

# *The Bowdon Sheaf*

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# **BOWDON HISTORY SOCIETY**

Bowdon History Society was founded in 1979 and aims to bring local people together to further knowledge of the history of the area through talks, visits, research and publication of an annual journal and occasional papers. Members meet four times a year in an historical local church for talks and we always welcome new members and visitors. More information can be found on the internet.

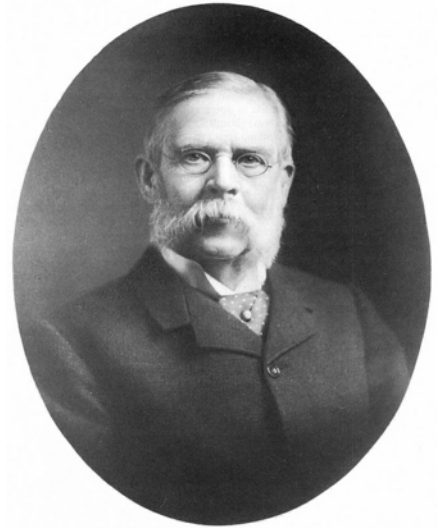


## Richmond Road, Bowdon

*Ian Bryce*

### The houses on the west side

I wrote about East Downs Road in edition 58 of *The Sheaf* and readers may recall that the houses on the west side of *Nearer Downs* field (i.e. those nearest to Richmond Road) were built and owned by a **Richard Hampson (1811-1866)**. In addition to this land he acquired the two steep-sloping fields named *Church Croft* and *School Croft* on the other side of Richmond Road (i.e. the land bordered by the Church School, St Mary's churchyard and Langham Road) and built a further nine houses there.



*Richard Hampson  
Joynson*

Richard Hampson was a silk manufacturer and up to 1845 had been a partner in a firm known as Peter Joynson & Co. in Fountain Street, Manchester. His sister married one of the other partners, and ownership of the houses eventually passed to one of her sons, **Richard Hampson Joynson (1839-1908)**. He was a silk merchant and JP, and described as “a Manchester evangelical Tory”. He lived at *Chasefield* on Park Road, (where there are now several detached houses on a private road of the same name). He was the principal benefactor of St Peter's Church, Hale, where his wife (Susan, 1836-1896) laid the foundation stone in November 1890. They had one daughter, **Grace Lynn Joynson (1873-1952)** who in 1895 married William Hicks (1865-1932), a solicitor and aspiring politician.



*Grace Lynn Joynson-Hicks  
(National Portrait Gallery)*

Following the marriage they combined their surnames and henceforth her husband was known as **William Joynson-Hicks**.

He went on to have a distinguished political career, first entering Parliament in 1908 by defeating Winston Churchill in a by-election in Manchester North West and remaining an MP up to 1929, later representing Brentford and finally Twickenham. He held office as Postmaster General, Paymaster General, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Minister of Health and was eventually Home Secretary in Stanley Baldwin's second government from 1924 to 1929. Popularly known as "Jix", he was a Privy Counsellor, and received a knighthood and latterly a peerage, becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Brentford.

In 1920, by direction of the Trustees of R H Joynson Esq. and Lady Joynson-Hicks, a portfolio of properties in Manchester and Bowdon were sold off by auction, including eight lots comprising the houses built in the above-mentioned fields. The auctioneers published particulars giving detailed information in respect of all the accommodation, the tenants and their tenancies. They commanded annual rents ranging between £42 and £115, while the land areas were between 804 and 8906 square yards, and the land rental being between £4 and £20.

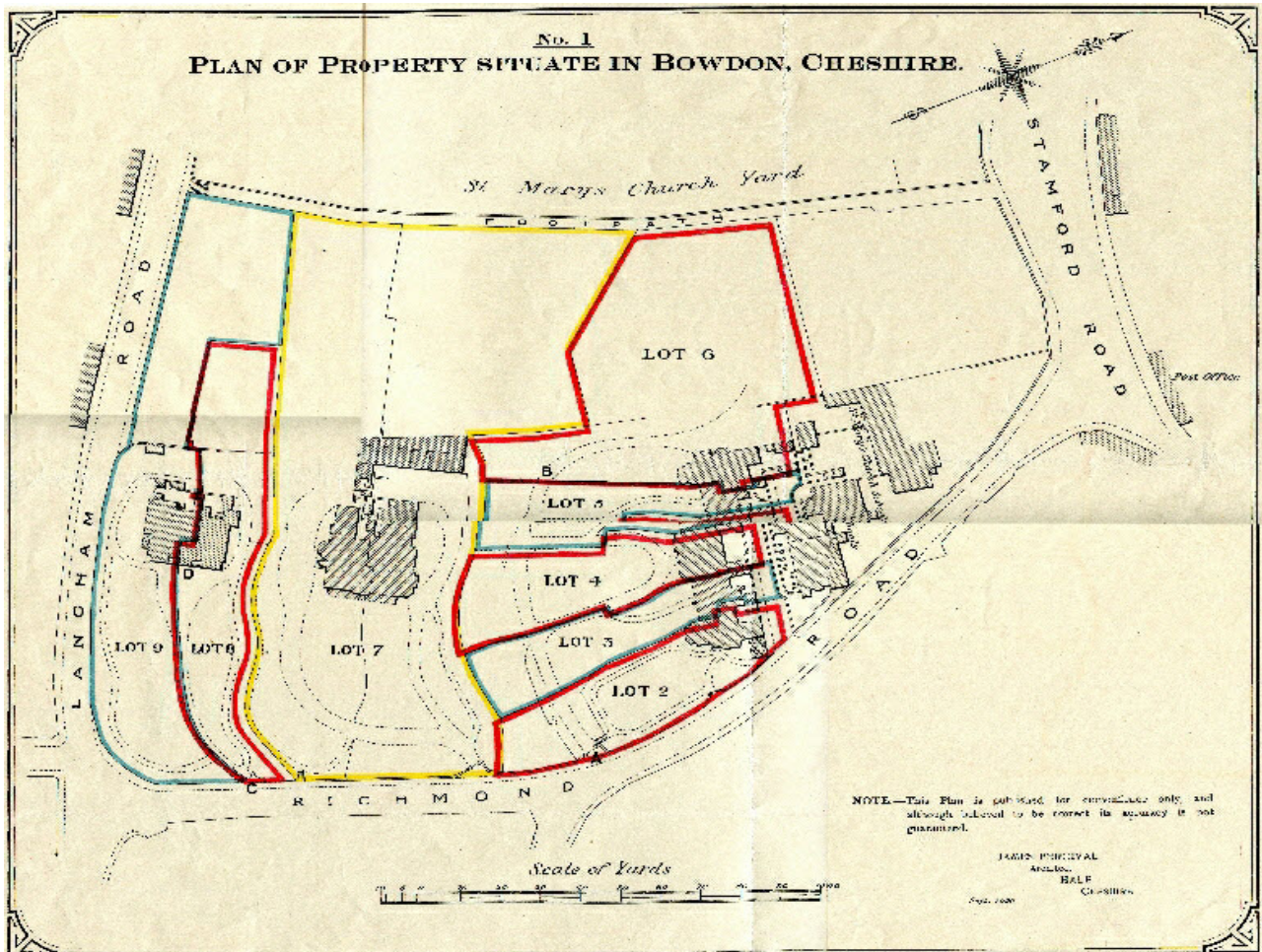


*William Joynson-Hicks  
(National Portrait Gallery)*

The layout plan illustrated opposite shows that on the lower part of the land (i.e. nearest to Langham Road) was a pair of semi-detached houses named as *No. 3 and No. 4 Church Bank*. Higher up was another pair of semi-detached houses, which were sold as a single lot, and then known as *Ingladene and Church Bank*. It seems likely that these last two were originally *No. 2 and No. 1 Church Bank*, consistent with the practice for numbering adjacent pairs of houses adopted in the area. At the highest point on the land (i.e. nearest to the Church School) there was a terrace of five houses known as *No. 1 to No. 4 Richmond Hill* and (closest to the churchyard and with more extensive land) *Richmond Lodge*. They remain standing and thus named to this day.



All nine houses had been built on the *School Croft* field, with five of them later having had their grounds enlarged considerably when the adjacent field *Church Croft* was purchased from the Earl of Stamford. An intermittent dotted line on the auctioneers' plan shows where the boundary between the two fields once existed.



*Plan of the properties on the west side of Richmond Road for sale in 1920*

*Ingladene* and the adjoining house (sold as Lot 7) were combined into a single building which during the Second World War was used as a children's nursery. In 1946 it was purchased by the *Waifs and Strays Society* (which would later become the *Church of England Children's Society*) who used the building as a residential nursery home for 26 children up to the age of five and as a training school for nursery nurses. In the 1980s it became a treatment centre for children with emotional problems and in 1989 a unit for teenagers to provide support for those making the transition from institutional care to independent living. It finally closed in 1991 and the building sold in 1992. It is now a private residence and forms part of a gated

development known as *Richmond Green* with five modern detached houses on the land.

The remaining pair of semi-detached houses have been demolished and there is now a block of eight luxury apartments (which continue to bear the name of *Church Bank*) with a further detached home facing Langham Road at the rear.



*Ingledene on Richmond Road, Bowdon  
(as a children's home)*

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## **Church Bank on Richmond Road, Bowdon**     *David Miller*

The early Victorian period saw the rapid residential development of Bowdon by the wealthy entrepreneurs of Manchester, attracted by the rural surroundings within easy reach of the city, by train from 1849. Two interesting families lived at Church Bank and produced people who had significant influence on the social and educational development of the area.



*Church Bank (Tony Lysaght)*

### **The Bowdon OS Map of 1876**

On the 1876 OS map are 1 & 2 Church Bank, now Ingledene, with 3 & 4 below. In 1838 the plot was owned by Thomas Assheton Smith but sold to the Greys of Dunham Hall by 1872 when a survey was carried out by George Smith (see the Stamford Papers John



Rylands Library ref. EGR14/11/7/72). Just to the east of Richmond Road were Bell Clapper Field and Hall Hill Field, two of the five Open Fields surrounding Bowdon Church (see p119 of *The Changing Landscape of Bowdon, Cheshire*).

### **Church Bank**

Below, 3 & 4 Church Bank was a pair of large semi-detached properties recorded in the 1871 census and shown on the 1874 map. In 1881 Number 4 on the left side was occupied by the Bradbury family and in 1891 Judge James Bradbury was living there with his wife Grace, children Margaret, Edward Kinder, Sylvia, and three servants. At that time servants would have used the basement as a kitchen and living room, and slept in the attic. By 1910 the Bradburys had moved to Parkfield, Groby Place in Altrincham.



*Church Bank on the 1876 OS map with Ingledene above (AAIA)*

### **Judge James Bradbury**

Judge James Kinder Bradbury was born in Saddleworth in 1848 and in 1878 married Grace Dowling from Timperley. They had moved into Church Bank by 1881 and had three children. James became a judge of the Lancashire County Court, serving the Bury and Bolton circuit. He was politically active in Altrincham, particularly in education. He chaired the joint Altrincham, Bowdon, Hale and District Education Sub-Committee established in 1903 to look at the provision of state schools in the Altrincham area, including Altrincham County High for Girls (later Altrincham Grammar School for Girls) and Stamford Park Primary School. Judge Bradbury was the first chairman of the Board of Governors of the former.

## **Captain Edward Bradbury VC**

Edward Kinder Bradbury the youngest child was born on 16 August 1881 at Church Bank. On the outbreak of the Great War, Captain Bradbury, a career soldier, was second-in-command of L-Battery, Royal Horse Artillery with the British Expeditionary Force. After being faced by an enemy far superior in number, the force was retreating from Mons in Belgium on 1 September 1914. Edward was awarded the VC, the highest award for bravery, for his heroism under fire in a battle

at Néry, a remote village in Picardy, Northern France. Edward is buried in the village and a remembrance ceremony is held annually on the date of the battle. Ceremonies were held in France and Bowdon on the centenary of the battle with members of the Bradbury family present at both events. Bradbury Central School on Queens Road in Hale (demolished 1985 and replaced by St Andrew's Court) was named after him and a Blue Plaque erected at Church Bank in 2014. Edward was one of only two Altrincham VCs, the other the late Bill Speakman who died in 2018.



*Plaque to Captain Edward Kinder Bradbury VC on the garden wall at Church Bank.*

## **Prof. Ross Waller**

Ross Douglas Waller was born on the Isle of Wight in 1899 and by 1911 the family had moved to Chorlton, Manchester. In 1937 Ross became Director of Extra-Mural Studies at Manchester University and the family moved to 3 Church Bank. In 1938 with his wife Isobel, he attempted to raise funds for a Workers' Educational Association college hostel in Bowdon, suggesting Denzell on the corner of Green Walk and the Dunham Road as a suitable building. It had been left to Bowdon Urban District Council by the Lamb family after Samuel Lamb died in 1936. Ross described in his booklet *Residential College* the process which would have transformed Denzell but the University felt unable to take over the



house. Marjorie Cox recorded in Sheaf 8 that, nevertheless, enthusiasts including Ross's wife Isobel, decided to form a limited company in 1938 and mobilised voluntary and financial support. Miss Lamb offered £150 per year for three years for residential caretakers and Bowdon Urban District Council offered to charge a nominal rent but the project failed to materialise. Isobel designed a heraldic shield for the Guildhouse. In 1945, Ross was awarded an MBE for his work as Honorary Secretary of the Manchester Regional Committee Central Advisory Council for Adult Education in the Forces. He was later awarded a CBE for his work in Community Development. In 1949 he became Professor of Adult Education in the Faculty of Education at Manchester. In 1952 he was Chairman of the Manchester Dante Society and British-Italian League. In 1954 he again proposed that Denzell should become a WEA Centre but to no avail.

### Ross's wife **Isobel Waller (née Brown)**

Isobel Brown, a relation of the owners of Affleck & Brown's store in Manchester, was born in 1902 in Scotland. She met Ross in Florence, married and in 1934 gave birth to a son David Michael. Isobel became a well-known personality in Altrincham through her remarkable support for people in need of help. She became concerned about the plight of homeless people and those who had gone astray, and would offer a bed at Church Bank to those in need. With this in mind she brought into use the house's extensive cellars where the children had slept for safety during the war and she turned a disused coal cellar into a chapel. To the two substantial bedrooms she added a kitchen and a bathroom with toilet. The bedrooms and the kitchen had large windows and a separate entrance. From time to time a family was housed here until found accommodation. Individual homeless people were given a roost in summer houses and an old caravan. She also used the attic of the house but in 1973 the Public Health Authority closed the cellars down. At the meeting she said that she had housed 80 homeless people free over 30 years in cases which neither the social services nor the parish clergy could deal with. Isobel was brought up a Presbyterian but converted to Roman Catholicism.

## **Isobel's Poems**

Isobel produced at least two booklets of poems which she sent to friends. They reflect her compassion for people and nature, and life in Bowdon in the 1970s. The second of her poems is actually by her daughter Angels and illustrates the busy household:

### **Angels' version of 3 Church Bank, May 1973.**

*Five and twenty people knocking at the door  
We've just had a cup of tea, we'll have to make some more,  
Five and twenty people ramb'ling through the Hall,  
Cat or dog on every chair . . can't sit down at all . . .  
Five and twenty people want so much to stay,  
One has found himself a bed and won't go away.  
    Four and twenty people needing cups of tea,  
    One has gone to move his car, leaving twenty three..  
    Arthur in the Summerhouse,  
    Asians in the upper flat, Paddy down below,  
    Sammy in the Caravan . . . nowhere else to go . . .  
Three and twenty people at the close of day  
Find there is much to eat, three go away  
Twenty weary people backing through the door  
Find the drive entirely blocked by five and twenty more.  
    by Angels Waller*

(Angels' poem quoted with her permission).

## **Prof. Michael Waller**

Isobel and Ross's son David Michael Waller was born in 1934 and became an outstanding student at Altrincham Grammar School. He studied Humanities at the University of Oxford and Russian at Manchester University. Michael married Manon Lallée in Lancaster in 1970 and they have two daughters. He became Professor of Politics at Keele University and its first Director of European Studies. He was co-founder of the Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics, and of the Journal of Environmental Politics. He has published many articles and books.

## **Conclusion**

All of the houses on the west side of Richmond Road and West Bank on the east side were sold by auction in 1920 by the direction of the Trustees of the late R H Joynson and Lady Joynson-Hicks.

Such houses often became too large to manage, resulting in multiple occupancy and were demolished and replaced by purpose-built apartments. Church Bank was replaced in 1984 by nine apartments built on the same footprint. The land is now part of the Bowdon Conservation area.

## Sources

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*Church Bank  
apartments today.*

## Acknowledgements

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## Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall 1749-1788

*Ann Nosowska*

High on the wall to the west of the south door of St Mary's church in Bowdon can be seen an elegant Georgian memorial bearing the following simple inscription:

*Sacred to the memory of Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall Esq., of Jamaica and late of Ashley in this County who died the 27<sup>th</sup> January 1788 in the 38<sup>th</sup> year of his age.  
Also Martha his wife, the second daughter of Marsden Kenyon Esq., of Manchester who died on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1780 in the 26<sup>th</sup> year of her age.*



A brief obituary to Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall appeared in the Manchester Mercury on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 1788: “*Sunday se’nnight died at Ashley in Cheshire, Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall, Esq., late of the Island of Jamaica.*” His funeral took place at Bowdon on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February where the church register simply records, “*Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall of Ashley Esq., 38.*”<sup>(i)</sup> However, the details of his wife’s death are not as they are recorded; the church burial register tells a slightly different story. An entry on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1790 says, “*Hall, Martha, wife of Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall of Ashley, Esq., was interred at St Anne’s Westminster on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1781 and being removed from thence, was on this day March 2<sup>nd</sup> (by a Faculty from the Bishop of London) deposited in her husband’s vault at Bowdon.*”<sup>(ii)</sup> At the time of Martha Hall’s death her eldest child would have been about four years old and so when the memorial was erected by S Hope of Manchester, in or after 1790, there may have been few members of the family who remembered the exact year of her death.

But who was Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall, born in Jamaica and yet late of Ashley? This memorial poses tantalising questions. One secret not revealed by the memorial is that the profits of the slave trade spread far and wide - even into this corner of Cheshire. The story of Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall can be found in letters and estate documents (1709-1892) held in the University of California, San Diego in the Mandeville Special Collections Library.

In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century Thomas Hall of Worcester had emigrated to Jamaica where the Hall family engaged in sugar production for over a century. The Halls married into a second sugar plantation family, the Kirkpatricks, and later into the Dehany family who were slave traders from Bristol. These early generations directly supervised their plantations, while later descendants came to live in England, leaving the management of their estates to attorneys and overseers. In the summer of 1758 Thomas and Mary Hall (née Dehany), with their young family, made the treacherous journey across the Atlantic. Ambitious and wealthy eighteenth century fathers, were concerned to ensure that their sons were sufficiently well educated to take their place in aristocratic society. That meant educating them in England. Thomas Hall was no exception. It was

also necessary for him to introduce his young daughters into the world and to 'bring them on' socially. By the time the family arrived in England Hugh Kirkpatrick was aged 9, his sisters Mary and Sarah were aged 10 and 3 and their two younger brothers, William and Thomas were aged 8 and 1. Thomas Hall snr also had another daughter in Jamaica, the 'natural' child of a slave.

Hugh Kirkpatrick and William Hall were soon enrolled at Eton and they entered the college in September 1759 for a fee of 3gns each. Their younger brother, Thomas, followed them to Eton in 1764 for a fee of 5gns.<sup>(iii)</sup> *"I am glad you have placed my Dear Girl & Boys att Schole & don't doubt but they will be pleased with their situation and endeavour to fetch up their lost time,"* wrote their grandmother from Jamaica.

The Hall family first took up residence in Golden Square, the most fashionable address in London, where their last child, a daughter named Dehany, was born in 1759. They maintained close contact with Jamaica and gifts were frequently exchanged – cheese was sent from England, turtles, parakeets, exotic fruit and even a monkey came from Jamaica. How much Hugh remembered about Jamaica or what he knew of his father's business there is unknown. His childhood, when not away at school, was spent in expensively comfortable rented houses and, although his father returned to Jamaica for a while, he spared no expense to ensure that Hugh did not waste his time at Eton. He was to be disappointed. Hugh did not have good school reports.

In 1763, whilst his father was back in Jamaica and Hugh was away at school, his wife Mary Hall died. On his father's return to England, Hugh and his brother were entered at Trinity College Cambridge with a tutor to supervise their studies. The tutor wrote to their father, *"I can't but lament the total loss of time of your sons at Eton; a loss the more to be regretted as it must necessarily have connected them with the idle & less deserving part of the school, from whose society I can't pretend to keep them clear."*

With the death of his father in 1772 Hugh, aged 23, inherited the bulk of the Jamaican estates which he managed through attorneys

in Jamaica and John Kennion his agent in London. He still enjoyed an occasional turtle feast and his table profited from exotic treats from his own estate. However, Hugh also had the responsibility of managing the sugar plantations from a great distance. Quantities of sugar, molasses and rum were exported but Hugh experienced problems with his agent in Jamaica. There is no evidence that he ever returned to manage the problems, nor can we know how much he was aware of the living and working conditions of the slaves that were purchased and sold on his behalf. At home in Marylebone he was very prosperous.

Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall married Martha Kenyon at Westminster on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1775. She was an orphaned minor, about six years Hugh's junior, the second daughter of a wealthy merchant, Marsden Kenyon of Manchester. The Kenyons were an important Lancashire family and Marsden's father, Edward Kenyon had married Hannah Marsden at St Peter le Moors Bolton in 1709. A Mr Marsden had an impressive house in Market Street Lane, Manchester and the adjacent square was named Marsden Square. (iv) Hugh and Martha's marriage was witnessed by Hugh's brother-in-law, another plantation owner, and by his London agent, John Kennion. The ceremony was conducted by Arthur Onslow, chaplain to the House of Commons.

The couple had three children. The first child, Thomas, was born at 'The Vache' near Amersham in 1776 but by 1778 the family was living at Booths Hall in Knutsford which was the property of the Legh family. Their second son, John, was baptised at St John's Knutsford in 1778 and their daughter, Harriot, was baptised there in March 1780. Hugh enjoyed hunting and horse racing, he subscribed to the Manchester Agricultural Society and he was a steward at the Knutsford and the Manchester races. Amongst his society friends were the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Stamford and Warrington and his two brothers, John and Booth Grey, Sir Thomas Egerton and Peter Legh.

Sometime in 1780 Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall moved to Over Tabley Hall. It was there, on Christmas Day 1780, that he made his will. He left all his household goods to Martha whilst his children were provided for from his Jamaican estates. In this will he also left money for the



maintenance and education of his Jamaican illegitimate half sister, Elizabeth Hall. Martha Hall died in Southampton, only weeks after her husband made this will. He lived long enough to add codicils to it. Martha's body was taken to St Anne's Church Soho, the final resting place of Hugh's parents, for burial on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1781. She had probably died on January 14<sup>th</sup> as recorded on the memorial in Bowdon church (although not in 1780 as stated there).



*Over Tabley Hall - by permission of Howard & Seddon architects*

Whatever Hugh had planned before Martha's death, by the end of 1784 he and his family had moved once more – this time to rent Ashley Hall, where he was living when he died on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1788. He was living there with at least three long-standing servants and his wife's sister, Elizabeth Kenyon, who was caring for him and his children. In 1790 the boys, Thomas and John, were admitted to Eton College and, according to the school register, Thomas was admitted to Trinity College Cambridge in 1794 whilst John went to Trinity Hall in 1796. Neither graduated but that was not unusual at the time.

So behind the relatively simple memorial in St Mary's Church, Bowdon, lies a full and fascinating eighteenth century life spent in highly privileged circles and financed by a trade which to modern eyes is abhorrent. We can never know what role religion played in Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall's life, or whether he was a regular member of the congregation at St Mary's Church in Bowdon. He had married into a nonconformist family and it is interesting to note that in 1785 he was one of the subscribers to a new publication by Hezekiah Kirkpatrick (no relationship found) entitled "*Sermons on Various Subjects; With an Account of the Principles of Protestant*

*Dissenters, Their Mode of Worship, and Forms of Public Prayer, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.*" Hugh Kirkpatrick ordered four copies of the book and he was in good company – including Peter Kenyon jun. of Liverpool, John Kennion Esq. of Liverpool, who ordered four copies, and John Legh Esq. of Cheshire.



*Hugh Kirkpatrick Hall's sister Mary Hall in a painting by Benjamin West. With rights from Wadsworth Atheneum Museum USA*

### **Notes**

- (i) Bowdon Parish Registers record no. 12-2-11.
- (ii) Bowdon Parish Registers record no. 12-10-19.
- (iii) Eton College Register 1753-1790 by R.A. Austen-Leigh 1921.
- (iv) From the first authentic street map of Manchester. Produced by Russel Casson and John Berry between 1741 and 1757. In Chetham's Library Manchester.

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