

Reverend Matthew Stanley
(10th July 1855 – 14th November 1934)



The memorial inscription on the headstone over plot V10 in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe has a wealth of very useful information on it.

MATTHEW STANLEY
CONGREGATIONAL MINISTER
SON OF GEORGE STANLEY OF UPPER MIDHOPE
BORN 10TH JULY 1855,
ORDAINED 22ND SEP. 1882,
DIED 14TH NOV. 1934.
AND HIS WIFE JANET A. STANLEY
DAUGHTER OF CAPT KANT OF INVERNESS
BORN 5TH NOV. 1854,
DIED 13TH JUNE 1931.
"HE ALWAYS WINS WHO SIDES WITH GOD"

Time to find out why the Stanleys were buried in St. Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe.

Matthew Stanley was the youngest of the ten children, born to George Stanley and his wife Ann(e) née Helliwell of Upper Midhope, in the parish of Bradfield on the edge of the Peak District near Sheffield. They were married on 26th December 1834 in the parish of 'Ecclesfield Chapel of Bradfield in the County of York'.

On the 1851 census the Stanley parents and six children were recorded as living at Gill Royd, Upper Midhope, Bradfield. George was a 'Farmer of 24 acres & Cordwainer'. The older boys were recorded as 'Farmer's Son'.

As the memorial inscription says Matthew Stanley was born on 10th July 1855. No baptism record has been found for him, probably because the Stanleys, and the Helliwells, were non-conformists. George Stanley preached at a local Congregational Church and Ann's brother, Rev. Joseph Helliwell, became a Congregational minister in Whitehaven.

By the time the 1861 census was taken on 7th April, most of Matthew's siblings had left home as he had by 2nd April 1871.

1861 census

George Stanley	Head 62 Master Cordwainer
Ann Stanley	Wife 50 Boot & Shoe Binder
Martha Stanley	Dau 11 Assistant
Lucy Stanley	Dau 9 Scholar
Matthew Stanley	Son 5 ditto
Address Upper Midhope, Bradfield, Wortley	

1871 census

Matthew Stanley Servant 15 Farm Servant
[to George Green Farmer & Innkeeper]
Address Langsett, Wortley

But then Matthew Stanley must have enrolled at the Airedale College, Bradford. The principal there was the Scotsman Andrew Martin Fairbairn who had 'transferred his religious allegiance to English Congregationalism'. On census night 3rd April 1881 Matthew Stanley was lodging with a widow, Elizabeth Kant, and her daughters.

1881 census

Elizabeth Kant	Head 70 Lodging House Keeper
Elizabeth Kant	Dau 39
Janet A. Kant	Dau 26
Matthew Stanley	Lodger 25 Theological Student Ind
Arthur A. Betts	Lodger 27 Solicitor
Address 17 Park View Terrace, Manningham	

Looking back to the memorial inscription, this was at the home of his future wife and mother-in-law. But why were members of this Scottish born family in the Bradford area? And what had happened to Janet's father Captain Kant?

Back tracking to the Cants in Scotland in the 1830s

On 5th January 1836 James Cant – spelling varies! - married Elizabeth Boyd in the Non-conformist church, United Association Burgh Seceder at Limekilns, a fishing village on the coast in Fife, Scotland. They had a number of children, all of whom were baptised at the same non-conformist church even when the family lived in Inverness. On the transcribed baptism record for their youngest daughter Janet Ann Cant it says that she was born on 5th November 1853 disagreeing by a year with the birth date on the above memorial inscription.

The Cant family were in Inverness for both the 1851 and 1861 censuses.

1851 census

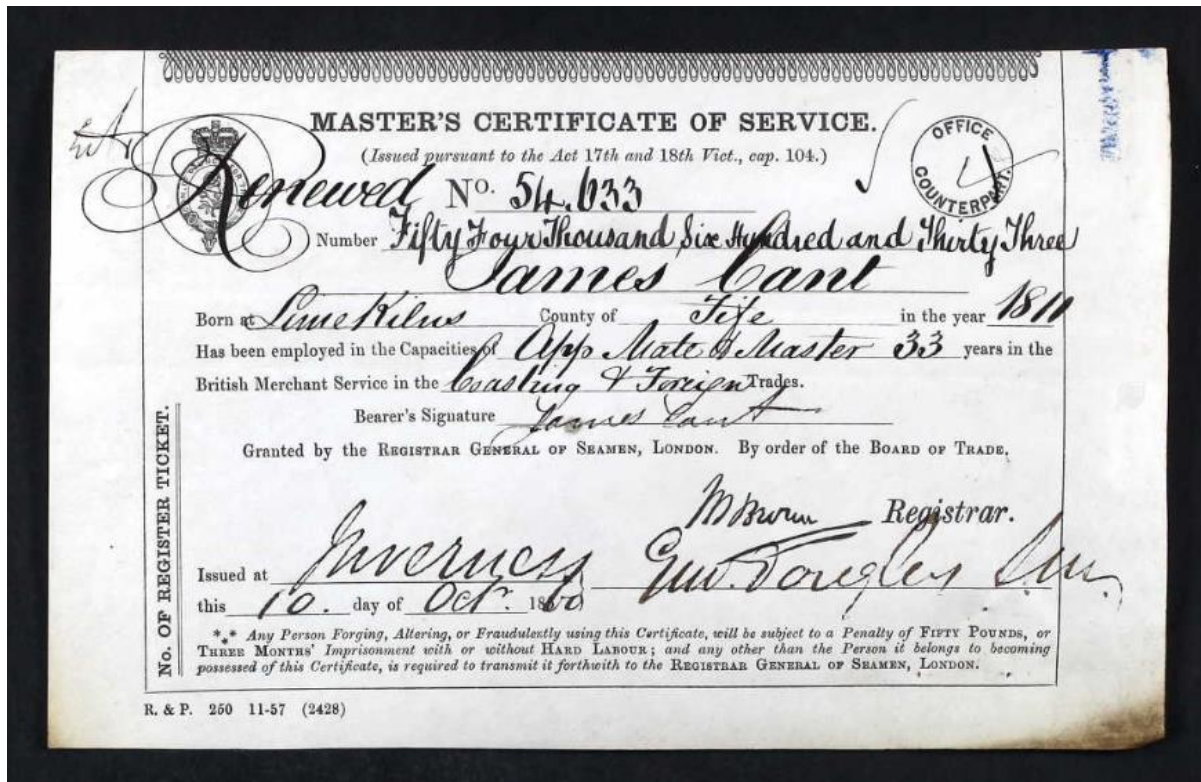
James Cant Head 39 Shipmaster
Elisabeth Cant Wife 40
William Cant Son 11
Elizabeth Cant Dau 9
Magt Cant Dau 7
John Cant Son 4
James Cant Son 2
Address 25 Madras St., Inverness

1861 census

James Cant Head 50 Ship Captain ML
Eliza Cant Wife 51
Elisa Cant Dau 19
Magt Cant Dau 17
John Cant Son 14
Janet Cant Dau 7
Address 16 Nelson St., Inverness

William Kant 21 Mate on ship

Father James Cant, and then oldest son, William Cant, were seamen with *UK and Ireland, Masters and Mates Certificates*.



But then (Captain) James Cant disappears!

According to a transcribed Scottish census record, on census night 2nd April 1871 Elizabeth Cant was still in Inverness. As this comes from a transcribed source the original record has not been checked to see if Elizabeth was a widow by then or what her occupation might have been. Could the transcribed address name 'Ferfonporat' be something 'port'?

1871 census

Elizabeth Cant Head 60

Elizabeth Cant Dau 27

Jessie A Cant Dau 17 [Jessie may be the name the family used for Janet]

James Hutton Grandson 3

Address 1 Pine Cottage Ferfonporat, Inverness

The clue as to what they did next comes from the three-year-old grandson, James Hutton. He was the eldest son of Margaret Cant and James Garth Hutton. They had married in Edinburgh on 6th September 1866 and young James was born in Leith, Midlothian on 14th July 1867. But his siblings were all born in Idle, Bradford, Yorkshire. Twenty-seven-year-old James Garth Hutton, his Scottish wife and a one-year-old Bradford born son were in Town Street Idle by the time the 1871 census was taken. James, who was recorded as a grocer and wine merchant, was born in Eccleshill, Bradford.

This no doubt explains why Margaret's mother and sisters were in Manningham, Bradford, taking in lodgers on the 1881 census, having moved down from Inverness.

Moving on from the 1881 census

A year later the name of one of her lodgers appeared in *The Christian World* on 25th May 1882 under the heading CONGREGATIONAL to announce that :-

Mr. Matthew Stanley, senior student of Airedale College, has accepted the ministerial charge of Spring Church, Great Grimsby.

Then the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* from 26th September reported on the ordination of the Spring Church Pastor.

The ordination service was commenced at eleven in the forenoon, under the presidency of the Rev. Thos. Hughes, of Hollingworth. The Rev. A. Duff, M.A., LL.D., opened the proceedings by reading a portion of the Scriptures. Prayer was then offered by the Rev. J. H. Stanley, brother of the pastor elect, an exposition of the principles of the denomination was then delivered by the Rev. W. C. Shearer, M.A.. The pastor, the Rev. Matthew Stanley then made a short statement, after which the Rev. A. M. Fairbairn, D.D., Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales delivered the charge.

On 19th August 1884 Matthew Stanley was back at Airedale College for his wedding as announced in the *Bradford Weekly* on 23rd August 1884.

STANLEY – KANT .—August 19, Airedale College Chapel,
Barkerend, Bradford, Matthew Stanley of Great Grimsby, to
Janet Ann Kant, of Manningham

The Rev. Matthew Stanley's next move was announced in *The Nonconformist* newspaper published in London on 21st January 1886.

Rev. Matthew Stanley has resigned the ministerial charge of Spring Church,
Great Grimsby, and accepted the pastorate of Laisterdyke Church, Bradford.

This would bring the Stanleys back closer to Janet Ann's mother and sister, still managing the lodging house at Manningham, Bradford, and the Hutton family with their grocer shop in Idle, Bradford.

1891 census

Matthew Stanley	Head	36	Congregational Minister
Janet Stanley	Wife	36	
Rosa M Johnson	Servant	22	General Servant Domestic

Address 10 Westfield Crescent, Bradford

A year later, on 13th May 1892, *The Nonconformist* reported another move.

REV. MATTHEW STANLEY AT BIRKENHEAD

OXTON-ROAD CHURCH. Birkehead, has recently been restored and beautified, and it is just starting a new era under the pastorate of Rev. Matthew Stanley, late of Bradford. There were large congregations to hear Mr. Stanley's first sermons. In the morning he spoke on "Preaching Christ". Christ, he said, embraced while He also transcended humanity. To preach Him as the mind of God was the function of the preacher, and everything of human interest would come within his scope. In the evening Mr. Stanley dealt with the object of the Church. It was to realize the mind of Christ in the way of Christ being concerned with all the moral and spiritual interests of mankind, Christ's way and the Church's way was by the re-creation of the individual. The soul of all improvements was the improvement of the soul. A local Conservative paper speaks of Mr. Stanley's opening services with very warm appreciation.

Scotland born Elizabeth Kant née Boyd died on 7th November 1893 aged 82. She was buried in Heaton Baptist Cemetery, Bradford. Other family would be interred with her later.

When Elizabeth Kant Stanley was born a year later in Birkenhead on 21st October 1894 she was named after her maternal grandmother.

On census night 31st March 1901 her father was away from home.

1901 census

Janet A Stanley Head 46

Elizabeth K Stanley Dau 6

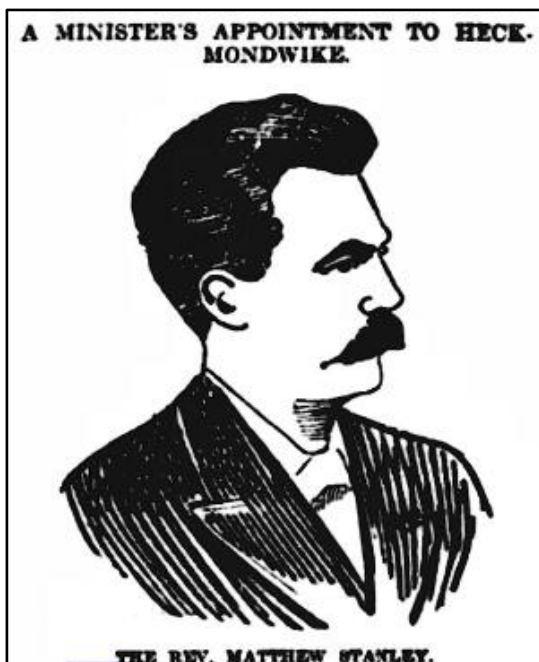
Florence Lynes Servant 20 General Servant

Address 23 Alfred Rd., Birkenhead

Matthew Stanley Visitor 45 Congregational Minister

With Sharman family in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

On 25th March 1905 the *Yorkshire Post* featured the portrait below and, along with the *Bradford Weekly Telegraph*, explained Reverend Matthew Stanley's move to the Upper Independent Chapel in Heckmondwike, a very impressive looking building.



HECKMONDWIKE

The Rev. Matthew Stanley, who has had charge of a Congregational church at Birkenhead for the last thirteen years, has accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike, rendered vacant by the resignation of the Rev. W. Riley in May last. Mr. Stanley, who went to Birkenhead from Laisterdyke, hopes to commence duty on the first Sunday in May.

The Firth family of Heckmondwike

At Heckmondwike the Reverend Matthew Stanley became pastor to the Firth family. Thomas Freeman Firth was the chairman of the blanket and carpet manufacturers T. F. Firth & Sons Ltd.. He and his wife Hannah Maria née Willans lived at The Flush, Heckmondwike.

Less than two years after Rev. Stanley arrived in Heckmondwike Hannah Maria Firth died on 27th March 1907. The next day the *Halifax Daily Guardian* had this report.

DEATH OF MRS. T. F. FIRTH

The death took place on Wednesday, after an illness of five- or six-weeks' duration, of Mrs Firth, of the Flush, Heckmondwike, wife of ex-County Alderman T. F. Firth. The deceased lady, who was a daughter of the late Mr. Wm. Willans, of Huddersfield, was born in 1829, and she and her husband celebrated the golden anniversary of their marriage three years ago, the event being fittingly marked by employees at the extensive works founded by the family at Heckmondwike and Clifton, and also at Firthcliffe, in America. Mrs Firth's practical sympathy had greatly assisted local philanthropic work for many years past, and for a long period she had provided the town with a district nurse at her expense.

Her funeral on Saturday 20th March 1907 was reported by the *Batley Reporter and Guardian* on 5th April 1907. The Reverend Matthew Stanley was the officiating minister.

FUNERAL OF MRS T. F. FIRTH

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AT HECKMONDWIKE

The last sad rites for the dead were performed over the remains of Mrs. T. F. Firth, of the Flush, Heckmondwike, on Saturday forenoon, at the Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike. Mr. T. F. Firth, who was accompanied by his daughter Miss Firth, and members of the family, and a large number of relatives, were the principal mourners. The central aisle in the commodious sacred edifice was reserved for the mourners, the numerous friends who were present to pay their last tribute of respect to the memory of the sainted lady.

[A list of the mourners]

Prior to the arrival of the solemn cortege, Mr Naylor, organist played "O Rest in the Lord," and other music of a similar character. The procession up the aisle was led by the Rev. M. Stanley, pastor of the church, and after the introductory sentences to the burial service, the hymn "Our God, our help in ages past" was sung softly and impressively, the choir taking the lead. Scripture reading was followed by another hymn. "Hear what the voice from Heaven proclaims." Prayer was then offered by the rev. gentleman, and the procession was reformed, Mr. and Miss Firth again following immediately after the officiating minister.

More information about Firth's carpet mills in Firthcliffe, Cornwall-on-Hudson, Orange County, N. Y., U.S.A. can be found in the article [Firth's Carpets in the USA.pdf](#)

Two years later, on Monday 29th November 1909, Sir Thomas Freeman Firth, by then a baronet, died. The *Leeds Mercury* on 1st December 1909 had this announcement.

SIR T. F. FIRTH

THE POPULAR SPEN-VALLEY LIBERAL

At a quarter to eleven on Monday night, the death took place at his residence, The Flush, Heckmondwike, of Sir Thomas Freeman Firth, Bart., who had attained the age of 84 years, The title to which his eldest son, Mr Algernon F. Firth, of Lightcliffe will succeed, was conferred in the birthday honours last June.

Sir Thomas was the eldest son of Mr. Edwin Firth of Heckmondwike, who founded the blanket and carpet manufacturing business which has since developed into that of T. F. Firth and Sons Ltd., with large factories at Bailiffe Bridge, and an important branch at Firthcliffe, in the United States.

His wife was a daughter of Mr. Wm. Willans, of Huddersfield, and aunt of Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister.

The Liberal Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith (1852 – 1928,) pictured below, was the son of Emily Asquith née Willans (1828 – 1888). She was the slightly younger sister of Hannah Maria Firth née Willans. Emily Willans married Joseph Dixon Asquith (1825 – 1860), a wool merchant, in 1850. The family lived in Morley where the future Prime Minister was born. On the 1861 census, after the death of Joseph Asquith, the family were in Huddersfield before moving down south to Sussex.



Again, the Reverend Matthew Stanley took the funeral and then a memorial service as reported in the *Halifax Daily Guardian* on 2nd December and then 6th December 1909.

LATE SIR T. F. FIRTH, BART.

Funeral at Heckmondwike

A pall of mourning hung over Heckmondwike today, when the funeral of the late Sir Thomas Freeman Firth, Bart, took place, the obsequies being attended with signs of public mourning and regret, and all the solemnity which marked the last sad ceremony in which the distinguished gentleman was concerned.

The mourners began to arrive shortly after one o'clock, and a procession was formed in the drive attached to the deceased's residence, The Flush. The blinds of houses in the vicinity were respectfully drawn, and the shops en route were closed while the procession passed by.

A large number of residents from Bailiffe Bridge were present. The members of the Clifton Liberal Association were represented.

A posse of police headed the procession, followed by personal friends, professional gentlemen, members of the Liberal Association, Chambers of Commerce, District County Council, Upper Chapel Trustees and

Deacons, Magistrates, Employees of the firm from Heckmondwike and Bailiffe Bridge to the number of 60. Then came the hearse and private mourners and private carriages. The coffin was of panelled oak, with heavy brass mountings, and the breast-plate bore the following inscription :-

THOMAS FREEMAN FIRTH, BART.

Born, August 23rd, 1825

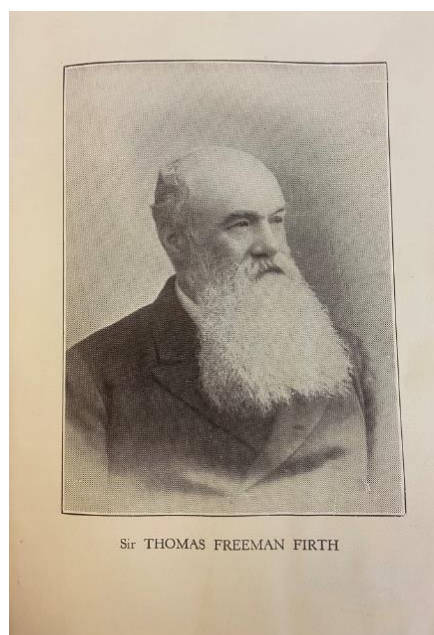
Died November 29th, 1909.

A short service was held at the deceased's residence, and the cortege proceeded to Upper Congregational Chapel, where a service was conducted by the Rev. M. Stanley, the interment taking place in the family vault in the burial ground adjoining. Although a request was made by the deceased that no flowers should be sent, several intimate friends had sent tokens which covered the bier and the coffin.

There were twenty-five carriages in all, and the procession extended for a quarter of a mile.

The private mourners were as follows:-

There followed a very long list!



THE LATE SIR T. F. FIRTH

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HECKMONDWIKE

An impressive memorial service was held at the Upper Independent Chapel, Heckmondwike, yesterday forenoon in connection with the death of Sir Thomas Freeman Firth, of that town. The organist (Mr. S. Naylor, who has held the position for 50 years) and the choir gave appropriate selections, and hymns suitable to the solemn occasion were feelingly sung by the large congregation.

The Rev. Matthew Stanley, pastor, commenced his tribute to the memory of the deceased baronet by referring to this courtly yet kindly spirit and wise diplomacy. Had the Churches, he continued, more men of similar wisdom fewer mistakes would be made. For a man of over 80 years the quickness and strength of Sir

Thomas's mental powers were remarkable. No matter into what company he had gone he would never have been a neglected quantity. It was evident to the dullest that he was a man born to rule and a man who intended to fulfil his destiny. He had the instincts and manners of a statesman, and the bearing of one in authority. He possessed everything to assure triumph had he chosen to follow popular lines of ambition, but he remained to the end loyal to his Non-conformist principles. He had been content to dwell among his own people, to employ men from youth to the end of their working days; to build up a useful industry for the production of what is essential for the health and comfort of the people; to show during a long life the virtues of hard work, and faithfulness to conviction. He had lived simply, attended an Independent chapel twice every Sunday, had an open Bible and family prayer in his home, and these were often strange to the principalities and powers in high places.

Sir Thomas Freeman Firth's Will was reported in newspapers across the country including *the Dundee Evening Telegraph* on 27th January 1910. And then again in April 1910 by amongst others the *Bridlington Free Press*, presumably after his brother's Will was sworn.

PREMIER'S UNCLE LEAVES £379,000

The late Sir Thomas Freeman Firth of The Flush, Heckmondwike, chairman of the well-known firm of carpet and blanket manufacturers, Firth & Sons, Limited, and an uncle by marriage of the Premier, has left, £379,000. Testator bequeaths £20,000 each to his three daughters, and after various smaller legacies all his real estate to his two sons, subject to his daughter Annie Marie Firth having the use of his residence at Heckmondwike and the furniture for her life.

The two sons were Algernon Freeman Firth of Holme House, Lightcliffe who inherited his father's title and William Eustace Firth of The Flush Heckmondwike.

ESTATES OF TWO BROTHERS

A contrast is shown in the estates of two brothers, Sir Charles Henry Firth, of Pool, Yorkshire, and Sir Thomas Freeman Firth, Bart., of Leeds, who died within a few weeks of each other. Sir Thomas left a fortune of £378,975. Sir Charles' estate has been sworn of the value of £1,175.

Captain Charles Henry Firth was awarded a knighthood for his services to the Volunteer Fire Brigade in December 1868. A year later his young wife, aged just 25 years, was 'found drowned' in the River Wharfe near Bolton Abbey. He remained a widower.

Returning to the Rev. Matthew Stanley at Upper Independent Chapel

The Upper Independent Chapel received £500 in Sir Thomas Freeman Firth's Will as did Dewsbury Infirmary. The Yorkshire United Congregational College previously Airedale College, Bradford which Rev. Stanley attended was left £200 as were the Congregational Colleges in Mansfield, Oxford and Nottingham. And his servants were left £5 for each complete year of their service.

The second son, William Eustace Firth, his wife and their son George as well as the spinster daughter Annie Marie Firth were recorded as living at The Flush, Westgate on 2nd April 1911. William, family and servants in a 21-roomed residence and Annie Marie Firth with a Hall nephew and servants in a separate 14-roomed residence.

The Stanleys were in Chapel Lane, Heckmondwike at the Congregational minister's house for both the 1911 and 1921 census. Although it looks as if the Rev. Matthew Stanley was away from home again on 19th June 1921. Where he was visiting has not been found.

1911 census

Matthew Stanley Head 54 Congregational Minister
Janet A Stanley Wife 54
Elizabeth K Stanley Dau 16 School
Address 31 Chapel Lane, Heckmondwyke

1921 census

Janet Anne Stanley Wife 56 Home Duties
Elizabeth Kant Stanley Dau 26 Domestic Science Teacher Heckmondwyke Secondary School
Address Parsonage, 31 Chapel Lane, Heckmondwyke

The Domestic Science teacher, Elizabeth Kant Stanley, married Lancashire born Robert Tomlinson Riding during Q3 1925. The marriage was registered in the Dewsbury district as was the birth of their two daughters Elizabeth, in Q4 1927 and Jean in Q2 1930. On both the 1911 and 1921 census her husband's father and two older brothers all worked for the Firth's at Flush Mills, Heckmondwike. It seems quite likely that Robert was also working for the Firths at the Flush Mills when he married in 1925. But, as you will read later, he then became the Works Manager at Lightcliffe, probably for Firths at their Clifton Mills in Bailiffe Bridge.

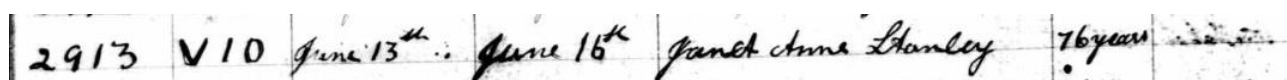
Late in 1929 the Reverend Matthew Stanley retired although he appears to have returned regularly to preach and take services at Heckmondwike. He and his wife, Janet Ann née Kant, moved to Lightcliffe to a house named Ghyll Royd, 104 Wakefield Road. According to the *West Yorkshire Electoral Roll* their daughter Elizabeth Kant Riding and her husband Robert Tomlinson Riding were at 104, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe from 1928 onwards. Presumably Robert Riding had transferred to the Firths works at Bailiffe Bridge and after Rev. Stanley's retirement his in-laws moved in with them.

Did no. 104 Wakefield Road then get given the name Ghyll Royd after the place where Mathew Stanley was born? Quite possibly.

Two years later this announcement appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post* on 16th June 1931.

STANLEY – June 13, at Cliffe Hill, Lightcliffe aged 76 years, JESSIE, wife of the Rev. Matthew Stanley (formerly minister of Oxton-road Church, Birkenhead). Interment at Lightcliffe Parish Church, today (Tuesday), at 3 p.m. (No flowers, by request.)

Janet Ann (aka Jessie) Stanley née Kant aged 76 years was buried in Lightcliffe plot, V10, on 16th June 1931.



A handwritten entry from a church register, likely the one mentioned in the text. It is written on a grid of lines. The first column contains the number '2913'. The second column contains 'V10'. The third column contains 'June 13th..'. The fourth column contains 'June 16th'. The fifth column contains 'Janet Anne Stanley'. The sixth column contains '76 years'. The entry is written in cursive script.

Three years later, the widower Matthew Stanley died on 14th November 1934. A number of newspapers published obituaries.

Huddersfield Daily Examiner

15th November 1934

DEATH OF THE REV. M. STANLEY

Prominent Congregational Pastor

Yorkshire Congregationalism lost one of the most striking personalities in the North by the death, which occurred yesterday at Ghyll Royd, Lightcliffe, of the Rev. Matthew Stanley, pastor for over twenty years of the Upper Independent Chapel at Heckmondwike.

Mr. Stanley, who was in his eightieth year, was an ex-chairman of the Yorkshre Congregational Union, a director of the London Missionary Society, and a governor for some twelve years of the Yorkshire United College, Bradford.

He was a native of Upper Midhope, a village near Penistone. He received his training for the ministry at the old Airedale College, from which the present United College sprang. His first pastorate was at Grimsby in 1882, and he was next stationed, after an interval at Laisterdyke, Bradford, at Oxton Road Congregational Church, Birkenhead, where he remained for twelve or thirteen years.

From Birkenhead he came to the Upper Independent Chapel Heckmondwike, home of the famous annual Lecture Services.

Retiring in 1929, when he was succeeded by the Rev. James Stewart, the present minister, he nevertheless maintained an intimate connection with the Upper Independent Chapel organisation, and continued to fulfil many preaching engagements throughout the Riding.

Mr Stanley leaves a daughter, Mrs Riding, with whom he resided in retirement. His wife predeceased him two or three years ago.

17th November 1934

THE REV. M. STANLEY

LINK BROKEN WITH PENISTONE
DISTRICT

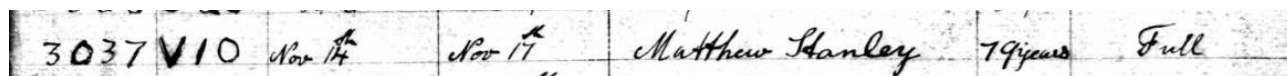
The death of Rev. Matthew Stanley (formerly of Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike) was announced on Wednesday.

Mr Stanley had many intimate connections with the Penistone district. Born at Upper Midhope in 1855, he was the youngest of a family of ten children. He spent his early life there and at Langsett and Stocksbridge. He was proud of his birthplace, and in recent years spent many a holiday amid its moorland farms. It might be said that preaching ran in his blood. His uncle Rev. Joseph Helliwell, was minister of Duke Street Congregational Church, Whitehaven; his eldest brother Rev. Joseph H. Stanley, was also a Congregational minister in Bradford; and his nephew, Rev. G. H. C. Stanley, is now at Brentwood Congregational

Church. His father George Stanley, preached for forty years at Stocksbridge Congregational Church. He was trained at Airedale College – now merged in the Yorkshire United – under Dr. Fairburn and Dr. Archibald Duff. He spent forty-six years in the ministry, serving in Grimsby, Bradford, Birkenhead, and latterly Heckmondwike. He was always a welcome and impressible preacher. Retiring from active ministry some five years ago, he went to live at Lightcliffe, near Halifax. Last July he took a leading part in anniversary services of Stocksbridge Congregational Church. It was exactly a hundred years since his uncle, Rev. J. Helliwell, had conducted services there. An effort had been made to discover all the descendants of the Helliwell brothers and sisters, and no less than seventy gathered for the occasion. This notable day was the last occasion on which Mr. Stanley took any public part.

He leaves one daughter, Mrs Robert Riding. The funeral will be held at Lightcliffe, Halifax, on Saturday.

Matthew Stanley's funeral was at Bramley Lane Congregational Church, Lightcliffe on 17th November 1934. He was then buried with his wife in plot V10 of St. Matthew's churchyard. A memorial service was held the next Sunday at Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike.



The headstone at the top of this article was presumably organised by this daughter Elizabeth Kant Riding née Stanley. The detail on the memorial inscription is similar to that on the Kant family's headstone in Heaton Baptist Cemetery, Bradford.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ELIZABETH
WIDOW OF THE LATE CAPT. KANT OF INVERNESS N B
WHO DIED AT MANNINGHAM NOV 7TH 1893 AGED 82 YEARS.

ALSO OF THEIR DAUGHTER ELIZABETH KANT
WHO DIED FEB 20TH 1923 AGED 81 YEARS.

ALSO OF THEIR SON CAPT. WILLIAM KANT
WHO DIED JULY 17TH 1925 AGED 84 YEARS.

There is a probate record

STANLEY the reverend Matthew of Ghyll Royd, 104 Cliffe Hill Lightcliffe near Halifax died 14 November 1934 Probate Liverpool 10 December to Charles Mackillop cashier and Francis Lawson Cook solicitor. Effects £11215 6s 2d

The Halifax Evening Courier for the 14th January 1935 had the following :-

Local Wills

The Rev. Matthew Stanley

The Rev. Matthew Stanley, of Ghyll Royd, 104, Cliffe-hill, Lightcliffe, formerly for 24 years Congregational minister at Upper Chapel, Heckmondwike, and at one time of Oxton, Birkenhead, who died on November 14, aged 79 years, left gross estate of the value of £10, 935 3s 4d., with net personality of £10,186 11s 6s, Mr Charles Mackillop, of 31, Euston-grove, Birkenhead, Cheshire, and Mr. Francis Lawson Cook, of 8, Cook Street, Liverpool, solicitor, are the executors.

Then on 30th October 1937 *Penistone, Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express* reported under

CHURCH NOTES

Mrs Riding, of Lightcliffe, Halifax, has consented to open the Christmas Fayre at the British Hall, for Stocksbridge Congregational Church funds, on December 4th. Mrs Riding is the daughter of the late Rev. Matthew Stanley, who was one of Yorkshre's leading Congregational ministers. As a boy he was associated with Stocksbridge Congregatonal Church leaving the district for college to train for the ministry.

Two years later when the September 1939 register was taken Robert and Elizabeth Riding were still at the Wakefield Road address in Lightcliffe.

1939 register

Robert T Riding 21 Oct 1901 Works Manager Textile Processing Oilskin Manufacturing

Elizabeth K Riding 21 Oct 1894 Unpaid Domestic Duties

The record for this person is officially closed.

Jean Riding 19 Apr 1930 At School

Address 104 Wakefield Road, Brighouse, Brighouse M.B., Yorkshire (West Riding), England

But then in semi-retirement they moved to the outskirts of Harrogate, Yorkshire to run a market garden. Robert died there in 1979. Two years later the Stanley's only child, Elizabeth Kant Riding passed away.

D.M.Barker

August 2025