Edward was born on 24th July 1858 at Catchwell Cottage, Runcorn Road, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire. Four of the 11 children died before they were 5 years old.
Edward’s birth certificate is shown below. The certificate also tells us that his mother, Martha Hindley, was lately Abram and formerly Dean.

Edward was baptised at Barnton Church on 5th September 1858. His date of birth is listed in the left hand column.

The 1861 Census says that Edward was aged 2, born at Barnton, living with his parents in Barnton. *(He would have been living at Catchwell Cottage, Runcorn Road).*

For the 1871 Census he is aged 12, living with his parents on Runcorn Road, Barnton. *(Again, the house would have been Catchwell Cottage).* Edward is listed as a shoemaker. As a boy Edward used to walk to Warrington to collect leather for his father for use in the shoemaking business.

Edward soon became disillusioned with shoemaking and seemed to want more adventure. On 19th December 1873 he joined The Royal Marines. He said he was 18½ but in fact he was not even 15½. He only lasted 109 days in The Royal Marines. He bought himself out for £20 and left on 9th April 1874.  
*Source: Original Attestation Papers 623/98*
Edward’s next venture was to join the policeforce. The Cheshire Constabulary had only just been formed and Edward joined the Macclesfield police on 21st October 1874. He was stationed at Bollington. Reference: Cheshire Record Office-Police Books CJP 7/3. At Bollington he formed a relationship with Harriet Williamson, a local girl.

I checked for Harriet and her family in the censuses, etc. and found that Harriet’s birth was recorded in 1849, first quarter. Harriet Hannah Williamson’s birth was registered at Stockport. There was no sign of a baptism in the records.

The birth certificate shows that Hannah was born on 26th December 1848 at 2 Rouscroft Smithy, Stockport. Hannah Williamson was formerly Hannah Wood.

In 1851 the family lived at 4 Cale green, Stockport. Her father (42) was a hatter, Harriet was aged 2 years and her elder sisters were hat trimmers.

In the 1871 Census Harriet Hannah Williamson was aged 22, hat trimmer, living with her parents Henry and Hannah Williamson on Stockport Road, Bredbury.

Edward and Harriet were soon to be married. Their marriage was on 7th June 1875 at “The Parish Church in the Parish of Prestbury in the County of Chester”.

---

EDWARD HINDLEY (1858-1935)

1858EDWA/3
From the entry in the church register it does not seem as if any of Edward’s relations were at the wedding. At the date of the wedding Edward says he was 20 when he was in fact he was not even 17 years old. Harriet’s age is recorded as 27 years but she was 26 years old.

Their first child, Sam, was born at Bollington on 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 1876.

**After just over two years at Bollington Edward absconded from the Cheshire Police, on 19\textsuperscript{th} December 1876. He then joined the Royal Artillery after an argument with his wife.**

**1876** Below is an extract from a Manchester paper on December 30\textsuperscript{th} showing Edward in trouble with the authorities.

There is no known record of how Edward escaped the clutches of the military authorities.

However, Edward returned to Barnton in 1877, some time before the Barnton birth of his second son on 11\textsuperscript{th} August 1877. George Hindley, a nephew of Edward, once told his daughter, Lucy, that Edward left home abruptly when a young man and joined the police force or army, returning unexpectedly with a wife and child. The **1881 Census** seems to confirm that story as Edward was then living in Oakwood Lane, Barnton, with his wife and three small children, the last two children being born in Barnton. Edward had reverted to his former role as a shoemaker. He would have been helping his father at Catchwell Cottage.

It was not until 1885/6 that Edward had a qualifying property for a vote. His abode was given as Jackson’s Green, Barnton. He also qualified for a vote with the Jackson’s Green property for the years 1887, 1888 and 1889. Also in 1889 Edward qualified as a voter by
having freehold cottages at Nursery, Barnton. (In Geoff Buchan’s “Barnton, through changing scenes of life” Jackson’s Green is the northern portion of Oakwood Lane, the centre of the early settlement in Barnton. Nursery was close to Bestway Wood. There were three blocks of houses, four in each block. The access to the properties became known as Nursery Road).

Edward’s father died on 24th November 1889 and Edward and family moved into Catchwell Cottage. His mother, Martha, went to live with daughter Mary and son-in-law Joseph Foster at Sandiway.

Edward was left the Stock and Tools of the shoemaking business.

Edward continued to qualify as a voter in 1890 through the freehold cottages at Nursery, and at Jackson’s Green, and at Runcorn Road. By 1891 the qualifying properties for voting were the freehold cottages at Nursery and at the dwelling house on Runcorn Road.

So, by 1890, Edward was beginning to amass a portfolio of property.

The Cheshire Electoral Registers for 1842-1900 continued to show that from 1892-1900 Edward was living at 88 Runcorn Road, Barnton, and that he still owned the freehold cottages at Nursery.

In the 1891 Census Edward, Harriet and their six children were living at (Catchwell Cottage), Runcorn Road, Barnton. Edward was the Enumerator for Barnton for this Census. Edward records his age as 32 (correct!) and Harriet’s age as 37 (she was 42. The transcriber recorded her age as 27 but a line through the 3 on the original sheet makes the 3 unclear).

May 18th 1893 – Letter from Edward to The Chester Chronicle.

Edward is protesting about “The unfounded charge of hard-heartedness against Barnton people in connection with the recent case of smallpox in the village”.

EDWARD HINDLEY (1858-1935)
In the late 1800s Catchwell Cottage was feeling its age and there was little room for two adults and six children aged from 12 to 24 years. After much heated Debate it was decided to knock the Cottage down and replace it with a modern home. The work was carried out in 1900 and during the upheaval the family lived across the road in Prince’s Park. The figures 1900 can be seen in the triangular section at the top of the house when the picture is magnified.

In the 1901 Census the whole family was living in the new house and the address became 88 Runcorn Road, Barnton, near Northwich. For this Census Edward’s son, Fred, became the Enumerator. Edward was 43 years old and an Assistant Overseer. Harriet (53) was a shopkeeper of Boots and Shoes. Fred was the only shoemaker. (Shoemaking was declining fast due to cheaper factory produced footwear). By 1910 the shoemaking business and shop had closed.

This early photograph of 88 Runcorn Road, Barnton was taken between 1900 and 1905. The house became known as “The Poplars”, Runcorn Road, Barnton.

This house was one of the first in Barnton to have electricity.

The year of construction, 1900, was included in the triangular section at the top of the house.
In the first decade of the 20th Century there were several significant changes to work and family.

1900c Edward went into partnership with Joseph Neill of Little Leigh and they rented a manufacturing unit at Acton Bridge. They formed the “Weaver Refining Company”.

1903 On May 3rd Edward’s mother died, aged 84. The six children each inherited the equivalent of £50 000 at 2009 prices.

1903 Edward probably used his inherited share to buy (with Joseph Neill) the Freehold of some of the land at Acton Bridge.

1903 On August 3rd son Peter married Clara Brocklehurst, and moved out of the family home.

1903 Edward probably used his inherited share to buy (with Joseph Neill) the Freehold of some of the land at Acton Bridge.

1903 On August 3rd son Peter married Clara Brocklehurst, and moved out of the family home.

1905 Son Thomas emigrated to the United States of America.

1906 On August 29th son Samuel married Bertha Sefton, and moved out of the family home.

1908 (Q4) Son Fred married Beatrice Gilbert, and moved out of the family home.

By the time of the 1911 Census “The Poplars” had five less people than in 1901. Edward (53) was a Chemical Manufacturer; Harriet was 58; and they had been married 35 years. Eda (25) was single. Edward junior (23), and single, was a chemist.

THE WEAVER REFINING COMPANY (1900-1929)

This rather grand name was given to the works that Edward founded (with Joseph Neill) which manufactured a range of products, but mainly bone manure and glue. After the meat had been cut from slaughtered cows virtually all the remaining parts of the carcase were used by Edward’s Company.

Edward Hindley and Joseph Neill (from Willow Green, Little Leigh) had been in partnership from around 1900 and, initially, they probably leased the premises at Acton Bridge, on the banks of the river Weaver and by the A49 road. They became “Chemical and Manure Manufacturers” as well as “General Dealers in Animal Products”. The site had previously been the “Acton Bridge Manure Works and Saltpetre Works” so they did not have to start their business from open land.

The term “Weaver Refining Company” first appears in the 1902 Kelley’s Directory of Cheshire Trades. The Company was described as a “Manure, Size and Tallow manufacturer”.

In 1903 Edward and Joseph bought the Freehold of 1241 square yards of land (¼ acre) at Acton Bridge site, but it wasn’t until 1918 that they purchased the rest of the land, amounting to 2.827 acres. They also leased two cottages, about 250 yards away, next to
where the Riverside Inn is now (in 2013). These cottages became the offices for the Company. The Company also leased 1¼ acres of land by Witton Brook on the future site of Northwich Tip which is now part of Northwich Woodlands.

In 1908 The Company leased land at St. Helens and Edward’s son Samuel took charge of this works. There was another lease taken on land at Westhoughton, Lancashire.

Several of Edward’s relations were employed by the Company in various capacities. Son Peter was Labour Manager, and son Edward was a Food Chemist. Alfred Hindley’s first job, in 1919, was as an Office Messenger and he was based next door to where the Riverside Inn is now (2013). However, he did not like the job because of the smell, and he left the Company in 1920. In previous years Acton Bridge Parish Council had cause to comment on the smells and smoke.

Also in 1908 Hindley and Neill each bought £6000 worth of shares in the Weaver Refining Company, and a Private Limited Liability Company was formed. James Grimditch became a third partner with 4025 shares. In 1915 electricity was used on the site for the first time. Edward delighted in telling his grandchildren that his Company used every part of a cow apart from its eyelashes! Products from the cows included leather hides, sausage skins, tallow for soap making and hairs for paint brushes.

By 1920 the premises needed modernisation so the Company agreed to amalgamate with seven other similar concerns. The Company was valued at £102 000 (around £25million in 2013). Edward became a Director of the new firm which was known as “British Glues and Chemicals”.

Manufacturing at the Acton Bridge site continued until 1923. Finally, in 1929, the name “Weaver Refining Company” ceased to exist. The Company was dissolved under the Companies Consolidation Act of 1908 - a notice appearing in London Gazette on 26th March 1929.
John Birchall spent many hours researching the Weaver Refining Company (and beyond) and his extensive findings can be found on his website at:

http://www.themeister.co.uk/johnpbirchall/weaver_refining.htm

1910 VOYAGE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In 1905 Edward’s son Thomas had emigrated with his English wife to Wyandotte, Michigan. Edward and Harriet went to visit them in 1910. They travelled FIRST CLASS.

Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960

Name: Edward HINDLEY
Date of departure: 18 June 1910
Port of departure: Liverpool
Destination port: New York
Destination country: USA

Date of Birth:
Age:
Marital Status: Married
Sex: Male
Occupation: Chemical Manufacturer
Notes:
Passenger recorded on: Page 20 of 37

The following people with the same last name travelled on this voyage: -

Harriett HINDLEY

Ship: LUSITANIA
Edward had suffered from hay fever but believed that the bracing sea air had all but cured him of this irritation.

By 1912  88 Runcorn Road, Barnton was connected to the telephone exchange. No doubt Edward was keen to have quick access to his business interests. His phone number of 5X1 is recorded in British Phone Books 1880-1984.

Edward enjoyed reading in his garden at “The Poplars”. He also went on trips to the seaside. In the picture (below right) he is pictured with Harriet (centre) and Bertha, the wife of his son Samuel.
Edward made at least one more trans-Atlantic sea voyage. Soon after the end of World War1 he seems to have taken a business trip to the USA.

Passenger lists leaving UK 1890–1960

Name: Edward HINDLEY
Date of departure: 16 April 1919
Port of departure: Liverpool
Destination port: New York
Destination country: USA

Date of Birth: 1859 (calculated from age)
Age: 60
Marital Status:
Sex: Male
Occupation: Manufacturer

Notes: Passenger recorded on: Page 2 of 7

Ship: AQUITANIA
Official Number: 135583
Master’s name: J W T Charles
Steamship Line: Cunard
Where bound: New York, USA
Square feet:
Registered tonnage: 21992
Passengers on voyage: 192
Also on board was Roscoe Brunner (son of the joint founder of Brunner Mond). He was also travelling first class. He is listed as 48 years old and a Director.

Edward almost certainly knew Roscoe Brunner through their business connections. Were they travelling together to try and discover new business for their respective companies, or were they looking for new ideas?

1920s - Early 1930s

The factory at Acton Bridge continued to manufacture a variety of products until it closed in 1923. After the factory closure Edward remained a director of British Glues and Chemicals.

Edward also had a busy and important role in the community. He became a local councillor and a county councillor. He was well known in Barnton for his journeys around the village in his chauffeur driven car. Edward was probably checking on the houses he owned which included the row of terraced houses on Runcorn Road, Barnton, on the Little Leigh side of Snowdon Street; houses in Anderton; and land that is now called Spencer Street. His driver’s name was “Simpson”, Frank Simpson. Edward was a tall, distinguished looking man with a military style (grey in later years) moustache.

Edward was a staunch Methodist (United Free Church) and he attended the church in Oakwood Lane. He was also a keen fisherman and often used to fish in the river Weaver. (*I am not sure he would have caught much in those factory polluted waters*).

He was a member of the Freemasons.

“Bro. Edward Hindley was balloted for, and became a Joining Member of the Lodge of Sincerity No. 428, Northwich, on 6th January 1919. At the time he was a MM, late of the “Brandrith” Lodge No. 3453. (*Later Brandrith Lodge became Semper Fidelis Lodge which met at the Victoria Club, Masonic Hall, Northwich.*) Within Sincerity Lodge records relating to the 1925 Festival he is listed as a Life Governor, having donated £11-11-00.

In the late 1920s Edward used to travel to County Council meetings in Chester with William (Billy) Gibson. Edward would travel in his chauffeur driven car and pick up Billy Gibson in Kingsley. They used to serve on the committees of “Main Roads and Bridges”, “Education”, and “River Catchment Board”.

EDWARD HINDLEY (1858-1935)

He was a member of the Freemasons.
As an honour to his achievements Edward had a road named after him; “Hindley Crescent” in Barnton.

Edward was also a magistrate.

Edward took two boat trips to Marseilles, in 1928 and in 1929. He might have been on other sea voyages but verification is difficult as addresses of passengers (and ages) were not usually listed before about 1925. He seemed to have travelled alone, possibly on business trips, or was the French Riviera the attraction? He travelled in First Class accommodation. From the passenger data Edward seems to have retired on reaching 70 years of age.

Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960

Name: Edward HINDLEY
Date of departure: 5 April 1928
Port of departure: Liverpool
Destination port: Marseille
Destination country: France
Date of Birth: 1859 (calculated from age)
Age: 69
Marital Status: Male
Occupation: Director
Notes: Passenger recorded on: Page 2 of 6
Ship: SHROPSHIRE
Official Number: 149601
Master's name: B W Adamson
Steamship Line: Bibby Line
Where bound: Rangoon, Burma
Square feet: 
Registered tonnage: 10559
Passengers on voyage: 135

Home address listed as The Poplars, Barnton, Northwich.

Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960

Name: Edward HINDLEY
Date of departure: 15 June 1929
Port of departure: Liverpool
Destination port: Marseille
Destination country: France

Date of Birth: 1859 (calculated from age)
Age: 70
Marital Status: Male
Occupation: Retired
Notes: 
Passenger recorded on: Page 2 of 4

Ship: STAFFORDSHIRE
Official Number: 161082
Master's name: Captain W E Crumplin
Steamship Line: Bibby
Where bound: Rangoon, Burma
Square feet:
Registered tonnage: 6649
Passengers on voyage: 83

Home address listed as The Poplars, Barnton, near Northwich, Cheshire.

1930 Edward was on the Board of Guardians for Northwich Workhouse.

Northwich Workhouse on London Road. Edward Hindley is seated, third from the left. (Same row as the only woman).

Edward (centre) is in his garden at “The Poplars”. With him are his grand-daughter, Doris, and her husband, Albert Turner.
In old age Edward used to be wheeled out into the garden of “The Poplars” to the apple trees. Here he loved to listen to classical music on the wireless but if the programme changed to jazz he would get annoyed and shout for Simpson. If Simpson did not appear quickly enough Edward would lash out at the wireless to try and stop the “noise”.

Finally, on 8th May 1935 Edward passed away. The funeral service was held at Oakwood Lane Methodist Church and he was interred in Barnton Cemetery.

Extracts from the local Northwich papers:

THE LATE MR. EDWARD HINDLEY, J.P.

GREAT LOSS TO NORTHWICH DISTRICT - IMPRESSIVE FUNERAL AT BARNTON.

Flags which had flown at the mast head in celebration of the Royal Silver Jubilee were lowered to half mast in Barnton and district on Saturday morning when the funeral took place of Mr. Edward Hindley J.P., of The Poplars, Runcorn Road, whose death occurred on Wednesday 8th May 1935.
Mr. Hindley ranked high among men who have rendered public service in the Northwich area. He worked on behalf of village organisations, and on a higher plane as a magistrate, while for many years he represented the township on the Northwich Rural Council and was a liberal supporter of the various voluntary organisations in the Northwich district. Mr. Hindley, who was 76, was a native of Barnton, and during his active business career he was the principal of the Weaver Refining Company at Acton Bridge and a director of the British Glues and Chemicals Limited. He had a lifelong association with the Oakwood-lane Methodist Church, Barnton, and he gave unsparingly of his time and the advantage of his long commercial experience in the administration of the church and of the old United Methodist Free Church Circuit, of which he was a former steward. In connection with the Oakwood-lane Church he conducted a highly successful Bible Class which was not only numerically strong, but had members of mature years, and it was in this phase of religious activity that Mr. Hindley rendered his most monumental work and wielded a remarkable influence for good.

Mr. Hindley was a man of wide interests and among the least known was that which he manifested in the Barnton Silver Band, of which he was the founder. He was its president, and at band practice on Thursday night, as a mark of respect to their benefactor, the members played Handel’s Dead March.

The funeral service was conducted in Oakwood-lane Methodist Church and the interment was in Barnton Cemetery, the Rev. H.R. Barry, minister of the Northwich Central Circuit, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Alfred Booth. Mr. T.C. Goodier was at the organ, and as the remains were borne into church he played “O Rest in the Lord”, and, at the conclusion of the service, “I know that my Redeemer liveth”.

Amongst the mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hindley, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hindley, Mr. Fred Hindley, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hindley, sons and daughters-in-law; the Rev. Alfred and Mrs. Booth, son-in-law and daughter; Mrs. F. Hindley, daughter-in-law; Miss Winnie Hindley, Miss Clarice Hindley, Master Gilbert Hindley, Miss Joan Hindley, Miss Marjorie Hindley, Master John Hindley and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Turner, grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. John Powell, nephew and niece; ex-Supt. E. Hindley, cousin; Mr. Douglas Powell, Mr. Geo. P. Austin, J.P., Mr. G. Platt, and Mr Geo. Hormbrey. Mr. Wm. Gibson (rep. Cheshire County Council); Messrs. Frank Simpson and Edgar Hickson (personal servants to Mr. Hindley).
CIRCUIT MINISTER’S TRIBUTE.................... “A LIFE WELL LIVED”

The Rev. H.R. Barry, in the course of a warm tribute, said that in the course of his life he had associated with many men and with men of various types, and he could sincerely say that he had met no man who had won his respect and affection so quickly and so surely as had Edward Hindley. Although he did not come into contact with Mr. Hindley until physical infirmity had diminished his public activities, in the first years of their acquaintanceship Mr. Hindley’s mind retained its essential qualities and a growing intimacy and mutual sympathy brought insight into his character and life.

On this occasion he could do no more than offer a brief, but none the less heartfelt tribute to the passing of a good man, and if he spoke sparingly of some aspects of his career it was partly because they lay outside his own personal knowledge and partly because he believed that Mr. Hindley himself would have desired it. Mr. Hindley had the humility which was born of a right judgement of values. In the span of life allotted to him he had a full and in some respects an adventurous career. What success he won by his energy and initiative he used for the public good, for nothing was more conspicuous to him than his sense of stewardship. In the fullness of his powers he gave himself to the service of the community, and on the Bench, in the County Council, in the field of education, and in many forms of social activity he displayed those qualities which were the fine flowers of British public life.

Edward Hindley loved his village; through all the changes of his life he never forsook it, but lived in an unbroken and intimate fellowship with the friends of his youth. It was no small thing for a man of his growing powers and opportunity to live under the close scrutiny of a small community without losing the affection of those who composed it. Edward Hindley enriched the life of the village throughout the years of his unremitting service. And yet there was nothing narrowly parochial in his outlook; he was a citizen of the world and his life ranged over the wide interests of humanity. He enlarged the scope of his mind by the reading of great literature, and in his conversation and the drift of his purpose he revealed a great breadth of vision.

Of him it was true to say that the secret of his life was to be found in his religious experience. His knowledge of God was real and abiding, and he represented what was best in Nonconformist life. His faith and assurance were not won without a struggle, but he was an eloquent witness of the truth that they that seek shall find. That church owed much to the succession of men of real spiritual worth, and Edward Hindley was an outstanding figure in that succession. True to what was best in their evangelical traditions, he believed in the growth of the spirit, he sought to obtain mastery of the Bible truth, and he was able to guide many into the paths which he himself trod. It was in that church that perhaps he did his greatest work.
His gifts enabled him to carry administrative responsibility lightly and brought him honour within
the Connexion but he (the speaker) thought that their old friend would care most to be
remembered for his soul’s striving and his soul’s winning. As they thought of all he achieved in the
various fields of human activity, and all he was to those who knew him most, they thanked God for
a life well lived. His memory and influence would always remain with the people of Barnton and
with those among whom he worked.

Amongst others, wreaths were sent by: Edward and May; Mr. Hindley and family, Frodsham; Tom
and Emily (Weyandtote, Michigan, U.S.A.); Eda, Alfred and Dearie; Doris and Albert; Peter, Clara
and family; Beatrice and family; Edward Hindley (Macclesfield); Jack and Douglas; Sam, Bertha,
Marjorie, John and Addie; Mr. and Mrs. William Hindley.

Funeral arrangements were carried out by the Exors. of Samuel Appleton, Winnington.

1881 census transcription details for: Oakwood Lane, Barnton

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1891 census transcription details for: Runcorn Road, Barnton


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**Transcription Details for: 88, Runcorn Road, Barnton**

- **National Archive Reference:** RG 11
- **Piece:** 3520
- **Folio:** 49
- **Page:** 24
- **Reg. District:** Northwich, Cheshire
- **Sub District:** Weaverham

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<tr>
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<td>Joiner</td>
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<td>HINDLEY, Eda</td>
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<td>13</td>
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### 1911 census

**Transcription Details for: 88 Runcorn Road Barnton Northwich**

- **National Archive Reference:** RG14PN21654 RG78PN1290 RD447 SD1 ED2 SN26

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<th>Relation</th>
<th>Condition/ Years married</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Birth Year</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Where Born</th>
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<td>HINDLEY, Edward</td>
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<td>Married</td>
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<td>1858</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>Chemist</td>
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</table>
The following is inscribed on a tombstone in Barnton Cemetery, Hayes Drive. From the main gate follow the path for about 50 yards. The burial plot is at the side of the path, on the left.

In loving memory of Harriet
The beloved wife of
Edward Hindley
of The Poplars, Barnton
who departed this life
August 17th 1933 aged 85 years.

Also Edward Hindley the beloved husband
of the above who departed this life
May 8th 1935 aged 76 years.

Also Fred son of the above
Died April 29th 1948 aged 68 years.

Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God.

Also Beatrice Mary Hindley
who died 5th January 1951 aged 69 years.

“The Poplars” in July 1984

John Birchall’s website for the Edward Hindley story is:-

http://www.themeister.co.uk/johnpbirchall/edward_hindley.htm