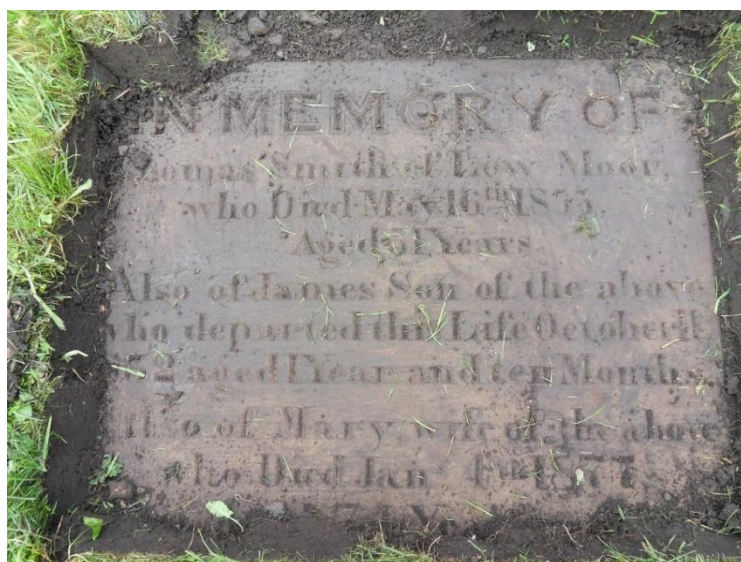


The families of James, Thomas and Benjamin Smith part 1

The ledger stone below was partly cleared after the drought of 2018 when a Friend put a drone up over the churchyard. Images of different coloured rectangular patches of grass indicated where some hidden memorials were buried. At the time volunteers cleared just enough of the stones to determine the surname of those buried in the plots. They were then able to compare them with the transcribed memorial transcriptions that a gentleman, Arthur Blackburn, recorded nearly one hundred years ago. This summer a more complete 'unearthing' of some of these ledger stones has taken place as revealed in the second image.



The memorial inscription above reads

**IN MEMORY OF THOMAS SMITH OF LOW MOOR
WHO DIED MAY 16TH 1855 AGED 51 YEARS
ALSO JAMES SON OF THE ABOVE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
OCTOBER 11TH 1832 AGED 1 YEAR AND 10 MONTHS
ALSO MARY WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED JANUARY 4TH 1877 AGED 74 YEARS
ALSO OF JANE DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED JANUARY 5TH 1885 AGED 44 YEARS**

Then according to the transcriptions Arthur Blackburn made it ends with the words.

HER END IS PEACE

This was the starting point for the research into this particular Smith family, various members of which were buried in the churchyard. Other surnames – Clayton, Gomersall, Greenwood, Holroyd, Shaw and Pybus – came up and a connection with two WW1 soldiers.

There are about two hundred and fifty Smiths buried in the churchyard of which over thirty are John Smiths, nearly twenty are Mary Smiths, about a dozen are James Smiths and ten are Thomas Smiths but there are only three Benjamin Smiths. All these names feature in this particular Lightcliffe Smith family.

From his death date in 1855 and age, 51 years, Thomas Smith of Low Moor was born about 1804. There is a Lightcliffe baptism for a Thomas Smith son of James Smith for 22nd April 1804 which was most probably him. Three other children, with father James Smith, were also baptised at St. Matthew's Church; Rachel on 14th June 1795, Jn'o on 24th September 1797 and Joseph on 3rd May 1801. Benjamin Smith, the son of James Smith, a farmer from Hipperholme, was baptised at St. John's Church, Coley on 26th April 1807 as was his sister Ann on 23rd April 1810 and then their youngest brother James on 20th January 1811. By then the parish records helpfully gave their mother's name as Ann.

There are too many James Smiths born around 1766 in the West Riding of Yorkshire to pinpoint just which one is this James Smith. However, the James Smith who married Ann Spence on 5th November 1794 in Halifax is very likely him.

No marriage record has been found for Thomas Smith and Mary. Similarly, no baptism record has been found for their eldest son James who was presumably named after his paternal grandfather. The death date, 11th October 1832, on the family ledger stone for little James would appear to be a year out as his burial record below is from 1831.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985				
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1831				
James, son of Thomas Smith No. 1018.	Nonwood Green	Oct ^r 13	1 Year	Newell Min ^r

Thomas, a butcher, and Mary Smith of Norwood Green had another son John and then a daughter Nanny baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 25th December 1831 and 9th February 1834 respectively. But their daughter Jane, born 28th May 1840, was baptised at St. John's Church, Coley on 16th August 1840 when again Thomas was a butcher but by then the family had moved to Wyke as the parish records notes.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for John Smith						
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1832						
1831. Decem ^r 25	John	Thomas & Mary	Smith	Norwood Green	Butcher	John Bellamy Off. Minister
No. 1217.						

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for Nanny Smith						
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1834						
Feb ^r 9	Nanny	Thomas & Mary	Smith	Norwood Green	Butcher	W. Wilkinder Min. ^r
No. 1315.						

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for Jane Smith						
Coley, St John > 1840						
1840. 16 th August	Jane	Thomas & Mary	Smith	Wyke	Butcher	William Jelliner Offs Min. ^r
No. 57.						

Meanwhile spinster sister Ann of Hipperholme had a son Richard who was baptised in Halifax on 1st July 1832.

Brother Benjamin Smith married Martha North on 2nd June 1834 again in Halifax. They baptised their daughter Rachel at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on Christmas Day 1834 when her father was a 'Labourer' of Norwood Green.

The 1841 census would appear to agree with all the above information confirming that this was the correct Smith family.

1841 census

James Smith 75 Farmer
Nanny Smith 60
Ann Smith 30
James Smith 30 Horse Dealer
Richard Smith 9
Cornelius Crabtree 20 Ag Lab
Address Norwood Green

The three older Smith siblings Rachel, Jn'o and Joseph Smith have not been positively identified after their Lightcliffe baptisms. Only the families of brothers Thomas and Benjamin will be followed.

1841 census

Thomas Smith 35 Butcher
Mary Smith 35
John Smith 9
Nanny Smith 7
Jane Smith 1
Address Wood Royd, Cleckheaton

1841 census

Benjamin Smith 30 Cow Dealer
Martha Smith 25
Rachel Smith 6
Address Norwood Green

By 1843 Benjamin Smith was farming in Hipperholme according to the baptism records for his sons, James and Benjamin who were baptised at St. John's Church, Coley on 18th June 1843 and 19th August 1849. This was after the death of his father James Smith who was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 26th January 1842 in plot NN*23.

1851 census

Ann Smith Head 75 Widow Annuitant
 Ann Smith Dau 42 Housework
 Richard Smith Grandson 19 Ag Lab
 Address Norwood Green

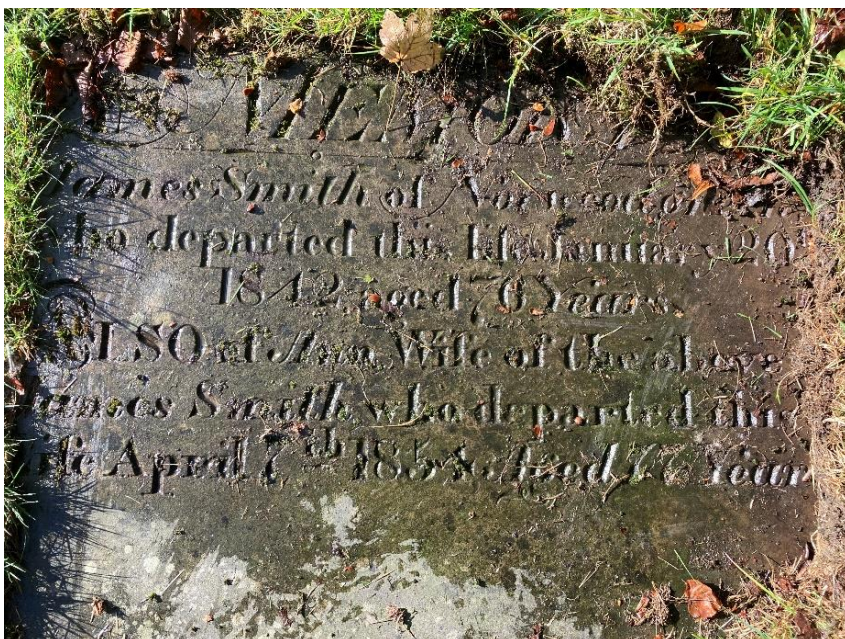
1851 census

Thomas Smith Head 47 Butcher
 Mary Smith Wife 47
 John Smith Son 18 ?Fenery ?Boy? Worsted
 Nancy Smith Dau 16 Worsted Power Weaver
 Jane Smith Dau 10
 Address Carr Lane, North Brierley

1851 census

Benjamin Smith Head 46
 Farmer and Cattle Dealer occupying 11 acres of
 Land employing 2 outdoor servants
 Martha Smith Wife 39 Farmer's Wife
 Rachel Smith Dau 16 Dressmaker's Ass
 James Smith Son 7
 Benjamin Smith Son 11 Mo
 Benjamin North Lodger 22 Gardener
 Address Norwood Green

Ann Smith was buried with her husband in plot NN*23 on 14th April 1854. This ledger stone covers the plot which is situated not far from the north wall of the old church approaching from the Till Carr Lane entrance.



**IN MEMORY OF
 JAMES SMITH
 OF NORWOOD GREEN
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
 JANUARY 20TH 1842
 AGED 76 YEARS**

**ALSO OF ANN
 WIFE OF THE ABOVE
 JAMES SMITH
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
 APRIL 7TH 1854
 AGED 77 YEARS**

A year later their son, Thomas Smith of Carr Lane, Low Moor, died on 15th May 1855. He was buried on 20th May 1855 in plot KK*16 in the closed section of Lightcliffe churchyard i.e. quite close to his parents, James and Ann Smith, with the 'unearthed' ledger stone featured at the beginning of this article.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for Thomas Smith				
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1855				
No. 948.	Thomas Smith	Carr Lane	May 20.	51 years G.B. Rogers Off Minister

Benjamin's and Martha's daughter Rachel Smith married Jeremiah Clayton, a 26-year-old wire drawer from Hipperholme, on 14th August 1859 in Halifax. Martha Clayton, their daughter was born on 8th November 1859, but no baptism record has been found for her. Less than a year later her father died. Jeremiah Clayton was buried at Clifton on 13th October 1860. A few months later her maternal grandfather, Benjamin Smith, died on 1st December 1860. The churchyard plot, MM*21, that he was buried in on 5th December 1860, is very near that for his parents and his brother.

1861 census

Mary Smith Head 57 Widow ?Fat?Bread Maker
 Nanthey Smith Dau 27 Worsted Weaver
 Emma Smith Dau 2 [should be Grnddau]
 Jane Smith Dau 20 Domestic
 John Smith Son 29 Butcher
 Address 106 Carr Lane, North Brierley

1861 census

Martha Smith Head 49 Widow Farmer 11 acres
 Rachael Clayton Dau 26 Widow
 James Smith Son 17 Farmer's Man
 Benjamin Smith Son 11 Son
 Martha Clayton Grddau 1
 Address Norwood Green

No baptism record has been found for Mary Smith's granddaughter Emma. Was she the daughter of Nanny, Jane or John? Who knows!

Widow Rachel Clayton née Smith married Thomas Gomersall on 31st May 1869 and her brother John Smith married Hannah Greenwood in Dewsbury on 2nd November 1869. Hannah Greenwood was the daughter of Jonathan and Marion Greenwood. By the time she married John Smith she already had two children. Anice Greenwood was born on 2nd August 1859 and baptised on 17th June 1860 at St. Mary's Church, Luddenden as the record below shows. [Anice is spelt a number of different ways on later documents.]

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for Anice Greenwood					
Luddenden, St Mary > 1860					
June 17.	Anice	illegitimate Hannah	Greenwood	Harley	born 2 nd August 1859. James Nelson.
No. 534.					

A son James Greenwood was born on 7th November 1867 but not baptised until he was eleven. He appears twice on the 1871 census with a hint as to who his father was!

1871 census

Mary Smith Head 67 Farmer 19 acres
 Joseph Shaw Son-in-law 30 Farmer
 Jane Shaw Wife 30
 Emma Smith Granddaughter 12
 James Greenwood Grandson 4
 Address Wood Royd, North Brierley

1871 census

John Smith Head 39 Butcher & Beerseller
 Hannah Smith Wife 34 Butcher's Wife
 Annis Greenwood Dau 12 Scholar
 James Greenwood Son 4 Scholar
 Address Pat??? Beerhouse, Carr Lane,
 North Brierley

1871 census

Nancy Smith Head 37 Farmer 11 acres
 Martha Clayton Cousin 11 Scholar
 Address Norwood Green

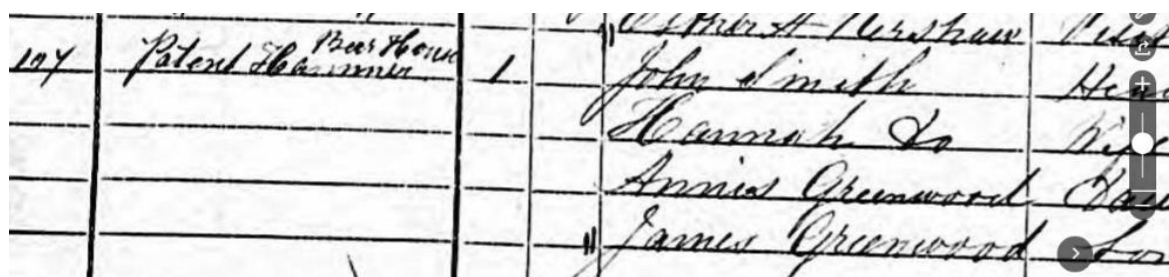
1871 census

Thomas Gommersall Head 31 Farmer 22 acres
 Rachel Gommersall Wife 36 Wife
 Hannah Gommersall Granmother 78 Widow
 Robert Gommersall Cousin 19 Farmer Labourer
 Address Wyke Lane, Wyke

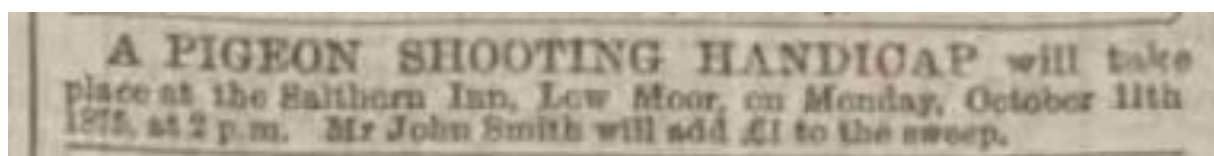
1871 census

James Smith Head 27 Licensed Victualler
 Benj Smith Brother 21 Farm Labourer
 Martha Smith Mother 59 Housekeeper
 Address Norwood Green

Good luck deciphering the name of the 1871 Beerhouse on the census form!



The advertisement below in the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer for 7th October 1875 suggests that John Smith was at the Salthorn Inn, Low Moor by 1875.



This was where Hannah Smith née Greenwood died on 22nd September 1877 aged 41 years. She was buried in plot K1 in St. Matthew's churchyard on 26th September 1877. This plot is quite near some of the other Smith plots but it has a vertical headstone whose memorial inscription helps to identify this Greenwood / Smith / Pybus family including giving useful information about two WW1 soldiers.



The memorial inscription continues

**FAREWELL HUSBAND AND CHILDREN DEAR
I AM AT REST YOU NEED NOT FEAR
SORROWS NOR TROUBLES FOR ME TAKE
BUT LOVE YOUR SAVIOUR FOR MY SAKE**

Now read

The families of James, Thomas and Benjamin Smith part 2

and then

Private Walter and Lance Corporal Herbert Pybus

D.M.Barker

October 2022