

John Clarke Haden (1805-1869) A Personal Record and the Whistler-McNeill Connection To Lancashire

(P.H.Tunaley)

John Clarke Haden, b. 1805, was the youngest of ten children of Thomas and Sarah Haden of Derby. The nearest brother to John, in terms of age was Frederick, b. 1800 but who died at an early age in a colonial war in Berbice, Guyana. After Frederick, the next youngest brother was Henry born 1791 and almost 14 years older than John. It is not altogether surprising, therefore, that John's records, whilst showing him to be very successful, indicate a gradual separation from the rest of his family illustrated perhaps by the confluence of events that took place 1847-1849 as described below.

John Clarke Haden, christened St. Michael, Derby, 7 May 1805.

Died Oct 29th. 1869.

Attended: Derby School.

Entered Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 1824.

B.A. 1828.

Ordained deacon 1828; priest 1829.

Minor Canon of St. Paul's, 1834-49.

Rector of Hutton, nr, Brentwood, Essex, 1839-1869.

Minor Canon and Precentor of Westminster Abbey, 1846-1869.

Priest-in-Ordinary to King William IV 1834-7 and to Queen Victoria, 1837-69.

Marriage 1:

Married Annie Ormerod, only daughter of Richard Ormerod Esq. (engineer) at St. Peter's Church, Fleetwood, Lancashire, 20th January 1847.

Richard's residence: Queen's Terrace, Fleetwood.

Marriage licence by Oliver Ormerod, Rector of Presteign (formerly county town of Radnorshire, now Powys).

Tragically, Annie died the same year as marriage, 1847, (no documents found showing cause of death and, if death as a result of childbirth, no evidence found of a surviving child) with this event having very distant echoes of the first marriage of John Clarke's late uncle Francis Bunn Haden in 1776.

Marriage 2:

John Clarke Haden married Sarah Mair on 14th August 1850 in Chalfont St. Giles Church, Buckinghamshire.

Sarah (b.15 Sept 1815, baptised Holborn, London) was the eldest daughter of John Mair Esq. of Nightingales Estate, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, a successful businessman in London, operating from Friday Street in the City and landowner of the Nightingales Estate, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, which he purchased in 1828.

John Mair died 1st August 1848, his inheritance split between his wife and five children.

Following their 1850 marriage, John Haden and wife Sarah continued to use the Nightingales as their family home, even though John, because of his career, would have had to spend much of his time in the City of London. And in 1853 Sarah gave birth to John Harry Haden at Chalfont St. Giles.

For full details see the following website:

http://www.chalfonthistory.co.uk/mair_haden_history.html

John Clarke Haden died November 1869, aged 64 years and is buried in the Mair family tomb sited in the St. Giles churchyard at Chalfont St Giles.

According to the website, "when John Clarke Haden died in 1869 he left his widow, Sarah Haden, in possession of Nightingales for the next 29 years. Her son John Harry Haden, who at this time was vicar of St John's, Limehouse, London, then inherited it in 1898".

The Haden Connection to Fleetwood and Preston, Lancashire, 1847-1849

Two further important events occurred that followed John Clarke Haden's marriage to Annie Ormerod, 20/1/1847, in Fleetwood, Lancashire and her later death, same year.

Firstly, records show Francis Seymour Haden married Deborah Delano Whistler at St. John's Church, Preston, close to Fleetwood, 16th October, 1847, also in the same year as John Clarke's marriage.

Secondly, George Washington Whistler had left for St. Petersburg in 1842 to help build the St. Petersburg - Moscow railway but died there from cholera, 7th April 1849. This was after being awarded the Order of St. Anna by the Russian Tsar earlier that same year and shortly before the railway was successfully completed.

These two sets of events appear unrelated until one reads a letter dated 15th July 1849 sent by Anna Matilda Whistler (1804-1881), wife of George Washington Whistler from Fleetwood, Lancashire, to Joseph Harrison in St. Petersburg, Russia.

This letter written three months after the death of G.W.W. with full details found on this web page at:

https://www.whistler.arts.gla.ac.uk/correspondence/people/display/?cid=7635&nameid=Lee_Raymond&sr=0&rs=1&initial=l-hdd07635-back

It seems clear from reading the letter and the accompanying notes that Anna Whistler, now a widow, was taking time to recuperate in the coastal town of Fleetwood before taking the ship "America" (Cunard Line), with her boys James (now aged 15) and William (13) from Liverpool back to the U.S. and New Haven, Connecticut (their home Pomfret, CT), And Anna (AMW), at the time of writing, was accompanied by her half-sister Eliza Isabella Winstanley (nee McNeill) and husband John Winstanley at the home of the Ormerods in Fleetwood, these same Ormerods presumably the parents of the late Annie (Ormerod) Haden, first wife of John Clarke Haden of whom there is no mention.

Also present at Fleetwood were Deborah Delano Haden, wife of Francis Seymour Haden, and baby Annie Haden, now 12 months old. And in her writing, Anna describes the Ormerods as Winstanleys' "old friends." However, it would seem the Whistlers' main residence while they were in England was with half-sister Eliza (McNeill) Winstanley and husband in nearby Preston where John Winstanley was a solicitor.

Further Background:

Joseph Harrison (1810-1874), the recipient of the letter, was, like George Whistler, a successful locomotive engineer. He was a partner in the Philadelphia based Eastwick and Harrison locomotive manufacturers. In 1842, Harrison had accompanied George Washington Whistler from America to Russia to set up and build the St. Petersburg - Moscow railway. Anna and Eliza were both daughters of Scottish physician Dr. Charles Daniel McNeill (1756-1826) who had emigrated to America around 1780. However Charles' first wife had returned to Scotland with their two children, Eliza and Alicia (b. N. Carolina, 1786), the latter also mentioned in Anna's letter as "their (the boys') fond Aunt from Scotland". Alicia, according to the web page, was unmarried and previously living in Preston, presumably with Eliza and her

family. And on her death in 1863, Alicia left an inheritance to Anna and her sons whom she'd visited while they were living in St. Petersburg.

Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Abbott_McNeill_Whistler

Reference the Whistlers, the "wiki" website above provides a brief sequel to the 1849 events including reasons for the Whistlers' eventual return to England. It further informs that in 1847 and 1848, when the Whistler family, minus G.W.W. who remained working in Russia, resided in London "with relatives" (*presumably the Hadens after their 1847 marriage*), Francis Seymour Haden took the young James under his wing and "spurred his interest in art and photography".

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