

Herbert Shaw (28 Nov 1885 to 29 Mar 1948) and his wife and 6 children, including my father (George Robert Shaw 12 May 1919 - 2 April 2001), moved to Whittlesey in Cambridgeshire in about 1929.

My grandfather and his brothers had been partners in Shaw and Sons, a Huddersfield business comprising of several woollen mills. With the depression, this business had gone bust and my grandfather made bankrupt.

A cousin, by the name of Mackrell, sold Grandad a secondhand clothing shop in Whittlesey and the family moved down to live over the shop. The family memory was that he had a pony & cart to collect clothing. This was a severe come-down, particularly for my grandmother, who had been the mistress of a large house, Kershaw House, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, HX2 6NW, now a hotel, with several servants.

The story in the family was that granddad had been "sold a pup" by his cousin and he suffered by this business also going to the wall and him being made bankrupt a second time in Whittlesey. I know my Uncle Tom (Thomas Arthur Shaw, 21 July 1913 to 28 July 2008) never lost the mental scars of the family shame.

My Dad got a scholarship I think and attended March Grammar School 1930-1935, travelling there on the train, and having to miss the first lesson each day.

Grandad's next job was as an insurance collector, cycling through the Fens. It happened that the Motor Insurance Act 1932 had for the first time made motor insurance compulsory and on 4th October 1932 he founded H. Shaw & Sons, Insurance Brokers and Travel Agents, at 40 Market Street, before moving to 14 North Street on 1st June 1934.

The business moved to 11 Broadway, Peterborough on 12 July 1937 and the family to Huntly Grove, Peterborough firstly renting one house there before moving to 28 Huntly Grove, where my Gran (Margaret Alice Shaw 30 Jan 1893 to 21 July 1974) lived until the 1950's. I suspect our relationship with Whittlesey ceased when we moved in 1937.