

## **Smithin family – Joseph Smithin & Laura Baker and their descendants**

*Updated – April 2023*

This is the history of the Smithin family which originates in Pershore in the 1600's. This document describes the descendants of Joseph Smithin (1857-1930) and Laura Baker who lived and farmed in Cleeve Prior. Joseph was the eldest son of Joseph Smithin (1829-1875) and Charlotte Butt who lived in Birlingham, Worcestershire.



Cleeve Prior 2010

*There are only brief notes on those born after 1920. Most of the information is from public sources.*

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### **1. Joseph Smithin & Laura Baker**

**Joseph Smithin (1857-1930).** The son of Joseph and Charlotte. He was born in Birlingham on the 13th August 1857 and baptised on the 7th September 1857 at Birlingham. Joseph was the eldest of seven children. <sup>1 2 3</sup>

At the 1861 census, age 3, Joseph was living at home at Lower End Farm, Birlingham.<sup>4</sup>



Lower End Farm, Birlingham, 2010

At the 1871 census, age 13, Joseph was away at school.<sup>5</sup>

#### 1871 Census

*Hall, Allesley, Warwickshire*

*Joseph Smithin, age 13, Student, born Birlingham, Worcestershire*



Allesley Hall, Coventry, 2009

Joseph's father died in 1875 when he was about 18 and from then he helped his mother Charlotte run the estate and farms at Birlingham. Joseph was listed in Kelly's directory for 1878 as a farmer and landowner in Birlingham.<sup>6</sup>

At the 1881 census, age 23, he was living at Lower End farm, Birlingham.<sup>7</sup>

Joseph married Laura Baker (1856-1940) at St. Andrew, Pershore on the 24th January 1883.<sup>8</sup> Laura Jane Baker was christened on the 26th December 1856 at St. Thomas, Portsmouth. Her parents were John and Ann Baker.

There was a notice in the Worcester Journal.<sup>9</sup>

### Marriages

*Smithin – Baker. January 24 at St Andrew's Pershore, by the Rev. W Walton, vicar, Joseph Smithin, of Cleeve Prior eldest son of the late Joseph Smithin, of Birlingham, to Laura Jane, eldest daughter of the late John Baker, of Pershore.*

In 1883 Joseph left home and rented Top farm in Cleeve Prior. Moving to a farm (though he probably did not know it) that was once owned by his great Aunt Ann.<sup>10</sup>



Top Farm Cleeve Prior c.1950

The farm was advertised in Bell's Weekly Messenger in 1882.

### Advertisement in Bell's Weekly Messenger in 1882

*Farm - Cleeve Prior, the Vale of Evesham Worcestershire - To be LET, with immediate possession, a most desirable farm consisting of 160a. 2r. 16p. of very rich and productive Arable, Meadow, Orchard and Pasture Land. A capital Residence, two good new Fold Yards and thirteen cottages on the farm, which is in a good state of cultivation, five miles from Evesham, two miles from Bidford, and about 1 mile from Salford Priors Station on Midland Railway. For further particulars apply to Jonathon Slatter Esq. Solicitor, Stratford-upon-Avon.*

### Letter from Jonathan Slatter to Mr. Robert Lunn

21st October 1882

Mickleton, Chipping Campden, Broadway

Dear Mr. Lunn,

*You will no doubt see Mr. Deer who will tell you something of the work yesterday at Cleeve. I think that the enclosed letter of Mr. Smithin looks like business. I have written to say I shall see you on Monday and we can then give him a more definite reply. I will thereupon come to the office about 1/4 past 2 o'clock.*

*I am Dear Sir*

*Yours Faithfully*

*Jonathan Slatter*

Robert Lunn was a local solicitor in Cleeve Prior and he and Jonathan Slatter were Landlords for various parts of the farm. Robert was probably a relative of the Mrs. Lunn who owned the farm and he seems to have inherited part of the farm.

The reply from Robert Lunn to Joseph apparently arrived while Joseph was away on Honeymoon and his mother Charlotte replied saying he was away on his honeymoon and she was sure he will take the farm.<sup>11</sup>

It is surprising that Joseph did not stay in Birlingham with his widowed mother Charlotte and run the family estate but since his father's death in 1875 very large debts had built up and it was probably not a going concern. The Smithin estate was eventually sold in 1890 by public auction and there was not much money left after the various mortgages had been paid off.

Joseph and Laura's first daughter, Laura, was born in 1884.<sup>12</sup>

*Births. Smithin. January 22, at Cleeve Prior, the wife of Joseph Smithin, of a daughter.*

### **Early days at Top Farm 1883-1888**

Top Farm was in quite a poor condition when Joseph took it on caused by the depression in Agriculture which had also blighted the Smithin estate in Birlingham. There was a substantive Georgian farmhouse and about 160 acres of farm land with various outbuildings.

Over the years Joseph worked gradually to improve the farm and house and was a keen farmer.

On the front lawn of the Farm house there are two huge conifers which were apparently the first two Christmas trees they planted in 1883 and 1884 or perhaps a bit later.

Joseph was listed in Kelly's directory of 1884 as a Farmer at Cleeve Prior.<sup>13</sup>

Joseph was listed as an Overseer at Cleeve Prior in 1884 and 1885.<sup>14 15</sup>

*Cleeve Prior: Overseers, Joseph Smithin and Geo. Hemming*

Over the years there were repairs and maintenance to be done and Joseph gradually established himself in Cleeve Prior.

#### **Letter from William Davis, Builder to Mr. Lunn 28th February 1886**

*Dear Sir*

*We have done the few repairs Mr. Smithin wanted done, it was not nothing to do with the repairs done last year it was the cottage roofs and chimneys. Some struts that wanted repairing.*

*Yours truly  
William Davis*

#### **Letter from Joseph Smithin To Mr. Robert Lunn - Cleeve Prior, July 5th 1887**

*Dear Sir*

*Will it be convenient for me to come and pay my rent on Friday July 15th 1887. I should have fixed this week only I have not finished Hay making and I do not like to leave home while it is about.*

*With kind regards  
I am Yours Truly  
J Smithin*

#### **Letter from Joseph Smithin To Mr. Robert Lunn - Cleeve Prior July 12th 1887**

*Dear Sir*

*Many thanks for your kind invitation to dinner on Friday for my Wife and self which we shall be pleased to accept. Will you be at your home at 1.30 if that time will suit you. With my kind regards to Mrs. Lunn and yourself.*

*I am Yours Truly  
J Smithin*

#### **Letter from Joseph Smithin To Mr. Robert Lunn - Cleeve Prior, July 19th 1888**

*Dear Sir*

*I find that the Highway Rate is not quite the same as I stated but the two poor rate receipts exactly correspond so if you will alter it to Poor Rate in your accounts shall feel obliged and I will keep the Highway receipt till next settling. Have on hand your receipt for 18s 3d. It rained all the way home on Tuesday night but we did not get very wet.*

*With kind regards  
I am yours truly  
J Smithin*

Letter from Joseph Smithin To Mr. Robert Lunn - Cleeve Prior, January 8th 1888

Dear Sir

*I will call upon you next Friday afternoon if convenient to you. My wife joins me in kind regards to Mrs. Lunn and yourself.*

*I am Yours Truly  
J Smithin*

Letter from Joseph Smithin To Mr. Robert Lunn - Cleeve Prior February 14th 1888

Dear Sir

*I have enclosed forms for remittance of duty overpaid, shall be obliged if you will fill them up and post to the Surveyor of Jane & Co, Worcester.*

*I am Yours Truly  
J Smithin*

*Address: Surveyor of Leases, Worcester*

By 1887 Joseph was a Churchwarden at St. Andrew's as the following letter shows.

Receipt

*Received of the trustees of Mr. Charles Lunn the sum of three shillings being church rate at 1-1/2d in the pound on Cottages. Paid.*

*December 28th 1887*

*Joseph Smithin  
Churchwarden*

Joseph was involved in a court case in April 1886.<sup>16</sup>

Worcester Journal Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1886

*County Petty Sessions Monday*

*Game Trespass. George Westbury and George Smith, labourers, Bidford, were summoned by William Keyte, gamekeeper to Mr. Joseph Smithin, Cleeve Prior, for trespassing in search of conies on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Defendants pleaded guilty, and were each fined 5s. and 8s. costs.*

Winding up the Smithin estate (1889-1891)

In the period from 1889 to 1891 Joseph was kept busy helping his mother with the sale of the Smithin estate.<sup>17</sup>

*The full details of the sale are in a separate document.*

Joseph was apparently first involved on the 26th March 1889 when he went to visit a Solicitor (A.R. Hudson of Worcester) his mother Charlotte had consulted earlier. In general Joseph seems to have been rather doubtful about the sale but it took some time for the true size of the debts to become apparent and eventually there was no other option but to sell the estate and pay off all the debts.

It took more than 5 years for everything to be finally settled and his mother retired to Cheltenham (she was about 60 or a few years older in 1890). As part of the process Joseph had to sign away his right of first refusal on the Smithin estate.

To Mr. M J Shelton

*Whereas under the Codicil dated the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1872 to the Will of my late Father Joseph Smithin (which Will and Codicil were proved in the Worcester District Registry on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 1875) I am authorised to take to at a valuation in the usual way on the death of my Mother Charlotte Smithin the Freehold house and premises in which my said Father formerly resided together with the freehold land and cottages in Birlingham which my said Father inherited from his later Father. And whereas my said Mother as Executrix of the said Will and in virtue of my said Father having by his said Will charged his real estate with the payment of his debts some of which are still unpaid has*

*agreed to sell to you the freehold messuage known as 'Avonside' in which my said Father resided at the time of his death and certain lands adjoining containing together 15a. 1r. 5p at the price of (including timber) of One thousand five hundred and twenty seven pounds seventeen shillings. Now I hereby assent to the said sale and waive my right to purchase the said premises under the authority contained in the said Codicil. Dated this eleventh day of October One thousand eight hundred and ninety.*

*Joseph Smithin*

The witness was a neighbour in Cleeve Prior; Mary Barbara Stonehouse

Another aspect of dealing with the Smithin estate was that Joseph's Aunt Sarah had lent her brother (Joseph's father) £2,000 at interest but had subsequently gone into the County Asylum at Barnwood in Gloucester. Joseph and his Aunt Mary became Trustees of the money that was paid back to Sarah when the estate was sold and it was used to look after Sarah in the Asylum.

### **Later years in Cleeve Prior 1891-1930**

At the 1891 census the family were living at Mill House, Cleeve Prior.<sup>18</sup>

*Joseph Smithin, head, age 33, Farmer, born Birlingham  
Laura J Smithin, wife, age 34, born Pershore  
Laura C Smithin, daughter, age 7, scholar, born Cleeve Prior  
Edith M Smithin, daughter, age 6, scholar, born Cleeve Prior  
Alice M Smithin, 6daughter, age 5, scholar, born Cleeve Prior  
Mary J Smithin, daughter, age 4, scholar, born Cleeve Prior  
Beatrice E Hare, Governess, single, age 26, Governess School, Llanguicke?, Glamorgan  
Ellen Riley servant, single, age 21, Servant domestic, Binton, Worcestershire  
Elizabeth Rowland servant, single, age 13, Servant Housemaid, Hampton, Worcestershire*

Joseph's brother Hubert Smithin, age 25, was also in Cleeve Prior at that time and boarding with Juliana Holton at the Manor house. Hubert was in the difficult position of having to find a new job and a new home once the Smithin estate was sold.

Joseph was involved in a court case about a heifer in January 1893.<sup>19</sup>

#### **Curious Dispute about a Heifer.**

*At the County Court, yesterday, Judge Ingham and a jury were occupied for nearly three hours hearing a case in which Joseph Smithin, farmer, Cleeve Prior, claimed £12, the value of a heifer detained by Edwin Fowler Pope, farmer, Harvington. Plaintiff and defendant occupied adjoining farms, and their cattle frequently trespassed, the dividing hedge being defective. One heifer was lost. Defendant took possession of a heifer, which plaintiff declared was his. Defendant and a number of witnesses swore that the heifer was one which the defendant had two months before bought at Gloucester, while Plaintiff and several witnesses declared that the heifer was one which plaintiff had bred and kept for two and a half years. The jury found for the Plaintiff.*

By 1893 Joseph was much involved in Parish business as a member of the Board of Guardians. Including a long running debate about a new water scheme for the village.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Board of Guardians.**

*At Monday's meeting:-*

*Six samples of water from Cleeve village had been analysed, and all were condemned as unfit for drinking purposes by Dr. Swete, of Worcester. In the face of this report, Mr. Smithin withdrew his opposition, and said he would now propose that Cleeve should be included in the water scheme. This was unanimously agreed to.*

He was also involved in the issue of whether the Parish could take over the ownership of parish wharf. There is a letter about this from solicitors Byrch and Cox, written in 1896 and sent to Joseph at Top Farm.

At the 1901 census they were living at 'Right hand side main street' Cleeve prior.<sup>21</sup>

*Joseph Smithin, head, age 43, Farmer, born Birlingham*  
*Laura J Smithin, wife, age 44, born Pershore*  
*Laura C Smithin, daughter, single, age 17, born Cleeve Prior*  
*Daisy K Joynes servant, single, age 17, Housemaid Domestic, born Dorn Gloucester*  
*Nellie Lewis, servant, age 15, cook domestic, born Bengeworth*

The younger children were away at boarding school.<sup>22</sup>

#### 1901 Census

*Court House, Atch Lench, Worcestershire*  
*Edith Margaret Smithin, Boarder, age 16, Schoolgirl, born Cleeve Prior*  
*Alice Maud Smithin, Boarder, age 15, Schoolgirl, born Cleeve Prior*  
*Josephine Mary Smithin, Boarder, age 14, Schoolgirl, born Cleeve Prior*

This was a small school run by Emily Bomford, age 62, a Private school mistress.

Joseph was listed as a Farmer in Cleeve Prior in Kelly's directory for Warwickshire & Worcestershire for 1900.<sup>23</sup>

In October 1903 Joseph was involved with his brother Hubert and his Aunt Mary in dealing with the Administration for his Aunt Sarah who died on the 11th October, that year.<sup>24</sup>

Joseph was the Chairman of Evesham Rural District Council. He was listed in the London Gazette as a Worcestershire council member in 1906.<sup>25</sup>

Kelly's directory for Warwickshire & Worcestershire for 1904 and 1908 lists Joseph as a Farmer at Cleeve Prior.<sup>26</sup>

Joseph was listed as a Miller as well as a farmer in Kelly's Directory for 1906.<sup>27</sup>

Joseph was listed as the Chairman of Cleeve Prior Rural district council in Littlebury's directory of 1908.<sup>28</sup>

Joseph attended the funeral of Thomas Adkins of Long Hyde, Littleton near Evesham on Saturday December 28th 1912.<sup>29</sup> Thomas Adkins (a former diplomat who served in China) was a local magistrate so this was probably how Joseph was connected with him; although a Henry Adkins was also one of the owners of part of Top farm.

At the 1911 census they were living in Cleeve Prior.<sup>30</sup>

#### 1911 Census

*Cleeve Prior, Evesham*  
*Smithin Joseph, Head, Married, age 53, Farmer, born Birlingham*  
*Smithin Laura Jane, Wife, Married 28 years, age 54, born Pershore*  
*Smithin Laura Charlotte, Daughter, single, age 27, born Cleeve Prior*  
*Smithin Edith Margaret, Daughter, single, 26, born Cleeve Prior*  
*Smithin Josephine Mary, Daughter, single, age 24, Supplementary Teacher, born Cleeve Prior*  
*Smithin Joseph Arthur, Son, single, age 18, Farmer, Cleeve Prior*  
*Moore William Lionel, Visitor, single, age 33, Farmer, born Stanford, Worcs.*  
*Halford Mildred May, Servant, single, age 20, Servant, Elmley Castle, Worcs.*

Joseph and Laura attended the wedding of Margaret Newton Lunn and Herbert Horton Smith at All Saints, Evesham on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912.<sup>31</sup>

At the 1921 census Joseph and Laura were living in Cleeve Prior.<sup>32</sup>

### 1921 Census

*Clare Erior, Cleve Prior, Evesham*

*Joseph Smithin, Head, age 63, Farmer Employer, born Birlingham*

*Laura Jane Smithin, Wife, age 65, Pershore, Worcestershire*

*Annie Clemons, Visitor age 26 Home duties Assistant help, born Honington, Warwickshire*

In later years Joseph became a Councillor and School Governor in Cleeve Prior and was a well known and distinguished member of the community and quite a character. At one point he refused to allow a reading club for men to learn to read at night saying he thought it did not do to educate the working classes! At another time he had the ancient parish chest in his kitchen with potatoes in it!<sup>33</sup>



Cleeve Prior – Parish chest, 2010

In September 1921 Joseph acted as Executor of his Aunt Mary's Will. She died in Cheltenham on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. Her estate was quite substantial £1,741 and was left equally between her nephews and nieces, including Joseph and Hubert.<sup>34</sup>

Joseph gave up the tenancy of Top Farm in about 1922 (he was 65) and the Archer family took up the tenancy. Joseph took up the tenancy of Kingsmoor Farm in Cleeve Prior; this included some rights over one of the stone Quarries in Cleeve Prior.<sup>35</sup>

In 1925 Joseph wrote on behalf of the School Governors to Miss Roberts the head teacher expressing thanks for her work.<sup>36</sup>

Joseph's brother Hubert and his wife Ethel retired to Cleeve Prior around 1928. They lived in Woodbine Cottage in the centre of the village. Joseph's nephew Charles Smithin and his wife Alma moved into Woodbine cottage when Charles' father died in 1942.

Joseph supported the Conservative in the local area.<sup>37</sup>

### *Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 11th May 1929*

*Cleeve Prior Unionist Meeting*

*After a vote of thanks to Mr. Joseph Smithin whose public work for the cause in the locality is invaluable, the meeting ended with the National Anthem.*



Joseph died on the 17th April 1930, aged 73, and was buried at Cleeve Prior.<sup>38</sup> His Will was proved by his son Joseph Arthur and his effects were valued at £5,514 6s 11d.<sup>39</sup> The Executors were originally his son Joseph and Cyril Goode his son-in-law which was set up in 1926 but a Codicil in 1928 replaced Cyril Goode as he had 'recently died' with the other sons-in-law William Lionel Moore and Hedley Spital. Joseph left his estate in Trust for his surviving children (Joseph, Laura, Edith, Alice) equally after his wife Laura's death.

Will of Joseph Smithin 1926

*This is the last Will and Testament of me Joseph Smithin of Cleeve Prior in the County of Worcester Esquire. I appoint my son Joseph Arthur Smithin and my son in law Cyril Goode Executors and Trustees of this my last Will and declare that the expression "my Trustees" hereinafter used shall comprise and include the trustees or trustee for the time being of my Will.*

*I bequeath the use and enjoyment of my furniture pictures prints plate linen china glass and other household effects to my dear wife Laura Jane Smithin during her life and on her death I declare that the same shall fall into and form part of my residuary estate.*

*I give and devise and bequeath all my Real estate and the residue of my personal estate unto my trustees Upon trust to sell convert and get in the same and after payment of my debts funeral and testamentary expenses to invest the net proceeds (hereinafter called "my Residuary Estate") upon such securities as Trustees are by law authorised to invest trust monies upon with power to vary investments from time to time. And Upon Trust to permit and empower my said wife to receive the annual income of my residuary Estate or the stocks funds and securities whereon the same shall be invested during her life. And after her death as to my Residuary Estate and the said Stocks funds securities and income Upon Trust for all my children namely the said Joseph Arthur Smithin, Laura Charlotte Moore, Edith Margaret Goode and Alice Maude Spittal to be divided between and amongst them in equal shares.*

*I declare that no sale of my Real Estate of any part thereof shall be made in the lifetime of my said wife without her previous consent in writing and that my Trustees shall have a discretionary power to postpone to postpone for such period as they shall deem expedient the conversion or getting in of any part of my residuary personal estate but the unsold Real Estate and outstanding personal estate shall be subject to the trustees hereinbefore contained concerning my residuary Estate and the rents and yearly produce thereof shall be deemed annual income for the purposes of such trusts and such real estate shall be transmissible as personal estate under the ultimate trust hereinbefore contained.*

*I declare that my said son shall have the option of purchasing any portion or portions of my Real Estate at a Valuation to be made by two competent Valuers one to be appointed by my Trustees other than my said son and the other by my said Son and if such Valuers shall disagree by a third Valuer to be appointed in writing by the said first named Valuers before entering upon the Valuation as their Umpire. Such option to be declared by my said son by notice in writing to the other Trustee or Trustees within one calendar month next after the decease of my said wife but no purchaser under the trusts of this my Will shall be obliged to take notice of or be affected by this power of preemption. And I revoke all former Wills.*

*In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this twenty second day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty six.*

*Joseph Smithin*

*Signed by the Testator Joseph Smithin as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses.*

*Leonard C Cox Solicitor Evesham*

*P Crisp Clerk to Messrs. Byrch Cox & Sons Solicitors Evesham.*

There was an addition to the Will.

*This is a codicil to the last Will and Testament of me Joseph Smithin of Cleeve Prior in the County of Worcester Esquire which Will bears date the twenty second day of October One thousand nine hundred and twenty six. Whereas Cyril Goode named in my Will as an Executor and Trustee has recently died now I hereby appoint my sons in law William Lionel Moore and Hedley Spital to be Executors and Trustees of my said Will in the place of the said Cyril Goode deceased and to act jointly with my son Joseph Arthur Smithin in the Executorship and Trusteeship thereof. And I direct that my said Will shall be read and construed as if the names of the said William Lionel Moore and Hedley Spital had been inserted throughout the said Will in place and stead of the said Cyril Goode. And in all other respects I confirm my said Will.*

*In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of July One thousand nine hundred and twenty eight.*

*Joseph Smithin*

*Signed by the said Joseph Smithin as and for a Codicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.*

*Leonard C Cox. Solicitor Evesham*

*Chas. H Martin Clerk to Messrs. Byrch Cox & Sons Solicitors Evesham.*

*Probate on 21st August 1930 at Birmingham.*

There was an obituary in a local paper.<sup>40</sup>

*The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette, 26 April 1930*

*Two score years of Social Service*

*Death of Mr. Joseph Smithin of Cleeve Prior*

*Practically two score years of social service were brought to an end when the death took place at his home at Kingsmoor, Cleeve Prior, on Thursday last (24 April 1930) of Mr. Joseph Smithin. Mr. Smithin, who was 73 years of age, had been ill for some weeks and the end was not unexpected. He was a native of Birlingham, near Pershore, where the family had lived for at least 500 years, and it was in 1882 that he left Birlingham for Cleeve Prior. Manly sports of all descriptions appealed to Mr. Smithin, and in his young days in the Pershore district he was a keen rugby player and for many years he was a member of the Evesham Cricket Club. Hunting and shooting also attracted him – he being an excellent shot – and he was an all round athlete of no mean order. He was an agriculturist of the finest type and a deserving tribute to his knowledge and love of the land was paid at the meeting of the Evesham Rural District Council on Tuesday. He married Miss Laura Baker, daughter of Mr. John Baker, of Pershore, by whom and one son and three daughters he is survived.*

*Mr. Smithin's long an honourable career of public voluntary service began in April 1891, when he was elected a member of the Evesham Rural Sanitary Authority, and the Evesham Board of Guardians, and in the following year he was elected a member of the Evesham Rural District Council which was formed to succeed the Rural Sanitary Authority that year. His sound common sense quickly won for him the esteem of his fellow members and in 1906 he was elected chairman of the Rural District Council, an office which he held until 1924, when he asked to be relieved of it and was succeeded by Mr. C.A. Binyon. He retained his membership of the Council until the time of his death and was a member of the Board of Guardians till that body ceased to exist on March 31 this year. During the trying war years Mr. Smithin performed a vast amount of public work as the chairman of the Evesham Rural Tribunal and Evesham Rural Food Control Committee and he was also a member of the Evesham and Pebworth Joint Water Committee and the South Worcestershire Assessment Committee. In 1918 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Worcestershire and took his seat on the Evesham Bench.*

*In his own parish he took an active part in all that appertained to its welfare. He was a churchwarden for some 40 years; was trustee and hon. Treasurer of the Cleeve Prior School and was vice-president of the local Boy Scouts' organisation. Local sports of all descriptions received his patronage and his assistance was always forthcoming for any good cause.*

*The funeral took place at Cleeve Prior Church on Tuesday afternoon, when the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W.H. Neales, and there was a large congregation. The service was choral, Miss Mumford officiating at the organ.*

*The principal mourners were:- Mr. and Mrs A Smithin (son and daughter in law), Mr. and Mrs. Moore (Worcester), Mrs. Goode and Mr. and Mrs. Spital (daughters and sons in law). Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Smithin (brother and sister-in-law), Miss Smithin (sister), Mr James Smithin (Gloucester), Mr. Griffin-Baker (Cheltenham), Mr. John Davis (Worcester) and Dr. H.M. Crawford.*

*Among those representing public bodies were:- Messrs. J. Ashwin, C.A. Binyon, E.J. Evans, H.A. White, C.H. Gardiner, and R.J. Atkinson (Evesham Rural District Council). Supt. Pass and P.C. Whiting (Evesham Police), Mr. T. Mayer (Thomas Mayer and Co., Darlaston), Mr. C. Grey (Parish Council), Mr. J. Ford (Cleeve Prior Scout Troop). Mr. J. Sheaf (co-churchwarden) and Mr. J. Edwards (Evesham).*

*Employees of Mr. Smithin acted as bearers and upon the coffin were laid flowers from the widow and from the employees. There was a large number of wreaths and flowers received from relations and kind friends. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from the Evesham Rural District Council and officials and the Cleeve Prior Scout Troop.*

Shortly after his death a farm of which he was a tenant was put up for Auction. This is Kingsmoor farm.<sup>41</sup>

#### Farm Sale

*Cleeve Prior*

*Worcestershire*

*About 7? miles from Evesham and 3 from*

*Littleton and Badsey Station, G.W.R*

*E.G. Righton & Son*

*Are instructed to sell by Auction,*

*At the King's Head Hotel, Evesham,*

*On Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1930,*

*At 5 for 6 o'clock in the afternoon*

*The Very Desirable Tithe Free Freehold Farm,*

*Situate in the Parish of Cleeve Prior*

*and known as*

*Kingsmoor Farm,*

*containing*

*92a. Or. 10p.*

*or thereabouts, consisting of 68 Acres of well watered Pasture Land, 20 Acres of good Corn land, and 3 Acres of Pasture Orchard, together with the Modern Farm House with tastefully laid out Gardens and Capital Farm Buildings, for many years in the occupation of the late Mr. Joseph Smithin, and now to be Sold with Vacant possession.*

*To View apply at the House*

*For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Evesham, Alcester and Pershore; or to Byrch, Cox & Sons, Solicitors, Evesham.*

At the 1939 register Laura was living with her daughter Edith Goode at Highfield, Bromsgrove.

Laura died at Highfield, Blackwell near Bromsgrove on the 24th February 1940, aged 84.<sup>42</sup> <sup>43</sup>

Probate was granted to her son Joseph Arthur Smithin, Hotel proprietor, and William Lionel Moore, farmer on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1940. Her effects were valued at £1,276 18s. 2d.<sup>44</sup>

Laura was buried at Cleeve Prior.

There is a memorial for Joseph and Laura at St. Andrew's, Cleeve Prior.

Joseph Smithin died 17/4/1930  
Laura Jane Smithin  
Born 1884  
Died Feb 24 1940

## **Top Farm**

Although the farm was in poor condition in 1882 there was a substantive Georgian farmhouse and about 160 acres of farm land with various outbuildings.

Top Farm in 1882 seems to be a combination of several different small farms sold at various times. It is sometimes called Mr. Rock's Farm but there were also farms called Cleeve Farm, Slatters' farm, and Silvester's farm, whether these are completely separate farms or renamings of various parcels of land and buildings as they changed hands is not clear.

There were also 13 cottages attached to the farm. Joseph chose to rent two cottages close to the farm house (one possibly called 'Cream Cottage'), and another cottage in the centre of the village. The yearly rent was about £485 per annum.

Top Farm was the home of the Rock family in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and a good portion of what was Top Farm was owned by John Rock (1746-1828) and Anne Smithin (1753-1814) who married in Norton, Worcs., in 1771. Anne Smithin was the great Aunt of Joseph Smithin but we don't think he realised he was renting a farm once owned by his great Aunt.

It is not quite clear how the farm passed through the Rock family but by the 1840's it was in the hands of Henry & Elizabeth Adkins. Elizabeth was formerly Elizabeth Rock (b.1818) who married Henry in 1842 in Cleeve Prior. Elizabeth's father was a John Rock (b.1793) who married Elizabeth Lunn (from Cleeve Prior) in 1814 in Birmingham.

Elizabeth Lunn had a brother Matthew Lunn (1780-1852) who was, among other posts, the Vicar of Kempsey, Worcestershire. She had a stained glass window installed in the drawing room at Top Farm, in his memory, possibly in 1857. The window was made by Doe & Rogers of Colleys Yard, Worcester. This was in situ all the time the Smithin family rented Top Farm.

A John Adkins was in charge of the farm in 1882 and Joseph took over from him – his tenancy was due to start in November 1882. The farm was owned by Charles Lunn perhaps with other Trustees.

After 1922 the farm was taken on for 2 or 3 years by a Mr. Hammond and then by Don Archer. When he left he had the stained glass window removed for safe keeping to the Hartlebury Museum.<sup>45</sup>

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Top Farm farmhouse came to be called 'Prior House' and Peter and Elizabeth Newman lived there after the Archer family.

An assessment of 1913 described the farm as follows:-

*Brick and slate house in good repair, 2 attics, 5 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, br kitchen, offices, dairy, cellar. 164 acres 32r. 32p.*

The overall valuation was £5,300. This is equivalent to £600,000 in 2020 values.

The following is the description of Top Farm in 1882.<sup>46</sup>

### **Part 1 - Landlords Jonathan Slatter, Charles Lunn and Henry Adkins**

<i>Foxhill Meadows</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>7a. 0r. 18p</i>
<i>Square Ground</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>5a. 3r. 10p</i>
<i>Long Ground</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>4a. 2r. 24p</i>
<i>FoxHill</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>7a. 0r. 10p</i>
<i>Far Yellow Furlong</i>	<i>Arable</i>	<i>6a. 2r. 2p</i>
<i>Yellow Furlong</i>	<i>Arable</i>	<i>10a. 1r. 33p</i>
<i>Green Ground</i>	<i>Arable</i>	<i>8a. 2r. 12p</i>

Black Hoo	Arable	8a. 2r. 4p
Little Ground	Pasture	1a. 1r. 20p

Also a cottage in the village of Cleeve Prior in the occupation of John Smith

Part 2 - Landlords Robert Lunn the elder, Jonathon Slatter and Robert Lunn the Younger

The Paddock	Pasture	8a. 2r. 20p
Farrs Orchard	Pasture/Orchd	0a. 3r. 10p
Strip adjoining paddock	Pasture	0a. 1r. 13p
Upper Orchard	Orchard	1a. 1r. 21p
Nap Orchard & Culls House Buildings		1a. 0r. 0p
Slatters Meadow	Meadow	8a. 1r. 10p
Lap Meadow	Meadow	0a. 2r. 8p
Pasture in Foxhill meadow	Meadow	0a. 1r. 12p

Part 3 - Landlords Jonathon Slatter and Robert Lunn the Younger

House, Outbuildings and Gardens with orchard and 2 cottages in the occupation of J Taylor, J Collins, 0a. 2r. 13p

Part 4 - Landlords, Robert Lunn the elder, Jonathon Slatter and Robert Lunn the Younger

Nursery Orchard	Orchard	1a. 1r. 0p
Silvesters Building, Yards and Gardens		1a. 3r. 0p
Silvesters Orchard	Orchard	1a. 7r. 0p

Part 5 - Landlords, Jonathon Slatter, Robert Lunn the Younger

Back close	Pasture	3a. 1r. 2p.
Strip nr.the river part of Foxhill	Pasture	1a. 22r. 0p
Silvesters Meadow	Pasture	9a. 2r. 35p
Cow Ground	Arable	6a. 0r. 0p
Longstances & Pilkingtons	Arable	20a. 2r. 5p
Egghorn	Arable	7a. 3r. 0p
Far Yellow Furlong	Arable	4a. 0r. 0p
Near Yellow Furlong	Pasture	2a. 0r. 0p
Cliff	Pasture	2a. 0r. 0p
Foxhill or Foxhill Sandpit or Square ground	Pasture	5a. 0r. 0p
Little Foxhill Meadow	Pature	2a. 0r. 0p

**2. Descendants of Joseph Smithin & Laura Baker**

**Laura Smithin (1884-1971).** Laura Charlotte, also Lottie. The daughter of Joseph and Laura. She was born at Cleeve Prior in 1884; registered at Evesham in the March quarter.<sup>47</sup>

At the 1891 census, aged 7, she was living at home in Cleeve Prior.

At the 1901 census, aged 17, she was living at home in Cleeve Prior.

In July 1908 Laura attended the wedding of her sister Alice.

At the 1911 census, age 27, she was at home in Cleeve Prior

Laura married William Lionel Moore (1877-1959) a bachelor, aged 34, at St. Andrew's Church in Cleeve Prior on the 9th November 1911. Lionel Moore was a hop grower of West Worcestershire. His father was William Moore a farmer from Shelsey Beauchamp, Worcestershire (near Worcester). The witnesses to the marriage were Joseph Smithin and Felicia M Moore who was probably William's mother.<sup>48 49</sup>

There was a notice in the local paper.<sup>50</sup>

Cheltenham Examiner 16 November 1911

Moore – Smithin

November 9, at St. Andrew's Church, Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcestershire, second son of Mr. and Mrs. William Moore, of Noverton, Stanford on Teme, to Laura Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Smithin, J.P. of Cleeve Prior

At the 1921 census Laura and William were living at Shelsley Beauchamp.<sup>51</sup>

1921 Census

Church House, Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcs.

William Lionel Moore, Head, age 43, Farmer Employer, born Worcs.

Laura Charlotte Moore, Wife, age 37, Home duties, born Worcs.

Kathleen Joan Moore, Daughter, age 7, At Home, born Shelsley Beauchamp

Arthur Lionel Moore, Son age 5, Shelsley Beauchamp, born Shelsley Beauchamp

Eileen Mary Moore, Daughter, age 1, born Shelsley Beauchamp

Ethel Aston, Boarder, age 34, Lady Help Private, born Stafford

Robert Eric Cal Smith, Boarder, age 29, Farm Pupil W.L. Moore Farmer, born Manchester

Arthur Alexander Miller, Boarder, age 18, Farm Pupil W.L. Moore Farmer, born London

Alfred Albert Miller, Boarder, age 16, Farm Pupil W.L. Moore Farmer, born London

Emma Ward, Servant, age 23, Domestic Nurse Private, born Bishops Frome, Herefordshire

Laura was mentioned in her father's Will of 1926.

In 1930 William Lionel Moore was living at Church House (the family farm), Shelsley Beauchamp, and was described as a Farmer.

William and Laura attended the funeral of her father on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1930.

There was a small biography of William in Kelly's Handbook of 1932.

Kelly's Handbook 1932

Moore, Wm. Lionel, 2s. of late William Moore, of Stanford on Teme, Worcestershire; b. 1877; educ. Bromsgrove School; m. 1911, Laura Charlotte, dau. of Joseph Smithin, of Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire. 2s. 2d.; J.P. (1917) Worcestershire: The Church House, Shelsley Beauchamp, nr. Worcester (T.N. Shelsley Beauchamp 9); Union (Worcester) club.

In June 1933 William and Laura attended the funeral of Miss L.H. Newton of Cleeve Prior.<sup>52</sup>

William died, aged 81, in 1959. There was a notice in the local paper.<sup>53</sup>

Birmingham Daily Post 21 February 1959

Mr. W. Lionel Moore

The death has occurred of Mr. William Lionel Moore, of Church House, Shelsley Beauchamp, one of Worcestershire's best known farmers. He was 81. After leaving Bromsgrove School, where he was captain of the Rugby and cricket teams, Mr. Moore continued the farming tradition which has been in the Moore family for 250 years. He was an authority on hops and fruit. A member of Martley Rural Council for 36 years, he was a past deputy chairman of Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee, and during the war was president of the Worcester Voluntary Land Corps.

There was a biography of William in Bromsgrove School Magazine of 1959.<sup>54</sup>

William Lionel Moore, O.B.E.

b. July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1877. d. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1959

School 1892-1895

XV. 1893-5; Capt. 1895. XI. 1892-5; Capt. 1895

School Monitor 1894-5

*President of the O.B. Club 1948.*

*Already at School he have evidence of those qualities of strength, decision, capacity which, as the years went on, were to win for him an established position in County life. He was always a leader and prominent in every activity. Without any claims to scholarliness he had an interest in intellectual things, and affection for good literature and an appreciation of style. For games he had a natural aptitude; indeed he was a promising bat and the eye of the County Cricket authority was upon him. But a farmer's life accords ill with cricket and that ambition died.*

*Farming with him as hereditary. He loved the land and it is hardly fanciful to say that the land loved him. After a period of training with his father, Moore started for himself in a modest way at Shelsley Beauchamp. His energy and skill and probity soon had their reward. His operations extended, his acreage greatly increased; he became known as a very successful hop and fruit grower; the tumbled hills in that beautiful neighbourhood became an orchard land as he planted in every direction: 'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.'*

*He was so widely respected for his judgement and character that his counsel was constantly asked and he was invited to take control of other properties, notably of those of Oriel College, Oxford. The B.B.C. made use of him, local meetings of many kinds called for him as judge. When the second war broke out he was a natural choice for the County Agricultural Committee, where his work was rewarded by an O.B.E. Yet it was not all this which brought such numbers to his Memorial Service that they far overflowed the confines of the church. The thoughts then were on his constant kindness, his eager hospitality, his generosity and public spirit. He was not easily deceived and he could be severe. But all knew that he was just, and that, where possible, his justice would always be tempered with mercy. Behind all this lay his quiet and well considered religious faith. He was a true member of the Church, a stand by to his rectors.*

*To the School he was devoted, ever ready to help, and to generations of Bromsgrovians he was a well known figure. We venture to say that we can understand something of the loss which has come to his family and intimate friends.*

Laura died, age 87, in 1971; registered at Kidderminster in the March quarter.<sup>55</sup>

There is a memorial stone in St. Andrew's churchyard.

*Josephine Smithin  
Born April 23rd 1887  
Died May 1st 1925  
Joseph Smithin  
Born 1884  
Died 17/4/1930  
Laura Jane Smithin  
Born 1884  
Died Feb 24th 1940  
1929*

Laura and William had four children: Kathleen J. Moore (b.1914), Arthur L. Moore (1916-2010), Eileen M. Moore (b.1919), Joseph Moore (b.1925). We know of two grandchildren (of Arthur Moore): David L. Moore, Ann Banks (née Moore).<sup>56 57 58 59</sup>

**Edith Smithin (1885-1981).** Edith Margaret. The daughter of Joseph and Laura. She was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1885 at Cleeve Prior; registered at Evesham in the June quarter.<sup>60</sup>

At the 1891 census, aged 6, she was at home in Cleeve Prior.  
At the 1901 census, aged 16, she was away at School in Atch Lench.

Edith received a prize at the Evesham show in June 1901.<sup>61</sup>

*Hereford and Worcestershire Agricultural Society Show. Evesham.*

*Butter Making Competition. Restricted to residents in Worcestershire who have received instruction in butter making under the auspices of the County Council. Edith Smithin, Cleeve Prior, (equal thirds).*

Edith also received a prize at an Agricultural show in Cardiff.<sup>62</sup>

Cardiff Evening Express 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901

*Royal Show, Last day*

*Butter Making Competition*

*On Saturday morning and afternoon the last of the three competitions in butter making was held at the show yard dairy. The competition was open to dairymen, dairymaids, or members of a farmer's family resident in Gloucester, Hereford, Monmouth, Salop, Stafford, Warwick, Worcester, and South Wales. Miss Edith M. Smithin, Cleeve Prior, Evesham, Worcs.*

In July 1908 Edith attended the wedding of her sister Alice.

At the 1911 census, age 26, she was at home in Cleeve Prior

Edith married Cyril Frederick Goode (1881-1928) a bachelor, aged 30, at St. Andrew's Church. Cleeve Prior on 11th July 1911, only a few months before her sister Laura. Cyril was a manufacturing jeweller from Moseley, Birmingham, as was his father Albert Conrad Goode. The witnesses were Joseph and Laura Smithin and [Marion] C. Goode, probably Cyril's mother.<sup>63 64</sup>

At the 1921 census Edith and Cyril were living in Beckenham, Kent.<sup>65</sup>

1921 Census

*29, Malmaison Way, Beckenham, Kent*

*Cyril Frederick Goode, Head, age 40, Manufacturing Traveller Employer, born Moseley, Worcs.*

*Edith Margaret Goode, Wife, age 35, born Worcs.*

*Alan Smithin Goode, Son, age 8, born Blackwell, Worcs.*

*Maurice Shirley Goode, Son, age 3, born Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcs.*

*Amy Collier, Servant, age 25, Nurse Private, born Clapton, Somerset*

Edith was mentioned in her father's Will of 1926.

Cyril was named as an Executor of his wife's father's Will in 1926.

Cyril died, age 47, in 1928; registered at Bromley in the June quarter.<sup>66</sup>

Edith attended her father's funeral in 1930.

At the 1939 Register Edith was living in Bromsgrove. Her mother was living with her.<sup>67</sup>

1939 Register

*Highfield, Bromsgrove*

*Goode Edith M, b.9 Feb 1885, Widow, Unpaid Domestic duties*

*Smithin Laura J, b. 21 Apr 1856, Widow, Unpaid Domestic duties*

*Church Edith J (later Taylor), b.26 Dec 1901, Single, Domestic Help*

*Church Arthur G, Married, 5.Sep 1909, Single, Gardener, Handyman*

Edith died on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1981; registered at Bromsgrove in the June quarter.<sup>68</sup>

Probate was granted on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1981.

*Goode Edith Margaret of Cleeve. 1 College Road, Bromsgrove. Worcs. Died 20 May 1981, Probate Birmingham 25 June. £32,898.*

Edith and Cyril had two children: Alan Smithin Goode (1913-1999), Maureen S. Goode (b.1918).<sup>69 70</sup>

**Alan Smithin Goode (1913-1999).** Alan Smithin. The son of Edith and Cyril. He was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1913; registered at Bromsgrove in the June quarter.

Alan married Annie Daphne J Greey (1912-2001) at Lickey on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1939.



Birmingham Mail 7 October 1939

*Miss Daphne Greey, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Greey, of Beech Knoll, Barnt Greene, was married today at the Lickey Parish Church to Mr. Alan Smithin Goode, elder son of Mrs. Cyril Goode and the late Mr. Cyril Goode, of Highfield, Blackwell. The bride was given away by her father, who is a director of Grey's Ltd., Bull Street, Birmingham. Mr. Maurice Goode, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. There were no bridesmaids. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. W.P. Beard, rector of Blackwell.*

Alan was in the Royal Artillery in the Second World War and was awarded the Military Cross for an action in Tunisia in May 1943.<sup>71 72</sup>

Alan died, age 86, in 1999; registered at Bromsgrove in April 1999.<sup>73</sup>  
Daphne died, at Bromsgrove in March 2001.

**Alice Smithin (1886-1961).** Alice Maude or Maud. The daughter of Joseph Smithin and Laura. She was born in Cleeve Prior in 1886; registered at Evesham in the June quarter.<sup>74</sup>

At the 1891 census, aged 5, Alice was at home in Cleeve Prior.  
At the 1901 census, aged 15, she was away at School in Atch Lench.

Alice took part in a flower show in August 1901.<sup>75</sup>

Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 10th August 1901

*Bidford Flower Show and Sports.*

*Division 3 (open to local area). Flowers. Cut Flowers. Bouquet: Miss Alice Smithin.*

Alice married Hedley Spital (b.1885) in 1908; registered at Evesham in the September quarter.<sup>76</sup>

This was reported in the local paper.<sup>77</sup>

Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 1<sup>st</sup> August 1908

*Marriage of Miss A.M. Smithin of Cleeve Prior*

*An interesting wedding took place at St. Andrew's Church, Cleeve Prior, on Tuesday morning. The contracting parties were Miss Alice Maud Smithin, third daughter of Mr. Joseph Smithin, J.P., a much respected resident of Cleeve Prior, and Mr. Hedley Spital, of Cleeve Prior and Olton, Birmingham. The ceremony, which attracted many to the church, was conducted by the Rev. A.C. Style, Vicar of Cleeve Prior. Miss Holton played the wedding march and other music. Mr. Harold Spital, the bridegroom's brother, was best man. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a dress of ivory Irish poplin handsomely embroidered, and she wore a wreath and veil of beautiful old lace, and a jewel bracelet, the gift of the bridegroom. The bride also carried a lovely bouquet of white roses, lilies of the valley, and white heather, with trails of asparagus fern. There were five bridesmaids, the Misses Lottie, Edith, and Josephine Smithin, sisters of the bride, little Miss Joan Baker, daughter of Mr. Arthur Baker, of Pershore, cousin of the bride, and Miss Ethernie Rolason, niece of the bridegroom. They also looked charming. The elder maids wore dresses of embroidered muslin and chip hats trimmed with sweet peas, each with distinctive colour – pink, mauve, and cherry. They carried lovely bouquets of sweet peas similar to the colour of their hats. The younger maids wore embroidered muslin frocks and white embroidered muslin hats, and carried baskets of sweet peas. The three elder bridesmaids wore gold bracelets, the gift of the bridegroom, and the girls pearl and initialled brooches, also the gift of the bridegroom. Later in the afternoon the newly married couple drove to Evesham to catch the 5.50 train for London en route for Bournemouth, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride's going away dress of cream alpaca trimmed with silver braid, and she wore a hat of burnt straw trimmed with pink roses.*

*The following is a list of the presents:-*

*Bridegroom to bride, jewel bracelet; bride to bridegroom, case of ebony brushes; bride's father, cheque; bride's mother, house linen; Miss Lottie Smithin, Eider down quilt; Miss Edith Smithin, embroidered bed spread; Miss Joey Smithin, preserving kettle and pudding basins; Master Arthur*

Smithin, butter knife; Mrs. Spital, Chesterfield armchairs, breakfast service and cheque; Miss L Spital, dessert service; Mr. Ernest Spital, standard lamp ... Miss M. Smithin, afternoon tea cloth; Mrs. and Miss K. Smithin, Carlton china fruit bowl and dishes; workpeople of Mr. J. Smithin, carvers; Mr. and Mrs. H. Smithin, copper kettle; Mr. J. Smithin (Gloucester), table cutlery.

Hedley Spital was a co-owner of the Jewellery Manufacturer G.W. Harvey & Co. in Birmingham. The firm was dissolved in 1914.



At the 1911 census Alice and Hedley were living in Cleeve Prior at Kingsmoor farm.<sup>78</sup>

### 1911 Census

*Kingsmoor, Cleeve Prior, Evesham*

*Spital Hedley, Head, married, age 30, Wholesale Traveller, born Handsworth, Staffs.*

*Spital Alice Maud, Wife, married 2 years, age 25, born Cleeve Prior*

*Spital Philip Norman, Son, single, age 1, born Cleeve Prior*

*Munn, Mary Elisabeth, Help, single, age 18, Companion Help, born Naunton, Worcs.*

In 1930 Kingsmoor farm was described as 'being in the occupation of Joseph Smithin for many years' so they may only have lived temporarily at the farm house.

Alice and Hedley attended the wedding of Margaret Newton Lunn and Herbert Horton Smith at All Saints, Evesham on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912.<sup>79</sup>

At the 1921 census Alice and Hedley were living in Cheltenham.<sup>80</sup>

### 1921 Census

*Melbourne, London Road, Cheltenham*

*Hedley Spital, Head, age 41, Manufacturing Jeweller Employer, born Handsworth*

*Alice Maud Spital, Wife, age 35, born Cleeve Prior*

*Joyce Mary Spital, Daughter, age 4, born Knowle*

*Elsie May McLods, Servant, age 21, Domestic private, born Warwickshire*

Alice was mentioned in her father's Will of 1926.

In 1930 Hedley Spital was living at Hampstead Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham and was described as a Jewellery Manufacturer.

Alice and Hedley attended her father's funeral in 1930.

In 1931 Alice and Hedley were living at Hampstead Road, St. Paul's, Birmingham.<sup>81</sup>

They are listed in the 1939 register living in Gloucestershire.<sup>82</sup>

### 1939 Register

*Rosary Cottage, North Cotswold, Gloucestershire*

*Hedley Spital, 2 Aug 1885, Shopkeeper (Antiques), Married*

*Alice M Spital 24 Mar 1886, Unpaid Domestic Duties, Married*

Hedley attended the funeral of Squadron Leader David A. Pemberton at Broadway on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1940.<sup>83</sup>

Hedley died on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1946.

Probate was granted on the 5<sup>th</sup> September.<sup>84</sup>

*Spital Hedley of Rosary Cottage, Campden, Gloucestershire. Died 13<sup>th</sup> July 1946 at Parkside Bungalow, Runcorn, Cheshire, Administration. London 5 September to Alice Maud Spital widow. Effects. £60*

Alice died, age 75, in 1961; registered at Worcester in the December quarter.<sup>85</sup>

Probate was granted on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1961.<sup>86</sup>

*Spital Alice Maud of Little Blakes Shelsley Beauchamp, Gloucestershire. Widow died 14<sup>th</sup> November 1961 at The Royal Infirmary Worcester. Probate Gloucester. 8<sup>th</sup> February to Douglas Hedley Spital fancy goods dealer and Alfred Maley engineer. Effects £840 2s. 8d.*

Alice and Hedley had three children; Philip Norman Spital (1909-1996), Douglas H. Spital (1912-1983), Joyce Spital (1918-1978).<sup>87 88 89</sup>

**Mary Smithin (1887-1925).** Mary Josephine, also Joey. Known as Josephine. The daughter of Joseph and Laura. She was born in Cleeve Prior in 1887; registered at Evesham in the June quarter.<sup>90</sup>

At the 1891 census, aged 4, Josephine was at home in Cleeve Prior.

At the 1901 census, aged 14, she was away at school in Atch Lench

In July 1908 Josephine attended the wedding of her sister Alice.

At the 1911 census, age 24, she was at home in Cleeve Prior and working as a teacher

Josephine attended the wedding of Margaret Newton Lunn and Herbert Horton Smith at All Saints, Evesham on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912.<sup>91</sup>

Josephine later suffered from Tuberculosis and was a patient for several years at the specialist Warneford hospital, St. Clements, in Oxford.

Josephine died at the Warneford Hospital, Headington on the 12th March 1925; registered at Headington in the March quarter.<sup>92</sup> She was buried at Cleeve Prior. Joseph was present at the death and registered it.

Administration was granted to Joseph Smithin, farmer and her effects were valued at £86 15s 8d.<sup>93</sup>

**Joseph Smithin (1892-1970).** Joseph Arthur. The son of Joseph and Laura. He was born at Cleeve Prior in 1892; registered at Pershore in the June quarter.<sup>94</sup>

At the 1901 census he was away at school in Stratford.<sup>95</sup>

#### 1901 Census

*Grove House, Boys School, 35 Green Hill Street, Stratford, Warwickshire  
Joseph A Smithin, Boarder, age 8, Pupil, born Cleeve Prior*

At some point (possibly from 11 to 18) Joseph attended Dean Close School, Cheltenham.

In July 1908 Joseph attended the marriage of his sister Alice.

At the 1911 census, age 18, Joseph was at home in Cleeve Prior and working as a Farmer.

Joseph joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry on the 10th March 1911; a part time Cavalry regiment.<sup>96</sup> On the application he described himself as a Farmer employed by his father. He gave his age as 18 years 9 months. On the medical report his height was given as 5 feet 9 inches.

Between 1911 and 1914 he did annual training at Warwick or Bulford Camp in Wiltshire. He started as a Private and was then a Lance Corporal and was promoted to Corporal on the 5th September 1914 and to Acting Sergeant on the 6th April 1915.

Joseph was discharged from the Yeomanry on the 11th September 1915 to take up a temporary Commission in the 4th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment on the 12th September 1915; published in the London Gazette on 27th November 1915.

He applied for his Commission from Chatby Camp, Alexandria, Egypt where he had been posted with D Company of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, as part of the Expeditionary Force Egypt, from the 11th April 1915. The Worcestershire Regiment and Warwickshire Yeomanry had been in Egypt and in Gallipoli, Turkey and arrived back in Egypt on the 26th February 1915.

Joseph was accepted and had the rank of 2nd Lieutenant; the 4th Battalion had already left for France in March 1915 and Joseph joined them there.

In 1916 Joseph suffered from severe case of Impetigo and was sent from France (Havre) to England, Osbourne on the Isle of Wight. He left his unit on the 19th July 1916 and embarked on the SS Galika for England on 25th July 1916 arriving at Southampton on the 26th July 1916.

The illness had cleared up by the end of August. A Medical report of 23rd August 1916 reads:-

*Osbourne, Isle of Wight  
Lt. J A Smithin, Age 25  
Disability: Impetigo*

*After serving in Egypt and Gallipoli he went to France and was invalided for Impetigo which was followed by a severe spreading dermatitis involving the face and neck and had now practically recovered.*

He would be fit for duty in another 2 months and seems to have returned to his unit around the 26th October 1916.

Joseph was promoted to Lieutenant on the 17th January 1917.

In May 1917 he was with the 1st Battalion and was involved in an action at Bouchavesnes on the Somme in France. The description of the 11th May reads:<sup>97</sup>

*The attack was immediately successful. The German Front line, 'Pallas Trench', was entirely overrun and the attack swept onward to their further objective, 'Fritz Trench', the German second line. Led by Captain N H Stone, Lieutenant R A O'Donovan and 2nd/Lieut. J A Smithin the Worcestershire platoons charged 'Fritz Trench'. There was a short but desperate struggle.*

They held the position for the rest of the day under very heavy bombardment and there were over 200 casualties. Joseph and the other two officers were later awarded the Military Cross for this action; listed in the London Gazette on the 11th May 1917.

London Gazette 11 May 1917

*2nd Lt. (temp. Capt.). Joseph Arthur Smithin, Worc. R.*

Military Cross

*For conspicuous gallant and devotion to duty. He led his platoon in a most gallant manner and personally reconnoitred an enemy trench. Later he, single handed, attacked and captured two enemy. He was subsequently wounded.*

There was a slightly different account in the Edinburgh Gazette.<sup>98</sup>

Temp. 2nd Lt. (temp. Lt.) Joseph Arthur Smithin, Worc. R.

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon in a most gallant manner, and was responsible for destroying many enemy dug-outs. Later, he took command of his company, and throughout handled it with great skill.*

There was also an account in the Cheltenham Looker-on.<sup>99</sup>

*The Military Cross has been conferred on the following:-*

*Temp. Sec. Lieut. (Temp. Lieut.) Joseph Arthur Smithin, Worcs. Regt., son of Mr. J. Smithin of Cleeve Prior. He led his platoon in a most gallant manner, and was responsible for destroying many enemy dugouts. Later he took command of his Company and throughout handled it with great skill. He was at Dean Close School.*

Joseph was promoted to Acting Captain whilst commanding a Company on the 15th August 1917.<sup>100</sup>

There was a strong German counter attack over a wide front in March 1918 (the great German counter offensive) and Joseph was with the 1st Battalion in a defensive action at Pargny in France. He was wounded along with several others on the 24th March 1918.

This was reported in a local paper.<sup>101</sup>

Cheltenham Chronicle 27<sup>th</sup> April 1918

*Capt. J. Arthur Smithin, M.C., Worcester Regt., wounded, is an old boy of Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and the only son of Mr. J. Smithin, of Cleve Prior, near Evesham.*

A later medical board (possibly on April 19th) said that he was hit in the foot by a bullet but the injury was not serious and he was almost recovered.

On the 16th May 1918 Joseph wrote to the War office about the case.

*Southampton Court Hospital  
Tewkesbury  
Secretary of the War Office  
From: Capt. Smithin  
Southampton Court  
1st Bt. Worcestershire Regt.*

*Please accept this my application for a gratuity in lieu of my wound. I was hit through the right foot on March 24th. The result being the tendons of the foot were strained. Through not being able to walk much I have been put to considerable inconvenience and expense. Also there is every likeness that I shall have periodical pain for some considerable time.*

*Hoping you can see your way clear to compensate me.*

*I am your obedient servant*

*J A Smithin Capt.  
1st Batt. Worcester Regt.*

Paperwork and medical checks went on until the case appears to have gone to the Ministry of Pensions on the 22nd October 1919.

After the Armistice Joseph served in Europe in the Army of Occupation.

Along with the Military Cross he would also have received the 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal.

Joseph was released from the Army on the 12th April 1919.<sup>102</sup>

Joseph finally returned to the UK in June 1919.

He was listed in the 4th Battalion in October 1919 serving with the service Battalions with the Rank of Acting Captain – this is probably a posting to the Reserves.

Joseph married Emmeline Louise Cottie Mayer (1892-1947) in 1920; registered at Evesham in the March quarter.<sup>103</sup> Emmeline was born in Walsall in 1892.

The wedding was reported in the local paper.<sup>104</sup>

*Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 28<sup>th</sup> February 1920*

*Two Cleeve Prior Weddings*

*A double wedding in the parish church at Cleeve Prior aroused much interest on Saturday. Capt. Joseph Arthur Smithin, M.C., only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Smithin was married to Miss Emmeline Louise Mayer, youngest daughter of Mr. T. Mayer, of Cleeve Prior, and Capt. Harold Lancelot Ball, elder son of the late Mr. George Ball, of Pailton, Rugby, was married to Miss Kate Newton Sheaf, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Francis Robert Sheaf and Mrs. Sheaf, of Sunnyside, Cleeve Prior.*

*Capt. Smithin was on service throughout the war, being mobilised with the Warwickshire Yeomanry in 1914. He went on to Gallipoli with his squadron and was present at both evacuations. He later proceeded to Egypt, where he trained for his commission, and was gazetted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters. Afterwards he went to France and there served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Worcesters. Whilst in France he was wounded and was awarded the Military Cross. After the Armistice he served with the Army of Occupation in Germany, and finally returned home in June last. Capt. Smithin is a keen sportsman, and during last season was a very successful member of the Bidford Cricket Club, whilst in pre-war days he assisted the Evesham club.*

*Capt. Ball joined the Australian Army at the commencement of the war and was later commissioned in the R.A.S.C. He is at present serving with the Army of Occupation, and is not yet demobilised. Both bridegrooms were married in uniform and Capt. Smithin's best man was Lieut. Lambert, whilst Capt. I.W.G. Malcolm, R.G.A., carried out similar duties for Capt. Ball.*

*Miss Mayer was attired in a dress of tambour lace over pale pink chiffon and Georgette. She wore a family lace veil and a wreath of silver leaves. She carried a bouquet of white carnations and wore a pearl and turquoise necklet, the gift of the bridegroom. She was attended by Miss J. Smithin, who wore a dress of beige crepe de chine with beaded lace and wore a locket, the gift of the bridegroom.*

*Miss Sheaf's dress was of ivory crepe de chine and lace and she wore an embroidered tulle veil, worn by her mother. Her bouquet was of white lilac and carnations, whilst the bridegroom's present was a gold chain with pearl pendant. She was attended by Miss Anne Sheaf, who wore a dress of hyacinth blue crepe de chine and carried a bouquet of pink carnations. She also wore an oxidized silver and pearl necklet, the gift of the bridegroom.*

*The church was crowded with parishioners and friends, and the officiating clergy were the Vicar (the Rev. A.C. Style) and the Rev. F. Perry (of Birchfield). The hymn 'O Perfect Love' was sung by the school children.*

*Capt. and Mrs. Smithin are visiting during their honeymoon and Capt. and Mrs. Ball have travelled to Langland Bay. Both couples leave for Australia early in April. In the evening there was a dance at Miss Holtom's warehouse, when there was a large attendance of friends and well wishers. There were a large number of handsome presents.*

According to the report of their wedding Joseph and Emmeline were intending emigrate to Australia; Harold Ball (who was the other bridegroom at the double wedding) was an Australian. Joseph and Emmeline were listed as embarking for Freemantle, Australia on the 3rd April 1920.<sup>105</sup>

Orsova, Orient Line

3 April 1920

From London

Bound for: Australia

Smithin JA, Landing at Freemantle, Farmer, age 27, Intended permanent residence. Freemantle Smithin E.L.C, age 27

The document implies they intended to emigrate permanently. However, they were back in England by 1924 as Joseph is listed in the phone book.<sup>106</sup>

Name: J. Arthur Smithin, Marl Cliff farm, Bidford on Avon

Joseph was a member of the Freemasons at Alcester.<sup>107</sup>

England, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921

Name: Joseph Arthur Smithin

Gender: Male

Initiation Age: 27

Birth Year: abt. 1893

Initiation Date: 4 Feb 1920

First Payment Year on Register: 1920

Year Range: 1910-1921

Profession: Farmer

Lodge: Apollo Lodge

Lodge Location: Alcester

Lodge Number 301

Folio Number: 20

Joseph and Emmeline attended the funeral of Arthur E. Baker (his uncle) on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1928.<sup>108</sup>

Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 7<sup>th</sup> January 1928

Former Pershore Solicitor

Death of Mr. Arthur E. Baker

On Monday about Midnight, the death took place of Mr. Arthur E. Baker (63), at the home of his sister, Mrs. Druary, of Malvern Link, who, for some 20 years terminating with his resignation in 1916, was Clerk to the Pershore Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, and to the Worcestershire Education Committee for the Pershore district.

The family mourners included: Mr. Arthur Smithin (nephew).

Joseph and Emmeline had one son who died as an infant on the 23rd May 1929. There is a memorial for Robert at St. Andrew's Cleeve Prior.<sup>109</sup>

Emmeline Smithin

Passed on Feb 14 1947 aged 55 years

Robert Arthur

passed on

May 23 1929

Joseph and Emmeline attended the funeral of his father in 1930.

In 1930 Joseph dealt with the probate for his father's Will.

Emmeline presented the prizes at an event for the Cleeve Prior Scout troop in February 1930.

Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 15<sup>th</sup> February 1930

Cleeve Prior. Scout Troop's Birthday.

On Tuesday evening a most successful whist drive, followed by a social and dance, was held in the Memorial Hall, to celebrate the local Boy Scout Troop's first birthday. Mr. Grey acted as M.C. for whist and Mrs. Arthur Smithin presented the prizes.

In 1931 Joseph was a candidate in the Evesham local election.<sup>110</sup>

*The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette. 14 March 1931*

*Evesham Rural District Council (Elections)*

*Nominations*

*Cleeve Prior (1 seat). Arthur Joseph Smithin, Marlcliff. Christopher Grey, The Manor.*

In 1931 Joseph and Emmeline were still living at Marlcliff Farm and Joseph was described as a Farmer.

In June 1933 Joseph and Emmeline attended the funeral of Miss L.H. Newton of Cleeve Prior.<sup>111</sup>

*The Tewkesbury Register and Agricultural Gazette 24th June 1933*

*Cleeve Prior. Funeral of Miss Newton.*

*The funeral of Miss Louisa Harriett Newton, of Upper House, Cleeve Prior, whose death at the age of ninety years we recorded last week, took place at Cleeve Prior on Saturday. The family mourners and friends included:-*

*Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Smithin*

*Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Moore*

*Mr. and Mrs. H. Smithin*

*Mrs. J. Smithin*

In February 1936 Joseph dealt with the Administration of the estate of Francis Holt Coldicott (b.1890).<sup>112</sup>

*Re Francis Holt Coldicott, Deceased.*

*Pursuant to the Trustee Act, 1925. Notice is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of Francis Holt Coldicott late of The Mill House, Cleeve Prior, in the county of Worcester, deceased, Haulier (who died on the 1st day of January, 1936, and whose Will was proved in the Birmingham Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 20th day of February, 1936, by Joseph Arthur Smithin and Henry John Dodds the executors therein named), are hereby required to send in the particulars of their debts, claims or demands to us, the undersigned, on or before the 4th day of May, 1936*

Francis Coldicott lived in Cleeve Prior and was one of 5 sons who served in the armed forces in the first world war.

In 1939 Joseph and Emmeline were in Evesham.<sup>113</sup>

*1939 Register, Evesham*

*40 High St., Evesham*

*Smithin Joseph, married, Farmer & Hotel Proprietor, born 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1892*

*Smithin Emmeline, married, Hotel Proprietress, born 7<sup>th</sup> October 1892*

In 1940 Joseph dealt with the probate for his mother's Will.

In 1940 Joseph was described as a Hotel Proprietor.

On the 17th July 1940 Joseph joined the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps as a Captain.<sup>114</sup> He was discharged from the Corps with the honorary rank of Major on the 27th June 1943.<sup>115</sup>

Joseph was involved with the Home Guard in June 1941.<sup>116</sup>

*Cup for Works Home Guard*

*Competition in West*

*The directors of a West of England works gave a handsome cup to be competed for by their works Home Guard,. This took place on Saturday, when seven platoons competed. The men were very smart indeed, and the evolutions performed went off without a hitch. The judges were Wing Commander L Crocker, Capt. J A Smithin, and Mr. S Warwick.*



Joseph's Military Cross was referred in the second world war as well.<sup>117</sup>

*Two old Decanians. Lieut. J A Smithin, Worcester Regiment, the son of Mr. J Smithin, of Cleeve Prior; and Second Lieut. George Walker of Fire Brake, Leckhampton were awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field.*

Joseph is also listed on the Cleeve Prior War Memorial.

.....

*Frank Sheaf  
Frederick C Sheppard  
Arthur Siam  
Arthur Smithin  
George Spiers  
James Spiers*

.....

Joseph bought what was probably a private prosecution in 1943.<sup>118</sup>

*The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette. 20 November 1943*

*Theft of Growing Fruit  
Fladbury man bound over*

*Before General Sir Francis Davies (chairman) and other magistrates at Pershore Police Court, on Tuesday. Allen Grove of Grangarth, Fladbury was charged with stealing 13lbs, of growing apples from an orchard owned by Major Blore, of Craycombe Farm, Fladbury. The prosecution was carried out Mr. Joseph Arthur Smithin, of Cleeve Prior, on behalf of Major Blore, and Mr. H.J.H Saunders defended, entering a plea of not guilty to the charge.*

*P.C. Fuller said that on the evening of October 14 he was by the orchard and saw the defendant, with the aid of a ladder, remove fruit off one of the trees. After replacing the ladder defendant concealed the fruit in his coat and started down the road. He was stopped by witness who demanded an explanation. Defendant said he intended to pay Mr. Harris for the fruit when he saw him.*

*Witness denied Mr. Saunders' suggestion that the fruit had not been concealed and had only been placed, quite naturally, in a coat pocket. He admitted that the man 'had a clean record', and, as far as he knew, a good character.*

*The foreman in charge of the orchard, Mr. Arthur Brookes Harris, of Fladbury, valued the stolen fruit, which he weighed in the presence of the defendant and P.C. Fuller at 4s. 4d.*

*Asked by Mr. Saunders whether, if the defendant had come to him with the money for the fruit, he would have accepted it, witness replied: 'No, I shouldn't. I never gave him instructions to pick the fruit.' He added that it was not his place to do so anyway.*

*Defendant on oath, said he had lived at Fladbury since the last war, and, with his wife's property, owned and rented a house and five acres of land. Every night he went to a field adjoining the orchard, to make sure that his horse could not break out. On October 14 he thought he would go into the orchard and see if there were any rabbits about. In doing this he noticed the apples on the tree and thinking he could pay Mr. Harris when he saw him, decided to pick some. He brought a ladder from some twenty yards distant, and on finishing with it, returned it to where he found it. When he took the fruit, he did so without intent to steal and with the one idea of squaring up with Mr. Harris later.*

*The Chairman announced that the Bench had found the prisoner guilty, but in consideration of his good character, had decided to be lenient, and bound him over for twelve months.*

In 1943 Joseph and Emmeline were living at Peacock Cottage, Cleeve Prior.<sup>119</sup>  
In 1947 they were living at Blossomfield cottage, Salford Road, Bidford on Avon.<sup>120</sup>

Emmeline suffered from rare form of cancer and in later years was quite ill. Diana (John Smithin's daughter) remembers visiting her and seeing her often laid up in bed; this would have been in the mid

1940's. Emmeline died on the 14th February 1947, aged 55. There was a notice in the London Gazette.<sup>121</sup>

*Smithin Emmeline Louise Cottie  
Blossomfield, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire  
Married Woman (the Wife of Joseph Arthur Smithin)  
14th February 1947*

Emmeline's death was also in The Times.<sup>122</sup>

#### Deaths

*Smithin on Feb 14 1947 at Blossomfield Bidford on Avon, Emmeline, wife of Arthur Smithin, late of Alveston Manor, Stratford on Avon. Funeral, Cleeve Prior, Monday Feb 17 at 2.30*

Emmeline left her body to medical research.<sup>123</sup>

#### Stratford upon Avon Herald 8th August 1947

*Body offered for Cancer Research  
Mrs. Emmeline Louise Smithin, of Bidford on Avon, late of Stratford on Avon, wife of Joseph Arthur Smithin, farm manager, left £13,432, (net personalty £9,757). She directed that her body be sent to a hospital of institution 'if my doctor considers it of interest to cancer researt.'*

Joseph (probably after 1947) moved to Norton and ran a hotel there and was also working as an Agricultural salesman..

Joseph was involved in a car accident in October 1948.<sup>124</sup>

#### Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 2nd October 1948

*Train Hits Car  
Motorist's Escape in Crossing Accident  
Mr. Arthur Smithin, of Bidford on Avon, was lucky to escape with his life when driving his car through a farm occupation crossing on the railway, known as Oxstalls Crossing, about a mile outside Evesham Railway Station early on Tuesday afternoon. The front of the car was telescoped when struck by the 12.50 p.m. Birmingham-Ashchurch train. Except for a shaking, Mr. Smithin escaped injury, although the car was wrecked, and apart from a jolting when the engine driver braked suddenly, the passengers in the train were none the worse for the incident. The train, the only damage to which was a broken step, continued its journey after 20 minutes delay*

Joseph attended the funeral of his cousin John Smithin, at Bidford, in January 1953.

In 1968 Joseph was living at 1 Richmond Villa, Glastonbury.<sup>125</sup>

Joseph died, aged 78, on the 6th January 1970; registered at Wells in the March quarter.<sup>126 127</sup> He was living at 11 King's Castle Road, Wells, Somerset and was described as a Farmer (retired). He died of a Coronary Thrombosis. The informant was Douglas Hedley Spital of Truro, Cornwall; his nephew.<sup>128</sup>

Joseph was cremated on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1970 at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, Somerset.<sup>129</sup>

#### Wells Journal 16th January 1970

*Resident's Death  
Cremation took place at Haycombe Crematorium on Tuesday of Major Joseph Arthur Smithin, of 11 Kings Castle Road, Wells, who died on Tuesday last week, aged 77.*

Joseph's estate was wound up in April and the contents of his bungalow and the bungalow itself were sold at Auction in Wells.<sup>130 131</sup>

### Wells Journal 3rd April 1970

Estate of J.A. Smithin dec.

11, King Castle Road, Wells

Sale of the Contents of the Residence

Including:- Antique and other Furnishings, Carpets, Rugs, China, Glass, Silver, Plate, Bric-a-Brac, Pictures, General Household and Outside Effects

1956 Morris Minor Saloon

In all approximately 270 Lots, which

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 11.30 a.m.

### Wells Journal 17th April 1970

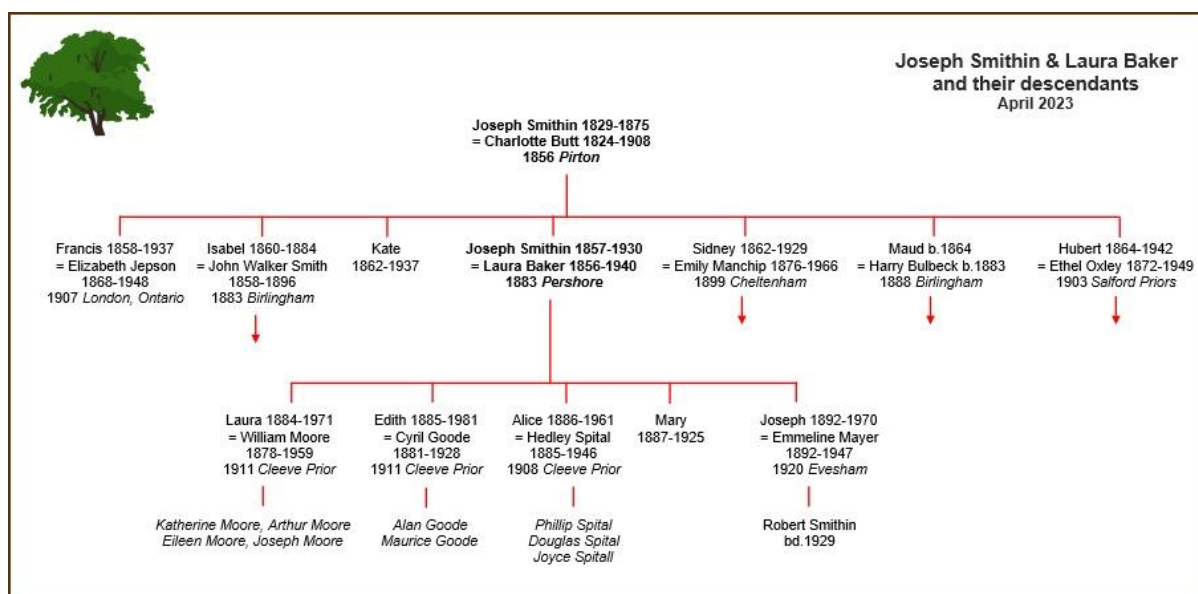
11, King Castle Road, Wells

Comprising a modern, well appointed, semi-detached 2 Bedroom Bungalow with garage and garden. Good residential area with open views of Golf Course.

King, Miles & Co are instructed to offer the foregoing for Sale by Auction for the Estate of Joseph Arthur Smithin.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April. At the Star Hotel, Wells at 7.30 p.m.

### 3. Family Tree<sup>132</sup>



<sup>1</sup> IGI: Joseph Smithin, christening, Birlingham 1857

<sup>2</sup> GRO: Births, Joseph Smithin, Sep. 1857, 6c

<sup>3</sup> WRO: 705:358 2193 31 (iii) - (v)

<sup>4</sup> 1861 Census, Birlingham Worcestershire

<sup>5</sup> 1871 Census, Allesley Warwickshire: RG10/3164/55/2

<sup>6</sup> Kelly's Directory, Birlingham, Worcestershire 1878

<sup>7</sup> 1881 Census, Birlingham Worcestershire

<sup>8</sup> GRO: Marriages, Joseph Smithin, Mar. 1883, Pershore 6c 403

<sup>9</sup> Worcester Journal Saturday 27 January 1883

<sup>10</sup> WRO: WRO 705:870 803 4 (i) - (ii)

<sup>11</sup> Family information from Don Archer

<sup>12</sup> Worcester Journal Saturday 26 January 1884

<sup>13</sup> Kelly's Directory, Worcestershire 1884

<sup>14</sup> Worcester Journal. Saturday 5 April 1884

<sup>15</sup> Worcester Journal. Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1885

<sup>16</sup> Worcester Journal Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 1886

<sup>17</sup> WRO: WRO 705:358 32 (i)-(v)

<sup>18</sup> 1891 Census, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire

<sup>19</sup> Birmingham Daily Post Friday 20 January 1893

<sup>20</sup> Worcestershire Chronicle Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 1893

<sup>21</sup> 1901 Census, Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire

<sup>22</sup> 1901 Census, Atch Lench, Worcestershire: RG13/2788/83/3

<sup>23</sup> Kelly's directory. Warwickshire. 1900. Cleeve Prior

<sup>24</sup> National Index of Wills from 1858, Sarah Smithin 1903

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- <sup>25</sup> The London Gazette, 28 December 1906
- <sup>26</sup> Kelly's Directory Worcestershire, 1900,1904, 1908
- <sup>27</sup> Kelly's Directory of Worcestershire, Cleeve Prior, 1906
- <sup>28</sup> Littlebury's Directory of Worcestershire, Cleeve Prior 1908
- <sup>29</sup> Evesham and Four Shires Advertiser, Saturday December 28th 1912
- <sup>30</sup> 1911 Census, Cleeve Prior, Worcs, RG14 17707
- <sup>31</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912
- <sup>32</sup> 1921 Census. Cleeve Prior. RG15/13705/60
- <sup>33</sup> Family information from Elizabeth Newington
- <sup>34</sup> National Index of Wills from 1858, Mary Smithin 1921
- <sup>35</sup> Family information from Don Archer
- <sup>36</sup> WRO: 705:118 10665 (xxvii)
- <sup>37</sup> *Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 11<sup>th</sup> May 1929*
- <sup>38</sup> Memorial at St Andrew's Cleeve Prior, 1930
- <sup>39</sup> National Index of Wills from 1858, Joseph Smithin 1930
- <sup>40</sup> The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette, 26 April 1930
- <sup>41</sup> The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette, 24 May 1930
- <sup>42</sup> Memorial at St Andrew's Cleeve Prior, 1940
- <sup>43</sup> GRO: Deaths, Laura J Smithin, Mar. 1940, Bromsgrove 6c 796
- <sup>44</sup> National Index of Wills from 1858, Laura J Smithin 1940
- <sup>45</sup> Information from the Cleeve Prior Chroniclers, Cleeve Prior website, & Elizabeth Newman, Don Archer
- <sup>46</sup> WRO: 705:870 8037 4 (i) 705:870 8037 4 (ii) 705:870 8037 2 (v) 705:870 8037 3 (iii)
- <sup>47</sup> GRO: Births, Laura C Smithin, Mar. 1884, Evesham 6c 337
- <sup>48</sup> Marriage certificate, Laura Smithin 1911
- <sup>49</sup> GRO: Marriages, Laura C Smithin, Dec.1911, Evesham 6c 601
- <sup>50</sup> Cheltenham Examiner 16 November 1911
- <sup>51</sup> 1921 Census, RG15/13610/30
- <sup>52</sup> The Tewkesbury Register and Agricultural Gazette 24<sup>th</sup> June 1933
- <sup>53</sup> Birmingham Daily Post 21 February 1959
- <sup>54</sup> The Bromsgrovian, No.2, April 1959, Vol. 70
- <sup>55</sup> GRO: Deaths. Laura Charlotte Moore, age 87, b. 22 Jan 1884, Mar 1971, Kidderminster 9d 67
- <sup>56</sup> GRO: Births. Arthur L Moore, Mother. Smithin, Mar 1916, Worcester 6c 189
- <sup>57</sup> GRO: Births. Eileen M Moore, Mother. Smithin, Dec 1919, Worcester 6c 206
- <sup>58</sup> GRO: Births. Kathleen J Moore, Mother. Smithin, Mar 1914, Worcester 6c 216
- <sup>59</sup> PRO: Births. Joseph Moore, Mar 1925, Worcester, Vol. 6c 164
- <sup>60</sup> GRO: Births. Edith Smithin, Jun. 1885, Evesham 6c 358
- <sup>61</sup> Worcestershire Chronicle Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 1901
- <sup>62</sup> Cardiff Evening Express 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901
- <sup>63</sup> Marriage certificate of Edith Smithin 1911
- <sup>64</sup> GRO: Marriages, Edith M Smithin, Sep. 1911, 6c 561
- <sup>65</sup> 1921 Census, Beckenham. RG15/03810/198
- <sup>66</sup> GRO: Deaths. Cyril F. Goode, age 47, June 1928, Bromley Vol. 2a 705
- <sup>67</sup> 1939 Register, Bromsgrove. RG 101/5769G
- <sup>68</sup> GRO: Deaths. Goode Edith Margaret, Jun 1981, b. 9 Feb 1885, Bromsgrove Vol. 29 0054
- <sup>69</sup> PRO: Birth. Alan S Goode, Mother. Smithin, Jun 1913, Bromsgrove 6c 393
- <sup>70</sup> PRO: Births. Maureen S. Goode, June 1918, Worcester Vol. 6c 178
- <sup>71</sup> London Gazette. 8 July 1943, page 3088
- <sup>72</sup> PRO: WO/373/1
- <sup>73</sup> PRO: Deaths. Alan Smithin Goode, Apr 1999, age 86, 11/5121/243
- <sup>74</sup> GRO: Births, Alice Smithin, Jun. 1886, Evesham 6c 332
- <sup>75</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 10<sup>th</sup> August 1901
- <sup>76</sup> GRO: Marriages, Alice Smithin, Sep. 1908, Evesham 6c 517
- <sup>77</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 1<sup>st</sup> August 1908
- <sup>78</sup> 1911 Census, Cleeve Prior, Worcs. RG14 17707
- <sup>79</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912
- <sup>80</sup> 1921 Census, Cheltenham. RG15/12159/3
- <sup>81</sup> The British Library. SPR.Mic.P.220/BL.B.63. England & Wales, Electoral Registers 1920-1932
- <sup>82</sup> 1939 Register, North Cotswold
- <sup>83</sup> Leamington Spa Courier 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1940
- <sup>84</sup> England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2019. 1946
- <sup>85</sup> GRO: Deaths. Dec 1961, age 75, Worcester Vol. 9d 279
- <sup>86</sup> England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2019. 1961
- <sup>87</sup> PRO: Births. Philip Normal Spital, Sep 1909, Evesham 6c 302
- <sup>88</sup> GRO: Deaths. Spital Douglas Hedley, Jun 1983, b.29 May 1912, Truro Vol. 21 0540
- <sup>89</sup> GRO: Deaths. Spital Philip Norman, Jun 1996, b.2 Aug 1909, Uckfield Vol. 34e 067
- <sup>90</sup> GRO: Births, Mary Josephine Smithin, Jun. 1887, Evesham 6c 33
- <sup>91</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912
- <sup>92</sup> GRO: Deaths, Josephine M Smithin, 38, Mar. 1925, Headington, 3a 1313
- <sup>93</sup> National Index of Wills from 1858, Josephine Smithin 1925
- <sup>94</sup> GRO: Births, Joseph Arthur Smithin, Jun. 1892, Pershore 6c 365
- <sup>95</sup> 1901 Census, Stratford, Warwickshire: RG13/2938/58/12
- <sup>96</sup> PRO: WO 339/44596

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- <sup>97</sup> History of the Worcestershire Regiment  
<sup>98</sup> 916 Supplement to the Edinburgh Gazette May 14<sup>th</sup> 1917  
<sup>99</sup> Cheltenham Looker-on. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 1917  
<sup>100</sup> London Gazette. Issue 30286, 14 Sep 1917 p.6  
<sup>101</sup> Cheltenham Chronicle 27<sup>th</sup> April 1918  
<sup>102</sup> London Gazette. Issue 31402, 13 June 1919 p.3  
<sup>103</sup> GRO: marriages, Joseph Smithin, Mar. 1920, Evesham 6c 329  
<sup>104</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 28<sup>th</sup> February 1920  
<sup>105</sup> PRO: Passenger lists, departures 1890-1960. BT27  
<sup>106</sup> Phone book, : Birmingham ... 1924, page 104  
<sup>107</sup> England, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921  
<sup>108</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 7<sup>th</sup> January 1928  
<sup>109</sup> Memorial, St. Andrews, Cleeve Prior Worcestershire, 1929  
<sup>110</sup> The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette. 14 March 1931  
<sup>111</sup> The Tewkesbury Register and Agricultural Gazette 24<sup>th</sup> June 1933  
<sup>112</sup> London Gazette. Issue 34261. 3 March 1936 p44  
<sup>113</sup> 1939 Register, Evesham  
<sup>114</sup> London Gazette. Issue 34939, 3 Sep 1940  
<sup>115</sup> London Gazette, Issue 36068. 22 June 1943. p5  
<sup>116</sup> Gloucestershire Echo Monday 09 June 1941  
<sup>117</sup> Gloucestershire Echo Friday 22 May 1942  
<sup>118</sup> The Tewkesbury Register, and Agricultural Gazette. 20 November 1943  
<sup>119</sup> Phone Book. Chester... Jul-Aug 1943  
<sup>120</sup> Phone Book. Chester ... Jan. 1947. page 386  
<sup>121</sup> London Gazette, Issue 37973 3 June 1947. p23  
<sup>122</sup> The Times Feb 15 1947

<sup>123</sup> Stratford upon Avon Herald 8<sup>th</sup> August 1947

- <sup>124</sup> Evesham Standard & West Midland Observer 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1948  
<sup>125</sup> Phone Book. Bristol ... 1968. page 401  
<sup>126</sup> GRO: deaths, Joseph Smithin, Mar. 1970, Wells 7c 1475  
<sup>127</sup> London Gazette. Issue 45115. 4 June 1970. p56  
<sup>128</sup> Death certificate of Joseph Arthur Smithin, 1970  
<sup>129</sup> Wells Journal 16<sup>th</sup> January 1970  
<sup>130</sup> Wells Journal 17<sup>th</sup> April 1970  
<sup>131</sup> Wells Journal 3rd April 1970  
<sup>132</sup> UK, Burial and Cremation Index, 1576-2014

WRO – Worcester Record Office

GRO - General Register Office

PRO - Public Record Office (National Archives UK)

WRO - Worcestershire Record Office

BCA - Birmingham City Archives

IGI - Internation Genealogical Index (Family search)

FFHS - Federation of Family History Societies

Birlingham Parish registers - Birlingham Parish registers, St James

b. - born

d. - died

= married

ad. - adopted

c. - circa (about)

fl. - floruit (approx or known date)

[text no clear]

Many records can also be found at [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk), [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)