

John William Clough (1887 – 1968)

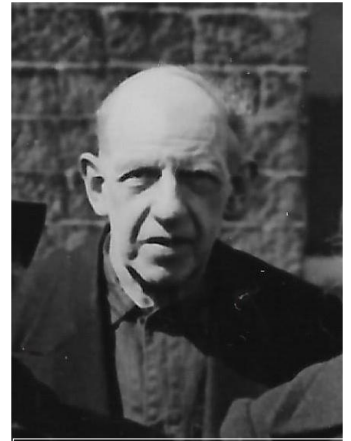
John William Clough was one of 10 children who lived with his siblings, parents and grandfather in Farnhill.

When he was 13 he was working as a worsted spinner and later would become a weaving overlooker.

It is believed that he served in France and, after marrying, in 1916, had two sons.

John William was a man with many differing interests. He had a passion for horticulture, was treasurer of the local Paxton Society, was involved with the British Legion, was chairman of the entertainments' committee of Keighley Gala, and was an active member of Glusburn Baptist Church for over 40 years.

He died in 1968.



Photograph courtesy of Mary Clough.

Pre-war life

John William Clough was one of 10 children born to Charles Henry Clough, originally from Glusburn, and his wife Jane (nee Brown) of Farnhill. The children were:

Frances Annie; b. 1877 (died in infancy)

George; b. 1879

Annie; b. 1882

Thomas; b. 1883

Mary; b. 1885

John William; b. 1887

Sarah Matilda; b.1890

Nelly; b. 1894

Helen; b. 1900

plus one other, name unknown, who died prior to the 1911 census

By the time of the 1891 census, John William, his five siblings, his parents, and his mother's father, were all living in a four roomed house in Starkey Lane, Farnhill – probably number 27.

The 1901 census revealed an additional member of the family, Helen, who was just six months old when the census was taken.

Note: John William's sister Nelly, born in 1894, died in 1896 and does not appear on any census.

By this time John was 13 years old. He had left school and was working as a worsted spinner in one of the local mills. Later evidence suggests that this is likely to have been Bairstow's Mill, Sutton-in-Craven.



A George Whiteoak photograph of Birstow's Mill, Sutton. Probably taken immediately prior to WW1.
By kind permission of Keighley and District Digital Archive

John William's youngest sister, Helen, died in August 1907 – a month short of her seventh birthday – a fact recorded by Thomas Appleby, the headmaster of Kildwick school, in the school's log book.

" 29th Miss Walker (U.A.) was out of school for about half-an-hour this afternoon, representing the school at the funeral of Helen Clough, a scholar in the Infants' Class up to the Truismen.

Kildwick school log book entry for 29th August 1907
By kind permission of Kildwick School

She was buried, alongside her sister Nelly and her grandparents, in a family plot in Kildwick graveyard.



Part of the Clough family gravestone in Kildwick graveyard – fallen and partially overgrown

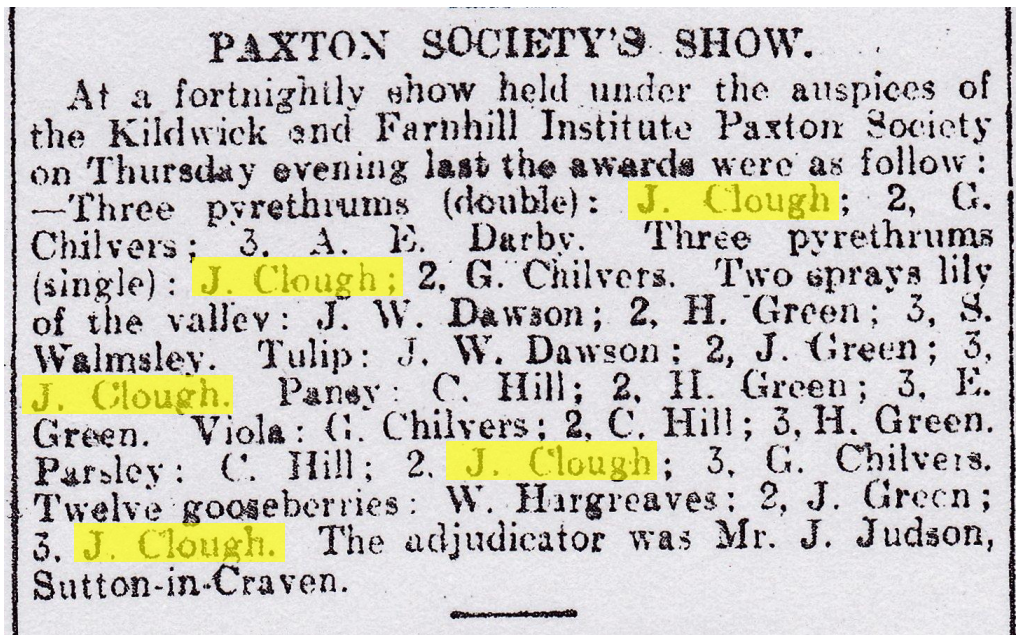
In 1912, the 93 year-old Thomas Brown, John William's grandfather (his mother's father) was included in a photograph of "Kildwick and Farnhill Veterans", published in the Keighley News (12/8/1912).



Thomas Brown and others at Kildwick Corner, 1912
Photograph from the Farnhill & Kildwick Local History Group archive

Note: When he died, on 16th January 1915, the Keighley News reported that Thomas Brown had lived in six reigns: George III, George IV, William IV, Victoria, Edward VII, and George V.

It must have been at about this time that John William began what would be a life-long interest in horticulture. Pre-WW1 newspaper reports record that he was a member of the Farnhill branch of the Paxton Society, for allotment and smallholders. At a flower show held in May 1914, John William was among the prize-winners in several classes.



John William Clough's success at a Paxton Society Show, 30/5/1914

By kind permission of Keighley News

John William Clough during WW1

There is no doubt that John William Clough served in WW1, however it has not been possible to say when, where, or how he served – his family believe it was somewhere in France.

No newspaper reports of the period mentioned him as a member of the armed forces, or included his name in any list of the men who were serving.

On the other hand there a number of pieces of evidence that suggest John William was in the village for at least some of the time during the war period.

He is mentioned in several reports of meetings and flower shows organised by the Paxton Society, including: 7/11/1914, 9/7/1915, 4/12/1915 (when he was elected treasurer of the society), 5/8/1916, and 30/8/1918. On 26th October 1918, John William won a whist drive held at Kildwick and Farnhill Institute in aid of soldiers and sailors serving from Woodrow's Mill at Junction.

On 16th September 1916 John William Clough, a weaving overlooker, of 27 Starkey Lane, Farnhill, married Alice Ramsden, a worsted weaver, of 9 Beech Street, Crosshills, in Sutton Baptist Chapel. The marriage was witnessed by John's brother, Thomas, and his sister, Sarah Matilda.

1916 Marriage solemnized at the *Sutton Chapel, Sutton*
in the District of *Heighley* in the County of *York*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
115	<i>Sixteenth</i> <i>September</i> <i>1916</i>	<i>John William</i> <i>Clough</i>	<i>28</i> <i>years</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Weaving</i> <i>(Overlooker)</i>	<i>27 Starkey Lane</i> <i>Farnhill</i>	<i>Charles Henry</i> <i>Clough</i>	<i>Overlooker of</i> <i>Weaving</i>
		<i>Alice Ramsden</i>	<i>28</i> <i>years</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Worsted</i> <i>Weaver</i>	<i>9 Beech Street</i> <i>Crosshills</i>	<i>Fredric Ramsden</i>	<i>Foreman</i> <i>Iron Grinder</i>

Married in the *Sutton Chapel* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Baptists* by *Licence* by me,
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { *John Wm Clough* } in the Presence of us, { *Alana Ramsden* *Sarah M. Clough* *James E. Woodfield (Minister)*
{ *Alice Ramsden* } { *Thos. Clough* *Fredric Ramsden* *Walter Smith* *Organist, Registrar*

Clough – Ramsden marriage certificate
(c) Crown Copyright

Post-war life

After his war service John William returned to work at Bairstow's Mill, which would be his place of work until he retired.



Workers at Bairstow's Mill, including John William Clough
Photograph courtesy of Mary Clough

However he did not return to Farnhill. The 1921 census records John William and Alice living at 8 Aire Street, Crosshills. He is recorded as being an Overlooker at Bairstow's.

While living in Aire Street, the couple had two sons: William Denis (known as Denis), born in 1922, and Benjamin Allan (known as Allan), born in 1924.

The family lived in Aire Street until 1931, they then moved to 61 Main Street, Crosshills. This would be John William and Alice's home for the rest of their lives.

In 1929 John William's mother, Jane, died; his father, Charles Henry, died seven years later, in 1936. They were buried in the same plot in Kildwick graveyard.



The grave of Jane and Charles Henry Clough, in Kildwick churchyard
Photograph from Keighley and District Digital Archive

Both of John William and Alice's sons married – Allan in 1948 and Denis in 1956.

Alice Clough died on 10th February 1966, at the age of 76; John William died on 14th June 1968, aged 80 years.

During his time in Crosshills John William became involved with various local organisations, particularly Glusburn Baptist Church, Keighley Gala Committee, and the local British Legion. These organisations were mentioned in the obituaries published shortly after his death.

BAPTIST WORKER DIES.—Mr. John William Clough, of 61, Main Street, Cross Hills, died on Friday. He was 80. He was a committee member of the Cross Hills and District British Legion, and was an active member of Glusburn Baptist Church for over 40 years. Prior to his retirement, he was employed by Messrs. T. and M. Bairstow Ltd., as a weaving overlooker. He was a keen gardener. The funeral service was at Glusburn Baptist Church, on Tuesday, followed by cremation at Skipton. He leaves two married sons.

**DIED ON EVE
OF GALA**

Mr. John William Clough, of Main Street, Cross Hills, the oldest member of Keighley Friendly Societies' Gala Committee, died on the eve of this year's event which was held on Saturday.

Aged 80, Mr. Clough was chairman of the entertainments committee. He was on the committee of Cross Hills British Legion and a member of Glusburn Baptist Church for over 40 years. He leaves two married sons.

In the gala procession a black ribbon was displayed on the front of the wagon carrying Keighley Gala and her retinue.

Obituaries for John William Clough from Craven Herald (top) and Keighley News (bottom)
By kind permission of the publishers

Postscript

Denis Clough died in 1987 and Allan Clough in 2012. Both married and had children and it is known that there are descendants living in the local area.

John William Clough – a life in summary

Born: 26/10/1887, Farnhill
Baptised: 20/3/1888, Farnhill Methodist Chapel
Died: 14/6/1968 **Aged:** 80
Home address: 61 Main Street, Crosshills

Parents

Father: Charles Henry, b. 1856, Glusburn; d. 31/5/1936, Farnhill
Mother: Jane (nee Brown); b. 15/12/1855 Farnhill;
d. 3/2/1929, Farnhill; buried 6/2/1929, Kildwick
Married: 1877, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

Frances Annie; b. 18/7/1877; bapt. 16/9/1877, Farnhill Chapel; died in infancy
George; b. 19/3/1879, Farnhill; bapt. 11/5/1879, Farnhill Chapel;
m. Alice Mary Earnshaw, 1902, Skipton (Registration district);
d. 1962, Worth Valley (Registration district)
Annie; b. 1881, Farnhill; m. Thomas Bulcock, 1/9/1909, Kildwick; d. 13/1/1940, Crosshills
Thomas; b. 4/4/1883, Farnhill; bapt. 12/6/1883, Farnhill Chapel;
m. Elizabeth A. Coates, 1911, Keighley (Registration district); d. 1949, Crosshills
Mary; b. 3/5/1885, Farnhill; bapt. 20/3/1888, Farnhill Chapel; d. 28/8/1954, Menston
Sarah Matilda; b. 1890, Farnhill; m. Wilfred Holmes, 26/10/1918, Kildwick
– they emigrated, to Canada
Nelly; b. 11/11/1894; bapt. 23/12/1894, Farnhill Chapel ; d. 7/4/1896
Helen; b. 27/9/1900, Farnhill; bapt. 5/11/1900, Farnhill Chapel; d. 25/8/1907, Farnhill

plus one other who died prior to the 1911 census

WW1 service

Service details not known.

Relationship to other volunteers

Thomas Bulcock – brother-in-law (1909)
Eric Green – they were second cousins (Eric's mother was John William Clough's cousin)

Marriage

Wife: Alice Ramsden; b. 24/7/1889, Crosshills; d. 10/2/1966, Crosshills
Date: 16/9/1916, at Sutton Baptist Chapel

Children

William Denis (known as Denis); b. 2/2/1922, Crosshills;

m. Mary Townley, 1956, Glusburn; d. August 1987, Crosshills

Benjamin Allan (known as Allan); b. 1924, Crosshills;

m. Margaret Joan Archer, 1948, Worth Valley (Registration district); d. 2012

