

Chapter 22: Grandma and Grandad Start a Family

Mum was grandma and grandad's only child. In February of 1934, when grandma would have been two months pregnant, grandad noted that she had been examined by Dr Waller but did not explain why! In June, when she would have been six months pregnant, he noted that she had a new dress and coat but, again, did not proffer any explanation! In August, grandma went to stay with her parents, at the house, called Elstow, at 96 Welbeck Street which is where mum was born at 2.20pm on 15 September 1934.



301577

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1874.

Registration District Leazes in the County of Northampton & Dunstable

Year and Month	Day	Sex	Name and Surname of Parents	Christian Name of Child	Rank or Position of Father	Signature, Description and Address of Informant	Where Registered	Age of Child	Registered Name
1934	15th	Female	Charles Gordon Parkin	Isabel May	Post Office	216 Parkin	Leazes	Twenty	T. B. Rice, Registrar.
1899	24th	Male	Charles Gordon Parkin	Isabel May	Post Office	216 Parkin	Leazes	Twenty	T. B. Rice, Registrar.

I, Rhona Gordon Rice, Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Sub-District of Leazes in the County of Northampton & Dunstable do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 189 of the Register of Births for the said Sub-District, and that such Register Book is now kept in my custody.

Witness my Hand and Seal this 24th day of October 1934.

Rhona Gordon Rice
Registrar of Births and Deaths

Top – mum at three months
Above – mum's birth certificate

Having a baby then was very different than it is now. There was a very strong focus on the woman who had just given birth resting in bed and this period of “*lying in*” could be anything from two weeks to two months. During this period, there was an expectation that female relatives would care for the woman and the child and there was less emphasis placed on the importance of bonding between the mother and her child in the immediate period following delivery. This may explain why grandma was kept in bed for two weeks and why Olive, grandad’s sister, looked after mum for ten days while grandma was still at her parents. These practices seems strange now but they were the norm then. Mum was fed with something called an Allenburys, a double-ended bottle, which was marketed as a clean and easy way of feeding a child.



Allenburys
TRADE MARK
FEEDER

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

For hand-feeding a child, the Allenburys Feeder provides a scientific means which, with regard to efficiency and freedom from risk of contamination, approaches as nearly as possible the natural process.

The **BOTTLE**. Immediately it is emptied of food, cleanse the bottle by holding it under a strong stream of water, cold first, then hot.

Allenburys Transparent **TEAT** should not be boiled, but must be washed immediately after use, and on no account be left in contact with milk or other food, since fat quickly causes deterioration of rubber. The teat may be turned inside out while being cleaned, but should be re-turned at once afterwards. Before the teat is put on, the neck of the bottle should be wetted.

The teats are obtainable with perforations as follows :

- 1 fine hole For the infant with very strong sucking powers.
- 1 leech bite For the infant with weaker sucking powers.
- 2 and 3 leech bites For use where the 1 leech bite is found too small, or the food is somewhat thicker.
- 5 leech bites The largest perforation of all; used for infants with extremely weak sucking powers, or for thick food; since, with this number of perforations, the food flows through with very little sucking by the infant.

CORRECT METHOD OF ATTACHING
Allenburys
TRANSPARENT TEAT & VALVE

Allenburys Transparent **VALVE** should be taken from the bottle and cleaned after each meal. Before inserting it into the bottle see that the small slit in the side opens freely, or the teat will collapse when in use, because air is not being admitted through the valve.

Keep the **BOTTLE, TEAT, and VALVE** in clean cold water, to which a pinch of bicarbonate of soda has been added.

If the rubber of the valve or the teat hardens, it should be placed in hot water.

Allen & Hanburys Ltd., London, E.2
Ref. 561, of 261, 1931 P.C. 3025. Printed in England

Allenburys double-ended feeder with instructions for use. Initially, I was not convinced that the black “teats” pictured belong with the bottle as they did not seem to fit but I now think the “teat” on the left is the teat and the one on the right is the valve. I think the reason they don’t appear to fit is that they have hardened with age. It may be that they don’t match the instructions as they refer to a transparent teat and valve and the ones pictured are black.

As can be seen from mum's birth certificate, her birth was registered on 24 October and she was christened/baptised a few days later on 4 November.

Certificate of Baptism.

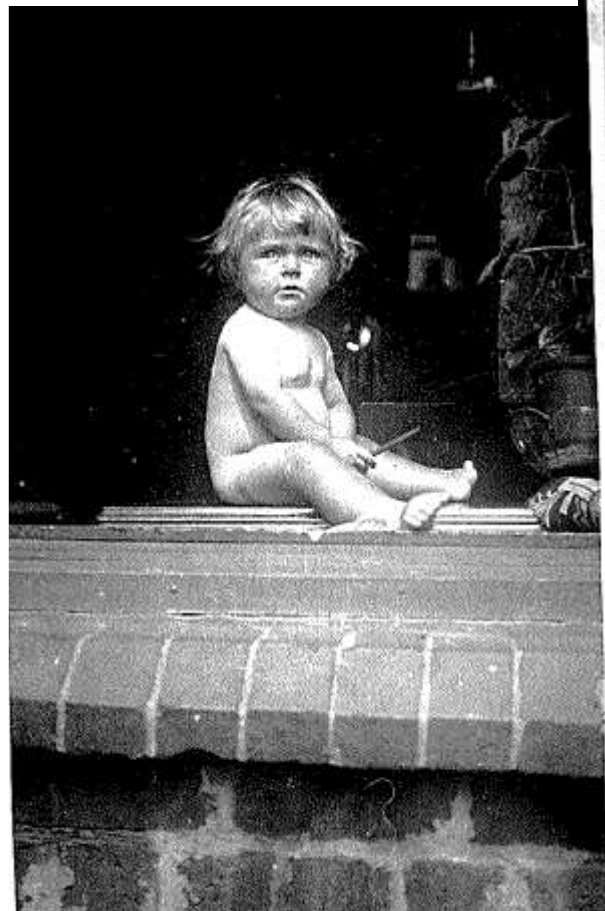
Administered with Water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

In the Parish of St. Nicholas in the County of Northampton
in the year 1 934.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian	Surname.			
1934. Nov. 4.	Stella	Charles	Parkin.	74 Station Street, East Northampton.	Boot- maker.	Rev. J. H. G. Peters, St. Nicholas Church.
When Born. 1934. Oct. 24.	May	Charles	May			

The above is a true Copy from the METHODIST Register Book of Baptisms at St. Nicholas in Northampton Circuit

Witness my hand this 6th day of November, 1934
John H. G. Peters
Methodist Minister.

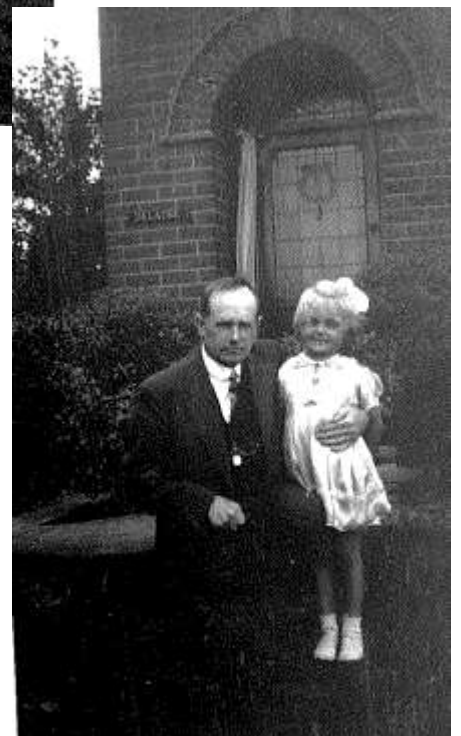


Top – mum's baptismal certificate
Above – photographs of mum in the window at Station Street

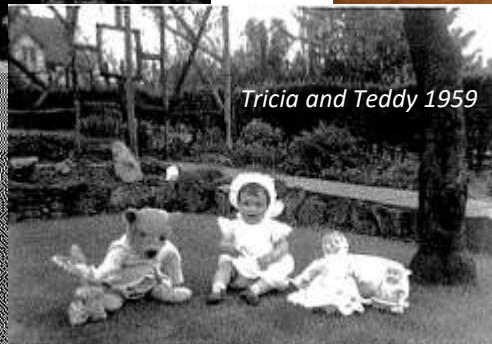
Mum had some photographs taken of her in December 1934 when she was almost three months old. It is possible that the first photograph in this chapter is one of those photographs. Of course, multiple other photos were taken and a selection of early photos of mum are included in this chapter. According to grandad's diary, mum cut her first tooth in March 1935 when she would have been six months old and walked for the first time on 20 August 1935 when she was just over 11 months old.



Early photos of mum with grandma (top left, top right, far left and left) and with grandad (below)



At the end of this period, mum would have been four years old. She celebrated her first two birthdays at grandma's parents' house, Elstow, where she had been born. The family visited grandma's parents frequently, having tea there most Sundays. Grandad noted that, in June 1938, he and grandma bought mum two goldfish. As might be expected, grandad noted that they were 4d each. However, in August, disaster struck! Overnight, one of the goldfish jumped out of the bowl. In the morning, the family found it on the rug and they thought it was dead. However, they put it back in the bowl and it was fine "apparently... none the worse" for the experience!!!



Grandma and grandad were not the only family members to have a single child. Both grandma's brothers (Ray and Bert) and their wives (Winnie and Doris) only had one child. Kenneth Charles was born to Winnie and Ray on 28 December 1930 so was almost five years older than mum. Peter Edward Thomas was born to Doris and Bert on 22 April 1933 so was over two years older than mum. There are a number of pictures of the three cousins and some are included here.

Peter and mum



Peter and Mum



Mum, Peter and Kenneth

