

Third step back: STEPHENSON

Martha Ann Stephenson was my paternal Grandfather's mother.

The Stephensons grew to be an important farming family in New Farnley, where the earliest known link is a John Stephenson. He was the father of Thomas Stephenson, who was born on 31st March 1764 and baptized at Leeds St Peters on 14 April 1764.

Thomas married Elizabeth or Betty Tingle on the 12th of April 1790 at Leeds. They lived and farmed as tenants of Edward Armitage esq., at Low Moor Side in New Farnley.

Their first child was William, baptised at St Michaels Church in Farnley on the 13th of March 1791. George followed, baptised on the 17th February 1793. Thomas came next, born on the 23rd of July 1797 and baptised on the 13th of August. John Stephenson was born on the 13th of September 1800 and was baptised on the 19th October. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born 22nd February 1805 and christened at Farnley St Michaels on the 24th March 1805. Thomas and Elizabeth's last child was Benjamin, born on the 31st October 1808 and baptised the 1st of October that year.

The census for 1841 shows Thomas aged 76, living at Low Moor Side. Living with him is William, aged 16, his grandson, the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Stephenson and Oliver Roff.

Thomas and Elizabeth both died in 1851. Elizabeth on the 28th of January and Thomas on the 6th of August. The memorial stone in St Michaels churchyard in Farnley has the inscription

**"In memory of Elizabeth wife of Thomas Stephenson of Farnley who departed this life
January 28th 1851 age 84 years. Also the above named Thomas Stephenson who
departed this life August 6th 1851 Age 87 years."**

Of Thomas and Elizabeth's sons, George was the first to marry, on the 27th of December 1813 at St Peters Leeds. His bride was Elizabeth Schofield. George worked as a coal miner. George had two sons to Elizabeth, John in 1814 and Thomas in 1819. Elizabeth died and was buried at Farnley on the 28th June 1822.

George married again, to Ann Taylor of Keswick, on the 4th of February 1823. They had a son, James, in 1825. Then Daniel in 1827, followed by Mary Ann in 1829. Next came Benjamin in 1831. George's family moved to Wortley about 1832. Two daughters were born there, Elizabeth in 1833 and Hannah in 1836.

Of George's children it is known that Daniel married Elizabeth from Beeston and had at least one child, Mary Ann in December 1850.

James married Caroline from Wortley and they had a daughter Ann in 1870. James was a tanner.

Thomas married Ellen Towlard in Knaresborough on the 29th December 1821. They had five children. John Towlard Stephenson was born in Wortley and baptised on the 6th of April 1823. William was next, in 1826. A daughter, Sarah, was baptised in Knaresborough on the 16th of September 1827. Thomas also in Knaresborough on the 25th of September 1831 and finally Benjamin, born in 1840.

Of these children we know that Sarah married Charles Cockcroft in Leeds on the 20th of December 1846. They had one child, Emma, born in Burley, Leeds in 1846 or 1847.

John also married, about 1820, to Hannah, from Barstone. Their children were William, baptised at Farnley on the 23rd of September 1821, Thomas 18th of May 1823, James 22nd May 1825, Matilda in 1827 then James, baptised 13th September 1829.

1881 Census PRO Ref RG11 Piece 4444 Folio 8 Page 9 Mortimer Row John STEPHENSON Widower aged 80 Born Farnley, Leeds Occupation: Farmer of 5 acres

They appear in the 1841 census for Farnley. John is described as a Farmer and eldest son William as an agricultural labourer. The census shows that John and Hannah had other children. A son John born about 1830, Sarah about 1832, Jeremiah about 1834, Samuel about 1837 and Mary, baptised at Farnley on 30th May 1841. The Parish Register for St Michaels Farnley also show baptisms for Sarah Ann, 19 July 1840 and William, baptised 25 Dec 1842. John's family moved to Laisterdyke and appear there there in the 1851 census. John was an Innkeeper. Sarah, Jeremiah and Mary were still at home. There is an entry in the 1881 census for Bradford that fits John's details.

Elizabeth's Line

Elizabeth, Thomas and Elizabeth's daughter, had an illegitimate child, William, baptised on the 7th of November 1824 at St Michaels Farnley. Thomas Stephenson's will states that William's father was an 'Oliver Ruff Stephenson'. Elizabeth later married an Oliver Roff in Bradford on April 23rd 1826.

Oliver Roff was born in Horbury on 7th January 1798. The Farnley parish records show the baptism of Sarah, on the 6th August 1826, daughter of Oliver and Elizabeth Ross (sic). Between that date and 8th December 1828, the date of the birth of their next child, Oliver and Elizabeth left William in the care of Elizabeth's parents and went to America, where their daughter Mary Ann was born in Indiana County Pennsylvania. They later lived in Ohio as farmers and raised a family there. The Roffs appear in the 1860 and 1870 censuses in Jackson, Noble County, Ohio. Elizabeth died there on 30th August 1881. Oliver died 14th November 1880. Their gravestone has Elizabeth's birth year as 1803.

It is from William that most of the Farnley Stephensons are descended.

William married Ann COWLING on the 20th February 1851 at St.Peters, Leeds. His father was listed as Oliver Stephenson (sic), a cloth dresser. The couple lived on the farm at Low Moor Side and took over completely when William's grandparents died that year and left him a legacy.

Their first son, William Henry, was baptised at Farnley on the 24th of July 1853. Oliver was next, born on the 31st of December 1855. Charles followed on the 28th of June 1860 and finally, James Thornton Stephenson, baptised on the 5th of April 1863.

Ann died on the 16th of July 1892. William followed on the 10th of April 1899.

Of William's sons, Oliver married first, in 1878, to Patience Ingham at St Peters, Leeds. They lived at 18, Playground in Farnley. Oliver worked as a railway engine driver, possibly for the nearby Iron works. Their first child, Emma, was born in 1878 followed by son Harry in 1879. Charlie was born in 1882 then Clifford the following year. Herbert came in 1884, then in 1886 Ruth, 1888 Terry, 1891 Albert, 1893 Ralph and Fred in 1895. Willie was born about 1898 and Leonard about 1900.

Patience was known as a hard worker who baked her own bread and made all her family's shirts.

The Will of Thomas STEPHENSON

died 6 August, 1851

This is the last Will and Testament of me Thomas Stephenson of Farnley Moor Side in the parish of Leeds in the County of York, Farmer. First I will that all my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses be fully paid and satisfied by my Executors out of my personal estate with all convenient speed after my decease.

I give and bequeath unto my grandson William Stephenson, son of Oliver Ruff Stephenson, who now resides with me all my farming stock, implements of husbandry, tenant right, monies in the bank, securities for money book and other debts, household furniture, plate, linen and china and all other my personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature or kind soever, subject and charged and chargeable with the payment of my just debts, funeral and testamentary expenses and also subject to the payment of the following legacies, that is to say, to my son George Stephenson I give and bequeath the legacy or sum of twenty five pounds, unto my son Thomas Stephenson the sum of twenty five pounds, unto my son John Stephenson the sum of twenty five pounds, and to my grand daughter Sarah, the daughter of my son Benjamin Stephenson, the sum of ten pounds, all of which several legacies I direct shall be paid within six calendar months next after my decease. I declare that the receipts of my Executors of this my Will shall be sufficient discharges for any monies payable to them by virtue of this my Will, and shall exonerate the person or persons paying the same from all liability in respect of the application thereof or any part thereof.

And I further declare that each of my Executors shall be responsible only for such monies or effects as shall come to his own respective hands and that neither of them shall be responsible for involuntary losses, nor for the acts deeds or defaults of each other and that they may retain to, and allow each other, all costs, charges, damages and likewise a reasonable compensation for their respective loss of time and trouble in attending to the trusts of this my Will and in acting as Executors thereof I hereby appoint my said grandson William Stephenson and my friend William Roberts of Farnley Moor Side, Farmer, Executors of this my Will. I hereby revoke all former Wills by me at anytime heretofore made and declare this only to contain my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I the said Thomas Stephenson the Testator have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty seventh day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty one.

Witnesses:

John Hardcastle, Hilltop, Armley
John Woodhead, Farnley Moorside, Farmer
Passed 5th September 1851

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thos Stephenson', written in a cursive style.

This is the last Will and Testament
of me Thomas Stephenson of Farnley Moor side in the
parish of Leeds in the County of York Farmer, First
I will that all my just Debts Funeral and Testamentary
Expences be fully paid and satisfied by my Executors
out of my personal Estate with all convenient speed
after my decease I give and bequeath unto
my Grandson William Stephenson, son of Oliver Ruff
Stephenson, who now resides with me All my Farming
Stock, Implements of Husbandry, Tenant Right, Monies
in the Bank, Securities for Money Book and other Debts
Household Furniture plate Linen and China and
all other my personal Estate whatsoever and a-
wheresoever and of what nature or kind soever, Subject
and charged and chargeable with the payment of
my just Debts Funeral and Testamentary Expences
And also subject to the payment of the following
Legacies, that is to say, To my Son George Stephenson
I give and bequeath the Legacy or sum of Twenty
five pounds, unto my Son Thomas Stephenson the
sum of Twenty five pounds, unto my son John
Stephenson the sum of Twenty five pounds, and
to my Grand daughter Sarah, the daughter of my
son Benjamin Stephenson the sum of Ten pounds
all which several Legacies I direct shall be paid
within Six Calendar Months next after my decease.
I declare that the receipts of my Executors of this
my will shall be sufficient discharges for any Monies
payable to them by virtue of this my will, and shall

Oliver's children

Of Oliver's sons, five of them went into farming, leasing farms from the Farnley estate. Harry took Harper farm after his marriage to Lydia Murgatroyd on November 1st 1905 and ran it with his brother Clifford. They were still together there in 1913.

Albert married Sarah Glover on 11th October 1915 and took charge of Well Holme farm and some time after, Clifford took it over. Albert's first child was Sydney Stephenson in 1916, followed by two daughters, Anne in 1917 and Phyllis. Albert died quite young on the 15th of April 1930. He is buried at Farnley. His memorial stone bears the simple inscription:

Albert Stephenson Died 15-4-1930 Age 39
Sarah Stephenson Died 6-7-1979 Age 87

Ralph went to war and was killed in action on 25th July 1917 and interred at Ypres.

In Memory of
Bombardier RALPH STEPHENSON
100332, 281st Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery
who died age 24 on Wednesday 25 July 1917

Bombardier STEPHENSON, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver
Stephenson, of Farnley, nr. Leeds. Remembered with honour
VLAMERTINGHE NEW MILITARY CEMETERY

*Entry in the Commonwealth war graves
commission's Debt of Honour register*

Charlie married Emma Downs in 1908 at Farnley Methodist Church and then ran Wentworth farm. Their children were Nellie born 1910, Mary born 1912 and Frank.

Terry married Ann Elizabeth "Mabel" Stapleton and ran Parkside farm until it was sold. He had five sons, Arthur, Alfred, George, Will and Charles Ralph Stephenson, in 1919.

Harry and Lydia started their family with daughter Ellen, born in 1907. Two more daughters followed, May and Anne, around 1909, then Harry's only son Jack was born in 1913. Bessie was born in 1915.

Clifford married Carrie Wharton on the 21st of September 1909. Their first child was Alice in 1912. Phyllis followed in 1914, and died on 2nd April 1916. Carrie died the same year, on 24th October, aged 34.

Herbert married Agnes Wray on the 26th of October 1912. Oliver's daughter Emma married aged 31 to Walter Wade on the 24th of April 1909.

Her sister Ruth was a Sunday school teacher at St James in New Farnley. She married Wilfred Newton on the 4th of July 1914.

Willie Stephenson decided on a different direction than farming and chose a career in the church of England. Despite scandal and the fact that he liked "women and drink", he became the Reverend Canon William Stephenson OBE, in recognition for his missionary work.



From the left
Back row: 1. Terry
 2. Clifford 3. Harry
 4. Charlie
 5. Herbert
Middle row
 1. Ruth 2. Albert
 3. Fred 4. Ralph
 5. Emma
Front row
 1. Willie 2. Oliver
 (father) 3. Leonard
 4. Patience (mother)

Oliver Stephenson and family at Wentworth Farm, 1905

Fred Stephenson married Rachel Gertrude Mitchell (born in Morley in March 1895), in 1920.

Their first son, Harry, was born on the 31st of January 1920. Daughter Mabel followed in 1924. Margaret was born on the 18th of August 1927 then Olive on the 1st of June 1931.

Fred died young, on 10th October 1933 aged 38. His daughter Mabel died on 3rd November 1939 aged 15. Gertrude died on 7th March 1944 aged 44. They are interred at Farnley cemetery.

Oliver Stephenson Died 13-8-1936 Age 80
Ralph son of above Killed in action 25-7-1917 Age
24
Interred Ypres
Patience wife of above Died 2-4-1942 Age 83

Memorial inscription for Oliver, his wife and son Ralph, Farnley cemetery.

In July 1929, the Farnley estate came under the auctioneer's hammer, allowing Oliver's sons to purchase the farms they had leased. Clifford took Well Holme farm which went for 1700 pound. Harper farm was taken by Harry and went for 4390 pound. Park Side farm went for 1730 pound.

Oliver died in 1936 aged 80 and Patience aged 83 in 1942. They are buried at Farnley cemetery.

Willie is buried in the same grave. He died on the 3rd of January 1976 aged 77.

Oliver's youngest son Leonard died on 2nd April 1976.

Of Harry and Lydia's children, Ellen married first, to Jack Harrison, on the 5th of April 1930. Her sister May married Stanley North on the 16th April 1933. Anne married the same year, to Victor Lythe on the 9th of September.

LOT 55.		
(Plan No. 3).		
A VALUABLE FARM		
KNOWN AS		
Harper Farm		
WHITEHALL ROAD, FARNLEY,		
and comprising 121a., 2r., 34p., including the HOMESTEAD and		
THREE COTTAGES with outbuildings.		
ALSO		
Two Cottages at Farnley Wood		
The FARM is in the occupation of Mr. Harry Stephenson.		
The FARM HOUSE, which is sublet to Mr. Woodhead, contains entrance hall, dining room, drawing room, breakfast room, kitchen and bathroom, three bedrooms, box room and cellar.		
The HOUSE occupied by Mr. Stephenson contains kitchen, scullery, sitting room, two bedrooms and cellar.		
The FARM COTTAGES are occupied by employees of the tenant and offer useful accommodation.		
The FARM BUILDINGS comprise mistals with accommodation for 35 beasts and granary, and also additional room for calves, stabling for four horses and loose box, cart shed, sundry piggeries, etc.		
The TWO COTTAGES at Farnley Wood with the gardens and appurtenances are occupied by Messrs. Stead and Best.		
SCHEDULE.		
No. on Ordnance Plan.	Description.	Acreage. A. R. P.
131	Farmstead, Garden, etc. ..	3 2 5
96	Meadow	5 3 36
97	Meadow	6 3 17
98	Meadow	0 1 5
99	Arable	6 1 9
132	Meadow	11 0 11½
133	Meadow	7 0 5½
130	Pasture	1 3 26½
102	Pasture	3 0 1
129	Site of disused Colliery Workings	1 1 34½
128	Pasture	23 0 30
104	Arable	26 2 19
105	Arable	8 3 17
101	Plantation	1 1 18½
100	Pasture and Cricket Ground ..	11 1 12
95	Pasture	2 1 20½
108	Cottages and garden, Farnley Wood	0 2 6
		121 2 34

1929 auction schedule showing buildings and acreage of Harper Farm

Harry's son Jack married Dorothy Wood. They had a son Donald in April 1935.

Donald married in 1956 to Anne Harrison. Their first son John was born on the 16th of December 1956. Tony followed, on the 17th of November 1958. Barry was born January 1960 and Charles April 1961. Donald and Ann's fifth son, Brian, was born in December 1963.

John has two children, Ryan born on the 20th of May 1978 and Rachel, born on the 4th of December 1979.

*1929 auction schedule for
Park Side Farm*

LOT 16.

(Plan No. 2).

A Valuable Holding known as

Park Side Farm

BACK LANE, FARNLEY,
and comprising an acreage of

48a., 2r., 1p.,

including the Homestead Cottage and Outbuildings.

The FARM HOUSE contains a living room and sitting room, kitchen, dairy and two bedrooms.

The OUTBUILDINGS consist of a modern mistal for 16 beasts, 3-stall stable, barn, piggeries and sundry outbuildings, cart shed, conveniences, etc. THE FARM COTTAGE is occupied by Mr. Bernard Jackson as sub-tenant and it contains a living room, scullery and two bedrooms.

RENTAL.

Mr. Terry Stephenson £70 0 0 (February tenancy).

Mr. Clifford Stephenson (apportioned) .. £9 0 0 (May tenancy).

Total Annual Rental £79 0 0

The Tenants pay the rates and water charges. The tithe has also been paid by the tenant in the past.

OUTPAYMENTS.—Rectorial Tithe (commuted) £9 10 3
Vicarial Tithe (do.) £0 8 10
Land Tax £0 6 5

SCHEDULE.

No. on Ordnance Plan.	Description.	Tenant.	Acreage. A. R. P.
382	Homestead, Cottage, Garden, etc.	Mr. Terry Stephenson ..	0 3 22
405	Pasture	do. ..	3 2 29
383	Arable	do. ..	2 3 38
384	Pasture	do. ..	3 1 15½
385	Meadow	do. ..	3 2 22
380	Pasture	do. ..	5 0 13½
387	Meadow	do. ..	12 1 6
381	Arable	do. ..	2 2 14
379	Arable	do. ..	6 3 9
355	Pasture	Clifford Stephenson ..	7 0 32
Total acreage ..			48 2 1

Of Charlie Stephenson's children, Nellie married James Crosby Beevers. Her sister Mary married William Bradley on the 12th of June 1934.

Terry Stephenson's son, Charles Ralph, married Florence Gwenda Wilks on the 24th of February 1940. They had two sons, Martin and Ralph, and a daughter, Janet Lois, born on the 18th of May 1952.

Terry's son George married Molly Pearson in 1933 and had children Jean in 1935 and Allan in 1944.

Albert's son Sydney married Jean Wood on the 24th of December 1943. He took over Well Holme farm from his father and Clifford. They had three children. Philip Howard was born on the 12th of December 1947, Janet Leslie 20th December 1948 and John, born 27th of April 1950.

Sydney's sister Anne married George Glover on the 7th of June 1941.

Fred's son Harry married Lillian Stead on the 14th of February 1942. They had two sons. Fred, on the 10th of July 1942 and Allen, on the 22nd of October 1944.

Harry's sister Margaret married Joseph Brendan Crabtree on the 25th of October 1950. They had a daughter, Helen, on the 31st of March 1956 and a son, Michael, on the 22nd of November 1958. The family ran a diary business.

Helen married Steve Lambert. They had two children, Craig 27th May 1978 and Seth, 16th August 1987.

Michael married Karen Reimann on the 27th of August 1988. They have two children, Lauren and Lian.

Fred's other daughter, Olive, married Roy Whitley on the 4th April 1953. They had four children, Susan, born 22nd September 1956. Angela, 28nd May 1959. Julie, 6th October 1962 and Karon, born on the 6th of September 1963.

Susan married Richard Blackburn at Gildersome on the 13th October 1979. They have three daughters, Hayley Anne, born 31st May 1981. Rachel Louise, born 24th April 1983 and Rebecca, born 31st August 1984.

Angela married Vincent Nickle on the 26th May 1990. They have twins, Lewis and Curtis, born 11th April 19

Oliver's brothers

Oliver's elder brother William Henry (known as Henry) married Hannah Hampshire from Armley in 1880 at St Peters, Leeds. In 1881 they were living with Henry's father, William. The marriage appears to be childless. Hannah died 19th December 1899.

Henry married again, to Mary Andrew. He died aged 53 on the 7th of April 1907. Mary died 25th January 1941 aged 76.

Oliver's brother and William's youngest son, James Thornton Stephenson, married Sophia Kellett from Wortley in 1882 (see Kellett). He worked as a gas stoker. Their first born was Sarah Ann on the 28th of December 1882. Their first son, Walter, was born in 1885 followed by Annie Maud in 1886. Another daughter, Ellen, was baptised on the 3rd of December 1887 in Farnley. Frank was born in 1890. On the 11th of May 1893, James and Sophia baptised two girls, Emily, born that year, and Ellen. It wasn't clear if this was the same Ellen or the first had died and this was another child, but the 1901 census has Ellen as 13 years old, so she must have been baptised twice.

Norman was born in 1896 and Hannah was born in 1900. James and Sophia's last child, Clara, was born in 1905.

In the 1891, the family are living with James Thornton's father William at 7 Low Moor Side. In the 1901 & 1911 Censuses, the family is living at 2, Low Moor Side, Farnley.

James Thornton's children

James Thornton and Sophia's first child, Sarah Ann married Thomas Wilkinson on the 4th of August 1906.

Son Walter, who worked as a grinder in 1901, married Mary Lightowler on the 15th of June 1907.

Emily married Alan Pickersgill on the 30th June 1920. On the 19th of April 1924, Hannah married Albert Binns.

James Thornton's youngest daughter Clara married James Surr on the 8th of June 1935.

Anne and Sarah Ann were working as cotton weavers at the time of the 1901 census.

Benjamin's line

Benjamin was the youngest son of Thomas and Elizabeth Stephenson. He was born on the 31st of October 1808 and married his next door neighbour Grace MORTIMER (see Mortimer) on the 9th of November 1832 at St Peters Leeds. The couple lived on Furnace Row in New Farnley and had fourteen children.

Benjamin was not even mentioned in his father's will, though his daughter Sarah received a bequest.

Benjamin was a farmer.

Of their children, Elizabeth was born first, baptised at St Michaels in Farnley on the 8th of May 1833, then Sarah, born 11th of January 1835. Emma followed, born 27th November 1836. Another daughter, Mary, was born on the 17th April 1838. Benjamin's first son was Joseph, born on the 24th October 1839. Thomas was next, born the 30th of October 1842 in Farnley, then William, born on the 9th of June 1844. Martha Jane followed, baptised on the 6th of February 1846, then Ann, born on the 7th February 1847. Lavinia was born on the 1st of September 1849.

Tragedy then struck the family. In a five month period Benjamin and Grace lost three children. Elizabeth, the eldest, died and was buried on the 4th of December 1849. She was fifteen. Martha Jane was buried on the 29th of March 1850, aged four. Baby Lavinia was next on the 19th of May 1850, aged eight months.

A son, Edward, was born on 30th November 1851 followed by Hannah, on 12th April 1854. Henry was born on the 21st November 1855 and baptised on the 3rd of August 1856. Benjamin's last child, Walter, was born on the 4th of September 1858.

Registration District <i>Leeds</i>									
1839 . Birth in the Sub-district of <i>Wontley</i>				in the <i>County of York</i>					
Columns: -	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
425	<i>Twenty fourth of October 1839 at Farnley in the Parish of Leeds</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Benjamin Stephenson</i>	<i>Grace Stephenson formerly Montimer</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Benjamin Stephenson Father Farnley</i>	<i>Fourth of November 1839</i>	<i>Robert Leslie Armstrong</i>

Details of Benjamin's son Joseph's birth.

In 1861, the census describes Benjamin as living at Bark House Well (Barker's Well) and "Employing own family of three men and two boys on 32 acres". By that time, the older girls, Sarah, Emma and Mary, had left home and married.

The listed acreage of Barkers Well farm varied. In the 1851 census it is listed as having 28 acres and in 1861 32 acres. In 1871 this was 31 acres and in 1881 reduced to 21 acres, though this doesn't mean that Benjamin bought and disposed of land over the years, it may simply show how much of the holding he actually farmed, the rest of the land possibly sublet.

In 1929 when Farnley Ironworks auctioned the farm, it was listed as having over 39 acres, but only 13 acres were farmed by the Stephensons, the rest being sublet.

Barker's Well Farm Today



How Barker's Well came into possession of Farnley Iron Works is not yet known, but Benjamin Stephenson certainly owned that land or land nearby as he sold the mineral rights to it in 1870. The rights were purchased for £300. The wording of the document is such that it appears he sold the rights for his whole estate but a penciled note shows the land in question was a little less than 3 acres, which is later referred to by the purchasers as "Roberts Field". The land was stripped and mined between 1870 and 1875

Agreement made this 28 Day of April
One Thousand eight Hundred and
Seventy
Between Benjamin Stephenson of
Farnley near Leeds in the County of York
Farmer of the one part and
William Greenwood Woodhead & Son of
Newby St Bowling Old Lane Bradford
In the said County of York the other part
The said Benjamin Stephenson do agree
to sell the said
William Greenwood Woodhead & Son all
Minerals underlying my Estate for the
Sum of Three Hundred Pounds
Near nutting Grove Situate in the Parish of
Farnley in the said County of York
And to make Damages for the said
William Greenwood Woodhead & Son
Agree to pay the said Benjamin Stephenson
One ~~Three Hundred~~ Pounds on

And the remainder to be paid
 As we can Agree L S D
 B. Stephenson 1870 October 15th Cash 80-0-0
 B. Stephenson 1871 August 5th Cash 20-0-0
 B. Stephenson Received April 24/72 50-0-0
 B. Stephenson Received April 28th/73 50-0-0
 B. Stephenson Received April 7th/74 50-0-0
 B. Stephenson Received April 16th/75 50-0-0
 Settled April 16th/75. £ 300-0-0

Witness the hand of the said
 Benjamin Stephenson
 And also the hand of
 William Greenwood Woodhead
 V James Woodhead
 At Test to the said Benjamin Stephenson

Payment details for mineral rights sold by Benjamin Stepehnson. Document witnessed by Joseph, his son

Of Benjamin's sons, Thomas married first, to Elizabeth Duckett on the 22nd of February 1862, at Farnley. Eldest son Joseph married Elizabeth HENDERSON (see Henderson) at Leeds on the 10th of October 1863.

In 1869, tragedy again struck with the death of Benjamin's sons Walter on the 8th of January aged ten, and William, on the 2nd of November aged 25. William had married and had children, his widow probably being the entry in the 1871 census at Long Row in Farnley, showing an Elizabeth Stephenson, widow, aged 25, of Shelf, Laundress, with children Benjamin, aged 5; Eunice, aged 3 and William, aged 11 months. Elizabeth would have been 3 months pregnant when William died, his son being given his name. Benjamin made a bequest to the children in 1888.

Benjamin's daughter Emma married a William Ingleson in 1859.

Benjamin's daughter Sarah had died before Benjamin's will was drafted in 1887, she also left children.

Benjamin's daughter Hannah married John Daker from Weeton on the 2nd of October 1875. They had children Joseph, in 1877, and Sarah E in 1879. They lived in the South Lodges on Chapel Lane in Farnley, which were demolished in the 1970s.

In the April 1881 census, Benjamin and Grace are found at Barkers Well House with son Henry, the other children having left. Joseph and Elizabeth were living at 16, Playground with their family, Joseph was still working at Barkers Well Farm.

1863. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Leeds, 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 of Profession of Father.
10	October 10	Joseph Stephenson	24	Bachelor	Turner	Farnley	Benjamin Stephenson	Turner
123	1863	Elizabeth Henderson	19	Spinster		Low Wortley	Thomas Henderson	Cloth Dresser
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>James Holland</i> or, after, <i>James Holland</i> by me, <i>James Holland</i> This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Joseph Stephenson</i> and <i>Elizabeth Henderson</i> in the presence of <i>William Stephenson</i> and <i>Thomas Henderson</i>								

Joseph Stephenson's marriage details from 1863

Son Thomas was living nearby at Gainsboro' Place with his wife Elizabeth, aged 40, and their children Ruth Ann, 17, a cotton weaver; Sarah Jane, 15, also a cotton weaver; Emily, 13 years old, Ellen, aged 11, Alfred, 8 years old, Arthur, aged 6, all at school; Alice, aged 3 and Oswald, born earlier that year. All were born in Farnley. Thomas was working as a coal labourer.

Son Edward had recently married and moved to Cow Close Road. He was working as a foreman shunter on the railway. His wife (Eliza) Emma was born in Oundle, Northamptonshire. She died aged 52 on the 21st April 1903. Edward died on the 9th of November 1906, aged 55.

Benjamin died in Farnley on the 1st of October 1888 aged 79, leaving a will. Grace died on the 19th of February 1890 aged 77. They were buried at Farnley cemetery where their memorial stone has the following inscription.

Walter son of Benjamin & Grace Stephenson Died 8-1-1869 Age 10
Also William Died 2-11-1869 Age 25
Also Benjamin Died 1-10-1888 in 80th year
Also Grace Died 19-2-1890 in 78th year

Benjamin's son Thomas had married first and he raised eight children. Ruth Ann in 1863. Sarah Jane born 26 July 1865. Then Emily in 1867 followed by Ellen in 1869. A son, Alfred, was born in 1872 followed by Arthur in 1874. Alice was born in 1877 and finally Oswald, on the 13th of January 1881.

Thomas died in an accident in 1883, best told by the newspaper report of the inquest:

LEEDS MERCURY SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 1883

Fatal accident at Farnley

Mr. J.C.Malcolm, the Leeds Borough Coroner, yesterday held an inquest in the School House Farnley, on the body of Thomas Stephenson aged 41 of Farnley. The deceased was a brakeman and had been in the employ of Farnley Iron Works Company for the last thirty years. On Wednesday last, the train on which he was employed was making it's usual round of the collieries at the rate of 2 miles an hour. The waggons were in front and were being pushed forward by the engine. On reaching an incline the deceased jumped off the foremost waggon and, as was his usual custom, began to put the brake on using a piece of wood as a lever with which to force down the handle of the brake. Whilst pressing it down the wood unfortunately broke, and the deceased fell forward on to the line and the wheels of one of the waggons passed over him before the train could be stopped. He was immediately extricated but died in a few minutes. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

Mr. Gerard, Inspector of mines was present at the inquiry.

Joseph's family

Joseph and Elizabeth's Family started with Grace, born in 1864. Mary Hannah followed, in 1867. A son, John Walter, was born in 1870. Clara came in 1872, then Thomas in 1874. Jane was born in 1875 but not baptised until the 27th of July 1879. Freddy Stephenson was born on the 5th of August 1877, followed by John Robert, born in 1879. Twins Martha Ann and Henry were born at 16, Playground on the 3rd of February 1883. Martha Ann was born at 9.25 am. Henry died as an infant. Last born was George, on the 20th of October 1885. He too died in infancy.

In 1888, after his father's death, Barkers Well Farm passed to Joseph's younger brother Henry and Joseph started work as a carter at Farnley Iron Works. Joseph's family had moved from Playground to 2, Forge Row. At that time Joseph's daughter Mary Hannah was 24 and working as a dressmaker's apprentice. Walter aged 21, Thomas aged 17 and Freddy aged 13, were all working at the local brickworks. Clara aged 19 was a weaver and Jane aged 15 was a sorter. Daughter Grace had died 11 November 1884.

By March 1901, Joseph and his family were at Barkers Well Cottage, over the road from Barkers Well Farm on Lawns Lane (demolished in the 1970s). Living at Barkers Well Cottage were:

Joseph Stephenson H M 61 Cart Driver at Iron Works Farnley

Elizabeth Stephenson W M 56

Jane Stephenson D S 25 Cotton Weaver

Freddy Stephenson S S 23 Cart Driver at Iron Works Farnley John Robert Stephenson S S 21 Labourer Brickworks

Martha Ann Stephenson D S 18 Cotton Weaver

Harry Walker Gr S 16 Driver Coal Pit Underground (son of Grace)

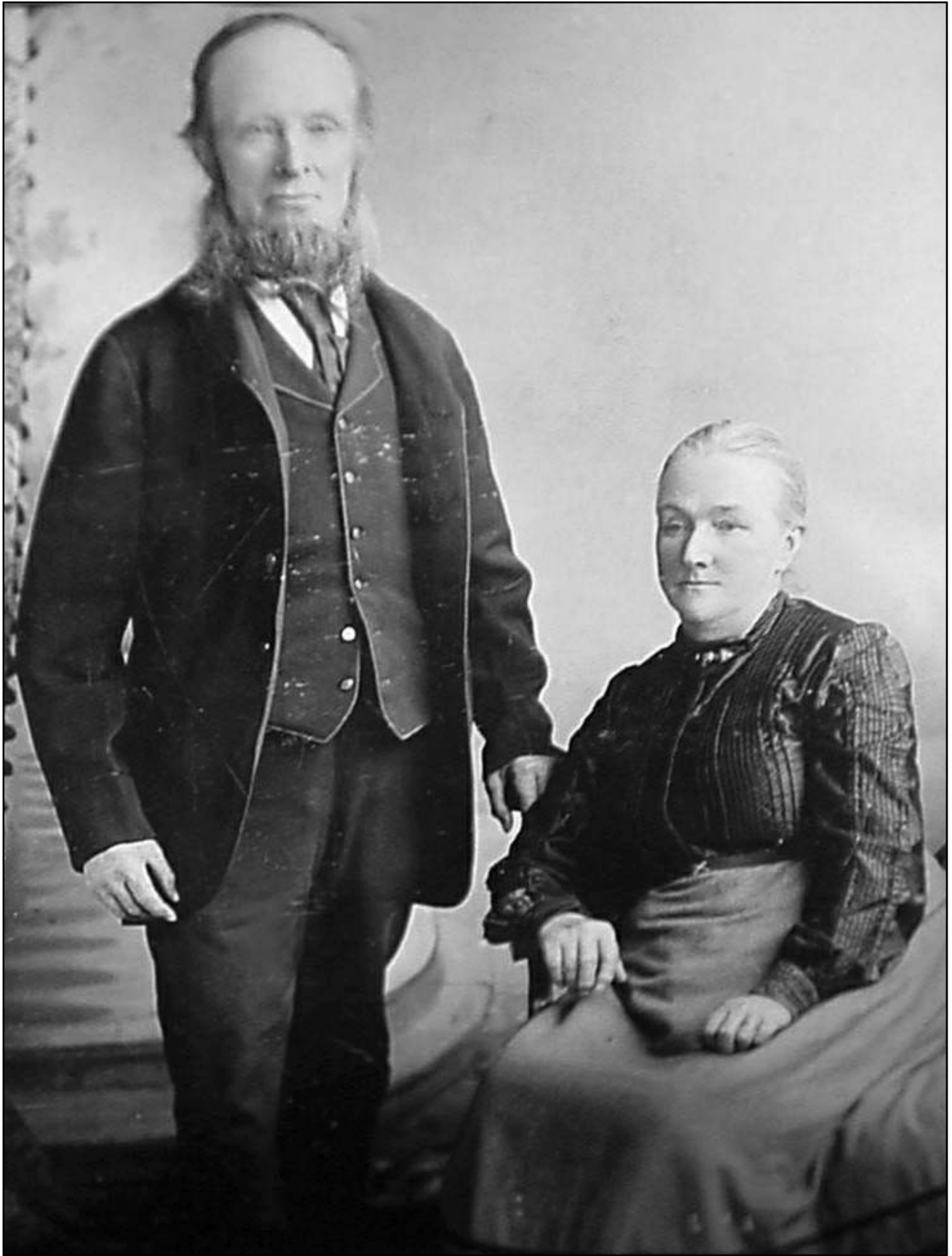
The Last Will and Testament of Benjamin Stephenson

This is the last will and testament of me Benjamin Stephenson of Farnley in the borough of Leeds in the County of York, farmer.

I hereby revoke all wills and testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me and declare this to be my last will. I bequeath to my dear wife Grace all the furniture, linen, china, pictures and other articles of household use in or about my dwelling house at the time of my decease for and during the term of her natural life and after her decease I direct my trustees to convert the same into money and divide the proceeds thereof as herein after directed. I devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate whatsoever unto and to the use of my two sons Joseph Stephenson of Farnley aforesaid, labourer, and Henry Stephenson of the same place, farmer, their heirs, executors and administrators according to the nature and tenure thereof upon trust that the said Joseph Stephenson and Henry Stephenson or the survivor of them or the executors or administrators of such survivor (hereinafter referred to as "the said trustee or trustees") shall sell, call in, collect or otherwise convert into money such parts of the said trust premises as shall not consist of ready money and shall out of the monies to arise from such a sale calling in collection and conversion and the ready money of which I shall die possessed at my death pay my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts and shall invest the residue of the said monies in the name or names of the said trustees or trustee in or upon any of the public stocks or funds or government securities of the United Kingdom or upon freehold, copyhold, leasehold or other real securities in England or Wales or in or upon the shares, stocks or securities of any company or corporation whether commercial, municipal, local or otherwise carrying on business or constituted for any purpose in the United Kingdom. And may vary the said stocks, funds, shares and securities at their or his discretion and out of the income thereof and the investments for the time being representing the same, shall pay to my said wife during her life the sum of ten shillings per week and shall divide the residue of such income into ten equal parts and shall pay one tenth part of the residue to my daughter Emma, the wife of William Ingleson, for her sole and separate use, one other tenth part thereof to my daughter Mary for her sole and separate use, one other tenth part thereof to my son Joseph, one tenth part to the children of my deceased son Thomas for their maintenance and education, one other tenth part thereof to the children of my deceased son William for their maintenance and education, one other tenth part thereof to my daughter Ann for her own and separate use, one other tenth part of the residue of such income to my son Edward, one other tenth part thereof to my daughter Hannah for her sole and separate use, one other tenth part thereof to my son Henry and the remaining tenth part of the residue of such income to the children of my deceased daughter Sarah for their maintenance and education, and after the death of my said wife my said trustees or trustee shall hold the said trust premises together with the money to arise from the sale of my household furniture upon trust as to one tenth part thereof for my said daughter Emma for her sole and separate use and as to another tenth part thereof for my daughter Mary for her sole and separate use and as to another tenth part thereof for my son Joseph and as to another tenth part thereof for the children of my deceased son Thomas in equal shares as and when they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years and as to another tenth part thereof for the children of my deceased son William in equal shares as and when they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years and as to another tenth part thereof for my daughter Ann for her sole and separate use as to another tenth part thereof to my said son Edward and as to another tenth part thereof to the children of my deceased daughter Sarah in equal shares as and when they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years and I appoint my said sons Joseph and Henry Executors of this my will. In witness whereof I the said Benjamin Stephenson have to this paper set my hand this sixth day of May One thousand eight hundred and eighty seven

Signed: Benjamin Stephenson Proved at Wakefield 16th October 1888

£839.9.7. gross value £808.1 4. net value



Joseph and Elizabeth Stephenson

Henry's children

Benjamin's youngest son Henry didn't marry until after his father's death in October 1888. He married Sarah Jane Clayton three month later on 23rd January 1889. They took over the running of Barker's Well Farm and had six children.

Their first child was Benjamin, born on the 14th of November 1889, followed by Florrie, on the 9th of December 1890. Albert was born on the 12th of October 1891, then Eddie, on the 5th of January 1893. Mabel Lillian was born on the 13th August 1894. Their last child, Clive Ernie, was born on the 10th of December 1897.

On the 18th of July 1929, Barkers Well Farm was auctioned. At that time the farm was in Henry's hands but the land was shared with Mathew Scaife. The farm went for £2000. Henry lived at the farm until his death there on the 16th July 1931.

After Henry's death the farm was run by youngest son Clive Ernie. He had married Elsie Cocker on the 14th of September 1918. they had a daughter, Queenie, in 1919. Queenie married Jack Denney on the 29th of April 1943.

Clive Ernie Stephenson died on the 28th of March 1973.

Henry's Eldest son, Benjamin, married Ada Louise Ferrett on the 29th of April 1913. the couple lived in Birstall and their son Colin was born there on the 11th of May 1914. A daughter, Madge, was born on the 28th of April 1917.

Colin married Bessie Irene Wood on Christmas Eve 1938. They had a daughter, Patricia, on the 18th of November 1944.

Madge married Harold Leslie Collins on the 21st of September 1944. A son, Roy, was born on the 20th of July 1945. A daughter Pamela followed on the 7th of December 1949.

Benjamin died on the 24th of November 1970 at Fieldhead in Birstall. Ada died on the 24th of September 1992.

Henry's daughter Florrie married Robert Downs on the 28th of August 1912. He died on the 5th of July 1964. Florrie died on the 19th of December 1966.

Albert married Gladys Brooks, she died May 1979.

Eddie married Kitty Martha Brighton. They had a daughter, Bernadette.

Mabel Lillian married Harry Dunwell, born 1890, on the 11th of February 1920. They had a daughter, Connie, who married Edward Broomhead.

LOT 39.
(Plan No. 2).

A Compact **SMALL FARM**
KNOWN AS

Barker Well Farm

LAWNS LANE, NEW FARNLEY,

and comprising **39a. 1r. 0½p.**, including the Homestead, Cottage and Out-buildings.

The FARM HOUSE contains living room, sitting room, kitchen, two bedrooms and cellar and the FARM BUILDINGS comprise a mistal for eight beasts, barn over cart shed, piggeries, etc.

SCHEDULE.

No. on Ordnance Plan.	Description.	Tenant.	Acreage. A. R. P.
I44	Homestead	Henry Stephenson	0 1 39½
I47	Pasture	do.	4 2 27½
I41	Arable	do.	8 0 34½
I48	Pasture	do.	5 2 35
244	Arable	Matthew Scaife	3 0 0
243	Meadow	do.	5 2 22
I45	Arable	do.	7 1 19
I46	Meadow	do.	3 2 15
	Site of tram track (disused)	do.	0 2 8
			39 1 0½

RENTALS.

Mr. Henry Stephenson (apportioned) .. £33 0 0 February tenancy
Mr. Matthew Scaife (do.) .. £25 0 0 do.

£58 0 0

OUTPAYMENTS.—Rectorial Tithe (commuted) .. £10 0 1
Vicarial Tithe (do.) .. £0 9 5
Land Tax £0 3 4

Joseph's children



John Robert Stephenson



Mary Hannah Stephenson

Joseph and Elizabeth's eldest daughters, Grace and Mary Hannah were single and living at home at 2, Forge Row in April 1881. In March 1901, a grandson, Harry Walker aged 16, is shown at the family's home at Barker's Well Cottage. Both of the elder daughters had left home by then. Grace had married miner Enoch Walker at St Peters Leeds in late 1883 but died after Henry's birth on 11th November 1884 aged only 20 at 13 Long Row. She is buried with John Walter. Enoch quickly remarried a few months later and Harry can be found with his father in the 1891 census at Gildersome.

The 1911 census shows daughter Mary Hannah resident again, with the surname Currie, filling out the census form for the family. According to her entry, she had married about 1894 and was childless. It is said that she emigrated to South Africa. The marriage must have taken place there as there is no record in the UK.

Walter married on the 17th of April 1897 to Eliza Ann Craven. He died on 31st October 1907, she on 4th November 1906.

John Robert married on the the 22nd of April 1905 to Emma Jane Barrass, daughter of miner Absalom. Martha Ann Stephenson and Hubert Gaunt were witnesses. They had three children, Margaret was first, born the 3rd of July 1907. Then came Reginald, born on the 19th of June 1909. Winnie was born much later, in 1920.

Martha Ann Stephenson married Hubert Horace GAUNT (see Gaunt) at Farnley on the 24th of June 1905. The couple lived at Barkers Well Cottage. Son Clive was born on 17th January 1906, then Cyril, on the 26th August 1908. Martha Ann died a week later on the 3rd of September.

Martha Ann's elder sister Jane, took responsibility for Clive and Cyril and in 1914, married Hubert Horace. In later life Jane lived at Silver Royd Hill and died there around 1950.

71.	Lawrence Lane	1				Henry Stephenson	Head	M	44	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness
	(Barkers Well Cottage)					Sarah J. Do	Wife	M	39	✓		
						Ben Do	Son	M	11	✓		
						Horrie Do	Daughter		10	✓		
						Albert Do	Son		9	✓		
						Eddie Do	Son		8	✓		
						Mabel L. Do	Daughter		6	✓		
						Thos. E. Do	Son		3	✓		
72.	Lawrence Lane	1				Joseph Stephenson	Head	M	40	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness
	(Barkers Well Cottage)					Elizabeth Do	Wife	M	35	✓		
						Thos. Do	Son	S	25	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness
						Freddie Do	Son	S	23	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness
						John P. Do	Son	S	21	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness
						Martha A. Do	Daughter	S	18	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness
						Harry Waller	Grandson	S	16	✓	Farmer	Barrow-in-Furness

1901 census showing the families of Henry and Joseph Stephenson



Clara Stephenson



Jane Stephenson

In 1901, Freddy Stephenson married Ellen Appleyard at Bramley Register Office. They had son Herbert on 16th December that year, followed by Jane, Tom, Arthur then Eva.

Herbert married Mary Ann Smithson at St. Pauls in Morley on 26th December 1929. They had son Trevor on the 15th October 1930 and a daughter, Shirley.

Trevor married Irene Bennett and they had children Keith Graham on 20th Feb 1955 and Denise Lorraine on the 13th July 1959.

Keith married Margaret Cutting and they had two daughters, Nichola Ann on the 25th November 1980, and Natalie Jayne, born 7th January 1983.

Thomas' children

Alfred, son of Thomas and Elizabeth, married Sophia. Their daughter Edith died in infancy. they had a son, Jacky, in 1906.

Jacky married Renee Bentley on the 12th of April 1933.

Alfred died on the 25th April 1932 and Sophia on 3rd March 1959. They are buried at Oldfield Lane cemetery in Wortley.

Oswald Stephenson married Eva Horsley on the 30th of April 1907 at Farnley. They had daughter Nellie in 1908 but she died and was buried on 31st of August 1915. A son, Leonard, was born on the 9th of June 1910, followed by Thomas on the 12th of November 1911.

Leonard married Doris Baxter on the 17th of May 1937 at St Wilfreds, Harehills, Leeds. A daughter, Christine was born on the 19th of July 1940 followed by a son, Gerald Anthony, born at Cow Close Road Farnley on the 18th of December 1945 and Baptised at Farnley on the 5th of May 1946.
