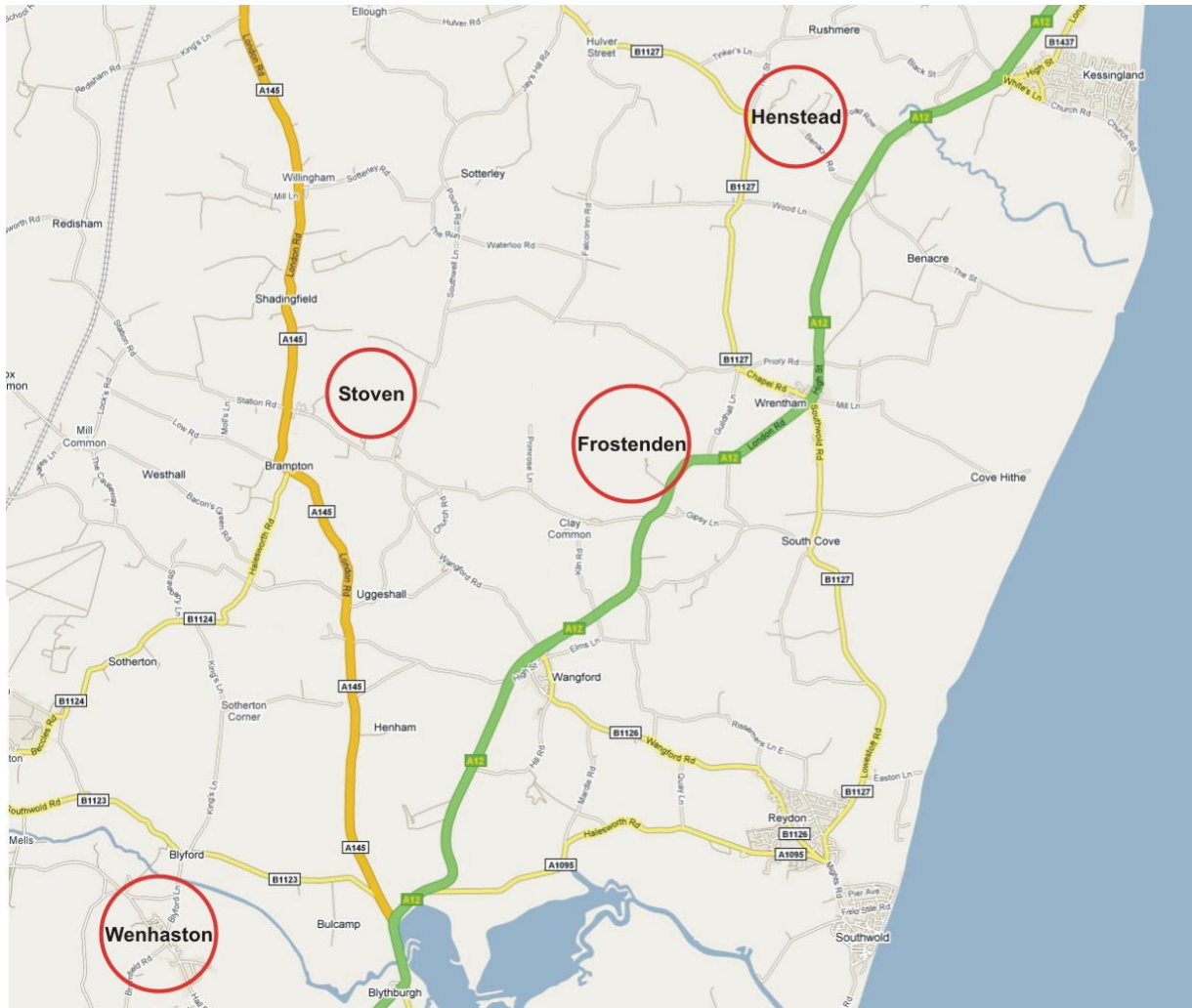


The Redgraves



Jane Redgrave, Effie's Mother

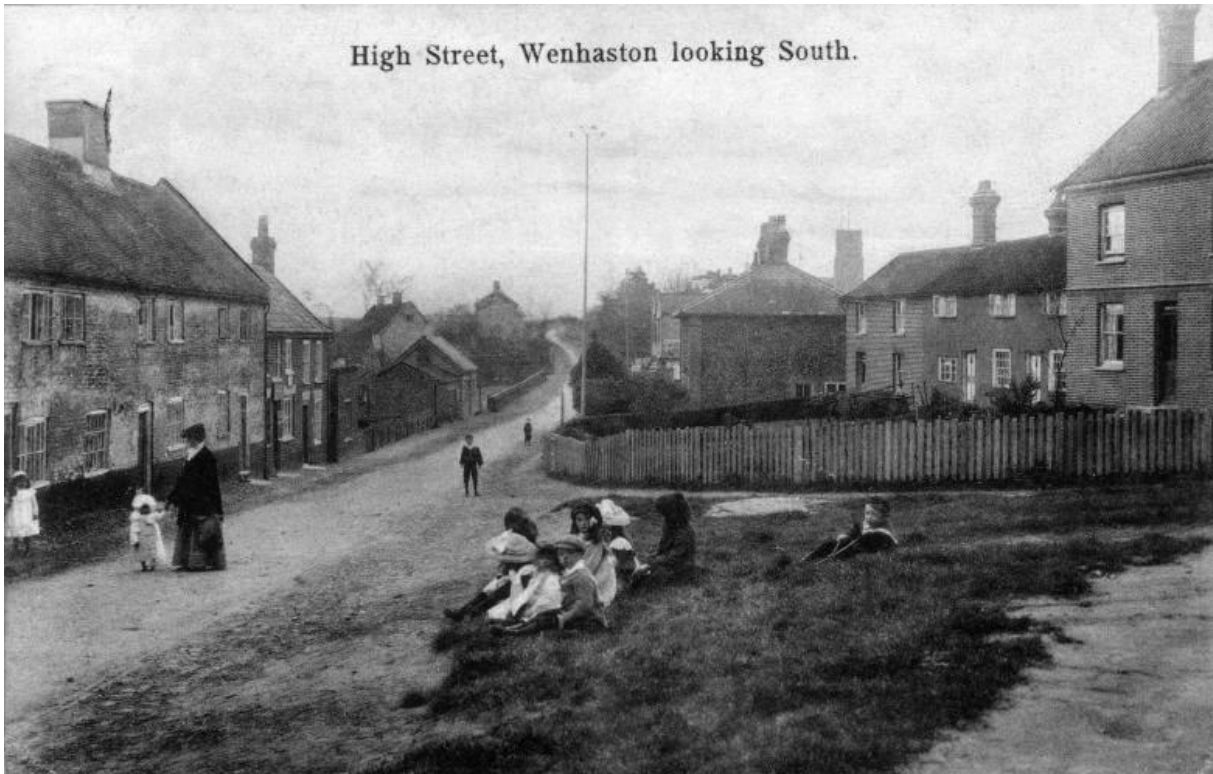
The Wolstenholmes and Redgraves 1841 - 2002



Up to at least 1871, William and Frances Ann Redgrave, along with their young children, moved around small villages in Suffolk. Today, as then, the area is intensely rural and is thinly populated. There are no houses on Wood Lane in Henstead today, the place where the couple appear to have taken up married life. It seems that the last houses there were demolished in the 1930s. Stoven seems have melted away almost entirely. The area is beautiful and still contains the marshes that gave birth to the Redgrave name some centuries before.

The Redgraves

The first evidence we have of the Redgrave family is from 1861 when William and his wife (Frances) Ann were living in Wood Lane in Henstead in Suffolk, some 25 miles south east of Norwich and 12½ miles south west of Lowestoft. Ann was a native of Wenhaston while William hailed from Frostenden, just 5 miles away.



Wenhaston 1908

We have a picture of a Henstead inhabitant, Mary Ann Adams (née Fisk) who died in 1929. She was born in 1830 and must have known Frances Ann, given that these villages were so tiny. It is tempting to think she attended the wedding of Frances Ann to William, which would have taken place when she was around 25 years old in the mid-1850s. We do not know Frances Ann's maiden name; it is certainly possible that the two women were related.



According to census data, William was 28 years old and his wife was 29 in 1861. Ten years later he was 38 and she 41. By 1881 she was calling herself Frances. He was 45 and she was 49. A further ten years down the line William claimed to be 57 and she 59. They maintained these proportions for the 1901 census, claiming to be 67 and 69 years old respectively. The whole time Ann lived in Lancashire she clearly preferred to be known as Frances, perhaps to distinguish herself from the many Anns of the area. Age was clearly a capricious concept to the Redgraves; it would seem they only tried to count their years when the census taker turned up. One can imagine the frowned attempts at recall, perhaps accompanied by bursts of merry laughter.

In the 1861 census, William is noted as an agricultural labourer, as were most of his neighbours, save for a few with farms of their own varying in size from 12 to 500 acres. These figures point to sharp inequalities in the farming lifescape. William's work would have been highly seasonal, with plenty to do at times of land preparation and harvest, and very little at other times - though he may have been employed to carry out occasional maintenance such as tree coppicing and hedge laying in the winter. He seems to have had a particular affinity with horses as all his work following his move a few years later to Lancashire involved horses. For the family, income would have been very irregular and certainly William would have been paid very little. Life must have been harsh, though no doubt the family would have had a few chickens and perhaps a pig, as well as a kitchen garden. It is likely that they prepared a range of preserves and salted meat for the winter months, and either made butter or purchased it from a neighbour. The two children of the household were both boys, Alfred aged four and **James** aged one (noted as having been born in Frostenden in later censuses). James was to become Euphemia's father.



Wenhaston, Suffolk, 1930s. Surely William, too, would have placed his son James high upon a patient horse

From 1871 to 1881

Alfred is not mentioned in the 1871 census and is presumed to have died, but there were three new additions to the family: Emma, Anna and Arthur William. We see, as in the Wolstenholme family, the tendency of parents to pass their names down to their children. The family had by then moved to Stoven, about four miles away. It seems likely that William was attached to one employer, then another.

1871 Census, William and Frances Ann Redgrave, Stoven	Age
William Redgrave	38
Ann Redgrave (Frances Ann in 1881)	41
James Redgrave	11
Emma Redgrave	9
Anna Redgrave (Hannah in 1891)	7
Arthur William Redgrave	1

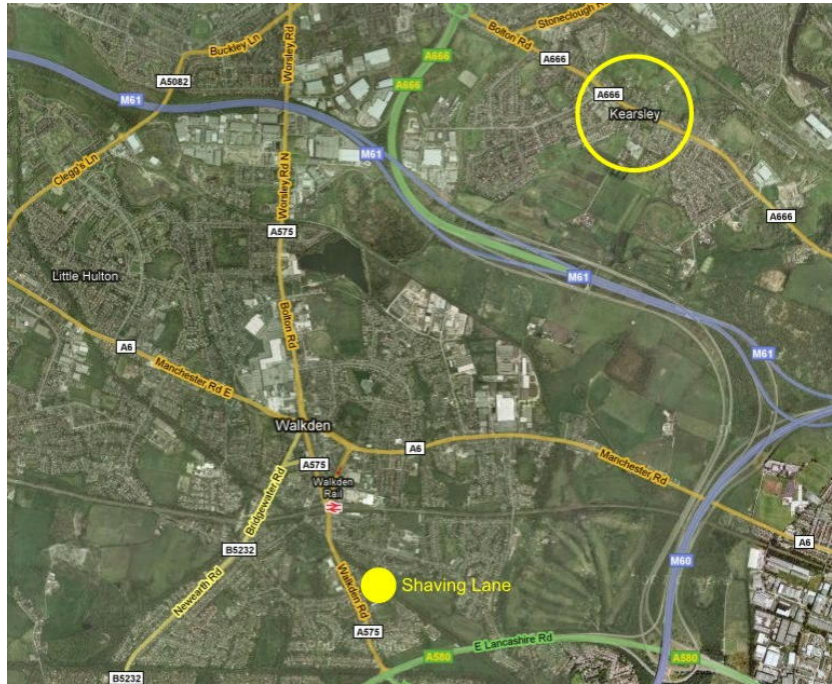
By 1881 the family had migrated 200 miles from the countryside of Suffolk to industrial Lancashire. By this time they were already entering middle age. The census tells us that they were living at 118 Shaving Lane in Worsley just a few miles to the south west of the Wolstenholme families - though in a far less industrialized district. Like thousands of their contemporaries, they must have believed that moving would offer them economic advancement. There would have appeared to be little chance of social change in the tightly wrought, deeply unequal rural community from whence they came.

William did not quite forsake his agricultural heritage. He became a dealer in sand, a commodity used in the moulding of bricks. Demand would certainly have been high. The two girls, now aged 19 and 17, were spinners in the mill while **James** was employed in the

The Redgraves

coalmine. Life had changed entirely for the children; they had swapped the flight of the swallow for the clank of the mill and mine.

There had been one more addition to the family, Henry, who was aged nine in 1881. We knew that Euphemia always wore hand-made shoes and believed they were supplied by a relative. The 1891 census reveals that Henry, then nineteen, had become a shoe maker. So, now we can be quite certain that Effie's shoes were made by her uncle and later her cousin, Henry's son.



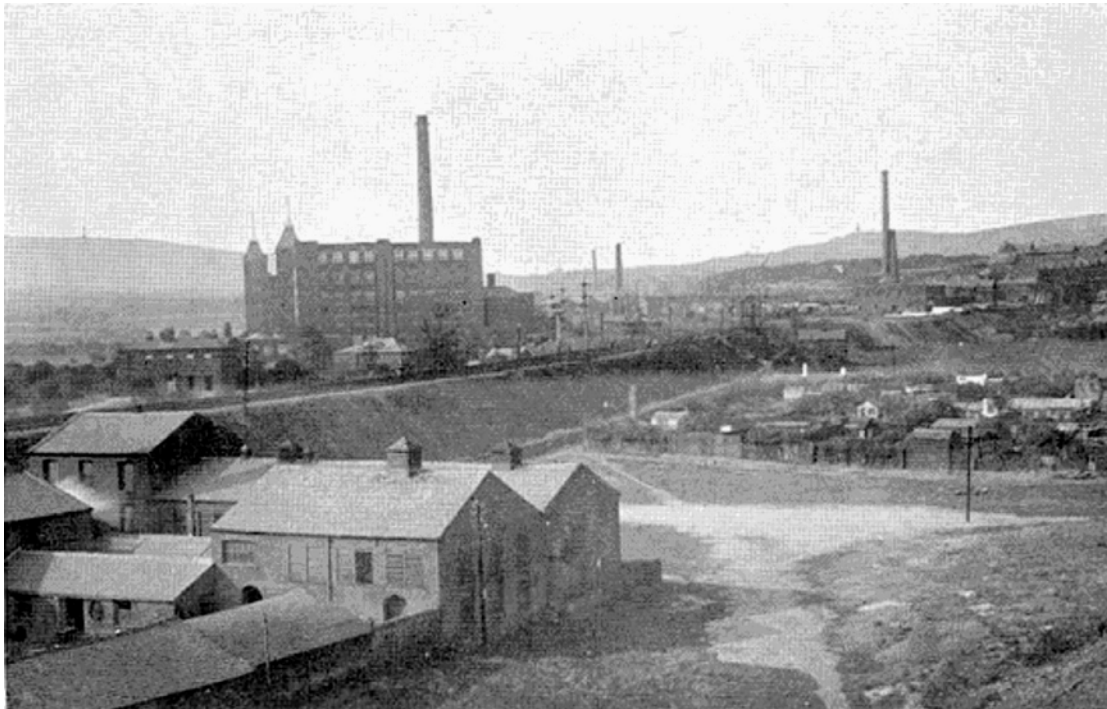
From 1881 to 1891

James married Jane Batten (originally from Denby/Denbigh – a true Scandinavian name - in



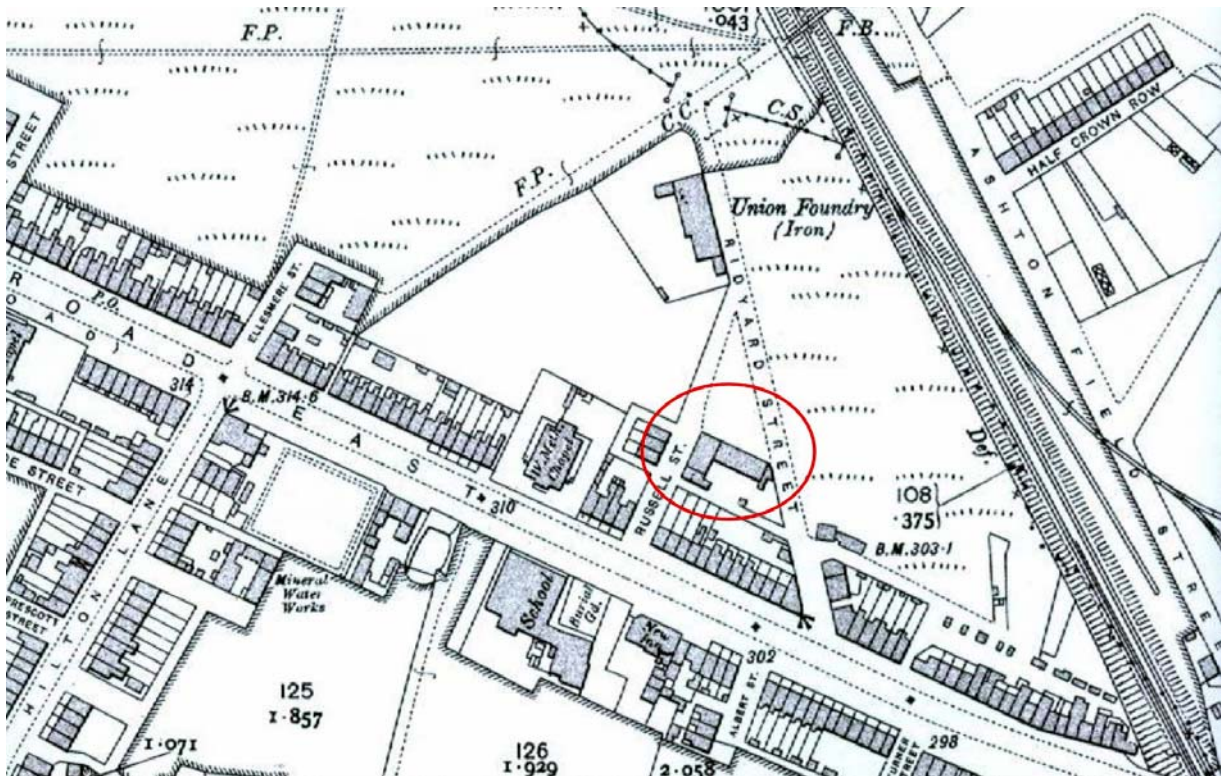
Wales) on April 28th, 1881, at St. Paul's, Peel, in Little Hulton. It is interesting to see that James, like his father, married an older woman. He was 21 and Jane was 28. Like him, Jane had moved far from her place of birth and was working as a domestic servant in Balderstone, Rochdale. Her father, Thomas, was already dead, but the marriage certificate notes that he was a shoemaker

like James' brother. Surely it was business that brought the two families together. It is very tempting to speculate that Henry Redgrave was apprenticed to Jane's father, Thomas. Although several of the Redgrave children turned to the Methodist church, St. Paul's was to see the marriage of Annie Redgrave (27) to Joseph Thomas (Tom) Yarwood (32) more than forty years later, on 15th March 1923.



View up the Irwell Valley, from School Brow, Bury

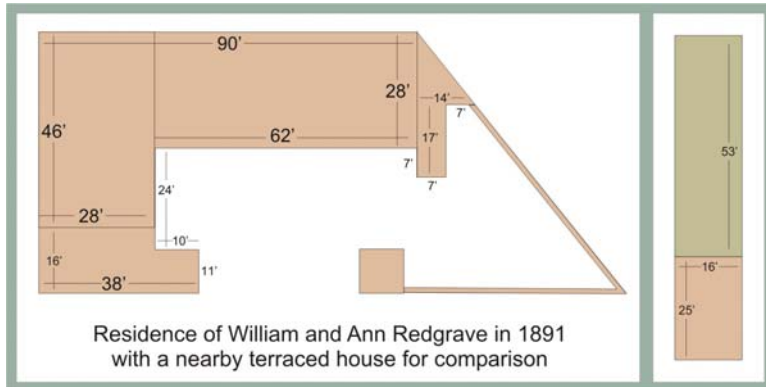
By 1891 the two girls, Emma and Hannah/Anna had left home and were, presumably, married. William and Ann had moved a little further north to Little Hulton and were living in a cul-de-sac /courtyard - the only occupants of Ridyard Street. William was a carter along with his son Arthur (21), making it into a family business. Young Henry was plying his trade as a shoe and boot maker. The family had a domestic servant, Mary Goodair (14) living with them.



The map shows the location of Ridyard Street. It would seem that the Redgraves were a very successful couple. They had taken their rural skills to the town and deployed them well.

The Redgraves

There was evidently space in Ridyard Court for the stable/ carting business and probably for Henry's cobbling business. A step away were open fields, space for grazing the horses.



Trains would have clattered by. One can imagine the horses tossing their heads and prancing until they became used to the noise. Perhaps the Union Foundry supplied iron for their shoes. On the other side of Manchester Road was a school which the children may have attended.

From 1891 to 1901

In 1891 **James** and Jane Redgrave were living at 212 Bolton Road in Worsley along with their three daughters **Euphemia** (Effie), Sarah Hannah (Nan) and Rebecca. Whilst Euphemia and Sarah Hannah are noted as having been born in Little Hulton, Rebecca was born in Walkden¹, about a mile away, suggesting that they had moved before finding their current address. Indeed, it is possible that the first two children were born at the roomy home of James's parents in Ridyard Court. Bolton Road boasted a grocer, a dressmaker, coalminers, weavers, a journeyman and a carter. Nearly everyone was of Lancastrian origin, though one couple is noted to have come from Devon. It must have been a lively place. Somewhere nearby there must have been an abattoir. We know that **Effie** was anaemic as a child; she used to walk about a mile a day to the slaughterhouse to drink a pint of blood.



Bolton Road, with the road to Hill Top to the right, in the 1920s

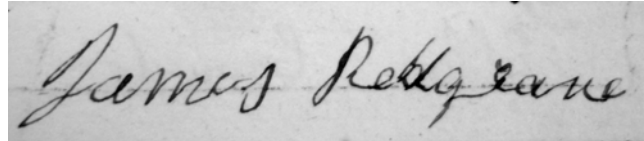
1891 Census, James and Jane Redgrave, 212 Bolton Road, Worsley	Age
James Redgrave	31
Jane Redgrave	40
Euphemia Redgrave	8
Sarah Hannah Redgrave	6
Rebecca Redgrave	3

¹ All of these areas would now be classified as Little Hulton.

By 1901 William and Frances Ann were living alone and still at Ridyard Street in Little Hulton where William plied his trade as a stable proprietor. This is the point at which we lose track of them.

At the turn of the century **James** and Jane were living with their six children at 33 Hill Top Road, Little Hulton. William, John and Annie had joined the family, along with Ann Batten, a niece to Jane born in nearby Tyldesley. It is interesting to note that Jane's age is recorded as being 40 in 1891 and only 47 ten years later! Did she really not know her age, or did an unwillingness to confess to the big 50 play a role! Most likely she followed her mother-in-law in being unclear about her age.

The Redgrave family was of rural origin and were undoubtedly scarcely literate; the same may have been true of Jane. James's signature on the marriage register shows an uncertain hand – he even corrects his name hastily from Reb to Redgrave.



It is clear, though, that the children of James and Jane received a reasonable education. They benefited from the Education Acts of the late nineteenth century that made primary education compulsory, and by 1891, free.

1901 Census, James and Jane Redgrave, 33 Hill Top Road, Little Hulton	Age
James Redgrave	41
Jane Redgrave	47
Euphemia Redgrave	18
Sarah Hannah Redgrave	16
Rebecca Jane Redgrave	13
William Redgrave	9
John Redgrave (died in World War 1)	7
Annie Redgrave	5
Ann Batten	16

Unlike the streets where the Wolstenholme family lived - the High Street of Little Lever or Oakes Street in Kearsley, almost everyone in Hill Top Road were immigrants. They came from other parts of Lancashire, Wales, Staffordshire and even from Scotland. It must have been very different to Kearsley, home of the Wolstenholmes, which still had an intensely local population with only limited immigration.

The Redgraves

Hill Top Road would have echoed to a hotchpotch of accents; the deep-woven loyalty of the people at Old House Croft, Manchester Road and Alma Street could not have existed. In their place, though, there must have been the buzz of an emerging community and the challenge of getting to know people from other places.



Hill Top. Many houses since been demolished.

As in Kearsley everyone in Hill Top Road worked in the mines or the mills. James was working 'Below' as a 'Hewer', and he had the same occupation in 1908, according to Thomas and Euphemia's wedding certificate². Effie and Sarah were weavers – one of the highest paid industrial occupations of the time. Unusually for British industry there was no clear gender division of labour in cotton weaving as both men and women performed the same work. Men and women were also paid the same, though in practice men tended to receive a little more because of the types of cloth allocated to them. Young Rebecca Redgrave, aged 13, was a checker-in at a cotton mill. Ann Batten, the niece, was a cotton spinner.

Hill Top Road is to the southeast of the large 'Hill Top' shown on the map overlooking the Old Clay Pit and Blackleach Reservoir. To the northwest lies Ashton's Field Colliery. A smaller colliery - Kearsley Moss Colliery - is just off the map, and there are several others nearby. James could have worked at any of these. The road running north-south at right angles to Hill Top Road is Worsley Road. At the north end of this there are four cotton mills, and to the south another four which are not shown. Their names are redolent of places near and far: Suez Mill, Grecian Mill, Brookhouse Mill, Lakefield Mills, Granville Mill, Primrose Mill, Walkden Mills, and Park Mill. We do not know the name(s) of the mills where the Redgrave daughters worked, but surely they walked to one of these for every one of their long working days.

² At the time James and Jane were living at 29 Worsley Road in Little Hulton. This is the last address we have for them. We know they were still living there in 1918, when their son John was killed in the Battle of the Somme.



Baptismal window in the baptistry, St. John the Baptist

Their local church was St. John the Baptist and this still stands today. James and Jane took their daughter Rebecca Jane there to be baptized by the Reverend Martin Shipham Munroe on 5th February 1888. Rebecca was to be married to Frank Crowther Tonge by the Reverend Charles Frederick Ockford in the same church on 2nd February 1911 and a few years later, in 1916, Samuel Wolstenholme was to marry Lily Edge and baptize his daughter Mary there.



Reverend Martin Shipham Munroe
(1885-1909)

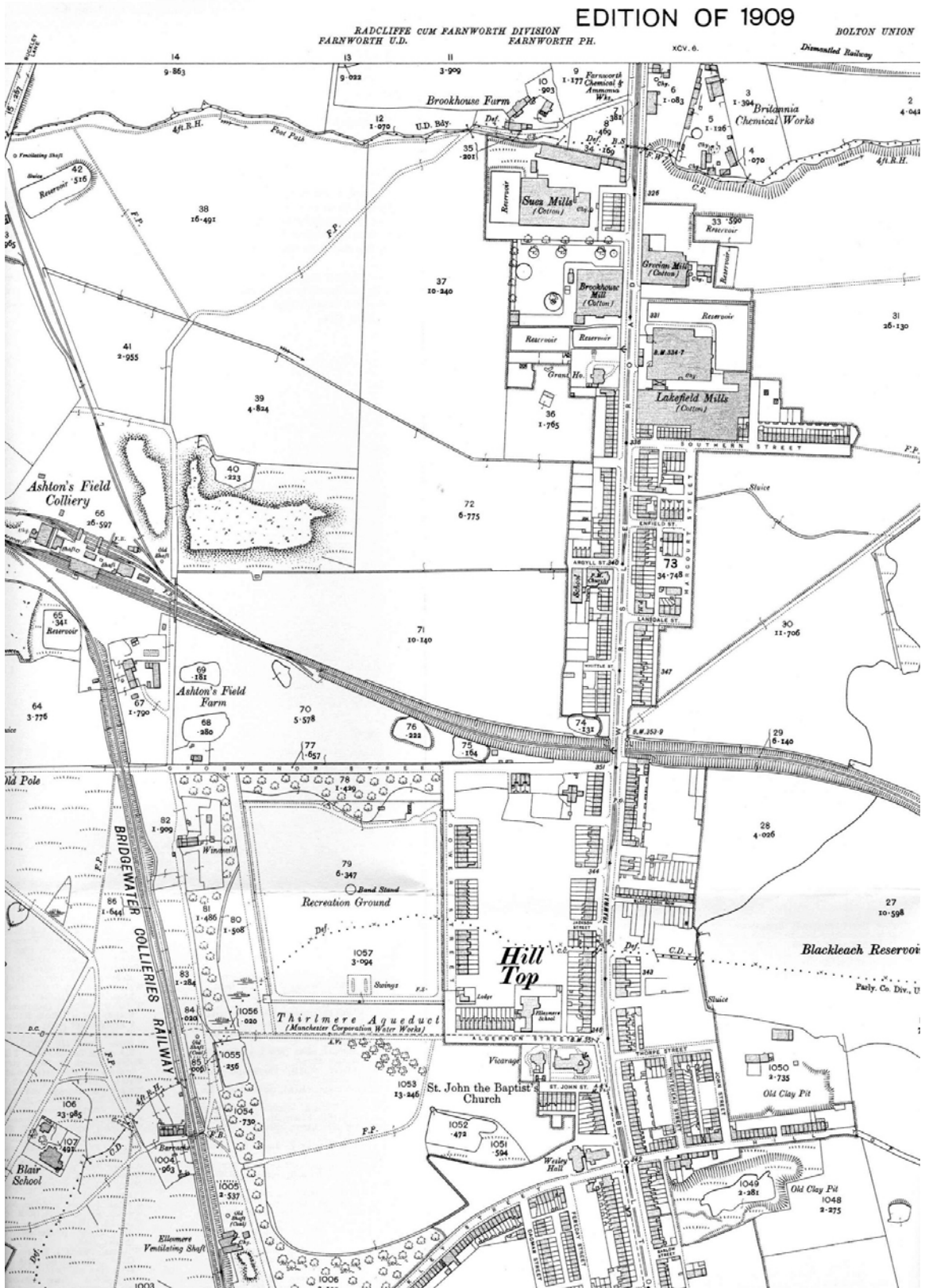


St. John the Baptist Church



Reverend Charles Frederick Ockford
(1909-21)

The Redgraves



The Redgrave Sisters and Brothers after 1911

Sarah Hannah (Nan) had married Edward Albert Sunderland in 1909. Their daughter was called Alice and she was born in 1912. Many years later, Janet Tonge (née Wolstenholme)



Nan, Albert and Alice

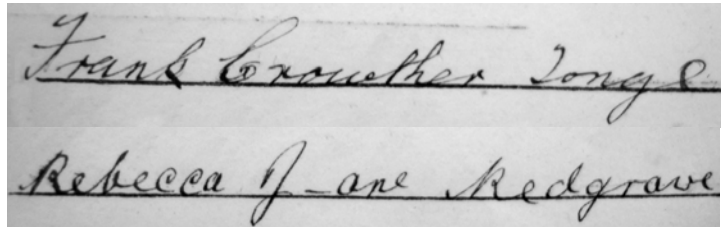
was to visit Nan and Alice. *'I remember visiting Nan who had arthritis and her daughter Alice who looked after her and cooked wonderful cakes and biscuits. I used to travel with Effie by bus to their homes, which were on the same street in Swinton alongside a factory at the top of a hill'.*

Jo Hiller remembers, *'When I was about nine or ten, I was taken by my mother to a terraced house. We walked into the front room which was in darkness because the curtains were closed, and we were ushered straight through to the back parlour. I remember a man saying to mum 'She's ready for you now'. We went back into the front room and there was an open coffin on the table! Mum peered in and I had to climb up on a chair and peek over the top of the coffin only to see an old lady who I didn't recognise. I seem to remember mum saying it was Aunt Sarah'.*

Rebecca Jane married Frank Crowther Tonge in St. John the Baptist church in 1911. Their daughter Kathleen Rebecca was born in the first quarter of 1917. She was evidently named in tribute to Effie's

daughter, Kathleen, who died in January 1917.

William, who trained as a shoemaker and was later to specialize in the making of surgical boots, married Clara Lomax who was native to Farnworth. Their daughter Doris (1916) was born at 36 Kildare Street, very close to the



home of the Wolstenholmes in Elsie Street. Brenda (1923) was born at Madam's Wood Cottage in Little Hulton. Both girls were baptized in Queen Street Methodist Chapel, as were the children of William's uncle and aunt, Harry (Henry) and Sarah³. Like Effie, they had shifted away from the Church of England.

³ Both Henry (Harry) Redgrave and his nephew (William) lived with their spouses in Kildare Street, Farnworth, just around the corner from Elsie Street and Piggott Street where the Wolstenholmes lived. Harry and Sarah lived in 24 Kildare Street (certainly between 1904-07) and William and Clara lived in 36 Kildare Street (1916). We do not know how long each family lived in the street or even if they lived there at the same time.

The Redgraves

According to Sam Hamer, who used to live in Little Hulton, the picture opposite shows the Redgrave sisters. If so, this picture would have been taken around 1926 since the younger girl appears to be around three years old. Clara would have been around 35. Sam also remembers the Redgraves selling ice-cream. He says that they [later] lived in a house called 'Pea Cottage at the bottom of Peel Lane. This house was known to many as the Red House



Believed to be Clara Redgrave and her daughters Doris and Brenda

and was owned by the Redgrave Family. It used to be possible to buy ice-cream from the cottage on a Sunday afternoon before going for a walk in Madam's Wood. The ice cream was made from goats milk and was some of the best in Little Hulton (although Taziker's ice cream at the other end of the village was also very good!!)'



Madam's Wood Cottage and Shop 1932

Just 11 days after her niece Brenda was baptized, on 15th March 1923, Annie Redgrave, likewise living at the time in Madam's Wood Cottage, was married to Joseph Thomas (Tom) Yarwood at St. Paul, Peel. The last of the Redgrave children to marry, the wedding photograph shows her with three of her nephews and nieces⁴. She was to name her son John, in memory of the brother she had lost in the Great War.



Harry Yarwood, Neil, Alice Sunderland, Tom Yarwood, Annie Redgrave, Edna, Rebecca

John Redgrave (Private, Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment) was killed in the Somme on 22nd April 1918 and is buried in the Crucifix Corner Cemetery, Villiers-Bretonneux⁵. He died during the German advance on Amiens which resulted in the capture of Villiers-Bretonneux on the day following his death. He was 24 years old.

⁴ The naming of Alice Sunderland and of Harry Yarwood is provisional. We know Harry Yarwood, Tom's brother, witnessed the wedding. Alice, the daughter of Sarah Hannah (Nan) would have been 10 or 11 years old – the estimated age of the girl in the picture. In this way the Redgrave sisters, in person or through their children, were all represented.

⁵ Grave Reference: I.C.8. His service number was 108872. Unit: 'B' Coy. 1st Battalion.

The Redgraves



Effie

The Wolstenholmes and Redgraves 1841 - 2002



John Redgrave with his fiancée, and below



John Yarwood, Annie and Tom's son



Tom Yarwood



Annie Yarwood née Redgrave

The Redgraves



Sarah Hannah (Nan), Albert and Alice Sunderland



Alice Milner with baby and her parents-in-law. Her father Albert is at the back, right



Rebecca Tonge née Redgrave



Kathleen Tonge

The Wolstenholmes and Redgraves 1841 - 2002



Edna, Effie and Rebecca



Believed to be Annie and Sarah Hannah (Nan)
Kew 1924



Rebecca



Eileen, Nan, Annie and Effie (note Brownie camera!)



Unknown, Annie, Sarah Hannah
Presumed Kathleen Tonge, Alice Sunderland
(Rebecca taking picture?)

The Redgraves



Nurse, Sarah Hannah, Rebecca, Edna
On ground: possibly Kathleen Tonge, unknown



Isle of Wight 1925
Seated: Marion, unknown (pictured in Family Group 1928, Preface),
Effie, unknown. Thomas at back on right, Leslie foreground



1924



Isle of Wight 1925
Edna at back, Leslie taking photograph

The Wolstenholmes and Redgraves 1841 - 2002



Thomas, Mike, Shirley, Roger, Effie, Christine August 1947



Effie with Mike and Shirley October 1937, Truro



Effie with Mrs. Milner (mother-in-law of Nan's daughter, Alice) and sister, Nan Sunderland, in the 1930's



Prestatyn 1928