

Abraham Hemingway of Southolme Farm, Southowram



A copy of a 1910 painting by Denham, of Southolme Farm.

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In 1835 Southolme Farm at 42 acres was the largest on the Shibden Hall estate with the rent going to Anne Lister's Aunt Ann, according to Jill Liddington's book *Female Fortune*. It was built in the 1500s and came into the Shibden Hall estate when Japhet Lister bought it in 1765 according to John S. Wharton's book *Walterclough Valley*.

Abraham Hemmingway took over the tenancy in 1818 according to Anne Lister's diary for 17th February 1818.

Hemingway agreed with my uncle for Southholm farm this morning – Abraham Hemingway took Southholm farm –

There are many references to Abraham Hemingway of Southolme farm in Anne Lister's diaries. Some of the entries are about the farm, the rent he paid, and his crops others refer to moving stone and walling.

From the 23rd May 1826

told Washington to see after the walling at Southholm and pay Jackman, and bring me Hemingway's bill for leading the stones -

30th April 1828 and then 1st May 1828

Talked about Southholm land – Hemingway had improved it very much, but made a deal of money out of it

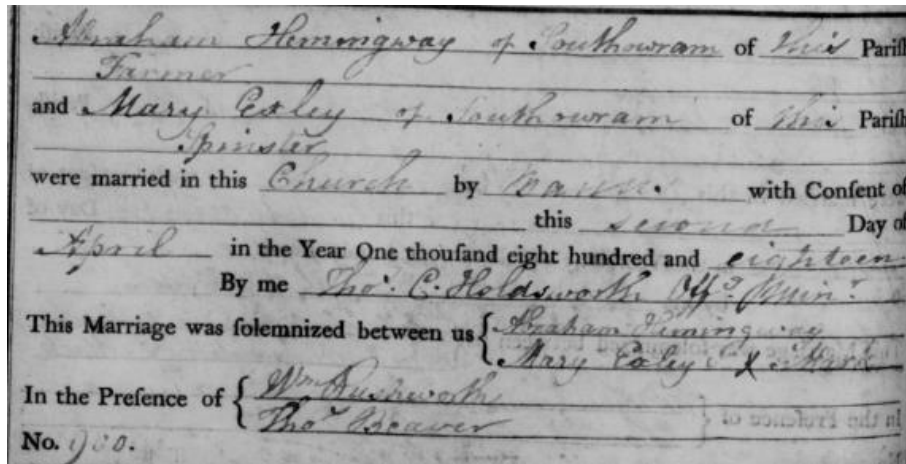
Told Mr. B- [Briggs] he must tell Balmfirth, I would not allow of selling off, and that Hemingway must really be raised – presumably his rent.

This is his family's story and their connections with (the old) St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.

Abraham Hemingway was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 30th September 1787 the eldest child of John Hemingway and his wife Sarah née Nicholson. Their story is told in

John Hemingway senior and family

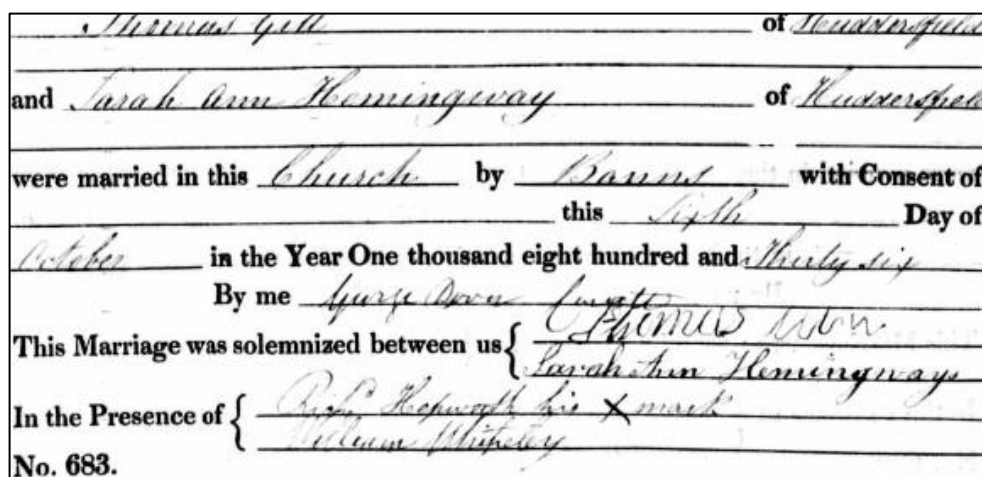
Abraham Hemingway married Mary Exley on 2nd April 1818. As you can see, they were both from Southowram and Abraham was a farmer having just taken the tenancy of Southolme Farm.



Their ten children were all baptised at Southowram, Sarah Ann born 21st January 1819 on 30th May 1819, John born 12th December 1820 on 22nd July 1821, George born 13th June 1822 on 16th March 1823, Samuel on 3rd July 1825, Ellen on 28th October 1827, Abraham on 2nd October 1831, Mary Ann on 21st October 1834, James born 3rd April 1836 on 21st August 1836 and William born about 1839 on 8th February 1846.

A sixteen-day old Ruth Hemingway daughter of Abraham of Southowram was buried at Lightcliffe on 9th May 1830. This little girl was probably named after her aunt Ruth, Abraham's twenty-six-year-old sister who died on 17th July 1829 and was buried in Lightcliffe on 23rd July 1829. Seven-month-old Mary Ann was also buried there in an unknown plot on 12th February 1835.

Eldest daughter Sarah Ann Hemingway married Thomas Gill of Huddersfield on 6th October 1836. They had three daughters; Mary Ann baptised at Northowram on 15th October 1837, Mercy Hannah baptised there on 7th April 1839 and Emma born Q1 1841.



1841 census

Abm Hemingway 50 Farmer
 Mary Hemingway 45
 John Hemingway 20 Ag Lab
 George Hemingway 18 ditto
 Ellen Hemingway 15
 Abm Hemingway 9 Ag Lab
 James Hemingway 5
 Wm Hemingway 2
 Address Southowram

Son Samuel had left home to become a Tailor's Apprentice in Brighouse

1841 census

Thomas Gill 30 Ag Lab
 Sarah Ann Gill 25
 Mary Ann Gill 3
 Hannah Gill 2
 Emma Gill 4 Mo
 Address Fold, Northowram

1841 census

Joshua Dyson 35 Tailor
 Hannah Dyson 40
 Jane Dyson 6
 Samuel Hemingway 15 App
 Address Church Lane, Brighouse

Abraham Gill was baptised in Halifax on 7th April 1844. But then early in 1846 the Gills of Northowram suffered a double tragedy when Thomas and then his 8-year-old daughter Mary Hannah died. They were both buried in unknown graves in St. Matthew's churchyard on 22nd February 1846 and then 20th April 1846 respectively.

Widow Sarah Ann Gill née Hemingway then married Kershaw Firth on 7th December 1846. Sons John Firth and Hemingway Firth were born on 27th March 1847 and 6th October 1849 but not baptised until 18th September 1852 at Coley with their little sister Ellen.

1846. Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of <u>Halifax</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.
43	Dec 07	Kershaw Firth Sarah Ann Gill	24 27	Wid ^r Wid ^r	Labourer —	Northowram do.	Jb Firth Abm. Hemingway	Wid ^r Wid ^r
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after <u>Reading of the Banns</u> by us.								
This Marriage was solemnized between us.		<u>Kershaw Firth</u> <u>Sarah Ann Gill</u>	in the Presence of us.		<u>John Holden</u> <u>James Ingham</u>			

Sixty-one-year-old Abraham Hemingway died on 13th February 1850. He was buried in the closed section of Lightcliffe churchyard in a plot now given the code P*2 and so not that far from his parents' plot.

His son Samuel Hemingway married Mary Dyson Q4 1850, they had a daughter, Emily. The family lived in Brighouse where Samuel ran a business as a tailor and woollen draper on Commercial Street. He will no longer be followed, apart from noting that the widower died aged 69 Q1 1895 in Brighouse.

The rest of Abraham's family were either in Southowram or Northowram on 30th March 1851. The Gill children are recorded as 'in-law' when today it would be stepdaughters and stepson.

1851 census

Mary Hemingway	Head	57
John Hemingway	Son	30
George Hemingway	Son	28
Ellen Hemingway	Dau	23
Abm Hemingway	Son	20
James Hemingway	Son	15
William Hemingway	Son	12
George Beverly	Servant	25

Address Southowram

1851 census

Kershaw Firth	Head	28	Farmer of 9 acres
Sarah Ann Firth	Wife	32	Farmer's Wife
Hannah Gill	Daughter-in-law	12	Milk Girl
Emma Gill	Daughter-in-law	9	ditto
Abm Gill	Son-in-law	7	at home
John Firth	Son	4	
Hemingway Firth	Son	1	

Address Fold, Northowram

Three Hemingway sons married before the next census. Two of them, Abraham and James, then moved out of the area and had no further connections with St. Matthew's Lightcliffe. For completeness just a brief outline of what became of them will be given.

Abraham married Hannah Holroyde of Rastrick in 1853. He eventually became a Brighthouse maltster and carrier employing five men in 1881. The maltster was named on the probate record of his uncle James Hemingway who died in 1875. Abraham died on 7th November 1889 and also has a probate record.

The *Halifax Courier* for January 21st 1854 had this marriage announcement

Jan. 19, at Square Chapel, Halifax, by the Rev.J.Howard Mr.
George Hemingway farmer, of Southowram, to Miss Ann
Towlinson [sic], of Hipperholme.

At some point after the death of his father, Abraham, George took on the tenancy of Southolme Farm. His wife Ann was the daughter of Richard and Mary Tomlinson not Towlinson. This is another Lightcliffe family whose story will be explored later.

The Tomlinson and Mosey families

[A member of the related Mosey family also gets many mentions in Anne Lister's diaries as he makes carts and fences for her and Ann Walker.]

Before the next census George and Ann had two daughters Mary and Fanny baptised at St.Matthew's Lightcliffe on 9th August 1857 and 29th May 1859 respectively.

Like his brother Samuel, James Hemingway was a Brighthouse tailor and woollen draper. He and his wife Emma Sykes, who he married on 24th May 1859, lived with their large family in Bethel Street, Brighthouse. The 55-year-old died on 28th November 1891.

For some reason Southowram data from the 1861 census has not been found. But George Hemingway and family were almost certainly living at Southolme Farm. His mother and youngest brother had by then moved to Waring Green. Quite where his eldest brother John and only sister Ellen were living and what they were doing is also unknown. John later appears back in Southowram, but Ellen has not found after the 1851 census.

The eldest daughter Sarah Firth formerly Gill née Hemingway had had more children, and her family were still at Fold Farm, Northowram as the following census data shows.

1861 census

Mary Hemingway Head 67 Retired Farmer
Willm Hemingway Son 22 Joiner
Address
Waring Green Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1861 census

Kershaw Firth Head 37 Farmer of 8 acres
Sarah A Firth Wife 43 Farmer's Wife
Hannah Gill Dau 22 Woolen Drawer

Emma Gill Dau 20 ditto
Abraham Gill Son 17 Coal Cart Driver
John Firth Son 14 Card Machine Tenter (App)
Hemmingway Firth Son 11 Scholar
Ellen Firth Dau 9 ditto
Sarah A Firth Dau 6 ditto
Mary Firth Dau 4 ditto
Sam Firth Son 1
Address Fold Farm, Northowram

On 16th November 1862 John Hemingway married mother of three Elizabeth Haigh. A Hemingway son and daughter were born before the next census when John and the family were at Royd, Southowram and he was a farmer and innkeeper.

Kershaw Gill died Q2 1863.

Later that year George and Ann Hemingway had another daughter Alice Ann baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 15th November 1863 when again George was a farmer from Southowram. Little Alice Ann Hemingway died on 4th December 1865. She was buried with her great grandmother, Fanny Mosey, in plot P*8 in Lightcliffe churchyard on 8th December 1865.



Youngest brother William Hemingway, a joiner, married Hannah Nuttall Q2 1864. And then after she passed away on 4th December 1897 he married a widow, Isabella Conway, on 7th June 1899 in Elland. William Hemingway died on 29th December 1914.

His mother Mary Hemingway died on 1st September 1866 aged 72 years. She was buried with her husband Abraham in plot P*2 on 5th September 1866. This ledger stone now covers the plot.



1871 census

Sarah Ann Firth	Head	53	
			Farmer 10 acres 1 man
Abraham Gill	Son	28	ditto Ag. Lab
Emma Gill	Dau	30	Worsted Weaver
John Firth	Son	24	Ag. Lab
Hemmingway Firth	Son	21	Ag. Lab
Ellen Firth	Dau	19	
Mary Firth	Dau	14	Worsted Weaver
Sam Firth	Son	11	Worsted Spinner
Address Shibden Fold, Northowram			

1871 census

George Hemingway	Head	48	
			Farmer 48 acres employing 1 man
Ann Hemingway	Wife	38	Farmer's Wife
Mary Hemingway	Dau	14	Farmer's Daughter
Fanny Hemingway	Dau	12	ditto
Richard Price	Servant	19	Servant
Address Southholme, Southowram			

John Hemingway died on 12th September 1875 in Southowram where he was buried. He has a probate record with his sister and brother as executors.

The Will of John Hemingway late of Southowram in the County of York Inn keeper who died 12 September 1875 at Southowram was proved at Wakefield by Samuel Hemingway of Brighouse in the said County Tailor the Brother and Sarah Ann Firth of Stump Cross near Halifax in the said County Widow the Sister the Executors. Effects under £450

1881 census

Sarah Ann Firth Head 63 Widow farming 10 acres
Hemingway Firth Son 31 Carter
Sam Firth Son 21 ditto
Mary Firth Dau 24
Address 3 Fold, Northowram

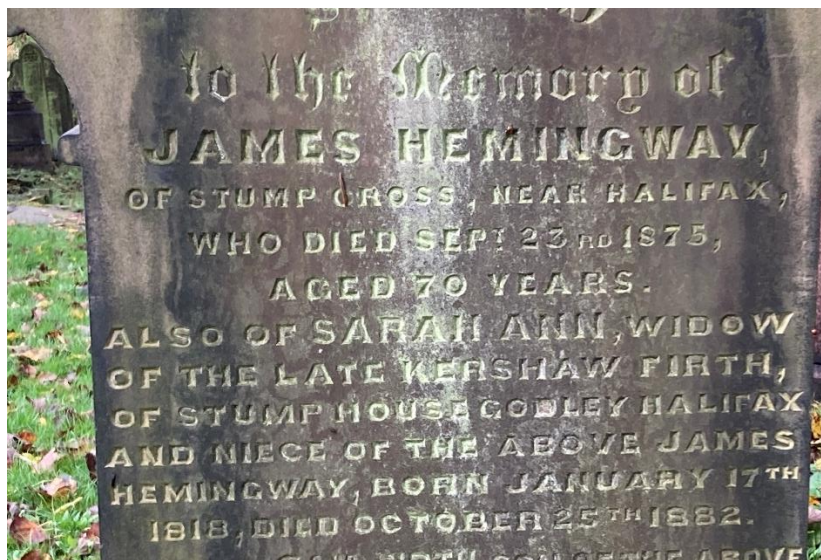
Mary Hemingway married Thomas Roper just before the 1881 census was taken.

1881 census

George Hemingway Head 58 Farmer of 48 acres
Ann Hemingway Wife 48 Farmer's Wife
Fanny Hemingway Dau 22 Farmer's Daughter
Thomas Roper Boarder 25 Stone Merchant
Mary Roper Dau 24
George Mallinson Servant 18 Farm Servant
Address South Holme, Southowram

Not long after the census was taken Fanny Hemingway married Clayton Aspinall, a blacksmith, the son of James Aspinall, a stone merchant of Clay Royd Farm, Southowram on 5th June 1881.

A year later Sarah Ann Firth formerly Gill née Hemingway died on 24th October 1882. The sixty-four-year-old was buried with her uncle James Hemingway in Lightcliffe plot G77 on 28th October 1882. At the time the plot was owned by her brother Samuel.



**ALSO OF SARAH ANN WIDOW OF THE
LATE KERSHAW FIRTH OF STUMP HOUSE GODLEY HALIFAX
AND NIECE OF THE ABOVE JAMES HEMINGWAY,
BORN JANUARY 17TH 1818, DIED OCTOBER 25TH 1882**

The memorial inscription – see the transcription at the end of the article - goes on to name Sam Firth, a son of Kershaw and Sarah Ann Firth and then Emma Brier née Gill, Sarah Ann's daughter from her first marriage. Emma Gill married Jonathan Brier Q2 1884.

Ann Hemingway née Tomlinson died on 25th February 1887. She was buried with her parents Richard and Mary Tomlinson in Lightcliffe plot T27 on 28th February 1887. The transcription of her memorial inscription on our website says

**AND ALSO OF ANN THE AFFECTIONATE
WIFE OF JOHN HEMINGWAY OF LAVERACK LANE
AND DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE RICHARD AND MARY TOMLINSON
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 25TH 1887 AGED 54 YEARS**

but on unearthing the ledger stone it clearly says that Ann's husband was George Hemingway. Laverack Lane was where their daughter lived with her stone merchant husband and family in 1891. The Roper children - Edith Alice born on 26th July 1881, Annie born in Q3 1883, Minnie born in Q1 1885 and John Frederick Roper born in Q2 1886 - were all baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 7th July 1887 when the family lived in Laverack Lane and their father was a stone merchant. A son Charles was also baptised there on 31st October 1888, but he died Q1 1889 and then six year old Annie died Q4 1889.

Clayton and Fanny Aspinall of Wood Bottom also had their children baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe; Anna on 3rd June 1883, Fred on 20th September 1885 and George born 30th December 1890 on 26th July 1891. Little George Aspinall was almost certainly named after his maternal grandfather who died on 19th June 1890. George Hemingway was buried with his wife and Tomlinson in laws on plot T27 on 23rd June 1890.



**ALSO OF THE ABOVE NAMED GEORGE HEMINGWAY
WHO DIED JUNE 19TH 1890 AGED 67 YEARS.**

REST IN PEACE

By 1891 George and Ann Hemingway's daughters were with their families but as they had no further connections with St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe they will be left there.

1891 census

Thomas Roper Head 35 Stone Merchant
Mary Roper Wife 34 Wife
Edith A Roper Dau 9 Scholar
Minnie Roper Dau 6 ditto
John F Roper Son 4Son
Address Laverack Lane, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

1891 census

Clayton Aspinall Head 38 Blacksmith
Fanny Aspinall Wife 32
Anna Aspinall Dau 8 Scholar
Fred Aspinall Son 5
George Aspinall son 3/12
Address Sutcliffe Wood Bottom, Hipperholme
cum Brighthouse

Sam Firth has not been found on the 1891 census. Just a few weeks later on 4th July 1891 he died and was buried with his mother and great uncle in plot G77 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 7th July 1891.

1891 census

Jonathan Brier Head 58 Cart Driver
Emma Brier Wife 50 Damask Weaver
Address Stump, Northowram

1901 census

Jonathan Brier Head 65 Carter Brick Works
Emma Brier Wife 60 Worsted weaver
Address 2 Stump House, Northowram

His half-sister Emma Brier née Gill died on 28th December 1902. She was buried with her mother, brother and great uncle James Hemingway in Lightcliffe plot G77 which was then declared full as by then four adults had been buried there.

**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JAMES HEMINGWAY
OF STUMP CROSS NEAR HALIFAX
WHO DIED SEPTEMBER 23RD 1875 AGED 70 YEARS.**

**ALSO OF SARAH ANN WIDOW
OF THE LATE KERSHAW FIRTH OF STUMP HOUSE GODLEY HALIFAX
AND NIECE OF THE ABOVE JAMES HEMINGWAY
BORN JANUARY 17TH 1818 DIED OCTOBER 25TH 1882**

**ALSO OF SAM FIRTH
SON OF THE ABOVE KERSHAW AND SARAH ANN FIRTH
WHO DIED JULY 4TH 1891 AGED 32 YEARS**

**ALSO OF EMMA BRIER THEIR DAUGHTER
AND THE WIFE OF JONATHAN BRIER OF STUMP HOUSE GODLEY LANE
WHO DIED DECEMBER 27TH 1902 AGED 61 YEARS.**



D.M.Barker
November 2023