and Maggie have not been found in the 1921 census. At the time of their marriage Eric was a chief engineering draughtsman.

Very sadly the following year Eric was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He died six months later in October 1922, aged 29. He left Maggie widowed after just 4 years of marriage. At the time of Eric's death his address was given as 9 Ashgrove. Maggie went on to marry George Webster in 1933. She had no children.

A year later in July 1923, Isabel married Ernest Guy Booker, known as Guy. Guy, a goldsmith, gave his home residence as West Lynn, a suburb of Kings Lynn. The witnesses at the wedding were all of Isabel's surviving immediate family.

It is said that it was Isabel's younger brother, Bill, that started Isabel off in art. When in Kings Lynn, with Guy, she was learning woodwork and silversmithing skills. There in 1928, Isabel and Guy had their daughter, Anne.

The family then moved to Chesterfield, where Guy taught art and craft.

Anne remembered staying at 9 Ashgrove with her grandfather, John Bedford and Granny Polly. She went for walks with her grandad and his wire haired terrier, Tibby. After John died Tibby went to live with Anne's family.



1928 Isabel and Anne



1940s Isabel and Anne

After at least 16 years of marriage Isabel and Guy split up and later, in 1959, Isabel married Charles Emmett.



As children the Tom Driver family enjoyed Auntie Isabel and Charles' visits on their way to or from boarding their cruise ship holidays from Southampton. We knew Isabel as an artist, traveller, and character.

Isabel died in 1981, the longest surviving child of John and Fanny.

Six months after Isabel's wedding, on Wednesday 30th January 1924 Kath married Arthur Driver. We do not know how they met, but we are intrigued that their home in Elm Grove, Silsden was called Raven Stones. The name of a moorland area of Sutton-in-Craven. We have a wedding photograph, just the one, and the wedding report from the newspaper.



The best man, grooms men and bridesmaids are, from left to right; Morris Driver (best man), Frances Clough, Bill Bedford, Elizabeth Driver, Sarah Driver, Frank Driver.

Over the years the Tom Driver family have enjoyed the intrigue of Arthur's open toed shoes. At times wondering whether this has anything to do with Arthur and Kath's shared interest in music and theatrical performance. We have had to conclude that it is just the confetti on his shoes and spats!

The Keighley News reported the wedding and included the following details.

The bride wore a charming dress of mauve chiffon velvet and silver tissue cut on graceful lines with long sleeves and caught on the left hip with large bow of velvet and tissue. With the gown was worn a silk net veil to match and a Russian coronet of violets. She carried a bouquet of anemones, lilies of the valley, and violets.

The bridesmaids were attired in dresses of chiffon velvet in Victorian style, and trimmed ruchings of the same material in shades of silver grey, shell pink, and new reseda. They had coronets of silver tissue and silver net veils, and

rushed velvet muffs to match the gowns. Miss S Driver was in silver grey, Miss B Driver in shell pink, and Miss Clough in new reseda.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the Glusburn Institute, and later Mr and Mrs Driver left for London and Jersey, where the honeymoon is to be spent. The bride's travelling dress was of black chiffon velvet, with loose side panels, trimmed with grey fur.

These photographs below of Arthur and Kath are taken from the first few pages of their family photograph album. It is assumed that these were either taken on their January honeymoon, (hence the coats) or later in the year before Tom was born in November.



To read more about Kath's married life and Arthur and Kath's children go to the publication *A Driver and Weatherhead Family History*.

1924
Kath with Tom



It was after both his daughters had married that Kath's father John married his second wife, Polly, on 3rd December 1926 at Keighley Register Office.

Polly was John's sister-in-law and aunt to his children. She had lived with John since Fanny's illness in 1911. Many years later, his grandchildren, Tom and Ben, were surprised to discover the marriage certificate as the children had not known of this late marriage. In addition, they found that their own parents, Kath and Arthur, had been the two witnesses, yet had never mentioned this to their children.

At the time of the marriage John was 58 and Polly 49 years old. The 1921 marriage act had changed the law, allowing a woman to marry her sister's husband, which could explain why John and Polly had not married sooner.

In 1925 John and Fanny's son Bill became a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Six years later in August 1931, aged 28, he married Ida Maria Morris, age 21, at Kildwick Church. At that time Bill described his occupation as engineering draughtsman.

Ten years earlier Ida was living in Keighley and attending school. Her parents were running a workhouse there. Following their marriage Bill and Ida lived in Sheffield, where their son John Michael, known as Mike, was born in 1932.



By 1932 John Bedford had five grandchildren. This photograph shows him holding Jane Driver in 1928.

John and Polly would enjoy being at the seaside with their young grandchildren. Here they are at Morecambe a few years later with Jane.



John Smith Bedford died on the 19th September 1933 in Victoria Hospital, aged 64, he was in hospital having an operation and died of cardiac failure. He was buried with his first wife Fanny and his children Eric and Gordon.

John was a member of the Independent Order of Foresters and the Loyal Staincliffe Lodge Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. He held shares in Lister & Co. Ltd (30), Milton Proprietary Ltd (100), Bukit Tambun Estates Ltd (500), Central Perak Rubber Co. Ltd (600), Illingworth Morris & Co. Ltd (400).



John Bedford knew five of his seven grandchildren. A year after his death, in 1934, both Kath and Ida gave birth to their last child.

Bill and Ida, now living in Stockport, had Susan, known as Sue. While Kath and Arthur had Jeremy John, known as Jerry.

The families would meet up regularly in Silsden with Kath enjoying the company of her Bedford nephew and two nieces.

This photograph shows Kath's son Ben (right) with Mike and Sue.



To the Tom Driver family Uncle Bill was an expert clock repairer in his retirement and Aunty Ida was always beautifully dressed with great style. When out shopping with my mother, Sheila Driver, she would often quote Ida to me, 'Buy quality and it will last'.

Bill died in 1978, and Ida lived to be 100 years old, dying in 2010.

John's will made available the capital of the Ashgrove house for Polly through her lifetime and then to be passed onto John's children after her death. Following John's death Polly moved to North Street in Silsden where she lived in a cottage belonging to the Driver Mills. At a later date Aunt Bella moved into the same North Street cottage, presumably allowing Kath and Arthur to be supportive of both of Kath's aunts in their later years.

In the photograph Granny Polly is with one of the grandchildren, possibly Ben.



Granny Polly, Kath, Jane and Tom Driver at Morecambe

Isabel's daughter Anne Booker remembered visiting Granny Polly often. When Polly died in 1941, she and Isabel came from Chesterfield to be with Polly in North Street. On the death certificate Isabel called herself 'Step Daughter'.

Polly is remembered on her parents' memorial stone in Sutton-in-Craven, rather than with John.

Kath would often be the host to both her own and relations children, as well as neighbours and friends'. She was a Red Cross member and judged the children's fancy dress competitions at Silsden village events. See the book, A Driver and Weatherhead Family History, for more details.

Kath died in 1968, aged 72, following a stroke. How pleased she would be to know that years later Ida (foreground), Ann, Jane Roberts, visiting from Canada, and Sheila Driver all met up in the sunshine, as Kath would have enjoyed too.



• • • • • **James Smith, Janet Ritchie and Jane Bottomley**

Kath's mother, Fanny, came from a large extended family with ten siblings. Fanny's father was a weaver, living in the Glasgow area. He made a decision early in his married life in the mid 19th century to move his family, leaving Scotland and both his and his wife's relatives. The Smiths moved to Keighley in West Yorkshire. This narrative provides the stories of Fanny's parents, James Smith with Janet Ritchie, her siblings and the relatives from James Smith's second marriage to Jane Bottomley. Once in Keighley the family mainly moved short distances locally to live to the west of Keighley in the Steeton and Sutton-in-Craven area.

James Smith was born in 1826 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He lived there until he married Janet Ritchie in 1850 in Barony, Lanark. At this time James, aged 24, was a handloom weaver of cotton. Janet was 21 years old.

It was in Calton in Lanarkshire that the first of their seven children were born, David in 1852. Second son, Andrew Ritchie, born in Paisley, followed a year later in 1853. By the time William (b1855) and Catherine, called Kate, (b1858) were born the family had moved to Bridgeton. Calton and Bridgeton are very central within Glasgow and are located close to the River Clyde.

It was between 1858 and 1860 that James and Janet moved their family of four children from Glasgow to Keighley in West Yorkshire. James had accepted a position with Cravens manufacturers in Keighley. James was employed in Glasgow as a handloom weaver of Paisley shawls. Cravens were expanding into the weaving of fancy cloth and had set up power looms for the same kind of work. Making this move James was able to take up the position of worsted



pattern weaver. Worsted wool came from lowland sheep and was used to make cloth for clothing.

Living at 28 Malvern Place, Eastwood, Keighley the family were next door to other weavers from both Ireland and Scotland. We do not know at what point James was called Jimmy, but it is likely that his full nickname, Jimmy Scotty, may have been in use at this time in Keighley.

The first child to be born to Janet and Jimmy in Keighley was their fourth son, James, born in 1860. Three years later Isabella known as Bella, was born in the Long Lee district, as was daughter Frances, known as Fanny, when she was born in 1866.

In the 1860s Jimmy moved to work for Clapham and Sperry at Glusburn. Jimmy was now both a designer and manager.

About eight years after the move from Scotland, and having moved a little further away from Keighley in Glusburn, Janet died in 1868. She was 39 years old, with her youngest child, Fanny, just two years old. Her death was caused by chronic enteritis, inflammation of the small intestine. This left Jimmy with seven children to care for, aged between 2 and 16 years. At the time of Janet's death Jimmy described his employment as a pattern weaver.

The following year, 1869, Jimmy married Jane Bottomley in Kildwick. Jane, a worsted power loom weaver, was 33 years old and Jimmy 43. They had their first child, John Bottomley, in 1870. It appears that the family moved again to live in Crosshills, living on Main Street. In the 1871 census Jimmy gives his occupation as designer, which suggests that he had some responsibility within the weaving trade.

By now his sons Andrew and William were working in the weaving industry too. Andrew as a weft man and William as a twister. An article written in the 1930s tells how William started in the weaving trade at the age of 8, as a half timer, in Keighley then moved to Glusburn as a Doffer, working for Sir John Horsfall (see the Bedford family) and then moved to Clapham and Sperry, also in Glusburn.

However, David was no longer living with the family. Family notes say that he disappeared. Searches have been unable to find any trace of David after 1861.

The following year, 1872, Elizabeth, known as Lizzie, was born and Mary Jane, known as Polly, was born five years later in 1877. Jimmy described himself, on

Polly's birth certificate, as a Fancy Dress Designer. Fancy goods was the name given to more complex weaving styles and looms, suggesting greater experience and skill was required to be employed in this field. Polly was born in Halifax in Moorgate Street, Stencoat. She was not baptised until 1881 at Sutton-in-Craven, when the family were shown to be living in Eastburn. There is no explanation for why the family were in Halifax at this time.

By 1877, aged 51, Jimmy's family was complete. It was at this time that Jimmy's older children started to marry. William was the first to marry, in 1877, to Dinah Wilkinson.

During the 1870s Andrew joined the army. This career led to him leaving Crosshills and taking part in many international campaigns.

Andrew fought in the 1878-80 Afghan Campaign. He registered at the Freemason Himalaya Lodge in 1886 when he was a soldier living in Rawalpindi. He fought in both the Boer War and WW1.

By the time of the 1881 census Jimmy was unemployed as a designer. The family had moved away from Crosshills and were living a short distance away at 21 Skipton Road, Steeton cum Eastburn. However, money was coming into the household as son James was working as a teacher, assistant master and Kate, Bella and Fanny all had jobs as weavers.

Presumably when James married Jane Spencer in 1883, he left home. If Jimmy remained unemployed, he and Jane would have relied on the income provided by their daughters.

The photograph below is labelled without a date, and with the only man named as Andrew. The age of the siblings would suggest that the photograph was taken in the late 1880s. If this is the case perhaps the young man is in fact the sisters' brother John.

Left to right, back row - Kate, Polly, Bella.

Left to right, front row - Lizzie, Andrew, Fanny.



By 1891, the year that Fanny married John Smith Bedford, Jimmy had retired. The census shows that the family were living at 8 Skipton Road, Steeton with Eastburn. Those of his children living at home were working in the weaving trade. Kate and Polly as cloth menders, Bella and Lizzie as cloth weavers, John appears to be following in his father's footsteps working as an assistant designer. Fanny, although not yet married was not at home on census night, she was visiting her brother William in Great Marsden, near Nelson, Lancashire.

James and Jane were living near by in Morton near Riddlesden, Keighley. James was a school master. In 1884 a new school was built at Morton as the previous school was too small. Perhaps he and Jane moved to take a position in the new school.

By 1891 William and Dinah had provided Jimmy with five grandchildren and James and Jane a further five. The first granddaughters in both families were named, Janet, possibly after their deceased grandmother.

With Fanny marrying John Bedford in the same year, she and her brothers William and James provided nine more grandchildren before the end of the 1890s. I am sure that the aunts; Kate, Bella, Lizzie and Polly, all enjoyed their time with their 19 nieces and nephews.

There were more grandchildren to arrive in the early 1900s.

As the 1890s came to an end and after 28 years of marriage, Jane died on 29th December 1897 at 39 Main Street Eastburn, at the age of 61. Especially sad for her children, who were all under 30 when their mother died, with Polly just 20 years old. John, had married Janet Anne Johnstone earlier that year. He was present at his mother's death and gave his address as 22 Eastfield Place, Sutton Mill. Lizzie would marry Tom Bottomley, unrelated to Jane, in 1899. Jane knew none of her own grandchildren.

On the following page are two photographs showing the wedding of Lizzie and Tom in 1897, presumably in Eastburn.



There were no names for these boys, but we imagine that they could be some of Lizzie's nephews. Possibly

- Two year old William (parents William & Dinah Smith).
- Four year old Gordon (parents Fanny & John Bedford).
- Four year old James (parents James & Jane Smith).
- Six year old Andrew (parents James and Jane Smith).
- Seven year old Eric (parents Fanny & John Bedford).



Within two years of Jane dying Jimmy moved to live with his daughter, Lizzie and her husband Thomas Bottomley in Sutton Mill. This meant a change for Kate, Bella and Polly too. Kate and Bella moved in with each in a different property in Sutton Mill. Mary Jane, aged 23, appears to be living with an aunt from the other side of the family at 2 Sutton Road, Crosshills. Her employment being shown as worsted weaver.

With the arrival of the 20th century Jimmy became a grandfather five more times, bringing the total grandchildren born to 24. Although some died in infancy, including Gordon at the age of five. One more granddaughter was born in 1908, after Jimmy's death.

In 1905, Jimmy died, aged 80. He is remembered alongside Janet and Jane in the church yard at Sutton-in-Craven. His youngest daughter, Polly, is also named.



To complete the narrative of the Smith family a few additional notes are given about each of Jimmy's children.

David Smith (b1852) Notes made by Tom Driver in the 1970s from discussions with his aunt state that David disappeared, unfortunately we have no more information.

Andrew Ritchie Smith (b1853) married Louisa Diana Rowlands in 1892. Louisa, known as Popsy was 24 and from Rhyl. At the time of the wedding in Sutton-in-Craven, Andrew, aged 39, was a Lieutenant and Quartermaster in the 1st Suffolk Regiment. He fought in the Boer War, and later in life was a military lecturer.

Andrew and Popsy had their only child, Victor Ritchie, in 1903 in Ely, Cambridgeshire. However, the family had moved to Sutton in Surrey by the time of the 1911 census. At that time Andrew held the rank of major. In 1912 the family moved to Derby because Andrew was an official of the National Service League. The League advocated the introduction of four years of compulsory military training for men aged between eighteen and thirty, for the purpose of home defense. The movement was fostered by the fear and sense of failure resulting from the Boer War.

By 1921 the family lived at 288 Uttoxeter Road in Derby, where Victor was an electrical engineer. However, on the day of the census Andrew was living in a boarding house, 30 and 31 Leicester Square, London, while working at 21 Eley Place in Holborn. It was in 1921 that the League was wound up.

Victor married Doris Nellie Ford and lived in Croft House, Findern in South Derbyshire. They had three children; Lionel, Derek and a daughter.

Following Popsy's death in 1933 Andrew moved to live with his son and daughter-in-law. He died there four years later in 1937, aged 84. At his funeral his coffin was draped with the Union Jack.

William Smith (b1855) married Dinah Wilkinson, in Cowley, on Christmas Eve 1877. At this time William was an overlooker working in a Keighley Mill. Dinah was a weaver, and was still working at the time of the 1881 census, living in Eastburn cum Steeton with their two sons, Albert (b1874) and Andrew (1880). Therefore, living close to William's father and siblings.

They moved from Keighley to Great Marsden by the early 1890s, now with Thomas (1883), Janet Ritchie (1885) and Catherine (1889). By 1901, living in

Leonard Street, Nelson, two more children had been born. Frances (1892) and William (1897) were born at the same time as two of their Bedford cousins in Sutton-in-Craven.

The 1911 census shows that in total William and Dinah had 8 children, the name of the eighth child that died is not known.

William was now a manager of a cotton mill. Family notes suggest that this mill was in Nelson. By 1921 William and Dinah were living with their son, Andrew, who was widowed, following the death of his wife, Isabella. Andrew, an Alderman, was chair of the education committee and a Justice of the Peace. He had been Mayor of Marsden.

The business where both William and Andrew worked was Clover Mills in Nelson. Their employer being B(Bannister) Wilkinson Cotton Manufacturers. William retired as manager of this company at the age of 70, never having been out of work throughout his working life.

William was an active member of the Methodist Church, taking on the roles of Preacher and Sunday School superintendent. In retirement he enjoyed walking and with a group of friends would walk to a farm at Foulridge and there would hold 'parliamentary debates' on current topics and events.

Tom Driver's notes give the following details. Albert married Polly. Janet Ritchie married Alec Stewart, a post office inspector. Catherine married a Mr Rycroft and Frances, known as Kitty, married Fred Hragreaves. Son William died in WW1 serving with the East Lancashire regiment.

William and Dinah celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1937. An account of their lives was printed in The Leader. It contained much information about William's father's early life that has been used in this narrative. At this time, they were living with their daughter Janet Stewart. The report notes that they had nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

William died the following year and Dinah died in 1943.

Catherine Smith (b1858) known as Kate lived with her father and step mother working as a cloth mender. After Jimmy moved to live with Lizzie and Tom Bottomley Kate moved from Steeton with Eastburn to Sutton Mill. In the 1901 census she was the head of the household at 22 Gordon Street, Sutton Mill. Aged 42 she was a binder and weaver. Bella, aged 36, was living with her sister

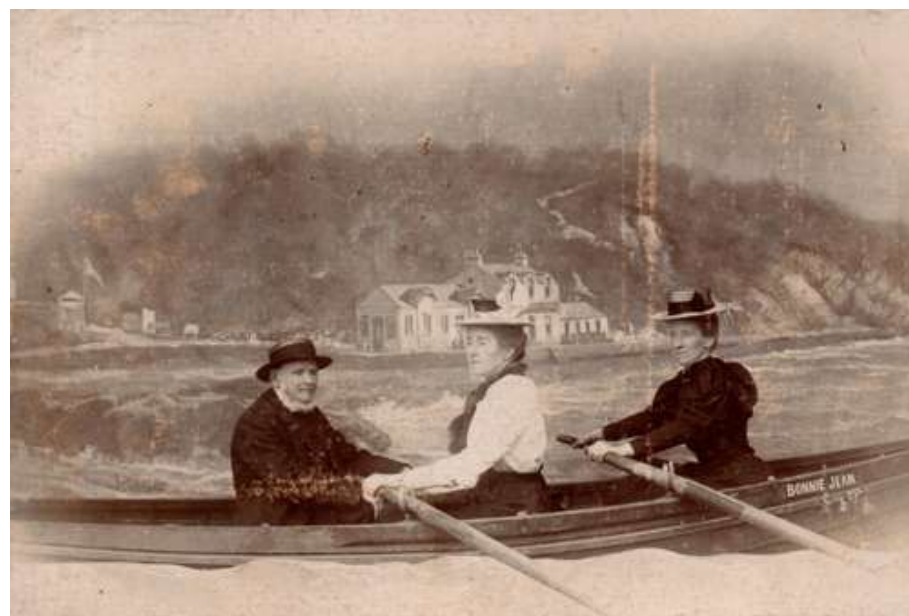
and employed as a weaver. They also shared the house with a boarder, 83 year old retired weaving manager, John Percy.

The following year Kate was diagnosed with breast cancer. She lived for another three years dying in March 1905, aged 47, in a house on Main Street in Sutton Mill. It is known that sister Bella lived in Main Street in the 1911 censuses, so the fact that Kate died there suggests that she and Bella had moved there by 1905.

At the time of her death Kate was described as a draper, the same profession that Bella gave in her 1911 census return. It is possible that following Jimmy's move to Sutton Mill Kate and Bella set up their own Draper's business.

At the time of her death her younger half brother, John, was with Kate. She was buried on 15th March in Sutton-in-Craven. Coincidentally, her burial record is immediately below that of her father, buried on 25th February, also in 1905.

It is believed that this photograph may show John Percy, Bella and Kate.



James Smith (b1860) was an elementary schoolmaster. Initially he was a pupil teacher and then school master at Sutton National School. It is most likely that James would have known Benjamin Bedford's daughters, and son-in-law, Alfred Clough. More details are given in the Bedford narrative. James married Jane Spencer in 1883 and like his older brother they too had eight children.

Two years after marrying James was made Headmaster of Riddlesden Church of England School. A post he held for 37 years. Riddlesden was to be James and Jane's home throughout their lives. All their children were born there.



Using Tom Driver's notes and the 1911 census we know the following. Janet (b1884), became a teacher and married Arthur Bracewell, an architect and surveyor. John (b1885), also trained as an elementary teacher. At the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Bracewell he was a Piece work clerk living in Barrow-in-Furness. Alexander (Alec) (b1888) was a cloth finisher in the making up department and married Annie Maud Hudson and, according to Tom, was a fur trapper!

By 1921 Alexander was working as a tailor, Harold, known as Harry, (b1889) became an engineer and Eveline (b1891), a school teacher, married a Mr Laycock. Andrew Ritchie, became an accounts clerk, he died aged 22, at home from tuberculosis (1892-1915). James Douglas (b1895) was an apprentice to a rope and twine merchant in 1911 and cannot be found in the 1921 census. However, in 1946 he is a warehouseman and passenger sailing from Canada to the UK. Mary Spencer (b1897) died, aged 17, at home, but while studying at college. She died four months after her brother of tuberculos meningitis, after a 14 day illness.

Harry fought in WW1 with the West Riding Regiment. He signed up on October 1914 and was in France by April of the following year. One report in the local paper tells how he, Private Smith, won the Military Medal in 1917 for his part in reestablishing telecommunications while under heavy shell fire, even though this was not an aspect of his role.

By 1939 James and Jane are living with their daughter, Janet Bracewell and her family at Willow Bank in Riddlesden.

James was a very active member of society, a Morton Parish Councillor, librarian of the Riddlesdon War Memorial Institute that he had actively supported being developed. At the church he had been church warden, sidesman and Sunday School teacher. From 1885, shortly after taking up the post of Headmaster, he took on the role of the church choirmaster. He held this role for 45 years, stepping down in 1930, aged 70.

James died at Willow Bank House in Riddlesden in 1944, but it has not been possible to confirm the date of death for Jane, although it is believed to be 1949.

Isabella (b1863) was known in the family as Aunt Bella. At the end of the 1890s, after Bella's father, Jimmy, was widowed he moved to live with his daughter Lizzie. This meant that Kate and Bella, both single need to find somewhere to live. As mentioned above in sister Kate's narrative in 1901 they were living in Gordon Street, Sutton Mill. Bella, aged 36, was a weaver.

We have family notes suggesting that Bella lived with John Percy, a retired Mill manager. Having searched the census records it appears that this was in 1901, see Kate's narrative above.

Having found Kate's death record it is known that Bella and Kate had moved to Main Street, Sutton Mill, by 1905. In 1911, Bella was sharing the house with Sarah Fletcher Bottomley, the sister of Bella's brother-in-law Tom Dearden Bottomley.

In 1921, aged 58, Bella was living alone at 41 Main Street in Sutton Mill, employed as a retail draper. In 1939 Bella's address was still Main Street, it was shown as being in Eastburn.

It is disappointing that there is much less written about Kate and Bella, especially compared with their brothers, yet they set up a business in Sutton to move them selves away from working in the mills. Bella in particular looked

after her younger sisters, Kate and Fanny, when they were ill with breast cancer. She also provided much care for Fanny's children in the early years before Polly was old enough to take on this role.

There are two items that show how important family was to Bella throughout her life. A postcard written by her niece Isabel to Bella's sister Polly and an extract from Bella's will where all her surviving nephews and nieces are named.

This postcard shows Bella, with her niece, Isabel Booker nee Bedford, and great niece, Anne Booker. It was sent in the early 1930s by Isabel Booker to Granny Polly ie Bella's half-sister.



The message on the back reads ...

'Sunday evening

Dear Granny P,

You will see that we are managing a second week after all – Guy sent on my last week's housekeeping money with a little more to it so we are managing a quiet week on that. Boarding meals this week of course and Mrs Summershill only charging 3/6 a night for the 2 of us. We are at present the only two in the house though I believe she is expecting some of her husband's relatives on Monday. The weather is much cooler but the sea is lovely. So far the bulk of the stay has been all right. I do wish you could have managed a week with us but I know how you feel. Aunt Bella went home yesterday she had got a bit of a cold in her chest but had gained 2lbs in weight. Goodness knows what I've gained. Do you like the photo?

Lots of love to you – kisses from Anne. IS'

After her younger half-sister Polly died in 1941 Bella, in her 70s, moved from Sutton Mill to Silsden. She lived in the same North Street cottage, owned by Driver Mills, that had been used by Polly. Bella was now closer to her niece, Kath Driver, who would be able to help out when needed.

Bella lived through both wars, experienced a number of family deaths as well as celebrations. She died in Silsden in 1948, aged 85.

The burial record shows her living at 9 North Street in Silsden, although she was buried in Sutton-in-Craven.

Bella's estate was shared equally between her 17 surviving nieces and nephews. A copy of this document is given on the following page reminding us of the size of the Smith family.

In total Bella enjoyed the company of 25 nephews and nieces, she experienced the deaths of seven young children, and the disappearance of one.

* 9/48

THE YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK LIMITED

Executor

OF

Isabella Smith

DECEASED

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

Dr.

<u>To Victor Ritchie Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	7	By Estate Account
<u>To Katherine Annie Driver - 1/17th</u>	19	10	7	
<u>To Frances Isabel Booker - 1/17th</u>	19	10	7	
<u>To William Ritchie Bedford - 1/17th</u>	19	10	7	
<u>To Albert Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	7	
<u>To Andrew Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Thomas Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Janet Ritchie Stewart - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Katherine Rvecrsst - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Frances Isabel Harzeaves (Smith) - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Janet Bracewell - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Alec Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Harold Spencer Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Evelyn Spencer Laycock - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To James Douglas Smith - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To John Bottomley - 1/17th</u>	19	10	6	
<u>To Amount retained in trust for missing Beneficiary, Harry Bottomley - 1/17th.</u>	19	10	6	
	£331	18	11	

Frances Jane (b1866) known as Fanny, born in Keighley, married John Smith Bedford and is narrated as part of the main narrative.

The narratives of Jimmy's children with Jane Bottomley are given on the following pages.

John Bottomley (b1870) the first of Jimmy and Jane Bottomley's children married Janet Anne Johnstone in 1897 at Kildwick. It appears that John no longer had ambitions to become a designer, like his father. Instead, aged 28, John was a commercial traveller, when he married Janet, aged 34. Janet had been living in Keighley at the time of the marriage. One of the witnesses at their wedding was Thomas Dearden Bottomley, who two years later would become John's brother-in-law.

In 1901 John and Janet were living at 22 Eastfield Place in Sutton Mill. Tom Driver's notes state that he was a wool buyer for Matthew Mills in Eastburn, the same company that Tom Bottomley worked for, suggesting that John and Tom were friends. At this time Jimmy was close by, living with John's sister, Lizzie. Also nearby were John's half sisters, Bella and Kate.

By 1905 John and Janet had moved to St Andrew's Terrace in Crosshills. John was with Kate when she died. At the time of the 1921 census the couple still lived at the same address and John was working for E.A. Matthews & Co at Eastburn Mill, Crosshills as a traveller. John and Janet had no children. John died in 1935, aged 65. Janet died in Frizinghall in 1948.

Very sadly, when researching John and Janet's death dates, the following article was found in the Yorkshire Evening Post Friday 12th July 1935, showing the changing fortune of cloth manufacture and pension uncertainty.

LOST HIS JOB

Suicide Verdict on Former Cloth Salesman

"Suicide while temporarily insane" was the verdict recorded at an inquest at Bradford to-day on John Bottomley Smith (65), formerly a cloth manufacturer's salesman, of Aireville Road, Frizinghall, who was found dead from throat wounds at his home on Wednesday morning.

The widow said her husband was employed by Messrs E. A. Matthews & Co., cloth manufacturers, Crosshills, near Keighley, as a salesman for 48 years. In March last the firm reduced the staff, dispensing with his services. His employer and employer's son each gave him £100, and there was also some mention that if the business showed an indication of becoming brighter he would receive something further. After losing his job he began to fail in health and was depressed.

Mr P. M. Crowther, a solicitor representing the firm said he understood that for a number of years before Smith's dismissal his job had actually ceased,

but he was retained in order that he could do various little jobs. If business brightened the firm contemplated giving him a pension of £100 a year.

Elizabeth (b1872) was known as Lizzie. In 1899 she married Thomas Dearden Bottomley, known as Tom, a cashier at Matthews Mills & Co in Eastburn and friend of her brother, John. This was the year after her mother died. The photographs taken on their wedding day are shown in the Jimmy Smith narrative.

Toms' father was a plumber, glazier and painter living in Main Street, Crosshills. By 1881 he was widowed and his sister, Elizabeth, lived in the house to help bring up the three children, of which Thomas Dearden was the middle child. The year before this census Tom's father, Thomas Bottomley, aged 54, painted the freeze behind the altar on the East Wall of Bolton Priory Church at Bolton Abbey.

'The church was built in 1877 to replace the old wall erected in 1539 at the dissolution of the monasteries. It was decorated three years later by Thomas, a local artist and craftsman. His signature and that of his assistant, R H Greenwood, have been found among the foliage. Rowland Greenwood, aged 33, lived at Junction in Crosshills with his family and was a painter by trade. There was a time that the wall painting was covered with a tapestry curtain as for some the symbolism was not to their taste!'



Lizzie may have known Tom from her time living in Crosshills or she may have met through her brother, John or been a friend with Tom's sister. Clearly it was a very celebratory wedding with photographs being taken on 21st June. Perhaps the fashion of the day was enhanced as both fathers enjoyed giving their professions on the marriage record as designers; Designer of Cloth (James Smith) and Decorator Designer (Thomas Bottomley). The wedding took place in St Andrew's church in Sutton-in-Craven. Tom's sister, Sarah Fletcher Bottomley, was a witness at the

wedding. This is the same Sarah who, after her father's death, lived with Bella Smith at 41 Main Street in 1911. She is listed as a boarder, and worked at the same mill as her brother, so perhaps Lizzie put her in touch with half-sister Bella. Lizzie's mother, Jane had different parents than Tom's father Thomas.

In 1900 Tom was working as a cashier at Sutton Mill. The couple started married life with Lizzie's father living with them at 10 Eastfield Place, Sutton Mill. Their first child Harry was just 10 months old in the 1901 census.

By 1911, following Jimmy's death in 1905, Lizzie and Tom lived at 3 Sunny Bank Villas in Glusburn, with their three children, Harry, John and Phyllis. This was a terraced house, owned by the Hayfield Mill owner Sir John Horsfall.



Harry (b1900) at the age of 15 was working in the cotton mills. Later he served as a private in the army during WW1. In 1921, he was returning from Meerut, India. At the time of his marriage in 1925 he was a commercial traveller. He married Beatrice Ethel Chester in Bingley, they were both 25 years old. Tom Driver's notes from his aunt states that Harry disappeared the day after John Bedford's funeral (1933). It is said that John Bedford, the husband of Harry's aunts Fanny and Polly, may have lent Harry money. It has not been possible to find Harry in later records. Bella's will indicated that his whereabouts was

still unknown in 1948. The will retained in trust one seventeenth of the estate for missing beneficiary Harry Bottomley.

In 1939 Beatrice was living in Oak Villas, Bradford, married, not widowed, and working as a confectionary butter and egg merchant on her own account. Harry is not at the property. It is believed that Beatrice died in Northallerton in December 1997.

Lizzie and Tom's second son, John (b1902), known as Jack, was 19 and living at home in 1921 with his parents at 3 Sunnybank Villas. He was a part time apprentice machine tool fitter, working for John Lund at Eastburn Foundry in Crosshills. Jack was great friends with his half-cousin William Bedford.



Jack married Annie Casson, both aged 26, in 1928. The following year they had a daughter, Patricia. By 1939 Jack was the foreman at a machine tool fitter. The family were now living in Brighouse.

Jack died before 1951, possibly 1947. Widowed Annie married Reginald Walter Eaton, known to the family as Walter, in 1951.

Jack's daughter, Patricia married John Rugg, and they had four children; Christopher, Jonathan, Andrew and William. Patricia became the Mayor of Devises.

Lizzie and Tom's third child, Phyllis (b1908) died in 1911, shortly before her fourth birthday, from meningitis. Once again, a reason for a photograph being kept carefully over the years.

Lizzie and Tom continued living at the same address in Glusburn, with Tom working as a cashier, in 1939. It was here that Lizzie died in 1944, aged 71. Although Tom died in Bristol in 1950, aged 78, his cremated remains were buried at Sutton-in-Craven, presumably with Lizzie.

Mary Jane (b1877), known as Polly, the half-sister of Fanny married John Bedford and is narrated as part of the main narrative.