

# THE HISTORY OF BANK VILLA

In Burnlee, Holmfirth

Deborah Wyles

## Introduction

This intriguing looking house bears more resemblance to a small chapel but it was in fact a school. Fortunately for historians a number of documents relating to the house have been preserved and are transcribed here. The oldest dates from 1851 but refers to another document dated 1840, before the house was built..

It appears to have been a school for just a few years and then was converted into a house. A famous man, Ben Turner, was born in the Burnlee area and went to this school. He became an MP for Batley but often returned to the Holme Valley which he loved.

Names which are frequently repeated are subsequently listed in this typescript by their initials. Comments by the transcriber are *in italics*.



*Bank Villa in 2019*

# The documents

## 1) Indenture: 21st November 1851

*This is a very large document (width about 0.5 m) and has three pages*

Indenture relating to a Trust Deed relative to the site and premises of the Upperthong School.

### **Enrolled in her Majesty's High Court of Chancery 5<sup>th</sup> March 1852.**

Between	Joshua Moorhouse of Cuttall Bottom in Upperthong	Esquire
	John Harpin Birks House Upperthong	Stone Merchant
	William Harpin Tranmere Liverpool	Broker
	James Golden Heap Mortlake House Congleton	Esquire
	The Reverend Joseph Lister Charlesworth Upperbridge	Clerk
	Thomas Lister Charlesworth Upperbridge Upperthong	Gentleman
	Francis Harrison Walmsley Spring Grove Upperthong	Surgeon
	George Henry Crosland Upperbridge Upperthong	Printer/ Stationer
	The Reverend Stephen Pering Lampen Slaithwaite	Clerk
	Abel Thewlis Binns Upperthong	Manufacturer

### **First page of the document**

A covenant obtained in a certain indenture dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1840 made between John Harpin (first part) and Minerva his wife both since deceased and James Golden Heap (second part) and Alexander Oliver (?sp) (third part) gentleman and by a writing of surrender bearing even date with the said Indenture a close of land called Birks of which the plot or parcel of land or ground hereinafter described is part with the appurtenances together with other hereditaments were for the considerations in the said Indenture mentioned surrendered by the said John Harpin and Minerva his wife into the hands of the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield according to the custom thereof to the use and behoof of the said James Golden Heap his heirs and assigns forever for securing payment by the said John Harpin his heirs and executors administrators and assigns of the sum of £6000 with interest as therein mentioned upon which surrender the said James Golden Heap was duly admitted tenant.

And whereas by Indenture dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 1845 made between the said John Harpin since deceased of the one part and the said James Golden Heap of the other part the said hereditaments and premises were further charged in the mortgage with the principal sum of £2000 and interest therein mentioned and the principal sum of £5000 part of the principal sums of £6000 and £2000 and no more is now due and owing to the

said James Golden Heap all interest in respect thereof having been paid up to the date hereof.

And whereas the said John Harpin deceased made and duly executed his last will and testament bearing date 7<sup>th</sup> May 1849 whereby after specifically devising certain allotments in the Township of Holme he gave and devised unto his friend the said Joshua Moorhouse and his two sons the said John Harpin (party hereto) and William Harpin all the rest residue and remainder of his messuage lands tenements and hereditaments and all other the real estate whatsoever and wheresoever situate in the County of York of or to which he or any person or persons in trust for him was or were seized or entitled of the nature of Copyhold or of Customary tenure in possession (?revision) remainder or expectancy or of which he had power to dispose or to appoint by that his Will of which the plot or parcel of land hereinafter described is part with their rights members and appurtenances to hold unto and to the use of the said Joshua Moorhouse John Harpin (party hereto) and William Harpin their heirs and assigns according to the nature and quality thereof respectively upon trust that they (JM, JH, WH) should absolutely sell and dispose of surrender and assure the same either entirely and together or in parcels by public auction or private contract to any person or persons willing to become the purchaser or purchasers thereof respectively for such price or prices or sum or sums of money as they think reasonable and Testator declared that the receipt or receipts of his said Trusts for the purchase money should effectively discharge the person or persons paying the same from being answerable or accountable for the misapplication or non application thereof or from being obliged to see to the application thereof or to enquire into the necessity of any such sale and Testator appointed the said JM, JH, WH executors thereof.

And whereas the said Testator this life soon after the date and execution of his said above in part recited will without having revoked or varied the same and said will was on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1849 proved by all the said Executors in the proper Ecclesiastical Court of York.

And whereas at a Court Baron holden for the Manor of Wakefield (county York) on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1851 the said JM, JH, WH were duly admitted tenants of the Copyhold hereditaments devised by the said will.

And whereas the said JM, JH, WH with the consent of the said James Golden Heap have agreed with the said Joseph Rhodes Charlesworth, Francis Harrison Walmsley, George Henry Crosland, Stephen Pering Lampen and Abel Thewlis for the absolute sale to them of the said plot or parcel of land or ground and premises hereinafter described with the appurtenances and the inheritance thereof according to the custom of the said Manor free from incumbrances at the sum of £34 whereupon it was also agreed that the said purchase money should be paid to the said James Golden Heap in part satisfaction and discharge of the sum of £5000.

And whereas in pursuance of the said agreement the said JM, JH, WH and James Golden Heap have on the day of the date of these presents surrendered into the hands of the Lord of the Manor of Wakefield aforesaid ALL that plot, piece or parcel of land or ground as the same date is now marked and staked and intended to be immediately walled and fenced off out of and from a certain close of land called or commonly known by the name of Birks situate lying or being at or near to Burnlee in Upperthong aforesaid containing by admeasurement 170 superficial square yards or thereabouts (be the same more or less) bounded eastwardly by the residue of the same close westwardly and southwardly by land belonging to James Shaw and northwardly by the Highway which said premises are delineated in the maps or plan drawn in the margin of the now section surrender. Together with all easements appurtenances and hereditaments corporeal and

incorporeal belonging thereto or connected therewith and the reversion and reversion remainder and remainders yearly and other rents issues and profits thereof.

And all the estate right title interest use trust property possession inheritance benefit claim and demand whatsoever both at law and in Equity of them the said JM, JH, WH and James Golden Heap and each and every of them in or to the same premises (the same premises being Copyhold of the yearly rent to the Lord of the said Manor of (*there is a gap here*) and compounded for to the use of and behoof upon such trusts and for such ends intents and purposes and subject to such powers provisoes declarations and agreements as are expected and declared in and by a certain Indenture intended to bear even date

## Second page of the document

With the said surrender and made between the said JM, JH, WH (first part) and JGH (second part) and the said JRC, TLC, FHW, GHC, SPL, and AT (third part) and for no other trust intent or purpose whatsoever and the admittance upon the same surrender also bears even date therewith which said Indenture so referred to is these presents. This Indenture that under the authority of an Act passed in the fifth year of the Reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria entitled ' An Act to afford facilities for the conveyance and endowment of sites for schools' and of the Act of the eighth year of the present Majesty explaining the same the use and estate limited and vested by the above in part recited surrender in the said (*all the third party names*) and the true intent and meaning thereof is and are hereby declared to be upon the several Trusts and for the several ends intents purposes hereinafter expressed and declared concerning the same (that is to say) Upon Trust And for the purposes of the said first recited Act and upon trust to permit the said premises and all Buildings thereon erected or to be erected to be forever hereinafter appropriated and used as and for a school for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufaturing and other poorer classes in the Ecclesiastical District of Upperthong and for no other purpose. And it is hereby declared that the said school shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Inspector or Inspectors of Schools for the time being appointed in conformity with the order in Council bearing the date 10<sup>th</sup> August 1840 and shall always be in union with and conducted accordingly to the principles and furtherance of the ends and designs of the National Society for promoting the Education of the Porr in principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales and subject to and in conformity with the declaration aforesaid the said School and premises and the funds and present endowment thereof and such future endowments in respect whereof no other disposition shall be made by the donor thereof shall be directed controlled governed and managed in manner hereinafter specified that is to say the principal officiating minister for the time being of the said Ecclesiastical District shall have the superintendance of the religious and moral instruction of all the scholars attending the premises to be used for the purpose of a Sunday School under his exclusive control and management. But in all other aspects the Management direction control and government of the said School and premises and of the fund and endowments thereof and the selection of the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress and their assistants (except when under the provisions hereinafter mentioned the dismissal of any Master Mistress or Assistant shall be awarded by the Bishop of the Diocese or the arbitrators as the case may be) shall be vested in and exercised by a Committee consisting of the principal officiating minister for the time being of the said Ecclesiastical District his licensed Curate or Curates if the Minister shall appoint him or them to be a member appointed that is to say Joseph Charlesworth of Eldon House Upperthong Esquire, Joshua Charlesworth of South House Holmfirth Gentleman, James Charlesworth of Upperbridge Gentleman, Nathan Thewlis of Lane

Upperthong Manufacturer, George Thewlis of Rock House in Wooldale Manufacturer, Richard Bower of Upperbridge Manufacturer, the said Francis Harrison Walmsley, Thomas Lister Charlesworth, George Henry Crosland, and Abel Thewlis and Joseph Crosland of Upperbridge Stationer and John Robinson of Spring Lane Upperthong Fine Tenter and the said persons continuing to be members of the Church of England as by Law established and to have a beneficial interest to the extent of a life estate at the least in real property situated in the said Ecclesiastical District or to be resident therein or in a Parish or Ecclesiastical District adjoining thereto and to be contributors in every year to the amount of twenty shillings each at the least to the funds of the said school. And any vacancy which shall occur in the number of the persons last mentioned by death resignation incapacity or otherwise shall be filled up by the selection of a person or persons so qualified as aforesaid. And the persons so to be elected shall be elected by the majority of votes or such of the contributors during the year current at the time of the election to the amount of ten shillings each at the least to the fund of the said school being members of the Church of England and qualified as the person to be elected by residence or estate as shall be present at the meeting duly convened for the purpose of selection or not being present thereat shall vote by any paper or papers sent on or before the day of such meeting to the Chairman thereof and signed by any such contributor in which shall be named the person or persons whom such contributor shall desire to elect and each of the contributors qualified to vote shall be enlisted at every such election to give one vote in respect of each such sum of ten shillings so however that no person shall be entitled to give more than six votes in respect of any sum contributed. Provided also that no appointment to serve the office of Churchwarden nor any such election shall give or vest any rights to or in any lay person to serve in or upon the Committee or in anywise to interfere with the management of the School and the funds and endowments thereof until after he shall have at a meeting of the said committee made and signed in a Book to be kept at the said school in the presence of the Chairman a declaration in the manner and form following that is to say " I AB do solemnly and sincerely declare that I am a member of the United Church of England and Ireland as by law established" Provided also that no default of election nor any vacancy shall prevent the other members of the committee from acting until the vacancy shall be filled up AND it is hereby declared that

### **Third page of the document**

PERSON shall be appointed or continue to be the Master or Mistress of the school who shall not be a member of the said Church of England AND the committee shall annually select one of the members thereof to act as secretary who shall keep minutes of the proceedings at the meetings thereof in a Book which shall be provided for that purpose and shall give due notice of all Extraordinary meetings to each member of the Committee. And the principal officiating Minister of the said Ecclesiastical District shall be chairman of all meetings by yhr majority of votes of the members attending the same shall appoint one of their number to be Chairman AND if upon any matter there shall be an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second being the casting vote AND in case any difference shall arise between the Minister or Curate and the Committee of Management hereinbefore mentioned respecting the prayers to be used in the School (not being the Sunday School or the religious instruction of the scholars attending the same or any regulation connected therewith or the exclusion of any Book the use of which in the School may be objected to on religious grounds or the dismissal of any Teacher from the school on account of his or her defective or unsound instruction of the children in religion the Minister or Curate or any member of the said Committee may cause a written statement of the matter in difference to be laid before the Bishop of the Diocese within which the school shall be situated a copy thereof having been previously

communicated to the Committee or Minister or Curate if they or he shall not have been parties or privy to the making of the statement respectively and the Bishop may enquire concerning and determine the matter in difference and the decision of the Bishop in writing under his hand thereon when laid before the Committee shall be final and conclusive in the matter AND the committee of Management for the time being is hereby expressly required to take all such measures as may be necessary for immediately carrying out the said decision into complete effect. AND in case any difference other than and except such difference as last described shall arise in the Committee of Management the minority thereof (being not fewer in number than one third of the whole of the Committee) may make request in writing to the Lord President of Her Majesty Most Honourable Privy Council for the time being and to the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the said School shall be situated and thereupon the said Lord President may nominate one of the Inspectors of Schools appointed as aforesaid to be an arbitrator in the matter in difference and the said Bishop may nominate one of the beneficial clergymen of the said Diocese to be another arbitrator in the same manner. And the said arbitrator so nominated as aforesaid shall jointly select one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace being a lay member of the said Church of England as another arbitrator. And in case they shall not jointly select such third arbitrator within the space of thirty days next ensuring their first meeting the Archbishop of the Diocese within which the said school shall be situated and the Lord President may jointly appoint a third arbitrator. AND the three arbitrators so nominated as aforesaid shall enquire concerning the last mentioned matter in difference and the award in writing under the hands of the said arbitrator or of any two of them when laid before the said Committee shall be final and conclusive in the matter. AND the Committee of Management for the time being is hereby expressly required to take all such measures as may be necessary for immediately carrying the said award into complete effect. AND it is hereby further declared that if the said Bishop or the said arbitrators upon any such reference as aforesaid shall direct or award that any Master or Mistress or Teacher in the said school shall be dismissed such direction or award when a Copy thereof shall have been served upon the said Master, Mistress or Teacher as the case may require shall operate as a dismissal of the said Master, Mistress or Teacher so as to prevent him or her thenceforth from having any interest in his or her office in the said school or premises under or by virtue of this deed and so disqualify him or her from holding thenceforth any right or interest under this and by virtue of his or her previous or any future appointment.

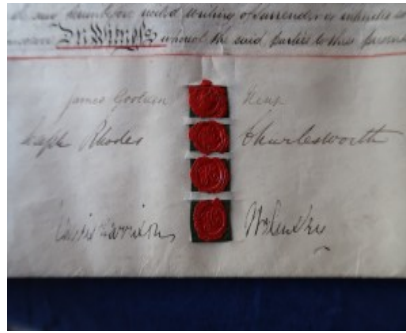
AND the said committee at a meeting to be held in the month of April in each year may elect and appoint a Committee of not more than Four Ladies being members of the said Church of England to assist them in the visitation and management of the Girls and Infants schools which ladies committee shall remain in office until the end of the current year. AND each of them the said JM, JH, WH and JGH so far as relates to his own acts and deeds only and not further or otherwise doth hereby for himself and his Executors and administrators covenant and declare with and to the said JRC, TLC, FHW, GHC, SPL, and AT their heirs and assigns that the said JM, JH, WH and JGH or any of them have not nor hath at any time or times heretofore made done or committed or executed or knowingly or willingly permitted or suffered or been parties or priors or party or bring to any act deed matter or thing whatsoever whereby or by reason or means whereof the said plot parcel of land or ground surrendered by the the said hereinbefore recited writing of surrender or intended so to be or any part or parts thereof are is or can shall be or may be in anywise impeached charged affected or incumbered in (?tells) estate or otherwise howsoever In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals

**Margin note on the document third page:**

Taken and acknowledged by John Harpin one of the parties to this Deed  
21<sup>st</sup> November 1851 at Holmfirth in West Riding of County of York  
Before me Martin Kidd a Master Extraordinary in Chancery

**Signatures.**

N.B That of Thomas Lister Charlesworth is missing.



**2) Transfer of mortgage 18th December 1876**

*This document is a shortened version of the original.*

*No document has been seen which describes the process leading to the end of the building in use as a school.*

Jonathan Mosley

to William Mosley

Copyhold of schoolhouse, cottage, land and hereditaments at Burnlee in Upperthong.

This Indenture 18<sup>th</sup> December 1876 between Jonathan Mosley of Foster Place near Holmfirth and William Mosley of Mount in Fulstone near Holmfirth, farmer.

A surrender of 30<sup>th</sup> April 1875 .....re. A Court Baron of 4<sup>th</sup> June 1875 Jonathan Mosley was admitted tenant.

Indenture of 1<sup>st</sup> May 1875 made between Thomas Haywood and Jonathan Mosley .....the sum of £80 + interest at £5 per cent per annum.

*(This £80 was still owing to Jonathan Mosley)*

William Mosley has agreed to pay Jonathan Mosley £80 on having a transfer of the said mortgage debt and the interest thereof and the securites for the same.

.....land (admeasure exactly as described in the first document (Indenture above) and also all that building lately used as a schoolhouse with the cottage underneath the same and the outbuildings adjoining thereto erected and built and now standing and being on the said plot or parcel of land or on some part thereof all which said premises are now in the occupation of the said Thomas Haywood

### 3) Wakefield Court Baron

**Holme August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878**

Messrs J and W Mosley

to Mr Henry Palmer

At this court it was witnessed .....Samuel Stephenson Booth, gentleman and in consideration of £115 to William Mosley of Mount in Fulstone, farmer (the mortgagee of the building) with power to sell .....paid by Henry Palmer of Thongsbridge, fulling miller .....(Birks) now in the occupation of Albert Senior.

### 4) Abstract of title 1878

Mr Thomas Haywood and his mortgage to copyhold property at Burnlee in Upperrhong in the Parish of Almondbury in the County of York.

*This document has a resume of the document of 28<sup>th</sup> November 1851. Here is a shortened form of that document with the salient details*

.....£34 to James Golden Heap of Mortlake House in Congleton .....by the Rev. Joseph Rhodes Charlesworth of Linthwaite clerk, Thomas Lister Charlesworth, gentleman, Francis Harrison Walmsley of Spring Grove in Upperrhong surgeon, George Henry Crosland of Upperbridge printer and stationer, the Reverend Stephen Pering Lampen of Slaithwaite clerk, and Abel Thewlis of Binns in Upperrhong manufacturer at the request of .....Joshua Moorhouse of Cuttall Bottom in Upperrhong Esquire, John Harpin of Birks House in Upperrhong stone merchant, and William Harpin of Tranmere Liverpool broker.

£34 was to buy the plot of land (Birks in Burnlee) *this is how it is described on maps*

JRC, TLC, FHW, GHC, SPL, and AT were admitted tenants accordingly

.....covenant dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1840 where John Harpin dyer and Minerva his wife .....James Golden Heap £6000 .....

*already transcribed in the first document*

**Holmfirth Great Court Baron June 4<sup>th</sup> 1875**

.....£100 to Joseph Rhodes Charlesworth then of Elstead near Godalming Surrey clerk, Thomas Lister Charlesworth of Higher Brown Hill in Saddleworth bank manager, Francis Harrison Walmsley of Manchester surgeon, George Henry Crosland, Stephen Pering Lampon of New Wortley Leeds clerk, and Abel Thewlis of Meltham woollen manufacturer.(The Trustees of Schoolhouse and land .....with the consent of Reverend William Flower of Upperrhong, clerk the principal officiating minister of the Ecclesiastical District of Upperrhong also Thomas Haigh of Upperbridge tailor, and Jonas Hoyle of Park Head Upperrhong grocer, the churchwardens of the said District, James Charlesworth of Upperbridge gentleman, Nathan Thewlis of Lane in Upperrhong manufacturer, George Thewlis of Rock House in Wooldale manufacturer, (all of which above mentioned persons together with the said Francis Harrison Walmsley, Thomas Lister Charlesworth, George Henry Crosland and Abel Thewlis were the managers and directors for 'the time being' of the said school house) testified .....by Thomas Haywood of Burnlee in Upperrhong farmer the *n.b this next word is not legible – appears to be in some strange script*



.....the said JRC, TLC, FHW, SPL, GHC, AT by the direction of and with the consent of Reverend Flower, TH, JH, JC, NT, GT, and with the consent of the Right Honourable Richard Asshelton Cross the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the time being and by the direction of the said Thomas Haywood testified 30<sup>th</sup> April then last passed did surrender into the hand of the Lord of the said Manor according to custom thereof

All that plot of land .....were then in the possession of the said Thomas Haywood. Together with all easements and hires whatsoever to the said (?belf) or connected thereof

And the estate

To the use of Jonathan Mosley of Foster Place near Holmfirth farmer his heirs and assigns

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1875 (?Indre) made between Thomas Haywood and Jonathan Mosley

*JM had agreed to lend TH £80. TH is tenant of JM*

## **5) Admittance 27<sup>th</sup> January 1893**

Messieurs Alfred Palmer and others

Trustees of the will of Henry Palmer decd.

Henry Palmer late of Bank Villa

**Will dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 1891**

Two sons, Alfred Palmer of Victoria Holmfirth fulling miller

Joseph Palmer of Clough Marsden fulling miller

and Henry Parsons of Upperbridge boot and shoe dealer – the son of his then present wife

Henry Palmer died 17<sup>th</sup> December 1892, Alfred Palmer, Joseph Palmer and Henry Parsons inherit.

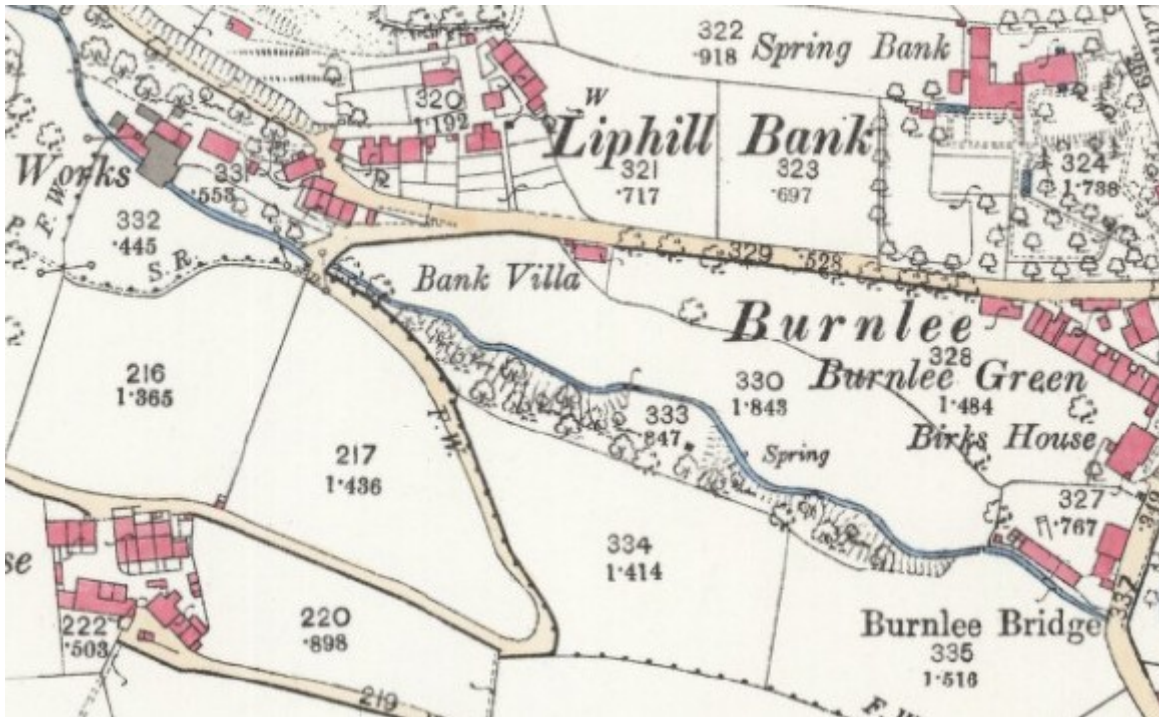
There is a yearly rent to the Lord of the Manor of one penny to the Right Honourable Charles Alfred Worsley Earl of Yarborough and the Right Honourable Marcia Amelia Mary, Countess of Yarborough his wife Baroness Conyers in her own right.

## **6) Indenture 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1893**

Very similar to (5) It has mortgage conditions (repair, default payment etc.)

It mentions John Palmer's wife – Elizabeth Lydia

A surrender on this date - £150 paid by John Palmer of Nabs to Alfred Palmer. John Palmer is admitted tenant



*Bank Villa is named on the 25" to the mile OS map published in 1893*

## 7) Admittance 4<sup>th</sup> October 1893

Mr John Palmer

to Halifax Permanent Building Society

### **Holmfirth Great Court Baron**

For the sum of £60 John Palmer of Nabs Lane Slaithwaite fulling miller out of funds of Halifax Permanent Building Society .....building formerly used as a schoolhouse but some time ago converted into a dwelling house with the cottage underneath.

## 8) Mortgage Indenture 13<sup>th</sup> July 1899

John Palmer

to Mr Thomas Clegg and Mrs Emma Clegg

Between John Palmer of Bank Villa out of business and Thomas Clegg of Spring Cottages Dobcross in Saddleworth (?tuner) and Emma his wife .....  
(the Cleggs are lending £46 to John Palmer)

## 9) Admittance 28<sup>th</sup> July 1899

Mr John Palmer + uxor

to Mr Thomas Clegg and Mrs Emma Clegg

as item 8

## 10) Covenant of surrender 16<sup>th</sup> September 1914

Mr John Palmer and his mortgagees

to Herbert Hollingworth

Copyhold dwellinghouse at Burnlee

Indenture between Thomas Clegg now of Broomer Street Ravensthorp Dewsbury and Emma Clegg his wife of the first part, John Palmer of Upper Holme Slaithwaite out of business of the second part and Herbert Hollingworth of Cross Roads Holmfirth grocer of the third part.

.....John Palmer is selling to Herbert Hollingworth for £130

.....Now £46 is owing to the Cleggs

.....Birks (*the other name for Bank Villa*) is currently in the occupation of Dorothy Eleanor Bottomley and Laura Lindley

## 11) Admittance 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1914

Mr and Mrs L.T. Sutton

by direction of John Palmer

to Herbert Hollingworth

.....in consideration of the sum of £46 paid by Herbert Hollingworth to T. Clegg and E. Clegg and of the sum of £84 paid by Herbert Hollingworth to John Palmer  
.....=£130 .....sold.

## 12) Assent 10<sup>th</sup> July 1962

The personal representatives of Herbert Hollingworth deceased

to Mr John Hollingworth

To the vesting of freehold premises ..Bank Villas Liphill Bank Road near to Burnlee

Martins Bank Ltd the personal representatives of Herbert Hollingworth of Rydal Bank Burnlee retired grocer who died 5<sup>th</sup> January 1962. Probate granted 17<sup>th</sup> May 1962  
.....John Hollingworth of Rydal Bank grocer (the beneficiary) ....the house.

## 13) Land Registry Search 11<sup>th</sup> February 1966

All that dwellinghouse and flat known as Bank Villa, Liphill Bank Road in the occupation of Arthur Wells and the flat unoccupied.

## 14) Conveyance 14th February 1966

Mr John Hollingworth

to Mr and Mrs Arthur Wells

Dwellinghouse and premises known as Bank Villas

John Hollingworth of Rydal Bank Burnlee grocer (vendor) and Arthur Wells of Bank Villas cloth scourer and Ethel Wells wife (purchasers)

Price £750

## 15) Death Certificate

Arthur Wells born 24<sup>th</sup> January 1910 and died 6<sup>th</sup> December 1978

## 16) Conveyance 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1980

of freehold dwellinghouse and premises Bank Villas

Mrs E Wells

to Mr and Mrs L.T. Sutton

Ethel Wells of Bank Villas to Leslie Thomas Sutton and Denise Sutton his wife both of Bank Villas Liphill Bank Road.



*A map included in the 1980 documents indicates the triangular shape of the plot of land which the property occupied.*

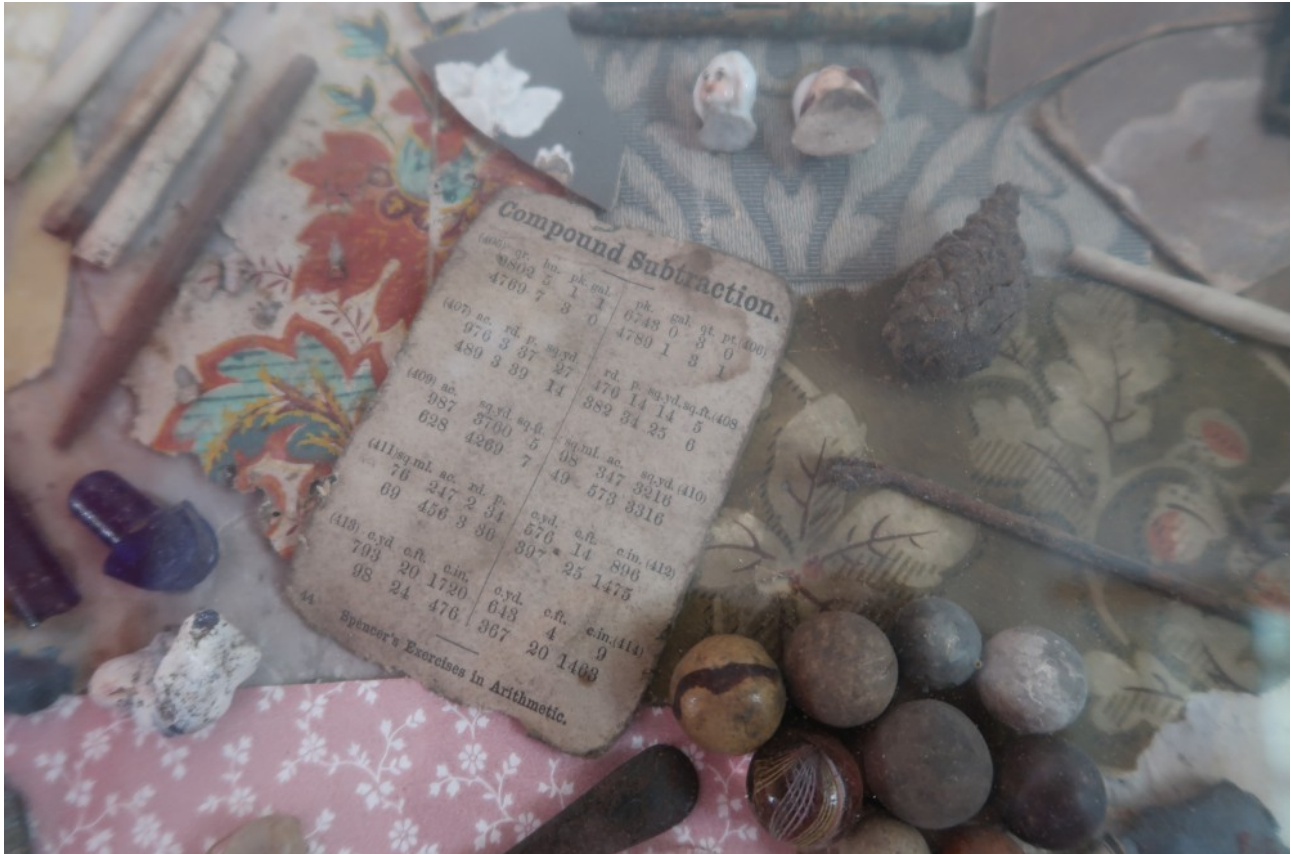
*The last two occupants in this parcel of documents have appeared to rent and then subsequently buy the property.*

No sale value is given after 1966.

## 2019

In 2019 the property is for sale again. The house is now no longer two separate dwellings. The flat on the lower level is incorporated into the house.

There is a framed picture of various objects which have been found under floorboards and torn off strips of past wallpapers,



## People

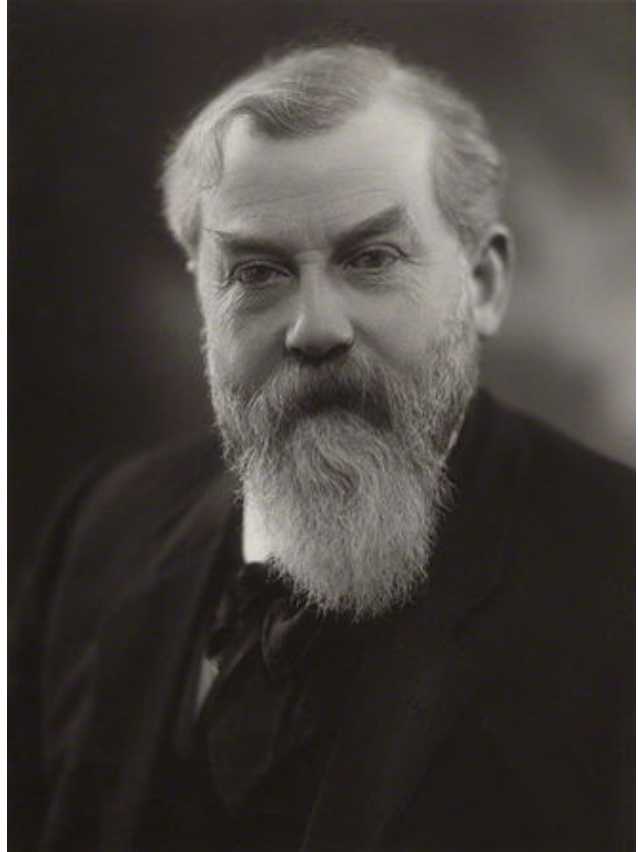
### John Harpin

John Harpin, one of the first trustees and the son of the John Harpin from whose estate the land was taken, died under unusual circumstances. He was a lieutenant. in the 32<sup>nd</sup> West Riding Volunteers in Holmfirth. On 04 May 1872 he had attended a meeting of the unit in Holmfirth, apparently in full dress uniform as it involved the wearing of a sword and scabbard.

At six o'clock next day, Sunday, his housekeeper, Elizabeth Hollingorth heard him call out "*I am very bad*" and found him kneeling on the kitchen floor wearing the sword belt with the scabbard empty, the sword being found in the hall stand. She called the manservant, Alexander Day and they found him to be bleeding from a wound just above his left hip. The doctor was called and bound up the wound. However he died on the Friday from loss of blood. There were footprints in the flower bed and blood on the window sill which the servant thought was as a result of him trying

to get into the house through the window although it was eventually decided he came in through the front door. He said nobody had interfered with him but he remembered some difficulty getting his sword off.

## Ben Turner



Ben Turner MP for Batley and Morley, was born August 25<sup>th</sup> 1863 near Holmfirth and went to live in Bank Villa (in the basement) as a young child and this is evidenced by the 1871 census when he was listed as seven years old. He had two brothers, two sisters and they lived with their parents. According to Hilary Haigh in her book *Holme Valley Illustrated*, the family lived in the basement, in other words the lower ground floor which opens onto the yard or garden at the rear

Ben became MP between 1922 -1924 and again between 1929 – 1931. In his younger years he was a textile worker and joined a trade union in 1883 when he was involved in a weavers' strike in 1883. He became a full-time Union organiser from 1889 and was one of the founder members of the independent Labour Party in 1893. In 1929 he held a Ministerial post – Secretary for Mines.

He married Elizabeth (née Hopkinson) and they had five daughters:

- Norah Emma (1885 -1967)
- Elizabeth Ann (1886 -1961)
- Alice (1889 – 1952)
- Edith Hypatia (1890 – 1960)
- May (1897 - 1954)

He died in September 1942.

## Herbert Hollingworth

The Hollingworths were grocers in Upperthong for several generations. In the 1950s they ran a delivery scheme whereby a traveller would take orders from households and the goods were delivered by van two days later. This was a very useful service; homes with their own motor transport were rare and many lay far from the bus routes. It is not known how long this continued or how far it extended back into the past. The basic concept has been reinvented for the internet age.

There is no traceable connection with John Harpin's housekeeper.

## Additional Information

1) H.J. Morehouse, author of *The History and Topography of the Parish of Kirkburton and of the Graveship of Holme* (published in 1861), records the school at Burnlee as follows:

*'a National Schoolroom was erected at this place. About the same time the Independent Dissenters also built a schoolroom here.'*

2) The census documents reveal that the property was unoccupied until the twentieth century apart from the 1871 entry which lists Ben Turner then aged seven living with his parents and siblings.

3) There was more than one school in the Upperthong Township, that at Bank Villa being one of them. As much care as possible has been taken to not confuse the research here with that of the other schools.