

A DRIVER and WEATHERHEAD family history

Silsden, West Yorkshire, England

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

Written and compiled by Ian Stimson and Kate Mawer

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Appendix 11 - Driver Brothers Ledger 1920-1923 extracts

The following are a few extracts from a ledger belonging to Frank Driver, Q6, showing personal & business expenses, income, transfers & refunds

	£. S. D.		£. S. D.		£. S. D.
W Y Masonic	6. 5. 0	Masonic lunch	10. 7½	Cartridges (for HRD)	3. 9. 0
Tobacco, Caddys & Cleaners	12.18.4	Mawson's Garage	15. 0	Game licence	3. 0. 0
Cigars	2. 5. 0	School Payment (Norman)	82. 4. 2	Silver hunting flask	3.10. 0
Hosiery etc	3. 3. 6	Cheque (Mrs Frank)	500. 0. 0	3 pairs Shetland hose	3. 3. 0
to Howden a/c	73.13.3½	Beehives (Mrs F)	17. 4. 6	Miss Elizabeth (School Fees)	73.17. 7
to Cringles a/c	4. 4. 5	Eggs (Mrs Frank)	59.13. 7½	Repair to Telephone	12. 0
Blackpots	283.19.7	St Andrews Sch (Miss Elizth) fees	51.10. 6		
Courtaulds	7086. 1. 6	do (Miss Joan)	61.10. 7	The Ledger also includes:-	
Gloves	7. 0	Moorfield (Rates)	19.19. 5	a/cs for Blackpots, Cringles, Howden	
Tobacco	4.12. 2	Swartha do	8. 3. 9	(with rents paid to Hothfield & Boothman)	
Dental service	1. 1. 0	Tithe (Moorfield)	2. 1	and expences of rates, food, liquor,	
Commission sale of pony	1. 0. 0	Tithe (Swartha)	9. 4	gamekeeper's licence, prosecution (poaching),	
Masonic members sub	3. 3. 0	Ince Scarghyll Bldgs	1.10. 3	damage to crops, 'driving' labour,	
Skipton Golf Club	2. 2. 0	do Swartha Prop	1.10. 6	trespass notices, etc.	
Necklet & Pendant	4.19. 0	Camera (Baird) Norman	19. 0. 0		
Sils Cricket Club	1. 1. 0	transfer (Cringles)	4. 0. 6	a/c for Home Farm (land about M'field incl	
Garments	1. 1. 1	to Mill (Nat H Ince)	2. 4. 2	W Jackson's) which includes rates, insurance,	
Tobacco	1. 1. 2	transfer Blackpots	160. 0. 0	scythe and barbed wire, hen runs, mowing,	
Game Licence	1. 1. 3	Gold rings & handbag	8. 6. 0	sheep dip, beer (at harvesting), horse hire,	
Cartridges	1. 1. 4	Tobacco & pipes	8. 7. 6	manure, labour, rat poison, and heifer in calf.	
Cigars	9. 7. 6	Clay pigeons & trap	3.10. 0	Also weekly wages paid in cash relating to	
Suits	32. 9. 6	Shirting	5.12. 6	Moorfield, Howden, Home Farm & Scarghyll.	
Hosiery etc	10.15. 9	Legal costs (Hampden Smith)	49. 2. 6	Subscriptions (typically 18 each year) to a wide	
Repair Tortoise specs	3. 6	Cigars (Spinks)	22. 5. 0	variety of beneficiaries including Discharged	
Chaff - Home farm	3. 1. 6	Suits (Holland)	29. 7. 0	Prisoners and Airedale Beagles.	
Urn (F Laycock)	6. 6. 0	Pendant, Necklet, etc	46.12. 6		
Howden a/c	98. 1. 8½	Cartridges (for C Driver)	2. 6. 0	Rental income from:-	
Lord Wargrave Portrait	1. 1. 0	Driver Scholarship	10. 0. 0	A C Brown, J M Driver, and H Hardcastle	

Appendix 12

Tracing the Rolls Royce

It had been known by many of the family that Frank Driver, generation Q, had owned a Rolls Royce car, but that is all that was known. No one had seen a photograph of it. Some research was called for.

In browsing online, a story of a Rolls Royce car was related by its chauffeur's grandson. The story of the Reddihough family of Farnhill Hall, Yorkshire, and their 1933 Rolls Royce was told in some detail including the fact that it had been built (on a Rolls Royce Silver Ghost chassis) by Rippon Brothers, coach builders, of Huddersfield. A photograph was provided as well as a little detail about the chauffeur and his training at Rolls Royce.

It seemed likely that there would not be many RR coach builders in the West Riding area and the thought came that maybe the same coach builder provided Frank with his car. It was found that there was a website giving direct reference to Rippon Brothers, so the first email of this research explained the circumstances and asked whether any help could be provided. The reply, by a lady who turned out to be the daughter-in-law of the last person to own the family company, provided a name to contact and also mentioned the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts Club, an organisation that I had visited some thirty years previously. The Rippon Brothers records were scrapped by the new owners of the business some years ago.

The second email went to the name provided, Mr Bernard King, and his reply was as follows.

Hello Ian

Having not being able to find the Frank Driver or Driver Bros. of Silsden on my database of every car built by the Bentley and Rolls-Royce companies from 1904 through to 2003 compiled over 55 years, I thought that you were going to get a rare negative response from me.....!

However, friend Steve Hubbard's main area of research is post-war 40/50s (Silver Ghosts) and bingo, he has found the car for which you are searching this evening. Somewhat surprisingly, it was purchased second-hand by the wealthy Yorkshire mill owner! FYI, 24.08.20 was the date when the chassis was off test at the R-R Derby works and the "N" refers to the type of chassis.

139EE M62 Limousine Rippon Bros Ltd. 24.08.20 N

Via Krukoff, c/o Serge Levitan, c/o T. Trimmell (Levitan's lawyer), 71 Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC1.

James Voase Rank (race horse owner and dog breeding son of Joseph Rank and older brother of the film-maker J Arthur Rank) of 34 Park Lane, London W1.

Frank Driver, North Street Mills, Silsden, nr Keighley, 1928.

(Though ostensibly spending the first 8 years of its life in London, Steve reports that it was serviced by Rippon Brothers in Yorkshire 1921 - 1936).

Bernard

It was quickly established that the Rank family were of Ouborough, near Kingston-on-Hull, and were the Rank flour millers. The second item of interest is that James Rank had a Park Lane London address and one wonders whether Frank Driver, who was a director of the Park Lane Hotel (located in Piccadilly) and was a Freemason in London as well as in the West Riding, had known James Rank. This possible connection has not been researched. Frank Driver's eldest living descendants were Ernest Cormie and his sister Margaret Percy-Robb and so an enquiry for any further information, and in particular a photograph, went to Ernest. A couple of days later, having recovered a family album from boxes in his loft, two photos arrived, both of which showed the car registration plate, WY 4267. The great news and copies of the photos were circulated. One photo included the chauffeur standing by the vehicle.

I had thought this was the end of the search, but within the hour a further email arrived.

Hello Ian,

This has opened up a whole new can of worms. Did Frank Driver have some association with Horsforth Laundry?

I was just adding the registration number WY-4267 to my database and it came back as being attached to chassis 39EE not 139EE, but that was also owned by Frank Driver, this time of Horsforth Laundry.

Horsforth Laundry owned four Silver Ghosts.

There must be other photographs.

Kind regards, Steve.

To cut a long story short, with the help from Martin Jackson the General Manager of the Driver North Street Mills until it closed it 1993, and from the Horsforth Museum, it appeared very unlikely that Frank had had any connection with the Horsforth Laundry (which had started life as a spinning mill). Furthermore, because Martin recognised the location of one of the photos to be in Silsden, it was concluded that the limited records for both chassis 139EE and 39EE had been incorrectly put together and that Silsden's Frank Driver car was 139EE and he was the owner of WY 4267. The Horsforth Laundry had taken pride in having four RR delivery vans and a search for a photo of them is ongoing. A fine photo of six of their delivery vans has been provided by the museum but none of these appear to be on RR chassis.

One further item is a post card sent by Frank's son Norman to his sister Joan in 1961. On the front of the postcard is the photo of the RR with the chauffeur standing alongside. Norman had written 'Dear Joan, Thank you for your letter. This was our first Rolls, the second was YE. Note the small tyre section.'

Frank died in 1935 and his 29-year-old son took on the running of the business until WW2, at which time the RR, which is thought likely to have been sold in 1935, would have been laid up and any chauffeur re-employed in other work or, if young enough, called up.

There is no indication that Norman or his business owned a Rolls Royce after the war and it is known that by that time both Norman and Joan were driving Vauxhall cars.



No record has been discovered of the second Rolls Royce with registration plate commencing with YE.

Appendix 13

Porridge and Cream

The following was published in December 1932:-

"PORRIDGE AND CREAM."

JOHN HARTLEY'S TALE OF A
SILSDEN FARM.

OLD MANUSCRIPT FOUND

John Hartley 1839 – 1915.



JOHN HARTLEY.

Half a century ago Christmas was a time when West Riding people looked forward with delight to John Hartley's stories in the "Clock Almanack." By a stroke of good fortune, there has just come to light the manuscript of a story written by him between 40 and 50 years ago. (*That would be in the 1880s*).

Before today the story had never appeared in print and its existence was known only to a few people in the Silsden district. The manuscript was given by John Hartley himself to the late Mr. William Driver, of Silsden, and is now in the possession of his son Mr. Frank Driver, J.P., of "Moorfield," Silsden.

It is a great pleasure for us to make it possible today for many of the older generation to renew acquaintance with the Yorkshire dialect author who entertained them so well in the years gone by, and whose "Bight Bigger, Billy" is a classic in homely literature.

The "picturesque and cosy-looking farmhouse" referred to in the early part of the story may, we understand, be taken to refer to the farm at Low Cringles, on the Silsden side, which is very well known.

Here is the story:-

I have read somewhere that he is a bold man who dares to leave a written record of his own weaknesses. I lay no claim, however, to boldness, although I am about to confess a weakness I was guilty of some time ago, and for which I hope you will kindly forgive me.

Not many miles away from Steeton the high road passes by a picturesque and cosy-looking farmhouse, one of those building at the door of which you would knock, feeling sure that whatever your errand you would be well received.

Being myself somewhat erratic in my movements, now here, now there, and as some of my friends say occasionally, nowhere, it chanced that I was thrown into the company of the old farmer who occupied this identical cottage. I may here remark, by way of parenthesis, that it has always been my good fortune to make friends wherever I have been, and often under circumstances far from propitious. I can only account for this in one manner, and that is upon the doctrine that love begets love and friendship begets friendship. I always expect to meet friends, and therefore endeavour to treat all I am thrown in contact with as friends, and the result is that I am so treated in return. This often causes me to think that those who have so many enemies must be themselves wanting in natural goodness or in tact.

But to resume, I met this venerable old Yorkshire man, and was by him kindly invited to breakfast on the

following morning, and breakfast with him I did, and such a breakfast as I shall not readily forget.

The morning came and, accompanied by a friend, I proceeded to the farmhouse, and as soon as I got within sight of it I could see the kind of old folks looking out for me, and after a hearty welcome, I was soon ensconced in a comfortable seat, one that I could not describe were I to try. It was neither a chair nor yet a couch, but partook a little of both - or a mixed breed betwixt a throne and a pulpit. Daniel Lambert would, had he been living, have gloried in its capacious recess, but being myself somewhat unlike the mighty Daniel, I made myself easy in one corner of it, and watched with eager eyes the preparations for the morning's meal.

Over the fire hung a large brass pan, containing a quantity of milk, into which the oatmeal was being gradually scattered, and at last the muffled music arose - flop, flop, flop, flop and the contents then being quite ready, I took my seat at the table, and was helped to about a pint. This did look like kindness - the very milk of human kindness; but not content with that, in they poured a jugful of cream into the midst of the steaming porridge - such cream it was, too - and then I set to work.

As the contents of the basin lessened, the buttons on my waistcoat grew perceptibly tighter, but at length I finished. "Have another troughful," said mine host. The contest between appetite and reason was strong within me. Reason said "Desist, you have had enough," but Appetite said, "Have another trough." Human nature is weak at best. Appetite conquered, and I endeavoured to smother my reason with another pint of porridge and cream.

"The last straw breaks the camel's back," they say, and the last spoonful would certainly have burst my waistcoat buttons if I had not the precaution to unloose them previously. Burns speaks of Tam o' Shanter and says,

"Kings may be great, but Tam was glorious; o'er all the ill's of life victorious," and I was like Tam at that moment. Whoever saw me saw me in my greatness, and it is truly astonishing how much better able to face the world, with all its troubles, if he had a full stomach: and when I arose to retire from the table I remembered hearing how difficult it was for soldiers in olden times to move about when clad in a coat of mail, and I could not help thinking that it was no easy matter to move about at this day when lined with a coat of mail. After this I was about to light my pipe and endeavour to soothe myself. "But woe's me." No sooner did the host see this than he kindly remonstrated with me, and said he thought it would be better not to trouble until after breakfast.

I turned around, and in dismay beheld the table at which I had just been sitting, transformed as by a trick of a magician's wand, into the semblances of a fancy bread baker's establishment. In vain I protested against tasting the dainties spread before me. The farmer and his good wife insisted that what I had had was only a foundation for the other. Sit down I must.

The dish of ham blushed redder and redder as I looked at it, and the fried eggs stared at me like the yellow eyes of some monster. To my distorted fancy the very cakes appeared like mighty stones wherewith to build my tomb. The tea gave forth its fragrant steam, and the clotted cream was again passed to me, and then another liquid. But I will not tell you what it was, lest you might fancy it was a rum affair - but it wasn't. There I sat. Reason again raised her voice within and said "Take no more," and Appetite said "Shut up; he can not."

It is not necessary to dwell further on this matter, suffice it to say that in a short time I left them with a deep sense of gratitude for their bounteous hospitality, but it was the after consequences that stamped it indelibly on my recollection.

Still so gently o'er me senses stealing.
Memory will bring back the feeling.

All day long I was repeating and perverting snatches of
old ditties - now serious, now gay -

I had a dream, a happy dream
I dreamt that I was free
And of meal porridge mixed with cream
A feast there was for me.
Nothing could shake these matter from my mind:
After supper good lord of heaven I dream
But that is meal porridge well mixed with cream.

No sooner one passed that another succeeded:

The mistletoe hung in the castle hall
The holly branch shone on the whitewashed wall,
The farmer and his wife were blithe and free
Making meal porridge and cream for me.
Oh, meal porridge and cream etc

Determined to be rid of such ideas I struck up a martial
air:

Brittania's the pride of the ocean,
The home of the brave and the free,
But the best thing she boasts I've a notion
Is a dish of cream porridge for me.

No relief could I get, whatever I said or thought. It
always came to porridge and cream at last. Then I tried
the sentimental:

Ever of thee, love, I am fondly dreaming.
Thy gentle voice my spirit can cheer,
Thy hands did make the porridge with cream in;
Canst thou, then, doubt that I must love thee, dear?

As I met with no better success with that, I tried the
pathetic:

I love it, I love it and who shall dare
To chide me for loving that old armchair?
I've sat in it once amazed at its size
When the cream and the meal porridge has gladdened my eyes.

After that I gave up trying, but from morn to night I
seemed as if I had a little imp perched on each shoulder
everlastingly whispering, "Porridge and cream."

But night came at last, and I went to bed. I was soon
asleep, but I was not to rest. I dreamt that I was sat
on the banks of a large swift river, and I saw
approaching a large portly figure - he scowled at me,
and I timidly asked him who he was?

"I am the Jolly Miller that lives by the Dee."

And in a moment I was grasped by his powerful arms and
thrust into a sack - I knew it was a meal sack by the
smell of it - and then I was flung with great force into
the river. But I did not sink. Oh! no, for it was not a
river of water - it was a river of cream. On and on I
felt myself sailing; swifter and swifter the current bore
me away. I endeavoured to free myself, but in vain. But
all at once I dashed against something that tore the
sack. I looked to see what it was, when lo! I beheld a
large brass pan in the centre of the stream. I grasped
it eagerly and climbed in. The wooden thible I used as
an oar and steered for the shore. It was hard work, but
I saw I was drawing nearer and nearer. I reached the
bank and sprang ashore with such force that I stuck my
head against - what do you think? - the bed-post, for it
was only a dream after all. I went to bed again, and
slept calmly and peacefully until morning, but when I
awoke next day, I determined to leave this account upon
record as a wholesome warning to those with tickle
stomachs - not to indulge too much even though offered
such dainties as porridge and cream.

(Signed) J Hartley

Appendix 14

The Civic Father of Silsden

Charles Weatherhead 1828 -1907

This appendix provides some of the detail that leads one to understand why and how this unique tribute, the Civic Father of Silsden, came about.

Through visiting Silsden library, reading the publications of Roy Mason, research in Bradford Local History Archives and at Englesea Chapel and Museum we discovered that Charles Weatherhead's influence within the community was greater than just Primitive Methodism. For Charles his interest and commitment were to the improvement of lives through education, music, health and infrastructure. In Silsden his role in the late 1800s is to be celebrated.

As said in the narrative relating to Charles and Esther, Charles was born in Silsden on November 28th 1828 when his parents, William and Elizabeth, and family were living at the Red Lion. The family consisted of five girls followed by three boys, the youngest, William, dying in his third year.

Primitive Methodism. Charles was converted to Primitive Methodism at about the age of ten and much of his experiences are described in his narrative. In this appendix we expand upon a number of these.

Schooling. One report of the period says that Charles was self-taught having been to a Dame School. The second report was that he had been at Giggleswick School. Where that idea came from is not known. Giggleswick School, a recognised grammar school close to Settle, a little over 20 miles from Silsden, was founded in 1499 and until 1867 was in the village centre. Then it moved out of the village and a major expansion commenced. Charles was the first boy in the family and we should not expect his older sisters to have received such an education. However, there is no indication that his younger brother Thomas had that start in life. Whatever the

schooling Charles was highly regarded for his wisdom, knowledge and quiet competence in all his endeavours.

Exhorter. Charles recalls that when he was in his teens, probably about 14, he, along with the late William Fletcher, son of Joshua, was sent out as a Primitive Methodist exhorter to outlying villages. William Fletcher, born in 1828, was just four months older than Charles. Charles goes on to relate, "Wherever we went we had generally a fairly good reception, why I cannot say. Some, no doubt would be astonished at, while others might possibly somewhat admire our youthful presumption: others maybe, would take the will for the deed, while others in their hearts would pity us, saying to themselves, "Poor things! They may be preachers sometime, if they live long enough." But whatever they thought they generally gave us a good reception, and sent us on our way home again rejoicing."

Exhorters played an important part in early Methodism by encouraging those present in word and by prayer. Before becoming a preacher, one would have been an exhorter. Initially speaking in a class meeting and then to a larger, society meeting. Often travelling in pairs, the exhorters were usually warning against sin and urging repentance. Some would read a bible passage and comment on it. The transition came from exhorting to preaching when the exhorter took a text and studied it in more detail for those present.

Preacher. Records show that Charles joined the Primitive Methodist Preachers' Plan in March 1843 when he was 14. He also figures on later plans which show his ongoing commitment to Primitive Methodism.

Preaching at Hebden. We read that William Fletcher, mentioned in Appendix 2, Churches and Primitive Methodism in Silsden, being a stalwart of the PM Church, 'caught his father's mantle. In labours he was heroic and abundant. One Sunday he and Charles Weatherhead walked to Hebden to preach. Mr. Weatherhead announced that Mr. Fletcher would preach first, but when he turned around lo! He saw him sitting in the pulpit seat with his boots and stockings off, and his feet bleeding, but William Fletcher

stood up and preached in his bare and bleeding feet. All honour to such men. Thank God for the memory of them!’ Hebden is close to Grassington, some 13 miles from Silsden.

Primitive Methodist Book Room in London. In 1821 the PM proposed that a Book Room and printing press should be established. Hugh Bourne, considered to be one of the founders of Primitive Methodism, and his younger brother James, established this in Bemersley, Staffordshire. Hugh, became the first editor for the PM magazine and James the first book steward. George Baron, of Silsden, who already had a good library of theological and other books, joined the staff at Bemersley in 1840. It was from the Book Room that the Primitive Methodists published their magazines, books and leaflets for use across the country. When, in 1843, the Book Room moved to Sutton Street, London it was George Baron who took charge of moving all the stock.

Shortly after this Charles, aged just 16, was sent to work at the Book Room and on 30th January 1845 he travelled to London by train. He was advised that on arrival at Euston Station he should take a cab to lodgings at 13, Lower John Street, Sutton Street off Commercial Road East. The cab fare would be 3/- plus a trifle more if he had much luggage.

About this time George Baron returned to Silsden and another Silsden PM, Philip Brown, took over the role of assistant book steward. Evidently Silsden had a long standing and close connection with the Book Room. Charles was still in London in February 1846, but we believe he returned to Silsden later that year. He would have returned to join the debate about whether to enlarge the Silsden PM Chapel or to build a new one. Hugh Bourne visited Silsden in October 1846.

Barnard Castle. In 1847, aged 18, Charles was recommended as a suitable person to act as minister at Barnard Castle, which is some 50 miles or so north of Silsden. The reason he was not selected to be a full minister is that Charles could not name any person he had converted to Primitive Methodism. Nevertheless, he was salaried in that appointment. Of many

letters of that period that had been made available to the Rev Robson, editor of the Silsden Primitive Methodism book, by Charles’ daughter, Ann, there was one from Charles’ father to Charles. It reads: -

‘May 14 1848.

Dear son, - We received yours on Monday and were sorry to hear that you was unwell, but we hope this will meet you better and it leaves us tolerable in health at present, thanks to God for it. But there is a good deal of deaths with us at present, there is 5 lying dead at present: old Will Gott, Hanson in the Becks, and A Bailey in the garden-side, and Thomas Wade, widower, and young Lister Cockshott at Cringles, and we have the funeral dinner at our house of about 80 or 90. Last Sunday was a big day and a great number of people in, the day being fine, and at night they took both chapels, but too little. We have had the Cort Leet at our house on Thursday last. James Dixon is coming to live in the fould and Grace is going to weaving shed. You must write as soon as possible and let us know how your country is. In this country the trade is something better and more work. We are short of grass and hay will be very light except rain comes. We have had Mrs Davies and Miss, and Mrs Page and Misses to tea. So I conclude, with all our love to you.’

The paragraph following reports at the PM’s Leeds District Meeting, held in Silsden 1848, that as a consequence of the removal of Rev J Sharpe to America, ‘That this circuit call out a single man, and that Bro Weatherhead be requested to take Mr Sharpe’s appointments for a few weeks, and that Bro Weatherhead be allowed 12s per week until quarterday.’

This may have been the trigger that decided Charles to move back to Silsden ending his time at Barnard Castle.

Charles returned to Silsden from the period at Barnard Castle soon after May 1849. It may be that his father, William, was in poor health and perhaps not expected to recover. William died and was buried on 5th June. Charles commitment to preaching is shown by the 1849 Preachers’ Plan.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST PREACHERS' PLAN, 1849.

"THY STATUTES HAVE BEEN MY SONGS IN THE HOUSE OF MY PILGRIMAGE."—Psalm 119, 54 v.

"QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT."				LORD'S DAY PLAN.										WEEK NIGHT PLAN.										PREACHERS' NAMES AND RESIDENCES.									
1849.		TIME.		JULY.		AUGUST.				SEPTEMBER.				OCTOBER.		1849.		TIME.		JULY.		AUGUST.				SEPTEMBER.		OCTOBER.					
PLACES.		M. A. E.		22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	PLACES.		D. H.		23	30	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	1	8	15
1 SILSDEN.....		1		22	30	1	12	2c	15	1*	13	2L	16	1	6	2	ILKLEY.....		M. 7		23	30	1	2f	1	1	F	1	1	2	1 R. ROBINSON.....		
2 ADDINGHAM..		3		24	30	1	10	2c	5	1	4	2	17	1s	3	2	ADDINGHAM.....		Tu. 8		2	1	F	2f	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2 W. BENNETT.....	
3 EMBAY.....		2		c.m.	10	20	7	15	1F	17	9	24c	5	12	8	4	SILSDEN.....		W. 8		1	2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	3 T. Page.....		
4 GARGRAVE...		6		2L	10	20	7	15	1F	17	2	6c	5	12	8	4	BRADLEY.....		Th. 8		1	2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	4 J. Fletcher.....		
5 SKIPTON.....		2		15	17f	16	1	20	22	18	1c	7	23	2	25	11	STEETON.....		M. 8		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	5 T. Glover.....			
6 BRADLFY.....		5		15	17f	16	21	20	22	18	19c	7	26	2	14	11	FARNHILL.....		W. 8		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	6 S. Brayshaw.....			
7 ILKLEY.....		2		20	12	2f	18	8	26	5c	16	1L	19	23	4	15	MISSION.....		Th. 8		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	7 W. Newton.....			
8 FARNHILL....		5		20	12	2f	18	8	14	5c	16	1s	19	25	4	15	GARGRAVE.....		M. 7 1/2		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	8 J. Newton.....			
9 STEETON.....		10 1/2		2	2	2*	1F	23	2	2	1	1*	2	2	1	21	EMSBAY.....		Tu. 7 1/2		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	9 J. Dobson.....			
10 CONONLEY...		1 1/2		1 s.s.	25	17	21	12	22c	13	19	5	7	4	10	27	SKIPTON CLASS.....		Th. 8		1	2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	10 G. Baron.....		
RESERVE LIST.		6		1 s.s.	2	17	1F	12	2c	13	1L	5	2	4	18	27	C. B. MISSION.....		Tu. 8		1	2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	11 W. Eastwood.....		
		2		3	2	8	9	1c	13	c.m.	6	23	2	10	18	17	SNAYGILL.....		Tu. 7 1/2		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	12 T. Bradley.....			
		5		3	21	8	9	1c	13	2L	6	26	7	10	16	17	SILSDEN MOOR.....		Th. 8		1	2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	13 J. Bland.....		
		2		16	5	6c	19	17	1F	20	2	10	13	22	2	12	SKIPTON WORKHOUSE..		F. 6		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	14 T. Spencer.....			
		6		16	5	6c	19	17	1F	20	9	10	13	22	8	12	BRUNTHWAITE.....		F. 8		2	1	2f	1	1	2	1	1	2	15 W. C. Smith.....			
		2		19	11	23	2F	18	21	8	29c	4	11	13	12	7														16 A. Gill.....			
		5		19	11	23	2F	18	21	8	29c	4	11	13	12	7														17 C. Weatherhead.....			
		2		17	4f	15	11	13c	19	7	3L	12	20	8	10	22														18 W. Dakin.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4L	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														19 R. Thornber.....			
		5		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														20 R. Hollings.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														21 M. Barron.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														ON TRIAL.			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														22 J. Shuttleworth.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														23 G. Dale.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														EXHORTERS.			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														24 Page, and Phillips.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														25 J. Bentley.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														26 W. Spencer.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														KEIGHLEY CIRCUIT.			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														27 W. Proctor.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														28 S. Moore.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														29 H. Wright.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														30 F. Smith.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														31 T. Lister.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														32 P. Hargreaves.....			
		2		7	1f	13	3	4	16	11	12c	17	15	5	18	1														REFERENCES.—C. Quayly Collection. T. Renewal of Tickets. S. Sacrament Administered. L. Society Love-feast. P. Prayer Meeting. * Address to Scholars, &c. at eleven o'clock, a.m. F. Collection for Addingham Chapel. † Committee Meeting. ‡ Leaders' Meeting. S. S. Sunday School Anniversary.			

A MISSIONARY PRAYER MEETING to be held at every place, on one Evening in the first week of each month; to be conducted by the Class Leaders.

NONE OF OUR CHAPELS are to be lent in future for any purpose whatsoever without leave from the Circuit Committee, or Quarterday Board.

NO APPLICATION must be made to any person to preach Charity Sermons, &c., without the sanction of the Circuit Committee, or Quarterday Board.

NO PERSON is allowed to preach in any of our places whose name is not on the plan, or approved of by the Circuit Committee, or Circuit Steward.

CIRCUIT COMMITTEE.—R. Robinson, W. Bennet, T. Page, J. Fletcher, T. Glover, D. Tillotson, G. Baron, T. Bradley, J. Bland, J. Gill, and J. Sugden.

SUB-MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—The same as the Circuit Committee, R. Robinson, Sub-Treasurer, T. Page, Sub-Secretary.

QUARTERLY MEETING, at Silsden, September 10th. Preachers to meet at one o'clock, full board at two p.m.

APPOINTMENTS.—Those Preachers who are unable to attend their appointments, or to get them supplied, must give timely notice thereof to the Circuit Steward.

BOOKS.—The Primitive Methodist Hymn Books, of various sizes and bindings, and any other books published at the Conference Office, may be had of the Travelling Preachers.

J. Gill, Circuit Steward; R. Robinson, Book Steward.—All orders for books should be given to the Steward on or before the 10th. day of each month.

RENEWAL OF TICKETS.—Silsden, Glover's and Hollingrake's Classes, August 5th, by No. 1; Tillotson's Sunday Class, August 12th, by No. 2; Green's, August 19th, by No. 1; Smith's, August 19th, by No. 2; Hollings's, August 7th, by No. 1; Tillotson's Thursday Night Class, August 9th, by No. 1. Skipton, Spencer's Class, August 12th, by No. 1; Lister's, August 18th, by No. 1.

CAMP MEETINGS, to commence at Nine o'clock, a.m., will be held at the following places:—Addingham, July 22nd, Nos. 21, 13, 12, 5, 4 and 2 to attend. Bradley, September 2nd, Nos. 32, 31, 22, 12, 4 and 2 to attend.—Each Meeting to be followed by a Public Lovefeast.

CHAPEL TRUSTEES' MEETING.—A Meeting of the Trustees of Silsden and Addingham Chapels will be held at Silsden, on September 10th, to commence at Ten o'clock, a.m.

SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY SERMONS, at Skipton, July 22nd, Mr. R. Robinson, from Barnsley.

KEIGHLEY CIRCUIT.

27 W. Proctor.
28 S. Moore.
29 H. Wright.
30 F. Smith.
31 T. Lister.
32 P. Hargreaves.

REFERENCES.—C. Quarterly Collection. T. Renewal of Tickets. S. Sacrament Administered. L. Society Lovefeast. P. Prayer Meeting. * Address to Scholars, &c., at eleven o'clock, a.m. F. Collection for Addingham Chapel. † Committee Meeting. ‡ Leaders' Meeting. S. S. Sunday School Anniversary.

THE PEOPLE'S WELCOME TO MINISTERS.

Ye blessed herald's welcome,
Who preach the sacred word;
We're glad to hail you welcome,
As servants of the Lord.
The field is white for harvest,
Your labours may be blest:
May sinners turn in earnest,
To find in Jesus rest.

CHORUS.
O that will be joyful—
When the work of God revives!

Then to the work we call you—
May Jesus crown your zeal;
We wait in love to join you,
To pray for Zion's weal.
Let's never be discourag'd,
Though Satan may oppose;
By love and duty urged,
We'll chase our daring foes.

Gird on afresh your armour,
Ye champions for the truth;
For Christ our King and Saviour,
Shall reign o'er all the earth.
His triumphs are extending,
In spite of hellish rage;
We boldly are contending,
Help us the war to wage.

Once more we hail you welcome,
Ye champions for the Lord;
All such are truly welcome,
Who wield the Spirit's sword.
And till our warfare's o'er,
Let's urge the vigorous fight,
Till crown'd for ever, evermore,
We shine in glory bright!

Preacher's Plan 1849. The Primitive Methodist Preachers' Plan for 1849 was for the last two weeks of June, the whole of August and September and the first two weeks of October. It was in two parts, the Lord's Day Plan and the Week Night Plan. Services were usually held twice a day every Sunday, early afternoon and early evening. During the week there were typically two evening services each month in each location.

There are 21 preachers on the list. Charles Weatherhead, who at this date was 21, was committed to preach thirteen times on the Lord's Days, but not Week Nights, at seven of the ten locations in the Circuit. The early afternoon preacher usually preached again in the early evening. The Silsden Circuit still included Gargrave, but not Hebden or Grassington. Charles' schedule took him to the following locations and shows he was expected to preach twice on most visits: -

Steeton	July 22nd	one
Embsay	July 29th	two
Skipton	August 5th	two
Ilkley	August 19th	two
Addingham	September 2nd	two
Cononley	September 16th	two
Bradley	October 14th	two

Marriage. In the narrative we read that Charles and Esther were married in 1851 and that Charles had established himself as a grocer at what was to become number 50 Kirkgate.

Strike at mill. The PMs were constantly counting the numbers of its membership partly because finances were tight with ministers not always receiving their full salaries. At the June quarterly meeting of 1855, held in Skipton, it was resolved, 'That the numbers of members, 342, be received, decrease 20 from March. Reasons: - We lost 17 members in Silsden through the strike at the mill. They left the town in search of employment, but none

of their families left, so the leaders hoped that when the mill commenced again they would return, so they kept their names on the books. They have not done so as yet, therefore we cannot think of reporting them to the new preacher.'

Other business interests. As well as having his grocery business, Charles had other business interests. He was an investor in Silsden's New Mill Building Company and in 1865 they had some necessary administrative matters. On 22 December 1865 the London Gazette reported a special resolution, carried unanimously, at a meeting held on November 24th 1865 proposing that the company be wound up.

On 27th February 1867 a meeting was announced at which the liquidators would provide the accounts of the winding up of the company. This would be on 6th April 1867.

'Silsden New Mill Building Company (Limited)

Notice of Meeting.

We, Thomas Weatherhead, Innkeeper, James Sugden, Nail Maker, James Lee, Surveyor, Joseph Clarkson, Coal Dealer, William Fletcher, John Sawley, Surveyor, Charles Weatherhead, Grocer, and George Baron, Nail Maker, all of Silsden, in the parish of Kildwick, in the county of York, being all the Liquidators now living appointed to wind up voluntarily the affairs and distribute the assets of the Silsden New Mill Building Company (Limited), a Company duly registered in England, under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1862, do hereby call a General Meeting of the said Company, for the purpose of having laid before them an account made up –by the Liquidators of the said Company, shewing the manner in which the winding up of the affairs of the said Company has been conducted, and the property of the said Company disposed of, and for the purpose of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidators of the said Company. And we do hereby give notice, that the same Meeting will be held on Saturday, the 6th day of April, 1867, at two o'clock in the afternoon, at the Independent Odd Fellows Hall, in Silsden aforesaid, for the purposes or

objects aforesaid.

Dated this 27th day of February, 1867.

Thomas Weatherhead.

James Sugden.

James Lee.

Joseph Clarkson.

William Fletcher.

John Sawley.

Charles Weatherhead.

George Baron.'

We also read that Charles Weatherhead acted as secretary to a group of local businessmen who built Waterloo Mills in Howden Road between 1867 and 1877. The new source of employment which was provided in these mills enabled most of the expanding number of young people to find work in Silsden instead of having to work outside the village.

Silsden's Local Board of Health. In 1863 a Local Board of Health had been created which promptly addressed the problem of sewage and waste disposal. An Inspector of Nuisances was appointed and by 1865 some aspects of the sanitation system and management of rubbish in Silsden were evident. This board was succeeded by the Silsden Local Board of which Charles Weatherhead was elected chairman. Charles was chairman until standing down in 1894

Discontent. Not everything was positive in Silsden. Floods lead to some deaths and there were strikes about the power looms. In 1867 hundreds of villagers build a fire in the main street and burn effigies of local worthies. We wonder whether Charles' effigy escaped this fate.

Scarlet Fever and Meningitis. Moving forward a couple of years to 1869 brings us to the deaths of daughters Sally and Esther. Charles' wife, Esther, was with daughter Sally when she died of Scarlatina Maligna (Scarlet Fever) on 15/5/1869 at 14 years, and Charles was with daughter Esther when she died of Febris Gastrica (Bilious Fever) and Meningitis at the age of 5 on 30/5/1869. Scarlet Fever's symptoms are very similar to those of Meningitis, as both involve soaring temperatures and itchy rashes. Between Sally's burial, 17th May, and the 10th June 1869 five other children were buried at St James Church, all between the ages of one month and 8 years.

Also in 1869 Thomas, Edgar and Ernest, three of Charles' nephews, living at the Red Lion, died in infancy, one in April and two in October. However, these deaths do not appear to be associated with any specific Silsden epidemic.

It is probably no exaggeration to say that there was an epidemic of a serious life-threatening illness every year in some part of the country, especially in the denser populated towns. Conditions were not easy for parents bringing up children in Silsden. Charles was affected personally by child deaths during his time as Chairman of the Silsden Local Board, which are likely to have influenced decision making by him and other Board members at the time.

The following epidemics were noted for 1869 and 1870 in the writings of the times.

'1869 - Scarlatina epidemic; 'relapsing fever/typhus (London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford)

1870 - Scarlatina epidemic; 'relapsing fever/typhus (London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford,); smallpox 23,100; decline of tuberculosis, also decline in typhus.'

Reference to illnesses, a little later in that decade, was also made in the Silsden's Elliott Street School log book, Appendix 18. Towards the end of

that log book, it reports that in 1932 the school during the year experienced 2 epidemics, 82 pupils had been absent with measles and 74 absent with mumps. It wasn't until after WW2 that inoculation began to prevent such epidemics. Although in June 1935 this log book also mentions that 32 children were immunised against diphtheria.

Silsden's School Board. Silsden created its first School Board in 1874 and it started with five members; George Lee, William Fletcher, John J Booth, Charles Weatherhead and J B Green. At its first meeting Charles, aged 46, was elected as Chairman with William Fletcher, his childhood exhorter friend, as Vice Chairman. Charles was an active member of this board for its entire life of 30 years, at a time when two of his own children and some of his grandchildren would have been of school age. He remained as chairman for twenty-one years, standing down in 1895. It was then that he proposed George Lee as his successor. We know George was elected for a three-year term.

Additional note, John J Booth named here was a local farmer born in 1815 and is not John Booth Q4 in our family history.

Reading a few of the minutes reveals the range of topics addressed. From arranging a survey of all homes in Silsden, in order to make a list of all children between the ages of 3 and 13, to, monitoring the accounts and noting the income from monthly fee payments by parents made at each school. From the safety of walls of the school to installing enamelled cast iron hand basins in the lavatories. From authorising additional windows in a classroom to having loose stones removed from the school grounds. From appointment of staff and fixing their salaries to admonishing children for persistent non-attendance and spelling out the consequences of not attending regularly.

The transcription also includes the minutes of the final meeting of the Silsden School Board in December 1903 at which the handover was made to the West Riding County Council, which assumed responsibility for schools on 1st January 1904.

The transcribed minutes are in Appendix 17.

Silsden's Local Board and Silsden Urban District Council. In 1875 the creation of Silsden's Local Board demonstrated the move to management of local issues at local community level. Across the country over the next twenty years Boards and Committees proliferated to the extent that there was parliamentary concern that regulation was uncoordinated and becoming confused. The remedy was to have many functions brought within the responsibility of new, democratically elected, Urban District Councils. In Silsden Charles Weatherhead had been Chairman of the Local Board and he was again elected as Chairman for the Urban District Council in 1893. However, he was now 65 and he decided to withdraw from that position, while still remaining on the Council.

Assault charge. This refers to the incident in 1875 that is reported in Appendix 3 Social Life in Silsden, when Esther's brother, North Summerscales, assaulted his daughter-in-law.

Mechanics' Institute. The Silsden Town Hall website describes the building and use of a new Mechanics' Institute building for Silsden. 'On a wet afternoon just before Christmas 1883, the first foundation stone of a Mechanics' Institute for Silsden was laid. "In spite of the very inclement weather, there was a large gathering of spectators", reported the local newspapers.

This building is of course now known as the Town Hall and has stood as active witness to huge changes in the working, cultural and social life of our town. It has played a crucial role in our community during two world wars; it has encouraged education and learning and a love of books; it has played host to countless gatherings – dances, weddings, parties, fund-raising efforts, public meetings, concerts, election hustings ... the list is endless.

Perhaps the village worthies who met in the snug of the Red Lion Inn in the late 1860s, to discuss a proposal for an institute, could not have predicted how large the project would become and how central it would be to Silsden's development as a growing and lively town.

And indeed, not a great deal happened for several years, until local schoolmaster David Longbottom, impatient for progress and anxious to offer the chance of learning to Silsden's largely uneducated working population, arranged a series of monthly lectures at the Red Lion. These classes included botany, philosophy, local history and the art of debating. Among the teachers and most ardent supporters was Charles Weatherhead, a local grocer and himself a self-taught man who became Silsden's first council chairman.

The first fund-raising effort for a purpose-built institute was held in 1875 and three years later the committee opened an account with the Yorkshire Penny Bank. A central site adjoining the churchyard in Kirkgate was bought "for a very nominal figure" from Lord Hothfield of Skipton Castle (who owned most of Silsden at the time). He also donated £77 10s.

But it was not until 1883 that the foundation stone was laid by Lord Hothfield and by local mill owner George Jacques, following a community procession through the streets from Aire View School. (Both were presented with a commemorative silver trowel and mallet). Tea was provided afterwards along with a big public meeting to outline plans for the new facility – including a reading room, conversation room, classrooms, lecture hall, a shop and an office "all heated by hot-water apparatus"- and to drum up further fund-raising efforts.

"Every mite contributed is a move in the right direction," declared Lord Hothfield, he was delighted to hear that "the good ladies of Silsden" were to launch sewing meetings and a bazaar. The Mechanics' Institute was not for this generation only, he said, but it was intended to go down through future generations for the cultural enrichment of the community.

The Mechanics' Institute, at a cost of £2,000 was opened 10 months later in October 1884. Its aim: to encourage villagers "to meet and employ their thoughts on high and noble subjects".

It became a thriving centre for the community: villagers, most of whom had never been able to afford such things, were able to borrow books, read



national and international news, go to evening classes, take part in noisy public debates, listen to musical concerts. It was a preparation for universal franchise and greater democracy that was to come.'

Preacher Plan 1887. The 1887 PM's Preachers' Plan for the same three months as in 1849, with Charles now being 59, shows a more established position. There were still generally two Sunday and several weekday services. There were now 28 preachers on the Silsden list, previously 21, and the size of the Silsden Circuit was smaller involving much less travel. It also shows that Charles' obligations had been eased. He was called upon to preach on Sundays, once a day, in late afternoon in Silsden on July 31st, in Eastburn on September 4th and at Farnhill on September 25th.

Winter Assizes for the West Riding.

Charles, in addition to being a Justice of the Peace (JP), was also called as a Grand Jurymen, as reported by the Sheffield Telegraph on 20/03/1906 at the opening session of the Winter Assizes for West Riding held in Leeds.

WEST RIDING ASSIZES.

Sheffield Murder Case.

(From Our Own Reporter.)

Yesterday morning, at Leeds Town Hall, Mr. Justice Walton opened the Winter Assizes for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The Grand Jury were composed as follows:- Messrs. Edward Clitherow Brooksbank, Healaug Old Hall (foreman), Henry Barran, Shadwell Grange, Moortown; John Birbeck, Carrholme Settle; Robert George Chambers, Clough House, Masborough; John Chester Coulman, Bradholme; Thomas Henry Dewhirst, Whinfield; William Edward Garforth, Snydale Hall; Harry Wharfedale Tennant, Garnett, Wharfedale; Frederick Arthur Kelley, Holly Court, Ecclesall; Charles Bugey Lamb, Inholms, Tadcaster; John Pillin Law, Hallfield; George Sturges Pollard, Scarr Hill, Burley-in-Wharfedale; John Montague Spencer Stanhope, Hill House, Cawthorne; Edward Grosvenor Tew, Mosslands; James Braithwaite Garforth Tottie, Coniston Hall; John Matson Vincent, Hemsworth Lane Ends; Thomas Walker Chapelthorpe Hall; Charles Weatherhead, Kirlgate, Silsden; Joseph Wheatley, Woodlands, Micklefield; Reginald Wigram, Chapel-Allerton; Arthur Cobden Jordan Wilson, Willow House, Penistone; T. Bernard Wilson, Frickley.

Obituaries. After a lifetime of service Charles died in February 1907 and then, just two months later, in April Esther died. Charles was remembered in local newspapers where he was recognised for his civic work.

Leeds & Yorkshire Mercury 6/2/1907

FATHER OF THE SILSDEN COUNCIL DEAD.

The death took place yesterday afternoon of Mr. Charles Weatherhead, of Silsden, after an attack of pneumonia. Mr. Weatherhead had grown old in the service of the town, and his death came at very short notice, for on Monday evening he was serving in his shop.

For the greater part of his life he was associated with the local governing and educational bodies in Silsden, and he had served terms on the late Local and School Boards. He was chairman of the Silsden Education Committee at the time of his death, and was the father of Silsden Urban Council, of which for the greater part of its life he was chairman.

Mr. Weatherhead was 78 years of age. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family. As a mark of respect to his memory, last night's meeting of the Silsden Council was adjourned.

These final statements from the Rev Robson highlight the respect for Charles Weatherhead.

'The end came very quickly. The day previous to his death he was attending to his business as a grocer. Late in the afternoon he met his doctor and complained of a slight chest trouble. During the evening, feeling worse, he retired to bed. By morning his condition had become so serious that a Bradford specialist was summoned, but the doctors were unable to check the illness and at half past three on Tuesday afternoon Feb 5 1907 he succumbed to acute pneumonia accompanied by diabetes and heart failure, in his 79th year.



He was buried in the churchyard at Silsden. A short service in the house and also a service in the chapel, were conducted by the Rev W.J. Robson, circuit minister, the Vicar of Silsden, Rev J Berry, officiating at the graveside.

The Vicar of Silsden, Rev J Berry said, "He had long been regarded as "the father" of Silsden in all matters affecting Civic welfare. He was not only one of our most worthy citizens, but one who had the longest and fullest regard of public service for the best interests of the town. The younger ones amongst us can imagine how in earlier years, with his wide reading and



knowledge, his wise counsel and sound judgement, his honest, straightforward and unblemished life he stood out prominent among his fellowmen and was regarded by them as worthy of being their leader. His unceasing public service, so regularly and ungrudgingly given for nearly half a century, have been surpassed by none. His example, both in private life and public work, was always a model of integrity and uprightness, which one would like to see more general in these days. Yet, he possessed a retiring disposition, a quiet nature and a thoughtful manner which kept him from ever seeking public applause, or attracting notice, for his services were always for the public good, and not for his own advancement".'

