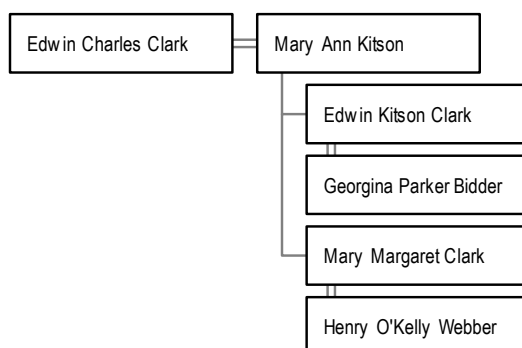


## Mary Ann Kitson



We know nothing about the first daughter of James and Ann Kitson (née Newton), but we do have quite a bit of information for their second daughter, Mary Ann Kitson, born in 1837 and baptised at St Peter's Church, Leeds on 7<sup>th</sup> December of that year.<sup>i</sup>

She was with her family for the 1841 census and ten years later, when she was 13, she was a pupil (transcribed as Mary Kittson) at a school for young ladies run by the Misses Eliza and Harriet Penn from Kidderminster in the Old Hall in the Yorkshire village of Heath. She was back at home for the 1861 census with her family at Little Woodhouse Street.<sup>ii</sup>

The 1871 census finds Mary with a new name – Mary Ann Clark. Her marriage to Edwin C Clark was recorded at the Leeds Registry Office in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1865 but in fact took place at the Unitarian Mill Hill Chapel, Park Row, Leeds, and the date was 8<sup>th</sup> June 1865 when Mary was 27 and Edwin 29. The marriage certificate records Edwin as being a Barrister at Law, residing at Trinity College, Cambridge. Mary's address was Elmete Hall, Roundhay. Witnesses of the marriage were James Kitson (who may have been either her brother or her father), William Aldis Wright, Richard S Ferguson and, interestingly, Elizabeth Hutchinson, who within a few years was to become Mary Ann's step-mother.<sup>iii</sup>

Edwin had been born in Aldbrough, Yorkshire about 1836. He is listed with his father, also named Edwin, for the 1841 census in the civil parish of Aldbrough. Edwin the elder was a farmer at Ellenthorne Hall, one of a few large scattered individual farmsteads in the area.<sup>iv</sup>

|                    |    |  |
|--------------------|----|--|
| Edwin Clark        | 45 | Farmer   |
| Edwin Clark        | 55 |  |
| Amelia Rayner      | 65 | Ind  |
| Mary Nash          | 45 | ? (the notation of Farmer's Wife is crossed out) |
| Mary Davales(?)    | 35 | FS (Female Servant)                              |
| Jane Smith         | 15 | FS   |
| John Gervas        | 20 | Ag Lab   |
| Matthew Shepherd   | 20 | Ag Lab   |
| Charles Slinger(?) | 20 | Ag Lab   |
| George Parker      | 20 | Ag Lab   |
| Isaac Lund         | 11 | Ag Lab   |

It would seem that the wife and mother of the Clarks had died, and certainly the 1851 census return for Edwin S<sup>nr</sup> finds him a widower, and still farming at Ellenthorne Hall. His son Edwin was one of a number of pupils under the tutelage of James Tate, Clergyman of Church of England (without care of souls), at Frenchgate, Richmond, Yorkshire. The 1861 census records Edwin C Clark being in the environment which would set him up for the rest of his working life. He was living at Grays Inn Square, the heartland of the legal fraternity.<sup>v</sup>

|                     |    |                   |                      |
|---------------------|----|-------------------|----------------------|
| Edwin C Clark       | 25 | BA Student of Law | Aldbrough, Yorkshire |
| Joseph Benson (Vis) | 44 | Wine Merchant     | Hounslow, Middlesex  |

Edwin's visitor is conspicuous for being one of only a few people on the census page who was not involved in some role in the legal profession. I trust that Joseph did not deflect Edwin's attention to his studies! And if he did, it did no harm as by the 1871 census Edwin is a Barrister at Law, a married man and a father of two children, although for the 1871 census the latter are not with Edwin and Mary who are visiting the Raikes family at 95 Onslow Square Kensington.<sup>vi</sup>

|                    |    |                      |    |                   |     |
|--------------------|----|----------------------|----|-------------------|-----|
| Henry C Raikes     | 32 | Barrister            | at | Law,              | MP, |
|                    |    | Justice of the Peace |    | Chester, Cheshire |     |
| Charlotte B Raikes | 33 |                      |    | Hope, Flintshire  |     |

|                            |       |                  |                          |
|----------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Henry ATD Raikes           | 7     | Scholar          | Marylebone, Middlesex    |
| Blanche A Raikes           | 5     | Scholar          | Paddington, Middlesex    |
| Edith G Raikes             | 4     |                  | Paddington, Middlesex    |
| Lucy V Raikes              | 2     |                  | Paddington, Middlesex    |
| Francis E Raikes           | 9 mos |                  | Kensington, Middlesex    |
| Caroline L Raikes (sister) | 19    |                  | Mold, Flintshire         |
| Edwin C Clark (visitor)    | 35    | Barrister at Law | Aldbrough, Yorkshire     |
| Mary Anne Clark (visitor)  | 33    |                  | Leeds, Yorkshire         |
| Fanny Robins               | 32    | Cook             | Chislwell, Somersetshire |
| Sarah E Wright             | 25    | Nurse            | Hanley, Staffordshire    |
| Elizabeth O'Connor         | 25    | Housemaid        | Ireland                  |
| Elizabeth Stocker          | 19    | Nursemaid        | Marylebone, Middlesex    |
| Richard Bagley             | 26    | Butler           | Newbury, Berkshire       |
| Emma Woodcock              | 18    | Lady's Maid      | Welton, Yorkshire        |

Meanwhile the two Clark children were at home at 132 Red Lion Lane, Grantchester, Cambridgeshire.<sup>vii</sup>

|                    |    |                  |                              |
|--------------------|----|------------------|------------------------------|
| Edwin Kitson Clark | 4  |                  | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Mary M Clark       | 3  |                  | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Mary Ann Eden      | 26 | Nursemaid        | Stow cum Quy, Cambridgeshire |
| Anne Marshall      | 25 | Domestic Servant | Chartteris, Cambridgeshire   |
| Hannah Marshall    | 23 | Nursemaid        | Upwood, Huntingdonshire      |
| John Jabor         | 17 | Footman          | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |

The Clarks had set up home in Cambridge, and whether or not Edwin actually continued to practise law, he was by the 1881 census well ensconced in academia, living in Newnham Hall, one of the substantial University residences. Both children were away at the time – young Edwin at school and Mary with friends at Trumpington, not far from her parents' home.<sup>viii</sup>



*Newnham Hall (present day)*

|                     |    |                             |                              |
|---------------------|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Edwin C Clark       | 45 | Professor of Civil Law, LLB | Aldbrough, Yorkshire         |
| Mary A Clark        | 43 |                             | Leeds                        |
| Mary Ann Eaden      | 36 | Cook                        | Stow cum Quy, Cambridgeshire |
| Harriet E Muggleton | 28 | Lady's Maid                 | Stow cum Quy, Cambridgeshire |
| Harriet Austin      | 25 | House Maid                  | Chesterton, Cambridgeshire   |
| Sarah A Kidman      | 22 | Parlour Maid                | Teversham, Cambridgeshire    |

It is from Edwin's obituary<sup>ix</sup> that we learn a great deal more about his life and work. He pursued the academic 'glittering prizes' have excelled at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he gained a scholarship and studied classics and mathematics. In classics he obtained the highest honours, being placed Senior Classic and First Chancellor's Medallist in 1858 and afterwards was awarded the Browne Medal for epigrams. His election to a Fellowship at Trinity came as a fitting culmination to a brilliant undergraduate career. On leaving Cambridge he chose the Bar as a profession and proceeded to London where he devoted himself for a time to the work of a special pleader. But he returned after a few years to Cambridge where he spent the remainder of his long and useful life. In 1873 he was appointed to the Chair of Regius Professor of Civil Law, and held the position until 1914. He was also an energetic worker for the advancement of the Law faculty and for the development of the

Squire Law Library. While not a prolific writer his contribution to legal literature has been described as “solid and characterised by considerable learning”.

As with so many of the Kitson family, there is no trace of Edwin and Mary Ann for the 1891 census. I am sure that the family must have taken an extended holiday abroad. And we would not find any record of Mary Ann Clark in the 1901 census as Edwin is listed as a widower and his obituary, which making no mention of his family life, notes that Edwin had been a widower for many years before his death. I have checked out a death registration for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1894, at Cambridge, but disappointingly the certificate shows that this record is for a Mary Ann Clark, wife of Frederick Clark, Maltster!

The last census record available for Edwin C Clark is 1901, still living at Newnham Hall and with his now married daughter and son-in-law.<sup>x</sup>

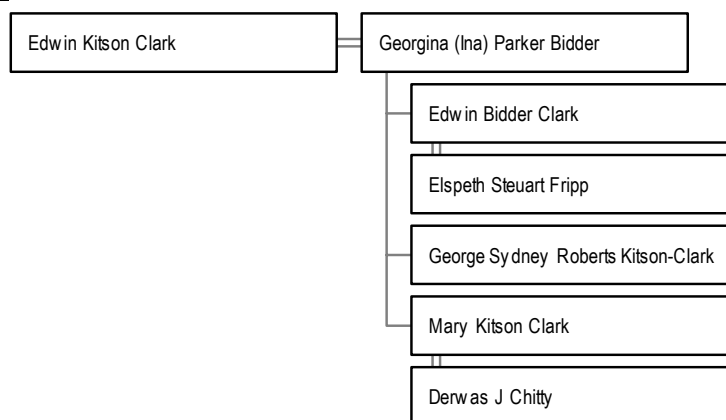
|                              |    |                                   |                              |
|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Edwin C Clark (W)            | 65 | Barrister at Law, Univ. Professor | Aldbrough, Yorkshire         |
| Mary M Webber (daug)         | 33 |                                   | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Henry O’Kelly Webber (S-i-L) | 34 | Merchants Clerk                   | Blackheath, London           |
| Agnes A Abbot                | 35 | Cook                              | Buckden, Hampshire           |
| Sarah Benton                 | 36 | Parlour Maid                      | Moreton, Lincolnshire        |
| Florence Summerlin           | 30 | House Maid                        | Orwell, Cambridgeshire       |
| Arthur C Sholton             | 19 | House Boy                         | Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire  |

For the same census, son Edward Kitson Clark was living in Leeds, now a married man with a young family.

Edwin died on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1917 at the age of 81 at Newnham House, Cambridge. His funeral was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the first part of the service being conducted at Trinity College Chapel. The chief mourners were listed as his son, Lieutenant-Colonel E. Kitson Clark, his daughter Mrs Webber, Mrs Kitson Clark (daughter-in-law), Miss Webber (granddaughter), Major Stott (cousin), Captain S.D. Kitson (brother-in-law), Lord Airedale and Mr. S.J. Kitson (nephews) and Mr. Sydney Fawcus (cousin). The funeral notice also lists some of the congregation – too numerous to list here, but an august representative group of Edward’s academic colleagues.<sup>xi</sup>



#### Edwin Kitson Clark



Edwin Kitson Clark, nephew of James Kitson S<sup>nr</sup>, was born on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1866 in Granchester, Cambridgeshire, the first child and only son of Edwin C Clark and his wife Mary Ann (née Kitson). As noted above, for his first census appearance in 1871 he was at home with his sister at Newnham College, being cared for by the family servants while his parents were in London visiting the Raikes family.<sup>xii</sup>

|                    |    |                  |                              |
|--------------------|----|------------------|------------------------------|
| Edwin Kitson Clark | 4  |                  | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Mary M Kitson      | 3  |                  | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Mary Ann Eden      | 26 | Nursemaid        | Stow cum Quy, Cambridgeshire |
| Ann Marshall       | 25 | Domestic Servant | Charteris, Cambridgeshire    |
| Hannah Marshall    | 23 | Nursemaid        | Upwood, Huntingdonshire      |
| John Taber         | 17 | Footman          | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |

In 1881 he was enrolled in the Village Grammar School, belonging to the Cloth Workers Company at Sutton Valence, Hollingbourne, Kent. Founded in 1576 by William Lambe, Master of the Clothworkers, and a member of the Chapel Royal of Henry VIII, it remained under the control of the Clothworkers’ Company until 1910 when it was taken under the control of United Westminster Schools, a charitable trust which also incorporates Emanuel School and Westminster City School in London. At the time young Edwin was a pupil the school was

headed up by James Kingston, Clerk in Holy Orders and Schoolmaster from London.<sup>xiii</sup> Edwin then went to Shrewsbury, where he was head boy, and he completed his education at Cambridge University. He went up to Trinity on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1885, obtained a first class honours degree (Class. Trip) in 1888 and was awarded an MA in 1892. Having completed his education, Edwin entered the Airedale Foundry and was successively apprentice, foreman, works manager, partner and, after the firm was incorporated as a limited liability company, director and chairman. He drew on his extensive knowledge of the Kitson enterprise when he wrote the history "Kitsons of Leeds, 1837-1937" which was published in 1938 to commemorate the centenary of the firm.<sup>xiv</sup>

By the time he is next located in the census records he has joined the family's engineering firm, moved to Leeds, married and has a young family. In March 1901 the Kitson-Clarks were living at 9 Hyde Terrace, West Leeds.<sup>xv</sup>

|                    |        |                   |                              |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Edwin Kitson Clark | 34     | Loco Engine Maker | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Georgina B Clark   | 36     |                   | Kensington, London           |
| Edwin B Clark      | 2      |                   | Leeds                        |
| Geo S R K Clark    | 9 mths |                   | Leeds                        |
| Emily Beevers      | 34     | Cook              | Gildersome, Yorkshire        |
| Anne G C Taylor    | 33     | Nurse             | Bow, London                  |
| Stella Shaw        | 17     | Housemaid         | Bradford                     |
| Margaret Laven     | 18     | Housemaid         | Acomb, Yorkshire             |

Edwin's wife, before her marriage, was Georgina Bidder Parker, probably born late 1864 (although her birth was registered in Kensington in the Jan-Mar quarter of 1865, was the daughter of George Parker Bidder and Anna Bidder (née McLean). She was one of many of their children and was at home for the 1871 census at 8 Cedar Road, Clapham, Surrey.<sup>xvi</sup>

|                      |    |                  |                              |
|----------------------|----|------------------|------------------------------|
| George Parker Bidder | 34 | Barrister at Law | Brompton, Middlesex          |
| Anna Bidder          | 31 |                  | Westminster, Middlesex       |
| Annie Bidder         | 9  |                  | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| George P Bidder      | 7  |                  | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Georgina Bidder      | 6  |                  | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Mary Bidder          | 4  |                  | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Augusta B Warne      | 29 | Governess        | Clifton, Gloucestershire     |
| Mary Drew            | 27 | Domestic Servant | Highworth, Wiltshire         |
| Ellen Creed          | 24 | Domestic Servant | Coke Rogers, Gloucestershire |
| Mary Ann Bovis       | 31 | Domestic Servant | Battle, Sussex               |
| Mary Ayres           | 33 | Domestic Servant | London Middlesex             |
| Adine Henry          | 17 | Domestic Servant | Switzerland                  |
| Mary T Ward          | 13 | Domestic Servant | London Middlesex             |

George Parker's father, also named George, had acquired the Ravensbury Estate, in Surrey, and had built on it Ravensbury Park House, into which the family moved in 1864. In 1887 George Bidder S<sup>r</sup> transferred Ravensbury Park House in Surrey to his son, and it is here that the family is living for the 1881 census. Apart from the younger additions to the family a daughter, Bertha, now appears but who was absent from the household for the previous census.<sup>xvii</sup>

|                       |    |                             |                              |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| George Parker Bidder  | 44 | Barrister in Practice       | Brompton, Middlesex          |
| Anna Bidder           | 31 |                             | Westminster, Middlesex       |
| Annie Bidder          | 19 | Undergraduate, London Univ. | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Bertha Bidder         | 18 | Student Music, Arts School  | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Georgina Bidder       | 16 | Scholar                     | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Mary Bidder           | 14 | Scholar                     | Kensington, Middlesex        |
| Harold Bidder         | 5  | Scholar                     | Clapham Surrey               |
| Morris McLean Bidder  | 2  |                             | Ebury St, Middlesex          |
| William Berdsey       | 29 | Butler                      | Yarmouth, Norfolk            |
| Julia Chapman         | 26 | Housemaid                   | Marylebone, Middlesex        |
| Elizabeth Craig       | 21 | Housemaid                   | Dundee, Scotland             |
| Annie Lucas           | 21 | Kitchenmaid                 | Kennington, Surrey           |
| Eliza Harding         | 30 | Domestic Servant            | London Middlesex             |
| Henrietta Tincker (W) | 37 | Nurse                       | Peckham, Surrey              |
| Mary Tincker          | 15 | Nursemaid                   | Quebec, Canada               |
| Mary Ann Ayres*       | 44 | Ladysmaid                   | London Middlesex             |
| Helen Creed*          | 34 | Cook                        | Coke Rogers, Gloucestershire |

\* It is unusual for domestic help to stay with the same family from one census to the next.

What makes the above record stand out is that, for the first time in this account of the Fretwell offshoots, we see young ladies receiving what can be termed an academic education. It is likely that Bertha was studying at the Slade School of Arts because this is where her younger sister Georgina also studied in 1892-93.<sup>xviii</sup> However this academic bent is not so surprising when we note that Georgina's paternal grandfather was something of a child prodigy in his day, and I think the following extract is worth recording here.

#### George Parker Bidder, 1806-1878

*George Bidder was born in Moretonhampstead, became famous nationally as a boy prodigy at mental arithmetic, was sent to study mathematics at Edinburgh University, and then entered the Civil Engineering profession just at the time when his skills were valuable in the enormous development of the railway system and the docks. He prospered (and helped his Devon relatives to prosper), bought property at Dartmouth, and eventually retired there. He is remembered in Devon chiefly as an infant prodigy, and his status as Civil Engineer and successful business man is forgotten. The following brief account of his career, based on the biography "The Calculating Boy" by his great-great-grandson, E.F. Clark, MA, MIMechE, is intended to restore the balance.*

#### Childhood

George Bidder was born in Moretonhampstead. He was the third son of William Bidder, a stonemason, and Elizabeth Parker, whose family were also stonemasons. He had two elder brothers, William (later a nonconformist minister) and John (a stonemason, like his father). John taught him the numbers from the face of his watch and explained how to count up to one hundred, but that was all. However George loved numbers, worked out the multiplication table for himself while playing with marbles, conkers or shot, and delighted in doing sums in his head. His skill was first noticed when, after he was in bed, he heard his elders trying to work out what they would get from the butcher for their pig, and impatiently shouted the correct answer down the stairs. He often sat in the blacksmith's shop across the road, and soon found that he was rewarded by the bystanders for showing off his skill at simple sums. His ability to do elaborate multiplication sums grew with practice. He found it easy to hold large numbers in his head, and visualised them although he had not been taught to write them down. When George was seven Jacob Isaac, the local Baptist minister, who also ran a school, examined him and reported that, although he had difficulty in reading, and did not know the relationships between feet and inches or days and years, he had no difficulty in doing sums involving these quantities once they were explained to him.

#### On His Travels

Before long George's father found it profitable to exhibit him as "The Calculating Prodigy" at fairs and shows, going further afield as his reputation grew. Advance notice would be given of his appearance in some inn or hall, and a charge made for admission. In this way he visited, among others towns, Brighton, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Dudley, Worcester, Birmingham, Oxford, Cambridge, Norwich, Great Yarmouth and of course London. In the course of this, in the winter of 1816-7, he was invited to answer questions by Queen Charlotte, which were duly reported and added to his fame. The problems set were wrapped up verbally in the way usually used in those days, but he had no difficulty in reducing them to arithmetic, and once a new set of units had been explained to him he remembered the relationships between all the units. The travel as a "prodigy" must itself must have been quite an education for a country boy, but in 1816 two gentlemen from Cambridge who saw his performance persuaded his father to let him attend school in Camberwell - his mother was enthusiastic, but his father less so. However George had a year of regular schooling before going on tour again. George does not seem to have resented this life - he remained a cheerful boy, quite willing to joke with questioners.

#### Edinburgh

In 1819 George was exhibited in Edinburgh, and a new life started. He attracted the attention of a group led by Sir Henry Jardine, who undertook his education in Edinburgh. He spent a year with a private tutor and then attended classes in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at the University. His "prodigy" days were behind him, he became a normal student and made friendships which lasted throughout his life, notably with Robert Stephenson, son of the railway engineer George Stephenson.



Edward Kitson Clark



Summer 1900 The Leeds Rifles were founded in 1859 as the 7th Yorkshire, Leeds Rifle Volunteer Corps. In 1887 they became the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Prince of Wales Own, West Yorkshire Regiment Leeds Rifles, shown here in 1900. Many of the officers in the regiment came from prestigious Leeds families including the Kitson, Lupton and Tetley families.

A full list of offices follows in order of rank: Charles Ryder Honorary Colonel, Edmund Wilson Hon. Col. (President Thoresby Society), Frederick William Tannett-Walker Honorary Lieutenant Colonel (lived at Carr Manor), George Herbert Rowe Hon.Lt.Col. (Warder Lyddon Hall, Yorkshire College), John Walter Stead Honorary Major, Lewis Motley Hon. Major, Charles Samuel Bedford Hon. Major (brother of James, Lord Major), Walter Braithwaite Hon. Major (the local artist), Joseph Charles Chambers Hon. Major (raised the Leeds ASC 1908), George Wright Captain and Quarter Master, Albert Edward Kirk Captain (Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects), Frederick Charles Bousfield Captain, **Edwin Kitson Clark MA Captain (nephew of James Kitson; later President Thoresby Society)**, George Washington Chadwick Captain, Edward Octavius Croft MD Surgeon Captain, Gerard Elin Lieutenant, James Whitelaw Alexander MD Lt, Charles Harold Tetley Lt (son of Lord Mayor), Robert Arthur Hudson Lt, Frederick McCulloch Jowitt 2nd Lieutenant, Norman Darton Lupton 2nd Lt (bequeathed art collection to the City of Leeds), **Sydney Decimus Kitson ARIBA 2nd Lt (son of James)**, Wilfred Law Illingworth 2nd Lt, Benjamin Andus Hirst 2nd Lt, Gerald Adshead 2nd Lt, Alexander Talbot Baines 2nd Lt (nephew of Sir Edward), Stanley Crawford Fitch 2nd Lt, Joaquim Antonio Agostinho de Macedo 2nd Lt (son of Portuguese consul), John Barrett Redmayne 2nd Lt. Senior Officers are seated on the central row. Second Lieutenants would be seated on the floor on the first row.

Later, when George became prosperous, he repaid his debt to Jardine and Edinburgh by establishing a scholarship at Edinburgh University for a student of limited means, which he named the Jardine Bursary. Sir Henry Jardine not only provided for George's education, he also remained his mentor in his professional career until his death in 1851. He found George a post in the Ordnance Survey as a trainee after he had finished at Edinburgh, and after five years in Scotland, George set off in 1824, at the age of 18, for Cardiff and then London.

#### Surveys and Railways

George spent a busy time, based on London but travelling to carry out specific surveys, learning professional skills and making contacts which were vital to him in the next stage of his career. After a year with the Ordnance Survey he moved into Civil Engineering as assistant to Henry Palmer, a former pupil and assistant to Thomas Telford. With Palmer he worked on surveys for the London Docks and on several railway and canal surveys. For a while in 1827 he also took part-time work as a clerk at the Royal Exchange Life Assurance office, to make more money to help his younger brothers. His next work was as an assistant engineer with Walker and Burges, laying the granite tramway in the Commercial Road, and on the Brunswick wharf at Blackwall. In 1834 he formally joined his friend Robert Stephenson on work for the London & Birmingham Railway for a year, a time of intense activity. The partnership and friendship between George Bidder and Robert Stephenson, later described by Stephenson as "the long and satisfactory private as well as professional friendship", lasted until Stephenson's death in 1860. This was the beginning of the railway era. In 1825 the Stockton & Darlington Railway had opened, with a steam locomotive driven by George Stephenson, and in 1829 the Rocket was designed by Robert Stephenson for the London & Manchester Railway. Plans for new railways were mushrooming, and these needed accurate survey work and detailed costings to support the applications for Acts of Parliament to approve them. Here was a new field for George's talents, appearing before Parliamentary Committees - his surveying skills and prodigious ability at mental arithmetic made him highly effective in presenting his plans and spotting the errors in the plans of others, and he enjoyed the cut and thrust of argument. In fact it is said that on one occasion opposing Counsel objected to his presence "because nature had endowed him with particular qualities that did not place his opponents on a fair footing." Other railways he later worked on in association with Stephenson were the London & Blackwall Railway, the London-Brighton line (a plan which was not accepted), the Blisworth-Peterborough branch of the London & Birmingham, the Yarmouth & Norwich and Norwich & Brandon lines (designing the first swing bridge), the North Staffordshire, and the London, Tilbury and Southend. In later years he made major contributions to the rationalisation of the East Anglian railways and the formation of the Great Eastern Railway.

#### The Electric Telegraph

The Electric Telegraph was a new invention, not yet commercially developed, when Bidder persuaded the London & Blackwall Railway to install the system as part of its management. Later, on the Yarmouth and Norwich line, his use of the telegraph made possible the economy of a single track line, with reliable and immediate communication between stations. At first telegraph lines were used exclusively for railways, but then the advantages of a public communication service were seen and the demand for telegraphs grew. George Bidder was active in promoting the formation of the Electric Telegraph Company in 1846 to finance this development, and he played a large part in the day-to-day running of the company, and in the eventual development of transatlantic cables. He is said to have been responsible for recommending the employment of women as telegraph operators, the first "office" job for women. Eventually, in 1869, the Post Office took over the telegraph service and these women became the first female Civil Servants.<sup>ix</sup> The Home Civil Service long led in providing equal opportunities for both sexes, for which Bidder must take some of the credit.

#### Foreign Ventures

Stephenson and Bidder were also active abroad, often represented by Bidder himself. From the 1840's they made several journeys to Norway, where they constructed the first railway in Norway from Christiania (now Oslo) to Eidsvold, which opened in 1854. Bidder was also active as engineer-in-chief of the Royal Danish Railway, which opened in 1855, and at the same time he introduced gas lighting to Denmark, through an English company set up by himself and two other Englishmen. He continued to have an interest in the Danish Gas Company, and was in fact Chairman in 1870; the company continued to run until 1963. In the 1850's Stephenson and Bidder also visited Switzerland, to devise plans for the Swiss Federal railway system. Bidder was also consultant engineer to various Indian railways from the 1860's. He never went there himself, but one of his brother John's sons, Edwin, who became a Civil Engineer and died in Lahore in 1872, may well have been directed there by his uncle. A measure of his reputation abroad is that he met at least four foreign monarchs - the King of Norway on the occasion of the opening of the Norwegian railway, King Leopold of the Belgians who was advised by him and Stephenson on railway matters, the King of Denmark when he was visiting the Danish railway, and the French Emperor who entertained him with a delegation from the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1869.

#### Working with Water

Throughout his professional career Bidder was involved with work on docks, especially London Docks where major new work was needed - and where he cut his teeth on actual work sites (as opposed to surveys and planning). The Victoria Docks, built in the 1850's and largely due to his ideas, were a major contribution. They included a graving dock which was the largest then in existence, with the largest lock gates (of original design) and hydraulic lifts for the ships (another innovation). When planning the railways which became the Great Eastern he was responsible for choosing Lowestoft as the terminus and designing its harbour. He also made a major contribution to the plans for the long-awaited main drainage of London, not as engineer but as consultant and adviser to the various political committees involved and then to the Metropolitan Board of Works which eventually took action. Water was

something he felt strongly about. His Presidential Address to the Institution of Civil Engineers deals with the importance of hydraulics, drainage and tidal effects to Civil Engineers and of maritime engineering to the nation; his Presidential Address to the Devonshire Association, of which he was President in 1869, is on the subject of Rivers.

#### Bidder as Civil Engineer

Bidder joined the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1825, at the very start of his career, and played an active part in its meetings and debates. He served on its Council, became a vice-president, and succeeded Joseph Locke as President in 1860-1. As we have seen, his range of interests was very wide, and he was always ready to try out novel ideas and put them to practical use. Noteworthy examples are the application of the electric telegraph, the use of steam power for fishing trawlers, the design of swing bridges, and the use of hydraulic power to raise ships in the Victoria Docks. He was a working engineer, but good at delegating once the original surveying, costing and planning had been done. His appreciation of the practical side is shown in his publication of "Bidder's Tables", a calculating device to enable those without his arithmetical skill to work out the volume of earth to be moved in a cutting or embankment. Bidder was a contemporary of I.K. Brunel. The two men respected each other but often found themselves on opposite sides in disputes between railway companies. Their most important difference was over the adoption of a standard gauge for all British railways. Brunel's broad gauge lines in the west were incompatible with the narrower gauge used elsewhere, and Bidder, a stalwart defender of the principle of a single gauge, won the day. Brunel designed beautiful structures, but his projects were often delayed by overrunning budget, whereas Bidder's projects, meticulously costed, were always completed on time and within budget. Brunel's Clifton suspension bridge could not be completed in his lifetime because of lack of money, and was only finished later by a group of men, including George Bidder, who raised money for the purpose after his death.

#### Bidder as Entrepreneur

Bidder was a man in the right place at the right time - his calculating ability and memory for figures were very useful in his chosen profession, and he was able to work very hard at a number of projects simultaneously. His ability also attracted the attention of influential figures who were useful contacts - such as Isaac Solly, Director of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company, Chairman of the London Dock Company and of the London & Birmingham Railway Company, who indirectly employed Bidder in all three. When he started earning money, his first thought was to help his family with money or introductions to careers, but when he was able to invest money he did so in a variety of projects. Investment for him meant taking an active interest and a share in the management of a project. A good example of this is the Electric Telegraph Company, but it is also typical that when he was spending more time in Dartmouth he became involved with the Torbay and Dart Paint Company - which made anti fouling paint for iron from local haematite - and the Buckland Slate quarry. He also had an active interest in coal mines, a Welsh slate quarry, and Indian trading ventures. He also invested in land, especially building land, not only in England but in Norway where he owned property, and especially bought where he could see that the new railways he was building would bring a need for housing.

#### Family Matters

As George Bidder moved up in the world and began to have money to spend, he did not forget his relations in Moretonhampstead. He enabled his parents to move into Exeter, while his brother John carried on as a builder in Moreton. His support not only helped with the education of his younger brothers, but launched them into careers. Bartholomew obtained a post at the Royal Exchange Assurance Company in London (where George had worked briefly) and rose to be their Actuary. It is said that Bart too had a phenomenal memory for numbers, and that when the company's records were destroyed by fire he was able to restore them from memory. Samuel followed George into railway engineering, working on the London & Birmingham Railway and others, finally becoming the General Manager of the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada during its construction. Two of John's sons, George and Edwin, also became Civil Engineers and their deaths are recorded in St Andrews Church in Moretonhampstead. George's letters show that he continued to visit Moreton and Exeter, and owned farm land in Moreton. In 1835, George married Georgina Harbey, whom he had met in London. They lived for a time in Walworth, but in 1846 they bought Mitcham Hall in Surrey where most of their children were born. They later bought the nearby Ravensbury estate, and on it built Ravensbury Park House to which the family moved in 1864. Meanwhile in 1860 they bought a house and land at Paradise Point, just north of Warfleet Creek in Dartmouth. The name of this house was changed to Ravensbury, which Mrs Bidder preferred, and they spent a gradually increasing amount of time there. Throughout their married life, in spite of the enormous pressure of business, George Bidder was an assiduous correspondent, writing regularly to his wife and children when he was away from home. These letters are now an important source of information about his affairs. George and Georgina had 8 surviving children and 28 grandchildren. Their eldest son, also George Parker Bidder, read mathematics at Cambridge with distinction, then became a QC, specialising in Parliamentary work. His son, the third George Parker Bidder, was a distinguished zoologist, becoming President (and a notable benefactor) of the Marine Biological Association, and President of the Devonshire Association. The whole family tree contains a galaxy of engineers and lawyers.

#### Bidder and Dartmouth

Bidder made trips, combining business and pleasure, in Robert Stephenson's yacht, and in 1853 he acquired his own yacht the Mayfly (a yacht, for a wealthy Victorian, being the equivalent of today's executive jet). It may have been this which led him to buy property in Dartmouth. As he began to spend more time in Dartmouth he took a larger part in local affairs. In 1868 he was invited to stand for the Town Council in the hope that he would become Mayor (with the support of both parties), but he declined this office because he was still spending too much time in



London. However he topped the poll for the Council on which he served in 1868-71, and contributed advice to the work then being planned to drain the centre of the town, and to plans to improve the water supply. He also contributed, with his neighbours, to the new road and bridge across Warfleet Creek. One of his friends while he lived in Dartmouth was William Froude, who borrowed his steam-launch as a tow for his early experiments in ship design, comparing two model hulls by towing them either side of the launch from the ends of a boom to keep them clear of the wash. This work was probably carried out in the River Dart. Bidder was also a founder member of the Dart Yacht Club and was instrumental in enabling it to acquire the Royal warrant. Another Dartmouth venture was his interest in the development of steam trawlers. He must often have watched sailing vessels struggling with the entrance to the Dart, and had plenty of experience of commercial steamships, so he felt the use of steam would benefit the local fishing industry. In partnership with a Dartmouth trawler owner, Samuel Lake, he commissioned several steam trawlers for experiment, providing steam power for hauling nets and raising anchors as well as for propulsion. He succeeded in showing that the steam engine did not scare the fish away, but there were other problems and the venture was not financially viable - it was an idea ahead of its time.

In 1877 Bidder transferred Ravensbury Park House in Surrey to his eldest son and bought Stoke House at Stoke Fleming, which he planned to enlarge. Before this work was completed, in 1878, he died, but his funeral cortege went through the grounds of Stoke House on its way to Stoke Fleming Churchyard, where he was buried. He left the house to his widow and unmarried daughters, and his daughter Bertha lived there until 1937.

#### Bidder as Calculator

How did he do it? We have his own account, in a lecture given to the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1856, and reported comments to others. Having learnt to calculate before he learnt to write, he saw numbers as shapes in his head, and he had a tremendous ability to remember them. To multiply two 3-digit numbers, he started from the left, multiplying first the hundreds together, and adding each successive product to the total so as to hold as few intermediate sums in his head during the calculation as possible. When multiplying very large numbers, he felt that his capacity was limited by the number of intermediate totals that he could "store" before completing the sum; the multiplications themselves were very fast. He also carried in his head the key results of earlier calculations - such as the number of inches in a mile or seconds in a year - and the squares and cubes of 2-digit numbers, and as his experience developed he devised many short cuts, and learnt to use successive approximations to reach the answer. With this technique, and the practice of deducing new rules as he went along, plus obvious intelligence in reducing an elaborately worded problem to its numerical essentials, he was able to amaze his interrogators. Looking at the questions he was asked, many of them are difficult only because of the size of the numbers involved (astronomy was very popular!) but some involve logic rather than calculation, and he obviously took these in his stride. He himself believed that it should be possible to teach children his methods to improve their mental arithmetic, but without his capacity for remembering numbers it would not have helped. His ability lasted into old age, and in his professional career there are many examples of his ability to remember large volumes of data.

Before returning to Edwin, I will finish off the information I have for Georgina. Her parents were staying with her aunt Bertha Bidder in Stoke Fleming, a village in Devon for the 1891 census. Her father's death was registered at St George Hanover Square in the Jan-Mar quarter of 1896, so he was not present at Georgina's wedding. For the 1901 census her widowed mother is living at 10 Queens Gate Gardens, Kensington with Georgina's spinster sisters Annie and Mary, together with a small team of domestic servants.<sup>xx</sup>

Georgina (or Ina, as she was called) Kitson-Clark LLD took an active part in civic life. In 1909 she was the first President of the Leeds' Babies Welcome Association. She also served as President of the Meanwood Nursing Association and the Yorkshire Home for Mothers and Babies, and was a member of the National Infant Welfare Association from its inception. She was a long standing member of the NCW and Executive Committee member. She was Honorary Secretary of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education (from 1910), member of the Juvenile Advisory Committee and Women's War Employment Committee, Leeds and served as President of the Meanwood Women's Institute. In between her committee work she also authored a number of plays – *Alesia*; *The Interpreters*; *The Children's Christ*; *The Wise Men*; *Outside the Gate*; *Wharfedale Witches*; and *The Family Ghosts*.<sup>xxi</sup>

Edwin was an equally active member of the Leeds society. Apart from being a director of the Airedale Foundry, he was President of the Institution of Locomotive Engineers, 1921-22 and of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, 1931-32. He served on the Council of Leeds University, was a Warden of the Leeds Parish Church and an original member of the Thoresby Society, being President from 1940 – 1943. In 1937 he was appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding, of the County of York and of the City and County of the City of York. He was also the author of a number of publications, including *On Locomotive Development and Industrial Questions*; *History of Harfleur*; *Historical Guide to Leeds Parish Church*, and *Kitsons of Leeds*. In addition Edwin was Officer Commanding of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment from 1913-1915 and commanded the 49<sup>th</sup> West Riding Base Depot from 1915-1918, ending his service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.<sup>xxii</sup>

Kelly's 1927 Directory lists Edwin as living at Meanwoodside, Hollin Lane, Far Headingley.<sup>xxiii</sup> Having rented the

estate from 1904, the Kitson Clarks became the owners in 1917. The property was an estate of 17 acres in the then highly desirable area of Meanwood. Its idyllic setting is evident from the following photograph. (The estate is now the city's Meanwood Park). Edwin Kitson Clark died on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1843 in Leeds. His widow Georgina outlived him by just over ten years, and died in Leeds in 1954. They had three children – two sons and a daughter. Edwin Bidder Clark, born about 1899, joined the navy and, as Lieutenant RN, married Elspeth Steuart Fripp, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steuart Fripp of Peking China, in August 1925.<sup>xiv</sup> I do not have any further information on this son. I have a little more information for second son George and daughter Mary, both of whom excelled in their chosen fields.



### George Sydney Roberts Kitson

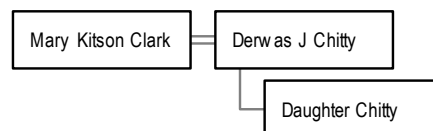
George Sydney Roberts Kitson Clark, second son of Edwin and Georgina Kitson Clark (nee Bidder) was born in on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1900, at Leeds. He never married, but made his mark in life as an academic, historian and author, and died on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1975 at the age of 75.<sup>xv</sup> According to his obituary, published in the Times on 11<sup>th</sup> December, by his death the history faculty at Cambridge had lost one of its most active and colourful personalities. The following account is extracted from the obituary.

George followed his father to Shrewsbury and went up to Trinity College as an exhibitioner in 1918. He won a Trinity Research Fellowship in 1922, only one year after taking his degree. He became a college lecturer in 1928, a university lecturer in 1929, and a college tutor in 1933, holding this last office beyond the normal span of ten years until 1945. In 1953 he was made Reader in English Constitutional History.

He played a leading part in the introduction of United States history to the University and in the establishment of the visiting American History professorship. In 1953-54 he was visiting lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and in 1964 at Melbourne University. His forceful, outspoken personality and strongly-held views made him a highly successful lecturer in Cambridge, America and Australia alike, and he wrote an interesting article on the art of lecturing. George's main academic interests came to be centred around 19th Century England. He wrote prolifically on various related topics including the 1962 publication "The Making of Victorian England". However, writing did not come easily to him, though he took enormous pains over his books and articles. Talk was his natural medium. He was an untiring, amusing and whimsical talker, if often somewhat boisterous or inclined to dwell upon his immediate concerns. He delighted in the role of the jovial rubicund Yorkshireman, seeking to draw people out or put them at ease with rumbustious banter. But like many other ebullient people he had his moody and difficult times. He was quick to make up his mind and on committees could be impetuous as well as forceful. But he had a high degree of moral courage, never attempting to hid his meaning or refraining from intervention when he thought it desirable.



### Mary Kitson Clark



Mary Kitson Clark (whose full name was Anna Mary Hawthorn Kitson Clark) was born in April 1905 in Leeds and became a highly regarded archaeologist and historian.<sup>xvi</sup> Mary, who generally used her maiden name professionally, married the Reverend Derwas James Chitty on 5th July 1943, the event having been advised by notice in The Times on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1943 as follows.

The Rev D.J. Chitty and Miss Kitson Clark

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in July, between the Rev. Dervas James Chitty, rector of Upton, Berkshire, and temporary chaplain RNVR, younger son of the late Rev. J.C.M and Mrs. Chitty, of Yockleton Rectory, Shropshire, and Miss Anna Mary Hawthorn Kitson Clark, FSA, only daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Edwin Kitson Clark, TD, DL, and Dr. Ina Kitson Clark, of Meanwoodside, Leeds.

Mary's father had died just three months earlier and so did not see his only daughter married off. When they married, Mary and Derwas were respectively aged 43 and 42. I am only aware of one child born to the couple, a daughter, on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1947, by which time Mary would have been 47.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Derwas was born in Montgomeryshire, Shropshire, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1901 to the Reverend James Charles Chitty and his wife Gwen Ethlin Georgiana (née Jones). Derwas was educated at Winchester College, and graduated from New College, Oxford, with a Master of Arts. He was the Rector between 1931 and 1968 in Upton, Didcot, Berkshire. A scholar in religious studies and an archaeologist, his most celebrated work was the book "The Desert a City" published in 1966. He died suddenly on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1971 as a result of an accident.<sup>xxviii</sup> His obituary appeared in The Times, noting that :

All who knew Derwas Chitty, and especially those with strong ecumenical interest, will be sad about his sudden death. For many years had had worked hard in this country for a closer friendship between the Churches of East and West...Those of us who met him at home in the Berkshire rectory where most of his years were spent will always remember his kindness, his breadth of learning, and his courage.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St. Mary's Church, Upton, Berkshire on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.<sup>xxix</sup>

I have been fortunate to source an obituary for Mary Kitson Clark (Chitty) who died on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005, just 72 days short of her one hundredth birthday. On her death, Mary was the last surviving Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA) elected before the Second World War. The following extracts from Mary Kitson Clark's obituary appeared in The Independent on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005 and was contributed by C Stephen Briggs, FSA.

Over a long life, Mary Kitson Clark witnessed the decline in influence of the amateur, independent scholar, and the rise of a professional class of archaeologist and historian. Yet her Gazetteer of Roman Remains in East Yorkshire, published in 1935, remains one of the starting points for any study of the Romans in the north of England.

From 1929 to 1943 Kitson Clark was Secretary of the Roman Antiquities Committee for Yorkshire (RACY). Founded in 1906, the committee played an important role in the changing perceptions of archaeology. Kitson Clark adhered all her life to the values of the RACY as outlined by Professor Francis Haverfield in a founding lecture: to encourage interdisciplinary studies at university level; to maintain high standards of bibliographic research and fieldwork, and to promote co-operation between amateur and professional. These ideals are as relevant today as they were a century ago.

In 1928, she was elected to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS), then guardian of its own Yorkshire Museum, in York. Eventually the longest-lived Vice-President and member, she was only the second woman to gain full membership in a stuffy hierarchy. In 1941 she became unpaid, full-time Curator of Roman Antiquities. Helped by a band of loyal volunteers, under threat of bombing she supervised an evacuation of important artefacts, and catalogued the Roman collection.

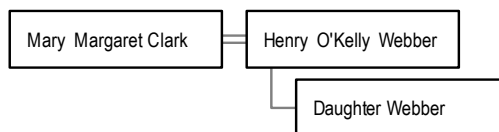
From 1944, she nurtured co-operation between the YPS and the RACY through annual summer schools. Around 1950, these were adopted by the academic committee of the York Civic Trust. The Summer Schools directly spawned York's Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, one of the two institutes on which York University was founded. Admitted Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1938, Mary Kitson Clark was proposed by a group of the most distinguished signatories.

She also took an interest in developments abroad, and in 1929 joined Dorothy Garrod excavating palaeolithic sites in Palestine. There, in the Judaeian desert, she met her future husband, Derwas Chitty, at his excavations on the monastery of St Euthymius. Marrying in 1943, they settled at Upton in Berkshire (now in Oxfordshire), where he was vicar.

In 1985, a new generation of Romanists celebrated Mary Kitson Clark's lifelong commitment to Yorkshire with a conference in Leeds. Its proceedings became the basis of Recent Research in Roman Yorkshire: studies in honour of Mary Kitson Clark (Mrs Derwas Chitty) (1988). She accepted the accolade with characteristic grace, humility and surprise. Her last project was to research and publish (as Mary Chitty) The Monks of Ynys Enlli. The first volume (AD 500—1252) appeared in 1992 but, owing to her declining health, the second (1252—1537) came only shortly after her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2000. At its launch in Aberdaron Church, she spoke movingly to thank everyone who had helped complete the task.'



## Mary Margaret Clark



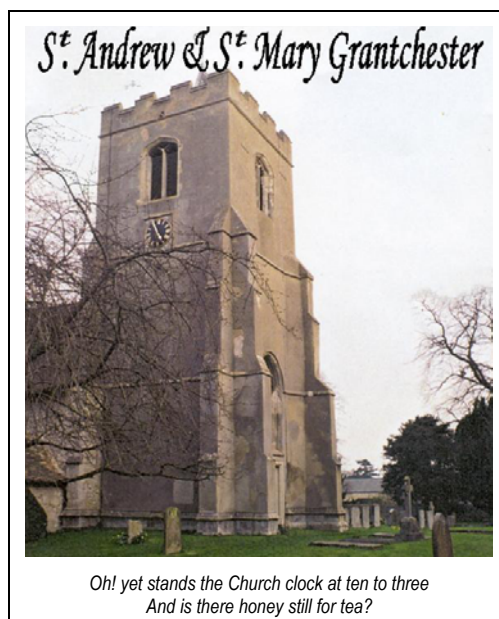
Until I located her father in the 1901 census I had given up looking for records for Mary Margaret Clark after the 1881 census. But to start at the beginning - Mary Margaret Clark, the second child and only daughter of Edwin C and Mary Ann Clark (née Kitson) was born about 1868 at Grantchester, Cambridgeshire. She was at home with her brother Edwin, and some family retainers, for the 1871 census at Newnham College, while their parents were in London visiting the Raikes family. Ten years later Mary was visiting the Pelle family at 124 Cambridge Road, Trumpington, just a short distance from Grantchester (and coincidentally in the village where Elizabeth Kitson (née Hutchinson) was found in 1891 after the death of her husband James).<sup>xxx</sup>

|                    |    |                            |        |                              |        |
|--------------------|----|----------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| John Pelle         | 42 | MA                         | Fellow | and                          | Tutor, |
|                    |    | Christ's College Cambridge |        | Whitehaven, Cumberland       |        |
| Annette Pelle      | 44 |                            |        | Newmarket, Cambridgeshire    |        |
| Hester M Pelle     | 13 | Scholar                    |        | Trumpington, Cambridgeshire  |        |
| Frank K Pelle      | 9  | Scholar                    |        | Trumpington, Cambridgeshire  |        |
| Mary M Clark (Vis) | 13 | Scholar                    |        | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |        |
| Eliza J Winters    | 26 | Cook                       |        | Stow, Norfolk                |        |
| Hannah J Lowe      | 28 | Parlour Maid               |        | Giston, Cambridgeshire       |        |
| Martha E Langhorne | 20 | House Maid                 |        | Newmarket, Cambridgeshire    |        |

It is as Mary M Webber that she appears in the 1901 census, together with her husband Henry O'Kelly Webber, at her widowed father's residence, Newnham Hall.<sup>xxxi</sup>

|                              |    |                                  |                              |
|------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Edwin C Clark                | 65 | Barrister at Law, Univ.Professor | Aldbrough, Yorkshire         |
| Mary M Webber (daug)         | 33 |                                  | Grantchester, Cambridgeshire |
| Henry O'Kelly Webber (S-i-L) | 34 | Merchants Clerk                  | Blackheath, London           |
| Agnes A Abbot                | 35 | Cook                             | Buckden, Hampshire           |
| Sarah Benton                 | 36 | Parlour Maid                     | Moreton, Lincolnshire        |
| Florence Summerlin           | 30 | House Maid                       | Orwell, Cambridgeshire       |
| Arthur C Sholton             | 19 | House Boy                        | Fen Drayton, Cambridgeshire  |

At this time, according to a marriage registration for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1899 at Chesterton, Cambridge, the couple had been married less than a year. In fact they were married at the parish church of Grantchester, on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1899. The venue was no other than the church immortalised by Rupert Brook in his WWI poem "Grantchester".



The marriage certificate shows that Henry was a 32 year old bachelor, whose rank/profession was Gentleman, and whose address was Brompton, Middlesex. His father was Charles Webber, Major-General. Mary was one

year younger than Henry, resident of Grantchester and, of course, the daughter of Edwin Charles Clark, Profession of Civil Law, Cambridge. Witnessing the marriage were E.C. Clark and E.K. Clark (Mary's father and brother) and C.E Webber and Raymond Sudeley Webber (Henry's father and brother).<sup>xxxxii</sup>

Trying to find more information about Henry O'Kelly Webber has been a bit of a challenge, but I have located him in the 1971 census, at home with his father and two siblings at 91 Coxwell Street, Kensington, but with no reference to his mother, even though his father is listed as being married. The copy is very hard to read.<sup>xxxxiii</sup>

|                      |    |                                    |                     |
|----------------------|----|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Charles E Webber     | 32 | Capt Royal Engineers (Active List) | Ireland             |
| Eveline(?) Webber    | 8  |                                    | Kidbrook, Kent      |
| Raymond Webber       | 6  |                                    | Kidbrook, Kent      |
| Harry Webber         | 5  |                                    | Kidbrook, Kent      |
| Lionel Webber        | 2  |                                    | Torquay, Devonshire |
| Christina McLenan(?) | 29 | Cook (Domestic)                    | Scotland            |
| Harriet ?            | 21 | Nurse (Domestic)                   | Blackheath, Kent    |
| Ellen Brown          | 20 | Housemaid (Domestic)               | St James, Middlesex |
| William Landford(?)  | 21 | Footman                            | Hendon, Middlesex   |

So, this census return confirms that Henry was born about 1867, but the place of birth differs from that given in the 1901 census.

In 1881 Henry, with his place of birth given as Blackheath, was a 14 year old scholar at Summerfield House School in St. Giles, Oxford, at that time under the headship of Archibald MacLaren.<sup>xxxxiv</sup> Today this school is called Summer Fields, and it is still a public preparatory school.<sup>xxxxv</sup>

Originally called Summerfield, it became a Boys' Preparatory School in 1864 with seven pupils. Its owner, Archibald MacLaren, was a fencing teacher who ran a gymnasium in Oxford. He strongly believed in the importance of physical fitness. His wife, Gertrude, was a classical scholar and teacher. The school motto is 'mens sana in corpore sano', a healthy mind in a healthy body. It is MacLaren who lends his name to one of the four leagues into which the boys are organized; others include Moseley, after Henry Moseley, Case and Congreve, named after William La Touche Congreve. Each league has its own identifying colour, Case with red, Congreve with yellow, MacLaren with green, and Moseley with blue. In their leagues the boys wear a polo shirt in the league colour, along with the rest of the uniform, blue corduroys, and brown shoes. On Sundays as well as on special days, such as the School Concert, and the end of term, boys wear a tweed jacket, with a light blue coloured shirt, black shoes, and grey flannel trousers. Again, they wear their tie in their league colour.

The school remained in the hands of the MacLaren, Williams and Alington families for its first 75 years. In 1955, to ensure the School's future, it became a charitable trust with a board of governors, including Harold Macmillan, who was at the school as a boy and was soon to become Prime Minister. Other famous alumni include the England cricketer, Gubby Allen, and the Dracula actor, Christopher Lee. In 1975, Nigel Talbot Rice took over as headmaster. He put the school on a sound financial footing through a series of appeals which financed an ambitious building programme: new classrooms, the Macmillan Hall and Music Centre, an indoor swimming-pool, the Wavell Arts and Technology Centre (named after the first Earl Wavell), and the Sports Hall. In 1997, Talbot Rice retired and was succeeded by Robin Badham-Thornhill. Over the last few years a new lodge called Savage's has been built and a new year group has been added to the bottom of the school, as Summer Fields modernises and adapts. The school prides itself on its academic excellence, evidenced by the numerous scholarships won by its boys, and is proud of its high standards of pastoral care. Among the schools it sends its boys to are Eton College, Winchester College, Harrow School, and Radley College.

I have not been able to locate Henry in the 1891 census, but tracking the census returns for his father, not only can we see his Charles Webber's progress through the ranks, it becomes clear that Charles must have remarried, and while we have the name of Henry's stepmother, we are none the wiser as to his mother's name.

The 1881 census records Charles E Webber and his family living at the Village Alver Cliffe, in the civil parish of Alverstone.<sup>xxxxvi</sup>

|                             |    |                         |                     |
|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Charles E Webber            | 42 | Lt Col RE (Active List) | Ireland             |
| Sarah E Webber              | 29 |                         | East Indies         |
| Lionel H Webber             | 12 | Scholar                 | Torquay, Devonshire |
| Alice Stainbank (Step-daug) | 11 | Scholar                 | London, Middlesex   |
| Elizabeth Spike             | 25 | Cook                    | Nayland, Suffolk    |
| Emma Cook                   | 23 | Parlour Maid            | St. Pancras, London |
| Alice Stafford              | 23 | Housemaid               | London, Middlesex   |

Sarah, Charles's wife was, according to this census return, 13 years younger than Charles and would have been born about 1852. Charles's son Henry was born about 1867 and, even given some young brides in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, it is unlikely that Sarah was his mother, and less likely that she was the mother of Henry's older

brother and sister. It is possible that Sarah's name before marriage was Stainbank, if Alice was her daughter, in which case Sarah would still only have been about 17 when she gave birth. Sarah is also listed as having been born in East Indies, but later census returns contradict this.

The mystery of Sarah and Alice is partially solved by the birth certificate obtained for Alice Stainbank. She was born on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1868 at 11 Westmoreland Place, Paddington. The father is stated to be Robert Stainbank, a church bell manufacturer. The name given for the mother is Sarah Elizabeth Stainbank, formerly Gunn.<sup>xxxxvi</sup>

However I followed up on a Newton Abbot birth registration for Lionel Hanbury Webber which helps to throw some light on family relationships. Lionel was born on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1869 at Torquay. The birth certificate lists his father as Charles Edmund Webber, Captain, Royal Engineers. More importantly, the mother is listed as Alice Augusta Gertrude Webber, formerly Ham[n]bury Tracy.<sup>xxxxvii</sup>

Armed with this information I have found a birth registration for Alice Augusta Gertrude Tracy for the Apr-Jun quarter of 1839, in the St George Hanover Square district and a marriage registration for the Apr-Jun quarter of 1861 between Charles Edmund Webber and Alice Augusta Gertrude Hanbury Tracy in the district of Brighton, East Sussex.<sup>xxxxviii</sup> A further foray this time to thepeerage.com website revealed the following. Alice was a daughter of Thomas Charles Hanbury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Sudeley of Toddington, born on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1801 in Montgomeryshire, Wales, the son of Charles Hanbury and Henrietta Susanna Tracy. He married Emma Elizabeth Alicia Pennant, daughter of George Hay Dawkins Pennant and Sophia Maria Maude, on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1831 in Montgomeryshire, and he died on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1863 at the age of 62. Alice was one of 11 children born to Charles and Emma :

Algernon Cornwallis Henry Hanbury-Tracy  
 Hon. Madeline Emily Augusta Hanbury-Tracy, d. 28 Jan 1938  
 Georgina Henrietta Emma Hanbury, b. c 1832, d. 8 Mar 1921  
 Adelaid Frances Isabella Hanbury-Tracy, b. c 1834  
 Sudeley Charles George Hanbury-Tracy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Sudeley of Toddington, b. 9 Apr 1837, d. 28 Apr 1877  
 Charles George Hanbury-Tracy, b. 9 Apr 1837  
 Alice Augusta Gertrude Hanbury-Tracy, b. c 1838  
 Charles Douglas Richard Hanbury-Tracy, 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Sudeley of Toddington, b. 3 Jul 1840, d. 9 Dec 1922  
 Alfred Francis Algernon Hanbury-Tracy, b. 13 Oct 1846  
 Frederick Stephen Archibald Hanbury-Tracy, b. 15 Sep 1848  
 Hubert George Edward Hanbury-Tracy, b. 14 Aug 1855

From the information on thepeerage website we find that some of Alice's siblings were born in Brighton, which may account for the fact that it was here that her marriage on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1861 to Charles was registered. Alice has not been located in the census records but her grandfather has been found for the 1851, a widower living at Dover Street, St George Hanover. Charles's Profession was listed as Baron Sudeley, Ld Lieut of Montgomeryshire and Lord High Steward of Tewkesbury. – the Sudeley name being perpetuated through Henry Webber's brother – Raymond Sudeley Webber – who was a witness at his wedding.<sup>xv</sup> It is to the FreeBMD index that we need to look for the record of Alice's death – registered in the district of St George Hanover Square for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1977. She was only 38 years old and Charles was a widow with four children to care for.

The 1891 census does not help in sorting out who is who as Charles and Sarah are staying at the Queen Hotel, Brook Street Chester, Charles being listed as aged 51, a Retired Major General, and born in Dublin. Sarah is now 39, and here place of birth is given as London. It is possible that Alice is the Alice Stainbank, aged 22, and born about 1869 in Bayswater, London, visiting with the Soubesbielle family at Hove, Sussex.<sup>xvi</sup>

Charles, Sarah and Alice are back together again for the 1901 census at 17 Egerton Gardens, Kensington.

|                             |    |                         |                  |
|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------|------------------|
| Charles E Webber            | 62 | Lt Col RE (Active List) | Ireland          |
| Sarah E Webber              | 49 | Living on own means     | Middlesex        |
| Alice Stainbank (Step-daug) | 32 | Living on own means     | Middlesex        |
| Caroline Combs              | 44 | Cook                    | Tooting, London  |
| Elizabeth Bonet             | 37 | Parlour Maid            | Richmond, Surrey |
| Susanna Foster              | 40 | House Maid              | Oxfordshire      |
| Elizabeth L Combs           | 26 | Kitchen Maid            | Sheen, Surrey    |

Select articles in the Times give some insight on Mary Clark's father-in-law's military career. A letter to the Editor of 9<sup>th</sup> June 1858, recalls an incident that in India during the assault of Jhansi which is testament to Charles's bravery in action. The 'mere boy' would have been only 19 at the time.

### A YOUNG HERO.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—In his letter of the 23d of April your Calcutta correspondent mentions that at the assault of Jhansi "One officer, a mere boy—whose name, to our discredit be it spoken, has not yet been published—as the ladder broke, sprang at the battlement, clutched it, and, active as a cat, obtained a footing on the wall. There, attacked by dozens, he stood at bay, cutting down every man who approached, till his men, furious at the danger, scrambled up the remaining ladder and cleared off his assailants with the bayonet."

Having published this eulogium of the unknown hero, you will be glad to inform your readers of his name. It is Charles Edmund Webber, Lieutenant of the Royal Engineers, a company of which corps he accompanied to Bombay in April, 1857, and with which he has been constantly employed in all the operations under Sir Hugh Rose.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
June 7. F. T.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1862 the Times carried a notice that Lieut. Charles Edmund Webber, Royal Engineers, Instructor in Military Drawing, and Surveying at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, was to be placed on the supernumerary list. Twenty years later, on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1882, the Times reported that Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Edmund Webber, Royal Engineers, was awarded the Order of the Bath. Just over two years later, on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1885, the Times recorded that Lieut-Col. and Col. Charles Edmund Webber, CB, on completing five years' service as a Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, was to be retained as a Supernumerary, under the provisions of Article 115 of the Royal Warrant of June 10, 1881.

Charles enjoyed further promotions and he was listed as a Major General of the Royal Engineers, Retired, on his death certificate. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1904, at the Cliftonville Hydro, Eastern Parade, Margate, from Heart Disease, Angina Pectoris. With him at his end was S.E. Webber, widow of the deceased, of 17 Egerton Gardens, South Kensington, London. Charles and Sarah had taken a break at Margate, either as a holiday or perhaps for the good of Charles' health.



The Cliftonville Hydro was a grand establishment which subsequently became known as the Grand Hotel and as the Grand was one of five hotels in Cliftonville acquired in 1955/56 as a job lot by Butlins as a holiday resort. It was originally intended that each hotel would cater to a different taste: one for families, one for young children, one for older folk and one for those without kids. All were located close to each other and were marketed jointly as The Cliftonville Hotels. Later the separate classification for each hotel was dropped and they were all operated along similar lines. Guests were allocated a particular one but were free to enjoy the facilities at any of the others. By the 1980s only three hotels remained under the Butlins Cliftonville banner, the Grand, the Norfolk and the St Georges. All three were connected by an underground tunnel and had a total of 254 rooms between them. All three were later marketed jointly as 'The Grand Hotel'. They were sold in 1999 to the Grand Hotel Group but were resold in January 2004 to a local businessman who then announced plans to demolish two of them and convert the site into flats. The Norfolk and Grand were demolished in 2005.

Returning to principal players of this section - Mary and Harry Webber – nothing further is known about them at this stage except that they had at least one daughter who accompanied her mother to the funeral of Mary's father Edward C Clark on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1917.





*Meanwoodside, Far Headingley*



*8th February 1927 The Lord Mayor, Alderman Hugh Lupton, inspects a locomotive alongside the Messrs Kitson.*

<sup>i</sup> IGI Individual Record C071935.

<sup>ii</sup> HO107/1345/1/p22; HO107/2326/p5; RG3393/p15.

<sup>iii</sup> Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD379184.

<sup>iv</sup> HO107/1248/1/p26.

<sup>v</sup> HO107/2282/p29; HO107/2381/p7; RG9/184/p2.

<sup>vi</sup> RG10/52/p8.

<sup>vii</sup> RG10/1584/p20.

<sup>viii</sup> RG11/1668/p43.

<sup>ix</sup> The Times, 21<sup>st</sup> July 1917.

<sup>x</sup> RG13/1532/p23.

<sup>xi</sup> The Times 21/7 and 24/7 1917. I wonder if Major Stott who perhaps came from the Boroughbridge/Aldborough area was related to the Hugh Stott who married into the Boroughbridge Fretwells and, for a time with them ran the Crown Hotel?

<sup>xii</sup> RG10/1584/p20.

<sup>xiii</sup> RG11/935/p11. Many years later, Mike Fretwell recalls cycling from his school in Cranbrook to watch away matches at Sutton Valence School, and particularly the steep hill



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he had to climb!

<sup>xiv</sup> The Times obituary 19<sup>th</sup> April 1943; Cambridge University Alumni 1261-1900.

<sup>xv</sup> RG13/4239/p46.

<sup>xvi</sup> FreeBMD Birth and Marriage Indexes; RG19/695/p14.

<sup>xvii</sup> RG11/828/p11.

<sup>xviii</sup> Law, Cheryl, Women, a Modern Political Dictionary, Google Books.

<sup>xix</sup> It was as a telegraphist that Alice Maud Dixon, daughter of John Dixon, was employed prior to her marriage to William Edward Gibson.

<sup>xx</sup> RG12/1715/p9; FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1938; RG13/38/p29.

<sup>xxi</sup> Law, Cheryl, Women, a Modern Political Dictionary, Google Books.

<sup>xxii</sup> Cambridge University Alumni, 1261-1900; Notice of County Commissions, The Times 24<sup>th</sup> March 1937; The Times obituary 19<sup>th</sup> April 1943.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Kelly's 1927 Directory of Leeds, p578.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Notice in The Times 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1925.

<sup>xxv</sup> FreeBMD Birth Index; The Times obituary 11<sup>th</sup> December 1975.

<sup>xxvi</sup> FreeBMD Birth Index.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Birth Notice, The Times, 12<sup>th</sup> July 1947.

<sup>xxviii</sup> thePeerage.com.

<sup>xxix</sup> Notice and Obituary, The Times April and May 1971.

<sup>xxx</sup> RG10/1584/p20; RG11/1663/p24.

<sup>xxxi</sup> RG13/1532/p23.

<sup>xxxii</sup> FreeBMD Marriage Index; Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD339723.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> RG10/52/p53.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> RG11/1499/p9.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Wikipedia.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> RG11/1163/p10.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Certified copy of Birth Certificate BXCC714214.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> FreeBMD Birth Index; certified copy of Birth Certificate BXCC678560.

<sup>xxxix</sup> Free BMD Birth and Marriage Index.

<sup>xl</sup> HO107/1676/p19.

<sup>xli</sup> RG12/2862/p6; RG12/817/p44.