

HISTORY OF JOSEPH HEPWORTH

1816-1878

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June 1978

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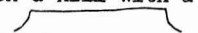
HISTORY OF JOSEPH HEPWORTH
1816-1878

Childhood

Joseph Hepworth was born 11 September 1816 the third child (second son) of the nine known children born to Richard Hepworth and Hannah Wilkinson. Born at Mug Mill,¹ a village in the township of Shitlington, Thornhill parish, Yorkshire, England, Joseph spent a good share of his young life moving from town to town in the Thornhill and Tong area of Yorkshire. Both areas abound in coal, and at the time of his birth, his father was listed as a coal miner, the profession Joseph and most of his family later followed.

Richard and Hannah Hepworth had their son christened when he was about one month old, 6 October 1816, in the Church of England parish of Thornhill.² Christening, really

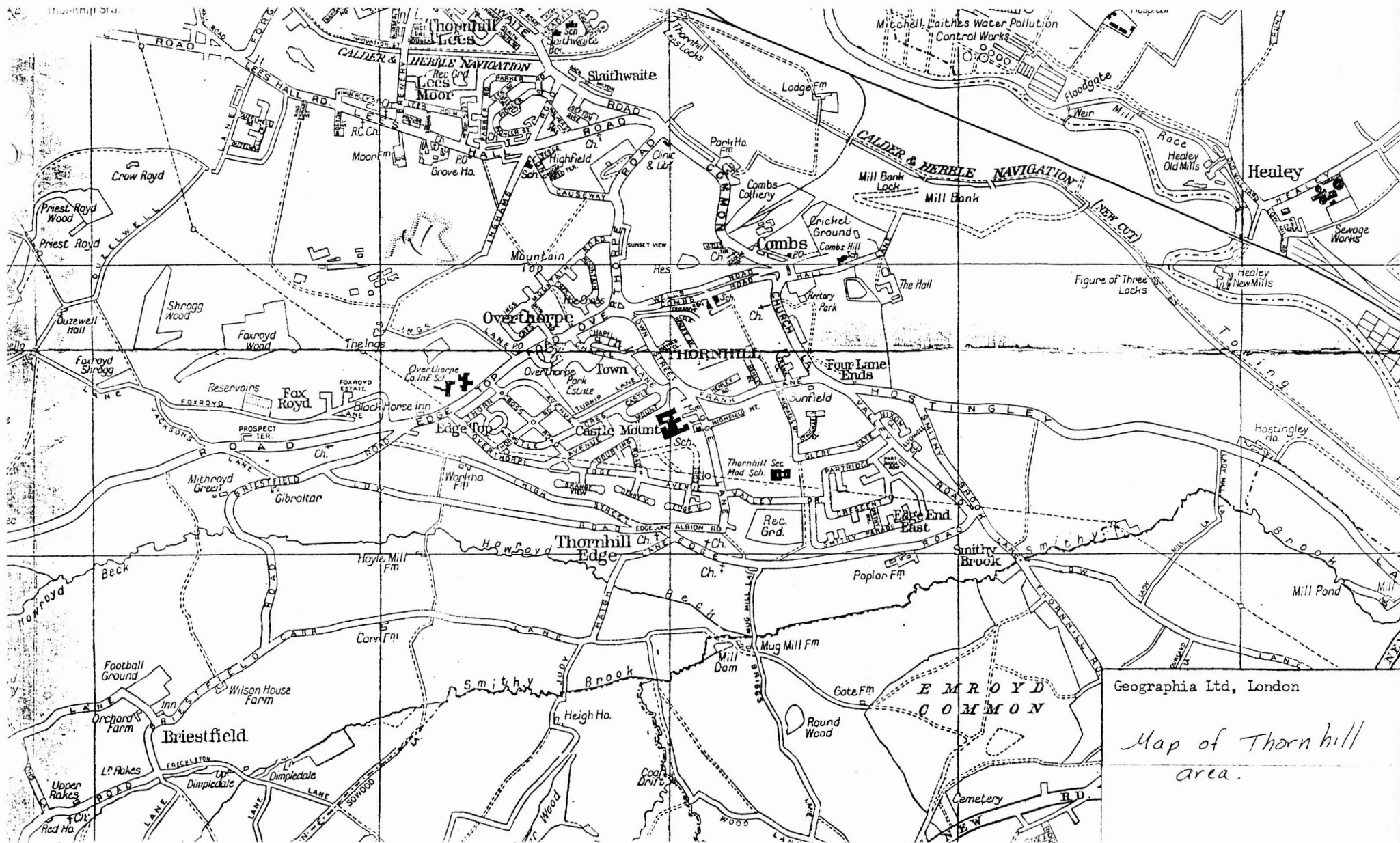
¹Mug Mill is down off the hill from Thornhill Edge in a beautiful valley area with a breathtakingly picturesque view. It is just outside Thornhill township, in the northwestern part of Shitlington township, which abounds in coal and consists of Middletown (Middleton), Nethertown (Netherton), Overton (Overton), part of Horbury Bridge, Midgley, Hollinghurst, Mug Mill, and Stocksmoor. Leading to Mug Mill is Mug Mill Lane. This lane is abounded on both sides by Pennine Walls which were built out of stone from the area in the late 1700's and early 1800's. No mortar was used and repairs have been made as needed down through time. Running through Mug Mill is Smithy Brook.

²Thornhill is set upon a hill with a rather flat top. It looks somewhat like this . On this hill is the parish church of Thornhill dedicated to St. Michael. The parish of Thornhill includes the townships of Shitlington, Thornhill, Lower Whitley, Flockton (which is a chapelry), and the hamlets of Millbank, Thornhill Edge, and Thornhill Lees.

the ceremony of baptism for the Church of England, is essential for infants, since the Church of England teaches that unbaptized people go to hell. Members of the Church of England also believe that unbaptized children of Christian parents who die without baptism will not be allowed to enter heaven (though at least they won't go to hell). The ceremony itself is interesting, since the person being baptized (usually by dipping³ the child in the water unless weak or sick) has to make many of the promises the L.D.S. feel are inherent in the baptism covenant. At the christening the one being baptized promises to obey the commandments, uphold and follow the church, etc. Since an infant cannot make such promises for himself, godparents, adults who take religious responsibility for the infant, make the promises instead.

In light of the importance of christening, note the next facts known about Joseph's family. No christening date has been found for his next-known brother, John. Only a burial date for him, 5 January 1823, is found in the Tong parish records. At this time the family is listed as living at Tong, a chapelry in the Birstal parish. The years between 1816 and 1823 are somewhat mysterious. The mystery deepens with the next christening dates. Sarah, the next child, born in 1823 (computed from the census), William born in 1823 (computed from his marriage record), and Rachel born in 1828 are all christened 19 October 1828 at Tong. The only child christened between 1816 and 1828 is Anne, christened at Tong, probably in some haste, 24 June 1826; she was buried 25 June 1826. Her parents apparently had her christened because of her imminent death. There is no record of Anne's age. No christening has been found yet for the last known child of Richard and Hannah, John, born in 1833 (listed as 18 in the 1851 census). He listed his birthplace as Drighlington in the census but no christening has been found in the parish records of the area as yet. One wonders at the hesitation of the Hepworths toward christening. Were they leaning towards nonconformity, and did they have some doubts, or did they quarrel with the parish pastor at Tong?

³Dipping occurred during the time period Joseph Hepworth lived in England. Now they use sprinkling unless requested otherwise.



Geographia Ltd, London

Map of Thornhill area.

Married Life

No more is known about Joseph's early life until his marriage. On the 9 April 1837 in Batley parish, Yorkshire, England, the home parish of the bride, Joseph Hepworth married Mary Hirst. At the time it was a common practice for a groom to establish residency in the bride's parish several weeks before the marriage. Therefore, although Joseph is listed in the marriage record as "of this parish," his permanent residence at the time of his marriage is uncertain. Mary Hirst, the daughter of John Hirst and Jane Dunwell, was born 8 November 1820 at Drighlington. The couple was married by the curate, W. H. Teale, with George Hirst and James Gates listed as the witnesses. Since Joseph was 21 and Mary only 17, they were considered young to be marrying at that time. Because of economic conditions, most couples married at age 25 or 26.

Tragedy struck the young couple when their first child, born 20 July 1837 and christened 20 August 1837, died on 26 August 1837 of "fits." The couple was living at Tong, probably with or near Joseph's parents, who were listed as living at Tong in October 1839, when Hannah, Joseph's mother died. Joseph is recorded to be a collier (coal miner) at the time of his son's birth.

The young couple soon moved to New Lane, Drighlington where William was born 26 May 1839. Joseph was listed as a coal miner on William's birth record (as well as on the rest of the children's birth records). The 1841 census finds the family at the same address living in a single family dwelling. Edmund was born 7 March 1841 at the same place. Although family sources say the family lived at Gildersome, evidence doesn't confirm that fact. New Lane borders on the township of Gildersome, however, which might account for any discrepancy. Squire's birth on 4 May 1843 is also listed as occurring at New Lane⁴ in Drighlington. This places the family at New Lane for about five years.

⁴New Lane goes on a slant up a hill. At the top of the hill is Gildersome.

Joseph and Mary moved their family to Nethertown (Netherton),⁵ another part of Drighlington, sometime before March 1845 to be nearer Joseph's work. Their first daughter, Hannah, was born there 13 March 1845. (With 6, 4, and 2 year old boys in the family, one wonders if along with the joy, Mary felt a little relief at the birth of a girl.) Sarah followed, born at Nethertown 14 March 1847.

Eighteen-hundred and forth-seven was an important year for the family for another reason. Their home area was "opened" to the Gospel in about 1844, and they heard the missionaries and were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.⁶ Mary was baptized 11 August 1847 and Joseph 19 December that same year by Charles Wilkinson.⁷ The children were baptized in later years. Joseph's baptism marked the beginning of a lifetime of devoted service to the church. Not only was he branch president at Drighlington for several years, he helped the elders in missionary work, teaching and preaching at street meetings.

⁵Nethertown is situated on a hill, and there was a coal pit nearby.

⁶This area of England was a gold mine for converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as well as other non Church of England (called nonconformists) groups. These sects "induced a sense of responsibility, personal satisfaction and respectability. ...the Church of England had failed to come to terms with the miners, who saw it only as a church of rented pews and tithes which emphasized class. ...'the chief dislike which labouring populations entertain for religious services is thought to be the maintenance of those distinctions by which they are separated as a class from the class above them,' and in this analysis perhaps lay the root of religious dissent. (Lewis p. 34)

⁷John Thornton's history, concerning the Thorntons of Drighlington, tells about the William and Mary Thornton family. Mary Thornton (formerly Hepworth) was a sister to Joseph Hepworth. The history states "...Grandmother's (Mary Hepworth Thornton) parents believed the wild tales about the Mormons and America. They protested (cont.)

From the records the family's life seemed relatively smooth for the next few years. The family added two sons: James, born 3 March 1849; and Joseph, born 28 May 1850. Both births were listed as occurring at Nethertown, Drighlington. By that time even the younger children were hard at work. The 1851 census, in which the family was listed as living at Nethertown, showed Joseph Hepworth and his sons, William (11), Edmund (10) and Squire (?) to be "coal miners."⁸

In the Mines

The boys did various jobs around the mines, such as running errands for the miners, moving emptied coal cars back to the miners, pushing loaded coal cars out of the mine, etc. Each day they walked to the mine. As there were some mines right in Drighlington,⁹ their walk most likely was from one to two miles, a 20 to 40 minute walk.¹⁰ Once at the mine they would go down

strenuously her going but she was too thoroughly converted and would go with her husband."

⁸In 1842 a coal mine law was enacted which set the age limit for working in the mines at 10. Apparently their boss didn't bother to obey this law, at least in the case of Squire.

⁹Drighlington abounded in coal pits. There was one very close to Nethertown and Lumb Bottom, and a few others nearby.

¹⁰James' biography mentions that Joseph was a foreman at the Westgate Hill mine. The location of this mine cannot be determined at this time, but Westgate Hill is about two miles from New Lane, Drighlington.

a long way on the elevator (called a shaft) then walk through the low tunnels¹¹ to their various jobs. There was also a lot of walking involved in their work. All this walking seemed like miles and miles to the young boys.

Before 1900 in Yorkshire the method of extracting the coal from the mines was usually referred to as the 'pillar and stall' method. As the coal was dug out, a pillar of it was left in place to hold up the roof. The tunnels from which the coal was dug out were called stalls. This method left a lot of coal unused and presented a ventilation problem. As the workings moved farther away from the pit bottom, the tendency for pockets of stale air to collect increased, and in such circumstances it was easy for lethal gasses to gather. Elaborate systems of ventilation walls and doors were added, so that fresh air could be channelled to prescribed areas. The pockets of lethal gas caused explosions which resulted in many deaths. Improved ventilation with the introduction of fans during the 1850's reduced the number of gas explosions but created a new hazard, the coal dust explosion.

The coal cars were pushed in and out by hand. The wheels on the cars were about six inches in diameter and were run on steel rails. Each car held 1,000 pounds of coal. The coal was brought out of the mines from sloped tunnels called "drifts." The tunnels were usually about five feet high but sometimes lower. In many places the workmen were forced to crawl. Sometimes the water and silt they waded through was six inches deep. The trip in and out of the mine was usually done in the dark.

Miners were on the job early and stayed late with not a moment for play, not an hour for school. James records that the boys and

¹¹In the area where the family worked the mines were not more than 1,200 feet deep. The average depth was 300 to 600 feet.

History of Joseph Hepworth, cont.

their father would work from 6 am until 4 pm with little break. They always took their lunch with them so that no time would be wasted. Joseph, Jr. reports that their lunch consisted of two slices of bread. Edmund is quoted as saying "We went to work before daylight, we came out of the pit after dark, we only saw daylight on Sundays. William and I worked together. Many's the day we worked on a penny loaf of bread, nothin to it, not even a drink of water to it. On Sunday there was a little meat for those who worked, the children never had meat to eat. We saw the children only on Sunday, on the other days they were in bed when we got home and were still in bed when we went to work in the morning."¹²

When they returned home at night after a hard day's work and sat down to supper, they would often fall asleep at the table with the meal half finished. They would be so tired that the want of sleep was greater than the want of food. Part of their Sundays was spent in sleeping to rest their weary bodies for the coming week's work. Besides being exhausted, the miners would return home dirty from head to foot. Coal dust and mine dirt would mask their identity when they emerged from the mine at the end of the day.

Coal mining was hard, dirty and dangerous work. Life expectancy for a coal miner in 1844 was about 49 years. Most died of respiratory diseases and others in accidents at the mine. The pay was generally fair. At some Yorkshire mines wages were paid in goods, such as tea, coffee, bread, sugar, poor quality meat, etc., instead of money. Housing was also provided for the workers by some coal owners; but "tied" housing placed the miner's family under obligation to the

colliery master, who could threaten a family with eviction if a strike occurred. During the 1850's and 1860's the miners at Adwalton and Drighlington had differences with their employers. We don't know how directly involved Joseph was with these events; but he was there. The account of these events is in the appendix.

The mines meant a living for Joseph and his family, but also brought tragedy. In the spring of 1851 in a mine at Drighlington owned by Samuel Garforth and Company, an explosion of gas half buried William in coal and dirt. Although Edmund had been working at his side, he moved away just before the accident, narrowly missing harm. William lingered four days, then died. He was Joseph's oldest living son, twelve years old.

Family Life

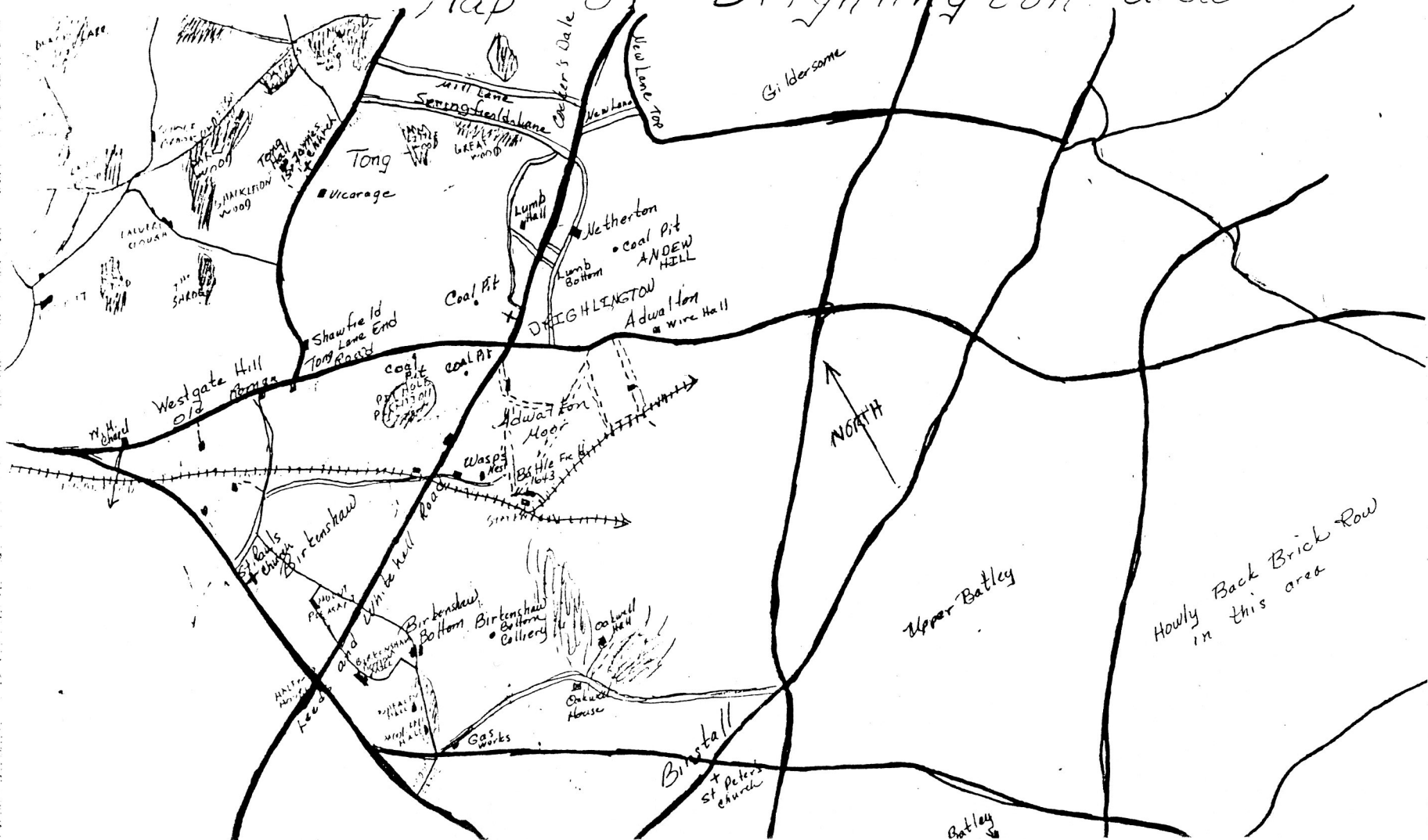
Further tragedy hit the family that year with the death of four year old Sarah on 2 September 1851. The attending doctor certified her death as caused by laryngitis. The family was listed as residing at Nethertown. The family was still at Nethertown in Drighlington at the birth of Elizabeth, 16 April 1852, and Ann, 16 January 1854. Mary Jane's birth certificate lists her family's residence as Drighlington. She was born 23 December 1855.

Life was not easy for the family. The brothers' biographies record that food was minimal. Meat was a rarity, cheese a luxury. Joseph Jr. recalled that he and his younger brother Samuel had to wait until the older brothers had eaten before they could have what was left. Sometimes the family had only dried bread to eat.

Not much is known about the homes in which Joseph and his family lived. Mary Jane remembers looking up through the window at beautiful green grass at about eye level. This view could have been at Lumb Bottom which was located at the bottom of a gully. Coal miner's families at this time usually lived in company owned houses. Rows upon rows of two or three story buildings huddled together with only a few inches between if any. "Flats" were tiny

¹²The Thorntons of Drighlington. Compiled and edited by John Thornton of Blackfoot, Idaho, 1962.

Map of Drighlington area



Vicarage

Lumb Hall

Netherton

Coal Pit

ANDREW HILL

Lumb Bottom

DRIGHLINGTON

Adwathon

Wire Hall

Shawfield Lane End

Tong Road

Coal Pit

Coal Pit

Adwathon Moor

Wasp's Nest

Battle for Hill

Westgate Hill

Old

Birkenshaw

Bottom

Birkenshaw Bottom

Birkenshaw Bottom

Callery

Coal Hill

Outlook House

G.S. Works

Bilinstall

St. Peter's Church

Upper Batley

Howly Back Brick Row
in this area

NORTH

Batley

and families large. In some areas the buildings were unpainted and not maintained in any kind of comfort. The lack of sanitation and the cramped conditions contributed to the early deaths of many. As a contrast, in other areas the houses seemed well ordered, healthy, and clean, with a pigsty for livestock and garden patch adjoining. A privy was usually used by several families and was located behind the houses.

Eighteen-hundred and fifty-six was another sad year for the family. On 12 April 1856 Ann died. Her death was caused by teething and whooping cough, according to the attending doctor. She was two years old. Later that year, 4 October 1856, four year old Elizabeth died of scarlatina, which she had had for one week. No doctor attended her at her death.

The couple's last girl, Martha Annice, was born at Nethertown, Drighlington, on 10 March 1858. She was the last child born at Nethertown. The family lived in Nethertown for about 14 years. However, sometime before 8 January 1860 when the youngest boy, Samuel, was born, the family had moved to Lumb Bottom, another part of Drighlington, a sort of gully area where there is record of an old mine. The April 1861 census also lists the family there. In that census Edmund and Squire are listed as coal miners, but Joseph and James are not listed as having a profession. James would have been 12 and Joseph 11 at the time. In their biographies, both sons mention working in the mines as young boys. James records that he started work in the mines at 7½ years, receiving 6 shillings per week (about \$1.50 according to the biography).

Education was very expensive at that time and children had to work to help support the family. Only the more well-to-do had much chance for a formal education. On earlier records, Joseph Hepworth signed with an X, indicating he probably couldn't read or write. He still marked with an X when his last child, Samuel, was born in January 1860. On 29 May 1865, however, he corresponded with his children living in America. He starts his letter, "I now take up my pen to write a few lines to you in answer to your letter..." so it is obvious

that he had learned to write and read by 1865. Mary did not learn to write, at least until quite a while after her emigration to America. In a letter from Joseph (the son) to his father in 1871, he mentions not hearing from her because perhaps "she cannot get a confidential scribe to write for her...." He also mentions his sister, Hannah, not corresponding for the same reason. Of the other children, Edmund's biography records he had been to school only 1½ days in his life. James states that "an old lady taught him the alphabet, a few times tables and how to read a little." Joseph Jr. not only could read and write, but wrote and spoke spontaneous verses, and loved some of the classics. It is a credit to the family that though they lacked time and money for education, they developed talents such as music, verse, carpentry, etc.

We know little about the next few years in the family's life except for small references recorded in the diary of Samuel H. B. Smith, a cousin to Joseph F. Smith. Both men were on mission in the area. Samuel, son of Samuel H. Smith, one of the prophet Joseph Smith's brothers, was assigned to the general area of which Drighlington was a part, from 31 July 1860 when he arrived in Leeds, until 20 May 1863. His diary only mentions what he did, giving little detail, but does show the family's part in the church generally, and reveals that the family had moved shortly before 12 October 1861 to Howly Back Erick Row near Batley. Some pertinent parts from the diary are:

Wed., 5 Sep 1860. ...Jonathan (Heaton) and I walked to Drighlington calling at William Stockdale's and Eliza Cowling's. Attended meeting at Brother Joseph Hepworth's, the president of the branch. I spoke an hour and a quarter. Stopped the night.

Sat., 12 Oct 1861. Went to Leeds from there to Batley in search of Joseph Hepworth, who had recently removed, but, failing in my attempt to find him, returned Leeds and stopped the night.

Sun., 20 Oct 1861. Went to Lumbottom, Drighlington and called at Joshua Wells, had dinner, he accompanied me to Joseph

History of Joseph Hepworth, cont.

- Hepworth's, Back Brick Row near Batley, where I held meeting and stopped the night.
- Mon., 2 Dec 1861. Today a foot race came off between the American Deerfoot and four or five Englishmen. Deerfoot came off best running the distance of 10 miles in 50 minutes and 10 seconds, allowed to best the shortest on record. A gold cup of the value of 20 pounds was awarded to the victor. In the evening Joseph and I went to Joseph Hepworth's where we held meeting. The day was somewhat rainy and wet under foot.
- Tues., 10 Dec 1861. Took train to Huddersfield one of the finest towns in Yorks. from there to Batley, thence to Brother Hepworth's, Howly Back Brick Row, where I met Parley. (Joseph F. Smith having gone to Leeds). Sister Hepworth was quite sick.
- Sat., 1 Feb 1862. Brother Edmund Hepworth and his mother came from Howly Back and brought with them the Drighlington monthly report.
- Mon., 17 Feb 1862. Went to Brother Joseph Hepworth's and held meeting.
- Sun., 23 Feb 1862. Walked to Brother James Marshall's, Lee Fair, and found a number of the Saints there from Drighlington, Leeds and Wakefield. I spoke to them on the subject of emigration....
- Thurs., 2 Oct 1862. William and I went to Drighlington, called and practised with Colt's revolver at the Rifle range, Wortley until 5:30 then went forward. Soon after arriving at Bro. Hepworth's, J. Speight came in held a meeting at which I, Speight, Hepworth, and William spoke. After meeting we sang and recited, passing an agreeable evening. Retired to bed at 1:00.
- William and Bro. Speight sleeping together.
- Wed., 3 Dec 1862. ... Brother Squire Hepworth brought the Drighlington report, he dined here. I gave him a receipt for the money....
- Fri., 2 Jan 1863. ... Bro. Speight came in who was anxious to go to Drighlington in company with me which I thought he had better not do. I had a pleasant walk and arrived just after the commencement of the meeting. Spoke to them an hour and a half with a good deal of liberty. Charles Balmforth accompanied me part of the way on my return....
- Fri., 16 Jan 1863. Went to Drighlington met with Joseph and Thomas. Held meeting and slept at Bro. Hepworth's.
- Sun., 8 Feb 1863. ... Speight came in and said Sister Hepworth would be here in the morning for the purpose of seeing me and asking my advice.
- Mon., 9 Feb 1863. Got up at nine found Sister Hepworth had come. I gave her some counsel with regard to the course she take....
- Fri., 13 Feb 1863. ...Wrote to some of the brethren in reference to the emigration as the time was close at hand.
- Tues., 17 Feb 1863. Got up at 9:30 am went to Speight's with Mrs. Hepworth where I dined....
- Wed., 18 Feb 1863. Sister Speight took train for Drighlington.
- Fri., 15 May 1863. I sent a sheet to Liverpool containing the amount of those going to emigrate....
- Wed., 20 May 1863. ...I left for Liverpool...(Sailed on ship Antartic 23 May)

Emigration

The next few years were years of change for the Joseph Hepworth family. Two influences split and scattered members in England and America: (1) the older children were reaching marriageable age, and (2) the church was stressing the "gathering of Zion" and through its emigration fund, encouraging, organizing, and helping to finance the saints' journey to the Salt Lake Valley.¹³

Edmund, the couple's oldest living son, was first to leave. He married Hannah Cowling at Birstal 17 September 1862. Edmund is listed as a miner and resident of Drighlington. The next spring on 30 May 1863, the couple boarded the ship Cynosure at Liverpool to begin their journey to the Salt Lake Valley. Squire soon followed Edmund's example, marrying Emily Dyson 9 August 1863 at Tong. Squire is recorded as being a coal miner from Nethertown on the entry. The young couple sailed on the ship General McClellan 21 May 1864.

At some time during this period, Joseph's wife, Mary Hirst Hepworth, emigrated to America with the three youngest children, Mary Jane, Martha Annice, and Samuel, financing the journey through the church's emigration fund. No record has been found of her embarkation or voyage.

In a letter to his "Sons and Daughters" he expressed his yearning to be with them in Zion and his strong faith. Dating the letter 29 May 1865 from Nethertown, Joseph wrote, "Oh how I long for the time when we shall have the privilidge to behold each others face again. I feel truly thankfull that I have still a standing in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints and I say to Dear sons and Daughters be faithful and live your religion, for it will be through our faithfulness if ever we be permitted to meet together again...when we shall be able to gather means to emigrate ourselves from these lands with I don't know but the Lord has said that he will gather his elect

from the four corners of the earth, and if we be his elect, we have the promise, and it is the promises of the Lord that stimulates us to go on. Was it not for the hope that we had within us we should die in despair. I am truly thankful for the testimony that I have in the work in which we are engaged for truly it is the work of the Lord."

Joseph also recorded in the letter that he had been out of work seven weeks with "Demick" (rheumatism) in his hand and was glad to get back to work. He told about the new converts and gave news of the branch, and of relatives of his sons and daughters-in-law, mentioning Emily Dyson's mother, Amelia, and her aunt, Ann Lambert Hobson, whose husband had just died.

On 10 May 1868 James, then 19, married a 28 year old widow, Sarah Ann Calloway Armitage. Both were listed as living in Birkenshaw, and James is recorded as a miner. An entry in the emigration lists records a James Hepworth leaving 21 June 1871 on the ship Wyoming. James remembered the ship being the same, but said he emigrated in 1869.

Hannah had emigrated earlier, 6 October 1869, on the Minnesota with two young daughters, Emmy A. (Amy Ann) and Emily. Joseph Hepworth, then 54, joined his family in America in 1870, embarking 7 September 1870 on the ship Idaho.

In America

Joseph settled at Oxford, Idaho, a young community 18 miles northwest of Preston which had been threatened by Indians only a few years previously. Joseph's two sons, Edmund and Squire, had helped establish the small settlement. Joseph was ordained a High Priest there 15 March 1872 by John Boice.

The last of the family in England, Joseph Hepworth's son, Joseph, then 21, married Mary Ann Green, 19, on 27 May 1872. Both were "of Adwalton," and Joseph was listed as a miner. The couple emigrated the next year, 3 September 1873, on the ship Wyoming, with their infant son.

¹³See History of Edmund Hepworth for more information on the emigration process.

That same year on 2 July, Ann Lambert Hobson,¹⁴ age 51, left England with her two sons, Jesse (22) and Alma (?), on the ship Wisconsin. Joseph Hepworth and she took out their endowments and were sealed at the Endowment House, 27 October 1873. The sealing must have taken place soon after she arrived at Salt Lake. Joseph took Ann and her family to live at Oxford. Joseph died there five years later, 18 April 1878, and was buried there.

Nineteen years later, 14 April 1897, at the request of Mary Hirst, Joseph was sealed by proxy to her along with eight of their children. Sealings of the other children were done later. More details of Mary Hirst are not included here since further research is needed to properly complete her history.

Appendix

This interesting account of incidents at the Drighlington and Adwalton coal pits comes from Frank Machin. The Yorkshire Miners, A History, Chapter 2, "The Miners of Adwalton and Drighlington."

In the three years following the end of the lock-out in December 1858, the most active and militant section of the miners in West Yorkshire was that of the Adwalton and Drighlington area. The colliers in this district like other miners, improved their conditions in 1853-1854 but in 1855 their wages were reduced while wages elsewhere in West Yorkshire pits remained unchanged until 1858. A union was organized June 1859.

Various reasons for trouble and discontent at Adwalton and Drighlington:

1. The employers were making higher profits and could have been more considerate of their employees.
2. In less than three years collier's wages in this area had been increased by 30% but because of what happened in 1855, they were no better off than miners elsewhere in West Yorkshire.
3. At the Wasp Pit owned by Messrs. J. and W. Harrison of Drighlington the workers received 6s per dozen corves which held 2½ tons. When a new underground district was opened the men who were given work in it were told they would be paid only 5s per dozen corves. A strike dragged on for 18 weeks. (Aug 1861)
4. Jan. 1862 - Miners at Adwalton and Drighlington were given notice of wage reductions by 10%. No other miners in West Yorkshire were given this notice. A strike ensued at 12 collieries with 1,200 men involved. At five collieries no action was taken.

¹⁴Ann was the widow of John Hobson and aunt of Emily Dyson, wife of Squire.

5. The colliers also complained about clearance papers and because too many corves were confiscated if they were improperly filled or contained dirt, a device... increasingly used to counterbalance the rise in wages.
6. The system of clearance papers where employers would not hire a collier without a clearance paper from his former employer= It does not matter how a man leaves, whether a strike takes place or whether there is a lock-out, or whether the man feels disposed to leave his employment with the regular fortnight or month's notice, he cannot, as a general rule, get employment in the district without a clearance paper from his last employer.
7. When a strike insued in 1858, the coal owners, whose pits had been closed, wrote the following to other proprietors whose pits remained open in West Yorkshire:

Gentlemen:

Below we beg to hand a list of underground workmen now on strike at our _____ colliery and shall feel obliged if you will abstain from employing any, should they apply, unless they bring proper clearance papers signed by us.

Yours faithfully,

(This was followed by a list of 218 names of men who were refused clearance notes.)

The clearance paper was a powerful device in the hands of the employer and he used it.

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