Private Edgar Pollard

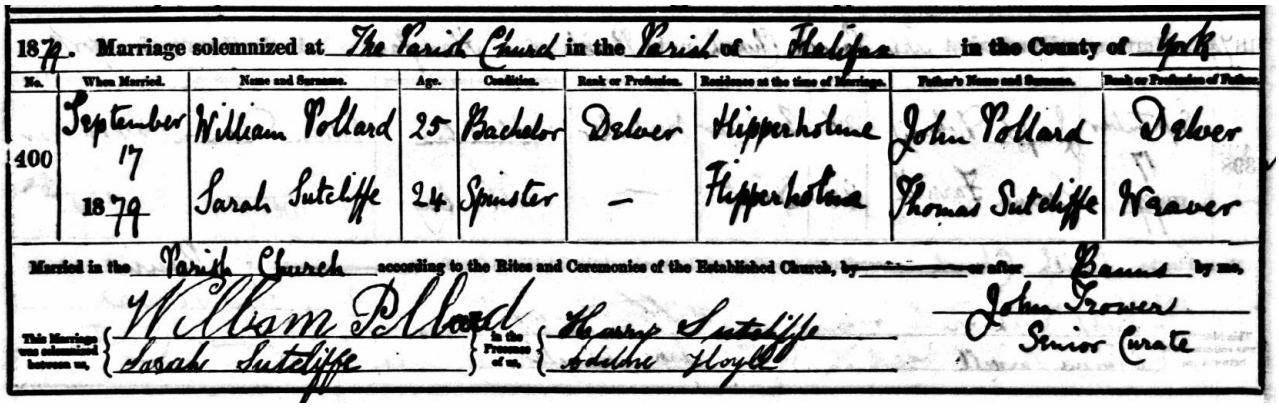
(27th June 1889 – 16th April 1919)

Edgar Pollard was the son of Sarah Pollard née Sutcliffe and the grandson of Thomas Sutcliffe and his wife Mary née Green. Their stories have already been told in the article

The Sutcliffe parents and sisters

where Edgar also got a mention. Since then, more has been discovered about this WWI soldier and so a fuller back story will now be told. Inevitably there will be some repetition of information.

Edgar Pollard was born on 27th June 1889 to parents William and Sarah Poillard. They had married in Halifax parish church ten years before, on 17th September 1879.



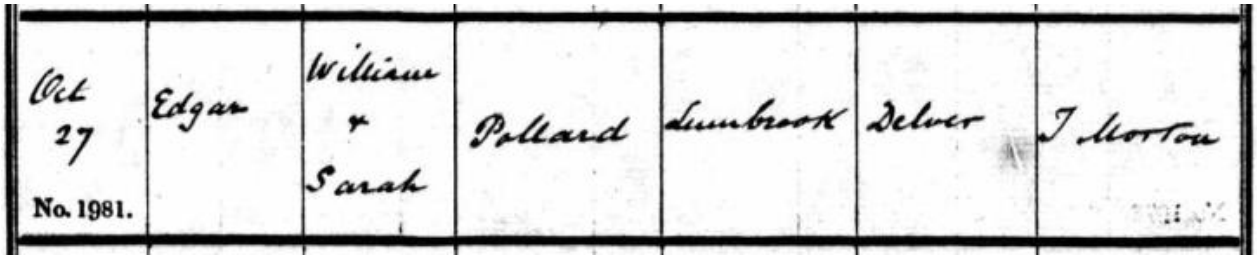
1879. Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York

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
400	September 17 1879	William Pollard	25	Bachelor	Delver	Hipperholme	John Pollard	Delver
		Sarah Sutcliffe	24	Spinster	–	Hipperholme	Thomas Sutcliffe	Weaver

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by ~~Banns~~ or after Banns by me, John Trower Senior Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Pollard, Sarah Sutcliffe. In the Presence of us, George Sutcliffe, Adelaide Hoyle

Edgar, their youngest child, was baptised with his sister Hilda on 27th October 1889 at St. John's Church Coley when the family were recorded as living in Lumbrook near Coley.



Oct 27 No. 1981.	Edgar	William & Sarah	Pollard	Lumbrook	Delver	J Morton

As explained in the Sutcliffe article the family have not been found on the 1891 census. They might have been in the Armitage Buildings, Lightcliffe as this was the address given when Edgar Pollard was recorded in *the National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914* as entering the 'Mixed Infants' class at Lightcliffe National School on 12th June 1894. There is a second entry for six-year-old Edgar, the son of William, for 1st April 1896 when he transferred from 'Lightcliffe Infants' to 'Lightcliffe Boys & Mixed'. Again, the address given was the Armitage Buildings, Lightcliffe.

These are the last records found for William Pollard who simply 'disappears' after 1896. No death or burial record has been found although, as you will read, he was said to be 'deceased' in 1913.

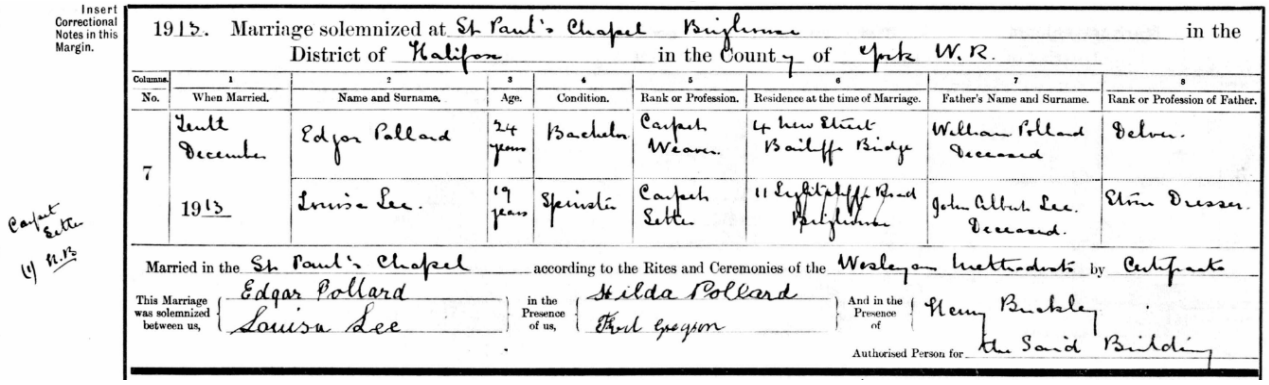
1901 census
Sarah Pollard Wife 45
Mary E Pollard Dau 19
Card Stamper Brussels Carpet
Hilda Pollard Dau 13
Threader operative Fancy Tex
Edgar Pollard Son 11
Minnie Pollard Granddaughter1
Address Sackville St., Lightcliffe

1911 census
Sarah Pollard Head 55 [nothing recorded]
Mary Emma Pollard Dau 29 -
Hilda Pollard Dau 23 [blank]
Edgar Pollard Son 21 Weaver Carpet Works
Minnie Pollard [should be Grd]Dau 11 School
Address 4 New St., Bailiffe Bridge

Like so many members of his extended family – Sutcliffes, Inghams and Leaches - Edgar Pollard worked as a carpet weaver for T.F. Firth & Sons Ltd at their Clifton Mills, very close to where he lived. He was also a good cricketer who played for a Bailiff Bridge club but then became the wicketkeeper for Lightcliffe Cricket Club.

In the team photograph below of the Lightcliffe side which won the Halifax & District League in 1913 Edgar is sat on the ground on the right.

Later that year on 10th December 1913 Edgar Pollard married a fellow Firths' employee, Louisa Lee.



Insert Correctional Notes in this Margin.

1913. Marriage solemnized at St Paul's Chapel Brighouse in the District of Halifax in the County of York W.R.

Columns No.	1 When Married.	2 Name and Surname.	3 Age.	4 Condition.	5 Rank or Profession.	6 Residence at the time of Marriage.	7 Father's Name and Surname.	8 Rank or Profession of Father.
7	Tenth December 1913	Edgar Pollard	24 years	Bachelor	Carpet Weaver.	4 New Street Bailiff Bridge	William Pollard Deceased	Delver.
		Louisa Lee.	19 years	Spinster	Carpet Setter	11 Lightcliffe Road Brighouse	John Abbott Lee. Deceased.	Stone Dresser.

Carpet Setter

Married in the St Paul's Chapel according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Wesleyan Methodists by Certificate

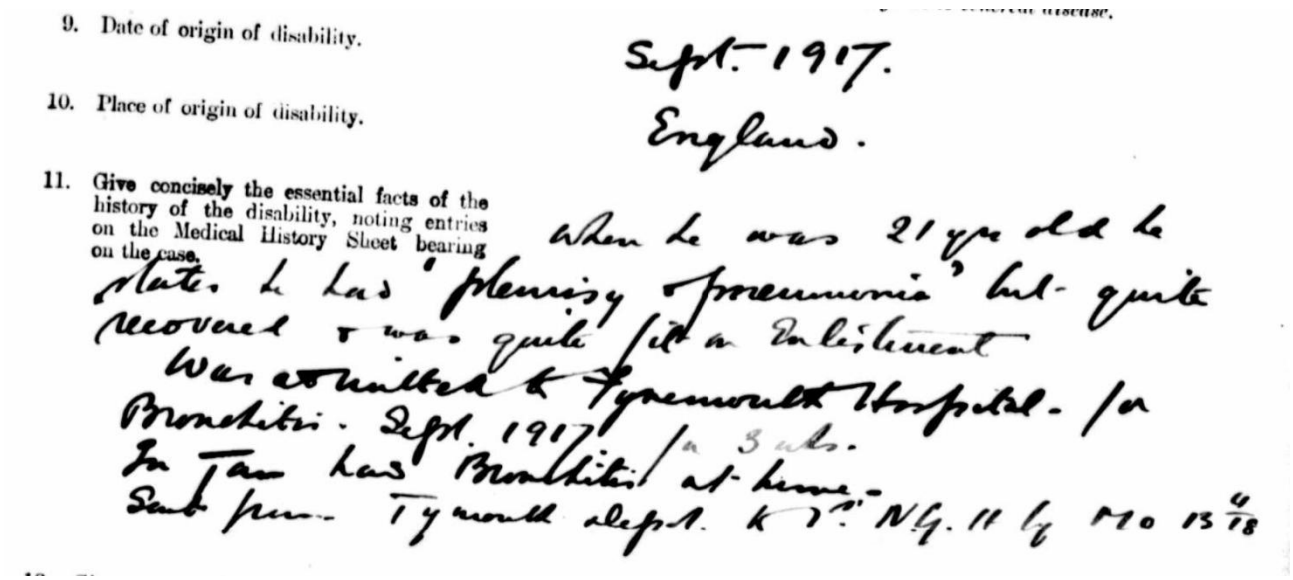
This Marriage was solemnized between us, Edgar Pollard, Louisa Lee. In the Presence of us, Hilda Pollard, Fred Gregson. And in the Presence of Henry Brotherton. Authorised Person for the Said Building

Both fathers were recorded as being deceased. Louisa's father John Abbott Lee had died on 31st January 1904 as the *Brighouse News* announced. He was buried in Brighouse Cemetery.

> LEE. —Jan. 31. Aged 38 years, John Lee, stone dresser, 11, Lightcliffe-road, Brighouse

Edgar's and Louisa's daughter, Katherine Pollard, was born on 31st March 1914 probably at 6, New Street, Bailiffe Bridge.

And then the Great War started. Edgar, still a carpet weaver, appears to have been in the Army Reserve from 29th June 1916. But then his military records note that he enlisted on 2nd April 1917 at Halifax with the 3rd Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. It looks as if he then had some military training in Northumberland from where he was admitted to Tynemouth Hospital with bronchitis.



9. Date of origin of disability. Sept. 1917.

10. Place of origin of disability. England.

11. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case.

When he was 21 yrs old he state. he has "pleurisy & pneumonia" but quite recovered & was quite fit & Enlistment
Was admitted to Tynemouth Hospital. for Bronchitis. Sept. 1917 for 3 wks.
In Jan has Bronchitis at home.
Sent from Tynemouth depot. to 3rd N.G. 11 by M.O. 13/4/18

His military medical record notes that as a 21-year-old – i.e. about 1910 - he had 'pleurisy pneumonia' but 'quite recovered & was quite fit on enlistment'. The fact that he was an active sportsman would seem to confirm that. His condition which was 'attributable to service during the present war' turned into pulmonary tuberculosis and was described as having been 'aggravated due to overstrain of Military Training'.

On 26th Apil 1918 the officer in charge of the 1st Northen General Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne declared that Private Edgar Pollard was no longer fit for military service. His discharge papers record that his incapacity in the 'Gen(eral) Lab(our) Mar(ket) is 80% for 6/12'. It was suggested that he sort treatment in a 'Sanatorium'. The official date of his discharge was 22nd May 1918.

PENSION EXPIRES. 17.12.10 SOLDIERS.

Award Sheet.—Disablement Pension.

Discharge Documents received. 4-5-18 (Date) WEEK ENDING 22.5.18 Case Number B.G.3.C.461

Name Pollard. Edgar

Regl. No. 31544 Rank Pte

Regiment West Riding 3rd Batt. Embd. 29-8-16

Date of Discharge 22-5-18 Date of commencement of Pension

Cause of Discharge Physically unfit. Age June 1889 28

SERVICE.							
Corps.	Class for Pension.						Total.
	WT.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	
Army Res.						11/12	
Invalided						1 1/12	

Sent to Secretary, R.H., Chelsea, for assessment of service / gallant conduct pension (Date).

Rate of service / gallant conduct pension awarded Returned from R.H., Chelsea (Date)

Disability for which invalided Pulm. Tuberculosis Degree of Disablement Total at present.

Opinion of Medical Board 1-5-18 { Due to / Aggravated by / Neither due to nor aggravated by } service during war with Germany

Opinion of D.G.A.M.S. 10.5.18 { Due to / Aggravated by / Neither due to nor aggravated by } service during war with Germany Incapable in Gen: Lab: Mar is 80% for 6/12. Sanatorium Treat.

Artificial Appliance required A.A.B. advised (Date)

Artificial Appliance supplied

Hospital or Special Treatment suggested Sanatorium

Quite what happened to Edgar Pollard after that is unknown. Did he spend time in a Sanatorium? If so, where? Did he return home to his wife and daughter at 6 New Street, Bailiffe Bridge? A separation allowance for his daughter Kathleen was issued up to 9th June 1918. And Edgar was to receive a pension for 29 weeks from 23rd May 1918 to 17th December 1918.

Edgar Pollard died on 16th April 1919; his death was registered in the Halifax district. This suggests that he did return to the family home at 6, New Street, Bailiff Bridge. He was buried in Brighouse Cemetery on 19th April 1919. He might have been buried with or near his late father-in-law, John Lee. There is no record of him on the Commonwealth War Graves website. And no record of any other headstone has been found

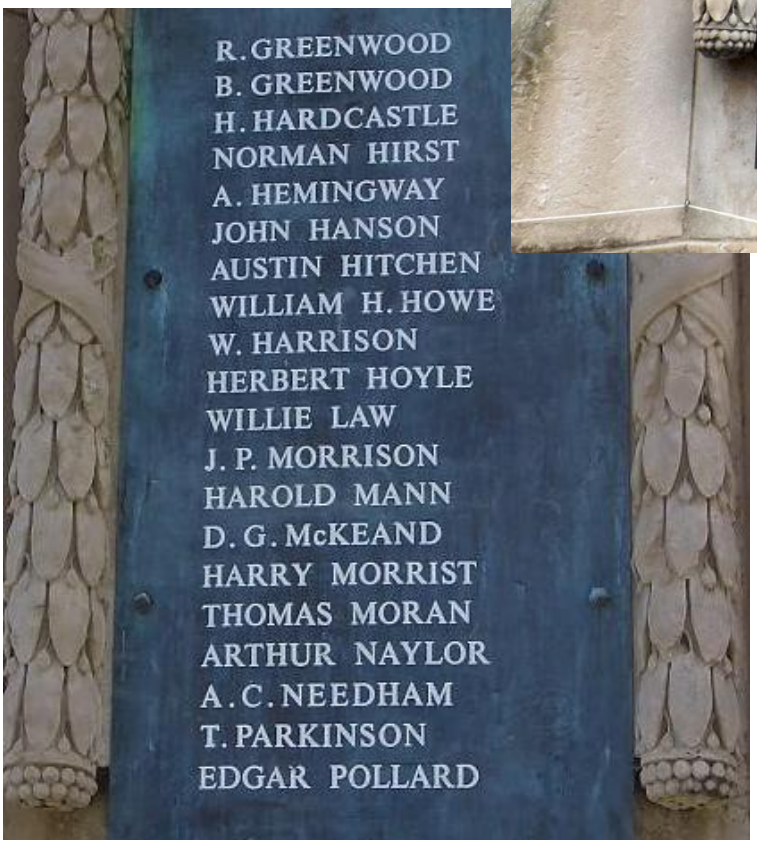
When the census was taken on 19th June 1921, his widow Louisa Pollard, still a carpet setter for T.F. Firth & Sons Ltd, was living alone at 6, New Street, Bailiff Bridge. Her seven-year-old daughter Kathleen was with her widowed maternal grandmother, Grace Lee, at 11, Lightcliffe Road, Brighouse.

Edgar's mother, Sarah Pollard née Sutcliffe, died on Christmas Day 1926 aged 71 years. She was buried on 28th December 1926 in St. Matthew's churchyard in plot G56 i.e. next to where her parents and infant daughter were interred. Her other daughters would eventually join her in this Lightcliffe plot which has this headstone.

Kathleen Pollard married Frederick Jenkinson during Q2 1938. On 29th September 1939 she and her husband, a manager at a butchery and slaughterhouse, lived at 1, Smith House Lane, Lightcliffe. Her widowed mother, Lousia Pollard, was with her widowed mother, Grace Lee, in Marion Street Brighouse. The Jenkinsons had a son Robert born during Q2 1940.

Louisa Pollard died in 1975 and was buried in Brighouse Cemetery; perhaps with or near her husband Edgar Pollard or her Lee parents. Son-in-law Frederick Jenkinson died on 22nd June 1996 aged 82. His wife, Kathleen, Edgar's daughter, died during Q3 2001 aged 87.

As a former employee of T.F. Firth & Sons Ltd Private Edgar Pollard is remembered on the Bailiff Bridge memorial erected by Sir William Henry Aykroyd and his wife Lady Aykroyd.



D. M. Barker

November 2026