

Bod-Kin

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Bradford Christmas tree

© Anne Luciw

**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 Editors

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The Editors

We asked members to submit articles on the theme of 'Winter' for this quarter's Bod-Kin and you did not disappoint. Several make mention of Bradford's snowy winters in the 50s and 60s, especially 1963, but point out that the buses still ran, and children managed to get to school in spite of the deep snow. However, you've only to look at the back issues of the Telegraph and Argus to see that snow was a problem (or a pleasure depending on your age) right up until the present day. So, we shall have to wait and see what winter has in store for those members who live in Bradford and elsewhere.

The cutoff date for the next issue of Bod-Kin is 3 February 2025. Any articles we do not have room for will be held over for inclusion in a future edition.

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From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

To start with I would like to ask for help. Bradford Historical & Antiquarian Society are holding a Day School in May next year (see advertisement) and the theme of the day is Bradford's Firsts. For instance: free school meals, the Independent Labour Party, Temperance Hall, Library Tickets. Do you know of anything else? If so, will you write a short piece (just a paragraph) explaining your 'Firsts' with sources and let me have a copy. These will form a display on the day and hopefully a small booklet celebrating Bradford's achievements in Bradford's Year of Culture 2025.

Speakers – Shirley Sura has been currently looking at the programme for 2025. It is not too late for you to suggest someone or a subject that you believe members would enjoy and be interested in. We are always on the look-out for speakers, don't forget we have to find 19 each year. So let us know your views and suggestions.

It is that time of year once more. Membership subscriptions will be due on 1st January 2025. Internet Membership is just £10; Individual Membership £12 and Overseas/Family £17. Internet members do not receive a printed copy of our wonderful quarterly magazine – that is all the difference is between memberships. The magazine is available in our Members Area of the website to all members. Renewals can be done via our website, GenFair, post or standing order. Any problems, please let me or Andrea know (Membsec@bradfordfhs.org.uk).

I would also like to formally announce to members that I will be stepping down as Chairman in April 2028. Assuming I am still in the role by that point of course. I will be 70 years old that year. Not that old I know. But by then, I will have served as the Society's Secretary for 4 years and Chairman for 13 years. It is time for someone else to have a go and bring their new ideas along. I want to do more of my own research and have time to travel while I still can. If you are interested, please get in touch. You will have the support of a wonderful committee, and I fully intend to stay as a member of the Society.

Please do contact me or any of the committee members if you have a query, suggestion, Bod-Kin article or anything, really. Have a great Christmas and New Year.

(4097)

Members' Notice Board

In this section you can leave a brief message (2-3 sentences) to request help with research, share information, and other relevant topics. Send your messages to Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk or in writing to 5 Salisbury Road, Bradford BD12 0AA,

- I thoroughly enjoyed Jackie Depelle's presentation on 16 September Researching Yorkshire Ancestors online. Would it be possible to have the list of websites that Jackie referred to?

Jackie has kindly provided a list of resources which can be found on this page

- Does anyone know of the best resources to research pawnbrokers?

Unless otherwise stated in the message, for further information contact the Editors (Liz and Anne) at the above email or postal address.



Below are listed the resources mentioned in Jackie Depelle's presentation 16 September 2024

Researching Yorkshire Ancestors online: Website Selection:

www.yorksgroup.org.uk

Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies links to coverage of each group and their own websites. Check for Census Indexes, Parish Registers, School Records, Monumental Inscriptions, etc.

www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS

GENUKI – 250,000+ pages of free Yorkshire material

www.yorkshirebmd.org.uk/

Local Registrar's free indexes. Marriage result details venue - seek Parish Register identical entry?

The National Archives Discovery catalogue search all Yorkshire and Humber's Archives

<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/burials/nbi-coverage.php> Listing of coverage 18.4 m entries - 18m+ records on findmypast.co.uk

www.ancestry.co.uk/ West Yorkshire Archive Service material Parish & Non-Conformist Registers, Electoral Rolls and more York City and North Yorkshire, extended and duplicate material on FindMyPast

www.findmypast.co.uk Yorkshire Consortium Diocesan Record Offices, Parish Register collections Beverley, Borthwick, Doncaster, Northallerton, Sheffield and Teesside. Borthwick Bishops' Transcripts; Bonds and Allegations Index 1613-1839. Wills before 1858 Archbishop of York, Northern Province 1267-1883. FHS transcripts. For probate jurisdictions see Phillimore's Atlas and Index of Parish Registers (maps on ancestry)

<https://www.dhi.ac.uk/causepapers/> Searchable catalogue of more than 14,000 cause papers with free images, 1300 - 1858 Church Courts of the Diocese of York. Most extensive records of type in UK

Hearth Tax Digital: **<https://gams.uni-graz.at/context:htx>** 1672/3 Tax assessment name lists in Ridings by wapentakes. Transcripts and database format

Vernacular Architecture Group: **<https://www.vag.org.uk/>** Winter Conference January 2021: Houses and the Hearth Tax – focus on introduction & East Yorkshire

Yorkshire Vernacular Building Study Group **<https://www.yvbsg.org.uk/>** Useful Newsletters. 2025 Conference in Bradford – know of any old properties for them to survey?

www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com/ Charity finding, preserving and providing 130 years of moving image heritage of Yorkshire

<https://yorkshiredictionary.york.ac.uk/> Yorkshire Historical Dictionary, regional language development

<https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/> Free access to over 20,000 images 1225-1650. Growing searchable index names, places, etc

<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/projects/northernway/> Commenced February 2019 searchable online index of primary sources inc @TNA archbishops' Politics

<https://yorkshireburials.info/> Growing site for burial records, monumental inscriptions and maps. Free registration required

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/ Growing collections, advanced search engine. Papers also on www.findmypast.co.uk. National Newspaper collection

stored on site in Yorkshire at Boston Spa – 48 hours’ notice required to access non-digitised material

www.leodis.net/ Historic mages from Leeds Central Library plus special Playbills

www.archive.org/ Search “Parish Registers”, Yorkshire and more

Deeds Registries – Beverley, East Riding 1707-1970; Northallerton, North Yorkshire 1736-1970; Wakefield, West Riding 1704-1970; Partial index online North & West Riding <http://registerofdeeds.org.uk>

Archives’ online catalogues and their Collection Guides for extensive information including University Special Collections, Libraries, Museums, One Place Studies, Local History Projects, Theses, etc.

Other sources located in Yorkshire: National Coal Mining Museum, National Fairground and Circus Museum, National Media & Science Museum, National Railway Museum, Royal Armouries, The British Library. All have archives, curators with specialist knowledge

A few relevant publications – there are lots more!

- A Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames: George Redmonds
- A Vocabulary of Wood, Wood-workers and Wood Management in Yorkshire: George Redmonds
- The Yorkshire Dictionary of Dialect, Tradition and Folklore : Arnold Kelle
- The King’s England : Arthur Mee Three volumes to cover Yorkshire
- The National Register of Parish Registers – Three volumes cover Yorkshire : Society of Genealogists includes Non-Conformist Records
- Yorkshire West Riding Hearth Tax Assessment Lady Day 1672 – David Hey & Others 2007
- The British Record Society
- Basic Facts About ... Family History Research in Yorkshire. Pauline M Litton 1995. FH Federation
- Yorkshire Probate: Colin Blanchard Withers 2006. Yorkshire Wolds Publication
- Researching Yorkshire Ancestors on the Internet. Rachel Bellerby 2024. Pen & Sword Books

RIP Bernard Cummings

Mary Twentyman

I'm sad to report the death of Bernard Cummings in May 2024. Bernard joined the Bradford Family History Society, like many before him, when he retired. He was a member of the Committee for many years and at one time was our publications officer and we enjoyed his company at many fairs. He made a huge contribution to our www.sblha.com website when he photographed and indexed a large portion of North Bierley Cemetery MIs for us.

Bernard was born 80 years ago – his parents were Alice and Sam, and they lived at 130 Cotewall Road off Manchester Road in West Bowling. He went to the same school as me, Ryan Street, but as he was a few years before me our paths didn't cross. He then went on to Carlton Grammar School.

After 'A' levels he studied chemistry at Liverpool University and gained a BSc in 1966. Following graduation, he returned to Bradford and his working life was spent in chemicals – first with ICI and then with A H Marks in Wyke.

It was through the Choral Society that Bernard met Mary, and they were married in 1985 and went to live in Bierley. Mary's grown-up family bonded with Bernard as did the grandchildren as they continued to arrive. Following his severe stroke Bernard and Mary left Bierley and moved to a bungalow on the St Abbs estate, Odsal. He continued to come to our meetings in his wheelchair but eventually he moved to Hartshead Manor care home where he died.

We miss Bernard and will remember his contribution to the society.



(1135)

My Winter

Sue Steel

Memories of Winter the editors asked. Mmmmm. I don't like Winter. All that snow and ice Brrrrr.

My memories of winters past are just that. Lots of snow at some point. Walking to school in the snow, wellies on my feet and shoes in a bag for when I arrived, wet gloves from the snowballs, very cold feet despite woolly socks and chilblains galore. Surprisingly, I did go out sledging, coming home soaked to the skin and blue with cold, ready for a hot drink. But I had a large grin on my face. The area I used for sledging was off Leeds Road, Windhill, Shipley where apartments now stand (I was so annoyed when they were built). We had to be very careful since at the bottom of what was a very small hill was a garden fence. Not only did it hurt you when you hit it, but the occupiers of the houses weren't happy either. So, falling off to stop was the order of the day.

Decades later, I used to take my sons sledging in Northcliffe Park, Shipley. The hill was a lot larger but falling off was still the easiest way to stop. Again, all coming home exhausted, very cold (my younger son did go blue at times) but grinning. This time it was hot chocolate and mulled wine when we arrived home. Not much had changed really, apart from the sledge being made out of plastic instead of wood.

Nowadays, I dread the snow and ice. No more sledging, just panic as I defrost the car ready to face the snowy roads on the early morning school run. No, I don't like Winter – Roll on Spring!

(4097)



A Moving Story

Stefan Luciw

In the winter of 1960, our family moved from Norton Gate, just off Manchester Road. This was as a result of a compulsory purchase order that allowed the city fathers of the day to widen Manchester Road, thereby bringing a motorway into the heart of Bradford, ushering the brave new world of the motor car age upon us.

We were saying goodbye to a “one up, one down”. We would no longer have to endure the ordeal of going to the outside “lavvy” which entailed braving a dark passage down the end of our row of houses to find the toilet block set in a rat-infested back alley.

The terraced house at Bankfoot, to which we were moving, had a proper inside bathroom, two downstairs rooms, a cellar, two upstairs rooms and an attic. Well posh compared to the house we were leaving!

Before moving day, my Dad and I went to the new house on several weekends to redecorate it prior to making the move. On one Saturday morning we set off into a landscape covered by a fairly heavy layer of snow. When we got to Bankfoot, we went onto our back road which was thickly covered with snow. We found our back yard completely submerged with at least four feet of snow.

The snow had drifted across all the walls separating the houses. I was five years old at the time and quite a small lad to boot – there was no way I could pass through that. The snow was at least a foot higher than me. My Dad was unable to open the back gate, so we were forced to go round the front. My Dad told me not to tell my Mum that we had used the front door and gone through the newly decorated front room. In those days the front room was reserved for Christmas and when guests called.

In subsequent years, when we actually occupied the house, if there had been a heavy fall of snow, my brother, sister and I would jump from our top step (fourth from the ground) into the snow and shovel a path to the gate. We would then set about digging an igloo for ourselves.

The thing I remember most about those years was that the snow lasted for weeks and people didn't let it bring things to a standstill. The buses kept running and I can only ever remember being sent home early once from school when the boiler broke down.

(5233)

December

Sue Carson

This short poem was written by my aunt, Marguerite Holroyd, when she was eighteen in 1931. It was published in the Old Heckmondwike Herald 1932. Marguerite lived all her 85 years in Cleckheaton and often wrote about the area, the weather, and nature. One of her books of published poetry was entitled “Northern Tapestry”.

December

December's on the hills
With the beating rains behind,
And all the tree tops shaking –
A-shaking in the wind;
The bracken brown and sodden,
The evergreens ashine,
And all the poplars blowing –
A-blowing in a line.

Grey slate roofs are dripping wet,
The wires are running beads,
And down the lines of rusty hedge
The scarlet berry bleeds;
There's fungus on the palings,
And lichen in the walls,
And through the windy whistling
A soft bell tolls.

Alice Marguerite Holroyd.



Marguerite Holroyd

(4127)

William Brayshaw Marriage

David Broomfield

William Brayshaw (1811-1884) was an Alderman, a JP and the 13th Mayor of Bradford (1866-67); he was a successful stonemason, worth £4.5M in today's money when he passed away. I was given the task of researching this Mayor by the Chairman of the charity Undercliffe Cemetery Trust. No starters for 10 this time!

In the newspapers I was lucky to find a report of William's career – almost an obituary! - in the Bradford Weekly Telegraph of 27 December 1884. All I had to do was prove the facts and add data e.g. from BMD, censuses, and newspapers. Once I had done this to my satisfaction, there was just one anomaly, the newspaper report stated that William Brayshaw married Sarah Trustram from Halifax around 1830 in Bradford. No record of this could be found after much searching, and Rosemary Feltham, my FH tutor, thought the same. This was also confirmed by a local expert, Ben Stables, and by Bradford Local Studies. However, the only record of a marriage at that time and place to a Sarah, which his wife was so named in all the census records, and only available from Ancestry (not FindMyPast nor The Genealogist) was to a Sarah Broadbent at Bradford Parish Church in 1829. I reached out to Rachel Firth, member 5313 of the Bradford FHS who was researching the surname of Brayshaw. She didn't have this William Brayshaw in her family tree but had constructed the case for the Sarah Broadbent record to be the true marriage. It had the right occupation for William (a mason), and the vicar's name, Rev. Mr Heap, and that of one of the witnesses, William Rhodes, on the marriage certificate all concur with those mentioned in the newspaper article.

This was truly a team effort! Pity the newspaper reporter couldn't get it right!!!

And it still goes on to this day! Who follows Strictly Come Dancing on BBC1? In a recent Daily Mail, it was reported that Craig Revel-Horwood stated that he would award a dancing couple 12 out of 10 if he could, when in fact it was Anton du Beke that said that! Craig would never make such a statement! What on earth was the reporter thinking?!!! So, I had been under the illusion that one could trust reporting in a national newspaper pretty much, but not anymore, hence my full support that we had the right marriage in 1829.

(2804)

Jane Duke and David Lord

Anne Luciw

In the September edition of Bod-Kin, David Allen described his efforts to transcribe photographs of the David Lord memorial in Exley Cemetery and the research he carried out. I found his article fascinating and got quite caught up in it.

East face
In
Pious memory
of
Jane Duke
infant mistress Elland Edge
The devoted wife of
David Lord
Born Nov 16th, 1835
Died Aug 29th, 1877
Her friends tribute

See I have accepted thee
David Lord
born March 24th 1834.
Died December 10th 1921

J W Taylor
Aberdeen

Also Ellen wife of the above
Born March 29th 1832
Died December 5th 1915

David Lord
owner

There was a period that David was unable to account for and his final comment that further research may be needed to unravel the mysteries of the family felt like an invitation to have a dig around. The results are set out below.

Reproduced in the box are the inscriptions on the East Face of the David Lord memorial, which remembers David and his wife Jane Duke Lord. If you read part two of David's article in September, you may remember that there was a gap in the census records for David and Jane between 1851 and 1871. The 1871 census shows that during that period David and Jane had six children, Elizabeth, Margaret, David and Jemima with ages ranging from 10 to 5, who were born in Scotland. Two younger children, Alexander and Edward aged 3 and 1, were born in Yorkshire. Two further children born in Yorkshire after the 1871 Census, were John in 1872 and Jane in 1878.

Filling the census gap

At the age of 17 David was working as a butcher, but by 1871 the family was living in the School House at Elland with David employed as a schoolmaster. In changing his profession from butcher to schoolmaster, he must have acquired some experience and possibly qualifications during the missing period. He clearly went to Scotland, based on his oldest children's place of birth, so perhaps he gained his experience in that country.

I went to the *Ancestry.co.uk* and *Find My Past (FMP)* websites and was fortunate enough to get a number of hints which led me to other *Ancestry* members' publicly shared trees (God bless them). As a result, I found a Jane Lord (nee Duke) born on November 15 1835, in Dalhestny, Edzell, Angus, Scotland. I was confident that this was David Lord's wife, and the Jane Duke mentioned on the memorial.

Jane's parents were William Duke born on March 27 1811, in Dalhestny, Edzell, Angus, Scotland and Elisabeth Caithness born on February 21 1809, in Lochlee, Angus. The 1851 census, taken when Jane was 16, shows the family was living in West Migvie, Angus where her father was a farmer. Jane had 8 siblings: Jean 1833, William 1835, Martha 1838-1925, James 1840-1911, Alexander Simpson 1841-1906, Ann 1843-1896, Mary 1845-1922, Elizabeth 1847-1851 and Agnes 1849-1926.

I found that Jane married David Lord on December 11 1858, in West Migvie, Lochlee. Details of David's birth and parents were detailed in the September issue of Bod-Kin, so I won't repeat them here. In October 1859 David and Jane had a daughter, Jane Ann Simpson born in Edzell, Lochlee. As their child sadly died in August 1863 in Lochlee at the age of 3, little Jane did not appear in the 1871 census.

David's vocation

I was fortunate enough to find a photograph of Jane and David which was shared with me through an *Ancestry* hint and a link to a member's public tree. As a result, I discovered that David was working as an Episcopal schoolmaster in Scotland.

In order to obtain such a position at that time he was most likely a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church. A link existed between the Church of England and the Episcopal Church in Scotland, so it is possible that David heard of an opportunity to train as a teacher in Scotland through his local church. This may explain David's move from Elland to Lochlee.

This link to a religious organisation explains the description of Jane as 'pious' and the biblical reference above David's name on the memorial which David Allen initially found puzzling (see his article in September's Bod-Kin).



David Lord and Jane Duke Lord
Shared by an Ancestry.co.uk member

Other Duke and Lord Memorials

Other hints on Ancestry led me to photographs of two headstones in the Lochlee Churchyard, Glenesk, Angus, Scotland. This first headstone was that of Jane's sister, Elizabeth Duke who died at the age of four. Also on the stone is an inscription to '*Jane wife of David Lord*'. This is followed by inscriptions to Jane's

other siblings Elizabeth, Anne, Alexander, Martha and Agnes. Also, Mary, who visited David, his second wife Ellen and Mary's niece Elizabeth in Elland in 1911 is remembered on the headstone (see David's article in September's Bod-Kin).



The second headstone is a memorial to Jane and David's daughter Jane Anne Simpson Lord who, like her aunt Elizabeth Duke, died at the age of four. David added a memorial to his wife to his daughter's headstone.



The conclusion that I have drawn from my research is that Jane Duke Lord was dearly loved by her family, evidenced by the appearance of her name on not one but three memorials.

(5233)

My Ancestors came from Shelf

Ben Stables

I have been researching the history of Shelf between Halifax and Bradford for over ten years and have published two books on the history of the village: 'History of St. Michael's Church' (2015) and 'The Early History of Shelf' (2018). A third, about Pepper Hill Unitarian Chapel, is a work in progress. Although many genealogical records are available online, records are not all available in the same places, and it may be worthwhile to share the following information on local records which are available.

Parish Records

Shelf was part of the Parish of Halifax and its subsidiary Chapelry of Coley, although sometimes Shelf people crop up in the Bradford Parish Registers. These records are now all available at Ancestry.com

St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church opened in 1850.

- Baptisms up to 1905 are on Ancestry.com. I have transcripts up to 1969.
- Marriages up to 1935 are on Ancestry.com. I have transcripts up to 1942.
- Burials up to 1978 are on Ancestry.com. I have transcripts up to 2020.
- Monument Inscriptions. Most of the old part of the yard was cleared in 1986. Transcripts of the lost and surviving stones and a graveyard plan are available at sblha.com

Witchfield Wesleyan Methodist Chapel opened in 1785, re-built in 1887, closed in 1981.

- Baptisms start in 1807 and are split between a few registers. 1838-1844 are to be found in a Cleckheaton circuit register. Records up to 1907 are on Ancestry.com. Gordon Berry produced an index of the full register up to 1979 which is available at local libraries. I also have a fuller transcript taken from microfilm copies.
- Marriages began in 1896 and records up to 1935 are on Ancestry.com. I have transcripts up to 1950.
- Early burials do not seem to have been recorded and the register starts in 1837. The full burial register is available at Ancestry.com. Burials, grave book and monument inscriptions have been transcribed and are available from the Calderdale Family History Society, and also on the Bradford Family History Society CD 'Great Horton Methodist Circuit.' The Columbarium for ashes was transferred to Bethel Chapel where it remains, and further interments have been made since Witchfield closed – see findagrave.com. All other monuments are lost.

Wade House Primitive Methodist Chapel opened in 1821, closed 1973.

- Baptisms start in 1824. Records up to 1905 are on Ancestry.com. Transcripts up to 1930 are on sblha.com. I have my own transcripts up to 1971.
- Marriages. There was no marriage licence or register.
- Burials began in 1823. The full burial register is available at Ancestry.com. Burials, grave books and monument inscriptions have been transcribed and are available from the Calderdale Family History Society and also on the Bradford Family History Society CD 'Great Horton Methodist Circuit.' Only a handful of monuments remain.

Bethel Independent Methodist Chapel opened in 1853. The Tabernacle on Cock Hill Lane was affiliated with Bethel and opened in 1878, closed in 1966.

- Baptisms start in 1852, and I have my own transcript up to 1994.
- Marriages start in 1923, and I have my own transcript up to 1951.
- Burials start in 1852. A transcript of the burial register is available from the Chapel for a fee. Microfilm of the baptisms, marriages and burials is available at Halifax/Bradford Local Studies.
- Monument Inscriptions. Arthur Blackburn's transcript of the yard is at sblha.com. Most of the surviving monuments have been photographed and are on findagrave.com.

Pepper Hill Unitarian Chapel opened in 1861.

- Baptisms began in 1861.
- Marriages began in 1905. The baptism and marriage registers are still with the Chapel trustees – I have my own transcripts. The Queensbury History Society have also transcribed the registers, and their transcript is available at local libraries.
- There is no burial ground but there are some plaques inside the Chapel. Transcripts at sblha.com.

Buttershaw Congregational Chapel opened in 1870 but grew out of an older congregation in Shelf, re-built in the 1980's and is now known as Rock Church Bradford. Sadly, all the records are understood to be lost with the exception of a Communion Register which is deposited with Bradford Archives.

Municipal Cemetery

There is no municipal cemetery in Shelf, but Queensbury and North Bierley Municipal Cemeteries are nearby. Records for both are available at Bradford Local Studies. Transcripts of Queensbury are available from the Bradford Family History Society. Transcripts of North Bierley (not complete) are available at

sblha.com. I have photographed many graves in both cemeteries, and these are on Find a Grave.

Census Records

In addition to the commonly available Census records some Subsidy Rolls (1604), Polls (1807, 1832, 1835, 1837, 1841, 1848, 1859), and Highways Composition Books (1781, 1788) which gives lists of people are available at sblha.com.

Land Records

Transcript of the Shelf Valuation 1817 is available at sblha.com. Later Valuation documents are with West Yorkshire Archive Service. Land Tax records available at Ancestry.com. Registry of Deeds records are held at Wakefield.

Township Records

Some Township Records are available at Ancestry.com but the vast majority are not online and only at West Yorkshire Archives. I have indexed many of the records and this index is available at shelfhalifax.wordpress.com.

Manorial Records

Most of the land in Shelf was part of the Manor of Shelf whose archives are now at Kirklees Archives and Nottinghamshire Archives. I have transcribed the Court Rolls and related documents from 1667-1787 and my transcript is available at shelfhalifax.wordpress.com. It may be worth keeping in mind that some land in Shelf was part of the Manor of Batley and that the larger Manor of Wakefield retained some authority.

Probate Records

Most Shelf wills were proved by the Church Courts in York. Pre-1688 indexes were printed by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and are available online. Index for 1688 to 1858 is at Find My Past. Most wills can be viewed via the Family Search system at LDS FamilySearch Centres. Otherwise, they can be seen at the Borthwick Institute in York or ordered from them for a fee.

A handful of Shelf wills were proved by the national Canterbury Church Courts – these are available via Ancestry or the National Archives website. A handful were proved by the Manor of Batley and some transcripts are held at Bradford Archives under the reference HOR/E. The originals are held at the Borthwick.

(5314)

Stories from Bradford Union Workhouse

Sue Steel

These stories were all taken from the Bradford Union Workhouse records housed at West Yorkshire Archives (Bradford) and transcribed by members of the Bradford Family History Society.

Many of the individuals named in the Bradford Union Workhouse Admissions and Discharge records are found nowhere else. The individuals were often desperate, old, sick, and, seemingly, came and went from nowhere. The names in the records are spelt in various ways, but I have just used one spelling throughout each story for simplicity.

As you will see, the stories only leave us with more questions.

The Abdallah Family

On 23rd September 1858, Oneph Abdallah was admitted to the Bradford Workhouse, alongside his mother, Elizabeth, father John and sister Alice. Both John and Elizabeth were labelled 'old, infirm'. Oneph was an infant and Alice between 5 and 9 years old. The whole family was admitted due to being sick. There is a note on their admission record stating they were 'removed', maybe to the infirmary attached to the workhouse.

Day of the Month.	Day of the Week.	Next Meal after Admission.	NAME.	Class for Diet.*									No. sent to the Pauper's Children.	Parish to which Charged.	By whose Order Admitted.	Date of the Order of Admission.	If	
				1	2	3	4	4a	5	6	7	8						8a
23	Tuesday		Abdallah John	/										1858	Bradford St. Wilson		23	
			do Elizabeth											1858	" "		"	
			do Alice											1858	" "		"	
			do Oneph											1858	" "		"	
			do Hil											1858	" "		"	

Bradford Union Workhouse Admissions - BU6/1/1

These details were taken from the Bradford Union Workhouse Admissions Register 1857- 1860 (Ref: BU6/1/1). It is the only admission/discharge book that survives. Any other admissions to the workhouse can only be found through the Bradford Union Workhouse Creed Registers (1870-1924) which are very fragile.

What else can we find out about the family? Alice was baptised at St Luke's Church, Heywood, Manchester on 18th September 1853 to John and Elizabeth. John being a hawker (street seller) of tracts, possibly political or religious in

nature¹. The family seems to have moved to Bradford after this date and, according to Oneph's birth certificate, the family was living at 20 Church Hill, Bradford².

Twenty fifth	25 July	Orniff	Boy	John Abdallah	Elizabeth Abdallah formerly Greaves	Cook	Bradford The mark of Elizabeth Abdallah Mother 20 Church Hill Bradford	Ninth August 1858	Richard Spencer Registrar
Twenty third									

Birth of Orniff Adbullah - 1858

Church Hill was a street containing mainly licensed lodging houses, where many immigrants into Bradford were living in 1851 and 1861. By immigrants, I mean from outside Bradford – so individuals from Ireland, Germany and all over the UK.

From the Bradford Union Discharge Book, John Abdallah died from consumption on 4th October 1858 aged 45³. Then on 23rd March 1859 little Oneph died from convulsions, at less than a year old³.

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 "Dead."	Observations on General Character and Behaviour in the Workhouse.
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
1859		Stewart Charles								Bradford workhouse			
		Abdallah Oneph								Bradford ht.		Dead	convulsions 2/3

Bradford Union Workhouse Discharges - BU6/1/1

The remaining Elizabeth and Alice discharged themselves on 19th May 1859, presumably when they themselves had recovered from illness and at least some of their grief³.

Nothing more has been found for Elizabeth and Alice. Where were they in 1851 and 1861? What nationality was John, Abdallah being originally a middle eastern surname? Oneph's mother's maiden name was Greaves, so where did she originate? Did they arrive by ship from outside the UK? And very importantly where did they go?

Gustas Schweizer

Gustas was admitted to Bradford Union Workhouse on 11th August 1858 as 'old/infirm' and sick³. He died on 26th September 1858 from consumption aged 21 years³. As many Germans were coming to live in Bradford at that time, usually to work in the textile mills, Gustas was probably German. But was his real name Augustas? Where did he come from and when? Did his family know he had died?

Ann & Mary Flannaghan

Ann Flannaghan entered the Bradford Union Workhouse on 29th August 1859 as a single pregnant woman. She was simply in the workhouse to give birth. On 2nd November 1859 at 7.34am she gave birth to a daughter, who she named Mary⁴.

SCHEDULE C.—FORM 21.

ADMITTED. *Fifth week December Quarter 1859*

Day of the Month.	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 on Condition at the time of Admission and any other General Remarks.		
			1	2	3	4	4a	5	6	7	8							9	
<i>November 2</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Brought forward Mary Flannaghan</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>2/1</i>	<i>Bradford St.</i>	<i>Flannaghan</i>	<i>29/8/59</i>	<i>Flannaghan Ann</i>	<i>Born</i>	<i>29/8/59</i>

Bradford Union Workhouse Admissions - BU6/1/1

On 26th November 1859 she and her daughter left the workhouse through her own request³.

Mary died on 23rd December from marasmus whilst at 7 Shaw Court, Bradford⁵. She was only 6 weeks old and had been ill for the last 3, ever since leaving the workhouse.

<i>Row</i>	<i>Twenty third</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Daughter of</i>	<i>Marasmus</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>Twenty third</i>	<i>Richard</i>
	<i>167 December</i>	<i>Flannaghan</i>	<i>weeks</i>	<i>Ann</i>	<i>3 weeks</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>She was of</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>Spencer</i>
	<i>1859</i>			<i>a daughter</i>	<i>certified</i>	<i>Bradford</i>	<i>Present at death</i>	<i>1859</i>	<i>Registrar</i>
	<i>7 Shaw</i>			<i>at</i>			<i>Shaw Court</i>		
	<i>Court</i>			<i>workhouse</i>			<i>Bradford</i>		
	<i>Bradford</i>			<i>Mill</i>					

Death of Mary Flannaghan - 1859

Marasmus was a severe form of malnutrition caused by simply not having enough food. Ann had been working as a spinner in a nearby worsted mill. She would have been there all day for long hours, leaving her baby either alone or under the care of a neighbour. Was that neighbour Mary Eldridge, who registered the death of the child? They all lived in the centre of Bradford, where Bridge Street meets Vicar Lane, now occupied by Bradford Court's car park. There were a great number of people living in a very small area.

In 1861, it seems that Ann Flannaghan was living with Joseph Hick and his family at 39 Hanover Square, Bradford working as a servant⁶. Or more accurately, a 'nurse'. She was only twenty years old and had been born in Ireland. Hanover Square was (and still is) in Manningham between Lumb Lane and Manningham Lane. The area was more middle class with 3/4 storied terraced houses overlooking a green area. Not surprising, as Joseph Hick was a chemist and druggist employing three people and worked as a registrar of births and deaths. Margaret McMillan, the Bradford woman who helped to campaign for children's health leading to school meals in 1906, lived in the square from 1893 to 1902.

The Grimaldi Family

Joshua Grimaldi was in and out of Bradford Workhouse three times. The first on 11th April 1857 until 30th April 1857, the second on 25th February 1958 until 30th March 1858 and the last time on 30th April 1859 until 12th July 1859³. Each time he was admitted as 'sick'³. The first two times he left at his own request, but the last time he was removed.

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 "Dead."	Observations on General Character and Behaviour in the Workhouse.
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
11/4/57		Mary Ann Thomas	1										
12 June 1859		Grimaldi Joshua	1										

Bradford Union Workhouse Discharges - BU6/1/1

This means he was sent to his place of settlement where the workhouse there would take care of him. Bradford Workhouse officials obviously decided not to continue to pay for and treat whatever his ailments were. This was a regular occurrence throughout the country. Towns and parishes only wanted to pay towards the poor who actually came from that area.

In 1851, Joshua and his wife, Ann, were living at 44 Victoria Street, Horton (just off the bottom of Manchester Road and not far from Alexandria House Police Station)⁷. Joshua worked as a woolcomber and was aged 62, being born in 1789. His wife was 57 years old, being born in 1794. Joshua was from London and Ann from Bedworth, Warwickshire.

You would have expected Joshua to have been taken to London. But no! In 1861 he was in Basford, Nottingham workhouse⁸. His birthplace was still marked as Middlesex, and he was a woolcomber, but now a widower aged 74. Is this the same man? Why Basford? He died and was buried on 24th December 1866 in Basford and was buried at St Leodegarius Church⁹.

Joshua and Ann had at least one daughter, Mary Ann. She was married at St Peter's Church (now the Cathedral) in Bradford on 13th October 1838 to Christopher Stevenson, another woolcomber¹⁰. Mary Ann was 21 and Christopher was only 19 years old.

What happened to Mary Ann and her mother is as yet unknown.

1. Details taken from www.Ancestry.co.uk - Church of England parish registers in the Diocese of Manchester, from the original registers deposited at [Manchester Archives & Local Studies Library](#) Ref: GB127.L88/1/2/4
2. Oneph Abdullah birth certificate – GRO index – Onniff Abdallah Bradford JAS 9b 57 1858
3. Bradford Union Workhouse Admissions/Discharges Register 1857-1860 (Ref: BU6/1/1).
4. Mary Flannaghan GRO birth index- Bradford OND 9b 115 1859
5. Mary Flannagan GRO death index- Bradford OND 9b 45 1859
6. 1861 Census taken from www.ancestry.co.uk – Ref: RG9, Piece 3322, Folio 305, Page 38 – Yorkshire, Horton, District 1m
7. 1851 Census taken from www.ancestry.co.uk – Ref: HO107, Piece 2309, Folio 40, Page 2 – Nottinghamshire, Basford, District Basford Workhouse
8. 1861 Census taken from www.ancestry.co.uk – Ref: RG9, Piece 2440, Folio 40, Page 2 – Nottinghamshire, Basford, District Basford Workhouse
9. Joshua Grimaldi GRO death index – Basford OND 7b 79 1866
10. Marriage of Mary Ann Grimaldi 1838 – Details taken from www.Ancestry.co.uk - Bradford Parish Registers for St Peter's Church Ref: BDP14

(4097)

Schooldays in Bradford

Peter Caulkett

Up to the age of five (1954) I had lived with my parents and maternal grandparents in Horton Grange Road. When my younger brother arrived, we moved into a place of our own, at Horton Bank Top, up Great Horton Road on the way to Queensbury. This was no. 2 Windermere Terrace, near the main road, and immediately opposite a Methodist Chapel. Thus, the first school I attended was Cooper Lane Infants, not surprisingly on Cooper Lane, Buttershaw. The school was demolished a long time ago and there are now houses on the site.

Although it was an easy walk of about a mile from Windermere Terrace, we could catch a bus from just across the road which stopped right outside the school. Usually, we would catch the bus up to the school in the morning and walk or run down the road in the afternoon. We were quite high up at Horton Bank Top, and the winters then were a lot grimmer than they are now. Great Horton Road is a relentless uphill slog from Bradford all the way to Queensbury, and in snowy conditions, if the bus stopped, then it couldn't get going again. The bus therefore used to chug up the hill at five miles an hour and the mothers lined up at the bus stop (which was right opposite our house) and threw their child onto the moving bus by the scruff of the neck and the seat of the pants. It needs mentioning that the buses then had an open platform at the back; you couldn't do this with a modern bus.



A Bradford Corporation bus chugging up Gt. Horton Road; the chapel on the left was immediately opposite our house, 2 Windermere Terrace. © Alan Duckworth

For the last two years, up to the age of eleven, everyone transferred from Cooper Lane School to Horton Bank Top Juniors. This too was demolished and is now houses. The building was

Victorian, built from local yellow sandstone, although it was almost completely black from the air pollution when I was there. There was a 'GIRLS' and a 'BOYS' entrance. We were in 'Standard 3' (Mr Barraclough) and then 'Standard 4' (Mr Allott). These two teachers were very good, and Mr Allott in particular seemed to take an interest in me, for which I am eternally grateful.

The Head Teacher was Miss Foster, who was rather severe and also prone to asthma attacks, so the sight of her standing in front of the Morning Assembly shouting and wheezing was quite scary for a new pupil. The teaching was very traditional – we did Geography and History and learned the times tables by rote; again, I'm very grateful for this, as now the numbers just pop into my head without having to think about it.

We sat at very old-fashioned iron-framed wooden desks, and were arranged not alphabetically, but in the order of how well we did in the end-of-term tests. This means that, as you stand at the back of the class facing the front, the top-of-the-class was at the back at the far right, and everyone else was in descending order from right to left and going towards the front. Whilst this nowadays would seem very elitist, it had a couple of advantages – the more disruptive and less bright kids were nearer the front where the teacher could keep an eye on them, and they didn't disturb the brighter kids at the back; it seemed to me to work back in those days, but I don't know what the kids at the front felt about it.

There were a couple of experiments we did with either Mr Barraclough or Mr Allott that stick in my mind. In one of them, the speed of sound experiment, a volunteer was sent with the school bell to a distant part of the playground whilst the rest of us huddled together as far away as possible. At the signal, the volunteer rang the bell once, and we noted the time lag between seeing him or her ringing and us hearing the clang; this was repeated several times until we had all got it. The second experiment, performed in the playground by Mr Allott, involved heating up a small amount of water in an oil drum over a gas ring. The drum, from memory, was about 2ft high and 1ft in diameter. The water was heated until a goodly amount of steam had escaped from the top, thus expelling most of the air. The cap was then placed tightly on the drum, and we all stood back in expectation and wonder. Slowly, as it cooled, the drum collapsed in on itself until it was badly deformed – a dramatic demonstration of the force of atmospheric pressure. I'll bet kids don't do that these days.



*Horton Bank Top Juniors, 1958 – 59 or 1959 – 60.
I am 4th from the right, middle row. © Alan Duckworth.*

In those days, in the final year of junior school, everyone was required to take the 11-Plus exam, which I did, and passed. This was 1960. However, encouraged and helped both by my parents and Mr Allott, I also took the entrance exam for Bradford Grammar School; the outcome

was that I won a Scholarship. The 11-Plus exam was very controversial, and was eventually abolished in all but a few areas of the country, but it seemed to me at the time that everyone just accepted it; the argument was that it branded some kids as failures at the age of eleven. Most of the kids at Horton Bank Top went to either Grange Grammar School or (the local) either Cross Lane or Buttershaw Secondary Modern.

And so, at the age of eleven, I went to Bradford Grammar School. This also coincided with us moving out to near Saltaire, so the travelling to school was rather easier, and no more being thrown onto moving buses. This new school was a bit of a shock - the education was a good deal more rigorous, with new subjects like Latin, French, Physics and Chemistry to absorb; even the Maths and English were more challenging than I was used to (I rather think we did Physics in the first year, but not Chemistry).

Here are a few of the things at BGS which were new to me – it often seemed that there was an element of Billy Bunter about it:

The boys were all addressed by their surnames, even by each other, until they became friends.

The masters wore gowns and were to be addressed as ‘Sir’; on formal occasions they wore their university and degree colours.

On entering the building, outdoor shoes had to be changed for pumps or other soft shoes; there were cloakrooms near each of the entrances for this. The reason for this was that the school had been used by the military during the war and the parquet floors had all needed replacing; they were very nice, polished floors. Any boy caught in the building in outdoor shoes was liable to detention.

The uniform was a brown blazer with grey flannels and a grey or white shirt; in the 6th form, a sports jacket could be worn instead of the blazer. The tie was brown with a coloured stripe denoting the House – mine (Fairfax) was red.

We had to go to school on Saturday mornings, but Tuesday and Thursday afternoons were nominally free, although they were generally used for extra-curricular activities such as sports, Cadets’ meetings, detentions or homework.

I wasn’t very interested in the sports, but I joined the Cadets (CCF), and had a great time. It has been described as “Boy Scouts with Rifles”, but there was a lot more to it than that. We were an Artillery Section, part of 249 Battery, Royal Artillery, which was based at Belle Vue Barracks on Manningham Lane. A couple of times a year, mostly in winter, we went up to North Yorkshire or the Tyne Valley to fire the 25-pounder field guns, an amazing experience for a teenager.

This brings us to 1967, when I left school and entered the world of work, but that’s another story. Overall, I received a good education and my schooldays in Bradford were very happy, so no regrets at all.

(4460)

A Roving Commission

Sue Carson

A Roving Commission

My lovely County let me lie
Within you when I come to die;
Not far from where that Outlaw sleeps,
And Calder underneath him keeps
Perpetual splashing at the Weir,
The Willow Warbler tarries here;
You would not think – the smoke trails round,
The trees could spare so pure a sound:
Yet there he stays and slips his song,
And the Robin sings when he is gone.
But forth will I and wander far
Beyond these vales where smoke fiends are,
God granting some day kinder folk
Will plant the trees that one would cloak
Gems among valleys, hillsides rare –
The very bluebells prove they were.

Oh far flung County – let me range
Your warm unbounded Moorland strange,
Those dimpled moorlands by the Sea,
The Heather and the Bilberry:
The Ridings lovely are all three
But the Northern one says most to me:
Oh Moorland Esk, in your brown song,
Bear thou my broken name along,
To where the Salmon Road runs free,
The pearled and silver Northern Sea:
A, let me like the Bagman fare
With packed up thoughts and time to spare,
And find the souls that once I knew
About that heavenly landscape too.

Marguerite Holroyd

(4127)



SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY 17th MAY 2025

BRADFORD HISTORICAL & ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY DAY SCHOOL

The theme of the day will be Bradford's Firsts. There will be speakers, stalls, a children's prize giving and a buffet lunch.

The event will be held at the Bradford Club, Piece Hall Yard, Bradford

Further details, costs and how to book will be available in our March 2025 edition of the Bod-Kin.



More facts about winters in Bradford

Liz Wright

I'm sure that Bradford residents have their own memories of bad winters but here are a few facts about some of the worst ones of the 20th century.

- 1946-47 Basic utilities were hard pressed – gas pressure was down, phone lines collapsed, and electricity was intermittent. Factories shut down. Residents had to dig themselves out through huge snowdrifts. By the time it came to an end in March, hundreds of people had died.
- 1962-63 The worst since 1947 with 76 days of below zero temperatures from mid-December until March. There were 15-foot snowdrifts in Oakworth and elsewhere in the surrounding areas.
- 1978-79 January was the third coldest of the century
- 2010-11 This winter saw the coldest Christmas Day since 1820
- 2012-13 More snow fell and Wilsden residents had to dig themselves out through deep snowdrifts. They were even building snowmen in City Park.

(3403)



Meeting Programme 2024/2025

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

Further details of the 2025 programme will be available in the next edition of the Bod-Kin but also on the website.

Please note the dates for the January Thursday and the April Monday meeting – we have moved them due to the New Year and Easter holidays.

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.

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
Dec	5	AM	Central Bradford Chapels and What They Have Taught Me	Derek Barker	Hybrid
Dec	16	PM	No Meeting		
2025					
Jan	9	AM	Ripleyville – an estate of model houses for the working classes in West Bowling, Bradford	Janet Senior	Hybrid
Jan	20	PM	Scandal! - Local cases before the bawdy courts 1516-1848	Anne Mealia	Zoom
Feb	6	AM	Commonwealth War Grave Commission Archives - who the CWGC commemorates, the information we record and how to research casualties	Elizabeth Smith	Hybrid
Feb	17	PM	Heroes & Ghosts - Wing Commander Harold Blackburn MC AFC. How scandal and shame affect genealogical research	Michael Hallett	Zoom
Mar	6	AM	Dad's reminiscences of Bradford in the 1920s and 1930s.	Malcolm Cowburn	Hybrid
Mar	17	PM	Domestic Sanitation with links with Bradford	Chris Herd & Linden Milner	Zoom
Apr	3	AM	The Walmsleys of Robin Hoods Bay, Father and Son - Artist & Writer, with connections to Shipley and Bradford	Jane Ellis	Hybrid
Apr	28	PM	AGM followed by Researching History from Newspapers	Denise Bates	Zoom
May	1	AM	TBD		Hybrid
May	19	PM	TBD		Zoom
Jun	5	AM	The Fulneck Moravian Settlement	Jackie Depelle	Hybrid

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. ©Bradford Family History Society



Snow on our street
© Anne Luciw



Winter in Bradford
© Anne Luciw



Bonfire night
© Anne Luciw