

3. The family of Samuel Watkinson (9th October 1848 – 28th June 1939) and his wife Sarah Ann nee Bottomley (8th June 1850 – 5th November 1913) of Shelf Hall, Halifax



This photograph of Shelf Hall from Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion shows Samuel Watkinson walking down the front steps

Samuel Watkinson bought Shelf Hall from a member of his wife's Bottomley family and was living there in 1906.

1911 census

Samuel Watkinson	Head	62	Retired Wool Merchant
Sarah Ann Watkinson	Wife	61	
Samuel Watkinson	Son	31	Widower Worsted Manufacturer
Alfred Watkinson	Son	29	Worsted Manufacturer
John Speak Watkinson	Grandson1		
4 servants			
Address Shelf Hall, Halifax			

Samuel and Sarah Ann Watkinson lost two daughters in law in 1909 leaving two very young grandchildren, Mary Waddington Watkinson and John Speak Watkinson, motherless.

Watkinson Mary of Coley House Northowram Halifax (wife of James Bottomley Watkinson) died 27 January 1909 Probate Wakefield 7 June to the said James Bottomley Watkinson gentleman, Effects £3070 4s 6d

WATKINSON Alice Dora of Woodside Hipperholme Halifax (wife of Samuel Watkinson the younger) died 11 June 1909 Administration London 14 July to the said Samuel Watkinson (the younger) manufacturer. Effect £2065

Then Sarah Ann Watkinson nee Bottomley died. She was buried at Coley on 8th November 1913 where her husband would join her many years later.

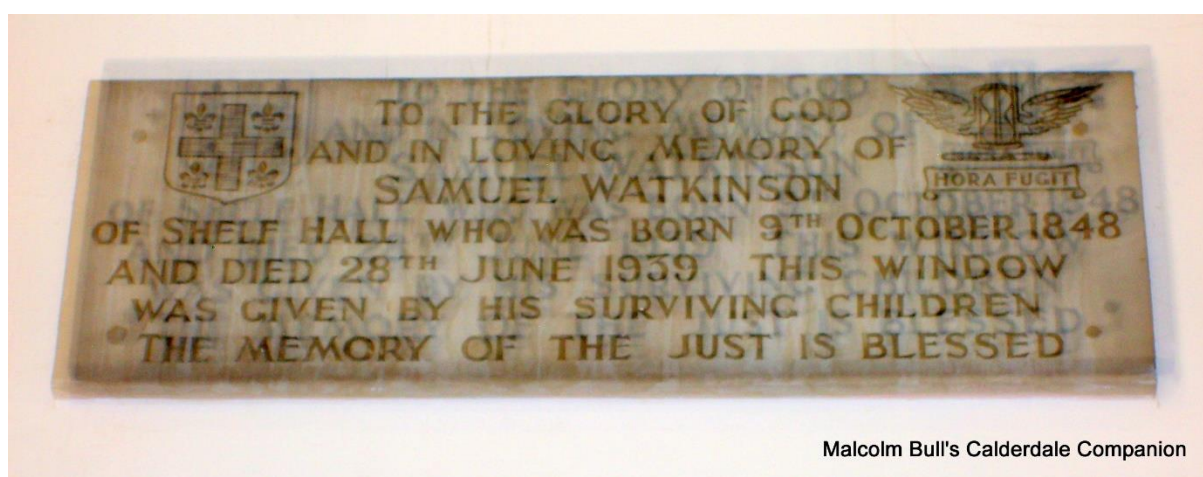
WATKINSON Sarah Ann of Shelf Hall near Halifax (wife of Samuel Watkinson) died 5 November 1913 Probate London 28 February to James Bottomley Watkinson gentleman and Samuel Watkinson the younger and Alfred Watkinson worsted manufacturers, Effects £19 572 5s 11d

After his wife's death 66-year-old Widower, Samuel Watkinson, married the 65-year-old widow Sarah Ellen Eastwood on 30th March 1915 at St. John the Baptist Church, Buxton, Derbyshire. She was the daughter of Solomon Priestley and the widow of Albert Eastwood (30th December 1851 – 12th May 1914), a Worsted Spinner from Elm Grange, Halifax. Albert and Sarah Ellen Eastwood had had two daughters, Sarah Elizabeth and Marion, and a son, James Eastwood (July 1884 – 24th September 1911). The youngest daughter Marion had married Samuel Watkinson's son, Alfred the previous year.

WATKINSON Sarah Ellen of Shelf Hall near Halifax (wife of Samuel Watkinson) died 14 March 1937 Probate London 11 May to Alfred Watkinson and Thomas Ryan Watkinson [This should probably be Wood – her eldest daughter's husband] both of no occupation. Effects £3101 1s 9d

WATKINSON Samuel of Shelf Hall near Halifax died 28 June 1939 Probate London 16 August to Alfred Watkinson of no occupation and Ernest Arthur Finlinson retired bank manager. Effects £536 256 1s 11d. Further Grant 4 October 1939. Resworn £534 677-3-4 and £534 917-3-4

WATKINSON Samuel of Shelf Hall near Halifax died 28 June 1939 Probate London 4 October to Samuel Watkinson Tordoff architect. Effects £536 256 1s 11d. Former Grant P.R. 16 August 1939



Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion

- a) **Annie Watkinson** baptised 4th April 1874, married Rev James William Naylor, Vicar of Buttershaw on 27th April 1909. Their son James Watkinson Naylor was born on 23rd July 1910.

1911 census

James William Naylor Head 39 Clergy Established Church
Annie Naylor Wife 37
James Watkinson Naylor Son 8 months
2 servants
Address Buttershaw Vicarage, Wibsey, Bradford

NAYLOR Annie of the Vicarage Buttershaw Bradford (wife of the reverend James William Naylor) died 30 October 1918 Administration London 5 February [1919] to the said reverend James William Naylor clerk. Effects £11 892 13s 9d.

NAYLOR reverend James William of The Vicarage Buttershaw Bradford clerk died 21 April 1933 at The Duke of York Hospital Bradford Probate Wakefield 9 June to Dorothy Naylor widow [nee Watson married 1925] Robert Sutcliffe Naylor solicitors managing clerk Samuel Wilkins farmer and James Watkinson Naylor of independent means. Effects £24 613 16s 9d.

NAYLOR James Watkinson of 46 Bargrange Av Shipley W Yorks died 23 January 1985 Probate Leeds 27 March £38 195

- b) **Jane Watkinson**, born 20th November 1875, and her husband John Tordoff had three more children in the next decade; Annie Tordoff (4th April 1904 – 20th January 1984), John Tordoff (1906 – 18th January 1921) and Jane Watkinson Tordoff (8th October 1909 – 27th April 1991).

1911 census

John Tordoff Head 39 Managing Director of Brewery
Jane Tordoff Wife 35
Mary Watkinson Tordoff Dau 10
Annie Tordoff Dau 6
John Tordoff Son 4
Jane Watkinson Tordoff Dau 1
3 servants
Address Farfield, Buttershaw

Samuel Watkinson Tordoff (9th April 1913 – 11th December 1979), Frederick Squire Tordoff (29th April 1915 – 30th June 2003) and George Tordoff (1916 – no death date found) completed this Tordoff family.

TORDOFF John of Woodlands Baildon Yorkshire died 23 August 1931 at Esplanade Scarborough Probate London 27b February [1932] to Jane Tordoff widow and Alfred Watkinson textile manufacturer. Effects £89 752 17s 10d

Tordoff Jane of 27 Moorhead-lane Shipley Yorkshire widow died 21 December 1956 Probate London 3 May [1957] to Samuel Watkinson Tordoff architect and Frederick Squire Tordoff horticulturalist. Effects £16 630 19s 10d.

- (c) **James Bottomley Watkinson**, baptised 9th October 1878, had married Mary Waddington on 21st August 1907 but she died on 27th January 1909 a few days after the birth of their daughter Mary Waddington Watkinson (20th January 1909 - 28th December 1976)

WATKINSON Mary of Coley House Northouram [sic] Halifax (wife of James Bottomley Watkinson) died 27th January 1909 Probate Wakefield 7 June to the said James Bottomley Watkinson gentleman. Effects £3070 4s 6d

1911 census

James Bottomley Watkinson Head 32 Widower
Retired Wool Merchant
Mary Waddington Watkinson Dau 2
3 servants
Address Coley House, Norwood Green



On 9th October 1912 James Bottomley Watkinson married Mabel Coates by whom he had two sons Samuel born 1913 and Richard Edward born 1915.

WATKINSON James Bottomley of Coley House of Coly near Halifax died 15 February 1922 Probate London 20 June to Samuel Watkinson (the younger) and Alfred Watkinson manufacturers and John Tordoff brewer. Effects £61184 8s

Mary Waddington Watkinson of Perth House Lightcliffe married "Bank Clerk" Nicholas George Blachford at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 14th January 1935.

WATKINSON Mabel of Kenmara Ashurst-drive Goring-by-Sea Worthing widow died 10 March 1939 Probate London 16 May to Samuel Watkinson and Richard Edward Watkinson both of no occupation. Effects £2244 7s 3d

- (d) **Samuel Watkinson**, baptised 19th March 1880, was also married and made a widower before the 1911 census when he and his young son were at Shelf Hall. On 16th June 1908 Samuel had married Alice Dora Speak but she died on 11th June 1909 not long after the birth of their son John Speak Watkinson on 28th May 1909.

WATKINSON Alice Dora of Woodside Hipperholme Halifax (wife of Samuel Watkinson the younger) died 11 June 1909 Administration London 14 July to the said Samuel Watkinson (the younger) manufacturer. Effects £2065

Samuel Watkinson, the younger died, before his father.

WATKINSON Samuel (the younger) of Perth House Lightcliffe near Halifax died 21 February 1936 Administration (with Will) London to John Speak Watkinson of no occupation. Effects £67 868 8s 10d



Perth House, Lightcliffe

John Speak Watkinson also inherited money from his great uncle John Speak whose father had established Paul Speak & Sons, worsted spinners and manufacturers. By September 1939 he was farming near Helmsley. He does not appear to have married.

WATKINSON John Speak of The Cott 3 Otley Rd Harrogate died 9 April 1992 Probate Newcastle-upon-Tyne 27 May £257 019

- (e) **Alfred Watkinson**, born 21st August 1881, married Marion Eastwood, (23rd March 1883 – 10th March 1971) on 29th July 1914. Their son Samuel Eastwood Watkinson was born on 24 June 1915.

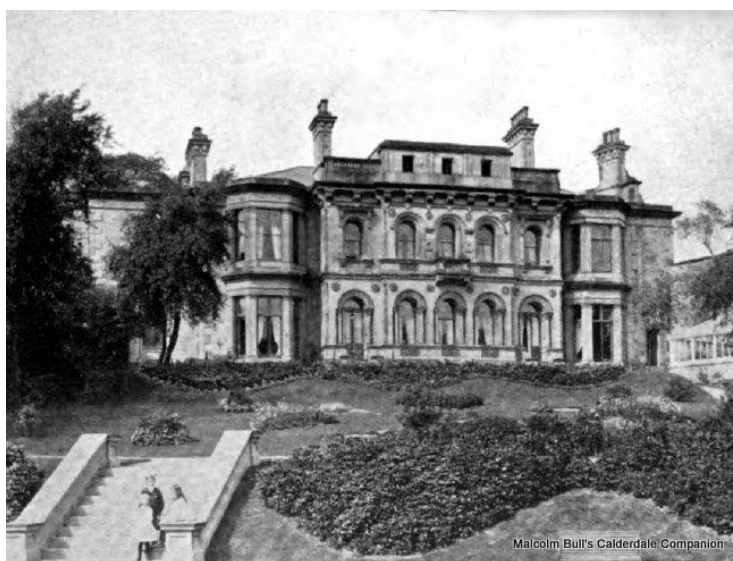
WATKINSON Alfred of Spring Hall Shelf Halifax died 26 July 1950 at The Duke of York Home Bradford Probate London 16 December to Samuel Eastwood Watkinson sales representative and Richard Vernon Thomas solicitor. Effects £100 739 7s 11d

WATKINSON Marion of The Rookery Kirkby Malham Skipton Yorks died 10 March 1971 Probate Leeds 1 February £3497

WATKINSON Samuel Eastwood of Flat 5 Westfield Clo Hexham Northumberland died 6 July 1987 Probate Liverpool 19 November £241 698

- (f) **Sarah Ellen Watkinson** (Nellie), born 5th July 1886, was married by her cousin Rev. George Watkinson (GW4) at Shelf to Alfred Edward Sykes on 1st September 1909.

He was a Woollen Manufacturer whose grandfather had established the family firm Edward Sykes & Sons which owned Gosport Mill, Stainland. His father James Walker Sykes had a house built at Holywell Green, a thirty roomed mansion called **Holywell House** pictured below.



Sarah and Alfred lived at North Park and then Ing Royd, Halifax.

1911 census

Alfred Edward Sykes Head 30 Woollen Manufacturer
Nellie Sykes Wife 24
2 servants
Address North Park, Halifax

They had five children before they separated in the late 1920s when he moved to Sheriff Hutton whilst Sarah remained at Ing Royd until the 1950s.

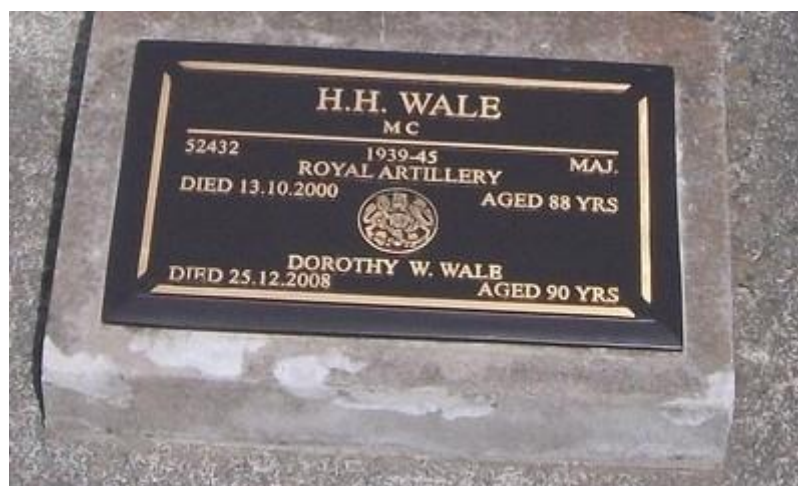
(i) Marjorie Watkinson Sykes (14th October 1911 - 17th January 1979)

(ii) Lieutenant Edward Walker Sykes (27th October 1913 – 7th July 1997), had a military career. He began as an aircraft apprentice with the RAF but then transferred to the Royal Navy where he was involved in the Battle of the River Plate in 1939. He retired from the Navy as Lieutenant-Commander in 1958.



(iii) Gladys Watkinson Sykes (14th December 1915 – 16th November 1885)

(iv) Dorothy Watkinson Sykes (19th May 1918 – 25th December 2008) married Harry Houghton Wale (2nd January 1912 – 13th October 2000). in 1940. He served as a Captain /Temporary Major in the Royal Artillery during WW2 and was awarded the Military Cross. On 23rd January 1975 they were both granted New Zealand Naturalisation and appear to have lived in Gisborne, North Island where they were buried.



(v) Leslie Walker Sykes (17th May 1922 – December 1981)

SYKES Sarah Ellen of Savile Dene Savile Park Halifax died 17 October 1968
Probate London 20 May £1620

Now read about the sisters **Emma Watkinson of Longlands** and **Fanny Watkinson and the Stone Trough Brewery** and if you missed them the write ups about their father George and the older brothers George and John Watkinson

D.M.Barker
October 2018