

HENRY EDWARD MEADEN 1855-1918 ALICE JANE BURTON 1854-1923

Both HENRY and ALICE were born in Brighton, HENRY 22nd January 1855, the son of WILLIAM DUGDALE and MARY MEADEN (nee BROWN) with ALICE being born ALICE JANE BURTON in 1854, daughter of JOHN and ALICE BURTON. ALICE was christened on the 29th OCTOBER 1854, at St Peters in Brighton.

They married in St James Church Poole 15th May 1875.

Why did they travel to Poole to marry?

I note that that their first child NELLY was born in Poole, three months later.



HENRY and ALICE had six children-
NELLY, who was born at the Old Orchard Poole, 9th of August 1875,
Died aged four at 16 New York Street Brighton, 5th April 1880, from Measles, Pertussis (whooping cough) and Tubercular Meningitis.



ALICE who was born 8th November 1877, at 16 New York Street Brighton. Unfortunately she only lived for 20 months, dying from convulsions, brought on by Pertussis (whooping cough) on the 30th of July 1879.

Henry and Alice were living only four doors away from Henry's own birth place at 22 New York St.



HENRY EDWARD (HARRY) who was born on the 12th of November 1879 at 16 New York Street Brighton.

The 1891 census states that he had a disability i.e. his eyesight. Kitty Burchell informs me that Harry was severely disabled and as a consequence was unable to read or write. He lived with Laura and her family including Kitty and her parents, firstly at 4 Kingsbury Road and then until his death at 14 St Andrews Road Brighton, 3rd August 1945.

He would sometimes earn a few coppers by selling firewood in and around the local district.



LAURA who was born on the 30th October 1881 at 12 Pound Hill Street Brighton.

At the age of 23, Laura married Arthur Robert Maskell at St Bartholomew's Church Brighton on Christmas Day 1904. Arthur was a machinist by trade according to his marriage certificate, but on Laura's death certificate he is recorded as having been a Coppersmith. This is quite possible, as in times of acute skill shortage, i.e. WWII, many skilled labourers were invited to undertake the necessary training to become craftsmen.

His father Robert Henry Maskell was a Porter in Brighton. Laura and Arthur had a son William who married Ada Reeves. They in turn had two children, Reginald born in Brighton in 1929 and Kitty born 1932.

Kitty married Donald Burchell and had four children.

One son Nigel Ernest is a Fire fighter and is married to Belinda Booking. They have two children Frazer born 1993 and Ruby born 1996.

Kitty remembers with great affection, staying with her uncle Robert and auntie Ethel in Portsmouth before and after the War, and being spoilt by them by being taken to Commercial Rd and having dresses and other items bought for her.

Kitty also has a pair of Brass nutcrackers in the form of ladies legs; she also remembers her grandmother Laura having on her wall the same Aluminium wall casting of Disraeli or Gladstone that we used to own. Henry Edward must have made several, one for each of his children. Joanne now looks after the brass nutcrackers that we had and Marilyn has a copy that I had made in the foundry in the Dockyard.



ROBERT was born on the 8th March 1884, and died on the 29th September 1945.



WILLIAM was the youngest child of Henry and Alice, born in the June Qrt of 1886.

On the 8th of December 1889, when William was only 3 years of age, he caught Pneumonia, and 14 days later (three days before Christmas) on the 22nd December 1889 he died.

The 1881 British Census has the family spelt "MEADON", this type of mistake apparently happened quite often in the 81 census because the persons gathering the information stood at the front door and asked the questions on the census form, and then wrote the answers without asking for the spelling.

HENRY and ALICE lived at 30 Gerard Street, Preston, Brighton, Sussex at the time of the census April 5th 1881.

HENRY at the time was 27 years of age and worked as a Brass/Iron Moulder, at The Brighton Railway Factory.



Henry Edward Meaden died of throat cancer and exhaustion, his daughter Laura, was the recorder of his death at 4 Kingsbury Road Brighton, on the 23rd March 1918.



Alice Jane Meaden died of Chronic Nephritis, (inflammation of the Kidneys) commonly called Bight's Disease, which she had suffered from for eighteen years. This combined with a Cerebral Haemorrhage on the 1st August brought about her death on the 7th August 1923 at 4 Kingsbury Road Brighton.
Laura was also present at her mother's death.



ROBERT WILLIAM HENRY (BOB) told me that his Parents ROBERT and ETHEL would take him and his brother JAMES FREDERICK (FRED) to visit various Aunts and Uncles at Christmas time or when "Pompey" played Brighton.

His favourite story was of Christmas Day 1922 when Pompey played Brighton at the Goldstone in a div 3 game with an attendance of 15000.

Apparently the Pompey team took to the pitch much the worse for drink, and although Pompey kept the score down to 1-2 at half time the goal keeper (Newton.T) became so ill that he kept falling down.

On one occasion he went to lean against the post and missed.

Pompey lost the game 1-7.