

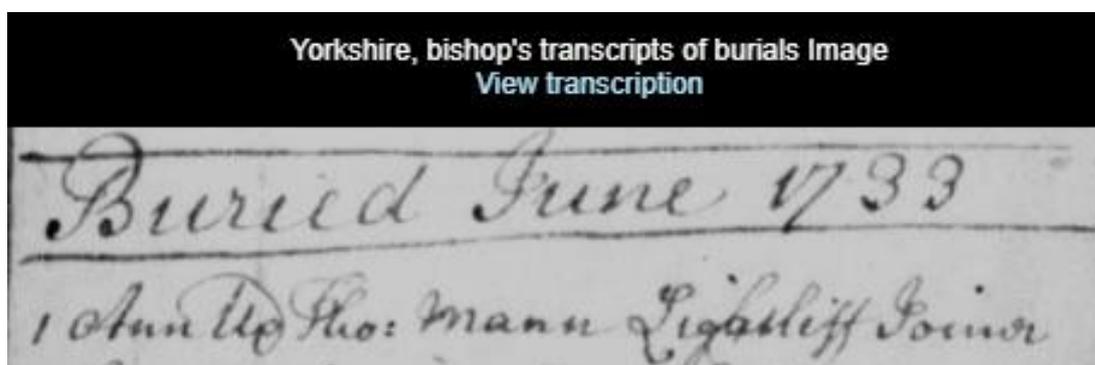
Thomas Mann and family

(before 9th February 1706 – 17th October 1779)

Thomas Mann was one of the surviving sons of William Mann and his wife Rebecca nee Batley. The family probably farmed Mann's Farm which straddled Wakefield Road in Lightcliffe. But with three other brothers and Thomas not being the eldest it is likely that he had another trade as well. He was quite possibly a carpenter and joiner. This may help to work out who he was married to.

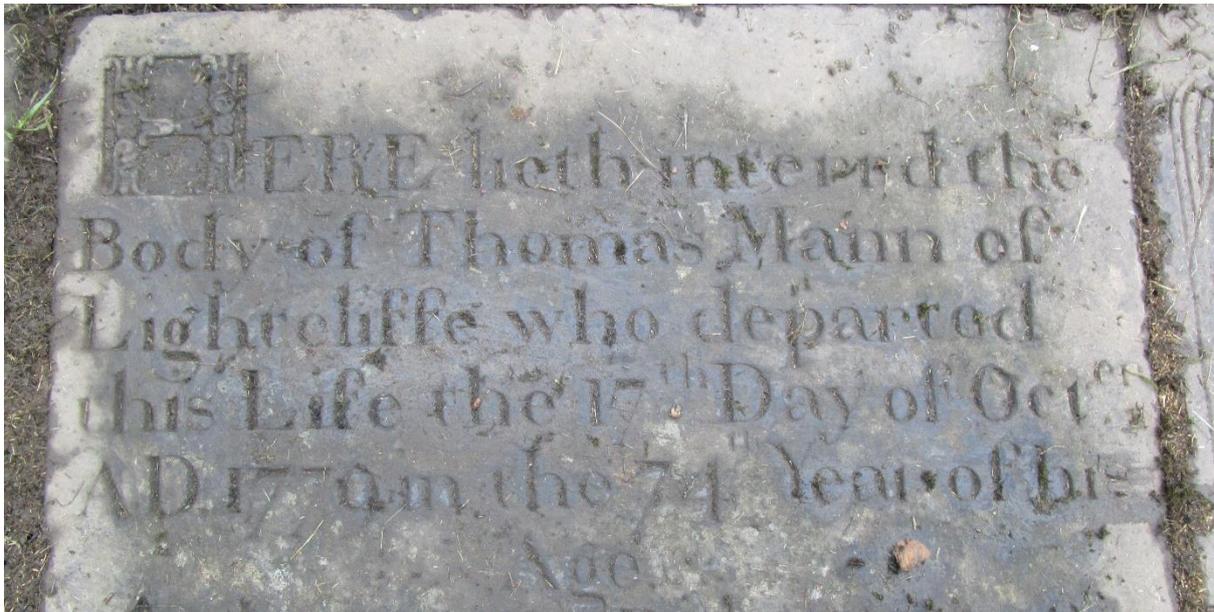
Clearly Thomas Mann married perhaps more than once but to whom? There is a marriage on 24th October 1728 of "*Thomas Man Carpenter & Hanah Cordingley Hipholm Sp^r*". This may well be Hannah Cordingley, the daughter of Tempest Cordingley, who was baptised at Lightcliffe on 27th November 1711. Then there is a marriage by licence of Anne Haigh of Southowram to a Thomas Mann of Lightcliffe on 25th November 1732 at Batley, no occupation was recorded. A memorial inscription – see later – to Mary wife of Thomas Mann leads weight to the argument that he was the Thomas Mann who married Mary Close on 25th June 1739 at Halifax or Batley. Both were '*from Halifax*' and again no occupation was recorded

No burial record has been found for a Hannah Mann nee Cordingley. But the record below suggests that Thomas Mann lost his young wife, Ann(e) Mann nee Haigh, within months of them marrying and days after Thomas Mann baptised a daughter Mary at Lightcliffe on 22nd May 1733. It is more than likely that the two events were connected.



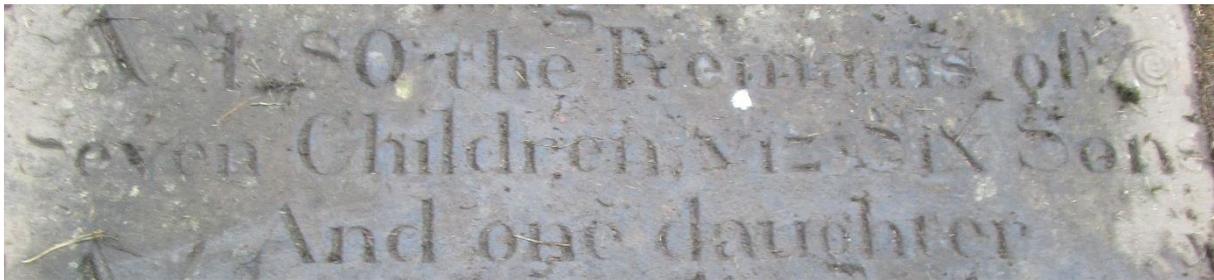
Then just to confuse things a "*Thos Man Hipholm*" baptised a daughter Elizabeth on 21st October 1733 at St. John's Church, Coley. Indicating perhaps that there was more than one Thomas Mann in the Halifax area at this time.

A Thomas Mann baptised eleven more children at Eastfield Chapel Lightcliffe from 1740 onwards. Namely James on 8th August 1740, William on 24th February 1741, Rebecca on 13th May 1744, Anne on 26th December 1745, Samuel on 18th October 1747, Elizabeth on 5th October 1749, Hannah on 19th May 1751, Judith on 15th April 1753, Esther on 4th May 1755, Thomas on 17th October 1756 and finally Joshua on 11th June 1758. Was the father our Thomas Man(n) son of William, I think so. And, presumably these were all the children of his second, perhaps third wife, Mary who he married in 1739. Evidence from other sources suggest that this was another very large Lightcliffe Mann family which we will look at in more detail.



The top of the Mann ledger stone on plot R*22

Father Thomas Mann died on 17th October 1779 and was buried in a new Mann plot, R*22, on 21st October 1779. The name "*Mann Thomas of Lightcliffe P Halifax*" appears on the York Probate Index in October 1779. Immediately below the inscription for Thomas are these words, a grim reminder of the realities of that time.



There are two 1759 burials for sons of a Thomas Mann in the Lightcliffe records Joshua on 3rd January 1759 and then John (*J'no*) – who does not appear to have been baptised – on 6th September 1759. But that still leaves four other sons unaccounted for; perhaps like John they were never baptised. An Ann, daughter of Thomas Mann, was buried on 3rd June 1766. Was this the daughter recorded above? If she was the daughter Ann baptised in 1745 then she would have been twenty-one years old and burial in an unknown grave with no recognition except for the above seems a little strange. The explanation may be that this particular ledger stone on plot R*22 was engraved years later on the instructions of another member of the family.

Eldest son James, a joiner, married Alice Gledhill on 8th July 1767 in Halifax, both were from Lightcliffe. A daughter Ann was buried on 24th June 1768 in an unknown grave but years later she too was remembered on the memorial inscription on plot R*22. This was after her sister Rachel had died on May 1795 and had been buried with her grandfather Thomas Mann on 15th May 1795. Rachel Mann may be the Rachel, daughter of James Mann, baptised on 10th September 1775 at Sowerby Bridge.

ALSO here lieth the Bod
of Rachel Mann late daughter
of James Mann of Bellybridge
hill who departed this Life the
12th Day of May 1795 in the 20th
Year of her Age.

ALSO the Body of Ann
late daughter of the above
said James Mann who died
in her Infancy.

James and Alice Mann then ended up in Little Horton, Bradford, but they were each brought back to Lightcliffe for burial in the churchyard on 19th March 1814 and 19th February 1823 respectively. Theirs were the last inscriptions on plot R*22.

ALSO James Son of the above said
Thomas Mann, who died March 14th
1814 Aged 76 Years.
ALSO Alice Wife of the above said
James Mann, who died Feb^r 13th 1823
Aged 90 Years.

The middle and lower sections on the Mann ledger stone on plot R*22

Second son William Mann of Lightcliffe married Elizabeth (Betty) Hainsworth on 17th September 1772 at Hartshead cum Clifton. Their son John was baptised on 6th December 1772 at St. Peter's Church, Birstall when his father William was "of Hightown". There are several Mann baptisms at Birstall including Mary Mann baptised on 11th February 1776. Both these named children were buried at Lightcliffe in 1785 in another new Mann plot O*22. Nine-year-old Mary was buried on 13th March 1785 and twelve-year-old John on 1st June 1785. Their mother Elizabeth was also buried there on 10th July 1792 after she died on 6th July 1792. The address for all three Manns was Hightown, Birstall. There were two other Mann burials in unknown graves with the address Hightown both Williams. Father William on 4th July 1810 and another 43-year-old William who may or may not be another son, on 11th January 1814.



The top of the Mann ledger stone on plot O*22

Thomas Mann's daughter Rebecca married Phineas Firth on 26th February 1770. They baptised several children at Lightcliffe, some at the old Eastfield Chapel and some after 1775 at the newly built St. Matthew's Church. They include Mary baptised on 27th January 1771, John on 21st March 1773, Phineas on 5th March 1775, Jane on 29th November 1776, Thomas on 13th January 1782 and finally Samuel on 5th March 1786. Rebecca, wife of Phineas, was buried in an unknown grave in Lightcliffe churchyard on 12th October 1811.

Another daughter Judith married John Watson on 17th March 1777. She was almost certainly the 72-year-old widow Judith Watson of Lightcliffe who was buried in an unknown grave on 27th January 1825.

Thomas Mann's youngest daughter, Esther, married James Washington on 17th June 1783. They were both from Hipperholme although James's parents were originally from Hightown. Their story has already been told as they were the parents of the Crow Nest land agent and, for a time, the land steward at Shibden Hall for Anne Lister, Samuel Washington.

Esther and James Washington were buried in plot, Q*21, which is next to the plot her father Thomas Mann was buried in plot R*22. These early burial plots did not always align themselves with our 21st century grid code!!

Read more about the Washingtons on our website under

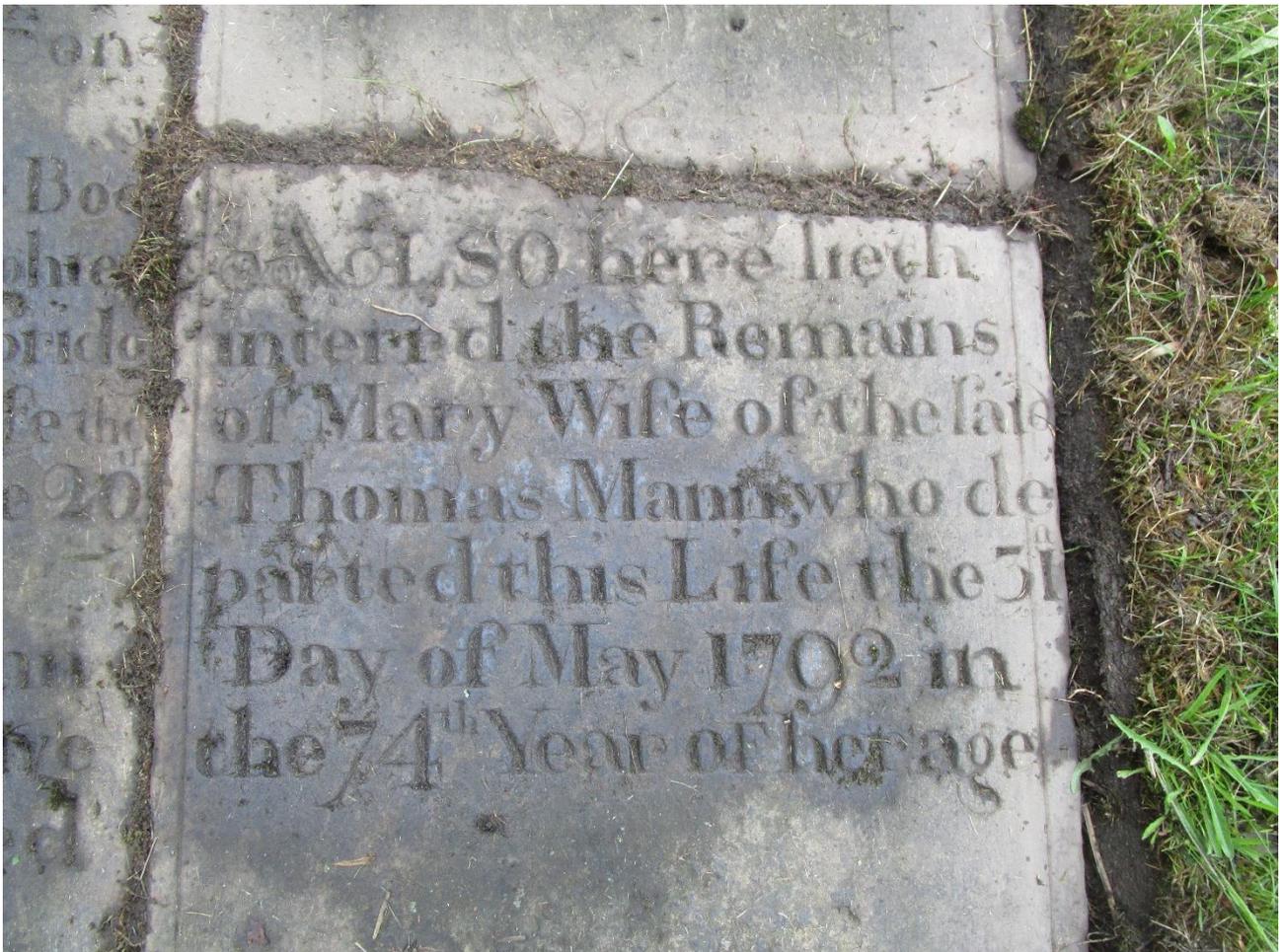
The Washington and Cordingley families

The family of Samuel Washington



**The top ledger stone on the Washington plot Q*21
Next to Thomas Mann's ledger stone on plot R*22.**

When Thomas Mann's widow Mary died in 1792 there was probably no room for her to be buried with her husband, so she was placed in the only Mann plot with spare capacity, the plot now known as S*22 on 3rd June 1792. This is next to her husband's plot. This Mann grave, one of the five adjacent plots, was first used over fifty years previously when Thomas's elder brother, John, was buried there on 6th October 1738. It is interesting to compare the style of the engravings on this cracked ledger stone. The memorial to John Mann looks very similar to that for his father William senior with the shield, year of death and the initials J and M. Whereas the type face used by the stone mason for his sister in law – who he probably never knew – is like that on her husband's ledger stone.



The bottom section of the Mann ledger stone on plot S*22

Read more about

William Mann and family

The Bateman and Rushworth families

D.M.Barker

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