

## Robert Hood and Gertrude Sutton

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1937 Robert Hood married Gertrude Sutton and Reverend Edward Lake officiated at their wedding.

Gertrude aged 21 years



Thanks to Maggie d'Andrea and Pam Russell's research we know a considerable amount about Gertrude's childhood in Cotterstock; Maggie interviewed her c1996 about her life in the 1920s.

Gertrude was known to everyone as "Truda" and this is an extract from her interview.

*"I was born in the village in 1914, the start of the First World War. I lived in Corner Cottage, an end of terrace cottage with my mother, father and brother Harley. My father, Fred, was a farm labourer and my mother, Rose, was the daughter of the groom at Cotterstock Hall. My grandparents lived just across the road."*

This is the way Corner Cottage might have been looked when Truda lived there.



Photograph of Truda with her teacher Miss Phillips in her school photograph in 1922.



*"Our house had just two rooms upstairs and two downstairs, so there was not much room for furniture. The walls were painted with whitening and the floors covered with red and blue quarry tiles. My mother worked hard keeping our house clean, cooking and sewing and doing many other jobs. We had no vacuum cleaner or washing machine and there was no electricity in the village then. We had no taps with running water so all the water we needed for washing was collected in big rain barrels. We washed up in a tin bowl placed on a shelf. There was a well more than 20 feet deep for a number of houses; the one on the other side of the road was only shallow. A bucket was clasped onto a special stick and lowered down the well. Sometimes the bucket would drop off and you would have to wait until everyone else had collected their water as it disturbed the mud at the bottom and made the water muddy! Occasionally you would find a frog or a snail in the bucket. One year the well dried up and we had to go to the spinney near Perio Farm to fetch water from the spring."*

*"We had neither a bathroom nor an indoor toilet. It took a lot of effort to have a bath, the water had to be boiled in a pan on a metal shelf next to the fire and poured into the bath. We took turns to bathe twice a week in a zinc bath in front of the fire, it was always best to be first!"*

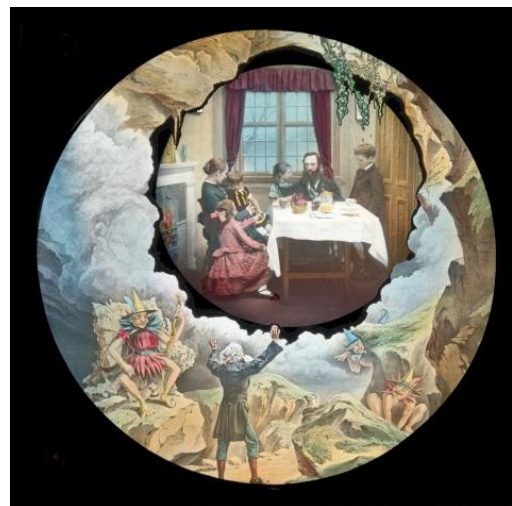
*"The toilet was an outhouse at the bottom of the garden. It had a wooden seat with a hole in the middle. At night it was cold and very dark out there; I usually persuaded someone to accompany me. Before I went in I would bang very loudly on the door to scare away any rats that might be there. On Saturday mornings we cut up newspaper into sheets to use*

*as toilet paper. The sheets were sewn together in the corner and hung on a hook. Later, we filled in the privy and progressed to an Elsan toilet, which again emptied into the garden – not far from the well! If anything drained into our drinking water we never seemed to have any ill effects."*



*"My mother made all my clothes, sometimes from old dresses that were cut up. A lot of girls wore pinafores over their dresses to keep them clean and so did some of the boys. Woollen jumpers were handed down or unravelled and re-knitted. Holes in socks were darned and we wore our boots until there was no sole left. The village cobbler put metal studs on the bottom of our boots to make them last longer."*

*"Although Cotterstock is a small village we managed to entertain ourselves. The school was used for social events and parents paid for its upkeep by putting on plays and holding jumble sales. No dances were ever held there because there were big knots in the floorboards. Children enjoyed watching magic lantern shows."*



*"On Monday nights the school bell would ring to let the villagers know that the lending library was open. The beautifully bound books belonged to Cotterstock Hall. Books were very precious and we could not afford to buy our own."*

*"I was married in Cotterstock Church in 1937. All of my family and friends from the village came to celebrate our special day. My godmother made my wedding dress from new material that she had ordered from London. Ready-made clothes were scarce and very expensive. My husband was in the Royal Air Force and wore his uniform."*



*"Ladies in the village lent me shoes and a veil and the gardener at Cotterstock Hall gave me a bunch of red carnations as a wedding present."*

Robert and Gertrude spent most of their married life in and around York in Yorkshire.

Robert died on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1989 and Gertrude on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1999. They are both at rest in St Andrew's churchyard. The touching inscription on their gravestone reads:

"Re-united - Back Home"

