

# A DRIVER and WEATHERHEAD family history

Silsden, West Yorkshire, England

Tracing the story of two Silsden families, through six generations of change

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2024

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Printed in the UK by Swallowtail Print

Lord Hothfield held about 8% and the remainder were owned locally, occasionally with a complete terrace perhaps funded and then owned by an investor. The ledger does not indicate whether building societies were supporting these investors.

Also found were assets such as Quarrying, Sporting and Fishing Rights owned by The Lord of Skipton Castle and indicating to whom they had been let. Likewise mentioned are the Silsden Urban District Council, Bradford Corporation for reservoir and piping, and the National Telephone Company with '21 miles of telephone lines and poles'.

As a comparison the 1832 Silsden land tax lists a total of 173 properties, 100 of which were owned by the Earl of Thanet and the remaining 73 properties were owned by 68 individuals or their trustees.

So, having reviewed the background, it is time to look at what we know about each of our ancestors and their descendants. Firstly, the Driver family, followed by the Weatherhead family.

The narratives are followed by appendices, that either provide examples of original documents or that develop a theme of further research.

### **The Driver family narratives**

Before commencing the individual narratives there are a few more details that need to be explained. The Driver Earlier Generations Master chart primarily shows the tree of the Driver family, from the earliest confirmed date discovered up to about the end of the 20th century. In particular it includes the four Driver brothers of generation Q with their wives and children, plus three other siblings who did not have any issue. This covers generations K to R inclusively.

The Driver family direct line is that part of the family who descend down to Charles Driver and his wife Florence Weatherhead. But because we have established contact with the descendants of Charles' three brothers the term direct line is broadened to include these families.

Each of the four brothers and their wives have a different coloured background to their names and their portion of the tree is continued on four charts headed with their name and their background colours; yellow, purple, brown and blue.

As mentioned earlier from the earliest days the tree includes all siblings as well as the direct line and two more charts are needed to show them and their families. These have the coloured backgrounds pink and green.

In the narratives the name is stepped in using the symbol • and four spaces, one symbol for each change in generation. This is in order to emphasise the generation and any change in generation compared with the previous person reported upon. Thus, the earliest generation has no symbol and the next generation will have one symbol, for example William Driver, who is in the direct line, will be shown as • • • • William, P3.

In most instances this introduction will also mention the spouse's name as this helps with recognition of the new family. This identification method is the same for both Driver and Weatherhead families. Note that if the name is underlined then it is direct line.

One other item to mention relates to ages and dates. Some of the data on ages comes from the various censuses which in general were taken in early March, although the 1841 census was in June. Other data may be provided by calendar year. Please also remember that the calendar change took place in 1752/53. Depending on which month an event happened and especially if a calculation is being made, a variation of one year in age can easily occur and so a slight variation should not be a cause of concern.

Those family members for whom a narrative has been produced are listed on the following pages, and, in order to more readily find one's position, these narratives have been given a number. Numbers are allocated 1 to 99 for Drivers. Those who are known not to have had children are marked // on this list.

There are other characteristics of the family charts and narrative names: -

- a) In addition to its letter, every generation has been given a generation colour.
- b) The names of family members are in the generation colour with spouses in black.
- c) Surnames are written in **bold** when they appear for the first time. They are then not repeated.
- d) The names of the direct line members are underlined.
- e) On the family charts the direct lines of the family are linked by stronger vertical lines between generations than the non-direct lines.
- f) The narrative number is included on the charts appearing as a superscript number at the end of the surname.

#### List of narratives

- 1 William Driver and Sarah Smith, K1.
- 2 • John Driver and Mary Spencer, L3.
- 3 • • John Driver and Sarah Glover, M3.
- 4 • • • Henry Driver and Judith Smith, N2.
- 5 • • • • John Driver and Martha Wilkinson, O4.
- 6 • • • • John Driver and Ann Cockshott, N4.
- 7 • • • • William Driver and Mary Sawley, O5.
- 8 • • • • • Ann Driver and Stephen Tillotson, O5+.
- 9 • • • • • John Driver and Elizabeth Wood, O5+.
- 10 • • • • • • John William Driver and Jane Elizabeth Routh, O5++.
- 11 • • • • • • Joseph Henry Driver and Clara Lee, O5++.
- 12 • • • • • • Henry Sawley Driver and Jane Summerscales, O5+.
- 13 • • • • • John Driver and Grace Bottomley, O7.
- 14 • • • • • Thomas Driver and Hannah Bagshaw, O8 //.
- 15 • • • • • • Samuel Driver and Mary Gill, P1.
- 16 • • • • • • William Driver and Mary Lambert, P1+.
- 17 • • • • • • Sammy Driver and Sarah Ann Newton, P1+.
- 18 • • • • • • Margaret Driver and Joseph Stephenson, P2 //.

- 19 • • • • • William Driver and Sarah Morris, P3.
- 44 • • • • • • John Morris Driver and Jane Weatherhead, Q1 //.
- 45 • • • • • • Benjamin Driver, Q2 //.
- 46 • • • • • • Charles Driver and Florence Weatherhead, Q3.
- 52 • • • • • • Arthur Driver and Katharine Bedford, R2.
- 65 • • • • • • • Tom Driver and Sheila Campbell, S1.
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- 67 • • • • • • • Charles Ben Driver and Dorothy Brabin, S3.
- 68 • • • • • • • Jeremy John Driver and Wendy Alcock, S4.
- 53 • • • • • • • Sarah (Sally) Driver, R3 //.
- 54 • • • • • • • Morris Driver and Annie Fort, R4.
- 69 • • • • • • • Nancy Driver and Thomas Dobson Mitchell, S5.
- 70 • • • • • • • Frances Driver, S6 //.
- 55 • • • • • • • Frank Littledale Driver and Mina Wall, R6.
- 71 • • • • • • • Florence Driver and Ian Stimson, S7.
- 56 • • • • • • • Florence (Betty) Driver and Archibald Ronald, R7
- 72 • • • • • • • David Ronald and Mary Shephard, S9.
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- 47 • • • • • • • Frederick William Driver and Alice Clark, Q4.
- 57 • • • • • • • Mary Annie Driver and John Boothman, Q4+.
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- 58 • • • • • • • William Driver and Jean Chew, Q4+.
- 75 • • • • • • • Frederick Harry Driver and Judith Horner, Q4++.
- 59 • • • • • • • Jack Driver and Edith Shackleton, Q4+.
- 76 • • • • • • • John (Jack) Morris Driver and Jean Taylor, Q4++.
- 48 • • • • • • • Henry Ripley Driver and Mary Green, Q5.
- 60 • • • • • • • Marjorie Driver and Geoffrey Butterfield, Q5+.
- 77 • • • • • • • Moira Butterfield and David Molloy, Q5++.
- 78 • • • • • • • Shirley Butterfield and Peter Hudson, Q5++.
- 61 • • • • • • • Phyllis Driver and Ralph Townson, Q5+.
- 79 • • • • • • • Jill Townson and Keith Hellewell, Q5++.
- 80 • • • • • • • Isabel Townson and David Shuttleworth, Q5++.
- 81 • • • • • • • Elizabeth Townson and David McGiffert, Q5++.
- 82 • • • • • • • Andrew Townson and Ruth Patchett, Q5++.
- 83 • • • • • • • Ruth Townson and John Charlesworth, Q5++.
- 84 • • • • • • • Philip Townson and Susan Lister, Q5++.

- 49 • • • • • Frank Driver and Elizabeth (Cis) Pilling, Q6.
- 62 • • • • • • **Norman Driver and Mary (Molly) Brierley, Q6+ //.**
- 63 • • • • • • **Joan Driver and David Cooper, Q6+ //.**
- 64 • • • • • • **Elizabeth Driver and Ronald Leslie Cormie, Q6+.**
- 85 • • • • • • • **Ernest Cormie and Jessie A Neil, Q6++.**
- 86 • • • • • • • **Margaret Cormie and Iain Percy-Robb, Q6++.**
- 50 • • • • • • Hugh Driver, Q7 //.
- 51 • • • • • • Mary Anne Driver and Albert Hill, Q8 //.
- 20 • • • • • **Thomas Driver and Jane Gill, P4.**
- 21 • • • • • • John Driver and Elizabeth Mitchell, P4+.
- 22 • • • • • • • **Harry Mitchell Driver and Margaret Dinsdale, P4++ //.**
- 23 • • • • • • Thomas Driver and Mary Bailey, P4+.
- 24 • • • • • • • **Maggie Driver, P4++ //.**
- 25 • • • • • • Mary Ann Driver and George Wright, P4+ //.
- 26 • • • • • • Enoch Driver, P4+ //.
- 27 • • • • • • Denby Driver and Jane Ann Smith, Frederick Booth P4+.
- 28 • • • • • • • **Thomas Barton Driver and Katie Gannon, P4++.**
- 29 • • • • • • • **Dora Driver and Henry Pickering, P4++.**
- 30 • • • • • • • **Annie Elizabeth Driver and Herbert Hallos, P4++.**
- 31 • • • • • • • **William Booth Driver and Mary Alice Beacock, P4++.**
- 32 • • • • • • • **John F Booth Driver and Hilda B Edwards, P4++.**
- 33 • • • • • • • **Jarvis Booth Driver and Dorothy R Winchup, P4++.**
- 34 • • • • • • • **Charles Victor Booth Driver and Sarah Whipp, P4++.**
- 35 • • • • • • • **Edmund Booth Driver and Muriel Irene Harris, P4++.**
- 36 • • • • • • Hannah Elizabeth Driver and Julius Tillotson, P4+.
- 37 • • • • • **Sarah Driver and John Sawley, P5.**
- 38 • • • • • **John Driver, P6 //.**
- 39 • • • • • **Henry Driver and Isabella Clarkson, P7, Grace Driver, P7+.**
- 40 • • • • • **Henry Driver and Annie Hawkins, P7 //.**
- 41 • • • • • **Joseph Driver and Ann Hartley, P8.**
- 42 • • • • • • Grace Driver & Broughton Dean P8+ **Joseph Driver P8++**
- 43 • • • • • • George Driver, P8+

1 William Driver and Sarah Smith, K1. The Borthwick Library is custodian of many of the Silsden Manor records, and a relevant will was found. A widow, Sarah Driver, died in April or early May 1725 and in her will, a transcription of which is included in Appendix. 4, mention is made of four

children; John of Brunthwaite, Susan Booth of Heaton, William and Isabel. Sarah is said to be of Silsden. For a while this was the only information we had, and in particular we did not know the name of Sarah's husband, nor did we know Sarah's maiden name. The wording of the will suggested that at that time John and Susan were married and away from home while William and Isabel were not married and were living at home.

Previously we had built the family tree working backwards through old parish records and had arrived at John and Mary Spencer, generation L. Now, with the realisation that we had accounted for all the Drivers living in Silsden mentioned in the Craven Index (CI), we made the judgement that Sarah K1's son John was the same person as the John, generation L, who married Mary Spencer. Susan Booth, William and Isabella had not been found elsewhere.

We then found in the York Bishop's Transcripts more records, four baptismal, three marriage and one death. In chronological order they are:  
Marriage of William Driver and Sarah Smith on 23rd July 1682 at Bingley. Appendix 5 Item 2.

Baptism of Thomas Driver on 6th May 1683 son of Guli and Sara of Brunthwaite. (Guli an abbreviation of Gulielmus, the Latin form of William).

Baptism of Issabella Driver on 29th May 1687 daughter of Gulielmus and Sara of Silsden. Appendix 5 Item 3.

Baptism of Johannes Driver on 16th June 1689 son of Gulielmus and Sara of Silsden.

Baptism of Susanna Driver on 24th May 1691 daughter of Gulielmus and Sara of Silsden.

Burial of Thomas Driver son of Gulielmus of Silsden on 1st May 1693.

Marriage of Susan Driver and George Booth blacksmith on 6th May 1718 at Bradford.

Marriage of Isabel and Thomas Gott on 29 Sept 1726 at Kildwick.

While we cannot be certain that the marriage of William and Sarah is the correct one, the fact that Thomas was born 9½ months after the marriage provides a good degree of confidence. So, as well as having the baptism dates for the children we now have Sarah's husband's name, and it came as no surprise that it was another William. It also provided Sarah's maiden name, Smith.

Then William snr's baptism on 6th April 1645 was found stating his father was Thomas and this baptism was at Bingley, about 7 miles south east of Silsden. See Appendix 5 Item 1. Data also indicates that William had two sisters, Susannah born and died 1649, and Martha who, and I cannot resist including this, was born on 24 December 1654 'Cow shed, Bingley'. Thomas Driver of Bingley was therefore generation J and likely to have been born about 1620.

Isabel and Thomas Gott had a daughter Sarah who was baptised 30 August 1712. Thomas was a husbandman of Brown Bank, which was the road leading out of Silsden to Addingham and Ilkley prior to the road improvements when made into the future turnpike.

In Sarah's will there is no mention of son Thomas and this of course is because he had died as a child many years earlier. The birth and later records of son William have still not been found.

Sarah's record in the Silsden Manor archives includes an inventory of her estate and the will. It is likely that Sarah was born between 1665 and 1680 in the period when Charles II would have been on the throne and London would still be rebuilding after the Great Fire of London. Her bequest to John was five shillings and to Susan one shilling. The residue of her estate was to be shared equally by William and Isabel. From the inventory, Appendix 4, we see that her estate included a small quantity of furniture, but most valuable were her three cows and a mare. Her entire estate was valued at a little over £14. With a long table being valued at 10 shillings and four chairs being valued at 3 shillings. This puts into better focus the value of

the currency, but also indicates the poverty of ordinary country people at that time.

From the Steel family history, we read 'All the remainder of Holden Park (Phillipp's Farm, Hanson's Farm, Jonathan Berry's Farm and Lodge Farm) was leased at the same time for £165 to Benjamin Phillipp, whose family had already lived for 50 years in Holden'.

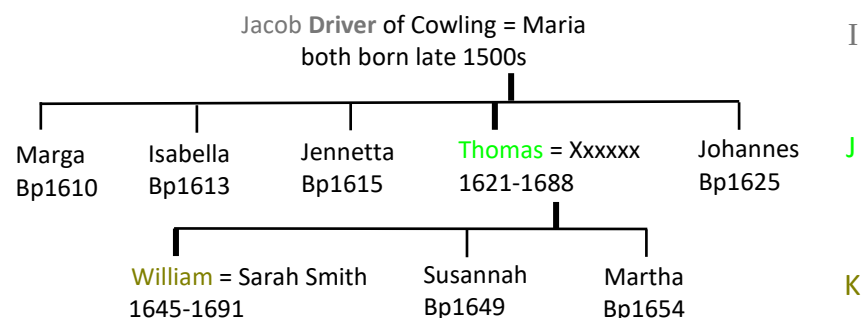
It continues, 'In 1704 the 'very ruinous' Lodge with its 'one elme tree before the door' had been in the occupation of Sarah Dryver, widow (sub-tenant to Benjamin Phillipp), who died in 1725'. Also, to note is that Sarah's will was witnessed by Thomas(?) Phillip who may have been related to Benjamin Phillipp the landlord. Sarah was unable to sign her name and her mark was provided on her will.

Finally, we mentioned above the potential parents of William, but that information comes from outside Silsden. We have no earlier Driver information that relates to Silsden and therefore we consider that our writing about the Drivers of Silsden has reached back to its natural starting point.

The word finally should not be used in writing family histories!

Subsequently, we found the burial of William, pauper of Silsden, on 2 July 1691 (Appendix 5 Item 4) thus consolidating the starting point for this family history at generation K. That find was followed by discovering the death of William's father, Thomas, in which it states Thomas' father was Jacob and of Cowling. Also, the discovery of the Kildwick baptisms of five of Jacob and Maria's children, Marga 1610, Isabella 1613, Jennetta 1615, Thomas 1621 and Johannes in 1625.

Jacob and Maria were therefore generation I and were born in the late 1500s, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the last Tudor monarch, who died in 1603. Coincidentally, this was written here shortly before the death of Queen Elizabeth II, late in 2022.



There are two additional things to mention. Firstly, that in 1707 the Act of Union between England and Scotland took place. Secondly it is interesting to see copies of the original documents containing the data of this period, some in Latin, some difficult to read until enlarged and enhanced by modern technology. A selection has been placed in Appendix 5.

**2 • John Driver and Mary Spencer, L3.** We have a record of the marriage in Addingham of John Driver and Mary Spencer on 5th April 1721. Mary having been born on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1696. This information and the baptism of their four children, Susanna, Sarah, John, and William comes from early church records that do not provide any information about the husband's occupation. The baptisms of the four children happened over the years 1723 to 1731, with John junior M3 the third child, being married in 1754. It is this John who is on the family direct line. Unfortunately, we have little information relating to his siblings, apart from William who we believed married Elizabeth Foulds, a widow, in 1756. William and Elizabeth appear not to have had any children.

**3 • • John Driver and Sarah Glover, M3.** John, who was baptised on 28 January 1727, was married to Sarah Glover, daughter of John Glover at Kildwick, on 10th January 1754. A couple of years earlier the calendar change took place. In the marriage record the village of Kildwick is given as

the abode of both John and Sarah. They were married for 20 years and had eight children.

When baptisms were recorded, normally both parents' names were provided, although for Peter, the sixth of the eight children, only the father's name is given. John's occupation is given as a weaver (elsewhere said to be a linen weaver). By 1760 John and Sarah with their children Ann, Henry and possibly Mary, who was born in November of that year, had moved to Silsden. There is a 1762 date stone on a Stirling Street property that is believed to link to John and Sarah Driver. In 1763 John is described as a husbandman, which indicates he possessed some land and perhaps cultivated it or kept it for grazing or for producing hay, an important crop for winter feeding of livestock. Being a weaver at that time would mean working a hand loom probably set up in his own home. By now, son John had been born. Four more children were born in the following 11 years, Thomas, Peter, Margaret and William. Of these children we know that Thomas died at the age of 28 and that Margaret married William Fortune. However, we have been unable to find marriages or deaths for either Peter or William.

Thanks to the news sheets provided by the Silsden Local History Group we have several sightings of John Driver. Firstly in 1755, the year after he was married, when he was named in a Court Roll. Then in 1757 he is recorded on the Silsden Estate document. In 1760 there is reference to John Driver of Ghyll Grange and one year later John was tenant of a small hill farm, the neighbouring farm known as Black Pots where his rent, payable to the Lord of the Manor at Skipton Castle was 'three horse loads of coal and two hens'.

A few tenants of Skipton Castle were licensed to mine coal from the hills east of the village at an area known as Rough Holden. This means that packhorses were used to transport the coal all the way to Skipton over Silsden Moor. This would have all changed with the opening of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in 1773, which went right into the centres of both Silsden and Skipton. All that was then needed was for the coal to be

transported from the mine at Holden Top down to a barge on the canal in the valley below. Whether John was still in Black Pots and supplying a small quantity of coal to the Manor in 1773 is unknown. The lease of Black Pots changed in 1774 and John died in 1775.

The death of John at the age of 48 is known from a document in the Silsden Manor archives, a portion of which is shown in Appendix 5 Item 5. This concerns the administration of the estate and probate of John Driver and a bond for the sum of £5, signed by Sarah at that time in favour of the Right Honourable Sackville Earl of Thanet of the Manor of Silsden. This bond became void if she carried out the terms of John's will to the satisfaction of the Court of the Manor of Silsden. Apart from the family interest that this provides, this manorial document gives the date as being the 'Fourth Day of May in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Five'. There they were, in 1775, still claiming that King George was King of France, even though this was 217 years after Calais, the last British held territory in France, was lost. This pretence was dropped from the monarch's official title in 1801.

The inventory made of John's estate shows that he was relatively poor leaving an estate valued at £11 6s 6d of which £2 2s were his pair of linen looms. This is in sharp contrast to that of his father-in-law, John Glover.

There is a second bond signed by Sarah and her son Henry in 1783 which was for the same purpose but the deceased was John Glover, Sarah's father. This second bond was for the sum of £200. It was a simpler document than the one described above and is reproduced in Appendix 5 Item 6a. One wonders why the bond of £200 was set so high.

In addition, John Glover's will, 1783, confirms the names of Sarah and John's children other than the eldest, Ann, who had died before her grandfather made his will. See Appendix 5 Item 6b. The will left money and properties to all his Driver grandchildren, the only family mentioned, but

granddaughter Mary, the third child, seems to be less well favoured than the others.

This document in turn lead to the York Peculiars Probate Index and to finding Sarah's husband John being buried on 22nd March 1775. Sarah's burial is recorded in February 1794 and since it states her age we now know when she was born. This shows she would have been 23 when married. We also find entries of the death of their daughter Ann, N1, their first child who died at the age of 16 in 1771, and of their son Thomas who died at the age of 28, one month after his mother. Their second child was Henry and at this point we move off the direct line.

See the John Driver and Sarah Glover chart, pink background, page 10, to help you follow the narratives.

**4 • • • Henry Driver and Judith Smith, N2.** The information available comes primarily from the parish records, with the first census, in 1841, just coming in time for a few of the N generation families.

Henry, baptised in 1758, married Judith Smith on 27th November 1783 in Kildwick, with that record mentioning that Henry came from Silsden and Judith from Kildwick. They were a similar age, Judith having been born in 1757, therefore they were marrying in their mid-twenties. Henry was a weaver for most of his life but tried his hand at nail making by 1785, the time when their second daughter Hannah, O2, was born. This seems to be the first mention of a member of our Driver family to have been a nail maker, with this relatively new local industry set to become a main occupation for the family. The first positive mention of nail making in Silsden was a marriage record of 1755.

Research by M Crossley and B Hill of Silsden identified that in 1806 Henry Driver sold to James Netherwood, Farmer, 'All that barn situated at the upper end of Silsden adjoining the turnpike from Silsden to Addingham ... and one smith's shop ex mistal (*cowshed*) adjoining the said barn ... and one coal house and one swine house adjoining the west end and wall of



the dwelling house belonging to and occupied by Henry Driver together with all edifices ... of a private road adjoining Banklands Beck’.

Henry and Judith had four children the first three of whom died before the age of 8. Only the fourth child, John, who had been given the same name as the third child, lived to adulthood. He married Martha Wilkinson one year after his father, Henry, had died in 1813.

**5 • • • • John Driver and Martha Wilkinson, O4.** John was born in 1794 and followed in his father’s footsteps in being at times a nail maker and alternatively a weaver. John married Martha Wilkinson in 1814 at Kildwick church and they had five children, Jonas, Hannah, Henry, Judith and John, the last two of whom died a couple of years after being born. In 1819 at the time of the baptism of their third child John had changed to being a weaver, and by 1823 when the fifth child was born, he had switched back again to being a nail maker. However, in 1822 a directory for Silsden listed, under nail makers, the names of William Fortune, Robert Nightingale, W and H Spencer and Samuel Tillotson but no Drivers.

From the church record of John and Martha’s wedding on 21st November we see that she was a minor and that her parents gave the required consent. Martha was baptised in August 1796 and so was 18.

The eldest child, Jonas, who was a wool comber, married Ann Bailey in 1837 and we can follow his family through the various censuses but we also need the help of the parish records. Jonas and Ann had six children but the last three all died before the age of 5 and these births and deaths were between censuses and so were not evident. The first three children were Martha, Harriet and Hannah, all girls and hence the Driver surname was not carried forward.

**We now return to the direct line and to Henry’s younger brother John, N4.**

**6 • • • John Driver and Ann Cockshott, N4.** John born 1763, married Ann Cockshott, a weaver’s daughter, on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1784. They had five children and twenty-two grandchildren of whom seventeen were Drivers.

When their first three children were born John was a farmer and, when the fourth and fifth children were born, he was a weaver. William, John and Thomas were all married by 1817 and each have their own narrative. Sarah was married, widowed and remarried having six children in total. Interestingly her second son was given the first name Driver. Unfortunately, we have been unable to find any information about John and Ann’s daughter Mary. John died in 1832 at the age of 69. In the 1841 census, Ann, at the age of 75, was head of the household and a farmer. She had Joseph Cockshott, aged 70, her younger brother living with her in Silsden.

The Silsden Local History Group were able to examine the 1845 Tithe Award documents and find where Ann was living and identify the six fields which formed her 8 acres of farm land. She was renting the land from the Earl of Thanet, the owner of the Skipton Castle estate. She was living at tithe land number 752. Her land was contiguous and was all on the west side of Keighley Road on part of the land called Mill Close. A copy of a piece of the tithe map is shown in Appendix 5 Item 8. Her 8 acres are marked in red.

Ann died in 1846 and her brother Joseph died the following year, so neither of them appeared in the 1851 census. By comparing the 1841 and 1851 censuses we suspected that their dwelling was close to the toll bar of the turnpike, and this was supported when the unconfirmed location of the turnpike house was pin-pointed. She was living there, plot 752, when the new Becks Mill was being built on adjacent plot number 751 and had its named changed from being part of Mill Close to Mill Gardens.

Although the town of Silsden was expanding rapidly in the late 1800s examination of field maps shows the fields farmed by Ann were still undisturbed in 1919.

**Recalling that we finish the family of non-direct lines before moving to the next sibling, now we follow John’s, N4, family down three generations O, O+ and O++ before returning to a sibling in O+ and finally to a sibling in O.**

**7 • • • • William Driver and Mary Sawley, O5.** William, the first child born to John and Ann, like his father was a farmer. He was living in the 'hamlet of Silsden' and appears in the 1841 census at the age of 56. The census does not state the number of acres William farmed, but the 1845 Tithe Award showed that he was tenanted 8 acres from Joseph Wright. A section of the tithe map shows he had four fields all separated from one another on the east side of the main street. His homestead was on tithe field number 761 and reported him to be a tenant of the Earl of Thanet and situated at the end of Coalpit Lane, as stated in the census. The extracts from the tithe map are shown in Appendix 5 Item 8.

Back in 1809 he had married Mary Sawley who was one year older than William. They had nine children, the first three of whom died in infancy leaving six who, in 1841, were all at home. Parents and children had all been born in Silsden.

In the 1851 census it shows William, now 66, to be farming 17 acres. His widowed mother had died in 1846 leaving 8 acres. It seems as if William now had these fields making his holding 16 acres (allowing for a bit of rounding). He, with Mary and four of the children, were still at home in Coal Pit Lane End. He did not take possession of his mother's home on what was to become Keighley Road. Children numbered four and nine, Ann and Henry, had married and were established in their own homes. The three remaining girls, Hannah, Mary and Sarah were power loom weavers and son John was helping on the farm. These four were all due to marry in the next few years. Mary and Sarah are reported by the Silsden Local History Group to have been two of the original eight power loom weavers (7 girls and 1 man) at the newly setup, steam powered, Becks Mill, the commissioning date of which was 1837. Mary would have been 18 and Sarah 15. Hannah was also said to be a power loom weaver in 1851 but she probably had an existing occupation in 1837 and was therefore not one of the original group of girls. The 1841 census does not mention the children's occupations.

Mary, William's wife, died at the age of 74 in 1858 and in 1861 William, now 76, was still farming his 16 acres but he had moved to Caleb Street (later renamed St John Street). Living with him were his daughter Mary, by then the wife of Martin Laycock, with Martin and their son Jonathan. William died in 1865 aged 79. His executor was his son, John.

**Of the children of William and Mary Sawley only Ann and her two brothers, John and Henry, will be reported, Ann being an exception to the concept of reporting only the male line.**

**8 • • • • • Ann Driver and Stephen Tillotson, O5+.** The fourth of William and Mary Sawley's children, Ann Driver, married Stephen Tillotson on 31st July 1845. This couple are recorded as being the first couple to be married in the relatively newly built church of St James in Silsden, and indeed their record is the first on page 1 of the St James marriage register. Previously all Silsden residents had to go to St Andrew's Church in Kildwick to be married. More and slightly conflicting details are in Appendix 2.

Stephen Tillotson and family appear in the 1871 census where he is shown to be a farmer of 20 acres. Ann and Stephen had six children, Hannah, Mary, Grace, Stephen Gill, William and Frances, three of whom were employed in the worsted trade. They lived in Main Street (which was shortly to be renamed Kirkgate) and his 20 acres will probably have been located close to the village, but as we have seen not necessarily all in one location.

**9 • • • • • John Driver and Elizabeth Wood, O5+.** John was the eighth child of William and Mary and was also the first son to reach adulthood. In 1851, aged 18, he was at home at Coal Pit Lane End helping on his father's farm. He married Elizabeth Wood two years later and in 1861 he is shown to be a Bar Keeper, which in this instance is a Toll Bar Keeper. In 1863 when their third and fourth children, twins, were born and again in February 1865, when obtaining probate of his father's will, John described himself as Toll Keeper but later that year, when their next child was born, he described himself as a farmer. His father had died leaving a

farm of 16 acres. In the 1871 census where it tells us that John was farming eight and half acres this could be that he had inherited half of the farm when his father died in 1865. It was a Yorkshire custom for inherited land and buildings to be divided equally amongst one's children. Who inherited the other half has not been identified.

In 1891 when street names and house numbers had been introduced, they were at 27 Keighley Road. John William and Joseph Henry were married and had their own families while Tom, Mary Ellen and Margaret, all in their 20s, were unmarried and working in textile mills. In 1895 father John died.

In 1901 Elizabeth was said to be a farmer (pastoral) and Mary Ellen was away from home visiting her mother's sister, Susannah, at 5 Black Abbey Street in Accrington, Lancashire. Susannah and her husband, William Walsh, were confectioners and bakers. So, it came as a surprise in the 1911 census that Elizabeth, Tom and Margaret had joined Mary Ellen at number 5, and that Susannah, now widowed, was living with her older brother, Hugh Wood, at Percy Street in Accrington. Both Susannah and Elizabeth were retired. The three unmarried children were now confectioners (cake makers), so it seems probable that number 5 was where they were living and a shop.

Tom, Mary Ellen and Margaret continued to live and work in Accrington. Elizabeth died in 1917 but was buried at St James in Silsden with her husband. In the Accrington 1939 register Tom is recorded as a confectioner retired, and Margaret as unpaid domestic duties, Mary Ellen had died earlier that year. Although living in Accrington all the children were buried in Silsden.

**10 • • • • • John William Driver and Jane Elizabeth Routh, O5++.** John William, first son of John and Elizabeth Wood, was born in 1855 and was shown to be a stone mason at the age of 15 in the 1871 census. In 1883 John and Jane Elizabeth were married and in 1891 they are recorded as living at 5 Albert Square in Silsden. Their first two children had died

before they had reached their first birthday but their third, Margaret Elizabeth, born in 1886, was to live into adulthood.

By the time of the 1891 census they had two more children, Hugh and Amy. There was one more son, Will, born in 1894. In 1901 John is shown to be a builder and contractor and the family were now at 16 Elliott Street.

When mother Elizabeth and siblings Tom, Mary and Margaret moved to Accrington, John, Jane and family moved into 27 Keighley Road, where they were shown to be living by 1911. John was now a contractor and stone mason. Hugh and Amy became cloth weavers and Will, the youngest child, followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a stone mason.

Margaret Elizabeth married Charlie Clark in 1907 and a year later the first grandchild arrived, Thomas. Unexpectedly three-year-old Thomas was at his grandparents' house at the time of the 1911 census. The next to get married was the youngest, Will, and he married Elizabeth Jane Taylor in 1916. Hugh and Amy were married in 1923 and 1924 respectively.

In 1920 the electoral register (ER) showed Hugh and Will still to be at number 27 but what it did not show was that Will's wife and daughter would also have been there, Elizabeth Jane was not yet qualified for a vote.

In the 1925 ER John was still shown although he had died the previous year. Also shown were Will and his wife Elizabeth Jane, all at 27 Keighley Road. In the 1930 ER there were no Drivers at number 27, but in the 1940 ER Will was back at number 27, but Elizabeth Jane and daughter Janie E were at 15 Albert Square. No explanation is offered.

**11 • • • • • Joseph Henry Driver and Clara Lee, O5++.** Joseph, the second son of John and Elizabeth Wood, was 20 in 1881 and still living with his parents on the Keighley Road. He was a worsted weaver overlooker. He married Clara Lee in 1885.

Although brought up in Silsden and for the first several years of married life they lived there, by 1901 they had moved to 23 Junction Street, Brierfield, in Lancashire. Joseph was a loom overlooker, probably in a

cotton weaving mill. In 1911, aged 50, he is found to have been be a boarder in Radcliffe, Manchester, and still a weaving overlooker. This perhaps reflects a period of unemployment and he was having difficulty in finding work locally. His wife Clara in 1911 aged 48, was still living in Brierfield with three younger daughters, two boarders and a visitor, but had moved to 21 Timber Street. The oldest daughter Martha Elizabeth has not been found. Annie May was a cotton weaver and Norah a tenter (cloth stretcher), while Hettie was still at school.

In 1932 Joseph died at the age of 71 in Burnley. Clara died a year later.

We return now to generation P.

## 12 • • • • Henry Sawley Driver and Jane Summerscales, O5+.

Henry was the ninth and last child of William Driver and Mary Sawley and they lived at the Becks, the area immediately south of the canal. In the 1841 census none of the occupations of the younger generation were recorded but in 1851 Henry was said to be a wool comber. He married Jane Summerscales in 1849. Jane was a power loom weaver of worsted. Jane was the second of twelve children of John Summerscales, a nail maker, and Martha Long.

Between 1841 and 1851 Henry turned his hand to nail making and some thirty years later became a farm labourer. When working as a nail maker they were living in Brewhouse Hill and then they settled in Walker Place, both being south of the canal.

However, at the time of their marriage Jane already had one son, William, and was expecting a second child.

In the 1851 census William, using the surname Summerscales, was staying with Jane's parents at schedule 48 Becks and the second child, Mary, now



10 months old, was with Henry and Jane at schedule 20 Becks. Ten years later in 1861 Henry, Jane, William, Mary and another daughter, Martha Jane, were all together at schedule 46 Becks, all having the Driver surname. By 1871 they had been joined by daughter Grace and son Jessie. But the census does not tell the full story.

Henry and Jane, over twenty-three years, brought up nine children of which five died before they reached their fourth birthday. Four survived to adulthood with William, according to the 1871 census, having married Margaret born in Addingham. The 1871 marriage record shows them using the surname Summerscales whereas on that year's census they are Drivers. Thereafter the family used the surname Summerscales.

Mary married John Blyton in 1876 and they had two children before John died in 1886. Mary married again three years later in 1890, to Noah Davy and they had a daughter, Eva, who died the following year.

Daughter Grace married Edward Rawson in 1880. There is no 1860 Leicestershire birth record for Edward. However, in 1882, aged 22 Edward is baptised with his son and his brother, giving the family name Rolstone Chad. In the 1881 census Grace and Edward were shown as being lodgers, using the name Rawson, with father Henry and Jane, but in fact they were the newly married daughter and son-in-law. Baptism records for their 13 children indicate that although commonly known as Rawson the family name was Rolstone Chad. From 1901 the census gives the surname R. Chad and this is used on the family memorial stones, apart from that of Grace, 1932, that omits the R of Rawson and shows Grace Chad.

The youngest child that lived into adulthood was Jessie. By the age of 15 he was a silk weaver. It has not been possible to find Jessie in the 1891 census but we find him as Jessie S Driver travelling to New York in 1892, aged 28 and a labourer. Jessie's maternal (Summerscales) uncles and grandparents had emigrated to the US in the 1850s so perhaps initially he was following in their footsteps. His grandparents lived in Illinois but Jessie was to live in Rhode Island. He married Sophie V Burlingame from Rhode

Island. Jessie, a fireman at a laundry, died in 1941 and Sophie in 1969. It is believed that there were no children and so this branch of the Driver family did not carry the Driver surname into the next generation.

A couple of pages back we diverted from the direct line to report on one family descended from John Driver and Ann Cockshott, N4. We return to a second family, that of John and Grace Bottomley, O7, which is on the direct line. See the John Driver and Grace Bottomley chart on page 11.

**13 • • • • John Driver and Grace Bottomley, O7.** John was the third child of John and Ann Cockshott, born in 1789 and he married Grace Bottomley on St Valentine's Day in 1814. Grace was the daughter of Henry, a butcher, and Ann Bottomley and it seems as if she had one older brother, Joseph, and one younger brother, William. John and Grace had eight children only one of whom died young, at the age of 6. The other seven all married and appear in the censuses and all of them are reported upon in these narratives, they are generation P.

The 1841 census shows John, who was a wool comber, his wife Grace, and six of their family of eight children. Missing were their third child, William, who would have been 22 and was not at home and their sixth child, John (jnr), who had died in 1833, having lived for only six years.

In 1851 John was 61 and was shown to be a nail maker. Grace had died the previous year, and Joseph, their youngest child, was 19. The previously missing William was now head of family, with his siblings, living in Caleb Street. Above the entry that put William as head of the family in the 1851 census a small note was noticed which stated 'Father from home'.

After a wide search for John he was found, still a nail maker, at Huddersfield as a visitor, of the right age and a widower. The census actually states he was born in Nottingham but the following entry shows a servant born in Silsden and there is a suspicion that these entries had been altered. John was born in Silsden. His location is on a direct route between Silsden and Sheffield. It is thought possible that father John was away

collecting the wrought iron rods, probably from Sheffield although iron was now available from sources nearer to Silsden such as Leeds.

From birth, marriage and death records (BMD) and a memorial stone in St James churchyard we know that John died in Silsden in 1859 at the age of 69 and Grace had died in Silsden in 1850 at the age of 62. This memorial stone also records John (jnr)'s, P6, short life and the even shorter life of grandson Benjamin, Q2, in 1857.

Before continuing down the direct line, we will round off the narratives of generation O with one for John's younger brother Thomas, O8.

**14 • • • • Thomas Driver and Hannah Bagshaw, O8.** Thomas, baptised in 1791, was the fourth child of John and Ann, N4. In 1814 he married Hannah Bagshaw who came from Derbyshire and, although Hannah was only 18 when married, no record of any children has been found. In 1841 Thomas and Hannah were living in Bradford and by 1851 they had moved to the Becks in Silsden, probably to the house that Thomas' parents had lived in, which had likely become vacant in 1846 when Ann and her brother William died. Thomas in 1851 was a wool comber aged 60. In 1860 Hannah died and a year later Thomas was a boarder with the Gott family in Silsden. John Gott, the head of that family, was a clock maker. Thomas died at the age of 78 in 1867.

Before examining the lives of John and Grace's, O7, children let us take stock. George III having been on the throne for sixty years had been succeeded by his son in 1820. The French Revolution was a thing of the past. The slave trade had been abolished in the UK, but not yet in its overseas territories. The Napoleonic War had come to an end, 1815. The canal in Silsden was in full use and the Industrial Revolution was well under way.

The narratives have now progressed to the Victorian era. Britain was moving towards its most successful trading and Empire building period. It had lost control of the American colonies in 1776, but had retained Canada. European countries had been trading with India for centuries but by the

middle of the 19th century the British had gained direct or indirect control over almost all of India. Africa was starting to be explored and during the second half of the 1800s British influence spread throughout the continent.

The Victorian period, the Queen's reign was from 1837 to 1901, gained the reputation of being strict and respectful. It is the period of 'children should be seen and not heard'. It was when children in well to do families were looked after by nannies, nursery maids, governesses, and meeting with their parents would tend to be a formal occasion, perhaps once a day. One supporting piece of family evidence is a letter written in 1873 and this will be related shortly.

Businesses such as Lloyds of London, which was established in the late 1600s, became important enough to require their own Acts of Parliament. Merchants were becoming very wealthy and this was reflected in their way of life, their dress and in society generally. It was perhaps becoming the period of maximum inequality between rich and poor throughout modern Britain.

We now study the lives of the children, P1 to P8, of John and Grace. Their third child will be the direct line. Reference to the chart of John Driver and Grace Bottomley, green background, page 11, will help follow the narratives.

**15 • • • • • Samuel Driver and Mary Gill, P1.** Samuel, the oldest of John and Grace's eight children, was born in 1814 in Silsden and the 1841 census showed him to be 26. He married Mary Gill in September 1844 one month after his younger brother Thomas had married Jane Gill. Both marriages had been held at Kildwick and, perhaps unexpectedly, the two Gill girls were not siblings.

In the 1851 census Samuel, Mary and their first two children, Grace and William, both P1+, were shown to be living in Micklethwaite, near Bingley, with Mary Stephenson, widow, and three Gill children. Mary Stephenson was Mary Gill's mother and was the head of the household.

The mother seems to have started life as a Fortune, then married Jonathan Gill, Mary's father, described as a nail maker, then to have married a Stephenson, who had died by 1851.

It is noted that on the census Mary Stephenson's son-in-law and daughter were shown as visitor and wife and were followed by daughter and son, who were actually her grandson and granddaughter.

At that time, 1851, Samuel was a nail maker and Mary a power loom weaver. In that year Mary gave birth to their third child Bailey who only lived for two weeks. Three years later Mary had twins, Mary and Joseph, but again their length of life was a matter of a few weeks. 1856 was a better year. Sammy was born and he was to survive into adulthood. But in 1859 Mary had a child named Gill and he lived exactly one month. The fact that four of their seven children died before their first birthday reminds us of the hardships that had to be endured, especially before proper drainage was introduced in the late 1860s.

Although their children's birth records all show Samuel as a nail maker, the 1861 census data indicated he was a groom, living away from home at the Queen Anne Hotel in Rossendale, Lancashire. Mary, living in Caleb Street in Silsden, described herself as head of family, married, with Grace, age 16, who was working as a power loom weaver, William, age 13, was a nail maker and Samuel jnr, age 4, a scholar.

By the time of the 1871 census, Mary, still describing herself as married and head of the family, said that she was a grocer's wife and the family was living in Main Street Silsden. Grace was a winder of worsted, William a stone mason and Samuel jnr a doffer of worsted. Samuel snr has not been found.

Samuel snr died in 1880 and in the 1881 census Mary, now a widow and aged 59, was living in Skipton Road, possibly the house that would become number one Skipton Road. She was living there with her unmarried eldest daughter Grace, aged 36. Mary was a cotton winder and Grace a woollen weaver. Grace was to die in 1884 at the age of 40.



In the next census 1891 Mary was described as a retired grocer, widow, and was living on her own at 32 Bolton Road next door to the young family of Charles Driver. Samuel snr being away from Silsden for both the 1861 and 1871 censuses suggests that he would have been away from home fairly regularly but none the less he and his wife had seven children. In 1901 Mary was living on her own at an unnumbered house in Bolton Road. At this time house numbering on the census has a number of anomalies. She died in 1903 aged 82.

**16 • • • • • William Driver and Mary Lambert, P1+.** William, the eldest son of Samuel and Mary Gill, a stone mason married Mary Lambert in 1874 and had 7 children, four of whom died as infants, repeating the experience of his parents. Those who survived were Eva, Sam and Lena.

Mary was one of ten children, and we have a photograph of her. She was the daughter of Edward Lambert, a blacksmith and Mary Thornber.

Her younger sister Isabella married Thomas Blakey, P2+, whose mother was Margaret Weatherhead, P2. See the Weatherhead Earlier Generations Master Chart.

William and Mary's fifth child, Sam, was a worsted twister, then he became an overlooker. He married Bertha Milne in 1915. They, with their two children, William and Vera, lived at 86 Kirkgate, which was Sam's parents' house. Both their children were baptised in the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Kirkgate, as were their son William's two children, Ann and Philip. Firstly, Sam and later Sam and Bertha appear in the electoral register in Silsden in the 1920s and 30s, moving to 2 Weatherhead Place as shown in the 1940s ER.



**17 • • • • • Sammy Driver and Sarah Ann Newton, P1+.** Sammy, the sixth child of Samuel and Mary Gill was born in 1856, and at the age of 16 was working as a doffer of worsted, but then in 1881, at 24, was a carpenter in Silsden. He married Sarah Ann Newton in 1876 and they had two children, Maria in 1877 and John William in 1878.

Sarah Ann was the daughter of Jonas and Jane Ann Newton. Jonas was a highly esteemed local Primitive Methodist preacher and worked as a coal agent. Her uncle, Edward Newton, was the well-known Silsden composer, musician and bandmaster.

In 1881 Sammy, known in adulthood as Sam, and Sarah Ann were living in North Street with their son John W. Their daughter Maria was staying with Joseph's parents in Bolton Road where Maria's great grandmother was also staying. In the 1891 census the address is shown as being number 1 North Street. The electoral register and 1901 census show that they continued to live in North Street, the number now given as 30, until 1907.

In 1908, although Sam's qualifying property on the electoral register is shown as North Street his abode is shown as 80 Kirkgate. Similarly, in 1910 a tax valuation shows the ownership of the 80 Kirkgate residence as Primitive Methodist. In 1911 at the age of 54, and now named Samuel, he is shown to be Chapel Curator employed by the Primitive Methodist Trustees and that is why they had moved to 80 Kirkgate, also known as The Chapel House, in 1908.

John William, named after Sarah Ann's brother who had died at the age of 6 in 1863, married Grace Pickard on 24/12/1901, with his sister Maria witnessing their marriage. John William and Grace lived in Tufton Street in Silsden with their children Hugh Charles, Ronald and Dorothy.

Sam and Sarah Ann's daughter, Maria, remained unmarried and lived with her parents. She died at the age of 33 on 13 April 1911. Maria was an active Primitive Methodist and she was remembered in the PM Aldersgate Magazine of 1911 in the following way. 'A bright spirit whose beautiful character leaves an abiding memory. An ardent Christian Endeavourer

since the society was formed in 1896 she never missed the Thursday meeting. She was held in the highest esteem by all ministers who visited Silsden.'

Sarah Ann died in December 1927 and Sam in June 1929.

We now move to Samuel (snr)'s sister, Margaret.

**18 • • • • • Margaret Driver and Joseph Stephenson, P2.** Margaret, born in 1816, was John and Grace Bottomley's second child. At the time of the first census in 1841 she was at home with her parents in Silsden. In 1851 her widowed father was away from home and she was found to be with her younger brother William, P3, together with other siblings, living in Caleb Street, and at the age of 34, to be a power loom weaver. This was a time when her nephew, 2-year-old William Sawley, was staying with them. Caleb Street, named after Caleb Cockshott, was later to be renamed St John Street.

In 1861 Margaret was a boarder with her younger married sister, Sarah Sawley, who had four children, the youngest being 6 months. Here in 1861 Margaret is shown as being a worsted hand loom weaver and they were living in Caleb Street in Silsden. It is interesting to note that Margaret had moved back to using a hand loom having earlier been working a power loom.

Ten years later, when Margaret was 54, in the 1871 census, she was shown as house keeper for Primitive Methodist Minister Rev'd Jonathan Ayrton, a widower, and his two daughters living at Mill Banks, Silsden. He came to Silsden in 1867. He was a very hard-working minister who did a great deal of fund raising for the new chapel which opened in 1871. The Silsden Primitive Methodist book tells us that this is the seventh of eleven addresses that housed the successive Primitive Methodist ministers, many of the properties were far from being adequate.

Margaret then disappeared from sight for a while and this was found to be because she had married. The marriage record shows that Margaret Driver,

at the age of 60, married Joseph Stephenson, a widower, aged 59, at Kildwick on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1876. Joseph was an Iron Master giving his abode as Blackburn at the time of their marriage. Margaret's brother William and sister-in-law Sarah were the witnesses at the wedding. Interestingly Margaret was only able to put her mark rather than sign her name.

Margaret Stephenson was then found five years later, in the 1881 census, to be a widow living in Aireview, Silsden. Margaret's husband Joseph Stephenson had died in 1878, only two years after their marriage. Margaret was now living with John Townson and his wife Mary H and their young family, namely William Driver Townson and his sister Maggie, aged 2 and 11 months respectively.

The 1881 census introduced some confusion because Margaret, now 65, in the census where relationship to head of household is entered, was quoted as being a 'Neice'. The 1891 census put that right and, still living with them, this time she was said to be an 'Aunt-in-law'. The family had expanded with the addition of Salley, Mina and Harry. Margaret was no longer described as 'domestic servant' but 'living on her own means'.

The relationship was finally clarified by finding that John Townson had married Mary Hannah Sawley, P5+, the fourth child of Sarah Driver and John Sawley. So, Margaret, having earlier (1861) been boarding with her married sister Sarah, when Sarah's daughter Mary Hannah was very young, was now living with Mary Hannah during the time that Mary Hannah was having her own children and they were growing up.

Margaret, who died in 1899 at the age of 82, probably spent the last 18 years of her life with her niece. Her name is on her father's, John Driver, memorial stone in St James churchyard in Silsden.

The surname Stephenson has appeared in both the Mary Gill and now Margaret Driver narratives. It could be that John Stephenson married Mary Gill's widowed mother, Mary (snr), in 1845. We know that Joseph



Stephenson married Margaret Driver in 1876. No search has been done to establish whether there was any relationship.

We move now to the next sibling. Being underlined this reminds us that we are back on the direct line.

**19 • • • • • William Driver and Sarah Morris, P3.** William, born in 1819, was John and Grace Bottomley's third child and, because of the oil painting of William, was one of the early intended starting points for this family history. It still comes as a surprise to realise that the data was readily available which enabled the start of this history to move back a further five generations to an earlier William.

We know very little about William's early life. He would have known his Driver grandparents, who were initially farmers and then are recorded as weavers. His Driver grandfather died when he was about 12 or 13 and his grandmother died when he was about 27, but still unmarried. His Bottomley grandparents were Henry and Ann with Henry being a butcher.

William is likely to have left school about the age of 14 or 15 and then he became a nail maker apprentice. Apprenticeships were commonly arranged to provide a training for adult employment. For most trades this might be for six years and for medics perhaps seven years. In the case of William, we find in the 1841 census that he was still an apprentice at the age of 21, and so in his final year of apprenticeship.

On this occasion he was not at home but at an inn in Clapham, some 36 miles north west of Silsden, together with two other nail maker apprentices. Being at Clapham raised a question of why might he have been there on a Saturday night.

We had already learnt that William was to marry the daughter of an excise officer at the port of Lancaster and would become a leading figure in nail making in Silsden. He set up his business, initially Wm Driver and a number of years later William Driver & Sons, and was exporting and importing. Hence it seemed very likely that these apprentices were on their way to

Lancaster with a large load of nails, or returning from that port. His business was also making use of the early telegraph system so we wondered if he would be sending messages and then 'talking' with the officer and perhaps with his daughter.

This turned into a disappointment when dates were included. The daughter would have only been ten years old and the first commercial electric telegraph company was not established until 1846 in London.

But we later came across a newspaper cutting of 1905 which was recalling the marriage of William Driver and Sarah Morris at the parish church in Lancaster and commenting on William. It stated that he was founder of the Silsden Band which for many years came to Lancaster when the militia were under training. The band used to play regularly in Dalton Square in the evening, and was much appreciated by the townspeople.

Finding that William was closely involved with the Silsden Military Brass Band and that it was part of the 1st Royal Lancashire Militia, whose headquarters were in Lancaster, made us re-examine the 1841 census. It showed that in addition to William and two other apprentices, there were six woolcomber journeymen and all nine of them were shown as being either 15 or 20. We recognised a number of their names as being members of the Silsden Band. So, this appears to be an occasion when the band was on its way to or from Lancaster. So, William playing with the band in Lancaster could have led to him meeting his future wife, Sarah Morris. Maybe both our assumptions are correct, but the band has the stronger claim.

Another reference written by Edward Newton, the composer, shows that several musicians were working in William's nail making smithy in the mid 1840s and that William was the leader of the Silsden Band. Appendix 3 provides more details about the family connections to the Silsden Band.

As mentioned, in 1841 William was in his last year of apprenticeship. He would by then be a competent nail maker and may have continued working for the same master nail maker or set himself up as an independent maker.