

Samuel Houghton, (cousin of George Lucas, Bates's maternal grandfather).

(1872-1937)

H.E.'s grandfather George Lucas and Samuel Houghton were cousins and close friends, growing up as neighbours in Kennel Row in Higham. H.E. wrote Samuel into the story *Day's End* without changing his name, and again into the story *A Tinker's Donkey*. 'Granny Houghton' is a character in *The Watercress Girl* and was probably Sam's wife, Merentha. Another cousin, Silas Houghton, lived only a few doors away from George and his family in York Road. H.E. liked the name Silas, but Silas Houghton was a respected member of the community and not at all like the character 'Uncle Silas' who was based on H.E.'s great uncle, Joseph Betts.