

Preface to "An Edmondson Ancestry" which was written by W.J.Lomas in 1982

The attached summary of our immediate Edmondson ancestry (1823-onwards) was compiled by my father, Walter John Lomas, in November 1982, with the intent of being distributed mainly to his Italian side of the family, that is to "Uncle Bill" (William Edmondson 1888-1985), and his children "Dinkie" (Carla Maria Edmondson (1925-2016) and George (George William Victor Edmondson 1928-2000).

Edmondson was my father's mother's maiden name. Our branch of the Edmondson family originated in Dent, Yorkshire, before moving to Garsdale around 1850. With the development of the railways, my great-grandfather George Edmondson, born 17 May 1861 in Garsdale, a railway telegraph clerk, moved first to Peterborough (he was there in the 1881 census aged 19), and then to Derby in the mid 1880s. When he married Maria Dudden in Gloucestershire in 1887, his residence was already stated as being in Derby. George and Maria had 4 children, William, Bessie, George and Emily.

- William (always known in the family as "Uncle Bill"), was born in 1888. He started out as a schoolmaster, then he took an external degree at London University. In 1917 he was sent to Voghera, Italy as part of the British forces, probably because he spoke Italian, German and French. He spent the rest of his life in Italy, teaching English, until his death in 1985 at the age of 97. He had 2 children, Carla Maria and George.
- George, born in 1892, was a Civil Servant, and a "bit of a lad", apparently running off to Paris at the age of 14. He married Florence (Aunty Florrie), and lived all his life in Derby.
- Emily, born in 1898, married Harold Clements, and lived most of her life in St Albans. She had 2 children, Nancy and Barbara.
- Bessie, my grandmother, was born on the 26 June 1890 at 10 Rose Hill St, Derby. After leaving school, she was employed at the Royal Crown Derby Porcelain company, hand-painting pottery. Her graduation work was a Royal Crown Derby plate, which I still have, together with a number of her paintings. She became quite involved in Church work at St Thomas', Derby, and it was there that she met my grandfather, Harry Lomas, who was a tenor in the choir. They married 17 June 1914 at St Thomas' Parish Church, and then lived most of her life at 82 Pear Tree St, Derby, where I and my brother Ken, were both born. She had 2 children, Bessie (always known as Bep) and my father Walter John.

More information on our branch of the Edmondson family can be found at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/tree/120950213/family> and <http://www.lomascuderi.com/index.php/edmondson-family>

John Lomas
24 September 2018

(By Walter John Lomas)

Note:-

In the optimistic hope that it may help, I have drawn up a 'Pedigree' chart underlining in red ink all those who were 'born an Edmondson' and, for ease of reference when mentioning any of them, have marked them numerically - starting from the present youngest - i.e. Mark, in Italy.

When I retired from work in September 1980, I decided to take up the hobby of tracing my family history and this 'draft' started in November 1982 collates the results to date of my (and a number of later mentioned helpers) research into my Mother's (6) maiden name of Edmondson. There was some incentive in carrying out this project as it has always been 'handed down verbally' that we were in some way related to one 'Thomas Edmondson' (37) who had, apparently, invented the original railway ticket. There had also been much mention of the academic prowess of my Great-Grandfather, William Edmondson, (19) and also, a still unproved fact, that some of us had been blessed (or otherwise) with reddish hair because of some ancestral link with one of the Scandinavian countries.

At this moment in time I am not taking the liberty of going into any detail of those Edmondsons on a parallel or subsequent to my own generation, but as they necessarily form an important continuance of the 'line' I feel that I should make the following brief references:-

No.1 - Mark Kenneth was born on 17th. November 1959 in Milan the younger of 2 children of George Victor William Edmondson⁽⁴⁾ and Maria Luigia (nee Torti). He is, at the moment, unmarried.

No.2 - Rita W. was born on 24th. November 1955 in Milan, the elder child of the afore mentioned George and Maria. On the 4th. June 1977, Rita married my younger son, Kenneth George, near Voghera, Italy and, therefore, has the dubious distinction of being my cousin-once removed, and also my daughter-in-law.

No.3 - Carla Maria (Dinkie) was born on 10th. November 1925, the elder child of 2 of William Edmondson (5) and Rita (nee Rattino). Dinkie, to date, is not married, and currently lives with her father in Voghera.

Dinkie is employed as a Teacher.

P. J. O

No.4 - George Victor William⁽⁴⁾ was born on 8th. February 1928, the younger child of William (5) and Rita. George married Maria on 5th. June 1955 and is currently employed as an Executive with an Oil Company in Milan.

My Uncle 'Bill'-(William Edmondson-(5)) was born on 27th. April 1888 - the eldest child of 4 of George Edmondson(9) and Maria(nee Dudden). The family were then living at 3 Rose Hill St. Derby(no. changed some time during the next few years to 10). Uncle Bill first attended the St. James' Church Infants school, Madeley St., Derby and subsequently the main School opposite (and part adjacent to) the St. James' Church to which it was linked. It is perhaps interesting to include here that in later years this school produced a Magazine (not remembered how frequently) but I have in my possession Issue No. 19 dated November 1931 which is important familywise as it contains the names of Uncle Bill(8), my own Father(Harry Lomas) and myself. Apparently the Magazine ~~was~~ was continuing a 'History of School Pupils' and it stated that my Father was then a Grocer with the Derby Co-op. Society and a most valued member of the St. James' Church Choir and that his 'boy' (me) had just won a scholarship for the Bemrose School plus some tribute to my apparent football skills. Thus, along with one or two other father/son combinations, I was in the 'history' of the school at the age of 11. Back to Uncle Bill, this 'History' states that in June 1903 W. Edmondson passed the 'Candidates' Examination and that in the summer of 1904, news had been received that W. Edmondson had passed his Matriculation - first class. It added that at the time of publication (1931) W. Edmondson was a teacher in Italy.

I understand that Uncle Bill once did some 'Pupil Teaching' at St. James' Church School and Runs St. School in Derby, prior to attending the St. John's Training College, Battersea, London.

I believe that Uncle Bill spent much of his free time on furthering his love of the English countryside and (according to Auntie Emily) had a craze at one time for climbing and trying to break his neck on the hills in the Lake District and Derbyshire. He had a love for Gilbert & Sullivan Operas and would often be heard vamping extracts from these on the 'Middleton St. piano.

I gather that he delayed enlisting in the 1914 War (Royal Fusiliers or Sherwood Foresters) until he had obtained his Degree, but on doing so went through the horrors of 'Passchendaele and Somme', before being selected for 'a plain clothes job' in Italy. The immediate ensuing period is shrouded in mystery as far as I am concerned, and so I will continue with the fact that he stayed in Italy after the war and in 1919 married Maria Caprile who died the following year. Uncle Bill earned his living by private teaching, writing & translating etc.

~~Waxeth~~ In May 1924 he married Rita Nattino and subsequently had 2 children - viz. - George William Victor(4) on 8th. Feb. 1928 and Carla Maria(Dinkie)(3) on 10th. Nov. 1925.

Uncle Bill lost his wife, Rita, on 20th. Oct. 1951 and after the marriage of his son, George(4) has continued to live with his daughter, Dinkie(3)

in Voghera. I have some vague recollection that Uncle Bill once spent a period in Germany to further his knowledge of that language. Over the years Uncle Bill made periodic visits back to England, but it is true to say that I have met him more regularly during the past 12 years or so when we have visited Italy. The 'wheel' did, in fact, turn almost full circle when in June 1977 my younger son, Kenneth, married his granddaughter, Rita. (2).

in later years this school produced a magazine (not remembered how frequently) but I have in my possession issue No. 19 dated November 1937 which is important inasmuch as it contains the names of Uncle Bill (B), my own father (Henry Jones) and myself. Apparently the magazine was containing a 'history of school pupils' and it stated that my father was then a member of the 'Bery' Co-op. Society and a local member of the St. James' Church Choir and that his 'boy' (as) had just won a scholarship for the Bery school plus some tribute to my father's football ability. Thus, along with one or two other children, combinations, I was in the 'history' of the school at the age of 11. Back to Uncle Bill, this 'history' states that in June 1903 W. Edmondson passed the 'Candidate's' examination and that in the summer of 1904, news had been received that W. Edmondson had passed his Matriculation - first class. It added that at the time of publication (1937) W. Edmondson was a teacher in Italy. I understand that Uncle Bill once did some 'light teaching' at St. James' Church School and then St. School in Bery, prior to attending the St. John's Training College, Battersea, London. I believe that Uncle Bill spent much of his free time on furthering his love of the English countryside and (according to Henry Bill) had a craze at one time for climbing and trying to break his back on the hills in the Lake District and North Wales. He had a love for Gilbert & Sullivan operas and would often be heard humming extracts from these on the 'Whiston St. piano. I gather that he delayed enlisting in the 1914 War (Royal Wiltshire or Sherwood Foresters) until he had obtained his degree, but on doing so went through the horrors of Flanders and Somme, before being selected for 'a plain clothes job' in Italy. The immediate ensuing period is shrouded in mystery as far as I am concerned, and as I will continue with the fact that he stayed in Italy after the war and in 1918 married Maria Capello who died the following year. Uncle Bill earned his living by private teaching, writing & translating etc. Next, in May 1924 he married Rita Battino and subsequently had 2 children - viz. - George William Victor (4) on 28th Feb. 1928 and Carla Lucia (5) on 10th Nov. 1932. Uncle Bill lost his wife, Rita, on 20th Oct. 1951 and after the marriage of his son, George (4) she continued to live with his daughter, Anita (3).

My Mother -(Bessie Edmondson)(6)- was born on 26th. June 1890 at Derby, the 2nd. child of 4 and the elder daughter of George Edmondson(9) and Maria(nee Dudden). At that time the Edmondsons were living at 10 Rose Hill St., Derby (house at some time had been re-numbered from 3) and I have very little information of the family's life at that address. Bessie(6) attended the nearby St. James' Church School, Madeley St., Derby, but, according to the custom of the day, she was, as the elder daughter, expected to assist in the domestic running of the household, and these duties, no doubt, stifled and took any preference over nurturing any academic talent which to my knowledge, was there to develop.

The family moved to No. 41 Middleton St., Derby in 1904, a house I visited many times in later years. This was a good sized terraced house with a small back garden and with an 'entry' down the side leading to the back door - the 'entry' continuing as a pathway to the rear of adjacent houses. There was an outside toilet (as one entered on the 'left side' from the entry gate,), next to which was the back door leading to the 'scullery'. The scullery led into a fairly small kitchen/living room which contained the customary coal fire grate/hob etc., of that era. From one corner of the kitchen/living room was a door leading to a 'pantry and steps down to a coal cellar. Also from the kitchen there was a 'step' up to a larger, what we would call, a lounge, but then known as the 'official' dining room. This was used for normal entertaining and for the family's personal pursuits etc.. Beyond this, there was a typical Victorian 'front room' (entered from the hall) and reserved for special occasions. Upstairs there were 3 good sized bedrooms, a box room, and, I believe, a small bedroom next to which was a passage to a bathroom. My sister, Bessie (known as Bep.) reminds me that we had to go there for a number of years for a bath and that although she used to enjoy this, I, to put it mildly, did not take too kindly to walking 10 minutes each way just to get wet all over.

To reduce any normal personal bias to a minimum, I will emphasise that much of the immediate following is quoted from my Aunt Emily(8) and my Uncle 'Bill'(5):- My Mother(6) was such a gentle person, at everybody's beck and call, was very pretty and was a keen Church worker (inc. Sunday School teaching at St. Thomas' Church, Derby. She had received piano playing lessons and was keen on 'oil' painting. These were the

days, of course, without radio and T.V. and families were left to their own resources to create, develop, and enjoy, within necessary financial limitations and a fairly strict moral code, their own pastimes and entertainment. According to Aunty Emily(8), the family were actively encouraged to appreciate the works of good class writers and poets etc.. The family enjoyed painting, joining in Church affairs, walking in Derbyshire and having family sing-songs around the piano at which my Mother would normally be the piano accompanist. My Mother was employed as an 'enameller' or 'paintress' as they are called today at the Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Co. Osmaston Rd., Derby, and I have recently confirmed with that employer that a painted 'Japanese' design plate (no gold surrounds) I have was the one she painted as an 'apprentice passing out piece' and was, according to custom, allowed to take home. I understand from my sister (Bep.) that it was during my Mother's active Church work she met a 'Billy Martin', who introduced her to my Father, Harry Lomas, who was a prominent Church singer. When my Father and his brother, Herbert, who also had a splendid singing voice, visited Middleton Street, the sing-songs took on a new dimension of quality and pleasure. My Mother used to play the piano accompaniment to my Father at a number of outside functions and, of course, at mutual friends' houses. Perhaps it is worthy of mention that both my Mother and Father were confirmed on the same day (in 1910?) at St. Thomas' Church, Derby, before 'they knew each other'.

My Mother eventually married Harry on the 17th. June 1914 - the copy of the Marriage Certificate held shows that the ceremony was conducted by the Rev. D.B.L. Foster and the witnesses were Herbert John Lomas, Emily Edmondson(8) and Herbert Turner (a relative via the marriage of my 'Grandfather Lomas'). The 'best man was Herbert John Lomas and the bridesmaids were Emily Edmondson(8), Dorothy (Dolly) Lomas (Herbert's daughter) and Jesse Turner.

My Mother's life after marriage is dealt with in the 'Lomas' saga.

My Uncle George (Edmondson) (7) was born on 9th. February 1892 - the 3rd. child of 4 - and the younger son of George Edmondson (9) and Maria (nee Dudden). At that time the family were living in Rose Hill Street, Derby and George (7) also attended the nearby St. James' Church School, which had a very good reputation in those days as a 'Church - linked educational establishment. Like the other children, Uncle George no doubt benefited from a good home academic environment, and in his younger days was encouraged to appreciate the family's pastimes already mentioned. My Aunt Emily (8) has confirmed, however, that Uncle George, from a fairly early age, developed into what may be loosely called a 'good-time rebel' from even his parents' quite tolerant interpretation of late and post Victorian standards. Perhaps the most discussed example of this was, when at the age of 14 he drew out of his Post-Office Bank Account all his worldly wealth of £5 (which his father had carefully saved for him), and went off on his own to Paris. It is also understood that he (once?) incurred his father's admonishment by coming home rather late at night and was requested to be in by 10.0p.m.. It seems that Uncle George ignored the warning and returned home to find all doors locked. Nothing daunted Uncle George managed to open up the cellar grating in the street and enter the house that way.

His mother's family lived in the Bristol (Bitton?) area and there is much evidence that the 'Edmondsons' used to enjoy periodic visits to the 'Duddens', who were, I understand, particular fond of Uncle George. It is, perhaps, more true to say that the visits were made to a nearby place called Westbury on Trym where his mother's brothers, James and John (James married, childless, & John a bachelor) had a big market garden in very pleasant country on the edge of Clifton Downs. It seems that (my) Uncle George was very close to 'his' Uncle James. Perhaps I may be digressing too much but it appears that his Grandfather Dudden was a 'bit of a dandy' and in some ways my Uncle George had a similar disposition to be 'rather fussy' about his outward appearance. (His mother once had to pay his debts for good suits!).

After leaving school I understand that Uncle George obtained clerical employment at Bemrose & Sons, Printers of Derby, then work at Spalding, Lincs. and, also at some time, at the Nottingham Mechanics Institute.

P.T.O.

On the night that the 1914 war broke out, there was a family gathering (inc. my own Father) at 41, Middleton St., all awaiting the news. It came in the shape of a newsboy running down the street shouting "War declared on Germany". Like so many of his contemporaries, Uncle George thought that the war would be a grand adventure, and volunteered immediately (in the Sherwood Foresters or Royal Fusiliers). He was soon to be disillusioned, however, and lived through 4 years of horror, encountering all the stark suffering of 'trench warfare' and the family were so grateful when, unlike so many thousands, he finally returned home 'to tell the tale'.

I have not checked up on the exact details of Uncle George's marriage (presumably in the early post war years), but, according to Auntie Emily 'it was on the quiet' at Westbury on Trym (possibly because of his happy memories of that place). I know that he married a Mrs. Elizabeth Florence ~~Watson~~ Vernon (nee Watson) who was born on 1st. May 1885 and lived in Derby. This was her 2nd. marriage having had a daughter by the first who died at the age of 5. The exact circumstances of the marriage to Uncle George hinted of mystery by always being kept secret from "us younger members of the family". Certainly Auntie Florrie (as she was always known to me) didn't seem to have a similar nature and background as the 'Edmondsons' and one gained the impression that she was 'endured rather than welcomed' into the family. From my own eventual good knowledge of her she was sufficiently 'hard-skinned' to not let such things unduly worry her, and I can well believe her oft. repeated assertion that she had once been the most successful sales representative Singer Sewing Machines had, in her day, employed. She certainly ~~enjoyed~~ loved money and the material things of life, and with her spontaneous, loud laughter (especially at her own often repeated risqué jokes), appeared to be the life and soul of any party. No matter, however, what views one may have had about her, I cannot and do not wish to refute the fact that she looked after Uncle George very well throughout their married life.

For most of his working life after the 1st. world war, Uncle George worked as a civil servant at the Customs and Excise Department, St. Peters Churchyard, Derby. He told me that he had many times refused advancement because doing so would have necessitated moving from Derby,

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and this he did not wish to do. In fact it was only when the main Office moved to Nottingham (in the 1950's) he chose to retire rather than move or travel to that town. He subsequently worked part-time on accounts work at Mac's Furnishing Stores, Derby and later at Porter's Furnishing Stores, East St., Derby. To the best of my knowledge he lived, during his married life, at the following addresses in Derby:- 66 Warner Street, 3 Mount Carmel, and 31 Swinburne Street. Both he and Auntie Florrie always made my sister and myself welcome at their homes. Bep. used to visit and stay with them a lot during her younger days and whilst I worked at the Derby Labour Exchange, I used to go round to Swinburne St. most Fridays for tea, after which we would normally play a few games of chess.

Uncle George was also an active participant at family parties. I think he had once been a member of or had some connection with 'The Derby Magic Circle' - anyway, he always beguiled and interested us all with his repertoire of 'magic tricks'. How well I remember his 'short throaty chuckle' and his habit of scratching the crown of his head whilst talking or joking - yes, he did become very thin and eventually bald just there in his later years.

Auntie Florrie died in January 1973 and Uncle George on 16th. September 1976, both being cremated at Markeaton, Derby. They had no children.

It is a matter of some regret and annoyance that immediately after Uncle George's death, I was not allowed by an executor of his will to see whether there were any papers or photographs etc. that may have been of interest to the family. When I later enquired by post, I was informed that there had been nothing - which was utterly ridiculous as, Uncle George, to my own certain knowledge, had always filed everything so neatly and meticulously.

A copy of his will is in the Edmondson file.

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My Auntie Emily (Edmondson) (8) was born on 26th. November 1898 - the youngest child of 4 of George Edmondson (9) and Maria (nee Dudden). The family were then living at 10 Rose Hill Street, Derby and Auntie Emily also attended the St. James' Church Infants school until 1904 when the family moved to 41, Middleton St. Derby. She subsequently attended the St. Thomas' Church of England Girls' school (Richmond Rd.) until about 1913. After this she attended a Commercial College in Green Lane, Derby where, I understand, she was the 'star pupil' at shorthand writing. In her own words, however, the typing tuition consisted of nothing more "than being turned loose into a room full of typewriting machines". Regardless of the latter, there is little doubt that she fully used the 'sessions' to master the art, as is evidenced by her subsequent secretarial employment.

I am assuming that Auntie Emily's first employment was with Newton Bros., Electrical Engineers in Derby Market Place, because it caused some family amusement that after working only 2 days there, she had to ask for a day off to attend my Mother's (6) wedding on 17th. June 1914. I believe that Auntie Emily subsequently worked at the Co-operative Seed-warehouse - Osmaston Park Rd., Derby?.

Once again I feel it necessary to emphasise that, like her elder brothers and sister, Auntie Emily benefited from belonging to a happy household and learned to appreciate and enjoy the pursuits and pastimes previously mentioned. Perhaps it was an added advantage for her that her brother William (5) was 10 years her senior and thus able to accompany her on, for instance, 'rambling expeditions'. Certainly to my knowledge there has always been a particularly close rapport between them which still exists today.

Auntie Emily married Harold Clements in Derby on 26th. June 1924 and lived, as far as I know, at Ambergate, 10 miles north of Derby, and at her present home at 5 Woodlands Drive, St. Albans. As in my Mother's case, I am not continuing this after Auntie Emily 'officially changed her name from Edmondson', although I don't think there would be any objection to adding that she had 2 daughters viz.- Nancy (1927) and Barbara (1929)

My Maternal Grandfather, George Edmondson(9) was born on 17th. May 1861, the eldest child of 6 of William Edmondson(37) and Mary(nee - Shepherd). The address on the copy of the birth certificate held shows that the family were then living at 'Toll Bar', Garsdale in the County of York, (N.B.- since the re-organisation of Local Authority Boundaries in 1974 this area is now in the County of Cumbria).

It is highly probable that George(9) attended the small Garsdale Village School of which his father, William(37) was the schoolmaster, but although I (along with my wife, Muriel and son, John) visited the school on the 9th. March 1981, we were unable to see an actual school 'roll' for the period in question. It is certain, however, that George had access to and made good use of a very good 'educational library' and and benefited from the academic prowess of his father.

When his mother(Mary) died in 1872 (either during or shortly after the birth of her daughter, Margaret), George(9) was thus, at the early age of 11 his father's main help in rearing the rest of the family. Garsdale was (and still is) a fairly isolated, small moorland village community and it is understood that local women willingly gave practical assistance to the family.

When the 'arm' of ^{an}expanding railway network reached the Dales (in the late 1870's), George obtained a post (as a telegraph clerk?) and on his meagre salary helped his younger sisters financially when they moved to work in a dressmaking business in Liverpool. At some (unknown) later date George was sent by the railway to work (temporarily?) in the Bristol area and it was here that he met and married on the 20th. June 1887 Maria Dudden. The (rather indistinct) copy of the marriage certificate held shows that the ceremony took place at St. Mary's Church, in the Parish of Bitton in the County of Gloucester, that George's residence was Derby(I wonder where), that Maria lived at Bitton and that Maria's father was William Harry Dudden, a traveller. The witnesses were John Dudden, George Allen Bull and Lily Bull (could be Ball).

I understand from Auntie Emily(8) there was some opposition from the 'elder Duddens' to Maria marrying a 'lowly railway clerk'.

It can only be assumed that George and Maria went fairly quickly after marriage to live ~~in~~ Derby as the next information I have is that they

were living at 3 (no. later changed to 10) Rose Hill Street, Derby. It was here that they had their 4 children viz.- William (1888), Bessie (1890), George (1892) and Emily (1898).

In 1904 all the family moved to 41, Middleton Street, Derby and life there has already been described.

Grandpa George Edmondson was a very tolerant, kindly and helpful person who enjoyed reading good class literary and poetical works. In the nicest possible way he held fairly strong Puritanical Beliefs and had a deep regard and knowledge of the St. James' (1662?) Prayer Book. He cared naught for the material things of life or his appearance, and it was only Maria's influence that prevented him (as she said) 'going about looking like a tramp'. He did, in fact, always 'tramp' twice a day back and forth to his little office on Derby Railway Station where (according to Aunt Emily) he was held in the highest esteem but never adequately rewarded - though the family did have the 'status' of travelling free first class on the railway. He was a very good mathematician and taught this at (I believe) at Hastings St. Night School, for approx. 20 years when he religiously saved his earnings so that Maria would have some income should he die. A fellow lecturer at the College aptly described George as 'a man who never puts his goods on the counter'.

I feel that I may take the liberty of adding a few personal memories:-

I can never remember my Grandfather having other than short-cropped stiffish, white hair and a slight stoop at the shoulders. He liked a game of chess and draughts and I have vague recollections of him coming weekly to Pear Tree St. to play with my Father. Considering the basic academical difference between the 2 men I could never understand why my Father invariably got the better of these encounters which were always played in the friendliest of spirits. He used to help me (and others) learn the rudiments of mathematics - especially by arithmetical games and puzzles - in a most unobtrusive, 'non-pushing' way and I am afraid that it is to my own discredit that I was not sufficiently wise to really appreciate and take advantage of his help.

I can also recall how Grandpa, in the early days of radio, used to listen to every bit of news and current affairs broadcasts. As Grandma was not similarly disposed to hear repeated news throughout the day Grandpa was sufficiently considerate to have the sound turned down

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and his ear practically inside the receiver.

To my mind my Grandparents had a complete contrast of natures - as Grandma never showed any particular interest in academic pursuits and was more what one would consider a contented, bustling Victorian wife. She (acc. to Aunty Emily) liked 'fun' and if she and the family 'had a fit of the giggles' Grandpa would look on almost disapprovingly. She also used to like to dress according to fashion including those hats with large feathers. Perhaps it was the contrast of personalities that contributed to an undoubtedly, happy household. The very last time Grandpa left his house was to struggle (he was in too much pain to take a taxi) to my own wedding on 23rd. January 1943. He died on 11 February 1943. In St. Thomas' Parish Magazine, the then vicar (Rev. Snowdon) said "Mr. Edmondson was a cultivated Christian Gentleman" - a truly apt statement. Soon after his death, Grandma came to live at Pear Tree Street with my Mother and Father. She passed away on 5th. October 1947,. Both Grandparents share the same grave at Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby. (Details of how to find the grave are in the 'Edmondson' file.

I have not carried out any true research into my Grandfather's brothers and sisters and so the following notes are rather brief and, possibly, none too reliable:-

William Edmondson(10)(my Great-Uncle ?) was the 2nd. child of William Edmondson(31) and Mary(nee Shepherd) and my Grandfather - George's(9) elder brother. On the 1871 Census for Garsdale (taken on the 2nd. April 1871) William was shown as aged 8 and as being born in Dent, Yorkshire. He was, therefore born between 3/4/1862 and 2/4/1863 - a fact which could be ~~readily~~^{easily} verified from official records.

As in the case of my Grandfather it is highly probable that he was educated at the local Garsdale village school, an education no doubt greatly supplemented by living in a strong home academic environment. I have no idea when he actually left the 'Dales' but it is known that he became a 'free lance' journalist in Fleet St. London. For some reason which I do not know (unless it was something to do with his writings) he was always known by the family as 'Uncle Joe' and he, apparently, became quite well known for his 'verses' in various newspapers - especially an 'Ally Sloper' series. It is also understood that my late Uncle George(7) held quite a large collection of William's writings which unfortunately became lost to the family after my Uncle's death.

In his later years William must have been employed by an Insurance Company (The National Amalgamated Approved Society) as I have been kindly given (by my Aunt Emily(8)) a small book of Selected Poems by William Edmondson dedicated to the staff at that Society to whom he was affectionately known as 'Our Eddie'.

I do not know when William passed away but I understand from Aunt Emily(8) that he was cremated at Golders Green, London, and that Aunt Emily along with some friends - a Mr. & Mrs Bertie Mac. attended the funeral. ---- William did not marry.

Anthony Edmondson(11) was the 3rd. child of William and Mary and on the 1871 Census was shown as aged 6 thus being born between 3/4/1864 and 2/4/1865. Anthony's life ran on very similar lines to that of his elder brother, William(10) as he also became a journalist in Fleet St. He wrote under the pen-name 'Victor Canonbury' (I wonder why) and, therefore, fondly called by his nephews and nieces 'Uncle Can.'. He worked on (the now defunct) papers 'The Star' and as a sub-editor on 'The Chronicle'. My Aunt Emily(8) and Uncle Harold were the only mourners at his funeral 'one terribly snowy day' in February 1939. (3rd) Anthony did not marry.

Jane Edmondson(12) Was the 3rd. child of William(31) and Mary and being shown as aged 4 on the 1871 census was born between 3/4/1866 and 2/4/1867 (again at Dent).

Barbara Edmondson(13) was the 4th. child of William and Mary and being aged 2 on the 1871 census was born between 3/4/1868 and 2/4/1869.

Both Jane's and Barbara's lives appeared to run on practically identical lines :- It is understood that they both went off to Liverpool (poss. in the early/mid 1880's) where they obtained employment in the Dressmaking trade. At some unknown later date they both went to London and worked together as joint sub-postmistresses in Wood Green ?. Neither of them ever married.

Jane died first (date unknown) and Barbara was buried on the 20th. Feb. 1947 at Tottenham & Wood Green Cemetery. It is rather a sad fact that (thanks to my Aunt, Emily) I have more information on their burials than lives, a copy of which is in my 'Edmondson file'. A very concise precis of this is as follows :- At one time Jane had purchased land in the above cemetery for her own and Barbara's eventual burial. Jane died in the Middlesex Hospital and, for some unknown reason, was buried in a 'common grave'. When Anthony heard of this type of burial he went along and, to make sure Barbara would not suffer the same fate paid for (another) plot for Barbara. When Barbara died, Aunt, Emily and Uncle Harold had to do the arrangements when the mix-up came to light. They finally arranged for the cemetery authorities to buy back the land bought by Jane and for Barbara to be buried in the same grave as Anthony. The instructions as to the whereabouts of this grave are also in the Edmondson file.

Margaret Edmondson(14) was the 6th. and youngest child of William(31) and Mary(née Shepherd). Margaret died very shortly after birth, probably in 1872. The actual date is likely to be close to the death of her mother, Mary, the latter's death being recorded in St. Catherine's House in 'the June Quarter' of 1872(aged 45). ~~From the~~
