

Fred Sutcliffe and family

Fred Sutcliffe was the youngest surviving child of Thomas Sutcliffe and his wife Mary née Green whose story has already been told in the article

The Sutcliffe parents and daughters

They were originally from the Midgley area where Thomas was a 'Power Loom Worker'. He then became an 'Overlooker' in Bailiffe Bridge, most probably at Firths Carpet mill. Fred Sutcliffe was born on 19th June 1870 at Bailiffe Bridge. But like all his siblings, he had a non-conformist baptism almost certainly at Midgley on 4th December 1870.



1871 census

Thomas Sutcliffe Head 43
Overlooker Carpet Looms
Mary Sutcliffe Wife 39 Wife
Ada Sutcliffe Dau 17 Flower perfumer
Sarah Sutcliffe Dau 15 ditto
Harry Sutcliffe Son 13 Scholar
Susannah Sutcliffe Dau 6 ditto
Eden Sutcliffe Dau 3
Fred Sutcliffe Son 9/12
Address Wyke Lane, Wyke

1881 census

Thomas Sutcliffe Head 52 Beer House Keeper
Mary Sutcliffe Wife 40
Susannah Sutcliffe Dau 16
Power Loom Weaver
Fred Sutcliffe Son 10 Factory Boy
Sarah Pollard Dau 25 Servant
Address Hightown, Liversedge

13-year-old Eden Sutcliffe was visiting her older sister Ada Ingham in Bailiffe Bridge.

During the next decade Ada, Sarah and Harry married. Leaving the Sutcliffe household like this on 3rd April 1881.

Then the *Brighouse News* on 4th April 1891 had a marriage announcement and also a report.

SUTCLIFFE – TIPLADY. —March 30th, at Hanover Street Chapel, Halifax, Mr Fred Sutcliffe, beamer, to Miss Sarah Ellen Tiplady, both of Bailiffe Bridge.

MARRIAGE FESTIVITIES. – The marriage took place on Monday, at Hanover Street Chapel, Halifax, of Mr Fred Sutcliffe, beamer, to Miss Sarah Ellen Tiplady, both of Bailiffe Bridge. Mr Sutcliffe is secretary to the Bailiffe Bridge Football Club, and in the evening a party was held, about 60 friends being invited. The Oddfellows Hall was engaged for the occasion, and dancing was indulged in, the music being supplied by Messrs. Parkinson and Brooke, violin and harp. Songs were given by Messrs G. Rushworth and S. Booth, and the proceedings were continued until a late hour.

When the census was taken on 5th April 1891 the newlyweds were each listed in their parents' households but were recorded as being married.

1891 census

Thos Sutcliffe Head 62 Carpet Weaver
 Sam Mitchell Son in law 23 Dyer's Labourer
 Eden Mitchell Dau 23
 Hubert Mitchell Grdson 4/12
 Fred Sutcliffe Son 20 Beam Carrier Carpet Works
 Address Springwell Terrace, Lightcliffe

1891 census

Craven Tiplady Head 42 Carpet Sizer
 Sarah A Tiplady Wife 40

Harriet A Tiplady Dau 21 Carpet Operative Winder
 Sarah E Sutcliffe Dau 18 Carpet Operative Winder
 Emily Tiplady Dau 16 Cotton operative
 Louisa Tiplady Dau 14 Silk operative
 David Tiplady Son 12 Carpet operative
 Eva Tiplady Dau 10
 Willie Tiplady Son 8
 Herbert Tiplady Son 6
 Eveline Tiplady Dau 5
 Address 6 Huddersfield Road, (Cooperative Row), Wyke

Sarah Ellen Tiplady was born on 13th November 1872. Her Halifax baptism record from 20th July 1873 records that she was born in Northowram, one of three Tiplady siblings baptised together that day. Their parents were Craven and Sarah Ann. Carpet weaver Craven Tiplady had married Sarah Ann Horsfall in Halifax on 12th December 1868. Their large family included David Tiplady who would later marry Bertha Ingham whose story has already been told in

Squire Ingham and family

Yet again entire families are listed as being employed in the production of carpets at the Clifton mills of carpet manufacturers T. F. Firths & Sons Ltd, Bailiff Bridge. By the 1891 census Fred's older brother Harry and his family had already emigrated to the USA to work at Firths Carpet mills there. Read his story at

Harry Sutcliffe in Firthcliffe

Fred and Sarah Ellen Sutcliffe got a place of their own, quite possibly near her parents in Cooperative Row, Wyke. Their son Harry was born during Q3 1891 followed by Seth Craven Thomas in 1893 and then the twins Denis and Noris born on 8th May 1895. A daughter, Emily, completed the family when she arrived on 25th September 1903.

1901 census

Fred Sutcliffe Head 30 Carpet Weaver
 Sarah E Sutcliffe Wife 28
 Harry Sutcliffe Son 9
 Seth Sutcliffe Son 7
 Noris Sutcliffe Son 5
 Denis Sutcliffe Son 5
 Address 9 Coop Buildings, Wyke

1911 census

Fred Sutcliffe Head 40 Carpet Weaver
 Sarah Ellen Sutcliffe Wife 38
 Harry Sutcliffe Son 19 Carpet Weaver
 Seth Sutcliffe Son 17 Apprentice Mechanic
 Denis Sutcliffe Son 15 Clerk
 Noris Sutcliffe Son 15 Clerk
 Emily Sutcliffe Dau 7 Scholar
 Address Smith House Road, Lightcliffe
 but Postal Address East Cliffe, Lightcliffe

The Halifax Guardian had this death announcement on 25th May 1912.

SUTCLIFFE – May 19th, aged 20, Harry Sutcliffe
Smith House-road, Lightcliffe

Harry Sutcliffe was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 22nd May 1912 the first occupant of Lightcliffe plot H54 near his aunt Ada Ingham and baby cousin Mary Ann Pollard in G55.



On 15th May 1913 the SS *Celtic* set sail from Liverpool bound for New York. On board were two employees of T. F. Firths & Sons Ltd from Bailiffe Bridge in the then West Riding of Yorkshire. They were going to visit another employee of the same company but at their USA based carpet mills in Firthcliffe, USA.

Read [Firth's Carpets in the USA.pdf](#)

Forty-two-year-old Fred Sutcliffe, a carpet weaver, travelled with his nephew thirty-three-year-old Thomas Ingham, a warp sizer. They were going to see Fred's older brother Harry Sutcliffe who worked for Firths' company in the USA at their carpet mills in Firthcliffe. Both stated that they paid for the ticket themselves. Fred's record says that he had visited the country before – perhaps in 1904 -, but Thomas had not.

Did they go on behalf of Firths to advise on some matter related to their particular skills in the manufacturing of carpets? Or did they go just to see their relative Harry Sutcliffe? Did Firths help fund this and other journeys as part of the deal in persuading workers from their Bailiffe Bridge mill to emigrate to the USA? Who knows!

This was a journey they would make together in 1927 for a very sad reason and then again in 1937. On this 1913 trip they would return a year before the Great War started and obviously before the trans-Atlantic liner *RMS Lusitania* was sunk in 1915.

The three surviving Sutcliffe sons were the right age to be called up. Seth served with the Royal Army Service Corps. Denis was a fitter in the Royal Navy before being transferred to the RAF reserve. No military records have been found for Noris Sutcliffe.

As you can see on 2nd August 1918 Noris Sutcliffe married Doris Isabel Maude.

19 <u>18</u> . Marriage solemnized at <u>Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u>							
of <u>Brighouse</u> in the County of <u>York</u>							
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
29	August 2 nd 1918	Noris Sutcliffe	33	Bachelor.	Clerk.	Eastcliffe, Lightcliffe	Fred. Sutcliffe
		Doris Isabel Maude	21	Spinster		21 Commercial St Brighouse	John Henry Maude (Deceased)
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Church of England</u> after <u>Parson</u> by me,							
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		{ <u>Noris Sutcliffe</u> <u>Doris Isabel Maude</u> }		in the Presence of us,		{ <u>Harry Summs</u> <u>Lied Mitchell</u> }	
						{ <u>Edward J. Toase</u> <u>Carole</u> }	

Any Correctional Notes must be written in this Margin.

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Sutcliffe
Maude
N. G. Simpson
Taylor

His occupation as a 'Clerk' fits with census data and records from 1911 and 1912 which say that he attended Fox's School of Commerce in Bradford. Apparently he achieved some of the highest speeds in National Shorthand Association examinations. Doris Isabel Maude, born 11th September 1896 was one of three daughters of John Henry Maude, a Brighouse boot and shoe dealer, and his wife Clara Jane née Jagger. Although no occupation was recorded for Doris at the time of her marriage, the 14-year-old was recorded as being a confectioner's assistant along with one of her older sisters on the 1911 census. At the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses, the Maude family lived at 13 King Street, Brighouse.

Seth Sutcliffe married Lily Hepworth in 1921 before the census was taken. The Sutcliffe households looked like this on 19th June 1921.

1921 census

Fred Sutcliffe Head 51 Power Carpet Loom Tuner Sir W. H. Aykroyd Clifton Mills
 Sarah Sutcliffe Wife 48
 Denis Sutcliffe Son 26 Engineer (fitter) David Brown & Sons Huddersfield
 Emily Sutcliffe Dau 17 Shorthand typist J. Blakeborough & Sons, Brighouse
 Address 9 Eastcliffe, Lightcliffe

1921 census

Seth Craven Thomas Sutcliffe Head 28 Overlooker T. F. Firths & Sons Ltd Clifton Mills
 Lily Sutcliffe Wife 23 Home Duties
 Address The Manor House, Lower Wyke, Bradford

1921 census

Norris Sutcliffe Head 26 Quarry Owner's Clerk Brookes Ltd W Quarry & Stone Merchants
 Doris I Sutcliffe Wife 24
 Address 11 Crimble Close, St. Giles Rd., Lightcliffe

Denis Sutcliffe married Martha Doris Wilson during Q1 1923.

Fred Sutcliffe's sister Sarah Pollard died on Christmas Day 1926. She was buried in plot G56 next to where her baby daughter and sister Ada Ingham were buried in Lightcliffe plot G55.

On 2nd August 1927, on a visit over here, Fred's brother, Harry Sutcliffe, collapsed and died whilst visiting family. Almost immediately Fred Sutcliffe accompanied by his nephew Thomas Ingham again set out to visit his sister-in-law, Adeline Sutcliffe née Hoyle in Lutheran Street, Newburgh. They were away for about three weeks.

His daughter Emily Sutcliffe married Harry Eastwood, a dental mechanic, during Q3 1933.

Thirty-nine-year-old Doris Isabel Sutcliffe née Maude died on 20th October 1935. She was buried in Lightcliffe plot Q41 on 23rd October. Her headstone is now laid flat.



SUTCLIFFE Doris Isabel of 29 West-avenue Lightcliffe near Brighouse Yorkshire (wife of Noris Sutcliffe) died 21 October 1935 at the Halifax Royal Infirmary Halifax Administration Wakefield 13 November to the said Noris Sutcliffe commercial traveller. Effects £292 3s 8d.

Noris Sutcliffe then married a widow Edith Ovenden née Richardson during Q1 1937.

Later that year Fred and Sarah Ellen Sutcliffe accompanied by Thomas Ingham and his sister Lilian Ingham sailed on the *SS Laconia* on 17th July 1937 from Liverpool. They were going to the USA to see their nephew / cousin Raymond Sutcliffe whose address was Box 593, Cornwall on Hudson, N. Y. Herbert Ingham's address in Bailiff Bridge was the contact address for his brother and sister. Seth Sutcliffe of 12 Dunard Road, Glasgow was the address for his parents. The four relatives came back on the Cunard liner *RMS Queen Mary* arriving in Southampton on 13th August 1937.

The Glasgow address for Seth Sutcliffe fits with what the *Bradford Observer* reported on Friday 29 July 1938.

Walked From Glasgow To Bradford

Mr. Seth Sutcliffe, a Glasgow man and a former Bailiff Bridge resident, is returning to his home at Burnside, Glasgow, this weekend in his saloon car.

He walked to Bailiff Bridge from Glasgow to spend a week of his annual holiday with his parents, who reside at Smith Lane, Bailiff Bridge, and to see the last day's play in the Test match. Starting his long walk on Friday, 15 July, he reached Bailiff Bridge last Friday evening, covering the distance of about 222 miles at an average of 30 miles a day.

[The Test match at Headingley, Leeds was between England and Australia. Australia won by 5 wickets after Donald Bradman scored a century in their first innings to overhaul England's first innings score. The England side included Bill Edrich, Wally Hammond, Dennis Compton and Yorkshireman Hedley Verity.]

The Sutcliffe family households looked like this on 29th September 1939 when a register was taken.

1939 register

Fred Sutcliffe	19 Jun 1870	Carpet Loom Tuner	Married	430	1
Sarah E Sutcliffe	13 Nov 1872	Unpaid D-D (Retire?)	Married	430	2

Address 18 Smith House Lane, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

1939 register

Denis Sutcliffe	08 May 1895	Engineers Tool Dealer & Maker	Married	170	1
Martha D Sutcliffe	26 Sep 1894	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	170	2
Ethel N Sutcliffe	18 Oct 1924	Female At School	Single	170	3
Eileen M Sutcliffe (Thorpe-Parker)	27 Oct 1931	At School	Single	170	4

Address 13 Lightridge Road, Huddersfield, Huddersfield C.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

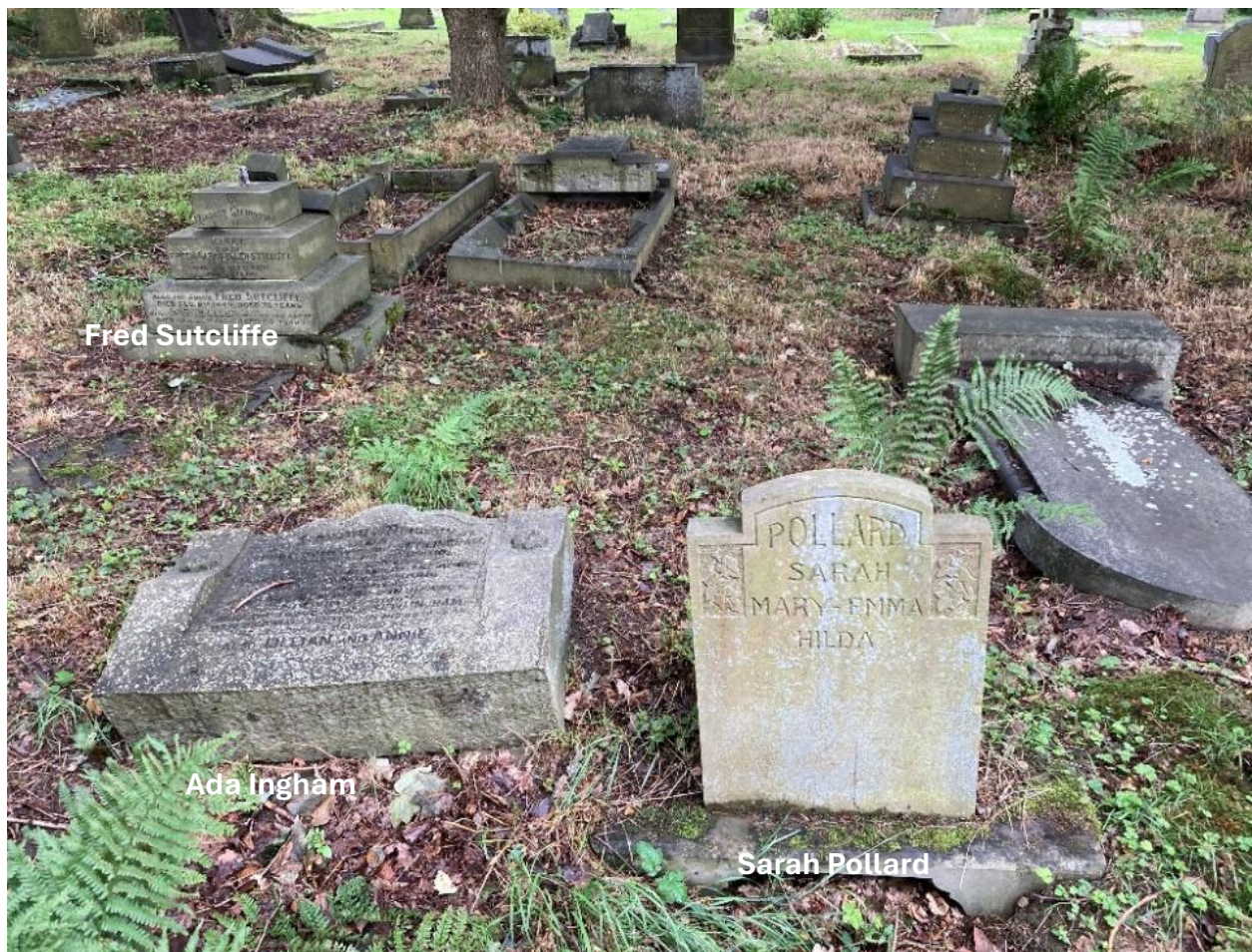
1939 register

Norris Sutcliffe	08 May 1895	Stone Quarry Mngr	Married	237	1
Edith Sutcliffe	19 Nov 1894	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	237	2
Philip Sutcliffe	10 Feb 1927	At School	Single	237	3
Donald Overend	03 Sep 1920	Nursery Man & Marget Gardener	Single	237	4

Address 26 Linden Grove, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Seth C T Sutcliffe and his family were probably still in Glasgow. The 1939 register for Scotland, called the National Identity Register, is not available online. It would give the usual information with details of people's personal date as well as their date of birth. His sister Emily Eastwood and her husband Harry were at 9 Griffie Terrace, Wyke, Bradford.

Fred Sutcliffe died on 8th February 1949. He was buried with his son Harry on 11th February 1949 in Lightcliffe plot H54. His family's plot is near that of his two sisters, Ada Ingham and Sarah Pollard.



Seth and Lily Sutcliffe returned to Lightcliffe as the probate record for his wife Lily confirms. She was cremated at Scholemoor Cemetery, Bradford on Saturday 7th October 1950.

SUTCLIFFE Lily of 31 Aysgarth-avenue Lightcliffe Hallifax (wife of Seth Craven Thomas Sutcliffe) died 4 Ostopber [sic] 1950 Probate London 21 February to the said Seth Craven Thomas Sutcliffe loom overlooker. Effects £704 3s 7d.

Then on Thursday 27th December 1951 this article appeared in the *Halifax Courier*.

VIOLIN WHICH CARRIES

LABEL DATED 1680

Carefully covered in a large yellow duster, a violin with a history wrapped in mystery, lies in a battered case at 31 Aysgarth Avenue, Lightcliffe, Halifax. If it is one made by the Italian family of Guarmerius, then it is almost 300 years old.

But that is the question which amateur violinist Mr Seth C. Sutcliffe, would like answered. Is it a genuine Guarmerius?

What makes it a possible collector's piece is an age-darkened label pasted inside the instrument on the back. By peering through one of the S-shaped sound holes these words can be faintly seen printed on the label: "Andreas Guarmerius, Cremonae, Sabrullo, Teresae, 1680.

Mr Sutcliffe says: "I think it is genuine, but I would like to have expert opinion, though whatever it is, I'm not selling"

Producing a rich deep tone with remarkable clarity, this violin could be a clever fake of an original. No one knows anything of its past. Mr Sutcliffe bought it in 1946 when in Preston, from a man who found it at a sale of household effects in the Pendle Hill district, a few weeks earlier.

Repaired and refitted

"I don't think I've seen a violin in such a terrible condition as it was then." says Mr Sutcliffe. "It was badly affected by damp and the woodwork none too good. I repaired it, fitted new strings and a chin rest. I played it regularly at Preston Amateur Orchestra for the next three years. Since then, I haven't used it much."

A violinist from boyhood Mr. Sutcliffe was a member of the Halifax Orchestral Society from 1920 to 1930. Then he moved to Glasgow and joined the Glasgow Orchestral Society until the war years. After a time in Preston, he came back to Lightcliffe his birthplace, 18 months ago.

According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Guameri or Guarmerius family flourished as violin makers in Cremona, Italy during the 17th and 18th centuries. Some of their instruments are reputed to be not inferior to those of Stradivarius.

Recently, two violins claimed as Guarmeri were found in West Berlin. One dated 1741 was found in a lake. The other was sold for £200.

Less than a year later 31, Aysgarth Avenue was the address that 59-year-old Seth Sutcliffe, was returning to after accompanying his 73-year-old cousin, Thomas Ingham, to the USA. This was the last time retiree, Thomas Ingham, crossed the Atlantic. They arrived back to Southampton from New York aboard the *SS United States* on 10th September 1952. On the passenger list Seth Sutcliffe was recorded as being an 'Instructor'. One of their Sutcliffe cousins in Firthcliffe had died there in 1951. Was this trip just to see family or was it work related? We will probably never know.

A few months later his mother Sarah Ellen Sutcliffe née Tiplady died at the home of her daughter, Emily Eastwood, on 26th January 1953. She was buried with her husband and son in St. Matthew's churchyard in plot H54 which has this memorial



SUTCLIFFE Sarah Ellen of 18 Eastcliffe Smith House-lane Lightcliffe near Halifax widow died 26 January 1953 at 9 Griffie terrace Wyke near Bradford Administration Wakefield 21 February to Seth Craven Thomas Sutcliffe loom overlooker.

Effects £647 14s 7d.

Seth Sutcliffe married Alice Vera Stott Jessop during Q3 1953. He died a few months later.

SUTCLIFFE Seth Craven Thomas of 4 Carr Green-lane Rastrick Brighouse Yorkshire died 4 February 19154 at The General Hospital Halifax Administration Wakefield 25 March to Alice Vera Stott Sutcliffe widow. Effects £2562 19s 7d.

His siblings' probate records complete Fred Sutcliffe's family story.

SUTCLIFFE Noris of 34 Whinney Hill Estate Brighouse Yorkshire died 2 August 1961 at The General Hospital Halifax Administration Wakefield 28 September to Edith Sutcliffe widow. Effects £1027 6s 9d

SUTCLIFFE, Denis of 171 Lightridge Rd Fixby Huddersfield died 18 February 1980 Probate Leeds 26 March £71947

EASTWOOD, Emily of 9 Griffie Terr Wyke Bradford died 1 May 1983 Probate Leeds 25 July Not exceeding £25000

But not quite, as these two small plaques have been added to Doris Isabel Sutcliffe's headstone.



D. M. Barker

October 2026