

Thomas Edward Thompson

(1882 – 1954)

Thomas Edward Thompson, whose father was a railway signalman, was born in Skipton in 1882.

When he was 18 he was employed as a coachman, probably at Kildwick Hall. He was certainly living in the local area at the time of his marriage, in 1908.

Although nothing is known about his war service, in 1918 he was registered as an absent voter on the local electoral roll for that year.

From 1920 the couple lived in Glusburn and it was here that Thomas's wife died in 1938. In 1939 Thomas married again, and he and his new wife continued to live in Glusburn.

Thomas Edward died, suddenly, in 1954 whilst attending a church social function.

Winifred, his second wife, moved to Skipton to live with family. She died in 1968.



Pre-war life

Thomas Edward Thompson was born, at 48 Russell Street, Skipton, on 8th June 1882. He was the fourth child, and third son, of Edwin and Margaret Thompson (nee Whitaker). His father was a railway signalman, born in Skyrethorns, near Grassington; his mother was from Gargrave.

The 1901 census recorded the family living at 57 Duckett Street, Skipton. 18 year-old Thomas Edward was employed as a coachman/gardener – presumably working at one of the larger local houses. There is good evidence (see later) that he was employed by the Brigg family at Kildwick Hall.

When he was aged 26, Thomas Edward married Eden Ellen Pickles at St Peter's Chapel of Ease, Hebden. On the marriage certificate he gave his employment as coachman and his address simply as Kildwick.

1908. Marriage solemnized at <u>St Peter's Chapel of Ease</u> in the Parish of <u>Kildwick - Graven</u> in the County of <u>York - West Riding</u>								
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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.
10	17 th June 1908	Thomas Edward Thompson	26	Bachelor	Coachman	Kildwick	Edwin Thompson	Signalman, British Railway
		Eden Ellen Pickles	27	Spinster	—	Hebden	Stephen Pickles	Stone-mason

Married in the Chapel of Ease, Hebden according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by Stephen Pickles or after Recess by me, J.R.C. Shaw, M.A.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Thomas Edward Thompson and Eden Ellen Pickles In the Presence of us, Nancy Waterworth Rector of Kildwick

Thompson-Pickles marriage certificate – 1908

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The couple appear to have set up home in Mary Street, Farnhill, where Tom Thompson appears on the electoral roll for the village in 1910 and 1911 – eligible to vote on account of his occupation. However by the time the 1911 census was taken, on 2nd April that year, they had moved to Crag Top, Farnhill, which would be their home until after the war.

WW1 service

There is good evidence (see later) that, during WW1, Thomas Edward Thompson served with the Army Service Corps (known as the Royal Army Service Corps from 1918). However it has proved impossible to find out exactly when or where this service took place.

The role of the Army Service Corps was to provide the transport required to keep the army supplied – using horse and motor vehicles, railways and waterways.

He was certainly away from home when the 1918 electoral roll for Farnhill was compiled. This has him registered as an absent voter, living at Crag Top, and eligible as a result of his naval or military service. (Eden Ellen also appears on the electoral roll, at Crag Top; she was eligible to vote as the owner of the property.)

Post war life

Evidence from the electoral roll suggests that Thomas Edward had returned to Farnhill by 1919. However, it seems likely that he took a job as a driver at Hayfield Mills shortly after his return (see later) and the couple soon moved out of the village, to Glusburn.



Hayfield Mills letterhead (1906)
Courtesy of Keighley and District Digital Archive

They lived at 8 Croft Head Terrace, Glusburn, from 1920 and then moved to 17 High Hartley Street in about 1932. The 1921 census confirms the couple's address and Thomas's employment.

Eden Ellen Thompson died in 1938; she was aged 57.

The register created in September 1939, to allow the issue of WW2 ration cards, recorded Thomas Edward Thomson living at 17 High Hartley Street, Glusburn; he was employed as a lorry driver. Also resident at that address was Winifred Hebblewhite, who was employed as a housekeeper.

THOMPSON THOMAS E.	-	M.	8 JUNE 82	W.	MOTOR-LORRY-DRIVER
HEBBLEWHITE WINIFRED	-	F	3 NOV. 82	W.	HOUSE-KEEPER

1939 Register for 17 High Hartley Street, Glusburn – Winifred Hebblewhite later Thompson
Used under licence from the National Archive

Winifred was a widow, aged 57. Her husband, Herbert William Hebblewhite, had died in 1937. They had married in 1901 and had had at least three children.

Thomas Edward Thompson and Winifred Hebblewhite were married at Sutton in Craven Baptist Chapel on 25th November 1939. The marriage was witnessed by Thomas Edward's sister Hannah and her husband, Joseph Senior. Winifred understated her age by a year.

1939. Marriage solemnized at <u>Sutton in Craven Baptist Chapel</u> in the							
District of <u>Heighley</u> in the County of <u>York</u>							
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname
6	November	Thomas Edward Thompson	57 years	Widower	Motor Lorry Driver	17 High Hartley Street Glusburn	Edwin Thompson
	Twenty-fifth 1939	Winifred Hebblewhite	56 years	Widow	Housekeeper Domestic	17 High Hartley St. Glusburn	George Cogill
Married in the <u>Sutton Chapel</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Baptists</u> by <u>certificate</u>							
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Winifred Hebblewhite</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>Hannah Senior</u> <u>Jack Cogill</u> <u>Joseph Senior</u>	
		<u>Thomas Edward Thompson</u>		And in the Presence of		<u>George H. Whillaker</u> Authorised Person for the said Chapel	

Thompson-Hebblewhite marriage certificate – 1939
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After their marriage, Thomas Edward and Winifred continued to live together at 17 High Hartley Street, Glusburn.

Thomas Edward Thompson died on 14th December 1954, of a heart condition, whilst attending a whist drive at All Saints Mission Church, Glusburn. He was 72 years of age.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT					STAINCLIFFE				
1954 DEATH in the Sub-district of Cross Hills					in the County of York (W. R.)				
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
38	Fourteenth December 1954 All Saints Mission Church Glusburn Shipton RD	Thomas Edward THOMPSON	Male	72 years	17 High Hartley Street Glusburn Shipton RD Woolen Spinners Warehouseman	1 Coronary Occlusion (a) Bicuspidal Aortic (b) Arterial Hypertension Certified by Stephen S. Brown Coroner for the Craven District of Yorkshire After Post Mortem Without Inquest	Keith L. Schofield grandson 9. Castle Street Shipton	Seventeenth December 1954	S. Lillerton Registrar

Thomas Edward Thompson's death certificate – 1954
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Note: The death was reported by Keith L. Schofield, who was the son of Winifred's daughter Edna. He was Thomas Edward's step-grandson, not his grandson as recorded.

The following obituary appeared a few days later in the Keighley News (18/12/1954).

DIED AT WHIST DRIVE

While playing whist in All Saints Church Hall, Glusburn, on Tuesday Mr. Thomas Edward Thompson, of 17, High Hartley Street, Glusburn, collapsed and died. Aged 72, Mr. Thompson was for many years before the first World War, coachman to the Brigg family at Kildwick Hall. He served in the war in the Royal Army Service Corps, and shortly after demobilisation started work as a lorry driver at Hayfield Mills, but in his later years he has been engaged in the mill warehouse. He had worked for over 33 years at the mills. Mr. Thompson was keenly interested in gardening. He had been twice married and leaves a widow, two stepdaughters and a stepson.

Thomas Edward Thompson's obituary
By kind permission of Keighley News

Note: All Saints' Church, Glusburn, was a daughter church of St. Thomas's, Sutton in Craven. Made largely out of corrugated iron and painted green, it was often referred to as "the tin tab".

The church closed in 1998 and has since been demolished.

Postscript

Shortly after Thomas Edward's death, Winifred moved in with her daughter Edna and her family at 92 Keighley Road, Skipton. She lived there until the family moved to 14 Russell Street, Skipton, in 1961 – the same street where Thomas Edward Thompson had been born. Winifred did not continue to live with them and her subsequent whereabouts are not known.

It is likely that Winifred died somewhere in the Skipton area, in 1968. She would have been aged 86.

Thomas Edward Thompson – a life in summary

Born: 8/6/1882, Skipton

Died: 14/12/1954, All Saint's Mission Church, Glusburn **Aged:** 72

Home address: 17 High Hartley Street, Glusburn

Parents

Father: Edwin; b. 1853; bapt. 28/8/1853, Linton Church; d. 1934, Keighley (Registration district)

Mother: Margaret (nee Whitaker); b. 1850, Gargrave; bapt. 16/8/1850, Gargrave
d. 11/11/1925, Crosshills; buried 14/11/1925, Kildwick

Married: 1875, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

John William; b. 1876, Gargrave; m. Florence Ellis, 1901, Holbeck (Registration district)

Watson; b. 1878, Gargrave; m. Ellen Taylor, 1901, Kettering (Registration district);
d. 13/3/1925, Kettering

Hannah; b. 1880, Gargrave; m. Joseph Senior, 1909, Skipton (Registration district)

Herbert; b. 1890, Skipton; m. Mary (before 1911); d. 30/8/1918 (KiA)

plus one other who died prior to the 1911 census

WW1 service

Army Service Corps / Royal Army Service Corps

Marriage

Wife: (1) Eden Ellen Pickles; b. 1880, Skipton (Registration district); bapt. 29/5/1881, Linton;
d. 1938, Skipton (Registration district)

(2) Winifred Hebblewhite; b. 3/11/1882, Buckden; d. 1968 Staincliffe (Registration district)

Date: (1) 17/6/1908, St Peter's Chapel of Ease, Hebden
(2) 25/11/1939, Sutton in Craven Baptist Chapel

Children

None known.

Winifred had three children from her first marriage:

Herbert Hebblewhite; b. 1902

Edna May Hebblewhite; b. 1906

Winifred Mary Hebblewhite; b. 1909

