

Thomas EDEN



Thomas Eden.

Born: 1855

Died: 18 May 1927

*RESIDENT OF ROE GREEN
LABOURER/PAINTER*



Paul R. Speakman 2020

THOMAS EDEN



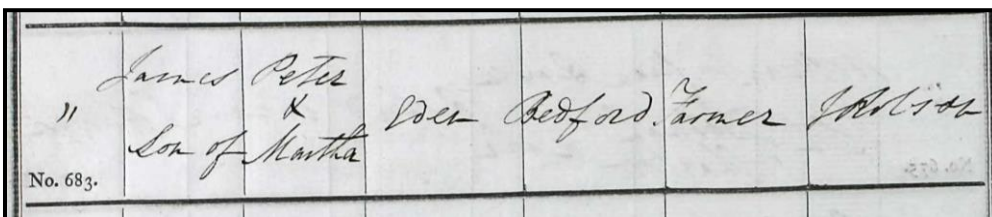
As you come through the gate from the car park into the church grounds, pause to look at a broken plinth on the right, near to the bench. It is not very large because the cross seems to be missing. The name RUTH can be seen clearly. The inscription on the stone reads:

In loving memory of RUTH the beloved wife of THOMAS EDEN of Roe Green who died January 18th 1907 aged 46 yrs. THOMAS EDEN died May 18th 1927 aged 71 yrs. JANE EDEN died September 28th 1942 aged 75 yrs. At rest until the day break. (b38)

A local man and family of Roe Green. So what was his/their connection with the church? And what was his job? Since his wife is also buried here, it would be remiss not to mention her and her background.

The EDEN Family

Thomas was the son of **James** and Mary Eden. The Eden family originated from Bedford, Leigh, and eventually moved over to the Manchester area.



James Eden was baptised at St. Mary, Leigh, on 20 November **1826**, to Peter Eden, farmer, and Martha, Byrom. In the census of **1841**,

Peter and family were living at Leach House, Bedford, and James was the eldest child, aged 14. Before the next census of **1851**, **James** had married Mary Prescott, also of Bedford. The ceremony took place at St. Thomas, Leigh, on 28 November **1848**. James was of full age and was a Gardener.

By **1851**, therefore, they had their own residence at Duke Street, Bedford. The census record shows:

James Eden	Head	M	24	Grocer	
Mary	Wife	M	22		
Peter	Son		1		
Ellen	Daur		5mo		
Catherine			16	Sister and Servant	All born Bedford.

By **1861**, Thomas had been born (in fact in **1855**), and **James** had changed his occupation.

1861 census: Bowling Green Inn, Green Lane End, Bedford, Leigh

James Eden	Head	M	33	Inn keeper	
Mary	Wife	M	32		
Ellen	Daur		10	Scholar	
John	Son		7		
Thomas	Son		5		
Martha	Daur		3		All born Bedford
+ 1 house servant					

By the time of the **1871** census, the family had moved to the Manchester area and was living at an address on Bolton Lane, Walkden. Once again, James had changed his job.

James Eden	Head	M	44	Coachman	
Mary	Wife	M	41		
Ellen	Daur	U	20	Cotton weaver	
John	Son	U	17	Collier labourer	
Thomas	Son	U	15	Oil cloth labourer	
Martha	Daur	U	13	Scholar	All born Lancs.

1881 census: 129 Bolton Road, Worsley

James Eden	Head	M	54	Brickmaker	b. Bedford, Leigh
Mary	Wife	M	52		b. Bedford
Thomas	Son		25	Labourer	b. Bedford
Catherine	Daur		9	Scholar	b. Walkden
Charles Howard	S-in-law	M	22	Coal dealer	b. Walkden
Martha	Daur	M	28	Wife	b. Bedford
James	G'son		3mo		b. Walkden

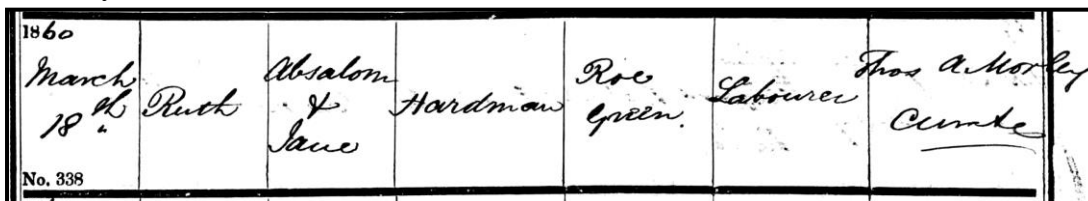
The daughter, Catherine, aged 9 above, was baptised on Christmas Eve 1871. at St. Paul, Walkden daughter of James and Mary. James's occupation was recorded simply as Labourer.

Then, in **1883**, Thomas got married. The ceremony took place on 7 April 1883 at St Paul, Walkden.

Thomas Eden - 26, Labourer, Bachelor, Walkden
Ruth Hardman - 23, Weaver, Spinster, Worsley
 Groom's Father: James Eden, Brick Maker
 Bride's Father: Absalom Hardman, Labourer
 Witness: Walter Hardman; Emma Griffiths

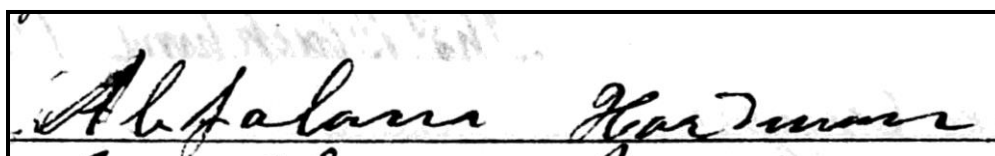
The HARDMAN Family

At this point, attention turns to **Ruth** "*the beloved wife of THOMAS EDEN of Roe Green*". The marriage record shows that her maiden name was Hardman. Her father's name Absalom draws one's attention and interest. It can also be found spelt Absolam and Absolom! Ruth Baptism: 18 March **1860** St Mark, Worsley.



Absalom's own baptism took place on 28 February **1808** at St. Mary the Virgin, Eccles. He was the son of James Hardman and Mary. James was a Weaver. Jane was baptised at St. Mary the Virgin, Eccles, on 21 March **1819**.

Jane Collier - Daughter of James Collier & Elizabeth
 Abode: Worsley
 Occupation: Weaver



Absalom eventually married Jane Collier on 8 January 1843.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
146	8 January	Absalom Hardman Jane Collier	full Age	Bachelor Spinster	Smith	Ringley	James Hardman James Collier	Gardener Worrier

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, By Warrant of the Blackburne Act by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Absalom Hardman Jane Collier in the Presence of Robert Jones Mark James Shildrick

In the census of 1851, **Absalom** was living at an unspecified address in Roe Green, as in 1841.

1851 census: Roe Green, Worsley.

Absalom Hardman	Head	M	40	Labourer	
Jane	Wife	M	31		
James	Son		6	Scholar	
Mary	Daur		4	Scholar	
Thomas	Son		1		
Sarah	Lodger		18		
Mary	Lodger		78	Widow	
Ruth Cook	Niece		10	Scholar	All born Worsley

By moving forward to the 1871 census, we see that Absalom and family were still residents of Roe Green. This had been the case also in 1861.

1871 census: Roe Green, Worsley.

Absalom Hardman	Head	M	63	Blacksmith	
Jane	Wife	M	53	Silk weaver	
Thomas	Son		21	Carpenter	
Sarah	Daur.		20	Silk weaver	
Walter	Son		13	App. blacksmith	
Ruth	Daur.		11	Scholar	

Absalom and Jane had 4 sons and 3 daughters: James (1844); Mary (1846); Thomas (1849); Sarah (1851); Alfred (1854); and Walter (1857); and Ruth (1860). The first six children were all baptised at St. Mary, Eccles, and **Ruth** was at St. Mark's.

THOMAS and RUTH

And so **Thomas** and **Ruth** married on 7 April 1883 at St. Paul, Walkden. Sadly for **Ruth**, her father had died in 1877. From this point, we find that Thomas and Ruth have moved towards Roe Green. So, in 1891, we see:

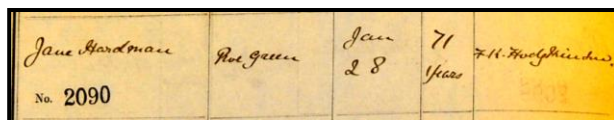
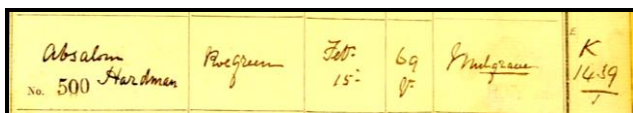
1891 census: 14 Greenleach Lane, Worsley

Thomas Eden	Head	M	36	General labourer	
Ruth	Wife	M	34		
Janey	Daur		7	(b. late 1883)	b. Worsley
James	Son		3		b. Worsley

James and Mary died in 1891 and 1896 respectively. Both were buried at St. Thomas, Leigh, the church where they were married. James, who died on 17 September 1891, left a small will. His address at the time of his death was 129 Queen's Terrace, Bolton Road, Walkden, and his will was proved by

Mary Hardman, widow the relict. His personal estate was given as £175. When Mary died on 31 October **1896**, of the same address, she left her estate of £262 to John Eden, colliery banksman, her elder son.

As for the parents of **Ruth**, her father, **Absalom**, was buried at St. Mark's on 15 February **1877**, aged 69 yrs. He did leave a will. The Index of Wills and Administrations shows that he was late of Roe Green, Worsley, and that he was, at that time, a Blacksmith. His death occurred on 12 February **1877**. Administration of his effects was granted to Jane Hardman, widow the relict. His effects were valued at under £100. His widow Jane was buried in the churchyard on 28 January **1891**, aged 71.

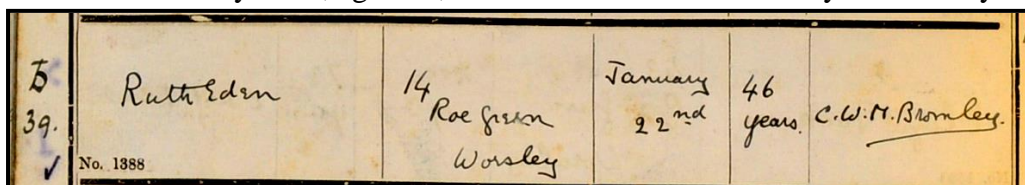


Thomas and Ruth continued to lead their lives in Roe Green. The only two censuses available that cover their lives are for **1901** and **1911**.

1901 census: 14 Roe Green, Worsley

Thomas Eden	Head	M	45	Labourer (General)	b. Bedford, Leigh
Ruth	Wife	M	41		b. Roe Green
Mary J.	Daur		17	Twist Winder (Cotton)	b. Roe Green
James	Son		13		b. Roe Green

Ruth died on 18 January **1907**, aged 46, and was buried in the churchyard four days later.

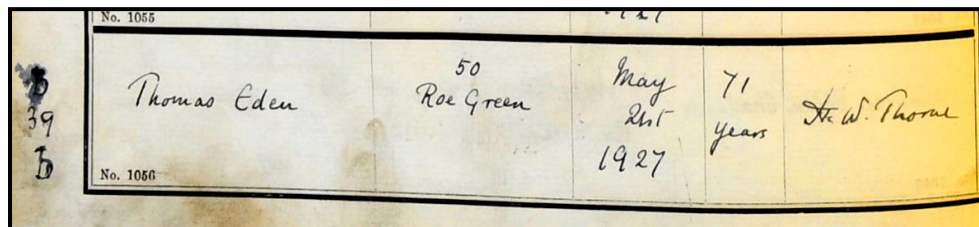


Thomas continued to live in Roe Green. The census taken four years after **Ruth's** death shows him living at the same address, with his son James. Both were house painters.

1911 census: 14 Roe Green, Worsley

Thomas Eden	Head	W	54	Labouring painter (house)
James	Son	S	23	House painter

Thomas lived for several more years and died on 18 May **1927**, aged 71. The burial record shows that he was still a resident of Roe Green, but this time was at house number 50.



Unfortunately, due to the lowliness of his work and his position, his name does not appear in any of the standard references. However, that cannot diminish the importance of his rôle in the locality and in society generally. Weavers, blacksmiths, gardeners, painters, labourers, carpenters, all these trades appeared within the extended family of **Thomas Eden** - all essential trades at that time. And no doubt there would have been a warm and loving family home. The position of the grave and the headstone bear a loving witness to him and his family.

