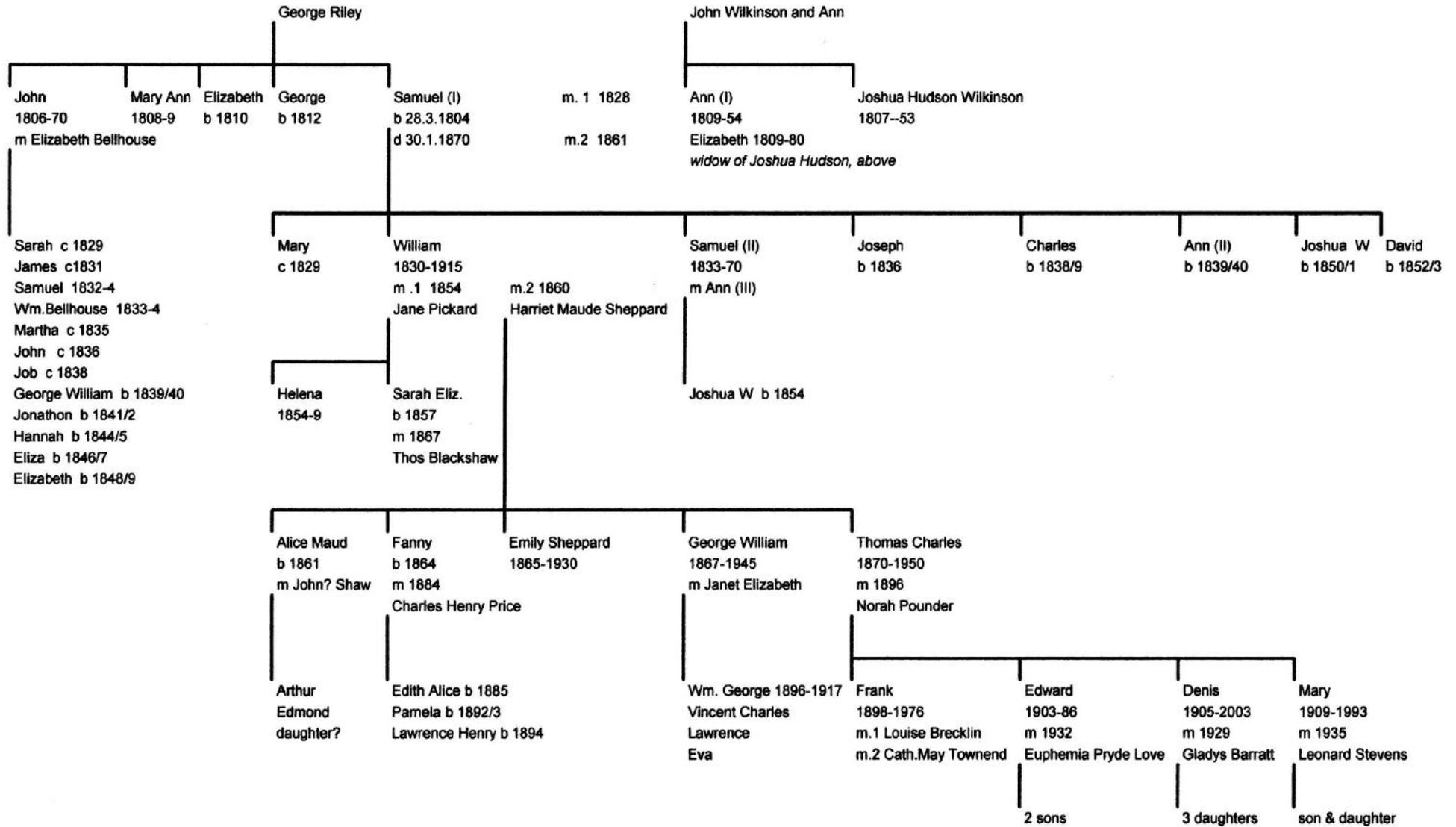


# The Riley Family Tree



# A few Leeds Rileys

by Margaret Wigglesworth (née Riley) 2007

## George Riley

The earliest of the known Rileys was called George. This was a fairly common name and it is difficult to write with any certainty but it seems probable that he married a Ruth Lee in 1803 in Leeds Parish Church. He was able to sign the register, but not Ruth, and was described as a farmer. Another George Riley was also married at the parish church in 1803. However, at the time of this marriage he was a widower and his bride Sarah was a widow. This George's first wife, Mary, had died two years earlier 'of a decline' at the age of thirty-four so by 1803 George and Sarah may both have been in their late thirties. He was a labourer and both he and Sarah had to make their mark in the Parish Register.

There are a number of clues suggesting that our George married Ruth. Firstly, they were married on 9th June and George's first child, Samuel, was born on 28th March 1804, just over nine months later. The marriage to Sarah was not until 29th August, only seven months before Samuel's birth. Secondly, when registering each of his children's births, George appears as Mr George Riley so if he was indeed only a labourer he must have had very grandiose ideas.

Whichever George is ours, we know that he had five children. Samuel was followed by John, then Mary Ann, who only lived nine months, Elizabeth and George. (No names here to help identify the mother.) The three youngest children were all born in High Street, Leeds, and the Leeds Directories for 1834 and 39 show a George Riley, shop keeper, living there. Whether this was father or son I don't know.

## Samuel Riley 1804-70

Samuel was born in St George's Street in the centre of Leeds. In 1828 he married Ann Wilkinson and they lived at Walker Fold, Wortley, at that time not much more than a village on the edge of Leeds and with a population in 1851 of 7,862. In the 1841 census Samuel simply appears as a clothier but in 1851, when the census gives more detailed information, he describes himself as a 'Woollen Weaver - by hand'. Handloom weavers at this time earned about 7-10 shillings a week [35-50 pence]. At the beginning of the century, the average weekly wage had been £1 but with the introduction of powered looms, wages had fallen rapidly and the 'trade became the unhappy resort of the old and unskilled'. (Dr John H. Smith *The Manchester Genealogist, January 1992*.) Ten years later, Samuel was still a hand weaver by which time he may have been earning 15 shillings a week but this was still the lowest pay in the industry. (S. Bernard *To Prove I'm not Forgot*.)

Samuel and Ann had five sons and two daughters. Mary Ann, thirteen in 1841, was the eldest, followed by William and then Samuel, who was apprenticed to a shoemaker and aged seventeen in 1851. Then came Charles, already a brick maker at the age of thirteen, Ann, who seems to have died very young, and perhaps others came before Joshua and, finally, David.

Samuel's brother John was a stonemason and lived close-by. He had nine children. In 1851 two of his sons, then aged eleven and twelve, were already Coal Miners. John had been one of the witnesses at Samuel's wedding but although Samuel was able to sign the register, both John and Ann had to make a cross.

Ann died in 1854 and in 1861 Samuel remarried. His new wife, Elizabeth, was the widow of his first wife's brother, Joshua Hudson Wilkinson who had lived in the same street. The census taken shortly after their marriage shows that in addition to his two youngest sons, living with them were Samuel's two step-children, James and Mary Wilkinson as well as a widowed daughter-in-law, Ann (III), and a seven year old grandson, Joshua W. so Samuel (II) had evidently died young. The widowed Ann was another hand weaver but twelve year old Mary Wilkinson was simply described as a woollen weaver so perhaps she was working in a woollen mill.

In 1870 a Samuel Riley of Townend was buried in the old grounds of St Oswald's Church in Wortley. His death certificate describes him as a Woollen Cloth Manufacturer so perhaps he was now in partnership with his son William. His age is given as sixty whereas his true age would have been sixty-five. However, it was registered by a David Greenwood, also of Townend, who was probably a neighbour and didn't know his true age. Why Samuel's widow Elizabeth didn't register it I don't know but nevertheless it seems most likely that this is the correct Samuel. Elizabeth lived another ten years and it is interesting to note that she was then buried with her first husband, Joshua Hudson Wilkinson. Their tombstone in the cemetery at Wortley states *In Memory of Joshua Hudson Wilkinson of Wortley (1807-53), Wife Elizabeth (1809-80) and a daughter, Sarah Ann, aged 2*. Does this suggest that her marriage to Samuel had been one of convenience, providing a home for her and her children and at the same time someone to look after his young family?

I know very little about the Wilkinsons but in 1807 Joshua Hudson was baptised at Armley, adjacent to Wortley, the son of John and Ann. An Ann Wilkinson, also with parents John and Ann, was baptised two years later and so the right age to be Samuel's wife, but at the Bethel Independent or Congregational Church in Leeds.

## William Riley 1830-1915

William was the second of Ann and Samuel's children and the oldest boy. Like his father, he began working as a woollen weaver - "by hand". He must have made good progress because by 1861 he is described in the census as a Woollen Manufacturer employing 25 men. Leeds Directories of the 1860s show him as a Cloth Merchant and Manufacturer with premises in Basinghall St, Leeds. Later, he apparently moved to Claypit Lane and at some time, his factory was burnt down. As told to his grandson Denis by his mother, his manager, probably fraudulently, had failed to renew the insurance and as a result he was ruined.

In fact, it may be that, like so many family stories, while the basic facts remain true, the details have become somewhat distorted with time. What seems very possible is that the fire took place on 13th August 1903. A serious fire on that date was reported in *The Times* and, much more fully, in the *Yorkshire Post*. This fire was at Elmwood Mills, which belonged to the Patent Woollen Cloth Co., felt and felt cloth manufacturers. It was a five storey building in Camp Road, where William lived, and separated from a Willeying House (a willey was used in the cleaning of wool), in Claypit Lane by a narrow passage. The newspaper report went on to say that the damage had been extensive and that, although the factory was insured for £18,000, initial estimates put the loss at considerably more. The only name given was that of Mr C. H. Clarke, the Managing Director.

To support the theory that this was William Riley's factory is the location, Claypit Lane, as mentioned by Denis, and the fact that it had a manager. In 1891 William was 'living on his own means', suggesting that he had retired (and appointed a manager). (The 1901 census leaves blank the column for occupation.) Although it would seem that the insurance had, after all, been paid, there was apparently still a substantial loss. Earlier that same year, 1903, William had made his will. As a small boy, Denis used to visit his grandfather whom he remembered as a helpless old man sitting in his fireside chair, attended by his daughter Emily. They were helped by William's granddaughter, Edith Price, described by Denis as being 'a bit simple'. This was about 1912. If Denis was right and William had suffered a stroke as a result of the fire, it must have been after the signing of the will. (The mill was, in fact, quite a recent building as there had been a previous fire there in 1895.) At his death William left £729 13s 2d, including a Life Policy for £200 with the British Equitable Insurance Society, "for the sole benefit of all my children in equal shares", so he was not completely destitute. In addition, his daughter Emily, who never married and stayed at home to care for her father, received all his furniture and household effects. William's Death Certificate describes him as a retired woollen manufacturer, cause of death Age and Cerebral Haemorrhage.

William also suffered misfortune in his private life. In 1854 he married Jane Pickard and they had two daughters, Helena in 1855 and Sarah Elizabeth three years later. However, Jane died the following year, in July 1858, at the age of 25. Her Death Certificate gives phthisis (TB) as the cause of death but in the same quarter, registered at Hunslet (where Jane's death was also registered) are both the birth and death of an Ann Riley. It seems quite possible that this was another daughter of William and Jane, and that Jane's death was hastened as a result of her pregnancy and childbirth. She was buried in the cemetery at Wortley, followed a year later by the four year old Helena. However, there is no mention of an Ann.

In March 1860 William remarried, his new wife being Harriet Maude Sheppard from Otley where the wedding took place. (One wonders how they met.) In 1861 they were living at Springfield Place, Leeds, and had a servant, seventeen year old Elizabeth Edmonton, born in Otley, so perhaps Harriet had brought her with her when she married. Also living with them was William's daughter Sarah. The 1871 census makes no

mention of a servant although by that time Harriet had five small children. Sarah was now 'a scholar' but at thirteen she was no doubt expected to help in the house and in looking after her young half-brothers and sisters. In 1876 she married a Thomas Blackshaw but no more is known about her.

From surviving poll books, we know that William voted in three elections between 1857 and 1868, each time for one of the winning candidates, Mr Baines, who was a liberal. The franchise had earlier been given to occupants of houses worth £10 per annum. By 1881 they were living in Camp Road in a house which the 1991 census tells us had 'not fewer than five rooms'. However, we know from Denis that it was a small terrace house, perhaps with three floors and so with three bedrooms. As Harriet's handicapped sister, Mary Ellen Sheppard, was now living with them it must have been very crowded with three adults, three teenage daughters and two sons. Harriet died in 1894 and by 1901 there were just William, Emily, described as a dressmaker, and Mary Ellen Sheppard who, however, died later the same year at the age of sixty-eight.

William died during the First World War, on 4th April 1915. He was buried three days later, 'no flowers by request', in Woodhouse Cemetery alongside Harriet. In the same plot were buried Mary Ellen Sheppard, William and Harriet's daughter Emily, and their son George William. Unfortunately the cemetery has now been cleared and no record was made of the Memorial Inscriptions. It had been established by the private General Cemetery Company in 1835 on land at St George's Fields in Woodhouse, 'for persons of all religious denominations'. However, it was apparently never consecrated and was used only by Dissenters. This is the only indication I have found to suggest that the Rileys were other than Church of England.

### **William's children.**

#### **Alice Maud 1861-**

Alice worked as a dressmaker before marrying and emigrating to Australia. According to Denis's mother, her husband was somewhat conceited and, after falling out with some Australians, he was given his come-uppance, and was beaten about the head which apparently resulted in brain damage. They had a son, Arthur Shaw, and in the First World War he joined the Australian Expeditionary Force. Denis remembered him coming to visit them in Leeds during a period of leave. After the war, he is believed to have started a chicken farm. Denis thought that Alice also had another son, Edmund, and a daughter.



Arthur Shaw during World War I

### **Fanny 1863-**

In 1881 Fanny was working as a seamstress and 'Fancy Worker'. Three years later, probably in Ripon, she married Charles Henry Price. Charles Henry was a Varnish Manufacturer and there were four children, Edith Alice, Pam, Lawrence Henry and Vincent. Denis never mentioned Pam and Lawrence but he remembered his cousin Vincent who followed his father into the varnish industry. His sister Fanny was one of the people Tom used to visit when he stayed with Denis after the second world war.

### **Emily 1865-1930**

Emily, or Emmie, was also given her mother's maiden name, Sheppard. She never married but, as we have seen, spent many years caring for her invalid father. Before that, like her sisters, she had worked as a dressmaker. Following her father's death, she became companion housekeeper to a Miss Ingleby in Brudenell Rd from whom she inherited some money. It was this, together with some of her own savings, which enabled her to assist her brother Tom when he set up his own business as a Shoe Factor. Denis used to recount that as boys he and his brother Ted would regularly walk across Woodhouse Moor on Saturday afternoons for tea with their aunt and Miss Ingleby who taught them to play bezique. She appears to have been a family friend and in 1903 she had been one of the witnesses to William's will.

### **George William 1867-1945**

According to Denis 'Willie' was very unhappy at home where the overcrowding and possibly his father's helpless condition must have made life very difficult. As a result, he ran away and joined the army. For a number of years he served as a Regimental Colour Sergeant in the Royal Scots Fusiliers in India. I have been unable to find him in either the 1891 or 1901 censuses and no doubt this would be when he was in India. While there he married Janet Elizabeth (Jinnie) and on retirement from the army after thirty years' service, he had a Newsagents and Tobacconists shop in Roundhay, Leeds. Denis was fond of his aunt and uncle but although the two families were on friendly terms, they did not really mix socially. Denis thought his mother considered her family to be a bit superior to Willie's and they were not very popular with her. Uncle Willie would sit by the fire, smoking his pipe and frequently spitting into the fire. I still remember men spitting in the streets and notices in all the buses and trams forbidding it, and not surprisingly, Norah found it unacceptable. Eventually, Willie and Jinnie retired to Blackpool by which time Jinnie was confined to a wheelchair with rheumatism. On his death Willie was returned to Leeds for burial in the family plot.

Willie had four children, like Tom, and they were of similar age. The eldest was also Willie. He joined the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) in the First World War and was killed in action on 19th September 1917, aged 21. His body was never found but his name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial near Ypres.

Like his Father, the next son, Vincent Charles, (Vince), was a regular soldier in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, serving in Mauritius and India among other places, before retiring and taking a pub in Weston Super Mare. While serving in France, he used to receive mail

addressed, quite correctly, to Sergeant V. C. Riley. However, after some official noticed this, he was obliged to drop the V! Vince was always a great friend to Denis and as boys, together with Ted, they used to go swimming at the Meanwood baths.



### **In Memory of Private WILLIAM GEORGE RILEY**

**305713, 11th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of  
Wales's Own)  
who died age 21  
on 19 September 1917  
Son of George William and Janet Elizabeth Riley, of 196,  
Roundhay Rd., Leeds.  
Remembered with honour  
TYNE COT MEMORIAL**

**Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

The third son, Lawrence, was also a soldier, having been a post-war conscript. Before this, however, when still under age, he had tried to join up when the illuminated recruiting tram, which used to drive round Leeds, stopped opposite his father's shop. Lawrence immediately ran out and jumped onto the tram but before he could sign on, his father had also mounted the tram and quickly emerged from the other end, Lawrence held firmly in his grasp. He went on to become a Leeds tram driver and died relatively young. There was also a daughter, Eva, but she was disowned by her father after having a child 'out of wedlock'.

### Thomas Charles 1870-1950

Thomas Charles (Tom) was born at 11 Tonbridge Place, Leeds, on 15th December 1870, and was the youngest of William and Harriet's children. By 1887 he was living at 29 Carlton St and it was from there that he began his married life. On 3rd September 1896 he married Norah Pounder and they had four children.

Tom left school at fourteen and began work as a clerk. The 1891 census shows him working as a solicitor's clerk, just as his uncle Thomas Charles Sheppard had done. Perhaps his mother's influence can be seen here. He taught himself bookkeeping, shorthand and some French and later taught these at evening classes in order to supplement his weekly wage of £2. By 1901 he was working as a cashier for a boot manufacturer called White. Later, his son Frank used to relate how, as a little boy, he enjoyed playing with the gold sovereigns and the silver coinage, *Yellow Boys and White Boys*, when his father brought home the cash to make up the wages of the factory workers. At some stage he got a job with S. T. Midgley and Sons, Boot and Shoe Wholesalers, at first as a traveller selling working men's boots, a job which took him as far afield as Holland. He did not make a successful salesman as apparently he failed to ply his potential customers with sufficient alcohol! By 1915 he had been moved to the warehouse but in 1921, although by now he was senior warehouseman, like many others he lost his job as a result of the Depression.\* This led to his becoming severely depressed and he is even believed to have threatened suicide. However, with the help of his sister Emily he now set up as a Boot and Shoe factor on his own account, employing a youth to look after a tiny warehouse while he embarked once more on the fraught job of travelling salesman. Not surprisingly, given the continuing period of high unemployment, this venture quickly failed. Again the strain took its toll and Tom developed a duodenal ulcer which led to peritonitis. Emergency surgery was followed by several days when his life hung in the balance.



Thomas Charles Riley



Norah Pounder

\* Various official documents give conflicting evidence over the same time period. In some Tom is described as a warehouseman, in others as a manager. His father had died in January 1915 when, in his capacity as executor, Tom appears as 'warehouseman'. Four months later his father-in-law also died and it may be that for a few years he took over the management of his draper's shop in Meanwood Road while still keeping his job at Midgley's.

Tom now embarked on a completely new career. He bought a sub-post office and draper's shop in Snaith, near Goole in east Yorkshire. While he ran the post office, Norah looked after the shop which they had stocked with the help of their son Frank. The directories show that they were living there in 1923 and at last Tom seems to have found a congenial job. He and Norah were reportedly very happy in Snaith although they seem to have been!



Norah and Tom on holiday at Bridlington

Until the move to Snaith, and with the exception of two years in Northampton while working for Midgleys, Tom had spent all his life in Leeds. As was usual at the time, he lived in rented accommodation. Denis was born in Roundhay Mount, but remembered making no fewer than thirteen moves as a boy. Once, it was just across the street, the attraction being an inside toilet. Later they returned to Roundhay Mount and it was to the Roundhay area of Leeds that Tom and Norah returned from Snaith.

Their last move was to Cuthbert Road in Bridlington, shortly before the Second World War and in 1939 Margaret went to stay with them during the Easter holidays, her chief memory being of the apparently threatening sight of gypsies coming down the street at which she and her grandma rushed upstairs to hide! It was to be the last time she saw her grandma because on 15th August 1940 their house received a direct hit from a bomb and Norah was killed. It was her sixty-eighth birthday. (War had been declared on their forty-third wedding anniversary so a date which should have held only happy memories for Tom had brought tragedy to his life.) They had just entered the Anderson Air-raid shelter in their garden and Tom was in the act of closing it when the bomb fell. A flying splinter of shrapnel in her throat killed Norah and Tom lost his right arm. As a small seaside town, Bridlington had been thought to be safe from air-raids and had been used as a centre for evacuees from the city of Hull further down the coast. Tom and Norah had offered to take their granddaughters, Margaret and Norma, where it was thought they would be safer than in Leeds. Unfortunately, Bridlington was on the flight path for German bombers coming in from the North Sea and heading for RAF stations in east Yorkshire. There were frequent attacks by single raiders both by day and night throughout 1940 and 1941. Sometimes, the planes would drop any remaining bombs as they headed back after their latest mission and Bridlington suffered over twenty civilian casualties. Tom spent many weeks in hospital, first in Bridlington and then in Killingbeck Hospital in Leeds. His doctor son Ted, on special leave from the army, was probably responsible for saving his father's life when he noticed bubbles of gas gangrene in the arm stump.



Bomb damage 15th August 1940, St Cuthbert Road, Bridlington

Once he was discharged from hospital, Tom went to live with his daughter Mary, first in the small Yorkshire village of Heptonstall where she had been evacuated with her small son, and then in Newcastle. He learned to manage remarkably well, writing with his left hand and even shaving himself - much to the relief of his daughter-in-law Gladys who at first had had to do this for him when he went to visit. On visits to Leeds after the war he used to enjoy going to cricket matches at Headingley and, with Gladys, visiting a cousin and friends in Harrogate and Ripon.

On his death in 1950 Tom left £1,897 and eight pence, a lot of money in those days, and one wonders how he came to have so much. He and Norah had perhaps been able to save during their time at Snaith or perhaps he had received compensation for his war injuries or insurance from the house. It is also possible that the money had come from Norah who certainly inherited quite a lot from her father but one imagines this would have been spent early on. Whatever the explanation, it suggests that after his early struggles he had finally been able to enjoy financial security.

Grandad Riley could sometimes, to Margaret as a very small girl, be a little intimidating as she took his bantering and mock threats if she didn't behave, all too literally. Nevertheless, her chief memories are of a genial figure, puffing away at his pipe and always with a smile on his face.

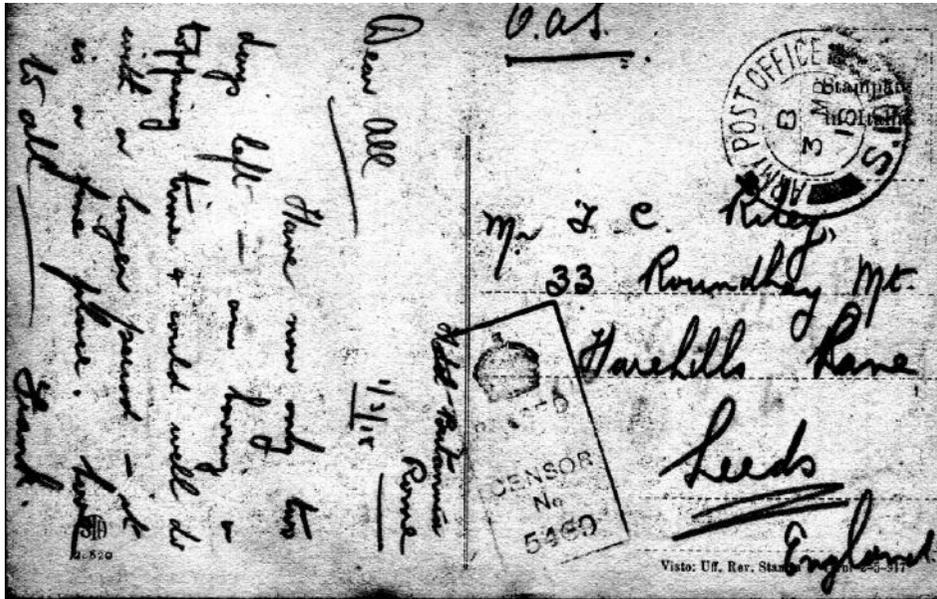
#### **Tom and Norah's children.**



Denis, Frank, Mary & Ted taken for their parents' Silver Wedding, 1921

### Frank 1898-1976

Frank left school at fourteen and started working in the warehouse of N. Corah & Sons Ltd, manufacturers of ladies' knitwear (Trademark St Margaret). Apart from a break during the First World War, he remained with them until his retirement in 1961 by which time he had risen to being Senior Sales Representative for the whole country. He had joined the army in 1915 by claiming to be nineteen. Within two weeks he had been posted to France; later he served in Italy as a clerk in the Intelligence Branch of General Staff Headquarters of the 11th Corps, returning home in 1919.



Postcard from Rome, 1st March 1918

During the Second World War he served in the Anti-Aircraft Unit of the Home Guard. According to his brother Denis, Frank was always something of a ladies' man who apparently caused his mother considerable anguish. Alcohol also was something of a problem. In 1932 he married Lou Brecklin but at some time in the late 1940s, at a time when there was still considerable stigma attached, they were divorced under what must have been very unhappy circumstances for Lou had to be rushed to Leeds Infirmary after swallowing bleach in a desperate attempt to end her life. In 1949 Frank married Catherine Mary Townend. She herself was a divorcee and had a son but Frank had no children. After spending most of his life in Leeds he and Kitty moved to Morecambe, probably when he retired.

Frank was a round-faced affable man, very like his father, and Margaret certainly has fond memories of him as someone who was always rather jolly and, again like his father, always with a pipe on the go. Most importantly though, he could always be relied on to produce half a crown (12½ pence) whenever she saw him!



Frank with his second wife Kitty

### Edward (Ted) 1903-1986

With only two years between them Ted and Denis were always very close and as boys they seem to have done most things together. They had been baptised into the Church of England and for a time Ted was a choir boy. Hence, to big brother Frank he became 'Little Angel'. During their various moves, they attended a number of C. of E. Sunday Schools but one day they apparently decided to go to the Baptist Sunday School instead, on the grounds that it was nearer! This proved to be of major significance in both their lives, both becoming committed Baptists. After attending the Blenheim Boys' Council school Ted, followed two years later by Denis, won a Junior Scholarship to the Leeds Central High School on Woodhouse Lane and from there he went to Leeds University to study in the Leather department. Halfway through the course however he left and moved to the Medical School at Manchester as the first holder of a bursary promoted by the Baptist Missionary Society. While studying to be a doctor, he also trained at the Manchester Baptist College where he was ordained as a Baptist preacher. After this he regularly went out preaching on Sundays. After graduating in 1930 he spent a year working at the Bolton Hospital before moving to Liverpool to study tropical medicine.

While in Manchester he had met and become engaged to one of the nurses, Euphemia Pryde Love (Effie), at the Manchester Baby Hospital. In late 1931 they sailed to India on the *Viceroy of India* but before they went there was a special service at the Harehills Lane Baptist Church and this was fully reported in the Church Magazine:

### **Missionary Valedictory Service**

*On Monday evening, November 2nd, a large assembly attended to bid farewell to Dr Edward Riley and his fiancée, Miss E. P. Love, before leaving for India; Dr Riley going to the B.M.S. Hospital, Palwal, and Miss Love to a B.M.S. Station some 60 miles from*



Harehills Lane Baptist Church

*that town, where she was to remain until her marriage in a few months. After that she would work alongside her husband in Palwal.*

*Most cordial tributes to Dr Riley's outstanding qualifications, fine personality and spiritual nature were paid by all the speakers, who also voiced their appreciation of Miss Love's qualities and qualifications as a trained and well equipped nurse. [Miss Love had been baptised at the close of evening service a week earlier and the following Sunday, 1st November, at the beginning of the Communion Service, she was given the Right Hand of Fellowship by the pastor and welcomed into membership of the church.] Congratulations were offered to both on their acceptance as missionaries, and the hope expressed that they would have a joyful and successful period of service.*

*A number of speakers went on to pay glowing tributes, including Dr H. Townsend, Principal of Manchester Baptist College, who said that for Dr Riley this was the climax of many years of discipline and preparation. After referring to his training at Manchester, Dr Townsend said that that night they saw Dr Riley with a fine mind and a humble Christian spirit with a sure and certain grasp of the fundamental principles of the Faith. For seven years he had had a splendid mental and spiritual discipline and now he was*

*going forth representing the Baptist denomination and Harehills Church to what he trusted would be an abundantly blessed and successful service.*

*The Rev. W. Reece of Armley, and a former fellow student of Dr Riley's at Manchester, said that nothing had ever been permitted to interfere with the work of his training. He had kept the Faith, and that was not an easy thing today for a medical student!*

*Mr W. H. Hodgson, Missionary Secretary at the Harehills Lane Church presented Dr Riley with a cheque on behalf of the Missionary Council of the Church and friends and assured him that this was only a small part of all they would give him in his work.*

*Dr Vincent Thomas, who established the medical work in Palwal, said that when Dr Riley and his fiancée reached Palwal they would find it flat and barren. At its best the place was beautiful but when at its worst it was ugly. They were going to a district where there were thousands of poor suffering people, very dirty in many of their ways and very superstitious. No one who thought of lives lived in service in such an environment could think of such lives as wasted. In going out there they would be carrying on the gracious ministry of healing and saving men and women in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*Dr Riley then entered the pulpit to reply to the speeches when he paid tribute to the Harehills Church and to the help he had received in going to Manchester. He concluded, "I thank you all for all you have done for me and I thank you for your gift to me tonight. I know that you have followed my career at college and I am sure you will follow me in my work in the future".*

The previous week, on 25th October, there had been another ceremony at the Harehills Church when their Honorary Superintendent, Mr A. Wilkinson, presented to the Sunday School a photograph of their three church missionaries, all of whom had been members of the Sunday School. One, Miss Alice Wilkinson, was even then travelling to a mission station in the Congo but Dr Riley was present and received a similar photo as a reminder of Harehills after which he signed his name in the Record Book.



The marriage of Ted and Effie, Bhiwani, India, 1932

Ted had been appointed as second doctor at the Hospital in Palwal, some thirty-five miles south of Delhi, and until his marriage he stayed at a Baptist Mission Station. He and Effie were not allowed to marry immediately and she worked at the B.M.S. hospital at Bhiwani, about sixty miles to the west of Delhi so they cannot have met very often. It was in Bhiwani that they were married in the Baptist Church in October 1932. Their elder son was born in Naini Tal in 1934 and they stayed in India for another year or so before returning to England where their second son was born in 1936. It must have been a year or so later that Effie suffered an ectopic pregnancy and was dangerously ill. Matters were made worse by having her feet severely scalded while she was in hospital. While she was there, the two little boys were looked after in Horsforth by Gladys and Denis.

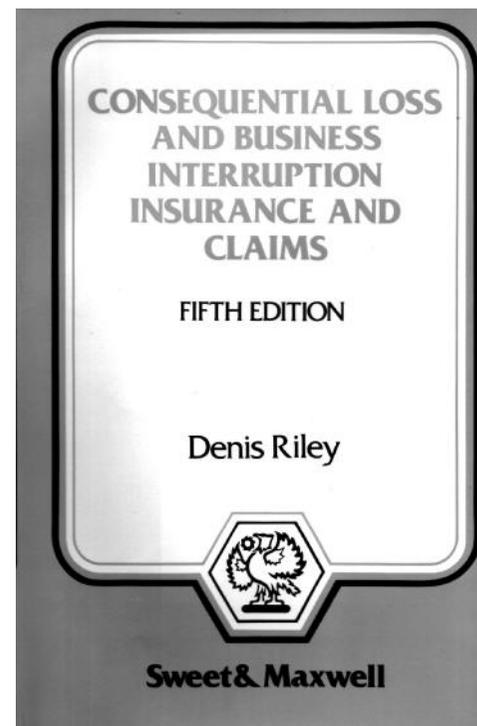
Back in England, Ted went into partnership in a general medical practice and took a special course in eye surgery, having become interested in this while in India. Eventually, he set up in practice in Northwich, Cheshire as an ophthalmic optician. He also acted as an honorary Consultant Surgeon at Manchester Infirmary. During the 1939-45 war he served as a Captain, later as Major, in the Royal Army medical Corps. He was fortunate to survive the sinking by a German submarine of a troop ship bound for North Africa. Following Effie's death, Ted moved to Torquay on the south coast and died there in 1986.

### Denis 1905-2003

As mentioned above, Denis won a junior scholarship to Leeds Central High School where he went in 1917 but after two years his education took a most unusual turn. While attending Harehills Baptist Church he had come to the attention of an elderly and wealthy bachelor, Mr Percy Stock, who did a lot of work for the young people at the church, running a football club, a Boy Scouts Troop, and taking many of the boys on various expeditions and camping holidays. He was an insurance broker and was evidently looking for a young man to join him as a junior partner. Denis was the chosen one and in January 1920 he was sent to the prestigious Public School, Mill Hill, just outside London, to "learn to be a gentleman" and, after two years, join him in his insurance business. Denis described his time at Mill Hill in his Memoirs and these have been transcribed and published separately. In the event, shortly before the end of his two years, all these plans came to an abrupt end as a result of something Denis's mother had said and to which Mr Stock took exception.

Aged sixteen, with no qualifications and at a time of high unemployment, the prospects were not good and the fact that Denis went on to have a successful career in insurance was, perhaps ironically, due entirely to Mr Stock. No longer singled out as a junior partner, he was nevertheless offered a job as a junior clerk in Mr Stock's office. From there he rapidly advanced, becoming a Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute in 1928, two years before the official minimum, and eventually rising to the rank of Superintendent Inspector. His greatest achievement, and one of which he was justly proud, was his book *Consequential Loss and Insurance Claims* published in 1956. It quickly became the acknowledged 'Bible' and reference book, not just for those in the insurance world but for accountants also, and by the time of his death almost fifty years later, it was in its eighth edition.

It was at Harehills Baptist Church that he also met his future wife, Gladys Barratt, and for some years prior to their marriage they were to devote very many hours to the Baptists, not in relatively prosperous Harehills but in the poor working class district of Kirkstall. Within a few months Denis had been promoted to Sunday School Superintendent and before long he started the Kirkstall Baptist Boys' Guild for whom he organised various midweek activities and sports. Despite the undoubted success of his work for the church, in 1928, following an all too typical disagreement with those in authority, in this case the church pastor, Denis abruptly ended his association with Kirkstall. Twelve months later he and Gladys were married at Blenheim Baptist Church in the centre of Leeds and for the next five or six years they devoted their energies to the Cragg Hill Baptist Church in Horsforth, not far from their first home.



In November 1934 Denis formally became a committed pacifist and from that time onwards he became increasingly involved with first, the No More War Movement and then the Peace Pledge Union with a corresponding decline in his work for the church until he and Gladys stopped attending altogether. As a result their names were struck off the church register, a move instigated by one of the senior church members who was known to be fiercely opposed to all pacifists. Although they continued to send their daughters to Sunday School, their own participation in organised religion ended there.

Following the outbreak of the second world war in September 1939, Gladys and their two children went to live in the Yorkshire village of Dent, moving two years later to a small privately run boarding school in Goathland which had been established initially for Quaker evacuees from Hull. Denis meanwhile, remained

in Horsforth and now most of his spare time was spent in advising young Conscientious Objectors and, when they were called up for military service he frequently represented them at their military tribunal. He himself could have claimed exemption on the grounds of his employment in Fire Insurance but he insisted on facing a tribunal himself. Somewhat to his surprise, he was granted complete exemption from war service but as a result of his stand, he was demoted at work with a consequent drop in salary.

One of the first things that he and Gladys did after the war was to invite German POWs (prisoners of war) to their house as soon as this became possible and for several months Sunday afternoons were the scene of musical concerts organised by Gladys. Still a committed pacifist and greatly concerned at the growth of atomic power, Denis single-handedly began a campaign calling for universal disarmament which he named **Operation Jetsam**, *The People's Answer to the Challenge of the Atomic Bomb*. Despite support from many notable figures of the day, the odds were too heavily stacked against success and after a few months he reluctantly admitted failure. A few years later, the launch of CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) effectively superseded his efforts but on a much bigger scale.

Throughout his long life, Denis never ceased to pour his energies into 'good causes'. He was passionately committed to the Free India Campaign in the 1930s and early 40s. Working through the local relief organisations, he organised food and clothing to be sent to no fewer than eight countries, ranging from Spain in 1938-9 to Hungary in 1957. Nearer home, he invited to his house young Nigerians studying in Leeds and after moving to Scarborough he would take coal miners at the local convalescent home on drives to local beauty spots or down to the sea. He also arranged for bulbs to be planted



Denis in 1936 at an international camp at Oakengates, Shropshire where volunteers from all over Europe were helping to level an abandoned coalmine spoilheap under the auspices of the IVSP, (International Voluntary Service for Peace).

along the verges of the village of Scalby. When in his nineties and resident in an old people's home he was still organising collections for the latest disasters. He wanted his former employer, The Commercial Union (by then taken over by Norwich Union) to create residential homes for its former employees in the hope (a vain one I fear) that he might finally find his Shangri La.

In 1952 the lives of Denis and Gladys took an unexpected turn with the birth of their third daughter. In 1962 they moved to Ben Rhydding a few miles outside Leeds before moving to the east coast when he retired, first to Scarborough and then Bridlington. By now they had five grandchildren and in alternate summers they would invite the boys or the two girls for a week when Denis could indulge in his new hobby of creating home movies having drawn up elaborate and melodramatic scripts for the children to enact. Their youngest daughter was now at boarding school and he and Gladys were able to spend time travelling, first in this country and in Scotland, later abroad. When she married and moved to America, although now well into their seventies they spent three months travelling across the States by Greyhound bus. Their last holiday abroad was a cruise through Russia in 1986 but after that it was a story of increasing health problems and in 1993 Gladys had to move into residential care. Two years later Denis joined her. They were living in a home in Derbyshire near to Margaret when first Gladys died, in 2001, followed by Denis sixteen months later.



Gladys and Denis on their 61st wedding anniversary, 1990

### Mary 1909-1993

As a little girl, Mary seems to have had a precarious time in the care of her older brothers with tales of being catapulted out of her high chair onto the fire and of being tipped out of her pram on an outing to the local park. An illustration of early 20th century upbringing is another story of her being strapped to a high-backed chair to ensure that she sat up straight! A wooden 'bottom smacker' kept at the side of the fireplace is a further example though whether it was used on Mary or just the boys I don't know.



Mary left school at fourteen and started work as a shop assistant at a milliners. After learning shorthand and typing she got a job with the London and Lancashire Insurance Company in Leeds. Like Ted and Denis, she had joined the Harehills Baptist Church and in the same Church magazine which reported the service saying goodbye to Ted and Effie, was a brief account of the *Young Life Week* - 'What Christ means to me' when the pastor presided at two Special Meetings and opened discussions on a number of papers read by the young people, among them, 'Christ as a Friend'. "This subject was dealt with by Miss Mary Riley, who [began by saying] that the hunger and thirst for friends is felt by almost everyone." Mary was also a member of the Church choir.

It was at Harehills Baptist Church that she met Leonard Stevens, a newspaper compositor, and they were married in 1935. They went to live in Newcastle but during the Second World War, while Len was away in the Airforce, Mary went with their young son to live in the small Pennine village of Heptonstall. They were later joined by her father, following the bombing in Bridlington and death of her mother. Mary had suffered a number of miscarriages but, back in Newcastle after the war, they had a daughter and subsequently a granddaughter in whom she took great delight. Following Leonard's retirement, they moved to a bungalow in Scarborough and it was there that Mary died in 1993. Leonard died some seven years later.

Today there are seven grandchildren of Tom and Norah. They in turn have produced many children and grandchildren, all with very different careers, some living in America and some in Africa as well as here in England and it is thought that there is at least one to carry on the family name.



Leonard Stevens & Mary Riley, 1935 with Norah & Charles on the right