

Another Casket of Lives

THE WALKERS



A FAMILY STORY

The earliest member of this family branch I have managed to find is George Grafton who was born 1756 and died in 1829 in Whiston near Rotherham, Yorkshire. He married Ann Butler who was born on the 25th November in 1776 in Rotherham Yorkshire.

They had one son, William Grafton, born in 1780 who married Mary Watson who was born in 1781 in Masbrough, Yorkshire.

They had a son, William Grafton who was born in 1811 in Rotherham Yorkshire, and who died in 1880 in Eastwood Vale, Rotherham. He married Elizabeth Foster born about 1811.

Their son was Thomas Grafton born in 1835 in Masborough Yorkshire. He married Susan Harper who was born in 1841 in Rotherham Yorkshire.

They had two children. William H Grafton was born in 1865 in Sheffield Yorkshire and married Mary Elizabeth Bewley, born in 1871 in Leeds Yorkshire. They had a child, Ronald Harry Grafton who was born in 1898 in Rotherham, Yorkshire.

Thomas and Susan's other child was Mary Ellen Grafton, who was born in 1863 in Sheffield, Yorkshire. She married Benjamin Walker, who was born in 1860. His family background is as follows:

A Benjamin Walker was born in 1815 in Ashton & Oldham. He married an Alice Walker who was born in 1816. Benjamin also had a brother James, who was born 1833, and a sister Frances, who was born 1838. In the 1841 Census their address is Little Park, Ashton and Oldham, Bury & Manchester, Tonge, Lancashire. They had six children.

Benjamin Walker was born in 1836, in Lancashire, Tongue. He was a Wheelright. He married Mary Walker who was born about 1838 in Duckmanton, Derbyshire. What connection these photographs might have I do not know!



The Plough Inn, Derbyshire.

In the 1871 Census their address was 6 Oldham Road, Tonge, Oldham, Chadderton, Lancashire.



James Edgar Walker, my maternal grandfather.

Benjamin and Alice's other children were James, born in 1863. Ellen 1864, Joseph 1866, Alice 1868, and George Walker in 1871. In the 1871 Census all except for Ellen were listed as scholars, at 6 Oldham Road, Tonge, Oldham, Chadderton, Lancashire. Their eldest son, also called Benjamin was born in 1860. He married Mary Ellen Grafton, who was born in 1863 in Sheffield. By the time of the 1901 census they are living at 46 Bethel Rd, Rotherham. Their children were Phil, born about 1880, Clarice born 1885, Alice M. born 1887 Harold, born in 1889. and James Edgar, born in 1891.

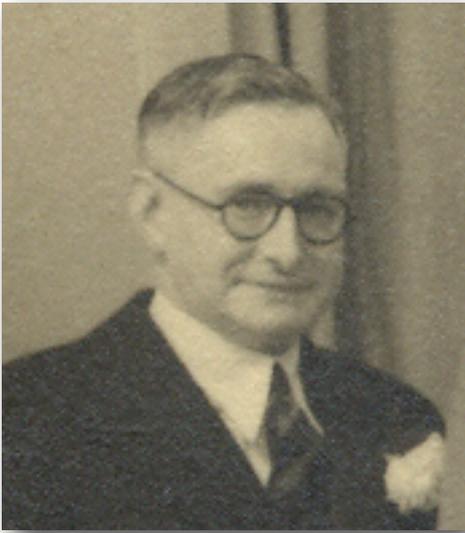
There were three other children. Elsie was born about 1895.



Elsie Walker.



Elsie Walker.



Harvey G, my mum's uncle was born in 1893. He was a Dentist, based in Rawmarsh, near Clifton Park. This picture was taken at my mother's wedding.

Another son, Wilfred, was born in 1895.



My grandfather, James Edgar Walker during the great war. He is pictured beneath the arrow.

James Edgar Walker was my maternal grandfather. He had been a sharpshooter in the first world war, and my mum said that he had taught her how to strip down a Browning Automatic Rifle, and she had never forgotten, and could do it on the spot if asked. I never saw any evidence of this though in my time.



My grandfather, James Edgar Walker on the right during the great war.

In the 1901 Census he is living at 46 Bethel Rd, Rotherham. On discharge from the Army in 1919, his address is given as 46 Bethel Road, Eastwood, Rotherham.

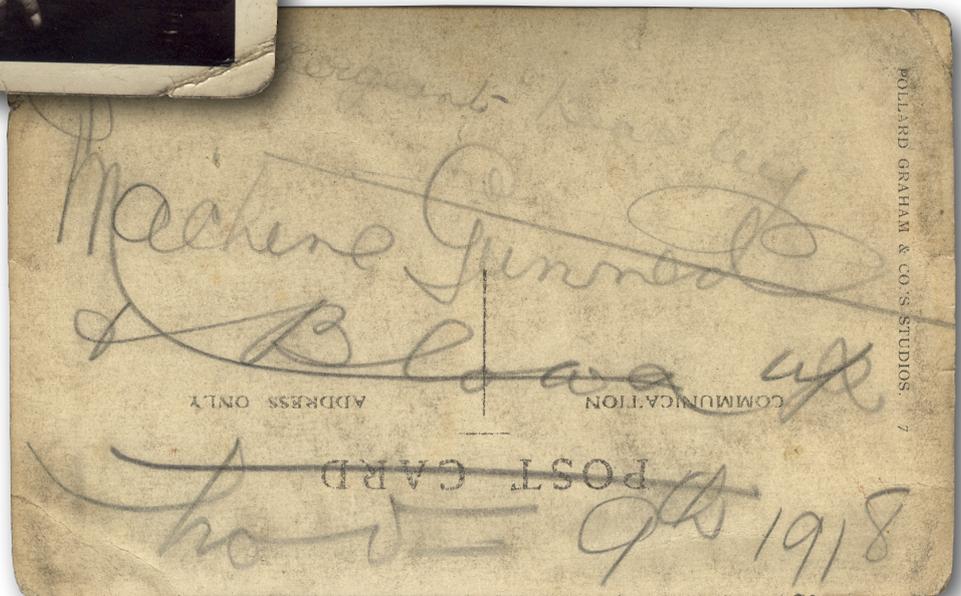


Sometimes an old photograph carries a tragic story, just one of millions. This photograph was among the box which I brought home after my mother died. I don't know who this is, but the uniform suggests he may have been a friend of my grandfathers.

The reverse of the card though suddenly brings you face to face with the consequences of this dreadful war, and the handwritten message says it all.

The armistice was signed at 5 a.m. on the morning of 11 November 1918, and came into effect six hours later at 11 a.m. (hence the oft-quoted 'eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month').

Two days later this man would have survived.



After the war I think grandfather worked for the post office, and I believe this photograph dates from this period. Later on he was a Newspaper Branch Office manager, but later in life is described as a Colliery Storekeeper.



James Edgar married Edith May Harris, and my mother was born on the 23rd July 1922 while they were living at 59 Wellgate, Rotherham. I really do not know very much about this period because my mother did not speak about it very much, other than to talk about my grandfather, who she loved dearly.

She described him as a lovely kind hearted man, who was fascinated by the early radios, and told me how he made a crystal set and would tinker away for hours at this sort of thing. She often said that he and I would have got on like a house on fire.

By the time she was ten, they were living at Wickersley. Mum described this as a happy time.

I guess the family must have had tribulations in that grandfather was described as a Newspaper Branch Office Manager on my mother's birth certificate, which was a reasonably responsible job. By 1939 however, he is listed as a Colliery Storekeeper. I can only assume that the depression of the 30's must have led to the newspaper job going. I have not identified a death certificate, but my guess is that he probably died about 1940.