

Tom Sander Gill and family

Tom Sander Gill was named as the other friend in the Will of John Lister Clay reported in *Huddersfield Daily Examiner* Monday January 4 1965

He left£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”;

Read

John Lister Clay and family

Tom, his parents, four sisters and his maternal grandfather were all buried in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe, although all of them were born in Cumberland.

Tom Sander Gill was born in Skirwith, Cumberland on 6th November 1883 to parents John Gill and his wife Ann née Brown. They had married in Ousby, Cumberland on 13th July 1872. John Gill's father, another John Gill was an agricultural labourer in Skirwith married to Martha.

Ann Brown was the daughter of William Brown and his wife Jemima Cook Sander who also married in Ousby, Cumberland on 1st June 1844. The origin of Tom's middle name is now known. Over the years maternal grandfather William Brown was a copper miner, a lead miner and a blacksmith in Cumberland.

On the 1881 census, before Tom Sander Gill was born, John and Annie Gill's family looked like this.

1881 census

John Gill	Head	32	Ag. Lab
Ann Gill	Wife	31	
Sarah M. Gill	Dau	8	Scholar
Ester A. Gill	Dau	5	Scholar [should be Elizabeth Ann]
Isabella Gill	Dau	3	
John W. Gill	Son	1	
Address Skirwith, Cumberland			

A sister Phyllis Mary Gill was born Q2 1886. Her birth was registered in the Penrith district as were those for all her five siblings: Sarah Martha Q4 1872, Elizabeth Ann Q1 1876, Isabella Q3 1877, John William Q3 1879 and Tom Sander Q4 1883.

Sarah Martha Gill was baptised in Ousby, Cumberland on 27th July 1873.

Then the Gill family moved to Lightcliffe probably to the Gomersall Buildings in what is now Ripley Street as there is a *National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914* record dated 29th October 1888 for Tom Sander Gill, father John Gill, residence 'Gomersall'. The school was Lightcliffe Mixed Infants which Tom left aged 4 years and 11 months presumably on that date. Perhaps he then transferred to Lightcliffe Boys' School?

On 5th April 1891 the Gill family were recorded as being in Ripley Street. This may have been in the same property but with another name. Ripley Street was built by the stone mason Jeremiah Gomersall. The house at the end by Wakefield Road was known as Gomersall Building in 1891. It is possible that the whole row of terrace houses was called or at least referred to as Gomersall Buildings.

1891 census

John Gill Head 42 Farm Bailiffe
Anna Gill Wife 41
Sarah Martha Gill Daughter 18
John William Gill Son 11 Scholar
Tom Sander Gill Son 7 Scholar
Address 23 Ripley St., Lightcliffe



13-year-old Isabella Gill was not far away at Cliffe Hill mansion, Lightcliffe where she worked as a 'Kitchen Maid' for Benjamin Scarf and his family. He was a 53-year-old Stuff Merchant, Iron Master & Colliery Proprietor. When he died in 1893, he left over £140,000

The oldest and youngest Gill daughters were visiting their grandfather in Cumberland.

1891 census

William Brown Head 76 Retired Blacksmith
Eliza Ann Gill Granddaughter 15 Visitor
Phillis Mary Gill Granddaughter 4 Visitor
Address Culgaith, Penrith, Cumberland

Just over a year later John Gill died on 25th June 1892. He was buried in plot K27 in Lightcliffe churchyard, owned by his wife Annie, on 27th June 1892



Annie Gill also owned plot K28 which was where her father, 82-year-old William Brown was buried on 1st October 1896.



Eldest daughter Sarah Martha Gill, of Gomersall Building, Lightcliffe, married John William Pulman on Boxing Day 1898 in Halifax. He was a weaver the son of James Pulman, a delver. Their daughter Ellen Pulman was born on 7th March 1899 and then baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, on 7th May 1899. Her father was again a carpet weaver, and the family lived in Ripley Street.

In between this birth and the baptism her mother's sister, Isabella Gill, married Albert Booth on 22nd April 1899. Albert Booth was another weaver but from Brighouse. His ancestors and wider family have more Lightcliffe connection, but their full story will have to wait until later. Isabella's address was Ripley Street, Lightcliffe which was also the address on the baptism record for Edith Booth, born 8th July 1899 and baptised at St. Matthew's on 10th September 1899. Albert Booth and family then moved to Bradford Road before the 31st March 1901 as you can see from the 1901 census. It looks as if a number of the Gill family worked at the Bailiffe Bridge carpet factory owned by T. F. Firths & Sons.

1901 census

Annie Gill Head 51 Widow
 Elizabeth A Gill Dau 25 Carpet Setter
 John W Gill Son 21 Market Gardener
 Tom S Gill Son 17
 Accountant's Clerk
 Phyllis M Gill Dau 14 Carpet Winder
 Address Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1901 census

John William Pulman Head 31
 Carpet Weaver
 Sarah M Pulman Wife 28
 Annie Pulman Dau 2
 Address Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1901 census

Albert Booth Head 26 Carpet weaver
 Isabella Booth Wife 23
 Edith Booth Dau 1
 Address 255 Bradford Road, Brighouse

Twins Tom and Ethel Pulman were born on the 11th May 1902 and baptised at St. Matthew's church on 10th August 1902. Their father was still a carpet weaver. The family's address was simply given as Lightcliffe but it was almost certainly in Ripley Street.

More Booth children arrived; Olive born 19th September 1901, Herbert born Q2 1904, Ethel born 13th December 1906. John William born 25th August 1908 and Amy born Q4 1910. They were not baptised at Lightcliffe but when 3-year-old Herbert died on 1st April 1908 he was buried in plot M20 of St. Matthew's churchyard three days later.

Their uncle's name appears in another *National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870-1914* record. Tom Sander Gill of 26, Ripley Street, Lightcliffe, aged 19 years 9 months on the form, dated 1st October 1903, enrolled at the Technical College, Halifax. The form says that his parent's occupation was a 'Clerk' but from the 1901 census occupation for Tom this was almost certainly his occupation and not that of his deceased father.

During this period between the two censuses, Tom attended meetings of the St. Matthew's Young Men's Society at Lightcliffe. An account of the society's annual meeting in 1904 has Tom Gill as the secretary and John Lister Clay as the treasurer. There are many newspaper reports relating to this society, a couple of examples are shown below.

Halifax Daily Guardian 6th February 1906

LECTURE AT LIGHTCLIFFE

The members of the Lightcliffe St. Matthew's Young Men's Society had an enjoyable evening on Monday, when Mr. J. Holdsworth, of Bradford, lectured on "Paris of To-day." Mr. T. H. Norwood presided over a good attendance. The lecturer has made several visits to Paris, and gave his impression of the gay city in most interesting fashion. A number of beautiful views were shown from a lantern, manipulated by Mr. T. S. Gill. On the motion of the Rev. H. H. Green seconded by Mr. J. L. Clay, the thanks of the members were accorded Mr. Holdsworth for what was agreed by all to be a splendid lecture.

Halifax Daily Guardian 1st April 1908

LIGHTCLIFFE ST. MATTHEW'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY

The annual general meeting was held on Monday night, the Rev. R. P. Whittington presiding over a good attendance. The hon. Secretary (Mr. T. S. Gill) read the report for the last session, and the hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. Norwood) presented the balance-sheet and report. The following officers were elected :- President Rev. R. P. Whittington; vice-presidents, Rev. H. H. Green, Mr. J. Dixon, Mr. J. L. Clay, Mr. T. H. Norwood, Mr. E. H. Knowles, Mr. A. P. Knowles, and Mr. G. G. Haque. Mr. T. S. Gill was reelected hon-Secretary. Mr. J. Norwood hon. Treasurer, and the committee comprised Messrs. L. Lee, A. Thornton, C. Taylor, G. Pickles, T. E. Norwood and J. Blackburn. The reports showed that the society was in a flourishing condition, both as regards membership and finance.

Like his friend John Lister Clay, Tom Sander Gill was also a sidesman at St. Matthew's Church attending meetings and being involved with him in auditing the church accounts.

LODGERS LIST—Parliamentary and Parochial Electors.				
Number.	Name of each Elector at full length, the Surname being first.	Description of rooms occupied, and whether furnished or not.	Street, Lane, or other place, and Number (if any) of House in which Lodgings are situate.	Name and Address of Landlord, or other person to whom rent is paid.
FT 221	Gill Tom Sander	Bedroom, first floor, furnished	26, Ripley street, Lightcliffe	Mrs. Annie Gill, 26, Ripley street, Lightcliffe
FT 222	Eastwick Harold Stuart	Bedroom, first floor, unfurnished	26, Ripley street, Lightcliffe	Mrs. Annie Gill, 26, Ripley street, Lightcliffe

From 1910 to 1913 Tom Sander Gill appears on *the Electoral List for Parliamentary County of West Riding of Yorkshire, Northern Part, Elland Division*. As you can see, he was lodging with his mother at 26, Ripley Street which is where he was on 2nd April 1911.

1911 census

Annie Gill Head 61 Widow
Elizabeth Ann Gill Dau 35 Carpet Setter
Tom Sander Gill Son 27
Accountant's Clerk
Phyllis Mary Gill Dau 24 Carpet Setter
Address 26 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1911 census

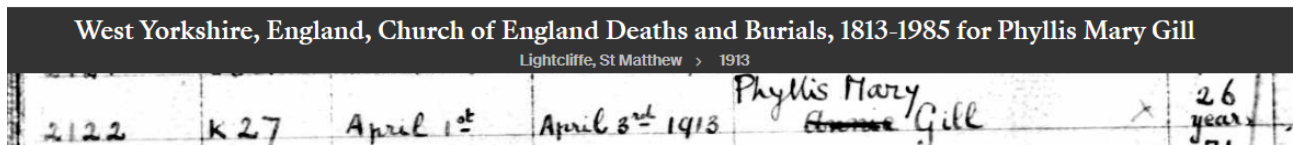
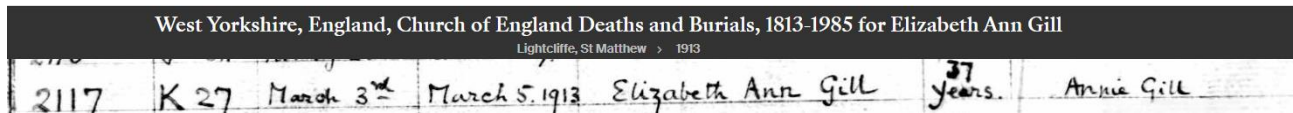
John William Pulman Head 42
Brussels Carpet Weaver
Sarah Martha Pulman Wife 38
Charwoman
Annie Pulman Dau 12 School
Ethel Pulman Dau 8 School
Tom Pulman Son 8 School
Address 21 Ripley St., Lightcliffe

1911 census

Albert Booth Head 35
Brussels Carpet Weaver
Isabella Booth Wife 33
Edith Booth Dau 11 School
Olive Booth Dau 9 School
Ethel Booth Dau 4
James William Booth Son 2
Amy Booth Dau 5/12
Address 10 Belle Vue Place, Bradford
Road, Brighouse

It looks as if the two unmarried Gill sisters as well as their two brothers-in-law worked at the carpet factory owned by T. F. Firths & Sons,

In the spring of 1913, unmarried sisters Elizabeth Ann Gill and Phyllis Mary Gill died within a month of one another. Thirty-seven-year Elizabeth Ann died on 3rd March. She was buried with her father in Lightcliffe plot K27 on 5th March 1913. Her sister Phyllis Mary joined them on 3rd April after she died on 1st April 1913. She was aged 26 years. It is tempting to wonder whether their deaths were linked.



Their sister Isabella Booth née Gill had a baby boy, Harold Booth, on 11th April 1913. Oldest sister Sarah Martha Pulman née Gill had a daughter Mary Pulman on 10th October 1914.

Meanwhile their uncle, Tom Sander Gill, had joined Lightcliffe Golf Club.

Halifax Daily Courier 2nd October 1913

LIGHTCLIFFE GOLF.

Club's Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Lightcliffe Golf Club Limited, was held at the Club House, Knowle Top, last night. There was a good muster of members present. Mr. R. H. Woodhouse presided in the absence of Sir Algernon Firth, the chairman of the club. The hon. Secretary Mr. T. S. Gill read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed.

Halifax Evening Courier 25th May 1914

LIGHTCLIFFE GOLF COMPETITION

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The final round of the competition for the Brighthouse trophy was played at Lightcliffe Golf links on Saturday, when T. Clegg (14), first division, was beaten by T. S. Gill (16) second division 5 and 3

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Mr T. S. Gill in accepting the challenge trophy thanked the donors for the handsome souvenir which accompanied it and expressed his delight that that coveted prize had fallen to the second division, as it would give further encouragement to the long-handicapped players to compete for it. He was proud to hold that casket for the next twelve months when he would endeavour to retain it. Failing this he would be glad to see it in Mr. Clegg's keeping.

	First Cup	Brighthouse Trophy
1909	R WOOD LATTO	
1910	RALPH SUGDEN	
1911	R WOOD LATTO	
1912	RALPH SUGDEN	
1913	GS HASLAM	GW BARKER
1914	GH BARKER	TS GILL
1915	WAR	WAR
1916	WAR	WAR
1917	WAR	WAR
1918	WAR	WAR
1919	Jas SHARP	JO MALLINSON

A copy of the list of some trophy winners – kindly sent by Ian Philp – confirms TS GILL's 1914 win.

No trophies were played for during the next four years due to WW1.

The Brighthouse trophy win was referred to at the 1914 annual general meeting of Lightcliffe Golf Club with some additional information about Tom Sander Gill.

Halifax Daily Guardian 5th October 1914

The Club cup had been won by Mr. G. S. Haslam, the Brighthouse trophy by Mr. T. S. Gill, and the captain's prize by Mr. W. Brearley.

Mr. R. Sugden next proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. T. S. Gill, the late secretary, for his service, and expressed great regret at his illness, and the hope that he would soon be restored to his usual health.

Mr. B. Clay seconded, and the motion was carried enthusiastically.

Mr. B. Clay was almost certainly Arthur Bryan Clay, the son of Arthur Hick Clay of Lyndhurst, Lightcliffe, and so nephew of John Lister Clay.

Then there was this announcement in the *Halifax Daily Guardian* on 18th December 1915.

DEATHS

GILL – On December 15th, Tom Sander Gill, of Lightcliffe, aged 32 years. Funeral at Lightcliffe Old Church, on Saturday, December 18th at 3.30 p.m.

As Tom Sander Gill's death certificate shows he died in the Penrith district at Skirwith where he was born. His death was registered on 17th December 1915 by a relative, his half cousin Mrs Mary Atkinson of Croft House where he died.

Registration District PENRITH.									
1915 DEATHS in the Sub-District of KIRKOSWALD in the County of CUMBERLAND.									
Columns:—									
No.	1. When and Where Died.	2. Name and Surname.	3. Sex.	4. Age.	5. Rank or Profession.	6. Cause of Death.	7. Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	8. When Registered.	9. Signature of Registrar.
201.	Fifteenth December 1915. Croft House Skirwith R.D.	Tom Sander Gill	Male	32 Years	Of Victoria Crescent Dakfield Road Lightcliffe. an Accountant.	1) Phthisis Pulmonalis. Certified by Louis B. Stevenson, M.D.	Mary Atkinson Half Cousin. Present at the death Croft House Skirwith.	Seventeenth December 1915.	Robert Sackell. Registrar.

The cause of death 'Phthisis Pulmonalis' is a term that means a wasting or consuming condition of the lungs, especially caused by tuberculosis. It is also called consumption, phthisis, or the great white plague. This must have been the illness Tom Sander Gill was suffering from when he resigned as secretary of Lightcliffe Golf Club.

Then as his condition deteriorated, perhaps he saw this advert in the *Bradford Daily Telegraph* on 1st July 1915

BOARD-LODGINGS (comfortable) Vacant : piano,
pony and trap near to fells and lake district.
MRS ATKINSON, Croft House, Skirwith, Langwathby,
Cumberland

Or because Mary Atkinson was a relative, perhaps he was already at Croft House hoping that some pony and trap rides in the Lake District fresh air would help his lung condition. Tom Sander Gill's body was brought back to Lightcliffe for burial in St. Matthew's churchyard on 18th December 1915. He was buried with his maternal grandfather in plot K28. It is easy to see how the grave code in the parish burial record below has been mis-transcribed as R28. No obituary or account of the funeral has been found.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for Tom Sander Gill
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1915

2241	R 24	Dec. 30 th	Dec 4 th	James Smith Brook	32 years
2242	R 45	Dec 15 th	Dec 18 th	Fanny Richardson	78 years
2243	R 28	Dec 15 th	Dec 18 th	Tom Sander Gill	32 years
2244	g 11	Dec 25 th	Dec 27 th	Donald Walker	57 years

Not long after five-year-old Amy Booth died on 28th January 1916.

2250	M 20	Jan 28 th	Jan 31 st	Amy Booth	5 years	In consequence of some confusion, M20 and M19 are merged into one grave and reckoned as M20 and the owner of M19 has N18 - the space immediately on north side of the grave of William, Albert and Anne Booth, reserved for him.
2251	R 76	Jan 28 th	Jan 31 st	Arthur Bridgley	65 years	

She was buried with her little brother in plot M20 on 31st January 1916. The parish record has an interesting note entered on the right hand side which says:-

In consequence of some confusion, M20 and M19 are merged into one grave and reckoned as M20 and the owner of M19 has N18 - the space immediately on north side of the grave of William, Albert and Anne Booth, reserved for him.

A few months later her mother Isabella Booth died on 30th April 1916. She was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard in the merged plot, M20, on 3rd May 1916 with her young son and daughter. In the space of three years widow Ann Gill had lost three daughters, a son and a granddaughter; not forgetting the Booth grandson who died in 1908.

But within a year there would be more deaths. Eldest daughter Sarah Martha Pulman née Gill died on 15th May 1917. She too was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 18th May 1917 in plot L81. And then just a few days late on 1st June 1917 Ann Gill died. Her death was registered in the Huddersfield district as by then she was probably living with her only surviving son John William Gill and his family. On the 1911 census he was a gardener in South Crosland, Huddersfield.

Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1918

2323	K28	June 1 st	June 2 nd	Ann Gill	67
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Sixty-seven-year-old Ann Gill was also brought back to Lightcliffe for burial on 2nd June 1917 in plot K28 with her father, William Brown, and her son, Tom Sander Gill, and so next to her husband and daughters in plot K27. The original parish record has not always been

transcribed correctly but the plot code, K28, confirms that it is Ann Gill who was 67 years old.

None of the plots K27/8, M19/20 nor L81 have headstones or kerbstones. K27 and K28 are roughly in the position marked below. This is the plot for which John Lister Clay, in his Will, left money for its upkeep, in memory of his friend Tom Sander Gill.



The two brothers-in-law were also buried in St. Matthew's churchyard. John William Pulman died on 10th February 1923 aged 54 years. At the time he was probably still at 21, Ripley Street where he had lived all his married life. He was buried with his wife Sarah Martha in plot L81 on 14th February 1923.

Albert Booth of 11, Elm Terrace, Bradford Road, Brighouse was a widower for over thirty years. He was 74 years old when he died on 29th April 1949. M19 was recorded as the plot in which he was buried on 3rd May 1949 and so he too was with his wife, Isabella, and their young children.

D.M.Barker

September 2024

Like the Booths there were a number of other related Pulmans who were buried in Lightcliffe churchyard. One day the full story of these Booths and Pulmans may be told.