

Whitlam family of Grimsby and their connection with Saltaire in Yorkshire

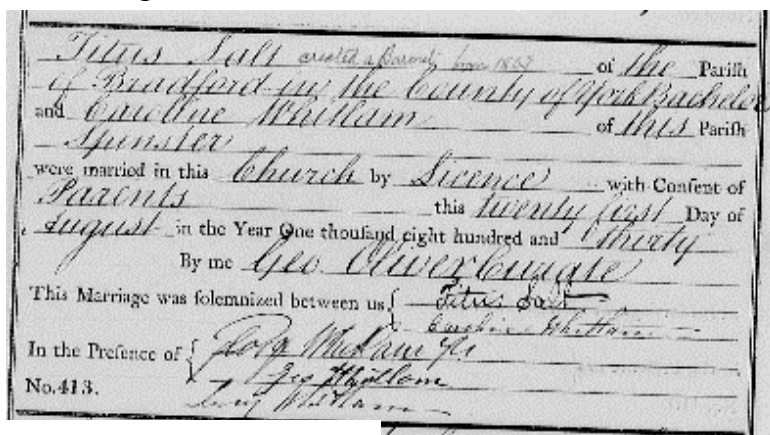
I'm sure most of us have experience of family coincidences and my family is no different. I think it was my husband who stumbled on Grimsby's connection to the West Yorkshire town, *Saltaire* (World Heritage Site since 2001) sometime ago, knowing as he did, that my late mum had both worked at Saltaire Mill before WWII and came to Grimsby after marrying a lad from Stallingborough in 1947. It was only whilst carrying out research for this article that I found a more recent coincidence and one that is personal to me.

Born in the late 1950s, early images of myself are very small, not very clear, black and white photographs. And a small number of those are of me in a garden in a house in Albert Street, Saltaire – my Godmother Peggy's house. Peggy was my mum's friend and they both worked in Salt's Mill until mum went on to work on AVRO Lancaster Bombers at Yeadon airfield (another story!) before marrying dad and coming to his home county Lincolnshire. Did she know of the earlier, connection in reverse, between Grimsby and Saltaire? I haven't a clue!

The Whitlams of Grimsby and Yorkshire wool merchants

The Whitlam family lived in Manor House, Grimsby for a time after living in various parts of Lincolnshire evidenced by the birth places of 14 children between 1793 and 1813 (*see overleaf*). George Whitlam is thought to have originated in Nottinghamshire not far from the Lincolnshire border in 1762, but his wife Elizabeth (daughter of a William Swinn or Swine) was possibly born in Ludborough in 1770 where the two were married in 1791. Nothing much is known of their life in Lincolnshire but both died and are buried in Grimsby St James: George in 1836 aged 74 and Elizabeth in 1834 aged 64. It is thought that George's business was in wool.

Sheep are not seen so readily in this area today, but 19th century Lincolnshire was the largest British producer of wool and developers of the Longwool breed. Titus Salt was one among many wool merchants visiting Lincolnshire particularly as he was interested in developing Worsted yarn. It is not really known how he came to be an acquaintance of George Whitlam but out of Whitlam's 8 children who survived into adulthood, it was the younger daughter Caroline who Titus chose as his bride. Titus (26) and Caroline (18) were married in the Parish Church, Grimsby, on 21st August 1830.



St James Parish Marriage Record

Note that the entry in St James' Parish Record states 'with consent of Parents' due to bride's age being under 21 years. The Whitlam family also had close ties with other Bradford wool merchants of the day – Caroline's sisters Amelia and Lucy married George Haigh and Charles Timothy Turner respectively, and the three sisters

lived for a time within short distances of each other in the centre of Bradford¹. Today, we know the Whitlam family home in Grimsby as The County Hotel, Brighowgate – almost on the corner with Manor Avenue see Appendix 1 .

Birthplaces of the Whitlam children. Caroline Salt highlighted.

Name	Birth Date	Baptism Date	Baptism Place	Death Date	
Elizabeth	12/10/1793	13/10/1793	Fotherby	1846	
*George	09/10/1794	21/10/1794	Fotherby	before 1807	
*Sophia	21/04/1796	29/04/1796	Fotherby	In infancy	
Amelia (a twin)	24/12/1798	25/12/1798	Fotherby	1848	
*William (a twin)	24/12/1798	25/12/1798	Fotherby	In infancy	
William	07/02/1800	16/02/1800	Fotherby	1848	
Sophia Thomison	03/01/1802	10/01/1802	Fotherby	1870	
*Harriet	24/05/1804	09/06/1804	Tetford	before 1806	
*Harriet	10/03/1806	17/03/1806	East Halton	1813	
George	08/03/1807	24/03/1807	Ludford	1840	
Mary Ann	18/12/1808	22/01/1809	Ludford	before 1877	
Lucy	23/09/1810	01/10/1810	Ludford	1851	
Caroline	17/04/1812	21/04/1812	Ludford	1893	
*Henry	24/05/1813	05/1813	Ludford	1813	*died in infancy



The marriages of the Whitlam children. Caroline and Titus Salt highlighted

Name	Spouse	Date of Marriage	Place of Marriage
Elizabeth	1 George Towler 2 John Foster	08/06/1812 10/01/1843	St Mary, Sculcoates, Hull Welton le Wold
Amelia	George Haigh	27/09/1820	Cuxwold
William	Eliza Banes	12/02/1824	Weston
Sophia Thomison	Marmaduke Clark	14/09/1824	Cuxwold
George	Rachel Kirkby	06/06/1837	Cabourne
Mary Ann	William Archer	20/01/1829	Cuxwold
Lucy	Charles Timothy Turner	24/10/1833	Cuxwold
Caroline	Titus Salt	21/08/1830	Grimsby



Who was Titus Salt?

Titus Salt was born in Morely near Leeds in 1803 and in his early 20s became a partner in *Daniel Salt and Son*, his father's Bradford-based business. Trading in Russian Donskoi wool, a fibre used widely in the woollens trade, Titus was particularly interested in developing worsted yarn used in a smoother, more lightweight and densely woven cloth better for keeping out the wind and rain and one we are familiar with today as used for tailored suits. ‘Woollen’ yarn is primarily spun

¹ Manor Row and North Parade

from short wool fibres to make fluffy, warm woollens whereas worsted yarn is spun from longer fibres for smoother and finer thread.

By 1833 he had taken over his father's business and became the largest employer in Bradford. In 1836, Salt came across Alpaca wool which, though a lustrous fibre, was notoriously difficult to work with but Salt saw its potential and came up with a new 'alpaca' cloth made with a cotton or silk warp woven with the Alpaca wool and perfect for expensive women's clothing. Active in politics, he supported adult suffrage and did not believe that the 1832 Reform Act went far enough. A severe critic of the 1834 Poor Law, he also supported the reduction of working hours and was the first employer in the Bradford area to introduce the ten-hour day. However, he refused permission for his workers to join trade unions and, as an employer of young children in his factories, was totally opposed to the 1833 Factory Act that attempted to prevent children under the age of nine working in textile mills. Civic responsibilities during his lifetime included Chief Constable of Bradford before its incorporation as a borough in 1847; Mayor, in office from 1848–49, and was later Deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire; Liberal Member of Parliament for Bradford from 1859 until he retired through ill health on 1 February 1861. On 30 October 1869 he was created a Baronet.

Titus Salt rented Crow Nest, a house with large grounds south of Bradford, from 1844 for 14 years and where flocks of Llamas, Alpacas and sheep were left to roam and graze on the grounds. In 1858 the family moved to Methley Hall, near Leeds but when Crow Nest came on the market in 1867 Sir Titus Salt bought the property for £26,500 and turned it into a palatial estate home for his rising status and growing family².

Salt's Mill

Around 1850, Titus decided to build a new mill for the manufacture of his new textile and bought land three miles from Bradford next to the River Aire, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Midland Railway. The new mill opened in 1853 where he hoped his workers would be insulated from the Cholera epidemics which were common around the centre of Bradford. At the time, he is recorded as giving reason for building the mill and accompanying town of Saltaire as "to do good and to give his sons employment". A fundamental part of the vision was the building of quality



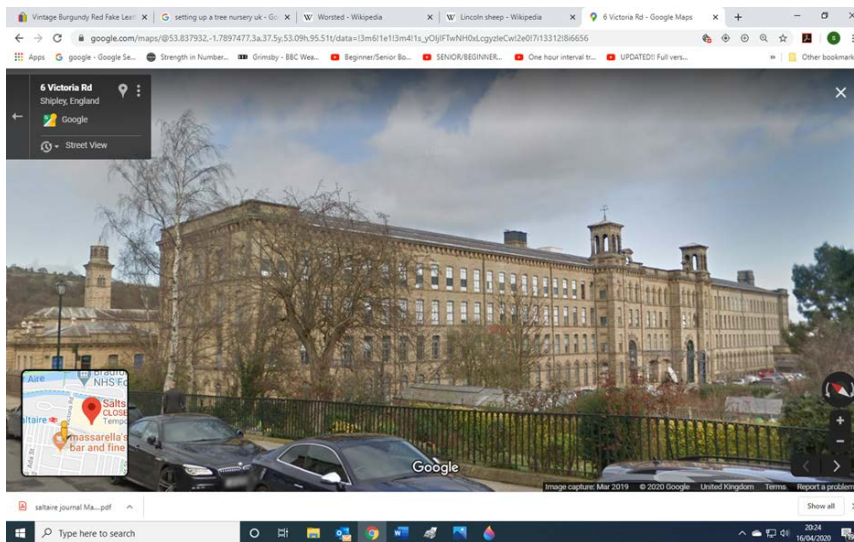
Saltaire and Salt's Mill shown north of Bradford

² Appendix 3 1851 Census Transcript for Crow Nest Household Members

houses for his workers – houses which were to become good homes to several generations of textile workers and others.

Although Titus Salt had been an extremely rich man in his life, his fortune was largely gone by the time of his death on 29th December 1876 on his family estate ‘Crow Nest’ near Halifax. It has been estimated that during his lifetime over £500,000 had been given to good causes but his business had disappeared within 16 years of his death. The mills were used well into the twentieth century until they fell into disuse from the decline in British manufacturing and closed in 1986.

In 1987, the Mill building was bought by local entrepreneur, who transformed it into a centre of commercial and artistic activity. It is free to enter and has various displays and exhibitions throughout the year; its 1853 Gallery is the world's largest permanent collection of work by Bradford-born artist, David Hockney.



Present day view of Salt's Mill

The town of Saltaire

At first, 3,500 workers travelled to this rural idyll from Bradford but by 1876 ‘Saltaire’ had become a model village for his workers with 850 houses, a park, church, school, hospital, library, bathhouses, almshouses, institute and a whole range of different shops. Every family had fresh water piped from Saltaire's own 500,000 gallon reservoir, their own outside lavatory, and gas for lighting and heating.

Its streets were built over a period of about 15 years from 1854, the development starting adjacent to the railway line and spreading southwards, in phases, up the hillside. The quality of the development, with its social and health benefits, was recognised internationally when Salt was awarded the French Legion of Honour in 1867.

Titus Salt and his wife Caroline parented eleven children during their 46 year marriage and the streets of Saltaire bear their names, those of their children, daughters-in-law and some

grandchildren as well as Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and the architects Mawson and Lockwood who designed the mill³. So, if you were to walk or drive along Caroline Street, Saltaire today, you would do so along a street named after a woman brought up in Grimsby!

In December 2001, all of Saltaire was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and, being a residential 'town' is open to visitors every day.

And to end

After Titus' death, Caroline left Yorkshire for Surrey with her two unmarried daughters Helen and Ada to set up home in a villa *Broadoak* overlooking Clapham Common. In the habit of spending her summers on the south coast at St Leonards-on-Sea, she died there in 1893 and is interred in the family mausoleum in Saltaire along with her husband and four of her children.

What of my personal claim of coincidence? Well, early in the 1980s I worked in London and used the Clapham Common underground station many times between work and where I was living. Only whilst researching and writing this piece did I realise that I had must have walked past Broadoak, Caroline's last home and by then part of a school complex, many times – until I left to marry in St James, Grimsby in 1982 just over 150 years after Titus and Caroline!

Further reading

<https://salthairvillage.info/index.html>

<https://www.salthaircollection.org/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus_Salt

<https://spartacus-educational.com/IRsalt.htm>

<https://www.crownstgolf.co.uk/welcome/our-history/>

³ Appendix 2 a breakdown of street names and their namesakes

APPENDIX 1



The Manor Grimsby, photograph No. 4336 from the Hallgarth Collection, Grimsby Local History Library

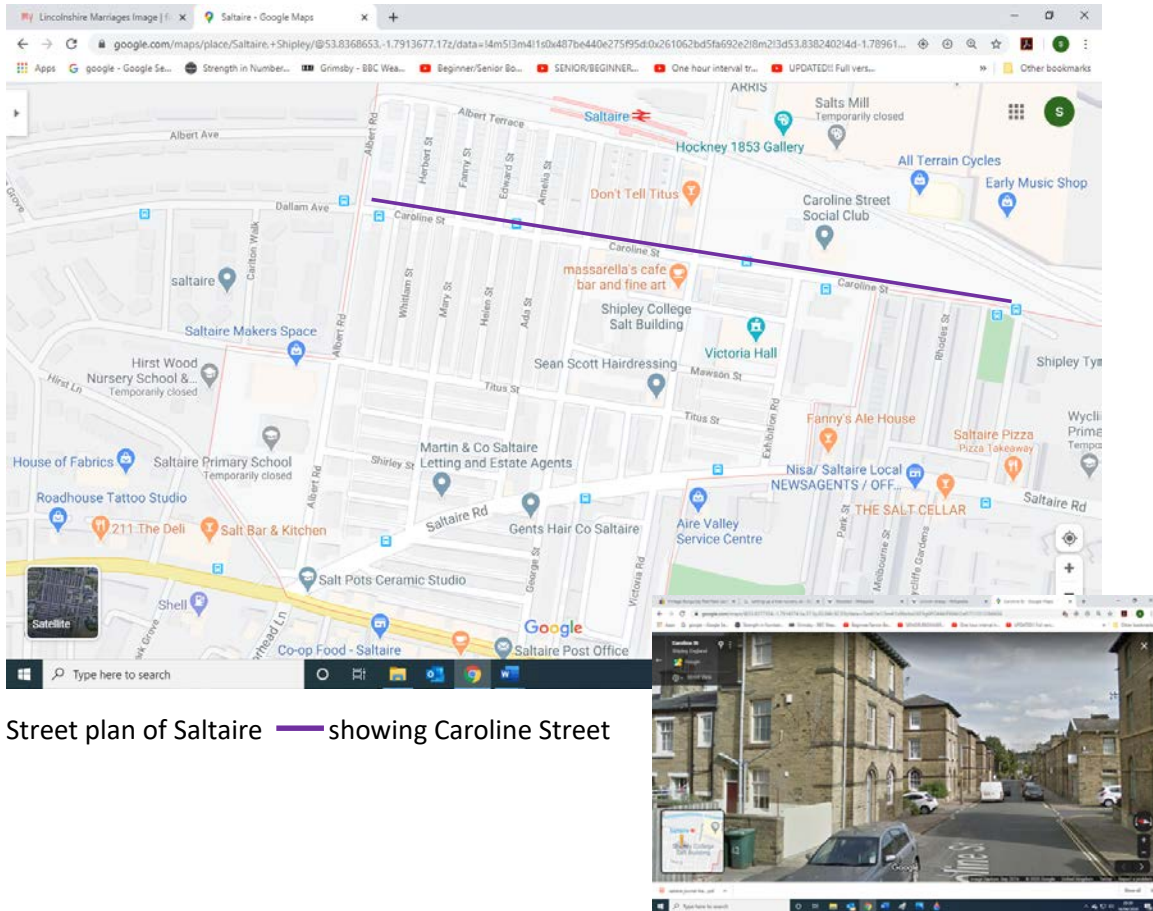


Current day view of County Hotel, Brighowgate. *Note the change in roof level and remains of chimney breast*



The Manor Grimsby, photograph No. 4330 from the Hallgarth Collection, Grimsby Local History Library. *At first sight it seems not to match with the current day view, but close inspection shows there is distinct change in roof height on the left behind the tree and also, the original details on the bay window match in both views.*

APPENDIX 2 a breakdown of street names and their namesakes



Street plan of Saltaire — showing Caroline Street

Ada St	Youngest daughter born 1853	<p>After Titus' death in 1876, moved with her mother Caroline to the then fashionable rural idyll of Clapham, South London. In 1883 Ada (29) married Streatham engineer Edmund Stevenson (30). Their only child, Monica, was born three years later.</p> <p>Towards the end of the century, the family moved to Tunbridge Wells, where her sisters Helen and Amelia were also living. In 1905, the Stevensons relocated to Hampstead, London where Edmund died in 1918. Ada and her unmarried daughter moved again to central London where she dies in 1935 aged 82 and cremated and ashes scattered in Golders Green Crematorium.</p>
Albert Rd Albert Terrace	named after Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert.	
Alexandra Square	Named after HRH Princess Alexandra, wife of HRH Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII).	

Amelia St	Born 1835, eldest of 5 daughters	Born in North Parade, Bradford; moved to family's new mansion Crow Nest when about 8 years old. Became her father's confidential secretary around the time of his consolidation of his enterprises in Saltaire in 1853, before marrying lay Congregationalist, Henry Wright of Kensington in 1873. After Henry's death in 1893, Amelia relocated to Tunbridge Wells where her sisters Amelia and Helen followed. Amelia died aged 78 in 1914. She was cremated in Golders Green Cemetery but her ashes interred in her husband's grave at Harrogate's Grove Road Cemetery.
Caroline Street	named after Titus Salt's Lincolnshire-born wife Caroline Whitlam	After Sir Titus' death in 1876, she moved to Clapham, Surrey with her two unmarried daughters Helen and Ada. They set up home in Broadoak, an impressive mansion standing in grounds overlooking Clapham Common. Though this remained her home for the rest of her life, she died in 1893 in St. Leonard's on Sea in where she spent each summer. She is interred in the family mausoleum, alongside her late husband and four of her children. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clapham_College).
Constance St	named after the first grandchild born 1855	First child of the eldest son, William Henry Salt and his wife Emma. The 32 houses that make up the street were completed in 1861, being designed as 'improved' workmen's cottages.
Daisy Place Fern Place Myrtle Place		The three Places and their surrounding streets were largely completed in 1868, towards the end of the village's development by which time, all existing family members had had their names used as street names. According to Victorian Language of Flowers equates Daisy, Fern and Myrtle with Innocence, Fascination and Love respectively. Designed for executives and overlookers, the Places' three-bedroomed houses, complete with garden and cellar, had yearly rentals in 1868 ranging from approximately £9 to £13.
Dove St	Named after the first of Sir Titus Salt's daughters-in-law, Emma Dove	Emma Dove had married Sir Titus' eldest son William Henry in 1854, and in the next few years the young family grew as Emma Dove gave birth to first a daughter Constance (1855) and then a son Shirley (1857).

	Octaviana Salt (nee Harris).	The street initially had only 24 houses, the 16 houses at its western end being added later.
Edward St	Named after the third son, Edward (1837 – 1903)	Following his education, Edward entered the family business. In 1861 Edward (24) married Mary Jane Susan Elgood (20), a cousin of his sister-in-law Emma Dove Salt. Mary Jane died days before her 30th birthday, in 1870 and the following year he married Sarah Amelia Rouse, the daughter of one of Sir Titus' business associates. Salt family retirements and deaths by 1890 meant that Edward was the only family member left when the business went into liquidation in 1892. He and his wife Amelia moved to Bathampton near Bath where he died in 1903 of pneumonia and is buried in Bathampton churchyard.
Exhibition Rd	Named The Royal Yorkshire Jubilee Exhibition of 1887	Exhibition Road is the only road in the village to have been named after Sir Titus Salt's death.
Fanny Street	Named after the second of the five daughters born 1841	Fanny Salt was born when the family still lived in Bradford, moving to Crow Nest when she was about 3 years old. The family moved again to Methley Hall, SE of Leeds when she was about 17 years old but in 1859 she was diagnosed with tubercular phthisis – a wasting disease. Despite searching for a cure at St Leonards and the French Pyrenees, she died at home in 1861 and is interred in the family mausoleum in Saltaire.
George Street	Named the longest lived of the six sons	Born in Bradford in 1833, George was 20 when Salt's Mill opened. He worked for the family for many years rising to Partner. In 1872, he was chair of a group of Bradford and Leeds employers who resisted parliament's passing of a bill to reduce to nine hours the maximum daily working hours for women and children. A yachtsman and a recognised authority on timepieces, in the 1870s he provided equipment used in scientific research in North America. A bachelor for most of his life, in 1885 around the time of his retirement, he married Jenny Louisa Fresco (34) and lived in the south of England. He died in 1913, in a London suburb, of East Molesey.

Gordon Terrace	named after 1 of the 4 grandchildren	<p>Gordon Locksley Salt (1866 – 1938) was born in Baildon, the first child of Titus Jr and his wife Catherine (nee Crossley). He was two years old when the building of the terrace of shops and improved overlooker houses bearing his name was completed in 1868.</p> <p>Gordon was apprenticed to a worsted spinning manufacturer before being brought into Salts Mill. A skilled photographer, organ builder and player, he married Florence in 1903 and it is their descendants most likely to continue the Salt baronetcy.</p>
Harold Place	Named after the second son	<p>Born in 1868, Harold was apprenticed to a worsted spinning manufacturer before being brought into Salts Mill and was a skilled musician in both violin and oboe. Bankruptcy of his late father's business lead him to study agriculture for 3 years in Cirencester and onto estate management where he married the daughter of the local vicar, Grace Pratt. He died aged 75 in 1943 and his son Denys continues to give family support to Saltaire.</p>
Helen St	Named after the second youngest child	<p>Born in 1852, Helen became her father's confidential secretary after her sister Amelia. After his death, she and her younger sister Ada moved to South London where she lived for the next 20 years. She never married and after her mother's death in 1893, moved to Tunbridge Wells where her 2 sisters also lived. By the time of her death in 1924 aged 71, she had moved to Eastbourne but was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium.</p>
Herbert St	Named after the 4 th son	<p>Herbert Salt (1840 - 1912) did not join his father's textile business, taking up farming instead in the New Forest followed by a spell near Skipton, in the Yorkshire Dales. An abrupt change in his mid-forties saw him married in 1889 to Elizabeth Farrell and living in Brixton not far from his mother in Clapham.</p> <p>Widowed at 58 with 4 children, he then married his sister-in-law Margaret. Widowed a second time in 1910, he died aged 72 in 1912 and is buried in West Norwood Cemetery.</p>
Jane Street	Named Mary Jane Susan Salt (nee Elgood), first wife of the third son	<p>Jane Street itself, was completed in 1868.</p> <p>Jane died at the age of 29 on 9 October 1870. The death certificate records "chronic diarrhoea, exhaustion"</p>

Katherine Street	Named after the wife of Titus Jr. though correctly, her name was spelt with a 'C'	Catherine was the second daughter of Joseph Crossley, one of the three famous Crossley brothers of Halifax, who developed the family business of carpet production. Following their marriage in 1866, they lived Baildon then Bingley. Left a widow at 41 years, she lived another 43 years before her own death in a Harrogate Nursing Home in 1930. Her ashes were scattered in the family's mausoleum in Saltaire.
Lockwood Street, Mawson Street	Named after the architects Lockwood and Mawson	Henry Francis Lockwood (1811-1878) was born in Doncaster and when only 21 had supervised the extensions to York castle, prior to starting in practice in Hull in 1834. He moved to Bradford in 1849, where he went into partnership with the younger William Mawson. Over the next 25 years the pair designed many great civic buildings in Bradford.
Mary Street	Named after the third daughter	Mary's was the shortest living of the Salt children. By the time Mary was born in 1849, her father was an employer of 2,000 workers in 5 mills in Bradford and the town's Mayor. Saltaire had not yet been built but the family were already living in Crow Nest. Her 4 year old brother died of measles in 1851 and only five weeks later, on 14th May, Mary aged 2, died of "congestion of the brain", which in the 19th Century could mean anything from stroke to meningitis. Both children's bodies were exhumed from the local churchyard and laid to rest in the newly built family mausoleum in Saltaire.
Shirley Street	Named after the first-born grandson of Titus Salt	Shirley Harris Salt was the only son of the eldest son William Henry and would therefore inherit the baronetcy awarded to his grandfather in 1869. Born in 1857 and raised in West Yorkshire, before moving to Leicester after his father severed links with Salts Mill. Shirley went on to become a barrister and lived on Regents Park Road London. He died in 1920 aged 62. The 32 houses in Shirley St completed about 1861, were designed as three-bedroomed workman cottages.

Titus Street	Thought to be named after the fifth-born son – but could be after Sir Titus himself	Titus Jr worked on the family business and was fully engaged in the local affairs of the village, until his death at the relatively young age of 44 in 1887. His remains lie in the family mausoleum. Titus street originally had 61 houses though some have since been demolished at the street's junctions.
Victoria Road Victoria Terrace	name after the monarch of the time, Queen Victoria.	
Whitlam Street,	Named posthumously, after the sixth and last-born son	Whitlam also being Lady Caroline's maiden name, the street came into existence several years after Whitlam died of measles at the young age of four in 1851.
William Henry Street	Named after the first child	Born in 1831, William Henry's first home Bradford before the family moved to Crow Nest when he was 12. He joined his father's business in 1854 on leaving school transferring from Bradford to the rapidly developing Saltaire. He retired whilst still in his 40s and moved to his wife Emma's home county Leicestershire to live as a gentleman farmer. He died in 1892 and both he and his wife lie in the churchyard at Woodhouse Eaves.

APPENDIX 3

1851 Census Transcrip Crow Nest*, Halifax, Yorkshire & Yorkshire (West Riding), England

Household Members Members that resided in the household at the time of the census.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Titus	Salt	Head	Married	Male	47	1804	Worsted Spinner And Stuff Manufacturer Employing Upwards Of 3000 people; Magistrate Of The Borough Of Bradford.	Leeds, Yorkshire, England
Caroline	Salt	Wife	Married	Female	38	1813	-	Caistor, Lincolnshire, England
William H	Salt	Son	Unmarried	Male	19	1832		Bradford, Yorkshire, England
George	Salt	Son	Unmarried	Male	17	1834		Bradford, Yorkshire, England
Amelia	Salt	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	15	1836	-	Bradford, Yorkshire, England
Edward	Salt	Son	-	Male	13	1838	Home	Bradford, Yorkshire, England
Herbert	Salt	Son	-	Male	10	1841	Home	Bradford, Yorkshire, England
Fanny C	Salt	Daughter	-	Female	9	1842	-	Bradford, Yorkshire, England
Titus	Salt	Son	-	Male	7	1844	-	Bradford, Yorkshire, England
William	Salt	Son	-	Male	5	1846	-	Crow Nest, Yorkshire, England
Mary	Salt	Daughter	-	Female	1	1850	-	Crow Nest, Yorkshire, England
Sarah C	Wainwright	Servant	Widow	Female	35	1816	Nurse	Leeds, Yorkshire, England
Ann	Murgatroyd	Servant	Unmarried	Female	17	1834	Nurse	Halifax, Yorkshire, England
Hannah	Asquith	Servant	Unmarried	Female	30	1821	House Maid	Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England
Mary Ann	Dawson	Servant	Unmarried	Female	20	1831	House Maid	Wakefield, Yorkshire, England
Elizabeth	Tatersal	Servant	Unmarried	Female	34	1817	Cook	Halifax, Yorkshire, England
Harriet	Patterson	Servant	Unmarried	Female	19	1832	Servant	Wakefield, Yorkshire, England
Stephen	Dixon	Servant	Married	Male	25	1826	Butler	Haddington, Wiltshire, England
Harriet	Barber	Assistant	Married	Female	46	1805	Nurse	Nottinghamshire, England
John	Smith	Brother-In-Law	Married	Male	40	1811	Annuitant	Halifax, Yorkshire, England

*'Crow Nest' is now Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse, established in 1995 'a hidden gem set amongst 70 acres of breath taking far-reaching views'