

Jonas Gomersall and family part 1

Jeremiah Gomersall, the builder of Ripley Street in Lightcliffe, has already had his story told.

Jeremiah Gomersall and family

But some of his ancestors, siblings and then nieces and nephews also had links with the Lightcliffe area and St. Matthew's Church and churchyard.

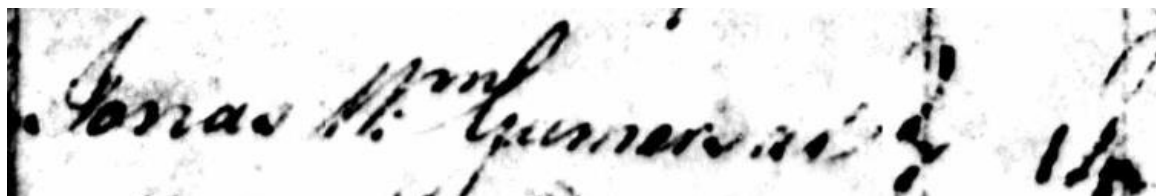
Jeremiah's great grandfather was probably the William Gomersall who died in 1843. His death was announced in the *Bradford Observer* for the 4th May 1843.

SUDDEN DEATH – On Thursday last, Mr. William Gomersall, aged 95, of Hipperholme, whilst sitting in his chair, suddenly expired. He was never known to have a day's sickness during the whole of his long life.

His burial record at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe gives his age as 94 years when he was buried in the churchyard on 30th April 1843 in an unknown plot.

West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985 for William Gomersall				
Lightcliffe, St Matthew > 1843				
William Gomersall No. 180.	Hipperholme	April 30	94	W. Garay

Working backwards this William Gomersall was born about 1749 in which case he could be the son of Edward Gomersall of Great Gomersall baptised at St. Peter's Church, Birstall on 23rd February 1749. A William Gomersall married Sarah Priestley on 24th September 1770 at Hartshead cum Clifton, Yorkshire. A number of Gomersall infants, with father William, were baptised at Hartshead. But then a Jonas Gomersall [sic], son of William, was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 14th February 1779



Just a few years later a William Gomersall lost four children all of whom were buried at Lightcliffe; Grace on 26th January 1786, Hannah on 17th January 1785, Samuel on 22nd November 1798 and Sarah on 23rd June 1801.

Were these the siblings of those Hartshead baptised Gomersalls and / or siblings of Jonas Gomersall. Who knows!

Jonas Gomersall is the one who will now be followed as he was Jeremiah Gomersall's grandfather. This Lightcliffe-baptised young man, a wiredrawer, married Martha Crowther on 15th August 1804 in Halifax. Their five Gomersall children had non-conformist christenings at Bethel Methodist New Connexion, Brighouse; Esther born 10th March 1805 on 3rd April 1805, Mary born 15th February 1807 on 15th March 1807, William born 3rd October 1810 on 28th October 1810, Susannah born 4th July 1813 on 12th September 1813 and John born 9th July 1815 on 27th August 1815. When Mary was christened Jonas Gomersall was a wiredrawer 'of Sleadsike', later abodes say he was 'of Hipperholme'.

Sixteen-year-old Esther Gomersall, the daughter of Jonas Gomersall of Granny Hall, died on 24th April 1821. She was the first burial in plot S*26 of St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe on 29th April 1821. A year later her mother would join her. Martha Gomersall née Crowther of Granny Hall died aged 47 years on 22nd May 1822. She was buried in plot S*26 on 30th May 1822 with this ledger stone covering the plot.



IN MEMORY OF ESTHER
 THE DAUGHTER OF JONAS GOMERSALL OF GRANNY HALL
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE APRIL 24TH 1821
 AGED 16 YEARS

ALSO OF MARTHA WIFE OF THE ABOVE NAMED JONAS GOMERSALL
 WHO DIED MAY 22ND 1822
 AGED 47 YEARS.

Delver William Gomersall married Maria Hemingway on 13th June 1831 in Halifax. They were both from Hipperholme. Maria may have been baptised at Lightcliffe on 3rd May 1810 the youngest child of Jonas Hemingway. William and Maria Gomersall had three children baptised at St. Matthew's Church: Frank on 30th October 1831, Esther on 26th May 1833 and Jeremiah on 1st March 1835. Father William was still a stone delver, and the family lived in Hove Edge. No baptism record has been found for Martha Ann Gomersall but there is a Q1 1838 birth registered in the Halifax district for a Martha Ann 'Gummersale' which fits.

'Comber', John Gomersall married Mary Gregson on 26th February 1837. A daughter Sarah Hannah Gomersall was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 30th July 1837. By then her father was a mason. Son Joshua Gomersall was born Q2 1840 but no baptism record has been found.

William's sister Mary Gomersall married John Stead on 14th December 1837. The Stead family lived at Hartshead Moorside, Cleckheaton where John Stead and then their sons were mechanics. No further records have been found for sister Susannah Gomersall.

On 6th June 1841 the members of the family living locally were at these addresses.

1841 census

Mary Ripley	65 Ag. Lab
John Hobson	65 Ag. Lab
Thomas Houldsworth	60
Jonas Gomersall	60 Wiredrawer
Address Purlwell, Southowram	

William Gomersall senior, in his 90s, should have been at a Hipperholme address, but he has not been found.

1841 census

William Gomersall	30 Stone delver
Maria Gomersall	30
Frank Gomersall	9
Esther Gomersall	8
Jeremiah Gomersall	6
Martha Gomersall	3
Address Common Woodheads, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse	

1841 census

John Gomersall	25 Stone Delver
Mary Gomersall	20
Sarah Gomersall	4
Joshua Gomersall	1
Address Common Woodheads, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse	

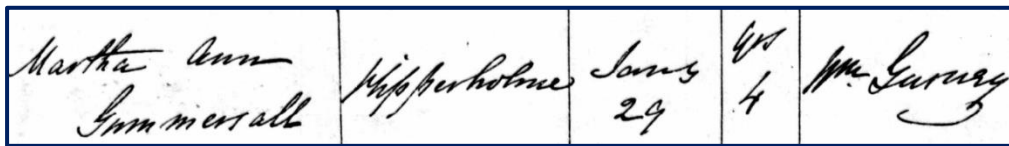
According to the newspaper article about Jeremiah Gomersall's 1905 golden wedding, his father, William Gomersall witnessed some of the local events that took place in August 1842 when protesters from Lancashire marched from the upper valley into Halifax. Others from the Bradford area joined them. They converged on working mills, halting production by emptying mill dams and removing the plugs from boilers. As a result, these disturbances became known as the 'Plug Riots'. In Halifax the militia were called in to disperse the crowd. This was when a delver, Jonathan Booth of Northowram was shot.

The *Halifax Guardian* from the 20th August 1842 reported on his inquest.

INQUEST ON BOOTH

On Thursday an inquest was held at the Halifax Infirmary, before G. Dyson, Esq., on the body of Jonathan Booth, who was shot in the riot of Tuesday last. The deceased was a delver of Northowram aged 44.

Little Martha Ann Gommersall [sic] was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 29th January 1843 three months before her great grandfather William was also buried there. Perhaps it was the same unknown plot.



1851 census

John Stead Head 58
Mechanic employing 5 labourers
Mary Stead Wife 41
William Stead Son 20 Mechanic
Crispin Stead Son 17 ditto
Jonas Gommersall Father-in-law 72 Wiredrawer
Address Hartshead Moor Side, Cleckheaton

1851 census

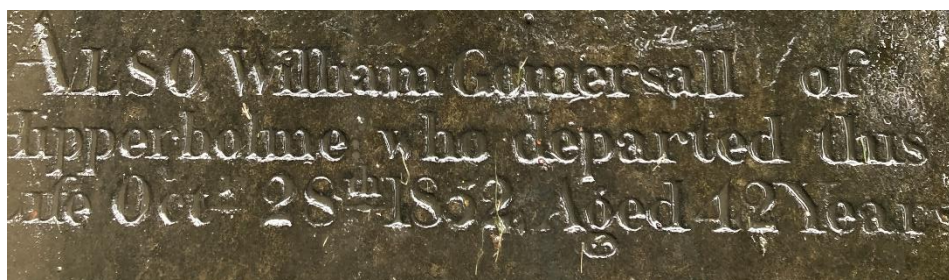
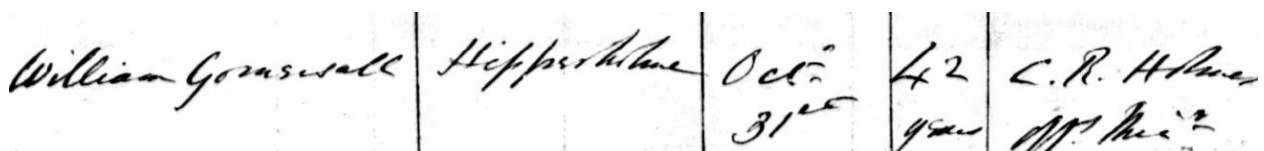
William Gommersall Head 40 Stone Delver
Maria Gommersall Wife 40
Frank Gommersall Son 19 ditto
Jeremiah Gommersall Son 16 ditto
Mary Gommersall Dau 9 Scholar

Thomas Gommersall Son 5 ditto
Sarah Gommersall Dau 1
Address Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1851 census

John Gommersall Head 35 Stone Slate Hewer
Mary Gommersall Wife 33 House Keeper
Hannah Gommersall Dau 13 Mill?? or Factory
Joshua Gommersall Son 10 ditto (work)
Alfred Gommersall Son 9 ditto & School
Emma Gommersall Dau 5
Timothy Gommersall Son 3
Address Cinder Hills, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

Forty-two-year-old William Gommersall died on 28th October 1852. He was buried with his teenage sister Esther and their mother Martha in plot S*26 on 31st October 1842.



The memorial inscription on the flat ledger stone above plot S*26 continues

ALSO OF WILLIAM GOMMERSALL OF HIPPERHOLME
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCTOBER 28TH 1852
AGED 42 YEARS

Seventy-six-year-old Jonas Gomersall of Hightown outlived his son William passing away in April 1856. He was buried in Lightcliffe churchyard on 30th April 1856 in an unknown plot. Perhaps with his wife, son and daughter in plot S*26 but his name was not added to the memorial inscription on the ledger stone.

Jonas Gomersall	High Town	April 30	46 76	Mr. Gurney
No. 991.				

A year later his youngest son John Gomersal(l) of Hartshead Moor died. He too was buried in an unknown Lightcliffe plot on 12th December 1857.

John Gomersal	Hartshead Moor.	Dec ^r 12	42 years	Joseph Birch Offs Min ^r
No. 1094.				

John Gomersall's widow Mary née Gregson then married a blacksmith Charles Garfitt of Skircoat, Halifax on 30th January 1860. She and some of her family then lived in Skircoat where they will be left.

There were a number of other family weddings in the decade before the 1861 census was taken. One of them was for William Gomersall's widow Maria née Hemingway who married a widower, Edward Worrall, on 9th June 1856 at St. John's Church, Halifax.

Eldest daughter Esther Gomersall had previously married John Sykes on 4th September 1854. After having two daughters, Elizabeth Ann and Sarah Ellen Sykes in 1855 and 1857 she may then be the Esther Sykes who died in 1858.

As detailed in the article

Jeremiah Gomersall and family

Jeremiah Gomersall married Elizabeth Lister on New Year's Day 1855. That article tells their story so only passing reference will be made to them here from now on.

Then oldest brother Frank Gomersall married Elizabeth Jagger on 14th June 1859. She was the daughter of John Jagger, a cordwainer. They named their first son John William Gomersall.

The Gomersall households looked like this on 7th April 1861.

1861 census

Edward Worrall Head 47 Brush Maker
Maria Worrall Wife 50 Shop Keeper
Mary Gomersall StepDau19 Mill Hand Worsted
Thomas Gomersall StepSon 15 Blacksmith
Sarah Ann Gomersall StepDau 11
Mill Hand Worsted
Address Lane Ends, Hipperholme with Brighthouse

1861 census

Frank Gomersall Head 29 Stone Mason
Elizabeth Gomersall Wife 24
John Wm Gomersall Son 5 /12
Address Hipperholme with Brighthouse

There were more Gomersall matchings and hatchings in the 1860s. Thomas Gomersall married Susannah Jagger, the daughter of gardener Samuel Jagger on 4th February 1865. Son Arthur was baptised at Coley on 1st Mary 1867 and then son Samuel had a Lightcliffe baptism on 9th April 1871. Later in 1865 sister Mary Gomersall married a Northowram delver James Brierley on Christmas Eve. But just over a year later twenty-three-year-old James Brierley died in Q1 1867. Younger sister Sarah Ann Gomersall married William Webster on 9th November 1868. Their daughter Mary Elizabeth Webster was born Q4 1869.

1871 census

Edward Worrall Head 58
Commercial Traveller & Brush Maker
Maria Worrall Wife 60 Shop Keeper
Mary Beverley Dau 29
[should be Brierley] Widow Dressmaker
Thomas Foster Lodger 38 Silk Dresser
William Webster Lodger 22 Stone Dresser
Sarah Ann Webster Lodger 21 ditto
Mary Elizth Webster Dau (of Lodger) 1
Elizabeth Lodger 18 Spinner
Address Lane Ends Green, Hipperholme with
Brighthouse

1871 census

Frank Gomersall Head 39 Quarryman
Elizabeth Gomersall Wife 34
John W Gomersall Son 10 Scholar
James Gomersall Son 4
Eliza Gomersall Dau 2
Address 11 Gardener's Square, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

1871 census

Thomas Gomersall Head 25 Stone Delver
Susan Gomersall Wife 27
Arthur Gomersall Son 5
Samuel Gomersall Son 1/12
Address White Hall, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

Four-year-old Samuel Gomersall died on 19th March 1875. He was the first occupant of the Lightcliffe plot F79, owned by his father Thomas, when he was buried there on 22nd March 1875. His sisters, Elizabeth Hannah and Ellen, were baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 4th January 1874 and 7th Mary 1876.

Frank and Elizabeth Gomersall had all three of their children baptised at St. John's Church, Coley on 7th September 1873 when Frank was a Hipperholme 'Stone dresser'. Sometime before the next census he would go blind.

1881 census

Maria Gomersall Head 70 Widow
Mary Gomersall Dau 38 Widow Dress Maker
James Foster Lodger 34 Horse Keeper
Address Lane Ends, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1881 census

William Webster Head 32 Stone Dresser
Sarah A Webster Wife 32
Mary E Webster Dau 11 Mill Hand
Frances Webster Dau 9 Scholar
Marion Webster Dau 6 ditto
Esther Webster Dau 4
Alice Webster Dau 1
Address Thornhill, Lane Ends, Hipperholme

1881 census

Frank Gomersall Head 49
Formerly Quarryman (Blind)
Elizebeth Gomersall Wife 44
John Gomersall Son 20 ditto (stone)
James Gomersall Son 14 Worsted Mill Hand
Eliza Gomersall Dau 12 ditto
Address Gardener's Square, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

1881 census

Thomas Gomersall Head 35 Stone Dresser
Susan Gomersall Wife 37
Arthur Gomersall Son 15 Stone dresser
Elizabeth H. Gomersall Dau 7 Scholar
Ellen Gomersall Dau 5 ditto
Address Park View, Lidgate, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse

It is interesting to note that both the widows, Maria Worrall formerly Gomersall née Hemingway and her daughter Mary Webster née Gomersall, used the Gomersall surname.

The young stone dresser, Arthur Gomersall died on 23rd April 1881 aged 15 years not long after the census was taken. He was buried at Lightcliffe with his little brother Samuel on 26th April 1881 in plot F79 owned by his father, Thomas.

When his paternal grandmother Maria Worrall died on 12th January 1882 her death was registered under the name Maria Hemingway Warrell [sic]. She was buried on 16th January 1882 next to her grandsons in plot F80 owned by her son Thomas.

Her eldest son Frank Gomersall died on 21st February 1884. The fifty-two-year-old, who was blind, was buried with his mother on 23rd February 1884 in plot F80. Just a few months later his sister Mary Brierley née Gomersall would join then on 16th July 1884. She was 41 years old when she died on 13th July 1884.

Frank's son John William Gomersall married Susan Hopkinson Q3 1885 in the Halifax district. Daughter (Ann) Eliza Gomersall married Alfred Wilkinson Q2 1890.

And then Thomas Gomersall died on 19th August 1890. He was buried with his sons in plot F79 on 22nd August 1890 then owned by his widow Susan(nah) Gomersall née Jagger.

1891 census

Elizabeth Gomersall Head 50 Widow
James Gomersall Son 24 Dyehouse Labourer
Frank Gomersall Grndson 6
Address Gardener's Square, Hipperholme with
Brighthouse with daughter next door

1891 census

John W Gomersall Head 30
Agent Prudential Insurance
Susan Gomersall Wife 33
Henry Gomersall Son 5
Ada Gomersall Dau 2
Address 5 Beaconsfield Terrace, Hipperholme
with Brighthouse

1891 census

Alfred Wilkinson Head 22 Tanner
Eliza Wilkinson Wife 22
Alice Wilkinson Dau 5/12
Address Gardener's Square, Hipperholme with
Brighthouse with mother next door

1891 census

Susan Gomersall Head 47 Widow
Living on own means
Elizabeth Hannah Gomersall Dau 17
Factory operative
Ellen Gomersall Dau 15 ditto
Address Bramley Lane, Hipperholme with
Brighthouse

1891 census

William Webster Head 42 Quarryman (Stone)
Sarah A Webster Wife 41
Mary E Webster Dau 21 Dress Goods Weave
Frances Webster Dau 19 Coating Weaver Wool
Esther Webster Dau 14 ditto
Alice Webster Dau 11 Scholar
Address Woodhead Lane, Hipperholme with
Brighthouse

Frances Webster married David Akroyd, a weaver of Towngate, Northowram on 13th February 1892 in Halifax. David Akroyd was the son of another David Akroyd of Northowram, who died before his son was born in 1870, and his wife Susannah née Turner.

Brighthouse News 9th June 1894

LICENSING APPLICATION

Mrs Webster, Wife of
William Webster
landlord of the Hare and
Hounds Inn,
Hipperholme applied on
behalf of her husband for
the transfer of the license
of the Country House
Inn, Hipperholme. The
application was granted,
and the license of the
first-mentioned house
was granted to James
Green Wilkinson,
pawnbroker, Bradford.



Photograph on <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1043345>

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Sarah Ann Webster née Gomersall made this application just before William Webster died on 30th November 1894. He was buried in Lightcliffe plot J21 on 4th December 1894. His twenty-eight-year-old daughter Mary Elizabeth Webster joined him on 16th December 1897. She died on 12th December 1897.

James Henry Gomersall was buried in the Gomersall family plot F80 on 10th May 1899. The thirty-two-year-old died on 7th May 1899. A month later his niece, six-year-old Clara Gomersall, the daughter of John William and Susan Gomersall died on 12th June 1899. Her burial on the 14th June 1899 was the last in plot F80 which was then declared full. The child's grandmother Elizabeth Gomersall née Jagger, Frank Gomersall's widow died on 29th June 1900. She was buried, near the Gomersall double plot, in plot F76 on 3rd July 1900.

Alice Webster married Arthur Hardaker Q2 1900 in the Leeds district. Later that year Ellen Gomersall, the daughter of Thomas and Susannah, married Isaac Holroyd Nicholl at Lightcliffe Congregational Church on 29th December 1900. Isaac Holroyd Nicholl's father was Mitchell Nicholl who had married Sarah Hannah Holroyd on 30th April 1866 in Brighouse. The Nicholls were one of the families living in Ripley Street built by Jeremiah Gomersall.

1901 census

John W Gomersall Head 40 Insurance Agent
 Susan Gomersall Wife 43
 Frank Gomersall Son 16
 Henry Gomersall Son 15 Worsted Mill Oiler
 Ada Gomersall Dau 12 ditto Spinner
 Arthur Gomersall Son 3
 Address Beaconsfield Terrace, Hipperholme with Brighouse

1901 census

Alfred Wilkinson Head 32 Stone Moulder
 Eliza Wilkinson Wife 32
 Alice Wilkinson Dau 10
 Annie Wilkinson Dau 8
 John W Wilkinson Son 5
 Address Denholmegate Road, Hipperholme with Brighouse

1901 census

Susannah Gomersall Head 57 Widow
 Elizabeth H Gomersall Dau 26
 Winder in Carpet Mill
 Isaac H Nicholl Son-in-law 24 Weaver
 Ellen Nicholl Dau 25 Sewer in Carpet Mill
 Address Bramley Lane, Hipperholme with Brighouse

1901 census

Sarah A Webster Head 50 Publican
 Esther Webster Dau 24
 Address Country House Hotel, Halifax Road, Hipperholme with Brighouse

1901 census

David Ackroyd Head 30 Brewer's Labourer
 Frances Ackroyd Wife 29
 Ada F Ackroyd Dau 9
 Ethel M Ackroyd Dau 7
 Address Lane End Green, Wood Lane, Hipperholme

1901 census

Arthur Hardaker Head 24 Shoe & Boot cutter
 also Wool Sorter & Wool & Noil Traveller
 Alice Hardaker Wife 21 Wife
 Address 5 William St., Horton, Bradford

Continue reading about these Gomersalls and their relatives - not forgetting The Country House Hotel, Hipperholme - as they move into the twentieth century.

Jonas Gomersall and family part 2

D.M.Barker

November 2024