John Lister Clay and family



John Lister Clay was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 26th October 1964 in plot H18 in the middle section of the churchyard. This was unusual as most burials at that time were in the new, bottom section of the churchyard.

The other side of the cope tomb over the plot has the memorial inscription to his friend Rev. Savile Brinton Lewis Hall. This probably explains why John Lister Clay was buried in plot H18 albeit over thirty-six years later.

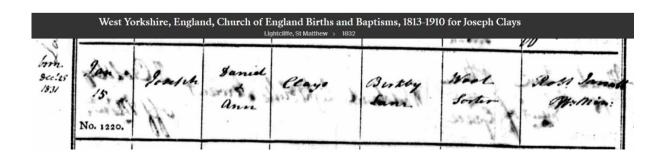
Before becoming a curate, Savile Brinton Lewis Hall had seen action in WW1; first in the Army and then with the Royal Air Force. He had been badly injured and suffered afterwards with nervous shock which ultimately led to his death. His full story can be found at

Savile Brinton Lewis Hall

What follows is the story of John Lister and some of his Clay family who have Lightcliffe connections.

He was the son of Joseph Clay and his third wife, Sarah Lister. His grandfather Daniel Clay had a number of children including Joseph Clay baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Daniel Clay was probably the son of John and Hannah Clay from Southowram who had their son, Daniel, born 30th April 1809, baptised at South Parade Wesleyan Chapel, Halifax on 22nd June 1809.

On 6th July 1828 Daniel Clay married Ann Hick of Northowram although she was originally from Tadcaster. Their children William, Mary Elizabeth, Joseph and Thomas Clay were all baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 11th November 1828, 19th September 1830, 15th January 1832 and 25th August 1833. Joseph's baptism record helpfully states that he was born on Christmas Day 1831. The family lived in Birkby Lane and their father was a 'Woolsorter'. In subsequent censuses Joseph Clay gave his place of birth as Bailiffe Bridge.



But then the family moved to Brookhouses, Cleckheaton where 31-year-old Ann Clay née Hick died in July 1834. A couple of years later the widower, Daniel Clay, married his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hick. Daniel and Elizabeth Clay had four more children, three of whom – Henry, Daniel and Anne - were later baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 17th August 1845.

<u>1841 census</u>		<u>1851 census</u>	
Daniel Clay	30 Wool sorter	Daniel Clay	Head 40 Wool sorter
Bessey Clay	40	Elizabeth Clay	Wife 49
William Clay	13	William Clay	Son 23 Dyehouse man
Mary Clay	11	Joseph Clay	Son 19 Wool sorter
Joseph Clay	9	John Clay	Son 14 Blacksmith (App)
Daniel Clay	?	Henry Clay	Son 12 Jobber in Worsted Mill
John Clay	5	Daniel Clay	Son 10
Henry Clay	3		Bobbin Setter in Worsted Mill
Address Cleck	heaton	Anne Clay	Dau 8 Scholar
		Address Moor	End, Cleckheaton

Not long after the 1851 census was taken, in Q2 1851, Joseph Clay married Emma Porritt. They had Ann Elizabeth born Q2 1853 and Arthur Hick born Q4 1855 before 23-year-old Emma Clay née Porritt died on 28th July 1857.

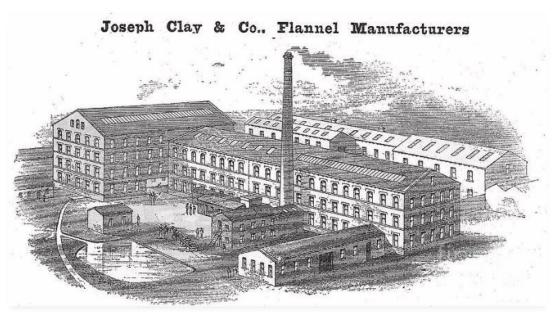
Joseph Clay then married Emma Roberts in Q2 1859. Before the next census they had Daniel Alexander Q4 1860, Lucy Ann Q4 1862, Anna Louisa Q4 1864, Emily Jane Q1 1867 and Edith Amelia Q4 1869. But they lost Lucy Ann Q1 1864 and Anna Louisa Q1 1865. Joseph Harold Clay was born Q4 1871.

1861 census 1861 census Daniel Clay Head 50 Woolsorter & Grocer Joseph Clay Head 29 Elizabeth Clay Wife 61 Wool sorter & Flannel manufacturer William Clay Son 32 employing 6 men and one woman Emma Clay Wife 23 Labourer at Worsted Factory John Clay Son 24 Blacksmith Ann E Clav Dau 7 Arthur H Clay Son 5 Henry Clay Son 22 Corn Miller Daniel A Clay Son Daniel Clay Son 20 Mechanic (ap) 4m Elizabeth M Rawdon Grddaud11 Address Moor End, Cleckheaton

Address Moor End, Cleckheaton

<u>1871 census</u>		
Joseph Clay	Head 39	Flannel manufacturer employing 125 men
Emma Clay	Wife 33	
Ann Elizabeth Clay	Dau 17	
Arthur H Clay	Son 15	
Emily Jane Clay	Dau 4	
Edith E Clay	Dau 1	
Mary Taylor Rel	lation 46	
Elizabeth Jones Se	rvant 20	Servant
Address High Field	House, Cl	eckheaton

Joseph Clay's business had grown somewhat between 1861 and 1871, perhaps by then into these premises at West End Mills, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire.



JOSEPH CLAY and CO., FLANNEL MANUFACTURERS, WEST END MILLS, CLECKHEATON, Yorkshire, UK is a drawing by Mick Flynn which was uploaded on January 18th, 2021.

His father Daniel Clay has not been found on the 1871 census although he was still alive. As his probate explains he died a year later.

The Will of Daniel Clay of Cleckheaton in the County of York Wool Sorter who died 18 November 1872 at Cleckheaton was proved at Wakefield by Joseph Clay of Cleckheaton Flannel Manufacturer and Henry Clay of Cleckheaton Corn Miller the Sons the Executors. Effects under £100.

And then in Q3 1874 Joseph Clay lost his second wife. This Emma Clay née Roberts was just 36 years old.

					. ago 01.			
18/	76. Marriage	solemnized M. Padls	hurd	in the	Parish of	Birke haw in	the County of Ger	k
No.	When Married.	Name and Survame.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
61	July 18	Joseph Clay Susan Lister	144	Widower. Spinder	Maconfection	Clickhealin Birkenshaw	Daniel Colay John Lister	Hort Sali
	arriage Jo zz	Alland Birkus Lawacco	rding to the	1	d	in for letter	015)	Maw Vices

Two years later, on 18th July 1876, Joseph Clay married for a third time as announced in *The Leeds Times* on 22nd July 1876.

CLAY – LISTER .—July 18th, at Birkenshaw Church, Joseph Clay of Spring Mount Villas, Cleckheaton, to Susan, second daughter of John Lister, Esq., of Croft House, Birkenshaw.

Susan Lister was born on 11th March 1838 and baptised at St. Peter's Birstall on 23rd April 1838. She was the daughter of John Lister and his wife Nancy née Haley who had a large family.

John Lister Clay was born on 18th February 1879. He was probably named after his maternal grandfather who had been a butcher in 1841 but then became another wool stapler and by 1871 also a landowner. He died not long after his name-sake grandson was born.

The will with a Codicil of John Lister of Croft House Birkinshaw [sic] in the Township of Gomersal in the Parish of Birstal in the County of York who died 14 May 1879 at Birkinshaw [sic] was proved at Wakefield by Henry Longbottom of Tingley Hall West Ardsley in the said County Woolstapler Joseph Dyson Butler of Birkenshaw Land Surveyor and Frederick Lister of Lansdowne-place Bradford in the said County Wool and Noil Dealer the Son the Executors. Personal Estate under £8,000

Joseph Clay's household looked like this on 3rd April 1881.

1881 census

Joseph Clay Head 49 Flannel Manufacturer employing 140 men

Susan Clay Wife 43

Daniel Clay Son 20 Flannel Manufacturer

Emily L. Clay Dau 14 Scholar

Edith A. Clay Dau 11 Scholar

Joseph H. Clay Son 9 Scholar

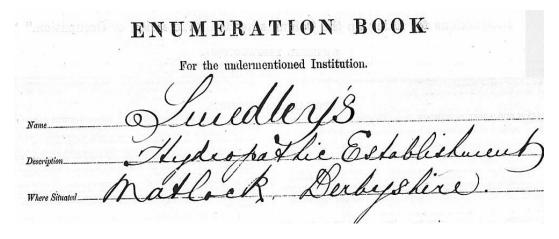
John L. Clay Son 2

Maggie Edward Servant 21 General Servant

Address Mount Street, Bradford

Arthur Hick Clay, a flannel mill manager, was living with relatives at Prospect Place, Bradford. On 15th June 1887 he married a clergyman's daughter, Alice Marion Shepherd, in Bradford. Their son, Arthur Bryan Clay, was born 1st June 1889 in Cleckheaton. He was baptised by a Shepheard family member at Askham Bryam, York on 18th July 1889.

On 5th April 1891 his grandfather, Joseph Clay, was 'taking the waters' at



Most of his family were at Hardsoil Farm, Clifton.

1891 census

Susan Clay Wife 53

Harold Clay Son 19 Merchant's Assistant

John Lister Clay Son 12 Scholar

Emily Jane Clay Dau 24

Edith Emilia Clay Dau 21

Mary Ellen Ashwood Servant 19

Domestic Servant -Housemaid

Eliza Shepherd Servant 16

Domestic Servant - Housemaid

Address Hardsoil Farm, Clifton

<u>1891 census</u>

Arthur H Clay Head 35

Flannel Manufacturer

Alice M Clay Wife 25

Arthur B Clay Son 1

Emma Taylor Servant 19

General Servant (Domestic)

Minnie Cundall Servant 14 Nurse

Address Moorside, Cleckheaton

A few days later they would receive this news as reported in *The Yorkshire Evening Post* on 29th April 1891

INFORMATION has been received at Cleckheaton of the death, at Matlock, of Mr. Joseph Clay, of the firm of Messrs, Joseph Clay & Co., flannel manufacturers, West End Mills, Cleckheaton.

Brighouse Echo 8 May 1891

FUNERAL OF MR. JOSEPH CLAY.—The funeral of the late Mr. Joseph Clay, flannel manufacturer, of West End Mills, Cleckheaton, who died at Matlock on the 27th, took place at Cleckheaton Cemetery at noon on Friday last. The funeral was attended by a considerable number of townsmen, including Mr. Wadsworth, Mr. John Gill, Mr. Titus Berry, Mr. E. Mitchell, Mr. George Sykes (representing the Cleckheaton Liberal Club), and Mr. Joseph Clegg (representing the Spen Valley Liberal Association), and among others present were representatives of several firms associated with the deceased gentleman in business. The principal mourners were :- First carriage, Mrs. Clay, Mr. Arthur Clay and Mr. and Mrs F. Hirst, ; second, Miss Clay, Miss Edith Clay, Mrs Arthur Clay, Mr. Harold Clay and Master Johnnie Clay; third, Mr. William Clay, Mr. John Clay, Mrs. Butterworth and Mr. George Lock; fourth, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lister, Mr. and Miss Lister and Mr. John Clay (cousin). Mr. John Ellis, Cleckheaton, had charge of the funeral arrangements.

The Will of Joseph Clay late of Cleckheaton in the County of York Flannel Manufacturer who died 29 April 1891 at Matlock in the County of Derby was proved at Wakefield by Benjamin Lister of Birkenshaw in the County of York Woolstapler one of the Executors. Personal Estate £7,070 10s 2d

Edith Amelia Clay married James Arthur Greenwood, of Mayfield House, Lightcliffe, on 21st June 1899. The account of their wedding – the newspaper article does incorrectly say her father was Mr. Geo Clay - and subsequent story has already been told in

The Greenwood family

<u>1901 census</u>	<u>1901 census</u>
Susan Clay Head 63 Widow	Arthur H Clay Head 45
John L Clay Son 22 Son	Flannel Manufacturer
Jane Peacock Servant 23Servant	Alice M Clay Wife 35
Address 21, The Crescent, Hipperholme	Annie M Gerrans Servant 21 General Servant Address 23, The Crescent, Hipperholme

Arthur Bryan Clay was an 11-year-old boarder at a school in Ilkley.

On leaving school Arthur Bryan Clay must have joined the Territorial Army.

4th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment); Arthur Bryan Clay to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 1st January, 1909.

But then a year later *The Yorkshire Post* announced that he resigned his commission.

Neither he nor his parents have been found on the 1911 census. From a R.A.F document and a later newspaper article he and his parents may have moved from The Crescent to a house named Lyndhurst in Lightcliffe. Widow Susan Clay and her son had also moved but just to another house in The Crescent. John Lister Clay bought the freehold dwelling house No. 14 The Crescent in 1906 for £450 and lived there for almost the next sixty years.

1911 census

Susan Clay Head 73 Widow John Lister Clay Son 32 Textile Mill Manager Jane McLeod Servant 28 Domestic Servant Address 14, The Crescent, Hipperholme

1921 census

Susan Clay Head 83 Home Duties - John Lister Clay Son 42

Woollen Textile Factory Manager Clay Co Elizabeth Ann Moors Servant 56

Domestic Servant

Address 14, The Crescent, Hipperholme

But between these two censuses the Great War happened. Arthur Bryan Clay seems to have been a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps which became the Royal Air Force.

WO 339/137041

2/Lieutenant Arthur Bryan CLAY
Royal Flying Corps (General List).

[1914-1922]

	UK, RA	AF Officer Se		ds, 1918-1919 fo ert-Cloherty, Gerald	or Arthur	Bryan Cl	ay			
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His difficult to read R.A.F. record – which starts 9th April 1918 - gives his address as 'Netherfield' and his father's address as Lyndhurst, Lightcliffe. In November 1918 Arthur Bryan Clay was admitted to 'Mil:Hos:Halifax'. He 'Ceased flying at own request' dated 29.11/.18 and then it says 'Leeds Hosp.' 18.12.18. Transferred 'to unemployment list 20.2.19'. What exactly happened to him can only be guessed at.

Arthur Bryan Clay has not been found on the 1921 census when his parents were staying at an address in Valley Drive, Harrogate. As he seems to have moved out of the area to Bingley he will no longer be followed.

Not many days after the 1921 census was taken the widow Susan Clay died. She was buried with her husband in Cleckheaton.

CLAY Susan of 14 The Crescent Hipperholme Halifax widow died 8 July 1921 Probate Wakefield 2 August to John Lester [sic] Clay flannel manufacturer. Effects £1907 2s 1d

A year later Arthur Hick Clay passed away on 6th September 1922 as reported in the *Halifax Evening Courier* on 8th September 1922. He was buried at St. John's Church, Coley on !0th September 1922.

DEATH OF MR. A.H. CLAY. – The death took place at Scarborough on Wednesday, of Mr. Arthur Hick Clay, of Lyndhurst, Lightcliffe, a well-known local resident. Mr. Clay, who was 66 years of age, had not been in robust health for some time, and a fortnight ago went to Scarborough for a rest. His end came rather suddenly and quite unexpectedly: and a large circle of business and other friends will regret his death. In business circles he was extremely well-known in the Heavy Woollen District, as the head of the firm of Messrs. Joseph Clay and Co., flannel manufacturers, West End Mills, Cleckheaton. He was the eldest son of the late Joseph Clay, the founder of the firm. He never took any active part in public affairs, being of a quiet disposition. He had resided at Lightcliffe over 25 years and had been a member of the Golf Club there. The interment takes place at Coley Church on Saturday afternoon.

CLAY Arthur Hick of Lyndhurst Lightcliffe Halifax died 6 September 1922 at 21 Avenue Victoria Scarborough Probate Wakefield 8 November to Alice Marion Clay widow John Lister Clay flannel manufacturer and John Clay flannel manufacturer's manager. Effects £94,131 14s 2d.

His widow, Alice Marion Clay née Shepherd, stayed on at Lyndhust, Lightcliffe as the *Bradford Observer* reported on 20th May 1936.

CLAY – On May 18th, at her residence, "Lyndhurst," Lightcliffe Alice Marion, widow of the late Arthur Hick Clay aged 70 years. Interment at Coley Church Today (Wednesday) at 3 p.m.

CLAY Alice Marion of Lyndhurst Lightcliffe Halifax widow died 18 May 1936 Probate Wakefield 7 August to Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited and Arthur Bryan Clay retired manufacturer. Effects £119733 13s 3d

That just left John Lister Clay living in the area in 1939. He was still at 14, The Crescent.

1939 register

John L Clay 18 Feb 1879 Male Flannel Manufacturer Retired Single 262 1
Amy S(crivens?)17 May 1875 Female Domestic Servant Single 262 2
Address 14 The Crescent, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

From earlier newspaper reports John Lister Clay would appear to have been a very active member of the Hipperholme and Lightcliffe community for over sixty years. His name appears with other well-known locals e.g. Samuel Lord Watkinson, debating Hipperholme council issues such as the drains and the fountain at Bailiffe Bridge. He and others heard cases at the West Riding Court, Halifax. His name is listed as attending Lightcliffe Literary and Scientific Society meetings. He was also heavily involved at St. Matthew's Church as a sidesman, dealing with the church finances and with the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society.

Below are just two of the many reports about this society mentioning John Lister Clay and Tom Sander Gill as well as other familiar names.

Halifax Daily Guardian 29th March 1906

LIGHTCLIFFE YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the St. Matthew's Young Men's Society, Lightcliffe, was held on Monday, Mr. J. Dixon in the chair. There was a fair attendance. The election of officers resulted as follows:- President, Rev. H. A. Kennedy; vice presidents, Rev. H. H. Green, Messrs. J. Dixon, J. L. Clay, T. H. Norwood, E. H. Knowles, C. H. Scott, S. L. Watkinson; secretary, Mr. T. S. Gill; treasurer, Mr. A. P. Knowles; committee, Messrs. J. Norwood, L. Lee, C. Taylor, G. Pickles, A. Thornton, and H. Craven.

Halifax Daily Guardian 25th March 1908.

LECTURE AT LIGHTCLIFFE

At the meeting of the Lightcliffe St. Matthew's Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, on Monday, Mr. J. L. Clay gave a very interesting lecture, with views, on "Berwick on Tweed." The views, which were admirable, were much appreciated and also descriptions of the places shown and various anecdotes were listened to with interest. Mr. E. H. Knowles presided over a good attendance. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer, on the motion of Mr. C. Taylor, seconded by Mr. R. Clough.

LIGHTCLIFFE MEMORIAL

To the Late Mr. W. S. Baines

Stained Glass Window Unveiled

A memorial in the shape of a stained-glass window was unveiled yesterday morning in Lightcliffe church as a mark of appreciation and esteem to the late Councillor W. S. Baines, who was for many years connected with the church, and took a great part in the work amongst the children of the parish.

The window was unveiled after morning prayer by Mr. J. L. Clay, a very old friend of Mr Baines.

The Vicar, the Rev. C. L. Hubert in the course of his sermon, said that the late Mr. Baines during the time he was in the parish always gave of his best in the interests of the church, and also particularly as regards the welfare of the children, and he (the vicar) said he thought the memorial was of a most befitting character. He also said how much they all deplored the death of Mr. Baines, and concluded with a word of encouragement to others to go forward in the way that their revered sidesman had gone during this lifetime.

The window, which has been excellently designed by Messrs. Shrigleyd and Hunt, Lancaster, depicts "Christ as the door", and it is undoubtedly a great acquisition to the church, the colouring being particularly beautiful and most artistically carried out.





Over the years John Lister Clay's name appears on the list of mourners at many Lightcliffe funerals. For family members he was also often named as an executor in their wills. He died aged eighty-five on 21st October 1964. As already explained, he was buried in plot H18 in the middle section of St. Matthew's churchyard with his friend Savile Brinton Lewis Hall on 26th October 1964. His strong and long connection with the area probably explains why he decided to be buried in St. Matthew's churchyard and not with his parents at Cleckheaton or his half-brother's family at Coley.

West Yo	orkshire, En	gland, Church of England Deaths a		ister Clay
3933.	H 18	21 October 1964. 26. October.	5000000	85 years



IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN LISTER CLAY

WHO DIED OCT. 21ST 1964

AGED 85 YEARS

R.I.P.

No obituary has been found for John Lister Clay but there was this public notice in the *Halifax Evening Courier* on 29th October 1964.

Re JOHN LISTER CLAY deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to s.27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of John Lister Clay late of 46 Bracken Road Brighouse in the Count of York Retired Flannel and Shirting Manufacturer who died on the 21st day of October 1964 is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to us the undersigned Solicitors to Martins Bank Limited the Executor of the said John Lister Clay deceased on or before the 31st day of December 1964 after which date the said Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amount the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interest of which notice shall then have been received by the said Executor.

Dated this 27th day of October 1964

BAIRSTOW RHODES and THOMAS

Solicitors

31 Harrison Road Halifax

By the beginning of 1965 the Executors must have been able to 'proceed to distribute the assets'. The *Huddersfield Daily Examiner* published the article below on Monday 4th January 1965 commenting on and quoting from his Will. It provides another reason why John Lister Clay's name appears on the memorial inscription on the Lightcliffe cope tomb illustrated at the top of the article.

Bequest to church in £20,000 will

MR. JOHN LISTER CLAY, 46, Bracken Road, Brighouse late of The Crescent, Hipperholme, retired flannel and shirting manufacturer, who died on October 21 aged eighty-five, left £20,309 gross, £20,223 net (duty £2,629)

He left £50 to Alice Spencer of Lillands Lane, Rastrick: £100 to the Vicar and churchwardens of the Parish Church of St. Matthew, Lightcliffe, upon trust to apply the income there from the upkeep of the graveyard and the graves of "my late friends the Rev. Savile Brinton Lewis Hall and Tom Sander Gill"; £100 to the governing body of the Old Cemetery Cleckheaton upon trust for the upkeep of that cemetery and requesting that the grave of his parents be kept in good order; and subject to a few family bequests, one-fifth of the residuary estate each to his nephew Clifford Stead, niece Margery Jackson, and great nephew Arthur G. Clay; and two-fifths of the residuary estate to his nephew Harold Stead "in grateful thanks to him and his wife for giving a home to myself and my old cat Pompey when we were in great need of one."

Probate has been granted to Martins Bank Ltd., the sole executor.

Now read about

Tom Sander Gill and family

D.M.Barker

August 2024