

Please note that I have a lot of information to add to this re land ownership , service as church wardens etc. This copy is dated March 2011-04-01

Family History of

Valerie Ann Burton nee Wilson

In 2002 my parents celebrated their Golden Wedding and held a party for family and friends. My parents have known each other from childhood, in fact they started school together at the age of 5. Bearing this in mind my husband and I thought that it would be a nice surprise to put together a book of family photographs dating from 1930 to 2002. We made several copies and placed them on tables at the party. The comments and recollections that were then made renewed my interest in my family history.

I knew of various family stories to do with Welsh and London ancestors, court cases and manslaughter but had never checked any of them out. My oldest surviving grandparent (my mother's mother) had died in 2001 at the age of 94 and so there was a sense of urgency to obtain first hand information whilst I could. The increasing availability of online censuses also encouraged me to begin, but it wasn't until 2005 whilst recovering from a back injury that I began in earnest. What started as a means of keeping my mind occupied whilst I was physically immobile soon became an obsession, as so many people involved in family history tend to find.

I have discovered ancestors from a large geographical area including North Yorkshire, Norfolk, Lincoln, Wales and Ireland. I have also learned that I have ancestors who worked hard, were determined and who, at times, struggled against the odds. In the main they were labourers or artisans such as stonemasons and surprisingly a number of teachers. Although a teacher myself I hadn't heard of anyone else in the family following this profession. Unfortunately I have not discovered any family fortune, hidden pot of gold or heirlooms!

My father's parents were Harry Wilson and Lily Fawcett, and my mother's parents were Charles Millward and Lucy Guest. It is therefore the 4 families of Wilson, Fawcett, Millward and Guest that I have tried to trace.

This record is an attempt to set out information I have found to date, which has, to me at least, provided an amazing insight into social history and the movement of people around Britain in their search for work. I have recorded information on siblings and not just my direct ancestors as I felt that this would give a more complete picture of life at the time, family connections over a period of time and not least because some of their stories are interesting in their own right.

The FAWCETT family

I began with the Fawcetts for several reasons:

- There were papers belonging to the Fawcett family re a court case involving a property. My grandmother had given the papers to my father who had deposited them with a solicitor who has subsequently died. Despite writing to the solicitors' firm we have been told that the papers have been "lost"
- A Fawcett relative had allegedly been station master at Great Ayton (only 5 minutes away from where I live) and I wanted to know who he was
- My father's oldest brother used to regularly visit Newcastle when he was younger but I didn't know why, although I had been told there was a Newcastle connection
- Many years ago a lady had visited my family claiming that she was descended from an illegitimate relative in the Fawcett family and wanting to know where the "money" was!

I started my search by looking for my grandmother, Lily Fawcett in the 1901 census. I was surprised to find that this showed that her father, Henry, had been born in Great Ayton and her mother, Emily, had been born in Newcastle. Lily's older siblings had also been born in Newcastle.

Henry's home, Great Ayton, is a village in North Yorkshire and it seemed strange to me that someone born there in about 1853 should move to Newcastle as a clerk. Going to Newcastle now takes about 45 minutes by car. What must the journey have been like in the 1850s and why did Henry make the journey? I suppose he must have had a job to go to although as a clerk he must have been literate and surely could have found employment more locally. Presumably the pay was better in Newcastle or the opportunities for progress greater. In which case why did he come back to this area to live in South Bank?

This one glimpse of the census was enough to get me hooked and to begin a search which at times has been like solving a murder mystery. My next step was to visit the Teesside Archive Centre in Middlesbrough and the Centre in Northallerton to check parish records. I was amazed to find that I could trace the Fawcett name in Great Ayton back to 1700 and perhaps 1600. Certain Christian names appeared to be favoured in the family, such as Thomas, Robert, Henry, Mary and Elizabeth. Other Fawcett families in the nearby locality (Ingleby Greenhow and Stokesley) tended to favour other Christian names.

In my search for further information I have also traced the details as far as possible from all censuses 1841 – 1901 and used various websites, particularly the Mormon site (IGI) which contains vast records of births, marriages and deaths across the world. Not least I have added information given to me by relatives. I must give thanks particularly to Dorothy Bailey for the information she has given me and for allowing me to photograph certain items in her home.

Many of the dates of birth are only approximate as they are obtained from census details. Where a precise date is given it is usually the date of the baptism as this is

what is recorded in parish records. However, in some cases I have obtained the actual certificates for births, marriages and deaths.

The results of my efforts to date are set out here.

Fawcetts in Great Ayton before 1700

Great Ayton parish registers commence at 1600 so anyone married or born there before this date is not recorded. The parish registers for Great Ayton are badly damaged and there are large sections which are impossible to read. Therefore gaps in the family tree are inevitable and it is difficult to be sure of the line of descent. An additional complication in matching children to the right parents is that baptisms recorded at this time show only the father's name and that of the child. The mother's name was only given in cases of illegitimacy and therefore it is difficult to say with any certainty that a child was the offspring of a particular set of parents, especially when the Christian names were quite common. It becomes much easier from 1700 onwards as the records are in much better condition, both parents are more generally recorded, and therefore it is more possible to be more accurate in tracing direct lines.

Five Fawcett adults are mentioned in the Great Ayton parish registers in the early 1600's: **Percival, George, Robert, Thomas and Anna**. It seems likely that these 5 people were brothers and sister. Their father may have been Robert Fawcett as there was certainly a Robert Fawcett living in Great Ayton in the 1580's according to documents relating to the rent/sale of land.

Percival is recorded as having married Joanne Sollay (Solloy) on 19th November 1605 and that they had at least 4 children: Robert baptised January 1606, ...anna baptised August 1607, William baptised August 1608 and Thomas baptised 1617.

The only earlier record of a Percival Fawcett that I have been able to find is that of a birth in Wensley in 1588 (the year of the Armada) and burial in Wensley 1645. Perhaps it was the same Percival and he moved from Wensley to Great Ayton and back again or maybe it is just a coincidence! However, this was a time when a large number of people left Wensley as a result of the plague.

Robert Fawcett is recorded as having a son, Oliver baptised April 1601. The only other mention of an Oliver Fawcett I have been able to trace is in Dent (near to Wensley). An Oliver Fawcett married Jane Willon there on 16th October 1630, so perhaps there **was** a family link to Wensley.

George Fawcett also had a son, (Tho) ...mas baptised August 1607.

Thomas Fawcett is recorded as marrying Margareta Satterthwaite in 1607. The burial of the wife of Thomas Fawcett is recorded on 30th March 1608. If this was Margareta they did not have a long married life!

Anna Fawcett (born 1580) married John Atkinson (born 1576) in 1601.

1630 – 1660

Records for this period in Great Ayton are very sparse. Fawcett as a name also appears in other forms such as Ffawcett, Fawsitt, and Fawcet. I am assuming that they are all one family as at this time spelling varied from writer to writer and depended much more on fashion than accuracy. In some cases names were latinised to show the “education” of the writer (usually the priest)! In other cases mistakes may have been made in the reading of the handwritten records.

There are several Fawcetts mentioned during this time:

Roger is recorded as having 3 children; Margaret who was baptised 4/12/1631 and died 10/5/1638, Lucia who was baptised 1/2/1634 and who married Robert Wilson on 7/11/1665, and John who was baptised 1/7/1638.

Elizabeth Fawcett married Richard Appleton Jnr 26/4/1635

John Fawcett is recorded as church warden in 1638

Robert Fawcett married **Margaret (Fawcett)** 8/7/1638. Perhaps this is the Robert who was the son of Percival born 1606 (Page 3). If Margaret’s maiden name really was Fawcett then presumably there were at least 2 Fawcett families.

Averill Fawcett married Thomas Lyall 8/7/1640. Thomas died in 1669.

During this time there are several manor court records that have survived. Each court session lists the jurors, land holders and tenants as well as the fines given for various misdemeanours. Fawcetts appear in the lists of tenants, jurors and those who have committed offences! You will notice Roger and John both appear as well as two further Fawcetts; George and James. Thomas Lyall (husband of Averill Fawcett) is also listed and a number of women who were tenants in their own right.

In October 1660 the whole town was fined for not keeping the roads in good repair. It seems from the list that there wasn’t a single road that was good as they were fined for roads leading from Great Ayton to Stokesly, Guisborough, and Kirby Moorside. Poor Roger Fawcett not only had to pay this fine but also a fine for non appearance at court.

Extracts from the Manor of Great Ayton Court Leet

1652

George Fawcet of Ayton complaineth of Thomas Dickson of the same in a plea of trespass

1650

A verdict of the above-named jurors;
They present on their oath that **Robert Fawcet** allowed his wife to break the hedge at Ariholme. 3/4d.

1658

The Manor of Great Ayton
The Court Leet or view of frank pledge and Court Baron of the worshipful John Coulson Esq there holden upon Munday that is to say the twenty eighth day of October in ye yeare of our Lord 1658 before Nicho. Pearson Isen. Steward there.

The names of the Jurors
John Carter Robt. Simpson Nicholas Richardson
William Younge John Waller Morris Calvert
Tho. Younge John Jackson **James Fawcett**
Henry Younge Will. Harryson Christ. Richardson
John Younge Tho. Calvert Michell Postgate

Tenants which owe suit etc.
John Young; Tho. Armstrong; Will. Leavons; Tho. Calvert; Robert George; Jane Todd; Ann Wilson; John Kearton; Eliz. Barthram; Will. Mosse; Tho. Young; Will. Harrison; Chr. Leavons; John Sowley; Isabell Turner; John Wale; Charles Calvert; Tho. Mase; Ann Maysterman; Robt. Lawson; Lawrence Jackson; Tho. Calvert; John Blackburn; Tho. Potter; Katherine Cocke; Wm. Hewetson; John Waller; Christopher Robinson; Willm. Beane; Tho. Lyle; **Roger Fawcett**; James Tod; Edward Lawrence; John Mattison; Henry Leavens; Rich. Walker; Oliver Calvert; John Annison; Helline Atkinson; Ann Simpson; Henry Gray; Robt. Simpson; John Calvert; Rich. Mankin; Christ. Young; Robt. Harrison; Mary Harrison; Thomas Tweddell.

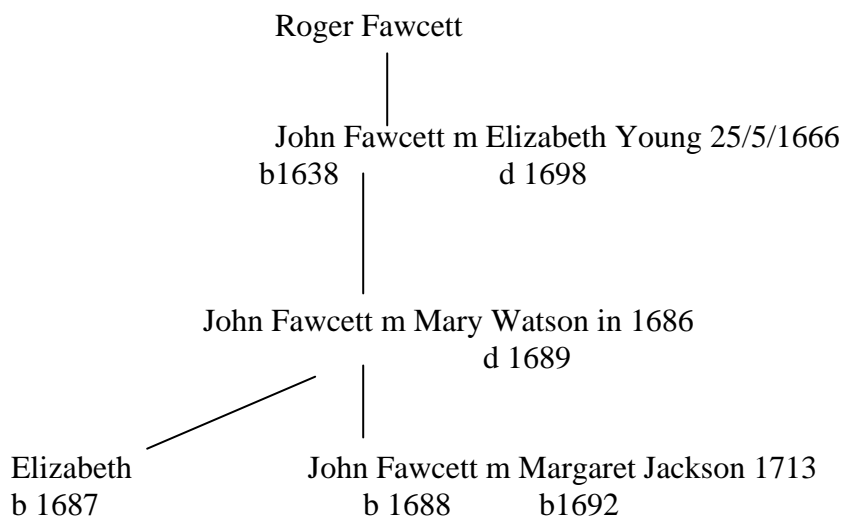
Tents. In Little Ayton
Morris Calvert; Will. Calvert; **James Fawcett**; Nicho. Richardson; Tho. Watson;
Tho. Calvert.

1660 – 1700

During this time a number of John Fawcetts are recorded. It is difficult to be certain of their relationship to one another especially as the name of the mother is generally omitted from birth records, but I have found the following:

1. John Fawcett had a daughter Ellinor baptised 3/9/1665
2. John Fawcett married Elizabeth Young in May 1666. Elizabeth, the wife of John Fawcett was buried 25/8/1698. It is possible that this John Fawcett was the son of Roger whose baptism was recorded in 1638 (see page 4)
3. A second John Fawcett married Mary Watson 2/6/1686. Mary, the wife of John Fawcett was buried 30/3/1689.
4. Elizabeth, daughter of John Fawcett was baptised in 1687.
5. A third John Fawcett was born in 1688. John Fawcett (born 1688) married Margaret Jackson (born 1692) in 1713
6. John Fawcett was buried 30/3/1704. There is no way of knowing at present which of the three John Fawcetts this refers to as no other John Fawcett deaths are in the surviving records for this period.

From these records I believe it is possible that the family links may have been:



There are other records of Fawcetts in Great Ayton at this time:

1. Percival Fawcett was buried on 24th November 1668. Was this was the same Percival who married Joanna Solloy in 1605 or perhaps his son?
2. Percival Fawcett married Margary Richardson 25/7/1671 - presumably a descendant of the older Percival

3. Percival Fawcett was buried 24/11 1671 and Margary was buried 21/10/1671.
They did not have a long married life!
4. William Fawcett was buried in 1665
5. Jane Fawcett was buried in 1665
6. Jane (or James) Fawcett was buried 7/9/1671

Fawcetts are also recorded in the Hearth Tax returns for Great Ayton or Little Ayton in 1662, 1664, 1670 and 1673.

From this time on the parish records have survived in a much better state and therefore a more accurate picture can be obtained.

Fawcetts after 1700

Family of John Fawcett and Margaret Jackson my great, great, great, great, great, great grandparents

A John Fawcett is recorded as having 8 children between 1710 and 1718. It may be that there were 2 John Fawcetts fathering children or just one whose first wife died and he remarried. The earlier children recorded were: John 1710, John 1711, Ann 1711, and Mary 1712. As it was quite common for parents to name a later child after one that had died it is not unusual to find 2 children with the same Christian name listed in one family.

John Fawcett and Margaret Jackson are recorded as marrying on 28th July 1713. John and Margaret had the following children: John 1713, Elizabeth 1714, Margaret, 1715 and Henry 1718. I am descended from their son John.

Other Fawcetts mentioned in the register at this time are:

Elizabeth Fawcett, widow, buried 21/4/1707

John Fawcett was buried 1719 but which John this is I cannot tell. Perhaps it was Margaret's husband as they did not have children after 1718. (see above).

Thomas Winspear married Margaret Fawcett 22/11/1725. (John Fawcett's widow?)

William Fawcett of Middleton married Margaret Wright of Great Ayton in 1717

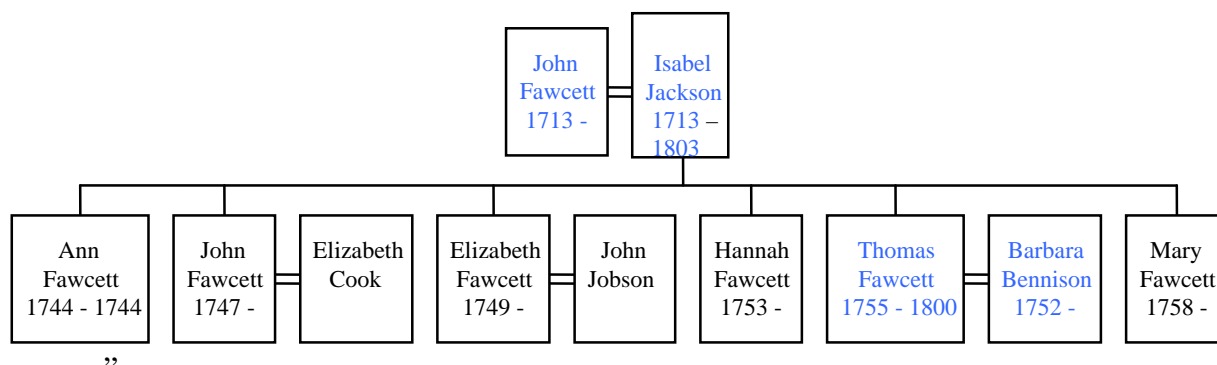
Margaret Fawcett married Edward Bell (born 1713) on 23/4/1739. (Presumably this Margaret was the daughter of John Fawcett and Margaret Jackson). Their son, Edward, was born in 1739, and their daughter, Elizabeth, in 1744.

Family of John Fawcett and Isabel Jackson (my great, great, great, great, great grandparents)

On 2nd March 1741 John Fawcett born 1713, married Isabel Jackson born 1713, the daughter of Thomas Jackson. It is likely that Isabel was already related in some way to John's family. When trying to trace the family at this time it is obvious that there were a number of inter family marriages and as the population was not so large it is hardly surprising that there were some connections, especially between the Fawcetts, Jacksons, Appletons, and Bennisons.

It may be that John was a farmer, as the parish register regarding the baptism of Mary Fawcett in 1758 refers to her as "Mary, daughter of John Fawcett, farmer".

A John Fawcett was buried on 15th February 1758 but no age is given. This may have been Isabel's husband as there is no record of any other children being born after 1758. Isabel was a widow on her death at the age of 92 in 1803.



The records (Parish records and IGI) show that Thomas Fawcett (my direct ancestor) was baptised on 10/8/1755 and was the son of John and Isabel.

John Fawcett (born 1747) is recorded as a labourer. In 1781 he married Elizabeth Cook, spinster, in the presence of Thomas Fawcett and Matthew Robinson. They had a daughter, Isabel, in 1782. The Cook name is obviously famous in Great Ayton as this was where Captain Cook's family lived but whether or not Elizabeth belonged to this Cook family is not known.

John Jobson (another distant cousin?) was a shoemaker. The records show that "John Jobson, shoemaker and bachelor, married Elizabeth Fawcett, spinster in the presence of Mary Fawcett" (Elizabeth's sister?). This is the first recording of the link to shoemakers in the family, an occupation which continues until the early twentieth century.

Isabel Fawcett is recorded in the accounts of the Overseer of the Poor as receiving out relief from 1791 – 1796.

It is clear that at least from this time onwards in Great Ayton all the Fawcett men were trained in occupations which would ensure that they would have employment, such as tailor, stonemason and currier. In addition various family members are recorded as church wardens, constables, overseers of the poor, tax payers, and members of the Board of Guardians. As yet I have to write up these details from the huge amount of information I have collected. This information will be added later.

Other Fawcetts mentioned:

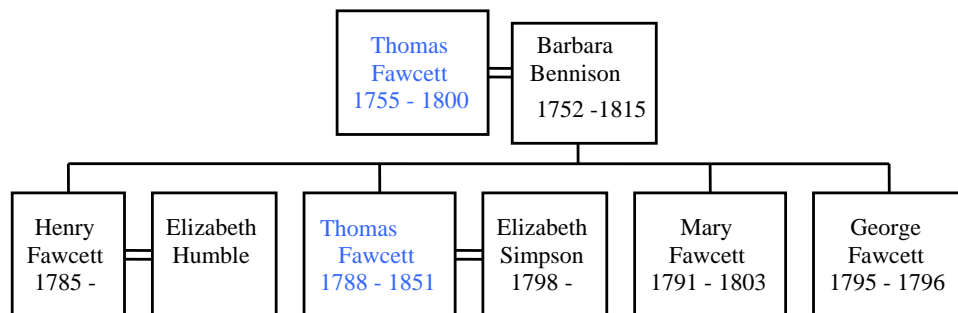
Martha, the daughter of William Fawcett was baptised on 25th December 1768

Elizabeth Fawcett, widow, was buried on 7th August 1766.

Family of Thomas Fawcett and Barbara Bennison my great, great, great, great grandparents

Thomas, the son of John and Isabel, married Barbara who was probably the daughter of Thomas Bennison, on 23rd December 1784. There were 2 ‘Barbary’ Bennisons at the time. One, born in 1760 in Stokesley, was the daughter of John Bennison, and the other, born in 1752 in Great Ayton, was the daughter of Thomas Bennison. Both were married; the one born in Stokesley in 1788 and the other in Great Ayton in 1784. It seems likely that Thomas Fawcett therefore married the Barbara Bennison who was born and married in Great Ayton.

Two of the witnesses at their marriage were Richard Barker and William York. The records show that both Thomas and Barbara signed their own names showing a level of literacy, although Barbara actually signed “Barbary”. Thomas was a stonemason. He and Barbara had the baptism of 4 children recorded in the parish register but only 2 of them survived to adulthood



Thomas is mentioned in the church warden accounts of 1798 and 1799 for receiving 4d each time for a “foulmart’s head”. In 1791 he was paid 5/- for “2 days” work. He is also recorded in the Constables records in 1786 as being paid together with William King 8/4d “for seats in the pound house”. Thomas was clearly finding ways of supplementing his income as a stonemason. Unfortunately the down side of this was that he also had to pay tax towards the poor relief. In 1795 and 1796 he had to pay 1d tax at a time when the tax was levied at 1d per £1.00 on land and ½ d on houses.

The gravestone of Thomas and Barbara can be seen at the old cemetery at Great Ayton next to that of their son, Thomas. It reads as follows:

Sacred
In memory of
Thomas Fawcett
Who departed this life
March 29 1800 aged years.
Also Barbara, his wife, departed
this life August 16th 1815

George son of the above May 13th 1796 aged 1 year
And Mary died Nov 2nd 1803 aged 12 years

Children of Thomas Fawcett and Barbara Bennison

1. There is a record of the death of “Henry Fawcett, son of Thomas Fawcett, mason” prior to 1785. It would seem that this was the first son of Thomas and Barbara. Unfortunately two of their other children also died at a young age.

2. **Henry Fawcett, their oldest surviving child**, is recorded as a witness at several weddings e.g. Ralph Harland and Elizabeth Brad 1805 and Thomas Pearson and Elizabeth How 1806.

He was also witness at the marriage of his brother Thomas to Elizabeth Simpson 26/4/1819.

Henry married Elizabeth Humble (or Dumble) on 5/10/1819. Their witnesses were Thomas Fawcett, John Longstaff, John King and Hannah ? John Longstaff was also a witness at Thomas Fawcett’s marriage to Elizabeth Simpson. Henry was a linen weaver and was still working in 1861 at the age of 75 in Stokesley where he was living with his wife, Elizabeth, aged 67.

Henry had the following children: Mary, Henry, Thomas, George, Robert, and John.

Mary was baptised 22/7/1821 in Great Ayton. **Henry** was baptised 28/4/1823 in Great Ayton. He went on to become the station master at Carlton (Sexhow) Station. Henry died on 28th June 1862. His death notice was in the Malton Messenger; “At Sexhow, Mr Henry Fawcett, station master of that place, aged 35, much and deservedly respected”. His wife died 18 months later.

Thomas and George were both baptised in Stokesley, Thomas on 23/10/1825 and George on 4/7/1828.

Robert was baptised 2/1/1831. He is listed in the 1861 census living in Ryhope, Durham. He was a shoemaker and living with his wife, Sarah from Durham and their children, Joseph Thomas (b 1856), Robert (b 1859) and Elizabeth (b 1861). In the 1881 census he was living in Hetton le Hole with his wife, Sarah and children, Joseph, Robert, John, Mary, Henry and Margaret.

John was baptised on 1st August 1833. It appears that he never married. He started his working life as a printer compositor and in the 1881 census was living in Atlas Mews, Middlesbrough. In 1891 however, he was working as a general labourer living at 9 Hutchinson Street, Middlesbrough. By the 1901 census he was a porter at the port living at 14 Hutchinson Street Middlesbrough. For a long time I wondered why someone who was trained to be a printer compositor should become a labourer. I then found military papers which seem to relate John.

It would seem from descriptions given that John was a member of the 22nd North Yorks Rifles Militia into which he enrolled on 30th April 1853 (No. 681 Corporal John Fawcett). He was released from his militia engagement to enlist in the 8th foot. He enlisted in the 8th Regiment of foot at York on 23rd December 1857 aged 24 years (No 127 Private John Fawcett). His enlistment papers show that he was a printer by trade, born in Stokesley. He was described as 5ft 7 ½ inches tall with a fair complexion, hazel eyes, and brown hair. ” His conduct and character had been very good He apparently served in Malta and the East Indies. He was injured in October 1868 when a regimental arms chest fell on his wrist when he was employed in loading regimental baggage in Malta. This resulted in his right wrist becoming stiff and weak and the index finger contracted. The documentation stated that he was unable to work with his right hand and that he would only partly be able to contribute towards his civilian lifestyle (printer). He was discharged as unfit for active duty on January 25th 1870, stating that he “cannot materially contribute to his own livelihood”. His intended place of residence following discharge was given as Middlesbrough. He received a pension of 6d which was increased to 8d (presumably per day). In 1892 it was noted that he wished to join the army of reserve.

Having received such an injury to his right hand John was not only unable to continue in the army but could not return to his previous trade of printer compositor, which left him working as a general labourer. He died in Middlesbrough in 1904.

3. Thomas, my great, great, great grandfather.

See next chapter

Other Fawcetts mentioned 1750 -1800

William Galloway of Guisborough married Ann Fawcett 17/5/1804 in the presence of Robert Fawcett, Susanna Fawcett and James Fawcett.

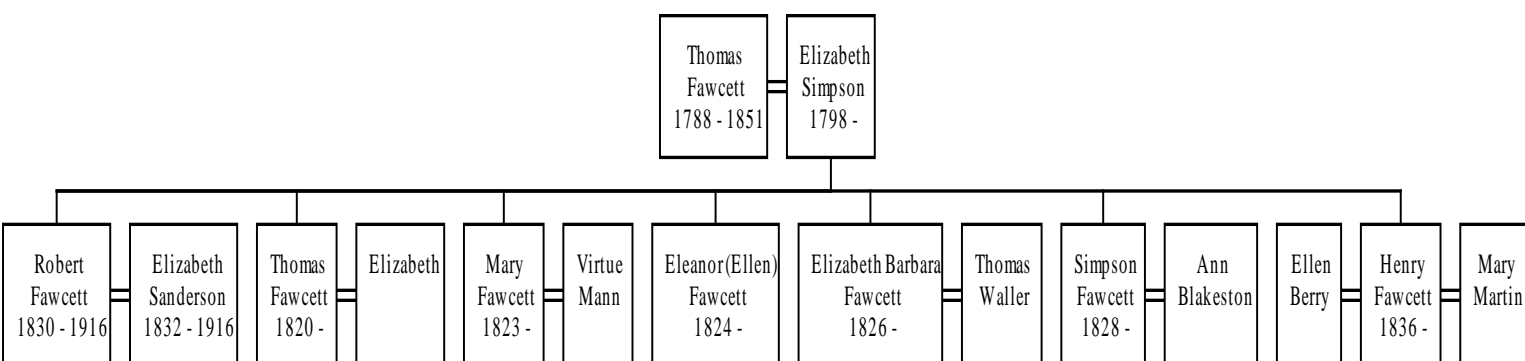
The following births are also recorded:

Martha, (25 Dec 1768) daughter of William Fawcett, labourer.

Elizabeth Fawcett (illegitimate) daughter of Thomasine Fawcett.

Family of Thomas Fawcett and Elizabeth Simpson (my great, great, great grandparents)

Descendants of Thomas Fawcett



Thomas, son of Thomas Fawcett and Barbara Bennison, married Elizabeth Simpson on 29th April 1819. The witnesses at their marriage were Henry Fawcett (Thomas's brother), Eleanor Jackson, John Longstaff and John Hunter. Everyone signed their own names, which shows that they were all literate.

Elizabeth Simpson was baptised in Stainton on 26/4/1798. Her parents were Bartholomew Simpson, farmer, born about 1763, died 1846, and Mary (nee Jackson) born about 1773 in West Acklam, and who died 1856 in Great Ayton. Bartholomew was a yeoman and he appears as a signatory on various church warden accounts and the Constable's records from 1802 – 1840. I have been told that Bartle's Bridge, built 1819/1820, was named after him and that he was responsible for the purchase of musical instruments for the church. The church warden accounts seem to verify this purchase.

As well as being a stone mason like his father, Thomas seems to have had a variety of additional jobs. At the birth of his daughter Elizabeth 1826 he was described in the parish register as a stone mason. At the birth of his son Simpson, 1828, he was described as a stone mason and weaver. When Henry was born in 1836, Thomas was a stone mason and school master. He is listed in the 1823 Trade directory as a stonemason, whilst his father in law, Bartholomew, is listed as farmer and yeoman. Thomas was Constable, 1822 – 1823 and also features quite regularly in the church warden accounts as receiving payment for various work carried out. Perhaps having your father in law as church warden was an advantage, or perhaps work was given to those who were "tax payers" as they would know each other from meetings.

Thomas is not mentioned in the 1841 census, which may have been an oversight or perhaps he was working away from home. Elizabeth, his wife, is recorded as living next door to her parents, Bartholomew and Mary Simpson. Her eldest son, also named Thomas Fawcett, was living with his grandparents, maybe to leave more space in his parents' house or to ensure that they were looked after and that there was someone on hand to do any heavy jobs

In the 1851 census Thomas was recorded in the census as a pauper whilst Elizabeth was described as undertaking "domestic duties" presumably to look after her ailing husband. Her mother, Mary was also living with her and was described as an annuitant i.e. she was in receipt of some kind of "pension. Mary was now a widow as Bartholomew had died in February 1846.

Thomas died shortly after the 1851 census. His death was due to asthma which he had had for several years. According to his death certificate, his son, Robert, was present at his death. It may have been that Thomas's increasing breathing difficulties had meant that he was no longer able to work, or that the dust from the stone had caused his breathing difficulties in the first place. Thomas was buried on May 14th 1851 at a cost of 1 shilling on "west side of footpath to chancel door, south of his father's stone". This is a very small sum for a funeral at that time which may reflect the poor nature of the family's fortunes at that time and probably means that no gravestone was erected at that time.

Elizabeth was buried on April 7th 1865 at a cost of 4 shillings, "left of chancel door with her husband". Their gravestone which is clearly visible now, next to that of Thomas's parents and reads:

Sacred
TO THE MEMORY
OF
THOMAS FAWCETT
Who died May 9th 1851
AGED 63 YEARS
And of ELIZABETH his wife
Who died Apr 17 18??
AGED 6? YEARS
ALSO
HENNRY their son
Who died in his infancy

Thomas and Elizabeth had 8 children in total including a second Henry who was obviously born after the one mentioned on their tombstone.

Most of Thomas and Elizabeth's children moved away from Great Ayton, although some returned for brief spells. Employment opportunities must have been better further afield. By 1851 when Thomas was no longer able to work only their daughters Eleanor and Elizabeth were still in Great Ayton, although Robert and Simpson

returned and settled there after their father died and, their brother, Thomas returned for a while too before settling in Durham city.

Thomas and Elizabeth's children

1. Thomas

Thomas was described as an apprentice currier in 1841. A currier was someone who worked with leather. By 1851 he had left Great Ayton, married Elizabeth (from Helmsley) and was living in Stockton. He did return to Great Ayton at some point as his 3 youngest children were born there, but he eventually settled in Crossgate, Durham City.

He had 7 children, 3 of whom were born in Stockton: Mary 1848, William 1851, and Tom 1852.

Hannah was born about 1854 in Sunderland and married Charles Tinkler. They had a daughter, Elizabeth born in Crook 1869.

A further 3 children were born in Great Ayton: Lydia was born about 1859 and married William Palmer, Henry was born about 1860, and John Robert was born about 1862 and became an engine fitter.

2. Mary

Mary was born in 1822 and married Virtue Mann, a quarryman, who was born in Trimdon, Co Durham. They spent most of their married life in Co Durham although Mary visited her mother together with her daughter Elizabeth and were recorded in Great Ayton in the 1861 census. Mary was only 50 when she died and Virtue was 53.

Mary and Virtue had 3 recorded children:

- a) Robert who was born 1847 at Greatham was a quarryman like his father. He married Mary (from Gatehouse, Westmorland) and had at least 6 children – William John Johnson Fawcett, Mary Annie, Elizabeth, Sarah Jane, Elinor Ada, and Harriet Esther.
- b) John Thomas who was born 1850 in Trimdon was a joiner and later a cabinet maker. He married Ellinor, born 1858 at Brompton.
- c) Elizabeth was born 1857 at Fishburn.

3. Eleanor (Ellen)

Eleanor never married. In 1851 she was a general servant to Dr William A Loy in Great Ayton. In 1861 she was living with her mother and her niece, Mary Waller who she continued to bring up. Mary had been born with a spinal complaint according to the 1881 census. Why Mary was sent to live with another relative is a mystery. Perhaps this enabled them to receive parish relief, or maybe it was felt that Mary would receive more care this way rather than in a family group. Perhaps it was simply company for Eleanor. Eleanor died in 1904 aged 80.

4. Elizabeth Barbara

Elizabeth presumably received her middle name from her grandmother, Barbara Bennison. She married Thomas Waller, son of William and Hannah Waller, who was born about 1809 in Seamer. Thomas was an agricultural labourer and had been previously married (possibly to Isabella Wren) and had 2 children by this marriage: a daughter, Ann, (who in 1861 seems to have taken over the role of servant to Dr Loy from Eleanor Fawcett!) and a son, John, born 1842, who became a joiner and cabinet maker and moved to St Mary Newington, London. John married Jane (From Hull) and had a daughter, Anne (1867) who became a school board teacher in St Mary Newington.

Elizabeth seems to have had a number of occupations in her own right. At one time she was a grocer and in 1881 in Coatham, Redcar she was described as a “grocer and occasionally nurse”! After her husband’s death she seems to have moved to Kirkleatham for a while before living with her daughter Eliza.

Elizabeth and Thomas had 4 children: Mary Elizabeth 1857 (lived with her aunt), Hannah Eleanor 1859 – 1865, Esther Simpson 1860 and Eliza Jane 1863

Esther Simpson Waller was given her middle name in memory of her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Simpson. She married Edwin Johnson in the June quarter of 1882. Edwin was born in Hinderwell. They had 9 children between 1883 and 1898: Thomas W, Annie, Eliza, Emily, Herbert, Stanley, Arthur, Wilfred and Alfred. At one point Edwin was a whinstone miner but by 1901 he was an oil merchant living on his “own account”. This would seem to indicate that Esther’s life would have been relatively comfortable. This was in contrast to what happened to her sister, Eliza Jane



Esther Simpson



Edwin Johnson (age 100)

Eliza Jane's story tells something of life at the time. Families moved to find work; they struggled to bring up their children and were ever open to diseases which today would be curable. Eliza was rather unusual in that, like her mother, she was a grocer in her own right, and in 1881 she was the head of the household in Waterfall Terrace, Great Ayton despite her older sister Esther living with her. In addition they had 2 lodgers, George Agar and John Plews/Plows (who later married Eliza in the Dec quarter 1881). In some documents the surname is given as Plows and in others Plews. I wonder how the community viewed 2 young girls having 2 young men as lodgers! Their mother at that time was in Redcar

Eliza left Great Ayton presumably as her husband searched for work. Eliza's mother joined her and was living with Eliza's children in 1891 in Beck Cottages, Rosedale West Side. The children listed at that time were Thomas H Plows, born 1882, Great Ayton, John Walter Plows, born 1883, Great Ayton, George Edward Plows, born 1886, Carlin Howe), Fred Plows born 1887, Rosedale, Annie May Plows born 1889, Rosedale. (Thomas and Walter were living together as lodgers in Danby in 1901).

Eliza's husband John Plows died in October 1890. Eliza then married John Bartram on 30th January 1892. They had at least 2 children in Rosedale, Charles Henry in October 1892 and Lucy Jane in December 1893. The family then moved to 35 Morrison Street, Carlton Ironworks, Whitton, Co Durham. Eliza's mother, Elizabeth, aged 69 years, died there on 24th September 1895 suffering from enteric fever which she had had for 20 days. She was described as "widow of Thomas Waller, labourer". Eliza was present at the death. It would appear that John Bartram also died at this time, and Eliza herself died shortly after on 29th March 1896 in Great Ayton. The cause of death was Phthisis which she had had for 7 months. Her brother in law, Edwin Johnson was the informant.

In only 15 years Eliza had been head of the household, a grocer, married twice, had at least 7 children and seen her mother and 2 husbands die. She certainly had an eventful life and although she died young must have had strength of character.

5. Simpson

Simpson was so named presumably after his maternal grandparents, Bartholomew and Mary Simpson.

By 1841 he was apprenticed to Robert Johnson, tailor, in Carlton and later became a master tailor. This status allowed him to employ his own men and to train apprentices. He married Ann Blakeston from Aycliffe in 1850 and for a while they lived in Stockton before moving back to Great Ayton, where the family remained until after Simpson's death in 1887.

Simpson and Ann had at least 7 children. The first 2 Sarah Ann (1852) and Thomas (1854) were born in Stockton.

The rest of Simpson's children were born in Great Ayton:

- a) Mary E was born about 1856. She was a servant in the Temperance Hall in 1871. She had a son, Thomas W Fawcett, presumably illegitimate. She later married William Husband from Easington, Yorkshire. William was an ironstone miner and then a platerer's labourer. They lived in Lofthouse and then Jarrow.
- b) William was born in 1859. He moved to Hebburn where he was a draper. He married Harriet Pescod and had a son, William Henry in 1890.
- c) Eliza was born in 1860. In 1891 she was living with her mother in Jarrow and working as a grocer's assistant.
- d) Louisa was born in 1861.
- e) Francis Robert was born in 1864. In 1881 he was working as a hairdresser in Crossgate, Durham city where his Uncle Thomas had settled. He then seems to have moved to Knighton, Leicestershire, as he was living there as a hairdresser in 1891 with his wife, Mary Ann and their daughter, Florence.
- f) Simpson was born about 1868. He too later moved to Jarrow and worked first as a barman and then as a cement labourer. He married Margaret Janet Darke (born 1870) in 1888 and had the following children: Lillian Ann, Richard, Olive, and Ethel. His wife Margaret died in 1901 and Simpson later married Hannah Deans Clark.

6. Robert was my great great grandfather and is mentioned in the next chapter.

7. Henry was born 1833 and died before 1836. He is named on his parent's gravestone

8. Henry, born 1836

Henry was the youngest child and, I believe, the one who travelled furthest. From census records it seems that although his father died a "pauper" Henry managed to go to Trinity College, Dublin. The 1861 census shows him in Brighton working as an assistant school teacher. He states here that he is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. The only Henry Fawcett recorded in the alumni of Trinity College at that time was awarded his degree in 1862. It may well have been that he completed his course and that the actual award came later.

When Henry married his first wife, Ellen Berry, in Lewes, Sussex in 1864, he gave his father's name as Thomas Fawcett, schoolmaster. He conveniently forgot to mention his father's main occupation of stonemason, as this probably didn't fit in with his view of his own status. Henry also recorded his own occupation as master of Stokesley Grammar School, although at his time he was only an assistant master.

Henry did however become the master of Preston Grammar School, Stokesley and many of his adverts and announcements for the school can be found in the Northern Echo:

In 1896 for example there is an account of the annual distribution of prizes. Mr Henry Fawcett M.A. , Headmaster having read his annual report, which was highly satisfactory, Mr E H Wynne Finch presented the prizes". Subjects for which prizes were awarded were Freehand drawing, Geometrical drawing, Arithmetic, Euclid, History, Geography, Chemistry, Latin and Algebra. The newspaper then goes on to report the prizes awarded on sports day which included various cycle races, flat races, obstacle races, one race for ladies, races for "old boys", races for "chums" a race for members of the cricket club, an open race and a tug of war. The Stokesley Volunteer Band played and G Gartside won the Silver cup as the boy who had accumulated the most points.

"The Grammar School
Stokesley

The Headmaster has a few VACANCIES for BOARDERS.
The following Homours have been obtained by Pupils from
This school:- First Class London Matriculation; A First Class Classics,
Mathematics and English at Durham University Medical Preliminary
Examination; Divinity Prize at Dublin University, and unflinching success
At the Cambridge Local Examinations.-

For terms apply to Henry Fawcett M.A."

From The Northern Echo Friday March 21, 1890.

He was still the master of this school in 1901 and over his 40 years there he had varying numbers of boarders and servants. Preston house, Stokesley was the house built for the schoolmaster when the school was set up. This is probably where Henry and his family lived.

After the death of Ellen, Henry married, Mary Martin from Norfolk. Her father had been a landowner and farmer (400 acres), employing 14 men, 12 boys and girls. She had 3 brothers one of whom (William) was a marine and biological engineer. Her mother, Ann was living with them in 1891 as well as 3 boarders 9pupils), 2 servants and a visitor, Irene Fergusson from Galway, Ireland.

There is a photograph of the boys and the masters of Preston Grammar School dated c1900. I assume that the older master in the photograph is Henry. He made various complaints about the state of the school, the resources allocated to it and the subjects they were being asked to introduce in the late 1890s. He retired from Preston Grammar School some time after 1901 and moved to Saltburn. He died on 17th May 1905 and his death certificate states that his address at that time was Leven House, Saltburn. The cause of death was "malignant disease of the stomach" and the informant was his widow, Mary Fawcett, who was present at the death. According to the National Burial Index he was buried in Stokesley but I have not traced his grave. Probate was granted to his widow and his son, Henry, on 17th May 1905. Preston Grammar School closed in 1908 as the inspectors found it lacking. It seems that Henry was right to complain when he did.

Children of Henry Fawcett:

Henry and Mary Martin had a daughter, Mabel Archer Fawcett who married Nelson F Prickett in 1913 in Elham, Kent.

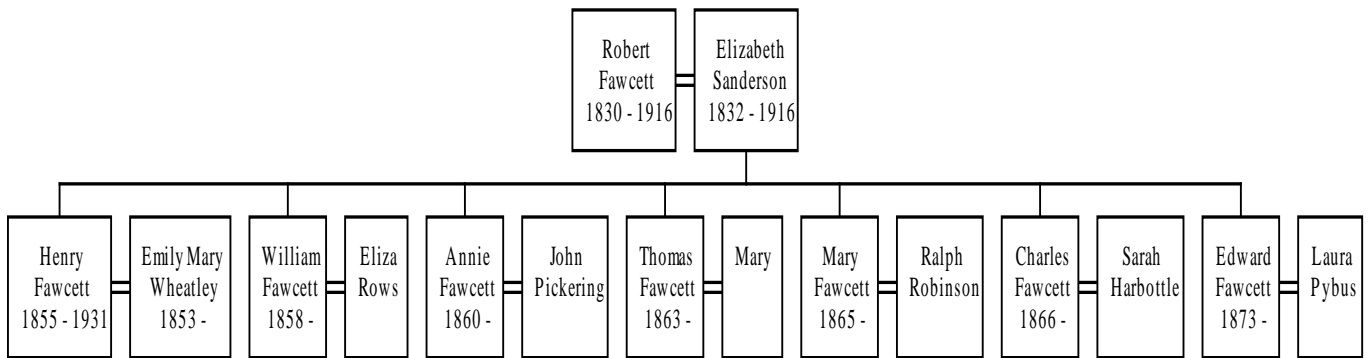
Henry and Ellen Berry had a son, also named Henry. In 1901 this younger Henry was living in 36 Acklam Terrace, Mandale, Thornaby. He had become a doctor and had married Irene Fergusson who was recorded visiting the Fawcett family in 1891. Living with them were their son, Desmond H, daughter, Shelagh;, a visitor, Rhoda Lake from Ireland; Emma Honey, a domestic nurse from Yorkshire; Mary Bell, nursemaid, from Yorkshire; Margaret Sweeney, cook, from Ireland; Mary Welsh, housemaid, from Ireland and Thomas Moram, coach driver, from Ireland.

Presumably Dr Henry had his own coach! It would appear that the higher education of his father had paid off and that this branch of the family was now moving in different circles from that of my great grandfather Henry who by this time was a weighman in the steelworks and was cousin to this Henry, the doctor. In 1911 Desmond was a pupil at the RC Ampleforth College.

In 1913 Henry was recorded in the register of doctors as living at Barton House , Thornaby and that he held the following qualifications: MB 1889, B. Surgeon 1888, and MD 1897 at Durham University. He died 20th June 1919. Probate was granted in London on 11th September 1919 to the Public Trustee.

Family of Robert Fawcett and Elizabeth Sanderson (my great, great grandparents)

Descendants of Robert Fawcett



Robert Fawcett was born in Great Ayton, the son of Thomas Fawcett and Elizabeth Simpson. He married Elizabeth Sanderson the daughter of Ann Hornby and Humphrey Sanderson who was a shoemaker.

The Sandersons are quite an interesting family in their own right. (NB I am still in the process of working my way through the information I have on the Sandersons. This will form a separate chapter when completed). They can be traced back to Robert Sanderson who married Jane Scarth in 1691 at Stainton. They had 9 children, one of whom was Humphrey Sanderson, weaver, who married Jane Clark in 1731. From this line was descended one Humphrey Sanderson who was born in 1775. He became a schoolteacher in Great Ayton. His granddaughter, Mary Jane Sanderson, was schoolmistress of a private school and played the harmonium at the opening of Christ Church, Great Ayton. One of his sons moved to Hull and in various censuses you can find visitors from that area with family members in Great Ayton.

Elizabeth Sanderson's father, Humphrey, was the nephew of Humphrey, the school teacher. Elizabeth's father was at one time, constable of Great Ayton and church warden. Dorothy Bailey has a large oil painting which is said to be Elizabeth's father, and a pot with his and his wife's name on but the date on it does not seem to signify anything in particular.



Figure 1 Humphrey Sanderson



Records show that when they were children, Robert and Elizabeth lived close to each other, quite near to the Buck Inn.

For most of his life Robert was a shoemaker like his father in law. At one point he was classed as a master shoemaker meaning that he could employ others to work for him.

By 1851 Robert had moved away and was living in Cassop, County Durham, working as a cordwainer (shoemaker) for James Temple, a master cordwainer employing 6 men. Presumably there was more money to be made in this area. Elizabeth at that time was working as a servant at the hall in Ingleby Greenhow. .

Robert married Elizabeth on 14th August 1854 in the parish church, Ingleby Greenhow. The witnesses were John Garbutt, bailiff at the estate where Elizabeth worked, and Eliza Browne. Robert's father is given as Thomas Fawcett, stone mason,

and Elizabeth's father is given as Humphrey Sanderson, shoemaker. On the family tree that I was given by Dorothy Bailey it states that Robert and Elizabeth were married "from the Manor House"

Robert and Elizabeth spent all of their married life in Great Ayton living at various times at "Mill Race", "Main Street" or "High Street". Of their 7 children Annie, Mary and Edward stayed close to them in Great Ayton, and in 1901 Edward, their youngest son, was actually living with them with his own family.

Robert died on the 1st May 1916 of senile decay, and Elizabeth died a day later. His death certificate records him as a master shoemaker living at 258 High Street, Great Ayton. His son Charles was recorded as "in attendance" - his address at the time being 17 Granville Road, Middlesbrough.

I have been told that the funeral of Robert and Elizabeth was the first double funeral in Great Ayton.

Their gravestone is in the newer Great Ayton cemetery and shows a Masonic handshake at the top and has the following inscription:

ROBERT FAWCETT
DIED MAY 1st 1916
AGED 86 YEARS
ALSO
ELIZABETH
BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE
DIED MAY 2nd 1916

"IN DEATH NOT DIVIDED"

HOLD THOU THY CROSS BEFORE
MY CLOSING EYES
SHINE THROUGH THE CLOUDS AND POINT
ME TO THE SKIES
HEAVEN'S MORNING BREAKS AND EARTH'S
VAIN SHADOWS FLEE
IN LIFE, IN DEATH, O LORD ABIDE WITH ME

Four of their 5 sons worked as railway clerks which meant them moving out of Great Ayton for some of the time. Clearly the improved transport links not only provided work but a wider view of the world in which they lived. It is during their children's

lifetime that the Great Ayton Fawcett family as a whole seems to have dispersed, many of them going to live in Co Durham or the Jarrow area, whilst others went to London. However it does seem that family links remained important even with more distant relatives.

Robert and Elizabeth's children

1. Henry Fawcett - my great grandfather. SEE NEXT CHAPTER

2. William

William was born 21st December 1858. According to the 1881 census, when William left home he went to live as a boarder at 7 Railway Terrace in Eston. He was a railway clerk and lodged with other people associated with the railway.

William married Eliza Susannah Rows on 19th July 1881 in Middlesbrough Registry office. Eliza, who was a dressmaker, was born in Eston in 1861. They lived at 5 Station Terrace, South Bank when their son was born in 1886. Unfortunately William died in 1886 leaving Eliza with 2 small children, Lily Rows Fawcett and William Henry Fawcett. Eliza and the children lived at 5 Cleveland Street Normanby. William is buried in Normanby cemetery. His gravestone was probably initially erected by his parents as it states:

William
Beloved son of Robert and Elizabeth Fawcett
of Great Ayton
who died at South Bank
Aug 3rd 1886
Aged 27 years

Also Lily Rows
Daughter of the above
William Fawcett
Died Oct 25th 1961
Aged 77 years

Also Elsie, beloved wife
Of George Bottomley
Died Feb 27th 1971
Aged 77 years

Also in memory of George Bottomley
5th Dec 1889 – 15 March 1982

Eliza went on to marry Rowland Owens from Anglesey. He had lived a few doors away from her in 1891 and was a widower with at least 3 children. They went to live

in Marsden, Yorkshire, where William Henry Fawcett worked as farmer's boy (milkier) in 1901. Eliza and Rowland had at least 2 children of their own; Elsie and Florence

It may be that the whole family moved back to the Normanby area as this would account for Lily being buried with her father. Presumably "Elsie" buried in the same grave is the daughter of Eliza and Rowland Owens as she would have been the half sister of Lily Rows Fawcett.

My grandmother, also Lily Fawcett, married in 1915 and one of her witnesses was another Lily Fawcett - possibly Lily Rows Fawcett as they would have been cousins.

3. Annie

Ann (Annie) was born on Monday March 19th 1860 at 7.30a.m. She married John Pickering (quarryman) in the March quarter 1882. They stayed in Great Ayton and had at least 3 children, William H, Charles and Annie Elizabeth.

In 1901 they lived next door to Annie's sister, Mary. Their son, William had moved to Stockton where he was a railway clerk. He was boarding at a house where the head was Francis Bennison. Maybe it is a coincidence but Bennison was the maiden name of Robert Fawcett's grandmother or perhaps family links were stronger then than they are today! Alfred Pickering married Gertrude Bennison in 1920.

Annie Elizabeth married William Bulmer, who was an ironstone miner, in 1908. The witnesses at their wedding were Charles Pickering and Mary Robinson. William Bulmer died 17th January 1959 and Annie Elizabeth died 10th July 1962. They had 5 children: Dennis, Annie, Dorothy, Audrey and Ruth. It may be that my uncles knew some of these children when they visited Great Ayton. They certainly mentioned visiting their "Pickering" relatives with their mother and grandfather, Henry Fawcett. My contact, Dorothy Bailey is descended from Annie Bulmer.



Figure 2 Annie Pickering, High Street, Great Ayton

4. Thomas

Thomas was born on Monday April 21st 1862 at 2.30a.m. In 1881 he was living at home and was a “pupil teacher” which meant that he was considered able enough to teach younger pupils and therefore training to be a teacher. However, he later became a mercantile clerk and married Jane Elizabeth Kemp in Ripon in 1889. She was born in Guisborough but her family lived in Bishop Monkton near Ripon. Thomas and Jane lived first of all at 16 Percy Street, Middlesbrough with their son Arnold. Like most of his brothers, Thomas then became a railway clerk. The family spent some time at Heighington in Co Durham where their daughter Trothy was born. (Trothey was also the name of Jane’s sister) They then moved to 34 Pearl Street, South Bank. At some point the moved back to the Ripon area and it is likely that Thomas died in the Knaresborough district in 1905. Jane remarried in 1910 to George Yates, a farmer in Bishop Monkton. Arnold Fawcett her son, fought in WW1 and on his enlistment papers he gives his next of kin as his mother, Jane Yates of Ayton House, Bishop Monkton. Arnold was in the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was described as 5ft 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, weighing 134lbs, with brown hair, blue eyes and fair complexion. His religious denomination was given as Wesleyan. He was wounded on 10th July 1916 and declared unfit for further service on 29th March 1917. Arnold returned to Ripon and is recorded as a railway porter there in 1911. Trothy, Thomas and Jane’s daughter married in Knaresborough in 1923.

5. Mary

Mary was born on Saturday 2nd July 1864 at 3.30p.m. In 1881 she was a kitchen maid at Easby Hall. She married Ralph Robinson in the March quarter of 1886. Ralph’s father was John Robinson, an innkeeper at Goathland. Ralph had been married before and in 1881 he was living at Beck Hole, as a shoemaker, with his wife Elizabeth and

children Mary Jane and Thomas. (I assume Elizabeth and Thomas died. However, Mary Jane was living with him later when he was married to Mary).

Ralph spent some time as a quarryman before returning to his trade as a shoemaker. Mary and Ralph had at least 7 children of their own: Thomas, May, William Fawcett, Lily, Emily, Laura and Edward. It is easy to assume that some of these names came from relatives and it is interesting to note yet another use of a maiden name (Fawcett) as a second Christian name.

6. Charles

Charles was born Friday 19th January 1866 at 9.00a.m. He was also a railway clerk. He married Sarah Eliza Harbottle from Guisborough. They lived first of all at Broughton and then in York. They lived in Middlesbrough before returning to Great Ayton where Charles became Station Master. So this was the relative who my father had heard of as station master – his Great Uncle Charles.

Charles had the following children: Gertrude Mary, Reginald Charles, Edith May and Doris. Edith May married Frederick Harrison Fawcett a widower from Redcar in 1928.

Charles was present at the death of his father, Robert, in 1916, at which time Charles' address was given as 17, Granville Road, Middlesbrough.

7. Edward

Edward was born 15th October 1872 at 4.00a.m. He too was a railway clerk. He married Laura Pybus from Urray Nook, Yarm in 1895. Her parents were John and Margaret Pybus from Mansfield. Her brother, William, worked on the railway too and in 1891 was a railway porter at the station at South Bank.

In 1901 they were living with Edward's parents in Great Ayton. Edward was still working as a railway clerk and by then had 2 children, Fred and Margaret Ann.

Edward died at the age of 46, suffering from influenza and asthma on 1st December, 1918 at 178 Hart Road, Throston, Hartlepool. The informant was his daughter.

He is buried in the cemetery at Great Ayton:

In
Loving Memory of
EDWARD
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF
LAURA FAWCETT
WHO DIED AT HARTLEPOOL
Dec 2nd 1918
AGED 46 YEARS

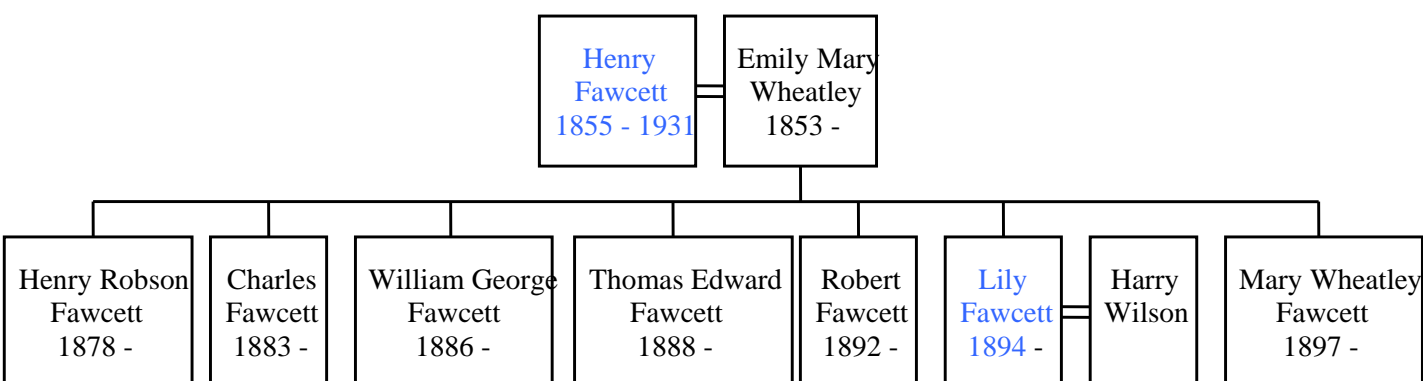
.....DAYBREAK AND THE.....

ALSO THE ABOVE
LAURA FAWCETT
DIED AUG 8th 1958
PEACE PERFECT PEACE

ALSO MARGARET
ANN WITHERS
DEAR DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
DIED NOV 1963
ALSO JOSEPH WITHERS
BELOVED HUSBAND OF THE ABOVE
DIED DEC 31st 1965
REUNITED

Family of Henry Fawcett and Emily Mary Wheatley (my great grandparents)

Descendants of Henry Fawcett



Henry was the son of **Robert Fawcett** and **Elizabeth Sanderson**. He was born in Great Ayton and at some point moved to Newcastle to work as a clerk. He married **Emily Mary Wheatley**, a milliner, on June 1st 1876 in St Peter's church, Newcastle upon Tyne. Their marriage is also recorded in the Northern Echo on Saturday 3rd June 1876.

Emily's father was Robson Wheatley, a joiner, who was born in Gateshead about 1820, died 1908. Robson Wheatley's father was named George and he was a butcher. Robson had a brother named Johnson Wheatley so the family seem to have been given unusual names. So far I have not found where these Christian names came from, as Robson's mother was Mary Greenwell (not Robson or Johnson).

Emily's mother was Catherine Margaret Clary Walton born about 1822 in Newcastle and died 1906. Catherine had at least 3 brothers - William Thomas, Joseph James, and Thomas. Thomas became a newspaper reporter and lived in Crossgate, Durham city, as did Thomas Fawcett (Emily's uncle by marriage). Thomas Walton was a highly regarded reporter who died at the age of 51 having cut his hand whilst opening a tin. Reports of his death and funeral were recorded in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle. Joseph was also a reporter and author. His obituaries revealed a man who was very highly thought of, who had never really recovered from the death of his wife and who was widely travelled, living for part of the time in the south of France. Joseph died intestate and probate was granted to his sister, Catherine. Both of his brothers were dead but had left children. His estate was recorded as £7,987.00 in 1893. This was a large sum of money at that time and it is probably this estate that was the source of the court case that my grandmother mentioned, and the "money" our visitor was chasing in the 1970s. Mary in turn left money to her children when she died in 1905.

Emily's maternal grandfather, Joseph Walton was a silversmith and innkeeper. Her grandmother, Mary was an innkeeper in her own right which was quite unusual. She seems to have been proud of this as after her retirement she refers to herself as a former licensee. Mary's maiden name was Maule. The Maule family were quite well to do and her brother was a coach builder in Alnwick. Quite a number of Maule's were teachers, including Mary's own father. The Maule family has its own website and can be traced back to the 1500s in Edinburgh. I have written about the Maule family separately as there is a great deal of information about them and some interesting stories.

Henry and Emily remained in the Newcastle area until they moved to 7 Coral Street, South Bank some time after 1888. By 1901 Henry was working as a pig iron weighman. He would have been living close to here his brothers William and Thomas settled.

Henry lived with his daughter Lily (my grandmother) before his death and it is from him that we have the story of the court case in Newcastle or the Durham area as mentioned on page 2 and 29. The court case apparently involved property and some kind of fraud. It was mentioned that a newspaper reporter was also involved (Joseph Walton – see above) and that the death of one of the defendants/respondents caused the case to be adjourned. A small sum of money was given to those involved until the case resumed. As far as I know it never did resume but my guess is that it was something to do with the Maule/Walton side of my family.

I don't know why Henry moved to Newcastle from Great Ayton, presumably the family had contacts there and the work was better, or why he moved back to the Cleveland area. Like the rest of his brothers, he was literate and therefore could have had a variety of jobs not open to most people born in the 1850s. My uncle said that Henry was always very smartly dressed, he had a well trimmed moustache and that he carried a walking cane. He died of bronchial pneumonia on 17th May 1931 at 7 Coral Street, South Bank. He was described as a former steel works weighman. His death was certified by Dr McKendrick who was still a doctor in South Bank when I was born. The informant was my grandfather, Harry Wilson.

Henry and Emily had at least 7 children, the first 4 being born in Newcastle and the last 3 born in South Bank. My direct line comes from Lily.

1. Henry Robson Fawcett

Henry was born about 1878 in Newcastle. He married Mary Ann Williams and in 1901 they were living in 26 Upper Albion Street with their son, William, who was just a year old. He received the name Robson from his grandfather, Robson Wheatley.

2. Charles Fawcett

Charles was baptised on 25 Feb 1883 in Newcastle. He joined the navy and at some point went missing. His sister Lily tried to trace him but was unsuccessful, although there is some question as to whether or not he settled in South Africa.

3. William George Fawcett

William was baptised on 28 Feb 1886 in Newcastle. He had at least one child, Reginald.

4. Thomas Edward

Thomas was baptised on 3 March 1888 in Newcastle. He never married although he did visit a lady in Sunderland each weekend! He lived with his sister Lily and died about 1944

5. Robert Fawcett

Robert was baptised on 14 June 1892 in South Bank. He was known as Bob. He lived in Dormanstown and had a son, John who married Edna Foreman and had a daughter, Rose.

6 Lily Fawcett – my grandmother. See next chapter.

7. Mary Wheatley Fawcett

Mary was baptised on 14 March 1900 in South Bank. It was quite a common family custom to have the mother's maiden name as a Christian name for one of the children. She married Tom Routh and had a son, Leonard.

Family of Lily Fawcett and Harry Wilson (my grandparents)



Lily was born in August 1894. Her parents were **Henry Fawcett** and **Emily Mary Wheatley**. She married **Harry Wilson** in 1915. They had 5 sons the youngest being my father. Lily had 5 brothers and 1 sister that I have been able to trace. With 5 sons, she needed to be a strict person. She was at least 5' 8" tall and very slim. According to my father, she had a nice singing voice and was always cooking. Her brother, Tom and her father lived with her for a time, which is probably how she came to have the papers relating to the court case involving the family re a property in Durham.

Lily used to visit her Great Ayton relatives with her father and her children at least till the 1920s. Two of my uncles remember travelling by horse and cart from South Bank. They had to get off and walk as the cart went up Ormesby Bank or Flatts Lane. Their Great Ayton "cousins", particularly the Pickerings, showed them how to tickle fish in the river. My father was not born until 1930 and unfortunately these visits had ceased by this time.

