

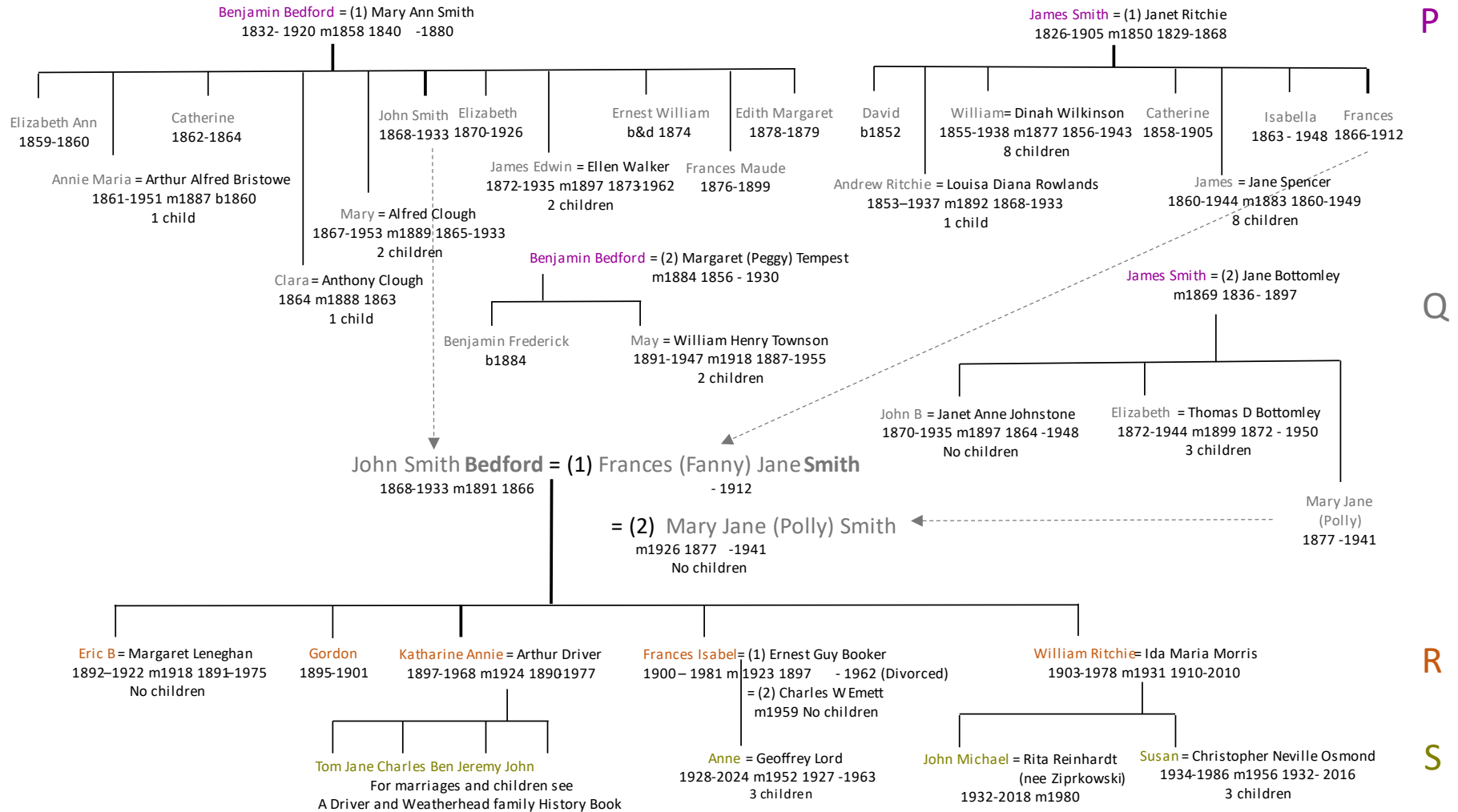
A Bedford and Smith Family History
for
Katharine Annie Bedford
Researched and written by Kate Mawer



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.

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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.



A vintage black and white photograph of two young women standing outdoors. The woman on the left wears a light-colored, long-sleeved dress with a high collar and a dark belt. The woman on the right wears a similar light-colored blouse with a high collar and a dark skirt. They are both smiling and standing in front of a dense, leafy background.

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.



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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, groomsmen 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.



• • • • • **Benjamin Bedford, Mary Ann Smith and Margaret Tempest**

Kath's father John, like his wife, Fanny, came from a large extended family. He was one of thirteen siblings. John's father was Benjamin Bedford and his mother was Mary Ann Smith.

Benjamin Bedford, according to the 1970s notes made by Tom Driver from talking with Benjamin's granddaughter, 'Was a little man with a long white beard! His own business in Bradford failed and he became the manager of Sir John Horsfall's Glusburn Mill'.

In fact, Benjamin managed more than one mill in the Keighley area. He headed a family, in which children made significant strides in their careers, with nearly all his daughters becoming teachers and his sons being successful in management or engineering. He lived in the Keighley area for all his life.

Benjamin was born on 21st November 1832 in Keighley. His father James was a shoemaker, and his mother Elizabeth, a weaver. The family lived in Beckside. He married Mary Ann Smith in October 1858. At this time Benjamin was a worsted spinner. By October 1859 when their first child, Elizabeth Ann, was born, Benjamin was a manager and the family were living in Green Street. The same street where Mary's parents lived. Elizabeth died shortly after her first birthday in December 1860.

Second daughter, Annie Maria, was born two months later in February 1861, the family having moved to Haworth. The 1861 census shows that Benjamin's niece, Sarah White, was living as a nurse with the family in Stubbing Lane. Perhaps to help out with the new baby.

Benjamin and Mary had three more daughters. Catherine born in 1862 in Haworth only survived for two years, while Clara (b1864) and Mary (b1867) lived into adulthood. The family moved from Haworth back to Keighley at some point between 1862 and 1864. When Clara was baptised they were living in Britannia Steet and then moved to Hanover Street by the time of Mary's baptism.

Nearly two years later on 12th November 1868 Benjamin and Mary's first son, John Smith, was born. He was baptised, living at Victoria Terrace, on Christmas Day with four other children. A sixth daughter, Elizabeth, given the same name as their first-born, arrived in September 1870. At the time of her baptism the family had moved again, this time to Hope Mill. This is in the area of South Street, where they were still living in the 1871 census.

Benjamin had a significant position of responsibility at Hope Mill. A newspaper report stated that he was responsible for engaging someone to be the mill's manager. At this time some stability occurred as when James Edwin was born in November 1872, the Bedford family were still living in Hope Mill. James, like his older brother, was baptised on Christmas Day, this time with seven other children.

With the previous five children all surviving early infancy it possibly came as a shock in 1874, still in South Street, when third son, Ernest William died aged three months. There was a private baptism in November 1874 suggesting that he was very ill at the time. Yet two years later Mary was pregnant again and Frances Maude was born. Her last child, Edith Margaret was born in 1878.

The electoral registers show the family lived at Hope Mill, a freehold dwelling house and mill on Hope Street in Keighley, until 1878. However, when Frances was baptised in 1876 abode was given as The Knowle. Perhaps the family had moved into this larger house on South Street by 1876, possibly it took a while for the electoral registers to catch up. This has been seen previously where names appear in an electoral register after the person has died.

The electoral registers suggest that the Bedford family lived at The Knowle, dwelling house and mill until 1880.

According to an online history timeline for The Knowle it had been previously occupied (1871 census) by George Henry Stansfield, J.P. and Banker, with his wife, two small children and 6 live-in servants.

Then In 1879 William Clough, of Grove Mills, married and moved into Knowle House, where they raised their family of 9 children. They stayed there until his death in 1908. No mention is made of a Bedford family.

This information about Knowle House raises some questions. Did the Bedford family live in Knowle House or in another property in the grounds or a property near to Knowle Mill, with the area known locally as 'The Knowle'? The 1871 census has at least five properties using Knowle, eg Knowle Lodge.

The Knowle, South Street, Keighley



A further question would be whether William Clough was related to either of the Cloughs, from two different families, who married daughters Clara and Mary in 1888/89? Further research into the Keighley mills history is required to discover whether Benjamin changed his job or if Hope and Knowle mills were one of the same.

Ordnance Survey Map extract Keighley. Survey 1890.
The Knowle, South Street, River Worth and Hope Mill.



The time around 1880 brought more sadness. In 1879 Edith, the youngest child died, aged 10 months of Bronchitis. She died in Morton living with her aunt, Mary Ann White.

Eighteen months after Edith's death, on 13th September 1880, having given birth to 11 children, Mary died aged 40. She was diagnosed with Apoplexy, a term for a stroke. At the time of her death she and Benjamin were living in Crosshills. This probably marks the time of a change in employer for Benjamin.

Mary Ann is remembered on this gravestone in Utley Cemetery in Keighley, with her four children who died in infancy.



Aged 48 Benjamin, now widowed, is living five miles west of Keighley in Towning Place, Crosshills. In the 1881 census, he was the manager of a worsted mill, being supported by his 20-year-old daughter, Annie, a 'pupil teacher elementary'. Five of his six other surviving children were in the house but Frances, aged 5, was missing. It has not been possible to find her in the 1881 census.

Four years after Mary Ann's death, 1884, Benjamin married Margaret Tempest, known as Peggy, and had their son, Benjamin Frederick, on 1st November of the same year. A mill worker from Sutton, Peggy was 24 years younger than Benjamin. They continued to live in Towning Place until 1890.

While there they saw Annie, Clara and Mary all marry, within one year of each other and their first grandson, Arthur Norman Clough born.



By 1891 the family had moved to Beanlands, a large house in Crosshills. Beanlands was owned by Sir John C Horsfall who owned Hayfield Mills, Glusburn. This is where Benjamin was manager. Again, the census shows that there was more than one property on the site of Beanlands.

Benjamin and Peggy had their second child in 1891, a daughter May. The 1891 census shows all four living with older half brothers John and James. Both were working as clerks in worsted manufacturers. Annie, Clara and Mary were all married and had left home.

Elizabeth was visiting her sister, Annie and brother-in-law Arthur Bristowe, in Lambeth, where Arthur was a schoolmaster at St James School, Kennington.

Frances Maude was with her sister, Mary and brother-in-law Alfred Clough, at the school house in Sutton Mill. Frances was 14 years old and a pupil teacher. Her brother-in-law Alfred was the school master at Sutton School. Previous reference has been made to Alfred in relation to Kath Bedford, Frances' niece, when she was employed at the same school 27 years later. Also, reference was made previously to James Smith, Kath's maternal uncle who worked at the Sutton National School. In January 1895 Frances was also named in the Nelson Chronicle newspaper winning a prize as a pupil teacher at Sutton National School. Another six grandchildren have been born by the end of the 1890s, including Kath. Later in 1891 John would leave Beanlands to marry Fanny.

In 1897 James Edwin married Ellen Walker. The following year, 1898, Clara and Anthony Clough, with son Arthur Norman, emigrated to the United States. They travelled frequently between New York and London in the early 1900s.

Shortly after these exciting family moments Frances died aged 23. She was working as a teacher in London and living with her sister Annie and family. Frances' cause of death was Influenza Pneumonia. Tragically just two years later Benjamin's grandson Gordon died suddenly, aged 5. However, through these difficult years at the start of the new century the family celebrated the birth of another four grandchildren, in total Benjamin knew 11 of his 13 grandchildren.

Beanlands was still home while Benjamin was managing the Glusburn mill in 1901. But by 1906 the family had returned to Towing Place. Possibly Benjamin had retired and left Beanlands, if it was linked to his employment in the mill, and took up residence again in his freehold home at Towing Place. Benjamin was 64 in 1906, close to retirement age.

By the time of the 1911 census Benjamin described his occupation as retired and he and Peggy were living in 65 Towing Place, with their daughters Elizabeth and May, both elementary school teachers.

Towing Place is a section of Main Street in Crosshills. It consists of four terraced houses. Tom Driver's notes stated that the family home was called Shaygrove. Today, 65 Towing Place, is located on Main Street between Beech

Street and Crosshills Social Club, with a stone plaque on the wall with the words 'Towing Place'.

A family story tells how John Smith Bedford used to say that when working for Hayfield Mill he was working to pay his father's pension. John had moved to Hayfield Mill by 1911 and so perhaps this coincided with his father retiring.

Having lived through WW1 Benjamin and Peggy, dealing with the losses this brought to the family, also witnessed grandchildren marrying before Benjamin died on the 21st February, 1920, aged 87. He is remembered on the same headstone as his wife Mary Ann and their children who died in infancy.



In the 1921 census Peggy was living with her daughter May and son-in-law William Townson, at 34 North View in the part of Crosshills known as Junction. Daughter Elizabeth was visiting her sister Annie in London. Peggy was able to celebrate the birth of her first grandson, Kenneth that year. While the following year, she would be supporting John and his wife Fanny, following Eric's death. In 1927 May's second, son, Duncan was born providing Peggy with her second grandson. It was just a few years later that Peggy died in 1930, aged 74.

This glass plate photograph is believed to be Benjamin Bedford, although it is undated and unnamed.



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

Annie Maria (b1861) the first teacher in this Bedford family, married school teacher Arthur Alfred Bristowe in Sutton-in-Craven in 1887. By 1891 they were living and working at St James School, Kennington, Lambeth. By 1895 they had moved to Tottenham and their daughter Elsie Marianne, named after her grandmother, was born. Later, Elsie married Walter Cooper.



Annie and Arthur lived all their lives in London. It was during the 1890s that sister Frances started her career in teaching and looked to Annie, and moved in with the Bristowe family, while working in South Hornsey. It would have been Annie who was caring for Frances during her illness in 1899.

At the time of the 1921 census they were at 10 Alexandra Park, Middlesex. This time Annie's sister Elizabeth was visiting. No death record has been found for Arthur, but we know he died sometime between 1921 and his daughter's wedding in 1934.

Annie died in 1951 while living at 111 College Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

Clara (b1864) married Anthony Clough, a stuff merchant, in 1888. The following year their son, Arthur Norman, was baptised at Sutton-in-Craven, with their abode given as Green Bank in Crosshills. However, in 1898 the family emigrated to the US, living in New York, where Anthony worked as a broker. Arthur became an architect, married Christine Montfort in Brooklyn in 1932 and had one child. Arthur died in 1947. Both Anthony and Clara were still alive in the 1940 US census, but I have no further information.

Mary (b1867) married Alfred Clough, a schoolmaster, in 1889. By 1891 they were living in the school house in Sutton Mill. Alfred was the schoolmaster at Sutton National School. Mary and Alfred had two children, Oswald (b1894) and Frances Mary (b1900).

Frances Mary was possibly named after her late aunt Frances Maude who had died the year before Frances was born. Frances trained to teach at a college in Oldbury Court Rd, Fishponds in Bristol. We know that she came home and

taught alongside her cousin and friend, Kath Bedford, at Sutton National School. Photographs of these two friends can be seen in the Kath Bedford narrative.



Alfred Clough



Oswald Clough

Unfortunately, there are no photographs of Mary, perhaps the older woman in this photograph is Mary.

In June 1928 both Oswald and Frances travelled to New York, possibly to visit their aunt Clara's family.

In 1933, the year that Alfred died, Frances, a teacher aged 33, married Ed Harrington, aged 38, a widower and textile colourist. They continued to live in Sutton at Heatherley, close to Frances' family.

Oswald became a bank cashier. He served during WW1, in the Royal Navy Reserve.

Oswald did not marry. He lived at home with his mother. He died in 1951, two years before his mother.

Neither Frances or Oswald had children. The photograph below is believed to show Frances, second from the right on the back row, possibly with Ed Harrington and members of his family.



An interesting aside is that when Frances married Edward Harrington in 1933, they initially lived in Edward's house, four doors away from Frances' family home, however later they lived at Bents Farm in Oxenhope, a location used in the film *The Railway Children*.

Kath Driver nee Bedford's daughter-in-law, Wendy, remembered visiting the house with Arthur Driver. Wendy said, "The film company loaned Bents Farm, renaming it Three Chimneys. They repainted it for the film and painted it back when they left. He (Edward Harrington) was a painter (textile colour matcher in 1939) I remember going with Jerry to the back door when Grandad Driver (Arthur) had a dreadful pain and we got him into hospital."



Kath was no longer alive in 1970 when the filming took place, but Arthur would have been in close contact with these friends of Kath.

Frances died the following year in 1871, aged 71, and just three years after her great friend, Kath.

John Smith born on the 12th November 1868, when the family were living at 6 Victoria Terrace, Keighley, married Frances Jane Smith and is Kath's father and has been narrated previously.



Elizabeth born in 1870 became a school teacher and worked for the West Riding County Council, living at home with her parents. In the 1921 census, aged 50, Elizabeth was retired and was visiting her sister, Annie. Elizabeth was visiting one year after their father had died and at a time when her step mother Peggy was living with her daughter May.

Elizabeth did not marry and died, aged 55, on the 7th March 1926. At the time of her death, she was staying at 20 Northcote Street, Farsley, with Louisa Dearn. Elizabeth died of Pulmonary Phthisis, tuberculosis. It has not been possible to find a reason why Elizabeth was in Farsley, between Leeds and Bradford. Certainly not because she had chosen a location with cleaner air for her medical condition. Interestingly 20 Northcote Street does not appear in the 1911 or 1921 censuses.

Elizabeth is remembered in the Sutton-in-Craven churchyard on the same memorial stone as her younger sister, Frances, who died 27 years earlier.



James Edwin born in 1872 became a clerk in a worsted coating manufacturer. He married Ellen Walker, from Sutton-in-Craven, in 1897. They lived at 31 Main Street, Crosshills. Ellen was a confectioner and worked as a shopkeeper in a baker. Tom Driver's notes suggest that James was known as Ned and Ellen was known as Nelly. They had two children Hilda (b1898) and Arthur (b1901).

By 1911 the family home was Wilson Street, although 31 Main Street had been crossed out, perhaps they had recently moved. Although later details show that 31 Main Street remained a business premises for Ellen.

The 1921, living at 5 Beech Street, the census provided the company name, Benn's & Co of Devonshire Mills, Keighley. Hilda was an employer, a Draper, at 33 Main Street, Crosshills. Previously we found Bella Smith in 1921 working at home as a draper at 41 Main Street. Arthur was a machine tool engineer at Eastburn foundry. Ellen was not at home for this census. She was boarding in

Ilfracombe. She was employed as a confectioner on her own account at 31 Main Street, Crosshills, next door to Hilda's business.

Hilda married Percy Ibbetson in 1924, the same year that her cousin Kath Bedford married Arthur Driver. They had one son, Neil (b1926).

Arthur married Annie Hutchinson in Kirkby Knowle, York in 1927. At this time, he was a joiner living in Bournemouth.

James died, aged 62, in 1935.

Four years later in 1939 Arthur, a builder and contractor, was living in Watercombe Road. He and Annie had three children, Raymond(b1931), Sylvia (b1933) and John (b1936).

By 1939 Ellen had moved with Hilda and family to Bournemouth, joining Arthur. Percy was a café manager, possibly for Ellen's business. They were living at Bellfield. It had a plot number suggesting it was a newly built property, possibly one of Arthurs.

Tom Driver's notes suggest that both Percy and Neil were killed in road traffic accidents in the same year. It appears that Neil died, aged 19, in 1945 in Sleaford, Lincolnshire and Percy, aged 53 died in 1947 in Bournemouth.

Ellen died in 1962.

Frances Maude was born in 1876. She was just four years old when her mother died and eight years old in 1884 when her father Benjamin married Peggy. In the intervening years and prior to their own marriages Frances would have probably been looked after by her older sisters.

By the age of 14, at the time of the 1891 census, Frances was a pupil teacher and living with her sister, Mary and husband, Alfred, in Sutton-in-Craven.

This delightful photograph would have been taken during the 1890s when she was a teacher.



Frances died on the 20th November 1899, aged 23. She was staying with her older sister, Annie Bristowe, at 124 The Avenue, Tottenham, where she died of Influenza Pneumonia.

Prior to her illness Frances was an assistant mistress at the South Hornsey School Girls Department. The school management committed reported their regret at her death in the North Middlesex Chronicle.

Frances is remembered in the Sutton-in-Craven churchyard on the same memorial stone as he older sister Elizabeth.

Benjamin Frederick was born in 1884, and was known as Fred. He attended Keighley technical college and by the age of 16 he was a fitter/engine tool maker. Between 1901 and 1905 he was a pupil engineer. He further developed these skills and by the 1911 census he was living in a boarding house in Sparkbrook, Aston working as an auto engineer.

Fred's military records show that between 1908 and 1914 he was a works manager at Lanchester Motor Company, Birmingham. From 1914 to 1915 he was a self-employed Engineers Merchant and Agent in Birmingham. Following this Fred joined the military services.

From 15/6/1915 and 1/4/1917 he held the rank of Temporary Lieutenant Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and was an Admiralty Aircraft overseer at Edgerton, Norwich. From the 1/4/1918 to 1/8/1919 he held the rank of Captain with the Royal Airforce. His residence on this documentation is given as H B Clay and Company, 246 Corporation Street, Birmingham, a manufacturer of lathes for light manufacturing.

Tom Driver's notes state that he was in the Fleet Air Arm and he died in WW1. From the information above this appears not to be the case as Fred's military record gives the last date as 1st August 1919. I have not been able to find any information about Fred's death, although there is a death recorded for a Fred Bedford at St Luke's Hospital, Craven, West Yorkshire in 1920. The hospital had been under the control of the war office during WW1.

May was born in 1891 and by the time she was 20 years old she was an elementary school teacher. She married William Henry Townson in December 1918 in Sutton-in-Craven, with her half-brother James Edwin and her niece Katharine Annie Bedford as witnesses. The wedding was a few days after Willie had been discharged from the army, having served since 1915.

Willie Townson was a clerk at E.A Mathews & Co. Cloth manufacturers in Eastburn. The same company that John Bottomley Smith had worked at for all his life, and Lizzie Smith in her first job.



William Henry Townson

In 1921 May and Willie had their first son, Alfred Kenneth, known as Kenneth. At this time May's mother, Peggy, recently widowed, was living with the family in Crosshills. In 1927 William Duncan, known as Duncan was born.



Duncan, May, Willie, Kenneth Townson

In 1939, living in Eastburn, both May and Willie took on ARP duties, with May linked to First Aid services. Kenneth was an apprentice engineer (tool works) and Duncan was still at school. Duncan was a head prefect at Keighley Boys Grammar School and went onto Cambridge where he gained an MA. Throughout this time, he was recognised as a good cricketer, opening the batting for Keighley and also playing for his county.

May died in October 1947, aged 57, following treatment for ovarian cancer.

In 1953 Duncan's engagement was announced in the Bradford Observer to Sheila Nancy Davy of Cottingley, an art teacher. Duncan, having followed in his mother's footsteps, was a teacher, initially at Seascale. At the time of his engagement, he was an Assistant Housemaster at Sevenoaks School in Kent. It is believed that Sheila and Duncan did not marry as Sheila continued to live with her mother.

Willie died in 1955, the year that his oldest son, Kenneth, married Gladys Simpson. Kenneth and Gladys lived and worked locally in Eastburn. Kenneth died in Keighley in 1983.

Duncan continued to work at Sevenoaks School until 1987. Lesley, Duncan's wife, died in 2012. Duncan died in 1923. His obituary below gives more details.

'Duncan Townson was for generations of Sevenoaks students a deeply influential, inspirational figure. It is no exaggeration to say that those who read History at university seldom experienced better teaching. Cambridge historian, Housemaster of Park Grange, author, Yorkshireman, cricketer, opera lover, he served between 1952 and 1987 under five headmasters. Penetratingly intelligent, direct of speech, he respected those who aspired to similar levels of professionalism, honesty and intellectual rigour.



Second-rate historians, fraudulent politicians and many English cricketers he dismissed as 'clowns'. For him, history involved voracious reading, critical rigour and an impressive openness to new ideas: 60 years ago he and Kim Taylor pioneered a

cross-curricular, global syllabus, PEB (Predicament, Experience, Belief), that opened young eyes to prehistory, the rise of civilisations and the great empires; occasionally idiosyncratic in his selections for study, he once dismissed a plea for more time to be given to the Roman Empire with, 'Not important.' His knowledge of Russian history, particularly the October Revolution, was close to intimidating, although the Sixth Formers he taught for an A-level special subject were indeed privileged. Equally impressive was his knowledge of the French Revolution, his book upon which became a standard text. Duncan was Housemaster of Park Grange for many years, and with his wife Lesley and their children created a warm and caring boarding community; utterly straightforward and fair, he stood up for his boys but expected high standards of them. It was during this time that he and the family set off on summer-long expeditions to Morocco and, notably, Iran. In retirement he was commissioned by Penguin to write two dictionaries; Modern History 1789-1945 and Contemporary History 1945-Present, as well as Breve historia de Inglaterra for Spanish readers. In his mid-90s, his reading ranged from the latest book on the 1848 Revolutions to a scholarly comparison of Spanish and Aztec civilisations. Above all, Duncan was a good friend to so many colleagues, students and former students, some of whom went on to distinguished academic careers. If I think of Duncan, it is of him playing for the Orbillians cricket team, drinking in the Oak Tap (the ever-increasing price of a pint was a constant preoccupation), of his intellectual passion and of his love of opera and art. He was at Sevenoaks at a time of immense change and embodied so much of what many regard as the essence of the school.'

To end this narrative, it seemed appropriate to show how both the Smith and Bedford families united by John Smith Bedford and Fanny Jane Smith are remembered together in Sutton-in-Craven churchyard with these family memorial stones.

