

Chapter 47: Births, Weddings and Deaths

On 5 September 1950, Roy and Kath Evans had a baby daughter, Anne Elizabeth.¹ Two day after Anne was born, mum went to visit. Various visits followed. For example, mum noted that she went to Anne's first birthday party in September 1951. Grandad noted that the Evans family came for tea in January 1952 and that Carole, Lynne and Anne came for the day in July 1953 (see photo).



In April 1950, mum noted that they had been due to go to Freda's wedding in Doncaster but Ray's car broke down so they were not able to go.² In August 1951, friends from chapel, Ken Hodges and Pearl Marshall got married. The service was at the chapel with the reception at the Miners' Welfare. Mum went and noted that she had a nice time but that it had not been as nice as Pearl's 21st birthday party.³ In defiance of [superstition](#)⁴, Pearl's bridesmaids wore green and this theme was picked up in the local newspaper report of the wedding. According to the newspaper article, Pearl was secretary of the youth club and Ken was church organist. He also worked as a teacher at Kingsway Boys' Secondary Modern School. Mum noted that Ken became choirmaster in January 1952 only to resign as both organist and choirmaster in May 1952.



Wedding of Ken Hodges and Pearl Marshall

Above - this photograph was annotated to say that her bridesmaids wore green and she was told it was unlucky

Right - newspaper article of Pearl and Ken's wedding



In April 1953, Kenneth Cirket got married in Bedford, to Pauline Knibbs. Grandma, mum and Marilyn attended. Grandad didn't but he did note that they gave Kenneth a cheque for three guineas. Mum had visited them previously, in April 1950, and Kenneth had taken them to the station with mum commenting that he was a very good driver. Over the years, mum kept in touch with Pauline Cirket, including through regular Christmas cards.

¹ As Roy's mother (Eva) was grandad's sister, mum and Anne Elizabeth (and her sister Lynne) were first cousins once removed.

² Freda Davey was the granddaughter of Samuel Cirket, who was the brother of Charles Cirket, grandma's father. This made Freda and mum second cousins. Freda married Eric Chambers and she and mum corresponded for many years including in the 1990s over respective family trees.

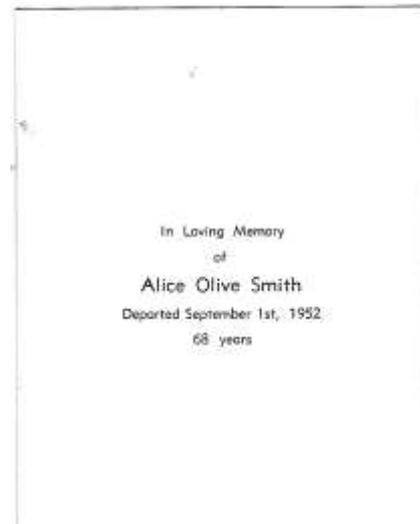
³ Which had been held in November 1950.

⁴ I vaguely recall mum saying something about this in 2016 when my daughter got married and her bridesmaids wore green.



Kenneth Cirket's wedding – highlighted area shows Ray, Winnie, mum and Marilyn

In September 1952, grandad's sister Olive died aged 68.⁵ She had been unwell on and off for some months and there were references to this in both diaries for this period. In August 1952, she was ill in bed and mum noted lending her a portable radio. On 16 August, she was admitted to Nottingham General Hospital.⁶ On 1 September 1952, she had surgery but died at 7.15pm. Her funeral was held on 5 September with a memorial service on the 7th. Arthur and Ella Lofthouse, who had been friends of Olive's, attended. Following her death, in January 1953, her husband donated their piano to the chapel. In June 1953, grandad noted going to see Olive's gravestone at the cemetery.



SMITH.—September 1. at Nottingham General Hospital. Alice Olive of 166, Diamond-avenue, East Kirkby, Notts. beloved wife of John William. Aged 68 years. "In heavenly love abiding."

*Top right – order of service for Olive's funeral
Above left - flowers at Olive's grave Above right – notice of Olive's death in local paper*

In November 1951, Renie's mother, Mrs Heath, died and grandma attended the funeral. In June 1952, grandad noted that Wilf Chappell⁷ died whilst talking to Gertie. The same month, grandad noted that

⁵ Olive's death is mentioned in Edith Searson's book(let) "*I Remember*" (p58). Olive had been Bourne's Missionary Secretary and Edith Searson was asked to take on this responsibility when Olive died.

⁶ [Nottingham General Hospital](#) was a major [hospital](#) in Nottingham. It was [founded](#) in 1781 and closed in 1992.

⁷ He was born on 7 March 1902 and, in 1939, was working as a colliery shunter above ground. He married Gertrude Bollans in 1934.

“Frank Newcombe⁸ strangled himself in bed”. In September that year, Dr McCombie⁹ died, aged 62. In August 1953, Harry Booth died in the acre (Kingsway Park) aged 76.

In September 1953, mum noted that Mrs Scothern died. This appears to have been the mother of mum’s friend Brenda Scothern.¹⁰ Mum attended her funeral and had a picture of her grave in one of her photo albums.



Above - Mrs Scothern’s grave
Left – newspaper article concerning Jean Kirk’s funeral

In January 1954, one of the girls ,who attended Sunday School at Bourne chapel, Jean Kirk, died aged 13 from what mum described as “a germ in the blood”. The funeral was held in early February at Bourne. Mum attended and noted that it had been very nice. Mum had a newspaper cutting among her papers which gave details of Jean’s funeral. This noted that she had attended the Girls’ Grammar School in Sutton and that she had been a talented pianist. The service was led by Rev Howells, the minister at Bourne. The article consisted of mainly a long list of people who had sent flowers including teachers and scholars of Bourne Methodist Sunday School.

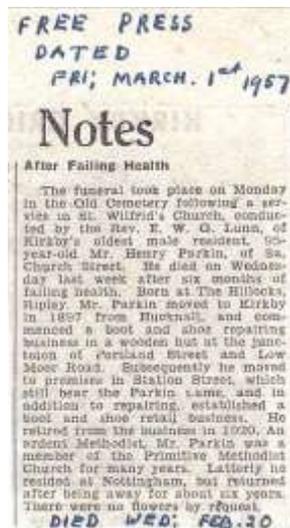
In April 1954, mum noted that Mr Bust¹¹ of 80 Lindleys Lane died at 4.15pm. His memorial services was held at Bourne chapel on 9 May 1954. In June 1954, grandad noted that J Wilkinson of Unity Street had died aged 76.

⁸ He was the younger brother of Phil Newcombe. He was born in 1886 and worked as a joiner. In 1933, he installed a set of stairs in grandad’s shop – see Chapter 13.
⁹ According to the book “Kirkby & District from Old Photographs” p38, he was doctor in Kirkby for many years and lived on Diamond Avenue.
¹⁰ Initially, I could find no record of her death online but I found details of a Cissie Scothern, aged 46, who died at the time and place specified.
¹¹ From Free BMD, it appears that this was Sylvester F Bust, aged 73. Presumably, he was a relative of Tom (and Edna) Bust. It may be that he was the F Bust who was involved in laying lino at Welbeck Street in 1951, as recorded by grandad.



Grandad's mother, Sarah Parkin, died in January 1930 and there is little mention of grandad's father, Henry Parkin after that.¹² I am not sure why there were no further references but it does appear that grandad and his father were estranged. I mention it here as there was a Free Press cutting among mum's papers which dates from October 1952. According to the article, Henry Parkin was alive, aged 91, and living in Church Street, Kirkby-in-Ashfield. He had remarried a woman 41 years his junior! The article described her as "his 50-year old Viennese wife – now a naturalised British subject." The newspaper article outlined that Henry Parkin was in trouble with the council for failing to carry out repairs to three properties that he owned. According to the article, it appears that Henry Parkin owned 18 properties in total.

I also found another short newspaper article among mum's papers dated 1 March 1957. This relates to Henry Parkin's death and is annotated to show that he died on 20 February 1957. At the time of his death, he was Kirkby's oldest resident. It gives some details of his life and death. He was buried at the Old Cemetery in Kirkby-in-Ashfield following a short service at St Wilfrid's Church. Although the article described him as "an ardent Methodist", it is interesting that the funeral service was not in a Methodist chapel or church. He was living in Kirkby at the time of his death although he had moved away to Nottingham for around six years.



Newspaper articles concerning grandad's father, Henry Parkin
 Far left – an article from 1952 related to difficulties Henry Parkin was facing in repairing properties he owned
 Left – an article from 1957 concerning Henry Parkin's death – see Chapter 65 for more detail.

From the [Kirkby Living Memory Facebook group](#), I heard from Lesley Hall that they bought their house, at 43 The Hill¹³, from a Mrs Parkin in 1988. She described her as Austrian and a former nurse. She also mentioned that she dealt with relatives of Mrs Parkin in Austria, a great nephew and niece. Initially, I thought this was Henry Parkin's second wife as Lesley knew that her husband had built houses in Blidworth Road. She also mentioned that Henry and this wife had a daughter. From FreeBMD, I have found that a Henry Parkin married a Josefa J A Schreiber¹⁴ in Nottingham in Q2 1946 and I believe this

¹² It is a little difficult to determine when the last reference was as grandad also referred to grandma's father as "dad". However, the last reference appears to be in February 1932 when grandad noted that "dad had bronc".

¹³ One of the houses in the 1952 court case

¹⁴ I also found out that her full name was Josefa Julie Ann Schreiber and she had been born on 19 January 1902. According to the 1939 Register, she was working in Belper as a domestic servant for Oliver Bernard and Gladys Stanion. She died in 1988.

might be her. According to the news cutting of Henry's death, he lived in Nottingham for some years. I have not been able to find any detail of them having a child together. If this information is right, he would have been 85 when he re-married and she would have been 44. Perhaps the child was from an earlier marriage?¹⁵

So, it does seem that grandad's father remarried in later life but I also found evidence of two other wives between when grandad's mother, Sarah, died in 1930 and when Henry married Josefa Schreiber in 1946. A Henry Parkin also married Gertrude May Whyte¹⁶ in December 1930, just under a year after grandad's mother died. In 1931, they were living together in Blidworth Road which perhaps implies that this was grandad's father given that we know he built houses there. Gertrude herself died in December 1931 aged 37. It appears that Henry then married Kate E Clough in 1932 as, in 1939, they were living at 9a Church Street in Kirkby. His occupation was recorded as builder reconstructions. She had been born in 1883 and died in 1945 in Nottingham and this would tie in with him then marrying Josefa Schreiber the following year. So, if this research is correct, it seems that Josefa was Henry's fourth wife.

I also found details of some other court cases involving Henry Parkin including cuttings¹⁷ from the Nottingham Evening Post¹⁸ and the Nottingham Journal.¹⁹ In June 1910, there was a dispute in which he and Henry Goadby, a furniture dealer, accused each other of assault. It seems that Henry Goadby was renting a shop in Lowmoor Road from Henry Parkin and, as part of that business, he sold bikes. He sold one to Henry Parkin's son²⁰ but he could not keep up repayments and a dispute arose including over whether Henry Goadby could display goods in the entrance to the shop. This resulted in one or more scuffles in which Henry Goadby sustained some injuries to his legs. Henry Parkin lost the case and had to pay £15 on the claim.²¹ However, this was followed by a perjury case against Henry Goadby who was committed for trial. The trial took place on 6 July 1910.²² Henry Goadby was found not guilty and was discharged.

In 1922, according to the [Mansfield Reporter and Sutton Times](#)²³, Henry Parkin took court action against miner and tenant George Musgrove for non-payment of rent. In [1931](#), Henry Parkin was taken to court by KUDC to reclaim £50 housing subsidy which had been paid to him for four houses in Blidworth Road. In [1937](#), there was a corruption case against him for having enclosed a 10 shilling note in a letter to a sanitary inspector.²⁴ He was convicted and fined £10 plus costs. Henry Parkin tried to explain away the inclusion of the money saying, "*I put the money in with a good heart. I had no idea I was doing anything that was out of order. I thought they could distribute the money and have a drink and a smoke amongst them . If they had had the grace to ask me about it, I could have explained. Instead of that. they have put me to all this trouble over nothing.*"

Perhaps the [most striking case](#) I came across was in 1906 when three children, Abraham Penfold, aged 9, William Penfold, aged 12 and Lillian Penfold, aged 13, stole a pair of boots from Henry Parkin's shop. The three children were convicted. Two were remanded with a view to being sent to a reformatory while one, William aged 12, was sentenced to go to prison for one day and to receive six strokes with a birch rod.

¹⁵ However, I have not found any evidence of this.

¹⁶ I could not find details of her birth but I did find details of a Gertrude May Whiles born in Basford in 1894. I suspect this was her. Her mother's maiden name was Powell.

¹⁷ The relevant cuttings are from [11 June](#), [30 June](#) and [6 July](#) 1910.

¹⁸ [Local newspaper](#) that was established in 1878 and continues today as the Nottingham Post which is published online as [NottinghamshireLive](#).

¹⁹ [Local newspaper](#) that first used the name in 1787. In 1953, it merged with the Nottingham Guardian to form the Guardian Journal which continued until 1973.

²⁰ The cutting does not identify which one.

²¹ Against a total of £47 18s claimed.

²² The news cutting is a bit confusing as it relates to blows between Henry Goadby and James Henry Parkin, who was grandad's brother. Perhaps he was the son who had bought the bicycle? I don't think it could have been his son, Gordon, as he was only born in 1907. However, that article incorrectly refers to the shop being in Longmoor Road when the road's correct name was Lowmoor.

²³ [Local paper](#) that was produced from at least 1858 to at least 1937. The Our Mansfield and Area website has an [article](#) about the strength of local newspapers in Mansfield and Sutton.

²⁴ Interestingly, he mentioned in his evidence that the letter had been posted by his wife meaning that he must have been married at this point. If my research is correct, his wife at this point was Kate Parkin.

I don't know if any of this was a cause for the apparent estrangement between grandad and his father. I am fairly sure they were estranged. Grandad did not mention him much in his diary after his mother's death in 1930 and he also did not appear to attend his funeral. However, I don't know what the cause of that estrangement might have been. Perhaps, grandad did not approve of his father remarrying so soon, so often or to women so much younger than himself? He may also not have approved of his father's business practices. I don't know if these were the factors but I am fairly sure that grandad would have taken a dim view of all of these things.