

Thomas Edward Sugden (1886 – 1955)

Thomas Edward Sugden was born in Kildwick and he and his family lived at Holme Bank – a large house that would later serve as St Andrew's Vicarage.

The Sugdens were quite well off –his father ran a coal yard in Farnhill where several local men were employed.

Tragedy struck the family in 1899, during the Kildwick typhoid epidemic.

Thomas contracted the disease but made a full recovery. However his aunt and his brother both died.

Very much involved with the church where he was a sidesman, churchwarden and a teacher in the Sunday School, Thomas qualified as a solicitor. With his brother he established a business in Keighley, which was still in existence until quite recently.

His war service saw him going to Egypt and Palestine and after demobilisation, in 1919, he returned home to Farnhill and continued to run the solicitors' practice. After his marriage Thomas, and his wife Marjorie, moved around quite a bit – living in Bingley, Thornton near Bradford, London and Barnstaple. The couple, who had a son and a daughter, divorced in the 1940s.

After remarrying, Marjorie, her second husband and the two Sugden children emigrated to Canada. Thomas, himself, remarried and lived in Oxenhope, near Keighley. He died in 1955 and is buried in Kildwick churchyard.


Pre-war life

Thomas Edward Sugden was born in Kildwick on 21st June 1886, and was baptised at St. Andrew's Church three months later.

He was the youngest of four sons of William and Christiana (nee Sugden, no relation) who had married in Kildwick on 2nd January 1875. Their other sons were:

- James William, b. 29/11/1875; known as William
- John, b. 9/1/1878
- Benjamin, b. 16/5/1880

The Sugdens were a comparatively well-off family who lived at Holme Bank, one of the larger houses in Kildwick.




No Photo Available



Holme Bank, Kildwick
Photograph courtesy of Barry Durham

William was a local businessman who ran a coal yard on the canal near Redman Bridge in Farnhill. He was a local employer and, in the years prior to WW1, his employees included Ambrose Bower, one of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers.




COAL. COAL. COAL.

**Very best value at Lowest Prices
in the District.**

Coal from all the Leading Collieries.

WILLIAM SUGDEN,

Canal Wharf and Railway Station.

Telephone 5 Crosshills  **KILDWICK.**

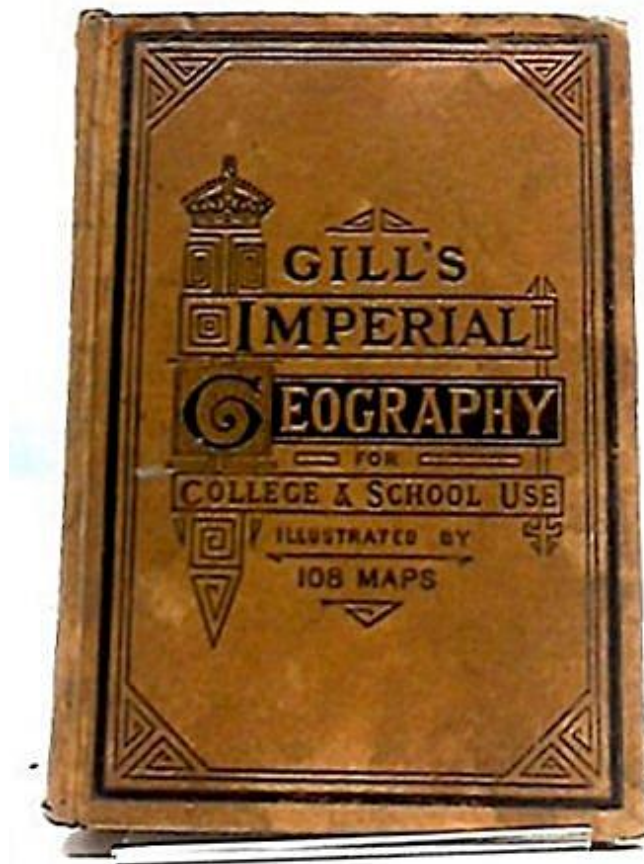
William Sugden's advertisement from the 1912 Crosshills Almanac
From the Farnhill & Kildwick History Group archive

Like many of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers, Thomas attended Kildwick School. It seems he was a good student and at the end of 1897 won the school's prize for both Scripture and Geography.

Prizes distributed December. 1897
Scripture
Thos Ed. Lugden — Illustrated New Testament
Lenora Dawson — Bible Steps
Mary Hargreaves — Childs' own Book

Geography
Thos. Ed. Lugden — Gills Imperial Geog.
Gertrude Buchhouse — The Great Gold Mine

Entries from Kildwick School log – December 1897
Reproduced by kind permission of Kildwick School



Cover of Gill's Imperial Geography (1895 edition)
From [Amazon UK](#)

Between December 1898 and April 1899, when Thomas was aged 12, Kildwick was afflicted with a terrible typhoid epidemic that left 10 people dead and 40 others hospitalised. The Sugden family suffered badly in the crisis. Margaret Sugden, Thomas's aunt, who was living with the family in Kildwick, died in the outbreak; as did his brother John, who was aged 21. Thomas himself contracted the disease, but made a full recovery.

KILDWICK.

TYPHOID EPIDEMIC.—In the early hours of Sunday morning another death occurred from typhoid in the village, the victim being John Sugden, aged twenty-one years, second son of Mr William Sugden, coal merchant, Holme Bank. He took to his bed rather over a fortnight ago, and he had been attacked with a severe form of the disease. The number of deaths is thus raised to eight. The young man's aunt—Miss Margaret Sugden—who had resided in the same household, was buried on Saturday, her death being also due to the epidemic. Mr Sugden's younger son is suffering from the disease.

By kind permission of Craven Herald

Thomas continued his education after leaving Kildwick School. The 1901 census, taken when he was 14, did not record him as being employed; and the 1911 census recorded him as a Law Student.

From around 1908 Thomas was a sidesman and later a churchwarden at Kildwick Church. He was also elected as auditor of the Parish Institute in 1909 and, in 1912, was elected vice-president and a committee member of the recently opened Kildwick and Farnhill Institute, as reported in the Craven Herald (18/10/1912). His association with the Institute would continue until after the war.

The Institute.

The first annual meeting of the Kildwick and Farnhill Institute was held in the Billiard Room on Friday night. Mr. W. A. Brigg, one of the founders of the Institute, presided.

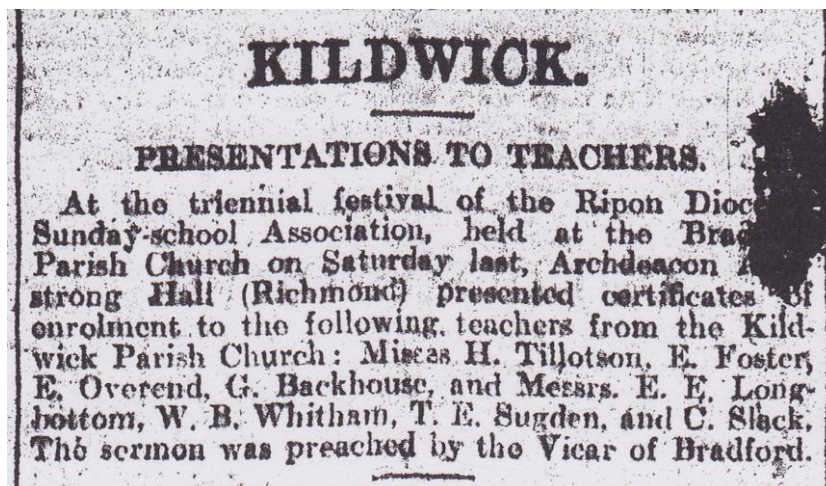
The following officers were elected :— President Mr. W. A. Brigg; vice-presidents, Mr. J. Spencer and Mr. J. E. Sugden; committee, Messrs. C. Hill, Binns Hartley, S. Tillotson, J. Appleby, John Green, J. B. Smith, J. Sunderland, Wm. Feather, Herbert Kitson, M. Dawson, W. Green, H. Birtwhistle, Hy. Slater, and J. E. Sugden.

Thomas Sugden elected as vice-president and committee member of Farnhill Institute.

(Incorrectly reported as "J.E. Sugden".)

By kind permission of the Craven Herald

In May 1914 Thomas was enrolled as a Sunday School teacher at St. Andrew's Church.



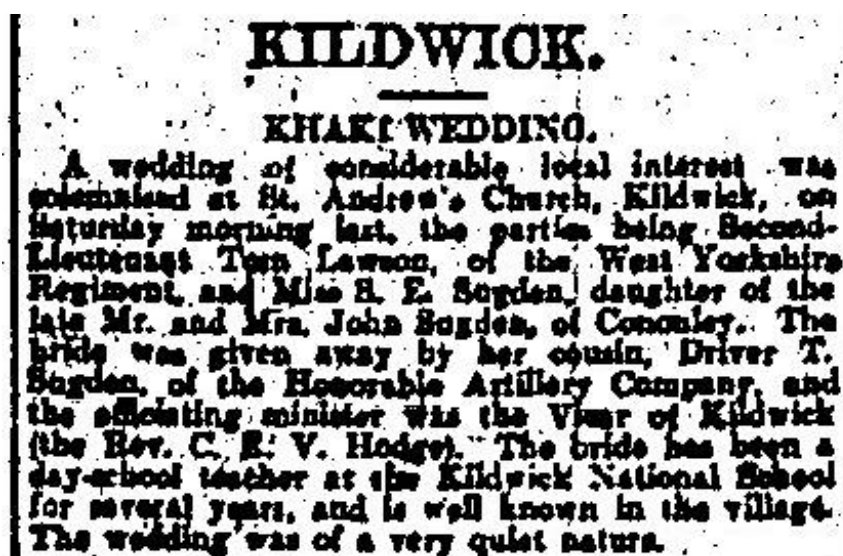
Thomas Sugden enrolled as Sunday School teacher. From Keighley News 30/5/1914
By kind permission of the Keighley News

By this time Thomas had qualified as a solicitor and was working with his brother, William, in their company Sugden & Co. in Keighley.

WW1 service

Thomas attested his willingness to serve, as a member of the highly prestigious Honourable Artillery Company (the oldest regiment in the British Army), on 11th December 1915.

Like many of the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers, he was assigned to the Army Reserve and awaited his call to arms. This arrived at the end of March 1917, but it was a further year before he saw active service abroad. This gap allowed him to attend his cousin's wedding at St. Andrew's at the end of November 1917.



Thomas Edward Sugden at his cousin's wedding – reported 1/12/1917
By kind permission of Keighley News

Thomas left the United Kingdom on 17th March 1918. He arrived in Alexandria, in Egypt, on the 22nd and entered service with the 19th Brigade Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) in Palestine on 14th April. (Both "A" and "B" batteries of the Honourable Artillery Company formed part of the 19th Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery, part of the Egypt Expeditionary Force.)

Thomas continued to serve until February 1919. On the 4th he embarked for England from Port Said aboard the "Kashgar".



RMS Kashgar

Photograph from the [Olney and District Historical Society website](http://www.olneyanddistricthistoricalsociety.co.uk)

Back in England, Thomas was finally discharged from the army on 22nd March 1919. He was subsequently awarded the Victory medal and British War medal for his war service.

| Name. | Corps. | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| SUGDEN Thomas. E | H.A.C. (ant) | Ser. | 625940 |
| | R.F.A. | | 285609 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. |
| VICTORY | R.F.A/325. B | 45208 | |
| BRITISH | - do - | do. | |
| STAR | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Theatre of War first served in | | | |
| Date of entry therein | | | |

K. 1380

Thomas Edward Sugden's WW1 Medal Card – showing his service with the HAC and RFA
Used under licence from the National Archive

Post-war life

Thomas returned to Holme Bank just as post-war life was resuming in the village and, in May 1919, he was elected vice-president of the newly reformed Kildwick Old Boys' football club.



Reforming the Kildwick Old Boys' football club – Craven Herald 9/5/1919
By kind permission of the Craven Herald

The 1921 census records Thomas Sugden living with his parents at Holme Bank. He was working as a Solicitor in an office at 11 North Street, Keighley.

On 20th January 1927, Thomas married Marjorie Thompson at Eastgate Baptist Chapel in Louth, Lincolnshire. She was the 21 year-old daughter of Ernest Harry Thompson and Emily Mary (nee Speed).

| 1927. Marriage solemnized at <i>Eastgate Baptist Chapel, Louth</i> in the District of <i>Louth</i> in the County of <i>Lincoln</i> | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 No. | 2 When Married. | 3 Name and Surname. | 4 Age. | 5 Condition. | 6 Rank or Profession. | 7 Residence at the time of Marriage. | 8 Father's Name and Surname. | 9 Rank or Profession of Father. |
| 47 | <i>Twentieth May January 1927</i> | <i>Thomas Edward Sugden</i> | <i>39</i> | <i>Bachelor</i> | <i>Solicitor</i> | <i>Kildwick, Yorks</i> | <i>William Sugden</i> | <i>Coal Factor</i> |
| | | <i>Marjorie Thompson</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>Spinster</i> | <i>—</i> | <i>Holmesdale, St. Mary's Lane, Louth</i> | <i>Ernest Harry Thompson</i> | <i>Builder</i> |
| Married in the <i>Eastgate Baptist Chapel, Louth</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Baptists</i> by <i>Licence</i> | | | | | | | | |
| This Marriage was solemnized between us, | | <i>T. E. Sugden (Thomas Edward)</i> <i>Marjorie Thompson</i> | in the Presence of us, | | <i>William Harrison</i> <i>Ernest Harry Thompson</i> | And in the Presence of <i>E. J. Roberts</i> Officiating Minister Authorized Person for the said Chapel | | |

Sugden – Thompson marriage certificate
(c) Crown Copyright

Also in 1927, Thomas's brother and business partner, William, died. The company that the two brothers had founded then merged with another practice to form Burr-Sugden. This practice, run for a number of years by Thomas, would become a well-known firm of local solicitors.

Marriage appears to have been the trigger for Thomas to finally leave the family home. From 1928 to 1932 the couple were on the electoral roll living in Bingley and then seem to have moved to Thornton Hall, in the village of Thornton, near Bradford.

Despite moving, Thomas appears to have maintained contact with the village for some time. In 1935 he made a contribution to the local committee which was raising funds to commemorate George V's silver jubilee, and he paid for a firework display.

Thomas's father, William, died in 1931; and his mother, Christiana, in 1935. Their deaths seem to have finally severed Thomas's contact with the village and, in May 1936, Farnhill resident W.B. Whitham recorded in his diary that Holme Bank had become the new vicarage.

Thomas and Marjorie's first child, a son, Edward Adam Nicholas (always known as Adam by the family), was born in 1937. His birth was registered in London, where the family were living at the time.

A daughter, Anne, followed in 1940. This birth was registered in Barnstaple, which was where the family had moved to avoid the London blitz.

Sometime during WW2 Marjorie and Thomas divorced.

| |
|--|
| <p>Note: According to a family member, a financial settlement was subsequently agreed in which Marjorie received CAD \$ 3,600 for Adam and CAD \$ 1,600 for Anne.</p> |
|--|

Marjorie was remarried, in 1945, to Carl Walker. The couple subsequently emigrated, to Canada, taking with them Marjorie's children, Edward and Anne. They left Hull on 2nd April 1947 on board the ship "Lochmonar", bound for Vancouver.



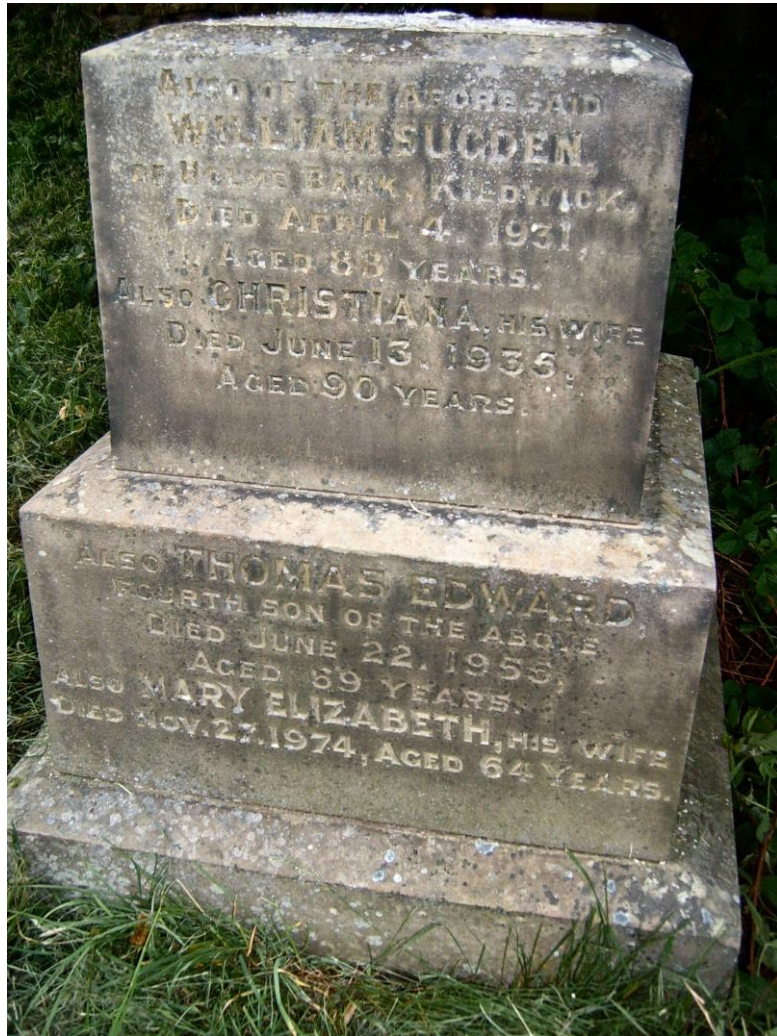
Carl and Marjorie, with their dog Corby, at their home in Ladysmith, BC, Canada – probably taken in the early 1950s
 Photograph courtesy of Anne Wilson

Thomas also remarried – on 8th July 1946 – to Mary Elizabeth Parker of Haworth, in Bradford Register Office. The marriage was witnessed by William Sugden (probably Thomas’s nephew, the son of James William). The couple set up home at Oxenhope Old Hall.

| 1946 Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| District of BRADFORD in the COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRADFORD | | | | | | | |
| No. | When Married | Name and Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at the time of Marriage | Father's Name and Surname |
| 150 | Eighth July 1946 | Thomas Edward Sugden | Of Full Age | The divorced husband of Marjorie Sugden formerly Thompson. | Solicitor | 28, Park Grove, Bradford. | William Sugden (deceased) |
| | | Mary Elizabeth Parker | Of Full Age | Spinster | ----- | Wood Lawn, Haworth. | Fred Parker (deceased) |
| Married in the Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the by licence before by me, | | | | | | | |
| This Marriage was solemnized between us, T.E. Sugden in the Presence of us, Clara Parker Wm. Sugden Deputy Superintendant Registrar | | | | | | | |

Sugden – Parker marriage certificate
 (c) Crown Copyright

Thomas Edward Sugden died on 22nd June 1955, the day after his 69th birthday. He was buried with his parents and brothers in Kildwick churchyard.



Sugden family gravestone in Kildwick churchyard (only the plinth survives)



The Sugden family grave, in Kildwick churchyard – as it used to look
Photograph courtesy of Keighley and District Digital Archive

The following obituary appeared in the Keighley News.



T.E. Sugden obituary

By kind permission of Keighley News

Postscript

Mary Elizabeth continued to live at Old Hall Oxenhope until she died on 27th November 1974. She was aged 64.

Thomas' first wife, Marjorie Walker, died in Canada on 31st October 1984, aged 79.

His children, Edward and Anne, both married, and there are known to be descendants living in Canada.

In 2015 Burr Sugden, the firm of solicitors founded by Thomas Sugden, ceased operating after one of its partners was struck off by the Solicitor's Regulation Authority.

Thomas Edward Sugden – a life in summary

Born: 21/6/1886, Kildwick
Baptised: 26/9/1886, Kildwick
Died: 22/6/1955; buried 25/6/1955, Kildwick St. Andrew's **Aged:** 69
Home address: Old Hall, Oxenhope

Parents

Father: William; b. 14/12/1842, Farnhill; d. 4/4/1931, Farnhill
Mother: Christiana (nee Sugden); b. 22/6/1844, Silsden;
bapt. 17/11/1844, Silsden; d. 13/6/1935 Farnhill
Married: 2/1/1875, Kildwick

Siblings

James William; b. 29/11/1875, Farnhill; m. Evelyn Atkinson, 5/1/1905, Holbeck;
d. 1927, Leeds (Registration district)
John; b. 9/1/1878, Kildwick; d. 12/2/1899, Kildwick (in the Typhoid epidemic)
Benjamin; b. 16/5/1880, Kildwick; d. 26/10/1887, Kildwick

WW1 service

Attested: 11/12/1915
Service period: 31/3/1917 to 22/3/1919
Regt: Honourable Artillery Company; Driver, no. 625970
Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal
Home address: Holme Bank, Kildwick

Relationship to other volunteers

None known.

Marriage

Wife: (1) Marjorie Thompson; b. 19/4/1905, Grimsby;
d. 31/10/1984 – as Marjorie Walker, Victoria BC, Canada
(2) Mary Elizabeth Parker; b. 16/12/1909, Haworth; bapt. 15/6/1910, Haworth;
d. 27/11/1974, Oxenhope (buried at Kildwick)
Date: (1) 20/1/1927, at Eastgate Baptist Chapel, Louth; marriage dissolved
(2) 8/7/1946, Bradford Register Office

Children

Edward Adam Nicholas; b. 1937, Paddington (Registration district);
d. 16/3/1999, Saint Marie, Ontario, Canada

Anne C.; b. 1940, Barnstaple (Registration district); married twice (in Canada)

