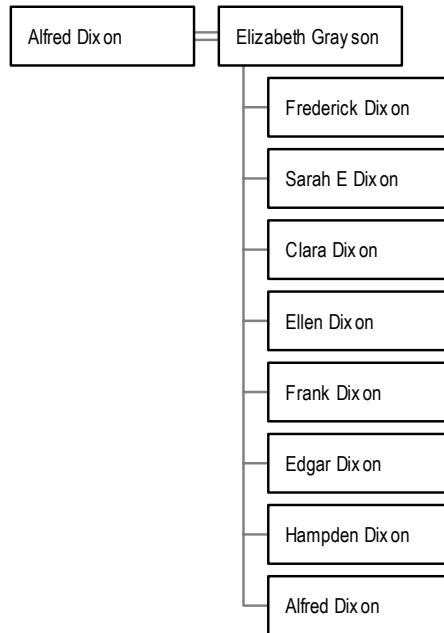


Alfred Dixon

Alfred was the first born of Elizabeth and John Dixon. He was born about 1835 at Hunslet, Leeds. He was at home for the 1841 and 1851 census nights but before the next census he had married. From a FreeBMD registration it would appear that Alfred married, in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1859, at Leeds, Elizabeth Grayson.[#] This assumption has been borne out by the marriage certificate. On 23rd June 1859, when he was 25, Alfred married 22 year old Elizabeth Grayson at the Parish Church of Leeds, following the calling of banns. At the time of his marriage Alfred was living at West Hillary Street, and was earning his living as a wool stapler. Elizabeth was residing at Beeston Road. The respective fathers were John Dixon, Wool Stapler and William Grayson, Bookkeeper. As seen from the 1851 census return below, the witnesses to the marriage, William and Isabella Ann Grayson, were brother and sister to Elizabeth.[#]



Elizabeth was the daughter of William and Sarah Grayson, born about 1838 in Leeds. The 1841 census has this family at Ansley Street, Hunslet, as follows.^{iv}

William Grayson	25	Attorney Clerk
Sarah Grayson	20	
Elizabeth Grayson	4	
John Grayson	2	
Isabella Ann Grayson	10 mths	

For the 1851 census this family has increased and was now living at Princess Place, Hunslet.^v

William Grayson	37	Solicitor General Clerk	Ripley, Yorkshire
Sarah Grayson	33		Selby, Yorkshire
Elizabeth Grayson	13	Scholar	Leeds
John Grayson	12	Scholar	Hunslet
Isabella Grayson	10	Scholar	Hunslet
Samuel Grayson	7	Scholar	Hunslet
William Henry Grayson	5	Scholar	Hunslet
Sarah Jane Grayson	3		Hunslet
Charles Thomas Grayson	1		Leeds

There has been no record found for in the 1861 census for Alfred and Elizabeth. Perhaps the record was lost. However, they reappear in the 1871 census, living at 2 Mount Pleasant Road, Longwood, a parish of Golcar, near Huddersfield, and an important woollen manufacturing centre.^{vi}

Alfred Dixon	36	Wool Buyer	Leeds
Elizabeth Dixon	33		Leeds
Frederick Dixon	10	Scholar	Leeds
Sarah E Dixon	8	Scholar	Hunslet
Clara Dixon	6	Scholar	Hunslet

Ellen Dixon	3	Longwood
Frank Dixon	1 mth	Longwood

As the latest additions to the family were born in Longwood, the family would have moved there sometime between 1865 and 1868. At some stage after 1871, and probably just before the birth of their last child, Alfred in 1879, the family moved back to Leeds where they are found for the 1881 census, living at 55 Meanwood Road, North West Ward, with three additional children.

Note, for the 1881 census all children are recorded as being born in Leeds. Note also, however that the Civil Registration 1837-1983 records the births of Ellen, Edgar and Hampden as registered in Huddersfield^{vi}

Alfred Dixon	46	Commercial Traveller for Wool Trade	Leeds
Elizabeth Dixon	44		Leeds
Frederick Dixon	20	Woollen Cloth Apprentice Weaver	Leeds
Sarah E Dixon	18		Leeds
Clara Dixon	16	Confectioner	Leeds
Ellen Dixon	13	Scholar	Leeds
Frank Dixon	11	Scholar	Leeds
Edgar Dixon	9	Scholar	Leeds
Hampden Dixon	7	Scholar	Leeds
Alfred Dixon	2		Leeds

Two of the older children are now in work, and Frederick seems destined to follow in the family's traditional connection to the wool trade.

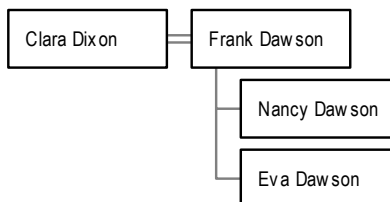
There is no record in the 1891 Census of this family - again perhaps the records have not survived or have been mistranscribed, or they were not in the country on Sunday 5th April. However, they seem to have been located in the 1901 census now living in a semi-detached villa at 2 Slade Hill, Wigton, Wetherby. Wigton was a small township six miles north of Leeds. Alfred is now retired and all the children have left home. With Alfred and his wife however are 2 young girls, described as their granddaughters.^{vii} It may also be significant that the Ancestry cover sheet for the 1901 census return also refers to the little girls as step daughters.

Alfred Dixon	66	Retired Wool Agent	Leeds
Elizabeth Dixon	63		Holbeck
Nancy Dawson	3	Granddaughter	Manchester
Eva Dawson	1	Granddaughter	Manchester

From the birth certificate of Nancy Dawson, she (and presumably Eva) were the daughters of Clara (formerly Dixon) and Frank Dawson.^{viii} At this stage no record of any of the other Dixon children has been found either in the 1891 and 1901 census returns.



Clara Dawson



Clara was the third known child, and second daughter, of Alfred and Elizabeth Dixon. Born about 1864, as noted above she was at home for the 1871 and 1881 census returns. However for the 1891 census she was not listed at home with her parents. She would have been about 26 years old. We know from the birth certificate of Nancy Dawson that her father, and Clara's husband, was Frank Dawson, Cotton Dyer Foreman, and that on the date of Nancy's birth, 21st July 1897, they were living at 71 Dover Street, Crumpsall, North Manchester.

At this stage I have not been able to locate any marriage record for Clara or Frank, and therefore have not been able to trace Frank's provenance. Nor have I located any census record for the couple in the 1891 census (or for Clara as a single woman still named Dixon). It is possible that one or both parents had died by the 1901 census judging by the alternative listing of Nancy and Eva as step-granddaughters. I have located an 1891 census return for a Frank Dawson, born about 1864 at Linthwaite in the Huddersfield district, son of Sam and Sarah Dawson, and working as a Cotton Dyer. A further census return for 1901 under the names

Frank and Clara Dowson has been located (with Frank's place of birth listed as Huddersfield and Clara's as Leeds), and with Frank listed as a Cotton Dyer, which looks promising. But anything further is a mystery.

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ⁱ HO107/1346/2/p26; HO107/2319/p10.

ⁱⁱ FreeBMD Marriage Index. Also Leeds:CE46/57/261.

ⁱⁱⁱ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269419.

^{iv} HO107/1345/4/p42.

^v HO107/2318/p8.

^{vi} RG10/4379/p4.

^{vii} RG11/4526/p25.

^{viii} RG13/4058/p10.

^{ix} Certified copy of Birth Certificate (Nancy Dawson) BXCC 541665.

^x RG12/3576/p.30; RG13/3803/p22.