

## **Family History Case Studies - 21 Horsefair The Pierce family**

Pauline Pitchford's mother was Gladys Irene Pierce, born on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1909 at 21, Horsefair, Kidderminster. Her parents were John Charles Pierce and Ellen Powell. They had married at St John's Church, Kidderminster on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1904. John was aged 24 and his occupation was a confectioner, while Ellen was 25. On the 1911 census, the family were still living at 21, Horsefair and, interestingly, John had incorrectly spelled his daughter's name as Gladice. By this time he was a baker, probably working at the bakery a few doors away.

In 1901 John was living in Droitwich and working as a baker. Ten years earlier he was aged 11 years old, so still living with his parents Benjamin, then a carpet weaver, and Ellen Louisa, working as a baker, in Hurcott Road, Kidderminster. While two of his older brothers worked in the carpet industry as creelers, another brother, Stanley, worked as a baker, possibly alongside Ellen. On the 1891 census, the birthplace of every member of the family was wrongly given as Birmingham, Warwickshire, clearly a mistake by the enumerator copied from the entry above of Martha Childs, who was also born in Birmingham. The family links with the baking profession went even further back, on the 1881 census, the family lived in Bird Lane, the old name for Hurcott Road. Benjamin, the father, at this time was both a worsted carpet weaver and a baker, so perhaps Ellen took over running the business later on. John was then just a baby aged one year old.

By 1918 the Pierce family had moved to a house in Baxter Avenue and the Wakefield family were living at 21, Horsefair, Kidderminster.

### **21, Horsefair- The Wakefield family**

Arthur and Amelia Jane Wakefield appear on the electoral register at 21, Horsefair in 1918, the first year that women were entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections. In 1911 Arthur, aged 29, and Amelia, aged 22, lived in Bromsgrove Street, Kidderminster, with their two oldest children, Arthur junior, aged 6, the father of Ann Maddock, and Leonard, aged 2. Arthur senior, who worked as a foreman in a carpet factory, and Amelia had been married for 7 years.

Arthur junior married Ann's mother Dorothy Ethel Case Sutton at St Mary's Church, Kidderminster, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1928. Their marriage certificate shows the groom's residence as 21, Horsefair, while Dorothy was living in Findon Street. At this time in 1928, Arthur's mother Amelia ran a sweet shop, or confectioners, from her home at 21, Horsefair, while her husband Arthur senior was a shoe repairer. By 1935 they had moved from 21, Horsefair as the Arnold family appear on the electoral register at this address.

In 1911, Ann's mother Dorothy, then aged 3, lived with her mother Ethel Sutton, her grandparents John and Ellen Horton, both born in Stourport, and her uncle Percy Leonard Horton, born in Kidderminster like Ethel, in Connaught Avenue, Kidderminster. Dorothy herself was born in Loose, Kent and there was no sign of her father living with the family. As his name was also missing from Dorothy's wedding certificate to Arthur Wakefield junior, the only possible way of discovering his name will be to obtain Dorothy's birth certificate. Dorothy had been told that her father had left the family and as Ethel died when Dorothy was only four, the truth as to a possible marriage may be difficult to ascertain.