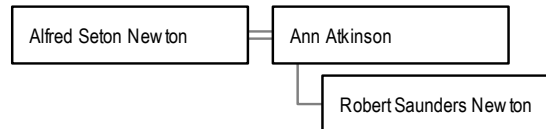


Alfred Seton Newton



Alfred Seton was born on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1848 at home at 106 East Street, Leeds. He was the son of Francis Newton and Jane Newton, formerly Murray. At the time of the birth, his father was a schoolmaster and the birth was registered some weeks later on 7<sup>th</sup> August.<sup>i</sup> We know that he was with his parents at 49 Elmwood Street for the 1851 and 1861 census collections, but by 1871 he was living away from home.<sup>ii</sup>

Alfred followed in his father's footsteps as shown by the 1871 census which finds him, as a young man of 22, at the Barr's Court School at Hereford where he was an Assistant Teacher.<sup>iii</sup> The head of the school was John Joseph Lomax, Clerk in Holy Orders and Schoolmaster, and the enrolment included boys and girls ranging in age from 12 to 16.<sup>iv</sup>

Alfred S Newton	22	Assistant Master	Leeds
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In 1878 the marriage of Alfred Seton Newton and Ann Atkinson was registered in the York district in the Oct-Dec quarter.<sup>v</sup> According to the marriage certificate the wedding was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1878, after the banns had been called, and in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church in the Parish Church of St. Martin le Grand, York. At the time Alfred was 30 and Ann 27, and their respective addresses at the time of the marriage were 8 Osnaburgh Street, St Pancras, London, and 6 Coney Street (presumably York). Alfred's brother Francis Edward Newton conducted the service, which was witnessed by Robert Atkinson, Fanny Ryley, Walter J. Newton (another brother) and Annie Nicholson. Alfred's father was given as Francis Newton, Schoolmaster, Ann Atkinson's father Robert was listed as deceased.<sup>vi</sup>

Ann was the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Atkinson. She was born just before the 1851 census, and was found with her parents on that night at 30 Make Street, St Helens, York.<sup>vii</sup>

Robert Atkinson	30	Perfumer	Pickering, Yorks
Elizabeth Atkinson	26		York
Ann Atkinson	2mths		York
Elizabeth Morley	19	General Servant	York

For the 1861 census we find Ann in another household, with her brother Robert, at 6 Coney Street, St Martin le Grand, York.<sup>viii</sup>

John Saunders	35	Hair Cutter and Perfumer	Ashburton, Devonshire
Margaret W Saunders	43		Pickering, Yorks
Robert Atkinson (W)(F-i-L)	76		Cropston, Yorks
Anne Atkinson (niece of wife)	10	Scholar	York
Robert Atkinson (nephew of wife)	8	Scholar	York
Alice E Huggitt	22	General Servant	Surrey

This census record is quite revealing. Margaret Saunders was the sister of Ann's father Robert. Her grandfather was also named Robert. We know that Ann and Robert's father had died by 1878, and perhaps this occurred some time earlier. It is more than likely that their mother had died by 1861, as we find them again with their aunt for the 1871 census, and still living at 6 Coney Road. Margaret is now a widow, but the business, which she is now running, is apparently thriving.<sup>ix</sup>

Margaret Winter Saunders (W)	53	Haircutter and Perfumer employing 2 men and 4 apprentices	Pickering, Yorks
Annie Atkinson (niece)	20		Parish of St Helen, York
Robert Atkinson (nephew)	18	Haircutter Apprentice	Parish of St Helen, York
Mary Miriam Ann Brown	16	General Servant	Parish of St Olaves, York

Just to complete the connection between the Saunders and the Newtons. Anne would have been married from her aunt's house as this was the address she gave on the marriage certificate. The name Saunders, in memory of her aunt (and no doubt in gratitude also) was perpetuated as the second name given to the only known child of Alfred and Ann.

On the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881, Francis, wife Ann, and their son Robert, born in 1879, are in Leeds, living at 4 Grosvenor Place. Also in the house that night were a brother and sister of Alfred.<sup>x</sup>

Alfred Seton Newton	32	Teacher in Mid Class School	Leeds
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Ann Newton	31		York
Robert Saunders Newton	1		Leeds
Lucy Newton (Sis)	14	Scholar	Leeds
George Herbert Newton (Bro)	14	Scholar	Leeds
Ann Burton	18	General Servant (Domestic)	Toynnton, Lincolnshire
Sarah Ann Strutt	14	Nurse (Domestic)	Leeds

I had some difficulty locating Alfred after 1881 but finally tracked him down in the 1891 census, now living on the Isle of Man where he had taken up the position of Headmaster at the Ramsey Grammar School and living at 2 Seamount.<sup>xii</sup>

Alfred Seton Newton	42	Headmaster Grammar School Clerk in Holy Orders, etc	England, Yorks
Ann Newton	40		England, Yorks
Robert S Newton	11	Scholar	England, Yorks
Wm A Sadler	20	Asst Master Grammar School	East India (Hindoostan)
Harold A Lewty	18	Scholar	England, Yorks
Robt A Hirst	15	Scholar	England, Yorks
Arthur A Thorp	15	Scholar	England, Yorks
Percy Kitchen	12	Scholar	England, Yorks
Cath M Harrison	23	General Servant, Domestic	Andreas, Isle of Man

It is interesting to note that living with the Newtons were a number of scholars who had been born in Yorkshire.

Then years later, and Alfred and Ann are still on the Isle of Man, and Alfred is still at the Grammar School.<sup>xiii</sup>

Alfred Seton Newton	52	Clergyman (Church of England) and Schoolmaster	England
Anne Newton	50		England

Apart from Alfred and Ann, the 'household' also comprised 3 Assistant Teachers, 1 Cook, 2 Domestic servants and 18 students. The following is an extract from "The Isle of Man Illustrated" of 1902:<sup>xiv</sup>

THIS foundation dates from 1762. New buildings were provided by Sir Mark Cubbon, K.C.B., 1875. These were found insufficient, and the School migrated to the Moragh, a fine site in North Ramsey. It is in an eminently flourishing condition; has a staff of five masters, and 80 pupils. Pupils are prepared for the Universities and the various professional examinations. The school is well equipped with gymnasium, cricket, and football fields. The present Head Master, the Rev. A. S. Newton, has acquired for this school a character and distinction that contribute much to the amenities of Ramsey as a place of residence for a good class of families. The most distinguished alumnus is General Sir Mark Cubbon, K.C.B., Governor of the Province of Mysore. The Lord Bishop is Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

There is a possible reference to son Robert in the 1901 census, and if this is him, he was boarding at Minnie Sander's house at Stretford, Lancashire.

Minnie Sander	48		London
Dinsmore Reid (Boarder)	33	Carpenter	Ireland
Robert Cregan	22	Carpenter	Ireland
Herbert T Wilkinson	22	Electrical Engineer	Lincoln
Robert S Newton	21	Apprentice Electrical Engineer	Leeds
Lydia Smith	12	General Servant Domestic	Northampton



<sup>i</sup> Certified copy of Birth Certificate FC885073.

<sup>ii</sup> HO107/2321/p89; RG9/3387/p12; RG10/4269/p8.

<sup>iii</sup> There is still a Barr's School at Hereford which is now a Special School.

<sup>iv</sup> RG10/2696/p16.

<sup>v</sup> FreeBMD Marriage Index.

<sup>vi</sup> Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD147126.

<sup>vii</sup> HO107/2353/p23.

<sup>viii</sup> RG9/3545/p8.

<sup>ix</sup> RG10/4744/p10.

<sup>x</sup> Yorkshire BMD Birth Certificate Leeds:WEST/141/389; Free BMD Birth Index.

<sup>xi</sup> RG11/4527/p13.

<sup>xii</sup> RG12/4685/p21.

<sup>xiii</sup> RG13/5307/p9.

<sup>xiv</sup> The Isle of Man Illustrated – A Literary, Historical, and Pictorial Souvenir. Written by the Rev John Quine, 1902. This publication was one of a series published by W. Mate & Sons, Bournemouth, called Mates Illustrated Guides.