

Some of Herman Wood's painting in and around Lightcliffe.

Herman Wood was a local painter in the 1930s.

His story is told on the website under *People of Interest*,

William Wood and family (pages 7 & 8).

<https://www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk/about-churchyard/people-of-interest>

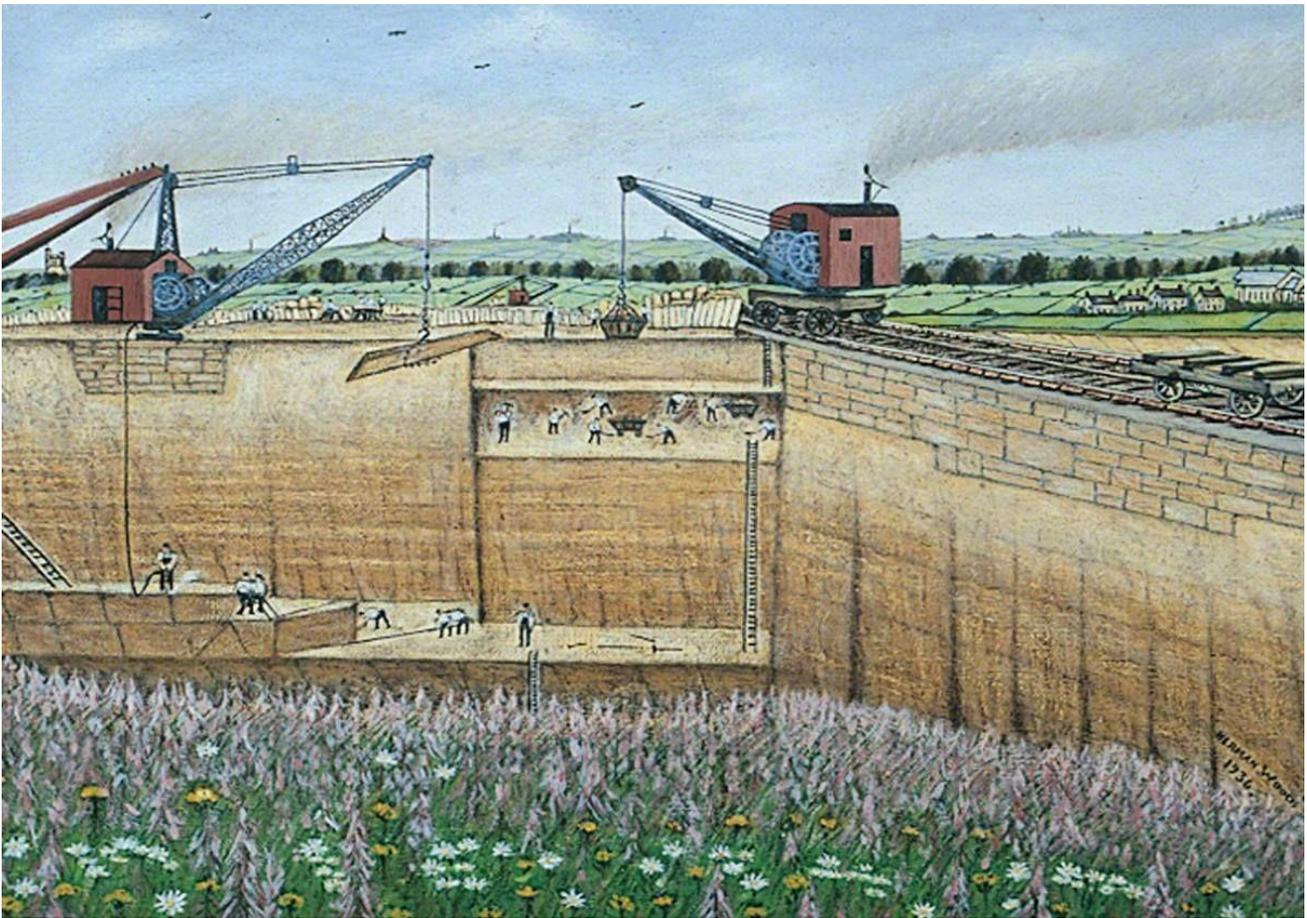
Here are some examples of his work. The first painting shows the old St Matthew's Church from the crossroads of Wakefield Road and Till Carr Lane. You can see the church, headstones in the churchyard and a house further down the lane. Like many of his paintings, there are degrees of artistic license. Till Carr Cottage looks larger than it is and Bottom Hall viaduct could never be seen so low down. It does, however, give a lovely picture of Lightcliffe life in the 1930s.



When Herman Wood exhibited work at an exhibition at Cartwright Hall, Bradford in 1934 it was noted that he “has never had an art lesson in his life and this is probably the reason for stiffness in his paintings. However, his treatment of horses and cattle is worthy of commendation.”

This picture was bought by Leeds Art Gallery. We have asked for specific permission to use it though their site implies that images can be used if acknowledged and are not used for profit.

This painting is entitled 'A Lightcliffe Stone Quarry'.



It has been identified as a quarry which operated alongside what is Crow Nest Park Golf Club (the second green is to the left of the old photograph.) It was known locally as Taddy Quarry and some members of the local history society swam in the pond.

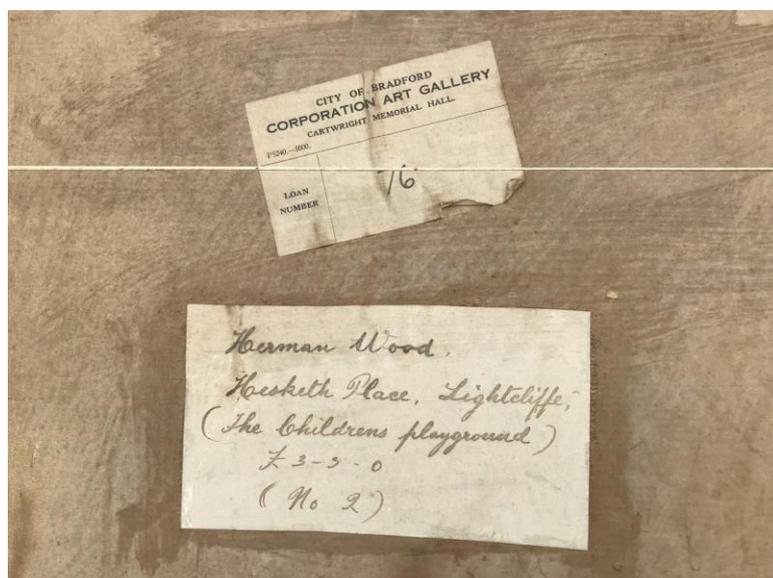
The stone in the area was of high quality and used in buildings locally and further afield. It was transported by a railway line to the neighbouring Brookes works.



This painting, 'The children's playground', is set in the King George V park off Wakefield Road. The park backs on to East View / Hesketh Place where the artist lived. Herman's grandfather, a stonemason, built Hesketh Place hence the six houses were originally known as Wood's Buildings. For years they were occupied by members of the Wood family including Herman.



The next image shows the loan number for this painting at Cartwright Memorial Hall, Bradford still attached to the back of the canvas. Note the exhibitor's name and address and the asking price.



This is a wonderful piece of local golfing history. This green no longer exists though the outline of where it once stood can be seen if it is pointed out. It stands now alongside the footpath by Hellewell Syke leading from A58 through to Till Carr Lane. It passes under John Hawkshaw's 1850 viaduct built for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The steam train bears the logo L.M.S. – London, Midland and Scottish.

In the distance is the spire of St Mary's Church, Wyke. There is a large house between the artist and Wyke, Lower Rooks Hall, but it could not have been seen from there and it does not look like the one shown. The remains of the wall are still to be seen.



In 1939 the Leeds Mercury commended:-

“ the works of Herman Wood, the Halifax artist, with their homely and intimate appreciation of typical West Riding landscapes.”

also noting that :-

“Mr Wood lives at Lightcliffe. He loves and paints the country that lies at his doorstep.”

In this painting it looks as if children are gathering bluebells in a wood. Mike Wood, a relative of the artist, says this is just off Stoney Lane where the secondary school now stands. The house would be the Sun Inn, in the distance is the tower of St John's Church at Coley. The field in the mid-ground would be the carriage way into Cliffe Hill which was up to the left of the painting.



Finally, we have a painting, again in the Leeds Art Gallery collection, entitled 'Landscape with Cattle.' It is more difficult to place, and any suggestions would be welcome.

