



**Smith Roberts (1872-1943),
Charles Robert's father**

The Roberts family of Nelson

By Charles William Roberts

With editorial comments by
Dr E.D.H. "Ted" Flack



**Emith Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee
Meredith (1872-1943),
Charles Robert's mother**



Charles William Roberts (1905-1978)

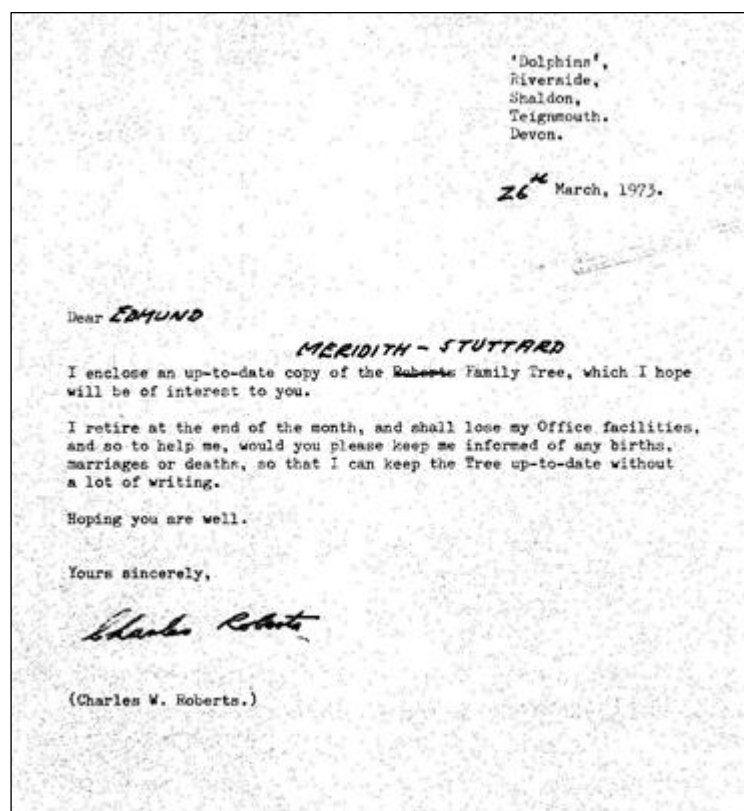
Roberts Family Histories by Charles Roberts

Edited by Edmund (known as “Ted”) DH Flack

Introduction

My Great Uncle, Charles William Roberts (1905-1978) was an engineer, architect and a keen family historian. I didn't have a great deal of contact with him before my family came to Australia, but during the time my family lived in Aldershot in 1955-58, Uncle Charles and Aunt Lillian visited us several times.

In 1973, Charles Roberts wrote to me in Sydney, enclosing two family tree charts requesting that I stay in touch so as to allow him to add to the family histories he had compiled.



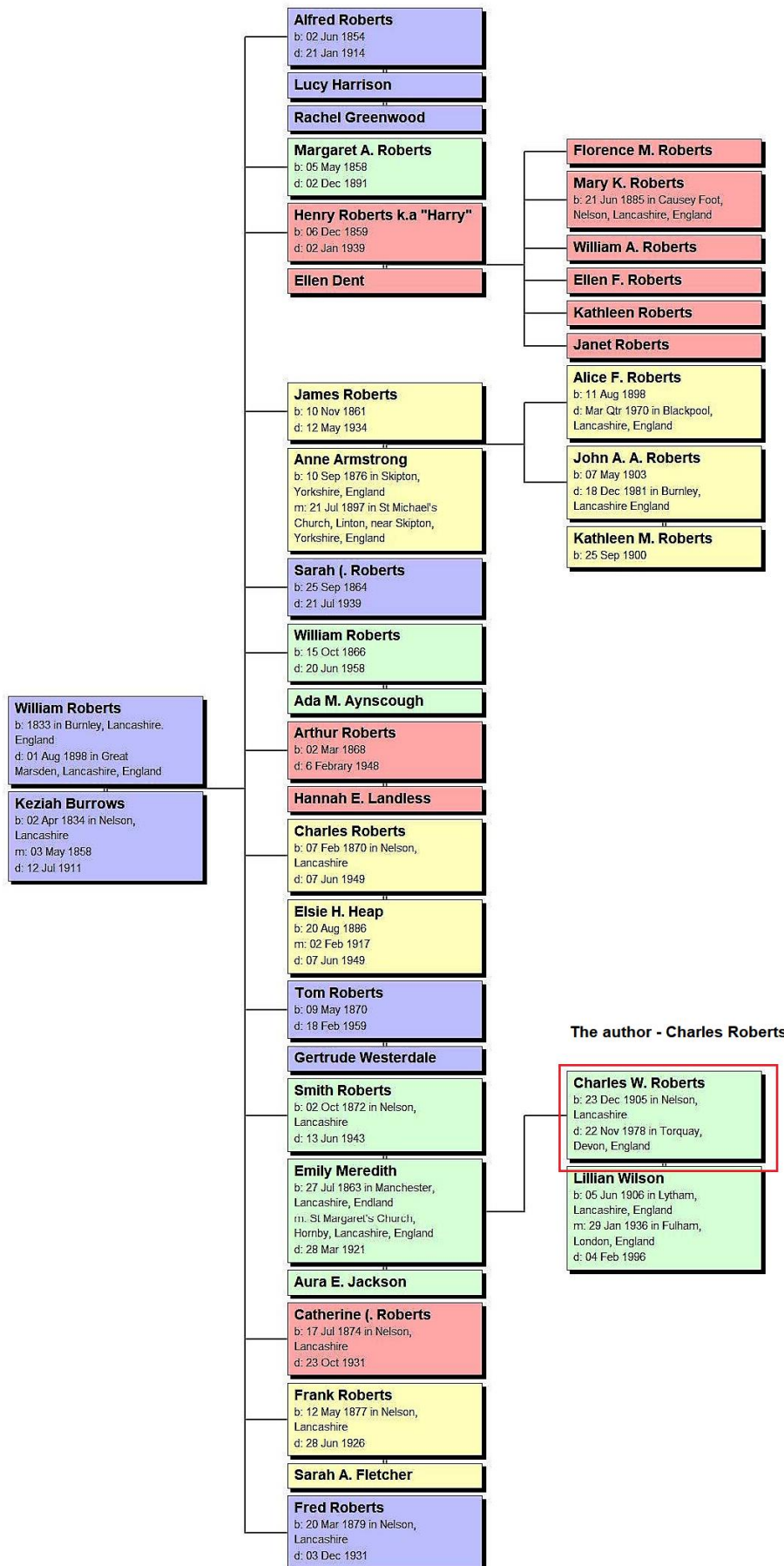
In many ways, this letter and the attachments sparked my own life-long interest in family history.

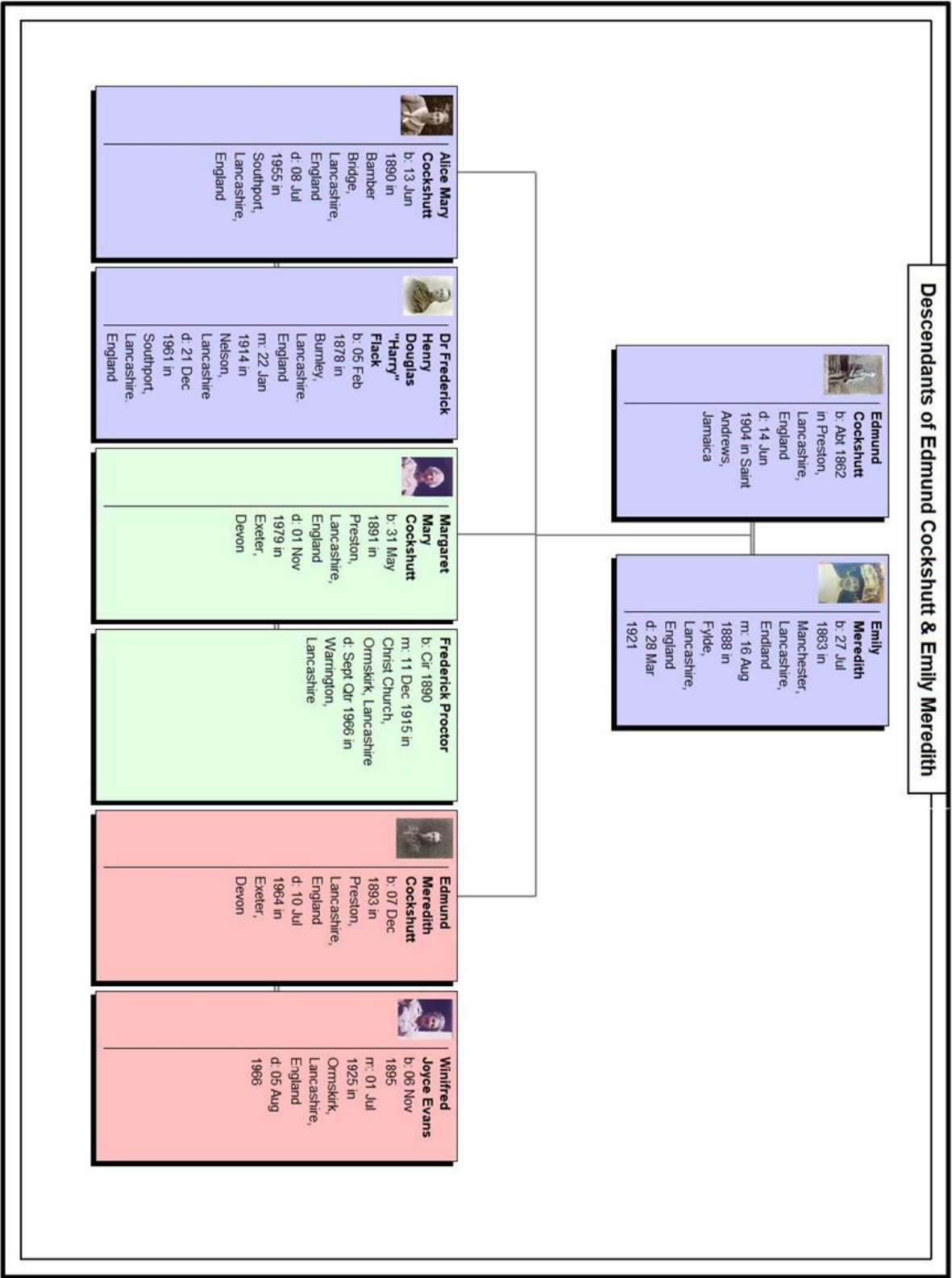
Charles died in 1978 and I had no further contact with the Roberts side of the family until in 2017, In 2017, I made contact with his grandson Max Taylor who agreed to send me copies of the extensive family history notes and photographs he had inherited from his grandfather Charles William Roberts, through his late father, John Meredith Smith Roberts (1937-2016), who had died the year before.

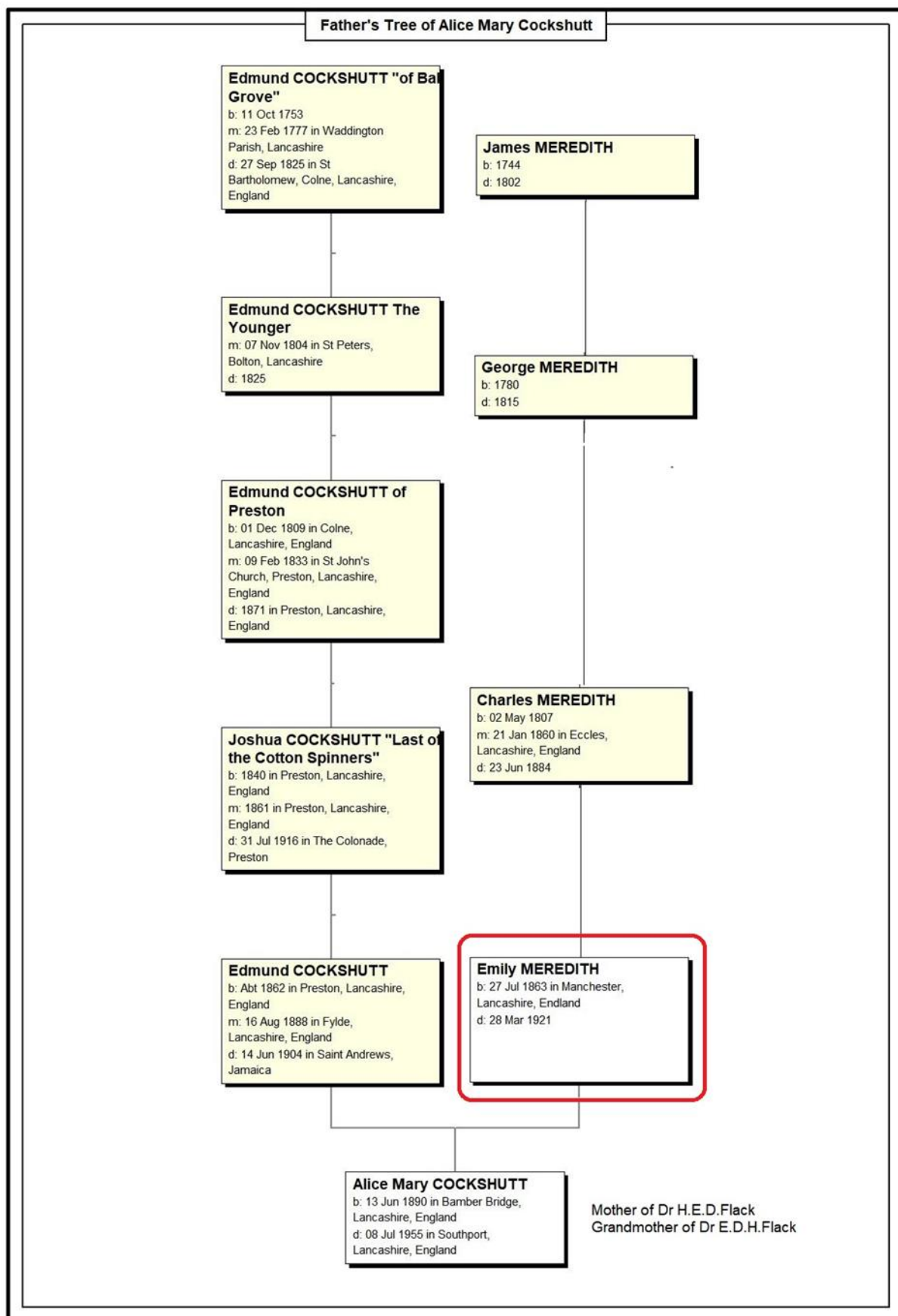
I subsequently received a “treasure-trove” comprising 96 photographs of his hand-written and typed notes plus copies of family photographs. The following are transcriptions of a selection of those documents which tell the story of the Roberts family of Nelson. I have not altered the original texts, except where there are typographical errors, however I have added comments, photographs and maps to assist.

The family trees are included to assist the reader in understanding the family relationships between those mentioned in the text.

Descendants of William Roberts







Explanation of the contents of this Roberts family history

This research is based on a collection of memoirs, photographs, sketch-maps and notes written and collected by Charles William Roberts (1905-1978). Additional content has been added by the Editor. The original material is reproduced in italics to differentiate it from the editor's contribution.

The collection has been arranged in the following order:

- Section 1 - The Roberts Family of Netherfield House, Nelson, Lancashire
- Section 2 - Alfred Roberts, Born 1854, died 1914
- Section 3 – James Roberts, born 1861, died 1934.
- Section 4 - William Roberts, Born 1866
- Section 5 - The Life Story of Frank Roberts
- Section 4 – Smith Roberts and life with him by his son Charles William
- Section 5 – Emily Roberts

The Roberts Family of Netherfield House

Nelson, Lancashire

I, Charles William Roberts, born 1905, am no great scholar; however I feel I am the only living Roberts with the time and knowledge to place on paper some of the history of this very large and industrious family. I have a very good memory, a lot of determination and have been able to make a painstaking research into this family.

I should like to acknowledge the great help given to me in my research by the various members of my family, particularly my aunt Elsie Roberts of Cockshott, widow of my Uncle Charles Roberts, and my own cousin Jack Roberts of Nelson, and last but not least the amazing help given to me by Mrs Crowther of Narrowford. The librarians and staff at the Nelson and Burnley libraries have, like the County Archivist, shown very great patience with my enquiries and given me great help. These notes are written with particular reference to my great grandfather William Roberts, born about 1798, my grandfather William Roberts, born about 1834, the lives of my grandfather's children being mentioned, but if time is available will be written about separately in much more detail.

The following census returns will help the reader to follow the early movements and the growth of the Roberts family.

1841 CENSUS, BURNLEY LANE, BURNLEY (NOW BRIERCLIFFE ROAD) MAP 2

Great grandfather William Roberts – Age 40 Weaver.

Great grandmother Sarah Roberts – Age 40 – wife.

Grandfather William Roberts – age 7 – son.

Note: Ages given in census are to the nearest 5 years.

1841 CENSUS CAUSEY FOOT, LITTLE MARSDEN

No mention of Great grandfather William Roberts of his family.

1851 CENSUS CAUSEY FOOT, OLD BURNLEY ROAD, LITTLE MARSDEN (NOW HIBSON ROAD)

See Plan 3 and 3A¹

Living in house marked B

Great grandfather William Roberts, age 53, Warper, born Laund

Great grandmother Sarah Roberts, age 53, wife, born in Westmoreland.

Grandfather William Roberts, son, unmarried, age 17, Engineer, born in Burnley.

Catherine Roberts, age 36, Lodger, unmarried, born in Yorkshire.

1861 CENSUS CAUSEY FOOT, LITTLE MARSDEN

See plan 3

¹ Copies of Charles Roberts' plans and maps are included in the Appendices.

Living in house marked B.

Great grandfather William Roberts, age 63, Cotton Warper, born Laund.

Great grandmother Sarah Roberts, age 64, wife, born Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmoreland.

Alfred Burrows, age 7, illegitimate son of Grandfather William Roberts and Kezia Burrows.

Living in House A

Grandfather William Roberts, age 27, born Burnley, Engineer.

Grandmother Kezia Roberts, age 27, born Marsden.

Margaret Ann Roberts, daughter, age 2

Harry Roberts, son, age 1.

1871 CENSUS CAUSEY FOOT, LITTLE MARSDEN

See plan 3

No mention of Great Grandfather William Roberts or Great Grandmother Kezia Roberts in house marked B.

House marked A

Grandfather William Roberts, age 37, Engineer employing 27 men and 5 boys, born Burnley.

Grandmother Kezia Roberts, age 37 born Little Marsden.

Alfred Roberts, son, age 17, Pattern maker, born Little Marsden.

Margaret Ann Roberts, age 12, daughter, born in Little Marsden.

Harry Roberts, age 11, son, born in Little Marsden.

James Roberts, age 9, son, born in Little Marsden.

Sarah Roberts, age 7, daughter, born in Little Marsden.

William Roberts, age 4, son, born in Little Marsden.

Arthur Roberts, age 3, son, born in Little Marsden.

Tom Roberts, age 1, son, born in Little Marsden.

Charles Roberts, age 1 month, son, born in Little Marsden.

In Old Laund Booth, edged red on map No. 1, the census entry might mean Old Laund Booth, Laund between Willow Bank and Sandy Hall or Higher Old Laund. So far I have not been in Old Laund Booth or Laund, near Waterside, Reedley Hallows. My Great Grandfather William Roberts according to the Census returns was born on or about 1798 in Old Laund Booth, edged red on Map No. 1, while the census entry gives the place of birth as Old Laund, it is difficult to place where he was born with any accuracy, it could mean just in the Old Laund Booth, or Laund between Willow Bank and Sandy Hall, or Higher Old Laund in Old Laund Booth, or Laund, Near Waterside, Reedley Hallows.



Map No. 1 of Nelson area as it is today showing the locations referred to in Charles Roberts' story

So far I have not been able to find exactly where he was born or to trace where he was baptised with any certainty, a possible baptism is the entry at Newchurch in Pendle, 15th April 1798, William Roberts, son of James and Nelly. If this is the correct baptism, it looks as though the following Newchurch in Pendle entry could be that of my Great Great Grandparents and the parents of my Great Grandparents, 17th April 1798 marriage of James Roberts and Nelly Varley, Witnesses Marmaduke Burton and Josiah Singleton.

In 1841 my Great Grandfather William Roberts, his wife Sarah, and son William, my grandfather, were living at a cottage on the left hand side of Burnley Lane (now Briercliffe Road) going towards Haggate, not very far from Duke Bar where the Turnpike Road meets Burnley Lane, shown on the 1948 plan marked No. 2. It is probably that he had lived here since he was married some time about 1832. It is just possible that Great Grandfather William worked at Rake Head Cotton Mill which was situated about one hundred yards away from his house on the same side of the road, but nearer to Haggate.

Apparently Great Grandfather Roberts and his family left Burnley Lane some time after 1841 as at the time of the 1851 census they were living at Causey Foot, Little Marsden at House B in a row of three storey cottages at the junction of Hibson Road, (old Burnley Road) and Loneshays Road as shown on Plans number 3 and 4. According to Eleazar Manley's "Memories of Nelson", written in 1910 the third storey of these cottages was entered by an outside staircase on the Nelson side of the cottages and the whole of this floor was used for weaving and may have been used as a whole room, the cottages were originally built by John Hope of Carr Hall and were called Millern Cottages.

At the time of the 1861 Census, Great Grandfather William and his wife Sarah were still living in the same house, his son, my Grandfather William had left home, the date of leaving not being known, and my Great Grandparents had been joined by Alfred Roberts, born in 1854, being the illegitimate son of Grandfather Roberts and Kezia Burrows. The 1861 Census shows that my grandfather William Roberts had also come to live at Causey Foot in cottage 'A', next door to his father, see plan No. 3. He was living with his wife Kezia, Nee Burrows, and children Margaret

Ann and son Harry, son Alfred still living with his father next door. It is more than likely that grandfather William came to live in tis house at about the time of his marriage in 1858.

There is no mention of Great Grandfather William or his wife Sarah in the Causey Foot Census figures for 1871, but it will be seen that grandfather William was still living in Causey Foot and this his family had greatly increased. What happened to Great grandfather William and his wife Sarah between 1861 and 1871 is not known. Perhaps they both died or moved somewhere else, even back to Laund, which seems rather likely as he was buried at the Old Inghamite Chapel



Inghamite Chapel , Weatley Lane

at Wheatley Lane, though I have not been able to trace his burial with any certainty. My uncle William informed me that he often walked up Carr Hall Road to the Inghamite Chapel in Wheatley Lane with this father, my grandfather William, to see his grandfather's grave and remembered that the grave was just behind the chapel building. I wrote to the Sexton to try to obtain a burial certificate, he replied that it was not possible and details of the burial would be difficult to find as graves were used for more than one burial. The only entry in the chapel index was of the first people to be buried in the grave. The Sexton continued his search and found the following, "William Roberts of Nelson, buried March 30th 1882, and laid in the second section of the ground at the foot of The Joseph Fell Monument No. 1B". Underneath the record appears this note, "This is James Earling's grave". This was a very lucky find. William Roberts was a strong follower of the Chartists, and my uncles used to relate how he was arrested in risings both in Colne and in Burnley.

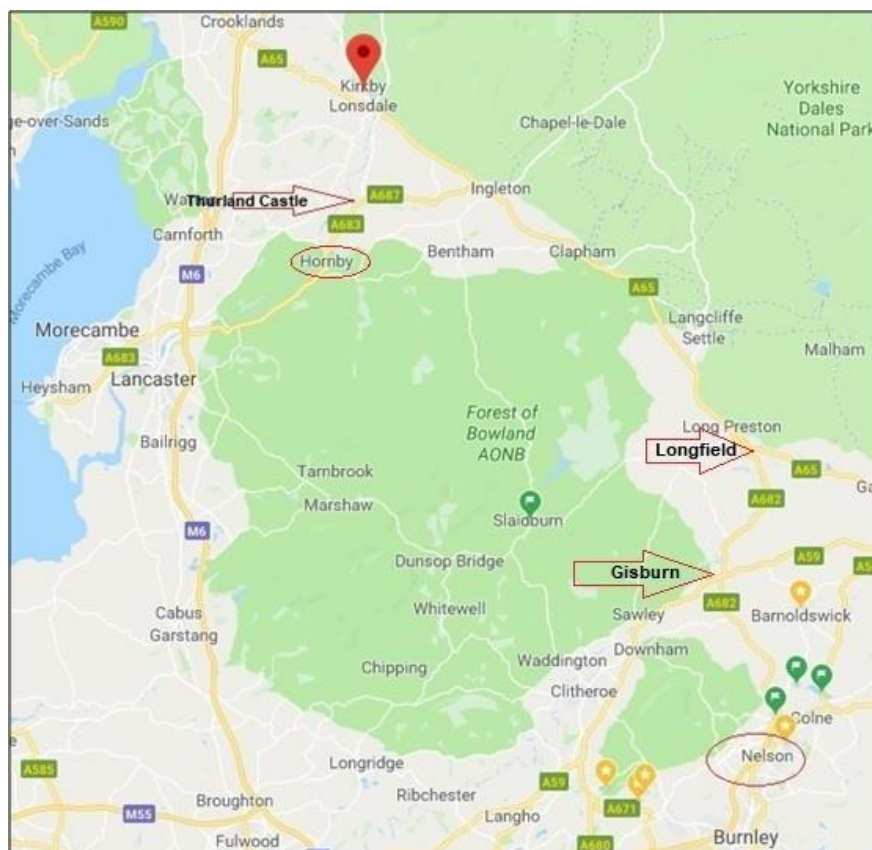
It is of interest to note an extract that my cousin Richard sent me from Wadsworth's the Cotton trade of Lancashire 1600 – 1760, "The Inventory of William Roberts of Marsden in 1717 will illustrate the putting out system. He had in his home, looms, a twisting mill, a warping mill, worsted, combs etc. This may be a long shot, but it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that he was one of our ancestors.

It is impossible to end the life of my Great Grandfather William without a few remarks about the great importance he and his family places on his wife Sarah Smith, born in Kirkby Lonsdale. In about 1834 Great Grandfather William married Sarah Smith, probably the daughter of William and Janet Smith of Higgins, near Kirkby Lonsdale. How they met is not at all clear but possibly Sarah Smith worked as a maid or nurse at one of the numerous large houses in the Wheatly Lane district, or again if as is quite possible that Great Grandfathers parents were farmers at Fence, it is just possible that Great Grandfather William might accompany his father when he went to buy cattle in the Kirkby Lonsdale District. How this is all conjecture. See Map 4.

The name Smith at any rate was of some importance to the Roberts Family. Grandfather William named his fourth and sixth child 'Smith', both dying in infancy. Not content with this, he named his twelfth child 'Smith', my father. He also named his seventh child Sarah.

Apparently Sarah Smith had a brother or relation, who was a sporting parson, who according to my Uncle Arthur, used to drive in his trap each year to the Kendal Races with a bag full of sovereigns, returning empty as to the bag, but in all other respects full. This tale was confirmed by my Uncle William, except that he enlarged on the Parson's drinking capabilities, saying "The

pony pulling the Parson's trap was a really wonderful animal, who knew exactly where to stop for his master to take on new supplies and where to halt so that his master could shed his load, and while his master slept the pony would wend his way safely through the narrow Westmoreland lanes waking his master up as he halted at the Parson's home, where after putting the pony to bed, the parson would face an angry wife and wake up the next morning feeling very sorry for himself and perhaps a wiser man, only to get in trouble again when the races were held the following year". I have tried very hard to trace the Reverend Gentleman, having lengthy correspondence with the Vicars of Kirkby Lonsdale, Clapham, Bentham, Conan Bridge and many other places in the Kirkby District, but have found no trace of him in the various Church of England records. Maybe he was a naughty Wesleyan or Quaker showing his wild oats once a year. As a young boy on one of our numerous holidays at Kirkby Lonsdale, I remember driving in the Foundry trap, picking the parson up at I think Tunatall, or Thurland Castle, driving to Hornby where my parents visited the church in which they were married. On coming out of the church, the parson saying, 'Emily, churches always had pubs build near to them, so as to give refreshment to the needy. I think Smith and I are in great need, you walk round with young Charlie and show him the wonderful view of Hornby Castle from the bridge over the river Luna'. He we waited for some considerable time, my mother getting a little bit angry, but to pacify her the parson said 'Emily you must really learn to appreciate the views as much as the Roberts family appreciate their beer'. My father always introduced the parson as my cousin so and so. The attraction of the Kirkby Lonsdale district for the Roberts family must be due to their connection with the Smith family. As young unattached young men, my father, uncles Arthur, Charles and others used to cycle to Kirkby Lonsdale nearly every weekend staying at the Royal Hotel, becoming very friendly with the Wilmot family who owned the Hotel. While in later years after marriage various Roberts families used to travel in the foundry trap to spend short or long holidays at Kirkby. Even in 1948 I can recall my Uncle Arthur and Auntie Dickie staying there. I myself well remember such a trip made as a young boy, setting off in the foundry trap from Nelson, lunch at the Hibblendale Area at Gleburn, spending the night at Hellifield, lunch at The Castle Hotel at Hornby and arriving at Kirkby Lonsdale for tea.



I have happy memories of the wonderful walks across the fields and along unspoilt paths, the marvellous view from behind the church looking towards Bedberch and watching very skilful fly fishermen in the river below, getting up early with my father to gather mushrooms on the golf course, later to be cooked for our breakfast, calling for a morning cup of coffee at Mrs Taylors cake shop, a lady renowned for her cakes and who send wedding cakes all over England, including my own sister Alice's wedding, being taken down Jingling Lane, which really did jingle when walked upon and last but not least on my parents becoming tired of their small son, being handed over to the driver of the mail coach which ran to meet all the trains at Arkholne and Kirkby Lonsdale Station, (see map 7).

Sometime between 1841 and 1851, it is believed in 1843, the Roberts Family moved to Little Marsden and lived at house marked B in a row of three storey cottages, situated at the junction of Hibson Road (Old Burnley Road) and Loneshaye Road, see plan 3 & 3A. At that time the cottages were called Miller's cottages. The top storey of the cottages ran across the three cottages and was approached by an outside staircase, thin floor was used for weaving. It is probably that Grandfather William's father, my Great-grandfather William worked on this floor as a Weaver or Warper as described in Census figures. There has always been great argument in the Roberts family as to exactly where the Roberts lived. My uncle William always maintained that the house was on the other side of Loneshaye Road. My Aunt Kinie used to say the house was one called Barley Field situated on the left hand side of Loneshaye Road coming up the hill from Manchester Road. Neither of these was correct, my friend and helper Mrs Crowther proved from the Census figures and old maps that they lived in house B in Millers cottages.

Grandfather William probably attended St Paul's School, a little higher up Hibson Road towards Haggate. He left school in 1849 at the age of sixteen to be apprenticed to Mr J Landless as an Engineer. The apprenticeship was for a period of five years.

During Grandfather William's apprenticeship, the Roberts family became friendly with a large family called Burrows who lived at The Square, Marsden Chapel.



The family consisting at the time of the 1851 census of –

Burrows Abel, 58, Widower, Weaver, born Marsden Chapel

Burrows Margaret, 23, Born Marsden Chapel

Burrows Sophie, 16, Born Marsden Chapel

Burrows Edmundson, 11, Born Marsden Chapel

Grandfather William became especially friendly with Kesia Burrows with the result that in 1854 a baby was born, my Uncle Alfred. The child's baptism entry at St Paul's Church, Little Marsden reading 'April 16th 1854. No 430. Child's Name Alfred, Mother's name Kezia Burrows, The Square, Little Marsden,

Single woman, weaver by trade. Ceremony performed by Thomas M Jackson, Incumbant.' This must have been a great shock to William's parents and possibly even more so to the Burrows family who, according to their relatives, were Pillars of the Church and very well respected in the

District. However it appears that young Alfred went to live with his father and grandparents at Causey Foot at house 'B', Plan No. 3A while Alfred's mother remained with her parents at The Square, Marsden Chapel, all as shown on the 1861 census. This arrangement possibly being made so that Kezia, a power loom weaver, could continue her work without having to look after Alfred.

About 1855 Grandfather William at the age of twenty one completed his five year's apprenticeship with Mr J Landless and having proved himself diligent and capable, was given a very good reference. William decided to try to improve his prospects and obtained a job at the Burnley Ironworks belonging to Messrs Bracewell and Griffiths at Burnley. It is just possible that this time he had to go into digs at Burnley to save the travelling which would account for his son Alfred living alone with his parents in Causey Food, Little Marsden.

In 1858 there was another crisis in the Roberts and Burrows families, Kezia was again with child. I think the parents on both sides of the trouble decided it really was about time Grandfather William and Kezia got married. A cottage next to his fathers was obtained marked 'A' on plan 3A, and on May 3rd, 1858, Grandfather Roberts is said to have gone to his bosses and asked for half a day off to get married.

The couple were duly married that day at the Burnley Register Office, the entry reading 'Roberts, William, age 24, Bachelor, Engineer, Smith, Causey Food, Little Marsden, Father William, Cotton Warper of the same address. Kezia Burrows, age 23, Spinster, Cotton Loom Weaver, Marsden Chapel, Little Marsden. Father Abraham Burrows, Hand Loom Weaver, Witnesses John Demundson, and Margaret Thornton. The wedding was none too soon, as on the following day, May 4th, grandfather William's second child, Margaret Anne was born. In those days it was almost common to have one child before getting married. When I first came to Devon in about 1932, my wife and I were amazed at the number of couples who waited to get married until they had one or more children. On remarking about this to some of our friends we were informed that a farmer "will never buy a cow until he knows it can calve". However, whatever grandfather William's faults were he certainly showed that he had no regrets about the choice of his wife and they had fifteen children in all, two dying in or soon after birth. The first twelve of the children being born at Causey Foot, Little Marsden and the last three at Netherfield House, Little Marsden.

The children of Grandfather William and Kezia were as follows –

Alfred	Born 2nd June 1854, died 21st January 1914.
Margaret Ann	Born 5th May 1858, died 2nd December 1891
Harry	Born 6th December 1859, died 2nd January 1939
Smith	Born 1860 and died soon afterwards
James	Born 10th November 1861, died 12th May 1934
Smith	Born 1863, died soon after birth
Sarah (Cally)	Born 25th September 1865, died 21st July 1939
William	Born 15th October 1866, died 20th June 1958
Arthur	Born 2nd March 1868, died 6th February 1959
Tom	Born 9th May 1869, died 18th February 1959
Charles	Born 7th February 1871, died 7th June 1949

Smith	Born 2nd October 1872, died 13th June 1943
Catherine (Kate)	Born 1875, died 23rd October 1931
Frank	Born 1877, died 28th June 1926
Fred	Born 1878, died 3rd December 1931.

After getting married in 1858, Grandfather William and Grandmother Kezia went to live in their cottage at Causey Foot, Little Marsden, marked 'A' on plan number four. The 1861 census shows that their son Alfred remained with Grandfather William's parents at house 'B' while the newly married couple lived at house 'A' next door with their second child Margaret Ann, and were soon to be joined in 1859 by son Harry, and in 1860 by Smith, who died soon after birth. It is not clear whether Grandfather William lived at home during his period or only at weekends, spending the mid-week periods in his old digs at Burnley. Probably the latter as Burnley was quite a long way from Little Marsden and presumably there were no electric trams in those days between Burnley and Nelson.

By 1861, the skill and drive of grandfather William was not only being noticed by the Burnley Ironworks, but by many other people outside the firm and in due course he was approached by Mr Peter Marsland, a Mechanic of Burnley, his brother William and Mr Henry Greenwood, a Moulder of Nelson, with a view of forming an Engineering Company. It was decided to acquire a site for their Foundry situated between Sagar Street and Chapel Street, Nelson. Negotiations about the water supply from the Walverden Brook took place with the Rigg family and the purchase of the land from Names and Joahun Walton, Cotton Manufacturers of Nelson and the land was finally acquired in 1862 (see Appendix No. 1). The firm prospered and expanded over the years. However Mr William Marsland died, the date is uncertain, probably about 1870. Mr Peter Marsland was paid out and grandfather William went into partnership with Mr Henry Greenwood, Mr William Landless and Mr John Brennan, Cotton Spinner of Byerden House, near Burnley. The new business going under the name of William Roberts & Co. The various transactions as to partnership and land can be seen by those with a legal mind in Appendix No. 1. Soon after the Company was formed Mr Landless and Mr Brennan left the firm, but the company carried on until 1880, when owing to the death of Mr Greenwood, grandfather William was left the sole Principal.

During this period 1861 to 1880, grandfather Robert's family was increased by the arrival of James born 1861, Smith born 1863, died soon after birth, Sarah born 1865, William born 1866, Arthur born 1868, Tom born 1869, Charles born 1871, Smith born 1872, Catherine born 1875, Frank born 1877, Fred born 1878. By 1875 it became very clear that their house at Causey Foot, Little Marsden was not sufficiently large to house such a large family.

It is astounding how a family of thirteen fitted into their house, but my father said that the boys used to sleep four in a bed, two with feet facing the foot of the bed and two with feet facing the bed head. This must have been difficult as nearly all the Roberts were big men.

In 1875, grandfather William having decided to move to a larger house, purchased a plot of land fronting Barkerhouse Road from the Coley Farm Estate and decided to build a house on it. Plans were prepared and the building work started. However during the building, Netherfield House came into the market and grandfather William decided to buy the property and sell the house he was building, the present Coley hall, later to be used by Dr Jackson, see plan No. 5 for position of both Coley Hall and Netherfield House. Appendix 1.



On the 6th August 1877, Grandfather William purchased Netherfield House and three cottages, 64 – 68 Barkerhouse Road, Great Marsden, see plan No. 6 for position of the house and appendix No. 2 for details of the purchase.

The property consisted of the following –

Farmhouse, Barn, Shippens, 2 stables and outbuildings, garden and fold, crosses of land called The Croft and Laithe field, in all 4 840 square yards. Soon after moving into Netherfield House

there were two more additions to the Roberts family. Frank born 1877 and Fred born 1878. The family now consisted of ten sons and three daughters. Grandfather William decided the best way to feed his family was to increase the size of his farm and so he rented part of the Coley Hall Estate and land between Netherfield House and Walverden stream from the Rigg Brithers. How much land this amounted to is not known, but I recall my father saying that on many evenings he and his brothers used to be sent to the Walverden Brook to bring back the geese. I do not think the idea of making the family self-supporting was a hundred per cent success. I think my grandfather had some knowledge of farming as I am nearly sure his grandfather, my great great grandfather also called William Roberts, farmed at Old Laund. As a boy grandfather William must often have stayed on the farm and would naturally have been expected to lend a hand with the haymaking and other farm work. There is no doubt that in the early days with such a large family there would be no shortage of labour at Netherfield Farm, sons for the outside work and daughters for such tasks as butter making, and looking after the hens, ducks and geese.



1844 Map showing Netherfield Farm, the field boundaries and the location of Walverden Water



Sketch plan of Netherfield House in the 1920s drawn by Charles Roberts

Alfred Roberts, Born 1854, died 1914

During the last thirty years I have examined very many registers of Baptism, both at the Churches and through the Lancashire Record Office and the Society of Genealogists, searching for Roberts, Merediths and Stuttards and it as amazed me how often families wait until they have four or five Children before they are brought to Church to be Baptised. This was probably due to the distance they had to travel to reach a Church, and even more surprising to me was that nearly always the first two children or even three were born out of wedlock. I do not know the reason for this but when mentioning the subject to an old Devonian, he said, "Well you never knew a Farmer buy a cow unless it could calve", so perhaps this was the reason why. The Stuttard Family hold my record for children born out of wedlock, probably on account of their homes being in the rather desolate Pandle forest district, far from Churches or Register Offices. The Merediths to the best of my knowledge come out with a clean sheet. I regret that I have to tell the Roberts that we have one son born out of wedlock, my Uncle Alfred, probably the greatest of all the sons of William Roberts, a man I believe who was appreciated more after his death than in his lifetime².

In 1854 there must have been great fluttering in the dove-cote of Little Marsden when it was found that Kezia Mary, daughter of Mr & Mrs Abraham Burrows, a highly respected family and great Church people of Marsden Chapel, Little Marsden was about to have a baby, my Uncle Alfred. Even greater fluttering took place in 1858 when it was discovered Kezia Mary was pregnant again, and in due course was to produce Margaret Ann. However, the situation was saved by William Roberts marrying Kezia at the Burnley Registry Office two days before Margaret Ann was born. These events must have been a great shock to the very respectable Burrows Family, but whatever the parents thought about it, William and Kezia had obviously no regrets as after their marriage they went on to produce thirteen more children and form what was undoubtedly a very happy family and home.

William Roberts, born 1833 was the son of William Roberts, born 1809 and his wife, nee Sarah Smith. When William junior, was about ten years old, the family left Burnley and in all probability came to live in one of the three three-storey houses on the right hand side of Hibson Road, going towards Haggate, after its junction with Loneshaye Road in the village of Little Marsden, now Nelson.

It is believed that on becoming married, William and his wife Kezia took up residence at Barley Field, Loneshaye Road, Little Marsden, where the family lived until William purchased Netherfield House, Netherfield Road, Great Marsden in 1875.

Thus Alfred spent his youth in the Hibson Road area of Nelson until he was twenty one years old. Nothing is known about Alfred's schooling, but in all probability he attended St Paul's Church School, near his home and that of his Mother's in Marsden Chapel. When he became older he most likely went to Loneshaye School where his mother's cousin or Uncle John Edmundson was a teacher and later to become Headmaster.

² Since I can find no record of a child named Charles born to a "Kezia" or a "Roberts" or a "Burrows" in Lancashire during the period 1854 +/- 5 years, it must be assumed that the birth was either unregistered, or registered under a different surname, or registered outside Lancashire.

We are not sure where Alfred learned his engineering, possibly with The Burnley Ironworks following in his father's footsteps, but more than likely with his Father's firm. This firm had been composed of various partners, but in 1880 on the death of Mr Greenwood, William Roberts was left the sole Principal and in 1895 a private company was formed, with the Shareholders being members of the Roberts family, the firm being known as William Roberts and Sons. Alfred now forty-one years old, after much study and hard work naturally took up the position of Father's right hand man specialising in the designing of engines. On the death of his father in 1898, Alfred succeeded him as senior member of the firm, becoming Chairman and Managing Director and having full charge of the designing of the various engines the firm produced, for which the firm had an unsurpassed reputation.

Alfred was one of the best known businessmen in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, he was Chairman and Managing Director of the Barrowford Room and Power Company and had



Alfred Roberts of William Roberts and Co in 1949 standing next to the Bishops House Fly Wheel manufactured by his firm.

numerous interests in other local companies, many of these being acquired by taking up shares in a variety of concerns as part payment for work carried out by William Roberts and Sons.

One does not know the date on which Alfred married Lucy Harrison, daughter of William and Betty Harrison of Nelson, we do know that William Harrison was buried in Barrowford. After the marriage, the couple went to live at 91 Manchester Road Nelson. Lucy died in ³. and was buried in the Roberts Family vault at St. John's Church, Great Marsden. During Lucy's illness she was nursed by a Miss Rachel Greenwood, who came from Wittlesea in Cambridgeshire and was a fully qualified nurse, at one time being Theater Sister to the well-known Surgeon Sir Berkeley Moynham at his Hospital in Leeds. Sometime after his first wife's death, Alfred married Rachel Greenwood, known to the family as Ray, the couple going to live in one of the Roberts' houses in Barkerhouse Road, number 136. It was while living in this house that the front fell out due to the vibration caused by Chadwick's very heavy traction engine and trailer lade with some passing the house each day on its way from the quarries at the top of Barkerhouse Road to the saw mills and loading dock at the Railway level crossing near the bottom of Barkerhouse Road.



Alfred was a member and regular attender at the Conservative Club in Nelson, but took no office or any active part in political life.

Alfred's greatest work, outside his business, was in connection with St Mary's Church, Nelson, with which he was closely identified from its beginning, having practically held office continuously either as a Sidesman, Churchwarden or Diocesan representative. As Warden he served many times and at his death he was serving his third year of this term of office in that capacity.

Alfred Roberts began to be unwell on the day preceding Christmas Day 1913 and he left business earlier than usual on that day, and was subsequently confined to his home for some

³ Burial: 18 Dec 1893 St John the Evangelist, Great Marsden, Lancashire, England

Lucy Roberts -

Age: 37 years

Abode: 91 Manchester Rd Nelson S. Marys

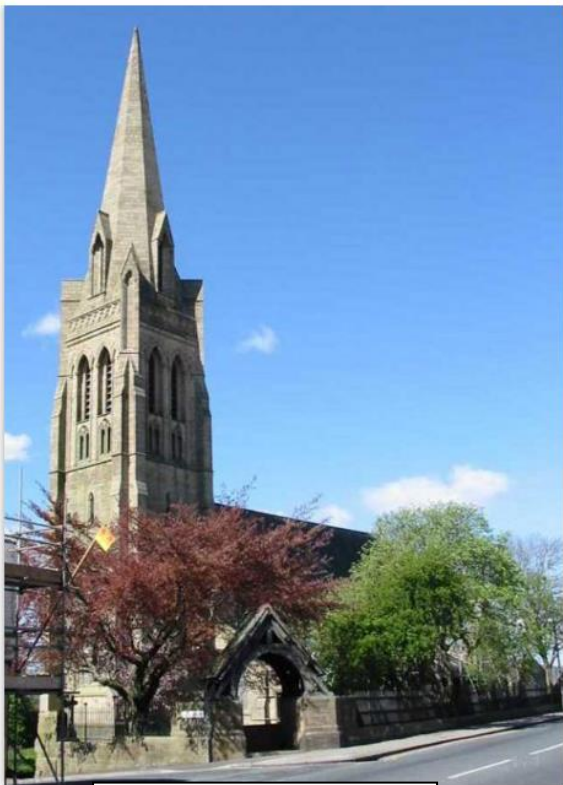
Buried by: Samuel Sandys

Register: Burials 1891 - 1895, Page 115, Entry 920

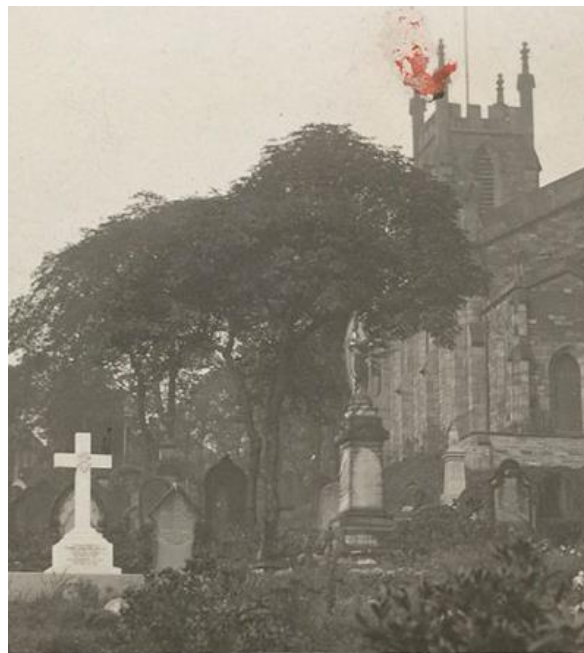
Source: LDS Film 1471098

days. On January 7th 1914 he was well enough to walk down to the Office where he remained for a short time, but that was his last visit. On January 19th he was removed to the Burnley Victoria Hospital for an operation, the symptoms of his complaint were not recognised as being so pronouncedly serious as to warrant any supposition that he would fail to survive the necessary ordeal. The news, therefore, which arrived later in the evening that he had succumbed was a painful and unexpected shock to all concerned.

The funeral service took place at St Mary's Church and the burial at St John's Church, Great Marsden, the service being conducted by the vicar of St Mary's Church, the Rev. J.W. Marsh, Alfred being entombed in the Roberts' Family vault at St Johns Church. The bearers were workmen from the Foundry and mourners included Mr Roberts (widow), Mr & Mrs James Roberts, Miss Kate Roberts, Miss Sally Roberts, Mr & Mrs Harry Roberts, Mr Arthur Roberts, Mr William Roberts, Mr Tom Roberts, Mr Charles Roberts, Mr & Mrs Smith Roberts, Mr & Mrs Frank Roberts, Mr Fred Roberts and many others.



St Mary's Church, Nelson



St John's Church, Nelson (now demolished), where the extant grave yard in which Charles Roberts is buried is located.

James Roberts, born 1861, died 1934.

James Roberts, born in 1861 was the third son of William Roberts of Netherfield House, Netherfield Road, Great Marsden, Nelson, who was the founder of William Roberts & Sons, engineers of Phoenix Foundry, Hibson Street, Nelson.

James Father, William Roberts was about eight years old when his father, William Roberts moved his family from Burnley to Little Marsden or Nelson as it is now called. In 1858 the young William Roberts married Mary Kezia Burrows, a cotton loom weaver of Marsden Chapel, Little Marsden. The Burrows being a well-known and respected family, it is known that the couple went to live in a cottage called "Barley Field" somewhere near the junction of Hibson Road with Loneshays Road, there is some doubt about the exact position, my Uncle William and his wife Ada were quite sure it was one of a row of four three storeyed cottages standing on the left hand side of Hibson Road going downhill, just before you reach Loneshays Road. The cottages I remember quite well, as when working for Mr Richard the Nelson Architect, I surveyed the Cottages and the land on which they stand, prior to demolition and development by Russell Brothers, on the other hand, my cousin Jack Roberts is of the opinion that Barley Fields is situated nearly at the junction of Hibson Road, but on the Nelson side of Loneshays Road, this view is closely supported because there is at the present moment a property called Barley Field. This consists of a Farm House, called "Pendle View" and adjoining stable that has been converted into three cottages and called Barleyfield.

At the time of James' birth, William and Kezia Roberts had three sons⁴, Alfred born in 1854, Harry born in 1859 and Margaret Ann born in 1858. Not much is known about their childhood, but in all probability the children attended St Paul's Church of England School, which was situated a little further up Hibson Road at the junction with the Haggate Road, and almost next door to the cottage where their mother was born.

In 1875, William Roberts finding his cottage becoming too small for his family, now numbering twelve including the parents, decided to look for a larger property. In passing it may seem almost impossible to house this large family in even a three story cottage, but I remember my father saying they used to sleep four to a bed, two with feet facing one way and two the reverse. William bought some land further up Barkerhouse than Netherfield, belonging to Coley Farm and gave orders for a house to be built, the present Coley Hall. However, while this was under construction he purchased Netherfield, House, Netherfield Road, Great Marsden, the property comprising house, a row of three Cottages facing Barkerhouse Road, a few farm building and in all about three acres of land. After a time William decided to go in for farming and rented land from the Rigg brothers, which ran from Barkerhouse Road towards the Walverden Brook and also land from the Coley Hall Estate⁵.

At the age of sixteen, James decided to enter the Scholastic Profession and obtained a position as Pupil Teacher at Loneshaye School, under the Head Mastership of Mr John Edmundson, believed to be an uncle or cousin of his mother, and who certainly was a witness at his father's wedding. James' brother used to refer to Mr Edmundson as "Uncle Edmundson", nicknamed "Ned O'Peggys", whilst his brother William, referred to him as "Old Agebo"⁶.

In 1908 on the death of William Roberts' partner Mr Henry Greenwood, William Roberts became the sole Principal of the Firm, the business was then formed into a private company, the

⁴ Searches of the Births, Death and Marriage Registers indicate that James was the third son and fourth child of William and Keziah Roberts - Alfred Roberts (1854-1914); Margaret Ann Roberts (1858-1891), Henry Roberts (1859-1939) and James Roberts (1861-1934).

⁵ See map on page 15.

⁶ Keziah Roberts' mother was Margaret (known as "Peggy") Burrows, nee Edmondson (1802-1844).

shareholders being made up solely of members of the Roberts Family. James was persuaded to give up his teaching and enter the Firm, going into the Firm's office and concentrating on the accountancy side of the business. Over the years he devoted himself assiduously to his new career and on the death of his Father, soon became the mainstay of his elder brother Alfred, and as time went on became one of the best known and respected businessmen in commercial circles in the north of England.

In 1914, James' brother Alfred died suddenly, and James and his brother Arthur were made joint Managing Directors, both working mainly in the office as opposed to working in the foundry itself.

James following his father's footsteps became Director of the Throstle Nest Mill Company, Bradley Hacking & Sheppard Company Limited and had either shares or an interest in many other cotton firms, as often when new weaving sheds were built, and William Roberts and Sons provided the mill engines, part of the cost of the engines was taken up in shares.

James was Vice-Chairman of the Burnley & District Engineering Trades Employers Association and was for many years an active member of the Burnley Chamber of Trade.

James was a Pioneer of the room and power system and in 1908 the Roberts and the Sunderland family and a few others formed the Nelson Room and Power Company Limited, and James was made their first Managing Director. Weaving sheds in Brook Street were built or acquired, the Company providing the space in which to place rooms and the power with which to run them. Many of the large cotton firms in the Nelson District started renting a little space, gradually expanding and progressing until they could afford to build a mill of their own, and what more natural on doing so than engaging William Roberts and Sons to build the mill engines for them.

James Roberts was a staunch Conservative and had a long association with the Nelson Conservative Party and their club, being treasurer of the Club for a number of years and at the time of his death was one of the Trustees. He was approached on many occasions to enter Public Life, but always refused on the grounds that he could not afford the time.

James Roberts was closely connected with St Mary's Church, Nelson, from its consecration until the time he left Nelson to live at South Shore. Like his brothers, he was a sidesman for a number of years and a warden for the two year period allowed.

James Roberts was appointed a Magistrate in 1909 and served on the Bench until he died in 1934 and for a period he was Chairman.

Unlike his father, James Roberts never became a Freemason.

James Roberts was quite a keen golfer playing at the Nelson Golf Club while resident in Nelson, but unlike his brothers, William, Tom, Charles, Smith and Frank and his sister Kate, never held office at the Golf Club. James was very keen on shooting and in all probability preferred to go to Grimwith near Hebden⁷, where he was an active member of the shooting syndicate.

James Roberts married Miss Anne Armstrong, the ceremony taking place at Linton Church, Grassington on the 7th May 1903, the couple going to live at 142 Barkerhouse Road, Nelson. His daughter Alice Frances was born on the 11th August 1898 and his son, John Arthur Armstrong on the 7th May 1903.

⁷ Probably the area near Grimwith Reservoir in the southern Yorkshire Moors about 30 miles NE of Nelson. The area remains today a popular area for shooting sports.

On the 12th May 1934, James Roberts died after being in failing health for some time, leaving a widow, his son John Arthur Armstrong and his daughter Alice Frances. His funeral took place at St John's Church, Great Marsden, Nelson, the service being conducted by the Rev J. Morgan.

The following is an extract from the 1939 Register listing James Roberts widow, Anne Roberts and family.

23

William Roberts, Born 1866

William Roberts, born in 1866 was the fourth son of William Roberts born 1833, and his wife Mary Kezia, nee Burrows, or he might be called the sixth son, if one counted the two Smiths, born before him who died in childbirth or soon afterwards, he came of a very large family.

<i>ALFRED</i>	<i>Born 1854, died 1914</i>
<i>MARGARET ANN</i>	<i>Born 1858, died 1891</i>
<i>HARRY</i>	<i>Born 1859, died 1939</i>
<i>SMITH</i>	<i>Born 1860, died the same year.</i>
<i>JAMES</i>	<i>Born 1861, died 1934</i>
<i>SMITH</i>	<i>Born 1863, died the same year.</i>
<i>SARAH (SALLY)</i>	<i>Born 1865, died 1939</i>
<i>WILLIAM</i>	<i>Born 1866, died 1958</i>
<i>ARTHUR</i>	<i>Born 1868, died 1948</i>
<i>TOM</i>	<i>Born 1869, died 1959</i>
<i>CHARLES</i>	<i>Born 1871, died 1949</i>
<i>SMITH</i>	<i>Born 1872, died 1943</i>
<i>CATHERINE (KATE)</i>	<i>Born 1874, died 1931</i>
<i>FRANK</i>	<i>Born 1877, died 1926</i>
<i>FRED</i>	<i>Born 1878, died 1931</i>

William Roberts was born in a cottage called Barley Field, situated somewhere near the junction of Hibson Road with Loneshays Road, there is some doubt about the exact position, my Uncle William and his wife Ada were quite sure it was one of a row of four three storeyed cottages standing on the left hand side of Hibson Road going down the hill from the Gordon Hotel, just before you reach Loneshays Road. The cottages I remember quite well, as when working for Mr Richard the Nelson Architect, I surveyed the Cottages and the land on which they stand, prior to demolition and development by Russell Brothers, on the other hand, my cousin Jack Roberts is of the opinion that Barley Fields is situated nearly at the junction of Hibson Road, but on the Nelson side of Loneshays Road, just before it meets Hibson Road. This view is reinforced by the fact that there is at present a property about one hundred and fifty years old called Barley Field, the name being carved on a stone at the entrance. The property consists of a Farm House, called "Pendle View" and a large stable converted into three cottages and called Barleyfield. My Aunt Elsie Roberts confirms that my Cousin Jack Roberts is correct, when she and her husband (Page 2 begins here) Charles Roberts lived at Brierfield, they often used to walk to Netherfield House on a Sunday going up Loneshays Road from Manchester Road and just before reaching Hibson Road they used to go round the back of Barley Field – as this was a short cut to Hibson and Charles often said this house was his old home. I myself, think this is the old family home as the three storey cottages seem too small for such a large family to be raised in them, despite the fact that my father said they used to sleep four in a bed, two with feet facing the foot of the bed and two with feet facing the head of the bed.

In 1878 when William was about twelve years of age, his parents found that Barley Field was getting too small to house a large, rapidly growing family, so they purchased some land in Barkerhouse Road belonging to the Coley Farm and arranged to have a house build on it – the present Coley Hall, and in my youth the home of Doctor Jackson and family. However, while the house was being build, Netherfield House came on the market and William's Parents decided to buy it and sell Coley Hall. Netherfield House was situated at the junction of Netherfield and Barkerhouse Roads and lay in about three acres of land, comprising a fairly large house, some farm buildings, stables and a row of three cottages facing Barkerhouse Road. Shortly after going to live at Netherfield, William's parents decided to take up farming and rented some land from Coley Farm in the north side of Barkerhouse Road and further land to the south of the house, from the Rigg brothers, this land extending to the Walverden stream.

William Roberts in his early youth attended Lomeshays School. The Headmaster was probably John Edmundson, who I believe was his mother's uncle, a witness to his father's wedding at the Burnley Registry Office and referred to by some of the family as Uncle Edmundson, other as Ned O'Peggy. William Roberts called him "Old Agebo" and said he was a strict disciplinarian and excelled in the use of a wooden frame with which he plastered the boys' bottoms and split their hands. In his later years at the school, William had the pleasure of seeing his elder brother, James, start his career at the school as a Pupil Teacher.

In 1878 at the age of twelve, William was accepted as a pupil at Grant's School, Carleton Road, Burnley. He must have been very bright to be allowed to enter this school, which was famous for its standard of education and the many fine men it turned out.

In those days, there were no trams between Nelson and Burnley, and William used to walk to and from school each day, a distance of about four miles each way. One would think that having done this walk each day for three or four years, he would hate walking but throughout his life it was always one of his greatest pleasures.

(Page 3 begins here)

On leaving Grant's School, William decided against joining the family firm of William Roberts and Sons, as he considered there were already enough Roberts in the firm. William joined the flour milling firm of John Greenwood & Sons, starting as a Junior in their office at The Old Stoke Mill in Burnley, doing various jobs until he was selected to become a traveller, a job in which his great love of walking came in very handy and was a great joy to him. After a while his good services were rewarded, John Greenwood were building a new modern flour mill at Trafford Park, Manchester, and he was made Office Manager. A few years later William was made Secretary of the firm, a position he held until his retirement at the age of seventy-one. His services with John Greenwood & Sons Limited lasted for some fifty seven years and he was held in high esteem by the Management of the Manchester Ship Canal Company and the Management of the other flour and provender mills in Manchester, Liverpool and Birkenhead.

William was instrumental in the founding of "The Grain Old Boys Circle", which later became "The Corn Trades Guild", a form of organisation which was instrumental in doing good to Officials in the Trade, who fell on hard times.

On the 8th December 1907, William and Ada had their first child William, the twelfth grandchild of William Roberts and I am sure enjoyed showing him off at the parade of brothers, wives and children at Netherfield house on a Sunday morning after Church.

In 1912, William, after being promoted and moved to the Manchester factory of John Greenwood, sold their house in Nelson and moved to Manchester, (Page 4 begins here) Oakleigh, Park Road, Sale, where on the 1st March 1913, their daughter Phyllis was born.

William and Arthur were the only two of the Roberts sons who were really musical, but of course their sister Kate was a concert pianist. William was a chorister at St Paul's Church, Little Marsden, possibly in company with his brother Arthur, and it was at this church that he met his wife Ada Mabel, both singing in the church choir. William never lost his love of music especially choral singing, and often talked about the pleasure of Gilbert & Sullivan Operas and other musical productions, and used to relate how he enjoyed his evenings with this colleagues after choir practice, in the General Gordon Inn adjacent to St Paul's Church, Little Marsden. In passing, it is rather strange that William and Arthur were the only two sons of William Roberts who were musical, as it is said that William Roberts Senior gave each of his family the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. William's love of music was again evidenced by the prompt way in joined the Parish Church Choir on his transfer to Manchester.

Before he married, William, like his brothers Smith and Charles were keen cyclists and spent many weekends at The Royal Hotel at Kirkby, Lonsdale and also used to visit or stay at a cottage at Earby. William had a wonderful memory for the roads on which he had travelled, particularly in Wales, and would give his friends detailed instructions on where to travel and often had only been over the roads once or twice.

William was fond of sport, and along with his brothers James, Arthur, Tom, Charles, Smith and Frank, and sister Kate, was responsible for the founding of The Nelson Gold Club. He was the first Treasurer of the Club, to be followed in this office in 1910 by his brother, my father, Smith Roberts, on giving up this office he was made a life member of the Club. On going to live in Manchester, William found he missed his many friends of the Nelson Golf Club and commenced to play tennis again on his own tennis court and continued to do so, often playing eight sets at the weekend, until he reached the age of seventy. He was always a very fit man and often said this was due to his love of walking and his regular cold baths.

William was always interested in politics, and while living in Nelson, was a member of the Conservative Club. He was a staunch Conservative and took a great and active interest in the elections, serving for many years on the Committee and holding the office of Treasurer for many years, and at the time he left Nelson was the Chairman of the Club and Local Party. William was always a firm believer that one should do some public service and have interests from one's own work, a tradition he passed on to the next generation.

(Page 5 begins here)

After going to live in Manchester, William often visited his relations in Nelson when he had to call at the Mills of John Greenwood at Blackburn or Burnley he used to go to the Foundry, and meet many of his family there. Then with his brothers James and Arthur go to Netherfield in the Foundry trap and have lunch with his sisters, Sally and Kate and his brother Fred. After Netherfield house was demolished, he would go to see his sister Sally and his brother Fred at his brother Frank's old house at 155, Barkerhouse Road, Great Marsden.

William died on 20th June 1958 and was buried at...

He was survived by his wife Ada Mabel, his son William and his daughter Phyllis.

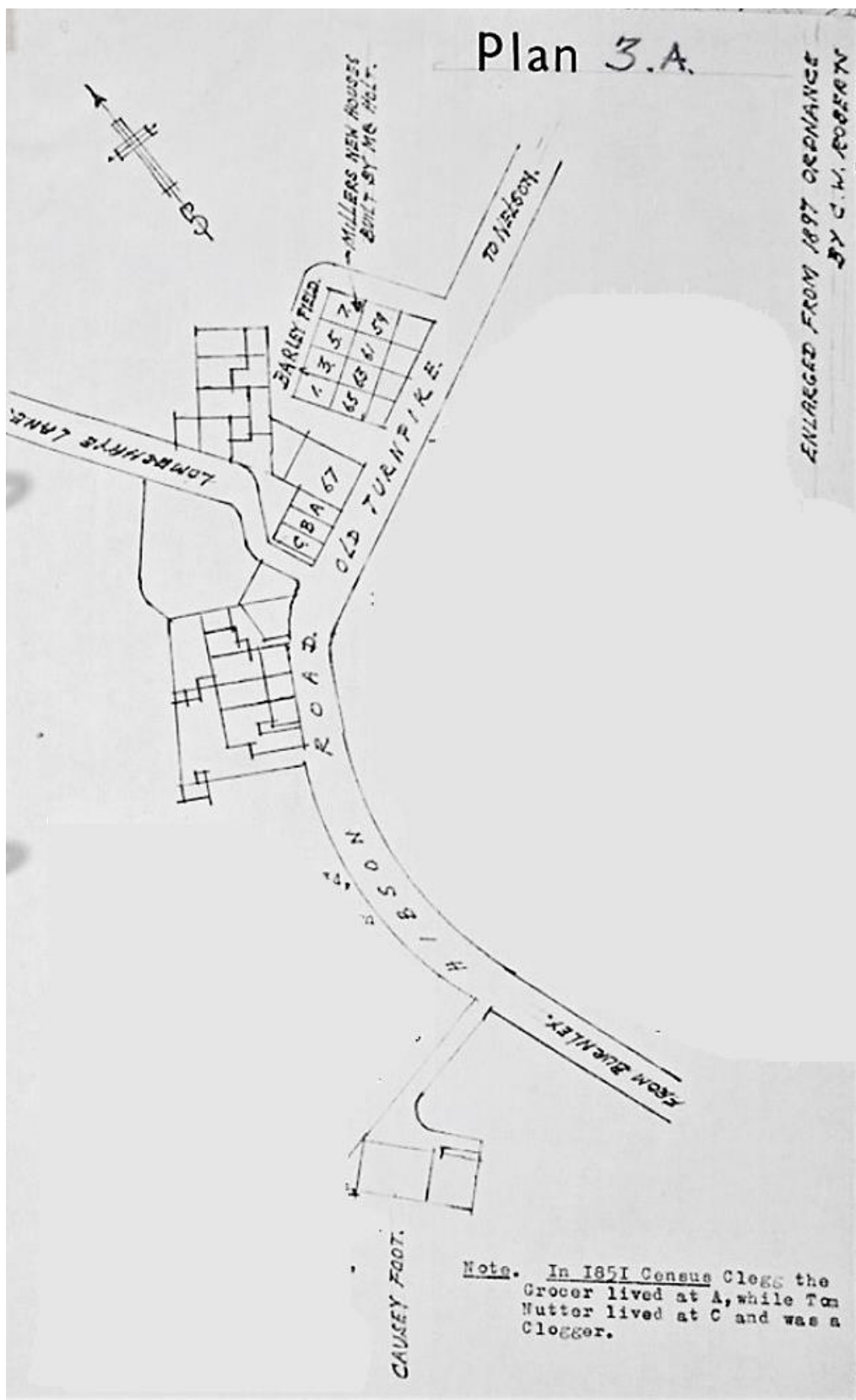
Frank Roberts

Frank Roberts, born 12th May 1877, was the son of William Roberts (Born 1833) and his wife Mary Kezia, nee Burrows. William Roberts first lived at Barley fields, Causey Foot, Little Marsden, then at Netherfield House, Great Marsden and was the founder of William Roberts & Sons, Phoenix Foundry, Ribson Street, Nelson.

Frank came of a very large Family –

- Alfred, Born 1854, married 1st. Lucy Harrison, 2nd. Rachel Greenwood, died 1914.*
- Margaret Ann, Born 1858, unmarried, died 1891.*
- Harry, Born 1859, married Ellen Dent, died 1939.*
- Smith, Born 1860 died in same year.*
- James, Born 1861, married Anne Armstrong, died 1934.*
- Smith, Born 1863, died in same year.*
- Sarah, (Sally) Born 1865, unmarried, died 1999.*
- William, Born 1866, married Ada Mabel Aynscough, died 1958.*
- Arthur, born 1868, married Hannah Elizabeth Landless, died 1948.*
- Tom, born 1869, married Gertrude Westerdale, died 1959.*
- Charles, born 1871 married Elsie Hennie Heap, died 1949.*
- Smith, born 1872, married 1st. Emily Cockshutt, 2nd. Aura Hilton Jackson, died 1943.*
- Catherine (Kate), Born about 1874, unmarried, died 1931.*
- Frank, Born 1877, married Sarah Ann Fletcher, died 1926.*
- Fred, Born 1878, unmarried, died 1931.*

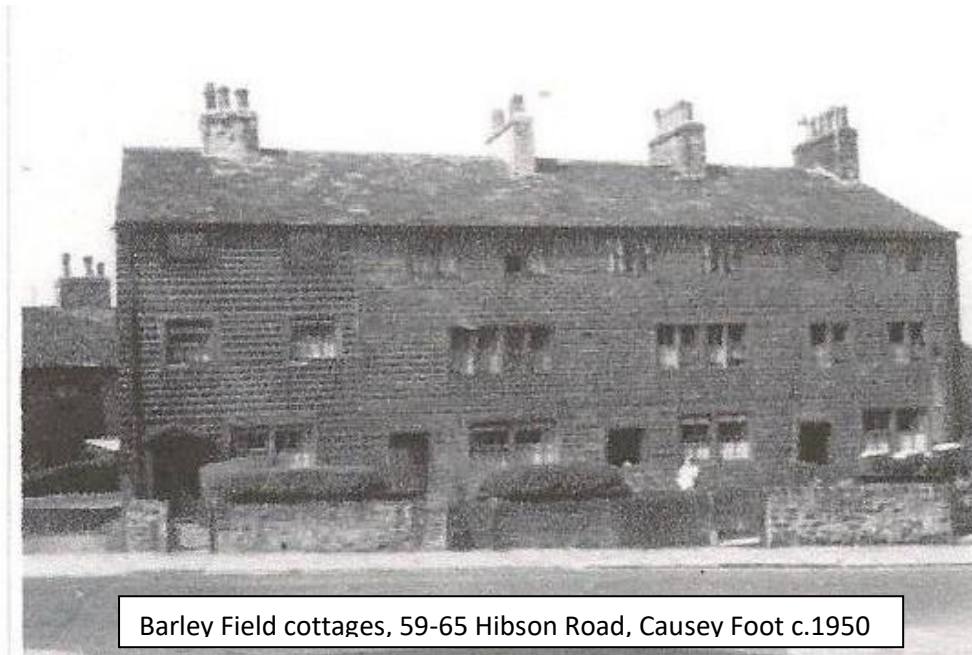
Frank was born at 'Barley Fields', Little Marsden. The property, approached up Lomeshaye Road from Manchester Road, is on the right hand side of the road, just before it meets Hibson Road, and at present consists of an old farm house called Pendle View and an adjoining stable converted into three cottages and called "Barley View". Frank was born just before his parents decided that 'Barley Fields' was too small for them and purchased some land from Coley Farm in Barkerhouse Road, Great Marsden and started to build a new home, the present Coley Hall, whilst building was taking place an old farm house called Netherfield House at the junction of Netherfield and Barkerhouse Roads came on the market.



Charles Roberts' hand drawn map of Barley Fields.

This page
contains a
reproduction of

The buildings on the corner of Hibson Road and Lomshaye were demolished in the 1950s, however the photograph below, is probably the building referred to in the 1851 Census.



Barley Field cottages, 59-65 Hibson Road, Causey Foot c.1950

Frank's father decided to sell Coley Hall and buy Netherfield House from Libson Sagar Rigg and his brother William Robinson Rigg , the property consisted of farmhouse, barn, shippens, two stables, two cottages with outbuildings, garden, fold and two crosses of land, The Croft and The Laithe fields, at a later date. Frank's father rented further land to the south of Netherfield House and some of Coley Farm to make a sizeable farm, The sale [purchase] of Netherfield House and land was completed on the 6th August 1877. My Uncle William stated that the property as a whole was in good condition, except for the roof, which had to be replaced soon after the property was purchased.



NETHERFIELD FARM, GREAT MARSDEN. (NELSON)
CIRCA 1920

There can be no doubt that Netherfield made a very happy home for Frank and his sister. My father Smith Roberts used to recall how the children were made to help on the farm, bringing the cattle in for milking, haymaking, chasing the geese up from the Walverden stream to which they used to wander, all of the children being given daily tasks, including

weeding the garden and moving their lawn, but work that must have given the children a certain amount of pleasure, however his early training never made Frank a keen gardener in later life.

It is not known where Frank went to school in his early boyhood days, at the age of four most of his elder brothers and sisters were sent to school at St. Paul's School, little Marsden, but by the time Frank was of school age, St. Paul's School was a long way away from Netherfield House and it is presumed he was sent to the adjacent St. John's School. Perhaps at the age of about eight, like his elder brothers he was sent to Lomeshaye School, run under the headmastership of his Uncle, 'Mr. John Edmundson, called Uncle Edmundson or Ned O' Peggy's '. However we do know that at the age of about ten he was sufficiently clever to be accepted for entry to the well-known and famous school, presided over by Mr. Grant at Carleton Road, Burnley. One does not know how many of the Roberts children attended Mr. Grant's School, but it is known that William, Charles and Smith went to this school and so Frank would be in good company. My Uncle William said he had to walk to Burnley and back each day to school, but I should imagine the tramcars were running by the time Frank went to Burnley.

At the age of about thirteen Frank left Grant's School and attended Manchester Grammar School, where he stayed until 1893. On leaving Manchester Grammar School in 1893, Frank became articled to Mr. Samuel Davies J.P.A Solicitor with office in Railway Street, Nelson. Frank served his four years articles, studying at home and the office and not going to a University. He passed his finals in 1897 at the age of twenty, but was not allowed to be put on the roll until attaining the age of twenty one when Mr. Davies took his Into Partnership. In 1904 Frank dissolved Partnership with Mr. Davies and set up on his own behalf with offices at Hibson Street, Nelson. The Nelson Leader of the 2nd July 1926 states that Frank Roberts established a wide practice in Nelson and the surrounding District and undertook a great deal of work in the Law Courts, where he impressed everyone by his great legal knowledge, his fairness and his lucidity.

Frank's training in the office and the law courts helped him materially when he branched out into public life, he was a ready and facile speaker and a keen debater. He was not long in public life before he made his mark. In 1920 Frank stood as Conservative Candidate in the Central Ward election, beating the well-known Councilor Pesberton and became a member of the Nelson Town Council. He fought and won the next two elections by handsome majorities, the figures at his last election were Frank Roberts 926 votes, N. Dewhirst 625 votes, majority 291 votes. Councilor Roberts soon acquired a grasp of Municipal matters, and frequently figured in the debates.

A stickler for economy, he was never loathe to raise his voice in protest against what he thought was unnecessary expenditure. For a time he was Chairman of the Allotment Committee and in November 1925 he was promoted to the important Chairmanship of the Water Committee. He took a great interest in the work of this Department, and in this connection he would have represented the Nelson District at a very important Water Manager's conference at Bristol to be held during the week he died. He was a member of many sub-committees and on the Education Committee he was a live wire.

He had the courage of his own convictions and was a great supporter of the ex-servicemen and just before his death backed the claim by ex-servicemen for their right to receive increments that were granted to workmen during the war, who were not in the services, his resolution being finally panned by the Council.

Frank Roberts, like his elder brothers, was a keen Conservative. After Mr. H.M Walton left the district to live in Southport and the death of Mr. F.N. Wainwright, Frank was the mainstay of Conservative activity in the District. He was President of the Conservative Party, a leading member of the Conservative executive, and one of the few members behind the scenes who put

inspiration into others who were passive or lukewarm. He certainly was a loyal Conservative always prepared to speak and to work for the beliefs he held.

Frank Roberts with his brothers William, Tom, Charles and Smith, with Sister Kate helped to form the Nelson Golf Club, Frank being appointed the first secretary in 1902, while his brother William became the first Treasurer in the same year.

The Nelson paper of July 1926 states that Frank Roberts was a Mason, holding a number of offices over the years, but the writer knows no details.

On the 15th January 1902 Frank married Sarah Ann Fletcher, daughter of Squire and Elizabeth Fletcher of Spring Bank, Manchester Road, Nelson. The wedding took place at St. John's Church, Barkerhouse Road, Nelson, the couple going to live at 157 Barkerhouse Road.

Sarah Ann came from a large family, her father Squire Fletcher was a cotton manufacturer at Brook Street Shed, Nelson in Partnership with his half-brother Hezekiah Filtcher.

Sarah Ann's sister Martha Hulme married Harry Procter, Solicitor of Burnley, Sarah Jane married Thomas Mountain Landless cotton manufacturer of Bridge Mills, Nelson. Mary Taylor married John Thomas Dent of Thomas Dent & Sons, builders of Brook Street, Nelson.

Banford Roberts went to Canada wheat farming at Regina Saskatchewan

On the 6th May 1903 a son was born, Geoffrey Bamford Roberts, while on the 4th June 1907 another son was born Harry Nicholas Roberts, both destined to become solicitors and form the firm Frank Roberts and Sons, Solicitors. During June 1926 Frank kept complaining of feeling tired and decided to take a holiday in the Isle of Man. During this holiday it became apparent his disability was not just tiredness, but illness. Returning to Nelson, Frank consulted his medical advisor Dr. F.H. Flack, who diagnosed his complaint as sleeping sickness, this diagnosis subsequently being confirmed by a Specialist. Frank's condition gradually weakened, and despite capable and efficient nursing, he gradually sank and died on the 28th June 1926, aged 49.

Frank Roberts was buried at St. John's Church Great Marsden. The service was conducted by The Rev. John Morgan, Vicar of St. John's Church and the Vicar of St. Philip Church, the Rev. G.F. Kyes. The last rights at the graveside were conducted by the two Vicars and the Masonic part of the ceremony was conducted by Alderman A. Gibson.

SMITH ROBERTS AND LIFE WITH HIM BY HIS SON CHARLES WILLIAM

Smith Roberts, born 2nd October 1872 was the eighth son of William Roberts and his wife Mary Kezia, 'nee Burrows, or if one counts the two Smiths who died very soon after childbirth, he was the tenth child of the marriage, as can be seen by referring to the life of William Roberts.

Smith was born at Barleyfield, Causey Foot, Little Marsden, as this part of Nelson was then called. The house was in Loneshaye Road on the left hand side when coming from Manchester Road, very nearly to the junction with Hibson Road.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Page 16]	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		
No. of	Road, Street, &c.,	In	Name and Surname of each	Relation	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether
Buildings	and No. of House								
73	Causey foot	1	William Roberts	Head	Mar	63	Cotton weaver	Lancashire, Luncaster	
			Kezia	Wife		64		Lancashire, Ribblesdale	
			Robert Burrows	Son	Un	7	Scholar	Lancashire, Marsden	
			Robert Burrows	Boys		11	Cotton Twist weaver	" "	
74	Causey foot	1	William Roberts	Head	Mar	37	Engineer	Lancashire, Burnley	
			Kezia	Wife		37		" "	
			Robert Burrows	Son	Un	1		" "	
			Harry	Son		1		" "	
75	Causey foot	1	John Dildhalgh	Head	Mar	34	Cotton weaver	Lancashire, Ribblesdale	
			Kezia	Wife		36		Lancashire, Marsden	
			William Bailey	Boys	Un	61		Lancashire, Ribblesdale	
76	Causey foot	1	Elizabeth Hardy	Head	Mar	42	Cotton weaver	Lancashire, Colne	
			James	Son	Un	17		" "	
			Barry Dildhalgh	Wife		7	Scholar	" "	
77	Causey foot	1	Robert Greenwood	Head	Mar	37	Engineer	Lancashire, Burnley	
			Kezia	Wife		37		" "	
			Thomas	Son	Un	12	Waffer	" "	
			Isabella	Son		9		" "	
			Holden	Son		6	Scholar	" "	
			George	Son		11		" "	
			Ernest	Son		1		" "	
Total of Houses...		5	Total of Males and Females...		10	11			

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE						Reference: —	COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPH—NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
1	2	3	4	5	6	R.G. 9/3078	

Comment: The 1871 Census shows William Roberts (1833-1898), Engineer aged 37, living at 73 Causey Foot, Little Marsden with Kezia, his wife, aged 37 and Harry, their son, aged 1.

The neighbourhood in which they were living could probably be described as “working class” with cotton workers and mechanics as neighbours.

Comment: Smith Roberts was baptised on 20 February 1892 at St Mary's Church in Nelson as shown in the following extract in the Latter Day Saints Film records.

Baptism: 20 Feb 1892 St Mary, Nelson, Lancs.
 Smith Roberts - [Child] of William Roberts & Kezia
 Born: 2 Oct 1872
 Abode: Netherfield House Nelson
 Occupation: Engineer
 Baptised by: Harri Edwards Vicar
 Register: Baptisms 1890 - 1900, Page 12, Entry 89
 Source: LDS Film 1526058

I presume that as an infant, Smith was sent a few hundred yards up Hibson Road to attend St Paul's Church of England School, his mother having been born in a cottage next to the school and had probably attended it in her own youth.

At the age of about six, his father and mother found their cottage at Causey Foot becoming too small for them and purchased a house at junction of Netherfield and Barkerhouse Roads called Netherfield, he then probably attended St John's Church of England School, a little further up Barkerhouse Road, the district being called Great Marsden.

Comment: The Roberts family is recorded in the 1881 Census as living at "Netherfield House", 84 Barkerhouse Road, Nelson in a more middle class neighbourhood with mill owners and manufacturers living in that neighbourhood.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										[Page 19] 122					
Civil Parish (or Township) of		County or Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Urban or Village or Hamlet of		Urban Sanitary District of		Rural Sanitary District of		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of	
St. Mary's		St. Mary's		St. Mary's		St. Mary's		St. Mary's		St. Mary's		St. Mary's		St. Mary's	
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the Street or Locality (No.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic						
82	Barkerhouse Rd	1	William Roberts	Head	Mar	26	Labourer	Do Do							
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	24		Do Do							
			Frederick	Son	Mar	5	Scholar	Do Do							
			Marjaret	Daughter	Mar	2		Do Do							
			Elizabeth	Daughter	Mar	8		Do Do							
83	Do Do	1	William Roberts	Head	Mar	26	Labourer	Do Do							
			Betty	Wife	Mar	24		Do Do							
			John Shields	Boiler Maker	Mar	39		Do Do							
			Joseph	Boiler Maker	Mar	27		Do Do							
84	Netherfield House	1	William Roberts	Head	Mar	27	Labourer	Do Do							
			Marjaret	Wife	Mar	24		Do Do							
			Frederick	Son	Mar	5		Do Do							
			Elizabeth	Daughter	Mar	2		Do Do							
			Frederick	Son	Mar	5		Do Do							
			Elizabeth	Daughter	Mar	8		Do Do							
			William	Son	Mar	15	Scholar	Do Do							
			John	Son	Mar	13		Do Do							
			John	Son	Mar	11		Do Do							
Total of Houses...			14	Total of Males and Females...			15	10							

Flack as Manager, a post he held for ten years during a very difficult period as it included five years of the Great War, then a brief period of boom and optimism after the War, to be followed by the biggest slump the cotton trade had ever known, with customers at the bank going bankrupt almost daily. However, Smith must have pleased his Masters as in 1922, he was promoted to Manager of the much larger Branch at Burnley, again succeeding Mr Flack.

BURNLEY, NELSON, AND COLNE BANK CHANGES.
SOME BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Photo: Brunton.
MR. N. P. GRAY, J.P.,
who is retiring from the managership of the Manchester and County Bank, Burnley, and whose career appeared in last Saturday's issue.

MR. W. H. D. FLACK.
Mr. W. H. D. Flack, of Nelson, who succeeds Mr. N. P. Gray, J.P., in the management of the Burnley Branch of the Manchester and County Bank, is by no means a stranger to Burnley. He is the eldest son of the late Captain Flack, of Burnley, and has resided in Burnley and district for more than fifty years. Mr. Flack was educated at the Carlton-road School, Burnley, under the late Mr. W. M. Grant, and also at the Burnley Grammar School, during the headmastership of the late Rev. James Butler, D.C.L., and Mr. T. T. Wilkinson, F.R.A.S. At the Grammar School Mr. Flack held the enviable position of head boy for the years 1869-70, and at the present time his name appears amongst those chronicled on the roll of successful students. Leaving school, at the age of eighteen years, he entered the service of the Manchester and County Bank as a junior clerk, this being at the Burnley Branch. Subsequently he was for many years chief cashier under the management of Mr. Gray. During his residence in Burnley Mr. Flack took great interest in the old Burnley Choral Society, and was a member of the orchestra of that society for several years, this being at the time it was under the conductorship of Mr. James Pollard. Later Mr. Flack assisted in the organisation of the Burnley Orchestral Union, and remained a member of this until his removal to Nelson.

Photo: A. Greenwood.
MR. S. ROBERTS.
Mr. Smith Roberts, who succeeds to the managership of the Nelson branch, is the son of the late Mr. William Roberts, of Netherfield House, Nelson, who established the business now carried on under the style of Messrs. Wm. Roberts and Sons, Ltd., Phoenix Foundry, Nelson. Mr. Roberts was likewise a pupil of the late Mr. W. M. Grant, and entered the service of the bank in his fifteenth year. Since then he has served in every capacity in the office in association with Mr. Flack. For several years he acted as treasurer to the Nelson Cricket Club, and was also the secretary to the successful bazaar held under the club's auspices.

He also evinces a deep interest in St. Mary's Church, and last Easter was appointed Vicar's warden. Mr. Roberts is also treasurer of the Nelson Golf Club, and has won local fame as a player.

Comment.

The date quoted by the author is probably inaccurate as the newspaper article on the next page appeared in the Burnley Express in 1909.

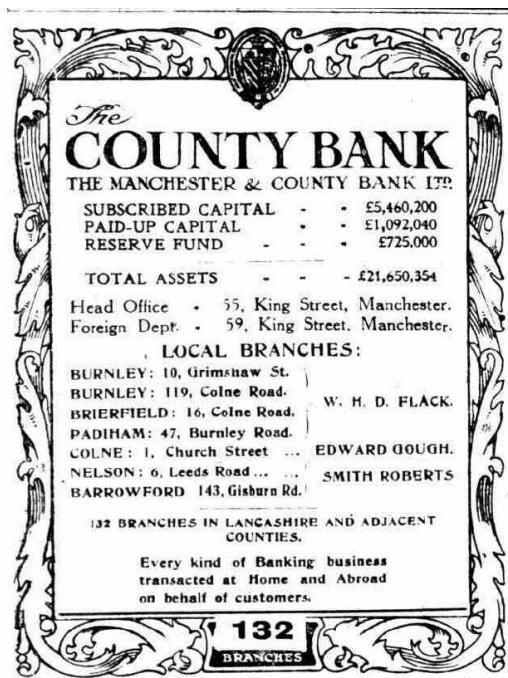
The succession of Smith Roberts to the manager's position is of interest from a family history perspective since Smith Roberts was to become the step father of Alice Mary Cockshutt and subsequently father in law to William Henry Douglas' son, Dr Frederick Henry Douglas Flack when Alice married Frederick "Harry" Flack on 22 January 1914.

It is also of interest in that Alice Cockshutt (Smith Robert's step daughter) had been brought up in a Catholic family in an era when there was still considerable social discrimination against Catholics, particularly among those who were associated with the Masonic Lodge.

Here again it must have been a very difficult time but Smith weathered the storm with credit and despite the fact that the Manchester and County Bank had amalgamated with the District Bank, he was chosen from all their managers to take control of their largest bank at Bolton in 1932. Certainly a change for Smith as the Bank was twice the size of the Burnley Branch, there was a fine classical banking hall, two interview rooms, Manager's Room or 'sweating' room as it was called, Deputy Manager's Room, Trustee Department, seven cashiers and staff of about thirty-five, complete with a top hatted porter. On the first floor was a palatial flat with lounge, dining room, kitchen and cloakroom. On the second floor there were three bedrooms, bathroom and W.C. and Caretakers quarters, the caretakers preparing Smith a very good lunch each day and putting on an excellent meal when he had to entertain any customers or his Directors.

In 1936, Smith was in the last three for choice of Joint General Manager but did not get the

position. In 1937, Smith retired, but in this year he was the Guest of Honour at the Bank's Annual Dinner held for the first time in London.



"Express and Advertiser" newspaper on September 13, 1919

While Smith was in his late twenties, Mr & Mrs Edmund Cockshutt and their three children, Alice, May and Edmund moved from Brownedge near Bamber Bridge to Nelson, living at Avondale, next to Solicitor and Mayor Davies.

Comment.

The 1891 Census of the residents at "Cumberland House", 100 Brownedge Lane, Walton-le-Dale, Lancashire lists:

Edmund Cockshutt	Head	29	Cotton Spinner Manufacturer Employer	born Preston
Emily Cockshutt	Wife	27		born Preston
Alice Cockshutt	Daughter	1		born Bamber Bridge
Ellen Kirudiss	Servant	69	Servant Domestic	Employed born Manchester
Jane Carris	Servant	19	Servant Nurse	Employee born Yorkshire

The 1901 Census also records Edmund Cockshutt 39 years. Insurance agent living with his wife, Emily, aged 36 and children Margaret M, aged 9 and Edmund M. aged 7 and two servants at Oak Villas, Nelson, Lancashire. It appears that Alice, the elder daughter was away at boarding school on 31 March 1901 when the Census was conducted.

Extensive searches of the available records on-line has failed to locate any references that might shed light on Edmund Cockshutt's significant change of career in the period 1891 to 1901. The family oral tradition is that his business collapsed and after "several incidents of poor behaviour", he was provided with funds by the family and sent abroad.

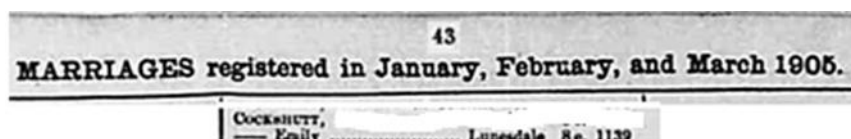
Edmund Cockshutt died, aged 42 on 14 Jun 1904, in Jamaica, leaving his widow, Emily Cockshutt, aged 40 and three children, Alice, aged 14, Margaret May, aged 12 and Edmund aged 11.

The house was just past the house of Dr Jackson, Coley Hall in Barkerhouse Road on a turning to the left, and so the Roberts and Cockshutts were neighbours and a friendship rapidly grew. A few years later Mr Cockshutt who had been in failing health and suffering from consumption, was advised to go for a trip to Jamaica to recover, however, he was knocked down by a tramcar in 1904. The Cockshutt family then moved to a smaller house, No. 130, Barkerhouse Road, the lower of a row of houses in which Smith's brother Alfred lived. The row being directly opposite to Walverden House.

In 1905, Smith and Emily Cockshutt decided to get married, the ceremony took place in February of that year at the Church of St Margaret's at Hornby near Kirkby Lonsdale. The witnesses on the marriage certificate were named at Henry Stuttard of Road Hall, Uncle of the Bride, James Arthur Tweeddale Brother-in-law of the bride, William Roberts, brother of the bridegroom, Samuel Davies, Solicitor and Mayor of Nelson and at one time next door neighbour of the Cockshutts, Ada Meredith, sister of the bride. Others who were present at the ceremony were Will Shaw, tobacconist of Railway Street, Nelson, a friend of the bridegroom, his daughter Louise, Edmund Meredith Cockshutt, son of the bride. The bride's daughters Alice and May were at school at the Convent at Skipton and were unaware of the wedding taking place. The bride's party, who had stayed the night at The Station Hotel, Lancaster, drove to Hornby in a carriage and pair. Edmund Cockshutt and Louise Shaw sitting with the driver on the front seat. They passed the journey very pleasantly, having bets on which horse performed the most often, Louise Shaw's horse winning by two lifts of the tail. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon at The Royal Hotel at Kirkby Lonsdale, a hotel at which Smith was very well known, as many of the Roberts used to cycle there and spend many weekends in the year.

Comment:

The following images are relevant.



Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Mar. Qtr. 1905



Burnley Express - Saturday 25 February 1905

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

MARRIAGE.

ROBERTS-COCKSHUTT.—On the 22nd inst., at St. Margaret's Church, Hornby, by the Rev. E. C. Wilson, M.A., Smith, son of the late William Roberts, of Netherfield House, Nelson, to Emily, widow of the late Edmund Cockshutt, and daughter of the late Charles Meredith, of Seafeld, South Shore, Blackpool. 278



Mr Smith Roberts and Mrs Emily Roberts on the occasion of their wedding at St Margaret's Church, Hornby 22 February 1905.

On returning from their honeymoon, Smith and Emily and her Family took up residence in Victoria Avenue, Brierfield and became neighbours of Smith's late Manager, Mr F. H. Flack⁹ who lived in a detached house at the Burnley end of the Avenue.

On the 23rd December, Smith and Emily had a son, Charles William, otherwise me. They lived in Victoria Avenue for just over two years. The house soon became too small for them as the family was beginning to grow up and they decided to look for a house in Nelson.

In 1907, a house belonging to Mr J Wittaker, called 'Woodlands' came on the market and was purchased by Mr Walter Fletcher and Smith leased it. The property was a large semi-detached residence, situated in Hendon Road, Great Marsden.

Hendon Road was an old Road, formerly called Chaffer Street, that left Barkerhouse Road at the

top end of Walverden House and ran down to the Hendon Brook. The property consisted of ornamental gardens, kitchen garden, tennis lawn, bowling green, greenhouses, outbuildings, plantation and vacant land.

⁹ Probably refers to William Henry Flack (1852-1936), who was Smith Roberts former Manager at the Bank.

Comment.

The 1911 Census records the Roberts family as follows:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.														
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.														
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.														
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged 16 years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFERMIT.	
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)														
For Infants under one year state the age in months or "twelve months," "six months," etc. Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," opposite the name of all persons aged 15 years and upwards. For Married Women entered on this Schedule, the number of — Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)														
Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employee. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry should be made for persons who are employed by a public body (Municipal, etc.) as what body (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)														
Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write the name of the person engaged in any Trade or Industry, if the person is engaged in any business other than agriculture, etc. (2) "Worker" or "what working for an employer," or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither working for an employer nor working on his own account).														
Whether Working at Home. Write the name of the person engaged in any Trade or Industry, if the person is engaged in any business other than agriculture, etc. (2) "Worker" or "what working for an employer," or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither working for an employer nor working on his own account).														
(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." Note. — In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.														
State whether — (1) "British subject by birth," (2) "Naturalized British subject," (3) "Totally blind," (4) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (5) "Insane," (6) "Idiot," (7) "Dumb," (8) "Deaf," (9) "Totally blind," (10) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (11) "Insane," (12) "Idiot," (13) "Dumb," (14) "Deaf," (15) "Totally blind," (16) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (17) "Insane," (18) "Idiot," (19) "Dumb," (20) "Deaf," (21) "Totally blind," (22) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (23) "Insane," (24) "Idiot," (25) "Dumb," (26) "Deaf," (27) "Totally blind," (28) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (29) "Insane," (30) "Idiot," (31) "Dumb," (32) "Deaf," (33) "Totally blind," (34) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (35) "Insane," (36) "Idiot," (37) "Dumb," (38) "Deaf," (39) "Totally blind," (40) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (41) "Insane," (42) "Idiot," (43) "Dumb," (44) "Deaf," (45) "Totally blind," (46) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (47) "Insane," (48) "Idiot," (49) "Dumb," (50) "Deaf," (51) "Totally blind," (52) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (53) "Insane," (54) 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(1117) "Dumb," (1118) "Deaf," (1119) "Totally blind," (1120) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (1121) "Insane," (1122) "Idiot," (1123) "Dumb," (1124) "Deaf," (1125) "Totally blind," (1126) "Lame," or "Paralyzed," (1127) "Insane," (1128) "Idiot," (1129) "Dumb," (1130) "Deaf," (1131)														

The area of the site including gardens, tennis court and Bowling Green, plantation and vacant land amounted to 11 140 square yards.



Comment.

A 1905 map of Woodlands showing its location next to St Mary's Church Nelson.

The site is now occupied by the Williams Hall aged care village and the original building has been demolished.



About the time of the removal from Brierfield to Nelson, we had a cat, this was duly placed in a basket and carted to Woodlands, but almost immediately disappeared. After about a week our latter neighbours at Brierfield got in touch with us, saying the cat had returned to the old house. The cat, looking very thin and with sore feet after its six mile journey without regular food was collected, taken back to Woodlands, had its feet buttered, never tried to run away again and lived a happy life to quite an old age, over twenty I believe.

Although only living at Woodlands from the age of two to about fourteen, I can remember quite a lot about it. The Entrance gates in Hendon Road, the sloping drive up to the house with a sloping lawn on the right and a steep grass embankment on the left, which was so steep that it had to be mown by a special rollerless mower. As boys, we used to slide down it on trays pinched from the kitchen and many times were tanned for doing so. The garden was divided into three parts, the top part being an ornamental and kitchen garden. This was divided from the tennis court and bowling green by a small sloping wood and entered by a flight of stone steps, as boys we made a short cut through the wood, with a path made up of various stones we had collected. We spend days making it and many times got thrashed for soiling our clothes. We called it the Roberts Public Footpath. Below the lawn was an herbaceous border dividing it from the spinney, a path running through this to the vacant land at the bottom of the site and giving access to the Hendon valley.

At a lower level than the lawn was a public footpath leading from St John's School and Church to the Hendon Valley. This was used at certain times of the day by children going to and from school. My cousin Nicholas and I used to place lumps of clay on the ends of the garden canes and let drive at the poor kids on the path below, our lumps of clay travelling at some speed with the help of the swing of the canes.

Smith kept quite a number of pigeons in the pigeon loft, they were very tame and did not seem to be frightened of the cats or dog, or even of us. I think they were a mixed blessing, pleasant to listen to but they used to eat the plants and vegetables in the garden. Our gardener called Slater, son of an adjoining market gardener, was always pleased when told to kill off a few for the stew pot.

Our kitchen at Woodlands was a large room with a big open range with ovens at one side and hot water boiler at the other. On Sundays we nearly always had a large joint of ribs of beef for dinner, a hastener was placed in front of the barred fire, the fire was poked until it was red, the beef was placed on a hook inside the hastener. A clockwork motor was wound up and the joint started to rotate, periodically, the joint had to be basted. This duty I was sometimes allowed to perform. While this was going on the cook was probably making cakes and puddings and if I had behaved well I was allowed to lick out the mixing bowls.

When we moved to Woodlands I was sent to a small school about halfway down Netherfield Road, run by Miss Willoway. But I do not think I shone there as very soon I was made to attend the Council School at St John's Church. I remember they had a lot of plays and concerts at the school. I was always bashful and hated having to take part in them and one I got inside our large airing cupboard and nailed the door from the inside. The ply was over by the time my mother had obtained a carpenter and opened the door. I was put to bed with a rather sore bottom, but this was better than having to appear in the play.

The school hours were from 9.00 am to noon and 1.15 pm to 4.00 pm. Those hours did not fit in with my father's lunch house so I came home about midday and was given a separate lunch. My favourite meal being onions and potatoes placed in the oven and topped with cream when ready, followed by a custard tart and a fruit tart from Glaisters shop – just opposite St John's Church in

Barkerhouse Road – they were really excellent, so much so, that years later when working in Nelson I used to walk all the way up to the shop to buy some and they were just as good.

I also remember the sweet shop at the junction of Woodlands and Hendon Roads, where on a Saturday I used to go to spend my Saturday Penny. I liked to buy Fry's four centred cream bars, each bar divided into four and each portion filled with a different cream. Another favourite was Bourneville bitter chocolate, or if one wished to have something that would last a long time, an ounce or two of lemon Khali was a very good buy, this was very good to lick or would make a very enjoyable supply of lemon drink.

I think we had quite a number of dinner parties at Woodlands, sometimes I was brought down from my bedroom to be shown to the guests, this was usually after dinner when the party was about to play bridge. They would be sitting round the bridge table where each player had a little silver bon-bon dish full of chocolates at his side and after saying "how I had grown" or some such thing, I would be offered a chocolate and sent to bed. I still possess some of those little silver dishes.

I remember my Aunt Ada Meredith¹⁰ used to come to stay with us quite often, she was a woman who if there was any excitement on, was on top of the world, but if things were normal, she usually was ill. Suffering from bronchitis and asthma I can recall a time when she had bleeding from one of her lungs and had to have ice-packs placed on her chest to stop the bleeding.

Aunt Ada had a Chow dog that was her constant companion, I am sure it was a very nice dog in a one owner's sort of way, but it was not too friendly to strangers. The thing I recall most about it was its very black or purple tongue. Cats were forbidden in any room in which Ada had access, and any cat venturing into her abode was quickly and forcibly removed, as their hairs undoubtedly affected her breathing.

Ada had a boyfriend, and in the way boys will listen to the conversation of their elders, whilst being Ada's joy in life, to other people he was a pain in the neck. He was a cousin of the Tweedales, Emily's cousins, and despite doing no work, seemed to get into trouble time after time. The poor chat eventually ended up committing suicide.

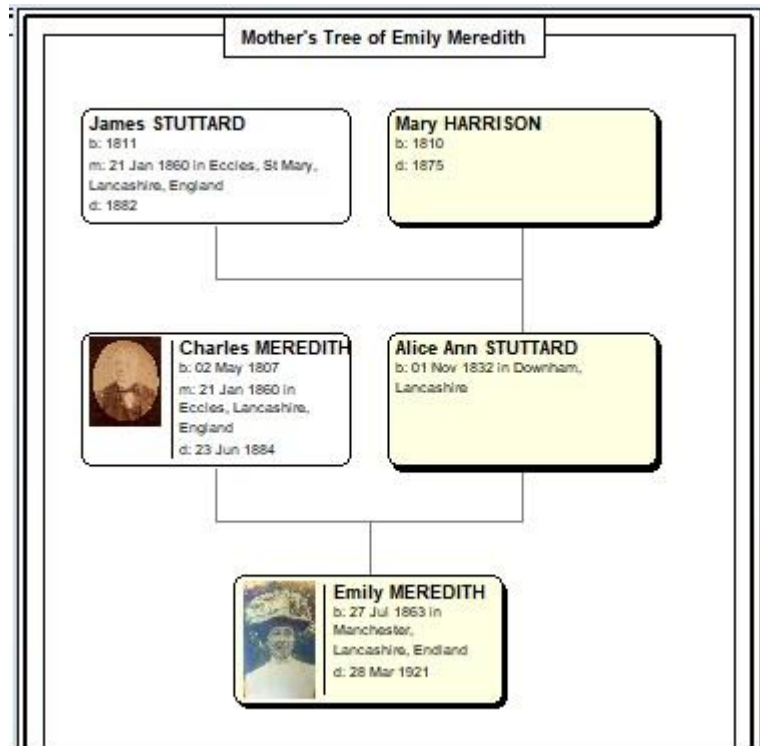
Comment.

The "Tweedales" the author refers to, are probably the family of James Arthur Tweedale (1861-1913), his wife Alice Tweedale (1865-1937) and their children, Charles Meredith Tweedale (1887-1948), Geoffrey (1888-), Alice Marion (1891-) and Marion (1891-). Alice Tweedale, nee Meredith, was Emily Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee Meredith's sister.

Comment.

The following family tree explains the relationships between the author's mother, Emily Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee Meredith and the Stuttards

¹⁰ Ada Meredith (1869-1932) was the sister of Emily Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee Meredith, - the author's mother.



Another visitor I remember, was Sister Agnes Perry who had been in the Convent in Liverpool. She was the sister of Mrs Bibby, whose husband Dr Bibby¹¹, brought the Cockshutt children into the world when the family lived at Bamber Bridge. Whilst in the Convent, Miss Perry's sister died leaving a considerable sum of money to her, her nieces claimed at that Miss Perry was a Nun in a Convent she could not claim the money. Sister Perry left the order and fought the claim in the Liverpool Law Courts and won the day. When at Woodlands, Miss Perry often used to read to me and used to do little drawings to amuse me. They were really works of art, and again when we were having dinner parties, she with my sister May used to do little drawings on the menus for dinner, often from the book "Alice in Wonderland".

My mother and father often used to go away for holidays with my mother's cousin Jim Stuttard¹² in their very fine Austro-Daimler motor car. I recall them motoring to Devon and Cornwall, where it rained and was very misty for their full ten days there. During this time they sent home some Devonshire cream which we all liked very much. Another time I remember them setting off for Scotland, only to return soon afterwards as they had run over a boy chasing a ball in Barrowford.

During the 1914-1918 war we had a large Dachshund dog, and at this time the anti-German hate naturally ran high, the poor dog being of German origin had its life made miserable as both grown-ups and children beat it and kicked it so much that we had to have him put down.

I do not remember much about my mother whilst living at Woodlands. She seemed a happy smiling and houseproud woman, very capable of running the house and servants. Nearly always happy despite the fact that she suffered constantly from pernicious bronchitis and the gradual loss of the use of her limbs which later developed in to creeping paralysis. I recall many periods when she was confined to bed. On these days I was usually taken in to see her. She would be propped up in a large four-poster bed that came from her family at South Shore. The bed was mounted by means of a four step commode, with curtains that could be pulled right round it. I

¹¹ Probably identical with Dr John Bibby born 1855, married Mary Ellen Cooper in 1877.

¹² Emily Robert's mother was Alice Ann Meredith, nee Stuttard (1832-)

recall a friend of mine, Gilbert Nelson, being caught swinging round the bed on the curtains and my mother say, "he isn't a boy, he is a devil". This bed was eventually left to my sister May, who scrapped it, giving me one of the turned front posts, keeping one for herself, and having both made into very fine standard lamps, mine I still possess. There was nearly always a good fire burning in the bedroom, with an asthma steam kettle boiling on it, the room having an aromatic smell as my mother had to smoke herbal cigarettes.

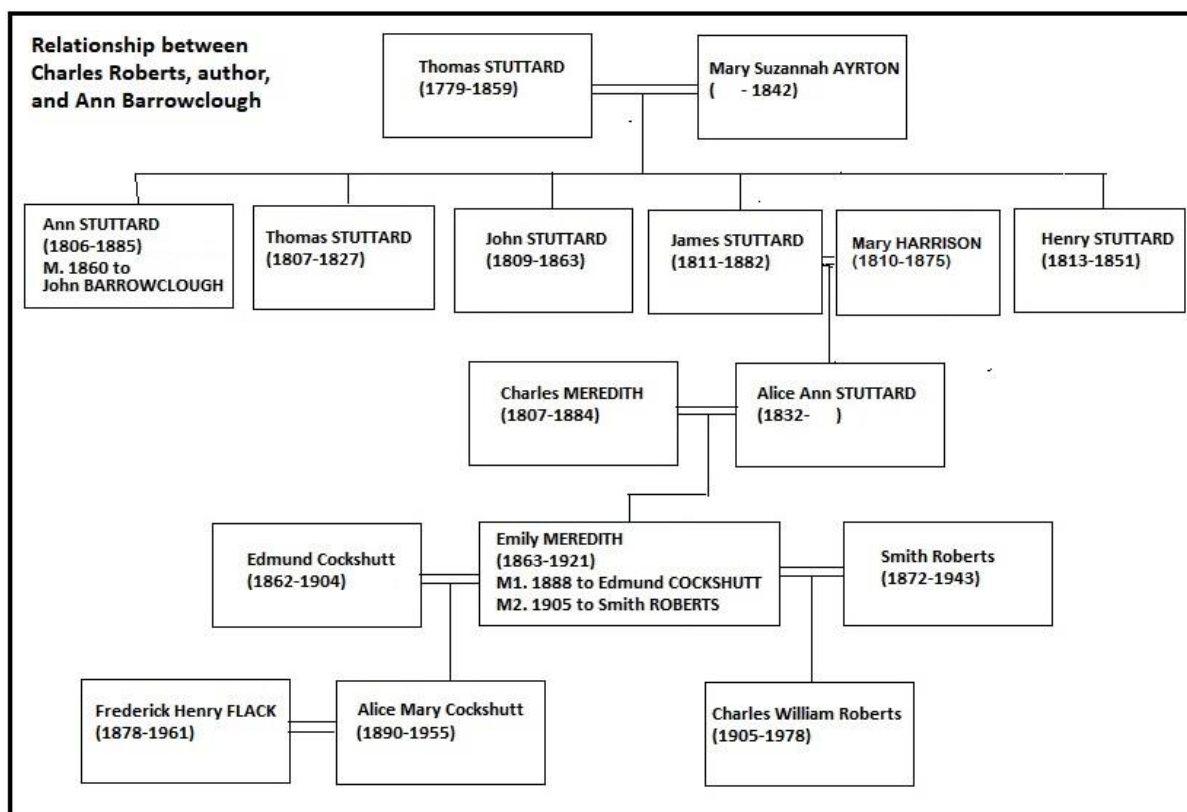
On the first floor, the smallest bedroom at the rear of the house had been made into my nursery. Here I used to spend most of my time being spoilt by two doting sisters and kind maids. In this room while keeping an eye on me, my mother used to paint her Lancashire Witches and other landscape paintings. Often my mother would point across the valley over Hendon to a house called Oaklands at Barrowford, this was the residence of her Aunt, Mrs Barrowclough, nee Ann Stuttard born in 1805.

Comment. Charles Roberts' Great Aunt Ann Barrowclough, nee Stuttard (1806-1885) married John Barrowclough (1800-1866) on 18th July 1860 following the death of her husband's first wife, Elizabeth nee Baldwin (1798-1859). The relationship between Charles Roberts and Ann Barrowclough is explained in the following pedigree chart.

The registration of the marriage of John Barrowclough and Ann Stuttard St Mary's Parish Church, Eccles, Lancashire dated 18 July 1860.

1860. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish of</u> <u>Victon</u> in the County of <u>Lancaster</u>								
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.
118	July 18 th 1860	John Barrowclough	off 40	Widower	Spinner	Oaklands, Barrowford near Barrowford	John Barrowclough	Spinner
		Ann Stuttard	off 40	Spinster	—	Sturton	Thomas Stuttard	Spinner
Married in the <u>Parish Church of Victon</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>James</u> or after <u>James</u> by me, <u>James Barrowclough</u> This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Ann Stuttard</u> in the Presence of us, <u>James Stuttard</u> <u>James Barrowclough</u>								

Pedigree Chart showing the family relationship between the author Charles Roberts and the Ann Barrowclough referred to in Charles Roberts narrative.



The following extract from the 1861 Census shows John Barrowclough, Cotton Manufacturer, his wife Ann and visitor, Mary Meredith resident at "Oaklands".

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	
Bardolph		St Thomas								St Thomas	
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	Houses Inhabited (Ls. or B.)	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		
21	National School House	1	David Smalley	Head	Mar	47	School Master	Grindleton, Yorkshire			
			Hannah Smalley	Wife	Mar	45	House Keeper	do do			
22	Oaklands	1	John Barrowclough	Head	Mar	60	Cotton Manufacturer	Burnley, Lancashire			
			Ann Barrowclough	Wife	Mar	55	do	do do			
			Mary Meredith	Visitor	Un	20	Visit Lady	Manchester do			
			John Broughton	Servant	Un	21	Servant	Thorton, Yorkshire			
23	Holly Causeway	1	John Bottom	Head	Mar	50	Power Loom Weaver	Ridgely, Lancashire			
			Ann Bottom	Wife	Mar	44	do	do do			

At this period, I began to appreciate Christmas, we really had first class food, apart from normal presents, Father used to get a lot of poultry and drink given to him at the Bank and naturally we did quite a lot of entertaining. The Nelson Silver Band and the Nelson Brass Band appeared on Boxing Day, the Church Choir and the Nelson Arion Glee Society¹³ usually appeared on Christmas Eve and were asked into the house to sing carols and be given a drink or two. Young carol singers were always made welcome and left the house better off, but not if it was their second visit. I used to receive a number of Christmas presents, a Rudyard Kipling book from my

¹³ The choir was formed in 1887. It became famous after taking the first prize and Bardic Chair at the Welsh National Eisteddfod in 1910.

Godfather Mr Flack¹⁴ and usually another book from my other Godfather, my Uncle William Roberts¹⁵.

The most expensive presents came from my mother's cousin Jim Stuttard¹⁶ and his wife. One year a model mill engine driven by steam and capable of working a dynamo and other small models. Being fired by methylated spirits, this was dangerous to play with and usually my father had to be at hand when I used it. Another present was a very fine model electric railway, the signals worked by electricity and the carriages lit up. This model was probably the best that money could buy at that time. However, I think it gave my father and other grownups a lot more pleasure than it gave me. I much preferred by own homemade train, made of off-cuts of Lamberts cricket bats, about nine inches long, with nails at each end and joined together with loops of string. The engine being formed of a fairly large circular time, the front wheels being formed of small sticking plaster bobbins, and the rear wheels of larger bobbins, the train reaching as much as ten feet long was drawn from room to room accompanied by numerous whistles from a noisy child, and occasional curses as relations or servants tripped over it.

In 1912 my sister Alice, became engaged to Dr F H Flack¹⁷, the son of Mr W H D Flack⁷ under whose management, Smith had served his time at the County Bank in Nelson. My sister May¹⁸ became engaged to Mr Harry Manknowles Walton of Walverden House, Hendon Road, Nelson, who had big interests in the cotton trade and was a large land owner. This engagement was broken off late in 1913.

On the 21 January 1914, Alice married Dr Flack, the wedding taking place at St Mary's Church. My cousin Nicholas Roberts and I were pages, and dressed up in white satin suits. The reception took place at Woodlands, and the presents were displayed on the first floor. The guests were received in the drawing room, while refreshments were served in the dining room, which I recall was stacked with a wide variety of homemade food. I think my cousin Nick and I found things a little boring and having been left in the dining room while the bridal pair were being seen off, we tucked into the food and started to finish the champagne the guests had temporarily left in their glasses on their hurried departure to speed the Bride. On our parents return, we were both looking rather green, feeling quite sick, and undoubtedly very drunk and soon to be hustled off to bed with a handy chamber at the bedside. This at the early age of six and seven two very good drinking careers were started. The Flacks spend their honeymoon in London and returned to live in Dr Flack's home at 54 Railway Street, Nelson.

My brother Edmund¹⁹, after leaving Trent College, Derbyshire, in 1912, went to learn the cotton trade in my Uncle Fred's firm, 'Bradley, Hacking and Sheppard', while at night he attended The Burnley Technical School to further his studies. Edmund had always been very keen on the Officers Training Corp at Trent College and had done very well in it, so it naturally followed that he should enlist in the 5th East Lancashire Territorials, their Headquarters being at Burnley, and he very quickly obtained his Commission. Just before the war broke out in 1914, Edmund broke his leg in a motor cycle accident and had to give up work at the mill and was confined to bed with his leg in splints tied up to a pulley in the ceiling, so that it could be kept straight. When war

¹⁴ William Henry Flack (1852-1936), who was Smith Roberts' superior at the Manchester and County Bank, and cousin.

¹⁵ Smith Roberts brother, the author's uncle, was William Roberts (1866-1958).

¹⁶ James Stuttard (1811-1882) and his wife Mary Stuttard nee Harrison (1810-1875).

¹⁷ Dr Frederick Henry Flack, known as "Harry" (1878-1961) who practiced medicine in Nelson.

¹⁸ Margaret Mary Proctor, nee Cockshutt (1891-1979), Charles Roberts step sister.

¹⁹ Captain Edmund Meredith Cockshutt (1893-1964), Charles Roberts step brother.

broke out, the Regiment was quickly mobilised and sent out to the Dardenelles. Edmund on getting better was sent to the Reserve Battalion at Ripon and eventually got posted to Egypt, where the remains of the first Battalion had been sent after being evacuated from Gallipoli, Edmund returning to Ripon with the Reserve Battalion shortly afterwards. I think the war came at the right time for Edmund as I do not think he was ever happy at 'Bradly, Hacking and Sheppard' and I recall fierce rows with father and mother and Edmund on more than one occasion packing up and leaving the house, but soon to return as he had nowhere else to go and no money.

Comment:

The British Army records of Capt. Edmund Cockshutt's service in World War 1 show that he served in Gallipoli with the East Lancashire Regiment from 30 June 1915. He later served in France where he was wounded. He was returned to England where he was in a rehabilitation hospital for a further six months. (See his further comments on page 16 below).

No doubt Charles Roberts memories of his step brother Edmund's military career were

inaccurate as a result of the significant age gap between them – the events in 1915-1918 occurring when Charles was between 10 and 13 years of age. A copy of his Medal Card recording his service is reproduced on the next page.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
COCKSHUTT	E. Lancs. R.	A/Capt	
Edmund Meredith	E. Lancs. R.	Capt.	

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
X Victoria Cross	off 129	46	WX2138 13/1/22 NW/16286
X 1st Star	"	6	
Theatre of War first served in Gallipoli			
Date of entry therein 30.6.15			
NW/5716286. E. 1389			

Oy. Res. finds appn for medals dt 8.11.21.

879 rtd 10.12.21

Correspondence.

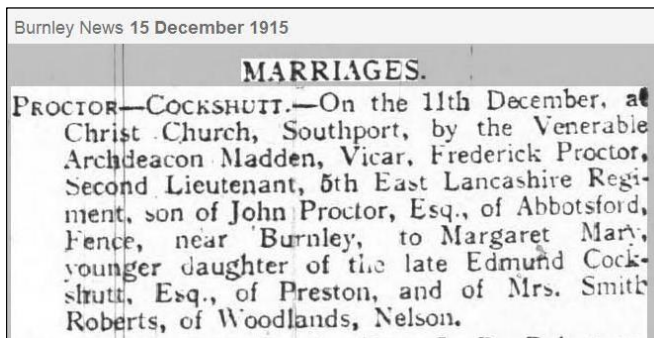
Address. 5, Seafield R.⁹,
Lycham,
Lancs.

E 1389. (1346) W. V 2894—R.P. 6207 1.000m. 17/12/20. E. 6889.

One day in 1915, my sister May, while shopping in Burnley met an old friend, Fred Proctor²⁰, son of the Proctors of Abbotsford, Wheatley Lane, near Nelson. Fred had been wounded in the hand at Gallipoli and was on sick leave. This friendship developed rapidly and later in the year while Fred was in the Reserve Battalion at Southport, May met him there and they were married, unbeknown to father and mother, on the 11th December 1915, at Christ Church Southport.

²⁰ Frederick Proctor (1889-1966)

Archdeacon T.J. Madden officiating. The witnesses being Mr Reggie Haslam and Miss Isobel Robinson.



In 1914, I was sent away to school at Lawrence House School, at St Anne's on the Sea. My sister May took me on the train from Nelson and deposited me a very tearful and spoilt boy at the school. It was the first time I had ever been away from my parents, and I did not like it at all, so on about the third day I decided to run away. At about 9.00 am during the first play time, I sneaked out of the grounds and made my way to the Railway Station and booked a ticket to Southport where my parents were staying. In the meantime, the ticket collector seeing me acting a little strangely and my school cap, telephoned the Headmaster. Just before the train came in Mr Yates, a master arrived and took me back to the school. He was a very kind and understanding man and gave me comfort and a lot of good advice. Looking back, I think running away made me into a bit of a hero, the bullying soon stopped and once I found I could box quite well, it ceased altogether.



Lawrence House School for Young Gentlemen was founded in 1895, the original school building was on Clifton Drive North. Between 1898 and 1904 it was housed at 29/31, Clifton Drive South. The school at Links Gate opened in 1905. Principal was Mr.C.D.G.Hoare, M.A.,Cantab. He was previously a master at SANDY KNOLL SCHOOL. In 1934, R.W.O. Daltry, M.A., Cantab., headmaster.

Lawrence House School closed in 1993. Paddy Molloy was the last headmaster. The school was demolished and "luxury apartments" stand in its place though the old playing field was not built upon.

In 1915, my mother's health was rapidly becoming worse and father decided to sell Woodlands and live at the seaside, hoping the sea air and milder climate would do mother good. Smith decided to live at Lytham, where Brother Arthur lived and near to Brother James at South Shore and he purchased Broomfield, Seafield Road. The change of air did my mother's bronchitis good, but despite visits to such famous Specialists as Jones in Liverpool, her creeping paralysis gradually became worse.

I personally liked our move to Lytham and it was near my school at St Anne's and on Sundays I was allowed to catch a tram after the service at St Thomas's Church and go home for dinner as long as I was at the Church in time for the Evening Service.

When we moved to Lytham, our cook, Annie Prosser, got married to her Postman, and remained in Nelson, but Ellen Hughes came with us, and acted more of less as my mother's personal maid, helping her to dress and bringing her downstairs in a special chair made for carrying her up and down the stairs she also used to wheel her out in her Bath Chair. There were two other maids, but I do not remember them. After living at Lytham for some time, Ellen went home to Menai Straits to spend her annual holiday, within a few days my mother received a rude letter from Ellen's mother ticking her off for not looking after Ellen who somehow had produced a baby. Ellen had always been very thin and was believed to be a vinegar addict, so everyone was amazed as Ellen showed no signs of having a baby, even my brother-in-law Dr Flack, who had seen her just before she left, seemed to think it was impossible. However, Ellen left the baby with her mother and returned to work for us after her adventurous holiday.

During the years 1916 to 1918 the Family was very split up, Dr Harry Flack¹⁰ had joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, and after doing his training at the Old Squires Gate Racecourse, was posted to Bordighera in Italy. His wife, my sister Alice²¹, continued to live in Railway Street, Nelson, and shortly after Harry left for Italy on the 10th September 1917, she had her first child, Henry Edmund Douglas Flack (1917-1985).

My sister May¹¹, after joining her husband at the Reserve Battalion of the 5th East Lancashire Regiment at Ripon, Scarborough and Witby, came to live with us at Lytham after her husband had been posted to France.

My brother Edmund¹², after serving with the 5th East Lancs. in Egypt, came back with the Regiment to Ripon, Scarborough and Witby before going to France. He was wounded in the leg and after being in hospital at Croxteth, near Liverpool, spent some time at home before being promoted and posted to The London Inns of Court as an Instructor.

In November 1918 peace was declared. Fred Proctor who had been gassed in France a few months before came to live with us for a time and then took a house in St Thomas Road, St Anne's on the Sea, while waiting to be demobilised, then about a year later when to London to Gibson and Weldon to be coached for his Final Law Examination, living with the widow of his ex-Colonel, Mrs Newman at South Kensington. Harry Flack was a long time being demobilised owing to the large amount of hospital work, but came home in 1920. Edmund stayed at the Inns of Court until early in 1920, then came to live at home and went into partnership with a Mr Stott,

²¹ Alice Mary Flack, nee Cockshutt (1890-1955)

the son of a South Shore Doctor, an old friend of the Meredith Family, setting up in Manchester as yarn agents.

On coming to live at Lytham, my father had very little time to himself, seven o'clock breakfast, catching the 7.50 am train to Nelson, getting home about 7.15 pm, having dinner and then in the light nights used to take my mother along the promenade in her Bath Chair.

While living at Seafield Road, my mother who was very much tied to her chair, used to spend most of her time sitting in the drawing room. She often used to turn to us and say, "Can you hear that dog walking about in the dressing room?" Now we had no dog, but I also have heard the noise and so have other relations, very queer, but we never found out what it was.

We were very lucky in Lytham, to have a very fine family of old fashioned doctors, the Milligan Family. The father, although getting on a bit was always very smart, dressed in a morning suit and top hat and used to be driven on his rounds in a coach and pair. There were three sons, Wilfred, Hubert and Jim, the latter being killed while serving in the Navy during the war. The family gave us every attention and nobody could have been kinder to my mother.

My mother was famous for some of her remarks. When shopping in Dolphin's Butchers Shop, she would say "Good morning Mr Dolphin, how's your rump this morning?", or in Cross, the Grocer, "What vegetables do you recommend today Mr Cross?" "The sprouts are good," my mother replying, "I won't have sprouts, but peas, there is nothing I like better than a good pea".

In 1921 I was sent to Sedbergh to school, but more about this another time.



Sedbergh School is a famous independent boarding school in the town of Sedbergh in Cumbria, in North West England. It was established in 1525.

I cannot remember much about my school holidays after mother died. I think I used to go to meet father at the Railway station in the evening and walk home with him. Father would wash,

get himself a whiskey, then read words from the paper for me to spell, as my spelling has always been very bad. I also spent a lot of time with my two sisters in Burnley and Nelson.

In 1922 I left school and as my Mathematics had always been good, my father decided that I should become a Chartered Accountant, serving my Articles with Rawlingson & Hargreaves in Burnley. To do this I had to pass a Preliminary Examination to be taken in about six months' time. I used to go each morning to a private tutor at Squires Gate, a Mr Toye, who used to correct my homework each morning and set me more to do in the afternoon. I am afraid I did not put my mind to it, much preferring to help dig graves in the churchyard or go duck shooting on the shore with Fred Miller, son of the Sexton. I duly sat for the exam and failed badly. My father, decided the best thing to do with a brainless boy was to make him into an Architect, as the Examinations were easier, so it was arranged that I should serve five years, articled with Richard Jaques in Nelson at the proud salary of five shillings a week, and for which privilege my father paid Mr Jaques one hundred and fifty pounds.

About the time I left school, Ellen Hughes had left our service and father decided to take on a man and wife to look after us. He obtained the services of Mr and Mrs Batty, he had been Butler to Lord Derby for fifteen years and they were excellent servants. My brother Edmund, was still in partnership with Stott as yarn agents in Manchester and at this time things were very bad in the cotton trade and even very old and sound firms were going bankrupt one after the other. I think Edmund was very worried and often took to the bottle and on more than one occasion I remember Edmund coming home early from Manchester decidedly drunk, and Batty meeting him at the door and saying, "Come on Mr Edmund, we must get you sober before the Master gets home, get undressed and I will run you a mustard bath and get you a strong cup of tea". This seemed to work wonders to my uneducated eyes as he seemed to look quite normal by the time father arrived home, while I should think nothing of it today, I must admit at the time it shocked me deeply.

I was very friendly with Rolf Jackson, the son of a neighbour of ours, who was at Cranwell training for his Air Force Commission. I saw a lot of him during my last two terms at school and while waiting to start work in Nelson. Once I think, at the start of my last term at school, I did not want to return for a while, Rolf opened some .22 bullets, took out the cordite which I ate and soon developed a nice temperature and was put to bed with supposed gastro flu. I used to get hungry and dropped a basket on a string through the bedroom window, Rolf having come quietly into the yard below, used to put food into the basket which I then hoisted up and ate. After a few days I was allowed to get up and then to convalesce, and so had about ten days extra holiday. There were large high cellars in Seafield Road and on another occasion Rolf and I purchased hammers and chisels and broke through the nine inch thick brick wall into the cellars of the next house and then through the next party wall. I do not know whether we did this for devilment or to try to find something to drink but we were finally caught, given a jolly good tanning and our pocket money stopped for two weeks.

Smith Roberts was very interested in sport and would probably have won quite a number of tournaments, if on many occasions he had not to miss the chance in order to spend more time with my mother whose health became worse each year.

Smith was a keen Golfer, a member of the old Nelson Golf Club and later the new Golf Club at Marsden Heights and was treasurer from 1912 to 1920, in 1904 he won the County Bank Golf Championship, his medal is still in my possession. After my mother died Smith joined the Fairhaven Golf Club, at that time situated opposite King Edward's School and stretched from Fairhaven to St Anne's, here his brother Arthur and wife were members and he often played with

them and in holidays I joined them. When Smith retired he joined the new Fairhaven Golf Club, situated off Woodlands Road, Anadell, on the Clifton Estate. He purchased a new set of steel clubs and used to play nearly every day and I think he enjoyed it very much, as many of his old Nelson friends were members. He never really recovered his old form, but won a few monthly medals and got his handicap down to fourteen and for a few years was a member of the Committee. After he married AUSA Jackson, he spent very little time at the club as she had no interest in games and in any case kept him pretty busy in the house and her social rounds.

Smith took a great interest in Cricket, although I can never remember him playing the game, he was Treasurer of the Nelson Cricket Club from 1912 to 1918. I believe he used to take my mother to watch the games, although I do not think she was very interested. On one occasion I believe my mother had dozed off and half waking heard the umpire shout 'Over', bestirring herself she said, "Come on Smith, be quick, let's get away before the crowd".

Smith was a good Tennis player, having had plenty of training on the Netherfield lawn while playing with his brothers. After starting work in Nelson I decided to learn to play tennis, father thought this was a good idea and said he would like to play as well. We had our names put up for membership of the Lytham Tennis Club, which was situated quite near our house in Church Road. The club was a bit snooty and in due course, two members of the committee came to the house to inspect us and see if we were both fit and proper people to be members of their club. We seemed to satisfy them and in due course were made members. Father was then fifty, but had always kept himself very fit, he really surprised me how good he was at the game. He had been runner-up in The County Bank Championship in 1912, and still possessed a very good service with a lot of spin that used to worry a number of players a great deal younger than himself, and in his first year at the club, he reached the semi-finals in the singles, no mean feat for a man of his age, especially as the club had some of the best players in the district. Smith was soon invited to serve on the Committee, in which capacity he served for about 10 years.

About 1924 a Badminton Club was formed in the old Parkstone Film Studios in the disused flying boat hangars at the Preston End of the promenade and my brother and I became members. We used to play there most evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons but I think my father got fed up being left at home on his own and decided to join the club. He took quite a time to get used to the game as it is much faster than tennis and has more overhead shots, however, he was very keen and gradually improved. In about 1926 it was decided to form a company and build a specially designed Badminton Hall at Ansdell. Father was elected to the Committee and also became Treasurer and took up quite a number of shares in the company. In fact, a lot of the credit for forming the club as due to his endless efforts to raise the money but a fine club house was built with six courts with plenty of room at both ends and full height. There were good changing rooms and a canteen. The club becoming so successful that many County matches were played there and two or three International matches. Despite his age, Smith's game improved rapidly and at the age of almost sixty he was selected and played for Lancashire's Second Team.

Smith liked his garden, but was not what one would call a working gardener. Along one side of the path that led from Seafeld Road to the front door was a flower bed with about twelve standard roses. These rose trees were my father's pride and joy and every day when the roses were in flower Batty used to go out about 6.00 am and pick the best one, this used to be placed in a silver flower holder which held water to keep the fresh, and after his hurried breakfast, Batty used to hand father his bowler hat and place the flower holder in his button hole; and if the rose was not smelt and admired during the train journey to Nelson, my father would be a very hurt

man. I am afraid, we of the younger generation did not do much to help the roses to bloom as when I and my pals came home from a Pub crawl, we invariably used to relieve ourselves on the roses, however, the treatment must have done them good as the blooms were usually very fine.

The other beds in the front garden were planted with wallflowers and forget-me-nots in the Spring and later with geraniums and lobelia, but one bed was always planted with violas in blue and yellow, all prize plants, and these my father would use for button holes when there were no roses available.

After leaving school and starting work in Nelson, I got to know my father's daily routine very well as I travelled on the same train, but to begin with in a different compartment. Father was called about six-thirty in the morning with a cup of tea, got up straight away. Batty in the meantime having drawn him a cold bath, and it really was cold. Father had his bath accompanied by much slapping of bare flesh, and called me on his way back to his bedroom often having to call twice or three times, his voice becoming more angry each time. He then proceeded to do Mr Muller's exercises for about twenty minutes having on two occasions attended Professor Mullers Physical Training Classes in London with Sir Amos Nelson. In the meantime, I struggled out of bed, shaved, washed and dressed and got downstairs just as Batty sounded the breakfast gong. My porridge was already on my plate with cream and sugar handy, bacon, eggs and kidney in a hot casserole were on the dumb waiter and usually a whole ham or salt pork to cut at. About halfway through my breakfast, Batty would enter the dining room and say "Your father is going to be late again" and then would proceed to serve Father's porridge, open his boiled egg, and make bacon and egg sandwiches – which he would wrap in greaseproof paper for him to eat on the way to the Station. By this time, father arrived downstairs, at his porridge, at a slice of ham in his fingers, drank his coffee, rushed to the hall where Batty took a hot water bottle out of his coat, helped him into it and giving father his button hole almost at the same time. Father then rushed off at a quick walk or sometimes a run to the Railway station, eating his sandwich as he went. If he was late, he would cut across the cricket field as a short cut, and if very late was known to get over the railway fence and run down the railway line. I do not think it can have been good for him, but he never missed the train in twenty years, nor for that matter did I in my twelve years. As the train came into the Station a hand would wave from a compartment window, Father would rush to it and in the compartment would be brother James from South Shore, brother Arthur from Ansdell, Mr Bradley of Bradley, Hacking and Sheppard, George Matterson (Proctors Mill, Nelson), Arthur's brother-in-law Billy Landless Cornes (Throatle Hill, Nelson). The party always travelled in the same compartment which was complete with W.C. and basin, so if one got up late you could shave in the train. Strangers who entered the compartment were not made very welcome.

After a few 'Good mornings' the party would cut the cards to see which five would play auction solo, one player being left out each hand, but drawing or paying as the case may be. If the elders were a player short they used to visit the next compartment where the younger generation travelled and ask for someone to make up the game. This was quite an honour, the solo was of the highest standard and God help you or anyone who played the wrong card, the stakes were small but the game taken very seriously. After a time as a few of the elders retired, I was invited to join in the first team, the teaching was excellent, and after a time I became a good player and usually made a bob or two each week to help augment my meagre wage of five shillings a week as an articled pupil.

Smith Roberts like most Roberts was a great churchman, he was what I would call 'a middle of the road man', he loathes the high church, saying if he was going to bob up and down all the time at Church, he would do the job properly and become a Catholic, at the same time he did not

enjoy low Church as he, while not a bit musical, loved the singing in Church. He often use to say to me "I can abide the Catholics, but on no account ever trust a Methodist".

While in Nelson, our family like most of the Roberts attended St Mary's Church. Smith was a sidesman for a number of years and had a two year spell as people warden. On moving to Lytham, we attended St Cuthbert's Church. Father often went to the eight o'clock service, always the eleven o'clock and most Sundays the seven o'clock service. In 1921 he was made a sidesman and continued to be a sidesman under first Canon Sinker and then The Rev Rocher until 1926, when he became Vicar's Warden, an office usually held for two years. However, in 1927 he was asked to take on the duty for a further period, after this he continued as sidesman until 1943 when he became people's warden, but died soon afterwards.

In the early twenties it was decided to build a Parish Hall at St Cuthbert's Church. Smith was asked to serve on the Committee and became Treasurer. Land was acquired from the Clifton Estate to extend the Churchyard and for the Parish Hall. Smith spent a lot of time attending and organising Bazaars, Sales of Work, and Garden Parties which were arranged to raise the money and most times he had to be on the platform to introduce the "Opener" or to open the affair himself. He did not like to be in the public eye, hated speech making, but did it as it was his duty. Smith had a lot to do with the rules that were made about the running of the Hall, he insisted that as it was a Church Hall, all Church people should be made welcome to the Hall, irrespective of their social standing, their wealth or their speech and won the day. This took a lot of doing as there was no doubt that a lot of the Parishioners were out and out snobs who had difficulty in even recognising their fellow worshippers in the street. Every Friday in the winter there was a lecture with slides and Smith used to say to the Committee, "If these are going to be patronised we must have the best in the land, even if it hurts us to put our hands in our pockets". A lot of dances and 'hops' were held and to begin with it was difficult to get both the elite and the workers to attend so Smith would go and visit some sour old puss and say "Mrs So & So, we need a lady of your standing on the Committee and would also like you to attend a dance with your Daughters to give it tone and it would help if your son would act as M.C. He could show the poor people how to behave." Have got the old cat interested others would follow suit as they thought it was the thing to do. The same procedure happened with the poorer people if perhaps in reverse and often Fancy Dress Dances were held so that clothes would not show the difference in class and wealth and very shortly the dances became a big success and class was forgotten.

In the late twenties, Smith used to go for a fortnight's holiday with Mr Parkinson of "Pill Fame" of Burnley, more often than not, they would go on a Bibby liner from Liverpool to Marseilles, stopping for a day at Gibraltar and at Marseilles. They would then take a trip for a few days to Cannes or some such place, return to Marseilles and catch a P & O Liner back to London. A very pleasant trip as in those day most of the passengers were people coming from or returning to India and the liners were free of our modern tourists.

In 1932, Smith purchased a Rover motor car, first a rather sporting type with cycle mudguards. However, the gears were a little faulty in this model, when going down a hill in low gear, the gears used to slip, which was rather disconcerting. The garage owners persuaded father to hand in his car, pay more money, and purchase the 2 ½ litre model. It was a fine looking car with an all fabric body but the fan belt kept breaking and usually damaged other things as well in doing so. Father took driving lessons, but never really got the hang of it and at night after dinner, he used to like to drive me to Wrea Green and back, but I was scared stiff and after a few near escapes father decided to give up driving. Once in the summer he decided he would like to see his brother Alfred's widow who lived in Bournemouth. The first night we stayed in Shrewsbury

and Nick Roberts and I used to sneak away when possible to have a drink. I think my father knew this and decided to teach us a lesson. We stayed at Banbury the next night and Nick and I managed to have a few drinks on the sly, but after going for a walk with father he said "Well boys, I think we will have a drink or two". We went in the bar and father soon became friendly with the landlord who was a big collector of pewter. Between drinks, we were even taken to the cellar to see his huge collection and about one in the morning Father said he thought it was time we went to bed as we had to be on the road early next morning. We certainly had had a bellyful of beer and when it was time to get up Father came into the bedroom as fresh as a daisy. We had splitting headaches and felt nearly dead and it needed all my determination to drive the car. At eleven o'clock father told us to stop the car at the next nice Pub which we did and he bought us both a pint of beer. Nick finished about half of his, I looked at mine, then went to the lavatory to be sick, we had both had our lesson and realised that Father was probably a better drinker than we were.

In 1934 the cotton trade was getting rapidly worse and as my boss Richard Jaques relied mainly on the cotton trade for his architectural work, I could see no great future in Nelson, and after talking things over with my father decided to either purchase a Practice or Partnership. I had become very friendly with Mrs Hartley who I had known for many years and who was expecting her divorce to be made absolute in the near future and we decided to get married. We had one or two holidays with my sister May at Chard in Somerset and liked the life down there and the quiet countryside and decided we would break away from our friends in the North and try to buy a practice in Devon or Somerset.

At his period I was away from home a lot and I think father became very lonely and thought it would be a good idea to marry again himself. His thoughts turned to Mrs AUSA Jackson, a widow for some years, a Dane by birth, her son Rolf had been killed while serving in the Royal Flying Corps in Iraq a few years previously. He eldest daughter Lillipine, was married to a Dr Karston and lived in Birmingham. Elin the next eldest was single and suffered from infantile paralysis since a child; the next daughter Ina, was married to a builder from Manchester called Clayton. The youngest child Geirda had gone to South Africa. At any rate, Father after happily bringing up three stepchildren decided to marry AUSA and take on four more. The Jacksons at one time had been neighbours of ours in Seafield Road, but had removed to Cyprus Avenue, Fairhaven, a few years previously. I had seen a lot of the family over the years, taking the daughters to dances and on holidays. AUSA was a very well educated woman, played the piano well and had a good knowledge of the Arts. Over the years I always found her kind and I think she considered I would be a good match for one of her daughters, but this was not to be. A date was fixed for the Wedding and it was decided she would sell her house in Cyprus Road and Father would sell his house in Seafield Road, and they purchased a house in Eddington Road, Fairhaven. When I do not know, as our house was a far superior building and in a better district, the reason soon came to light however, when AUSA said she would not have any of our furniture, silver or ornaments in her new house. Apparently she did not want anything to remind my father of my mother, there were a lot of arguments but AUSA had her way.

The wedding took place at St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham in 1935. The reception was held at our house in Seafield Road, but it was not a very happy occasion, our two maids who had been with us a number of years resented father being taken away from them and hated AUSA from the start and did not put themselves out to oblige. My uncle Arthur, my brother and my brother-in-law Dr Flack got nicely drunk, my cousin Michael quarrelled with Ina Jackson's husband; AUSA's brother-in-law Sir William Jackson said in front of us- "She drove my brother to his death with her extravagance and foolishness, I wonder how long it will take to kill her new husband". Not a very

About a month after the marriage I went into Partnership with Archibald Lucas in Exeter and on the 29th January 1936 married Mrs Hartley²² and set up residence at Orchards, Whimble, Devon.

Father and AUSA came to see us in the Autumn, they sailed from Liverpool on the coast line ship and we met them at Plymouth and motored them back to Whimble, gave them lunch and took them back to the ship. There had been an atmosphere all the day but when we got back to the boat AUSA just exploded, and in front of a lot of the passengers told him she had never been so insulted as having to put up with the poor cabin and food on the boat, although she had the cabin deluxe. certainly not a pleasant trip for father.

Early the next year, Father and AUSA came to stay with us for a holiday and one could see things were not too good. At Xmas we motored to Lytham to stay with them being joined by the Flack family for Xmas dinner. The Jackson clan had a few irritating remarks to say about the Roberts, my sister Alice would not have her family run down and at time things were electric and I think we were all glad when it was time to go home.

55

We went to see AUSA and Father in the first year of the war and took some butter, bacon and other food up with us. At breakfast the first morning AUSA stayed in bed, Lilian made the breakfast and put out some of our butter and bacon which father really enjoyed. On coming downstairs, AUSA played hell as she wanted the butter and bacon for herself and family. My father who had never washed up in his life before this marriage, seemed to spend all his time doing so and cleaning the house while AUSA went out shopping in the morning and bridge playing in the afternoon, while at night Father had to go on A.R.P Duty. The children were just rude to him or ignored him altogether. He looked very down and on the last day told me how unhappy he was. Father and I used to write to each other or telephone each week. I only saw him once again after our trip to Lytham. I had joined the Royal Engineers and been posted to Bangor, North Wales and father came for the weekend. He had gone very thin and the joy of life seemed to have left him, he said that while not broke, he would not be able to leave me the money he had hoped to do as AUSA was being very extravagant and he was frightened to open the monthly bills as they became larger each month and he was sure at time was not quite all there. He said he had to give up golf as his time was all taken up with housework and the garden. AUSA was out most of the day and Elin would hardly speak to him and if she did it was always some catty remark. I think Father enjoyed his weekend and said it was the first food worth eating he had for a very long time.

In 1943 Lilian and I were living in St Albans where I was Resident Engineer, supervising the erection of the new Eastern Command at Luton Hoo, I had a letter from father saying he had not been well and was in bed as he had had a heart attack and been told to rest. On the following Sunday, father still in bed, AUSA had gone to Church and Elin off somewhere, on returning from Church AUSA found father dead in bed having died of a heart attack, while left all alone in the house. I obtained leave and attended the funeral at St Cuthbert's Church where father was buried in our Vault in the Churchyard.

This was the last time I saw any of the Jacksons, the cruel way they treated my father made me hate the Family and in cases like his, it is best to keep apart.

Emily Roberts

"Emily, second daughter of Charles and Alice Ann Meredith was born on the 27th July 1863 at Withington near Manchester.

Charles Meredith, her father, had previously been married (to Ann Johnson) at the Parish Church, Prestwich, Lancashire on the 18th September 1825, there being six children of this marriage:

- Charles Edmund born 3rd June 1828;
- George Henry born 2nd June 1830;
- Edward William born 3rd August 1832;
- Mary born 31st August 1840;
- Oswald born 16th April 1843;
- Frederick born 8th September 1845.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish Church of PRESTWICH, in the County of Lancaster, in the Year, 1825			
<i>Charles Meredith & Ann Johnson of Oldham</i> were Married in this Church by Banns, this <i>18th</i> Day of <i>September</i> in the Year 1825 By me <i>Oswald Legg</i>		of the Parish This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Charles Meredith</i> In the Presence of <i>George Hay</i> <i>Ann Johnson</i>	

Extract from 1825 Parish Marriage Register

His first wife dying on 21st October 1848 and being buried at All Saints Church, Chorlton cum Medlock (an inner city suburb of Manchester, now known as Chorlton on Medlock).

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of		
Withington		St James Bidsbury						Withington		
No. of Houses Inhabited	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 and Dumb
					Males	Females				
76	Do	Charles Meredith	Head	Wid.	45	18	Law Stationer, employing in	Lancashire	Manchester	
		Edward Wil ^m Do	Son	26	19	10	Conjunction with his partners	Do	Do	
		Mary Do	Da				24 Charles	Do	Do	
		Oswald Do	Son				Schooler	Do	Do	
		Frederick Do	Son				Do	Do	Do	

Extract from 1851 Census

By the time he married Alice Stuttard at the Parish Church of Eccles on the 21st January 1860, his son George Henry was dead, Charles Edmund was living at Chorlton cum Hardy, Edward William in London, Oswald in Long Island America, Frederick in Manchester and Mary (called Sister Polly) with her Father. After his marriage to Alice Ann Stuttard in 1860 the couple set up house at Withington, near Manchester, taking Mary the daughter of the first marriage to live with them. Here, Caroline (later Mrs John Eaton and then Mrs John Hilton) was born on the 21st October 1860; Emily on the 27th July 1863; Alice (later Mrs J. A. Tweedale) on the 12th November 1865, Ada on the 7th April 1869.

1864. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church of Tinsley</u> in the Parish of <u>Tinsley</u> in the County of <u>Lancashire</u>								
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.
489	January 21 st 1864	Charles Meredith	28	Widower	Spinner	Whalley Henge, Withington, Manchester.	George Meredith	Super-Manufacturer
		Mrs Anne Stottard	24	Spinster		Swinton	James Stottard	Super-Manufacturer
Married in the <u>Parish Church of Tinsley</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>License</u> or after <u>Wedding</u> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Charles Meredith</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>James Stottard</u>		

Extract from Parish Marriage Register, 21 January 1860.

MEN-MER			
BIRTHS REGISTERED IN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1863			
	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUP-REGISTRARS</u> <u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>VOL PAGE</u>
MEREDITH	Emily	Chorlton	8c 471
664			

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Sept. Qtr. 1863.

Emily Meredith and her sisters spent their early days at Withington, removing to Whalley Henge about 1872, this address being given as "Lancashire Legends" by John Marland and T.T. Wilkinson written in 1873. Sometime between 1873 and 1876 the family removed to Seafield, South Shore, Blackpool this address being given in "History of the Fylde" by John Procter (Porter) written in 1876, the move probably being necessary due to her father's failing health.

In 1876 when the Meredith family took up residence at Blackpool, the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway terminated at Lytham, there being no railway at Blackpool; the journey from Lytham to South Shore being made by horse and carriage or horse coach. Blackpool was merely a hamlet at North Shore, consisting of an inn called 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and a few cottages and referred to as the "GYN". Most of the old village having fallen into the sea, where the cliffs collapsed during a storm, a rough road with a timber palisade forming a sea wall often washed over by the sea ran from the 'GYN' to the village of South Short, 'Seafield' being one of the first houses in South Shore on the North or GYN side of this promenade road. There were about seven or eight more houses on the promenade, the Village and Church being inland. Leaving South Short and continuing about one mile towards Lytham there was an old Inn called 'The Star' surrounded by a gypsy encampment, about a mile further there was a small hamlet at Squires Gate consisting of small fishermen's cottages, one of which was occupied by a Mrs Malling, who was renowned for her shrimps. From Squires Gate (called after Squire Clifton) there was no hamlet until Lytham was reached, about six miles distance. St Annes on the Sea did not exist, the nearest hamlet being Heyhouses, some two miles inland from where St Annes-on-Sea now stands. Seafield was a large Victorian bay windowed red brick house overlooking the sea with stables and coach house at the rear. It is now (1952) used as a private hotel and can be found midway between South Pier and Manchester Square.

In 1876 when the Meredith's moved to South Shore, there were no theatres, picture places or Concert Halls, probably the only public entertainment being that held at the church School Room.

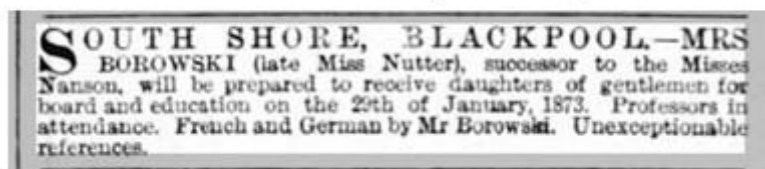
All forms of entertainment had to be self-made, a fact that must have had a great influence on the high degree of efficiency the family attained with their music, art, needlework, prose and riding.

(Editor's Comment: Several Blackpool local historians have advised that "Both Blackpool North and central Stations were operating and busy by 1876. North Station, then called Talbot Road station, had been open for 30 years already and the town in 1876, when the Merediths moved there, was nothing like the hamlet described in Charles Roberts story".)

The Meredith family were extremely musical, Charles Meredith subscribed to nearly all the large Manchester concerts to which he was a regular attender while living outside Manchester, and during his lifetime collected a large library of music and many musical instruments, as can be seen from the particulars of the two days sale of his music on his death, a copy of which is in the possession of the writer. All the daughters could play the piano, some two or more instruments, the family quartet being a great joy to themselves and invitations to their musical evenings were sought after greatly by their friends and music lovers in the district, amongst whom were the MYERS family, who were famous in the musical world at that time and enjoyed many successful sessions at the AEOLIAN Hall, London, and the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Ada was a most accomplished pianist, while Emily sang solos, took the lead in choral songs, or accompanied her Father's songs.

Little is known of Emily's early education at Withington, it being more than probably that as Charles Meredith's family was large, there was a family tutor or governess. On moving to South Shore, Emily and her sisters attended a School for Young ladies under the headmastership of HERR BOROWSKI.

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 02 January 1873



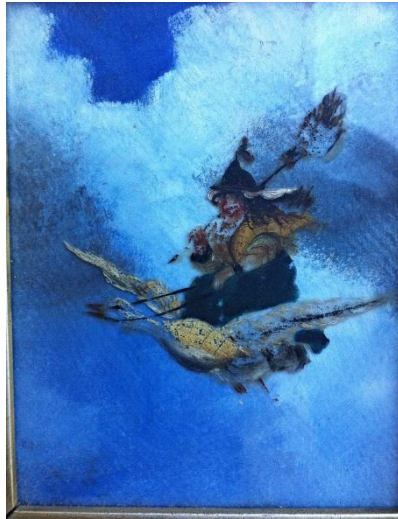
Emily had not attended Herr Borowski's School very long before it became apparent that she had a great gift for Art, her Drawings and Paintings showing very early talent. This gift was probably inherited from the Stuttard side of the family. We do not know whether her mother had a leaning towards Art, but we do know her Great Aunt, Mrs Barraclough (nee Ann Stuttard) was very artistic. The writer has two pictures, one of sweet peas and convolvulus, and the other of Japanese Anaoonea, the accurate detail and colouring of which, leave no doubt as to the great skill of the Artist. The writer also has a book on East Lancashire Roses (houses?) and Family, written in her writing with ornamental headings and shields, the writing being flawless copy and the headings and shields showing great patience and artistic temperament. Emily's great aunt Ann Barraclough lived eighty years and no doubt she learned a lot from her when she stayed at her home "Oaklands", Barrowford. The writer also has in his possession an ornamental text drawn by her Great Great Uncle David Stuttard about 1790, which again shows great skill. Finally, the way in which Mr James Stuttard without any professional training, designed his own house "While Hills", preparing his own drawings, designing, and carving his own panelling and supervising the building of the house, leaves no doubt that the Stuttard Family had a natural bent towards Art.

Emily's youngest sister Ada, had been delicate from a child. On leaving School, Emily went many times with her mother, sister Ada, and a schoolgirl companion Miss Nellie Fish (Mrs. Jack Taylor) and Bertha Grundy, to Winter at Cannes on the French Riviera, here joining the Art Circle and having tuition under a French Professor of Art. Her skill in the use of the pencil and brush increased very rapidly, until she was recognised as one of the leading Artists in the Cannes and Fylde Art Circles.

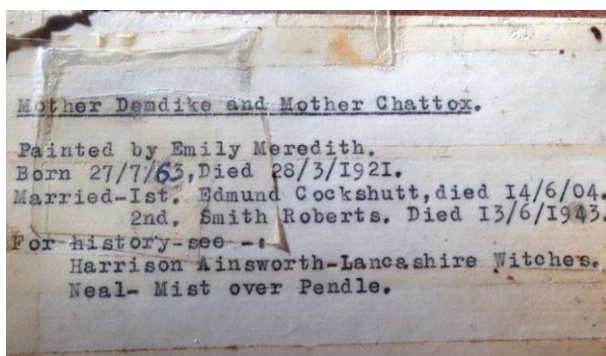
Emily painted both in oil and water colours, the writer can only remember two oil paintings representing dancers, which used to hang in the hall of his home at Broomfield, Seafield Road, Lytham, but has an impression that there may also have been some country scenes. In his humble opinion, these paintings were executed with more than average skill, but did not quite reach the outstanding perfection of Emily's water colour pictures. However, it must have been the painting of views on canvas that did not appeal to Emily, as her other works, such as oil paintings on china, were of the very highest standard. Her dessert service (at present divided between the writer and his brother and sisters) consists of some fifty porcelain plates and fruit dishes with pale duck egg background, each plate and dish having a different flower painted upon it, the composition of the design, the accurate detail of the flowers, the varied and true to life colouring, all are perfect and bear no comparison, except perhaps, with the two flower pictures painted in water colour by Emily's great aunt, Mrs Barraclough, and now in the writer's possession. The style of the painting, composition and colouring being markedly similar. The writer also remembers a Mirror with finely painted flowers forming a border, but cannot recall where this is today.

Emily also introduced a novel method of combining oil and water colours in one picture. The best examples of this class of work, being studies of the two well-known Lancashire Witches, Mother Chattox and Mother Demdike, who are seen in flight crossing the wide open sky, the former mounted on a broomstick and the latter on a white goose. The sky was rendered in water colours on Wataman paper (probable reference to Watman paper, a high quality paper used by professional artists.) while the witches were painted in oils on the glass, the treatment giving the effect that the witches are quite near to you with the sky some distance away, the sky usually being rather turbulent, as according to superstition, thunder and lightning accompanied the witches on their evil flights. Emily was very fond of these little pictures, painting many of them for presents. Most members of the family and close friends have copies, they being particularly appreciated in the Pendle Forest district where superstition and witchcraft have died hard.

The writer can remember as a boy, watching his mother paint these pictures. The skies were painted without any drawings straight onto the paper, every sky being different, and work being performed without effort and in an incredibly short time, while the witches were painted in oils on the glass, again without any pencil work or copy.



Editor: These two images are photographs of the original framed, oil-on-glass paintings in the editor's possession. The image below is a photograph of the caption on the back of one of the frames.



Emily was no mean artist with a pencil. Mrs Flack (Editor's Note: a reference to the author, Charles Roberts' sister, Alice Flack, nee Cockshutt) has a beautifully executive sketch of a bird flying along a small stream in a wood, the detail of the trees and reflection in the stream speak for themselves.

Assuming that numbers count, it appears that Emily's favourite medium was water colour. She painted many English country scenes, but her best works were painted during her holidays in the South of France. Her paintings of the Cannes coast and island recesses around Grasse with mountain in the background and Turner skies are really first-class works of Art; her rendering of trees being particularly admired by the writer whilst her paintings of a clouds over a valley really gives one the feeling of rising noonday heat.

Emily was a natural artist, but there is no doubt that the lessons she received at home and whilst in France gave her excellent style and polish. No untrained artists however gifted could have reached her standard of work. At the time Emily lived no Lady was allowed to commercialise her Art and were not even encouraged to submit paintings for the Royal Academy, but if Emily lived today, there is no doubt her Art would have made her a very good living and many of her paintings and drawings would have been accepted by the Royal Academy.

The Merediths kept their own coach and horses at South Short together with a stable of hacks. The whole family rode the horses, this not being surprising as there was really no other means of transport in those days. The writer can remember his mother telling him when a boy, about the various horses they kept and how they used to ride to Mrs. Mallings at Squire Gate to collect shrimps or persuade the accompanying Groom to ride up to the 'Gyn' to distantly watch people enjoying themselves at the small fairground that was held there at certain seasons of the year and wishing that etiquette would allow young ladies to join in the fun; also of trips in the family

coach and four to see their friends the Thongs who lived at Lytham Hall for a number of years. The writer also recalls a story told by his sister Mrs Proctor, (Editor's Note: probably a reference to Margaret May Proctor, nee Cockshutt) who having moved from industrial Burnley to live in the country near Chard in Somerset, duly purchased a horse and learned to ride. Sometime later she met her Aunt Carrie (Mrs. Hilton), Emily's sister, (Editor's Note: probably a reference to Caroline Hilton, nee Cockshutt, her half-sister.) and told her about buying the horse and the ease with which she learned to ride. Mrs Hilton straightened herself to her full height and said, "Margaret, all the Merediths can ride !!"

Emily's father, Charles Meredith, was a law stationer in Manchester and probably through his profession became a great reader and writer of prose. His letters to his wife and to Emily were master pieces of English, written in true copperplate writing using an immense vocabulary of words. Emily followed in her father's footsteps, her notes on old Lancashire Families and their homes and her diary written a few years before her death are written in beautiful copperplate, while her description of places leave no doubt of her thorough education and mastery of the English language.

Emily had no great interest in sport apart from riding, although she played a passable game of tennis and skated, and probably for the sake of domestic harmony used to watch the cricket matches at Nelson; in the latter connection, an amusing story is told of Emily and her second husband, Smith Roberts, watching a match were after sometime Emily, coming back to earth after her thoughts had been far away from cricket, suddenly hears the umpire shout 'Over' and turned to her husband saying, 'Be quick Smith, let's get away before the crowd'.

The Merediths were great disciples of etiquette. The writer can remember his mother describing how she and her sisters had to lie flat on the floor for half an hour each day to straighten their backs, and how they were taught to sit and walk properly. This may sound ridiculous today, but there is no doubt that all the Merediths were straight shouldered, had a fine carriage, always sat upright in a chair and were never seen to cross their legs in public. Emily's home life and education made her a natural conversationalist and whatever the company she had the happy gift of making her guests feel 'at-home'. Her charm and wide knowledge of conversational subjects made her a welcomed guest wherever she went. Emily also had a habit of quite unintentionally asking remarks that could be taken in two ways, when visiting the butcher at Nelson, she would say "Good morning Mr. Varley, I'd like a little of your rump to-day", or "How's your pickle this week?".

In 1889 (Editor's Note: probably meant to be 1887) Emily met Edmund Cockshutt, son of her father's friend Joshua Cockshutt, Cotton Spinner of Preston, Lancashire. Edmund Cockshutt often visited the Merediths for their musical evenings. He had a well-trained baritone voice and soon the duets between Edmund and Emily became one of the features of the entertainment. The friendship soon ripened to love, their respective parents at first objecting to a marriage as the Merediths were staunch supporters of the Church of England, while the Cockshutts were an old Roman Catholic Family. However, their obvious love for one another outweighed their parents' prejudices and in 1889 (Editor's note: The marriage is recorded as taking place on 16th August 1888) they were married at St Cuthbert's Church,



MARRIAGES registered in July, August, and September 1888.

Fylda 8 e. 1119

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Sep. Qtr. 1888.

[illegible]

South Shore, and took up residence at "The Cottage" BROWNEGE, BAMBER BRIDGE, near Preston, where three children were born, Alice (Mrs. Flack) on the 13th June 1889, Margaret Mary (Mrs. Proctor) on the 31st May 1891. Edmund Meredith on the 7th December 1893.

(Editor's Note: The above extract from the 1901 Census shows Emily's oldest daughter, Alice Cockshutt, aged 11, a Boarder at St Monica's Convent School, Skipton on Census day, Sunday, 31st March 1901.

Edmund Meredith Cockshutt, Alice Cockshutt's younger brother, is listed in the 1901 Census as a student aged 7, at Ampleforth College, Ampleforth, Yorkshire, England.)

Edmund Cockshutt practiced as a Solicitor at Bamber Bridge, his father's business having failed in 1889, the family moved in 1894 to "Avondale", Barkerhouse Road, Nelson. Edmund Cockshutt's health began to fail and in 1901 he decided to visit Jamaica with a view to taking up an appointment there and later establishing a home for his wife and children. Unfortunately, as a result of an accident he was taken ill and died on the 14th June 1904.

Before leaving for Jamaica, Edmund Cockshutt asked two of his friends, Samuel Davies, a Solicitor of Nelson, and Smith Roberts, Bank Cashier, son of William Roberts Iron Founder, to act as guardian to the children during his absence.

(Editor's Note. My father, Dr Henry Edmund Douglas Flack, Emily Roberts' grandson, told a very different version of the story of Edmund Cockshutt's departure to the West Indies. It was said that Edmund Cockshutt had behaved very badly and had embarrassed the family to such an extent that he had been given a cash sum by other members of the family and told to leave the country. There is some evidence that this "behaviour" may have involved drunkenness and gambling and linked in some way to his father's business failing with several contemporary newspaper notices referring to bankruptcy and sales of property.

Edmund Cockshutt's death in Jamaica is recorded as follows:

Date and Place of Death.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Condition.	Age last Birthday.	Rank, Profession or Occupation.	Certified cause of Death and duration of illness.	Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
Fourteenth June 1904. Union Poor House St. Andrew	Edmund. Cockshutt.	Male	married	47 years	a clerk	phthisis Certified by H. L. Lolore M.D.	Certificate received from J. G. Da Costa Chief Resident Union Poor House St. Andrew	Twentieth June 1904
Entered from the chief resident officer's certificate Signed by the Registrar as above by J. H. Forth Registrar of Births and Deaths Cross Roads District, Parish of St. Andrew								

It will be noted that the death certificate indicates that Edmund Cockshutt died in the Union Poor House at St Andrews, Jamaica on 14 June 1904 and that the cause of death is recorded as "phthisis", a form of tuberculosis, usually contracted by living in crowded accommodation with other infected persons. The circumstances of his departure from England and death suggest that there may be some truth in the story.)

The Roberts were a large family of ten sons and three daughters and lived at "Netherfield", a farm lower down Barkerhouse Road and nearer to Nelson than Avondale. Emily spent a lot of her time at this house. A great comradeship developed with the family and in 1905 Emily married Smith Roberts, the eight son, the wedding, a very quiet one, was held at the Parish Church, Hornby, in Westmorland. Emily, her sister Caroline (Mrs Eaton), her son Edmund Meredith and her uncle Thomas Stuttard, Cotton Manufacturer of SWINTON, staying the night before the wedding at the County Hotel, Lancaster, driving by horse carriage to Hornby on the day of the wedding where they were met by Smith Roberts, Samuel Davies, Solicitor of Nelson, and Edwin Shaw, Tobacconist of Nelson, the church register being signed by Caroline Eaton, Edwin Shaw, Samuel Davies and Thomas Stuttard.

The wedding breakfast was held at the Castle hotel, Hornby, after which the wedding party drove by horse drawn waggonette to Kirby Lonsdale.



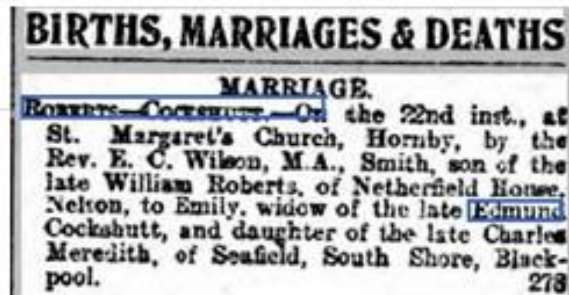
Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Mar. Qtr. 1905.



Smith Roberts

Burnley Express - Saturday 25 February 1905

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Emily and Smith Roberts took up residence at Highfield House, Victoria Avenue, Brierfield, Lancashire, where a son Charles William was born on the 23rd December 1905. The three children of the first marriage soon came to love and respect their new father.

In 1907 Smith Roberts was promoted to Chief Cashier at the Manchester and County Bank, Nelson, the family removed from Brierfield and took up residence at "Woodlands", Hendon Road, Nelson. The house being leased to them by Mr Walter Fletcher and later by Mr. Manoknowles Walton. The house, built in stone, was semi-detached, had large rooms and stood in about four acres of land with ornamental gardens, lawns and spinney. At that time "Woodlands" was in the country, but very rapid development has since taken place, houses being built on three sides and cotton mills in the valley at Hendon.

Photograph of Smith and Emily Roberts, taken on their wedding day 22nd February 1905.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The names should be written in full.

The contents of this Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards		BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATURALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY
				Principal Occupation	Industry or Service with which work is connected			
1. <i>Louise Roberts</i>	Head	38	Married			<i>London, Essex</i>		
2. <i>Emily Roberts</i>	Wife	47	Married			<i>do</i>		
3. <i>Alice Cockshutt</i>	Daughter	21	Single			<i>do</i>		
4. <i>Edmund Cockshutt</i>	Son	17	Single			<i>do</i>		
5. <i>Charles William Roberts</i>	Son	8	Single			<i>do</i>		
6. <i>Annie Prosser</i>	Servant	28	Single			<i>do</i>		
7. <i>Margaret Prosser</i>	Servant	25	Single			<i>do</i>		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Write below the Number of Persons in this dwelling (House, Flats, or Apartments). Count the children as a person, but do not count soldiers, landless, baby, school, husband; nor workmen, when absent.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Louise Roberts*

Printed Name: *Louise Roberts, Nelson, Lancs*

Emily's children



Alice Mary Flack nee Cockshutt



Edmund Meredith Cockshutt



Margaret May Proctor nee Cockshutt



Charles William Roberts

In 1913 Emily's daughter Margaret May became engaged to Henry Manoknowles Walton, a rich Cotton Manufacturer and a man of property, incidentally the owner of "Woodlands", but the engagement was broken off in 1914.

Later in 1913, Emily's daughter Alice became engaged to Dr Henry Frederick Flack, a well-known local Doctor and sports enthusiast, son of Mr Flack, Manager of the Manchester and Country Bank, Nelson (Editor's Note: this is a reference to William Henry Douglas Flack, (1852-1936)). The wedding which was well attended, took place on the 21st January 1914, at St Mary's Church, Nelson, the Revd. Lisle officiating, the reception being held at "Woodlands" where the cook, Annie Prosser, prepared many appetising dishes, which were greatly appreciated by the guests. On their return from their honeymoon, Mr. & Mrs. Flack took up residence at 54, Railway Street, Nelson.

On the 11th December, 1915, Emily's daughter May was married at Trinity Church, Southport, to Captain Frederick Proctor, Solicitor, son of John Proctor, Cotton manufacturer, of "Abbotsford" Wheatley Lane, Near Burnley. After the 1914-18 War taking up residence in Burnley.

Emily's health had not been good since Charles William was born, she had always been a bronchial subject and the attacks of this complaint gradually became more frequent and severe. It was decided to remove to Lytham in the hope that the sea air and more gentle climate would improve Emily's health, so in 1915 they surrendered the lease of "Woodlands" and went to live at "Broomfield", Seafield Road, Lytham, Lancashire,; this was a Victorian brick built terrace house, just off the sea front with a fine view of the sea and school playing fields in front of it. By this time, Smith Roberts had been promoted to Manager of the Manchester and County Bank at Nelson and used to travel by train to Nelson and back each day.

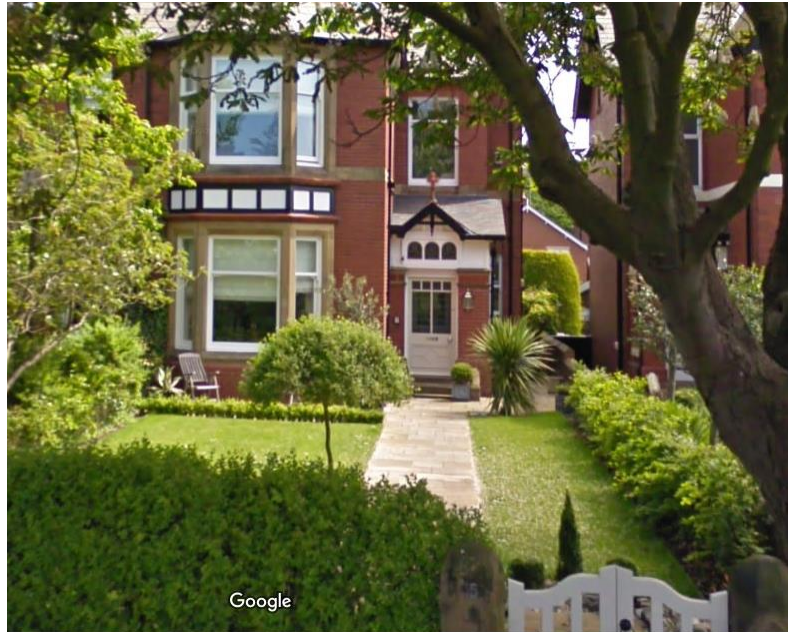
In 1918 Emily's son Edmund Meredith Cockshutt returned from the War and became engaged to Winefreda Joyce Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evans of 14, Argyle Road, Hesketh Park, Southport. The wedding taking place at Holy Trinity Church, Southport on the 1st July 1925, the reception being held at the Victoria Hotel, Southport and the newlyweds taking up residence in Southport.

Emily's health did not improve at Lytham and soon after going to live there she had trouble with her feet. Sir Herbert Barker diagnosed the complaint as creeping paralysis. His diagnosis proved correct and Emily lost the use of her legs and the disease gradually spread over her body until she could only sit in a chair and had to be wheeled about the house in a wheelchair and taken outside in a bath chair. Emily bore her illness bravely and although almost totally paralysed and ridden with bronchitis her wonderful temperament never failed her. She did not know self-pity, being more concerned at the trouble she caused either through her helplessness and inability to carry on with her accustomed household jobs. Emily's chief joy in life was looking forward to her husband's return from Nelson each evening and talking over the events of the day, her husband being most patient and consideration and keeping her constant company when not at work.

Emily passed away peacefully on the 28th March, 1921, and was buried at St. Cuthbert's Church, Lythan, a sad ending for one who saw always the best side of everyone she knew, who loved the beauty to be found in nature and the simple things in life.

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 212 | | | | |
| DEATHS REGISTERED IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1921. | | | | |
| | <u>Age.</u> | <u>District.</u> | <u>Vol.</u> | <u>Page.</u> |
| Roberts.
— Emily | 57 | Fylde | 8 e | 784 |

Extract from the Births Death and Marriages Index for the Mar. Qtr. 1921.



Probably the modern site of the address “Broomfield”, Seafield Road, Lytham, Lancashire.



The corner of Barkerhouse Road and Netherfield Road, the site of Netherfields House, Nelson. Note the nearby road is named “Roberts Street”.

Family Group Record for Emily Roberts, formerly Cockshutt, nee Meredith - 3

Page 1

| Husband | | Edmund Cockshutt | | | LDS Ordinance Data |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|----|--------------------|
| Born | Abt 1862 | Preston, Lancashire, England | B | | |
| Christened | | | C | | |
| Died | 14 Jun 1904 | Saint Andrews, Jamaica | I | | |
| Buried | | | E | | |
| General | | | | | |
| Worked in his father's Iron Foundry in Preston. Later said to have worked as a law clerk. Said to have died in the West Indies in 1905 from alcohol related illness. | | | | | |
| Father | Joshua Cockshutt "Last of the Cotton Spinners" (1840-1916) | | SP | | |
| Mother | Margaret Mary Hayes (1842-1909) | | | | |
| Marriage | 16 Aug 1888 | Fylde, Lancashire, England | SS | | |
| Wife | | Emily Meredith | | | |
| Born | 27 Jul 1863 | Manchester, Lancashire, England | B | | |
| Christened | | | C | | |
| Died | 28 Mar 1921 | | I | | |
| Buried | | | E | | |
| Father | Charles Meredith (1807-1884) | Mother | Alice Stuttard (1832-) | SP | |
| Other Spouse | Smith Roberts (1872-1943) 22 February 1905 - St Margaret's Church, Hornby, Lancashire, England | | | | |
| | | | SS | | |
| Children | | | | | |
| 1 | F | Alice Mary Cockshutt | | | |
| Born | 13 Jun 1890 | Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, England | B | | |
| Christened | | | C | | |
| Died | 8 Jul 1955 | Southport, Lancashire, England | I | | |
| Buried | | | E | | |
| | | | SP | | |
| Spouse | Dr Frederick Henry Douglas "Harry" Flack (1878-1961) 22 Jan 1914 - Nelson, Lancashire | | | | |
| | | | SS | | |
| 2 | F | Margaret May Cockshutt | | | |
| Born | June Qtr 1891 | Preston, Lancashire, England | B | | |
| Christened | | | C | | |
| Died | March Qtr 1963 | Liverpool North | I | | |
| Buried | | | E | | |
| | | | SP | | |
| Spouse | Frederick Proctor (Cir 1890-1966) 11 Dec 1915 - Christ Church, Ormskirk, Lancashire | | | | |
| | | | SS | | |
| 3 | M | Edmund Meredith Cockshutt | | | |
| Born | 1905-1978 | Preston, Lancashire, England | B | | |
| Christened | 9 Dec 1893 | Brownedge St Mary, Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, England | C | | |
| Died | 10 Jul 1964 | Exeter, Devon | I | | |
| Buried | | | E | | |
| | | | SP | | |
| Spouse | Winifred Joyce Evans (1895-1966) 1 Jul 1925 - Ormskirk, Lancashire, England | | | | |
| | | | SS | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Charles William Roberts (1905-1978)

Editorial Comment

Charles Roberts, the author of these memoirs, died in Torbay Hospital on 22 November 1978. His widow, Lillian Roberts, formerly Harley, nee Wilson (1906-1996) died on 15 February 1996.



Application Number *PAS C780578/1978*

CAUTION—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

QDX 193522

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY

| DEATH | | Entry No. |
|--|--|------------------------|
| Registration district
TORBAY | Administrative area
County of Devon | |
| Sub-district
TORBAY | | |
| 1. Date and place of death
<i>Twenty second November 1978
Torbay Hospital, Torquay</i> | | |
| 2. Name and surname
<i>Charles William ROBERTS</i> | 3. Sex
<i>Male</i> | |
| 4. Maiden surname of women who has married
— | | |
| 5. Date and place of birth
<i>23rd December 1905
Mellon Lancashire</i> | | |
| 6. Occupation and usual address
<i>Architect (retired)
The Dolphins, Riverside, Shaldon, Devon.</i> | | |
| 7 (a) Name and surname of Informant
<i>Henry Edmund Douglas FLACK</i> | (b) Qualification
<i>Nephew</i> | |
| (c) Usual address
<i>The Larches, Woodwater Lane, Digby, Exeter, Devon</i> | | |
| 8. Cause of death
<i>1a. Ischaemic heart disease
1b. Coronary insufficiency
11. Carcinoma of pyloric antrum</i>
<i>Certified by: H. Sykes Ballo, Coroner for Torbay District after post mortem without inquest</i> | | |
| 9. I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
<i>H. E. D. Flack</i> | | Signature of Informant |
| 10. Date of registration
<i>Twenty eighth November 1978</i> | 11. Signature of registrar
<i>G. E. Drew Deputy Registrar</i> | |

Form AN/AR 1000 (Rev. 12/97) M202/2741

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 on *9th October 1978*

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death as which it relates without any further or other proof of its entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

19/2

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
ENGLAND

