

Henry Lay was born on the 18th September 1815 in Highworth, Wiltshire. His parents being William Lay (1796 - 1868) and Catherine Lay, nee Hall, (1796 - 1867). Henry was the first child of eight children born to William and Catherine, his siblings being Ann (b1821), William (b1826), James (b1827), Sarah Ann (b1829), Eliza (b1830), Edwin (b1834) and Mary or Maria (b1840).

Henry's father William was born in Highworth, Wiltshire and mother Catherine born in Lechlade, Gloucestershire. They married in Lechlade Gloucestershire on 6th June 1814.

Henry's father William died August 1868, aged 72 in Highworth, Wiltshire.

His mother Catherine died August 1867, aged 71 in Highworth, Wiltshire.

The first information we have on Henry is in the 1841 Census. At the age of 25, Henry is living in London Street, Faringdon, Berkshire. His occupation is listed as a Confectioner.

C1842 Henry married Eliza Judd (born Faringdon, Berkshire 23rd November 1822) in Faringdon, Berkshire. Eliza was the daughter of George and Elizabeth Judd from Faringdon, Berkshire.

In 1842 Henry and Eliza's first child Martha is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

The following year in 1843, a son Henry is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

1849 sees a second daughter Sarah Ann, again born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

1851 Albert George a second son is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

In the 1851 Census Henry is living with wife Eliza and children Henry, Sarah Ann and Albert George, Henry's sister Sarah Ann (occupation a Shopwoman), a servant Ann Whipp born in Faringdon and a lodger George Sawyer, Curate of Faringdon, in London Street, Faringdon, Berkshire. Henry's occupation is shown as a Baker & Confectioner

Parish or Township of <i>Faringdon</i>		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of <i>Faringdon</i>		Faringdon 283	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind or Deaf and Dumb		
London Street	James Whipp	Head		38		Berkshire			
	Ann	Wife		34		do			
	Infant	Son	Infant			do			
	Eliza	Daughter		10		do			
	William	Son		7		do			
	John	Son		4		do			
London Street	Henry	Head		44	Baker & Confectioner	do			
	Eliza	Wife		41		do			
	Henry	Son		15	Scholar	do			
	Sarah	Daughter		12		do			
	Ann	Daughter		9		do			
	George	Son		6		do			
	William	Son		3		do			
	Ann Whipp	Servant		20		do			
	George Sawyer	Lodger		47	Curate of Faringdon	do			
	99 Market Place	John Whipp	Head		31	Shopman	do		
100 Market Place	John	Head		31	Curate of Faringdon	do			
	Ann	Wife		27		do			
	Martha	Daughter		8		do			
	Emily	Daughter		5		do			
Total Persons			22	8	14				

1854 third son Edwin John is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

1856 fourth son Arthur Edward is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

1858 third daughter Eliza Emily is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

1860 fourth daughter Margaret Sophia is born in Faringdon, Berkshire.

The first time we see Henry and Eliza in 9 Market Place, Faringdon, Berkshire is in the 1861 Census. His occupation is listed as a Confectioner.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of *Faringdon* City or Municipal Borough of *Faringdon* Municipal Ward of *Faringdon* Parliamentary Borough of *Faringdon* Town of *Faringdon* Hamlet or Tything, &c., of *Post* [Page 41]

No. of Habitable	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES (No. of Habitable)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, and Dumb
						Male	Female			
190	Market Place	1	Charlotte Barnes	servant	un	30		Housemaid	Bucks. Faringdon	
			Henry Lay	Head	Mar	48		Confectioner	Wills. Highworth	
			Eliza Lay	Wife	Mar	30			Bucks. Faringdon	
			Martha Lay	Son	un	19			do do	
			Henry Lay	Son	un	17		Assistant	do do	
			Sarah Ann Lay	Son	un	13			do do	
			Albert George Lay	Son	un	11			do do	
			Edwin John Lay	Son	un	4			do do	
			Arthur Edward Lay	Son	un	16			do do	
			Eliza Emily Lay	Son	un	3			do do	
			Margaret Sophia Lay	Son	un	1			do do	
144	do	1	Mary Buttel	servant	un	10		House Servant	Middlesex London	
			Benjamin Cooper	Head	Mar	54		Chemist & Confectioner	Bucks Faringdon	
			Charlotte Cooper	Wife	Mar	49			do do	
			Charlotte Cooper	Son	un	3			Bucks. Faringdon	
200	Wingfield Lane	1	Alice Wilkins	servant	un	14		House Servant	do do	
			James Reading	Head	Mar	42		Owner of 480 Acres	Bucks. Faringdon	
			Ann Reading	Wife	Mar	36		employing 10 men & 3 boys	do Buckland	
			John Reading	Son	un	14		Scholar	do Faringdon	
			Mary Reading	Son	un	12			do do	
			Ann Reading	Son	un	8			do do	
			Rosa Reading	Son	un	4			do do	
			Sarah Rolfe	servant	un	17		Domestic Servant	do Wiltshire	
			John Marshall	do	un	23		Agricultural Labourer	do Faringdon	
			Ann Murray	do	un	18			do do	
Total of Houses... 3			Total of Males and Females... 10 10							

Eng.—Sheet D.

With Henry and Eliza are children Martha, Henry (working as an Assistant), Sarah Ann and Albert George, Edwin John, Edwin John, Arthur Edward, Eliza Emily, Margaret Sophia and a servant, Mary Buttel from London, Middlesex

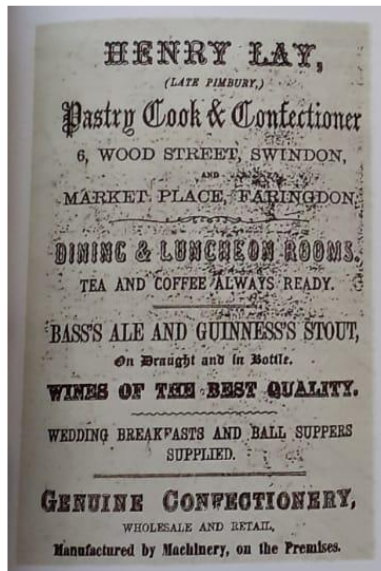


East side of Market Place, Faringdon 1880's
 Left to Right : George Ernest, Grocer and Bacon Curer, Liddiard, Grocer. County of Gloucester Bank. Lay, Baker and Confectioners. Cooper, Chemist

1861 Fifth daughter Jessie Maria is born in Faringdon, Berkshire

1863 Fifth son William George is born in Faringdon, Berkshire

1866 Sixth son Gilbert James is born in Faringdon, Berkshire



In 1869 Joseph Pimbury sold a pastry cook and bakery business at No.6 on the north side of Wood Street, Swindon, to 54 year old Henry Lay, originally from Highworth, who had a confectioner and baker shop at No. 9 Market Place in Faringdon, Berkshire. He offered from this site wholesale and retail confectionery, wines, ales and stout as well as tea and coffee. He also established luncheon rooms and catered for wedding breakfast and ball suppers.



No 6 Wood Street, Swindon, Wiltshire (Photo taken 2021)

The 1871 Census for 9 Market Place, Faringdon, Berkshire shows Henry Lay as a confectioner employing 1 boy and 1 female, his wife Eliza and children Margaret Sophia, Jessie Maria, William

George and Gilbert James all listed as scholars. Also in the premises are Maria Bentley a shop assistant born in Coventry Warwickshire and Mary Barnes working as a domestic servant born in Charney Bassett Berkshire.

Page 14] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of			Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c. of		Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners District of		Ecclesiastical District of			
Swindon		Swindon			Swindon		Swindon		Swindon		Swindon			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the same (No. of Flats or Partitions)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether					
									1. Deaf and Dumb	2. Blind	3. Imbecile or Idiot	4. Lunatic		
85	Ball's Lane Market St	1	Mr M. Matham	Head	Mar	42	Shopkeeper	Swindon Swindon						
			John F. do	Wife	Mar	21		Wills Highwood						
			John A. E. do	Son	Mar	8	Scholar	Swindon Swindon						
			Mary Holmes	Serv	Mar	21	Book	Wills Highwood						
			Mary Barnes	Serv	Mar	24	Chambermaid	Swindon Swindon						
			Albert F. Ball	Son	Mar	13	Books	Swindon Swindon						
86	Market Place	1	John Selwood	Head	Mar	57	Draper	Wills Swindon						
			Stephen L. do	Wife	Mar	52	Teacher at home	Swindon Swindon						
			Emily A. do	Daughter	Mar	22		Swindon Swindon						
			Clara A. do	Daughter	Mar	22		Swindon Swindon						
			John Ross do	Son	Mar	17	Draper	Swindon Swindon						
			George W. do	Son	Mar	17		Swindon Swindon						
			Edw. do	Son	Mar	11	Scholar	Swindon Swindon						
			Edith E. do	Daughter	Mar	9		Swindon Swindon						
			Harriet May	Serv	Mar	29	Cook	Swindon Swindon						
			Maria Sunday	Serv	Mar	29	Housemaid	Swindon Swindon						
			Margaret Barce	Serv	Mar	28	Housemaid	Swindon Swindon						
87		1	Henry Lay	Head	Mar	48	Draper	Swindon Swindon						
			Elizabeth do	Wife	Mar	48		Swindon Swindon						
			Edith E. do	Daughter	Mar	10	Scholar	Swindon Swindon						
			Margaret L. do	Daughter	Mar	11		Swindon Swindon						
			Lucie M. do	Daughter	Mar	9		Swindon Swindon						
			William G. do	Son	Mar	7		Swindon Swindon						
3	Total of Houses	3	Total of Males and Females										5	1/2

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

Page 15] 84 The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of			Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c. of		Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners District of		Ecclesiastical District of	
Swindon		Swindon			Swindon		Swindon		Swindon		Swindon	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in the same (No. of Flats or Partitions)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether			
									1. Deaf and Dumb	2. Blind	3. Imbecile or Idiot	4. Lunatic
	Market Place		Albert Lay	Son	Mar	44	Scholar	Swindon Swindon				
			Maria Bentley	Serv	Mar	17	Shop assistant	Swindon Swindon				
			Mary E. Bennett	Serv	Mar	17	Comer's serv	Swindon Swindon				
88		1	Edward Powell	Head	Mar	47	Bank manager	Swindon Swindon				

On July 14th 1873 Henry Lay agreed a deal with Walter Sowden, a draper and property entrepreneur from Aldershot, to lease the tenement at No. 27 on the south side of Wood Street, Swindon, Wiltshire for 21 years, on a rent of £70 per annum and Henry promptly relocated his business across the road at No 6 Wood Street to these premises, which had previously been occupied by chemist George Osmond.



No 27 Wood Street, Swindon, Wiltshire (Photo taken 2021)

Henry died 5th October 1879 in Faringdon, Berkshire.

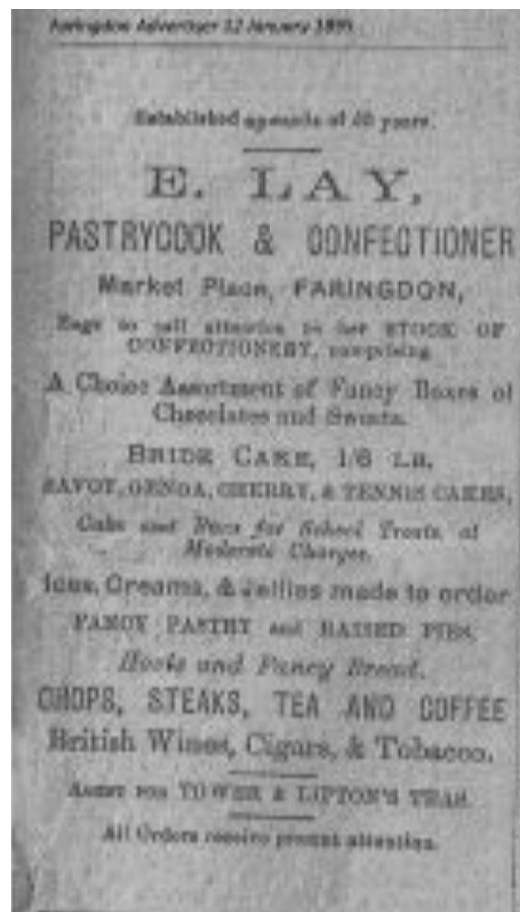
Upon the death of his father Henry in 1879 his son Albert George took over the business in 27 Wood Street, Swindon, although Henry's widow Eliza continued as the main force in the premises.

The 1881 Census for 27 Wood Street shows Eliza as the head of the household with Albert George, they employ 3 men , 3 women and 2 boys. Also on the premises are a Boarder, James Radway an Auctioneer born in Ampney Crucis, Gloucestershire. Caroline Smith, a Confectionary Manageress born in St Albans, Hertfordshire who later married Albert George Lay in 1883. Agnes Penson, a Confectioners Assistant born in Oxfordshire. John Allen, a Confectioners Journeyman born in Bredon's Norton, Oxfordshire. William (surname name unreadable), a Confectioners Assistant, born Swindon, Wiltshire, Henry John Townsend, a General Servant Confectionery Bake House, born in Finchley, Hertfordshire, Peter Taylor, a General Servant Confectionery Bake House born in Cirencester, Gloucestershire and Jane Strange, a General Servant born in Blunsdon, Wiltshire.

The 1881 Census for 9 Market Place, Faringdon shows Henry and Eliza's daughter Emily Lay as Head of the Household along with Margaret Sophia Lay, a Confectioners Daughter, Jess Maria Lay, a Confectioners Daughter, Sarah Ann Davis (sister of Henry Lay) and George Stafford Willis, a Pastry Cook.

The 1891 Census for 27 Wood Street shows Albert George as head of the household with his mother Eliza having returned to the Faringdon premises. The Wood Street household has now grown to 14 people from various parts of the UK. Albert George is the Manager of Confectioners with his wife Caroline born in St Albans, Berkshire. John James Taylor, a boarder born in Norwich, Norfolk, listed as Manager of Myriama and his wife Julie born in Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Ida Rose Clarke, a Confectioner Assistant from Norfolk. Emma Vaite, a Confectioners Assistant from London. Lillie Dearing, a Confectioners Assistant from Sheerness, Kent. Robert Penny, a Pastry Cook from Dorset. George Prangnell, a Pastry Cook form the Isle of Wight. Henry Alfred Bullard, a Pastry Cook from Ringwood, Hampshire. John Gilling, an Apprentice from Somerset. Samuel Hurst, an Apprentice from Brinkworth, Wiltshire. Charles Willis, an Errand Boy from Faringdon and Bessie Henloy, a Domestic from Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire

The 1891 Census for 9 Market Place, Faringdon, Berkshire, Eliza has returned to the Faringdon premises as owner and confectioner. On the premises are son in law George Stafford Willis, a Confectioner born in Malta who is married to Henry and Eliza's daughter Eliza Emily. Henry and Eliza's daughter Margaret Sophia, a Confectioner and Mary Rodgers, a general domestic servant born in Seven Bridges, Wiltshire



Advertisement for E Lay's, 9 Market Place, Faringdon. Faringdon Advertiser 22 January 1891

Administrative County of <i>Berks</i>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Parliamentary Borough		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
Civil Parish of <i>Great Faringdon</i>		Municipal Borough of <i>Faringdon</i>		Municipal Ward of <i>Faringdon</i>		Urban Sanitary District of <i>Faringdon</i>		Rural Sanitary District of <i>Faringdon</i>		Division of <i>North Berks</i>		District of <i>Faringdon</i>			
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES in which the Person is enumerated	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday or Date of Birth	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Employed	Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Male	(2) Female	(3) Blind	(4) Lame, Imbecile or idiot
131	<i>Market Place</i>	1	<i>George Stafford Willis</i> Head		M	68	<i>Dancer</i>	X			<i>Hills, Redbourne Berks Faringdon</i>				
			<i>Maria Stafford Willis</i> Wife		M	48					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Alice L Ivins</i> Daughter		F	16	<i>domestic servant</i>				<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Robert Stafford Willis</i> Servant		F	16	<i>do</i>				<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Rhoda Whiting</i> Servant		F	16	<i>do</i>				<i>do do</i>				
132	<i>do</i>	1	<i>George Stafford Willis</i> Head		M	70	<i>Dancer</i>	X			<i>Hills, Redbourne Berks Faringdon</i>				
			<i>Maria Stafford Willis</i> Wife		M	50					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Cecil Stafford Willis</i> Son		M	16					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Martha Bayly</i> Servant		F	16	<i>domestic servant</i>	X			<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Eliza Stafford Willis</i> Servant		F	16	<i>do</i>	X			<i>do do</i>				
133	<i>do</i>	1	<i>Richard Pearson</i> Head		M	33	<i>Bank Manager</i>				<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Clara Pearson</i> Wife		M	33					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Mary G Pearson</i> Daughter		F	16					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Robert Pearson</i> Son		M	16					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Arthur R Pearson</i> Son		M	16					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Eliza A Pearson</i> Servant		F	16	<i>Nurse/Childcare</i>				<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Robert Lawrence</i> Servant		F	16	<i>General servant</i>				<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Eliza Lay</i> Head		Wid	75	<i>Confectioner</i>				<i>do do</i>				
134	<i>do</i>	1	<i>George Stafford Willis</i> Head		M	37	<i>Confectioner</i>				<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Eliza Stafford Willis</i> Wife		M	37					<i>do do</i>				
			<i>Margaret F Hudson</i> Servant		F	16	<i>General servant</i>				<i>do do</i>				
	<i>Stamp Road</i>		<i>National School</i>								<i>do do</i>				
4	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	4													
			Total of Males and Females...			7	18								

In 1897 Henry's wife Eliza Lay died in Faringdon, Berkshire age 75.

The 1901 Census for 9 Market Place, Faringdon shows George Stafford Willis as Head of the household with wife Eliza Emily, sons Gilbert John and Cecil George, Alice L Ivins from Bath, Somerset, Confectioners Assistant and Mary Jane Roberts from Quennington, Gloucestershire, Servant. George is listed as a Confectioner.

1911 Census 9 Market Place Faringdon shows George Stafford Willis as Head of the household with wife Eliza Emily, son Cecil George, Caroline Peck from St Ives, Huntingdonshire, Assistant in Business and Annie Rhoda Whiting from Buckland, Berkshire, Servant. George is listed as a Confectioner.

Henry and Eliza's Children:

Martha died 13th August 1868 in Faringdon, Berkshire age 26.

Henry married Eliza (surname unknown), date of death unknown.

Sara Ann died 2nd May 1864 age 15.

Albert George married Caroline Smith in 1883. He continued to run the business in Wood Street, Swindon, Wiltshire with his wife Caroline.

In the 1901 Census he is employing Nellie Cox, a Confectioner, Baker, Sweets Assistant from Redruth Cornwall. Lizzie Simmons, a Confectioner, Baker, Server Assistant from Elstree, Hertfordshire. Margaret F Hudson, a Confectioner, Baker, Server Assistant from Purton, Wiltshire. Alexander Gibson, a Journeyman Bread Maker, Confectioner from Bala, Merionethshire, Wales.

Percy M Allsopp, Bake house, born in Winterslow, Wiltshire and John Timbrell an Errand Boy from Minety, Wiltshire.

The 1911 Census shows Albert George and his wife Caroline running and owning the Wood Street business in Swindon, Wiltshire. Employees were Mary Peck, a Servant, birthplace unknown. John Newbury, a Pastry Cook from Highworth, Wiltshire. Ernest Greenaway a Pastry Cook from Longcote, Berkshire. Leonard Frank Chequer, a Pastry Cook/Errand Boy born in Swindon, Wiltshire and Oliver Cyril Dereham, a Pastry Cook/Errand Boy also born in Swindon, Wiltshire.

At the end of the First World War, 27 Wood Street was renamed "Lays Restaurant" but by 1923 had been taken over by Sydney Lawrence, a businessman with a bakery in Victoria Road, Swindon, Wiltshire and a pleasure boat business in Coate Water Reservoir, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Albert George Lay died on 19th May 1924 in the Cheriton Nursing Home in Westlecote Road, Swindon, Wiltshire age 73.

Edwin John married Joanna Cuss Smith. He also ran a business in Old Town Swindon, Wiltshire. In the 1881 Census Edwin is living at 26 Wood Street with his brother Gilbert employing William Moore, a Jewellers Assistant born in Woolwich Kent and a Housekeeper Janet Housall born in Hackney, Middlesex. The 1891 Census has him at 17 Bath Road Swindon as a Jeweller and Cycle Agent with wife Joanna and sons Albert and William employing Albert Bull, a Shop Assistant, born in Wallingford, Berkshire and a Servant, Edith Pickett born in Wroughton, Wiltshire.

Edwin John died in 1934 age 80.

Arthur Edward date of death unknown.

Eliza Emily married George Stafford Willis, died 20th October 1914 age 57.

Margaret Sophia married (first name unknown) Lang, died 1st November 1898 age 38 in Faringdon, Berkshire.

Jesse Maria married Henry John Cox, she died 1892 age 31.

William George date of death unknown.

Gilbert James date of death unknown