

## The Bancroft family

As detailed in

### The Sucksmith family of Underhill Farm

their eldest daughter Mary Sucksmith married Philemon Bancroft on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1832 in Halifax.

<i>Philemon Bancroft of Hipperholme of this Parish</i>	<i>Comber Bachelor</i>
and <i>Mary Sucksmith of Hipperholme of this Parish</i>	<i>Spinster</i>
were married in this <i>Church</i> by <i>Barnes</i> with Consent of	
this <i>third</i> Day of	
<i>March</i> in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <i>thirty two</i>	
By me <i>Robert Garratt Curate</i>	
This Marriage was solemnized between us { <i>Philemon Bancroft</i> <i>Mary Sucksmith</i>	
In the Presence of { <i>Wm. Foulds &amp; Co's Mark</i> <i>Wm. Rushworth</i>	
No. 707.	

These Bancrofts were another Lightcliffe family whose members were baptised at Eastfield Chapel and buried at St. Matthew's churchyard. Philemon was the eighth child and seventh son of James Bancroft and his wife Sarah. James in turn was possibly the only son of another James Bancroft and his wife Mary. Four children, with father, James Bancroft were baptised at Eastfield Chapel, Lightcliffe, Mary on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1764, Ann on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1766, James on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1768 and then another Mary on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1772. No death for the first Mary has been found. Their parents could well be the James Bancroft buried on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1803 followed by Mary Bancroft, a widow buried on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1805.

There is more certainty about the family of their son James. On 8<sup>th</sup> March 1789 he married Sarah Lister at St. John's Church, Halifax. They were both from Hipperholme and James was a 'Dresser', an occupation that many of his sons would also follow.

N <sup>o</sup> 12943	James Bancroft of Hipperholme of this Parish <i>Dresser and</i>
	<i>Sarah Lister of the same place Spinster</i> were
Married in this <i>Church</i> by <i>Barnes</i>	
this <i>eight</i> Day of <i>March</i> in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred	
and <i>eighty nine</i> By me <i>J. Nisfenburgto</i>	
This Marriage was solemnized between Us { <i>James Bancroft</i> <i>Sarah Lister's Mark</i>	
In the Presence of { <i>Wm. Waddington</i> <i>J. Berrall</i>	

They appear to have had nine children, eight boys and one girl, all of whom were baptised in the newly built – now referred to as the old - St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. John was baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1791, George on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1794, Joseph on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1796,

James on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1798, Sarah on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1801, Anthony on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1803, Paris on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1806, Philomen on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1808 and finally Edwin born 9<sup>th</sup> August 1811 on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1815.

The much later baptism of little Edwin occurred the day before he died on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1815. His was the first burial, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1815, in a Bancroft's plot in the closed section of the churchyard to the right of the entrance path, now given the code L\*18.

The only daughter Sarah Bancroft had a son on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1823. He was baptised Joseph Cordingley Bancroft at St. Matthew's on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1823. His name gives a clue as to his possible father which will be confirmed later.



Joseph Bancroft of Halifax married Martha Hatton of Rochdale, Lancashire on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1825 at St. James Church, Wardleworth. Although Martha was actually from Lightcliffe the daughter of Joseph and Jane Hatton née Rhodes. The back story of the Hatton family, many of whom were also buried in the churchyard, has already been told in

### **The Hatton and Swain families**

On 24<sup>th</sup> December 1826 the cloth dresser Joseph Bancroft and his wife Martha lived in Halifax, but they had Sarah Jane baptised at St. Matthew's. They were back in Lightcliffe when Edwin was baptised at St. Matthew's on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1829. But then they must have moved to Leeds. This was the given address when they had three-week-old Albert Bancroft buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1832. They brought another son Alfred back from Leeds to Lightcliffe to be baptised on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1836.

By then the children's paternal grandmother Sarah Bancroft née Lister had died on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1831. The sixty-four-year-old was buried with her little boy Edwin in plot L\*18 on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1831. She missed the birth and baptisms of more grandchildren, the children of Philemon Bancroft and his wife Mary née Sucksmith, James on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1832, Joseph on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1834, William on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1836, Sarah on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1837 and Anthony born 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1840 on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1840.

She also missed the marriage of her only daughter Sarah Bancroft to Joseph Cordingley, almost certainly the father of her son Joseph Cordingley Bancroft, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1835. Joseph and Sarah had two more sons James and John Cordingley, born 25<sup>th</sup> Mary 1838, baptised at St. Matthew's on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1836 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 1838 respectively.

Seventy-two-year-old James Bancroft of Priestley Green died on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1840. He was buried with his wife and son in plot L\*18 on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1840.

And now to the 1841 census data. Eldest son John Bancroft has not been found, he might have been buried at Coley in 1825. George Bancroft has also not been found but he was alive. He and his family were living in Bury, Lancashire in 1861. Similarly, Anthony Bancroft is missing although he may have been in Leeds - read on. The rest of the Bancroft households looked like this on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1841.

1841 census

Joseph Bancroft 40 Woolen Cloth Dresser  
 Martha Bancroft 45  
 Edwin Bancroft 10  
 Alfred Bancroft 5  
 Ellen Bancroft 3  
 Address Mill Bridge, Liversedge, Birstall

1841 census

James Bancroft 40 Farmer  
 Address Shutt, Brighouse

1841 census

Joseph Cordingley 40 Farmer  
 Sarah Cordingley 40  
 Joseph Cordingley 15  
 James Cordingley 5  
 John Cordingley 3  
 Address Hill Top, Brighouse

1841 census

Philemon Bancroft 30 Farmer  
 Mary Bancroft 25  
 James Bancroft 9  
 Joseph Bancroft 7  
 William Bancroft 5  
 Sarah Bancroft 3  
 Antony Bancroft 1  
 Address Lightcliffe

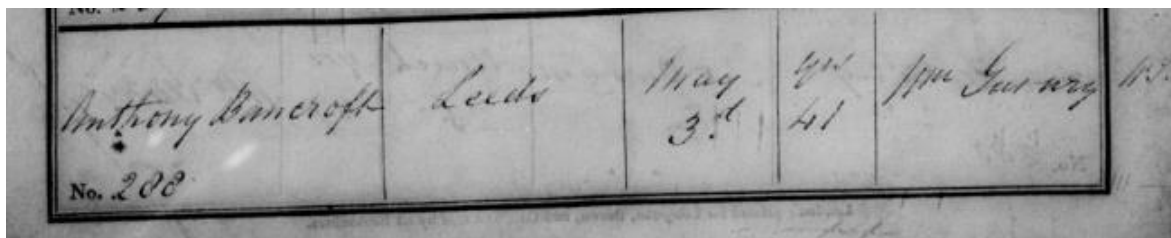
1841 census

Paris Bancroft 35 ????  
 Address Lower Winteredg, Brighouse

Philomen and Mary Bancroft had three more children - John born Q3 1842, Mary Ann born Q1 1844, George born Q4 1847- but no baptism records have been found.

His sister Sarah Cordingley née Bancroft had a son Edward born Q2 1841 and then a daughter, Sarah born Q3 1844, baptised at St. Matthew's on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1841 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 1847 respectively. Their mother Sarah died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1849 aged 48. She was buried at Lightcliffe in plot U\*8 on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1849. Eleven-year-old Edward Cordingley would later join her on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1852.

The next Bancroft burial, for Anthony Bancroft, was on 3rd May 1845. The same day Leeds newspapers reported what had happened to the 41-year-old. [His age in the newspaper report would appear to be wrong.]



Anthony Bancroft was buried with his parents and little brother in plot L\*18.

Leeds Intelligencer 03 May 1845

DEATH BY HANGING.—An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the Court House, Leeds, before Blackburn Esq., on view of the body of Anthony Bancroft, a cloth dresser, in the employ of Messrs. James Brown and Co., who had been found that morning suspended by a silk handkerchief, in his lodgings, in St. James's-street. The Jury returned a verdict "that the deceased was labouring under temporary insanity."

Leeds Times 03 May 1845

SUICIDE BY HANGING. – On Thursday last an inquest was held before John Blackburn, Esq., relative to the death of Anthony Bancroft, a cloth dresser, who had been in the employ of Messrs. James Brown and Co.. The deceased, who was a single man, 37 years of age, resided in lodgings, in St. James's Street. For the last fortnight, he had been labouring under depression of spirits, but continued at his work,

up to the day when the unhappy deed was committed. This was on Thursday morning. The occupant of the house called him up as usual about six o'clock, to go to his work, after which he himself continued in bed till about an hour after that time, when he got up, and on going into the cellar kitchen, was horrified at seeing his lodger suspended by the neck, from a nail over the kitchen fire-place, which was used for roasting meat. Life was quite extinct. The deceased had suspended himself from the nail by a black silk neckerchief, which had apparently broken with his weight in the first instance, but he had tried it a second time, and too fatally succeeded. He was a steady industrious man, and had saved an amount of money, which, for a man in his circumstances, might be looked upon as a considerable, and which was invested in houses, valued at between two and three hundred pounds. The jury agreed upon a Verdict—That the deceased had destroyed himself in a temporary fit of insanity.



**IN MEMORY OF EDWIN THE SON OF JAMES AND SARAH BANCROFT  
OF LIGHTCLIFFE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 1815  
AGED 3 YEARS AND 8 MONTHS**

**ALSO OF SARAH WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED JAMES BANCROFT  
WHO DIED JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> 1831 AGED 64 YEARS**

**ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED JAMES BANCROFT  
WHO DIED JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> 1840 AGED 72 YEARS**

**ALSO OF ANTHONY SON OF THE ABOVE JAMES AND SARAH BANCROFT  
WHO DIED MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1845 AGED 41 YEARS**

1851 census

Joseph Bancroft           Head 55 Cloth dresser  
Martha Bancroft           Wife 58  
Sarah Jane Bancroft       Dau 24 Power Loom Weaver  
Edwin Bancroft            Son 22 Cloth dresser  
Alfred Bancroft            Son 15 ditto  
Ellen Bancroft            Dau 13  
Address 9 park Court, Leeds

1851 census

Paris Bancroft            Head 45 Wool comber  
Address Coley Mills Comb Shop, Hipperholme  
cum Brighthouse

1851 census

James Bancroft            Head 52 Accountant  
  [that is what it says]  
Address  
Bramley Lane, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1851 census

Philemon Bancroft        Head 42 Woolcomber  
Mary Bancroft            Wife 38  
James Bancroft            Son 19 ditto  
Joseph Bancroft         Son 17 ditto  
William Bancroft         Son 15 ditto  
Sarah Bancroft            Dau 13  
Anthony Bancroft         Son 11  
John Bancroft             Son 9  
Mary Ann Bancroft        Dau 7 Scholar  
George Bancroft          Son 3  
Address  
Lane Ends, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1851 census

Joseph Cordingley        Head 50  
Joseph Cordingley        Son 28  
James Cordingley         Son 15  
John Cordingley          Son 12  
Edward Cordingley        Son 9  
Sarah Cordingley         Dau 6  
Address Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

Not long after this census was taken Joseph Bancroft died in Leeds. The fifty-six-year-old was brought back to Lightcliffe, as his infant son Alfred had been, to be buried there on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1851 in an unknown plot.

His brother James Bancroft died on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1857. He too was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1857 in a new Bancroft plot now given the code LL\*22.

Philemon and Mary Bancroft had more children Emma born Q3 1851 and Edwin born about 1854 – no birth or baptism record has been found - before this happened.

Leeds Mercury 15 November 1860

LOW MOOR

INQUEST .--On Monday evening, an inquest was held at the Fleece Inn, Carr-lane, on the body of Mrs Bancroft, wife of Philemon Bancroft. The deceased had undergone much hardship and been inhumanely treated by her husband, who was a few days ago sentenced to six months' imprisonment for his cruelty. Her death was very sudden. The jury returned a verdict of "Died from natural causes."

This copy of the death certificate for Mary Bancroft née Sucksmith was found on Ancestry.

HD 225190

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953



Registration District <u>Bradford</u> in the County of <u>York</u> .								
60. Death in the Sub-district of <u>North Bierley</u>								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
1860 Kleventh November  Low Moor North Bierley	Mary BANCROFT	Female	46 years	Wife of Philemon BANCROFT labourer	Sub Acute Bronchitis  evidence not sufficient to determine if death was accelerated by ill treatment	Information Received from G. Dyson Coroner for Yorkshire and the Honor of Pontefract Halifax Inquest held 12 <sup>th</sup> November 1860	Twenty ninth November 1860	G. Wooler    Registrar.

Mary Bancroft the eldest daughter of James and Fanny Sucksmith was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1860.



What then happened to the Bancroft children particularly the younger ones? Their maternal grandmother, Fanny Sucksmith, was still alive but elderly. It looks as if son William took charge of things.

1861 census

Joseph Cordingley Head 60 Farmer of 3 acres  
Joseph Cordingley Son 38 Ag. Lab  
James Cordingley Son 25 ditto  
Sarah Cordingley Dau 16 Scholar  
Address Hill Top, Farm House, Hipperholme with  
Brighthouse

1861 census

Paris Bancroft Boarder 54 Labourer Ag  
Address Coley Mill, Priestley Green

1861 census

Philemon Bancroft Head 52 Widower Ag. Lab  
Address Ole Storr Hill, Wike, Cleckheaton

1861 census

William Bancroft Head 25 Iron Forge Man  
Sarah Bancroft Sister 23 Housekeeper  
Anthony Bancroft Brother 21 Forge Labourer  
John Bancroft Brother 19 ditto  
Mary Ann Bancroft Sister 17 Cotton Weaver  
George Bancroft Brother 13 Forge Labourer  
Emma Bancroft Sister 9 Scholar  
Edwin Bancroft Brother 7ditto  
Address Carr Lane, North Bierley

Twenty-seven-year-old James Cordingley died on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1864. He was buried with his mother Sarah née Bancroft and young brother on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1864.

Bachelor Paris Bancroft of Norwood Green died on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1867. He was buried with his brother James on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1867 in plot LL\*22. There is a partly covered and cracked ledger stone over this plot which may have been damaged when the old church was demolished in the 1970s. Its memorial inscription says :-

**IN MEMORY OF JAMES BANCROFT OF BRAMLEY LANE  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 1857 AGED 58 YEARS  
ALSO OF PARIS BANCROFT BROTHER OF THE ABOVE  
WHO DIED AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> 1867 AGED 64 YEARS**



1871 census

Joseph Cordingley Head 70 Farmer of 7 acres  
ditto Cordingley Son 48 Farmer's Son  
John Cordingley Son 33 Shoemaker  
Sarah Cordingley Dau 26 Housekeeper  
Address Hove Edge

1871 census

Pelem [sic] Bancroft Inmate 62 Labourer  
Address North Bierley Union Workhouse, Clayton

Philomen Bancroft must have remained at the Workhouse as this was where he died on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1873 according to his death certificate (below) which was also found on Ancestry.

HD 166607

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF DEATH  
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

Registration District BRADFORD in the County of York

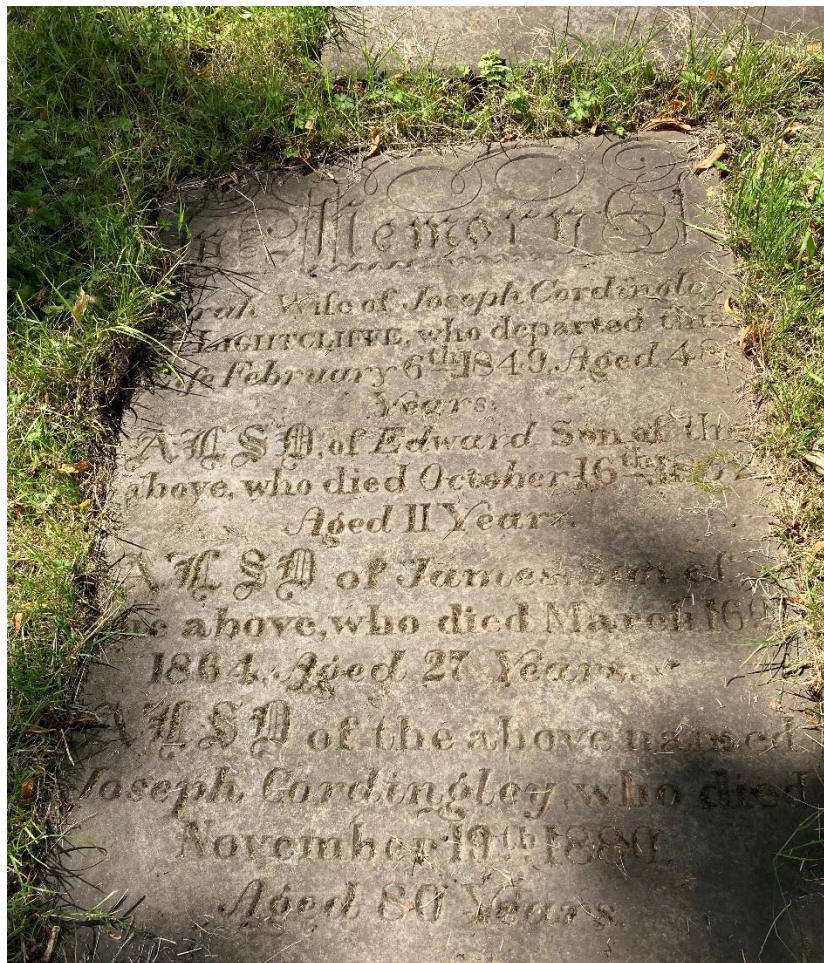
873. Death in the ~~sub~~-district of Thorncliffe

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
<u>Twenty fourth January 1873  Union Work House  Clayton</u>	<u>Philomen BANCROFT</u>	<u>male</u>	<u>65 years</u>	<u>School - Master</u>	<u>Gangrene</u>	<u>Edward Eland in attendance Union Workhouse Clayton</u>	<u>Twenty Fifth January 1873</u>	<u>Thomas Sunderland  Registrar</u>

His given occupation of 'School Master' is interestingly as this was what was recorded when his youngest son Edwin Bancroft married. Philomen was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1873 in plot B5 owned by his son William Bancroft. There is no headstone and no one else appears to have been buried in this plot which is near the Till Carr Lane entrance to the middle section of the churchyard.



The Cordingleys lost their father Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1880. He was buried with his wife Sarah née Bancroft and sons in plot U\*8 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1880.



**IN MEMORY OF SARAH THE WIFE OF JOSEPH CORDINGLEY OF LIGHTCLIFFE  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> 1849 AGED 48 YEARS**

**ALSO OF EDWARD SON OF THE ABOVE  
WHO DIED OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 1852 AGED 11 YEARS**

**ALSO OF JAMES SON OF THE ABOVE  
WHO DIED MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup> 1864 AGED 27 YEARS**

**ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED JOSEPH CORDINGLEY  
WHO DIED NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 1880 AGED 80 YEARS**

1881 census

Sarah Cordingley Head 36  
Farmer of 7 acres 1 man  
Joseph Cordingley Brother 58 Agric Labourer  
John Cordingley Brother 42 Boot maker  
Address Hove Edge Farm House, Hipperholme  
cum Brighthouse

1891 census

Sarah Cordingley Head 46 Farmer  
Joseph Cordingley Brother 67 Farm Servant  
John Cordingley Brother 52 Shoemaker  
Address Hove Edge Farm House, Hipperholme  
cum Brighthouse

For some reason, in both censuses, younger sister Sarah Cordingley was recorded as the head of the household rather than her older brothers.

Not long after the 1891 census was taken Sarah and then Joseph Cordingley died on consecutive days in May. According to information supplied by Daphne Eyres who is related to this family Sarah's cause of death was 'Influenza and Pneumonia'. Her older brother Joseph died of exhaustion having had a disease of the ankle joint for six months. As you can see, they were buried together in plot L37 in the middle section of St. Matthew's churchyard in a plot owned by their brother John who was granted probate for each of them.

Administration of the Personal Estate of Joseph Cordingley late of Hove Edge in the Township of Hipperholme-cum-Brighthouse in the County of York Farmer a Bachelor who died 22 May 1891 at Hove Edge was granted at Wakefield to John Cordingley of Hove Edge Boot and Shoe Maker the Brother and one of the Next of Kin.  
Personal Estate £267 18s 5d

Administration of the Personal Estate of Sarah Cordingley late of Hove Edge in the Township of Hipperholme-cum-Brighthouse in the County of York Spinster who died 21 May 1891 at Hove Edge was granted to John Cordingley of Hove Edge Boot and Shoe Maker the Brother and one of the Next of Kin. Personal Estate £282 18s

The Boot and Shoemaker John Cordingley then married a widow Mary Egan Q3 1891. Mary had an interesting history as Daphne Eyres explains.

Mary was the daughter of Ann Kneeshaw, spinster of Low Moor, who married James Mathers in 1843, whose name daughter Mary then took. For the 1861 census 21-year-old Mary Mathers was a servant in a Low Moor household. Also boarding in the same household was a 22-year-old cordwainer, John Cordingley. On 15 May 1864 Edward Kneeshaw Mathers was baptised at Holy Trinity, Low Moor, son of Mary Mathers, spinster.

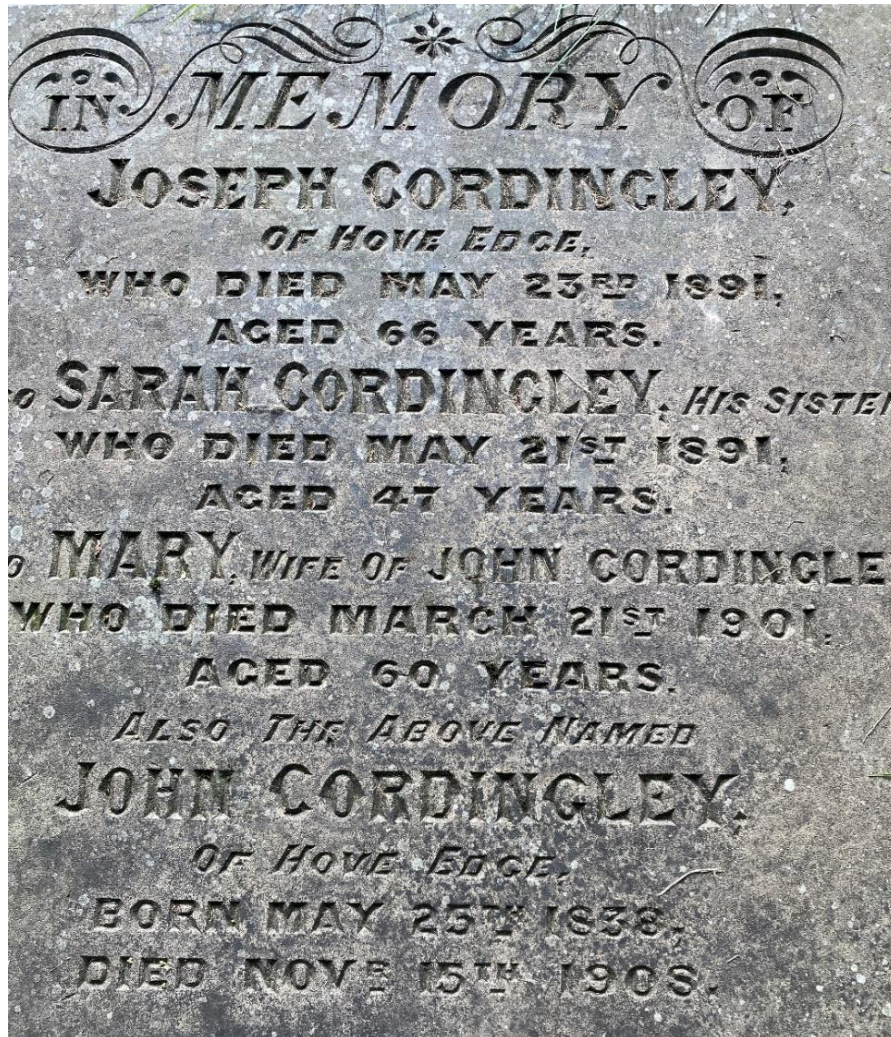
In 1878 Mary married Richard Egan, a boot and shoemaker and in 1881 Edward Mathers, 16, apprentice shoemaker, was living with them at Low Moor. Richard died the following year so in 1891 mother and son, Mary Egan and Edward Mathers, were on their own at Low Moor before Mary Egan married John Cordingley.

Mary Cordingley formerly Egan then Mathers née Kneeshaw died on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1901. She was buried in the Cordingley plot L37 on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1901. This was just before the census was taken when this father and son were listed as 'Shoemakers'. Although John Cordingley was incorrectly recorded as Joshua this does seem to confirm that Edward Cordingley also known as Edward Kneeshaw Mathers was John Cordingley's son.

1901 census

Joshua [sic – should be John] Cordingley Head 62 Shoemaker on own account  
Edward Cordingley Son 36 ditto  
Mary Mathers Visitor 60 Visitor  
Address 148 Upper Lane, Brighthouse

Seventy-year-old John Cordingley died on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1908. His was the last burial in plot L37 which has this ledger stone over it.



By then his son Edward Cordingley had married Alice Sternwhite Q1 1903. This is another family with Lightcliffe connections so their story will be told in

### **The Sternwhite family**

#### 1911 census

Edward Cordingley      Head 46 Boot & Shoe Maker  
Alice Cordingley        Wife 41  
William Sternwhite    Nephew 17 Student  
Address 307 Halifax Rd., Lightcliffe

#### 1921 census

Edward Cordingley    Head    57      Boot & Shoe Maker    Brighouse C.W.S. King St., Brighouse  
Alice Cordingley     Wife    51      Home Duties  
Address Ivy House Farm, Brighouse, Yorkshire (West Riding), England

#### 1939 register

Edward Cordingley    19 Apr 1864    Boot Repairer- Retired    Married            84    1  
Alice Cordingley     06 Mar 1870    Unpaid Domestic DutiesMarried            84    2  
Address Ivy House Farm Halifax Road, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Edward Cordingley the grandson of Sarah Cordingley née Bancroft died on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1941 aged 77 years. He was buried in plot K34 in St. Matthew's churchyard on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1941. This plot is quite close to his father's plot L37 but unfortunately it has no headstone.

CORDINGLEY Edward of Ivy House Farm Hove Edge Yorkshire died 24 October 1941 Probate Wakefield 4 February [1942] to Alice Cordingley widow William Sternwhite schoolmaster and John Westman transport driver. Effects £994 14s 6d Resworn £1294 14s 6d.

His widow, seventy-four-year-old Alice Cordingley née Sternwhite, joined him in plot K34 - not R34 as mis transcribed - on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1944. She has two probate records.

CORDINGLEY Alice of Ivy House Farm Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire widow died 23 April 1944 Probate (save and except settled land) Wakefield 6 July to William Sternwhite school master and Eva Steward (wife of Arthur Richard Seward). Effects £383 10 5d  
????? Grant (R to S.L) 30<sup>th</sup> August 1946

CORDINGLEY Alice of Ivy House Farm Hove Edge Brighouse Yorkshire widow died 23 April 1944 Probate (limited to settled land) Wakefield 30 August to William Sternwhite schoolmaster and John Westman transport driver. Effects £1250.  
Former Grant D.R. Wakefield 6 July 1944.

This concludes the Bancroft family story.

D.M.Barker

August 2023