

MEMORIAL AND LEGACY

The Light in the Workshop

Remembering Samuel Orrick Vale

The Life Between the Dates

A respectful memorial preserves work, relationships, small habits, and the limits of what a family remembers.

Fictional demonstration. All people, towns, quotations, personal records and events in this story are invented.

Created to illustrate an Eftsona Personal Histories edition. This is a complete fictional narrative demonstration, not an actual customer commission or a promised page count. Commissioned scope depends on the selected edition and available materials.

Every life leaves a story.

01 / THE STARTING RECORD

Begin with what is known.

Subject	Samuel Orrick Vale
Life dates	4 February 1949 - 17 November 2022
Place	Dunmere, a fictional town
Spouse	Alice Vale; married 1974
Children	Jonah and Cora
Work	Furniture repair and restoration

Simulated civil-record extracts establish Samuel's birth and death dates within this fictional account. A family notice uses Sam, the name he ordinarily answered to. The formal name appears in the record; the familiar name appears in the narrative.

A simulated business ledger begins in 1978 and ends in 2016. It supports a working period for the surviving ledger, not proof that Samuel never repaired furniture before or after it. His children remember earlier work, but cannot date its beginning.

The memorial draws on invented interviews with Alice, Jonah, and Cora. Their perspectives are preserved separately. Agreement between family members can strengthen an account, but it does not turn a later memory into a contemporary document.

Evidence key: SIMULATED RECORD = invented documentary material; FICTIONAL RECOLLECTION = invented attributed memory; INTERPRETATION = a reasoned reading of that invented material. None is a verified finding about real people.

02 / THE STORY

The Light in the Workshop

Samuel's workshop was not tidy in the way a showroom is tidy. There was a clear bench where work happened, a chair waiting for a new rung, and a shallow tin filled with screws that might be useful again. His daughter Cora remembers the light above the bench being the last one switched off. She cannot say it was true every evening. It is the image that stayed with her.

He learned to repair furniture through work alongside an older joiner, according to Alice. No apprenticeship certificate appears in the fictional collection. The surviving ledger begins later, when Samuel was already taking work under his own name. It records chair seats, drawer runners, and damaged table edges rather than a sequence of celebrated commissions.

Samuel and Alice married in 1974. Their family photographs show two children growing beside work that was often still in progress. Jonah remembers being trusted to sort fittings long before he was allowed to use the tools. Cora remembers receiving the opposite lesson: watching carefully was already a contribution, even when there was nothing she could safely do.

A neighbor's chair could remain in the workshop for several weeks if a suitable piece of timber had not been found. Samuel's patience was not universally convenient. Alice recalled having to remind him that customers wanted their furniture back, not merely repaired in theory. Keeping that detail makes the tribute more human than a list of virtues.

The ledger sometimes replaces a price with paid in bread or no charge. Those entries suggest small exchanges between people who knew one another. They do not establish a general policy or prove that every unpaid repair was a gift. The memorial preserves what the entries say without expanding them into a legend.

After his death in 2022, the family kept the ledger, a marking gauge, and the tin of fittings. They did not keep the whole workshop. The objects they chose held a recognizable version of him: practical, patient, occasionally stubborn, and willing to believe that something worn could still be useful.

03 / THE CHRONOLOGY

Dates with a visible trail.

4 February 1949 | Birth

Simulated civil extract S-01.

12 October 1974 | Marriage to Alice

Simulated marriage extract S-03.

1978 | Surviving ledger begins

Simulated ledger S-04; business founding date remains unknown.

1980 and 1983 | Jonah and Cora arrive

Simulated family calendar S-05; supplied dates.

1998 | Workshop photograph

Simulated caption S-06; exact day unknown.

2016 | Last surviving ledger entry

S-04 establishes the final entry, not an exact retirement date.

17 November 2022 | Death

Simulated civil extract S-02.

December 2022 | Keepsakes selected

Invented family interview S-07.

Precision follows the evidence. A known year is not silently expanded into a month or day. A record of ownership, an invitation, or a final ledger entry establishes only what that item actually says.

04 / THE MODEL SIGNATURE FINDING

He kept the repair beside the person's name.

The simulated ledger is organized around customers rather than an inventory of objects. It names the person, then the repair, and sometimes records the form of payment. The earliest and latest surviving pages use the same arrangement.

The interpretive connection is that Samuel's work can be read as a record of relationships as well as a record of repairs. The entries describe practical services; the family sees a man whose work made sense through the people who brought it to him. Neither view requires a claim that he knew every customer's story.

This is a model finding from invented material. A real memorial would use the actual surviving records and the family's preferred boundaries, including details they choose not to publish.

A remembered voice

"He wanted the chair to be useful again. He was less interested in making it look as though nobody had ever sat in it."

Cora Vale, fictional daughter; invented recollection

Optional keepsake wording

He repaired what was worn and kept room for what could still be useful.

Text concept only. No plate, photograph, QR code, audio narration, or private customer companion is included in this demonstration. Physical upgrades require their own approved proof.

05 / THE ARCHIVE & BOUNDARIES

Keep the sources beside the story.

S-01 / S-02 | Simulated birth and death extracts

Life dates; no medical information.

S-03 | Simulated marriage extract

Spouse and wedding date.

S-04 | Simulated repair ledger, 1978-2016

Work, customer names and selected payment notes.

S-05 | Simulated family calendar

Children's arrival years.

S-06 | Simulated workshop photograph caption

Date and setting attributed by family; no actual photograph supplied.

S-07 | Invented family interviews, December 2022

Habit, character, training and keepsake accounts.

What remains unknown

Training dates, business founding date, and exact retirement date are unknown. The account makes no claim about cause of death. Conflicting or private family matters have not been fabricated to create drama.

What the record leaves us

A life cannot be reduced to the span between two dates. The dates hold the edges of this record. Inside them are people, habits, useful work, and objects the family could still recognize when the workshop was quiet.

These source descriptions are part of the fiction, not citations to real archives or facsimiles of official documents. Real commissioned editions distinguish verified sources, supplied memories, and interpretation. No external historical context is claimed here.