

## The Empsall family of Bailiff Bridge part 1



John Empsall married Susannah Stancliffe on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1820 in Halifax. They went on to have nine children most of whom, along with their spouses, were buried in Lightcliffe churchyard as John and Susannah were with the above headstone. As the number of these burials exceeds twenty it is going to be too complicated to follow the family story in chronological order so the children will eventually be dealt with separately and grandchildren may be ignored!

From his death age John Empsall must have been born about 1794 but no baptism that fits has been found. But there is a possible Halifax baptism for Susannah on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1801. Joshua Stancliffe was recorded as the father of Susanna [sic] and a John Stancliffe who was probably one of the witnesses to their 1820 marriage.

The first three Empsall children were baptised at St. John's Church, Coley; James on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1823, Mary on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1825 and Samuel on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1827. Their father was recorded as being a Hipperholme butcher. But the other children were baptised as adults at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe in two batches – John, William, Elizabeth and Fanny on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1864 and then Susannah and Ann on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1864. This was long after their father had died but his occupation was again given as 'Butcher' and just before their mother passed away.

The census information is useful.

1841 census

John Empsall	40	Woolcomber
Susanna Empsall	40	
James Empsall	15	
Mary Empsall	15	
Samuel Empsall	14	
John Empsall	12	
William Empsall	9	
Susanna Empsall	9	
Elizabeth Empsall	5	
Fanny Empsall	2	

Address Birkby Lane, Clifton

In 1841 all the children were at home with Ann born later.

By 1851 father John has died, son James and daughter Mary have married and little Ann has been born.

1851 census

Susanna Empsall	Head	50	Widow
Samuel Empsall	Son	31	Wool comber
John Empsall	Son	22	Wool comber
William Empsall	Son	19	ditto
Susanna Empsall	Dau	19	Weaver
Elizabeth Empsall	Dau	15	Spinner
Fanny Empsall	Dau	11	
Ann Empsall	Dau	8	

Address Bailiffe Bridge

Samuel Empsal [sic] married Sarah Ellis on Christmas Day 1852. They baptised three daughters at St. Matthew's Church before the next census: Rebecca on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1857, Fanny on Christmas Day 1858 and Sarah Jane on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1860. Samuel and family were living next door to his widowed mother and unmarried siblings with older brother James not that far away at the Waggon and Horse Inn.

1861 census

Susanna Empsall	Head	60	Housekeeper
William Empsall	Son	28	Gen Lab
Elizabeth Empsall	Dau	24	Worsted Weaver
Fanny Empsall	Dau	21	Worsted Weaver
Ann Empsall	Dau	18	Worsted Weaver

Address Bailiffe Bridge

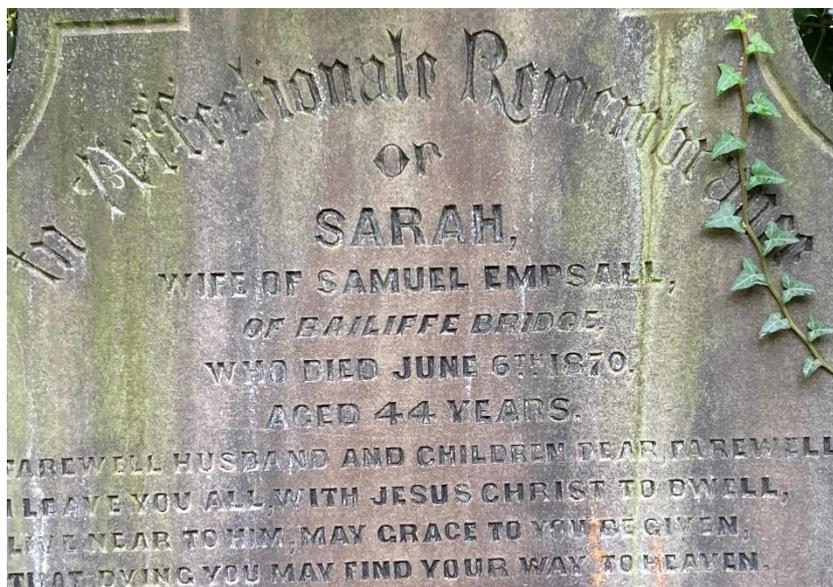
1861 census

Samuel Empsall	Head	32	Dyer
Sarah Empsall	Wife	33	
Rebecca Empsall	Dau	4	
Fanny Empsall	Dau	2	
Sarah Ann Empsall	Dau	1	

Address Bailiffe Bridge

Widow Susannah Empsall died on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1865, aged sixty-five. She was buried with her husband in plot E\*10 on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1865.

Samuel's wife, Sarah died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1870, aged 44 years. The day she was interred in plot S29 on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1870 was the day her youngest daughter Mary Hannah was recorded as being baptised also at St. Matthew's, Lightcliffe.



A few months later, on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1870 widower Samuel married Susannah Robinson the daughter of John Robinson. This left the household looking like this in 1871 and 1881.

1871 census

Samuel Empsall Head 44 Dyer  
 Susannah Empsall Wife 46 Wife  
 Rebecca Empsall Dau 14 Carpet Mill Hand  
 Fanny Empsall Dau 12 ditto  
 Sarah J Empsall Dau 11 ditto  
 Martha H Empsall Dau 5  
 Address Birkby Lane, Clifton and Hartshead

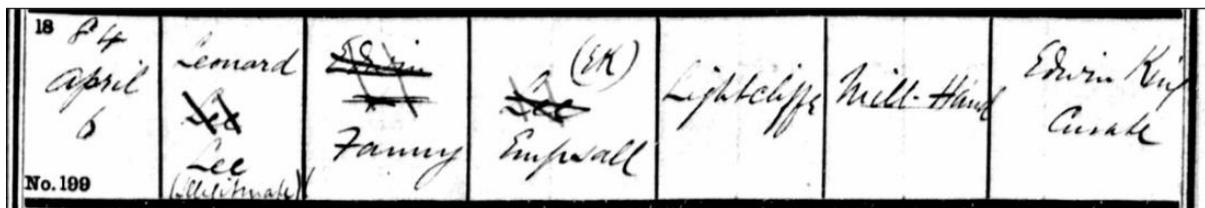
1881 census

Samuel Empsall Head 54 Dyer  
 Susannah Empsall Wife 56  
 Rebecca Empsall Dau 24 Print Winder  
 Fanny Empsall Dau 22 ditto  
 Martha Empsall Dau 16 Silk Grabber  
 Leonard Empsall Grndson 1  
 Address Lightcliffe

Fanny Empsall had a son Leonard, born on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1880, whose birth was registered in the Halifax district.

Peel family  
 Sarah Empsall Serv 21 Cook  
 Address Bramley Lane, Hipperholme

The 1884 Lightcliffe baptism record below almost certainly identifies the father of Leonard Empsall/Lee as Edwin Lee.



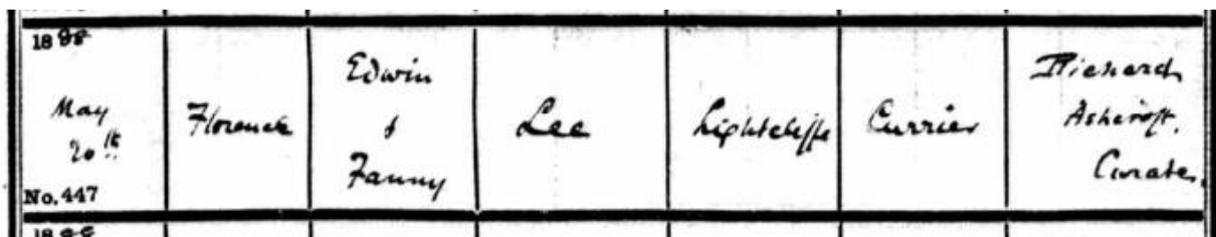
Fanny Empsall and Edwin Lee had married the year before in Q3 1883 in the Halifax district. There was understandable confusion over the four-year old's names! Edwin's Lee family have many links with St. Matthew's Church. Their story has already been told in

**The Lee family parts 1 & 2**

Little Leonard's aunts Rebecca and Sarah Jane Empsall were also married in the 1880s. Rebecca to Thomas Marsden on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1883 and Sarah Jane to William Sherwood on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1885; both in St. John's Church, Halifax.

**The Sherwood family of Hipperholme and Lightcliffe**

has already been told. The Marsden family story will follow later. Florence Lee was born on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1888. She was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1888.



1891 census

Samuel Empsall Head 64 Dye House Labourer  
Susannah Empsall Wife 66  
Martha H Empsall Dau 26 Cotton Sizer  
Leonard Empsall Grandson 10  
Address  
Holme Cottages, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

Edwin and Fanny Lee were both recorded as being married on the 1891 census but Edwin was boarding in Keighley whilst Fanny was with her sister and brother-in-law in Lightcliffe.

1891 census

Thomas Marsden Head 37 Quarryman  
Rebecca Marsden Wife 35  
Fanny Lee Sister 32 Charwoman  
Florence Lee Niece 3  
Address 8 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1891 census

Edwin Lee Boarder 30 Leather Belt Maker  
Address 15 Russell St., Keighley

Doris Marsden was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1896. She was baptised on the same day as her cousin May Sherwood. Their cousin Willie Lee, who was born on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1896, was also baptised at Lightcliffe on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1898.

1896 Aug 9 No. 837	Doris	Thomas Rebecca	Marsden	Ripley St Quarry Lightcliffe	J Lindon Parson
1896 Aug 9 No. 838	May	William Sarah Jane	Sherwood	Hill St Lightcliffe	J Lindon Parson

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for Willie Lee  
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1898

1898 April No. 683	Willie	Edwin or Fanny	Lee	Bailiff Bridge	Beltmaker	J R Hill
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1901 census

Samuel Empsall Head 74 Retired Labourer  
Susannah Empsall Wife 77  
Martha H Empsall Dau 36  
Leonard Empsall Grandson 20 Carpet Weaver  
Address Holme Terrace, Hipperholme

Notice that Leonard Empsall was still living with his grandfather and aunt Martha Hannah Empsall. Florence Lee was with her Marsden aunt and uncle. Only Willie Lee was with his parents.

1901 census

Thomas Marsden Head 46 Stone Quarryman  
Rebecca Marsden Wife 44  
Doris Marsden Dau 4  
Florence Lee Niece 14 Cotton Turner  
Address Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1901 census

Edwin Lee Head 40 Leather Belt Maker  
Fanny Lee Wife 43  
Willie Lee Son 4  
Address No 9 Hill St., Bingley

Leonard Lee – note not Empsall – married Alice Whitlock on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1903 at St. Matthew’s Church, Lighcliffe. Their son Walter was born on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1906. He too was baptised at Lightcliffe on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

1903 Marriage solemnized at St. Matthew's Church in the Parish of Lighcliffe in the County of York.

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.
Nov. 26. 1903	Leonard Lee	23	Bachelor	Copper wren	Lighcliffe	John Lee	Carrier
	Alice Whitlock	27	Spinster	—	Parliffe Bridge	Smith Whitlock (Decd)	Belver.

solemnized in the Parish of Lighcliffe according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England & the same by us J. Mitchell Vicar of St. M.

Marriage was solemnized by us Leonard Lee in the Presence of us John Edward Mitchell  
Alice Whitlock Mary Jane Glass

1906		Leonard				
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Walter	and	Lee	16 April 1906	Wearon	H. A. Keen
No. 1223		Alice				

When Samuel Empsall’s second wife died on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1905 she was buried with his first wife in plot S29 on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1905. Samuel joined them on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1907.



A month after her father died his eldest daughter passed away on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1907. Rebecca Marsden née Empsall was buried in plot F16 on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1907.

Her niece, Florence Lee, who had lived with the Marsdens married Wilfred Owen on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1908. They had two daughters before the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1911 census. Alice born 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1909 and Nellie born Q1 1911. More children would follow but none of them apart from Alice were baptised at St. Matthew's.

1908. Marriage solemnized at St. Matthew's Church in the Parish of Lightcliffe in the County of York

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.
340	October 17 <sup>th</sup> 1908.	Wilfred Owen	22	Bachelor	Carpet Weaver	5 Church Gate Brighouse	Joseph Owen	Leather Belt Maker
		Florence Lee	20	Spinster	—	18 Ripley Street Lightcliffe	Edwin Lee	Belt Maker

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church of England by me, R. Peers with Hon.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Wilfred Owen and Florence Lee in the Presence of us, Leonard Lee and Ethel Owen nee Longbottom

1909.		Wilfred & Florence	Owens.	Ripley Street Lightcliffe.	Carpet Weaver	R. Peers. Wetherington
May 30.	Alice				Born May 3. 1909	
No. 1345						

#### 1911 census

Thomas Marsden Head 56 Stone Hewer  
 Doris Marsden Dau 14 Carpet Weaver  
 Wilfred Owen Nephew in law 24 Carpet Weaver  
 Florence Owen Niece 23  
 Alice Owen Niece's Dau 1  
 Nellie Owen Niece's Dau 2/12  
 Address 11 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

The detail on this census indicated that Fanny Lee had had 3 children, and all were alive. However, Leonard and Alice Lee seem to have lost a child but no record of a baptism nor a burial has been found.

Notice the occupants of Ripley Street.

#### 1911 census

Edwin Lee Head 49 Leather Belt Maker  
 Fanny Lee Wife 52  
 Willie Lee Son 14 Patent Glazier  
 Address Caretaker, Hellewells Patent Glazing Works, Birdsroyd, Rastrick, Brighouse

#### 1911 census

Leonard Lee Head 30 Carpet Weaver  
 Alice Lee Wife 34  
 Walter Lee Son 5  
 Address 16 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

#### 1911 census

Martha Hannah Empsall Head 46 Charwoman  
 Address 19 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

Thomas Marsden died on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1917, aged 62. He was buried with his wife Rebecca in plot F16 on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1917. Just over a year later, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1918 his sister-in-law Fanny Lee died. She was buried in plot D57 with her in-laws Benjamin and Elizabeth Lee. Her son Willie Lee married Mary A McHardy in Q3 1919. Then widower Edwin Lee married widow Annie Wormald née Barker on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1920. Their Non-conformist marriage record gave his address as 15 Dale Street and Annie's as 6 Water Court, both in Brighouse.

1921 census

Gordon family  
Martha H Empsall Servant 49 Cook  
Address Fairfax Hall, Menston

1921 census

Leonard Lee Head 40 Foreman Carpet Weaving  
for T F Firth & Sons Ltd Carpet Manufacturers  
Alice Lee Wife 44 Home Duties  
Walter Lee Son 15 Full time Scholar  
Address 1 East View, Lightcliffe

1921 census

Wilfred Owen Head 34 Carpet Weaver  
for T F Firth & Sons Carpet Manufacturers  
Florence Owen Wife 33 Home Duties  
Alice Owen Dau 12 Scholar Whole Time  
Nellie Owen Dau 10 Scholar Whole Time  
Lena Owen Dau 7 Scholar Whole Time  
Robert Empsall Owen Son 5 Scholar Whole Time  
Bernard Garfitt Owen Son 2  
Address The Bungalows, Wyke Lane, Bailiff Bridge

Notice Robert Owen's middle name and then that of his younger brothers. Ralph Marsden Owen and Lloyd Garfitt Owen were born on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1921 and 5<sup>th</sup> September 1924.

1921 census

Willie Lee Head 24 Steel Sash & Casement Fitter  
for Mssrs Hellewell & Co Ltd Patent Glaziers and  
Steel Sash and Casement Makers  
Address 15 Dale St., Brighouse

Although Willie Lee was married and by then had two small children neither they nor his wife have been found on the 1921 census.

1921 census

Edwin Lee Head 59 Leather Belting Maker  
For Machine Messrs J Blakeborough & Son Ltd,  
Engineers And Valve Makers  
Annie Lee Wife 64 Home Duties  
Address 6 Water Court, Brighouse

Four-year-old Bernard Garfitt Owen died on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1923. He was buried in plot F83 on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1923. This plot is near the wall between middle and new sections of the churchyard.

His cousin Walter Lee, son of Leonard Lee, may be the Walter Lee in this article in the Halifax Evening Courier 03 November 1923.

#### LIGHTCLIFFE CHURCH ORGANIST

Mr Norman Lister has tendered his resignation as deputy organist of St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, on his appointment as organist of the Mission Church, Norwood Green. For many years he has served the parish in this position. The good wishes of the congregation are extended to him in his new sphere of labour. Mr Walter Lee has been appointed his successor

Grandfather Edwin Lee died five years later but was not buried in Lightcliffe with his wife Fanny and his parents. The exact date of his death is also unknown but the Leeds Mercury for the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1928 helpfully reported on

#### TWO BRADFORD INQUESTS

Verdicts of "Death from natural causes" were returned at inquests yesterday, on Edwin Lee (66), leather belt maker, of Dale Street, Brighouse, who collapsed and died in Beckside Road, Bradford and

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Walter Lee married Jean Isabella Sykes on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1927 at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. They had two daughters Alice Elizabeth born Q4 1928 and Shirley born Q4 1934.

His great aunt Martha Hannah Empsall must have returned from Menston to live with his father, Leonard Lee. Until he married Leonard Empsall/Lee had lived with his grandparents and so aunt and nephew had lived together before – look back at the census data.

Halifax Evening Courier 22 April 1935

**DIED IN PRECINCTS OF CHURCH  
LIGHTCLIFFE SPINSTER'S COLLAPSE**

Miss Martha Hannah Empsall (70) who lived with a nephew, Mr. Leonard Lee, at 1, East View, Lightcliffe died suddenly in the precincts of St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, during an early morning service yesterday. Miss Empsall left home about 7 am to attend Holy Communion. She was observed to be somewhat out of breath on entering the church, and she had only been in church a few minutes when she walked out again. She was followed by Mrs. Turner, to whom she had spoken. Soon

after sitting down in a chair, she collapsed. Dr. Laurie was summoned, but Miss Empsall had passed away before he arrived. She had had a long association with the church.

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer  
23 April 1935

A verdict of "Natural causes" was recorded at an inquest at Hipperholme yesterday on Miss Martha Hannah Empsall (70), of East View, Lightcliffe, who collapsed and died while attending Holy Communion at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, on Sunday



Martha Hannah Empsall was buried with her parents and stepmother in plot S29 of Lightcliffe churchyard on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1935.

EMPSALL Martha Hannah of 1 East View Lightcliffe near Halifax spinster died 21 April 1935 at the Parish Church Lightcliffe Administration London 7 June to Leonard Lee retired works foreman. Effects £868 8s 8d

Many more connections between this extended family and St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe are contained in

**The Empsall family of Bailiffe Bridge part 2**

D.M.Barker

November 2022