

Harry Sutcliffe and family in Firthcliffe

Harry Sutcliffe was the eldest son of Thomas Sutcliffe and his wife Mary née Green. They were originally from Midgley further up Calderdale from Halifax.

The Sutcliffe parents and daughters

Harry was born on 15th August 1857 at Greenroyd, Midgeley and baptised on 1st November 1857 at the non-conformist chapel there where his older sisters had been baptised.



Even after the family moved to Bailiffe Bridge they returned to this non-conformist chapel for baptisms and burials. The move, almost certainly for Thomas Sutcliffe to work at the Firths Clifton Carpet mills, happened sometime between 1861 and 1871.

1861 census

Thomas Sutcliffe Head 32
Power Loom ??????
Mary Sutcliffe Wife 27
Ada Sutcliffe Dau 7
Sarah Sutcliffe Dau 5
Harry Sutcliffe Son 3
Address Green Royd, Midgley

1871 census

Thomas Sutcliffe Head 43
Overlooker Carpet Looms
Mary Sutcliffe Wife 39
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

Harry Sutcliffe married Adeline Hoyle on 9th October 1880 as the *Brighouse News* announced on 23rd October.

SUTCLIFFE – HOYLE, -- Oct 9th, at Hanover Street Chapel,
Halifax, Mr Harry Sutcliffe, of Lightcliffe, to Miss Adeline
Hoyle, of Bailiffe Bridge.

Adeline was the daughter of Timothy Hoyle and his wife Sarah née Gibson who have Lightcliffe connections which will be told in the article

The Hoyle family

1881 census

Harry Sutcliffe Head 23 Carpet Weaver
Adeline Sutcliffe Wife 23
Address Park View, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Raymond was born on 7th September 1881 and Arthur on 6th August 1885. This must have been just before Harry, a carpet weaver, went to work for Firths in America. A passport application years later states that he emigrated to the USA from Liverpool 'about January 1886'. Subsequent USA censuses say that he arrived there in 1885 and Adeline, Raymond and Arthur went over in 1889. There are no passenger records to confirm this.

The timing of Harry Sutcliffe's arrival in the USA coincides with T. F. Firth & Sons Ltd relocating their American carpet production from Philadelphia to a small place in Cornwall, Orange County, New York state. At a public auction the company had bought a former woollen mill, Broadhead Woollen Mill and moved their Philadelphia machinery there.

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

The young man who oversaw this move was another former employee of Firths at Bailiffe Bridge. Early in 1884 Fred Booth had been sent out to superintend the plant at Philadelphia. It is quite likely that he knew both Thomas Sutcliffe and his son Harry. Fred Booth worked for the Firths Carpet Company in the USA all his life becoming very wealthy.

Read his story at [Fred Booth \(1860 - 1934\) of Firthcliff updated.pdf](#)

The village in Cornwall on the Hudson was named Firthcliffe. Presumably combining the names Firth and the last bit of Lightcliffe. It is in that red loop!



The next Sutcliffe children, Florence, Harold, Ernest Milton and Elsie, were all born in the USA. Apparently, Florence was born in February 1889 which makes Adeline and the two boys arrival that year a little problematic but that is what census data and the New York birth records say. The rest of the family were definitely born in Firthcliffe. Harold was born on 24th April 1893, Ernest Milton on 12th January 1896 and Elsie during Aug 1897.

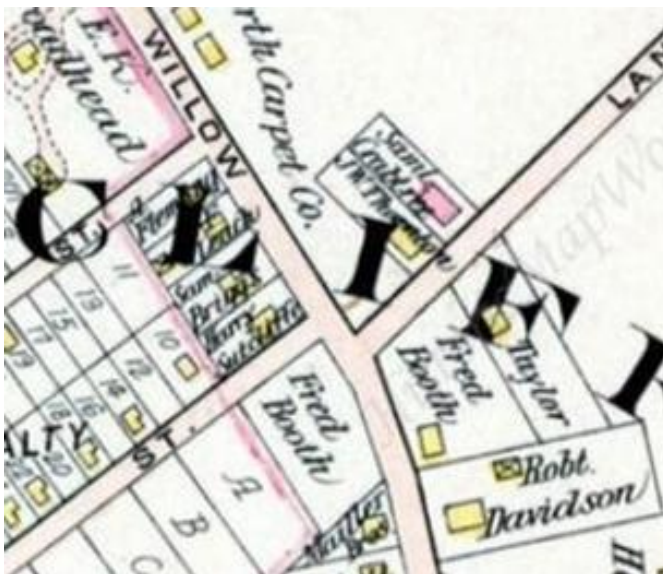
Meanwhile Harry and his eldest son 11-year-old Raymond crossed the Atlantic again, arriving in Liverpool on 23rd August 1893 and getting back to New York on 18th September 1893. Harry was recorded as a 'Merchant' on the way out but an 'Overlooker' on the way back. Was he reporting back to the company in Bailiff Bridge as well as fitting in a visit to see his family?

1900 USA Federal census

Harry Sutcliffe	Head 43 Loom Turner
Adeline Sutcliffe	Wife 43
Raymond Sutcliffe	Son 18 Weaver Carpets
Arthur Sutcliffe	Son 14 Designer Carpets
Florence Sutcliffe	Dau 10 At school
Harold Sutcliffe	Son 7 At school
Ernest Sutcliffe	Son 4
Elsie Sutcliffe	Dau 2

Address Cornwall Township, Orange County, N.Y. state

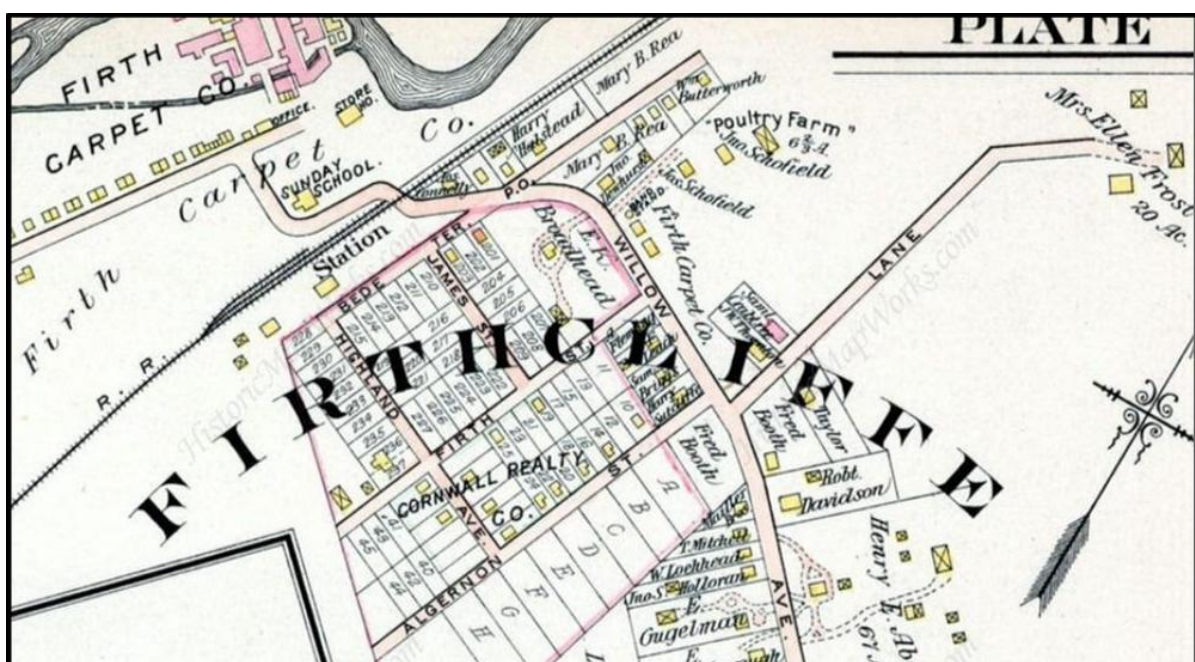
On the census form the Sutcliffe household was next to the households of Samuel Crabtree, Fred Booth, Samuel Briggs and Fred Leach which agree with the image below from Plate 9 of the map book *Atlas of Orange County, New York* by H.A. Mueller published in 1903.



You can clearly see Fred Booth's name then across the road Harry Sutcliffe, Samuel Briggs and Fred Leach – a relation by marriage to Harry - and then a Fleming. Read

Thomas Alfred Leach and family

Does this suggest that Harry Sutcliffe like his relative Thomas Alfred (Fred) Leach had prominent positions within the company and so were housed in larger accommodation near the Superintendent Fred Booth?



Firth employees, circa turn of the century
 One of those rare gems when a turn of the century photo has
 almost all of the names available
Cornwall Historical Society



1st row, L.toR: Frank Sampacks, John Heniher,
 Ted Redfern, William Schofield, John Schofield,
 Harry Sutcliffe, Jim Schofield, George Horton,
 Thomas Chandler
 Short row, 3 men on right: Fred Leach, Joe Connor,
 Jim Daldon
 2nd row, L.toR.: John Thornton, Anthony Westover,
 George Shearer, Ben Schofield, Jim Halstead,
 Joe (Shine) Smith, ? Dobson, Joe Burns,
 Harry Halstead
 3rd row, L.to R.: ? Babcock, Mike Holloran,
 Charles Knowles, Thos. Hansen, George Taylor,
 Bill Burll

From Marjorie Taylor, 8/94

Image from page 39 of the book FIRTHCLIFFE N.Y. by Robert McGue

Notice the names Harry Sutcliffe and Fred Leach. Can you spot them?



A 1904 passenger list seems to have Harry and three children of the right age travelling to Liverpool, but their mother's name is wrong although that would be Adeline's age then. Their ship the SS Cedric arrived on 23rd June 1904.

Sutcliffe	Harry	H6	
do	Mary	H6	
do	Flora		11
do	Ernest	7	
do	Elsie		6

The same family – it has to be by the ages - left Liverpool on 4th August 1904 aboard the same White Star Dominion Liner. Notice Harry Sutcliffe was described as an 'Architect'!

13213	Harry Sutcliffe	1	Architect	H6	
✓	Mrs.	1	Wife	H6	
✓	Miss. Horner	1	Child		11
✓	✓ Elsie	1	✓		6
✓	Mr. Ernest	1	✓		7

1910 USA Federal census

Harry Sutcliffe Head 52 Manufacturer Carpets
Adeline Sutcliffe Wife 52 None
Arthur Sutcliffe Son 23 Designer Carpets
Florence Sutcliffe Dau 20 Sales lady Dry goods
Harold Sutcliffe Son 16 Apprentice foundry
Earnest M Sutcliffe Son 14 None
Elsie M Sutcliffe Dau 12 None
Address Johnson Street, Newburgh City Ward
3, Orange County, N.Y. state

1920 USA Federal census

Harry Sutcliffe Head 62 None
Adeline Sutcliffe Wife 62 None
Harold Sutcliffe Son 25 Shipping Board
Ernest Sutcliffe Son 24 Traveller Commercial
Elsie Sutcliffe Dau 22
Stenographer Real Estate Office
Address Lutheran Street, Newburgh, Orange
County, N.Y. state

In 1923 Harry Sutcliffe applied for a USA passport because he intended to sail on the SS *Adriatic* from New York to England for 'pleasure'. This was presumably to see his family and not at all work related. His address was 15 Lutheran Street, Newburgh, N.Y. He declared that he was born at Midgley, Yorkshire England on 15th August 1857 and that his father Thomas Sutcliffe was born in England. It is in this document that he says he emigrated to the USA from Liverpool 'about January 1886'. He was naturalised by the Supreme Court of Newburgh on 16th April 1891. [could be another year as there is a smudge mark!]

His daughter Elsie M Sutcliffe, of course a native of the USA, declared that she had known him for 25 years and vouched for the information in the application. Amongst the personal details – height, colour of eyes, shape of mouth, nose and face (!) - it does say for hair colour 'turning grey'! Which we can probably imagine in the passport picture below.

A signed duplicate of the photograph to be attached hereto must be sent to the Department with the application, to be affixed to the passport with an impression of the Department's seal.



Harry Sutcliffe, a 65-year-old 'Superintendent' did come to England but on the *R.M.S. Olympia* arriving in Southampton on 16th June 1923. The address he was going to was recorded as '6 New St., Halifax, Yorks' but it seems certain that it was New Street in Bailiff Bridge. This was the 1921 address of the young widow of his nephew Edgar Pollard. This was next door to his sister, Sarah Pollard, at 4 New Street, Bailiff Bridge. Harry Sutcliffe did return on the SS *Adriatic* leaving Liverpool on 18th August 1923 arriving back in New York on 26th August 1923.

1925 New York State census

Harry Sutcliffe	Head 68	Foreman Carpet Mill
Adeline Sutcliffe	Wife 70	
Elsie M Sutcliffe	Dau 27	Stenographer
Address Lutheran Street, Newburgh, N.Y. State		

Two years later he sailed on *SS Adriatic* again arriving in Liverpool on 19th June 1927. He gave his occupation as 'Foreman'. This was the summer after his sister Sarah Pollard died on Christmas Day 1926.

No record of his return journey has been found.

This report in the *Halifax Courier* for 3rd August 1927 explains why.

VISITOR FROM AMERICA

Died Suddenly at

Brighthouse

Collapse Whilst Talking With Niece

Whilst visiting friends in Brighthouse yesterday afternoon, Mr Harry Sutcliffe, of 15 Lutheran-street, Newburgh, New York, was suddenly taken ill and died. It is understood that Mr. Sutcliffe came over from America to visit his brother at Lightcliffe on Jun 19. Yesterday morning he went to see his niece at Bailiffe Bridge, and in the afternoon, he went to see his brother at 13 Smithy Carr-lane Brighthouse. He went up into a bedroom at 13 Smithy Carr-lane to talk to his invalid niece and sat down by the side of the bed. Suddenly and without making any complaint he fell sideways from the chair, making a gurgling sound, and died shortly afterward. Dr. Roberts, of Brighthouse, saw the man after his death. About six months ago Mr. Sutcliffe cut a corn which turned septic and caused cellulitis. He was then in America but since his arrival in England he had been attended by Dr. Roberts a fortnight ago.

The invalid was his niece, Mary Emma Pollard, the daughter of his sister Sarah Polalrd.

On 13th August 1927 his brother Fred Sutcliffe and his nephew Thomas Ingham departed from Liverpool on the *SS Cedric*. Their destination address was their sister-in-law / aunt at 15 Lutheran Street, Newburgh. They arrived on 22nd August returning on another White Star Dominion Line ship *SS Homeric* which docked in Southampton on 17th September 1927.

No burial record has been found for Harry Sutcliffe in England nor in the United States. The death of a 69-year-old Harry Sutcliffe was recorded in the Halifax district Q3 1927. It would appear to be for the Yorkshire-born American, Harry Sutcliffe, who died on 2nd August 1927 in his brother's house in Smith Carr Lane, Lightcliffe just days before his 70th birthday.

There is this headstone in Woodlawn Cemetery, New Windsor, Orange County, New York.



1930 USA Federal census

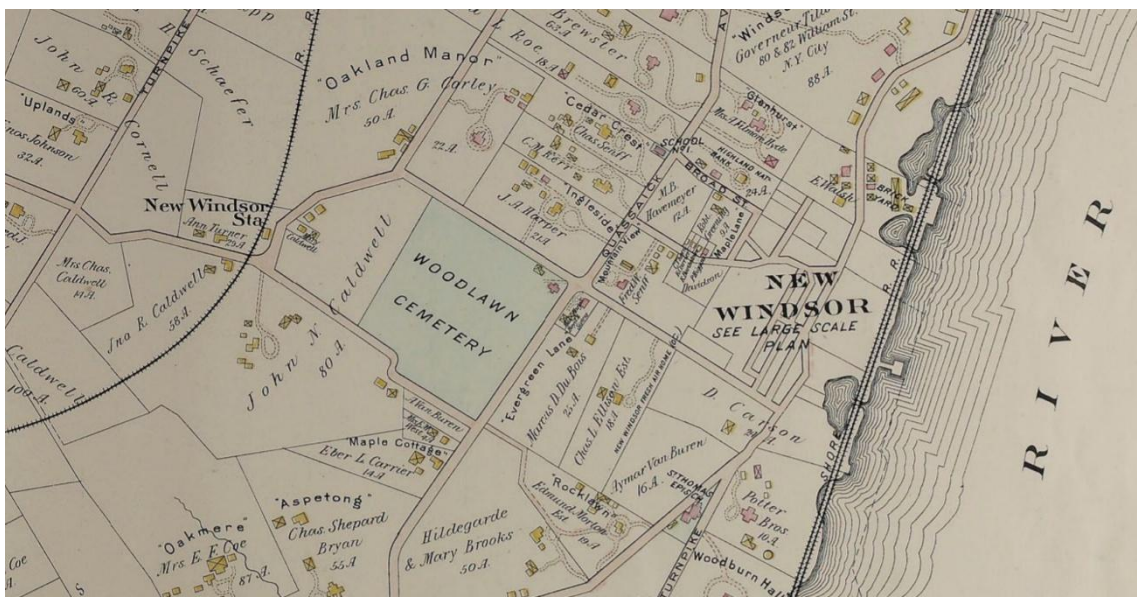
Adeline Sutcliffe Head 73 Widow

Annie F Smith Roomer 63

Annie Greenwood Roomer 48

Address Lutheran Street, Newburgh, Orange County, N.Y. state

Adeline Sutcliffe née Hoyle died on 2nd July 1933 and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.



Yorkshire born Raymond Sutcliffe worked as a weaver for Firths Carpet Company in Firthcliffe, according to both the 1900 and 1910 censuses. In 1920 he was an overseer and then a superintendent of the mills by 1930. However, in 1940 he was recorded as part owner of an automobile garage business. The 63-year-old died on 13th March 1945 in Cornwall, New York, USA.

His brother Arthur Sutcliffe who was also born in Yorkshire was a carpet designer in 1900 and 1910. No record has been found for him in 1920 but by 1930 he had become a foreman in Firths carpet mill in Firthcliffe, as he was again in 1940. On the 1950 census he was a cashier in a department store. He died on 18th January 1951 and was buried with his wife in Woodlawn Cemetery



His two sons, Arthur Martin Sutcliffe and Raymond Hoyle Sutcliffe, also worked for Firths Carpet Company in Firthcliffe.

Is this why Thomas Ingham and his uncle, Fred Sutcliffe, and then Fred's son Seth, all employees of T.F. Firths & Sons Ltd., at Bailiff Bridge kept on visiting the USA up until 1952?

D. M. Barker

October 2026