

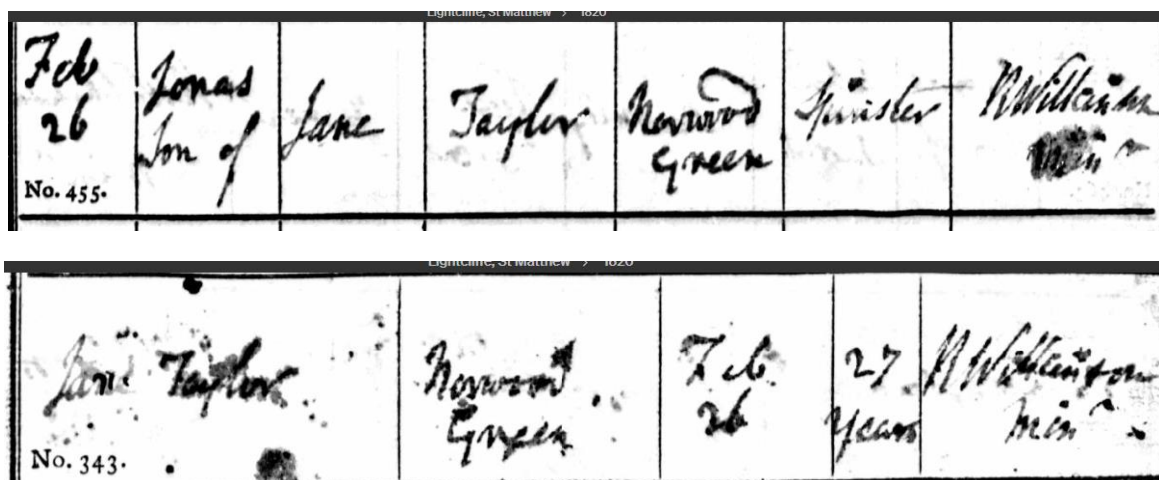
The Taylor Sucksmiths

One of the missing memorials noted in

Some missing memorials part 2

was apparently for a Taylor family but then some of them turned out to be Taylor Sucksmiths. Their story begins with the death of Jonas Taylor aged 28 years.

Jonas was almost certainly the illegitimate son of Jane Taylor. He was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 26th February 1820.

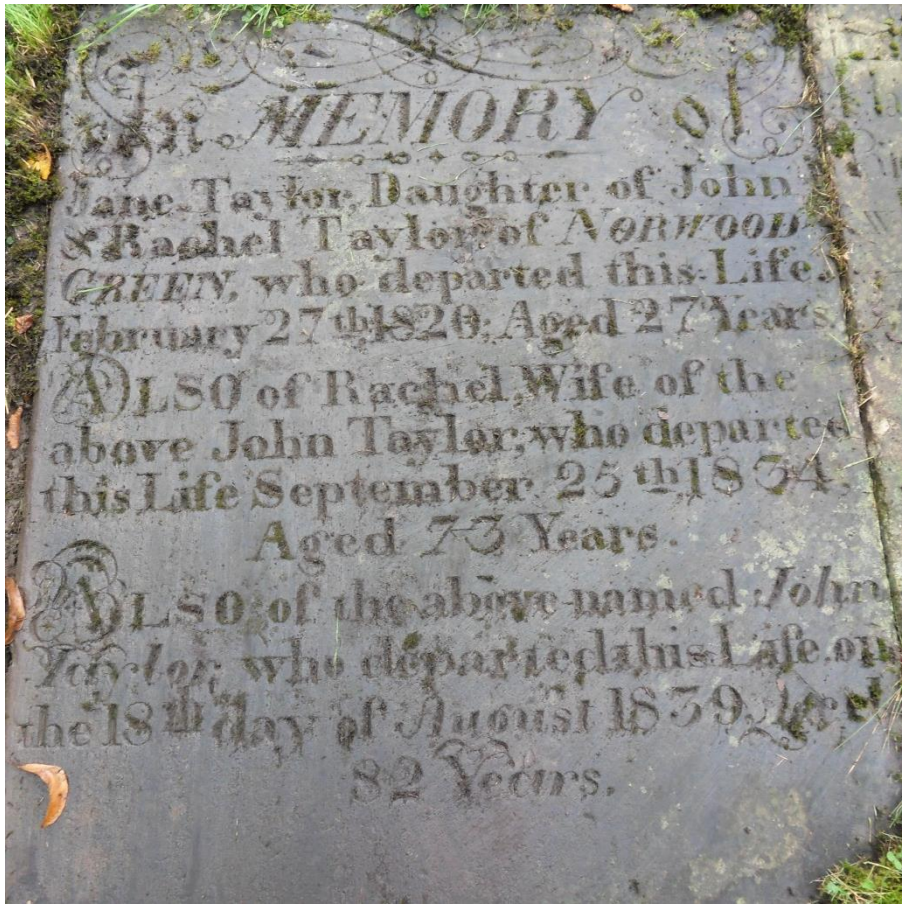


It looks as if Jane Taylor was buried the same day her baby son was baptised. Although on Ancestry Rev. Robert Wilkinson's handwritten date has been transcribed as 24th February 1820 and her memorial inscription says she died on 27th February. Whatever, Jane Taylor was buried in Lightcliffe plot FF*28 the first name on that Taylor ledger stone.

But who then looked after and brought up little Jonas Taylor? His Taylor grandparents, some of his aunts and uncles or even his father. We will never know.

Jane Taylor, the daughter of John and Rachel Taylor of Norwood Green, was baptised on 24th March 1793 at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Husbandman John Taylor of Hipperholme had married Rachel Blackburn on 19th February 1787. She was baptised at the Northowram Independent chapel on 29th November 1761, the daughter of Joseph Blackburn. These Taylors had several children baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.

When Rachel and then John Taylor died, they were buried with Jane in plot FF*28 on 29th September 1834 and 28th August 1839 respectively. The memorial inscription on the plot gives their death dates. This plot is close to the Till Carr Lane wall in the closed section of the churchyard. Is this where the missing memorial was situated? Who knows!



Perhaps after his maternal grandparents died 19-year-old Jonas Taylor lived on his own. He was certainly on his own on census night, 6th June 1841. He was a 'Stuff Presser' living in Norwood Green not far from a Sucksmith family.

1841 census

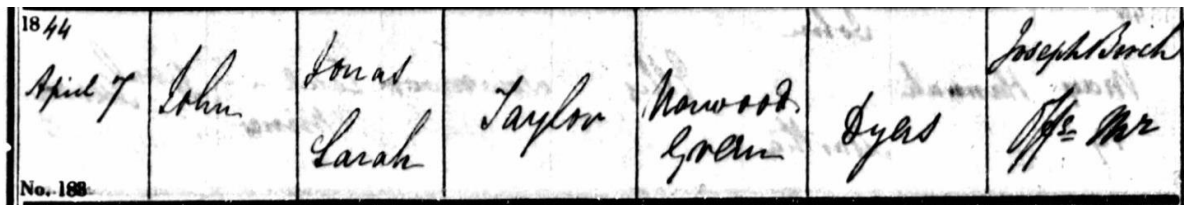
John Sucksmith 50 Farmer
 Rachel Sucksmith 50
 Martha Sucksmith 30
 William Sucksmith 25 Leather Currier
 Mary Sucksmith 22
 Edwin Sucksmith 20 Ag. Lab
 Sarah Sucksmith 17
 Rachel Sucksmith 14
 Address Norwood Green

There were a number of Sucksmith – the family also used Shoemith - farming families in Norwood Green at this time and even more in the wider area. Ancestry also transcribes the Sucksmith surname sometimes as Sacksmith or Lucksmith or Jucksmith and even Gacksmith. Many of these families have connections with Lightcliffe Church and churchyard. The WW1 Sucksmith soldiers have already been written about in

Privates Arron, Walter and Leonard Sucksmith

And an unmarried niece, Elizabeth Sucksmith, was housekeeper for her uncle William Hardcastle, who rented Roydlands Farm from Anne Lister of Shibden Hall. These wider Sucksmith connections may be explored later but this article will concentrate on one individual's direct line.

That individual is the 17-year-old Sarah Sucksmith on the 1841 census. She married Jonas Taylor on 7th September 1845 in Elland. Why were they married in Elland? Perhaps the earlier Lightcliffe baptism, on 7th April 1844, of John Taylor had something to do with the decision. The little boy was clearly baptised as John Taylor and not John Sucksmith. There are no birth registrations for a John Sucksmith, nor any of the surname variations, but plenty of possible John Taylor births registered in Halifax so pinpointing the correct one is difficult.



Notice that William Woodhead, a 'Presser' was recorded as the father of the groom. Did he figure in young Jonas's life and so was named on the marriage certificate?

Page 80.

1844. Marriage solemnized at <i>Elland</i> in the <i>Parish of Halifax</i> in the County of <i>York</i>								
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 of Father.
159	<i>Sept. 7</i>	<i>Jonas Taylor</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Dyer</i>	<i>Brighouse</i>	<i>William Woodhead</i>	<i>Presser</i>
		<i>Sarah Sucksmith</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Brighouse</i>	<i>John Sucksmith</i>	<i>James</i>
Married in the <i>Church at Elland</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, <i>by Banns</i> by me, <i>J. Birch</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Jonas Taylor</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>James Woodhead</i>		

A daughter Mary Jane Taylor was baptised on 12th April 1846 and then buried at Lightcliffe on 24th May 1846 when she was described as an infant from Norwood Green. The little girl's maternal grandfather John Sucksmith died on 11th November 1846 aged 56. He was buried in plot R*5 in Lightcliffe churchyard on 15th November 1846. The Taylors had another son Fred who was baptised at St. Matthew's on 31st December 1848. This was after his 28-year-old father was buried there on 3rd May 1848.

**IN MEMORY OF JONAS TAYLOR OF NORWOOD GREEN
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ————— 1848 AGED 28 YEARS.**

**AFFLICTIONS SORE LONG TIME I BORE
PHYSICIANS WERE IN VAIN
BUT DEATH DID EASE WHEN GOD DID PLEASE
AND FREED ME FROM MY PAIN.**

And then Sarah suffered yet another loss when her youngest son, little Fred Taylor, died. He was buried with his father on 3rd October 1850 and so the missing memorial continued.

**ALSO OF FRED SON OF THE ABOVE SAID AND SARA TAYLOR
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPTEMBER 29TH 1850
AGED 3 YEARS AND 2 MONTHS.**

It looks as if widow Sarah returned with her surviving son John to live with her widowed mother, Rachel Sucksmith, and siblings at their Norwood Green farm. This is where they were on 30th March 1851. Notice that Sarah's son John was recorded as a Sucksmith.

1851 census

Rachel Sacksmith Widow 59 Farmer
 Martha Sacksmith Dau 39 Dress maker
 Mary Ann Sacksmith Dau 33 ditto
 Edwin Sacksmith Son 30 Farmer's Son
 Rachel Sacksmith Dau 23 Dress maker
 Sarah Taylor Widow 27 ditto
 Ann Sucksmith Grndau 14 Scholar
 John Sucksmith Grndson 7 Scholar
 Address Norwood Green

And then on 18th March 1854 widow Sarah Taylor married John Shoemsmith.

1854 Marriage solemnised at		in the Parish of <i>Norwood</i> in the County of <i>York</i>						
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 of Father.
463	March 18	John Shoemsmith Sarah Taylor	42 30	Bach. Wid ^w	Farmer	Hippertolme Hippertolme	James Shoemsmith John Shoemsmith	Farmer Farmer
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <i>Ben</i> by me, <i>William Smith</i>								
This Marriage was solemnised between us,		<i>John Shoemsmith his & lawful</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>John Norman</i> <i>Isaac Dugbans</i>			

As you can see both fathers were recorded as Shoemsmiths and not Sucksmiths. They had both been farmers, 'had been' because both were by then buried in the churchyard. James Sucksmith the husband of Frances (Fanny) Hardcastle was buried in plot O*10 on 6th November 1822. It is tempting to think that these two fathers were related, if not brothers then possibly cousins or distant cousins, but this will not be explored in this write up.

This John Shoemsmith/Sucksmith, the son of James and Fanny Sucksmith of Norwood Green was baptised at St. Matthew's on 9th September 1810. For both the 1841 and 1851 censuses he was farming with his widowed mother in Norwood Green. He and Sarah had a daughter Emily baptised at Lightcliffe on 1st April 1855. And then he disappears, at least no trace of him has been found as a Sucksmith or a Shoemsmith after his daughter's baptism.

1861 census

Rachael Sucksmith Head 70 Farmer 10 acres
 Martha Sucksmith Dau 46
 Sarah Sucksmith Dau 39 Dress maker
 Edwin Sucksmith Son 39 Farmer Lab
 John Sucksmith Grndson 17 ditto
 Emily Sucksmith Grndau 6 Scholar
 Address Norwood Green

1871 census

Rachel Sucksmith Head 80 Farmer
 Martha Sucksmith Dau 60 Furrier
 Edwin Sucksmith Son 50 Farmer's Man
 Sarah Sucksmith Dau 47 Furrier
 Emily Sucksmith Grnddau 16 Housework
 Address Hill End Farm, Norwood Green

On both these census forms Sarah Sucksmith was recorded as being married but her husband was not in the same household. And notice that her son John – was he a Sucksmith or a Taylor? – was not with the family in 1871, the reason being that he had married. Does the name he gave on his marriage certificate help?

1867. Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of *Halifax* in the County of *York*

No.	When Solemnized	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Residence	Rank or Profession of Father
352	<i>26</i>	<i>John Taylor Sucksmith</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Stuff Presser</i>	<i>Halifax</i>		
		<i>Grace Whitworth</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Halifax</i>	<i>Samuel Whitworth</i>	<i>Draper</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Rev. R. B. B. B.* in the presence of *John Permitt*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John Taylor Sucksmith* and *Grace Whitworth* in the presence of us, *Samuel Whitworth* and *John Thomas*

John Taylor Sucksmith had married Grace Whitworth in Halifax on 26th November 1867, by which time he was a 'Stuff Presser' from Halifax. Notice that no father was recorded for him.

Fred Taylor Sucksmith was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 21st June 1868. His little sister Lily Taylor Sucksmith was born on 12th November 1869 but died shortly afterwards on 26th November 1869. She was buried at Lightcliffe on 27th November 1869. A few months later on 3rd Mary 1870 she was joined by her brother Fred Taylor Sucksmith who died on 29th April 1870. Both names were recorded on the missing memorial which begins with Jonas Taylor, their grandfather – or was he?!

**LILY TAYLOR BORN NOVEMBER 12TH 1869
DIED NOVEMBER 26TH 1869**

**ALSO OF FRED TAYLOR WHO DIED APRIL 29TH 1870
AGED 1 YEAR AND 11 MONTHS.**

**FAREWELL YOU LITTLE BLOOMING BUDS
JUST BURSTING INTO FLOWER
WE GIVE YOU UP BUT OH
THE PAIN OF THOSE LAST PARTING HOURS
WE GIVE YOU UP FOR HE WHO SAID
'LET CHILDREN COME TO ME'
OUR CHILDREN ARE NUMBERED WITH THE DEAD
THAT THEY IN HEAVEN MAY BE.**

John and Grace Taylor Sucksmith were living with Grace's father Samuel Whitworth, a Beer Seller, on 2nd April 1871 at 11 Gibbet St., Halifax. Their daughter Louisa was born a few weeks later on 15th May 1871. Just a few months after that on 25th August 1871 her mother died aged 27 years. She was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard in plot Q3 on 29th August 1871. Her daughter Louisa Alberta Taylor Sucksmith was baptised at St. Matthew's Church the next year on 5th May 1872. But who would look after this little girl?

Twenty-year-old Emily Sucksmith, daughter of Sarah and John, married 21-year-old Robert Ellis on 17th January 1874 in Halifax parish church. They were both from Hipperholme. He was a cordwainer, the son of a labourer Joseph Ellis. And then later that year her half-brother, the widower John Taylor Sucksmith married Ellen Newby Q3 1874.

1881 census

Rachel Sucksmith Head 90 Farmer 10 acres
Martha Sucksmith Dau 70 Furrier & Housekeeper
Edwin Sucksmith Son 60 Farmer
Sarah Sucksmith Dau 56 Widow Furrier
Louise A. Sucksmith [Gt]Grndau 9 Scholar
Address Hill End, Norwood Green

It looks as if little Louise was brought up by her grandmother, Sarah, i her great grandmother's farm.

1881 census

John T. Sucksmith Head 37 ?? Stuff Piece Presser
Ellen Sucksmith Wife 31
Address 12 Bedford St., Halifax

1881 census

Robert Ellis Head 28 Cordwainer
Emily Ellis Wife 26 Dressmaker
Address Hill End, Norwood Green

Ninety-one-year-old great grandmother, Rachel Sucksmith, died on 25th January 1883. She was buried with her husband John in plot R*5 on 30th January 1883. Later that year on 19th September 1883 their spinster daughter Martha Sucksmith joined them, she was 72.

The Sucksmith households then looked like this on 5th April 1891 and 31st March 1901

1891 census

Edwin Sucksmith Head 70 Farmer
Sarah Sucksmith Sister 66 Widow Furrier
Louisa Sucksmith [Great]Niece 19 Dress Maker
Address Lower Hill End Farm, Norwood Green

1891 census

John T. Sucksmith Head 47 Stuff Piece Presser
Ellen Sucksmith Wife 41
Address 12 Bedford St., Halifax

The Ellises have not been found in 1891.

In 1901 the relationships between the three Sucksmiths at Hill End Farm, Norwood Green were incorrectly recorded on the census form. Edwin not Edward Sucksmith was Sarah's brother and Louise's great uncle. Notice that Sarah's daughter Emily and her husband were living next door.

1901 census

Edward Sucksmith Head 80 Farmer
Sarah Suck smith Wife 77 Furrier
Louise A T Sucksmith Grddau 29 Furrier
Address Hill End Farm, Norwood Green

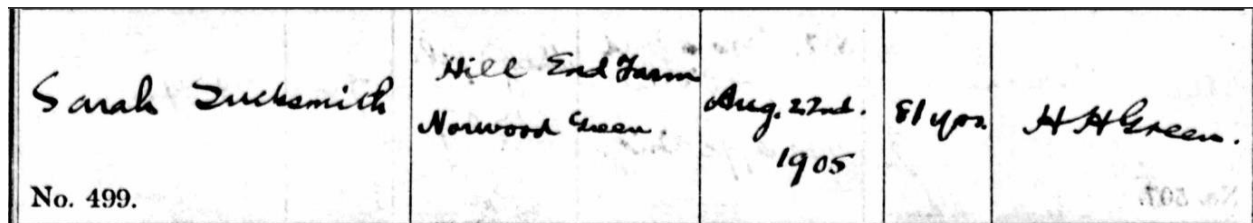
1901 census

John Taylor Sucksmith Head 57 Stuff Piece Presser
Ellen Sucksmith Wife 51
Clara Newby Sister-in-law 41 Dressmaker
Alice Newby Sister-in-law 39
Address 26 Hampden Place, Halifax

1901 census

Robert Ellis Head 48 Shoemaker
Emily Ellis Wife 46
Address Hill End Cottage, Norwood Green

Sarah Sucksmith who began life as a Sucksmith but then married Jonas Taylor before becoming a Sucksmith again when she married John Sucksmith, died on 18th August 1905. She was buried at Lightcliffe on 22nd August 1905 probably with Jonas Taylor in the closed section of the churchyard. Her name is the last one on the missing memorial which remembers Jonas, two of their infant children and then two of her grandchildren.



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF SARAH WIDOW OF THE ABOVE JONAS
WHO DIED AUGUST 18TH 1905 IN THE 80TH YEAR OF HER AGE.**

THY WILL BE DONE, NOT MINE.

Her daughter Emily Ellis died on 17th September 1908 aged 53 years. She was buried in plot D21 of Lightcliffe churchyard on 19th September 1908. This plot is in the middle section of the churchyard but it has no headstone.

This left the Sucksmith and Ellis households looking like this on 2nd April 1911.

1911 census

Edwin Sucksmith Head 90 Farmer
Louise Sucksmith Niece 39 Housekeeper
Address Hill End Farm, Norwood Green

Again Louise was Edwin's great niece.

1911 census

John T Sucksmith Head 67 Retired Stuff Presser
Ellen Sucksmith Wife 62
Address 26 Hampden Place, Halifax

1911 census

Robert Ellis Head 58 Bootmaker
Address Hill End Cottage, Norwood Green

Edwin Sucksmith of Hill End Farm, Norwood Green was buried with his parents and a sister on 9th December 1912 in plot R*5. The ledger stone in the closed part of the churchyard also remembers a brother who died in Antwerp.

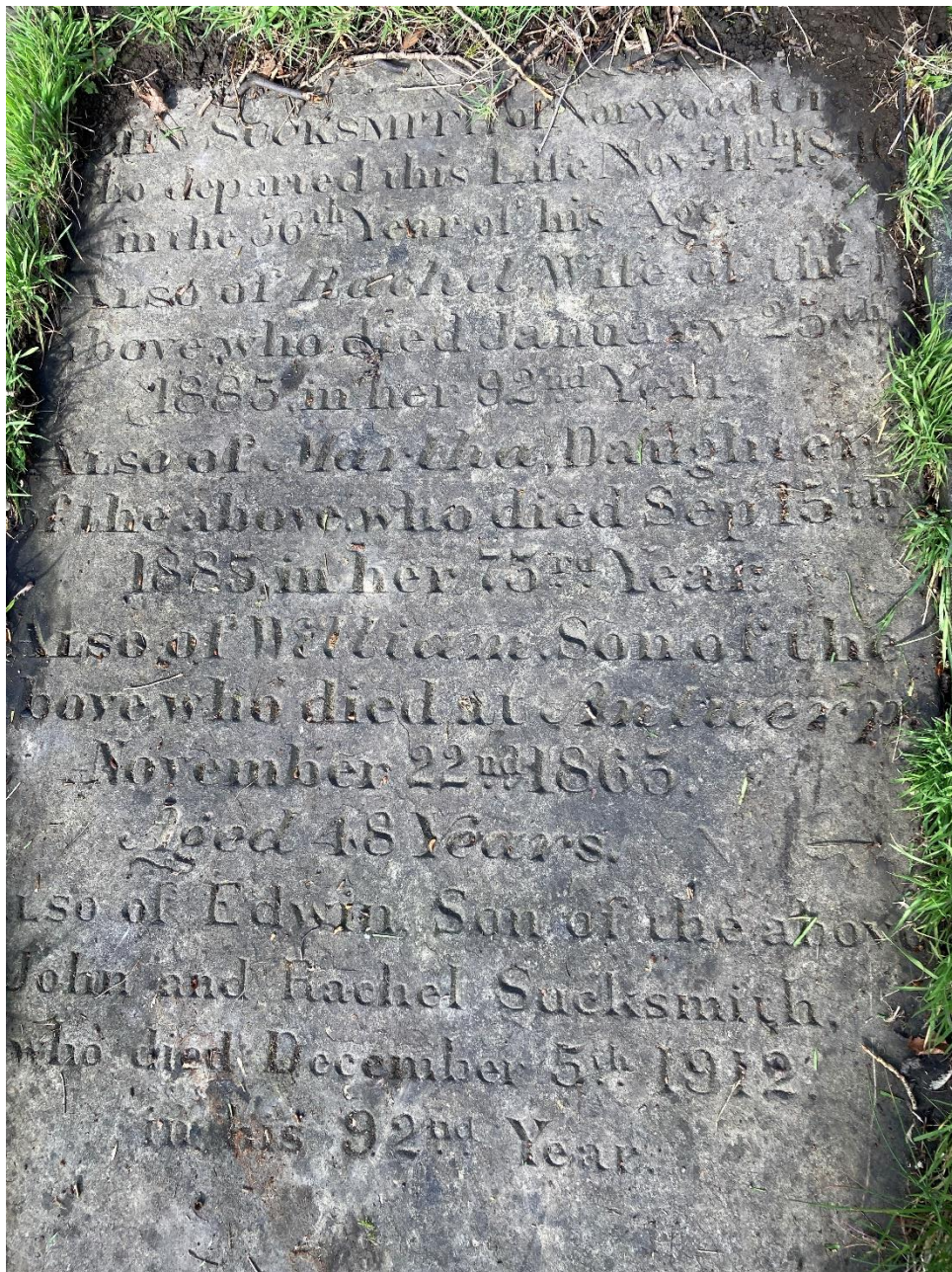
**IN MEMORY OF JOHN SUCKSMITH OF NORWOOD GREEN
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE NOVEMBER 11TH 1846 IN THE 56TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.**

**ALSO OF RACHEL WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED JANUARY 25TH 1883 IN HER 92ND YEAR.**

**ALSO OF MARTHA DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 15TH 1883 IN HER 73RD YEAR**

**ALSO OF WILLIAM SON OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED AT ANTWERP NOVEMBER 22ND 1865 AGED 48 YEARS**

**ALSO OF EDWIN SON OF THE ABOVE JOHN AND RACHEL SUCKSMITH
WHO DIED DECEMBER 5TH 1912 IN HIS 92ND YEAR.**



Less than a year later John Taylor Sucksmith died on 22nd October 1913. The sixty-nine-year-old was buried with his first wife Grace in plot Q3 on 25th October 1913. He has a probate record, and his will was noted in local newspapers.

SUCKSMITH John Taylor of 26 Hampden-place Halifax died 22 October 1913 Probate London 13 November to Ellen Sucksmith widow and Louise Alberta Taylor Sucksmith spinster and Samuel Turner wool merchant. Effects £1657 2s 5d

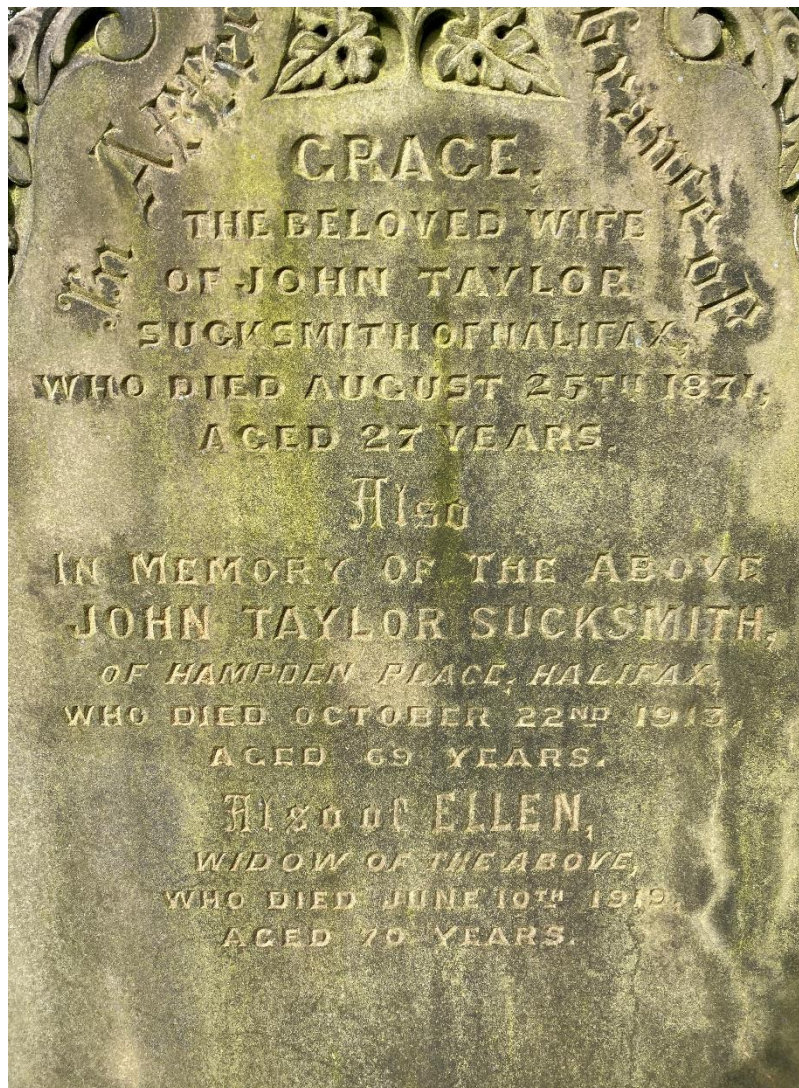
His widow, Ellen Sucksmith, died on 10th June 1919 aged 70. She too was buried in plot Q3 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 14th June 1919.

For the 1921 census widower Robert E. Ellis was still a 'Boot and Shoemaker' living in Queens Road, Norwood Green. He died on 9th April 1932 aged 72. Two days later he was buried with his wife Emily in plot D21 at Lightcliffe but with no headstone or marker.

Louise Alberta Taylor Sucksmith has not been found in the 1921 census. For the 1939 register she was a 'Retired Invalid' with a paid housekeeper living at 26 Cromwell Terrace, Halifax. This was the address on her probate record.

SUCKSMITH Louise Alberta Taylor of 26 Cromwell Terrace Halifax spinster died 18 September 1945 at 166 Gibbet-street Halifax Probate Wakefield 31 December to James Arthur Saville engineer. Effects £825 12s 3d.

The seventy-four-year-old was buried with her parents and stepmother in plot Q3 but her name was not added to the headstone. Perhaps there were no family members left to organise this. But at least her final resting place is not a mystery as her paternal grandmother's is.



D.M.Barker

April 2023