

# *The Family of Samuel Joe Cooper & Alice Mary Bird*

**Samuel Joe Cooper was born on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1885**

**Alice Mary Bird was born on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1905 at Little Wyrley.**

**Samuel's parents were Joseph Cooper and Elizabeth Pointon.**

**Alices Parents were Charles Bird and Alice Whitbrook.**

**They were married in 1928 at Cannock**



Samuel had been married before to Henrietta Taylor who passed away on January 16th 1922

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1928 Samuel was married for the second time to Alice Mary Bird at the

## Cannock Registry Office.

D 5672 No 62

The Statutory Fee for this Certificate is 2s. 7d. If required subsequently to registration, a Search Fee is payable in addition.

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE Pursuant to the Marriage Acts, 1836 to 1898.

(Printed by Authority of the Registrar General.)

M. Cert. R.M. (100)

Registration District Cannock

Marriage Solemnized at the Registrar Office in the District of Cannock in the County of Stafford

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
1928.	8th April	Samuel Joseph Cooper	40	Widower	Coal Miner (Shovel)	Hednesford Road Norton Canes	Joseph Cooper	Miner
1928.		Alice Mary Bird	23	Spinster	-	Grove Cottage Little Wyrley	Charles Bird (deceased)	Coal Miner (Shovel)

Married in the Registrar Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Anglican in the Presence of us, Ellen E. Hall & William H. Cooper

I, Joseph Woolley Registrar of Marriages for the District of Cannock, in the County of Stafford, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 84 in the Register Book of Marriages for the said District, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this 10th day of April, 1928.

CAUTION—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this Certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to Prosecution under the FORGERY ACT, 1913, or the PERJURY ACT, 1911.

Samuel was a 40 year old widower living at Hednesford Road, Norton Canes. Mary was a 23 year old spinster living at Grove Cottage, [Little Wyrley](#).

They both signed their names and the marriage was witnessed by Ellen Hall & William Cooper.

Sam and Alice lived at 199 Hednesford Road (the house that Sam was already resident in) until 197???







Samuel and Alice had one daughter, Beryl, born on the 23rd of March 1929 - [married Alan Whorton in 1950](#).

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT, 1874.

## CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRY OF BIRTH.

(Fee not to exceed Three-pence.)

I, the undersigned, Do hereby certify that the Birth  
of Beryl Mary Cooper born on the  
23<sup>rd</sup> day of March One thousand nine hundred and <sup>(a)</sup> twenty nine  
(a) Insert year in words.  
has been duly registered by me at Entry No. 417 of my Register Book No. 161

Witness my hand, this 30 day of April 1929

A. J. Wright { Registrar of  
Births and Deaths

District Leamrock Sub-District Leamrock

**CAUTION.**—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses it as true knowing it to be false, is liable to Prosecution under the FORGERY Act, 1913, or the Perjury Act

Printed by Authority of the Registrar General by G. Hargreaves, Cheetham, Manche

Beryl was christened at the Methodist Chapel in Norton Canes on April 22nd 1929



## Certificate of Baptism.

*Administered with Water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

In the Parish of Norton Canes in the County of Stafford  
in the year 1929

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian	Surname.			
1929 22nd April	Beryl	Samuel Joseph	Cooper	Shanford Road Norton Canes	Miner	W. D. Turner
When Born. 1929 23rd March	Mary	Alice Mary				

The above is a true Copy from the PRIMITIVE METHODIST Register Book of Baptisms at Norton Canes in Lichfield Circuit.

Witness my hand this 22nd day of April, 1929  
William D. Turner  
Primitive Methodist Minister.

The family can be seen here together in 1929 - Sam on the left with Mary in the centre, Maurice on the right (Sam's son by his first wife) and their daughter Beryl aged just 4 months



In 1932 the family celebrated the 21st birthday of Sam's son from his first marriage - Maurice





In the 1939 Census we can see Samuel and Alice living at 199 Hednesford Road, Norton Canes

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		S. M. W. or D.		PERSONAL OCCUPATION	
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.			
	No.	Sub No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
161. Hednesford Rd.	57	2	Harvey Eliza A.	-	F.	30. OCT	85	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3	Harvey Raymond	-	M.	16. SEP	13	S.	Coal Miner Haulage
		4	Harvey Clifford	-	M.	7. JUNE	23	S.	Coal Miner Haulage
V 163. Do.	58								
165. Do.	59	1	Gelby Edward	-	M.	18. JUNE	62	W.	Coal Miner Stallman Retired
167. Do.	60	1	Matthews Robert J.	-	M.	29. JAN	12	M.	Coal Miner Pony Driver
CR283 ST		2	Matthews Lillian M.	-	F.	3. AUG	14	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3	Matthews Derek	-	M.	23. FEB	38	S.	Under School Age
		4	Pargeter Bruce	-	M.	19. FEB	16	S.	Public Works Plant Driver
169. Do.	61	1	Piper John F.	-	M.	3. JULY	13	M.	Coal Miner Below
		2	Piper Doris	-	F.	5. OCT	13	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
171. Do.	62	1	Hulme Leah	-	F.	9. FEB	99	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		2	Hulme Fred	-	M.	12. JAN	29	S.	At School
173. Do.	63	1	Wassell John H.	-	M.	31. JAN	14	S.	Coal Colliery Surface Worker
CR283 ST		2	Wassell Dorothy M.	-	F.	4. AUG	24	S.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
175. Do.	64	1	Hewitt David	-	M.	2. DEC	92	M.	Coal Colliery Horsekeeper Below
		2	Hewitt Elizabeth	-	F.	30. JULY	00	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
EC (C) ST 10-4-74		3	Hewitt Ronald	-	M.	10. SEPT	29	S.	At School
13568 CR283 ST		4	Hewitt Gladys	-	F.	18. AUG	35	S.	Under School Age
This record is officially closed.									
This record is officially closed.									
177. Do.	65	1	Detheridge Florence	-	M.	9. NOV	00	M.	Police Constable
		2	Detheridge Ada	-	F.	27. AUG	02	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
V. 179. Do.	66								
199. Do.	67	1	Cooper Samuel J.	-	M.	27. AUG	85	M.	Coal Miner General Labourer
		2	Cooper Alice M.	-	F.	20. NOV	05	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
201. Do.	68	1	Pritchard Mary A.	-	F.	12. MARCH	74	W.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		2	Pritchard Alfred	-	M.	29. MARCH	03	S.	Coal Colliery Wagon
		3	Pritchard Harry	-	M.	8. DEC	17	S.	Coal Colliery Wagon
203. Do.	69	1	Hill Arthur	-	M.	10. AUG	87	M.	Coal Colliery Wagon
		2	Hill Lillian	-	F.	27. OCT	85	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		3	Hill Arthur J. Junr	-	M.	26. FEB	22	S.	Delivering Newspapers
		4	Hill Ernest H.	-	M.	14. MAY	25	S.	Delivering Newspapers
205. Do.	70	1	Smith Arthur	-	M.	18. JULY	09	M.	Butcher Salesman
18754		2	Smith Annie	-	F.	12. NOV	09	M.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
This record is officially closed.									
207. Do.	71	1	Adams Elizabeth	-	F.	28. MARCH	72	W.	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		2	Adams Marion	-	F.	8. SEP	12	S.	Daily Domestic
		3	Gray William G.	-	M.	12. FEB	67	W.	Coal Colliery Surface Worker
211. Do.	72	1	Wilson William C.	-	M.	31. DEC	55	M.	Coal Colliery Storekeeper
		2	Wilson Elsie	-	F.	5. OCT	94	M.	Club Stewardess

Samuel is aged 54 at this time and documented as being a general labourer in the coal mine with Alice being 37 and performing unpaid domestic duties.

Their daughter Beryl is blacked out due to census restrictions



Next door to the are the Pritchard family who rented the other half of the house from them

They held their Silver Wedding Anniversary in 1953 and the family gathered together as can be seen in this photograph



The photos below show four generations in the early 1950's



This picture was taken in the lane alongside the house looking out across the Hednesford Road - we are not sure who all the children are but grandson Andrew is at the front





and this one is of Andrew with a few local children (including Jayne Taylor) - not sure where it was taken



The following photos were all taken at 199 Hednesford Road, Norton Canes in 1966





Sam loved his garden and provided the family with vegetables all year round - until he was in his late 90s !!

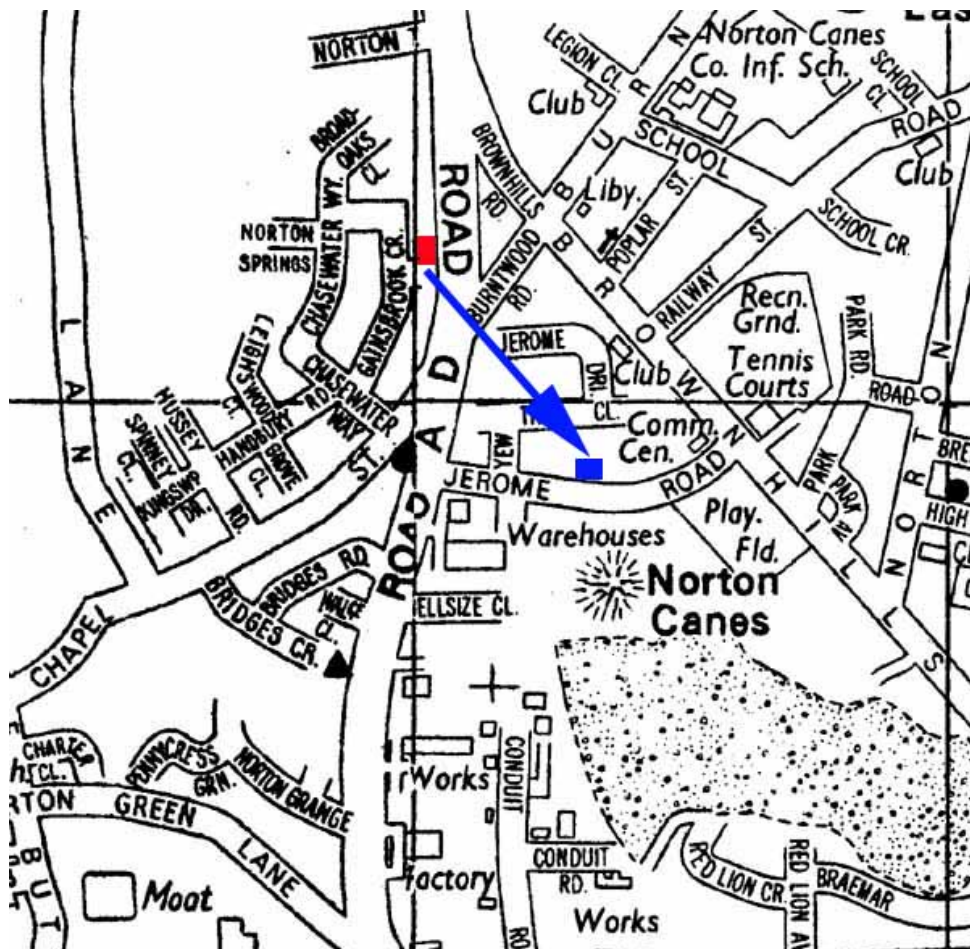




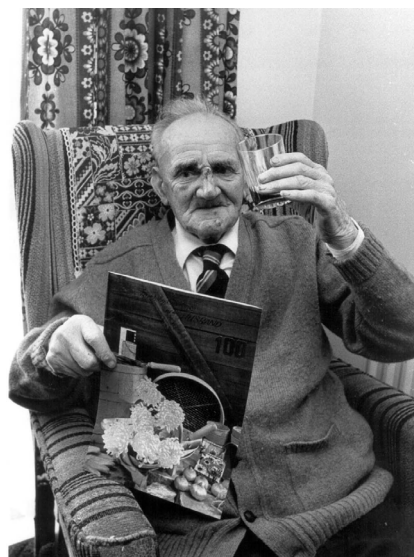
And he had his favourite chair in the corner



In 197??? Sam and Mary moved to a bungalow at 15 Jerome Road, [Norton Canes](#) - a move of just half a mile from the house in Hednesford Road



Samuel celebrated his hundredth birthday in 1985 - a big day for him with all the family visiting and telegrams from the Queen and Secretary of State





# Sam's bloomin great . . .

## and he's 100

**AT the turn of 'his century' and still an active garden-er.**

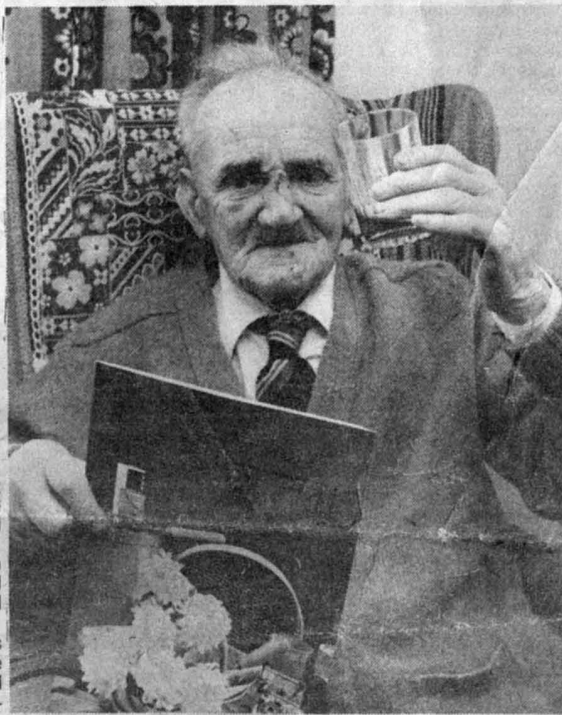
That's Mr Samuel Cooper, of Jerome Road, Norton Canes, who will be 100 years old on Tuesday!

But despite the passing of the years Mr Cooper is still most happy when he's doing his bit of gardening.

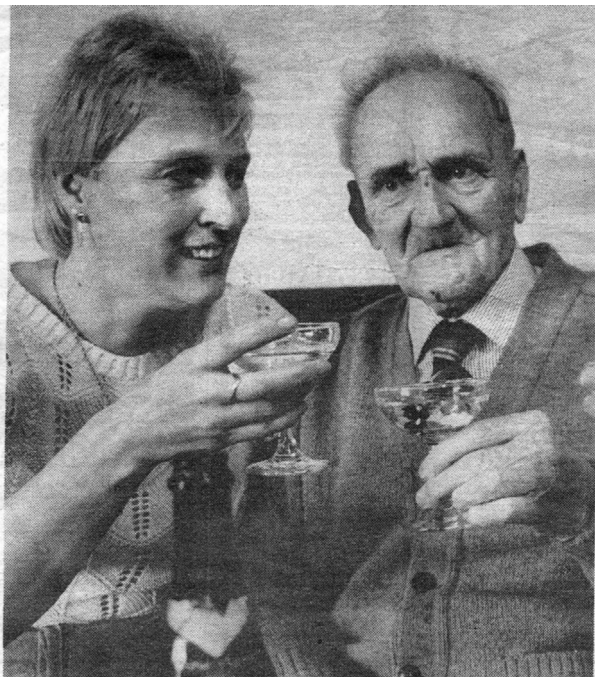
He's lived in Norton Canes all his life, having worked as a miner for 52 years in the old Jerome Colliery, which closed down some years ago.

Mr Cooper has been married for 53 years and has two grand children and one great grandchild.

His wife Alice said: "He's quite active for his age, he eats and sleeps well and enjoys working in the garden."



• Samuel celebrates the "ton-up"



Sam Cooper made a big concession on his 100th birthday — he accepted a glass of bubbly from the landlady at his local.

But moments later the fit old miner was back on his favourite mild beer, saying: "I enjoyed my first pint in the pub 83 years ago, after I'd started work in the pit underneath."

The champagne reception was staged by Mick and Jenny Bensley, at the Yew Tree in Jerome Road, Norton Canes, yesterday.

Sam and his 85-year-old wife Alice already had a family party in full swing at their bungalow nearby.

But he was lured to the pub for a time by grandson Andrew Whorton, who said: "Grandad's eyes aren't too good but he's still pretty fit."

He digs the garden and provides the family with vegetables."

Sam, who worked for 50 years mostly at the village's Conduit mine, outlived the first Yew Tree pub which was replaced 11 years ago.

When asked the secret of his long life he said: "I haven't got any secrets — that's the secret!"

Seen with Sam is landlady Jenny Bensley.

The following letter was received from Percy Shaw - A Local Ex Councillor

MR PERCY SHAW

~~Staffordshire County Council~~

Heath Hayes 78491

42 Church Road  
Norton Canes  
Cannock  
Staffs

Mr Samuel Cooper,

Dear Sam,

This is the name by which I have known you for many years in your work-a-day life and your social life,

Perhaps I have known you and been in close contact with you longer than anyone in the village apart from your own family.

I spent many years alongside you at Jerome Colliery before its closure in 1948 for that I have been proud,

I myself have represented Norton Canes on Local government and on many outside bodies for many years and during that time you have proved to be an outstanding citizen within the community.

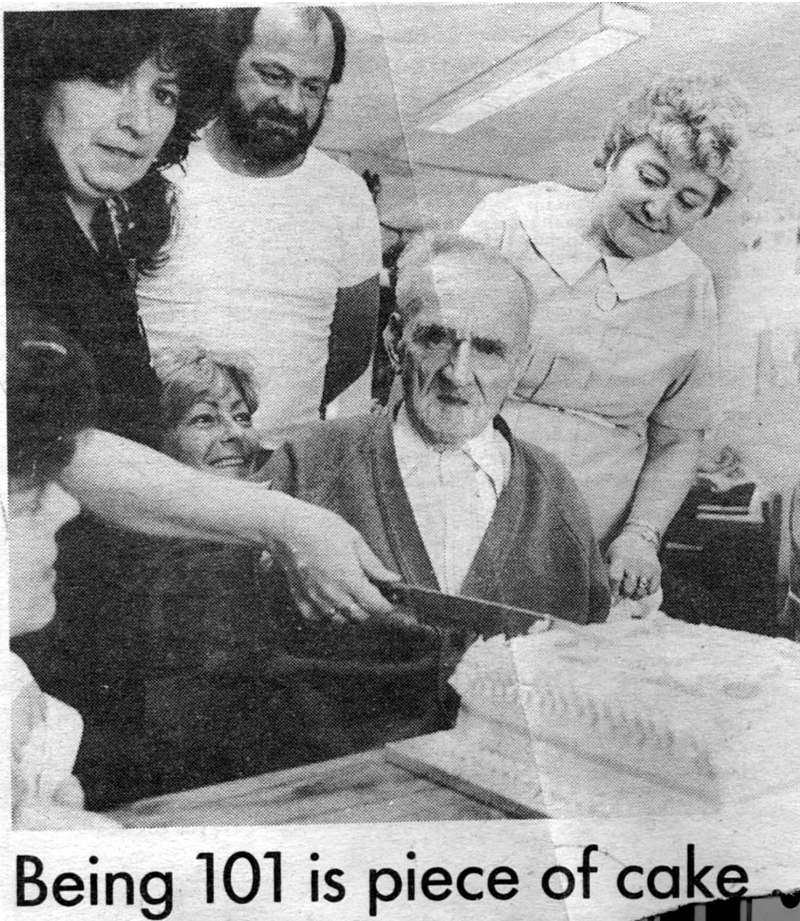
To reach your hundredth birthday is no mean achievement and Norton Canes must be very proud, much of this is due to the care and attention shown towards you by your wife Mary.

So from my <sup>WIFE</sup> and myself our heartiest congratulations to you both on your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Yours Sincerely,  
Percy Shaw,

And Then at 101 !





Being 101 is piece of cake

And 102 !

**Sam reaches grand old age of 102!**

*WHEN former miner Samuel Cooper moved into Lichfield's Nearfield House last October he was already a member of a rather exclusive "club."*

*At the grand age of 101, Sam, who lived in Norton Canes, was one of several residents to reach the top up.*

*Now he has celebrated another birthday, making him one of the oldest at Nearfield old people's home.*

*Last Thursday, he was guest of honour at a special party attended by everyone at the home and members of Sam's family.*

*Staff baked a special celebration cake and Sam who used to enjoy gardening, watching television and doing the pools, before his eyesight became too poor, shared a few reminiscences with other "club" members.*

*Birthday celebrations begin with congratulations from officer in charge at Nearfield House Susan Donnelly and her deputy Pauline Davis for 102-year-old Sam Cooper.*

Mary suffered a serious stroke combined with heart attacks in 1986 and, as a result they had to move into Nearfield House Care Home, Lichfield

Mary died, aged 81, in Nearfield House at 6:15 pm on January 18th 1987

**D. Cert.**  
**R.B.D.**

**CERTIFIED COPY**  
**Pursuant to the Births and**

**OF AN ENTRY**  
**Deaths Registration Act 1953**

**DEATH**

Registration district **LICHFIELD**  
Sub-district **LICHFIELD**

Administrative area **COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE**

Entry No. **3.**

1. Date and place of death **Eighteenth January, 1987.**  
**Nearfield House, Lichfield.**

2. Name and surname **Alice Mary COOPER**

3. Sex **Female**

4. Maiden surname of woman who has married **BIRD**

5. Date and place of birth **20th November, 1905.**  
**Brownhills, West Midlands.**

6. Occupation and usual address **Wife of Samuel Joseph COOPER**  
**a Coal Miner (retired).**  
**Nearfield House, Lichfield, Staffordshire.**

7. (a) Name and surname of informant **Beryl Mary WHORTON**  
(b) Qualification **Daughter**

(c) Usual address **148, Lazy Hill Road, Aldridge, West Midlands.**

8. Cause of death  
Ia. **Cerebrovascular Accident.**  
b. **Atherosclerosis.**  
II. **Previous C.V.A.**  
**Previous Myocardial infarct.**  
Certified by: **L.T. Harrington. M.B.**

9. I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
**E.M. Whorton.** Signature of informant

10. Date of registration **Twentieth January, 1987.**

11. Signature of registrar **J. Cole. Registrar.**

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.  
**T. Cole.** Registrar **20.1.87.** Date **IX 698488**

She was buried at [Norton Canes Church](#). on January 23rd 1987

TELEPHONE: 263138  
HOME: 251883  
HOME: 254832

25 BIRD STREET LICHFIELD

January 19 87.

M. Reps. Late Mrs A.M.Cooper.

**F. M. & J. Wait**  
**(H. D. Wait J. D. Wait)**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

**ORDINARY ACCOUNT MONTHLY**

	£	p.
23rd January 1987.		
To furnishing funeral for the late Mrs A.M.Cooper including polished oak coffin fitted with N.P.furniture lined flannel frill gown.1 oak urn and engraved plate.Removal of body from Nearfield House to chapel of rest.Supplying Hearse, 1 Limousine and bearers.Making arrangements for funeral.	392	00.
2 Doctors Fees.	37	30.
Cremation Fees at Streetly Crematorium.	48	35.
Church charges at Norton Canes Parish Church including burial of ashes.	71	50.
	549	15.


*Recd. H.D. Wait J.D. Wait 19/2/87*



Samuel lived on for another year in Nearfield House Care Home and died, aged 102, in the care home at 12:55 pm on the 8th of January 1988

**D. Cert.**  
**R.B.D.**

**CERTIFIED COPY**  
**Pursuant to the Births and**

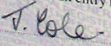


**OF AN ENTRY**  
**Deaths Registration Act 1953**

**CAUTION**—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate, intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to pass a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

<b>DEATH</b>		Entry No. <b>166</b>
Registration district <b>LICHFIELD</b>	Administrative area <b>COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE</b>	
Sub-district <b>LICHFIELD</b>		
1. Date and place of death <b>Eighth January, 1988.</b> <b>Nearfield House, Lichfield.</b>		
2. Name and surname <b>Samuel Joe COOPER</b>	3. Sex <b>Male</b>	
4. Maiden surname of woman who has married		
5. Date and place of birth <b>27th August, 1885.</b> <b>Cannock, Staffordshire.</b>		
6. Occupation and usual address <b>Coal Miner (underground). retired.</b> <b>Nearfield House, Stafford Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire.</b>		
7. (a) Name and surname of informant <b>Beryl Mary WHORTON</b>	(b) Qualification <b>Daughter</b>	
(c) Usual address <b>148, Lazy Hill Road, Aldridge, Walsall, West Midlands.</b>		
8. Cause of death <b>1a. Cerebrovascular Accident.</b> <b>b. Senile Atherosclerosis.</b> <b>Certified by: L.T. Harrington, M.B.</b>		
9. I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.		
10. Date of registration <b>Eleventh January, 1988.</b>	Signature of informant <b>B.M. Whorton.</b>	
11. Signature of registrar <b>J. Cole, Registrar.</b>		

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody.

 Registrar **11.1.88.** Date **1Y 892656**

He was buried alongside Mary at [Norton Canes Church](#). on January 15th 1988

TELEPHONE: 263138  
HOME: 251883  
HOME: 254832

25 BIRD STREET LICHFIELD

.....January..... 19 88...

M...Bens...late...Mr...S...J...Cooper.....

*F. M. & J. Wait*  
*(H. D. Wait J. D. Wait)*

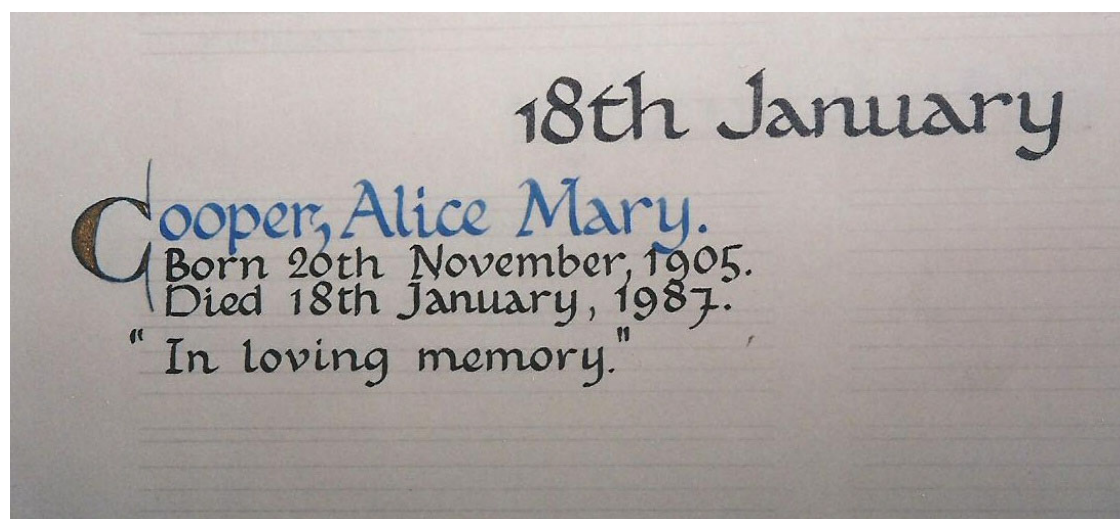
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ORDINARY ACCOUNT MONTHLY

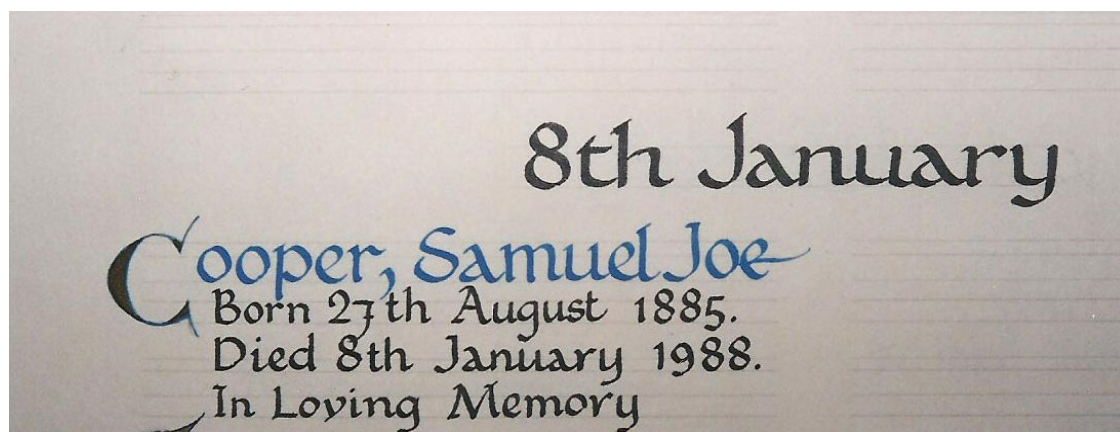
	£	p.
15th January 1988.		
To furnishing funeral for the late Mr S.J.Cooper including polished oak coffin fitted with N.P.furniture lined flannel frill gown.1 oak urn and engraved plate. Removal of body from Nearfield House to chapel of rest. Supplying Hearse,1 Limousine and bearers.Making arrangements for funeral.	392	00.
2 Doctors Fees.	39	30.
Cremation Fees at Streetly Crematorium.	50	00.
Church charges at Norton Canes Parish Church	75	00.
	556	30.

PAID  
13 FEB 1988  
Per.....

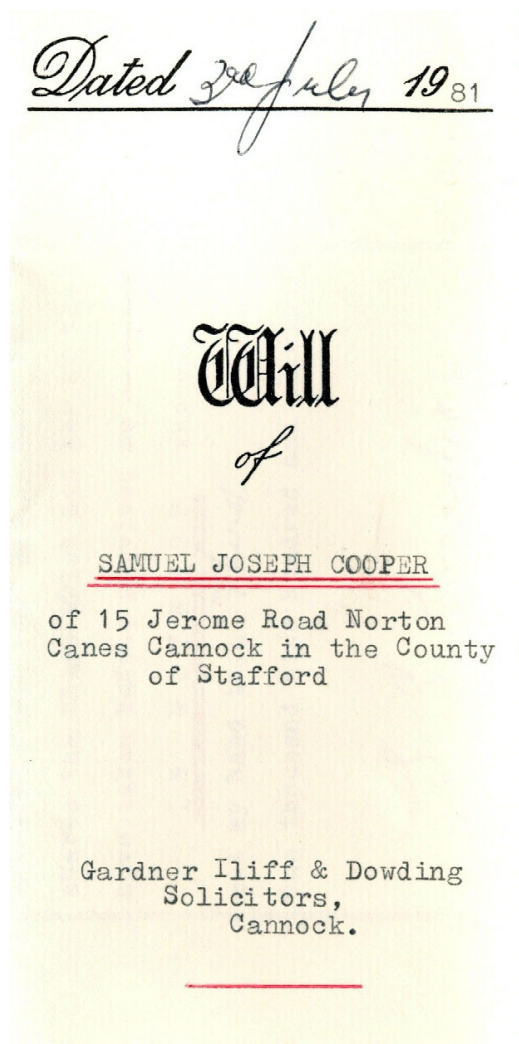
The entries in the church book of remembrance as shown below :-







Samuel left a Will as shown below but, of course, the main Beneficiary, his wife, was already dead



# This is the last Will <sup>AND</sup>

TESTAMENT of me SAMUEL JOSEPH COOPER of 15 Jerome  
Road Norton Canes Cannock in the County of Stafford

1. I HEREBY REVOKE all former Wills and  
testamentary instruments at any time heretofore made  
by me \_\_\_\_\_
2. I APPOINT my Wife ALICE MARY COOPER to be the  
sole Executrix of this my Will and I GIVE DEVISE AND  
BEQUEATH all my estate both real and personal of  
whatsoever nature or kind and wheresoever situate after  
payment of my debts funeral and testamentary expenses  
unto her for her own sole use and benefit absolutely  
PROVIDED ALWAYS that should my said Wife Alice Mary  
Cooper predecease me or not survive me for the  
period of twenty eight days then the foregoing  
provisions shall not apply and in lieu thereof the  
following provisions shall take effect \_\_\_\_\_
3. I APPOINT my Daughter BERYL MARY WHORTON and  
her husband ALAN ~~JOHN~~ WHORTON both of 148 Lazy Hill  
Road Aldridge in the County of West Midlands  
(hereinafter called "my Trustees") to be the  
Executors and Trustees of this my Will \_\_\_\_\_
4. I DEVISE AND BEQUEATH all my estate both real  
and personal whatsoever and wheresoever after payment  
thereout of my just debts funeral and testamentary  
expenses and any duty and taxes howsoever arising  
by reason of my death unto my Trustees upon trust  
to sell call in and convert the same into money  
with power to postpone the sale calling in and  
conversion thereof so long as they shall in their  
absolute discretion think fit without being liable  
for loss \_\_\_\_\_

STO

✓  
S J C



5. MY Trustees shall hold the net proceeds of sale and my ready money upon trust for my Daughter the said BERYL MARY WHORTON absolutely PROVIDED THAT if my said Daughter Beryl Mary Whorton shall predecease me or not survive me for the period of twenty eight days leaving children living at my death then such children shall take and if more than one in equal shares the share which his her or their parent would have taken had she survived me

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand this Three day of July One thousand nine hundred and eighty one

*S J Cooper*

S I G N E D by the said SAMUEL JOSEPH COOPER as

and for his last Will 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 after the same had been audibly and accurately read over to him by me the undersigned RANDOLPH

JOHN CRITCHLOW when he appeared perfectly to understand and approve of the contents thereof *the deletion of the name "John" in the second line of paragraph three having first been made and initialed*

*[Signature]*

*To Hatherbe Road*

*Canmock*  
*Legal Executive*

S. J. Dainty  
17 Salcombe Close  
Canmock Stairs.  
Solicitors Clerk.