

WILLIAM RUSHWORTH 1761-1836,

four times great grandfather

Part 1 – William’s ancestors

William is my 4xgt grandfather, twice over, as I am descended from two of his daughters, Ann Rushworth Rastrick (1787-1862) and Sarah Rushworth Ripley (1793-1870). William and his wife Lydia Pollard lived in Lightcliffe, and had several children, although it is difficult to be sure of the exact number. There were 15 possible baptisms at St Matthew’s Church, Lightcliffe, where the father’s name was William but unfortunately, as was the custom at the time, it was not thought necessary to record the mother’s name! From research, Ancestry Family Trees and more recently, DNA matches, I know that Faith (1789-1807), Grace (1802-1837) and William (1804-1892) were also William and Lydia’s children. It is also possible that James (bp1785) and Joshua (1806-1873) were the oldest and youngest of the family, and maybe another son was John (1795-1857).

William died on 8th August 1836, aged 75, and Lydia on 22nd August 1845, aged 79. They were buried in plot B*28 in Lightcliffe Churchyard but are commemorated on a gravestone over the grave (FF*3) of their son William (1804-1892) and daughter-in-law Sarah (1806-1884).



**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM RUSHWORTH OF LIGHTCLIFFE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AUGUST 8TH 1836 AGED 75 YEARS**

**ALSO OF LYDIA HIS WIDOW WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
AUGUST 22ND 1845 AGED 79 YEARS**

**ALSO OF SARAH THE BELOVED WIFE OF WILLIAM RUSHWORTH
OF BAILIFFE BRIDGE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE APRIL 19TH 1884
IN THE 79TH YEAR OF HER LIFE**

**ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED WILLIAM RUSHWORTH
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 17TH 1892 AGED 87 YEARS**

This suggests that William senior was born circa 1761 but, although previously everyone seems to have assumed that he was born in Lightcliffe, the only possible baptisms there were in 1766 and 1768. Unfortunately, he also died before Civil Registration and Censuses so there is no other documentary evidence.

Lydia's death certificate does confirm that she was the widow of William Rushworth, weaver, and the informant was her eldest daughter Nanny (Ann) Rastrick with whom she had been living in Lower Wyke Lane. In 1841 Lydia was living in Lightcliffe with her widowed son-in-law William Whitehead, helping to look after the children, as daughter Grace had died three years previously.

A baptism has now been found for William at Hartshead on 14th Mar 1761/2 (the Julian Calendar appears to have still been being used in the Hartshead Register). The father was named as Joshua Rushworth, a carrier of Hartshead Moor. Two more children followed – James, baptised 25th June 1764, and Ann on 17th October 1766. Joshua had married Lydia Law on 23rd May 1761 at Hartshead by H. Whitworth, the Curate of Coley. Unusually they had six witnesses, John Oates, Charles Brooke, Jo Drake, Rob Harrison, Curate, Jo Firth and Mic Drake. Lydia was possibly the daughter of James Law of Scholes, and was baptised at Birstall on 11th May 1737. I have not found burial records for Joshua and Lydia.

Joshua Rushworth was baptised on 8th June 1737 at Lightcliffe, the son of Michael Rishworth, and had an older sister Rebecca. Their parents, Michael and Sarah, were married at St Mary's Church, Elland on 2nd September 1731 by Licence. The Licence, dated the day before, tells us that they were both 22 years of age, and that the intended place of marriage was "Halifax Parish Church, or Elland or Coley Chapel"

The Mann Family

Sarah was the daughter of William Mann, of Lightcliffe, and his wife Rebecca Batley, whose MI on grave Q*22 in Lightcliffe Churchyard tells us that she was the mother of 14 children. Rebecca died on 24th October 1719, aged 46, and William on 13th January 1727, aged 62, but he is in the grave (P*22) next to Rebecca as her grave also contained three of their children. William was born circa 1665, and Rebecca was probably the daughter of Jer. Batley of Lightcliffe who was baptised there, according to the Halifax Parish Register, on 30th October 1672. The Halifax Register for 29th March 1692 tells us that "Wm Man and Rebecca Batley de Hippholme married at Lightcliffe by Mr Clifford".

William Mann left a Will dated 11th January, two days before his death, in which he mentions those of his many children who were then living. Three daughters, Judith, Sarah and Rebecca, were bequeathed sums of £50 or £40 pounds, the oldest, Mary, being already married. Sarah was about 17½ when her father died, and she was not to have the money for three years. However, it seems that if she was to marry Michael Ryshworth her legacy would cease and become void, and instead she would only receive £5! There was no such stipulation regarding Judith and Rebecca so was it because he did not approve of Michael, or because he thought she would not need the money? How much did she receive, and was this the reason behind them getting married at Elland by Licence? William's eldest son John, who was the executor, was to take care of Rebecca, then 10 years old. The other sons Thomas, William and Joshua were each to receive £60 on reaching the age of 21-, and 13-year-old Joshua was to have £5 to obtain an apprenticeship. Six grandchildren, also named, were to receive £5 when they came of age. Betty Burnley was presumably the daughter of Mary and husband Joseph (Elizabeth Burnley bp Birstall 1726, daughter of Joseph of Hightown); Mary Bentley and William Dickenson may have been the children of an Elizabeth Mann (no baptism found but born late 1690s?) of Lightcliffe who married Michael Bentley of Shelf at Halifax in 1714, and then married a Ralph Dickinson of Atherton at Illingworth in 1721. A Michael Bentley was buried at Lightcliffe in 1717, and an Elizabeth Dickinson in 1741, but both with unknown graves. The other three children, John,

William and Rebecca, had a surname which looks like Storkhill, but after trying various variations of the spelling I cannot find a marriage or baptisms. Executor John was to have all the residue of the estate but one other surprise – William left his “dear wife Mary the sum of ten shillings and six pence”. I think Mary was the widowed mother of his son-in-law Joseph Burnley, and they married at St Peter’s, Birstall on 17th November 1720. When Joseph was baptised at Birstall on 24th November 1700 his father was named as Abraham Burnley, who had married Mary Whatmough in November 1699. There are burial records for Abraham Burnley, Mary Mann and Joseph Burnley at Birstall, which perhaps explains why Joseph is not buried at Lightcliffe with his wife Mary, who is with her father William in grave P*22.

Back to the Rushworths

When Michael died Intestate in January 1765 Administration was granted to “Joshua Rushworth, Jonas Rushworth and Rebecca, wife of Joseph Woodcock, children and next of kin”. Presumably this confirms that Sarah was the Sarah Rushworth buried at Lightcliffe two years earlier, but Jonas? I think they had a son, Thomas, born between Rebecca and Joshua, who was baptised at Coley on 10th March 1734, and buried on 15th March 1742 at Lightcliffe, but I cannot find anything about a Jonas. The whereabouts of Michael and Sarah’s grave is unknown.

Michael had been baptised at Lightcliffe on 26th June 1710 and named after his father. Michael senior was buried at Lightcliffe on 20th June 1846 in grave O*27 and the following is the inscription on the gravestone.

**HERE LIES THE BODY OF JOHN
THE SON OF MICHAEL RISHFORTH OF LIGHTCLIFFE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 16TH DAY OF JUNE
IN THE 6TH YEAR OF HIS AGE ANNO DOMINI 1710**

**ALSO OF MICHAEL RUSHFORTH AND REBEKAH HIS WIFE
HE DIED JUNE 17TH 1746 IN THE 70TH YEAR OF HIS AGE
SHE DIED FEBRUARY 4TH 1752 IN THE 77TH YEAR OF HER AGE**

Rebecca Fox had married Michael (Rishworth) on 2nd Oct 1701 at St John’s Church, Halifax, both were “of Hipperholme” and were also recorded in the Northowram and Coley Register as marrying at Halifax. Six children have been found in the Lightcliffe baptism register, between 1707 and 1721, Michael being the second oldest. This does not include John (bc 1705) who died in 1710 eight days before the baptism of his younger brother.

William and Lydia

William was nearly 22 when he and 17-year-old Lydia Pollard made the journey to St John’s Church, Halifax on 26th December 1783 to be married. William was a clothier, Lydia a spinster, and both made their mark X and lived at Hipperholme.

Lydia Pollard’s Ancestry

Lydia was taken to St Matthew’s Church for baptism on February 9th 1766, her father’s name given as Edmund. As usual her mother’s name was not recorded but from Edmund’s Will we know that it was Faith.

Faith Speed was Edmund Pollard's fourth wife and they were married by Licence on 14th October 1764 at St Peter's Church, Leeds. Faith's age on the Licence is 31 years (so a birthdate of about 1733) and she was "of the Parish". This is the only information I can find. Edmund's age, 35, is six years less than it should be as he was baptised on 30th January 1723 at St Peter and Others' Church, Sowerby. He was "of the Parish of Halifax", and he signed the register.

Edmund Pollard was the youngest of three children of Edmund Pollard and Deborah Swift of Sowerby whose marriage took place at Halifax on 7th June 1717. Their daughter Sarah was baptised at Sowerby on 23rd November 1719, followed by John on 18th January 1721 and then Edmund two years later. On 22nd September 1725 "Debra, wife of Edmund Pollard" was buried in the churchyard, and Edmund himself on 22nd May 1729. So young Edmund was only six years old when he and his older siblings were orphaned.

On 10th May 1729, a few days before his death, Edmund senior signed a Will giving instructions for the care and provision of his children "until they shall personally attain the age of twenty-one years out of my personal estate and profits of my land, and also my mind and will is that all my children disposed of by my executors in apprenticeships or service as soon as may be". When his youngest child had attained the age of 21 then whatever remained of his personal estate and profits of lands were to go to "Sarah my daughter and Edmund my younger son equally". John was to receive all his lands and appurtenances on the proviso that he made up the amount for Sarah and Edmund to £40 each. He also gave Sarah "the bed and table linen that was my mother's, and one silver spoon to each of my children". There was also a debt of £3 to be repaid to a Susannah Swift, possibly a relation of his wife.

Edmund junior's first marriage, when he was a 20-year-old dresser, took place at St John's, Halifax, to Hannah Coles, a spinster of Skircoat. They had a son, Edmund, who was mentioned in Removal and Settlement records from Skircoat to Halifax on 22nd August 1747 (Ancestry). There is then a burial record at Halifax for "Edmund, son of Edmund Pollard, weaver of Halifax" on 17th May 1749. Sixteen months later Hannah was also buried in the churchyard.

On 6th April 1751 at Halifax Edmund, a dresser of Skircoat, was married for the second time to widow Mercy Simpson, of Halifax. Two children, John and Sarah, were baptised on 15th March 1752 and 15th October 1754 respectively at North Gate End Presbyterian Chapel, Halifax. The record for Sarah's baptism indicates that they were living at Lightcliffe. A Sarah Pollard was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard on 5th April 1778. I assume Mercy must have died between 1754 and 1757 but the only likely burial is for a Mary (not Mercy) Pollard at Lightcliffe on 18th May 1755. There is no further information such as age, relationship or plot number for either Sarah or Mary.

Edmund's next visit to St John's, Halifax, for the purpose of matrimony was on 12th December 1757. His bride was another widow, Susanna Smith, who made her mark on the register. Edmund signed his name; he was still a dresser and both were of the parish. Three more children were taken to the Presbyterian Chapel. Edmund, "son of Edmund Pollard of Lightcliffe", was baptised on 28th December 1758, followed by Mercy on 27th August 1760 and William on 25th March 1762, children of Edmund Pollard. A William Pollard was also buried at Lightcliffe on 21st October 1781 when he would have been about 19 years of age but again, there is no other information. Nor can I find a burial record for Susanna before 1764 when Edmund married Faith Speed.

Just over a year after their marriage Edmund and Faith's daughter Lydia was born. She would never have known her father as on December 12th 1765 an inventory of all the goods belonging to Edmund Pollard deceased was appraised by William Swainer, William Fearnley, a joiner of Hipperholme, and Richard Hartley, a cloth dresser of Lightcliffe. The last two, along with Faith Pollard, widow of

Lightcliffe, were appointed Administrators of Edmund's "Goods, Chattels and Credits". So, did Edmund die before or after Lydia was born? We only know that Lydia was baptised in February 1766, and that Edmund must have died before December 12th the previous year. I have not been able to find out where he was buried.

The Inventory gives a fascinating insight into the furnishings of a house. In one chamber, besides a bedstead and "beding" was a table, chair, and cradle, presumably for Lydia. The other chamber had two beds and a screen. Both rooms, as did most of the others, also contained "huslement" which was household goods often of little value. An indication of his occupation was in the "Shop Chambers" list which included 11 pairs of Shears, 4 Shearboards, one Tenter, one Hackney Saddle and Pillion, and one Pig! Edmund's purse and apparel were valued at £1 15s, and the total of all his possessions at £51 19s. There is no indication of where they lived in Lightcliffe, or whether any of Edmund's older children were living with them. Three years later, on 7th September 1769, Faith married John Walker, a cloth dresser of Hipperholme, at Halifax. A John Walker was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard on 24th February 1797, and eighteen months later Faith Walker, widow, on 23rd September 1798. Unfortunately, neither has a known grave or inscribed gravestone

Part 2 - William and Lydia's Family

William Rushworth and Lydia Pollard began married life on 26th December 1783 at Lightcliffe. There is no indication as to where they lived as the probable entries in the 1801, 1811 and 1831 "Heads of Household Censuses" just say Lightcliffe. In 1831 William and Lydia were living on their own, and the earlier ones (1801 3 males & 5 females; 1811 3M & 6F) give families of about the size which confirms proven knowledge. However, on both there is an extra female, and on the 1801 Census there are two males, besides William, that I am uncertain about.

One of these unknown males could have been a first child, James, who was baptised at St Matthew's on 23rd January 1785. I think this James may have married and moved to Leeds before 1811. The other could have been one of two Johns who were baptised in 1791 and 1795 respectively, but for whom I cannot find any conclusive evidence connecting them to William and Lydia.

A first daughter, Ann, was baptised on 11th February 1787, followed by Faith on 4th October 1789. Faith, named after her grandmother, lived for only eighteen years, but the name carried on for one more generation as her sisters Ann and Sarah each gave the name to a daughter. Faith was buried at Lightcliffe on 28th April 1807, but the location of her grave is unknown.

Ann's Family

Ann's daughter Faith was baptised at St Matthew's on 4th November 1810 and her father is unknown. Three years later Ann was married at St Peter's Church, Birstall, to John Rastrick, a cordwainer of Wyke, although he had been born in Bradford in 1773. They probably lived in Lower Wike/Bailiff Bridge Lane all their married life, and Ann continued to do so after John's death in 1834. Their seven children were Sarah (1814-1815), Mary (1815-1871), James (1817-1869), Ann (1820-1873), Harriet (1822-1839), William (1824-1886) and Sam (1827-1888). All three sons followed their father's occupation. James moved to Scholes where he and his wife, Grace Bentley, had a family of nine although several did not reach adulthood. Mary married Sharp Collins, eventually moving to Horton, Bradford. One of their children, Emma, emigrated with her husband Joseph Sowden to Australia where there are many descendants. Ann, like her parents and older siblings, went to Birstall to marry Thomas Law of Scholes, and then lived at Tong with their family. Harriet gave

birth to a daughter, also Harriet, on 5th October 1839 but died as the result of childbirth four days later. She was buried with her father in plot GG*3 on 12th October, the same day as baby Harriet was baptised. Sadly, the baby only lived for five more days and was buried the next day. The informant for the baby's death was Ann's sister-in-law Sarah Rushworth of Wike Lane, whose husband William had registered Harriet's death.

William and Sam Rastrick lived in Bailiff Bridge all their lives where they had their shoemaking business, also working with their uncle William Rushworth. They had living and shop premises at what is now 613 and 615 Bradford Road, between New Street and Ebenezer Methodist Church, in which both families were very involved. William and Frances, nee Collins, had five children – Christopher, John William, Dan, Albert and Frances Mary. Harold, one of John William's grandchildren emigrated to Australia with his family in 1948. His eldest son, John, lived in Iceland for some years, marrying Siggridur Olafsdotur. They have one son Olafur, and two grandchildren.

Sam and his wife Alice Cordingley were the parents of Mary (who lived only 12 hours), John, Annie (Shuttleworth), Thomas, Harriet Ann, Susan (Lund), Emma (Ainsworth), Mary Jane (Moody), Frances (Wright), Fred and Sam, of whom three emigrated to the USA.

The first to go was Annie (1850-1910) with her husband John Shuttleworth, his parents William and Rachel, and brothers in 1875. The explanation for their emigration is given in William's obituary in the 15th July 1876 issue of the *Brighouse and Rastrick Gazette*: -

“On Tuesday morning last, the sad news reached Bailiffe Bridge of the sudden demise of Mr William Shuttleworth, late of this village, and who was from the time of the conversion of the Clifton Mills into carpet works, up to the last year, the respected manager under the late firm of Messrs Firth, Willans & Co., now Messrs T. F. Firth & Co.. It will be remembered that Mr Shuttleworth left this village in the summer of last year for the purpose of starting a large carpet manufacturing concern in America for the celebrated firm of A T Stewart & Co..”

Mr. Stewart, who died a few months before William, had visited England and recruited him with a three-year contract which John and his brothers then fulfilled. Then in 1878 the brothers relocated from Glenham to Amsterdam, New York, and founded the Shuttleworth Brothers Co. Carpet Mill. Quite a number of Firth's skilled employees from the Lightcliffe and Bailiff Bridge area were recruited to go and help set up the mills and to train the local workers.

In 1891 Mary Jane and Sam, Annie's younger siblings, also went to live in Amsterdam. Both married but did not have any surviving descendants, although Annie and John had eight children.

After Sam Rastrick died on 9th June 1888 an obituary appeared in the *Brighouse Echo* issue of 15th June. It said that he “had been Postmaster since February 1881. He had also been actuary for the Yorkshire Penny Bank for 30 years and about nine months ago the managers of the bank presented him with his portrait painted in oil”. (If anyone reading this has any knowledge of the portrait, I would appreciate it if they would contact me.) Sam was buried in plot O59 in Lightcliffe Churchyard and “a large number of friends and relatives were present”. The *Huddersfield Chronicle* of 15th June, in announcing his death, said that he was “from his position, the most widely known man among the tradesman in Bailiff Bridge”. Daughter Harriet Ann was buried with him six months later, and Alice joined them on 16th September 1890, having died three days earlier.

Ann's daughter, Faith Rushworth, was also married at St Peter's Church, Birstall, like her mother and several of her younger half-siblings, so she had probably been living with her mother and step-father. Her husband was James Naylor, possibly born at Southowram, and the register entry for 5th December 1830 records Faith's surname as Rushforth. She made her mark, X.

Faith and James had five children, all baptised at St Matthew's, the last being Harriet on 1st January 1843. Three months later Faith committed suicide, and after an inquest the cause of death was recorded on her death certificate as being "temporary insanity". (Post-natal depression?) Faith was buried in plot A38 in Lightcliffe Churchyard. Although James married again the following year I think baby Harriet was cared for by her grandmother Ann at Tong, as they were both living with Ann Law and family in 1851 and 1861. Nanny Rastrick, as she had become known and is recorded in the burial records and on the gravestone, died on 13th August 1862 at Tong and was buried with John and Harriet at Lightcliffe three days later.

In 1851 Faith's eldest son John Naylor, 19, was apprenticed to, and living with, his uncle Sam Rastrick. He lived in Bailiff Bridge most of his life, although not always working as a shoemaker, and with his wife Betsy Pearson, had a large family. One of his grandsons was Bertie Reginald Naylor, who became a local dentist in Bailiff Bridge and Brighouse.

Faith's second son Joseph, a servant/groom like his father, moved away to work at Honington Hall, Warwickshire, but then found himself out of work. Although he had a pregnant girlfriend whom he had asked to marry him, he also committed suicide, "while of unsound mind" like his mother, when he was unable to find another position. He was buried at Leamington on 28th May 1862 but is commemorated on the headstone over Faith and James's grave. The newspaper report of the inquest says that his brothers John and Samuel attended his funeral. (*Royal Leamington Spa Courier*, Saturday 31 May 1862)

Samuel (1840-1909), Faith's third son was a blacksmith but in 1881 he was an Inn Keeper (The Martin's Nest?) living at Smithy Carr Lane, Brighouse. His son Edward, and his descendants, were joiners and also became Funeral Directors in Brighouse.

The marriage of Ann Naylor (1837-1896) to John Seed of Clifton took them to Goole, and a very successful business – John Seed and Sons, Fruit Brokers. Three of their four children, and subsequent grandchildren, had notable lives including the award of the Military Cross in WW1, an early WW1 pilot, a granddaughter who was awarded a BSc certificate from Royal Holloway College, London, in 1906, (no degrees for women then) and a contemporary artist.

Harriet married and had a son, and a daughter who died shortly after birth in November 1870. Harriet was widowed eight months later when her husband Benjamin Revell also died. After her sister Ann died in 1896 Harriet went to live as housekeeper to her brother-in-law John Seed at Sculcoates. They married in 1908 at Knaresborough a year after the law was changed to allow a man to marry his deceased wife's sister.

Sarah's Family

William and Lydia's third daughter, Sarah, was baptised at St Matthew's Church on 17th March 1793. Twenty-three years later, on 30th June, she married Joseph Ripley, a stone mason of Southowram, at Halifax. My researches indicate that Joseph's grandfather Edward (1730-1789?) had a brother George (1728-1796), and that they were the sons of John Ripley, a dyer, and Betty Shoosmith, of Skircoat and Southowram respectively. George was the great grandfather of Sir Henry William Ripley, the Bradford Dyer and MP, whose family lived at Holme House, Lightcliffe during the 1840s and 50s. I have often wondered if they all knew of the family connection.

Joseph's parents James, of Southowram, and Hannah Stead, of Hipperholme, lived at Slead Syke after marriage, and Joseph was baptised at Lightcliffe. James's mother Mary (nee Ibbotsen), of Slead Syke, was buried in Lightcliffe Churchyard on 13th February 1825, her age being recorded as 100 years 7

months. The only baptism that I can find is for Mary, daughter of John Ibbotsen, a clothier of Southowram, on 24th June 1732. The seven months is more or less correct, and as she was of a “great age”, did a few years get added to her actual age without records for confirmation?

Sarah and Joseph's daughter Mary was born five months after their wedding and baptised at St Matthew's on 19th January 1817. They were to have six more children – James, Ann (Littlewood/Pogson), Faith (Hoyle/Schofield), George, William and John, who was only three years old when Joseph died on 30th May 1838 and buried at Lightcliffe in an unknown grave three days later.

Mary, 16 ½ years old and already pregnant, married Thomas Naylor on 29th April 1833 at St John's, Halifax. Sarah Ann was the first of their eleven children born over 30 years. My great grandfather John (1844-1909) was the 5th child but by 1861, when he was 17, he was the oldest surviving child. His three younger brothers joined Guards Regiments, possibly inspired by their uncle Joseph Naylor who served in the Crimea. Joseph was in the Life Guards and based at Knightsbridge Barracks and Windsor, and had mostly ceremonial duties; William enlisted in the Scots Fusilier Guards, later the Scots Guards, and may have spent some time in Ireland; and Thomas, who served in Egypt and possibly took part in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir with the Grenadier Guards. He died in a railway accident near the Tower of London, where he was stationed, soon after returning to England at the end of 1882, and is buried in the Guards Section of Brompton Cemetery, Earls Court, London.

Thomas died in October 1880 and Mary survived him by nearly 14 years. They were both buried in plot F43 in the churchyard. During the years of widowhood Mary lived with her two youngest children, Isabel and Sarah Hannah, neither of whom ever married. Isabel was buried with her parents in 1912, but Sarah died in 1940 in Blackpool where she had been running a Boarding House for quite a number of years. Although my grandfather, Fred Naylor, was an executor of her Will I have no idea where she was buried.

James Ripley (1819-1853) outlived his wife Judith Hepworth and son Mark who died in 1846 and 1848 respectively, and they were all buried in plot P*7 in the churchyard. Ann (1822-1902) had two sons Allen and Robert, before marrying first to Henry Littlewood and then Joseph Pogson. She was buried with Mary and Thomas Naylor in plot F43. Faith (1825-1903) married David Hoyle of Wyke and then, after being widowed, John Schofield of Lightcliffe. George (1829-1858) died about six months before his daughter Hannah Maria was born, leaving his wife Zilpah with a year old son Joseph Henry.

William (1831-1890) and John (1835-1877), and their families lived in Shelf. They are buried at Lightcliffe, John in plot D1, and William in Q45 along with his first wife Adelaide and several of their children. The first burial in that plot on 19th May 1870 was his mother Sarah who, 20 years after Joseph's death, had married her brother-in-law William Whitehead as his third wife. At the time it was illegal to marry a deceased wife's sister, but perhaps they thought that with a second wife between Grace and Sarah nobody would remember!

Grace's Family

As far as I can ascertain William and Lydia's last daughter was Grace who was baptised on 18th July 1802. Grace and William Whitehead were married at St John's, Halifax on 31st October 1821. Susannah, the youngest child of seven, was only four months old when Grace died. Perhaps that is when Lydia went to live with the family to help with the baby and the other children, three of them under seven years of age. Sadly, Susannah only lived for two years, and her two youngest sisters, Jane and Elizabeth, died before attaining adulthood. The four oldest siblings, Mary (Camm), Ann

(Hargreaves), George, and Lydia (Mitchell/Wood) all moved out of Lightcliffe but not far away – Brighouse, Whitechapel (Cleckheaton), Bradford and Southowram.

Lydia has an interesting story. In 1843, at the age of 13 she was engaged as nursemaid to the children of Edward Armytage after the death of his wife. Edward was the son of Joseph Armytage, of Victoria Mills, Bailiff Bridge and had been born at Holme House. In January 1846 she gave birth in Manchester to a son, fathered by Edward. The baby was baptised at Manchester Cathedral (along with many others that day) on 28th June as William Edward, the son of Lydia Whitehead, spinster of Halifax. William was fostered unsatisfactorily, and then adopted by the Axon family whose name he took, along with his father's surname of Armytage.

Lydia kept in touch with her son and he spent holidays with her on the farm at Southowram. In 1848 she had married Elijah Mitchell, a blacksmith, and had a daughter Grace at Lightcliffe. After a few years at East Morton, near Keighley, they moved to Southowram where they started farming.

Family stories tell how, after Edward's business failed leading to bankruptcy in 1850, and he fell on hard times, Lydia returned to Manchester and nursed him on his death bed, although he had remarried. Their son was a sickly child who was educated at home by his adopted sisters. He became a librarian at Manchester Free Library, joined the staff of the Manchester Guardian in the 1870s, and wrote several works – articles, poems, and books on local history, language and dialect. In 1913, two months before his death, William Edward Armytage Axon was awarded an Honorary MA by Manchester University.

William's Family

Grace Rushworth was two years old when her mother Lydia gave birth to William in 1804 and, like his older siblings, he was baptised at St Matthew's on 20th May. He became a cordwainer and, according to an announcement of his death in an Ebenezer Methodist report in the *Halifax Courier* of 27th February 1892, he worked with "the family of Rastricks as shoemaker for 65 years". This suggests he worked first with his brother-in-law John Rastrick, and then with his nephews William and Sam. The article also said that he had 65 living descendants, and was one of the founders of Ebenezer Methodist New Connexion Chapel. It was when his future parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Birkin, moved from Brighouse around 1820, "seeing that there was room and need for Christian work in the village, and wishful to see the Connexion spread" that a group of people began to meet in a barn said to belong to Mr. John Pulman. (*Halifax Courier* 12th January 1874 Issue)

William married Sarah Birkin on 25th December 1825 at All Saint's Church, Dewsbury. Their first child, Lydia, was born on 2nd July 1827 and baptised the same day at home "as she was unlikely to live". (Lower Wyke Moravian Records) Although the record says "William Rushworth, shoemaker, and his wife Sarah, late Birkin, of Lightcliffe", they may have asked the Moravian Minister as he was the nearest Non-Conformist clergyman at the time.

William and Sarah had a further seven children, including another Lydia who married George Booth. George was born at Norwood Green, and was the landlord of the Pear Tree Inn in 1891, remaining so until his death in 1923. Lydia had died 18 months earlier and they were both buried in Plot H82 in Lightcliffe Churchyard. George and Lydia had one son, Willie (1870-1949), but Lydia had also had a son before marriage. James Armitage Rushworth was born on 17th July 1864 at "Bailiff Bridge, Clifton" (birth certificate) – I wonder who his father was? In 1871 and 1881 he was living with his Rushworth grandparents; in 1891 widowed William was living with James and his wife Susannah Firth in Sackville Street. William and James died in 1892, four months apart.

Two of William and Sarah's sons, John and James, were coal miners and lived at Chapel Fold, Lower Wyke Lane, and a number of the family attended the Moravian Chapel and are buried in the cemetery. Once the Ebenezer Methodist Chapel was established in Bailiff Bridge in 1875 many of William and Sarah's descendants were taken there for baptism, as well as their Rastrick and Naylor cousins. The baptism register is not online but can be seen at the Central Library and Archives at Halifax.

Finally, to Joshua whom I think was the youngest child of William and Lydia for the following reasons. He was baptised on 3rd August 1806 at St Matthew's, and his name is that of William's father. When he married Sarah Smith at Halifax on 28th April 1829, he was a cardmaker, and both were "of Halifax". In 1851, 1861 and 1871 they were living in Brighouse, and the latter two censuses give his place of birth as Lightcliffe and Sarah's as Brighouse. They do not appear to have had any children. Joshua died on 31st December 1873 and was buried in Plot C67 in Lightcliffe Churchyard. A notice of his death in the *Halifax Courier* of 3rd January 1874 said he was a cardmaker of Brighouse. When Sarah was buried in the same grave on 3rd October 1885 aged 81, a William Rushworth (Joshua's brother?) was named as the grave owner.

I would love to hear from anyone who is connected to, or who has information about, any of these families and their descendants. I also have much more information about many of them, too much to include in this article.

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