

## 86: William Hughes Tozer

### Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: W. H. Tozer

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 20th Bn. London Regiment

Service Number: 5556

Date of Death: 07 September 1916

Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Neston Cemetery, Raby Road, Neston

Additional information given by CWGC: None

William Hughes Tozer was the sixth, and final, child of Thomas and Jane Tozer (née Hughes) of Neston. Thomas Tozer was a son of publican John and Elizabeth Tozer who kept the Coach & Horses in Neston where John had, previously, been recorded as a carrier. Thomas is known also to have served on the District Council.

With strong connections to Neston Female Friendly Society Elizabeth Tozer (née Pyke) was descended from the Society's founder-member Ellen (Elinor) Pyke and an abbreviated lineage of the family is shown on the following page.

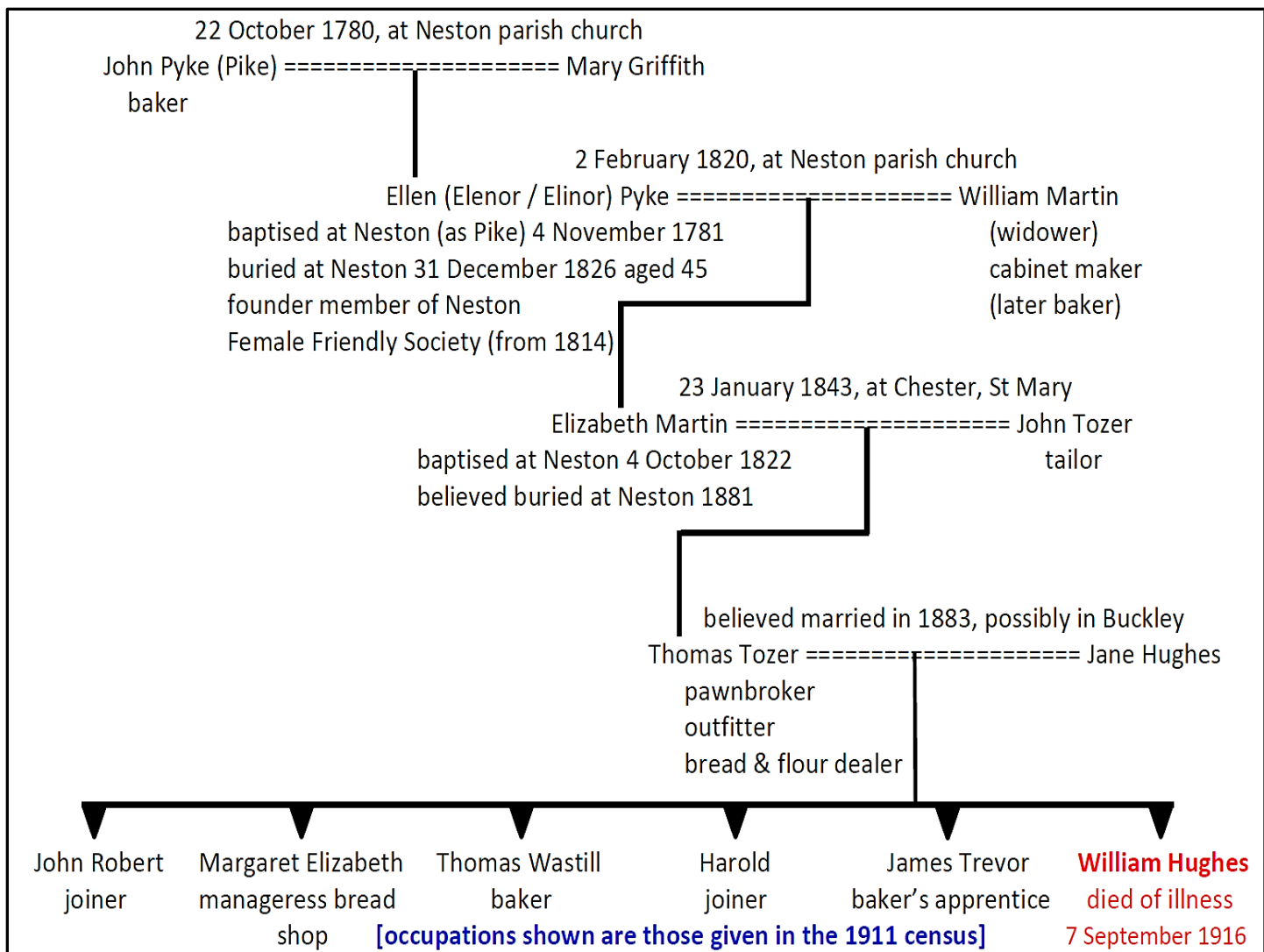
William's brother, James Trevor Tozer, enlisted in the Army Reserve in August 1916 and, as a baker, served with the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Bakery (and was transferred to the 488 Coy. Royal Army Service Corps. [Service Number 295477]) but may not have seen service abroad. Another brother, Thomas Wastill Tozer, was also recorded as being a Private when he attended William's funeral in September 1916 and he is known to have served with the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment (Service No. 243992).

William Tozer was baptised at Neston 9 October 1896 when his father was recorded as a pawnbroker and in the 1901 census Thomas was a 'pawnbroker and outfitter'. In 1901 they were living, as they had been in 1891, on Neston High Street:

|            |   |                |          |   |    |   |                        |          |                |
|------------|---|----------------|----------|---|----|---|------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 28 High St | 1 | Thomas Tozer   | Head     | M | 42 | ✓ | Pawnbroker & Outfitter | Non act. | Neston do      |
|            |   | Jane Tozer     | Wife     | M | 39 | ✓ |                        |          | Neston do      |
|            |   | John R. do     | Son      | S | 16 | ✓ | Joiner's apprentice    | Worker   | Buckley Hunt & |
|            |   | Margaret E. do | Daughter | S | 15 | ✓ |                        |          | Buckley do     |
|            |   | Thomas W. do   | Son      | S | 12 | ✓ |                        |          | Neston Ches    |
|            |   | Harold do      | Son      | S | 10 | ✓ |                        |          | do do          |
|            |   | James T. do    | Son      | S | 7  | ✓ |                        |          | do do          |
|            |   | William H. do  | Son      | S | 4  | ✓ |                        |          | do do          |

1901 census (extract) – High Street, Neston

|              |    |                        |              |
|--------------|----|------------------------|--------------|
| Thomas Tozer | 42 | pawnbroker & outfitter | born Neston  |
| Jane         | 39 |                        | born Buckley |
| John R.      | 16 | joiner's apprentice    | born Buckley |
| Margaret E.  | 15 |                        | born Neston  |
| Thomas W.    | 12 |                        | born Neston  |
| Harold       | 10 |                        | born Neston  |
| James T.     | 7  |                        | born Neston  |
| William H.   | 4  |                        | born Neston  |



### The relationship of William Hughes Tozer to the Pyke and Martin families of Neston

Note: This is an abbreviated lineage which shows only selected individuals. William Hughes, the subject of this account, is shown in **red**.

Ellen Pyke had one other daughter, Sarah Martin, who married (in Liverpool on 13 May 1855) widower William Morrison, a joiner from Scotland. Sarah died at her home, the Old Vicarage, and she was buried at the Parish Church on 21 February 1891 aged 69. She had been a member of Neston Female Friendly Society for 47 year and had served as the Society's Benefit Stewardess. Sarah's daughter, Ann, married master mariner Louis Henry Pakenham Walsh in 1885 and two of their children were in military service in WW1:

- Robert Pakenham Walsh served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1918.
- Louis Pakenham Walsh served as Captain in the Cheshire Regiment, Royal Flying Corp and the RAF and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in January 1918.

In the 1911 census William's father, Thomas Tozer, is recorded with dual occupations - a 'pawnbroker & outfitter etc' and, added afterwards by the enumerator, a 'bread & flour dealer'. In that census William's sister, Margaret Elizabeth is shown as being the manageress of a bread shop - and two other siblings were employed in the business - so it appears that the family business had broadened:

| CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.   |                                 |                              |                             |         |    |    |   |    |   |                |                             |  |            |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----|----|---|----|---|----------------|-----------------------------|--|------------|
| Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.  |                                 |                              |                             |         |    |    |   |    |   |                |                             |  |            |
| The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.  |                                 |                              |                             |         |    |    |   |    |   |                |                             |  |            |
| NAME AND SURNAME   | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. | AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. | PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. |         |    |    | PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. |    |   |                | BIRTHPLACE of every person. | NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. | INFIRMITY. |
| <p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>  |                                 |                              |                             |         |    |    |   |    |   |                |                             |  |            |
| <p>For Infants under one year state the age in months at "under one month," "one month," etc.</p> <p>Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.</p> <p>Completed years the present marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."</p> <p>State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—</p> <p>Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)</p> <p>Total Children Born Alive.</p> <p>Children still Living.</p> <p>Children who have died.</p> <p>Personal Occupation.</p> <p>The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, etc.</p> <p>If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</p> <p>Industry or Service with which worker is connected.</p> <p>This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here.</p> <p>No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment.</p> <p>If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body.</p> <p>(See Instructions 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</p> <p>Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.</p> <p>Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer," (2) "Worker" (that is, working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is, neither employer nor working for a trade employer).</p> <p>Whether Working at Home.</p> <p>Write the words "at home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.</p> <p>(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.</p> <p>(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.</p> <p>(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.</p> <p>(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."</p> <p>NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.</p> <p>State whether—</p> <p>(1) "British subject by parentage,"</p> <p>(2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalization.</p> <p>(3) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded,"</p> <p>(4) "Fettered," or "Infirm,"</p> <p>(5) "Totally Blind," or "Dead and Dumb."</p> <p>If any person included in this Schedule is—</p> <p>(1) "Totally Blind," or "Dead and Dumb,"</p> <p>(2) "Totally Blind," or "Dead and Dumb,"</p> <p>(3) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded,"</p> <p>(4) "Fettered," or "Infirm,"</p> <p>(5) "Totally Blind," or "Dead and Dumb,"</p> <p>state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.</p> |                                 |                              |                             |         |    |    |   |    |   |                |                             |  |            |
| 1.   | 2.                              | 3.                           | 4.                          | 5.      | 6. | 7. | 8.  | 9. | 10.   | 11.            | 12.                         | 13.  | 14.        |
| Thomas Tozer   | Head                            | 53                           |                             | Married | 28 | 6  | 6   |    | Pawnbroker & outfitter etc / bread & flour dealer | Employer       |                             | Neston cheshire  |            |
| Jane Tozer   | Wife                            | 49                           |                             | Do      | 28 | 1  | 1   |    |   | Assistant      |                             | Buckley Flintshire                                     | 4-50       |
| John Robert Tozer  | Son                             | 26                           |                             | Single  |    |    |   |    | Joiner 210  | Buckley, Wale  | Worker at home              | Buckley Flintshire                                     | 1          |
| Margaret Elizabeth Tozer   | Daughter                        | 25                           |                             | Single  |    |    |   |    | Manageress bread shop 216                         | Worker at home | Worker at home              | Neston cheshire  |            |
| Thomas Wastill Tozer   | Son                             | 22                           |                             | Single  |    |    |   |    | Baker 225   | Worker at home | Worker at home              | Neston cheshire  |            |
| Harold Tozer   | Son                             | 20                           |                             | Single  |    |    |   |    | Joiner 210  | Worker at home | Worker at home              | Neston cheshire  |            |
| James Trevor Tozer   | Son                             | 17                           |                             | Single  |    |    |   |    | Baker's apprentice 215                            | Worker at home | Worker at home              | Neston cheshire  |            |
| William Hughes Tozer   | Son                             | 14                           |                             |         |    |    |   |    |   |                |                             | Neston cheshire  |            |
| Mary Hughes  | Sister-in-law                   | 49                           |                             | Single  |    |    |   |    | Visitor   |                |                             | Buckley Flintshire                                     | 4-56       |

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—

(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper columns.

(2) I have entered the male and female in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have entered their sex with the total number of persons.

(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: *John*

| Total | Males | Females | Persons |
|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| 6     | 5     | 8       | 9       |

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Thomas Tozer*

Postal Address: *High st Neston cheshire*

9 room

## 1911 census – High Street, Neston

|                      |    |   |              |
|----------------------|----|---|--------------|
| Thomas Tozer         | 53 | pawnbroker & outfitter etc / bread & flour dealer | born Neston  |
| Jane                 | 49 | assisting in business                             | born Buckley |
| John Robert          | 26 | joiner  | born Buckley |
| Margaret Elizabeth   | 25 | manageress bread shop                             | born Neston  |
| Thomas Wastill Tozer | 22 | baker   | born Neston  |
| Harold               | 20 | joiner  | born Neston  |
| James Trevor         | 17 | baker's apprentice                                | born Neston  |
| William Hughes Tozer | 14 |   | born Neston  |
| Mary Hughes          | 49 | sister-in-law , visitor                           | born Buckley |

Thomas and Jane had been married for 28 years and all their 6 children had survived.

Although we do not have William's Service Record it was reported that William had enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in about September 1915 but was transferred to the 2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion London regiment some time later.

The 2/20<sup>th</sup> (Blackheath and Woolwich) Battalion, London Regiment was a unit of the Territorial Force with their HQ at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath - this site was bombed during WW2 and the majority of their early records were destroyed.

On 24 June 1916 the Battalion landed at Le Havre but the newspaper report notes that William was taken ill after about three months on active service, rather than wounded ('whilst in the trenches contracted sickness'), and was brought back to Britain and died in Ruchill Hospital in Glasgow, probably very shortly before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. No details of his illness and death are known and it is unclear as to why he was in Glasgow although Ruchill specialised in infectious diseases and fevers.



# Came Home to Die.

## Neston Soldier's Sad Fate.

It was with great regret that the news was received of the death of Private W. H. Tozer, which occurred at a hospital in Glasgow. He was the youngest son (aged 20) of Mr. and Mrs. T. Tozer, of High-street, Neston, and joined the R.A.M.C. twelve months ago. He was afterwards transferred to the London Regt., and had been on active service three months when he was taken ill and brought to this country, where, despite every care and attention, he passed away on Thursday. Although of a quiet disposition, he was highly esteemed, and his death at the early age of 20 years has caused much sorrow to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. An account of the funeral,

Birkenhead News – Saturday 16 September 1916



Private W. H. TOZER.

which took place at Neston on Tuesday, appears in our County Edition.



The Tozer family grave in Neston Cemetery



Liverpool Echo - Monday 11 September 1916

TOZER—September 7, at Glasgow, from sickness contracted while serving with the 2/20 London Regiment, aged 20 years, Private William Hugh Tozer, youngest son of Thomas and Jane Tozer, of High-street, Neston. Funeral service at Neston Church, to-morrow (Tuesday), at 3.15 p.m.; interment at Neston Cemetery, at 4.45. (Friends please accept this—the only—intimation.)

Cheshire Observer - Saturday 16 September 1916

Mr. and Mrs. Tozer and Family wish to Thank all those kind friends who sent floral tributes and kind letters of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement—High-street, Neston.

| Name.                          | Corps.          | Rank. | Regt. No. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| TOZER,                         | 2nd Lond. Regt. | Pte   | 5556      |
| Wm. H.                         |                 |       |           |
| Medal.                         | Roll.           | Page. | Remarks.  |
| VICTORY                        | TP20/104B       | 28.   |           |
| BRITISH                        | do              | do    |           |
| STAR                           |                 |       |           |
| Theatre of War first served in |                 |       |           |
| Date of entry therein          |                 |       |           |

British Army WWI Medal Rolls  
Index Cards, 1914-1920



### Impressive Military Funeral.

The chief mourners were:—Mr. Tozer, Tozer (father), Mrs. Hy. Norman (sister), Mr. John Robert Tozer, Ede. T. Wastell Tozer, and Mr. Jas. Trevor Tozer (brothers), Mr. Hy. Norman (brother-in-law), Mr. Jas. Tozer and Mr. Henry Tozer (uncles), Mrs. D. Hughes (aunt), Miss Stella Hughes (cousin), Mrs. F. Danton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Mewham, Mr. Jas. Lamb, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Wain, Miss F. Jones (banquet of the), Miss Jones and Miss M. Jones (cousins). A detachment of wounded soldiers, numbering about 50, from the Red Cross Hospital, Chester-road, Neston, and representatives of the V.A.D. The general mourners were:—Messrs. Thos. Pughett, E. Hooke, Chas. Grimes, Ed. Grimes, Chas. E. Senior (surgeon), Henry Norman (Little Neston), J. R. Hughes, A. D. Prentice, Joe. Pyke, Wm. Okill, (Parkgate), Jas. Smith, Smith, Rd. Smith (Parkgate), Geo. Smith (Parkgate), Mr. Alf. Caswell (Chasely), Thos. Maylor, Thos. Postock, Wm. Birch, J. Thompson, Mr.


Wreaths were sent by the following:—  
Father, Mother, and Brothers; Bessie and Harry; Aunt, Privates S. and R. Hughes; Uncle, Aunt, and Cousin (Buckley); Uncle Henry and Cousin (Queens Ferry); Cousin Ted, Maggie, and Hilda (Buckley); Miss Lacy; Mr. and Mrs. Pearson; Mrs. Parry and Jessie; Little Jim Matthews; Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe; Mr. and Mrs. Cowell; George Pyke; Mr. and Mrs. Hunter; Mrs. E. Meadows; John Griffiths; Mrs. Lundy and Miss Davies; Kitty and Hilda Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge street); Mr. and Mrs. Abel; Mrs. Bleasdale; Mrs. Campion; Mrs. Hedley; John Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis (Colliery); Mrs. Kelly.

Police Sergt. Beo and two constables conducted the traffic while the procession passed through the streets. A very large crowd assembled at the Cemetery.

Birkenhead News – Wednesday 20 September 1916

William's mother Jane Tozer died on 4 August 1924 aged 63 and his father, Thomas, died 18 October 1936, aged 78. They are buried at Neston Cemetery.

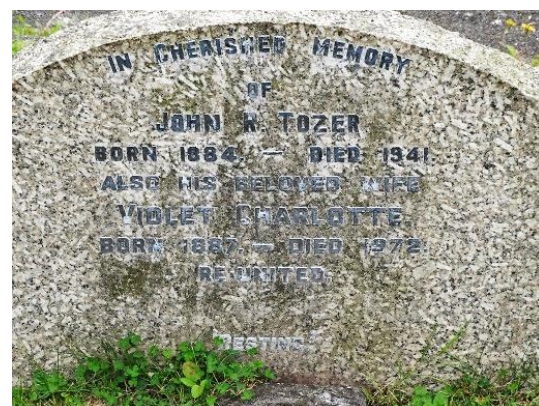
Of William's siblings it is known that:

John Robert Tozer married Violet Charlotte Witt,  a housemaid living in Hoylake (born in Birkenhead) at St Hildeburgh Church, Hoylake, in late 1919. John died in mid-1941 aged 57 and Violet (born 13 August 1887) died in mid-1972 aged 84. They are buried at Neston Cemetery.

John, with an interest in pigeon-racing, had been a well-known and successful member of The Neston & District Homing Society.

Margaret Elizabeth Tozer married Harry Norman, a builder (born Little Neston) who, in 1911 (when recorded as a joiner) was living at 'West View', Church Road, Neston, at Neston Parish Church on 26 December 1914. Harry was then 29 and Margaret, of Neston High Street, was 28. Margaret's brother Thomas was a witness.

Thomas Wastill Tozer (born 2 May 1888) died in late 1964 aged 76. He served with the Cheshire Regiment during WW1 (Service N<sup>o</sup>. 241202) and on 18 September 1917 was reported to have been wounded. In the 1939 Register, single, he was living on his *own account* at Neston Cross - no number was given for the building.



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18 1904 Marriages solemnized at Chas. in the County of Chas.

| No. | Where Solemned | Name and Residence      | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at the time of Marriage | Partner's Name and Residence | Partner's Profession |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 51  | Baltimore Md   | Harry Norman            | 24  | Bachelor  | Painter            | Chas. Road, Md                    | Henry Norman                 | Painter              |
| 19  |                | Margaret Elizabeth Toyn | 28  | Spinster  |                    | Hgh Street, Md                    | Thomas Toyn                  | Bookbinder           |

Married in the County of Chas. according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence Master W. M. Harris

This Marriage was solemnized between SA. Harriet E. Harris in the presence of SA. William C. Hill



