

THE LOCK KEEPERS OF BASWICH

EDWIN WALL: ~1873/1875 to ~1885

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This is the story of **Edwin Wall** and his Family who lived at St Thomas' Lock House (Baswich) for about 10 years, from approximately 1873/1875 until about 1885 when they moved to Wightwick Lock House (Tettenhall, Wolverhampton). He was employed by the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Company as the Lock Keeper.

To gain an insight into his Family we will first consider his parents, brothers and sisters, then focus on **Edwin** himself before we look at his children and grandchildren. Let us put ourselves in **Edwin's** position and attempt to understand the complexity of the Family dynamics and the social interactions. Finding reliable information and evidence proved challenging at times.

Do you think this will be a happy story, after all this is the nineteenth century? Will anyone be taking time out in the Workhouse? Or the County Asylum? How do Edwin's siblings fare on the Wheel of Fortune? Could the accident have been avoided? Will Edwin reach old age or will the Grim Reaper come early? How many of Edwin's eight children survive into adulthood? Smallpox, tuberculosis, typhus and diphtheria are ever present; and we mustn't forget scarlet fever should we? No, mustn't forget scarlet fever, or the bad headaches or the intestinal problems? You are right, best have the handkerchief ready, just in case. Look out for "E.T." and a link to the Moon? There's a connection to Gailey Roundhouse too.

Edwin Wall was born on 24 February 1849 at Wood Bank (Penkridge) in Staffordshire. He was the eighth of ten children of Joseph Wall and Ann Wall (née Wright). His father, a labourer, informed the Registrar of the birth on 13 March 1849 and **Edwin** was baptised at St Michael & All Angels Church (Penkridge) on 25 March 1849.

Setting the Scene: Edwin's Parents' Background and Edwin's Siblings

Edwin's father, Joseph Wall, was from Wood Bank (Penkridge). He was the son of Thomas and Sarah Wall and was baptised on 12 December 1813 at St Michael & All Angels Church in Penkridge.

Edwin's mother, Ann/e Wright, came from nearby Huntington (Cannock). She was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Wright and was baptised on 28 November 1813 at St Luke's Church in Cannock.

The couple married on 24 December 1832 at St Luke's Church (Cannock) and over a period of 25 years had ten children – seven boys and three girls.

The couple's first two children were baptised in Cannock: Thomas on 12 May 1833 and William on 29 June 1835. All their other children were baptised in Penkridge at St Michael & All Angels Church: Elizabeth on 31 December 1837, Samuel on 5 April 1840, Jane on 26 June 1842, George on 20 April 1845, Edward on 19 June 1847, **Edwin** on 25 March 1849, Fanny on 25 April 1852 and Joseph on 27 June 1858.

The 1841 Census (6 June) records Joseph (25, an agricultural labourer) and Ann (25) with their four children, Thomas (8), William (5), Elizabeth (3) and Samuel (1), living at Woodbank – in some records "Woodbank" is spelt as two words – "Wood Bank". In this Census, the age of people over 15 was usually rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5.

Sadly, their eldest child Thomas died of "Typhus Fever" later that year (6 December 1841) at the County Infirmary in Stafford. George Crump, the Infirmary Surgeon, was "in attendance" and informed the Registrar on 8 December; Joseph Wall was identified as the father. Thomas was buried the following day. He was eight years old.

Between 1841 and the next Census in 1851 the couple had four children: Jane (1842), George (1845), Edward (1847) and **Edwin** (1849).

Tragically, two more of their children died before **Edwin** was born.

It seems that twelve years old William, a waggoner, was "accidentally killed by a cart wheel" on 17 March 1847 at Teddesley; this probably means he was run over by a waggon and crushed. He was buried the next day at the Parish Church in Penkridge. There was an inquest and the Coroner for Stafford, William Ward, informed the Registrar of the death on 31 March when the death certificate was issued.

Three months later, the couple celebrated the birth of another son whom they named Edward. Their joy was short lived as Edward died aged eight months; he was buried in the Churchyard at Penkridge on 12 March 1848.

In the 1851 Census (30 March) **Edwin was 2** and with his Family at Wood Bank: father Joseph Wall (37, a Farm Labourer), mother Ann (37), and three older siblings: Samuel (11), Jane (8) and George (6).

His sister Elizabeth had left home. Aged 13, she was probably living in Clay Street (Penkridge) as a 'general servant' in the household of Phoebe Cliffe (32, a widow with four children aged between 2 and 6) who was a "Baker Employing 1 Man."

Edwin was almost 9 when **his sister Elizabeth married Joseph Tomkinson**, a labourer, on 16 March 1858 at St Michael & All Angels Church. Her husband was a widower living at Preston Vale, Penkridge ... his father, also named Joseph, was a wheelwright. Elizabeth gave her address as 'Preston Hill', Penkridge. The couple were described as of "Full

Age.” The Witnesses were two of her siblings, Samuel and Jane Wall. However, all would not be well with the marriage, as we shall see.

(Joseph Tomkinson’s first wife had been Catherine Huselbury and they had married on 4 November 1851 at All Saints Church, Lapley; she died in 1857 and was buried on 5 August 1857 at Penkrige. The couple appear not to have had any children.)

When the 1861 Census was taken (7 April) **Edwin was 11** and the Family were at Wood Bank. There was his father Joseph (48, an Agricultural Labourer), mother Ann (48), two older siblings – Samuel (21, an Agricultural Labourer) and Jane (18), and two younger siblings – Fanny (9) and Joseph (3). **Edwin’s brother George (16)** had left home – it is likely he was a servant (a “waggoner’s boy”) in the household of William Lindop (40, a farmer) in Great Haywood.

Also back home living with them was Edwin’s married sister, Elizabeth Tomkinson (23, who was described as the wife of an Agricultural Labourer). In all probability Elizabeth and her husband Joseph Tomkinson were already estranged – it is likely her husband Joseph (34, an agricultural labourer, born in Blymill) was living in Long Street (Wheaton Aston). In 1871 (aged 46) he was probably living in Ivetsey Road (Lapley, Wheaton Aston) where he is described as “a farmer of 20 acres”; and in 1881 (aged 56) was a “Hay Trusser” at Bell Hurst Farm (Lapley). I suspect he died in 1893 and was buried in Lapley Churchyard on 5 December 1893.

There must have been issues with Elizabeth's mental health. When her father (Joseph Wall) wrote his Will (1 July 1876) provision had been made to support his daughter “as she may be Insane or incapable of managing her affairs”. In fact, in the 1871 Census there is an entry in the County Lunatic Asylum (Hopton and Coton, Stafford) – an institution for “private inmates” as opposed to “pauper inmates” – of a married female inmate with initials “E T” (aged 33) from Lapley who was a housewife, and this is very likely to have been Elizabeth. And in the 1881 Census there is a similar entry in the Burntwood County Lunatic Asylum (Lichfield) of a married woman (aged 43) with initials “E T”. It seems Elizabeth was first admitted to the Asylum on 15 June 1869 and was there for 11 weeks before being discharged on 30 August. However, she was not out for long – she was readmitted 4 weeks later (25 September 1869) and was there for 11 years before being transferred to the United Counties Lunatic Asylum in Carmarthen (Wales), on 1 September 1880. The 1881 Census for the Carmarthen Asylum includes an entry of a married female inmate with initials “E.T.” (aged 43) from Lapley, Staffordshire, who was a labourer's wife.

[There is also an entry in the 1881 Census at Burntwood Asylum for a married female inmate with initials “E T” aged 43! In their 1880 Annual Report for Stafford, the visiting Justices of the County Lunatic Asylum recorded that “20 females are boarded out at the Carmarthen Asylum” and that “there are vacancies at Stafford Asylum for 17 males but the female

side is full". Elizabeth was transferred back to the Burntwood Asylum on 6 June 1883, presumably when numbers permitted.]

Elizabeth predeceased her father, dying of "phthisis" (tuberculosis) on 8 March 1884 at the County Lunatic Asylum (Hopton and Coton, Stafford) aged 46. Her death was registered on 11 March and it was stated that she was the "Wife of Joseph Tomkinson, a Labourer from Wheaton Aston". She had been in asylums for over 14½ years. Were Elizabeth's mental problems kept as a family secret? How much did **Edwin** know about his sister's illness and did it affect him? We should be mindful that mental health issues were viewed differently in Victorian times compared with today.

Edwin's brother Samuel Wall

A year after the 1861 Census (**when Edwin was 13**), **Edwin's brother, Samuel (22), married Emma Burton (28)** at St John's Church in Wolverhampton, on **2 December 1862**. On their Marriage Certificate, Samuel stated his occupation as a "Shepherd"; both bride and groom signed the Register and gave their address as "Snowhill" which was close to the Church in Wolverhampton. While Samuel stated that his father was Joseph Wall, a labourer, the space for recording Emma's father was left blank – in fact when Emma was baptised in Penkridge on 10 March 1833 Emma's mother was described as a single woman from Newtown.

According to the 1871 Census and 1881 Census, Samuel and Emma lived with Emma's uncle (Thomas Burton) in Newtown (Penkridge) and raised their Family (Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, James, Philip and Emily). By 1891 they were living in Stafford Road (Huntington, Cannock). The 1871 Census records Samuel as being a "Shepherd" but in the other two he is described as a "labourer" or a "general labourer". Samuel died aged 56 on 20 December 1896, from "Induration of Pylorus 9 months" (a hardening of the pylorus which connects the stomach to the intestines) and "Intestinal Cancer 8 months". He was described as a "Farmer" by his son James who was present at the death at Huntington and he informed the Registrar two days later. Samuel was buried in Penkridge on Christmas Eve, 24 December. Probate was granted to his widow (Emma) at Lichfield on 14 January 1897 and he left £398 2s. Emma survived Samuel by 20 years and died on 2 January 1917 leaving an estate of £260 to her son James.

Edwin was 17 when he married Clara Elizabeth Hough in 1866 – but before we find out more about them, we will first see how his parents and other siblings fared once Edwin had left home. We will then have a better understanding of the Family dynamics.

Edwin's brother George Wall

On 28 January 1869, **when Edwin was almost 20, his brother George Wall (24)** married Sarah Wall (26) at the Parish Church in Penkridge. George was a Labourer, both bride and groom signed the Register and gave Penkridge as their address. George's father was stated to be Joseph Wall and Sarah's father was Thomas Wall, both labourers. The witnesses were Thomas Wall and Ann Marshall; the Curate (Henry Lovatt) conducted the ceremony. And a month later a baby daughter (Emma Wall) was baptised in the same Church on 28 February 1869; her parents gave their address as "Woodbank".

It seems all was not well with this marriage either and the couple separated. In 1871 George Wall (26, a labourer) was lodging with Abraham Lockett (30, a bricklayer's labourer), his wife Mary (48, a laundress) and her unmarried son Charles Collier (22) in Hednesford Road, Cannock, close to the *Horse & Jockey*. In 1881 George Wall (36, an agricultural labourer) was living in Huntington with his uncle, William Wright (69, a farmer of 10 acres). By the time of the 1891 Census, George Wall (46, a general labourer) was an inmate of the Burntwood Asylum – he had been admitted on 4 September 1890 – and that was where he died of "Brain disease" on 8 January 1893 aged 49. He left £250 and Administration was granted at Lichfield on 20 February 1893 to his widow, Sarah – and although this record states that George was a "collier", his death certificate says he was a "Labourer".

But what became of George Wall's widow, **Sarah Wall (Edwin's sister-in-law)** and her daughter **Emma Wall (Edwin's niece)**?

In 1871 Sarah (48, a dressmaker) was back home living at Woodbank with **her** parents, Thomas Wall (64, a farmer of 10 acres) and Hannah (65), an unmarried brother Thomas (43, an agricultural labourer) and her daughter Emma (2). It is interesting to note that living next door were **Edwin's parents** (Joseph and Ann Wall) who were also the parents of Sarah's husband George! In 1881 Sarah (38, a dressmaker) was still at Woodbank with Emma (12) and her unmarried brother Thomas (53, a general labourer) who was now Head of the Household ... Sarah's mother had died in 1876 and her father in 1878. And in the 1891 Census, Sarah (48, a dressmaker) and Emma (22, a Domestic Servant) continued to live at Woodbank (Teddesley Road, Penkridge) with Sarah's brother Thomas (63, a "Road Labourer").

On 7 July 1898 Sarah's daughter Emma (29) married George Arthur Shaw (26, a butler) at St Michael & All Angels Church in Penkridge. At the time of the marriage the groom said his residence was Llansannan (which is a village in North Wales!) but it seems he was originally from Chelsea (London); his father was Robert Arthur Shaw, a tailor. Very sadly within 2 years her husband George was dead, he died on 4 March 1900 at 39 South Parade, Chelsea, of "Phthisis and Peri-nephric abcess, and Asthenia" (tuberculosis, kidney disease and weakness); he was only

28 and his occupation was recorded as a “newsagent”. His father “R.A.Shaw” (of Northumberland House, Dartrey Road, Chelsea) was present when he died.

In 1901 Sarah (58, a dressmaker) was at Woodbank with her brother Thomas Wall (73, now a retired agricultural labourer) and her recently widowed daughter Emma Shaw (32, a laundress) – it looks as though Emma married John Francis Tooth (a “bread van man” with the Cooperative Society) in 1903, was living in Hednesford Road (Cannock) in 1911 and died in 1919 aged 50. The couple had one child, Lydia Emma Tooth, born in 1905. John Tooth remarried in 1920 and his bride was Marion Brown.

In 1911 Sarah (68, now a laundress) continued to live at Woodbank with her brother, Thomas Wall (83, a retired labourer). Thomas died in 1912 and Sarah in 1928.

When the 1871 Census was taken, **Edwin’s parents** were in the Family Home at Wood Bank – Joseph Wall (57, an Ag Lab) and Ann (57) with their two youngest children: Fanny (19, a dairymaid) and Joseph (12, a Farmer’s boy).

Edwin’s sister Jane Wall

Jane Wall, Edwin’s sister had left home. In 1871 she was 27 and living in Huntington with her uncle, William Wright (59) a grocer. **She married Charles Shaw, most probably early in 1872 when Edwin was 22.** In the 1881 Census the couple were living in New Street (Cannock) – Charles Shaw (44) was a Colliery Weighman, his wife Jane Shaw was incorrectly recorded as being 48, rather than 38; and there were three children: Charles (8), Fanny (6) and Jane (4). In 1891 they were at Bridge Row, Stafford Lane, Cannock; there was Charles (54, a Colliery Labourer), Jane (48) and children Charles (18, a Wheelwright), Jane (14) and Henry (4). Sadly, Jane Shaw died on 20 May 1895 aged 52 from “Chronic Bright’s disease old standing” (kidney disease) and “pneumonia (2 days)”. Her husband Charles died on 26 November 1899 aged 64, about six months after their daughter Jane Shaw (22) had married John Christopher Ferguson (26) on 3 April 1899 at the Parish Church in Hednesford.

Edwin’s sister Fanny Wall

Later in 1872, when Edwin was 23, his sister Fanny (20) married Charles Atkins (21) at the Church in Penkridge on **26 August 1872**. The couple were living in Wood Bank at the time. Charles was a stonemason (as was his father, Peter Atkins) and Fanny confirmed that her father was Joseph Wall, a labourer. Both bride and groom signed the Register, as did **Edwin** who was one of the witnesses, the other being Eliza Atkins. In 1881 Fanny (29) and her children, Charles (7) and Frederick (5), were living with her parents at Woodbank ... I have been unable to trace Fanny’s husband in this Census – it may be that the enumerator simply missed him off the

form! In 1891 Charles Atkins (39, a stonemason) and his wife Fanny (38) were living in Lichfield at 6 Chappells Terrace, with their six children: Charles (17, a bricklayer's labourer), Frederick (14, a brewery labourer), Albert (9), Fanny (6), George (2) and Harry (1). In 1901 the family were at the same address: Charles (48, a stonemason), Fanny (48) and children Albert (19, a plumber's apprentice), Fanny (16), Harry (11), Ethel (9) and Edith (7) and an "adopted child" Emma (1). By the 1911 Census the family had moved from number 6 to number 3 Chapells Terrace: Charles (59, a stonemason), Fanny (58) with children Harry (21, a plumber), daughters Ethel (19) and Edith (17) who were both general domestic servants. Living with them was their recently married daughter Fanny (26) and her husband Charles Poynton (28, a waggoner on a farm). Charles Atkins died aged 65 in 1915 and his widow Fanny died in 1924 from "malignant disease of large intestine 4 months" – she was 72 and had been living at 12 Flowers Row, Lichfield.

Edwin's brother Joseph Wall

On 18 January 1880, when Edwin was 30, his youngest brother Joseph (21, a waggoner of Mill Bank) married Sarah Meeson (23 of Water Street) at St Mary's Church (Stafford). Both signed the Register. The groom confirmed that his father was Joseph Wall (a labourer) and Sarah's father (Samuel Meeson) was also a labourer. Four years earlier Sarah had had a son, baptised Frederick Samuel Meeson, at Penkrige on 30 July 1876 – the father's name was left blank in the Register. In 1881, Joseph (22, a cowman) and Sarah (24), together with seven-month-old baby Sarah Ann Wall, were living at a "lodging house" in Mill Street – stepson Frederick Meeson (6) was with his mother's parents, Samuel and Sarah Meeson, aged 64 and 63 respectively, at Marsh, Penkrige.

In 1891 Joseph Wall (32, an "estate drainer") and Sarah (34) were at "The Marsh, Penkrige" with three children: Sarah Ann (10), William (9) and Joseph (3). The other son, Frederick Samuel Meeson (15), was at Pillaton (Penkrige) and was a general servant in the household of John Aston (64), a retired farmer.

In 1901 Joseph Wall (43, an "estate labourer") and Sarah (45) were at Mill End, Penkrige with their children Sarah Ann (20), William (19, an estate labourer), Joseph (13), Edward (9) and Lily (6). Living with the family were newly married Frederick Samuel Meeson (25, a bricklayer's labourer) and his wife Amelia Meeson (28) ... their surname was incorrectly recorded in the 1901 Census as "Wall" rather than "Meeson" ... and by 1911 Frederick Samuel Meeson (36) was the Lock Keeper at Gailey Roundhouse on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal with his family: Amelia (40), Samuel Frederick (9), Alexander (6), Hyacinth Grace (5) and Wilfred (2).

There was also a visitor, Alice *Hince* (21) who, as it turns out, was Joseph Wall's niece – Alice was the daughter of Ann* Meeson (Joseph's wife's sister) who had married William Ince (a waggoner) in 1879 and they lived at

Mill House; William Ince died in 1895 aged 42 and by 1901 his widow and family had moved to Burslem (Stoke on Trent).

[* “Ann” was variously spelled Ann, Anne, Annie and Hannah. Similarly with Ince and Hince.]

When the 1911 Census was taken, Joseph Wall (52, a “Drainer on land”) and Sarah (55) were living at “Mill Cottage”, a 5-roomed property together with 10 others: their children – William Wall (29, a “loader in pit”), Joseph Wall (23, a “stoker at pit”), Edward Wall (19, a “pit bank labourer”), Lily Wall (16, a domestic servant) and married daughter Sarah Ann Shaw (30) with her 3 children: Charles H Shaw (5), Winifred A Shaw (4) and an “Infant” (2 weeks who would later be named Sidney Shaw).

[In 1902 Sarah Ann Wall had married Charles Shaw (a “Colliery wagon repairer”) and when the Census was taken in 1911 Charles Shaw (aged 37) was with his brother Henry Shaw (24, a “Colliery shunter”) at Stafford Road, Hednesford. Does this mean Sarah Ann and her husband Charles were estranged? I suspect not, because in 1921 they were together in Hednesford and in the 1939 Register the couple are at New School, Stafford Road, Cannock, with several family members.]

Also present was Joseph Wall’s nephew Arthur Ince (21, a “pit bank labourer”) who was the son of Ann Meeson (Joseph’s wife’s sister).

The last member of the household was Lily H, Granger (9), a “nurse child” from Willenhall; I suspect this was Lily Hucker Grainger who would marry Alfred Rutter (a “Colliery Stallman below ground”) in 1923.

Joseph Wall died in 1921 aged 63 and his widow Sarah in 1936 aged 79.

When the 1881 Census was taken, **Edwin’s parents**, Joseph Wall (67, a General Labourer) and Ann (67, a “labourer’s wife”), had their married daughter Fanny (Atkins) (29, a stone-mason’s wife) and her two children: Charles J. Atkins (7) and Frederick W. Atkins (5) staying with them at Woodbank. Also living with them was Jane Meeson (16) who was described as a domestic servant. It would seem that Jane was the daughter of Emma Meeson ... one of Emma’s sisters (Sarah Messon) **married Edwin’s brother Joseph** (see above) and another of Emma’s sisters (Ann Messon) married William Ince (also see above).

Having set the scene, we can now turn our attention to **Edwin Wall from the time he got married in 1866.**

Edwin Wall and Clara Elizabeth Hough marry

Edwin married **Clara Elizabeth Hough** on 25 April 1866 at the Parish Church of Penkrige following the reading of Banns. At the time of their marriage, **Edwin was 17** and living in Penkrige; he was described as a labourer. Clara was five years older (23) and was also from Penkrige; no occupation was listed for her. Edwin signed the Register while Clara made her mark – an “X”. Their Marriage Certificate records that Edwin’s father was Joseph Wall (a

labourer) and Clara's father was Charles Hough (a blacksmith). The witnesses were Joseph Wall and Mary Ann Hough.

Edwin's bride, Clara Elizabeth Hough, was born on 18 October 1842 at Bradley (near Stafford). Her parents were Charles Hough and Mary Hough (née Ward). Her father informed the Registrar of the birth a month later, on 18 November 1842. Clara was baptised on 1 January 1843 at the Parish Church of Bradley.

Between 1867 and 1888 Edwin and Clara had eight children, four boys and four girls.

Three of the children were born before the Family moved to the Lock House at St Thomas' Baswich around 1873/1875:

Charles Joseph Wall (4 January 1867 at Woodbank),
William Edwin Wall (19 June 1869 at Huntington) and
Frederick George Wall (17 May 1872 at Gailey Pools, Hatherton).

On their Birth Certificates, Edwin's occupation was variously stated as a "Farm Labourer", "Waggoner" or "Labourer" respectively.

The 1871 Census (2 April) records that **Edwin** (22) and his Family (wife Clara 27) and two children (Charles 4 and William 1) were living at Gailey Lea, Hatherton. He is described as a "Labourer".

The first of their children born at the Lock House was Mary Ann Wall on 5 April 1875. Her mother Clara registered the birth five weeks later (12 May). Clara made her mark, "X", on the registration document which recorded the child's father as Edwin Wall, a "Canal Labourer". Mary was baptised on 23 May 1875 at Holy Trinity Church Baswich, and the entry in the Baptism Register stated that Edwin was a "Labourer" and the address was "St.Thomas'".

Regrettably, young Mary died at the Lock House on 26 August 1877 of Scarlet Fever; she was just over two. On her death certificate, her father was again described as a Canal Labourer and it was her mother who informed the Registrar.

On a happier note, the following year a son, Edwin Thomas Wall, was born. According to his birth certificate, this was at the "Canal Lock House, Berkswich" on 26 March 1878. His mother Clara informed the Registrar five weeks later (1 May). The baby was baptised on 14 May 1878 at St.Mary's Church (Stafford) and the Baptism Register records the parents' names as "Edwy and Clara Elizabeth Wall" and the father's occupation as a "Lock-Keeper" of "St.Thomas Lock".

The 1881 Census taken on 3 April records **Edwin** (32, a canal labourer) living in the "Lock House" at Baswich with his wife Clara (38) and four children: Charles (16, a farmer's boy), William (11), Frederick (8) and Edwin (3).

Soon afterwards, another daughter, Elizabeth Jane Wall, was born at “The Lock House, Berkswich” (28 July 1881) and Edwin's wife Clara informed the Registrar of the birth about 5 weeks later. Edwin was named as the father and his occupation was “Lock Keeper”.

Later that year **Edwin's mother (Ann)** passed away at Woodbank on 26 December 1881 aged 68. She had suffered from heart and lung disease for several years and dropsy for three months, so her death was perhaps not unexpected. Her husband, Joseph (described as a “Farm Labourer”), informed the Registrar the following day and the burial was at Penkridge on 29 December.

Sometime between 1881 and 1885 Edwin and his Family left the Lock House at Baswich and moved to the Lock House at Wightwick (Tettenhall) – Tettenhall was not part of Wolverhampton until 1966.

While at Wightwick, Edwin and Clara completed their Family with the birth of two daughters: Clara Elizabeth Wall (22 September 1885) and Florence Wall (18 April 1888). Clara was born at “The Lock House Wightwick” and Florence was likely to have been born there too. Edwin (a “Canal Lockkeeper”) was identified as the father and he informed the Registrar on 26 September 1885 four days after Clara was born. In Florence's case, it was her mother who informed the Registrar on 21 May 1888 nearly five weeks after the birth, and (as usual) she made her mark (an “X”) on the form.

Edwin's father (Joseph) died on 5 December 1889 at Wood Bank of “Senile Decay” aged 76. Joseph's granddaughter, Mary Wall, informed the Registrar two days later. Probate was granted on 15 January 1890 at Lichfield to Samuel Wall (Edwin's brother) who was a labourer living at Huntington near Penkridge, and to Charles Shaw (a labourer of High Town Cannock) who was Edwin's brother-in-law and husband of Edwin's sister Jane. Joseph's personal estate was £375 16s 5d.

The following year, **Edwin's second son William Edwin Wall** married Eliza Elizabeth Gregg on 7 August 1890 at Christ Church (Tettenhall Wood). He was 21 and a gardener living in Wightwick; his father was named as “Edwin Wall, a Lock-keeper” on the Marriage Certificate. The bride was five years older (26) and from Tettenhall Wood; her father was Thomas Gregg, a shepherd. The Vicar who conducted the ceremony was the Reverend Benjamin Danks. The witnesses were William Walker, Martha Gregg, Jennie Wall and Levina Annie Wall.

When the 1891 Census was taken (5 April) **Edwin** and his Family were recorded as living in the Lock House at Wightwick (Tettenhall): **Edwin (43)** was described as a “Lengthsman on the canal”, his wife Clara (49) and children Charles (24, a Gardener Domestic Servant); Edwin (13), Elizabeth (9), Clara (5) and “Florry” (2).

Edwin's eldest son Charles Joseph Wall married Annie Maria Cotterhill on 27 May 1893 at Christchurch (Tettenhall Wood). He was 25 and a gardener living in Wightwick; his father was named as "Edwin Wall (Lock-keeper)". Annie (25) was from Tettenhall Wood and her father was Edward Cotterhill, a shoemaker. The witnesses were George Cotterhill and Jennie Wall. The Vicar was again Benjamin Danks.

And three years later, **Edwin's third son Frederick Wall** married Georgina Mulliner on 11 April 1896 at St Andrew's Church, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton. Frederick (24) was a "Varnish Maker" of Tettenhall Wood. The Vicar (the Reverend Jas.M.J.Fletcher) incorrectly wrote that the groom's father was "Edward Wall" rather than "Edwin Wall" on the Marriage Certificate, although his occupation as a "Lock Keeper" was correctly recorded. At the time of her marriage, Frederick's bride Georgina (27) had been living at 36 Leicester Street (Wolverhampton) and no occupation was listed for her; her father was John Mulliner who was employed by the "GWR" (Great Western Railway) as a Guard. The witnesses were John Thomas Mulliner and Louisa Mulliner.

Edwin Wall died on 2 March 1901 at Wightwick Lock House of "cerebral disease (Probably Tumour of the Brain)". He had been ill for several months and had been in a coma for 3 days. He was 52 and his occupation was given as a "Canal Lock-keeper". The informant was his second son, William E.Wall, who was living in Tettenhall Wood, and present at his father's death. The death was registered on 4 March and recorded by the Registrar, Daniel West. **Edwin** was buried at St Michael & All Angel's Church (Tettenhall) on 6 March; the service was conducted by the vicar, the Reverend B.Danks. **Edwin's widow, Clara**, survived him by 28 years.

The 1901 Census (31 March), conducted about three weeks after Edwin's death, records his widow (Clara aged 58) and two children [(Clara) Elizabeth 15, a domestic nurse, and Florence 12] living at Wightwick Lock House. It is likely that Clara and her family moved from Wightwick Lock House later that year when the new Lock keeper was appointed.¹

Just before Christmas 1901, **Edwin's daughter Elizabeth Jane Wall** (20) married Walter Harry Idiens (22) on 21 December at St Jude's Church on the Tettenhall Road in Wolverhampton. At the time, her address was given as 'Tettenhall'; no occupation was stated for her and her father was named (*incorrectly*) as "Edwin Thomas Wall", a Lock Keeper. Walter Idiens was a joiner of 45 Evans Street, Wolverhampton and his father, John Francis Idiens, was a painter. In the 1911 Census, Walter (30, an "estate house painter") and Elizabeth (29) were living at 17 Shaw Fields, Tong, Shifnal, Shropshire with their four children: Harry (8), Jack (7), "Margery" (4) and Gwendolene (1). Within a short period, they had moved to 72 Lower Vauxhall, Wolverhampton. The couple had three other children: Clarie (b1912), Edwin Bertram (b1915) ... he was born about a month after Walter had enlisted for service in World War 1 ... and Joyce Olive (b1920). The 1939 Register shows Walter (an assistant sheet metal worker in the aircraft

industry) and Elizabeth living at 68 Lower Vauxhall, with two unmarried daughters: Marjorie Elizabeth (an artificial silk sorter in a warehouse) and Joyce Olive (a shorthand typist). Sadly, their son Edwin Bertram Idiens died on 17 January 1942 when *HMS Matabele*, in which he was serving during the Second World War, was sunk by German submarine *U-454* while escorting a convey from Iceland to Murmansk in the Arctic. Walter died in 1955 aged 74 and Elizabeth Jane in 1973 aged 92.

In 1905, **Edwin's son Edwin Thomas Wall** married Ethel Annie Wynn. In the 1911 Census, Edwin (33, a Chauffeur) and Annie (28) were living at Woodhouse Lodge, Woodland Road, Tettenhall, with their 9 months old son Norman Edwin Wall. A daughter, Elizabeth May, was born later that year. The 1939 Register shows Edwin and Ethel living at 12 Barbican Terrace, Barnstaple, Devon with their unmarried daughter Elizabeth; he is described as a "Chauffeur Gardener". Edwin died on 25 February 1940 aged 61 at the same address. Ethel died aged 78 on 16 November 1960 at 110 Burland Avenue, Tettenhall.

According to the 1911 Census **Edwin's widow Clara** (aged 68) was living at 4 Meadow View (Newbridge, Wolverhampton), a 4 roomed-property, with her youngest daughter Florence (22) a dressmaker who worked from home.

The following year, on 9 November 1912, **Edwin's daughter Florence Wall** (24) married James Henry Price (24, an elementary schoolmaster employed by Staffordshire County Council) at St Michael & All Angels. James lived in Sandy Lane, Tettenhall and his father, Thomas Price, was a retired Police Superintendent. No occupation was stated for Florence and she also gave her address as Tettenhall; it was stated that her father, Edwin Wall (deceased) had been a "Lock-keeper". The witnesses were Charles Edward Price (the groom's brother) and Clara Elizabeth Wall, the bride's sister.

James Price enlisted for war service on 11 November 1915. At the time he and his wife Florence were living at The School House, Wistanstow near Craven Arms (Shropshire). He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His military service was recognised by the National Union of Teachers in their Records for "Shropshire (Ludow)" in 1920.

In 1921 the couple were living at 35 Villa Road, Brixton, London SE9, a 2 roomed property; Florence (33yr 2mths) listed her *occupation* as "Home Duties" while James (33yr 1mth) was a schoolmaster employed by the L.C.C. (London County Council) at an elementary school (St James' School) in Bermondsey, London SE16.

The 1939 Register shows James and Florence living at 265 Stag Lane, Colindale, Wembley, Middlesex; he is described as a "School Master (Headmaster)". James died on 1 March 1972 and Florence 7 months later on 28 September 1972 aged 84; their last address was 30 Clarence Drive, East Preston, Sussex. According to Probate Records, James left £13,103 and Florence £18,808. They appear not to have had children.

The last of Edwin's children to be married was Clara Elizabeth Wall.

This was on 11 December 1913 when she married Bertram Jenkins, a 26 years old clerk of 3 Meadow View (Tettenhall) at St Michael & All Angels. Bertram's father was not named on the Certificate. Clara (28) gave her address as "Wood Villa, Orme's Lane, Tettenhall Wood" and it was recorded that her father, Edwin Wall, was deceased and had been a "Lockkeeper". The witnesses were Joseph Clive Walker and Mary Walker.

When the 1921 Census was taken (19 June), **Edwin's widow Clara** (78yr 8mths) was living at Edmund Villa (a six-roomed house) in Coalway Road, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton, with her married daughter Clara Elizabeth Jenkins (35yr 9mths) and husband Bertram Jenkins (34yr 6mths) and their son Bertram Edwin Jenkins (2yr 8mths). Bertram Jenkins was a Cost Clerk employed by Edwin Richards & Sons Ltd., Coach Axle and Ship Stanchion Manufacturers at their Portway Works in Wednesbury. The 1939 Register shows that Bertram was an aircraft manufacturer's clerk and the couple were living at 9 Green Lane, Aldersley, Wolverhampton. Bertram died in 1958 aged 71, and Clara Elizabeth eight years later in 1966 at New Cross Hospital (Wolverhampton) aged 80.

Edwin's widow Clara died on 24 February 1929 aged 86 at Whitmore Reans Lodge, West Park, Wolverhampton. The cause of death given by Dr H.A.Johnson was "myocardial failure and hypostatic pneumonia". It was stated that she was the widow of Edwin Wall, a Canal Lock Keeper. The informant was her eldest son, Charles Wall, of the same address who was present at her death. The death was registered on 25 February by the Registrar, E.E.Jones. Clara was buried at St Michael & All Angel's Church (Tettenhall) on 28 February; the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Reverend A.F.Capps.

Footnote

(1) The 1911 Census (2 April) records that the new occupants of Wightwick Lock House were George Kibble (46, Canal Lock Keeper, from Newport, Shropshire), his wife Mary Jane Kibble (48 from Ludlow, Herefordshire) and two of their children: Rose Ann Kibble (aged 22 born at Calf Heath, Staffordshire) and George Henry Kibble (aged 15 born at Penkridge, who was a 'farm waggoners lad').

Sources of Information

- (a) Census Records 1841 – 1921, and other documents including:
- (b) Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates (General Record Office),
- (c) Parish Records (Staffordshire Record Office and Wolverhampton Archives & Local Studies).
- (d) National Probate Calendars.

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LIST OF SOME GRO CERTIFICATES

- (1) Edwin Wall: born 24 February 1849: Birth Certificate.
- (2) Clara Elizabeth Hough: born 18 October 1842: Birth Certificate.
- (3) Edwin Wall & Clara Elizabeth Hough: 25 April 1866: Marriage Certificate.
- (4) Mary Ann Wall: born 5 April 1875: Birth Certificate.
- (5) Mary Ann Wall: died 26 August 1877: Death Certificate.
- (6) Edwin Thomas Wall: born 26 March 1878: Birth Certificate.
- (7) Elizabeth Jane Wall: born 28 July 1881: Birth Certificate.
- (8) Clara Elizabeth Wall: born 22 September 1885: Birth Certificate.
- (9) Florence Wall: born 18 April 1888: Birth Certificate.
- (10) Edwin Wall: died 2 March 1901: Death Certificate.
- (11) Clara Elizabeth Wall: died 24 February 1929: Death Certificate.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2237543-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	PENKRIDGE
1849 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Penkridge	in the County of Stafford

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 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 Name entered after registration

24th Feb 1849 Wood Bank Penkridge	Edwin	Boy	Joseph Wall	Ann Wall formerly Wright	Labourer	To the Work of Joseph Wall Whitton Wood Bank Penkridge	24th Feb 1849	Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 16th day of April 2010

BXCE 492298

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 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

IPS 007108 21544 0409 3MSPSL 021265



(1) Copy of Edwin Wall's Birth Certificate

born 24 February 1849 at Wood Bank, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2237542-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	STAFFORD
1842 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Castle Church	in the County of Stafford

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 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 Name entered after registration

1842	Eighteenth of October 1842 at Bradley	Clara Elizabeth	Girl	Charles Hough	Mary Hough formerly Ward	Blacksmith	Charles Hough Father Bradley	Eighteenth of October 1842	W. J. Perin Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 16th day of April 2010

BXCE 492048

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095 007100 21544 0409 3MSPSL 023265



JSP

**(2) Copy of Clara Elizabeth Hough's Birth Certificate
 born 18 October 1842 at Bradley, near Stafford.**

1866. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Penkridge in the County of Stafford

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
495	April 25 th 1866	Edwin Wall Clara Elizabeth Hough	17 23	Bachelo Spinster	Labourer	Penkridge Penkridge	Joseph Wall Charles Hough Blacksmith	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the ^{13th Canon} Established Church after by me, Wm C. King

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Edwin Wall in the Presence of us, Joseph Wall Curate
Clara Elizabeth Hough & her Mother Mary Ann Hough

(3) Copy of Edwin Wall & Clara Elizabeth Hough's Marriage Certificate: 25 April 1866
 married at St Michael & All Angels Church, Penkridge.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 6886170-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	STAFFORD
1875 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Castle Church	in the County of Stafford

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 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 Name entered after registration

16.	5th April 1875 Lock House, Berkswich	Mary Ann Girl		Edwin Wall	Clara Elizabeth Wall formerly Fought	Labourer	The manse of Clara Elizabeth Wall formerly Lock House Berkswich	Swiftly Mary 1875	Alfred William Smith Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 26th day of October 2015

BXCG 676551

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7541375 512676 06/15 WEA/HTPS



RJW

(4) Copy of Mary Ann Wall's Birth Certificate

born 5 April 1875 at the "Lock House", Berkswich.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 6886171-3

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	STAFFORD
1877 DEATH in the Sub-district of Castle Church	in the County of Stafford

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

Twenty-sixth August 1877 The Lock House Berkswich	Mary Ann Wall	Female	2 Years	Daughter of Edwin Wall A female Labourer	Scarlet Fever Contracted by same at the Lock House	X The mark of flax Elizabeth Wall Mother present at the death The Lock House Berkswich	Twenty-sixth August 1877	Alfred William Smith Registrar
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 26th day of October 2015

DYD 938445

See note overleaf



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7284633 84108 04/14 3MTSSD 035202

PDB

(5) Copy of Mary Ann Wall's Death Certificate

died 26 August 1877 at the "The Lock House", Berkswich.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2205674-3

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	STAFFORD
1878 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Castle Church	in the County of Stafford

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 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 Name entered after registration

280	26 March 1878 Canal Lock House Berkswich	Edwin Thomas	Boy	Edwin Wall	Clara Elizabeth Wall formerly Hough	Canal Labourer	X The mark of Clara Elizabeth Wall Mother Canal Lock House Berkswich	4 First May 1878	Alfred William Smith Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of April 2010

BXCE 374672

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IPS 037108 21544 0409 3MSPSL 023265



SIR

(6) Copy of Edwin Thomas Wall's Birth Certificate

born 26 March 1878 at the "Canal Lock House", Berkswich.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 6887144-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	STAFFORD
1881 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Stafford	in the County of Stafford

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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	Name entered after registration

182	Twenty eight July 1881 The Lock House Berkswich Berkswich R.S.	Elizabeth Jane	Girl	Edwin Wall	Mrs Elizabeth Wall formerly Hough	Lock keeper	The work of Mrs Elizabeth Wall mother The Lock House Berkswich Berkswich Church	Twenty eight August 1881	William Griffith Registrar	
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 27th day of October 2015

BXCG 676990

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SBM

7341375 512676 0415 WL/ATPS

**(7) Copy of Elizabeth Jane Wall's Birth Certificate
born 28 July 1881 at "The Lock House", Berkswich.**

Superintendent Registrar's District Wolverhampton

Registrar's Sub-District Tettenhall

1885. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of Tettenhall in the Counties of Stafford and Salop

Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
1884	Twenty-second September 1885 The Lock House Wightwick Tettenhall Stafford	Clara Elizabeth	girl	Edwin Wall	Clara Elizabeth Wall formerly Housh	Canal Lockkeeper	Edwin Wall Father The Lock House Wightwick Tettenhall	Twenty- ninth September 1885	Joseph Tanner Registrar	

(8) Copy of Clara Elizabeth Wall's Birth Certificate

born 22 September 1885 at "The Lock House", Wightwick, Tettenhall.

Superintendent Registrar's District Wolverhampton

Registrar's Sub-District Tettenhall

1888. BIRTHS in the Sub-District of Tettenhall in the Counties of Stafford and Salop

Columns:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
294	<u>Wightwick Stafford</u> <u>Eighteenth April 1888</u>	<u>Florence</u>	<u>girl</u>	<u>Edwin Wall</u>	<u>Clara Elizabeth Wall formerly Haugh</u>	<u>Canal Lock Keeper</u>	<u>The mark of Clara Elizabeth Wall Mother Wightwick Tettenhall</u>	<u>Twenty-first May 1888</u>	<u>Joseph Farmer Registrar</u>	

(9) Copy of Florence Wall's Birth Certificate
born 18 April 1888 at Wightwick, Tettenhall.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2205674-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		WOLVERHAMPTON		
1901	DEATH in the Sub-district of Tettenhall		in the Counties of Stafford and Salop	

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

161	Second March 1901 Lock House Wightwick Tettenhall Stafford W.S.	Edwin Wall	male	52 years	Canal Lock-keeper	Cerebral Disease (Probably Jaundice of the Brain) Several months coma 3 days Certified by F.A. Cooke M.D.	William E. Wall Sonn Present at the Death Tettenhall Wood Tettenhall	Fourth March 1901	Daniel West Registrar
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 1st day of April 2010

DYC 675306

See note overleaf

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GA

IPS 037108 21542 0409 3MSFSL 023264

(10) Copy of Edwin Wall's Death Certificate

Died 2 March 1901 at the "Lock House", Wightwick, Tettenhall.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 2205674-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	WOLVERHAMPTON
1929 DEATH in the Sub-district of	Wolverhampton Western in the County of Wolverhampton C.B.

Columns:- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

69	Twenty fourth February 1929 Whitmore Reans Lodge West Park W	Clara Elizabeth Wall	Female	36 years	Widow of Edwin Wall Garage Lock Keeper	Coronary Heart Failure (C) Hypostatic Pneumonia The full Certificate by H. J. Johnson M.B.	C. J. Wall Edwin Present at the death Whitmore Reans West Park Wolverhampton	Twenty fifth February 1929	E. Jones Registrar.
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CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of April 2010

DYC 679110

See note overleaf

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TAW

(11) Copy of Clara Elizabeth Wall's Death Certificate

Died 24 February 1929 at Whitmore Reans Lodge, West Park, Wolverhampton.