

The Ann Walker and Anne Lister churchyard tour.

Plot 1 The Howorths

- Shibden Hall tenants living at small holdings called Pump and Ireland in Southowram near Shibden Hall
- As well as small holders they were joiners and so made coffins for the Listers and others.
- Charles Howorth senior made barometers and thermometers – remember the thermometer in *GJ*. AL took a CH 'walking stick barometer' to London for valuation and she got in a 'pothole' as it was not worth a halfpenny. Check the value of Charles Howorth instruments now.
- Son Charles Howorth and his son James were AL's 'go to' maintenance team at Shibden Hall mending & making amongst other things library shelves, doors and gates and constructing the moss hut.

Plot 2 Samuel Sowden

- Shibden Hall tenant who did not die a grisly death in a pigsty, did not have a son Thomas and his wife was Martha not Mary. Sally Wainwright apparently now apologises for portraying her *GJ* character as she did. Why did she choose for him to be murdered in this bizarre manner, apparently a legendary Halifax murder that a son confessed to on his death bed? Perhaps because he was the tenant who was recorded in AL's diary as being 'an errant yellow' who made a challenging comment about 'tenants taking against landlords'.
- Lived at Sutcliffe Wood Bottom near Shibden Hall and was prominent in the locality, churchwarden at St. Matthew's, governor of Hipperholme GS, member of committee of wool staplers at The Piece Hall
- Father of ten, youngest two sons went from Hipperholme GS to Cambridge University and became vicars. Both friends of Rev Arthur Bell Nicholls and thus the Brontes. Rev. Sutcliffe Sowden took the service when Charlotte Bronte married Rev. Nicholls and then took her funeral. Rev Sutcliffe Sowden accidentally drowned in a canal near Hebden Bridge. His brother Rev. George Sowden then took over as vicar of the same parish.

Plot 3 James Hinscliffe junior

- James Hinscliffe junior is not in *GJ* but is in AL's diaries where at least twice he was turned down for positions on the Shibden Hall estate by AL because his father, the Lightcliffe coal merchant, was 'yellow' and not 'blue'.

Plot 4 James Hinscliffe senior

- James Hinscliffe senior Lightcliffe coal merchant and coal pit owner who in *GJ* was seen negotiating between the Rawsons and AL.
- He lived at Knowl Top, Lightcliffe on the Crow Nest estate so was not subjected to AL's political persuasion although his son suffered because his father was 'yellow' i.e., Whig

Plot 5 Samuel Washington

- Samuel Washington land agent for many years for the Walkers at Crow Nest – his father, James Washington, had worked for them for over 50 years – who also became land steward for Anne Lister's Shibden Hall estate at the beginning of *GJ*.
- This Lightcliffe family at times lived at Fenny Royd, Crow Nest and then Lydgate House.
- As Crow Nest land agent was very much involved in AW affairs including the lunacy and then with her heir Evan Charles Sutherland Walker (ECSW). Also, churchwarden at St. Matthew's

Plot 6 The Washington family

- The BBC's promotional information states that Samuel and his wife Hannah had six 'energetic' daughters, which they did but they also had a son, Edward, who died aged just 22 weeks – first name on MI.
- Their eldest daughter was called Susannah, but she did not marry a non-existent Thomas Sowden and in fact she died in her twenties still a Washington.
- Another daughter Anna Maria Washington also died in her twenties.

Plot 7 George Mackay Sutherland

- George Mackay Sutherland, a Scotsman, AW's brother-in-law married to her sister Elizabeth.
- Had an estate in Scotland where most of their children were born.
- He & Elizabeth were 'the committee' when AW was declared a lunatic and had to live near her i.e., not in Scotland. George looked after Ann's financial affairs and Elizabeth her wellbeing.
- After Elizabeth died of tuberculosis in Surrey he lived with surviving children and most likely AW at Shibden Hall where his teenage daughter Mary Sutherland and then he died in 1845 and 1847.

Plot 8 John Smith

- John Smith, another Scotsman who ECSW, AW's heir brought down from Scotland with his family to be Crow Nest land agent after Samuel Washington died.
- Tragedy struck at the beginning of 1864 when his three older children aged 10, 8 & 6 died on consecutive days almost certainly of diphtheria and were buried together on 5th January 1864.
- Also, an architect – he designed Lightcliffe National School, the primary school down the road – and a farmer. His obituary comments on his 'modern' farming practices when he farmed Lower Crow Nest farm.
- His wife Johanna Levack Smith who was buried near by – memorial with cross – died aged 95 in 1927.

Plot 9 Lydia Fenton nee Wilkinson

- Lydia Wilkinson was the youngest daughter of the Lightcliffe vicar Rev Robert Wilkinson and a friend of Ann Walker at the time AL started visiting AW at Lydgate House in 1832.
- Married Rev George Fenton who took services, which AL comments on in her diary, for his father-in-law at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe.
- As a friend Lydia Fenton & her husband visited AW at Shibden Hall. Lydia may have been involved in the lunacy negotiations.
- By 1851 AW had moved back to the Cliffe Hill mansion and Lydia was widowed. Lydia Fenton was recorded as AW's housekeeper at Cliffe Hill mansion in the 1851 census.

Plot 10 Ann Walker and her spinster aunts

- When AW's spinster aunts Mary and Ann died in 1822 and 1848, they were buried in a vault in the church that their father William Walker built. Their memorial plaques are stored in the new church. Obviously, headstones were not erected for burials within a church, but memorial plaques were placed near the vault.
- When AW died in 1854 she was buried with her spinster aunts in the same vault. Her nephew and heir ECSW placed a reading pulpit over the vault when he refurbished the church in the 1860s and put up the brass plaque – now in the tower – explaining this.

Plot 11 Ann Walker's family

- When AW's older baby brother, William, died at Cliffe Hill aged just 3 weeks in 1898 her father John Walker had an older brother William Walker – there were lots and lots of Williams - who resided at Crow Nest.
- By the time her older teenage sister Mary died in 1815 the family were living at Crow Nest, father John having inherited the estate on the death of his bachelor brother in 1809.
- AW's parents John & Mary Walker were buried in the plot when they died in 1823 just months apart.
- The last name on the memorial inscription is their granddaughter, Mary Sutherland, AW's niece, her sister & GMS's teenage daughter – as the MI explains - who died at Shibden Hall in 1845.
- By then this Walker grave was full. Did AW then decide to be interred with her spinster aunts in the vault inside the church her grandfather had built?

Other related **Gentleman Jack** burial plots in Lightcliffe churchyard

Elizabeth Wilks Parkinson nee Cordingley

- Elizabeth Wilks Cordingley was AL's maid for many years, travelling with her both in this country and abroad including the extended stays in Paris.
- Latterly and in *GJ* she was a servant at Shibden Hall.
- She left Shibden Hall in January 1836 and a year later, to AL's apparent surprise, married a William Parkinson, a tenant farmer / agricultural labourer.
- When she died aged 75 in 1864, she was buried in an 'unknown grave within closed churchyard' as was her husband. This may or may not have been near the Parkinson plots with elaborate ledger stones close to the Till Carr Lane entrance.

Rev. Robert Wilkinson

- Vicar of Lightcliffe and Headmaster of Heath GS Halifax where the family lived.
- Father of Lydia Fenton - & other daughters also buried in Lightcliffe - so father-in-law of Rev. George Fenton who took services at Lightcliffe for him as commented on in AL's diaries.
- AL applied to him for a suitable pew – given the Mytholm pew which she had fitted out in green velvet - at Lightcliffe so that she & AW could worship there rather than in Halifax parish church. It was in the gallery. If you stand with your back to the tower door it would have been up to your left.
- AL made many comments in her diary about the length and suitability or not of his sermons.
- As vicar of Lightcliffe for many years – he was still the vicar when he died aged 87 - he was eligible for burial within his church.

Shibden Hall key tenants (as noted in Jill Liddington's book *Female Fortune*)

The following key tenants who get mentions in AL's diaries and were expected to follow any Lister coffins – again read JL's *Female Fortune* - were interred in the churchyard in known plots with ledger stones. The Burial Search on the website will identify the location of the plots for anyone interested.

- William Hardcastle
- Abraham Hemingway
- Mark Hepworth
- George Robinson

There may be others.

More details of all the above can be found on our *People of Interest* page on the website.

www.lightcliffechurchyard.org.uk

Visitors may also like to walk down the churchyard to view :-

The Priest's or Curate's House now Till Carr Cottage and its stone plaque

- Built in 1637 in a position north-west of the old church for the priests or curates.
- In 1764 it was described as a parsonage of two low stone floored rooms with two chambers above.
- Occupied after 1775 by the sextons and vergers.
- In 1866 moved on the orders of ECSW to its current position as explained on its stone plaque.
- Sexton Francis William Bradley and his wife described it as being 'cold and damp' in the early C20th.

D.M.Barker
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Ann Walker and Anne Lister linked gravesites



1. AL Tenant Charles Howorth senior
AL Joiner Charles Howorth junior
2. AL Tenant Samuel Sowden
AL Tenant's wife Martha Sowden
3. In AL diary James Hinscliff junior
4. AL coal merchant James Hinscliff senior
5. AW & AL Land agent/steward Samuel Washington
Wife Hannah Washington
6. Daughter Susannah Washington
Daughter Anna Maria Washington
7. AW Brother in law George Mackay Sutherland
8. John Smith Crow Nest Land agent/steward
9. In AL diary Rev. George Fenton
AW Friend / Housekeeper Lydia Fenton
10. **Ann Walker**
AW Aunt Mary Walker
AW Aunt Ann Walker
11. AW Baby Brother William Walker
AW Sister Mary Walker
AW Father John Walker
AW Mother Mary Walker
AW Niece Mary Sutherland

This is very roughly where the gravesites can be found. Use the QR codes on the posts and / or the notice board posters for more directions.

Drone photograph courtesy of Friend Gary Edmondson.

Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard.