

Bod-Kin

Volume 15

Number 6

June 2024



W. E. Forster
(Foster Court, Bradford) © Liz Wright

**Journal of the
Bradford Family History Society**

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

LIMITED COMPANY NO: 11841112
COMPANY ADDRESS – 9A GROVE AVENUE, SHIPLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, BD18 3BG

www.bradfordfhs.org.uk

**A member of the Family History Federation and the
Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies.**

Chairman	Mrs Sue Steel	9a Grove Ave., Shipley, BD18 3BG chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk 07855773102
Secretary	Mrs Bobbie Hipshon	1 Norfolk Close, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 4QB Secretary@bradfordfhs.org.uk
Treasurer	Dr Gill Overend	22 Harbour Crescent, Wibsey, Bradford, BD6 3QG Treasurer@bradfordfhs.org.uk
Membership & Members Interests Secretary	Mrs. Andrea Brown	20 Canberra Drive, Cross Roads, Keighley, BD22 9DG membsec@bradfordfhs.org.uk
Publications Officer	Ms Sally Tetlow	Sleepy Hollow, Soaper Lane, Halifax, HX3 7PX
Information Officer	Mr Derek Dyson	07855773102
Committee Member	Mrs Anne Attfield	
Committee Member	Prof. Malcolm Cowburn	
Committee Member	Mr Bill Boldy	
Committee Member	Mr Gordon Holmes	
Committee Member	Mrs Anne Luciw	
Committee Member	Mrs Shirley Sura	
Committee Member	Mrs Pat Whitford-Bartle	
Non-Committee Member		
Link Scheme Co-ordinator	Mr Ken Kenzie	Contact by letter with SAE, 45 Victoria Road, Eccleshill, Bradford, BD10 8AQ
Bod-Kin Editors	Mrs Anne Luciw Mrs Liz Wright	5 Salisbury Road, Bradford BD12 0AA Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk

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.

© **Bradford Family History Society**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recorded or otherwise without the prior permission of the Author and Bradford Family History Society.

Any article must not be submitted for publication in another journal without the permission of the Author. The date and issue of the Bod-Kin in which the original article appeared should be included in the new publication.

N.B. Articles submitted to the Bod-Kin for publication should be original and not subject to copyright or the written permission of the author must be obtained and sent with the article on submission.

The Society does not accept responsibility for the views expressed in the articles.

Journal of the Bradford Family History Society Editors

Contact details: bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk,
or postal address: 5 Salisbury Road, Low Moor BD12 0AA

The Editors

The theme for this quarter's Bod-Kin is education. Thank you to members who submitted articles, we thoroughly enjoyed reading them.

In this issue, we have included a 'Members' Notice Board', the reintroduction of a space made available to members to ask for help, share information and similar, that was first included in the 1984 Newsletter. We hope you find it useful.

We are constantly looking for articles to include in Bod-Kin, and many of you answer our call. There may be those among you who have an interesting tale to tell but are not sure whether it is right for Bod-Kin or how to go about writing it. We would be happy to give advice or help to prepare your article for publication where needed. Get in touch at the e-mail or postal address above. We look forward to hearing from you.

The cutoff date for the next issue of Bod-Kin is 5 August 2024. Any articles we do not have room for will be held over for inclusion in a future edition.

Contents

From T'Chairman	Sue Steel	2
Sam Whittaker – Letter from New Zealand	J & M Cowburn	3
Find my Past	Sue Steel	4
Urgently Wanted	Sue Steel	5
Members' Notice Board	--	5
Treasurer's Report for 2023	Gill Overend	6
Education themed articles	--	8
Gems from the Logbook	Mary Twentyman	8
Education Connections to Bradford	Jackie Depelle	10
Education for my Aunt and Uncle ...	Sue Carson	12
My Education	Andrew Oddy	13
Random Memories of Schooldays ...	Liz Wright	19
Alberta Vickridge: Bradford's Forgotten Poet	John Parker	21
Bradford Waterloo Men	Mary Twentyman	23
Meeting Programme 2024	--	24

Front cover photograph – W.E.Forster, the Bradford MP whose landmark 1870 Education Act underpinned the move towards universal elementary education.



From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

Well, it's summer at last and I hope everyone will enjoy a hot and sunny break. We do not have meetings in July and August but will be back in September (together with another magazine).

Firstly, a huge welcome to our Committee for 2024-25. Sue Steel (Chairman); Gill Overend (Treasurer); Bobbie Hipshon (Minute Secretary); Andrea Brown (Membership Secretary); Anne Attfield; Bill Boldy; Malcolm Cowburn; Derek Dyson; Gordon Holmes; Anne Luciw (Bod-Kin Editor); Shirley Sura; Sally Tetlow (Publications Officer); and Pat Whitford-Bartle. I am especially glad our previous committee members decided to stay, and we can also welcome Malcolm to the group.

I'm sorry to announce the passing of another two of our members - Diana Brame and Bernard Cummings. Diana died 25th January 2024 and the celebration of her life was at the new Shay Lane Crematorium, Heaton on Friday 23rd February. Some of you will remember her from our meetings and over the last few years via Zoom. She was an amazing woman, a good friend and long-standing member of the Society. Our thoughts go to her family and friends, some of whom receive the Bod-Kin. Bernard sadly died only a couple of days before writing this article, therefore I will write a proper obituary for him next time. Our thoughts go to Mary, his wife, and his family.

The entrance to the Mechanics Institute is now fixed. To gain entry for our meetings, you need to press the number 2 on the door pad (for the 2nd floor where we meet), followed by the green button. This will alert us to unlock the door for you. If you want the Library, press 1 and the green button. Hope that is clear.

At the last committee meeting, we discussed our financial status and the effects of increased costs, including insurance payments, speaker costs and postage. Taken with a decrease in membership, the Society has experienced an overall loss in the year, as reflected in the accounts for 2023. The Committee asked you, the members, your views on increasing subscriptions and/or door money at the April AGM. As we received a very supportive response, we had a short committee meeting on 2nd May to discuss this further. The point was raised that, despite the overall loss last year, the Society has a healthy bank balance. However, the Society has not yet put aside any of this money in a contingency fund (similar to a reserve amount that charities tend to have) to meet any liabilities at any given time.

The outcome of our meeting was that we will discuss establishing a contingency fund at the next committee meeting and that all subscriptions and door money charges will remain the same for the time being. We need to review this in a year's time, as we should every year once the annual accounts have been drawn-up. Of course, donations are welcome at any time.

Please do contact me or any of the Committee members if you have a query, suggestion, Bod-Kin article or anything, really. (4097)

Sam Whittaker – Letter from New Zealand

John and Malcom Cowburn (5209) submitted an article for inclusion in the Bod-Kin entitled:

'... spread the news in the dyehouse I am OK': the 1931 Hawkes Bay, New Zealand earthquake from a Bradfordian's viewpoint.

It tells the story of their Uncle Sam Whittaker's early life in Bradford, his emigration to New Zealand, and his firsthand account of the 1931 earthquake in his new home. Unfortunately, the article was too long to include in the Journal without reducing its size, which would have involved removing some interesting social commentary and photographs. Instead, we have published Sam's story in full, on the BFHS website (Bradfordfhs.org.uk) in the **Members Area** (login required), **Resources, Useful Articles, People.**

If you have a problem accessing the article, contact the Editors at Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk or 5 Salisbury Road, Low Moor BD12 0AA.



Sam, Edna, Sam jnr. and Maud circa 1924-25 © J&M Cowburn



Sue Steel

Did you know that some of our records are also on Find My Past? Did you also know that every time one of these records is viewed on Find My Past, the Society gets paid a royalty (well a very small amount of money anyway)? But the small amounts add up to a nice payment each month. What did my mother say? If you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves.

Search all record sets and then search on Yorkshire Burials. If you go into that dataset and scroll down the page, you will find a section on 'Sources'. Under that you will details of datasets from our Society.

Society transcribed records for Bradford, Denholme, Eccleshill, Heaton, Shipley and Wilsden parishes. The society's volunteers created the transcripts of the burial records for the grounds of the parish church of St Peter's, now a cathedral in the historic Yorkshire diocese of Bradford, which span the years 1681 to 1837. Bradford burial index includes records from Eccleshill St Lukes and Norman Lane Wesleyan Burial Ground, spanning the years 1825 to 1994.

You will know that you are looking at one of our records as the name of the Society is on the transcription on the bottom left-hand corner.

Currently, we are working on further additions to the Find My Past collection. Derek Dyson and Anne Robinson have been working on burial records from the Heaton Baptist Highgate Cemetery CD. Hopefully in the next few months these records will also be on the subscription site and earning the Society a little more money.

If anyone would like to transcribe another CD to be placed on Find My Past, please do get in contact. It is fairly easy; you can do the work at your own pace and from the comfort of your own home.

(4097)

Urgently Wanted

Sue Steel

Speaker Finder – Shirley (after a few years of wonderful effects) would like to hand over the role of Speaker Finder to someone else. The job is to find our speakers for 2025 – 10 for the morning meetings and 9 for the Zoom evening meetings. The Committee and anyone else interested get together in September to produce a list of possible speakers. Then the Speaker Finder contacts the speakers and coordinates the programme for the following year. This is to be completed in time for inclusion in the December edition of the Bod-Kin, so by early November.

There is a lot to do between September and November, but then that is it. You will not be left on your own and will receive many suggestions and ideas of places to look. You do not have to be in Bradford or be on the Committee to do this job. But an understanding of Zoom is useful, and the use of email is essential. Many speakers can only be contacted via email.

It is good to have different Speaker Finders, since I know from when I did the role, we pick what we want to hear. By changing Speaker Finders, we hear excellent talks from someone else's perspective and interests.

If you can help with this role or need more information, please contact:

Shirley (Shirley.sura@gmail.com) or me (Chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk).

(4097)



Members' Notice Board

We are reintroducing a section where members can leave brief messages (2-3 sentences) to request help with research, share information, and other relevant material. Unless otherwise stated in the message, for further information contact the Editors (Liz and Anne) by e-mail at Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk or in writing to 5 Salisbury Road, Bradford BD12 0AA.

- BFHS has received an offer of free books on Bradford from a member living in Norfolk. They will have to be collected from his home. Contact Sue Steel for more information (chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk, 07855773102).
- The 1912 Post Office Directory of Bradford (and Directories from all over England and Wales) can be found on the University of Leicester special collections website (also on Ancestry.co.uk). Worth a look!
<https://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4>.

Treasurer's Report for 2023

Presented at the AGM April 2024

Dr Gill Overend Hon. Treasurer

I need to report a deficit of £141.87 in 2023. Once again, we welcomed new members throughout the year, but income from membership subscriptions fell. Publication sales increased slightly, mainly pdf downloads from GenFair and some each month via the Federation for hits on our data on Find My Past. Meetings income and expenditure was high in 2022 because of the 40th anniversary weekend, but we had fewer meetings in 2023 with a summer break and no evening meetings in winter. Higher interest rates helped us, and our deposit account earned £437.11.

Fewer copies of the Bod-Kin were required, but postage remains a major expense. The premiums for our insurance, arranged through the Federation, increase each year, but we have since cancelled one of the policies. We attended two fairs, at York and Huddersfield. It was good that people visited our tables, but there was very little income.

Because of falling membership income, increasing costs, and continuing losses, I am suggesting to the Committee that we review membership fees and consider a small increase in the future.

Donations made were £100 for the Mechanics Institute to update their technology, which will benefit our meetings, and £25 in memory of Maureen Logan, who was a Committee member. Audit fees are increasing from £480 to £600.

No honoraria, for 2022, were drawn in 2023. £60 outstanding for room hire in 2022 has since been paid.

Sue was successful in obtaining a grant from Bradford MDC for a heritage transcription project. We received £1,430 but only £214.99 of the expenses were paid in 2023 so £1,215.01 is shown as an accrual, more expenses to be paid in 2024. The accrual also means that there is no effect on profit or loss in 2023.

I need to thank my Committee colleagues, our transcribers, and all our members who contribute so much to the society. I am especially grateful to Sue and Andrea for their help and support while I was in hospital and then recovering. They had extra work to do at the busiest time of year. It would be helpful to have a volunteer to work with me, so that they become familiar with the Sage accounting software.

The accounts will be audited and submitted to HMRC by our accountants, Calvert Dawson.

(2220)

Bradford Family History Society Limited 2023

<u>Profit and Loss</u>	<u>Change in 2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	
Sales				
Subs - this year	4754.38	4754.38	5690.12	
Sales - Publications Resaleables	832.25	832.25	737.71	
Sales - Bookstall	16.00	16.00	38.5	
Sales - Meetings	1341.49	1341.49	3533.49	
Misc. Receipts	502.77	502.77	349.41	
	7446.89	7446.89	10349.23	
Purchases				
Publications Resaleables	93.83	93.83	18.06	
Bodkin	3117.69	3117.69	3656.82	
Meetings	1472.02	1472.02	3769.58	
Misc. Other Expenses	46.95	46.95	2742.77	
	4730.49	4730.49	7606.46	
Gross Profit/(Loss):	2716.40	2716.40	2742.8	
Overheads				
Printing & Stationery	5.90	5.90	104.46	
FFHS	626.88	626.88	554.58	
Computer expenses	490.99	490.99	454.99	
Advertising & Publicity, Fairs, Travel	368.00	368.00	584.6	
Website Expenses	540.00	540.00	504	
Donations made	125.00	125.00	30	
Legal & Prof. Fees	13.00	13.00		
Audit Fee	600.00	600.00	480	
Sundry General Expenses	88.50	88.50	104.4	
	2858.27	2858.27	2817.83	
Net Profit/(Loss):	-141.87	-141.87	-74.26	
<u>Balance Sheet</u>				
Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00	0	
Current Assets				
Stocks	-63.7	679.45	743.15	
Bank Current a/cs	-279.8	326.36	606.16	
Bank Deposit a/cs	1952.12	17257.26	15305.14	
	1608.62	18263.07	16654.5	
Current Liabilities				
Honoraria - re this year, payable next	0	600	600	
Audit Fee accrual	120	600	480	
Subs - in advance	415.48	903.19	487.71	
Meeting fees accrual	0	60	60	
Project Accrual	1215.01	1215.01		
	1750.49	3378.2	1627.71	
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	-141.87	14884.87	15026.74	
Total Assets less Current Liabilities:	-141.87	14884.87	15026.74	
Capital & Reserves				
Accumulated Fund	0	15026.74	15101	
P & L Account	-141.87	-141.87	-74.26	
	-141.87	14884.87	15026.7	

Education themed articles

We asked members to submit articles on the theme of 'Education' for this quarter's Bod-Kin, and as usual, you rose to the challenge. Below, you will find descriptions of various school day experiences and opportunities for the more mature Bradfordians.

You may be interested to know that there are resources relating to education on the BFHS website which may be helpful if you have an ancestor who worked in the sector. To check these out, go to Resources, Useful Articles, Education, where you will find two comprehensive bibliographies about education in Bradford and local schools compiled by Elvira Wilmott in 2001 and 2002; how to trace your teacher ancestors by Vivien Teasdale in 1995; Clayton Infant School (1995); and the Lilycroft School logbook (1998).



Gems from the Logbook

Mary Twentyman

I found this in *The Forster Bulletin May 1971*, a short-lived publication written by teachers and headteachers, current and retired, who were interested in the history of education in Bradford.

It lists some entries from the *Logbook of Brownroyd School*, which I think was located between Brownroyd Street and Willowfield Street, near where the Co-op Academy Princeville now stands. The Bulletin says...

It was not long before the hastily built houses that had been thrown up for the workers during the Industrial Revolution deteriorated, a process that was frequently accelerated by their inhabitants. Areas of Bradford became slums. Different areas claim to have been the "worst area of the town" but the Brownroyd area must have taken some beating as this extract from the Logbook shows:

July 1877 - I, James Winter, took charge of the Brownroyd School and was pretty well disgusted with the state of the children. I had to begin at once with the cane.

17 July 1877 - I had to severely punish some of the biggest boys and one of the biggest girls who positively refused to do as I ordered them. The school was besieged in the afternoon by a parcel of women who, all together, threatened something indefinite against me. Evidently perceiving that they had caught a Tartar they went away. Boys were throwing stones at the door and windows during the afternoon. One of them being a scholar, I doctored him. The vicar visited in the afternoon and read the children a lecture on their conduct; but evidently without much effect as some of them were throwing stones at me as I left school. I often regret having come to such a neighbourhood.

23 July 1877 - Another lot of trouble with women who wish their darlings to do as they like. I put one woman — Mrs Martin — out of the school by force and then a gang of female roughs stood round the door using diabolical language. They abused me as only the women of this neighbourhood can. Mr Llanwarne, the Headmaster of St Phillip's, came down and very kindly helped me the whole day, and the vicar and his son came down at the commencement of the afternoon. The peripatetic conservator of the public peace was perambulating for my benefit.

16 August 1877 - I was obliged to force the lock of the gate.

22 August 1877 - Sent Teresa Farrar home because she refuses to be corrected by me. She objects to learning her lessons and gets her big sister (an awful woman) to collect a mob and threaten me with felling, "same as I did to the teacher at Bingley", she says. The mob does not sympathise with her but knowing her desperate character it merely gathers to see her fell me.

20 December 1877 - I am thankful to say that today closes my connection with this place and concludes the mastership here of the ninth headteacher since the school opened in 1873.

Between 1873 and 1905, a period of 32 years, Brownroyd School broke the hearts of no less than 19 different headteachers.

(1135)

Education Connections to Bradford

Jackie Depelle

Having spent the last 23 years tutoring Family History classes for the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), retirement from this role came at Christmas 2023. Every course, generally of ten weeks duration, required a set of five outcomes which were hopefully structured to be motivational, stimulating personal research and enjoyable all at the same time. Even when courses went online, similar aims were in place with the fifth almost always to create some sort of written piece of work using the topics studied. Great for evidence of learning, of course. However, surely it shouldn't end there. Why not share with family and friends or even submit suitable sections to a Family or Local History Society journal? That was a regular nudge which one or two took on board with students' work ending up in print! Now the tables have been turned with the prompt being redirected at the author from Society friends, colleagues and student members themselves.

Though WEA Family History courses did run under the local Branch on the Society's territory, i.e. in Manningham Mills; St Peter's Church, Shipley; Bradford Industrial Museum; Libraries in Calverley and Cleckheaton; they were never of the longevity achieved elsewhere. The real successes in Bradford were the trips and visits to a wide variety of locations to learn and gather background knowledge, never mind the discoveries made. The focus of this article is therefore not on courses rather the rich and varied opportunities for education and learning within the city. Read on for a selection of where the ladies and gentlemen ventured along with some memories readily recalled even after a gap of several years.

Bradford Local Studies Library – included guidance from knowledgeable staff taking in two floors full of publications on open shelves from Trade Directories to Electoral Registers and so much more. Displays of original Poor Law documents, especially settlement and removal orders, were always fascinating. They often provide detailed information on people otherwise missing from records.

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford Office at one time on Canal Road, not the easiest building for access, though always welcoming. A particular standout record set was the correspondence books surviving for businesses in the area. They often included carbon copies of typed letters in the languages of their international trading partners.

Bowling Hall Museum – not only did this include a guided tour of this historic property, also a curated talk on costumes particularly featuring those for women bringing in workwear as employment opportunities opened up.

Bradford Museums & Galleries costume store was a real treat, top secret location, no photography, garments of all ages being carefully conserved for the future from top to toe, generally visible items as well as those of a more discrete nature. One lovely Jane Austin type dress had a pattern dyed using a mix which included iron rust!

National Science and Media Museum was the location for one of the first BBC 'Who Do You Think You Are?' Regional events, which was a resounding success. WEA groups enjoyed tutorials on dating old photographs within the "Insight" Collections and Research Centre, tours included the Daily Herald Photographic Archive of around 3.5 million photographs and glass negatives, cinema equipment and huge camera displays as well as early computers.

Sunny Bank Mills, Farsley. Rare survival of a former Club Mill's buildings, once a major employer in the town, with an archive including textile pattern and dye collections as well as sample swatches all carefully conserved. The visit included talks and tours of accessible original mill areas explaining textile processes along the way.



Sunny Bank Mills archive

Bradford Industrial Museum with the magical sights and sounds of working, often locally manufactured, machinery which some had experienced firsthand during their own employment. Certainly, members of the groups had parents and other family members who worked in similar environments. Jowett cars, trolley buses, reconstructed houses and a hot spot in the blacksmith's forge.

Well, that's a taste of what the WEA Adult Education Family History classes got up to and these just in the Bradford area, where there are more places of interest. For instance, the groups never toured Saltaire, visited Fulneck or any of the other townships. Other classes visited Archives, Libraries, Museums and Country Houses across Yorkshire and Lancashire. They were all interesting, informative, rewarding and fascinating. Maybe you have wandered out and about discovering archives and collections which helped your research. Why not share your experiences in a future edition of *The Bodkin*? Who knows you might just help another member remove a stumbling block in their research.

More information about available learning opportunities and WEA adult learning courses can be found at heritageopendays.org.uk and WEA.org.uk.

(2929)

Education for my Aunt and Uncle in the 1920s

Sue Carson

My aunt and uncle attended Miss Douthwaite's School, Cleckheaton. This photograph, taken in 1921, shows my Aunt Marguerite, aged 8, on the top row 6th from right. My Uncle Ian, aged 6, is on the 2nd row, 8th from left, wearing a big white collar.



This enlargement of the school photograph shows Uncle Ian, bottom left, more clearly.



Uncle Ian was left-handed, and, at primary school, he was forced to write with his right hand. Mum said that this caused him to have a stutter; a well-known result of trying to change the dominant hand.

Fortunately, by the time I was seen to have the same trait in the 1950s, but by then ideas had changed and children could remain left-handed. Mum told me she would have resisted any teacher who insisted that I change hands, having seen the damage done to her brother.

(4127)

My Education

By Hilda Florence Oddy (née Dalby) (1904-2004)

Submitted by Hilda's son,
Andrew Oddy

Introduction

My mother, Hilda Florence Dalby, was born in Bradford in 1904 and died in Baildon in 2004. Her family moved from Bradford to Low Baildon around 1920 and she was married to my father at the parish church and lived in Baildon until her death. Her school education was entirely in Bradford.

When my mother was widowed in 1985, we suggested she should pen some reminiscences and she did this under themes rather than chronologically. One theme was her education. Since her death I have added a few footnotes and photographs from her albums.

1908-1914 The Board School

Today a space shuttle exploded a minute after its launch at Cape Kennedy - it cost one billion dollars! To what ends has the colossal technical revolution of the late 20th century brought us. Last evening I attended a lecture entitled 'From Slates to Computers' by a former headmaster of Sandal School. It revived memories of my own school life. I was one of the few members of the audience who could put up their hands as having used a slate and slate pencil!

My mother and her sisters had to take sixpence every Monday morning to pay for their schooling until this payment was finally abolished.

Education was free for all children at board schools by 1900, so my education did not cost my parents any money as such. Poor children could apply for free meals for which they went to another school equipped with kitchens. Other children could pay threepence or sixpence and go for these meals. Consumed with curiosity, I went for one meal. It was horrible. My mother was a good cook. I did not envy the poorer children after that.

Sometime in 1908 (by then I had a baby brother) my father wheeled me to Wellington Road Infants' School at Undercliffe, sitting on the saddle of his bicycle. I was taken to sit in a large class of infants, arranged in sloping tiers and was given beads to thread. I also remember plaiting coloured strips of paper (elementary weaving) and being told to draw a rabbit hutch, which frightened me, as I had no notion of what it was. Little else remains in my memory, except that



Hilda aged about 10

I made my own way to and from 12 Sherwood Place, was happy and was eventually promoted across the play-ground to Standard 1 in the Junior School, and it was there I used a slate and a slate pencil which squeaked. It slipped into a slot in the back of the desk - I drew witch's faces on it wearing tall hats and my great longing was to be chosen to go round the class with a mop and small bucket of water to dab each scholar's slate and they all dutifully cleaned and dried their slates with a slate rag - we all kept one in our pockets. I never remember doing figures or writing on my slate, but I do remember making scores of pothooks, a preliminary for writing copperplate letters, on sugar paper.

I learnt a great many poems, which I dutifully recited at birthday and Christmas parties. When I was in Standard 4 the headmaster (Mr Thomas Whitehead - a kindly man) took me round the different classes to recite *The Curfew Bell* which I had learnt from my father's old poetry book *Thousand Best Poems* - I still possess it and recited this poem last year, among others, at the Haven meeting across at Wrose.

For some reason, I skipped Standard 2, and recall so vividly my first lesson in Standard 3; arithmetic - addition of pence, halfpence and farthings. I was very distressed because I was in a complete fog.

Mr Whitehead was a keen naturalist, and I imagine we were pioneers in being taken out on nature rambles in the surrounding countryside. To this day, I can relive the thrill of being let loose in a bluebell wood at Calverley - we must have walked there (2 miles) - no transport for short legs. At morning assemblies, we lustily sang hymns, put up each morning in front of the whole school with a long pole - the same, which was used to open and close windows. After the hymns, we intoned the names of the books of the Bible and the names of the kings and queens of England. I can still intone these, and this knowledge has stood me in good stead, as much as the daily repetition of the multiplication tables. I dreaded needlework lessons - straining our eyes over 'specimens', fixing fine gathers into a band, doing neat buttonholes, and fastening them into a brown shiny specimen book. Mine was not commendable, but I did win the Scripture prize in two consecutive years given by the Bradford Education Committee as a result of an essay.

There were two classes in the hall, divided by a navy-blue curtain which had holes in it, and we pushed things under the bottom to the children in the next class. What a life for the teachers! I was finally promoted to standards 6, 7 and Ex7 - all in one room, and I vaguely remember there being 'half-timers' in that class - children who spent half days at the mill and half days at school. It must have been about 1913, and I think that was the year when Mr Forster was instrumental in getting a bill through parliament to put an end to 'half-timers'. These children were employed as 'doffers' at the mill - taking off the full spools of yarn and replacing them with empty ones. Yorkshire people still speak of 'doffing your hat'.

It was the teacher of that class, Miss Roberts, who slapped me soundly for reading under the desk during her lesson. I think I read all the books in the tatty lending library at the school, and I suppose that helped me to pass one of the few coveted scholarships to Hanson Secondary School at the age of 10 years. My father took me to Hutton School at Eccleshill one Saturday morning to sit for the scholarship - quite an ordeal for a small girl in those unfamiliar surroundings.

At this period of my life, I recollect dark winter evenings when the lamplighter came round, propped up his ladder and lit the streetlamp. Also, I can hear the voice of the vendor of grey peas, who sold this appetising 'mush' by the gill, as well as the one who sold his cockles and mussels. A German band came round occasionally, and we had a jolly German pork butcher's shop at the end of Sherwood Place, but he disappeared when war came - interned with his jolly buxom wife. I was very fond of their German niece, Freda, who came over from Germany and spent her holidays here.

In 1912 came the dread news of the Titanic disaster. We felt we were involved because a Mr Goldsborough from Undercliffe was drowned in her. It happened on my Aunt Hannah's birthday, I think, April 13th.

We had a washerwoman (Mrs Brown) who was paid two and sixpence for washing in our cellar all morning and afternoon. There was a set-pot for boiling the clothes, a big wooden mangle, and a fireplace, a piggy stick and zinc rubbing board and stone sink. The house was lit by gas - incandescent mantles.

1914 – 1922 Hanson Girls' Secondary School

War with Germany was declared on August 4, 1914. I was passing the chapel at Low Hill with my cousins Mary and Edna and my brother and sister when I heard my mother and her sister talking about the declaration on a day's outing to Baildon from Undercliffe for the good of our health. Since re-reading Vera Brittain's *Testament of Youth*, I marvel that the Great War made so little impact on me.

My mind was fixed on my impending entry to Hanson Girls Secondary School and the breath-taking changes it meant to me - a school uniform, a schoolbag, a hockey stick, homework, beautiful exercise books with multi-coloured backs, and illustrated textbooks, and learning French. I walked 1½ miles to school up and downhill and stayed to school dinners two or three times a week. I did this for almost 6 years until we removed down the hill to a house on Tennyson Place where we had a telephone, a proper bathroom, and indoor lavatory. By this time, my father was Mr Petty's yarn buyer and salesman; he went on to the Bradford Wool Exchange, and quite often went abroad, travelling to Switzerland, Scandinavia and Germany (before 1914).



Hilda at secondary school

My father was too old to be called up in the 1914 war but joined the volunteers - a kind of Home Guard. He never could put on his puttees properly, and after exercises and route marches on Sunday mornings, he invariably arrived home with his puttees trailing behind him. He 'dug for victory' by cultivating an allotment for which he had a real flair and was able to supply us with vegetables all during the war - invaluable during those days of severe rationing after we children had been sent to stand in long queues for a quarter of a pound of margarine. He also kept hens, so we were never short of eggs. We often exchanged these for sugar, as we ourselves did in the Second World War.

I never found the lessons at Hanson tedious, and a good memory helped me to stay at or near the top of the form. I did not like maths or grammar, which I never understood until I changed from German to Latin when the head discovered that those of us who were hoping to go to college or university would require Latin for an arts degree.

The landmarks of my years in the lower forms were speech days, the Shakespeare tercentenary, hockey matches and sports days. I was blessed with a clear carrying voice (no doubt weighted with a Yorkshire accent) and some flair for acting and so was chosen to take various parts in Shakespeare's plays, the ones I remember best being that of Cardinal Wolsey and Shylock. I loved history and geography lessons and was distressed as only the young can be when the geography mistress died suddenly in 1921, and the upper forms attended the funeral service in St Clements Church opposite the school.

France

1921 was a never-to-be-forgotten year in my life. I was 17 years of age and had passed my matriculation examination the previous year having gained three distinctions and four credits, and with a great sigh of relief I had left the science and maths subjects behind, and was studying English, History and French, with Latin subsidiary, for higher certificate.

In 1921, my uncle Arthur Brown, a City of Bradford councillor who sat on the education committee, was the prime mover in promoting, for the first time, an exchange of English and French schoolchildren - to spend the holiday in each other's homes. My mother was enthusiastic (her brother, Uncle Arthur, passed on his zeal) and my name, along with four other girls' names, was entered for the exchange. One by one the other girls withdrew (cold feet) and eventually I was the only girl in the party to set off



*Labergement-les-Seurre – Villa des Rosiers
Photograph by Dale Karrer*

from Bradford Exchange Station with 17 boys. Councillor Parker's two teacher daughters accompanied the party to Paris to act as my chaperones. Before I set off, my mother told me the 'facts of life':

- never to speak to a strange man, and
- never sit on a lavatory seat.

That was all - I was very much 'an innocent abroad'. My future, Madame (Mme) Henri, hostess and her daughters met me at the station in Paris and I was handed over to her for the next 10 weeks - I had been given permission to leave school before the end of term and did not return until the new term had started. I still regard those 10 weeks as the most formative of my life, and with the most far-reaching consequences, although I did not realise it at the time.



*Villa des Rosiers at Labergement-les-Seurre
where Hilda spent the summer of 1921*

Mme Henri took me to the family's flat in Paris. (On a subsequent visit in 1960 I tried to locate it on Boulevard Victor no.42 but was unsuccessful). It was the beginning of that long hot summer, and very conscientiously the Henri family took me out each day to see the sights. The strange language (not at all like school French), the strangely flavoured foods, the whirl of sightseeing - the wonder of Notre Dame and Les Invalides, the Champs Élysées and the Arc De Triomphe - I was bewildered and exhausted - my underwear consisted of woollen combinations and black stockings under a smart navy suit - no wonder I almost expired. During that week, the son and daughter left for England on the exchange, and I proceeded with Mme to spend the rest of the holiday at her mother, Mme Jean's farm at Labergement, a village south of Dijon on the banks of the Saône. They grew grapes and peaches, and Mme Jean was more than kind to me. It was truly a wonderland to the city girl from Yorkshire. I only remember seeing Monsieur Henri once - he had some high-ranking position in the army which kept

him away from home. I have wondered since if there was another reason for his absence!

I was taken on very prim and proper visits to afternoon teas with ladies who were quite *élite*, and on one occasion, an old lady, Mme de St Jacques, the local *Seigneuresse* (similar to the wife of a Lord in the UK), asked if I would spend the winter with her and my chief duty would have been to read Dickens in English, and to teach her how to pronounce English. I have often wondered what would have been my career if I had accepted the invitation. I often wonder how I filled my time during those weeks - the weather was superb, and once the 'Vendange' (grape harvest) commenced I went out into the vineyard and helped to gather the grapes, and filled the baskets of elderly women, dressed entirely in black with black straw hats, who were paid by the basket. I loved the French food and thrived on it. I learnt how to dance the 'chimie' (the beginning of jazz), and how to apply powder on my nose, and how to speak colloquial French. Fortunately, the only members of the family who spoke English were in England, so I either had to speak French or keep silent. Incidentally, the son, Pierre, who stayed with my parents, was a terrible trial to my mother. He almost strangled my brother, found a hose pipe which he turned on in the house, and finally scalded his foot when fooling at the local baths.

I must not forget to mention that there was no Protestant church in that area, so having obtained my parents' permission, I attended the Roman Catholic Church with the family. I became very friendly with *Monsieur le Curé* (the priest), who was very patient with me and spent much time showing me his epidiascope (a type of projector) and religious pictures. The church was dedicated to St Joan and had a beautiful statue of the Saint in blue with gold *fleur de lys*. I can certainly date my liking for church ritual from that time - at 17 one is very impressionable, and I could quite easily have been converted.

The holiday came to an end suddenly. A boy scholar, William Pickles, who was staying at Châlons was travelling home in advance of the main party and for some reason it was decided that I should join him at Dijon and together the two of us travelled back to England. William Pickles' father became Lord Mayor and was a 'red-hot Labour' man. I had to leave return tickets for Pierre and Simone Henri in the Paris flat and continue the journey by boat train from Paris to London and thence to Bradford. It was quite an achievement, and not without risks, but the school term had started, and we both wanted to get back for the higher certificate year, and examinations. Also, I think my mother and aunt were glad to pack the French children off home.

And so, the following July I sat my 'higher', receiving 'good' in my three main subjects, but failed in Latin subsidiary. I never did like the Latin mistress, nor did she care for me! Along with three other girls in the sixth form, I applied and was accepted as a King's Scholar at Manchester University.

(3301)

Random Memories of Schooldays in Bradford

Liz Wright

I was lucky enough to win a West Riding scholarship to Bradford Girls' Grammar School (at the time a Direct Grant grammar school) after sitting the 11 plus (remember that?) and in the late 1950s began 7 years of secondary education at the all-girls school. This was not unusual since the majority of Bradford's grammar schools were single sex, presumably the powers-that-be wanted us to concentrate on our academic studies rather than being distracted by the opposite sex.

The school was founded in 1875 and moved to its present site on Squire Lane near the Royal Infirmary in 1936, having previously been on Hallfield Road, Manningham. Given that I didn't live in Bradford, I had to catch two buses at the tender age of 10 – even if my parents had had a car, there was no way that I would have been driven there.

The curriculum was typical of the era, i.e. very traditional and included Maths, English, History, Geography, Latin, French and German, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Music, Art, Gymnastics and Games, (netball, hockey, tennis, and athletics). Domestic Science also figured when we learnt not only how to cook, but how to sew and iron, presumably equipping us to be some man's wife!

I was good at languages, particularly French, and have happy memories of the Yorkshire-Lille Exchange, although the first one was perhaps not as happy as all that. I remember two 13-year-olds standing in Forster Square Station, crying bitterly, one (my French penfriend) because she didn't want to return home after 3 weeks in Yorkshire and the other, me, because I didn't want to go to France! Fortunately, I persevered, and made a lifelong friend of my penfriend with whom I am still in touch.

We couldn't have swimming lessons on site since the school didn't have a pool. However, we went to the Boys' Grammar School to use their pool on a Wednesday afternoon when the boys didn't have lessons. They were determined to keep us apart. Even the Wednesday afternoon trips came to an end when the school got its own pool just after we left; ironic, given that we'd spent most of our years there, fundraising for it.

The staff were for the most part female and unmarried, which, as you might imagine, made for some interesting lessons in biology, on what one might euphemistically call 'personal relations' – rabbits figured largely.

When I arrived at the school, I was hugely impressed by the library, an enormous (to my eyes), light, room where all the solid oak shelves and furniture

had been made by Robert Thompson, aka the 'Mouseman' and we had great fun trying to find the carvings of the mice which adorned all his pieces of furniture.



An example of Robert Thompson's 'mouse'. © Liz Wright

There was a strict uniform code, with items only available for purchase from approved outfitters, in this case, Brown Muff's and Busby's. However, there were patterns for the uniform and my wonderful mother made most of mine, even down to the gabardine raincoat with the royal blue hood. Berets were compulsory and the lengths we went to, especially in the sixth form, to disguise them were manifold; a friend pinned her tightly folded beret to her head and then



backcombed all her hair over it, so the beret was invisible, but she was still wearing it!

We were encouraged to stay on at school until 18 and to continue beyond that, with university being the goal for most of the girls. I think that was one of the advantages of having a single sex school – there were fewer distractions and more opportunities and encouragement to continue to Higher Education. Certainly, I was the first of my family to go to university, which may not have been the case if I'd been at a mixed school.

Although there were undoubtedly some lows, on the whole my time at BGGs was enjoyable and I made some very good friendships, which endure to this day.

You're never too old to learn

© Liz Wright

(3403)

Alberta Vickridge: Bradford's Forgotten Poet

A brief summary of her life

John Parker.

I was looking through the internet for people born and bred in Bradford when I came across the Alberta Vickridge website (<https://alberta-vickridge.info/>) detailing this poet and printer's life and work. With permission from Colin Neville, editor of the Alberta Vickridge website, photographs and text from the website are reproduced below.

Alberta Vickridge was born in Bradford on 6th February 1890, the daughter of Albert Vickridge and Edith [*née Wardlow*]. Albert Vickridge was the son of a Methodist Minister and had gone into the wool trade, joining his Uncle Isaac Lancaster's firm in Bradford. He married Edith in 1888 and it is said that Albert had a pistol in his pocket because of threats from a rival suitor. They lived at Beamsley House, Frizinghall, from 1895.



Albert and Edith Vickridge, with Maria (left), Alberta (middle) and Hilda (right), C.1895

Alberta, the oldest of three daughters, was imaginative and was always inventing games for the others. In 1902, at the age of twelve, Alberta joined Bradford Girls' Grammar School, where she stayed until she was 18. She had written poetry for some years before starting at the Grammar School, but her education there shaped her already evident talent for writing.

In 1905, for her 14th birthday, Alberta's father paid for the private printing of a book of her work, titled *The Luck of the Youngest & Other Pieces*.

At school, Alberta shone in English, history, and biology and displayed some talent in art and amateur dramatics. She played the lead in 'Peer Gynt' in the 6th Form leavers' party in 1909.

Alberta began to write poetry and articles for both national and regional magazines and newspapers. She also began to review books for *The Yorkshire Observer* and had poems published in a range of literary journals.

When WWI started in 1914, Alberta was in her mid-20s. She had been a regular contributor to *The Wayfarer*, a well-regarded literary magazine. When the

editor of the magazine was called up in 1916, Alberta took over as editor. She continued in the post until 1927 and was able to broaden her acquaintance with the literary establishment and acquire more presence and influence within it.

Alberta joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), and in 1918, she entered a poetry competition for men and women on war service. Her poem, 'Out of the Conflict' won the competition. The consolation prize went to Wilfred Owen for his 'Song of Songs'. Alberta went on to become a famous poet in her own right and won further competitions. Yet she is scarcely remembered today, one of countless female war poets who are seriously neglected. Below is an example of her poetry.



Alberta in 1917



Alberta c.1919/20

THE WEDDING DRESS

You shed the tissue wrappings, veil on veil;
At last the box revealed its hidden boon,
And like a princess in an old wives' tale
You saw a dress the colour of the moon!
A slender ring would gird in its embrace
So silvery, so cobweb-fine a mesh;
For joy you pressed its folds against your face,
And felt their touch upon the glowing flesh.
And in your vision dwelt the old supreme
Romance, the happy terror, the surmise.
"For, vested like the moon", so went your dream,
" I too shall stoop to kiss my shepherd's eyes...
And I was smitten with a sudden sorrow
To think your dreaming-days must end tomorrow.

(4313)

Bradford Waterloo Men

Mary Twentyman

I have recently been in touch with a researcher who has given me details of men who were at the Battle of Waterloo on the 18 June 1815 and who have connections with Bradford.

The list below gives their names. Does anyone out there have an ancestor with one of these names? Were they of an age to have been in the army in 1815? If so, please email mary@twentyman.org.uk and I can let you see what the database has on them.

Samuel	Ackroyd	Jonas	Gawthorpe	Jesse	Roundslow
John	Ambler	Joseph	Gouldsbury	Thomas	Rushworth
George	Armitage	Thomas	Greenwood	William	Rushworth
Daniel	Baldwin	Joseph	Holdsworth	James	Schofield
Jeremiah	Barker	William	Holliday	Thomas	Sheppard
Thomas	Barwick	John	Holroyde	William	Smith
John	Bastow x 2	William	Hudson	Richard	Spencer
James	Binns	Benjamin	Jennings	Barnaby	Stephens
William	Booth	John	Jennings	James	Sutcliffe
John	Broughton	Thomas	Killingbeck	John	Sutcliffe
Joseph	Brown	Samuel	Marsden	George	Tatley
John	Clayton	Joseph	Marshall	Thomas	Taylor
James	Cluff	William	Mills	Squire	Tempest
Jonas	Cluff	William	Myres	Richard	Thompson
James	Dawson	Isaac	Nailor	Elijah	Walker
William	Dodson	Abraham	Oddie	John	Whitaker
Francis	Drake	George	Priestley	Jonathan	Whitaker
William	Foster	Benjamin	Ratcliffe	Thomas	Whitaker
Thomas	Frith	James	Robertshaw	Charles	Whittaker

Some of these men had served in the Militia before joining the army, often in Ireland or another part of the country. Some of them left the army after losing an arm or leg. There are physical descriptions of many of them. Some died and were buried a long way from Bradford. So, if you have a brick wall with a missing relation, do check the list.

(1135)

Meeting Programme 2024

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
May	20	PM	Making the Most of a Will - this talk considers the deceased, the testators, the bequests, other documents and records and how combining information from more than one will produce surprising results	John Titterton	Zoom only
Jun	6	AM	Drop-in-session at Bradford Local Studies Library		Face to face only
Jun	17	PM	House History – who lived in the house at Saltaire?	Sue Steel	Zoom only
Jul	4	AM	No meeting		
Jul	15	PM	No meeting		
Aug	1	AM	No meeting		
Aug	19	PM	No meeting		
Sep	5	AM	Lion Stores to Hillard's – from a Cleckheaton corner store to a northern supermarket chain.	Caz Goodwill	Hybrid
Sep	16	PM	Researching Yorkshire Ancestry	Jackie Depelle	Zoom only
Oct	3	AM	Life and Death on Yorkshire's Waterways	David Scrimgeour	Hybrid
Oct	21	PM	Open meeting	Sue Steel	Zoom Only
Nov	7	AM	They Came From Far and Near - true Bradford family history reflecting the growth and wealth of the city in the late 19th century. Including overcoming brick walls along the way	John Kennedy	Hybrid
Nov	18	PM	Old Poor Law Records at the Borthwick Institute	Laura Yeoman	Zoom only
Dec	5	AM	Central Bradford Chapels and What They Have Taught Me	Derek Barker	Hybrid
Dec	16	PM	No meeting		

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



*The school classroom
Image by Ruby and Peter Skitterians from Pixabay*



A Bradford school and playground © Lilly Shaw



*Sunny Bank Mills Cloth samples © Jackie Depelle
See page 17*