

Ann Newton



Of all the female relatives of John Fretwell, Gentleman, whose will has enabled me to unravel the accounts of his nieces and their families, his great-niece Ann Newton can be said to have been the one to have really landed on her feet – both in social standing and wealth.

An IGI reference records Ann, the second daughter of Ann and John Newton, as being born on 25th September 1806 in Leeds.¹ On 13th September 1828, just before her 22nd birthday, she married James Kitson at St. Peter's Leeds.² James, having been born in Leeds on 27th October 1807³ had just reached his majority on their wedding day.

There is some confusion as to James's parentage. The IGI reference for James's birth cites the father as being William Kitson but no mention of the mother. Another Kitson researcher has James's father as Thomas Kitson. The latter was, at some stage, the publican of the Brunswick Arms, Camp Road. There was also a William Kitson listed as in the 1817 Directory of Leeds as "Kitson, William & Co, common brewers, Woodhouse Carr. At this stage we will leave the provenance of James and move on.

By the time of the 1841 census, taken on 6th June 1841, Ann and James had been married for nearly 13 years. They were living in Hunslet Lane, Leeds, and all in the household were recorded as having been born in Yorkshire except, for some unknown reason, Ann and Frederick.⁴

James Kitson	30	Engineer and Iron Founder
Ann Kitson	30	
Thomas Kitson	20	Apprentice Engineer

Martha Kitson	20	Female Servant
Frederick Kitson	11	
James Kitson	5	
Mary Kitson	3	

No family relationship is given, but it is likely that Thomas is James's brother, and Martha either James's sister or Thomas's wife. Two other children born to James are not included in this family listing and do not appear in any subsequent census records.

Ann Kitson was born in Leeds in 1830 and was baptised on 28th October of that year at St Peter's Church, Leeds. Her younger brother Henry was born in 1833 and his baptism is recorded as having occurred on 25th April 1833.^v It is likely that both these children died very young. There are FreeBMD Death Index records for an Ann Kitson in the Jul-Sep quarter of 1846 in the Hunslet district and for a Henry Kitson for the Jun-Sep quarter of 1839 in the Leeds district, but neither, on obtaining death certificates, were for the Ann and Henry of this Kitson family.

James, who was listed as an Engineer and Iron Founder was in fact the founder of Kitson and Co, established in 1835^v the business at Airedale Foundry in Hunslet which was to become world famous for its manufacture of locomotives. The first one was built in 1837 by James Kitson and Charles Todd^w. More about the company later, but by 1841 James was well on his way to becoming an industrialist of some note.

Ten years later the Kitsons and their growing family had moved to 18 Blenheim Terrace, Woodhouse.^{wii} Daughter Mary Ann Kitson is absent as she is a pupil at a girls boarding school in Warmfield cum Heath, just outside Wakefield.

James Kitson	43	Engineer	Leeds
Ann Kitson	44		Leeds
Frederick Wm Kitson	21	Engineer	Leeds
James Kitson	15	Scholar	Leeds
Emily Kitson	9	Scholar	Leeds
John H Kitson	7	Scholar	Leeds
Arthur Kitson	2		Leeds
Harriet Appleyard	28	Cook	Cleethorpe, Lincolnshire
Sarah Reed	28	Housemaid	Brandsburton, Yorkshire
Harriet Moorhouse	21	Nurserymaid	Adwalton, Yorkshire

1861 sees James, now as Mayor of Leeds and running a successful engineering business, and supporting a large household at 76 Little Woodhouse, West Ward, Leeds. Mary Ann has returned but the older sons Frederick and James are now living away from home.^x

James Kitson	55	Mayor	employing 1100 men and boys	and	Ironmaster
			employing 450 men and boys		Leeds
Ann Kitson	56				Leeds
Mary Ann Kitson	23				Leeds
Emily Kitson	19				Leeds
John Hawthorn Kitson	17	Collegian			Leeds
Arthur Kitson	12	Scholar			Leeds
Thomas Varo	33	Butler Domestic			Middleham, Yorkshire
Agnes Thompson	32	Cook Domestic			Roethwaite, Cumberland
Martha Saville	22	Housemaid			Wakefield, Yorkshire
Margaret Walker	21	Housemaid			Borrowby, Yorkshire
Emily Utley	15	Kitchen Maid			Leeds
George Spence	33	Coachman			Branton, Yorkshire
Jane Spence	31	Coachman's Wife			Coxwold, Yorkshire

Although son Arthur, born in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1848^x is listed with his family for the 1861 census, and was one of the witnesses at the wedding of his brother John Hawthorn Kitson in 1868, no further information had been found about him until I obtained a copy of an article dealing with a scandalous trial in the mid 1890s – refer to the section on Arthur Kitson.

Just short of her 40th wedding anniversary Ann Kitson died on 19th December 1865 at Elmete Hall at the age of 59. Her son John Hawthorn Kitson was in attendance at her death which was caused by "Diseased Ovary and its consequences".^{xv} The St John's Burial Register 1827-1921 shows that Ann was buried on 23rd December 1865. It must have been a very somber Christmas that year for the Kitson family.

Within a few years of the death of his first wife James had remarried as we find a new wife for James recorded in the

1871 census. No record has yet been found to establish the place and date of their marriage, but given the ages of the children by this second marriage as listed in the 1871 census it is likely that it would have been about 1867-68. Before recording Elizabeth's life prior to her marriage, let's look at the 1871 census return. James is now the head of a very large household, with a number of factotums attached to the estate at Elmete Hall, Roundhay, Barwick with Elmet. It is interesting to note that none of the children of James's first marriage to Ann are with him. As we will see, the Visitor is one of Elizabeth's younger sisters.^{xii}

James Kitson	63	Engineer employing 900 workmen	Leeds
Elizabeth Kitson	37		East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Francis R Kitson	2		Barwick with Elmet, Yorkshire
Eva M Kitson	1		Barwick with Elmet, Yorkshire
Margaret Hutchinson	24	Visitor	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Hannah Kerry	31	Domestic Servant - Cook	Smally, Derbyshire
Harriet Stead	53	Domestic Servant - Housemaid	Shadwell, Yorkshire
Mary Ann Lyon	29	Domestic Servant - Nurse	Normanby, Lincolnshire
Elizabeth Wilson	26	Domestic Servant - Laundry Maid	Kelfield, Yorkshire
Sarah Blackburn	22	Domestic Servant - Housemaid	Holbeck, Yorkshire
Jane Proctor	19	Domestic Servant - Kitchen Maid	Welton, Lincolnshire
Charlotte Edwards	15	Domestic Servant - Nursemaid	Bourn, Lincolnshire
John Hollis	20	Domestic Servant - Footman	Hawton, Nottinghamshire

Also at Elmete Hall in Undergardeners' Cottage were :

George Hamming	22	Domestic Servant - Gardener	Cherry Burton, Yorks
Richard Green	18	Domestic Servant - Gardener	Barwick in Elmete
William Bielby	2	(Visitor) Unemployed Gardener	Bridlington, Yorks

and in the Elmete Hall Groom's Room :

George Fowler	18	Domestic Servant - Groom	Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire
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and in the Gardener's House :

George Boston	27	Domestic Servant - Gardener	Galphay, Yorks
Hannah Boston	63	Mother/Housekeeper for Gardener	Ditchburn, Northumberland

and in the Coachman's House:

John Wm Perkins	31	Domestic Servant - Coachman	Middlesex, London
Annie Perkins	33		Woddlesford, Yorks
Annie S Perkins	11mths		Roundhay, Yorks
Ellen Massey	14	Visitor	Wakefield, Yorks

Elizabeth, the second wife of James Kitson, Snr, was some 26 years his junior having been born in Stoke, Nottingham around 1834, the second daughter of J.E.T. Hutchinson and his wife P. Amelia Hutchinson. At the 1851 census her parents are not at home and Elizabeth is found at the Stoke Vicarage with her younger brothers and sisters.^{xiii}

Elizabeth Hutchinson	17		Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Henry Hutchinson	14	Scholar	Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Richard Hutchinson	9	Scholar at home	Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Lucy Hutchinson	7	Scholar at home	Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Mary Hutchinson	6	Scholar at home	Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Margaret Hutchinson	4		Stoke, Nottinghamshire
John Serope(?) Hutchinson	2		Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Sophia Elizabeth Hutchinson	11 mos		Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Rosandum Dingle	25	Governess	London
Ann Stray	27	Cook	Leicestershire
Harriet Burton	27	Nurse	Leicestershire
John Merrin	19	Footman	Elston, Nottinghamshire

Elizabeth's parents and her older sister, Anne, were staying with her uncle at Beast Market Hill, Nottingham in another impressive household, augmented by the fact that the visitors had taken their own servant with them!^{xiv}

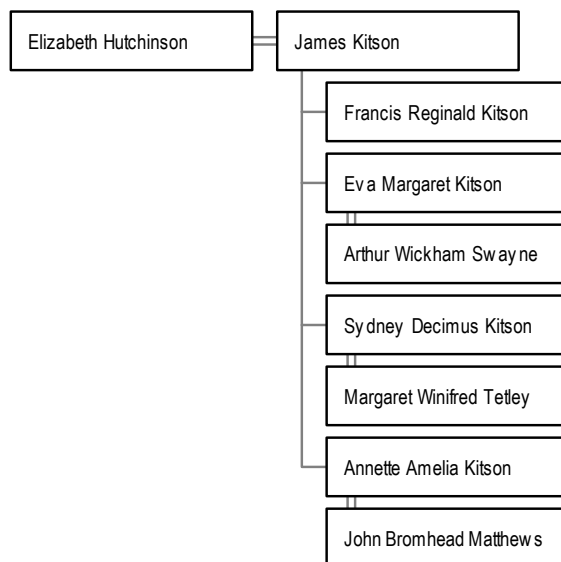
Richard Scholes Hutchinson	48	Physician (Practising)	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
J E T Hutchinson (Vis)(Brother)	46	Vicar of East Stoke	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
P Amelia Hutchinson (Visitor)	43	Vicar's Wife	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
Anne Hutchinson (Visitor)	19	Vicar's Daughter	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
Elizabeth Hadden	44	Annuitant	Nottingham
James Mahoney	22	House Servant	Nottingham

Sarah Creswell	29	Cook	London
Elizabeth Woodhead	23	House Maid	Derby
Mary Tinley	27	Visitors' Servant	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
Elizabeth Widdowson	55	Nurse	Ruddington, Nottinghamshire

In 1861 Elizabeth, aged 27, is found living at Farndon, in the sub registration district of Bennington, Nottinghamshire with her elder sister Anne, the Head of the household, both sisters described as Landed Proprietresses, and one brother and the other sisters.^{xv}

Anne Hutchinson	29	Landed Proprietress	Southwell, Nottinghamshire
Elizabeth Hutchinson (Sister)	24	Landed Proprietress	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Harry Hutchinson (Brother)	24	B.A. Oxford	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Lucy Hutchinson (Sister)	17		East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Mary Hutchinson (Sister)	16	Scholar	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Margaret Hutchinson (Sister)	14	Scholar	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Frances Horatia Hodgkinson (Boarder)	10	Scholar	Newark, Nottinghamshire
Emma Chapman	26	Parlour Maid	Newark, Nottinghamshire
Hannah Lowe	19	Cook	Newark, Nottinghamshire
Jane Richardson	23	House Maid	Newark, Nottinghamshire

From these census returns we learn that Elizabeth Hutchinson came from a well-heeled family. And as Elizabeth was a witness for the wedding in 1865 of Mary Ann Kitson shows that, by that time, she was a close acquaintance of the Kitson family. After their wedding James and Elizabeth lived at Barwick with Elmet as this was the birthplace of their first two children. In all they had four children, two sons and two daughters.



James and Elizabeth Kitson have not been found for the 1881 census and it may be that they were out of the country, but their son Francis was a boarder at a school in Stafford, and their daughter Eva Margaret is located with her step brother James Kitson J^{nr} at Headingley Lane.^{xvi}

James Kitson	45	Iron Master	Leeds
Alice Hilda Kitson (Daughter)	8	Scholar	Leeds
Ed Christian Kitson (Son)	7	Scholar	Leeds
Eva Margaret Kitson (Sister)	15	Scholar	Roundhay
Annie Maria Whatoff	31	Housekeeper	Seddington, Leicester
Alice Hebe Barnett	23	Governess	Middlesex, London
Frances Cole	32	Cook	Hayton, Yorks
Jane Brown	27	Waiting Maid	Retford, Nottinghamshire
Sarah Ann Mitchell	20	Housemaid	Meanwood, Yorkshire
Edith Higgins	16	Maid	Meanwood, Yorkshire

By the time of the next census Elizabeth Kitson was a widow. James died on 30th June 1885, at Roundhay, just short of his 78th birthday, in the presence of his son James Kitson. After a very full life, James died of "General Decay".^{xvii} His final rite of passage is recorded in the St. John's Burial Register:

Kitson James 4 Jul 1885 77 Roundhay, Elmete Hall

In his lifetime James fathered a large brood of children. His standing in the city of Leeds was recognised by his appointment as the Mayor of Leeds, a position he held in 1860-61 and 18. But it is as one of the pioneers of railway engineering that he established his professional reputation – nationally and internationally.



James Kitson (1807-1885)^{xviii}



Kitson & Co., Airedale Foundry, Leeds, England

A new start on the development of the Leeds locomotive trade was made in 1837, when James Kitson founded a works for making locomotives in Hunslet. Mr Kitson was not a born mechanic, but by his courage, his skill and his foresight he established his name among the pioneers of locomotive engineering. His first venture was a failure, and the partnership was dissolved. In 1839 he began afresh, and soon associated with Mr. Thompson, an iron merchant, and Mr. Hewitson, an apprentice and draughtsman of Messrs Stephenson's. It won its first locomotive order in 1840 for the North Midland Railway and for nearly a century went on to build quality locomotives for operations in many parts of the world, many of which survive. The oldest working example is the 2-2-2 well tank Fairy Queen (1856) at the Delhi Museum. Her twin sister is also preserved as a non-runner at Jamalpur.

Ten years after its formation the company employed 500 workers and in later years, more than 2,000 men were employed, and the output for one year would be at least 100 of the largest locomotives for main line services. For the period 1880-1887, R.C. Parsons, elder brother of Charles Parsons, was a Kitson partner and did much to encourage non-locomotive work. It was in this period that the young Charles worked at Airedale on two projects, his rocket torpedo engines and his high-speed steam engines, both steps in his thinking on the way to developing his first steam turbine. Shortly after this, steam tramway locomotives were introduced - vest pocket locomotives they were termed - and Kitson built more than 300 in twenty years. Just one working model survives at the Ferrymead Tramway in Christchurch. Kitson steam-tram locomotives were regarded as the pre-eminent British engines in their field over the final two decades of the nineteenth century before the electric tram chased steam off the streets.

In 1876-1878 James Kitson built three experimental vertical boiler tram engines with vertical cylinders mounted each side of the boiler, the whole being enclosed in a "house" with an air-cooled condenser mounted on the roof.

From these the Kitson Standard steam-tram engine evolved but with a horizontal boiler in lieu of the vertical. All engines were tested before delivery on the Leeds Tramway Co. lines, a track connection being specially laid from the Kitson works. Kitson, as a locomotive builder, just failed to achieve its century and the Airedale Foundry was finally sold to neighbours McClaren's in 1945. Three of their street locomotives found their way onto bush tramways.^{xv}

On a lighter side, he was also a keen cricketer and a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club. His career statistics show his first-class span was 1832 when he played in a first class match, and for his 2 innings averaged 0.5 runs.^{xv}

The following monumental inscriptions in memory of James and Ann Kitson are found at St. John's Church, Roundhay, Leeds.

GG2 Celtic cross and kerbed grave.

In memory of James KITSON born 27th October 1807 died 30th June 1885. Ann wife of James KITSON died on the 20th day of December 1865 aged 59 years. James Kitson of Elmete Hall died on the 30th day of June 1885 aged 77 years.

Inscriptions Inside St. John's Church, Roundhay.

Ch14 On the organ. For the Praise and Glory of God this organ is dedicated by James KITSON of Elmete Hall - Easter 1885. (Note : this dedication took place just before James's death).

Returning to Elizabeth Kitson's life after the death of her husband – for the 1891 census she was residing at St. Rhadegunds, Trumpington, Cambridge.^{xvi} She may have moved to Cambridge to be with her son Sydney Decimus Kitson who had entered Trinity College in 1888.

Elizabeth Kitson (W)	57	Living on her own means	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Eva M Kitson	21		Roundhay, Yorks
Annette A Kitson	17		Roundhay, Yorks
Sydney D Kitson	19	Student	Roundhay, Yorks
Norah S Hutchinson (Niece)	9	Niece	Nottingham
Harriet M Hutchinson (Niece)	8	Niece	Nottingham
Eliza Armitage	36	Cook Domestic	Cambridge
Emma Capers	33	Housemaid	Willisbourne, Warwickshire
Sophy F Smith	15	Kitchenmaid	Trumpington, Cambridge

Who the parents of the Hutchinson nieces, born about 1882 and 1883 respectively, has not been established, but they might be the daughters of Elizabeth's brother John S. Hutchinson, born about 1848 in East Stoke. By 1901 Elizabeth has moved to Scarborough and is found living at May Lodge, Filey Road, with son Sydney and daughter Annette.^{xvi} Eva has married and is living elsewhere.

Elizabeth Kitson	67	Living on own means	East Stoke, Nottinghamshire
Sydney D Kitson	29	Architect (Employer)	Roundhay, Yorks
Annette A Kitson	27	Living on own means	Roundhay, Yorks
Thomas W Atherton	35	Butler	Durham
Marie A Graves	34	Cook	Bedale, Yorks
Alice Nelsey	22	Housemaid	Newton, Leeds
Mabel Cornforth	16	Under Housemaid	Silton, Thirsk

Elizabeth outlived her husband by just over 28 years. She died on 25th October 1913 at the age of 80 at May Lodge, Filey Road, with her elder daughter Eva Swayne, who had travelled from Wales where she was living at the time, in attendance. The death certificate records Elizabeth as being the widow of James Kitson, Locomotive Manufacturer, and give the cause of death as (1) Carcinome Mammae, 3 years, with an operation having been performed in 1910 and (2) General Carcinosis, Asthenia. It appears that she returned 'home' for her burial which is recorded as follows in St. John's Burial Register 1827-1921 :

Kitson, Elizabeth 28 Oct 1913 81 Scarborough, May Lodge

The following monumental inscription is found at St. John's Church, Roundhay, Leeds. It also shows that she outlived her son Francis Reginald who had died just short of ten years after his father.

GG1 Horizontal cross on flat tombstone

Francis Reginald KITSON son of James and Elisabeth KITSON died January 27th 1895 aged 20 years. Elisabeth widow of James KITSON died October 25th 1913 aged 80 years.

Residences – James Kitson S^{nr}



Large Georgian town house, this had been the residence of J.P. Clapham, who was the first occupant around 1831

He sold it on to George Smith, a banker.

Between 1861 - 1870 it was the home of James Kitson of the Monk Bridge Iron Foundry. He was to become Lord Airedale.

(In this view the house is being used by Beamur TV and the Hanover Television repair company).

(Photo – 1959 - www.leodis.net)



Elmete Hall - View from South West.

House first erected on this site around 1815, a flax spinner Thomas Benyon was the tenant. It was rebuilt in 1865, when the Nicholson family of Roundhay Park sold it to James Kitson for £17,000.

James Kitson was a prominent engineer and Mayor of Leeds 1860-61. John Hawkins Kitson, his younger son lived in the house until his death in 1899.

His widow died there in 1921.

Between 1921-1956 it was the home of Bertram J. Redman, Leeds furnisher. Leeds City Council bought the house in 1956 and it was extended for use as a school for the deaf.

(Photo – 1941 - www.leodis.net)



ⁱ IGI Individual Record Film No 170742. This record confirms her date of birth given in the IGI Family Group Record. She was baptised on 20th October 1806 at St Peter's Leeds.

ⁱⁱ IGI Family Group Record.

ⁱⁱⁱ IGI Family Group Record. He was baptised at St Peter's on 3rd January 1808.

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- ^{iv} HO107/1345/1/pp21-22.
- ^v IGI Ref: LDS Batch C071933 and C01943.
- ^{vi} Some sources give the founding year as 1837.
- ^{vii} Husband of Isabella Kay, the aunt of James's wife Ann.
- ^{viii} HO107/2321/p14.
- ^{ix} RG9/3393/p15.
- ^x FreeBMD Birth Index.
- ^{xi} Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB609681.
- ^{xii} RG10/4575/p5.
- ^{xiii} HO107/2134/p9.
- ^{xiv} HO107/2133/p2.
- ^{xv} RG9/2481/p21.
- ^{xvi} RG11/2686/p16; RG11/4538/p34.
- ^{xvii} Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB609809.
- ^{xviii} <http://www.mylearning.org>.
- ^{xix} <http://en.wikipedia.org>.
- ^{xx} Cricinfo - Players and Officials - James Kitson
- ^{xxi} RC12/1282/p10.
- ^{xxii} RC13/4532/p86.