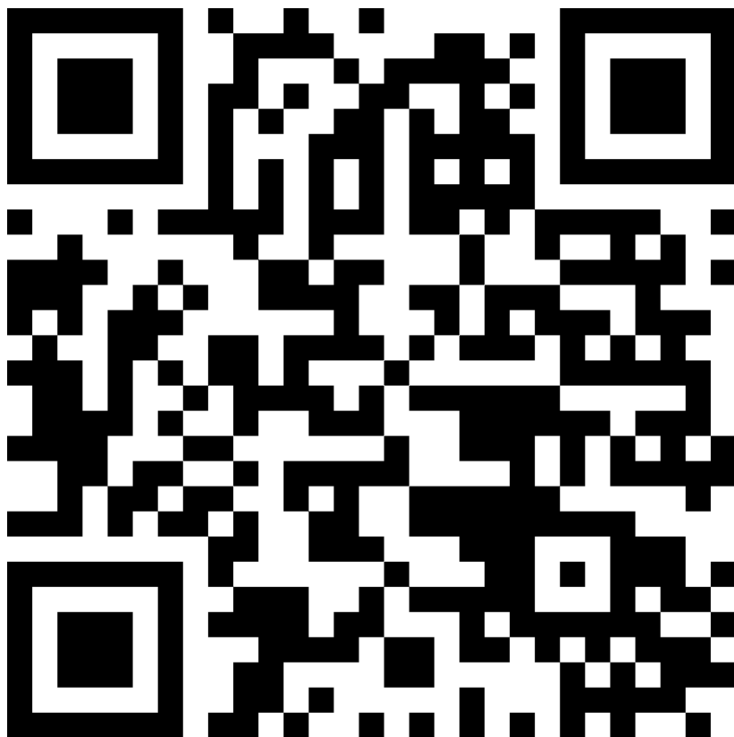


**ICKLETON CEMETERY TOUR FOR THE ICKLETON SOCIETY**

**at 4.00pm on Saturday, 28 September 2024**

**by Miss Emma Easterbrook**

1. A man of ideas and originality: Edwin Bays (1843 – 1909).
2. Ship Shape and Bristol Fashion: Fannie Maria Ewen (1856 – 1917).
3. Most blessed among women: Lina Jael Ward (1873 – 1894)
4. Lil and Lal: Lilian Alice Ann Easton (*née* Rule) (1888 – 1963); and Sarah Jane Roadnight (*née* Rule) (1890 – 1972)
5. A Baker's Dozen: John Turner (1849 – 1906)
6. An Apple for the Teacher: William James Carver (1848 – 1921)
7. The Laughing Policeman: James Gant (1897 – 1953)
8. It's a Long Way to Tipperary: William Flanagan (1851 – 1905)
9. Crime doesn't pay but sometimes it pays to insure
10. The Ship of Dreams: Hilda Mabel Daisy Fox (*née* Cowell) (1886 – 1953)



## 1. **Edwin Bays (1843 – 1909)**

Edwin Bays was born in 1843 in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.<sup>1</sup> He was the fifth of nine children born to Charles Bays (1804 – 1877) and Mary Bays (*née* Bradshaw) (1810 – 1882). Charles was a hatter as was his father (Edwin's grandfather) before him, and he ran his business from 11 King's Parade, Cambridge, for 36 years. When Edwin's father died his older brother, William Bays (1836 – 1885), took over the family business. Edwin's parents together with three of his siblings (William, Agnes Mary, and Charles Frederick) were all buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge.

### *Apprenticeships*

By the time Edwin was 18 years old he was a grocer's apprentice in Broad Street, Eye, Suffolk, for Henry Bishop, a grocer and earthenware dealer. However, by the time he was 25 years old he had returned to Cambridge, and he was apprenticed to Mr William Milner Fawcett MA. F.S.A. F.R.I.B.A (who was buried in Mill Road Cemetery). Edwin was also employed as Clerk of Works at Cambridgeshire County Gaol (which stood on the site of Shire Hall at the top of Castle Street) in 1868. Mr Fawcett had been engaged to carry out a major renovation of the Gaol with a budget of £8,000.<sup>2</sup> A year into his apprenticeship Edwin put forward a plan to extend Peterborough Corn Exchange but unfortunately someone else's plan was selected.

### *Overview of practice*

At the end of his two years' apprenticeship Edwin moved into his own premises at 7 Downing Street. Edwin's practice appears to have been a mix of commissions both non-residential and residential, his own developments, projects for local authorities, appearing as an expert witness/surveyor in court cases, and acting as an agent in the sale or purchase of land both freehold and leasehold. Later in life he also acted as an agent for Hand-in-Hand fire insurance.<sup>3</sup> Throughout his life Edwin maintained offices in both Cambridge and London and his work was focussed in both of those places together with the surrounding villages and suburban areas.

### *Early years of practice*

In his first year of practice Edwin was commissioned to restore St Mary Coslany, Norwich, Norfolk.<sup>4</sup> It is the only surviving example of a round tower church in Norwich, dates from the Anglo-Saxon period, and is now managed by Norwich Historic Churches Trust.<sup>5</sup> In the same

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<sup>1</sup> Any further locations without a reference to a city or county refers to Cambridge or Cambridgeshire.

<sup>2</sup> Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, Saturday, 16 April 1870; Building News, 22 April 1870.

<sup>3</sup> Haverhill Weekly News, 2 November 1889.

<sup>4</sup> CC&J, Saturday, 3 December 1870 & Building News, Friday, 16 December 1870.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/norwichmarycoslany/norwichmarycoslany.htm>

year Edwin advertised plans for cottage hospitals, artisans' dwellings and rural cottages in a local newspaper;<sup>6</sup> he acted as an expert witness in an arson case in Coton<sup>7</sup> and in a committal for attempted murder in Harston;<sup>8</sup> and he was the architect for a villa residence in Newnham Croft for a Mr Floyd and Middleton Cottage, Sidgewick Avenue, for a Mr Dobbs.<sup>9</sup>

In 1872, year two of his practice, Edwin moved to new premises at 5 Sidney Street, where he would stay for the next sixteen years. This coincided with his first major municipal project, which was the new infectious diseases hospital on Mill Road (now Brookfields).<sup>10</sup>

### ***Local arbitration***

Between 1875 and 1876 Edwin entered into a local arbitration with a Mr William Farren.<sup>11</sup> The case had been referred from the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice by an order from Mr Justice Field. Edwin's claim was for '*...£69 18s. 6d., for plans and specifications supplied, and professional attendance rendered...to...William Farren, photographer, of Huntingdon-road and Jesus-lane, in respect of buildings proposed to be erected on a site in Market-street...*'<sup>12</sup> Mr Farren's studio had burnt down hence needing to find another site. Mr Farren approached the Corporation (local authority) and negotiated a lease of forty years at an annual ground rent. It was then that he instructed Edwin to draw up plans for the site. He said that he told Edwin that his budget for the build was £1,200. Also, that he agreed to pay Edwin five guineas if the plans were not accepted by the Corporation but that if they were Edwin could charge the usual commission allowed architects. The Lease Committee accepted the plans. However, after the plans were accepted Mr Farren asked Edwin to make a series of alterations including adding two rooms, which must have seriously increased the costs. Mr Farren and Edwin also visited several studios in London for which Edwin charged the rate sum of 7s. 6d. After the changes to the plans Edwin invited builders to tender for the project, which came in over what Mr Farren said was his budget. Despite efforts at that point to reduce the cost Mr Farren decided not to go ahead with the build and asked Edwin to send in his bill. Mr Farren did not agree with the bill hence the arbitration. The arbitration started on 14 March 1876 before the arbitrator, Mr J Edmiston, at the Guildhall. Mr J. W. Cooper (instructed by Messrs Wallingford and Day, of St Ives), was for Edwin. Mr

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<sup>6</sup> CC&J, Saturday, 21 January & 4 February 1871.

<sup>7</sup> CC&J, Saturday, 25 March 1871.

<sup>8</sup> CC&J, Saturday, 26 August 1871.

<sup>9</sup> Building News, Friday, 11 August 1871.

<sup>10</sup> CC&J, Saturday, 22 June & 13 July 1872.

<sup>11</sup> CIP, Saturday, 11 March 1876; CIP, Saturday, 18 March 1876; CIP & CC&J, Saturday, 25 March 1876; CC&J, Saturday, 20 May 1876; CIP, Saturday, 10 June 1876.

<sup>12</sup> CIP, Saturday, 18 March 1876.

Cockerell (instructed by Messrs Eadens and Knowles), was for Mr Warren. The arbitration lasted until May and involved a number of witnesses from both sides. The arbitrator then adjourned the case to make his findings. In June it was reported that the arbitrator had found in favour of Edwin but disallowed part of his claim.

After his own court case it does not appear that Edwin acted as an expert witness in any other cases.

### ***Later years of practice***

Some of Edwin's projects included a number of works for the surrounding Cambridgeshire villages: additions to the Schools at Duxford (1875),<sup>13</sup> Sawston Cemetery Chapel (1881),<sup>14</sup> and Ickleton Cemetery Chapel (1883).<sup>15</sup> Within the outskirts of Cambridge, he was instructed to carry out a survey of dilapidations for four cottages on Coldham's Lane owned by the Guardians of the Industrial School (1876),<sup>16</sup> and to create an addition to Union Workhouse, Chesterton (1886).<sup>17</sup>

### ***New Chapel for Burial Board Ickleton,***

***Cambs.***

***TO BUILDERS.***

*THE Board require Tenders for Cemetery Chapel. Drawings and Specification may be seen at the offices of Mr. EDWIN BAYS, architect, 5, Sidney-street, Cambridge. Sealed tenders, endorsed Tenders Cemetery Chapel, to be forwarded to the Rev. the Chairman, Vicarage, Ickleton, on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June next. No pledge is given that the board will accept the lowest or any Tender. (By Order.)*

*E. BAYS, Cambridge.*

**Cambridge Independent Press, Saturday, 19 May 1883**

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<sup>13</sup> Cambridge Independent Press, Saturday, 27 February 1875.

<sup>14</sup> CIP, Saturday, 25 June & 2 July 1881.

<sup>15</sup> CIP, Saturday, 19 May and 26 May 1883; Building News, Friday, 29 June 1883.

<sup>16</sup> CIP, Saturday, 13 May 1876.

<sup>17</sup> CIP, Saturday, 29 May 1886.

ICKLETON. – For building cemetery chapel, Ickleton.

Mr. E. Bays, architect:-

<i>Pamment and Co.</i>	...	...	...	£638	0	0
<i>Mills</i>	...	...	...	417	0	0
<i>Kidman</i>	...	...	...	345	0	0
<i>Doe</i>	...	...	...	337	0	0
<i>Wiffen</i>	...	...	...	325	0	0
<i>Pate</i>	...	...	...	299	0	0

### **Building News, Friday, 29 June 1883**

He also continued to appear as an expert witness including for the case of Mann v Ellison (1875),<sup>18</sup> and a fire in Waterbeach (1876)<sup>19</sup>, but as stated above after 1876 he does not appear to have appeared in any further cases.

Some of Edwin's own developments included offering leaseholds on properties on Mill Road junction with Tenison Road (1881),<sup>20</sup> offering a lease on 1 Mortimer Road (1883),<sup>21</sup> offering a parcel of land on Huntingdon Road for sale for allotments (1897),<sup>22</sup> and offering to let or sell 8-room villas in Owlstone Croft (1906).<sup>23</sup>

### ***Personal life***

In his personal life Edwin was described as ‘...*extremely retiring in disposition, and mixing seldom, if ever, with his fellow men in social life...*’<sup>24</sup> However, he formed a relationship with Jeannette Prime (1850 – 1904). Jeanette was born in Thriplow. Her parents were Benjamin Prime (1801 – 1884) and Mary Prime (*née* Pluck) (1805 – 1881). Her father was a sawyer. Jeanette was the youngest of their eleven children. By the time she was 10 years old she was living with her married eldest sister, Mary Ling (*née* Prime) (1836 – 1839), in Haslingfield. At the age of 21 years old she was still living with her sister but she was calling herself Jeanette Bays. In the 1881 census Edwin and Jeanette were listed as living at Rose

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<sup>18</sup> CIP, Saturday, 7 August 1875.

<sup>19</sup> CIP, Saturday, 7 August 1875.

<sup>20</sup> CIP, Saturday, 30 April 1881.

<sup>21</sup> CIP, Saturday, 27 November 1883.

<sup>22</sup> CC&J, Friday, 6 August 1897.

<sup>23</sup> Bromley Journal and West Kent Herald, Friday, 30 November 1906.

<sup>24</sup> Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 3 December 1909.

Cottage, London Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. It was not until 1892 that the couple officially married in Liverpool, Lancashire.<sup>25</sup>

In the couple of years leading up to the time of Edwin and Jeanette's marriage Edwin changed his Cambridge premises three times from 5 Sidney Street to 10 Rose Crescent (1889), King's Parade (1890), and then finally settled at 61 St Andrew's Street (1892) where he would stay until the last few years of his life. His last address from about 1907 was 45 Regent Street. It is more difficult to trace his London addresses. In 1875 he was based at 27 Villiers Street, between 1900 and 1905 he was certainly based at 4 – 5 Stonecutter Street, and in 1909 16 South Place.

### ***Local reforms and politics***

Edwin was also keen to progress local reforms and appears to have been the Victorian equivalent of a Freedom of Information requester writing numerous lengthy letters in the Cambridge newspapers not only on ways to improve planning but also commentary on what local rates were spent. His letters ranged from suggesting manholes be added whilst test holes were being made in any event to ascertain depth and condition of sewers (1887),<sup>26</sup> opposing the proposed use of Hobson's Conduit as a toilet (then situated in Market Square) (1891),<sup>27</sup> what the Treasurer's accounts of the Town Council of Cambridge revealed about its spending of local rates (1893),<sup>28</sup> proposal for a new street between Downing College and Market Hill to alleviate traffic down Petty Cury (1894),<sup>29</sup> complaint about Surveyor's Office not being open regularly during working hours (1894),<sup>30</sup> commenting on a proposed new cemetery (1896),<sup>31</sup> and a proposal for a light railway between Cambridge and Cottenham to transport agricultural produce and stock (1899).<sup>32</sup> In London he proposed a new street to prevent any destruction of the Whitgift Hospital, Croydon (1905), which was published in the local newspaper complete with a draft drawing.<sup>33</sup> Sadly, only his campaign to prevent the use of Hobson's Conduit as a toilet appears to have been successful.

It was also said about Edwin that, '*...[u]nlike his father, Mr. Edwin Bays never took any active part in either political or municipal affairs...*', but this was not strictly true. He ran for

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<sup>25</sup> Jeanette Prime and Edwin Bays, Q1 1892, Liverpool, Lancashire, Vol 8b, p295.

<sup>26</sup> CC&J, Friday, 19 August 1887.

<sup>27</sup> CC&J, Friday, 8 May 1891.

<sup>28</sup> SWWN, Friday, 10 February 1893.

<sup>29</sup> Cambridge Daily News, Tuesday, 27 February 1894.

<sup>30</sup> CDN, Saturday, 28 July 1894.

<sup>31</sup> SWWN, Friday, 23 October 1896.

<sup>32</sup> CDN, Thursday, 6 July 1899; SWWN, Friday, 7 July 1899.

<sup>33</sup> Croydon Guardian and Surrey County. Gazette, Saturday, 8 July 1905.

local election at least three times but was never successful: Stevenage (1889),<sup>34</sup> St Matthew's Ward, Cambridge (1894),<sup>35</sup> and Cambridge Borough (1898).<sup>36</sup>

Edwin died on 23 November 1909 at 45 Regent Street. His obituary gives an insight into Edwin's life:

***THE LATE MR. EDWIN BAYS.***

*The death of Mr. Edwin Bays, which occurred on Tuesday of last week, at the age of 66, has occasioned sincere regret among the circle of old inhabitants of Cambridge who have known deceased and his family for many years. Personally, Mr. Bays was not known to a great many of the present generation. Eccentric and extremely retiring in disposition, and mixing seldom, if ever, with his fellow men in social life, Mr. Bays never made many friendships, and during recent years, at any rate, his life has been that of a recluse. Even with the members of his own family he held but little communications for many years. As an architect, practising both in Cambridge and London, Mr. Bays divided his time between the two places, and it was in Cambridge, at his Regent-street offices, that his last days were spent.*

*Mr. Bays was a native of Cambridge, and was the son of the late Mr. Chas. Bays, who formerly carried on business as a hatter on King's parade. Mr. Chas. Bays was a well-known figure in Cambridge, sat for many years on the Town Council, and was known as staunch Tory and member of the Church of England. Unlike his father, Mr. Edwin Bays never took any active part in either political or municipal affairs. True, he did on one occasion seek to gain election as a Town Councillor, but he was defeated, and never confronted the electors as a candidate again. He received his early training as an architect with the late Mr. Fawcett and after he went into practice for himself gave evidence of considerable ability, and prepared the plans for many of the houses erected in the comparatively modern parts of Cambridge.*

*He was a man of ideas and originality, and on one occasion he prepared plans to provide a more direct route from the railway station to Market-hill. According to these plans, which were published in the "Cambridge Daily News," the proposed new street would have been constructed to run from Downing-street right over the site of the Old Corn Exchange. One of the advantages claimed by Mr. Bays for his plans was that the traffic in Petty-cury would have been relieved. The project, however, was never taken up by the authorities. Mr.*

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<sup>34</sup> Herts Advertiser, Saturday, 12 January 1889; Herts & Cambs Reporter & Royston Crow, Friday, 18 January 1889.

<sup>35</sup> Herts and Cambs Reporter & Royston Crow; CIP & CC&J, Friday, 26 October 1894.

<sup>36</sup> Herts & Cambs Reporter & Royston Crow; CIP, Friday, 11 March 1898.

*Bays had many other ideas for local reforms, and within the last month had promised to embody them in an article for the "Cambridge Daily News."*

*Mr. Bays was a widower, his wife having predeceased him by some four or five years, and he leaves no family. Although his life was spent to a great extent in retirement, there are not a few Cambridge residents who look back with pleasure upon long chats with the old architect, who had decided views upon religious and political subjects, although he never expressed them in public. At the back of eccentric behaviour, too, there lurked a kindly disposition, and if he had few friends he had still fewer enemies.*

*The funeral took place on Friday afternoon, the deceased being buried in Thriplow Church-yard, in the same grave in which the late Mrs. Bays was interred a few years ago. The Vicar of St. George's Church, Thriplow, officiated. The chief mourners included Mrs. Moore (sister), Mr. Bays, Cambridge (nephew), and Mrs. Bays (sister-in-law). There were no floral tributes except those sent by the family.*

*The arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. Brignell, of Newmarket-road.*

**Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 3 December 1909**

## 2. **Ship shape and Bristol fashion: Fannie Maria Ewen (1856 – 1917)**

When I joined findagrave as a volunteer the first photo request for this cemetery that popped up was for a Fannie Maria Ewen. I noticed that she had been baptised in Bristol and had died in London. I also found a brief reference to her inquest, which stated:

*'patient was walking in the Park, when she became suddenly faint, dropped her handbag and umbrella, walked on a short distance and was then forced to sit down. She rapidly became unconscious and was carried into hospital.'*

This is her story. Fannie was born in 1856 off the coast of Madagascar on a ship which was en route between England to Australia. She was the eldest of five children born to Frederick Ewen (1825 – 1873) and Frances Julia Ewen (*née* Patterson) (1830 – 1915). Her father was a Master Mariner and the captain of the ship; and her mother was the daughter of William Patterson, possibly the most famous ship builder of his time and the ship builder, who turned Isambard Kingdom Brunel's ideas into reality.

One of Fannie's cousins recorded her memories of their grandfather in the 1920s and remembered:

*'his happy home life and his indulgence of his children and grandchildren.'*

And for a time, Fannie and her family lived with her grandfather. Sadly, over the following years Fannie's family life changed for the worse. Her grandfather's ships lost money and he eventually went bankrupt. Then her father had his Mariner's Certificate confiscated whilst his conduct was investigated by the Board of Trade. Within a few years both her grandfather and her father had died in straitened circumstances. Meanwhile, aged 15, Fannie had begun working as a Governess in various locations in the West Country but by the time she was 46 years old she had become a dressmaker. Then in the 1911 census Fannie was living alone in Ashdon, Saffron Walden and had no occupation. By 1916 she was living at Druid Cottage in Ickleton.

Today Fannie's grandfather's SS Great Britain is the number one attraction in Bristol so if you visit it remember that the ship builder's granddaughter was an Ickleton resident and like his granddaughter he is also buried in an unmarked grave after falling on hard times.

3. **Most blessed among women: Lina Jael Ward (1873 – 1894)**

This is the first grave that stood out for me because of its design and in particular the decoration within the oval. The lily of the valley symbolises innocence, purity, and renewal. Jael is an unusual name, and I found that Lina's paternal aunt was called Jael. Jael is known as the most blessed of women as she assassinated Sisera, a general of King Jabin of the Canaanites.

Lina Jael Ward was born in 1873 in Ickleton. She was baptised at St Mary Magdalene on 16 March 1874. She was the 7<sup>th</sup> of eight children born to Samuel Ward (1834 – 1912) and Mary Ward (*née* Rowlingson) (1840 – 1917). Lina's father was a farm labourer and the family lived on Abbey Street. By the time she was 17 years old Lina was working as a housemaid and domestic servant at The Grove, North Road, Whittlesford. The Head of the household was Emma Wallis, a widow and Governess, with seven boarders. Three years later Lina was working as a domestic servant for the Pedley family at The Haven, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey. The Head of the household was George Pedley, a dentist. He was married with 12 children. On 22 December 1894 Lina died of a stomach ulcer. Her inquest was held on 24 December in Sutton and her body returned to Ickleton. Her younger brother, John, was buried with her in 1948. The rest of her family who were buried in this cemetery were buried in unmarked graves. This is not the only beautiful monument dedicated to a child in this cemetery where the rest of the family have unmarked graves. Where did the money come from?

*WANTED, GENERAL SERVANT, strong, active, cleanly person; good plain cook; early riser; very little washing. Apply, Mrs. Fairless, The Haven, Sutton, Surrey.*

**Croydon Express, Saturday, 23 March 1889**

*WILKINSON – PEDLEY. – Nov. 16, at the Town Church, Rangoon, by the Bishop, Randolph John Wilkinson, of Rangoon, to Sarah Ann (Susie), second daughter of Mr. George Pedley, of Railway Approach, London Bridge, and The Haven, Sutton, Surrey.*

**Wallington & Carshalton Herald, Saturday, 2 December 1893**

4. **Lil and Lal: Lilian Alice Ann Easton (*née* Rule) (1888 – 1963); and Sarah Jane Roadnight (*née* Rule) (1890 – 1972)**

William Rule (1864 – 1921) and Jane Rule (*née* Buzzard) (1867 – 1944) married in St Ive's, Cambridgeshire, in 1884. William was from Hilton and Jane was from Chatteris. They had sixteen children: 10 boys and 6 girls. The couple settled in Ickleton after their marriage in Frogge Street. William, like his father William Rule senior, was a blacksmith. The eldest three sons also became blacksmiths, and the rest became a cattleman, farm labourer, plumber, agricultural mechanic heavy worker, farm worker steam engine driver, builder's labourer, and bricklayer respectively. At least four of the daughters went into service. Half of the children left Ickleton, although some of those remained within Cambridgeshire. Two of the girls' stories stood out for me:

Lilian Alice Ann Rule was the 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter and 3<sup>rd</sup> child born on 19 February 1888. By the age of 13, Lil's was a live-in domestic servant in Sawston. Can you guess the famous local connection? The owner of the house was an auctioneer and valuer. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of five generations who would go on to live in that house. The house is at No 68 High Street. Today that house and its garden is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The name of Lil's employer was Alfred James Challis. His granddaughter and the last of the five generations was Mary Challis. Meanwhile, Lil eventually made her way to Croydon, London, and married a hot water fitter, William Gold Easton, in 1909. They had two sons: Reginald John (1908 – 1989); and Albert W (1914 - ?).

Sarah Jane Rule was the next child after Lilian born on 1 November 1890 and like her older sister went into service. In the 1911 census, aged 21, she was a live-in servant at Winchester Lodge, Winchester Road, Walton-on-Thames, London. The head of the household was a Charles John Fletcher, a member of the London Stock Exchange, Registrar to Trustees, and Manager of the same. He had been married to Constance Fletcher for nine years, but they had no children. Later that year Sarah returned to Ickleton.

***“MANSLAUGHTER.”***

***Verdict Against a Young Mother.***

***SAD VILLAGE STORY.***

*At Ickleton on Friday evening the adjourned inquest on the body of the unnamed male child of Sarah Jane Rule, single woman, daughter of William Rule, of Ickleton, was resumed before the County Coroner (Mr. A. J. Lyon).*

*At the last hearing the mother of the girl, Jane Rule, wife of William Rule, blacksmith, said on the morning of the August [1]6<sup>th</sup>, at 10.30, she found the body of a newly-born male child in a pail. The pail stood in an outhouse, and was covered with a cloth. She had to move some of the children's old clothes before she could see it. She went up to her daughter, Sarah Jane, who was sleeping with her sister Ellen, and said "What do you mean by deceiving me like this?" She replied, "Don't tell father; let me come down to dinner." She sent for Dr. Edwards, and on his advice informed the police. The girl had got up at 6.30 that morning and witness had noticed that she looked very queer. Five weeks ago, when the girl came home from service, witness asked if she was in trouble, and she denied it. She also denied it in front of Dr. Edwards, jun.*

*At the same hearing Dr. Frank Edwards, of Sawston, said he made a post mortem examination of the child. Its lungs were fully inflated, and it had a separate circulation, and a separate existence from the mother. The cause of death was neglect. There were no signs of suffocation and no external marks of violence. The child had clearly been born alive and would probably have lived had it received proper attention. The shock of the body being doubled up in the pail might have caused death.*

*The Coroner informed the girl Sarah Jane Rule that the inquest had been adjourned to give her an opportunity of giving evidence, but as she was not legally represented he would advise her to say nothing at present.*

*Dr. Kenelm Cobham Edwards, of Stapleford, who was away on the last occasion and could not give evidence, said he went to Mrs. Rule's house on August 16<sup>th</sup> in response to a message. He was shown the body of a male child in a pail. He formed no opinion as to whether the child had had a separate existence. The body was lying in the pail with the head downwards and doubled up. He examined the body, but found no marks of violence. He advised Mrs. Rule to communicate with the police. He afterwards attended Sarah Jane Rule and found she had been delivered of a child shortly previous. He could not say when within a day or two. It might have been that morning. She said nothing to him about the child. About a month before he saw Sarah Jane Rule in the presence of her mother. He had then been consulted about a swelling of the girl's ankles. He did not remember what was said at the interview.*

*The Coroner: Do you remember what else you were consulted about? What questions you were asked? – I don't think I am called upon to give evidence relating to this. I don't remember anything being said about her probable pregnancy.*

*Supt. Stapleton: Would the position of the body in the pail contribute towards the child's death? – Yes, it would certainly impede respiration.*

*The Coroner, addressing the Jury, said if they accepted the evidence of Dr. Edwards, sen., there could, of course, be no doubt that the child had a separate existence. All along the girl denied to her mother and sister that she was in trouble, and her speech to her mother on the*

*morning of the birth when she was taxed with it, "Don't tell father; let me come down to dinner," was consistent with this. It must, therefore be clear that she intended to conceal the birth of the child. If they thought that she deliberately made up her mind to conceal the birth of the child, and in doing so neglected it in such a manner as to cause its death, the only course open to them was to return a verdict of manslaughter. He thought, fortunately, there was no evidence of murder. To return a verdict of murder they would have to be satisfied that the mother wilfully, wickedly, and of malice aforethought killed the child, and there was no evidence of that. There were no marks of violence, and no evidence that the mother took any measures to cause the child to be born dead. Upon that he thought they could honestly give her the benefit of the doubt, but if they thought that in her endeavour to conceal the birth of the child she neglected it in such a manner as to cause its death, then they must return a verdict of manslaughter.*

*The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. The girl then exclaimed, "My intention was to go up to London for the child to be born."*

*The Coroner: You had much better say nothing, as you are not legally represented. I advise you not to say anything now.*

*The girl was bound over in the sum of £50, and in her father's surety for the same amount, to come up for trial.<sup>37</sup>*

#### **ICKLETON MOTHER ACQUITTED**

*Sarah Jane Rule, aged 21, domestic servant, of Ickleton, was indicted for feloniously killing her male child at Ickleton on August 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*The Grand Jury returned no true bill for felony, but a true bill for misdemeanour.*

*Mr North, for the prosecution, said he had come to the conclusion upon examining the evidence that he would not be justified in proceeding with an indictment of manslaughter, and would proceed only upon the indictment for concealment of birth.*

*His Lordship: I think you are quite right.*

*Mr Raikes (for the defence) said he must ask for a formal verdict of not guilty on the charge of manslaughter.*

*In addressing the jury upon the second indictment, Mr North said he was bound to admit that the pail which contained the child's body did not seem to him to have been permanently hidden, and must have been found some time. If that was the case his impression was that they could not return a verdict of guilty, but he would call the evidence before them.*

*Mrs Jane Rule, wife of Wm. Rule, blacksmith of Ickleton, said that her daughter was in service in London until July, when she came home. Witness suspected her daughter to be in*

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<sup>37</sup> Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 22 September 1911.

*trouble and taxed her with it, but she denied it. On the morning of August 16<sup>th</sup> she said that she had been ill in the night with stomach ache and ascribed it to eating apples. Later witness found the child's body in a pail in an outhouse. The pail was partly covered up with clothes. Her daughter acknowledged to witness that the baby was hers, and she said she was very sorry.*

*Mr North: You have had several children of your own? – Witness: Sixteen, sir.*

*His Lordship said he had known stronger cases than this fall through owing to insufficient evidence. The baby was placed in a position to which people had access.*

*Mr North said there must be circumstances showing that there was a permanent concealment.*

*His Lordship said that somebody was sure to have discovered the child sooner or later.*

*Mr Raikes said there was no dispute in the facts at all.*

*His Lordship said there was no case as a matter of law, and the prisoner was dismissed.*

*Mr Raikes remarked that he had been prepared to prove that an arrangement had been made by this girl with an old friend of her's to take her in at the time of the expected birth. If the event had not occurred a month before the proper time the child would not have been born in that part of the country.<sup>38</sup>*

Three years later in 1914 Sarah married Charles James Alexander Roadnight, a despatch clerk, in Lambeth. They had two children: Charles Alfred (1914 - 1983); and Irene Marjorie Edna (1916 - 2008). Sarah became a grandmother at least four times over.

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<sup>38</sup> Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 20 October 1911.

5. **A Baker's Dozen: John Turner (1849 – 1906)**

John was born in 1849 in Great Chesterford, Essex. He was the youngest of three children born to George Turner (1813 – 1882) and Maria Turner (*née* Webb) (1811 - ?). He was baptised at All Saints, Great Chesterford, on 15 July 1849. His father was an agricultural labourer and the family lived at 10 High Street. On 6 November 1870 John married Elizabeth Marking (*née* Davey) (1837 – 1898) at St John, Stratford, Essex. They had four children: Frederick Charles (1871 – 1938); Arthur John (1873 – 1927); Nellie Maria (1875 – 1937); and Mary Rebekah (1877 – 1955). John had become a baker and was based in Carmen Street, Great Chesterford. A couple of years after his marriage the family had moved to Abbey Street, Ickleton. Then in 1898 John's wife died, aged 57 by which time all of the children had left home. John became a Postman.

***POSTMAN KILLED ON THE  
RAILWAY  
AT ICKLETON.***

*The County Coroner (Mr. A. J. Lyon) held an inquest at the village constable's house at Ickleton, on Monday afternoon, relative to the death of John Turner, aged 57, the Ickleton postman, who was found on the railway line on Saturday evening.*

*P.c. William Huckle, stationed at Ickleton, said that at 6 p.m. on Saturday he heard of an occurrence on the G.E.R. line. He went there, and near Shipp's crossing he saw the body of the deceased scattered along the line. He examined the clothing, and found in a pocket a label, on which was written deceased's name and address. He also found in his pocket a copy of a weekly paper. A piece had been torn out, and afterwards witness received from Frederick Shipp a piece of paper which fitted the space. On the small piece of paper was written, "Love to all. I can't meet Nell any more. Forgive me for what I have done. – J.T." Witness had known the deceased for 3 ½ years, and had noticed nothing peculiar in his manner or temperament. He knew of no business which would take the deceased near the railway line at that time.*

*James Buxton, farm labourer, of Ickleton, said that at 5.30 on Saturday he saw the deceased on the footpath by the railway line, about 160 yards from the crossing. They had some conversation, and witness saw no more of him. He had never seen the deceased there before.*

*Samuel Flack, licensed victualler, of Ickleton, said the deceased had half a pint of ale in his house on Saturday afternoon, and left at five o'clock [Duke of Wellington]. Deceased seemed quite in his usual health. He had been despondent of late, and had complained of his health. He was subject to fainting fits. He knew no reason why the deceased should go to Shipp's crossing.*

*Frederick Shipp, of the Gatehouse, Ickleton, foreman platelayer on the G.E.R., said that at 5.40 p.m. on Saturday he saw deceased walking by the side of the line. He did not speak, and walked quite straight. Witness heard a train coming, and saw the deceased still walking by the side of the line. He did not speak, and walked quite straight. He shouted, but instead of getting out of the way the deceased took three steps towards the line, at the same time looking at the approaching train. The deceased paused a second, and then bent down towards the train and was run over. It appeared to witness that deceased deliberately put himself under the train. Witness had not seen deceased there for eight or nine years, except when he brought letters, and then he did not cross the line. Witness added that he found the newspaper cutting referred to by the constable a few yards from where the deceased was killed.*

*Nellie Maria Turner, of Ickleton, said the deceased was her father, and she had been living with him. He had not been well for a long time, but he had not been medically attended. She had not heard him threaten to commit suicide, but he had been rather low spirited. Deceased could not hear well, though his sight was good.*

*The Jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind.*

**Cambridge Independent Press, Friday, 27 July 1906**

Between April 2022 to March 2023 in the UK there were 300 suicide or suspected suicide attempts of which 236 were successful. Railway suicides account for approximately 4% of all suicides. Since 2010 Network Rail has been working with the Samaritans, British Transport Police, and other organisations to try to reduce railway suicides particularly amongst men with the project, 'Tackling Suicide on the Railways'. This is the first study to look at railway suicides since Clarke's study of railway suicides in England and Wales between 1850 and 1949. Between 1850 and 1949 over 10,000 people committed suicide and the rate was very similar to today's trends.

6. **An Apple for the Teacher: William James Carver (1848 – 1921)**

William James Carver was born in 1848 on Cromer Street, London. He was the third of five children born to William Thomas Carver (1816 – 1864) and Abigail Carver (*née* Smith) (1817 – 1902). His father was a hatter. In 1871 William was lodging at 21 Cotton Street, Limehouse, with another schoolmaster. Shortly afterwards he must have moved to Meersbrook, Staffordshire, as on 30 December 1875 William married Julia Emily Hutchings in Trinity Church, Chelsea and this was listed as his address. They had six children: Julia Abigail (1876 – 1951); Thomas William (1878 – 1887); Mary Ellen (1880 – 1947); Henry James (1882 – 1954); Frederick George (1884 – 1949); and Alice Emily (1887 – 1966). By 1878 the family had made the move from Staffordshire to Ickleton where they moved into the school house next to the school. His wife and two daughters worked with him in the school.

In 1887 his eldest son, Thomas, died aged 8 years old. William was present at his death and the cause was listed as an inflammation of the brain, coma, and exhaustion. This was likely to have been meningitis. Six years later William's youngest son, Frederick, won a County Council Scholarship to the Perse Grammar School. Eventually after 35 years as Headmaster in Ickleton School William retired in 1913 but just one year later he was called on to come out of retirement to teach at Great Chesterford school as a result of World War I. He retired again once the war ended and lived out his last few years in Mill Street, Ickleton. As well as being a teacher he had been the church's organist for 42 years, Secretary of the Rifle Club, served on the Parish Council and Church Council and had worked tirelessly to raise money for the church restoration fund by writing to his former scholars.

**ICKLETON.**

*APPOINTMENT.* – Mr. Frederick George Carver, son of Mr. William James Carver, of Ickleton, has just been appointed overseer at Yarmouth Post Office. While a schoolboy under his father he obtained a County Council Scholarship to the Perse Grammar School, Cambridge, where he passed the Civil Service Examination for postal clerkships. He entered Cambridge Post Office as a learner in the Telegraph and Sorting Clerk Departments, and during his stay in that office has passed several examinations in telegraphy etc.

**Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 5 August 1921**

**ICKLETON.**

*CHURCH COUNCIL.* – A meeting of the Church Council was held at the Vicarage last week, when there was a full attendance. In the absence of the Vicar, who was confined to his bed, the chair was taken by Mr. H. F. Beales, who read a letter from Mr. W. J. Carver, saying that owing to serious illness he must resign the office of organist of Ickleton Church. The Chairman

said he was sure everyone regretted Mr. Carver's resignation, and more so the cause. He (the chairman) had known and worked with Mr. Carver in parish work for many years, and he always found him a willing helper. He called to mind the amounts Mr. Carver got in for the Church Restoration Funds by appealing to his old scholars, and he was struck with the esteem he was held by them as was shown by their letters. There was hardly anything put forward for the benefit of the Church or anything in the village. The following vote of sympathy was unanimously passed: "The Church Council of Ickleton desires to express their great regret at the cause of Mr. Carver's resignation of the post of organist, and their great appreciation of all the good work he has done in that capacity for the last 42 years. They assure him of their deep sympathy with him in his sufferings and of their earnest prayers that he may find the fullest support in the abiding presence of the Saviour." The secretary was requested to put a copy of the resolution on the minutes of the meeting, and send a copy to Mr. Carver. The next business was the appointment of a successor. Miss Carver, who has taken her father's place for the last three months, was unanimously appointed. In reply, Miss Carver said she would do her best, under the circumstances, but if she had to attend to her father, someone would have to be found to take her place for the time being. The finances for the half-year were gone through, and considered to be satisfactory. The question of heating the church during next winter was brought up, and it was agreed that the fire should be lighted on Saturday morning, instead of the evening, to see how it would act. Committees were formed for various entertainments to raise funds for the Organ Fund. A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed a successful meeting.

**Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 7 October 1921**

#### **ICKLETON.**

*OBITUARY.* – On Tuesday the death occurred of Mr. W. J. Carver, after several weeks of a painful illness, borne with great patience and Christian fortitude. By his death the village has lost one who was universally esteemed and respected. For over 40 years he was Headmaster of Ickleton School, retiring eight years ago, but during the war he resumed teaching at Great Chesterford School. As secretary for the North Essex Teachers' Association for many years he performed valuable services for the teaching profession. It was with great reluctance that a few months ago he resigned the post of organist at Ickleton Church, a position he had filled for 42 years with great ability. He proved himself an active parish worker, filling the position of secretary of the Cottagers' Horticultural Society, and secretary of the Rifle Club. He was also a member of the Parish Council and Church Council. His genial and kindly disposition made him a wide circle of friends, who greatly deplore his loss. Keen sympathy prevails with the family in their bereavement. The deceased had been a correspondent to this paper for the past 33 years.

**Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 11 November 1921**

7. **The Laughing Policemen: James Gant (1897 – 1953)**

James Gant was born on 4 March 1897 in Poole, Dorset. He was the only surviving son of James Gant senior (1853 – 1927) and Sarah Ann Gant (*née* Taw) (1869 – 1952) and known as Jim. He had three sisters. James senior was a labourer from Essex. Sarah was from Portsmouth and the family seemed to move westwards along the south coast until shortly after James junior's birth they settled in Weymouth. By the age of 14 Jim had left school and was working as a milk vendor. When World War I started he enlisted as Sapper 257 and 621776 in the Royal Engineers (Labour Corps), which was raised in summer 1915 not a million miles away from Weymouth in Southampton shortly after Jim's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. All 11 battalions were sent to France shortly after being raised. Jim was eventually transferred to the Leinster Regiment as Private 5924. In 1917 the Leinster Regiment was sent to Egypt where they remained until 1922.

However, in January 1921 Jim was commissioned as a police constable into the Metropolitan Police and returned to London. In 1923 Jim married Hannah Nancy Hirst in Edmonton. They had three sons: John James (1923 – 2000); Peter Frank (1926 – 2008); and Robert William (1932 – 1986). In 1927 Jim's father died in Weymouth and a year before Jim's second son was born there. Did he know that his father was dying and return to spend time with him? Or with a second baby did they return for additional help? Other than that Jim and his family remained within London including living for a period at Edward Henry House (1938 – 1946). Edward Henry House was one of two purpose-built block of flats in central London for married police constables and their families. The idea being that a) it was difficult to find affordable accommodation in central London and the police needed to be on hand and b) it provided them with a separate environment from the general public. Jim's last address in London was 110 St Martin's Lane where he moved to when he turned 50 in 1947, which may be when he decided to retire from the Metropolitan Police.

Meanwhile, Jim's second son, Peter, had also become a police constable that same year. Peter had spent his first two years of service in the Metropolitan Police before being transferred to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary in 1949 where he served in the Cambridge Divisional Traffic Department and at Soham. In 1953 he was transferred to Ickleton and lived at the Police Station on Church Street. At that point his parents also left London and came to live in Ickleton at 6 Abbey Street (it was later re-numbered to 77 Abbey Street). His youngest son, Robert, also came to live with them before eventually moving to the Nook and Cranny on Church Street. Jim became the Secretary of the Ickleton Football Club at the beginning of the football season in August that year and attended nearly all of the matches. He sadly died on 3 December 1897 and as a mark of respect the Ickleton Football Club cancelled the match immediately after his

death. Peter eventually moved to St Ive's and in 1966 he was promoted to Sergeant and in 1971 Inspector. Robert appears to have remained in Ickleton. Their eldest son, John, was a photo printer and eventually moved to Blackpool.

8. **It's a long way from Tipperary: William Flanagan (1851 – 1905)**

William was baptised on 20 February 1851 at the catholic church, Church of the Sacred Heart, Templemore, Tipperary, Ireland. He was one of at least two children born to William Flanagan senior and Margaret Flanagan (*née* Carroll). William senior was a soldier in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). William followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted, aged 17 years old, as Rf/3214, drummer, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers.

There is a painting, 'Officers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers, Gibraltar', created in c.1844 showing a drummer boy in the background but this was obviously 25 years before William's time.<sup>39</sup>

Six years after William joined the Army, he married Christina Robertson in Portsea, Hampshire. Christina had been born in Bermuda. William and Christina had four children: Christine Clara (1879 – 1954); Florence Annie (1882 – 1957); Hilda Maude (1885 – 1956); and William Ambrose Stanley (1896 – 1966).

Whilst William remained in the Army the family were constantly on the move: Colchester Camp, Essex (1875); Richmond Barracks, Dublin (1876); Lurgan, Northern Ireland (1877); Cork, **Ireland (1878)**; the Defensible Barracks, **Pembroke, Wales (1881)**; Colchester, Essex (1882); **Gibraltar (1884)**; Egypt (1885); India and Pakistan (1888); and **Heston Barracks, Southall (1891)**.<sup>40</sup> By 1891 William had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was discharged on 21 May 1894 and pensioned the following day aged 43 years old. He became a Chelsea Pensioner, but he is likely to have been an out Pensioner rather than an in Pensioner.

By 1896 the family had settled in Little Shelford. William had become the Landlord of the Prince Regent public house. The following year William and his family had moved to the Greyhound, which at the time was part of the parish of Ickleton.<sup>41</sup> He died there in 1905. Five years later there was a snapshot of pubs in Ickleton at the Linton Licensing Meeting held at the Police Court, Linton on 2 February 1910: '...three full, four "on", one beer "off", population 598...'<sup>42</sup> His daughter, Florence, and her husband, Ernest Egg Searle, became the Landlords after William, and ran the pub until the early 1950 before it was demolished and replaced by Plectex in 1989.

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<sup>39</sup> <https://campaignfurniture.com/artwork/officers-of-the-7th-royal-fusiliers-gibraltar>

<sup>40</sup> Emboldened places are locations of where William and Christina's children were born: <https://www.fusiliermuseumlondon.org/download?id=12382>

<sup>41</sup> Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 28 May 1897.

<sup>42</sup> Saffron Walden Weekly News, Friday, 4 February 1910.

9. **Crime Doesn't Pay but sometimes insurance does: John Drew (1847 – 1894)**

John was born in 1847 in Conock, Wiltshire. He was the youngest of seven children born to James Drew (1802 – 1884) and Ann Drew (*née* Coombes) (1797 – 1868). His father was a groom. By the time he was 14 years old he was working as an agricultural labourer. By the early 1870s John had migrated to London and was living in Bethnal Green. He married Harriet Carder (1855 – 1918) on 6 July 1876 in St Mary Magdalene, Ickleton. Harriet had been working as a domestic servant in Lewisham, London. By the time of their marriage John was working as a wine cooper in Bethnal Green. They had two sons: John (1877 – 1944); and Harry (1878 – 1958) in London but by 1881 the family had moved to Ickleton where John became the publican at the New Inn on Brookhampton Street for the next ten years. In the 1891 census he was working as both a bricklayer's labourer as well as being a publican. For whatever reason and it may be because the family were struggling to make ends meet, John decided shortly after 1891 to return to London and work as the caretaker for Broad Street House next to Liverpool Street Station. Broad Street was home to a mix of shops and companies including:

*INFLUENZA IN LONDON.*

*THE very serious consequences, pecuniarily, of protracted and disabling Sickness of all kinds, make timely provision a POSITIVE DUTY.*

*INSURE in the HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (Sickness and Accident) New Broad Street House, 25 – 33, New Broad-street, London.*

*Prospectus on Application.*

*AGENT E. J. TEMPLER,*

*49, Graham Road, Wimbledon,*

*Fire, Life and Plate Glass Agent.*

**Surrey Independent and Wimbledon Mercury, Saturday, 8 February 1890**

John died at Broad Street House on 28 November 1894 after 9 days of flu. His eldest son, also John Drew, was present at his death. Both sons migrated back to London for employment. The eldest, John junior, also became a publican like his father at the Midland Inn, Carrington Street, Nottingham, but like his father left the business and turned to another occupation as a fish hawker. Meanwhile, their mother, John senior's widow, remained in this area and remarried a police pensioner, Stephen Salmon, and settled in Little Chesterford.

10. **The Ship of Dreams: Hilda Mabel Daisy Fox (*née* Cowell) (1886 – 1953)**

My curiosity about this family arose as a result of another findagrave volunteer, who had uploaded a photo of what this grave looked like when it was first erected in 1913. As usual, I did a brief search to try to connect any family members both within this cemetery and outside. This is the story of Minnie's younger sister, Daisy.

Daisy was born on 31 August 1886 in Ickleton. She was the fifth of six children born to John Arthur Cowell (1839 – 1899) and Lucy Cowell (formerly Rumble *née* Clements) (1850 – 1905). Her father was a wheelwright, and the family lived on Hinxtan Street. Her mother was a midwife and laundress. By 1911, aged 24, Daisy was working as one of 12 servants for a Lady Isabella Mary Simeon who lived alone at 19 Wilton Crescent. Shortly afterwards Daisy accepted a new position working for a William Moncrieffe. Moncrieffe along with one his brothers had left Scotland to set up a world class polo pony ranch in Big Horn, Wyoming. At the ranch Daisy met a cowboy called Dorches Oren Fox, who she married the following year and with whom had four children including her eldest who she probably named after her sister, Minnie: Agnes Elsie (1914 – 1996). But Daisy almost never made it to the USA to meet and marry her cowboy.

Daisy told her children that she originally purchased a ticket to travel on the Titanic and that it was originally scheduled to sail from Southampton much earlier. However, Daisy became ill and so she decided to delay her journey and changed her ticket to the Olympic, which was scheduled to set sail the week after the Titanic. Certainly, from looking at the newspaper reports both ships had a series of unexpected teething problems following their launches. In the end the White Star Line authorised the Olympic to set sail on 3 April and the Titanic on 10 April. They also transferred Captain Edward J Smith from the Olympic to the Titanic. Therefore, on 3 April the Olympic set sail under Commander Herbert J Haddock as its Captain and with Daisy aboard travelling by 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Seven days later on 10 April later the Olympic, Commander Haddock, and Daisy arrived safely in New York. That same day the Titanic set sail from Southampton and five days later on 15 April the Titanic sank with over 1,500 casualties, which included 58% of all those in 2<sup>nd</sup> class.