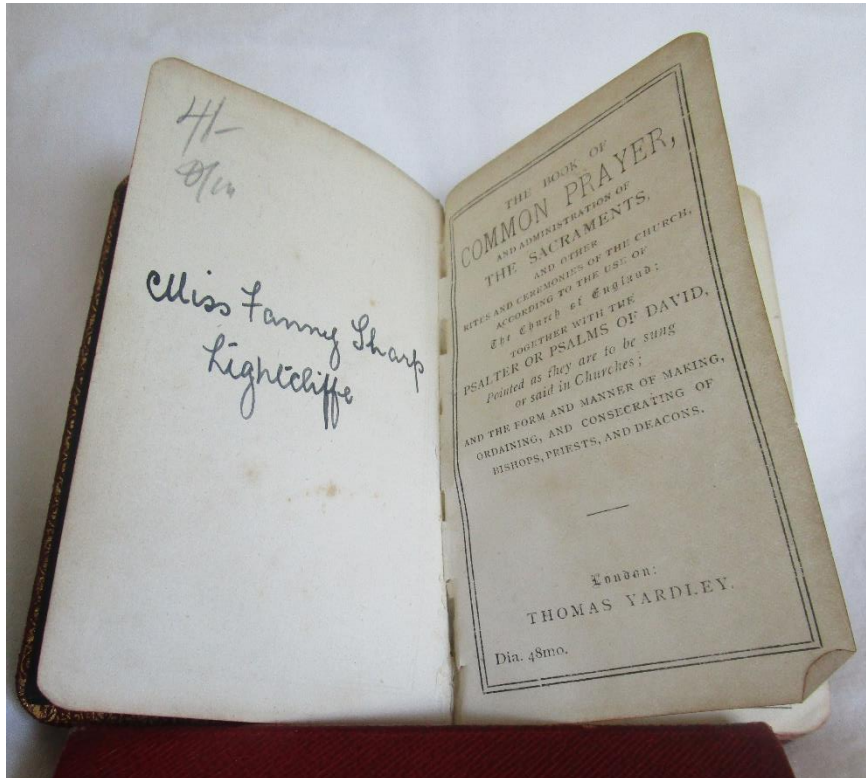


**Fanny Bradley nee Sharp,
(3rd January 1873 – 6th November 1955)**

the wife of the churchyard grave digger
and owner of this little prayer book and hymnal.



As Fanny Sharp married Francis William Bradley on 20th May 1899 this little prayer book and hymnal, costing four shillings in the late nineteenth century, must be well over a hundred years old. Is that Fanny's own handwriting? Whatever, it is a lovely artefact to now have and we are very grateful to Mrs June Whiteley for giving it to the Friends of St. Matthew's churchyard.

On starting to research Fanny Sharp's family, it soon became obvious that some her immediate ancestors had cropped up before when researching the family of the WW1 soldier Private Edgar Sharp(e).

Fanny Sharp was the daughter of Samuel Sharp and his second wife Sarah nee Leach. Fanny was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 1st June 1873. This must have been the old church as the new one was not built until 1875.

Back tracking from Samuel Sharp you discover that he was almost certainly a slightly older brother of Andrew Sharp, the father of Private Edgar Sharp(e), and therefore Edgar was Fanny's first cousin. The evidence lies in the census and marriage records which are included here again for completeness.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Church of Halifax
in the County of York in the Year 1827

Joshua Sharpe of Shelf of this Parish
Comber, widower



and Martha Appleyard of Northorham of this Parish
Spinner

were married in this Church by Samuel with Consent of
this fifth Day of
November in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty seven

By me Thomas Bates, Off: Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between us { Joshua Sharpe & Mark
Martha Appleyard's & Mark

In the Presence of { Wm. Rushworth
Wm. Newell

No. 868.  147 of 310 

1841 census

Joshua Sharp 35 Woolcomber
Martha ditto 30
Mark ditto 13
Sarah ditto 12
Naomi ditto 7
Susannah ditto 4
Edwin ditto 2
Henry Appleyard 15
Address Birkby Lane, Bailiffe Bridge

1851 census

Joshua Sharp Head 57 Woolcomber
Martha ditto Wife 44
Nanney ditto Dau 17 Jobber at Mill
Lucy ditto Dau 15 Worsted spinner
Edwin ditto Son 13 Worsted spinner
Lewis ditto Son 9 Scholar

Sam ditto Son 7 Scholar
Ann Sharp Dau 6 Scholar
Andrew Sharp Son 2
Address Bailiffe Bridge

1861 census

Joshua Sharp Head 65 Widower Woolcomber
Lewis ditto Son 20 Ag Lab
Sam ditto Son 17 Coal Pit Hanger on
Ann ditto Dau 15 Worsted spinner
Andrew ditto Son 13 Hewer at Coal Pit
Address Bailiffe Bridge

1871 census

Joshua Sharp Head 82 Widower Woolcomber
Andrew Sharp Son 21 Coal Miner
Address Bailiffe Bridge

For the 1871 census Samuel Sharp was not with his widower father, Joshua, and his youngest brother Andrew as he had married twice in the intervening years. In Bradford on 20th May 1866 twenty three year old Sam Sharp of Low Moor - father woolcomber Joshua Sharp - married 26-year-old Fanny Brook also of Low Moor. But thirty-year-old Fanny Sharp died in 1869. A couple of years later, on 16th January 1871, widower Samuel Sharp remarried. His bride was 24-year-old Sarah Leach the daughter of "Overlooker" Thomas Leach from Hipperholme.

1871 census

Samuel Sharp Head 28 Labourer
 Sarah ditto Wife 24
 Joseph Greenwood Lodger 28 Warp Dresser
 Mary ditto ditto 20
 Walsh ditto Son 4
 Address Lower Crow Nest, Lightcliffe

Samuel and Sarah had five children before the next census and all were baptised at St Matthew's Church; Martha Ellen on 29th October 1871 Fanny on 1st June 1873, George Edwin on 3rd October 1875, Tom Leach on 2nd June 1878 and finally Ann on 6th June 1880 after her birth on 24th April 1880. Their father's occupation was variously "Carter", "Banksman", "Quarryman", "Cart Driver" and then "Delver". Fifteen-month-old Tom Leach Sharp was buried in an unknown grave in the middle churchyard on 12th August 1879.

Another daughter Amelia Sharp was born on 27th June 1884 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 3rd August 1884. Her father was a "Banksman" again. But she died aged just 14 months and was buried within the middle churchyard on 24th September 1885. Therefore, the next two census records looked like this: -

1881 census

Samuel Sharp Head 38 Stone Bearer
 Sarah Sharp Wife 34
 Martha Sharp Dau 9
 Fanny Sharp Dau 8
 George Ed. Sharp Son 6
 Jane Ann Boocock Lodger 24 Silk Spinner
 Address Lightcliffe

1891 census

Samuel Sharp Head 48 Banksman colliery
 Sarah ditto Wife 44
 Martha Ellen ditto Dau 19 Carpet Winder
 Fanny ditto Dau 18 Carpet Winder
 George Edwin ditto Son 16 Stover at
 Carpet Works
 Ann ditto Dau 10 Day Scholar
 Address Armytage Building, Halifax &
 Wakefield Rd., Hipperholme

899. Marriage solemnized at St. Matthews Church in the Parish of Lightcliffe in the County of York

When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
May XX	Francis William Bradley	24	Bachelor	Quarryman	Fringe St., Hipperholme	George Bradley	Eugene tinter
	Fanny Sharpe	26	Sp.	—	Lightcliffe	Samuel Sharpe	Banksman

ried in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England after Banns by me, J.R. Hill.

Marriage was solemnized between us, Francis William Bradley and Fanny Sharpe in the Presence of us, William Thewood and Lucy Denison

As Fanny Sharp had married Francis William Bradley on 20th May 1899 in St. Matthew's Church these were the two households on 31st March 1901.

1901 census

Samuel Sharp Head 58
 Labourer in Coal Trade
 Sarah ditto Wife 54
 Martha E ditto Dau 29 Carpet Winder
 George E ditto Son 26 Worsted Stover
 Annie ditto Dau 20 Carpet Sewer
 Address Ripley Cottages, Lightcliffe

1901 census

Francis W Bradley Head 26
 Stone Quarryman t?p Delver
 Fannie Bradley Wife 28
 Address Wakefield Rd., Hipperholme

George Edwin Sharp married Lucy Dennison on 30th May 1903 in Brighouse. The groom was a 29-year-old "Yarn Sorter" with father Samuel Sharp residing in Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe. Thirty-one-year-old Lucy Dennison's father, another Sam, was a "Blacksmith" from Barber St., Brighouse. George's brother in law Francis William Bradley was one of the witnesses. A daughter Amy Sharp was born at 13 Barber St., Brighouse on 7 July 1904 and baptised at St. Martin's, Brighouse on 10th August 1907.

Father Samuel Sharp passed away on 19th May 1906 aged 63 and was buried in plot J2 in St. Matthew's churchyard on 22nd May 1906. Martha Ellen Sharp had a daughter Mary Sharp on 12th August 1907. Francis William and Fanny Bradley's daughter, Alice Bradley, was born on 26th May 1908 at The School House, Lightcliffe where her father was the caretaker. She was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 5th July 1908. Sadly, she died aged just 8 months on 9th March 1909 and was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard in plot C2, owned by her father, on 13th March 1909.

The three family households looked like this on 2nd April 1911.

1911 census

Sarah Sharp Head 64 Widowed
 Martha Ellen Sharp Dau 39
 Annie Sharp Dau 29 Carpet Weaver
 Mary Sharp Granddau 3
 Address 73 Wakefield Rd., Lightcliffe

Francis Wm Bradley Head 36 School Caretaker
 Fanny Bradley Wife 37 Married 11 years 1 child who had died
 Address School House, Lightcliffe

George E Sharp Head 36 Carpet Yarn Stover
 Lucy Sharp Wife 39 Married 1 year 1 child living
 Amy Sharp Dau 6
 Fanny Dennison Sister (in law) 41 Ladies Help
 Address 13 Barber St., Brighouse



Brother George Edwin Sharp lost his wife Lucy in 1953.

SHARP Lucy of 9 Smith House-lane Brighouse Yorkshire (wife of George Edwin Sharp) died 13 December 1953 at The Royal Halifax Infirmary Halifax Probate Wakefield 23 January to the said George Edwin Sharp retired worsted winding overlooker. Effect £192 2s 11d.

Their daughter Amy has not been found as an adult and was probably the nine-year-old Amy Sharp who died in the Halifax district in 1914, another young death in this Sharp family. The daughter that did survive was George Edwin Sharp's niece Mary Ellis nee Sharp. And this was who he named in his probate record.

SHARP George Edwin of 9 Smith House Lane Brighouse Yorkshire died 7 April 1959 at The General Hospital Halifax. Probate Wakefield 18 June to Mary Ellis (wife of Jack Ellis). Effects £2006 0s 5d.



Mary Ellis nee Sharp

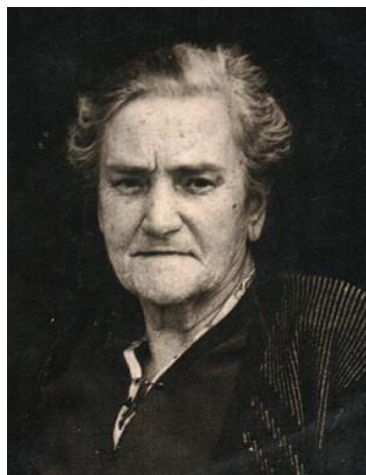
(12 August 1907 – 16th February 1991)



Jack Ellis

(3rd March 1913 – 20th June 1978)

Fanny Bradley nee Sharp (pictured below) outlived all her siblings, her sister in law, and her baby daughter. Other deaths in her family probably included her niece Amy Sharp in 1914 and then her cousin Private Edgar Sharp in 1918. Eighty three/two year old Fanny Bradley died on 6th November 1955 and was buried on 9th November 1955 in St. Matthew's churchyard in the same plot, C2, as her baby daughter. Her husband joined them on 28th March 1958 after he passed away on 26th March 1958.



Fanny Bradley nee Sharp must have given her common prayer book and hymnal to her young neighbour June Rogers, later Whiteley, her husband's little helper when tidying St. Matthew's old church and churchyard, thus triggering this research.

D.M.Barker
November 2017