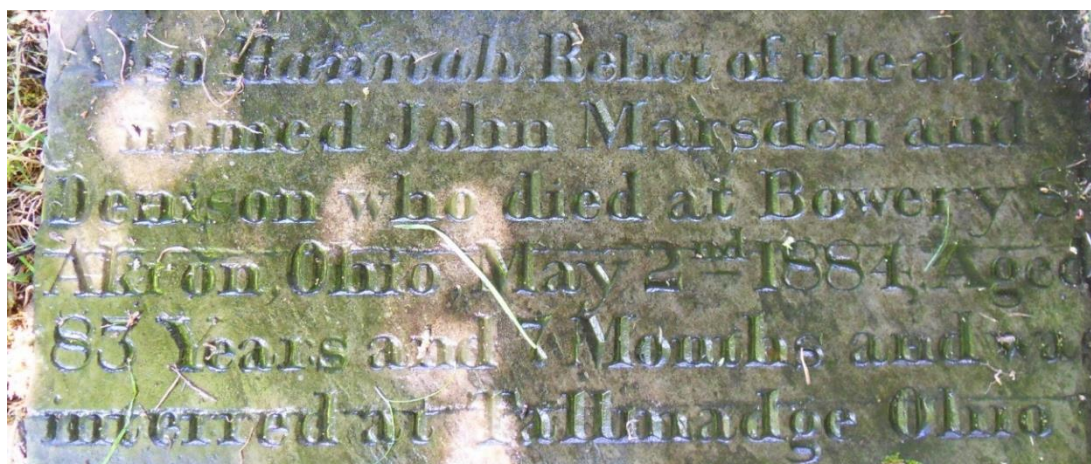


**Hannah Denison formerly Marsden née Sinclair
and her family part 2**

Hannah Denison died on 2nd May 1884 aged 83 years and 7 months as the record on the *Summit County, Ohio, U.S., Death Records, 1866-1908* states. It also says that she died of malaria. The memorial inscription back on the grave plot she had owned in St. Matthew's churchyard has the same date and then some more information as to where she was buried.



**ALSO OF HANNAH RELICT OF THE ABOVE
NAMED JOHN MARSDEN AND JOHN DENISON
WHO DIED AT BOWERY ST. AKRON OHIO
MAY 2ND 1884 AGED 83 YEARS AND 7 MONTHS
AND WAS INTERRED AT TALLMADGE OHIO**

The first question is :-

Who organised this inscription to be added to this NN*3 Lightcliffe plot?

Perhaps her sister Mary Hodkinson and her daughter Mary Ellen Hodkinson from across the Pennines, maybe her other daughter Ann Wood. There was one family member still living in Lightcliffe, Hannah's youngest brother Charles Sinclair. Being in the area did he oversee getting the Marsden / Denison ledger stone engraved with his eldest sister's details?

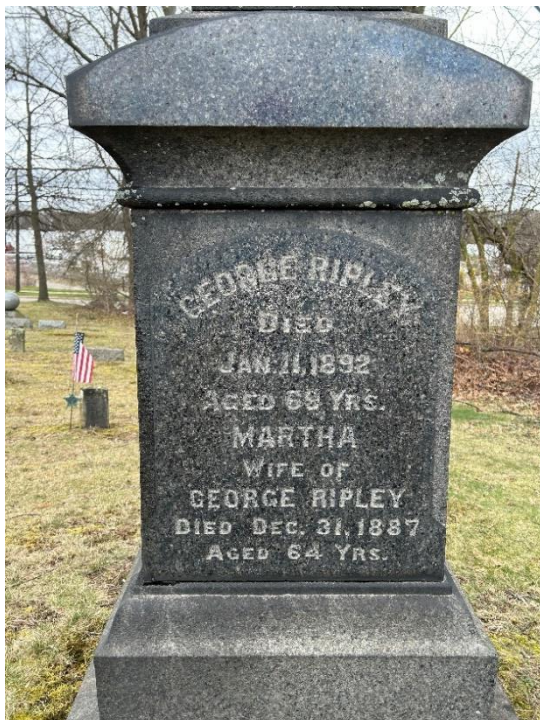
From the 1841 census to the 1891 census Charles Sinclair lived at German House. In 1841 he was there with his mother. He married Jane Elizabeth Mallinson on 2nd June 1850 in Halifax. They baptised four children at St. Matthew's Church: Emily on 23rd March 1851, Arthur on 11th December 1853, Ann on 21st January 1855 and Martha Ann on 4th September 1859. The last baptism was private, probably because little Martha Sinclair was buried at Lightcliffe just a few days later, on 11th September 1859. Her parents had already buried Arthur on 1st January 1854 and then 4-year-old Ann on 4th July 1859 i.e. just before Martha Ann was born. These infants were buried in unknown plots. Two more daughters Mary Eleanor and Clara Sinclair were born in 1863 and 1865 but not baptised at Lightcliffe. By 1901 Charles Sinclair, a widower and retired farmer, had moved to Blackpool with his two unmarried youngest daughters. He died there shortly after the census was taken in Q2 1901.

The second question is :-

Is there a memorial inscription for Yorkshire born Hannah Denison in Tallmadge Ohio?



There is! It is on one side of a RIPLEY monument in Tallmadge Cemetery which some American friends visited and then they very kindly sent these images.



On one side of this memorial is an inscription to four Ripley children including two sons, Joseph and Thomas Ripley, who were born in Springfield, Summit, Ohio, USA – where the family were in 1860 - and died as indicated on this record. Interesting causes of death!

RIPLEY, JOSEPH
d 14 May 1870 Tallmadge; ae
14y 4m; b Springfield; r
Tallmadge; cd scarlet fever;
bk 1, pg 20

RIPLEY, THOMAS
d 23 July 1871 Tallmadge; s;
ae 17y 8m; b Springfield; r
Tallmadge; cd swallowing a
bean; bk 1, pg 38

Their older brother, Lightcliffe born William Ripley, was involved in the American Civil War. The 19-year-old is listed as a 'Private' on the Roster of Company D of the 164th Ohio Infantry. This agrees with his service record on the Graves Registration Card below, taken from *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865*.

Rickard, Levi	do....	26	May	2, 1864	100 dys.	Mustered out with company Aug. 27, 1864.
Ripley, William.....	do....	19	May	2, 1864	100 dys.	Mustered out with company Aug. 27, 1864.
Rowdabush, John ...	do....	23	May	2, 1864	100 dys.	Mustered out with company Aug. 27, 1864.

GRAVES REGISTRATION CARD			
Name	Ripley William		MAHONING CO
Address	*		
Date of Death	7/31/1924	Place	Boardman O.
Cause	cerebral hemorrhage	Date of Burial	Aug. 1924
Date of Birth	1845	Place	England
Name of Cemetery	Riverside	Location	Poland twp. Mah. Co. O.
Lot No.	93	Section No.	* Block No. 6 Grave No. 2
Marker: Flat	X	Upright	None
Next of Kin:	*		*
	(Name)		(Address)
SERVICE RECORD			
War Served In:	Civil War		
Date Enlisted	5/2/1864	Date Discharged	8/27/1862 Serial No. *
Branch of Service	Inf.	Rank	Pvt.
Company, Outfit or Ship	Co. D. 164 OVI. AY		



Lightcliffe born William Ripley (1845 – 1924) and his wife Harriet Jennie née Fritz (1847 – 1934) who married in 1867 have this memorial in Poland Riverside Cemetery, Mahoning County, Ohio

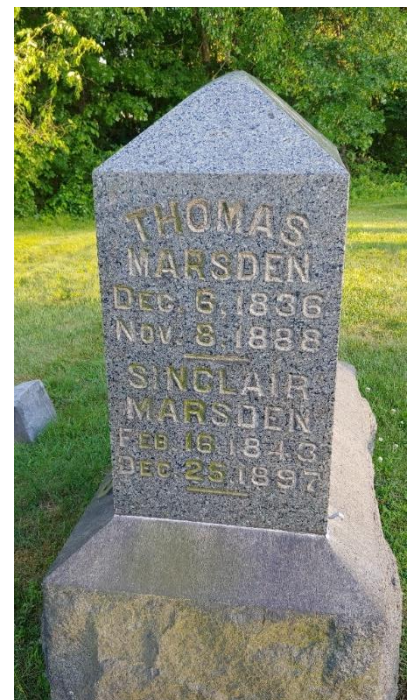
Another Lightcliffe born brother, Charles Ripley, married Betty Curtis on 17th July 1873.

They too were buried in Tallmadge Cemetery, Ohio. Charles Ripley died on 11th March 1911 and his wife Elizabeth M. Ripley on 23rd April 1918.



The surviving Ohio born brothers, John Ripley (1851 – 1931) and Eli Ripley (1853 – 1927), were also buried in Tallmadge Cemetery, Ohio with their wives, Celia (1858 – 1937) and Mary (1856 – 1938).

Going back a generation, to the Ripley sons' aunt, Hannah Dennison's daughter Jane Williams née Marsden. She and her family were also buried at Tallmadge Cemetery, Ohio as recorded on these memorials. Her maiden name was helpfully included. On the reverse side is the memorial inscription to four Williams sons. But is there a memorial inscription on either of the ends?! There would appear to be – look right. The memorial inscription is for Jane's brothers, Hannah's sons, Thomas Marsden and Sinclair Marsden complete with their dates.



The birth date for Thomas fits with his baptism date but that for Sinclair seems to be a year out. Mistakes did and do happen!

But what had these two Marsden brothers been doing since arriving in the USA, whenever that was?

It very much looks as if Thomas Marsden became a soldier in the American Civil War. His birth date – remember 12/6/1836 means 6th December 1836 – on his Graves Registration Card from his *Ohio, U.S., Soldier Grave Registrations, 1804-1958* record agrees with the memorial inscription. Thomas Marsden enlisted in 1861 and served throughout the conflict. As his service record lacks any details about which regiment he served with and what his rank was, no further military information has been found. But did his involvement encourage his nephew William Ripley to join up? Who knows!

GRAVES REGISTRATION CARD			
Name	Marsden, Thomas		
Address	Tallmadge, Ohio	Summit, Co. Ohio	
Date of Death	11/8/1888	Place	Tallmadge, Ohio
Cause	--	Date of Burial	--
Date of Birth	12/6/1836	Place	England
Name of Cemetery	Tallmadge Old	Location	Tallmadge, Ohio
Lot No.	250	Section No.	--
		Block No.	8
		Grave No.	5
Marker: Flat	Yes	Upright	--
		None	--
Next of Kin:	--		
	(Name)	(Address)	
SERVICE RECORD			
War Served In:	Civil War		
Date Enlisted	1861	Date Discharged	1865
		Serial No.	N.S.W.
Branch of Service	Army	Rank	--
Company, Outfit or Ship	--		
A.F. Tallmadge, Pastor			

In 1880 his younger brother Sinclair Marsden was living in Akron, Summit, Ohio. What did he do after his mother died in 1884? Most of the 1890 USA census records were destroyed in a fire in 1921 and so they are no help. But an American lady – a big thank you, Frances – managed to find his name in an article in *The New York Herald* for 27th June 1897.

.... The next morning his wife and Sinclair Marsden came on from Akron, Ohio and they settled in the mud shack – the first house in the coming nation.

It was a picture of gloom. It was time to plant but there was no ground to plant in that was not taken up by trees two feet in diameter or shrubbery. There was no water nearer than half a mile, absolutely nothing for man or beast to eat or drink. Lonsbury wanted a well, but he needed a man to dig it. He watched the opening at the head of the ravine for the appearance of another pioneer, and in a few days White the

shoemaker and his wife fought their way through the swarms of ferocious jiggers and rapacious wood ticks and entered the mud cabin. Marsden, the mechanic, told White the shoemaker that his first duty in Utopia would be to go to the bottom and dig while he stayed at the top and pulled up the dirt from a hole which he hoped might prove to be a well. It was not much of a prospect for a seeker of happiness and contentment, but the men dug. They found water sixty feet lower than the bottom of the valley of the side hill. They then had water but had little food. They worked and lived on bread.

Wikipedia has this information about the Ruskin Colony.

The Ruskin Colony (or Ruskin Commonwealth Association) was a utopian socialist colony which existed near Tennessee City in Dickson County, Tennessee from 1894 to 1896. The colony moved to a slightly more permanent second settlement on an old farm five miles north from 1896 to 1899, and saw another brief incarnation near Waycross, in southern Georgia, from 1899 until it finally dissolved in 1901. At its high point, the population was around 250. The colony was named after John Ruskin, the English socialist writer

How long Sinclair Marsden stayed with the Ruskin Colony can only be guessed at. As his memorial inscription says he died on 25th December 1897. The *Tennessee, U.S., City Death Records, 1872-1923* state that he died in Ward 13, City Hospital, Nashville, Davidson, Tennessee, USA and gave his cause of death as 'Stricture of Urethra'. It also confirms that the 55-year-old, who was born in England, was buried in Tallmadge, Akron.

This family story began in Whitby on the Yorkshire coast in the late eighteenth century. Hannah Sinclair's parents then moved to Lightcliffe where she was born at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Sinclair family resided at German House on the Crow Nest estate in Lightcliffe, renting it from the Walker family. Hannah married twice and was widowed twice. She eventually emigrated to the USA as did various other members of her family, two of whom were involved in the American Civil War. Hannah Denison formerly Marsden née Sinclair was buried in Tallmadge cemetery Ohio, USA, but she is also remembered on a ledger stone in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

For an account of the sea journey that some of the family took across the Atlantic read

From Liverpool to New York in 1850

D.M.Barker

July 2022

Updated March 2025