

The Collins family of Hove Edge

The story of Hannah Sowden, the daughter of John and Jane Sowden of Hove Edge and the granddaughter of John and Mary Sowden of Thornhill Briggs was started in :-

The Sowdens of Thornhill Briggs and Hove Edge

But now we need to find out what happened to Hannah and her Collins family. By 1841 Hannah Collins nee Sowden had already had a son Alfred Sowden, had married widower David Collins, and had six more children, three of whom died as infants including a set of twins. The cycle of birth and death continued in the 1840s as all four of their children who were born in this decade died before the next census. All were baptised and then buried at Lightcliffe church. Mary was baptised on 16th October 1842 and then buried on 30th March 1843. In 1844 daughter Rachel was baptised on 9th June but then buried on 4th December 1844. Another daughter Ann was baptised on 15th August 1847 along with her older sister Betty Collins and a cousin, Alfred Johnson. But again, baby Ann did not see the year out being buried on 28th December 1847. A son Sam was baptised on 5th November 1848 and then buried on 9th March 1849.

A happier event was the marriage on 6th January 1850 of Hannah's stepson Ben Collins to Mary Appleyard. But then Ben, another Blacksmith of Hove Edge, and Mary privately baptised a son, John, on 4th March 1850. This may have had to be done as a matter of some urgency before he died. Yet another Collins baby was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 8th March 1850 in an unknown plot. This left the two Collins households looking like this on the night of the 1851 census,

1851 census

David Collins Head 53 Blacksmith
Hannah Collins Wife 43
Alfred Collins Son 20 Stone ?Getter?
Aram Collins Son 15 B' smith
Thomas Collins Son 14 ?Currier?
Betty Collins Dau 12 Card setter
Address

Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1851 census

Benj Collins Head 21 Blacksmith
Mary Collins Wife 19
Sarah Appleyard Lodger 17 Weaver
Address

Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

Sarah Appleyard was presumably Mary's younger sister

Notice that Alfred was listed as a Collins and the enumerator had trouble with the spelling of Ephraim!

Hannah gave birth to her twelfth and last child Albert in 1851. He was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 14th December 1851 and then buried in the New Year on 22nd January 1852. This was the eighth child she and David had lost not forgetting their grandson and an earlier son born to David and his first wife.

Before the next census Ben and Mary Collins baptised three more children at Lightcliffe but moved to Halifax sometime during 1857. The birthplace of Charles and Sarah Anne was given as Hove Edge when they were baptised on 6th March 1853 and 31st May 1857. But when 5-year-old Charles Collins [wrongly transcribed as Colling] was buried in the churchyard on 3rd May 1857 his address was Halifax. As it was when another daughter Mary Anne was baptised back at Lightcliffe on 14th August 1859. This Collins family have not been found in the 1861 census.

Benjamin's half siblings Betty and Ephraim Collins married before the next census. Betty on 9th August 1858 and Ephraim on 12th August 1860. His story will be told separately in the article

Ephraim Collins and family

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935 for Betty Collins							
Halifax, St John the Baptist > 1858							
1858. Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of <u>Halifax</u> in the County of <u>York</u>							
No.	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.
431	August 9	Tom Carter	33	Bach ^r	Mason	Halifax	Thos Carter Carpenter
		Betty Collins	20	Spin ^r	-	Hipperholme	David Collins Blacksmith
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>Banns</u> by us _____							
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Tom Carter his X mark</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Samuel Herring</u> <u>James Gutter</u> <u>Betty Collins her X mark</u> <u>Alexander Taylor</u>							

1861 census

Thomas Carter Head 33 Mason
 Betty Carter Wife 22
 Address
Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

1861 census

David Collins Head 62 Blacksmith
 Hannah Collins Wife 53
 Thomas Collins Son 24 Stonemason
 Address
Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

next door to her parents, David and Hannah, and near her brother Ephraim and his new wife

Neither a Alfred Sowden nor a Alfred Collins has been found in the 1861 census. There are possibilities in the 1871 census and a Halifax death in 1871 of a Alfred Sowden exactly the right age. But as there were other Alfred Sowdens born about the same time it is difficult to be certain as to whether this was Hannah's son.

Just after the census, on 29th June 1861, Thomas Collins married 19-year-old Elizabeth Boothroyd at St. John's Church, Halifax. Thomas was a 'Mason' as was Elizabeth's father James Boothroyd. They have many connections with St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe and so their family story will also be told separately.

Thomas and Elizabeth Collins and family

The Halifax blacksmith Ben(jamin) Collins and his wife Mary continued to bring their children back to Lightcliffe to be baptised, Emma on 2nd November 1862 and Lilly Ann, born 26th November 1865, on 24th December 1865. One-year old Emma Collins was buried in the churchyard on 28th January 1864.

Thomas and Betty Carter also baptised their children at St. Matthew's Church, Rachel on 16th July 1862, Mary Jane on 22nd July 1866 and Arthur on 1st August 1869. They were still in Hove Edge when Mary Jane was buried in the churchyard on 23rd June 1867 but had moved to Upper Green before Arthur was born.

1871 census

David Collins Head 72 Blacksmith
Hannah Collins Wife 63
Address

Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

next door to

1871 census

Thomas Carter Head 42 Mason
Betty Carter Wife 32
Arthur Carter Son 2
Address

Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

In the 1871 and 1881 censuses Rachel Carter, Thomas and Betty's eldest daughter, was with an unmarried aunt Sara E Carter presumably Thomas's sister

Thomas Collins and family were also still in Hove Edge, three doors the other way from his parents.

1871 census

Benn Collins Head 41 Blacksmith
Mary Collins Wife 39
Sarah Ann Collins Dau 13 Worsted Spinner
Lilly Ann Collins Dau 5
Address **20 Bright St., Halifax**

Betty Carter the only surviving daughter of David and Hannah Collins died on 22nd January 1873 aged 34 years. She was buried in an identifiable grave in Lightcliffe churchyard, plot A71, owned by her husband Thomas on 26th January 1873. Her death was quickly followed by that of her 74-year-old father David Collins on 5th April 1873. He was buried not that far from his daughter in plot A53 owned by his son Ephraim Collins on 10th April 1873. And then later the same year on 16th November 1873 65-year-old Hannah Collins nee Sowden died. She had endured so many family deaths including the early loss of her mother as well as the infant deaths of sisters, children and grandchildren. She was buried with her husband on 19th November 1873.

Hannah's 3 x great granddaughter in Canada asked if we could locate plot A53 which we did. It has no headstone but is the middle of the three plots between the two headstones as marked in this image. Further research discovered that this Ephraim Collins owned plot contained three adult and three infants. You will need to read more to find out who they were and how they were related.

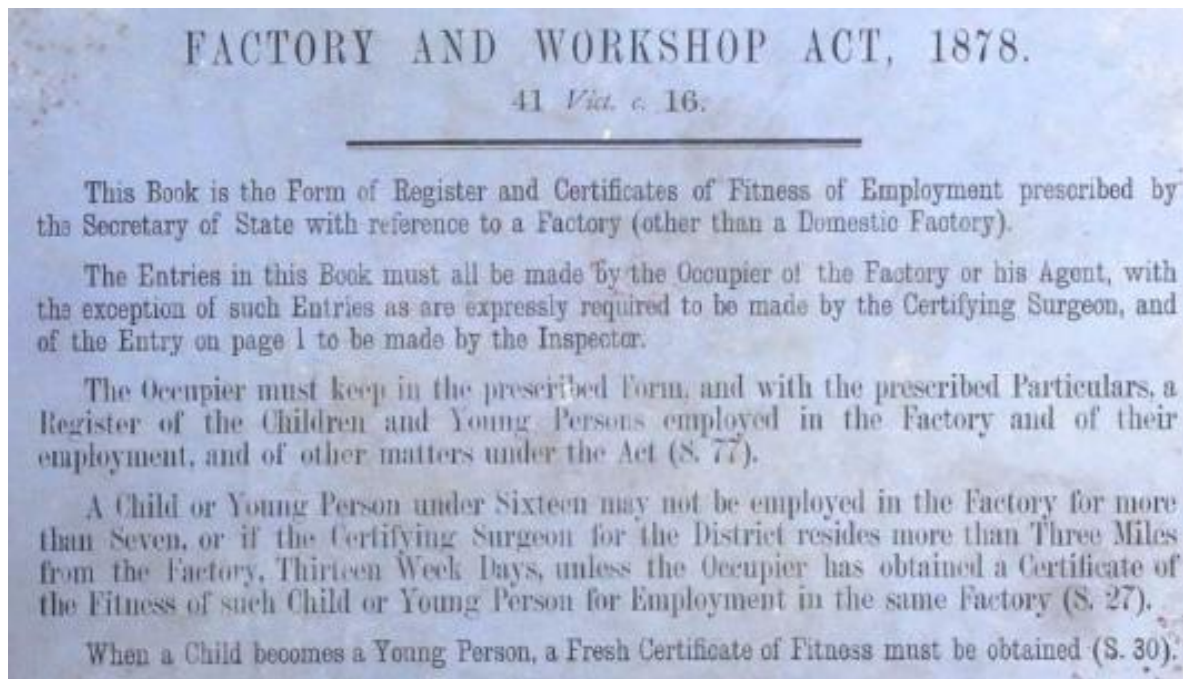


The Collins grave, plot A53

Before she died Hannah Collins may have been able to attend the christening on 22nd May 1873 of Ben and Mary's daughter Mary Collins born 23rd April. Again, although the family lived in Bright street, Halifax they returned to Lightcliffe for the baptism.

Sarah Ann Collins, the 13-year-old 'Worsted Spinner' in 1871, married Joseph Hargreaves Crawshaw in 1876. They had four children three sons and a daughter. Their youngest son was named Harold Collins Crawshaw

By the time her middle sister, thirteen-year-old Lily Ann Collins daughter of Ben and Mary of No 1 Bright Street, went out to work the FACTORY and WORKSHOPS Act 1878 had been passed. Below is the first page of the REGISTER FOR YOUNG PERSONS for the carpet manufacturing that took place at the Dean Clough Mills Halifax run by John Crossley & Sons.



7		8
DATE OF BIRTH.		SIGNATURE BY CERTIFYING SURGEON.
(1)	(2)	<p>By my Signature in Column 8 of the subjoined Table, I certify that I am satisfied from a production of a Certificate of Birth, or other sufficient evidence, according as the entry of the date of Birth, on the same line with my Signature, is entered by me in the 1st or 2nd Sub-column of Column 7 of the same table, that the person whose Christian Name and Surname are specified respectively in Columns 1 & 2 in the same line with my Signature, is, at the date of my Signature specified in the same line in Column 9, of the Age denoted by the Date of Birth specified in the same line in Column 7, and has been personally examined by me, and is not incapacitated by disease or bodily infirmity from working daily in this factory for the time allowed by law for a young person.</p>
<p>If ascertained by production of Certificate of Birth, the date to be inserted in this Sub-Column.</p>	<p>If ascertained from sufficient evidence, other than a Certificate of Birth, the date to be inserted in this Sub-Column.</p>	

It is interesting to read the proof of 'Date of Birth' and the conditions that the 'Certifying Surgeon' had to check on before a young person could be employed. Ben and Mary Collins did not produce a birth certificate for Lilly Ann, but sufficient evidence was found to confirm that she was born on 26th November 1865. She was, therefore, just shy of her 14th birthday when she signed up on 10th November 1879. There was a final column on the register to indicate when 'a young person ceases to be employed' by writing 'Left' by the name in this column. As for many of the other entries nothing was entered in this column for Lilly Ann Collins suggesting that she worked all her life for the Crossleys at Dean Clough. The subsequent census data appears to confirm this.

And then there were two entries for Mary Collins, Lily Ann's youngest sister. One for the November 1883 when 'child' Mary was just ten years old. She 'left' to be re-registered as a 'young person' on 28th April 1886 just after she had turned thirteen.

1881 census

Ben. Collins Head 51 Jobbing Smith
 Mary Collins Wife 49
 Lilly Ann Collins Dau 15 Worsted Spinner
 Mary Collins Dau 7
 Address 1 Bright St., Halifax

1881 census

Joseph Crawshaw Head 24
 Stuff Goods Warehouseman
 Sarah Ann Crawshaw Wife 23
 Arthur Crawshaw Son 3
 Walter Crawshaw Son 1
 Address 23 Peel St., Halifax

1891 census

Ben Collins Head 61 Blacksmith (unemployed)
 Mary Collins Wife 59
 Lilly A Collins Dau 25 Worsted spinner
 Mary Collins Dau 17 Worsted twister
 Address 1 Bright St., Halifax

1891 census

Joseph Crawshaw Head 35
 Stuff Warehouse man & Grocer
 Sarah Crawshaw Wife 35 Assistant Grocer
 Arthur Crawshaw Son 13
 Stuff Warehouseman
 Walter Crawshaw Son 11
 Elsie Crawshaw Dau 8
 Harold Crawshaw Son 3
 Harriet Wilcox Servant 22
 Address 6 East St., Northowram

1901 census

Ben Collins Head 71 Retired Blacksmith
 Lily Ann Collins Dau 35 Worsted Spinner
 Address 1 Bright St., Halifax

Neither of the Mary Collinses i.e. mother and daughter have been found in 1901 although Ben Collins was clearly reported as being married and his wife Mary reappeared in 1911.

Daughter Mary Collins had probably married between 1891 and 1911 but it is difficult to establish when and to whom. The best possibility is to a Robert William Houghton in 1898. If so, they were in Halifax in 1901 and then in Spilsby, Lincolnshire in 1911.

1901 census

Joseph H Crawshaw Head 45
 Make up & Packer Dress Goods
 Sarah Ann Crawshaw Wife 44
 Grocer & Shopkeeper
 Arthur Crawshaw Son 23 Chair Maker
 Elsie Crawshaw Dau 18
 Harold Crawshaw Son 13
 Address 6 – 4 Earl St., Halifax

Walter Crawshaw was not with the rest of the family on 31st March 1901. He was most probably the Halifax born 21-year-old Draper's Assistant boarding in Sunderland.

Seventy-five-year-old Ben Collins died on 17th December 1904 and came back to Lightcliffe one last time for burial in the churchyard in plot H76 on 21st December 1904.

1911 census

Mary Collins Head 79 Widow
Married ~~55 yrs~~ 9 children 3 alive
Lily Ann Collins Dau 45 Worsted twister
Address 53 Ovenden Rd., Halifax

By 1911 Arthur Crawshaw had married and was a 'Chair Manufacturer' in Halifax. In 1937 he was at the Alma Road Wood Works, Halifax. On the 1939 register he was a 'Wood machinist & Chair Ma??' living in Stump Cross.

1911 census

Joseph Hargreaves Crawshaw Head 54
Stuff Warehouseman
Sarah Ann Crawshaw Wife 53
Harold Collins Crawshaw Son 23 Chair maker
Elsie Crawshaw 28
Address 4 & 6 Earl St., Claremont, Halifax

Walter Crawshaw had also married before 1911 and moved south to Margate, Kent where he was the 'Manager of a House Furnishing Business'. He was still in Margate in 1939 a 'Master House Furnisher'.

The 1911 census information that widow, Mary Collins, did not need to record - presumably, that was why it was then crossed out - is telling. Only three of their nine children survived, the three daughters Sarah Ann Crawshaw, Lily Ann Collins and Mary (possibly Houghton) nee Collins. Seven baptisms took place at Lightcliffe suggesting that two infants were either still born or died very soon after they were born; four infants were buried in the churchyard. Widow Mary Collins died on 15th July 1913 aged 82 years. She was buried with her husband Ben in plot H76 on 18th July 1913.

Sarah Ann's daughter, Elsie Crawshaw married a 33-year-old 'Telephone Inspector' Clement Laurence Fred Cockcroft in 1911. Both were from Halifax, the district in which their four sons were born. Clement died aged 47 in 1924 and Elsie aged 81 in 1964. The probate records let you know what happened to two of her brothers.

Crawshaw Harold Collins of Hollock Lea Mytholmroyd Halifax died 25 November 1920 Probate Wakefield 16 December to Grace Ellen Crawshaw widow.
Effects £275 3s

Crawshaw Walter of The Craggs 81 Northdown Park-road Margate died 12 January 1949 Probate Lonson 30 March to Maggie Rosalind Rawlins Crawshaw widow.
Effects £7645 1s 3d

Elder brother Arthur Crawshaw survived them both. His death aged 73 was recorded in the Halifax district Q2 1951 but there does not appear to be a probate record.

Fifty-three-year-old Lily Ann Collins married 52-year-old John Andrew Noble, the son of William Noble, on 27th September 1919 at the Wesley Chapel, Broad Street, Halifax. Her brother in law Joseph Hargreaves Crawshaw was a witness. Still working for the Crossleys at Dean Clough this was probably where she met her husband. When they married John Andrew Noble's address was 1, Woodside Crescent, Halifax. This was his address on a 1911 insurance form when it was recorded that he was an 'Overlooker' for E-mill. In 1939 they lived at 404 Old Lane, Halifax the district both their 1953 deaths are recorded in.

D.M.Barker
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