

Mark Dawson, J.P.

Mayor of Bradford 1869-1871



Born 27th January, 1819 in Manchester and by 1841 was living in Chorlton upon Medlock (Manchester) with his mother Sarah. She was a shopkeeper aged 40 and he was 20.

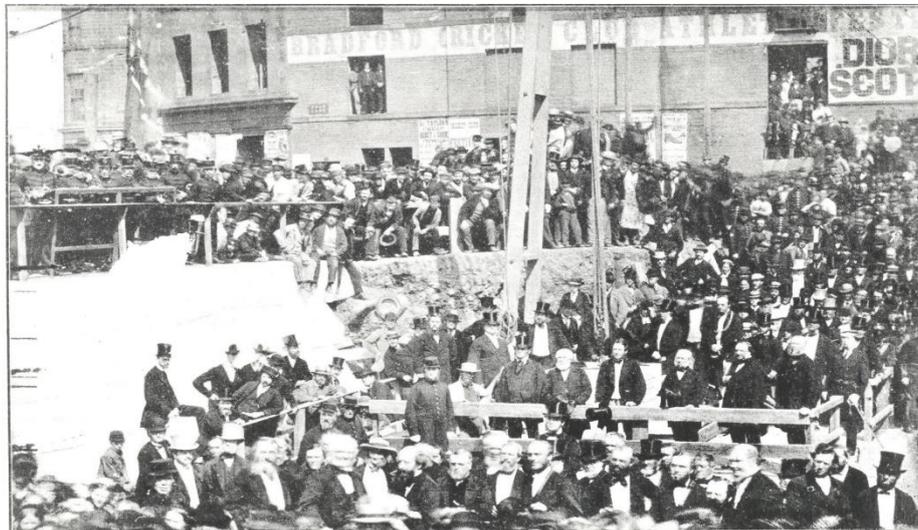
He was married to Elizabeth Mosley (then living in Hulme) on 10th February 1844. His profession was given as a bookkeeper. Elizabeth came from Baslow or Calver in Derbyshire. They had a son, George Frederick and daughter Emily whilst still living in Manchester but were living in Horton, Bradford by 1851 having moved to Bradford in 1848 by which time a further son, William Arthur, had been born. At the time of this census, Mark was described as a Worsted Spinner. His sister-in-law, Martha Mosley was living with the family and they had a servant.

By 1861 he was living with a larger family in Lane Ends, Hipperholme-cum-Brighouse. Another son, Mark, had been born in Bradford around 1853. Leonard (1856) and Charles Mosley (1858) were both born in Hipperholme. Elizabeth's father – William Mosley – was

living with them at the time of the Census and described as a retired grocer from Bakewell aged 78. [Lane Ends, Hipperholme may be the same place as Lane Ends Green at the bottom of Kirk Lane and close to the current A58. His later home of Woodside is 300 yards along from Kirk Lane. George Frederick is no longer living with the family.

In 1863 he was elected a Councillor for West Ward in Bradford and was re-elected 3 times. He became an Alderman of the borough in 1868. The following year he became Mayor. This had a degree of controversy in that the election result was close with Alderman J Leeming. Alderman Dawson won by "a single vote, his own." His first year in office was sufficiently successful to allow for re-election the following year.

During the two years of his mayoralty Lister Park was bought, the ancient "soke rights" were bought out (ancient feudal rights), the foundation stones for both the Town Hall and Mechanics Institute were laid, gas works were acquired, the first School Board elected, the Free Libraries Act adopted and steps taken for the construction of sewerage works.



Laying the Town Hall foundation stone, 10th August, 1870.





The golden trowel presented to Mark Dawson to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone of the Town Hall – kept in the Lord Mayor’s suite.

Bradford Observer 17th May 1870

“Sir Titus Salt, Bart., and the Mayor Mark Dawson, Esq. Messrs. Appleton & Co respectfully invite inspection at their rooms, Little Horton Lane, of a very fine Life-size Oil Painting of Sir Titus Salt, Bart. Also smaller portraits in Oils of The Mayor, (Mark Dawson Esq.,) and other eminent townsmen.”

Bradford observer 21st May 1870

“The Mayor of Bradford – An excellent lithographic portrait of Mr Mark Dawson has just been published by Mr G Black, of Regent Street, London. It is from a photograph by Messrs. Appleton & Co, of Bradford. The likeness is an admirable one and the work does great credit to the artists concerned in it.”

He continued to give service to the Borough until he moved to Cheshire sometime between the mid-1870s and 1881.

During his time in Hipperholme he was a churchwarden at St Matthew's Church for “many” years and Trustee and President Governor of Hipperholme Grammar School.

He was founder of **Mark Dawson & Sons Limited** of Bradford. We've found no records yet of this company. However, the Register of persons entitled to vote in the election of members to serve in parliament for the borough of Bradford in the County of York [1867] has Mark Dawson of Hipperholme at Springhead Mill in Bowling together with George Dawson of Horton also of the same mill. [Mark Dawson & Co. Ltd, Worsted Spinners of Springhead Mill was acquired in 1898.]

The building still exists on Spring Mill Street, just off Manchester Road. The company’s name is still visible above a door.



The aerial photograph shows the mill to the right of the road running diagonally. It is taken from a C H Wood photograph, the original is in the Bradford Museums & Galleries (F7658 Trinity Road), dated 1956.

<http://photos.bradfordmuseums.org/view-item?i=15087&WINID=1484654090048#cp3sUoWZydwAAAFZrEeKFg/15087>

By 1871 the family were living in the substantial Woodside house in Hipperholme (on Wood Lane & overlooking the A58). William Alfred is studying at Cambridge, son Mark is described as a cotton warp agent and Leonard & Charles are scholars. Emily is not at the family home.



In October 1875 Elizabeth dies, aged 57, and is buried in Lightcliffe churchyard.

Mark marries Elizabeth Mills from Huddersfield on 29th April 1880 in the Strand, London.

By 1881, the Dawson family are living in a house called Oldfield in the village of Dunham Massey, Cheshire. Mark is 62, a worsted spinner and Elizabeth is 46. Charles is living with them (23) and is a cotton spinner agent. Mark's eldest son, George (35) is visiting at the time of the census and is described as a worsted spinner with 300 employees. They have 5 servants.

Mark Dawson dies in February 1884, aged 65, and is buried in St Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe in the same grave as his first wife.

Obituary: His death in Cheshire was recorded in the Bradford Daily Telegraph on wednesday, 20th 1884. He had recently been to Bradford for the funeral of William Foster of Queensbury (Black Dyke Mills). The obituary outlines his life with the connections to Bradford noting that, though he retained interest in the town partly through his sons being in business, he had left the area for an important position at Messrs. W R Callendar & Co. in Manchester.

“..gaining in his public life no small degree of popularity for the activity & energy with which he discharged his public duties.”

“Somewhat brusque and impetuous in manner, he was apt to convey a less favourable impression at first sight than was created on a more extended knowledge but his energy and business tact and ability unquestioned, and the service rendered to the borough and Conservative Party were very great.”

DAILY TELEGRAPH, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1884.

DEATH OF MR MARK DAWSON, J.P.

Bradfordians will regret to learn that the illness, from which it was only this morning announced Mr Mark Dawson was suffering, has terminated fatally. It had been of short duration, the deceased having been in Bradford last week, and although it was then obvious that he was not in his usual health, he attended the funeral of the late Mr Wm. Foster at Queensbury, and attended to business in Bradford, returning to Bowdon, near Manchester, on Thursday. His illness then took a more pronounced form, and on Saturday the gravest fears for his state were entertained; and notwithstanding all that could be done his illness resulted in death this afternoon. Mr Dawson, although for some years back more associated with Manchester than Bradford, for many years occupied a conspicuous position in the borough, and took a very active part in its public life, filling for two years in succession the office of Mayor, gaining in his public life no small degree of popularity for the activity and energy with which he discharged his public duties. Deceased was born at Longsight, near Manchester, in January, 1819, so that he was in his sixty-fifth year at the time of his death. He came to Bradford in 1848, and from that time till 1874 he was closely connected with Bradford. His first connection with public life was in 1863, when he was elected as a member of the Council for the West Ward, a position to which he was twice re-elected. In 1868 he was elected an alderman, and in 1869, on the occasion of Alderman West's retirement from the Mayoralty, Ald. M. Dawson and Ald. J. Leesing were put in nomination for the position of Mayor, the result being in favour of Ald. Dawson by a single vote, his own Party spirit at that time ran high in the town and Council, and the election caused not a little excitement. Alderman Dawson, however, discharged the duties of his office in a manner that gave general satisfaction, and at the close of his year of office he was re-elected. His Mayoralty was an important period, for during it the foundation of the Town Hall was laid, the gas works were acquired, Lister Park was bought, the first School Board was elected, the Free Libraries Act was adopted, the sick rights were bought out, and steps were taken for the construction of the sewerage works. The efforts in connection with these and other public matters did not pass without recognition, and in April, 1871, he was presented with a portrait of himself. He continued to serve the Corporation for some years, and was appointed a borough magistrate. On his removal to Manchester to take an important position in connection with the firm of Messrs W. R. Callendar and Co. he necessarily gradually dropped out of public life in the borough, but up to the last he took a deep interest in the affairs of the community among whom he had spent so many years, being in some degree aided therein by the fact that his sons were in business here. In general politics he was a Conservative, and laboured assiduously in support of Mr M. W. Thompson and the late Sir H. W. Bingley in their contests against the late Mr E. Miall. Somewhat brusque and impetuous in manner he was apt to convey a less favourable impression at first sight than was created on more extended knowledge, but his energy and business tact and ability were unquestioned, and the service he rendered the borough and the Conservative Party were very great. While in this district he resided at Lightcliffe, where he was for some years one of the churchwardens, and it is understood that like his deceased wife he will be buried at Lightcliffe.

GOSSIP FROM "THE WO"

The Drawing-room which was announced day, March 13th, has been postponed till the day. I hear that this alteration is in consequence of the Duchess of Edinburgh having reminded that the 13th is the anniversary of the assassination of the late Emperor of Russia.

A correspondent writes: "It has been as in 'society' and in the press, that if Lord had married Miss Finney she would not have ceased at Court; and it is added that she owed her refusal to 'Marlborough House. Such statements are equally unwarranted and persistent. All such matters are decided by only, and on such a question the opinion of Booboo would not carry any weight with her Majesty, who is far more apt to be guided by them."

Sir Redvers Buller did not receive his order for Egypt till half-past three on Tuesday so it was rather a squeeze to get away by mail, especially as he had to make arrangements for postponing a number of communications. Lady Audrey Buller is at present the South of France for the benefit of her health.

The Earl of Abingdon (Lord Norrey) advised to dispute his father's will on the testator's insanity. The will was evasive to the late Earl's confinement; but to be good reason to suppose that his affected at the time. The fact that the will is practically cut off with a shilling is in fact evidence of the testator's mental condition, indeed, some ostensible reason can be given for the eccentricity—which, if an credible, is not the case. So Sir James Hannen is likely to be called upon to decide, in a peer the fate of an Earl.

It is generally expected in the High Court will be offered to Sir Alexander Forbes, on his retirement from the House of Commons. The Conservatives will contest the seat, as obtained a candidate in Mr Mackenzie the Kintail. It is fully anticipated that a professing extreme Radical view on Question will come forward, in which case of the Conservative champion is a certain victory.

Madame Trebelli is having a most successful season in America. The climate suits her, and she is in excellent health. She has so many offers of that probably she will not return to England in the summer.

Canon Body has resigned the valuable Kirby-Misperton, Yorkshire, so as to devote wholly to his duties as Canon of Durham.

There has been much speculation during the last few days as to the publicist likely to be selected by the trustees of the "Times" to replace as editor of the "Times." Several names have been mentioned, but I believe it will be found that the final decision, the great journal will be placed in commission, with Mr Buckle as a director, composed of Mr J. Wallis, Mr A. Walter, Mr J. Macdonald, and others.

With the necessary alteration in the very much how matters stood in Mr Cherrill's case.

Who is in fault?—Oxford, Friday. I had occasion last Wednesday to visit churchyard, and, naturally enough, to grave of England's defunct chief. Beneath the slab there were lying, propped upright, one large, all-frowsy, discoloured, rain-spattered wreath of everlasting. Upon the vault there lay two dirty mourning-veils, a few dead weather-beaten stalks of scattered in misery and abandon on the grass around was untended, the mould weed-run and green, and the railings, the sepulchre from close inspection by the crowd and twisted awry as ever is the pali-

MILL FIRE AT WAKEFIELD.

Funeral:

His funeral took place at the new St Matthew's Parish Church and he was buried with his first wife in the churchyard alongside the old church. (his second wife was also buried there a few years later)

The body and family mourners travelled by train (Lancashire & Yorkshire) from Bowden to Lightcliffe station and official mourners came by a specially chartered train from Bradford Exchange. The Mayor of Bradford (Ald I Smith) and 5 other Aldermen, Councillors and the Town Clerk attended. As did a good number of others including W Delius, A Foster of Northowram Hall, Mr Longbotham of Ingleby Hall, Alderman J Booth of Ovenden Richard Kershaw (Crow Nest) and John Foster of Priestley Green.

The procession from the station was led by the Chief Constable, a superintendent and 20 constables.

The funeral party were met by the vicar, Rev V R Leonard and the choir.

After the service the coffin was interred at the churchyard with, at the graveside the Vicar, the Vicar of Coley (Rev R Wawm), the curate Rev F King and Rev Stork from Hipperholme Grammar School.

The organist, a Mr Cook, may well have been the headteacher of the National School on Wakefield Road.

Some details of the service are available.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR MARK DAWSON, J.P.

The remains of the late Mr Mark Dawson were interred to-day in the churchyard of the Old Parish Church at Lightcliffe. The deceased gentleman expired on Tuesday last at his residence, Harefield, near Bowdon, Cheshire, after a very brief illness, and his body was removed to Lightcliffe this morning by Lancashire and Yorkshire train leaving Manchester at 10.0, reaching Lightcliffe Station at 11.10 o'clock. The relatives of the deceased travelled by the same train, and on reaching Lightcliffe the coffin, which was of unpolished oak, with brass furnishings, and bore the usual inscription, was placed in the first-class waiting room to await the arrival of those friends of the deceased who wished to pay their tribute of respect to his memory by attending the funeral. A special Lancashire and Yorkshire train conveyed these friends from the Exchange Station at Bradford at 11 o'clock, arriving at Lightcliffe a few minutes after the mourners, with the body of the deceased, had reached that place. Amongst those who travelled from Bradford by the train named were the following gentlemen:—The Mayor of Bradford (Ald. I. Smith), Aldermen John Hill, Thomas Hill, W. Moulson, and N. Atkinson, the Town Clerk (Mr W. T. McGowen), Messrs Waring, John Ambler, Smith, J. Fletcher, Wm. Oddy, J.P., Henry Illingworth, T. T. Emspall, Jesse Galloway, J. Priestley, T. C. Hope, J. H. A. Jowett, Rev. J. Clarke, Messrs George Ackroyd, J. Hitchen, Sendell (borough accountant), C. J. Virgo, L. Fulda, C. Maurice Wilson, Edward Linck, Edward Schofield, B. S. Ward (Hipperholme Grammar School), A. Hoffmann, J. W. Wilkinson, J. R. Holmes, Jno. Ambler, John Wood (Shipley), A. W. Robinson, Dr Evans, James Wilson, Newton Rhodes, Dr A. Lodge, Wm. Hey, F. W. Hill, W. Mawson, Richard Beck, Jno. Turner, George Firth, W. Delius, B. Broadbent, J. R. Armitage, Jno. Hill, Ezra W. Hammond, W. Fletcher, Hawking, &c., &c. As the coffin lay in the waiting room a large number of very beautiful wreaths of flowers were placed upon it, and it was afterwards carried to the hearse, drawn by two horses, awaiting it outside the station. The funeral procession was then formed, the cortege being preceded by Mr Withers, Chief Constable, Mr Laycock, superintendent, and about a score constables of the Bradford Police Force. The mourners followed in private carriages sent by the following, viz.—Mr I. Webster, Mr James Ambler, Glen Royd, Luddenden, Mrs Adam Foster, Henth Royd, Halifax, and Mrs T. Hargreaves, Park Villa, Halifax. The mourners were conveyed in these carriages as follows:—First carriage: Mrs Dawson, Mr G. F. Dawson, and Mr and Mrs Isaac Webster; second carriage: Mr and Mrs W. A. Dawson, Mr and Mrs M. Dawson, junr.; third carriage: Miss Mosley, Mr L. Dawson, Mr C. M. Dawson, Mr G. H. Dawson, Master S. Webster; fourth carriage: Mr J. Spencer, Mr A. Hardley, Mr A. W. Robinson, and Mr R. O. Kell. The following private carriages brought up the rear, their owners being either conveyed in them or walked in processional order on the footpath with the gentlemen already named, viz.—Mr Hy. Foster (the late Mr W. Foster's carriage), Mr John Foster, Priestley Green, Lightcliffe; with Mr Foster, Mr Fred Ripley, and Mr Geo. Ackroyd; Dr R. Alexander, Bradford; Mr George Jennings, Halifax; Mr Rhodes Sowden, Brighouse; Mr Richard Kershaw, Crow Nest; Mr A. B. Foster, Northowram Hall; Dr Wm. Charteris, Hipperholme; Mr Hy. Longbottom, Ingley Hall, Wakefield; and Ald. James Booth, Ovenden Grange. The funeral procession first proceeded to the new Lightcliffe Parish Church, where it had been arranged the funeral service should be held. The cortege was met at the church door by the vicar of the parish, the Rev V. R. Leonard and the choir, attired in surplices, and as the coffin was borne up the aisle of the church the organist, Mr Cook, played, "O, Rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn). The service, conducted by the vicar, was choral, the hymns "A few more years shall roll," and "God of the living in Whose eyes," being sung during its progress. As the body was borne out of church the organist played "The Dead March in Saul." On leaving the church the funeral procession reformed and proceeded to the old parish church, the ground connected with which is still used as the general burial ground of the village. Deceased was interred in the same vault as that in which his wife was buried on October 9th, 1875. The service at the grave side was conducted by the Rev Mr Wawn, vicar of Cowley, who together with the Rev. V. R. Leonard, vicar, the Rev. F. King, curate of Lightcliffe, and the Rev Mr Stork, of Hipperholme Grammar School, and the choir, walked in the procession from the church to the graveyard. At the conclusion of the service at the graveside the choir sang the appropriate hymn, "When the toil of day is done," and the impressive ceremony which had been witnessed by a small gathering of spectators was brought to a close. The Bradford friends of the deceased were conveyed back to the Exchange station by the specially chartered train leaving Lightcliffe a few minutes before one o'clock.

We may add that the funeral arrangements were entrusted to and carefully carried out by Messrs Holmes and Co., of Darley Street, Bradford.

THE AGENTS OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

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His residence, at death, is described as Harefield, Bowden, Cheshire. His memorial stone says Dunham Massey and 3 years before his death he was living at Oldfield, Dunham Massey. There is a possibility that Oldfield became Harefield (both are mentioned in a description of a school on School Lane. Bowden & Dunham Massey were conjoining villages.)



Will: A personal estate of £22,064 5s 1d was in the executive hands of his sons. George Frederick & William Arthur are of Woodville Terrace, Bradford – worsted spinners - & Mark (jnr) a cotton warp agent.

Elizabeth Dawson, his second wife, dies in Bournemouth though address given as Thornleigh, Huddersfield. aged 57 on 4th February 1892 and is returned for burial in the family grave.

In 1891, Leonard Dawson is living in Osborne Grove, Hipperholme with his aunt, Martha Mosley. She is described as “living on her own means” and he, at 35, is a retired spinner.

Further information on the Mills & Mosley families is available via info@lightcliffchurchyard.org.uk

[Memorial background. The memorial was uncovered in 2016 when this area was cleared by the Friends. The main stone had fallen on to the ground and the inscription to Mark himself was partially buried. However because of the transcriptions written by Arthur Blackburn around 1930 what was written was known. From an Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the memorial was partially restored though the cross has not been recovered.]

Ian Philp. Friends of St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe. With assistance from Dorothy Barker (FoSCM) and Richard Lee-Van den Daele (Lord Mayor's Secretary (Diary).