

# The Bickertons of Brough Lane



Harold Bickerton and his delivery van about 1927 [family collection]

## Memories of Joyce Bedford née Bickerton

“The first Bickerton’s shop was established in 1886 in a building rented from the Duke of Sutherland, situated beside the canal near Trentham Hotel. There were stables for the horse and cart as everything was delivered this way. It was said that my grandfather supplied potatoes to all the chip shops in Longton.

My grandparents had four children, my Auntie Amy, my father George, my uncle Harold and a girl named Edith who died aged two and a half.

The new shop on Brough Lane, [currently number 21 Brough Lane], was built around 1899 and paid for by my grandmother, Charlotte. My father was carried there as a babe in arms when they moved in. The new shop also had a stable in the back yard as well as a two storey building where corn was stored.

Inside the shop there were large chests of loose tea, bacon flitches waiting to be sliced when needed, a sack of sugar, slabs of butter and cheese which would be weighed and wrapped for the customer and a long row of biscuit tins with glass lids for customers to choose their biscuits and ask for them by weight.

My brother Kenneth remembers picking watercress at the Horrobins at New Park to be sold in bunches at the shop later in the day.

When my grandfather died aged 47 from pneumonia in 1921, the business was left to my grandmother, but my uncle Harold took over the actual running of the shop. My grandmother continued to live upstairs. Harold was very musical, he was a church organist and he kept a small organ in his dining room as well as a grand piano in the lounge. He is said to have played the organ at Trentham church when he was aged 10.

When he was in his forties he played the organ at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Burslem, where he met and married the choir mistress and teacher at the day school. This was my Auntie Margaret.

I have no idea what my grandfather looked like but, after my father died at the young age of 38, I was visiting Trentham cemetery next to the mausoleum and a gentleman came up to me and said “you are a Bickerton aren’t you?” He told me I was the image of my grandfather, George Bickerton but I never knew him, as he died before I was born.”



George Bickerton with his sister in law



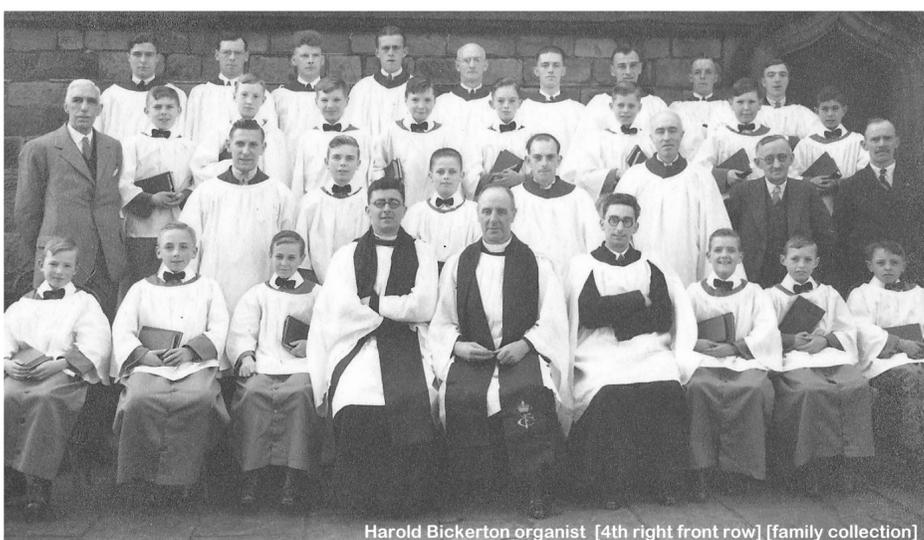
[Annie] Nancy Bickerton about 1920



Joyce Bickerton as a baby 1926



George and Annie’s grave in Trentham cemetery



Harold Bickerton organist [4th right front row] [family collection]



George Bickerton, [second row, 4th from the left] Trentham School 1910—[family collection]