

Appendices A, B, and C derive from certified copies of birth, marriage and death certificates gained from the General Register Office, London. In their original state, they are coloured (pink for births, green for marriages and blue for deaths). Who says bureaucracy has no appreciation of the symbolic!

In Appendix A, the information relating to birth is set out like this:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
No.	When & where born	Name	Name of father	Maiden name of mother	Occupation of father

Column 1 cites the original registration number first, then, after a colon, the copy number is given. In column 3, I have placed entries in bold print, so that the individual whose birth is registered may be easily recognised. All other entries are self-explanatory.

Marriage certificates, which form Appendix B, are set out in this fashion:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
No.	When married and names	Ages and occupations	Residence	Name and occupation of father	Where married

The same numbering scheme applies to Column 1, and other column headings explain the nature of their entries. Again, names of the marriage partners are in bold text. I have not included the names of witnesses to the marriage: in the case of the Hughes - Orchard marriage a handwriting expert is required in order to interpret their signatures.

Lastly, Appendix C, which contains information from death certificates, appears in this format:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
No.	When and where died	Name of deceased	Age and occupation	Cause of death	Informant's details

In Column 5, I have entered only the basic cause of death that is cited, and not the various contributing stages and factors that appear as part of coronal findings.

<u>1</u> No.	<u>2</u> When & where born	<u>3</u> Name	<u>4</u> Name of father	<u>5</u> Maiden name of mother	<u>6</u> Occupation of father
366: BXBZ326569	15 Feb. 1894, Charlestown, Stansfield	William Henry Hughes	John Hughes	Mary Alice Major	Fustian Dyer
103: BXBZ326269	17 Nov. 1893, Bethel Terrace, Mytholmroyd	Walter Farrar	Mitchell Farrar	Annie Smith	Cotton Loom Tuner
205: BXBZ824926	29 Jul. 1896, 18 Windsor Rd. Hebden Bridge	Miriam Farrar	Mitchell Farrar	Annie Smith	Loom Tackler (Cotton)
499 BXBZ348455	18 Sep. 1898, Illingworth Villas, Hebden Bridge	Edith Farrar	Mitchell Farrar	Annie Smith	Power Loom Tackler (Cotton)
278 BXBZ588944	22 Nov. 1900, 12 Illingworth Villas, Hebden Bridge	Lily Farrar	Mitchell Farrar	Annie Smith	Power Loom Tackler (Cotton)
398 BXBZ588947	24 Sep. 1902, 12 Illingworth Villas, Hebden Bridge	Albert Smith Farrar	Mitchell Farrar	Annie Smith	Loom Tackler (Cotton)
287: BXBZ647783	11 Dec. 1908, 52 Foster Lane, Hebden Bridge	Hilda Annie Farrar	Mitchell Farrar	Annie Smith	Loom Tackler (Cotton)
308: BXBZ667474	7 Sep. 1920, 16 Unity St., Hebden Bridge	Gerald Hughes	William Henry Hughes	Edith Farrar	Bench Hand (Joinery)
98: BXBZ664103	17 Aug. 1930, 1 Aspinall St., Mytholmroyd	Edward James Hughes	William Henry Hughes	Edith Farrar	Journeymen, Portable Building Maker

<u>1</u> No.	<u>2</u> When married and names	<u>3</u> Ages and occupations	<u>4</u> Residence	<u>5</u> Name and occupation of father	<u>6</u> Where married
176: MX665321	6 Jun. 1891 Mitchell Farrar	26 Overlooker	Naylor Lane, Midgley	Thomas Farrar, Warper (deceased)	The Parish Church, Halifax, York
	And Annie Smith	26	Upper Hathershelf, Sowerby	James Smith, Farmer	
173: MX665423	13 Mar. 1894 John Hughes	38 Dyer	King St., Hebden Bridge	Henry Hughes, Carder (deceased)	The Parish Church, Hebden Bridge, York
	And Mary Alice Major	34 Carder	King St., Hebden Bridge	George Major, G & C Maker	
28: MX789629	19 May 1920 William Henry Hughes	25 Bench Hand, Woodwork	4 King St., Hebden Bridge	John Hughes, Dyer	Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Foster Lane, Hebden Bridge, York
	And Edith Farrar	21 Tailoress (Fustian)	16 Unity St., Hebden Bridge	Mitchell Farrar, Loom Tackler	
18: MX765834	19 Aug. 1970 Edward James Hughes	40 Writer	10 Ackwright Rd., .N.W.3.	William Henry Hughes. Tobacconist (retired)	The Registry Office, Hampstead, London Borough of Camden
	And Carol Ann Orchard	22	Nicholls Nymet House, North Tawton, Devon	Herbert John Orchard, Farmer	

<u>1</u> No.	<u>2</u> When and where died	<u>3</u> Name of deceased	<u>4</u> Age and occupation	<u>5</u> Cause of death	<u>6</u> Informant's details
166: DAZ011920	9 May 1905, 52 Foster Lane, Hebden Bridge	Lily Farrar	4 years, Daughter of Mitchell Farrar, a Power Loom Tackler (Cotton)	Lobar Pneumonia, 5 days Exhaustion	Annie Farrar, Mother, present at the death
315: DXZ287332	17 May 1915, 16 Unity St., Hebden Bridge	Miriam Farrar	18 years, Tailoress (Fustian), Spinster	Bronchio Pneumonia	Thomas Farrar, Brother, present at the death
369: DXZ290171	12 Jun. 1943, Southfield, Mytholmroyd, Hebden Royd	James Mitchell Farrar	11 years, Son of Walter Farrar, Wholesale Clothier	Acute Pneumonia	Walter Farrar, Father, present at the death
222: DXZ191686	3 Jul. 1947, 19 Aspinall St., Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge	Albert Smith Farrar	44 years, Master Joiner	Hanged himself while of unsound mind	Certificate received from the office of the Coroner
47: DXZ290171	28 Mar. 1952, Southfield, Burnley Rd., Mytholmroyd, Hebden Royd	Edwin Thomas Farrar	21 years, Wholesale Clothiers Apprentice	Bronchio Pneumonia and Chronic Hepatitis; Mental Deficiency	D.D.Farrar, Cousin, in attendance, Foster Brook, Mytholmroyd
23: QDX145411	23 Mar. 1969, 3 Okeover Manor, Clapham Common	Assia Esther Wevill	41 years, formerly the wife of David Wevill, an author	Barbette and carbon monoxide poisoning; she killed herself	Certificate received from the office of the Coroner

24: QDX145412	23 Mar. 1969, 3 Okeover Manor, Clapham Common	Alexandra Elise Wevill	4 years, Daughter of Assia Wevill	Carbon monoxide poisoning, coal gas domestic supply; manslaughter by her mother Assia Esther Wevill	Certificate received from the office of the Coroner
84: QDX128092	13 May 1969, Royal Halifax Infirmery, Halifax	Edith Hughes (nee Farrar)	70 years, Wife of William Henry Hughes, Tobacconist and Travel Agent (retired), The Beacon, Heptonstall, Hepton	Heart failure	William Henry Hughes, Widower of deceased
238: QDX128111	8 Feb. 1981, Creedy Court Nursing Home, Shobrooke, Crediton, Devon	William Henry Hughes	86 years, Shopkeeper (retired)	Congestive heart failure	Ian George Grinney, Occupier, Creedy Court Nursing Home

had he or she survived me and attained a vested interest :::

:::

4. I REVOKE all former Wills and testamentary dispositions made by me and **DECLARE** this only to be my last Will and Testament

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of July One thousand nine hundred and sixty nine.

* * * * *

A copy of the Probate issuing from the enactment of the Will of Walter Farrar, which bears the signature of the District Registrar, Leeds, and similarly transcribed as the above Will, now follows ...

In the High Court of Justice

The District Probate Registry at Leeds

BE IT KNOWN that WALTER FARRAR of Southfield Mytholmroyd Hebden Bridge West Yorkshire

died on the 4th day of March 1976

domiciled in England and Wales

AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN that at the date hereunder written the last Will and Testament

(a copy whereof is hereunto annexed) of the said deceased was proved and registered in the District Probate Registry of the High Court of Justice at Leeds

and Administration of all the estate which by law devolves to and vests in the personal representative of the said deceased was granted by the aforesaid Court to

HILDA ANNIE FARRAR ... [Address follows] ... aforesaid DAVID DUNCAN FARRAR ... [Address follows] ... aforesaid and EDWARD JAMES HUGHES (in the Will called Edward Hughes) ... [Address follows] ... the executors named in the said Will.

... [The monetary value of the residuary estate follows] ...

Dated the 29th day of June 1976

I have applied bold print inside the transcriptions to notify the reader that this text does not appear in Letters Home, which was edited by Aurelia Plath, in consultation with Ted Hughes. The order of the information contained in original letters is greatly rearranged in the edited version appearing in Letters Home. This would make a fascinating study in itself. Paragraph numbers match the text of Letters Home. Comment on the transcripts appear, when called for, after the entries.

Sunday morning

April 29, 1956

(LH, pp.243-4)

-Para.7: Ted is incredible, mother. **We went to the circus the other night and loved it to the hilt; he has not changed his clothes since I met him two months ago, but wears always the same black sweater ...**

-Para.9: He tells me dreams, marvelous coloured dreams, about certain red foxes **and about his mad cousins. His health is phenomenal. The first man I've ever known who is brilliant, full of stories, poems (he memorises all poems he likes, and we quote each other through all literature) and is big, healthy, humorous with the affirming humour of power and vigor. My poems sprout about him like shoots; even when he goes, I shall go on, for what I have learned in loving him is part of me, now, and not dependent on him; this is the course of my joy.**

My philosophy supervisor, Doctor Krook, is more than a miracle! She took me on an extra half hour last week, and I'm in medias res of Plato, marveling at the dialectic method, whetting my mind like a blue-bladed knife. Such joy.

Bodily, I've never been healthier: radiance and love just surge out of me like a sun: I can't wait to set you down in its rays: think, I shall devote two whole weeks of my life to taking utter care, and very special tendering, of you. I've already reserved London and Cambridge rooms, **have decided against Stratford as It would be too much of a rush and I want to sip slowly the green healing of my paradise with you.** We'll leave about the 22nd (**I have to be out of Whitstead then**) for Paris, where I'll see you through your first two or three days and get all set up for you so you'll know what you want there, and then I'll take off for a month of writing in Spain, on the south coast. **Being** tan, doing nothing but writing, sunning and cooking. Maybe even learning to catch fish!

Ted is up here this week, and I have become a woman to make you proud. It came over me while we were listening to Beethoven, the sudden shock and knowledge that although this is the one man in the world for me, although I am using every fibre of my being to love him, even so, I am true to the essence of myself, and I know who that self is, **and like her**, and will live with her through sorrow and pain, singing all the way, even in anguish or grief, the triumph of life over death and sickness and war and all the flaws of my dear world. **And this woman I am stretching to be is one whom no man can send crying out of his life. Ted knows this, and I know this, and my next months into the summer, before he goes to Australia, will be spent making him learn with every bit of his mind and heart that my life is not to be found the world over; nor is his, and in the sight of all the stars and planets and words and food and people in the world, there are only the two of us who are whole and strong enough to be a match, one for the other. If he grows to this, the whole world will flare for joy; if not, I shall write and love life all the same.**

Yorkshire, England

September 2, 1956

(LH, pp.268-70)

-Para.1: ... this is the most magnificent landscape in the world: incredible hills, bare grass and vivid green ...

N.B. Since the "t" in "this" does not begin a sentence, it is written in lower-case.

-Para.4: I think they both like me, and seem to find me more congenial than Gerald's wife who visited them once, a blonde flighty glamor girl from Australia, evidently very giddy and always wanting to go to parties and dances. I've borrowed a duffle coat and knee boots from Ted's cousin Vicky, a quiet attractive girl who has won a two-year scholarship, and bike around the country comfortably.

Ted's marvelous millionaire Uncle Walt (married to a hypochondriac hag, with two sons dead, one an idiot, and only an idiot daughter, left) took us over to Wuthering Heights Friday in his car.

-Last Para.: It ... [“Pursuit”, as indicated in Letters Home] ... is the first poem I wrote after meeting Ted, and his “Bawdry Embraced” in Poetry was dedicated to me, **so our future should be great; we are so happy working and planning together and I have never loved anybody so much in my life.** I adore you and my love to Warren. Do write and say you survived your crossing. Much, much love--sivvy

N.B. “Much, much love--sivvy” appears handwritten in black ink.

September 21, 1956

(LH, pp.271-2)

-Para.4: If I get through this hard year, I feel I deserve a wedding and gifts and reception and honeymoon for a summer the worst way; it has not always been easy; we will really begin our proper married life with our wedding next June. **About the date: I’ll have to write the Fullbright, then the ship, to find if I can get allowance to go back earlier than their return-ship schedule begins and if Ted & I can get reservations, before I know if we can make the 29th or will have to put it off till the next Saturday.** Ted has not a definite job yet in Spain but will leave with his **millionaire** uncle on October 1st or thereabout **and be settled, I hope, by the time I come down the second week in December; his uncle is so queer, with his devil wife and mad daughter: fifty pounds gift to Ted would not touch him, yet Ted must struggle on without any help; if I ever have money, I shall want my immediate family to have a share in my good fortune.** Ted, by the way, has ...

N.B. In the original letter, “thereabout” does not contain an ending “s”. Also, Plath uses ampersands (&) here and throughout her letters.

Whitstead, Barton Road

Cambridge, England

October 2, 1956

(LH, pp.274-5)

-Last Para.: I finished my drawing of Wuthering Heights and will do a little article on it. **By the way, I'd love red geraniums around the front of our house! I always thought petunias straggly and messy and geraniums are so sturdy, and My Color! I don't know what records you have of Beethoven, but would be overjoyed if you would stock up before our coming: esp. "The Grosse Fuge", The Emperor Concerto; the 4th and 7th Symphonies etc. Beethoven is the only music big enough for Ted. He can whistle all the themes by heart.**

Both of us yearn so for our wedding in Wellesley, which we work to now, for it will mean that we are never apart again, but together all our lives; I will try to get the ship date set, and pray for the 29th of June; all money I earn goes toward the wedding, dress, reception; Ted's will go to rent and food for two months on Cape. We are hard, disciplined workers, and he wants me do [sic] do very well on my exams, and is always giving me peptalks about them. He is the dearest person there is; I never thought I could feel so holy and exalted from day to day, doing dishes, making his meals; it is so wonderful to love someone incalculably more than oneself; such freedom: everything I do now is for him, to please him and make him proud ... do write a lot this year ... much love, your happy sivvy

N.B. Throughout her letters, Plath put periods and commas outside, rather than inside, closing quotation marks.

Sunday afternoon

February 24, 1957

(LH, pp.296-9)

-Para.12: We don't care really, what reviews the book ... [The Hawk in the Rain, as indicated in the edited letter/ ... gets, as long as it's bought and read. It's magnificent---far superior to Richard Wilbur, who never treats the powerful central emotions & incidents of life. **Wilbur writes with elegance, wit and grace, about autumn, falling icicles, potatoes, deaths of toads, ocean scenes, garden parties, & similes for ladies [sic] smiles.** Ted writes with color, splendour & vigorous music ...

N.B. Here and throughout her other letters, Plath uses three hyphens to make a dash ("---").

Friday a.m.

May 10, 1957

(LH, pp.312-3)

-Para.3: I feel years older than I was the summer I left & my stories which I wrote this year, particularly the one set in the laundromat, are really much much improved.

N.B. The use of “much much” is not a typo; it appears as such in the original letter.

Hebden Bridge

Yorkshire, England

Saturday noon

June 8, 1957

(LH, pp.315-7)

-Para.3: We felt a cleansing process packing out things & knowing that we wouldn't see them again for a month, but would go free to the moors. **No more Sassoons upstairs or crowds of Grantchester tea-trippers passing our front windows & babbling: just endless green moortops & cows & pigs.**

Monday morning

June 17, 1957

(LH, pp.317-7)

-Para.6: I still can't quite believe that in a week from tomorrow (!) we'll go sailing into Manhattan & having dinner with you & Warren! It seems incredible that we change so much country in so little time. Very happy about the dinner with Mrs.Prouty. **Do** try not to arrange anything with the “little” people, though. I hope those can be all taken care of on the 29th. We look specially forward to the barbecue at Dot's. I hope you & Ted & Warren & I can drive to Nahant with picnics now and then. Also, I will have to drive up to Northampton for a couple of days to see about a house, my teaching course & a job for Ted, so we must have a time free for that. We have been so busy seeing relatives here & just unwinding that we haven't been able to get to work writing, & so

will not want any visitors on the Cape ... [Cape Cod] ... at all: except you & Warren now & then. Perhaps you better keep our Cape address secret & say we can be reached through you. We will need to be completely antisocial this summer & write without stop to make up for this year & prove to ourselves that it is possible to write in America. Ted will love the country if he feels he can write there. Naturally the two weeks we are at home we won't expect to work, because we will be glad to see people, but for every social month, we must spend 11 anti-social working ones. Ideally, when we are writing full-time, we can stop & fraternize in the evenings & for dinner, the way most people do, but while we have day-time jobs, we must write in our spare time & simply deny ourselves company. I want to get so well on in my novel ... [The autobiographically based novel with herself and her husband as central characters. This is first referred to as Falcon Yard, in this letter from Letters Home] ... that I can re-write it during the academic year & have it ready for publication in the spring.

-Para.8: Had a lovely tea out here with Ted's relatives & his amazing Dickensian-Falstaffian uncle (my favourite relative) who's a millionaire, gave us £50, which is a big help.

Yorkshire, England

[Ted's home]

December 26, 1959

(LH, pp.359-60)

-Para.1: ... and Ted is upstairs in our bedroom at his desk, copying out the manuscript version of his first book which he hopes to sell to a man in London who is scouting for an American University out West.

-Para.2: Anyway, the Tarock pack is in good use.

We loved your big package: opened it Christmas eve. Ted looks handsome in his shirt, it fits perfectly. Oddly enough, I was just going to write you and ask you to get the pink version of that wonderful blue nightgown the day before! It is the warmest, lightest gown I have & the front opens far enough for me to nurse the baby in it. Imagine my surprise to open my package and find you had answered my thoughts! You also couldn't have gotten me anything more attractive and comfortable than those tights. I am wearing the black ones now. They look striking as stockings with my high heels, and of course go into my flat shoes and provide a much-needed warmth for my

thighs, a real blessing. My wool knee socks didn't do this, and were too clumsy for any dressup occasion. Also, the elastic waist and pants' top fits [sic] m perfectly, even in my 6th month, and is a restful support on my legs. If you could possibly get me another black pair, just like these, I/d be most grateful. The red is lovely, for casual wear, but the black I can wear anywhere: it's amazing how smart they are with my red & black heels. The scarf for Olwyn was lovely, very chic. No other packages or letters have come: just the last bundle of letters in your airmail envelopes: DONT [sic] send anything airmail, unless its [sic] a thin New Yorker letter, because it's outrageously expensive!

When Ted's two stories (The Caning and Miss Manbrett And The Wet Cellar) come back from the NYorker, let us know, & send them on to the Atlantic in the envelopes I've left you. When my big poetry ...

-Para.4: So far, I've made fish soup, Dot's meatloaf, oatmeal cookies, apple kuchen, your bread stuffing (for the Xmas turkey which Ted & I cooked; a 7 1/2 lb. turkey for \$6! Isn't that an awful lot? Meat here is as expensive as at home, and cosmetics, too) ... all of which makes me feel less homesick. Olwyn is very nice, a beautiful blond (sic) slim girl ...

N.B. The ellipsis after the parenthetical comment ending with "too" appears in the original letter; the second does not.

May 30, 1960

(LH, pp.384-5)

-Para.4: The little suits you sent fit perfectly, are on the largish size even. So far she has grown out of nothing & still swims in her three nighties, cuffs rolled up, etc. I can't find anything like Carter's things here: only stupid cottons that have to be ironed, worn with slips under them. Do you suppose Carter's has some outlet over here? I wish I could find out. I can hardly keep from playing with the baby all the time, she is so responsive & smiley & pretty. She gets her first injection this Thursday, has her own little card, & will be finished with all whooping cough, diptheria [sic] & tetanus. This week I may have energy enough to try her on water & orange juice. She seems to be growing fine on just milk, very satisfied. Ted's mother & Aunt Hilda are coming on a

London tour this weekend & will drop in Saturday & Sunday: the first relatives to see the baby. I am so pleased they are coming.

I have at long last bought a vacuum cleaner for approximately \$50. It is a new model of a Hoover (a good reliable make), a peculiar looking pink & white globe affair with an accordion-pleated [sic] extendable vacuum tube, several lengthening cylinders & spare nozzles for upholstery etc. I consider it a new toy: buzz round the house, from carpets to floors, sucking up everything in my path. Feel very happy with it, for previous to this my crude broom-sweeping merely raised & rearranged the accumulating dust & soot. I don't mind work if it's followed by results. I'll leave a space for Ted. xxxxxxxx sivvy

N.B. A note by Ted follows - about baby Frieda's health.

Hebden Bridge

Yorkshire, England

August 27, 1960

(LH, pp.392-3)

-Para.5: I don't know, there is something clean about New England sand, no matter how crowded. **It poured the first day we were there ... [The seaside town of Whitby, Yorkshire] ... & in spite of our waterproofs we got drenched, doggedly walking at the sea front & climbing the steep cobbled alleys. Thursday morning was fair, so we dried out our tempers & shoes & ambled through the streets to the various outlook points-- buying Ted & me two identical fisherman's sweaters of white & black wool for about \$6 apiece, and a brown sackcloth top for me & a shirt for Ted. Ted's uncle Walter, with his curious habits, had ...**

N.B. Unlike the others, which are typed, this letter is handwritten. In it Plath includes a sketch of a sweater or top beside her description of the items she and Ted bought.

April 25, 1962

(LH, p.453)

-Para.2: Evidently the long winter, arthritis, and the prospect of the day's trip put Edith off. I am so glad you aren't a stayathome like that! Hilda & Vicky pitched right in with dishes & cleaning, so were no extra work. They are both very lively & nice. But then we made the mistake of letting a young Swedish lady journalist invite herself the day they left—I had found out the time of the last train back to London that day so we would not be stuck with her, but she was after the personal, wanted to know if they could “read in our garden”. We were very glad to have the excuse of company. The Tyrers are really, on the eve of their departure, becoming impossible—pushing their silly, snobby 16 year old daughter on us to the point of suggesting we have her come & stay with us (!) all because, I think, they have seen Ted & me in the Sunday papers lately. They have really been “friends” out of a necessity, not out of any kindred spirit (Marjorie & Nicola are so malicious about everybody & everything here I can't help wondering what they say about us the minute our backs are turned). As Ted said, it is so beautiful here we have to be careful people don't use us as a public promenade. We moved here for privacy, and are just learning the lessons of having possessions. I am so glad you are coming for I can simply say we have you with us all summer. We are also getting used to having people fit in with our schedule. I work in the morning & let guests get their own breakfasts when they wake up, so I don't hang around all morning waiting. Then I come down for lunch, & Ted goes up & works in the afternoon. I think you will find us very peaceful. You can sit out in the garden all morning, with Frieda & Nicholas, reading or knitting or sunning. The house is so big there is really no crowding. Do bring any recipes, or advice for preserving things you can—I'm hope [sic] to learn to bottle all our garden surplus, like our famous rhubarb. Also any advice & figures about life insurance: I do want Ted to take out a policy, this summer & we know nothing about it. O it is so heavenly here I can hardly speak. Little Frieda is always picking daffodils & arranging them in bowls of water. “Pick daffdees” & “Out with Baby Nick oodleoo (lawnmower) she says.

N.B. Plath omits closing quotation mark in last sentence.

Again, for the purpose of presentation, the following two newspaper articles on the death of Albert Smith Farrar, the poet's uncle, have been transcribed from photocopies of the originals. The second newspaper report should be prefaced by a reading of Ted Hughes' "Sacrifice" (*Wg*, pp.19-21), for there is a striking relationship between details contained in the poem and details contained in the newspaper reports. I have transcribed the text and punctuation of both newspaper reports precisely as it appears in the originals, including the peculiarities of period journalese.

Newspaper report, "Mytholmroyd Tragedy", Halifax Weekly Courier and Guardian, 5 July 1947 ...

Mr. Albert Smith Farrar (44), 19, Aspinall-street, Mytholmroyd, was found dead at his home, late on Thursday night. He had been out motoring during the evening, but at about 11 o'clock he was found in the attic with a rope attached to his neck. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

A joiner by trade, he had all his life been in the employ of Robertshaw Greenwood, builders, contractors, and undertakers, New-road, Hebden Bridge, and a few months ago became a partner in the firm. He was associated with several substantial housing contracts in the district.

Newspaper report, "Local Tragedy, Master Joiner's Sad End", Hebden Bridge Times, Friday, 11 July 1947 ...

A verdict that Albert Smith Farrar (44), master joiner, 19, Aspinall Street, Mytholmroyd, hanged himself while of unsound mind, was recorded by Coroner E.W.Norris, sitting with a jury at the inquest in Mytholmroyd Council Offices last Saturday morning.

The widow, Minnie Farrar, said her husband had never complained to her of pains in the head, but had seemed a little restless and appeared to be tired, and after tea he would sit in a chair all the time. She did not know that he had any worry. He was of a reticent disposition. Last Thursday he returned home from business at about 5-30 p.m., and after tea he went with his daughter in his car for a drive. As they returned, the daughter got out of the car at Mytholmroyd, and her father proceeded to Hebden Bridge alone. At about 9.45 p.m. he

came home, was quite normal, and at 10.30 p.m. went to bed. About 20 minutes later witness and her daughter went upstairs. As her daughter approached the top of the stairs she exclaimed "Why, dad is not in bed." The bedroom door was open. Witness replied that she had not seen him come back downstairs. After looking into another room she went to the stairs of an attic which her husband used as a workroom, and called out. Receiving no reply, she went up a few steps, and saw him suspended from a beam. She sent for help. All this had occurred in about twenty minutes.

Ernest Greenwood, of Lee Mill Road, Hebden Bridge, master joiner, said Mr.Farrar had been in partnership with him. On the day of the tragedy Mr.Farrar told him that he had pains in the head and was unable to concentrate. He said he had not slept well for about a fortnight. He did not mention any particular worry, but doubtless he had worried about shortages of timber, building materials, etc. At 5-15 p.m. he said he would get some fresh air, and witness advised him to go up on Blackstone Edge moors and to get into some "company" before retiring for the night. Mr.Farrar seemed quite rational, and on that day he had been speaking to an architect concerning some building at Heptonstall.

Glenice Farrar, daughter, said her father took her for a drive in the motor-car on Thursday evening. At about 7-45 p.m. they went up Crag Vale to Blackstone Edge, stayed by the roadside for a time looking at the view, and returned home. Her father seemed to be quite normal. She got out of the car at Mytholmroyd, and he proceeded to Hebden Bridge alone.

Harry Greenwood, 15, Aspinall Street, Mytholmroyd, said it was just after 11 p.m. when Mrs.Farrar called him. He found Mr.Farrar suspended in the attic, and released him at once. Witness tried artificial respiration, without avail. Dr.Hemderson arrived 15 minutes later, and said life was extinct.

Mr.Joah Crossland was foreman of the jury.

Primary Sources

Ted Hughes Birthday Letters, Faber & Faber, London, 1998.

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