

The Lightcliffe Laundry and the Kendall family

Lightcliffe Laundry was apparently established in 1886 almost certainly by Squire Appleyard. It appears to have been the forerunner of Brighthouse & Lightcliffe Steam Laundry. It was situated somewhere between Smith House and Hoyle House, the address given for the Appleyards in baptism records at the time. Read

Annie Appleyard of Lightcliffe and family

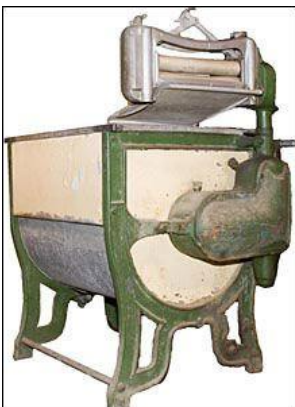
But what did a late Victorian laundry look like and who did it cater for?

Large houses had their own laundry rooms and servants to do the washing, drying and ironing – think laundry and drying rooms in National Trust houses. But most households had to do their own laundry using the equipment below traditionally starting on washday Monday.



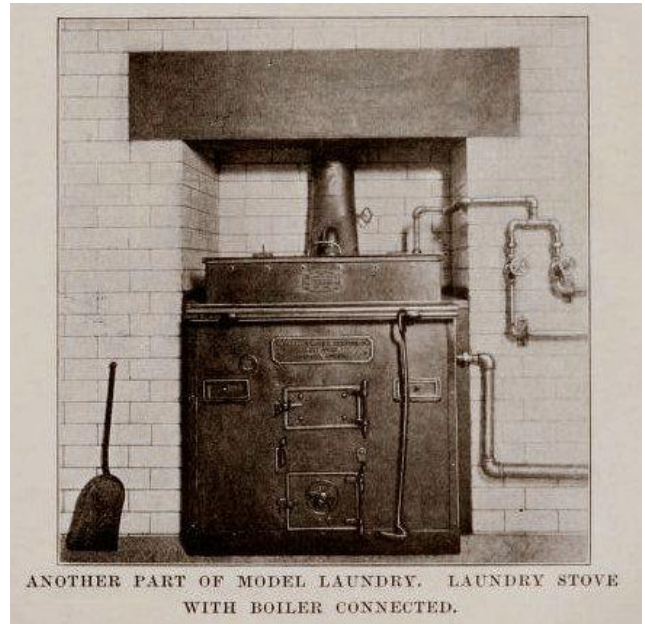
However, towards the end of the nineteenth century commercial laundries were being set up to wash, dry and iron clothes and carpets outside the family home. A service that also solved the laundry problem for hotels and other institutions. Presumably, there was a market for this in Lightcliffe.

At about this time washing machines, mangles and 'ironing machines' for commercial and domestic use were being used, some were even manufactured in Halifax.





Perhaps the Appleyards Lightcliffe Laundry looked like the above and had a laundry stove with connected boiler!



In 1918 Squire Appleyard sold the laundry to Johnnie Kendall with fatal consequences which you will read about later.

Johnnie Kendall was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 6th July 1879. along with his sister, Anna Maria. But as the baptism record shows she was nearly 14 and Johnnie was nearly 10. Their parents were Benjamin Kent and Rachel Kendall of Brighouse.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for Johnni...

Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1879

1879	July	Anna	Benjamin	Kent	Kendall	Brighouse	G. Bagot
27	6	Maria	Rachel				
1879	July	Johnnie	Benjamin	Kent	Kendall	Brighouse	G. Bagot
6			Rachel				

Father Benjamin was baptised Benjamin Kent on 26th April 1829 at Kirby Overblow near Harrogate. His mother was Jane Kendall, a spinster from Rigton also near Harrogate. Although the parish record states that he was the "Natural son of " it does not say who, possibly it was a Mr. Kent?

Benjamin Kent was a 'Male Servant' in Derbyshire in 1841 and then a 'Farm Labourer' lodging with the Jackson family in Hipperholme in 1851. But when he married Rachel Ellis on 11th May 1851 the name Benjamin Kent Kendall was used. Many of Rachel's Ellis relatives have Lightcliffe connections but their story will have to wait.

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1851. 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.
73	24	Benjamin Kent Kendall	24	Single	Labourer	Hippendale	—	—
	24	Marcel Ellis	24	Single	—	Hippendale	John Ellis	Sexton
Married in the <u>St. John's Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>Banns</u> by me, <u>J. M. Ferris</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>Benjamin Kent Kendall</u>		in the Presence of us,		<u>Thomas Thompson</u>		

Their Lightcliffe born children were all given the surname Kendall, spelt Kendal or Kendele at times when they were baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Their first born, Tom, was privately baptised on 13th February 1852 when his father was a 'Comber'. For the 24th July 1853 baptism of Fanny Jane her father was recorded as being a 'Sexton' but then as a 'Labourer' for three splendidly named sons Haydn Kent, Handel Kent and Benjamin Kent Kendall baptised on 1st July 1855, 28th February 1858 and 9th September 1860 respectively. Little Tom Kendall died aged 2 and was buried in an unknown grave within the churchyard on 28th June 1854. If his father was still the Sexton - and the 1861 census would appear to confirm this - then he probably at least oversaw the digging of his son's grave if he did not do it himself, a sad thought. The family's address on census night 7th April 1861 suggests that the family were living in the Sexton's house within the churchyard. This would be just before Evan Charles Sutherland Walker moved this house, apparently stone by stone, to its current position on Till Carr Lane. Read more about the old church and its connections with the Sutherland Walker family in other articles on the website including :-

The Sutherland Walkers

1861 census

Benjamin Kendle	Head	34	Sexton
Rachel Kendle	Wife	35	
Fanny Kendall	Dau	7	
Haydn Kent Kendall	Son	5	
Handle Kent Kendall	Son	3	
Benjamin Kent Kendall		1	

Address **Church Yard, Lightcliffe**

Another daughter Mario Kent Kendall was born Q4 1861. She was privately baptised on 12th January 1863 just before she died aged just one. Again, her burial was in an unknown grave within the closed churchyard on 16th January 1863. At the time the family were still in Lightcliffe and her father was a 'Labourer'. By 25th June 1865 when Mary Ellen was baptised the family abode was given as Bailiffe Bridge so perhaps labourer Benjamin had given up his Sexton duties. As you can see, by 1871 Benjamin Kent Kendall was a 'Gardener' and the family lived on Lightcliffe Road. Two more children Annie Marie and Johnnie Kendall had been born by then on 27th October 1865 and 9th October 1869 respectively although neither had been baptised as already mentioned.

1871 census

Benjamin K Kendall Head 43 Gardener
Rachel Kendall Wife 45
Fanny Jane Kendall Dau 18 Mill Hand
Hayden Kendall Son 16 Cotton Piecer
Handel Kendall Son 14 ditto
Benjamin Kendall Son 10 ditto
Mary Ellen Kendall Dau 7
Anna Maria Kendall Dau 5
Johnny Kendall Son 1
Address **17 Lightcliffe Rd., Hipperholme with Brighouse**

Sixteen-year-old Benjamin Kent Kendall junior died on 17th December 1876 and was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 21st December 1876 in plot C9. His is the first name on the headstone. He was soon joined by his brother Handel Kent Kendall who died on 2nd April 1878 and was buried on 6th April 1878. The death dates given in the parish records differ slightly from those on the memorial inscription.

**IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF BENJ^N KENT THE SON OF BENJ^N KENT
AND RACHEL KENDALL OF WATERLOO BRIGHOUSE WHO DIED THE 16TH DAY
OF DECEMBER 1876 AGED 16 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS**

**THEN SHALL THE DUST RETURN TO THE EARTH AS IT WAS
AND THE SPIRIT SHALL RETURN UNTO GOD WHO GAVE IT**

**ALSO OF HANDEL KENT SON OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED APRIL 1ST 1878 AGED
20 YEARS AND 5 MONTHS.**

The address 'Waterloo Road, Brighouse' was that given when their little brother Johnnie Kendall, was admitted to Brighouse National - St. Martin's School on 15th February 1875.

1881 census

Benj.Kent Kendal Head 53 Gardener
Rachel Kendal Wife 54
Fanny Jane Kendal Dau 27 Silk Piecer
Mary Ellen Kendal Dau 17 ditto
Hannah Maria Kendal Dau 15 Silk Spinner
John Kendal Son 11 Scholar
Address **New St., Lightcliffe**

Haydn Kent Kendall does not appear in the 1881 census as he was not in the country at the time but serving abroad in the East Indies.

1891 census

Benjamin K Kendall Head 63 Gardener
Rachel Kendall Wife 64
Fanny Kendall Dau 37 Dress maker
Anna M Kendall Dau 25 Roving tester
Address **Back New St., Hipperholme with
Brighouse**

1891 census

Johnnie Kendall Head 21 Blacksmith
Alice Kendall Wife 22
Florence Kendall Dau 8/12
Address **South St., Hipperholme cum Brighouse**

Twenty-one-year-old 'Quarryman' Haydn Kent Kendall enlisted with the 10th Brigade' (service no. 1395) at Bradford on 3rd August 1877. He served in the East Indies from 6th October 1878 to 19th February 1884 taking part in the Afghan campaign 1879 – 1880. Gradual promotion saw him being made a Sergeant on 6th April 1881. His return home enabled him to marry Mary Jane Stead on 4th April 1884 in St. Peter's Church, Bradford. After that he remained in the country but with his brigade from 20th February 1884 to 4th October 1885 when he was transferred to the reserves from where he was discharged on 13th August 1889.

When Hannah Maria Kendall died on 15th December 1911 and was buried in the Kendall family plot C9 on 18th December 1911 it was declared full. Twelve years later when her sister Fanny Jane Kendall died on 21st May 1923, she was buried in the adjacent plot C10 on 23rd May 1923 but her memorial inscription is on the headstone on C9.

**ALSO OF HANNAH MARIA DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE NAMED
WHO DIED DECEMBER 15TH 1911 AGED 46 YEARS**

ASLEEP FAITHFULLY IN CHRIST

**ALSO OF FANNY JANE THEIR DAUGHTER
WHO DIED MAY 21ST 1923 AGED 69 YEARS**

These two plots with the one headstone are on your right under the trees as you enter the churchyard from Till Carr Lane.

But before Fanny Jane Kendall died there was a tragic accident at her younger brother's laundry which was reported in the Halifax Evening Courier as was the subsequent inquest.

Halifax Evening Courier 2nd March 1920

Laundry Proprietor

Killed at Lightcliffe

A disturbing fatality took place yesterday at the Brighthouse and Lightcliffe Steam Laundry, Hoyle House, Lightcliffe when the proprietor, Mr Johnnie Kendall 50, 7 Holly-bank, Hove Edge was killed by the bursting of a steam hydro, used for drying clothes. At 1:30, Bridget Gateley, a laundry woman, of 10 Close-place, Rastrick, was in an adjoining room when she heard an explosion in the wash-house and found that the steam hydro had burst. She called in Geo. Wm. Harrison, a farmer, of Hoyle House Farm, who found the deceased lying on the floor unconscious, with blood gushing from a wound beneath the left ear. Deceased expired in a few seconds, the hydro was of cast iron $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick and had burst into a large number of fragments. One piece, about 11 in. by 4 in., was found lying near the deceased's cap on the floor. Deceased was also badly cut on the left ear. Mr Kendall recently acquired the laundry from Mr. Appleyard.

The report of the inquest obviously gives more details including the involvement of Johnnie Kendall's daughter Florence.

Laundry Fatality

Machine Which Did Not Run Quite True

EVIDENCE AT THE INQUEST

At the Zion schoolroom, Hove Edge, yesterday afternoon, Mr E. W. Norris held an inquest on Johnnie Kendall (50) residing at 7, Holly-bank, Hove Edge, who was killed on Monday by the bursting of a steam hydro-extractor at the Brighthouse and Lightcliffe Steam Laundry, Hoyle House, Lightcliffe

Florence Kendall, 7 Holly-bank, Hove Edge, said the deceased was her father who was formerly employed as a mechanic at Irving Brooke's, Motor Engineers. Eighteen months' ago he purchased this laundry and since then worked there. She last saw him on Monday about 12.45 in the wash-house. He was at that time filling the hydro with clothes before setting the machine in motion. There had been no difficulty with this machine before, with the exception of belts breaking. He remarked the machine was running better that morning than ever it did. Witness proceeded to another part of the premises and was preparing dinner, when she heard a loud crash, and ran to see what it was. She then went for someone to stop the machine, and on returning discovered that the hydro had smashed. She then went for Mr. Harrison, farmer, living close by, and he came back with her. He found the deceased under the wheel of the "washer" which was opposite the hydro. They got him free, but he died almost immediately. Witness did not know how old the machine was.

Mr. H. W. Younger (factory inspector): Do you know if he had the usual quantity of clothes in the machine? – Witness: Perhaps there might have been more than usual. – Have you ever known this engine "run away"? – On one occasion this occurred, because of too much steam. If it had run away on Monday, she would have noticed it. So far as she knew nothing of this kind happened on Monday.

Bridget Gateby, 10 Close place Rastrick, said she was at work at the laundry when, about 1 o'clock, she heard a loud report and found the hydro had burst. She saw the deceased full length near the washing machine, which was about 1 ½ yards from the hydro. She then called to the last witness, saying "Do come, I am sure your father is hurt". Mr. Harrison was then fetched, and they got the deceased free. She saw he had a terrible gash on the side of the face and other severe injuries. The hydro at the time of the explosion had been running about 2 minutes and nothing unusual had been noticed. She had worked at the laundry about 12 months. Nothing serious had happened to the hydro before. If Mr. Kendall was busy, witness would sometimes work the machine and had never experienced any trouble with it. The clothes should be carefully put in the "basket" and made level, before setting the machine in motion.

George Harrison, Hoyle House, Lightcliffe, farmer, said he did not hear the explosion on Monday, but was fetched by Florence Kendall, about 1 o'clock. On going into the wash house, he found all upset, and Mr. Kendall full length alongside of the "washer" and he was bleeding profusely. They got him clear, but he appeared to be dead. He had a large gash on the jaw and other severe injuries.

Elizabeth Holland, 3, Lane-court, Bonegate, Brighthouse, said she laid the body out and testified to the terrible injuries to the arm, which was nearly severed, and a gash on the face.

The Coroner in summing up, said it was quite clear that the deceased was killed by the bursting of the hydro extractor, and the cast iron covering breaking, some fragments hit the deceased on the head and arm. The accident was probably caused by the machine not running quite true.

Verdict: Accidental death, caused by "the bursting of the hydro extractor."

Where Johnnie Kendall was buried has not been found but it was not in Lightcliffe churchyard. This was perhaps because his parents' plot C9 was full or perhaps because he and his family opted to be buried somewhere else. He did leave a will.

KENDALL Johnnie of Holly Bank Hone [sic] Edge Brighouse Yorkshire died 1 March 1920 at Hoyle-house Lightcliffe Yorkshire Administration London 12 May to Alice Kendall widow. Effects £1210 5s 1d

His widow Alice was still living in Brighouse with her two youngest children at the time the 1939 register was taken. She died a year later at the end of 1940.

1939 register

Address **7 Anvil Street, Brighouse**

Alice	Kendall	04 Feb 1869	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Single	11	1
Annie	Clark (Kendall)	19 Apr 1905	Female	Gas Showroom Assistant	Single	11	2
Leonard	Kendall	29 Aug 1910	Male	School Teacher	Single	11	3

But what happened to Lightcliffe Laundry aka Brighouse and Lightcliffe Steam Laundry?

**Proprietors:
Geo. Clayton & Son of
4 East Cliffe, Lightcliffe [Res]**

Fine open-air drying

Malcolm Bull's *Calderdale Companion* notes [above] that Geo. Clayton & Son proprietors of 4 East Cliffe, Lightcliffe, the address of the Appleyards, were offering "Fine open-air drying" in 1939. The son may well be Thomas Firth Clayton who in 1939 was living with his wife Lily – wrongly transcribed as Lucy – at 4 Smith House Lane, Brighouse. His occupation? Laundry Proprietor. Was 4 East Cliffe also known as 4 Smith House Lane and was he the proprietor of the original Lightcliffe laundry? It certainly seems to be in the same place. When Thomas Firth Clayton, born 26 May 1894, married Lily Anthony on 22nd September 1923, he was a 'Laundry Manager' and his father George was a 'Laundry Proprietor'. This does suggest that Geo. Clayton & Son did indeed take over the Appleyards' Lightcliffe laundry after the tragic accident which killed Johnnie Kendall.

The question that remains is: -

What happened to Lightcliffe laundry during and then after WW2?

Answers or indeed any information would be gratefully received.

D.M.Barker

August 2020