

***222 WELWYN***

# INTRODUCTION

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This is the story of the Roe family, who lived in Welwyn Park Avenue, Kingston-upon-Hull, UK in the 1940's through to the 1970's- Arthur, David, Douglas and Elaine Roe and parents Arthur and Norah, not forgetting Eileen, who tragically died before the family moved to Welwyn Park Avenue.

So far no person of any importance has been found among our ancestors- no statesman, no explorer and no wealthy person who might have left a fortune just waiting to be claimed by his or her descendants. Our antecedents were ordinary people, many of them agricultural workers who by the end of the nineteenth century found it hard to make a living from the land and migrated to the city of Hull to find work on the docks, the railways or the flax factories.

Although the story is unlikely to be of any interest outside of the family, it will hopefully be of interest to future generations as they grow old and begin to take an interest in their ancestry.

In common with the usual practice in writing about family histories, no personal details are given of living people.

All of the family contributed to the research for this book, especially Elaine. This is the first version of the story. Updates are planned as more information becomes available, and any contributions from recipients of the book would be very welcome.

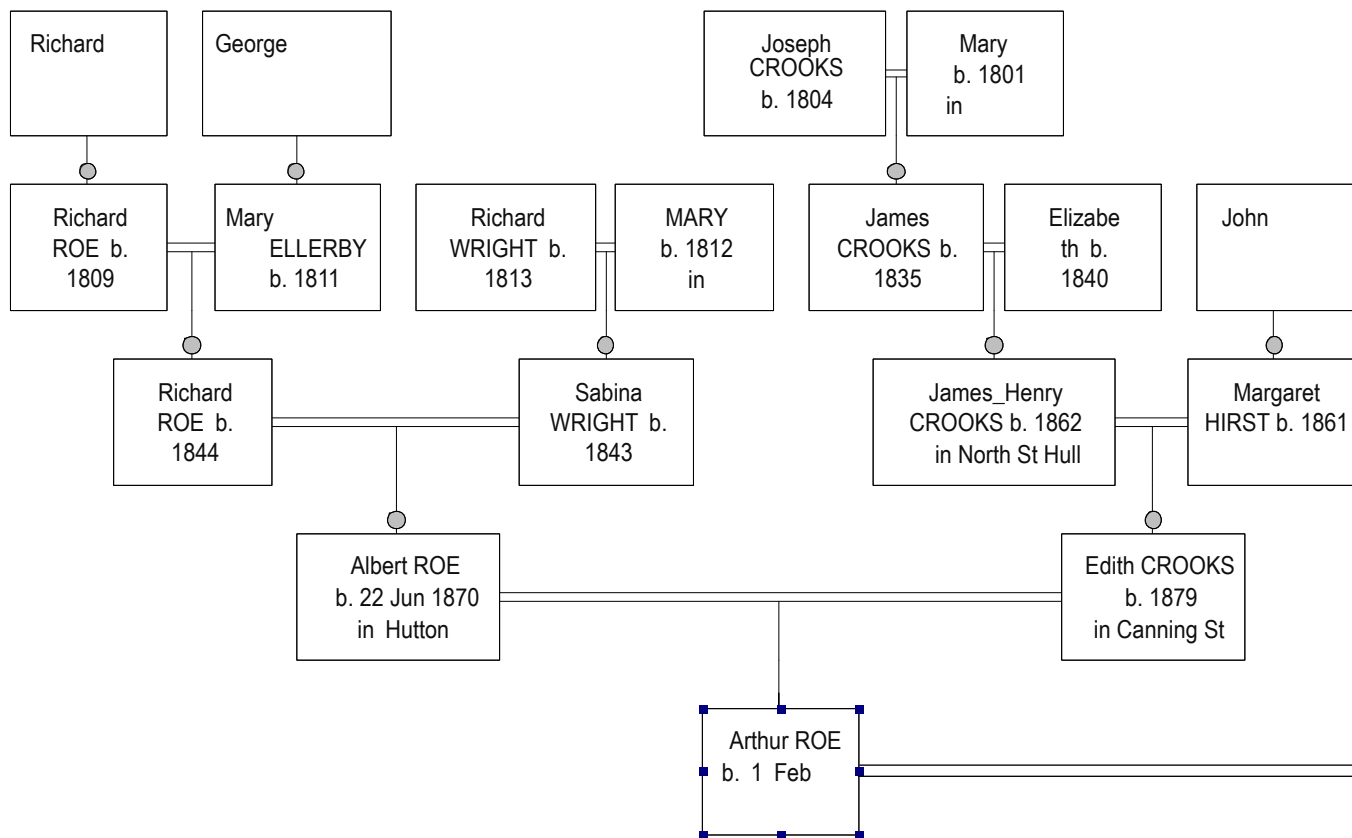
*David Roe  
November 2005*

Many thanks to all who contributed additions and corrections to the 2005 version of this family history. Making contact again with long-lost cousins and aunts, not seen for fifty years or so, has made the whole exercise worth while. As a result of this new information and also as a result of the availability of census data going back to 1841 it has been possible to expand most of the chapters and to push back to another generation in most branches of the family- to our 3 x great grandparents.

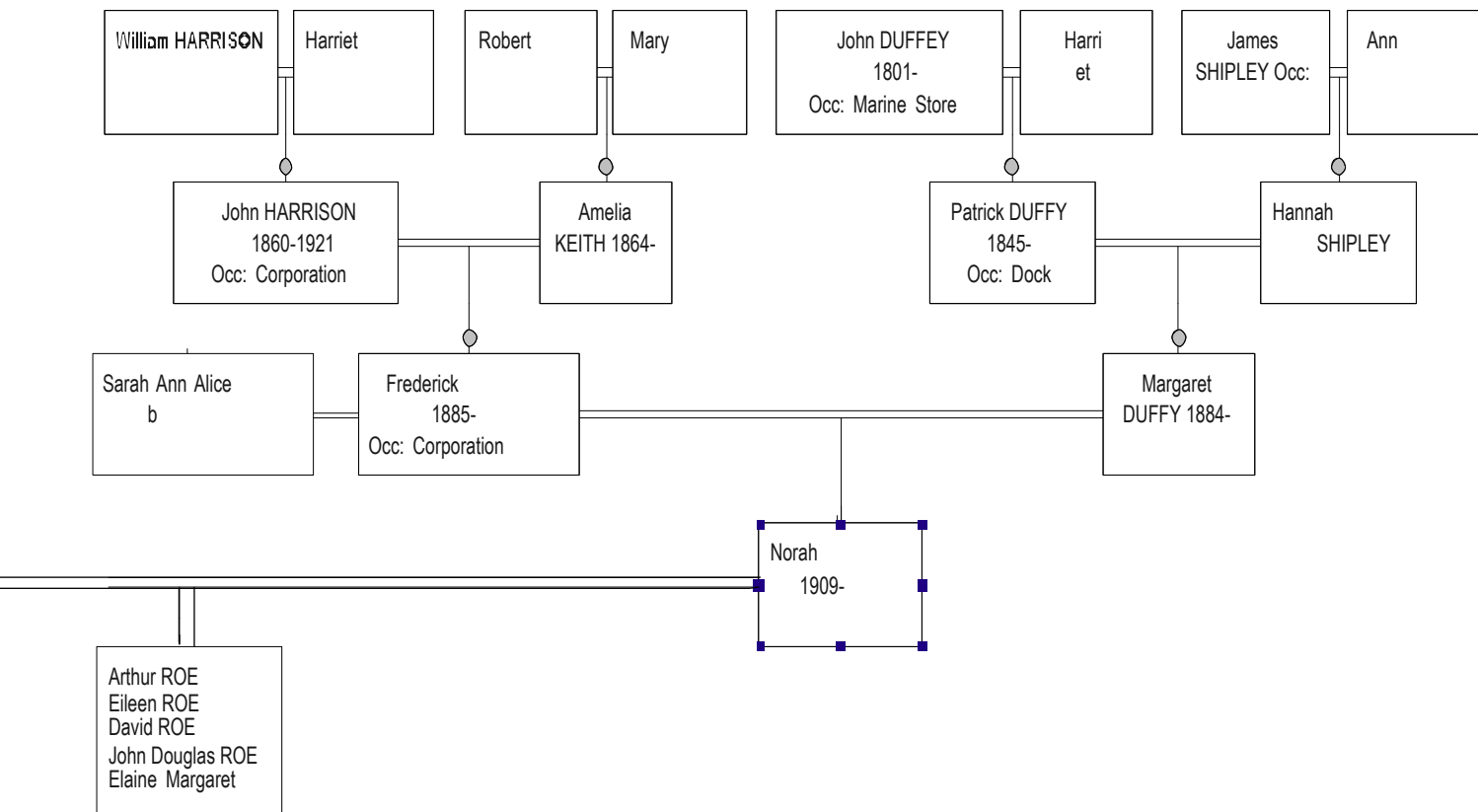
As far back as we can go, all our ancestors came from Yorkshire, with the exception of some Irish immigrants: Patrick Duffy, our great grandfather and Mary Crooks, our 3 x great grandmother, both born in Ireland. There are no Scots, Welsh or any English outside of Yorkshire. As far as occupations are concerned, most were agricultural workers, (at least one of them was working at the age of 10) with quite a few dock workers, flax factory workers and at least four cordwainers (shoe-makers): Richard Wright, Joseph and James Crooks, and George Ellerby, all from our fathers side of the family which might explain why he seemed to take so much pleasure in repairing our shoes himself.

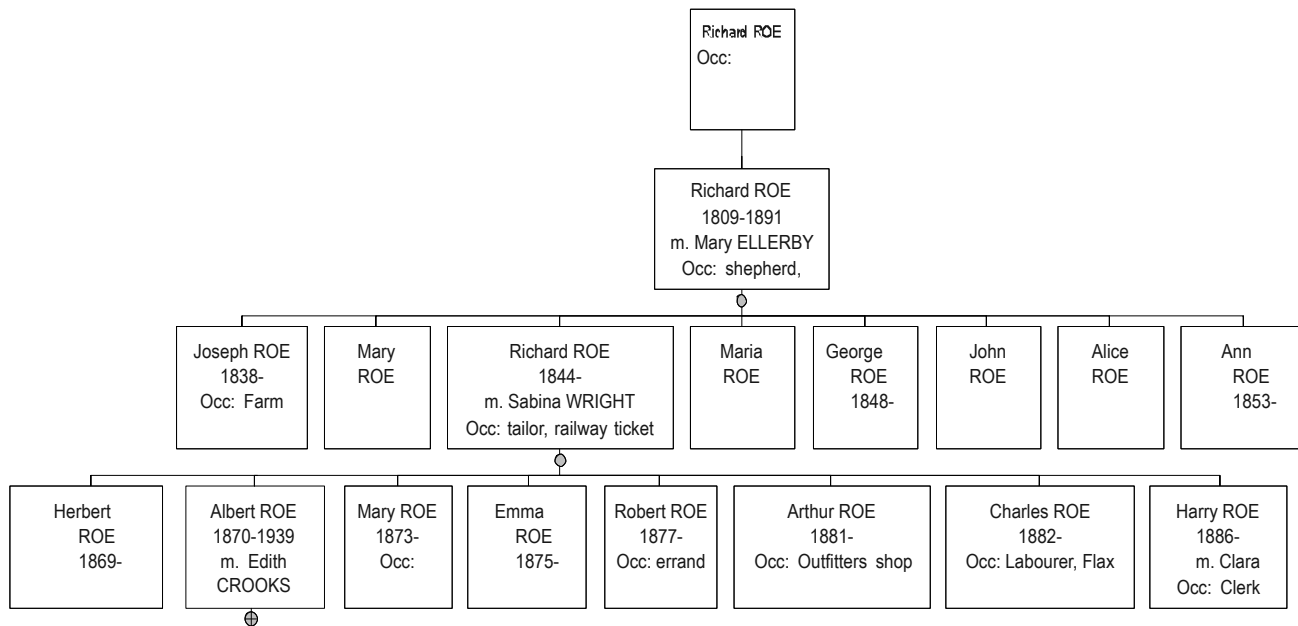
But in spite of all the new information, we still have not turned up any influential or wealthy ancestors. Let's not lose faith- it's just a matter of time...

*David Roe*  
*November 2006*  
*david@roeworks.com*  
*+44 1752 895451*









*The Roe branch of the family*

## GREAT- GRAND PARENTS

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The main branches of the family are the Roe's- father's father's family, the Crook's- father's mother's family, the Harrison's- mother's father's family and the Duffy's- mother's mother's family.

### The Roe's

Our great-grandfather, our 2 x great grandfather, and our 3 x great grandfather were all called Richard Roe.

We know practically nothing about our 3 x great grandfather. His name appears on his son's marriage certificate and his occupation is shown as shepherd.

Richard Roe (II), our 2 x great grandfather, was born in 1809 in Shipton, about seven miles north-west of York on the Thirsk road. His wife, Mary Ellerby, was born in 1811 at Roos, about 4 miles north west of Withernsea. Her father, George Ellerby was a cordwainer- a shoe-maker.

Richard Roe and Mary Ellerby were married on October 7th, 1837 in the church of Sledmere in the Parish of Kirby Grindalythe. At the time of their marriage, Richard lived at Bracken in the Parish of Kilnwick and Mary was a servant in Sledmere.

Ellis Roe and Joseph Roe, possibly Richard's brothers, were witnesses to the marriage. An Ellis Roe, a farm servant of Sledmere and Joseph Roe, a bricklayer of Leavening (south of Malton) appear in the 1841 census, both aged about 25.

Richard was an agricultural worker. During the course of his life he moved from farm to farm in the villages of the East Riding of Yorkshire to find work. Agricultural workers like him were hired on a yearly basis at Martinmas (in November) hirings, which were held in the larger towns and cities. Richard Roe possibly went to one at Beverley. At the end of the year they might be rehired, otherwise they would have to look for work again at the hiring.



*Braken farm, near Kirkburn*



*Where Richard (II) and Mary Roe lived and worked, 1837 to 1891*

They often lived in at the farm, which meant that for much of his working life, Richard Roe would be living apart from his family. These are some of the places where the family lived and Richard worked:

1838: Roos where their son Joseph was born

1843: Braken, a farmstead near Kilnwick where their daughter Mary was born

1844: Kilnwick where their son Richard, our 2 x great grandfather was born

1846-1849: Battleburn, a farm at Kirkburn where their daughter Maria and sons George and John were born

1848- 1851: Richard worked at Dunaby Hall, Hotham as a farm labourer. His wife and family lived at Walkington, 7 miles away. 13-years-old Joseph was working as a farm servant. Their daughter Alice was born there

1861: Richard and Mary with their children George, John and Ann lived at Swinekiln near Watton. Richard was a shepherd.

1871: Richard worked as an agricultural labourer at Barmston. His wife Mary, children George and Annie and grand-daughter Alice were at No 2 Shady Lane Driffeld. Their son George was an unemployed groom, and Mary a waiting maid.

1881: Richard and Mary lived alone at No. 1, Shady Lane, Driffeld. Richard was a groom and farm labourer

1891: Richard, now aged 82 and Mary aged 80, had moved a short distance to 1 Francis Place Shady Lane Driffeld. Richard was a shepherd.

In the census of 1851, Mary Roe, living alone with seven of her children, was described as a “shepherd’s wife, pauper”. Farm workers were paid at the end of the working year in October. The census was taken on March 31st, so there was no prospect of any further income for the next seven months.

The only holidays given to farmworkers were on Christmas day and for the week of the Martinmas hirings, which was unpaid. They worked a six day week, finishing at 6 pm on Saturday.



*Battleburn Farm, Kirkburn*

When Richard was working away from home he would presumably have gone home to see his family at weekends. The seven mile walk from Hotham to Walkington might not have been too bad, but the ten miles or so from Barmston to Driffield after a strenuous day in the field would have been hard for a 62-year-old man.

Richard and Mary Roe had at least eight children:

- 1 Joseph, born in 1838 in Roos
- 2 Mary, born in 1843 in Braken Hill Farm
- 3 **Richard, our 2 x great grandfather**, born in 1844 in Kilnwick
- 4 Maria, born in 1846 at Battleburn Farm, Kirkburn
- 5 George, born in 1848 at Battleburn Farm, Kirkburn
- 6 John born in 1849 at Battleburn Farm, Kirkburn
- 7 Alice born in 1850 in Walkington
- 8 Ann, born in 1853 in Walkington. At one time she was a waiting maid.

From 1871, or possibly earlier, the family home was in Shady Lane- now known as Victoria Road, Driffield. In 1871 they seem to have been at number 2, and in 1881 at number 1. In 1891 they were at number 1 Francis Place, a close through an arch between numbers 3 and 4 Shady Lane. It was presumably rented accommodation and so was relatively easy to move house. All of these buildings are standing today (2005) and appear to have been not much changed over the years.

Richard Roe (II) died in December 1891 aged 82.

Our great- grandfather, Richard Roe, was born in Kilnwick in 1844. He was christened on 28 July 1844 in Kilnwick. Not surprisingly perhaps, he chose not to follow his father's and grandfather's rather nomadic occupation in agriculture and became a tailor and draper in Hutton Cranswick.

On Christmas day in 1866 he married Sabina Wright, our great



*Top: number 1 Francis Place, Driffield.*

*Right numbers 1 to 3 Shady Lane (now Victoria Road). The archway to Francis Place is on the far right. Richard and Mary Roe and family lived at numbers 1 and 2 Shady Lane and 1 Francis Place in the 1870's and 1880's*

grand-mother, in Holy Trinity Church, Hull. (Our mother Norah told me that the name Sabina appears later in the family as the second name of Emily (Emmie) Roe, our aunt and grand daughter of Sabina).

After their marriage, Richard and Sabina Roe went to live at Hutton Cranswick, not far from Richard's birthplace at Kilnwick. Ten years or so later Richard gave up his job as a tailor and draper, to become a railway ticket examiner in Hull. Perhaps Hutton Cranswick was not big enough to support a local tailors-drapers establishment. At the same time, working for the railway company would then have seemed a much more glamorous career than it is today- a bit like working for an airline. (The Hull-Bridlington railway line opened in October 1846)

Richard and Sabina had at least nine children, the first four born at Hutton Cranswick and the rest in Hull:

- 1 Alice, born in 1867.
- 2 Herbert, born in 1869 in Hutton Cranswick. In 1891 he was a railway van-man.
- 3 **Albert Gibson, our grandfather, was born in 1871 in Hutton Cranswick.**
- 4 Mary A. was born in 1873 in Hutton Cranswick. In 1891 she was a tailoress,
- 5 Emma R., born in 1875 in Hutton Cranswick . In 1891 she was a dressmaker.
- 6 Robert G. was born in 1877 in Hull. In 1891 he was a drapers errand boy
- 7 Arthur was born in 1881 in Hull. In 1901 he was an outfitters shop assistant,
- 8 Charles E. was born in 1883 in Hull. In 1901 he was general labourer in a flax factory
- 9 Harry was born in 1886 in Hull. In 1901 he was a shipping clerk. Some time later he emigrated to Rainy River, Ontario, Canada

The family's address in Hull in 1891 was 44 Clarendon Street. All of the family except Alice- ten of them - lived there. By 1901 they had moved to 109 Clarendon Street, by which time Herbert, Emma and Robert were no longer living with their parents

Clarendon Street is not far from Paragon Railway Station which opened as a passenger station in 1848. This was presumably where Albert and possibly his son Herbert worked. In those days of course, ticket inspectors worked on the stations, not on the trains.

## **The Wrights**

Sabina's parents were Richard Wright, a cordwainer (shoe-maker) born in 1813 in Easington, and Mary, born in 1812 in



Keyingham. Unlike the Roe's who were forever moving house, the Wright's had a more stable existence, and were shown as living in Keyingham at the time of the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 census.

In 1841 the Wright household consisted of Richard and Mary, both aged 25, with their 1-year-old son William and 2 other shoemaker apprentices.

Richard Wright is mentioned in a local history book about Keyingham. Apparently in 1859 the parish paid for the apprenticeship of a boy called Kirkwood Harper to Richard Wright. Kirkwood was crippled with one leg. For some reason could not carry on with his apprenticeship and left after only two months.

In 1861 there were as many as twelve shoemakers in Keyingham, a village with a population of 664: in other words one shoe-maker to about 55 people. But over the years the demand for shoe makers declined. It was cheaper to get ready-made shoes from Hull rather than hand-made shoes from the village shoe-maker. Keyingham was on the Hull-Withernsea railway line, so travel to Hull was convenient. By 1892 there were only six shoe-makers and by 1905 just two.

The village was largely self-sufficient. Most were employed in agriculture, but the village also had (in 1861):

- A consulting surgeon
- A vetinary surgeon
- 3 schoolteachers
- A stationmaster and a railway porter
- 6 dress makers
- A bonnet maker
- 5 smiths and a wheelright
- A cabinet maker
- A brick maker
- A plumber and glazier
- A butcher
- A mole catcher (60 years-old Robert Norton)

Sabina was born in 1843 in Keyingham and christened there on February 20, 1843.

She had a brother, William G. who was 3 years older than her. In 1861 William was a butcher, still living with his parents. Ten years later he had moved to Sproatley, and had acquired a wife, Eliza and two children, George and Lucy. His butcher's business was doing well: he employed a domestic servant and a butcher's man, both living in.

In 1881, Richard and Mary - both of them now 68 years old- had moved to Aldbrough, and like his son, Richard was now a butcher. Presumably this was as a result of the reduced demand for shoe-makers in Keyingham. Richard died during the next decade and in 1891 his widow Mary was back in in Keyingham. She had her own house- presumably rented- and may have been reasonably well provided for.

*In the census of 1861, the census taker's route took him to first to the postmasters/grocers in the High Street (probably the light building on the right at the War Memorial Crossroads), then to a shoemaker's family, then to an outfitters and drapers family, and then to the Wrights. It may be that the Wrights house was the third past the grocers in this photograph, though the building may not date from this period.*

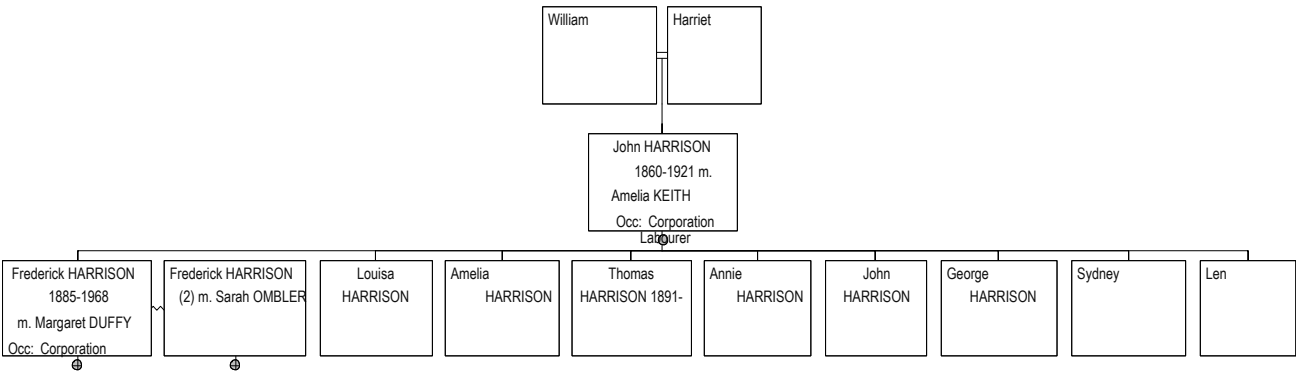


# The Harrison's

Our 2 x great grandparents in the Harrison line of the family were William Harrison and his wife Harriet nee Pinder. Nothing is known about them, other than that they were living in Staxton when their son John William, our great grandfather was born on 17 July 1860. Staxton is about six miles south of Scarborough in Yorkshire.

John William was an agricultural worker like Richard Roe, and like Richard Roe he had to move about to find work. He appears in the census of 1871 at Willerby, a village bordering on Staxton, described as an agricultural labourer. He was only ten years old at the time. In the next census of 1881 he is shown working on a farm at Beeford. Beeford is about 7 miles north west of Hornsea, where he married Amelia Keith on 21 June 1884. Amelia Keith, daughter of Robert Keith and Mary (nee Smith) came from Garton-in-the-Wolds, 5km west of Driffield.

They continued to move about after their marriage. Their first child was born at Siggleshorne in 1885 and their second at Swine in 1887. Sometime between 1887 and 1891 the family moved to Hull. In Hull John Harrison gave up his agricultural work to become a general labourer. They lived at 14 Florence Terrace, Sculcoates (in the parish of St Paul's).



*The Harrison branch of the family*

They had nine children:

- 1     **Frederick William, our grandfather, born on 1885 in Sigglesthorne**
- 2     Louisa: born on 3 July 1887 in Swine and died on 30 May 1973 in Hull
- 3     Amelia: born in 1889 in Hull
- 4     Thomas: born on 13 September 1891 in Hull, and died on 10 December 1975 in Hull
- 5     Annie: born in 1893 in Hull
- 6     John William: born in 1899 in Hull and died in October 1978 in Hull
- 7     George: born in 1894 in Hull and died on 21 September 1959 in Hull
- 8     Syd
- 9     Len

John William Harrison died in Hull on 16 August 1921, and his wife Amelia died on 9 June 1925, also in Hull.



*Believed to be Amelia  
Harrison nee Keith, our  
great grandmother, born in  
1864 in Goxhill near  
Hornsea*

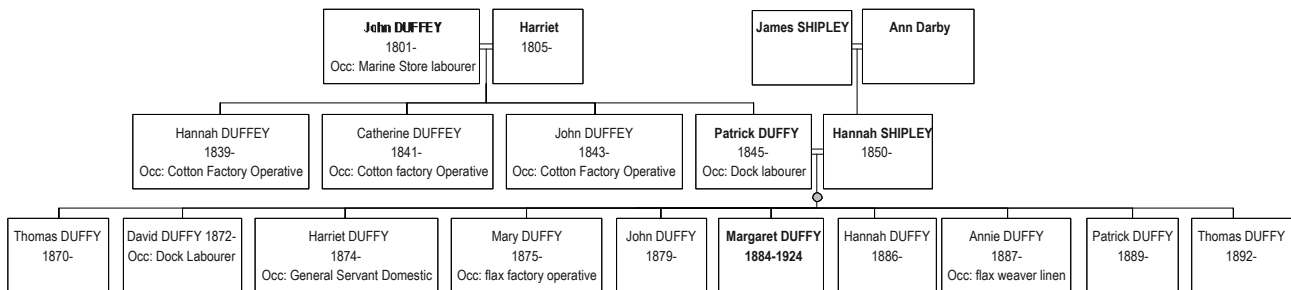
## The Duffy's

Our 2 x great grandparents in this line of the family were John and Harriet Duffey born in 1801 and 1805 respectively. After 1871 they started to spell their name 'Duffy'. We know of four of their children:

- 1 Hannah: born 1839
- 2 Catherine: born 1841
- 3 John: born 1843
- 4 Patrick, our great grandfather : born 1845

They were all born in Ireland. They appear in the England census of 1861 and later, but not in the 1851 or 1841 census, so they probably came to England sometime in the 1850's. In the 1861 census, John was shown as a Marine Store — then an undecipherable word- at the age of 60. He does not seem to have survived to the next census. Hannah, Catherine and John were shown as cotton factory operatives (possible flax factory workers), while Patrick at the age of 16 was an attorney's clerk. This was not the start of a promising career as a lawyer however: in later years he was a dock labourer.

Patrick Duffy, our great-grandfather, was married on January 2nd 1869 to Hannah Shipley. Patrick was 23 and Hannah, who was born in Hull, was 20. They were married in St Pauls, the



*The Duffy branch of the family*

parish church of Sculcoates. (However their daughter Margaret, our grandmother, was married in a Roman Catholic church). Like a number of our ancestors of this time, Hannah could not write, and made her mark on the marriage certificate. Her father was James Shipley, a labourer.

At the time of their marriage Patrick and Hannah lived in Machell Street in Hull which still exists today- a short street close to the River Hull off Wincomlee between New George Street and Scott Street. In 1871 they lived at 4 Hipponas Court, Spencer Street, in 1881 and 1891 at 12 James Place, and in 1901 at 8 Hamilton Place, North Street. Patrick was said to have had beautiful handwriting, and read many books, surprisingly perhaps in view of the fact that Hannah could not write her name on the marriage certificate. They had at least ten children:

- 1 Thomas, b. 1870 in Hull
- 2 David: b.1871. He was a Dock Labourer.
- 3 Harriet Ann: b. 1874 in Hull, at one time a domestic servant.
- 4 Mary Ellen: b. 1875 (approx.) in Hull. Like a number of our predecessors, she worked in a flax factory, probably the Jameson and Co. Factory in Canning Street.
- 5 John, b. 1879 in Hull
- 6 Margaret: our grandmother, b. 1884**
- 7 Hannah: b. in 1886 in Hull.
- 8 Annie: b. ?1887 in Hull, described as a "flax weaver linen"
- 9 Patrick : b. in 1889 in Hull. (Patrick played rugby for Hull FC in 1910)
- 10 Thomas: b. 1892 in Hull. Presumably the first Thomas, born in 1870 did not survive: he appears only in the 1871 census aged 1.



*Most of the buildings in Machell Street were built after the Duffy's lived there, but the Bay Horse pub at the corner of Machell Street may have been Patrick Duffy's local*

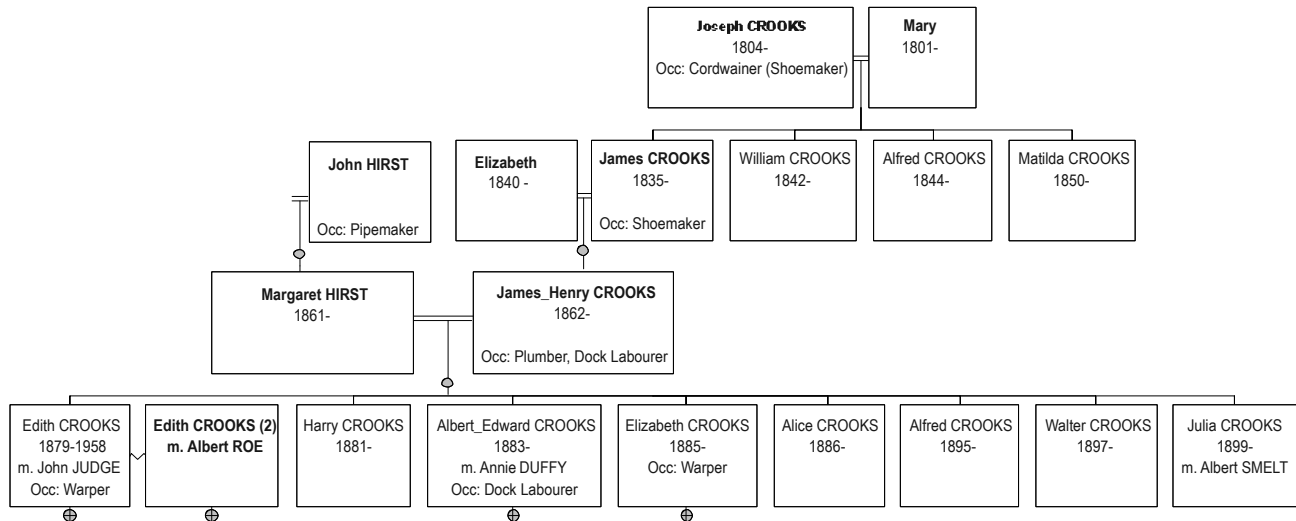
## The Crook's

With the Crooks, we can go back 5 generations to our 3 x great grandparents: Joseph Crookes, a shoemaker born in 1804 and his wife Mary, born in Ireland in 1801. They had at least four children:

- 1 **James, our 2 x great grandfather, born in 1835**
- 2 William: born in 1842
- 3 Alfred: born in 1844
- 4 Matilda: born in 1850

Apart from Mary who came from Ireland, they were all born in Leeds and were all living there in 1851 at Number 1, Balls Yard.

James Crooks was a shoemaker like his father. Some time during the next ten years he came to Hull, and in 1861 at the age of 26 was living with his 21 year-old wife Elizabeth at 48



*The Crooks branch of the family*



North Street. Today North Street is a short street that runs between Prospect Street and Ferensway. All of the housing has been demolished and replaced with shops. Originally it ran all the way from Prospect Street up to the Paragon Railway Station. Living with them was Elizabeth's sixty-year-old mother, Elizabeth Harman, formerly a laundress. (She is described on the census forms as a mother-in-law. At that time the word was used quite loosely and could mean a step-mother or a close family friend, so it is not absolutely certain that she was mother of Elizabeth Crooks).

Their son, James Henry, our great grandfather, was born in 1862. He seems to have been an only child, or at any rate the only child shown on the censuses of 1871 and 1881. On April 12th 1879 James Henry married Margaret Hirst in the parish church of St Pauls, Sculcoates (in Canon Street). He was 19 and she was 18. Margaret's father was John Hirst, a pipe maker (presumably a maker of clay tobacco pipes) living in Marlborough Terrace. On his marriage certificate and in the census of 1881 James Henry Crooks was shown as a plumber, but later censuses show him as a general labourer.

In 1881 Henry and Margaret Crooks were living with their parents who had moved from 48 North Street to 52 North Street. By 1891 they had their own house at 4, Pleasant Place, Short Street, and in 1901 were at 90 Canning Street. Their parents moved to 5 Amity Court, North Street by 1891 and were still living there in 1901.

Henry and Margaret had at least 8 children:

- 1        Edith Judge: our grandmother, born in 1879**
- 2        Harry: born in 1881
- 3        Albert Edward: born in 1883**
- 4        Elizabeth: born in 1885
- 5        Alice: born in 1886
- 6        Alfred: born in 1895

- 7       Walter: born in 1897
- 8       Julia: born in 1899.
- 9       William Harold: born in 1902
- 10      George: born in 1904

### **Crooks and Duffy's**

The Crooks and Duffy families were connected of course through the marriage of our parents, Edith Roe, nee Crooks, our father's mother and Margaret Harrison, nee Duffy, our mother's mother. However there was an earlier connection. Our mother Norah told us that she and her husband Arthur were distantly related, and that they first met as a result of this relationship. This relationship was as follows:

On April 18th 1908, Albert Edward Crooks, aged 25 a dock labourer living at 41 Moxon Street married Ann Duffy aged 21 living at 8 Hamilton Place. (see diagrams on pages 28 and 20) They were married at Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Spring Street Hull. They had at least three children:

- 1       Ann, born 11th May 1908 when they were living at 6 Spencer Square, Spencer Street
- 2       Margaret, born 16th February 1910. They were now living at 9 East Cheap, Hull
- 3       Albert Edward, born 26 September 1911 at 9 East Cheap, Hull.

Albert Edward Crooks and Ann Duffy were uncle and aunt to both of our parents, and their children were our parents' first cousins.

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*Steve Crooks, a rugby player/coach well-known in Hull is thought*

## Living In Hull

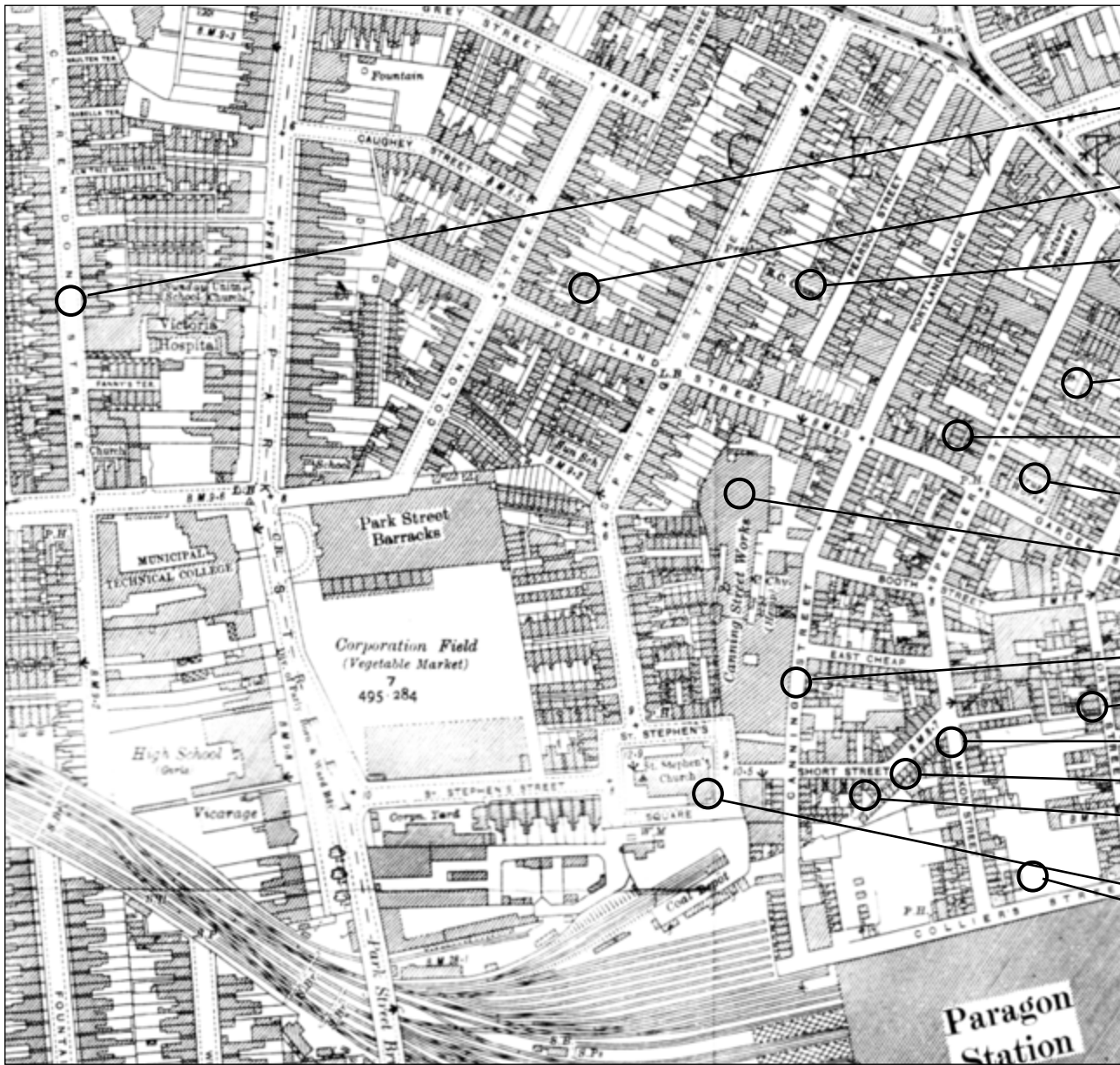
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By 1891, our great grandparents - the Roe's, the Harrison's, the Duffy's and the Crook's- were all living in Hull. The Roe's, Duffy's and Crook's lived within a few hundred yards of each other in the Spring Street area just north of Paragon Railway Station. The Harrison's were about half a mile to the north in Sculcoates, but later they moved closer to the others so that by 1907 all four families lived within less than a quarter of a mile of each other. (see the street map on the next page).

The main work opportunities at that time were the docks, the flax factories, the railways and the city corporation. Two of our great grandfathers- Patrick Duffy and Henry Crooks were dock labourers and Harry Roe (Albert Gibson's brother) was a shipping clerk. Richard Roe was a ticket inspector and one of his children was a railway van man. Fred Harrison- our grandfather- was a corporation cart man, and his father John was a corporation labourer. Albert Gibson Roe was a general labourer in flax factory as was his brother Charles. Edith Judge Crooks was a warper presumably also in the flax factory. She and her husband to be, Albert Gibson Roe, might well have met there.

There were several flax factories in Hull, but the one where they worked was probably Jameson and Company's Hemp and Flax Spinners Canning Street Works, founded in 1814. About 250 people were employed there. They imported hemp and flax from Russia and Germany to make sacks, woolsheets, canvas hose, "Eureka" belting and hemp and tow lines. Sacks were sold to grain merchants, the railway companies and steamship companies.

Family members known to have worked at the flax factory were Albert Gibson Roe (in 1901), his wife Edith, his brother Charles, Elizabeth Crooks, sister of Edith Judge Crooks and Mary E Duffy and Annie Duffy, sisters of Margaret our grand-mother. The flax factory building stands today (2005) as Scott's



44 and 109 Clarendon Street, homes of Richard and Sabina Roe and family in 1891 and 1901

1 Frith's Cottages, Portland Street, home of the Monday family and Edith Judge Roe

St Patrick's Church where Frederick William Harrison and Margaret Duffy married in 1907

5 Amity Court North St: home of James & Elizabeth Crooks 1891

1 Williams Place, Spencer Street where the Harrison family lived in 1907

2 Robson's Court, Spencer Street: Albert Gibson and Edith Roe lived after their marriage in 1903. Our father was born there.

4 Hipponas Court, Spencer St.: home of Patrick & Hannah Duffy and family, 1871

Jameson and Company's Hemp and Flax Spinners Canning Street Works

90 Canning Street, home of the Crook's family in 1901

48, 50, 52 North St.: homes of James & Elizabeth Crooks in 1861 to 1881

8 Hamilton Place, Moxon Street where the Duffy family lived in 1901 and 1907

23 Short Street: home of John Judge 1891

Pleasant Place, Short St.: home of Henry and Margaret Crooks and family, 1891

St Stephens Church where Albert Gibson Roe and Edith Judge married in 1903

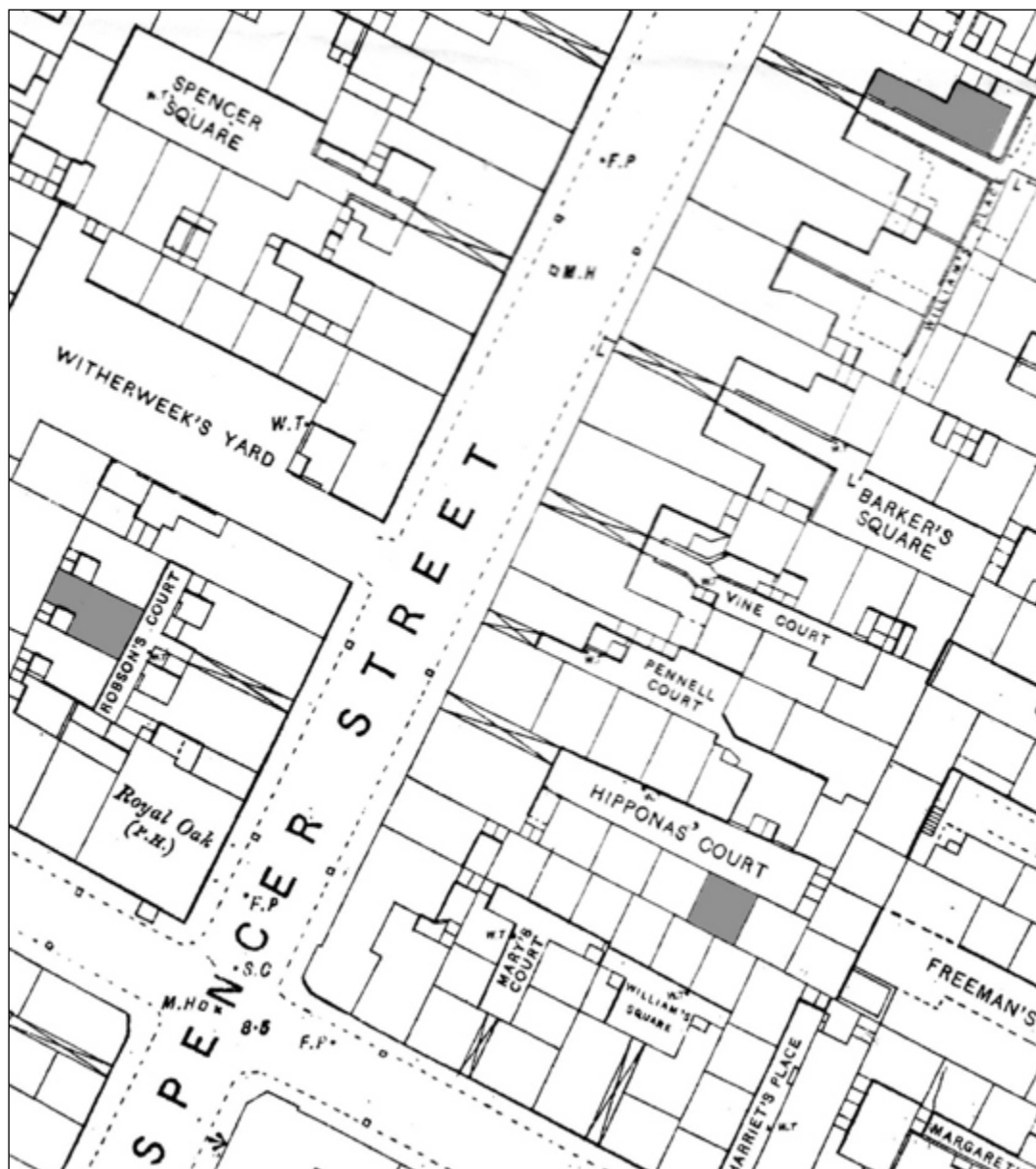
12 James Place, Collier St.: home of the Duffy family in 1891

Warehouse.

Many of the families lived in small “courts”, which were small groups of houses almost completely enclosed by the buildings in the surrounding streets. They were accessed through a narrow passage between houses fronting onto the street. For example, Albert Gibson Roe and Edith Judge Roe lived at 2 Robson’s Court, Spencer Street, probably the shaded house shown in the map facing. Access is by the passage in the centre of the Court to Spencer Street. There seems to be a tiny courtyard to the left of the house, with two rectangular areas that might have been a toilet and a coal bunker. It must have been a dark and gloomy place, being completely surrounded by other buildings. On the other hand it was very handy for the Royal Oak pub which is only a few feet away, and the Picture Theatre which is at the end of the street.

Also marked on the map facing is 4 Hipponas Court, Spencer St where Patrick and Hannah Duffy and family lived in 1871, and 1 Williams Place, Spencer Street where the Harrison family lived in 1907. The actual buildings shown are the presumed ones based on the house number and may not be correct.

Most of the buildings in this area were demolished soon after World War II and residents re-housed in new estates in the suburbs. Not one of the buildings shown exists today.



*A 'close' in Portland Street, similar to Frith's Cottages, Portland Street where Edith Judge, her daughter Edie and son-in-law Tom Monday lived. The entrance would be through an archway and through the path at the bottom left. The houses at Frith's Cottages had tiny gardens on either side of the front doors, but hardly anything would grow there because of the lack of light.*

*Below: shops in Spring Street*







*Left: A 'close' in Spring Street.*

*Below: a yard in Spencer Street where Albert Gibson and Edith Roe lived. There seems to be a wash tub to the right of centre, and the door to the right is probably an outside toilet.*



*Right and far-right: back yards in Spring Street. The factory chimney in the far right picture is probably at the Canning Street Flax Factory.*

*Below: a back yard in Moxon Street where Margaret Duffy lived.*







*Scotts Warehouse, in 2005, previously Jameson and Company's Hemp and Flax spinning factory . It is likely to be demolished soon*



*Below left: St Stephens Church where Albert Gibson Roe and Edith Judge married in 1903 (now demolished)*

*Below right: St Patrick's Church, Spring Street, not in use in 2005, where Frederick William Harrison and Margaret Duffy were married*



## Grandparents: The Roe's and the Crook's

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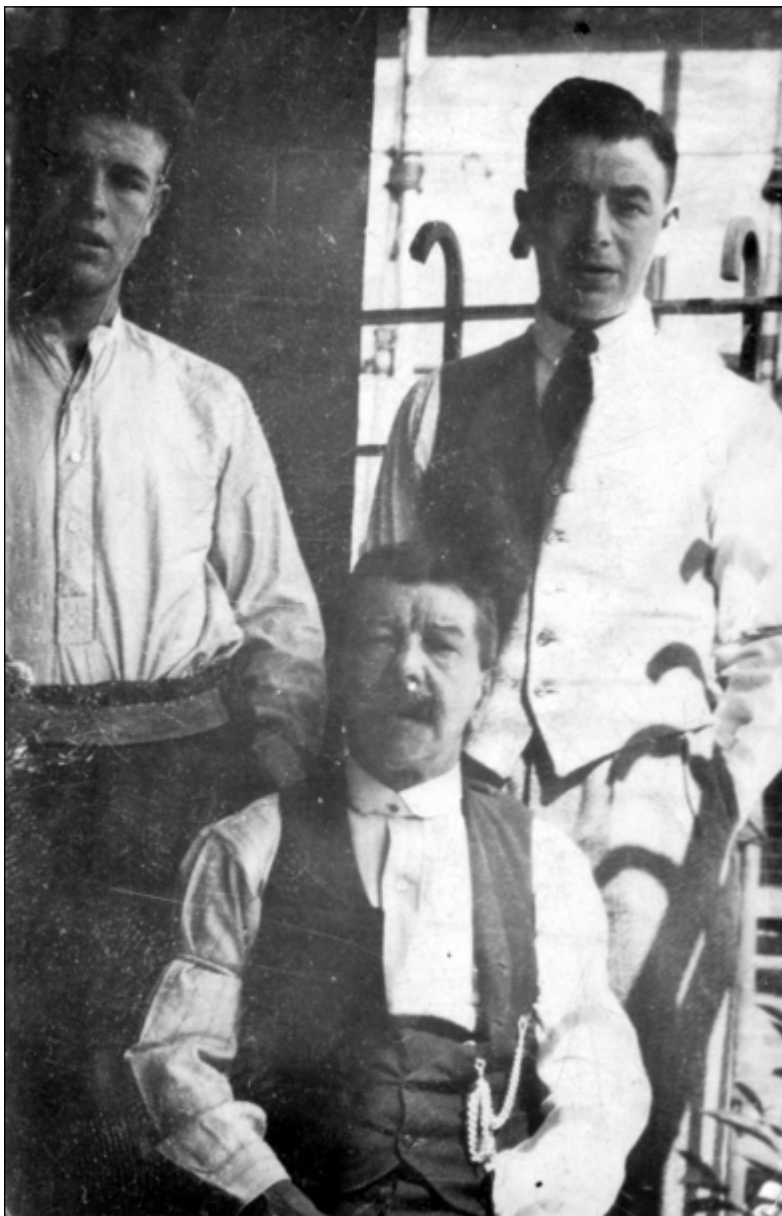
Our grandfather Albert Gibson Roe was born in 1870 in Hutton Cranswick in the East Riding of Yorkshire, about four miles south of Driffield. He was the third oldest in a family of nine children. Why his parents chose the unusual name of Gibson is not known. In later life, his younger brother Harry called him 'Gib'. When he was about six years old the family moved to Clarendon Street in Hull, and by the time of the census of 1891 when he was 20 he was working as a butcher. Ten years later he was a general labourer in a flax factory, probably the Canning Street works. By 1911 he was a grocer's rullyman ('rully' is a northern word meaning lorry) and in later life was a 'confectioners van man'. He may have met his wife-to-be, Edith Crooks, who was a 'warper', while they were both working at the flax factory.

Edith Crooks was born in 1879 in North Street Hull. At the time her parents, Henry and Margaret were living with their parents. Edith was the oldest child in a family of 8. She was already a widow when she married Albert Gibson. Her first marriage was to John Judge, a bricklayer's labourer of 20 Jacksons Square, North Street. Edith was 17 and John Judge was 24. They were married on April 3 1897 in the Catholic Chapel in Jarratt Street. They had a child- John Judge - who was born on 16 April 1898 at 1 Elizas Place, Canning Street. Tragically Edith's husband died less than a year later, the cause of death being recorded as "haemoptsys"- possibly caused by tuberculosis.

By the time of the 1901 census, Edith and her child were living with her parents. She was still only 20 years old. She kept her first husbands name, being known as Edith Judge Crooks until her second marriage, and referred to her child as John Judge Crooks.

Edith Judge and Albert Gibson were married on July 26th 1903 at St Stephens Church, Hull. He was 32 and she was 24.





*Left: Albert Gibson Roe with two of his sons; Leslie (left) and Ted*

*Facing page: Believed to be Edith Judge Roe nee Crooks, date unknown, but possibly just before her marriage in 1903*



*Above left : Edith Judge, Ted and Leslie, with Albert Gibson seated at the front and Arthur just visible in the background. The picture was taken looking up to their first floor apartment at 112 Newtown Square.*

*Right top: 112 Newtown Square in 2005. The windows and railings are different. All iron railings were removed as part of the war effort at the start of WWII.*

*Right bottom: Newtown buildings in 1987 before replacement of the original windows and doors*



Witnesses to the marriage were Albert's brother, Robert George and Edith's sister Lizzie. They went to live at 2 Robson's Court, Spencer Street, Hull, not far from both of their parents, then in the 1920's went to 112 Newtown Square (sometimes called Newtown Buildings), a new development of three-storey apartments.

They had six children:

- 1        **Arthur, our father, born February 1st 1904**
- 2        Ted (Edward)
- 3        Emmie (Emily)
- 4        Leslie, born 19 September 1911
- 5        George, born 1920
- 6        Edie (Edith) born 15 May 1924

Arthur, Ted, Emmie, Leslie and George were born at 2 Robson's Court, Spencer Street, Hull. Edie was born at either Spencer Street or Newtown Square.

There is quite a long gap between the birth of Leslie in 1911 and George in 1920. It may be that Albert Gibson was involved in the Great War of 1914 - 1918, though he may have been too old, - 44 at the start of the war.

Albert Gibson died on March 28 1939 at the age of 68 of myocarditis. (an inflammation of the heart muscle). He also suffered from arthritis of the hip.

Some time afterwards, Edith Judge went to live in Frith's Cottages, Portland Street with her daughter Edie and son-in law Tom Monday. There Edith presided over family gatherings held every Sunday evening until her death in 1958.



*Left: Edith Judge Roe*



*Right: Edith Judge Roe with grandson Arthur*



*left: Edith Judge, Edith Monday nee Roe,  
Thomas Monday, 1958*

*below left: Edie Monday nee Roe, Gert  
Roe, wife of Ted Roe, Edith Judge, friend  
of Edith*

*below: Edith Judge with Audrey Roe's  
mother, Elsie*



*Edith Roe nee Crooks with  
children Leslie and Edie*





*Harry Roe, Albert Gibson's brother and our great uncle who emigrated to Canada. His postcard home (overpage) is addressed to his brother "Gib" and is sent care of Emmie, his niece, who was also in Canada. Rainy River, where he was apparently living is in Western Ontario, Canada, close to the border with the USA.*

With the warmest of  
wishes  
For Christmas  
Day  
And a New Year  
that's happy  
In every way!

From: Harry & Clara.  
Rainy River,  
Ontario  
Canada.

Dear Gib & Edie.

4. Calverts Camps Ltd.  
Rainy River,  
Ontario  
Canada.

Not having your address, am  
sending this in care of Emmie to forward  
on to you. Please drop me a line

giving your address, & I will write you.

We are all well here, & trust things  
are going well with you.

With best of good wishes

Sincerely Yours  
Harry.

# Grandparents: The Harrison's and the Duffy's

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Frederick William Harrison was born in 1885 in Siggleshorne, oldest in a family of seven children. His father John was an agricultural worker. The family moved to Swine two years after he was born, and by 1891 were living in Hull at Florence Terrace in Sculcoates. By 1907 they were living at Williams Place, Spencer Street.

In his early 20's Fred went to work for the Hull Corporation and was variously known as a corporation cartman (probably a dustman) or a corporation labourer.

Margaret Duffy was born in 1884, sixth in a family of eight or more. Her father was Patrick Duffy, a dock labourer born in Ireland. In 1891 they lived at 12 St James Place, Collier Street in the parish of St Stephen. In 1907 she was living at 8 Hamilton Place, Moxon Street, which was about 200 yards from Fred Harrison's home.

Fred and Margaret were married at St Patrick's (Roman Catholic) Church in Spring Street Hull on November 9th, 1907. Annie Duffy, Margaret's sister was one of the witnesses. Fred and Margaret lived at 8 St Georges Terrace, Blundell Street at the time of the 1911 census and in 1915 when their fourth child, Margaret May was born. By 1924 they lived at 10, Beech Avenue, Beech Street, Hull. Beech Street was just north of Brunswick Avenue and about half a mile from their parents' homes in Moxon Street and Spencer Street. None of these houses exist today.

Fred and Margaret Harrison had 7 children:

- 1 Fred, born 1908
- 2 Norah, our mother, born 9 November 1909**
- 3 Anne Louisa, born 1914**
- 4 [Mary](#) Lily, (always known as Lily) born 1911

5 Margaret Mary, born 16 June 1915

6 John (Jack), born 1919

7 George, born 21 April 1921

In the Great War of 1914-1918, Fred (senior) enlisted as a gunner on November 2 1914 at the age of 29. He served in the East Riding Regiment of the Royal Garrison Artillery. They were responsible for the heavy, large calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line. He served overseas, presumably in France.

Margaret May was born in June 1915, presumably while her father was in France: on her birth certificate, Fred's occupation was listed as "Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery (corporation labourer)".

Fred was demobilised on 16th February 1919 with the rank of Corporal.

Annie Louisa died in the great flu epidemic at the age of four on 28th October 1918. Lily had the flu at the same time, but fortunately recovered. Norah never mentioned Annie Louisa to her children: it was obviously not thought to be a suitable subject for children, and none of us was aware of her existence until recently

Margaret Harrison (Fred's wife) died on October 16th 1924 at the age of 40. She had been in the Kingston General Hospital (now a school) for a time. The cause of death was given as Cerebral Paralysis- what would possibly be called a stroke today. Norah went to visit her there (it was very close to where they lived): she had apparently been told that her mother had 'sleeping sickness'. Fred was left with six children to bring up. The oldest, Fred, was 16 and her youngest child George was three years old. Norah was not quite 15 years old.

Fred re-married five years later. His new wife was Sarah Ann Alice Ombler of 14 Stubbin Street Hull (this street no longer exists, but I believe it was off Holderness Road, near the *Reckitts and Coleman* factory), daughter of William Ombler, a timber tallyman. Alice worked at *Reckitts and Coleman* (an international



company who made various household products). They were married on 8th September 1929. They lived at Beech Avenue, Beech Street until about 1938 when they went to Sutton near Hull, first at Jasmine Cottage, then at Number 27 Lowgate, Sutton. Both buildings are still in existence. They had five children:

- 1      Ron b. 1930
- 2      Eric b. 1936
- 3      Alan b. 1938
- 4      Doreen b. 1939
- 5      Joan b. 1943

Fred died in on 20 October 1968 at 27 Lowgate Sutton.

*Margaret Duffy and (opposite)  
Frederick William Harrison.  
Dates unknown but possibly  
shortly before their marriage  
in 1908*









*Left: Corporal Fred William Harrison*

*Facing page: Thought to be Margaret Duffy with one of her children (she never lived to see her grandchildren).*



*Above: The family of Tommy and Mary Ellen Kenny. Mary Ellen Kenny, nee Duffy was the sister of our grandmother Margaret Duffy*

*back row: Annie, Tom, Frank, Timmy  
front row: Jo, Tommy Kenny, May, Mary Ellen Kenny nee Duffy, Maurice, Timmy.*

*Right - sisters Margaret and Mary Ellen, showing a certain family resemblance*





*Top: Fred (right) and the dustcart team*

*Bottom: Alice Harrison nee Omblar*









*Below and facing page: The occasion on which these pictures were taken is not known. They were taken at the same time and place: the background is the same and some people are in both pictures. There are no men. It seems to be some kind of celebration because there are flags in the background. Maybe it was a party at Norah's school at the end of World War I, possibly an Empire Day party or a celebration of the end of the war.*

*Norah is thought to be sixth from left in the back row on the facing page (black dress, white apron), Lily third child from the right, second row, and their mother Margaret in black in the middle of the picture below. The baby she is holding is probably Jack at the age of one or less, which would make Lily about nine, Norah about eleven, and the date of the picture about 1918. It is noticeable that Norah and Lily are in black (in contrast to the other children) as is their mother. They were possibly in mourning for Annie Louise who died of the flu in 1918.*



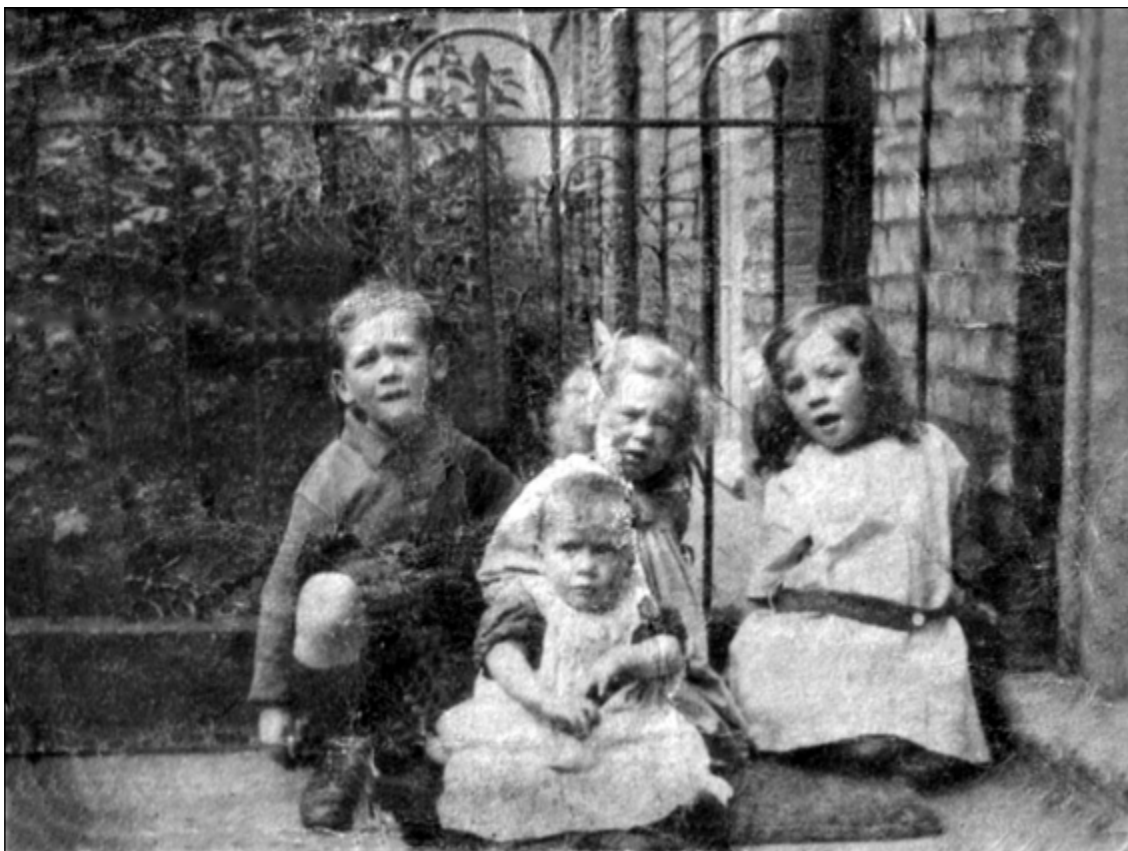


## Parents: Arthur and Norah Roe

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Arthur Roe and Norah Harrison were born in 1904 and 1909 respectively. They both came from families of six children, Arthur being the oldest child in his family and Norah the second oldest. They were born about half a mile from each other, Arthur at 2 Robson's Court, Spencer Street and Norah in Sculcoates, at 8 St Georges Terrace Blundell Street. However Norah's grandparents (John and Emilia Harrison, Frederick William Harrison's parents) were practically neighbours of the Roe's:

*Left to right: Fred,  
Lily, Norah and  
(front) Margaret  
Harrison,  
presumably at 10  
Beech Avenue, Beech  
Street*



*Norah Roe, date  
unknown, probably  
early 1930's*



they also lived in Spencer Street, at 1 William's Place.

Arthur may have gone to the Thomas Stratten School in Londesborough Street. In the early 1920's, at about the time he would have left school, the family moved out to Newtown Buildings, just off Hedon Road. Newtown Buildings would have then been a recently-built, possibly new, modern apartment block. It was not in a particularly desirable area, being next to the prison and close to the docks. Of all the homes of the various branches of the family in Hull, it is the only one that exists today. Like his father, Arthur became a lorry driver (or rully driver as he called it) when he left school. He once told me that he drove steam powered lorries. He never took a driving test: they were not a requirement when he first started driving, and when tests became mandatory, existing license holders did not have to take one.

Norah was brought up as a Roman Catholic and went to St Gregory's, a Catholic school. Her education came to an abrupt



*St Gregory's School  
in Scott Street, where  
Norah Roe went to  
school, now a  
commercial building*



*Outside the Dock Offices in Hull looking towards King Edwards Street. Left to right: (thought to be) George, Lily and Norah Harrison. The babies are possibly Arthur and Eileen or Patsy, Lilly's daughter.*

*Left: the same view in 2005*

end just short of her fifteenth birthday on the premature death of her mother (though this would have been close to the age she would normally have left school). As the oldest girl she was called on to look after her younger brothers and sisters. At the time Lily was thirteen years old, Margaret was nine, Jack was five and George was three. This probably meant that she would not have been able to go out to work until her father remarried five years later. She then went into service for about four years until her marriage in 1933. In service she worked as a nannie for a family that owned a petrol filling station in Princes Avenue, said to be the first one in Hull. She often took the children to Pearson's Park where she met other nannies.

Arthur and Norah were related as mentioned earlier through their common uncle and aunt Albert Edward Crooks and Ann Crooks nee Duffy. Norah said that they met because of this relationship, but it is possible that they first met as children when Norah visited her grandparents at William's Place, Spencer Street, while Arthur lived a short distance away at Robson's Court, Spencer Street.

Arthur and Norah were married on April 17 1933 at the Sculcoates Registry office. Leslie Roe and Margaret Harrison were witnesses. They were probably put off a church wedding by the complications of a mixed-religion marriage, if not by the expense. They started their married life in a first floor apartment at 189 Newtown Buildings in a block adjacent to that of Arthur's parents.

Their first three children, Arthur, Eileen Margaret and David were born in Newtown buildings. Then came the third untimely death in Norah's life: first her sister Annie in 1914, then her mother and now her daughter Eileen, who died on December 21 1938 at the age of four. She died of an ear infection (mastoiditis: a common cause of death in children at the time but now easily curable with antibiotics). What made it even worse was that the funeral was held on Christmas Eve, when Norah was involved in Christmas arrangements for the remaining two children.

It was almost certainly this tragedy that lead Norah and Arthur to

move house to 222 Welwyn Park Avenue on the outskirts of Hull. Just as two generations earlier the various family members were moving from the countryside to find work in the city, they now started the move from the city, first to the suburbs and then back to the countryside. The two youngest children, John Douglas and Elaine were born in Welwyn Park Avenue.





*Norah and Arthur Roe  
at the Newtown Square  
flats, and with Arthur  
and Eileen c. 1935/6.*



*right: A studio portrait of  
Arthur (18 months) and  
Eileen (4 months) in early  
1935*

*below: Arthur at Newtown  
Square*





Arthur and Eileen, and (below)  
Eileen at Newtown Square c. 1937



*Norah with Arthur and Eileen at Newtown Square. Judging by the swing on the door, they may have been living in a ground floor flat at that time*





*Norah and David at Newtown Square, with Arthur and Eileen (just visible) in the background. This must have been a few months before Eileen's death in 1938.*

Right (left to right): Ron,  
George, Alan, Frederick  
William, Eric and Fred  
Harrison at Lowgate, Sutton-  
on-Hull

Bottom: (left to right) Eric,  
Doreen, Alan, Joan, and Ron  
Harrison





*top: Jasmine Cottage,  
Sutton-on-Hull and bottom:  
27 Lowgate, Sutton -on-Hull,  
homes of Frederick and Alice  
Harrison and family*







## Living in Welwyn Park Avenue

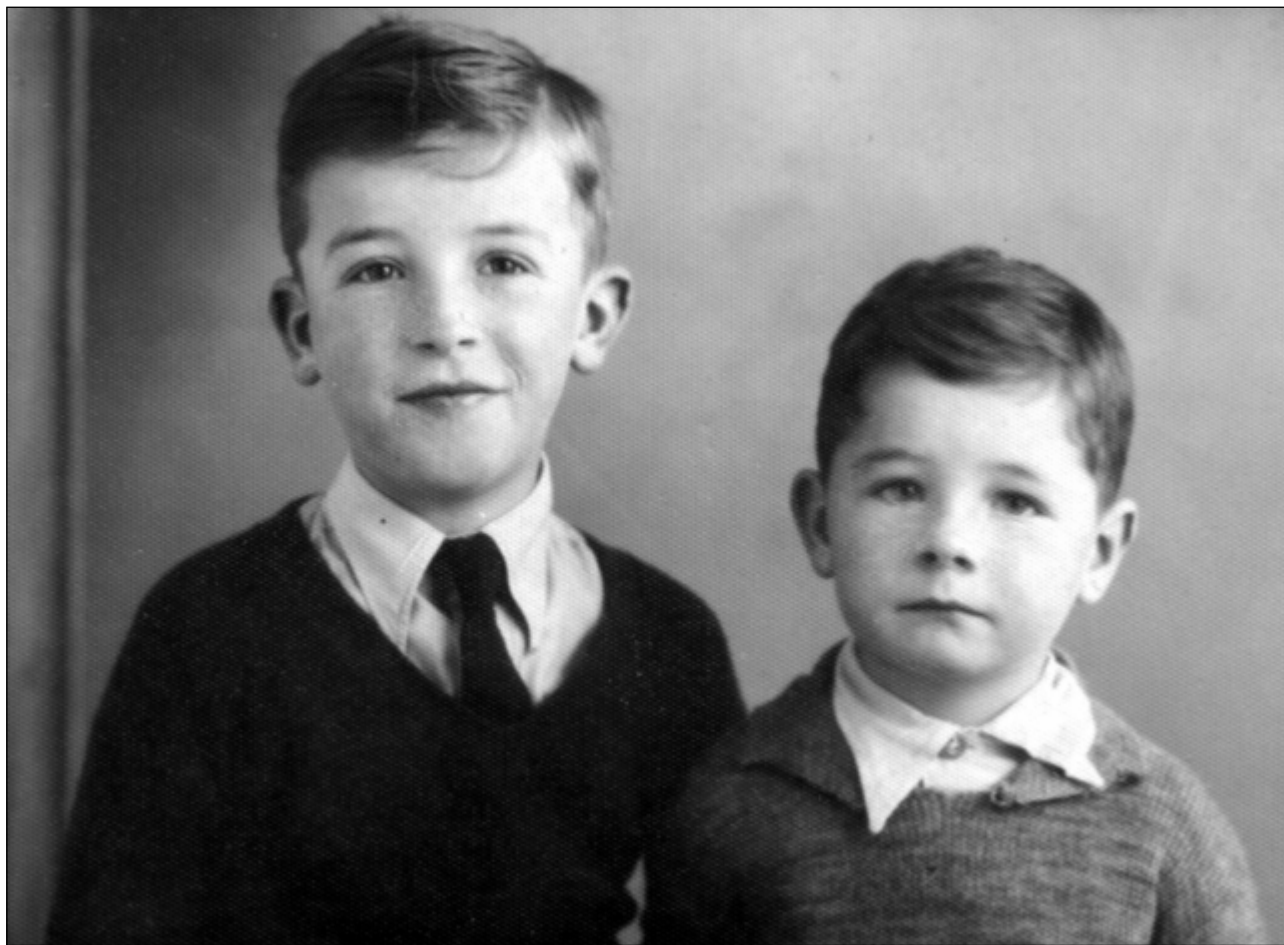
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The move to Welwyn was at about the time of the start of World War II. Hull was heavily bombed during the war, and Welwyn was a somewhat safer place to live than Newtown Buildings, which was close to the docks and industrial complexes. Even so, some houses were destroyed in the Welwyn area during the war.

The house at Welwyn was small, having two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, and a living room and a kitchen down stairs—a real challenge to bring up a family with two adults and four young children. It was however much better than the houses in central Hull which were dark and damp. At Welwyn there was plenty of space to the front and back, a small garden at the back and an even smaller one at the front. There was space for children to play in the access road at the back, ten feet wide (and always called a “ten-foot”), designed as an improvement to the unhealthy narrow alley-ways between the old houses in central Hull. We just as often played in the road at the front of the house, which was reasonably safe because hardly anyone owned a car. We could also go further afield to the farm land over the bridge on the other side of the River Hull.

At the outset of the war, a concrete air-raid shelter was built in everyone’s back garden. Many nights were spent here during the height of the air raids. The day after an air raid we would go out to collect bits of shrapnel which we found lying in the streets, and strips of aluminium ribbon, called “window” which were dropped from the air to confuse enemy radar systems. We handed the strips of aluminium to the air raid warden who had a wooden hut at the end of the street. He would probably have had not the slightest use for them. Most people cultivated their garden with vegetables against the food shortages. Our back garden was given over to potatoes at first, with black-current bushes down the side. Later the potato patch was replaced with a chicken run and we had a steady supply of eggs and the occasional chicken to eat. Father’s lorry was kept just across the

*David and Arthur Roe  
November 1943*



road by the river bank, rather than at his place of work to lessen the risk of damage by bombing.

In the early 1940's milk was delivered by pony and trap from a nearby farm off Beverley Road. There was a milk churn in the trap, and housewives came out to have their pint (or half pint) of milk measured into their milk jugs. There were no bottles or cartons, no waste and nothing to recycle. By the 1950's the pony and trap had given way to a small van and delivery in bottles.

Houses were lit with electricity, but in the early days there was no power for things like electric irons or washing machines- not that anyone owned such things. Payment was by prepaid meters: when the lights went out you put a penny, or if you could afford it, a shilling into the meter, and the lights came back on. There was also a gas supply, but only for the gas rings on the oven hob. The oven itself, a large cast iron affair, was heated by the open coal-fire in the living room which was on the opposite side of the wall to the oven in the kitchen. Norah managed to make bread with it. The house was heated by the coal fire, and another one in the main bedroom, though this was only used if someone was ill. No-one owned a refrigerator, and food was stored in the pantry- a cupboard across the corner of the kitchen. In the summer, milk usually turned sour by the morning after the day of delivery.

As time went on, the old cast irons, which were heated on the gas hob, were replaced with electric irons, washing machines and refrigerators were installed, and electric water heating was installed, which meant that the bath upstairs could be filled with hot water without having to carry hot water up the stairs.

By the time of the coronation of Elizabeth II in 1952, a few people had small black and white television sets, but it was some time after this before we got one.

Our annual holiday consisted of a day at the seaside, either Hornsea or Withernsea, travelling sometimes by steam train and sometimes by bus. We took a packed lunch of jam sandwiches, which somehow always got sand in them. We never stayed away over-night. At weekends we occasionally went for walk with our

parents across the river to collect brambles. Sometimes we went into town to the pier to look across to Lincolnshire and watch the old paddle-wheel ferry. The pier then was an elaborate Victorian two-story building which has since been largely demolished.

On Sundays evenings there was always a visit by my parents, usually taking one of the children, to see our granny- Edith Judge Roe- in the centre of town at Frith's Cottages, Portland Street where she lived with her daughter Edie and son-in law Tom Monday. It seemed to have been a more or less obligatory visit by my father's brothers (his only other sister, Emmie, was in Canada).

In the early years after the war, father's job as a lorry driver involved picking up sand and bricks and delivering them to building sites. Sand was loaded from hoppers at one of the many gravel pits in the East Riding, though bricks had to be loaded and unloaded by hand, assisted by his mate who travelled with him in the lorry. He worked for *Ulliot & Needhams* and *G Houltons*. Later on they turned to long distance work to as far afield as Liverpool- not far on today's roads, but then it required an overnight stay. His health deteriorated with the increased responsibility of this work- he had painful stomach ulcers- and he gave up driving to become a driver's mate. Later he had to give up work on the lorries altogether to work as a labourer on building sites. He died of a heart attack while walking to work early one Sunday morning in 1967, working overtime as usual. It was a tragedy that after a life-time of hard work, always with excessive overtime, he never lived to enjoy the period of retirement that he deserved.

After her husband's death, Norah coped well with being on her own. At the age of 57 she did not get a widows pension, and of necessity had to find work, which she did at the Hull Brewery Company, the first time she had worked for over 30 years. This job gave her a great deal of confidence, making her more outgoing than she had previously been. She retired at the age of 70 and went to live in Leven. She had an active social life there and had more friends than at any other time in her life. She was a member of the Women's Institute, The Darby and Joan Club



*Left: David and Arthur Roe  
c. 1939 probably at either  
Hornsea or Withernsea*

*Below: David, 1939*





*WWII victory party in Welwyn Park Avenue, 1945. Arthur and David are 4th and 5th from the right. Norah with Douglas second from left. The River Hull bank is on the right and the houses directly in front are in Welwyn Park Drive. There is a bonfire with a “guy” representing “Fatty Goering”. There were races on the ground to the right. Weeks before a regular collection was made of a small amount of sugar and other ingredients from each family for the cakes.*

and Pensioners Association. She travelled on day trips with her friends all over the country, quite a change for someone who had rarely been further than Hornsea, only 15 miles or so from Welwyn. On one occasion she went on a day trip to France, the first and only time she had been out of the country. She reported that they “spoke funny” there! Her spare time was spent baking—bread, scones, cakes and pies— for her family and friends.

Her final years were spent in a small residential home in Cottingham where she received a high level of care and attention. She died in 1998.



*1940's Norah and Douglas at Welwyn Park Ave with dad getting washed at the kitchen sink in the background. The coal bunker is on the right*



*Christine Sheehan, Norah Roe, Lily Sheehan, Patsy Sheehan, Front: Douglas Roe, Elaine Roe, Norah Sheehan. Hornsea railway station in the background c. 1954*





*Top left: Christine and Patsy Sheehan, David and Douglas (front) in the back garden of 222 Welwyn*

*Top right: Douglas in the back garden of 222 Welwyn. The air-raid shelter is on the far right*



*This page and facing page:  
Norah, Douglas, Elaine and  
Arthur in the early 1950's at  
Welwyn Park Avenue*







*Left and facing page bottom:  
Arthur Roe (right) with workmates*

*Facing page top: Hull Grammar  
School photo with Douglas front  
row third from right*

*Right: Elaine in the back garden of 222 Welwyn in front of the air-raid shelter. By this time, in the early 1950's, Arthur and Norah seem to have given up growing vegetables. This is in contrast with the similar picture of Douglas in about 1945 (page 61), when vegetables were grown to supplement the rationed food supply.*



*Below: the back view of 222 Welwyn in 2005*





*Elaine at Endyke Lane School  
where all of us received our  
primary education.*





*Left: Patsy Sheehan, Christine Sheehan, Norah Sheehan, Douglas, Elaine*



*Right: Norah Sheehan and Elaine*





*Right and below: Norah at her retirement in 1981*





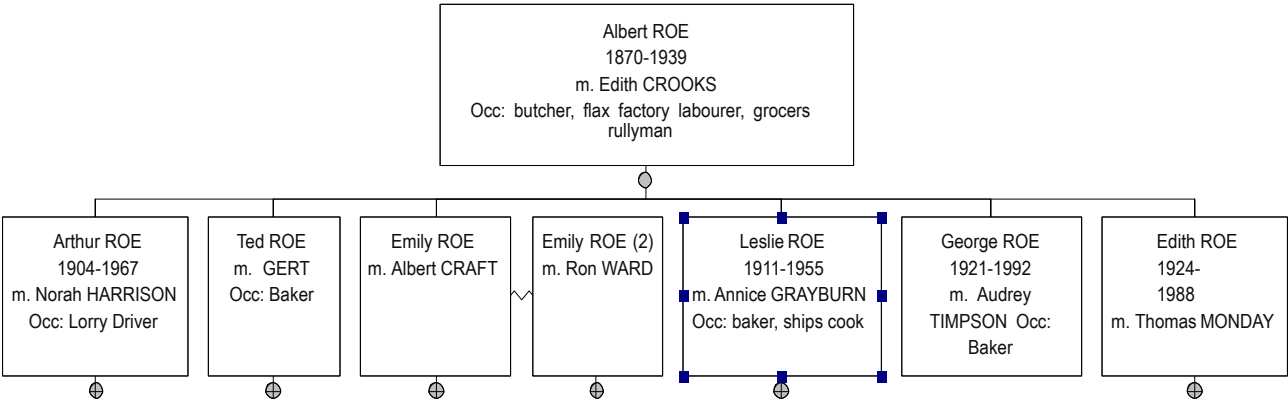
*Noah and friends*

# Aunts and Uncles

## The Roe's

Our father, Arthur Roe, became a lorry driver like his father, but his three younger brothers, Ted, Leslie and George chose different occupations. They all became bakers or cooks. George worked as a baker from the age of 14, in the factory of Mackmans in Southcoates Lane. Ted worked at first for William Jacksons, then he also went to Mackmans.

Arthur was too old to serve in the forces in WWII, but his three younger brothers all did. Ted was in the army, Leslie in the navy and George in the airforce



## Ted Roe

Ted- Albert Edward Roe- was born in 1906 in Spencer Street Hull. He worked as a baker, first for William Jacksons and later for Mackmans.

In World War II he served in the army and was one of the 300,000 troops evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk in May/June 1940 He was in poor physical shape when he finally got home and was invalided out of the army. He had a throat complaint said to be caused by his long period of waiting in the sea for a rescue boat, (He was also said to have been gassed, though it is generally stated that gas was never used in World War II).

Ted married Gert: they had two children, Malcolm and Sylvia



*Ted Roe: in the top left picture he is with his brother George and mother Edith*



## Emily Roe

Emmie was born in about 1908. She married Albert Craft, who is thought to have been a dance instructor. They had an adopted daughter Marie, and lived for a time in a rather grand house in John Street, in the square where the New Theatre is in Hull.

After they had been married for at least twenty years they were divorced and Emmie married Ron Ward. Divorce was rare in those days and Emmie's divorce was always a talking point in the family. Ron worked for Rediffusion, a company that installed cable radio in the UK. They emigrated to Canada, where Ron carried out the same kind of work. The picture with the Rediffusion van is dated Sept 14 1953 which may have been soon before they moved to Canada. They had two adopted children, one called Billy.

Emmie's uncle, Harry Roe had also emigrated to Canada. He sent a postcard to his older brother, Albert Gibson, care of Emmie because he didn't know Albert's address. There is a picture of Emmie and Ron on the Isle of St Helens, a place which I have not been able to trace in Canada.

Emmie and her husband Ron Ward returned to Hull in later life and lived in Priory Road, where both of them died.







*Top left and bottom left: Emmie with second husband Ron Ward*

*Bottom Centre Emmie with Albert Craft and their daughter Marie*

*Above: Ron Ward and children*



## Leslie Roe

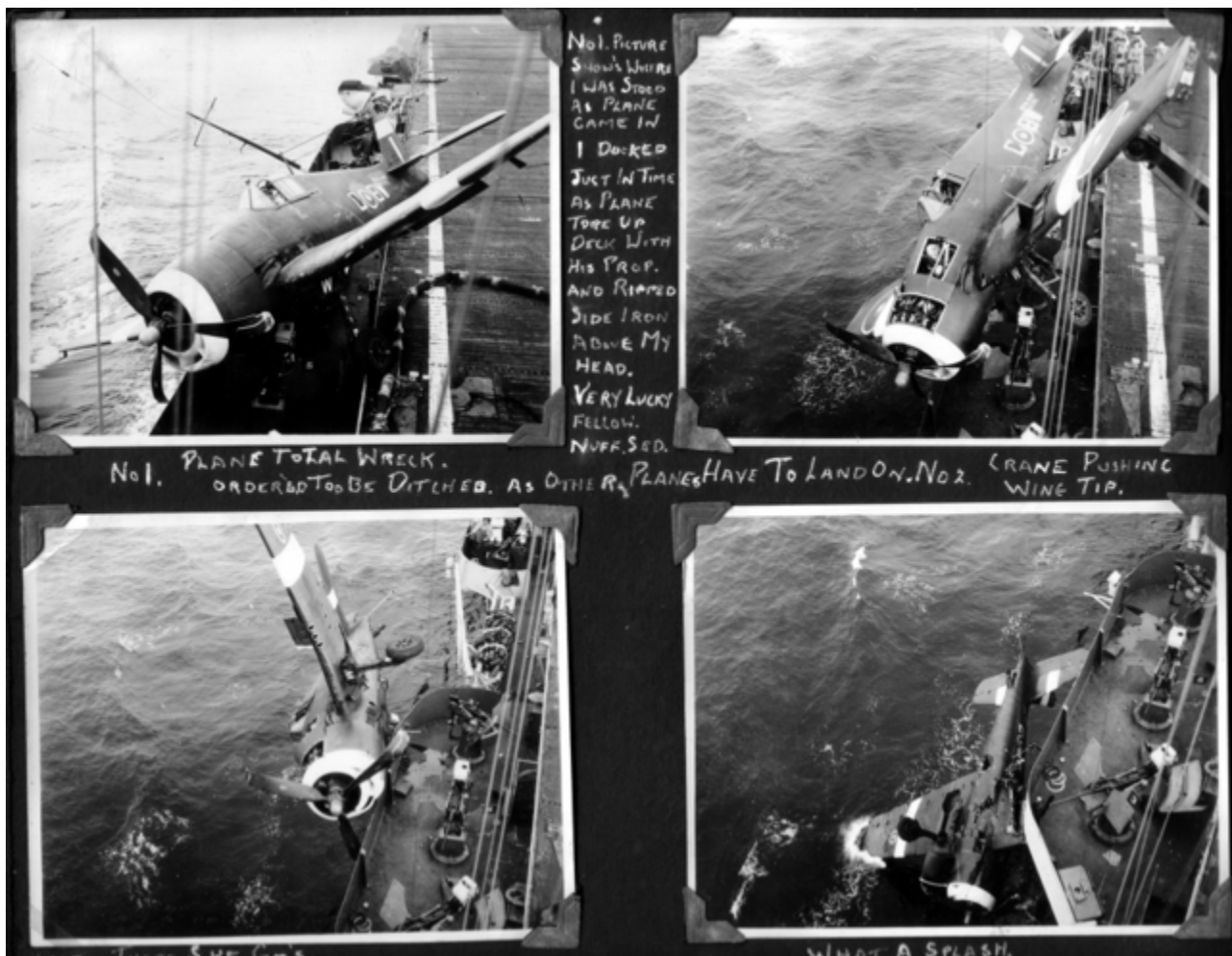
Leslie was born on July 31 1911. He was a handsome man who went in for body building, and was handy with his fists. He had an altercation with his father, when he believed he was mistreating his mother: the story was that he dangled him over the balcony at the Newtown flats. He was married in 1933 and went to live in Newtown Buildings, close to his parents and eldest brother Arthur who also lived in Newtown Buildings (No 126). His first job was with William Jacksons, a bakers in Hull, where he worked from 1927 to 1934. He then went to J J N Mackman's Ltd, bakers and confectioners. He was dismissed from this job in 1938 after an dispute with the boss's son, though he left with a good reference saying that he was "a good worker, clean, strictly honest and sober" but was dismissed for "not being able to work amicably" with the son who had recently come into the business. The story passed down is that he laid out the boss's son.

He served as a cook in the navy during World War II, and luckily his photo album and other documents survive giving interesting information about his war service. He served on HMS Corinthian (1940-42), HMS Mersey (1943), HMS Highway, HMS Boxer (1944), Manchester City 1945, Ameer (1945) and finally HMS Mersey, before being discharged in April 1946. He certainly saw the world, and places recorded in his album include Freetown, Malta , Tunis, Anzio, Greenock (!), Port Said, Rio de Janeiro and Durban. While serving on HMS Corinthian his ship rescued survivors, including women children and RAF personnel from HMT Duchess of Atholl which was had been torpedoed off Cape Town. While serving on the aircraft carrier Ameer he narrowly escaped death when he was almost hit by a plane making a bad landing on deck. As he wrote in his album (see photographs overpage)

"No 1 picture shows where I was stood as a plane came in. I ducked just in time as plane tore up deck with his prop and ripped side iron above my head. Very lucky fellow. 'Nuff said. Plane total wreck ordered to be ditched as other planes have

to land on no. 2"

He was present at the landings in Anzio, Italy, and on VJ night in 1945 when Japan finally surrendered to the Allies he was in Trincomalee Ceylon (Sri Lanka). He was awarded five medals including the 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Burma Star and the Italy Star.







Leslie married Annice (usually called Ann) Grayburn and they lived at 126 Newtown Buildings, close to Leslie's parents and brother Arthur.

After the war he became a cook on the fishing trawlers that sailed from Hull. He died at sea on the fishing trawler *Lorella* in a tragic accident off the north cape of Iceland in January 1955. The *Lorella* and another ship the *Roderigo* were the victims of black frost. In extreme weather conditions in the North Sea the spray from the sea froze on the decks, making the ships top heavy and causing them to overturn. The last recorded message from the wireless operator of the *Lorella* was "keeling over. going down". The *Roderigo* suffered a similar fate while going towards the *Lorella* in response to its distress signals. Leslie's son Phillip was at sea at the time of the disaster. The crew of his ship were all aware of the accident, but out of concern for Phillip withheld the information from him until the ship reached the Humber Estuary on its way back to port.

*Below: Leslie's wife Anne*  
*Below left: Sledmere, with son Keith in the background*



## **George Roe**

George was born on July 25th 1921.

Like his older brothers Ted and Leslie he became a baker, working for Mackmans Ltd. His job required him get up at 4.30 am every working day, and he worked until 5.00 pm. He stayed with Mackmans for almost all of his working life, until they stopped trading in 1983.

During World War II he joined the Air Force as a cook, and served with an Australian air squadron in Libya.

After the war he married Audrey Timpson, manager of a Mackman's shop in Southcoates Lane. The bakery where George worked was above the shop. They were both dog-lovers and kept boxer dogs. In about 1960 they aquired one of the first of the Wolseley versions of the BMC Mini. When they visited Welwyn Park Avenue the car parked in the street at the front of the house was very conspicuous. It was a great source of pride to the family- the only car to be seen in the neighbourhood. The car took them on holidays to the Lake District for several year

In his later years George suffered from asthma, thought to be a consequence of having worked in an environment with flour for most of his working life. He was made redundant in 1983 when Mackmans closed down and worked for two years at Hygena kitchens in Hull before retiring at the age of 65. He died of cancer at the age of 71.



*Right: George and his  
sister Edie*





**459 SQDN. R.A.A.F. M.E.F.**  
*The* COMMANDING OFFICER and OFFICERS  
 WISH YOU ALL A MERRY X'MAS  
 AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

**MENU**

SOUP CANARD  
 ROAST DUCK  
 GREEN PEAS, CAULIFLOWER  
 BOILED & ROAST POTATOES  
 VEGETABLES  
 SWEET  
 PLUM PUDDING & BRANDY SAUCE  
 BREAD & BUTTER & TEA  
 NUTS  
 (IF ANY)

**CHRISTMAS of 1942**  
*In The Field.*

**and BEER**

**SOUP to NUTS MATE!**

**XMAS DINNER 1943**  
 CAIME REGENCE

**ROAST PORK**  
 APPLE SAUCE

**ROAST TURKEY** • CAULIFLOWER  
 GREEN PEAS • BAKED POTATOES /  
 BOILED POTATOES • MINT SAUCE

**XMAS PLUM PUDDING** • BRANDY SAUCE  
 APPLE TARTS • WHIPPED CREAM  
 FRUIT SALAD • CREAM

**MINCE PIES** • CAKES • TEA • COFFEE  
 BEER • ASSORTED NUTS

**-459-**  
**SQUADRON**

**RIDE**

**OFFICERS MESS**  
**19 menu 44**

**— BIRD DISHES —**  
 CRISP TURKEY • BRANDED  
 ROAST TURKEY • BRANDED  
 SPARKED with GREEN HERRING  
 BAKED in CRISP  
 — POTATOES —  
 CAULIFLOWER • WHITE SAUCE  
 — BOILED CABBAGE —  
 GREEN PEAS

**CHRISTMAS PUDDING**  
 BRANDY SAUCE  
 — STUFFED OLIVES —  
 — CARD —  
 CAULIFLOWER • ROASTED with the  
 FIRST HERRING of the  
 — YELLOW SAUCE —  
 (TASTY PLUM)

**— FINE OLD —**  
**Christmas BEER!!**

**MAIL, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1943**



**IN LIBYA.**—Six Hull lads serving with an Australian air squadron somewhere in the Libyan desert. They still manage to receive their Hull "Daily Mail" from their relatives, and they say that the paper is always welcome. They are: Top, left L.A.C. J. Langthorpe, centre L.A.C. B. Doran, right, L.A.C. J. Ranby; bottom left L.A.C. G. Roe, centre L.A.C. R. Atkinson, and right L.A.C. G. Sutton.







Facing page: Audrey Roe nee Timpson (top left with Edie Roe)

Above: Audrey's sister, Ted, George, Audrey, Audrey's brother

## Edie Roe

The youngest in the family, Edie, was born on 15 May 1924 at either Spencer Street or Newtown Buildings.

She went to Sculcoates Lane School (as did Audrey Roe). She became a woodcutting machinist at the Hollis factory in Hull where she met and later married Thomas Arthur Monday who was also a woodcutting machinist. They lived for a time in Friths Cottages, a small close off Portland Street, with Edies mother, Edith Judge Roe. After the birth of their son Tom, Edie went to work for a toy-making company called Bee-Gee in Blundell Street Hull.

Tom Monday (senior) played soccer and was captain of the Hollis soccer team and was also a keen fisherman.

Edie and Tom were very sociable people, went out a lot, and both played darts.

Edie died on 31 December 1988.

*Facing page, top right: Tom, son Tommie, Edie, George and  
Audrey at Hornsea*



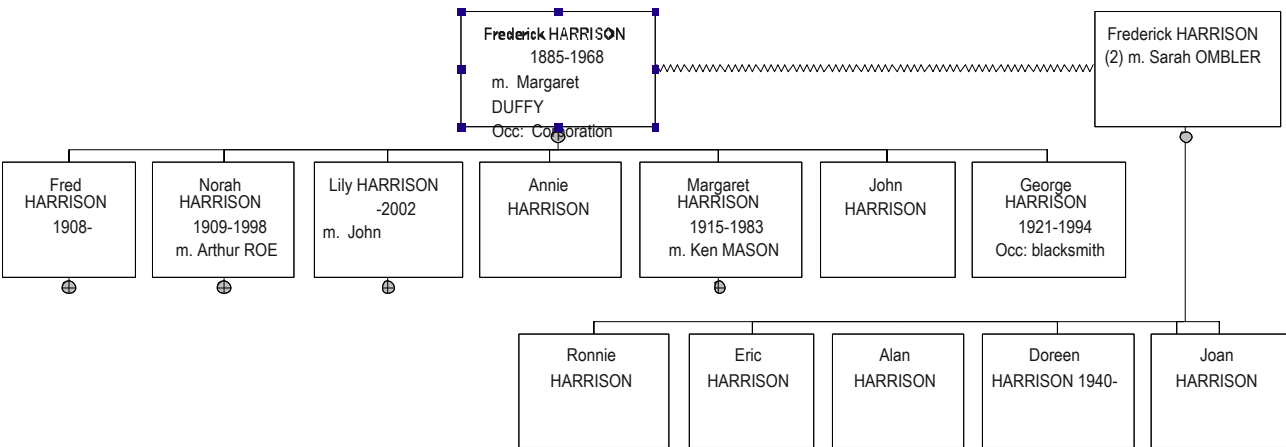


*Front Row: Marie Craft, —, Tom's brother, Tom Monday, Edie, Ted, —, Mollie (Les's daughter) . Arthur, with Douglas and Norah Roe are to the right. Edith Judge behind Edie and Tom. Audrey and George are on the back row behind Ted; Audrey's mother Elsie is in front of George to his left and Gert is to George's left with her son Malcolm in front of her. Ann Roe (Les's wife) is at the left of the second row from the back and Emmie is to her left. Tom's mother is behind Edie and Ted, and Tom's sister Maisie is to her left.*

# The Harrison's

## Fred Harrison

Fred, the oldest in the family was born in 1908, probably in Blundell Street. He became a dustman like his father. In 1935 he married Mary Brookes, who was also from the Sculcoates area of Hull. Before her marriage, Mary worked in a jam factory. They had two children: Maureen and Kathleen.



During World War II Fred served in the army in Burma and India. Off the coast of India his ship was involved in an accident (not as a result of enemy action) and went down. Fred was one of the few survivors and was hospitalised in India. Later he joined the Military Police in India.

During the War Fred and Mary's first home in Grange Street near Waterloo Street was destroyed by bombing and most of their possessions were lost. They went to live with Fred's parents at Jasmine cottage in Sutton.





Later they lived in a prefab (pre-fabricated house) down Priory Road. Fred died on May 7 1982 at the age of 73. Mary died on November 4 2002 at the age of 94.

## Lily Harrison

Lily (Mary Lily), Norah's younger sister, was born on 25 September 1911. She was lucky to survive the flu which she and her younger sister Annie contracted in the world wide epidemic of 1918.



*Wedding of Fred Harrison and Mary June 29 1935  
Margaret is on the right, Norah and Eileen behind Mary, and presumably a relative of  
Mary on the left judging by the resemblance.*

Lily was something of a rebel in the family and at the age of 17, just before the start of World War II, ran off to London. In London she found it hard to settle and moved from job to job, mostly in service. She spent almost a year in Jersey which she loved. On her return she ran a boarding house in Mayfair, but lost her job as a result of a party she held there- apparently a rather hectic affair!

She met her husband-to-be at a dance, an Irishman called John Sheehan. Their first child, Patricia Anne (Patsy) was born in London. John joined the Army as a gunner in the Royal Artillery and had an eventful war. He was at Dunquerk, at El Alamein and Tobruk with Montgomery and the 8th Army, and was involved in the D-Day invasion of France. During the war the family was evacuated to Wales to avoid the bombing, and Christine Mary was born there, but Lily was not happy there and they soon returned to London. They lived just near the main Post Office at Mount Pleasant, a target of German bombing.

After the war the family moved into a “prefab”- a prefabricated single story house with modern facilities- at Blackheath, where they enjoyed having a proper bathroom for the first time. But John Sheehan did not enjoy living in the suburbs and missed his brothers and drinking companions. He developed alcohol problems, had a stomach ulcer which was treated by removing part of his stomach and suffered from depression. He was unable to work and the family moved back to London to a small one bedroomed apartment, supported by Lily doing cleaning and tea lady jobs. Eventually John was hospitalized for well over a year.

Their third child, Norah was born in 1950. For a period of time, Lily was compelled to put her children in an orphanage while she went out to work to support the family, but she worked hard to keep the family together. Lily was passionate about the theatre, especially American musicals and took the children regularly to the theatre and the cinema.

*“I think we saw every show that came to London, of course in the*



*Lily Harrison c. 1934*



*Left: Lily outside Jasmine Cottage, Sutton with Julia.*

*Below left: with daughter Christine and sister Margaret.*

*Below: John Sheehan.*

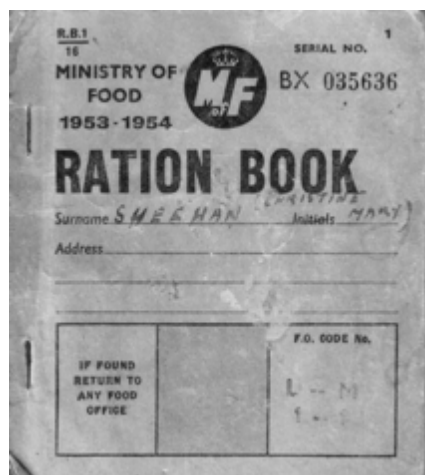
Facing Page:

*Top left: Christine's war-time ration book (food rationing continued for some years after the end of the war)*

*Top right: School photograph (Patsy is on the second row from the back, third from the left, and Christine in the row in front, second from the left)*

*Bottom: a studio portrait of Lily, Patsy and Christine, and the family at the seaside.*





*best seats -- they were called the "Gods." We also went to the pictures twice a week -- when a scary bit came on, she would drop a sweet in the floor and make me find it, so the film would not scare me.*

*On Sunday afternoons we went for walks with our mother on Hampstead Heath, Parliament Hill Fields, Regent's Park, The Embankment or Hyde Park. It was during these walks she used to tell us of her family and childhood in Yorkshire. I think she felt bad, because we didn't have any family in London. She always talked about her Father with great affection. In fact most of the time she would end up crying -- she felt she had hurt him very much by running away. She used to say, that most men would have put their children in an orphanage when the mother died, but he kept them all together. He took great care of them. She remembered them all going to church - the girls with straw hats and the boys dressed like little gentlemen. We used to laugh when she told us the story of going to one of the aunts for Sunday tea. The aunt made banana sandwiches and made one banana go around for 7 sandwiches." (Christine)*

Lily and the children came back to Yorkshire from time to time to visit their family in Welwyn Park Avenue and in Sutton.

Lily died in 2002, and John died at the age of 53.

### **Annie Louisa Harrison**

Annie was born on October 28 1918 at 10 Beech Street Hull.

She died in the world-wide flu epidemic at the age of 4. She was our aunt, the aunt that we never knew the existence of until recently. There seem to be no surviving photographs of her.

## **Margaret Harrison**

Margaret, christened Margaret Mary, was born on 28 May 1915 at 8 St Georges Terrace, Blundell Street Hull.

She served in the WAAFs (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) during World War II from December 1941 to November 1946. Her release documentation at the end of her service described her as an "experienced Fabric Worker, in machinery of linen, fabrics, canvas and soft leathers", and her daughter Julia remembers her taking about parachutes- possible she made and/or repaired them. I remember at a party during or soon after World War II, she entertained us by playing the banjo-ukelele, a popular instrument at the time, in the days before the guitar became popular.

She spent some time in London, presumably visiting her sister Lily, but whether she worked there or not is not known.

She married Ken Mason in 1955, and they had a daughter, Julia. Ken was a blacksmith and forge worker for Calverts in Sutton. He made a decorative grill which is installed in the Beverley Arms Hotel.

Ken died c. 1969 and Margaret in 1970

## **Jack Harrison**

Jack Harrison was born in about 1919.

He served in the army in World War II , and was taken prisoner and was held in Austria. After the war he returned to live with his parents in Sutton. He was a keen pianist and card player.



*Margaret in about 1930 in Pearsons Park where as a nannie Norah used to take the children in her charge. Maybe Norah took this photograph.*





Margaret Mary Harrison,  
early 1940's



*Margaret is second from the right, second row from the back*





*Ken and Margaret's wedding. Back row, left: Ken's mother and father, back row right: Alice and Fred Harrison, front row :Kens brother best man Doreen Harrison, Ken, Margaret, Joan Harrison*



Left: Margaret and Norah at  
222 Welwyn

Below left: Margaret with  
Arthur and Eileen at Newtown  
Square

Below right: Margaret with  
Julia at Sutton





Top Left: Margaret with husband Ken

Left: Joan (carrying the all-important sandwiches in the suitcase), Margaret, Patsy, Doreen, Christine  
Above: Alice with Christine and Joan at Hornsea

But he was not able to re-settle in England, and he emigrated to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he worked on the railways as a station master. He apparently led a happy life there and was able to buy some land.

He returned to England on one occasion for a visit at the time of the soccer world cup final in 1966, and returned permanently to England in the 1980's to live in Sutton. His return was probably a result of the anti-colonial conflict in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. He never married.

He died in a nursing home in Bridlington.

## **George Harrison**

1921 to 1994

George (Harrison) served in the Navy in World War II. His partner was called Margaret Lee. He worked for a time for Associated British Ports in Hull, and was described as a blacksmith on his death certificate.



*George and Jack at Beech Street.: we do not know who the girl and baby are .*



Ron Harrison and (right) ? Jack Harrison





*Jack Harrison: front row, second from right*



*George Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Fred Harrison*