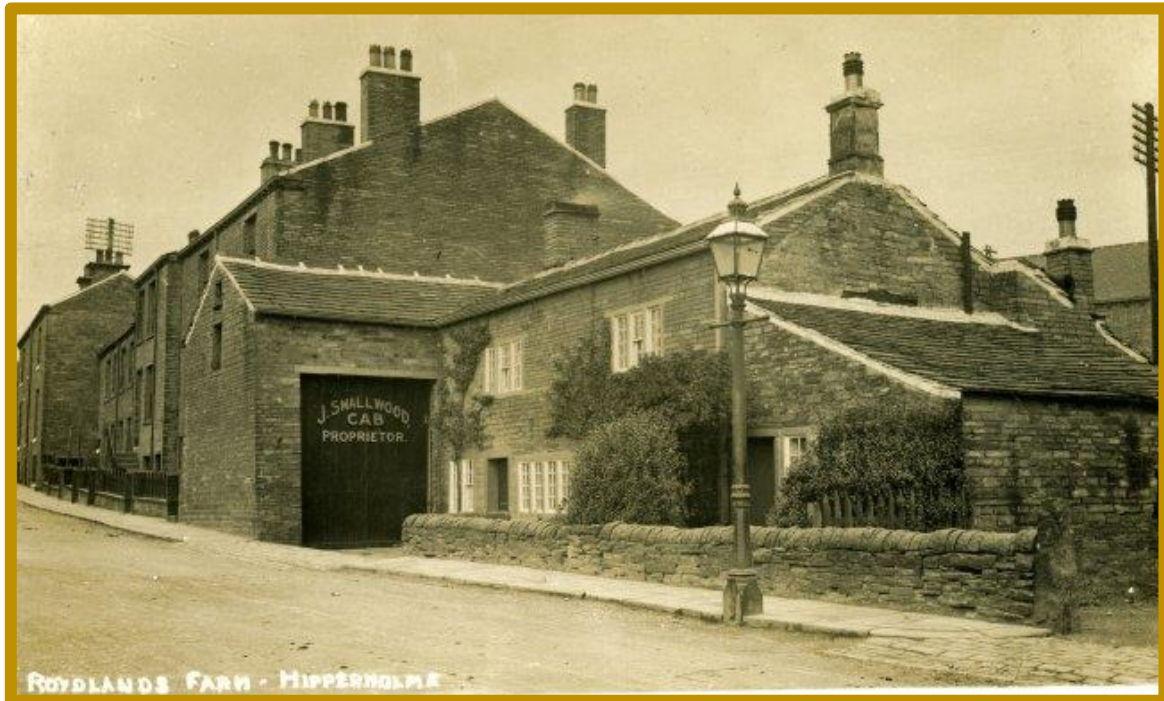


## William Hardcastle of Roydlands Farm

William Hardcastle rented Roydlands Farm, Hipperholme from the Lister family of Shibden Hall. Roydlands Farm was at the top of Wakefield Road just before where it joined the Leeds – Whitehall Road by what is now Roydlands Street.



The *West Yorkshire, Select Land Tax* records from 1809 to 1826 have his landlord as James Lister, Anne Lister’s uncle. Then, after James Lister died in 1826, his executors were the proprietors before Anne Lister inherited the estate.

West Yorkshire, England, Select Land Tax Records, 1704-1932							
West Morley > Hipperholme cum Brighouse > 1805-1869							
26		Ledgard Mr	Self			1 19	12
2	10	Joseph Richd	Self			3 9	3
2		Do	House			3	11
22	10	Lister Joseph	10 <sup>rs</sup> Sutcliffe	1	13	9	2
8	10	Do	Self			12 9	4
1	0	Do	Wood			1 6	2
2	0	Do	John Tate			3 0	1
1	10	Do	Do			2 3	1
20		Do	10 <sup>rs</sup> Sutcliffe			1 10	8
9		Lister James	10 <sup>rs</sup> Hardcastle			13 6	12

The records for 1830 below have W<sup>m</sup> Hardcastle as the occupier of 'House, Barn, Cottages and Land' owned by Miss Lister. Many of the names on this list – Samuel Sowden, Joshua Hopkins, Charles Robinson, Thomas Pearson, John Pearson, George Robinson, Thomas Robinson - are familiar and their back stories have already been told as they were buried in Lightcliffe churchyard. Find them at [People of Interest \(lightcliffchurchyard.org.uk\)](http://People of Interest (lightcliffchurchyard.org.uk))

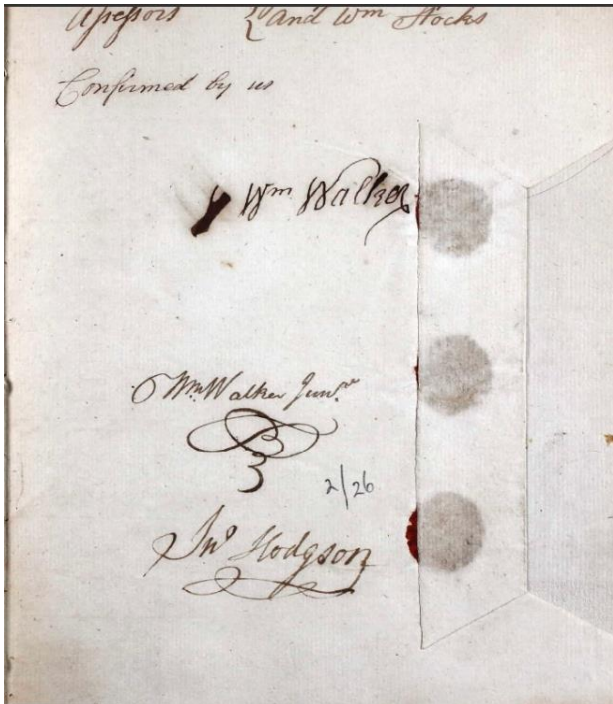
West Yorkshire, England, Select Land Tax Records, 1704-1932 for Wm Hardcastle  
 West Morley > Hipperholme cum Brighouse > 1805-1869

	19.10.6	Lyster Miss	Sam <sup>s</sup> Sowden	House Barn 2 Cottages & Land	11	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		
1	0	38.5.0	Miss Mepworth	2 Cottages	1	16	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	9	2.1.7.6	Self	Woods		1	8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	
3	9	13.10.2	Geo <sup>s</sup> Hopkins	House & Land	2	8		
2	9	5.5.7	Charles Robinson	Land				2 2
2	8	2.0.4	Sam <sup>s</sup> Freeman	Land				10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
4	2	7.0.0	Self	Quarry				2 11
6	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	4.5.0	Jonathan Mollison	Land				1 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
0	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2.10.2	John Pearson	2 Cottages	1	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		
	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	20.13.8	John Pearson	House Barn & Land	12	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		
2	3	1.0.0	Self	Woods		4	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
	8	7.4.5	Geo Robinson	Land	4	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		
2	6	4.12.6	Self	Land	2	10		
2	5	20.1.8	Wm Hardcastle	House Barn Cottages & Land	12	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>		
10	0	7.10.0	Thos <sup>s</sup> Geo Robinson	Mill	2	10		
3	9	4.0.0	Aquila Green	House				1 8
4	4	21.7.6	John Hartley	Cottages	1	11		
			Sam <sup>s</sup> Sowden	House Barn & Land				15 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

According to Ancestry's records many of these gentlemen, including William Hardcastle were still renting from Miss Lister in the 1850s long after she and some of them had passed away. This may have been because Ann Walker was given a life interest in Shibden Hall after Anne Lister died in 1840. When Ann Walker died in 1854 the Shibden Hall estate passed to John Lister. But he does not appear as the proprietor until 1866 – 1867. Why the names of William Hardcastle and other deceased tenants still appear in say 1858 is unclear. Perhaps the year dates are incorrect. Looking at the original pages it is difficult to be certain as to which year they refer to.

Moving back in time there is more certainty as to which year was being referred to. In this era William Walker of Crow Nest and his sons, William Walker junior and John Walker sometimes signed the documents either as the collectors, the assessors or confirming the lists. Notice the flamboyant signature of William Walker junior on both documents below with that of his father William Walker in 1783 and then his brother John Walker, Ann Walker's father, in 1784.

1783



1784



From 1796 to 1808 Joseph Hardcastle was occupying a property owned by James Lister. Before then 1790 – 1796 Joseph Hardcastle's landlord was Mr Lister which could be James Lister or Joseph Lister or it could be their brother, Jeremiah Lister, Anne Lister's father. From 1783 to 1789 a Samuel Hardcastle occupied property owned by Jeremiah Lister. In the meantime, Samuel Hardcastle – he might be Joseph's brother rather than his father - and Joseph Hardcastle owned property – possibly cottages – mostly not occupied by obvious family members although a Richard Hardcastle crops up as an occupier from 1802. And occasionally the proprietor was noted as being the 'Late Samuel Hardcastle' or the 'Late Joseph Hardcastle' which might be a clue as to death dates.

Time to investigate these Hardcastles, starting with Samuel Hardcastle.

The Lightcliffe and Halifax records have a number of Samuel Hardcastles. One had some children baptised at Eastfield Chapel, Lightcliffe and others at St. John's, Coley. The earliest baptism is from 1740 which fits with a Samuel Hardcastle, a "Shoemaker" marrying Frances (Fanny) Marsden on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1739 in Halifax.

John Hardcastle, son of Samuel, was baptised at Lightcliffe on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1740. But siblings Betty, Mary and Samuel (junior) were baptised at Coley on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1742, 27<sup>th</sup> March 1744 and 8<sup>th</sup> April 1748. For the baptism of son Richard, the family were back in Eastfield Chapel on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1751. No baptism has been found for a son Joseph Hardcastle

The *West Yorkshire Land Tax* records refer in 1793, 1794 and 1796 to the 'Late Samuel Hardcastle' – sometimes spelt Hardcastel - being the proprietor of property in Hipperholme occupied by John Mallinson.

This seems to fit with a long memorial inscription on a ledger stone in the closed section of Lightcliffe churchyard. Unusually the gentleman, Arthur Blackburn who transcribed the memorial inscriptions in Lightcliffe and other West Riding churchyards nearly a century ago just recorded the top half of the ledger stone. Fortunately, by checking on the actual memorial all of it can be read and what interesting family information it reveals.



**HERE LIES THE BODY OF FRANCES  
THE WIFE OF SAMUEL HARDCASTLE NEAR HIPPERHOLME  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPTEMBER THE 19<sup>TH</sup> 1776  
IN THE 67<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HER AGE.**

**ALSO OF FOUR CHILDREN OF JOSEPH HARDCASTLE  
NAMED ABRAHAM, HANNAH, RICHARD AND SAMUEL  
WHO DIED IN THEIR INFANCY.**

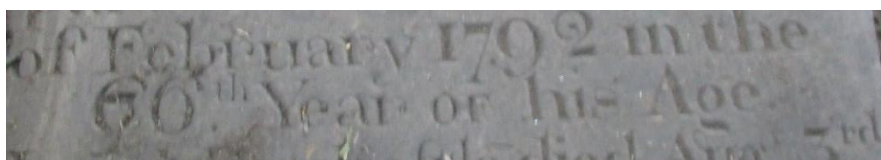
**ALSO HERE LIES THE BODY OF ELIZABETH LATE DAUGHTER  
OF JOSEPH HARDCASTLE AND GRANDDAUGHTER TO THE ABOVE SAMUEL  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY  
IN YE 17<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF HER AGE.**

**ALSO HERE LIETH THE BODY OF SAMUEL HARDCASTLE  
HUSBAND TO THE ABOVE SAID FRANCES  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 1792  
IN THE 66 (OR 76) TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.**

**JOSEPH HARDCASTLE DIED AUG 3<sup>RD</sup> 1798 AGED 18 YEARS**

**AFFLICTIONS SORE LONG TIME  
PHYSICS WAS IN VAIN  
TILL GOD DID PLEASE BY DEATH SEIZE  
AND EASE ME OF MY PAIN**

As you can see this long memorial inscription over the plot now given the code H\*28 has been added to over the years. The wording does imply that at least three adults were buried in the plot, possibly as well as another adult and four infants. It also confirms that Joseph Hardcastle was the son of Samuel and Frances and that he had at least five children.



Was 76 engraved at first and then changed to 66 or the other way round?

The confusing age of Samuel Hardcastle makes identifying his baptism record tricky and his son's baptism has not been found. But fortunately the Hardcastle grandchildren, the children of Joseph Hardcastle, were baptised at Lightcliffe; namely Abraham on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1761 who was then buried on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1766, Hannah on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1763 who was buried just after her brother on 1st April 1766, John on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1766, another Abraham on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1768, Betty (Elizabeth) on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1770, Richard on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1773 who was then buried on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1774, Mary on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1775, Joseph on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1779, Fanny on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1781 and William on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1775.

These baptism dates would appear to agree with the deaths of three named infants and the two teenagers. Seventeen-year-old Elizabeth (Betty) died on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1788 and was buried 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1788. Then eighteen-year-old Joseph died on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1798 and was buried 6<sup>th</sup> August 1798. No baptism record has been found for the infant Samuel who was named on the memorial inscription. He was buried at Lightcliffe on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1777.

But who was the mother of these children born 1761 onwards? The following marriage record seems to fit.

Shoemaker Joseph Hardcastle married Ann Mallinson on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1761 in Halifax. The surviving Abraham Hardcastle was also recorded as being a shoemaker of Hipperholme when he married Sally Souwood [sic] of Northowram on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1790. No more has been found about Abraham, John or Mary so only Fanny and William will now be followed.

Ann Hardcastle the wife of Joseph was buried in an unknown plot in St. Matthew's churchyard on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1800. At the time her husband was still appearing on *West Yorkshire, Select Land Tax* records occupying property owned by Mr James Lister but also owning property occupied over the years by George Naylor, John Mallinson, Widow Wood, Joseph Asquith, Thomas Turner and a Richard Hardcastle amongst others.

The property owned by James Lister was almost certainly Roydlands Farm. In 1809 it was occupied by William Hardcastle. This was following the death of his father Joseph Hardcastle who was buried in an unknown plot on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1808. Was he buried with his wife Ann? And should there have been a memorial to them? There is an apparent vacant space next to where his children and his parents were buried and where his son, a granddaughter and a great grandson were buried later. But that is jumping ahead in the family story!



**Plot F\*28**

**Plot H\*28**

Joseph and Ann Hardcastle's youngest daughter Frances (Fanny) married James Shoemsmith on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1802 in Halifax. But when they had nine children baptised at St. Matthew's Church in Lightcliffe they used the surname Sucksmith. James and Frances lived in Norwood Green where James was a farmer. To avoid complicating this article with what happened to this large family and all its Lightcliffe connections their story will be told in

### **James and Frances Sucksmith of Norwood Green**

This current write up will continue with their daughter Elizabeth, their fourth child who was baptised at Lightcliffe on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1808.

Spinster Elizabeth Sucksmith of Hipperholme had a son James S(h)ucksmith baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1825 and then another son William Shoemsmith baptised on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1827 at St. John's Halifax. It therefore looks as if Elizabeth Sucksmith / Shoemsmith had moved out of her parents' home in Norwood Green to live in Hipperholme sometime before 1825.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for James Shucksmith						
Halifax, St John the Baptist > 1825						
June 26	James	Eliz <sup>th</sup> Sucksmith	Hipperholme	Spinster	C. Rogers	No. 2202.

The next baptism and then burial records below give a hint as to where in Hipperholme Elizabeth was living. Son John, of Lightcliffe, was baptised, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1832, at St. John's Halifax but buried in Lightcliffe churchyard in an unmarked plot on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1833. The Whitehall address was almost certainly Roydlands Farm, the home of her uncle William Hardcastle, her mother's brother.

Mar. 11	John	Elizabeth Sucksmith	Lightcliffe	Spinster	F. Custance	No. 1110
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Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1833					
John, son of Elizabeth Sucksmith Spinster	Whitehall	March 24	14	March	R. Wilkinson Min <sup>r</sup>
No. 1095.					

Another John Sucksmith, the son of spinster Elizabeth Sucksmith of Hipperholme was baptised at Halifax again, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1835. From Anne Lister's diary for Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1835, we know that Elizabeth Sucksmith was living with her uncle.

*A – rode forwards to Cliff-hill, & I left her & went in to ask Hardcastle for his vote for Wortley (John) – not at home – his niece would tell H --; he had said he would not promise it to anybody till he had seen me.*

The composition of the Roydlands Farm household was confirmed in the census data for 1841 and 1851. As usual the transcribers had trouble with the Sucksmith surname – corrected below - , recording it as Luckrmeth in 1841 and Sacksmith in 1851.

1841 census

William Hardcastle 50 Farmer  
 Elizabeth Sucksmith 34 F.S.  
 James Sucksmith 15 M.S.  
 William Sucksmith 13 M.S.  
 John Sucksmith 6  
 Address Roydland, Hipperholme

1851 census

William Hardcastle Head 65 Farmer  
 Elizah Sucksmith Niece 43 Housekeeper  
 James Sucksmith Nephew 26 Farmer  
 Wm Sucksmith Nephew 23 Shoemaker  
 John Sucksmith Nephew 14 ditto  
 Fanny Sucksmith Niece 7 Scholar  
 Address Whitehall, Lightcliffe

Daughter Frances (Fanny) Sucksmith was born on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1843 and, as was usual for Elizabeth’s children, taken to Halifax for her baptism on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1843.



Bachelor William Hardcastle of Whitehall died on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1852 aged 66. He was buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1852 in the left-hand plot in the image above, plot F\*28.



Read how his niece, Elizabeth Sucksmith, then continued to live at Roydlands Farm.

**Elizabeth Sucksmith of Roydlands Farm**

D.M.Barker

June 2023