

Ann Walker
(20th May 1803 – 25th February 1854)
and the Walker family



As has been well documented Ann Walker became the friend of Anne Lister of Shibden Hall, Halifax. This write up will not venture into that area but will attempt to draw out the links between the Walker family and St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe where Ann, as well as many others of her family, were baptised, worshipped and interned. As the newly placed plaque, pictured above, states Ann Walker was buried under the pulpit of St. Matthew's old Church.

Ann's grandfather, William Walker (1713 – 1786), was a wealthy Halifax worsted manufacturer who was instrumental in the building of St Matthew's Church. In 1775 he had travelled to the Baltic to buy timber. This was the wood used on the roof of St Matthew's old church. William Walker also used the timber to rebuild his family home, Crow Nest, and then to build a new home Cliffe Hill, both in Lightcliffe.



Above is the baptism record for Ann Walker. She was born on 20th May 1803 and then baptised on 1st July 1803 at St. Matthew's Church. Her father, John Walker, had married Mary Edwards on 16th June 1795. Mary was the daughter of wealthy woollen manufacturer John Edwards and his wife Elizabeth of Pye Nest, Halifax. John Walker (baptised at Lightcliffe on 26th April 1753) was the second son of the worsted manufacturer William Walker and his wife Mary nee Wainhouse. This William was the direct descendant of at least two previous Williams and he and Mary kept up this tradition by naming their eldest son William. But this William Walker, baptised at Lightcliffe on 3rd March 1748), never married and so when he died in 1809 his younger brother John, Ann's father, inherited the family estate. Aged just six, therefore, Ann Walker moved into Crow Nest with her parents, older sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, and younger brother, John.



Her parents had named their first-born William – naturally - but he died 21 days later on 26th April 1798. Daughters Mary and Elizabeth (born 10th November 1801) were baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 17th April 1799 and 18th December 1801 respectively. Completing the family, second son John Walker was also baptised there on 28th November 1804.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for Mary Walker

Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1815

BURIALS in the [Parish of] <i>Chapelry of Lightcliffe in the Parish of Halifax</i> in the County of <i>York</i> in the Year 18 <i>15</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Mary Walker</i> <i>Daughter of John Walker</i> No. 73.	<i>Crownest</i>	<i>1815</i> <i>Feb 8</i>	<i>15</i> <i>years</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i> <i>Min^r</i>

Teenaged **sister Mary Walker** died on 1st February 1815 and was buried on 8th February 1815. As the burial record states her funeral service was conducted by the Lightcliffe incumbent the Reverend Robert Wilkinson. In 1782 this gentleman had become the perpetual curate after the death of the Reverend Richard Sutcliffe, who was the first incumbent of the old church. [See the write up about the Church Incumbents]. Rev. Robert Wilkinson may well have conducted baby William's funeral and the baptism services for the other Walker children

Another Mary Walker (baptised at Lightcliffe on 17th September 1747) lived with her sister, another Ann Walker (baptised at Lightcliffe on 2nd September 1757), at Cliffe Hill. These were the unmarried daughters of William Walker (1713 – 1786), sisters of John Walker and so the aunts of Ann Walker. Another aunt Elizabeth Walker (baptised at Lightcliffe on 31st January 1750) had married a John Priestley on 17th September 1776. These interlinked families - the Walkers, the Edwards, the Priestleys and then the Rawsons - get many mentions in the diaries of Anne Lister of Shibden Hall.

The eldest aunt, Mary Walker, died in September 1822 with Rev Robert Wilkinson again conducting the funeral service on 20th September 1822. The parish burial record recorded that she was the daughter of William and that she was buried in a vault within the church.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for Mary Walker

Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1822

<i>Mary Walker</i> <i>Spinder</i> No. 510.	<i>Cliffe Hill</i>	<i>sep^r</i> <i>20</i>	<i>76</i> <i>years</i>	<i>Wilkinson</i> <i>Min^r</i>
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Rev. Robert Wilkinson also conducted the funerals of John and Mary Walker, Ann's parents, in 1823. By the age of nineteen Ann Walker had lost a sister and then her parents, the latter within a few months of each other as the two burial records show. The burial records state that they were buried in plot CC*27.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for John Walker				
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1823				
John Walker No. 544.	Crownest	April 29	70 Years	R. Wilkinson Min.
West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985				
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1823				
Mary Walker, Widow No. 572.	Crownest	Nov 20	60 Years	R. Wilkinson Min.

Ann Walker's parents and younger siblings were remembered on a plaque previously in the demolished St. Matthew's church but now in the Tower.



Ann Walker's younger brother John then inherited the Crow Nest estate, but their father had made ample financial provision for his daughters Elizabeth and Ann.



On 28/29 October 1828 at York **sister Elizabeth Walker** married Captain George MacKay Sutherland of the 92nd Highlanders. Their daughter Mary Sutherland was born in Scotland on 27th September 1829 and baptised at Stevenston, Ayr in October 1829.



Ann Walker's aunt Elizabeth the widow of John Priestley - he had passed away in 1801 - died in 1829. The Find My Grave website states that she was buried in St Matthew's churchyard, but her name does not appear in the burial records.

Also, in 1829 younger **brother John Walker** married Frances Esther Penfold on 28th July in Steyning, Sussex. Fanny as she was known was one of the very large family of Reverend John Penfold and his wife Charlotte Jane Penfold nee Brooks. Born on 26 August 1803 Fanny was baptised on 14th October 1803 in Steyning. At least two of her younger brothers were given the middle name Rawson. This suggests that the Penfolds might have been related to the Rawson and hence Priestley families and therefore the Walker family of Lightcliffe. [See *later notes*]. This may well explain how Fanny became the companion of aunt Ann Walker at Cliffe Hill which was presumably how she met John Walker. After the wedding John and Fanny set off for a honeymoon in Italy. But on 19th January 1830 twenty-five-year-old John Walker died on his honeymoon. He was buried at the old Protestant cemetery, Corso Garibaldi, Naples.

It took a long time for this news to reach the Walker family and for a pregnant Fanny to return to England. Apparently, Ann Walker went down to Dover to meet her, the Walker family being fearful that a child would inherit. But later in 1830, at her parents' home she gave birth to a still born son. With no heir and no will – John Walker died intestate – matters were complicated. There was much reading and rereading of his father and grandfather's wills. The upshot was that the sisters Elizabeth Sutherland and Ann Walker became very wealthy coheireses. The Penfold family were shocked that no provision was made for Fanny.

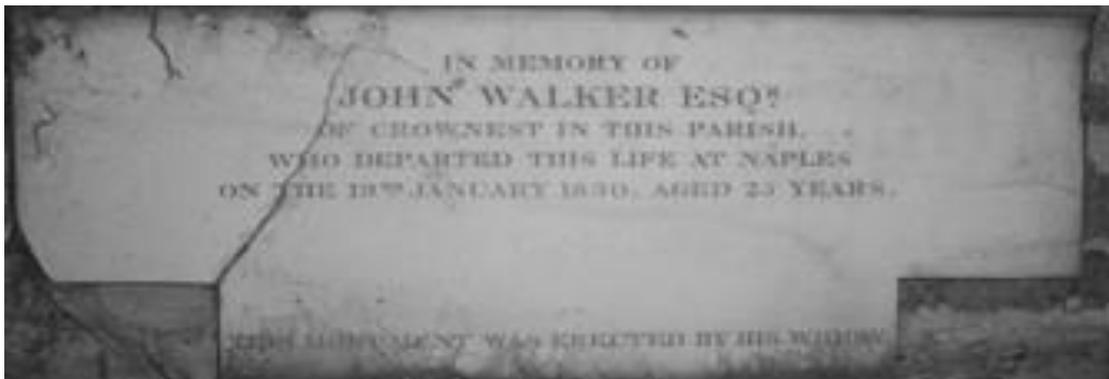
Widow Fanny Walker had a memorial to her husband, John Walker, erected on the southern wall in St. Matthew's old church alongside one of the pulpits. It survives, in two parts, and is now stored in the only remaining bit of St. Matthew's old church, the Tower, now owned by the Friends of Friendless Churches. The sculptor was said to be Westmacott RA (father or son) but it is not mentioned in their list of works.

Fanny appears to have returned to Halifax perhaps to become the companion of aunt Ann Walker again or

Two years later in Halifax on 12th September 1832 the widow Frances Esther Walker married Reverend Courtney Kenny Clarke, a landowner from Dublin. But then Fanny Esther Clarke died in 1838, her death was registered in Penzance Cornwall.

Various other Penfold / Clarke relatives

1. On 31st January 1844 the widower Courtney Kenny Clarke married Delia Priestley Edwards, daughter of Henry Lees Edwards of Pye Nest and Lea Priestley daughter of Joseph Priestley. Henry Lees Edwards was Ann Walker's uncle being her mother's brother and as such was a trustee of the Crow Nest estate for his nieces Ann Walker and Elizabeth Sutherland.
2. Courtney and Delia Clarke had four children including a daughter named Frances Esther Anne Clarke born in 1848 – presumably named after his first wife. Courtney Kenny Clarke died on 2nd December 1873 in Dublin. Delia Priestley Clarke died on 17th April 1892 in Halifax.
3. One of Fanny's younger brothers was Dr Christopher Rawson Penfold (1811 – 1870). He and his wife, Mary, emigrated to Australia. Christopher, a physician, was a believer in the medicinal benefits of wine and both he and Mary planned to concoct a wine tonic for the treatment of anaemia. Christopher had set up his practice on the eastern outskirts of Adelaide. Initially, the Penfolds produced fortified wines in the style of sherry & port for Christopher's patients. As demand for the wines increased, the winery was expanded and was officially established in 1844. In addition to sherry and port, the Penfolds discovered that clarets and Rieslings were both easy to produce and popular. The business grew and is part of one of the largest wine business in Australia.
4. Another one of Fanny's brothers, Reverend George Rawson Penfold (1808 – 1872), emigrated to Ontario, Canada.



Below is the Walker gravestone on plot CC*27 and its inscription.

Now read about Reverend Robert Wilkinson and further connections with the Walker family



IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM WALKER THE SON OF JOHN AND MARY WALKER OF
CLIFFE HILL WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
THE 26TH DAY OF APRIL 1798 AGED 3 WEEKS.

ERE SIN COULD BLIGHT OR SORROW FADE
DEATH CAME WITH FRIENDLY CARE
THE OPENING BUD TO HEAVEN CONVEYED
AND BADE IT BLOSSOM THERE

ALSO SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARY WALKER DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
JOHN AND MARY WALKER OF CROW NEST
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 1ST, 1815 AGED 15 YEARS

BELOVED AND LAMENTED
SHE PASSED FROM THE CHANGEFUL SEASONS OF THIS LIFE
TO BLOOM FOREVER IN THE PARADISE OF GOD

ALSO, OF JOHN WALKER OF CROW NEST AND FATHER OF THE ABOVE NAMED
CHILDREN WHO DIED APRIL 22ND 1823 AGED 70 YEARS

ALSO, MARY WALKER THE WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED JOHN WALKER WHO DIED
NOVEMBER 3RD 1823 AGED 60 YEARS.

ALSO, IN MEMORY OF MARY SUTHERLAND DAUGHTER OF GEORGE MACKAY
SUTHERLAND ESQ. OF ULLDALE SCOTLAND AND GRANDDAUGHTER OF THE
ABOVE JOHN AND MARY WALKER WHO DIED JUNE 16TH 1845 AGED 15 YEARS

D.M.Barker
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