

# Abraham Clay - Engineer



Abraham in uniform [Family collection]

Abraham Clay was the son of Abraham Clay, blacksmith on the Trentham Estate. He was born in Chorlton Moss, Staffordshire in 1892. In his teens he worked on the construction of the Trentham Park branch line. The work was contracted to Holme and King between 1908 and 1910. Abraham drove the engine, the King Arthur. This was a Manning Wardle 636 loco, built in 1873.

In the 1911 census, his occupation was recorded as a jobbing gardener and he was living with his parents at 27 Longton Road. During the same year he married Emily Morris and they had a son Cyril in 1913 and a daughter [Gertrude] Marion in 1922.

During World War One he served in the army, initially as a private in the North Staffs and the York and Lancaster Regiments and then as a sapper in the Royal Engineers. He stayed in France after the war to help repair roads and railways. He was a skilled steam roller driver. He was awarded the Victory and British medals.

When Emily died of leukaemia in 1924, Cyril went to live with his grandfather Abraham and grandmother Martha at 27 Longton Road, Ash Green. Marion, who was only two years old, went to live with her Aunt Gertrude, who was married to a policeman, Harold Hughes.



Abraham and Emily with Cyril in 1915 [Family collection]



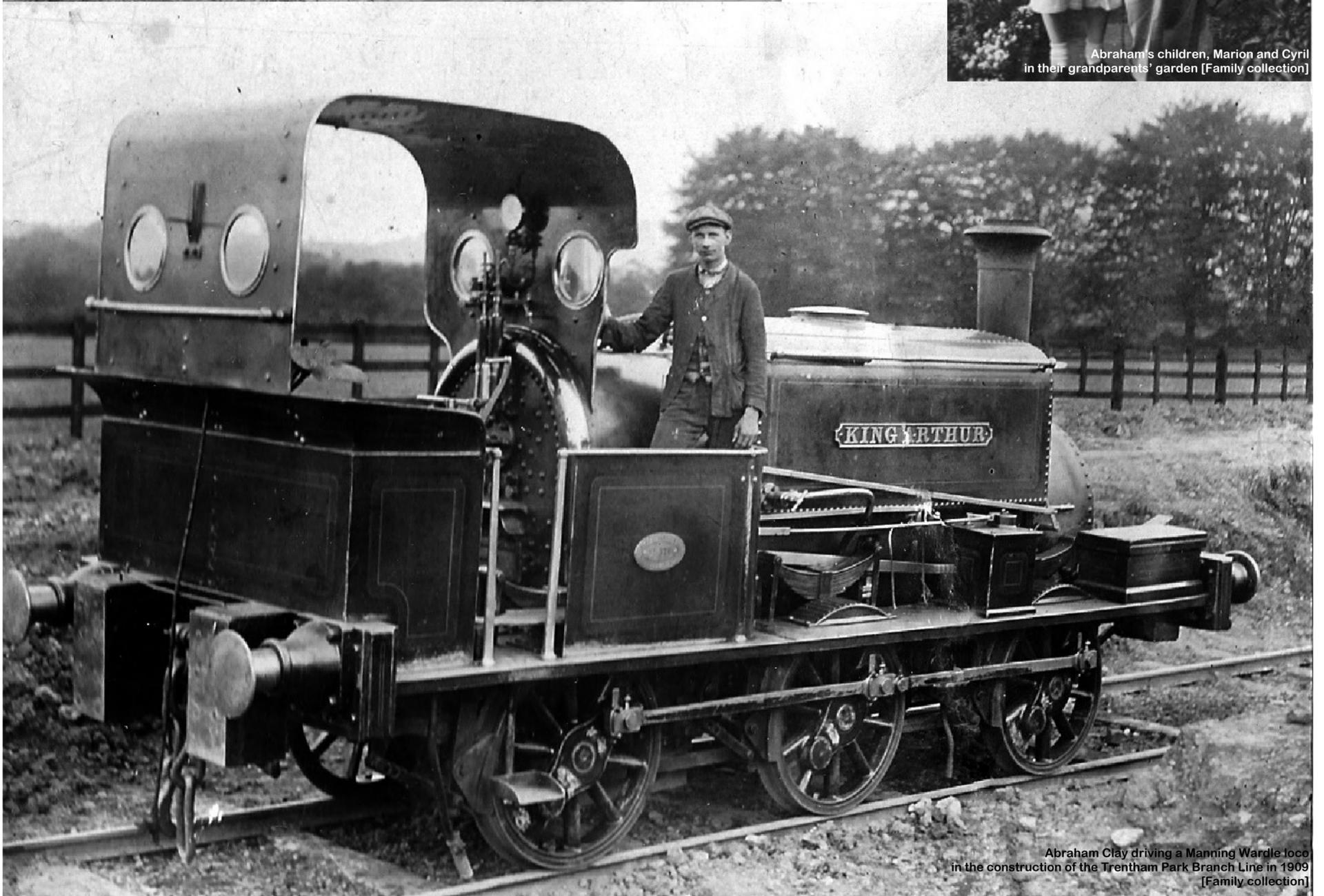
Bridge building by Royal Engineers  
Photo: Imperial War Museum © IWM (Q 29464)

In 1925 Abraham married Ethel Slaney and they had one daughter Joy in 1930, who died when she was five. They lived at Meadowside on the Stone Road in Hanford. Abraham died in 1963.

After Cyril's grandparents died, Cyril continued to live at 27 Longton Road with his wife Dorothy Clay, who became well known in local flower arranging circles. She continued to live there after Cyril died.



Abraham's children, Marion and Cyril in their grandparents' garden [Family collection]



Abraham Clay driving a Manning Wardle loco in the construction of the Trentham Park Branch Line in 1909 [Family collection]