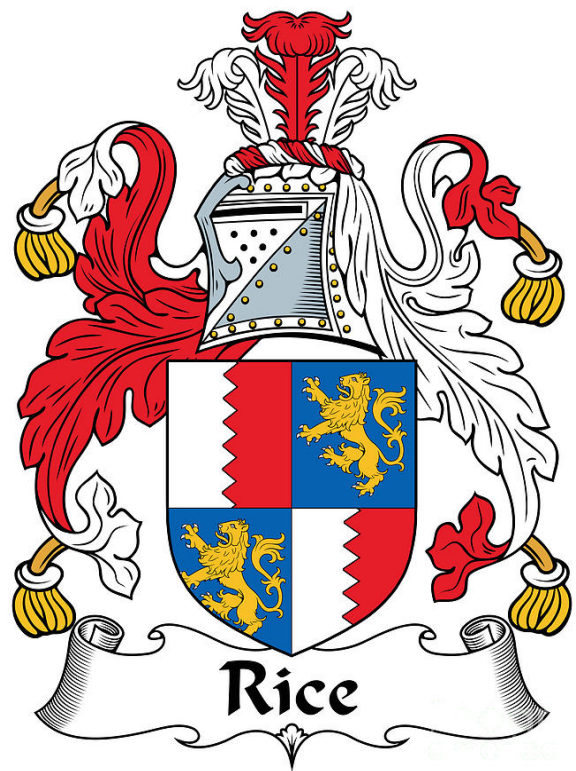
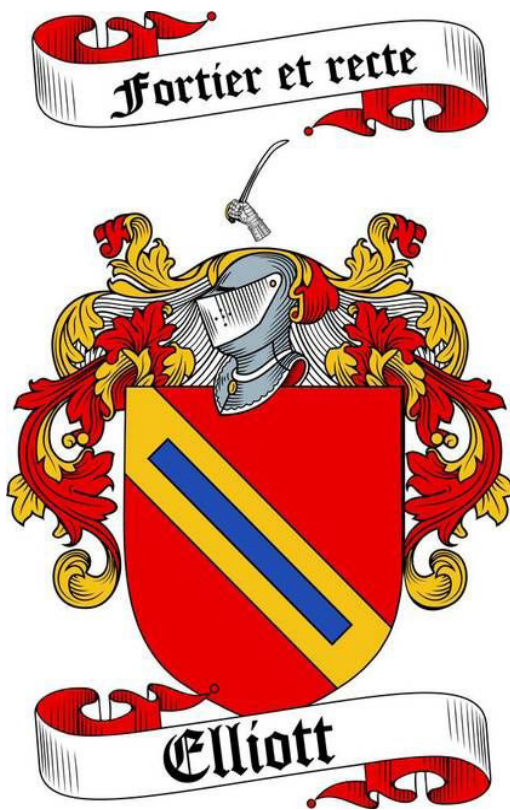


ELLIOTT & RICE: A Complete History



R. O'Flaherty

ELLIOTT & RICE: A Complete History

Welcome to the Elliott & Rice book which accompanies the family tree I have created. Approximately two years of research has gone into finding the following information.

Every care has been taken to create an accurate document. In some cases there is a slight discrepancy between birth dates, which is mostly due to the baptism date being recorded as the birth date. There are also variations in spellings of names, which in many cases was due to illiteracy. After all, it's only a recent thing that most people can read and write. All information is subject to change should new information come to light, but at the time of writing everything is accurate.

On each listing I focus on the paternal side but I also cover the maternal side too. If you get confused either take a look at the section of the tree printed in this book, or refer to the family tree. At the end, I then combine Walter Rice and Ethel Elliott's history along with their children.

I have sourced as many photographs as possible. In some cases, I have converted black and white photographs into colour for better clarity. In this case it might appear like they were taken later than they were.

I hope you will enjoy this book and better still share it with any other relatives, especially future generations. After all, without the people in this book none of us would be alive to read it in the first place.

I am continuing to work on the full tree, which currently has over 1,000 people in it. I haven't added many people who are currently alive due to privacy, but if you wish to be added please contact me with your information (year of birth/spouse/children etc) and I'll gladly do so. Anyone who is living will automatically be shown as 'private' for privacy.

To view the tree go to <https://bit.ly/303wMaa> (take care to type in exactly). As there are lots of different people in the tree, it may only show a small section at a time. There is a search option at the side which is quite helpful. If you have any trouble viewing it please email r.oflaherty78@gmail.com.

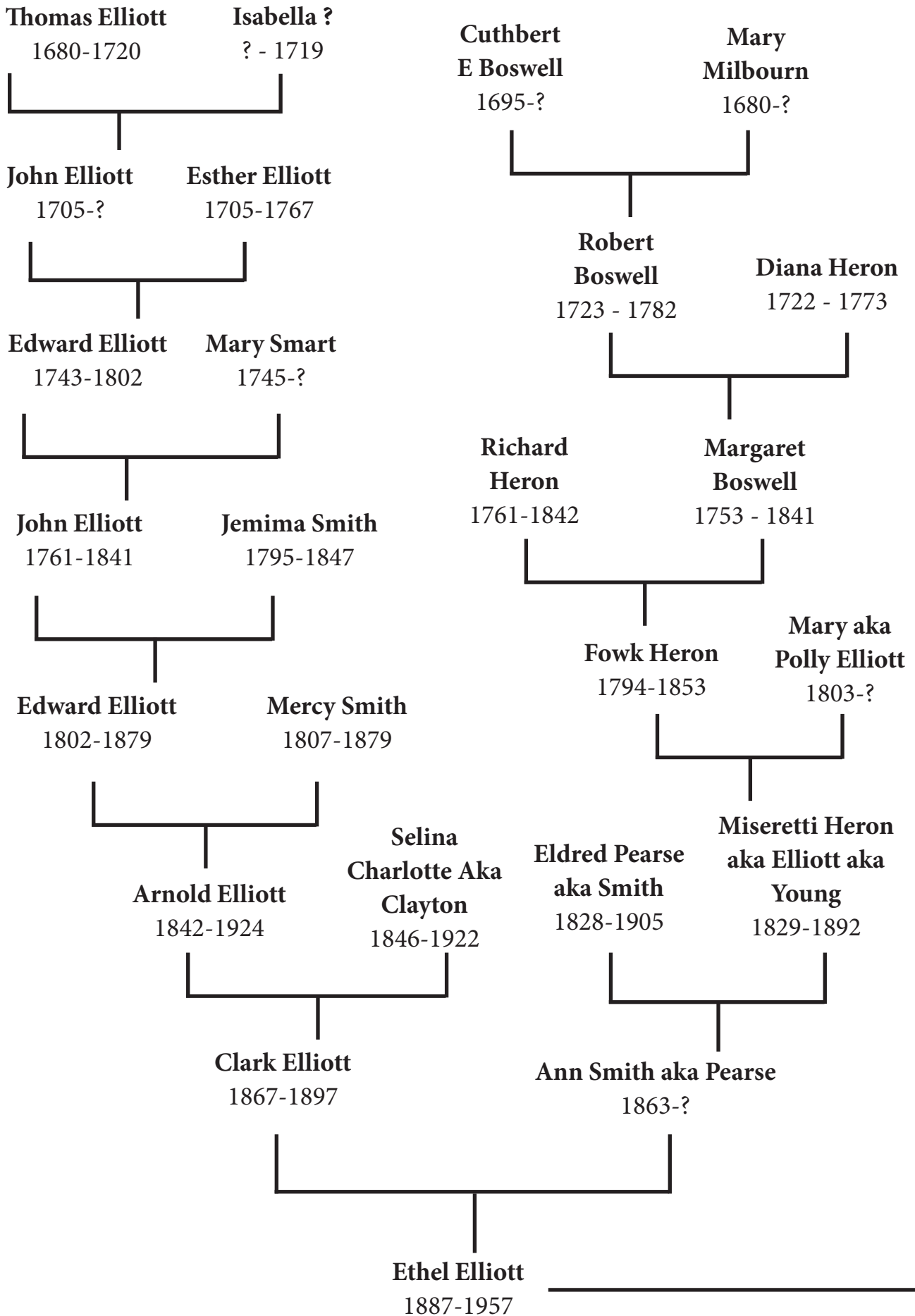
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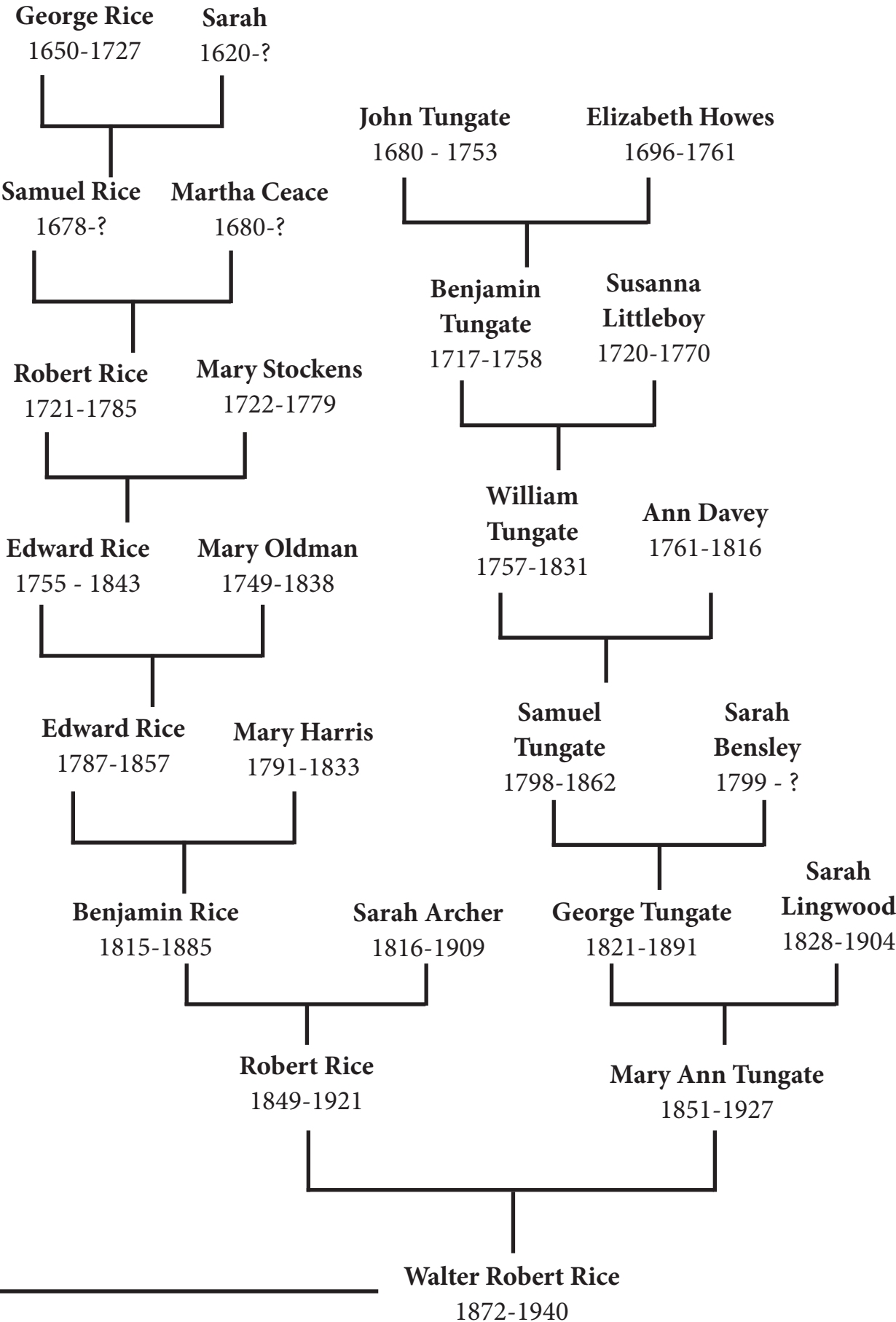
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PARTIAL TREE



ELLIOTT

The name Elliott has broad origins that include Scotland, England, France and Northern Ireland. Most sources attribute Elliott to Old English culture, stemming from the words 'Aeelyoo' and 'Aeolgeat'. Both of these words can mean "noble combat" or "noble great".

Another theory is Elliott derives from the Old Gaelic names of "Elleach," "Elloch," and "Eloth." This meant someone who lived by a river or similar natural structure.

Alternative spellings of Elliott include Elliotte, Elleiott, Eilliot, Yelliott, Eilliott, Eilioitt, Eelliott, Elliottta, Elliotty, Elliot, Eliott, Eliot. In the records I've found of our family history, I have found some Elliotts have also spelt their name 'Ellett' too.

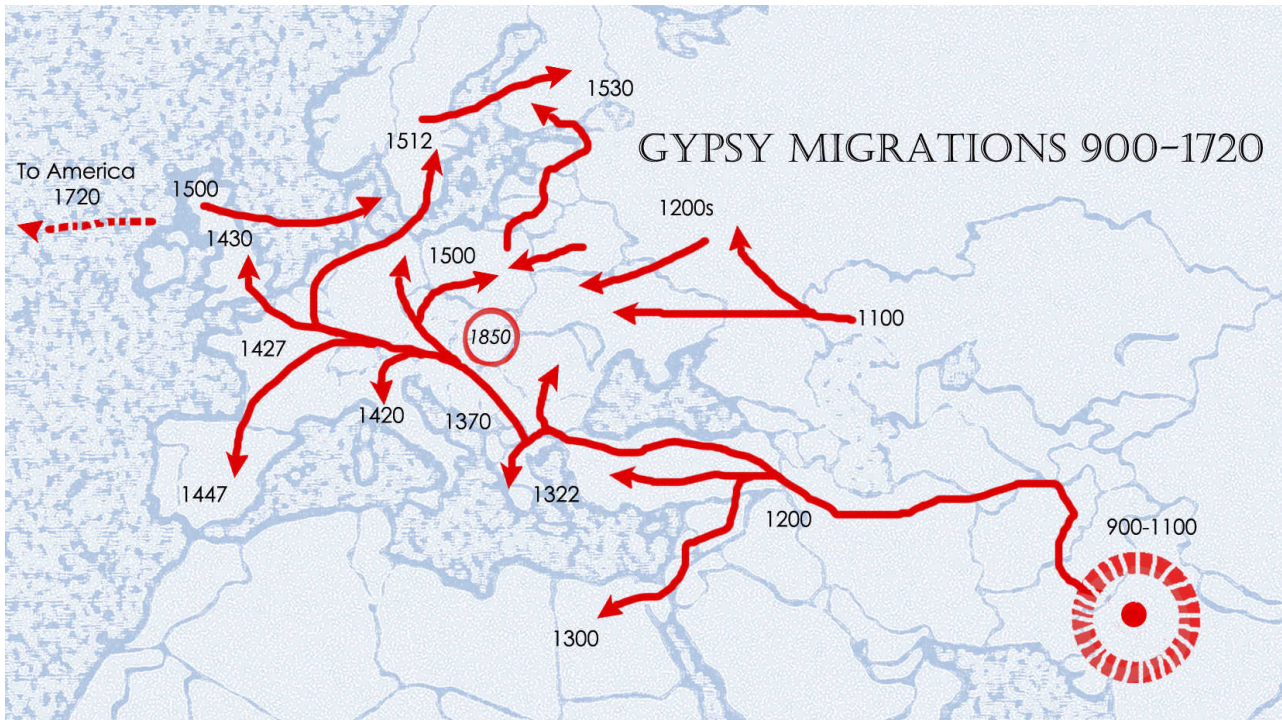
The research in this book was greatly helped by the discovery of another book called 'The Descendants of John and Jemima Elliott' by Vivienne M Halton. It features partial family trees of our ancestors. I was then able to use this information to go even further back. The book is about Gypsy life, which the majority of Elliotts on the paternal line relate to.

Before I get into our ancestors specifically, here is some background on the origins of Gypsies.

People were nomads for 99% of our history, travelling around to survive. About 10,000 years ago, people realised that if they grew crops, harvested and stored them, they would have a better chance of surviving hard times. Settled farming became the norm, but not everyone changed their ways. Many people didn't want to settle down, or faced bad harvests. Droughts, floods or war would send them back on the move.

In Britain, nomadic people were well established by about 1,000 AD. Some travellers worked the land and others were musicians and storytellers who brought entertainment and news to the people of the countryside. Some were horse dealers, tinsmiths and metal workers. For centuries they lived in tents and travelled mostly on foot. Meanwhile, people thousands of miles away called the Roma or Romanies had been travelling West, starting from Northwest India.

The word Roma comes from an old word 'Rom', which means man or husband. It isn't related to Rome or Romania as is commonly thought. In the late 1400s, a group arrived in Scotland and they were received by King James III. They told fortunes



and had exotic looking clothes, darker skin and an Indian language. They were known as ‘Romani’ and stood out from everybody else, and were referred to as ‘Egyptians’, a word that eventually turned into ‘Gypsies’.

As time went on, Gypsies did much of the same work as other travellers. Some were specialists in other trades like wickerwork, charcoal burning, even pearl fishing and snake catching. In the 1500s and 1600s, there were attempts to expel them from the land. In some cases, people were deported across the sea or even hanged for being Gypsies. But by the 1700s, Romany Gypsies lived all over Britain. Some families mixed with the Travellers who were already here. In England and Wales, most nomads lived in tents made from sticks stood in the ground with canvas on top. But some Gypsies and Travellers put their tents on flat carts to keep them off the cold wet ground, and the Traveller wagon was born.

A map of Gypsy migration I found suggests they originated in India in 900-1100, travelling through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. They then snaked through the rest of Europe arriving in England in around 1430.

If you’re wondering how Elliott can have Old English connections when our ancestors came from other places, here’s the explanation. When Gypsies arrived in England from North India in the 15th century, they had to have surnames so they took on names they’d heard in the local population.

Thomas Elliott & Isabella ?

We begin the history of the Elliott's in a small parish called Willoughby On The Wolds in Nottinghamshire. The earliest traceable member of the Elliott lineage is Thomas Elliott who was born here in 1680. Little is known about Thomas, other than his spouse was a woman named Isabella.

To this day only around 500 residents live there, and most of the houses look fairly new, so it's likely that in Thomas and Isabella's time, there would have been very little here apart from fields and a church.

In 1705 Thomas and Isabella had a child called John Elliott, who was also born in Willoughby On The Wolds in Nottinghamshire. The only information available is that Isabella died in 1719 and Thomas Elliott died in 1720.

I have no concrete proof Thomas and Isabella were specifically Gypsies. However, it's highly likely given the research I found for the subsequent generations. The following excerpt called 'The Trouble With Gypsies In Early Modern England' written by David Cressy at Cambridge University, sheds some light on conditions for Gypsies in Nottinghamshire where Thomas and Isabella lived.

"A complex episode from Nottinghamshire in 1591 shows Gypsies in collision with the law, and magistrates in conflict with each other, as they tried to decide how to handle them. As often happens in such cases, the documents shed more light on the authorities themselves than on the subjects of their attention.

The difficulties began in April 1591 when justices William Cardinal and Anthony Neville arrested large numbers of transients, 'called of some Egyptians', who were suspected of local crimes. Gypsy bands more than a hundred strong had gathered around Nottinghamshire villages as they travelled on the Great North Road towards Gainsborough Fair. Villagers accused the Gypsies of pilferage, so the magistrates set them in stir. The Gypsy leader Thomas Jackson stood out with his distinctive blue coat."

John Elliott & Esther (aka Easter) Elliott

John Elliott was born in 1705 in Willoughby On The Wolds and is the only documented child of Thomas Elliott and Isabella. We know that both John's parents died when he was around the age of 14. Though given the short life expectancy of

people living in England at the time, this was not uncommon.

The next record we have of John Elliott is his marriage to Esther (sometimes written as Easter) Elliott on the 27th Dec 1722 in Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

The distance between Willoughby On The Wolds and Cirencester is 95 miles. It is likely John and Esther met while travelling with their respected families. After further research, I found Cirencester has been a location for Gypsy horse fairs since 1476. It attracts hundreds of sightseers to Stow on the Wold twice a year. Gypsies gather from all corners of England for a meet and greet. Horses are paraded and sold.

John Elliott and Esther had five children called Anne Elliott (1735-?), Thomas Elliott (1735-1736), John Elliott (1740-?), Edward Elliott (1743-1802), and William Elliott (1747-?).

In a removal Order dated 1st August 1733, John Elliott & Easter, his wife, and children are conveyed from Gunby, Lincs to the parish of Willoughby on the Wolds, Notts, his last legal place of settlement - Lincs Poor Law KSB EA/1736/40.

It's possible John and Esther had more children that were listed, given the removal order was before five of their children that we do know about were born.

Each parish was responsible to pay for the relief of its own poor. Everyone had a parish of settlement and that was the one liable. If you were not born in a parish you only acquired settlement rights under certain circumstances, such as having worked in the parish for a year. Or if a woman married a man that came from the parish.

If the parish thought that you were likely to become a burden and you did not have settlement rights then they could obtain a removal order. The most likely case was if you become unemployed or sick or for unmarried women who got pregnant. With a removal order, you would be escorted back to your parish of settlement.

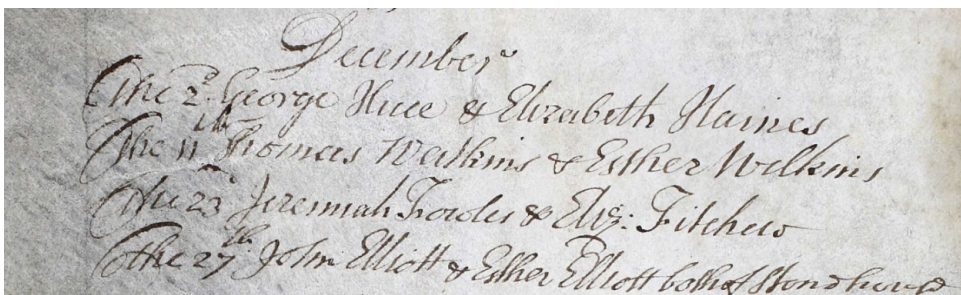
Esther died 1767 back in Willoughby On The Wolds. There is no death record for John.



St Mary & All Saints' Church, in Willoughby On The Wolds. The church is Grade I listed and dates back to the 13th century.



'A Gypsy Encampment' by Leghe Suthers. Painted in 1893.



John & Esther Elliott Marriage Banns, 1722



Stow on the Wold horse fair, 1976. The site has held two horse fairs here every year since 1476.

Edward Elliott & Mary Smart

Edward Elliott was the fourth child born to John Elliott and Esther Elliott in 1743. Like his parents and grandparents before him, Edward was also born in Willoughby On The Wolds.

Edward married Mary Smart on 7th March 1763. Mary was born in the same area in 1745. This the first point at which I'm able to build some background on an Elliott spouse. Mary's parents were Sarah Marie Robinson (1716-1771) and Edward Smart (1708-?), both of whom were born in Kettleby, Leicestershire. The Smart family can be traced to a woman known only as Isabell who was born in 1654.

Edward Elliott and Mary Smart had three sons John Elliott (1764-1841), Thomas Elliott (1775-?), and William Elliott (1775-?).

Edward died in 1802 aged 59. There is no death record for Mary Smart.

In Vivienne's book, she notes: *"A present day descendant has said that the Elliott's go back a long way and that it was on record that in 1746 a Mrs Elliott with three children was stopping in Coate's Lane on the borders of Nottinghamshire. She was in a rod tent, or bender as they are now called and had three boys.*

He said it was also on record that in 1796 an Elliott family was camping four miles further up the road. Joe Elliott, son of Edward (bap 1802) said that his ancestors squatted on 'The Lords Waste' at Willoughby, Leicestershire and that he and his father before him could stay there whenever they liked in consequence."

John Elliott & Jemima Smith

John Elliott was born in 1764 and was the eldest child of Edward Elliott and Mary Smart. He was born in Willoughby, Lincolnshire which is the first time we see our ancestors base themselves in a different location.

In 1791 aged 30, John Elliott married Jemima Smith who also went by the name Mimah. Jemima was born in Medbourne, Leicestershire in 1770. I could only trace Jemima back one generation to her parents which were Joshua Smith (1745-?) and Lydia Sedgely (1743-1789) who was born in Shadwell, Lincolnshire.

John and Jemima had 13 children together which included Ann Elliott (1797-1877), Maria Elliott (1798-1879), Nancy Elliott (1799-?), John Elliott (1800-1856), Edward Elliott (1802-1879), Mary aka Polly Elliott (1803-1879), Thomas Elliott (1806-1829), Lydia Elliott (1808-1892), Joseph Elliott (1810-?), William Elliott (1812-1881), Richard Elliott (1814-?), Jemima Elliott (1816-1849), and Samual Elliott (1819-?).

The book about the Elliott's was written about John and his wife Jemima Smith, and on the cover was a picture of them both which I've included too. What also comes to light at this point is their various run-ins with the law.

In a Settlement Examination of 1815, 'John Ellit' is described as a rogue and vagabond. His trades include a chimney sweeper, tinker and chair bottom maker. He was apprehended in the parish of Ponton with his wife and nine children all in the same tent which was pitched in Hike Dike Road. He believed his settlement to be in the Parish of Willoughby where he resided since his birth in the winter season, going out in the summer season to follow in the above trades. His son John is examined at



John Elliott & Jemima Smith. Four generations back from Ethel Elliott (1887-1957).

the same time. - Extracted from Lincs Poor Law

On the 18th October 1847, 18-year-old Thomas Elliott, son of Thomas Elliott (1806-1829) and grandson of John and Jemima was convicted of stealing a horse at the Holland Sessions in Boston. The courts had the choice between whippings, fines, imprisonment, transportation or death for convicts.

Thomas is sentenced to 10 years transportation. He sailed on a ship called Rodney on the 19th September 1851, heading to Van Diemen's Land (now known as Tasmania) off the southern coast of Australia. Thomas was one of 300 convicts on the ship.

Here's an extract I found from The Maritime Museum of Tasmania that explains further: *"When Britain lost its American colonies in 1776 she also lost a handy depository for unwanted convicts. The criminal population had been rising exponentially as a result of major social upheavals caused by the Industrial Revolution – and Britain's gaols were overflowing. The creation of convict colonies at Sydney Cove in 1788, followed by Van Diemen's Land in 1803, was a solution to this problem."*

Name	Where convicted	When	Years of pen
William Bayler	Leicester Assize at Leicester 26 March 1809		Seven
William Read	Lincoln (Boston) Quarter Sessions	6 April 1806	Ten
Joseph Curtis	(do) do	7 April 1806	Seventeen
Richard Roberts	Assize at Lincoln 22 July 1806		Eighteen
Thomas Elliott	(Boston) Quarter Sessions	10 October 1807	Ten
John Westmoreland	(do) do	26 Jan. 1808	Five
William Chapman Bartholomew	Assize at Lincoln 8 March 1809		Seven Commuted

Thomas Elliott is found guilty of stealing a horse in 1847. He is sentenced to 10 years transportation.

Seventy-five thousand convicts arrived in Van Diemen's Land before transportation ended in 1868 and Van Diemen's Land became Tasmania. Many convicts obtained tickets of leave after seven years but remained in exile for the terms of their natural lives. However, their families were often able to join them and they could purchase land. Given these opportunities were never available to them in Britain, many prospered. Nowadays many Tasmanians are proud of their convict ancestry."

Thomas Elliott died in 1905 in Queensland, Australia which would have made him around 76 at the time of death. I couldn't find any marriage or children listed for Thomas. The Australian census records don't state where the person was born so I was unable to narrow this down to find his family. But, if I ever come across any further information about Thomas I'll add this onto the Ancestry tree.

Back home in England, Thomas's grandfather John Elliott died in 1841 aged 87 in either North Witham Lincolnshire or Whatton In The Vale, Nottinghamshire (records differ between Vivienne's book and Ancestry). Jemima Smith died aged 77 in 1847 in Willoughby On The Wolds, Nottinghamshire which is where previous generations of the Elliotts resided. They likely continued to travel back and forth here throughout their lives.

Edward Elliott & Mercy Smith

Edward Elliott was the fifth child born to John Elliott and Jemima Smith in 1802 in Willoughby in Lincolnshire. While the location sounds similar to Willoughby On The Wolds, it is in fact in Lincolnshire, not Nottinghamshire.

On the 26th September 1825, Edward married Mary Smith in Buckminster, Leicestershire.

Mercy (also known as Martha or Mary) Smith was born in Great Ponton, Lincolnshire to William Smith and Juday Brown. It's likely Edward and Mercy met at a similar Gypsy horse fair held in Leicestershire similar to the Elliotts before them.

Edward and Mercy had 13 children named William Elliott (1827-1828), James Elliott (1829-1903), Francis Elliott (1839-1913), Charlotte Elliott (1833-1924), Samuel Elliott (1834-?), Joseph Elliott (1837-1924), Julia Elliott (1839-1878), Sarah Elliott (1839-?), Arnold Elliott (1842-1924), John Elliott (1844-1844), Jemima Elliott (1846-1905), Harriet Elliott (1848-?), and Christopher Elliott (1851-1875).

EDWARD & MERCY ELLIOTT

Edward Elliott
 Bap: 31 Jan 1802 in Willoughby on the Wolds, NOT
 Died: 25 Dec 1879 in Louth, LIN

Mercy Smith
 a.k.a. Martha
 Bap: 3 May 1807 in Great Ponton, LIN
 Marcy d/o James & Julia [nfd, IGI & BT inc. trans.]
 Marr: 26 Sep 1825 in Buckminster, LEI
 Died: 29 Jul 1879 in Louth, LIN

(see John & Jemima Elliott tree)

(see James & Julia Smith tree)

Edward died in Brackenborough Lane, Louth, age 79, formerly horse dealer; (x) Selina Ellett, daughter in law. Mercy died at Monks Dyke, Louth, age 72, wife of Edward Elliott, horse dealer; (x) Selina Elliott, daughter, Brackenborough Lane

Edward Elliot, otp, bach, & Morsey Smith, otp, sp, by banns. Wits: Samuel Smith & Lusher [Louisa?] Smith

William Elliott
 Bap: 28 Jul 1827 in Crowland, LIN
 s/o Edward & Martha Ellet, Crowland, Traveller

Samuel Elliott
 Bap: 18 Sep 1834 in Little Steeping, LIN
 s/o Edward & Mercy, Travelling Tinker

John Elliott
 Bap: 17 Nov 1844 in Rigsby with Ailby, LIN
 s/o Edward & Martha, Rigsby temporary, Gipsy
 Died: 23 Dec 1844 in Boston Fen, LIN

Joseph Ellett (x), fa, bac, horse dealer, Louth, father Edward Ellett, horse dealer; Eliza Gray (x) fa, sp, Louth, father John Gray, horse dealer. Wits: William Smith (x), Jane Smith (x)

James Elliott = **Charlotte Brown**
 Bap: 18 Oct 1829 in Sapperton, LIN
 s/o Edward & Mercy Elliott, Willoughby, Notts, Tinker
 Bap: 29 Sep 1833 in Elm, CAM
 illeg. d/o Uretta Brown, single woman

(see James Elliott tree)

Victoria Gray = **Joseph Elliott**
 a.k.a. Wikki
 Bap: 22 Jul 1838 in Moorby, LIN
 d/o John & Harriet, Gipsy encamped in the parish of Revesby [?]
 Marr: 9 Nov 1874 in Louth, LIN
 Bap: 29 Jan 1837 in Candlesby, LIN
 s/o Edward & Martha Elliott, encamped in the lanes adjoining Candlesby; Gypsies.
 [Same day as cousin Thomas s/o William & Harriett Elliott]

(see John Gray family)

Ellen Gray ²
 a.k.a. Dinah
 Bap: 12 Jun 1842 in Scredington, LIN
 [baptised as Dinah?]
 d/o Christopher & Maria Gray, Scredington Lane, Traveller
 Marr: 15 Dec 1883 in Grantham, LIN

(see Christopher & Maria Gray tree)

Sarah Mills ¹
 Born: 18 May 1839 in Newark, NOT
 d/o Robert Mills, potseller, & Susan Mills, formerly Orwood; Ann Holland (x), occupier, Water Lane, Newark
 Bap: 23 May 1839 in Newark, NOT
 d/o Robert & Susan Milnes, Newark, potter
 Died: 13 Aug 1882 in Louth, LIN

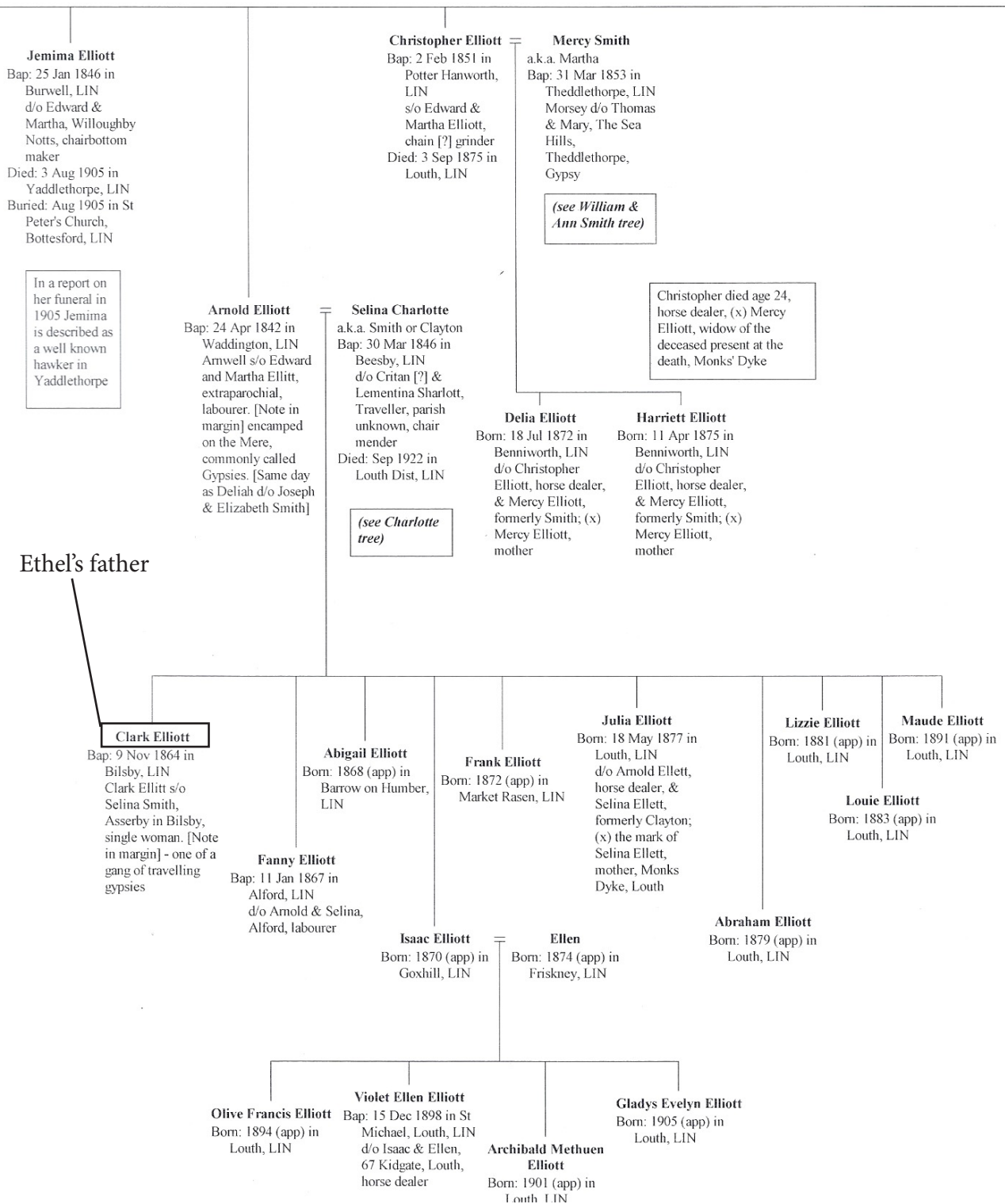
Francis Elliott
 Bap: 15 Apr 1832 in Sproxtton, LEI
 s/o Edward & Martha Elliott, (confined in the Mere, Great [?] Lane dividing Leicestershire & Lincolnshire) Tinker
 Died: 4 Jan 1913 in Potter Hanworth Moor, LIN
 Buried: 6 Jan 1913 in St Andrews Church, Potter Hanworth, LIN

(see Francis Elliott tree)

Julia Elliott = **John Smith**
 Bap: 2 Jun 1839 in Timberland, LIN
 d/o Edward & Martha Hellett, Gypsies
 Died: 13 Dec 1878 in Louth, LIN
 a.k.a. Booth
 Bap: 26 Mar 1837 in Lugborough, LIN
 s/o Abraham* & Mary, Ludborough, travelling Gipsy;
 *the father dead

(see Smith/Booth tree)

Edward & Mercy
Elliott cont'd



Edward's occupation was a horse dealer. In the 1861 census, Edward and Mercy were living with 15 others in Alford. This includes all of their children ranging from age two to 30 as well as two boarders called John Smith and Sarah Brown. Edward is listed as the head of the family and their collective occupation was 'Gypsies'.

Edward Elliott died on 25th December 1879 in Brackenborough Road Louth, Lincolnshire aged 77. This was four years after the death of his youngest child Christopher in 1875. Mercy died in 1879 also aged 77 in Louth, Lincolnshire.

Arnold Elliott & Selina Charlotte (aka Smith/Clayton)

Arnold Elliott was born in 1842 in Waddington, Lincolnshire. He was the ninth out of 11 children born to Edward Elliott and Mercy (aka Martha or Mary) Smith. When Arnold was baptised his address was listed as 'encamped on the Mere'. There is a 'Mere Road' in Waddington and the houses look fairly new, so it's possible back when Arnold was born this was just a patch of land known as 'the Mere' where his family camped on.

Each of Arnold's siblings was born in different locations around Lincolnshire. As it is in today's times, Gypsies were social misfits and frequently got in trouble just for walking around. People wanted them to move on away from their land.

In the 1861 census, 19-year-old Arnold was living in Alford with 16 others, with their occupations simply listed as 'Gypsies'. Though, in keeping with the Gypsy way of filling in documents, Arnold's birthplace had now changed to 'Bloxholme'. The next we hear from Arnold is in 1875 aged 33 when he married Selina Charlotte (aka Smith or Clayton). On their wedding certificate, Selina's father's profession is listed as a 'labourer' and Arnold's father as a 'horse dealer'.

1875. Marriage solemnized at <i>S. Michael's Church</i> in the Parish of <i>South</i> in the County of <i>Lincoln</i>							
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Parents, Names and Surnames
87	9 April 1875	<i>Hornhill Elliott</i>	33	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Horse Dealer</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Edward Elliott</i> <i>Horn Dealer</i>
		<i>Selina Clayton</i>	29	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>South</i>	<i>(Name omitted)</i> <i>Becky Shuttle</i> <i>Labourer</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by <i>James Moore</i> Minister of the Gospel and after <i>Reading</i> by the							
This Marriage was solemnized between us		<i>Hornhill Elliott (his name)</i> <i>Selina Clayton (her name)</i>		in the Presence of us, <i>John Smith (his name)</i> <i>James Moore (her name)</i>		<i>Et Gaudere</i> <i>James Moore</i>	

The marriage of Arnold (misspelled as 'Hornhill') Elliott and Selina Clayton, 1875.

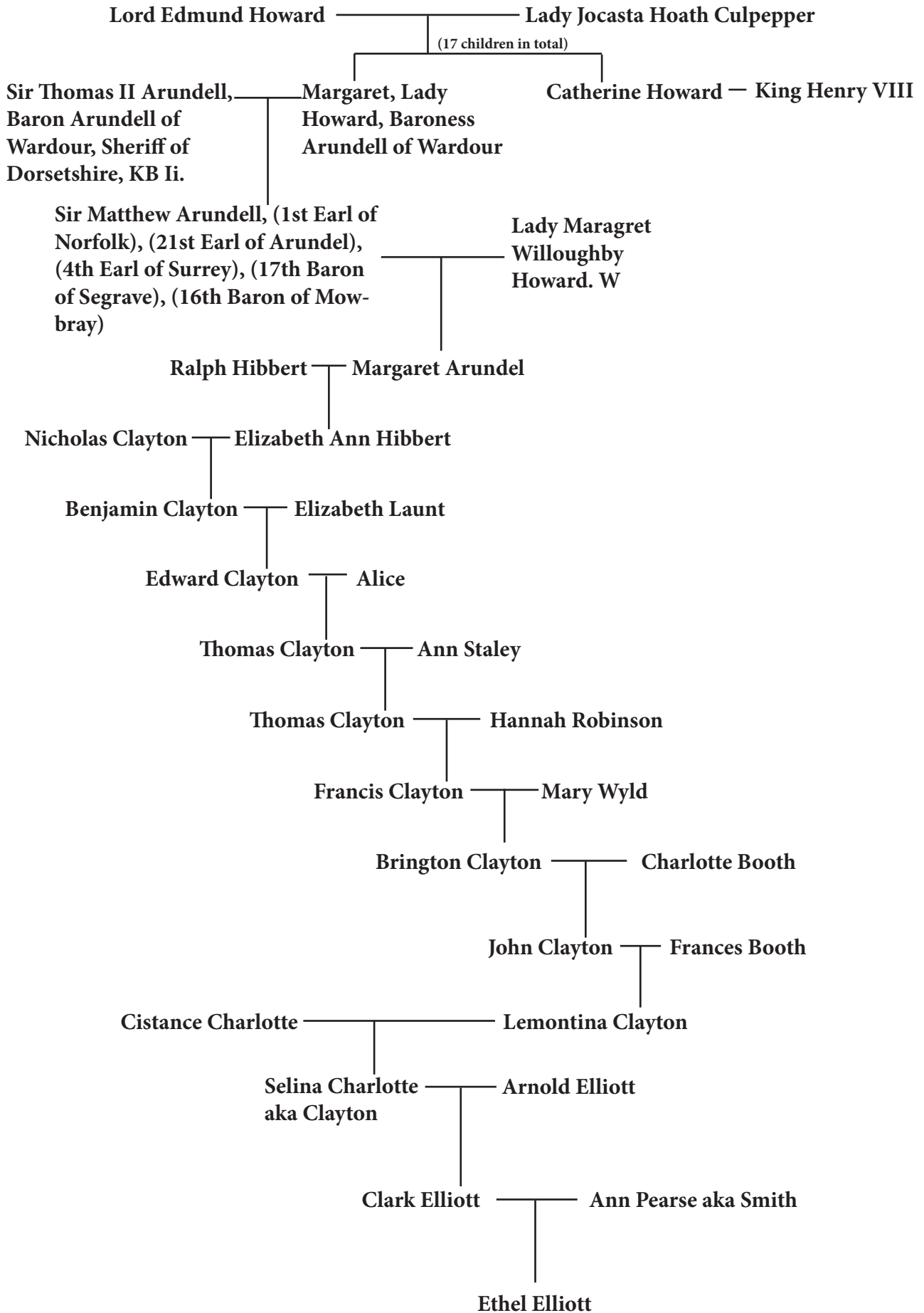
Parish or Township of <i>Ulceby Melby</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Hamlet of		County		Village		
No. of House	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Idiots	
					Male	Female				
42	<i>North Field</i>	<i>Edward Wright</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>57</i>		<i>Farmer of 110 Acres employs 2 Lab</i>	<i>Leicester Rutland Leicestershire</i>		
		<i>Eliza Do</i>	<i>Mother</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>79</i>			<i>Do. Rutland</i>		
		<i>Anne Williamson</i>	<i>Sister</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>53</i>			<i>Do. Rutland</i>		
		<i>Edward Farrow</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>35</i>			<i>Agl. Lab</i>	<i>Do. Wootton</i>	
		<i>Paul Cross Bell</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>16</i>			<i>Agl. Lab</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>	
		<i>Jane Farrow</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>16</i>			<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Ulceby</i>	
43	<i>1st Railway Station</i>	<i>Ernest Bell</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>47</i>		<i>Station Master</i>	<i>Do. Rutland</i>		
		<i>Diana Do</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>47</i>			<i>Do. Rutland</i>		
		<i>Frederick Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>18</i>		<i>Cordwainer</i>	<i>Do. Wootton</i>		
		<i>Charles Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>14</i>		<i>Agl. Lab.</i>	<i>Do. Wootton</i>		
		<i>Mary Ann Do</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>12</i>			<i>Do. Wootton</i>		
		<i>Joseph Alfred Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>11</i>		<i>Agl. Lab.</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>John Albert Do</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>8</i>			<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Anne Duffell</i>	<i>Niece</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>10</i>				<i>Do. England</i>	
44	<i>Encamped Lane</i>	<i>Sistance Charlot</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Gypies (Shower Maker)</i>	<i>Leicester</i>		
		<i>Lemontina Boswell Charlot</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>26</i>		<i>Gypies and Maker</i>	<i>Leicester</i>		
		<i>Joseph Charlot</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>7</i>			<i>Leicester</i>		
		<i>Selina Charlot</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>5</i>			<i>Do. Leicestershire</i>		
		<i>James Charlot</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>2</i>			<i>Do. Leicestershire</i>		
45		<i>Henry Booth</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>Gypies (Cotton Peg Maker)</i>	<i>Nottingham Leicestershire</i>		
Total of Houses		I 2 U B		Total of Persons		80				

The 1851 census, showing a 5-year-old Selina Clayton, wife of Arnold Elliott living with her parents Sistance Charlot and Lemontina Boswell Charlot. They were listed as 'encamped' in a street in Ulceby, Lincolnshire.

Selina Charlotte was born in Beesby in Lincolnshire and was the second of eight children born to Cystance Charlotte (spellings differ) and Lementina Clayton. I was able to trace Selina's family back 10 generations on her paternal side which led me to John Rede (1557-1588) and Johanna Wakam (1557-1584) from Wiltshire. Throughout the generations, her family had lived in various places such as Kent, Warminster, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire.

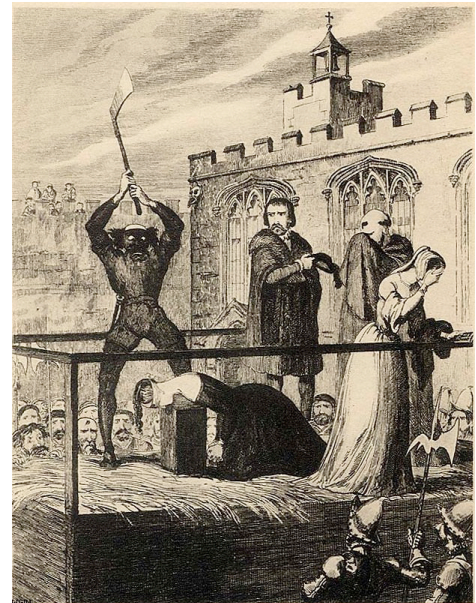
I also traced Selina's ancestry on her maternal side. I was able to go 15 generations back, which for context is 17 generations back from Ethel Elliott. Having spent around two years researching the Elliott's, and their destitute Gypsy escapades I expected to find more of the same.

However, Selina Charlotte, wife of Arnold Elliott, is in fact, related to two of Henry VIII's wives, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard on her maternal side. That makes her related to three Queens of England, two of whom were married to King Henry VIII and the other was Anne Boleyn's daughter with Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I.





Lady Catherine Howard, fifth wife of Henry VIII, who is a relation of Selina Charlotte aka Clayton.



Catherine's execution, on the 13 February 1542 at the Tower of London.

The family line can be traced to some very notable names including Sir John Chidiocke (1375-1415) who died in the battle of Agincourt.

Catherine Howard's paternal grandfather was Sir John Arundell II, Knight of the Bath, Knight Bachelor. On her maternal side, Catherine's parents were Lord Edmund Howard and Lady Jocasta Oxen Hoath Culpepper. One of the reasons King Henry VIII ordered Catherine's execution was because of her affair with Thomas Culpepper, who was also her cousin.

As you would expect, the whole family line from Catherine Howard features various significant historical figures. This includes Margaret D'Arcy, who was born in 1320 and who lived in Stallingborough, Lincolnshire, close to where many of the Elliott descendants live today. The D'Arcy family stem from various French aristocrats. Eventually, the family line leads back to Heytir Gorr Son, born in Norway in 425AD. Just for context, that's about 1,600 years ago!

I will certainly put some further research into our royal ancestors and add this to the tree. I'm sure Anne Boylen's family (cousin of Catherine) will throw up some interesting names too.

As we can see, although the Claytons were prominent Gypsies in the later generations, their way of life was of stark contrast earlier on, when they moved in much higher circles. This is very different to the Elliott line, who as far as I could go

back were always Gypsies. One explanation is the fact they all came from huge families. The Howard's themselves had 17 children, and so it's unlikely each of them also went on to be wealthy, especially if everything is only bequeathed to the oldest son as it often was in those days.

The royal court was worlds away from Gypsy Selina Charlotte aka Clayton, who unknowingly was a distant descendant of such famous historical figures. Though ironically, when two of Selina's inlaws were arrested for being drunk and disorderly (Eldred and Israel Smith), it was printed in the Stamford Mercury newspaper report that they claimed to be of royal blood.

Arnold and Selina had 10 children in total. Their names were Clark Elliott (1864-1897), Fanny Elliott (1867-1890), Abigail Elliott (1868-1869), Isaac Elliott (1870-1948), Frank Elliott (1872-1949), Julia Elliott (1877-1957), Abraham Elliott (1879-1951), Lizzie Elliott (1881-1948), Louie Elliott (1882-?), and Maude Elliott (1891-1940).

In the 1891 census, 46-year-old Arnold lists his occupation as a horse dealer and innkeeper of The Rising Sun Inn, Queen Street, Louth, where the family is also living. Along with wife Selina, Arnold is living with nine of his children and three lodgers.

Arnold's birthplace has now changed to 'Willoughby, Nottinghamshire', where coincidentally his ancestors were born but not him. Though, we know it's him because on each census he is living with the same large group of people in the same small town. As previously mentioned, Gypsies often call themselves different names and never fill out documents consistently.

In The Stamford Mercury published on the 6th of July 1894, Arnold features in the newspaper court briefs. This time he is no longer a horse dealer but the publican of The Jolly Sailor in Louth, which is located at 47 Eastgate in the town. The pub ran between 1782 and 1970 and although the building remains to this day it's now a charity shop.

Arnold's charge was selling alcohol outside the prohibited hours. In his defence, Arnold stated the brandy was needed for an ill woman, and that it was not him who sold it but his daughter, and that as she is not a licensee he or she cannot be charged for the crime. He described himself as a 'respectable' man who should not be convicted in circumstances like these. The jury allowed Arnold to appeal the case but with costs.



Record Transcription:

1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census

The Rising Sun Inn, Queen Street, Louth, Lincolnshire, England

[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Arnold	Elliott	Head	Married	Male	46	1845	Horse Dealer & Innkeeper	Willoughby, Nottinghamshire, England
Selina	Elliott	Wife	Married	Female	43	1848	-	Alford, Lincolnshire, England
Charles	Elliott	Son	Single	Male	26	1865	Agricultural Labourer	Alford, Lincolnshire, England
Isaac	Elliott	Son	Single	Male	21	1870	Agricultural Labourer	Goxhill, Lincolnshire, England
Frank	Elliott	Son	Single	Male	19	1872	Ostler	Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, England
Julia	Elliott	Daughter	-	Female	14	1877	-	Louth, Lincolnshire, England
Abraham	Elliott	Son	-	Male	12	1879	Scholar	Louth, Lincolnshire, England
Lizzie	Elliott	Daughter	-	Female	10	1881	Scholar	Louth, Lincolnshire, England
Lilie	Elliott	Daughter	-	Female	8	1883	Scholar	Louth, Lincolnshire, England
Mercy	Elliott	Daughter	-	Female	1	1890	-	Louth, Lincolnshire, England
Fred	Smith	Lodger	Widower	Male	66	1825	Miller	Halifax, Yorkshire, England
James	Dunn	Lodger	Married	Male	60	1831	Grocer Merchant	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England
Charlotte	Dunn	Lodger	Married	Female	63	1828	-	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England



Left: The Rising Sun Inn in Louth, where The Elliott's lived in 1891. The pub is next to The Turk's Head. Right: The former Jolly Sailor pub, where they lived in 1894.

Two years later in 1896, Arnold and Selina's eldest son Clark Elliott died aged 32. But not before fathering a daughter with Ann Smith. The child was Ethel Elliott who would have been around nine years old at the time of her father's death.

When I ordered Clark's birth certificate it said 'Clark Ellett' died from 'phthisis pulmonalis' which is the archaic way of saying tuberculosis. In modern medicine, it takes six months of antibiotics to cure TB and these weren't even invented until around 30 years after Clark died. We will cover more about Clark later in this book after he meets Ann Smith of Horncastle.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Louth</i>									
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Louth</i>									
1896 DEATHS in the Sub-District of <i>Louth</i> in the County of <i>Lincoln</i>									
No.	1. When and Where Died.	2. Name and Surname.	3. Sex.	4. Age.	5. Rank or Profession.	6. Cause of Death.	7. Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	8. When registered	9. Signature of Registrar.
321	<i>Thiriot December 1896 Eastgate Louth 49.</i>	<i>Clark Elliott</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>32 years</i>	<i>Horse Dealer</i>	<i>Phthisis pulmonalis 3 months certified by Charles J. Myers M.R.C.S.</i>	<i>A pickering present at the death 13 Rue Street Louth</i>	<i>Thirty first December 1896</i>	<i>Charles Wilson Registrar</i>

The death certificate of Clark Elliott, who died in 1896 aged 32.

In January 1900, Arnold and his brother Joseph put an advert in The Stamford Mercury to sell Arnold's land in Louth which he put up for auction. It states that Arnold was still at The Jolly Sailor at this time. Given that he owned a pub and had a vast amount of land, it would suggest Arnold had turned his fortunes around from his humble Gypsy beginnings. In the 1911 census, Arnold was 76 and living at James Street, Louth.

In 1922, Arnold's wife Selena died aged 76, and her cause of death was a stroke and bedsores. Her death was reported by her son Abraham Elliott, who listed her place of death as 52 Aswell Street in Louth, which was one of five properties owned by her husband Arnold in the same street, and was where Abraham lived. Two years later in August 1924, Arnold also died at the same address. Arnold's cause of death was chronic constipation. When Arnold died he left £2,037 in his three page will, which is equivalent to £124,771.73 in today's money.

Arnold died within months of his brother Joseph Elliott, who also left a three page will, and as he appeared not to have had any children with his wife Victoria Gray (who died in 1916), he left everything he owned to his brother Arnold and his children. Joseph left his niece Maud Elliott (Arnold's daughter) a house, buildings and



76 James Street Louth, where Arnold Elliott and wife Selina lived in 1911.



52 Aswell Street Louth, where Arnold Elliott and wife Selina died in 1922.

land situated on the Brackenborough Road, with the condition that she did not sell or mortgage the buildings in her lifetime. To his brother Arnold, he left his farm at Legbourne comprising of 163 acres of land, including the houses and buildings standing on it. He also left a cottage, buildings and land in the parish of Stewton, as well as all his personal possessions.

However, a clause in Joseph's will stated that if Arnold died before him (which he sadly did) then everything should be left to Arnold's children instead. This list of children should have included Arnold's oldest child Clark (or his descendants). But, as Clark died young this was not the case.

Though, the fact that Arnold managed to make the leap from being born into a poor Gypsy life and dying a rich man with property, money and lots of assets is remarkable. One clue could lie where he was based for most of his life - the Lincolnshire cattle town of Louth.

To this day, a cattle market is held every Thursday at the Louth Livestock Centre. As a horse dealer, it couldn't be a better area to set up a business because horses are exactly what people came to the area for. In the days before cars, horses were how people got around and transported goods between other areas. As the land of Lincolnshire is mostly used for farming animals or growing crops, this would have been ideal for Arnold's business. However, how he scaled his business from nothing and became a successful entrepreneur remains an intriguing mystery.

As for what became of Arnold and Selina's children (Clark's siblings) they had some interesting records too. Isaac Elliott (spelt as 'Ellett') served in WW1 in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in Woolwich. Horses were vital as they were needed to perform cavalry roles. Horses were also important in the war for moving supplies, equipment, guns and ammunition. Isaac's role was that of a 'Groom' which consisted of mucking out horses as well as feeding and looking after their welfare. Isaac was awarded a medal for his contributions.

Frank Elliott had approximately (records differ) 14 children with wife Emily Wright who he married in 1898. I was able to find their wedding photographs. He named one of his sons after his late brother Clark (Ethel's father), who sadly died as a baby.

Julia Elliott married a German man named Frederick Kustner, whose profession was a farrier (someone who looks after horse hooves). They had four children together, called Julia (1895-1990), Harry Harold (1899-1904), Redvers Frederick (1900-1900) and Marguerite Freda (1905-1978). Julia died aged 70 at 15 Raynville Terrace in Leeds, Yorkshire. Coincidentally Julia was born and died in the exact same years as her niece, Ethel Elliott.

Abraham Elliott had two children with Nellie Smith called Frank Elliott Smith (1909-1982) and Herbert Smith (1917-1978). Abraham then married Susan Mary Webster in 1930. He died aged 51 in Nottingham. Abraham's cause of death was acute nephritis which is inflammation of the kidneys that eventually leads to kidney failure.

Lizzie (also known as Elizabeth) Elliott married Samuel Goodwin, and they had five children named Dorothy May Goodwin (1909-2012), Henry Frederick Goodwin (1910-1980), Louise Goodwin (1913-2001), Maud Goodwin (1916-1938) and Margaret Goodwin (1919-2001). In the 1911 census, Lizzie was living at 6 Hargrave Street in Grimsby.

A record for Maud Elliott suggests she travelled to Australia for work aged 36, with her occupation listed as 'home duties'. Though, she died back home in Louth in 1940 aged 49. I could not find any marriage or children for her.

Army Form B. 2505

SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War).

ATTESTATION OF

No. 11201 Name Isaac Elliott Corps ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name? Isaac Elliott
2. What is your full Address? 45 Highholme Rd South East
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 45
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Asst. Surg. R.A.M.C.
6. Are you Married? Yes
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, army or navy, at any time? No
8. Are you willing to do 24 months' military training? Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for the term of Service? Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice and did you understand its meaning, and was given to you by Wm. Taylor (Name) Surgeon (Rank) Regt. (Corps) Army Veterinary Corps
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions as prescribed by His Majesty's Statute in this behalf and to observe the Regulations of His Majesty's Army? Yes

I, Isaac Elliott do hereby declare that the above answers made by me are true and correct and that I understand the meaning of the same.

Signature of Recruit: Isaac Elliott
Signature of Soldier: William Taylor

DATE OF ENLISTMENT 15 JUL 1915

CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE BY AN OFFICER.

I, Wm. Taylor do hereby certify that the above answers made by Isaac Elliott are true and correct and that I understand the meaning of the same.

Signature of Officer: Wm. Taylor

DATE: 15 JUL 1915

Isaac Elliott WW1 service record.

BE IT KNOWN that Joseph Elliott
of Louth in the County of Lincoln

who at the time of his death had a fixed place of abode at Louth aforesaid within the District of the County of Lincoln died on the 18th day of December 1914

AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that at the date hereunder written the last will and Testament

of the said deceased was proved and registered in the District Probate Registry of His Majesty's High Court of Justice at Lincoln and that administration of all the estate which by law devolves to and vests in the personal representative of the said deceased was granted by the aforesaid Court to Lucia Peck of 52 Arwell Street Louth aforesaid wife of John William Peck niece of deceased to administer

in the said will

Dated the 21st day of January 1915

Great Seal of Estate: 2315-18-6
No. of Personal Estate: 248-13-3

Extracted by J. W. Roberts
Collector Louth.

Joseph Elliott will.

Age on enlistment 45 yrs

Form B. 103. Embarked England 28/10
Disemb. Alexandria 10/3/15

Casualty Form Active Service.

CLASSIFICATION A

Regimental No. 11201 Rank Keeper Name Isaac Elliott

Enlisted (a) 25-7-15 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 25-7-15

Date of promotion to present rank 13-10-16 Date of appointment to lance rank 12-11-17 Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.s. 2209

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 118, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Reference taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
<u>2.10.15</u>	<u>O.C. 1166</u>	<u>Proceeding to Bahariya Camp for detachment</u>	<u>Alexandria</u>	<u>30.9.15</u>	<u>Nov. Roll B. 213 1166</u>
<u>15.9.16</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>Posted to No 2 Camel Hosp. for course of Instruction</u>	<u>Mussina</u>	<u>11.9.16</u>	<u>B. 213 1166</u>
<u>22.10.16</u>	<u>O.C. 20 Hos.</u>	<u>Appointed paid A/C Corp with effect from 13-10-16 to complete War Post</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>13.10.16</u>	<u>B. 213 1166</u>
<u>28.11.16</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>Proceeded to Zeiloum to gain 3 Camel Hospital and attach off strength accordingly</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>21.11.16</u>	<u>B. 213 1166</u>
<u>---</u>	<u>O.C. 1 Camel Hospital</u>	<u>Attached pending completion of No. 3 Camel Hospital from No. 2 Camel Hospital</u>	<u>Zeiloum</u>	<u>22.11.16</u>	<u>B. 213 1166</u>
<u>3-12-16</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>Posted to 3 Camel Hosp. for duty</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>2-12-16</u>	<u>B. 213 1166</u>

Isaac Elliott WWI casualty form.



R: Hilda Elliott, niece of Clark Elliott. L: Emily Wright, sister in law of Clark.



R: Frank Elliott Smith, son of Abraham Elliott. Nephew of Clark Elliott.



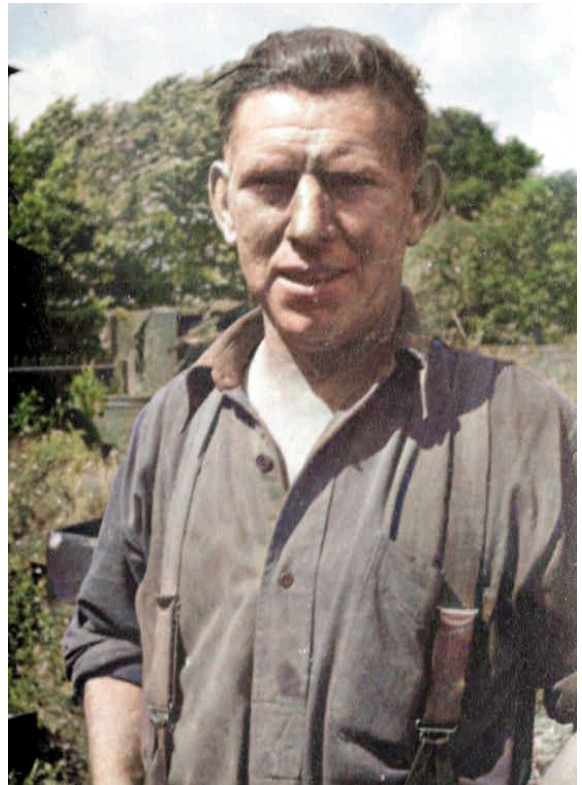
R: Abraham Elliott (1904-1974), nephew of Clark Elliott. L: 'Nancy'



Samuel Elliott on his wedding day to Frances Annie Widdowson in 1930.



Frank Elliott, nephew of Clark Elliott.



Abraham Elliott (1904-1974), nephew of Clark Elliott.



Selina, Hilda & Louie Elliott. Daughter's of Francis Elliott, and nieces of Clark Elliott.



L: Samuel Elliott, son of Francis Elliott and nephew of Clark Elliott. R: Francis Elliott, brother of Clark, maternal uncle of Ethel.

Clark Elliott & Ann Pearse aka Smith

Clark Elliott was the oldest child born to Arnold Elliott and Selina Charlotte in 1846. His birthplace is listed as Asserby, Lincolnshire. Though in some records it is also listed as Spilsby/Bilsby in Lincolnshire (same parents and birthday, so again, definitely him!).

Tracing Ethel's father to be able to fill out the rest of the tree that you've just read through was tough. All I had to go on was Ethel and Walter's marriage certificate, which says that Ethel's father was a man called Clark Elliott, who was a horse dealer. It appears the word 'deceased' is written alongside his name.

I searched every kind of online archive I could find, but couldn't find any trace of him. I did the most creative thing you could do in this situation.... Google it. Low and behold, I found a book I mentioned at the start of this book, entitled 'The Descendants of John & Jemima Elliott and Related Families'.

Amazingly, when the book arrived I opened it on the exact page for 'Clark Elliott'. In official documents, he usually spells his name as 'Ellett' which is why I couldn't find him. The rest of the book covers all his relatives going back many generations, which is how I was able to fill in the gaps for the rest of his family. It then became clear the Elliotts descend from a long line of Gypsies who have no fixed way of spelling their names or recording their date of birth.

There were only two men named Clark Elliott who lived in the Lincolnshire area at the time that could have been possible to be Ethel's father. After further research, I found the first Clark Elliott died aged five in Caistor so it couldn't have been him. The other died aged 32 in Louth and when I researched his relatives in the book they were all from the area. The photographs I found of the Elliotts had a striking resemblance to our family too. However, in the book Clark's branch was empty. There were no spouses or children listed for him which means either he didn't know he had a daughter or did but it wasn't common knowledge.

There is no marriage listed for Clark, which added even more complexity onto the situation.

Given he wasn't married to Ethel's mother, this suggests a brief dalliance rather than a serious relationship. It could have also been frowned upon to have a child out of wedlock, or Clark could have been uninterested in raising a child. We'll never know.

As Clark died young at just 32, there isn't much in the way of information about him, other than some newspaper cuttings. They paint the picture of a man who was frequently in trouble with the police.

In May 1885, Clark was charged for poaching in Brackenborough and in October of the same year he was charged for trespassing in Tathwell. The following year he was charged for fighting in Eastgate. In the same year that his daughter Ethel was born, Clark was charged for being drunk on licensed premises in Saltfleet. Throughout his numerous court appearances, Clark was either fined or sentenced to manual labour.

While no pictures exist of Clark I was able to find pictures of his relatives at various family occasions. If it hadn't been for Ethel's wedding certificate stating Clark was her father, and the book written by Vivienne about the Elliott's of Lincolnshire with Clark's family tree in it, I doubt anyone would have been able to trace who he was because so little documentation exists linking them, so both were very lucky finds.

Now Ethel's father's side of the tree had been uncovered, the next confusing part was discovering who Ethel's mother was. This took me about two years to solve as there's no marriage certificate for Clark and no birth certificate for Ethel, making tracing her parents practically impossible. Ethel herself died before my mum was born, and I never had any conversations about Ethel with her daughter (my grandmother) Olive.

What I did know is Ethel had a sister called Betsy, and so I started adding the names 'Ethel' and 'Betsy' into the Horncastle census records. This is because Olive always stated her mother was from there. At first, I did so with the surname 'Elliott', but this wasn't bringing up any results. So, I took the surnames off because after reading Vivienne's book, it was clear that Gypsies were very flexible about what they called themselves.

When I searched for an 'Ethel' and 'Betsy' living under the same roof, I found a census from 1901 which found an 'Ethel Smith' living with a group of people, which matched a description of an 1891 census which also caught my attention. Most notably, it included a boarder named 'Ellis Elliott'. It appeared Ethel's mother was Ann Smith, and the family lived with Ann's parents Eldred and Misseretti. At first, I was cautious to accept this as correct because as far as I knew, Ethel's surname was always Elliott. But the boarder whose surname was 'Elliott' stuck out to me. It was too much of a coincidence to have someone named 'Elliott' in the house. Not only that, but the profession of two of the occupants was a 'Horse Dealer' which was the profession of Clark that was listed on Ethel's marriage certificate to Walter.



Record Transcription:

1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census
Cagthorpe, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, England

[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Eldred	Smith	Head	Married	Male	66	1825	Horse Dealer	Lincolnshire, England
Morrette	Smith	Wife	Married	Female	62	1829	-	Lincolnshire, England
Ann	Smith	Daughter	Single	Female	28	1863	-	Lincolnshire, England
Mary	Smith	Daughter	Single	Female	18	1873	-	Lincolnshire, England
Ethel	Smith	Daughter	-	Female	3	1888	-	Lincolnshire, England
Ellis	Elliott	Boarder	Single	Male	65	1826	Horse Dealer	Horsington, Lincolnshire, England

The 1891 census showing Eldred and ‘Morette’ Smith. Ann Smith was Ethel’s mother, and Mary was Ann’s sister. Note: Ethel’s baptism date used as birth, and she is recorded as a daughter not granddaughter. Flexible Gypsy attitude to form filling present throughout this and following census records.



Record Transcription:

1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census
4, Monk Dyke Road, Louth, Lincolnshire, England

[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Ama	Smith	Head	F	Female	35	1866	Glass Hawker	Spilsby, Lincolnshire, England
Elder	Smith	Father	Married	Male	77	1824	Clothes Pegg Maker	Spilsby, Lincolnshire, England
Ethel	Smith	Daughter	F	Female	13	1888	-	Horncastle, Lincolnshire, England
Charlotte	Smith	Daughter	F	Female	3	1898	-	Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England
Betsy	Smith	Daughter	F	Female	1	1900	-	Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England

The only ‘Ethel’, ‘Betsy’ and ‘Charlotte’ living together in Lincolnshire which helped me put the pieces together. Miseretti died in 1892.

What I couldn't understand was why her surname was 'Smith', so I left it in the 'maybe' pile. That is until I was researching 'Betsy Smith' to see if it was the famous 'Aunt Betsy' or not, and found the same person a few years later living not just in Grimsby, but in Redhill (albeit listed as a 'niece' living with neighbours of Ethel). Given I've never heard Ethel mentioned without the words 'Redhill' in the same sentence, I knew there had to be a link.

I needed to find Ethel's birth certificate to clarify whether Ann Smith was Ethel's mother or not. One thing Olive said about Ethel is that she was born in a workhouse in Horncastle. The census I had found was in Cagthorpe, Horncastle so I knew I was on the right track. Given Ethel and her sister, Betsy were listed as 'Smith', rather than their father's names this suggested to me it was because their mother was unmarried. In times gone by it was socially unacceptable to have children out of wedlock.

I came across some information that said any mothers who had children in the workhouse had to register their child with the local church to be able to access monetary support from them. I found the Horncastle baptism record which is a book of hundreds of pages and isn't digitally transcribed. I went through each page by eye which was tricky as everything was handwritten.

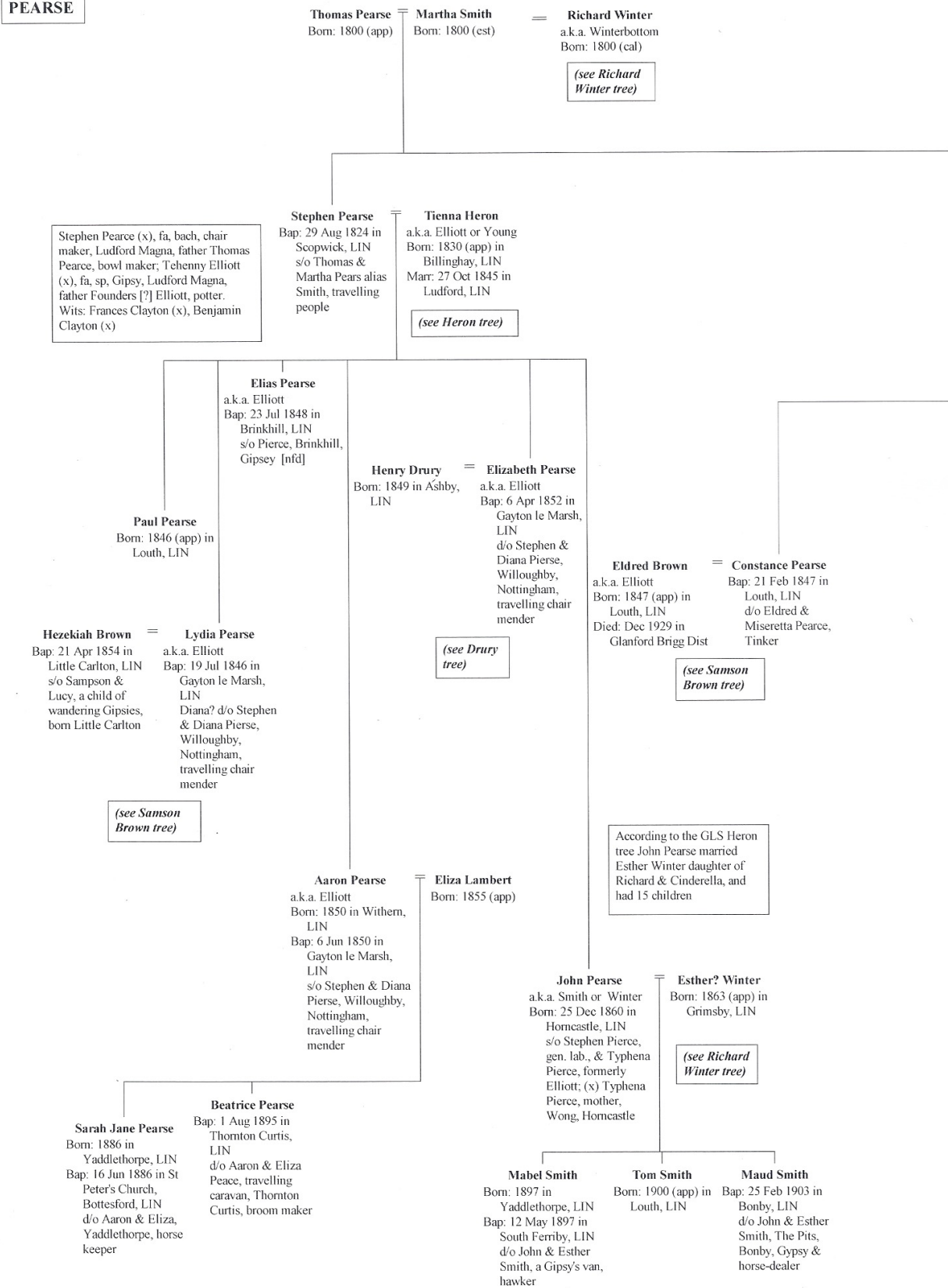
Low and behold on the page for the 4th of February 1888, I found a baptism entry for an 'Ethel', who was a daughter of 'Ann Smith'. In the entire book, there was only one child called 'Ethel' born in the town of Horncastle during that time and it was to Ann. It listed that Ann was a spinster whose profession was 'workhouse'.

1888						St. Barnwell Henry Barnwell
11th February	Ethel	Ann	Smith	Work house	Spinster	Chaplain
No. 867						

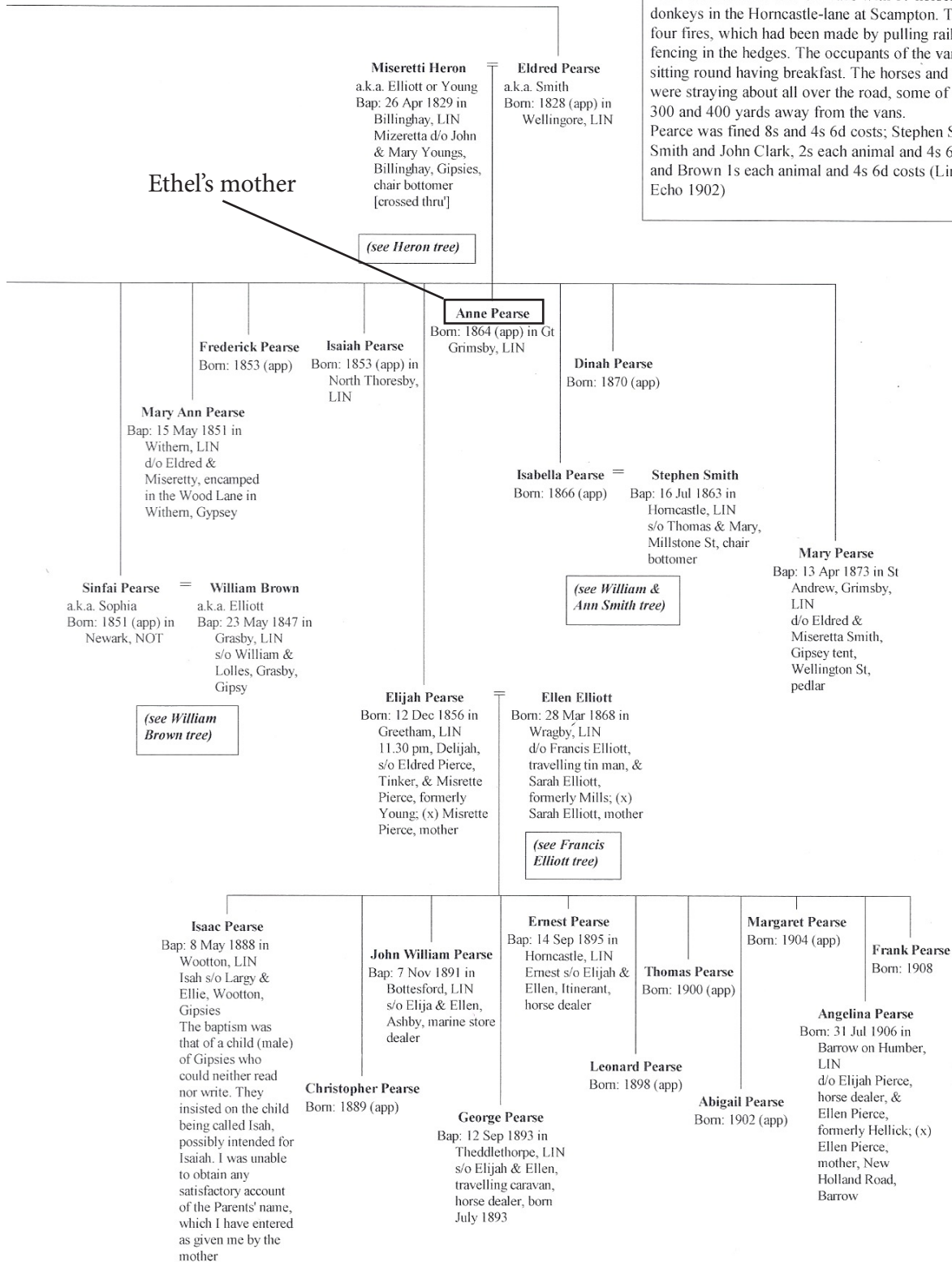
A baptism record for 'Ethel Smith' born to an 'Ann Smith'. The only Ethel registered in the Horncastle register. It confirms Anne is a spinster, and that Ethel's birthplace is in a workhouse.

The story fits and confirms the name 'Smith' for Ethel though we know in later years Ethel used her father's surname, Elliott. As Clark died when Ethel was around nine, their parents weren't married and lived in different towns, we don't know if Clark and Ethel even met. As Ann would have filled out all of Ethel's documents, it could have been that she used the name Smith yet Ethel considered herself an Elliott.

PEARSE



The following were summoned for allowing horses to stray on the highway at Scampton. On April 21st [1902]: Elijah Pearse, Fulnetby, four horses; John Arthur Brown, Cleethorpes, four horses and 36 donkeys; Stephen Smith, Barton-on-Humber, three horses; John Smith, Grimsby, two horses; and John Clarke, of Grimsby, four horses. P.C.Parker said he saw six vans with 17 horses and 36 donkeys in the Horncastle-lane at Scampton. There were four fires, which had been made by pulling rails out of the fencing in the hedges. The occupants of the vans were all sitting round having breakfast. The horses and donkeys were straying about all over the road, some of them being 300 and 400 yards away from the vans. Pearce was fined 8s and 4s 6d costs; Stephen Smith, John Smith and John Clark, 2s each animal and 4s 6d costs; and Brown 1s each animal and 4s 6d costs (Lincolnshire Echo 1902)



As I discovered Ann Smith it was then very easy to trace her parents and relatives. Though, they did spell their names differently throughout the different censuses. I was able to trace her parents and much of her family going back quite a few generations as they were from a very well researched line of Gypsies who also feature in Vivienne's book.

Vivienne's information told me that Ann's parents were called Miserretti Heron aka Elliott/Young and Eldred Pearse aka Smith. You'll notice how the name dips back into Elliott's despite Ann's surname being Smith sometimes and Pearse other times. A note by Vivienne stated that consanguinity was common among Gypsies, and as Ann and Eldred share some common names among the family, there's a possibility that's true. One thing that is true is that Gypsies kept themselves to themselves and did not mix with outsiders. This is one of the reasons we see the same surnames appearing as they would mostly stick together.

Miserretti Heron was the daughter of Fowk Heron and Mary (also known as Polly) Elliott. Fowk's mother Margaret Boswell is from a famous line of Gypsies. There is a museum in Spalding called the 'Gordon Boswell Romany Museum' that is run by the Boswell descendants.



A glimpse into Gypsy life at the Gordon Boswell Romany Museum in Spalding.

Miserretti was born in 1829 in Billingham, Lincolnshire and was the second child born to Mary Elliott and Fowk Heron. Her siblings were Fenwick Heron (1825-?), Elijah Heron (1827-?), Cinderella Heron (1832-1888), and Tienna Heron (1830-?). As you will notice, the first names of Gypsies are quite unusual. However, given Gypsies are renowned storytellers it's perhaps no surprise the names of their children sound like fairy tales too.

Ann's father Eldred Pearse aka Smith was born in Westborough and Dry Doddington in Lincolnshire in 1827. I was able to find his Baptism record which said his mother was a single woman named Martha Smith.

Many of our Gypsy ancestors including Miserretti were apprehended for being vagrants. Here's an article I found in The Pavement Magazine explaining the history of this charge in further detail...

"The earliest laws against begging date from just after the Peasants Revolt in 1381. They were followed in 1547 by anti-vagrancy measures to tackle the homeless, whose numbers had swollen following Henry VIII dissolution of the monasteries, an early example of 'care in the community' gone wrong.

Elizabethan legislation against beggars, suspected witches and conjurors and Gypsies similarly failed to curb homelessness, which increased as the Industrial Revolution began and enclosures forced people off the land. In 1744 came the template of modern vagrancy law, King George II's Vagrant Act, which divided beggars and idle persons into the unemployed without means of support and those refusing to work 'for the usual and common wages' and those not supporting their families; rogues and vagabonds; and 'incorrigible rogues' - those already convicted of one or more offences.

The 'rogues and vagabonds' category enabled the authorities to apprehend on the street anyone they disliked. Within the catch-all definition of rogues were all persons without visible means of subsistence, those pretending to be looking for work, beggars, and 'unlicensed pedlars, fencers, jugglers, bearwards, minstrels, fortune tellers and gamesters', as well as any persons wandering abroad in alehouses, barns, outhouses or in the open air, not giving a good account of themselves."

The entire Elliott family was extremely familiar with the criminal justice system, with several convictions between them. The most serious of which was in 1844, when Ann Smith's uncles Elijah Elliott (17), Fenwick Elliott (19), along with Hildred Pearse (15), are put before the courts accused of stabbing and wounding John Kidd in

Ulceby, with “intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.” Fenwick, who is unable to read or write, is sentenced to 15 years and is transported on the Agincourt ship to Norfolk Island Penal Colony in Australia to carry out his sentence.

In July 1844, the ship set sail from Woolwich with 244 passengers on board headed for Van Diemen’s Land. The journey took exactly four months and conditions on the ship were grim. Surgeon Superintendent Charles Henry Fuller kept a detailed Medical Journal during the voyage.

His description of the conditions told of a “fever of a typhoid type that appeared early amongst them and probably owed its origin to the crowded state of the apartment where they slept and the great heat of the weather.” Smallpox also swept the ship and six men died during the voyage.

received 1843	Names	Conviction			Sentence	Character	Remarks	Result	
		Where	When	Of what					
9	Cabrshaw Ann Elizabeth	Genl Court	April 1844	Intemperance	7 Years	Not known		120° 2	Nil
	Edwick Joseph	Suffolk	21 st Dec 1843	Housebreaking	10 Years	Has been greatly neglected	Well kept in goal	120° 3	Nil
	Elliot Fenwick	Lincoln	24 th March 1844	Stealing	15 Years	Not known		120° 4	Nil
20	Thomson William	Leicester	2 nd Sept 1844	See 120 th 11	6 Mo			120° 11	Nil
Jan 11	Eglinton Benjamin	Genl Court	2 nd Sept 1844	See 120 th 10	18 Mo			120° 10	Nil

The sentencing record of Fenwick Elliott.

William Henry Barber, a solicitor, who was one of the convicts transported on the Agincourt, after being tried at The Old Bailey with intent to defraud the Archbishop of Canterbury added: “On the second day of the departure from Woolwich the wind became foul and the weather boisterous and wet by which we were detained upwards of a week in the channel during which time sea sickness became general and the digestive organs of the men much debilitated.

The commencement at this period of a less digestible ration than that to which they had been accustomed on shore I have no doubt operated in producing a deranged biliary secretion which excited the intestinal mucous surfaces to inordinate action and gave rise to the diarrhoea which soon began to prevail and continued more or less throughout the voyage, many of the cases descending into dysentery and resisting with great obstinacy the measure employed for their removal. Two of the latter proved fatal and two others were sent on shore to the Hospital in a precarious state.”

The Norfolk Island Penal Colony was described as “hell in paradise”, with the 1824 governor of New South Wales Thomas Brisbane saying “the felon who is sent there is forever excluded from all hope of return.”



The Norfolk Island Penal Colony in Tasmania.

One of the governors, Ralph Darling, commanded that *“every man should be worked in irons that the example may deter others from the commission of crime to hold out Norfolk Island as a place of the extremest punishment short of death.”*

I did not find any record of Fenwick back in England after his prison sentence but I did find a ‘Fenwick Elliott’ in the Victoria area death records. It’s likely to be him given ‘Fenwick’ is such an unusual name and we know he was in Australia at the time. Plus, as a poor Gypsy and now a convicted criminal, there’s little chance he had the means to make the journey back to England.

There’s no doubt that stabbing someone is a terrible crime for which a punishment is only right. But, you can only imagine how horrific it would have been to leave all your family behind, be transported on a ship in abhorrent conditions to the other side of the world to an Australian correctional facility never to return - especially at such a young age. For Miserretti, her siblings and of course her parents Mary and Fowk, this must have been unimaginably difficult to deal with for them too.

Now we know Ann Smith aka Pearse’s family history, it is perhaps less of a surprise that she ended up in the workhouse after becoming pregnant with Ethel.

After all, her immediate family were poor Gypsies and the father of her child was not married to her and died only a few years after Ethel was born. The workhouse was seen as the last option for people in Ann's situation. So what was being pregnant and worse still, giving birth in a workhouse like?

I managed to find a book about the exact workhouse in Horncastle that Ethel was born in, called 'The Shadow of The Workhouse' by J.N Clarke. Here are some of the things he wrote about pregnancy in the workhouse.

"Illegitimacy was a very real problem, the upkeep of the mother and child often falling on the parish. The vestry took stern measures by prosecuting in every case where paternity was likely to be proved. In 1850 there were 51 orders made against putative fathers.

In 1841 a move was made to have a trained nurse appointed for the infirmary, but the motion was defeated because a "paid nurse was unnecessary". The patients had to look after each other as best as they could under what supervision the matron could give, helped no doubt by some of the women inmates. In the same year, the medical officer reported children in the workhouse were suffering from scurvy, due in his opinion to the poor oatmeal used in their gruel, and the bread which was unsatisfactory.

The infirmary also served unofficially as a maternity hospital for pauper women on outdoor relief, who could voluntarily enter the workhouse for their confinements and then discharge themselves."



The Horncastle workhouse infirmary where Ann likely gave birth to Ethel.



The main building of the Horncastle workhouse. It was converted into a Homeleigh Children's Home in the 1930s which then closed in 1968.

After Ethel was born in 1887, her mother Ann Smith later went on to have a relationship with George Westwood in Grimsby. I did further research on George and found he was born in 1874 in Scarborough. His father was also called George and was from Hull and was a tinsmith worker.

In the 1891 census, George was aged 17 living with his parents at Waring Street in Horncastle. Interestingly, also in the 1891 census was the entry I found with Ann Smith living with her parents and daughter Ethel in Cagthorpe, Horncastle. I looked the distance up and there's only 500ft between the two locations. So it's highly likely this is where Ann and George first met.



Record Transcription:

1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Waring Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, England

[Learn about this record set](#)

Household Members ⓘ

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
George	Westwood	Head	Widower	Male	60	1831	Tin Plate Worker	Hull, Yorkshire, England
George	Westwood	Son	Single	Male	17	1874	General Labourer	Scarborough, Yorkshire, England
Edward	Westwood	Son	-	Male	13	1878	Scholar	Scarborough, Yorkshire, England

The 1891 census showing George Westwood, who Ethel's mother Ann Smith had a relationship with after the death of Clark Elliott.

In 1897, Ann Smith and George Westwood had a daughter together called Charlotte Smith. Charlotte was baptised at St James Church. In the same year, George made the Lincolnshire Free Press with the headline 'The Wanderer's Return' after being absent from Horncastle for a year with no explanation. This was a grand introduction which led on to inform readers that George had been locked up and fined for drunk and disorderly conduct.

Jan 19 No. 2077.	Charlott Mary of	George Westwood & Ann	Smith	Red Hill	Labourer	W. Gold Adam a
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The baptism record of Charlotte (Mary?) Smith. Note how the listed address is none other than Redhill!

Two years later in 1899, Ann Smith and George Westwood had another daughter together called Betsy Smith. Betsy was baptised at the former St Barnabas Church which is now Docks Beers in King Edward Street, Grimsby. I could not find a marriage certificate for Ann and George, and as Ann baptised Charlotte and Betsy as 'Smith' this would also suggest they were unmarried.

1899 Oct 10 th No. 230	Betsy	George Westwood & Ann	Smith	Umbrella Ct Burgess St	Driver	A. F. Walker
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The baptism of Betsy Smith in 1899. George Westwood is now working as a 'driver'.

The next census in 1901 shows 26-year-old George Westwood living as a lodger at 153 Hope Street in Grimsby working as a Fish Carter. He was living with seven members of the Lusby family, the head of which William Lusby was also a fish carter.

In 1909, George Westwood married a woman named Mary Ann Kay. The 1911 census shows a now 35-year-old George Westwood living with his wife 'Mary Ann Westwood' a niece and two boarders at 13 Bath Street Grimsby. His occupation is a labourer. It remains a mystery why George never married or lived with his children Betsy, Charlotte or their half-sister Ethel.



The former St Barnabas Church in Grimsby where Betsy Smith was baptised.

E.D. Letter Code *T.K.B.A.* Borough, U.D. or R.D. *Grimsby* Registration District and Sub-district *422-11*

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>14 Middle Court</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Burton William L.</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>11 Jun</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>General Labour Heavy Work</i>
		<i>2</i>	<i>Burton Elizabeth</i>		<i>F</i>	<i>23 Aug</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Duties</i>
		<i>3</i>	<i>Rayford William V.</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>25 June</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>General Work Heavy Work</i>
		<i>4</i>	<i>Rayford Bebe</i>		<i>F</i>	<i>24 Apr</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Duties</i>
		<i>5</i>	<i>Rayford Florence</i>		<i>F</i>	<i>25 Mar</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Under School Age.</i>
		<i>6</i>	<i>Rayford William V. Inf.</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>24 Dec</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Under School Age.</i>
		<i>7</i>	<i>Burton John L.</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>13 Mar</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Heavy Work</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>box Sidney</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>15 Apr</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Heavy Work</i>
		<i>2</i>	<i>Smith Annie</i>		<i>F</i>	<i>11 Dec</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Duties</i>
		<i>3</i>	<i>box Anthony</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>6 July</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Heavy Work</i>
		<i>4</i>	<i>box Betsy</i>		<i>F</i>	<i>3 Aug</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Unpaid Domestic Duties</i>

Handwritten notes in green: CR385 65 21 0114 CR283 67 56 GY BARRATT GRUNDYAN

The 1939 census showing Anthony Cox, wife Betsy, Sidney Cox (Anthony's brother?) and 'Annie' Smith, living at 12 Middle Court, Grimsby.



Betsy Smith, half sister of Ethel Elliott and Betsy's husband Anthony Cox in 1961.

In the same year, George makes the news with the headline 'Brutal Assault', after punching his neighbour James Shaw unconscious, after he "made an insulting remark" to his wife. George is given the option of a £3 fine (£712 in today's money) or a month's hard labour.

George died on the 23rd February in 1932 aged 57 and was buried at Scartho Road Cemetery in Grimsby. His burial details listed he was living in Westward Ho/ Littlefield Lane, and that his occupation was a Lumper, which was a labourer on shipping vessels.

I could not find any further records for Charlotte Smith beyond the age of 13, and Ethel Smith (Elliott) we will discuss later in this book during 'Walter Rice and Ethel Elliott'. This just leaves Betsy Smith out of the three daughters of Ann Smith aka Pearse.

In 1923, Betsy married Anthony Cox. Anthony was originally from Lancashire and in the 1911 census (13 years before marrying Betsy) he was living at 104 Burgess Street in Grimsby and listed himself as a widow. He lived with a woman named Kate Larner and also had a son called Anthony Cox who was 11 at the time.

In 1924, Betsy and Anthony had a daughter called Almena Cox, who later married Denholm Clark. Marie Rice recalls Betsy and Anthony had another daughter called Sally, who Betsy lived with in her old age.

In the 1939 census, Betsy was living with her mother 'Anna' and husband Anthony Cox at 12 Middle Court in Grimsby. (There's another person listed at the address but the records are closed for those under 100 years old so I'm assuming that's Almena).

Stuart Rice kindly supplied a picture of Betsy Smith and Anthony Cox at their home in Grimsby in 1961. He explained: "*I knew these two as Aunt Betsy and uncle Tant. I can't remember much about them except that he used to walk a horse drawn cart carrying goods (might have been fish) from Grimsby to Skegness!*"

My mother (Sharon Hurst) recalls Stuart's father Walter Rice taking her to Yorkshire for two weeks. But on the way, Walter insisted on stopping in on 'Aunt Betsy' who was living in the Yarborough area of Grimsby. Betsy Cox died in August 1983 aged 84 in Grimsby.

Ethel Elliott's Family Newspaper Appearances

ROAD.—At Louth County Court, on Monday, before Judge Sir G. Sherston Baker and a jury, Frederick William Allbones, Heneage-street, Grimsby, claimed £20 from Arnold Ellett, of Louth, for damages to plaintiff's motor car. The evidence for the plaintiff was that he was driving to Grimsby on the night of Easter Monday, 1903, and when going through Fotherby he suddenly met a horse and trap. He swerved on to the grass at the side of the road, and the trap went by at a fast rate, the wheel ripping the side of the car, damaging the guards and the steering gear, and smashing one of the lamps. The repairs to the car cost £11 4s. 6d.—Plaintiff stated that he was driving on his left hand side, and that defendant had no light.—Defendant said he was standing with his horse and trap on the left hand side of the road, and the motor car was swerving from one side of the road to the other, and in passing just caught the wheel of his trap.—The jury found for the plaintiff, damages £5 12s. 3d.

Lincolnshire Chronicle, June 17, 1904

At Gainsborough police-court on Tuesday, before Mr. J. E. Sanders, *Thos. Herd* alias *Smash*, an Irish labourer, who leads a vagrant kind of life, was charged with stealing 64l. from the person of Arnold Elliott, a gipsy horse dealer, residing at Louth, on the 5th inst. On the evening named prosecutor was at the White Hart public-house, Blyton, very drunk. He was taken into the barn, where he slept until 10 o'clock at night. On awaking he missed his purse, containing the amount named, and gave information to the police. Prisoner had occasionally slept in the barn, but on the 6th inst. he could not be found, and supt. Veitch, after a vigorous search about the country, received information that he left Susworth for Hull on Friday morning, and that he had been seen showing several bank-notes and a quantity of gold. Inspector Taylor was despatched to Hull on Saturday, and ascertained that prisoner had landed there, had been riding about in cabs, and had finally put up at the Waverley Hotel, South-street. From there he traced him to other places, and on Saturday night he succeeded in apprehending him. Herd had purchased a new outfit, and on searching him 35l. 15s. 3½d. was found. Prisoner was remanded for a week. A man named Chas. Wroot alias Wood was apprehended on Friday on suspicion of having committed the robbery, and was detained in custody until Monday morning, when he was discharged.

Stamford Mercury September 13, 1878

A LOUTH APPEAL CASE.

Arnold Ellett, publican, of the Jolly Sailor, Louth, appealed against a conviction by the Louth Borough Magistrates for an offence under the Licensing Act, 1874, for selling intoxicating liquors at an improper hour on Sunday the 18th March.—Mr. GARRETT appeared for the appellant, and Mr. WALKER for the respondents.—Mr. WALKER said about twenty minutes past ten o'clock on the morning in question two policemen saw an old man named Lakin coming through the yard of the Pack Horse public-house, and he went in the direction of the Jolly Sailor. After a few minutes he returned up the passage leading to the back-door with a bottle in his hand. The bottle was taken from him and proved to contain brandy. Sergt. Smith then went to the Jolly Sailor and there saw the appellant's daughter and wife. There was no doubt the actual sale was not made by Arnold Ellett, but by his daughter, under somewhat peculiar circumstances. When Lakin reached the house he found there a charwoman, and he entrusted her with a message and the bottle. She took the message and the bottle to Miss Ellett and received from her the brandy and the change, which she gave to the old man. The question for the court to decide was whether or not under the circumstances the publican was liable for the act of selling which was done by his agent who was in charge.—Evidence was given by p.s. Smith, p.s. Pridgeon, and p.s. Ferraby.—Mr. Mawer, who lives opposite the public-house, stated that he had frequently seen Lakin go to the back-door of the Jolly Sailor during prohibited hours on Sundays.—A charwoman named Crowder said the old man Lakin came and asked for ten pennyworth of brandy, telling her his daughter was dangerously ill. She went to Miss Ellett, who said she would be obliged to let him have the brandy, and she gave it to witness, who took it to Lakin.—Mr. GARRETT, for the defence, referred to the fact that of the three Magistrates who heard the case two were members of the Watch Committee, and if the appellant had appealed to the Queen's Bench on the ground that two of the Magistrates were disqualified the conviction would at once have been quashed. The old man Lakin came and said his daughter was dangerously ill. He saw the charwoman at a time the premises were closed, and no one would be in charge of the bar. The landlord was upstairs in bed, and his wife was cooking dinner, so that absolutely no one was in charge of the place. Miss Ellett was washing up glasses, and upon receiving the message she served the brandy without communicating with anybody. He submitted that a licensed person could not be convicted where no authority was delegated to another person and he had no knowledge that anyone was served; but even if he could it would be very hard if a respectable man who had carried on business for nine years was convicted under circumstances like these.—The appellant and his daughter having been called, the Magistrates retired, and on returning into Court the Chairman said they would allow the appeal with costs.

Stamford Mercury July 6, 1894

LOUTH (Continued).—On Wednesday afternoon Messrs, Craven and Cook, Hull, sold by auction, at the Masons' Arms Hotel, the following property, situate in Brackenborough-lane, Louth, viz., 9a. 1r. 20p. arable land, in the occupation of Mr. J. Plumpton, was bought by Mr. J. Ellett, for £540 ; also 3a. 2p. 20p. of arable

Lincolnshire Chronicle 07 April, 1882

POACHING NEAR LOUTH.—At the Louth County Police Court on Wednesday George Reeson, Louth, was charged with night poaching in Brackenborough on the 22nd September, and Clark Ellett, Louth, was charged with being accessory. — Both prisoners pleaded guilty.—Mr. W. H. Owen appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Barker defended Ellett.—Evidence was given to the effect that the men were found within three yards of each other in a covert, Reeson having a gun in his possession.—Reeson, who had previously been convicted of a similar offence, was sentenced to three months' hard labour, while Ellett was fined £5 and £1 7s. costs, or three months' hard labour.

Lincolnshire Echo 03 October, 1885

Arnold Ellett, Queen-street, for assaulting George Wholey in the Jolly Sailor-yard, was fined 2s. 6d. and 15s. costs.

Stamford Mercury November 9, 1888

costs.—*Dinah Clayton*, and *Selina Clayton*, two gipsies, were committed to Spilsby house of correction for a month each, for vagrancy in the parish of Alford.—The Overseers and Assessors for the hundred of Calceworth were appointed.

Stamford Mercury April 10, 1846

LOUTH BOROUGH POLICE, Thursday

week, before the Mayor (Ald. Longbottom), C. M. Nesbitt, Esq., John Hurst, Esq., Dr. Best (ex-Mayor), and E. Ashton, Esq.—For using indecent language in Eastgate on the 9th inst., *Arthur Wallis*, fish dealer, Watts-lane, was fined 5s. and 8s. costs.—*Clarke Ellett*, Eastgate, and *John Rice*, Spring-gardens, were charged with unlawfully exposing a hare for sale on the 10th inst. Arnold Hurst, Ship inn, and Tom Gladding, Woolpack, gave evidence to the effect that Ellett, who was accompanied by the other defendant, asked them to buy a hare. Ellett denied having had possession of a hare, and Rice repudiated complicity in the matter. The cases were dismissed.

Stamford Mercury June 22, 1894

AN OLD OFFENCE. — Yesterday (5) Louth Borough Police Court, before Mr. C. M. Nesbitt and other justices, Francis Willoughby, labourer, of North Somercotes, was charged on remand with stealing horse hair, value 1s., the property of Joseph Ellett, horse dealer, on Sept. 14, 1892.—Joseph Ellett deposed to missing the hair, which he placed in a box in the saddle-house, and to the prisoner suddenly leaving his employ.—W. Clarke, general dealer, gave evidence as to purchasing hair from prisoner in September, 1892, for 1s. 1d., and handing it over to the police a day or two afterwards.—P.C. Elvin said that prisoner on being arrested admitted taking the hair and selling it for 1s. 1d.—The Bench thought prisoner erred under a misapprehension, and decided to dismiss the case.

Lincolnshire Echo 13 December 1895

Louth.—**CENTENARIAN GIPSY.**—Mrs. Harriet Williams, whose burial took place in Louth Cemetery on Saturday, afforded an extraordinary example of longevity in a member of the gipsy race, for she is reputed to have been 110 years of age. She was a true Romany, and up to the very day when she died she retained many of the characteristics of her tribe. Though for a considerable period she had led a more or less settled life, with Louth as her headquarters, it is only within recent years that she abandoned the practice of sleeping in a van, on the premises of her son-in-law, Mr. Joseph Ellett, horse-dealer, with whom she had since resided in apartments. Up to the time of her sudden death she had been in the habit of taking quite long excursions as a hawker. Her memory for names and faces is said to have been extraordinary, though she seems to have had no clear recollection of some of the great events of the early part of the 19th century, a fact which may be accounted for by her nomadic life. She never attained to "royal" dignity in her tribe, but two of her daughters are said to have become "gipsy queens." Her husband died many years ago.

Lincolnshire Chronicle 02 February, 1906

MORE THREATS.—*Arron Pearce*, Thedillethorpe, for using threats to Joseph Ellett on Nov. 23rd, was bound over to keep the peace for six months, himself in 50*l.*, two sureties in 25*l.* each, and 10*s.* 6*d.* costs.

FIGHTING WOMEN.—*Elizabeth Ellett* and *Fanny Dixon* were charged with creating a public annoyance in Eastgate on the night of the fair. It appeared that defendants were found fighting fiercely in Eastgate, and occasioned obstruction through causing a crowd to assemble. Fined 10*s.* and 6*s.* costs each, or seven days.

Stamford Mercury 03 December, 1897

Case dismissed on payment of 4*s.* 6*d.* costs.—Clark Elliott was fined 7*s.* 6*d.*, and costs 8*s.*, for fighting in Eastgate, on the 26th ult.

Lincolnshire Chronicle January 5, 1886

Clarke Ellett and Peter Pennythorne were charged with fighting in the public street on the 1st inst.—Neither of defendants appeared.—P.c. Barnard proved the charge, and Supt. Barbam said Pennythorne had been to him and said he lived at Leeds, and should not be present, and pleaded guilty; his father, who lived in the town, would pay.—The Bench fined Pennythorne 5s., and 7s. 6d. costs, and a warrant was issued against Ellett.—The license of the beer house the Pig and Whistle was endorsed to William Rose, the late holder of it having left Louth.

Lincolnshire Chronicle 12 August, 1892

At the Police-court on Wednesday, Hubbard Reeson, labourer, was sentenced to three months' hard labour for night poaching in Brackenborough Park, near Louth; and Clarke Ellett, labourer, was fined £5, and £1 8s. 6d. costs, for being an accessory.

Lincolnshire Chronicle 04 October 1895.

Dead Man in Lane.

Edward Ellett, aged about 56, of High Holme-road, Louth, was found lying dead in a by-lane off Branckenborough-road, Louth, last night. A gun was found by his side, but he usually carried one with him. A thunderstorm passed over Louth shortly before the discovery, and it was surmised that he had been struck by lightning. A post-mortem examination is to be made.

Lincolnshire Echo 15 July, 1931

THE following very desirable **FREEHOLD**
PROPERTIES, namely:—

LOT 1.

In LOUTH.

All those Closes of Excellent **GRASS LAND**, known as "The Willows" or "The Wood Closes," situate on the Brackenborough Road, in Louth, in the County of Lincoln, containing in the whole 26a. 3r. 11p. (more or less), and now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Ellett.

Louth And North Lincolnshire Advertiser 12 March, 1910

ROBINSON V. ELLETT.

In this case Charles Robinson, of Grainthorpe, trustee in the bankruptcy of Robert Lewis, of Marshchapel, sued Arnold Ellet, of the Rising Sun publichouse, Louth, for the sum of £127/15/., the value of horses and beasts wrongfully sent by the bankrupt to Ellett's premises on the 22nd Nov., 1889, and claimed by the trustee, who also pressed for the return of certain horse gears.—Mr. Stanger (instructed by Mr. W. Hadden Owen, solicitor, Louth) appeared for plaintiff; and Mr. Graham (instructed by Mr. J. S. Brown, solicitor, Louth) was retained for the defence.—Mr. Stanger informed his Lordship that the parties had come to terms, and the defendant had agreed to a verdict for the full amount claimed.—His Lordship gave judgment for £127/15/-. (inclusive of £85/19/1 paid into court), with costs, and ordered that the articles claimed should be delivered to the plaintiff.

Boston Guardian 19 July, 1890

At the Town-hall, Stamford, on Monday last, *Stephen Sharp*, of Wansford, merchant, pleaded guilty to an information, charging him with an assault upon *John Wilson*, a post-boy, (who, it appeared, used some irritating language to Mr. Sharp on the road,) and was fined 5s. and costs.—*Israel Smith* and *Eldred Smith* (brother and sister), two gypsies, claiming to be of the blood Royal, were convicted of drunkenness and disorderly conduct in the street in Saint Martin's on Sunday last during divine service; they were fined 5s. each and costs, and for default of paying, the latter ordered to be committed. Several of the fraternity being in attendance to ascertain the result, the money was soon raised, and the delinquents liberated.—*Robert Cave*, saddle and harness maker, on appli-

Lincolnshire Chronicle May 10, 1839

father.—*Andrew Wilson* (the father), and *Joseph and Francis Elliott*, gipsy brothers, were charged with being drunk at the White Hart at the same time, and refusing to leave when requested to do so by the police. All denied the charge, which, however, was proved against two of them, and they were fined 1s and 11s costs each. *Francis Elliott*, who earnestly declared he was a teetotaller, did not appear so much in fault, and the charge against him was dismissed.—

Lincolnshire Chronicle February 24, 1866

CAR WITHOUT LIGHTS. — At Louth Borough Police Court, on Thursday, *Albert Matthews* was fined 10s for leaving a motor-car on the highway without lights. Cases in which *Ernest Allen* and *Abraham Ellett* were charged with being the owners of straying horses were dismissed on payment of costs.

Lincolnshire Echo October 3, 1924

chargeable to Huttoft parish: order made.—Mr. Parkinson, landlord of the Wheat Sheaf inn at Sloothby, complained against two gipsies named *Eldred Smith* and *Jas. Elliott*, for assaulting him in his own house at Sloothby: the defendants, who were brought up in custody, were each fined 1*l.*, including costs, or two months' imprisonment.—*Eldred Smith* was further charged with creating a disturbance at Withern feast: ordered to be further imprisoned for one month at the expiration of the above period.—Geo. Wood, of Swaby, complained against

Stamford Mercury August 29, 1851

—*Eldred Smith*, a gipsy, was committed for one month for assaulting a constable at Helpstone.

Stamford Mercury November 12, 1852

LOUTH BOROUGH POLICE, June 6th, before J. Fytche, Esq.—*Misaretta Elliott*, *Mary Smith*, *Matilda Smith*, *Samuel Elliot*, *Rd. Smith*, *Elijah Young*, *Kearney Smith*, *Mary Young*, and *Cinderella Young*, and four or five children, part of a gang of young gipsies who have lately infested the neighbourhood, were charged by Mr. Sowerby, of Withcall, with wilfully damaging a stake fence, by tearing away the willow binders thereof for the purpose of making clothes pins for sale: they were also charged under the Vagrant Act with being rogues and vagabonds. It appeared that Mr. S. has lately been at considerable expense in repairing the fences on his farm, which is one of the largest in the county, and that he has suffered greatly from depredations of this nature by gipsies who have encamped in the lanes. Committed for two months as rogues and vagabonds, and the goods &c. found in their possession ordered to be sold to defray the costs of their keep in prison, and other expenses.—

Stamford Mercury 15 June, 1849

Blades, constable, for threatening violence to him.—*Edward Ellett*, of Willoughby, Nottinghamshire, tinman and horse-dealer, was convicted of the offence under the Municipal Corporations Act of inciting persons to resist the police whilst in execution of their duty conveying a prisoner (*Saml. Ellett* his brother) apprehended under a warrant to the watch-house: he was fined 15*s.*, including costs, which he paid.—*Samuel Ellett*, who said he was a travelling horse-dealer, was charged by *Eagleton Smith*, an itinerant brazier, with an assault, and on hearing the case it was dismissed, as not meriting punishment.

Lincolnshire Chronicle February 11, 1842

^{105.}
THE WANDERER'S RETURN.—George Westwood, jun., a native of the town, returned home after a twelve months' absence at Scarborough, on Tuesday evening. He was in a gay mood, and about eleven o'clock the same evening—three hours after his arrival—he was locked up for drunkenness and disorderly conduct in South-street. Brought before Mr. Day the following morning, he was fined 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. costs. The money was paid.

Lincolnshire Free Press October 26, 1897

BRUTAL ASSAULT.—At Grimsby, on Monday, George Westwood, labourer, of Bath-street, was summoned by a neighbour, James Shaw, for assault.—Shaw said Westwood suddenly sprang out of his front door and hit him in the eye. The blow knocked him down, and the defendant took a running kick at his face while he lay prostrate. It rendered him unconscious and he was removed to the hospital, where he lay unconscious for six hours.—It was admitted that the defendant struck the complainant once in the face, but Westwood said he only did so because Shaw had made an insulting remark to his wife.—Describing the assault as brutal and unjustifiable, the magistrates fined the defendant £1, or a month's hard labour.

Lincolnshire Chronicle July 28, 1911

A little girl named Ethel Smith, of Waring-row, fell into the Navigation and was rescued from drowning by Mr. R. A. Pogson, clerk to Mr. Dee.

Stamford Mercury April 4, 1890. N.B: I believe this could be Ethel as it's the news brief for Horncastle. At the time, George Westwood lived in 'Waring Street'.

RICE

The surname Rice can be traced back to the 7th century and is thought to mean “fiery warrior”. It has both Welsh and English origins, and throughout history has been recorded as Ryce, Rhys, Reasce, Reece, Rees and Reese.

Our Rice relatives can be traced back to Norfolk for as far back as the records go. There was mention within the family of having an Irish connection, but I couldn't find any evidence of this. Remember, the census only falls every 10 years and so if someone moved in between censuses then returned before the next one, there wouldn't be a record of them living there. It is possible one of our relatives did sail to Ireland (or America) but if this was the case, it was likely only for a few short years. However, I did find some distant relatives that emigrated to America.

Martin Rice & Anna Wylde

The first Rice relative I could trace goes 10 generations back from Walter Rice (1872-1940). His name was Martin Rice who was born in 1590 in Southrepps, Norfolk. He married Anna Wylde and they had one child called Jonathan who was born in 1620.

Southrepps is like most of Norfolk - largely agricultural land. The village is split into two halves separated by a mile of farmland. The halves of the village are known as Upper Southrepps and Lower Southrepps. It is believed the split occurred due to the Black Death which took place between 1348 to 1350.

Martin Rice lived until 1642, making him approximately 52 when he died. While this sounds quite young, the average life expectancy in the UK during the 1600s was only 39.7 years. During this time there was also a very high infant mortality rate. This was put down to disease as well as tetanus caused “by the use of an unsterilised knife or pair of scissors to cut the umbilical cord” according to research.

Jonathan Rice & Sarah ?

Jonathan Rice was born in 1620. He married a woman known only as Sarah who was also born in 1620. They had two children called Sarah Rice and George Rice. As you'll begin to note a very common theme with the naming of Rice children is to feature the names of their parents.

Jonathan Rice died in 1659 aged 39. There is no further information for Sarah.



Southrepps, Norfolk where the earliest Rice relatives can be traced back to.

George Rice & Mary Smith

George Rice was born in 1650 in Southrepps to Jonathan Rice and a woman known only as Sarah. George married Mary Smith.

Mary's family can be traced back to 1580 to her maternal grandfather called Simon Copeland who was also from Southrepps.

George Rice and Mary Smith had one traceable child, a son named Samuel Rice who was born in 1678.

George Rice died in 1727 which would have made him approximately 77 when he died. There is no record for when Mary Smith died.

Samuel Rice & Martha Ceace

Samuel Rice was born in 1678 to George Rice and Mary Smith. Samuel married Martha Ceace who was born in 1680 in the coastal town of Cromer which is about five miles from Southrepps. I looked into the surname Ceace/Cease and it turns out only 1,000 people across the world have this surname - just three of whom are based in the UK - making it incredibly rare. The original spelling 'ceace' is completely extinct.

When carrying out further research into the word 'Ceace' I found it's an Old English (450-1150) term. Some think it's related to the surname 'Chick' which is a variant of the name 'Cheek' - aka 'Ceace' in Old English. The word 'Ceace' was used as a nickname for someone with a prominent jaw.

Samuel Rice and Martha Ceace have one child on record, a son named Robert Rice who was born in 1721. There is no death record for Samuel or Martha.

Robert Rice & Mary Stockens

Robert Rice was born in 1721 in Southrepps, the only child of Samuel Rice and Martha Ceace. It's interesting that Robert is the third traceable generation to this small corner of Norfolk.

Samuel Rice married Mary Stockens who was born in Swanton Abbott, Norfolk in 1722. I was able to trace Mary's family back three generations to her great grandparents William Ingall and Mary Skippe who were both born in 1605. There is a baptism record of William and Mary's son dated 1632.



Swanton Abbot in Norfolk where Mary Stockens was born.

Norff:

A bill indented of all the Marriages Baptism's
and Burials in the Parish of Southrepps from Easter
1721 to Easter 1722.

Marriages	Baptism's	Burials
Will. Briveton & Ellen Berry were married 14 April	Sim: Rice was bap: 01 May	Will: Bullock was buried 29 March
Edwd. Allson & Eliz: Man 10 July	Susan Jves was bap: 08 Aug	Mary Blackson was buried 15 July
John Bowson & Eliz: Ulph 12 Sep	Rob: Rice was bap: 28 Aug	Sim: Rice was buried 18 July
Edm: Pilch & Eliz: Carr 02 Oct	Tho: Ulph was bap: 10 Sept	Mary & Prudence Salman were buried - - - 02 Novr?
Rob: Gilbert & Hanna Milbham His same day	Rebecca Blog was bap: 24 Septemb	Amy Mays was buried - 07 Novr?
John Blashmish & Susan Hag 01 03 Oct	Mary & Prudence Salman were baptis'd - - 30 Octob	Mary Salman junr was buried - - - 10 Novr?
Rob: Frazie & Phil: Roberts - 05 Oct	Amy Mairs was bap: 02 No	Palgrave Johnson was buried - - - 24 Novr?
Johnathan Bond & Han: Warner 30 Oct	Edw: Duns was bap: 06 No	Elizabeth King was buried - - - 29 January
John Love & Sa: rah Tower 03 Dec	Eliz: Annison was baptis'd - - 10 Novr?	Sam: Pert was buried 25 Febru
Tho: Atchinson & Anne Ransoms - 16 Jan	Martha Carnol - eat die	John Pert was buried 03 March
	Will: Culit was baptis'd - - 24 Dec	
	Mary Carter was bap: tip'd - - - 25 Dec	
	Rich: Bygrave was baptis'd - - - 07 Jan	
	Mary Copland was baptis'd - - 08 Febru	
	John & Samuel Pert were bap: - - - 25 Febru	

Marriages 10. Baptism's 17. Burials 11.

W Martin Recd

A baptism record of Robert Rice in 1721.

Interestingly, Mary, William and Edmund Ingall lived in Smallburgh which is where I found quite a few of the next few generations of Rices living. Smallburgh is about 10 miles from Southrepps which doesn't sound far but back before the days of cars or public transport this would have been a very long way. Even to this day, the area remains very rural consisting of sparse, narrow, country roads linking the different towns and villages together.

William and Mary were married in Southrepps in 1630. There is only one church in Southrepps called St James that dates back to the 15th century, and it's likely many of our relatives were married, baptised and possibly buried here. I've included a picture of the church. At the time, it was one of the tallest towers in the country and was visible for miles around. It's constructed of flint and stone and is widely considered as one of the most beautiful churches in Norfolk.

Back to Robert Rice and Mary Stockens. They had a son called Edward Rice who was born in 1755. It's likely they had more children than this, but Edward is the only one on record.

Mary Stockens died in 1779 aged 57. Edward Rice died in 1785 aged 64. Both passed away in Southrepps, Norfolk.



St James Church in Southrepps.

Edward Rice & Mary Oldman

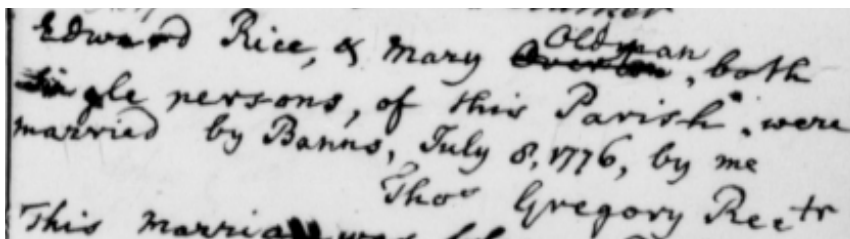
Edward Rice was born on July 13, 1755, in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk to Robert Rice and Mary Stockens.

On 8th July 1779, Edward married Mary Oldman in the parish of Twyford, Norfolk.

Mary Oldman was born in Horningtoft, Norfolk in 1749. Mary's parents were William Oldman (1707-1770) and Jane Franklin (1720-1795).

On both sides of the family, generations can be traced back quite far. The furthest I found on the maternal side was Mary's great-great-grandparents John Pentney (1619-?) and Margaret Thompson (1625). On Mary's paternal side, I found her great grandparents were John Oldman (1657-1729) and a woman called Mary (1660-1719).

Both sides of Mary Oldman's family came from Wells-Next-To-The-Sea, Norfolk. The picturesque parish is situated on the North Norfolk coast, in between Holkham to the west and Warham to the east. The town itself is a small seaside resort and a working port. The name Wells is derived from the fact that it used to tap the springs of freshwater held by the underlying chalk on which it is built.



Marriage of Edward and Mary in 1779.

Edward Rice and Mary Oldman had six children together named Robert Rice (1784-1875), Mary Rice (1786-1804), Edward Rice (1787-1857), Martha Rice (1790-1885), Sarah Rice (1795-1845), and John Rice (1797-1864).

Edward listed on the 1841 census that he was living in Ludham and his profession was an agricultural labourer.

In 1838, Mary Oldman died aged 89. In 1843, Edward Rice died aged 88. Both Edward and Mary lived a long life together both passing away around the age of 90. This is quite a turning point as most of Edward's ancestors died between the ages of 40-60.



Arthur Elliott Rice, X2 great nephew of Edward Rice. He lived between 1837 and 1957. He died in New York where he had emigrated to.

ARTHUR E. RICE,
AGED 80, EXPIRES
 Sept 24, 1957
BRONCHIAL PNEUMONIA DE-
VELOPS AFTER STROKE

WEST CARTHAGE RESIDENT

Native of England Came 48 Years Ago to West Carthage Where He Operated a Garden and Later Was Wood Finisher — Funeral Sunday

(Special to The Times.)

Carthage, Sept. 24.—Arthur E. Rice, 80, well known resident of West Carthage, died this morning at 11 at the Carthage hospital where he had been a patient since Thursday night. Mr. Rice suffered a stroke Sunday morning after which bronchial pneumonia developed.

He was born June 1, 1857, in Norfolk, England. He spent his early life in England and married Catherine Cole about 50 years ago. Two years after their marriage the couple came to this country where Mrs. Rice died two years later.

Mr. Rice first made his home on the Martin street road, West Carthage, moving later to Champion street, where he operated the River View Gardens, a fruit and vegetable business, with W. P. Hull. They also conducted a business in Lindenville, near Rochester, for two years.

Mr. Rice was later employed by M. P. Mason as a dyer and finisher of wood. The Braman Manufacturing company, successor to Mr. Mason, retained Mr. Rice as an employe, retiring him at the age of 70.

He was employed by the two companies for 41 years.

Following his retirement, Mr. Rice spent the winters in West Carthage and summers at Point Peninsula with his only daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Buchanan. Five years ago he went to Syracuse to make his home with a cousin, Mrs. Pearl Bennett, and moved to West Carthage with her two years ago last June to live at 30 North Main street, West Carthage.

Mr. Rice had been deaf and dumb since he was three years old when he was stricken with scarlet fever. He learned the art of lip reading and was in good health until his recent illness. He took his first airplane ride at the age of 76.

Surviving are two sons, Elliott Rice of Dutchess county and George Rice of Rochester; one daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Buchanan of Point Peninsula; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a niece residing in England.

1942
**ELLIOTT A. RICE, 60, FORMERLY
OF NORTH, DIES IN ACCIDENT**

Three Mile Bay, Nov. 14.—Rites for Elliott A. Rice, 60, who died Tuesday in Cedar Grove, N. J., were held from the Clark Memorial Funeral home in Chaumont Thursday afternoon at 2 with Rev. James N. Pauley, pastor of the Three Mile Bay Methodist church officiating. Burial was made in the Three Mile Bay cemetery.

Mr. Rice's death occurred in Cedar Grove, while he was at his work as a herdsman. A bale of hay accidentally fell on him breaking his neck. He never regained consciousness.

Mr. Rice was born in Norfolk, England, on Jan. 31, 1882, a son of the late Arther E. and Katherine Cole Rice. He came to this country 53 years ago with his parents and settled near Carthage. As a young man he was employed on various farms in this community. Later he went to New Jersey where he followed the occupation of herdsman. He never married.

The death of Elliott Rice, son of Arthur Elliott Rice (left) in Cedar Grove, Essex, New Jersey, USA

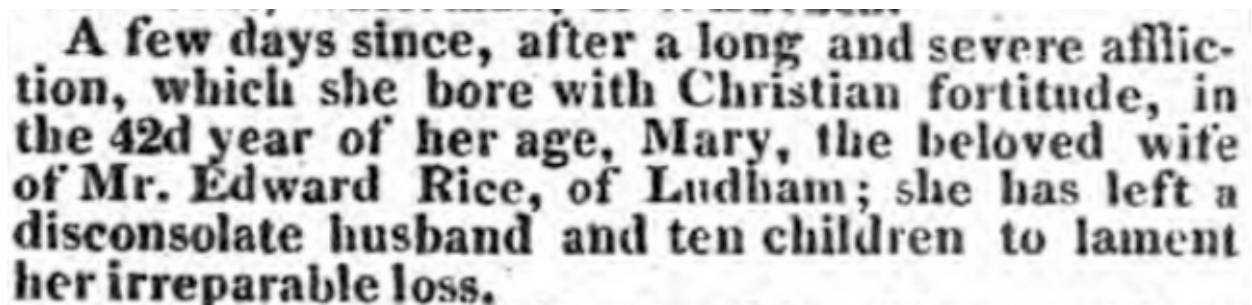
Edward Rice & Mary Harris

Edward Rice was born in 1787 in Hassingham, Norfolk. He was the second child born to Edward Rice and Mary Oldman.

In 1810, Edward married Mary Harris (1792-1833). They had 10 children together during their marriage which includes Edward Harris Rice (1811-1884), Benjamin Rice (1815-1885), Mary Rice (1817-1835), John Rice (1819-1883), Ann Elizabeth Rice (1821-1869), Samuel Rice (1823-?), Sarah Rice (1825-1901), George Henry Rice (1827-1860), Henry Robert Rice (1830-1890), and Charlotte Adelaide Rice (1832-1905).

Mary Harris was the daughter of Benjamin Harris (1763-1836) and Mary Pull (1760-1802). Mary Pull died when her daughter Mary Harris was just 10. I was able to trace the Pull family back to 1535 to Nicholas Pull of Norfolk. His son was also called Nicholas and was born in 1560, and his wife was called Dorothe Rant. The Rants go back slightly further and are traceable to 1510 to a woman named Elizabeth who married William Rant (1520-1554). Just for some context, Elizabeth and William Rant are 13 generations back from Walter Rice (1872-1940).

Mary Harris died aged 42 in 1833 in Ludham where the family settled. Mary and Edward's youngest daughter Charlotte Adelaide Rice was just 13 months old when her mother died. Mary also died three years before her father Benjamin Harris, who died in 1836.



A few days since, after a long and severe affliction, which she bore with Christian fortitude, in the 42d year of her age, Mary, the beloved wife of Mr. Edward Rice, of Ludham; she has left a disconsolate husband and ten children to lament her irreparable loss.

In the Norfolk Chronicle dated June 22, 1833, Edward left a tribute to Mary.

Five years after Mary Harris died, Edward married Sarah Howard and on their marriage records, it states they are both widows. Edward and Sarah had two children together, Eliza Rice (1837-1869) and Ann Elizabeth Rice (1839-1866).



Marshmen in Norfolk pictured in 1949.

In the 1841 census, Edward states he is 50 and working as a marshman. This is the same profession Edward listed of his father in his marriage banns to Sarah Howard.

Norfolk consists of lots of rivers in which reeds grow alongside them. The job of a marshmen would be to remove these reeds for flood protection. When harvested the reeds would be used for thatching houses or making musical instruments. It was a physically demanding job, not least because you not only had to cut the reeds but bind them together and then take stacks of them up the river by boat which you also had to paddle. If you type 'marshmen Norfolk' into YouTube you can see this in action.

Sarah Howard died in 1845 aged 50, leaving Edward once again as a widow. Twelve years later on the 16th November 1857, Edward Rice died aged 70 in Ludham.

Benjamin Rice & Sarah Archer

Edward and Mary Harris's second son Benjamin Rice (1815-1885) was born in Ludham. Mary Harris was Edward's first wife, who would have died when her son Benjamin was around 18 years old.

Benjamin Rice also worked as a marshman like his father and grandfather before him. He married Sarah Archer (1812-1909) on 6th Apr 1837 in Neatishead, which is about six miles from where Benjamin was born. Mary's parents were Benjamin Archer (1775-?) and Mary Wright (1780-1837). Mary, like Benjamin, came from a very large family.

I was able to trace about sixty of Sarah's relatives. The earliest on her paternal side was Michael Archer (1665-1756) and Grace Stevenson (1665-?). On her maternal side, I got as far back as John Wright who has no listed date of birth but his son Abraham Wright was born in 1615. Just for context that's seven generations back from Sarah Archer and 11 generations from Walter Rice (1872-1940).

The marriage between Benjamin Rice and Sarah Archer produced 13 children. This included John Rice (1838-1853), Mary Ann Rice (1839-1842), Emily Rice (1841-1842), Pamela Rice (1841-1868), Benjamin Rice (1843-1915), Louisa Rice (1844-1899), Charles Rice (1846-1891), Sarah Ann Rice (1844-1883), Charlotte Rice (1848-1925), Robert Rice (1849-1921), Samuel Rice (1852-1899), Elizabeth Rice (1854-1934), Henry E G Rice (1857-1937), and Harriet Rice (1860-1891).

Evelyn Whitehead, who was a Rice relation shared her memories of the family on a Ludham family history website.

She said: "My Aunt Pamela married a farm labourer Bob Watson, (a widower), who already had a family of children, but they had 3 more of their own. We often stayed with aunt Pamela at The malthouse then at one of the cottages which backed on to the Ludham Church graveyard. I often looked out to see the owl at night which was hooting, as aunt said he would be perched on the church. She lived in one of the council houses, where I believe she died.

I loved the Broads, and one of my cousins, Bob Watson, would always take me for a row on the river. Incidentally, my Mother's uncle Bob Rice owned the mill which stood by Ludham Bridge. I wonder if it is still there?"



Evelyn Whitehead's mother's home, known as 'Granny Rice cottage' in 1878.



The cottage from another view.

The Rice family is quite widespread in the Ludham area. There is a property called Rice Cottage at 3 Staithe Road, Ludham which is named after our ancestors. In the back garden was some farmland, and next to that is a church that the family would pack into, according to Evelyn Whitehead. Along the same street, there is another property with a Rice nameplate embedded into the wall.

The Ludham Archive adds: *“There are two cottages and they have both been recently renovated. They were built by a farming family named Rice in 1884 on the site of a former clay-lump dwelling, which collapsed on July 21st 1875 after a week of heavy rain. A diary, written by a gentleman on holiday, recorded that he went to inspect the ruins in 1875.”*



Rice Cottage at 3 Staithe Road, Ludham.



Rice Cottage is listed on Google Maps.



Another house down Staithe Road in Ludham that says 'Rice' on the front.



Ludham Archive: *“The above picture shows Rice Cottages from the back, looking towards Staithe Road. This area to the right of the cottages was a small farm and pigs were kept in the barns on the right. Out of shot to the right was the Ludham Strict and Particular Baptist Chapel.”*


Note: Chimney looks like the house (top image) but with an extension added. It could also be another Rice residence down the same street.

Benjamin Rice single man of the Parish of Ludham
 and Sarah Archer single woman of this Parish
 were married in this Church by Bennett with Consent of
 this Sixth Day of April in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Thirty Seven
 By me Thomas Dix Curate
 This Marriage was solemnized between us { Benjamin Rice his +
 Sarah Archer his + wife
 In the Presence of { John Allen his + wife
 Hannah Palmer her + maid
 No. 111. John Cook

K

Benjamin Rice and Sarah Archer's Marriage register entry in 1837.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number W137983

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		Smallburgh							
1885	DEATH in the Sub-district of Ludham	in the County of Norfolk							


No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
305	Ludham March 1885 No 111	Benjamin Rice	Male	43 years	Drumman	Chronic Pulmonary Nephritis & Dilatation of Heart	The name of Charles Rice Esq. Ludham	English March 1885	Lewis Mykels Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 24th day of January 2007

DYB 386069 See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT
 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

 KR

Benjamin Rice's death certificate.

Benjamin Rice died in 1885 aged 73 from chronic hestertube hepatitis (kidney condition characterised by swelling in between the kidney) and dilatation of the heart (a disease of the heart muscle where it becomes stretched and thin). Benjamin is buried at St. Catherine's Churchyard in Ludham. His headstone reads: *"In memory of Benjamin Rice who died March 15 1885 aged 75 Years. Even so father. Not my will but thine be done."*

Sarah Archer died in 1909 aged 97 in Ludham, Norfolk. She is also buried at St. Catherine's Churchyard in Ludham. Her headstone reads: *"In loving memory of Sarah Rice who entered into rest May 9th 1909 aged 97 years - He giveth his beloved sleep"*.

If you go on Google Maps and look at Rice Cottage in Ludham, St. Catherine's Church is actually right behind their house (click down the street to see a better view). Benjamin and Sarah remain just a few hundred yards from where they spent their lives together.



The headstone of Benjamin Rice who lived between 1815-1885.



The headstone of Sarah Rice (nee Archer) 1812-1909.

Robert Rice & Mary Ann Tungate

Robert Rice was born in 1849 in Ludham, Norfolk, and was the tenth child of Benjamin Rice and Sarah Archer.

On the 1861 census, 11-year-old Robert lived with his parents and siblings at Johnsons Street in Ludham. His father Benjamin Rice is 47 at this point and is still a marsh worker, as is the oldest son Benjamin, who was 18 at the time.

Page 8]

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of -		Hamlet or Tything, &c., of		Ecclesiastical District of	
Ludham												Norfolk Ludham	
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born		Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb	
		In which	Family is				Males	Females					
	Johnson St.			Benjamin Rice	Son	Un	11		Marshman				
	"			Charles do	Son	1	14		Ag Lab	do	do		
	"			Charlotte do	Daughter		13		Scholar	do	do		
	"			Robert do	Son		11		do	do	do		
	"			Samuel do	Son		9		do	do	do		
	"			Elizabeth do	Daughter		6		do	do	do		
	"			Henry do	Son		4		do	do	do		
	"			Harriet do	Daughter		1		do	do	do		

1861 census showing 11-year-old Robert Rice.

On the 11th of August 1872, Robert Rice married Mary Ann Tungate. Mary was born in Hickling, Norfolk. Her family can be traced hundreds of years back from both her parents. The earliest of which is Sir Roger I Partridge, Knight, who lived between 1430-1495. Just for context, that's 15 generations back from Mary. There were various Knights, Ladies and other noble figures in her tree. Though most of the later generations lived in Norfolk like Mary.

Page 105.

1872. Marriage solemnized at the Church in the Parish of Ludham in the County of Norfolk

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
209	Aug.	Robert Rice	full age	Bachelor	Labourer	Ludham	Benjamin Rice	Marshman
	11	Mary Ann Tungate	full age	Spinster		Ludham	George Tungate	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Robert Rice & his mark in the Presence of us, Robert Gedge Sarah Ann Gedge Henry Walker Mica

The church record of the marriage of Robert Rice and Mary Ann Tungate.



Robert Rice on the Thurn River where he worked.



Another shot of Robert, father of Walter Rice.

In the 1881 census, Robert Rice lists that he is a marshworker. His address is 'Near Thurn River'.

Robert Rice and Mary Ann Tungate had 11 children together. This included Walter Robert Rice (1872-1940), Harry Edward Rice (1874-1876), Edith Mary Rice (1875-?), Ada Mary Rice (1876-1959), Harry Edward Rice (1876-1950), Mable Mary Rice (1800-?), Florence Mary Rice (1882-1961), Mary Ann Rice (1886-1965), Frederick Robert Rice (1887-?), Agneta Ann Rice (1889-?) and Emmeline Rice (1891-1978).

Robert Rice died in 1921 in Smallburgh, Norfolk aged 72. His wife Mary died six years later in 1927, aged 76. Robert's death warranted an article in the newspaper, entitled 'Passing Of Bob Rice'.

Robert, known as 'Bob', became a well known figure in his community. The Ludham Archive has a few pages about him on their website. Here is what they wrote about him: *"On the bank of the River Thurne opposite the end of Thurne Dyke stands St Benet's Level Drainage Mill. Near to the mill, there once stood a cottage long since destroyed by fire. It was called Marsh or Ferry House. From this spot, a ferry used to operate taking people across the Thurne. In the days before people had cars, it was a long walk from Thurne to Ludham as you had to go all the way round via Potter Heigham Bridge and the ferry was well used by local people making their way round the area.*

Bob Rice was the ferryman for 40 years until his retirement in 1915. Bob was a fourth generation marshman and as well as the ferry he would look after the mill and carry out a daily inspection of the local marshes which were then ecclesiastical land and used for fattening cattle.

Bob's father, Benjamin Rice, lived at the old thatched cottage at Ludham Bridge and it was here that Bob grew up. For a while, he went to sea as a fisherman but left this life to look after the cattle on the marshes. He used to walk 6 miles every day, summer and winter and is said to have covered 175,000 miles on foot by the time he retired.

There used to be a shallow bit of river opposite Thurne Dyke and Bob often helped out yachtsmen who had become stuck on the 'putty'."

Robert Rice's obituary said that it was "Rice's duty [involved] keeping a vigilant eye on the cattle and horses."



St Benet's Level Drainage Mill on the River Thurne where Robert Rice worked.

FORTY YEARS AT THURNE FERRY.

PASSING OF BOB RICE.

The death of Robert Rice, who for forty years had charge of the ferry connecting Ludham and Thurne, and who for the past six years had lived in retirement at Ludham is, says G.F.C., in an interesting sketch in the "Eastern Daily Press, an event of more than passing interest. "Bob" Rice, as he was known, belonged to the fourth generation of a family of marshmen. His father Benjamin Rice, lived at the quaint old thatched cottage at Ludham Bridge, now a deserted and tumble-down place, and it was there that Bob lived for many years, and from there too that he was married. As a young man he was for a time engaged in the fishing industry on the North Sea, but after a time he settled down on the land and became one of the hardy race who weather the bleak north-east winds which sweep over the Norfolk marshes. The little homestead opposite Thurne Dyke is a familiar landmark to yachtsmen and holiday-makers on the Broads, and from there he had the oversight of about 800 acres of marshland, forming a triangle between Thurne Mouth, St. Benet's Abbey, and Ludham Bridge. These are Church lands held under the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and they furnish some of the finest grazing in a county famous for its stock. Morning and evening it was Rice's duty to make a complete tour on foot, week in and week out, in fair weather and foul, summer and winter, year after year, keeping a vigilant eye on the cattle and horses, and incidentally obtain-

ing assistance to haul out any which had fallen into the dykes. His inseparable companion on these journeys was a shaggy old sheep dog, which more than once faithfully saved his master's life when attacked by a savage bull. Each of these expeditions involved a journey of six miles, and I remember his incredulous surprise when, on his retirement six years ago, I figured out that in this way he must have covered on foot not less than 175,000 miles. This besides attending to other marsh work, looking after his own little holding and responding to the call "Ferry—O."

Rice, who had reached the age of 72, was to the end a fine stalwart figure of a man, nearly six feet high, bronzed and tanned and bearded, and with the clean-shaven upper lip that one used to associate with a sturdy Non-conformity. He was, in fact, an old member of the Primitive Methodist community, and possessed a rich musical voice of a peculiarly resonant quality that one would like to have heard ringing from the platform or the pulpit. The villagers of Thurne, a quarter of a mile distant, knew that voice well. Through long winter nights, when the marshes were in flood, and Rice had to be in constant attention nursing his turbine pumping engine, it carried across the water, above the din of the machinery, and the lonely ferryman was heard singing at his work, giving full lung power to folk-song and ancient ballad, and to Moody and Sankey hymns so fervently sung at the little chapel across the way. No man could have stuck to his mill, his ferry, and his marsh for so long without developing a certain pride in his work. The old spot had been his home for so long—the home of one who had known the mystery of roads and who had felt the wind rising new in the morning. During long days spent out of doors he had accumulated a rich store of weather wisdom, and no one knew better than Rice the point at which the thundery tempest divides, following the course of the rivers, and usually giving Thurne a miss. During

the great flood of 1912 the water, of course, rose considerably near the meeting of the Bure and the Thurne, and Rice was urged to seek refuge elsewhere, but with his shrewd smile he philosophically stuck to his ferry house, and, though it remained an island in a great waste of waters for many days, the house itself was never actually

flooded. Rice had a family of eleven children — some of them now in distant parts of the world. Though no longer the ferryman, he was in harness almost up to the last, working on the marshes around St. Benet's, for they are a tough family, these Rices. By his death there passes out of our ken one who, however obscure his sphere, was thoroughly typical of much that is best in the Norfolk character, and who served his day and generation with cheerfulness and grit.

The funeral took place on Thursday at Ludham. There was a very large family gathering, and villagers gathered from far and near to show their respect.

Robert Rice's obituary in the Yarmouth Independent on June 25th, 1921.

Sales by Auction.

Burgh and Rollesby.

19 ACRES OF EXTREMELY FINE LAND, SMALL COUNTRY RESIDENCE, AND COTTAGES.

FRAS. CLOWES is favored with instructions to *Sell by Auction*, at the White Horse Inn, in Great Yarmouth, on *Wednesday next, the 25th day of July, 1855*, at Four for Five o'clock in the Afternoon, a highly valuable Small Estate, in Burgh St. Margaret and Rollesby, in Norfolk, late of Mr. John Rice, deceased, in seven lots as already advertised.

All the above lands, which for the most part are freehold, of the finest quality, abounding with excellent brick earth, commanding the highest rents, in a proverbially fertile district; the Auctioneer can most confidently recommend either for investment or occupation.

Further particulars and conditions of sale may be had of Mr. J. D. Waters, Solicitor, Great Yarmouth; or at the Auctioneer's Offices, St. Andrew's Hall Plain, Norwich.

Norfolk News, 21st July 1855

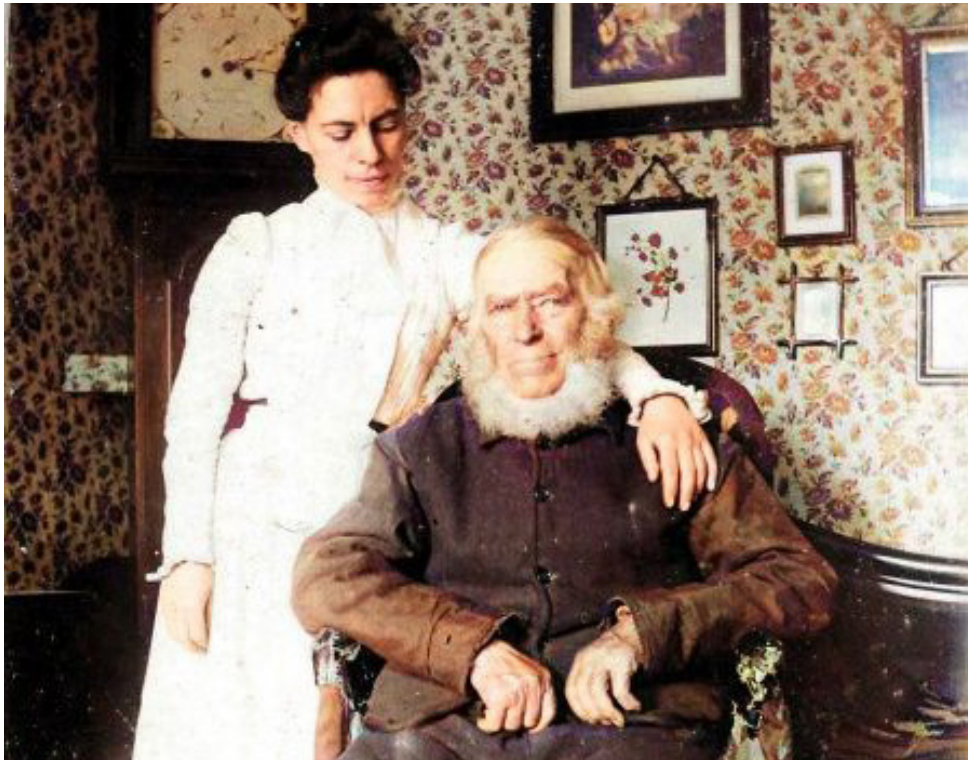
LUDHAM, NEAR THE BRIDGE.

JOHAN SIMNETT will sell by auction, by direction of Mrs. Sarah Rice, on **THURSDAY NEXT, September 10th, 1855**, part of her household **FURNITURE** and out-door effects. An excellent cow in calf, 2 fat pigs, fowls, pony cart and harness, about 50 loads of manure, and effects throughout the premises.

Sale to commence at 12 o'clock.

Auctioneer's offices, Ormesby, St. Margaret.

Yarmouth Independent, 5th September 1855



Violet Rice with her father Simeon Rice. Simeon lived between 1827-1910 and was a grandson of Edward Rice (1755-1843) and Mary Oldman (1749-1838).



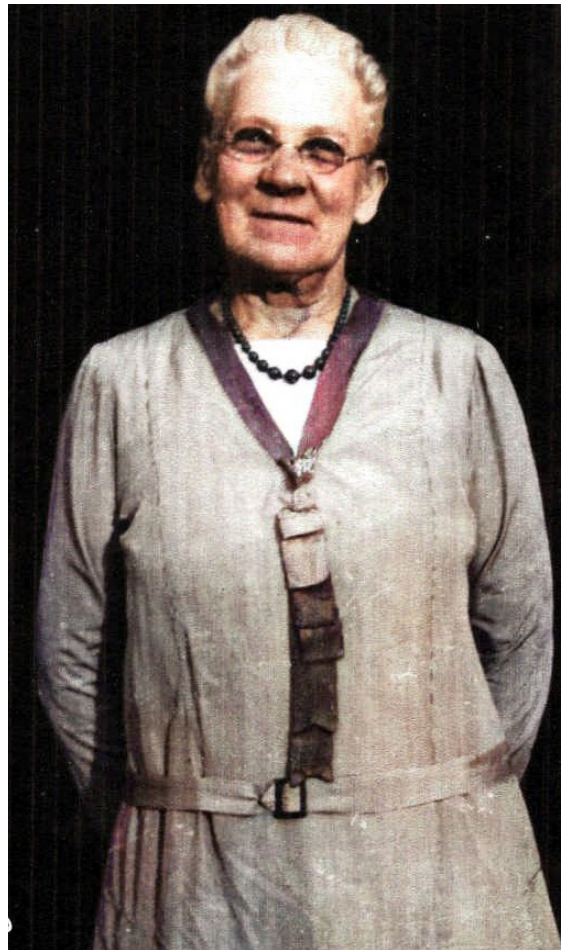
Violet Rice outside Rice Cottages in Staithe Road, Ludham.



Violet Rice, great granddaughter of Edward and Mary.



Emmeline Rice (1891-1978) youngest child of Robert and Mary, and sister of Walter Rice.



Pamela Rice, cousin of Walter Rice.



Audrey Lincoln, daughter of Emmerline Rice and niece of Walter Rice.

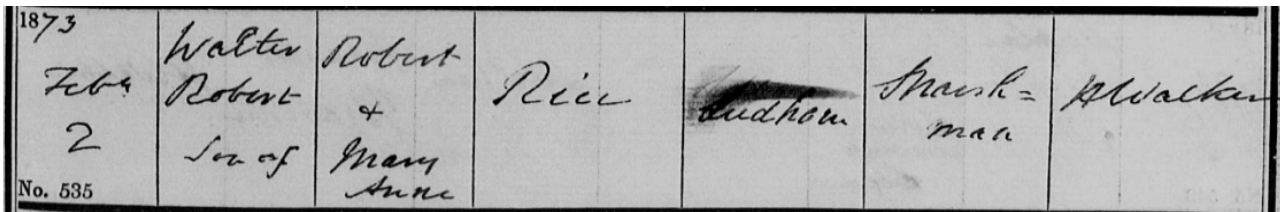


Charlotte Rice, sister of Robert Rice and Aunt of Walter Rice.

WALTER RICE & ETHEL ELLIOTT

Now we have uncovered the family history of Walter Rice and Ethel Elliott, it's time to put their stories together.

Walter Rice (baptised as Walter Robert Rice) was born on the 24th November, 1872, and was the eldest son of Robert Rice and Mary Ann Tungate. His birthplace was Hickling, Ludham in Norfolk.



Walter Rice's baptism in 1873, when he would have been around 3 months old.

On an 1881 census, Walter Rice is aged eight and is living with his father Robert, mother Mary Ann, sister Ada Mary and brother Harry Edward. The family were living in Hickling, Norfolk at the time, with Walter's father Robert working on the Thurn River as a marsh worker.

There is talk within the family that Walter Rice lived in Baltimore for a while down the same street as Wallace Simpson. When looking for passenger records, I found several entries for a Walter Rice born in 1872 who sailed to America. Though, because passenger records don't list the parents or exact birthplace, it's really difficult to narrow it down whether any of the records belong to the correct person or not.



Thatched wooden boat houses in Hickling, Norfolk.

Ethel Elliott (also known as Smith) was born in 1887, in a workhouse in Horncastle to Ann Smith. I don't know how long Ethel or Ann stayed in the workhouse, but I can only imagine it must have been an incredibly tough start to her young life. Ethel's parents were not married and her father Clark Elliott died aged 32, when Ethel was nine.

At the same time of her father's death, her mother Ann had the first of two daughters with George Westwood (Charlotte Smith). It appears George did not stick around even after the birth of half sister Betsy in 1899, so it's likely Ethel didn't have much of a father figure growing up. Though, she did live on and off with her maternal grandparents (Eldred and Miserreti) as well as her mother Ann and her sisters.

In the 1901 census when Ethel was 13, she was living with her mother 'Anna', grandfather Eldred and her 2 sisters Betsy and Charlotte at 4 Monks Dyke Road in Louth.

Ethel's mother was working as a glass hawker, and her grandfather as a clothes peg maker which were traditional Gypsy traditions.

We know at the time Ethel had family on her father's side also living in Louth, although we don't know if they ever met. Though, it's likely, given Gypsies stuck together and Louth is a small town. One thing we do know is that Ethel did not live the typical Gypsy lifestyle, as instead of travelling around in a wagon, she and her family lived in a house. Ethel's granddaughter Marie Rice recalled that Ethel spoke Romany Gypsy.

Administrative County *Leicestershire* *Widney* The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the

Civil Parish of *Louth* Ecclesiastical Parish of *Holy Trinity* County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban Sanitary District of *Louth* Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban Sanitary District of *South Road* Rural District of *South Road* Parliamentary Borough and Division of *Louth* Town or Village or Hamlet of *Louth* Page 1

No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of HOUSE	HOUSES			Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Inebriate, feeble-minded
		Uninhabited	Partly inhabited	Wholly inhabited									
1	4 Monks Dyke Rd				Thomas Elliott	Head	48	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Elizabeth Elliott	Wife	42	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Henry Elliott	Son	19	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Ann Elliott	Daughter	17	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
2	2, 2, 2, 2				Clark Smith	Head	27	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Anna Smith	Wife	25	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Robert Smith	Son	3	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Anna Smith	Daughter	1	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Elizabeth Smith	Daughter	13	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Charlotte Smith	Daughter	7	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	
					Betsy Smith	Daughter	7	Wagon maker	Employer			Leicester	

The 1901 Smith family census.

Seven years later in 1908, 21-year-old Ethel married 35-year-old Walter Rice at The Parish Church in Grimsby.

1908 . Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u>								
of <u>Great Grimsby</u> in the County of <u>Lincoln</u>								
Columns	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
12	<u>6th Nov</u>	<u>Walter Rice</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Fisherman</u>	<u>4 Red Mill</u>	<u>John Rice (deceased)</u>	<u>Game Keeper</u>
	<u>1908</u>	<u>Ethel Elliott</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4 Red Mill</u>	<u>Clark Elliott (deceased)</u>	<u>Horse Dealer</u>

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church or after Banns by me, Walter Rice or after Banns by me, Patrick A. Clay

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Ethel Elliott, her Parish in the Presence of us, Robert Toal

The 1908 church record of the marriage of Walter Rice and Ethel Elliott.

I actually discovered there were two men named 'Walter Robert Rice' born in the same place in the same year. The first Walter Robert Rice was born in January 1872 to Emma Fairhead and Benjamin Rice. The second Walter Robert Rice was born in November 1872 to Mary Ann Tungate and Robert Rice. This created a bit of a pickle because I of course, wanted to make sure I got the right person.

As it turns out, we are related to both men as the Rice family is quite widespread. However, what's happened on Ancestry websites is that people have confused the two. So, although the older Walter Robert Rice married Annie Amelia Kate Wrenn and died in 1947 in Birmingham, many people have attached his death to our Walter. This of course can't be correct, because they are two different people so they are not both going to have the same death records! So, if you have a look on any family history sites for yourself and find conflicting information - this is why but don't worry it's been thoroughly checked.

Here's another puzzle. On Walter and Ethel's wedding register, it appears as if the word 'deceased' has been written on both Ethel and Walter's father's names. While we know this is true for Ethel's because Clark Elliott died in 1896, this doesn't appear to be the case for Robert Rice who actually died in 1921.

Explanations for this could include:

A. It was a mistake. Perhaps the clerk filling out the certificate misheard or there was general confusion as one of the couple's fathers (Clark Elliott) was actually deceased.

After all, Ethel was illiterate so she wouldn't have been able to tell what was written. We don't know if they even had a copy of this record as it was kept in the church. Their actual marriage certificate could have said something different.

B. Walter didn't see eye to eye with Robert. Pure speculation here but it may explain why he dropped his middle name 'Robert' from official documents. Walter was also the first in a very long line of Rice's who didn't name a son after their father. Ethel was also the first in her family not to marry a Gypsy. Perhaps Robert didn't approve of the marriage given Ethel was a Gypsy? Or perhaps they just didn't like the name? It's really difficult to say.

C. It was just a case of preference. After all, not everyone with a middle name always uses it. Though usually they would on legal documents which Walter didn't appear to use past birth.

Personally from what I've found, 'B' sounds the most probable. Even today, it remains a scandal for a Gypsy to marry an outsider (known as a 'Gorger'). Though, it was probably a bigger shock for the Rice's who were very straight-laced. While the Elliott's frequently made the news for their criminal activity, the Rice's were only really mentioned in relation to their duty. While we'll never know if the families did get on, the contrast of backgrounds must have been a shock for both families. Especially in those days!

Another interesting point about this church record is it's the first time we see Ethel referred to as 'Elliott' not 'Smith'. It's also the first legal document Ethel filled out herself (albeit her instructions as she was illiterate hence it says 'her mark'), not her mother Anna. It could have been the case Ethel referred to herself all along as an Elliott. Given Ethel's mother was unmarried, filling out documents would have been a difficult process because of the social judgement. Ethel wouldn't really have that pressure. The Elliotts were also well to do at that point, so if she did have a relationship with her father's side, perhaps she wanted to look more respectable in front of the Rices. Again, pure speculation but there must have been some reason she suddenly switched to calling herself Elliott. Though, as we know Gypsies were quite flexible with what they called themselves, so that could have even been it!

It was also curious how Walter married quite late for those times at age 35, whereas Ethel was just 21. I looked at some statistical data, which shows that in 1910, the average age a man got married was 25. While he could have just waited to settle down, it's also possible Walter was married before this. Though, at the time of writing,

I haven't found any concrete evidence. He does, however, state his condition as a 'bachelor' on his wedding certificate, which you can only do if you haven't been married before. If I do find any information to the contrary, I will add it to the tree.

Neither Ethel nor Walter were originally from Grimsby, as Ethel was born in Horncastle and Walter was born in Norfolk. In Walter's case, generations going back as far as records go show the Rices living in Norfolk. Never in Lincolnshire. Though, as we know from Robert Rice's obituary family came from "far and wide" for his funeral, so it's probable many of the Rices moved for work. Ethel had lived between Horncastle and Louth. Her mother Ann was born in Grimsby, so it's likely she spent some time there too.

So why were they drawn to Grimsby? In the 1900s, a tenth of the UK's fish came from Grimsby and over 21,000 people were employed in the local fishing industry. For Walter, a fisherman, it would have been a prime location to look for work. It was during this time that the town was at its most prosperous, with people moving from all over the country to live and work here.



A picture of Grimsby taken in 1908, which is the same year Walter Rice married Ethel Elliott.

In 1913, Walter and Ethel had their first child, a daughter called Agnitta named after Walter's sister, 'Agnetta'. Though sadly, Agnitta died at just a few days old at 22 Redhill. Her cause of death was marasmus, which means undernourishment causing a child's weight to be significantly low for their age.

N.B: Agnitta's death certificate says she was '1 month old' at the time of death, but I think this is the youngest age they give on death certificates, as her birth year was listed as 1913 and she died on 7th January 1913.

Registration District GRIMSBY.									
1913. DEATHS in the Sub-District of GREAT GRIMSBY in the Counties of LINCOLN, &c.									
Columns:-	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
228	28th January 1913 22 Redhill Grimsby	Agnitta Rice	female	1 month	Daughter of Walter Rice marriage registrar	(1) Marasmus certified by W.H. Towell M.D.	S. Hayes present at death 10, Moor street Lincoln	7th January 1913	W.H. Westringham Registrar.

The death certificate of Agnitta Rice, Walter and Ethel's first born child.

On the 28th July 1914, World War I broke out. From the documents I've found during this point, we know that Walter was working on naval vessels in and out of Grimsby as part of the war efforts.

In July 1915, Walter and Ethel had a second child, a son named Walter. He died aged 5 months. His cause of death was listed as malnutrition caused by ineffective assimilation and exhaustion. The informant was not either of his parents, but a neighbour called E.J George who lived at 28 Redhill.

Registration District GRIMSBY.									
1915. DEATHS in the Sub-District of GREAT GRIMSBY in the Counties of GRIMSBY C.B. &c.									
Columns:-	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and Where	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
175	28th July 1915 28 Redhill Grimsby	Walter Rice	male	5 months	Son of Walter Rice fisherman	(1) Mal-nutrition due to defective assimilation & exhaustion certified by E.J. George M.D.	E.J. George present at death 28, Redhill Grimsby	28th July 1915	W.H. Westringham Registrar.

The death certificate of Walter Rice, Walter and Ethel's second born child.

Letter **E.L** Number **20**
 Name **Rice**
Walter

Town and County where Born
Madison, Miss.
Hope

Name of Father and Mother
Robert M. Rice
Mary Rice

Date of Birth
15 Nov 1873

Height
 Ft. **5** In. **7 1/4**
 Chest Measurement **35"**
 Colour of Eyes **Brown**

Complexion
Succot

Letter **E.L** Number **20**

Name **Rice**

Date of Birth **15 Nov 1873**

Height **5 ft 7 1/4 in**

Complexion **Succot**

Particulars of Training
 LAST UNDERGONE

Particulars of Travelling
 Warrants, etc.

Particulars of Expenses
 TO TRAINING, &c.

Particulars of Employment
 R. V. 17 or Schedule 32

Particulars of Discharge
 Date, Place, Remarks

Scheduled Year	Date of Joining	Character of Training	Minor Offences (if any) with punishment	To what place	Port	Amount
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						

REMARKS
 Certified **Medically** fit for **51** in rating.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

REMARKS
 Certified **Medically** fit for retention in rating.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

REMARKS
 Certified **Medically** fit for retention in rating.

For Employment Continuation Columns see other side.

CHANGES OF DISTRICT AND ADDRESS

DATE OF ENROLMENT: **11-6-18**

NAME: **Rice**

LETTER NUMBER: **20**

CONSECUTIVE No.:

Post:

Address:

SERVICE IN ROYAL NAVY WHEN CALLED OUT BY PROCLAMATION.

OCCASIONAL SERVICE IN ROYAL NAVY APART FROM ORDINARY TRAINING		COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE		TERMINATION OF SERVICE		REMARKS
H.M. Ship	Date of Embarkation	Character	Ability	Conduct	Particular Services for which Embarked	

Report by Naval Officer

Depot of Ship from which Discharged and Place of Discharge	Artificial Date of Discharge	Rating on Discharge	Character	Ability	Conduct	Grounds of Discharge

Atk. Insp. Edward Lewis
1. Public Inquiry

EMPLOYMENT—R. V. 17 or Schedule 32 (continued).

Date of Application for	How disposed of	Particulars of Admiralty decision	PREVIOUS SERVICE IN RESERVE		Description of Voyages	Name and Official Number of Ship	Date	Place	Date of Expected Return	Discharge	Character (1) Ability (2) Conduct	REMARKS
			Number	Letter								

NATURE OF SERVICE PRIOR TO ENTERING RESERVE

Particulars of Award	Period served	From	To	Number	Letter

NAVAL TRAINING (APART FROM BIENNIAL TRAINING) PREVIOUSLY UNDERGONE

Particulars of Admiralty decision	Particulars of Award

Next to be born was son Harry in 1918, who was the couple's first child to survive past childhood.

In August of 1919, Walter was issued with a Mercantile Marine War Medal for his contributions to the war. Here's some information I found about the medal.

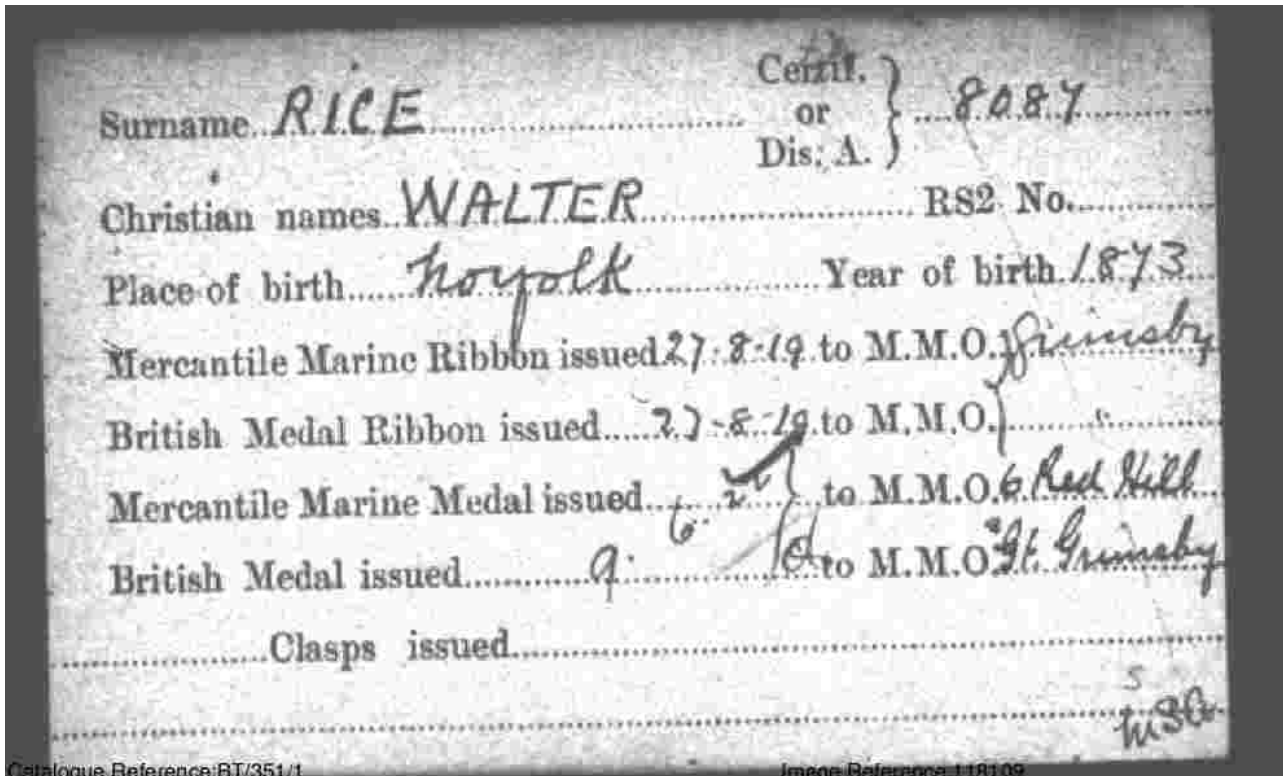
“The Mercantile Marine War Medal was instituted by the Board of Trade and approved by the King to reward the war service of the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine who, while only trained as peacetime mariners, continued to serve while running the risk of being attacked at sea during the war.

One or more voyages through a danger zone during the war qualified a mariner for the award of the medal, as did service at sea for no less than six months between 4 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. Men who served in coastal trades, such as pilots, fishermen and lightship and post office cable ship crews could also qualify. All recipients also received the British War Medal.

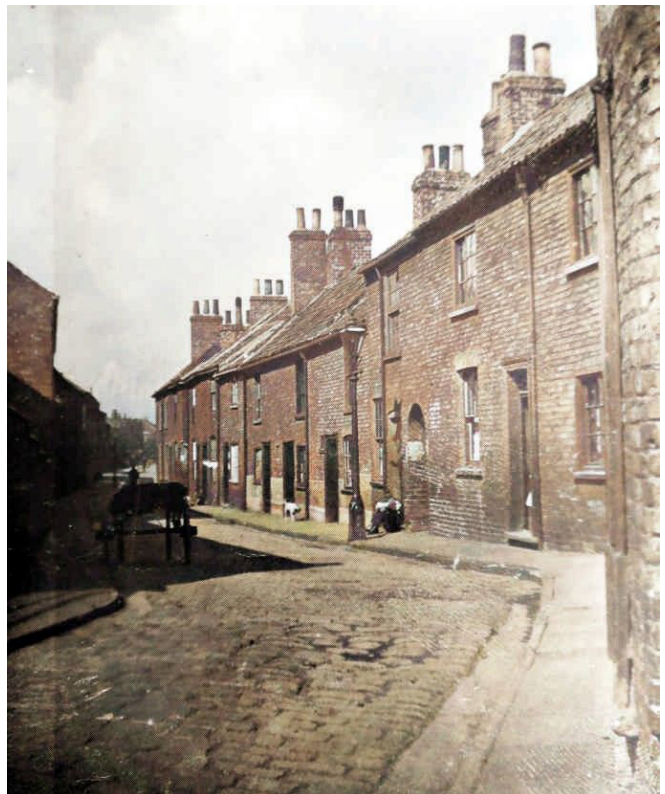
The Mercantile Marine War Medal is a disk, struck in bronze and 36 millimetres in diameter. The straight clasp non-swivelling suspender is attached to the medal with a single-toe claw mount and a pin through the upper edge of the medal. The recipient's name only is impressed on the rim in sans-serif capital letters and the first given name is usually in full.”



The Mercantile Marine War Medal, which was awarded to Walter Rice in 1919.



Walter Rice's WW1 medal record receipt. His year of birth is actually his baptism date. Walter became slightly flexible with his D.O.B when it came to his war records. A trait perhaps, he learned from Ethel's side of the family!



Top and right: Redhill where Ethel and Walter lived in Grimsby. The area was cleared for redevelopment in 1970.

In November, 1919, daughter Olive was born. It is believed her name comes from the term 'olive branch', as she was born exactly a year after the war ended.

In 1920, Walter and Ethel had a son called Fred. He survived until the age of eight months, when he died of malnutrition and convulsions, at The Fever Hospital in Scartho. This time, the death was reported by Ethel herself, and like on her marriage certificate was signed with a cross to represent her mark, as she couldn't read or write. When Fred died, sister Olive would have been coming up to her second birthday.

Registration District GRIMSBY.									
1921. DEATHS in the Sub-District of GREAT GRIMSBY in the Counties of GRIMSBY C.B., &c.									
Columns:—									
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
28	5th September 1921 The Fever Hospital Scartho R.D.	Fred Rice	male	8 months	of 6 Red Hill Grimsby son of Walter Rice fisherman	1) Malnutrition & convulsions certified by W. B. Simpson 1m-13	x The mark of Ethel Rice mother in attendance 6. Red Hill 4.4.1921	5th September 1921	W. H. Wintington Registrar

The death certificate of Fred Rice, son of Walter and Ethel.

Two years later in 1922, Sidney Rice was born healthy along with brothers Walter in 1923 and Frank in 1926. That would have made Ethel approximately aged 39 when she had her last child, and Walter aged 53.

The death of three babies was not the only tragic loss for Walter and Ethel. In 1936, son Harry died at age 18, which we believe was due to pneumonia caused by a cold or flu. As antibiotics didn't become commonplace until the 1940s, there wouldn't have been many ways to treat him. My mother recalls a story Olive would tell about Harry being a boxer and was otherwise very fit and strong. The front window of the house had to be removed to bring his coffin out.

REGISTER BOOK OF BURIALS IN THE GREAT GRIMSBY												
SCARTHOE ROAD CEMETERY, ESTABLISHED 1889.												
No. OF BURIALS.	Where Buried.		Date of Death.	Date of Burial.	CHRISTIAN AND SURNAME.	AGE.	RANK, PROFESSION OR TRADE.	SEX.	RESIDENCE.	NAME, RESIDENCE AND DESCRIPTION OF INFORMANT.	OFFICIATING MINISTER.	
	Section.	Row.										Grave.
42852	109	B	19	20	24	Harry Rice	18	Painter	Male	6. Red Hill	148 Alexandra Rd Scartho R.D.	W. F. Wilson

The burial record for Harry Rice.

Harry Rice was listed as a painter at the time of his death. He's buried in Scartho Cemetery at 109 B 19. This section of the cemetery can be accessed through the path that runs next to Oasis Academy. Teresa Boylen remarked her father Frank Rice would often leave a wreath on Harry's grave, a tradition she has since taken over.



Harry Rice's grave in Scartho Cemetary. Note: At the time of writing a new cross is being arranged for Harry.

I also discovered that Agnitta, Walter and Fred Rice are buried in the same grave together at Scartho Cemetery. Their grave number is 62 N 9. It's a really beautiful spot under a tree. Coincidentally, the tree trunk splits into three at the top.

I had a plaque made with their names and ages. Whether it remains, depends on if the council spots it or not, as I don't legally own the grave.

While I was there I asked a groundskeeper if burying children in the same grave was common in those days.

He told me that up to three children can be buried together, and that it was fortunate they were in the same plot as during the early 1900s it was common for babies to be placed in with strangers. So even if the plaque is taken at least the three children are together.

You can only imagine how difficult it would have been for Ethel and Walter to return to the same spot three times after each child had perished. Then to return again 16 years after Fred died to lay Harry to rest just a few hundred feet to the side of their babies.

Walter and Ethel had a total of eight children which were Agnitta (1913-1913), Walter (1915-1915), Harry (1918-1936), Olive (1919-2013), Fred (1920-1921), Sidney (1922-1998), Walter (1923-2012), and Frank (1926-2010).



The burial plot of Agnitta, Walter and Fred Rice at Scartho Cemetery.



A close-up of the grave. If the plaque is taken down and you'd like to find the location, the cross to the right says Allen Sparkes.



The plaque marking the grave of Agnitta, Walter and Fred Rice.



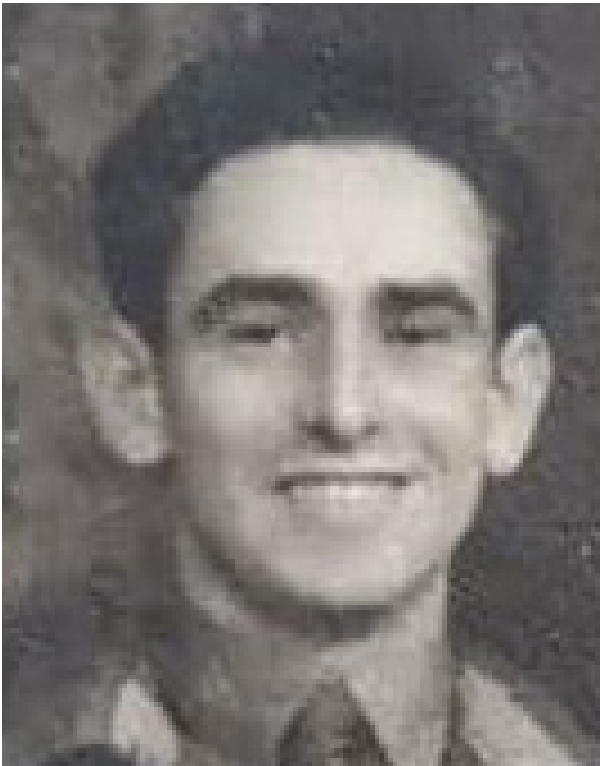
Ethel Rice, nee Elliott.



Harry Rice



Frank Rice



Walter Rice



Sidney Rice

Ethel and Walter primarily lived in an area of Grimsby that is no longer there called Redhill. It got its name because the area was a Labour stronghold. I managed to find images of the area which I converted into colour. Later on in a 1939 census Walter, Ethel and daughter Olive were living at 101 Haycroft Street, which must have been after Redhill.

3	49	1	Mr Robert C.W.	M	21 JUNE 82	M.	at School
	50	1	Mrs Ethel	F	17 JAN. 79	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		1	Miss Walter	F	24 Nov 72	M.	Fisherman
		2	Mrs Ethel	F	23 JAN. 91	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3	Miss Olive	F	12 Nov 49	S	Barmaid

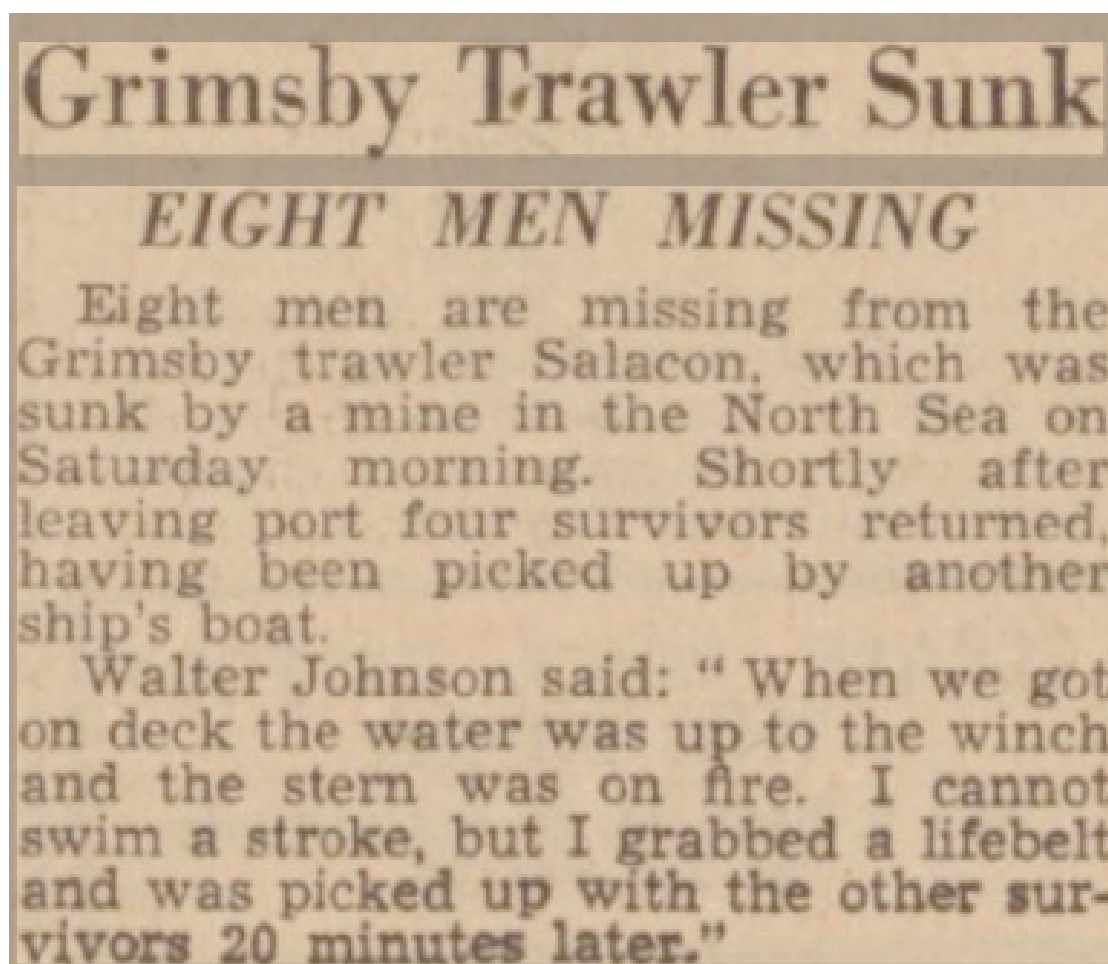
The 1939 census showing Walter, Ethel and daughter Olive living at 101 Haycroft Street, Grimsby.



A street party in Haycroft Street, Grimsby in 1957.

While Ethel was a settled Gypsy, the research I have done into Gypsy life shows that women are solely responsible for keeping a tidy house and looking after their husband. They typically do not work or earn any money for themselves. From a very young age, they are taught how to keep the home immaculate. As Ethel married a non-Gypsy (the first out of her family to do so) it's a curious thought whether she stuck to this or not, especially as Ethel apparently worked down the docks for a while. Plus, we know her parents had typical Gypsy occupations too.

Later in the year of 1939, World War II broke out. Walter Rice worked as an engineer during the war efforts, namely on naval vessels. On Saturday, September 7th 1940, GY55 known as Salacon was joining a convoy of ships heading north. Not long after setting sail whilst in the North Sea, Salacon struck a mine and sank. The location was approximately 9.8km south-east of Spurn Point.



Hull Daily Mail, 9th September 1940.

Eight of the twelve man crew died instantly, including Chief Engineer Walter Rice who was the oldest on board. One of the other convoy ships managed to rescue the four survivors.

News of the tragedy was announced a few days later, written in small print at the bottom corner of a page in The Hull Daily Mail. It read: *“Eight men are missing from the Grimsby trawler Salacon which was sunk by a mine in the North Sea on Saturday morning.”*

“Shortly after leaving port, four survivors returned, having been picked up by another ship’s boat.”

[Survivor] Walter Johnson said: *“When we got on deck the water was up to the winch and the stern was on fire.”*

“I cannot swim a stroke, but I grabbed a lifebelt and was picked with the other survivors 20 minutes later.”

Four men survived the blast but sadly, Walter Rice alongside Arthur William Cook (52), Alfred William Hallam (63), Frederick Joel (50), Dennis O’Connor (22), Robert Henry Sjöholm (29), David Fowler Squire (39) and Alfred William Wingfield (44) died in the blast.


The wreck of Salacon still lies in the River Humber today. Although the body of Walter and his crewmates were never recovered, there is a memorial of the men in Tower Hill London, commemorating *“the men of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who have no grave but the sea.”* The memorial bears the name of Walter Rice and is also home to the names of 50,700 other merchant seamen who lost their lives during both world wars. More than 35,800 of them have no known grave.

Arthur Elijah Tungate, Walter’s maternal uncle also is commemorated here. On the 20th May 1915, Arthur, aged 54, was on a steam trawler called Sabrina. He drowned as a result of an attack by an enemy submarine, 160 miles (67.5°) from Spurn Lightvessel.


All nine men on board were lost, with the youngest being just 15. Although born in Hickling, Norfolk, Arthur was living in Hull at the time of his death along with his wife Emmeline Tungate.

REGISTER OF DECEASED SEAMEN.														
PARTICULARS OF SHIP					PARTICULARS OF DECEASED									
Name	Official Number	Port of Registry	Date of Death	Place of Death	Name and Surname of Deceased	Sex	Age	Rank or Rating	Nationality (Official Certificate)	Last Place of Abode	Cause of Death	Remarks	Official Reference	
E	Elan Menrol	14882	Glasgow	29/10	At sea	Edris x fana Nian	M	20	EA	British	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Rasat Ali x Mohd Tharim	M	45	Do	Malay	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action on 14/10/1940	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Abdul Aziz x Magab Ali	M	50	Do	Malay	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Abdul Rashid x Ebadullah	M	21	Do	Malay	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Ennos Meah x Salam Ali	M	52	Do	Malay	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Karimullah x Loranulla	M	40	Do	Malay	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Fishing V. Salacon	118948	Grimsby	07/10	North Sea	David Fowler Squire	M	39	3rd Hand	British	Deck Hand	Chopped downed when vessel foundered after striking mine	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Walter Rice	M	65	1st Eng	British	Chief Engineer	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Arthur William Cook	M	52	2nd Hand	British	Deck Hand	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Alfred William Hallam	M	63	Cook	British	Deck Hand	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Dennis O'Connor	M	22	Trimmer	British	Deck Hand	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Fredrick Joel	M	50	2nd Eng	British	Deck Hand	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Alfred William Wingfield	M	44	Deck Hand	British	Deck Hand	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6
E	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Robert Henry Sjoholm	M	29	3rd Hand	British	Deck Hand	Missing Presumed killed by enemy action	EA	2/6

Walter Rice on the 'deceased seamen' register.

 **† Walter Rice** [DOWNLOAD](#)

alls

e: Walter Rice
65 years
of death: 07/09/1940 [dd/mm/yyyy]
of birth:
: crew
: Chief Engineer
ment: Fishing Fleet
k:  **FV Salacon (GY55)**
Japan Steam Fishing Co. Ltd.
cause lost: mine

arks:
try: United Kingdom
ences: [Commonwealth War Graves Commission - CWGC](#)
red by: [Jan Lettens](#)
red: 04/02/2017

netery/Memorial


e: [Tower Hill Memorial](#)
e reference: Panel 129.
hs: 35666 (on this memorial)
: [map](#)

lcacon (GY55) [+1940]

RS:









only: who died who survived crew passengers
containing word in remarks:
not containing word in remarks:

Pictures

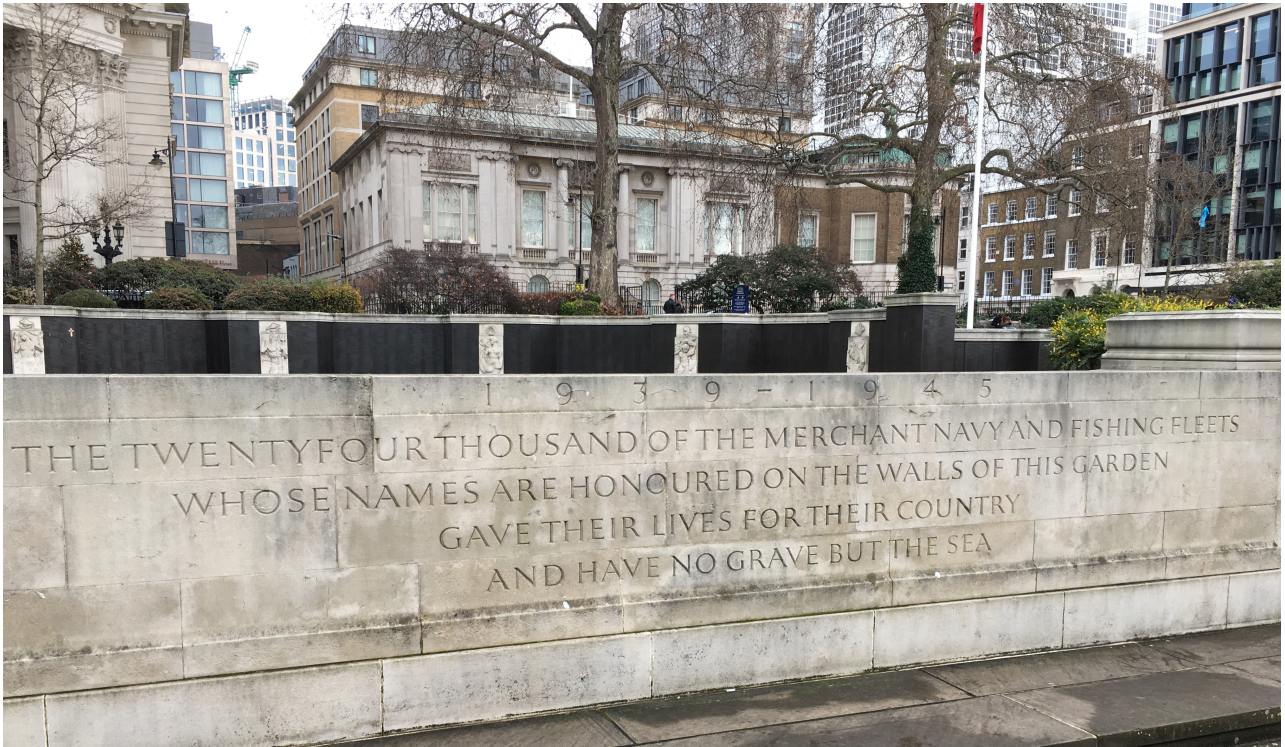

[Jan Lettens](#) 25/07/2017
[Tower Hill Memorial](#)
copyrights: Unknown
ref. used: [Commonwealth War Graves Commission - CWGC](#)

History

Documents

NAME	AGE	DIED	CREW
 COOK, ARTHUR WILLIAM , Second Hand, Fishing Fleet, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	52	07/09/1940	✓
 HALLAM, ALFRED WILLIAM , Cook, Fishing Fleet, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	63	07/09/1940	✓
 JOEL, FREDERICK , Second Engineer, Fishing Fleet, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	50	07/09/1940	✓
 O'CONNOR, DENNIS , Trimmer, Fishing Fleet, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	22	07/09/1940	✓
 RICE, WALTER , Chief Engineer, Fishing Fleet, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	65	07/09/1940	✓
 SJOHOLM, ROBERT HENRY , Deck Hand, Fishing Fleet, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	29	07/09/1940	✓
 SQUIRE, DAVID FOWLER , Third Hand, Fishing Fleet, Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Squire, of Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	39	07/09/1940	✓
 WINGFIELD, ALFRED WILLIAM , Deck Hand, Fishing Fleet, Husband of Elsie Wingfield, of Grimsby, Lincolnshire, Memorial: Tower Hill Memorial	44	07/09/1940	✓

Further information on Salacon.



Tower Hill Memorial in London.



The memorial to Walter Rice, which can be found on panel 129.

Salacon Way in Grimsby's East Marsh is a tribute to the sunken Salacon vessel that Walter Rice perished on. Amazingly, when I posted the above story on a Grimsby and Cleethorpes history group on Facebook, the grandson of the skipper saw it and sent me a message.

There is also a group called 'Grimsby's Lost Ships of WW1' who have found wrecks of some vessels. Although they haven't come across Salacon (which was WW2), the images and video they have created of what they have found are worth checking out. They have so far come across 307 lost vessels in the North Sea. The Grimsby fishing fleets that went out during the war cleared 34,000 mines at a cost of more than 2,300 lives.

For Walter's wife Ethel and their children Olive (20), Sidney (18), Walter (16), and Frank (13) who were left behind, we can only imagine how difficult his death must have been. At the time, son Frank was in Gainsborough having been evacuated in the war. Frank's daughter Marie Rice recalls how he was told of the Salacon's sinking by a classmate, and after which he ran out of the school and never went back. When he asked his mother Ethel why she didn't tell him, she replied: *"I didn't want to upset you."*

It was almost five years to the day of Walter's death that the war ended on the 5th September 1945. The River Humber was littered with mines during the war, and they are still being discovered to this day. Usually, they wash up on the beach and the army bomb disposal team has to be called in to safely explode them. Ironically, a recent one washed up on the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Just some further elaboration on Walter's age too. He himself listed on the 1939 census that his birthday was the 24th November 1872. We know this is correct because he was living with Ethel and Olive in Grimsby, and it's also what I found on his birth records too. Yet, when he died it said he was 65 years old in the newspaper article and it also says this on the Tower Hill memorial to him. I believe this is a mistake and that he was 67 at the time he died, because when you subtract 1940 from 1872 (bearing in mind he died in September and his birthday was in November) that equals 67, not 65.

The maximum age to fight in the war was 41. As Walter was out on a ship in the Humber and not the trenches the age limit to serve in the war efforts could have been higher. One theory is that perhaps the maximum age limit was 65 and so he altered his details to be able to go out to sea. While this is pure speculation, it does seem

probable given Walter listed his own date of birth as 1872 in every other record I have of him.

Even on his wedding certificate to Ethel, Walter states he's 35 years old in 1908, which again puts his birthday at 1872 (it was January when they got married so he hadn't had a birthday yet). Either that or it was a mistake on the government's part, though this seems unlikely given the war records would go on the information Walter signed up with.

Also, on official documents he even changes the day he was born on too. Even though he's living in the same place with Ethel, so it's most definitely him. There must have been a reason for this, but we'll never know.

Ethel Elliott (Rice) died 17 years after husband Walter in 1957 in Grimsby, aged 69. Her cause of death was a brain haemorrhage which we believed happened after a fall. Her death was reported by her son Frank Rice.

Registration District CLEETHORPES									
1957. DEATHS in the Sub-District of CLEETHORPES in the County of LINCOLN (LINDSEY)									
Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No.	When and where died.	Name and surname.	Sex.	Age.	Occupation.	Cause of death.	Signature, description, and residence of informant.	When registered.	Signature of registrar.
4.	Third, November, 1957. 35, Brereton Avenue, Cleethorpes.	Ethel RICE	Female	69 years	of 12, Redhill, Grimsby. Widow of Walter RICE. Fisherman.	I(a) Cerebral Haemorrhage. Certified by J.Barrowman. M.B.	F.Rice. Son, present at the death. 35, Brereton Avenue, Cleethorpes.	Fourth, November, 1957.	M.Rowston deputy Registrar

Ethel Elliott's (Rice) death certificate. She is buried in Scartho Cemetery in Grimsby at plot 143-E-13.

As Walter was lost at sea, there is no grave for him. However, the war memorial at Tower Hill bears his name. If you plan on visiting it, the Salacon memorial is on panel 129. Look out for Arthur Elijah Tungate while you are there, who is Walter's uncle who died in similar circumstances four months before him.

Sadly I could not find any pictures that exist of Walter. But if anyone ever comes across one, I will add it onto the tree.



Ethel Rice's grave at Scartho Cemetary.



THE CHILDREN OF WALTER RICE & ETHEL ELLIOTT

The marriage of Walter Rice and Ethel Elliott produced 11 grandchildren and (approximately) 21 great-grandchildren, through their four surviving children Olive, Sidney, Walter and Frank. While Olive, Sidney and Frank remained in Lincolnshire and Walter lived in Yorkshire, they did occasionally meet up. The last time was when Frank visited Olive for her 90th birthday party in 2009.

Let's take a closer look at their four surviving children.

Olive Rice

Olive Rice was born the year after brother Harry in 1919. She married Albert Charles Hurst who was a labourer in March 1941. During the same year, daughter Wendy (1941-2017) was born and sister Lorraine (1944-2011) followed a couple of years later. Olive had two more children Linda (1947-L) and Martin (1950-L). Olive then met Arthur Buchan, a deckhand from Peterhead in Scotland.

Given Olive's occupation in the 1939 census listed she was as a 'barmaid' it is likely she met Arthur (known to the family as 'Buchan') in a pub. Though we'll never know the real story. Arthur Buchan was originally married to a woman called Elizabeth Lond. As far as I can tell, neither Olive nor Arthur officially divorced their spouses. Olive and Arthur had a daughter named Sharon Hurst in 1958. Olive and Buchan remained a couple until Arthur died in 1999.

Coincidentally, my mother (Sharon Hurst) met a long lost relative of Arthur Buchan during a chance meeting in Sainsbury's in St Peter's Avenue in Cleethorpes in around 2010. It turned out the man called Alex Winton was Buchan's cousin. He later provided photos and information of the family going back several generations. Alex is quite elderly now but the two kept in touch for a while.

Throughout her life, Olive mostly lived in the same areas of Grimsby. She was born in Redhill, lived in Haycroft Street, Chantry Lane and Boulevard Gardens. All of which are within a couple of minutes walk of each other.

Olive passed away aged 93 in 2013 and was buried with Buchan at Scartho Cemetery in Grimsby. Their headstone reads: "*Partners together again*".



Arthur Buchan, who was from Peterhead in Scotland.



Olive in her later years.



Albert Hurst, husband of Olive and father of Lorraine and Wendy.



Olive and Buchan in 1982.

Sidney Rice

Sidney Rice was born in 1922. He married Florence Hurst who was Albert Hurst's sister and had a daughter called Christine. Sidney and Florence or 'Flo' as she was known, divorced. Sidney then married Ivy Godney in 1956.

Not much is known about Sidney's life or work, though many pictures exist of him hanging out with his brother Walter. Christine also has a picture of her with her father taken in Cleethorpes in the 1940s which I was able to restore for her. I briefly remember going to Sidney and Ivy's home aged about 6/7 when Olive took me. I recall Ivy was a keen knitter and gave me a doll she had made out of wool. Sidney died not long after this in 1998.



Sidney Rice with daughter Christine.

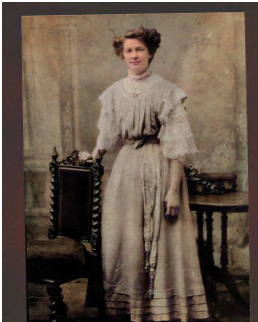


Ivy and Sidney with Jean, who was the wife of brother Walter.



Sidney and Walter Rice.

Hurst/Rice family crossover



James Hurst

Mary Ann Revell

Walter Rice

Ethel Elliott



Albert Hurst

Florence Hurst

Olive Rice

Sidney Rice



Mary Ann Revell, mother of Florence Hurst who would have been mother in law to Sidney and Olive Rice.



Albert and Florence Hurst.



Florence and Albert Hurst as children with their mother Mary Ann Revell.



Florence Hurst.

Walter Rice

Walter Rice was born in 1923 and was the second son born to Ethel and Walter to be given his father's name. During the second world war, Walter was posted to Skipton in Yorkshire, where he served in the Duke of Wellington Regiment. It was here that he met wife Jean Oldfield and they married in 1945. Jean decided she didn't like the name Walter so called him John.

Walter and Jean married in 1945. They had two sons John - who you will know better as Stuart and Anthony. What happened is because Walter was now also known as 'John' it soon caused havoc! So son John changed his name from 'John Stuart Rice' to 'Stuart Rice' to ease the confusion.

In the 1939 census, Jean listed her occupation as a 'cotton thread spool winder'. Jean was one of five children. Son Stuart remarked she was a "whizz with money".

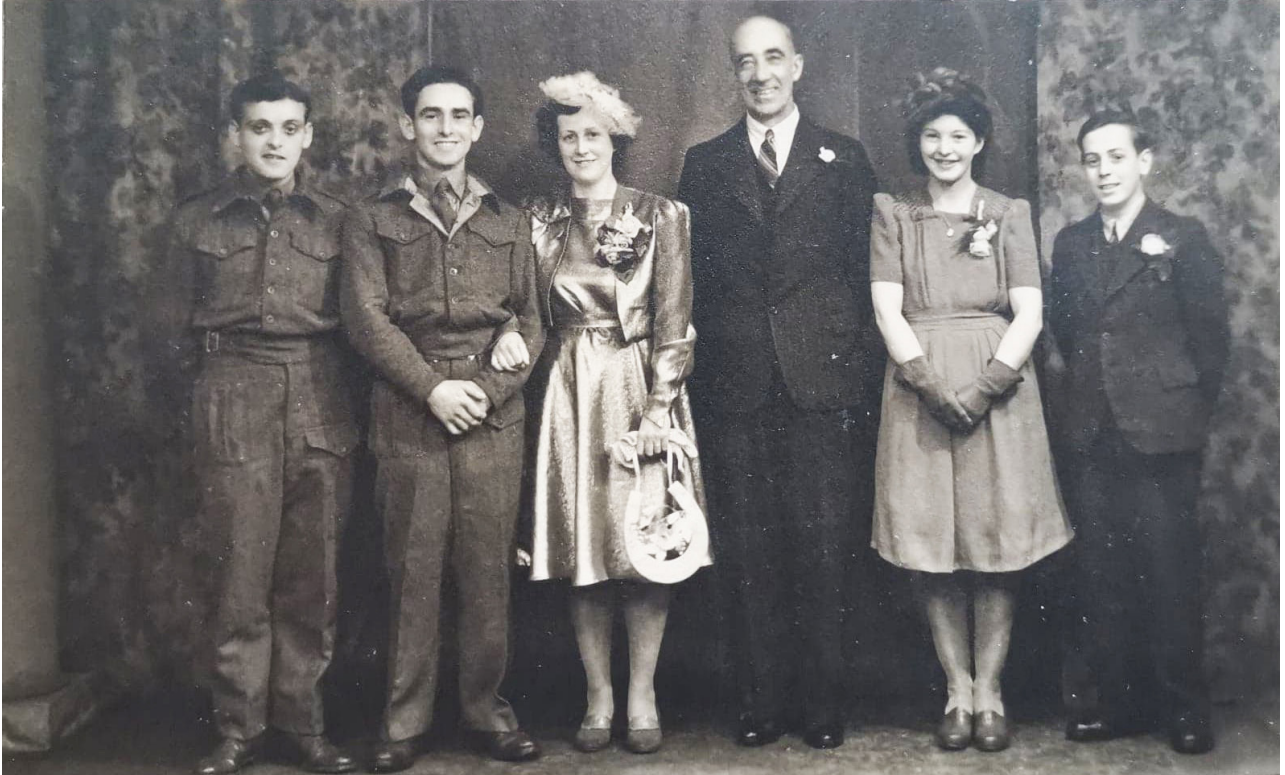
Walter had several jobs including working on the railways which Stuart supplied a picture of. He also drove a milk wagon and worked in a bakery where he would deliver goods throughout the Yorkshire dales. In 1958, Walter then became a postman. Walter and Jean sold up the house and bought a fish shop in Bradford.

Walter's nieces and nephews remember him as a very kind man who was also a bit of a joker. He used to take all the kids to the shop and say: "Here, there's a penny between you!"

Jean died in 2004, and Walter Rice died in 2012.

KOP W		4	Butler RICE Jean	F	21st May 1923	S	Cotton Thread Spool Winder
		5	Oldfield Leslie	M	21st Apr 1925	S	At School
		6	Oldfield Dennis	M	10 12 1929	S	At School
17	Chatter	235	1 Greenwood Fred	M	3rd May 1875	M	Railway Carter
			2 Greenwood Ada	F	27th Aug 1876	M	House Wife
			3 BUTLER, Cole	F	24 Oct 1841	S	Cotton & Silk Weaver

The 1939 census showing Jean Oldfield (later crossed out as 'Rice') living at 17 Pembroke Street, Skipton.



Walter Rice and Jean Oldfield on their wedding day.



Walter Rice (front) working on the railway.

Frank Rice

Frank Rice was born in 1926. He was the eighth and also the youngest child born to Ethel Elliott and Walter Rice. Frank was just 13 when the second world war broke out, and he was evacuated to Gainsborough. It was while he was there that he found out about his father's death. A classmate told him the news. Frank ran out of school and never went back after hearing what had happened to Walter on the Salacon.

It was at this point that Frank adopted his sense of duty, a trait that would stay with him throughout the rest of his life, as he joined the army aged just 14. This was despite the age of conscription being 18.

Marie Rice recalls Frank spent a lot of time in army prison because he'd go over the wall dancing with his good shoes. Brother Walter went to the authorities because Frank was underage. When they found out Frank was just 15, the brigadier shouted: "*Get that lad out of jail!*" Frank was thrown out of the army for being too young. He then joined again at 17.

In 1945, Frank married Kathleen Mary Codd. The marriage was announced by Frank's mother Ethel, who told the pair: "*You're getting married on Saturday!*" Frank got a special licence to get married because he was going to Palestine imminently. Kathleen, known fondly as Aunty Kathy, didn't see Frank for two years after their wedding. The marriage produced three children, Marie, Teresa and Michael.

Frank continued to serve in the war efforts, twice being mentioned in dispatches. If a soldier is mentioned in dispatches, he or she is considered to have been extremely brave in a battle and is recommended for a medal.

Son Michael Rice recalled: "*After the war in Cairo he ran the officers' mess. While he was there an Arab stole Frank's weapon out of his holster. He was firing at Frank but didn't hit him. Frank continued to pursue him. He was being watched by a colonel on the roof. Not only did he get his weapon back but came across a haul of weapons.*"

Frank once popped up from the parapet and was shot at. It knocked him out and the bullet went through the helmet and killed a man behind him who was eating rice pudding."



Walter Rice and wife Kathleen.



Frank Rice during the war.



A family trip to the beach for Frank, Walter, Kathleen and their children.

Frank's longing to serve continued long after the war. Firstly as an ambulance driver, and later as a Labour councillor. He was also made Honorary Alderman.

Marie Rice said her father's journey into politics began while he was living in Rutland Street after a row ensued with a neighbour who had a warehouse across the street. Frank wanted to learn about planning permission because of the situation, and this sparked his interest in the field.

Rutland Street was like it is today, an impoverished part of the East Marsh that has a high crime and poverty level. Despite this, Frank didn't want to move as daughter Marie said: "*They were his people*".

Kathleen Codd died in 1998 aged 72. Twelve years later in 2010, Frank died aged 84. His funeral was attended by many council dignitaries, including the MP for Great Grimsby at the time, Austin Mitchell. One of the comments made during his obituary is that Frank could never eat a meal in peace, as he was always involved in his politics helping his constituents. Whether it was a knock at the door or a phone call, he'd never ignore it.

An online tribute to Frank by his former colleague David Hopkinson reads: "*On behalf of all staff of the housing dept at the former Grimsby B Council, I pay tribute to Frank who served as Vice Chairman of the Housing Committee for so many years. A perfect gentleman, who had the respect of all of us, for his dedication to the housing cause in Grimsby. We had a perfect officer/councillor relationship, which so helped further all our work and ambitions for the betterment of Grimsby*".

The End.



Frank, Olive and Walter Rice.





Elliott & Rice: A Complete History looks at the family trees of Ethel Elliott and Walter Rice. Through two years of research and interviews with some of their descendants, we can now uncover more about their life and those who came before them. It is a book to be read, shared and enjoyed with current and future generations.