

Chapter 15: Sarah Parkin

Grandad appeared to be close to his mother. They made various trips together including to Berry Hill, Blidworth, Kilburn, Moorgreen and Nottingham. In 1929, she and grandad's father went on holiday for a week to Bournemouth. In 1929, grandad took her to see the recently completed Watchorn Memorial Primitive Methodist Church in Alfreton. This [church](#) was built by local benefactor, Richard Watchorn, as part of an estate, in memory of his mother, his son and Abraham Lincoln.



Sarah Parkin – Grandad's mother



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Above - Sarah Parkin – Grandad's mother
Left – Watchorn school and church in Alfreton
Below – selection of birthday cards sent to grandad from his parents. The message shown is for 1917 when grandad was 20.

Grandad's mother gave him various gifts, particularly around the time of his birthday. These gifts included a sovereign, a pair of gloves and a pencil. Grandad recorded that he made various things for her including a window shade and a clothes horse. Among mum's papers were a number of birthday cards from his parents to grandad. These are very different in style to modern-day birthday cards, resembling postcards more.



To our Dear son Gordon
To wish you many happy returns of your birthday
From your ever loving
Father Mother



Her health appears to have been reasonably good although she was occasionally ill. In February 1919, she went with grandad to see Mr Mallet but it is not clear if he was a doctor or surgeon of some kind and, if he was, who was the patient in this case. Grandad's mother wore glasses and, in September 1919, grandad recorded that her glasses came from Mansfield. In October 1929, she was taken ill with gall stones. In December, she was unwell again and had to stay in bed from the 9th to the 11th. On Christmas Day that year, grandad noted that she was still in bed ill and, on New Year's Eve, they had a specialist to see her. On New Year's Day 1930, grandad noted that she was worse. She got progressively weaker and, on 4 January 1930, he noted that she was dying. She died around 9pm on 5 January 1930. She was buried on 8 January with a funeral service held at Bourne Chapel on the 12th. A number of times over the years that followed, grandad visited the cemetery, including on at least one occasion with Olive and John. The frequency of contact with his eldest brother, Len, seems to have increased following that, particularly in 1931. Grandad did not explain in his diaries whether this was related to his mother's death or if there were other reasons.

KIRKBY LADY'S DEATH.

MRS. SARAH PARKIN.

The death has taken place of an esteemed Kirkby resident in the person of Mrs. Sarah Parkin, wife of Mr. H. Parkin, "Hilmesout," Forest Hill, East Kirkby. The deceased lady, who passed away on Sunday evening, was in her 68th year. She was born at Kilburn near Bury, and came to Kirkby with her husband in 1897. Since then they have lived continuously in the town, where Mr. Parkin has carried on a boot and shoe business.

The deceased lady was of a kindly disposition, ever ready to share the troubles of others and to say the kindly word. She was a devoted wife and mother, and her love of home and its responsibilities, precluded her from taking any prominent part in outside affairs. She had been in indifferent health for a long time, but with a characteristic cheerfulness she made light of her illness. Her condition became worse these months ago, and during the past few weeks she was practically confined to bed. For over 13 years she was an active member of the East Kirkby Primitive Methodist Church and there her influence will be much missed.

The interment took place on Wednesday afternoon at the cemetery, amid every sign of sympathy and respect. An impressive service was first conducted in the Primitive Methodist Church, the resident minister (Rev. J. H. C. Beeg) officiating there and at the grave side. The hymns sung were two of the deceased's favourites, "My God, my Father while I stay," and "I worship thee sweet will of God." Mrs. J. F. Chadburn presiding at the organ.

During the service, Mrs. Chadburn played a verse of the hymn "Hail Emmanuel," and appropriate music was also rendered as the cortege left the church. The bearers were Messrs. F. Farnsworth, W. Barlow, C. Smith and G. Breeden, and the funeral arrangements were in charge of Mr. Eric Roy, near a friend of the deceased's from "Boyhood."

Mourners.

One member of the family, Mr. James H. Parkin, together with his wife and children, is resident in Canada, and was therefore, unable to attend.

The mourners were—Husband; Mrs. J. Smith, daughter; Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Parkin, son and daughter-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Parkin, son and daughter-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. A. Evans, daughter and son-in-law; Mr. G. Parkin, son; Miss Cirkett, son's fiancée; Mr. J. Smith, son-in-law; Mr. L. Smith, grandson; Mr. F. Pickard, brother-in-law; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Pickbourne, nieces; Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth, Mrs. Smith, senr., Mrs. Evans, Eunice and Audrey, friends; and a large number of members and friends of the East Kirkby Primitive Methodist Church.

Beautiful floral tributes bearing messages of sympathy and esteem were:—In loving memory of a devoted Wife, from her sorrowing Husband; Olive and John; Jim, Annie, Gordon and Ethel (Canada); Leonard and Ethel; Cyril, Minnie and Basil; Eva, Arthur, Olive and Roy; Gordon and Ethel; Leonard and Eunice; Fred, Lizzie and Family (Kilburn); Sam, Maria and Family (Kilburn); Mr. and Mrs. C. Cirkett and Mr. and Mrs. T. Holmes; Mr. and Mrs. H. Evans and Family (Mansfield); Mr. and Mrs. J. Robinson and Albert; Mr. and Mrs. A. Carter (Masperley); Mr. White, Mrs. Clover and Family; May Clover and Family; Doris, George and Children; W. Heath and Sons; Winnie and Ray; the Kirkby Old People's Treat Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Stableford; Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Smith; Mrs. Bird and Kenneth, Mrs. W. Bird and Miss Bird; Mr. and Mrs. Oakley (Sutton); Mr. W. Draycott and Mr. and Mrs. Luens; Jessie; the East Kirkby Primitive Methodist Bible Class; Mrs. G. Bowmar and Family; Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth; the East Kirkby Primitive Methodist Christian Endeavour Society; Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe; Edie; Mrs. Rogers and Family; Audrey. A marble vase was sent by the Primitive Methodist Ladies' Guild.

IN EVER LOVING
MEMORY OF
Sarah.
The dearly beloved Wife of
Henry Parkin.
Born Dec. 22nd. 1862.
Entered into rest, Jan.
5th, 1930.

A loving mother, true and kind,
She used to sit in front and read,
She always drove to the bus,
And now she's gone to take her
rest.

Do not know how much we miss
her,
None but loving hearts can tell,
None but you, our Heaven has
graced her.

Just look down all things well,
They will be done.

INTERRED IN KIRKBY CEMETERY.

*Left - Newspaper cutting related to Sarah Parkin's funeral
Right - bookmark as a memento from Sarah Parkin's funeral*