

## GRANNY

Darwin and Huxley eighteen-fifty-eight  
The year before Darwin's 'Origin.'  
That was the year my Granny was born;  
Is that too hard to imagine?

In eighteen-ninety my Mum was born.  
She married when she was twenty.  
She'd three older brothers Ted, George and Josh,  
Of male company she had plenty.

Granny lived in cold Newcastle,  
Winter visits to us yearly for the weather.  
I was very small when my Dad's Mum came too –  
I could never tell one from the other.

Granny had been a school teacher.  
I was no more than three just then.  
With my bead frame she taught me subtraction,  
Even Borrowing from the Next Ten.

In the summer of nineteen-thirty-eight,  
Mum was called to Granny's bedside  
To nurse her since she was very ill.  
She was eighty when she died.

Soon the war came, and in billets near London  
Were Bruce, Jock and Eric, my cousins.  
They visited us weekends, and so  
Re-established our old Granny links.

*Roy Chisholm*