

More on Walter Scott Saunders

1841 Census

Our starting point is the 1841 Census. Here we find a Saunders family living at Brading in the Isle of Wight. Robert, a butcher born at Brading, aged 35, heads the family. His wife Jane, also 35, was born at Bembridge, just a few kilometres to the east of Brading. This pair are the **grandparents** of Walter Scott Saunders.

They have five children, four daughters and one son, Henry (later Henry Robert) aged 7. Henry is the **father** of Walter Scott Saunders. Walter's **aunts** are Janetta 14, Ann 13, Edith 11, and Emma 1. A 75 year-old Ann Saunders, Robert's widowed mother, completes the family. She is Walter's **great-grandmother**. She was born at Brading as were all of Robert's and Jane's children. Her maiden name isn't known.

In this census it seems there was some rounding of ages of adults so that ages ended in 5 or 0. From later census ages it seems likely that Robert was about 38 and Jane 37. These ages have been used to calculate their birth years in the accompanying charts.

At the time of the census there were many Saunders families living on the Isle of Wight. It is likely that some of these were close relatives of Robert and his family, but no connections have been traced.

1851 Census

In the meantime Ann Saunders died in 1845. Her death certificate showed her age as 84, giving a birth year of around 1761. She was the widow of John Saunders, also a butcher. So John is the **great-grandfather** of Walter – no other details known.

In the census a rather reduced family now lives at Hill Street, Newchurch, a few kilometres south-west of Brading. They are Robert (still a butcher) and Jane with Janetta (now Jennetta) 24 and Emma 11. Jennetta is now a dressmaker – the first known of a long line of Saunders to show skills with a needle.

Edith, now 21, has left home and is a house servant elsewhere in Newchurch. Her sister Ann, who if alive would have been 23, has not been traced in this census or later. Henry Robert, now 17, has begun learning his profession starting as a draper's assistant. He is living in Newchurch in a household including a head draper and three more drapers' assistants.

1861 Census

Ten more years pass. If the census record is correct, Robert has changed occupation and is now a grocer. Jane and Emma, now 21, complete the immediate family, now living at Warwick Street, Newchurch. Grandson Henry Whitfield 4, **first cousin** of Walter and son of Jennetta is staying with Robert and Jane. Further along the same street, Jennetta, still a dressmaker, lives with her cabinet-maker husband Charles Whitfield, born about 1830 at Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Edith is now married to grocer Charles Way, born c1830. They are living at 6 Brunswick Place, West Cowes, Isle of Wight. Henry Robert is still pursuing his calling as a draper's assistant – temporarily on the mainland at Southampton.

In this census we find the first definite trace of Elizabeth Payne, later to become Walter's **mother**. Elizabeth, aged 24, is living at 39 Union Street, Newchurch. The other occupiers are three

male drapers and a female house servant. Elizabeth's occupation is 'mantle maker' – presumably of the cloak type. While the census is not clear, they all may have been employees of John Young, cordwainer (an archaic term for shoemaker) who with his wife and servant lived next door in 38 Union Street.

1871 Census

The decade ending in 1871 saw major changes in the extended family. Robert has died in 1868, aged 65. Son-in-law Charles Whitfield was the death informant. His death meant that widow Jane had to find work. The census shows her as a toy-shop keeper. Jane, as the head of the household at 151 High Street Ryde is now sharing her home with daughter Emma 30, and the Whitfield family, Jennetta, Charles and son Henry. Perhaps because of Robert's death, Emma has taken up dressmaking. Jennetta is still a dressmaker, with her son Henry at age 14 following his uncle Henry Robert as a draper's assistant.

Edith and her husband Charles Way, now an unemployed master mariner, are living at George Street, Ryde. There are three female visitors in the household – probably boarders Edith has taken in to help make ends meet.

In the meantime Henry Robert Saunders had started a family of his own. On 4 October, 1866 draper Henry Robert Saunders married Elizabeth Payne, the 'mantle maker' from the 1861 census. All else we know of Elizabeth is that she was the daughter of a Benjamin Payne, a house servant, and had been born at Southsea on Portsea Isle. Southsea was (and is) the first port of call for persons from the Isle of Wight journeying by sea to mainland England. The witnesses at the wedding were Henry's sister Emma and his brother-in-law, Charles Way.

At marriage the couple's address was High Street, Ryde. There they had two sons by the time of the 1871 census – William Henry Saunders, born 1868, and **Walter Scott Saunders** born 1870.

This is the family at census date. Perhaps matters are looking up for Henry, because he is able to have a 15 year-old servant girl resident in the house.

1881 Census

By this date there were more deaths in the extended family. Jane, Walter's grandmother, has died early in 1881 before the census was taken. His aunt Edith, is now a widow, living at 9 George Street, Ryde. She is a lodging house keeper with three lodgers. Her sister Emma, now described as a milliner and dressmaker, also lives with her. Her other sister Jennetta has also lost her husband. She is living at 151 High Street, Ryde with a lodger and a visitor – probably another lodger. Her son Henry Whitfield has by this time moved to the mainland.

Henry and Elizabeth are still living at 11 High Street, Ryde. Walter has two more siblings – Cecil Frederick born c1872 and Daisy Ethel born c 1874.

1891 Census

The 1880s saw more deaths and the exodus of the Saunders family from the Isle of Wight – after perhaps centuries of residence there.

Some of the Saunders have not been traced in the 1891 census but we make their acquaintance again in 1901.

No proven trace of Walter's mother Elizabeth has been found since the 1881 census. In the next twenty years there were five Elizabeth Saunders deaths on the Isle of Wight and a further twenty in the county of Hampshire of which the Isle of Wight forms part. It seems likely that Elizabeth was one of these. If she died early in the twenty year period she would have left young children in the care of father Henry Robert.

Cecil, Walter's brother, died in 1890, on the Isle of Wight. Daisy, Walter's sister, like her father Henry and aunt Edith wasn't traced in the 1891 census.

Emma Saunders is now manageress of a boarding house at 45 Clarence Parade, Portsea. She has four female lodgers. The other sister Jennetta has also moved to Portsea Isle and is living 'on own means' with her son Henry, who had married Fanny Louisa Mills at East Preston in 1883. Henry, the only known cousin of Walter Scott Saunders is now 34 and a 'hosier's assistant'. He and Fanny now have three sons, Herbert 7, Frank 6 and Arthur 1.

Walter and his remaining brother William are now both drapers' assistants in London – never to return to the Isle of Wight. William was one of forty young people, thirty eight of whom were single, living at 2-12 Commercial Street, Whitechapel. They were mostly drapers' assistants with a predominance of males. Perhaps they all worked for some large emporium.

Walter lived in a smaller establishment at 4 Cheapside, St Michael Le Querne, London. He was one of twelve single drapers' assistants of whom five were male and seven female. And surprise – one of the seven was Florence Hoy who he was to marry six years later.

1901 Census

In the ten years between the 1891 and 1901 census both the surviving Saunders brothers married and started families of their own. Their marriages were both in the March quarter of 1897 – William to Caroline Kate Farrow and Walter to Florence Anne Hoy.

About 1899, William and Caroline had a son Cecil, named after the brother who had died in 1890. At the 1901 census this family is not living at home but are shown as visitors at a family of Clarkes in Newport. William is apparently a commercial traveller in 'boot dressings'?

Walter Scott Saunders and wife Florence had three children in this time. Marjorie Florence was born in 1897 at Highbury in London. She was followed in 1899 by twins Dorothy Alice and Kathleen Daisy who both died of meningitis that same year. The 1901 census shows the family, Walter, Florence and Marjorie, living at 116 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex. Walter is still described as a draper's assistant. The family has two male boarders, one from Liverpool and one from Wales, living with them.

Neither Walter's aunt Jennetta Whitfield nor her son Henry, Walter's cousin, were traced in the 1901 census. But Walter's sister Daisy, now 27, turns up at 449-465 Hackney Road, Bethnal Green. She is sharing accommodation with 37 others, mostly single, mostly in their twenties, and mostly draper's assistants, as is Daisy.

Walter's father, Henry Robert Saunders also surfaces. Henry, aged 67, no occupation, was living with his sister Emma, single, aged 60, lodging house keeper. So was widowed sister Edith, aged 71. Several lodgers completed the household. They were living at Southsea, Portsea Isle.

After 1901.

In 1902 Walter and Florence had another child Hilda. Before the next child was born the family had moved to Scotland as outlined in *The Saunders Family* .

With no more census data available, not a lot is known of the family they left behind. We learn that Henry Robert Saunders, father of Walter, died on 25 September 1906 in East Suffolk hospital, Ipswich. The death informant was his daughter-in-law Caroline Kate Saunders. At the time Caroline, and presumably husband William and any children, lived at 525 Bramford Road, Ipswich.

Walter's sister Daisy married the following year, but no details of her husband and children, if any, are known.

Looking at this English background which finished at the beginning of the twentieth century, we find that Walter's father, his only surviving brother, his one sister, and his only known cousin were all drapers. Of his three aunts that we know of, two became dressmakers. Then Walter married a draper. His mother had been a 'mantle maker'. Is it surprising that his daughter Marge trained as a tailoress and milliner and daughter Maisie became a buyer for women's apparel stores, or that later together they would run a women's clothing shop at Coorparoo in Queensland?

Scotland

The Saunders Family has Florence and her six surviving children emigrating to Queensland in the mid 1920s, leaving Walter in Glasgow. In Queensland all the children were to marry and between them have seven children. Walter was never to know any of his grandchildren, just as they were never to know him.

So what became of Walter? He was to live on in Glasgow for another quarter of a century, apparently in the same area as the family had lived. He died at 116 Pollok Street Glasgow on & March, 1950.