

HERITAGE HUNTERS THE GROVES

2023



**History of
The Groves**
Researched
by Residents

Image taken by We Are The Groves

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YORK MUSEUMS TRUST

York Museums Trust was formed on August 1 2002, as an independent charitable trust to manage the museums and gallery service previously run by City of York Council. Supported by the Council, York Museums Trust is responsible for York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum and Gardens and York St Mary's.

YORK EXPLORE LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Explore provides the public library and archives service for the city of York. Explore runs 15 libraries including York Explore – our flagship library and home of the City Archive – 5 Reading Cafes, a mobile library, and a home library service. We provide public libraries and archives under a contract with the City of York council.

WE ARE THE GROVES

Residents from The Groves came together to promote Creative Community Storytelling to share the unique history and people who have lived in the area.

THE GROVES ASSOCIATION

The Association supports residents to campaign for improvements, find solutions for local problems, organises community events and activities and have recently commissioned a mural to celebrate The Groves.

YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY ANIMATION DEGREE

The University has been part of The Groves since 1841 when it's predecessor the Anglican teacher training college was founded. Today a range of degrees are available and we have partnered with their Animation Course. Animation combines the use of technology with the craft of art and illustration to tell engaging stories and the second year students have brought to life stories from We Are The Groves.

DESIGN

Cookie Graphic Design is a small and friendly graphic design company based between York and Selby.

PRINT

HBA Design are a small, professional graphic design agency based in York, UK. They produce creative and engaging solutions for print, web and screen.



WELCOME THE GROVES 2023

Heritage Hunters is a project by York Museums Trust. This year, we have brought together residents, artists, organisations and further education providers to look in to the past of The Groves area of the City of York. York is famous for Romans, Viking, Medieval architecture, Georgian streets and Victorian industries but parts of the city have been overlooked in it's narrative. Heritage Hunters aims to work with residents in areas of York that has a wealth of history but has yet had the focus. The project is not about uncovering new histories but to support those who live there to find out more about their surroundings and to share it with their friends and neighbours.

We launched the project in September 2022 by partnering with York Explore, The Groves Association, We Are The Groves and York St John University. Over forty people were interested in joining the project, some wanting to share their own memories, stories they already found or learn how to look into local history. Together with York Explore, YMT produced a programme to support residents in researching their interests and events where they came together to meet with neighbours. If you would like to know more about the project visit York Museums Trusts website.

In this magazine, you will see a fantastic glimpse in to the history and people of The Groves but this is just a starting point. We hope that people continue to research the area and share further the interesting, unique and important stories of the people of The Groves.

Philip Newton
York Museums Trust

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE GROVES

The first mention I can find of the Groves is 1830. The next date is 1852. All of the Groves past Lowther Street heading away from the city centre had not been built yet. There was Ann Harrison's Hospital (for widows) at the bottom of Garden Street. A small School on Cole Street. A Military Stores Depot was in the place Door 84 sits now. There were three pubs, The Castle Howard, the top of Townend Street, The Magpie and Stump, corner of Eldon Street and the Bowling Green, corner of Bowling Green Lane and Lowther Street. The church on Lowther Street didn't exist yet. Half of the Groves that did exist was outside of the city Boundary (no idea why). The next date is 1891. St Thomas's Church has been built. Next to it was a School for Girls and Infants. Where the Military Stores Depot was is now an Industrial School (for Girls). What's called the secret garden was called Vincent Place. It had eight buildings on it. (don't know what type). The top half of the Groves was outside of the Ward Boundary, not sure if outside of city Boundary as previous years. At the end of Brownlow Street was a large House called Groves House surrounded by large gardens.



1907 OS map, National Library of Scotland Re-Use, CC-BY (NLS)



THE GROVES IN THE Regency Period 1811-1820

This study has been based around three key documents found in the library at York Family History Society Centre, James Street, York.

The first – a printed transcript of the 1811 census of the parish which is a rarity. Most online censuses don't feature until 1841. More than this, however, the enumerator went beyond his brief and took specific information about the occupations of the men living there. All he was actually asked to do was to note if they were in trade or Gentlemen. The second document was the printed results of the 1820 General Election with the names of all the voters, and since there was no secret ballot the voters preferences were clearly indicated. The third

document was the 1823 Baines Commercial Directory for Yorkshire also in the YFHS Library. It detailed the inhabitants of the Groves' traders and other professions – even for those described in the 1811 census as simply 'Gentlemen'.

The Regency period is the name given to the last part of George III's reign, who because he was suffering from a disease known as porphyria, was mentally unable to govern his kingdom due to being incapacitated. That task was given to his son also called George but known as 'Prinny' to his friends. In 1811 the country

was still fighting the Napoleonic wars, slavery had not been abolished, yet also a time of Jane Austen, who published 'Sense and Sensibility' in 1811. Voting was restricted to a small group of men - with the masses excluded from political involvement.

Travel for those who could afford it, was often by coaches and a plethora of coaching inns had developed along the main roads, which were often owned by turnpike trusts - charging for use of the road. For the poor who wished to travel - it would be usually on foot or slow-moving wagons and sometimes by boat.

The area of our study - The Groves - was undeveloped - with just a scattering of houses along the fashionable promenade of The Lord Mayors Walk. Only Monkgate was more developed with houses running along the road as far as Monk Bridge. Behind, there was still green fields, farms and market gardens. Open land behind Monkgate was used for drill practice during the Napoleonic war.

The cultivated land outside the Walls and Monk Bar was mainly for market gardening, and several large holdings were devoted to the production of food that could be sold to the citizens inside the walls. The area would have looked picturesque but would have smelt appallingly. The City's 'night soil' would be deposited outside the walls by the cartload. This would fertilise the soil and enable York to be supplied with fruit, vegetables, milk and butter.

Regency Residents

But who were those few inhabitants of The Groves between 1811 and 1820s? In his Visitation of 1743, some seventy years earlier, Archbishop Herrings report detailed the state of the Parish. The area had 57 in that year but by 1811 this figure had increased to 114 families, effectively doubling in population.

Although the parish church was there - it had no meeting house nor school. It did have an Alms house for six women but also by this time the County Hospital had been newly built in 1740 and then rebuilt due to increased demand only five years later, funded by benefactions, and charities for the poor. The chief physicians there were Francis Drake (not the Elizabethan sailor) - who was the writer of one of the first histories of York entitled 'Eboracum' and John Burton physician and 'man

mid-wife' who lived at the Red House near the Minster.

By 1795 water was being piped to the suburb and some 40 houses in the district were fee paying customers of the York Waterworks company. There was no residence in the parish for the Vicar of St Maurice; he had to live in the parish of St John Del pike, close to St Trinity's Goodramgate which he was also Minister of.

In 1743, services at St Maurice were only conducted monthly and 'had not been performed more often than this for many years' - with many of the parishioners walking to Goodramgate Church. It had been agreed around that time to use St Maurice's parish churchyard for burials from the newly set up York County Hospital.

Although by 1811 there was some 114 families living in the Groves area, there were not 114 habitations. There were a number of families or individuals living in the same house - the greatest number being Robert Rigby's abode, which had five families and individuals living there, consisting of some 16 people, including two widows - Mary White and Mary Gray. The men living there were all described in the 1811 census as 'labourers'.

Robert Rigby or Rigby had a great

story - a labourer who could vote in General and Local elections at a time when it was thought only rich landowners could be trusted to do so. This was because he was a Freeman. Baptised at St Crux Church in 1763, he was the son of another Freeman George Rigby - a labourer who was the illegitimate son of Margaret Lund from a local farming family. The family had formerly been bakers on Girdlergate (now Church Street) in York. At the time of the census, Robert and his wife Ellen was sharing a house with five families in it. He was elsewhere in the parish register described as a 'brickmaker'.

Similarly Thomas Jackson, also described as a labourer though previously apprenticed to a bricklayer in 1785 shared with two families, including the 'Widow Cuss' who lived there after the death of her shoemaker husband. Five other women are named in the 1811 census as 'Widows' all living in close proximity - they probably resided in what was known as Thomas Agars Hospital - three cottages built in the 17th century to house poor widows. They were so dilapidated by 1879 that they were demolished. The widows are named as Mary Crampton, Ann Abbey, Mary Gowland, Elizabeth Garman and Susan Lund.



York County Hospital, York Museums Trust

One of the inhabitants noted in the 1811 census was Robert Bearpark – usually known as Robert Young Bearpark who was described as a 'Gardener' and living on Lord Mayors Walk near the Church. He could have only arrived there recently as in 1807 he was on the electoral register for Huntington. Most of his family were market gardeners – though they resided in the Bootham area. They had not always been prosperous it seems for one Jane Bearpark, born in 1701 died in 1788 aged 87 'a pauper'. Providing food for the city required many hothouses, greenhouses and propagating frames spread over a large area behind Lord Mayors walk almost up to Monk Gate and Robert Bearpark was a substantial market gardener in the area. After his death in 1827, his son, also called Robert Bearpark sold much of the old market garden lands to speculative house builders who erected the first poor quality dwellings for sale – on Newbiggin Street and Groves Lane, often with very poor sanitation and with no outside access to yards.

Another prominent inhabitant of the Groves in Regency times was Joseph Buckle who lived on Monkgate (number 55 now). In the 1807 election, he too like Bearpark was on the electoral roll for Huntington. He was Proctor and deputy Registrar of the Archbishops Court in the Minster yard. Churchwarden accounts for the area indicate that Joseph was seated in one of the gallery pews in St Maurices Church – the best seats in the house!

There were three public houses or Inns in the neighbourhood in the Regency period. The 'Bay Horse' run by Sylvester Reed at 24 Monkgate. It was described in book by Hugh Murray as 'a very good market house' carriers with their wagons could stay there and it had six good bedrooms, which included nine beds set apart for travellers. It is now known as 'Keystones'. Near to the Bay Horse was 'The Unicorn Inn' run by Stephen Dixon Junior, a coaching Inn. It was a stop off place for the stagecoaches heading for Malton and Scarborough via York. It has now been demolished. Further along the road was the 'Black Horse' at 34 Monkgate with George Wright as the landlord. A rebuilt Black Horse still stands.

Another family residing in the Groves area was the Surr family. Entitled to vote as a freeman in the 1820 election, John Surr although

having a residence in Monkgate actually resided in Liverpool as a 'confectioner'. He was described a 'gentlemen' in the 1811 census. The Surr family had been millers in the past with a shop on Jubbergate. In 1806 John's daughter had tragically died from drowning in the river Foss. Close to the Surr family residence was a dwelling housing five families, including Richard Waite a 'tinner'. He was the son of Robert Waite described in the parish register as a 'tinman' who plied his trade 'at his abode on Pavement'. Robert had died in 1804 aged 62.

Described in the 1811 census as 'A gentleman' Mark Hesp was from a long standing family of pipemakers. Sadly Marks wife had died in 1805 aged only 35 'in a decline'. Similarly, the Monkman or Munkman family had been coal merchants for many years.

The Groves, behind Monkgate and Lord Mayors Walk was still agricultural land and common and there were seven farmers mentioned in the 1811 census as residing there – William

Powell, William Stabler a farmer and 'livery lace manufacturer', William Lund a butcher and cowkeeper, William Thompson, Christopher Wood, Thomas Billbrough and John Fountayne or Fountain

Some of the men described as Gentlemen are given a trade description in the Parish Records – for example Joshua Buckle described as a 'Gentleman' in 1811 was a 'woolstapler' and John Harrison 'Gent.' was a 'carrier' taking goods around the city.

By 1830, although many names still remained, several employees of the County Hospital were living in the parish, with both Henry Downing (surgeon) and Ann Edwards (matron) both inhabiting a premises at 10 Monkgate. It is at this time in 1830 that the name George Hudson appears, employed then as a draper at 6 Monkgate – shortly before he branched off into Railway speculation. By 1830 the first school had appeared, ran by Ann Walker – the matron of the Girls Grey Coat School at 37 Monkgate.

Prominent Buildings

New buildings were appearing all the time during this period. Two institutions whose buildings remain now were the Manchester Presbyterian College which became St Johns College on Lord Mayors Walk – the residence in 1811 of Reverend Charles Wellbeloved - a theology tutor.

The story of Charles Wellbeloved is very interesting. Because he would not move to Manchester, the College moved to York to have him as head. He was so important to them. In 1840, when age forced him to retire, the college moved back to Manchester, where it stayed until 1853.

The second institution was at 37 Monkgate - the Girls Grey Coat School which was a Charity school funded by subscription.

Although it was run by Catherine Cappe, wife of the local York Unitarian Minister, she did not live there. The census tells us that in 1811 there

were 38 people living in the school with the spinster Elizabeth Smith as the Head. Close by was the residence of Mrs Ann Vickers who appears in the 1811 census and is linked to the Grey Coat School.

At the school 40 poor girls were provided with food, clothes and lodging and received an education that focused on religion and the teaching of skills like knitting and sewing to prepare them for domestic service. Until 1900 the pupils also undertook spinning to supplement the school's income. Entry to the school was by a ballot when subscribers giving more than one guinea a year held two votes, one for a boy to enter the Blue Coat School and one for a girl to enter the Grey Coat School. In 1764 the Grey Coat School had 30 pupils and this had risen to 42 by 1819. The school now houses the NHS clinic on Monkgate.



Charles Wellbeloved, York Museums Trust



Catherine Cappe, Public Domain

THE 1820 ELECTION

The election was called at the death of George III. He had reigned over 59 years. It was a time of political unrest, economic depression, the Luddites, the Cato Street conspiracy (extreme violent Republicans) and just five years after the Napoleonic Wars and a year after the Peterloo massacre. The election was a public affair with voters openly stating who they voted for.

York was entitled to elect two members and it was held on Tuesday 7th March at the Guildhall and each voter had two votes. There were three candidates: Lord Howden (Sir John Cradock) a Tory who had supported the principles of the previous MP Sir Mark Sykes, who had a bad reputation for corruption and bribery. He withdrew his candidacy after strong opposition by the York Sheriffs on grounds of 'bad health'. That left Lord Howden as the Tory candidate. The other two remaining candidates Marmaduke Wyvill and the Honourable Lawrence Dundas were both Reformers allied to the Whig (Liberal) party even though Dundas was from a family of slaveowners.

It was clearly known that Lord Howden was prepared to pay double the 'fee' to freemen in York than his opponents but it had no significant effect on the outcome. The election was started on the 7th March 1820 and lasted a week ending on the 13th. Dundas and Wyvill won despite a massive outlay of money to voters by Lord Howden with people being openly bribed. The York Gazette wrote about the 'corruption of York Electors'. It described the 'interference of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood with the suffrage of their tradesmen.'

The routine bribing of electors through the payment of 'fees' was being challenged and a 'Purity of Election Society' was proposed by Sir George Cayley. The statement that 'If representatives have to buy their seats they will be ready to sell themselves' was a powerful message heralding change which did happen some twelve years later in 1832.

The morning after the election both Wyvill and Dundas 'proceeded through the city together in superb chairs placed on a car drawn by six horses'. A dinner was held at the

Election Results 1820

Lord Howden (Tory)
votes: 1201

Dundas (Whig Reform)
votes 1647

Wyvill (Whig Reform)
votes: 1527

Assembly Rooms and both the elected members gave speeches. The Tories won the election however with Lord Liverpool leading the very conservative and reactionary government.

Below is a record of the way the electorate of the Groves voted in the 1820 election and since there was no secrecy about their voting decisions – they had to openly claim their preference – we can see who voted for whom. Any two out of the three candidates could be elected. Only Sylvester Reed the landlord of the Black Horse voted for two opposing candidates which effectively cancelled his vote out. There is no evidence that he was drunk at the time.

Of the Tory voters – two were described in the 1811 census as 'Labourers' (Robert Rigby and Thomas Jackson) who were essentially voting to keep the electoral system as it was. It does bear consideration that they may have been susceptible to a 'fee' for their vote from Lord Howden – but it made no difference – the Whigs and their political reform policy won out in York.

Two of the wealthiest inhabitants of the Groves also supported Lord Howden – John Surr a confectioner who was residing in Liverpool at the time of the 1811 census and Robert Cattle – a silversmith who lived at Groves House in 1820. Strange pairings with two of the district's poorest inhabitants! The corruption of the electoral system of 1820 was no more evident than here in York and the St Maurices parish offers us a small insight into what was so bad about it. Bribery (fees) and absentee voters were part and parcel of the unreformed electoral system at that time.

Hogarth Election Gathering Votes
1755, Public Domain



Freemen Voters in the Groves 1820 and their profession

Votes for Howden – Tory

- Robert Rigby Labourer Apprenticed
- Thomas Jackson Labourer Apprenticed
- Mark Abbey Corn Factor or Oatshiller
- John Surr Confectioner residing in Liverpool
- Robert Cattle Groves House Silversmith
- William Lee Aledraper

Votes for Dundas and Wyvill - Whig/Liberal

- John Fountain Farmer
- Charles Robinson Coal dealer Freeman
- Stephen Dixon Inn keeper (Unicorn Coaching Inn Monkgate)
- John Wainwright Shoemaker
- Robert Stabler Laceweaver
- John Harrison Jeweller
- Sylvester Reed Bay Horse Monkgate
- John Clark Printer
- Robert Tatham Cooper/Huckster
- John Ellison Plasterer
- James Parker Bricklayer
- John Cowling Gentleman Gardener
- Charles Pearse Pipemaker

GROVES TERRACE

Life of the Servants

Built in 1824, Grove Terrace was at that time an isolated development of 12 quite large houses on the Huntington Road side of the Groves.

The Groves estate land, owned by Robert Cattle and later Luke Thompson, was being gradually sold and developed, but mostly with rather smaller houses off Lowther Street and Haxby Road.

It was 50 years before other houses joined up to Grove Terrace and it is even today perhaps considered not quite part of the Groves.

I live on the terrace and some time ago embarked on a study of all the households who could be identified

as living here in the 200 years since it was built. The idea of looking specifically at the servants who lived on the terrace came from one of the Groves Story-telling walks in 2021. On that walk, I described the antics of some of the servants, gleaned from a newspaper account in 1842 entitled "A Midnight Alarm at Grove Terrace".

Households living on Grove Terrace in the 1800s were mainly business and professional people. There was a mix of large family and smaller

households, including some retired people. The households generally had one, and sometimes two, live-in servants. They were nearly all young women, aged less than 25 and many were teenagers. Most came from rural areas outside York and very few were from the city itself.

Towards 1901, the number of live-in servants began to reduce and by 1911, only 4 households had them. Interestingly, this change pre-dates WW1. In 1921, only one household had a live-in servant and most wives were described as performing "unpaid domestic duties". By 1939, just three households (one family and two widowers) had older "housekeepers".

The Census information does not reveal how many households also had non-resident domestic help, perhaps from people living elsewhere in the Grove.

Some newspaper cuttings describe incidents involving servants at Grove Terrace. For example, Mrs Stead, fairly recently moved to No5 in 1842, was robbed by a newly appointed servant from Tadcaster. More positively, the faithful services of Jane and Ann Flower, servants for over 40 years to the Lawton family at No 12 Grove Terrace in 1841 and 1851, and elsewhere in the city afterwards, are recorded on a tombstone in York Cemetery.



Image by Ros Batchelor

A Midnight Alarm at Grove Terrace, July 1842

Reported in the Yorkshire Herald and the Yorkshire Gazette on 2 July 1842.

Mrs Stead, in bed, at Number 5, awoke. A noise? Burglars next door at Number 4? It's dark and nearly 2(am), what should I do? Who to call? Ah, Mr Hall Put on her robe and knocked at Six. Out comes Hall with gun and sticks

Young Reverend Payton, Number Seven, Awoken from his dreams of heaven Knocked the wall of Number Eight. The Reverend tried to shout, and Mr Harvey hurried out So Numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8, all went along and through the gate, At Number 4, up the path to knock the door.

Found Tommy Barker in the privy, who the gun espied "Oh, innocence, innocence" he cried "We really are not burglarling, It's just a sort of sweet-hearting".

Servant Martha then confessed It was her beau, called Johnny Dunn Who'd climbed right up, And through the garret window come. Her sister Sarah, sleeping there, Found him and brought him down the stair.

But Hall & Harvey said "a likely tale." "Off to the police and into jail" Away they marched up Lowther Street Said Harvey, "Run and I will shoot", Johnny Dunn did run, and by heck, Harvey shot him in the neck.

Next day the lads in court, quite frantic Confessed their stupid late-night antic. Those present were amazed to hear The dour old magistrates declare There's been no crime, there'll be no fine "Eeh, it were only a bit of sweet-hearting!"

So, that was a tale of neighbourhood watch at Grove Terrace in July 1842. Mr Harvey was also charged with shooting at the defendant but was let off. The families at 1, 2, 3 and 9 to 12 were probably quite cross to know they'd slept right through all the drama at No 4. The householder at No 4, Mrs Grace Hutchinson, was perhaps away from home.

Composed by Ros Batchelor for a Groves Story-telling Walk, September 2021



Image by Ros Batchelor

Grove Terrace in the news

Mrs Ellen Stead born 1793 was 48 in 1841. She died in December 1868, aged 75.

On 2 July 1842, Mrs Stead had probably only recently moved in at No 5. The previous occupants, editor of The Yorkshireman, Robert Pierce and family, had moved to London in March that year. An auction at the house of their furniture and other goods had been

advertised in the Gazette.

Mrs Stead was in the news again in late August 1842 when a servant "only appointed a month previously" was found guilty of stealing from her.

Rev Peyton died in 1844 aged only 31. Charles Hall died in April 1850, aged only 42.

Yorkshire Gazette 2 July 1842

York Herald 27 August 1842

...and ... was not being ...
... Mr. Harvey, of the City and County Bank, stated that on the previous morning, about two o'clock, he was aroused by a knocking at the partition wall which separates his bed-room from that of the late Mr. Payton's, in ... He got up and asked what was the matter, ... the bedroom, ... of the weather he could not distinguish what was said to him. Mr. Harvey immediately dressed himself and went down to the front garden, when Miss Stead called out to him, saying they were thieves in Mrs. Hutchinson's house. He was then returning to get a weapon of defence, when he heard Mr. Hall, another neighbour, opening the door, and he told Mr. Harvey to go along with him, as there was a man in Mrs. Hutchinson's privy. Mr. Hall had a gun and two sticks in his hand, and they proceeded together to ... Mr. Harvey took the gun and they found the defendant Barker in the privy. He called out, "Innocence, innocence." Mr. Payton came up, and said there must be some other person about the premises, and a lady said "there's a man in the house yet." The parties then returned into complainant's garden, and they saw a female at one of the back windows. In a short time she came out of the back door with Dunn; she seemed alarmed, and Mr. Hall asked her if she knew Dunn, and her answer being "no," he said "why it's a sort of sweet-hearting." They were proceeding to the station-house with the defendants, and they got to Leather Street, Dunn attempted to escape from Mr. Payton. Whilst they were struggling together, Mr. Harvey said to Dunn several times that he would fire at him if he offered to run away. Dunn did not run away, and Mr. Harvey fired at him. In cross-examination, Mr. Harvey observed that both the defendants said it was a sweet-hearting affair. His idea was that the young men were thieves, but he saw no property with them. It appeared from the evidence of Margaret Collinson, servant to Mrs. Hutchinson, that she had known Dunn for three or four months, and had gone with him occasionally. She also knew Barker by his going with him occasionally. She saw Dunn on Saturday night, about nine o'clock, but she made no appointment for seeing him later. On the Sunday morning, however, about two o'clock, she was alarmed by Dunn coming in at the garret window where she slept. Her sister, who slept with her, awoke her, and she first saw the defendant getting in at the window. She got up and put some of her clothes on, and immediately afterwards, on hearing a knock at the door, she took Dunn down stairs. Under these circumstances the case was dismissed. Mr. Harvey then charged Mr. Harvey with shooting at the defendant, at the back of whose neck he observed several slugs had been lodged, but the magistrates dismissed this case also.

South Parade.—Yesterday, at the Guildhall, Ann Husteroff, of Tadcaster, servant to Mrs. Stead, of Grove Terrace, was charged with having stolen some flour, bread, tea and coffee, sugar, jelly, and a piece of carpeting, a knife, &c., the property of her mistress. On Thursday the prisoner was suspected, and Green, policeman, found in her room a basket containing the above articles, and directed ready for sending off to her aunt, at Tadcaster, besides a quantity of other articles which were laid between the bed and mattress. The prisoner was committed for trial at the next sessions. Bealy Swann, of Davygate, was also committed for trial on a charge of having stolen a quantity of lead from the roof of the Assembly Rooms.

FELONIES, &c.
ANN HUSCROFT, (21.) pleaded guilty to having on the 25th of August last, stolen a piece of carpet and other articles, the property of Ellen Stead, of Grove Terrace. Mr. Payne appeared for the prosecution. On this day in question a variety of articles belonging to the prosecution were found in the prisoner's bed-room, and she confessed to having stolen them. She had only been in Mrs. Stead's service a month, and obtained the situation by a fictitious character. To be imprisoned six months.

5 GROVE TERRACE, MONKGATE, YORK.
ROSEWOOD and Mahogany Dining, Sitting, and Bed-room FURNITURE, Square PIANO-FORTE, GLASS, CHINA, Green Derby DESERT SERVICE, LINEN, SILVER PLATE and PLATED GOODS, KITCHEN REQUISITES and EFFECTS.
Mr. THOMAS WALKER is instructed by the Executor of the late Mrs. STEAD, to SELL BY AUCTION, on the TUESDAY Next, JANUARY 19th, 1869, the whole of the very useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Glass, China, Linen, Silver Plate, and Plated Goods, viz.:—
In the DINING and BREAKING ROOMS.—Rosewood Loo Table, on Pillar and Block; Mahogany Easy Chair, shaped and carved, covered in American cloth; Six Single and Two Armed Mahogany Chairs, in hair-cloth; Mahogany Sofa, in hair-cloth; Mahogany Couch, in hair-cloth; Pair of Mahogany Card Tables, inlaid green baize; Mahogany Work and Pembroke Tables, Brussels and Tapestry Carpets and Hearth Rugs, Square Piano Forte, in Mahogany Case, by Broadwood and Son; Chimney Glass, in Gilt Frame; Bronze, Steel, and Brass Knives; Fenders; Steel Fire Irons, Cinder Receivers, Sets of Modern Window Drapery and Cornices, Rich Cut Antique Laces, Chimney Ornaments, &c.
The BEDROOMS include lofty Mahogany Four-post Bedstead, tall hung with Drapery; handsome Mahogany Tudor Bedstead, with twisted Pillar; and draped with Crimson Moreau; thick Hair and Wool Mattresses, Bordered Live Goose Feather Beds, with large Pillows and Bolsters; Spanish Mahogany Wardrobe, with sliding Tray Shelves and 3-heights Mahogany Dressing Tables, Tray, Swing, and Box Dressing Glasses; Night and Pot Commodes, Case and Rush-seated Chairs, Fenders and Fire Irons, Scotch Carpets, Druggets and Rugs, Chamber Ware, Water Bottles and Glasses, Towel Racks, &c.
GLASS and CHINA.—Cut Decanters and Spirit Bottles, Tumblers, Wines, Pickle Bottles, Sugars, Creams, &c.; a Set of Crown Derby Desert Service, consisting of 19 pieces; Oriental China Tea Service, 38 pieces; Blue and White Dinner Service, Gilt and White Tea Service, &c.
Wardrobe of excellent LINEN.—Double Damask Table Cloths, Tray Cloths, D'Oyley, large Sheets, Pillow and Cover Cases, Chamber Towels, Crumb Cloth, Toilet Covers, Quills, Wines, Blankets, &c., &c.
The SILVER PLATE and PLATED GOODS include handsome Silver Tea Pot, Cream Ewer, and Sugar Basin, Sugar Tongs, Caddy Spoon, Fruit Knife and Fork, and Ivory Hafe; Twelve Plated Dessert Knives and Forks, Dinner Forks, Plated Spirit Stand, Plated Cruet Frame, Knives and Forks.
ENTRANCE and STAIRS.—Passage Oil Cloth, Door Rugs, Kettle Stand, Mahogany Fall Table, Linen Press, Copper Carpets, Brass Stairs Beds, &c.
KITCHEN, PANTRY, &c.—Dial Table and Dresser, Wood Chair, Fender and Fire Irons, Brass, Tin, and Iron Pan, Covers, Culinary Utensils, Brown Ware, &c.
The Sale will commence at ELEVEN o'clock. View on the Morning of Sale.
THE HOUSE TO LET.
Auction Rooms, Newstreet, York, Jan. 14th, 1869.

Yorkshire Gazette 22 October 1842

After Ellen Stead died in December 1868, there was an auction at the house of all her effects, which gives a wonderful picture of a Victorian household.

York Herald 16 January 1869

FORGOTTEN VICTORIAN NOVEL WRITER

Eliza Tabor-Stephenson



Pastel for Eliza, M.S. Broughall, Centaur Press, London, 1961

My first encounter with writer Miss Eliza, daughter of Mr Tabor who owned a boys school on Number 5 Penley(s') Grove street, York, was while I was researching socially active Victorian ladies and looking through Knowles's Notes on the organs, organists, clerks and choirs in York churches since the Reformation in the York Explore library.

Writing about the St Martin (le Grand) Coney Street church Knowle wrote: "1825. The Parish Clerk's office fell to the lot of Thomas Buckley, bass singer at the Cathedral, a man well acquainted with music, having written a manual on chanting. He also figures as the chief character in "The Senior Songman" a novel written by Miss Tabor, a York lady. It is now a

pleasure to show the progress made by the Vicar and Clerk of this Church, assisted by other musicians eager to advance the work of converting a congregation from Puritan practices."

In this quotation Knowle is only partly right about converting people from nonconformist churches such as Methodist, where Tabor's family belonged, to the Church of England. With the York Minster building domineering over the city of York, its pulling force also helped to influence many people

Miss Eliza's biographer expressed explicitly how important for Miss Eliza her position of being a Methodist was and how this affected her decisions in life. But as for the main character in the book mentioned by Knowles,

biographer M. Broughall accounts him differently as for the Miss Eliza's late ex-fiancé Donald: "Her next book, The Senior Songman, about which she left no mention of pleasure in its creation, and which did not appear till after an interval of eighteen months, has a quality of serene tenderness such as she never achieved elsewhere. It was her tribute, unacknowledged, undedicated, not none the less sincerely offered, to Donald's memory, and to that early act of renunciation, still fresh to her, but ripened now by time to a creative experience."

Although we will never know precisely which person was the base for this or other characters in the book, one thing that is clear is that those literacy works spoke deeply to

the many hearts of her readers. The Victorian time itself was marked with active congregations in Christian churches and charity works, and social improvements.

Achieves Hub gives us a summary of her autobiography: "Eliza Tabor (1835-1914) was the author of nineteen novels. She was born in 1835, the daughter of John Tabor, a private school teacher in York, and Mary Holdich. She and her sister Mary Catherine Tabor were educated at home and then became school assistants in the family's establishment. Eliza Tabor published her first works in the early 1850s, a series of articles in the 'British Mothers' Magazine' which were later brought together under the title of 'Woodcroft'. This was followed by one novel, 'All for the Best: The Story of a Quiet Life' which was poorly received and another, 'St Olave', which established her as a novelist. This in turn was followed by another, 'Juanita's Cross', which was the first of a series which had a religious theme. This was a reflection of her theological thinking in the period as, after her father's death, she renounced the family's Methodism along with her mother and sister. However, they remained in contact with many family friends and in particular, the Stephensons of Nottingham. Their son John, who had returned from India as a widower, became engaged to her and the couple were married in Bombay in 1875. They remained in India where Stephenson was a senior chaplain until Eliza Tabor returned home in late 1880 and began to look after her stepchildren from her husband's first marriage as well as

helping her mother during her illness. In her new home in Malvern she established a local Ruskin Society to discuss his works and became friends with Arthur Tennyson. She and the children remained there for seven years during which time she began to write for the young, and completed several adult novels. Brief marital problems in 1885 were followed by the death of her mother and the return of her husband in Spring 1886. He accepted the parish of St Thomas' in Toxteth, Liverpool, where the family moved the following year and remained until 1892 when they moved to Boston in Lincolnshire. She no longer published and lived the life of a vicar's wife after this until 1905 when her husband retired due to illness. They both died in 1914."

The precisely mentioned book's name and being written by a 'York lady' interested me to research more about the author. The book's name led to finding the author's name online and a following short research led to the surprise of discovering her 22 other works listed online. To be a published author of 33 works - notably 3 volume novels and children's books, is an achievement in and of itself. All books (1861-1889) are published in her own name, which itself shows a strong position about the author's personal achievements as in the Victorian time it was unusual for a woman to show such independence. Eliza Tabor - Stephenson's original and reprint books are still available to purchase, mostly online. Her story roused Marjorie S. Broughall's interest and a story of her was written in the biography "Pastel for Eliza" in 1961.

I purchased one of them from the rare book sales and building up this essay on Broughall's work. Women's Library Archives still hold depository of papers relating to the life and work of novelist, including original diaries, photographs, novel manuscripts, and correspondence of Eliza Tabor. It also contains a manuscript biography of Tabor by her friend Mary Johnson (1912) and research papers of her biographer Marjorie Broughall (1961). Though most Tabor's letters were transferred to the Autograph Letter Collection in 1974, the 2009 arrangement of the archive follows its original order into series of documents created by Eliza Tabor, Mary Johnson, and Marjorie Broughall.

I think this would be great opportunity to do more and deeper research as to recover Eliza's thoughts and notes about life in India, bringing up stepchildren or following her husband to the Liverpool or becoming member of Church of England.

Appreciating plentiful material available for research, more of it could be done but in different aspect, not so much about her from personal life perspective but as a writer and socially active woman in the Victorian time. Keeping in mind Eliza's skills and sharp mind describing her surroundings, there could be many interesting discoveries, like note mentioned in Eliza's diary about children book publishing: "I fell a great deal more delighted bout this children's story than about my novels," ... "Any sort of novel can get published, but Macmillan is very particular about his children's stories".

Census 1851:
HO 107

Serial	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, in the Night of the 31st March, 1851	Sex	Age	Profession or Occupation	Where born
1	John Tabor	M	42	Teacher	York
2	Mary Holdich	F	40	Wife	York
3	Eliza Tabor	F	16	Daughter	York
4	Mary Catherine Tabor	F	14	Daughter	York
5	John Stephenson	M	21	Chaplain	India
6	William Stephenson	M	11	Child	India
7	William Stephenson	M	9	Child	India
8	William Stephenson	M	7	Child	India
9	Eliza Stephenson	F	5	Child	India
10	John Stephenson	M	3	Child	India
11	Mary Stephenson	F	2	Child	India
12	William Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
13	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
14	Mary Stephenson	F	1	Child	India
15	William Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
16	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
17	Mary Stephenson	F	1	Child	India
18	William Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
19	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
20	Mary Stephenson	F	1	Child	India
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63	William Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
64	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
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67	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
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97	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
98	Mary Stephenson	F	1	Child	India
99	William Stephenson	M	1	Child	India
100	John Stephenson	M	1	Child	India

Eliza was born in York and lived there till her adulthood. John Tabor, Eliza's father worked in York as a schoolteacher but later owned and managed with his wife's and daughters support his own school for boys. At the year, when her first 3 volume fiction "All for the Best: A Story of Quiet Life" was published in 1861, in the Directory of York we can find information about her father as an academy, owner of school for boys in 5, Penley Grove Street, York.

"Eliza Tabor Stephenson was born in 1835 in York, the daughter of schoolteacher John Tabor and Mary Holdrich. She was educated at home then assisted her father in his school. At a young age, she wrote articles for periodicals before turning to fiction. Her first novel All for the Best (1861) was poorly received, but her second St. Olave's (1863) made her name. Most of her fiction had a religious theme. In the 1870s, she met John Stephenson: originally from Nottingham, he served as a senior chaplain in India and was recently widowed. They were married in 1875 in Bombay and the couple remained together until 1880. In that year, Stephenson returned to England with her three step-children to tend to her ailing mother. During these years, she continued to write three-volume novels for adults as well as books for children. Her husband returned to England in 1886, accepted the parish of St. Thomas near Liverpool, moved to Boston, Lincolnshire, in 1892, and retired due to poor health in 1905. Wife and husband both died in 1914.

Parents with their firstborn daughter moved in the Grove house two years before Eliza was born - "Eliza came next, born in 1835 in the house that was both home and school," wrote her biographer in the book "Pastel for Eliza." Her father was not only schoolteacher, on his own account John Tabor was professional and highly valued also as an academic and educator. "He was a teacher of unusual quality, a mathematician with a scholar's delight in his subject and in kindred studies, and a creative mind and hands. Astronomy was his favourite pastime; in pursuit of it he had acquired and set up a fine telescope, and himself constructed and orrery, for carpentry and mechanical craft were among his active pleasures." It could be from him that she considered valuable to do many things herself like making her own clothes and being very 'industrial' in general.

Eliza's mother Mary Tabor (nee Holdich) managing her own and school's household tasks, teaches her own children and helping her husband in Sunday school. Mary converted to the Methodist church as such was her husband's request before they got married. Eliza was leaning more towards her father, following her biography details, as his strong personality and wide knowledge, also dedication to the school was very influential to her. Even though devoted to her father she never felt free enough to express her feelings to him. Eliza was genially shy and not liked conversations or express her feelings in them, more efforts

received poetry and diaries, later expressing them in writing novels.

After spending time abroad and with husband's circles, she changed her ways in communication and was very pleasant and hospitable house lady.

In her childhoods days her oldest sister Mary as more accomplished student helped father in the school with science topics, but Eliza's forte was music and poetry.

Daydreams in fact were sinful, at any rate for her, Eliza decided, and after family portrait been drawn in pastel and only her

place was not valued in positioning accordingly to their talents, she engaged to write for publishing. At start it was in secret and just some articles for magazine. She was nineteen years old at that time. Young lady shared her poetry and made verses for her friends then. Later years, with plentiful of experience to hold conversations as being a wife of missionary clergyman, she invited friends for musical and poetry evenings.

Sisters stayed close throughout their lives and lived nearby of each other most of their life. They have two more siblings, but those brothers died young. Eliza was keen member of Ruskin ideology and circle, even started a little Ruskin Society when lived at Malvern Link. Later years Eliza travelled and lived in India, moved to Liverpool and Boston, but York hold a special place in her memories.

I feel that there is not appreciation for her life and effort in her birth town in York and more must be done to recognise her as a valuable city's citizen. Informing York Civic Trust and applying for Blue Plaque for her and family on their house, 5 Penley's Grove, York, is the little steps what can be done, but more benefit could be achieved hopefully by shining light on one of the brightest York personalities of that time.

The place where school's building and Eliza's home was is mentioned very early York maps. Nearer to research time I found some of the examples from years 1750, 1771, 1800, 1836 and one could clearly see how grassy overgrown city outskirts was build more and more. Also street names developed but contained initial historical connection and meaning.

There is mentioned Groves Church School and more research must to be done to understand is it in connection with the school what was led by John Tabor.

Avril E. Webster Appleton in his book "Looking Back at Monkgate and The Groves, York" describes Eliza's family as "a staunch Methodist" one. Her short biography described there is what I would call 'a personal variation from some general resources', stereotyping her decisions in life as simple as: "At the age of thirty eight she met and married the widower with three children and spent remainder

*"I fell a great deal more delighted about this children's story than about my novels,"
"Any sort of novel can get published, but Macmillan is very particular about his children's stories".*

of her life fully occupied and happy". What is in Marjorie's Broughall biography book "Pastel for Eliza," is quite opposite described as the time, when Eliza's marriage was on brink of limits at least couple of times, and bringing up children alone, while her husband was in the India, wasn't easy life at all. Maybe it is just a quote from other resources and section about Eliza Tabor like others is just a brief note between descriptions about The Grove. But, kind of knowing how challenging her life and mind was after reading Broughall written biography, I think we must to give her more generous acknowledgement.

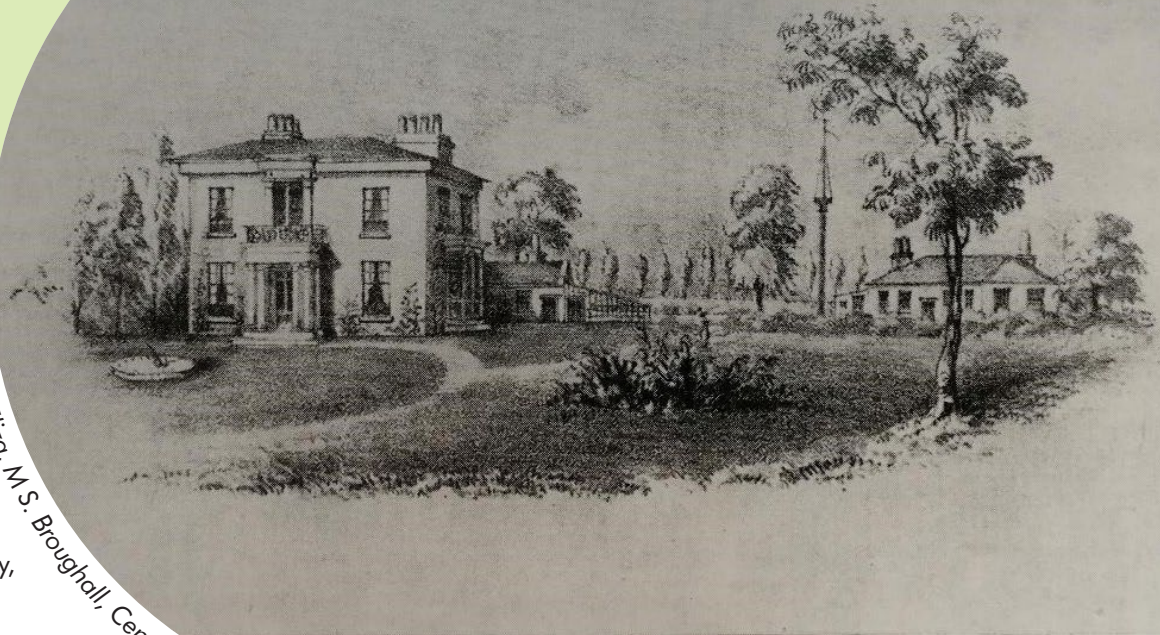
At least Avril E. Webster Appleton is one same page with me about the building where she lived: "John Tabors house changed its name to Settrington House in the 1890's and in the 1920's became part of Groves Working Men's Club."

At first I thought as John Tabor is mentioned in 1861 directory as academy and there is a school for boys at 5 Penley Grove street, could it be that the building is still there? I looked in online search resources and maps, and found information, that two buildings were built in 1830-50, they state that Houses, Nos. 3, 5, 7, are a terrace of three storeys with basements, built c. 1840. The entrances of Nos. 3 and 5 are linked to form one composition with three fluted pilasters; that to No. 7 is similar.

I was glad that buildings there are, but unfortunately, it wasn't the right buildings as I found out, when went to take photo of them. Nothing similar of grandeur house as on picture from book about Eliza's life. In that number was just ordinary semidetached houses.

After conversation with Dr Duncan Marks, Civic Society Manager, York Civic Trust, with whom I shared my disappointment, I received news in late October 2022, that: "It appears on the 1852 OS map of York - the clue is the reference to the sundial in

Groves School, Pastel for Eliza, M.S. Broughall, Centaur Press, London, 1961



GROVE SCHOOL, YORK

From a lithograph by John Tabor

the gardens! Sadly now demolished. It looks like the house was rather butchered and had become part of the Groves Working Men's Club before the whole lot was demolished for housing c.2010 I'm sure you'll be able to find more information on the demolition of the WMC club online, including planning applications for its demolition."

On the Survey maps of 1891 it is hard to find correct position for Eliza's house on Penley Grove Street, as it kind of cutting that place on half for different maps. There also mentioned name - Settrington House, possibly one after the person's name, who bought it after Tabor family sold the property after John's dead. But these conceptions must be follow up in more detailed research.

Grove House is mentioned also as a house that was build in the early years on the 19th century, stood in large grounds off Huntington Road. It was build for Mr Robert (Dobbin) Cattle and its last owner was Mr Luke Thompson. A portion of estate have been sold previously to the York School Board and the school was in the process of erecting. No trace of this house remains.

I presume there could be a bit of

confusion going on between these two properties, both called Grove House in one time or another and standing not so far away from each other, not existing anymore. Especially when both having connection with a school theme going on.

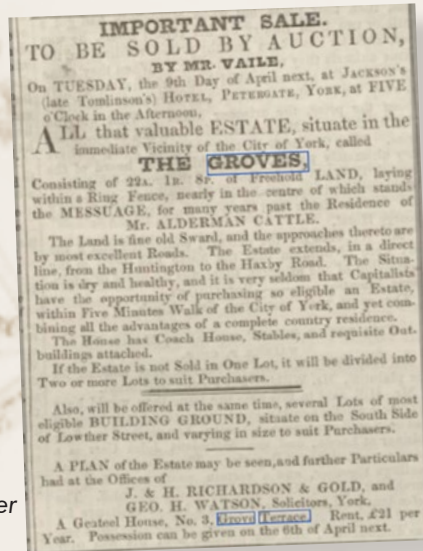
One can imagine how disappointed I was as I dreamt about applying for the Blue plaque for Eliza Tabor - Stephenson. It's noted, that to be considered for a blue plaque, nominations must be judged to meet most of the below criteria: The candidate had a long-standing or significant connection to York; The candidate had a link to a building or place that exists to this day; The candidate made a major and positive contribution to their field that is widely recognised; The candidate's work and life has the power to educate, surprise or inspire others to this day; The candidate has no other plaque in York; The candidate made a major contribution to the history of York or the United Kingdom; There is an upcoming date that has significance for past or current events that the candidate is connected to; The candidate has been deceased for twenty years.

So, no building no recognition.

Groves House AND ESTATE

Robert Cattle and his wife Mary built Grove House about **1816**. It was set in a large site, accessed from Huntington Road and was effectively in a country estate away from, but within walking distance of the city.

Yorkshire Gazette
23 March
1844,
British Newspaper Archive



Grove House and 22 acres of adjacent land was put up for sale in March **1844**. Luke Thompson, a York solicitor, bought the Grove House estate and moved there with his wife, Jane and their family of nine children. Luke Thompson (1807-1886) and Jane White were married on 20 Nov 1832 at All Saints, Pavement. In White's 1840 Directory, Luke's office was at 9 New Street and his home address was 66 Gillygate. The 1841 Census, recorded the household as Luke, 30, attorney with Jane, 35, and children George, William 6, Elizabeth 5, Sarah 4, Luke 2, Jane 1 and John 2 months. One servant, Ann Cross, age 18 was living with the family. Luke junior had been christened on 4 October 1838 at St Olaves.

1810

1820

1830

1840

1850

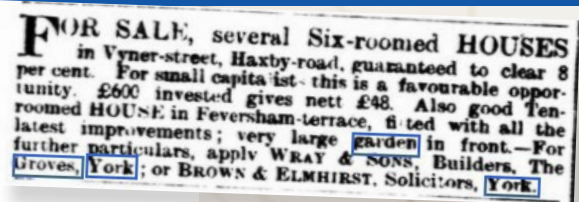
In **1824**, Grove Terrace, a terrace of 12 houses, was built on the edge of the estate, adjacent to the road to Huntington and overlooking the river Foss. It was another 50 years before development spreading from the centre of York reached the terrace. Robert Cattle died in 1842. Mary left York and went to live at Whitwell on the Hill with her nephew, William Duffitt and his wife Elizabeth, who were farmers. Mary died in 1848.

1852 OS Map, York Council Archeology



The **1851** Census shows that Luke & Jane Thompson and by then 9 children had moved to Grove House. The following census years and other records show that the family remained there for over 30 years, into the 1880s. Luke was originally from Rievaulx and Jane from Norton le Clay near Boroughbridge. Land was sold for development between Grove House and Haxby Road. Jane died by 1881 and Luke, senior died on 29 June 1886. Son, William, attorney & solicitor, born 1834, and his wife, Anne Jane were living at 7 Penley's Grove Street in 1861. In 1863, they had a baby, another Luke Thompson born 11 October. Baby Luke was baptised 27 Dec 1864 at New Street Wesleyan Methodist.

On 7 Aug 1865, son, Luke Thompson, junior, b1838, married Jane Lawson at Slingsby. They had three children, Matthew Lawson, Frederic and Edwin and by 1871 were living at Marske in North Yorkshire. Two daughters Florence and Caroline, and two more sons, Luke and Herbert, were born by 1881. Father, Luke was a solicitor; he died 20 October 1890 at Saltburn. The family continued to live in the Teesside area. Daughter, Ruth Thompson, age 26, married John Taylor, age 25, on 9 Aug 1871 at New St, Wesleyan Methodist. John was a master carriage builder and later a house furnisher. His father was Thomas Taylor. By 1891, John, Ruth and family were living in St Oswald's Terrace, Fulford. Ruth died at Matlock in 1904 but was buried at Fulford Parish Church on 22 June.

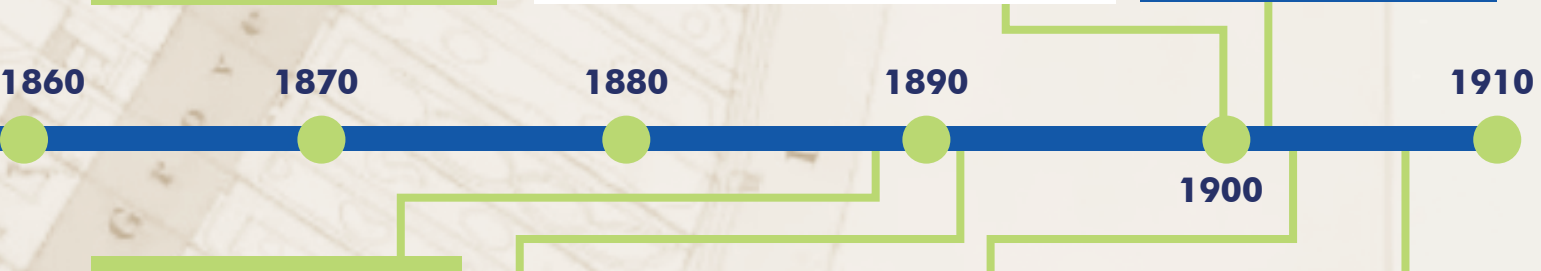


York Herald 13 September 1895, British Newspaper Archive

A conveyance dated 22 June 1900 of the triangular site off Grove Terrace Lane, which had been a shrubbery/orchard to Grove House, then became a coal yard, later garages and now the site of three bungalows, included a covenant from 1899 "land in this title and other land between (1) Ruth Taylor (2) Mary Wray and (3) Leonard Wray AND the said Leonard Wray Joseph Wray and Alfred Wray hereby covenant with the said Ruth Taylor that no house or building erected on the piece or parcel of land hereby conveyed shall be used as Glass Works Pot manufactory Forge Smiths Shop or for any noisy noisome or offensive trade or manufacture and that no steam engine shall be used in any such house or building and that no such house or building shall be used as an Inn or Public House or for the sale of any intoxicating liquor. The Wray family were builder/contractors from County Durham who, bought land from the Grove House estate and developed some of the streets. They also developed sites elsewhere in York.

The 1901 Census shows more houses on Park Grove, which had been extended and ran through the site of Grove House to link up at an angle with Neville Street. By 1901, Diamond and Emerald Street were being developed on land to the north-east of Grove House. Diamond Street appears to have been completely built, but Emerald Street was not complete, with only 4 houses (Nos 1, 3, 5, 7) recorded in the census that year.

By 1894, Grove House and the remaining estate land were advertised as suitable for development and for sale by auction. The land for Park Grove School had already been bought by the York School Board and the school was being built. Grove House must have been demolished soon after the sale.



The 1892 map shows that Neville Street had been built right up to the back wall of Grove House, but only part of Park Grove had been developed, in the 1870s.



1892 OS, MAP/4/529

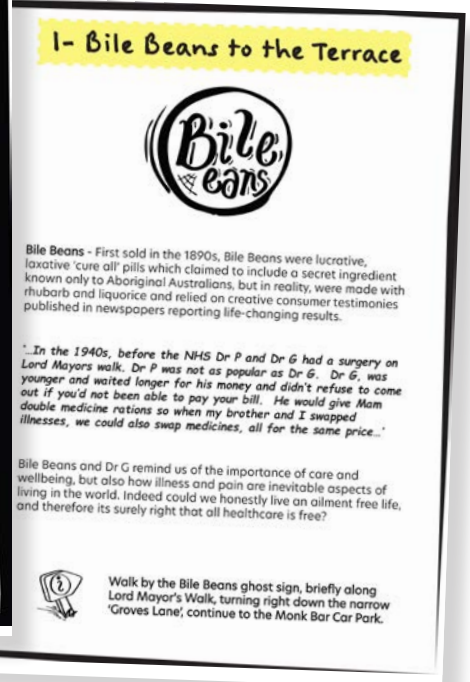
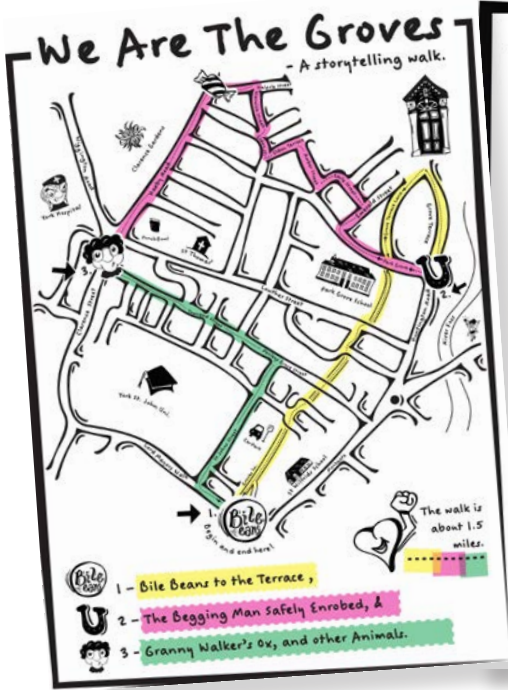
In 1902, the conveyance of land at 51 and 53 Diamond Street, by Mrs Ruth Taylor, recites the ownership of the land by Luke Thompson passing on his death in 1886 to his executors and trustees, son William Thompson and son-in-law John Taylor. William Thompson died on 20 February 1891 and John Taylor on 17 May 1897. Ruth Taylor was the executor and trustee under her husband's will. 51 and 53 Diamond Street have already been built by builder Richard Machen. The conveyance sells him the land for £50, which includes to the mid-point of the main street and the full width of the back lane. It is noted that the street was to have been called Pearl St. The conveyance also refers to not building any premises for sale of intoxicating liquor, a link to the Thompson family's Methodist practises.

The 1909 Ordnance map shows that Grove House had completely disappeared by that time and Emerald Street had been completed, as well as Amber and Earle Streets, and associated back lanes. It is only by looking carefully at maps that any understanding of the former location of Groves House is gained.



1909 OS, MAP/4/640

All the Thompson children moved away and by 1891, Grove House was being used as a residential and laundry adjunct to the nearby geriatric hospital, later called the City Hospital, which had developed from the workhouse.



WE ARE THE GROVES

wearethegroves.org

Animated Stories

By York St John Animation students

We Are The Groves (WATG) have researched and shared a series of stories from The Groves through film, audio, guided walks and pamphlets.

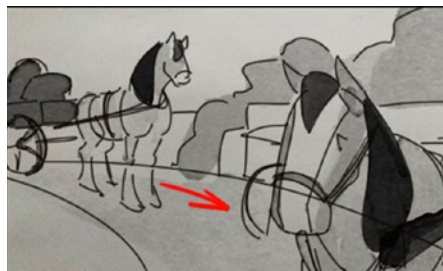
WATG have kindly offered their research to us to incorporate into our Heritage Hunters project. We didn't just want to reproduce their work but partner with another group to bring these stories to life.

York Museums Trust have worked with York St John University animation students in the past, but we were keen to work with them as the university is part of the history of The Groves and they were keen to work with the local community.

Animation students at York St John University work on a client-based project during their second year of studies. This allows them to take the foundation skills they have learned during their first year and apply them to design challenges in a more professional context; a really valuable experience that shows them how to balance their creative voice with the needs of a client. Working with the Heritage Hunters and We Are The Groves project has given the students an opportunity to explore storytelling

in a social history context, and more specifically how animation can be used in a documentary film style. The course is home to students from a range of cultural and geographical backgrounds. Working with a local community storytelling group has encouraged them to engage with their surroundings and reflect on their own role within this environment.

We have published the animations on our website and YMT's Youtube page which you can find here:



THE ANN HARRISON Almshouses

Portrait of Ann Harrison, courtesy of Ann Harrison Charity Trustees

Located on Penley's Grove Street in the Groves the almshouses are a relatively modern building but have a history stretching back to 1845.

Ann Harrison (right) lived at 40 Monkgate with her husband John, a 'carrier', he ran the York depot of the haulage firm Deacon, Harrison and Co. His partner was in fact, John Jackson, based at the headquarters in Wakefield. John had been Sheriff of York from 1811 to 1812 and was married to Christian. They had three children, two of which were godchildren of the Harrisons who had no children of their own.

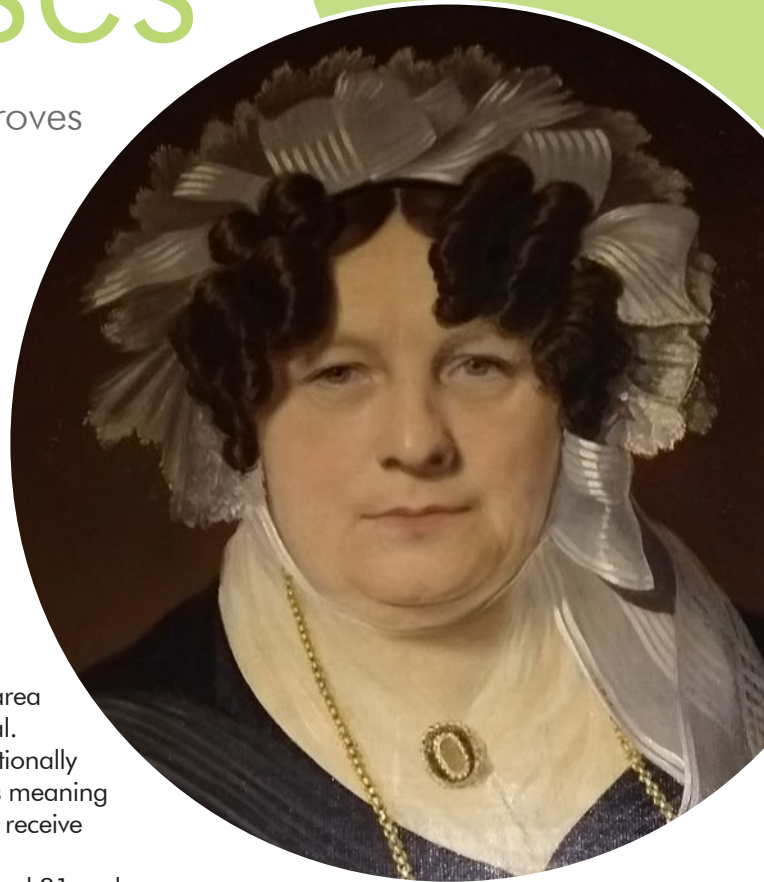
Widowed in 1831, Ann used her inheritance in 1833 to purchase two acres of land in the Groves, bordering her property, for £1000 (£152,300 today) She rented the land to a gardener who, by coincidence, was called John Harrison.

Harrison's Charity was established in 1839 with 10 trustees who included Christian Jackson (the widow of John), Joseph Buckle, a next-door neighbour at 39 Monkgate who had twice been Lord Mayor, and the Rev Edward Raines, rector of Holy Trinity Church, Goodramgate. The charity was endowed with £7,158 2s 10d (£950,000) to provide for Ann for

the rest of her life and to be used for charitable purposes with the intention of building almshouses. Such charitable projects were customary for the upper and upper middle classes and similar institutions already existed in the area such as Agar's Hospital. Almshouses were traditionally referred to as hospitals meaning a place of shelter or to receive hospitality.

Ann died in 1845 aged 81 and was buried alongside her husband John in St Maurice's churchyard. This church, on the corner of Monkgate and Lord Mayor's Walk, was demolished in 1967 to allow widening of the junction. (see photo) Although Ann did not live to see the almshouses built, plans were well under way before her death as model of the almshouses was ordered for £4 (£530) in 1841. Stock worth £1200 (£187,000) was sold to finance the building work and two stone busts and two portraits of the Harrisons were also commissioned. The portraits bequeathed to Christian were then placed in the chapel, however by 1954 were at risk of deterioration. They have been housed in several different locations including the home of one of the residents who was an artist.

The building was single storey with eight individual dwellings and a central chapel with communal gardens (see left). Each home had its own garden, porch, bed sitting room, kitchen with open range, outside privy and coalhouse. On contemporary maps it



is called Harrison's Hospital but was known locally as the 'Old Maid's House' The foundation stone was laid by Christian Jackson and contained coins and newspapers in a metal box. It was ready for occupation towards the end of 1846.

The residents of almshouses were usually women, often retired servants. In the case of the Ann Harrison Charity women aged 50 years or more, specifically widows and spinsters in 'reduced circumstances'. Initially, each resident was given an annuity of £20 (£3000). Of the eight original residents, referred to as 'inmates' until 1928, three lived there for over 20 years, the longest being Ann Holiday who remained for 37 years. They also benefited from an annual coal delivery every winter, although this was replaced in 1867 by an allowance paid on Christmas Eve. In the 1870's there was an economic depression and with high inflation and an extra gratuity of £1 per quarter was paid 'in consequence of the dearth of provisions'. ▶



Cloughton W. D., *The Ann Harrison Almshouses, York, 1966*. John Addy Collection. York St John University Archives and Special Collections. GB 1865 JAC/T/7

Unfortunately, the charity was also affected by the economic downturn, and it was soon discontinued. The annuity was finally stopped in 1961 following the introduction of the Welfare State, to be replaced by a weekly contribution to the charity by the residents. To help raise money which was also necessary for the maintenance of the building, some of the land was sold in 1882. This allowed the widening of Garden Street (previously a lane) and the building of houses to extend St John Street (now known as St John Crescent). A condition of the sale was that there should be no 'noisome or offensive trade or sale of intoxicating liquors' from the new houses. Repairs and alterations were recommended by Charity Commissioners in 1883 and in 1911 York Council demanded sanitary improvements replacing the privies with water closets. In the early 1900's attempts were made by the authorities to consolidate the charities in York providing housing but this was strongly opposed. The trustees felt their 'first duty was to uphold the wishes and directions of their founders'. Bomb damage occurred in 1941 at a cost of £39 10s 4d (£2600) to repair.

Post war, despite further bequests, there were insufficient funds for repairs and the building did not meet housing standards (Housing Act 1949). York council suggested demolition and the provision of eight places in council accommodation, but the charity wanted to continue. The charity joined the National Association of Almshouses in 1953 which provided valuable support and advice was also sought from the Joseph Rowntree Village Trust. In 1954 the charity was informed of a compulsory purchase order and

in 1956 an improvement grant was refused so it was agreed to sell the site, claim slum clearance subsidy and build new almshouses. Plans for the new building were approved by the city architect in 1960, a traditional three-sided square with communal garden. The eight dwellings had underfloor heating, controlled by 'the clerk' as well as electric wall heaters with a slot meter.

In 1964 the lady trustees were concerned with energy usage in the new homes noting that 'householders are apt to be careless with leaving lights on unnecessarily when they do not receive a quarterly bill'

The building work took 32 weeks and homes were ready for occupation in March 1965 nearly 120 years after the original almshouses were opened.

(see photo). Unfortunately, the old foundation stone could not be found so a new one containing coins and a copy of the York Evening Press in a copper tube was laid. The residents were moved to their new homes free of charge by Bowman and Sons of Monkgate. At the opening ceremony a special cake celebrating 120 years was cut by the oldest resident and in May a blessing service was held in York Minster. The old building was demolished and the site was sold to York City Council to build an old people's home for 40 residents, called Grove House. It has since been sold and converted into flats known as St John Mews.

Improvements have been necessary since 1965, upgrading flats when



The Ann Harrison Almshouses are still governed by local volunteer trustees and the upkeep of the building is managed by a local property company. It is admirable that after 177 years Ann Harrison's legacy continues to provide much needed accommodation for elderly single ladies in need.

Almshouses today, taken by Sara Townsend

they become vacant to provide warm comfortable homes with modern heating, kitchens and bathrooms. In 1993 double glazing was installed and gas boilers replaced the underfloor heating which had failed in 1999 and were replaced again in 2009.

Vacancies have been regularly advertised in the local press as far back as 1881 and at times difficult to fill owing to the state of repair in earlier years. In 1996 approval was given by the Charity Commission to change the constitution to allow divorced and separated single women to apply.

Today the beautiful gardens are well kept but there is long history of challenging maintenance and neglect. In 1880 Mr Albert Barley a greengrocer of Monkgate was appointed as a tenant of the garden with a character reference from the Sheriff of York but a couple of years later had failed to pay his rent. Allotment holders were given notice in 1950 as they failed to keep the front garden tidy, and the local Scout troop were thanked for their efforts in 1952. It was suggested that the garden could be offered to Groves Working Men's Club as a bowling green in 1953 but abandoned because of likely further development in the Groves. Other volunteers included students at York St John and the 1977 Job Creation Scheme.



Cloughton W. D., *The Ann Harrison Almshouses, York, 1966*. John Addy Collection. York St John University Archives and Special Collections. GB 1865 JAC/T/7

THE connected stories OF THE GROVES

It is the interconnectedness of things that first drew me to this project. I have had quite a long association with The Groves, but it was only when we purchased our present home in 2018 that my memories and interest in the Groves area were rekindled.

I was married in St Thomas's Church Lowther Street in 1990, the church standing opposite my father-in-law, Robin Lake's butchers shop. My in-laws also married there. My husband, Chris worked in the shop from the age of 16. Robin was first apprenticed to Arthur Ridsdale in Penley Groves Street and later gained the shop in Lowther Street as a result of the Groves clearances in the 1960's. The Lake family grew up at number 37 Garden Street, long demolished and Robin attended St Thomas's Church School, Lowther Street, demolished in c1997. Other members of my husband's family worked at the Rowntree Factory on Haxby Road.

We bought our house from the NHS, when its life as a Psychological Day Centre ended in 2017.

Eastbourne House is a Victorian Villa overlooking the River Foss and just a bit further along Huntington Road from Grove Terrace, our garden backs on to Emerald and Diamond Street. I started to investigate the history of my home and it has led me further into the history of the Groves, as Edward Hill, one of the early occupiers, was a prominent Methodist and very involved in the establishment of the Groves Chapel. He was a leather merchant and currier and it is interesting to reflect how trades and industry have evolved in the Groves area.

Today the Groves is a very different area to the one even my in-laws grew up in. In the Foreword to "Looking Back at Monkgate and The Groves" (Avril E Webster Appleton) Geoff Lake, Robin's brother recalls his memories of the Groves.

'Every where was convenient and a few paces, or a short walk away. All

food and drink vendors, traders and merchants were on first name terms with their clients. The near city location gave all the advantages of commerce, retail and industry for its residents ranging from chocolate and sweet production to railway carriage manufacture with many other light industrial concerns.'

The clearances of the 1960's changed the topography of the area massively and small terrace houses, shops and pubs were replaced by blocks of flats and new business premises. The

sense of community was undoubtedly impacted by these changes, along with the rise of the supermarket and car use. Today the area has a high proportion of student accommodation and holiday lets bringing a different set of challenges. However recent traffic calming measures taken by the council have made the area more pleasant to walk around and the work of 'The Groves Heritage Association' and 'We are the Groves' shows the sense of community is still alive and kicking in the 21st century. ▶



► **ROBIN LAKE,
LOWTHER
STREET BUTCHER
(Recollections
of Chris Lake)**

Robin was born in 1935 and grew up at 37 Garden Street, a row of terrace houses with long back gardens ideal for growing vegetables and keeping pigs. It was next to a scrap yard, King's rag yard.

The house was demolished to make way for St John's College Chapel in the 1960's. Chris recalls his father talking about the many piggeries in the area, at one point he drew a map identifying their location, sadly lost. That pigs were prevalent in the area is also witnessed in the description of the air raids that struck the Groves in the 1940's, with the story of exploding pigs when a number of sties were hit to the rear of 57 Eldon Street. Pigs were kept by Robin in Garden Street and there were pigs in the scrap yard next door. Many residents in the Groves kept pigs in their back yards, fed them on scraps and fattened them up to trade with the local butchers. The butchers took half, and they got half. Robin recalled how the meat would have to be cured with saltpetre as there were no freezers.

There are many amusing tales involving pigs, Robin using his butcher's bike to ride round the Groves collecting peoples waste to feed to his pigs, adapting his butcher's bike



Robin Lake
Photos courtesy
of Chris Lake and
Sarah Ironside

specially for this purpose, by removing the wicker basket and wedging a metal bin in its place. Trips were also made to Clifton Ings when the grass was cut and Robin collected this, drying it on the shed roof at the Garden Street house, to provide bedding for his mice, he bred mice to sell as pets and supplement his income.

In the early days of his career Robin was apprenticed to a local butcher Arthur Ridsdale who had a shop in Penley Grove Street, starting work in his early teens. In those days butchery was much more primitive than today and Robin recalls cutting up carcasses in the entrance to the shop, with customers having to squeeze past. There was also a local slaughterhouse behind the Penley Grove shop where cattle were slaughtered. When the local slaughterhouses closed, Robin recalled driving to the city slaughterhouse on Clifton Ings, seats were removed from the car and pigs transported across York. Driving down Bootham he remembered moving the pigs away from the steering wheel, so that he could continue his journey.

In those days if you had a license, you slaughtered your own animals, the council run slaughterhouse only employing a cleaner.

When the clearances of the 1960's started in the Groves, Arthur Ridsdale's shop on Penley Groves Street was marked for demolition. As Arthur also had another shop he wouldn't have been entitled to a replacement, so Robin took over this business. Lake's Butchers moved into the council owned Lowther Street shop in 1961, remaining there for 42 years until his retirement. In the early days it was hard for Robin to juggle the finances and Arthur helped him out, paying for the animals bought at auction at the



Arthur Ridsdale's shop window with chickens - Penley Grove Street



R Lakes butchers shop today

start of the week and Robin paying him back at the end of the week when the meat was sold. In this period residents shopped locally and it was frowned upon to be seen using shops in other areas. The Groves was full of lots of local businesses and Robin recalled his parents had a small shop, but the contents were very dependent on how well his father's gambling had gone that week. If times were hard the tins were spread out to make it look fuller. He also had fond memories of Richardson's sweet shop, Questa's ice cream shop and Lea's bakery. There was also a blacksmith's shop at the end of March Street where shire horses were kept, along with all the pigs, chickens and cattle being slaughtered the area was very different to what we see today. In an interview to the York Press just before retiring (Weekender, March 15th 2003) Robin reflected on what had changed in his 40 plus years of trading, summing it up as "Fridges, freezers, supermarkets and motorcars". He also touched on the subject of climate change, the Lowther Street shop, still having the ceiling hooks where sides of meat were hung, no longer in use. He put this down to the climate and health regulations, "The weather seemed to be more predictable then. In winter you could hang things and leave them there for a day and they would still be fresh, but now you can't do this".

The Lowther Street shop is opposite St Thomas's Church and is now The Monkey King Takeaway. Next to the church was originally a school, built in the 1800's, St Thomas's Church School and Robin attended this junior school. When this was demolished in 1997 he asked for one of the pediment carvings from the front which I now have in my garden, I was intrigued to find out more about this building, its appearance and its history.



Cattle behind the shop



St Thomas's School today

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH SCHOOL, LOWTHER STREET, YORK

When I married in 1990 this building was still standing next to St Thomas's Church and opposite Lake's butchers and I have vague memories of it being in a similar architectural style to the church. We have a wonderful carved stone face from one of the corners of the building which Robin purchased from the demolition team when the building was demolished in c1997. Robin had looked out on the building for many years and wanted a memento, today the new building in its place is occupied by the Probation Service.

I was intrigued to find out more about the history of the building, as my father-in-law also attended the Junior School. The original Groves Church School was opened in 1831 in Cole Street and soon became overcrowded. In 1858 it closed and the children were transferred to a new building next to St Thomas's Church in Lowther Street, the building I remember. Originally there were boys/girls and infants departments, with attendance in 1867 standing at 165. Numbers increased and in 1887 the average attendance was 379, at this time fees were still paid.

As evidenced from an account of the bombing raids on the Groves in the 1940's St Thomas's School sustained damage to some toilets and glass, when a bomb landed on ground nearby.

Whilst at the school Robin Lake recalled never learning to swim, as his parents wouldn't buy him a

Stonework from St Thomas School, images by Sarah Ironside

costume and on school swimming trips to Clifton Ings, he wouldn't wear the municipal baggy swimming costumes provided. This being on account of them failing to hide your modesty!!!! The teaching standard was good however and Robin progressed on to Nunthorpe Grammar School to finish his education.

The school continued as a voluntary-aided junior and infant school and in 1956 there were 160 children enrolled. The school was closed shortly after and used by St John's College until the 1990's when it was demolished and the Probation Service building erected in its place.

Some log book entries

1865

'School improved, discipline excellent, needlework good.'

1870

'Children making lint for wounded soldiers instead of needlework. Home lessons badly done children punished.'

1871

'Many children away sick, Scarlet Fever.'

1881 March

'Epidemic of Scarlet Fever. Emma Glover came in late playing in playground. As punishment made to stand on a stool.'

1882 February

'Two boys drowned in River Foss.'



Eastbourne House today. Photo by Sarah Ironside

Edward Hill (MRC/1/22/5 Borthwick Institute)



▶ EASTBOURNE HOUSE, HUNTINGTON ROAD, YORK

When we moved into our home I was keen to learn more about its history, find out who it was built for and when etc. This research is very much ongoing and despite some questions being answered much remains unknown and many gaps remain. The exterior of our house has a slightly institutional feel to it, red brick and stone to the front facade and I did wonder whether it was built as a house originally? The holy grail would be a photograph of the exterior in the 1800's/early 1900's, but this remains elusive. However a recent breakthrough at The Borthwick Institute did bring a photograph of Edward Hill one of the early residents and this opened up a whole new area of research, Methodists in the Groves and the building of Grove Chapel, opposite the end of Lowther Street, now a Co-op.

My research was hindered originally as our house had a name and this was why I couldn't find it, also the part of Huntington Road we are on used to be called Prospect Terrace, not Huntington Road, so it has had many different incarnations. From the timeline below the property was not built in 1852, but occupied as a Ladies Seminary in 1871. It is still unclear exactly when it was built and by/for whom. Recent further exploration of the Electoral Rolls and Council Minutes have proved fruitless, women couldn't vote until later (1918/1928) this explains some of the omissions. It is fascinating to consider how the Groves area was

developed and large areas of land appear to have been sold off to speculators/developers, some of whom then split their land into smaller, even single plots and sold them to local builders.

A prominent estate in the Groves was bought by a Mr Robert Cattle in the early 1800's, the land extended to at least 60 acres. Grove House was built for him and stood off Huntington Road, he died there in 1842. The estate stretched from Huntington Road to Haxby Road and in the 1820's land started to be sold off for development. All this area has now been developed and Grove House no longer remains. It is possible that our property was built on some of this land.

Further investigation of the Trade Directories at York Explore have revealed Edward Hill to be a Currier/Leather merchant and Hill Brothers to have been Tanners and Curriers with premises on Fossgate and works on Foss Islands. They also appear to have had premises on Mickelgate and Colliergate. I also found some adverts for their goods in the Trade Directories, 'Hill Bros- Sole manufacturers of Ebocrom leather'.

It is clear that the Hill Bros were very successful merchants and also that they were Methodists. This was an unexpected development and led me to research the building of Grove Chapel on Clarence Street in 1884, of which the Hill family were prominent members and donors.

Timeline

1824 Grove Terrace built

1849 Work House built on Huntington Road

1852 OS Map still fields between Grove Terrace and The Workhouse where our house stands.

1861 Still not built

1871 'The Misses Sumners receive young ladies resident pupils, a foreign governess resides in the family and highly qualified masters are in attendance.' (York Herald, 1871)

1874 The Misses Sumner require a tenant for Eastbourne House, Huntington Road, York in consequence of removing their school to Blossom Street House, lately occupied by Miss Birley.' (York Herald 1874)

1880 'To Let, Eastbourne House Huntington Road, containing three reception rooms, six bedrooms, two attics, two kitchens, bathroom and large cellar. Stabling and washhouse adjoining. Apply on the premises' (York Herald 1880)

1885-6 Electoral Roll- Edward Hill, Eastbourne House

1889 Edward Hill's first wife Francis Grace Hill dies funeral announcement for York Cemetery (York Herald 1889)

1891 Edward Hill marriage announcement to Eliza Alice (York Herald 1891)

1901 Edward Hill dies (Estate region of 4 million in today's money)

1920 A Mary Ann Dickinson is listed at the address

1955 Joseph Bedford dies in Eastbourne House

1960s-1980s The Residence, trainee doctors accommodation, the house is split into bed sits.

1986 The house is turned into a psychological day centre

2017 St Andrews, psychological day centre, put up for sale by the NHS

2018 We moved in

GROVES CHAPEL, CLARENCE STREET, YORK

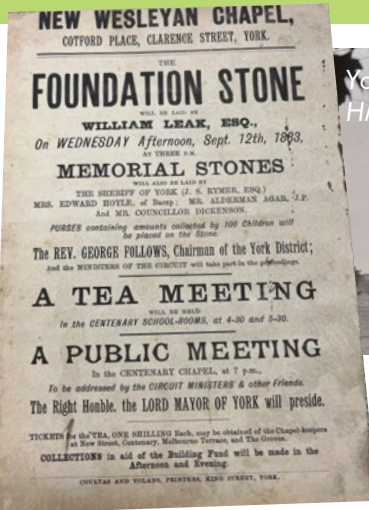
I have passed this building many times and remember it was for sale for a long time before it's present incarnation as a Co-op supermarket. In the mid 1800's the Groves was a rapidly developing area and the population had grown significantly, rising to a population of just over 5,000 (1/8th of the population of York at that time).

There were however only two churches in the area, St Thomas's (Lowther Street) built in 1853 and St Maurice built in 1878 (Monkgate). Into this void stepped a small group of Methodists wanting to serve the spiritual needs of the Groves residents, one of these individuals was Edward Hill who lived in my house on Huntington Road. Early meetings before 1868 were held in a room above a stable at the back of Brownlow Street, numbers increased rapidly and new premises were sought.

In 1868 a school-chapel was built in Brook Street at the rear of Archbishop Holgate's School and a little distance from Brownlow Street. The building, known as the Brook Street Chapel, was built of red brick with a slate roof with coloured brick ornamentation; it provided accommodation for 400 worshippers. In 1883 there were 256 members and 600 pupils attended the day school and 540 the Sunday school, there was clearly a need and attention turned to providing a larger chapel. Land was purchased in Clarence Street at a cost of £1,300 and a chapel opened in 1884, becoming known as The Groves Chapel.

The architecture was quite elaborate in style, built in red brick and standing in a

Borthwick Institute, MR/Y/GRO



prominent position, with a square porch, supported by four granite pillars. Arched windows were edged in stone and grand urns perched on top of the facade, still visible today, the chapel was surrounded by cast iron railings, now gone. The architect was W. J. Morley of Bradford. At the time there was not much traffic and what is now a busy road junction was a pleasant promenade.

The cost of the building (£5,820) was raised by donations, a large donor being Edward Hill and two other family members, each putting in £500. The chapel housed 800 people, in 1888 an organ was installed at a cost of £450 and in 1894 classrooms were added at the rear of the chapel. After The Groves Chapel was opened, Brook Street Chapel continued to be used as a Sunday school and day school, the day school was closed in 1890. The early days of Groves Chapel were extraordinarily vibrant, something that is harder to comprehend when we consider church congregations today. Many people attended, there were class meetings, teas, outings, bands and missions. The material as well as spiritual needs of the congregation were also met and support was on hand for widows and the poor of the local area.

I have studied the Log Books of the Groves Chapel, held at the Borthwick Institute and they yielded much information; In a letter dated 1881 from J R Hill of St Saviourgate to the Poor Steward this attention to the poor is clearly illustrated; 'I have received from a friend ten pounds for the relief of the present distress of the aged, afflicted poor' with 'especial reference to the Groves District'.

It is clear from the Groves Chapel log books that whilst the spiritual and educational welfare of the students was paramount, there was also much concern with treats and fun. Mr Hill

remarking that 'due to various causes the Young Men's Class had not been able to hold their Annual Picnic and as the season was now so advanced, asked that the amount allowed to them might be used by them in aid of the Social Gathering of the class to be held shortly.'

An article in The Yorkshire Herald 1896 gives us an insight into the Chapel at this time; 'A report from December 1895 showing that the various departments of the schools were progressing and improving', 'with a total of 798, which was an increase on the previous years membership of 63'. The Band of Hope membership was 208, an increase of 32'. There was mention of a struggle to get enough teachers and officers and that missionary work was not quite as well supported as the previous year, but on the whole the report was favourable'.

Avril E Webster Appleton identifies four key individuals associated with the Chapel and Sunday school at this time, "Mr Benjamin Wales, Mr John Brown, Mr Thomas Thurgood and Mr Edward Hill, the Chapel's first organist and a class leader." Edward Hill remained heavily involved with the Chapel, as Treasurer and Trustee, as well as organist and teacher until his death in 1901. After this his widow Eliza continued to support the Chapel financially, still being one of the main subscribers, giving £10.00 in 1902.

When Edward Hill died, a fund was started to provide for a Memorial Window in his honour at the chapel. I would like to further investigate this, to see if the window still exists.

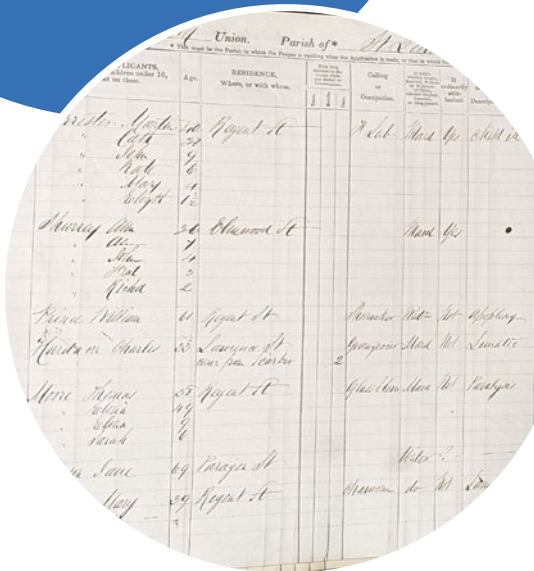
After the war years numbers declined and the upkeep of such a large building started to take a toll, however the chapel continued in use, forming part of the Clifton Circuit. The community remained active and positive but the strain of maintaining the building clearly was a major factor in its demise. The Log Books showing much fund raising towards its maintenance into the 20th century. Groves Chapel finally closed for services in the 1970's.

Announcements - MR/Y/GRO, Society Records of Methodist Church, York, Groves Chapel, Borthwick Institute, University of York



Reclaimed materials from The Groves, York, including part of an old backyard door, and signage letters from, the now closed, Castle Howard Ox pub on Townend Street, 65 x 65 cm, Stephen Lee Hodgkins, 2023.

Poor Law application and report book entry for Charles Hardacre, York Explore PLU/3/1/1/86.



HARDACRE

Labels for a Greengrocer

In 1873, in The Groves, York, Charles Hardacre, a greengrocer seeks help.

Within records from the York Poor Law Union Workhouse Committee at that time, under the entry for 'Quantity and Description of Relief in Kind' its states he is offered 'examination and assistance', at the cost of 24 shillings. The 'description of disability' penned in an inky script as 'lunatic'.

On December 11th, 1873, Charles is admitted to Bootham Lunatic Asylum and the 'Registry of Admissions Book (Pauper Patients)' records; '... Charles Hardacre, admitted as a city pauper patient, is a short, feeble looking man, a greengrocer and by religious persuasion, a Baptist. He has

rather small head, brown hair, hazel eyes, with small pupils, and a dull, heavy, unintellectual expression of countenance. Temperament nervous. Complexion pale. General health apparently, very feeble. Appetite bad. He obstinately refuses food. He has a simple [...] hernia which, it seems he has not worn a truss. He has also an inflamed spot on his left ankle apparently from [...] a tight boot, which will probably become an ulcer. He stoops a great deal - and has the aspect of an infirm feeble man. There is no evidence of disease with vascular, respiratory or abdominal. He is fairly clean in his habits. Is unusually quiet and orderly. He is epileptic to the extent of having had 2 fits 4 years ago - but none since. He has attempted to hang himself. He is not considered dangerous to others. He is very taciturn, can be

easily induced to speak - save under the influence of an excitement which seems to alternate with great depression, almost assuming the character of [...] he then becomes noisy and talkative. He talks at such times feebly and in a childish manner but fairly coherently. When depressed he says he should like to die. This is said to be the first attack and to have lasted only three weeks - but his wife assures me that he has been practically unfit to attend to business for more that twelve months. The disease is hereditary, father, brother, sister having been insane or very eccentric. He has been unfortunate in his business, but no other depressing moral influences seem to have operated upon him. He is fairly educated, has always been and industrious. Has had no serious illness. No blows on the head...'



Made from a remnants of a reclaimed backyard door and disused letters from the Castle Howard Ox pub on the corner of Townend Street, that Charles may have passed on his way to Bootham Asylum, this piece is a tribute to humans in mental health institutions, past, present and future. While York can boast some innovation in treatment in Victorian times, with 'The Retreat' and its driving of reform for institutions, developments in mental health have been prolific in cataloging, labeling and ostracising, what is essentially a very human experience. Reading through Charles' records and reflecting on the current crisis in support, I wonder what has really changed and think about how it is that we can better frame, respond to, and record our inevitable experiences of mental distress and health.

By Stephen Lee Hodgkins, March 2023. Made as part of the 'Heritage Hunters' community heritage research project with York Castle Museum and The Groves Association.

On January 30th, 1874, Charles is transferred to North Riding of Yorkshire, Lunatic Asylum. On February 1st they write he 'gradually died this morning'. And on the following day, February 2nd, it is noted that his cause of death was 'disease of the brain and pneumonia'.

For an audio-visual version of this research, use this QR code.

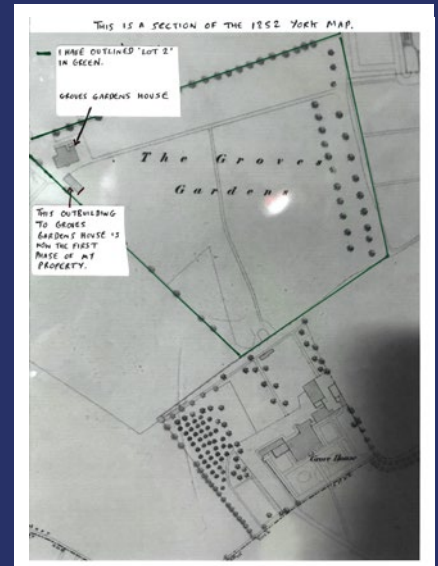


HOUSE HISTORY

My working hypothesis was always that my property was something to do with the owners of Groves House, due mainly to its close proximity. I assumed it was built after 1852 as it did not appear to be on the map of this time. Looking though the archives, particularly relating to the sale of Groves House and lands I discovered an 1844 conveyancing document with a map/plan of plots of land on the back that were sold off separately to the house after Robert Cattle (the original owners) demise. I identified the plot of land that my property is on as plot 2 (see attached) and established that it was sold to a Thomas Earle in 1844. A later document relating to the sale of this land corroborates this and mentions a dwelling house, stables and other buildings, so I know that something was built on this plot between 1844 and 1868.

Zooming in on the 1852 map there was a faint outline of 2 buildings, the smaller of which, I could confirm, using GPS was exactly where the first phase of my house is now and furthermore it is the same size and shape. I can confidently say that it is the same building. I sent off for the 1852 map and received a slightly different version that clearly shows the 2 buildings shaded in red like all the other structures. (See attached).

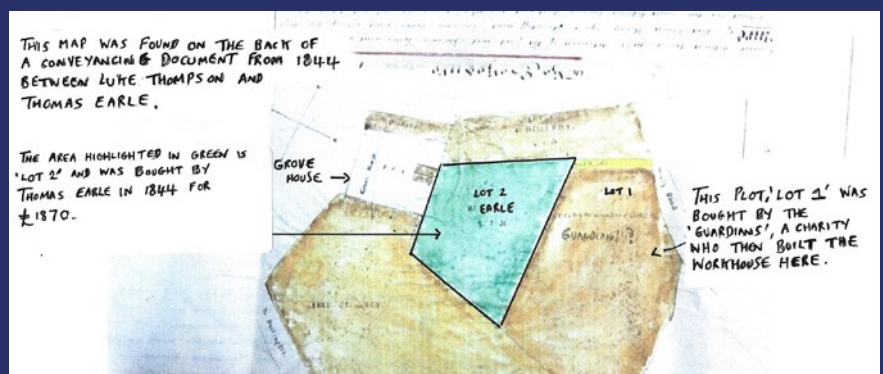
I now, using Ancestry UK, researched Thomas Earle and found him mentioned in the 1851



York Explore MAP/4/9. Copyright could not be determined.

census living at Groves Gardens with his large family. This must be the house on the map. This is very interesting as it brings back a property otherwise lost to history. Groves Gardens was a significant set of buildings and gardens in its own right and not part of Groves House, it is likely in fact that as neighbours the occupants of Groves House and Groves Gardens socialised etc. together and both families had children of similar ages.

Further research has shown that my building was used by 'cab proprietors' and 'cow workers' after its sale in 1868 which suggests that it was more of an auxiliary outbuilding to the main residence of Groves gardens, most likely a stables and carriage house. This is also what its size and shape and comparison to other buildings of the period also suggests. In conclusion, I can now say, with confidence that the first phase of my building was the stables etc to Groves Gardens house and built between 1844 and 1851.

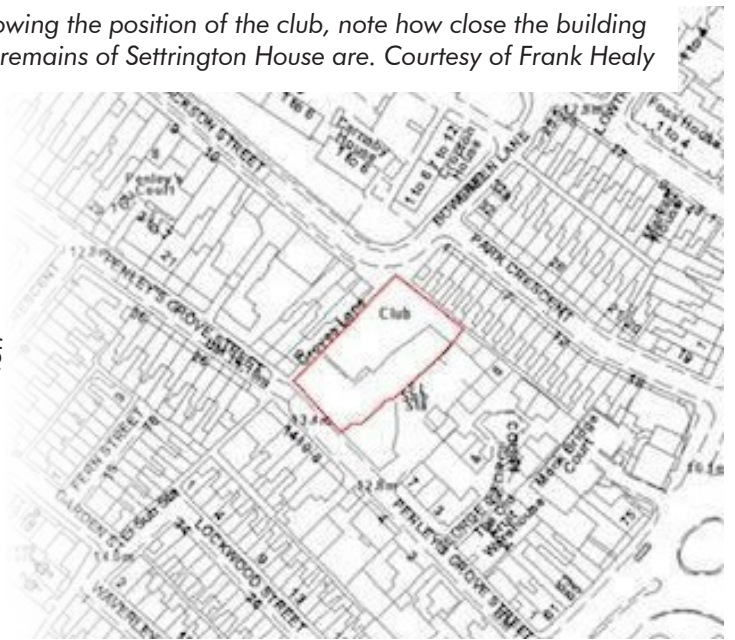


York Explore GDC/332/7



Abbot Street, WMC second location

Map showing the position of the club, note how close the building and the remains of Settrington House are. Courtesy of Frank Healy



THE HISTORY AND MEMORIES OF THE

Groves Working Mens Club

Jenny's dad Doug



I am a previous resident of the Groves WMC, my dad having been the steward there during the 1980's and 90's, and as such we lived on site in the accommodation provided. My dad had previously worked behind the bar, and had been on the committee. He had been a member of the club since the 1950's, so I was very interested so see what I could find out about it.

The club started life sited in White Cross Road in around 1899, and was affiliated in 1901, and so became part of The Club and Institute Union (CIU). The club then moved to Abbott Street in the Groves, when it was called Haxby Road WMC, possibly its original name, though no records exist today to confirm this. Its nickname was The Tin Tabernacle, maybe a reference to

its less than grand premises. At any rate, it consisted of only 1 room, and that even housed a billiard table!

In 1919 the club moved to its final site, Settrington House on Penley Grove Street. This had previously been a grand house with stables, a coach house, a large lawn with an impressive horse chestnut tree and an imposing drive up to the front door. The lawn was to disappear but the outbuildings remain to this day. This is maybe when it changed its name to Groves WMC, but this is conjecture on my part as I can find no official record of this.

In the 1930's alterations were made to the club building. The ground floor was converted into one large room with space for 2 billiard tables as well as seating. The work cost £2000, approximately £167,000 today, so it maybe shows how successful the club was. The building was to undergo many transformations over the years, and in its final state, it had 2 rooms

downstairs, the smaller games room and a larger concert room complete with a stage for visiting acts. The games room was open every day, lunchtime and evening, for people to just sit and drink, or play games such as cards, dominoes or darts. The concert room was generally only open on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, and was always well attended. It used to be said that if you were not in by 8 o'clock you would find it hard to get a seat! And woe betide you if you unknowingly sat in someone else's regular seat. Not the done thing! Upstairs were the snooker rooms, a very male orientated world where few women dared to set foot. At one time there was a bar upstairs as well but latterly there were just bars in the games room and concert room. Behind the scenes were other rooms, the Secretary's office and Committee room and changing rooms for the visiting acts. Additionally, a house for the Steward and his family to live

The club was home to many teams. Darts, dominoes, snooker, football, table tennis, bowls, fishing, rugby, cribbage, cricket and match walking. They were all in leagues along with participating teams from all of the other clubs in York, with the results always appearing in the local press. Promotions and relegations were celebrated or commiserated, but matches were generally good natured and well supported, many clubs having 'A' and 'B' teams.



GROVES WMC FOOTBALL TEAM 1970-1971 HOOPS: Back row, left to right: R Richardson, A Fountain, A Lazenby, JJ Andrews, J Hudson, M Oldfield, D Coates. Front row, left to right: R Lillie, K Fowler, K Turner, P Richardson, C Dale.

in had been added to the side of the main building, with direct access to the club.

Every bank holiday, Easter, Christmas, Whit weekend, were celebrated with the club putting on events. There were Christmas parties for the members' children, Easter bonnet parades, for old and young, fancy dress parades and so forth. The club was also available for parties such as birthdays, wedding receptions and wakes, so many people will have had a reason to visit the club. There was always an excuse for a get together. On Christmas Eve and New Years Eve people would even bring in food and share with each other in a real party mood. I have also been told that Park Grove School used the upstairs rooms for indoor PE lessons in the 1970's. I'm not sure what the children thought of that!

There were Club trips to the seaside in the summer, one for the men, one for the women and one for the

children (with accompanying parents). We were taken to Scarborough in a fleet of coaches, stopping half way to be given a little brown envelope and an apple from the boot at the back of the bus. The envelope contained our spending money for the day, money which, unbeknownst to us children, our parents had been depositing for us every time they went to the club, a kind of savings scheme. We were dropped off outside Bamfords fish and chip shop for our lunch and then the rest of the day was ours till we were all back on the bus at 6 o'clock. The men's trip was also to Scarborough but involved a lot of beer and usually a trip around the bay on one of the pleasure boats. There was also a stop on the way home at some accommodating pub or club. Once, when I was older, I had to be sent to bring my father home early as he was in no fit state to make it to the end of the day!

One big event every year was the

QUIZ TEAM

My father, who was a very clever man, joined the club in the 1950's so that he could be part of the club quiz team, which had first started in 1946. Frank Healy, secretary of the York branch of the CIU, told me that the quiz teams were begun after the end of the Second World War as a sort of rehabilitation for returning service men as it gave them somewhere to socialise with others who had been in the same sort of situation as themselves. The club quiz team was part of a league made up of teams from all the working men's clubs in York and was to become a part of our family life for many years to come. It took place every Wednesday night at the participating clubs, home and away, and dad never missed a match. Each team had 4 members and there was a quizmaster to read out the questions. Dad used to bring the quiz sheet home and test us children later, probably why I love quiz programmes so much today. There was a presentation night at the end of every season with cups and trophies being presented and food and drink and friendship shared. It was a special part of dad's life.



He participated for many years, and he and the league are even in The Guinness book of records, dad for being the longest serving member of the oldest quiz league in the world.



OFFICIALS

Starter and Timekeeper
F. MYERS W. PEARSON

Committee of Walk
D. Norton, N. Gray, S. Curtis, F. Bardy,
H. Thompson, E. Teasdale, D. Kirk,
T. Mooring, J. F'Anson, H. Kitching.

Stewards of Walk
J. Gray, T. Whattam, L. Wright, L. N

COMPETITORS

No.	Entrant	Hcp.	No.	Entrant
1.	G. STOCKDALE	32	20.	P. BROOK
2.	J. BRYANT	30	21.	G. T. PEN
3.	L. DYKES	21	22.	K. LAYE
4.	E. TEASDALE	21	23.	D. ROSE
5.	C. GRAY	20	24.	A. GILLY
6.	J. F'ANSON	16	25.	P. SMITH
7.	E. TUPHAN	15	26.	J. A. BRO
8.	H. WHITEHEAD	15	27.	R. R. W
9.	D. BROUGH	14	28.	G. MYE
10.	P. MITCHELL	13	29.	A. J. DU
11.	P. H. COOK	12	30.	R. WRAY
12.	H. BLACKWOOD	10	31.	D. DUTT
13.	A. P. SCRIMSHIRE	9	32.	T. COATE
14.	P. DYKES	9	33.	R. RICH
15.	R. COOK	9		

Programme of events from the walking match 1967

▶ walking match, held on Whit Monday, where the participants walked to Stockton on Forest and back.

It was a staggered start, depending on age and fitness and there were always many people cheering the walkers on as they started and finished, and usually a car ride around the course in between to see how everyone was getting on. Upstairs in one of the rooms were laid out a whole variety of prizes to be won, and as soon as walkers returned they, or their family, would whizz up the stairs to pick a prize. The prizes were on general view during the race, so many wives often had a particular prize in mind and would hope they went away with it depending on how well their other half did. That night there would

be a presentation evening to celebrate how well everyone had done. Great excitement all round.

Everyday events at the club centred around teams and entertainment. As previously mentioned, there was entertainment every weekend, with visiting acts as well as resident musicians, usually a drummer and organ/piano player who entertained by themselves or who could accompany the turns if needed. Then there was bingo. This was an institution in clubland, again happening every weekend. The money to be won was usually good, up to £100 for a full house, and was taken very seriously. Heaven help anyone who made a noise while it was on! Weekends also saw the sale of pie

I have also discovered that the club used to have a 'sick scheme'. My mum remembers that this was a voluntary scheme that you could pay into regularly and then, if you became ill, you got some monetary help. I think this shows just another way in which the club supported the local population.

and peas, a raffle for prizes such as a Navvies breakfast and the visit from the fish man. It was a standing joke to ask him if he had crabs!

The club finally closed in October 2006 due to falling numbers and increasing costs, and the land sold for housing. The documents relating to the sale still said 'The proceeds from the sale of Settrington House', so still recognising the name of the original building. The stable block and coach house, which had previously had a flat above, still remain, and have been converted into housing. The beautiful old horse chestnut tree, which had been in the car park and is one of the last links to the old Victorian house is still there, but speaking to a resident recently, the tree is in poor health and may need to be cut down. There is also one other small remnant of the original



Images by Jenny Holmes

Settrington House still standing, namely a gate post from the original entrance to the house. A small symbol of a past life. The club may be gone, but I don't think it is forgotten.

The boundary wall between the club and the remaining buildings of Settrington House still stands (above), though it has been built up. These buildings have been converted to housing (above right).

The last remaining tree from Settrington House, now under threat (left).

The gatepost from Settrington House is still standing (right).





Park Crescent

Park Crescent is a street off Huntington Road near Monkgate roundabout which links Huntington Road to Bowling Green Lane. It has two rows of terraced houses, built in the 1850's. Interestingly, it still has the house numbers running down one side (starting from the Bowling Green Lane end) and up the other side.

We moved to Park Crescent 8 years ago and the day we moved in there was a knock on the door. We were greeted by an older lady with a broad smile, holding out a cake for us and welcoming us to the street! We became friends and she seemed the perfect person to talk to about the history of the Groves, as she has lived in Park Crescent for 53 years. I'll call her Margaret (not her real name).

I discovered there was also another older lady who has lived in the street for 42 years, so I went to talk to her as well. I'll call her Angela (not her real name).

MARGARET

Margaret moved into her house in Park Crescent in 1970. She was in her mid-30's and a single working woman.

Margaret applied for a job in Rowntree's when she was first looking for a job after leaving school in the 1950's and she told me 'I had to do a long Intelligence Test – it took me ages. When I'd handed it in and the lady perused it, she said 'I think you'll be better suited to working in a small office!' Now why she thought that I do not know!' So Margaret went to work for 'the Yorkshire' (Yorkshire Insurance

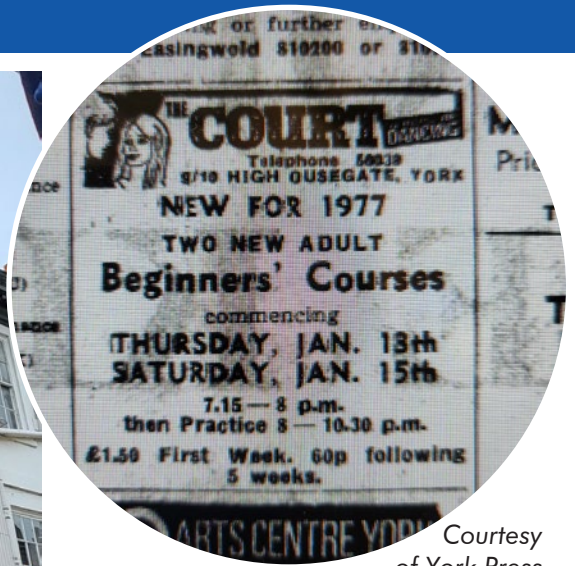
Company) and stayed there all her working life.

She had lived at home until her mid-20's and then rented for 10 years, but felt it was very important to buy her own house. She had expected 'the Yorkshire' to help her with the mortgage, but when she asked, she was told 'no, you're a woman and you're marriageable'. She was upset and angry - it made her more determined to buy a house so she 'saved up every farthing' until she had enough.

She bought the house for 'one thousand and odd' and her mortgage was £10 a month - 'a great deal in those days and I could only just afford



Image
by Rosy
Cartwright



Courtesy
of York Press

► it'. 'It seemed a decent price they were asking and it was near to town and all the facilities I wanted and it was the type of house that appealed to me and so, when I saw the tiny advert in the Evening Press, I applied. The lady who was selling it – her husband spoke not a word! – told me that several people had turned it down because it only had an outside toilet. But I knew that you could get a grant for an inside toilet'.

'The only means of heating the house when I first came in was a coal fire. I relied on a coal fire in this back room. I didn't use the front room for many years, I just used the rooms I could afford to decorate because I was practically skint from just buying the house.' She told me the kitchen had a walk-in larder and a 'triangular brown stone sink' in one corner before she modernised it, and the bathroom was the original third bedroom 'with a fireplace of course, all the rooms had fireplaces'.

'I think this house is a similar design to the rest of this side of the street. The other side of the street was not so grand. They only had two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs'.

'When I moved in, the top of the street was still the old slums and then they were compulsorily purchased and those flats were built. I was a bit worried they might compulsorily purchase this street but they obviously considered it was smart enough not to bother'.

Margaret loves gardens and plants, and she told me 'when I bought the house, the back consisted of just a very large yard so I had the concrete taken up and soil put in'. She designed the garden from scratch and is proud of her 'lovely little garden' now. She turned the coalhouse into her garden shed and still has the working outside toilet.

Her love of colourful plants even inspired her to recently do some guerrilla gardening at the bottom of the street and on the raised traffic islands by Monkgate roundabout! She told me 'it hurt my soul seeing all the weeds flourishing' so she took her small stepladders and climbed up on to the road islands to plant daffodils, pansies and geraniums!

For many years every morning, 'come rain or shine', Margaret walked to the Minster for the ten to eight service

in the Zouche chapel (and later the Lady Chapel by the East window). 'I liked going to communion every day'. Then she'd walk home for breakfast. 'I didn't want to eat two breakfasts because I wanted to keep my weight down!'

She remembers the grocers shop at the top of Park Crescent but thought that the shop through the snicket in Penleys Grove Street was 'a much superior shop'. On her way home from work she went to a supermarket in Goodramgate which is now Boyes. There was a good butcher's almost next door to there, and a vegetable shop on the corner of Lord Mayor's Walk. 'When I first moved in I didn't have a fridge freezer or anything. I bought food every day, as people did in those days'.

When I asked her if she remembered the Groves Working Mens Club she said 'oh yes, I used to attend there quite often with my boyfriend. Variety acts or singers would come – there was always some form of entertainment which of course was free and the drinks were much cheaper'. She added that she and her boyfriend went even more often to the one on Clarence Street!

Margaret's favourite pastime, I discovered, was dancing. 'There was a dancing establishment on Lowther Street. That was where I met my partner – we were both extremely keen on dancing. Mainly ballroom dancing, I could do all the ballroom dances. It was over what is now a grocery shop, quite a big room. 'There was always some form of class before the evening's dance. You'd always learn a dance and then you'd have the proper dancing afterwards. I always wore a nicer dress, but nothing long or anything, just a bit more special'.

I was intrigued to learn there had been a dancing establishment over the current Spar (formerly the Co-op), so spent an afternoon in Explore searching directories and newspapers. To my delight I found an advert for 'Gerry's Dance Centre' in the Evening Press, dated Jan 10th 1981, which confirmed it was above the Co-op and had classes from 7.30-8.15pm with 'practice' afterwards till 10.30pm, costing £1.70 for the first week and then £1.20 the following weeks.

When I showed Margaret the advert, she remembered a little more.. she had firstly enjoyed going to The Court School of Dancing in the upper rooms of 8-10 High Ousegate (now Lakeland) after work. She said that it was very well attended and there were lots of partners (ie men!) Gerry and his partner had supported the dance teacher there, and when they retired Gerry had taken it over. She thinks that the owners then wanted to sell the whole building so Gerry moved the dance centre to Lowther Street. (This was sometime between 1977 and 1981).

'Then came the craze for sequence dancing, where you dance with a partner and you all dance the same steps in a big circle round the dance floor. If you didn't know how to dance you just followed the couple in front of you till you learnt how to dance it! But for that I had to go to Acomb Church Hall and I had to take two bus rides to get there. It was very popular. I was dead keen on dancing and it was a nice sociable occasion. It cost next to nothing and it was wonderful entertainment.'

Margaret thinks Park Crescent is a good street to live in. 'It's near town, near the doctor's and the hospital, near Sainsbury's – it couldn't be more convenient. I was within walking distance of my office every day. It's also very quiet. I think it's excellent – I'd be very loathe to leave here'.



Image by Rosy Cartwright

ANGELA

Angela moved into her house in 1981. She was on her own with two children and she didn't have much money so 'it was a case of trying to find somewhere that I could afford'. Her friend drove her past Park Crescent and said 'there's a house' and Angela said 'I'm not living there!' as it was 'really rough at the time'. In the end she did buy it though, for £16,000, and once they'd moved in she realised it was 'a super place to live because of the schools, it was close to town, the doctor's, the buses – it was fantastic!'

She bought the house from a builder who had 'done it up'. She remembers the floor in the front room wasn't held up properly and she got a grant from the Council to concrete it. 'The council helped with a lot of things, like the roof'.

She remembers that Park Crescent was 'a very rough street. All the alleyways weren't fastened up as they are now – we had the taller back gate put in'. She told me that because there's only two bedrooms, the children had a bedroom each and she had a bed-settee in the front room. One night she was lying awake and she realised a man was climbing through the window – 'he was on the window ledge with his leg over! I shouted 'get out' and he shot off! I rang the police and they came and took all the details. But I suppose there was nothing they could do. In a way it was a good job I was sleeping down here, otherwise he'd have got in!'

Angela worked part-time at the Norwich Building Society in Stonegate, and then moved to Lendal when it merged with the Peterborough Building Society – this work fitted around the children. When the children left home she trained as a nurse, something she had always wanted to do. She applied to the hospital and got a place there – it was very convenient to walk there. She was 48 at the time.

She remembers the 'little greengrocers shop' at the top of Park Crescent and when the owner was widowed the shop eventually closed – 'at the end he seemed to just sell potatoes and nothing else!'

She told me that when she first moved to York with her parents, the hospital was the 'County Hospital' on Monkgate. Her friend, a trainee nurse there, would tell her about how it was haunted because 'they were all long wards and the doors used to open and close by themselves, things like that! Everybody was frightened!'

When Angela was newly qualified she went to a garden party that was organised by one of her tutors. She noticed an older man sat on his own and thought 'I'm going to go and sit next to that chap!' The party was at the end of June, and they were married by the beginning of October! 'Friday the 13th we got married.. well, why wait?' She told me that, in her innocence, she'd thought they could just go to the Registry Office and ask to get married. They discovered they had to wait a few weeks and get witnesses who were known to them, so she asked two nursing friends who took the time off work to come!

Her second husband was 'a lovely man' who used to bring her back a bunch of spray carnations when he went to shop in Sainsbury's. 'He used to walk me to work at the hospital and then come and meet me to bring me home. And he used to make me a pack-up and there would be a little note in the sandwich box every single time!'

She told me she's never regretted moving to the Groves. 'It's convenient for everything really – even to get to Scarborough and Whitby! And the Minster.. brilliant! No, I've no regrets at all!'



Courtesy of York Press

HERITAGE HUNTERS

Our resident researchers have explored such a wide range of topics and events throughout the history of The Groves, it's important to see it's part in the history of York which been overlooked, and how it continues to shape and influence the city we live in today. They have found that it is not just a series of facts and figures, but a reflection of the diverse experiences and perspectives of those who have lived there and are part of The Groves today.

Heritage Hunters is a project to inspire people to research their history, be it their family, their local area or their own interests and experiences. The past is not static or fixed. Our understanding of it is constantly evolving, as new discoveries, perspectives, and interpretations emerge. We must remain curious and open-minded, willing to question our assumptions and explore new ideas.

York Museums Trust will continue working with residents of York alongside organisations, charities and community groups to explore overlooked areas of the city's history.

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

"I joined the project to find out more about my house and gained so much more. I loved everything about Heritage Hunters, channeling my inner Agatha Christie to solve the mysteries of The Groves in the past. I met great people and gained valuable research knowledge and access. The museum and heritage site visits were a particular highlight."

Sarah I

"I have meet some lovely people, both in the group and while doing my research. I am happy that my dads story will be known beyond the family, a lasting memory for a lovely man. And also that it might be just a glimpse into a world, from not too long ago, that doesn't exist anymore."

Jenny

"With Heritage Hunters I not only had a wonderful time with exploring The Grove's history, but also found new friends and ideas."

Anda

WHERE TO GO TO GET MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to find out more about researching local history, York Explore can help with enquiries and you can find more information on York Museums Trust Website

York Castle Museum



All tickets last for 12 months and York Children go FREE!*

Discover more at yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk

York Castle Museum is part of York Museums Trust. Charity number 1092466.. Photography by Anthony Chappel-Ross.

*For more information about ticket pricing please visit our website.