

Francis Birkin Newton and family

There are only five Newton burials recorded in St. Matthew's Churchyard. The earliest is for a Thomas Newton of Lightcliffe who died in 1684, his story will be told later. This article concentrates on the other four related Newtons.



As you can see Francis Birkin Newton was born on 25th March 1811. His parents, John and Louisa Mary Newton, had him baptised at St. Mary's Church, Stockport, Cheshire on 22nd May 1811.

John Newton, a grocer of Manchester, had married Louisa Mary Birkin at the same church on 24th November 1807. She was described as being 'of this parish'. Louisa Mary Birkin, the daughter of Francis and Hannah Birkin, had been baptised at St. Anne's Church, Manchester on 17th April 1789. Her husband John Newton was probably from Woodhead, Cheshire where he was baptised on 19th February 1784, the son of a Samuel Newton.

Francis Birkin Newton became a tailor and moved to Manchester. On the 1832 – 1840 *Greater Manchester Electoral Registers* he was recorded as having a 'house & shop' at an address in Downing Street, Manchester. This would be his address when he married Jane Hewitt on 3rd May 1836 at St. John's Church, Manchester. He was a tailor and both were 'of this parish and town'.

Three children were baptised at the present-day Manchester Cathedral then known as the church of St. Mary, St. Denys and St. George, Manchester: Mary Ann on 14th May 1837, Elizabeth, born on 7th October 1838, on 23rd December 1838 and Francis William on 15th November 1840. The family's address was recorded as Chorlton upon Medlock, Manchester and their father was a tailor and draper.

On census night 6th June 1841 the family were still in the Downing Street house.

1841 census

Francis Newton	30 Tailor & Draper
Jane Newton	25
Mary Newton	4
Elizabeth Newton	2
Francis Newton	1
Address Downing St., Ardwick, Manchester	

Later that year, according to the following notices in the *London Gazette*, the tailor and draper experienced financial difficulties.

**THE COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT
DEBTORS.**

At the Court-House, at Lancaster, in the County of
Lancaster, on the 20th day of November 1841, at
Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon precisely.

And then a few days later, also from the *London Gazette*.

Francis Birkin Newton, formerly of No. 5, Downing-street,
Ardwick, Manchester, Tailor and Draper, then a Prisoner
for Debt in Lancaster Castle, and late of Downing-street
aforesaid, Tailor and Draper.

**THE COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT
DEBTORS.**

Saturday the 11th day of December 1841.

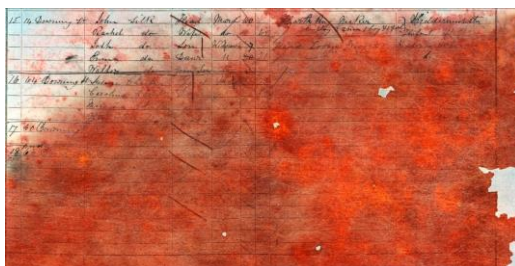
Francis Birkin Newton, late of Manchester, Lancashire,
Tailor and Draper, an Insolvent, No. 57,845 C. ; James
Broadbent and Henry Watson, Assignees.

During the 1840s three more children were born, John Birkin in Q3 1842, Sarah Jane in Q1 1847 and Louisa Martha on 20th May 1849. They were all baptised in Manchester on 25th September 1842, 19th May 1847 and 5th September 1849 respectively. Meanwhile it looks as if their father, still a tailor and draper, had put his insolvency problems behind him and entered a partnership with a George Lodge. But in 1850 this partnership was dissolved as the *London Gazette* announced.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Francis Birkin Newton and George Lodge, of Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, Tailors and Drapers, and carried on under the name, style, or firm of F. B. Newton and Co. was this day dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to and owing by the said late partnership will be received and paid by the said Francis Birkin Newton, by whom the business will in future be carried on.—As witness our hands this 17th day of May 1850.

*Francis Birkin Newton.
George Lodge.*

The 1851 census pages on which the Newton family's information was recorded have large red ink stains on them making them extremely difficult to read. A transcription has been attempted by the Findmypast website. This has been coupled with knowing some of the family data to hazard a, hopefully good, guess as to what was actually recorded.



You can just see the names of the son, John B. Newton, and daughter, Sarah J. Newton, at the top of the next page.

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of	
Chorlton upon Medlock		All Saints		Manchester			
No. of Householder's Name	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation
					Males	Females	
19	66 Manning	John B. Newton	Son		8		Schooler
		Sarah J. Newton	Daughter			4	Schooler

1851 census

Francis Newton Head 40 Tailor

Jane Newton Wife

Mary Ann Newton Dau 14

Elizabeth Newton Dau 13

Francis W Newton Son 11

John B Newton Son 8 Scholar

Sarah J Newton Dau 4 Scholar

Louisa M Newton Dau 1

???? Niece 19 House Servant

???? 15 Tailors' App

Address 66, Downing Street, Chorlton, Manchester, Lancashire, England

George Alfred Newton was born on 9th August 1851 not long after the census was taken in Chorlton upon Medlock so presumably the Downing Street address again. He was baptised as all his siblings had been at the church of St. Mary, St. Denys and St. George on 22nd October 1851.

In 1853 there was a more encouraging announcement for his father in the *London Gazette*.

**Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852.
Office of the Commissioners of Patents for
Inventions.**

**2156. To Francis Birkin Newton, of the city of
Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, Tailor,
for the invention of "improvements in the mode
or method of cutting and making up garments
so as partially to dispense with seams or sewing."
On his petition recorded in the Office of the Com-
missioners on the 16th day of September, 1853.**

The Newton's last child Charles Edmund Newton was born on 30th March 1854. He too was baptised at St. Mary, St. Denys and St. George now known as Manchester Cathedral on 1st November 1854. The baptism record gives the family abode as Newton, Manchester.

Francis Birkin Newton's name appears in various directories during the 1850s giving his residence and where his business was.

**Newton Francis Birkin, tailor & draper, 2
Tib st. and 66 Downing st. C-on-M.**

From the 1855 Slater's Directory for Manchester.

TAILORS.

Marked thus* are also Drapers.

(See also Woollen Drapers)

*Netherton Charles S. 12 Corporation st
*Newton Francis Birkin, 12 St. Ann's st
*Nicholson James, 17 St Ann's st

But then all the family, except the eldest daughter, moved across the Pennines to Halifax, Yorkshire sometime before the 1861 census. On 7th April 1861, 24-year-old Mary Ann Newton was a 'Sales woman' living in Chorlton-upon-Medlock but the rest of the family were in Skircoat, Halifax.

1861 census

Francis B Newton	Head 50	Costumier	
Jane Newton	Wife 48		
Elizabeth Newton	Dau 22		a note says Deaf
Frank W Newton	Son 20	Navigation Clerk	
John B Newton	Son 18	Architect	
Sarah J Newton	Dau 14	Scholar	
Louisa M Newton	Dau 11	ditto	
George A Newton	Son 9	ditto	
Charles E Newton	Son 7	ditto	

Address Highley's House Skircoat, Halifax

The eldest son Frank William Newton did not remain a clerk for long, joining his father in business in 1864. Although the partnership did not last long as yet another *London Gazette* announcement confirms.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Francis Birkin Newton and Francis William Newton, in the trade or business of Tailors and Woollen Drapers, at No. 13, George-street, in Halifax, in the county of York, and elsewhere, under the style or firm of Francis Newton and Son, was on the 1st day of September, 1868, dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due and owing to and from the said late partnership firm, will be received and paid by the said Francis Birkin Newton, who will in future carry on the said business on his own separate account.—Dated this 10th day of June, 1869.

Francis Birkin Newton.

Francis William Newton.

Francis William and his sister Sarah Jane married in 1866 but in different Halifax Churches.

1866 Marriage solemnized at _____ in the Parish of <u>Halifax</u> in the County of <u>York</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
108	Aug ^r 2	Robert Samuel Town	21	Bachelor	Cotton Spinner	Halifax	Sacot Town	Gentleman
		Sarah Jane Newton	19	Spinster	-	Halifax	Francis Birkin Newton	Sailor & Draper

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Robert Samuel Town in the Presence of us, Francis Birkin Newton Charles Musgrave Mary Anne Newton Francis William Newton

On 2nd August 1866 Rev. Charles Musgrave took the first service in the parish church, now Halifax Minster with Sarah Jane's father Francis Birkin Newton as well as her brother Francis William and sister Mary Annie signing as witnesses.

The *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser* on 7th September 1866 announced the second Newton wedding on 6th September 1866.

NEWTON—PRIESTLEY.—September 6, at the New Congregational Church, Square-road, Halifax, by the Rev. Brian Dale, M.A., Francis William, eldest son of Mr. Francis B. Newton, Moorfield Villa, Halifax, to Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr. Isaac Priestley, Woolshops, Halifax.

The architect John Birkin Newton married Lavinia Broadhead on 14th October 1869.

1869. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the Parish of <u>Armitage Bridge</u> in the County of <u>York</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
105	October 14 th	John Birkin Newton	27	Bachelor	Architect	Huddersfield	Francis Birkin Newton	Sailor
		Lavinia Broadhead	25	Spinster		Armitage Bridge		

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after Banns by me, Arthur Hardy Curd

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Birkin Newton in the Presence of us, Francis William Newton Lavinia Broadhead Ben Broadhead

The marriage of the oldest sister Mary Ann(i)e Newton to William Thomas Weston was registered in the Halifax district Q4 1870 but no parish record has been found.

This left the various family members at these addresses on 2nd April 1871.

1871 census

Francis B Newton Head 60 Tailor
Jane Newton Wife 58
Elizabeth Newton Dau 32 Deaf
George A Newton Son 19 Tailor's Cashier
Charles E Newton Son 17 Solicitor's Clerk
Address 41, Moorfield Villas, Skircoat, Halifax

1871 census

William T Weston Head 36 Wollen draper
(Mary) Annie Weston Wife 33
Address
57d Church St., Whitehaven, Cumberland

1871 census

Francis William Newton Head 30
Master tailor employing 14 men and 4 boys
Elizabeth Newton Wife 27
Earnest Priestly Newton Son 3
Edith Martha Newton Dau 2
Arthur Francis Newton Son 1
Jane Simpson Servant 18 General servant
Address
55 Savile Park Terrace, Skircoat, Halifax

1871 census

John B Newton Head 28
Architect & Surveyor
Lavinia Newton Wife 26
Eliza Woodhouse Visitor 28
Living on own means from Property
Sarah E Froggatt Visitor 18 Dressmaker
Mary A Boothroyd Servant 15 Servant
Address Grove St., Huddersfield

1871 census

Robert Samuel Town Head 26
Retired Manufacturer Damask
Sarah Jane Town Wife 24
George C Town Son 3
Harold N Town Son 1
Louisa M Newton Sister in law 21
Charlotte A M Hutchinson Servant 20
General Servant Domestic
Address
23 Savile Park Terrace, Skircoat, Halifax

Robert Samuel Town had previously worked for a worsted manufacturer in Allerton and then managed a cotton mill in Elland belonging to John Crossley & Sons. He then went into partnership with a damask manufacturer in Halifax. But the partners argued and the business failed. Hence the description on the census form that he was a retired damask manufacturer before he was thirty years old.

Francis William Newton, as a 'Master tailor' was employing men and boys by 1871 so it looks as if he set up a business on his own in Halifax. Both father and son appear on early 1870s directories as tailors and drapers.

Newton Mr Francis Birkin, Moorfield villa, 41 Savile park
Newton Frank, tailor & woollen draper, 26 Crown street ;
h 55 Savile park

Newton Fras. (Newton & Son) ; h 2 Moorfld. ville, Skirct
Newton Frank Wm. tailor and woollen draper, 28 Crown
street; h 8 Moorfield terrace, Savile park

Then from an 1875 Halifax directory

*Newton Frank, 28 Crown street
*Newton & Son, George street

But then Francis Birkin Newton and some of his family moved from Halifax to Lightcliffe. Myrtle Bank, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe was Charles Edmund Newton's address when he passed the final examination for the Law Society in June 1880. But then Charles with his mother and two sisters were at Ivy Cottage on Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe, not far from Holme House on 3rd April 1881.



His father, Francis Birkin Newton, a costumier, was back in Manchester with his eldest daughter and family on census night 1881.

1881 census

William Weston Head 50 Tailor's Cutter
 Annie Weston Wife 44
 Gerald Weston Son 8 Scholar
 Willie Weston Son 4
 Francis B. Newton Father in Law 70 Costumier
 Address 14, Bristol St., Manchester

1881 census

Jane Newton Head 68
 Elizabeth Newton Dau 42 Deaf
 Louisa Newton Dau 31
 Charles Newton Son 27 Clerk
 Address Ivy Cottage, Lightcliffe

1881 census

Francis W. Newton Head 40 Tailor's Manager
 Elizabeth Newton Wife 37
 Ernest Priestley Newton Son 13 Scholar
 Edith Martha Newton Dau 12 ditto
 Arthur Francis Newton Son 11 ditto
 Rosa Newton Dau 9 Scholar
 Louisa Jane Newton Dau 7 ditto
 Norman Newton Son 5

Charles George Newton Son 4
 Percy Birken Newton Son 2
 Mary Hewitt Newton Dau 2m
 Address 40 Moorfields Villas, Skircoat, Halifax

1881 census

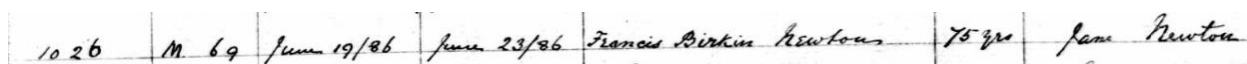
Robt. Saml. Town Head 36
 Commercial Traveller (Dry Saltery)
 Sarah Jane Town Wife 34
 Harold Newton Town Son 11 Scholar
 Chas. Gilbert Town Son 8 ditto
 Calvin Reginald Town Son 6 ditto
 Hugh Percy Town Son 4
 Fredk. Oliver Town Son 2
 Constance Louisa Town Dau 10m
 Lizzie Price Servant 20 General Domestic
 Address 50 Cowper Place, Bradford

George Alfred Newton, later a commercial traveller, has not been found on the 1881 census. He will no longer be followed, and neither will his brother John Birkin Newton, an architect and surveyor who lived with his family in Huddersfield.

Francis Birkin Newton died on 19th June 1886 with the *Manchester Courier* on 26th June 1886 making this announcement.

NEWTON – AT his residence, Green House, Lightcliffe Francis Birkin Newton, (formerly of this city). Born March 25th 1811; died June 19th, 1886.—No cards.

He was buried in plot M69 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 23rd June 1886. As you can (just) see the plot was owned by his wife Jane Newton.



1891 census

Jane Newton Head 78 Head
Louisa M Newton Dau 41
Address 44, Heath Rd., Bradford

The widow Jane Newton and a daughter moved again to a Bradford property, perhaps because two of her other daughters were living there.

1891 census

Annie Weston Head 54 Tailoress
Gerald F Weston Son 18 Stationer
William N Weston Son 14
Mechanical Draughtsman Assistant
Address 9 Shakespeare St., Bradford

This address 9, Shakespeare Street, Bradford was the address given when four-year-old William Newton Weston born 21st December 1876 in Hull, was baptised on 1st June 1880 in Bradford. Was it a Weston family home?

The Westons do seem to have moved around – Halifax, Cumberland, Hull, Manchester and now Bradford.

William Weston was not at home at the beginning of April 1891 and, in fact, has not been found after the 1881 census. His wife (Mary) Annie Weston was said to be married on the above census.

1891 census

Francis W Newton Head 50 Tailor
Elizabeth Newton Wife 47
Ernest P Newton Son 23
Patent Agents Clerk
Edith M Newton Dau 22
Arthur F Newton Son 21 Tailor's Assistant
Rosa Newton Dau 19
Louisa J Newton Dau 17 Pupil Teacher
Norman Newton Son 15
Charles G Newton Son 14
Percy B Newton Son 12 Scholar
Mary H Newton Dau 10 Scholar
Elizabeth Newton Sister 52 Deaf
Address 40 Moorfield Villas, Skircoat, Halifax

1891 census

Robert S Town Head 46
Commercial Traveller
Sarah J Town Wife 44
Harold M Town Son 21
Clerk Worsted Spinner's Office
Charles G Town Son 18
ditto Merchant's ditto
Calvin R Town Son 16
ditto Woolcomber's ditto
Hugh P Town Son 14 Scholar
Frederic O Town Son 12 ditto
Constance L Town Dau 10 ditto
Philip A Town Son 8 ditto
Violet E Town Dau 6 ditto
Walter R Town Son 4 ditto
Address 14 Beech Grove, Bradford

On the 1893 Kelly's Directory Francis William Newton was listed as a tailor at 9, Commercial Street, Halifax but then later directories have the address as 31, Commercial Street.

Jane Newton née Hewett died on 10th April 1894 in the Bradford district. She was buried with her husband in Lightcliffe plot M69 on 13th April 1894.

The question then isWhat happened to the two unmarried daughters, deaf Elizabeth and Louisa Martha Newton? The 1901 and 1911 censuses offer some clues but cannot tell the whole story.

1901 census

Mary Annie Weston Head 64
 Gerald F Weston Son 28 Printer
 William N Weston Son 24
 Consulting Engineer
 Louisa M Newton Sister 51
 Living on own means
 Address 26, Acton Lane, Willesden,

1901 census

Robert Samuel Town Head 56
 Commercial Traveller Dyers Drysalteries
 Sarah J Town Wife 54
 Calvin R Town Son 26
 Iron Founders Manager
 Hugh P Town Son 24 Dyeing Chemist
 Frederick O Town Son 22
 Worsted Spinners Salesman
 Constance L Town Dau 20
 Philip A Town Son 18
 Articled clerk incorporated accountant

1911 census

William Newton Weston Head 34
 Secretary of Limited Company (Engineers)
 Mary Annie Weston Mother 74 Widow
 Melissa Stokes Servant 19 General Servant
 Address 31 Park Road, Loughborough

1911 census

Francis Wm Newton Head 70
 Tailor (maker)
 Elizabeth Newton Wife 67
 Norman Newton Son 35 Wool extractor
 Percy Birkin Newton Son 32 Bookkeeper
 Edith Newton Dau 42
 Chas Geo Newton Son 34
 (on a visit) Outfitter (Mens Clothing)
 Address 1 Heathfield Place, Halifax

Violet E Town Dau 16
 Walter R Town Son 14
 Lizzie [Elizabeth] Newton Sister 62
 Address 20 Whites Terr,, Bradford

1901 census

Francis W Newton Head 60 Master Tailor
 Elizabeth Newton Wife 57
 Edith M Newton Dau 32
 Arthur F Newton Son 31 Tailor's Cutter
 Louisa J Newton Dau 27
 Board School Teacher
 Norman Newton Son 25
 Woollen Manufacturer's Clerk
 Charles G Newton Son 24
 Tailor Shop Assistant
 Percy B Newton Son 22
 Stuff Manufacturer's Clerk
 Mary H Newton Dau 20 Daughter
 Address 31 Commercial Street, Halifax

1911 census

Elizabeth Newton Head 72 Private Means
 Address
 Rookes Hall, Norwood Green, nr Halifax

1911 census

Robert Samuel Town Head 66
 Commercial Traveller
 Sarah Jane Town Wife 64
 Calvin Reginald Town Son 36
 Constructional Engineer
 Philip Algernon Town Son 28
 Clerk Accountant
 Violet Ethel Town Dau 26
 Walter Raymond Town Son 24
 Clerk Stuff Merchant
 Address 20 Whites Terrace, Manningham

Notice that in 1901 Louisa Martha Newton was with her older sister, Mary Annie Weston, in Willesden, Middlesex, and Elizabeth (Lizzie) was with another married sister Sarah Jane Town and her family in Bradford. Sarah Jane Town née Newton died on 21st March 1917 in Bradford.

On 2nd April 1911 Elizabeth Newton was at Rookes Hall, Norwood Green, with a note stating that she was 'Totally Deaf Since 25'. Her other unmarried sister Louisa Martha Newton has not been found on the 1911 census but may well have just been away from Rookes Hall at the time. Her name appears on all the *West Yorkshire Electoral Roll* lists from 1898 to 1913 as living at Rookes Hall which was her qualifying residence. There are other names listed for Rookes Hall pictured below suggesting that the property was split into more than one residence. It is interesting that Elizabeth Newton's name never appears in the register.

FZ 237	Newton Louisa Martha	Rookes hall, Norwood green	House	Rookes hall
FZ 238	Noble Edith	Village street, Norwood green	House	Village street
FZ 239	North Elizabeth Ann	Garden cottage, Norwood green	House (joint)	Garden cottage
FZ 240	North Emily	Garden cottage, Norwood green	House (joint)	Garden cottage
FZ 241	Robertshaw Rebecca	Strawberry cottage, Norwood green	House	Strawberry cottage
FZ 242	Sharp Harriet	Norwood house, Norwood green	House	Norwood house
FZ 243	Smith Johannah	Upper rookes, Norwood green	House	Upper rookes



The 1911 census did indicate that Elizabeth Newton occupied three rooms. The previous year's evaluation had a three roomed property in the hall comprising a kitchen scullery, a living room and one bedroom on a second floor over another part of the property. This may well have been at the back of the hall; bottom left in the image below.



[Apparently at Rookes Hall today there is a redundant staircase, and some blocked up doors and windows which are probably a legacy of the multiple occupancy over a century ago.]

Elizabeth Newton, died on 9th March 1918. The death of the 79-year-old deaf spinster was registered in the North Bierley district so perhaps the sisters had moved out of their small Rookes Hall property to the Wyke address below. Her body was brought back to Lightcliffe for burial with her parents in plot M69 of St. Matthew's churchyard on 11th March 1918.

This left the surviving Newton siblings that have been followed at these addresses on 19th June 1921.

1921 census

William Newton Weston Head 44
Head Director of Engineering Co.
Mary Annie Weston Mother 84
Gertrude Sculthorpe Servant 40 General Servant
Address 31 Park Road, Loughborough

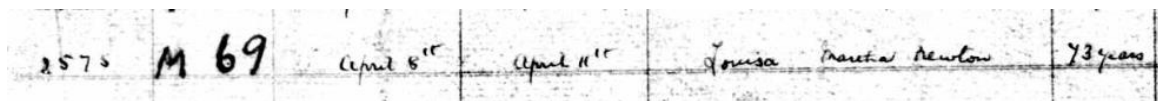
1921 census

Louisa M Newton Head 72 Home duties
Address 8 Carr Cottages, Wyke,

1921 census

Francis William Newton Head 81 None
Elizabeth Newton Wife 77 Home Duties
Edith Newton Dau 52 Home Duties
Arthur Francis Newton Son 51 Secretary
Norman Newton Son 46 Wool Carboniser
Percy Birkin Newton Son 42
Cashier for Joseph Smithson Ltd Wool Manufacturers
Address 1 Heathfield Place, Halifax

Louisa Martha Newton died on 8th April 1923. Again, her death was registered in the North Bierley district. The 73-year-old was buried with her parents and sister in Lightcliffe plot M69 on 11th April 1923.



The bottom half of the memorial inscription on the headstone says :-

ALSO OF ELIZABETH, THEIR DAUGHTER

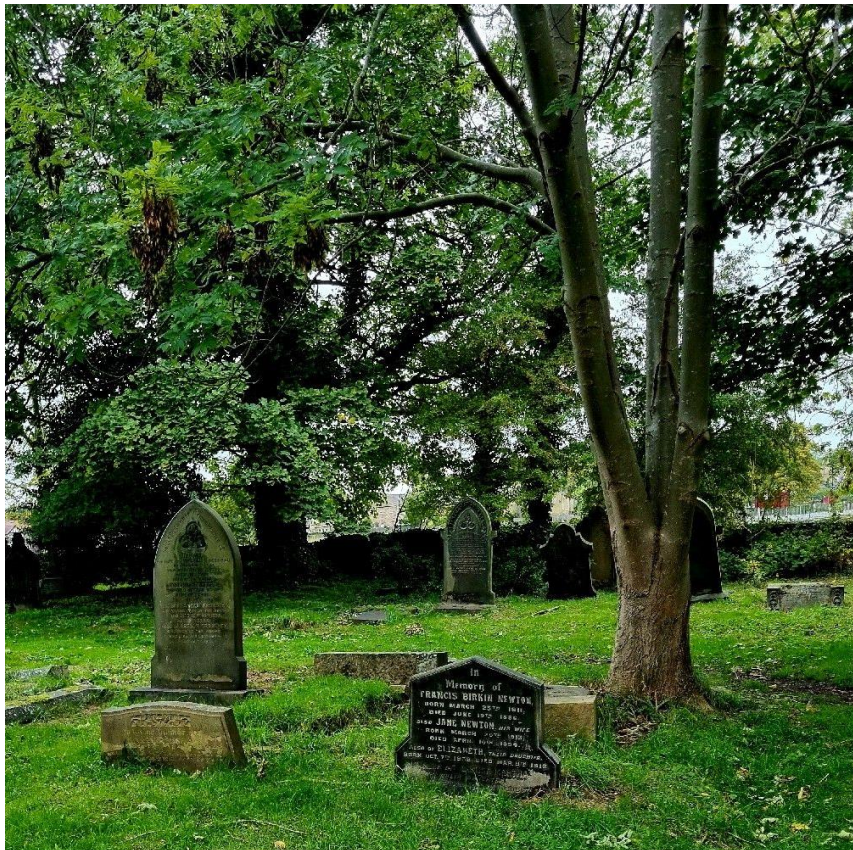
BORN OCT. 7TH, DIED MAR 9TH 1919

ALSO OF LOUISA MARTHA

THEIR DAUGHTER

BORN MAY 20TH 1849 DIED APRIL 8TH 1923





The Newton headstone (centre foreground) on plot M69

Later that year, on Saturday 13th October 1923, her brother Francis William Newton died at his residence in Heathfield Place after a short illness. His obituary in the *Halifax Courier* noted that he was a well-known retired tradesman, stating that the respected Halifax tailor was, they thought, the eldest tradesman in the town when he had retired two years previously.

The oldest Newton sibling Mary Annie Weston lived with her son in Loughborough as shown on both the 1911 census and the 1921 census. The elderly widow died on 13th March 1924 aged 86 from severe burns after her clothing had caught fire a few days before. The coroner concluded that due to the lady's failing eyesight and immobility she had not realised that the flames from the fire had caught her clothing resulting in the tragic accident.

A sad end to the story of this Halifax tailor and his family.

D.M.Barker

April 2026