

The Ellises of Saltaire

The newspaper report below, about Edwin Ellis, from the *Shipley Times and Express* 28 May 1920 was found during the research into the Mordecai Ellises and their families.

A FAMILY RECORD

It will be difficult to discover a total period of family service with the same firm to equal that of the Ellis family. Mr Joseph Ellis, the father, worked for thirty-eight years in the wool department. Mr. Ezra Ellis, Joseph's brother, spent sixty -six years in faithful service to the firm. Mr Edwin Ellis is leaving with the tale of fifty-five years to his credit, and his brother, Mr Fred Ellis, is in his fifty-ninth year of service in the combing department. And to carry on the tradition in a later generation, Mr. J.E.[should be J.W] Ellis, son of Mr. Edwin Ellis, is the head of the Dresses Department at Saltaire and has been considerably over twenty years with the firm.

That a long life of hard work does not injure health nor undermine vigour is proved by the fact that Mr. Ellis retired in

hearty condition and with the full intention of enjoying a time of leisure which he most certainly deserves. He leaves with the best wishes of his principals, who will have pleasant recollections of faithful service, and of his fellow-workers whose testimony of esteem takes the form of a gold watch, suitably inscribed, a happy reminder through the coming hours and days whose progress it will measure of those other hours and days spent during long and incideta?[sic] years of honest hard work

THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The presentation of the gold watch, which was subscribed for by the weavers, overlookers, heads of departments and other friends at Saltaire, took place at Mr. Ellis's home on Wednesday evening in last week, and was made by Mr. A. Whitham, who of 25 years has been assistant to Mr. Ellis.

In the website article about

The Mordecai Ellises and their families

Joseph Ellis and Ezra Ellis, brothers of one of the Mordecai Ellises, were going to be quietly 'dropped' when they moved to Shipley. But then it was realised that this was to the model village of Saltaire and that they worked at Saltaire Mills. The above newspaper article and others persuaded me not to leave them there! In fact, some of them continued to have connections with Lightcliffe and not just because their boss Titus Salt (later Sir Titus Salt) lived at Crow Nest, Lightcliffe.

We will 'pick up' their story in 1852 when warehouseman Joseph Ellis of Hipperholme married Sarah Ann Naylor, on 21st November in Halifax. Sometime after Joseph and Sarah Ann married, they moved out of the immediate area, but they maintained their links with Lightcliffe presumably because both sets of parents were still there.

These Ellises were in Bradford when their son Fred, born 9th March 1853, was baptised back at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 15th May 1853. Their address when Edwin, born 17th April 1855, was baptised also back in Lightcliffe on 21st September 1856 was Windhill, Idle. On each occasion father Joseph was a 'Warehouseman'. No baptism record has been found for daughter Ada born Q3 1860, whose birth was registered in the Bradford district.

1861 census

Joseph Ellis Head 32 Warehouse Man
Sarah Ann Ellis Wife 30
Fred Ellis Son 8 Scholar
Edwin Ellis Son 5 ditto
Ada Ellis Dau 6/12
Address 9 Whitlam St., Saltaire, Shipley

His younger brother, Ezra, was also in the area.

1861 census

Robert Leach Head 73 Warehouseman
Sarah Leach Wife 71
Ezra Ellis Lodger 25
Worsted Manufacturer Clerk
Address 18 Fanny St., Shipley

The births of two more daughters Clara and Emma Ellis were again registered in the Bradford district in Q3 1864 and Q1 1867. On 2nd April 1871 Joseph Ellis and his family were in Saltaire but Ezra was back at his father's house in Bramley Lane.

1871 census

Joseph Ellis Head 42 Wool Warehouseman
Sarah A Ellis Wife 40
Fred Ellis Son 18 Combing overlooker
Edwin Ellis Son 14 Piece Hooker
Ada Ellis Dau 10 Mill Hand
Clara Ellis Dau 6 Scholar
Emma Ellis Dau 4 Scholar
Address 21 Victoria Road, Saltaire, Shipley

1871 census

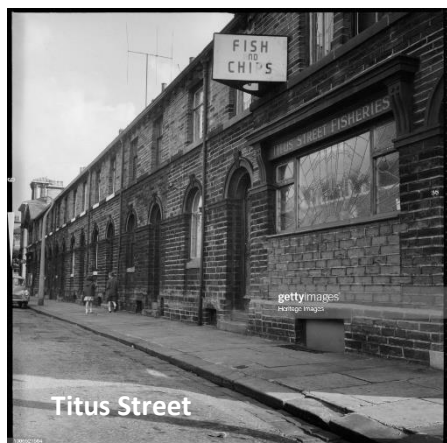
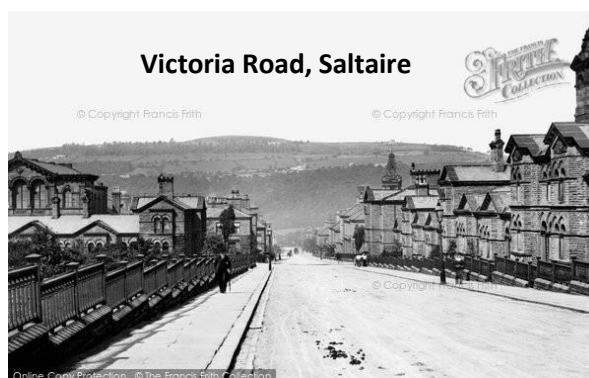
Mordecai Ellis Head 67 Grocer
Sukey Ellis Wife 60
Ezra Ellis Son 35 Commercial Clerk
William Wood Lodger 26 Railway Porter
Address Bramley Lane, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

Forty-three-year-old Ezra Ellis married 34-year-old Eliza Dickinson on 16th June 1879 in Sheffield. She was the daughter of a farmer, John Dickinson.

From the next censuses you can tell when other marriages, births and deaths occurred in this Ellis family. Later various *Shipley Times and Express* newspaper articles will confirm that most of the family worked at the Saltaire Mills in one capacity or another and had done since Joseph Ellis moved his family to Saltaire about 1856/1857 when son Fred was three.

1881 census

Joseph Ellis Head 52 Warehouseman
Sarah Ann Ellis Wife 50
Edwin Ellis Son 24 Weaving Overlooker
Ada Ellis Dau 20 Weaver Worsted
Clara Ellis Dau 17 ditto
Emma Ellis Dau 14 ditto
Address 21 Victoria Road, Saltaire, Shipley



1881 census

Frederick Ellis Head 28 Wool Combing Overlooker
Annie Ellis Wife 25
Edith Ellis Dau 6 Scholar
Address 25 Titus Street, Saltaire, Shipley

1881 census

Ezra Ellis Head 45 Commercial Clerk Stuff Manufacturer
Eliza Ellis Wife 36
Elizabeth N. Dickinson Niece 10 Scholar
Address 44 Moorhead Villas, Shipley

1891 census

Bottomley London Head 33 Cashier
Ada London Wife 30
Florence London Dau 5
Maggie London Dau 4/12
Joseph Ellis Father-in-law 62
Widower Living on own means
Address 32 Albert Road, Saltaire, Shipley

Fred Ellis and family have not been found in the 1891 census

1891 census

Edwin Ellis Head 34 Worsted Weaving Overlooker
Louisa Ellis Wife 33
Joseph W Ellis Son 6
Sarah Hall Widow 74 Retired Dom Servant
Address 14 Alms houses, Shipley

1891 census

Ezra Ellis Head 55 Bookkeeper
Eliza Ellis Wife 46
Elizabeth Norwood Dickinson Niece 20
Music Teacher
Address 9 Albert Road, Saltaire, Shipley



Albert Road, Saltaire,

1901 census

Joseph Ellis Head 72 Cas?Merchant
Edwin Ellis Son 44 Winding Manager
Louisa Ellis Dau in law 43
Joseph W Ellis Grandson 16 Textile Designer
William Briggs Visitor 63 Retired Missionary
Address 34 Albert Rd., Saltaire, Shipley

1901 census

Fred Ellis Head 48
Wool Combing Overlooker
Annie Ellis Wife 45
Harold Ellis Son 17 Bank Clerk
Address 57 Victoria Rd., Saltaire, Shipley

1901 census

Ezra Ellis Head 65 Manufacturer's Clerk
Eliza Ellis Wife 56
Elizabeth N Dickinson Niece 30 Teacher of Music
Kathrine Glover Visitor 66
Retired School Mistress
Elisabeth Thorpe Visitor 56
Elementary School Teacher
Address 245 Keighley Rd., Shipley

The Shipley Times and Express

6 November 1903

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH ELLIS

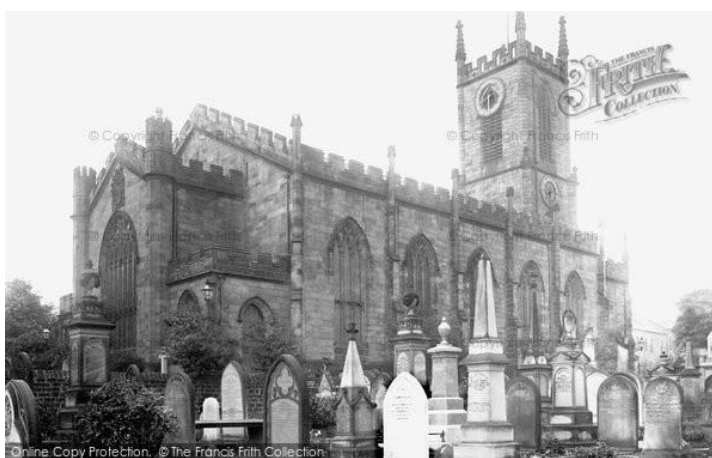
A WORTHY COUNCILLOR

Out of the chain of Saltaire history another staunch connecting link has gone with the demise of Mr Joseph Ellis, who passed away on Monday morning about 6:30 at the residence of his son Mr. Edwin Ellis 34 Albert Road, Saltaire. The commencement of his final illness was about a year ago, when there were signs of heart disease, but he was able to go about for a period of about six months until last spring when a serious attack of heart trouble caused his confinement to the house for a period, and after he partly rallied from the effects he went to Morecambe. However, there he was suddenly taken worse again, and was brought home as soon as possible, where he again rallied his fast-diminishing stock of strength. He then went about until a month ago, when he commenced his final spell of his malady, which had a fatal ending on Monday last. His illness has not been of a painful character, but his vitality slowly ebbed away, and his end came very peacefully and quietly in his 75th year. He leaves a grown-up family of two sons and two daughters.

The obituary went on to describe his public works and then gave details of his funeral held in St. Paul's Church, Shipley (below) on 4th November 1903.



A native of Lightcliffe, Mr. Ellis first came into Mr. Salt's employment when he was about 21 years of age, having obtained a position in the Union Street Works in Bradford. When the Saltaire works were erected, the deceased gentleman removed the sphere of his labours there, where he was employed in the warehouse. A year after his arrival he was promoted to the position of one of the managers of the top and noil department which post he held for 38 years up to the Saltaire Jubilee Exhibition year – 1887 – when he retired from work.



Ellis Joseph of 34 Albert-road Saltaire Shipley Yorkshire died 2 November 1903
Probate London 1 December to Thomas Barker broker Fred Ellis woolcombing-
overlooker and Edwin Ellis weaving-manager. Effects £435 4s 9d.

Both Ezra Ellis and his wife Eliza were buried back in Lightcliffe with Ezra's father, Mordecai and his second wife Sukey on 5th May 1831 and 24th December 1831.



The memorial inscription was transcribed by Arthur Blackburn before details about Eliza and Ezra were added. It reads

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SUKEY

THE WIFE OF MORDECAI ELLIS OF BRAMLEY LANE LIGHTCLIFFE

WHO DIED APRIL 30TH 1886 IN HER 76TH YEAR

ALSO OF THE ABOVE MORDECAI ELLIS

WHO DIED JULY 8TH 1889 IN HIS 86TH YEAR.

and then continues

ALSO OF ELIZA ELLIS DAUGHTER IN LAW OF THE ABOVE

WHO DIED MAY 2ND 1931 IN HER 87TH YEAR

ALSO OF EZRA ELLIS SON THE ABOVE MORDECAI

AND HUSBAND OF ELIZA ELLIS

WHO DIED DECEMBER 22ND 1931 IN HIS 97TH YEAR

REST IN PEACE

The *Shipley Times and Express* for 23rd December 1933 reported on

SALTAIRE DIAMOND WEDDING

WELL-KNOWN CRICKETER

OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

HELPED TO FOUND THE

SALTAIRE CLUB

Mr and Mrs Fred Ellis of 57 Victoria Road, Saltlaire celebrated the diamond anniversary of their wedding on Wednesday.

Mr Ellis was born at Bradford but has lived in Shipley since he was three years old. He began work at eight in the Saltaire Mills and became a combing overlooker ten years later. He retired on pension in 1927, after 56 years' service without a break.

In his younger days he was a notable cricketer. He assisted in the formation of the Saltaire Cricket Club and played with the first

team as a batsman and wicketkeeper until he retired from the game in 1887. In those days the club consisted largely of employers of the Saltaire Mills and the team was known as the "Mill boys in white".

In 1877 he played with the Saltaire and district "XV.," which defeated the full Notts County team, and he scored nearly 100 runs against the bowling of "Billy" Barnes, Morley and Flowers.

Two years later he was selected by the M.C.C. to play with a team of All-England "colts" at Lord's and scored an outstanding success. To-day, at the age of 80, he is in excellent health and one of the happiest of men.

Mrs Ellis, who is 78, is a native of Birkenshaw. They were married at the Bingley Parish Church, and have one son, a daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

Mrs Annie Ellis died before the 1939 register was taken, probably in Q3 1835 in the North Brierley district aged 79. Her husband then lived with his married daughter and family.

1939 register

Benjamin Smith	31 May 1874	Male	Newsagent Retired	Married	175	1
Edith Smith	08 Apr 1874	Female	Unpaid Domestic Duties	Married	175	2
Margaret Rhodes	12 Jun 1919	Female	Tobacconist Shop Assistant	Single	175	3
Fred Ellis	19 Mar 1853	Male	Combing Overlooker Retired	Widowed	175	4

Address 31 Coach Road, Baildon, Baildon U.D., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Edwin Ellis	27 Apr 1855	Male	Incapacitated	Married	183	1
Louisa Ellis	10 Jun 1857	Female	Domestic Duties	Married	183	2
Joseph W Ellis	17 Apr 1884	Male	Wool Textile Manufacturer	Married	183	3

Address 29 Avondale Road, Shipley, Shipley U.D., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Harold Ellis	06 Mar 1884	Male	Officer Of H.M. Customs & Excise	Married	1	1
Mabel Ellis	15 Aug 1884	Female	News Agent Sweet Confectionery Dealer Shop Proprietor	Married	1	2
Marjorie Bywater (Ellis)	02 Sep 1910	Female	Shop Assistant For Above	Single	1	3
Leslie H Ellis	27 Apr 1913	Male	Assistant Works Manager Leather Cloth Factory	Single	1	4

Address Long Mead White Cross, Guiseley, Aireborough U.D., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Bradford Observer 23 September 1940

ELLIS On September 19th at 29 Avondale Road, Shipley Edwin (Ted) Ellis aged 84, the dearly loved husband of Louisa and father of J.W. Ellis. Service and interment at Nab Wood (Cemetery) Today (Monday) 23 September at 12 noon. Will friends please meet at the cemetery and accept this the only intimation.

There is a probate record.

ELLIS Edwin of 29 Avondale-road Shipley died 19 September 1940 Probate Llandudno 24 January [1941] to Joseph Whitaker Ellis company director. Effects £1891 12s 8d

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer

21 March 1944

Mr Joseph Whitaker Ellis governing director of Pearson and Foster (Bradford), Ltd., Ashfield Mills, Idle, has died at his home at Baildon. A native of Saltaire, he received his business training with Salts (Saltaire), Limited. Associated with Freemasonry for over 30 years, he was one of the founders of Amity Lodge, Shipley, and twice occupied the position of Worshipful Master.

Bradford Observer

21 March 1944

ELLIS Joseph Whitaker of Hillfoot Station-road Baildon Yorkshire died 19 March 1944 Probate Llandudno 31 July to Maud Violet Lowis widow and Benjamin Riley Barrett accountant and auditor. Effect £5862 8s 6d

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer
24 September 1940

Notice of Thanks

Mrs Edwin Ellis and son wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sorrow; also for beautiful floral tributes 29 Avondale Road, Shipley

Mr. "Joe" Ellis of Baildon, Dies

Mr. Joseph ("Joe") Whitaker Ellis, formerly a "personality" in the Bradford trade, has died at his home Hill Foot, Baildon. He was 59 years of age.

In his youth Mr Ellis, a native of Saltaire, was with Salts (Saltaire), Ltd., and became their foreign salesman.

After the last war he was made governing director of Pearson and Foster (Bradford), Ltd., Ashfield Mills Idle.

A freemason, he was a founder member of the Amity Lodge, Shipley, of which he was twice Worshipful Master, and a founder of Airedale Preceptory (Knights Templar), of which he was P.P.T., and he was P.P.G.W. of the province of Yorkshire (West Riding). For several years he lived at Lorton Hall, in the Lake District.

The *Shipley Times and Express* noted the birthdays of ex cricketer Fred Ellis once he reached the age of 90. This is typical from 21st March 1945

92 – NOT OUT

Still going strong and feeling very well, although at the great age of 92, Mr. Fred Ellis of 81, Kirkgate, Shipley, the well-known Shipley sportsman, celebrated his birthday on Monday.

Mr Ellis attended the first meeting in the Lecture Theatre, held in 1869, with a view to forming the Saltaire Cricket Club, and when the Club's playing days commenced, in 1870, Mr. Ellis was with the club.

At the age of 26 he received a framed photograph of himself as a prize from the club for having the best performance in four consecutive matches.

His highest score throughout his career was that of 76 not out against Ikley but the height of his cricketing days came when he played for the England Colts against the M.C.C. The match resulted in a 14-wicket victory for the Colts, Mr. Ellis making the highest score.

Mr. Ellis began work at the Saltaire Mills at the age of eight as an oil doffer, and retired when 74, holding the position of foreman. His family has a very interesting record for longevity, his uncle Ezra Ellis, reaching the age of 96, his father 76, and his brother 85.

And then from the *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* 07 November 1947

ELLIS. --- November 4 (peacefully) in hospital in his 95th year FRED ELLIS, late of Victoria Road, Saltaire and beloved father of Edith Smith, Bramhope and Harold Ellis, Guiseley. Service and interment at Shipley Parish Church Saturday (tomorrow) at 11.15 am. Friends, please accept this intimation

This concludes the 'detour' to Saltaire to recount the story of the Lightcliffe Ellises who moved to Saltaire and made such an impression.

Returning to the family living in the Lightcliffe area read about

The Sugden family of Bramley Lane

The Broadleys of Norwood Green

D.M.Barker

April 2022