

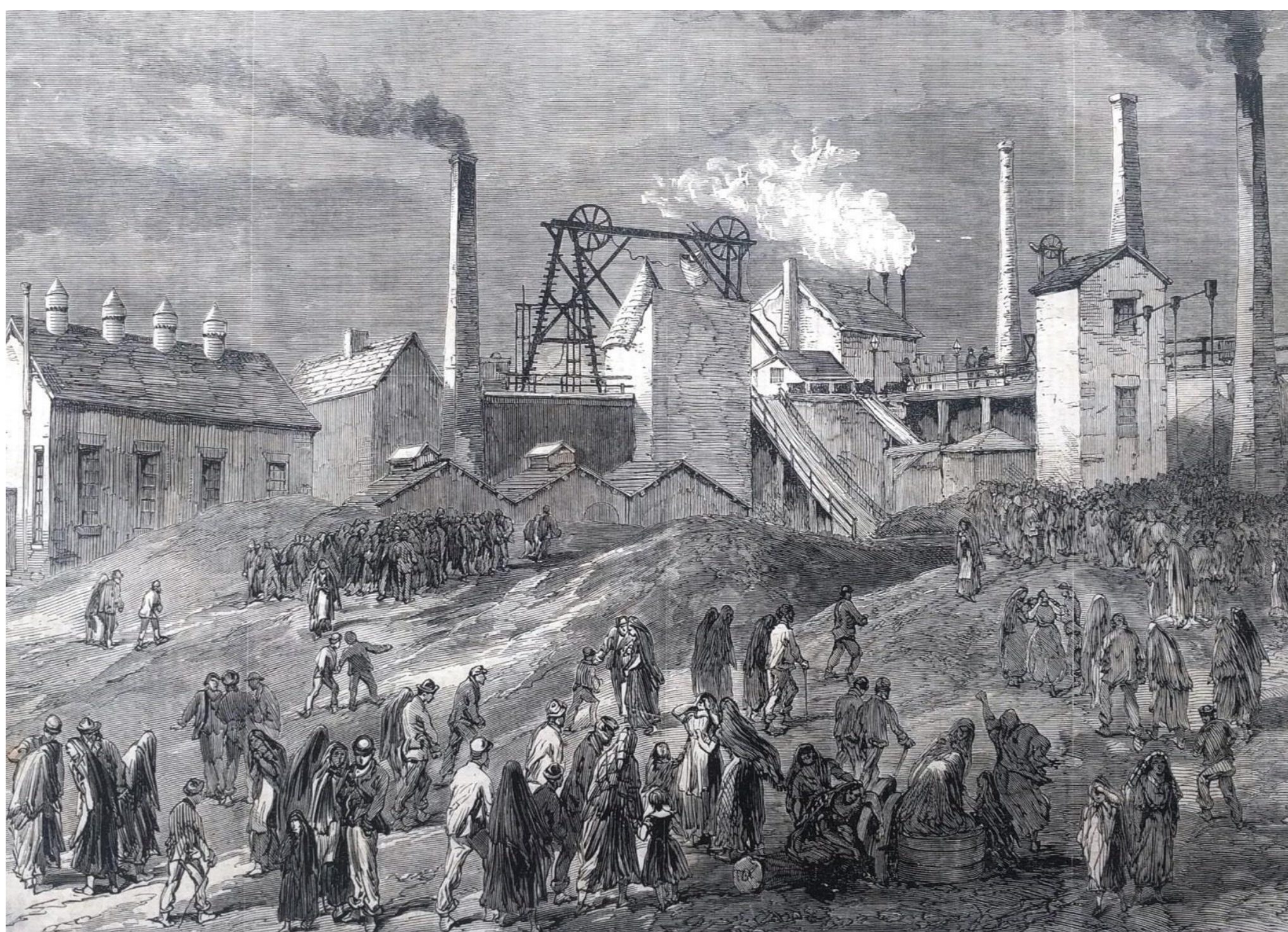
Stamped Edition
Free Entry

WHEN THE OAKS FIRED



12th December 1866 – 12th December 2016

The Oaks Colliery Disaster killed 383 men and boys in two explosions on 12th and 13th December 1866. It was the worst mining disaster in Victorian Britain and remains the worst in English history. On the 150th anniversary of the disaster we remember those who paid the ultimate price of coal.



Oaks Colliery Disaster

150th Anniversary

This commemorative newspaper has been produced as part of the ‘When the Oaks Fired’ exhibition at Experience Barnsley. The exhibition has been co-curated by the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership and Barnsley Museums.

It is often the tragic events in history that reverberate through the generations with the power to leave a mark. For Barnsley and the communities surrounding the old Oaks Colliery site (now Barnsley Main and Oaks Business Park) the 12th December is a dark date that still resonates.

As we mark the 150th anniversary the local community and various organisations have come together to ensure this event would not go unnoticed.

The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, started a research project to uncover the true story of the disaster. For too long the lives of the men and boys killed were largely unknown, there was no comprehensive list of names and the officially reported death toll of 361 was highly questionable.



A team of volunteers from across Barnsley came together to achieve something that had never been done before. Their aim was simple, to name every victim of the Oaks Disaster.

The research was designed by Stephen Miller from the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership and started with collating all the available names from a range of sources. The death registers in Barnsley Town Hall, lists of the dead and missing from contemporary newspapers, burial records and several memorial sheets were all used to create an initial list of over 500 names.

Volunteers then rigorously researched each name using national and local records to uncover their life stories, family connections and identify any errors due to spelling or misidentification.

The list they produced of 383 people sent shock waves through the historical and local community. It not only revealed a higher death toll than previously thought but also showed a level of detail that had never been achieved before.

You can view the full list here www.discoverdearne.org.uk

People and Mining, a charity made up of ex-miners, were supported by the National Union of Mineworkers in their aim to raise a memorial for the 150th anniversary. The memorial was designed by local artist, Graham Ibbeson, himself a descendant of an Oaks Disaster victim.

The tireless dedication of the fundraising efforts greatly increased the public awareness of the anniversary. Graham Ibbeson’s memorial is a welcome addition to the tradition of Oaks Disaster memorials.

Christ Church in Ardsley was the Parish church for the Oaks Colliery and has long been regarded as the centre for commemoration. In 1879 the Oaks Disaster Memorial was raised in the church yard, the first memorial to remember all the victims. Funding for the memorial was raised through public subscription.

For the 150th anniversary the Oaks Disaster memorial was cleaned thanks to funding from Barnsley Council Ward Alliance.



Local artist, Alan Andrews, from the ART of Mining has created his own unique piece of work to remember the Oaks Disaster. A former miner, Alan uses virtual reality to create immersive digital worlds.



Part of the site of the Oaks Colliery is now occupied by the remaining Barnsley Main buildings. The Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership is working with the Barnsley Council Central Area Team to increase usage of site. One outcome has been the formation of the Barnsley Main Heritage Group.

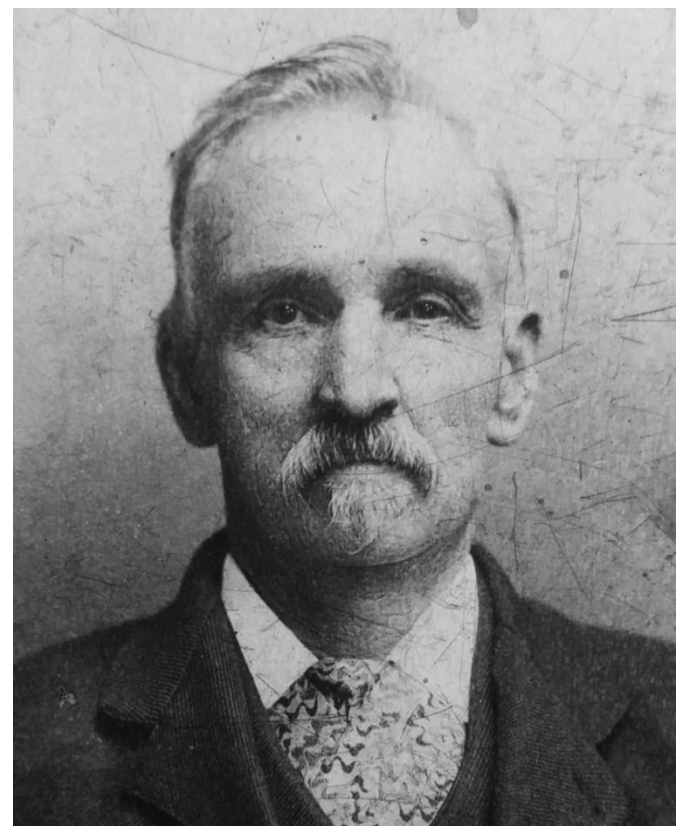
For the 150th anniversary on 12th December 2016 the group organised the lighting of a beacon from the Barnsley Main spoil tip. The beacon was lit for 150 minutes and visible across Barnsley and the communities most affected by the disaster. 383 named wooden crosses were also placed in the ground around the beacon.



Mary Jones was just 12 at the time of the disaster. She lost her father and two brothers. (Image courtesy of Jacey Bedford)



William Henry Hart was one of just six survivors of the first explosion on 12th December 1866. (Image courtesy of Steve Wyatt)



John Riley was the youngest of the volunteer rescuers, aged just 17. (Image Courtesy of John Timms)



Parkin Jeffcock was a renowned mining engineer who was killed in the second explosion on 13th December 1866.



Sarah Hyde lost her husband, Thomas, in the disaster and was left with two young children to raise alone. (Image courtesy of Brian Elliott)



Ann Marshall's husband, George, was killed in the disaster. They had eight children. (Image courtesy of Julie Wright and Carol Forsberg)



Priscilla Poppleton was born in Monk Bretton in 1839 and lost her father and four brothers in the disaster.



William Ward lost his father in the disaster and was one of the volunteer rescuers. He became the treasurer of the Oaks Memorial Committee. (Image courtesy of David Ward Royal)



John William Hellewell's father and two uncles were killed in the disaster. The family later emigrated to America. (Image courtesy of Mary Hellewell)

IN MEMORY OF

THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE UNFORTUNATE SUFFERERS WHO WERE KILLED BY THE DREADFUL EXPLOSIONS AT THE OAKS COLLIERY, BARNSELEY, December 12th and 13th, 1866.

ARDSLEY.

BRADLEY, JOHN S. w 2
BROOKES, CHARLES w 2
CLARKSON, FRANCIS boy
CLARKSON, TOM boy
GLADWIN, GEORGE w 3
HAMMOND, THOMAS w
HARPER, JOHN s
HOLDSWORTH, DAVID w
KENNY, EDWARD w
ROBINSON, STEPHEN s
SHORE, JOHN s
WILKINSON, GEORGE s
WILLOUGHBY, HENRY w 4

BARNSELEY.

ABBOTT, WILLIAM w 2
AITKEN, ROBERT w 1
ALLEN, MATTHEW boy
ARMITAGE, ALFRED w 1
ARNOLD, MATTHEW w 1
ARNOLD, JOHN s
BARKER, GEORGE boy
BARKER, THOMAS w 1
BELLAMY, SOLOMON s
BERRY, WILLIAM w 2
BIRKINSHAW, ARTHUR w 2
BONSON, JOHN w 4
BOOTHROYD, WILLIAM s
BOSTWICK, STEPHEN s
BROOKS, JOHN boy
BROWN, BENJAMIN w
BROWNLOW, LOT s
BURDEN, JOSEPH boy
CARTWRIGHT, ABEL w 1
CARTWRIGHT, JOHN s
CHESTERFIELD, HENRY w
CLAPHAM, RICHARD w 2
COCKLIN, JOHN w 2
COLDWELL, ANDREW boy
CONLEY, JOHN s
COOPER, DAVID s
COOPER, JOSEPH s
COWARD, A. s
COWARD, GEORGE w 1
DAWSON, WILLIAM w 2
DAY, PETER w 3
DENNIS, ABRAHAM w 4
DENNIS, BENJAMIN s
DENNIS, JOHN s
DUNK, SAMUEL w 2
EDSON, WILLIAM w 2
EVANS, EDWARD s
EVANS, GEORGE w 3
EVANS, JOHN s
EVERETT, ROBERT w 1
FAULKES, JAMES w 3
FLEETWOOD, JAMES boy
GILLBRIGHT, MARTIN s
GAUNT, JOHN boy
HAGUE, HENRY boy
HARDCASTLE, THOMAS w 4
HARDCASTLE, THOMAS w 4
HAYCROFT, JAMES w 4
RIDES, HENRY s
HINCHLIFFE, CHARLES s
HINCHLIFFE, HENRY s
HITCHEN, GEORGE boy
HOCKING, ROBERT w
HOLDSWORTH, FREDERICK w
HOLLAND, DAVID s
HOYLAND, ALFRED w
HOYLAND, GEORGE s
HOYLAND, THOMAS s
HOYLE, GEORGE s
HUTCHINSON, JOSEPH w 6
IBBESON, GEORGE w 6
ILLINGWORTH, EZRA boy
JACKSON, HENRY w 3
JACKSON, JOHN boy
JACKSON, WILLIAM boy
JONES, JOHN w
KAYE, JABEZ w
KEIGHLEY, JOSEPH w
LEATHER, JAMES w
LEE, MARK s
LONG, GEORGE w 1
MARSHALL, GEORGE w 4

MATRICK, MATTHEW boy
MATRICK, WILLIAM boy
MORRELL, JOHN s
MORRIS, THOMAS s
MULLER, GEORGE s
M'DONALD, PETER w 2
M'DONALD, MICHAEL w 1
M'HUGH, JOHN boy
NEWTON, JOHN w 2
NOBLE, JOHN s
OSBORNE, CHARLES boy
OSBORNE, HENRY s
POPPLETON, HENRY w 2
RACE, NATHAN w 3
RAMSDEN, SAMUEL w 4
ROBERTS, ISAAC w 1
ROTHWELL, HENRY w 1
SCHOEFIELD, THOMAS boy
SENIOR, JOSEPH s
SHAW, THOMAS boy
SHIRT, GEORGE s
SHIRT, WILLIAM s
SIMPSON, D. F. w 3
SLOANE, JOHN s
SMITH, GEORGE w 1
STENTON, SAMUEL boy
TEWETT, JOHN s
THICKETT, THOMPSON boy
THOMPSON, WILLIAM w
WALMSLEY, GILES w 4
WALMSLEY, JOHN boy
WALMSLEY, JOSEPH boy
WARD, THOS. s
WILLIS, JOHN w
WILSON, JOSEPH boy
WILSON, THOS. s
WILSON, WM. w 1
WINTER, DUNCAN w 1
WINTER, HENRY w 2
WINTER, JOHN w 2
WINTER, JOSEPH s
WINTER, THOS. w 2
WINTER, WM. s
WRIGHT, WM. w 1

BURTON.

ANDERSON, THOMAS w 3
BRADLEY, DANIEL w 3
CARR, GEORGE s
CARR, JOHN boy
CLEARY, CHARLES w 1
COOKE, AMOS s
EDSON, GEORGE s
EDSON, JOHN s
EDSON, JOHN s
EDSON, WILLIAM w 2
GLOVER, JOHN s
GLOVER, THOMAS boy
HAGUE, WILLIAM boy
HARRISON, CHARLES boy
HARRISON, JOSEPH w 5
HEELEY, ALFRED w
HELLIWELL, JOHN w 4
HELLIWELL, SAMUEL s
HELLIWELL, THOMAS boy
HORBURY, THOMAS w 1
HUTCHINSON, CHARLES s
HUTCHINSON, THOMAS w 3
JONES, SAMUEL s
JONES, THOMAS w 6
JONES, WILLIAM s
LANE, JOSEPH w 2
LAW, AUSTIN boy
LEE, JOSEPH s
LEE, WALTER s
MATTHEW CHARLES s
PARKER, WILLIAM w 5
PICKLES, THOMAS w
SLATER, ELIJAH boy
SLATER, WILLIAM s
SWIFT, MATTHEW w 2
WILKINSON, WILLIAM w 4

CLIFFE BRIDGE.

BAMFORTH, MATTHEW w 2
COOPER, THOS. s
EXLEY, BENJAMIN boy
EXLEY, CHARLES s
EXLEY, JOHN s
FARMER, JOHN w 5

FEARN, CHARLES s
FEARN, DAVID s
MUSGROVE, ED. w 6
PRIESTLEY, JOSEPH boy
RHODES, CHARLES w 4
RHODES, FERGUS s
RHODES, GEORGE s
RHODES, WILLIAM w 4
ROOKE, JOHN boy
SIDMONS, SAMUEL boy
WALKER, JOSEPH boy

CUDWORTH.

DUCKWORTH, WILLIAM w 5
ROEBUCK, JOSEPH s
ROEBUCK, MATTHEW boy

DODWORTH.

SHAW, WILLIAM w 4
THORLEY, CHARLES w 2

GAWBER.

BRADLEY, EDWARD boy
BRADLEY, JOHN w 7

HOYLE MILL.

ADDY, GEO. w 2
BANN, JOSEPH boy
BANN, THOMAS boy
BARKER, ANDREW w 7
BARKER, ANDREW s
BARKER, ANDREW boy
BARKER, GEO. w 6
BARKER, JAMES s
BARKER, RICHARD boy
BARKER, WILLIAM s
BATES, JOHN s
BATES, MOSES s
BATES, PHILIP w 4
BATES, WILLIAM boy
BATES, WILLIAM s
BATTY, JAMES s
BATTY, JOSEPH w 2
BENNETT, JAMES w 1
BENNETT, JOHN boy
BENNETT, THOS. s
BENNETT, THOS. boy
BIRCHALL, GEO. w
BORROWDALE, GEO. s
BROWN, JOSEPH w 5
BROWN, THOS. boy
BROOKES, HENRY w 4
CADMAN, JOHN boy
CASTLE, JOHN w 2
CLAYTON, HENRY s
CLAYTON, JOHN s
CLEGG, JOHN T. boy
DAMMS, GEO. w
DIXON, THOS. s
DIXON, WM. boy
DONKIN, CHAS. boy
DONKIN, TOM w 3
DONKIN, TOM s
FLETCHER, CHAS. boy
HAGUE, WM. w 1
HALTON, JOHN s
HAWLEY, WM. s
HINCHLIFFE, CHARLES s
HINCHLIFFE, HENRY s
HILTON, HENRY w 1
HOBSON, GEO. w 3
HOLLEN, JOSEPH boy
HOUGH, GEO. boy
HOYLE, WALTER s
HUNT, JOSEPH s
HUNT, RICHARD w 3
HURST, ROBERT w 2
HYDE, THOMAS boy
KEEY, JOHN boy
LAWLESS, GEO. w 4
LAWLESS, JOHN w 1
LEATHER, THOS. w 4
LEE, JOHN s
MARSDEN, HENRY s
MATTHEWS, WM. w 2
MORT, JOSEPH w 4
MOSS, JOHN s
NADIN, EPHRAIM boy

NADIN, GEO. boy
NADIN, THOS. w 3
NUTTALL, JOHN w 3
OAKLEY, RICHARD w 3
PAYMAN, FREDK. boy
PAYMAN, THOS. w 7
POOLEY, JOHN s
RAMSDEN, CHAS. w 3
RAMSDEN, HENRY s
RYMER, JAMES boy
RHODES, WM. w 4
RICHARDSON, JOHN s
RIDER, JERVIS w 6
RIMINGTON, ROBT. s
ROBSON, JOHN w 7
ROSS, JOSEPH w 1
RYNE, JOHN s
SELLERS, EPHRAIM w
SIDMONS, EDWD. s
SIDMONS, THOS. s
SIDMONS, AARON w 7
SMITH, JOHN w 3
SNOWDON, JOHN w 1
SYKES, GEO. w 3
SYKES, WM. w 3
THORNLEY, JAMES s
TIMMONS, ISAAC w 1
WALL, DANIEL s
WATSON, JOSEPH s
WATSON, WM. boy
WEBB, CHAS. w
WHARTON, WM. s
WHITTAKER, JOHN w 1
WILKINSON, ABRAHAM s
WILSON, WM. w 5
WOOD, HENRY w 4
WOOD, THOS. w 4

HUNNINGLEY LANE.

BARRACLOUGH, ALFRED w 3
CARTWRIGHT, EDWARD w 3
CLARKSON, RICHARD w
HALL, HENRY w
WALTON, THOS. w
WARD, JOHN w

LITTLEWORTH.

BANTON, JOSEPH w 2
CHALLONER, CHAS. s
DODGSON, WM. s
GRAHAM, JOHN boy
MUSGRAVE, GEORGE w 3
PEAKER, JOSEPH w 1
POPPLETON, ALFRED boy
POPPLETON, GEORGE boy
POPPLETON, HENRY w
POPPLETON, JOSEPH w

OAKS.

FLETCHER, FREDERICK w 2
HILL, WILLIAM boy
LAVER, GEORGE w

OLD MILL.

SMITH, ALFRED s
SMITH, FREDERICK s
TAYLOR, THOMAS w 4
THOMPSON, JOHN widower

STAINCROSS.

MOORE, GEORGE w 4

STAIRFOOT.

ELLIS, GEORGE s
JOWITT, BENJAMIN s
MASSEY, RICHARD boy
NEAL, JOHN BROWN w
NEAL, SAML. ALFRED s
NORMAN, WILLIAM boy
RANDERSON, CHARLES w 1
SCALES, MATTHEW w 2
THORPE, JOSEPH s

WORSBRO COMMON.

JOHN PICKFORD boy

ARMFIELD, JOHN

DUCKETT, WM.

McINTOCK, WM.

"So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

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