

Humber Street Relations

Great grandparents Andrew James and Jane (Elliot) Williams moved to Northern Ireland between 1901 and 1905. The 1901 Scottish Census has them in Paisley, Scotland and their youngest child, Andrew, born in Jun 1905 in East Belfast. The 1911 census shows them as living at 24 Humber Street. Andrew's occupation is listed as 'grocer' and his store was at the Northwest corner of the intersection of Humber and Mersey Street, which would have been just to the left of the photographer in the picture below). Notice the cranes of the Harland and Wolff shipyard in the background of the picture. It was presumed that Andrew (who went by James) moved to Ireland to work in the shipyards as he was listed in the 1901 Scottish Census as a boilermaker.

A lot of family connections can be linked to this street. In the 1943 resident listing below there are still a large number of 'family' present.



Humber Street 1943
off Dee Street

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Kelly, W. H., grocer | 8. Hollyoak, Mrs. E. (Holyoak, J., labourer in 1918) |
| 3. Smith, R., labourer | 10. Rutherford, Alex., labourer |
| 5. McClean, T. H., plumber | 12. McWilliams, F., labourer |
| 7. McKissick, John, labourer | 14. Todd, Andrew, labourer |
| 9. McGilivray, Mrs. E. | 16. Warnock, Arthur, labourer |
| 11. Spence, J., labourer | 18. Milligan, Francis, labourer |
| 13. Occupied | 20. Craig, Mrs. M. |
|here is Mersey Street | 22. Reid, Thomas, labourer |
| 15. Butler, W. |here is Mersey Street |
| 17. Wilson, R., labourer | 24-26. McCready, H., grocer |
| 19. Nimick, Mrs. R. | 28. Butler, James, labourer |
| 21. Algy, Mrs. J. | 30. McShane, Thomas |
| 23. Close, Robert, blacksmith | 32. Walker, Thomas, labourer |
| 25. Thompson, John, labourer | 34. Johnston, F., fireman |
| 27. McKitterick, J., labourer | 36. Benson, James, labourer |
| 29. Campbell, W. H., labourer | 38. Scott, Mrs. Catherine |
| 31. Gregg, William, pavior | 40. Murphy, H., labourer |
| 33. Mullan, Harold, caulker | 42. Murphy, J., driller |
| 35. Boyce, John, carter | 44. Silvey, Quinn, labourer |
| 37. Chapman, Mrs. M. | 46. Butler, Henry, labourer |
| 39. Napier, James, labourer | 48. Dunbar, Mrs. M. |
| 41. Wilkinson, H., labourer | 50. Mackerell, William, labourer |
| 43. Lowry, H., labourer | 52. Newman, E., oiler |
| 45. Hicks, William, labourer | 54. Jamison, Miss Norma |
| 47. Maxwell, W., labourer | 56. Williams, Thomas, labourer |
| 49. Johnston, William, labourer | 58. Galbraith, R., labourer |
| 51. Barrell, J. | 60. Marble Arch Dart Club |
| 53. Agnew, H., brick layer | |
| 55. Ferguson, W., shipwright | |

Number 15 is presumed to be William Butler (wife Elizabeth Heaps), brother-in-law to Elizabeth Elliot Williams (daughter of Andrew and Jane). Elizabeth married Joseph Butler in 1917, son of James Butler who lived at #46, shown in the 1911 census with his wife and six children (including Joseph). The six Butler children in the 1911 Census were born on Avon Street which is not far from Humber.

Number 16 is Arthur Warnock who married Leah Butler (sister-in-law to Elizabeth) in 1917. Arthur died in 1947 but Leah was there as late as 1960. The home was occupied prior to the Warnock's by John Barclay and his wife Annie Butler (sister to Leah). The Barclays moved to Australia in 1926.

Number 24-26 is still a grocery store which Mr. McCready took over from James Williams some time between 1918 and 1924. It appears that James Williams established the grocery business from scratch as there is no reference found in the 1901 Census. James bought the vacant #24 in 1910 and expanded to #26 by 1912.

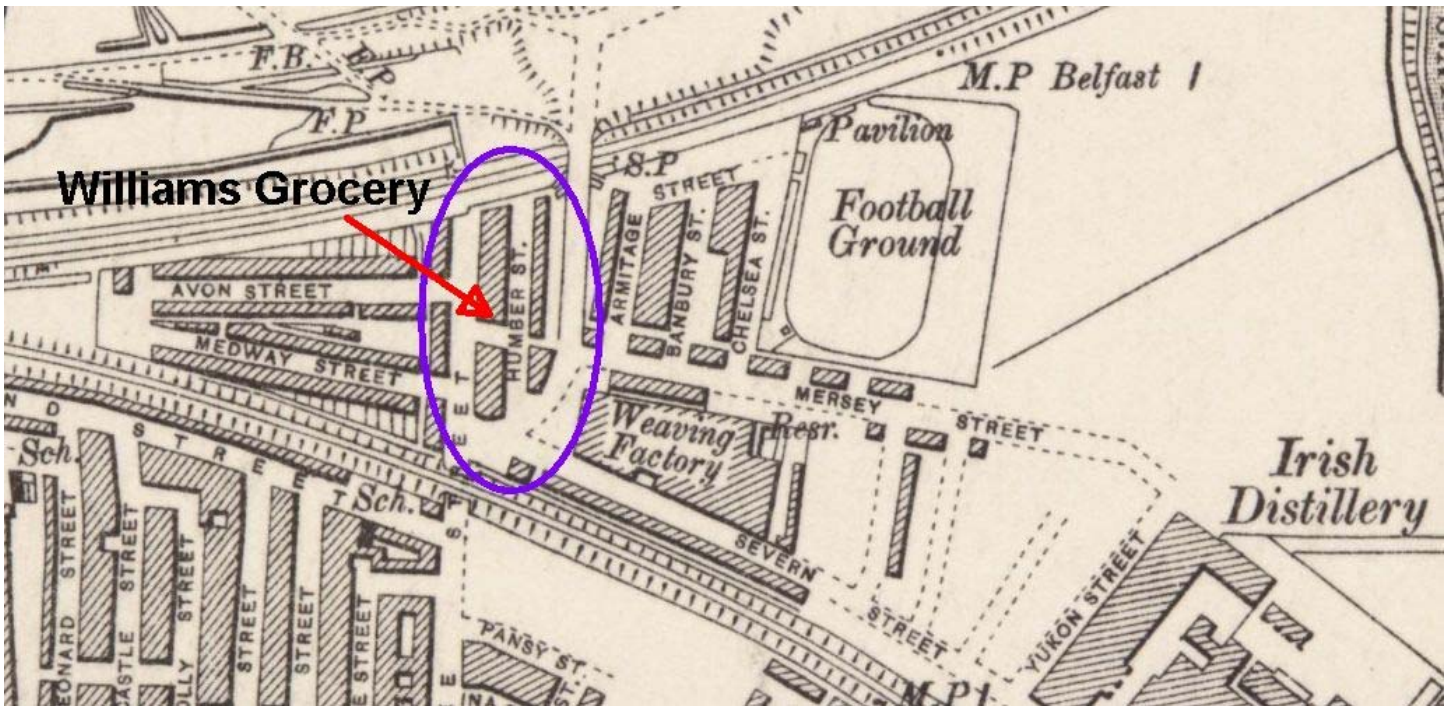
Number 28 has James Butler, also brother-in-law to Elizabeth. James Robert Butler married Christina Sands in 1904 and are shown at #28 in the 1911 Census. Christina died at this house in 1963.

Number 36 is James Benson, a nephew by marriage to Elizabeth. Son of Margaret Butler (sister-in-law to my Elizabeth) and Samuel Benson who occupied the place in 1908, five years after they were

married. Both of James's parent died at that address, Samuel in 1931 and Margaret in 1935. Prior to the Bensons, the residence was occupied by John Boyd (rivetter) who went on to marry Alice Butler.

Number 38 is Catherine Scott, nee Elliot, sister to our Jane (Elliot) Williams. Not there in 1911 but her daughter, Catherine Elliot Scott was born there in 1916.

Number 46, Henry Butler, also brother-in-law to Elizabeth. His father James resided here from 1908 until his death in 1935.



Humber Street was demolished between 1980 and 1983 and a new development approved as Humber Court.

from <https://www.belfaststreetnames.com/humber-court/>

Humber Court

Year approved: 1983

That the application of Messrs Thomas Dixon and Sons for permission to name five streets in Ballymacarrett 'Dee Street', Humber Street, Trent [?] Street, Mersey Street, and Severn Street be granted. (TIC, 26 November 1873) The name Humber Street is no longer in use. "A Belfast City Council committee has backed down over the naming of a new street in east Belfast. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive had requested that a new development off Medway Street be named Humber Court. But the council's technical services committee rejected this in favour of the old Humber Street. The Executive hit back by pointing out to the committee that the name Humber had been retained to give an element of historical identity to the new development. It also said "court" had been chosen primarily because the new development was designed with all houses fronting a pedestrian-only courtyard. The Executive claimed the term "street" had been disregarded as "inappropriate" because of the "non-linear" nature of the design and because a small portion of the old Humber Street still existed. It said the postal authorities had been consulted and were in agreement with the proposed name — Humber Court. The committee has now decided to rescind its previous decision and has agreed with the

Executive's proposal." Belfast News-Letter - Saturday 31 December 1983. That the application of Messrs Thomas Dixon and Sons for permission to name five streets in Ballymacarrett 'Dee Street', Humber Street, Trent [?] Mersey Street, and Severn Street be granted. (TIC, 26 November 1873).

This is a work in progress....

Dave Williams

www.mykidsancestors.com

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