

James Hinscliff, (before 30th May 1779 – 1st October 1860)

Lightcliffe coal merchant and pit owner

COAL MERCHANTS.

**Hinscliff James, Lightcliffe
Stocks William, Lightcliffe
Walker Samuel, Brighouse**

**CORN MILLERS & FLOUR
DEALERS.**

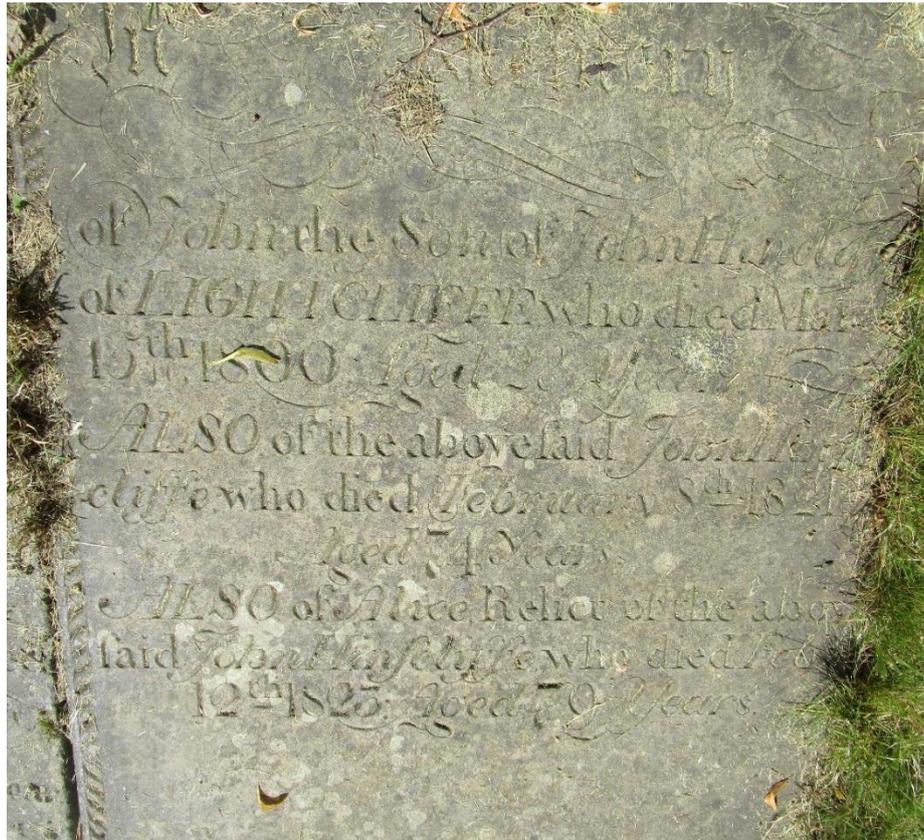
**Brooke John, Brighouse
Green Aquilla, Hipperholme
Hargreaves John (dealer) Brighouse
Hinscliff Jas. (dealer) Hipperholme
Howorth Thos. (dealer) Brighouse
Pollard Samuel, Brighouse
Smithson Joseph, Kirklees mill
Sugden Thomas, Brighouse
Sutcliffe Thos. Richard, Brighouse**

This section of the Pigot's 1834 directory records the occupations of two James Hinscliffs. Both these two, as well as other members of the family, were buried in St. Matthew's churchyard. This is their story, a complimentary article to the family story written by Daphne Evers the 5 x great niece of James Hinscliff senior.

James Hinscliff's parents were John Hinscliff and Alice Medley who married on 10th February 1765 in Halifax. They then baptised six children at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe; Thomas on 21st January 1766, Ann on 1st May 1768, John on 26th May 1771, Judith on 16th January 1774, James on 30th May 1779 and finally Dorothy – Daphne's 3 x gt grandmother – on 27th April 1786. A granddaughter Mary Ann Hinchcliff the daughter of Ann – the names Hinscliff(e) and Hinchcliff(e) were interchangeable – was also baptised at Lightcliffe on 27th April 1786 but was then buried there on 3rd November 1786 in an unknown grave. Later Ann (Nancy) Hinscliffe would marry Joseph Bottomley on 2nd November 1795 in Halifax.

A couple of years after that marriage Judith Hinscliff married John Naylor on 30th January 1797 and then John Hinscliff junior married Hannah Whitaker on 5th November 1797. The Naylor's had a large family many of whom were baptised and then interred at Lightcliffe, but their story will have to wait.

John Hinscliffe junior died three years later and was buried in plot M*13 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 19th March 1800. His is the first name on the memorial inscription on this Hinscliffe ledger stone. Two decades later his parents were buried in the same plot, John on 11th February 1821 and Alice on 16th February 1823.



IN MEMORY OF JOHN THE SON OF JOHN HINSCLIFFE

WHO DIED MARCH 15TH 1800 AGED 28 YEARS

ALSO OF THE ABOVE SAID JOHN HINSCLIFFE

WHO DIED FEBRUARY 8TH 1821 AGED 74 YEARS.

ALSO OF ALICE RELICT OF THE ABOVE SAID JOHN HINSCLIFFE

WHO DIED FEBRUARY 12TH 1823 AGED 79 YEARS

Meanwhile younger son James Hinscliff had married Betty (Elizabeth) Hatton on 17th January 1802 at Halifax. Both bride and groom were "of Hipperholme" and James was a "Blacksmith". Betty's Hatton and Swaine ancestors were also Lightcliffe people with many of them being both baptised and buried at St. Matthew's church. Their stories can be read at:-

The Hatton and Swaine families

Two months before the wedding Betty had given birth to a son James Hatton on 11th November 1801. This little chap was baptised on 29th November 1801 at Bramham, the son of "Betty Hatton, Single Woman". Was James Hinscliff the father? We will never know for certain but the fact that he was known as James Hinscliff junior in later life suggests that he probably was. James and Betty Hinscliff then had a daughter Rhoda Hinchcliffe who they baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 26th June 1803. She married Birstall "Carpet Manufacturer" Samuel Cooke on 28th August 1823.

On 6th June 1812 Dorothy Hinscliff married John Cordingley junior the half-brother of Hannah Washington nee Cordingley, the wife of Samuel Washington. Look up:-

Samuel Washington – land agent & steward to Ann Walker and Anne Lister

"Corn Dealer" James Hinscliff junior married Susannah Walker, the daughter of James (deceased) and Hannah Walker of Lidgate, on 14th September 1830. Her father James Walker had died on 25th March 1827 and was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 30th March 1827 in plot I*3. James and his wife Hannah had baptised Susanna on 30th March 1804 and John on 2nd February 1807 at Lightcliffe.



**IN MEMORY OF JAMES WALKER OF LIDGATE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MARCH 25TH 1827 AGED 54 YEARS
AFFLICTIONS SORE LONG TIME HE BORE
PHYSICIANS WERE IN VAIN
BUT DEATH GAVE EASE WHEN GOD DID PLEASE
AND FREED HIM FROM HIS PAIN**

Coal merchant and pit owner James Hinscliff senior was often in negotiations with Anne Lister of Shibden Hall for the coal on her land.



Extracts from *Gentleman Jack* by Anne Choma re James Hinscliff.

Anne Lister diary entries in italics.

13th July 1832

Mr Jeremiah Rawson called and left his card for me this morning. I conclude he wanted to speak about a few coals at the top of the hill, that Hinscliffe wants.

On 30th August 1832 a local coal merchant, James Hinscliffe, called at Shibden to offer her £150 per acre for her coal-rich land.

I was not anxious about selling – the coals would pay for keeping. I might one of these days get them myself ... after a great deal of talk irrelevant of the business in hand (these people will always have their talk) on politics, it ended with H(inscliffe) seemed inclined to give my price.

While she was with Mr.Parker, he informed her that;

Hinscliffe wants to buy more coal off her [Miss Walker]. He wants a clause inserting to allow him to burn the shale on the land to enable him to sell it for road making – after burning it and making a great nuisance in the field.

Without revealing Hinscliffe's identity as the rival bidder, she sent Jeremiah away to consider her terms. He would have to consult his brother Christopher, he told Anne, 'would think him mad to talk of that price'. (26th November 1832)

On 12th December, Anne received some valuable advice on how to deal with the Rawson brothers. Hinscliffe, who was competing against them for Anne's land, advised her to bind the Rawsons in a strict lease, stating 'their heirs, executors, administrators and assigners under a penalty of £500 not to turn any more water on my [Ann's] coal (both beds)'

They were also political differences between James Hinscliff and Anne Lister. In a dissertation entitled:-

[Moving Between Worlds: Gender, Class, Politics, Sexuality and Women's Networks in the Diaries of Anne Lister of Shibden Hall, Halifax, Yorkshire, 1830-1840](#)
by Catherine A. Euler
[Submitted for the D.Phil. degree University of York History Department May 1995](#)

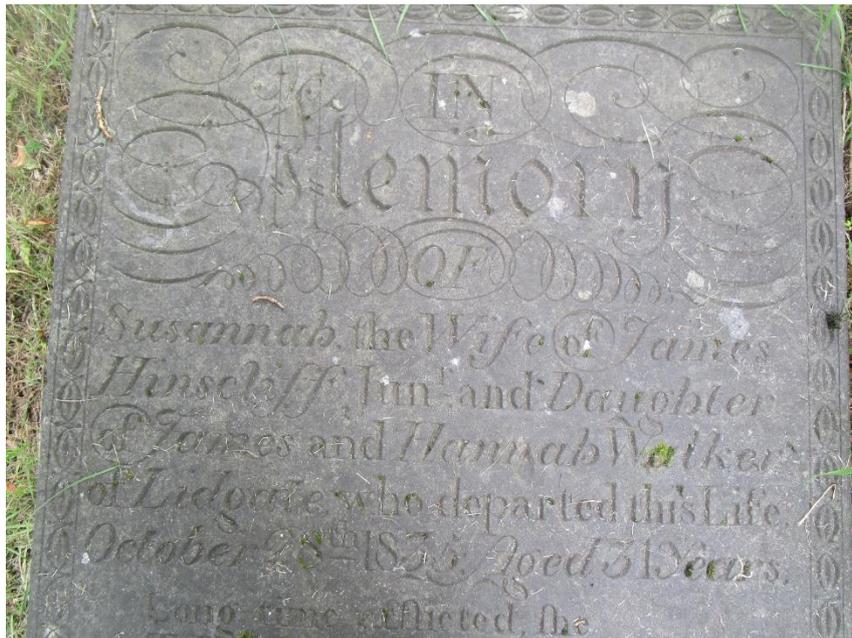
She [Anne Lister] not only influenced tenants just before elections and revisions but also whenever a property became open for a new occupant. She interviewed over half a dozen men who wished to lease the Stump Cross Inn, in each case asking for their (county) vote. Hinscliffe was a man who in the past had leased some of her coal, but he was a Whig. His son was interested in running the Inn, but she refused to consider it until the father turned conservative.⁹⁷

⁹⁷AL Journal 19 January 1835. When she had a gameskeeper's position open, she also refused to consider Hinscliffe's son for the job because of his father's politics. She wanted to hire a man who had already voted blue. AL Journal 27 June 1835

1835 was not a good year for James Hinscliff junior. He lost his young wife Susannah on 28th October 1835. The Leeds Mercury for Saturday 31st October 1835 had the following death announcement: -

On Wednesday at Lidget near Brighouse Susanna,
wife of Mr James Hinchcliffe, corn dealer aged 31.

She was buried on 1st November 1835 in plot G*3. This was next to plot H*3 where her brother John Walker had been buried on 19th May 1833. H*3 was of course next to plot I*3 where their father had been buried and where their mother would be laid to rest twenty years later.



IN MEMORY OF SUSANNAH
THE WIFE OF JAMES HINSCLIFF JUNR AND
DAUGHTER OF JAMES AND HANNAH WALKER OF LIDGATE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCT 28TH 1835 AGED 31 YEARS
LONG TIME AFFLICTED SHE
TO DEATH GAVE UP THE GHOST
IN CERTAIN NEVER FAILING HOPE
OF EVERLASTING REST
HER BROTHER BY HER SIDE
HER FATHER TOO MOST DEAR
WAITING UNTIL THEY ONE AND ALL
THE TRUMPETS SOUND SHALL HEAR

This explains why the various related households looked like this on 6th June 1841.

1841 census

James Hinscliffe 60 Coal Merchant

Elizabeth Hinscliffe 60

James Hinscliffe 35 Ind

5 servants

Address **Knowl House, Lightcliffe,**

Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Elizabeth Hinscliff's widower father

1841 census

Joseph Hatton 80 Shopkeeper

Address

Lightcliffe, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Widow Hannah Walker mother in law of

James Hinscliff junior

1841 census

Hannah Walker 65 Publican

Hannah Passabel 25

John Horsfal 20 Blacksmith

Joseph Ward 15 ditto

Thomas Rhodes 8

Address **Lidgate, Hipperholme cum Brighouse**

Interestingly next door to the Hinscliffs were James's sister Dorothy and her "Woolcomber" husband John Cordingley and their family including a Hinscliff Cordingley. The address was also Knowl Top, Lightcliffe. The Hinscliffe and Cordingleys were still next door neighbours in 1851. Although the address was just given as Hipperholme presumably the residence was still Knowl (Top/House). James Hinscliff now a "Florist" - perhaps after Anne Lister had thwarted other possible occupations! - was living by himself in Hipperholme. His mother in law was still in Lidgate. Elizabeth Hinscliff's father, Joseph Hatton, passed away on 4th January 1845 and was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard but the Hatton story is told elsewhere.

1851 census

James Hinscliffe Head 71

Retired Coal Merchant

Elizabeth Hinscliffe Wife 69

Eliza Murray Servant 22

Address

Lightcliffe, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Mother in law of James Hinscliffe junior

1851 census

Hannah Walker Head 78 Inn Keeper

Thomas Rhodes Grandson 18 Land Surveyor

Hannah Peicibal 33 House Servant

Address **Lidgate, Lightcliffe, Hipperholme**

cum Brighouse

1851 census

James Hinscliffe Head 49 Widower Florist

Address

Lightcliffe, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Hannah Walker nee (I think) Percival died in 1855. A Hannah "Parsable" married James Walker on 6th February 1803 and then there are the interesting spellings of another Hannah Percival in both the 1841 and 1851 censuses. In 1851 Hannah Walker's birthplace was given as Rastrick. And there is a Rastrick baptism for a Hannah Percivall daughter of John Percivall on 11th October 1772 which was probably her. She was buried with her husband in plot I*3 next to her son John Walker and near her daughter Susannah Hinscliffe. This Walker family went in for interesting memorial inscriptions and Hannah's was no exception.

**ALSO OF HANNAH RELICT OF THE ABOVE NAMED JAMES WALKER
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCTOBER 17TH 1855 AGED 81 YEARS.**

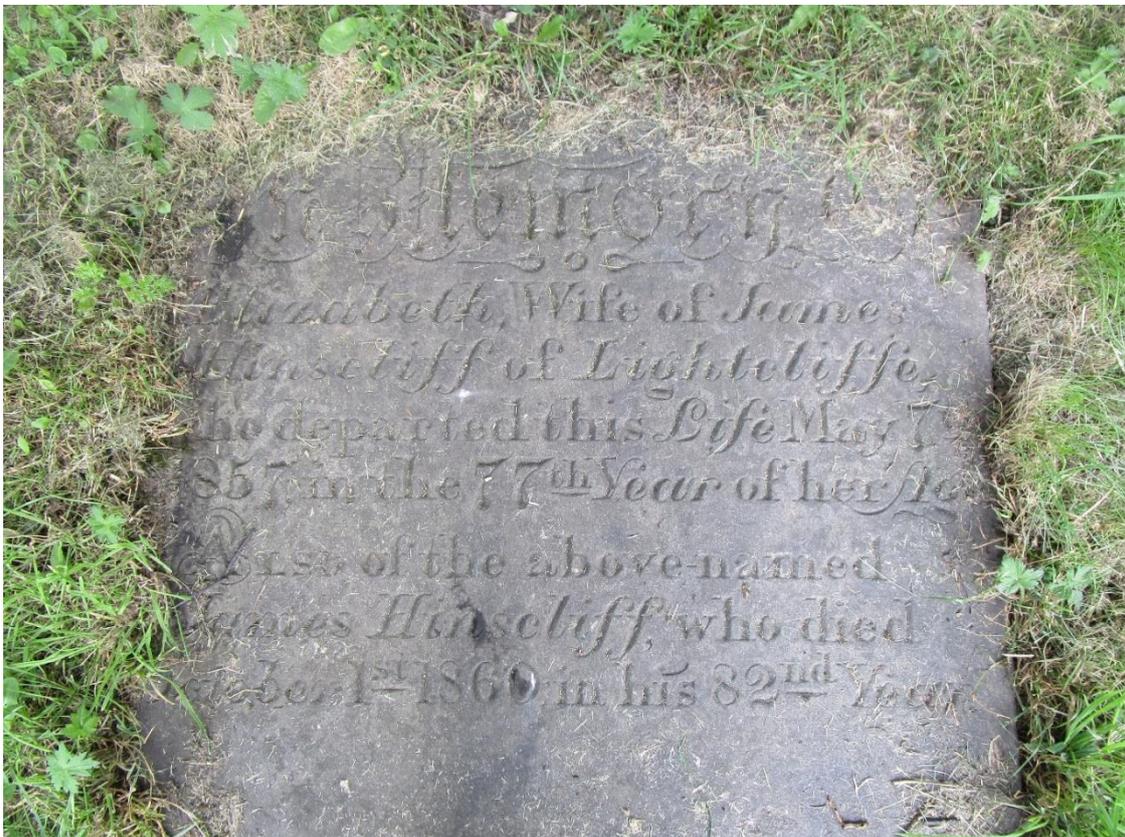
SLOWLY HER EARTHLY FRAME DECAYED

HER END WAS LONG IN SIGHT

NOR WAS HER STEADY SOUL AFRAID

TO TAKE ITS AWFUL FLIGHT.

Elizabeth Hinscliff nee Hatton died on 7th May 1857. She was buried in plot Y*3 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 11th May 1857. A year later her widower son married Lydia Walker. No evidence has been found to suggest that she was related to any of the Lightcliffe Walkers. The retired coal merchant James Hinscliff died on 1st October 1860 and was buried with his wife in plot Y*3 on 4th October 1860.



IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH

THE WIFE OF JAMES HINSCLIFFE OF LIGHTCLIFFE

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MAY 7TH IN THE 77TH YEAR OF HER AGE.

ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED JAMES HINSCLIFFE

WHO DIED OCTOBER 1ST 1860 IN HIS 82ND YEAR.

James Hinscliff's probate was proved on 4th November 1860.

The Will of James Hinscliff late of Lightcliffe in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York Coal Merchant deceased who died 1st October 1860 at Lightcliffe aforesaid was proved at Wakefield by the oath of James Hinscliff of Lightcliffe aforesaid Gentleman the Son the surviving Executor. Effects under £1,500

1861 census

James Hinscliff Head 59 Retired Corn Miller born Bramham
Lidia Hinscliff Wife 58 born Gomersall
Address **Old Drying House, Lightcliffe**

James Hinscliff died in 1867 and was buried with his first wife Susannah in plot G*3 on 30th November 1867.

ALSO OF JAMES HINSCLIFF

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE

NOVEMBER 28TH 1867 IN HIS 67TH YEAR.

His probate was dated 17th February 1868.

The Will of James Hinscliff late of Lightcliffe in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York florist deceased who died 27 November 1867 – MI says 28th – at Lightcliffe aforesaid was proved at Wakefield by the oath of Lydia Hinscliff of Lightcliffe aforesaid Widow the Relict the sold Executrix. Effects under £300

Widow Lydia Hinscliff was alone for the 1871 census.

1871 census

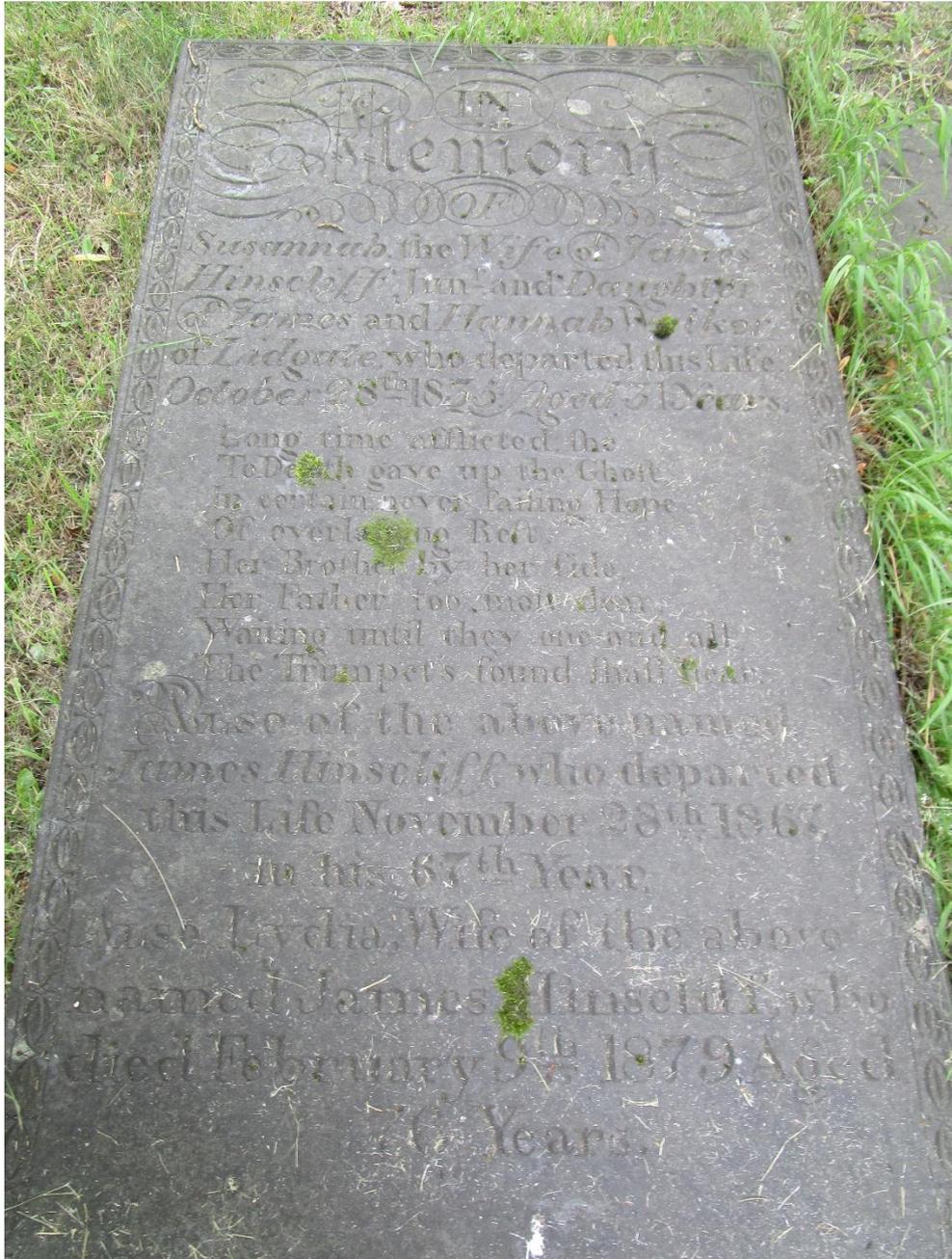
Lydia Hinscliffe Head Widow 65 Annuitant
Address **Syke Lane, Hipperholme cum Brighouse**

She died on 9th February 1879 and her probate was dated 1th February 1879.

The Will of Lydia Hinscliff late of Halifax in the County of York who died 9 February at Halifax was proven at the Principal Registry by John William Longbottom Solicitor and William Pickles Worsted Spinner both of Halifax the Executors. Personal Estate under £450

She was buried with her husband and his first wife in plot G*3 on 13th February 1879, the last of the Hinscliffs.

ALSO OF LYDIA WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED JAMES HINSLIFF
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 9TH 1879 AGED 76 YEARS.



D.M.Barker

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