

## Hannah Ashworth and Robert Holden Ashworth

### Robert Holden Ashworth and family

Robert Holden was born in 1863.

#### 1871 census and earlier

In 1871 James and Mary Ashworth were living at 1 Farholme Terrace, age 51 and 54 respectively, with Elizabeth J (15), Mary E (13), Alice A (10) and Robert H (7). There is also an unmarried daughter in law, Betsy Ray (possibly Kay) age 22, which suggests that she is Mary's daughter, but not James. James is an engine driver at the cotton mill; Elizabeth, Mary E and Betsy also work at the cotton mill, whilst Alice and Robert are scholars. Farholme Terrace is in the township of Spotland, the hamlet of Brandwood, the local Board of Bacup, and the ecclesiastical parish of Trinity Church.<sup>1</sup>

The family cannot be traced in 1861 with certainty, but probably is the James Ashworth (age 42), working as an engineer, married to Elizabeth, age 39. The place of birth for James (Ramsbottom) tallies, as do the children's names – Elizabeth, Mary and Alice, although the ages are 5, 5 and 3 which also looks like a transcribing error. There is also a son, John Ashworth, age 15, born in Haslingden, working as a cotton weaver. This family is living at Brunswick Terrace, in the township of Spotland, and the hamlet of Brandwood.<sup>2</sup> It is perhaps more likely that this is the correct family, in that in 1871, a John Ashworth, age 25, born Haslingden is living, next door, at 2 Farholme Terrace, with his wife Ellen (24), and 11 month old son, James.<sup>3</sup>

The gap between John (b. 1846) and Elizabeth (b. 1856) suggests that James' marriage to Elizabeth may also not be his first marriage. I think it likely that in 1851, John is the 5 year old child living with his Ashworth grandparents, Richard and Jane in Haslingden<sup>4</sup>, whilst 30 year old James is living with his wife Catherine (36) at 58 Taylor Street, Ancoats and working as an engineer.<sup>5</sup> The indexes show potential records for both the death of Catherine and the marriage to Elizabeth in this time period, making this a plausible option.

The 1861 census shows a Mary Kay age 45, married to William Kay, a cotton manufacturer, living in Lumb, with children Robert age 19, Thomas age 17 and Betsy age 12, who is probably the Mary who marries James prior to 1871.<sup>6</sup> This family can be traced back to 1841, living at Waterbarn, with daughter Alice<sup>7</sup>, and the 1851 census, living at Millarbarn, Newchurch, with Alice, Robert, Thomas and Betty.<sup>8</sup>

Without purchasing his birth certificate, there is no way to prove whether Robert Holden Ashworth is the son of James and Mary, or James and Elizabeth. However, there is a GRO index for a marriage of a James Ashworth and a Mary Kay in the June quarter of 1868<sup>9</sup>, which would suggest that Robert's mother is in fact Elizabeth. The indexes show several potential records for the deaths of both Elizabeth Ashworth and William Kay in the relevant periods, so this remains plausible.

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<sup>1</sup> Source : 1871 census RG10 piece 4130 folio 115 page 1 GSU roll 846721

<sup>2</sup> Source : 1861 census RG9 piece 3051 folio 63 page 20 GSU roll 543070

<sup>3</sup> Source : 1871 census RG10 piece 4130 folio 115 page 1 GSU roll 846721

<sup>4</sup> Source : 1851 census HO107 piece 2250 folio 221 page 17-18 GSU roll 87271-87272

<sup>5</sup> Source : 1851 census HO107 piece 2225 folio 731 page 8 GSU roll 87234-87235

<sup>6</sup> Source : 1861 census RG9 piece 3056 folio 100 page 1 GSU roll 543071

<sup>7</sup> Source : 1841 census HO107 piece 509 book 7 civil parish Whalley county Lancashire enumeration district 6 folio 41 page 10 GSU roll 306898

<sup>8</sup> Source : 1851 census HO107 piece 2248 folio 117 page 9 GSU roll 87269

<sup>9</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Haslingden volume 8e page 215

Whoever his mother, Robert Holden Ashworth was born in the December quarter of 1863.<sup>10</sup> By 1871, the family is living at Farholme Terrace as described above.

### Post 1871

The Scholars' Admission Book for Acre Mill Sunday School shows that Robert was admitted on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1876, giving an age of 16, although he would actually only have been rising 13 at this date.<sup>11</sup> His parents are given as James and Mary Ashworth, and their address as Farholme Lane.

By 1881, the family are confirmed at 18 Farholme Lane, civil parish of Spotland, hamlet of Acre Mill, in the urban sanitary district of Bacup. James and Mary are 61 and 65 respectively, and James remains an engineer/engine driver at a cotton factory. Only Alice Ann (20) and Robert Holden (17) remain at home, and both also work in cotton, Alice as a weaver, and Robert as a cotton mule piecer.<sup>12</sup> John (35) and Ellen (34) haven't moved far either, as they are now at 13 Farholme Terrace with their children Arthur John (6), Mary (4) and Elizabeth (2 months). Baby James from 1871, who should be around 10 or 11 is missing. Also living with them is Mary Ashworth (64), described as Aunt, and presumably James Ashworth's sister.<sup>13</sup> Presumably, Betsy, Elizabeth and Mary have married by this point.

In December 1883 Robert is appointed as Sunday School secretary at Acre Mill, but he resigns very shortly thereafter on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1884!<sup>14</sup> He would presumably have become a member prior to this date, and the undated Membership Register at Acre Mill gives his address as Farholme Lane when he became a member – later corrected to Old Road (Booth Road).<sup>15</sup>

Robert marries in 1886 – see below under Hannah Ashworth.

### Family post 1886

By 1891, James (71) is widowed, but still living at 18 Farholme Terrace. Living with him are Alice (now 30) and her husband, John R Whitehead (29). James is retired, but John works as a stone mason.<sup>16</sup> Alice and John married in the June quarter of 1886.<sup>17</sup> James' son John (45) remains at 13 Farholme Terrace, with Ellen (44), and their children Arthur (16), Mary (14) and Elizabeth (10). Ellen's widowed mother, Mary Collinges (71) also lives with them.<sup>18</sup>

By 1901, James has died, but Alice and John Robert Whitehead remain at 18 Farholme Lane, childless.<sup>19</sup> James' son John (55), with wife Ellen (54), daughters Mary (24) and Elizabeth (20) and mother in law Mary (81) have moved to 6 St Mary's Place, Rawtenstall.<sup>20</sup> John's son Arthur (26) is living at 5 Greenbank Street, Rawtenstall, with his

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<sup>10</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Rochdale volume 8e page 78

<sup>11</sup> Source : Acre Mill Scholars Admission Book 1871-1902, via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>12</sup> Source : 1881 census RG11 piece 4122 folio 39 page 27 GSU roll 1341986

<sup>13</sup> Source : 1881 census RG11 piece 4122 folio 43 page 35 GSU roll 1341986

<sup>14</sup> Source : Acre Mill Teachers' Minute Book via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>15</sup> Source : Acre Mill Membership Register via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>16</sup> Source : 1891 census RG12 piece 3343 folio 20 page 33 GSU roll 6098453

<sup>17</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Rochdale volume 8e page 137

<sup>18</sup> Source : 1891 census RG12 piece 3343 folio 21 page 35 GSU roll 6098453

<sup>19</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3851 folio 134 page 1

<sup>20</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3847 folio 135 page 32

wife, Jane (27), her widowed father, Nathaniel Spencer (56) and her brother Herbert Spencer (16).<sup>21</sup>

### **Hannah Ashworth and family**

Hannah was born to Henry and Mary Ashworth in 1863.

#### **1861-1871**

In 1861 Henry and Mary Ashworth (age 28 and 26 respectively) were living at Tunstead, in the civil parish of Newchurch, and the ecclesiastical parish of Trinity, Lancashire. Henry was a farmer of 35 acres, and both he and his wife were born in Newchurch. At this point they had two children – James, age 4 and Ann age 1, plus a boarder, William Hendle, living with them.<sup>22</sup>

Hannah was born in around 1863/4 with the most likely candidate being the Hannah Ashworth registered in Haslingden district in the December quarter of 1863.<sup>23</sup>

#### **1871-1881**

By 1871 the family address is given as Mitchell Field Nook Road, but with the same occupations. The village is now given as Stacksteads, but the parishes remain the same. Henry and Mary are age 38 and 36 respectively, James is 14, Hannah 7, and there are also Willie age 3 and John H age 3 months. There is no sign of Ann, presumably she has died.<sup>24</sup>

The Acre Mill Scholars' Admission book gives Hannah's admission to Sunday School as 6<sup>th</sup> January 1874, age 14, although in fact at this date she will only just have turned 10 years old, and living at Greens Lane.<sup>25</sup> She became a member of the church by baptism on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1878<sup>26</sup>, and the membership register gives her address as Greens Lane at this point.<sup>27</sup> Hannah also appears in the Teacher and Officers Attendance Register at Acre Mill for several years, from the December quarter of 1879.<sup>28</sup> Her lateness in attendance is recorded here! By the March quarter of 1880 she is teaching class 2 with a Lily Ashworth, and later with Margaret Salisbury<sup>29</sup>. By 1883 she is teaching the older girls, in class 8.<sup>30</sup>

In 1881, they are living at Lane End/Lowhead (difficult to read), which is somewhere in the vicinity of Blackwood Road, in the civil parish of Spotland, hamlet of Brandwood, urban sanitary district of Bacup, but still the ecclesiastical parish of Trinity Church, Tunstead. Henry's age is given as 49, and Mary's as 46, but Henry is now a farm labourer. Hannah and Willie (age 17 and 13 respectively) are cotton operatives, and 10 year old John Henry is both a cotton operative and a scholar. In the same location, the census shows a James Ashworth, age 24, married to 26 year old Jane with a 3 year old daughter, Elizabeth. James is a stone quarry man, whilst Jane is a cotton operative. There are 13 other people given as occupants at the same address.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3850 folio 49 page 14

<sup>22</sup> Source : 1861 census RG9 piece 3054 page 14-15 GSU roll 543071

<sup>23</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Haslingden, volume 8e page 104

<sup>24</sup> Source : 1871 census RG10 piece 4135 folio 26 page 46 GSU roll 846724

<sup>25</sup> Source : Acre Mill Scholars' Admission Book 1871-1902 via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>26</sup> Source : Acre Mill 1904 Register of Members via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>27</sup> Source : Acre Mill Membership Register via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>28</sup> Source : Teachers and Officers Attendance Book Acre Mill via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>29</sup> Probably the Margaret Salisbury enrolled in Sunday School 24 April 1874, age 15, parents Thomas and Ann, living on Greens Lane.

<sup>30</sup> Source : Scholars Attendance Book Acre Mill via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>31</sup> Source : 1881 census RG11 piece 4122 folio 55 page 8 GSU roll 1341986

### Marriage in 1886

In the second quarter of 1886 Hannah married Robert Holden Ashworth.<sup>32</sup> This took place on 17<sup>th</sup> June, at Irwell Terrace Baptist Church, Bacup (later to form part of Trinity Baptist, Bacup) by certificate, with Registrar attended. Both give their age as 23; Robert is a bachelor, mule spinner, living at 18 Farholme Lane, whilst Hannah is a spinster, cotton twister, living at Lowhead. Their fathers are James Ashworth, engineer and Henry Ashworth, quarryman, respectively. The witnesses were Willie Ashworth (Hannah's brother) and Margaret Ann Salisbury (see ref 29), and the minister was Ebenezer Alfred Tydeman, of Zion Baptist, Bacup (also later to form part of Trinity Baptist).<sup>33</sup>

### Robert Holden and Hannah Ashworth 1886-1905

In 1889, Robert and Hannah both appear in the list of signatories when Acre Mill requested leave to be an independent church - previously they had been a Sunday School started by Zion Baptist, Bacup.<sup>34</sup> They are also in a list of members dated 1890, when they were living at 2 Queen Street, Stacksteads. Two other members giving this address at this time were William (Willie) and John Henry Ashworth, Hannah's brothers.<sup>35</sup> In 1890, Robert's name is given as one of the deacons at Acre Mill Baptist Church.<sup>36</sup> He is also known to have been the organist there.<sup>37</sup>

At the time of the 1891 census, they are still living at 2 Queen Street, which is now described as being in the civil parish of Newchurch, municipal borough of Bacup, municipal ward of Tunstead, urban sanitary district of Bacup, village of Stacksteads, parliamentary division of Rossendale, and ecclesiastical parish of Tunstead. They are living with Hannah's parents, Henry and Mary who are 58 and 56, and Henry now works as a stone quarry man, as does his unmarried son, 20 year old John H. Willie, now 23 is a cotton weaver, whilst 27 year old Robert is a cotton spinner. Hannah's age is also given as 27. James (a stone quarry man) and Jane, now 35 and 36, live next door at 1 Queen Street, with their daughter Elizabeth, age 13 who is working as a warp twister, and their niece, 1 year old Ethel Ashworth.<sup>38</sup> It is not clear who Ethel's parents are. An undated Pew Rents Book from Acre Mill also gives the address of Robert, Hannah and John H Ashworth as 2 Queen Street.<sup>39</sup>

Hannah and Robert's daughter, Mary Elizabeth, (named after both their mothers?) was born around 1892, probably in the March quarter.<sup>40</sup>

Hannah's father, Henry, died 28<sup>th</sup> April 1897 age 65.<sup>41</sup>

In 1901, the last year for which censuses are available, Hannah and Robert are now 37 and living at 33 Booth Road. (This would appear to be the house on the corner of Tunstead Road which has merged with it's neighbour to form the shop). The civil parish is Bacup, formerly part of Newchurch, Municipal borough of Bacup, parliamentary division of Rossendale, and Town of Stacksteads. The ecclesiastical parish is Trinity Church. Robert

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<sup>32</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Rochdale volume 8e page 139

<sup>33</sup> Source : Marriage certificate via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>34</sup> Source : Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>35</sup> Source : Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>36</sup> Source : Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>37</sup> Source : Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>38</sup> Source : 1891 census RG12 piece 3347 folio 14 page 22 GSU roll 6098457

<sup>39</sup> Source : Acre Mill Pew Rents Book via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>40</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Haslingden volume 8e page 94

<sup>41</sup> Source : Bacup Cemetery Index via Terry Haslam-Jones

is now a professor of music, and living with them are their daughter Mary Elizabeth, age 9, and Hannah's mother Mary, age 66 and now widowed.<sup>42</sup>

It hasn't proved possible to find Hannah's brother James in 1901, but it is likely John Henry (30) is the one married to Mary Jane (32), with son Harold (3), living at Acre House, Brandwood, and operating as a shopkeeper.<sup>43</sup> They married in the June quarter of 1895, and Mary Jane was also an Ashworth.<sup>44</sup> The most likely candidate for William is probably the Willie Ashworth (33), married to Jane (34) and living in Brandwood.<sup>45</sup> Willie and Jane (Taylor) were married in the December quarter of 1891.<sup>46</sup>

Hannah died in her 42<sup>nd</sup> year, on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1905<sup>47</sup>, of bronchitis.<sup>48</sup> Her death was registered on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1905, by her brother in law, J Whitehead, who was present, giving his address as 12 Siding Street, Stacksteads. Hannah died at her home, 33 Booth Road, age 40 years, of bronchitis 21 days, and syncope.<sup>49</sup> She was buried at Bacup Cemetery on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1905 by Rev G Charlesworth (minister of Acre Mill). The index to burials shows she was age 41, wife to R H Ashworth, and buried in grave C347. This grave also holds Henry Ashworth, Mary Ashworth, Mary E Wilcock and Fred Wilcock.<sup>50</sup>

### Post 1905

Mary Ashworth, mother to Hannah, died on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1907 age 72, and is buried in the same grave as her husband and daughter.<sup>51</sup> Robert married again in the June quarter of 1908, to either Ellen Whitehead (related to his brother in law, John?) or Mary Martha E Wilson.<sup>52</sup>

It would appear that Robert and Hannah's daughter married Etson (Elton?) Wilcock in the June quarter of 1915 in Halifax.<sup>53</sup> Etson was the son of Tattersfield Wilcock (born Mirfield) and his wife, Mary (born Luddenden Foot. In 1891 the family are living at 52 Greens Lane, Stacksteads, and Etson is 1 year old.<sup>54</sup> They are still there in 1901, Etson is now 11 and has a 9 year old sister, Emily.<sup>55</sup> This was probably a hurried war time wedding, and there is a reference to the birth of Fred Wilcock in Halifax in the September quarter of 1915, suggesting also a shotgun wedding.<sup>56</sup>

The family presumably returned to Stacksteads as Ruth Shelton (previously Webb) of Acre Mill Baptist Church remembers that Fred's mother worked in the Webb's shop when Ruth was a child. She also remembers that Fred's mother was the daughter of 'Bob' Ashworth, the organist, and that she lived with her father at South Villas, at the end of Church Street. Bob was nicknamed 'Fatty' because he was so thin.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3853 folio 107 page 21

<sup>43</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3851 folio 138 page 10

<sup>44</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Haslingden volume 8e page 262

<sup>45</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3851 folio 145 page 24

<sup>46</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Haslingden volume 8e page 243

<sup>47</sup> Source : Memorial at Acre Mill Baptist Church

<sup>48</sup> Source : Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>49</sup> Source : Death Certificate via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>50</sup> Source : Bacup Cemetery index via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>51</sup> Source : Bacup Cemetery index via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>52</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Haslingden volume 8e page 274

<sup>53</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Halifax volume 9a page 1343

<sup>54</sup> Source : 1891 census RG12 piece 3343 folio 10 page 13 GSU roll 6098453

<sup>55</sup> Source : 1901 census RG13 piece 3851 folio 147 page 28

<sup>56</sup> Source : FreeBMD district Halifax volume 9a page 673

<sup>57</sup> Source : Ruth Shelton nee Webb, via Terry Haslam-Jones

Robert is recorded in the communion register for Acre Mill continuously until his death on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1949, with his address given as South Villas.<sup>58</sup>

There is a Fred Wilcock mentioned on the War Memorial at Acre Mill, and Fred died on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1965, age 49.<sup>59</sup> Mary E Wilcock died on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1969, age 77.<sup>60</sup>

### Music

Church records show that Robert Holden Ashworth was an organist at Acre Mill Baptist Church, whilst the 1901 census shows that he is a Professor of Music. Having started as a cotton worker, it is likely that he was self taught. There is also a piece of music, date currently unknown, by a R H Ashworth, address South Villas, Stacksteads, as well as several by a R Ashworth.<sup>61</sup> It seems certain that at least the first of these is Robert Holden Ashworth.

It is worth noting that an earlier Robert Ashworth was noted for his musical compositions as part of the Larks of Dean – musicians and preachers involved in the founding of Baptist chapels in Lumb and Goodshaw, and the surrounding area in 1740-1860<sup>62</sup>. As a result, dates on these pieces of music may be crucial in identifying their composers. Robert Holden Ashworth's (step) mother, Mary was in Lumb towards the end of this period, and may well have been a musical influence on the young Robert as a result.

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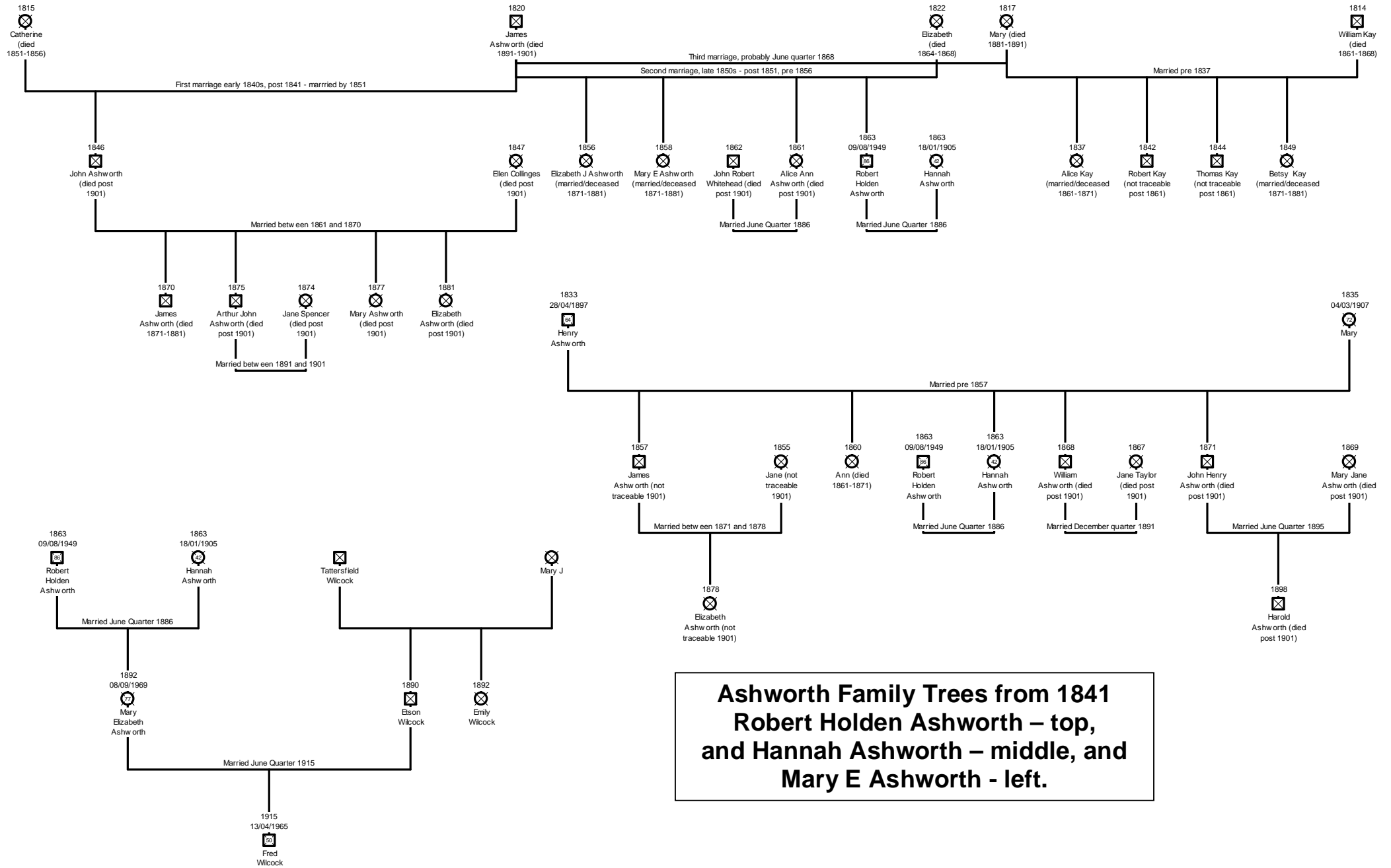
<sup>58</sup> Source : Acre Mill communion register from 1914 via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>59</sup> Source : Bacup Cemetery index via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>60</sup> Source : Bacup Cemetery index via Terry Haslam-Jones

<sup>61</sup> Source : Peter Webb

<sup>62</sup> Source : Jane Seymour, Conductor of the Larks of Dean Quire



**Ashworth Family Trees from 1841  
Robert Holden Ashworth – top,  
and Hannah Ashworth – middle, and  
Mary E Ashworth - left.**

Robert's Family pre 1871 —

Robert's Locations —

Hannah's Locations —

