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Louis Kossuth

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Louis Kossuth (1802-1894), Hungarian Statesman and Freedom Fighter

by Gabor Olah

Marjorie Cox, late Chair of Bowdon History Society, wrote an article in Bowdon Sheaf 19, March 1992, entitled 'A Hungarian Refugee: Louis Kossuth in Manchester and Bowdon', and this article adds some further details.

Commemorating Hungary's national day, His Excellency Peter Szabadhegy, Hungarian Ambassador, and the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Paul Murphy OBE, unveiled the Lajos Kossuth Plaque at Manchester Town Hall on 15 March, 2016. After the unveiling, the Lord Mayor invited all the guests to his private suite for a light lunch and were mesmerised by the voice of Ildiko Csige who sang traditional Kossuth songs.

The group later walked to the Central Library where the Lajos Kossuth exhibition organised by MIZU? magazine was launched. The exhibition ran from 16 March to 2 April.

Lajos Kossuth de Udvard et Kossuthfalva was a lawyer and journalist who became Governor-President of the Kingdom of Hungary during the revolution of 1848-49. In 1849 he was deposed and, as an impressive orator, travelled to Great Britain and the United States raising support for the Hungarian cause, and funds for the victims of the Austrian despotism at the time of the 1848 Hungarian revolution against the Habsburg rule.

There are many statues of Kossuth around the world and most towns in Hungary have a road named after him. There is a Blue Plaque in Kensington, London where he stayed.

Kossuth landed in England in late October 1851 and spoke in various cities pleading the Hungarian cause. On 11 November he travelled to Manchester and the same night addressed 9,000 people in the Manchester Free Trade Hall for one and a half hours. Notables present included John Bright, the president of the Board of Trade and a Radical statesman; Sir Elkanah Armitage, the industrialist and Liberal politician; and newspaper publisher Alexander Ireland.

Many articles appeared in the Manchester Guardian, including one covering his reception after the journey from Birmingham to Manchester and his meetings in the Free Trade Hall.

In December Kossuth left for the USA but returned to England in July 1852, where he lived for nearly a decade. John Bright and Richard Cobden the industrialist, continued to support him at several meetings in Manchester, Bolton, Wigan, Rochdale and Stockport.

Kossuth spent several years in Bowdon as a guest of the Ireland family, using their home as his Manchester base while giving speeches and attending meetings to promote the Hungarian cause. From 1852 to 1860 Louis stayed at 7 Oak Terrace, now Green Oak, 81 Stamford Road, Bowdon (below), with publisher Alexander Ireland. The house appears to have been built about 1847, later than numbers 83-85 which were built about 1837, probably by the same builder but there is a variation in the brickwork.

In 1860 Kossuth moved to Turin where he died in 1894.

Alexander Ireland was the publisher of the Radical newspaper *The Manchester Examiner & Times*, still editor at age 70. He was born in Scotland in 1811 and by 1870 had moved to Inglewood on St. Margaret's Road, Bowdon. Alexander was a founder of a literary organisation in Bowdon, the Roundabout Club, and had a personal library of 20,000 books. His son, composer Dr. John Ireland, was born in 1880 at Inglewood where there is a plaque to him on the gatepost.

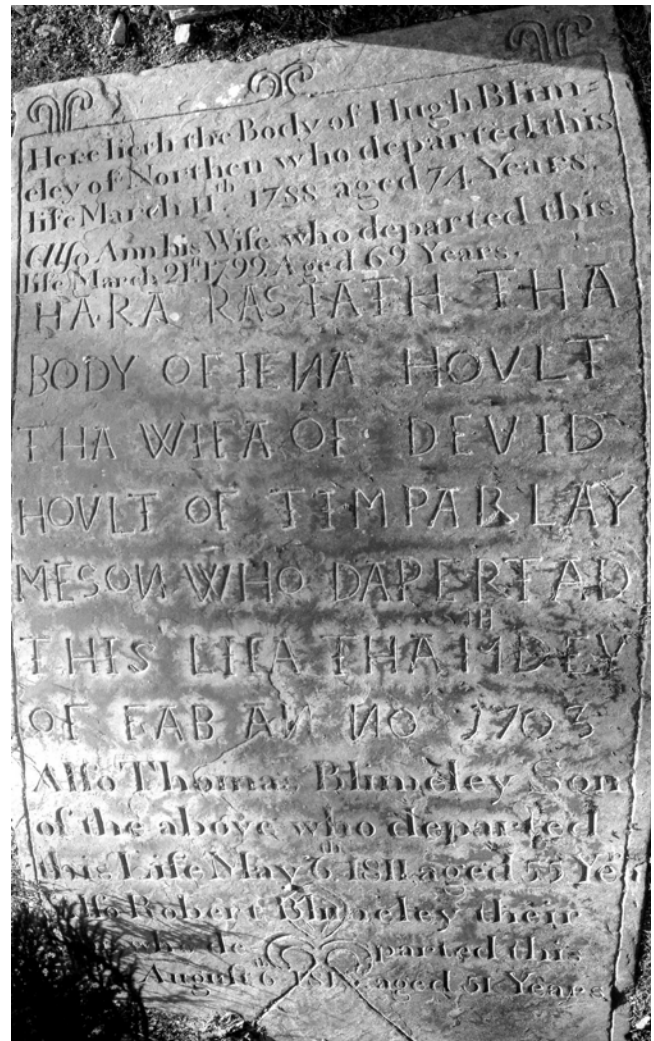


A Bowdon Church Gravestone

by Judith Miller

One of the strangest gravestones in Bowdon Churchyard is in memory of Jane Hoult, dated 1703 and situated on the east side of the south-west door. The peculiarity of the inscription lies mainly in that the letter **A** is carved as **E** and vice-versa, and the **Ns** are backwards. The letter **U** is inscribed as **V** (not too unusual). All of the letters are in capitals and size, shape and alignment are slightly irregular.

All of this makes the gravestone very unusual and interesting. It seems most likely that the work was by a mason who had little grasp of spelling, although just possibly this spelling could reflect pronunciation. At the time spelling was not standardised which happened gradually following the invention of printing and from the arrival of the first dictionaries in 1604.



The original Hoult inscription

**HARA RASTATH THA
BODY OF JENA HOVLT
THA WIFA OF DEVID
HOVLT OF TIMPARLAY
MESON WHO DEPERTAD
THIS LIFA THA 17th DEY
OF FAB ANNO 1703**

Translation

**HERE RESTETH THE
BODY OF JANE HOULT
THE WIFE OF DAVID
HOULT OF TIMPERLEY
MASON WHO DEPARTED
THIS LIFE THE 17th DAY
OF FEB ANNO 1703**

Whatever the reason, this inscription seems exceptional. It marks the grave of the wife of a mason and we can speculate that it might be the work of a member of the Hoult family or an apprentice.

Four more people are also remembered on the stone, presumably from the same family but with a different family name. They are all much later: Hugh Blimeley died in 1788 and his wife Ann in 1799. Their sons Thomas died in 1811 and Robert in 1818. Here the inscriptions are unexceptional but it is the middle one with the mistakes that we remember and enjoy.

From *Bowdon Church News*, September 1971. Thanks to Derrick Murdie for access.

The Haworth Family Dynasty

by David Miller

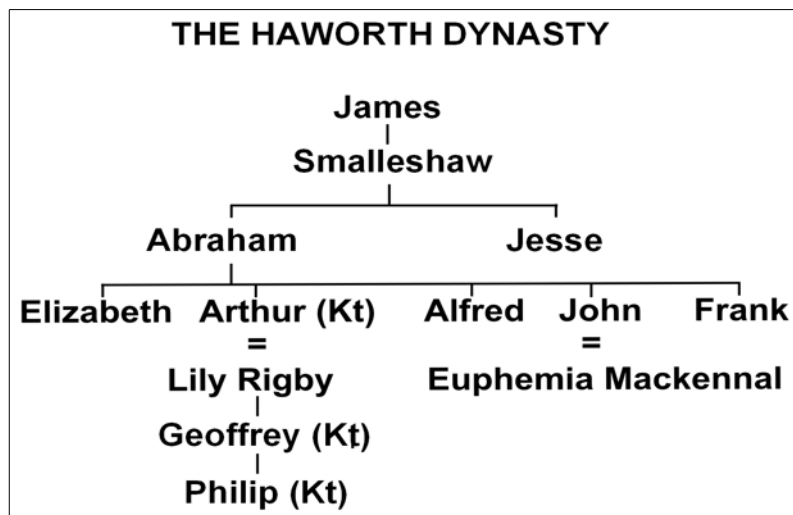
The Haworths were a Cottontot dynasty who used their wealth to help the community, becoming involved in Manchester and leaving a lasting legacy in the cultural life. Some followed interests in football, art, and archaeology. Nonconformist and staunchly Liberal, the family were major philanthropists. This branch of the Haworths originated in Bolton but Ian Bryce in his *High Lawn*, *Bowdon* paper records another branch from Bury, also in the cotton industry, who came to live in Bowdon in 1896.

James Dilworth & Son

The Dilworth textile firm is central to the Haworth story. James Dilworth was born in Preston in 1790 and became apprenticed in the Birley & Hornby cotton factory, gradually rising within the firm. In 1820 James decided to go into business by himself as a yarn commission agent in Preston and in 1837 opened a warehouse in Manchester. In 1842 he closed the Preston operation to concentrate on the Manchester textile business. He died in 1854 and his son John died in 1858. The Haworths eventually took over the Dilworth business until it was dissolved in 1916.

The Haworth Family Dynasty

The founder of the family was James Haworth (1765-1834), born in Bolton, Lancashire. His son was Smalleshaw Haworth (1802-1858). Smalleshaw's sons were Abraham (1830-1902) and Jesse (1835-1921). Abraham and



Jesse began their careers in the firm of Dilworth and Son, yarn commission agents, in Manchester. Abraham had a daughter, Elizabeth Goodier, and four sons: Arthur Adlington, Alfred, John Goodier and Frank Abraham. John married Euphemia, the daughter of Rev. Alexander Mackennal, the first Minister of Bowdon Downs Congregational Church. Arthur was later knighted for his work for the Liberal Party. Jesse funded archaeology excavation in Egypt and donated his Egyptian Collection at the Manchester Museum.

Abraham Haworth (1830-1902)

Abraham was born in Bolton in 1830 and his parents moved to Salford when he was about 10. They became members of Hope Congregational Church and Abraham went to Sunday School there. His parents were of humble origins but Abraham achieved a leading position among men of wealth and influence and was throughout his life a Nonconformist. John Dilworth of Salford, a member of the church at Hope, took on the young Abraham in his warehouse. From this foothold he rose to become a partner and eventually head of the firm of John Dilworth and Son.

Abraham took a great interest in education and became a governor of Manchester Grammar School in 1872. In 1877 he was appointed School Treasurer and Chairman of the Estates & Building Committee, overseeing the erection of the New Building. This opened in 1880 and Abraham was a major contributor.

He continued to lead the Dilworth firm which became the biggest yarn company in the country. In 1861 he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Goodier, and a member of the Society of Friends. They had a daughter, Elizabeth, and four sons Arthur, Alfred, John and Frank who all joined the Dilworth firm and became directors.

Abraham moved to Bowdon about 1870, became a deacon of Bowdon Downs Congregational Church and entered into a project to establish a Nonconformist theological college in Oxford, now Mansfield College. He became a staunch Liberal supporter but avoided being put up as an MP. The family lived at Hilston House on Green Walk, Bowdon, where Abraham had a collection of watercolours some of which he left to Jesse. The building is now listed and converted to several apartments. Abraham died aged 72 at Hyères, a favourite nineteenth century Riviera resort just east of Toulon where his wife is also buried.

Jesse Haworth (1835-1921)

Jesse, Abraham's younger brother, married Marianne Armitage in 1874. The couple were childless. Like his older brother, Jesse also became a partner in James Dilworth and Sons and was one of the longest established members of the Royal Exchange in Manchester. He was also a deacon of Bowdon Downs Church and lived at Woodside, Green Walk, Bowdon, demolished in the 1960s.

Jesse was a keen Egyptologist and financed a number of expeditions to Egypt, amassing a collection of antiquities which he bequeathed to the Manchester Museum. His interest in Egyptology began in 1877 when Amelia Edwards published *A 1000 Miles Up the Nile*. He and his wife read the book and retraced Amelia Edwards' journey in 1882 which resulted in their supporting Egyptology at the Manchester Museum. He was also a director of Manchester United Football Club.

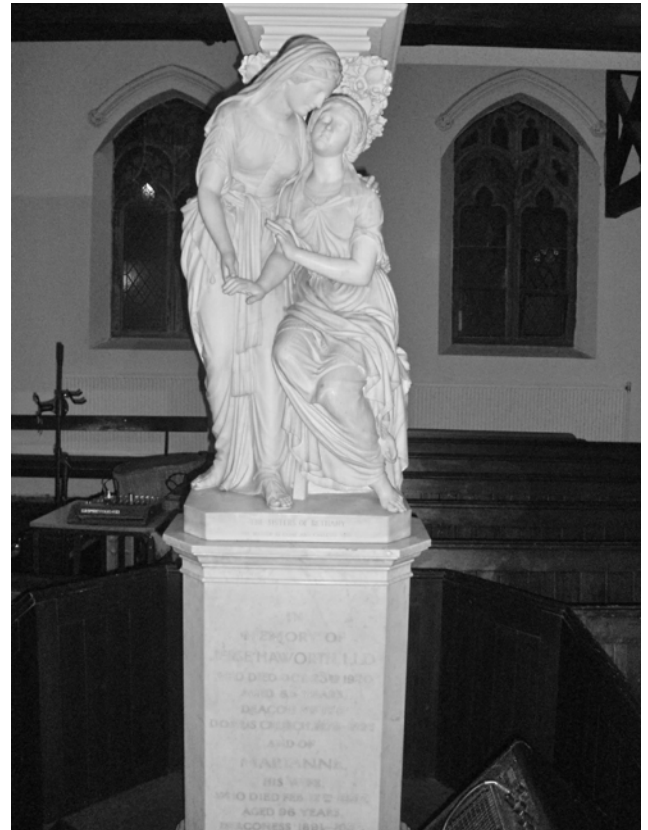
Abraham and Jesse became ardent art collectors and both loaned many paintings to the Royal Jubilee Exhibition in Manchester in 1887, including works by Holman Hunt, Millais and Palmer. Jesse also collected ceramics.

In 1886 Professor Sir William Flinders Petrie set up an archaeological body independent from the Egypt Exploration Fund,

and Jesse offered to finance his excavations. In 1890 he presented his collection of Egyptian objects to Manchester Museum and in 1912 made a substantial contribution to the building fund to house the Egyptian collections. In recognition, the University of Manchester conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

In 1919, he donated a further £10,000 to the museum and under the terms of his will bequeathed £30,000 and his private collection of Egyptian antiquities. He also bequeathed a large collection of watercolours, including works by Turner, to the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester.

A memorial statue to Jesse and Marianne Haworth of *The Sisters of Bethany* (opposite) by Warrington sculptor John Warrington Wood, is in Bowdon Downs Church. The later plinth includes the words “*In memory of Jesse Haworth, LLD, who died Oct. 23rd 1920 aged 83 years, Deacon of the Downs Church 1876-1892, and of Marianne, his wife, who died Feb. 12th 1937 aged 96 years, Deaconess 1891-1937.*”



Sir Arthur Adlington Haworth (1865-1944)

Abraham's son Arthur Adlington was born in Eccles, Lancashire and educated at Rugby. In 1891 he married Lily Rigby, the daughter of John Rigby, a cotton merchant of Altrincham, and they had three children.

Arthur also joined the Dilworth firm and became chairman of the Manchester Royal Cotton Exchange. An interest in politics and public service led him to local government and he became a member of the first Bowdon Urban District Council in 1894.

Later he became involved in national politics and represented South Manchester for the Liberal Party from 1906 to 1912. In 1911 he was created 1st Baronet Haworth of Dunham Massey for his services to the Liberal Party. He held the office of Junior Lord of the Treasury in 1912 and Chairman of Mansfield College, Oxford. He was a JP for Cheshire and Shropshire and lived at Normanby on Bonville Road, now demolished.

Arthur was active in the Congregational Church and in 1915 became Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. He took a leading role in the NSPCC and commanded the Altrincham Battalion of the Cheshire Volunteers. He died in 1944 and his eldest son inherited the baronetcy to become Sir Arthur Geoffrey Haworth.

Lady Lily Haworth(1864-1952)

Lady Haworth, wife of Sir Arthur, was well connected to the local society of the area through her father, John Rigby. She was a JP for Lancashire, a supporter of the Liberal Party, and President of the Altrincham and Bowdon Women's Liberal Association. Through these connections and with family friends, she formed the Bowdon War Hospital Supply Depot on Green Walk, opened by the Countess of Stamford in 1915. She also funded the establishment of Oldfield Brow Congregational Church in 1925.

Sir Arthur Geoffrey Haworth (1896-1987) and Sir Philip Haworth (1927)

The title passed from Arthur Adlington, the first baron, to his son Arthur Geoffrey (known as Geoffrey) and then to Geoffrey's son Philip. Geoffrey was married to Emily Dorothea Gaddum of the Bowdon textile family by the Bishop of Chester at Bowdon Parish Church in 1926. He served in the army in WWI and then graduated from New College, Oxford and became a JP for Cheshire. In 1931 Geoffrey decided to leave the cotton trade and bought land in Peover near Knutsford. In 1933 and in his 40s, he became a full-time farmer attending farming college. He became chairman of the Hallé Orchestra under conductor John Barbirolli. Geoffrey's son Philip is also a retired farmer, originally farming in East Anglia and then joining his father in Peover. Philip and his wife Joan open their

two-acre garden in Peover twice a year for charity. They have five children.

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