

## Fred Booth

(16<sup>th</sup> February 1860 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 1934)



Part of the headstone for plot LL'14 in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe, West Riding of Yorkshire, England

The question is! How and why did Fred Booth end up in the United States of America but still get a mention on this headstone? His nephew, another Fred Booth, was a WW1 soldier. Corporal Fred Booth's story has already been told in

### Corporal Fred Booth parts 1 & 2

This biography concentrates on Fred Booth in the USA.

As the memorial inscription says Fred Booth was born on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1860. He was the youngest child of Henry, a "Labourer", and his second wife Hannah née Moore of Wyke. His parents had him baptised on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1860 at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.

He thus appears on the next three censuses with his family in Wyke and then Lightcliffe in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

#### 1861 census

Henry Booth	Head 45	Labourer Ag
Hannah ditto	Wife 39	
Elizabeth Ann ditto	Dau 10	
Rebecca ditto	Dau 8	
Albert ditto	Son 5	
Fred ditto	Son 1	

Address Booth Row, Wyke

The occupation "Millhand" was dittoed for all four children so this may or may not indicate that Fred Booth worked in a mill from a very early age as many children did.

Read **The Booth family** to find out what happened to other members of this family.

#### 1871 census

Henry Booth	Head 55	
Hannah ditto	Wife 49	
Elizabeth Ann ditto	Dau 20	Millhand
Rebecca ditto	Dau 18	ditto
Albert ditto	Son 14	ditto
Fred ditto	Son 11	ditto

Address Lightcliffe

#### 1881 census

Hannah Booth	Head 59	Widow
Rebecca ditto	Dau 28	Laundress
Albert ditto	Son 24	Mechanic
Fred ditto	Son 21	Clerk

Address Lightcliffe

As you can see, by the 1881 census mother Hannah was a widow, Fred's father Henry having passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1878. Henry was buried on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1878 in the plot, now given the code LL'14, in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe. The bottom part of the headstone to this plot is illustrated above.

The 1881 "Clerk" Fred Booth was almost certainly a clerk for the manufacturers T.F. Firth & Sons at Bailiffe Bridge. And this is probably where the Booth siblings were all mill hands in 1871. The mill was at the bottom of the hill from where they lived near Holme House, Lightcliffe.

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 1884 twenty-four-year-old 'Clerk' Fred Booth arrived in New York on S.S. *Scythia* having sailed from Liverpool. He had been sent by Firths "to superintend the plant of this company (Firth Carpet Company), then located in Philadelphia."

A year later his 30-year-old sister Rebecca Booth and 23-year-old Lydia Hirst (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> names down on the passenger list below) travelled to New York from Liverpool on S.S. *Servia*, arriving on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1885. They must then have travelled on to Philadelphia.



**S.S. Servia, Cunard Line**

New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957 for Lydia Hirst

Date > 1885 > June > 08 > Servia

20	John W. Hancock	21	Wm. H. H. H.	U.S.A.	1	0		2
1	May Taylor	22	Wm. H. H.	Ireland	1	1		3
2	John	23	Wm. H. H.	England			Indemnit	4
3	James Deane	24	Wm. H. H.	Ireland	1	0		2
4	Rebecca Booth	25	Wm. H. H.	England	2	1		4
5	Lydia Hirst	26	Wm. H. H.					5
6	May Ann H. H.	27	Wm. H. H.					6

It was in Philadelphia that 25-year-old Fred Booth married 23-year-old Lydia Hirst on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1885. Both were residents of Philadelphia and under the remark's column it says "At there[sic] Home". So presumably Lydia Hirst was Fred Booth's fiancée or girlfriend from before T.F. Firths & Sons asked him to go to the USA. Did they then pay for Rebecca Booth and Lydia Hirst to travel out to him a year later?

Pennsylvania and New Jersey, U.S., Church and Town Records, 1669-2013 for Lydia Hirst

PA - Philadelphia > Philadelphia > Methodist > Norris Square Methodist Episcopal Church

15 <sup>th</sup>	Fred Booth	Lydia Hirst	25	23
1885	Wm. H. H.	Wm. H. H.		

Lydia Hirst's birth was registered in the Halifax district Q4 1861. She was the eldest daughter of Sam Hirst, a leather currier, and his wife Emma née Crowther who had married Q4 1861.

1871 census

Sam Hirst	Head	34	Currier
Emma Hirst	Wife	31	
Lydia Hirst	Dau	9	
Thomas A Hirst	Son	7	
Jane Hirst	Dau	1	
Address Clifton			

Lydia Hirst was not with the rest of her family on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881. Instead, she was with her paternal grandfather Francis Hirst.

1881 census

Sam. Hirst	Head	44	Leather Currier
Emma Hirst	Wife	41	
Thos.A. Hirst	Son	17	
Jane Hirst	Dau	11	
Mary Hirst	Dau	6	
Annie Hirst	Dau	2	
Address Westgate, Clifton			

1881 census

Francis Hirst	Head	74	Widower
			Joiner employing 1 man
Lydia Hirst	Servant	19	Domestic Servant
Address Top of Clifton, Clifton			

As already explained four years after the 1881 census was taken Lydia made the long journey to Philadelphia to marry Fred Booth. A year after that, in March 1886, she and Fred would move again to the Town of Cornwall, Orange County, New York, USA. This was because the Firth Carpet Company purchased the Broadhead Woollen Mills there. They transferred their machinery to this new location and continued the manufacture of worsted yarns, tapestry and Brussels carpet. This new location was called Firthcliffe. Presumably it was named after the Firth Carpet Company and Lightcliffe, where the company's owners lived. There would be several connections between the two communities in the coming years.



Fred and Lydia Booth's first child Annie Booth was born on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1887 in Cornwall, Orange County so probably in Firthcliffe. And then Fred Booth petitioned New York County for State and Federal Naturalization which was granted on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1889. His occupation was "SUPT." - so superintendent of the Firth Carpet Factory. Below is his index card and below that the form he signed and dated.

B300

Family Name		Given Name or Names	
BOOTH		FRED	
Title and Location of Court			
COMMON PLEAS COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY.			
Date of Naturalization	Volume or Bundle No.	Page No.	Copy of Record No.
JUNE-19-1889	659	-	87
Address of Naturalized Person			
CORNWALL ON HUDSON N.Y.			
Occupation	Birth Date or Age	Former Nationality	
SUPT.		ENGLISH	
Port of Arrival in the United States		Date of Arrival	
		FEB-1884	
Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization			
1	JAMES C. SMITH 240 E. 41 ST. N.Y.C		
2			

STATE OF NEW YORK  
City and County of New York, } ss. I, Fred Booth  
 residing in No. Cornwall on Hudson  
 do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign prince, Potentate, State or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, of whom I was before a subject.

Fred Booth

Sworn in open Court, this 19 day) of June 1889  
OR. CLK.

Fred Booth would appear to have travelled back and forth between New York and Liverpool on several occasions; sometimes alone and sometimes with Lydia and family. Presumably this was to see their respective families and for Fred to report in person to the firm's owners, all conveniently residing in or near Lightcliffe. The first of these journeys that has been found had 30-year-old "Manager" Fred Booth arriving back on *S.S.Servia* in New York from Liverpool on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1890. A "Mrs F Booth" with child "Miss A Booth" then travel back later on *S.S.Alaska* arriving in New York on 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 1890 so presumably they had all gone out together and Lydia had stayed on, perhaps to see her family in Cleckheaton which was where her parents were on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1891. Her brother and family were in Brighouse.

1891 census

Sam Hirst        Head 54 Currier  
 Emma Hirst     Wife 51 Wife  
 Jane Hirst      Dau    21  
 Annie Hirst     Dau    12  
 Address 7 Britannia Terr., Cleckheaton

1891 census

Thomas A Hirst Head 27 Joiner & Builder  
 Ellen Hirst      Wife 26  
 Arthur Hirst    Son    4  
 Laura Hirst     Dau    2  
 Fred Hirst      Son    1  
 Address New St., Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Fred and Lydia had another daughter Miriam Rebecca Booth and then a son Francis Elmer Booth, born on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1892 and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1897 respectively. So, for the 1900 United States Federal census the Booth family comprised of Fred – "Manager Carpet ?????", Lydia, Annie, Miriam and Elmer Booth, no ages recorded. On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1900 40-year-old "Merchant" Fred Booth, his wife & their three children arrived in Liverpool from Philadelphia. Although again Fred Booth seems to have returned to New York alone in July 1900 whereas his family followed on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1900.

By then Lydia's parents and sisters were probably in Blackpool but her brother was in still in Brighouse. The Hirsts were at these location for the 1901 census.

1901 census

Sam Hirst        Head    63  
                   Company(Lodge) House Keeper  
 Emma Hirst     Wife    61  
 Jane Hirst      Dau    30  
 Mary Hirst      Dau    26  
 Annie Hirst     Dau    22 Daughter  
 James Hardill Visitor 31 Sawmill Engineer  
 Mary Hannah Hardill Visitor 29  
 Walter O Hardill Visitor 5  
 Address Blackpool

1901 census

Thomas A Hirst Head 37 Joiner & Builder  
 Ellen Hirst      Wife 36  
 Arthur Hirst    Son    14  
 Laura Hirst     Dau    12  
 Norman Hirst   Son    9  
 Stanley Hirst   Son    6  
 Walter A Hirst   Son    2  
 Address 26 Bonegate Avenue, Brighouse

For the summer trip in 1903 the whole Booth family travelled back to New York from Liverpool on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1903 on *S.S.Celtic*. It was in 1903 that the owners of the Firth Carpet Company built the clubhouse for their employees.



In 1908 48-year-old Fred Booth "Manfr" travelled back alone on *S.S.Lusitania* docking at New York on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1908. Perhaps this visit had something to do with the following article which appeared in the *New York Times* on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1908.

## **24 CARPET WORKERS ORDERED DEPORTED**

**Firth Company at Firthcliffe, N.Y.,**

**To be Prosecuted for Violation**

**Of Contract Labor Law.**

**88 WARRANTS ARE ISSUED**

**English Concern Advanced**

**In Six Years \$4,410**

**to Aliens to Enable**

**Them to Migrate to Firthcliffe**

*Special to The New York Times*

WASHINGTON, Nov.25.—Orders have been issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor deporting twenty-four carpet workers, employees of the Firth Carpet Company, at Firthcliffe, N.Y., for violation of the alien contract labor law, and the Department of Justice has been requested to prosecute the company for bringing the laborers into this country.

Investigation by the Department of Commerce and Labor disclosed that the law had been violated for a term of years. During this investigation half a dozen aliens arrived in New York, all destined to Firthcliffe, and were turned back. On the report of the investigating officer warrants

were issued for the arrest of eighty-eight persons, including contract laborers and members of their immediate families.

Firthcliffe is a village of about 500 people in Orange County, near Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. The only industry is the Firth Carpet Company, which employs nearly 600 hands, and has a business of more than \$1,000,000 a year.

The President is Thomas F.Firth of Heckmondike, England; the Vice President, A.W.Firth of Lightcliffe, England; the General Manager, Secretary, and Superintendent, Frederick Booth of Firthcliffe, N.Y., and the Treasurer, Bennett H.Tobey of Glen Cove, L.I. The two Firths are members of the English firm of T.F.Firth & Sons, Limited, which conducts two carpet making factories, the Clifton Mills at Brighouse, and the Flushing Mills at Heckmondwike. The American concern is conducted as an independent corporation, but the English firm is the principal shareholder.

A large percentage of the employees of the English concern came to this country with the understanding that they would find work at Firthcliffe. The books of the company disclosed that from 1902 to 1908 over \$4,410 had been advanced to thirty-three different aliens to enable them and their families to migrate to Firthcliffe. Part of this money was advanced in Europe by James Sinclair who served as labor scout for the Firth concern.

1910 USA census

Fred Booth 50 General Manager Carpet Mill  
Lydia ditto 48  
Annie ditto 22  
Miriam R ditto 17  
Francis E dttto 12  
Address Main Street, Cornwall NY

1911 census

Sam Hirst Head 74 Gentleman  
Emma Hirst Wife 71  
Jane Hirst Dau 42 Dressmaker  
Mary Hirst Dau 37 At home  
Thomas Barlow Visitor 65 Mechanic  
Rachel Barlow Visitor 62  
Address 2b Exchange St Blackpool Lancashire

1911 census

Thomas Albert Hirst Head 47 Joiner & Builder  
Ellen Hirst Wife 46  
Arthur Hirst Son 24 Joinery worker  
Laura Hirst Dau 22  
Norman Hirst Son 19  
Engineer's Cost Clerk Student  
Walter Arnold Hirst Son 16  
Clerk in Carpet Works Student  
Stanley Hirst Son 12 Scholar  
Ella Kathleen Hirst Dau 8 Scholar  
Harold Reginald Hirst Son 5 Scholar  
Address 2 Bonegate Avenue Brighthouse

It looks as if two of the Hirst sons also worked for T.F.Firth & Sons .

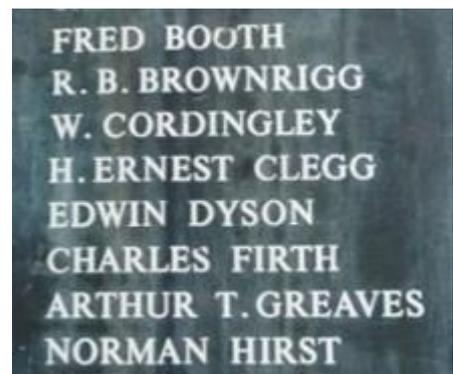
Lydia's mother Emma Hirst died at the beginning of 1912, on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Her death was registered in the Fylde district so presumably at Blackpool. But she was brought back to St.John's Church, Clifton for burial on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1912. This was in a plot already occupied by a young son Fred Hirst. Later that year the Booths or at least Fred, Lydia and their son Francis E. Booth made another voyage to the UK and back. They arrived back in New York on S.S.Cedric on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1912. Three years later Lydia's father Sam died, he too was buried at Clifton.

**IN MEMORY OF FRED, SON OF SAM AND EMMA HIRST OF CLIFTON,  
WHO DIED APRIL 27TH 1869 AGED 1 YEAR AND 5 MONTHS  
ALSO EMMA, THE BELOVED WIFE OF SAM HIRST  
WHO DIED JAN 8TH 1912 / AGED 72 YEARS  
ALSO THE ABOVE NAMED SAM HIRST  
WHO DIED APRIL 3RD 1915 AGED 78 YEARS**

His daughter and son in law, Lydia and Fred Booth, were probably unable to visit the United Kingdom from the United States that year because, of course, the Great War had started in Europe. This conflict would claim the lives of two of their nephews.



Corporal Fred Booth (pictured left) was killed in France on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1916. His story has already been told. As he worked for T.F. Firths & Sons his name appears on the Bailiffe Bridge memorial. But so does that of a Norman Hirst. [Actually, two Norman Hirsts are remembered on the memorial and clearly it is impossible to say which name refers to which soldier.] Private Norman Hirst was killed on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1918.



The *Brighthouse Echo* newspapers from 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May 1918 tell you more about this Norman Hirst.



following letter from Lieut. H.H. Maxwell, the deceased soldier's company officer :-

'I am very sorry to have to tell you that Pte. N. Hirst was killed in action on April 8<sup>th</sup>. His death was instantaneous, and he is buried alongside his comrades who fell with him. He was always a very keen and good soldier, and his loss will be very deeply felt by all ranks.'

Pte. Hirst was 26 years of age. After completing his education at the Rastrick Grammar School, he obtained an appointment in the office of Messrs. T.F. Firth & Sons, Bailiffe Bridge, and from there joined the army in Feby., 1916. He trained with the Cameron Highlanders at Ripon and went to France in Sept., 1916. He had seen much active service on the Western front but had previously escaped all serious danger. For several months he had been in the neighbourhood of Passchendaele, and only recently was transferred further south into France. When at home he was connected with Bethel United Methodist Church, which has sustained another serious loss amongst the young men of the Sunday School. Two brothers are also serving with the colours --- Sergt Walter Hirst in France, and Pte. Stanley Hirst in Ireland.

## Local War News

### CAMERON HIGHLANDER'S DEATH PTE. N.HIRST, OF BRIGHOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Hirst, of 2 Bonegate Avenue, Brighouse, received news on Wednesday of the death of their second son, Pte. Norman Hirst, of the Cameron Highlanders. The news was contained in the

Meanwhile their cousin Francis Elmer Booth was at school in 1915 living with his parents.

#### 1915 USA census

Fred Booth 55 Secretary Carpet Mill

Lydia ditto 53

Annie ditto 27

Miriam ditto 22

Francis ditto 17 At School

Address Main Street, Cornwall, NY

But in 1918 he was issued with USA WW1 draft papers when he was a "Student". The form is dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918, and his father was named as "Fred Booth born Lightcliffe" with his mother being named Lydia and his address was Cornwall, New York. It is not known whether he was ever called up.

Another name on the Bailiffe Bridge memorial - and named on the Roll of Honour in St. Matthew's Church - with a link to Firthcliffe, Orange County, New York State is Horace Shaw. His family may well have been some of the 'aliens', mentioned in the *New York Times* in 1908, who migrated to Firthcliffe from Bailiffe Bridge.

### The Shaw family

Sergeant Horace Shaw's mother, Ruth Ann Shaw appears to have travelled out in 1914 but then returned briefly to stay with her sister Mrs N. Collins at 43 East St., Lightcliffe in 1919. Other members of her family were probably already in Firthcliffe at this time. Their names and address were confirmed by the Lightcliffe vicar, the Rev H.L. Taylor, on military forms – dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 1919 - relating to Horace Shaw's effects and medals.

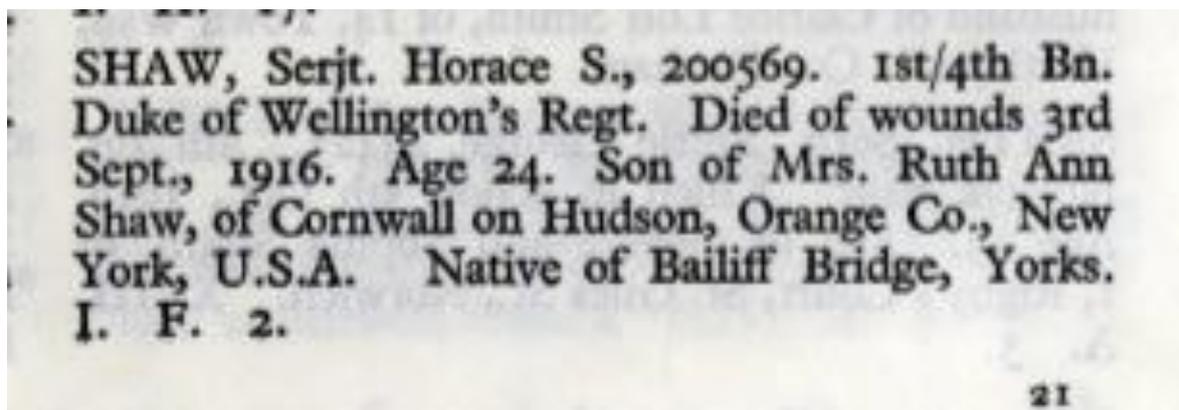
Mother *Ruth Ann Shaw \*43 East Street, Lightcliffe, Nr Halifax\**

Brother *Sam Shaw aged 23 Box 17 Firthcliffe, Orange County, New York State, USA*

Sister *Ada Armitage married aged 28 Box 14 (might be 64) Firthcliffe, Orange County, New York State, USA*

Sister *Anne Shaw aged 21 Box 17 Firthcliffe, Orange County, New York State, USA*

There are other forms dated 1918 and 1919 which give Mrs Ruth A. Shaw's address as Firthcliffe, Orange County, New York, USA and then one dated "6/9/20 *Still residing in Orange County. Ruth A Shaw*"



On census night 1911 Horace, Annie and Sam Shaw, with their mother Ruth Ann Haley-yes she appears to have remarried but was "living apart" -, were living with their grandfather Edmond Stansfield at 86 Wakefield Road, Bailiffe Bridge. So, this sister and brother did not emigrate until after then. Horace and Sam were a "Living Frame Creeler" and a "Threader" respectively both working for a "Carpet Manufacturer" so presumably for T.F.Firth & Sons. Annie was a "Short Framer" for a "Silk Dresser". These must have been skills that the Firthcliffe Carpet Company in the USA needed. And so, it is interesting to speculate as to whether they too were offered incentives to move to Firthcliffe in the USA and to wonder just when they left the United Kingdom.

But back to the **Booths in the United States**. The following census data tells you more.

1920 census

Booth Fred 59 Supt.Carpet Mill  
Ditto Lydia 58  
Ditto Annie 32 Single  
Ditto Miriam R 27 Single  
Ditto Francis Elmer 27 Student College  
Address Main Street, Cornwall,

1925 census

Fred Booth 65 Retired  
Lydia Booth 63  
James H. Patrick 36 Manager Firth Carpet  
Annie Patrick 36  
John B Patrick 0  
Address Main Street, Cornwall

On 15<sup>th</sup> October 1921 Annie Booth had married James Hunter Patrick. Their son John Booth Patrick was born on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1924 in Cornwall, New York. Bachelor James Hunter Patrick arrived in New York from Liverpool on *S.S.Carmania* in January 1920 His next of kin was his father Alexander Patrick of Craigside, Hawick. His destination was Firthcliffe, N.Y. The Naturalization records dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 1920, for James Hunter Patrick born 5<sup>th</sup> January 1891 in Hawick, Scotland also indicate that he was a (something - covered up on form) “textile manager” and his last address was “...vas Brighthouse, England” – again partly obscured. So yet again we seem to have an employee of T.F.Firth & Sons in Bailiffe Bridge moving out to take up a similar position at their factory in Firthcliffe. Newly married James Hunter and Annie Booth Patrick crossed the Atlantic again in 1923 presumably to visit his Scottish parents.

In 1925 Francis Elmer Booth and his sister Miriam Booth were living together but not with their parents according to the New York 1925 State Census. Elmer’s occupation may say “Departmental Carpet (Assistant crossed out?) Manager but Miriam’s is impossible to read. Perhaps they were living in a separate household because the Patrick family were with their parents.

In 1926 Miriam accompanied her father Fred Booth on a brief trip to Puerto Rica. They left New York on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1926 arriving in San Juan on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1926. Business done perhaps, they departed San Juan on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1926 returning to New York on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1926 again on *S.S.Coamo*.

Fred Booth and his wife Lydia travelled to England again in 1927 leaving Liverpool on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1927 on *S.S.Samaria* which got into New York on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1927. A year later 35-year-old Miriam Booth made a similar journey but this time departing from Southampton on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1928 on *S.S.Tuscania* arriving in New York on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1928. It does seem as if Fred and Lydia Booth and their family in the United States regularly visited their West Riding of Yorkshire families.

It has recently been discovered that Fred Booth sent a donation of £20 – worth over a £1000 in today’s money – to the Ebenezer Chapel in Bailiffe Bridge after he was unable to accept an invitation to attend the celebration of an anniversary there. The envelope, addressed to a lady in Wyke, had ‘*SS Mauretania*’ on it and the address on the letter heading was “Fairlawn, Cornwall, New York.”

In 1928 Annie Patrick née Booth and her husband James Hunter Patrick along with their son John Booth Patrick sailed to Liverpool aboard S.S. *Lacunia* arriving on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1928. Again, their destination was Craigside, Hawick, Scotland presumably this time to introduce young John Booth Patrick to his paternal grandparents.

For the 1930 census the Booths and the Patricks were living next door to one another.

1930 census

Fred Booth 70 Manufacturer Carpets  
Lydia Booth 68  
Miriam Booth 49 Secretary Private School  
Address  
184 Main St., Cornwall, Orange County, N.Y

1930 census

James H Patrick 39 Manufacturer Textiles Carpets  
Annie Patrick 42  
John B Patrick 5  
1 servant  
Address  
183 Main St., Cornwall, Orange County, N.Y

Francis Elmer Booth and his family have not been found in the 1930 census. Neither has a record been found of a marriage nor a Booth birth, both of which happened before 1930 – see the 1940 census.

The 1930 census suggest that Fred Booth was still working even though the 1925 census had him recorded as being retired. Perhaps as the portrait says he retired from active management but was still involved with the company. Unfortunately, no dates are known for the portrait or the biography below.



**FRED BOOTH**, secretary and general manager of the Firth Carpet Company at Firthcliffe, Orange County, N. Y., is a native of Yorkshire, England, and came to America in 1884 to superintend the plant of this company, then located in Philadelphia. In March, 1886, they purchased the Broadhead Woolen Mills, transferred their machinery to the new location and continued the manufacture of worsted yarns, tapestry and Brussels carpet. The concern, of which Mr. Booth is the active head, is one of the leading industries in Orange County. The capital stock is \$1,000,000 and employment is given to four hundred persons.

The officers of the company are: F. F. Firth, president; A. F. Firth, vice-president; B. H. Tobey, treasurer, and Fred Booth, secretary and general manager.

Fred Booth was a trustee of the New York Military Academy where a library was named after him.

Previously located in the Academic Building, the library was moved to the former residence of Brigadier General Milton F. Davis, third superintendent. Built in 1916, the building was renamed Booth Library in honor of Fred Booth, loyal friend of the academy and trustee from 1910-1934.

*New York Times*  
January 8th 1934

## **FRED BOOTH DIES**

**Active for 50 Years in Carpet  
Plant at Cornwall, N.Y.**

**Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES**

CORNWALL, N.Y., Jan 7. – Fred Booth, chairman of the board of directors and treasurer of the Firth Carpet Company, with which he had been associated in various capacities for fifty years, died suddenly at his office yesterday in his seventy-fourth year.

Mr. Booth, who was born in Lightcliffe, England, was engaged in the carpet manufacturing business there before he came to Cornwall in 1884 to start the Firth Carpet

Company's Firthcliffe mill, near here. He remained with the organization until his death.

He was a trustee and director of the New York Military Academy at Cornwall, a director of the Highlands-Quassaick Bank of Newburgh and a life trustee of the Institute of Carpet Manufacturers of America. He was warden of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs Lydia Hirst Booth; two daughters Mrs James H. Patrick and Miss Miriam R. Booth of Cornwall, and a son Francis E. Booth of Boston.

The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon at St John's Episcopal Church. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in Woodlawn Cemetery Newburgh.

As his obituary and the commemoration in St. Matthew's Churchyard say, he was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Cornwall, USA with this headstone and memorial inscription - admittedly the inscription is a little difficult to read.



Fred Booth died a very wealthy man and there seems to have been much wrangling between his family and the state as to how much he was worth, presumably for tax reasons. The documents on Ancestry are numerous, running to well over one hundred pages, making them difficult to follow. However, the figures on the document below give his wealth in 1934 as over half a million dollars - about twelve million dollars today.

## New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659 – 1999 for Fred Booth

Third—I further report that I found the property comprising the gross estate of the decedent herein to consist of the items set forth in the annexed affidavit for appraisal, and that the fair market value of each of the said items at the date of decedent's death is the amount set down by me opposite such item in the column designated "Value as appraised in this proceeding," and that the sums properly to be allowed as deductions herein for the purpose of determining the net estate are the amounts set down by me after the several items claimed in the column designated "Allowed in this proceeding," as a result of which I find the said gross estate and deductions to be as shown in the following summary:

*Assets.*

Schedule A—Real Estate.....	\$ 16,000.00
Schedule B—Stocks and Bonds.....	548,512.10
Schedule C—Mortgages, Notes, Cash and Insurance.....	35,701.36
Schedule D-1—Jointly Owned Property.....	
Schedule D-2—Other Miscellaneous Property.....	250.00
Schedule E—Transfers.....	
Schedule F—Powers of Appointment.....	
Schedule G-1—Property Identified as Previously Taxed.....	
<b>Gross estate.....</b>	<b>\$ 600,463.46</b>

*Subject to Deductions as follows:*

Schedule G-2—Property Identified as Previously Taxed.....	\$
Schedule H—Funeral and Administration Expenses.....	48,208.12
Schedule I—Debts.....	1,202.41
Schedule J—Mortgages, Net Losses, and Support of Dependents.....	
Schedule K—Charitable, Public and Similar Gifts and Bequests.....	6,000.00
<b>Total deductions.....</b>	<b>\$ 55,410.52</b>
<b>The net estate, I appraise at.....</b>	<b>\$ 545,052.94</b>

There was also an English probate record for a little bit less!

BOTH Fred of Fairlawn Main-street Cornwall Orange County New York U.S.A. died 6 January 1934 Probate London 22 June to Francis Elmer Booth office manager Miriam Rebecca Booth spinster and Annie Booth Patrick (wife of James Hunter Patrick) Effects £101 11s 5d.

And he did not forget his surviving brother and sister, Albert and Rebecca Booth, living next door to one another in East View, Lightcliffe, near Halifax, England.

2. The following named legatees, etc., have not been hereinbefore mentioned, and they are the only persons who are entitled to a Notice of Probate pursuant to Section 146 of the Surrogate's Court Act:

Name of Legatee or Devisee	Post Office Address	Value of Legacy or Devise
Rebecca Booth	East View, Lightcliffe, Nr. Halifax, England	\$ 5,000.00
Albert Booth	" " "	5,000.00
St. John's Episcopal Church	Cornwall, N.Y.	3,000.00
Cornwall Hospital	" " "	2,000.00
River Light of N.Y.C.	New York, N.Y.	1,000.00

Later in 1934 the Patrick family travelled to the United Kingdom. Again, it is impossible to tell whether they were heading for Scotland or Lightcliffe or both places. They left on *S.S. Britannic* from Liverpool on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1934 arriving back in New York on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1934. The other daughter Miriam Rebecca Booth also came to England later that summer. She was booked to return on *S.S. Georgia* leaving Liverpool on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1934 and due in at New York on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1924 but “did not embark”. Instead, she got on *S.S. Scythia* which left Liverpool on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1934 arriving back in New York on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1934.

Again, it is interesting to speculate if the Fred Booth’s daughters as well as their Booth uncle and aunt organised the memorial inscription on the bottom of Fred Booth’s parents’ headstone in St. Matthew’s churchyard.

Clifton-born Lydia Booth née Hirst died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1937. She was buried with her husband with another almost impossible to read memorial inscription. Her *New York, USA, Wills and Probate* record runs to just under 50 pages. The beneficiaries were her three adult children.



Even after the death of their parents the Booth siblings continued to travel to the UK - very understandable in the case of the Patricks. Annie Booth Patrick, aged 62, and her husband James Hunter Patrick, aged 59, of 34 Highland Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey travelled back First Class on Cunard’s *Queen Elizabeth* leaving Southampton on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1950 and arriving in New York on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1950. Annie Booth Patrick died on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1964, her husband on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1971 and their son on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1999.

In 1952 Francis Elmer Booth, aged 54, and his wife Imogen M Booth née Proudfit , aged 52, of 64 Oxford St., Winchester, Massachusetts travelled First Class on *S.S. Mauritania* departing New York on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1952. They arrived at Southampton on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1952 giving their proposed address as 37, Charles St., London and said that they were planning a six-week stay. That was just about right as they left Liverpool on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1952 arriving back in New York on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1952. Frances Elmer Booth was said to be a “Salesman” and their last address in the UK was 111, Harley Street. Francis Elmer Booth died in 1983, his wife having predeceased him on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1977. Both were remembered on the Booth memorial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Unmarried sister Miriam Rebecca Booth died on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1983.

This concludes the remarkable story of Fred Booth and his journey from Lightcliffe clerk to being an extremely successful American businessman.

D.M.Barker  
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