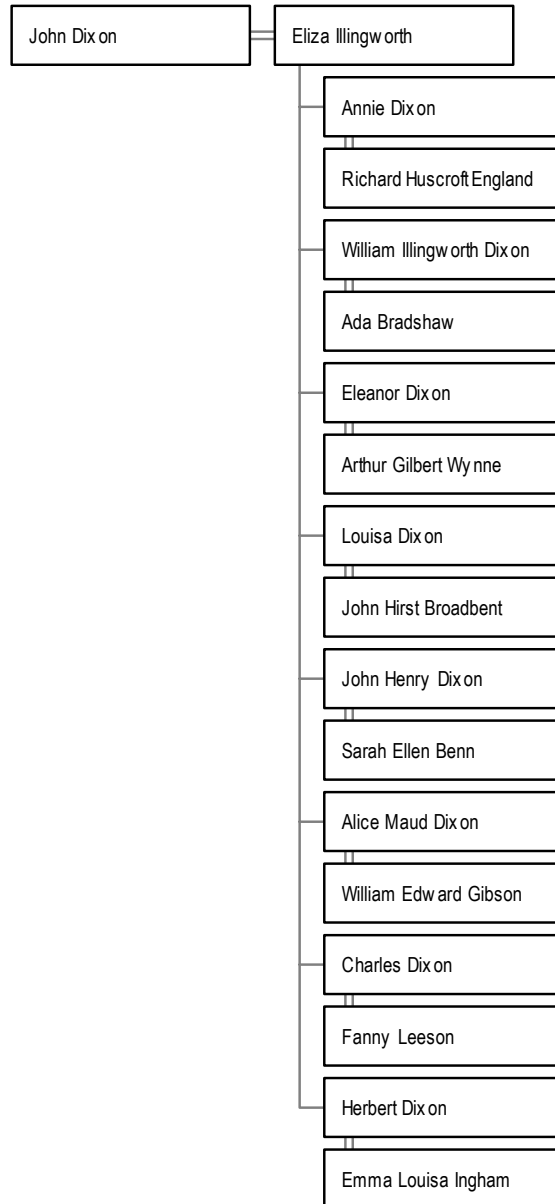


John Dixon



We have much more information for Maria's younger brother John Dixon. He was born about 1841 in Leeds and was at home until, at the age of 22, he married Eliza Illingworth at St Peter's Leeds on 27th August 1862 and it was her surname that was perpetuated in the middle name of their first son William Illingworth Dixon. John's sister Maria was one of the witnesses and the other was a man called Charles Dance. John's occupation was given as Book Keeper, and residence at the time of marriage was West Hillary Street. Eliza was 21 on her wedding day, her residence was given as Hanover Street, and her father was listed as William Illingworth, Mason.[#] Eliza Jane Illingworth was born about 1843 in Leeds and she was the daughter of William Illingworth and his wife Mary. I have not located the family for the 1851 census but have found them for 1861, when the parents and two children, but not Eliza, were living in Hanover Street.[#]

William Illingworth	55	Mason (Partner)	Leeds
Mary Illingworth	42		Leeds
Thomas Illingworth	24	Mason	Leeds
Mary A Illingworth	18		Leeds

I think I have located Eliza in the Turner household at 5 Mount Preston Street, not too far from her family home.^{iv}

John Turner	29	Artist, Portrait, Landscape Artist	Leeds
Isabella Turner	20		Hexham, Northumberland

Eliza Illingworth 19 General Servant Leeds

I checked the 1871 census to see if I could find out more about Eliza's family, but the record was very scant – her mother Mary was living alone, a widow, at 13 Hanover Terrace.^v And by 1871 Eliza and John Dixon were living at Wheaters Yard, Holbeck.^w It is likely that John was employed by one of the many mills operating in the Holbeck industrial belt. The family has a visitor to assist with the newly born Louisa.

John Dixon	30	Clerk at a Woollen Dyeworks	Leeds
Eliza Dixon	28		Leeds
Annie Dixon	6	Scholar	Leeds
William I Dixon	4	Scholar	Leeds
Eleanor Dixon	2		Leeds
Louisa Dixon	14 days		Leeds
Hannah Burrows	55	Nurse	Hunslet

Within the next 10 years John has changed jobs and is no longer connected with the woolen trade, has moved house and with his family, now increased by four children, was living at 37 Delph Mount, North West Ward, Leeds.^w

John Dixon	40	Brewer's Traveller	Leeds
Eliza Dixon	39		Leeds
Annie Dixon	16		Leeds
William I Dixon	14	Scholar	Leeds
Eleanor Dixon	12	Scholar	Leeds
Louisa Dixon	10	Scholar	Leeds
John H Dixon	8	Scholar	Leeds
Alice M Dixon	5	Scholar	Leeds
Charles Dixon	4		Leeds
Herbert Dixon	1		Leeds
Elizabeth Hargreaves	17	General Domestic Servant	Batley

It would be interesting to know why John became a brewer's traveler and for whom he worked, the job he was still doing ten years later for the 1891 census where the family are living at 37 Delph Mount. Son William has also followed in his father's footsteps and may well have been employed by the same brewer. His career move may have been as a result of a downturn in the woollen industry, or perhaps he was made an offer he couldn't refuse!^w

John Dixon	51	Brewer's Traveller	Leeds
Eliza Dixon	48		Leeds
Annie Dixon	26		Leeds
William I Dixon	24	Brewer's Clerk	Leeds
Eleanor Dixon	22	Teacher	Leeds
Louisa Dixon	20	Dressmaker	Leeds
John H Dixon	17	Solicitor's Clerk	Leeds
Alice M Dixon	15	Scholar in Telegraph? School	Leeds
Charles Dixon	14	Scholar	Leeds
Herbert Dixon	11	Scholar	Leeds

In 1891 all the Dixon children were still living at home. Alice's occupation is very difficult to read on the census form, but if this was in fact correct, it is a sign of the increasing scope for employment for young women. By the turn of century and for the 1901 census the household, still living at 37 Delph Mount, had considerably shrunk, with only sons John Henry and Herbert at home with their parents. William and Charles have left home as have the girls who have married and set up house with their respective husbands.^x

John Dixon	60	Brewer's Traveller	Leeds
Eliza Dixon	59		Leeds
John H Dixon	27	Solicitor's Clerk	Leeds
Herbert Dixon	21	Hosier's Assistant	Leeds
Annie E Crosby	30	Housemaid (Domestic)	Leeds

While it was difficult to follow up on the girls, they have all been found, as have William and Charles post 1891. As we shall see John and Eliza were able to see all their known children reach adulthood and get married. In fact there was quite a flurry of Dixon marriages in the 1890s and early 1900s!

Kelly's 1908 Directory has John Dixon, still living at 37 Delph Mount, and still listed as a commercial traveller.^x Although we know therefore that he was still alive then (aged 68) no record has yet been found for John's death. A registration of death in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1908 for an Eliza Dixon, aged 64, was followed up but

without success – the record was for a spinster daughter of a Samuel Day Dixon.



Annie Dixon



Annie was the first born and one of 4 daughters of John and Eliza Dixon. She was born in Leeds around 1865 and from that time to the 1891 census was at home, by which time she was a young lady of 26, with no occupation listed.^{vi}

As with her other sisters, she was not at home for the 1901 census. A search of the marriage registrations from 1891 to 1901 brings up a number for the name Annie Dixon. The most likely, and I have also used this criterion as the first record to take further, is the one that was held at St. Augustine Church, Wrangthorne, the Dixon home parish when they moved to Delph Mount.

The marriage certificate supported my guess, as we now have a record that Annie Dixon married Richard Huscroft England on 24th February 1897 at the Parish Church of Wrangthorne. Annie's entry shows that she was a 32 year old spinster, resident at Wrangthorne, and daughter of John Dixon Traveller. Richard was a 30 year old bachelor, a Draper, and resident at Fenton Street. His father was Edward England (deceased) a Butcher. Alice Maud and John Henry Dixon, brother and sister of the bride, were the witnesses.^{vii}

Just over four years after their wedding the couple was found for the 1901 census at 27 Barton View, Holbeck.^{viii}

Richard England	34	Draper's Assistant	Tadcaster
Annie England	36		Leeds

A check on the census returns for 1871 to 1891 help to pad out Richard's life prior to his wedding. He Richard seems to have been an only child, born to Edward and Sarah Martha England. His early years were spent at Halifax where he and his parents were living in 1871, with their place of residence designated "Private House".^{xiv}

Edward England	33	Butcher	Leeds
Sarah Martha England	34		Wakefield
Richard H England	4		Tadcaster

Richard's father died at the age of 38 in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1876 at Halifax ^{xv} and for the next census we find Richard and his mother living in Leeds at 4 Blundell Terrace, coincidentally in 'Dixon' territory. Fortunately for Sarah she is able to earn her living, and it would have helped financially with Richard also working and Sarah having taken in a boarder.^{xvi}

Sarah Martha England (W)	46	Dressmaker	Wakefield
Richard H England	14		Tadcaster
Benjamin Trimmins	23	Fret Lead Worker	Birmingham, Staffordshire.

By chance on the same census page I noticed a reference to a James Poole Young, age 32, a clerk from Kirkby Overblow, and residing as a boarder in the Hargrave household at 1 Blundell Terrace, and that name rang a bell. In fact this same James Poole Young was listed, now aged 52, in the 1901 census and his household included his widowed sister-in-law Jane North, who was also the sister of John Woodhead who had married Julia Todd.

For his last census as a single man, Richard is now designated head of the household, which he is sharing with his mother at 3 Lomond Street, in the Brunswick area of Leeds.^{xvii}

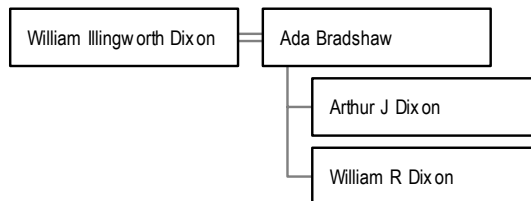
Richard H England	24	Draper's Assistant	Tadcaster
Sarah M England (W)	56		Wakefield.

Three years later his mother died, aged 60, in the first months of 1894.^{xviii}

I checked to see if Richard England was still in Leeds in 1908, but he is not listed in the Kelly's Directory of that year. However, there is a Mrs. Annie England, living at 87 Burley Lodge Terrace. I have checked Ancestry for a death registration of a Richard England, but with no success. Any further research will have to rely on the 1911 census.



William Illingworth Dixon



William Illingworth Dixon was born Abt. 1867 in Leeds. He was at home for the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census nights, and by the time of the latter was earning his living as a brewer's clerk.^{xix} As noted, he was not with his family in 1901 and the reason for this is that he had married. His wife was Ada Bradford, and they were married on Boxing Day, 1895 at St Mark's Church, Woodhouse when William was 28 and his bride one year younger. Prior to their wedding the William and Ada were respectively living at 37 Delph Mount and 32 Ridgeway Terrace. William's father John was described as a Commercial Traveller. Ada's father had died but he had been a Jeweller. Two of Ada's siblings were the witnesses, Walter and Louisa Bradford.^{xx}

As there is only one listing in Ancestry for an Ada Bradford born around 1868, she has been easy to trace her through the census years up to her marriage to William. Ada was the daughter of Edward and Emma Bradford. Edward was a jeweller by profession but, as we have seen, did not live to see his daughter married.

In 1871 the Bradford family was living in West Leeds, at 3 Coronation Street.^{xxi}

Edward Bradford	29	Working Jeweller	Bradford
Emma Bradford	26		Leeds
Ada Bradford	2		Leeds

The family had moved to Bagby View, North West Leeds, by the time of the 1881 census, and Ada now has some siblings.^{xxii}

Edward Bradford	39	Jeweller	Yorkshire
Emma Bradford	37		Leeds
Ada Bradford	12	Scholar	Leeds
Walter Bradford	9	Scholar	Leeds
Louisa Bradford	6	Scholar	Leeds

At the time the 1891 census was taken on 31st March, Emma would have been only recently widowed according to a death registration for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1891 of an Edward Bradford, aged 48.^{xxiii}

Either sometime between 1881 and 1891, or immediately following Edward's death in 1891, the Bradfords had moved yet again, this time to 32 Quarry Mount, North West Leeds, as recorded for the 1901 census. The three children are still at home with their widowed mother and the household includes two boarders, whose contribution to the family income was no doubt welcome.^{xxiv}

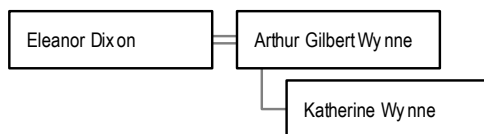
Emma Bradford (W)	46	Housekeeper	Leeds
Ada Bradford	22		Leeds
Walter Bradford	19	Telegraphist	Leeds
Louisa Bradford	16		Leeds
Sarah Ann Woolley (Bdr)	30	School Mistress	Montgomeryshire, Wales
George M Nugent	27	Certificated Teacher	Newcastle, Staffordshire

By 1891 the Bradfords and the Dixons were within a stone's throw of each other, the streets they were living in being either side of Delph Lane, no doubt a happy coincidence for William Dixon and Ada Bradshaw. After their marriage they set up house at 77 St Mark's Road, North West Leeds, not far to the south of their parental homes, which is where they are found for the 1901 census. Also staying with the family on census night is William's brother Charles.^{xxv}

William I Dixon	34	Brewer's Clerk	Leeds
Ada Dixon	33		Leeds
Arthur J Dixon	4		Leeds
William R Dixon	1		Leeds
Charles Dixon	24 (Brother)	Illegible	Leeds

Looking again at Kelly's 1908 Directory, we find that William Illingworth Dixon is now living at 26 Estcourt Terrace, Headingley, on the western side of Kirkstall Lane, close to the Cricket Ground. However, he is not listed, as was his father, under the Commercial Traveller in the Trades section.

Eleanor Dixon



Eleanor was the third child of John and Eliza Dixon. She was born in Leeds about 1869. As a two year old she is found in the 1871 census with her family at Wheaters Yard^{xxvi} and is still at home for the 1891 census when she was a 22 year old teacher.^{xxvii}

Using the same logic as for her elder sister Annie, I surmised that Eleanor married Arthur G. Wynne some time between Oct-Dec 1894, at St. Augustine, Wrangthorne. Again I checked the 1901 census and had something of a coup. I found Arthur in the household of one John Hirst Broadbent, at 56 Carlton Street, Brunswick, Leeds.^{xxviii}

John Hirst Broadbent	34	Cabinet Maker and Shopfitter	Leeds
Louisa Broadbent	30		Leeds
Alice Maud Broadbent	7		Leeds
Frank Broadbent	4		Leeds
Arthur Gilbert Wynne (Vis)	32	Director or Physical Exercises (School)	Toronto, Canada
Eleanor Wynne (Vis)	32		Leeds
Katherine Wynne (Vis)	4 mths		Oldham, Lancashire

I had thought that if Louisa Dixon married, her husband was most likely named Broadbent, and this 1901 census record bears that out. Here we have Arthur and Eleanor Wynne, plus a baby daughter, visiting Eleanor's sister.

But back to the marriage certificate – exactly one year before her brother William, on 26th December 1894 Eleanor Dixon married Arthur Gilbert Wynne when she was 25 and he was 26 at the Wrangthorne Parish Church. Eleanor's address was given as her family home, 37 Delph Mount, and she was a schoolmistress, as she was for the 1891 census. Arthur was resident at 48 Lofthouse Place and his occupation was given as Director of Physical Exercises. His deceased father, Thomas Wynne, had been a Trumpet Major. Eleanor's siblings William Illingworth and Alice Maud Dixon were the witnesses.

Arthur's profession adds a new dimension to the span of occupations that the Dixons and their partners were involved in and I have managed to find out something of Arthur's background.

Working back through the census returns, in 1891 he was staying with his aunt Harriet Thompson, whose 'Condition' was stated to be 'unsure', at 90 Queens Place, Brunswick.^{xxx} The occupation entry for Harriet is very difficult to read, and I may have mis-transcribed it. The entry for Arthur is even harder to read, apart from the word "Teacher".

Harriet Thompson	48?	Teacher Leeds Prisoners Aid Society	Leeds
Arthur G Wynne (neph)	22	Teacher	Canada

Harriet and Arthur are at the same address in Brunswick for the 1881 census, but this time there is a Mr. Thompson.^{xxx}

Thomas Thompson	47	Drill Instructor	Beeston, Nottinghamshire
Harriet Thompson	38		Leeds
Catherine Smith (M-i-L)(W)	69		Bunbury, Cheshire
Arthur G Wynne (neph)	12	Scholar	Toronto, Canada

Uncle Thomas's skills as a drill instructor may have influenced Arthur's later choice of career!

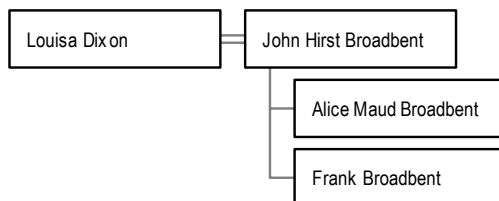
And that is as far as I have been able to do with Arthur's life prior to his marriage to Eleanor. It is likely, given the birthplace of their daughter, that they had moved to Oldham after they were married and the 1911 census may confirm this and also the birth of any other children.



Louisa Dixon

Louisa Dixon was born about 1871, two years after her sister Eleanor, but she married one year before her in on 1st April 1893 and, like most of her siblings, the ceremony was conducted at the Wrangthorne Parish Church. Louisa was 22 at the time and the groom, John Hirst Broadbent, was 26. She was living at home with her parents at the time of the wedding and John's address was given, rather generally, as St. George's Leeds.

While John's occupation was Cabinet Maker, his father, John Thomas Broadbent (deceased) had been a Pawnbroker. Alice Maud Dixon and John's brother George Broadbent were the two witnesses.^{.xxxii}



It is tempting to suggest that there might have been some connection between John *Hirst* Broadbent and Ernest *Hirst* Brook, son of Louisa's aunt Maria Brook (née Dixon) but I have not followed up on this.

As we have seen above, Louisa, and her husband John Hirst Broadbent were living at 56 Carlton Street, Brunswick, Leeds, were playing host to Louisa's sister Eleanor and her family for the 1901 census.^{.xxxiii}

John Hirst Broadbent	34	Cabinet Maker and Shopfitter	Leeds
Louisa Broadbent	30		Leeds
Alice Maud Broadbent	7		Leeds
Frank Broadbent	4		Leeds
Arthur Gilbert Wynne (Vis)	32	Director of Physical Exercises (School)	Toronto, Canada
Eleanor Wynne (Vis)	32		Leeds
Katherine Wynne (Vis)	4 mths		Oldham, Lancashire

John Broadbent was a native of Leeds, having been born in Hunslet about 1867. In looking for a possible marriage for his father, I found that a John T Broadbent married an Elizabeth Morgan in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1864. I also found a marriage between a John T Broadbent and a Mary Ann Marshall in the Jan-Mar quarter of 1870.^{.xxxiv} Given that Mary A Broadbent was the wife of the head of the family, John Thos Broadbent for the 1871, and assuming that he had been previously married, Elizabeth would have died some time after the birth of the eldest three children listed with John and Mary for the 1871 census. A check on the death registrations finds one for an Elizabeth Broadbent in the Oct-Dec quarter of 1868, which was the same quarter as the birth of Annie Broadbent was registered which suggests that Elizabeth died in childbirth or shortly thereafter.^{.xxxv}

So, based on this theory, John Hirst Broadbent was the son of John and Elizabeth Morgan and the children born to John and Mary Ann were his step-siblings.

The Broadbent family is located in 1871 at 3 Branch Church Street, Hunslet for John J^{nr}'s first census.^{.xxxvi}

John Thos Broadbent	32	Master Pawnbroker	Leeds
Mary A Broadbent	25		Holbeck
George Broadbent	6	Scholar	Hunslet
John H Broadbent	4	Scholar	Hunslet
Annie Broadbent	2		Hunslet
Amelia Broadbent	3 mths		Hunslet
Jane E Broadbent (Sister)	36	Pawnbroker's Assistant	Leeds
Clara Maltkiln	11	Nurse Girl	Leeds

The pawnbroking business seems to have been a family concern, and continued to be so for at least one member of the family as we shall see. Clara's assistance with the new baby must have been welcome, but I still find it difficult to come to terms with such responsibility being vested in an eleven year old girl.

John S^{nr} died in 1879 at the age of 40^{.xxxvii} and, for the 1881 census, son George had taken over the business. The family had moved to 44 Lady Pit Lane, Hunslet. Between 1871 and his death, John S^{nr} had fathered four more children, the last of whom would have been born in the year he died, leaving his widow with a large number of mouths to feed.^{.xxxviii}

Mary Ann Broadbent (W)	35		Holbeck
George Broadbent	16	Pawnbroker	Hunslet
John H Broadbent	14	Scholar	Hunslet
Annie Broadbent	12	Scholar	Hunslet
Amelia Broadbent	10	Scholar	Hunslet
Mary Broadbent	9	Scholar	Hunslet
Jane E Broadbent	6	Scholar	Hunslet
Alice M Broadbent	4	Scholar	Rothwell
William Broadbent	2		Rothwell
Annie Thompson	15	Domestic Servant	Methley

For the 1891 census John is located with two of his siblings, back again at Branch Church Street, where they were occupying number 1.^{.xxxviii} Mary Broadbent and the rest of the family had moved to Plymouth where Mary was now a dealer in Berlin wool and art needlework.^{.xxxix}

George Broadbent	26	Pawnbroker	Hunslet
John H Broadbent	24	Cabinet Maker	Hunslet
Annie Broadbent	22	Dressmaker	Hunslet

This brings us full circle back to the 1901 census which shows that John Hirst Broadbent is still a cabinet maker with shopfitter added to his job description. He is now a married man with two children. From Kelly's 1908 Directory we learn that John was still in Leeds, listed as a shopfitter with premises at Bradley's Yard, Lowerhead Row, and living at 50 Savile Place, off Chapeltown Road.^{.xi}



John Henry Dixon



John Henry, the second of four sons of John and Eliza Dixon, was born about 1873 in Leeds and he was one of only two of the Dixon children at home for the 1901 census when he was shown as a unmarried man of 27, employed as a solicitor's clerk.^{.xii}

For the same census his bride to be, Sarah Ellen Benn was working as a waitress in a public house run by her mother at 121 Woodhouse Street not far away from where the Dixons lived.^{.xiii}

Sarah Ann (W) Benn	58	Publican, own account, at home	Leeds
David Benn	36		Leeds
John Benn	30		Leeds
Sarah E Benn	25	Waitress (of inn), own account, at home)	Leeds
Florry Woodhead* (Niece)	25	Waitress (worker)	Leeds

I do not know if Florry Woodhead, cousin to Sarah Benn, was any relation to the John Woodhead who married Julia Todd.

Going back a couple of decades, Sarah first came to the notice of the census takers in 1881 when she was about 5 years old, and the youngest of the Benn family, who were living at 69 Woodhouse Street.^{.xiiii}

John William Benn	45	Beerhouse/Inn Keeper	Leeds
Sarah Ann Benn	38		Leeds
Sheldon Benn	19	Brewer	Leeds
David Benn	15	No Trade	Leeds
Polly Benn	12	Dressmaker	Leeds
John Benn	10	Scholar	Leeds
Sarah Ellen Benn	5		Leeds

The Benns were still running the Inn at 69 Woodhouse Street ten years later. Sarah is no longer the 'baby' of the family. In 1889 the oldest son, Sheldon, had married Faith Ann Collyhole but within a year of the marriage Faith had died, leaving Sheldon a widower with a baby son.^{.xv} They are both included in the Benn household.^{.xvi}

John William Benn	56	Publican	Leeds
Sarah A Benn	48		Leeds
Sheldon Benn (Wdr)	29	Tram(?) Driver	Leeds
Mary [Polly] Benn	22	Dressmaker	Leeds
John Benn	20	Mineral Water Grader(?)	Leeds
Sarah Ellen Benn	15		Leeds
Joe Benn	10		Leeds
Percy C Benn (Grandchild)	1		Leeds

We have seen that by the time of the 1901 census Sarah Ann Benn was a widow. She had lost her husband some 4 years earlier according to a death registration, at the age of 62, for John William Benn, in the Leeds district in the Apr-June quarter of 1897.^{.xvii}

Without anything to substantiate this, it is interesting to speculate whether John Dixon S^{nr} who, quite late in life, changed his occupation to brewer's traveller, and whose son William followed in his footsteps, were acquainted with the Benns, or even employed by them?

Looking at the 1906 map of Headingley, there is a public house on the corner of Woodhouse Street and Delph

Street, a mere 100 yards or so from the Dixon's home in Delph Mount.^{xvii} It is tempting to think that it was through this connection that John J^{nr} and Sarah met.

After the calling of banns, John Henry Dixon and Sarah Ellen Benn were married on 29th August 1903 at St Mark's Church Woodhouse, near to where the Dixon and Benn families were living. John's age was given as 30, his condition as Bachelor, and his rank/profession as Solicitor's Clerk. Sometime between the 1901 census and his marriage his residential address had changed from at 37 Delph Mount to 17 Hartley Avenue, which backed onto Woodhouse Ridge. The groom's father was given as John Dixon, Commercial Traveller. The bride was a 27 year old spinster, living at 121 Woodhouse Street. As we know, her father John William Benn, Publican, had died by this time. Witnesses to the marriage were John Benn, Sarah's older brother, and Florry Woodhead, her cousin.^{xviii}

At this stage we do not know if John and Sarah had any children, but we do know that in 1908 John was still working as a solicitor's clerk and was living at 13 Cliff Mount, Woodhouse. If John's parents were still living at Delph Mount at this time, John and Sarah would have been within spitting distance of his parents' home as Cliff Mount and Delph Mount backed on to each other.^{xix}



Alice Maud Dixon



The last of the daughters of John and Eliza Dixon was born about 1876 at Leeds. The entry for her occupation for the 1891 census was almost illegible, but I had guessed it to be scholar in a telegraphy school.^v Sleuthing for a possible marriage for Alice, has not only revealed her middle name to be Maud (and we have already seen that her sister Eleanor named her first daughter Alice Maud Broadbent) but serves to confirm that my hunch as to Alice's occupation was correct.

A marriage between an Alice Maud Dixon and a William Edward Gibson was registered in the Jul-Sep quarter of 1900, and this took place at St Augustine's Church, Wrangthorne. The FreeBMD record was confirmed by the marriage certificate which shows that they married on 8th September 1900. William was eight years older than Alice, their respective ages on their wedding day being 33 and 25. We were pretty certain that Alice was a trained telegraphist but no profession was listed for her. However William was listed as being a telegraphist. His father (deceased) was listed as having been a Tailor. Once more John Dixon took on the role of witness, and the other witness was a man named John Connor.^{vi}

The newly weds were located in the 1901 census at 32 Hessle Mount, Headingley.^{vii}

W ^m Edw ^d Gibson	33	Postal Telegraph Clerk GPO	Whitby
Alice M Gibson	25		Leeds

If William was born in Whitby, but was now working at the Leeds GPO, when and how did the couple meet?

William Edward Gibson was born about 1868 to William and Jane Gibson. The 1871 census finds the Gibsons at Church Street, Whitby.^{viii}

William Gibson	48	Tailor	Whitby
Jane Gibson	42		Hull
Charles Gibson	22	Jet Worker	Whitby
William E Gibson	3	Scholar	Whitby

The gap between the two sons suggests that there were other children born to William and Jane who were not at home on Sunday 2nd April 1871.

To digress, I wondered what a Jet Worker did, and noticed that there were a number of other people on the same census page also similarly employed.

The jet they worked was the mineral which was found in abundance on the North Yorkshire coast, and dated back to some 180 million years. One form of this was Whitby Jet. Jet has a rich history of usage in Britain and by the start of the Bronze Age jet artifacts amongst grave goods were widespread. Its importance continued through the Roman, Viking and Medieval times and into the 19th century when it was used only for ecclesiastical ornaments such as crosses and rings. All this changed however with the Victorian preoccupation with mourning. With the death of George 1V in 1830 the Lord Chamberlain's Office issued a decree that stated that "the ornament will be jet", and in Whitby, jet production went into overdrive. With the death of Prince Albert in 1861 Queen Victoria led the whole country in mourning. By 1873 there were 200 shops manufacturing in Whitby employing 1500 men, the value of trade being some £100,000, a million

pounds by today's standards. However by 1880 the trade was already starting to decline mainly due to the use of poor quality soft jet, foreign imports and imitations, and 1921 only 40 men were still producing, dropping to 5 by 1936 and by 1945 there were 3.



The Whitby Museum is an excellent source of information and one of the artifacts on display is the jet workshop model made by George Wood, a jet worker, in 1889. This model stood for many years in the doorway of Elisha Walker's jet shop at 97 Church Street in Whitby.^{iv}

Perhaps this was where Charles and the other people living in Church Street worked?

But back to William Gibson. He was still in Whitby in 1891, and was now in work. He and his parents were at Breckons Yard.^v

William Gibson	58	Tailor	Whitby
Jane Gibson	52		Hull
William E Gibson	13	Telegraph Messenger (CS)	Whitby

Ten years later still finds him in Whitby, this time with his brother in Church Street, and with a promotion.

Charles Gibson	42	Jet Worker (Iap)	Whitby
Margaret D Gibson	40		Woolwich, Kent
William E Gibson	13	Telegraphist 2 nd Class	Whitby

Sometime between 1891 and 1900, then, and presumably with a further promotion, William relocated to Leeds to work at the GPO. During this time Alice would have finished her training and joined the postal service and it was no doubt that in the course of their work the couple met and decided to get married. By the time of their marriage William had clocked up nearly 20 years service.

By the late 19th century many skilled artisans and clerical workers were looking for pleasant surroundings in which to live, provided it was not too far from their place of work. So though William and Alice lived in the Headingley area (as by this time did nearly all the Dixon clan), getting to work at the GPO would not have posed too much difficulty as, by 1900, there was a reliable commuter tram service to the city.

Until the 1911 census is available we will not know if Alice and William had any children. However, by 1908 the couple had moved to 17 Hartley Avenue, looking out to Woodhouse Ridge, and much closer to Alice's parents. William is still working as a Telegraphist.^{vi}



Charles Dixon



The third son of John and Eliza Dixon, Charles was born about 1877 at Leeds and stayed with his family up to the 1901 census when, as we have seen, he was staying with his brother William. Also, as we have seen, the census listing for his occupation was illegible.^{vii} At the time they were living at 77 Marks Road. We know that by 1908 William had moved, but the Kelly's 1908 Directory helps to throw some further light on Charles. He was still at 77 Marks Road, and was listed as a Grocer and Beer Retailer. So he was yet another Dixon in the beer trade.^{viii}

A search of the marriage registrations has added to our knowledge of Charles. If the following record is correct, he was another Dixon to walk up the aisle of St. Augustine's Church, Wrangthorne, as there is a

registration for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1902 for Charles Dixon and Fanny Leeson. Fortunately my investment in a copy of the marriage certificate was justified! On New Year's Day 1902 Charles and Fanny were married in the presence of two witnesses, Joseph and Harriet Leeson, brother and sister of the bride. Charles's occupation was Grocer, but nothing is recorded for Fanny. They were both resident at Wrangthorne, and Fanny's father was a Bootmaker.^{ix}

Fanny was year or so older than Charles, having been born about 1875, in Leeds, to Henry and Jane Leeson (née Arundale?) who had married in 1865 at Hunslet.^x They, together with the other family members, were at 5 Thiers Place, West Leeds for the 1881 census.^{xi}

Henry Leeson	40	Shoemaker	Northampton, Nottinghamshire
Jane Leeson	37		Leeds
John Hy Leeson	13	Errand Boy	Leeds
Walter Leeson	9	Scholar	Leeds
Fanny Leeson	6	Scholar	Leeds
Joseph Leeson	3		Leeds

A daughter, Mary, had been born to Henry and Jane in 1870, but she did not appear in the 1881 census listing as she had died aged 2 in 1872.^{xii}

Yet another family to move between census nights, they are found at 3 Carr Square, Brunswick, on Sunday 5th April 1891. Henry's birthplace is more precise, John Henry has progressed from errand boy, Walter is following in his father's footsteps, and Fanny is now employed as is the young Joseph. Daughter Harriet is an addition to the family.^{xiii}

Henry Leeson	50	Cordwainer	Kirklington, Nottinghamshire
Jane Leeson	47		Leeds
John Henry Leeson	23	Tailor's Cutter	Leeds
Walter Leeson	19	Shoe Rivetter	Leeds
Fanny Leeson	16	Tailoress	Leeds
Joseph Leeson	13	Errand Boy	Leeds
Harriet Leeson	9	Scholar	Leeds

A further move between 1891 and 1901 brings the Leeson family within the geographical ambit of the Dixons. The two older boys had left home by the time the 1901 census was taken, but the rest of the family was living at 1 Brudenell View, Headingley.^{xiv}

Henry Leeson	60	Shoemaker Boots	Kirklington, Nottinghamshire
Jane Leeson	57		Leeds
Fanny Leeson	25	Tailoress	Leeds
Joseph Leeson	23	Cloth Warehouseman	Leeds
Harriet Leeson	19	Tailoress	Leeds

Henry Leeson features in Kelly's 1908 Directory, still living at 1 Brudenell View, and working as a boot repairer.^{xv} Any further information for them the Dixon/Leeson families has to await the release of the 1911 census.



Herbert Dixon

Over the 15 years, from the birth of Annie in 1865 to the birth of Herbert in 1880, Eliza gave birth to eight children. This last born child appeared with the family for the 1881, 1891 and 1901 census records. By the time he had reached his 21st birthday, Herbert was employed as a hosiery assistant.

Without access yet to the 1911 census, following Herbert post 1901 was proving to be a problem. There are two Herbert Dixon's listed in Kelly's 1908 Directory – one a leather dresser, with premises at 246 Hunslet Road and residing at 3 Arthington Terrace, Moorside, and the other a hawker of 33 Prosperity Street, between 155 Camp Road and Wellclose View.^{xvi} At this stage there is nothing to prove that either of these entries refers to Herbert, son of John and Elizabeth Dixon.

To see whether or not Herbert married I found FreeBMD records for the following possible marriages for Herbert :

- 1901 to Isabella G Pinder, at the Methodist Chapel Waterloo Road/Methodist School Clothier Street, registered in Hunslet.
- 1904 to Emma L Ingham, at St Aidan's Church, registered in Leeds.

- 1907 to Lucy Appleyard, at the Leeds Registered Building, registered in Leeds (and this has possibilities given that the name Appleyard features in the Sarah Dark/Kay family tree).
- 1908 to Alice K Gyton, at St Mathias Church, Burley, registered in Leeds (but at no stage have we had any reference to a middle name for Herbert).
- 1910 to Lily Horsfield, at the Leeds Registered Building.

I took a punt on 1904 marriage and was pleased to find that this paid off.



The marriage certificate shows that Herbert and Emma Louise married on 14th August 1904 at the Parish Church of St Aidans, Leeds. Herbert was still living at home at 37 Delph Mount, Wrangthorne and he was a 25 year old bachelor, earning his keep as a Hosier's Assistant. At this stage his father John was listed as a Clerk. Emma was a 24 year old spinster, living at 27 Roseville Road, and her father was James Ingham, an Iron Monger's Assistant. Herbert's brother William Illingworth Dixon was one of the witnesses and James Ingham was the other. I have not found any record of a son being born to Emma's parents, so it is likely that her father was the second witness.^{lxvi}

As far as I can determine, Emma was one of two daughters born to James Ingham and Emily Eliza Ingham (née Clark) who had married at St Peter's, Leeds, in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1879.^{lxvii} James, who had been born in Selby, was the son of Joseph and Bessey Ingham and was with his family in Wakefield for the 1871 census at which time James was a 19 year old Ironmonger's Apprentice.^{lxix} By the time of the 1881 census James, now married, was living at 14 Albert Grove, North West Leeds, with his wife and baby daughter.^{lxx}

James Ingham	29	Shopman (Ironmonger)	Selby
Emily E Ingham	24	Shopman's wife	West Hartlepool, Yorkshire
Emma L Ingham	1		Leeds

This census return is problematical in trying to trace back Emma's mother. Hartlepool is actually in Durham, not Yorkshire. It is possible therefore that Emily was the daughter of John and Ann Clark, of Easington, Durham. In 1861 John Clark was listed living at Eden Hall, Shotton, Easington, a farmer of 284 acres, employing four labourers. Ten years later his wife Anne was a widow, but by 1881 his son, and presumably Emily's brother, William Henry was himself a farmer of some 234 acres at Ferryhill, not far from Easington. If I have correctly identified Emily Clark, she was listed as a 17 year old with her widowed mother and brother for the 1871 census and she was described as a Music Teacher.^{lxxi}

While I have located Emma's parents for the 1891 census, I have not been able to find any census record for her. James and Emily, together with Emma's sister, were now at number 8 Albert Grove, Brunswick.^{lxxii}

James Ingham	39	Ironmonger's Assistant	Selby
Emily E Ingham	34		West Hartlepool
Amy E Ingham	under 6 mos		Leeds

For the 1901 census the family is all back together again, still living at 8 Albert Grove, and this time we have the correct birth county for Emily.^{lxxiii}

James Ingham	49	Ironmonger's Assistant	Selby
Emily E Ingham	44		West Hartlepool, Durham
Emma L Ingham	21	Milliner's Assistant	Leeds
Amy E Ingham	10		Leeds

While the 1908 Kelly Directory entries for Herbert Dixon are a bit 'dubious', the listings for James Ingham are sound. He had moved to 27 Roseville Road and was still listed as an Ironmonger's Assistant.^{lxxiv}



ⁱ Leeds:C46/63/378; FreeBMD Marriage Index.

ⁱⁱ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269414.

ⁱⁱⁱ RG9/3392/p24.

^{iv} RG9/3393/p37.

^v RG10/4565/p15.

^{vi} RG10/4522/p30.

^{vii} RG11/4530/p6.

^{viii} RG12/3703/p10.

^{ix} RG 13/4235/p12.

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- ^x Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p124.
- ^{xi} RG10/3103/p10.
- ^{xii} Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269225.
- ^{xiii} RG13/4203/p15.
- ^{xiv} RG10/4398/p8.
- ^{xv} FreeBMD Death Index.
- ^{xvi} RG11/4534/p31.
- ^{xvii} RG12/3699/p10.
- ^{xviii} FreeBMD Death Index
- ^{xix} RG12/3703/p10.
- ^{xx} Leeds:CE69/G/414; FreeBMD Marriage Index; certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269228.
- ^{xxi} RG10/4566/p7.
- ^{xxii} RG11/4572/p1.
- ^{xxiii} FreeBMD Death Index.
- ^{xxiv} RG12/3702/p31.
- ^{xxv} RG13/4232/p3.
- ^{xxvi} RG10/4522/p30.
- ^{xxvii} RG12/3703/p.10.
- ^{xxviii} RG13/4230/p18.
- ^{xxix} RG12/3697/p21.
- ^{xxx} RG11/4525/p22.
- ^{xxxi} FreeBMD Marriage Index; certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269231.
- ^{xxxii} RG13/4230/p18.
- ^{xxxiii} FreeBMD Marriage Index.
- ^{xxxiv} FreeBMD Death and Birth Index.
- ^{xxxv} RG10/4513/p19.
- ^{xxxvi} FreeBMD Death Index.
- ^{xxxvii} RG11/4492/p15.
- ^{xxxviii} RG12/3663/p30.
- ^{xxxix} RG12/1727/p1.
- ^{xl} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p339
- ^{xli} RG13/4235/p12.
- ^{xlii} RG13/4232/p38.
- ^{xliiii} RG11/4527/p12.
- ^{xliiii} Leeds:CE/27/289; FreeBMD Death Index.
- ^{xlv} RG12/3700/p10.
- ^{xlvi} FreeBMD Death Index.
- ^{xlvii} Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Headingley 1906, The Godfrey Edition, Yorkshire Street 203. 13.
- ^{xlviii} Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD268985.
- ^{xlix} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p525.
- ^l RG12/3707/p10.
- ⁱⁱ FreeBMD Marriage Index; certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269220.
- ⁱⁱⁱ RG13/4244/p37.
- ⁱⁱⁱⁱ RG10/4847/p9.
- ^{lv} www.whitbymuseum.org.uk.
- ^{lvi} RG11/4835/p6.
- ^{lvii} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p187.
- ^{lviii} RG13/3423/p3.
- ^{lix} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p525.
- ^{lx} FreeBMD Marriage Index; certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269219.
- ^{lxi} Leeds:CE23/A/390.
- ^{lxii} RG11/4531/p2.
- ^{lxiii} FreeBMD Birth and Death Index.
- ^{lxiiii} RG12/3698/p7.
- ^{lxv} RG13/4245/p18.
- ^{lxvi} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p65.
- ^{lxvii} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p525.
- ^{lxviii} Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD269213.
- ^{lxix} FreeBMD Marriage Index; Leeds:CE46/90/25.
- ^{lxx} RG10/4024/p41.
- ^{lxxi} RG11/4525/p12.
- ^{lxxii} RG9/3747/p9; RG10/4977/p.12; RG11/4903/p43.
- ^{lxxiii} RG12/3697/p17.
- ^{lxxiiii} RG13/4228/p11.
- ^{lxxv} 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, pp 320 and 613.