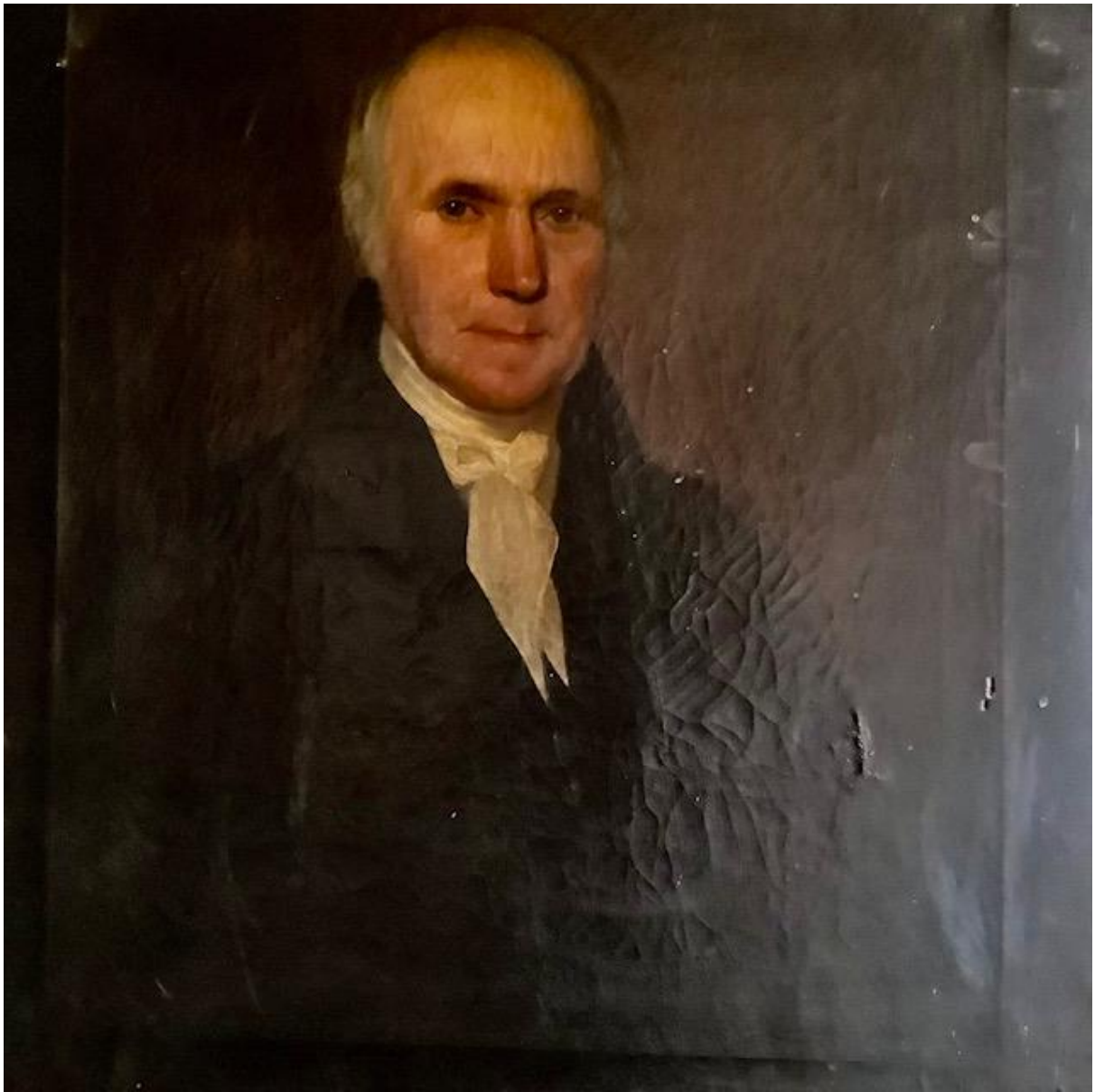


The Naylor's of Brookfoot, Southowram



Mary Taylor (whose maiden name was Nicholson, and who was the mother of Samuel Taylor) was born at Southcliffe Wood Bottom in Southowram in the year 1762. She died at Hippersholme June 16. 1834 and buried at Southcliffe.



Portrait of Thomas Jefferson
Painted by Gilbert Stuart
1796
He died
at Monticello on 25 July 1826
aged 83

These images of family portraits were sent to us by a descendant along with the wording on the back of each. From the information on the back of Mary Naylor's picture we know that she was born at Sutcliffe Wood Bottom in 1762, was the mother of Samuel Naylor, died at Hipperholme on 16th June 1834 and was buried at Lightcliffe. Less easy to read is the information about her husband John Naylor. It looks as if he was born in Southowram on 25th June 1763 and died at Brookfoot on 22nd January 1859.

The couple were indeed buried in St. Matthew's Churchyard. The memorial inscription was noted by Arthur Blackburn, but the memorial is no longer visible.

**IN MEMORY OF MARY, WIFE OF JOHN NAYLOR OF HIPPERHOLME
WHO DIED JUNE 16TH 1834 AGED 72 YEARS.**

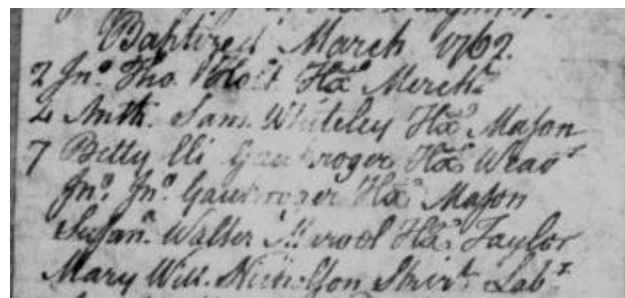
AN ISRAELITE INDEED.

**ALSO OF THE ABOVE JOHN NAYLOR
WHO DIED JANUARY 22ND 1859 AGED 95 YEARS. SOUTHOWRAM.**

This is their story.

Working back from John Naylor's definite death date and age and the possible birth date he may well have been the John Naylor whose baptism on 17th July 1763 was recorded in the Halifax register. In which case his father James Naylor was a weaver from Southowram. But there are other John Naylor baptisms in the area at this time, including one at Eastfield Chapel, Lightcliffe in January 1764 for a John son of John Naylor.

There are far fewer Mary Nicholsons in the registers. In fact, only one possible baptism has been found in the Halifax register – the last entry shown below. A Mary Nicholson, the daughter of William Nicholson, a labourer of Skircoat was baptised on 7th March 1762.



This William Nicholson had married Elizabeth Holmes on 24th March 1761 at St. John's Church, Halifax as this was where they were both from. Are these Mary Naylor née Nicholson's parents? Quite possibly. The clue is Sutcliffe Wood Bottom where it was said that Mary Nicholson was born.

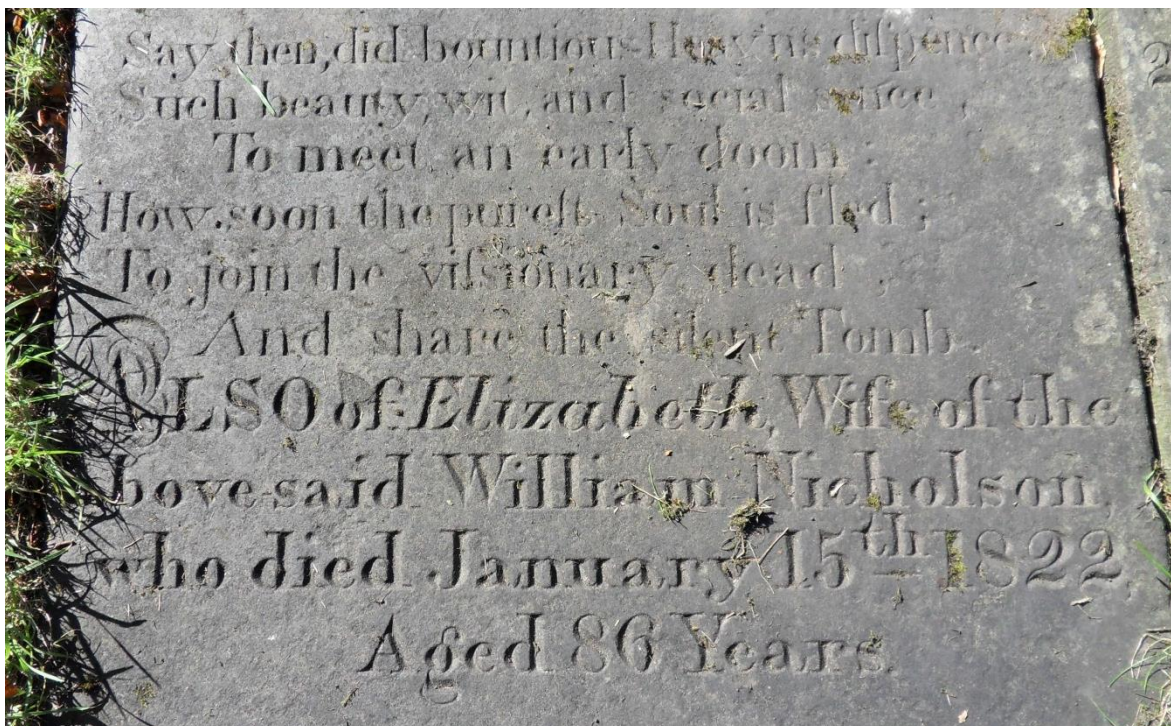
On 5th January 1793 a William Nicholson of Sutcliffe Wood Bottom was buried in St. Matthew's Churchyard. A few years later a daughter Ann and his wife Elizabeth would join him in plot Y*26. Arthur Blackburn transcribed the Nicholson memorial inscription which begins :-

**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM NICHOLSON OF SUTCLIFFE WOOD BOTTOM
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JANUARY 2ND 1793 AGED 38 YEARS**

But on checking out the actual ledger stone it looks as if his death age should be 58 years.



Staying with the Nicholson family, it looks as if William and Elizabeth had six more daughters and one son James. All their baptisms were recorded on the Halifax parish register. The youngest daughter Ann was baptised on 23rd January 1780. Her father William was a husbandman of Hipperholme. Hers is the next name on the memorial inscription in Lightcliffe churchyard where she was buried on 26th March 1799.



Widow Elizabeth Nicholson née Holmes, of Southowram, survived her husband by nearly thirty years. She was buried with him and her daughter on 19th January 1822. The only son James may be the 67-year-old James Nicholson buried in an unknown plot on 8th March 1836. This fits with his Halifax recorded baptism on 27th Mary 1770.

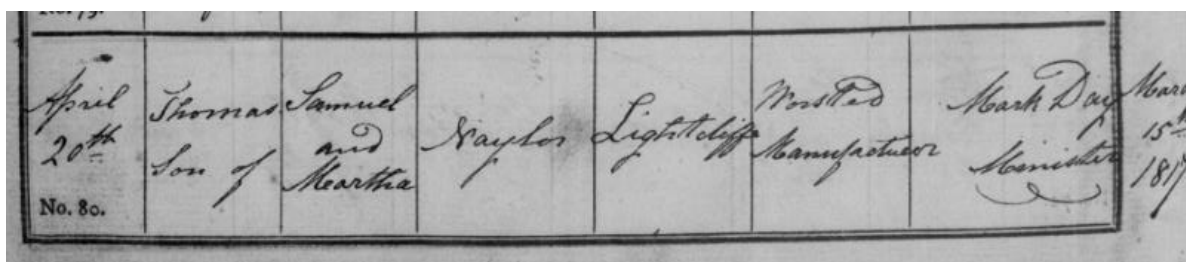
But back to the Naylor. John Naylor married Mary Nicholson on 3rd January 1791 in Halifax. Their son Samuel was baptised on 20th November 1791 when his father was recorded, in the Halifax register, as being a weaver from Southowram. There are no other obvious sibling baptisms.

Samuel Naylor married Martha Gledhill of Brighthouse on 23rd December 1813 after a licence was issued on 21st December 1813. Their daughter Mary was born on 26th April 1815 and baptised into the Wesleyan Methodist church at South Parade Chapel, Halifax on 7th May 1815. Her father Samuel was a worsted manufacturer from Northowram. But within a year the little girl died on 20th April 1816. She was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard in another plot with a known memorial transcription even though the original stone or tomb that the inscription was on is now missing. This plot may well have been the first of the two Naylor plots to be bought as little Mary died long before her paternal grandparents passed away.

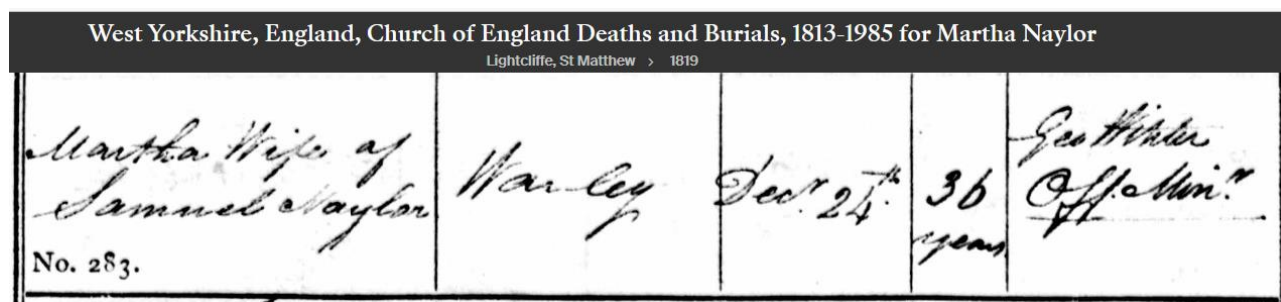
**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARY
THE DAUGHTER OF SAMUEL AND MARTHA NAYLOR OF LIGHTCLIFFE
WHO DIED APRIL 20TH 1816 AGED 1 YEAR.**

OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

A son Thomas Naylor was born on 15th March 1817. He too had a non-conformist baptism on 20th April 1817 in Halifax.



And then his mother died on 23rd December 1818. She was buried with her baby daughter on Christmas Eve 1818.



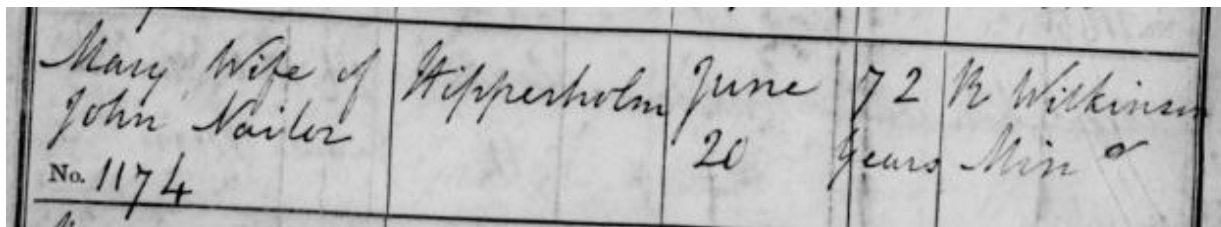
**ALSO OF MARTHA WIFE OF THE ABOVE SAMUEL NAYLOR
WHO DIED DECEMBER 23RD 1818 AGED 37 YEARS.**

**IN LIFE TO COPY THEE I'LL STRIVE
AND WHEN I THAT RESIGN
O MAY OUR DUTEOUS CHILD SURVIVE
TO LAY MY BONES BY THINE**

An interesting request in the verse.

Widower Samuel Naylor married Sarah Naylor on 24th June 1821. By then he was living at Skircoat, Halifax and was a 'Clerk to a Merchant'. Sarah Naylor was from Southowram, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Naylor. It is tempting to think that this was a (distant?) relative, but her ancestry has not been explored.

Mary Naylor, the lady featured at the top of this article, died on 16th June 1834. She was buried in one of the missing plots in Lightcliffe churchyard on 20th June 1834.



1841 census

John Naylor 77 Farmer
Address Brookfoot Lane Top, Southowram

Father and son lived next to one another.
Grandson Thomas has not been found.

1841 census

Samuel Naylor 49 St(one). M(erchant)
Sarah Naylor 55
Mary A Skelton 15 F.S.
Address Brookfoot Lane Top, Southowram

Five years later grandson Thomas married Mary Jane Crowther on 9th March 1846 as reported in the *Bradford Observer 19 March 1846*.

On Monday week, at St. Ann's, Southowram, by the Rev. J. Hope, Thomas, son of Mr. Samuel Naylor, of Brookfoot, near Halifax, to Mary Jane, daughter of Mr. John Crowther, of Cromwell Bottom, near Elland.

Their son John Naylor was baptised at the same church on 24th February 1848. His father Thomas was described as a stone merchant of Upper Brookfoot.

1851 census

John Naylor Head 77
Worsted Manufacturer Formerly
Address Brook Foot Lane, Southowram

1851 census

Samuel Naylor Head 59
Stone Merchant employing 100 men
Sarah Naylor Wife 64 Housewife
Address Brook Foot Lane, Southowram

1851 census

Thomas Naylor Head 34 Stone Merchant
Mary Jane Naylor Wife 27
John Naylor Son 3
Ruth Oates Servant 16
Address Brook Foot Lane, Southowram

Again, all three Naylor households were next to or near one another with just the family of William Oates, a stone hewer living between John and Samuel.

A few months after the census was taken Samuel's second wife Sarah Naylor née Naylor, of Upper Brookfoot, died. As she was a native of Southowram she was buried at St. Anne's Church, Southowram on 23rd October 1851.

Widower Samuel Naylor married for the third time in Otley on 19th November 1857 as the *Bradford Observer* 26 November 1857 reported.

Same day, at the Wesleyan chapel, Otley, by the Rev. J. Hudson, Mr. Samuel Naylor, stone merchant, Southowram to Miss Mary Blackburn, of the former place.

And then on 22nd January 1859 his father, John Naylor, died at the grand old age of 95. He was buried with his wife, Mary, on 26th January 1859 with the missing memorial inscription recorded at the top of the article.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for John Naylor				
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1859				
John Naylor	South owram	Jan ^y 26	95	M ^{rs} Mary
No. 1155.				

Quite understandably, as his wife was from Otley, this was where Samuel Naylor was on census night 1861. But his son, Thomas Naylor, and family have not been found. Perhaps they were still in Brookfoot running the family business.

1861 census

Samuel Naylor Head 69 Stone Merchant

Mary Naylor Wife 61

Eliza Hope Servant 24

Address 63 Boroughgate, Otley

Samuel Naylor died at Otley on 17th February 1867. He was brought back to Lightcliffe for burial with his baby daughter and her mother, his first wife, Martha née Gledhill as her memorial inscription requested. Their son Thomas Naylor had been 'duteous'.

Samuel Naylor	Otley	Feb. 21	75	M ^{rs} W ^m Gurney
No. 1584.				

This second missing Naylor memorial finished with this inscription.

**ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED SAMUEL NAYLOR
WHO DIED AT OTLEY ON THE 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1867 AGED 75 YEARS.**

But where were these two grave plots and were they covered with ledger stones or more elaborate tombstones? After all the family ran a stone merchant's business employing lots of men. Perhaps back in 1816 when the first plot was bought it was just covered with a ledger stone. We will never know.

The Will of Samuel Naylor late of Otley in the County of York Stone Merchant deceased who died 17 February 1867 at Otley aforesaid was proved at Wakefield by the oath of Thomas Naylor of Southowram in the Parish of Halifax in the County aforesaid Stone Merchant the Son the sole Executor. Effects under £7,000

But this Naylor family's connections with Lightcliffe do not end with Samuel Naylor's burial and so the family will continue to be followed. Here are the two households in 1871 suggesting that Thomas Naylor and family were in Upper Brookfoot, Southowram in 1861 despite not being found on 7th April 1861.

1871 census

Thomas Naylor Head 54
 Stone Merchant employing 120 men & Land
 owner
 Mary J Naylor Wife 57
 John Naylor Son 23 Clerk
 Martha Garforth Servant 30 Serv. Domestic
 Elizabeth Garforth Servant 66 ditto
 Address Upper Brookfoot, Southowram

1871 census

Mary Naylor Head 71 Annuitant
 Eleanor Hudson Sister 62 ditto
 Ann Brown Servant 25 Servant
 Address Manchester Square, Otley

Thomas Naylor was buried at St. Anne in the Grove, Southowram after his death on 12th October 1873.

The Will with a Codicil of Thomas Naylor late of Brookfoot in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York Stone Merchant who died 12 October 1873 at Brookfoot was proved at Wakefield by John Richardson of Halifax Gentleman and Mary Jane Naylor Widow the Relict and John Naylor Stone Merchant the Son both of Brookfoot the Executors. Effects under £8,000

Howdenshire Gazette 04 December 1874

At Goole, Dec.2, at the parish church by Rev. Dr. Bell, vicar, John Naylor, son of the Thos. Naylor, Esq., of Brookfoot, Halifax, to Emma daughter of John Clegg, Esq., of Stone House, Goole.

Goole Times 15 October 1875

At Brookfoot, Halifax, Oct. 12., the wife of John Naylor, of a son.

This was Thomas Arthur Naylor known as Arthur who was baptised at Southowram on 11th November 1875.

Both fathers were stone merchants.

A daughter Mary Crowther Naylor was born April 1878, followed by Elizabeth on 19th May 1880 and Reginald on 12th May 1882. Meanwhile Samuel Naylor's third wife died in Otley on 29th April 1877. This left the Naylor households looking like this on 3rd April 1881.

1881 census

Mary J. Naylor Head 67 Widow Annuitant
 Marianne Teesdale Visitor 46 ditto
 Elizabeth A. Shillito Servant 39 Cook (Dom. Serv)
 Mary E. Roantree Servant 36 Housemaid
 Address Brookfoot Lane, Southowram

1881 census

John Naylor Head 33 Stone Merchant
 Emma Naylor Wife 31
 Thomas A. Naylor Son 5
 Mary C. Naylor Dau 2
 Elizabeth Naylor Dau 10m
 Joseph Bond Visitor 54 Land Agent
 Annie M. Smith 19 Nurse Domestic
 Address
 Needless Hall, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

Widow Mary Jane Naylor née Crowther died on 13th October 1882 aged 69. She was buried with her husband, Thomas, at St. Anne in the Grove, Southowram on 17th October 1882.

Administration of the Personal Estate of Mary Jane Naylor late of Brookfoot in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York Widow who died 13 October 1882 at Brookfoot was granted at Wakefield to John Naylor of Brookfoot Stone Merchant the Son and only Next of Kin. Personal Estate £1,584

1891 census

John Naylor	Head	43	Stone Merchant
Emma Naylor	Wife	41	
Mary C Naylor	Dau	17	Scholar
Elizabeth Naylor	Dau	10	ditto
Reginald Naylor	Son	8	ditto
Joseph Bond	Visitor	63	Agent
Sarah Walker	Servant	31	Domestic Servant

Address Brookfoot Lane, Southowram

Son Thomas Arthur Naylor (known as Arthur) was at school in Huddersfield in 1891.

His father John Naylor was not at home on 31st March 1901 as he was in South Africa fighting in the Boer War.

1901 census

Emma Naylor	Head	51	Living on own means
Mary C Naylor	Dau	22	
Elizabeth Naylor	Dau	20	
Reginald Naylor	Son	18	Apprentice Tool Maker

Address
16 The Crescent, Hipperholme cum Brighouse

1911 census

Emma Naylor	Head	61	Widow
Mary Crowther Naylor	Dau	32	
Elizabeth Naylor	Dau	30	

Address
16 The Crescent, Hipperholme, Brighouse

John Naylor did not returned home. He died of enteric fever after the Boer War in 1904.

Brighouse Echo June 3rd 1904

Naylor, April 30th at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, aged 56 , of enteric fever, John Naylor, late of the Royd, Southowram.

He was remembered on his parents' – admittedly difficult to read - Southowram memorial.



Elizabeth Naylor married Harold Edward Mitton in Q3 1917. Their daughter Elma Patricia Mitton was born on 29th March 1921 just in time for the 1921 census. But her maternal grandmother, 70-year-old Emma Taylor née Clegg, had passed away by then. She was buried in the middle section of St. Matthew's churchyard on 5th June 1919 in plot H14.

NAYLOR Emma of 16 The Crescent Hipperholme Yorkshire widow died 1 June 1919 Probate Wakefield 3 December to Mary Crowther Naylor spinster and Elizabeth Mitton (wife of Harold Edwin [should be Edward] Mitton). Effects £341 8s 6d

1921 census

Harold Edward Mitton	Head	42	Hosiery Merchant	Own Account
Elizabeth Mitton	Wife	41	Home Duties	-
Mary Crowther Naylor	Sister-in-law	43	Home Duties	-
Elizabeth Pritchard	Servant	17	Domestic Servant	
Elma Patricia Mitton	Daughter			

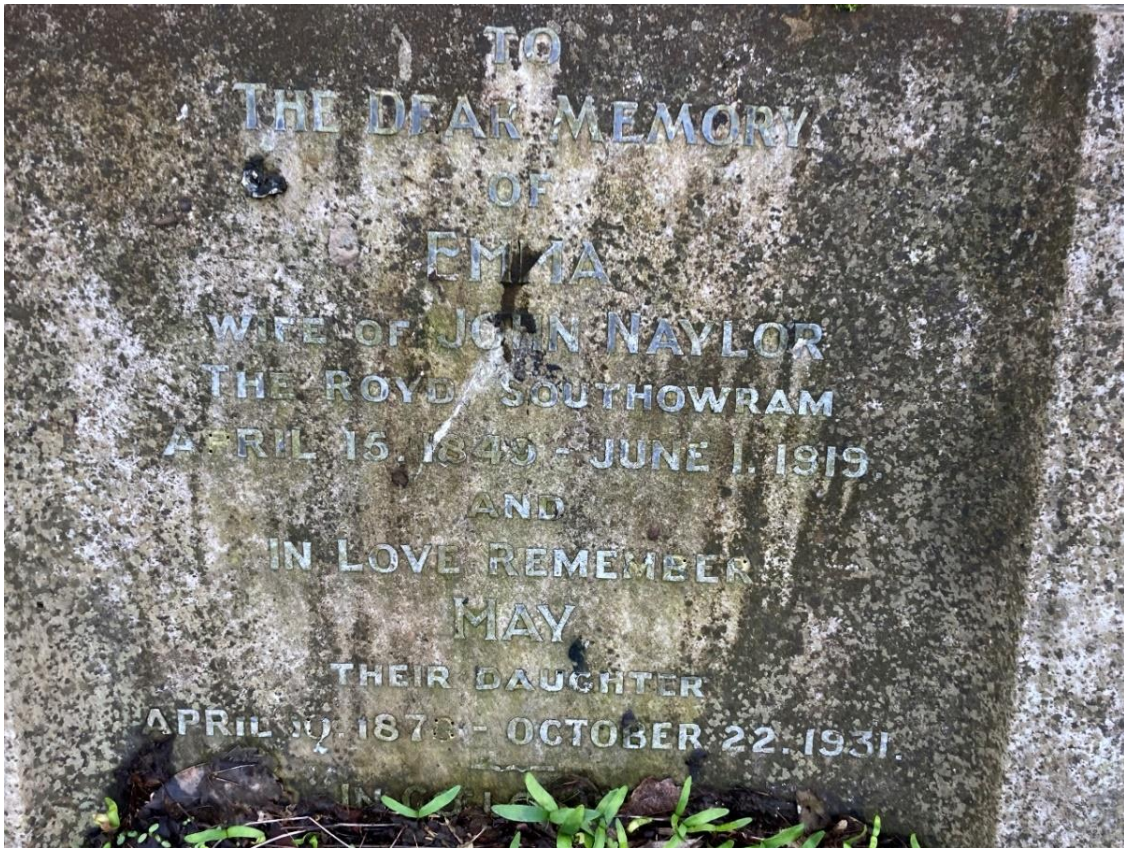
Address 16 The Crescent, Hipperholme

When Mary Crowther Naylor died on 22nd October 1931, she was buried at Lightcliffe with her mother in plot H14. The interment took place on 24th October as the death notice in the *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 23 October 1931* informed people.

NAYLOR – October 22, at 3 Grange Terrace, Lightcliffe, MARY CROWTHER (May) dearly loved sister of Mrs Harold Mitton of Lightcliffe. – Interment at Lightcliffe Church tomorrow (Saturday) October 24, at 3 p.m. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation.

Mary Crowther Naylor also had a probate record although the death date would appear to be incorrect.

NAYLOR Mary Crowther of 3 Grange-terrace Lightcliffe Halifax spinster died 27 October 1931 Administration Wakefield 22 December to Elizabeth Mitton (wife of Harold Edward [sic] Mitton). Effects £102



**TO THE DEAR MEMORY OF
EMMA
WIFE OF JOHN NAYLOR
THE ROYD SOUTHOWRAM
APRIL 15. 1840 - JUNE 1. 1919
AND
IN LOVE REMEMBER
MAY
THEIR DAUGHTER
APRIL 10. 1870 - OCTOBER 22. 1931**

The headstone on plot H14 is a little worse for wear and no longer upright. But at least great granddaughter Rose Pickles née Brown was able to find this family memorial.

Rose is the daughter of Doctor Ian Gatherer Brown and Elma Patricia Mitton who married in 1945. Dr. Ian Brown followed his father, Dr John Brown, into the family practice in 1947. It was based at Sunnybank House, Wyke with surgeries in Lightcliffe and Low Moor. The Lightcliffe surgery was at the family home, Knowl House on Knowle Top Road. After the death of Rose's grandfather, it moved to Whitehall Villas where the Brown family lived.

It was Rose who very kindly sent the images of her 4 x great grandparents, John and Mary Naylor, displayed at the beginning of this article. Also, from the family album there are these images. The front of The Royd, Southowram. Great grandfather John Naylor with Elizabeth and Arthur outside the barn at The Royd.



And then great grandmother Emma with all the children, Elizabeth stood next to her, May and Arthur standing, and Reggie seated on the ground.



Rose Pickles also supplied this lovely image of her great grandmother, Emma Naylor née Clegg and her grandmother Elizabeth (Elsie) Mitton née Naylor. They are at Lightcliffe railway station. Rose thinks that the photograph would have been taken around 1918, a year before Emma died



Two Naylor ledger stones may be missing but we do know what the memorial inscriptions said and, you never know, one day they may be found.

With grateful thanks to Rose Pickles for these superb images.

D.M.Barker

May 2023