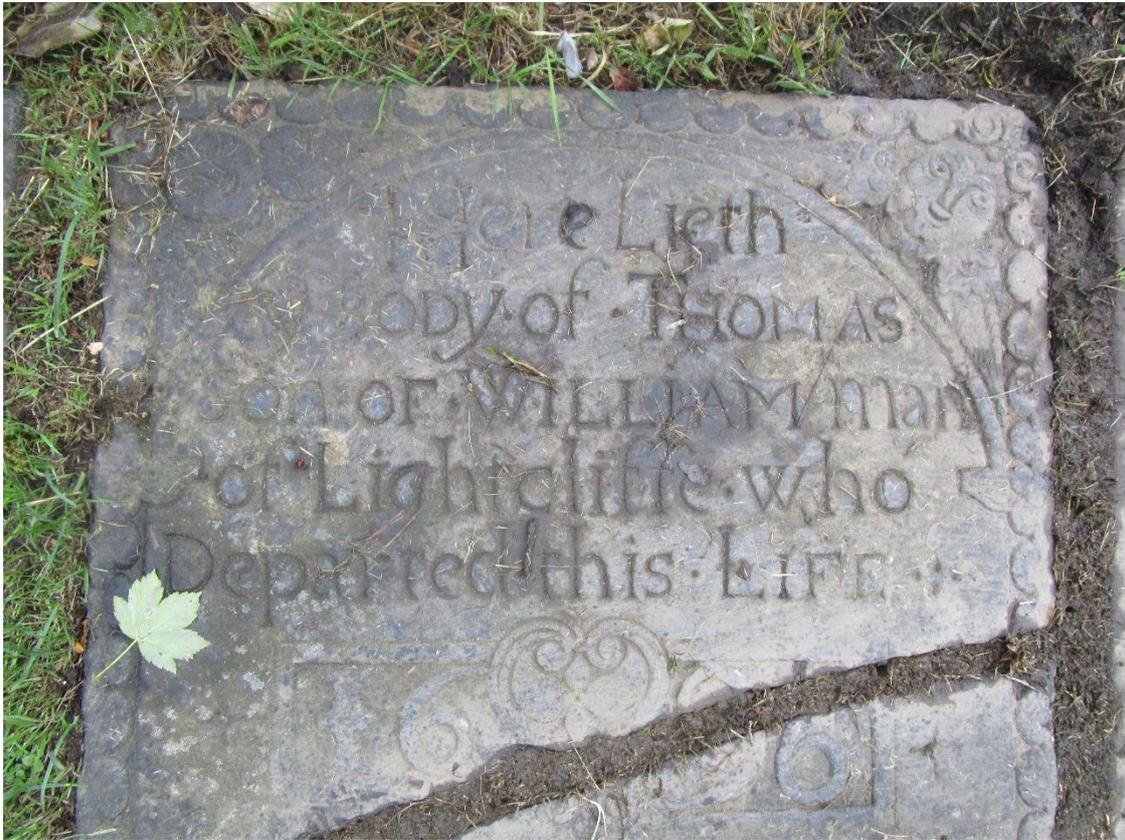
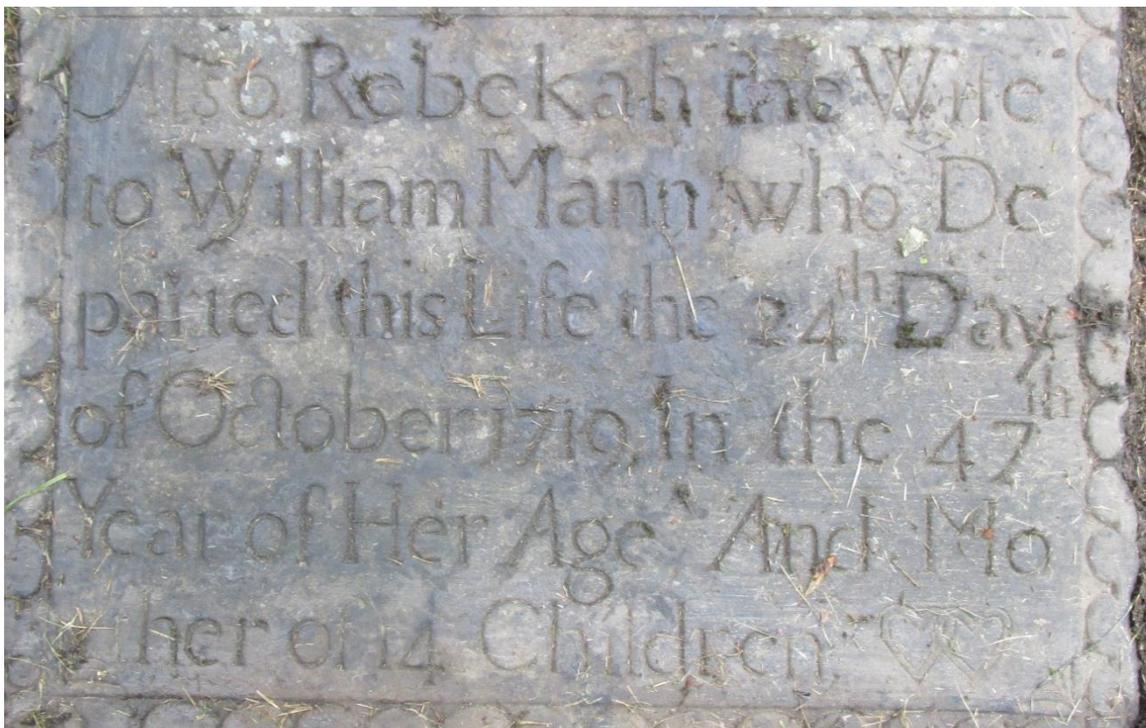


## William Mann senior and family

One of the earliest dates on any of our ledger stone is this 1696 dedication to a little boy, Thomas son of William Man(n) of Lightcliffe. There are further dedications and then at the



bottom of this cracked ledger stone there is the inscription for his mother, Rebekah.



The top and bottom of the ledger stone on plot Q\*22

The above memorial inscriptions are on the middle of five adjacent ledger stones all commemorating members of the Mann family. [These plots are now coded O\*22, P\*22, Q\*22, R\*22 and S\*22 and are marked on a map on the website.] There was also a Lightcliffe farm known as Mann's Farm. The farmhouse was on the north of Wakefield Road just before Holme House and the farmland was on the opposite side of the road.

From the various memorial inscriptions and some early parish records, which are brief, an attempt has been made to piece together this Mann family's story. It begins with William Mann who married Rebecca Batley on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1692 at Lightcliffe.

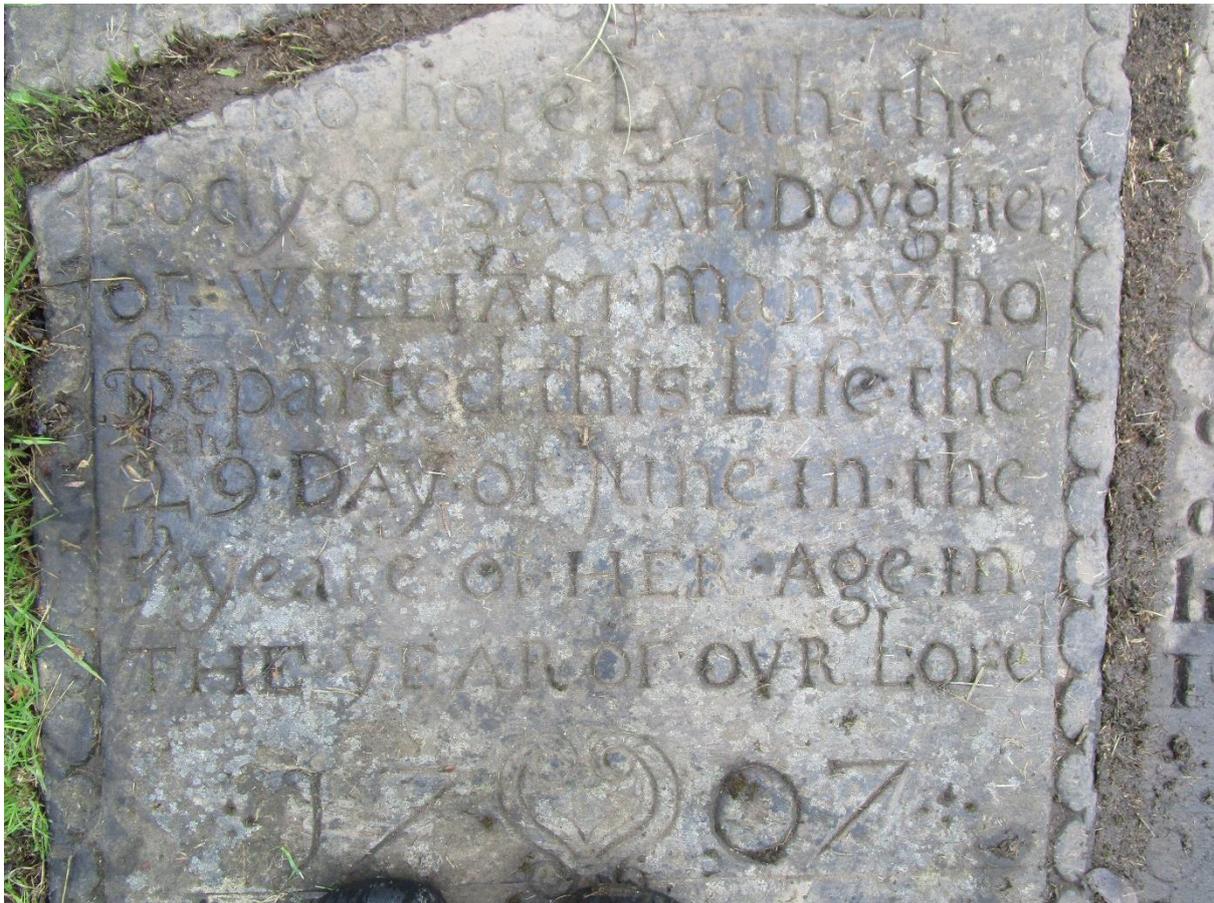
Rebecca, often spelt Rebekah, was probably the daughter of Jeremiah Batley of Lightcliffe. Her baptism was recorded on the Halifax registers as having taken place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1672 which predates the licence for Lightcliffe. It is unclear just where this baptism took place perhaps at St. John's Coley. A local historian Chris Helm notes that a Batley headstone dated 1665 was apparently found under the Lightcliffe sexton's house when it was moved further down Till Carr Lane in 1865. This also predates the burial licence for Lightcliffe so there is no burial record to help identify this individual, but whoever it was may well have been a member of Rebecca's Batley family.

According to Rebecca's memorial inscription she was a 'MOTHER OF 14 CHILDREN'. William and Rebecca's eldest children may have been baptised at Eastfield chapel before parish baptism records began in 1704. But some of their names and years of birth can be worked out from their memorial inscriptions. Their eldest son would appear to be another William born about 1692 if he was 16 when he died in 1709 as recorded on this memorial inscription just above that for his mother.



Little Thomas commemorated at the top of the ledger stone on plot Q\*22 could only have been a few years old when he died in 1696. A daughter Mary born about 1697 survived to adulthood, married a Joseph Burnley and then died in 1750. We will check up on her memorial inscription on plot P\*22 later. Another son John Mann must have been born about 1701 as he was 'IN THE 38<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE' when he died in 1738.

There are two burials recorded for a Sarah Man(n) daughter of Will in 1707. A four-year-old Sarah was buried on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1707 with her brother Thomas. But then the difficult to read parish burial records seem to record another Sarah, daughter of Will Man, buried on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1707 i.e. just days later, in an unknown grave. Was a baby girl born almost immediately and named after her recently deceased sister? And then did she die almost straightaway? By then the baptisms of Will and Rebecca's children born in or after 1704 were being recorded at Eastfield Chapel, Lightcliffe. But if the second Sarah died at or not long after being born there would be no time to baptise her. This could also explain why the burial was in an unknown grave with no memorial inscription.



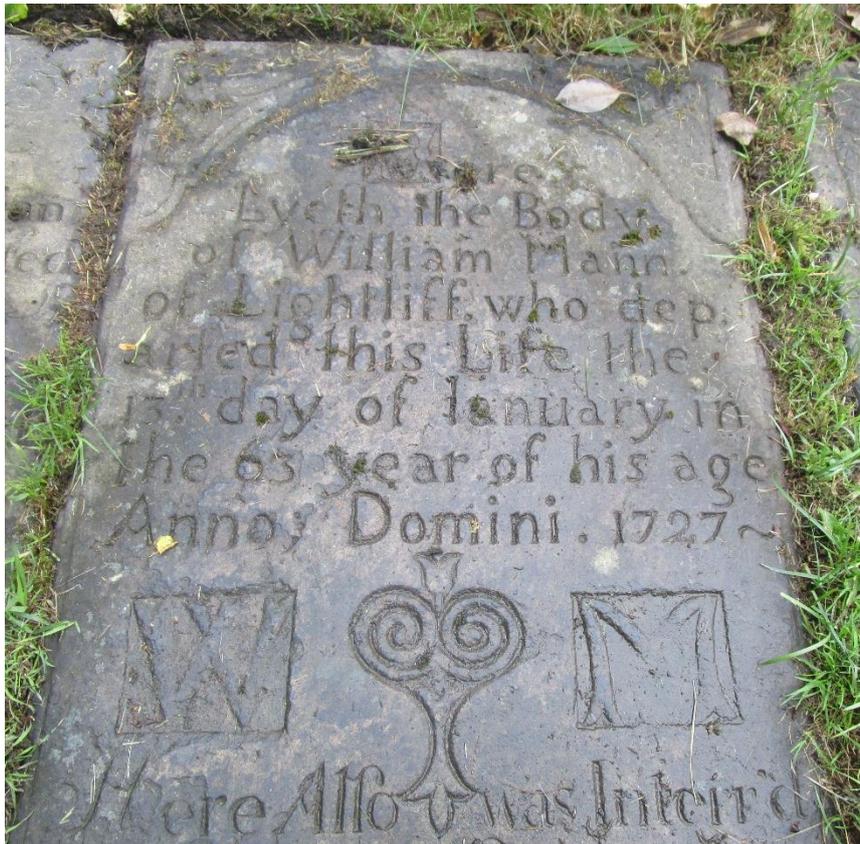
**The middle inscription to daughter Sarah on plot Q\*22**

Before then a daughter Judith had been baptised in 1704. No month nor day were given so transcription records use a default date of 1<sup>st</sup> December 1704. And another Thomas was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1706. Having already lost at least one daughter named Sarah possibly two, the next daughter to be born and then baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1709 was christened Sarah Mann. Another Will – notice the reuse of a deceased child’s name yet again – was baptised on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1711 followed by Joshua on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1714 and then Rebecca on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1717. This is two children short of the proclaimed fourteen, but it is quite possible that other babies were born and died before baptisms took place or before burials were recorded.

Rebecca/Rebekah Mann died on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1719 aged 46 or as ages were often recorded at this time “IN THE 47<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HER AGE”. Hers is the last name on this 300-year-old ledger stone. It is interesting to note the style of lettering and formatting as you read down the stone from little Thomas’s memorial inscription to that of his mother. Presumably, they were added at different times perhaps by different stonemasons as the deaths occurred.

This grave plot was then full, but the family seem to have procured for themselves four more plots two either side of this first one. They would have been in a prominent position in a line from close to the chapel wall towards Wakefield Road.

After Rebecca died, we assume that Will continue to farm at Mann’s Farm with his sons John, Thomas, Will and Joshua and daughters Mary, Judith, Sarah, and Rebecca at home. Father William Mann died on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1727 and was buried in Plot P\*22 on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1727 next to his children and his wife. He was ‘in the 63<sup>rd</sup> year of his age’ making his birth year around 1665. William Mann of Lightcliffe has a probate record and is listed for death duties in 1728.



**The top of the ledger stone on plot P\*22**

Father William Mann's memorial inscription above continues with a little eccentric spelling.

**"MAREY**

**THE WIFE OF JOSEPH BURNLY OF HIGHTOWN**

**WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 17<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER**

**ANNO DOMINI 1750 AGED 53 YEARS"**

This is daughter Mary who married Joseph Burnley, a Grocer from Birstall, on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1720 in Halifax. A Joseph Burnley was buried in the churchyard on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1755 in an unknown plot within the closed churchyard. No Burnley children have been found.

Mary's younger sisters, Judith and Sarah, seem to have remained in Lightcliffe marrying local men and then in time they too were buried in the churchyard. Judith married Jonas Bateman on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1730 and Sarah married Michael Rishforth/Rushforth/Rishworth/Rushworth – yes, the spelling does change – on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1731. The Bateman and Rushworth stories are told elsewhere.

Youngest daughter Rebecca may be the Rebecca Mann who married Joseph Drake on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1739 at Birstall. Then a widow Rebecca Drake of Hartshead was buried at Hartshead on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1805 but this may not be her.

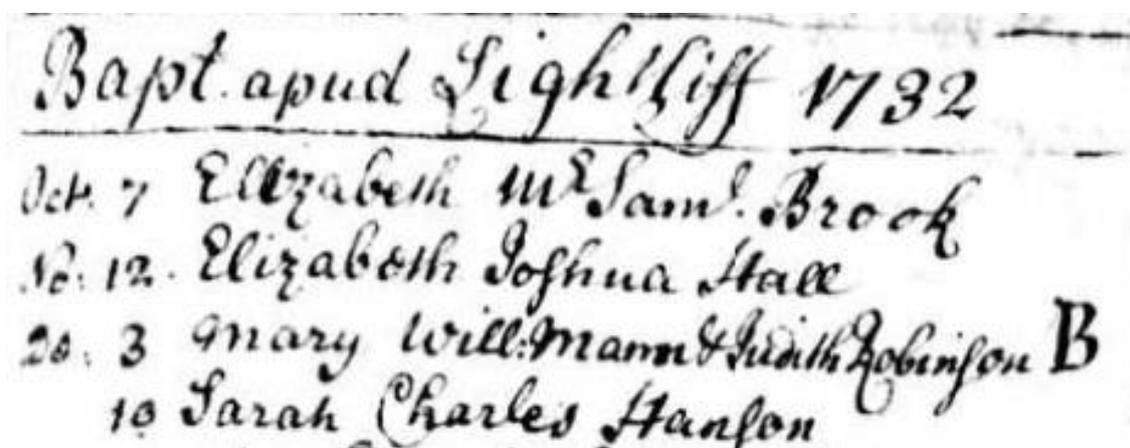
There is more certain information about some of the surviving brothers. Brother Thomas Mann remained in Lightcliffe bringing up a large family; his story is also told separately.

There are Halifax and Birstall marriages for a John Mann, but it is impossible to tell if either were the John Mann of Lightcliffe, the eldest surviving son of William and Rebecca. He died on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1738 and was buried in the last of the Mann plots, S\*22, on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1738. No acknowledgement of a widow or children has been found. There is a '*Man John of Lightcliffe p Halifax*' listed on the York probate Index for November 1738. The previous entry, on the preceding page, is for '*Man William of Lightcliffe p Halifax*'. Was this a hangover from his father's probate or the probate for his brother William?



**The top of the ledger stone on S\*22**

Brother William Mann may be the twenty-one-year-old William Mann of Lightcliffe who married by licence Anne Pollard, also aged twenty-one or more, of Wyke on 5 July 1732 at Kirkheaton. But then there is this interesting 1732 Lightcliffe baptism record for Mary daughter of William Mann and Judith Robinson, baptised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1732 at Eastfield Chapel. No other records have been found for William Mann junior.



Bapt. apud Lightcliff 1732

Oct. 7 Elizabeth Mr Saml. Brock  
16. 12. Elizabeth Joshua Hall  
20. 3 Mary Will: Mann & Judith Robinson B  
10 Sarah Charles Hanson

Similarly, not much definite information has been discovered about the youngest brother Joshua Mann after his baptism in 1714. There is a 5<sup>th</sup> January 1743 marriage of a Joshua Mann of Hightown to a Mary Hargreaves at Birstall. Several members of the family were described as 'of Hightown' so this could be our Mann (pun intended!). But then there is this April 1748 entry on the York probate index for 'Mann Joshua of Hipperholm p. Halifax'. No burial record has been found.

More details of the families of brother Thomas Mann and the Mann sisters can be found under

**Thomas Mann and family**

**The Bateman and the Rushworth families**

D.M.Barker

June 2020