

The Marsdens of Hove Edge part 1

Very many Marsdens were baptised and interred at St. Matthew's. Lightcliffe and most of them will probably be related. However, it is difficult to be absolutely sure of the exact relationship especially between the early Marsdens so this article will concentrate on those related by marriage to the Sherwoods as promised in

The Sherwoods of Hipperholme and Lightcliffe

Abraham Marsden was definitely the grandfather of Thomas Marsden who married Rebecca Empsall. He was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 22nd November 1787 the son of John Marsden. This John Marsden, a mason of Hipperholme, had married Elizabeth (Betty) Tate, of Hipperholme, on 15th May 1780 in Halifax which fits with two – possibly three - Lightcliffe baptisms; another John on 6th June 1785, Abraham in 1787 and William on 14th March 1790. This John Marsden may have also been baptised at Lightcliffe on 23rd September 1753, the son of another John Marsden.

Abraham Marsden was a gardener who married Elizabeth (Betty) Midgley on 25th September 1809 at St. John's, Halifax. Elizabeth may well have been the daughter of Robert Midgley baptised at Lightcliffe on 13th October 1794. In which case seven other Midgley siblings were baptised at St. Matthew's between 1787 and 1807 before 56-year-old Robert Midgley was buried in the churchyard on 11th July 1821.

As the parish records from June 1810 record both parents' first names there is a degree of certainty about Abraham and Elizabeth's family of nine children, all of whom were baptised at St. Matthew's Church: Hannah on 1st July 1810, Martha on 14th November 1813, Matilda on 28th July 1816, Midgley on 31st January 1819, James on 29th April 1821, Sarah on 4th June 1824, William on 12th August 1828, Thomas on 13th February 1831 and finally Elizabeth on 18th September 1833. All but Matilda survived beyond infancy. She was buried in an unknown plot on 23rd March 1817 aged 11 months.

Martha Marsden married Lawrence Howarth on 20th April 1835 in Halifax. He was a 'Comber' and they were both recorded as being from Hipperholme. The two 25-year-olds were in Southowram on 6th June 1841. Of the rest of her family only her brother William has been found in the 1841 census. He was an apprentice to his uncle Joseph Midgley. On 27th April 1842 brother James was buried at Lightcliffe, he was only 21 years old. His abode was given as Hove Edge which was also that recorded when his 51-year-old mother, Elizabeth Marsden, was buried on 15th January 1843, 18-year-old brother Thomas on 23rd April 1849 and then his 62-year-old father Abraham on 20th October 1850. They were all recorded as being interred in an unknown plot perhaps even the same plot but there is no way of confirming this.

The surviving members of the family were scattered for the 1851 census. Eldest daughter Hannah was with her widower uncle Joseph Midgley and a cousin, Mary Midgley, in Nab End. Youngest sister, 17-year-old Elizabeth, was with their married sister Martha Howarth and her husband Lawrence in Southowram. Brother and sister Sarah Marsden aged 26 and William Marsden aged 23 may have incorrectly been recorded as husband and wife living at Hove Edge. Their ages and abode fit and William was a 'Hewer of Stone'.

Surprisingly, with such an unusual name Midgley Marsden has not been found in the 1841 nor the 1851 census. He married Ann Schofield Q2 1841 in the Halifax district. They had Sarah and then Schofield Marsden baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 7th July 1844 and 26th October 1845. Each time Midgley was a 'Wool comber' of Hove Edge.

There were a number of Marsden weddings before the next census, all at St. John's, Halifax. Sarah married Joseph Booth on 26th July 1852 and then later that year Hannah married James Blackburn on 18th November. William married Hannah Longbottom on 29th July 1853. And finally, Elizabeth married a widower George Barrett on 1st August 1859 a year after the birth of her daughter Martha Elizabeth Marsden who was baptised in Halifax on 25th April 1858.

Only the family still living locally and/or with connections to St. Matthew's Church will be followed from now on. For the 1861 census brother and sister William Marsden and Sarah Booth were actually living next door to one another in Hove Edge with other family close by. Along with William's occupation this suggests that they were in the same household in 1851. William and Hannah's children were batched baptised in Brighouse on 31st October 1859 but the census ages tell you roughly when they were born.

1861 census

James Blackburn Head 48 Silk Spinner
Hannah Blackburn Wife 48
Address
Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

1861 census

Joseph Booth Head 38 Delver of Stone
Sarah Booth Wife 37
Address
Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

1861 census

Midgley Marsden Head 41 Silk Washer
Ann Marsden Wife 40
Address
Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

1861 census

William Marsden Head 33 Flag facer
Hannah Marsden Wife 28
Thomas Marsden Son 6 Scholar
Abram Marsden Son 4 ditto
James Marsden Son 2
James Longbottom Boarder 66
Chelsea Pensioner
Address
Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

Midgley's and Ann's daughter Sarah Marsden was probably a servant in Halifax but their son Schofield Marsden has not been found.

James Longbottom, was Hannah Marsden's father but why was he recorded as being a Chelsea Pensioner?

Read

The Longbottom family

William and Hannah Marsden had four more children: Sarah Ann born 1st October 1861, John born 12th April 1864, Joseph born Q3 1867 and Fred Q4 1870.

Ann Marsden née Schofield wife of Midgley Marsden died on 6th June 1863 aged 42. She was buried in the section of the churchyard surrounding the old church in plot II*15 on 11th June 1863. Later that year her 53-year-old sister-in-law, Hannah Blackburn née Marsden, was also interred in the churchyard but in an unknown plot on 21st October 1863.

Her husband, widower James Blackburn, married Sophie Collins née Barber on 7th September 1867 in Halifax. Sophie, the daughter of Henry and Hannah Collins of Hipperholme, had previously married Charles Collins on 1st November 1846. Both her parents and her first husband were interred in St. Matthew's churchyard. Hannah Barber of Wood-bottom was buried in an unknown plot on 12th November 1854. Charles Collins and Henry Barber appear to be buried in one of our 'missing' plots for which we have a transcription of the memorial inscription recorded by Arthur Blackburn nearly a hundred years ago. It read

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN SMITH
OF SUTCLIFFE WOOD BOTTOM
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE AUGUST 20TH 1823
AGED 63 YEARS**

**LET FRIENDS FORBEAR TO MOURN AND WEEP
WHILST SWEETLY IN THE DUST I SLEEP
THIS TOILSOME WORLD I'VE LEFT BEHIND
A GLORIOUS CROWN I HOPE TO FIND**

**ALSO OF CHARLES COLLINS
WHO DIED AUGUST 20TH 1864
AGED 40 YEARS**

**ALSO OF HENRY BARBER
WHO DIED DECEMBER 6TH 1868
AGED 71 YEARS**

This poses a few questions which will have to remain unanswered for the time being.

Where is this memorial now?

Why the long gap before the plot was used again?

What relationship, if any, was there between John Smith and the other two men?

Widower Midgley Marsden married a widow Mary Jane Smith on 20th August 1866 in Halifax. He was 47 years old and Mary Jane, the daughter of Isaac Kershaw, was 32 years old. She had previously been married to a 'Boatman' John Smith – another one!! - and had a son Abraham Smith born Q3 1860. Midgley and Mary Jane Marsden had two daughters baptised at St. Matthew's Church: Ann on 27th September 1867 and Elizabeth on 17th April 1870.

His son from his first marriage, Schofield Marsden married Edna Smith on 25th November 1870. Edna Smith was born on 5th May 1847 the daughter of Harriet Smith of Slead Syke according to her 26th November 1864 baptism record at St. Martin's, Brighouse. Harriet Smith also appears to have had a son William Smith baptised in Halifax, as she then lived in Southowram, on 2nd October 1831. Twenty years later a daughter Mary Smith born 18th August 1850 was baptised at All Hallows, Kirkburton on 15th June 1851.

1871 census

Midgley Marsden Head 52 Silk Boiler
Mary Jane Marsden Wife 38
Abram ditto [Smith] Step Son 10
Ann Marsden Dau 4
Elizabeth Marsden Dau 1
Address Hove Edge, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

1871 census

Harriet Smith Head 59
William Smith Son 31 Quarryman
Mary Smith Dau 20 Mill Hand
Schofield Marsden Son in law 24 Gardener
Edna Marsden Dau 23
Address Slead Syke, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

1871 census

William Marsden Head 44 Quarry Man
Hannah Marsden Wife 37 Wife
Thomas Marsden Son 16 Quarry Boy
Abram Marsden Son 14 ditto
James Marsden Son 12 Half time at Mill
Sarah Ann Marsden Dau 9 ditto
John Marsden Son 7 Scholar
Joe Marsden Son 4
Fred Marsden Son 5/12
Address Yew Cottage, Hill Top, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

1871 census

James Blackburn Head 60 Silk Washer
Sophie Blackburn Wife 45
Address Hove Edge, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

At the time of the 1871 census Edna Marsden must have been pregnant as their daughter Annie was born on 5th May 1871 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 9th July 1871. Her father Schofield Marsden was a gardener of Slead Syke. Edna Marsden née Smith died shortly after that on 4th August 1871 aged just 24. She was buried in the Lightcliffe plot Q7 owned by Schofield Marsden, on 8th August 1871.



Midgley and his second wife Mary Jane then had two sons: Johnnie born Q 1871 and Thomas born 6th October 1873. Johnnie does not appear to have been baptised before he died aged just 15 months and was buried in the churchyard on 28th December 1872. But Thomas was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 7th December 1873 when his father Midgley was again a 'Silk boiler' from 'Hough Edge'.

The 29-year-old widower Schofield Marsden married 22-year-old Ellen Elizabeth Lee on 26th August 1874 in Sheffield. They had two sons Charles Henry and Herbert Riley, born 23rd December 1877, baptised at St. Matthew's on 6th February 1876 and 7th July 1878. This was when the gardener was still living at Slead Syke. Sometime later this Marsden family moved to Bingley where another son Arthur Edward Marsden was born on 1st September 1880.

Mary Smith the daughter of Harriet Smith died on 9th April 1875. She was the first occupant of plot Q8 - next to her married sister Edna Marsden – when she was buried there on 13th April 1875. Their 67-year-old mother, Harriet Smith was interred in plot Q8 on 4th November 1880. And then when Harriet's sister Elizabeth died on 8th February 1883 aged 77, she too was interred in plot Q8 on 10th February 1883.

Halifax Evening Courier 29 September 1877

SUDDEN DEATH – A man named James Blackburn, silk dresser, of Hove Edge, died suddenly while in John King-lane, on Thursday afternoon. He was on his way home, in company with a man named Marsden, when he was noticed to cough; blood began to ooze from his mouth., and he died immediately. It was found that a blood vessel had burst.

James Blackburn the widower of Hannah née Marsden was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 1st October 1877. He appears to be the only occupant of Lightcliffe plot P4 owned by his second wife Sophie. The plot is next to a Blackburn headstone, but his possible relationship to the occupants has not been worked out.

William and Hannah Marsden's son James married Mary Elizabeth Brook Q4 1880 in the Halifax district leaving the related Marsden households looking like this on 3rd April 1881.

1881 census

Midgley Marsden Head 62 Silk Boiler
Mary J. Marsden Wife 46
Abram S. Marsden Son 20 Stone miner
Ann Marsden Dau 14 Mill hand silk
Elzbth. Marsden Dau 11 Mill hand silk
Thos. Marsden Son 7 Scholr
Address 8 Hove Edge, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

1881 census

Schofield Marsden Head 34 Gardener
Ellen Marsden Wife 28
Annie Marsden Dau 9 Scholar
Chas.Hy. Marsden Son 5 ditto
Herbert R. Marsden Son 3
Arthur Marsden Son 7m
Address 7 Peel St., Bingley

1881 census

Will Marsden Head 54 Quarryman
Hannah Marsden Wife 48
Thomas Marsden Son 26 Stone ditto
Sarah Marsden Dau 24 Worsted Twister
John Marsden Son 19 Wire Drawer
Fred Marsden Son 13 Scholar
Abraham Marsden Son 16 Miner Stone
Arthur Marsden Son 2
Address Bramley Lane, Hipperholme

1881 census

Mary Brook Head 47
William Brook Son 17
James Marsden Son in law 22 Silk dresser
Mary E. Marsden Dau 20
Address Branx Holme Sq, Wyke

James and Mary Elizabeth Marsden had daughters Ethel born Q4 1881 and Ada born 5th January 1884. But just before Ada was born there was this death announcement in the Brighthouse & Rastrick Gazette of 17th November 1883. This was the same day that he was buried in plot J67 in Lightcliffe churchyard owned by his wife Mary Elizabeth Marsden. She must have been heavily pregnant with Ada when he died.

MARSDEN – Nov 14, aged 24 James Marsden, silk dresser, Lightcliffe

Their oldest daughter Ethel was also buried there on Christmas Eve 1886. She was just five when she died two days before.

William and Hannah's eldest son Thomas Marsden married Rebecca Empsall on 10th February 1883 in Halifax. The Empsall story has already been told.

The Empsall family of Bailiffe Bridge

Schofield Marsden's second wife Ellen Elizabeth née Lee died on 4th August 1883 presumably in Bingley. But she was brought back to Lightcliffe to be interred in the plot, Q7, that Schofield owned along with his first wife. However, as you will see later, Ellen's name was not added to the memorial inscription on the headstone. Again left with small children widower Schofield Marsden married Martha Davies on 17th February 1885 at All Saints, Bingley. They would go on to have four children; Gladys Martha born 31st October 1886, Ethel Q4 1888, Fred Q3 1891 and Ernest on 15th May 1897. All these births were registered in the Keighley district.

Little Arthur Marsden, William and Hannah's youngest son, died aged 6 on 21st September 1886. He was buried next to his much older brother, James, in plot, J68, owned by his father on 23rd September 1885.

Nineteen-year-old Ann Marsden, the daughter of Midgley and Mary Jane, was buried on 9th April 1886 with her father's first wife in in plot II*15 with this dedication on its ledger stone.



**IN MEMORY OF
ANN WIFE OF MIDGLEY MARSDEN
OF HOVE EDGE WHO DIED JUNE 6TH
1863 AGED 42 YEARS**

**ALSO OF ANN DAUGHTER OF
MIDGLEY & MARY JANE MARSDEN
OF HOVE EDGE WHO DIED APRIL 6TH
1886 AGED 19 YEARS.**

William Marsden died on 18th February 1891 just before the census was taken. He was buried with his young son in plot, J68, in Lightcliffe churchyard on 21st February 1891.

1891 census

Midgley Marsden Head 72 General Labourer
Mary J Marsden Wife 56
Elizabeth Marsden Dau 22 Silk spinner
Thomas Marsden Son 17 Stone dresser apprentice
Address
Hove Edge Cottage, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

Mary Jane's son Abraham Smith/Marsden may have married but no record further records have been found for him.

1891 census

Schofield Marsden Head 45 Gardener
Martha Marsden Wife 33
Annie Marsden Dau 19 Worsted Spinner
Charles Henry Marsden Son 15 ditto
Herbert Riley Marsden Son 13 ditto
Arthur Edward Marsden Son 10 ditto
Gladys Martha Marsden Dau 4
Ethel Marsden Dau 2
Address 59 Ferncliffe Rd., Bingley

Doris Marsden the only child of Thomas and Rebecca née Empsall was born on 22nd June 1896. She was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 9th August 1896, the same day as a cousin, May Sherwood, was baptised.

When William Smith, Schofield Marsden's brother-in-law, died on 30th September 1896 he was buried with his sister, mother and aunt in plot Q8 on 3rd October 1896. The headstone says

**IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF
MARY SMITH OF SLEAD SYKE
WHO DIED APRIL 9TH 1875
AGED 25 YEARS**

**ALSO OF HARRIET SMITH THE
MOTHER OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED
NOVEMBER 4TH 1880
AGED 69 YEARS**

**ALSO OF ELIZABETH SMITH SISTER
OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED
FEBRUARY 8TH 1883
AGED 77 YEARS**

**ALSO OF WILLIAM SMITH SON OF
THE ABOVE HARRIET SMITH WHO
DIED SEP 30TH 1896
AGED 64 YEARS**



1891 census

Hannah Marsden Head 57 Head
Abram Marsden Son 32 Flag facer - Stone
Sarah Ann Marsden Dau 29 Mill Hand - Cotton
John Marsden Son 25 Mill Hand - Wire
Fred Marsden Son 20 Mill Hand - Carpet
Address 13 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1891 census

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

1891 census

Mary Brook Head 57 Head
William Brook Son 27 Cotton Twiner
Mary E Marsden Dau 30 Widow Cotton Warper
Ada Marsden Grnddau 7 Scholar
Address
Gomersall Buildings, Wakefield Rd., Lightcliffe

Mary Jane Marsden formerly Smith née Kershaw died on 20th August 1897. She was buried in a new Marsden plot, F15, on 23rd August 1897 with her memorial inscription on the stone at the head of the plot.



To continue this Marsden story into the 20th century read

The Marsdens of Hove Edge part 2

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