

Living in the shadow of the chocolate factory.

1909-1926



Wedding photograph: George and Alice Lindsey

Judith Angleson (2007)

"In 1905 my father Fred Lindsey was born at 26 Cromer Road. His parents, George and Alice Lindsey had married in 1904.

From Cromer Road they moved to York Road, then Washington Avenue and, when he was four in 1909, they finally moving to Co-operation Road until 1926. The family then moved to Downend where my father built the house in which we still live today.

When father retired he was persuaded to talk about his memories and below are his memories of life in Co-operation Road."

"At the age of 85 years it has been suggested to me that I may have some memories of the past that would be interesting to some younger members. Now I have never done anything like this before and I hesitate to take on the job but perhaps we will try. So I think probably the best way to start is to go back to the beginning.

The first thing I remember is where I lived: 48 Co-operation Road, Greenbank, Bristol. In those days it was a working class area. Many drunks could be seen lying in the gutter. Street fights were common entertainment, I saw Grandpa separate a pair. Local employment was at the Packers' (chocolate), Frys' (chocolate) and Wills' (tobacco) factories or at the pits on Easton Road at the top of All Hallows Road. The miners lived near and you would see them walking home dirty. The railways also were a good job, paying five shillings a week and offering a pension.

Perhaps it would be better to describe the area and then the house. Co-operation Road began where Devon Road crossed at the bottom. Proceeding up the road on the left

was Hinton Road, further up the road was crossed by Gratitude Road on the right where mother's sister Eva lived with her family. Kingsley Road was to the left at the end of which was an imposing building: Castle Green Congregational Chapel. Right in front was Greenbank Primary School with separate sections for the boys and girls. Proceeding from there you move up the road, 48 was on the right hand side and the road was crossed again by Carlyle Road. On the right mother's brother Walter and his family lived and on a little further to the right was H J Packers' chocolate factory for the rest of the length of the road. On the left hand side was Camerton Road in which mother's sister Aggie and her family lived. Next Camelford Road and then Turley Road, at the end of all three roads was the big Greenbank Cemetery.

There were daily carriages of goods to the chocolate factory. There were no motor lorries or wagons about in those days everything had to be carried on a flat bed horse drawn vehicle. This was carried from the local docks or railway to as far as St Marks Church. Here the road began to rise the whole way up to the factory and a single horse was kept there with lad returned with single horse for the next load.

Also a steam propelled vehicle tanker carried tar from the Eastville Gas works via Robertson Road, Bellevue Road and then up the back road of Washington Avenue and Tudor Road, and then onto Devon Road as it arrived outside Fords Tripe Dressing works it was a steep climb to just over the Railway Bridge to Butlers Works at Crews Hole, St George. The vehicle could not deal with this incline so the driver's assistant had to get out of the cab, take the pin out of the drive shaft, move a gear over and replace the pin. It would go over the bridge and the assistant had to get out the other side to reverse the order back to top gear. It had steel wheels which churned up the road. Tudor Road in the winter was just a muddy lane.

Going back to the corner shops which were in Gratitude Road and Kingsley Road, the Misses Lacey kept the shop at the bottom of Gratitude Road and I remember that one sister reminded me of Mavis in Coronation Street she seemed to be so cowed down by her elder sister. The shop was quite a long shop evidently a back room had been taken in at some time and so the counter only reached halfway along the shop. At the end of the counter I remember there was a storage rack for biscuit tins. In those days the manufacturers supplied the biscuits in metal tins about 9inch cubed and the fixed glass lids on them; this way people could see what was in the different tins. I remember Miss Lacey would be behind that rack of tins with the local gossip mongers spreading gossip.

On the opposite corner was an off licence kept by Mr and Mrs Priddey it was always a spotlessly clean shop. The one side was the off licence and the other side was provisions and I remember that there were three wooden bins along the front of the right hand counter in which was kept maize and bran and wheat for feeding chickens that were kept by a number of people in the area and after a while I was allowed to measure out and weigh my own corn for the fowls we kept. On the opposing corner was an empty shop, a couple of Belgian families were billeted there during the 1914 - 18 war and later it was opened as a butchers shop by a Mr Painter. On the other corner was a double fronted house, with a small drapery shop at the back of the house. In later years it was kept by Edie Priddey the eldest daughter of the Priddeys who ran the of-licence.

Now if I go back to the house itself, 48 Co-operation Road, it was, I suppose what you would call a working class terraced house consisting of two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs plus the small kitchen and a box room upstairs. Going through the front door there was a glass door just inside and proceeding along the stairs were in front and to the right a door leading into the front room or parlour. At the back was a room normally called the kitchen and then through another door to the back kitchen or scullery. In this room there were two cupboards at the back in the left corner, one for food and one to store the coal. In the right hand corner was the copper fired by coal or sticks s to boil the water for washing day.

Now coal was delivered at the front door by cart and brought through the house in a wicker basket, which of course was not dust proof as you can imagine. The coal men would walk through the house leaving a small trail of coal dust from the front door right through to the back kitchen which needed a bit of cleaning up after they have finished and they were not very popular. Incidentally I remember a man who worked for *Packers* office would call at the house every Saturday after work to collect a few shillings and then as we needed coal he would supply half a ton or a ton and of course the payments were used to pay for the coal.



Fred (on the left) and Leonard Lindsey with their mother in 1916

There are one or two further items about the house that may be of interest to you: this type of house had no bathroom and we had to do the best we could however when my father got a bit more prosperous he decided to do something about it. So he knocked the back wall of the left-hand cupboard in the back kitchen, and built on what looked like a greenhouse, a bathroom of wood and glass. Why a greenhouse as a bathroom? Well to build a bathroom in brickwork or stone one had to submit plans to the local council, and father was unable to do this and to save a lot of both this greenhouse was built, which is not considered to be a permanent structure. With obscure glass in the roof and curtains it made a very adequate bathroom. Of course there was not hot water it still had to be carried from the copper in the corner of the back kitchen to the bath.

Another small point which may also be of interest, when father bought the house the landlord was a Market Gardener at Hambrook named Harding and he asked £210 but father haggled and got the price down to £205 and then after a bit more haggling they split the difference and the final price came down to £202.10s which was a queer sort of price for a brick built house.



**1955: Judith with her
parents and grandparents
George and Alice.**