

The Sucksmiths of Hill End Farm part 1

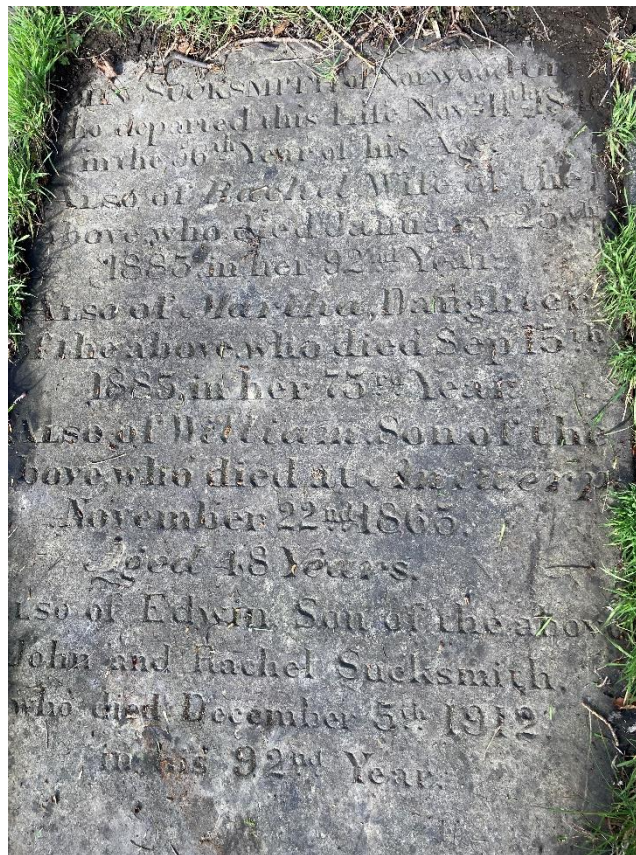
In the article about

The Taylor Sucksmiths

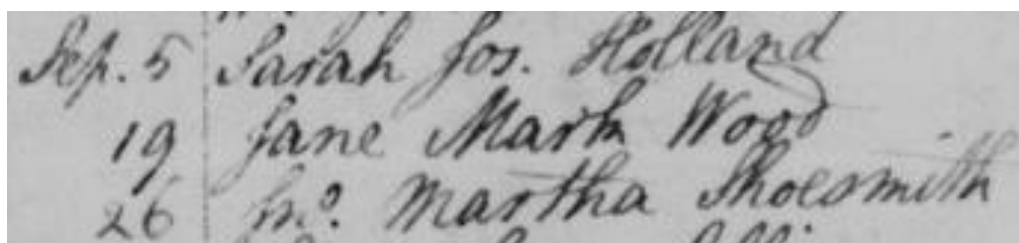
it was noted that Sarah Sucksmith, the fourth daughter and sixth child of John and Rachel Sucksmith first married Jonas Taylor in 1845 and then John Shoemith/Sucksmith in 1854. The surnames Sucksmith and Shoemith were interchangeable with an individual often using both at different times.

As you will see from the census records, Sarah returned to live with her widowed mother and siblings at Hill End Farm, Norwood Green.

Various members of this Sucksmith family were buried and/or remembered on this ledger stone above plot R*5 in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe.



John Sucksmith married Rachel Pinder on 9th September 1810 in Halifax. Working back from his death year, 1846, and age, 56 years, he may well be the John Shoemith baptised on 26th September 1790 at St. Matthew's church Lightcliffe, the son of Martha Shoemith



If Martha Shoemsmith was the mother of this John Sucksmith – and the naming of his first daughter adds weight to this theory – then she was probably the Martha Sucksmith who was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 16th September 1802. No other details were given on the parish record so nothing more has been deduced.

Similar calculations, using the death age, 91 years, and death date, 25th January 1883, for Rachel Sucksmith née Pinder suggest that she was born around 1791. Therefore, the Wibsey baptism record on 29th May 1791 for a Rachel Pinder the daughter of William Pinder may be the correct one. Again, the naming of their first son William would fit but is not absolute proof. Neither is the fact that a 75-year-old William Pinder of Norwood Green was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 9th January 1836.

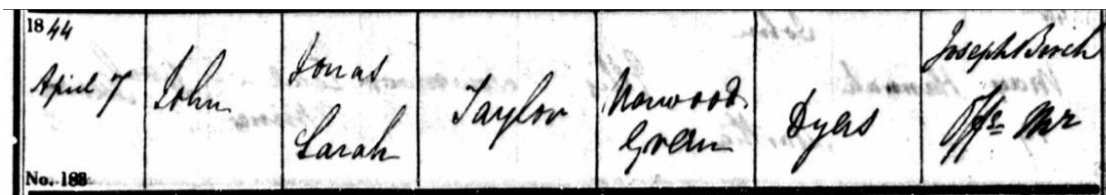
Following their 1810 marriage, John and Rachel Sucksmith had seven children baptised at St. Matthew's Church. The family lived in Norwood Green and their father was described as a weaver, then a coal miner and then latterly a labourer. The children were Martha baptised on 31st March 1811, Mary Ann baptised on 5th September 1813 but buried aged 27 weeks in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 24th February 1814, William baptised on 2nd July 1815, another Mary Anne baptised on 10th May 1818, Edwin baptised on 25th February 1821, Sarah baptised on 7th December 1823 and finally Rachel baptised on 13th August 1826.

Mary Anne Sucksmith had a daughter Delia Ann Sucksmith - often shorten to Ann - baptised at Lightcliffe on 13th November 1836. On 6th June 1841 all the family were at home and John Sucksmith had become a farmer, perhaps at Hill End Farm, Norwood Green.

1841 census

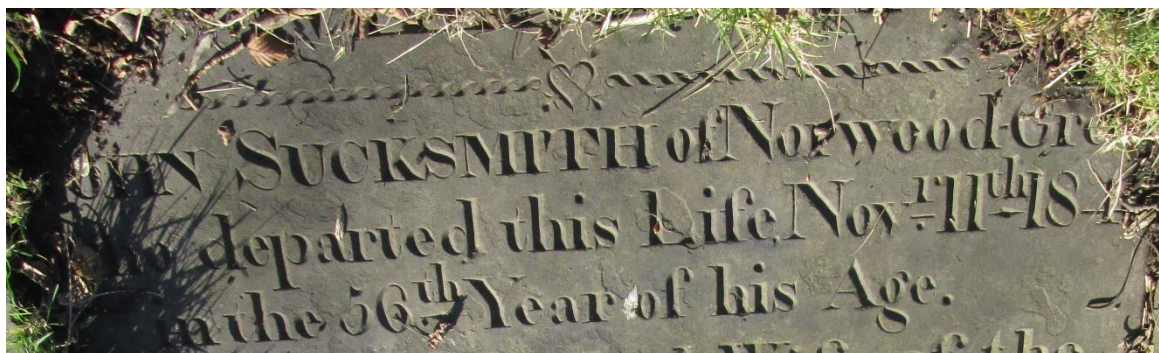
John Sucksmith 50 Farmer
 Rachel Sucksmith 50
 Martha Sucksmith 30
 William Sucksmith 25 Leather Currier
 Mary Sucksmith 22
 Edwin Sucksmith 20 Ag. Lab
 Sarah Sucksmith 17
 Rachel Sucksmith 14
 Ann Sucksmith 4
 Address Norwood Green

Sarah Sucksmith 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 at St. Matthew's 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.



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.

Father John Sucksmith died on 11th November 1846 and was buried in the closed section of Lightcliffe churchyard on 15th November 1846 in the plot now given the code R*5.



Two years after losing her daughter and then her father a pregnant Sarah Taylor née Sucksmith lost her husband Jonas Taylor. The Lightcliffe parish records note his burial was on 3rd May 1848. Their son Fred Taylor was born later that year and baptised at St. Matthew's on 31st December 1848. But he too died aged just 3 years and 2 months. He was buried with his father on 3rd October 1850 and his name appears on one of our 'missing' ledger stones. Read more in

The Taylor Sucksmiths

By 30th March 1851 widow Sarah Taylor had returned with her only surviving child, John, to live with her widowed mother and siblings in Norwood Green. Her older brother William Sucksmith was the only family member not at home.

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	Grnddau	14	Scholar
John Sucksmith	Grndson	7	Scholar
Address Norwood Green			

There were three Sucksmith weddings before the next census. Daughter Rachel married Nathan Hanson on 6th March 1853. Then widow Sarah Taylor née Sucksmith - although once again the surname Shoemith was used - married John Shoemith on 18th March 1854 again at St. John's Church, Halifax.

1854 Marriage solemnized at		in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York						
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 Shoemith	42	Bach ^r	Farmer	Hepperholme	James Shoemith	Farmer
		Sarah Taylor	30	Wid ^w		Hepperholme	John Shoemith	Farmer
Married in the Parish of <u>Hepperholme</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>William Smith</u> or after <u>Benet</u> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>John Shoemith</u> his X <u>mark</u>			in the Presence of us,		<u>John Thomas</u> <u>Isaac Sugden</u>	

Although the marriage record does not say it both fathers had died, and both were buried in Lightcliffe churchyard. The back story of farmer James Shoesmith/Sucksmith of Norwood Green will be explored separately, and an attempt will be made to find out whether the two fathers were related.

Then to confuse matters even further another sister Mary Anne married John Taylor on 22nd May 1854. Was the fatherless John Taylor related to sister Sarah's first husband? Who knows!

1854. Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of <i>Harrogate</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.
85	May 22	John Taylor Mary Anne Sucksmith	36 36	Bachel ^r Spin ^r	Stuff weaver	Stepperholme Stepperholme	John Sucksmith deceased	
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <i>Canon</i> by me, _____								
The Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>John Taylor</i> and <i>Mary Anne Sucksmith</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>James Whidker</i> and <i>William Thomas</i>					

John Shoesmith and Sarah née Sucksmith formerly Taylor had a daughter Emily Sucksmith baptised at Lightcliffe on 1st April 1855 After that father John Sucksmith disappeared!

1855						
<i>1 April</i>	<i>Emily</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Sucksmith</i>	<i>Norwood</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>G. B. Rogerson</i>
<i>No. 718</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Green</i>			<i>Off. Minister</i>

Nathan and Rachel Hanson of Wyke also baptised children at St. Matthew's Church; namely Willie on 12th April 1857 and then Sally on 9th January 1861. The same day that Sally was baptised her older brother 3-year-old Willey, having died three days before, was buried in plot HH*18 in Lightcliffe churchyard. This plot is the bottom one in the image on the left and but then the top one in the image on the right. The next but one plot is a Taylor plot.



Rachel Hanson's sister, thirty-nine-year-old Mary Anne Taylor née Sucksmith of Low Moor died on 11th August 1857. She was buried in the Taylor plot JJ*18 in St. Matthew's churchyard on 16th August 1857. As you can tell from the codes this plot was the next but one to that for her little nephew, Willey Hanson. Although we knew what the memorial inscriptions on these ledger stones said the actual ledger stones were buried under rubble after the old church was demolished. A few years ago, after a drone was flown during a particularly dry spell, the Hanson ledger stone was located and partly exposed for photographing. The Taylor ledger stone was buried even deeper and has only recently been unearthed. At the time the images above were again taken before the resulting hole was back filled for safety reasons.

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 Grnddau 6 Scholar
 Address Norwood Green

1861 census

John Taylor Head 44 Stuff Presser
 Delia Ann Taylor Dau 24
 Address Bailey St., Bowling, Bradford

1861 census

Nathan Hanson Head 38 Wheel Bar ?owler
 Rachel Hanson Wife 35
 Sally Hanson Dau 9/12
 Address New Road, Storr Hill, Wyke,

Again, son William Sucksmith, who would have been about 45, was not at home.

Twenty-five-year-old Delia Ann Sucksmith Taylor - as she signed herself – married John Hodgson on 18th October 1862 in Bradford. Her father was recorded as being John Taylor, a stuff presser. In subsequent censuses he has been found living with the Hodgsons.

1862 Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Bradford</u> in the County of <u>York</u>								
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.
492	18 October	John Hodgson Delia Ann Sucksmith Taylor	30 25	Bachelor Spinster	Wickhamia —	Bowling Bowling	George Hodgson John Taylor	Wheelwright Stuff Presser
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>Banns</u> by me, <u>W. Ellis Curate</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>John Hodgson</u> <u>Delia Ann Sucksmith Taylor</u> }		in the Presence of us, { <u>William Hanson</u> <u>Christopher Gibson</u> }						

And then, according to the family's memorial inscription on R*5, the missing son William Sucksmith died in Antwerp on 22nd November 1863. No other records have been found for him after the 1841 census when he was a leather courier. Perhaps this occupation took him over to Europe.

John Taylor Sucksmith, son of Sarah and so grandson of Rachel, married Grace Whitworth in Halifax on 26th November 1867, by which time he was a 'Stuff Presser' from Halifax. Their son 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, possibly their grandfather.

**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.**

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

**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.**

The family households looked like this on 2nd April 1871.

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

1871 census

John Hodgson Head 38 Mechanic
Delia Ann Hodgson Wife 34
Fredrick Hodgson Son 7

Eleanor Hodgson Dau 3
Jane Hodgson Dau 8/12
John Taylor Father in law 53 Stuff Presser
Address Brunswick St., Tong

1871 census

Nathan Hanson Head 46 Labourer
Rachel Hanson Wife 44 Furrier
Sally Hanson Dau 10 Scholar
Address Brick Hill, Wyke

Sarah Sucksmith's son, John Taylor Sucksmith, and his wife Grace were living at 11 Gibbet St., Halifax with Grace's father Samuel Whitworth, a beer seller, on 2nd April 1871. 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 Grace, died aged 27 years. She was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard in plot Q3 on 29th August 1871. Louisa Alberta Taylor Sucksmith was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 5th May 1872, a year after her mother Grace died. It looks as if she was then brought up by her grandmother Sarah Sucksmith at Hill End Farm.

Twenty-year-old Emily Sucksmith, daughter of Sarah and John, married 21-year-old Robert Ellis on 17th January 1874 in Halifax parish church.

1874. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Halifax</i> in the County of <i>West</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.
144	January	Robert Ellis	21.	Bachelor	Cordwainer	Hippersholme	Joseph Ellis	Labourer
	17. 1874	Emily Sucksmith	20.	Spinster	—	Hippersholme	John Sucksmith	Farmer
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>Robert Ellis</i> or after <i>Banns</i> by me, <i>William James Brazshaw</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>Robert Ellis</i> <i>Emily Sucksmith</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>Albert Woodworth</i> <i>John Thomas</i>		

And then later that year her half-brother, the widower John Taylor Sucksmith married Ellen Newby Q3 1874. He appears on electoral registers living in Halifax and owning property there. The census data and then his probate record tell you exactly where in Halifax.

Continued in

The Sucksmiths of Hill End Farm part 2

D.M.Barker

July 2023