

Bod-Kin

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Six Days Only - Heaton

© Sue Steel

**Journal of the
Bradford Family History Society**

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Many others help the Society from time to time. Without their help, we would not function so well.

Please include your membership number in all correspondence and a SAE if you require a reply unless you are purchasing items that include postage.

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Journal of the Bradford Family History Society

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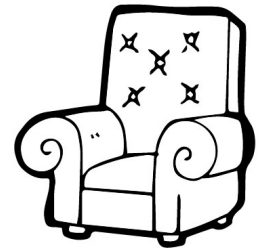
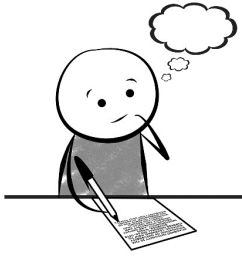
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The Editor writes

I am delighted to welcome Anne Luciw and Liz Wright to the Bod-Kin team. There will be a gradual handover as we all get the hang of it. Please do send your articles in to us at bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk. This edition I am very grateful to John & Malcom Cowburn, without whom it would be rather sparse, the rest being made up of articles from our Chair, Sue (who has enough on keeping us in line without writing articles) and me. Deadline for articles for the September edition is Monday 6th November 2023.

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From T'Chairman Sue Steel

As I write this, the sun is shining and temperature is really warm. I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and are now ready to join us whether on Zoom or in person.

It is the time when we start looking at Speakers for 2024! This task seems to come around very quickly and Shirley Sura does an amazing job. But if you know of a good speaker or want to hear about a certain topic, then let us know. We are always looking for new talks. In fact, if as a member you want to do a talk on a family history or a subject close to your heart, we want to hear about it. A couple of magazine editions previous, I asked if anyone was interested in taking over as the Bod-Kin editor. Sally Robinson is stepping down in March next year and of course we want her legacy of brilliant magazines to continue. Well, we have not one but two members who wanted to get involved. So please welcome Anne Luciw and Liz Wright to the editorial team. Together they will be taking over from Sally and their first production will be March 2024 under Sally's eagle eye. A huge thank you for taking on that role.

As ever, if you have any comments or suggestions for the committee please do get in touch. We do want to hear from our members. (4097)



Unwanted Certificate

One of our members has purchased a birth certificate that has turned out not to be one he wanted.

The birth certificate is for George William Smith born 13th March 1891 in Farsley, Yorkshire. His parents are David and Eliza.

If anyone wants the certificate, please contact chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk.

Honorary Member

Sue Steel

It is my great honour to let you all know that we now have three Honorary Members of the Society. Ken Kenzie and Elvira Willmott have been honorary members for a few years, both being ex-Chair people and who still support the Society to this day. It should also be remembered that Tony Naylor, who sadly passed away in 2021, had also been an honorary member. For those of you who don't know, such a member receives free membership for life. It is given to members who have supported the Society for many years and been very actively involved in its running.

At our June committee meeting, Anne Attfield proposed that Bernard Cummings should also be an Honorary Member. All the committee were pleased by the suggestion and immediately agreed.

Bernard has been a member from almost the Society's start back in the 1980's. He was on the committee for more years than I can remember, working as Publications Officer. He was brilliant at helping anyone with their research, attending Family History Fairs and generally doing what we asked of him.

After an illness in 2018 he stepped down from the committee but continued to support the Society and attend meetings whenever he could. I was very pleased when Bernard and his wife, Mary, attended the 40th Anniversary Dinner last year. Although we don't see him very often now, he is always in our thoughts.

I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years and welcome him to the very elite Honorary Members club.



Heritage Day – 2016 – Inside Bradford City Hall

From left to right – Lady Mayoress Chris Reid, Diana Tottle, Bernard Cummings, Lord Mayor Geoff Reid, Gill Overend and Ken Kenzie (4097)

Postcards to the Whitakers (1903-1919)

John Cowburn & Malcolm Cowburn

This article provides a snapshot of the life of one family in Manningham in the early years of the 20th century. It provides a description of a family collection of postcards gathered at that time. We inherited the collection from our father when he died in 2004. He inherited it from his mother in 1969 and she inherited the collection from her sister in 1911. We begin by locating our Grandma's family in Bradford.

Whitakers in Bradford

Our paternal grandmother was a Whitaker, she was Edith Emily born in 1890. Her father our Great Grandfather was Sam Whitaker. Sam was born in 1856 in Shipley where his father worked as a tailor, he was one of five children. Sam also became a tailor having first worked as a spinner in the textile industry. He continued in this trade throughout his life and died in 1929.

On 13th May 1882 Sam married Emily Weatherhead, in St Peter's church Bradford (in 1919 this church became Bradford Cathedral). Shortly after their marriage the couple moved from Shipley to Bradford where their first three children were born in East Squire Lane. In 1891 the census shows the family living at 10, Wilson Street, about 300 yards away from East Squire Lane. They did not stay in Wilson Street long; in early August 1893 they were living at 68, Fairfield Street. At this time the family numbered seven, but on the 8th of the month their third son Ernest died of whooping cough and pneumonia, aged 2 months. Fairfield Street was in Manningham and less than a mile from Wilson Street. The family lived and grew in Fairfield Street until 1906; during this time another four children were born and one, Annie Gertrude, died aged three. By 1907 the family (two parents and seven children) moved about two-thirds of a mile, to 37 Bridgewater Road. Sometime in 1911 or 1912 the family moved one street west to 34 Westfield Road. These various addresses in Manningham are all small, terraced houses with either two or three bed-rooms. It is interesting to note all these moves were short distances, so no removal truck was needed, just a hand cart and walk.

In 1911 (before the census) Elsie, aged 27, died of tuberculosis. The census of that year shows the family at 37 Bridgewater Road: Sam Whitaker (53), Tailor, working for an employer (i.e., not self-employed), Emily Whitaker (50). It records the couple as being married for 29 years. Also living at the address were the Whitaker children/young adults: Sam (22), Dyers Labourer (Silk Dyeing); Edith Emily (20), Burler & Mender (Dress goods); Horace (18), Dyers Labourer (Cotton dyeing); Norah Ann (16), Spinner (Wool spinning); William Thomas (12), spinner (Wool spinning); and Frederick Cook (11), 'School'. Five years after the Census, Nora(h) aged 22 also died of tuberculosis.



1. The Whitakers in Bradford (1893-1919) [Ordnance Survey (1909) Yorkshire [West Riding] CCXIV.NE 6inch. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/100946975> (Accessed 20/7/2023)]

The Collection

The ‘postcard’ was first created in Austria-Hungary in 1869, but within one year, postcards were being produced and used as a means of communication in the UK. The Postal Museum notes:

The postcard was a postal innovation, allowing quick, punchy and cheap correspondence without the formality of the letter. In 1871 around 75 million postcards were sent in Britain and volumes increased vastly to numbers over 800 million a year by the end of King Edward VII’s reign in 1910. Postcards could be written and sent quickly, with numerous postal collections and deliveries per day.¹

The Whitaker collection spans the years 1903-1919, thus it occurred when postcard correspondence was at its height in Britain. The collection was started by Elsie Modena Whitaker with the oldest card being dated 10th August 1903. She was 19 years old when she acquired the first card. Over the next seven and a half years until her death Elsie collected 303 postcards. She received one or more cards from 80 different people. The collection includes both single postcards from one sender and cards from several regular correspondents. Elsie’s Aunt Eliza, for example, sent her 24 postcards in just over five years.

¹ The Postal Museum (2023) *Postcards* <https://www.postalmuseum.org/collections/highlights/postcards/#> [Accessed 16th July 2023]

She actively sought cards from a variety of sources. An interesting example of this is her correspondence with E. M. Dakin, from Sydney Australia which started after Elsie put her name and address in a Silk reel being exported to Australia, we describe this more fully below.

Emily Whitaker (mother) added 93 cards from 1906 through to 1919, the majority from family members with a few from friends or acquaintances. Nora(h) Ann Whitaker started adding cards in 1907, when she was 13 years old. Over the next nine years she added 124 cards from both family and friends. Edith Emily Whitaker (Cowburn from 1916) added 49 cards from 1904 to 1919 mostly from family and friends.

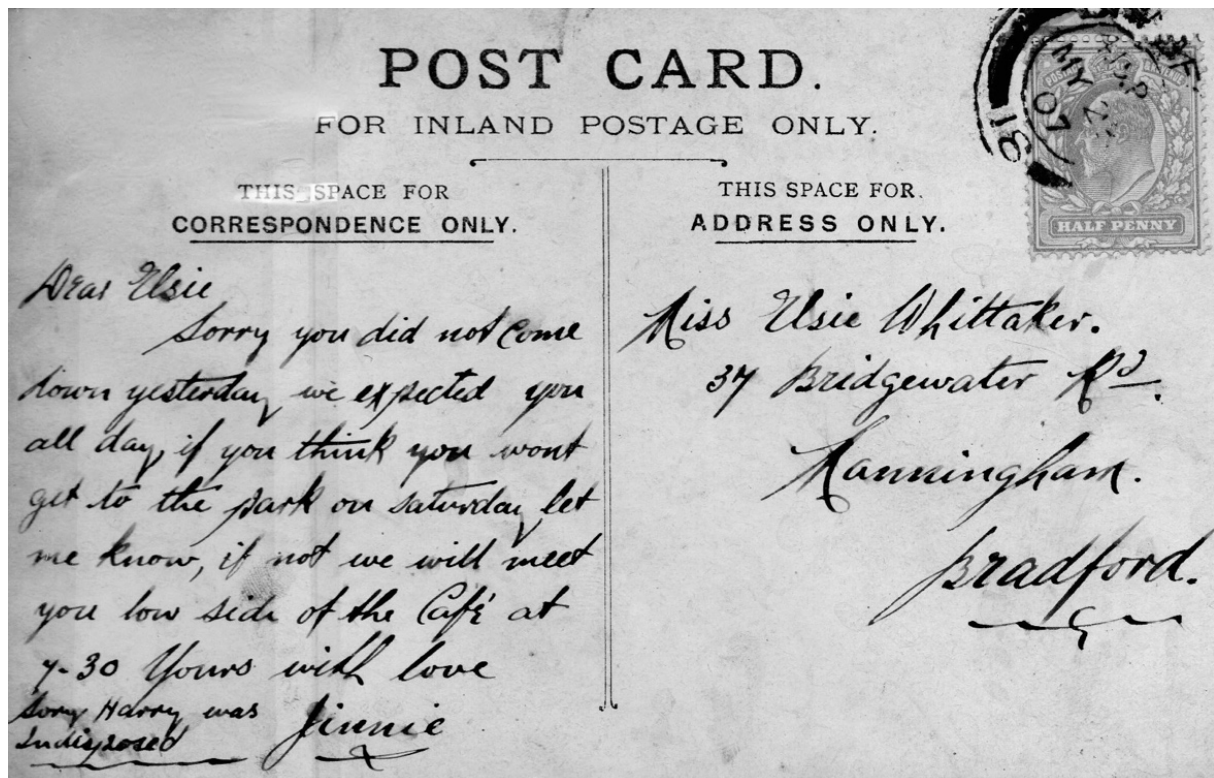
Themes emerging from the collection

As the Postal Museum suggests, sending postcards at this time was a very common and popular activity. In many ways it created a medium for brief communications somewhat similar to 21st century texting. Unlike the letter, the postcard allowed people to keep in touch without having very much to say.

What follows is an account of informal communications within and beyond a working-class family living in Manningham at the beginning of the 20th century. We briefly consider the presence of the postcard in daily life; we then describe the exchange of cards that followed Elsie's 'message in a silk reel'. We conclude by describing a poignant exchange of cards between Elsie and her (boy)friend Harry as he crossed the Atlantic and started a new life in the United States of America (USA).

Daily life

Most of the postcards contain brief domestic messages including seasonal greetings, and in many ways could be seen to be forerunners of texts and ecards. In relation to the images on the cards there are 617 of places, 140 of people, 54 Christmas, 105 Birthday and 12 Easter. Of the cards not directly seasonal or birthday focused, many contain ephemeral messages such as: 'I will come and see you tomorrow', "Having a wonderful time", "Sorry to hear you are not well".



POSTCARD 1

[Dear Elsie Sorry you did not come down yesterday, we expected you all day, if you think you wont get to the park on Saturday, let me know if not we will meet you low side of the Café at 7.30 Yours with love Jinnie. Sorry Harry was indisposed.]

Interestingly Christmas day did not become a Bank Holiday in the UK until 1958, thus some of the postcards bear post marks showing 25th December!

Message in a silk reel

The interesting sequence of eight postcards from E. M. Dakin, of 'Sydney Australia' began in 1908. It appears that whilst working in Lister's Silk Mill, Elsie inserted her name and address into reels of silk bound for export, and perhaps invited correspondence. E. M. Dakin found one of these messages and responded to her.



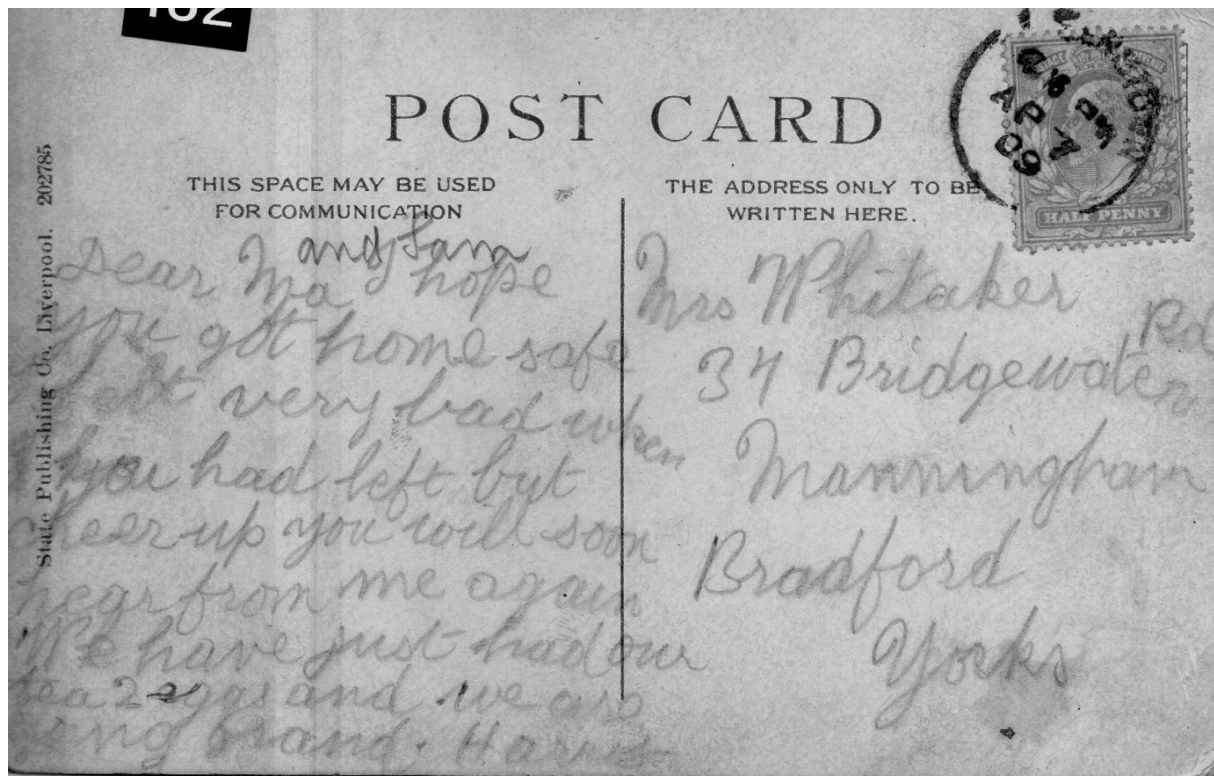
POSTCARD 2

[Snowberry St Sydney, Australia 10/3/08 I found your name and address on one of Lister's Silk reels and thought you would like to know where it got to. Perhaps you did not think it would travel so far. Yours Truly E. M. Dakin]

This correspondence continued after Elsie's death up to 1914.

Postcards from an emigrant

Harry Harrison was 'the boy next door'; the 1901 census shows Harry, his mother, sister, and half-brother living next door to the Whitakers at 70 Fairfield Street. There are 39 cards to Elsie from Harry. From these postcards, it seems that Harry was very friendly with the Whitakers. 1909 was a momentous year for Harry: he decided to emigrate to the United States of America. His name is shown on the shipping list of the *S.S. Saxonia* for 6th April 1909, sailing from Liverpool to Boston, USA. His address is shown as 70 Fairfield Street [Bradford] and his destination is shown as his Uncle George Phillips, the address being shown as a textile mill in Stanmore, Philadelphia. There is a postcard from Harry to Mrs Whitaker (where he addresses her as 'Ma') and Sam (this will be younger Sam, he would not have addressed the father of the house in such informal terms), that indicates that both Mrs [Emily] Whitaker and Sam Whitaker accompanied Harry to Liverpool where he embarked on his passage to America. The experience was clearly an emotional experience for all parties:

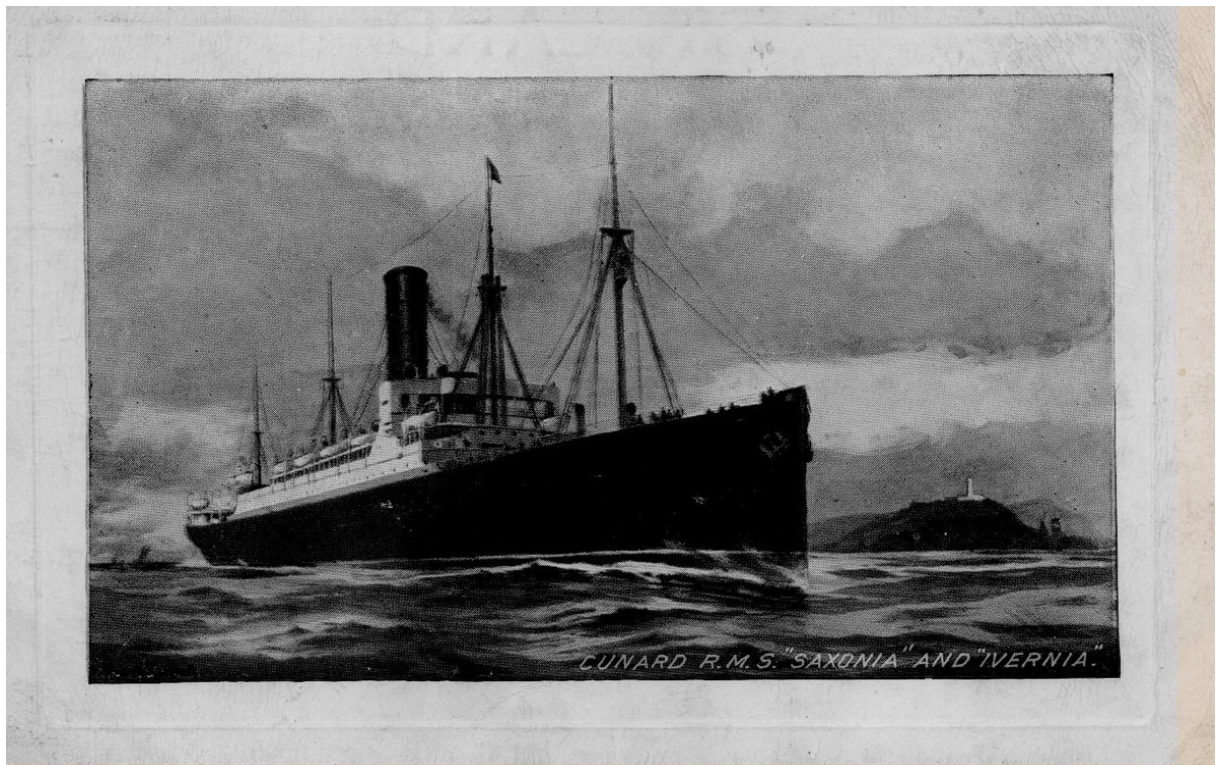


POSTCARD 3

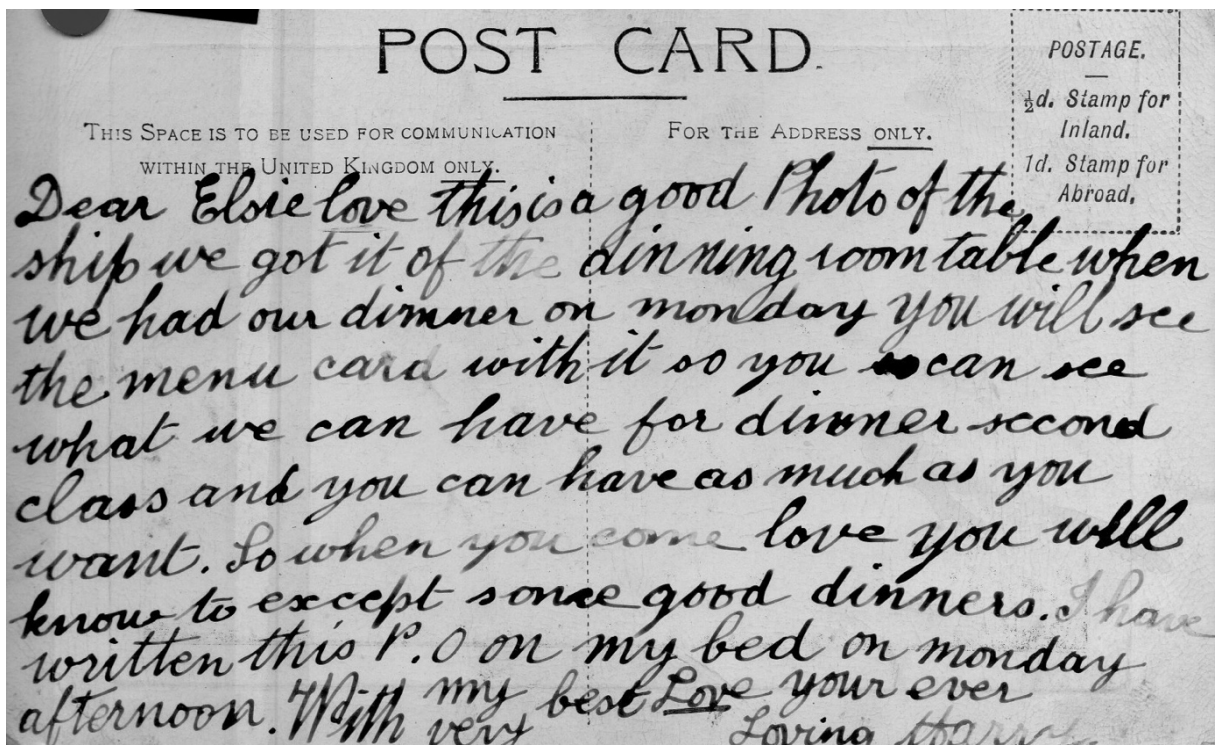
[Dear Ma and Sam I hope you got home safe I felt very bad when you had left but cheer up you will soon hear from me again We have just had our tea 2 eggs and we are doing grand. Harry]

Harry kept in contact with Elsie to her death, and some cards suggest that she may have been planning a trip to see him. He continued to send postcards to the family, with the last card dated 1914 to Elsie's brother Willie Whitaker.

After Harry had set sail, he sent another postcard from the *Saxonia*; which was written on about April 6th, 1909:



POSTCARD 4A



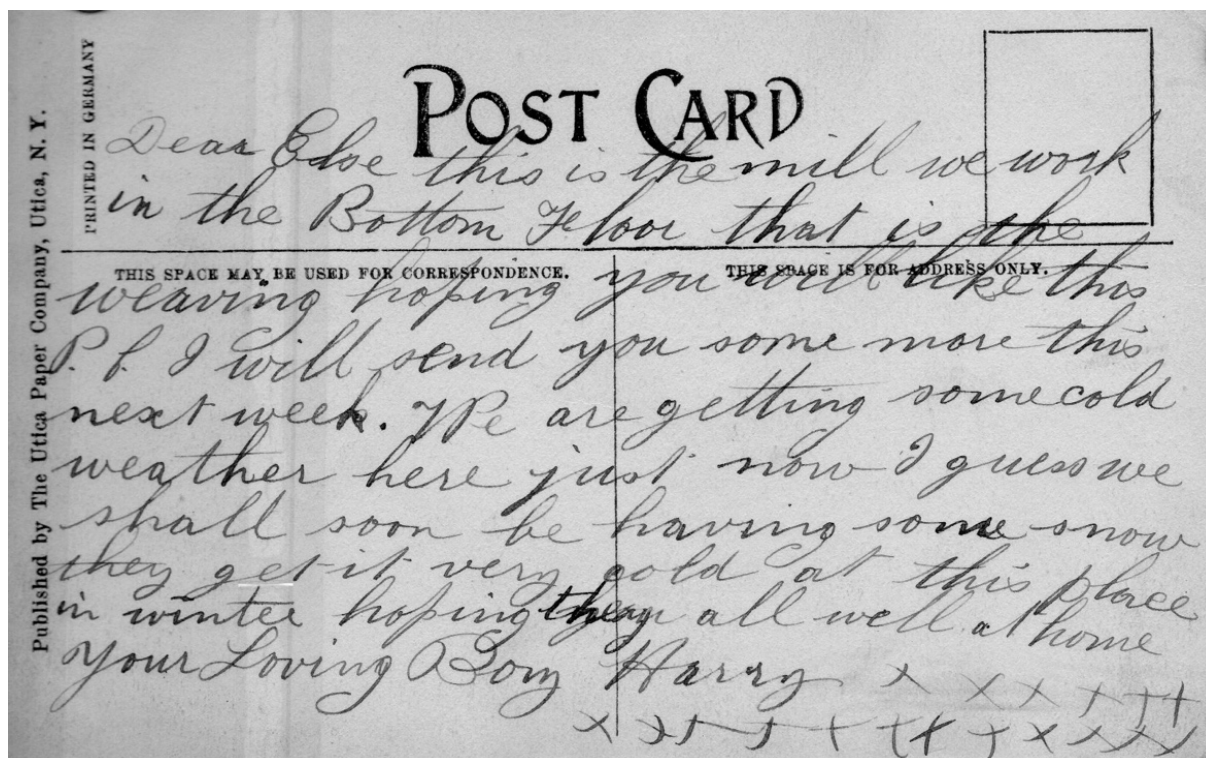
POSTCARD 4B

[Dear Elsie love this is a good photo of the ship we got it of[f] the dinning room table when we had our dinner on Monday you will see the menu card with it so you can see what we can have for dinner second class and you can have as much as you want. So when you come love you will know to except some good dinners. I have written this P.O (sic) on my bed on Monday afternoon With my very best Love your ever loving Harry.]

On arrival in the USA Harry began work in the textile mills. Initially he worked in Stamford Philadelphia and later moved to New York where he worked for Clark Mills at their Plush Mill site. Late in 1909 or maybe 1910 Harry sent Elsie this postcard:



POSTCARD 5A.



POSTCARD 5B.

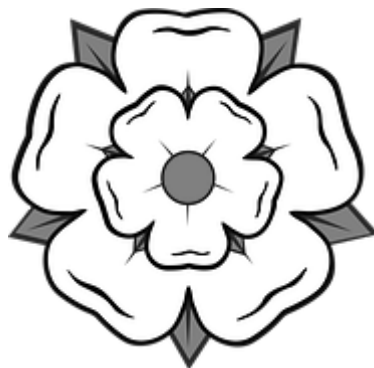
[Dear Elsie this is the mill we work in the bottom floor that is the weaving hoping you will like this P.C. I will send you some more this next week. We are getting some cold weather here just now I guess we shall soon have some snow they get it very cold at this place in winter hoping they[re] all well at home Your Loving Boy Harry xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx]

Conclusion

We have described the changing addresses and cramped conditions in which our Whitaker ancestors lived in the Manningham area of Bradford. The family was large and as was common at the time, some of the children did not survive into adulthood. Two of the sisters – Elsie and Nora(h) – died in early adulthood, but in their short lives they amassed a substantial collection of picture postcards. Sending and receiving postcards was a relatively new but popular phenomenon at this time, and the sisters were successful in acquiring cards from a range of people and places. All the family was variously engaged in Bradford’s textile industry, and through her work in Listers’ Mill, Elsie initiated a postcard friendship with someone in Australia. The collection also contains almost 40 cards written by someone emigrating the USA; the pictures (which we cannot include here) provide an interesting visual account of New York and its surroundings early in the 20th Century.

In concluding, we welcome contact from any Bradford Whitakers who may be related to us!

THE YORKSHIRE GROUP OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES



Bradford FHS is a member of the Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies.

What is this group?

They are an umbrella organisation for the many societies that cover areas within the pre-1974 Ridings of Yorkshire.

The aim of the group is to provide a forum for discussion of items of common interest, and to provide a single voice on behalf of its members, where appropriate.

Who is involved in the group?

The members of the Group are 17 Yorkshire Family History Societies: Airedale & Wharfedale; Barnsley; Bradford; Calderdale; York; Cleveland; Doncaster; East Yorkshire; Harrogate; Huddersfield; Morley; Pontefract; Ryedale; Selby; Sheffield; Wakefield and Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society. The Yorkshire group of the Guild of One Named Studies; London Group of Yorkshire Family History Societies; and the Metcalfe Society are also members.

Did you also know that Gill Overend (our Treasurer) is also the Treasurer of the Group and Sue Steel (our Chairman) is also the Vice-Chairman of the Group? That is how important Bradford FHS feels this group is.

How often does the group meet?

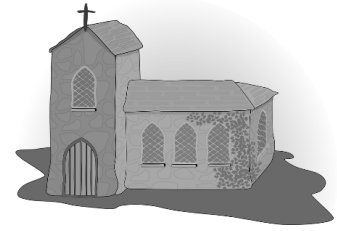
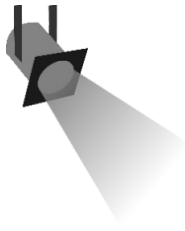
The Group meets at least three times a year via Zoom, with delegates from the member Societies attending (usually one or more of their committee members).

Offers of help and advice are freely given and gratefully accepted from all member Societies during the meetings. The Group helped Bradford FHS during the introduction of GDPR (Data Protection) and setting up the first Zoom and Hybrid meetings.

But the member Societies keep in contact throughout the year using the Group as a network channel.

How to find out more?

Look at the Group's website – www.yorksgroup.org.uk where you will find links to all the member Family History Societies.



SPOTLIGHT ON Churches

Sue Steel

Did you attend our 40th Anniversary weekend last October? Or our AGM in April? At both of these events Mary Twentyman and I spoke about the churches of Bradford and some facts you may need to know or be reminded of.

So, for those of you who missed the topic on churches ...

You need to know the boundaries of the local parishes, as these inevitable change over time. Originally Bradford Parish, with St Peter's Church (now the Cathedral) at its heart, once spread over a huge area. To the north was Keighley, Bingley, and Calverley. To the East Calverley and Birstall. To the South and East was Shelf, Northowram, Ovenden, Warley, and Wadsworth. Bradford Parish included Thornton, Haworth, Wilsden, Allerton, Clayton, Horton, North Bierley, Bowling, Manningham, Heaton, Shipley and Bradford itself. As the parish was so large, people would either face a long walk to St Peter's Church or a quicker walk to a nearby parish. Bradford centre was at the far east of the parish boundary.

As the population grew during the 19th century, more churches were built to accommodate the people. They were initially 'chapel of ease' or satellite churches for St Peter's Church. But in the 1860's and onwards many became parish churches in their own right, Subsequently the parish of Bradford reduced in size to what it is now – just the centre of Bradford.

So where do you look for the parish records of your ancestors? Well for Baptisms, these are usually in the parish of residence. But you could get baptised wherever you want. Sometimes the first-born child of a couple is baptised in the maternal grandparent's parish. Sometimes the family were all baptised at what they believed was their main or mother church. My family were often baptised at St Wilfrid's Church in Calverley. But their actual parish church was either Christchurch, Windhill or even St Paul's Church in Shipley. St Wilfrid's was the historical parish church of Windhill.

Marriages were usually where the couple lived, probably in the parish church of the bride. Don't think that if the same address is recorded for both bride and groom on the marriage record, that the couple were cohabiting. The groom may have simply moved into his bride's family home to avoid paying fees in his own parish. Of course, if the couple were married by license, they could be married anywhere and there is another document to search for – the license. Marriages are difficult since you only had to live in a parish for a short time before you could get married there. Plus, couples tended to lie about their

ages and family ties. If you don't find marriage records in the parish you think they should be in, look to see what the older church for that area would have been and look there. Holy Trinity, Idle was a church in Calverley parish and couldn't marry couples until around 1871. St Wilfrid's church in Calverley wanted the marriage fees and so marriages were only conducted there.

Burials could also be done anywhere, not necessarily where the person died. The family may have an ancestral plot elsewhere that would be used until full. This even happens if a family became non-conformists, they would use the parish church burial ground until it was full before making non-conformist arrangements. My parents-in-law both died in Bradford but are both buried in a small parish in Cumbria, where my father-in-law was born.

Keeping all that in mind, it is useful to check all chapels and churches that were situated near where the family lived. Old maps show chapels and churches with specific symbols (e.g. a square with a cross). Trade directories often give a list of churches in one place, including the non-conformist ones. There is also Genuki which contains lists of churches in one place. Bradford Local Studies Library has the church records for West Yorkshire on microfiche. As have the other West Yorkshire Archives offices. Some of these are also on Ancestry but not all – St John the Evangelist, Bierley; St Peter's Hartshead and St James' Church, Thornton are not on-line.

About 10 years ago, Bradford FHS compiled a database of all the churches in the Bradford area. The details included where the churches were, what denomination they were, the dates covered by registers, where the registers were kept and if they had a burial ground. It isn't in a position to be made public and some of the details couldn't be verified. But as a starting point it can be useful. For instance, on the database there are 30 churches in the Manningham area alone!

I used to live in Windhill, just up the road from Shipley. It was once in the parish of Calverley under the chapel of ease at Holy Trinity, Idle. Today it has two churches, Christchurch which is the Parish church and sadly fading and a Methodist chapel. Yet on the database the following churches appeared:

Christchurch – Church of England

Briggate Chapel – Methodist Wesleyan (now closed)

Bethel Chapel – Methodist Primitive (now closed)

Crag Road Chapel - Methodist Primitive

Leeds Road Chapel – Independent Congregational (now closed)

St Anthony of Padua – Roman Catholic (now closed)

Windhill is just a small area, but 66% of the churches once there are no longer in existence. As mentioned, Manningham had 30 churches and yet again 66% of those on the database are no longer there. In fact, the percentage may be even higher today.

If you want to know more or have a specific question please do contact us and we will look in the database for you. (4097)

Heritage Project Update and Stories

Sue Steel

Well, what can I say; the transcription work for the Heritage Database on our website is going apace.

What I expected to take weeks, actually took days and I now have over 1000 photos to send out to transcribers and checkers. Brilliant! We have concentrated on the Bradford Union Workhouse records and photographed the following, all to be found at West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford):

Admissions	1857-1860	Ref BU6/1/1
Discharges	1857-1860	Ref BU6/1/1
Baptisms	1912-1916	Ref BU6/2/4
Births	1838-1853	Ref BU6/2/1
Deaths	1838-1853	Ref BU6/2/1
Punishment Records	1888-1914	Ref BU6/5/1 & BU6/5/2
Minute Books	1857-1861	Ref BU1/7 & BU1/8

All the books containing the specific records are completely photographed apart from the Minute Books. We choose the dates from 1857 to see if we could find any of the individuals mentioned in the Admission Register in the Minute Books. Sadly, Admission and Discharges only go to 1860. Afterwards you need to see the Creed Registers for Admissions, but these are too fragile to be handled.

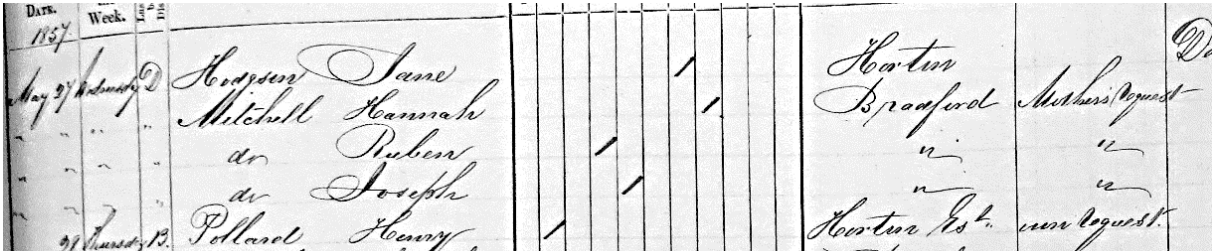
So, to the stories uncovered. We have been asked by Fiona Marshall at West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) to let them know of any interesting stories we find.

On the Discharge Register, on 27th May 1857, Hannah, Ruben and Joseph Mitchell were discharged at the request of their mother.

Date	Day of the Week	NAME	Class for Diet.*									Parish to which Charged	How Discharged; and if by Order, by whose Order.	In case of Death, say "Death."	Observations on General Character and Behaviour in the Workhouse.	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
27 May 1857		Hannah Mitchell										Bradford	Discharged		70	
		Joseph Mitchell										Bradford	Discharged			
		Ruben Mitchell										Bradford	Discharged			
		Joseph Mitchell										Bradford	Discharged			

Bradford Union Workhouse Discharge Register – West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) – BU6/1/1 – 1857-1860 – Page 14

Hannah was between 9 and 13; Ruben between 5 and 9 and Joseph was between 2 and 5 years old. We don't know when they were admitted to the workhouse, since it was before April 1857 when the records we have examined started. But the family were altogether in the 1861 Census living at White Rose Arms, 24 White Abbey, Bradford.



*Bradford Union Workhouse Discharge Register – West Yorkshire Archives
(Bradford) – BU6/1/1 – 1857-1860 – The Mitchell Family*

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birth Place
William Atley	Head of House	Widower	40	Beer Retailer	Ovenden Yorkshire
Frances Mitchell	Servant	Widow	40		Bradford Yorkshire
Hannah Mitchell	Boarder		15	Worsted Mill Hand	Bradford Yorkshire
Rueben Mitchell	Boarder		12	Rag Sorter	Bradford Yorkshire
Joseph Mitchell	Boarder		8		Bradford Yorkshire

1861 Census – 11 Bradford West End – RG9/3323/77/25

Frances Shellings had married Joseph Mitchell at St Peter's Church, Bradford (cathedral) on 11th April 1844. Joseph was a farmer and they both lived in Bradford. Presumably, Joseph died between 1851 (when Joseph junior was actually born) and 1857. Frances must have been desperate having to place the children and maybe herself in the workhouse. But she went out and found a job and one where her children could live with her. Good for her!

SCCHEDULE C.—FORM 21.

ADMITTED. *First Week, June, December 1857*

Day of the Month, 1857.	Day of the Week.	NAME.	Class for Diet.*									Parish to which Charged.	By whose Order Admitted.	Date of the Order of Admission.	If Born in the House, name of Parent.	Cause of seeking Relief.	Observations as to the Cause of Admission, or any other particulars.	
			1	2	3	4	4a	5	6	7	8							9
12	Monday	Edmund Street																
13	Tuesday	Edmund Street																
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* The columns "Class for Diet," are to be filled up by the figure 1. The Classes for Diet are,—1. Able-bodied Men;—2. Old and Infirm Men;—3. Boys from 9 to 13 or 14, unemployed.

Bradford Union Workhouse Admission Register – West Yorkshire Archives
(Bradford) – BU6/1/1 – 1857-1860 – Page 1

On the 12th March 1857, Edmund Street was found abandoned on a street in Bradford by P.C. 73 and taken to the workhouse. If anyone know who P.C. 73 was, I'd very much like to know!

*found from Leeds Infirmary
found by P.C. 73. @ Wm. Edmond St.
By Buss*

Bradford Union Workhouse Admission Register – West Yorkshire Archives
(Bradford) – BU6/1/1 – 1857-1860 – Note in the entry for Edmund Street

The event was actually mentioned in the Bradford Observer newspaper on 2nd April 1857.

NAMING A FOUNDLING - Mr. R.S. Williams, master of the Bradford Union Workhouse, yesterday reported to the Chairman of the Board or Guardians that, on Friday night, about eleven o'clock, two policemen brought to him an infant, only three days old, which had been found at the door of Mr. Stead, in Edmund Street, Little Horton Lane. The master added that he should give the infant his own Christian name, affixing to that the surname of Bradford, so that its name would be Robert Bradford. The board, however, ultimately decided, after some jocose conversation, that the name of this poor abandoned child of a heartless parent should be "Edmund Street."

But sadly, little Edmund was to die on 20th April 1857 at just four weeks old. On his death certificate he was named as 'a foundling' under the occupation and the death was registered by Margaret Gill, possibly one of the inmates. He died from 'general debility', which meant he was just too weak to survive. After all we don't know how long he was left in the street before he was found.

The Discharge register shows his death on the 22nd with the comment 'foundling child'. So very sad!

There will be more stories as we do more transcriptions. (4097)



Looking for documents in York?

One of our newer members, Paul Gliddon lives in York and has offered to look up details in:

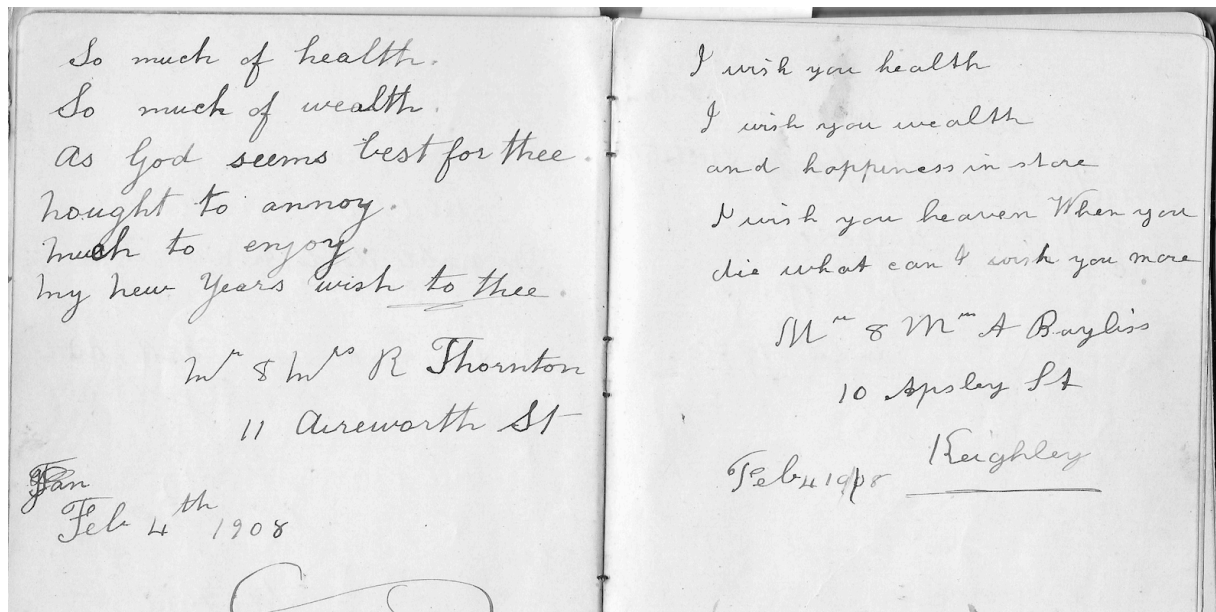
The Borthwick Institute for Historical Research, York University
York City Archives, York Central Library

If you do need help and would like Paul to carry out a small amount of work for you, please pass on your request via Chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk or 07855773102. Paul Gliddon (5271)

The elusive Aunty Spain Sally Robinson

I have mentioned Aunty Spain before during my time in the Bod-Kin. I still don't have all the answers.

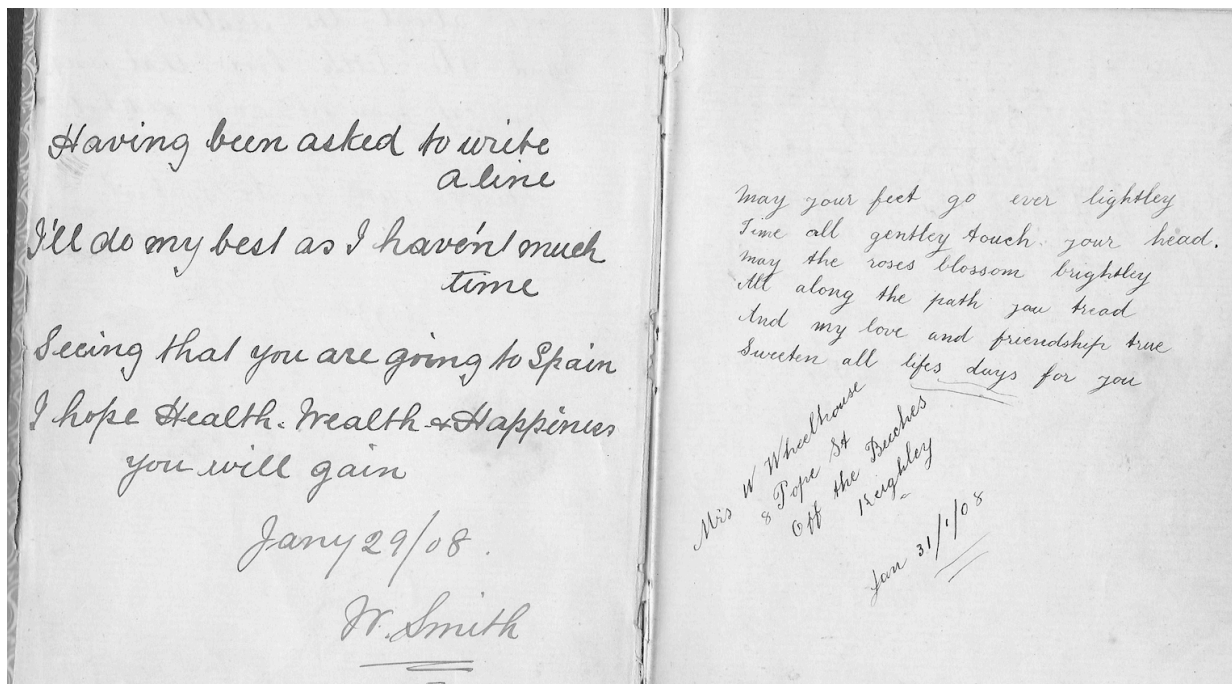
Emma Jane Midgley (Aunty Spain) was born in 1870 in Keighley and was a warper in a mill. In 1908, she decided (we don't know why,) to go to Spain and became a governess in Barcelona. Her brother, Herbert also went out at some point, married a local woman and finished up in Buenos Aires. I have her autograph book from that era, a few examples are below. I found it interesting that it is still quite formal and contains an address as well. Mr & Mrs R Thornton are her grandparents!



So much of health,
So much of wealth,
As God seems best for thee.
Nought to annoy,
Much to enjoy,
My New Year's wish to thee.

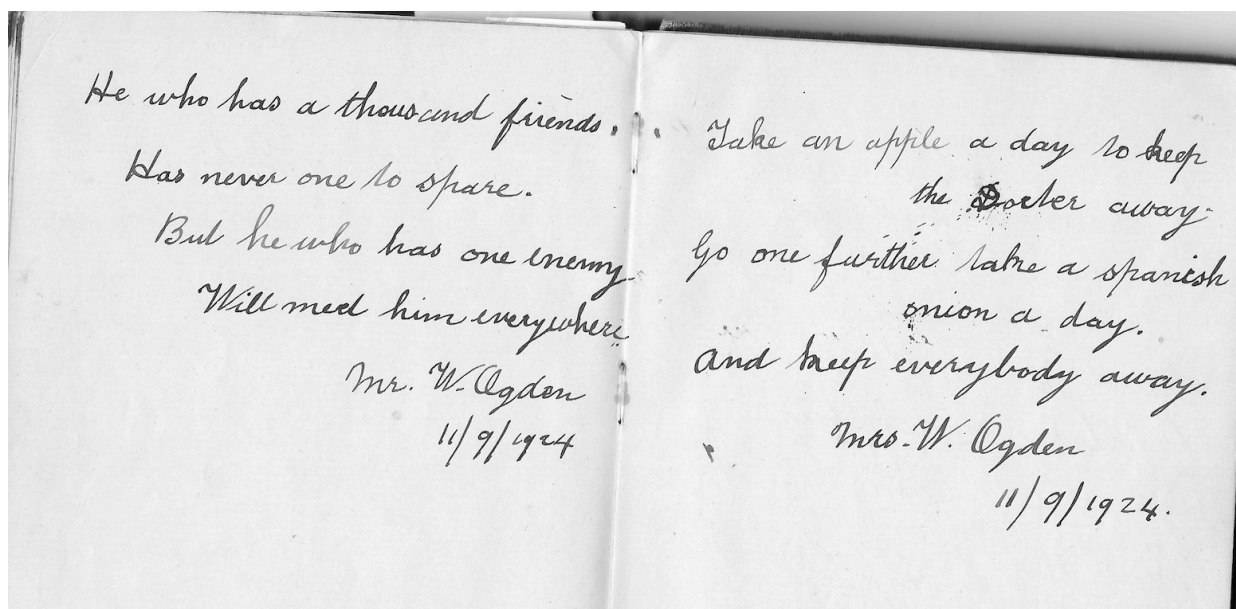
I wish you health,
I wish you wealth
And happiness in store.
I wish you heaven when you die
What can I wish you more.

Emma was a good letter writer and her life was quite well documented. The house she lived in has been located on a recent trip to Spain, just round the corner from a fabulous Gaudi house.



Having been asked to write a line,
 I'll do my best as I haven't much time,
 Seeing that you are going to Spain,
 I hope health & happiness you will gain.

May your feet go ever lightly,
 Time all gently touch your head,
 May the roses blossom brightly
 All along the path you tread,
 And my love and friendship true
 Sweeten all life's days for you



He who has a thousand friends,
 Has never one to spare,
 But he who has one enemy,
 Will meet him everywhere.

Take an apple a day to keep
 the Doctor away
 Go one further take a Spanish
 onion a day.
 And keep everybody away.

Go one further and take a spanish away.
onion a day and keep everybody

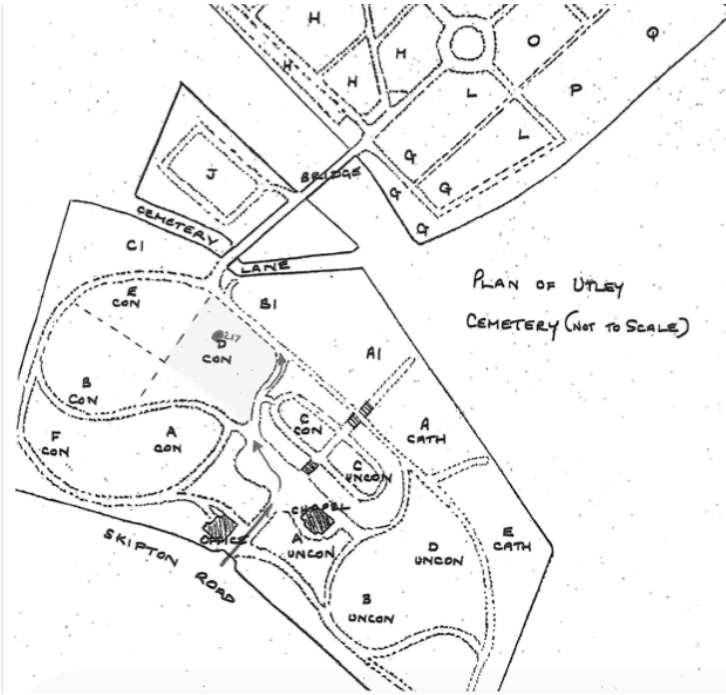
In 1937 my father was born and Aunty Spain did a share of the childcare as he was the youngest of three, my father was always able to speak Spanish very well.

Emma Jane died in 1940 at High Royds, Menston of melancholia. This was the district asylum. Recently, there has been a study of the graveyard when the estate was being redeveloped and it transpires that she is not buried there. So where is she?

Thursday lunchtime and the discussion with Mum is perhaps she's buried with her family? They are at Utley cemetery. Friday, and I'm passing the cemetery so I'll have a look. Driving in through the gates its immediately apparent that Utley Cemetery is huge and I need help. A quick look on Bradford Council's website say's any queries should be sent to the Keighley Bereavement Services. 3:30 and I send an email asking if they know where Emma's parents are.

Less than an hour later, the wonderful Julian Wharton has replied. Attached were a list of who was in her parents grave and exactly where it was in the graveyard. Very excited, I went on Saturday morning with my drawing and camera to find ... a piece of grave with a headstone facedown and half buried. Frustrated again.

The grave list does show that Emma is not in the grave, so it the mystery is still not resolved. A few days later, another email to my new favourite friend Julian revealed that Emma is not buried within the Keighley district. So where is she? I need another rainy day to get to the West Yorkshire Archives who hold the records of High Royds to find out.



UTLEY CEMETERY SECTION D - CONSECATED GRAVE N° 217 BUILT BY ELIZABETH MIDGLEY

BURIAL No.	NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	DATE OF BURIAL
4006	BENJAMIN MIDGLEY	35 years	WOODSATER	WOODHOUSE ROAD, KEIGHLEY	6 th Dec. 1878
6758	GEORGE MIDGLEY	22 years	LABOURER	LUDON STREET, KEIGHLEY	27 th JUNE 1889
10852	ELIZABETH JEAN MIDGLEY	61 years	WIDOW	11 CHAM STREET, KEIGHLEY	1 st MAY 1907
12876	ALFRED LUMB	72 years	LABOURER	8 SPRING ROW, KEIGHLEY	16 th Nov. 1925
13244	WILLIAM MIDGLEY	61 years	BRASSMITHS STRIKER	8 th JOHNS HOSPITAL, KEIGHLEY	12 th APRIL 1930
Full.					

615	581	541	502	464	427	380	353	316	279	242	204	166	127	87	46	1
616	582	542	503	465	428	391	354	317	280	243	205	167	128	88	47	2
617	583	543	504	466	429	392	355	318	281	244	206	168	129	89	48	3
618	584	544	505	467	430	393	356	319	282	245	207	169	130	90	49	4
619	585	545	506	468	431	394	357	320	283	246	208	170	131	91	50	5
620	586	546	507	469	432	395	358	321	284	247	209	171	132	92	51	6
621	587	547	508	470	433	396	359	322	285	248	210	172	133	93	52	7
622	588	548	509	471	434	397	360	323	286	249	211	173	134	94	53	8
623	589	549	510	472	435	398	361	324	287	250	212	174	135	95	54	9
624	590	550	511	473	436	399	362	325	288	251	213	175	136	96	55	10
625	591	551	512	474	437	400	363	326	289	252	214	176	137	97	56	11
626	592	552	513	475	438	401	364	327	290	253	215	177	138	98	57	12
627	593	553	514	476	439	402	365	328	291	254	216	178	139	99	58	13
628	594	554	515	477	440	403	366	329	292	255	217	179	140	100	59	14
629	595	555	516	478	441	404	367	330	293	256	218	180	141	101	60	15
630	596	556	517	479	442	405	368	331	294	257	219	181	142	102	61	16
631	597	557	518	480	443	406	369	332	295	258	220	182	143	103	62	17
632	598	558	519	481	444	407	370	333	296	259	221	183	144	104	63	18
633	599	559	520	482	445	408	371	334	297	260	222	184	145	105	64	19
634	600	560	521	483	446	409	372	335	298	261	223	185	146	106	65	20
635	601	561	522	484	447	410	373	336	299	262	224	186	147	107	66	21
636	602	562	523	485	448	411	374	337	300	263	225	187	148	108	67	22
637	603	563	524	486	449	412	375	338	301	264	226	188	149	109	68	23
638	604	564	525	487	450	413	376	339	302	265	227	189	150	110	69	24
639	605	565	526	488	451	414	377	340	303	266	228	190	151	111	70	25
640	606	566	527	489	452	415	378	341	304	267	229	191	152	112	71	26
641	607	567	528	490	453	416	379	342	305	268	230	192	153	113	72	27
642	608	568	529	491	454	417	380	343	306	269	231	193	154	114	73	28
643	609	569	530	492	455	418	381	344	307	270	232	194	155	115	74	29
644	610	570	531	493	456	419	382	345	308	271	233	195	156	116	75	30
645	611	571	532	494	457	420	383	346	309	272	234	196	157	117	76	31
646	612	572	533	495	458	421	384	347	310	273	235	197	158	118	77	32
647	613	573	534	496	459	422	385	348	311	274	236	198	159	119	78	33
648	614	574	535	497	460	423	386	349	312	275	237	199	160	120	79	34
649	615	575	536	498	461	424	387	350	313	276	238	200	161	121	80	35
650	616	576	537	499	462	425	388	351	314	277	239	201	162	122	81	36
651	617	577	538	500	463	426	389	352	315	278	240	202	163	123	82	37
652	618	578	539	501	464	427	390	353	316	279	241	203	164	124	83	38
653	619	579	540	502	465	428	391	354	317	280	242	204	165	125	84	39
654	620	580	541	503	466	429	392	355	318	281	243	205	166	126	85	40

Meeting Programme 2023

Please check the website in case meetings have been cancelled or changed.

Meetings will be held via Zoom and/or at the 2nd Floor, Mechanics Institute, 76
Kirkgate, Bradford,
BD1 1SZ

The venue is small wheelchair accessible and there will be a PA system.
Zoom Meetings may be charged at £2 and all face-face meetings at £1.50 per
member.

Morning meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.

Evening meetings open at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting from 7.30 pm.

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Sept	7	AM	John Wood, a worsted spinner and Bradford's Father of Factory Reform (1791-1871)	Astrid Hansen	Hybrid
Sept	18	PM	House and Home in Victorian Bradford: An Improving Picture	George Sheeran	Zoom
Oct	5	AM	Bradford Great War Roll of Honour – 36,600 names of citizens who served in the First World War from Bradford district	Ray Greenhough	Hybrid
Oct	16	PM	The Mourning Broach – What comes next – continuation of the story of Dianne's Ancestors and her amazing novels	Jean Renwick	Zoom
Nov	2	AM	Tips for Researching Your Great War Ancestors	Jane Roberts	Hybrid
Nov	20	PM	The first Railway Workers c1825-c1870 - the lives of early railway workers	David Turner	Zoom
Dec	7	AM	History of Entertainment in Bradford and the surrounding area	Tish Lawson	Hybrid
Dec	18	PM	No Meeting		

Details of Meetings were correct at the time of writing, but things do change. Please check the website for any alterations.

N.B. The Society holds liability, but not personal accident insurance. Members are therefore responsible for their own personal accident cover, and attend meetings and are involved in Society activities at their own risk.

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Royds Hall, Heaton (above) Jane Hills , Shipley (below)

© Sue Steel





Dragon Boat Racing in Saltaire 2023