

# Bod-Kin

Volume 15

Number 7

September 2024



**Prospect Foundry kitchen range**

© Paul Dixon

**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](http://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](mailto:bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk),  
or postal address: 5 Salisbury Road, Low Moor BD12 0AA

## The Editors

This year Bod-Kin readers have been very busy producing a wide range of interesting, entertaining and thought-provoking articles. So much so that this issue is made up largely of items of four to six pages that were submitted early in the year but have been held over until now due to lack of space.

We endeavour to publish all articles submitted, but to ensure variety in each edition of the Bod-Kin, individual articles are limited to six pages. However, longer articles can be serialised over two or more editions. Any submissions we do not have room for in the next edition of the Journal are held over to include in the future and/or on the BFHS website.

We have a bumper edition of Bod-Kin in December. To inspire you to get writing, the theme, not surprisingly, is *Winter*. Do you have memories or family stories linked to the winter months that you would like to share? We are sure you will meet the challenge and look forward to receiving your contributions. The cutoff date for the next issue of Bod-Kin is 5 November 2024.

If you have any comments about Bod-Kin content or suggestions for future themes, we would love to hear from you.

## Contents

From T'Chairman	Sue Steel	2
Members' Notice Board	--	3
Marchant the Millwright	Paul Dixon	3
Transcribing ... (part two)	David Allen	8
A Yorkshire Lad Made Good in Norfolk	Rob Varley	13
The Hardcastles	Jeff Cousins	17
The Sandhills Murder	Marilyn Maybury	23
Meeting Programme 2024	--	24

**Front cover photograph** - An example of a "Prospect Foundry" kitchen range. In the cellar of Great Horton Police Station (decommissioned in 1914), Saint Street, Bradford. See page 3.



## From T'Chairman

Sue Steel

Welcome back after the summer break. I hope everyone enjoyed the weather, holidays or grandparent duties (me).

As you'd expect things were quiet over the last three months and I for one found time to continue my Patchett research – boatmen on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. Once completed, I intend to do a small article for the Bod-Kin and a blog for the Yorkshire Waterways Heritage Society - <https://ywhs.org.uk/>. David Scrimgeour, from the Society, is our speaker on 3<sup>rd</sup> October with 'Life & Death on Yorkshire Waterways'.

Writing of which, if anyone would like to help with finding our speakers for 2025, now is the time to let me know. Speakers are contacted during September and October, so that we can have a programme ready for the December edition of the Bod-Kin. We also want to know of any subjects you would like to know more of or speakers you've come across that are really interesting.

At the start of summer, our lovely group of transcribers completed checking the next edition of our CDs to be published on Find My Past. This one is Heaton Baptist burial ground memorials. We are just waiting for Find My Past to load the data onto their website. Once there, if anyone looks at one of our entries, the Society receives a small royalty. It may be pennies, but it adds up. Any suggestions for the next CD we transcribe ready for Find My Past?

Don't forget that there are many other Society's magazines and minutes from our committee meetings available on our website in the Members Area. Just sign in using your membership number and password.

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

(4097)

## **Members' Notice Board**

In this section, members can leave brief messages (2-3 sentences) to request help with research, share information, ask questions, etc.

- I read the article about the history of Bod-Kin in the March edition with interest, but wondered why the boar's head is linked to Bradford.

*To respond or request further information, contact the Editors (Liz and Anne) by e-mail at [Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk](mailto:Bodkin@bradfordfhs.org.uk) or in writing to 5 Salisbury Road, Bradford BD12 0AA.*



## **Marchant the Millwright**

**Paul Dixon**

An article which featured in the December 2023 edition of “The Bod-Kin” magazine alongside images of an old cannon prompted me to revisit my “Marchant” ancestry.” Whilst I cannot claim any association with John Sturges & Co the manufacturers of the cannon, nor indeed the man himself, my 4x great grandfather James Marchant was a partner, along with John Cole, in the creation of Bowling Iron Works Company. Having acquired the business in 1848 from a group of businessmen, including the aforementioned John Sturges, an ironmaster, Richard Paley a Leeds iron merchant, John Sturges (Jnr) William Sturges and John Ewell.

The Bowling Iron Works was an iron working complex established in 1787 in the district of East Bowling in Bradford, Yorkshire, and was selling large quantities of guns, shot and shells to the British government before 1790. The business was initially formed with capital of £3,500 and traded as “John Sturges & Company”. Following the formation of the new company, James and his staff began producing steam engines, metal working machinery and other metal products.

The surname “Marchant” is of French and English origin and derives from the old French term “Marcheant” which means merchant. Thus, it was likely used as an occupational name for someone who was a merchant or trader. Variations of the name are numerous.

Having traced my “Marchant” ancestors back to 1740, they appear to have their origins in Leeds with a common denominator being the trade or calling of a “millwright”. At one stage, a partnership existed in Leeds between James

Marchant (Jnr) and Joseph Lees, engineers and millwrights trading as “Lees & Marchant”.

A millwright is a craftsman or skilled tradesman who installs, dismantles, maintains and repairs, reassembles and moves machinery in factories, power plants and construction sites. As the name suggests, the original function of a millwright was the construction of flour mills, sawmills, paper mills and fulling mills powered by water or wind, made mostly of wood, with a number of metal parts. Since the use of these structures originates in antiquity, millwrighting could arguably be considered one of the oldest engineering trades and the forerunner of modern mechanical engineering. A necessary pre-requisite of a trained millwright was a working knowledge of driveshafts, bearings, gearing and mechanical belts, applying this knowledge to the design, construction and erection of mill machines. I think it fair to say that James was multi-skilled, describing himself in census returns and other documents as millwright, engineer, ironfounder and, in later life, a valuer.

James Marchant was born on 16 September 1794 in the Holbeck area of Leeds. Baptised at Leeds Parish Church on 26 October 1794, he married Hannah Whitaker at the same church on 20 May 1817. They had five children, James (Jnr) being the second eldest, with three brothers and one sister.

Whilst little is known of James (Snr)’s early life, it seems likely that his formative years were spent in Leeds assisting his father in an engineering environment. Following his second marriage to Elizabeth Kirk in 1838 James moved to Bradford where he established roots living in Pit Lane, Barkerend followed by “Ivy House”, Bowling Back Lane and Sodom Lane, Laisterdyke.

An examination of the tithe maps for the Township of Bowling reveals several references to James’s ownership, with others, of parcels of land, cottages, barns and other buildings in the Swaine Green area and also Bowling Back Lane. His business acumen manifested itself in the acquisition of those properties outlined above. Moreover, between 1854 and 1856, he bought Spa Mill, Springfield Mill and The Dyehouse at Ossett, where clearly, he had a huge property portfolio. Some of these properties he sold at auction in September 1858. With his ownership of these mills and the Dye House, what is less clear is “What were his intentions?” He may have intended to run the mills as going concerns, alternatively, he may have been a speculator with an eye on a quick profit.

In any event, on 8 December 1860, James sold a large area of land at Ossett Spa, Spring End Mill, Spa Mill and the Dye House to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company. However, it seems that despite a relatively prosperous period for some of Ossett’s mills and manufacturers in the 1860s, the cotton manufacturing venture at Ossett Spa was to fail.

James was an important player in the history of Ossett Spa and he clearly worked hard to acquire the mills and the land there over a five-year period prior to 1860. His motive for this massive investment in Ossett is not clear.

An indication of James's increasing wealth can be found in a newspaper article of the time which reported a burglary at his then property in Wakefield Road when thieves forced an entry one Sunday evening when the family were at chapel, stealing a large quantity of gold and silver watches, gold and silver chains, cash in gold and silver and other articles of value. The Census return for the time, shows James and his family. Properties on either side were occupied by John Cole (Iron Foundry Estate Agent) and William Wright (Manager of Blast Furnace).



*Extract from map showing Ossett Spa properties.*

This is where the history becomes somewhat blurred. On a date which I have been unable to ascertain, Prospect Mill at Bradford was purchased from the Bowling Iron Works by the Cole, Marchant and Morley partnership, who obtained additional land for "Prospect Foundry". Prospect Foundry established a flourishing business in Domestic Ironware: its black kitchen ranges were installed in many Bradford houses of the Victorian period. The company also developed an engineering business, its steam engines powered many Bradford mills and could still be found working during the 1960s.



*Street map showing boundary of Prospect Foundry.*

John Cole (Snr), a partner in Cole Marchant and Morley, had been a cashier with Bowling Iron Works Company for many years and was highly respected in the Bradford community. He died on 13 April 1863 in his 77<sup>th</sup> year. For forty years he held the office of Deacon at the Sion Chapel and was elected Town Councillor in 1850, which office he held for three years.

In 1861, James and his wife Elizabeth are living in Market Street, Wakefield. Whilst the precise address is not known, it was obviously a fashionable part of the town given that his neighbours on either side were surgeons. The family was attended to by a resident servant and at the material time their granddaughter was residing with them.

Quite how long James and his wife remained in Wakefield is debatable. What is known is that subsequent events in 1863 showed that his new address was Bishopthorpe Terrace in the suburbs of York. It was there on 31 August of that year that James died. His death certificate records the cause of death as “Dropsy from Disease of the Heart” In modern parlance a rough translation would be that death was due to pulmonary oedema, an underlying cause being congestive heart failure. It would seem that James had been treated for the condition for 12 months prior to his death.

James’s second wife, Elizabeth, survived for a further ten years and passed away at 3 Briggs Street, York on 25 April 1873 in her 90<sup>th</sup> year. Both are buried together in a family grave at York Cemetery. A photograph of the headstone and the accompanying epitaph are as shown:



**Headstone reads:**

Sacred to the memory of James  
Marchant Engineer and Ironfounder of  
Bradford who died at York August 31<sup>st</sup>  
1863 in the year of his age.

“Oh Change, oh wonderous change:  
Burst are the prison bars. This moment,  
there so low, so agonized and now  
beyond the stars. Oh Change:  
Stupendous Change; Here lies the  
soulless clod. The sun eternal breaks,  
the new immortal wakes, wakes with  
his God.”

Also in memory of Elizabeth Marchant  
second wife of the above named James  
Marchant who died in Vine Street,  
York April 24<sup>th</sup> 1873 in her 90<sup>th</sup> year.  
“Hers is Peace”

In the minds of many Bradfordians, the trading title “Tanks & Drums” would immediately conjure up a company in Bowling Old Lane at the site of what used to be the Bowling Iron Works. In 1903 Bowling Iron Works was rebranded as the “Bowling Company” and in 1905 on the same site “T&D” (Tanks and Drums) Industries plc was founded. The company developed a manufacturing base which focused on metal shipping barrels, drums, kegs and other components for both the automotive and petrochemical industries. The office building (pictured) was originally known as “Bowling House” and was renovated from a former Victorian villa, a survivor of the old Bowling Iron Works.

Whilst the business thrived, a time came in 1999 - after running up massive debts - administrators were called in and all the different specialist divisions of the company were sold off. “Bowling House” which is now a Grade II Listed Building, has been empty for many years and is severely dilapidated.



It would be remiss of me, given that the motivating factor in preparing this article was reading about John Sturges, not to provide a pen picture of the man. Born in Leeds in 1729 and subsequently of Sandal near Wakefield, he was originally a Collector of Excise. Thereafter, he entered into partnership with Richard Paley and John Elwell in an iron works at Fall Ing, Wakefield.

Beyond his monetary interest in the concern, it is doubtful whether he took part in the working of the Bowling Iron Works. He died in May 1814, leaving two sons, John and William both of whom were co-proprietors in the company. By his will, John Sturges the elder, after making provision for his wife, Martha, divided his estate into four equal portions, to be shared by his two sons and his two daughters, Ann Webster and Martha Dawson.



*Bowling House, Bradford*

John Sturges has been described as a stiff, portly man somewhat stern in manner, but upright in all his dealings, and a gentleman generally well-liked about the iron works. Mr Sturges was active in the town's affairs of Bowling, and not only is his name attached to many documents affecting the well-being of the township, his reputation and service in the community was most probably instrumental in the "city fathers" honouring him by naming a street after him (Sturges Grove, Undercliffe, Bradford).

Mr Sturges was a well-known magistrate of his time – a period when justice was dispensed very differently to what it is at present. He "sat" at the "Wheat Sheaf Inn", Wakefield Road (long since demolished) at the same time that Mr Ellis Cunliffe Lister "sat" at the "Spotted House", Manningham, and Mr Michael Stocks at "Catherine Slack Courthouse", Queensbury. Every Thursday, these justices held court at the Old Justice Room at the rear of the "New Inn", in the centre of Bradford. As a JP and head of a long and growing industry, Mr Sturges naturally occupied an influential position for his time.

Not forgetting that my family tree is very much a work in progress and accepting that many Americans are the progeny of immigrants, I know that members of the Bradford Marchant family emigrated to the USA in 1895 and settled there. Regrettably, I have yet to make contact with any of my surviving family members.

(4444)

*Part one of David Allen's article was published in the March issue of Bod-Kin. In part two, David describes his work to transcribe the Exley Cemetery Memorial inscriptions.*

## **TRANSCRIBING: AN ENJOYABLE, WORTHWHILE AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE (part two)**

**David Allen**

Having completed the school admissions project, I took a break of a couple of months before starting on the next project - the transcribing of the Exley Cemetery Memorial inscriptions. Along with that came new challenges. Getting used to the change from handwritten paper records to inscriptions chiselled in stone and marble and coping with totally different lighting conditions was hard enough. When lichen covered the inscriptions, weathering degraded them, or vegetation obscured them, the work became near impossible. If I could not find an answer through my own efforts and research, I went to Peter Lord, Project Co-ordinator at the Calderdale Family History Society (CFHS) who was always helpful.

Whilst working on one batch of transcriptions, one memorial piqued my curiosity and interest. It is the mottled pink granite David Lord memorial with cross, kerb set and columns. The East, North, and South sides of the east-facing memorial bear the engraved inscriptions, as set out in the boxes below.



*The David Lord Memorial, Exley Cemetery*

My interest in the David Lord memorial was roused partly because granite is expensive, and not natural to our area. It also raised a number of questions that I felt compelled to answer.

The questions I wanted to answer were:

- 1) Who is 'J W Taylor, Aberdeen'?
- 2) Was the family 'well to do'?
- 3) What does the unfamiliar wording on the memorial mean?
- 4) How is the surname Duke connected to the name Lord?

### East face

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

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

J W Taylor  
Aberdeen

Also Ellen wife of the above  
Born March 29<sup>th</sup> 1832  
Died December 5<sup>th</sup> 1915

David Lord  
owner

### North face

Also  
John Herbert  
Their son  
Who died August 11<sup>th</sup> 1903  
Aged 31 Years

Also  
Jane Duke  
Their daughter  
Who died June 27<sup>th</sup> 1906  
Aged 28 years

Also  
Elizabeth Mary  
Their eldest daughter  
Who died November 25<sup>th</sup> 1935  
Aged 75 years  
Beloved of all

### **Searching for Mr Taylor**

The 'J W Taylor, Aberdeen' inscription I initially transcribed believing that it was possibly a reference to a remote member of the Lord family. I queried it with Peter, and he said it was probably the name of the stonemason, and he didn't know why or how an inscription attributed to Aberdeen came to be included on an Exley headstone. However, in view of the fact that the headstone appeared to be of granite, the family were probably 'well to do' and wanted to make a statement by leaving a longer lasting memorial. So, they had 'gone' to Aberdeen as it is a place known as 'The Granite City'. Their stonemasons would have the knowledge and tools necessary to work such material, which our local stonemasons, as skilled as they were working our local York stone, would probably not have possessed. As the inscription was not linked to the family, Peter deleted it from my transcription. However, I wanted to satisfy my curiosity, so I decided to do my own research.

My initial enquiries using census records produced nothing. Then I remembered reading an article in one of Chris Helmes Newseum magazines, about how useful old Trade Directories can be when trying to research local history. So, to Google and I found a website listing various Aberdeen trade directories for years such as 1912, 1870, and 1880. Searching them, I found several entries for different 'Taylor' companies trading variously as Monumental Granite Worker, Stoneware Dealer, Granite Merchant, British Granite & Marble Co., Sculptor & Stonecutter, etc., but none with the initials J W in their title. I decided this didn't matter as J W could easily have been a relation to the founder or proprietor or a descendant of the founder who was merely working in their company and was the stonemason

who inscribed the David Lord memorial, perhaps serving their time to learn the trade. What it did suggest was that my original suspicion that the Lord family had sourced their headstone from Aberdeen, and Peter's belief that J W Taylor was the stonemason/supplier was more or less assured. This also answered my second

### South face

Also  
Thomas  
Brother of David Lord  
Who died March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1904  
Aged 75 years.

Also  
Alice Lord  
Their sister  
Who died Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 1910  
Aged 63 years

In loving memory of  
Martha Jane (Nane) Lord  
Born July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1875  
Died July 19 1958,  
Wife of the late  
John Herbert Lord  
Wonderful mother sadly missed

question, as only a wealthy person could afford a granite memorial of that size and to have it supplied by a trader in Aberdeen would add significantly to the cost.

### **Unfamiliar language**

On to my next question about the unfamiliar wording of the memorial. I had some difficulty transcribing some words. I wasn't sure about the first word in the phrase 'Pious memory' was unclear, but having gone back to it once I had picked up some experience, I was able to confirm it as 'Pious'. Today, the word may be regarded as critical and didn't seem to me appropriate for such a setting or context. However, having looked up the dictionary definition, I found it meant 'devout,

religious, sanctimonious and dutiful', which suggested a religious family.

I wasn't sure about the phrase 'See I have accepted thee' either but, having found that the word 'pious' indicated a family of deep faith, I found the phrase was a Bible quotation - Genesis 19:21.

Finally, I wanted to know what an 'Infant Mistress' was. Having read some genealogy textbooks, I found that the word 'Mistress' was at one time used to describe a mother. However, in this more modern context, the term is used to describe someone engaged as a schoolteacher. As infants are children aged between 4 and 7, Jane's occupation was a teacher of young children, which must have been important to her to get a mention on the memorial.

### **Duke and Lord**

My final question was about the link between Duke and Lord. When I first came to transcribe the photographs of the memorial, it wasn't clear how the sections fitted together. I saw that there were two Jane Dukes but thought they were not related, not the wife and daughter of David Lord, as they later proved to be. After much head scratching, going round in circles and carrying out research online, I finally came across the information set out below and worked out the three sets of inscriptions as they appear above.

Using *Find My Past (FMP)* and *Ancestry*, I found a David Lord born in 1834 and baptised on 6 April 1834 at St. Mary's, Elland – a resident of Elland. His parent's names were Ann and John, and his father was a butcher. By the time of the 1841 Census, David and his parents, along with 7 siblings, were living at South Gate, Halifax. In 1851, David was still living at home at the same address, now with 5 of 12 siblings, and at the age of 17 working as a butcher.

I could find no record for David in the 1861 Census, but he appears again in the 1871 Census. At that time, he was living in The School House, Elland cum Greetland with his wife, Jane. David's occupation was 'Schoolmaster'. This fits with the reference to Jane's occupation on the memorial as 'Infant Mistress'. Also living in the 'School House' were David and Jane's children:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>
Elizabeth Mary	1860	Lochlee, Angus Scotland
Margaret Alice	1862	“ “ “
David William	1863	“ “ “
Jemima	1865	“ “ “
Alexander Duke	1867	Rastrick, Yorkshire
Edward Sandford	1870	“ “

The 1871 Census also shows that Jane was born in Scotland in about 1836. Jane's place of birth and that of her first four children provides a connection to J.W. Taylor and the sourcing of the Memorial in Scotland. It may also explain the gap in the census records. The birthplace of the first four children shows that David had been living in Scotland with Jane before they moved to Rastrick at some time between 1865 and 1867.

To continue with the censuses, in 1881, the family was living at Lower Edge with Greetland. David's occupation was still schoolmaster, but by this time, his status is widower. Jane had died, according to the inscription, in August 1877. Living in the house with the widowed David were his children Elizabeth, David, Jemima, Edward, and two new family members, John Herbert, born in 1872 and Jane Duke, born in 1877. Both children were born in Elland, Yorkshire. Margaret and Alexander were not on the Census.

Jane died on 29 August 1877 and may have died giving birth to her daughter Jane. Jane's death and the baby's birth were registered in September 1877. I might have proved my assumption about Jane's death with appropriate certificates, but I didn't want to go to that expense.

Also in the house in 1881 was boarder Annie Henry, aged 21, who was employed as an 'Infant Mistress (school)'. Perhaps she was taken on to do the work of David's late wife.

### **Life without Jane**

David married Ellen Cooper in April 1881. Ellen was a spinster, born in 1832 in Elland. Come 1891, David and Ellen were living in the 'Schoolhouse' at Lower Edge with the children Elizabeth, Alexander, Edward, John and Jane. David's occupation was described as National Schoolmaster.

By 1901, the family had moved to 18 Eversley Mount, Halifax and David had retired from his role as schoolmaster. Only Elizabeth aged 40, and Jane aged 23, both single, remained at home. Perhaps the change in address was brought about by David's retirement, as the Schoolhouse address in the 1891 Census suggests

that the family's home came as part of David's employment package, which he had to give up when he retired. Jane had followed in her parents' footsteps and was employed as a Certified School Teacher.

The 1907 Township of Elland East Ward Record Ownership of Electors has a record of David living in Eversley Mount. His qualification to vote was as Freehold Cottages, and the qualifying property being Elland Lane. Again, an indication of his financial status, that he was able to buy a property.

Sadly, David's daughter Jane predeceased her father, dying on 27 June 1906 in Yorkshire. As did his son John, who died in 1903, leaving his wife Martha a widow. David added Jane and John to the memorial, along with his brother Thomas in 1904 and his sister Alice in 1910.

In 1911, David and Ellen were still living in Eversley Mount, by now aged 77 and 79 respectively, with David's daughter, Elizabeth, aged 50 and still single. The family also had a visitor in their home - Mary Duke was a single person, aged 65, and employed as a sempstress. Mary was born in Lochlee, Forfarshire, Scotland, the same place as David's daughter, Elizabeth. I wondered if Mary was the younger, spinster sister of David's first wife, Jane and aunt to his daughter, Elizabeth. This might account for Elizabeth's second name, which was Mary, and may have been an acknowledgment to her aunt.

In 1915, Ellen appears in the deaths' registrations, aged 85, when an inscription was added to the memorial. The subsequent 1921 Census shows that David continued to live in Eversley Mount as a widower and only his daughter Elizabeth living with him. According to the memorial, David died in October that year. His death was registered in December 1921 and the 1922 probate record has David Lord of 18, Eversley Mount, West End Halifax, having died on 10 December 1921, leaving effects of £2870 13s 9d. This was a substantial amount, equivalent to £148,000 today.

Elizabeth died in 1935 and was added to the memorial with an acknowledgement of her lifelong devotion to her parents. The addition may have been made by John's son who also added his mother Martha when she died in 1958.

Through my research, I have been able to identify the people mentioned on the memorial, answer my questions about wording, and found the link to Scotland. However, there is still the gap in the census records to account for, which would require further research to unravel the mysteries of the family.

(5239)

# **A Yorkshire Lad Made Good in Norfolk**

**Rob Varley**

One of the many fascinations of family history research is turning up unexpected and surprising connections, which can help to bring a vivid and personal perspective to the study of social history.

My 3xGreat-Grandfather, Samuel Park, was born in Idle around 1783, and with his wife Ellen raised at least nine children. The census records, predictably, show that five of the children stay in Shipley – their lives, like so many of our ancestors, dominated by the mills. But when I searched the 1841 Census for the other four, I was surprised to find them not in Shipley but in Norwich – three young mohair spinners, David, Joseph and Samuel Park Jr, with their sister Hannah to keep house for them. Even more unexpected was to find the company of Joseph Park and Sons becoming one of the leading textile manufacturers of late-Victorian Norwich, with three mills and over a thousand workers.

So, the question that sprang quickly to mind was why these four, at the height of the textile boom in the West Riding, decided to go to Norfolk where the wool trade was in terminal decline? And how could Joseph, from such a modest beginning, have risen so quickly to prominence in his adoptive city? Clearly, this was a story that deserved further investigation.

## **Norfolk vs Yorkshire**

Since before Tudor times, Norfolk had been a leading centre of the worsted industry, aided by waves of migrants bringing the latest textile innovations from Flanders and beyond. Many Yorkshire merchants had recognised this and had been sending their sons to be apprenticed in Norwich since at least the sixteenth century. However, sometime prior to 1700, worsted weaving was introduced to the West Riding, taking advantage of the abundant soft water, coal and building stone, and of improved transportation links via the new navigations. Initially, Yorkshire concentrated on making coarser materials, while Norwich reacted by specialising in the finer and patterned stuff. However, by 1772, the worsted market was shared equally between the two, and the West Riding was experimenting with the finer articles. Norwich merchants continued to market new materials and looked increasingly to exports. Unfortunately, overseas markets were seriously impacted in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries by wars in Europe and America, while over the Pennines in Lancashire the rise of the cotton industry presented a growing threat that ate away at the Norwich trade and was most likely instrumental in its demise.

By the end of the eighteenth-century, Bradford was emerging as the centre of the Yorkshire worsted industry. Some Norfolk merchants looked on with a jealous eye and sought to secure their future prosperity by sending their sons to

the West Riding, or by entering into partnerships with Yorkshire merchants. A visitor from Norwich noted “the excellent condition of the labouring people...on Sundays and summer evenings the workers’ garments ... give place to dresses such as no agricultural person could afford”. And so, the migration to Yorkshire accelerated, and a certain John Roe of Norwich went into partnership with John Hodgson of Leeds.

As the West Riding advanced with mechanisation, the Norfolk men held back: there was a “violent and odiously virulent party spirit ... No man of either political party could introduce machinery into [Norwich], but he would, in all probability, at some paltry election contest, be held up as an obnoxious individual...and his property and perhaps his life endangered thereby.” [William Stark, 1838]. The city’s manufacturers countered the threat from machinery by the constant innovation of finer products and patterns. Norwich Crape (made from worsted and silk twisted yarns), black silks and lunette cloth were all beautiful examples of the weaver’s art supplying the local mourning trade; the product of hand weaving skills that machines were not then able to emulate.

As technology advanced, automation of textile manufacture even in Norwich was inevitable. In 1833 the Norwich Yarn Company was founded, and by 1840 it was operating four steam-powered mills, including the magnificent, newly completed, six-storey St James’ Mill. However, to put this into perspective, there were already 150 mills in Bradford by then, drawing in workers from far and wide. A report on Norwich in 1845 found that “*a large portion of its inhabitants are poor ... neglect and decay are now conspicuous in the streets and quarters occupied by the working classes so as to render them places of the most dismal aspect.*” And so, by 1851, a quarter of those born in Norfolk had left the county, and of these nearly 500 were living in Bradford.

## **The Park Lads**

It is here that we return to the story of David, Joseph, Samuel and Hannah Park.

In 1841 they were living close to the Norwich Yarn Company’s Lakenham mohair spinning mill, and it seems likely that they were among the mill’s 300 workers – part of a bold project to revitalise Norwich’s textile industry with new technology working with the finest materials. We can only speculate as to what brought the Park family down from Shipley, but perhaps the most likely explanation was a family connection. I haven’t yet been able to trace their parents’ ancestry, but perhaps one of their parents or grandparents had been a migrant from Norfolk – one of the hundreds seeking a better life in Bradford? Was there a Norfolk cousin working for the Norwich Yarn Company in the 1830s who had used his family connections to import some expertise from the spinning mills of Shipley? Park is not a common name, but I have been able to find reference to a



Norwich weaver in the 1790s called Edward Parke, and the 1841 Census lists 33 Parks and Parkes resident in Norwich. By 1852, Joseph Park was living with his new wife Ann (nee Roe) in a fine villa in suburban Norwich. How could he have afforded such a home just a few years after arriving in the city? Could Ann have been a relative of the (presumably wealthy) John Roe, who half a century earlier had partnered with Yorkshireman John Hodgson? These speculations remain unproven.

Despite fierce competition from the West Riding, textile manufacturing continued in Norwich through the second half of the Nineteenth century. As late as 1873, the Norwich City Treasurer Thomas Hancock remarked, “No fear need be entertained of competition with the manufacturers of other places at home or abroad.”

Joseph’s business grew, and on 24 August 1871, according to the Norfolk News, the “highly respected and enterprising citizen Joseph Park Esq.” hosted a grand celebration with feasting and speeches to mark the coming of age of his eldest son, James, with a toast of “success to the mohair and worsted trade in Norwich”, and 500 workers sat down to a celebratory afternoon tea. So, the company of Joseph Park and Sons passed down to the next generation.

In 1883 Joseph acquired the freehold to St James’ Mill. Here, as well as at his two other mills, he continued to manufacture mohair and worsted yarns, employing over 1000 people. Much of their output went to continental Europe: the mohair, from Angora and South Africa, was spun for use in the trimmings for women’s dresses, which were exported to France, Germany, Austria and Poland, and for making Utrecht velvet used for upholstering furniture.

Joseph died in Norwich in 1893, leaving more than £18,000 in his will – not bad for a mill hand from Shipley. But by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century all three of his mills had been sold on for other purposes; textile manufacture no longer featured as a significant employer in Norwich; and there was no further reference to the company of Joseph Park and Sons. It was truly the end of an era – the last gasp of a trade that had made Norfolk prosperous for nearly 1,000 years.

Of course, there are still many questions unanswered, especially regarding the Park family’s connection to Norfolk before 1830. I would be pleased to hear from any member with a similar interest in the Park family, or in migration between Norfolk and Bradford, driven by the changing fortunes of the worsted industry.

Today St James’ Mill houses the headquarter offices of Jarrold’s, ‘the region’s favourite independent department store’, and is considered to be one of the finest landmarks in Norwich. Ian Nairn of The Observer, who could be fierce in his architectural reviews, loved this building and called it ‘the noblest of all English Industrial Revolution Mills’ – are there any readers in Bradford who would wish to challenge that claim?

Of course, there are still many questions unanswered, especially regarding the Park family's connection to Norfolk before 1830. I would be pleased to hear from any member with a similar interest in the Park family, or in migration between Norfolk and Bradford driven by the changing fortunes of the worsted industry.

Much of the source material for this article came from the Norfolk County Archive and the Local Studies Library in Norwich, whose staff have been most helpful in retrieving obscure historical references. I can provide a full bibliography on request through the Bod-Kin editors (see page 1 for the e-mail and postal address).



*Old Lakenham Water Mill*

*Source: Fisher, C (1979), Journal of the Norfolk Industrial  
Archaeology Society Vol.II Num.4*

(5296)

# **The Hardcastles**

**Jeff Cousins**

## **Early origins**

The Hardcastle family is said to originate from around Pateley Bridge, first being mentioned in Nidderdale in 1379. They farmed the granges of Fountains Abbey, and mined at Greenhow, which often brought them into dispute with Henry VIII's men over who had lead mining rights at Greenhow Hill. Their fortunes suffered after being on the losing side during the Dissolution. The Armytages of Kirklees took over the land, though the impressively named Marmaduke Hardcastle continued the fight against them.

My earliest likely Hardcastle ancestors were from Spofforth. This is pure speculation, but I have a vision of a Hardcastle labourer from Pateley Bridge going down dale to a hiring fair in Knaresborough (Harrogate might not even have existed yet) only to find that the only available work was even further downstream. The earliest definite ancestors were from Hunsingore, John born in the mid-eighteenth century and his son John born c1783, though even then there are a couple of possible candidates for each of them.

John (junior) married Hannah from Linton-on-Ouse and they had ten children: William in 1806, John in 1808, Thomas in 1811, Joseph in 1816, Hannah in 1817, George in 1820, Henry in 1822, Charles in 1823, James in 1826 and James in 1828 (presumably the first James died as an infant). William was baptised at Hunsingore (3 miles ENE of Wetherby) but all his subsequent siblings at Whixley (5 miles E of Knaresborough). Hannah died in 1856, aged 71, and was buried at Whixley. I have found very few gravestones for my ancestors, but Hannah not only had one, but hers is the first one seen when entering through the lychgate. After his wife Hannah died, John went to live with his daughter Hannah and her husband in Kirkby Misperton (3 miles S of Pickering).

## **Appearance in the censuses**

By the time of the 1841 Census, William and brother John were in Oakenshaw and Thomas in Wyke, all agricultural labourers. Although they weren't directly involved with the Low Moor Ironworks, its nearby presence would presumably have boosted the economy of the surrounding area. In 1850 William married Ann Overend at Birstall. Ann (1819-85) was the eldest child of Robert (1787-1863) and Hannah (1794-1845) of Old Popplewell in Scholes. Now this is where it gets confusing – there were two couples called Robert and Hannah Overend, of similar age, living at Old Popplewell, the two Roberts being first cousins. The other Robert and Hannah were relatively well-to-do, but mine seem to have been the poor relations. They had previously lived in Mobberley in Cheshire, and after Hannah's death, Robert and most of their children emigrated to work in the mills

at Worcester in Massachusetts. Maybe Ann married William, a very poor farmer 14 years older than her, because she dreaded the journey across the Atlantic. Most of the mill owners of Cleckheaton learnt their trade as apprentices to my better off Overend ancestral cousins.

By 1851, and until William's death in 1856, William and Ann lived at Upper Cow Close, Wyke. This is a little farm down a muddy track and recorded in an 1885 survey as having only two cows. It was alongside one of the Low Moor Company's coal wagonways and was where wagons were transferred from the rope hauled section to the south to the locomotive hauled section to the north. It also had a small coal pit of its own.

### **William Henry Hardcastle**

William and Ann had just one son, William Henry, in 1851. He is usually recorded as a stonemason, though rather than carving fine statues, he built houses. He married Martha Holmes in 1874 at Birstall, by then he was living in Scholes. Martha (1851-1923) was the daughter of Jonathan (1826-65) and Hannah, nee Lightowlers (c1827-54) and was born and grew up in Wyke.

William Henry and Martha had seven children: Willie (1876-1900), Leonard (1877-1952), George Holmes (1879-1904), Walter (1881-1907), Jonathan (1884-1900), Percy (1887-1917) and Mary Ann (1893-?).

Meanwhile, William Henry's mother Ann had re-married John Brook (c1825-1872) at Birstall in 1857 and lived with him at Knowl Lane, Wyke. After being widowed again, she lived with her son, William Henry, at New Poplewell, Scholes.

William Henry had agreed to build a cottage for Milford Rastrick (1857-1909), a shoemaker, for what was probably less than half the cost of the materials alone. William Henry refused to proceed, and Mr. Rastrick was pursuing him via Waddington & Firth solicitors. Nothing had been put in writing, and there was just a second-hand witness who said that he'd heard others say that they'd heard the price agreed. William was so troubled that one night in 1893, he slit his own throat with an old razor. He took an agonising 7 hours to die, witnessed by his wife and two eldest sons, Willie and Leonard. If I was living in a Midsomer Murders plot, no doubt I would be seeking out the descendants of Rastrick, Waddington and Firth.

### **Leonard Hardcastle**

Leonard married Eleanor Barber, known as 'Nellie', at St. John the Baptist's in Halifax in 1904. Eleanor (1880-1966) was the daughter of Sam (1856-1902) and Emily, nee Schofield, (1857-95) and was born and grew up in Hipperholme. I've been unable to find out who (if anyone) looked after Eleanor and her elder sister Amy Louise (1879-1954) in-between the girls being orphaned and their marriages, but they lived at Hove Edge during that period. Eleanor always

claimed to have a connection with Shibden Hall, partly true in that some of her ancestors had worked at the Lister's quarries and farms, and Barber relatives lived at the home farm (Park Farm) across the road from Shibden Hall. I'd be surprised if they hadn't known the real Sowden family who featured in a fictional sub-plot in the TV series 'Gentleman Jack'. In real life, Sutcliffe Sowden, (1816-61) was the vicar who performed Charlotte Brontë's marriage.

Leonard, having seen his father's gruesome death and the early deaths of all of his five brothers, was a 'driven' man, wishing to help others through hard times. He was president of the Spen Valley & District Curriers and Strap Makers Union, president of the Hartshead Moor Working Men's Club (now the Hartshead Moor Club) for 21 years and founded a friendly society to provide small pensions to the unemployed during the depression. He worked as a leather currier, I believe, making leather belts for the machinery in mills, employed by Rowland Walker & Sons of Whitcliffe in 1921 and then till his retirement (in 1946) by Fleming, Birkby & Goodall of Halifax. Until at least 1928, he lived at 1014 Halifax Road, Hartshead Moor, but by 1936 was at 47 St. Mary Street, Halifax. I can just about remember visiting this address in the early '60s, my great-grandmother still cooking on an old 'range'.

William, Ann, William Henry and Leonard's five brothers were all buried at Whitechapel, midway between Cleckheaton and Scholes.

### **Herbert Hardcastle**

Leonard and Eleanor had two children, Herbert (1904-74), my grandfather, and Ernest (1910-86). Herbert's main occupation was wire drawer. In 1921 he was working at Hodgson & Hartley, iron founders and machine tool makers, by the river Spen in the north of Cleckheaton. For the longest part of his working life, he worked some distance away in Drighlington. In later years he was a leather currier, as his father had been, at Fenner Belts. This was near Whitcliffe Mount School so was possibly a new owner for the same factory where his father had worked, but it has now been replaced by houses. Herbert was often offered a supervisory role but kept turning it down as he didn't want to be seen as being on the side of 'the bosses'. When he came home from work, he used to smell of linseed oil – I realise now that it wasn't from oiling cricket bats but from linseed oil being used to make the leather more supple. A quiet man who rarely socialised, somehow Herbert was friends with actor and broadcaster Wilfred Pickles who was born in the same year. They would sometimes meet in the People's Park in Halifax and eat their sandwiches together.

### **Herbert and Nellie**

In 1928 Herbert married Nellie Firth (1905-83), my grandmother, at Brighouse (known as 'Briggus'). Nellie was the daughter of John William Firth (1871-1948) and Martha Ann, nee Firth, (1871-1951). Quite likely, they were

third cousins once removed. This isn't proven, but both had Barber ancestors from Thornhills, a hamlet a mile north-east of Brighouse, at a time when it probably just comprised a single farm. John William had been a farmer at Thornhills, supplying food to the isolation hospital at Clifton, but been forced to sell the tenancy of the farm for a pittance during the Depression when the Armytages of Kirklees (them again) put Clifton and Thornhills (nearly all of which they owned) up for sale. After this, he delivered coal for the Brighouse Co-op, at first by horse, later by lorry.

For someone who talked mostly about her life growing up on a farm, my grandmother came from a very political family. Two branches of her tree had possible Luddite connections. Allegedly, her father led the Brighouse riots aimed at driving out the Irish, though if the only riots were those of 1882, then this would seem unlikely as he would only have been 10 at the time. Her uncle James Tattersall (1859-1929) was one of the founders of the Labour Party and the first Labour candidate to reach second place in a parliamentary election (1895 Preston). He subsequently defected to the Conservative Party so was never talked about. My personal 'take' on these events was that James wanted to support whoever would be most effective in defeating the Liberals, regarding them as the party of the mill owners and therefore the greatest enemy of the working man. James' son Arthur Ewart (1883-1960), my grandmother's first cousin – also never mentioned – joined the railways. After a period in Ireland, in his mid-20s, James was in charge of electrifying the Metropolitan Line of the London Underground (and married the girl next door in Pinner). He rose to become Chief Signalling Engineer of the LNER. He has been called 'the father of modern railway signalling' and until about 1990 the Science Museum used to have a section on his work.

Nellie could have gone to grammar school, but as with many she had to start at t'mill to bring home some money for the family. Before WW2 she worked at T.F. Firth's carpet mill in Bailiffe Bridge (known as 'Bally Brig') as a 'setter' – someone who put the bobbins on and threaded the wool into the machines. Her younger brother Jack (1914-81, my godfather) worked there most of his life. After the war, Nellie worked at Cooke's carpet mill in Liversedge, then back to T.F. Firth's in the 1950s, then in the early 1960s she worked part time at the canteen of a mill in Scholes. I was born and brought up in Rainham, Essex and by a remarkable coincidence, T.F. Firth's London warehouse was by Rainham station. Cooke's mill closed in 1979 and was demolished in 2004. T. F. Firth's mill closed in 2000 and demolition began in 2002.

At first Herbert and Nellie set up home a little further along Halifax Road, at Highfield Terrace, numbered 1036 to 1044, but by 1939 they were back at Herbert's childhood home at "ten-fourteen". This was a typical Yorkshire stone-built terraced house, cellar underneath, no bathroom (a tin bath was brought up from the cellar and used in the living room once a week), a garden at the front but

just a small yard with the outside toilet at the back. It still had a range until 1952. Herbert's aunt, Amy Louise Barber, had married George Shackleton in 1903 and they lived next door at number 1016. The landlords – Guy Waddington and Mary, nee Seed – lived at a double-sized house on the other side of Halifax Road at numbers 1010 and 1012. Seed's Buildings (numbers 1010 to 1018) had been built by the father of Mary Waddington. The Waddington family also had a large garden with a summer house stretching behind the backyards of the whole terrace. Amy's husband George (1876-1948) was a coal miner, not at a local pit but some distance away at Norwood Green. George and Amy are buried at the centre of the western extension of Cleckheaton New Cemetery, Scholes, and George was likely the first ever burial in the extension.

### **My memories of Herbert and Nellie**

The back door of my grandparent's house was left unlocked for neighbours to drop in for a cup of tea and a gossip. People got from place to place via a network of alleyways ('snickets' and 'ginnels') behind the terraces, now disused and overgrown. The front door wasn't often used and was normally kept locked (though the key was easily found under a stone in the garden). All common practice for the time. At night there were two groups of strange men wandering the streets with long poles – one to turn the gas streetlights on and off (electric lighting not arriving until after WW2), the other to tap on people's windows to wake them up in time for work at t'mill. Retired miners would often spend the day just sitting on the bench across the road (lost when the A643 was re-routed).



*Herbert and Nellie Hardcastle*

Meanwhile, Herbert's brother Ernest married Edith Pearson (1919-81) in 1942 and they lived at Golf Avenue in Halifax. Ernest was mostly remembered as an ardent supporter of Halifax Town Football Club. Ernest and Edith are buried together at Warley Town cemetery.

In 1963 Herbert and Nellie moved to 34 The Mount, Gomersal Lane, Spen, another traditional stone-built house. This was in a fairly isolated hamlet, surrounded by fields, up a muddy track a mile east of Cleckheaton. I spent most of my school holidays there, the happiest time of my childhood. This was their first house with a bathroom, though they largely kept to their old ways – a chamber pot kept under the bed for use at night, hands and faces washed in the morning using a bowl and ewer of water on the dressing table. A cellar was still used for keeping food and milk cool (the bottles standing in bowls of water) rather than in a fridge. Coal fires in the living room and kitchen were used not just for

heating but also for disposing of most of the rubbish and toasting slices of bread on the end of a long fork. The coal was stored in bunkers on either side of the front garden, each capped by a single giant slab of stone.

Hens were kept in a field alongside the 'Leeds New Line'. I used to watch both steam and diesel trains passing and listen to the sound of Cleckheaton church bells ringing from across the valley (I am now a bellringer as a result). The line closed in 1965, the end probably hastened by Wilson's Steel making a generous offer for the site of Cleckheaton (Spen) station, though it's hard to see that a line that was basically just a diversionary route could have lasted much longer.

My grandparents didn't just speak in strong Yorkshire accents but used the language of the King James Bible – I think of it as 'thee', 'thou' and 'thine'.

They would use the bus for longer journeys, such as shopping in Bradford or (the preferred – sorry!) Halifax, but walk anywhere less than a couple of miles. When heavy snow stopped the buses, my grandfather would walk all six miles to work. He would take the most direct route, whether it be across fields (many now under the M62) or squeezing through the narrow gaps between buildings in Cleckheaton (now generally blocked by fences).

They were both avid readers. Herbert mostly read large print Westerns, plus some war comics. He was always off to Cleckheaton Library (walking, of course). Nellie could devour whole encyclopaedias but preferred books on the natural world and gardening.

Well into the 1970s we would go on three generation family outings to disused coal mines, climbing the slag heaps looking for pieces of coal that the miners had missed. It was rather like living in a black and white documentary about life in the 1950s.

Lugging the shopping up the hill from Cleckheaton eventually became too much, so in 1973, my grandparents moved to an 'old folks' bungalow' at 28 Twelfth Avenue, Hightown. The old gentleman next door claimed to have been the first soldier ashore at Gallipoli; whether or not that was literally true, he was someone deserving of a peaceful retirement. This was their first house with a telephone. Sadly, Herbert died the next year. He had never fully recovered from falling off a ladder when painting the outside of a first-floor window frame, though I suspect that smoking large numbers of Woodbines was mostly to blame for his death.

In about 1976 Nellie moved to another 'old folks' bungalow' at 119 Bradford Road, Cleckheaton. This was an exact mirror image of her previous bungalow, so I had to carefully cut her carpets and rearrange the pieces to fit. The bungalow was the first bit of Cleckheaton visible to drivers approaching from Heckmondwike, and she welcomed them with a grand floral display. She spent the last few weeks of her life at a care home at Hare Park Grange, Hightown and died in 1983. By the time my parents could drive up from London the next day, her flat had been looted of anything of value (such as the new TV) by the other



elderly residents. The staff let them do this as the other residents claimed to have been life-long friends who had been ‘promised’ this and that; my grandmother hadn’t met any of them before she moved in. My mother was so despondent at this that she told the staff just to throw away everything else, so all my grandmother’s papers and photos were lost. Herbert and Nellie both died at Staincliffe General Hospital and were both cremated at Dewsbury Moor, their ashes subsequently being scattered there at some unrecorded location.

So, I suppose the moral of this tale is to collect whatever information you can and make copies of photos (easy enough now with mobile phones) whilst your relatives are still alive.

(1485)



## The Sandhills Murder

Marilyn Maybury

On 23 December 1919 my great aunt, Kathleen Harriet Elsie Breaks (nee Fish), sometimes referred to as ‘the beautiful girl at the music shop’ and ‘the prettiest girl in Bradford’ boarded a train from Bradford to Blackpool intending to spend Christmas with her lover, Frederick Rothwell Holt. Later that same night, she was cruelly murdered on the sandhills at St Anne’s-on-the-sea, near Blackpool.

**Richard P. Hughes**<sup>1</sup> has written a completely factual account of the events leading up to Kathleen’s murder and the subsequent trial of the man accused of her murder - Frederick Rothwell Holt. He has turned what could have been just a dry list of facts into a fascinating, well-written and extremely well-researched account of the events.

I’m not aware of any other family members in the Bradford area, but the murder was one that caught the interest of the public, and it was extensively reported in the press, nationally and locally, in Bradford and Blackpool.

<sup>1</sup>*Hughes, Richard P. (18 May 2024), The Sandhills Murder, independently published.*

(2356)

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

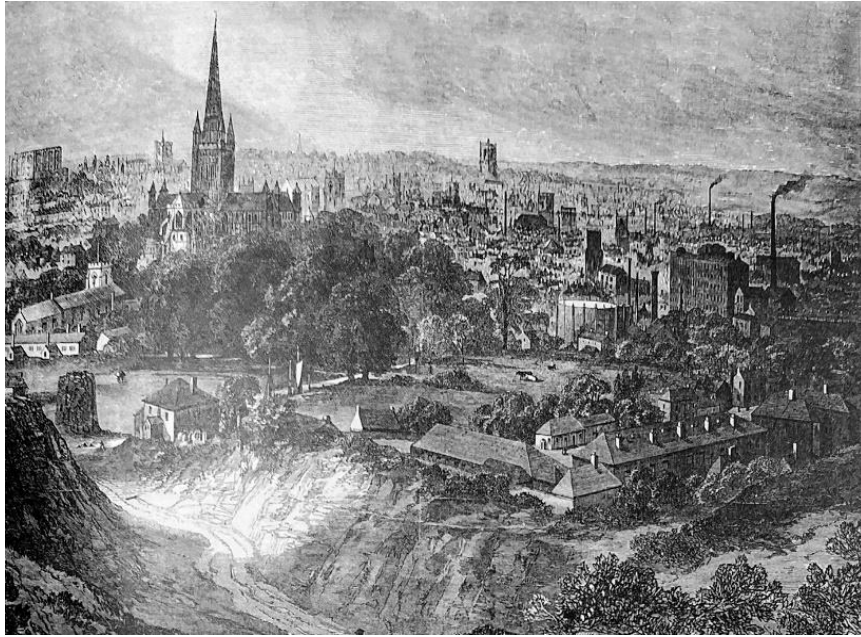
**Morning** meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.

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

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
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 the Society's activities at their own risk.

©Bradford Family History Society

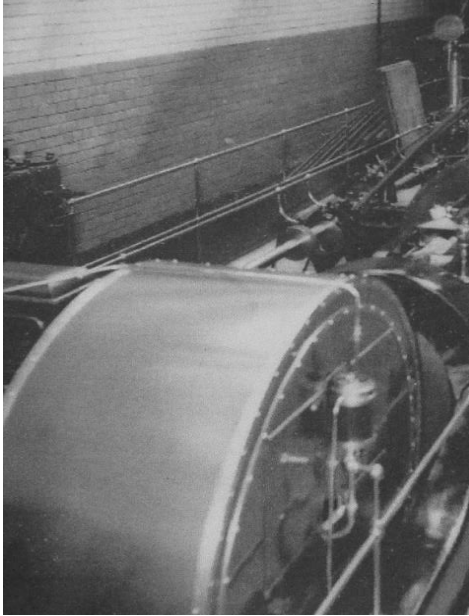


*Industrial Norwich, 1868 print.*  
© Meeres, F. (1999), *A History of Norwich* - see page 13.

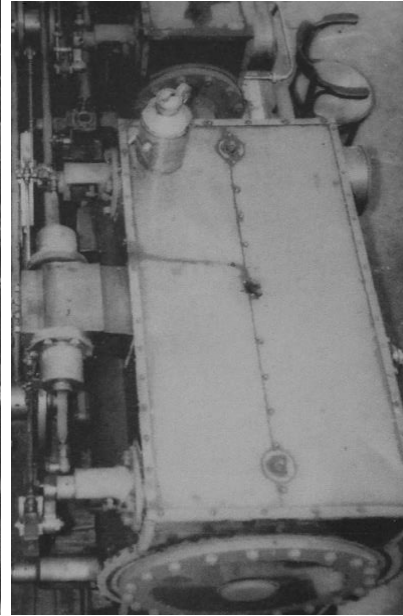


*St James Mill in 2024*  
© Rob Varley - see page 13.

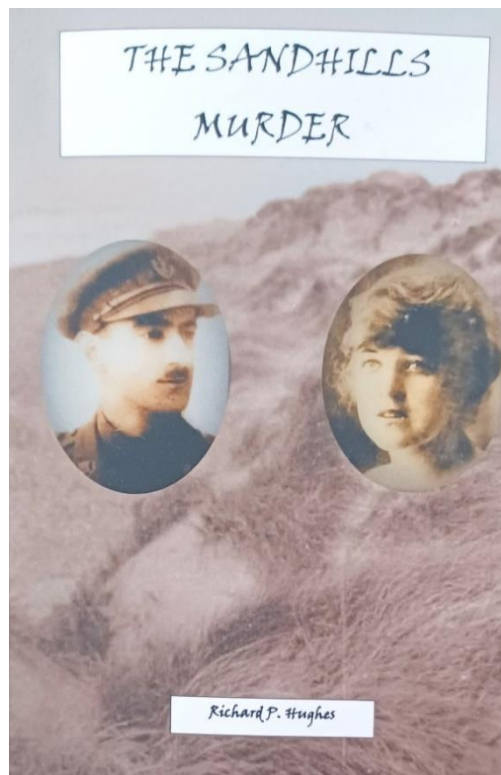
*Two examples of the Tandem Compound Steam Engine 350 HP by Cole, Marchant & Morley (©Photos courtesy of Arthur Roberts).*



*Greenhill Combing Company,  
Bradford (1907)*



*Allerton Combing  
Company, Bradford (1897)*



*Front cover of The Sandhills Murder  
by Richard P. Hughes – see page 23*