

The Drury English Heritage

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THE DRURY ENGLISH HERITAGE

We left New York's Kennedy Airport Friday evening, March 23rd, and flew an overnight flight on a 747, arriving at London Heathrow Airport about 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning. We lost six hours during the transatlantic voyage and, thus, were only in the air six hours. Arriving bleary-eyed at the airport, we signed out our prearranged rental car and headed north toward Sheffield, Barnsley, and Elsecar to search out whatever we could of our family roots. We already had a few pieces of information:

1. John Drury was born in 1840, lived in and around Elsecar, Yorkshire, England. He married Elizabeth Swift and worked his entire life as a coal miner. He died at age sixty-one with the last words, "Now let this thy servant depart in peace."
2. As far as I knew, John Drury had eight children: Emma, Frank, William, Walter (my grandfather), Charlie, George, Jane, and Harriet. Emma, William, Walter, and Charlie had migrated to the United States. I did not know about Jane or Harriet, and understood that George had stayed in England to serve as a railroad engineer, and Frank continued to live in Elsecar and work as a coal miner. My best bet for connecting with a Drury in Elsecar was presumed to be through the children and grandchildren of Frank Drury.
3. I had some specifics about Walter Drury, my grandfather. He was born January 27, 1872, on "Sheephead Row" in Elsecar. He also lived in Grimethorp and Thurnscoe (16 Church St.). He had married Emaline Guest on July 15, 1895. Emaline's father, William Guest, was married to a Frances Guest and was a family butcher in Hoyland in the Elsecar area and owned a favorite horse named "Toby."
4. I had some information on some of the brothers and sisters of Emaline Guest scribbled on a piece of paper. They were: Mary Jane (who went by Polly), Ellen, Maggie, Lucy, Lizzie, Kate, Arthur, and Butch.

After being awake all night on the flight over, the relatively short trip from London to Elsecar seemed endless. We headed north from London on the six-lane "M1" route, stopping for a quick luncheon in a bakery in Luton. From there, we headed north past Northampton and Leicester but were so tired we pulled off in a service plaza, wound our seats back, and slept a full three hours, not stirring once. On the beautiful M1 highway, we headed north again past Nottingham (of Robin Hood fame) and skirted Sheffield. Sheffield is the Pittsburgh of England, with large dirty steel mills scattered all across the countryside. The distance from London to Sheffield is about 160 miles and can be easily driven in three hours. While the English speed limit is 70-miles-per-hour, we saw very few drivers operating their tiny English cars that slowly.

We got off exit 36 and negotiated around a complicated back-tracking exit, and headed for Elsecar. It was getting toward late afternoon, and we planned on staying in one of England's well-known "bed and breakfasts." These accommodations, usually in private homes or small inns, offer a night's accommodations plus a full English breakfast for eight-ten pounds per person (\$25-30 U.S. per couple).

We got off the M1 "motorway," drove through Hoyland Common, and on through Hoyland Nether to Elsecar.

I had known that Emaline Guest was from Hoyland Nether (from a copy of what is in the family Bible, now held by Ida Webster). I knew Walter Drury was from Elsecar but did not know how close the two towns were. Hoyland Nether (called only "Hoyland" in the area) has a population of about 15,000 people and pretty well covers the entire hill (some say Hoyland, originating before 1200 A.D., referred to "high-land").

We negotiated the narrow winding streets of Hoyland down to the base of the hill and discovered Elsecar. We were impressed with the signs all across England. At every corner there were good descriptions of how far it was to the next town. (The traffic circles or "roundabouts" are quite another matter, however!) Elsecar is nested at the base of the hill and operates under the wing of Hoyland. The central feature of Elsecar is its massive colliery--the coal mines. The Elsecar Church of England was dominant on the landscape, and we went immediately to that church and walked around the graveyards looking for a Drury on a stone. Sharon found a Frank Drury whose wife was Christiana and whose son died accidentally at age fifteen. We immediately wondered, "Was this the Frank Drury, brother of Walter, son of John Drury, and thus my great uncle?" The answer would be forthcoming eventually.

The light was disappearing rapidly, so we decided to attend church there in the morning where I knew my grandfather Walter had pumped the organ as a little boy, and so we hopped in our rented car and headed back towards Barnsley for the evening. As we were driving back up the hill through Hoyland, just by chance we spied a small butcher shop with a large sign reading "Guest Family Butchers." Could it be? Was it possible that the butcher shop of my great-grandfather, William Guest, was still in the family?

We hastily parked our car and went in to make ourselves known. Sure enough! The shop was being operated by Christopher Francis Guest, the fifth generation butcher from William Guest. We had caught them just a moment before they would have closed for Sunday. He quickly led us down to his grandfather whom he said "...will tell you everything about the Guests." We spent several hours with his grandfather William Guest listening to stories, tales, and anecdotes about his youth and his grandfather while we stuffed ourselves with English tea and biscuits. William Guest is a grandson of the original William Guest, father of Emaline, my grandmother. He sorted out the family tree for us readily as follows:

1. William Guest started the butcher shop at its present location in 1830. He did not know where William came from before he came to Hoyland. He was married to Frances Guest, and both of them served in the shop until their death. William died August 30, 1915. About a year later, his wife died--May 19, 1916.
2. James Arthur Guest was the son of William Guest. He was the youngest of nineteen children. He was a brother of Emaline Guest. Some of the brothers and sisters were: Mary Jane, who liked to be called Polly; Ellen, who married Henry Silvester and stood for Emaline and Walter when they were married; Maggie, who married a Mr. Lofftus; Lucy; Elizabeth, who went by Lizzie and died September 11, 1901; Kate; and William Henry, who went by Butch. All of these were brothers and sisters of my

grandmother Emaline Guest. James Arthur was the second generation Guest to operate the butcher shop, and along with his wife Lois (who did all the butchering during the war) carried on the Guest family butcher shop.

3. William Guest was the third generation, and named for his grandfather. He was the man I interviewed and will be eighty-one in August 1984. He is an active person and still drives a car. He was about to "go on holiday" the next morning, so had I not arrived Saturday night, I would have missed meeting him altogether for the rest of the week.
4. Francis Guest was the son of William Guest and carried on the butcher shop until he died tragically in 1969.
5. Christopher Francis Guest was twenty-two at the time his father died and, along with his mother Mona Guest Wilson, picked up the business and continues to operate the family butcher shop in the very building in which his great-grandfather William Guest started in 1830. At our visit, Christopher was thirty-seven.

William Guest recalled having heard about "...a Drury and a Smith going to America." It was decisive to me--this was the very identical Guest family from which my grandmother came. I was amazed over and over again at how tiny details which had been passed down verbally were completely accurate. For instance, William Guest sent his wife Annie (his first wife had died four or five years ago) off to "fetch that picture of Grandpa William." He carefully presented a picture of my great-grandfather Guest to me, telling me, "You can keep that, my sister has another." He told me that William, in the picture, was holding the reins of his favorite horse "Toby." How amazing! That tiny bit of information had passed down four generations, across thousands of miles of ocean, and had been kept intact. Two days later I got a chance to take picture of the very stables where Toby was kept out behind the shop. They are still intact and in good order.

One other important bit of information came from William Guest. I asked him about "Sheephead Row" in Elsecar. He laughed and instructed me that this was just a nickname that the old-timers used for "Reform Row." He gave me directions to Reform Row where my grandfather had lived.

The Guests would not allow us to return for Barnsley for the night, and we were led off to Mona Guest Wilson's (Christopher's mother now remarried) house for the night...which actually turned out to be two nights. What a pleasant experience...eating the fresh meat, and lots of it, from the butcher shop at every meal.

On Sunday morning we attended the Elsecar Church of England parish, got to know the vicar, and visited with the people. The church had no heat--it was the first time in my life I had ever sung a hymn where I could see my breath! I took several pictures of the organ.

Following the church service, we followed the directions William Guest had given us and found "Sheephead"/Reform Row. It is situated exactly opposite the colliery and is in perfect condition, just as it was when my grandfather Walter lived there. We knocked on several doors, attempting to get a confirmation of the fact that Reform Row was indeed Sheephead Row. At the second house an old lady said, "Why, yes, the old-timers always called it 'Sheephead Row.'" This lady also

steered us to the home of Betty Drury Pearson (31 Church St., Elsecar). She said Betty was a Drury and might be my relative. The rest of Sunday was taken up with touring the area hosted by Christopher and his delightful wife Christine. The evening was spent in pleasant visiting and reminiscing with Mona Guest Wilson's other two children Denise Guest Jagger and Lesley Guest.

Bright and early, after being treated to a huge English breakfast, we dropped Mona off at the butcher shop and were treated to a tour of the rooms behind and above the shop where my grandmother Emaline was raised. We also got to see the slaughterhouse, stables, and sheep field behind the butcher shop, all in the original condition since 1830 when William Guest started the business.

It was still early, but we stopped to look up this Betty Drury Pearson and were shocked with how fortunate we were again! Betty Drury Pearson was the daughter of William Drury, who was the son of Frank Drury, Walter's brother. She couldn't believe it! She had not known of any American connection except that one time when she was a tiny girl, her "Uncle Charles from America, a big shot in the Woolworth corporation, had come to see them in a chauffeured limousine." She did not know of Walter or George who we think stayed in England and worked as a railroad engineer.

1. She reported that her grandfather Frank Drury began serving as a miner at age twelve and worked all his life in the mines. His wife was Christiana, and was indeed the very ones we had spotted the gravestones of the day before. Frank had lived at 76 Wath Road when they moved from Reform Row. He was blind in one eye for most of his life but woke up one Christmas morning completely healed.
2. The four children of Frank were William, Elizabeth (who died as a child), Harry (who was run over by a train at the colliery and killed as a fifteen-year-old boy), and a baby girl who died. That meant Frank effectively only had one child, William, to carry the name on. William started working in the mines at age thirteen and lived until 1980.
3. William had four children: Christine, who now lives in London and is married to a Mr. Balme; Betty Pearson, the person I was interviewing; Harry Drury, who worked as a steel mill supervisor and is dead; and Clive, who is also dead.

There are four male Drurys remaining alive. Three are the sons of Harry Drury: Steven Drury, who lives in Pembrokeshire, South Wales; David Anthony Drury, age nineteen or twenty who lives near Elsecar in the town of Jump with his mother Una who is now remarried to a Mr. Taylor; Jonathan, about fifteen, who was born ten minutes after his father Harry died, and also lives with his mother in Jump. The fourth male Drury is Stewart Michael, who is the son of Clive and Elaine Drury, and lives and works in the Wakefield, England town hall, twenty miles northwest of Elsecar.

Betty Pearson reports that there is a brass-bound family Bible somewhere which had Frank's name almost at the bottom of the family tree. Betty Drury Pearson promised to try to get the information from this Bible to me.

Betty Drury Pearson was able to produce the birth certificate for her grandfather which includes the following information:

Frank Boy Drury, born October 12, 1873, at Tingle Bridge, Brampton Brielow.
He is the son of: John Drury, coal miner.
His mother was: Elizabeth Swift Drury.
Baptism registry: October, 1873
Registered December 24, 1924.

We did not visit Grimethorp, the birthplace of Lois.

We did find Thurnscoe where Ida was born at 16 Church Street. The house is now torn down, and an apartment complex is on the site.

We could not find Pit Row, in Brampton Brielow where Walter lived when he got married to Emaline. The English coal miners were on strike, and we had a good time asking them and hearing their rough replies. The best they could do was guess that the old "Pit Row" is now "The Concrete" or "Jerusalem."

We were unable to find the graves of Nellie and William who were buried as children but were instructed that they did not use gravestones for children and buried them in the corner of the cemetery. Frank Drury is buried in the cemetery across from the Elsecar church, a few paces inside the gate and to the left of the walk. The unmarked children's graves are up along the fence to the right, we were told by Betty Drury Pearson. We were unable to find the grave of John Drury.

We headed north to Scotland for several days, and on our way back south to London, we established contact with Elaine-Drury (wife of the late Clive Drury). She and her son Stewart Michael Drury were both at home, and we had an interesting visit complete with the usual tea and biscuits. Elaine supplied a piece of further information for us. She reported that William Drury (son of Frank) lost his wife as an older man and was remarried to a Winifred Drury and lived at 54 Cobcar Lane in Elsecar. We knew that William Drury had died, but we considered this a bonanza since he was remarried to Winifred at the time of his death and she might have the family Bible. Betty Drury Pearson had said nothing about Winifred since there had been some family tension over the contesting of William's will by Winifred, resulting in her getting the entire estate while the children received nothing.

We then left Elaine Drury and her fine son Stewart and headed back to Elsecar again. It was dark by the time we arrived and searched out Winifred's house. We banged several dozen times on the door until we got her attention. Winifred welcomed us in and served us our tenth cup of English tea and biscuits, and could tell us little except that her husband William, son of Frank, had died November 5, 1979. His first wife Connie had died in 1965. She said he often said, "I'm the only Drury that stayed in England...all the rest went to America." Winifred, age seventy-three, was a jolly, personable lady with strong opinions on everything from the current miners' strike to Jesse Jackson. She was a delight to visit but said, "William never brought that Bible when he came to live with me." She said he had some of William's things, but she didn't have the family Bible. She said that after William's wife Connie died he went to South Africa to spend some time with his daughter Christine (now living in London). Winifred reported that while William was in Africa, his daughter Betty (Drury Pearson) had sold his house for him and "got rid of most all of his stuff." Without saying it exactly, she intimated that perhaps Betty Drury Pearson as a younger person may have discarded the Bible in this process.

Anyway, we decided that there was enough tension between these folks already, so we gave up the search for the family Bible for the present.

Our general impressions of the Drury connections in England are that they are hard-working Yorkshiremen who spend little time in play and consider simple, hard labor as the only honorable route for living life.

The following are addresses of the contacts in England:

- Guest Side -

Mona and Roy Wilson Le Harve 14 Upper Hoyland Road Hoyland Nether, South Yorkshire England	(Mona was the husband of Francis Guest, great-grandson of the original William Guest. We stayed with these people while we were in Hoyland.)
Christopher and Christine Guest 23 Wharncliffe Close Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire England S74 OHP	(Christopher is the great-great-grandson of the original William Guest and now runs the butcher shop. His telephone number is Home: Barnsley 743-742; Shop: Barnsley 742-043.)
William Guest 4 The Croft Elsecar, South Yorkshire England S74 ATD	(The grandson of the original William Guest.)
Guest Family Butchers 8 High Street Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire England S74 9AB	(Butcher shop address)
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Jagger 33 The Croft Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire England	(Denise Guest. Denise is the daughter of Mona and granddaughter of William Guest.)
Mr. Lesley and Mrs. Maxine Guest 9 Lifford Place Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire England	(Lesley is the the brother of Christopher and grandson of William.)

- Drury Side -

Betty Drury Pearson 31 Church St. Elsecar, South Yorkshire England	(Betty is a daughter of William, son of Frank, and thus a great-granddaughter of John Drury.)
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Elaine Drury
22 Park Hill Grove
Eastmore Estate
Wakefield, South Yorkshire
England

(Elaine is the wife of the late Clive Drury, son of Frank, and the mother of Stewart Michael Drury.)

Christine & Hedley Balme
14 Lyndhurst Drive
Leyton, Walthamstow (Near London)
England

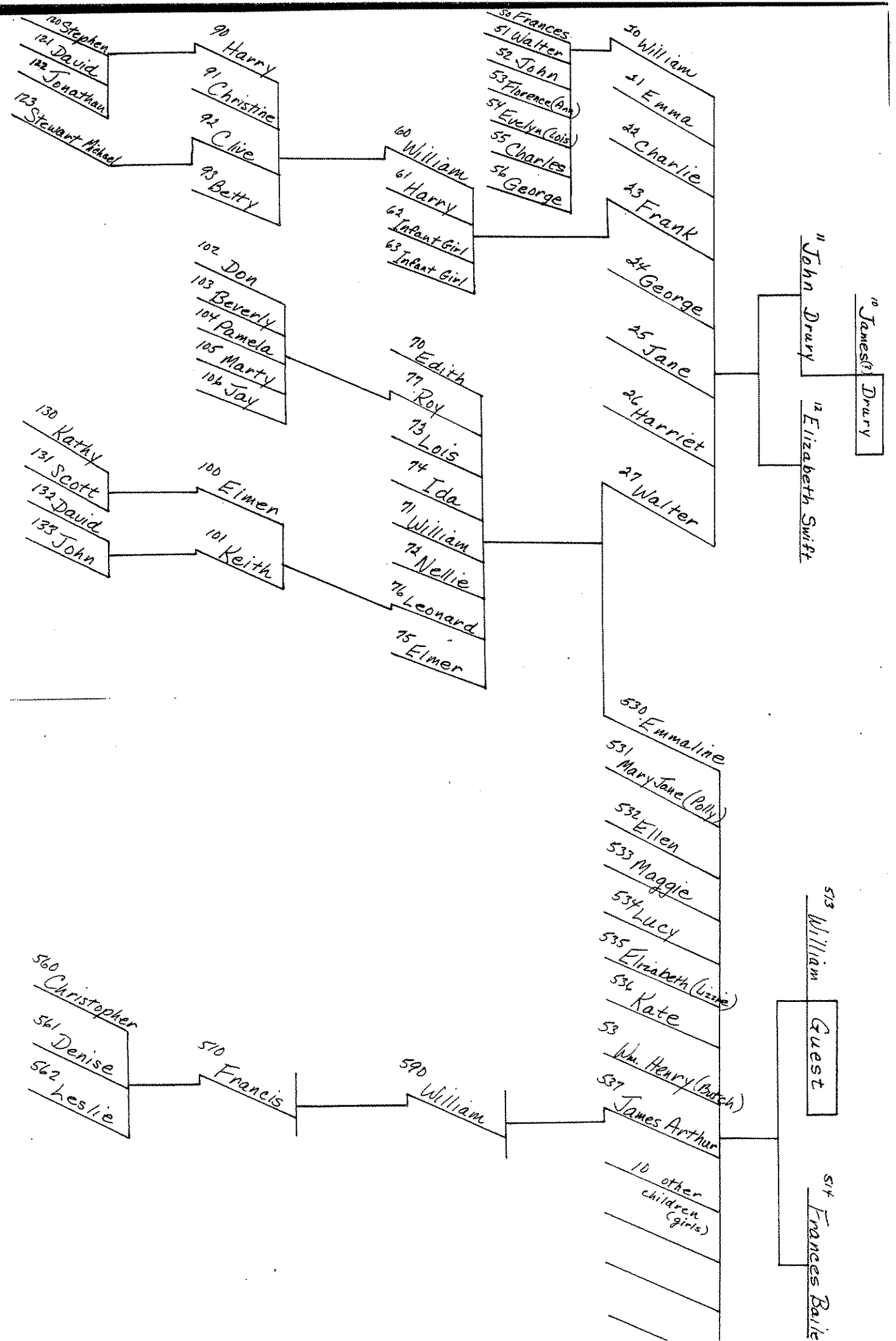
(Christine is the daughter of William, son of Frank. Has two children: Sharon, 15; and Gary, 20.)

Winifred Drury
54 Cobcar Lane
Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire
England

(Second wife of William Drury, son of Frank.)

Una Taylor
Jump, Barnsley, South Yorkshire
England

(Wife of Harry Drury, son of Frank.)

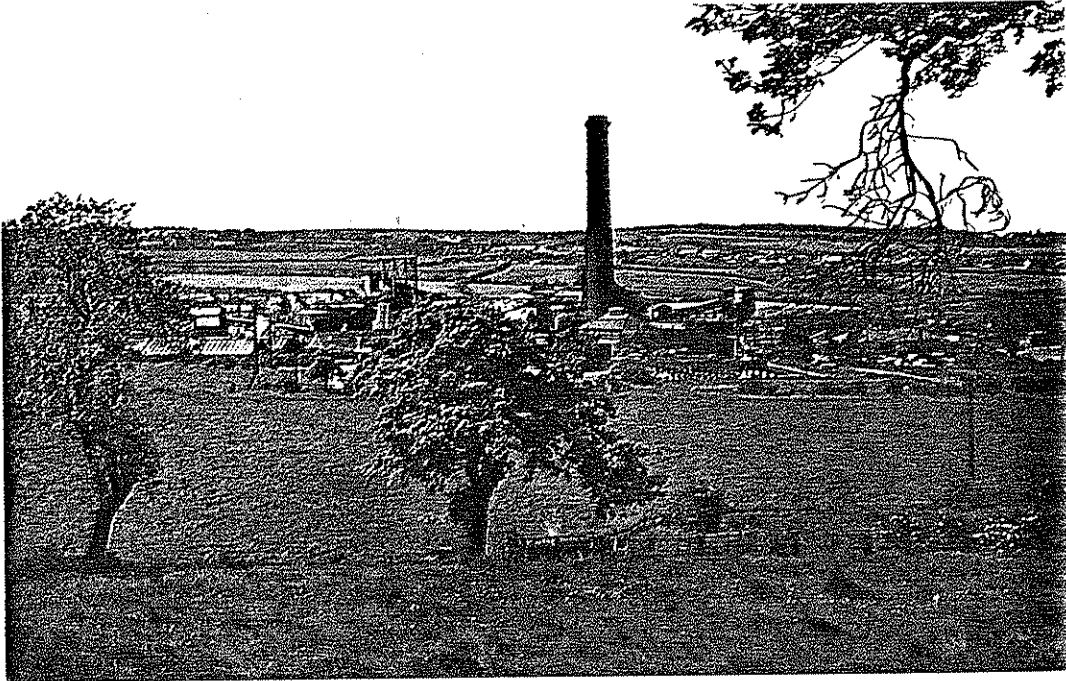




(Left) Mr. & Mrs. JOHN DRURY. John Drury(11) was married to Elizabeth Swift(12) and lived in Elsecar England, near Barnsley. He was a coal miner, as were most of his decendants. Photo comes from Leonard(76) Drury.

Walter(27) and Emmaline(530)(Guest)Drury who were married July 15, 1895. Walter was born in Elsecar January 27, 1872 on "Sheephead Row".





(Above) A post card of the Elsecar Colliery purchased in Elsecar in 1984. This coal mine operated until December 1983 and was the workplace of John Drury(11), Walter Drury(27), Frank Drury(23), William Drury(60),and it is where Harry Drury(61) was killed at the age of 15.

(Below) a photograph of the mine taken in March, 1984 after the mine was closed.



A photo of the Elsecar Church of England Parish. It was given to the author by an attender at the church who had taken it the summer before.



A picture of the author, Keith Drury(101) at the organ in the Elsecar church at the organ which may have been the one which his grandfather Walter(27) Drury had pumped as a boy.





(Above) a photo of two sides of tombstones in the Elsecar graveyard across the street from the church. Three people are burried in this grave (as is common in England) Harry Drury(61) who was killed at 15 in the mines, and his parents Frank(23) Drury and Christiana. The word read (Top Left)"In loving M'Mor of Harry, the beloved son of Frank and Christiana Drury, who was accidentally killed at the Elsecar main colliery. Jany 27th 1919. Aged 15 years. Oh; for a tough of the vanished and a sound of a voice that is still" (Top right) "also the aforenamed CHRISTIANA DRURY who died april 18, 1942. Aged 68 years. at rest. Also the aforenamed FRANK DRURY who died Feb 3rd. 1956. Aged 82 years."



(Left) "Sheephead Row" where Walter Drury(27) was born... this was a nickname for "reform row" which was originally built in 1830. Betty Drury Pearson(93) thinks John & Elizabeth(11&12) lived "somewhere near the center near the date plaque!"

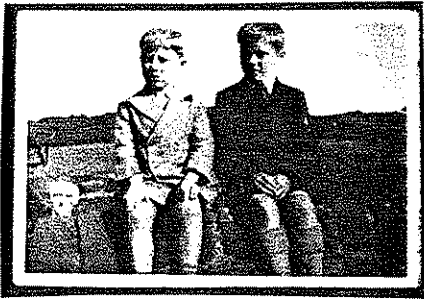


16 Church Street in Thurnscoe where Ida Drury (74) was born.

The house is gone and was replaced by these apartment flats. Just to the right, across the alley is a house which dates before the turn of the century and is probably similar to the house at 16 Church Street.

The author at Drury Lane in London.



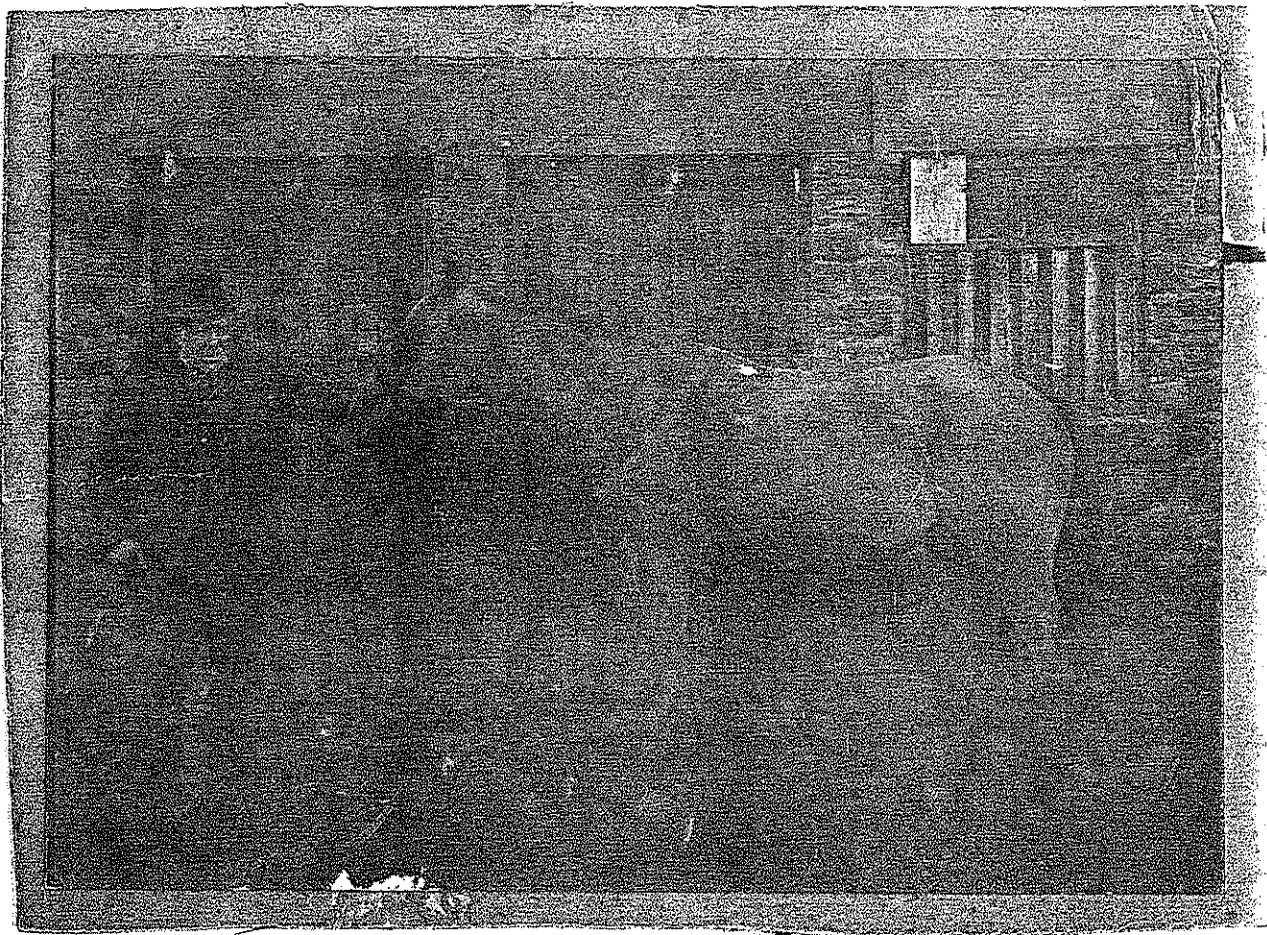


(Left) A photograph of a picture shown the author by Elaine Drury, wife of Clive(92). It shows Frank Drury(23) the brother of Walter Drury(27) looking over the wall on left with his two grandsons Clive(92) and Harry(90) sitting on the wall.

Elaine Drury, wife of the late Clive Drury(92) with the author Keith Drury(101) and Clive's son Stewart Michael Drury(123) in their home in Wakefield South Yorkshire.



Keith Drury(101) with Betty Drury Pearson (93) in her home in Elsecar, March, 1984



(Above) The rare photograph of William Guest(513) who started the Guest family Butcher Shop in Hoyland in 1830. He is pictured at the stables behind the shop with his favorite horse "Toby".

(Below-Left) William Guest(590) grandson of the original William Guest. William was 80 years old in 1984 when I met him. He remembered about hearing of "a Drury and a Smith going to America" as a boy. He clearly remembered his grandfather and could tell many stories of him.

(Below-right) Francis Guest(510) who died in 1969 leaving his wife Mona and Son Christopher in charge of the shop.





(Above) A front view of the Guest Family Butcher shop in Hoyland. Note windows above where Emmaline was raised with her 17 sisters and 2 brothers.

(Right) A view of the shop from up the hill looking down toward Elsecar. Note the steeple of John Knowles church in background.

(This church was built after Walter came to America)

(Below) The weekly delivery of meat is coming into the shop on Monday.



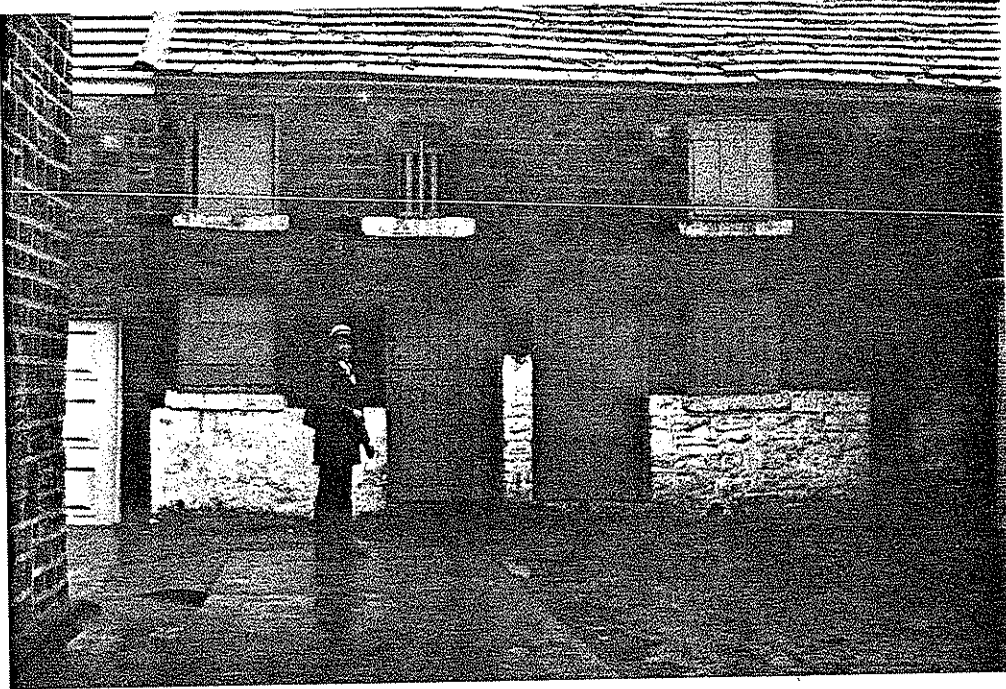


High Street, in the first decade of the present century. Not many traffic problems then! On the left is Moses Fletcher, confectioners. Above 'Dick Croft' is the Old Gardeners Arms, then a beer house kept by George Smith. Most of the property on the right still remains, with the addition of John Knowles' Church opened in 1912 and the shops built on to the front of Holly House. Herbert Garner's, Ironmongers, now Walkers Newsagents, is to the right. Herbert Garner was warden, treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent of John Knowles Church. He died in 1932.

Two views of High street in Hoyland after the turn of the century, from postcards pictured in book Hoyland Nether Through the Years, By Michael F. Bedford (Out of print now, but the author has a copy presented to him by Mona Guest Wilson and signed by the writer of the book.) In both pictures the prominent double chimney of the Guest Buther shop and apartments above are quite visible.



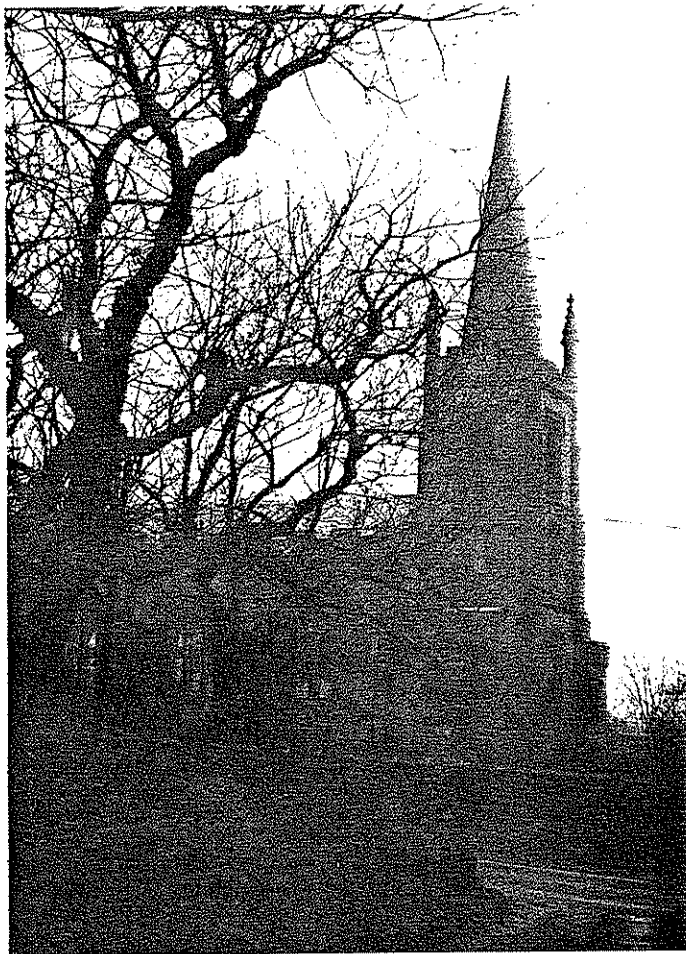
Crowds gather to witness the laying of the foundation stones of John Knowles' Memorial Free Church of England, on the 20th September, 1911. The foundation stones were laid by Mrs. Elizabeth Bartlett, donor of the church and the Rev. Wm. Troughton. The church was built to perpetuate the memory of John Knowles, the brother of Mrs. Elizabeth Bartlett.



(Above) Sharon Drury, wife of Keith Drury(101) in front of the stables located behind the butcher shop. Compare with the picture of William Guest and Toby to see that there has been almost no changes in the last 100 years.

(Below) The small walled pasture/holding pen where sheep were held after purchase from farmers to be kept until needed for butchering. Butchering was done just to the right of the stable in a carefully whitewashed room until 20 years ago when the new health regulations required the shop operators to buy in Sheffield and in other larger cities. This pen is located behind the shop and stables and is still owned by William Guest(590) who continues to own all the real estate including the shop but Christophur operates it.

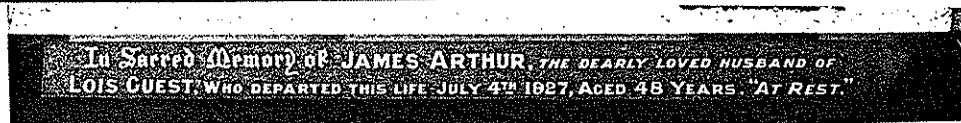
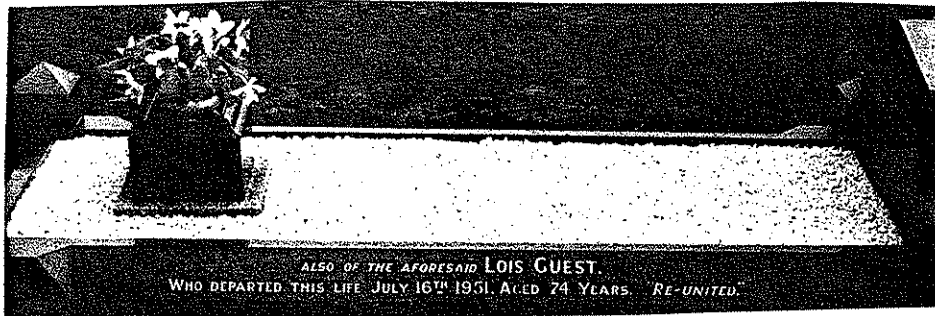
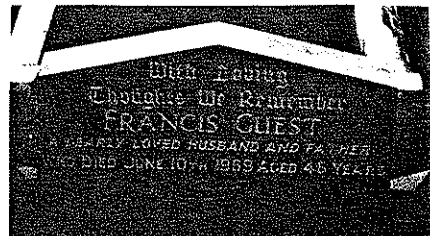




(Left) The Hoyland Low church located up on the hill in Hoyland. This is where Emmaline Guest(530) attended as a child.

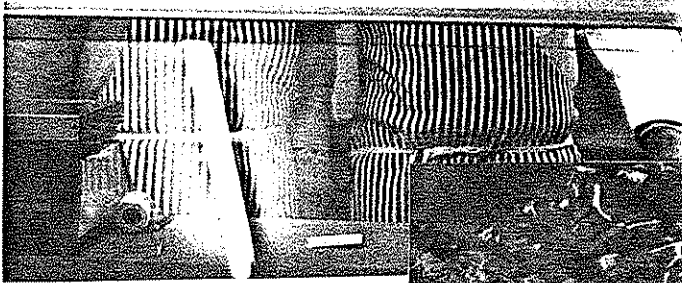
(Below) Photographs of the triple grave in the cemetery across from the church where James Author(537) brother of Emmaline was buried along with his wife Lois and his son Francis Guest(510).

(Below) Sharon Drury with Mona Guest Wilson who was married to Francis(510) and is the mother of Christopher who now runs the shop with her. The couple to the right is Maxine and Leslie Guest(562) who is a steelworker.

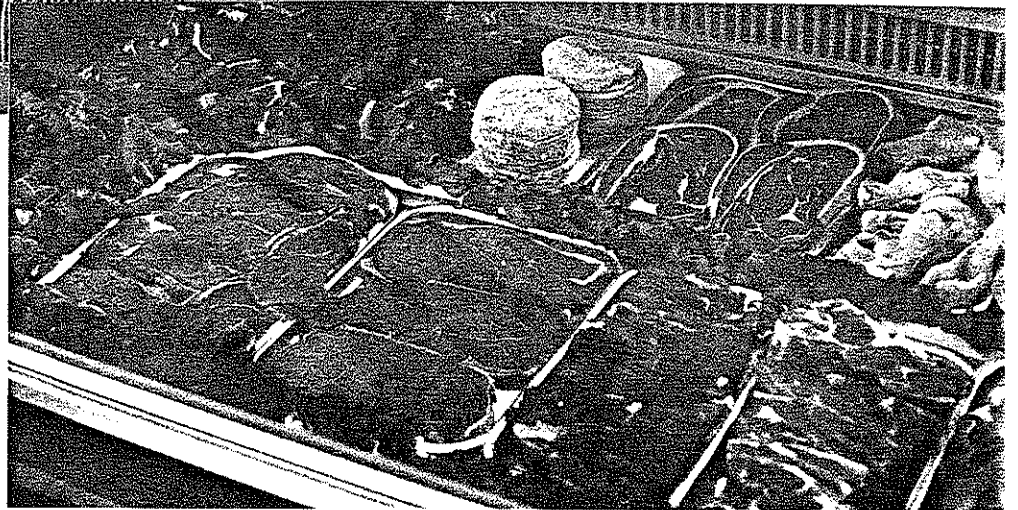




(Left) Mona Guest Wilson with her son Christopher(560) Monday morning in the butcher shop. These two work 12 hours a day six days a week in this flourishing little business.



(Below) Part of the spread of freshly cut meats displayed by 7 a.m. Monday.

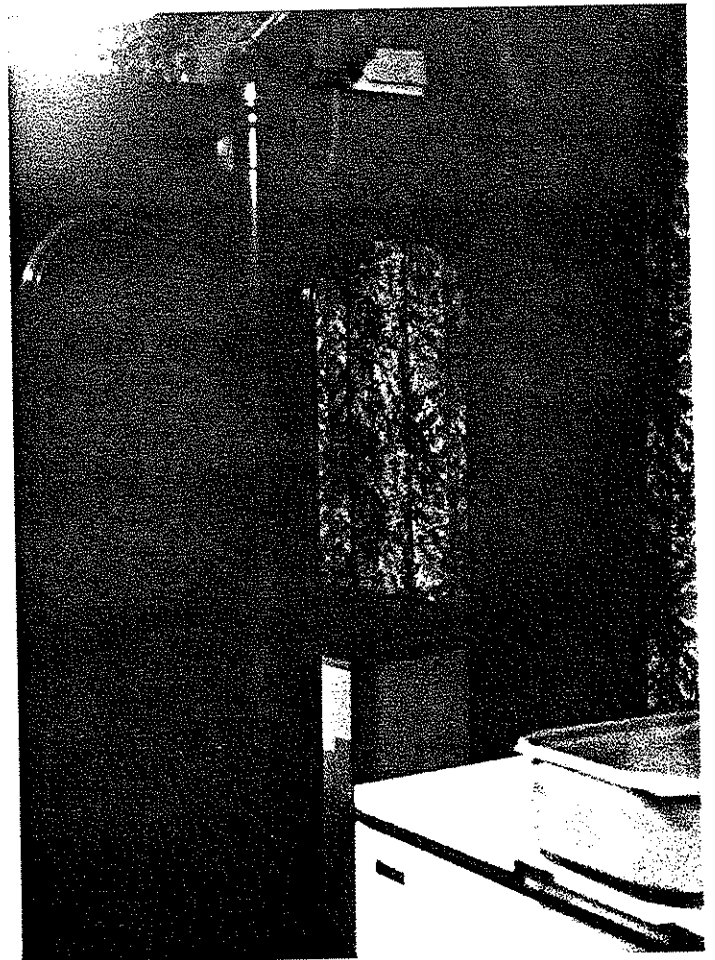


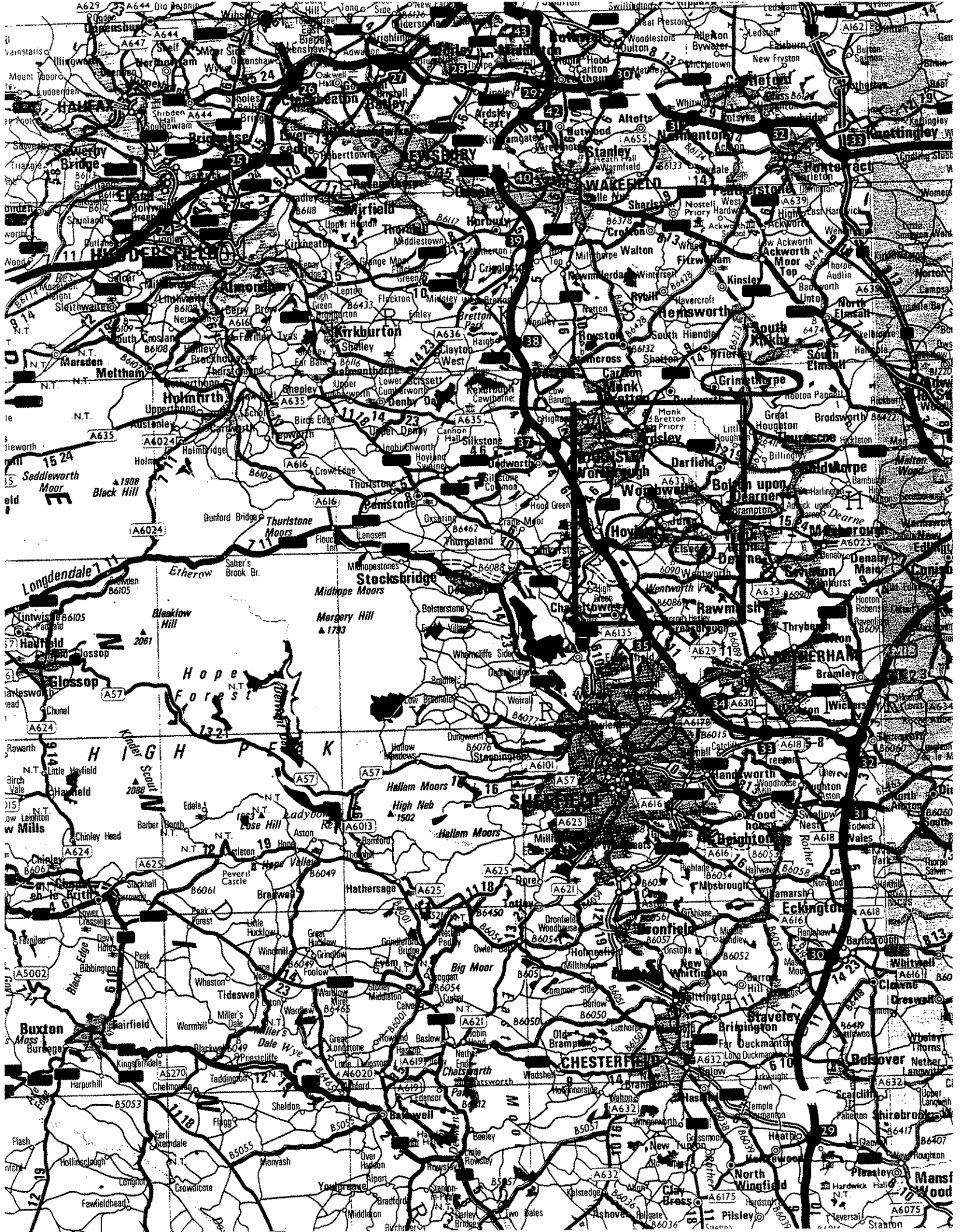
(Left) While most people live in "row houses" in the area, Christopher and Christine Guest(560) have a large centrally heated home.



(Above) A view back toward the rear of the butcher shop from the stables behind it (Note the wood-barred windows of the stables at right).

(Right) One piece of furniture still in the upstairs apartments of the butcher shop. This clothes press, along with most of the other items have been in the apartments since 1830-1850 and thus would have been used by Emmaline as a child. The apartments are not used now except for atorage for the butcher shop below.







CUDWORTH

BARNSELY

Great Houghton

DISTRICT

Little Houghton

WORSBROUGH

DARFIELD

WOMBWELL

WATH UPON DEARN

HOYLAND NETHER

Wentworth

SWAIN

RAWMARSH