

## Thomas and Elizabeth Collins and family

Thomas Collins was the youngest son of David and Hannah Collins. He was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1837, just missing the September 1837 onwards need to have his birth registered

Unlike his father and older brothers, he was not a blacksmith. Perhaps the Hove Edge smithy had sufficient manpower by the time he was of working age. In 1851 he was a 14-year-old 'Carrier' perhaps 'Currier' and then in 1861 a 24-year-old 'Stone mason'. This would be his line of work for years to come.

Not long after the 1861 census on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1861 he married Elizabeth Boothroyd at St. John's Church, Halifax. Notice that his brother, Ephraim, and sister in law, Hannah, witnessed the marriage. Read their story.

## Ephraim Collins and family

1861. Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of <i>Halifax</i> in the County of <i>York</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Residence.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Residence.	Rank or Profession of Father.
291	June 29	<i>Thomas Collins</i>	24	<i>Single</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>Hipperholme</i>	<i>David Collins</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>
		<i>Elizabeth Boothroyd</i>	19	<i>Spin</i>	—	<i>Hipperholme</i>	<i>James Boothroyd</i>	<i>Mason</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <i>Decease</i> by me, <i>William Doxey</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Thomas Collins</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Ephraim Collins</i> <i>mark</i> <i>Hannah Collins</i> <i>mark</i>		

The newlyweds settled with the rest of the Collins family in Hove Edge. During the next decade they baptised five children at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe: James William on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1862, Walter on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1865, Emily on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1866, Alice on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1869 and Fred on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1870. But then as happened all too frequently, especially to this family, not all the children survived. Fifteen-month-old Alice was buried in the churchyard in a known plot R45 on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1869. Three-year-old Emily joined her in plot R45 on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1870. Each burial record gives the little girls' address as Laverock Lane. Another daughter Laura was baptised at Lightcliffe on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1873 and then a son Sam on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1875 the children of 'Stone Mason' Thomas of Hove Edge. But then there was this death announcement in the Brighouse News for 29<sup>th</sup> January 1876.

**COLLINS.**—January 26<sup>th</sup>, aged 11 months, Sam, son of Thomas Collins, stone dresser, Hove Edge.

Little Sam was buried with his sisters on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1876 in plot R45.

These events left this Collins household looking like this for the next two censuses.

1871 census

Thomas Collins Head 34 Stone Mason  
Elizabeth Collins Wife 29  
James Wm Collins Son 8  
Walter Collins Son 6  
Fred Collins Son 7/12  
Address **Hove Edge, Lightcliffe**

1881 census

Thos. Collins Head 44 Stone Masn  
Elzbtth. Collins Wife 39  
James W. Collins Son 18 Stone Mason  
Walter Collins Son 16 ditto  
Fred Collins Son 10 Worsted Spinner  
Laura Collins Dau 8 Scholar  
Address **5 Hove Edge cottages (Fox's Buidlings) Lightcliffe**

1885. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
339	October 10 1885	Walter Collins	21	Bach	Flag facer	Lightcliffe	Thomas Collins	Flag facer
		Hannah Blackburn	22	Sp		Lightcliffe	John Square Blackburn	Fire Drawer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Joseph Shaw or after Wanns by me, R. Plumstedden

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Walter Collins and Hannah Blackburn in the Presence of us, Joseph Shaw and Mary Lee

Twenty-one-year-old 'Flag facer' Walter Collins married Hannah Blackburn on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1885. They baptised sons Firth, born 31<sup>st</sup> March 1886, and Norman Cecil, born 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1888, at St. Matthew's Church on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1886 and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1889, respectively. Another son Percy was born on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1890, but no baptism record has been found.

1891 census

Thomas Collins Head 54 Stone Quarryman  
Elizabeth Collins Wife 49  
James W Collins Son 28 Stone Quarryman  
Fred Collins Son 20 Stone Quarryman  
Laura Collins Dau 18 Silk Warper  
Address **Hove Edge cottages, Lightcliffe**

1891 census

Walter Collins Head 26 Stone Delver  
Hannah Collins Wife 27  
Firth Collins Son 5  
Norman C Collins Son 2  
Percy Collins Son 7/12  
Address **Hove Edge cottages, Lightcliffe**

On January 1894 James William Collins married Annie Schofield at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe where her parents, Joseph and Martha Schofield had had Annie baptised on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1860. And where Joseph had been baptised on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1824 by his parents, Ab and Ann Schofield of German House. The wife, Ann Schofield, and Thomas the 12-day old son of Ab of Hoyle House were buried in the churchyard on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 1837. Daughters Rachel aged 5 and then Grace aged 31 were also buried there on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1839 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 1857 before their 63-year-old father, Abe Schofield, joined them on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1865. All were buried in unknown plots.

The Schofield men were stone delvers or quarrymen as were the Collinses. Thomas Collins & Sons acquired the Yew Tree Stone Mine. Mining stone was a dangerous occupation as can be seen from the following newspaper articles reporting accidents and then the subsequent inquests.

## THE FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

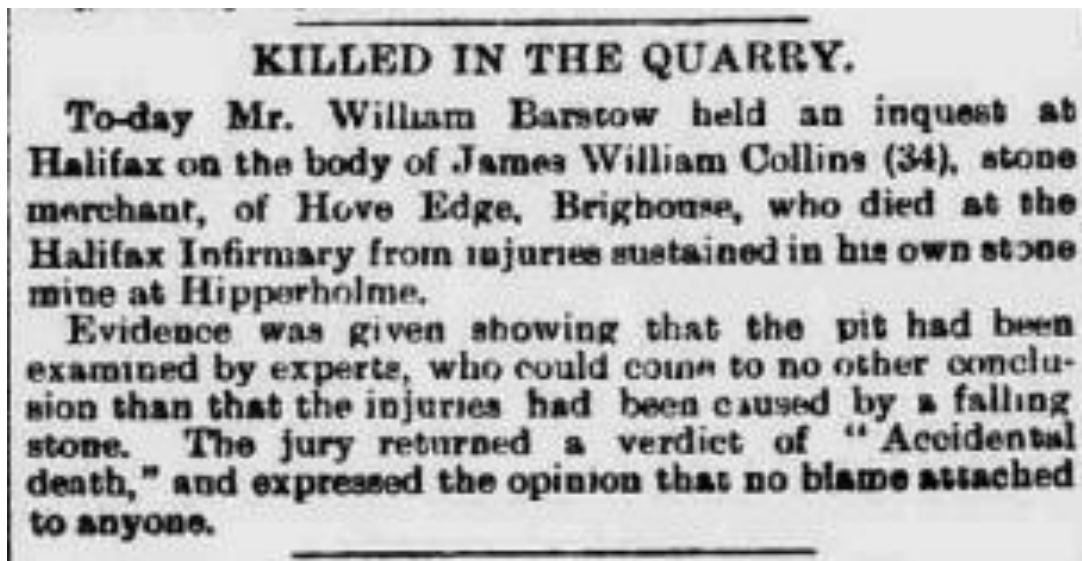
### AT HOVE EDGE

The inquest on the body of Alfred Pearson aged 40, of Whitehall, Hipperholme, an underground delver, who was killed on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., at Yew Tree Stone Mine, Hove Edge, was held on Saturday at the Whitehall Inn, Hipperholme by Mr. W. Barstow, J.P., coroner. The widow gave evidence of identification, and said she saw her husband alive at 6.36 a.m. the day upon which he met his death. James William Collins, a member of the firm Thomas Collins & Sons, owners of the Yew Tree Stone Mine, said that soon after 7 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. deceased and he were engaged in cutting out a sprag near the bottom of the shaft. The foreman, Joseph Tillotson, had told deceased that the sprag was ready for taking out, so Pearson proceeded to examine the roof by standing on a stone about four feet higher. Deceased said he thought there was nothing that could take any harm, and then got a hammer and chisel and commenced to split the sprag at the bottom. He drove the chisel in until it became fast. He (witness) then procured another chisel and began to cut away part of the bottom of the sprag, when by something falling on to his head from above, he was knocked down and stunned. When he came round, he saw two or three men were lifting a bar of timber off deceased, who was in a

sitting posture. They took him out of the mine into the cabin, in which he died about three quarters of an hour later. Dr Davidson was sent for, but death had taken place before his arrival. Continuing, he said the sprag came out sooner than they expected, and in his opinion the cause was an invisible crack, together with the weight of the roof pressing upon it, which led to the bar giving way and failing. Deceased was a thoroughly competent and reliable man. – Joseph Tillotson, foreman at the mine, said he was about four yards from deceased at the time of the accident. He saw the sprag about five minutes before it fell, and everything appeared quite safe. He heard the noise of the fall and saw deceased on the ground with the wooden bar on the top of him and went to his assistance. The bar and sprags were set under his superintendence on the Tuesday previous, and the reason for taking out the sprag was to make room for taking out a large stone by the engine. He had had 26 years' experience in that line of business. – Sarah Emms, a widow residing at Whitehall, said she assisted to lay out the body of the deceased. There was no apparent mark of injury either on the head or body, but the back of his neck was very dark, and under his shoulder was swollen. She thought the injuries were internal. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

The Brighouse News 18 May 1895

The 40-year-old victim Alfred Pearson left a wife, Hannah Jane Pearson, and two young sons Norman and Walter. Alfred Pearson was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1895 two days after the accident in plot, H42, owned by his widow. On 6<sup>th</sup> April 1901 Hannah Jane Pearson married Samuel Crowther. Forty-three-year-old Hannah Jane Crowther was buried with Alfred in plot H42 on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909. In the 1911 census Samuel Crowther and his step sons were living at No. 7 Tan House Hill, Hipperholme. Samuel and Norman were brick labourers, Walter as a railway porter. And then when Samuel Crowther died aged 56, he was also buried at Lightcliffe with his wife and her first husband in plot H42 on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1929.



THE FATAL ACCIDENT TO

A HOVE EDGE MAN

CORONER'S INQUIRY

An inquest was held at the Plummet Line Inn, Halifax before Mr. W. Barstow, J.P., on the body of James William Collins, aged 34, of Hove Edge (of the firm of Messrs. Thomas Collins & Sons) who died at the Halifax Infirmary on Saturday afternoon from injuries received the previous Wednesday at Kerb Royd Stone Mine, Hipperholme. As reported in last week's News Collins, along with other workmen was engaged working at the bottom of the shaft, when he was suddenly seen to fall backwards. It was found that he had received a severe injury on the top of the head, probably from a stone falling from the side. He was removed to the Halifax infirmary and underwent an operation. Little hope, however, was held out for his recovery, death resulting at two o'clock on Saturday afternoon. —Mr. J. R. Wilson, Leeds, inspector of mines, was present at the inquiry.

PAINFUL SURPRISE FOR A BROTHER

Walter Collin, brother of the deceased, said he was at the top of the mine on the morning in question, when someone shouted for the box to be lowered, as one of the workmen had been hurt. The request was immediately complied with, and when the box reached the surface witness was startled to find that the injured man was his brother. The deceased lost a large quantity of blood, his skull having been badly fractured, and he never regained consciousness. His head was bandaged by fellow workmen, and he was attended to by Dr. Davidson before being removed to the Infirmary. The shaft was about thirty yards deep, and the deceased had been down since ten minutes past seven.

MYSTERY FALLING STONE: A WITNESS'S PERPLEXITY

Bryan Hughes, quarryman, of Pineberry Hill, said he heard a fall of stone about half past nine, and running to see what was the matter he found the deceased lying at the foot of the shaft with a severe gash in his

head. He called out “Jim, Jim, what’s to do,” but the deceased was unable to respond. Witness then shouted for assistance. Deceased must have been struck by falling stone, but no one could say where the stone came from. There was no marked stone near him, nor was there anything unusual about the whole place.

The Coroner: Do you think he had been struck by a stone falling from the mine! – I didn’t see it, and I am on my oath, and don’t like to say anything definite about it. (laughter)

The Coroner: But you have an opinion. You can tell me what your idea is? – I can’t tell how it was done. (laughter)

Coroner: Did the stone come from the sky? – No. (laughter)

Coroner: You are sure about that? (laughter)

Inspector Wilson: Did you examine the shafts? – Yes

And you found no clean place or any change? – No

The Coroner: He must have been struck. There is no other way of accounting for it? – I can’t see that there is

Inspector Wilson: Was he ever subject to giddiness? – Not that I am aware of.

A Juror: Was he lying on his back? – Yes

In answer to further questions the witness said that the deceased could not have inflicted the wound by merely falling.

#### THE DOCTOR’S EVIDENCE

Dr. Maxwell, house surgeon at the Infirmary, said death resulted at two o’clock on Saturday afternoon from an extensive fracture of the skull.

Inspector Wilson: Can you form any idea, judging from the shape of the wound as to how it had been caused. Could he have done it falling? – No, unless he fell a considerable distance.

A Juror: Did the man say anything? – He was incapable of saying anything.

#### AN OLD SHAFT

Joseph Tillotson, manager of the bottom of the mine, said he was called to the deceased by Hughes.

The Coroner: What is your idea of the accident? – He must have been struck with a stone falling from somewhere. We examined the sides and could not find a place from which any stone appeared to have been dropped. It is an old shaft, having been worked about 20 years.

Inspector Wilson: It is rather damp? – Yes

Inspector Wilson: And therefore, you would not readily notice any crack? – No, but we have examined it a time or two, and when we have found any loose stone, we have always pulled it off.

Inspector Wilson: It is difficult to detect a crack when the stone is damp? – Yes

Inspector Wilson expressed the opinion that a very small piece of stone, weighing two or three ounces, falling a distance of 20 yards, would be sufficient to cause the wound, and it would be almost impossible to tell where it came from.

The Coroner: He must have been struck with a piece of stone from the side?

Witness (Tillotson): That is my idea.

The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death”.

James William and Annie Collins do not appear to have had any children. After his death she and her widowed mother, Martha Schofield, lived with her sister and brother in law Humphrey Hirst, a stone merchant, in Well House, Spout House Lane at the time of both the 1901 and 1911 census. These two probate records give further information.

SCHOFIELD Martha of 1 Chapel-street Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire widow died 16 October 1911 Administration London 13 December to Annie Collins widow. Effects £187 9s 4d

HIRST Humphrey of Well House Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire died 16 May 1912 Probate London 9 July to Clara Hirst widow and James Sunderland Sladdin tailor. Effect £855 17s 9d

Annie Collins nee Schofield died Q4 1927; neither a burial nor probate record has been found.

But back to the Collins family. Walter and Hannah Collins had two more sons, Harry born 18<sup>th</sup> March 1896 and Leonard born 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1899.

His younger brother Fred Collins married Ada Nield in Q3 1897. Their son Claude Nield Collins was born on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1898. Fred Collins does not appear to have been involved in the family's stone quarry businesses. Instead he was giving lessons in shorthand according to this extract from the Halifax Courier 23 February 1899.



And then there was this advertisement in the same newspaper on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1899.

PHOTOGRAPHS by weekly payments: AGENTS wanted (either sex) to conduct photo clubs in every mill and workshop; good commission, specimens free – Fred Collins Photographer, Whitehall Studio, Hipperholme.

Photographer was the occupation of Fred Collins in the 1901 census. It would be interesting to know where his Whitehall Studio was and if any of his photographed images still exist.

Meanwhile his father, Thomas, and surviving brother Walter continued to do business as quarrymen and stone merchants. There was the following newspaper announcement in the Brighouse News.

Brighouse News

13 April 1900

**COLLINS & MORRIS, LIMITED.**

This company has been registered with a capital of £3000 in £25 shares, to acquire and take over as a going concern the business now carried on by Thomas Collins and Richard Morris, at Brighouse and Lightcliffe, and to carry on the business of quarryowners, stone-workers, colliery proprietors, coal and mineral merchants, &c. The subscribers are:—Thomas Collins, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe, stone merchant; Walter Collins, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe, stone merchant; Richard Morris, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe, stone merchant; John W. Turner, Highlandville, Lightcliffe, stone merchant; Firth Robertshaw, Highlandville, Lightcliffe, clerk; Rennie W. Helm, 87, Windsor Terrace, Padiham, ironfounder; and Joseph Heap, Burnside, Burnley, builder, one share each. The number of directors is not to be less than three nor more than five; the first are John Turner (chairman), Thomas Collins, Walter Collins, and Richard Morris; qualification, £100; remuneration as fixed by the company.

From the addresses on the 1901 census most members of the family lived close to one another in the Brighouse side of Hove Edge.

1901 census

Thomas Collins Head 64  
Stone Quarryman Hewer  
Elizabeth Collins Wife 59  
Address **125 Halifax Rd., Brighouse**

Thomas's 'Blacksmith' brother Ephraim Collins was at No. 121

1901 census

Walter Collins Head 36  
Managing Director Stone Mine  
Hannah Collins Wife 38  
Firth Collins Son 15  
Delver's Apprentice Stone  
Norman Collins Son 12 ditto  
Percy Collins Son 10  
Harry Collins Son 5  
Leonard Collins Son 1  
Address **49 Half house Lane, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe**

1901 census

Fred Collins Head 30 Photographer  
Ada Collins Wife 27  
Claude N Collins Dau 2 [should be Son]  
Address **5 Springfield Rd., Hipperholme**

1901 census

Laura Collins Head 28  
Sarah B Firth Visitor 71 Boot & Shoe Dealer  
Maud Oldroyd Visitor 26 Boot & Shoe Assistant  
Address **311 Huddersfield Rd., Halifax**

No occupation was listed for Laura Collins. It looks as if she was the main occupant of an apartment at No. 311 Huddersfield Road, Halifax perhaps owned by Mr Robert W Leyland who was 'Living on own means' in another apartment at No. 311

**HOVE EDGE.**

**THE FREE CHURCH.**—On the first page of the present issue will be found a lengthy report of the tea and meeting at Zion Church, on Saturday last.

**QUARRY ACCIDENT.**—Yesterday morning an accident occurred to Thomas Collins, quarryman, Hove Edge, at the Nab End Quarries, the consequence of which was that his left thigh was fractured, and injuries caused to both legs. It appears that a flat stone weighing about three tons was being raised by means of a crane, when the chain broke, and the stone fell upon Collings, causing the injuries mentioned. He was taken to Halifax Infirmary.

**QUARRY ACCIDENT** - Yesterday morning an accident occurred to Thomas Collins quarryman, Hove Edge, at the Nab End Quarries, the consequence of which was that his left thigh was fractured, and injuries caused to both legs. It appears that a flat stone weighing about three tons was being raised by means of a crane, when the chain broke, and the stone fell upon Collings [sic], causing the injuries mentioned. He was taken to Halifax infirmary.

It is impossible to tell if Thomas Collins recovered from this accident or what long term injuries he might have suffered. He died within the year on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1903. The 66-year-old was buried on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1903 with his young children in plot R45 of St. Matthew's churchyard. As for the other Collins plots, there is no headstone and so no memorial inscription. But the plot can be identified as shown in the image below just off the grass path by the west wall in the middle section.



**Plot R45**



Brighouse News 15 January 1904

BRIGHOUSE BANKRUPTCY  
EXAMINATION

HOVE EDGE STONE MERCHANTS  
AFFAIRS

ALLEGED PARTNERSHIPS

At the Halifax Crown Court, on Monday last, the public examination took place of Walter Collins, 46 Half Way House-lane, Hove Edge, stone merchant. His unsecured liabilities amounted to £421 13s 8½d and his assets to £136 0s 1½d representing a deficiency of £285 13s 7d. The debtor attributed the cause of his failure to "loss by liquidation of Collins and Morris, Ltd."

Replying to Mr. F. Murgatroyd, Assistant Official Receiver, Debtor stated that he began business in 1891 at Park Quarries, Lightcliffe, in partnership with his father and brother. The brother died in 1896 and the partnership business was altogether dissolved in 1898 when the debtor received £200 and his father £300 as respective shares of the capital. Debtor then joined in partnership with Mr. Richard Morris at Nab End Stone Quarries, Brighouse the debtor putting in £250 and his partner £50. The

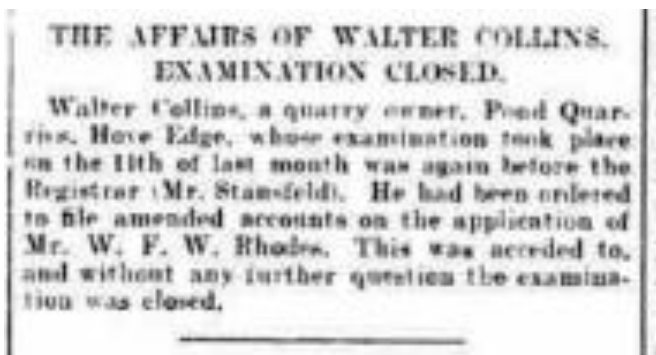
business was subsequently joined by the debtor's father. In 1900 that business was sold to a company bearing the name of Collins and Morris, Limited, the debtor receiving in shares £450, his father £400 and Mr. Morris £250. Of this company the debtor was managing director, at a salary of £117 a year, until it went into liquidation in August, the shareholders receiving a dividend of 4s 6d in the pound. The debtor then purchased Pond quarry from the company, and afterwards on May 28<sup>th</sup> 1903 he entered into partnership with Walter Ellis, Kit Binks, Tom Hepworth and John Crossley, and carried on business with them under the name Walter Collins until October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1903, when, as the debtor alleged, the other partners agreed to retire leaving 18s in the pound on the capital £410 which combined they had put into the concern.

The questioning went on for many column inches!

Eventually it concluded with this statement : -

The examination was therefore adjourned until February 8<sup>th</sup>, and the debtor was ordered to file amended accounts.

Brighouse News 12 February 1904



THE AFFAIRS OF WALTER COLLINS  
EXAMINATION CLOSED

Walter Collins, a quarry owner, Pond Quarry, Hove Edge, whose examination took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of last month was again before the Registrar, Mr Stansfield, He had been ordered to file amended accounts on the application of Mr. W.F. Rhodes. This was acceded to, and without any further questions the examination was closed.

In the meantime, family life continued. Walter and Hannah Collins had a daughter Jessie on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1903 and then their two eldest sons married. Firth Collins married Ellen Broadbent on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1907. She was the daughter of the late Chilion Broadbent, a silk dresser. Not surprisingly they named their son born Q2 1908 Chilion Collins, but he died within a few weeks. Norman Cecil Collins married Laura Ainley on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1910. They too lost a child before the 1911 census possibly a son Wilfred who was born and died Q4 1910

1911 census

Elizabeth Collins Head 69 Widow  
Address **36 Wood Top, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe**

Brother in law and sister in law Ephraim and Hannah Collins were at No. 40 Wood Top.

1911 census

Walter Collins Head 46  
Stone Quarry Foreman  
Hannah Collins Wife 48  
Married 25y 6 children all alive  
Percy Collins Son 20  
Mechanic (Machine Maker)  
Harry Collins Son 15  
Green Grocer's Assistant  
Leonard Collins Son 11  
Jessie Collins Dau 8  
Address

**17 Half House Lane, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe**

1911 census

Firth Collins Head 25  
Stone Hewer (under ground)  
Ellen Collins Wife 24 Married 3y 1 child died  
Address

**8 Albert Sq., Waterloo Road, Brighouse**

1911 census

Norman C Collins Head 22  
Packer Cotton Dyeworks  
Laura Collins Wife 22 Twiner Cotton  
married <1y 1 child died  
Address

**39 Half House Lane, Hove Edge, Lightcliffe**

1911 census

Fred Collins Head 40  
Commercial Traveller Food Specialties  
Ada Collins Wife 38 Married 13y 1 child alive  
Claude Nield Collins Dau 12 [should be Son]  
Address 17 Maud Avenue, Leeds

Percy Collins married Maggie Beaumont in Q1 1915 in the Halifax district. Maggie and her twin sister Florrie were born in 1890 the youngest daughters of John Beaumont, a joiner, and his wife Sarah Hannah nee Sowood. This Beaumont family lived in Bramley Lane which is no doubt why some members of the family were buried in Lightcliffe churchyard. But their story will have to wait.

Mary Collins the daughter of Percy and Maggie was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1917 and then a son Sydney Collins was born in Q 3 1919. But five-year-old Sydney died in Q4 1924. Both his birth and death were registered in the Halifax district.

The **Great War** affected the nephew and great nephews of Thomas Collins ie the son and grandsons of his brother Ephraim Collins as was detailed in the article

**Ephraim Collins and family**

But were any of Thomas and Elizabeth's family involved, some of their grandsons were the right / wrong age? No military records have been found for Walter and Hannah's distinctively named sons Firth, Norman Cecil and Percy. Then there are too many Harry Collinses to be able to say for sure if this green grocer's assistant served; if he did, he survived. But military records have been found for two members of this Collins family

**Claude Nield Collins** was born in Lightcliffe on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1898 the son of Fred and Ada Collins. When he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1916, just before he turned eighteen, he and his parents were living at 153 Beeston Road, Leeds, His occupation before he enlisted was given as 'Fitter' on one form but 'Electrician' on another. He was called up in September 1916 and served with the Army Service Corps MT at Grove Park, Lewisham and then at the Woolwich Dockyards. Not long after Armistice Day he married Gertrude Mollan on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1918 at the Central Registry Office, Leeds. At the time his rank was Acting Corporal. Just a couple of months later in February 1919 he was demobilized. The death of twenty-eight-year-old Claude N Collins was recorded in the West Derby district of Lancashire Q2 1926. No children have been found.

**Leonard Collins** was also a teenager when WW1 started having been born on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1899 the son of Walter and Hannah Collins of Hove Edge. He appears to have served as a Seaman with the Royal Navy from September 1918 until November 1919 as the record below shows. But he does not seem to have gone to sea, as apparently both Victory I and II were land bases.

UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 for Leonard Collins  
 ADM 188: Registers of Services 1853-1924 > Miscellaneous (Pieces 1018-1093) > Piece 1085: 1918 (33501-34000)

U633931 *Portsmouth* U633931

Name in full } *Leonard Collins* Date of Birth *2 Aug 1899*  
 Place of Birth *Brighouse, Yorks*  
 Occupation *bleck*

Date and Period of Engagements	Age	Height		Chest In.	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Wounds, Scars, or Marks
		Ft.	In.					
<i>14 Sept 1918 - Hootedines</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4 1/2</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>18/10</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	

Ship, &c., served in	List	No.	Rating	Period of Service		If Discharged, whether and for what cause	Sub-ratings			Character & Ability		Remarks	
				From	To		Rating	From	To	C.	Date		A.
<i>Victory I</i>	<i>1502</i>	<i>5643</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> W</i>	<i>14 Sept 18</i>	<i>14 Oct 18</i>						<i>2.9</i>	<i>12/18/19</i>	
<i>Manxworth</i>	<i>5002</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>5 Oct 18</i>	<i>10 Oct 18</i>								
<i>Victory II</i>	<i>1502</i>	<i>6166</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>11 Sept 18</i>	<i>13 Sept 18</i>								
<i>Reban</i>	<i>5002</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>16 Sept 18</i>	<i>17 Sept 18</i>								
<i>Victory II</i>	<i>1502</i>	<i>356</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>18 Sept 18</i>	<i>22 July 19</i>								<i>4.10.1919</i>
<i>Byard</i>	<i>5002</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>23 July 19</i>	<i>10 Aug 19</i>								<i>U.S. - 1st Dist 1919</i>

So, the great nephews of Ephraim Collins survived WW1 seemingly unscathed which was not the case for some of his direct descendants. No wonder the octogenarian felt the need to do' his bit' for the war effort along with his younger relatives.

His sister in law, widow Elizabeth Collins, died on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1918 aged 76. She was buried with her husband, Thomas and their infant children in plot R45 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1918. Although this appears to be the last connection with the churchyard members of the Collins family remained in Hove Edge for many more years.

Thomas and Elizabeth's only daughter Laura Collins married Louis Barstow late in life during Q3 1925 in the Halifax district. Their grandson Leonard married Florrie Brook also in the Halifax district Q2 1929. Sixty-four-year-old Louis Barstow died in 1933

BARSTOW Louis of 7 Prospect-place Shelf Halifax died 12 May 1933 Probate Wakefield 26 June to Laura Barstow widow, Effects £386

Jessie, the only daughter of Walter and Hannah Collins, married John Thomson Q3 1935 in the Halifax district. They then registered the birth of a daughter Eileen M Thomson in the Bradford district Q2 1939. This was the same registration period in which her seventy-six-year-old grandmother, Hannah Collins nee Blackburn, died.

1939 register

Walter Collins	24 May 1864	Male	Stone Quarry Foreman	Widowed
Harry Collins	18 Mar 1896	Male	Bus Driver	Single

Address 19 Half House, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Fred Collins	21 Aug 1870	Male	Cinema Manager	Married
Ada Collins	12 Feb 1873	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married

Address 4 Shows Yard, Leeds, Leeds C.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Firth Collins	31 Mar 1886	Male	Grocers Assistant or General Labourer	Married
Ellen Collins	07 Jun 1886	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married
Laura Barstow	12 Jan 1873	Female	Unpaid Domestic	Widowed

Address 100 Huddersfield, Bradford, Bradford C.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Norman Collins	23 Jul 1888	Male	Dyeing Production Process	Married
Laura Collins	29 Jun 1888	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married

Address "Headview" Upper Green Lane, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Percy Collins	08 Aug 1890	Male	Textile Mechanic Worsted	Married
Maggie Collins	10 May 1890	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married
Mary Petch (Collins)	12 Dec 1917	Female	Hosiery Finisher Stockings	Single

Address Beaumont Close Roils Head Road, Beaumont, Halifax, Halifax C.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Charlie Brook	19 Jun 1875	Male	Textile Dyeing Productive Process Worker (Labourer )	Widowed
Florrie Collins	29 Apr 1901	Female	Unpaid D Duties	Married
Leonard Collins	02 Aug 1899	Male	Clothing Man??? Footwear Retail	Married

Address 17 Half House Lane, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Jessie Thomson's year of birth should be 1903 but otherwise the information on this 1939 register entry fits with the family being that of Jessie Thomson nee Collins.

1939 register

John Thomson	06 Oct 1910	Male ???		Married
Jessie Thomson	06 Jan 1905	Female	Unpaid H-D	Married

One closed record – presumably baby Eileen M Collins

Address 14 Waverley Terrace, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

A year after the 1939 register was taken both Ellen Collins and her husband Firth died in Bradford as their probate records detail.

COLLINS Ellen of 100 Huddersfield-road Odsal Bradford (wife of Firth Collins) died 4 September 1940 Probate Wakefield 18 October to the said Firth Collins dyers labourer. Effects £1800 1s

COLLINS Firth of 100 Huddersfield-road Odsal Bradford died 28 October 1940 Probate Wakefield 21 November to Harold Hall plumber and Laura Barstow widow. Effects £2076 10s 6d

Firth's uncle, Fred Collins died during Q2 1942 and his wife Ada a year later in Q4 1943. Both deaths were registered in the Leeds district, but more precise dates cannot be given as no probate records have been found.

The marriage of Percy and Maggie's daughter, Mary Collins, to Fred Petch, as suggested by the amendment on the 1939 register, also occurred during Q4 1943 in the Halifax district.

The Calder district was where the death of 83-year-old Walter Collins was registered in Q1 1948. There is a 20 March 1948 burial record for a Walter Collins, but the location just says, 'West Yorkshire'. Again, no probate record has been found.

It looks as if Walter's sister Laura Barstow nee Collins moved back to Hove Edge from Bradford after her nephew Firth Collins passed away. She died at the Halifax home of another nephew Percy Collins.

BARSTOW Laura of 32 Well Green-lane Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire widow died 14 November 1954 at Beau Mont-close Roils Head-road Halifax Probate Wakefield 10 December to Percy Collins textile manager and Maggie Collins (wife of the said Percy Collins). Effects £654 13s 4d

Laura Collins nee Ainley died during Q1 1960 aged 71. Two years later her husband seventy-four-year-old Norman Collins died in Halifax hospital as his probate details.

COLLINS Norman Cecil of Kirk View Upper Green Lane Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire died 24 November 1962 at The Royal Halifax Infirmary Halifax Probate Wakefield 21 January [1963] to Martins Bank Limited. Effects £2280 15s 9d

Bachelor Harry Collins appears to have remained in No. 19 Half House Lane Hove Edge until his death aged 75 in 1971.

COLLINS HARRY of 19 Half House La Hove Edge Brighouse Yorks died 20 August 1971 Probate Leeds 10 November £4200

Percy and Maggie Collins moved to Bridlington which was where he died aged 84 in Q2 1975; again no probate record has been found. But there is a probate record for his widow Maggie who died in 1979 in Surrey. Their daughter Mary Petch also died in the Bridlington district on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2002.

COLLINS Maggie of 78 St Aidan Rd Bridlington Yorkshire died 17 August 1979 probate Winchester 10 October £12 500

Leonard and Florrie Collins were the last of this Collins family to live in Hove Edge at No. 17 Half House Lane. His great grandparents David and Hannah Collins nee Sowden resided in Hove Edge in the 1830s. Before then his 2 x great grandfather John Sowden lived there, possibly from the early 1810s.

COLLINS Leonard of 17 Half House La Hove Edge Brighouse West Yorks died 29 March 1978 Probate Leeds 18 May. £20 147

COLLINS Florrie of 17 Half House La Hove Edge Brighouse W Yorks died 19 April 1986 Probate Leeds 26 August £58 353

John and Jessie Thomson appear to have resided at 14, Waverley Terrace, Hipperholme from 1939 to at least early 1983 after John died on New Year's Day 1983. When Jessie Thomson's death was registered in the Halifax district her correct date of birth 6<sup>th</sup> January 1903 was quoted.

THOMSON John of 14 Waverley Terr Hipperholme Halifax died 1 January 1983 Administration Leeds 3 February .

THOMSON Jessie of Thornhill Grange Hanson Rd Rastrick Brighouse W Yorks died 9 December 1989 Probate Leeds 24 January [1990]

This concludes the four-part Sowden / Collins story.

- 1. The Sowdens of Thornhill Briggs and Hove Edge**
- 2. The Collins family of Hove Edge**
- 3. Ephraim Collins and family**

D.M.Barker

November 2020