

This is my life's story

by Lily

I was Born 25/9/1914 at 1 Pleasant View, Walsden, Todmorden.

My mother was expecting me on the 25 September when my Father was called up to go to 1914-1918 War. He did not come back he was killed at Darnelles so I never saw him. My mother was left with me youngster and our Nellie next & Wilfred oldest lad.



My mother was Born 19 June 1887 Back Peel Terrace, Stafford, her name was Nellie Dean girl of Abraham Dean & Ellen Dean formerly Devereux she came to Walsden to get work and got on with my Dad Fred Fielder son of Harry Fielder Todmorden married and then he had to go to War 1st Lancashire Fusiliers my mother died when I was just 3 years old & she is buried at Cross stones Church on the Hill at Todmorden.

My aunt Vinnie and uncle Fred Stott my mothers sister adopted us 2 girls & my Grandma at Todmorden adopted Wilfred Arthur. He had his voice trained to a Bass singer & played in Rose Marie, Green fingers and many plays in Todmorden. He was in Castlemere Methadist Church Choir & his wife too Ivy she also was a singer. He died just 51 yrs without children & his wife still lives in Todmorden No. 2 Fielden ST. She still likes to go to hear the male voice choirs sing. He was a great man good to old & young and to me. He died in Halifax Infirmary after Hardening of Arties.



When I was a little girl called Lily Fielder I was born in Walsden. I had a elder sister Nellie Fielder who was older and an older brother Wilfred Arthur Fielder who was brought up with my Grandmother Mrs. Fielder & Harry Fielder Grandad us 2 girls was adopted with my mother's sister Lavinia Dean then she married a man from Milnrow Fred Stott who was a policeman in Ashton Police station. We were not at Ashton long before my uncle Fred bought a Farm Middle Hill, Wardle. I would be about 3 or 4 then as my mother had died and my father was killed in ardenelles in 1914 war of the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers at 51 years old.



I went to Hallfold School Whitworth after a 2½ mile walk over Brown Wardle moors & down Whitworth Rake to school never late. I had to help to carry up Bread & Lampoil to the farmhouse on my way home from school. I used to like singing at school & I sang all the way home in summer I would walk home in my bare feet in the condewit which ran round Wardle till I left Brown Wardle old road to enter Middle Hill & I would pass about 2 or 3 farms on my way home it was very bad in Winter when the snow used to drift very high I have got lost a few times and my uncle would meet me and carry me home on his shoulder high he was so big & tall & strong.



We had all good food to eat as my auntie used to cook for all the Police at Ashton station before we took the farm. We knew who lived on all the farms dotted about. One lady died called Mrs. Jones and they had to carry her to the main road across the valley. It was nice at school we used to pay ½d for a cup of hot Horlicks half milk & half water it used to warm us up. When my hands had froze out lessons would begin not before we said prayers & sung one hymn & I use to love singing. My brother had his voice trained & became a trained bas singer at Todmorden Olimpic where he was in plays like Rose Marie out of Desert Song. He was fair blue eyes & so tall & a good Sunday School & was in the choir he was great to old & young but died with hardening of the arterties in Halifax Hospital at age of 51 years. He left Ivy who was also a singer they had no children. His wife is still No. 2 Fielden Street Todmorden. My sister was very well built & eat plenty of her meals auntie use to call her big bear. As the rice pudding was in a big dish & she would wait to empty it. We were brought up very strict. We said a psalm before we started to eat I remember it now Christ is the Head of this house the unseen guest at every meal the silent listener at every conversation.



As by now I was joining in all the sport at school we used to play another school to win such as Lloyd Street School or Leavengreave Shawclough. I liked hockey & cricket not tennis, cookery & history lesson. Sewing class too. As I got older I had to leave Hallfold School to go to Tonnacliffe school, when I left I got chance to go to Littleborough Central school but my uncle said it was too far when it was dark when I had to come home so I had to go for a job. I got a job at Roads Mill mercerising I had to iron hem stuck handkerchiefs for men but I was only on ½ day so I had to go back at dinner time & make myself useful feeding a calf, washing up, blackleading the grate as we had coal fire with a oven at one side where my auntie used to make oven bottom muffins for us and homemade cakes & puddings & rice pudding with milk that was very sweet.



My uncle could kill a pig those days & on the stone down on the cellar was a well & he used to salt the sides of bacon on the stone & my auntie would get the butter churn out & make her own butter. I use to love to drink some of the butter milk & she used to make some cream cheese & put it in muslin & hang it from the wood beam to drip. We had a small greenhouse where we had our own tomatoes growing they were all good substantial food she could cook.



As I watch her I used to love it & now I too like to cook too. I had had dipthreria & I got rematic fever as I had to have spring water & watercress grown in the stream the water was lovely then & my auntie used to make her own ginger beer too. Parkin was good too. Anyway, as my sister had left school she went straight in the cardroom at Dura Mill Whitworth & I got a job in Facit Mill in ringroom but I was always feeling ill in there & lied down in the side alley. It was a good walk to work just like it was to school.



Every Sunday we had to go to Watergrove Chapel & on Whit Friday we had a new print frock & the band would play & we had races it was a treat for us. What a nice little chapel it was & plenty went every Sunday. The Parson used to visit the farm where he got a nice piece of cake & drink of tea. We had a collie dog called Trouser on a lead near his kennel at the porch of the farm he was a nice dog. We had 2 or three cats too for the farm they never used to come inside only if it going to snow and they used to sit with backs to the fire & my auntie always said it was a sign of snow.



My uncle had plenty of hens & put a water wheel up for it to run a generator for lights for his hencotes, then when the coal strike started he found out that he had coal up the hill so he opened a mine with colliers working for him from Shawforth Taylors coal merchant used to collect it to sell it round to the houses in Whitworth, Facit & Shawforth. George Taylor & Jack Taylor became a policeman at Blackpool & he sat side by side with me at Hallfold School. My auntie had a girl which died & then Nora came along & my cousin. I had to take her to school too every day.



My sister was grown up then to a young woman & wanted to go to live in the village at her friend Grace Knott & left the farm & I missed her very much but I had Nora to see to. My auntie lived till she was 89 years old in a Bungalow at Hest Lane, Lancaster & uncle died before her & left all her belongings to Nora her only daughter beautiful furniture such Queen Ann chairs show cabinette a lovely big bed & Nora had been married to James Wilson who died with cancer of the stomach & she has been a widow since & works to this day at Grey Cotes Guest House, Lancaster as a cook like her mother & she loves Middle Hill & loves walking she hikes up to the Lakes on her holidays. It is a 3 bedroom Bungalow & in her garden she loves to feed the grey doves birds & a horse over the fence the country life are still with her.



The Waterworks decided to buy the farm & my uncle at the time bought another farm up Shaw which I did not want to go to that area so my sister had me go to live with her & I got a job at Carrington & Dewhurst, Smallbridge silk weaving mill. She would not let me go back to my uncle & aunt she said it would be too much for me. I went to my holidays to Prestatyn Wales & got on with a boy from Shawclough Sidney Tattersall of Thrum Hall Lane. We got married at Zion Methodist Chapel & got a house Granville St. Rochdale & I worked still at Smallbridge. Was a back to back house & I got a house up Shawclough 13 Clarence Street & had my 1st baby Graham who was born 10/9/1938.



I was married at 1st August 1936 then the war broke out & I had my 2nd son Sidney Winston Tattersall & Sidney went to join up with R.A.F. We were on food coupons & clothes chits. We had blackouts at night so no lights could give us away so we would not be bombed. I used to push my pram down Shawclough Road to the bottom to shop at the Pioneers Co-op pay my coal bill there too & our divi used to come in handy to buy something for the children.



After two years I had another baby Dorothy she was a smasher dark brown eyes & dark hair and plenty on when she was born she was a good baby & would sleep sound as a clock. I had plenty to do while Syd was away in R.A.F. bathtime in a tin bath on the rug near a open coal fire then when all was in bed & asleep I would scrub my nappies & boil them up so they would be ready to hang out on the line the morning after. I used to take Sid & Dott down for sun ray treatment in the pram as Sid was a bit knock kneed & Dott a bit bow leg & now they as straight as anything. Then I would push the pram from Town to Shawclough back & start to get the tea going & feeds then same routine bath & change to their nighties & to bed & me to wash all the nappies again. I could do lots of jobs sometimes it was 1 o'clock before I got to bed.



I spent a lot of time at the infirmary as Graham got pushed at school & broke his leg in 2 places then he got acute appendicitis & was in infirmary again. Sidney my 2nd son broke his arm & then broke the other arm Dorothy broke her leg while she jumped off outhouse roof. We moved into a new council house up Greave Avenue & I stayed there till 21 years



Had a big garden at the rear & one at the front it was nice then on Greave every one kept their gardens nice & tidy with all colours of flowers in if you did not you would get a notice to quit those days. We had good workmen in those days Plumber Mr. Blair joiner was good everyone did a good job. The children love it & use to help weed the garden I grew Parsley Gooseberries potatoes raspberries strawberries & Sydney dad crazy paved a lot of paths too.



After 21 years bringing the children up we were as we could not do the garden it got too much & we left to go to Grouse Street off Whitworth Road till Father Syd took to pneumonia & after 2 years being ill went to Birch Hill Hospital to have a ullsaw out & was in intensive care unit 8 days but after all that he died Thursday October 13 1983 he was 73 years old.



We had put in for a warden controlled Bungalow Hamer Hall Crescent but he never made it we had a grave a new one as he wished where Dott & children used to pick bluebells & bring them home for me so I had a funeral & a flitting & I am here to remeber all the years which have passed on the farm getting married I now do not keep too well but with a little help I get by & now I have 11 grandchildren 4 great grandchildren & had a lot of wedding to go to & still going to 2 more in October all being well & if God spares me.



My oldest boy Graham has a good job & Sidney has been a teacher down Stafford where my mother was born she was called Nellie Dean & married Fred Fielder I have her birth certificate from Stafford. Dorothy is quite clever too & Brenda is a nurse. Jack my youngest boy is a good joiner although I say it myself & looks at me quite a lot like Dorothy Graham too Sidney from Stafford too it makes you feel wanted in a terrible World like it has got. I have got to 73 years old but reemiss my childhood days picking marsh marigolds may flowers violets clover buttercups down the valley from the farm which stands in ruins now the 3 trees are still there I use to have a swing between two of them my uncle made it for us & I look back & think of all those simple Things like paddling in the brook & watching the birds an a nightingale will fly up all at once & do his bit of singing & the cuckoo echoing down Wardle – if only all these beautiful things were still here, they have all gone very



We had good summers then but bad winters of course – one day as a girl at the farm I woke up with a blanket of snow on top of my bed & I was snug & warm the bizzard had come threw the slates it was so fine the snow. I had a sledge & used to come down on it from top of the hill to was great. Times have changed now & a lot of thing are absolet such as price of sweets we could get a lot for our spense 6d a week - I got for shopping helping on the farm we were kept clean underneath my auntie would sew on her singer sewing machine our knickers liberty bodice flannel petticoats no finery on top always clean & tidy not a lot of toys we used to make our own fun in summer we would get a few empty tins cocoa tins little bottles fill them up with wee pebbles & make some soft clay & bake it is the sun for cakes. We had a lot of jobs & my auntie would say work first & play after.



We used to have to watch the chickens did not go up the ash hole near the fire when they had just come from my uncle's ingbaker (incubator) & get a empty strawberry basket put a nice piece of soft flannel in & sort the little lame chicks out & put them up on the warm hob to keep warm to see if they would make it. The other chicks were like a mass of bundles of yellow fluff. Then in the summer we had to go & stop the young ducks from going in a little drain we had where the field used to drain off. We had about 3 cows for our own use and we would have to clean the shippon out with a shovel & barrow. Then there were the pigs we have about 4 pigs & I used to think how they did smell, they had a trough where there food was prepared & they would stand in it fight in it & then decide to eat it. We used to have one big field with potatoes my uncle used to grow his own sort white wonders & we would pull them up spread them all out to dry & pick all the little potatoes out for supper you had only to wash them all put them in a pan & boil them & put a piece of farm butter on they were delicious.



My uncle would go to Whitworth Co-op & bring apples damaged for the pigs & bring his wheat & corn & provent & small biscuits mixed for the cattle it did not cost a lot then for things Bob Martins too & he could make our stuff grow & made it cheaper living. We had every colour of geraniums all in the broad stone window bottom very wide they were. We had stone floors in the farm house & a Welsh round table that was cleaned & scrubbed every day. We use to mop all the floors with a mop bucket & mop & when the fire was in it looked lovely a fire range with a little boiler at one side & over on the other & a Top Bar with real brass to clean & a brass fender & a sack down for a rug. We had all the games snakes & ladders draughts ivory Dominos which had come from Canada when my uncle & aunt went to live there near Quebec hair with beads pin on the wall to comb your hair & put a piece out of your head away in that.



My aunt always used Persil for washing the clothes & Doctor Lovelaces soap for washing us & Preseven? Soap to wash & scrub floor with a bit of common soda in. She was always active & showed us a of things we could do. We used to get all the old coats we had grown out of & cut them up & make peg rugs with a peg needle. I too now have made three peg rugs. We used to put them not on the floor but on the bed for warmth from the cold bedroom flagged floor with open roof & beams across. Then my uncle decided to put a wood floor in which he did it was a big job that. My auntie at night would get all the eggs washed & with a lamp would put every egg up to the light & test it for say a blood speck & cracked eggs, eggs with thin shells, these were all used in the baking nothing was wasted. We had two big bedrooms & a stone staircase, a kitchen & a set boiler in & that too was run off coal fire underneath & a big kitchen & a front room with a big mahogany sideboard in – lovely table & chairs cabinette with a lot of values in no one know how much



All this is left to Nora in the Bungalow my cousin. We used to hang our stocking up & get apple orange & tangerine orange pear nuts & sweets always boiled sweets then. My auntie Annie my uncles sister at Milnrow used to bring us toys which had been our cousins in town & chocolates in lovely big white boxes with red ribbon on & a photo of King George. Those were put away for a rainy day & my auntie would bring them out & we could have just 2 or three as she did not want to spoil your teeth. What she said went & not a word spoke back from us, we used to say can we leave the table before we sided it away & wash up that was every morning before we went to school. She always did our hair & cut it herself never had one note for a dirty head at all. We all got the flu one after the other & we could not cope & my auntie would Fennings Fever Cure & fill a cup & we had to drink it & don't ever remember her bringing the doctor to the farm once. She used to cure us with herbs etc. Zinc & castor oil ointment all the things she used to give us never to eat between meals that was my auntie's motto.



It was when I about 10 yrs I had to wear clogs them days, every night polish them up with Cherry Blossom shoe polish. As when we went to school morning after we toed the line & was to see who had clean clogs & show your hands to see if they were clean. If they were not you would have lines to do at playtime best punishment ever. I must clean my clogs about 50 times according what the teacher gave you. Mr. Cunliffe of Whitworth use to make our clogs for every walk of life it was always the thing by Sunday shoes & boots. In our front room we had a good typewriter & my uncle used to tell me to learn it but I was not interested in it & use to get a told off & sometimes the tears would fall. He said when you are going school count how many stileoles you go through how meadows you pass how many lodges for water he used to ask me how many farms were there & etc and he said it was 'Pelanism' to learn us. In winter my uncle would play us at draughts or ludo or snakes & ladders, dominoes & I never could win he used to win every time. Take off for huffing take about 3 or four off at once, take about 3 ludoes just for fun.



We had to go to bed early 8-0 latest & up early next morning we had a cow calfed & I use to have to give it its food & wash the pots from breakfast, our Nellie had to wipe them all after then off for our 2½ miles walk to school. All the time we lived at the farm no one ever touched us over the moors it was peaceful in our days of young.



We had a very bad windy night when I was 12 yrs old one of the roofs off a hencote blew clean up in the air & all the hens were we blown all over the place. My uncle caught of & put me one under arm & said hold tight to them, Lily, don't let them go, it was dark & only the light of a storm lamp it was awful I will never forget it to the day I die it blew me over & I had a job holding on to the hens, now I am terrible with feathers I go goosy at the thought to this day. Never known a gale like it. My uncle lost a few of his Highland Reds hens. Good table birds as many times my auntie would sell them pluck & clean them ready for the oven & take them with 2 big eggs baskets to her customers round by St. Patricks school.



Old Mrs. Land was a good customer she had Mrs. Walls too, I think they must have passed on Francis Land, son of Mrs. Land did a murder of a woman. I use to carry some of the eggs over the moors for my auntie on my way to school she use to make farm butter & sell it as fast as she could make it, she Mrs. Land was a grand lady & I always remember one day slipping in the snow with my wellington boots on & most of the eggs were broke. I got told off although it was a accident. We had always something to do to make a bob or two.



When it was haymaking time we used to have to help all out in the field Nellie on top of cart uncle putting the on, my auntie was putting the hay in piles & I was left to rake all the trailings up after. We would get a good supper for doing that, it was hard work I can tell you, my uncle would say not in my time but in your time Lily machine will become master of men & it has in the fields when where was little my uncle would set a few Irish men on to mow the hay & help & I had to take aunties home brewed ginger ale for them to have a drink in the big stone bottles. They were glad of it as we had very hot summer then.



One bad winter we had quite a lot of fog & a little boy from Littleborough was playing with mates & a farmer shouted to get off his land & home before they got lost in the fog they all ran off & Elex Jeninson got on his own & kept running on & some how got lost from his little mates he finished up right over the what was called The Long causeway & fell & his t ears were froze on his face & fingers on the cold moors every boby was out me & my sister Uncle & Auntie farmers off our farms round about trying to find him he was found after time deadengrosted he is buried in Wardle Church yard chapel There was a little cross put up to show where he fell it was like looking for a needle in a Haystack terrible on those moors.



The chapel is right across the Globe Pub & I used to Beer 2½ d jill that is going a bit back now. The village of Wardle hasn't altered all that much since I was a girl although some parts have. Rev MacIntrye was the Parson at the Parish Church & as you come down Wardle Road the Post Office is there the Conservative Club too some of the shops have gone. Mary Boothwaites was greengrocery & sold nearly everything that just at bottom of Ramsden Road & a great homebaked shop next door to Globe Inn she use to make muffins pies cakes delicious they were. I think they had that shop till they all died. Across from the Globe Inn was a big store where everything was there two. We only had ½ day holiday for Pancake Tuesday & all the apprentices used to run off religiously.



We never used to go away at holidays only to Todmorden over the moors up the long causeway & drop down a road by Ramsden Wood & get a bus to the Bus station to my Grandmas where my brother lived just the 2 of us Nellie & me & we would stay for a week, they used to make a fuss of us. I would have like to stayed & not go back to the farm. My brother would take us a walk right up to Crossstone Church there, we would look for our mothers grave which was near the wall very overgrown then and that is a long time ago now. He would take us round to Auntie Ada & Uncle Dick Brown who was caretaker of Todmorden Co-op Store. They are both dead now. Uncle Dick use to come to Rochdale to watch Rochdale Hornets Rugby & he was a nice man too.



My auntie Ada was my Dad's sister & when Wilfred use to take us to see her she would put a big spread on for tea as much as you could eat it was a real treat for us. She used to do a lot of tailoring she made me a broach with a pearl in the centre & lovely covers. My brother would have to go & practice his singing as he was a good Bass singing. He was in a play called Greenfingers & he use to make picking stitches at Sandhome mill Walsden & they were for the weaving looms at the mills. My father was on Walsden Station across the road I would go to the school which is still there today. I went when I was 3 years old & I can remember this everybody would put to cross their arms & put your head down for a reSt. The Tod folks always said I was dead spit of my mother mind she was a nice looking lady it must have been hard in War Days.



She would strave herself to give us they had to queue up for butter & many a time when they got there it was gone. I wished she could have lived I think it would have been nice we missed Mothers Love so young Dad killed at Dardanells quite young man we made orphans. My mother had Wilfred in Stubly Pike isolation Hospital with dipthrea & then my sister said she remembers him coming home & I got it & my mother fainted it realy put me backward & I was a long time before I got over it children were dying from this awful disease. I got a weak heart from this & I have still trouble with my heart I had a valve opened at Daveyhulme Park hospital so that I could breathe better I had Mr. Peter Hugh Jones who did my operation & he did a good job for me which I was very Grateful. I got over that & I was very active up to 2 winters ago after my hubbie had died.



Dr. Grice & Dr. Kelly who my doctors are well they have kept me going. Dr. Kelly died & Dr. Grice is now semey retired I hope I can see him for future years he is a Great man & knows his job. He knows it all what is to know for ailments do what he says & he will do his best for you. My family are married now with children of their own & I have got 11 grand children & 4 Great children & I sincerely hope that they grow as clever as my children.



When I grew up on the farm I was in my teens & joined the Girls Guides at Facit Methodist Chapel & friend Florence Baxter joined as well & at just in her Teens she got perarartus & died it was a shock for me & I never had a girl friend after she was such a nice girl & we got on fine. After that I used to go to the Shawclough Chapel school & we used to pay for a dance I had a nice lemon dress with four points on the bottom & long beads. We used to the Charlton Black Bottom. Mrs. Hippi dance barn dance it was just lovely. Many times I would have to leave before it was over so I could be back to the farm for 10 o'clock & no later are esle we would be denide next time when we wanted to go.



I used to go with some girls called Davis May & 2 more the family lived up Facit Brew & I used to call for them & we used to put lipstick on & make up at their house plenty of dances those days St. Patricks 6d Dance too we used to get the steam train down to Wardleworth Station Yorshire St it is not there now but we have had to run for the last train to home & then I had to go over the moors to the farm. I never met a soul all the times I have fled home at night after a night at the dances. Pictures were silent pictures at Whitworth & a lady used to play the piano & when it was a cowboy the lone Range & the horses were at a gallop everybody would stamp their feet it only cheap into the Pictures sometimes we go on the train down to Wardleworth & their was the Ceylon Pictures & Rihatler was at top of Drake Street & Carlton Ballroom 6d to go in for a dance. I saw Gone with the Wind at the pictures and I got the book & read all about it.



We had chip shops English as their were no Chinese & Indian are Pakinstans then & get 2d chips & 20d a fish 1d peas & they were good them days. One day The Rochdale Hunt & Hounds would come round by the farm they were nice The Hound dogs & Red & white gear the men on horse back & my uncle use to play the band about their horses hooves churning his field up. I was so maddening for him & as he used to lime? muck spread & try to get a field going. He made a pond for the Geese Ducks Etc he realy worked very hard as he was not born to be a farmer He was a policeman on beat before all his young days & when he retired to go farming we had an horse & Cart & the horse knew every word we would say to it & every Sunday morning it would scamper up to the Porch door of the farm & bang on the door till my auntie would give a piece of her good cake sweet? & it would not go away to the field till it had that one piece of cake. It was very sad one day it got in a swamp down the valley & as fast as it tried to get out it went further it was called Prince & my Uncle along with some more men & colliers planks of wood got it out at last & it pulled a fetlock in its ankle & limped after that all the time.



One of the pigs we had was having young & a little girl did not relize it & I kicked it in the belly & when it had its young ones it died leaving 12 little pigs to fed by hand by bottles with teats on I had to help to feed one & my sister Auntie & Uncle too till they could lap theirselves my uncle always said I cost the price of a good sow.



They were happy days but sad ones too. My sister got on with a boy called Billy Shepherd from Smallbridge & one day my uncle banged into him & her together in the village at Wardle & he gave them a good talking too but it made no difference as they had been courting a bit & she had never let on so she went on and married Billy at St. Johns Church Smallbridge & set up in a cottage next door to Hurstead Post Office. After I used to go & visit her & finally she had her 1st baby boy called Harold Shepherd he was a lovely baby & I used to go & wheel him out at afternoon Saturday up Halifax Road I used to meet the Bobby for Littleborough & he used to say Hello Lily you look at this child as if he was your own he was such a big baby for his age. I am Godmother to him & he is a grand lad to this day to his mum & wife.



When it came about the farm being sold for embasslement of a new Watergrove reservoir my uncle had to sell out and he went & bought another farm in Shaw as far off road as Middle Hill I had never been to Shaw & did not feel like moving there so I packed my things together one day & went to lodge at my sister as she told me not to go that farm, it would be much for me & I stayed at my sisters. My uncle went to my sisters to tell her I had to come back home but I did not I was working at Carrington Dewhurst silk mill down Smallbridge & I stayed there for a long time.



Ernest Halton was our boss & he had followed his father before him & his sister worked in the Office they lovely Satin Beater for shirts etc & they were nice people they lived up in a nice house up Wardle Road. Well that firm as gone too now. Weavers & Weft carriers employed quite a lot of people there. While I was at my sisters I went on a holiday to Prestatyn Wales with Mrs. Smith & daughter Murial & brother too we stayed in a furnished house in High Street there & I look back & think what a nice time we had.



On a Sunday we would go down to blue bell woods & sit & sing & listen to a boy called Jones he was a hairdresser & he was a right good singer & I would talk to one boy who was working in the fishmongers shop Williams he called & he was as brown as a berry he was a friend of the hairdresser's. They were nice boys those days religous too clean & tidy he wrote to me when I went home to my sisters but my sister hubbie said don't write back Lily you cannot trust a Welsh man I never answered that letter & I have never heard about him since that day to this.



On coming home from the Holiday I met Sidney coming down Drake Street mind you I had seen him quite a lot on the holiday but never bothered about them I had been to town & as I was going along he walked with me & said do you mind if I walk you home Lily, I said rather off handed you look as though you are doing that. He had kept saying on the holiday to his 2 friends I could marry Lily & he finally did. We set up in a one up one down back to back house Granville Street Rent 5/3 a week & I was there for over 2 years and then we moved up Shawclough with 1st baby Graham it was nice up there kind of Country which I had been used to – Syd joined up in R.A.F. there & the War was on after 2 years I had my 2nd Son Sidney he was a winy little lad & after another 2 years I had our Dorothy who was a good baby after 2 years I had Brenda, & we had put in for a bigger house on the Council we got one new up Greave Avenue and I was there for 21 years altogether.



All my five children are now married & families of their own Graham & Wendy have 2 Boys Sidney & Dorren have 5 children 4 girls & 1 boy I have got 11 Grandchildren & 4 Great Grand children. Plenty of Weddings have been in the past & now the Grandchildren are all getting married Craig Lee Tattersall is being Wed today 24/10/87 to Anglia Claire I am seeing a my eldest sons son married. I have 11 Grandchildren & 4 Great Grand children & 2 more are on the way March & September so that will be six altogether. I have been to some lovely Weddings & feasts etc.



Well I hope after this wet & windy winter we will have some decent weather as I am trying to get a week Holiday with Jessie another widow to Blackpool it is far enough now to travel & the air does me good. I then will get 1 week at my Grandsons Richard & Carol in July Staffordshire Holidays I am looking forward to that.



My mothers sister Lavinia lived till she was 89 yrs with my cousin Nora Nora loss her hubbie James with cancer and she is now a widow at Lancaster in the three bedroom Bungalow which my aunt & husband Fred left her it is nice there & she is still working at Grey Courts Hotel, Lancaster she likes walking a lot & when she gets her holiday she hikes up to the Lakes District she loves it up there she has quite a lot of Auntie & Uncle stuff big bed Queen Ann Queen Ann Chairs there used to be 6 of those but a cousin at Milnrow Sidney Stott as two he is a batholator & goes to Nora plenty. They get on well together. She is getting on now as we go no older & she had a tumour at back of her neck & they did a good job for her at Preston Royal Infirmary. I went to see her in there & everyone was so nice. We keep in Touch with letters & birthday cards and Xmas cards. Jamie was a nice lad a Scots lad & she thought the world of him.



Well time keeps going on I lead a lonely life but I must say I have got a very good family & I get took up to their houses are bungalow Graham & Wendy have got a nice Bungalow & I sometimes go back in his car & enjoy my dinner which is wife cooks. She has a nice personality & Graham is very considerate. My 2nd son Sidney is a teacher at Stafford College & I have been to them also. & his eldest Daughter Christine her hubbie is a Policeman. I have had a week at Kathies & Garry too & enjoyed it all. I like Stafford because it on the level & my mother & auntie was born there. I have Brenda who is a nurse at Birch Hill Hospital she calls on me sometimes I am in a nice council Bungalow & have very nice people good Warden who keeps a check on us & Home Help which I have had to have 2 hours a week on a Tuesday who is very helpful & very kind. If only my hubbie could have made it I would have been over the moon but before we could get in it he died after an operation which was a shock to me & my children he used to be so active Jolly. Happy go lucky & walked miles without cap all over the moors & liked a pint of beer I miss him & I only wish God had spared him & it was like it used to be.



I have just had Mothers Day with nice presents Flowers Pen Plant Jig saw which I find time to do and five lovely cards & a Dairy. The time keeps going on & on times does not stop for no one. There of lots of old people about & they seem to be living quite a long time now. I had a nice trip to Leeds in Dott & Peters car. It was amazing to me at the Prices I don't know how they do it everything much cheaper than here at Rochdale. The markets are fantastic. We called at a little Pub & had a butty & drink which was very nice too. It is OK if you have a car & they are very considerate in taking me. I was ill 10 weeks & did not want to go into Hospital so Dorothy looked after me with her hubbie & Peter my Grandson I had Heart Failer & had to get down 11-8 to 9 stones which my Doctor Grice did. I am lucky to get over that realy. Well, I am back at my bungalow & have just 2 hrs Home Help but she is a very good one. My son Sid & wife Doreen came up to see me from Stafford in their car & took me out in the car for a meal to Gale Inn up Whitworth road it was a lovely meal & plenty of it & reasonable



While I sat waiting for my meal a lady came & said Lily I said to my son this lady Clara was my bridemaids & I had not seen her for ages well we got talking & when they going they said we are going to Todmorden Market so our Sid said we will go after our meal it was a lovely ride pass Walsden were I was born on to Tod market & while on their I met another old friend Ann & her mum & sister Christine. I used to always go on to Tod with Ann in years gone by she lives at Rochdale but goes to see her mum & Dad & then does her shopping & then gets her meat & takes it back to Rochdale good market Tod cheap & has never altered at all over all the years. Well, we back over Bacup way home & it was lovely country I really enjoyed it all we go back to Rochdale & Dorren bought some wool to make some baby clothes for another Grand child which is due & that will Greatgrandchild 5th & September another one to be born so that will be 6. I am going for a weeks holiday to Stafford to Richard & Carol Tattersall after May goes out. It is very nice of them to ask me down as I like Stafford it is on the level & that is the weather is much warmer down there.



I do not see much of the old faces of my childhood you move away & loose touch but one I met was Margaret Simpson she used to be on a farm at Top of Wardle Road nice girl & she has done well she has married but not till late on a Auction man she told my daughter about me. They are good friends now of Dott & Peter. Our Graham has become a Director for Sharrocks Painters & has just been to Saudia on a Weeks Bussiness. Wendy is working at Yellow-way coaches she his wife & a very nice woman. My friend Jessie Davenport & me are going to visit Manchester Cathedal on Teusday which will be OK. We use going on Ellen Smiths Coaches with our club Leader Mrs. Mills J.P. & then for our Tea. It is the Federation of Pensions club. We meet every Wednesday afternoon at Lea Hall in Rochdale. Jessie my friend has bought her family up & her hubbie died just after Sidney my Hubbie so two widows go to pass a bit of time on she is a good friend & a nice knitter & has knit for me a few nice & warm things. We go bus rides sometimes weather promiting & her family have turned out quite good like mine & we both had it hard bringing our families up on Greave Avenue.



Anyway, we try to keep happy as we only live once. My sister will be 78 yrs next & I am approaching 75 years never thought I would get so far at all I have a good family & good Doctors & I try to do as I am told. Tuesday afternoon April 26th I am going with our Leader of the Federation Pensions on a coach to view Manchester Cathedral I hope it will be a nice day. It is interesting as I have not seen it before. We might go for our tea somewhere & that will make the day OK.



I like to go to over 60 club as you get ½ day out cup of tea & meet all our friends there I just go to the one where as some of our mebers go nearly every day to one I am satisfied just the one Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Mills is our Leader & a J.P. for the County Court too quite a nice Lady always helping with Charities etc. My friend Jessie & I went to a Bailors? tea party it was realy fun if you did anything wrong at the tea table you a fine a copper we had to have a pile of coppers on the table and some men acted policemen it was a good laugh with a good tea salad roast beef boiled ham lettuce are is cumbers beet root & we did enjoy it we were eating from 5 o clock to 6 and the vicar was coming round the teapot filling are cups up we had brown bread & white Trifle & nice home made cake with a conformation piece of cake to bring home a boy had guess the weight corret 10lbs & he gave it back so we could all have a piece & it delious. The vicar took a good part singing & playing his Gartar with a onother playing one he was good & then we had a concert of Albert & the Lion the vicar was the Lion & Mr Huchinson was Albert it was a good laugh. Then Mrs. Mills got us all transport home. She is so good she always sees you get home safe.



We went to a play Brass Tacks & that the best laugh of all it a nice church St. Anns Belfield & it gets me out of the bunglow for a change. My second Son Sidney Winston Tattersall is a Sheet Metel Teacher at the Collage at Stafford & his Son got married last October so they have invited me to for weeks holiday to them they are buying a nice House at Stafford & he works in the Lodges Bank is 25 yrs old & has married a nice girl Carol & she is expecting her 1st baby September. I will also see while I am down at Stafford my Grandaughter & hubbie & Emma their little girl Christine hubbie is a Policeman at Burton-on-Trent so I shall go to her for 2 days & I shall visit son my other Grand daughter Linsday & Kathy too & their is one more to yet Angie who is engaged to Martin she is at Wedgewood Potteries. Of course they have cars & I will go in them.



Anyway, it will 3 week in July when they have their Holidays when I go – I am looking forward to seeing them all at Stafford as I like the Place my mother was born their & it is more on a level better for getting about. I had a ride with my daughter Dorothy to fetch her Dog a Pedigree Springer Spanail as she had taken her for a shampoo up Wardle just round by the chapel & it bought memories back to me when as a little lass when I was on the farm with my aunt & uncle who brought me up & I used to go down to the Stream which ran from Roads Mill along the valley & then I walk up the Hill to Middle Hill the farm where we lived it was nice in the Summer time all the marsh marigolds & voilets & wild Flowers were all there Hare Bells very pale blue & blue bells Primroses all Gods wild Flowers growing on their own & Blackberry bushes full of Fruit wimberries blue on the Hillside & have eaten many of them & they were so dry & tasty. They have all gone as the mill went for the Reservior to be put there.



My childhood was full of all these beautiful things Larks singing & cuckoos calling it was wonderful but now all that has gone if we could only put all these back as they were all the village Marys little shop in Wardle she sold everything lamp oil even for are oil lamp for the farm their were no Electic are Gas then up on the farms their were Taylors Farm Tophams Farm Scot cote Farm Mild Earth Farm Hades Hill Farm all nice people my uncle was an Ex Policeman & he bought this Farm Middle Hill for my benefit as I had lost our Father in Darneralles war & my mother died at 33 yrs old & left my sister Nellie & Wilfred my brother went to my Grandma Fielder at Todmorden & my Aunt & Uncle had us 2 girls & my auntie had one of her own cousin Nora who is living today in their Bunglow at Lancaster & we two were adopted with my aunt & Ucle he was a nice chap of Heart. He was a Milnrow chap Fred Stott & my aunt was my mothers sister.



In the Observer they have brought it up about the Flooded Village of Watergrove & when I saw & read it all the memories came back to me. Surprising how you remember things like that after all this time. The little Pub Globe Inn is still in Wardle & the Chapel across from it is still good shape yet. Wardle Parish Church is further down the road & the Rev. Mr. Mac&trye was victor there he used to come up to farm on Sundays sometimes & used to have a drink & a piece of my aunt Vinnie's cake we used to have to play out was not allowed to listen to conversasaion. As you entered the Porch of the Farm we had a Dog Kennel & our dog was on a lead near the door it was a lovely dog its name was Trouser a collie dog & when the sheep from Taylors Farm Brown Wardle used to trespass my uncle would say Lily take the dog & run them off my land & it would do as it was told for me and never did touch anyone of them.



I was wiry & so thin those childhood days but was very active too. My sister was plump & she could eat like an elephant we used to call her the big Bear my aunt & me. My uncle made a big water wheel to generate lights for his hen cotes he had pens & good white leghorns hens & Rhod islands hens too we had a few ducks but it was mostly hens. Plenty of cleaning the Porches out he was always busy also my auntie Vinnie who died in her 90th year. To say she was a cook for the Police at Aston Police station & my uncle Fred was a PC in the Police there too. He was born in Milnrow near Rochdale & knew quite a lot of Police at Rochdale one came up to the farm to visit him I will always remember him he had 2 surnames P.C. Smith Wild.



My uncle died after he had a bad stomach operation while he was at Hest Bank Lane Slyne Lancaster a 3 bedroom bunglow & his only daughter still lives there & is a cook at Grey Courts Hotel Lancaster. A lot of my aunt & Uncle furiniture still is in their Bunglow good Stuff a lot she brought from Middle Hill Farm as she kept what we called the Front room with all her good stuff in there My Auntie Vinnie lived till she was 89 yrs old. And she had blood pressure very bad for years while we lived at the farm.



I have had a letter just recently from my cousin Nora & she was telling me that she had a holiday due and she was going to hike up from Lancaster to the Lakes which she often does. She loves those walks up to the Lakes & gets some good friends which she has made up there & meals too which she enjoys being waited on with always making food at Grey Courts Hotel her job. Anyway she said she had not too good year this year although I do not know how is does it at all because she had a tumour at the back of her neck & was in Preston Hospital for the operation & then had to keep going back for a check up. And then again she is going no younger as we all grow older.



My family keeps expanding I now have got six Great Grand children & there is another due at Xmas my Son's Daughter Kathleen her 1st baby. The long winter nights are coming again & we all seem to lock ourselves in our Bungalows with the chains on & try to keep as warm as we can. I generly find something to pass the time away I have made 2 peg rugs in the winter time & cushion covers. I shall have to think what to do next. I could do to get some nice velvet & make some warm curtains for the windows & line them I can buy it a reasonable price at Rainshore Mill Shop up Norden. It will keep me busy as I sew with my fingers mostly. I will have to start something. I used to make peg rugs with my auntie on the farm at winter nights & we used to put them on the bottom of the bed to keep our feet warm as we got cold winters those days. I have done a little knitting but I like to sew better.



The winter are long & dark & stay in at nights & I will have to find something to do till the light nights are back again . I write letters to my cousin Nora sometimes to pass a bit of the time away & she writes to me keep in touch & talks a lot of Middle Hill Farm days gone by & she loves to get up their to Watergrove sometimes in the Summer I think if you have been brought up in the Country it never leaves you you always look forward to back one day she lives at Lancaster in a three bedroom Bungalow which her mum & Dad left when they died & it is in the country there. I go to the over 60 club on Wednesday afternoon in a Van there & back winter & Summer makes a nice break & we meet some nice people their too.



Our leader is a Mrs.Mills she is a J.P. too & a good worker for her Church & Charities she is doing a Xmas dinner for us Nov 19th & my daughter Dorothy who is in the Debro Choir is singing for it about 12 of the choir as it is very dear to get all the choir we have a good meal Present Supper Tombola Raffles etc & transport there & back so it is great. Then I go to Chapness Hall to hear all the choir sing for Xmas a real good concert coming up soon she is now pracising for it along with all the other ladies & they are a very nice lot indeed so it will be nice for entertainment for Xmas. I go every year with another widow Mrs. Davenport who have known for years we have brought our children up together & lived across the avenue now I am in a bungalow which is so handy to be on the level.



Today I have been to over 60s club for our Xmas party Nov 19th & tonight the snow has come & everything is white. Our party very nice Transport there & back & we had a good concert with the Lions from Littleborough & my daughter with some of the choir from Debrose Choir singing carols & from Sound of Music & then we got a nice present off our Leader Mrs. Mills she does such a good job for the club. It soon be Xmas now & things for Gifts are so dear. I won't be able to spend a lot out of one pension this year it breaks your Heart when you have to cut down. Anyway, Gods good he will see us through. It is the little children toys etc that are so very expensive. I won't be so far I think it will best to stay put & keep warm as I don't feel as well as I was.



I received a Xmas letter & letter from America California from Ada & Arnold Mitchell they emigrated years ago & Ada has had a stroke who is 72 & Arnold he is a good hubbie & has to look after her a lot they have had there Golden Wedding & I used to be her friend before she emigrated & I would have like to have met up again but my doctor said I could not fly so far I would Die through water so I give up as a bad job but we keep touch it was my 1st Card this year that I have got anyway, I have got one to return to them over the miles & I hope she can be feeling better. I have now reach the total 11 Grandchildren & 6 & one due on Xmas day all being well.



The family has expanded & the Tattersall name lives & carry on. My eldest son now has gone 50 years old a nice man & has got on in life my next son Sidney has got on with his teaching Dorothy too has a good job now near home too supervising & Brenda is still in the nursing & Jack my youngest son is a joiner so it is something to know that they have a job these days as there are such a lot out of work up here in Lancshire it makes one wonder if ever it would come back with plenty of work I doubt it very much for this next Generayion that is coming up.



We are now into 1989. Had a very mild Xmas this year. Had quite a lot of presents including a clock off Dott & Pete a dress off Graham & Wendy 2 pairs Knickers & a jumper made on Sids wife knitting manchine & a ????? and Wool cardigan too knitting on the machine. A stole off Berly & Jack. Brenda cushion & £5 voucher for Marks & Spencers & Grandson Kevin chicken & meat cost £5.26p the chicken was lovely when I cooked it good presents Peter my Grandson bowl of Blue Hyacinths lovely Michael a box of Cherry Brandy choes. Our Jack mother a cup with a Breakfast attachment too nice for supper are my And plenty more off Friends that is my family which make sure my Xmas is not lonely.



I am glad & proud of my family as it must be awful for mothers who have families getting into trouble employment should never have got so High as it is but the country has lost all its mills etc for working like we used to do. Well, I say this every new year that I hope that the next Xmas will be better. We have quite a lot of Tragic things happen plane at Lockaberrie Scotland & train at London & Oil Rig Fire too up off Scotlands coaSt. Plenty of people Homeless I thank God I am in a nice little Bungolow of the Cousil & comfortable.



Lily Tattersall