

**A Bedford and Smith Family History
for**

Katharine Annie Bedford

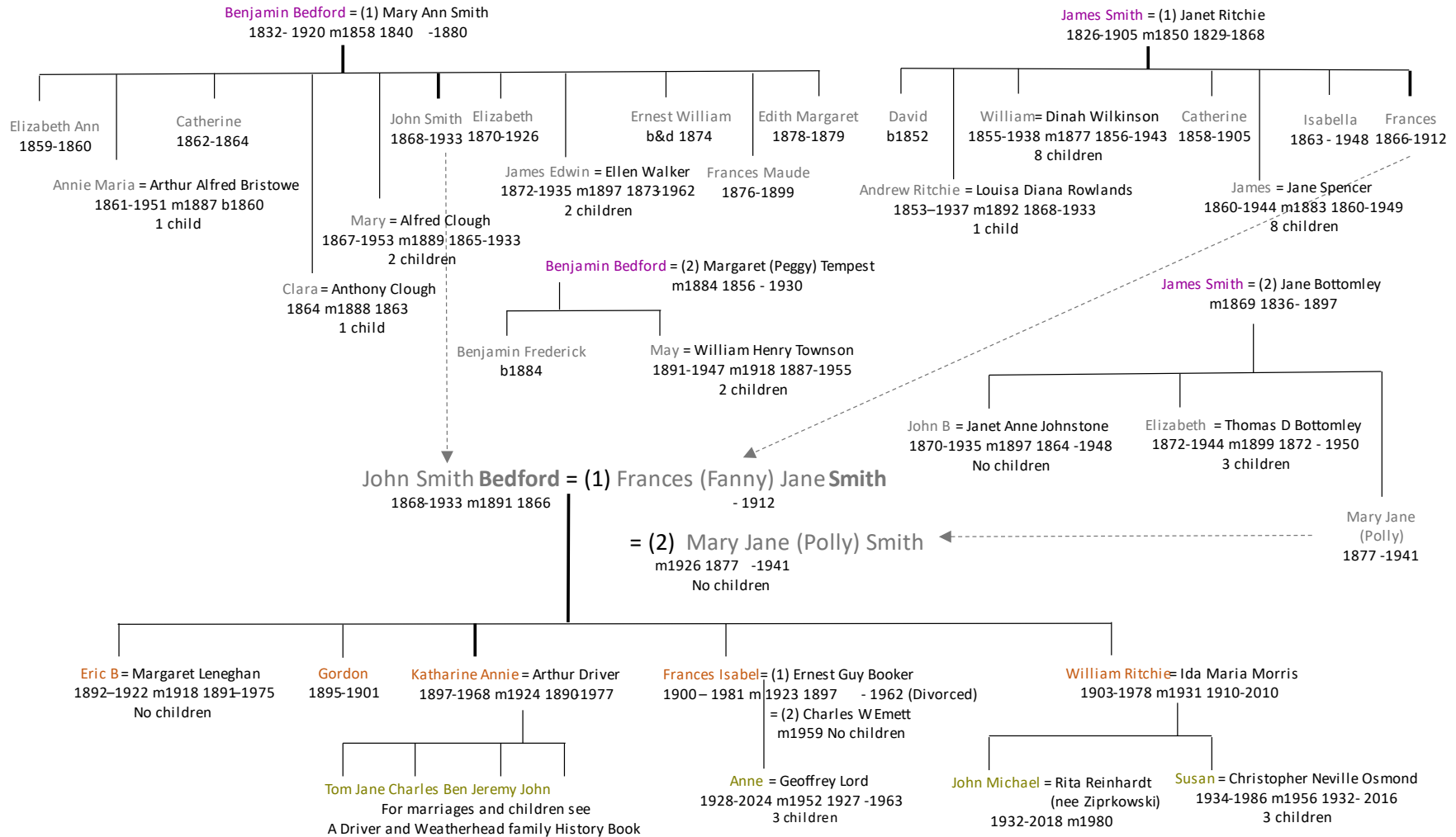
Researched and written by Kate Mawer



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.

