

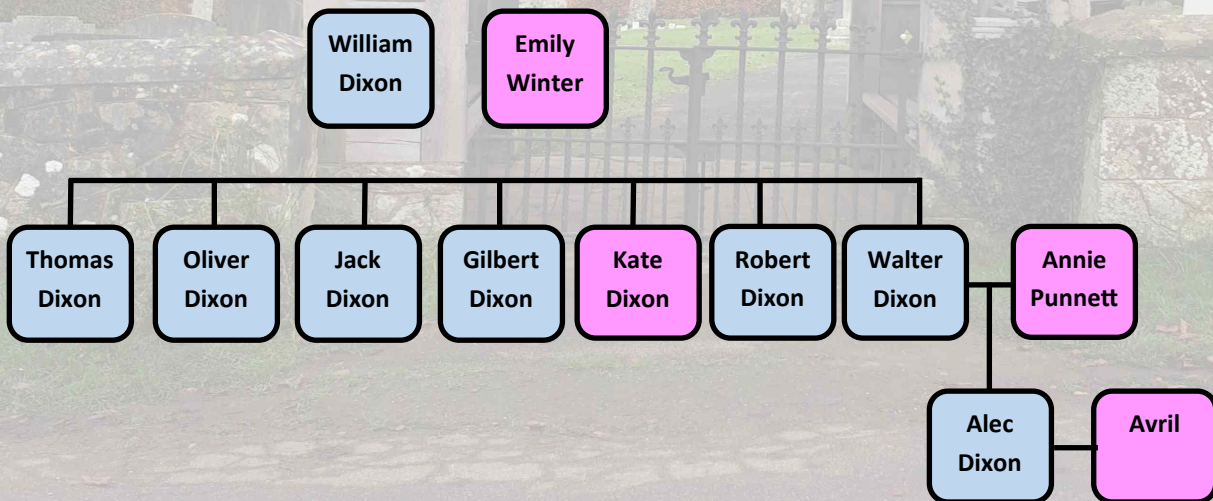
# Walter Leslie Harold Dixon

1892-1952

Walter was the 6th of 7 children born to William Dixon 1856-1913 of West Hoathly and Emily Winter 1857-1946 of Ardingly. His siblings were Thomas William 1881-1933, Oliver Hamlin 1883-1947, Gilbert Louis 1885-1956 (he was the father-in-law of Bill Cottenham the village baker), Jack Hampton 1887-1959, Kate 1890-1949 and Robert 1896-1964.

By the 1901 census the family were living on Chelwood Common and working for the Wickens family. In 1923 Wally married Annie at Danehill Church and in 1924 their son Alec Leslie H Dixon was born.

Wally worked for East Sussex County Council as a lengthsman in Danehill parish covering the A275 from Wych Cross to Sheffield Park which is why he and Annie had a tied cottage. In 1950 Wally was involved in a serious accident when a drunk driver collided with his mowing machine on the straight road between Paygate Cottage at Furners Green and the Sheffield Arms. He never recovered and died the following year. Annie and Violet had to leave the tied cottage and were rehoused in the newly built council houses in Maresfield. (Alec joined the RAF as soon as he could and was sent to Rhodesia for training which is where he met his wife, Avril. After the war he became the village policeman in Buxted but he and Avril emigrated to Rhodesia in 1954 where he worked on the railways. He never saw his mother again).



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# Annie Edith Punnett

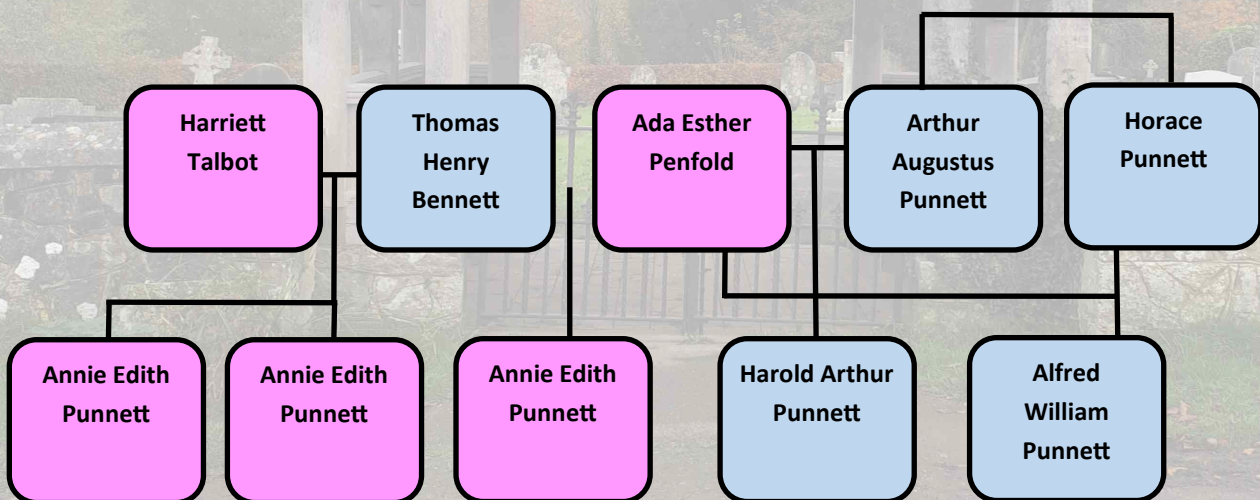
1903-1985

Annie's parentage is complicated. Her mother was Ada Esther Penfold 1877-1963 but by the time Annie came along in 1903, Ada's first husband, Arthur Augustus Punnett 1873-1898, was dead. Ada and Arthur had a son Harold Arthur Punnett 1898-1982.

Ada was now living at Stone Cottage, Brookhouse Bottom and Annie's father was in fact her neighbour Thomas Henry Bennett 1849-1934, who lived at Rough Acre. Now this was something of a problem as Tom Bennett was still married to Harriett Talbot and father to 2 girls.

We will never know how Ada and Tom got together, but he was involved in her life and in the 1911 census she was listed as a visitor at his house. In later life she said that Harriett treated her as a skivvy whenever she was there and she was expected to wait on her older half-sisters. Tom Bennett was Besom Broom Maker to the Royal Mews and his brooms used to be sent up to Buckingham Palace from Sheffield Park Station.

Ada had a child with Horace Punnett, (Alfred William Punnett 1908-2001). Horace was her dead husband's brother but their marriage in 1919 was technically illegal as you could not marry your dead husband's brother until the law was changed to allow it in 1921. Whilst in Danehill, Annie took in washing to make ends meet and was also caretaker of the Zion Chapel next door to the village shop. Annie spent the rest of her life in Maresfield but is remembered by older villagers as she worked for Chris Stevens at his wireless shop near the Mid Sussex Garage at Chelwood Gate and latterly in Nutley.



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