

Some more occupants of Slead Hall



Malcolm Bull's Calderdale Companion

The articles

The Gibsons and Firths of Slead Hall

The Macaulays of Slead Hall

fill you on the early ownership and occupancy of Slead Hall up to 1841 when the place was occupied as follows :-

1841 census

Mary Macaulay	55	Independent means
George Macaulay	30	Land Surveyor
Fredrick Macaulay	10	

Address Slead Hall, Hipperholme

Mary Macaulay née Redfern was the widow of surgeon Abraham Firth Macaulay who had died in 1823. On 6th June 1841 she had a son and a grandson living with her. George Gibson Macaulay, a solicitor and land surveyor, was the third of the six Macaulay sons. The grandson, Frederick Redfern Macaulay, was the motherless only child of eldest son William Henry Macaulay. The ownership of Slead Hall appears to have passed from Abraham Firth Macaulay to at least his three eldest sons, William Henry, Thomas Firth and George Gibson Macaulay according to the Electoral registers for West Yorkshire taken in the early 1840s. George Gibson Macaulay was clearly living there in 1841 but after George died in 1842 his brother Thomas Firth Macaulay is recorded as living there in 1844. Perhaps he and his family moved in with his widowed mother.

But what happened after widow Mary Macaulay died in 1848?

Again, the *West Yorkshire Electoral Registers* for 1848 and 1849 are useful, noting that Henry Armytage resided but did not own Slead Hall. More about Henry Armytage can be found in the write up about

Joseph Armytage's family

The 1851 census for Hipperholme is particularly unhelpful as all abodes are given as Hipperholme. But it seems likely that these Armytages or Armitages – the spelling does vary – were living at Sleed Hall in 1851. And as the Lightcliffe parish register records Sleed Hall as the abode when Henry and Mary Holt Armytage baptised five daughters at St. Matthew's Church from 1843 to 1851 it is more than likely that they moved in after George Gibson Macaulay died in 1842.

1851 census

Henry Armitage	Head	35	Cotton Yarn Agent
Mary H Armitage	Wife	31	
Eliza Armitage	Dau	3	
Frances G Armitage	Dau	1	
Eliza Graham	Visitor	28	
Ann Bradshaw	Servant	29	Servant
Sarah Gledhill	Servant	24	ditto

Address Hipperholme

In 1861 another family were recorded as occupying Sleed Hall along with the Armytages.

1861 census

Henry Armytage	Head	45	Commission Agent
Isabella Armytage	Wife	32	
Ada Louisa Armytage	Dau	17	
Eliza Jesse Armytage	Dau	13	
Frances Gertrude Armytage	Dau	11	
Annie Braithwaite	Visitor	30	
Cha Jas Graham	Visitor	30	
Mary Oliverson	Servant	26	

Address Sleed Hall, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

1861 census

Henry Byrne	Head	58	Card manufacturer
Ann Byrne	Dau	28	Proprietor of houses
Charlotte Byrne	Dau	25	Proprietor of houses
Frances Byrne	Dau	23	Proprietor of houses
Sarah North		29	Household servant
Sarah Heakston		20	ditto

Address Sleed Hall. Hipperholme with Brighthouse

Again, this agrees with the information on the Electoral Register which had Henry Byrne at Sleed Hall each year from 1861 to 1875.

1871 census

Henry Byrne	Head	64	Head
Anne Byrne	Dau	37	
Mary Eliz Haking	Dau	35	
Charlotte Byrne	Dau	33	
Frances Byrne	Dau	31	
Anna Maria Byrne	Dau	24	
Corprill Byrne	Grndson	9	
Mary Byrne	Sister	31	
Mary Barth	Servant	25	Servant
Ann Micklethwate	Servant	24	Servant

Address Sleed Hall, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

The Brighthouse News 11 January 1879 announced the death of

BYRNE -- On the 3rd inst., Henry Byrne, late of Sleed Hall, near Brighthouse, aged 76 years

Meanwhile Laura Macaulay the only child of Charles Harold Macaulay and his wife Ann formerly Atherton née Armitage married Captain Farquhar Forbes-Robertson on 19th June 1871 in Rastrick. They may initially have lived at Woodhouse, Rastrick as the Electoral Register below for 1875 records. Farquhar Forbes-Robertson held the qualifying property Slead Hall 'An Estate pur autre vie in Freehold House and Lands in right of wife'.

West Yorkshire, England, Electoral Registers, 1840-1962 for Farquhar Robertson					
West Riding North > 1875					
3426	Powell James	Briggate, Brighouse	Occupier of Buildings at £50 rent and upwards	Briggate	
3427	Pratt Christopher	No. 2, Northgate, Bradford	Freehold House	The Crescent, Hipperholme	
3428	Pulman John	Bonegate, Brighouse	Moiety of Freehold Cottages	Waring green	
3429	Pyrah Thomas	Whitehall, Hipperholme	Freehold House and Shop	Whitehall	
3430	Rastrick Samuel	Bailiff bridge, Lightcliffe	Freehold House	Bailiff bridge	
3431	Rastrick William	Bailiff bridge, Lightcliffe	Freehold House	Bailiff bridge	
3432	Ramsden Crispin	Windy band lane, Liversedge	Freehold Houses	Park street, Brighouse	
3433	Ramsden John	Carr house lane, Shelf	Freehold and Copyhold Farms and Houses	Thornhill briggs and Norwood green	
3434	Ramsden John Taylor	Ovenden, near Halifax	Freehold Inn, Shops and Houses	Briggate, Brighouse	
3435	Rayner Robert Lee	Ings grove, Mirfield	Moiety of Freehold Land and Buildings	Garden house farm	
3436	Richardson Edward	Springfield, Hipperholme	Freehold House	Kirk lane	
3437	Ripley Henry William	Holme house, Lightcliffe	Freehold House and Land	Lightcliffe	
3438	Robertshaw Richard	Norwood green, Hipperholme	Freehold Cottage	Norwood green, Hipperholme	
3439	Robertson Farquhar Forbes	Woodhouse, Rastrick	An Estate pur autre vie in Freehold House and Lands in right of wife	Slead hall	

In 1879 and 1880 a Joshua Waddington appears on the Electoral register living in Slead Hall. But by 1881 census the Forbes-Robertson family were living there.

1881 census

Farquhar Forbes Robertson	Head	42	Landowner
Laura A. Robertson	Wife	30	
Elsbeth Robertson	Dau	7	
Helen Robertson	Dau	5	
Ann Robertson	Dau	3	
Innes Robertson	Dau	1	
Mary Robertson	Dau	5m	
4 servants			
Address Slead Hall, Hipperholme cum Brighouse			

All five Forbes-Robertson daughters were baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Rastrick. Their father was recorded as being a 'Gentleman' and the family abode was Rastrick. But by the time their son Kenneth was born on 17th April 1882 the family abode, as you can see, was Lightcliffe so presumably Slead Hall.

RASTRICK, St Matthew > 1882						
1881	No. 1638		Laura			
1882			Farquhar & Laura Ann	Forbes-Robertson	Lightcliffe	Gentleman R.F. Spring
April 17 1882	No. 1639		Kenneth			
	1882					

Halifax Evening Courier 11 December 1936

St. CHAD’S CHURCH, Hove Edge

..... is approaching its silver jubilee.

The St.Chad’s day school was built in 1895 and was used as a mission church conducted by a curate of the Brighouse parish. In 1911 a scheme was brought forward for the building of separate church premises, and on July 14 1911, the foundation stone of the church was laid by Miss Byrne of Slead Hall. The building was delayed , however, and the church was not completed until 1915.

1921 census

Charlotte Byrne Head 85 No Occupation
2 servants + 1 visitor
Address Slead Hall, Brighouse

1921 census

Seth Mitchell Head 44 Gardener
Lucy Mary Mitchell Wife 40 Home Duties
Address Slead Hall, Brighouse

Charlotte Byrne died a few months after the 1921 census was taken.

BYRNE Charlotte of Slead Hall Brighouse Yorkshire spinster died 5 September 1921 Probate Wakefield 5 November to Charles Robert Johnson wire manufacturer and George Edward Hindley Maggs solicitor. Effects £12586 16s 10d. Further Grant 30 January 1922.

Laura Forbes-Robertson lost her husband in 1912 and her son Kenneth in WW1.

FORBES-ROBERTSON Kenneth of 2 Keynsham Bank Cheltenham died 7 November 1914 near Armentieres on active service. Administration London 14 May to Laura Ann Forbes-Robertson widow. Effects £12 795 15s 5d

The following newspaper articles may help with the next owners and occupiers.

Halifax Evening Courier 07 June 1934

Among the more recent owners of the Hall were the Macaulays, Mr Harold Macaulay died in 1869 and his daughter after her marriage to Mr Farghar [sic] Forbes-Robertson went to live at Slead Hall, which was then restored and altered. She sold the Hall to the present owner Mr. A. C. Robinson.

Leeds Mercury 23 June 1936

DECREE FOR WIFE

In the Divorce Court yesterday the President (Sir Boyd Merriman) granted a decree nisi with costs to Mrs Anice Miles, of Clifford Avenue, East Sheen, whose husband Captain Henry G.P. Miles, did not contest charges of misconduct at a London hotel and at Slead Hall, Brighouse, of which he became tenant last October.

Henry George Pearson Miles then married Margaret Helen Clarke née Mounsey Q3 1936 in the Huddersfield district. On returning to England from a trip to Madeira they gave their address as Slead Hall.

SIRA	SOUTHAMPTON	90	MILES - Eleanor Mary Henry George	1st.	43	54, Prince of Wales Mansions, Brompton Sq. Slead Hall, Brighouse, Yorks.	Housewife	MADIRA
"	"	91	MILES - Pearson	"	33	"	Army Officer	ENGLAND
"	"	92	" Margaret Helen CLARKE - Wendy Helen Briggs	"	25	"	Housewife	"
"	"				5		- - - -	"

SLEAD HALL, NEAR BRIGHOUSE

17TH CENTURY gabled 7 mullioned MANOR HOUSE situated in about five acres of Garden, Tennis Court and Paddock, containing oak-panelled entrance hall and gallery, inner hall and staircase, 3 reception rooms, kitchens and usual domestic offices; garage; six principal and 2 secondary bedrooms, 2 bathrooms; entrance lodge, & c,. --- For further particulars and appointment to view apply to

WALSH, WILKINSON & COUTTS

Architects and Surveyors

10, Harrison-road, Halifax

1939 register

Miles Margaret H	2 Aug 1911	Unpaid Domestic Duties
Miles Michael P (Henry)	19 Apr 1936	Child

1 closed entry

2 servants

Address Slead Hall, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 01 January 1940

BIRTHS

MILES. – December 28, 1939, at Slead Hall, England to Margaret, wife of Major H. G. P. MILES, a son

This was Martin J.P Miles whose birth was registered in the Calder district Q1 1940.

1940 would seem to be a good time to leave Slead Hall.

But some of its former inhabitants were still alive. Laura Ann Forbes-Robertson née Macaulay lived to the grand age of 96 years.

FORBES-ROBERTSON Laura Ann of 2 Keynsham-bank Cheltenham widow died 14 December 1946 Probate Gloucester 18 April to James Forbes-Robertson V.C. D.S.O. M.C. retired colonel H.M..army and Henry Cotes retired rancher, Efects £23096 15s 6d

As her probate states, her son James Forbes-Robertson won the Victoria Cross. He was the little boy born at Slead Hall in 1884.

D.M.Barker

January 2023

An online biography for

James Forbes Robertson VC

World War I Victoria Cross Recipient. A native of Scotland, he was gazetted for the award on May 21, 1918 for his actions as an acting lieutenant colonel in the 1st Battalion, the Border Regiment, British Army, on 11/12 April 1918 during the Battle of Estaires (the beginning phase of the Battle of the Lys), near Vieux-Berquin, France during World War I. Born in Strathpeffer, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland, he received his education at Cheltenham College in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England. During World War I, his military career included deputy commander of the 1st Battalion, Border Regiment (June 1916) and commander of the 16th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (August 1917), with service on the Western Front in Belgium and France. After the war, he served with the Army of Occupation in Germany and retired from the British Army in 1934. He died in Bourton-on-the Water, Gloucestershire, England at the age of 71. His Victoria Cross citation reads: "Near Vieux Bertuin, France, 11 - 12 April 1918, Captain (A / Lieutenant Colonel) James Forbes-Robertson DSO & Bar, MC, comd 1st Bn, The Border Regiment. For most conspicuous bravery whilst commanding his battalion during the heavy fighting. (near Vieux Berquin, France) Through his quick judgment, resource, untiring energy and magnificent example, Lt.-Col. Forbes-Robertson on four separate occasions saved the line from breaking and averted a situation which might have had the most serious and far-reaching results. On the first occasion, when troops in front were falling back, he made a rapid reconnaissance on horse-back, in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun and close-range shell fire. He then organised and, still mounted, led a counter-attack which was completely successful in re-establishing our line. When his horse was shot under him he continued on foot. Later on the same day, when troops to the left of his line were giving way, he went to that flank and checked and steadied the line, inspiring confidence by his splendid coolness and disregard of personal danger. His horse was wounded three times and he was thrown five times. The following day, when the troops on both his flanks were forced to retire, he formed a post at battalion headquarters and with his battalion still held his ground, thereby covering the retreat of troops on his flanks. Under the heaviest fire this gallant officer fearlessly exposed himself when collecting parties, organising and encouraging. On a subsequent occasion, when troops were retiring on his left and the condition of things on his right were obscure, he again saved the situation by his magnificent example and cool judgment. Losing a second horse, he continued alone on foot until he had established a line to which his own troops could withdraw and so conform to the general situation." In addition to the Victoria Cross, he also received the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, the Military Cross, the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal (1914-20), the Victory Medal (1914-19, with Mentioned in Despatches oak leaf), the Defence Medal (1939-45), the King George VI Coronation Medal (1937), and the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal (1953). His Victoria Cross and other medals are on loan to the Regimental Museum of the Border Regiment at Carlisle, Cumbria, England.