

Gabriel Walker and family

In the article

Hannah Denison formerly Marsden née Sinclair part 1

mention was made of a Gabriel Walker. On the 1844 Halifax marriage record below he was named as the father of George Ripley who married Hannah's daughter Mercy Sinclair.

1844. Marriage solemnized at <u>Elland</u> in the <u>Parish</u> 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.
23	Nov. 10	George Ripley	22	Bachelor	Coalminer	Brighouse	Gabriel Walker	Silver
		Mercy Sinclair	21	Spinster		Brighouse	John Marsden	Silver
Married in the <u>Church at Elland</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>James</u> by me, <u>Wm. Atkinson M.A.</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>George Ripley</u> <u>in Xmarra</u> <u>South Firth</u> in the Presence of us, <u>William Galloway</u>								

George Ripley was almost certainly the son of Elizabeth Ripley of Slead Syke. His Lightcliffe baptism record was signed by Reverend Robert Wilkinson on 3rd November 1822. But as you can see no father was named

No. 3 No. 644.	George Son of	Elizabeth Ripley	Slead Syke	Spinster	R. Wilkinson Min.
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Spinster Elizabeth Ripley of Slead Syke may have been the daughter of William and Moriah Ripley of Slead Syke born on 26th November 1804 and baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel in Brighouse on 23rd December 1804. Or she may have been the Elizabeth Ripley, the daughter of James Ripley, who was baptised at St. Matthew's, Lightcliffe on 24th September 1797. A three-week-old James Ripley the son of Elizabeth Ripley of Slead Syke was buried in Lightcliffe on 25th August 1816 after a baptism at St. Anne's in the Grove, Southowram on 28th July 1816. It is impossible to tell which, if either, was George Ripley's mother.

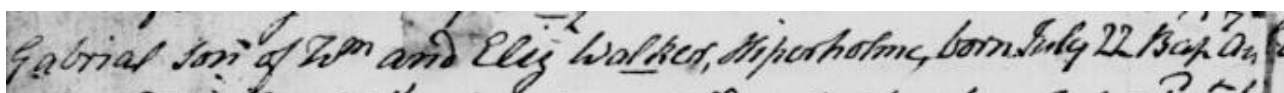
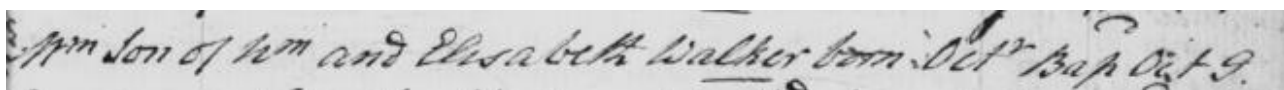
The inclusion of Gabriel Walker's name on the marriage record might have been because by the time of this 1844 marriage Gabriel Walker and his Hannah wife had died. They and others of their family were buried in St. Matthew's churchyard and have Lightcliffe connections. Their story will now be told.

There were, in fact, two Gabriel Walkers buried in Lightcliffe churchyard. The first on 11th April 1797 in an unknown plot. The parish record suggests that he was the son of William Walker and that another son William Walker was buried on the same day.



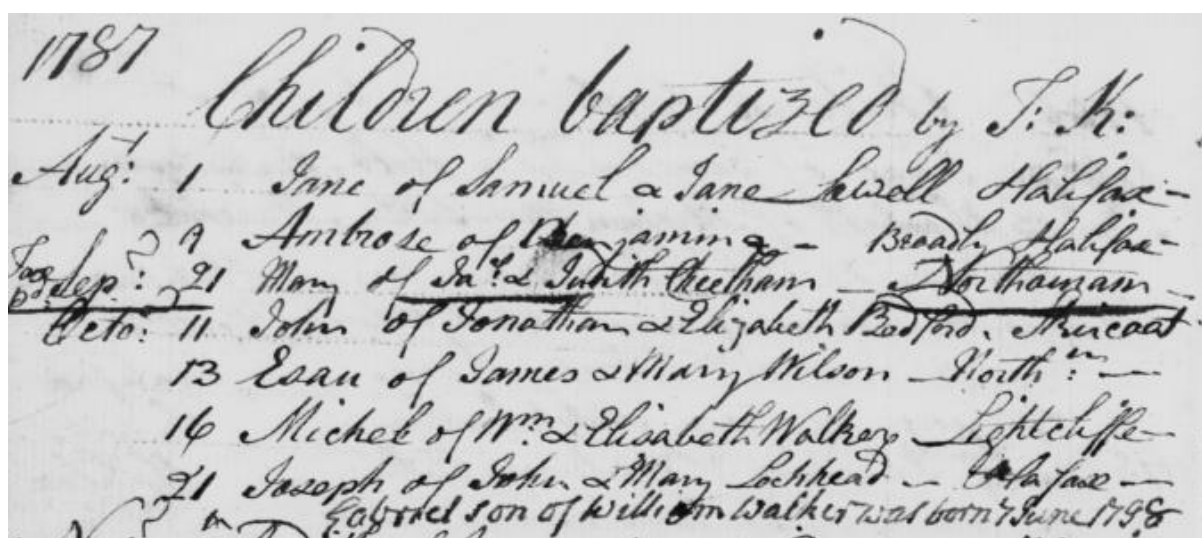
The '11' is under the month of April.

Gabriel could be this chap born on 22nd July 1792 the son of William and Elizabeth Walker of Hipperholme. He was baptised in August 1792 at the Independent Square Chapel in Halifax. His younger brother William was baptised at the same chapel on 9th October 1794.

It is tempting to speculate as to what caused the death of these two young boys perhaps on the same day or within a few days of one another.

Did William and Elizabeth then name another son Gabriel? There is a very odd entry on the 1787 page for the baptisms at the Square Chapel noting that a Gabriel Walker was born on 7th June 1798 i.e. eleven years later. Was his name just added incorrectly under the entry for an older brother Michael? Who knows.



1787 Children baptized by J. H.

Aug: 1 Jane of Samuel & Jane Kirell Halifax

Aug: 9 Ambrose of Benjamin - Broad, Halifax

Aug: 21 Mary of John & Judith Cheetham - Northampton

Octo: 11 John of Jonathan & Elizabeth Bedford, Threcoat

13 Esau of James & Mary Wilson North

16 Michel of Wm & Elizabeth Walker Lightcliffe

21 Joseph of John & Mary Lockhead - Halifax

At the bottom: Gabriel son of William Walker was born 7 June 1798

The 1798 birth date for this Gabriel Walker fits perfectly with his age on the 1841 census taken on 6th June and then his death and burial in July 1841 after his forty-three birthday on the 7th June.

1841 census

Gabriel Walker	42	St. Delver
William Walker	18	ditto
John Walker	17	Ag. Lab
Ruth Walker	13	
Joseph Walker	9	
Frances Walker	7	

Address Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

Son James Walker has not been found but was still alive

Gabriel Walker married Hannah Taylor on 4th February 1822 in Elland. They had the following children baptised at the Independent Chapel at Bridge End, Brighthouse ; William born 7th July 1822 on 28th July 1822, John born on 8th April 1824 on 16th May 1824, James on 27th May 1826 on 16th July 1826, Ruth born on 27th May 1828 on 6th July 1828, Joseph born on 24th July 1831 on 21st August 1831, Frances born 27th May 1834 on 20th July 1834 and Richard born 25th August 1836 on 23rd October 1836.

Five-month-old Richard was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe on 15th February 1837. His mother, Hannah, would join him in the churchyard – but not necessarily in the same plot – on 10th August 1840. And then not long after the 1841 census was taken, the widower Gabriel Walker was buried, again in an unknown plot, on 11th July 1841. Another son, teenager Joseph Walker, died three years later and was buried in the churchyard that already held his parents and baby brother on 25th September 1844.

Richard, Son of Gabriel Walker No. 1370.	Hove-edge	Feb 4 5 15 th Months	Thos. Bates, off. Min. 1837
Hannah Walker No. 16.	Hove = Edge	Aug: 10 41	Wm. Curate P. Curate 1840
Gabriel Walker No. 65.	Hove-Edge	July 11 th 43	Wm. Curate 1841
Joseph Walker No. 251.	Hove Edge	Sep 25 th 41	Wm. Curate 1844

Eldest son William Walker married Hannah Crowther on 1st November 1841 in Halifax not long after losing his father. He worked in a stone quarry as a delver and his bride was a factory girl.

1841. Marriage solemnized in the Parish of <i>Halifax</i> in the County of <i>York</i>								
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.
52	<i>Nov 1</i>	<i>William Walker</i> <i>Hannah Crowther</i>	<i>19</i> <i>19</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Delper</i> <i>Factory Girl</i>	<i>Hipperholme</i> <i>St</i>	<i>Isaac Walker</i> <i>Hannah Crowther</i>	<i>Delper</i> <i>Widow</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, <i>after Banns</i> by me, <i>John Murray</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>William Walker</i> in the Presence of us, <i>William Thomas</i> <i>Hannah Crowther</i>								

Before the 1851 census they had daughters Elizabeth, born 1st September 1842, and Mary baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 16th October 1842 and 13th April 1845 respectively. One-year-old Mary Walker of Hove Edge was buried in an unknown plot in Lightcliffe churchyard on 31st May 1846. Brothers James, born 2nd September 1847, and Joseph were baptised together on 28th October 1840. Little Joseph died less than a year later and was buried on 1st September 1850 again at Lightcliffe.

Three more sons of William and Hannah were baptised at St. Matthew's; John on 8th August 1852, then William and George on 21st October 1860.

1851 census

William Walker Head 28 Stone dresser
Hannah Walker Wife 29
Elizabeth Walker Dau 9
James Walker Son 4
Address Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

1861 census

William Walker Head 38 Stone Getter
Hannah Walker Wife 39
Elizabeth Walker Dau 18 Worsted Spinner
Thomas Walker Son 13 Stone Getter (up)
John Walker Son 8 Scholar
George Walker Son 5 ditto
William Walker Son 1
Address Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

The *Halifax Guardian* on 26th December 1868 had this death announcement

WALKER – December 19th, aged 46, Mr. Wm. Walker, stone quarrier, Hove Edge

He was buried in Lightcliffe on 23rd December 1868 in plot R79. The memorial inscription on the headstone for this plot begins with William Walker.



Meanwhile his brother John Walker had apparently married Ruth Thompson, daughter of a delver Samuel Thompson in Elland on 26th February 1849. According to the marriage record below the bride's name was Ruth. However, in subsequent baptism records for their sons, then in census records and finally on a memorial inscription, John Walker's wife was recorded as Rachel not Ruth. Was this simply not spotted as they each made their mark?

between us, I		of us, I					
1849. Marriage solemnized at		Elland		in the Parish of		Sutcliffe	
						in the County of	
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
226	Feb. 26	John Walker	24	Delver	Delver	Brighouse	Samuel Walker
		Ruth Thompson	23	Spinster		Brighouse	Samuel Thompson
Married in the Church at Elland according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Rev. James Walker							
This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Walker his X Mark Ruth Thompson his X Mark in the Presence of us, James Walker							

Samuel Thompson of Great Gomersall had married Hannah Mitchell of Roberttown on 9th April 1820 in Birstall. They lived in Brighouse where two children were born before moving to Southowram where more children, including a daughter Rachel, were born. All the children were baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe; Henry on 18th March 1821, Mary on 27th April 1823, John on 3rd September 1826, Rachel on 28th December 1828 – which fits with the marriage age - , Sam on 19th June 1831 and Joseph on 6th March 1836. Samuel was another stone delver meaning that he worked in a stone quarry.

John and Rachel Walker had two sons who were also baptised at Lightcliffe: Samuel on 27th Mary 1849 and Joseph on 14th August 1853. For both baptisms the family's address was Sutcliffe Wood Bottom. But father John's occupation changed from 'Delver' to 'Labourer' which agrees with his occupation on the census forms.

1851 census

John Walker Head 26 Farmer's Man
 Rachel Walker Wife 22
 Samuel Walker Son 2
 Address Woodbottom, Hipperholme cum
 Brighouse

1861 census

John Walker Head 37 Farm Labourer
 Rachel Walker Wife 32
 Samuel Walke Son 12 Cotton Piecer
 Joseph Walker Son 7 Scholar
 Address Sutcliffe Wood Bottom, Hipperholme
 cum Brighouse

1871 census

John Walker Head 46 Farmer of 5 acres
 Rachel Walker Wife 42
 Joseph Walker Son 17 Carter
 George Mansfield Boarder 19 Butcher
 Samuel Walker Son 22 Stone Delver
 Mary A Walker Wife 17
 Address Upper London Farm, Northowram

1881 census

John Walker Head 56 Farmer of 5 acres
 Rachel Walker Wife 52
 Address Hud Hill, Northowram

In 1851 living next door to John and Rachel were Rachel's parents and her youngest brother Joseph. Her father Samuel Thompson was still a stone delver. By then John Walker was no longer a 'Delver' but a 'Farmer's Man'. But who did he work for? The only farmer in the (Sutcliffe) Wood Bottom area was Samuel Sowden. Did John Walker work for him before farming on his own in Northowram, where he died on 29th July 1886?

This transcription of a long memorial inscription on a headstone in the Heywood Independent churchyard in Northowram near Halifax, tells you more about this Walker family.

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN WALKER
OF NORTHOWRAM,
WHO DIED JULY 29TH 1886,
AGED 62 YEARS.

ALSO RACHEL RELICT OF THE ABOVE,
WHO DIED MARCH 7TH 1901,
IN HER 73RD YEAR.

ALSO IN LOVING MEMORY OF SAMUEL
THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF MARY ANN
WALKER, AND SON OF THE ABOVE,
DIED JAN 16TH 1907, AGED 57 YEARS.

THY WILL BE DONE.

ALSO OF THE ABOVE MARY ANN
WHO DIED NOV. 3RD 1935,
AGED 82 YEARS.
AT REST.

ALSO EMMA DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED AUG. 17TH 1960.
AGED 89 YEARS.
AT REST.

Gabriel Walker's oldest daughter Ruth married William Byram, originally from Norfolk, on 20th September 1846, again in Elland. She, her husband and their large family lived on the Brighouse / Hipperholme border at Park Top, then Elland Road and finally 7 William Henry Street. They both passed away in 1902.

The youngest daughter Frances Walker lodged in Park Street, Hipperholme with a Crossley family in 1851. She was 16 years old, and no occupation was recorded. In 1861 she was a 26-year-old 'Card Setter' still boarding at the same property but with a widow Martha Crossley. She married Samuel Starkey on 12th December 1863 in Brighouse. He was a 'Card Maker' and they settled in Clifton where he was from. They do not appear to have had any children. Samuel Starkey died during Q4 1901 and Frances Starkey during Q1 1910.

And finally, back to the family of the eldest son William Walker who had passed away in 1868. What happened to them can be gleaned from their census records in 1871 to 1891.

1871 census

Hannah Walker Head 49 Widow
James Walker Son 23 Delver
John Walker Son 18 ditto
George Walker Son 15 Flag facer
Willie Walker Son 11 Spinner
Address Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

In 1881 next door to or in the same household was the son William Walker with another son George not far away in Hove Edge. Son John Walker has not been found in 1881 but was back with his mother and brother in 1891 when all the family seem to be living near one another in Hove Edge Cottages.

1881 census

Hannah Walker Head 59 Annuitant
James Walker Son 33 Stone Miner
Address 2 Hasman's Fold, Hove Edge,
Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1891 census

Hannah Walker Head 69 Widow
James Walker Son 43 Stone quarryman
John Walker Son 38 ditto
Address Hove Edge Cottages, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

1881 census

Wm. Walker Head 21 Stone Miner
Emily Walker Wife 21
John Walker Son 11m
Address 2 Hasman's Fold, Hove Edge,
Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1891 census

George Walker Head 35 Stone merchant
Hannah Walker Wife 32
William Walker Son 11 Scholar
Walter Walker Son 7 ditto
Sarah H Walker Dau 3
Address Hove Edge Cottages, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

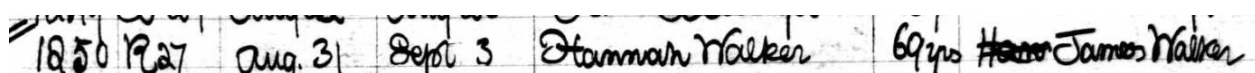
1881 census

Geo. Walker Head 25 Stone Dresser
Hannah Walker Wife 22
Wm. Walker Son 1
Address 3 Deane's Buildings, Hove Edge,
Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1891 census

William Walker Head 31 Stone Quarryman
Emily Walker Wife 31
John Walker Son 10 Worsted Doffer
Sam Walker Son 9 Scholar
Mary D Walker Dau 6 ditto
James Walker Son 3
Sarah E Walker Dau 1
Address Hove Edge Cottages, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

Hannah Walker née Crowther died on 31st August 1891. The Lightcliffe parish record clearly says that she was buried in plot R27, then owned by her son James, on 3rd September 1891 and not with her husband in plot R79. But this may have been a mistake.



Plot R27 already had Sarah Rhodes interred there in 1870, then In 1895 Thomas Rhodes and Robert Robinson were also buried there.

When 45-year-old James Walker died on 16th April 1893 he was recorded as being buried in plot R79 on 20th April 1893 and his name appears with that of his parents on the headstone above that plot.

1369	R. 79	April 16 th	April 20 th	James Walker	45 years
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IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM WALKER OF HOVE EDGE
WHO DIED DEC 19TH 1868
AGED 46 YEARS

AND OF HANNAH WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED AUG 31ST 1891
AGED 69 YEARS

ALSO OF JAMES SON OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED APRIL 16TH 1893
AGED 45 YEARS

D.M.Barker

April 2025