

Child No.7 was William Thomas Simmonds, 1865-1947, grandfather of the writer's wife. He moved to London, where he married Clara Stevens in Hammersmith in 1889. He was still there as an elementary school teacher in 1891 before moving to Rugby, where he ran his own school. For a while after retiring he remained in Rugby before finally moving to Hove, to a flat in the same building as his sisters Minnie and Carrie.

The two youngest of the family both had their place in Banbury business. Minnie Elizabeth, known in the family as Min, was born in 1867 and Carrie in 1870. They both became dressmakers like their elder sisters Eliza and Rose Anne. Both remained at home with Tom and Ellen and both were described as "mantle maker" in 1891 and "dressmaker (employer)" in 1901. No doubt the dressmaking sisters were glad to have the Singer Sewing Machine Company just a few steps away at No.20 Parsons Street for at least part of the time they were in business there. At some time just after the turn of the century Minnie and Carrie moved to 9 North Bar Street, opposite the end of Parsons Street, where they continued their dressmaking business, and it is likely that Tom retired there with them. The latest trade directory available on line seems to be *Kelly's* of 1911, where they are listed at that address and that was also Minnie's address when she registered Tom's death in January 1912. Unfortunately, we do not know when Minnie and Carrie gave up trading in Banbury, but telephone directories indicate that by 1935 they had retired together to a seafront apartment in Hove. Carrie died in 1945 and Minnie in 1958. Neither married.

#### **A footnote on the buildings:**

Over the years building numbers containing "½" have become unfashionable, so 29½ Parsons Street has become 29A. The building where Tom and his family lived and worked still stands, though no longer covered in creeper. The building opposite was known as "Dossett's Corner" as it housed the well-known grocers; now demolished and replaced (see 'Portrait of a Country Grocer', *C&CH*, 11.3).

The premises where Minnie and Carrie worked exist no longer, but can be seen (on the right) in the painting by W. Matthison now displayed in Banbury Museum. It is illustrated in *Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes* (BHS 30, 2007), page 52. The detail of this used on the cover of the *Genealogists Magazine* (vol.29, No.4) omits that side of the street. Today the Cromwell Lodge Hotel occupies 9-11 North Bar Street.