

**CHAPTER****B1**

## The SMITH Family

### “ The Coxwold Connection “

For obvious reasons the SMITH family is our primary line, but has been one of the most difficult to research – a bit like searching for a needle in a haystack !!! Dad returned home from the War in 1945 and his mother died in 1949. There had been some type of disagreement between Frank and his father in the early 1950s and from that point, he was never very close to his father. Consequently, as youngsters we saw little of this side of the family. We did not start researching the family history until after Dad's death in 1988 and it was only at that time that we realized that we knew so little. We were virtually starting from a clean sheet, but there was nobody left to ask about the Smith ancestors.

After much searching, we eventually found the family of our Grandfather in the 1891 Census in Market Weighton. Our G-Grandfather was serving in the East Yorkshire Regiment and it showed that he was born in Liverpool. Shortly afterwards we discovered his 1886 marriage in Beverley Minster. This revealed two further significant facts. His father was deceased but had been a Station Master (presumably a Railway Station Master). Also, our G-Grandmother had been born in Sussex. So, we were then faced with a puzzle – why would someone from Liverpool be serving in the East Yorkshire Regiment (rather than a Lancashire Regiment) and how did someone from the north of England manage to meet someone from Sussex ?. For many years we progressed little further in our research of the Smith family. We mistakenly believed that our family had originated from Lancashire rather than Yorkshire. It was only after we found an entry in the 1881 Census that it all started to fit into place and offer us the answer to our questions. We realized that the Smith family had originated from Yorkshire, migrated to Liverpool, and then returned to Yorkshire.

This family line has probably been one of the most interesting from a research perspective. For many years there were rumours in the family that we were descended from gypsies, descended from Oliver Cromwell, descended from Royalty, etc. There was also a story that our G-Grandmother was buried in the tomb of a Lord & Lady at Wombwell near Barnsley. Add to this the existence of a copy of a 1926 Will of a Frederick Dempster-Smith with an estate of more than £100,000 (more than £5 million by today's values) and mention of a bequest to a Spanish princess and it all adds up to an intriguing web. In reality, things are not always as they seem. Most of the above has some relationship to fact, but not in the way that it has been passed down through the family.

So far, we've not established any relationship to gypsies. This story most likely originated just from the Smith name (many gypsies are called Smith) and the fact that the family travelled and did not originate from the Hull area. Regarding the connection with nobility, our G-Grandmother had been employed as a Lady's Maid for a Lord & Lady Wombwell who lived at Newburgh Priory in Coxwold, North Yorkshire and it may be that she is buried in Coxwold graveyard which has a plot specifically for the Wombwell family. The Wombwell family has a line which is traceable at least 400 years through the Belayse family (Earls of Fauconburg) where there is a link to King James I and also a marriage to a daughter of Oliver Cromwell. In fact, there is also a story that the headless body of Oliver Cromwell is buried in a secret vault within Newburgh Priory.

So, having given you a brief insight into the Smiths, let's look at them in more detail.

## Joseph Smith ( 1749 - 1835 )

Our earliest known Smith ancestor is Joseph Smith (our GGGG-Grandfather). He was born in 1749 at Bishop Wilton, East Yorkshire. He probably came from a family of some financial wealth as he was referred to in documents as a Gentleman and the family seem to have been viewed with respect in the area where they lived.

Joseph married **Elizabeth Duck** at Kirby Knowle, North Yorkshire on 5th Feb 1782. Although we are not certain, we think that Elizabeth's family originated from the village of Osmotherley, a few miles north of Kirby Knowle. In the first few years after marriage, Joseph and Elizabeth seem to have moved around a bit, although by 1786 they had settled in a farm at a small hamlet called Wildon Grange, near the village of Coxwold, North Yorkshire and the family where all brought up in this area. The village of Coxwold became the focus of Smith family life for the next 100 years with many of them either remaining at Wildon Grange or establishing their families in Coxwold itself or in nearby villages. Even when



Elizabeth Duck and Joseph Smith

Miniature Portraits handed down to descendants of their son, Thomas

some of them moved away from the area, in their later years it was not unusual for them to return to the area they saw as their “home”, with many of them being buried in Coxwold graveyard, even though they may have died some distance away.

The Smiths seem to have been very religious and may have been influenced by the preaching of John Wesley as most of them converted to Methodists and quite a number of the family became Wesleyan preachers or ministers themselves. Elizabeth’s family were probably Catholics and it is believed that she remained a Catholic and attended the RC church in Ampleforth, although she too converted to Methodism towards the end of her life.

Around the late 1780s, it seems that Joseph made a decision which had a significant impact on the future finances of the family members. He purchased the leasehold for the right to collect the tithes (rents) for Coxwold and surrounding area - 13 parishes in all. This provided a guaranteed income for the family and was an asset he was able to bequeath to his descendants.

Joseph died at Wildon Grange in 1835 and Elizabeth survived him by 6 years, dying in 1841. He made a fairly lengthy Will, where he shared his assets between all his sons and daughters, although the greater proportion was passed to the three sons who had remained with him at Wildon Grange (John, William & Thomas), with Thomas being given ownership of the main farm at Wildon Grange, which he continued to occupy and farm for the majority of the 19th century.

Altogether, Joseph and Elizabeth had 10 children :

Robert Smith	b.1782, at Knayton, North Yorkshire
Elizabeth Smith	b.1784, at Osmotherley, North Yorkshire
Thomas Smith	b.1786, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Joseph Smith	b.1788, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
William Smith	b.1789, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Mary Smith	b.1791, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
John Smith	b.1793, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Ann Smith	b.1797, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Jane Smith	b.1802, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Thomas Smith	b.1803, at Wildon Grange, Coxwold, North Yorkshire

**Robert Smith** (b.1782) was our GGG-Grandfather and we will discuss him later.

**Elizabeth Smith** (b.1784) also remained a Catholic throughout her life and married the local surgeon in Coxwold, George Spensley on 21st May 1806. The Spensleys lived at Shandy Hall in Coxwold. This property had quite a history and some decades earlier had been the home of the writer, Lawrence Sterne, author of the book entitled “*Tristram Shandy*”. Elizabeth and George had at least four children (Ann, John, George & Joseph), and the latter two sons (George and Joseph) followed their father into the same profession, being described as assistant surgeons. Elizabeth died in 1846 in Coxwold, at the age of 62 years. One of the grandchildren of Elizabeth and George (through their son, Joseph) was **Emily Eve Spensley** (b.1845, Coxwold) and she had an interesting life as she married a French nobleman, **Antoine Francois, Marquis de Cosse** of Chateau Bouteyre, France. Apparently, the couple mixed in royal circles, becoming regular attendees at the court of Napoleon III, the last Emperor of France.

**Thomas Smith** (b.1786) died at just 17 years of age in 1803.

**Joseph Smith** (b.1788) married **Alice Laverack** at Shipton by Thorpe, East Yorkshire on 1st Jul 1811 and then became a shopkeeper in Market Weighton, where he had a grocer's shop and was also a draper. The couple had five children (Joseph, Anne, Eliza, Mary and William). Alice died in 1839. Little is known of their children, other than Mary, who married **Henry Boast**, a farmer and Wesleyan Preacher of North Dalton, East Yorkshire. In the late 1840s, both Henry and Joseph were part of a committee (led by Henry) who were promoting the emigration of farmers to settle in Natal, South Africa. Henry commissioned a voyage to transport more than 200 people to the region, but when he unexpectedly died just before the voyage in 1850, it was Joseph Smith who stepped into the breach and took over the leadership of the expedition, accompanied by his daughter Mary (widow of Henry Boast) and her three young children. This emigration of mainly farmers aboard the ship "Haidee" was a significant milestone in the development of the Natal region of South Africa.

**William Smith** (b.1789) remained at Wildon Grange and worked an adjacent farm to that of his father, Joseph. On 19th Oct 1826, he married **Elizabeth Gill** at Easingwold, North Yorkshire. They had four children (Mary, Ann, Joseph William and Elizabeth Jane), although Joseph William died as an infant and Elizabeth Jane died as a young child. William died in 1845, aged 55.

**Mary Smith** (b.1791) only survived for one day, and then died of convulsions.

**John Smith** (b.1793) also farmed at Wildon Grange, although he became a Wesleyan Preacher. He married **Eleanor Dickinson** at Coxwold on 13th Jun 1821 and they subsequently relocated to Osgoodby in 1825 and then Normanby in 1831. John and Eleanor had five children (Robert Dickinson, Joseph, John, Mary and William). Their son Joseph (b.1823) took on the role of Wesleyan minister and lived at Huggate, Riseborough and finally Slingsby. Following his death a biography entitled "*The Memoirs of Joseph Smith*" was written by his friends. The son John (b.1826) emigrated to Natal, South Africa in 1861. In 1848, John Smith (b.1793) relocated his family to Oulston, where he died in 1849, aged 56.

**Ann Smith** (b.1797) married a Justice of the Peace called **Thomas Barker** in 1850. They relocated to Tynemouth in the north-east of England. Ann died in 1881 at the age of 84.

**Jane Smith** (b.1802) married **Edward Rimmington**, a surgeon, on 11th Apr 1827 at Coxwold and they subsequently moved to Monk Fryston, Yorkshire. Following Edward's death in 1848, Jane relocated nearer to her place of birth by moving to Hutton Sessay. She died in 1881 at the age of 79.

**Thomas Smith** (b.1803) was the youngest child of Joseph Smith and Elizabeth Duck and was probably given the name Thomas after an older brother who died just a few months prior to his birth. Thomas continued to work the Wildon Grange farm with his father and was the main beneficiary when his father died in 1835, inheriting the family home. In 1841 he married **Elizabeth Fawcett** at Thirkleby and they subsequently had seven children (William, Elizabeth Ann, Jane, Mary Fawcett, Joseph, Thomas Fawcett and Robert Alfred). In the late 1880s, Thomas got involved in a business partnership which was to be his financial ruin. His partner defaulted on some personal debts and the law at the time was such that Thomas (as his partner) became liable for those debts. This ruined him and the stress probably contributed to his death soon afterwards in 1889. His wife Elizabeth and son Joseph (b.1854) were left to clear the debts. This son had followed one of the family traditions by



Jane Rimmington (1802-1881 )  
( nee Jane Smith )



William Smith (1789-1845 )  
Of Wildon Grange



Thomas Smith (1803-1889 )  
of Wildon Grange

becoming a Methodist minister in addition to his role as a farmer. However, by 1893 he had decided to quit farming in England and took on a role with the High Commission to Canada whereby he would investigate and report on the possibilities for the emigration of farmers to Canada. He also emigrated to that country and in the late 1930s he wrote a book entitled "*The Life of Joseph Smith*", outlining some of the memories from his early life.

## Robert Smith ( 1782 - 1863 )

Our GGG-Grandfather was Robert Smith, the eldest child of Joseph Smith and Elizabeth Duck. He was born in 1782 at Knayton in North Yorkshire. However, whilst he was still a small child, the family relocated to Wildon Grange near Coxwold, North Yorkshire and this became the family home for many decades. Robert was brought up at the farm on Wildon Grange and he married **Dorothy Robinson** at Alne, North Yorkshire on 26th May 1808.

Their first three children were born at Kildale, but Robert then appeared to relocate the family as all subsequent children after 1815 were born at Stainton in Cleveland. In 1823, Robert was listed in a trade directory as a farmer in that village. It's unclear how long he remained in Stainton as we have been unable to discover any information about the family's whereabouts between 1826 and 1840. However, in the 1841 census, Robert, Dorothy and one son (George) are found at Bridlington Quay and by the time of the 1851 census, they are established again back in the parish of Coxwold.

When Robert's father died in 1835, he was listed as one of the beneficiaries in Joseph's Will, although he was not a major beneficiary - probably because he was no longer living at the family home of Wildon Grange, as was the case for some of the other sons. Robert was bequeathed a 1/10 share in the income from the Leasehold tithes which Joseph held. Nevertheless, this was probably sufficient to put him on a sound financial footing for the future.

Robert continued to farm in Coxwold until his death on 26th Sep 1863 and he is buried in Coxwold graveyard along with his wife Dorothy, who survived him by just three years before she too died on 15th Oct 1866.

In his Will, Robert made a bequest to his grandson, Frederick Dempster Smith and the remainder of his estate was split between three sons - William, George and Joseph, although Joseph was only given half the amount which he gave to William and George.

Altogether, Robert and Dorothy had 7 children :

Joseph Smith	b.1809, at Kildale, North Yorkshire
George Smith	b.1810, at Kildale, North Yorkshire
William Smith	b.1813, at Kildale, North Yorkshire
John Smith	b.1815, at Stainton in Cleveland, North Yorkshire
Eliza Jane Smith	b.1818, at Stainton in Cleveland, North Yorkshire
Ann Smith	b.1820, at Stainton in Cleveland, North Yorkshire
Thomas Robert Smith	b.1826, at Stainton in Cleveland, North Yorkshire

**Joseph Smith** ( b.1809 ) never married and seems to have lived with various family members. In the 1851 census he is living with his father and has the unusual occupation of African Trader. By the time of the 1861 census, he is living with his brother (William) and his occupation is described as homoeopathic surgeon. In the book entitled "*The Life Story of*



*Joseph Smith*" (a biography of Joseph Smith, b.1854, son of Thomas Smith), there is a reference to "A cousin, also a doctor, who visited the Gold Coast, West Africa, and got friendly with old King Coffee, traded with the natives and wrote a very interesting little book". This is most likely a reference to Joseph Smith, son of Robert Smith.

**George Smith** ( 1810 - 1899 ) also remained unmarried and was a Schoolmaster at the village school in Coxwold. He lived with his parents until their deaths in 1863 & 1866 and thereafter he appears to have lived on his own. Following his retirement as Schoolmaster, he took on the role of Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the Coxwold sub-district. George died in 1899, aged 88 and is buried in Coxwold graveyard.

**William Smith** ( 1813 - 1887 ) was our GG-Grandfather. More on him later.

**John Smith** ( 1815 - 1855 ) was the first of Robert's children to be born at Stainton. Little is known of him until the 1851 census when he is living with the family of his brother William at 45 Great George Street, Liverpool and is described as a Master Baker, in partnership with William who is described similarly. John married **Elizabeth Farrington Dempster** in Liverpool in 1852. Elizabeth was the eldest of three sisters born in Dublin, Ireland in the 1820s and they had been brought to England by their father, Frederick Dempster, who settled the family in Liverpool. John Smith and Elizabeth Dempster had one child in 1855 - Frederick Dempster Smith. However, very soon after this, John died in 1855, aged 40 years. He is buried in Coxwold graveyard. His wife and son went to live with Elizabeth's two sisters, Frances Mary Lindley (widow of George Lindley, a master brewer) and Jane Caroline Dempster (a spinster). The three sisters continued to run the Lindley family brewery at various addresses on Kensington, Liverpool (the major road into the city from the east). It became known as the Kensington Brewery and probably grew to quite a size. In the later stages of their lives, they were often referred to (by some of the more recent generations of Smiths) as the "three rich aunts in Liverpool".

The young **Frederick Dempster Smith** lived with his mother and two aunts during his childhood and he trained as a Solicitor. In later life he became a Justice of the Peace and a partner in the law practice of Grace, Smith and Hood, with offices at 35 Castle Street, Liverpool. His home address was 37 Faulkner Square, Liverpool. His whereabouts in the first 25 years of the 20th century are uncertain, but it is known that he made a Will in 1925 and he died on 25th Mar 1929 at The Imperial Hotel, Bournemouth, Hampshire. At the time of his death, his permanent address was given as The Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, City of Westminster, so it appears that he lived a fairly affluent lifestyle. The value of his estate in 1929 was more than £104,000 (approximately £5 million in today's values) so he obviously accrued considerable wealth during his life - probably via bequests from the Dempster sisters and from the business activities of his law firm. Interestingly, one of the beneficiaries in his Will was Princess Marie Louise Henriette Josephine of Bourbon, formerly Duchess of Seville, although the nature of his relationship with this lady is unknown.

Little is known of Robert and Dorothy's three remaining children - **Eliza Jane Smith** ( b.1818 ), **Ann Smith** ( b.1820 ) and **Thomas Robert Smith** ( b.1826 ). It is presumed that Thomas Robert may have died whilst still a child as he is not mentioned in any of the census records and he is not named as a beneficiary in Robert's Will.

## William Smith ( 1813 - 1887 )

Our GG-Grandfather was William Smith, born in 1813 at Kildale, North Yorkshire, the 3rd son of Robert Smith and Dorothy Robinson. The family moved from Kildale to Stainton in Cleveland when William was still a small child and remained there until at least 1826, so his childhood years will have been in Stainton. His whereabouts are unknown until his marriage to **Mary Barwick** on 2nd Mar 1850 at St.Crux, York. At that time, his address was given as Pavement, York, although he must have returned to the ancestral home of Coxwold at some time in the preceding years as Mary was from Coxwold, being the daughter of the late William Barwick, the victualler at the Fauconberg Arms public house in Coxwold.

Soon after their 1850 marriage, William took the family to Liverpool as he appears in the 1851 census at 45 Great George Street, Liverpool, with wife Mary, daughter Eliza Jane, mother Dorothy and brother John. At that time, William and John were in partnership and William was described as a Flour Dealer and Master Baker. Following the birth of their second child (William Robert) the family returned to Coxwold, North Yorkshire as all subsequent children were born in Coxwold.

William took on the role of Station Master at the local Coxwold Railway Station and the family resided at Station House, adjacent to the railway line on the station platform for more than 20 years. William died on 26 Jul 1887 at the age of 74 and is buried in Coxwold graveyard. His wife Mary, moved to York and in 1891 she was living with her son, Charles Edwin, at 29 Bishopthorpe Road. In the 1901 census she is living with her daughter Ann at 33 Bishopthorpe Road. Following her death on 19 Mar 1904, she was buried with her late husband at Coxwold.

William and Mary had 9 children :

Eliza Jane Smith	b.1851, at Liverpool, Lancashire
William Robert Smith	b.1852, at Liverpool, Lancashire
Ann Smith	b.1853, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Louisa Smith	b.1855, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Alfred Smith	b.1856, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire
George Smith	b.1857, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Mary Agnes Smith	b.1858, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Sophia Smith	b.1864, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire
Charles Edwin Smith	b.1866, at Coxwold, North Yorkshire

**Eliza Jane Smith** ( 1851 - 1948 ) remained a spinster. For some unknown reason, she did not appear to live with her parents. In 1861, when she was just a young girl, she was living with her grandparents, Robert & Dorothy Smith in Coxwold. By 1871 when she was a young woman, she was living with her aunt & uncle, George & Ann Smith, in Coxwold. (Ann was the direct relation, being the sister of Mary Barwick. Her husband, George Smith, had no direct connection to the other Coxwold Smiths). Eliza Jane continued to live with George & Ann Smith and when George died, both Ann and Eliza Jane moved to Cliff House, Cliff Terrace, Filey. Following Ann's death in 1895, Eliza Jane continued to live alone at Cliff House until her death in 1948 at the age of 97. She was mentioned in the Will of her cousin, Frederick Dempster Smith in 1929 as was bequeathed a sum of £3,000 (quite a large amount in those days).

**William Robert Smith** ( b.1852 ) was our G-Grandfather. More detail later in this chapter.



**Ann Smith** ( b.1853 ) remained a spinster. In the 1901 census she was living at 33 Bishopthorpe Road, York and subsequently she moved to Oswaldkirk, North Yorkshire, where she lived with her neice Ethel, a daughter of her brother William Robert Smith.

**Louisa Smith** ( b.1855 ) was living in Howden at the time of the 1861 census. Not much is known of her.

**Alfred Smith** ( b.1856 ) lived with his parents up to at least 1871, but there is no further mention of him after this. Apparently, he went missing at sea - presumed dead.

**George Smith** ( b.1857 ) remained unmarried. In 1881 he was employed as a Railway Clerk and living at Harome, North Yorkshire. However, after the death of his father in 1887 he took over his father's role as Station Master of Coxwold Railway Station and lived at Station House. Apparently, during his tenure in this role, Coxwold Station won awards for the best station garden and George was responsible for much of this.

**Mary Agnes Smith** ( b.1858 ) apparently married a man named Bulmer, although they never had any children. Apart from this, nothing is known of her.

**Sophia Smith** ( b.1864 ) married Richard Carlton, a cattle dealer from Carlton Husthwaite, North Yorkshire. They had no children. Nothing else is known about her.

**Charles Edwin Smith** ( b.1866 ) moved to York. In 1891 he was living at 29 Bishopthorpe Road and in 1901 he was at 8 Burton Lane. He married a woman called Emily and they had 7 children. He was employed as a Fitter at the Rowntrees Cocoa Works.

## **William Robert Smith ( 1852 - c.1925 )**

Our G-Grandfather was William Robert Smith, born in Liverpool at 45 Great George Street on 20th Apr 1852, the 2nd child of William Smith and Mary Barwick.

In the mid-1850s, the family returned to Coxwold and in 1861, William Robert was aged 8 and living with his parents in Coxwold.

In 1873, when he was aged 21, he joined the army - enlisting in the infantry with the **15th Regiment of Foot** (subsequently renamed the **East Yorkshire Regiment**). The Regiment had two service Battalions and William Robert was in the 2nd Battalion. Both Battalions were assigned to the new Victoria Barracks at Beverley, so it is likely that he did his early training in Beverley. After training, he would have joined the regular battalion, which at that time was based in Gosport, Hampshire. In February 1874, the 2nd Battalion sailed from Portsmouth to Bombay as part of the army's service in India. After arrival at Bombay, the battalion travelled by rail to Poona, which was the army's HQ in the country. In October 1878, the 2nd Battalion was divided amongst three other locations - Deesa, Baroda and Ahmedabad, but was reunited again in March 1880, en route for Karachi as they were required for the army's effort in the **2nd Afghan War (1879-80)**. When they arrived in Afghanistan, they initially joined the reserve division of the Southern Afghanistan Field Force. In August 1880, they proceeded to march for Kandahar. The battalion remained as part of the fighting force in Afghanistan until the end of the war in November 1880, when it set off back to India, where it remained at Poona. For his service in Afghanistan, he would have received silver Second Afghan War Medal and would appear with the rest of the battalion on the Afghan Medal Roll.

William Robert Smith was promoted to the rank of sergeant about 1877. At that time, he achieved that rank very quickly as he had only been a soldier for 4 years. At some time prior to 1886, he must have returned to England, as his marriage to **Charlotte Louisa Tyler** took place in Beverley Minster on 27th Apr 1886. At that time, William Robert was a Colour Sergeant in the Regiment, living at Victoria Barracks, Beverley and her address was given as St. George's Place, London. However, Charlotte was working "in service" as a Lady's Maid to Lady Julia Wombwell at Newburgh Priory, Coxwold, so the address she gave was probably the Wombwell's London residence. It was probable that William Robert had met Charlotte Louisa whilst she was working at Newburgh Priory, as this is less than a mile from Station House, Coxwold, where the Smith family were living at the time.

William Robert Smith's rank as a Colour Sergeant and his address at Victoria Barracks probably meant that he had completed his service in India by that time and was, by then, a senior N.C.O. on the staff of the depot or of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion. In 1887, he was listed in a trade directory as serving with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion and living at 54 Southgate in Market Weighton. Volunteers were the fore-runners of today's Territorials. They were scattered around Hull and the East Riding and would have a regular Colour Sergeant responsible for their training. William Robert remained in that role, living in Market Weighton, until his discharge from the army in 1896.



**Hawthorn Avenue (1905)**

The above photograph shows Hawthorn Avenue at the junction with Seymour Street. No.93 Hawthorne Avenue is one of the houses just beyond the shops.

William Robert Smith lived here with his family in the 1920s.

After his retirement from the army, he took the family to live in Hull. In the 1901 census, they were living at 96 St. George's Road, Hull and he had an occupation of Customs Watcher. By the 1920s they had moved to 93 Hawthorn Avenue, Hull. and the family remained there until his death in 1928.

William was buried in the Great Western Cemetery along with his wife, Charlotte. She died in 1955. An obituary for him appeared in the October 1928 edition of "*The Snapper*" (the monthly magazine of The East Yorkshire Regiment). It read:-

***Ex-Colour Sergeant. William R. Smith***

*Ex-Col.-Sergt William R. Smith, who died in Hull on the 16th September, was born in 1852 and enlisted in 1873. He served with the 2nd Battalion in the Afghan War, was promoted to Sergeant about 1877, and in the last stage of his career was Col.-Sergeant Instructor to the old 2nd Volunteer Battalion. He took his discharge in 1896, having served 23 years and gained the Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct.*

According to family stories, William Robert Smith was a hard man and probably very strict. There is one story which relates to an incident where his son, Francis, came home late one night. Apparently, William Robert strapped him to a bed and horse-whipped him. By today's standards, that may seem very harsh and cruel. However, one has to view this in the context that he had been in the army for 23 years. For most of that time he had been a sergeant and it was the sergeants who were responsible for training and discipline. Punishment by flogging (whipping) was commonplace in the army until it was abolished in 1881 and it was probable that he had previously administered such punishments to soldiers for whom he was responsible. It is likely that he considered it quite normal and a means of imposing discipline.

William Robert and Charlotte had 6 children :

Arthur Smith	b.circa 1887, at Market Weighton, East Yorkshire
Charles Smith	b.1888, at Market Weighton, East Yorkshire
Cecilia Smith	b.1888, at Market Weighton, East Yorkshire
Ethel Smith	b.circa 1889, at Market Weighton, East Yorkshire
Francis Smith	b.circa 1894, at Market Weighton, East Yorkshire
Charlotte Smith	b.circa 1897, at Kirton in Lindsey, Lincolnshire

At present, we know very little about some of the above :

**Arthur Smith** ( b.circa 1887 ). No further information.

**Charles Smith** ( 1888 - 1972 ). He was our Grandfather - more details on him later.

**CeciliaSmith** ( b.1888 ). She was known as Cilla and was the twin sister of Charles.

**Ethel Smith** ( b.circa 1889 ). It is believed that she remained a spinster and she went to live with her aunt, Ann Smith (sister of her father) in Oswaldkirk, North Yorkshire.

**Francis Smith** ( b.circa 1894 ). He died during World War I.

**Charlotte Smith** ( b.circa 1897 ). She was known as Lottie.

## Charles Smith ( 1888 – 1972 )

Our paternal Grandfather was Charles Smith (known as Charlie). Born in Market Weighton on 7th Jul 1888, he was the son of William Robert Smith and Charlotte Louisa (nee Tyler).

Charlie was one of 6 children, the others being Arthur, Cecilia (his twin, known as Cilla), Ethel, Francis & Charlotte. His childhood years were spent in Market Weighton where his father was stationed as a Training Instructor for the East Yorkshire Regiment. They lived at 54 Southgate. Around the end of the century, William Robert retired from the army and in 1901, Charlie is aged 12 and living with the family at 96 St.George's Road, Hull.

In 1910, Charlie married **Lucy Mary Peachey**, a daughter of John William Peachey and Laura Horwood (nee Hewitt). During their married life, Charlie and Lucy lived at a number of addresses around the West Hull area :

1912 - 5 St Leonards Avenue, Rhodes St, Hull  
 1914 - 34 Huntingdon St, Hull  
 1915 - 5 Palm Grove, Somerset St, Hull  
 1920 - 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull  
 1925 - 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull  
 1929 - 14 Eastbourne St, Hull  
 1933 - 14 Eastbourne St, Hull  
 1935 - 151 Coltman St, Hull



**Greek Street (2012)**

Charlie Smith and family lived at 7 Ash Grove, Greek Street in the first half of the 1920s.

The photos above show Ash Grove (*right*) and the opposite side of Greek Street (*left*).  
 In 2012, they were in a derelict state and ready for demolition prior to redevelopment of the whole area around Hawthorne Avenue.



During World War I, Charlie served in the East Yorkshire Regiment, but unlike many others at that time, he was not a conscript soldier. It appears that he had followed in his father's footsteps and had voluntarily enlisted to the army prior to the commencement of the war.

**Charles Smith**  
(kneeling, front right)

Serving in  
The East Yorkshire Regiment  
(circa 1911)



After World War I, Charles Smith built up a small Joinery business and it is mentioned in Kelly's Trade Directory of Hull between 1929 and 1937 as Chas. Smith & Sons (Joiners). It was based above stables at the back of 12 Eastbourne Street, next door to where the family lived in the late 1920s and early 30s. He disposed of the business during the War years.



**Chas. Smith & Sons**  
was operated from a yard  
behind the houses in  
Eastbourne Street.

It is believed that  
No. 12 was one of the  
houses shown  
in this photograph.

The entrance on the right  
may have been the  
entrance to the  
joinery yard.

*Eastbourne Street west side Hessle Road end*



*Eastbourne Street looking north from Hesse Road*

#### Eastbourne Street

A similar view to the previous photograph, probably from the 1920s/30s.  
One of the houses on the right was No.12, where Charlie Smith lived with his family.  
The entrance on the right probably led to the joinery yard.

Lucy died in 1949 and after the children had married and moved on, in the 1960s Charlie went to live with his daughter (Betty) and their family at 13 Vine Street, Norton, North Yorkshire, where he died in 1972.

Charles and Lucy had 8 children :

Leslie Charles Smith	b.1912, at 5 St.Leonard's Ave, Rhodes St, Hull, Yorkshire
Marjorie Mary Smith	b.1914, at 34 Huntingdon St, Hull, Yorkshire
Francis Cameron Smith	b.1915, at 5 Palm Grove, Somerset St, Hull, Yorkshire
Dorothy Laura Charlotte Smith	b.1920, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Edward Peachey Smith	b.1921, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Kathleen Muriel Phyllis Smith	b.1923, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Betty Horwood Smith	b.1925, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire
Joan Smith	b.1926, at 7 Ash Grove, Greek St, Hull, Yorkshire

**Leslie Charles Smith** (b.12th Aug 1912) married Frances Carey in 1936. They had at least one child, named Brenda (b.circa 1940). Prior to the war, Leslie and Frank worked in their father's joinery business. After the war, Dad and Leslie had a disagreement over the disposal of the joinery business during the war years. Dad considered that Leslie had been instrumental in this and had cheated him. They never had any contact with each other after that. Leslie died in 1988.



**Marjorie Mary Smith** (b.13th Apr 1914), she married James King and emigrated to Australia. They had at least 2 children - Tony King (b.circa 1940) and Marlene King (b.circa 1942). In 1960, they were living in Dapto, New South Wales, Australia.

**Francis Cameron Smith** (b.15th Oct 1915) was known as "Frank". He married Bertha Macaulay on 17th Oct 1939 and they lived at 28 Walgrave St, Newland Avenue, Hull. They had two children - Christine Smith (b.1947) and Keith Smith (b.1950). Frank died in 1988.

**Dorothy Laura Charlotte Smith** (b.1st Jan 1920) married Stanley Smith in 1940 and they had three children - Dennis Smith, Sheila Smith and Barry Smith. Dorothy was the last survivor of Dad's siblings. She died in 2012, age 92 years.

**Edward Peachey Smith** (b.31st Jul 1921) was known as "Neddy". He married Rita Banks in 1947 and they had one child - Edward (Eddy) Smith. Dad always had a good relationship with Neddy and they were fairly close up to Dad's death.

**Kathleen Muriel Phyliss Smith** (b.13th Mar 1923) married William (Bill) Taylor in 1943. He was a chief engineer on trawlers. They had six children - Maureen Taylor, Alan Taylor, Peter Taylor, Barbara Taylor, Paul Taylor and Philip Taylor. Kathy died in 1991.

**Betty Horwood Smith** (b.30th May 1925) married Leslie Croft in 1949 and they subsequently lived at North Grimston, North Yorkshire, before moving to 13 Vine Street, Norton, North Yorkshire. They had two children - Geoffrey Croft and Connie Croft. After Leslie's death, Connie emigrated to Australia. Betty followed her to Australia, where she lived for the remainder of her life.

**Joan Smith** (b.1st Jun 1926), she married Arthur Lawson in 1950 and they subsequently lived at Swanland, East Yorkshire.

**Lucy Peachey**

With her children (*left to right*)  
**Leslie, Majorie & Francis Cameron**  
( *photograph c.1916* )







**Joan  
Smith**

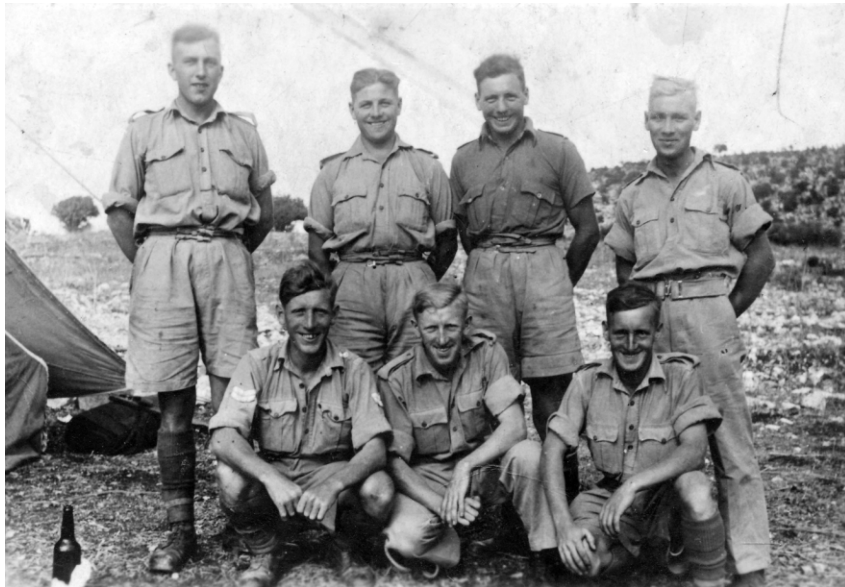
Age 13  
(left)

Age 17  
(right)



**Dorothy Smith & Joan Smith**

Posing for a photograph during a visit to Blackpool



**Neddy Smith**  
( *standing, far right* )  
Serving in the East Yorkshire Regiment in North Africa during World War II



Some of the family of Charles Smith  
Left to Right : Charles, Lucy, Kathleen, Joan, Marjorie  
Children are probably son & daughter of Marjorie