

Bod-Kin

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Bradford Family History Society**

BRADFORD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Many others help the Society from time to time. Without their help, we would not function so well.

Please include your membership number in all correspondence and a SAE if you require a reply unless you are purchasing items that include postage.

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Journal of the Bradford Family History Society Editors

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The Editors

Well, what lovely weather we are having. At the risk of sounding very British, it would be nice if it was a bit cooler! With the hosepipe ban in place, the gardens are enjoying the occasional cloud burst. The photograph of the Tower of Now on the cover was taken on one of those sunny days we enjoyed in the Spring. The sculpture is part of Bradford's year as the City of Culture which we touch on in this issue, alongside some excellent articles on the theme of '*Bradford and its People*' that would not fit into June's issue of Bod-Kin.

Earlier this year Bradford City Football Club was promoted to League Division One. This prompted us to think back to the June 2023 issue of the Bod-Kin when we ran your stories about men's sports. With England's glorious victory in the UEFA World Cup (women's team that is), and not wanting to go over old ground, the theme for December's issue will be '*Women's Sports*'. Do you have stories about your female relatives or ancestors who played football, tennis or any other sport, at professional or amateur level? We look forward to receiving your stories.

The cutoff date for the next issue of Bod-Kin is **7 November 2025**. No article is too small. Articles over six pages long can be serialised or placed whole on the Society's website.

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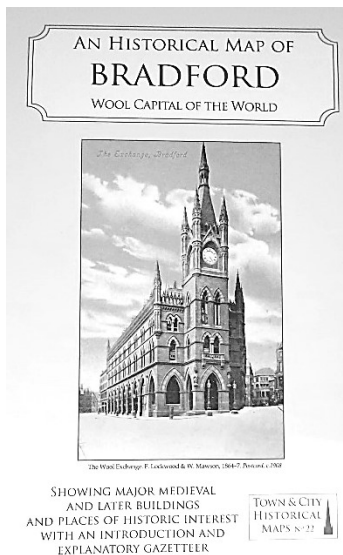
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Front cover picture – *The Tower of Now* by Saad Qureshi - *Tower of Now* is inspired by memory and place. It features Qureshi's trademark intricate woodwork, but on a monumental scale – taller than three double-decker buses. Details taken from <https://bradford2025.co.uk/event/tower-of-now/>.



From T'Chairman

Sue Steel



The Historic Town Trust has published their historical map of Bradford. I was there at the launch at Bradford City Hall during Bradford's Art & Literature Festival on 30th June this year. There will be an opportunity to hear how the map was produced (and I assume purchase the map) when Martin will be at Bradford Local Studies Library on Thursday 25th September. The time to be decided (either 1.15pm or 2.15pm) but information will be posted on our Facebook page and our News items on the website. This is one of the monthly lectures held at the library.

Following a meeting of FOBALS (Friends of Bradford Archives and Local Studies) on 28th July, I can state that a new venue and date for moving both the Archives and Local Studies has NOT been decided. Archives have been told it will not be in 2025 and so they are now opening two days a week on Monday and Tuesday until the end of the year. Local Studies continue to open Monday to Thursday and alternate Saturdays. Their respective websites provide more details.

Bobbie and I attended Our Lady and St. Brendan's Catholic Primary School in Eccleshill to introduce the children and some parents to family history. It was organised chaos but very successful. As ever we had lots of great trees, one going back to great great grandparents (mum was there) and another included a beloved Teddy. Thank you to Bobbie for joining in the fun.

Over the next few months, the committee will be reviewing our insurance policies to see we have the best one for our needs. If any member knows about insurance, I would appreciate them getting in touch. We are also continuing to discuss our status as a Ltd. Co. Please see the separate article on this topic.

You have still time if you would like to be the Speaker Finder for the 2026 programme. Or to let me know of any speakers you think would be suitable for our programme, or any topics you would like covering.

Do get in touch with any comments, suggestions or questions. I'd love to hear from you.

(4097)

Limited Company or Not?

Sue Steel

As mentioned previously, the committee are reviewing whether we still need to be a Ltd. Co. or not. This was initiated by Stewart (Treasurer) and the rising costs of the accountant needed to help submit accounts to Companies House and HMRC (currently around £600 a year).

To give you some background and a reminder. We became a Ltd. Co. by Guarantee to protect committee members from having to personally pay out any fines given to the Society. Making the society a Ltd. Co. meant it was a 'legal' entity and thus any fines were payable by that entity. Fines could have been from data protection issues, copyright issues, cyber problems or anything else really.

At the time we set up the company (pre-covid) we had far more members and although the risk was very low (and continues to be so), the committee thought it was worth the money and inconvenience. But today we have fewer members and so less income, at a time when costs involved in running the Society are increasing (accountants, speakers). So, we are asking, do we need to be a Ltd. Co. going forward?

Over the next couple of committee meetings (September and November) we will be discussing the issue and what we believe to be the best way forward for the Society, its members and the committee. But before we change anything, we need the permission of the members.

**Therefore, this is your notice of an Emergency General Meeting
to be held by Zoom on
Monday evening 17th November from 7.30pm.**

The meeting is free and the Zoom link will be sent to members via the normal meeting email around 10th November. I will also include details of the proposals from the committee for discussion / agreement. If anyone does not receive this email and wants to attend, please let me know, but be aware that the email may go into your Junk or Spam box.

The EGM will (hopefully) be short as I outline the committee's thoughts and proposal for your questions and vote. We will then continue with the evening's programme.

In the meantime, get in touch if you have any views or comments for the committee's consideration.

Thank you

(4097)

Bradford City of Culture 2025

Then, now and in between

Liz Wright

Bradford may be City of Culture 2025, but it's been a city of culture for well over 150 years and it has played a pivotal role in my cultural development, particularly during the 1960s.

This started at school, when a then boyfriend introduced me to classical music – something which had not figured in my household although popular music did. Given the links which the Halle Orchestra had with Bradford, it was inevitable that I ended up going to their concerts in St George's Hall. The Halle Orchestra was founded by Charles Halle in 1858 in Manchester and at the same time, in Bradford, Samuel Smith was trying to establish a world class concert hall. They shared the vision of bringing the very best orchestral music to the people of Northern England. Shortly after their foundation, the Halle played in St George's Hall and continued to do so until the death of Charles Halle in 1895. After a gap of over 50 years and various incarnations, St George's Hall reopened as a municipal concert hall and the Halle, under Sir John Barbirolli, returned to its old home. It was in that era that I went to many concerts there, thankful that Sir John had spoken out against a scheme to demolish the hall. St George's Hall is going strong today and it will no doubt play a prominent role in the 2025 celebrations, as evidenced by the fact that the BBC Proms are coming to the venue in September.



St George's Hall © Liz Wright

An interest in classical music led to an interest in opera and that's where the Alhambra came in. The theatre was built in 1913 (opening in 1914) for Francis Laidler, a theatre impresario, who already owned two music halls in Bradford. It was mainly a variety theatre and hosted some famous names, (too numerous to mention here). One of its main claims to fame was the annual pantomime (reputedly the best in the region), made more famous with the introduction of the Sunbeams in 1922 – 12 young dancers chosen locally. In the late 1950s and early 1960s I went to see the pantomime every year on Boxing Day with my cousin and her family and I was desperate to be a Sunbeam but never auditioned. However, we're talking high culture and in the 1960s my visits to the Alhambra were to see, amongst others, the Sadlers Wells touring company and their operas

and operettas. I thoroughly enjoyed these, (apart from Beethoven's 'Fidelio' which opened on 7th September 1965 – far too gloomy for me,) and developed a life-long love of opera. The Alhambra was bought by the Council in 1964 and extensively refurbished in 1986; it has continued to offer a home to individual performers and musical shows ever since.



The Alhambra Theatre and former Odeon Cinema
© Liz Wright

A smaller theatre in the city, the Bradford Playhouse, added to my cultural (and personal) development*. It alternated between putting on amateur plays and films. I went to the plays all the time since the parents of one of my best friends were very heavily involved in the theatre. The films were mainly foreign language films, (my first introduction to sub-titles), but enormously helpful because I was studying languages at A-Level. One I particularly remember was a Swedish film, entitled 'Hugs and Kisses' – you can imagine the sort of audience that it attracted – these people were sadly disappointed when it turned out to be a comedy drama and not a very good one at that.

Popular culture was not neglected in those days. The Beatles came to Bradford on 2nd February 1963 and played at the Gaumont Cinema (renamed the Odeon in 1969). Surprisingly, (at least knowing how they would rocket to fame) they were only sixth on the bill; the top act was Helen Shapiro. Several of my school friends went and, to this day, I have no idea why I wasn't there as well. However, with all the screaming I doubt I would have heard much. It is interesting to speculate what unknown and what super groups will come to the city to play at the new music venue, Bradford Live.

So, good luck to Bradford in 2025; you have quite a hard act to follow.

**For a more in-depth article about the Playhouse, please see Martin Greenwood's article about his grandfather, Percy Monkman in the June 2025 issue of Bod-Kin.*

(3403)

The Reddihoughs of Beech Mount

Rob Varley

The population of Baildon has increased significantly over the past two centuries: in 1801 it was just 1,719 but by 1901 it had increased to 5,797 and by 2011 it was 15,360. As the industrial sprawl of Bradford grew, bringing with it the inevitable smoke and many other health hazards, people who could afford to move out were attracted to Baildon's healthier, elevated position; and so, by early in the 20th century it was said that there were more millionaires per square mile in Baildon than anywhere else in England. One of these millionaires was John Reddihough, an almost legendary figure who made his fortune by way of *tops*, the long slivers of wool separated by combing from the shorter *noils*.

While exploring my own family history I became curious about his story when his unusual surname (of Saxon origin) also appeared in my own family story...

John's grandfather John Readehaugh was a farmer, born in Oxenhope, near Haworth, around 1774. In 1809 he married Hannah Hague and they had seven children together (including Jonathan in 1814) before Hannah's untimely death in 1825. A year later he married Betty Hague (Hannah's sister or cousin, perhaps?) and they had four further children (including Joseph in 1826). As an aside, several of these children, including Joseph, were baptised at Haworth St. Michael and All Angels church by Rev Patrick Brontë.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Haworth</i>						
in the County of <i>York</i>				in the Year 1827		
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>July 1st</i> <i>born</i> <i>29 Nov 1826</i> <i>No. 4221</i>	<i>Joseph</i> <i>son</i> <i>of</i>	<i>John</i> <i>Readehaugh</i>	<i>Reddihough</i>	<i>Oxenhope</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Mason P. Brontë</i>

Joseph Redihough was baptised by Rev Patrick Brontë, 1 July 1827

Joseph worked his apprenticeship to become a tailor in Stubbing Lane, Haworth. He married Ann Hellewell in Haworth church in 1847, and they had five children (including Frank in 1857).

Frank followed his father into the tailoring trade and had a shop in Commercial Street, Shipley. As well as tailoring he developed several other sideline businesses including an international travel agency.

In 1881, Frank married Grace Park, an aunt of my grandfather Albert Varley. Little did Albert realise that through his Aunt Grace and Uncle Frank there would be a family connection to one of Bradford's biggest wool businesses, and to the final home of his future wife, Nellie Brooke...

Meanwhile, rewinding a generation, Joseph Reddihough's half-brother Jonathan, a farmer, married Elizabeth Heaton in 1838. They had seven children together before Jonathan died at just 40 years of age. He left three surviving sons and three daughters, who then had to grow up quickly and help their widowed mother support the family.

One of these children was John Reddihough, aged 12. Like his uncle Joseph, he took up an apprenticeship as a tailor. In 1868 he married Susannah Burwin, and worked as a 'journeyman' tailor, making garments for his customers in their own homes. At the end of one fortnight's visit, the farmer could not afford to pay him in cash but instead gave him some wool from his sheep.

John left the wool in his own shed for a while and then, one momentous day, he took it in a basket to show to the smart, prosperous wool merchants doing business in the palatial Wool Exchange in Bradford. He was comparatively poor and unknown, but his moral courage and his confidence were rewarded, for the men in frock coats and silk hats were impressed, as were all later wool merchants, by the quality of his wool. From this small beginning he built up one of the West Riding's biggest wool businesses: '*John Reddihough Ltd. Woolcombers & Topmakers*' of Little Horton Lane and Dewsbury.

John Reddihough was a staunch Methodist, and along with John Denby (a wealthy Methodist mill owner of Tong Park), used his wealth to build the Methodist Chapel at Tong Park. Both were active members there and were very generous in their support. John Denby supplied the land, and John Reddihough half the building cost and the stone from his own quarry. In addition to religious services, it provided free education for local children from 3 years old to school leaving at 11 or 12 years.

After living near Manningham station, in 1886 John had a fine house built at Beech Mount near Holden Lane in Baildon, on a site aptly described by its name. John and his wife, Susanna, raised a family of three sons: Frank, Frederic and Jonathan. Infant mortality was common at this time, and three other children died in childhood. The family employed two servants: a cook and a housemaid. John was taken every morning by milk-float to Baildon station, down a curving drive made narrow to avoid wasting the grassland on either side! Often he carried a wicker basket full of eggs from his poultry. When he died in January 1925, John left £1,653,304, on which the Government Duty was £600,000 – both very large sums in those days.

Jonathan Reddihough became a wool salesman and lived at Howefield in Cononley with a wife, children and 2 servants. He retired from business in 1934 and died in 1964.

Frank Reddihough, by the time of his wedding to Marion Denby (daughter of John Denby of Tong Park) on 14th September 1902, was employed in the family business, becoming a director in 1919. A house named Hillbro was built for them in a commanding position at the top of Holden Lane as a wedding gift from their parents. It was built by the family firm of Ellis, who, according to their custom, hoisted a flag as soon as the roof was completed. A celebration was then held and each worker received a small gift. Frank and Marion lived at Hillbro between 1902 and 1928. Their marriage was childless, and Marion died in March 1928, aged 51 years. Later that year Frank was married again, to Sarah Mountain of Perseverance Street, Baildon. The following year they had a child, Ruth. In 1935, they moved out of Hillbro to live at another large mansion, Kirkfields, further down Holden Lane (now demolished).

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FRANK RIDDIOUGH,
AUTHORISED AGENT,
16, COMMERCIAL ST., SHIPLEY.

Shipley Times, 11 April 1913

Frank succeeded his father as the Chairman of John Reddihough Ltd on John's death in 1924. John had always been generous towards his workers, but Frank was even more so. Every Christmas he gave all his workers £2 for each year of service. Over 300 workers benefited, with one operative taking home £100. Frank took little part in public or political life, but had a close association with Baildon Westgate Methodist Church. He was also concerned about public health and gave £30,000 to the Bradford Royal Infirmary building fund. Frank died in 1938 when Ruth was 9 years old, with an estate valued at £1,176,813. His obituary mentions his hobby of breeding canaries, for which he achieved considerable success in competitions at Crystal Palace in London.

Frederic Reddihough was employed as manager of the Caledonian Combing Company on Nelson Street, Bradford (a branch company of John Reddihough Ltd). In 1906 Frederic married Winifred Heaton and they had four children together at Beech Mount, where they employed one servant to supplement the staff there. Winifred died in 1935. After her death Frederic and the children moved to Hillbro. In 1938 he married Gladys Olivant (née Gray) and they moved back to the family home, Beech Mount.

Like his brother Frank, Frederic was also interested in public health and was responsible for the building of the Nurses' Home at Bradford Children's Hospital in 1936. Frederic was more involved in public life than his brother: he was Vice-President of the NSPCC and of Bradford YMCA; Chairman of Baildon Red Cross Committee, and a supporter of Bradford and District Discharged Prisoners Aid Society. He was also an excellent flautist, a keen farmer, an early motorist and a skilful chess player. He died in 1963, with an estate worth £218,605. He was survived by his second wife Gladys, who celebrated her 100th birthday in 1994.

'The happy past sunlights the present'. This appropriate quotation is the last line on a plaque now in the outer porch of Beech Mount, which tells us:

'This house and grounds were given to the Bradford Flower Fund by Gladys M. Reddihough in memory of her husband Frederic J. Reddihough. He enjoyed a long and happy life here, and was called to higher service 22nd July, 1963.'

Beech Mount, now known as Flower Mount, was converted into eight flats, supplementing the 23 attractive bungalows built in the grounds. It was into one of these bungalows that my grandmother Nellie Varley, recently widowed wife of Albert, moved in 1967. Nellie had grown up in a wealthy ex-pat family in pre-revolutionary St Petersburg, but they came back penniless in 1917. She and Albert had been members at Baildon Westgate Methodist Church for over 35 years, where no doubt they were on familiar terms with the Reddihoughs.

Nellie lived out her last twelve years very contentedly at Flower Mount, in the grounds of the Reddihoughs' mansion. A particular pleasure was a regular afternoon playing bridge with a group of ladies, one of whom was called Mrs Reddihough. Perhaps while playing cards these two elderly ladies occasionally reminisced about their childhoods spent in luxurious splendour 4,000 miles apart, at the opposite ends of Europe...?



Beech Mount, Baildon in 1980 © Rob Varley

Source documents: Lucy Gill (1986), *Baildon Memories*
Roger Clark (2019), *Hillbro*
https://holdengrange.co.uk/wordpress_hg/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Hillbro-by-Roger-Clarke.pdf

(5296)

Harry Randolph Dickinson 1932-2025

Vicky Willis and Georgie Dickinson (Harry's daughters)

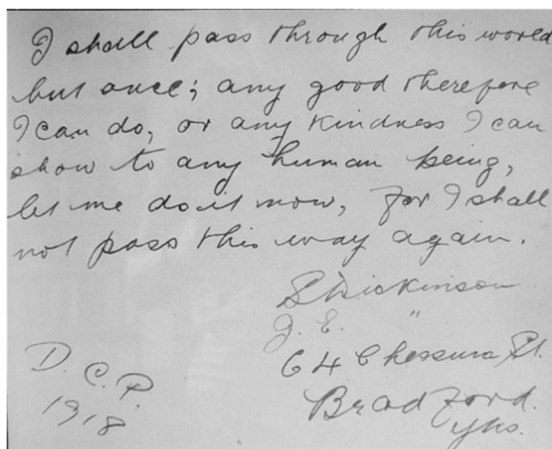
Harry was born in Bradford the youngest of three brothers. His grandfather was a founder member of the Bradford Labour Union which was created following a strike in Manningham Mills that occurred because of wage cuts brought about due to USA tariffs on foreign cloth. The unions were representing the working man as they felt management should share some of the burden.

This same ethos saw his father and brothers spend the first world war in Dartmoor as conscientious objectors because they believed that those in authority were using the working classes from one country against working class of another.

These matters left a great impression on Harry and impacted on the way he lived his life.

Harry attended the boys Grammar School in Bradford, before qualifying in dentistry from Leeds University. He was married to Audrey for 66 years and they had two children. He was an excellent pianist, loved reading and was always up to date on political issues.

Due to health reasons, he left Bradford and moved to Wales and later Herefordshire, but he never lost his love of Yorkshire and read the Bod-Kin Journal to the end of his life. Through this he was delighted to find out about the painting his father did whilst in Dartmoor and the following poem which the brothers wrote.



"I shall pass through this world but once, any good therefore I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. For I shall not pass this way again"

(2095)

The Walmsleys in My Tree

John Parker

The recent brilliant talk by Jane Ellis about the Walmsleys of Robin Hood's Bay prompts me to share with you the Walmsleys in my family tree. They are all from the Lancashire side of the country. Florrie Parker, 1883-1969, was my aunt, the oldest child of my grandparents Fred and Sarah Parker who lived in Pemberton Drive, off Morley Street in Bradford.



Fred and Sarah Parker and their home in Bradford

She married Harry Guttridge Walmsley, 1881-1932, from Lancaster at Shearbridge Road United Reform Church on 16th June 1910. Harry was the son of Rev Silas Walmsley, 1837-1908, from Croston, Lancs, and Violet Glaister, 1852-1935, from Whitehaven. Silas and Violet married at the Samaria Chapel, Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1873.



Florie Parker and Henry Guttridge

Harry and Florrie had 3 children, Donald P, Harry G., and Violet, always known as Vida.

Donald was killed on active service in the Second World War. Sgt D P Walmsley was in a Hampden AT126 bomber from 49 Squadron at Scampton heading for Essen on 6-7 April 1942. Essen is in the heart of the Ruhr area with important coal and steel industries. The plane was lost without trace. He is commemorated on panel 96 of the Runnymede memorial, near Windsor.



Runnymede Memorial



Donald Guttridge

(4313)

Heavy Woolen

Sue Carson

Heavy Woolen

The chimneys down the sunset slant
Their smokes are fairy plums,
And giant sunlit clouds look down
On Pennine afternoons;

Slow galleons drift through Maytime
blue

And gaze serenely down;
The Heavy Woolen District throbs
With trade from town to town;

With fine Spun Yarns, and Blanket
Cloth,
And Carpet Mills supreme,
Whose products, known to all the
world,
Are woven from a dream.

And Shoddy mills, which owe their lot
To some small pony trim
Pulling a cart. May Heaven protect
The shed that shelters him!

And all the over-lapping trades
That help the wool flag fly,
With cricket fields where flannel bats
Beneath a week-end sky;

And bowling-greens where sober serge
Enjoys the evening air,
And rugger fields with woolen hose
Careering everywhere.

The housewife artist, sewing near
The open sash at evenings
In April, hears, as traffic ebbs,
The bleat of hill-born lambs;

Those hill-farms winking in the sun,
Or braving Winter's teeth,
That peer across their sheds and barns
At the world of Trade beneath.

To Huddersfield and Heckmondwike,
And Dewsbury (rags re-born)
Come fleeces down the Pennine Ridge
For textiles snug and warm;

Brighouse and all Spenborough
And breezy Birkenshaw,
Are links along the woolen trail
Of ridge or valley floor.

Not far away in Bradford streets,
Are warehouses secure,
Whose quotas know the Darling Plains
And the high Yorkshire moor;

And lorries come the old trade route,
Piled tower high with bales,
Warm fibres for the spinning sheds
To jerk the weighbridge scales.

Now will those evening lights shine
out
Where drooped the rusted cranes,
Warm curtains glow down garden
paths
That glisten in the rains;

While flocks night-graze the circling
heights
On farms when autumn moon's at full,
Above the hundred-thousand lights
At anchor through the realms of wool.

Alice Marguerite Holroyd

*See Sue Carson's article in the December 2024 edition of Bod-Kin for more information
about Alice Holroyd*

(4127)

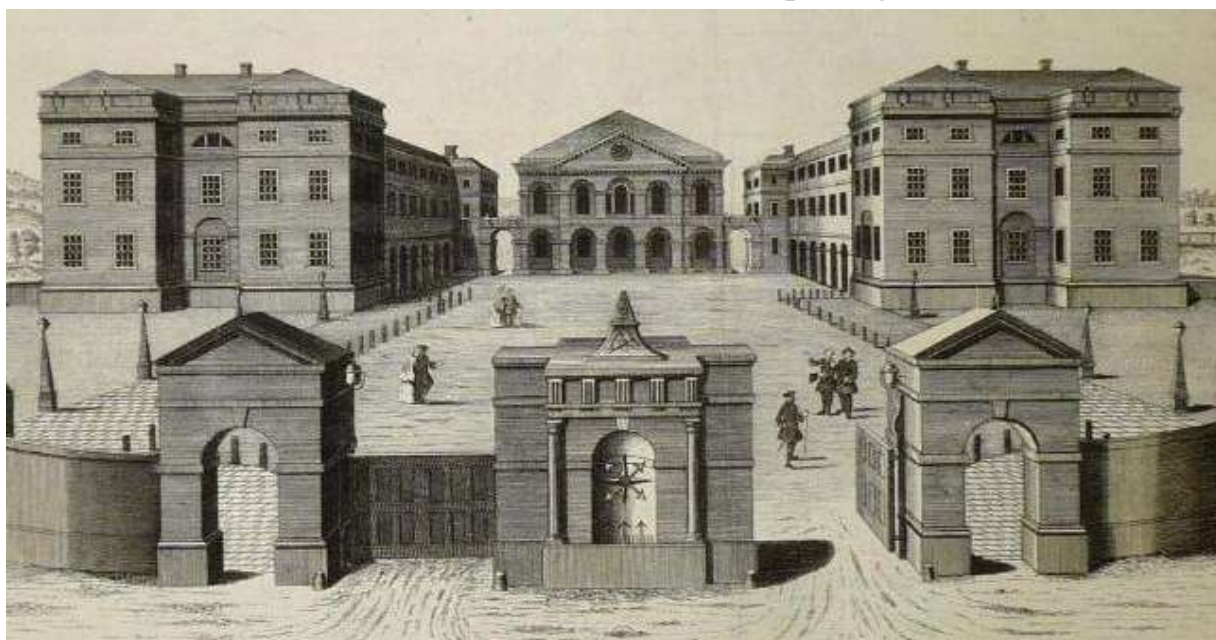
A Foundling's Tale

Rob Varley

One of the many fascinations of researching our family history is the chance discovery of remarkable stories connecting us to key moments in social history. I am indebted to Ruth Selman's meticulous research (see source below), enabling me to link my family story through Victorian Bradford back to one of London's great social reformers and the world's first incorporated charity.

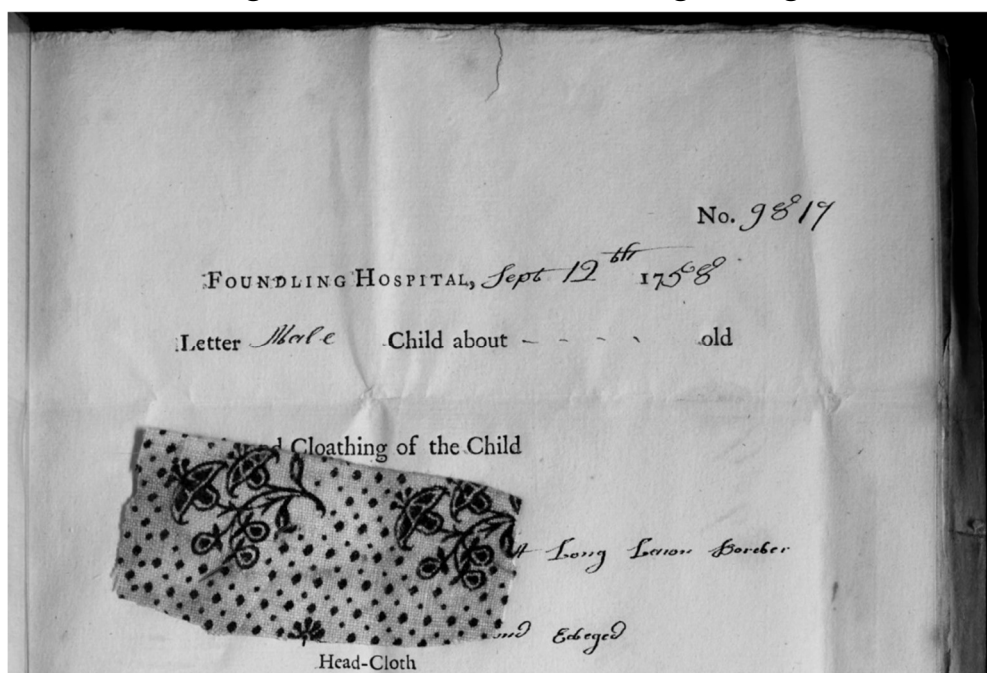
The philanthropist Thomas Coram (1668-1751) was appalled by the conditions children faced in London: though the city was a global powerhouse of industry and wealth, it was also polluted and disease-ridden. Child mortality rates soared: each year, some one thousand babies were abandoned by parents experiencing extreme poverty or other terrible maladies. Thomas could not just stand by, so he gathered the support of prominent men and women and petitioned King George II to take action. Coram was granted a Royal Charter for the Foundling Hospital in 1739, and during its two centuries in operation, this pioneering institution looked after a remarkable 25,000 children.

The London Foundling Hospital admitted child number 9,817 on 12 September 1758. He was probably only a month or two old and the person depositing him into the care of the Governors – most likely his mother – would have known that she would never see him again unless her circumstances changed so dramatically that she was able to reclaim him. She would have drawn strength from the belief that the Hospital could offer her infant son a far better chance in life than she could, but it must have been a difficult parting.



The Foundling Hospital, Holborn, London: a view of the courtyard. Engraving by B. Cole, 1754 (after P. Fourdrinier, 1742) [Source: ©Wellcome Collection - public domain].

She informed the authorities that he had been christened but they made no record of his name or, indeed, of hers. In order to allow for the possibility of her reclaiming him, they instead filled in a pre-printed form detailing the 'Marks and Cloathing of the Child'. This recorded that, on admission, he wore a cap made of Irish material with a long lawn border, a holland-edged forehead cloth and an Irish bib. A piece of the fabric of his purple and white gown was cut out and pinned to the record of his clothing. Today it appears to be brown and cream but the pattern of flowers and dots is distinct and feminine - probably taken from a dress worn originally by his mother and re-used to clothe her child. He had a flannel blanket overcast with blue worsted. His 'roller' was 'shoolen' bound with ash-coloured silk. His bed and clout were of Irish fabric as was his shirt which was trimmed with long lawn. There were no distinguishing marks on his body.



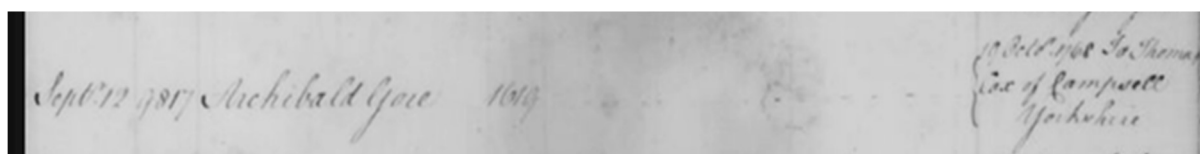
Foundling Hospital Billet Book, volume 111, entry for Child No. 9817, with a piece of the fabric of his purple and white gown pinned to the record. [© Foundling Hospital Archive, <https://coramstory.org.uk/the-foundling-hospital-archive/>]

Although the Hospital baptism registers for 1758-59 do not survive, child number 9,817 would almost certainly have been baptised in the Hospital chapel the same day he was admitted. All children were allocated a new name on their admission – he was given the name Archibald Gore. The surname may have been that of one of the Hospital benefactors – it certainly appears more than once in the registers. Later the same day, he was dispatched to a wet nurse, Elizabeth Day of Chingford in Essex, on the outskirts of London. Unusually, he was returned to the hospital just over a year later, on 3 October 1759, and two days later was sent into Hampshire into the care of a dry nurse, Judith Spike, who lived in the village of Stratfield Saye.

Archibald remained in Hampshire until he was 10 years old, avoiding the institutional life experienced by many of his fellow foundlings, but all that was

to change in September 1768. On the 29th of that month, he was returned to the Bloomsbury-based Hospital and then, in the company of 29 other little boys, he left London for the last time on 10 October 1768 on his way to a new life in Yorkshire.

The children were sent to the Foundling Hospital's country branch in Ackworth, near Pontefract. This had been established in 1757 and initially thrived because of considerable demand for apprentices from tradesmen and women across the north of England. One such tradesman, blacksmith Thomas Cox, presented himself at Ackworth Hospital on 19 October 1768 together with his certificate of good character which had been signed by B. Frank, presumably a parish officer in Campsall, where he was resident. The certificate confirmed that Thomas Cox was of the Protestant religion, that he was a householder and that he had the proper abilities to take on an apprentice and to instruct him in the business of a blacksmith. It also confirmed that his place of legal settlement was the parish of Hickleton. Archibald Gore was apprenticed to Thomas Cox until he was 21 years old. Although the registers record that he was apprenticed on 19 October, the date of the indenture was given as 21 December 1768. Presumably it took some time to draw up the formal documentation and have it approved.



Foundling Hospital General Register, entry for Child No. 9817 Archibald Gore. Apprenticeship record. [©Foundling Hospital Archive, <https://coramstory.org.uk/the-foundling-hospital-archive/>]

Archibald Gore must have successfully completed his apprenticeship as he himself became a blacksmith, in Wombwell. In 1783 he married Charlotte Jenkinson and they had seven children. Two of his sons, Peter and John, both followed their father's trade as blacksmiths. Like so many families through the 19th century, there was a progressive shift from village life into the growing industrial towns. John's grandson Samuel Longley found work as a carpenter in the house-building boom in late-Victorian Bradford, and his timbers no doubt remain in the roofs of many terraced houses today. He and his wife Betsy were my great-grandparents. They had 14 children, nine surviving to adulthood and going on to have children and grandchildren of their own. All of us descendants of Archibald and Charlotte owe our very existence to Thomas Coram – as do so many others whose ancestors were among the 25,000 babies he rescued. Now there's something to think about.

I would be pleased to hear from any member who has a similar story, or any of the many descendants of Samuel and Betsy Longley of Lidget Green (my address: email@applecottage.org.uk).



*The Foundling Hospital's country branch at Ackworth in Yorkshire.
[©<https://needleprint.blogspot.com/2010/05/>]*

(Ruth Selman source: <http://www.historyscape.org.uk>)

(5296)

Hudson

Sue Steel

Does anyone have a Mr. C. E Hudson who lived at 30 View Place, Shipley in their family tree?

I have been given a certificate for Mr Hudson from 'The Liberal Hundred Thousand' in 1927. This was a pledge to promote the 'Supremacy of Liberal Principals in the Government of the Nation'. If you would like the document, please let me know – chairman@bradfordfhs.org.uk

(4097)

Royal Visits to Bradford Experienced by Doreen Luciw

Anne Luciw

I recently attended a FOBALS (*Friends of Bradford Archives and Local Studies*) lecture on *Royal Visits to Bradford* by Tish Lawson. It reminded me of stories my late mother-in-law, Doreen Luciw, often told about the Royal visits to Bradford that she attended. The first was in October 1937 when Doreen was just seven years old. She was excited to get the day out of school when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Bradford as part of their tour of the 'industrial North'. She walked with her teachers and fellow students down Manchester Road to stand outside City Hall. As one of the smallest children in her school, Doreen was allowed to stand in the front row. As a result, she had an excellent view of the King and Queen as they passed by. This was the start of a lifelong love of the Royal Family.



George VI and Queen Elizabeth in Bradford (from Doreen's newspaper clippings collection)

Doreen attended two further Royal visits as an adult. The first by the King in 1987 when he was Prince of Wales. Again, she managed to get a place at the front and took the picture on the right. The second was when the late Queen Elizabeth II visited Bradford in 2005. Doreen and her friends managed to get up close. Unfortunately, while Doreen was busy taking a photograph, her friend had a nice chat with the Queen. Doreen was a woman who was never lost for words and would have enjoyed a chat with the Queen, but she treasured her photograph.



Doreen's photograph of the then Prince of Wales.



Left - Doreen with her camera (taken from Doreen's newspaper clippings collection). Right – Doreen's photograph of the late Queen.

(5233)

Wrights of Allerton – Part 1

Chris Wright

I've hit a brick wall! Can you help?

I have a theory. There are some clues. Bear with me. It will take a little while to explain. I hope it's not too complicated. I'll do my best to observe the family maxim: *write right Wright!*

Part 1 of this family history provides the evidence that I have collated about my 3x great-grandparents, James Wright (~1800-1883) and Ruth Wilkinson (~1800-1854). I'm looking for a key that will open the door through my brick wall to the next generation. In Part 2, I'll explore what I *think* is on the other side of the door. Perhaps you have the key?

The Problem

The facts in the family tree back to 1820 (James' and Ruth's marriage) are quite solid. Well, nothing over the last 60 years has led me to change my mind! I first became acquainted with James and Ruth in the mid-1960s when I was still at school. Sadly, I'm still trying to work out where they came from. I'm fairly sure it was from Bradford, probably from Allerton, but I've run out of sources and can't find the proof.

Paternal Tree to Date

This is as far as I've got with my paternal ancestry, starting with my father:-

Gen.	Name	Born	Died	Married
1	Jack Wright	4 Dec 1922 Bradford	29 Nov 2009 Gloucester	15 May 1948 at Bradford Winifred Mary Lancaster (1924-2008)
2	Fred Wright	1 Jun 1882 Bradford	8 Aug 1940 Bradford	29 Aug 1914 at Bradford Mary Ann Ambler (1883- 1957)
3	Abraham Nicholl Wright	30 Dec 1856 Bradford	2 Jun 1914 Bradford	29 Sep 1877 at Keighley Hannah Haggas (1858- 1917)
4	Thomas Wright	~1823 Allerton	27 Feb 1871 Keighley	28 Oct 1854 at Bradford Elizabeth Nicholl (1828- 1859)
5	James Wright	~1800 Allerton	28 Mar 1883 Birkenshaw	13 Aug 1820 at Bradford Ruth Wilkinson (~1800- 1854)

First Research Findings

I found an interesting book on genealogy in Wibsey library in the mid-1960s. Following its advice, I sent off postal applications to the General Register Office

at Somerset House and completed the tree as far back as Thomas's marriage. [So little progress.... What on earth have I been doing with my life?].

The book explained how to find ancestors in parish records, so I wrote to the dean of Bradford Cathedral. This was before the registers were available to the general public. His reply suggested I contact the archivist, who would conduct a search for a fee. I pleaded poverty and the archivist (Mrs Bradbury?) kindly allowed me to inspect the registers under her supervision. I was hoping to find Thomas's baptism but was out of luck. Nor was there a baptism for James Wright. But I did find the marriage on 13 August 1820 of James Wright (comber) and Ruth Wilkinson (spinster), both of this parish.

Census Records

Several years later, new technology at Bradford and Keighley libraries (microfiche slides!) speeded up the search for clues no end....

Thomas

In 1861, Thomas was a widower at Keighley, aged 38, born at "Alerton". Abraham and his brother, James, were 4 and 6 respectively, born at "Birkenshaw". (This was not true: their birth certificates showed they were born at Horton.) Was "Alerton" true for Thomas? And if so, which one? Allerton, Bradford? Chapel Allerton, Leeds? Allerton Bywater?

In 1851, Thomas was living with his father and mother at Birkenshaw. Birthplace? Bradford, for all three. Also, younger sisters, Elisa and Emma, were born at Birstall. Thomas was noted as deaf. Thomas and James were wool combers.

In 1841, Thomas was at Birkenshaw with his parents and siblings, Joseph (20), David (10), Eliza (7), and Emma (3). All born in Yorkshire.

James

In 1861, James was living with Mary, his wife, at 22 Cleveland Street, Horton. He was now a coal dealer, aged 61, born at Bradford.

In 1871, James was living with Edward Hodgson and his wife, Sarah Hannah Hodgson, at 95 Brays Yard, which was up Leeds Road. James was a coal agent, aged 71, and born at Allerton. He was described as a widower, and father-in-law to the head of household, Edward.

In 1881, James was lodging at 81 Marshall Street, Horton. He was a pensioner, and his birthplace was recorded as Allerton. He was married but not living with his wife.

Children of James and Ruth

- Joseph, eldest son of James and Ruth, was baptised at Bradford parish church on 11 February 1821. Their abode was recorded as Allerton.
- According to the census records, Thomas was born in about 1823 at Allerton. I have found no record of baptism.

- David was born at Bradford on 28 February 1827. He was baptised at Birkenshaw St. Paul on 25 December 1844 at the same time as his younger sisters.
- Eliza was born on 2 May 1834 at Birkenshaw.
- Emma on born on 17 February 1838 at Birkenshaw.

A Sporting Life

On 9 May 1841, there was a reference in “Bell’s Life in London and Sporting Chronicle”:-

Joseph Wright, of Birkenshaw, will run William Hargraves, of Bowling Lane, near Bradford, 110 yards, from £5 to £10 a side. His money is ready at the house of Abraham Batty, Fleece Inn, Birkenshaw, near Leeds.

This was the first of similar mentions over the years until October 1848, when Joseph lost a 100 yards race against Billy Jordan, at Leith, near Edinburgh. Afterwards, he probably gave up running.

There is also a newspaper report in 1846, which is headed:-

GREAT FOOT RACE FOR ONE HUNDRED SOVEREIGNS

James Hinchcliffe, of Thornhill, and James Wright, of Birkenshaw, the far-famed pedestrians, met on Monday week, at the “Old White Bear”, Tingley Moor.....

There is a description:-

The men looked well and in first-rate trim, and were about equal in height, to wit, 5 ft. 5 in. After ten false starts they bounded off at railway speed....

James lost the race (and a small fortune) by three feet! ‘Pedestrianism’, as they called it back in those days, obviously presented a chance for a working-class lad with talent to make some real money, in much the same way that professional football might be looked on today. I include mention of these events because, although Joseph seems to have been very successful, it is not clear to me how they were able to raise the stake money for these races. James, Joseph and Thomas were woolcombers. It was estimated that only about one in five woolcombers in Bradford at the time had employment. Pay was very poor.

Joseph married Mary Ann Wood on 9 February 1845 at Leeds parish church. They had two daughters, Elizabeth (b. 1845) and Maria Ann (b. 1848) and lived at Birkenshaw. On 6 April 1851, Mary Ann gave birth prematurely to a son, James. The child died 18 days later. The 1850s were not going to be kind to the family.

Deaths and Diseases

Joseph died on 4 October 1854 at Thomas's home at Cleveland Street, Horton, of acute bronchitis and phthisis (tuberculosis or consumption). He was 33 years old.

Ruth, my 3x great-grandmother, died on 21 December 1854 at Bowling Old Lane, probably from cancer, and was buried at Birkenshaw, St. Paul.

Joseph's wife, Mary Ann, died at Birstall on 13 March 1855, of consumption also. Joseph and Mary Ann were also buried at Birkenshaw, St. Paul. Their elder daughter, Elizabeth, went to live with her maternal grandmother but the younger, Maria Ann, ended up in the workhouse at Dewsbury before going on to marry Edwin Mackay, have a family, and live until she was 80.

Between the deaths of Joseph and Ruth, on 28 October 1854, Thomas married Elizabeth Nicholl. They had two sons and lived at Norton Gate, Horton, until at least 1856. Elizabeth died on 2 June 1859 at Birkenshaw of phthisis.

A Fresh Start

Thomas and the infant boys then moved, at some point during the next two years, to Keighley. Perhaps Thomas moved for work but in 1861 he was living alone with a 4 year old and a 6 year old. They had moved away from family. And he was deaf, which must have been a handicap. Why Keighley?

Thomas married again on 11 November 1866. His bride was Grace Rothera. The interesting point here is that the marriage certificate shows Thomas' residence as "Whitwood in the parish of Featherstone". I have no idea why. In 1861, Grace lived at Sugden Place, a couple of doors down from where Thomas was living with his two sons. It's unlikely that he moved to Whitwood and then back again to Keighley. It did lead me to think that he had been visiting family from Methley or Allerton Bywater, which are close to Whitwood. I found a James Wright, born in 1800 and baptised at Methley, son of a miner, David Wright. Was this our James?

In the absence of an alternative, I confess that I did add this to my public tree on Ancestry, largely in the hope of turning up some conclusive proof from future searches. It would be good if Ancestry allowed tentative additions to a tree pending verification. I've learned my lesson and now start a private tree to explore possible links. It was a gamble and was probably wrong. Sadly, I now find that there are many trees bearing this dubious branch, based on my error. My apologies if you're among their number. I can't be sure that it's wrong but there's no proof that it's the right Wright. I have severed the link between James and the Methley David and would have deleted the Methley branch entirely, except for a coincidental link to my maternal line. It's a small world!

James Wright – the Later Years

After Ruth's death in December 1854, James married again on 9 July 1855. This marriage took place at Shipley St. Paul to Mary Simpson, widow. Both were

living at Heaton at the time; and James' occupation was coal agent. James' father had not been recorded in the 1820 marriage register but here, in black and white, was the name David Wright, farmer. Mary's father was recorded as Solomon Simpson, farmer. (As a widow, one might expect the surname of the father to be different but she could have married, say, a cousin.) This marriage appeared to validate the 1861 census quoted previously.

Subsequent searches revealed that James married for a third time. On 19 June 1864, again at Shipley, he married Mary Bartle, widow. He was described as a coal dealer; and both were living at Heaton. James' father was David Wright, farmer. Mary's father was Joseph Robinson, servant. Sounds familiar? At least, similar?

Taken at face value, it seemed that Mary Simpson must have died between 1861 and 1864; and that Mary Bartle must have died between 1864 and 1871 (when James was recorded as a widower, and father-in-law of Edward Hodgson).

When I came to research the Hodgson family, I was surprised to learn that Sarah Hannah Hodgson's maiden name was Simpson, not Bartle. At the age of 24 in 1850, she had married Edward at Bradford St Peter; and her father was James Simpson, tailor. In 1841, Sarah was living at Bowling with her mother, Mary Simpson, and several siblings, the eldest of whom was Robinson Simpson. James Simpson's marriage to Mary Robinson was found to have taken place at Bradford on 16 October 1823.

The next discovery was a marriage at Bradford St Peter, on 5 February 1853 between James Bartle, 62, widower, fish agent of Bradford, father John Bartle, comber, and Mary Simpson, 50, widow of Bradford, father Joseph Robinson, servant.

Hmm! Mary Simpson and Mary Bartle were the same person. Mary married three men called James, my 3x ggf twice, at least once bigamously. (James Bartle died in 1862 at 95 Bray's Yard after Mary's first marriage to James Wright in 1855.) Mary also appears in two places in the 1861 census as wife of James Wright and of James Bartle!

On 29 March 1860, there was a notice in the Bradford Observer:-

Vicar Lane, Buadford [sic] To be sold by auction etc. etc. Four Dwelling Houses (one of which is occupied as a Bookseller's Shop) situated at the junction of Vicar Lane and Ebenezer Street..... now in the respective occupations of Messrs. William Cooke, James Simpson, James Bartle, and Thomas Butson....

I have not been able to find out when James Simpson died but the above advertisement seems to suggest he was still alive in 1860.

Mary Robinson / Simpson / Bartle / Wright died on 2 May 1870 at 95 Bray's Yard, Leeds Road, Bradford. Her name was recorded on the death certificate as Mary Ann Wright and she was 68 years old. The cause of death was: "Paralysis 18 months – No medical attendant". James Wright, coal agent, was in attendance.

It occurred to me that James married Mary only a few months after Ruth and Joseph had died. Perhaps he had known Mary for a long time. I checked the records for Mary's baptism and found it at Thornton, Kipping Chapel, in 1802. Perhaps the records stating James' birthplace as Allerton were correct. Perhaps he too had been brought up a non-conformist? On the same page as Mary's baptism entry, there was one for David Wright, son of Jonathan and Rebekah Wright. Brother? Cousin? There was nothing about James in the Kipping records.

On 10 October 1874, James Wright married again! This time his bride was Elizabeth Newall, a widow aged 68, living at 41 College Road, Horton. James was described as a coal agent, living at 46 Stanacre Place, Bradford, father David Wright (deceased), cart driver. In 1881, James and Elizabeth were living at different addresses. Elizabeth was using her previous name. The marriage did not last.

On 28 March 1883, James Wright, coal agent, died from "apoplexy 12 hours", at the home of his third son, David, in Birkenshaw. He was buried at St. Paul's church in Birkenshaw with Ruth and the other members of his family.

In Part 2....

In the next edition, I'll share with you some of the clues that might point in the Wright direction:-

- A newspaper advertisement;
- A death certificate;
- A place I can't find that's full of Wrights; and
- A mysterious assortment of occupants in an Allerton house.

(5338)



Rushworth

Sue Steel

I have in my possession (until the end of September) research on the Rushworth Family produced by Philip Rushworth. Philip was the Society's First Chairman. Some of his research has been passed onto Bradford Local Studies and other researchers. Philip's son didn't want to keep the rest, which I thought was sad, but I did understand. We have often had questions about who would take our research when we pass away. Especially when the rest of the family are not interested in family history. There is really no easy answer. If anyone would like Philip's research please get in touch at Chairman@bradfordFHS.org.uk or 07855773102. There are 3 large and heavy bags of folders and documents. Unfortunately, it is collection or delivery only from the Bradford area.

(4097)

Meeting Programme 2025

Please check the website in case meetings have been cancelled or changed.

Hybrid meetings will be held via Zoom and in person on the 2nd Floor, Mechanics Institute, 76 Kirkgate, Bradford, BD1 1SZ

The venue is small wheelchair accessible.

Zoom Meetings may be charged at £2 and all face-face meetings at £1.50 per member.

Morning hybrid meetings open at 10:00 am with the formal meeting from 10.30 am.

Evening Zoom meetings open at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting from 7.30 pm.

Month	Date	Time	Description	Speaker	Type of Meeting
Sep	4	AM	One Place Studies	Janet Barrie	Hybrid
Sep	15	PM	Mines and the Mining Community of Greenhow Hill, North Yorkshire	Malcolm Street	Zoom
Oct	2	AM	Some West Yorkshire Epidemics	John Brooke	Hybrid
Oct	20	PM	Open Evening – Bring along your questions, queries and stories	Sue Steel	Zoom
Nov	6	AM	Back-to-Back Houses in Bradford with a look at sanitation and clearances	Jude Rhodes	Hybrid
Nov	17	PM	Patchett - A canal family from Shipley	Sue Steel	Zoom
Dec	4	AM	Any more fares please - Stories of Bradford from my father's book.	Mary Twentyman	Hybrid
Dec	15		No Meeting		

N.B. The Society holds liability, but not personal accident insurance. Members are therefore responsible for their own personal accident cover and attend meetings and are involved in Society activities at their own risk ©Bradford Family History Society.



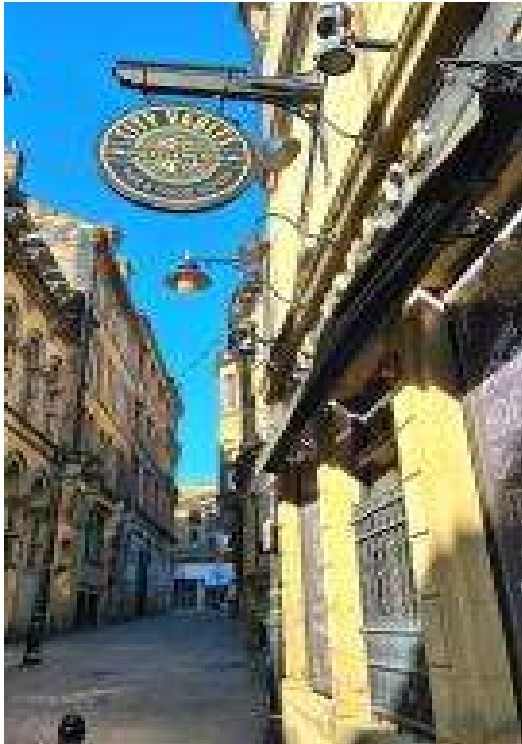
Bradford Playhouse, Chapel Street © Anne Luciw



Bradford City of Culture, Bradford Interchange 2025 © Anne Luciw



Autumn in Bradford © Anne Luciw



*Entrance to the City Vaults,
Piece Hall Yard © Andrea Brown*



*JB Priestley's statue in Bradford
© Anne Luciw*



*Thomas Coram painted by William Hogarth in 1740
[©Wikipedia, public domain] (see article on page 13)*