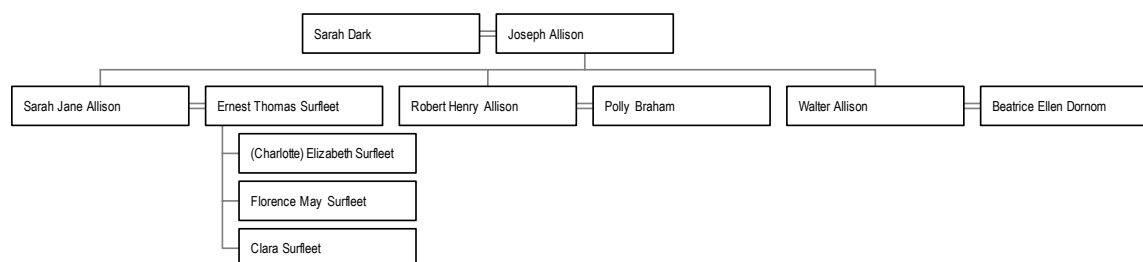


Sarah Dark



Sarah Dark's birth is registered for the Apr-Jun 1841 quarter of 1841 in the district of Norwich. She was the second daughter and fifth known child of Thomas and Sarah Dark. She was recorded in the 1841 census as a baby of 1 month, for the 1851 census as a young girl of 9, and in 1861 as a young woman of 19 and a dressmaker.ⁱⁱ On 8th February 1866, at the age of 24, Sarah married Joseph Allison, a 26 year old bachelor who was a Provision Dealer. Joseph's residence at the time of the marriage was Kingston upon Hull and Sarah's was Springfield Mount, Leeds. The marriage, by banns, took place at St George's Leeds and was conducted by Arthur Hardy. The witnesses were Joseph Dark (Sarah's brother) and an Elizabeth Smith. The fathers of the bride and groom were, respectively, Thomas Dark (Mechanic) and Israel Allison (Coal Merchant).ⁱⁱⁱ By the time of the 1871 census, the couple (mistranscribed at Wilson), together with a daughter, was living at the Smiths Buildings, Garibaldi Street, Grimsby.^{iv}

Joseph Allison	31	Shipping Clerk	Barrow, Lincolnshire
Sarah Allison	29	Dress Maker	Norwich
Sarah Jane Allison	3		Grimsby

The census takers/transcribers had a problem with the name Allison, as can be seen above, and subsequently. Joseph is now a shipping clerk, and Sarah is still listed as a dress maker. As far as is known, Joseph and Sarah spent the rest of their lives in Grimsby.

But before looking at their lives after 1871, we can trace Joseph's life prior to his marriage. He was the son of Israel and Jane Allison and, in 1841 was listed with his parents and two older sisters at Waterside Road, Barrow. All family members were born in Lincolnshire and Israel's occupation was given as Agricultural Labourer.^v

Israel Allison	1821	20
Jane Allison	1821	20
Ann Allison	1837	4
Mary Allison	1839	2
Joseph Allison	1840	1

Ten years later the family has moved to 70 New Street, Gt Grimsby, and there have been four additions. Ann Allison is not with the family on census night as she was next door, as a domestic servant in the Dent household. The table below is as it was transcribed.^{vi}

Issace Alison	33	Labourer	Barrow
Jane Alison	32		Barton, Lincolnshire
Joseph Alison	11		Barrow
William Alison	8		Barrow
John Alison	6		Barrow
Abram Alison	5		Barrow
Thomas Alison	2		Grimsby
Sarah Rowe (Visitor)	29	Mariner's Wife	Ramsgate, Kent

If the next record relates to our Joseph Allison, he was, in 1861 a visitor in the Smales' household at Mere Side, Hornsea, Yorkshire. The record is a little difficult to read and I have listed Joseph as a "House Servant" but the entry could also be read as "House Scholar".^{vii}

David Smales	69	Wheelwright & Farmer	Barmston, Yorkshire
Mary Smales	61		Hull
William Smales	33	Sailor	Hornsea
Robert Smales	19	Wheelwright	Hornsea
Elizabeth Smales	23		Hornsea
Emma Smales	17		Hornsea
John Stephenson	24	Servant Wheelwright	Tic(k)ton, Yorkshire

Joseph Allison (Visitor) 21 House Servant Barrow

1881 finds Joseph and Sarah Allison at 65 Guildford Street in the civil parish of Clee with Weelsby in the Gt Grimbsy district. Daughter Sarah is not at home (see below for her location) but there are now two sons. Sarah is no longer listed as a dressmaker and Joseph has changed occupations yet again.^{vii}

Joseph Allison	40	Fish Porter	Barrow
Sarah Allison	39		Norwich
Robt Hy Allison	8	Scholar	Grimsby
Walter Allison	2		New Clee, Grimsby

The family is still in the same house ten years later for the 1891 census (this time as Allinson).^{ix}

Joseph Allinson	51	Porter	Barrow
Sarah Allinson	50		Norwich
Robert Allinson	17		Grimsby
Walter Allinson	12	Scholar	Grimsby

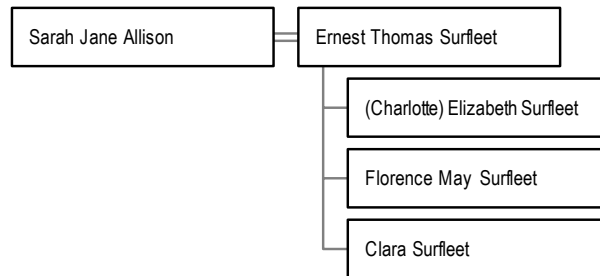
Joseph lived to see in the new century and to reach his 60th birthday. His death was registered in Grimsby for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1900.^x His widow Sarah is recorded in the 1901 census as living now at 87 Convanmore Road, Clee, with her two sons.^{xi}

Sarah Allinson (W)	58		Norwich
Robert Hy Allinson	28	Fish Porter	Grimsby
Wal Allinson	22	Plumber	Grimsby
Fred Geo Eagle (Boarder)	22	Clerk	Peterborough, Northamptonshire

Sarah outlived her late husband by just over 10 years. Her death at age 69 was registered at Grimsby in the Jan-Mar quarter of 1911.^{xii}



Sarah Jane Allison



Sarah Jane Allison was the oldest child of Joseph and Sarah Allison and her birth was registered in the Caistor district in the Apr-Jun quarter, 1867. She was found with various relatives for the 1871-1891 census nights.

In 1871 she was at home in Grimsby with her parents. For the next two censuses she was in Leeds - in 1881, with her grandmother Sarah Dark, in the house of her aunt Elizabeth Riley (Dark) and in 1891 with her grandmother Sarah.^{xiii} Whether by coincidence Sarah Jane was visiting Leeds on 3 April 1881 and 5 April 1891, or whether she was brought up by her grandmother is not known.

What is known is that in towards the end of 1897 she married Ernest Thomas Surfleet. The marriage was registered at Grimsby, the hometown of Ernest.^{xiv} He was born in 1872 and was the son of William and Charlotte Surfleet.^{xv} As recorded by the 1871 to 1891 census returns, the Surfleet family lived in the same house at 8 Hollis Street, Grimsby.^{xvi}

William Surfleet	38	Plasterer	Gt Grimsby
Charlotte Surfleet	37		East Frisby
Rosa Surfleet	4		Gt Grimsby
Herbert M Surfleet	1		Gt Grimsby

Ernest makes his appearance for the 1881 census.

William Surfleet	48	Ornamental Plaster	Grimsby
Charlotte Surfleet	47		East Frisby
Herbert M Surfleet	13	Scholar	Grimsby
Ernest T Surfleet	8	Scholar	Grimsby
Edith Surfleet	7		Grimsby

By 1891 Charlotte is a widow, William having died in 1886 at the relatively young age of 52. His death may have been hastened by his occupation (as had Sarah's uncle Charles Dark's death through lung tuberculosis, caused by masonry dust).

Charlotte E Surfleet (W)	56		East Firsby
Herbert Surfleet	21	Plasterer	Gt. Grimsby
Ernest Tho Surfleet	19	Butchers Apprentice	Gt. Grimsby
Maude M Surfleet	15		Gt. Grimsby
Mary Webster (Visitor)	24		Harrington

Ernest's brother Herbert had followed their father in the plastering business, but Ernest had chosen a different career path. After their marriage, Ernest and Sarah set up home at 12 Hollis Street, and by now Ernest had given up his apprenticeship and was in partnership with his brother Herbert, who was now head of the household at 8 Hollis Street.^{vii}

Ernest T Surfleet	29	Plasterer (employer)	Grimsby
Sarah J Surfleet	33		Grimsby
Lizzie Surfleet	4		Grimsby
Florence Surfleet	1		Grimsby
Clara Surfleet	4 mo		Grimsby
Herbert M Surfleet	30	Plasterer (employer)	Grimsby
Ellen Surfleet	31		Eastham Ferry, Cheshire
Charlotte E* Surfleet	7		Grimsby
Mona E Surfleet	5		Grimsby
Millicent C Surfleet	1		Grimsby

* Edith

Having followed this family through four decades, I wanted to know where Charlotte, now widowed, was in 1901 and I found her living with her elderly mother in Lincoln at 9 Bede House, St Annes, Sewells Road. This was one unit of what must have been a complex of accommodation for the elderly, probably run by the Church of England – a precursor to the modern day retirement village!^{viii}

Mary Marsh (W)	86	Stowe, Lincolnshire
Charlotte Surfleet (W)	66	East Firsby

Charlotte survived her husband by 18 years and her death at age 70 was registered (probably by one of her sons at Grimsby) for the Jan-Apr quarter 1904. Her mother outlived her by another three years. Mary Marsh's death, at the unusually august age of 92, was registered at Lincoln for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1907.

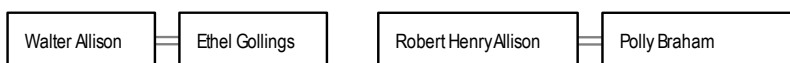
And to finish off with Ernest and Sarah – by 1901 they had three children, the eldest apparently born a year or so before her parents married, as indicated by the following registration details.^{ix}

Name	Registration		District	County	Vol	Pg
Charlotte Elizabeth Surfleet	1896	Apr-Jun	Caistor	Lincolnshire	7a	659
Florence May Surfleet	1899	Apr-Jun	Grimsby	Lincolnshire	7a	689
Clara Surfleet	1900	Oft-Dec	Grimsby	Lincolnshire	7a	597

Charlotte, presumably named after her paternal grandmother, was referred to as Lizzie in the 1891 Census. This was probably to avoid confusion with her cousin Charlotte (Edith), daughter of Herbert and Ellen Surfleet.



Robert Henry Allison and Walter Allison



The births of Robert Henry and Walter Allison were, respectively, registered at Caistor in the 1872 Oct-Dec and the 1876 Jan-Mar quarters^v and both boys were living at home for the 1881 to 1901 census nights.^{vi}

Within a few months of the 1901 census Walter was married. His wife was Ethel Gollings. The marriage took place on 19th August 1901 at the Parish Church, Clee and the certificate gives their ages as 22 and their address as 99 Convanmore Road. Walter's occupation was given as Plumber and his father-in-law, William Gollings was a Cabinet Maker. Witnesses to the ceremony were William and Hilda Gollings who, from the 1901 census listing for the Gollings family, were probably Ethel's brother and sister. It is interesting to note that for the census, Ethel's father is listed as an undertaker. No doubt the term cabinet maker looked better on the marriage certificate.^{vii} The Gollings address was 25 Kent Street, close to where the Allisons were living at the time.

William Gollings	47	Undertaker (own account)	Grimbsy, Lincolnshire
Ann Clara Gollings	46		Barking, Essex
Ethel Gollings	22	Shop Assistant Sweet Shop (Baker)	Grimbsy, Lincolnshire
Ivy Gollings	18	Milliner	Grimbsy, Lincolnshire
William Gollings	15	Joiner apprentice	Grimbsy, Lincolnshire
Frederick Gollings	12		Grimbsy, Lincolnshire
Hilda Gollings	8		Grimbsy, Lincolnshire

It was some years later that Walter's brother was married. According to the certificate he was 39 and his bride, Polly Braham, spinster, was 38 when they tied the knot at the Great Grimbsy Parish Church. Both gave their address as 19 Dover Street and while no profession was given for Polly, Robert was a Boot Maker. Their respective fathers were Joseph Allison (decd), Checker and William James Salmond Braham, Joiner. Witnesses to the ceremony were Edward G Braham, one of Polly's brothers and a B.B. Drinkell, presumably related to the visitor at the Brahams for the 1901 census.^{viii}

For the 1901 census Polly was at home with her parents and some of her siblings at 97 Pasture Street.^{ix}

Wm Braham	54		Aldborough, Suffolk
Hannah Braham	55		Aldborough, Suffolk
Polly Braham	27		Leiston, Suffolk
Chas Braham	22	Ironmonger	Frimbsy, Lincolnshire
Arthur Braham	19	Working Machinist	Frimbsy, Lincolnshire
Nellie Drinkell (Vis)	12	At school	Frimbsy, Lincolnshire

Again no type of work was recorded for Polly, but for the 1891 census she had been working as a domestic servant for Isaac Miller, the Agent and Manager of the Fisherlads' Institute.^x



ⁱ Free BMD Birth Index.

ⁱⁱ HO107/788/7/p9; HO107/2318/p23; RG9/3367/p16.

ⁱⁱⁱ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXC823278.

^{iv} RG10/3414/p32.

^v HJ107/627/9/p39.

^{vi} HO107/2113/p18.

^{vii} RG9/3604/pp8-9.

^{viii} RG11/3273/p24.

^{ix} RG12/2618/p25.

^x Free BMD Death Index.

^{xi} RG13/3092/p9.

^{xii} Free BMD Death Index.

^{xiii} RG11/4492/p35; RG12/3664/p28.

^{xiv} Free BMD Marriage Index. The Surfleet name was not uncommon in the Grimbsy area and elsewhere in Lincolnshire.

^{xv} Free BMD Birth Index.

^{xvi} RG10/3414/p20; RG11/3270/p9; RG12/2614/p1.

^{xvii} RG13/3089/pp24-23.

^{xviii} RG13/3063/p30.

^{xix} Free BMD Birth Index.

^{xx} Free BMD Birth Index.

^{xxi} RG11/3273/p24; RG12/2618/p41; RG13/3092/p9.

^{xxii} Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD41118; RG13/3092/p11.

^{xxiii} Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD441214.

^{xxiv} RG13/3092/p52.

^{xxv} RG12/2616/p28. The Fisherlads Institute was similar to the Mechanics Institutes.