

L. Crow Email 2005 (Edited: S. Crow)

### **William Mason Crow and his son Jim Robert Mason Crow**

William Mason Crow was named after his father's eldest brother. The name Mason was a mystery for a long time ..... when Brenda started courting his son Jim Crow she was calling him Jim Mason and only found out that their married name would be Crow just before marriage. Brenda's maiden name was Marshall and they lived at 21 Tune Street. The house is no longer there.

William had six children, two with each of three women. After some time William and his wife parted and he took up a partnership with his housekeeper Carrie Ward. With her he had two children called Edna and Billy. Billy died in an accident in Sheffield Road when he ran and tried to jump onto a moving tram (see newspaper article from 1923). Percy Crow who spent some time as a Tram Conductor was the Conductor on that tram. I assume that they all lived at 8 Tune St. William next had a relationship with another housekeeper Anne Mickman who bore him two children, Jim (Bev's Father) and Joan who died young. His son, Jim Robert Mason Crow lived at home until he married a short time after William Mason Crow died in 1953. Jim found his Father dead in the chair one morning. William is buried in a simple grave marked with initials on a small marker only (?)

William lived at 8 Tune St which was a row (town) house during this time and worked making and selling ice cream produced in the kitchen. He also sold his garden produce from a small handcart which he took around the local area. He was a regular pub-goer and had a personal friend who owned the Wharncliffe Arms lower down Sheffield Road (towards the Alhambra Centre). The pub is still there. The owner may have been a relation.

Leslie Crow never visited the house or Tune Street where William Mason Crow lived as his mother Hilda was against the way the parents had treated Percy feeling they gave him little true love and guidance. Percy Crow spent many hours outside the family home with his Grandma who lived nearby, or working at the local grocers on evenings and Saturdays, bagging sugar and flour. The money earned was taken from him to help with the housekeeping. Young Percy was kept busy by his father in his spare time with "pretend painting" (or varnishing) the table legs with a brush dipped in a jam jar full of water. He could have been doing this while his father was painting as that was one of his jobs.

William had a variety of jobs and a reputation for wandering in and out of regular employment although this may not have been his fault. These were difficult times and he didn't have a supportive wife and happy home. William was a very easy going man who tried to avoid unpleasant and upsetting situations. His escape was to the allotment gardens in the rear of Mount Vernon Hospital.

This was the only place that Leslie visited him and then only on occasional drop-ins when accompanying his Dad Percy to the Wage Offices at the Yorkshire Traction offices on Sheffield Road. His grandson, Leslie loved going to the garden as there was always something to sample like fresh green peas or new tomatoes. William invariably gave him something to take home, 'for Hilda to cook', but always refused to make a visit when invited to come to Caxton Street. William grew but destroyed cucumbers over a water-tub in the centre of his greenhouse. The only thing good about them was the art of growing them he would say. Maybe this is why Leslie never liked cucumbers!