



K Shoes

**Your History,
Your Place,
Be Part of It!**



Step back in time

**Celebrate Local and Community History Month
with Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal and
Kendal Local Studies Library**

The census is available via 'Find My Past' for a fee but we shall update you when free access becomes available.

To illustrate how census records can be used to assist with local history research we have used an example of a K Shoes employee, Miss Sarah Lee.

The 1921 census shows that Miss Sarah Lee was 32 years of age and that she lived with her mother and sister. We are able to deduce from the census that Sarah's year of birth was 1889. From this we can trace her baptismal record, which was listed at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Kendal.

1921 Census Record

Sarah Lee in 1921

1921 Census Of England & Wales

124 Kirkland, Kendal, Westmorland, England

View original record

Create a tree

Print

More actions

Household members (3 people)

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First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Sex	Birth year	Age in years	Birth place	Occupation	Employer
Isabella	Lee	Head	Female	1861	59	Kendal, Westmorland, England	Home Duties	-
Sarah	Lee	Daughter	Female	1889	32	Kendal, Westmorland, England	Boot Fitter	Somerville Cbros K Boot Works
Agnes	Lee	Daughter	Female	1893	28	Kendal, Westmorland, England	Boot Shoe Operator Steel Builder	Somerville Cbros K Boot Works

Transcript of Sarah's record

Copy to clipboard

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of KENDAL, in the County of WESTMORLAND, in the year 1889

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
Sep. 1.	Sarah	Thomas	Lee	Peppercorn Lane	Mason	T. R. Brown Curate
	Isabella	Isabella				

No. 2319

Parish registers of baptisms, marriages & burials may be accessed in Kendal Local Studies Library where they are stored on microfilm.

Census Records

The census, a survey which takes place every 10 years, gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Besides looking at the 1921 census, we looked back at previous census records.

This has enabled us to discover more about Sarah Lee's family, the households where they lived, and details about Sarah's siblings, including whether they were employed or at school.

Administrative County of Westmorland									
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the									
Civil Parish of Kendal									
Municipal Borough of Kendal									
Urban Sanitary District of Kendal									
Rural Sanitary District of Kendal									
Polling District of Kendal									
Electoral Division of Kendal									
Page 10									
No. of HOUSEHOLDS	No. of PERSONS	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATIONSHIP to head of Family	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether married	Whether single	Whether married
20	1	Thomas Lee	Head	32	Builder	Kendal			
		Isabella Lee	Wife	29		Kendal			
		Agnes Lee	Daughter	7		Kendal			
		Robert Lee	Son	4		Kendal			

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Page 29									
No. of HOUSEHOLDS	No. of PERSONS	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATIONSHIP to head of Family	AGE last Birthday	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether married	Whether single	Whether married
1	4	Thomas Lee	Head	32	Builder	Kendal			
		Isabella Lee	Wife	29		Kendal			
		Agnes Lee	Daughter	7		Kendal			
		Robert Lee	Son	4		Kendal			

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.									
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in ink.									
The contents of the Schedules will be treated as confidential. Direct care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.									
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to head of Family	AGE last Birthday	SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards	DATE of Birth	PLACE of Birth	NATURALIZATION	REMARKS
Thomas Lee	Head	35	M	Married	Builder	1876	Kendal		
Isabella Lee	Wife	32	F	Married		1879	Kendal		
Sarah Lee	Daughter	21	F	Single	Boot fitter	1890	Kendal		
Agnes Lee	Daughter	17	F	Single	Cotton winder	1894	Kendal		
Thomas Lee	Son	10	M	Single	At school	1901	Kendal		

1891

Address: 9 Kirkland

Thomas Lee: Age 46

Occupation: Waller / Mason

Isabella wife: Age 29

Robert: Age 16

Mary: Age 5

Sarah: Age 4 months

1901

Address: 7 Kirkbarrow

Thomas Lee: Age 46

Occupation: Builder / Mason

Isabella wife: 39

Robert: 16 (Joiner's Apprentice)

Sarah Lee: Age 11

Agnes Lee: Age 7

Thomas Lee: Age 4

William Lee: Age 6

1911

Address: 7 Kirkbarrow

Thomas Lee: Age 55

Occupation: Builder

Isabella wife: Age 49

Sarah Lee: Age 21: Boot fitter

Agnes Lee: Age 17: Cotton winder

Thomas Lee: Age 14

Fulton Lee: Age 10

1921

Address: 124 Kirkland

Sarah (age 32), Isabella - mother (age 59) and sister, Agnes (age 28).

1911 Census is available on www.ancestry.co.uk

THE 1939 REGISTER

E.D. Letter Code		HFBM		Borough, V.D. or R.D.		KENDAL		(part of)		Registration District and Sub-District		581-2	
ADDRESS.		SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O, V, S, P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH.		S, M, W, or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	See INSTRUCTIONS.		
		No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.					
4 Datto		4	1	Smith, Walter William	-	M	14 June	1892	M	With furze, own account			
			2	Smith, Agnes	-	F	14 June	1892	M	Unpaid domestic duties			
			3	Smith, Brian Lee	-	M	29 April	1923	S	Student, Bishop's Dept. B. Book and			
This record is officially closed.													
			5	Lee, Sarah Slaughter	-	F	12 June	1889	S	Manageress K. Shoe works, blowing 24	P.W.C. 356/1054		

The 1931 census was destroyed and no census was taken for 1941 due to the war. Therefore, the 1939 Register is an important genealogical resource for England and Wales.

Where Sarah lived

The records show the various locations in Kendal where Sarah's family lived. When Sarah was born the family lived at 9 Kirkland. By 1901 the family were living at 7 Kirkbarrow (see map below) and in 1921 at 124 Kirkland where Sarah lived with her mother, then a widower, and Agnes, her sister. The 1939 Register shows Sarah living with Agnes, a brother-in-law, a nephew, plus one other family member, whose record is closed.

They lived at 4 South Road, a four storey house (below right) overlooking the K Shoe workplace which played such a large role in Sarah's life.



9 Kirkland > 7 Kirkbarrow > 124 Kirkland > 4 South Road

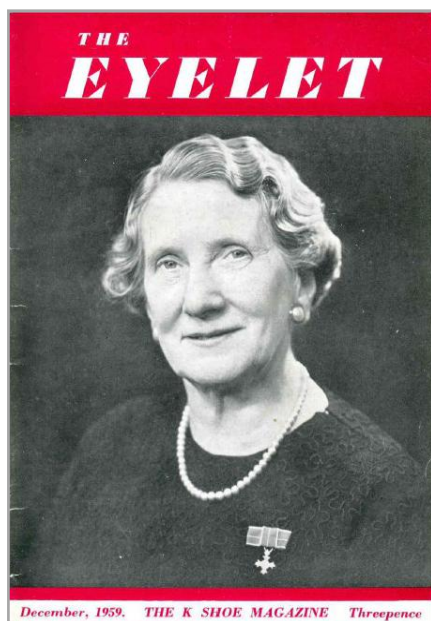


Above left: The view from South Road (Cumbria Image Bank)

Above right: The view from 4 South Road today, looking across River Kent to K Village.

In Sarah's own words

The Eyelet newsletter is an incredible source of historical content, which besides promoting the ethos and culture of the company documented the achievements of its employees.



In December 1959, upon the year of her retirement, Sarah Lee wrote of her experience and opportunities as an employee of K Shoe company.

'I started at Netherfield at the age of 14 and served my apprenticeship on leggings and boot-fitting. My training was in the making of Eton boots and shooting boots.'

Sarah worked through both World Wars. By 1922 she was appointed Head Forewoman and in 1931 Superintendent, in charge of Kendal and Lancaster Closing Departments.

1939-1945

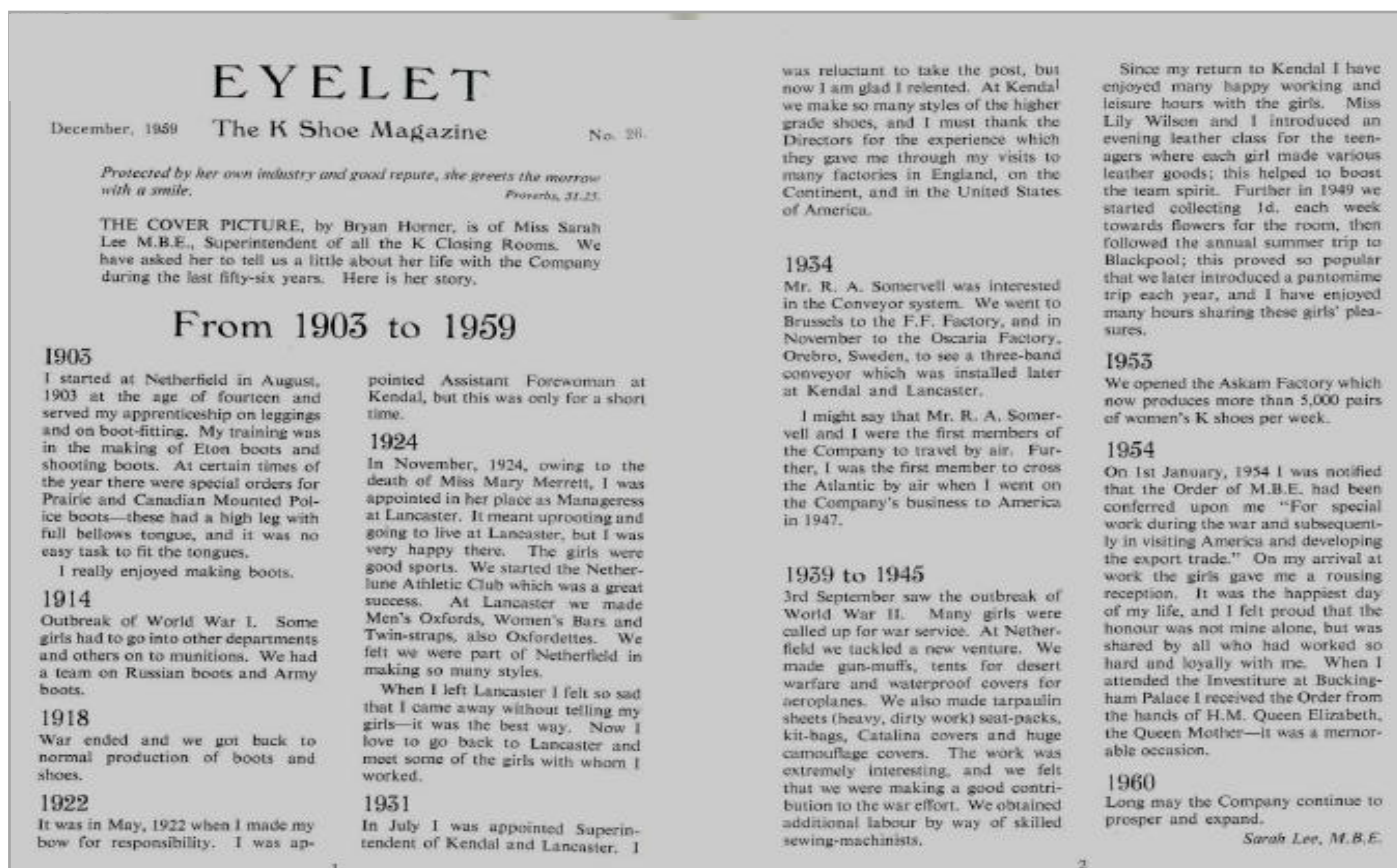
'3rd September saw the outbreak of the WWII. Many girls were called up for service. At Netherfield we tackled a new venture. We made gun-muffs, tents for desert warfare and waterproof covers for the

aeroplanes. We also made tarpaulin sheets, seat-packs, kit bags, Catalina covers and hugs camouflage covers. The work was extremely interesting and we felt that we were making a good contribution to the war effort.'

1954

'On 1st January, 1954, I was notified that the Order of M.B.E. had been conferred upon me "For special work during that war and subsequently in visiting America and developing the export trade."

Copies of the Eyelet are available at Kendal Local Studies and also as part of the extensive K Shoe collection housed at Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal.



The Eyelet is available at Kendal Archive Centre (reference number: [WDX 1678](#))

A very impressive lady

Sarah Lee, M.B.E., retired on the 31st December, 1959, after 56 years of service. She was the only female Superintendent in the company and prior to retirement had been in charge of over 650 women, ranging in age from 16 to 60.



Above left: Sarah pictured with the Duke and Duchess of York visiting Netherfield, 1935. (The future Queen Mother and King George VI) - photograph by Westmorland Gazette from the Local Studies' collection at Kendal Library. **Above centre:** A picture of a Closing Room - Kendal Archive Centre. **Above right:** Sarah with Sir Arnold Somervell at a Staff dinner at The Windermere Hydro - Kendal Archive Centre.

In Memoriam

Sarah Lee, M.B.E., died in 1974, at the age of 85 in Manchester, where she had gone to live with her brother after her sister died.

She worked the whole of her life at Netherfield for Somervell Brothers Ltd, where she had a very distinguished career in the Closing departments of the firm. In 1922 she went to Lancaster to start a new closing room. In 1931 she was promoted to Superintendent of all the Closing Rooms in Kendal and Lancaster. She travelled to Sweden, Belgium, France and Germany to study new methods and machinery. (She was the first person in the company to use air travel). In 1953 she started a new Closing Room in Askam,-in-Furness; this was a very successful venture. Later she spent three months in America ... As a personality she was outstanding. She was a genius for dealing with people kindly, fairly, firmly; those who worked for her loved her; those who worked with her appreciated her wisdom and judgement; I never heard a word of criticism where Sarah was concerned. In 1954 she was awarded the M.B.E. for her contribution to Industry.

In 1959 she retired after 56 years of service with the Company... she is one of the most remarkable and loveable people I have ever known and there will be many who will remember her, as I do, with joy. **Ronald Somervell (Eyelet magazine).**

An extract from Westmorland Gazette & Parkside Cemetery, available at Local Studies

LEE

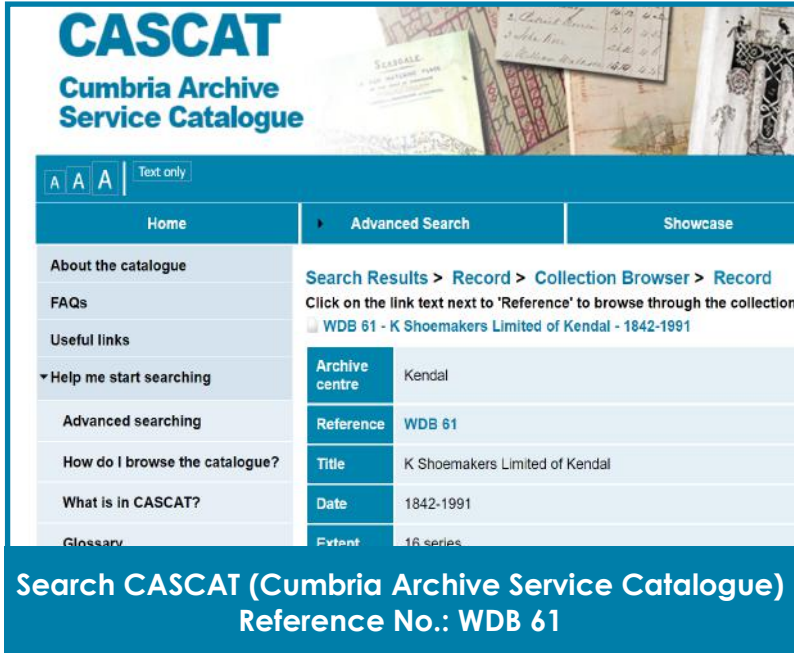
Oct. 25. suddenly, at 6 Arnfield Road, Withington, Manchester. SARAH TROUGHTON LEE, MBE aged 85 years, daughter of the late Thomas and Isabell Lee., loving sister of William Fulton Lee and the late Robert. Mary Agnes and Thomas Lee. - Internment took place Wed., Oct. 30, 1974 at Parkside Road Cemetery, Kendal

Flowers to Ings Church please.
Oct. 25. suddenly, at 6 Arnfield Road, Withington, Manchester 20 SARAH TROUGHTON LEE, MBE, aged 85 years, daughter of the late Thomas and Isabell Lee, loving sister of William Fulton Lee and the late Robert. Mary Agnes and Thomas Lee. - Internment took place Wed., Oct. 30, at Parkside Road Cemetery, Kendal.
MIDDLETON
Oct. 30

Established under the Burials (beyond)					
By whom Ceremony Performed	By whom Certificate given under the Burial Management Act	Date of Burial	Place where Death occurred	Age	Description of Person Buried
REV. MARSTON	Kagobras, Handed	30 th OCT	6 ARNFIELD RD, WITHINGTON, MCR	85	Res'd. Bost. Sine Op.
Name of Person Buried					
SARAH TROUGHTON LEE					

Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal

At Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal, we work to secure the future of physical and digital records. As part of our collection we hold a wide range of records for K Shoes Company. K Shoes played an important role in the history of Kendal and Cumbria.



CASCAT
Cumbria Archive
Service Catalogue

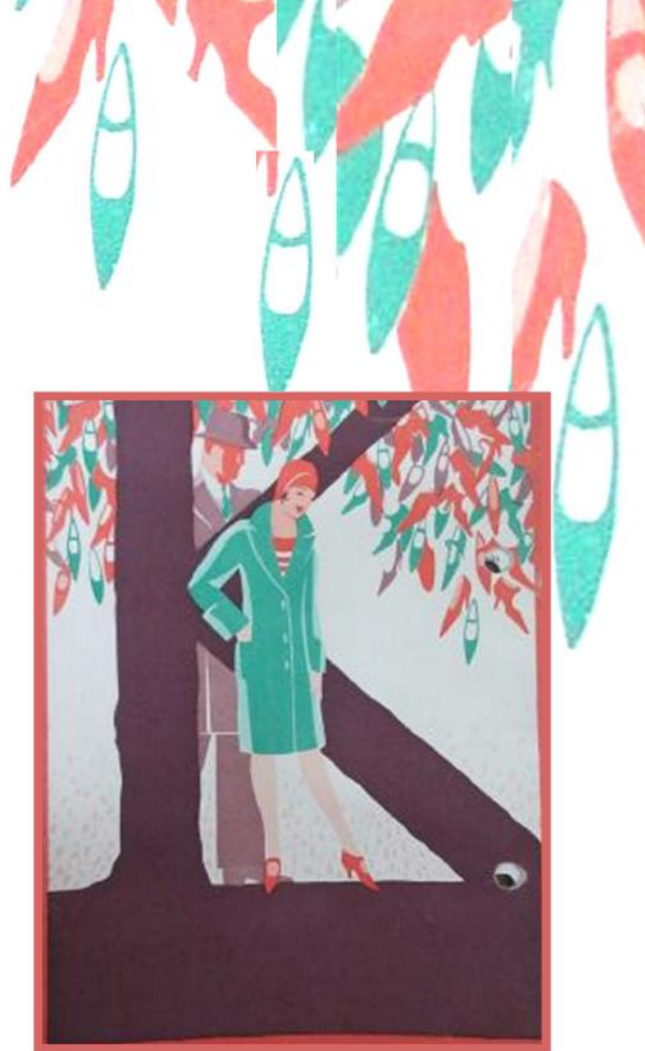
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What is in CASCAT?
Glossary

Search Results > Record > Collection Browser > Record
Click on the link text next to 'Reference' to browse through the collection
WDB 61 - K Shoemakers Limited of Kendal - 1842-1991

Archive centre	Kendal
Reference	WDB 61
Title	K Shoemakers Limited of Kendal
Date	1842-1991
Extent	16 series

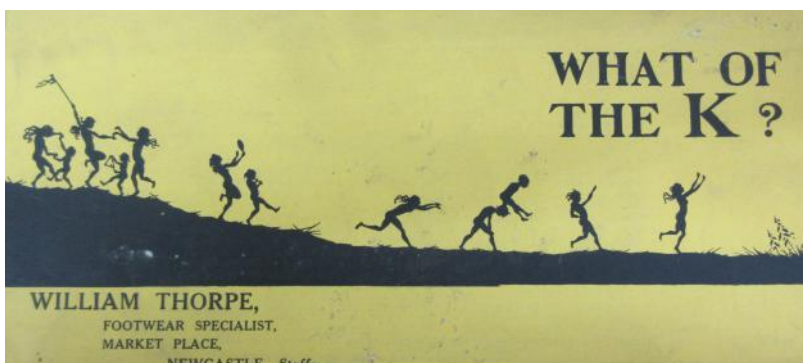
Search CASCAT (Cumbria Archive Service Catalogue)
Reference No.: WDB 61



The Collection includes ...

... administrative records, promotional advertising, staff records, photographs, plus lots more.

You can view the list of contents online via CASCAT (see above). Select the documents you wish to view and make an appointment to visit us at County Offices. kendal.archives@cumbria.gov.uk



Visit us

To make an appointment please email us via the email addresses below:

Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal: kendal.archives@cumbria.gov.uk

Local Studies at Kendal Library: kendal.library@cumbria.gov.uk



Further reading

K Shoes - The First 150 years 1842-1992 by Spencer Crookenden

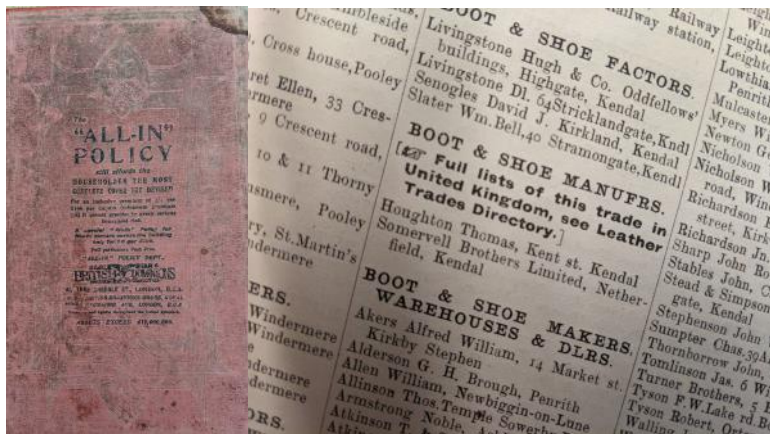
This book tells the story of K Shoes, from the start of the Company to the moment when it ceased to exist independently. The Author, a declared 'Optimist', played key roles in the management of K Shoes from the end of WWII to his retirement in 1983.

Other books which include information about K Shoes

Roger Bingham	Kendal A Social History
Andrew White	A History of Kendal
Maurice Baren	How it all Began in the Lake District



Trade Directories



Kelly's is just one of the trade directories in England that listed all businesses and tradespeople in a particular city or town, as well as a general directory of postal addresses of local gentry, landowners, charities, and other facilities.

You can view copies of Kelly's and other directories at Kendal Local Studies Library and Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal.

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