

## The Tate family

As the article

### Some missing memorials

explains a descendant of the Tate family asked where the Tate tombstone which was by the old church door had gone. The inscription on the memorial read as follows:-

**HERE LIETH THE BODIES OF JAMES & MARY TATE OF YEW TREES,**

**LIKewise THEIR SONS JOHN, JAMES & WILLIAM**

**ALSO THREE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM TATE, HANNAH, JENET AND ALICE.**

**WITHIN THIS SILENT TOMB LIES SLUMBERING HERE, THE DUST OF THREE CHILDREN, FREE FROM ALL PAINS, PRIDE, MALICE AND SEDITION.**

**HAPPY ARE THEY THAT BE IN THIS CONDITION ANNO DOMINI 1772**

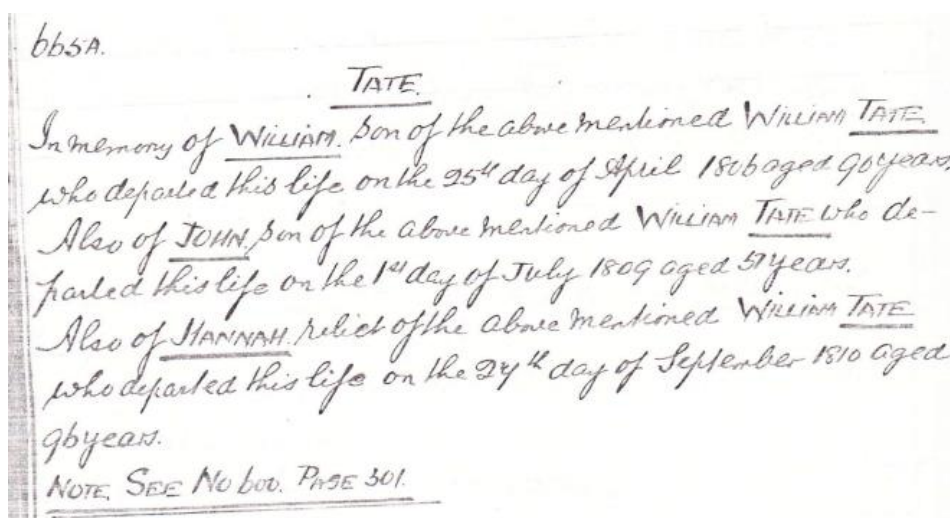
**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM, SON OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED JAMES TATE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 25TH DAY OF APRIL 1806, AGED 93 YEARS.**

**ALSO OF JOHN, SON OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED WILLIAM TATE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON 1ST DAY OF JULY 1809 AGED 51 YEARS.**

**ALSO OF HANNAH, RELICT OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED WILLIAM TATE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1810 AGED 96 YEARS.**

**IN ALL AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF MATILDA TATE OF YEW TREES, LIGHTCLIFFE WHO DIED JANUARY 30TH 1881 IN THE 85TH YEAR OF HER AGE.  
HER END WAS IN PEACE**

The long inscription was copied down and sent by a Walter Tate to his niece Martha Ann in a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 1920. The letter also explains that the tomb it was 'in good condition'. Arthur Blackburn must have also transcribed the inscription a few years later but we only have the second half.



bb5A.

TATE.

In memory of WILLIAM, son of the above mentioned WILLIAM TATE, who departed this life on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 1806 aged 90 years.

Also of JOHN, son of the above mentioned WILLIAM TATE who departed this life on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 1809 aged 51 years.

Also of HANNAH, relict of the above mentioned WILLIAM TATE who departed this life on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 1810 aged 96 years.

NOTE. SEE No 600. PAGE 301.

The full inscription gives details of a number of Tate family generations in a period of over 100 years. Now to untangle the family information.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1707 James Tate of Hipperholme married Mary Gerrard of Wadsworth. They then appear to have had five sons all of whom were baptised at Eastfield Chapel; John on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1707, James on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1712, Will on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1715 who was then buried a year later on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1716, another Will on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1717 and Jonathan on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1721.

Son John was probably the John Tate buried in the churchyard on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1729. His little brother, Will, died as mentioned as an infant but no burial record has been found for son James Tate. Youngest son Jonathan appears to have married Betty Mellor, a widow(?) on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1766 and moved to Bingley.

That just leaves the second Will(iam). He married Hannah Allot on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1741. They baptised ten children at Eastfield Chapel and some were buried in Lightcliffe churchyard.

1. Mary baptised in 1742, married Joshua Hemingway on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1762. They may have had eight children baptised at Eastfield Chapel but it is impossible to be certain. Mary Hemingway the wife of Joshua was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1812. Her husband, of Yew Trees, was also buried in an unknown plot, perhaps the same one on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1815.
2. Jennet baptised 31<sup>st</sup> March 1745, buried 25<sup>th</sup> November 1746.
3. James baptised 24<sup>th</sup> June 1747 but nothing else has been found.
4. Hannah baptised 15<sup>th</sup> October 1749 possibly buried 13<sup>th</sup> January 1770.
5. Sarah baptised 16<sup>th</sup> February 1752 but nothing else has been found.
6. William baptised 14<sup>th</sup> July 1754 buried 30<sup>th</sup> April 1830. See later.
7. John baptised 10<sup>th</sup> April 1757 buried 4<sup>th</sup> July 1809. See later.
8. Abigail baptised 19<sup>th</sup> June 1759 buried. See later.
9. Betty baptised 10<sup>th</sup> April 1762, but nothing more has been found.
10. Alice baptised 17<sup>th</sup> February 1765 buried 18<sup>th</sup> March 1766.

From the memorial inscription we know that three daughters died before 1772. Two burials are in the parish burial register. Infants Jen(n)et and Alice were buried at Lightcliffe on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1746 and 18<sup>th</sup> March 1766 respectively. But there is no obvious burial record for a Hannah. On 13<sup>th</sup> January 1770 Ann Tate, daughter of William, was buried in the churchyard. Was this William's twenty-year-old daughter? We will never know. But it was perhaps this third death that prompted William to start the memorial inscription, beginning with his parents. His father James Tate had been buried on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1747 and his mother Mary on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1761. The first part of the memorial Inscription is even helpfully dated A.D. 1772. But where was the plot or plots? Eight Tate family burials have already been recorded surely not all of them were in one plot even though some were infants. Did William have the tomb erected or was it there before? Who knows!

William Tate's death was announced in both the *Chester Courant 13 May 1806* and the *Lancaster Gazette 10 May 1806*. [ No I don't know why I haven't found a death announcement in a more local newspaper!]

A few days ago, aged 93, at Lightcliffe, near Halifax, Mr. Wm. Tate, gardener. He was attended to his grave by upwards of 70 children, grand & great grandchildren. His wife (who is now living) is in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year, and has been married 67 years.

Was this newsworthy because of William's age, his standing in the community or his large number of descendants? The announcement does give us the gardening occupation which is a recurring theme in this Tate family. The seventy descendants were a daunting prospect to research but not all were tracked.

Staying with the memorial inscription the next death was that of William and Hannah's son John baptised in April 1757. He married Betty Tillotson on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1782 in Burnley, Lancashire. Their five daughters were born in Lancashire where the family lived. Apparently, widower John Tate moved back to Lightcliffe with his four surviving daughters after his wife died on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1801 in Lancashire. As the memorial inscription says he died on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1809 and was buried in this same plot, now identified as V\*18 on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1809. His age was given as 51 years but the mathematics say 52! I wonder if some of this memorial inscription was added much later from memory!

The next recorded death on the tombstone was that of William's wife Hannah née Allot, John Tate's mother. She died on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1810, aged 96 years, and was buried on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1810 also in plot V\*18 according to the memorial inscription.

Seventy years late another name was added to this memorial inscription on this Tate tomb but perhaps the family's link with Lightcliffe should be tracked in the intervening years.

## **6. William Tate and Mary**

William Tate married a Mary. This was possibly Mary Robinson in which case the marriage took place in Huddersfield on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1772. This fits with two sons Joseph and James being baptised at Lightcliffe on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1772 and 27<sup>th</sup> October 1776. If so one baptism would have been in the old Eastfield Chapel and then the other in William Walker's newly built St. Matthew's old Church. A year later an infant James Tate son of William was buried on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1777 in an unknown plot. This Tate family then appear to have moved away perhaps to Elland where two daughters, Hannah and Mary, and two more sons, Michael and John, were baptised. Mary Tate the wife of Will Tate of Salthebble was buried on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1821 in Lightcliffe churchyard. She was seventy-nine. Seventy-six-year-old William Tate of Salterhebble was also brought back for burial at St. Matthew's on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1830 again in an unknown plot.

It is down the line of William's and Mary's son Michael Tate (1788 – 1815) who married a Martha Scott, that you find the bank manager Walter Tate (1859 – 1930) and his niece Martha Ann. Walter's father, James, the third son of Michael and Martha was married twice. He had four children by his first wife Martha Sheard and then Walter with his second wife Ann Limbard. Martha Ann Tate (1859 – 1930) was the daughter of Walter's half-brother Herbert Tate. James Tate was another Halifax gardener. Herbert Tate (1846 – 1925) was variously described as a landscape gardener, nurseryman, seedsman and florist keeping up with the traditional family occupation. Then he became Halifax's parks superintendent /

inspector. His daughter Martha Ann Tate (1872 – 1943) married a Halifax journalist Arthur Wilson in Q2 1894.

## 7. John Tate and Elizabeth (Betty) Tillotson

As already explained John Tate and his wife Betty Tillotson had five daughters, all baptised at St. John's Church in the village of Holme-in-Cliviger near Burnley. This was Alice in 1783, Hannah in 1785, Elizabeth in 1788, Mary in 1793 and Matilda, born 13<sup>th</sup> August 1796 on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1796. A year before Matilda was born her older sister Alice had died and then on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1801 her mother Elizabeth (Betty) Tate died.

This seems to have prompted widower John Tate to return to Hipperholme with his young daughters. Perhaps this was so his parents and extended family could help look after them. As already detailed by 1810 these Tate girls had lost their parents and their paternal Tate grandparents. By then both Elizabeth and Hannah Tate had been married at St. John's Church, Halifax. Elizabeth on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1807 to a Giggleswick farmer, Richard Leak. And then on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1807 Hannah married Joseph Hopkins. He was a Hipperholme cardmaker the son of John Hopkins. Joseph had been baptised at Lightcliffe on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1778.

Sister Mary then married Henry King on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1813 in Lancaster. She was of the parish of Lancaster and Henry was a Giggleswick husband man. Youngest sister Matilda Tate was a witness. Five children Elizabeth (1815- 1855), Ellen (1818 -), Henry (1826 – 1897), Matilda (1828 – 1835) and John Tate King (1830 – 1900) were born in Giggleswick.

It is John Tate King and his aunts who will now be followed as they have Lightcliffe links. Fifty-eight-year-old Joseph Hopkins, the husband of Hannah née King, of Yew Trees died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1837. He was buried in plot P\*4 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1837.

The sisters' occupations and abodes in the 1841 and 1851 censuses are interesting. Hannah Hopkins and Matilda Tate appear to have been gardeners at Hill Top / Yew Trees. Perhaps continuing the business their grandfather William Tate had been involved in and then possibly being run by their father, John Tate. The death of his father in 1806, as well as the death of his wife in 1801, may be why John Tate returned to Yew Trees from Lancashire. With gardening in their blood, so to speak, the sisters were continuing a family occupation. Perhaps son in law Joseph Hopkins was involved too. There appear to be three properties given the name Yew Trees, a Yew Trees Farm, a Yew Trees Cottage and one other eventually named Elm House and attached to the Cottage

### 1841 census

Hannah Hopkins	55 Gardener
Matilda Tate	40 F.S
Mary Pearson	35 F.S
Elizabeth King	25
Address Hill Top, Brighthouse	

### 1851 census

Hannah Hopkins	Head 65 Gardener
Matilda ditto	Sister 54 ditto
Mary Pearson	Lodger 48 Servant
Address Yew Trees, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse	

In 1841 the sisters had their niece Elizabeth King living with them most likely as the second female servant rather than her aunt Matilda Tate being a female servant. Elizabeth's younger brother John Tate King has not been found on the 1841 census, but he was working as a farm labourer in Giggleswick in 1851.

Then on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1853 he married Elizabeth Lister in Giggleswick. It looks as if the newlyweds then moved to Lightcliffe to Yew Trees, perhaps to help with or take over his aunts' gardening business. Their eldest two sons Henry and William were born in the Halifax district, Q4 1854 and Q4 1856, but William at least was baptised back in Giggleswick on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1856. But after that six more King children were baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. They were John Tate – yes, another one! – on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1858, James Tillotson on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1861, Thomas on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1863, Matilda Elizabeth on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1869, Frank Lister on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1871 and Charles on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1874.

1861 census

John Tate King Head 30 Farmer of 8 acres & gardener  
 Elizabeth King Wife 29  
 Henry King Son 6 Scholar  
 William King Son 4  
 James Tillotson King Son 2/12  
 Sarah Jenkinson Servant 14 Servant  
 Address Yew Trees, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

1861 census

Hannah Hopkins Head 76 Retired Gardener  
 Matilda Hopkins Sister 64 ditto  
 Address Yew Trees, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

Again, this was next door to widow Hannah Hepworth & her son Richard who were farming 10 acres.

Not long after the 1861 census was taken seventy-six-year-old Hannah Hopkins died on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1861. She was buried with her husband in plot P\*4 on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1861.



**IN MEMORY OF**  
**JOSEPH HOPKINS OF YEW TREES IN LIGHTCLIFFE**  
**WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 1837**  
**AGED 58 YEARS**  
**ALSO OF HANNAH HOPKINS WIDOW OF THE ABOVE**  
**WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 1861 AGED 76 YEARS**  
**LORD JESUS INTO THINE HAND I COMMIT**  
**MY SPIRIT, THOU HAST REDEEMED ME**  
**O LORD GOD OF TRUTH**

Hannah Hopkins has a probate record dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 1862.

The Will of Hannah Hopkins late of Yew Trees in the Township of Hipperholme cum Brighthouse in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York Widow deceased who died 29 November 1861 at Yew Trees aforesaid was proved at the Principal Registry by the oaths of John Tate King of Yew Trees aforesaid Gardener the Nephew and Joshua Smith of Hove Edge in Hipperholme cum Brighthouse aforesaid Farmer the Executors. Effects under £20.

Nephew John Tate King and his wife, Elizabeth, lost their eldest daughter, five-year-old Mary Hannah King, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1871. She was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard two days later, the first burial in plot R1 owned by her father.

1871 census

John Tate King	Head	40	Farmer & Gardener
Elizabeth King	Wife	39	ditto
William King	Son	15	ditto
John Tate King	Son	13	Scholar
James Till King	Son	9	ditto
Thomas King	Son	7	ditto
Matilda King	Dau	2	
Sarah Wright	ditto	16?	

Address Yew Trees, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

Although it looks as if Sarah was a member of the family the surname King was probably dittoed in error as she was probably a servant.

1871 census

Matilda Tate           Head 74   Gardener  
 Hannah Jenkinson Niece 22 Dress & Mill(in)er  
 Address Yew Trees, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

Hannah Jenkinson was actually Matilda's great niece, the daughter of the niece, Elizabeth King, who lived with her aunts in 1841. Elizabeth King married Charles Jenkinson on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1844 in Giggleswick.

Sarah Jenkinson who was a servant with the John Tate King and family in 1861 was an older sister. The family in Giggleswick do seem to have maintained their Lightcliffe links.

Matilda Tate died on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1881 aged 84 years. She was buried as this record states on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1881. But her name is missing from the burial records giving the grave codes quite possibly because she was buried in the closed section of the churchyard.

BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Lightcliffe</u>				
in the County of <u>York</u> in the Year 18 <u>81</u>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
18 <u>81</u> <u>Matilda Tate</u>	<u>Lightcliffe</u>	<u>February</u> <u>4.</u>	<u>Years</u> <u>84</u>	<u>C. Bagot</u>
No. 265.				

Was she buried with her Hopkins sister and brother-in-law in plot P\*4? Was she buried in an unknown plot? This does seem unlikely for someone who had a pew, No. 34, in St. Matthew's Church. Her final resting place remains a mystery.

Her name was, however, added to the memorial inscription on the missing Tate tomb, over a hundred years after the inscription was started.



**IN ALL AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF MATILDA TATE OF YEW TREES,  
LIGHTCLIFFE WHO DIED JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> 1881 IN THE 85<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HER AGE.  
HER END WAS IN PEACE**

But who organised this to be inscribed on the Tate family tomb? Her nephew John Tate Ling, who was granted probate,

The Will of Matilda Tate late of Lightcliffe near Halifax in the County of York Spinster who died 30 January 1881 at Lightcliffe was proved at the Principal Registry by Samuel Wilkinson of Woodbank Brighouse near Halifax Silk Spinner and John Tate King of Yew Trees Lightcliffe Farmer the Nephew the Executors. Personal Estate under £1,000

or her great niece Hannah Jenkinson. There is perhaps a clue in an article about St. Chad's Church, Hove Edge from the *Brighouse & Rastrick Gazette* for 11<sup>th</sup> May 1895.

Underneath the belfry in the interior is a brass plate, containing the following inscription :-- 'To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Matilda Tate, of Yew Trees, Lightcliffe, this bell was presented by Christopher and Hannah Beckwith, of Brighouse. May 1895.'

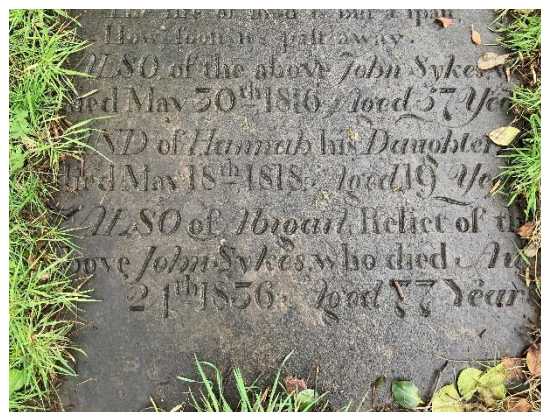
Great niece Hannah Jenkinson had married Christopher Beckwith in 1882. In 1885 when they were living in Manley Street, Brighouse and he was a whitesmith, they lost a daughter named Matilda Tate Beckwith aged just 8 months.

John Tate King senior and his family's connection with Lightcliffe will be continued in

### **The King family**

#### **8. Abigail Tate and John Sykes**

Abigail Tate married John Sykes on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1779 at St. John's Church, Halifax. They were both from Hipperholme and he was a gardener. The name Sykes is a very common surname around here. And as James and John, in particular, were popular first names there is a problem trying to identify this family. But the detailed memorial inscription on the ledger stone above plot P\*4 helps.



**IN MEMORY OF  
JOSEPH THE SON OF JOHN SYKES OF BRIGHOUSE  
WHO DIED AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> 1786 AGED 1 YEAR**

**ALSO OF WILLIAM HIS SON  
WHO DIED APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> 1793 AGED 14 YEARS**

**ALSO OF CHARLES HIS SON  
WHO DIED NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 1801 AGED 1 YEAR**

**ALSO OF JOSEPH HIS SON  
WHO DIED MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 1812 AGED 23 YEARS**

**FAIR BLOSSOM BLOWS AND SOON DECAYS  
AND ALL THE FLOWERS IN MAY  
THE LIFE OF MAN IS BUT A SPAN  
HOW SOON ITS PAST AWAY**

It continues

**ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED JOHN SYKES  
WHO DIED MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> 1816 AGED 57 YEARS**

**ALSO OF HANNAH HIS DAUGHTER  
WHO DIED MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 1818 AGED 19 YEARS**

**ALSO OF ABIGAIL RELICT OF THE ABOVE JOHN SYKES  
WHO DIED AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> 1836 AGED 77 YEARS**

Going to the Lightcliffe baptism and burial records the five children appear as follows.

- William son of John baptised 25<sup>th</sup> April 1779, died aged 14 years on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1793 and buried on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1793.
- Joseph son of John baptised 15<sup>th</sup> May 1885, died and buried 5<sup>th</sup> August 1786.
- Hannah daughter of John baptised 26<sup>th</sup> August 1798, died 18<sup>th</sup> May 1818 (of Spring Gardens ) and buried 21<sup>st</sup> May 1881
- Charles son of John baptised 31<sup>st</sup> August 1800, died 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1801 and buried 5<sup>th</sup> November 1801.
- Joseph no obvious baptism record has been found for the 23-year-old who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1812 and was buried on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1812.

Hopefully there were other children who survived. There were certainly other Sykes children with father John being baptised at St. Matthew's Church. However as this was before any other information e.g., mother's name or father's occupation or where they lived, was recorded it is impossible to be sure if they were the children of John and Abigail Sykes.

The name Abigail may be the clue, however, to two possible other offspring. The Lightcliffe parish register records the baptism of an Abigail Sykes, the daughter of George and Martha Sykes on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1813. George was a gardener of Hove Edge. He could well be a son of John and Abigail Sykes baptised at Lightcliffe on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1789. This fits with the burial of a 39-year-old George Sykes of Yew Trees on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1827 in an unknown plot at Lightcliffe. George Sykes married Martha Binns on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1808. They then baptised six children at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.



But there was another earlier Abigail Sykes, the oldest child of James and Hannah Sykes. This Abigail was born on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1807 and baptised at Rastrick on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1807. Her parents James and Hannah then had ten more children, all of whom were baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Namely Ann on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1809, John on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1811, Joseph on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1813, Charles on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1815, Harriet on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1817, Susanna on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1819, Martha on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1821, James on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1823, Hannah on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1825 and Richard on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1828. Their parents were of Lightcliffe or Brighouse and once Land Head, Brighouse and father James was a gardener.

These were the parents of Susanna(h) Sykes who as Mrs Sunderland became known as 'Yorkshire's Queen of Song'. She was born on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1819 at Spring Gardens, Waring Green and her father James was the head gardener for Charles Radcliffe of Smith House, Lightcliffe. All of which seems to fit with James being a son of John and Abigail Sykes, even down to the place Spring Gardens, the address given when Hannah Sykes, their daughter, died in 1818.

Mrs Sunderland's father James Sykes was 64 years old when he died on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1846. He was buried in Brighouse. Working backwards he was born 1781/1782. There is a 24<sup>th</sup> June 1781 Lightcliffe baptism record for a James Sykes son of John [last entry on the Halifax register below] which could be him.

1781. Baptized at Lightcliffe  
 April 18. Geo. Luke Collis  
 15 Leah Ric. Brock  
 Mary W<sup>m</sup> Comal  
 22 Jo. Jo. Mallinson  
 29 Betty Jo. Hatton  
 Martha Jos<sup>a</sup> Hemmingway  
 May 6. W<sup>m</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Green  
 13 Betty Jon<sup>a</sup> Schofield  
 20 W<sup>m</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Swallow  
 Ben. Ben. Hepworth  
 June 4. Jo<sup>a</sup> Jo<sup>a</sup> Margreaves  
 24 Jas. Jo<sup>a</sup> Sykes

Interestingly there is one more Sykes baptism recorded at Lightcliffe on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1828 for John and Abigail Sykes, a daughter Hannah Sykes. This could not have been the John Sykes who married Abigail Tate as he had died in 1816. When this Hannah Sykes, born 1828, married Abraham Wilkinson on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1850 no father was recorded on the marriage certificate and Henry Sunderland, husband of Susanna(h) was a witness. Did Abigail Sykes the daughter of James and Hannah Sykes use both her paternal grandparents names when she had her illegitimate daughter baptised? And so were John and Abigail

Sykes née Tate the paternal grandparents of Susanna(h) Sykes. She married Henry Sunderland on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1838. Her older sister Abigail Sykes married Benjamin Wilkinson on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1831. It looks as if 33-year-old Benjamin Wilkinson of Brighthouse died in 1838 and was buried in another unknown plot in Lightcliffe churchyard on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1838.

Abigail Wilkinson has not been found in the 1841 census, but for the 1851 census she may be the 43-year-old Brighthouse-born Abigail Wilkinson working as a nurse for Henry Edwards, later Sir Henry Edwards of Pye Nest and his wife Maria Churchill Edwards, at 65 Portland Place, Marylebone. Henry Edwards (1812 – 1886) was the third son of Henry Lees Edwards (1774 – 1848) and thus the first cousin of Ann Walker (1803 – 1854) as her mother Mary Walker née Edwards (1763 – 1823) was one of the younger sisters of Henry Lees Edwards. Anne Lister of Shibden Hall was also acquainted with the Edwards family of Pye Nest. Henry Edwards junior even called on her in Paris in 1830 when he was on his Grand Tour. Although only a servant for the Edwards family it is possible that Abigail Wilkinson née Sykes knew of Anne Lister and Ann Walker of Shibden Hall.

And then there is this gentleman who got a not very complimentary entry in Anne Lister's diary entry for

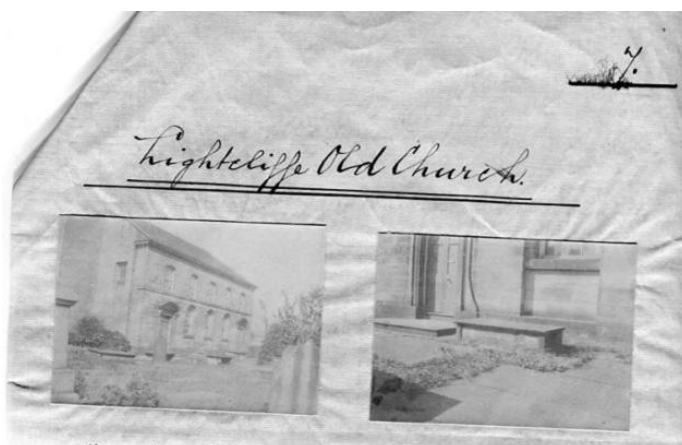
Tuesday 30 October 1832

*Took Sykes the gardener and looked over the Lightcliffe plantation for laurels. Sat about an hour with Miss [Aunt] Walker of Cliffe Hill. Gave Miss W one of the fine large, common laurels growing at the Stags Head, and Sykes the gardener and Eastwood went for it, and just got it planted here (Lidgate) before dark. Sykes positive and stupid about it, and I got annoyed and gave him a set down. He had not got it up well.*

Was he the Lidgate gardener or the Cliffe Hill gardener or ...? But which Mr. Sykes was he?

The baptism records for St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe list half a dozen Sykes couples with the father's occupation given as gardener. And then there are numerous newspaper articles giving the results of local horticultural show competitions with, presumably related, King, Sykes and Tate gardeners winning prizes. Sometimes their employer was named and not surprisingly these were often well-known Halifax names eg J. Waterhouse, H.W.Ripley, Col. Stansfeld as well as the Radcliffes of Smith House, Lightcliffe.

James and Mary Tate of Yew Trees seem to have started a gardening dynasty. It is just a pity that we do not still have their tomb just visible in the image below.



But we do have quite a few other family memorials including this one for the possible paternal grandparents of Mrs Sunderland, Yorkshire's Queen of Song, whose name is remembered in the music, speech and drama festival held annually since 1889 in Huddersfield.



D.M.Barker

April 2023