

Stories from the Family Tree

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JOSEPH BAKER 1779 – 1851 and Jane Walton 1801 - c1861

Joseph Baker was my paternal 4x great grandfather. He was baptised at St Mary's church, Lichfield on 27th December 1779 the son of John Baker and Anne Woodfield. He was the fifth of 13 known children. His parents were John Baker b 1748 - 1750 and Anne Woodfield b circa 1754, both in Lichfield. Chris Baker confirms that his parents were buried in the churchyard of St Michael on Greenhill, Lichfield. The list of monumental inscriptions includes "(grave) 2022 John Baker 17/9/1822 also Ann Baker". Chris Baker has identified the location of the grave (see map) but says that any headstone has been removed (as part of the churchyard management regime) and cannot now be located.

Joseph married Jane Walton on 3rd January 1820 at St Michael on Greenhill when he was about 40 and she about 19 (baptised in March 1801), some 20 years difference. At their marriage the witnesses were Samuel Baker his brother and Elizabeth Walton his wife's sister; who themselves went on to be married. Chris Baker has researched the history of the Walton family in Lichfield.

Prior to his marriage he had spent time as a soldier; the 1841 census suggests that he was an army pensioner. After his release from the army and at the time of his marriage he worked as a labourer and probably for some 20 years thereafter. The family lived in Stowe Street during that time – confirmed by the 1841 census. Despite his late marriage they had a number of children all born in Lichfield and baptised at St Chad's church. Thomas in 1820, James in 1821, Eliza in 1824, Harriet in 1827, Frederick in 1830, Ann in 1832, Sarah in 1833, Mary in 1835 and Henry in 1839. When Harriet was married in 1846 they lived in George Lane. When Frederick died in 1849 they lived in Baker's Lane.

Joseph died in 1851 aged 71 years and his burial on 4th April was recorded in the register of St Chad's church (aged 73), his address being Baker's Lane. The 1851 census taken in March, just after his death, shows that his widow Jane is still at that address with her children Sarah and Henry. She had taken on work as a charwoman. She can't be found in the 1861 census and may, therefore, have died by this time.

The Military Service of Joseph Baker: In the Napoleonic War Records for 1775 – 1817 there is a record of the enlistment by Joseph Baker on 16th December 1799 at Handsworth, Staffordshire. In 1818 there is a discharge record of Private Joseph Baker (b 1780 St Mary's Parish Lichfield) now aged 38 years from the Fencible Regiments of the Dragoon Guards. The discharge record, dated in May of that year, offers information about the man and his military career. Having spent time between November and mid March with the Hampshire Fencibles Regiment he was enlisted into the 3rd (Prince of Wales's) Regiment of the Dragoon Guards at Brighton on 14th March 1800 at the age of 20 for unlimited service. On discharge, as a pensioner, he had served over 18 years in total. His conduct was deemed to have been good, having served in the Peninsular from 1809 – 1814. He is physically described as being 5ft 7^{1/2} inches tall with brown hair, hazel eyes and a fresh complexion. His trade is given as a printer. He was discharged from the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Ireland and advanced the sum of £1.19s.2^{1/2}d "to enable him (and any family) to proceed to Dublin. No passage by sea has been provided". The reason for his discharge is given as stricture in the urethra and being worn out in the service. The signature that he appended to the discharge document is very similar to that signed by Joseph Baker in the register when he married Jane Walton.

At the time of Joseph's military service Richard Vyse was the Colonel, later General, of the Regiment. He was born and died in Lichfield and there is a memorial to him in Lichfield Cathedral where he is buried. From 1809 to the end of the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15), the Regiment was in the Peninsula, serving at Talavera (1809), Busaco (1810), Torres Vedras (1810), Albuera (1811), Badajoz (1811), Ciudad Rodrigo (1812), Salamanca (1812), Burgos (1812) and Vitoria (1813).



The Royal Hospital Kilmainham was established in 1681 to house sick and veteran troops from the British Army. The records of the British Army 1783-1822 contain discharge documents of almost 20,000 men serving on the Irish Establishment in the period 1783-1822. Over 50% of the records are those of Irishmen. The records form part of the WO (War Office) series of records held at The British National Archives. These British Army records from The Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, were repatriated to Britain in 1922. It's worth noting that pension records do not just relate to older men: soldiers were eligible for a pension after 12 years of service so relatively young men could be pensioned out.

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The Children of Joseph Baker and Jane Walton

Thomas Baker was the first born of Joseph and Jane Baker and was baptised at St Chads church on 27.7.1820. It seems unlikely that Thomas continued to live in Lichfield. Although there are records of a Thomas Baker living in Stowe Street in Lichfield it seems unlikely that this is the same Thomas. More likely he moved to Birmingham. In 1851 there is a record of Thomas Baker born in Lichfield in 1822 married to Mary and with a family living at Fawdry's Buildings, Soho Road, Birmingham. He is a brass founder. They were possibly married in April 1843, her maiden name being Ball. He can't obviously be found in the 1841 census in either Lichfield or Birmingham.

In the 1841 census there is a Thomas Baker ag lab living in Stowe Street with John Baker farmer and James Baker 15 a tailor's apprentice and in the 1851 census he is 33, an agricultural labourer, unmarried, living in Stowe Street as head of a household made up of a 47 year old widow Caroline Edge and her 5 children (in 1841 she is a neighbour 2 doors away). He died aged 71 and was buried at St Chads on 20th April 1890. He was a resident of Stowe Street.

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James Baker was the second child of Joseph & Jane Baker baptised in 1821 in Lichfield and died 1880. He is my paternal x3 great grandfather. His story is told elsewhere.

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Eliza Baker was baptised on 17th July 1824 in St Chad's church Lichfield. On December 14th 1824 an infant Eliza Baker of Stowe Street was buried in St Chad's parish.

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Harriet(t) Baker was born in Lichfield and baptised as Harriot, the spelling used on the register, on 5th August 1827 at St Chad's church. At the time of her birth her father was a labourer and her parents were living in Stowe Street, Lichfield. On 9th February 1846, at St Chad's church, she married Christopher Purnell, a labourer; she is a servant. Both fathers are labourers and both parties are said to live in George Lane, Lichfield, although he was born in Bleadon, Axbridge, Somerset. Both appended their mark to the register and friends Charles Onions and Elizabeth Grants were the witnesses.

By 1851 the Purnells were lodging, with a number of other individuals and families, at 53 Potter Street, Birmingham and Christopher is now labouring on the railway. They have a newly born daughter Sarah Ann who was born and baptised in Lichfield on 16th March 1851.

No further info has been found about the future activities of this family; in any census, birth, marriage or death record for Staffordshire or Birmingham. They have not returned to the Purnell family home in Somerset.

In 1841 Christopher's home was in Bleadon where he lived with parents John & Mary. Father is an agricultural labourer. In 1861 aged 57 John had expanded his occupation to include parish clerk as well as continuing his labouring job and had remarried, to Betsy. In 1875 aged 71 he was buried at the church of St Peter & St Paul and the burial records gave his occupation solely as parish clerk, presumably to the parish of Bleadon.

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Frederick Baker was born in Lichfield and was baptised at St Chad's church on 19th September 1830. Father is still a labourer living in Stowe Street. He died aged 18 and was buried on April 4th 1849 in St Chad's parish. His residence was given as Baker's Lane.

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Ann Baker was born in Lichfield and baptised at St Chad's church on 24th June 1832. The family is still living in Stowe Street. There is a record of the burial of Ann Baker, an infant living in Stowe Street, on 1st July 1832 in St Chad's parish.

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Sarah Baker was born in Lichfield and was baptised at St Chad's church on 1st September 1833 when the family were still living at Stowe Street. At some point after 1851 she moved to Birmingham, possibly following her sister Harriett and her husband Christopher Purnell. No address has been found for her in Birmingham as a single person but in 1857 she married John Perry there (there being at least 10 years difference in their ages). He was born in Old Swinford, Worcs about 1819 (although in the 1871 census it suggests that this was Tividale, Staffs) and in 1851 he is living with his father, a widower, in Wollaston Village, Old Swinford (west of Stourbridge). Both he and his father James were glass makers / blowers (1841 & 1851 census).

Following their marriage, at the time of the 1861 census, he was still a glass maker but the family were living in Court 3 House 1 St/Gt Martin Street, Birmingham. Sarah's nephew Joseph aged 7 was living with them. By the time of the 1871 census when they were now living at 150 William Street, Birmingham he had become a gardener. It would appear that he had died by 1877 when his widow Sarah married Charles Knight also a gardener born in Pershore, Worcs. John's niece Amelia Perry, and Sarah's niece Alice and nephew Joseph Baker (the children of her brother James) were with them. They also had a domestic servant Mary, born in Quarry Bank near Dudley/Stourbridge.

In the early to mid 1870s John Perry died and in 1877 Sarah remarried in Birmingham to Charles Knight b1839, a widower, with 2 sons. The 1881 census shows that the Knight family were still living in William Street. Sarah's niece Alice Baker is still living with the household, unmarried aged 29 and now a dressmaker. The other members of the household were the Knight sons Frederick (b1866) age 15 and Ernest (b1867) age 14 and John Perry's niece Amelia Perry, now adopted by Charles Knight. Amelia, wrongly listed as Emily Parry, is aged 16 and a steel pen maker. Additionally Mary Ann Parsons (b1868) aged 13 a cousin, probably of Charles, and the widow, Jane Hankey, Sarah's Aunt (b1792) aged 80-89 are part of the household. The birthplaces recorded for Sarah (Pershore), Amelia (Dudley) and Alice (Pershore) are incorrect and should read Lichfield, Harborne and Lichfield.

The 1891 census shows the Knight family, he was still a gardener, had moved to 6 Nursery Road, Harborne, Kings Norton. Amelia had left home, nieces Emma Baker b1879 in Birmingham (this is the daughter Emma Florence of her brother Henry). Three lodgers and a servant had joined the family. There is also an entry (subsequently crossed out by the enumerator) of a nephew Frederick Baker, gardener born in Oldbury. There is also reference to a niece Sarah (Jane E) Horton, a scholar aged 15 similarly born in Oldbury c 1876. These are probably the children of Sarah's direct niece Jane Baker b 1856 who, on the death of her mother, went to live in Oldbury with her step grandparents. No age is given for Frederick, but as Jane's son he would have been c19 years.

In 1901 the family are at 45 Nursery Road, together with a niece (Emma ?) Florence Baker b 1879 in Birmingham, a laundress aged 22 (possibly the same daughter of her brother Henry as in 1891) and two 'visitors' are living with them.

It does not appear that Sarah had any children of her own. But she clearly opened her home to various members of the wider family and others who were in need. In 1909 Sarah Knight died aged c 74.

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Mary Baker was born in Lichfield and was baptised at St Chad's church on 25th October 1835 and buried 6th July 1839. Her father was still a labourer. The address given for her baptism is George Lane (incorrect?) and for her burial is Stowe Street.

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Henry Baker was born in Lichfield and baptised on 8th September 1839 at St Chad's church when the family were living at Stowe Street.

He can't be found in the 1861 census either in Lichfield or Birmingham but at some point Henry must have moved to Birmingham because in 1869 this is where he married Charlotte Fenn. She was born in West Bromwich in 1849 to her mother Emma b 1811. She came from a family based in 1851 at Hill Top, Loxdale Street, West Bromwich and her father b1811 and elder brother, both named Allan, were coal miners. At this time she had 4 brothers and a sister. Her parents hailed originally from Shifnall in Shropshire. In 1861 the family had moved to Marsh Lane, West Bromwich. At this time her two closest brothers in age were 'nurses' aged 14 and 18.

By 1871 Henry and Charlotte had set up home in House 2 Court 4, William Street, Birmingham. They have a daughter Sarah Jane b 1869 in Birmingham and two female boarders living with them. This is the same street that his sister Sarah was living in at the time with her husband John Perry.

The 1881 census includes further children most of whom were born in Birmingham; John Emmanuel (16) b 1865 in West Bromwich, a groom; Alice Maud (4) b 1877; Emma Florence (2) b 1879; Sarah Jane is now 10. They have moved to House 6 Court 31, William Street and father Henry is a coachman (non-domestic). John Emanuel Baker is part of the family in 1881, but he is included in the 1871 census as Emanuel Fenn aged 6 living with his grandparents at Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich. He is the child of Henry's wife Charlotte, his baptism record doesn't give the name of the father.

In the 1891 census John Emmanuel (26) and Emma Florence (12) are missing - she has possibly gone to live with her Aunt Sarah but there is now a George H. b 1884 and Emma A. b 1889. They are living at 31 Essington Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. No occupation is recorded for Henry aged 50 but by 1901 Henry is a coachman and there is another child Maud J. b 1899 when her mother was 50.

The total list of their known children according to the censuses is John Emmanuel b1865, Sarah Jane b1869, Joseph Allen b1873, Alice Maud b1877, Emma Florence b1879, George H. b1884, Emma A. b1889, Maud J. b1899.

In 1911 Henry, at 72 is a driver and Charlotte at 62 is a laundress. They have been married 44 years. Their daughters 'Emily' (is this Emma A?) (22) is a sorter in a paper warehouse and Jane (is this Maud J?) (12) is at school. The census records father Henry as a 'cripple' from the age of 60 years? They are living at 5 back Rawlins Street, Ladywood, Birmingham – there are only 3 rooms in the house.

No obvious date of death can be found.

JAMES BAKER 1821 – 1880 and ANN Lees BAKER

James Baker was my paternal 3x great grandfather. He was baptised in November 1821 at St Chad's church Lichfield, the second of nine known children of Joseph Baker b1779 and Jane (nee Walton) b1801, both members of Lichfield families. His father Joseph was a labourer, formerly a soldier, and the family lived in Stowe Street. They were still at this address in 1841 when James was 19 and his siblings at home were Harriet (13), Frederick (10), Sarah (6) and Henry (2). Father Joseph had retired as a labourer and was listed as an army pensioner. The Walton and earlier Baker family history is related elsewhere.

Anne Lees was born in 1818 at Blithemarsh, SE Stoke, Staffs. Her parents were Charles and Hannah (nee Tanson). Her father was a labourer at the time of her birth. Her mother Hannah was born in Himley in 1786 and married Charles Lees b 1788 of Wolstanton on the 1st October 1811 at Fulford (according to Chris Baker). He was from a family linked to the Potteries area around Stoke. Her address was given as Stone. There were a number of other children born to Charles and Hannah and there is more background to their lives below ***1.

In 1841 Ann was living in Duke Street, Stoke, working as a potter. There is an entry in the 1841 census of an Ann Leese, potter aged 15, living at 17 Terrace Building, Duke Street, Fenton Culvert, Stoke on Trent; possibly with the Cartlidge family headed by father John, an independent potter. Her parents and younger siblings continued to live in Dilhorne Parish. See below ***2.

By the time of her marriage in 1845 Ann, still a potter as was her father, is said to be living at Stowe Street, Lichfield as is James Baker (is hers an address of convenience for marriage purposes). They were married in February 1845 at Stowe Church (St Chads). The witnesses at the wedding were John Acton and Harriet Lees (an unknown relative but there isn't any record suggesting that this is her sister).

The couple had at least five known children, the first **Thomas** was born in 1846 possibly at Blithemarsh. The other children were all born in Lichfield: **Charles** in 1848, **Alice** in May 1851, **Joseph** in March 1854 and **Jane** in 1856. By 1851 they were living at 79 Tamworth Street North (St Marys parish) when Thomas was 5, and Charles was 2. James was a bricklayers' labourer.

The links to prove that Alice, Joseph and Jane are children of James and Ann is based on the 1851 census and 1851 baptism register for Alice. The names of the parents are the same, father is a labourer and they live in Tamworth Street on both records and for the baptism of Joseph Baker in 1854. **The area at the top of Tamworth Street is known as Greenhill. This was the site of the Smithfield Cattle Market & Smithfield PH.**

In 1858 Ann died aged '36' and was buried at St Chads Lichfield on 22nd June 1858. There is a Lichfield civil record in 1857 (last quarter) of the death of **Elizabeth** Baker (no given age) who may also have been her child. It may be possible, therefore, that their mother Ann's death in 1858 was as a result of the birth of Elizabeth. It has not been possible to find any record of Elizabeth's civil birth or parish baptism and burial.

By the 1861 census all of the children had been dispersed to other families. **Thomas** (c16) is in Dudley, a servant to an earthenware dealer – Thomas Wyatt and **Charles** (c12) is in Burton-on-Trent, a hawker for an earthenware dealer – Charles Fletcher. Grandfather Charles Lees and their mother Ann were potsellers and perhaps these connections were used to find homes for the boys in the pot trade. **Alice** was aged 10 in 1861 and she was living at Winhill (Freehold Village) east of Burton on Trent with Robert Lea a widower aged 56 (b 1805). If his surname is a mis-spelling of Lees then this may be a relative of her mother Ann. However, no records can be found to corroborate this. **Joseph** (c 7) is in Birmingham with his paternal aunt Sarah Perry (nee Baker). **Jane** (c 5) is living with Jane and James Hankey, described as her step grandparents in Tabernacle Street (1861) and West Bromwich Street (1871), Oldbury, West Bromwich, Worcs.

No records can be found of where the widower James went or did after the family was broken up. He can't be found in the census for 1851 or 1861. So he may have died in the years following the birth of his youngest child c 1857.

However, there is a record of a widower James Baker who, at the age of 45, married Harriett Perkins (nee Slater), a widow aged 50, in March 1866 at Christ Church, Burton on Trent. Both parties lived in Burton on Trent at the time of their marriage. His father is recorded as James, a soldier. The father of the widower James was actually named Joseph but he was a soldier in his earlier life— perhaps a mis-remembrance of the name on the part of his son? This military occupation could corroborate James' identity if one accepts that his father may have erroneously been named in the register as James rather than Joseph. Harriet was born in Burton on Trent in 1816-1817 and her father Thomas was a hatter. She was previously married to Henry, a labourer, who was 10 years her junior. No record can be found of James & Harriet in the 1871 census either in Birmingham, Staffordshire or Derbyshire generally.

In March 1880 there is a record in the register of St Chad's Lichfield of the burial of a James Baker aged 57 – 59 years (so appropriately he would have been born c 1821-3). The last abode of this man was the Burton Union – a workhouse. Unusually for a 'pauper' he was brought to Lichfield to be buried. This must be more than just a co-incidence

Neither his name or that of Harriett's can be found in the admission records for Burton Union. By the 1881 census Harriett is a widow living in Burton Extra with her neice's family the Russells and Mary Slater (her sister in law?). Harriett lived on to die in 1900 aged 84.

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***1 The parents of Ann Lees were Charles and Hannah (nee Tanson). They had a number of daughters; Sarah b 1812, twins Ann & Elizabeth b 1814 and Anne b 1818. The entry in the baptismal register for the parish of Dilhorne, Staffs showed that the twins were baptised on 14th May 1814 at All Saints church, Dilhorne (St Peter's church Forsbrook not being built until c1849). Their parents lived in Blyth Marsh, Staffs and their father was a labourer. The twin Ann died aged 3 years in 1817. An entry on page 30 of the same register in November 1818 shows that more baptisms have been recorded for the family – some retrospectively. On 1st November is recorded the previous baptisms of twins Ann & Elizabeth on 14 / 20th May 1814 and additionally Sarah on August 12 1812. A new baby Anne was baptised on 1st November 1818, presumably in memory of the twin who died. This is the Anne who married James Baker. Father is now a **dealer in pots**.

The baptism register for All Saints, Dilhorne shows that the following additional children of Charles and Hannah Lees were baptised. A son Thomas was baptised on 6th October 1818. On 25th March 1821 there is a baptism for a son James. In 1825 there were 2 baptisms recorded:- Charles Lees 1st May 1823 and Caroline Lees 6th November 1825. In July 1831 a (another ?) son Charles Lees was baptised. Father is a **pot seller** in every entry. There is clearly a discrepancy in the description of his occupation between the censuses, Ag Lab, and the baptism register, pot seller. In 1845 when his daughter Ann(e) was married his occupation is given as **pot seller**. ***3

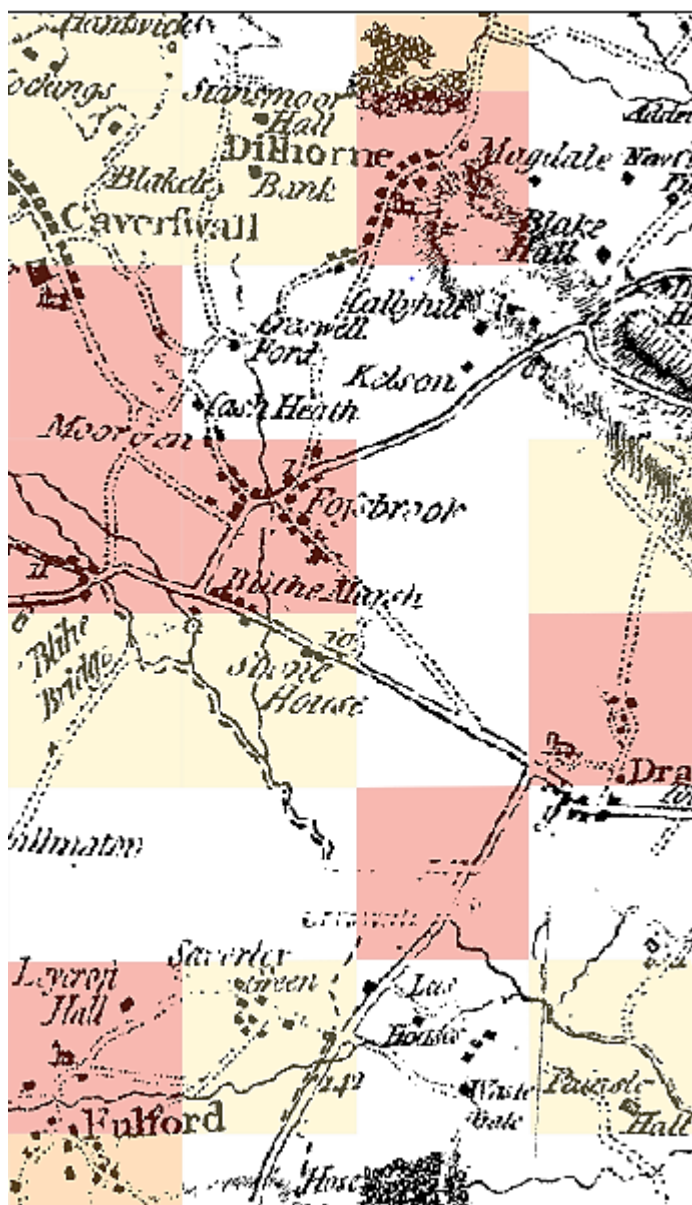
The parish church of All Saints (a Grade II* listed building) dates back to the Norman Conquest of England. A feature of the church is its octagonal tower, one of only a few such churches in the country. The church is located on New Road, to the south of Dilhorne village a 2 mile journey on foot or by cart from Blythe Marsh.

"Dilhorne, or Dilhorn, is a small but pleasant village, two and a half miles WNW of Cheadle and four miles E by N of Longton, comprising within its parish the townships of Dilhorne and Forsbrooke which support their poor conjointly. The former has 736, and the latter 843 souls, and they contain together about 3550 acres of land. Dilhorne Hall, the handsome seat of Edward Buller, Esq, the lord of the manor, stands in the centre of the village and was rebuilt in the ancient style about 20 years ago. In the parish are several coal mines. Lady Pilkington, TH Parker Esq, Bamford & Co, and a few smaller owners have estates here.

Forsbrook is a large village, near Blythe Bridge Station, three miles WSW of Cheadle. It has many good houses, occupied by farmers, publicans and tradesmen, and many cottages, occupied by coal carters and labourers.

***3 Blythe-Marsh, a village in Forsbrook liberty, near the river Blythe, three and a half miles WSW of Cheadle, is inhabited partly **by earthenware hawkers**."

[From History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire, William White, Sheffield, 1851]



"Another development which added importance and dignity to the area was the erection of St. Peter's Church in 1849. Built to serve the areas of Forsbrook, Blythe Marsh and Blythe Bridge it was intended as a 'chapel of ease' and severed an ecclesiastical link with All Saints, Dilhorne. Primitive Methodist's, Forsbrook followed a few years later with the building of their tiny chapel in 1856. St Peter's church was built by public subscription and cost in the region of £2000.

A contemporary report with an appeal for funds states:

'The adjacent Villages of Forsbrook and Blythe-Marsh are situated near the extremity of the Parish of Dilhorne, in the vicinity of the Staffordshire Potteries and Collieries; and, from its connexion with them, the population is rapidly increasing. The occupation of the inhabitants is chiefly that of **itinerant Sellers of Pottery, Fish-dealers, and Colliers**. The population of the entire Parish is about 1800 Souls; but by far the greatest number of people, collected together in any one locality, there, are congregated in the above two Hamlets, to the number of 800 Souls, at a distance of two miles (on the average) from the Parish Church, and, **generally speaking, are in a destitute condition, both morally and physically**'."

Taken from 'The Beginning of Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook' by David Salt
@ForsbrookVillage facebook.com
September 2013

Yates Map of Staffordshire 1775

***2 In 1841 there is a Charles Leese aged 45 living in Blythe Bridge, Dilhorne parish. He is living with wife Hannah aged 50 and children Caroline b1826 aged 15 and son Charles b 1831 aged 10. He is an Ag Lab. The baptism records confirm that this is Anne Lees family although the birth date of son Chas is possibly incorrect in the 1841 census. Although there is a burial record for another Hannah Lees, possibly also the wife of a man named Chas Lees, I do not think that this is Hannah (nee Tanson). She died and was buried on 22nd August 1833 at St Johns church, Longton, but I think the burial address is wrong for the Blyth Bridge Leese family – it is given as L/S E Stoke. So I think the information in the 1841 census prevails and Ann's mother Hannah was still alive in 1841 although no other record can be found of her later death.

In the 1841 census Ann's brothers Thomas aged 20 and James Lees aged 15 are living with Joseph Brooks aged 12 on their own at a separate address in Blythe Marsh, Dilhorne Parish. Both Thomas and James are **earthenware dealers**.***3

In 1851 there is a Charles Lees aged 60 b Sandon 1791 living in Blythe Bridge, Dilhorne Parish. He is living on his own and he is an Ag Lab. Is this Ann Lees father?

THE CHILDREN OF JAMES BAKER AND ANN LEES – Thomas, Charles, Alice, Joseph, Jane & Elizabeth

THOMAS Baker b1846 see also Chris Baker's family research

Thomas was born in 1846 and baptized at St Chad's, Lichfield. On the death of his mother in 1858 the family was split up. In 1861 aged c15 he was a domestic servant to Thomas and Hannah Wyatt, earthenware dealers at 77 King Street in Dudley. The Wyatt's seem to have been childless. It is then possible to follow Thomas's life through the census records. He married Jane Evans, the widow of Thomas Vickers in 1867 and they lived successively at 16, Bond St, Dudley (1871), 53, Oxford St, Dudley (1881), 10, Wellington Rd Dudley (1891 and 1901). In terms of occupation he is described as Licensed Hawker (1871), a Traveller (1881) General China Dealer (1891), and a General Dealer (1901). His family also grew at this time. He inherited one son from his wife's previous marriage, and was later to father another seven of his own. In 1881 he was prosperous enough to employ a domestic servant of his own. He died in 1907, and his wife Jane then went to live with her brother at 7, Waterloo Street, Dudley. She died in 1913.

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CHARLES Baker b1848

He was born in the Spring and baptised at St Chads, Lichfield on 30th July 1848. On the death of his mother in 1858 the family was split up and the children moved from Lichfield. By 1861 he is aged 12 and is a hawker living at 45 Fleet Street, Burton Extra with Sarah and Charles Fletcher - an earthenware dealer.

In 1874 Charles Baker, born Lichfield, married (Emily) Elizabeth Adams in Birmingham. Although her baptismal name Emily Elizabeth was also recorded at her marriage and death, all other census records often show her name solely as Elizabeth.

In 1861 he was living in Burton and she in Hempstead, Gloucestershire. The 1871 census shows she is no longer living at home. Is she the Elizabeth Adams employed as a 16 years old servant for the Impey family living at George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham? Esther Adams is also a servant here; she hails from Gloucestershire too (b1844 and now 27 years old). Potentially she is a fellow member of the wider Adams family.

Elizabeth's parents were Patience (nee James) and James Adams (a labourer). In 1861 their family, including 5 children: Charles b 1850, Jane b 1852, Sarah b 1854, (Emily) Elizabeth b 1855 and Alfred R. b 1859, were living at Salt Warehouse, Pond Field, Hempsted, Gloucestershire. This is where Elizabeth was born in the summer of 1855. In 1881 father James is a lighterman foreman (lightermen operated flat bottom barges). Hempsted lies between the River Severn and the canal leading to Gloucester Docks.

It has not been possible to find Charles Baker in the 1871 census. He is no longer living with the Fletcher family in Burton. Nor can he be found in Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire or Herefordshire (nor specifically Lichfield, Dudley and Birmingham); but perhaps he too was living in Birmingham where he met Emily Elizabeth Adams. In fact his sister Alice was living in William Street, Birmingham suggesting that he might well have had connections there.

Following their marriage in 1874 they moved away from Birmingham and by the 1881 census they were in Blackmarstone, Hereford where Charles is still an earthenware hawker. In the meantime they had 2 children: **George Frederick Charles** (GFC) b1875 in Dudley (often recorded as Charles on the census etc) and **James** b1877 at Gloucester. So in 1875, having moved from Birmingham, they apparently stayed for a while in Dudley where their eldest child was born. This is where Thomas, the older brother of Charles Snr, was sent to live after their mother died. Then by 1877, when James was born, they had potentially moved to Gloucester, where his mother was born, (all according to the 1881 census). Also living with them in 1881 is

Frederick Baker a 7 years old nephew born in Oldbury, Staffordshire (E of Dudley). This is the child of Charles's unmarried sister Jane who was living in Oldbury with her Great Aunt Jane Hankey and her husband in 1871. The records of Frederick's 1872 birth suggest his mother's maiden name is Baker and of his 1876 baptism suggest his mother's name is Jane Baker. No information can be found about the circumstances of Jane after his baptism. However, in 1891 the census for the household of his great aunt Sarah Knight includes Frederick Baker born in Oldbury, a 'nephew'. He is a gardener by trade as were the other male members of the household. Jane's sister Alice had similarly spent time living with her aunt Sarah Baker-Perry-Knight.

By 1891 the Charles Baker family had moved to 25 Richmond Street, Hereford. Father and his 15 years old son GFC were general dealers in 'ware' and pictures. Brother James was 13 and a plumber's labourer. In 1896 GFC was married and brother James in 1899. By 1901 GFC, his wife Ellen Louisa and their 2 years old son Charles James were also living with mother Elizabeth at the same address. Father is missing from the census and mother is recorded as a china dealer and GFC is a general dealer. According to the 1897-1903 ERs Charles Baker jnr (GFC) had a stall in the Market Hall, Maylord Street.

By 1911 father and mother had moved to 10 Richmond Street and in 1921, he still a dealer based in Maylord Street, they lived at 1 Anways Cottages, Villa Street, Hereford. After the death of his wife in 1923 Charles went to live (ER 1925) with son GFC at Kirby Villa, Vaga Street – their address in the 1911 census. Elizabeth died aged 67 on 1st June 1923 and was buried in St Martin's Churchyard, Hereford. Administration for her estate of £164 18s 9d was granted to her son George FC Baker (commission agent). Charles Snr died aged 77 in 1926 and was buried in the same churchyard. Administration once again was granted to son George, this time the estate amounted to £196 3s 9d.

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Now more about the children of Charles and Elizabeth Baker – James & George

Son **James Baker** was born in 1877 at Gloucester. In 1899 he married Kate Victoria Powell b1875 at Monmouth and adopted her 6 years old daughter Ethel May born in Coleford, Gloucester. Kate's parents were Richard and Mary (nee Jarrett) Powell both originating in Gloucestershire. He was an agricultural labourer when she was baptised on July 11th 1875 in Monmouth.

In 1901 they were living in New Market Street, Hereford and he is an earthenware packer working at home. In 1911 he is a bookmaker working on his own account and they are living at 34 Richmond Street, the same street as his brother's family and his parents. They have been joined by a visitor Gweny (Winnie) E.D. Powell aged 8 born in Hereford – one of Kate's relatives? There is no evidence in the 1901 & 1911 census that they had any children together.

In 1914 James signed up aged 37 years for the Army Reserve with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and was given the service number 7529. After the war, in 1921, James & Victoria were living at 'Eyton', 52 Whitecross Road, Holmer Within, Hereford. They have been joined by Winnie Baker (previously named Gweny Powell in 1911) now recorded as their daughter b1903 in Hereford. He is a furtining** dealer. He was living at this address when he died on 10th June 1926 aged 49 years. Administration was granted to his widow for effects amounting to £395. Kate was still living there in 1930 (ER). There is however a record of a marriage in the summer of 1930 between Kate Baker and Robert Askew in Liverpool. According to the 1939 register he was a shipping secretary b1873. He died in 1941 and Kate Askew in 1944 & was buried back in Hereford with her 1st husband.

****This is the closest definition found in the Ministry of Labour's 1921 dictionary:**

Dealer, antique; Buys old furniture, pictures, pottery, china, and other articles of vertu, direct from private owner or at auctions, etc., and sells to public; usually keeps showrooms for sale of antiques; frequently repairs and renovates antique articles or employs workers for this purpose.

George Frederick Charles Baker (GFC) was born in 1875 in Dudley. In 1896 he married Ellen Louisa Luker b 1877 in Gloucester and they had 3 children **Charles James** b in late 1898 Gloucester, **Louisa Elizabeth** b1902 in Hereford and **Harold Edward** b1904 but died 25 October 1918 aged 14 years in Hereford. He was buried in St Martin's Churchyard, Hereford.

Ellen's parents were George and Mary Jane Luker, nee Burnell. In 1881 they lived at 29 Philip Street, South Hamlet, Gloucester. Father is a Millwright. Ellen was the youngest child of four siblings. Philip Street is located east of Hempsted where GFC's mother Emily Adams was born. Can't find the family in 1891 and thereafter. Was there a connection between the Luker (wife) and Adams (mother) families?

In 1921-1928 GFC is now a florist/nurseryman employing people including his son Charles James as a gardener. The family were living at Kirby Villa, Vaga Street, Hunderton, Hereford (the ER confirms that they were still there in 1928). As well as his wife Ellen Louisa and daughter Louisa they have an adopted daughter Ivy Summers (14) and 2 visitors: Mona Summers (11) & May Patrick (22) b Canon Pyon, Herefordshire. The Summers girls were born in Kington, Herefordshire.

The mother of Ivy & Mona Alton Summers (b1906) was Albertina Alton. In 1904 she married Fredk Augustus Wm Schweppe Summers b1875 in Clifton, Gloucestershire. In 1911 they ran the Burton Hotel in Kington & had 6 children, one of whom was Ivy's twin sister. Perhaps Albertina died before the 1921 census. He died in 1944.

C1929 GFC and wife Ellen Louisa were running the Oxford Private Hotel located on the North Promenade, Blackpool. They appear there in the 1931 ER, she is also listed as the proprietor in a 1934 Directory & had placed a number of adverts to attract holidaymakers in newspapers 1929-1940. Following his death she continued to run the hotel until c1940 but she can't be found in 1939 register nor can 1946 probate on death.

GFC died on 14th October 1935 aged 60 in Whittingham Mental Hospital, Preston. He had lived the majority of his life in Hereford but in his 50s moved with his wife to Blackpool. He clearly was a character and lived an active and vivid life. After his death his body was returned to Hereford and buried in St Martin's Churchyard where his father, mother, and 14 years old son had previously been interred. It has not been possible to find any probate record. His wife Ellen Louisa died in May 1946 in Stafford General Infirmary & her body was returned to Hereford and buried alongside her husband. Her daughter Louisa also lived in Stafford at this time



The Birmingham Evening Dispatch reported on both the death & funeral of GFC and referred to his sporting interests and civic influence in the town of Hereford. He served in the ASC in WW1 and saw service on the Somme, being discharged in 1916 due to sickness. Although he enlisted as a Private he was elevated to Acting Company Quarter Master Sergeant.

Birmingham Evening Dispatch reports in 1935 of his Death in October and Funeral held on 18th October 1935

FORMER COUNCILLOR

There was a large attendance, including representatives of many public bodies, at the funeral at St. Martion's Church, Hereford, yesterday of Mr. G. F. C. Baker, a former member of the Hereford City Council and a leading local sportsman.

The principal mourners were Mr. C. J. Baker, Blackpool (son), Mr. H. Tedstone, Stafford (son-in-law), Mr. C. Hudson, Birmingham (cousin), Mr. W. G. Longstaff, Hereford (nephew), Mr. Mort Luker, Hereford (brother-in-law), Mr. Horace Luker and Mr. Douglas Luker (nephews).

The principal mourners at his funeral included his daughter's husband Harry Tedstone, a cousin C. Hudson from Birmingham and members of his wife's wider Luker family - her brother Mort Luker & his sons and nephew Wilfred G. Luker Longstaff (he lived and worked with the Baker family in 1911).

GFC's sporting interests included horse racing and in 1924 there are press reports about a court case (he is the injured party) in which he is referred to as a turf commission agent. At that time his daughter Louisa assisted him locally in this business. He appears to have travelled widely around the UK pursuing this interest and was popular, with many acquaintances. He also appears to have taken an interest in local football club activities, in particular the formation of Hereford United FC in 1924, with Dr E.W. Maples as chairman, by the amalgamation of St Martins and RAOC (Rotherwas) amateur clubs. They were nicknamed 'The Whites' or 'The Lilywhites', after their predominantly white kit, or 'The Bulls' (Hereford cattle breed).

He was a member of the City Council in Hereford between 1921 & 1930. He stood as a Liberal Party candidate for the Monmouth Ward in the 1924 municipal borough elections, was (re?)-elected in 1927 and served as the Chairman of the Council's Development Committee.

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The children (natural born) of George FC and Ellen Louisa Baker - Charles, Louisa & Harold

Charles James Baker was born on 17th October 1898 in Gloucester.

In 1917, he completed an attestation for the RAF when he was recorded as a fitter (engineer) in civilian life. He originally enlisted in the Royal Flying Corp on 22nd August 1917 when he claimed to be 18 years and 11 months old. He then was admitted to the RAF on 11th April 1918 as a fitter mechanic. In September of that year and again in January 1919 he gained promotions to a higher grade of mechanic just before he was discharged later that month. His service number was 60803. In 1939 he is recorded as having been in the TA Reserve of Officers as Capt Charles Baker TD.

In 1921 he was living at home in Hereford and worked for his father as a gardener in father's Nursery. May Patrick is also living with the family at this time and she later became his wife. Their son **Charles Patrick** Baker was born in summer 1924. In WW2 he served in Bomber Command in squadron 419 (Moose) as a flight engineer, a sergeant with the service number 576634. He died on active service on 30 May 1943 aged 18 and is commemorated on the memorial at Charleroi Communal Cemetery, Belgium and is buried in a collective grave (possibly with the rest of his crew) in Row V 24-26. The plane in which he was flying, a Handley Page Halifax II, was shot down by enemy fire. There is also a memorial inscription on the family grave in St Martin's Churchyard, Hereford.

Other children may have included two daughters. In 1930 there is a record of the birth of **Doreen Baker** to a mother, nee Patrick, at Nantwich, Cheshire. Doreen Baker married John W Lawrence in 1953. Is this the Doreen Lawrence who received the grant of probate after the death of father Charles James Baker? Similarly in 1932 **Audrey M Baker** was born to a mother, nee Patrick in the same town. There is no obvious explanation as to why these might be their children and no further definitive information can be found for either girl living with Charles James or May in Hereford or Nantwich in the 1930s, except for **below. No record either in Nantwich 1930s ERs for May Baker.

In 1939 Charles James was living at Mandeville, Belmont Road, Hereford with his wife May (nee Patrick) b 11th September 1898 at Canon Pyon, Herefordshire. He is recorded in the Register as a manager for a

commission agent (bookmakers) – so he ended up in the same trade as his father. ** The names of 2 other people living in the household were redacted. He died on 10th September 1963 when he and his wife were still living at 76 Belmont Road, Hereford. Probate was granted to Mrs Doreen Lawrence and his widow May Baker. His estate amounted to £7241. She died in 1976.

Louisa Elizabeth Baker was born on 23rd April 1901 in Hereford.

In 1925 she married Harry/ Henry Tedstone b1900 in Walsall. The 1939 register & public notices inserted in newspapers record he was a Superintendent local taxation officer and the family lived in Stafford. In 1939 the members of the family included son John Tedstone b1926, daughter Margaret L E Tedstone b1931 & later married Denis Marshall in 1957, plus 2 others whose names have been redacted, possibly also their children or Louisa's mother Louisa Ellen (but NB she was running a guest house in Blackpool until 1940. Harry / Henry died in October 1977 and Louisa in 1989 when she ended her days at St Joseph's Convent, Stafford.

Harold Edward was born in 1904 but died 25 October 1918 aged 14 years in Hereford. He was buried in St Martin's Churchyard, Hereford. Perhaps he was a victim of the 1918 influenza epidemic.



St Martin's Churchyard, Hereford. The grave of Harold Edward Baker d 1918.

Other family members were also buried in this general location of Row AV(5) some of whose names* were added to the memorial at a later date. They were in graves marked AV4-7; AV4 Ellen Louisa Baker*; AV5 Harold Edward* & GFC Baker*; AV6 Charles & Emily Elizabeth Baker*; AV7 James Baker & Kate Baker-Askew. An inscription was also added in memory of Charles Patrick Baker* who died and was buried in Belgium during WW2.

ALICE Baker b1851

She was baptised on 4th May 1851 at St Mary's church, Lichfield. On the death of her mother in 1858 Alice went to live at Winshill, Freehold Village, (which at that time was in the county of Derbyshire), near Burton on Trent. She is included in the 1861 census as a Lodger and a scholar aged 10 born in Lichfield. The only other person in the same 'household' is another Lodger: Robert Lea, aged 56 born in Burton on Trent. He is a farm labourer presumably employed on the land surrounding the village. By 1871 she had been 'rescued' and is living with her brother Joseph and paternal Aunt Sarah Perry (nee Baker) in Birmingham.

It will be recalled that the maiden name of Alice's mother Ann was Lees. Despite the obvious similarity in the surnames of Robert and Ann, which in his case could be a misspelling of Lee(s), there does not appear to be any obvious family relationship between Alice and Robert. His surname is clearly written as Lea in the 1861 census (variously spelt Ley, Lee in other official documentation relating to his birth, marriages and census; but never as Lees).

There is no obvious Lichfield connection or with the Lees family for Robert or a Burton connection for Alice Baker (except that her brother Charles was taken on as a servant to the Fletcher family – earthenware dealers, in Burton). Her paternal Lees grandparents originated from the Potteries area of Stoke on Trent. Research into Robert's background shows an

agricultural labourer's life based on Burton on Trent, married in 1827 to Jane Bull nee Madkin (a widow living in Burton). So no obvious link to the wider Alice Baker/Lees families. He was a widower at the time of the 1851 census living in Burton with children William (20) a brewer's labourer and Jane Lee (13). By the 1861 census he had moved to Winshill, his own children had left home and Alice was living with him. Why did either of them move there and be living in the same household?? There does not seem to any connection, by name, to the other nearby households in the village. No record can be found of Robert in the 1871 census or of his death post 1861 (based on Winshill or Burton).

Speculation: Following the death of his wife Ann in 1858 did Alice's father James move to the area of Winshill and form a friendship with Robert Lea both of them being labourers, thus finding her a home in 1861? Or possibly he moved to Burton on Trent where his son Charles was relocated to join the Fletcher family. He can't be found in the 1861 census either in Lichfield, Winshill, Burton or Staffordshire generally. Note: he may have gone on to marry again in Burton, to the widow Harriet Perkins. Records suggest that on the death in 1880 of a James Baker his body was returned to Lichfield from Burton Union workhouse and buried at St Chads, Lichfield.

In 1871 Alice was a laundress aged 19 living at 150 William Street, Birmingham. She had joined the family of her paternal aunt Sarah Perry (nee Baker), her uncle John, her brother Joseph and her step cousin Amelia Perry aged 6. In the early to mid 1870s John Perry died and in 1877 Sarah remarried in Birmingham to Charles Knight (1839) a widower with 2 sons. The 1881 census shows that the Knight family were still living at 150 William Street and Alice was living with the household. She is unmarried, aged 29 and is now a dressmaker. The other members of the household were the Knight sons Frederick (b1866 age 15) and Ernest Knight (b1867 age 14) and Amelia Perry, now adopted by Chas Knight. Amelia is aged 16 and a steel pen maker, but is wrongly recorded as Emily Parry. Additionally, Mary Ann Parsons a cousin of Charles (b1868 age 13) and the widow, Jane Hankey, Sarah's paternal aunt (b1792 age 80-89) are part of the household. The birthplaces recorded for Sarah (Pershore), Amelia (Dudley) and Alice (Pershore) are incorrect and should read Lichfield, Harborne and Lichfield. It does not appear that Sarah had any children of her own.

After the 1881 census, which records Alice still living with her aunt Sarah in Birmingham - now remarried to Charles Knight, no record can be found of any obvious marriage for her. She is no longer living with them at the time of the census in 1891, by which time the Knight family, he was a gardener, had moved to Nursery Road, Harborne, Kings Norton.

But the 1891 census for this household records (subsequently crossed out by the enumerator) a nephew Frederick Baker, gardener born in Oldbury (no age given, but as the son of Jane Baker he would have been c19 years). There is also reference to a niece Sarah Horton, scholar aged 15 similarly born in Oldbury c 1876.

In 1903 there is the record of the death of an Alice Baker aged 52 in Birmingham.

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JOSEPH Baker b 1854

He was baptised on 12th March 1854 at St Marys church Lichfield. Following the death of his mother in 1858 he went to live, aged about four, with his father James' sister, his Aunt Sarah Perry. This is the family which sister Alice joined after her earlier stay in Winshill.

He was my paternal 2x great grandfather. His story is told elsewhere.

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JANE Baker b 1856

She was baptised on 2nd March 1856 at St Marys church, Lichfield. After the death of her mother she went to live aged about 2 with Jane and James Hankey, described as her step grandparents firstly in 1861 at Tabernacle Street and then in 1871 at West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, West Bromwich, Worcs. It has not proved possible to find any obvious information for Jane Baker after 1871 eg for a marriage, 1881 census entry or her death.

However, the birth is recorded in 1872 of a Frederick Baker at Oldbury: his mother's maiden name is Baker. At his Oldbury baptism in 1876 his mother is named as Jane Baker. In 1881 he is living with his maternal uncle Charles Baker in Hereford. However, in 1891 the census for the household of his great aunt Sarah Knight includes Frederick Baker born in Oldbury, a 'nephew'. He is a gardener by trade as were the other male members of the household. Jane's sister Alice had similarly spent time living with her aunt Sarah Baker-Perry-Knight.

Jane Hankey (nee Baker) was the paternal aunt of James Baker and she married James Hankey, a widower, at Kings Norton in 1858 when she was a spinster aged about 66. So rather than being a grandmother of **Jane** (as described in the census) she is probably her Great Aunt. She was born in Lichfield c1792 (according to her baptism record). James Hankey was a tailor born c1790 in Liverpool. Great Aunt Jane later went to live in Birmingham with Sarah (nee Baker-Perry) and Charles Knight – where Jane's sister Alice also lived (1881 census). Sarah was her niece and James Hankey's daughter was Charles Knight's first wife.

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ELIZABETH Baker b 1857

There is a civil record of the Lichfield death in 1857 of an Elizabeth Baker of no specific age (not old enough to be recorded). There is no obvious link to James & Ann but since Ann died in 1858 it may have been the result of a childbirth (Elizabeth?) from which neither she nor the child recovered. (NB her mother Ann had a sister Elizabeth for whom the child could have been named).

However, no record can be found of Elizabeth's birth in Lichfield or Blithemarsch as were the other children. If this Elizabeth was the daughter of James Baker then it suggests that he could still have been alive in 1856. As noted above no record can be found of him in the 1861 census. On this basis his death could have occurred between 1856 and 1861, when he would have been aged around 40 years old. No record can be found of his death between these years either in Lichfield c.1856/7/8 OR Winshill OR Burton after these dates. Or as referred to previously, he could have remarried; to Harriet Perkins and lived until 1880 in Burton on Trent and then his body returned to Lichfield and buried in the graveyard at St Chad's Church.

Thoughts: How did people organise arrangements to disperse children to other families living some distance away? How did the children get there; what transport was used, were they accompanied or travel on their own?

JOSEPH BAKER 1854 – 1933 and Myra Forrest Baker 1851 - 1929

My paternal great grandfather was **Joseph Baker** baptised on 12th March 1854 at St Marys church Lichfield. Following the death of his mother in 1858 he went to live, aged about four, with his father James' sister, Aunt Sarah who was married to John Perry. This is the family which his sister Alice joined after a short stay in Winhill, near Burton on Trent. This was the start of my direct line of Baker ancestors' life in the Birmingham area.

Sarah and John Perry did not appear to have any children of their own but seem to have played hosts to a number of family members and lodgers over the years. Not only Alice and Joseph Baker but John's niece Amelia Perry too. Various censuses record other family 'visitors' and 'adherents'; in the 1891 census Emma Baker a niece b 1879 (daughter of brother Henry) and Frederick Baker a (great) nephew (son of niece Jane Baker) are staying with them.

In 1861 the Perry household was living at House 1 in Court 3, Great Martin Street, Birmingham. In 1871 Joseph was 18 and employed as a billiard marker. His aunt's family had now moved to 150 William Street, Birmingham.

In early 1875 Joseph married **Myra Forrest** who was born in Birmingham in 1851, the granddaughter of Mary Ann (Harrison) and Samuel Forrest, who from the 1840s to 1854 was a Birmingham based victualler born in Cradley, Worcestershire. Previously he had been employed (c1841) as a bayonet forger as was his son, Myra's father, William born about 1827. In 1861 aged 70 Samuel was an owner of properties, living back in Cradley his home town. It hasn't been possible to find a birth record for Myra Forrest b 1851 only for Manoah, born in 1851 to a mother named Wesson (the surname of her mother Elfrida). Her baptism in February 1851 names her as Maria. In the 1851 census, shortly after her birth, she is named as Myra. However, in the 1861 census she is named as Mirah. Following the death of her father in 1865 her mother remarried and went to live in Cradley. In the 1871 census Mira was recorded as a barmaid at the Queens Head, Corngreaves Road, Rowley Regis, Dudley. The landlord was Joseph Siviter (52). In 1875 at her marriage she was named as Myra.

Manoah is generally a boy's name of Hebrew origin. In the Bible Manoah was the father of Samson. It means a place of rest.

Myra's parents were William Forrest b1827 in Cradley, Worcs and Elfrida Brook Burt Wesson b 1832 in Birmingham, he was a bayonet forger. They married on 21st February 1850 at Aston. Myra was their first child and when she was born in 1851 all three generations of the Forrest family lived at the Robin Hood Retail Brewery and Beer House – to be renamed after its sale by the Forrest family c1855 as the Russell Brewery Tavern and then the St Matthias' Tavern, Lower Russell Street, Birmingham (Samuel certainly held the licence in 1849 but could well have been the proprietor c1844-1854). By 1864 a number of other children had been born. The 1861 census includes as well as Myra, daughters Mahala b 1852 (she died aged 22 in 1874), Mary Anne b 1854 and a son William Henry b 1858. The family had moved to Strutley Street, Kings Norton, Worcs after Mahala's birth. Father was still a bayonet maker.

There are birth and death records for other Forrest children which indicate that many of them did not survive for very long: Elfrida b1855 died early 1856, Amelia Elfrida b1856 died late 1856, Susannah Elfrida b & d 1860, John Wesson b 1861, Albert Ernest Isaac b 1863 d1865, Samuel Edward b 1864 and possibly Thomas d 1855 (can't find his birth).

Wm Forrest died in 1865 and Elfrida quickly re-married in Birmingham to Wm Evans a furnace man born in Wem, Shropshire in 1832 and possibly had at least 4 more children. In the 1871 census Elfrida and Wm Evans are living back at High Street, Cradley, Stourbridge, where her first husband William was born. Her Forrest sons – (Wm) Henry, John and Samuel are living with them, but not Myra. Her son John is recorded as a cripple, Henry is a chain maker. Myra's mother Elfrida died in January 1900.

Elfrida's parents were John Wesson b summer 1803 and Elfrida Birt b1803. They were married in September 1824 at St Philipps Church in Aston, Birmingham when they were both about 21 years old. When they married he was a carrier, as he was in 1841, although in 1846 he was declared bankrupt in Birmingham. Their children were John Burt b1827, Elfrida Birt b1832 and Harriett Rose b1835. It is assumed that mother Elfrida died (can't find a record of this) sometime after the birth of Harriett because in 1837 John Wesson then married Sarah Morley (b 1816). The 1841 census records

that John and Sarah and his children Elfrida and Harriett were living at Grove Lane, Smethwick, Harborne Parish. Perhaps son John died or lived elsewhere before the census was taken (can't find a record of this).

Elfrida's sister Harriett Rose, Myra's Aunt, who was born in Birmingham in 1835, according to the 1881 census, was living with her niece Myra and her husband at Brighton Buildings, Birmingham as a housekeeper. In 1882 at Aston, when she was 42, she married Samuel J. Philipps, b1841 in Southampton. He was a widower previously married to Sarah. The 1901 census records that he was now a widower occupied as a painter and decorator.



Joseph and Myra had 7 children (according to the 1911 census) who were born in different places in the West Midlands, principally in Coventry and Birmingham, reflecting their travels related to employment opportunities around the West Midlands. As was the case in Myra Forrest's family some of their children did not have long lives. Two died in childhood and others only made into their 20s and 30s. They were:-

Amy Isabel b1876 d1889 aged 13 years;
May b1878 d1948;
Bertie Edgar b1881-2 d1884 aged 32 months;
George Walter b1889 possibly d1966

Alfred Joseph b1877 d1931;
John William b1880 d1912;
Ethel Minnie b1883 d1922;

Father Joseph was employed mostly in the licensed trade taking on the management of various licensed premises. A far cry from the occupation of his Aunt Sarah's husband John Perry as a gardener. However, he started his working life as a billiard marker, according to the 1871 census when he was about 18, then progressed to be a professional billiard player and referee. He had an advert in the Sits Vac column of the Birmingham Daily Post for January 1874 seeking employment as a billiards marker. In 1871 he was living with his Aunt Sarah in William Street, Birmingham but by 1874 the newspaper entry seeks a response to the Plough & Harrow PH, West Bromwich which suggests that he has moved on and may now be living-in / employed at the PH.

Included in the 1871 Census return for this PH is another 20 years old man whose occupation was a billiard marker which may give credence to my claim above that Joseph may similarly be living-in / employed at the PH in 1874. The Plough and Harrow in Taylors Lane was once a commercial hotel, first licensed in 1818 but became a bakery (Grants) in 1915. It had an imposing frontage and extensive grounds at the rear. It also had a cage holding a thrush (throstle) the mascot of West Bromwich Albion when they played at Stoney Lane (round the corner). (Steve James, Black Country Bugle 26.01.2022)

B BILLIARDS,--Situation Wanted, by a young Man, as Marker,--
Address, **Joseph Baker, Plough and Harrow, West Brom-**
wich. c8821

The Birmingham Daily Post 9th & 14th January 1874 when Joseph was aged c20

BILLIARD MARKER: The popularity of billiards created the profession of 'billiard markers', who worked at billiard halls. They were in charge of keeping the scores for games, looking after the equipment and collecting fees from the patrons. The billiard marker may also have been responsible for overseeing bets when games were played for wagers. Their duties might also entail coaching learners and playing against patrons. (teara.gov.nz/billiards-snooker-pool)

The 1881 census records Joseph's occupation as professional billiard player when he and his family (and his wife's maternal aunt Harriet Wesson) were living at Brighton Buildings, 4 Great Tindall Street, Birmingham. There is a report in the Birmingham Daily Post dated 21st January 1885 of a billiard match at which Joseph was the referee. According to the report he was living in Coventry.

ed for trial on a charge of murdering her infant child, the
he body of which was found buried near the railway station.

BILLIARD MATCHES.

An important billiard match was commenced last evening, at the Hen and Chickens Hotel, between J. G. Sala, the champion of Scotland, and H. Coles, the champion of the Midlands, the stake being £200. The game is 4,000 points up, spot stroke barred, and Coles receives 500 points start. The necessary arrangements are being carried out by Mr. J. Baker, of Coventry, who is acting for Messrs. Thurston, by whom the billiard-table has been erected. Play commenced with the usual miss in snook, and the first break of any importance was one by Mr. Sala, of 42 points, obtained through flaking a good position. Slowly the score was raised to 605 Coles, 95 Sala. The Scotchman added another 20 to his score, when Coles made a splendid run of 81, for which he was loudly applauded. Sala lost ground considerably, Coles having, with his total at 785, increased his lead by nearly 100 points. This seemed to put the visitor on his mettle, for he played some splendid nursery cannons, running up a break of 103, and greatly recovering the lost ground. The same player subsequently made innings of 70 and 63, in the latter break a disputed cannon being given against him. This brought the scores to 977 Coles, 461 Sala, the time occupied having been two hours. Cautious play followed, some clever drag shots being made by Sala, while Coles was conspicuously successful in running through on several occasions. No very large break was made, and the evening's play concluded with Coles at 1,283, and Sala at 905, the latter having cleared off 122 points of the handicap. Play will be resumed to-night, and the match will be concluded in London. The attendance last night was moderately large.

The match of 10,000 up, level, between Roberts and Frederick Bennett, in which Roberts is confined to the all-round game, while Bennett plays all in, was continued at Gatti's, London, yesterday. At both afternoon and evening entertainments the attendance was fairly numerous. The play, however, was of the most one-sided description. Roberts played in his very best form, and practically had the table to himself all the day. Some idea of his play may be formed from the fact that he scored 2,001 while Bennett was making 567. Roberts's highest breaks were 135, 146, 126, 147, 105, 99, 78, 83, and 70. Bennett's only good breaks were 67 and 41. Some of Roberts's strokes were really wonderful and called forth repeated rounds of applause. The champion scored his third thousand in an hour and fifty minutes, and his fourth in an hour and forty-two minutes. At the call of time the score was—Roberts 4,001, Bennett 1,857.

The spot-barred match of 5,000 up between Joseph Bennett and Peall (the latter receiving 500 start) was continued at the Royal Aquarium, London, yesterday afternoon. At the conclusion of Monday's play the scores stood:—Peall, 2,001; Bennett, 925. On the continuation of the game Bennett gained slightly upon his opponent, scoring breaks of 59, 87, 68, 61, 97, 61, and 142, as against 56, 51, 71, 82, 53, 70, 57, and 77, by Peall; and at the adjournment the game was called—Peall, 2,751; Bennett, 1,839. On the resumption in the evening Bennett soon put in 106, which was replied to with 133 by Peall, who, with 82 and 68, again got away. Bennett put in 62 and 78, and when play ceased for the night the scores read—Peall, 3,501; Bennett, 2,615.

This is an extract from The Birmingham Daily Post 21st January 1885 when Joseph was aged c 31.

It is a report of an important billiard match held at the Hen & Chickens Hotel, New Street, Birmingham (now demolished) between the champion of Scotland, J G Sala, and the champion of the Midlands, H Coles. The stake was £200.

"The necessary arrangements are being carried out by **Mr J Baker** of Coventry who is acting for Messrs Thurston, by whom the billiard table has been erected."

Ultimately Joseph moved into the licensed trade, with his wife Myra eventually acting as his assistant. They managed various licensed premises over the years. The first known of these was in Coventry.

In 1889 he managed the **Kings Head Luncheon Bar**, part of the Hotel of the same name, located on Smithford Street on the corner with Hertford Street, Coventry.

"The Public Luncheon Bar** was opened on 20th December 1879 with bar and cabinet fittings of substantial character and elaborate design, the work of Samuel Mason of Birmingham. The windows were by W. G. Fretton of Coventry. There was a wholesale wine and spirits department and the King's Head Tap stood on Vicar Lane with a bar and smoke room suitably furnished and an upstairs room for clubs or meetings. **This must be the KINGS HEAD BAR, which we have given a separate page." (Historiccoventry.co.uk)

In the run up to Christmas 1889 'The Joe Baker Goose Club' was advertised in the local newspaper.

GOOSE CLUB.—Mr. J. Baker has this year established a most successful club of the above description at the King's-head Hotel. It is called "The Joe Baker Goose Club," and although this is the first year of asking, numbers 170 odd members. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. Newsome and Sons, Smithford-street, to supply the whole of the poultry, and this in itself is sufficient guarantee that the members will receive entire satisfaction in their purchases. It is intended that next year the affair will be on a still larger scale. 3438

Coventry Standard 20.12.1889

It would appear that, by the time next Christmas came around, Joseph Baker had moved on to another pub, the **Lord Nelson**, so presumably the Kings Head Goose Club did not re-appear, at least not under his direction. Between 1890 and 1892 he held the license for the Lord Nelson Inn at number 56, further down Smithford Street.

The Lord Nelson
LUNCHEON BAR,
SMITHFORD - ST.,
COVENTRY,
JOE BAKER
PROPRIETOR,
Late Manager of King's Head Bar.

Coventry Herald 08.08.1890

By at least 1897 the family had returned to Birmingham (recorded involvement with the Ancient Order of Druids in Birmingham) where the Bakers appear to have managed M & B pubs. Its trademark was easily recognisable showing a stag jumping across the label, with the words the 'Deer's Leap'. Their slogan was Marvellous Beer which fitted in with the 'M & B' monogram.

In 1894 there is a record that a Joseph Baker held the license for one year of the **Bell Inn**, Lozells Road, Birmingham; perhaps attracted by the inclusion of a billiards hall on the premises, used at some point for billiards exhibitions and competitions.

However, it is not known where the family lived and worked in the years 1895 – 1900. A high turnover of licensees at some pubs in the 1880s suggests that it was tough going for publicans to turn a profit. The homebrewed ales had gone and perhaps the locals seemingly did not like the commercial beers sold by the managed pubs. This was true of the Bell Inn which had a number of landlords during this period.

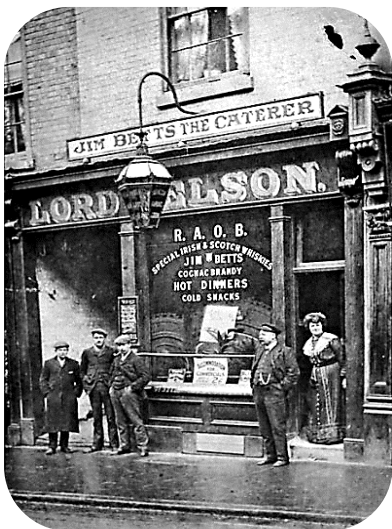
Alma Tavern, Alma Street, Lozells Hanley??

In 1901 their children Alfred, May, John and Ethel had also been pressed into service as bar staff in the pub in which they were then living: **The Green Man** at 2 High Street, Harborne. George was still at school. They

were probably there until at least March 1903 – and possibly until May (see reference to a presentation gift below).

Their last true PH management was probably **Ye Old Red Lion** at Kings Heath, Birmingham, where they were certainly based between 1905 and 1909, and probably from August 1904 when it first opened its doors. Designed by C E Bateman it is now a Grade II Listed Building. Built in 1903 in a traditional Cotswold style, this was the first 'reformed' pub in Birmingham, a city which was an early participant in the movement to replace the small street-corner drinking dens with public houses where a man and wife could drink and eat in well-designed respectable surroundings. Reformed pubs were modelled on an ideal of the village pub at the heart of its community.

By 1911 they were on their own at **The Crown Stores PH**, 135 High Street, Selly Oak, incorporating an 'off-licence'. By 1921 the property had been re-numbered to 634 Bristol Road, Selly Oak. Joseph was acting as the 'outdoor' manager - Beer (off licence). They were still there in 1921 (census) and until c1925 when they appear to have retired to Small Heath and the ER records them as being there. The 1921 census suggests that apart from Joseph & Myra there is also Mary Seager a 16 years old girl acting as their domestic servant. Staying with them as visitors were Albert Brittle and his daughter Ethel Maud aged 7, but not their own daughter Ethel Minnie; although the census suggests that she was still alive. In fact she was in the Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham and died in March 1922 at Kings Norton aged 38 years.



Freemasons Societies, the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) or the Buffs as they were nicknamed and other benevolent societies often met in rooms provided by pubs. This was true of the Lord Nelson in Coventry run by Joseph Baker where the RAOB met. Amongst their benevolent work the RAOB donated military ambulances with volunteer drivers during WW1.

As a consequence, victuallers may have joined these societies; allowing the lodge of which they were a member to meet in their own establishment. Joseph was also a leading member of the local Licensed Victuallers Association in Coventry.

Joseph Baker was a member of the Ancient Order of Druids for 35 years. He was a founder member of both the Mercia Lodge No 4 and in 1897 the Dean Swift Lodge No 521. There is a book recording this date. His regalia has been deposited with the Worcestershire Masonic Library & Museum. The AOD is completely distinct from freemasonry.

A wooden tantalus containing 3 glass spirit decanters was presented to Mr J Baker by 'a few Harborne Friends' on May 15 1903. This was possibly to mark him giving up the management of The Green Man PH or in association with an AOD event. He appears to have acted as Toastmaster at events.

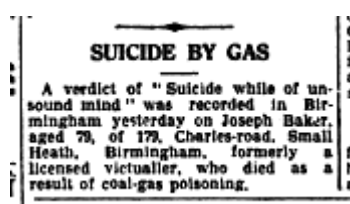
Myra died in March 1929 and Joseph in 1933 on 6th April, they had been married 54 years. At the time of both of their deaths they were living in a terraced villa at 197 Charles Road, Small Heath. They had there since c 1926 according to ER registers. Mary Seager had joined them in their retirement at Small Heath,



possibly as a domestic servant and carer, and she continued to live there after Myra's death in 1929 according to the 1930 & 1931 ERs.

Unfortunately, Joseph's death in his 80th year on 6th April 1933 was recorded as suicide while of unsound mind. He died in the Royal Hospital, Birmingham and the principle underlying causes of death were recorded as cardiovascular degeneration and bronchitis. Probate was granted to Charles Frederick Jones (actually Frederick Charles), engineer, the brother of his son Alfred's wife Rose and his estate amounted to £2107. He was interred, as was Myra, in the family grave at Lodge Hill cemetery, Selly Oak, Birmingham. (Section 18 B3; grave number 636; Certif. 6331 07675)

In his will he gave legacies to his domestic servant Mary Seager, his executor Charles Frederick Jones, Mrs Popperwell & great granddaughter Myra Lott. The residual amount after disbursements was divided as follows: a 5% share to grandchildren Philip Lott, Joseph Alfred Baker, Myra Baker and Ethel Brittle. A % share of 26 & ²/₃ rds to daughter-in-law Rose Ellen Baker and his surviving children - son George Walter Baker and daughter May Lott.



Joseph didn't have a good start in life, his mother died when he was very young and he went to live with a relative, a stranger to him, in another town. His first born son Alfred Joseph had already died in 1931 and his own wife in 1829. His health may have been deteriorating. Life may not have been worth living any longer

Birmingham Daily Gazette 08.04.1933 (179 should read 197)

----- X -----

Children of Joseph and Myra Baker

Amy Isabel Baker, their eldest child, did not have a long life. Born in early 1876 at Kings Norton she died in April 1889 aged 13 years. She was buried on 08.05.1889 at the London Road Civic Cemetery, Coventry in Grave 74/75-21. The grave is located in an un-consecrated area of the cemetery reserved for those of non-conformist faiths rather than as Anglicans. Her burial records name her as Amy Isabella.

Bertie Edgar Baker, their 5th child, similarly did not live long, no more than 32 months. He was buried in the same grave as Amy, in January 1884.

Alfred Joseph Baker was born in 1877 in Coventry. He was my paternal grandfather. His story is told elsewhere. He spent his working life in the licensed trade, like his parents and some of their other children, having gained experience of this during their time growing up with their parents.

May Baker and her husband Philip Albert Lott b1880 took on the license of the Duke of York PH in Horsefair, Birmingham after their marriage in summer 1905. After his death in 1908, aged c28 years, her brother George W (22) joined May and her son Philip Alfred b. 1905/6 at the Duke of York (1911 census & 1915 Kellys Directory). By 1921 until 1930 + (census & ER) she was managing the Red Lion, 33 Smallbrook Street, Birmingham where she was living with her son.



L-R unknown May Baker-Lott Philip Alfred Lott

She was born in 1878 and died in March 1948, a widow, aged c70 living with son Philip and his wife Nellie (Eleanor nee Davies) who married in early 1929. Philip and

Eleanor had 2 daughters Myra E. born in autumn 1929 and May J. born in 1931. Daughter Myra received a legacy in her great grandfather Joseph Baker's will.

Philip was the licensed victualler manager of The Reservoir PH from at least 1939 (1939 register & 1940 Kellys directory entry). May probably moved with them when they gave up the licence of the Red Lion. The Reservoir (now demolished) was an M&B pub at 469, Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham 6. Administration of May's estate, amounting to £648 13s 8d was granted to her son. He died in 1975 when he lived at Castle Vale, Birmingham. His estate amounted to £2733.

John William Baker was born in Birmingham in 1879. In 1908 he married Ellen Burford in Kings Norton, Worcs. She was born in 1887 in Bridgwater, Somerset. It hasn't been possible to find them in a 1911 census in Staffs, Worcs, Warwicks or Somerset. He died in May 1912 aged 32 years at Kings Norton, no probate can be found. Can't find any children born Kings Norton 1907 – 1913.

Ethel Minnie Baker was born in Coventry in the autumn of 1883. In the winter of 1910 she married Albert Brittle b 1879 at Kings Heath, Worcester and they had a son Joseph Albert born in autumn 1911 and a daughter Ethel Maud born in autumn 1914 at Kings Norton, Worcs.



The 1911 census records that they lived at 40 Ashmore Road, Kings Norton, Worcs. Albert was occupied in motor car body building work. Family letters show that at some time they also lived at 110 Highbury Road, Kings Heath.

In 1921 son Joseph Albert was staying at the New Inns Hotel, Holyhead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham with Aunt Lillian whilst the proprietors Uncle Alfred Joseph and Aunt Rose Baker were on holiday in Bournemouth. In the June 1921 census father Albert and daughter Ethel Maud were staying as 'visitors' with her grandparents Joseph and Myra Baker at The Crown Stores in

Selly Oak. She later benefitted from a legacy in her grandfather Joseph Baker's will. Mother Ethel was in the Dudley Road Hospital and died in March 1922 at Kings Norton aged 38 years and her ashes were interred at Brandwood End Cemetery. The 1922 ER records that their home was actually at 54 Bourneville Lane, Stirchley, Birmingham. Albert is employed at this time by the Austin Motor Company as a viewer. In 1939 his job was described as a foreman inspector of machine motor parts. Albert remarried, to Florence, living in 1939 at Selly Oak Road, Birmingham (1939 register). He died in 1979 aged 99 years.

Ethel Maud married Alfred Edward Abrahall b1902 in the summer of 1938. It has not been possible to find any record of any children or to find the family in the 1939 census in England. Alfred died in Birmingham on 21.12.1968 and probate shows that his address was 47, Hawthorne Road, Kings Norton. His estate amounted to £8190. There is an Ethel Abrahall who, in 1990, also died in Kings Norton. Joseph Albert has proved elusive and it has not been possible to find any records relating to his life events.

George Walter Baker was born in Coventry in late 1888. On 30th March 1903 he appears to have signed up for 6 years to join the Royal Warwicks Regiment. He declares that he is 17 years and 6 months old and was born in 1886. The fact that he was born in late 1888 means that he was probably aged 15 years and 6 months old. He gives his address as the Green Man in Harborne, where it is known that his father was the manager. His occupation is recorded as a turner and he worked for Mr Archdale? of Nelson Street, Ladywood. He was allocated the service number 9216.

After the army, according to the 1911 census, he was living with his widowed sister May Lott at the Duke of York PH in Birmingham and he was an engineer mechanic.

In December 1913 he married at Birmingham Register Office to Blanche Phyllis Melia born c1885 when she gave her address as 23 Kendall Road, Small Heath. She may also have been known as Dora, according to my mother. Her father was a 'silversmith' working in gold. They had 2 children Howard Joseph b May 1914 and Irene Amy b August 1915, both in Kings Norton.

As a consequence of WW1 George enlisted in the Army Service Corps (MT) on 10th December 1915 at Birmingham and was allocated the rank of Private with the service number M2/188222. His trade was recorded as motor mechanic / driver. He gave his address as 135 High Street, Selly Oak – The Crown Stores managed by his parents. I have a family letter addressed to Mrs GW Baker at this address during WW1 so she and their son and daughter must have been living with his parents whilst he was in the army.

He was invalided out in May 1918 having suffered an attack of trench foot in October 1917 in France. He spent a couple of months in a London Hospital at the turn of the year but according to the records this attack left him feeling weak, short of breath on walking and dizzy which led to his discharge.

From the time of the 1921 census through to the 1939 register (via ERs) the family were living at 8Spark Street off the Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Sparkbrook Ward, Birmingham with their son Howard Joseph and their daughter Irene. In 1921 George was working as a motor engineer for the Rover Company in Tyseley. By 1939 Irene had left home and the men are both L C Engine Fitters. It is not known if daughter Irene married, although in 1929 an Irene Amy Baker married Jim Partington b1908 in Cannock (but she would have only been 14 years old). In 1932 there is a record of the birth in West Bromwich of Janet A. Partington whose mother has a Baker surname. So my assumption is that the marriage took place, but some dates may be incorrect. There is a record that in Birmingham a Howard J Baker was married in 1946 to Anne Y Hewer.

Left: George and Blanche Baker at Durban House in 1922 - but where are their children aged 6 & 7?



Father George was a competitive racing motorcyclist of many years standing and by 1938 he had spent some 30 years in the sport. The 1914 IOM Senior 500cc TT Race included a GW Baker riding a BSA motor bike, but he did not finish the race. For



many years he was the Midland and Northern small track Champion & holder of various motor cycle records. Unfortunately, he had a serious accident in August 1927 after which he was hospitalised for a week. The 1929 photo on the right shows him after his return to the race track and, despite his heavy weight of some 16 stones, set yet more records. Many press reports were made of his racing exploits around the UK (examples found up until 1938).

Blanche died in 1963 aged 77 years and George died on 1st May 1966 aged 78 years.

ALFRED JOSEPH BAKER 1877 – 1931 & ROSE ELLEN JONES



Joseph Baker Alfred &

My paternal grandfather was Alfred Joseph Baker who was born in 1877 in Coventry and died 54 years later in 1931 in Birmingham. He married Rose Ellen Jones in 1903 when he was 26 and she 24. Rose Ellen Jones was born in 1878 in Yardley, Worcestershire and her family's story is told elsewhere. They had two children: my father Joseph Alfred born on the last day of 1910 and his sister Myra Grace born on 4th June 1905, both born in Birmingham.



Rose Baker 1922

Alfred

Alfred Joseph was the first-born son of Joseph and Myra Baker (nee Forrest). He was one of 7 children born to the couple – 3 girls and 4 boys. The 1911 census return completed by father Joseph confirmed 7 children – 5 alive and 2 dead at that time. Overall, many of the Bakers were not long lived. Alfred himself died aged 54 and some of his siblings died early too; 1 in their 20s, 2 in their 30s, although the youngest lived until their 70s. His own son Joseph Alfred died at 60 years old.

Alfred was born in 1877 in Coventry. His parents were both involved in the licensed trade moving round on a regular basis from PH to PH or other licensed premises, presumably on a tenancy or management basis, and this is reflected in their children being born in a range of locations in and around Coventry and Birmingham. This must have had some effect on the education of their children and perhaps the reason why Alfred and other of his siblings continued to work in the licensed trade.

At the time of their marriage in 1903 at St Mary's Church, Temple Balsall Alfred was a cueist, another term for a billiard player, following his father's original occupation as a billiard player and referee. Thereafter he and Rose carried on the other trade followed by his father Joseph; as a licensed victualler. He had previous experience of this having been brought up in public houses. In the censuses published in 1891, aged 14 he is an assistant publican and in 1901 he is recorded as a barman in his parents' pubs. The Bakers appear to have largely managed Mitchells & Butlers pubs. The trade mark was easily recognisable showing a stag leaping across the label with the words the 'Deer's Leap'. Their slogan was 'Marvellous Beer' which fitted in with the M & B monogram.

They tenanted a number of pubs in the Birmingham area, firstly in central Birmingham at the **White Swan/Swan Inn or Hotel**, Navigation Street (1905-1911); the **White Horse Cellars**, Constitution Hill (1912) and the **Queens Arms**, Easy Row (1915). 1915 – 1918??



There were assembly rooms in the Queens Arms which were used in the 1890s for meetings by the St Philips Building Society which issued a 2½d pub check/token made of brass. It was inscribed with "Everyman His Own Landlord" and was used by the Society to provide funds for a wet rent for the use of the pub's rooms. The Assembly Rooms continued to be used for meetings & concerts well into the 1900s.

The family then spent some time in north Staffordshire. In June 1918 they were running the now largely demolished **Angel Hotel**, 2/4 High Street, (Market Square), Hanley. The hotel was a very large establishment in the centre of Hanley with some 19 rooms used to provide bars, a restaurant, hotel bedroom accommodation, a billiard room and facilities for large scale dinners, meetings, events and wedding parties, Societies, Associations and the like. The hotel consequently required a large workforce to run the enterprise: bar staff, catering staff, housemaids, cleaners etc.. At some point in 1920 the family relinquished the tenancy of the hotel – press reports refer to different landlords thereafter.



The Angel at the top of Market Square - 1912

“It was originally built in the 1890s as a grand Victorian restaurant and wine distributor’s premises with branches throughout the Midlands (Messrs Alfred Chew & Co). At that time it was a popular top class establishment with superior furnishings and features. A sales bill boasts of handsome luncheons, dinners, suppers with abundant refreshments served in first-class style.”

Picture courtesy Anthony Forster



Lillian & her husband Wm Henry Stevens with nephew Joseph Albert Brittle (aged 10). Joseph Brittle b1911 was the son of Alfred Joseph’s sister Ethel Minnie and Alfred Brittle – she wasn’t well at the time of the census, so the family was caring for her son. There were 8 members of staff Henry Perry, Rose Payne, Frances Pearsall, Ethel Perry, Lizzie Herbert, Jess Watton, Elizabeth Thornton and 18 years old Robert Davis – billiard marker. A public house has been on the site of the New Inns at least since the 18th century. A banqueting hall, the Prince’s Suite, was added on in Edwardian times. During the 20th century it was well-used and the Suite was much in demand for wedding receptions and other functions. In the 1990s it was converted into apartments.

The census taken on 19th June 1921 indicates that the family had moved back to Birmingham. However, at the time of the census Alfred, Rose, Myra and Joseph were actually away from home potentially on holiday, boarding at ‘Pinehurst’, West Cliffe Gardens, Bournemouth. When the census was completed for that address the family gave their home address as **New Inn Hotel**, 42 Holyhead Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. In their absence the New Inn Hotel census showed it was occupied by a combination of other family members and staff. In charge was Walter Bates acting as a temporary manager; usually the landlord of The Swan, Erdington. Visitors were Rose’s sister

The Bakers were clearly sociable people, involved as they were in the hospitality trade and they liked their annual holiday. Here they are c 1920 probably in Bournemouth. They continued with their seaside



holidays to places like Boscombe, Rhyl and Aberystwyth. Often holidays were taken with other members of the wider family, mostly with those of Rose’s family like her sisters and brother Frederick, wife Minnie and their children Ada & Victor, including a stay at Weymouth.



Durban House 1922 guests & family from front
L - R 3rd row Alfred Baker; Rose Baker; Myra Baker; etc
L - R 2nd row - ?, Minnie Jones; etc
L - R 1st row Joseph Baker; Rose brother?; etc

Perhaps the Baker family were on their 1921 holiday in Boscombe considering whether to take up a business opportunity there because in 1922 they were running **Durban House**, a boarding house in Spa Road, Boscombe, which they advertised to potential holidaymakers in Midlands' newspapers; including this one in the Staffordshire Sentinel on 29th March 1922. Not to be confused with Durban, a boarding house in Wootton Gardens.

Bournemouth: Durban House, Board-Res., Spa-rd., Boscombe; sea views; sep. tables; terms mod.-



Durban House c2000



L to R a sister of Rose?; Myra Forrest-Baker; a sister of Rose?
L to R a niece of Rose? - daughter of top left; Myra Grace Baker

Other members of the wider Baker and Jones families seem to have been invited to take a holiday with them at Durban. This photo, taken in September 1922, includes Alfred's parents Joseph and Myra Baker, sister-in-law Blanche Baker and various sisters of Rose - possibly Lillian, Violet or Ada? Alfred's brother George Walter and his wife Blanche also had their photograph taken outside Durban, they had journeyed from the Midlands by motorcycle & sidecar.

L to R a sister of Rose?; Joseph Baker; Blanche Baker; Alfred Joseph Baker; Rose Ellen Jones-Baker

During their time in Bournemouth they do seem to have retained 'management' of the New Inn Hotel. The 1923 spring ER records Alfred and Rose still at Durban but by the autumn of 1923 a different set



Wheatsheaf Inn c 1924

closedpubs.co.uk

of people were recorded living at Durban House. So, they must have moved back to Birmingham c1923 and the spring 1924 ER records them at **The Wheatsheaf Inn**, 43 Suffolk Street. This photograph is contemporary with that time; the pub closed in 1960.



until

with
M&B

Spring 1925 finds them at the **Rose Villa Tavern**, 170 Warstone Lane, where Rose and family remained just after Alfred's death on 20th August 1931. The Tavern is now a Grade II listed building (Historic England 1271966), the architects of which were Wood and Kendrick. The interior is richly decorated majolica tiles and stained glass windows. It was an pub opened c1919-1920 and is located in what is now known as the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter.

Rose Villa Tavern in 2009

In August 1931 Rose and her son Joseph holidayed in Rhyl. Husband Alfred remained at home and wrote to Rose whilst she was away; not long after their return he died on the 20th of that month. Alfred was interred in the family grave at Lodge Hill Cemetery, Selly Oak on 25th August 1931, 5 days after his death.



St Paul's Tavern *closedpubs.co.uk - David Gray*

Following Alfred's death Rose and her children Myra and Joseph continued to run the Rose Villa Tavern (at least until the 1932 ER) followed by **St Paul's Tavern**, Ludgate Hill, Birmingham, subsequently converted into a restaurant.

In 1937 they were located at 807, Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11. At a guess they were living in accommodation above a retail unit – possibly an off-licence.

Later in the 1930s they moved into a private house at Ireton Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham (1939 register), where they lived during the war years. This is where Rose died in January 1946 and joined Alfred in the family grave at Lodge Hill Cemetery. Son Joseph Alfred had married in 1944 and was living nearby. Daughter Myra moved away to live in Warwick shortly after her mother's death.

More about Alfred Joseph Baker

Alfred's father Joseph Baker was a member of the Ancient Order of Druids for 35 years and was a founder member of both the Mercia Lodge No 4 and in 1897 of the Dean Swift Lodge No 521. There is a book recording



this later event— It would appear that son Alfred was also a member of Dean Swift Lodge because this membership was referred to when, in 1923, he was elected as a Financial Member of the Northfield Lodge – No 651. During his time at the Angel Hotel Hanley c1918 he was a member of the Menturia Lodge No 418, Hanley (Freemasonry). This photo may have been taken at that time.

According to press reports in the early 1900s, which recorded fund raising events and subsequent donations to local charities, the Dean Swift Lodge of the AODs held meetings and events in the Swan Inn Luncheon Bar, Navigation Street when the involvement of both Joseph, sometimes as City Toastmaster, and Alfred, as landlord, was specifically mentioned.

Alfred was also affiliated with the RAOB, a member of the McInnes Lodge No.683 in Birmingham. He was awarded the Merit of Knighthood in 1911.

The regalia of both father & son has been deposited with the Worcestershire Masonic Library & Museum, Worcester.

Alfred served on the Committee of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers Protection (League) Society; the purpose of which was to provide an insurance for members of licensees' families; protection in times of hardship. There is a family photo of hundreds of victuallers attending a 'conference' in Southampton in 1930. A similar photo captures an outing on a Thames pleasure launch in Reading presumably whilst at another 'conference'. In 1930 he entered the Victuallers Angling Society annual fishing contest and received the winner's medal.



My mother maintained that at some point a member of the Baker family was involved with the Billiard Hall at 233 Soho Road, Birmingham, but as this was probably only built c1915 it is unlikely to be Joseph Alfred who was living in Selly Oak – but possibly his son Alfred Joseph who in the early 1920s was the manager of the New Inn Hotel further north on Holyhead Road. However, no information can be found to confirm this.

It was probably an empty site prior to its construction but by 1921 it is listed in Kelly's as a Billiard Hall. The two towers of the main building are decorated with a representation of crossed billiard cues on a green baize billiard table. The 2008 version of street view shows it as Frames 6 snooker and social club, the modern day equivalent of a billiard hall. The building is now in use for retail purposes, in 2020 it was the Soho Bazaar. There is an identical billiard hall, now a Wetherspoons pub The Billiard Hall, in West Bromwich which has the same decorative detail on the façade.

Photo courtesy Historic England Archive Nov 2005

Children of Alfred and Rose Baker

Myra Grace Baker

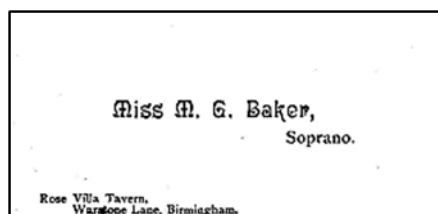
Myra was born on 4th June 1905 when the family was living at the White Swan PH, 79 Navigation Street, Birmingham. Despite offers of marriage she never married and lived a very full and active life. She worked hard at her various work endeavours but had many interests outside of work, enjoyed holidays and was



always well groomed and smartly dressed. I expect that, like her brother, her education was disrupted and fore-shortened but judging by the books in her ownership, as an older teenager, she studied commercial book-keeping, shorthand and the French language.

As a young woman Myra learned to play the piano and was trained as a soprano singer. In her early 20s, either as a solo singer or with others, together with an accompanist, she gave performances in the Birmingham area at such occasions as 'at homes', garden parties, masonic functions. Here is her business card. In 1926

she had
was
was
four



an audition at the BBC which sufficiently successful that she offered the opportunity, in September of that year, to sing songs in a publicly heard trial, November 1929 she passed the

presumably on the radio. In the Intermediate Pianoforte Exam set by Trinity College of Music, London; scoring 69 / 100 points (an exam taken locally in Birmingham). As a teenager and as an older adult she was a participator in skits and 'pantomimes' to entertain friends, especially those in the friendly society to which she belonged and clearly relished dressing up and performing in front of an audience. She enjoyed a game of tennis (was a member of Osborne Tennis Club) and in later years was a member of a crown green bowling club.

She was a skilled cook and well able to cater for large numbers of people, skills well-honed after all the years of helping her parents as a 'publican's assistant'. When her mother retired from managing a pub she Myra used her skills to work in a succession of jobs in the catering trade. Initially in New Street, central Birmingham at Kunzles Restaurant (later renamed the Kardomah) where she was a restaurant kitchen supervisor (1939 register) preparing lunchtime meals etc..

Christian Kunzles, a chef and philanthropist, was originally from Davos, Switzerland and set up The Alpine Home for Sick Children, which was used to give respite care to children, especially those with tuberculosis. Myra had a friend Rene in the UK who later 'returned' to Davos (perhaps she also worked for Kunzles). The Kunzle restaurants were sold off and through a series of takeovers the Kunzles cake production ended up as part of the Lyons Group.

By April 1947 Myra had moved to run the Gaity Restaurant on The Parade in Leamington Spa. Much outside catering was done from this base. Garden parties, Solihull Civic Dinner & other large dinners.

Then in the 1950s, together with a friend Olive Scott, she ran the Ilex Café on Warwick High Street. At this time she was living at "Appledell", Featherbed Lane, Bascote Heath where, together with a number of friends, she was also involved in running a small holding and poultry farm, supplying eggs and dressed poultry to local shops and caterers.

For many years Myra was an active member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, a friendly society set up to afford sickness benefits, life insurance and friendship to its members. She was a member of the Loyal Dudley Lodge and was appointed Master of the Edmondscote Lodge no 3551 in 1962 and, in 1964, Provincial Grand Master of the Leamington & Stratford District for a period of time. She was much involved in the annual flower & produce show, amateur dramatics and parties.

Grandmaster at Kenilworth

The election of Miss Myra Baker to the office of Provincial Grandmaster of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (Manchester Unity) was marked by a celebration dinner at Kenilworth last night, organised by the Edmondscote and Stratford district of the movement.

Miss Baker is a member of the Loyal Dudley Lodge, Kenilworth and lives at Bascot Heath, near Southam. The conferring of this office on women is comparatively rare.



Coventry Evening Telegraph March 14 1964

In her later years she suffered a number of strokes and died in September 1993, some time after moving to a bungalow at Radford Semele on the outskirts of Leamington Spa. Her ashes are buried in a grave at a private cemetery at Bascote Heath administered by Stoneythorpe Estates, but in the ownership of the Tankerville-Chamberlayne family of Jersey. The cemetery is linked to the Chapel in the Woods built at the top of Featherbed Lane by Mrs Chamberlayne of Stoney Thorpe Hall. Sometime in the late 1950s my father, Myra's brother Joe, rewired the church. The building is now derelict.



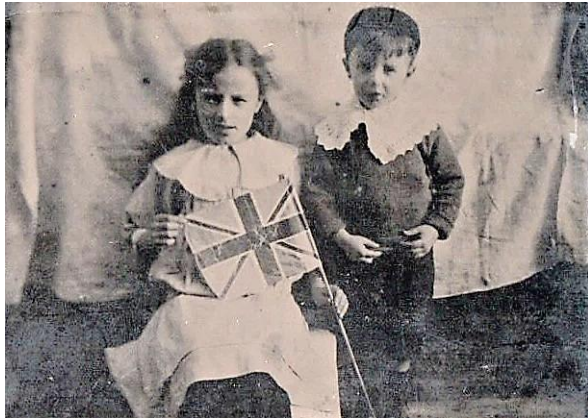
According to the book "Rural Romance: Quaint Tales of Old Warwickshire (Shakespeare's Country)" by T B D Horniblow the chapel was built to serve the two hamlets of Stoney Thorpe and Bascote Heath.

This photo shows Bascote Heath church being thatched by Mr H Hoggins in 1936

Joseph Alfred Baker

Joseph (Joe) was born on 31st December 1910.

The outbreak of WW1 was announced on August 4th 1914. Here are Myra and Joe holding a flag associated with a patriotic carnival held in August 1915; perhaps in recognition of the 1st anniversary of the outbreak when Birmingham Corporation finally enlisted into the war effort. They may be sitting outside the Queens Arms, their father's central Birmingham pub in Easy Row.



Joe was educated at St Thomas' Junior & Infants School, Granville Street, Bath Row. Here he is, photographed in 1923, bottom right of the photo. He finished his schooling at Icknield Street School in July 1925 aged 14 years. This was after one year and five months at the school and having completed standard seven. His class teacher made the following remarks on his leaving certificate: "a willing, industrious and honest lad who always tries to give of his best".

Interestingly my father's handwriting was not dissimilar to that of his father Alfred who

completed the 1911 census in his own handwriting. In particular the vertical slash through the capital letter 'S' was a distinctive similarity.

After leaving school he was probably employed in the pubs run by his parents, probably doing jobs like cellar work. In his 30s Joe then trained as an electrical engineer (he took a correspondence course with the Bennett College, Sheffield) and worked for the rest of his working life at Ellisons Switchgear, Perry Barr, Birmingham. He started out as a switchgear tester and moved up to be a foreman switchgear fitter & tester, then later joined the office staff. During WW2 Joe continued to work at Ellisons but he also served with the Auxilliary Fire Service (service no 3323) helping to control the fires and other emergencies created by the bombing of Birmingham. He was based at the Central Fire Station. He also did ARP duty as a fireman for the protection of the Ellison Works.



Joe married Winifrid Edith Brown in 1944 when he was 36 and she 33. Her father Francis was an electrical wireman and was responsible for fitting the 'new' electric system of lighting in many homes, to replace the 'old' lighting supplied by gas jets and mantles. Her family lived at 31 Anglesey Street, Lozells. At the time of her marriage she was employed lining jewellery cases. In her spare time she made a "pin" cushion using the scraps of the lining material. She had also worked in a detective agency, probably as an administrator and in the 1939 register she is classified as a typist. After her marriage she did other office work including a spell at Salts Healthcare and Kemp's Mercantile Offices - Kemp's provided credit ratings to hire purchase companies.

She was great friends with Edie & Elsie Turvey and Lily Kerkhoff. Here she is with her sister Freda and the two Turvey sisters placed in between them. The second photo is of her friend Lily. Their leisure activities took them cycling long distances from Birmingham, including trips to Snowdonia in Wales where they climbed the mountain. They also enjoyed walking holidays in other parts of the UK.



In his teenage years Joe was fond of fresh water fishing and was known to have won prizes, including a mantle clock with a Westminster chime and a drop leaf table.

Following in his father's footsteps he was elected as a member of the Dean Swift Lodge of the Ancient Order of Druids on 29th October 1931. This was a few months after his father had died but before his grandfather's death, but it is thought that he did not keep up this association.

In the 1960s Joe was an active campaigner for the Labour Party and in particular the local parliamentary candidate Denis Howell and was known to have attended conferences associated with both the Labour Party and the Clerical & Administrative Workers Union.

I was born and named **Anthea Joan** Baker in 1948 at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, the only child of my parents Joseph Alfred Baker and Winifrid Edith Brown. I attended Cherry Orchard Primary School, Handsworth Wood; King Edward V1 Foundation Grammar School for Girls, Handsworth and the well-regarded town planning department at Lanchester Polytechnic, now Coventry University. There I gained a BA Hons degree in Urban and Regional Planning. The majority of my working life was spent at Leicestershire County Council in the planning department.

Joseph died in October 1971 aged 60 in Birmingham, having suffered from lung cancer, probably the same fate as his own father who died at 54; in many photos father Alfred was usually seen with a 'fag' in his mouth. He was cremated at Lodge Hill Cemetery on Friday 15th October 1971.

Thereafter my mother Winifrid came to live with me in Leicestershire, first at Countesthorpe and then Barclay Street, Leicester where she died in 1985 following kidney failure caused by late onset diabetes. I then moved to Seagrave, a village north of Leicester City. Following my marriage in 2004 to James Roger Hockney and on my later retirement I moved to my husband's home in Hammerwich near Lichfield.

THE FAMILY OF ROSE ELLEN JONES 1878 – 1946 (the wife of Alfred Joseph Baker)

William Jones

The paternal grandparents of Rose Ellen Jones. Little is known about her father's side of the family except to say that her father William Philip in 1843 was born in Liverpool, Lancashire. His father was also a William and at the time of her parents' marriage in 1864 father was a watch maker. The name Wm Jones is very common and it has proved difficult to research deeper into the background of both father and son in Liverpool and Birmingham.

Francis Bradley – Elizabeth Tilley

The maternal grandparents of Rose Ellen Jones were Francis Brady / Bradley and Elizabeth Tilley. He was born in Castlepollard parish, County Westmeath, Ireland in 1804 and baptised into the RC church as Francis Brady by his parents Thomas and Jane (nee Dowd). Elizabeth was also born in 1804 but in Harborne, Staffordshire to Henry and Ann Tilley. Francis and Elizabeth were married on 26.11.1827 in the parish church of St Martins in the Bullring, Birmingham. He signed his name as Brady, she made her mark and the witnesses were Bertha Cassa..... and Josiah Edwards. It is not obviously the case that he followed the RC religion during his lifetime, none of his children were obviously baptised into that church, but he was buried as Francis Bradley at St Josephs RC Church, Nechells, Birmingham on 8th January 1865 following his death on the 3rd of that month.

As was the norm at that time Francis and Elizabeth had at least 10 children: Henry, Francis, James, John, Thomas, George, **Elizabeth (Betsey)**, William (died at a very young age), Eliza and Caroline.

They were born between 1825 and 1849, all in Birmingham except for the first child. According to the 1841 census a child Henry was born in 1825 in Ireland **, as was his father, but possibly named after Elizabeth's father Henry. By the time of Henry's baptism in 1829 the family surname was recorded variously as Bradey or Bradley. By the time of the 1841 census and those thereafter it was recorded as Bradley. Their daughter **Elizabeth** certainly is recorded as Bradley at her marriage to Wm P Jones in 1864.

** Francis & Elizabeth were married in 1827 in Birmingham where Elizabeth had lived all of her life. Why would she have been involved in the 1825 birth of a child in Ireland. It could be assumed that Henry is her child but perhaps Francis had been married before and Henry was the product of that marriage. It has not been possible to find a previous marriage or the civil record of the birth of Henry in Ireland. However, the record of Henry's 1829 baptism suggests that his mother was an Elizabeth. It is not obvious into which religion the children were baptised. Except that the records show that the fourth son John was baptised in 1836 into a non-conformist church***; the 'New Church signified by the New Jerusalem in the Revelation' (New Jerusalemite Swedenborgian). This was located in Summer Lane in the same area as the parish of St George's, having relocated from New Hall Street, Birmingham.

Grandfather Francis was employed variously from 1841 – 1864 as a button burnisher and a gilt toy maker. In 1851 his wife Elizabeth was also a gilt toy maker for a brief spell. Their children were probably put to work at an early age. Henry aged 14 was involved with bone buttons, by his 20s he was a toolmaker. In 1851 Francis (20) and James (17) were both powder flask makers. John at 14 was a cabinet case maker; Thomas at 10 in gilt toy work (later a gun maker); George at 8 in engraving work. **Elizabeth**, or Betsey as she was recorded in the census, had a job by the time she was 16 as a burnisher. However, at the time of her marriage in 1864 she did not admit to an occupation, her new husband William Philip Jones was a harness maker. Eliza and Caroline were still scholars at ages 14 and 12 respectively but by the age of 16 until her marriage Caroline was a lacquerer. After the death of her husband Francis in 1865, **Elizabeth** went to live with her married daughter Betsey in Great Russell Street with her youngest child Caroline until her marriage in 1873 to Thomas Sewell. **Elizabeth** Bradley snr probably died later on in the 1870s and before 1881.

William Philip Jones and Elizabeth Bradley the parents of Rose Ellen Jones

Elizabeth Bradley jnr (Betsey in all of the census records) married William Philip Jones on 24th July 1864 in the parish church of St Martins in the Bullring, Birmingham – the same church where her parents Francis & Elizabeth were married some 37 years earlier. Wm P was born in 1843 in Liverpool Lancs, according to the census records and had moved to the Birmingham area prior to his marriage. Elizabeth was born in 1843 in Birmingham.

He signed the register, she made her mark. Francis Bradley (either her father or brother) as witness made his mark and 'Eliza' Bradley (her sister or possibly her mother) signed her name. Her father Francis was a gilt toy maker and his father William was a watch maker. Hampton Street, Birmingham was given as the residence for both parties and where the Bradley family had lived for many decades. In 1861 their address was 7 Court 3 House, 7 Hampton Street, Birmingham.

Twelve children were known to be born to the couple between 1866 and 1891. **Rose Ellen** was the eighth of these, born in 1878; all daughters so far, except for one son and 4 more sons were to follow: Elizabeth E; Margaret A; William Henry; Flora E; Ada Beatrice; Lillian Alice; Violet Florence; **Rose Ellen**; Thomas Francis; Rowland Randolph; Charles Frederick and George.

Most of the children were born in the Birmingham area (the last 5 children in Yardley, Worcs) except for two. Margaret Anne baptised in Sedgley in 1869 (in the census records, however, her birth is recorded c 1867 as Wednesbury) and Wm Henry baptised in Oswestry in 1869. These different birth places perhaps reflected the flexibility of the father to take work where it was available. However, it is confusing to note that both baptisms apparently took place in such different places within days of each other in the summer of 1869.

William P was a harness maker on his marriage and census records suggest that he progressed to be a saddler. Sedgley was mainly a centre for the making of nails. Wednesbury was famous for iron and steel production and associated products. So where, c1867-9, would he find employment in his own trade in Sedgley / Wednesbury? It would be tenuous to suggest that having married in Birmingham a move to the Sedgley / Wednesbury area would bring him reasonably close to Walsall which at that time was the centre of the leather industry and saddlery trade. The trade had settled there to take advantage of the products made by the local loriners or saddlers' ironmongers who made metal parts like bits and spurs for harnesses and stirrups etc.. After 1840, the development of Walsall's leatherworking industry gained pace. The arrival of the South Staffordshire Railway to Walsall in 1847 gave a boost to the trade. By 1851 there were 75 firms making bridles, saddles and harness.

When Wm Henry was baptised in the summer of 1869 the family abode was recorded as Coed-y-Go, Morda near Oswestry, Shropshire. Coed-y-Go Colliery opened c 1833 and closed c 1869. Perhaps father was employed there making harness etc for the pit ponies. On their return to Birmingham c 1871 their address was 4 No 4 Court Great Russell Street, St Georges Birmingham. He had, by 1881, opened his own saddlery shop on the Coventry Road in Yardley, Worcestershire; the location where Rose Ellen and the younger children were born.

From 1900 the trade in saddlery and harness began to decline with the advent of the internal combustion engine and consequent fall in the traditional role of the horse. However, Wm was still a harness maker in 1901 but had given up his saddlers' shop and was working for an employer as was his son Rowland (16) who was a harness maker's assistant. Thomas (20) was a steel tube roller. They were then living at 71 Salop Street, Aston, Birmingham. Daughter Rose Ellen had left home and may have been employed as a live-in barmaid at the Ship Inn also in Aston – 1901 census.

By 1911 William had died and his widow Elizabeth went to live with daughter Lillian and her first husband Charles Whorwood at Chadwick End, according to the 1911 census.

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The Children of William Philip Jones and Elizabeth Bradley

Their eldest daughter **Elizabeth** b1866 (shortened to Lizzie and known as The Duchess, according to family legend) married Wm Sidney Jordan in Birmingham. Eventually they emigrated to the USA settling in Cleveland, Ohio where he set up a manufacturing business specialising in welding and fabrication and they raised their two sons. They had some eleven grandchildren. They later moved in retirement to Miami, Florida. My mother Winifrid Baker carried on a correspondence for a time with Elizabeth – her husband's aunt. Bill Jordan also wrote to his wife's sister Rose after his wife died.



Roland, Elizabeth & Sidney Jordan, Cleveland Ohio USA



Bill Jordan Sparkbrook
Birmingham, she married Henry Hall

b1861 in Birmingham. He was named after his father who was born 1896 in Romford Essex. In 1891 they were living at 1/82, Ford Street, Birmingham and Henry is a brass polisher. By 1901 they had moved to 1 back of 3 Paxton Road and they now had 2 sons Henry B. b1896 and John T. b1898; both in Birmingham. Also living with them is Henry's widowed father Henry, a packing case maker and Henry's brother John b1869 in Birmingham, an electro plater. Henry is also now an electro plater and an employer of same. It has not been possible to find any further information for this family in the 1911 and 1921 census.

William Henry was born in Oswestry, Shropshire and baptised on 29.08.1869 at St Oswald's church in that town. By 1871 his parents had moved to Birmingham and by 1881 to Yardley where he was brought up. He is missing from the family's 1891 census and it has not been possible to find him elsewhere in that census or in marriage or death records for Yardley, Birmingham, Worcestershire & Warwickshire.

Flora Emma was born in Birmingham in 1871 and was baptised on 12 March that year. She wasn't part of the Jones family household in 1881 and thereafter. There is a record of an 1871 death for someone with

that name. So did she die in 1871, to be buried in Witton Cemetery, or did she go on to marry a man named Hatton? Did she have a daughter Violet who sent Joe Baker a birthday card in 1931.

My mother maintained that there was a connection for one of the Jones daughters to a man named Hatton. There may also have been an association with that name and a Mental Hospital. In the first instance she thought this link was to Flora Emma but could it be Violet Florence? The 1939 Register includes a return for the Marson Green Mental Home, East Birmingham. William Joseph Hatton b10.01.1909 is included amongst the patients who are 'mentally defective' and 'under training'. It has not been possible to find him in any other census or to link him with a specific Jones girl, although there is a record of his birth to a mother maiden name Jones. There is a record of the birth of Violet Hatton, and subsequent death, in 1906 to a Jones mother.

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Ada Beatrice was born in Birmingham in 1873. She is no longer living with her family by the time of the 1891 census when she is 18 years old. It seems she may now be employed as a maidservant at Fox Hollies Hall, Yardley, Worcs. Her younger sister Lilly A is also similarly employed at the Hall by Zaccheus Walker, gentleman, a widower aged 79 years.

By 1901 she is living at 80 Dymoke Street, Aston when she is 29 years old. Her sister Violet is living with her. Ada is a shop keeper working on her own account at that address and Violet is a domestic servant. Annie Gregg, a paper box maker, is visiting them at the time of the census.

In early 1902 Ada married Walter George Cheshire in Aston, Birmingham. He was born in 1872 at Balsall Heath. His father Walter was a warehouseman born in Worcestershire in 1868 and mother Edith was born in 1870 at Birmingham. At the time of his marriage his parents and younger brother William were living at 25 Islington Terrace, off Wenman Street, Balsall Heath, Kings Norton. Ada and Walter went on to have at least three children all born in Aston; Alfred Edward born early 1903, Hilda born late 1904 and Florence Elizabeth born 1909. Was Florence the 'Floss' who sent Joe Baker a card for his 21st birthday in 1931??

The 1911 census records the family of Walter & Ada living at 10 Marshall Street South, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. Walter is a Time & Gate Keeper at the Daimler Motor Co, Edgbaston. In 1921 the census confirms the family is still living at the Marshall Street address and Walter is still in the same job. Ada is doing domestic work for a private household. Alfred is an assistant plater at the Constructional Engineering Co, Charles Henry Street, Birmingham. Hilda is out of work having been latterly employed at 'Leatheries', Sampson Road, North Birmingham. By 1939 the Register shows Walter and Ada still living at Marshall Street South. He is a telephonist with the Auxilliary Fire Service. Ada is a housewife.

Walter died in late 1950 aged 78 years and Ada died in Selly Oak Hospital in early 1954 aged 80 years. Probate for Ada's estate was granted to Arthur Wilfred Devey, coal merchant and probably her neighbour. Her effects amounted to £186.17s.11d.

Their daughter Hilda married John T Harris in 1930, following the birth in 1927 of a son Ronald W. Cheshire. After her marriage she had at least another 5 children: Hilda M. b1931 - married Massey, John T. b1933, Betty M. b1935 - married Fallow, Peter b1937, Brenda A. b1938 - married Silk.

Hilda Cheshire



Amateur dramatic performances were a favourite pastime in the early 1900s. Here are cousins Myra Baker and Hilda Cheshire dressed for such a production. There is a report in the Birmingham Daily Post of 18.03.1918 about an amateur performance of "A Pantomime Rehearsal", in aid of charity, held at the Bham Repertory Theatre. Miss Hilda Cheshire took the part of one of the Babes in the Wood.



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Daughter **Lillian Alice** was born in 1875. When she is 17 years old she is no longer living with her family at the time of the 1891 census. It seems she may now be employed as a maidservant at Fox Hollies Hall, Yardley, Worcs. Her older sister Ada is also similarly employed at the Hall by Zaccheus Walker, gentleman, a widower aged 79 years.

She then married, in 1896, Charles Whorwood born January 1874 in Balsall, Knowle. He was the son of John (a labourer, previously the publican of the Tom o' Bedlam PH Chadwick End in 1871) and Charlotte. They had 2 children, Reginald Henry in June 1896 and Lillian May in October 1897, both born in Chadwick End, Balsall. She died in 1911 aged 13 years (possibly from pneumonia according to my mother).

In 1891 Charles was employed as a domestic cook servant aged 17 for the Hall family, tea merchants of Springfield Hall, Knowle. In 1897 when his daughter was baptised he was a Collector (someone who recovers overdue payments on accounts?). By the 1911 census Charles was a journeyman baker and they still lived in Chadwick End, Balsall. Lillian's mother Elizabeth, by then a widow, was also living them. Charles died in early 1912 aged 38 years.

The Whorwood surname has ancient origins, particularly in Sandwell, from at least the C17th. Many past family members were commemorated on their death by elaborate tombs; but out of a possible seven family effigies only two alabaster effigies remain, in All Saints Church, West Bromwich.

Thereafter, in spring 1913, Lillian remarried in Aston Birmingham, to William Henry Stevens (known as Harry?), a railway clerk b 1874. In 1921 Wm and Lillian were looking after the New Inn Hotel, Holyhead Road, Birmingham on behalf of sister Rose and her husband Alfred, whilst they were on holiday in Bournemouth. Their home address was 22 Palmerston Road, Sparkbrook. In the mid 1920s Harry was staying at an address in Marshall Street, Sparkbrook with his brother-in-law Rowland. It has not been possible to find out where Lillian was during this time. In 1929 (ER) they were both living at 35 Larches Street, Sparkbrook and by 1931 (ER) Rowland was living with them. In the 1939 register 35 Larches Street is missing or has been redacted. In the 1939 register they were living without Rowland at 47, Moor Green Lane, Birmingham with the householder William A Taylor, an export merchant. Lillian was acting as his housekeeper. Lillian died in 1959.

Lillian was my Great Aunt Lil and I was taken to see her by my mother when I was a child. She gave me a turquoise coloured drinking glass with the motto "Forget Me Not". This was probably sometime in the 1950s when she was married to 'Harry' Stevens and possibly lived back in Sparkbrook.



Reginald Whorwood

In 1914 son Reginald signed up as a rifleman soldier (Private 4481) in the London Regiment **1st/9thBn (Queen Victoria's Rifles)**. He was killed in action in October 1916 **on the Somme**, France. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

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Violet Florence was born in Birmingham in the latter part of 1876. By 1891 she wasn't included on the family census but instead she is at 43 Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath; employed as a general servant aged 15 by the Clarke family – the father of which was a traveller. In 1905-06 (ERs) 43 Golden Hillock Road was owned, one of a block of 4 houses, by Thomas Shakeshaft **Jones** of Boldmere Road, Erdington.

By 1901 she is 25 years old and is living with her sister Ada at 80 Dymoke Street, Aston. Ada is a shop keeper working on her own account at that address and Violet is a domestic servant. Annie Gregg, a paper box maker, is visiting them at the time of the census. Ada married in 1902 so what happened to Violet?

No records of her life after that time have been found. However, possibly she or her daughter was alive in December 1931 because a birthday card signed from 'cousin Violet' was sent to Joe Baker, to celebrate his 21st birthday. I wonder if she had a daughter 'Floss' who also sent him a card.

My mother maintained that there was a connection for one of the Jones daughters to a man named Hatton. There may also have been an association with that name and a Mental Hospital. In the first instance she thought this was for Flora Emma but could it be Violet Florence. The 1939 Register includes a return for the Marson Green Mental Home, East Birmingham. William Joseph Hatton b10.01.1909 is included amongst the patients who are 'mentally defective' and 'under training'. It has not been possible to find him in any other census or to link him with a specific Jones girl, although there is a record of his birth to a mother maiden name Jones. There is a record of the birth, and subsequent death, of Violet Hatton in 1906 to a Jones mother.

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The

Daughter **Rose Ellen** b1878 and her husband Alfred Joseph Baker for many years managed or tenanted a number of licensed hostelrys in the Birmingham area. More is said about them elsewhere. By 1901 Rose's family had given up their saddlery shop in Yardley and moved to Aston, Birmingham where her father now had employment as a harness maker.



Albion

Rose Ellen was no longer living with them and may have been employed as a live-in barmaid at The Albion (The Ship Inn) near to her family's new home in Aston as per an entry in the 1901 census. There are a number of letters dated 1938 – 1943 between William (Bill) Jordan and his sister-in-law Rose Ellen after his wife Elizabeth, her sister, died.

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Thomas Francis was born in Yardley, Worcestershire in 1880. He was later baptised in 1883. He was included on the 1881 census for the Jones family as a 6month old baby, again at 10 years on the 1891 census and at 20 years on the 1901 census.

Thereafter it has not been possible to conclusively identify him and his family on the census returns and therefore it is speculation that the following information actually relates to his family.

There is a record of the marriage in 1901 of Thomas F. Jones to Alice Amelia Mugford Gilpin. In 1901 he was employed as a steel tube roller and she worked in a warehouse for a photo framing company. They lived in a court house off Hope Street, Deritend, Birmingham. A number of children were born to the couple including: Gladys May b1903, Thomas b1905, Lilian O. b1910, Frederick R. b1913, Rowland W. b1917 and Harry L. b1922.

In the 1911 and 1921 census the family was still living in Hope Street. In 1911 Thomas snr is a barman and in 1921 he is employed in engineering work, Gladys makes needle cases and Thomas jnr makes chandeliers.

There was a report in the local newspapers of an accident in 1929 that befell the parents when a motor car ran into them whilst they were trying to cross a road. Unfortunately, this led to the death of Alice. An inquest concluded that the driver of the car was not at fault. In 1931 only Thomas F. Snr & Jnr were included on the ER, following the death of Alice.

The 1939 Register indicates that a widower Thomas F is living with Lilian O. and Harry L. Jones at Clevedon Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. Thomas is a radial driller and Harry is a capstan hand. Thomas snr died in 1950 aged 69 years.

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Rowland Randolph was born in Yardley, Worcestershire in 1885. In the 1901 census he is still living at home in Aston and is a harness maker's assistant. In 1911 he is working as a barman for his sister Rose at the White Swan/Swan Inn, Navigation Street, Birmingham.

In 1921 an R. Jones is an inmate in the City Mental Hospital, Lodge Road, Birmingham. His occupation was that of a commercial traveller representing Watson & Bourne of Birmingham – it's not known what they were manufacturing.

According to the 1921 ER a Rowland Randolph is living in a house in Marshall Street South, Sparkbrook. By 1924 and until 1928/1929 (ERs) he is sharing the house with Henry Wm Stevens (Harry) who married his sister Lillian in 1913. It is not known where Lillian was living during the mid1920s whilst Harry was 'caring' for her brother Rowland. Another unrelated couple moved into the house in 1929 (ER) following the departure of Harry but by 1931 (ER) Rowland had moved in with his sister Lillian and Harry now living at 35 Larches Street, Sparkbrook – round the corner from Marshall Street. In the 1939 register the entry for 35 Larches Street is missing or has been redacted. There is a record of the death in 1943 of Randolph R Jones b 1885, in Birmingham aged 58 years.

Given that my mother maintained that there was a connection to a Mental Hospital for someone in the Jones family perhaps this was Rowland, as well as OR rather than a husband of one of the Jones' sisters. Perhaps this explains why Harry Stevens was sharing a house with Rowland in the 1920s and then why Rowland moved to live with both Harry & Lillian by 1929. It may be that he needed

their support. My mother also maintained that he was a bachelor although there are records of the marriage of various Rowland Jones in Birmingham.

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Charles Frederick Jones

Charles Frederick was born on 30.06.1888 in Solihull, Birmingham. In the 1921 census & 1939 register he names himself as Fredk Charles, suggesting he was probably known as Fred. However, his birth records him as being named Charles Frederick Jones with the correct birth mother of Bradley. He married Minnie May Abbitts (Abbotts?) born in Autumn 1889 in Birmingham.

They had two children Ada Florence b1913 in Welland, Ontario Canada and Victor Charles born in Birmingham on 14.07.1916, died early 1998.

It has not been possible to conclusively find Fred & Minnie, either married or as individuals, in the April 1911 census. There is a record of a Minnie Abbitts working as a maid at the Exchange Hotel, Birmingham. It has not been possible to find a record of the marriage of this couple nor of their passage to Canada where their daughter was born, or of their return to the UK. Minnie's surname of Abbitts has been found from the record of her son's birth in 1916.

In 1921 they were living at 35 Larches Street, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. The address occupied later in the 1920s by his aunt Lillian & Harry Stevens. In the 1939 Register the family lived at 18 Bilford Road, Worcester. Both father and son were machine tool engineers.



Frederick's family and Rose Ellen's family seem to have been close and they and their children enjoyed many social events and holidays together (evidence taken from family photographs). Here are Vic, Ada & Fred with Myra Baker. Minnie is seated in the photo on the left.



Fred died in December 1947 still living at Bilford Road, although he died in South Bank Nursing Home, Worcester aged 59 years. Probate was granted to his wife and his estate amounted to £5481.10s.6d.

Daughter Ada married Cyril Fernie (a local govt architect & town planner) in 1935 and had at least one child Colin b 1939 in Birmingham. In the 1939 register they were living at 59, Livingstone Road, Birmingham. She died in 2004.

Son Victor lived with his own family at Hanbury, Station Road, Fernhill Heath, Worcester and then latterly at 14 Homenash House, St Georges Lane North, Barbourne, Worcester. He died in 1998.

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George was born in Yardley, Worcestershire in 1891. By the time of the 1911 census he was 20 years old, his father had died and his mother had gone to live with her daughter Lillian Whorwood. There is a 1911

census record that suggests that a George Jones is a boarder with the Harrington family living in South Road, Handsworth. He is a brass caster's clerk.

It has proved difficult to confirm the above and any other records since there is little information to identify him.

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Dudley includes Sedgley, Coseley, Brierley Hill and Kingswinford, Stourbridge and Halesowen. Major industries were coal and limestone mining, glass making and iron & steel. The area is also well known for nail making, chain & anchor manufacturing and its engineering works.

Sandwell is made up of the six towns of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich. Sandwell was a centre for many metal bashing trades, from small chainmakers to large foundries, as well as coal mining, engineering, chemical and glass making industries.

***There are more than 1.5 million non-conformist records available. Non-conformist is a broad term covering churches of widely differing beliefs that did not follow the teachings of the established Church of England. The term can be used to describe Roman Catholics, Jews, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, members of the Society of Friends, etc.. Members of English Protestant denominations, who did not follow the established Anglican Church, were known as radicals or religious dissenters and risked persecution by refusing to conform.

Before the introduction of civil registration in 1837, most people were baptised, married, and buried in their local Church of England parish, regardless of their beliefs. Historically, many non-conformists used their local parish church for registration purposes, despite their differences in belief, even after the Toleration Act of 1689 granted the freedom to worship. Some non-conformists did keep their own registers, particularly for baptisms and burials in the period between 1689 and 1837.

In 1837, a commission was established to collect and authenticate registers from outside of the established church. This commission was formed in response to the courts' unwillingness to accept certificates from non-conformist institutes. A second commission was established in 1857.