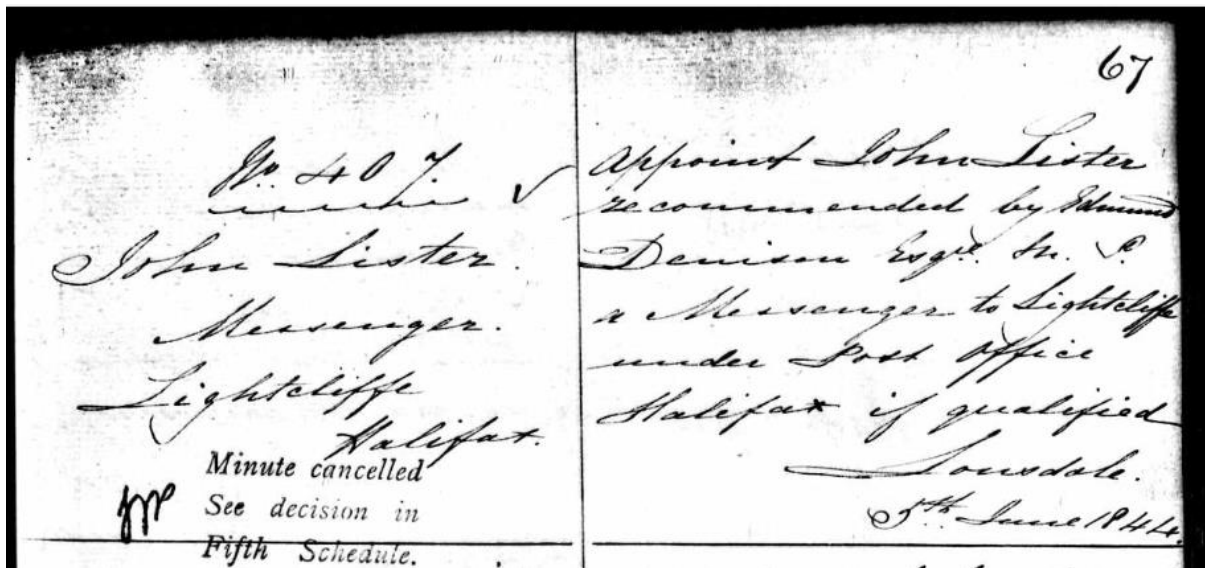
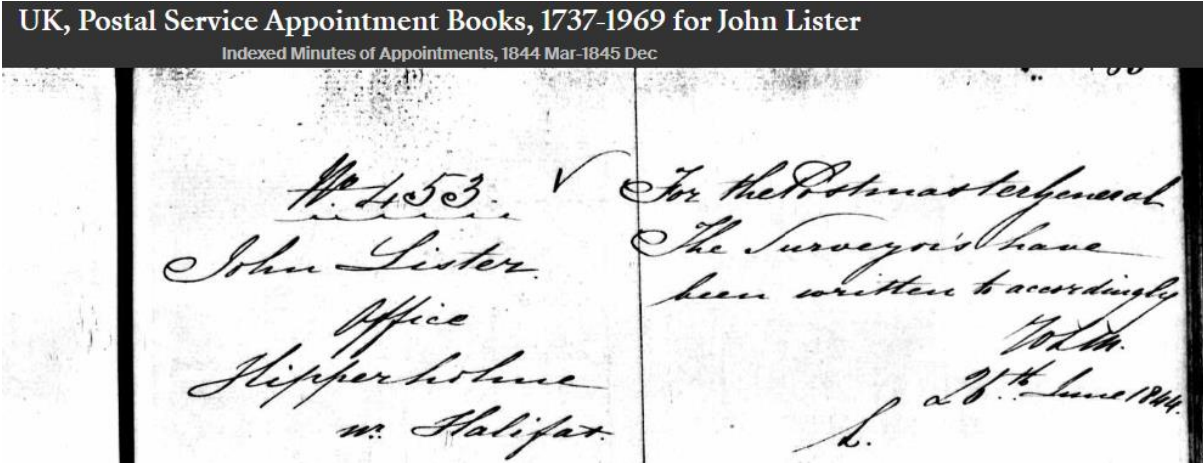


John Lister Hipperholme Postmaster



Postal stamps were first issued in the UK in 1840. In the next decade an efficient postal system was established. John Lister of Hipperholme was part of that system.

As these entries in the *UK. Postal Service Appointment Books* show, and census records confirm, he was the Hipperholme postmaster and 'Messenger' for Lightcliffe in the 1840s.



Although John Lister was baptised and then buried at St. John's Church, Coley his family have many connections with Lightcliffe. What follows is their story.

John Lister's father, James Lister, was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard on 5th September 1838 aged 77 years. Using that information he was born about 1771. There are some possible West Riding of Yorkshire baptism records at Coley and at Lightcliffe, but none are a 'perfect' fit. What is certain is that James Lister married Ann Hudson on 26th May 1794 in Halifax. They had seven children baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe: Joseph on 24th August 1794, David on 13th November 1796, Susy on 31st March 1799, Hannah on 15th May 1801, Martha on 2nd October 1803, and then twins James and William on 5th January 1806. Three more children were baptised at St. John's Church, Coley. The Coley parish records helpfully note that James, married to Ann, was a Hipperholme "Cloth Dresser". These children were: Henry baptised on 1st August 1808, John on 16th April 1813 and finally George on 17th September 1816.

Only the Listers with confirmed Lightcliffe connections will be followed.

Martha Lister married John Hall, a comber, on 23rd June 1823. They were both from Hipperholme. Their daughter Ann Hall was baptised at Coley on 30th October 1825. But a year later she was buried at Lightcliffe on 20th September 1826 less than a month after her mother Martha née Lister was buried there on 23rd August 1826. Both burials were in unknown plots perhaps the same unknown plot. Thirty years later 53-year-old John Hall and his second wife Jane, aged 59 years, both of Mytholme, were each interred in unknown plots in Lightcliffe churchyard on 8th June 1856 and 4th August 1857.

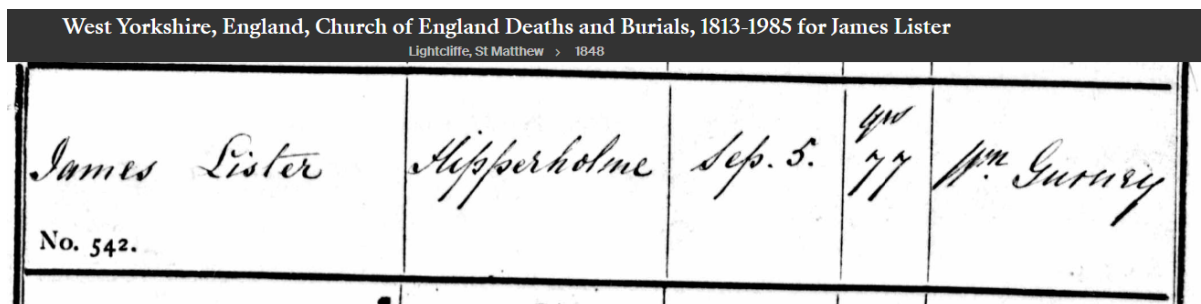
Meanwhile on 14th February 1837 the Lightcliffe curate Rev. William Gurney conducted the marriage of John Lister and Sarah Woodhead at St. John's Church, Halifax. Presumably this was because both bride and groom were from Hipperholme. Sarah's parents were Richard and Susan Woodhead née Shipley. John Lister was another 'Comber'. The birth of their eldest daughter Elizabeth on 8th December 1837 was registered in Halifax but no baptism record has been found. Her sister Ann Hudson Lister was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 19th May 1839 when her father was recorded as being a 'postman'. The little girl was named almost certainly after her paternal grandmother, Ann Lister née Hudson, who was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 8th February 1838 aged 69 years. Another daughter Susannah Shipley Lister, named after her maternal grandmother, was born on 8th April 1841 and baptised on 9th May 1841 at St. John's Church, Coley.

On 6th June 1841 there were three generations of Listers in Silver Street, Hipperholme

<u>1841 census</u>	
James Lister	69 Gardener
John Lister	28 Post Man
Sarah Lister	31
George Lister	27
Elizabeth Lister	4
Ann Lister	2
Susannah Lister	2 Mo
Address Silver St., Hipperholme	

Living with John and Sarah Lister and their three young daughters were John's father, James, and his younger brother George.

John and Sarah's next daughter, Rebecca Lister, was born on 26th November 1842 and then baptised on Christmas Day at St. John's Coley where three years later she was buried on 30th December 1845. A first son George Augusta Lister was born on 8th September 1844 and baptised at Coley on 6th October 1844. But he died before his sister Rebecca and, like her, he was buried at Coley on 14th May 1845. Fortunately, the Hipperholme postman's next two children survived. Another son, David Lister, was born on 23rd April 1846 followed by another daughter Lucy Emma Lister. They were also baptised at Coley on 2nd August 1846 and 23rd December 1849 respectively. Their paternal grandfather James Lister died between these two births and was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 5th September 1848 aged 77 years.



This left the Lister household at Hipperholme Post Office looking like this for the next two censuses.

1851 census

John Lister Head 38 Postmaster & Messenger
 Sarah Lister Wife 43 Assistant ditto
 Elizabeth Lister Dau 13 Assistant ditto
 Ann Hudson Lister Dau 11 Scholar
 Susannah Shipley Lister Dau 9 Scholar
 David Lister Son 4
 Lucy Lister Dau 1
 George Lister Brother to Head 35 Parish relief
 Richard Woodhead Father-in-law 68
 Retired Cloth Weaver
 Susan Woodhead Wife 77 Housekeeper
 Address Village of Hipperholme

1861 census

John Lister Head 48 Lab
 Sarah Lister Wife 53
 Susannah Lister Dau 20 Silk Spinner
 David Lister Son 14 Washer ditto
 Lucy Lister Dau 11 ditto
 George Lister Brother 45
 Imbecility of Mind Lunatic
 Address Post Office, Hipperholme

The sad note by George Lister's name explains why he lived with his brother and family. He was buried at Lightcliffe on 14th April 1865 aged 49 years.

The two eldest Lister daughters had married and moved out by 7th April 1861. Elizabeth Lister married Jeremiah Gomersall on New Year's Day 1855. He would go on to build the houses in Ripley Street, Lightcliffe some of which were known as Gomersall Buildings.

Jeremiah Gomersall and family

and

Jonas Gomersall and family

will tell you more.

Ann Hudson Lister married Marshall Brook on 5th November 1860. Then Susannah Shipley Lister married John Whiteley on 3rd March 1862 again in Halifax. When their father 51-year-old John Lister died in early 1864, he was buried at Coley on 15th January 1864.

There was another Lister / Brook wedding on Christmas Eve 1868 when David Lister married Harriet Brook on Christmas Eve 1865. Harriet had been baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 8th December 1844. She was the daughter of Hannah Brook a weaver from Lower Wyke. David Lister's story will be continued in the article

Reverend Irvine Lister and family

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935 for George Hartley								
Halifax, St John the Baptist > 1870								
1870. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Halifax in the County of York								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
151	December 24 1870	George Hartley Lucy Lister	19 20	Bachelor Spinster	Stone-shipper —	Hipperholme Hipperholme	John Hartley John Lister	Stone-shipper Post-master
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>William Henry Braughar</i> or after <i>Banns</i> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>George Hartley</i> & <i>Lucy Lister</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>David Lister</i> & <i>Mrs Thomas</i>					

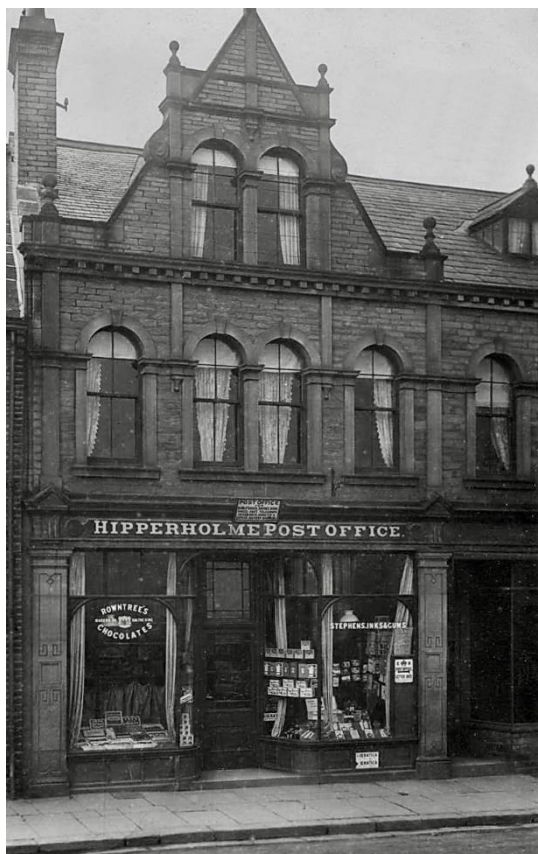
The last of the Lister sibling, Lucy Lister, married George Hartley on Christmas Eve 1870 with brother David as a witness. These were the only two left in Hipperholme in 1871.

1871 census

David Lister Head 24 Currier
Harriett Lister Wife 26
Address Lower Winter Edge, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1871 census

George Hartley Head 20 Stone shipper Cut
Lucy Hartley Wife 21
Address (7) Langley House (Terrace), Hipperholme cum Brighthouse



Widow Sarah Lister née Woodhead was with her daughter Elizabeth Gomersall and family in Towngate on 2nd April 1871. She was 63 years old and recorded as being a 'Rural Messenger'. She was still running the Hipperholme Post Office.

At Christmas 1876, on her retirement, she was presented with 'a purse containing 50 sovereigns' by the vicar of Coley, Rev. W. H. Waun as a token of the respect that the community felt for her after thirty-six years as their post mistress.

On the 1881 census she was living in an almhouse on Harrison Road in Halifax. She died aged 76 years on 21st December 1883 and was buried at Coley, presumably with her husband, John Lister, on 24th December 1883.

George and Lucy Hartley had a son John, born Q2 1871, and daughter Mary Hannah Hartley, born Q4 1872, baptised together at Coley on 27th October 1872. The children's paternal grandfather John Hartley died on 30th April 1873 and was buried in Lightcliffe plot A55 on 3rd May 1873. Later that year on 30th November 1873 another daughter Emily Hartley was born. She too was baptised at Coley on 12th December 1873. Six months later 26-year-old Lucy Hartley née Lister died on 28th June 1876. An Ancestry family tree gives her cause of death as typhoid. She was buried next to her father-in-law in plot A56 owned by her husband on 30th June 1876. Her mother-in-law Rachel Hartley née Brearley died on 4th October 1877 and was buried with her husband on 6th October 1877. And then when 8-year-old John Hartley died on 5th February 1880 he was buried with his mother and so next to his paternal grandparents on 7th February 1880.



Widower George Hartley was living with his brother on 3rd April 1881 with his two young daughters boarding in Halifax. Ten years later they were all together again.

1891 census

George Hartley Head 39 Stone shipper
 Mary H Hartley Dau 18 Damask weaver
 Emily Hartley Dau 16 Worsted spinner
 Emma Hartley Boarder 19 Damask weaver
 Address 15, Land Ends Terrace, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

George Hartley was on his own at this same address on 31st March 1901, both daughters having married. Mary Hannah Hartley married Vernon Hirst on 19th June 1899 in St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Emily Hartley married a London moulder, James Herbert Baldwin on 16th April 1900 and then moved to Grays Inn Road, London.

The Hirsts had three children Lucy Lister Hirst born 26th November 1900, George Edward Hirst born Christmas Day 1905 and Doris Hirst born 11th January 1911.

On the 1911 census George Hartley was living with the Hirsts in Halifax.

1911 census

Vernon Hirst Head 39 Forman Cloth Finishing
 Mary Hannah Hirst Wife 38
 Lucy Lister Hirst Dau 10
 George Edward Hirst Son 5
 Doris Hirst Dau 2/12
 George Hartley Father-in-law 59 Stone Shipper (Cut)
 Address 1 Thornton Gr., Halifax

When 12-month-old Doris died on 10th February 1912 she was buried with her Hartley great grandparents in Lightcliffe plot A56 two days later. George Hartley who died on 30th September 1916 was buried with his wife in the unmarked plot A56 on 3rd October 1916.

Halifax Evening Courier 15 November 1922

DEATH OF MR. VERNON HIRST –

The death took place yesterday at the Infirmary, of Mr. Vernon Hirst, of 10 Kliffen-place, Halifax. Mr. Hirst who was 51 years of age had been for some years employed at Messrs. Holdsworth, Shaw Lodge, Mills, and at the time of his death held the position of manager of the finishing department. He was prominent in Friendly Society work, being connected with the Crown No. 2 Lodge, of the Bolton Unity of Oddfellows. He was also actively connected with the juvenile branch of the Order. He was a director of the Halifax Coal Society, and a former president of the Coronation-road Allotments' Association. He leaves a widow, one son, and one daughter. The funeral will take place at Lightcliffe Church on Friday.

Vernon Hirst was buried with his little daughter on 17th November 1922 in the Lightcliffe plot A56 which has this headstone.



IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN HARTLEY OF HIPPERHOLME
WHO DIED APRIL 30TH 1873 AGED 61 YEARS

ALSO OF RACHEL WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED OCTOBER 4TH 1877 AGED 61 YEARS

ALSO OF VERNON THE BELOVED HUSBAND OF MARY HANNAH HIRST
WHO DIED NOVEMBER 14TH 1922 AGED 51 YEARS

ALSO OF DORIS THEIR DAUGHTER
WHO DIED FEBRUARY 10TH 1912 AGED 12 MONTHS

Meanwhile David Lister, having lost his first wife married again and had five children, including a son named Irvine.

Read the continuing story of this Lister family in

Reverend Irvine Lister and family

D.M.Barker

October 2024