

# Sheffield Flood 1864

ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

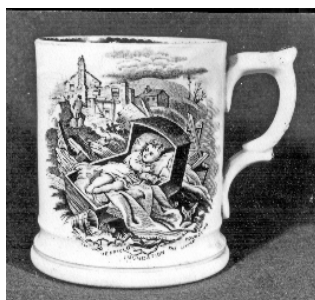
11-12 MARCH 2021

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## The Loxley Cemetery Connection

According to reports following the event there were at least twenty-two victims of the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864 buried in Loxley Cemetery. There is likely to be more recorded in the burial records as a number of victims weren't immediately identified and may have been interred sometime later. For example, twelve members



Commemorative mug produced following the Flood

of the Armitage family of Malin Bridge perished in the Flood but five were listed as unidentified. The other seven were buried at Loxley Cemetery (see article below). Later research by Karen Lightowler and Malcolm Nunn indicate twenty-six victims from ten families are buried in Loxley Cemetery.

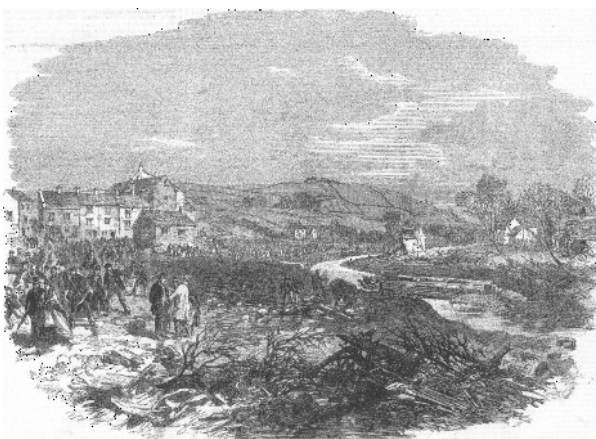
## Death and Destruction Down The Loxley Valley — Mick Drewry

When the Dale Dyke embankment collapsed close to midnight on 11 March 1864, a huge wall of water careered down the Loxley valley destroying all in its path; buildings on or near the banks of the River Loxley were simply washed away as if built of matchsticks and straw. At Lower Bradfield, just below Dale Dyke, the waters took the first of many human lives; that of a 2 day old baby. A little further down the valley, the people of Damflask had stayed out of their beds and remained vigilant allowing most of them the time to escape the oncoming deluge, but further down river many people were asleep

and totally unaware of what was heading their way.

The Flood hurtled down the picturesque Loxley Valley destroying bridges, mills, houses and everything else in its path. Huge loss of life was visited upon the village of Malin Bridge

and whole families perished in the lethal mass of water, and the debris it had collected along its way. Two of the village inns, The Stag and The Malin Bridge, were amongst the buildings destroyed and their residents perished.



Villagers inspect the damage at Lower Bradfield the morning after



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- All graphics, except group logo and photo of group committee members at the Bates family grave, provided by Mick Drewry. Flood photos are from his book, *Inundation*, available directly from him. Email [mickdrewry@outlook.com](mailto:mickdrewry@outlook.com)
- Karen Lightowler's research is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)
- Requests for detailed information on the cemetery plan and grave identification can be made to Malcolm Nunn. Email [bradfield.history@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:bradfield.history@mypostoffice.co.uk)

## A-Z of Victims in Loxley Cemetery – *Karen Lightowler*

For the past 20 years I have been researching the victims of what is still England's worst man-made disaster, the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864 when the embankment of the Dale Dyke Reservoir at Bradfield collapsed, unleashing millions of gallons of water on the unsuspecting valley below. Officially the flood was responsible for the deaths of 240 people although from the research I have carried out I have since discovered many more people died as a direct result of this tragedy and my revised death toll currently stands at 310 people. Of these no less than 26 were buried at Loxley Chapel from a total of ten different families, including two who died in the aftermath of the flood. These

families were Armitage, Bates, Bower, Chapman, Crownshaw, Denton, Hudson and Turner plus

Buckley and Proctor who died in the aftermath.



*The Remains of Chapman's and Denton's Tilts*

## The Armitage Family – *Karen Lightowler*

It is a very sad fact that no less than 12 people called Armitage drowned in the flood, a number beaten only by the 13 members of the Spooner family. Many contemporary accounts of the flood mention this family as so many people died and it is well known that Eliza Armitage née Burgan was licensed Victualler at The Stag Inn at Malin Bridge living there with her son William Armitage and his family. William was married to Ann Armitage née Hawson and they died with their 5 children Charles, Henry, Samuel, William and Maria. Eliza's other son Greaves Armitage lived in a cottage nearby and he also died with his wife Maria Armitage née Cooper and 2 children Mary and Elizabeth. Also in the inn that night were a servant named Elizabeth Crownshaw (who was also buried at Loxley Chapel), Henry Hall who was a guest there for the night and a lodger named James Frith. It was also recorded at the time that the 4 members of the Turner family who also drowned

in the flood were relatives of the Armitage family and Selina Turner was one of the other victims who was buried at Loxley Chapel. Selina's maiden name was Marples and I do know that Eliza Armitage's daughter Harriet married William Marples but I have not yet confirmed the actual family connection to Selina. Yet the Armitage family can be linked, through a series of marriages, to numerous other people who died in the flood

Ann Armitage née Hawson's sister Maria Hawson married John Shaw and the witnesses at their wedding were William Armitage and Ann Hawson who both later drowned in the flood. John Shaw's sister Sarah A Shaw married John Kay and the witnesses at their wedding were his sister Elizabeth Trickett née Kay and her husband James Trickett who also later drowned in the flood. Five of James and Elizabeth Trickett's children also drowned along with Elizabeth's father Thomas Kay.

I have actually drawn out a single family tree that contains no less than 43 people who drowned plus 10 more who died in the aftermath of the flood who are all connected through a complicated series of marriages and I can also include over 150 people who I am in touch with, who are descended from those who died.

**Eliza Armitage née Burgan  
was licensed Victualler at  
The Stag Inn at Malin  
Bridge**

The Armitage family were buried on the terrace at the rear of Loxley Chapel although the bodies of Henry aged 9, Samuel aged 7, Maria aged 2, Mary aged 3 and 4 month old Elizabeth were never found or identified.

## The Bates Family – *Karen Lightowler*

The first flood grave I ever found at Loxley Chapel was that of the Bates family, alongside the main drive in front of the chapel. The headstone shows that Thomas Bates drowned along with his wife Harriet Bates née Snape and their 3 children George, Walter and Tom. The Bates family also appear on the large family tree mentioned previously and Harriet was sister to George Snape who drowned with his wife Mary Snape née Gilford.

Thomas Bates and his family lived in a cottage at the back of The Stag Inn so they were neighbours in life with the Armitage family in Malin Bridge and neighbours in death at Loxley Chapel. The sole surviving member of this family was daughter Annie Bates who was away from home on the night of the flood. She went on to marry William Malin and I believe they had 9 children, the first two being Harriet and Thomas, clearly named in memory of Annie's parents: Harriet Malin was born in 1866 and she married Harry Hodgson,

Thomas William Malin was born in 1868 and he married Margaret Ellen Dagger, George Frederick Malin was born in 1870 and he married Elizabeth Ann Leach, Annie Malin was born in 1872 and she married Anthony Theophilus Niemysei, Henry Malin was born in 1874, Walter Malin was born in 1875 and he married Harriet Clover, Peter Malin was born in 1877 and he married Dorothy Elizabeth Smith and secondly Sarah Ann Davison, Emily Malin was born in 1881 and Ethel Malin was born in 1888. It is hard to imagine how Annie coped after losing her entire family in the flood but at least she went on to find happiness with her husband and large family.



2020 Flood Anniversary. Management Committee members at the grave of the Bates family. Left to right: Trisha Childs, Jane Platts, Malcolm Nunn, Sue Fisher and Lynda Barnett (Photo courtesy of *The Star*)

**'The sole surviving member of this family was daughter Annie Bates'**

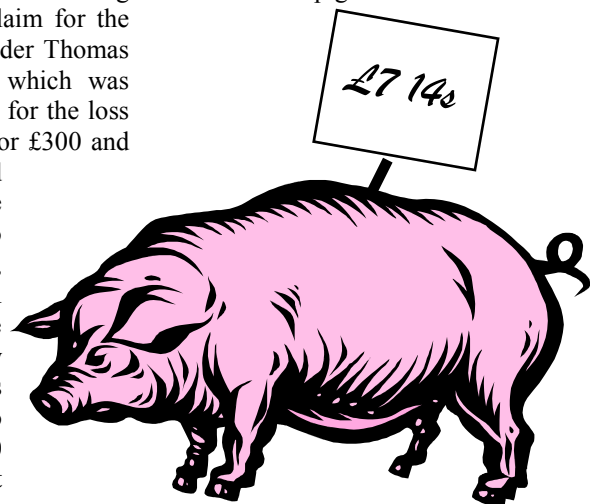
## The Claims—*Mick Drewry*

Of all twelve members of the Armitage family, only the life of 64 year-old landlady of the Stag Inn, Eliza, was claimed for to the Flood Claims Commission. This was submitted by Arthur Green, forgesmith, and his wife Fanny, and steel melter John Banham and his wife Margaret; Fanny and Margaret being Eliza's daughters and listed as administratrixes. The claim was for £250 and the record states that this was withdrawn, probably due to the daughters being married and not dependent upon Eliza. No claims were made for Armitage property lost in the Flood.

File cutter, William Grant and his

wife Jane submitted claims for the loss of the lives of Thomas and Harriet Bates on behalf of their daughter Annie, Jane being administratrix. The claim for the life of table blade grinder Thomas Bates was for £500, which was withdrawn. The claim for the loss of Harriet Bates was for £300 and this was assessed and agreed by the Commission, who awarded £67 2s, including costs. A further, extensive claim listing property lost by the Bates family amounted to £94 2s. Of this £50 was awarded. The list

included work related tools and equipment, furniture and clothing but the single most valuable item was a cured pig at £7 14s.



## Where to find the Flood victims' graves—*Malcolm Nunn*

Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group — Grave Issues

loxley.secretary@yahoo.com

If you wish to join the Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group subscriptions are £5 per year payable 1 January. Please send your cheque and contact details to our Treasurer: Mike Ford, 80a Ringinglow Road, Sheffield S11 7PQ



*Aims and Objectives of the Friends of Loxley Cemetery Group:*

*Maintain the physical upkeep of Loxley Cemetery so as to ensure, where reasonably practicable, safe access for visitors to all areas*

*Maintain the aesthetics and environmental integrity of the Cemetery in keeping with the Loxley Valley*

*Create and maintain records of social and historical interest connected to Loxley Cemetery thus providing a unique research resource*

*Work with the owner of the site to restore Loxley Church and to preserve the memorials within the building*

Listed below are the those who are interred at Loxley United Reform Churchyard as a direct result of the Great Sheffield Flood of March 11th/12th 1864 or died in the weeks/months of the flood due to the effects of the flood, also listed are those from the family who were assumed to have been lost in the flood and their bodies never found and are inscribed on the respective headstones.

### **FLOOD GRAVES AT LOXLEY**

#### **ARMITAGE—GRAVE CNT 8-3**

Eliza	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Ann	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
William (Snr)	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Greaves	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Maria	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Charles	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
William (Jnr)	of Stag Inn, Holme Lane	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864

Also on headstone is mentioned five others who were assumed lost in flood but never found

These being Elizabeth, Henry, Maria, Mary and Samuel

#### **BATES—GRAVE CSS 17-16**

Thomas	of Pearl Town	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Harriet	of Pearl Town	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
George	of Pearl Town	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Thomas	of Pearl Town	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864

#### **BOWER—GRAVE CNT 13-2**

John	of Bland Row	Buried March 17 <sup>th</sup> 1864
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#### **BUCKLEY—GRAVE CNT 3-3**

Jeremiah	of Hillsborough	Buried August 14 <sup>th</sup> 1864
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#### **CHAPMAN—GRAVE CNT 1-2**

Daniel	of Little Matlock	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Ellen	of Little Matlock	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Samuel	of Little Matlock	Buried March 15 <sup>th</sup> 1864

#### **CHAPMAN—GRAVE CNT 3-2**

William	of Little Matlock	Buried March 17 <sup>th</sup> 1864
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#### **CROWNSHAW—GRAVE CNT 9-5**

Elizabeth	of Wisewood	Buried March 14 <sup>th</sup> 1864
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#### **DENTON—GRAVE CSS 13-19**

Thomas	of Loxley Old Wheel	Buried March 13 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Joseph	of Loxley Old Wheel	Buried March 16 <sup>th</sup> 1864

#### **HUDSON—GRAVE CSS 12-4**

George	of Malin Bridge	Buried March 14 <sup>th</sup> 1864
John	of Malin Bridge	Buried March 14 <sup>th</sup> 1864

#### **HUDSON—GRAVE CSS 6-14**

Eliza	of Loxley Bottom	Buried April 12 <sup>th</sup> 1864
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On the headstone is mentioned Mary Hudson who is not buried here but assumed to have been drowned in the flood

#### **PROCTOR—GRAVE CSS 2-22**

Alfred	of Owlerton	Buried May 7 <sup>th</sup> 1864
Mary	of Owlerton	Buried May 30 <sup>th</sup> 1864

#### **TURNER—GRAVE CNT 10-5**

Selina	of Hillsborough	Buried May 6 <sup>th</sup> 1864
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At the present time due to the state of the graveyard the only flood grave accessible is Bates' family grave which is on the left-hand side of the drive from the Loxley Road entrance before reaching the chapel.

At the flood anniversary in 2020 a number of our members placed flowers on this grave but throughout the year this grave is tended by someone who lives in the Lower Loxley valley, it is my understanding that although he has no direct connection with the Bates family he is in contact with a descendant in Canada and has agreed to look after it on their behalf.

Key to grave references: CNT: Chapel North Terrace, CSS: Chapel South Side

First number is row number, second number is grave number, e.g. the Armitage grave is row 8, grave 3 in the Chapel North Terrace.