

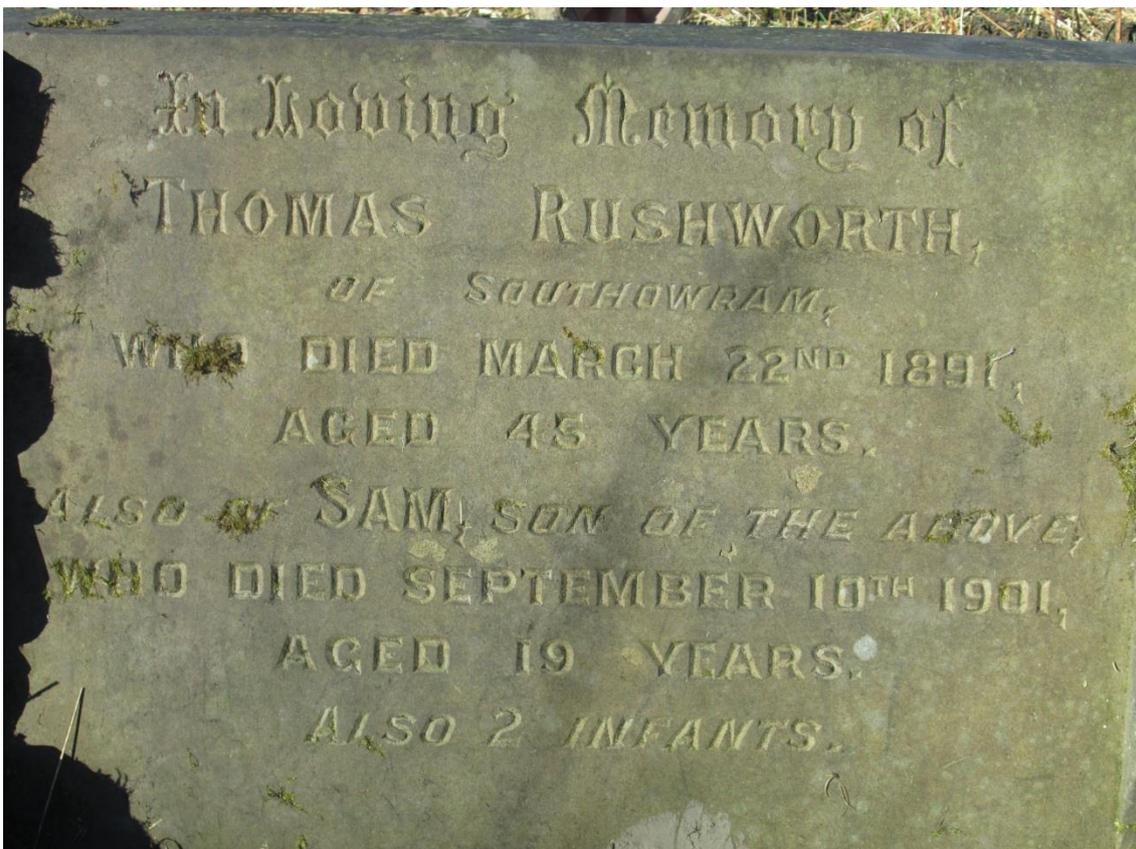
**PRIVATE Arthur Rushworth (1880 - 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916)**  
**and**  
**George Rushworth (7<sup>th</sup> July 1894 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 1944{?})**  
**Rushworth half brothers**  
**and**  
**other family**



Arthur Rushworth was born in 1880, the fourth son and sixth child of Thomas Rushworth and Rachel Sharp. These parents had married on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1869 in Halifax. Thomas was a 23 year old Delver from Southowram where his father Joseph was an Innkeeper. His bride Rachel was 19 years old from Hipperholme and her father George was a “Gardener”. The couple were living in Langley House, Hipperholme cum Brighouse in the 1871 census. They had already lost a nine week old daughter Sarah Jane who was buried on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1870 in plot R43 of St Matthew’s churchyard, Lightcliffe.

The next decade would see the arrival of six more children Charley (1871), twins Edith and Annie (1873), Herbert (1876), John William (1878) before Arthur appeared in 1880. All were baptised at St Matthew’s Church, Lightcliffe months if not years after they were born. Charley had his own baptism on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1872 but perhaps understandably Edith and Annie were baptised together with Herbert on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1877. By the 1881 census most of family were living at Lane End, Hipperholme although Edith was staying a few doors away with a gardener uncle and aunt Sharp.

Sam arrived in 1882 and Joseph in 1884. Joseph was baptised at St Matthew's on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1884 but died a couple of weeks later on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1884 aged just 2 months. He was buried on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1884 in plot R43. Three years later the local vicar at St Matthew's church probably nudged Thomas and Rachel into getting their three surviving youngest boys, John William, Arthur and Sam, baptised. Unfortunately he did not record their birth dates just their baptism date 15<sup>th</sup> November 1885. Father Thomas was still a "Stone Delver" living in Hipperholme but he would not be for much longer as he passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1891 aged 45. He was buried alongside his two infant children on 25<sup>th</sup> March in plot R43 now owned by his wife Rachel Rushworth.

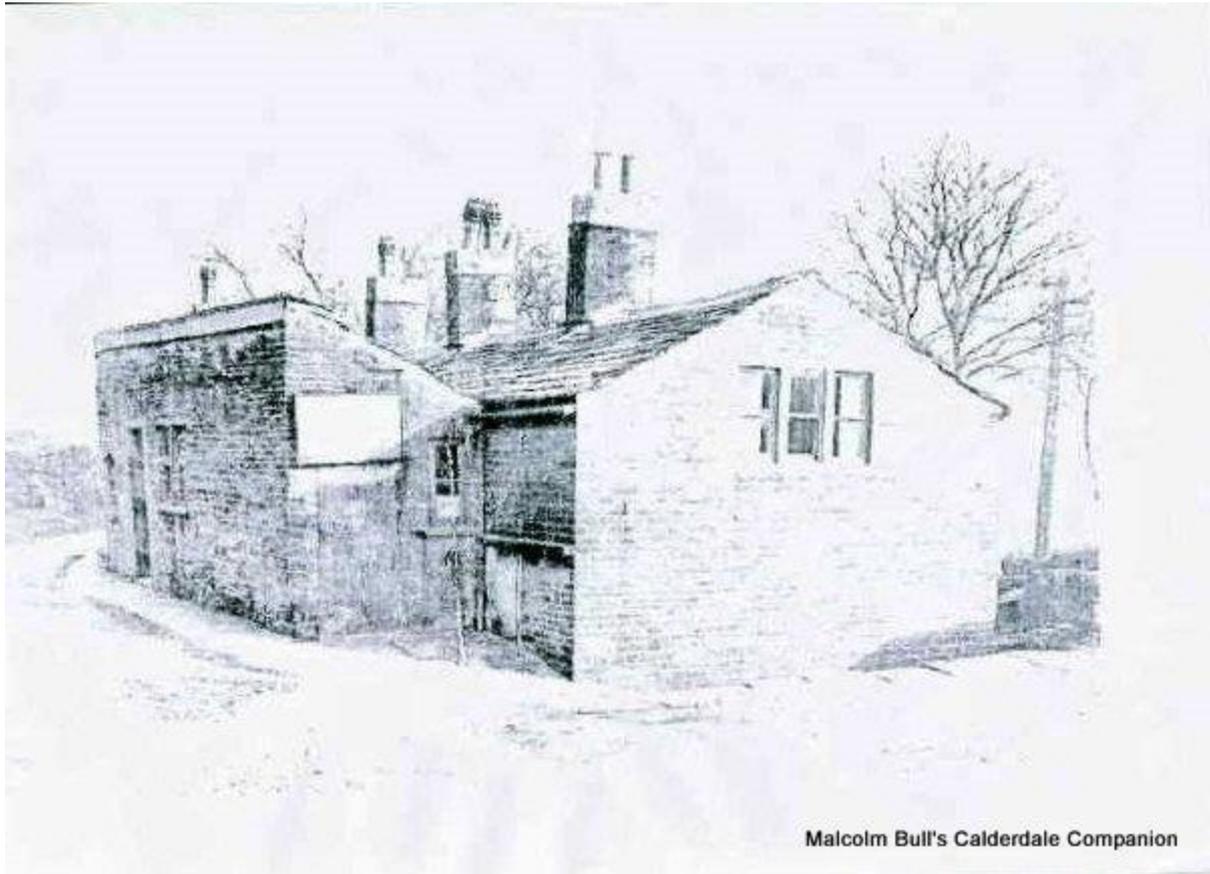


The Will of Thomas Rushworth late of Clough Head Southowram in the parish of Halifax in the county of York Stone Delver and Beerhouse keeper who died 22 March 1891 at Southowram was proved at the Principal Registry by Rachel Rushworth of Clough Head Widow the Relict and sole Executrix. Personal Estate £50.

This explains why on census night 1891 Rachel was a 41 year old widow whose occupation was "Publican" at Southowram. Eldest son Charley was a Station Engine Tenter, Edith and Annie were Worsted Spinners, 15 year old Herbert was a "Doffer Worsted" and a 26 year old nephew Mark Rushworth was another "Stone Delver". The younger sons Arthur and Sam were Scholars. Arthur and the rest of the family lived at Clough Head, Southowram pictured and sketched below.



Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion



Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion

Photographs courtesy of Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion

These image were kindly submitted by Viv & Peter Butterworth

## An unusually named public house

Apparently this public house in Southowram, known previously as the **Masons' Arms**, Brighthouse, changed its name in 1870 to "**Who could a'thowt it**"! Joseph Rushworth was the Innkeeper in 1861 and 1871 before his widow Jane took over in 1881. Their son Thomas Rushworth was the Inn Keeper for a time around 1890 before his death when as explained above his widow Rachel took charge.

### Who could a' thowt it

A non-descript plot at the junction of Clough Lane and Sunny Bank Lane, this was the site of a Beer House known as 'Who Could a'thowt it' which served the ample thirsts of the quarry workers (Delvers) working in many nearby quarries during the 19th and early 20th Centuries. It closed as a pub in 1933, and subsequently fell into disrepair. The materials were used in the rebuilding of Coventry after World War 2.



Rachel had another son George Rushworth born on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1894 although he was not baptised until 30<sup>th</sup> March 1907 at St John the Baptist, Halifax – so this might have been a baptism before a confirmatin. The West Yorkshire baptism entry reads:-

July 1894	1907 March 30 <sup>th</sup>	George	Thomas (deceased) & Rachel	Rushworth	Marsh Delves	Quarriesman	H. L. Taylor	at Shield
	No. 2247							

Clearly the Thomas Rushworth who had died in 1891 was not the father!

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1898 the 48 year old widow Rachel Rushworth married 36 year old James Emmett at the parish church in Halifax. James Emmett was an “Engine Driver”, the son of John Emmett (deceased), a “Surveyor”. Both gave their address as Marsh Delves, Southowram. This was where they were on census night 1901. James Emmett was a 39 year old “Engine Tenter” living with Rachel and six step sons. Charley was a “Delver” at a Stone Quarry, Herbert an “Engine Tenter” also at a Stone Quarry, John William was a “Stone Mason”, Arthur a “Woolwasher”, Sam another “Delver” at a Stone Quarry and young George was at school. Both Edith and Annie had married by then. Annie married William Cockcroft on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1893 at St Anne in the Grove, Southowram. Her twin Edith married Arthur Wilson on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1895 at St Thomas, Charlestown, Halifax.

Herbert Rushworth, a 25 year old Engine Tenter of Marsh Delver, Southowram married Emma Horner of Horton Terrace, Hipperholme on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1901 at St Thomas’s Church, Charleston, Halifax. Then sadly on 10<sup>th</sup> September that year young 19 year old Sam Rushworth died and was buried on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1901 in St Matthew’s Churchyard, Lightcliffe in the family plot R43 alongside his father Thomas and his infant siblings.

The 24 year olds John William Rushworth and Mary Ann Salt married on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1903 at St Anne’s Church, Southowram. The family were back there on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1905 when 38 year old Charley Rushworth married Emma Collingwood.

So all the brothers apart from Arthur and young George had ‘flown the nest’ by the 1911 census when mother Rachel Emmett had been married to James for 12 years but they as a couple had had no children. James was still a “Quarry Engine Tenter” for a Stone Merchant, 31 year old Arthur was a “Mason’s Labourer” working for a Building contractor and 16 year old George was an “Apprentice Beltmake”. The address was 12 Marsh Delves, Southowram, a three roomed house.

Both Arthur and George were single and the ‘right’ age to be involve in World War One.

## PRIVATE Arthur Rushworth (1880 - 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916)

Arthur Rushworth joined the West Yorkshire, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was formed in September 1914 as part of the Third New Army (K3). They were mobilised and landed at Havre in September 1915. The battalion were involved at the battle of the Somme in 1916 when Arthur was killed in action on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916.



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
RUSHWORTH Arthur	W. York. R	Pte	27713
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	0/2/104 BH	5448	Killed
BRITISH	- do -	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

The Brighouse Echo report from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 1916 mentions that Mrs Emmett had another son serving in the Royal Flying Corps.

### SOUTHWRAM SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

Official information has been received that Pte. Arthur Rushworth, of the West Riding Regiment, was killed in action on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The deceased soldier, who joined the colours some two years ago, had only been at the front about three weeks, when he met his death.

He was 36 years of age, and was the son of the late Mr. Thos. Rushworth and Mrs Emmett, of 12, The Marsh, Southowram. In civil life he was a stonemason by trade, and was also a regular member of the Square Church P.S.A. Mrs. Emmett has another son serving with the Royal Flying Corps. A memorial service is to be held at St Anne's Church on Sunday evening next.

The Halifax Courier had the following two announcements on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

PTE ARTHUR  
RUSHWORTH

Official intimation has been received that Pte Arthur Rushworth (27713) West Yorkshire Regt., was killed in action on Aug 17. He was 36 years of age, lived at 12 The Marsh Southowram and enlisted soon after the outbreak of war. He formerly attended Square P.S.A.

DEATHS

DIED IN THE  
COUNTRY'S SERVICE

RUSHWORTH .- On August 17<sup>th</sup> 1916, Pte Arthur Rushworth, 27713, West Yorkshire Regiment, killed in action, aged 36 years – 12, The Marsh, Southowram.

And then a week later on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September the Brighouse Echo reported :-

Memorial Service

THE LATE PRIVATE A. RUSHWORTH,  
OF SOUTHOWRAM

A service in memory of the late Private Arthur Rushworth, of 12, The Marsh, Southowram, was held at St Anne's Church, Southowram, on Sunday evening. The church was packed, and special hymns were sung and prayers offered for those who had fallen in battle, and also for those who were fighting on the various battlefields in the present great national crisis.

The Rv E.B.Baker (curate), who conducted the service, took his text from the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter St. John and the 13<sup>th</sup> verse: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." They were gathered together that evening, he said, to offer prayer, and to pay tribute to the men who had so nobly gone forward and laid down their lives for their fellow friends. People at home were simply

debtors. They could not possibly owe more than they did at the present time, and it was their duty, day by day, to help those who were still fighting, and to see that they lacked nothing, whilst they were carrying out their difficult work. One thought with pride of the thousands who had come from different countries all over the world, in response to the cry of their mother country, to fight in the cause of liberty, freedom and justice. The sinking of the Lusitania, the murder of Nurse Cavell, and the number of other outrages that have been committed by the Germans on land and sea, only show how the governing classes of Germany are steeped in crime. The Prime Minister had said: "This indeed is a holy war," and no truer words were ever spoken. No one could fight for a nobler cause, and for it thousands and thousands of fine men have lost their lives.

After the Blessing, the National Anthem was sung and the "Dead March" was played.

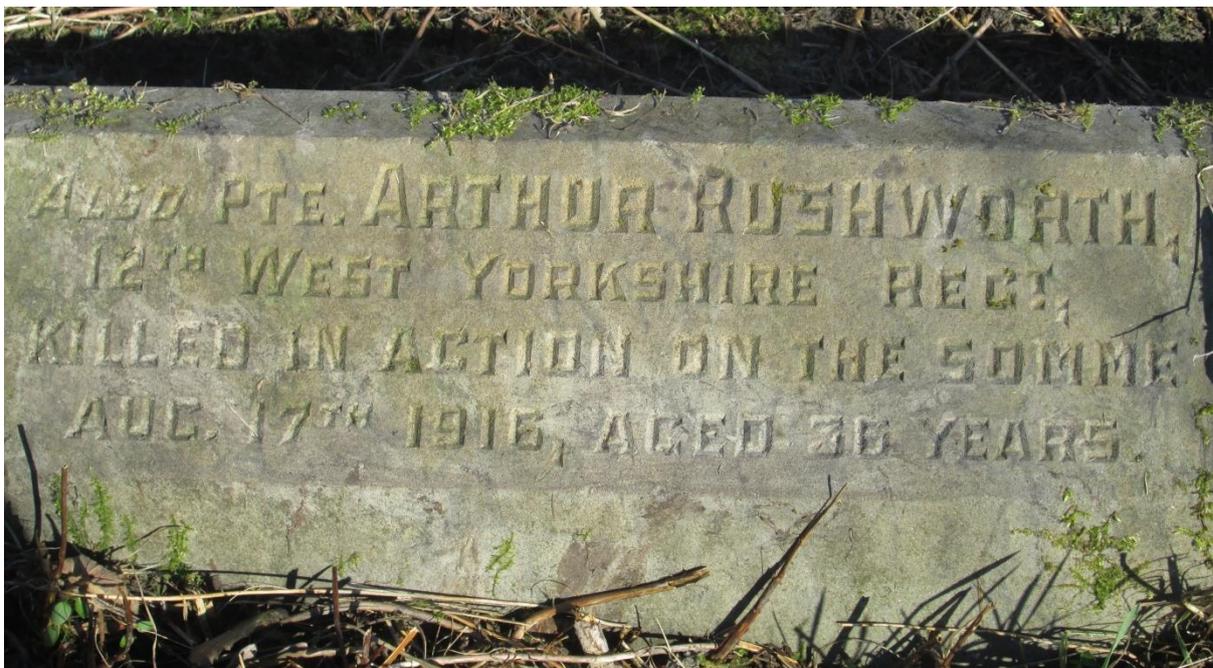
Private Arthur Rushworth's was remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme France,

**RUSHWORTH, Pte. Arthur, 27713. 12th Bn. INDEX No. M.R.21  
West Yorkshire Regt. 17th Aug., 1916. Age 36. THIEPVAL MEM.  
Son of the late Thomas Rushworth and of Rachel Emmett (formerly Rushworth), of 12, The Marsh,  
Southowram, Halifax, Yorks. PART XXXVIII**





His name is also on the regimental memorial in Halifax Minster and on his family's grave in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe.



## **George Rushworth (7<sup>th</sup> July 1894 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 1944{??})**

The G. Rushworth who became an Air Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> Class was almost certainly the other “son serving in the Royal Flying Corps” referred to in half-brother Arthur Rushworth’s obituary. The birth year of 1895 fits with his age on his enlistment day 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. And his job in civilian life was described as an “Electrician” which George Rushworth was when he later married. His “forces war record” gives a “Rank (2<sup>nd</sup>)” as “Magneto Rep” and his service number as 35299. It also says “Airforce Pay:- 2s 0d. Terms of enlistment: - Duration of war”. So it looks as though George Rushworth was one of the original members of the Royal Flying Corps which became the Royal Air Force.

This George Rushworth, Rachel’s youngest son, survived the war returning home to 12 Marsh Delves, Southowram. From that address he married Elsie Forster at St Anne’s Church, Southowram on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1920. He was 26 years of age and an “Electrical Engineer”. It was again stated that Thomas Rushworth, the deceased Quarryman, was his father. Elsie was the 30 year old daughter of a joiner Miles Forster who had also died. She lived at 14 Lees Buildings Hipperholme and worked as a “Machinist”. They had a son in 1923 and named him Arthur Rushworth presumably in memory of his deceased uncle.

George Rushworth may be the 59 year old George Rushworth who died on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1944 in The General Hospital Nottingham and who left a widow Elsie.

Who was his natural father? Could it have been his mother’s second husband James Emmett? She did eventually marry James Emmett although in 1911 on the census return it was recorded that that marriage had produced no children. Probably for appearance sake George Rushworth’s father was always given as her first husband, Thomas Rushworth, even though Thomas had died long before George was born

## The mother and step father

Arthur and George's mother, Rachel, died on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1924 aged 74 years and was buried with her first husband and son Sam (as well as others) on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1924 in plot R43 of St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe.



Her probate reads:-

EMMETT Rachel of 12 The Marsh Southowram Halifax (wife of James Emmett)m died 18 April 1924 Administration London 3 May to the said James Emmett crane driver. Effects £159 16s 5d

Her second husband, James Emmett, died on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1932. He was buried with his wife and other members of the Rushworth family in plot, R43 of St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1932. The grave was then declared to be "Full".

His probate interestingly reads:-

EMMETT James of 2 Belmont-place Halifax died 9 January 1932 Probate London 25 January to Elsie Rushworth (wife of George Rushworth) and the said George Rushworth electrician. Effects £85 2s 4d

Does this suggest that James Emmett was indeed George Rushworth's natural father or did he just have no one else to leave his estate to?

D.M.Barker  
October 2015