

## John Wood and family

John Wood was one of Thomas and Ellen Wood's large family of twelve. Read

### Thomas Wood and family

### William Wood and family

He married Martha Jane Appleyard in 1860 and at the time of the 1861 census they lived in Southowram. 'Carpet Colour maker' John Wood and his wife Martha Jane Wood then baptised three children in Halifax, Harry on 8th November 1864, Emma on 26th May 1867 and Lewis on 27th March 1870 before the family moved to Lightcliffe.

#### 1861 census

John Wood      Head    22  
   Card Writer Carpet Works  
Martha J Wood Wife    19 at Carpet Works  
Address 9 Railway Terrace, Southowram

Next door to his brother William Wood and his new wife.

#### 1871 census

John Wood      Head    32 Foreman W(orste)d  
Martha Jane Wood Wife 29  
Harry Wood      Son      6  
Emma Wood      Dau      4  
Lewis Wood      Son      1

Address

**Lightcliffe, Hipperholme cum Brighouse**

In the 1870s John and Martha Wood nee Appleyard baptised children at St. Matthew's Church, Sarah Elizabeth on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1874. Two brothers Edwin born 14<sup>th</sup> February 1876 and Thomas born 1<sup>st</sup> December 1877 were baptised together on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1879 and then Clara born 16<sup>th</sup> March 1880 on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1880. Each time their address was Lightcliffe, and John was a 'Foreman'. But when Willie was born on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1882 and baptised on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1883 John was 'Manager – Carpet Works'. They also buried their 10-year-old son Harry on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1875 in plot 179 directly in front of his grandfather's plot J79. Harry's is the first name on the memorial inscription on the headstone below.



Daughter Emma Wood married George Edward Pickles on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1887 in Lightcliffe at St. Matthew's Church. At the time George was a hairdresser, the son of stoker Eli Pickles. Other members of the wider Pickles family were buried in the churchyard, but their stories will have to wait.

1881 census

John Wood	Head	42	
			Foreman at Carpet Works
Martha Jane Wood	Wife	39	
Emma Wood	Dau	14	
Lewis Wood	Son	11	
Sarah Elizabeth Wood	Dau	7	
Edwin Wood	Son	5	
Thomas Wood	Son	3	
Clara Wood	Dau	1	

Address **Wood's Buildings, Lightcliffe**

John Wood and family were two households away from where his father was recorded as living on both census forms and near his younger brother William and family.

Again, the working members of the family seem to be employed at the carpet works of Messrs. T.F. Firth & Sons

1891 census

John Wood	Head	52	
			Foreman at Carpet Works
Martha J Wood	Wife	49	
Lewis Wood	Son	21	
			Labourer at Carpet Works
Sarah E Wood	Dau	17	
			Mill Hand Cotton Duffer
Edwin Wood	Son	15	
			Mill Hand ditto
Clara Wood	Dau	13	
			Mill Hand ditto
Willie Wood	Son	8	Scholar
Thomas Wood	Son	11	ditto

Address **Lightcliffe Road**

1891 census

George Edward Pickles	Head	24	
			Mill Hand - Carpet
Emma Pickles	Wife	24	

Address **Armytage Building, Halifax & Wakefield Rd., Lightcliffe**

John Wood's father Thomas Wood died on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1891 and then his sister-in-law Rhoda Wood, the wife of his brother William on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1899. Both were buried in the churchyard but in distant plots J79 and K53.

St. Matthew's Church was the venue for two 1898 Wood marriages, Sarah Elizabeth to Arthur Walker on 5<sup>th</sup> February and then a couple of months later, on 9<sup>th</sup> April, when Edwin Wood married Mary Emma Marshall. It was also where George Edward Pickles - back to being a hairdresser - and Emma baptised Lilian, born 19<sup>th</sup> March 1892, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1892, John born, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1894, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1894 and Laura, born 12<sup>th</sup> March 1899, on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1899. Their cousin Elsie Wood, born 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1899, the daughter of Edwin and Mary Emma Wood was also baptised there on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1899.

Two more deaths then took place. Martha Jane Wood passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1900 and then her six-year-old grandson John Pickles died on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1900. The grandmother was buried with her son Harry in plot I79 on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1900. John Pickles was buried in the adjacent plot I80 owned by his father George on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1900. There is no headstone on this plot.



Youngest son Willie Wood married Mary Pearson in 1910 and so this was where the Wood siblings were on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911.

1911 census

George Edward Pickles Head 44  
Carpet Yarn Dyer  
Emma Pickles Wife 44  
Lilian Pickles Dau 19  
Carpet Yarn Winder  
Laura Pickles Dau 12 Scholar  
Lewis Wood Boarder 41  
Carpet Yarn Printer  
Clara Wood Boarder 31 Charwoman  
Address **East St., Lightcliffe**

The unmarried siblings, Lewis and Clara, were boarding with their oldest sister.

1911 census

Arthur Walker Head 35 Daily Carrier  
Sarah Elizabeth Walker Wife 36  
Harold Walker Son 3  
Address **Eastcliffe, Lightcliffe**

1911 census

Edwin Wood Head 35 Carpet Weaver  
May Emma Wood Wife 34  
Elsie Wood Dau 11 School  
Lottie Wood Dau 8 School  
John Thomas Wood Son 4  
Address **46 Wakefield Rd., Lightcliffe**

1911 census

Thomas Wood Head 32 Weaver Carpet  
Angelina Wood Wife 30  
Milton Wood Son 3  
Address  
2 Albert Terrace, Wyke Common, Bradford

1911 census

Willie Wood Head 27 Clogger  
Mary Wood Wife 25  
Address **47 Wakefield Rd., Lightcliffe**

Elsie Wood married Harry Cowling Q3 1922, they had three children Margaret born Q1 1923, Bernard born Q1 1927 and Philip born Q4 1936, all registered in the Halifax district. . Then there was this report of an inquest in the *Halifax Evening Courier* 4<sup>th</sup> October 1924.

## **RESERVOIR TRAGEDY**

### **Victim of Depression**

#### **Sad Lightcliffe Case**

An inquest was held at Hipperholme Council Offices, this morning by Coroner E.W.Norris respecting the death of Geo. Edward Pickles (57) 14, Ripley-street, Lightcliffe, whose body was recovered from the Victoria Mills Reservoir, Hipperholme, on Friday.

Emma Pickles, 14, Ripley-street, Lightcliffe, widow, gave evidence of identification. Deceased had been in bad health for nearly twelve months, and had been attended by Dr. Somerville. Deceased was very depressed. He worked on Thursday, and came home and had tea in the evening, when he seemed "very nice." At 7.20 p.m. he went out for a walk, but

he never returned. Witness did not think anything unusual of him going for a walk. Fred Bowman, Green Houses, Lightcliffe, said he saw deceased on Thursday night, in Bailiffe Bridge, and said "Good night" to him, deceased replying.

Herbert Blagborough, 127, Bradford-road, Bailiffe Bridge, said that on Friday morning he noticed a coat and cap on the side of Victoria Mills Reservoir, and he went and picked them up. He recognised the coat. He could not see anything in the water, and reported the matter to the police

P.S. G.W.White said the reservoir was dragged, and the body recovered at 12.30 p.m. There were no marks of violence on the body.

A verdict was returned that deceased drowned himself when suffering from depression.

George Edward Pickles was buried in plot I80 next to his Wood in laws on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1924. When his wife Emma died on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1931 and then his eldest daughter Lilian on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1934, they were also interred in plot I80; seventy-five-year-old Emma on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1931 and forty-two-year-old Lilian on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1934. The other daughter Laura Pickles had previously married John C Booth Q4 1924 in the Halifax district, quite possibly at Lightcliffe. Her cousin John Thomas Wood married Nellie Green Q2 1931 and then another cousin Milton Wood married May Hopkinson Q3 1933 also in the Halifax district. Milton and Mary Wood had a son Graham Milton Wood born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1936. Lottie Wood, Edwin's daughter, married Simon Shaw at St. Matthew's Church on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1934.

Willie Wood died on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1935 and was buried in plot U46 in the churchyard on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1935. His widow remarried a Taylor. When she died over forty years aged 90 later on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1976, she too was interred in plot U46 on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1976 with her first husband.

Then on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1937 the *Halifax Evening Courier* reported another inquest.

### **Septic Finger**

#### **Lightcliffe Inquest Story**

A septic left index finger resulted in the death, on Friday, at the Halifax Infirmary, of Mrs Mary Emma Wood (61), 164 Wakefield-road, Lightcliffe.

At the inquest yesterday, Mr. Edwin Wood (husband) said his wife complained about her finger on Monday, September 20. Witness helped her to poultice the finger and she stayed in bed. Dr. Wilson came on the Tuesday and Dr. Lawson attended on the Wednesday. On

the following Monday, Dr. Lawson advised that Mrs Wood should be taken to the Infirmary. Witness said that by that time the finger had become black and swollen.

Dr. H.V.Phelan, pathologist at the Royal Halifax Infirmary, who had made a post-mortem examination said that was a septic condition in several organs of the body. Death was due to toxæmia from the general sepsis. The doctor stated that these conditions were due to the septic wound in the finger.

A verdict in accordance was entered



Mary Emma Wood was buried in plot U39 in the churchyard on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1937 with the memorial pictured above.

Widower Edwin Wood then married a widow, Mary Ann Brown, a year later in Q4 1938. Her first husband James Brown who died on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1933 aged 71 years was buried in the churchyard in plot U19. But there are no clues as to where they were originally from.

The surviving Woods and their relatives were at these Brighouse metropolitan addresses in 1939. Many addresses were in Lightcliffe, this branch of the family stayed local.

1939 register

Leonard Rastrick	25 Jun 1884	Male	Carpet Weaver	Married	59	1
Annie Graham	05 May 1903	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Single	59	2
Lewis Wood	28 Feb 1870	Male	Printing Overlooker (Retired)	Single	59	3

Address **8 Springfield Terrace, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

Arthur Walker	29 May 1875	Male	Mill Labourer	Married	195	1
Elizabeth Sarah Walker	13 Nov 1873	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	195	2
Harold Walker	26 Aug 1907	Male	Gardener	Single	195	3

Address 3 Oak Street, Halifax, Halifax C.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Edwin Wood	14 Feb 1877	Male	Tin On Carpet Works	Married	191	1
Mary A Wood	17 Feb 1873	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	191	2

Address **164 Wakefield Road, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

Harry Cowling	25 Jul 1897	Male	Card Grinder Woollen	Married	165	1
Elsie Cowling	02 May 1899	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	165	2

One closed record

Bernard Cowling	29 Dec 1926	Male	At School	Single	165	4
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One closed record

Address **28 Bramley Lane, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

Samuel Shaw	26 Sep 1908	Male	Motor Driver	Married	250	1
Lottie Shaw	26 Nov 1902	Female	Dom Duties At House	Married	250	2

Address **2 Ripley Street, Lightcliffe, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

John T Wood	25 May 1906	Male	Woollen Warehouseman	Married	190	1
Nellie Wood	24 May 1908	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	190	2

One closed record

Address **166 Wakefield Road, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

[The surname for this record is particularly difficult to read and has been mistranscribed as Moor]

Thomas Wood	06 Dec 1878	Male	Mechanics Labourer		262	1
Angelina Wood	04 Jun 1880	Female	Dom D Unpaid	Married	262	2

Address **14 Ripley Street, Lightcliffe, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

Elz E Radcliffe	15 Apr 1875	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Widowed	30	1
Clara Dale	15 May 1901	Female	Carpet Sewer	Single	30	2
Clara Wood	16 Mar 1880	Female	Carpet Sewer	Single	30	3

Address 5 Brookroyd Avenue, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Milton Wood	24 Mar 1908	Male	Assistant Company Secretary	Married	175	1
May Wood	06 Feb 1906	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	175	2
Graham M Wood	06 Jun 1936	Male	Under School Age	Single	175	3

Address **200 Wakefield Road, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England**

John C Booth	15 Nov 1892	Male	Clerk Co Op Society	Married	212	1
Laura Booth	12 Mar 1899	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	212	2

Address 29 Lee Street, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

The bachelor Lewis Wood died on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1945 aged 75 and was buried at Lightcliffe with his parents and brother in plot 179 on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1945. No probate record has been found.

Later that year Edwin Wood's second wife Mary Ann Wood died on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1945. She was buried with her first husband James Brown in plot U19 on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1945.

There were more Lightcliffe burials which along with the probate records tell you more.

WALKER Arthur of 3 Oak-street Hanson-lane Halifax died 16 March 1946 at The Royal Infirmary Halifax Probate Wakefield 24 April to Sarah Elizabeth Walker widow.

Effects £483 14s 4d

Seventy-one-year-old Edwin Wood was buried with his first wife in plot U39 on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1947 with this inscription on the bottom tier of the memorial.



WOOD Edwin of 164 Wakefield-road Lightcliffe Halifax died 27 April 1947 at 3 Lower Finkhill-street Brighouse Yorkshire Probate Wakefield 19 May to John Thomas Wood fish and chipped potato fryer. Effects £240 7s 1d.

There was a death announcement in the *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* 11 May 1948 and a probate record for Milton Wood.

WOOD, -- May 7, MILTON dearly loved husband of May WOOD, 200 Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe – Service at Lightcliffe Church today(Tuesday), May 11, at 11 a.m.; interment Brighouse Cemetery 12 noon.

WOOD Milton of 200 Wakefield-road Lightcliffe Halifax died 7 May 1948 at The General Infirmary Leeds Probate Wakefield 23 August to May Wood widow. Effects £3202 12s 7d

SHAW Lottie of 2 Ripley-street Lightcliffe Halifax died 7 April 1949 at 1 Highgate-road Bradford Probate Wakefield 18 May to John Thomas Wood fish frier. Effects £382 3s 6d.

Spinster Clara Wood died on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1952 and was buried in the Pickles plot J80 with her sister and brother in law next to her parents on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1952.

WOOD Clara of 29 Lee-street Brighouse Yorkshire spinster died 11 March 1952 Probate Wakefield 27 March to Laura Booth widow. Effects £1247 12s 10d

Brother Thomas died in 1953 and has two probate records probably because his widow Angelina died in 1955. Neither were buried in the churchyard.

WOOD Thomas of 14 Ripley-street Lightcliffe near Halifax died 26 October 1953 Probate Wakefield 20 January [1954] to Angelina Wood widow. Effects £449 16s 4d Further Grant 10 January 1956

WOOD Angelina of 14 Ripley-street Lightcliffe near Halifax widow died 16 July 1955 Administration(with Will) Wakefield 4 October to May Wood widow. Effects £960 1s 6d

WOOD Thomas of 14 Ripley-street Lightcliffe near Halifax died 26 October 1953 Administration (with Will) Wakefield 10 January [1956] to May Wood. Effects £500. Former Grant D.R. Wakefield 20 January 1954

May Wood was Thomas and Angelina Wood's daughter in law. Her name appears in this newspaper article from the *Halifax Evening Courier* on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1956.

#### Lightcliffe Ward candidate

Hipperholme and Lightcliffe branch of Brighouse and Spenborough United Liberal and Conservative Association, has adopted Mrs May Wood as prospective candidate for Lightcliffe ward at the Brighouse municipal elections in May. Coun. H. Edwards (Lab) who is due to retire, is expected to defend his seat.

Mrs Wood, who lives at 232, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe is the widow of Mr. Milton Wood, who died in 1948, She is vice-chairman of Hipperholme and Lightcliffe Townswomen's Guild and secretary of the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

May's son Graham Milton Wood married Margaret Rosemary Wade Q2 1961 in the Calder district. He too became involved in local community affairs, serving as a Brighouse Councillor.

The long-widowed Sarah Elizabeth Walker died in 1963 and her son Harold in 1990.

WALKER Sarah Elizabeth of 3 Oak Street Hanson Lane Halifax widow died 29 December 1963 Probate Wakefield 14 January [1964] to Harold Walker gardener, £838

WALKER Harold of 19 Rose St Hopwood La Halifax died 17 February 1990 Probate Leeds 28 February Not exceeding £100,000.

John Thomas Wood, the fish frier, married to Nellie nee Green died in 1964.

WOOD John Thomas of 192 Wakefield Road Lightcliffe near Halifax died 7 August 1964 Administration Wakefield 9 December to Nellie Wood widow. £4630

His widow Nellie was another lady who was a widow for a very long time. From a Leeds probate record she is almost certainly the Nellie Wood who died on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1997.

Name	Nellie Wood
Birth	24 May 1908
Death	Jul 1997 Halifax, West Yorkshire, England





On the first weekend of March 1974 Graham Milton Wood and his wife, Margaret Rosemary Wood, along with many more rugby supporters went to Paris to watch the France v England rugby union international on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. They should have returned the next day on a BA flight but instead they were transferred to the Turkish Airline Flight 981. The DC10 came down within minutes of take off killing all 345 people on board.

And so having already lost her husband in 1948 widow May Wood lost her only son and her daughter in law in tragic circumstances in 1974. She would live another thirty years.

WOOD, Graham Milton of Norwood House Cawcliffe Rd Brighouse West Yorks died 3 March 1974 Probate Leeds 28 August £39 262

WOOD, Margaret Rosemary of Norwood House Cawcliffe Rd Brighouse West Yorks died 3 March 1974 Administration Leeds 6 September £6855

John and Martha Jane Wood's story began in the nineteenth century, that of his grandfather in the eighteenth, but it ends in the twenty first century when one of their grandson's widow died. Centurion May Wood was a widow for over fifty years. Her death was registered in January 2007 although she was almost certainly the May Wood whose probate gives her date of death as 30th December 2006.

Name: May Wood  
Death Age: 100  
Birth Date: 6 Feb 1906  
Registration Date: Jan 2007  
Registration District: Dewsbury  
Inferred County: West Yorkshire

D.M.Barker

May 2021