

John Leach and family

John Leach was the fifth child of Thomas and Ellen Leach. Their story has already been told in the article **Thomas and Ellen Leach**

John was born on 16th September 1852. By then the Leach family may have been living in Northowram. But they took him back to the Wesleyan chapel at Thornton, Bradford for his baptism on 12th December 1852. His early days are documented in the above article.

On 23rd March 1872, he married Martha Mitchell. Born 21st December 1851 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 15th February 1852, Martha was the daughter of Sarah Mitchell.

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1872. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the <i>Parish of Halifax</i> in the County of <i>York</i>								
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.
307	March 23. 1872.	John Leach	20	Bachelor	Weaver.	Hippesholms	Thomas Leach	Overlooker
		Martha Mitchell	20	Spinster	—	Hippesholms	—	—
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>James Pearson</i> or after <i>Married</i> by me, <i>William Henry Brighouse</i> This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>John Leach</i> and <i>Martha Mitchell</i> in the presence of us, <i>James Pearson</i> and <i>Tom Thomas</i>								

The eldest three Leach children William, Sarah Ellen and Alfred were also baptised at St. Matthew's on 1st June 1873, 1st November 1874 and 3rd October 1875. Each time their father was described as a carpet weaver. As the family lived at Bailiffe Bridge, no doubt John worked for T.F. Firths & Sons Ltd. Another daughter Ethel was born Q4 1878, her birth being registered in the Bradford district, but no baptism record has been found.

Thomas born 19th August 1881 and Emma born 16th April 1885 were also baptised at Lightcliffe on 6th November 1881 and 10th June 1885 respectively. Three-month-old Emma Leach of Wyke was buried in the churchyard on 11th August 1885. This was probably in an unknown plot although she was remembered on her Leach grandparents' memorial along with a baby brother called Tom. This was may have been the Tom Leach whose birth and then death were registered in the Bradford district Q4 1877.

1881 census

John Leach Head 28 Mill Hand (Carpet)
 Martha Leach Wife 29
 Willie Leach Son 9 Scholar
 Sarah E. Leach Dau 7 ditto
 Alfred Leach Son 5 ditto
 Ethel Leach Dau 2
 Address Field Top, Wyke

1891 census

John Leach Head 38 Carpet Overlooker
 Martha Leach Wife 39
 William Leach Son 19 Carpet Weaver
 Sarah E Leach Dau 17 ditto Setter
 Alfred Leach Son 15 ditto Weaver's Assistant
 Ethel Leach Dau 12 Scholar
 Tom Leach Son 9 ditto
 Address Springwell Terrace, Hipperholme cum
 Brighouse

Winifred Leach arrived on 9th January 1892 and like her siblings was baptised at St. Matthews Church, Lightcliffe on 26th June 1892.

During the next decade many of her siblings would marry. Oldest brother William married Miriam Holgate in Q2 1895 followed a year later by Alfred who married Lucy Ellen Binks on 24th October 1896. By then their father John had retired from T.F. Firth & Sons Ltd at Bailiffe Bridge and moved with his wife and daughters to the Wheat Sheaf Inn in Halifax. This was the address recorded for daughter, Sarah Ellen, when she married Walter Armstrong on 5th January 1899. The Armstrongs were living in Lightcliffe when the 1901 census was taken which was where their son John Frederick Armstrong was born. His cousin Ronald Russell Leach was also born in Lightcliffe. But his parents, William and Miriam, had moved to the New Inn at Low Moor by the time their daughter Eva, born on 4th born October 1899 was baptised at Holy Trinity, Wibsey, on 9th May 1900.

William was the third innkeeper in the family, as his uncle, Harry Leach, was also a landlord at the Rose and Crown in Warley where he and his family were on census night 1901. Read more about him at

Harry Leach and family

1901 census

John Leach Head 48
 Hotel Proprietor Licensed Victualler
 Martha Leach Wife 49
 Ethel Leach Dau 22 Assistant School Teacher
 Thomas Leach Son 19 Mechanic Fitter Apprentice
 Winifred Leach Dau 9
 Elizabeth Tennant Servant 19 Barmaid
 Sarah Debney Servant 16 General Servant
 Elizabeth Overton Servant 19 ditto
 Address 18 Market St., Halifax

Alfred and Lucy Ellen with a daughter Ivy were in Bowling, Bradford. His occupation is difficult to read; it has been transcribed as Fruit Merchant – see later.

1901 census

William Leach Head 29 Licensed Victualler
 Mirian Leach Wife 30
 Ronald R Leach Son 5
 Eva Leach Dau 1
 Edith Spencer Servant 19 Servant
 Address Union St., North Bierley

1901 census

Walter Armstrong Head 29 Tailor
 Ellen Armstrong Wife 26
 John F Armstrong Son 1
 Address Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe

During the next decade the youngest Leach son, Thomas, became a civil engineer. From at least 1906 onwards the bachelor travelled back and forth across the Atlantic. He took up an engineering post in Montreal, Canada but also seems to have travelled to the USA. On one of his voyages, he gave the address of his Uncle F(red) Leach of Firthcliffe, Cornwall County as his intended destination.

More will be explained about this uncle in the article

Thomas Alfred Leach and family

On 26th September 1907 daughter Ethel Leach, a teacher, married Tom Crossley, a mason, at Christ Church, Mount Pellon, Halifax.

And then there were these newspaper announcements and reports.

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 17th September 1910

LEACH – At his residence, 28, Newstead Terrace, in his 58th year, John Leach formerly of the Boar's Heads Hotel, Halifax. – Will be interred at Lightcliffe Church today (Saturday) September 17th, at 3 o'clock, the cortege leaving the residence at 1.30. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation. No cards.

Halifax Daily Guardian 16th September 1910

DEATH OF MR. J. LEACH

A Former Halifax Landlord

We regret to record the death of Mr. John Leach, formerly a well-known licensed victualler which took place on Wednesday at his residence 28, Newstead-terrace. Born 58 years ago, he was the son of the late Mr. Thomas Leach, who was for some time engaged at Crossley's mills, but removed whilst his family were still young to Bailiffe Bridge. Deceased himself worked at Messrs. Firth's mills in that neighbourhood for a matter of thirty years, and as the result of this steady but energetic habits, he eventually held the position of foreman.

Upon his retirement, he became the licensee of the Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Halifax, and remained there for six years, when he, his wife and two daughters paid a visit to America. Here Mr. Fred Leach, a brother, has a responsible office in Messrs. Firth's mill at Firthville [should be Firthcliffe], and it is interesting to note that an elder brother had also emigrated, though he died some time ago

at New Brunswick. A third brother is now landlord of the Sun Inn at Lightcliffe.

Some years ago, Mr. Leach undertook the tenancy of the Boar's Head Hotel, and in this capacity, he gathered a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in Halifax. His health, however, commenced to decline, and after a successful stay of 18 months, he was advised to retire. Since then, he had lived quietly in the Newstead district, and had found congenial recreation in bowls, being a familiar figure at the green at Thrum Hall. Invitations were more than once extended to him to serve on the committee, but to those he was unable to accede on account of his condition.

Deceased did not take any part in public work, but he was of an agreeable disposition and won the friendship and esteem of all with whom he came into contact. He leaves a widow, three sons, and three daughters, and with these the deepest sympathy will be felt. One of the sons embarked on what promises to be a highly successful engineering career in the new Continent. Another son is a licensee at Bingley. The funeral will take place at Lightcliffe Church, the cortege leaving the house for there at 1:30 tomorrow (Saturday)

On 17th September 1910 the *Halifax Daily Guardian* described the funeral, notice who attended and who was absent as well as who the pallbearers were.

THE LATE MR. J. LEACH

Interment at Lightcliffe

The interment of the late Mr. John Leach, of 23 Newstead-terrace, Halifax, formerly of the Boar's Head Hotel. The Rev. C. R. Hone, vicar of Pellon, conducted a service at the residence prior to the departure of the cortege and the Vicar of Lightcliffe, the Rev. R. P. Whittington, officiated at the graveside.

The private mourners were: - Mrs Leach (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. Leach (son and daughter in law), Miss Winnie Leach (daughter) , Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, (son in law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Leach, Mr. and Mrs. Crossley, Mr. Ronald Leach (grandson), Miss Ivy Leach (granddaughter), Mr. Jack Armstrong, Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. Armitage, Mr. and Mrs. Ingham, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leach, Miss Stockwell, Miss Maisie Pickering, Mr. B. Jowett, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Asquith, Mr. and Mrs. Schofield, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Haggas, Mr. and

Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. McIvor.

At Newstead, the bearers were the following members of the Halifax Bowling Club - Mr. J. F. Thackeray, Mr. E. W. Thackeray, Mr. J. Bailey and Mr. W. S. Farnell.

Nephews of the deceased gentleman fulfilled a similar office at Lightcliffe. They were Mr. Norman Stockwell, Mr. Fred Stockwell, Mr. Francis Bradley, Mr. J. T. Ingham, Mr. R. Ingham and Mr. Geo Pickles.

The coffin was of fumer wainscot oak, with brass mountings, and the inscription was

JOHN LEACH

Born September 15th 1852

Died September 14th 1910

Just a few months later his son Alfred Leach, a 35-year-old 'Fruit Merchant' travelled to the USA arriving on 23rd December 1910. That explains why his wife and daughters were on their own in Bowling, Bradford on 2nd April 1911. William Leach and family were at the White Horse Inn, Bingley. His widowed sister, Sarah Ellen Sharp, was at 73, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe with brother Harry Leach and family not far away at the Sun Inn, Lightcliffe. The Crossleys were in Huddersfield.

1911 census

Martha Leach	Head 59 Widow Independent Means
Winifred Leach	Dau 19
Address 28 Newstead Terrace, Halifax	

Not long after the 1911 census was taken, Thomas Leach came back from Canada for his wedding to Maisie Huntingdon Pickering who if you look back was one of the mourners at John Leach's funeral.

LEACH – PICKERING – May 11th, at Holy Trinity Church, by the Rev. H. O. Parnell, Vicar of St. Michael's, Thomas Leach, civil engineer, of Montreal, Canada, younger son of the late Mr. John Leach and of Mrs Leach, Newstead Terrace to Masie [sic], youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Pickering, Carlton-street, Halifax.

Almost immediately, on 20th May 1911, they sailed from Liverpool to Montreal where a daughter Marjorie Huntingdon Leach was born on 30th October 1913.

Alfred Leach must have returned to the UK to collect his wife and daughters as they then all sailed to the USA. They arrived at Niagara Falls, New York on 12th November 1912. Again, Uncle Fred Leach's address in Willow Avenue, Firthcliffe was given as their intended destination. Alfred worked as a weaver at Firth's carpet factory and eventually his daughters would marry other employees at the factory. Ivy married a printer, Roland Warden, on 5th December 1914 and Ethel Maude married a burler, Leon Howard Harter, on 25th September 1926. The families lived near one another on Maple Avenue and Willow Avenue in Firthcliffe.

Meanwhile back in Yorkshire Winifred Leach married William Tempest, an electrical engineer, in Halifax, on 25th September 1917. They would move at first to London and then Hampshire. Her mother, widow Martha Leach née Mitchell, died on 23rd March 1921 aged 69, probably at the Huddersfield home of her daughter Sarah Ellen Armstrong. Three days later on 26th March 1921 she was buried with her husband in Lightcliffe plot 76.



The difficult to read bit of the memorial inscription continues

ALSO OF MARTHA WIFE OF THE ABOVE

BORN DECEMBER 21ST 1851

DIED MARCH 23RD 1921

Now what happened to the Lightcliffe baptised siblings will be tidied up.

Sarah Ellen Armstrong died in Huddersfield on 13th April 1925. Her sister Ethel Crossley was buried at Christ Church, Barkisland on 24th July 1935. Eldest brother, William Leach, who had moved from the Kings Head, Keighley to be the licensee at the Devonshire Hotel, Skipton in 1924, died there on 8th July 1942. Winifred Tempest died on 8th December 1950 on Hayling Island, Hampshire.

Over in the USA Alfred's daughter, Ivy Warden, died on 21st May 1944 and was buried at Firthcliffe. Four years later her mother Lucy Ellen Leach née Binks died on 28th December 1948. After that the widower Alfred made a few trips back to the UK, on well-known Cunard liners, the *RMS Queen Mary* and the *RMS Queen Elizabeth*. Each time he stayed at the Devonshire Hotel by then run by his sister-in-law and family. Alfred died on 17th June 1954 at Firthcliffe where there is this family headstone. Ethel Maude Harter née Leach died on 7th May 1979.



Meanwhile brother Thomas, the civil engineer, his wife and daughter moved from Montreal, Canada to Rochester, New York, USA where eventually he founded the Leach Steel Corporation. His wife, Maisie, died on 11th May 1953. She was buried at St. Paul's Church, Rochester, New York, USA on 14th May 1953. Like his brother the widower Thomas Leach made a number of trips back to the UK, again on the *RMS Queen Elizabeth*, to stay at the Devonshire Hotel in Skipton This was something that was mentioned in his obituary in the *Halifax Evening Courier* published on the 28th February 1958 and transcribed below. Thomas Leach died on 19th February 1958.

President of American Firm

FORMER HALIFAX

MAN'S DEATH

The death has occurred of Mr. Thomas Leach, M.I.C.E. of Beechwood, Knollwood Drive, Rochester, New York, and formerly of Halifax. He was president of the Leach Steel Corporation, Rochester, New York.

Educated at Halifax Technical College, Mr. Leach was apprenticed at J. Blakeborough and Sons, Ltd., valve manufacturers, of Brighthouse before emigrating to Canada in about 1910.

Subsequently he went to New York, founding the Leach Steel Corporation, of which he was president. He retired from active business about three years ago. In 1953 and again in 1955 he visited Halifax district.

His father, the late Mr. John Leach, for many years kept the Boar's Head Hotel, Halifax.

Mr. Thomas Leach married Miss Mavis [sic] Pickering, a member of a well-known Halifax family.

He leaves a daughter and grandson.



D. M. Barker

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