

**The Booth family  
East View Lightcliffe**



**The headstone for plot LL'14 in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe, WRY**

At the foot of this memorial inscription there is a Fred Booth who died in the USA. How and why did Fred Booth end up in the United States of America but still get a mention on this headstone? His nephew, another Fred Booth, was a WW1 soldier who was also commemorated on a headstone in St Matthew's Churchyard. Both Fred Booths' stories are told elsewhere but here is their family's background starting with the parents Henry and Hannah Booth whose names appear above.

Father Henry Booth was the son of a "Weaver" Joseph Booth from Norwood Green and his wife Mary. He was baptised at St Matthew's Church on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1816.

Youngest son Fred Booth – who went to the USA - had several older siblings including some half siblings as Hannah was Henry's second wife. In 1841 in the Dewsbury district Henry Booth had married Vashti Briggs – baptised in Wibsey on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1822 the daughter of Simon and Sarah Briggs - with whom he had at least three children. Henry, a "Banksman", and Vashti Booth of Wyke baptised John Booth on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1841 at St Matthew's Church. But no baptism record has been found for their daughters Emma and Sarah Booth. Emma was born in 1845 and appears on subsequent census data. However, neither Vashti nor her second daughter, Sarah, appears on future census records. But Birstal burial records do have consecutive burial records for the year 1846: -

*Vashti Booth of Wyke buried 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1846 24 years  
Sarah Booth of Wyke buried 25<sup>th</sup> September 1846 7 weeks*

Thus in 1846 Henry Booth was left a widower with two young children. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1849 at the parish church in Halifax he married 27-year-old Hannah Moore. The 33-year-old widower Henry Booth was a "Banksman" from Hipperholme with his father Joseph Booth being a "Weaver" which agrees with the baptism data. Hannah's father Daniel Moore was also a "Weaver" and they were from Northowram. Two daughters, Susan born 14<sup>th</sup> August 1849 and Elizabeth Ann born 1851 arrived before the 1851 census. When Susan Booth was baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1849 Henry and Hannah Booth's abode was Norwood Green. But they had moved before the census date and Elizabeth Anne's baptism on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1851, again at St Matthew's Church, to Wyke. So on census night **1851** the family comprised: -

*Henry Booth Head 35 Banksman Coalpit  
Hannah ditto Wife 29  
John ditto Son 9  
Emma ditto Dau 7  
Susan ditto Dau 1  
Elizabeth Ann ditto Dau 1 month  
Address Booth Row, Wyke*

The family appear to have remained in Wyke during the next decade when four more children were baptised at St Matthew's Church. Henry and Hannah Booth of Wyke baptised Rebecca on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1853, Henry on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1855, Albert on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1856 and finally Fred (born on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1860) on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1860. Baby Henry who was born on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1855 did not survive for long dying on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1855. His is the first name on the family headstone above. He was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1855. Father Henry was recorded as a "Banksman" at son Henry's baptism but as a "Labourer" for all the others.

Henry and Hannah lost another family member when their 11 year old daughter Susan Booth died on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1860. She was buried with her baby brother in the family plot, LL'14, on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1860 and so appears as the second name on the headstone above. The following family members are at the (same?) home in Booth Row, Wyke for the **1861 census**

Henry Booth Head 45 Labourer Ag  
Hannah ditto Wife 39  
Elizabeth Ann ditto Dau 10  
Rebecca ditto Dau 8  
Albert ditto Son 5  
Fred ditto Son 1  
Address Booth Row, Wyke

Neither of Fred's older half siblings was at home on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1861.

**Half-brother John Booth** was a 19-year-old "Under Gardener" lodging at a "Woodside" cottage Methley. This was close to "The Gardens, Methley Park" where the "Head Gardener" and his family lived. The gardens were next door to Methley Park where Sir Titus Salt and his family were in residence. So it appears that Fred's older half-brother John Booth was an "**Under Gardener**" on **Sir Titus Salt's estate** in 1861. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1865 John Booth married Esther Sharp at St John's Church, Oulton, near Leeds. Twenty-four-year-old John Booth was a "Gardener" from Methley. Esther Sharp was a 23-year-old "Dressmaker" from Oulton, the daughter of Joseph Sharp, a "Stone Mason". John's father is mis-transcribed as "Mary" Booth but in fact it reads "Henry Booth Forgeman". John Booth was still a "Gardener" in 1871 living with his wife and two young children at Gilstead, Bingley. This Booth family were still in Gilstead in 1881 through to 1901 when John was an "Innkeeper", "Innkeeper & Gardener" and then a "Publican & Market Gardener" in 1901 at **The Glen Hotel, Gilstead, Bingley**. John Booth died there on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1905. The probate records suggest his sons took over running the hotel until at least 1931 but possibly later.

BOOTH John of the Glen Hotel Gilstead Bingley Yorkshire beerhouse keeper died 19 June 1905 Probate Wakefield 8 July [1910] to Fred Booth school attendance officer. Effects £1058 15s 6d

BOOTH Harry of Glen Hotel Gilstead Bingley Yorkshire died 28 December 1931 Administration London 15 February [1932] to Matilda Booth widow and Horace Booth gardener. Effects £4699 13s 1d

BOOTH Horace of Glen Hotel Bungalow Gilstead Bingley Yorkshire died 9 April 1951 at Bingley Hospital Yorkshire Administration London 15 April to Morris Lovel Bentley newspaper sub editor and Marjorie Davies (wife of William Davies). Effects £3399 6s 4d

**Half-sister Emma Booth** was probably the 17-year-old Wyke born “Maid Servant” in the household of “Farmer and Commission Agent” William Schlamb of Farm House, Little Horton, Bradford on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1861. She married William Brearley on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1869 at St John’s Halifax. He was a 37-year-old – although subsequent census ages suggest that should have been 27 - “Blacksmith” from Hartshead, the son of George Brearley, a “Haycutter”. Her father, “Labourer” Henry Booth, and his 27-year-old daughter were from Hipperholme. Emma remembered her mother when she baptised their daughter Edith Vashti Brearley at St Matthew’s Church, Lightcliffe on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1870. At the time, William was a Blacksmith from Bailiffe Bridge. This was still his occupation in 1911 when he, his wife and daughter lived at 17 Clare Street, Halifax where the three of them had resided since 1891. They had previously lived in the Swan Bank, Buildings in Southowram. According to the 1911 census William and Emma had had three children but only Edith survived; although she may well have predeceased both her parents. There are Halifax deaths for a Emma Brearley in 1923 and a William Brearley in 1924 which were probably Fred Booth’s half-sister and brother in law.

BOOTH Edith Vashti of 17 Clare –street Halifax spinster died 28 November 1921 Administration London 14 December to William Brearley out of business. Effects £250 10s.

But back to the **rest of Fred Booth’s family.**

By the **1871 census** Henry and Hannah’s family had moved from Wyke to Lightcliffe.

Henry Booth Head 55 Labourer  
Hannah ditto Wife 49  
Elizabeth Ann ditto Dau 20 Millhand  
Rebecca ditto Dau 18 Millhand  
Albert ditto Son 14 Millhand  
Fred ditto Son 11 Millhand  
Address Lightcliffe

Sister Elizabeth Ann Booth’s occupation “Millhand” was then dittoed (incorrectly or not) for all the children. So, this may mean that young Fred Booth worked in a mill from a very early age as many children did.

**Father Henry Booth** passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1878. He was buried in St Matthew’s churchyard on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1878 in plot LL’14 with his two young children, Henry and Susan, siblings that Fred Booth had never known. This left the following family at home on **3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881:-**

Hannah Booth Head 59 Widow  
Rebecca ditto Dau 28 Laundress  
Albert ditto Son 24 Mechanic  
Fred ditto Son 21 Clerk  
Address Lightcliffe

**Sister Elizabeth Ann Booth** was not at home on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1881 because she was a “General Servant” in at 7 Belmont, Skircoat, Halifax. This was the residence of her widowed aunt, Elizabeth Cockroft nee Moore, one of her mother’s sister. Also in the household was a cousin William Adin Cockroft a 22-year-old “Architect’s Assistant”.

In 1850 Elizabeth Moore had married an Irish born butcher William Cockroft in Halifax. Their son was born in 1859. For the 1861 and 1871 censuses this Cockroft family of three had another one of Elizabeth Cockroft’s sisters, Rose Moore, living with them in Halifax. Then William Cockroft died in 1872 and Rose Moore married John Crabtree in 1879. Presumably these two events contributed to Elizabeth Ann Booth being in her aunt’s household for the 1881 and 1891 censuses. The architect and surveyor William Adin Cockroft married Mary Hannah Sutcliffe in 1893 and then his mother died in 1900. And so Elizabeth Ann Booth returned to her widowed mother Hannah at 6, East View, Lightcliffe. This was where she was on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1901 and where she died on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1905. She was buried on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1905 in St Matthew’s Churchyard but in plot K62.

BOOTH Elizabeth Ann of 6 East-view Lightcliffe Yorkshire spinster died 18 December 1905 Administration London 15 March [1906] to Albert Booth mechanic Effects £135

**Mother Hannah Booth** had predeceased her daughter but only just. She died on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1905 aged 83. Again, the address was 6 East View, Lightcliffe. She was buried with her husband and children on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1905 in plot LL’14 of St Matthew’s Churchyard, the next name on the headstone. Presumably the grave was then full which explains why daughter Elizabeth Ann Booth was buried elsewhere.

**Sister Rebecca Booth** was a 48 year old servant to widow Ann Lumb at 19 Field Hill, Osborne Terrace, Batley in 1901. But after the death of her mother and sister in 1905 Rebecca Booth must have moved back to 6 East View, Lightcliffe. She was there alone on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911 but with her brother Albert Booth and his family next door at No 7. The Brownrigg family including the future WW1 soldier Robert Brear Brownrigg lived next door on the other side at No 5. Another possibly related Booth family lived at No 2.

Rebecca, along with her brother Albert, was left a legacy by her younger brother Fred Booth who died in the USA in 1934. These were his only surviving siblings.

Name of Legatee or Devisee	Post Office Address	Value of Legacy or Devise
Rebecca Booth	East View, Lightcliffe, Nr. Halifax, England	\$ 5,000.00
Albert Booth	" " "	5,000.00

After she died on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1936 she was buried on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1936 in plot K62 with her sister Elizabeth Ann Booth although her memorial inscription is on her brother's family plot K61.



BOOTH Rebecca of 6 East View Lightcliffe Halifax spinster died 8 October 1936. Probate London 11 February [1937] to Doris Booth spinster. Effects £2162 8s

**Brother Albert Booth** had married Susannah Murgatroyd in 1883 and then after she died in 1885 he married her sister Elizabeth early in 1891. Albert and Elizabeth Booth had four children including the WW1 soldier Corporal Fred Booth. This Booth family lived at 7 East View, Lightcliffe in both the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Their full story is told elsewhere.

Like his sister, Rebecca the, by then, widower Albert Booth was also left a legacy by his younger brother Fred Booth when he died in the USA in 1934. After Albert Booth died on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1935 he was buried in plot K61 of St Matthew's Churchyard on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1935. His probate reads:-

BOOTH Albert of 7 East View Lightcliffe near Halifax died 7 May 1935  
Probate London August to Doris Booth spinster and Donald Booth engineer.  
Effects £2712 0s 3d

**Now read more about Fred Booth who made his fortune in the USA  
and  
his nephew Corporal Fred Booth who died during the Battle of the  
Somme in 1916.**

D.M.Barker  
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