



The Bell Family History

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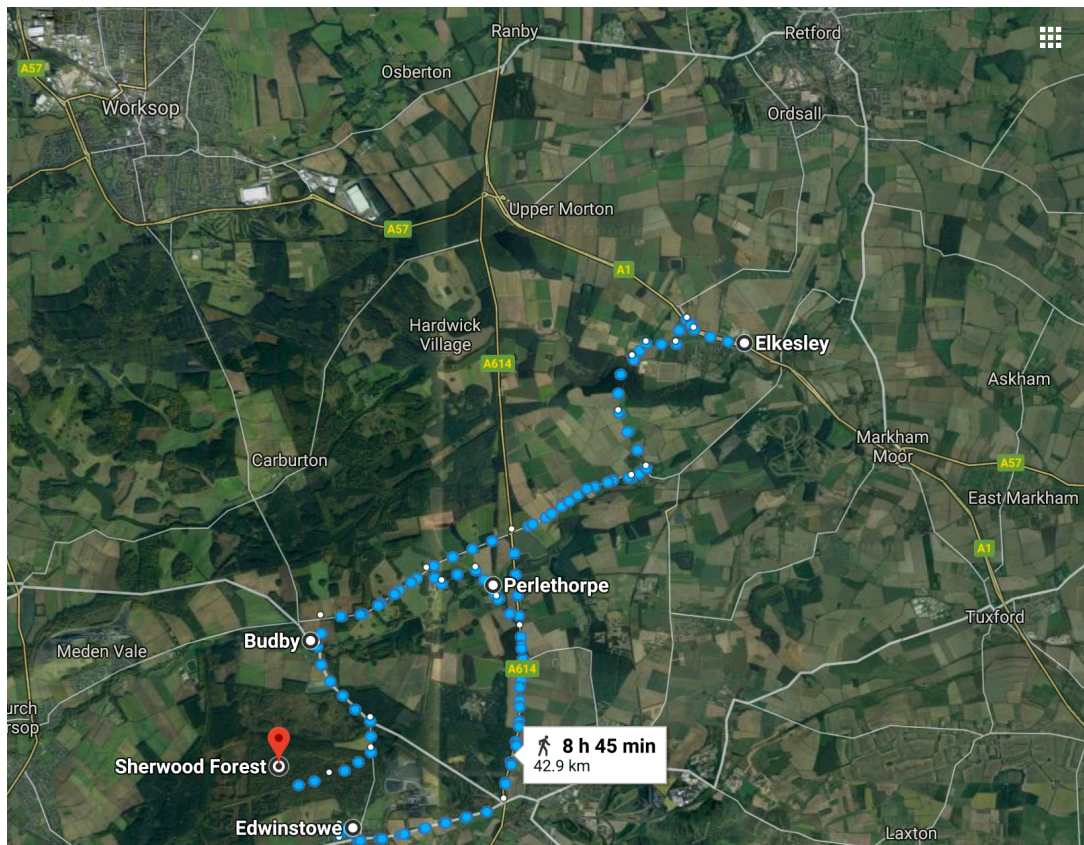
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BELL FAMILY

Our Bell Family can be traced to the early 1700's when they first settled in Budby, a very small hamlet in Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood country in Nottinghamshire. From there they moved to Elkesley in the early 1800's, a large village to the north east before moving to Middlesex, London in the mid 1800's. Then, in the early 1900's, most of the family immigrated to Australia, whilst some went to Canada and the USA. The following is a brief history of the Bell family, my mother's family line.

<p>The Bell Family begins with Samuel Bell and can be traced from the villages of Budby and Elkesley near Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood country, Northamptonshire, in the centre of England.</p>		<p>In the early 1800's George Bell moved to Middlesex, now Greater London, where the 8 children of Henry Bell were born. In the early 1900's, most of the family moved to Australia whilst Ralph and Henry went to the USA.</p>	
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Samuel Bell is the first traceable member of the Bell family who went to Budby in the early 1700's. Budby is a township in the Parish of Edwinstow, Hatfield division of the wapentake of Bassetlaw, county of Nottingham. At that time it consisted of two farms and 13 workers cottages with a population of 139. The birth marriage death records were kept at the church in Edwinstowe, a larger village with a population of 740 and 4k to the south on the opposite side of Sherwood Forest. Edwinstowe is itself classified as a parish in the Hatfield division of the wapentake of Bassetlaw, county of Nottingham comprising the chapelries of Carburton, Ollerton, and Perlethorpe, and the townships of Budby and Clipstone.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large ancient building, supposedly the marriage place of Robin Hood and Maid Marion, and nearby in Sherwood Forest is The Major Oak Tree, 800 to 1000 years old, with a canopy span of 28 metres, under which Robin Hood lived with his merry men. The church is supposedly the hidden resting place of Edwin, King of Northumbria, who was buried there after he was killed at the Battle of Hatfield Chase in 633AD. Hence the name Edwinstowe, resting place of Edwin.



The Parish Records of Edwinstowe, like all parishes in England prior to 1837 when the Government legislated for the required detail in BDM's, were subject to the diligence of the Anglican Minister at the Parish. An Act of 1598 required Church ministers to make copies of their parish registers and send the copies to their **Bishop** each month. These copies are known as **Bishop's Transcripts** but some of them are very detailed whilst others are very minimal in information. Luckily, the records for Edwinstowe are quite detailed, describing minute detail. For example, for a birth, the record states the exact date of the birth, the date of the baptism, usually both the parent's names, but sometimes only the father, the place of residence, and notes such as the time of birth in the late afternoon. From this, I have been able to sift through the records to find all the BDM's recorded in Edwinstowe, with Budby nominated as the place of residence.

We know for sure from the Census records that John Bell was born in Budby in 1797 and the Edwinstowe Parish records show he was born to father Samuel and mother Mary. Now we can back track through the records to come forwards to Samuel and Mary.

The earliest recorded event for any Bell in Budby was on the 20th November 1627 with the marriage of William Bell and Margaret Wood. There are then many records relating to births, deaths and marriages in both Budby and Edwinstowe, but the first relating to a definite member of our Bell family is in the birth of Elizabeth Bell in 1743, father Samuel Bell. There were five more children in all born to Samuel, George in 1745, Mary in 1747, Sarah in 1749, Samuel in 1752 and John born 1755, all births registered in Edwinstowe but born in Budby.

Back tracking, we find that the only marriage record in Nottinghamshire that suits the time is that of Samuel Bell who married Elizabeth Clay on 1st March 1742 in Warsop, a small village 7k to the west of Budby. Elizabeth Clay was born in Warsop in 1714. Corroborating the possibility that Elizabeth Clay is the wife of Samuel Bell in Budby, is the fact that there is a death record for Elizabeth Bell born 1718, died 1798 aged 70 in Budby. Samuel Bell, born in 1752 to parents Samuel and Elizabeth, marries Mary Banks from Wellow in Edwinstowe in 1781. Samuel and Mary have 7 children Mary born 1781, Samuel born 1784, Thomas born 1787, Ann born 1790, Elizabeth born 1792, George born 1794, John born 1797 and William born 1799.

John Bell born 1797, is well documented in Census data from 1841 to 1981, until his death in 1872. His story is very confusing, as his wife is always called Elizabeth and using the obvious marriage record of John Bell to Elizabeth Banks in 1825 has led to the wrong conclusions.

John first married Elizabeth Kemp (born 1801 in Perlethorp) in 1823 and she became Elizabeth Bell. After she died in 1836, John Bell married a second "Elizabeth", whose maiden name was Elizabeth Simpson born 1799 but she had married Henry Green (possibly born 1806 in Radford) in 1828 and became Elizabeth Green then subsequently Elizabeth Bell when she married John Bell in 1838. Any wonder no one could find the truth behind "Elizabeth", wife of John Bell with conflicting birthdates on the Census records compared to her actual birth, when it was suspected that Elizabeth, the wife of John Bell was Elizabeth Fairbanks! John Bell and Elizabeth (Kemp) had 4 children: Samuel born 1824, Elizabeth (Annie) born 1827, Mary born 1831, George born 1832 and Thomas born 1834. Samuel was born in Budby, his birth registered in Edwinstowe, however he died in 1826 in Oerlethorp, home village of his mother Elizabeth Bell (nee Kemp).

Soon after the death of son Samuel, John and Elizabeth moved to Elkesley, where Elizabeth, Mary, George and Thomas were born. Probably they moved because John was a mason/bricklayer and there was more work in this larger town whose population was 414 in 1831 according to the Annual Report of the Poor Law Commission.

Our Bell line continues with George Bell moving to Radcliffe on Trent where he married Sarah Upton in 1853. They have five children in Radcliffe, Henry born 1853, Thomas born 1854, James born 1859, and Adelaide born 1861. Between 1861 and 1864, George and Sarah move to London with Sarah's brother William and his wife Eliza, presumably because of the Building boom. The population in Greater London doubled three million people in 1861 more over seven million by the 1910s. During the same period, the flow of European immigrants rose from a steady stream to a regular river of humanity, while migration from the wider world also grew in importance. George Bell had 6 more children in London, Anne Elizabeth born 1864 in Shoreditch and Mary born 1866, Sarah born 1867, George born 1869, Charles born 1875 and Robert born 1876 in Highgate London, where they lived at 3 Dorothy Cottages, Highgate.

George Bell returns to Radcliffe on Trent between 1881 and 1891 whilst Henty Bell stays in London, marries Elizabeth Adams and stays on at 3 Dorothy Cottages where his 8 children are born. Henry born 1876, Annie born 1878, Robert born 1879, Ralph born 1881, George born 1883, Gertrude born 1885, Jessie born 1887 and Thomas born 1890. Annie Bell dies in 1901, Henry Bell and Ralph go to the USA and when father Henry Bell dies in 1910, the rest of the family, Robert, George, Gertrude, Jessie, Thomas and mother Elizabeth immigrate to Australia. Now for a more detailed history of the Bell Family.

1720 SAMUEL BELL IS BORN

Samuel Bell was probably born in Nottinghamshire about 1720. The only information we have is that Samuel and his wife (not named) gave birth 6 children in Budby registered in Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire and that in 1766 Samuel Bell died aged about 46.

1741 Samuel Bell and Elizabeth Clay marry

It's not certain, but Samuel Bell probably married Elizabeth Clay in Warsop, not far from Wellow and Budby on the 1st March 1741. There are many Elizabeth Clay's so her birth is indeterminate. There is a second marriage date on 1st March 1742. One will be a transcription error.

1743 to 1755 Samuel and Elizabeth (have 6 children

Samuel Bell and his UNKNOWN wife have 6 children. The Edwinstowe records state their exact baptism date and father's name to Samuel (various spellings such as Samuell), but no mother

Elizabeth Bell	born 6/3/1743	Budby
George Bell	born 15/4/1745	Budby
Mary Bell	born 1/5/1747	Budby
Sarah Bell	born 24/9/1749 (died 1752)	Budby
Samuel Bell	born 19/4/1752	Budby
John Bell	born 25/5/1755	Budby

1752 to 1785 Other known facts about these children.

- Sarah Bell died in 1752 aged 3.
- George Bell marries Mary Rogers On 2nd Dec 1760.
- Mary Bell marries William Gilbert 2nd May 1769.
- Elizabeth Bell married Michael Lidget on 21st Dec 1779.
- John Bell marries Ann Woodhead on 17 Jan 1785.

1766 Samuel Bell dies

There is a record for a Samuel Bell's death in Edwinstowe on 13th March 1766 in Edwinstowe. We can only presume it was the death of the Samuel Bell who came to Edwinstowe to begin the Bell dynasty.

1752 SAMUEL BELL IS BORN

Samuel Bell was born in Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire on the 19th April 1752.

1781 Samuel Bell marries Mary Fairbanks

He married Mary Fairbanks on the 21st Feb 1781 in Budby Nottinghamshire. Mary Fairbanks was born in Wellow, just a few k from Budby and Edwinstowe, on the 31st May 1752 to parents Thomas and Ann Fairbanks.

1784 to 1789 Samuel and Mary have 8 children

Samuel and Mary Bell have 8 children, all born in Budby, Nottinghamshire. John Bell is the second youngest.

Mary Bell	born 25/12/1781	Budby
Samuel Bell	born 121/6/1784 or 1785	Budby
Thomas Bell	born 22/12/1787	Budby
Ann Bell	born 25/6/1790	Budby
Elizabeth Bell	born 23/9/1792	Budby
George Bell	born 5/2/1794	Budby
John Bell	born 7/2/1797	Budby
William Bell	born 15/5/1799	Budby

1822 Samuel Bell dies

Samuel Bell died in Budby on the 18th March 1822 aged 73, but there are no records indicating when Mary Bell died. There are several entries in East Retford for 1838 for Mary Bell one of which is possibly her.

1797 JOHN BELL IS BORN

John Bell was born in Budby, Nottinghamshire in the 7th Feb 1797. He was the second youngest of 7 children. His birth had always been elusive, despite the fact that he always maintained throughout each Census year that he was born in Budby. It was not until the Edwinstowe Parish records were digitised in late 2017 that the full story of John Bell, his wife Elizabeth and his parents were discovered. As you will see, his wife "Elizabeth" was in fact 2 persons and there were 4 names involved.

John first married Elizabeth Kemp (born 1801) in 1823 and she became Elizabeth Bell. After she died in 1836, John Bell married a second "Elizabeth", whose maiden name was Elizabeth Simpson born 1799 but she had married Henry Green (possibly born 1806 in Radford as his father was Francis Green) in 1828 and became Elizabeth Green then subsequently Elizabeth Bell when she married John Bell in 1838. Any wonder no one could find the truth behind "Elizabeth" wife of John Bell with conflicting birthdates on the Census records compared to her actual birth, when it was suspected that Elizabeth, the wife of John Bell was Elizabeth Fairbanks!

1823 John Bell marries Elizabeth Kemp

The marriage of John Bell and Elizabeth Kemp took place in Edwinstowe in . Elizabeth Kemp's birth was registered in Perlethorp, near both Budby and Edwinstow in 1801 (6th November 1801) to parents Thomas and Ann who are still living in Perlethorp in the 1841 Census of Edwinstowe (shown wrongly Edwinstone in the records).

1824 to 1834 John and Elizabeth Bell have 5 children

John and Elizabeth Bell have 5 children, Their first Samuel born in Budby and the next four born in Elkesley as stated in future Census records,

Samuel Bell	born 31/10/1824 in Budby died 21/7/1826
Annie Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1827 (7/10/1827)
Mary Bell	born abt 1831
George Bell	Born 1832
Thomas Bell	Born 1834

However on the 21st July 1826, Samuel Bell dies aged 1 year 9 months in Perlethorpe, home village of John Bells wife Elizabeth (nee Kemp) where her parents Robert and Ann still lived at least until the 1841 Census.

1836 Elizabeth Bell dies

On the 5th June 1836, John Bell's first wife Elizabeth Bell (nee Kemp) dies age 35. Her death is registered in Elkesley.

1838 John Bell marries 2nd wife Elizabeth Green (nee Simpson)

On the 8th July 1838, John Bell marries his second wife Elizabeth Green. Very confusing, being another Elizabeth Bell. Elizabeth Green was born Elizabeth Simpson on 26th Oct 1799 in Edwinstowe, and in 1828 married Henry Green, possibly born 1806 in Radford as his father is Francis Green, after whom they named their son Francis Green who was born 6th January 1830 in Edwinstowe. We don't know what happened to Henry, whether he left or died. However, when Elizabeth Green (nee Simpson) married John Bell, he took on her son Francis Green and nominates him as his own son in the 1841 Census.

1838 John and Elizabeth Bell (previously Green nee Simpson)

John and his second wife Elizabeth (previously Green nee Simpson) have a son Samuel, presumably named after John Bell's first son Samuel whom he had with his first wife Elizabeth (nee Kemp) but who had died in 1826.

Samuel Bell	born 26 th August 1838.
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1841 to 1711 Census Residences of John and Elizabeth Bell

1841 Census

John Bell is listed as living with wife Elizabeth in Elkesley, Nottinghamshire. Everyone in his family have their birthplace listed as Nottinghamshire – no villages were mentioned in the 1841 Census. Francis Green is nominated as a son, whom we now know to be the birth son of Henry and Elizabeth Green, John Bell's second wife.

John Bell	born abt 1801 (age 40)	Head (Bricklayer)
Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1801 (age 40)	wife (actually 2 nd wife)
Annie (Elizabeth) Bell	born abt 1827 (age 14)	
Mary Bell	born abt 1831 (age 10)	
George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 9)	
Thomas Bell	born abt 1834 (age 7)	
Samuel Bell	born abt 1839 (age 2)	
Francis Green	born abt 1830 (age 11)	(son of Elizabeth Green)

1851 Census

John Bell is listed as living with (second) wife Elizabeth in Elkesley, Nottinghamshire and he is a bricklayer. Francis Green is nominated as a son, we now know is from Elizabeth's first marriage to Henry Green.

John Bell	born abt 1797 (age 54)	Budby
Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1800 (age 51)	Edwinstowe
George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 19)	Elkesley
Thomas Bell	born abt 1834 (age 7)	Elkesley
Samuel Bell	born abt 1839 (age 13)	Edwinstowe
Francis Green	born abt 1830 (age 21)	Worksop

1861 Census

John Bell is still listed as living with (second) wife Elizabeth in Elkesley, Nottinghamshire and he is a bricklayer. There is also Thomas Bell, a grandson (from George Bell?? As I believe George Bell, brother of John Bell, died in 1857) and 2 girls Mary and Eliza Green the daughters of Francis Green.

John Bell	born abt 1797 (age 64)	Budby Nottinghamshire
Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1800 (age 61)	Edwinstowe
Thomas Bell	born abt 1851 (age 10) (Grandson)	Elkesley
Mary Green	born abt 1854 (age 7)	Grantham Leicestershire
Eliza Green	born abt 1857 (age 4)	Retford Nottinghamshote

1871 Census

John Bell is still listed as living with wife Elizabeth in Elkesley, Nottinghamshire and he is a bricklayer. Tom Bell, Grandson is still living with them as a Tailor.

John Bell	born abt 1797 (age 74)	Budby
Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1800 (age 71)	Edwinstowe
Tom Bell	born abt 1852 (age 19)	Elkesley

1872 John Bell dies

John Bells death is registered in Nottingham in the Jul-Aug-Sep qtr of 1872. One ancestry tree puts his death as 20th July 1972 and I have confirmed this with his death certificate. He died of a Disease of the Heart with Thomas Standing in attendance, in Elksley. Thomas Standing is the husband of John Bell's daughter Mary.

1875 Elizabeth Bell dies

Elizabeth Bell's death is registered in Jan-Feb-Mar qtr of 1875 in East Retford. She is the second wife of John Bell, Maiden name Elizabeth Simpson who became Elizabeth Green after marrying Henry Green then Elizabeth Bell after marrying John Bell.

1832 GEORGE BELL IS BORN

George Bell is born in 1832 in Elksley (or sometimes spelt Elkesley) to parents John and Elizabeth Bell. In almost all Census records, he consistently states he is born in Elkesley 1832 and most of the early Census records state the family lived in Elkesley, only a later one states Budby, a village where his father John Bell consistently stated he was born.

1853 George Bell marries Sarah Upton

In the Jan-Feb-Mar qtr of 1853, Henry Bell marries Sarah Upton, registration district of Bingham. In one of the Census records (1871 and 1881), George and Sarah are listed as living with various members of the Upton Family so we know it was Sarah Upton that George married.

1843 to 1853 George and Sarah have 11 children

George and Sarah Bell have 11 children, 5 born in Radcliffe, Nottinghamshire, and 6 born in London. Our Henry Bell is the eldest of these 11 children

Henry Bell	born 1853	Radcliffe on Trent
Thomas Bell	born abt 1854	Radcliffe on Trent
James Bell	born abt 1857	Radcliffe on Trent
Adelaide Bell	born abt 1859	Radcliffe on Trent
John Bell	born abt 1861	Radcliffe on Trent
Anne Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1864	Shoreditch London
Mary Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1866	St Pancras London
Sarah Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1867	Highgate London
George Bell	born abt 1869	Highgate London
Charles Bell	born abt 1875 (24/6/1874)	Highgate London
Robert Bell	born abt 1876	Highgate London

1861 to 1901 Census Residences of George Bell and Sarah

1861 Census

George Bell is listed as living with wife Sarah at Richmonds Yard, a place adjacent to the Royal Oak Inn, Radcliffe on Trent. George lists his place of birth as Elksley and Sarah as Nottingham. Their 4 children are listed as being born in Radcliffe on Tr (sic Trent), Nottinghamshire.

George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 29)	Head (Bricklayer)
Sarah Bell	born abt 1832 (age 29)	wife
Henry Bell	born abt 1854 (age 7)	son
Thomas Bell	born abt 1856 (age 5)	son
James Bell	born abt 1857 (age 4)	son
Adelaide Bell	born abt 1859 (age 2)	daughter

1871 Census

Between 1861 and 1864, George and Sarah move to London. We know this because their daughter Annie Elizabeth Bell was born in Shoreditch London in 1864. They then moved to St Pancras where their daughter Mary Elizabeth was born and finally to Wells Hill 3 Dorothy Cottages where Sarah Elizabeth was born. This record is impossible to find in ancestry.com, because their has been a transcription error naming the whole family as Rell NOT the correct Bell with a "B" not an "R". On closer inspection of the original record, it clearly Bell. There are also 2 members of the Upton family living with them.

George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 39)	Head (Bricklayer)
Sarah Bell	born abt 1832 (age 39)	wife
Thomas Bell	born abt 1855 (age 16)	Son
Adelaide Bell	born abt 1859 (age 12)	Daughter
John Bell	born abt 1861 (age 10)	Son
Anne Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1864 (age 7)	Daughter
Mary Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1866 (age 5)	Daughter
Sarah Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1868 (age 3)	Daughter
George Bell	born abt 1870 (age 1)	Son
William Upton	born abt 1836 (age 45)	Lodger
Eliza Upton	born abt 1851 (age 20)	Wife

1881 Census

In 1881, George Bell has returned to London to work as a Bricklayer boarding with George Barretts from Radcliffe on Trent. He is working with his sons James and John and daughter Mary in Balham London, whilst wife Sarah his home in Radcliffe

In 1881 in Balham London

George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 49)	Bricklayer)
James Bell	born abt 1856 (age 25)	son
John Bell	born abt 1862 (age 19)	Son
Ralph Standing	born abt 1862 (age 19)	Bricklayer
Mary Bell	born abt 1854 (age 15)	Servant

In 1881 in Radcliffe, Sarah Bell is visiting the family of Uptons with 4 of her children.

Sarah Bell	born abt 1832 (age 49)	Visitor
Sarah Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1868 (age 13)	Visitor
George Bell	born abt 1870 (age 11)	Visitor
Charles Bell	born abt 1875 (age 6)	Visitor
Robert Bell	born abt 1876 (age 5)	Visitor

1891 Census

In 1891, George Bell and Sarah are living in Radcliffe on Trent, District of Bingham with 3 of their children Sarah, Charles and Robert and also their granddaughter Annie, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth, also born in Highgate. Annie probably remains in Radcliffe for several years, and eventually 'Marries' John B James and lives in Radcliffe on Trent where her son Thomas is born in 1896. But Annie dies age 24 in Radcliffe in 1901 and John B James re marries.

George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 59)	Budby Nottinghamshire
Sarah Bell	born abt 1832 (age 59)	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire
Sarah Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1868 (age 23)	Middlesex, Highgate
Charles Bell	born abt 1875 (age 6)	Middlesex, Highgate
Robert Bell	born abt 1876 (age 5)	Middlesex, Highgate
Annie Bell	born abt 1879 (age 12) granddaughter	Middlesex, Highgate

1901 Census

In 1901, George Bell is living in Ollerton and his 11 children have scattered. Also living in Ollerton are his son Henry Bell, living in Town St Ollerton, and Henry's son (George's grandson) Ralph Bell, living in Wellow Rd Ollerton, all as bricklayers, and all as boarders. In a previous census, George's brother Samuel Bell was living in Ollerton. We know it was our George, as he states his birth place as Elkesley, Nottinghamshire.

George Bell	born abt 1832 (age 69)	Bricklayer
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Sarah Bell is in the 1901 Census as living in Shelford Road Radcliffe on Trent with son Thomas (age 46) and his wife and a few doors down is Sarah and son James (age 45)

1909 George Bell dies in Bingham (Radcliffe on Trent)

On the 30th September 1909, George Bell's death is registered, aged 77, in Bingham, the registration district for Radcliffe on Trent where he lived. His death certificate shows he died of General Paralysis aged 75 years, with son John Bell in attendance at Radcliffe on Trent.

1903 Sarah Bell dies in Bingham (Radcliffe on Trent)

In the 1st November 1903, Sarah Bell's death is registered, aged 71 in Bingham. Her death Certificate confirms she died age 71 Years of Apiplety??, wife of George Bell (Bricklayer) with James Bell, Son, in attendance at Radcliffe on Trent.

1853 HENRY BELL IS BORN

Henry Bell, the eldest child of George and Sarah Bell, is born in the July-August-September qtr of 1853 in Bingham Nottingham, the registration district for Radcliffe on Trent, just 6k away. He variously quotes his own birth in future Census lists as Ratcliffe or Radcliffe but Ratcliffe is a totally different village and even the Census collector has mis-spelt Radcliffe as Ratcliffe many times, or in the transcription, the "d" has been mistaken for a "t". Radcliffe on Trent is a village within the registration district of Bingham.

1875 Henry Bell marries Elizabeth Adams

At Edmonton Middlesex In the Oct-Nov-Dec qtr of 1875 George Bell marries Elizabeth Adams. Elizabeth Adams was born in Oct-Nov-Dec qtr of 1851 in Islington London, to parents Robert and Mary Adams. This corresponds with Elizabeth Bell's Death Certificate where her age is stated at 86 years and 8 months – a precise way of describing her age. NOTE: on Elizabeth's Marriage Certificate, her father is noted as Robert Adams, paperhanger, but on her Death Certificate in 1938, her father's name incorrectly as George, Paperhanger (by my Nanna??).

1876 to 1886 Henry and Elizabeth Bell have 8 children

Henry and Elizabeth have 8 children, all born in Highgate, Hornsey Middlesex.

Henry Bell	born 1876	Died 1947 (Detroit USA)
Annie Bell	born 1878	Died 1901 (Radcliffe on Trent UK)
Robert Bell	born 1879	Died ???? (Australia??)
Ralph Bell	born 1881	Died 1925 (Southampton UK)
George Edward Bell	born 1883	Died 1962 (Australia)
Gertrude Beatrice Bell born 1885		Died 1966 (Ipswich Australia)
Jessie Bell	born 1887	Died 1972 (Sydney Australia)
Thomas Bell	born 1890	Died 1914 (Flanders WW1)

1861 to 1901 Census Data Residences of Henry Bell

Henry Bell and others variously list their living place and/or birth place as Ratcliffe or Radcliffe, and being only 25k apart, that is very confusing. Except that the 2 places are officially Ratcliffe on Soar and Radcliffe on Trent, so I assume when the information states Ratcliffe on Trent that they actually mean Radcliffe on Trent.

1861 Census

Henry Bell is listed as living with his parents George and Sarah Bell in Radcliffe on Trent with his brothers and sister Thomas (6) James (4) and Adelaide (2) – and he states he was born in Radcliffe on Tr (sic Trent)

Henry Bell	Born 1854 (age7)	Scholar
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1871 Census

Henry Bell is listed as living at Gillingham Kent at the School of Military Engineering. He lists his birthplace as Ratcliffe on Trent Nottinghamshire, which of course is Radcliffe on Trent.

Henry Bell	born 1853 (age 18)	Sapper
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1881 Census

In 1876 we know Henry Bell was living at 5 Gipsy Tce, Southward Lane, Highgate, as that is the place of registration for the birth of their first son Henry (also called Harry). Sometime between 1876 and 1881, George and Sarah Bell, his parents, moved back to Radcliffe on Trent and Henry and wife Lissie and their children moved into George's place at Wells Hill 3 Dorothy Cottages Highgate – only 400 metres away from 5 Gipsy Lane, his previous residence. Henry lists his birthplace as Ratcliffe (we no know is Radcliffe on Trent), Lissie is listed as being born in Bow London, but in later Censuses, its Islington London, the registration area.

Henry Bell	born abt 1853 (age 28)	Bricklayer
Lissie Bell	born abt 18452 (age 29)	
Harry Bell	born abt 1877 (age 4)	
Annie Bell	born abt 1878 (age 3)	
Robert Bell	born abt 1879 (age 2)	
Ralph Bell	born abt 1880 (age 1)	

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1891 Census

Henry Bell and Elizabeth still reside at Wells Hill 3 Dorothy Cottages Highgate, Hornsey, Middlesex. Henry lists his birthplace as Ratcliffe (Radcliffe). Lissie is listed as being born in Bow London, but in later Censuses, it's Islington London, the registration area.

Henry Bell	born abt 1853 (age 38)	Bricklayer
Lissie Bell	born abt 1852 (age 39)	
Harry Bell (Henry)	born abt 1876 (age 15)	
Robert Bell	born abt 1879 (age 12)	
Ralph Bell	born abt 1881 (age 10)	
Gertrude Bell	born abt 1885 (age 6)	
George Bell	born abt 1883 (age 8)	
Jessie Bell	born abt 1887 (age 4)	
Thomas Bell	born abt 1880 (age 1)	

1901 Census

Elizabeth Bell is now at 4 Woodside Cottages, Muswell Hill, Hornsey Middlesex but Husband Henry Bell is in the 1901 Census as living in Ollerton (Famous for its brickworks) as a boarder and working as a Foreman Bricklayer. His son Ralph, aged 20 is also a boarder in a nearby street in Ollerton working as a bricklayer and so is father George Bell age 69. Annie Bell is in Radcliffe with husband John James, young Henry Bell had departed for the USA in 1898, George Bell had moved out and is boarding in Stanmore, Middlesex as a butcher before joining the army.

Elizabeth Bell	born abt 1852 (age 49)	
Robert Bell	born abt 1880 (age 21)	Bricklayer
Gertrude Bell	born abt 1886 (age 15)	Dressmaker
Jessie Bell	born abt 1888 (age 13)	
Thomas Bell	born abt 1880 (age 11)	

1910 Death of Henry Bell

After umpteen hours of research I finally found the death of our Henry Bell. I spent a year looking at many Henry Bell's including a Henry Bell who died in a Brickworks accident etc etc **BUT, he died age 56 in Radcliffe on Trent (registered in Bingham) The ancestry.com record states he was only 36 yet the Government record clearly shows he was 56 years old as does the website familysearch.com, where his age is correctly listed as 56 in 1910 Bingham.** A huge mistake by ancestry.com that threw us off track. A copy of his death certificate confirms he died on 21st May 1910 in Radcliffe on Trent. Cause of death was cancer of liver and stomach.

1910 to 1930 Census Residences of Elizabeth Bell

Mrs Elizabeth Bell arrived on the same ship Miltiades as Jessie Bell and her future husband Henry John Chappell in 1910, departing London and arriving Sydney

Electoral Roll 1913

Mrs Elizabeth Bell was living at 12 Forest St Forest Lodge Camperdown in the 1913 Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll 1914

Mrs Elizabeth Bell, according to her son Ralph Bell, was living at 45 Charles Street, Forest Lodge, the same address as daughter Jessie and her husband Henry John Chappell.

Electoral Roll 1914 to 1930

We assume Elizabeth Bell continued to live with Jessie and Henry Chappell, as she was listed at their address at 2 Skelton Street Leichhardt in 1930, the last time she appeared in any Electoral Roll.

1938 Death of Elizabeth Bell

After umpteen hours of research I finally found a funeral notice for Elizabeth Bell in July 1938 in the Queensland Times, Australia. It notes she is the mother of Mrs C. Skeggs. Presumably she went to live with daughter Gertrude Skeggs at Pine Mountain Road Ipswich, even though she is not on any electoral Roll in Queensland. A check of the Queensland BMD's in 1938, then reveals her parents were George and Mary Adams!! Knowing this, we can then backtrack to London and find that she was born on the 8th January 1954 to George and Mary Adams.

1876 to 2016 Time Line of the 8 Children of Henry and Elizabeth Bell

Brief Summary of 8 Bell Children

Here is a brief summary of the 8 children of Henry and Elizabeth Bell, followed by a detailed time line.

1876 Henry Bell born. He went to the USA and died in the USA in 1947. Henry Bell left Southampton in 1898 to the Falklands Islands, where he married Louisa Clifton in 1903. Then to Buenos Aires in 1904 and finally arrived in New York in 1905. He moved around in the USA, becoming a USA citizen on the 7th August 1931. He had 8 children and died in Detroit in 1947.

1877 Annie Bell born and died in 1901 in Radcliffe, UK. Annie Bell was born in London in the Q4 of 1877 and married John James in about 1885. They have a son Thomas born 1896. She appears in the UK Census of 1881 in Highgate London and in 1891 at Radcliffe with Grandparents George and Sarah, then again in Radcliffe in 1901 with husband John James and son Thomas. She died in 1901.

1879 Robert Bell born and went to Australia and probably died there?. Robert Bell was born in London in 1879 and in the 1911 UK Census is in Thame, Oxfordshire with wife Elizabeth (nee Whitley) and son Robert Henry Bell (born AMJ 1907 in Aylesbury). He immigrated to Australia about 1912. In 1913 he is at 12 Forest St Camperdown Sydney then at either 14 or 16 Forest St Forest Lodge until 1917. I am not sure if Elizabeth his wife, and son Robert Henry went with him to Australia, as the Elizabeth Bell at the same address 12 Forest Street, I believe was his mother Elizabeth, and there were not 2 x Elizabeth's in that 1913 Electoral Roll. After 1917, Robert Bell disappears off the radar. His wife and son may well have stayed in England, but neither can I find them in the UK.

1881 Ralph Bell born and went to the USA and died in Southampton UK in 1925. Ralph was born the 28th March 1881. Ralph Bell left Southampton for New York and arrived 15th January 1906, his \$20 trip paid for by his brother Henry Bell. He went to live with Henry at 125 Vermont St Brooklyn before going to Oklahoma in 1910. From there he went to Vancouver Canada in 1913 and in 1914 joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces to fight in World War 1. He is wounded with a Gun Shot Wound (GSW) to the leg at Festubert France on 24th May 1915 and spends the next 4 years in and out of hospitals with an abscessed wound to his left hip that won't heal. He marries Dora Annie Bartlett in 1919 in Southampton, a girl he probably met on leave from the Southampton Military Hospital, and after returning to Canada to be discharged from the army on 21st Feb 1919, immediately returns by ship from New York to Liverpool, to go to 20 John Street Southampton where his wife is waiting to have their first child Doreen. He dies on the 30th May 1925, probably due to WW1 wounds.

1883 George Bell born and went to Australia in 1910 and died in Sydney Australia in 1962. George Bell left London for Sydney as crew on the Norseman working as a general servant and left 30th July 1910. He is at 12 Forest Street Camperdown in 1913 with the rest of the Bells, married Georgina Wilson in 1914, then moved to Randwick before moving to Katoomba about 1924, and then to the South of Sydney where he died in 1962. Georgina died in 1974.

1885 Gertrude Bell born and went to Australia in 1911 and died in Australia in 1967. Gertrude Bell was married twice, once in 1905 to Albert Edward Walton and then in 1911 to Charles Skeggs who had also been married before to Emma Richardson in 1899. They left London on the 5th May 1911 on the Mamari, arriving in Sydney. In 1913 she and husband Charles were living at 12 Forest Street Camperdown Sydney, with the rest of the Bells before moving to Ipswich QLD where they finished up at 11 Smith Street. Charles Skeggs died in 1948, and Gertrude went to live with her eldest daughter Mavis and her husband Harold Gurd for about 15 years until she died in 1967.

1888 Jessie Bell born and went to Australia in 1910 and died in Sydney Australia in 1971. Jessie was born Adelaide Jessie Bell but forever more called herself Jessie Adelaide. On the 6th July 1910, Jessie and future husband Henry John Chappell left London on the Miltiades for Sydney. Also on the passenger list is Mrs E. Bell (age 56), whom we now know to be Elizabeth Bell, wife of Henry Bell and mother to these 8 children. In 1913, Jessie and Henry Chappell are living at 45 Charles Street Forest Lodge, Sydney a few hundred metres from 12 Forest Street where the Bells are living. Elizabeth Bell moves in with Jessie in 1914, as Ralph Bell lists her as his next of kin living at the Charles St Address on his 1914 army entrance record in Canada. In about 1924, Jessie and husband Henry move to 2 Skelton Street in the same suburb, and presumably mother Elizabeth Bell moves there too as she is listed at this same address in 1930. Henry Chappell dies in 1942 in Sydney and Jessie in 1971.

1890 Thomas Bell born and died Flanders in WW1 1914. Thomas Bell was the youngest, despite several Census listings as being older than Jessie. He was born in the April-May-June qtr of 1890. On 1st Jan 1908 he joined the 12th Lancers Regiment and was listed in the 1911 Census as being on active duty in the Transvaal South Africa. The next record is a military record stating he was killed in action in World War 1 in Flanders on the 20th November 1914 and buried in the military cemetery at La Laiterie. His residence on the record is Sydney New South Wales, indicating that was the address of his mother Elizabeth Bell, his next-of-kin.

1876 Birth of Henry Bell

Henry Bell was born 7th June 1876 (baptised/registered 13th August 1876), while his parents Henry and Elizabeth were living at 5 GipseY Tce, Southward Lane, Highgate. Henry Bell left the family home at 4 Woodside Cottages Muswell Hill, Hornsey after 1891 (where he was known as Harry in that 1891 Census). On the 4th March 1898, he left England via the port of South Hampton for the Stanley Falklands Islands. On the 31st May 1903, Henry Bell married Jessie Louisa Clifton. From the Falklands, Henry and Louisa travelled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where their daughter Jessie Maude Bell was born in 1904. From Argentina, they travelled to New York, USA arriving in 1905. Son Henry Clifton Bell was born on June 7th 1906 in New York. Malvinas Bell was born 1908 in Brooklyn New York. Lionel Heatherill Bell was born in 1910 St Louis Missouri. George Ohio Bell was born Sept 10th 1912 in Barberton Ohio. Octavia Caroline Bell was born 1915 Put-in-Bay Ohio. Elizabeth Bell was born 1919 in Detroit Wayne Michigan. Gloria Audrey Bell was born 1922 (died 1994) in Detroit Wayne Michigan. In 1947, Henry's wife Louisa died. Henry died on the 7th Dec 1947 in Detroit, Wayne, Michigan.

1877 Birth of Annie Bell

Annie Bell was born in the oct-nov-dec qtr of 1877 at Highgate, the birth registered in Edmonton Middlesex. Her name appears in the 1881 Census as a 3 year old, and she is not in the 1891 Census for Henry and Elizabeth's family but appears in the 1891 Census with Grandparents George and Sarah Bell in Radcliffe. In the 1901 Census in Radcliffe, she appears with husband John James and son Thomas Bell. There is a record of her death in Oct-Nov-Dec in Bingham. Her Death Certificate confirms she died on 16th November 1901 of Phthisis Pulmonalis (Tuberculosis of the lungs), a disease she had for 1yr 2 months prior to her death. John James re-marries and is found in the 1911 Census as living in Leicester, his home town, with a new wife Mary, son Thomas to Annie, and sons Howard and Edward born to wife Mary. Annie James (nee Bell) doesn't appear with the family in any further Census after 1901.

1879 Birth of Robert Bell

Robert Bell was born in the July-Aug-Sep qtr of 1879 in Highgate, the birth registered in Edmonton Middlesex. His name is probably Robert Charles Bell.

1901 Census in England

Robert is at home with the family in 1901 at 4 Woodside Cottages, Muswell Hill, Highgate, and is a bricklayer.

1906 Robert Bell marries Elizabeth Whitley in England

In 1906 he marries Elizabeth Whitley (Elizabeth Whitley was born 1880 in Aylesbury Buckinghamshire). They are married in her home village of Aylesbury Buckinghamshire in the Oct-Nov-Dec qtr of 1906.

1911 Census in England

In the 1911 Census, he is living at Thame, Oxfordshire with his wife Elizabeth Bell and son Thomas Henry Bell aged 4 ½ years. It seems it must be him, as his birth place is Highgate, 1879, and there were no other Robert Bells born in that Middlesex area in that year,

1912 Emigration to Australia

Whilst I cannot find an emigration record for them to Australia, it is clearly Robert Bell came to Australia between 2nd April 1911 (the UK Census date) and 1913 when Robert appeared on the Australian Electoral Roll. I doubt whether his wife Elizabeth and son Robert Henry ever came to Australia as this second Elizabeth was not listed at the address, but I neither can I find what happened to them in the UK. A mystery

1913 Electoral Roll

Robert is living at 12 Forest Street Forest Lodge (Camperdown), in the same house as George Bell and Charles and Gertrude Skeggs.

1915 Electoral Roll

Robert has moved next door to 14 Forest Street Forest Lodge (Camperdown)

1916 and 1917 Electoral Roll

Robert has moved again to the next house at 16 Forest Street Forest Lodge (Camperdown) Its possible that this Robert moved to 8 Upper Road Forest Lodge (Camperdown) in 1918. It's not certain what happened to Robert Bell after 1917. However after Thomas Bell died, his Ware Effects card states his money is to be dispersed to his mother Elizabeth and brothers George and sisters Jessie and Gertrude via a CPEC, but to Ralph and Robert via a money order. Ralph was in England at a military hospital at the time so its possibly Robert may have also returned to England. When his mother died in 1938, Robert is not listed as a living child, only Henry, George, Gertrude and Jessie. So we might presume Robert died in England sometime between 1917 and 1938.

1881 Birth of Ralph Bell

Ralph Bell was born in on the 28th March 1881 in Highgate and died in Southampton in 1925.

1901 Census

In the 1901 Census, Ralph Bell appears as a boarder in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, co-incidentally, his father Henry Bell was listed in 1901 at Ollerton, a place famous for its brickworks.

1906 Immigration to USA

According to the shipping records, on the 6th January 1906, Ralph Bell, Bricklayer arrived in New York, destined to live with his brother Henry Bell at 125 Vermont St, Brooklyn, who has paid \$20 for his fare from Southampton to New York.

1910 Census

Ralph Bell is listed as a bricklayer, single, boarding in Sapulpa Oklahoma

1913 immigration from Canada to USA

Ralph travelled backwards and forwards between the USA and Canada. There is an entry for him travelling from Vancouver to Seattle in 1913. His next of kin is his mother in Sydney Australia.

1914 Joins Canadian Overseas Force

On 16th Sept 1914, Ralph Bell joins the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, 23rd Battalion to participate in World War 1. On signing, he was single, aged 32, born on 28th March 1881 in Highgate, a bricklayer and joined in Kingston Canada. His closest kin is Mrs E Bell, 45 Charles St Forest Lodge Sydney Australia, his mother who is living with daughter Jessie and husband Henry John Chappell. He is variously transferred between the 23rd, 12th, 9th and 3rd Battalion.

1915 Embarkation to France

After completing training on the Salisbury Plain in England, Ralph Bell goes to Rouen France on the 27th April 1915.

1915 to 1919 Wounded and in and out of Hospitals

He is wounded on the 20th May 1915 at Festubert, France with a gunshot wound (GSW) to the left hip. For more info on the Battle of Festubert, a village just north of Arras in France which had 2,500 Canadian Casualties during May 1915, see <http://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/land-battles/festubert/>.

For the next 2 years Ralph Bell is in and out of hospital. The wound is deep, not to the bone, but he has a recurring abscess. The hospitals he is transferred between include:

No 4 Versailles, France, 28/5/1915, Herne Bay UK 30/4/1915, Whalley Lancashire 12/7/1915, Burwood Wokinghamshire 2/9/1916, Shorncliffe UK, 5/10/1916, Southampton UK 4/8/1917, Southampton UK 27/7/1918, Edmonton Canada, 31/1/1919. During one of his hospital stays, he visits someone at 3 Napier St Norwich, which we later learn is the home of Annie Elizabeth Oates who has given birth to Thomas Bell Oates, son of Thomas Bell, Ralph's brother killed in November 1914.

1919 Discharged from Canadian army

He is discharged from the Canadian army on the 21st Feb 1919 due to a recurring abscess on his left hip and Chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM), a chronic inflammation of the middle ear and mastoid cavity. Antibiotics were only available from 1928, which could have treated both conditions.

1919 Marriage to Dora Annie Bartlett

After his discharge from the Canadian army, Ralph Bell returns to Southampton and marries Dora Annie Bartlett (also known as Annie Dora Bartlett) in the AMJ qtr of 1919 and they reside at 20 John Street Southampton. Doreen, their first child was born March 1919, one month before they married.

1919 immigration from USA to Southampton

Ralph returns to the UK after WW1, travelling from New York to Liverpool England on the 15th March 1919. He is listed as a bricklayer, aged 37 (about to turn 38 on 28th March). His destination was 20 John Street Southampton where his wife Dora Annie Bell is listed as living.

1919 to 1925

Ralph and Dora Bell move at some stage to 21 Mayfield Rd Hampton Park South Hampton. They had 3 children – Doreen born 1919, Ralph born 1921 and Bernard born 1924.

1925 Death of Ralph Bell

Ralph Bell died in Southampton on the 30th May 1925, no doubt from WW1 Wounds that failed to heal.

1928 Marriage of Dora Bell to David Davies

In the JFM qtr of 1928, Dora Bell re-marries David Davies, It's not known if they had any children

1935 Death of Dora Davies

In 1935, Dora Davies, Ralph Bells wife dies aged just 40 years. She would have been 23 years old and 15 years younger than Ralph Bell when they married.

1883 Birth of George Edward Bell

George Edward Bell was born in the AMJ qtr of 1883 in Highgate, the birth registered Edmonton, Middlesex.

1891 Census in England

He was at home with the family at 4 Woodside Cottages Muswell Hill.

1901 Census in England

George E Bell (born 1883 Muswell Hill), is a boarder with a family at Stanmore Middlesex as butcher.

1901 Army Records in England

In 1901 he joins the army in the East Surrey Regiment. He is in South Africa during the Boer war and was court martialled in 1906 after several liquor offences. He probably left the army in 1906!!

1910 Emigration to Australia

On 30th July 1910, George Bell age 26, born Highgate, serves as a general servant on the ship named the Norseman, destined for Sydney Australia. He is listed as being born in Highgate.

1913 Electoral Roll

George Bell appears in the 1913 Electoral Roll at 12 Forest Street Camperdown with the Bells.

1914 Marriage to Georgina Wilson

In 1914 George Edward Bell marries Georgina Wilson at Glebe. She was born in 1890 to parents William and Hannah in Finchley Middlesex. (George and Georgina's houses are all called "Finchley").

1914 Sands Directory

In 1914 and they move to Earl Street Randwick to a house called "Finchley".

1915 Birth of daughter Georgina Ethel Bell

George and Georgina have a daughter also called Georgina Ethel, born in 1915 at Randwick. She appears to remain single, mostly living at her parent's houses in future Electoral Rolls.

1917 Birth of son George Edward Bell

on the 4th Oct 1917, George Edward Bell is born at Parramatta and later marries Lucy Isabell Dunn. He is in the army from 1939 to 1945. In 1980 they are living at 2 Meehan St Shoalhaven Heads NSW.

1918 Birth of son Thomas Frank Bell

On the 15th Sept 1918, Thomas Frank Bell is born at Randwick. He is in the army from 1939 to 1945

1918 to 1924

Cannot find George and Georgina Bell in this time period.

1924 to 1949 George and Georgina are living at Katoomba.

In 1924, George (a carrier) and Georgina are living in a house called "Finchley" in Katoomba. There are several Bells in Katoomba, Victor Roy and Eliza J, and George Edward and Mary Ann. It's possible there's a connection?? In 1934 James Skeggs (son of Gertrude Skeggs (nee Bell) dies whilst working for his uncle George Bell in Katoomba. In 1949 George and Georgina move to 58 Brent Street Katoomba along with two of their children Georgina Ethel (shop assistant) and Thomas Frank (RAN).

1954 Electoral Roll

By 1954 they have moved to 13 Bix Rd Deewhy, on the north shore of Sydney, presumably to be near sister Jessie Chappell (nee Bell) at Narrabeen. At the same address is daughter Georgina Ethel.

1958 Electoral Roll

They then have move south of Sydney, and are at 2 Woodhill St, Fairy Meadow, New South Wales, near Wollongong. Their children Georgina Ethel and Thomas Frank Bell are there also.

1962 Death of George Edward Bell

George Edward Bell (mother Elizabeth) dies in 1962, his death registered in Auburn Sydney, NSW.

1963 Electoral Roll

After George Bell's death, wife Georgina moves with daughter Georgina Ethel to Warrilla Oak Flats, south of Sydney, where their son George Edward Bell is living with wife Lucy Bell and their son James Archibald Bell. Georgina is at 16 Edward St, and daughter and Georgina Ethel and son Thomas Frank are at 10 Edward St. Other son George and wife Lucy (nee Dunn) are close by at 65 Little Lake Crescent with their son James Archibald Bell. All remain at the same addresses until 1968.

1972 Electoral Roll

Georgina and daughter Ethel are now both living at 10 Edward Street Oak Flats.

1974 Death of Georgina Bell

Georgina Bell dies and her daughter continues to live at 10 Edward Street 1980 until 1980.

1980 Electoral Roll last known address

George Edward Bell and wife Lucy Isabella are at 2 Meehan Street Shoalhaven Heads Wollongong.

1885 Birth of Gertrude Beatrice Bell

Gertrude Beatrice Bell was born on the 23rd July 1885 in Highgate, the birth registered in Edmonton Middlesex.

1891 Census ENGLAND

Gertrude Bell is living with the family at 4 Woodside cottages Muswell Hill Hornsey

1901 Census ENGLAND

Gertrude Beatrice Bell is still living at home with her mother at 4 Woodside cottages Muswell Hill Hornsey

1905 Marriage ENGLAND

Gertrude Beatrice Bell married Albert Edward Walton on 9th Oct 1905. The marriage didn't last and Albert Edward Walton went to Sheffield where he married Margaret Coulson Handel in 1910. In 1908, Gertrude became pregnant to Charles Skeggs and son James Henry Skeggs was born in early 1909.

1909 Birth Henry Charles Skeggs

James Henry Skeggs was born 17th January 1909 to parents Charles and Gertrude Skeggs who were living at the time at 60 The Lynch Uxbridge.

1911 Marriage to Charles Skeggs ENGLAND

On 4th March 1911 Charles Skeggs marries Gertrude Beatrice Bell in St Pancras. Charles was born in 24th March 1877 in Barnet and had been married previously to Emma Richardson and for reasons unknown, their marriage did not succeed and they separated.

When Charles and Gertrude were married, their address was 8 South Grove, about three kilometres from Muswell Hill Hornsey where Gertrude had previously lived with her family.

On several documents, the marriage is listed as 1905, perhaps to conceal the fact that they were married after the birth of James. Interesting that the date picked for their marriage was the possible date of Gertrudes previous marriage

1911 Census ENGLAND

Charles and Gertrude Skeggs are listed as living at 96 High St Uxbridge Middlesex

1911 Emigration to AUSTRALIA

Charles and Gertrude Skeggs depart for Australia on the 4th May 1911 on the ship Mamari travelling from London to Sydney. The passenger lists state Chas Skeggs and wife and son Chas (mistake for James as this listing has to be them)

1913 Electoral Roll

Charles and Gertrude Skeggs are listed as living at 12 Forest Street Camperdown (or Forest Lodge), the same house as her brothers George and Robert. In total there would have been Gertrude Skeggs, Charles Skeggs, son James (age 4) Robert Bell, Elizabeth Bell, son Robert Henry Bell (age 6), George Bell and an unknown John Campbell – perhaps another boarder or the owner. Sister Jessie and husband Henry Chappell were living less than 1k away at 45 Charles Street and brother Thomas Bell was at 70 Missenden Rd, also less than 1k away. It's possible Jessie and husband Henry started the exodus, being the first to leave London in 2010, followed by George, then Robert then Thomas.

1914 Birth of Gertrude Mavis Skeggs

Gertrude Mavis Skeggs was born on the 10th September 1914 in St Catherines Hospital Ipswich

1914 Birth of Florence Beryl Skeggs

Florence Beryl is born on the 15th December 1918 in Hooper Street, West Ipswich where there was a midwife.

1917 Electoral Roll

Charles and Gertrude Skeggs live for 3 years at Cabbage Tree Creek before moving closer to Ipswich to Muirlea, near Brassall on the northern side of the Toowoomba Highway. Charles is a blacksmith.

1919 Electoral Roll

After 2 years at Muirlea, Charles and Gertrude Skeggs move to Pine Mountain Road Brassall.

1936 Electoral Roll

Charles and Gertrude are at Pine Mt Road Brassall. Mavis Skeggs has moved out to 8 Flint Street Brassall, and Beryl Skeggs is too young to be listed on the Electoral Roll.

1937 Electoral Roll

Charles and Gertrude are still at Pine Mt Rd and Mavis has been at 8 Fleet St with her boyfriend for almost 2 years now.

1939 Electoral Roll

18 Bell Family History

Charles and Gertrude Skeggs have now moved from Pine Mt Road to 11 Smith Street North Ipswich where Charles is a blacksmith and Gertrude has turned the house into a boarding house for railway workers from the Railway yards just a few hundred metres down the road. Mavis has returned from 8 Flint St after the death of her boyfriend in a car accident. Beryl is not listed, too young to vote.

1943 Electoral Roll

Charles and Gertrude Skeggs are still at 11 Smith Street. Beryl and Mavis are both listed.

1944 Marriage of Beryl Skeggs

On the 25th March 1944, Beryl Skeggs marries William Charles Morgan (born 15th March 1915) who had previously lived at 8 Smith street, just across the road, until 1930 when his parents house burnt down. Beryl and Charles Morgan lived at 11 Smith Street for a year until they moved to Redcliffe.

1944 Marriage of Mavis Skeggs

On the 11th November 1944, Mavis Skeggs marries Harold William Gurd. They buy a house at 12 Tallon Street West Ipswich.

1949 Electoral Roll

Gertrude Skeggs is the only family member still living at 11 Smith Street. Charles Skeggs died in 1948, and Beryl and Mavis are married

1954 Electoral Roll

Gertrude Skeggs has moved from 11 Smith St and is now living with her married daughter Mavis and her husband Harold Gurd who live at 12 Tallon St West Ipswich near the train line and Thomas St Train Station. Harold Gurd worked at the RAAF base at Amberley nearby. The house was only a few hundred metres from the train bridge to Wulkuraka. We stayed in this house many times as kids in the 1950's, begging to stay up late to watch the Westlander train come through at 9pm each night.

1959 Electoral Roll

Gertrude Beatrice Skeggs is still at 12 Tallon Street West Ipswich, living with her daughter Mavis Gurd and son-in-law Harold Gurd.

1963 Electoral Roll

Gertrude Beatrice Skeggs moves with her daughter Mavis Gurd and son-in-law Harold Gurd to Cascade Street Raceview Ipswich. Harold had retired from the RAAF and he and Mavis had bought a post office/school shop with a house attached at the back. I have fond memories of Nanna Skeggs sitting at the kitchen table peeling vegetables ready to put into the pressure cooker.

1967 Death of Gertrude Beatrice Skeggs

Gertrude Beatrice Skeggs died at Raceview Ipswich.

1968 to 1996 Electoral Roll Residences of Harold and Mavis Gurd

Harold and Mavis Gurd move from 12 Tallon St West Ipswich, to Cascade Street Race view then to Ridge Rd Maroochydore (1968), King St Clontarf, Redcliffe (1969), Old Scarborough Rd (1970) then 41 Ella St Redcliffe (1972) where they lived until they died. They had no children.

1949 to 2005 Electoral Roll Residences of Charles and Beryl Morgan

Beryl and Charles moved from 11 Smith Street North Ipswich where they lived with Gertrude and Charles for a year before moving to Sutton Street in 1949 then to 47 Robertson Ave Margate where they lived until they died.

1983 Death of William Charles Morgan

William Charles Morgan died 7th August 1983 at his home 47 Robertson Ave Margate

1990 Death of Harold Gurd

Harold Gurd died in 1990 at Sandgate Free Masons Home QLD Australia

1996 Death of Gertrude Mavis Gurd

Gertrude Mavis Gurd died 1996 at Sandgate Free Masons Home QLD Australia

2005 Death of Florence Beryl Morgan

Florence Beryl Morgan died 12th April 2005 at Sandgate Free Masons Home QLD Australia

1888 Birth of Jessie Bell

Adelaide Jessie Bell was born in the Jan-Feb-Mar qtr of 1888. She is called Jessie in all the Census data and in all records later is known as Jessie Adelaide Bell.

1891 Census England

Jessie Bell is living with the family at 4 Woodside cottages Muswell Hill Hornsey

1901 Census England

Jessie is living with her mother Elizabeth at 4 Woodside Cottages Muswell Hill Hornsey

1910 Emigration to Australia

On the 6th July 1910 Jessie Adelaide Bell and future husband Henry John Chapel (born 1885) and listed as passengers on the ship called the Miltiades, travelling from London to Sydney.

1911 Marriage of Jessie Bell to Henry John Chappell

Soon after Jessie Bell and Henry Chappell arrive in Sydney in 1911, they get married in Glebe.

1912 Birth of son Frederick George Chappell

Frederick George Bell (sometimes called George Frederick) was born on the 18th May 1912 in Glebe. He is listed as a plasterer. He served in the Australian army from 1939 to 1945.

1913 Electoral Roll

Jessie Chappell and Henry Chappell are living at 45 Charles Street Forest Lodge (one incorrectly at 5 Charles St), Camperdown, less than 300 metres from 12 Forest Street where her two brothers George and Robert, sister Gertrude and husband Charles Skeggs, and mother Elizabeth Bell are staying.

1915 Birth of son Henry Thomas Chappell

Henry Thomas Chappell was born on the 15th Jan 1915.

1920 to 1935 Electoral Roll

Henry and Jessie Chappell are at 2 Skelton Rd Leichhardt, 3k west of Forest Lodge their first home in Sydney. They stay for 15 years. In 1932, Elizabeth Bell her mother is there, presumably she always lived with Jessie. In 1935, Jessie and Henry Chappell's son Frederick George Chappell is also there.

1936 to 1949 Electoral Roll

Henry and Jessie Chappell move to the north shore of Sydney and at Powder works Rd Narrabeen. where they remain and after Henry dies in 1942, there's the comings and goings of her sons Henry Thomas and Frederick George Chappell.

1942 Death of Henry John Chappell

In 1942, Henry Chappell dies aged about 57. His birth Registered with the New South Wales BMD's.

1942 Marriage of Henry Thomas Chappell

In 1942 there is a marriage record for Henry Thomas Chappell in 1942 in Manly to Norma Aletta Campbell, but she doesn't appear in any further Electoral Rolls records.

1943 Marriage of George Frederick Chappell

In 1943 George Frederick Chappell marries Gladys Irene Machon in Manly.

1968 Electoral Roll

At some time, Jessie Chappell moves to 40 Gardener Street North Narrabeen where she lives with son Henry Thomas Chappell.

1971 Death of Jessie Adelaide Chappell

In 1971 Jessie Adelaide Chappell dies age 86

1972 Electoral Roll

George Frederick Chappell with wife Gladys Irene and son Ralph Frederick Chappell are listed as living at 8 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa west of Sydney. RALPH FREDERICK CHAPPELL MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE!! He was an engineer on this electoral roll

1977 Electoral Roll

George Frederick Chappell with wife Gladys Irene and son James Allan are at 8 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa west of Sydney. JAMES ALLAN CHAPPELL (clerk), their son MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE!!

1980 Electoral Roll

George Frederick Chappell continues to live at 8 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa with wife Gladys Irene and son James Allan Chappell.

1980 Electoral Roll

Henry Thomas Chappell continues to live at 40 Gardener St North Narrabeen

1990 Death of George Frederick Chappell

18th May 1990 George Frederick Chappell dies

1890 Birth of Thomas Bell

Thomas Bell was born in 1890 at Highgate and at age 24, was killed in action in Flanders near Ypres during World War 1 in 1914. Apart from the 1891 and 1901 Census, very little is known about his time in the 12th Lancers, as his was one of 4 million war records from World War 1 destroyed in September 1940, the result of an incendiary bomb at the War Office Record Store in Arnside Street, London. Those records which survived were mostly charred or water damaged and unfit for reading. They became known as the "Burnt Documents". Commencing in 1996 and with the aid of a lottery fund and volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah (Members of the Latter Day Saints), the surviving documents were the subject of a large microfilming programme designed to capture as much information as possible from these fragile documents and enable them to be permanently preserved. One of the surviving documents belonged to John Law, who joined the 12th Lancers on 2nd January 1908 in York, Regimental Number 821, and from his Service Records, we can gain a huge amount of information that would have mirrored the movements of Thomas Bell. Below is a Time Line for Thomas Bell, based on the limited information we have.

1890 Birth Thomas Bell

Thomas Bell was born in the April-May-June qtr of 1890 at Highgate, the birth registered in Edmonton Middlesex. Presumably he was born in Highgate Middlesex as were the rest of his siblings.

1891 Census England

In the 1891 Census he appears age 1 living at 3 Woodside Cottages in Muswell Hill Hornsey Middlesex with his parents Henry and Elizabeth, and siblings Henry (15) Robert (12), Ralph (10) Gertrude (9) George (8) and Jessie (4). Annie, his sister (12) is with her grandfather George Bell at Radcliffe on Trent in the 1891 Census

1901 Census England

In the 1901 Census, the family is still living at Muswell Hill, and Thomas is listed with his mother Elizabeth (father Henry is in Ollerton), Robert (21) Gertrude (15) and Jessie (13).

1908 Enlistment in 12th Lancers: Home in Norwich 27th Jan 1908 to 16th Feb 1909 (1yr 21days)

One of the surviving war records for the personal effects of Thomas Bell, records his date of enlistment as the 27th January 1908 in Stratford, and his previous occupation as a stableman. Which makes sense given that the 12th Lancers were a Cavalry Regiment and he had a prior interest in horses. **According to the Service documents of John Law**, the Enlistment time was 7 years PLUS 5 years in the Reserves. The minimum age for joining the army in the UK at the time was 18, and the minimum age for overseas service was 19. However this did not prevent many young men from falsifying their age, and when the 12th Lancers were in India in the early 1900's, there is a record of the death of a 14 year old recruit. We can only assume Thomas Bell supplied his correct age as per the later 1911 Census. The training for the 12th Lancers was quite rigorous and is described in the pages of the book "1715 to 1945 Regimental Histories: The 12th Lancers", by Captain Stewart.

1909 Supply of New Clothing for 12th Lancers

A solitary note appears on the 9th 12th Lancers website regarding an issue of Clothing to Private Thomas Bell, Regimental Number 906, sometime in 1909, presumably before his departure to India.

1909 -1910 Service in Sialkot Punjab India: 17th Feb 1909 to 5th Nov 1910 (1yr 262days)

There's no definite record that Thomas Bell ever went to India. However, immediately after his Regiment the 12th Lancers completed service in India, they went straight to South Africa on the HMS Northbrook, arriving in December 1910. Then in the April 2nd 1911 Census in Potchefstroom Transvaal South Africa, there is a record for Thomas Bell, born Highgate. So presuming there was no time nor need for a separate troop ship from the UK to South Africa, we could conclude that Thomas Bell did go to India first and then on to South Africa. **Also, the Service documents for John Law** indicate that he was despatched to India on 17th Feb 1909 and then directly to South Africa without first returning to Norwich. And presumably so was Thomas Bell.

Journals listed on the 9th 12th Lancers website describe the training and sports of the 12th Lancers in Sialkot, naming dozens of sports for the soldiers to partake in – Horse Racing and Jumping, Rifle Shooting, Polo, Cricket, Boxing, Football, Hockey, Lawn Tennis, Lemon Cutting, Sword Pegging, Stalking, Heads and Posts and Swimming. Never a dull moment! The 12th Lancers had been in India since 1903, but during that time there were several comings and goings of soldiers. More than 70 died due to illness, mostly due to the 112 °F heat. **The service documents of John Law** indicate he was in "A" Squadron, and I believe Thomas Bell also was in "A" Squadron.

On 22nd October 1910, the 12th Lancers hand over to the 13th Hussars and 17th Lancers, before embarking at Karachi on 25th October 1910 on the RIMS Northbrook for South Africa for the 12 day journey to Durban. Seventy three men from Squadrons A, B, C and D embark.

1910 -1913 Service in Potchefstroom South Africa: 6th Nov 1910 to 27th Jan 1913. (2yrs 83days)

The 2nd April 1911 Census confirms that Thomas Bell born Highgate was at the Cantonments Potchefstroom Transvaal South Africa. The 12th Lancers Journals describe the daily activities of long marches, training and sporting competitions.

1913 – 1914 Service at Home in Norwich: 28th Jan 1913 to 17th August 1914 (1yr 202days)

In December 1912, the 12th Lancers received their orders to leave South Africa and return home to the UK. There is mention in the 12th Lancer Journals of them arriving in Tilbury, the port of London, on a dark January morning in 1913 and **According to the Service Documents of John Law** they arrived back in Norwich on the 28th January 1913.

I doubt that Thomas Bell ever came to Australia, despite one snippet of his service records indicating his place of residence was Sydney, New South Wales. Given that he enlisted for 7 years plus 5 in the Reserves, at best he may have had an "End of Tour Leave" and had a quick visit to Australia, but that would have taken him at least 6 weeks travel each way by ship with a few weeks visiting family in between, a total of almost 3 months. The December 1913 Journal of the 12th Lancers mentions soldiers going home on furlough, but I think for Thomas Bell, this was highly unlikely. It is more likely that since his mother and 4 siblings, George, Robert, Gertrude and Jessie, had left London to live in Sydney, that "home" to Thomas Bell was now Sydney, even if he never went there.

It was only Squadrons "A" and "B" who went to Norwich, whilst Squadron "C" went to Weedon, an outpost north west of London, and almost 200k south west of Norwich. We know that Thomas Bell spent time in Norwich and fell in love with Annie Oates, a young local girl., and a child was conceived about 26th May 1914 (born M3rd March 1915). So he must have been based in Norwich in either Squadron "A" or "B", but not "C" prior to his departure to France. I believe that Thomas Bell was in Squadron "A", along with John Law, as per mention in the dec 1913 journals about a Private Bell from Squadron "A" being involved in a Boxing Match.

According to the 12th Lancers journals of Dec 1913, Norwich was "nice welcoming place". The soldiers had a "fine time visiting the Black Horse, Ribs of Beef, and Crown, where they could buy the young ladies a drink. A far cry Potch. (meaning Potchefstroom)".

1914 Service with BEF in France: 18th August to 20th November 1914 (94 days)

A full description of the 12th Lancers involvement in World War 1 can be found in the book

The 12th Royal Lancers in France: Aug 17th, 1914—Nov 11th, 1918, By Major H. V. S. Charrington

Briefly, on 18th August the 12th Lancers, after shipping from Southampton to Havre, the 12th Lancers arrived in Hautment, in France before moving forward towards Belgium. During November 1914, the 12th Lancers were in support of the French Troops who had taken over the line. The War Diaries recall the weather was miserably cold and it had been snowing. On 28th August 1914, the 12th Lancers, 5th Brigade 2nd Division under General Gough were engaged in an historic Cavalry charge at Moy. "C" Squadron were on horses, whilst "A" and "B" Squadron gave rifle support. A full diary entry for the Battle of Moy can be found in the Military Records for Thomas Bell 1914 on this website.

According to the War Diaries, the 12th Lancers then moved North towards Ypres, and were entrenched near Steenwerck France, just south of Ypres and on the 20th November 1914, Thomas Bell was one of 4 soldiers Killed. He is buried at La Laiterie Cemetery. An entry in the War Diaries on 30th December 1914, states that a Sergeant Edwards received a Bravery Award for attempting to rescue a soldier who had gone mad, jumped out of the trench and ran towards the German Lines. The Sergeant returned with the soldier who had been killed with a shot to the head. This event occurred on the 20th November, the same day that Thomas Bell was killed, but there's no mention of the name of that poor soldier who lost his mind.

1915 Birth of Thomas Bell Oates

Annie Oates would have been almost 12 weeks pregnant when Thomas Bell went to France with the British Expeditionary Forces. Perhaps Thomas knew about the child, perhaps not. But I think it likely he did and probably told his brother Ralph Bell who had been in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces on active duty in France in 1914 and 1915. Ralph received a gunshot wound to the hip and was in and out of hospitals in the UK for years. A note in his medical records stated that he visited a place at 3 Napier Street, Norwich and knowing this, it didn't take long to track down the Oates family and find that Thomas Bell Oates was born in Norwich on 3rd March 1915.

1946 Marriage of Thomas Bell Oates to Joan Thomson

Thomas Bell Oates married Joan Thomson in 1946 and they had 4 children, Margaret A Oates born 1947, Janet born 1950 and Josephine T in 1954 and Joseph ???. Margaret later married David Haywood in 1980.

1980 Death of Thomas Bell Oates

THE 12th ROYAL LANCERS IN FRANCE

AUGUST 17th, 1914--NOVEMBER 11th, 1918

ON the outbreak of war, August 4th, 1914, the Regiment, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel F. Wormald, was stationed at Norwich, with an outlying squadron ("C") at Weedon. Mobilization took place at Norwich, and on August 16th the Regiment entrained for Southampton, and landed at Havre on the following day with 25 officers, 523 other ranks, and 608 horses. Two days later it entrained for Hautmont, just outside Maubeuge, around which fortress the British Expeditionary Force was concentrating prior to moving forward into Belgium.

On the 21st the forward move began, and the Regiment moved for the first time as part of the 5th Cavalry Brigade, under the command of General Sir Philip Chetwode, Bart., the other regiments composing the Brigade being the 20th Hussars and the Royal Scots Greys; and these three regiments fought together as the 5th Cavalry Brigade throughout the war.

On August 22nd our leading patrols came into contact with the enemy in the vicinity of Binche, but although on the 23rd a patrol under 2nd-Lieut. Brand, in a midnight encounter with the Germans in the thick woods around Merbes-Ste.-Marie, lost one of their number—Cpl. London, who was the first 12th Lancer to be killed in the war—it was not till August 24th that the whole Regiment received

Transcript of the WAR DIARIES, 19th and 20th November 1914

19th Nov: STEENWERK
Map OSTEND

It snowed hard more or less all day. Orders were received at 2.0pm for the Brigade to take over trenches from the French, just N of the W of WYTSCHAETE. The Brigade moved via LOIRE and LA CLYTTIE, and moved dismantled from kilo 5 on the KEMMEL road, through KEMMEL to a farm on the GROOT VIERSTRAAT road, where the position was discussed. It was a long job, taking over these trenches, as they were in close proximity to the enemy, and great care had to be exercised. The move was not completed until 1.30 am. The Regiment had 12 Squadrons in the trenches, with one M.C., the remainder being in reserve on the GROOT VIERSTRAAT - KEMMEL road. 2 men were wounded during the night.

20th Nov: In the trenches. A quiet day, but as the trenches were very exposed, sniping went on all day. 4 Men were killed, and three wounded. It froze hard all day with a bright sun.

Transcript of the WAR DIARIES, 30th December 1914

STEENWERCK 30.12.14

Remained in billets. A fine cold day N°409
Sgt E. EDWARDS B. Squadron 12th Lancers was awarded a medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field for gallantry on November 20th in the trenches. He ran out of his trench after a man who had temporarily gone mad, and was rushing on towards the Enemy's trenches, caught him up, and pulled him back to his own trench. Unfortunately the man was shot through the head just before Sergeant Edwards got him back, and killed, but Sgt Edwards was unhurt.