

South Ella Hall, Anlaby

Part 2 – John Broadley (b.1785 - d.1833)

When John Broadley acquired Mount Ella in 1821, the estate passed into the hands of the Broadley family for a second time. It was John's uncle, Robert Carlile Broadley who had sold his 46-acre plot of land between Anlaby and Kirk Ella to Robert C. Pease some fifteen years earlier. John Broadley lived in the house with his family until his premature and self-inflicted death in 1833. For him, this story does not have a happy ending.

The Broadley Family

Before we begin John Broadley's story, it may be helpful to introduce members of his family, some of whom played a later role in his life.

John Broadley's parents were Henry Broadley (a naval officer) and Elizabeth "Betty" Anne Jarrett, daughter and heiress of John Jarrett Esq. of Beverley, who married on 8th December 1774. They became parents to three sons and six daughters¹:

Elizabeth Anne (died young)

Sarah (d.1807)

Thomas (1781-1815)

Mary (1783-1831)

John (1785- 1833)

Charlotte (d.1807)

Sophia (1789-1864)

Eliza (died young)

Henry (1793-1851)

It was John Broadley's two brothers, Thomas and Henry who were most influential in his life, together with an uncle, one of his father's brothers, another John Broadley, of Blyborough, with whom we shall become acquainted later.

Early Life

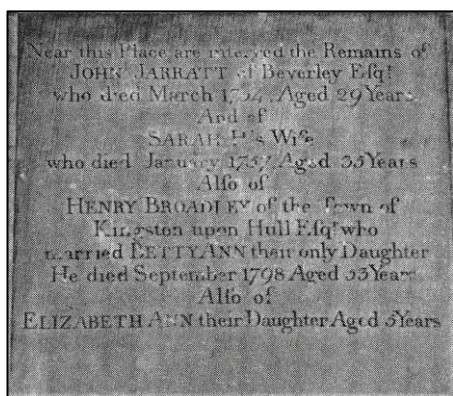
John Broadley was brought up in the family home in Hull, which according to the registration of family baptisms was in the parish of St. Mary's.

John Broadley's father died in 1797 when John was twelve years old and from that date he would probably have looked to his older brother, Thomas, as a father figure. Later information suggests that he may also have been close to his

¹ The list shown does not necessarily rank the children in chronological order of date of birth.

uncle and aunt, John and Elizabeth Broadley, who lived in Lincolnshire at Blyborough Hall, near Gainsborough. However, we know little of John's early life. Details of his place of education are missing from the record, although it is assumed that he was particularly studious. This is suggested by his later interests in science and the arts. We also know that John became a solicitor, telling us that he trained in law.

As we have seen, John Broadley was the second son, and his elder brother, Thomas, inherited the family wealth from his mother after she died in 1806. In the early years of the nineteenth century, Thomas was an outstanding student at Cambridge University and was later ordained into the Church of England.



Memorial tablet to Henry and Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Broadley and her parents in Beverley Minster.

In 1807, by the time John had reached his early twenties, his mother, Betty Anne, and two of his sisters, Sarah and Charlotte, all died within a few months of each other. Thomas inherited the family home, Ferriby Hall, and much of the property and land owned by the family. However, when Thomas died at the relatively young age of thirty-four in 1815, he passed the family home on to his younger brother, Henry, although John was also well provided for.

Marriage and Family

It is after his marriage in 1809 to Anne Elizabeth Osbourne, daughter of William Osbourne, alderman of Hull, that begin to learn a little more about John Broadley. Following their marriage, upon which a settlement of £8,000 was agreed, the couple moved into married accommodation in Hull, where in the fullness of time their first daughter, Anne Elizabeth (named after her mother) was born in 1810. She was joined by two sisters, Mary and Henrietta, in 1811 and 1812.

With a growing young family, John and Anne Broadley made the decision to move to larger accommodation and they chose to remove to Kirk Ella. Here, in 1813, they purchased a large house in Town Street² from Anthony Wilkinson, Hull merchant.

² The house, in what was known locally in the 19th century as Town Street, is now No. 4 Church Lane.



John Broadley's house on Town Street, Kirk Ella, now No. 4 Church Lane. He and his family lived here between 1813 and 1821.

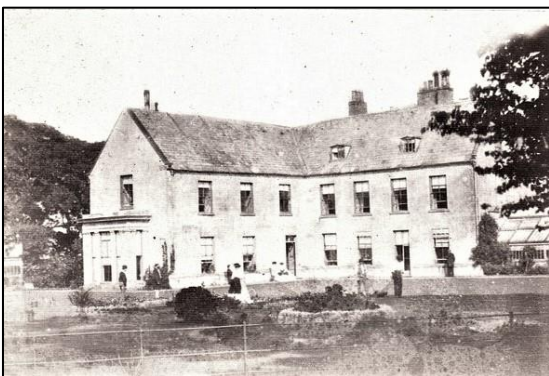
It was at their home in Town Street, Kirk Ella, that four more children were born to John and Anne Elizabeth Broadley. A short walk across the road to St. Andrew's Church was all that was required to have Charlotte baptised in January 1814 and John Bourryeau on 16th November 1814. Sadly, later in the same month, they were in the church again, this time at the funeral of their week-old baby boy, whose body was laid to rest in the churchyard on 25th November.

It would be 3rd May 1817 before their next child was born. He, for it was a son, was also named John Bourryeau and was baptised at St. Andrew's Church later that month.

One final baptismal visit to St. Andrew's Church was made on 2nd October 1819, when John and Anne's youngest daughter, Fanny, was christened.

Bourryeau

The middle name, Bourryeau³, given to John and Elizabeth's son is intriguing and we are prompted to wonder about this choice. The story begins with Zachariah



Blyborough Hall viewed from the south-east

Bourryeau, a wealthy West Indian proprietor of French descent, who had sugar plantations in Grenada and St. Kitts. With his wealth, he was able to purchase Blyborough Hall, near Gainsborough, in 1747, from the Southcote family. When Zachariah died in 1752, his wealth and holdings descended principally to his son, John Bourryeau. Zachariah also had a

number of daughters, amongst whom was Elizabeth, and she married John Broadley (the uncle) at St. George's, Bloomsbury, on 26th June 1856. Following the death of John Bourryeau in 1769, it appears that the Blyborough estate passed to John Broadley, through his wife, Elizabeth. John Broadley (of

³ The records also spell this name Bourryau and Bourryan.

Blyborough) died in 1794 (in Bath) and Elizabeth, when she died in 1800 was still being described as 'of Blyborough'. Through her husband's will, she had also acquired land and property in Hull and East Yorkshire.

John Broadley would have been only nine years old when his uncle, John, died in 1794, and fifteen years old when his aunt, Elizabeth, died. During his formative years he may have spent time with them at Blyborough and formed a bond with his aunt and uncle. His aunt in particular may have told him stories about the Bourryeau estates in the West Indies.



Memorial to John and Elizabeth Broadley (née Bourryeau), uncle and aunt to John Broadley of Mount Ella.

Move to Mount Ella

With a family of six children, it was perhaps a fitting time for the Broadleys to find a larger property and so, in 1821, they put their house in Town Street, Kirk Ella, on the market to be sold or let:

'...a good family dwelling house.... Late in occupation of John Broadley Esq., owner. The house contains good breakfast, Dining and Drawing rooms; 7 bed chambers, besides servants' apartments, excellent store rooms, pantries and offices...stables (2), saddle house, coach house, kennels, etc. good kitchen garden and a small paddock on the south side of the house.'

John Broadley entered into negotiation with Robert Pease for the purchase of Mount Ella. After an agreement had been reached, John and Anne Elizabeth Broadley moved in with their six children and, no doubt, a number of servants. They lived there for twelve years until John's untimely death.

The house in Town Street, in fact, continued in the possession of John Broadley, and, instead of being sold, was rented to Joseph Sykes until, in 1830, it was finally sold to Jonathan Dent of Winterton, Lincolnshire.

Business and Leisure Interests

After his move, first to Kirk Ella and then to Mount Ella, John Broadley would have made the daily journey into Hull, probably by carriage via Anlaby Road, where he occupied himself pursuing his business and leisure interests.

He was a man who was already held in some esteem in the town, benefitting from his family's reputation and connections. He was involved in the artistic and social activities of Hull and performing various civic duties. For example, in May 1809, John Broadley was invited to lay the foundation stone of the intended New Theatre⁴, which was to be built on Humber Street to replace an older theatre in Lowgate. The foundation stone was laid with suitable ceremony before a 'considerable number' of citizens. Deposited in a cavity in the stone was what we would call today a 'time capsule' - a sealed vial containing a parchment with 'appropriate inscriptions' and the signatures of the architect and a number of local dignitaries, including John Broadley. The theatre opened in 1810 to much acclaim and top national stars of the day performed there.

A public library was established in Hull as early as 1775 and a purpose-built reading room was constructed in Parliament Street in 1800. It was said to hold an extensive collection of books numbering above fifteen thousand. Its facilities were only available to subscribers, amongst whom was John Broadley. He was an active member of the library and, eventually, was elected President of the committee of trustees. Once established at Mount Ella, he built up a considerable library of learned books of his own. It was described at the time as a 'valuable library which is peculiarly rich in the department of bibliography relating to emblems'. John Broadley was an author of sorts himself, and in a public lecture delivered by Charles Frost to the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society in 1830 the speaker commended him during his talk:

"Although Mr. Broadley has not appeared before the world as an author in any published work, I feel myself justified in ranking him in the list of our living native authors from his having printed, though not for publication, *"Memoirs of the life of Master John Shawe sometime Vicar of Rotherham afterwards Minister of St Mary's Church Lecturer at the Holy Trinity Church and Master of God's House Hospital at Kingston upon Hull"*, with notes explanatory and biographical by John Broadley FSA, FLS, FRSL, etc. This biographical sketch, as Mr. Broadley has mentioned in a short preface, is taken from a transcript preserved in the British Museum made by Dr Thomas Birch from the original manuscript corrected and interlined in several places by Mr. Shawe himself. As auxiliary to the History of the town of Hull this little piece of autobiography is extremely interesting and the Editor's notes, which are numerous are evidently the result of considerable reading and local knowledge in connection with the events to which they relate."

⁴ This is not the present New Theatre in Kingston Square. The theatre in Humber Street became known as the Theatre Royal but was destroyed by fire in 1859. It was rebuilt in 1865 but ravaged by fire again in 1869. A new theatre of the same name was built on Anlaby Road later that year.

John Broadley was a keen horticulturalist and a Fellow of the Horticultural Society (FHS). He was on the committee of Hull Botanic Garden when it held its first general meeting of subscribers in 1812. There is no mention in the records of a garden at Mount Ella during John Broadley's tenure but we can be sure the estate was landscaped and there would have been many fine floral specimens on display. Perhaps some of the fine trees that still stand in the former grounds were planted by him.

Not only was John Broadley a keen gardener but also he had a great interest in science and philosophy. In 1822, the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society was formed under his chairmanship and after renting premises in the town, the society began to hold meetings once a month and, later, once every fortnight. In spite of its name, the society's lectures were of a scientific nature rather than literary or philosophical. This was an age of great scientific discovery and experiment and the society's meetings clearly satisfied a need amongst the citizens of Hull as membership steadily increased.⁵

Clearly, John Broadley was also an enthusiastic antiquarian as he proudly included the initials FSA after his name. These post-nominal letters indicated that he was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a learned society which encouraged and advanced the study and knowledge of the antiquities and history of this and other countries. Whether John Broadley travelled abroad to pursue this interest further afield is not known. Nevertheless, he must have instilled a desire to travel in his family as Fanny, his youngest daughter, later in life after her father's death, kept a travel diary of a trip to Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy with her mother and sisters in 1842. Included in the diary are descriptions of the people they encountered, meals and lodgings and also contain drawings and paintings of places visited.

Despite his leisure interests, John Broadley was, first and foremost, a businessman and, although a qualified solicitor, he also pursued the lucrative family tradition of acquiring property and real estate. He made many purchases and by the early nineteenth century John Broadley had inherited and acquired sufficient property for him to be described as the sixth largest landed proprietor in the East Riding. Notably in 1814, he purchased Summergangs Hall described as a 'handsome house' in the hamlet of Summergangs a few miles to the east of Hull. The house included an estate of around 110 acres. Whilst still in John

⁵ The Hull Literary and Philosophical Society is still in existence and will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2022. It meets once a week during a fourteen-week season in the Autumn and Winter for lectures on a wide variety of subjects, not only literature and philosophy but also art and science to entertain and educate people of diverse interests.

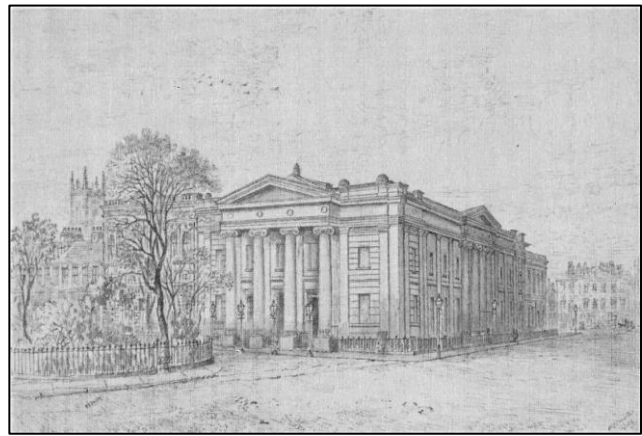


Summergangs Hall purchased by John Broadley in 1814.

Broadley's possession it became a private mental asylum in 1823, and was eventually sold by his trustees following his death. The house was demolished soon afterwards and replaced by an Elizabethan-style mansion which is now known as Holderness House.

In 1827, a public meeting resolved to erect a suite of public rooms for

assemblies, concerts and lectures. Shares of £25 were issued and in 1830 John Broadley was invited to lay the foundation stone at the corner of Jarratt Street and Kingston Square. The building, completed in 1834, was used for balls, banquets, concerts and entertainments. Sadly, John died before the grand opening night and did not live to see the completion of a project that he had championed with great enthusiasm.



Assembly Rooms, Hull c1885. The buildings were licensed as a cinema in 1910 and in 1939 was converted into a theatre. It is now Hull New Theatre.

Final Years

John Broadley was a wealthy man; he was a man of letters and was admired and well thought of by his fellows and colleagues. He had fame and fortune and everything going for him, or so it seemed. But later in his life, he became a troubled man. The first hint of this comes in a diary written by his friend, and cousin of his wife, Joseph Robinson Pease. On the 18th November 1831, Pease reported on a visit to Melton Hill, the home of Henry Broadley, John's younger brother. In his diary he wrote that his visit to Henry was 'regarding his unfortunate brother, John, who had given himself to drinking, his affairs becoming entangled and his family miserable from his vices'. They decided that the next day they would meet with John Broadley's doctor, a Mr. Fielding, 'to see whether he could be put under restraint.' The conclusion was that 'we could do nothing but allow the rot to go on or till he brought himself to a helpless state.' There was deep concern for John's wife and family, 'for none can know what they must suffer.'



Melton Hill, home of Henry Broadley, the brother of John Broadley.

This first visit to Melton Hill was followed up by a second in similar vein three months later. Clearly, the situation had gone from bad to worse, as the reason for this second visit to see Henry was 'to have some conversation about his brother, John, merely on account of his poor wife and family for whom [there was] nothing to be done but to await his decease.'

John Broadley was drinking heavily and probably had been doing so for a number of years and, by early 1832, had reached a stage where it seemed nothing could be done to reverse the damage that had been done to his health.

The story of John Broadley comes to a sad end on 4th June 1833 when he died of his excesses at the age of 48 years. On a rainy day on 12th June his funeral was held at St. Andrew's Church, Kirk Ella and he was laid to rest in the churchyard. His gravestone is within a few steps of his first home in Kirk Ella at No. 4 Church Lane. The entry in the diary of Joseph Robinson Pease on that date reads:

'John Broadley (who to his friends and family's regret had for years past been leading a drunken life) was this day buried at Kirk Ella. Good abilities, high station and fortune dissipated with his health.'

This is a sad epitaph and we have to ask ourselves why a wealthy and popular man, who seemingly had everything going for him, brought himself down by 'leading a drunken life'. Unfortunately, the records draw a veil over this and we can only speculate over the factors that led John Broadley to drink heavily enough to bring on his premature death.

Family Life after John Broadley's Death

In his will, John Broadley left everything to his wife Anne Elizabeth and she and her family continued to live at Mount Ella for a short time. In 1834, they took the decision to move back to their old house at No. 4 Church Lane. This they rented from Jonathon Dent to whom John Broadley had sold the house in 1831. However, Anne Elizabeth Broadley repurchased the house in 1844.

John Broadley did not live to see any of his children married. The first to do so, three years after his death, was Mary, his second daughter, whose marriage to Henry Ethrington Smith of Gainsborough took place at St. Andrew's, Kirk Ella, on 4th August 1836. The bride would not have had to walk far from home to the church, and it was a great family occasion with many guests. Two of her sisters, Anne Elizabeth and Henrietta, along with brother John Bourryeau, signed the register as witnesses. At the time of the 1841 census, the married couple were living in the family home on Church Lane, by which time they had two daughters, Edith and Henrietta. Shortly after the census was taken, a son, John Henry was born. Later, Henry and Mary removed with their young family to Norris Hill, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire.

The next wedding was that of the youngest daughter, Fanny, whose marriage to Rev. Henry Nicholson Burrows of Great Yarmouth took place at Torquay on 24th June 1845. Burrows had been Principal of Hull College on Spring Bank and it seems the couple had been engaged from 1841, although Henry Broadley, John's younger brother, recorded in his diary in that year, the "match between Fanny and Mr. Burrows [had been] broken off". This was clearly a temporary hitch and although Henry Burrows had moved on to be Headmaster of Yarmouth Grammar School, the marriage eventually went ahead, the ceremony taking



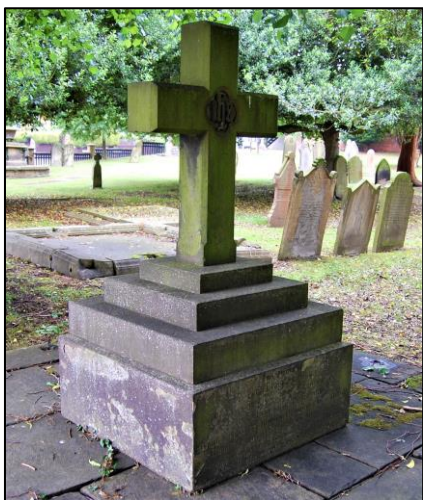
Shirley House, near Southampton. Home of Henry and Fanny Burrows 1853-1873. The house was demolished during the 1880s.

place in Torquay. The couple soon removed from Yarmouth following Henry Burrows' appointment as Headmaster of Beccles School in 1846, where he remained in post until 1853. They made a final move to Shirley House, near Southampton, where Henry died in 1859 and Fanny in 1873. They were survived by at least two daughters, Mary A. and Constance Fanny.

In 1851, Anne Elizabeth, Henrietta and Charlotte Broadley, were still living with their mother at the house in Church Lane, Kirk Ella with five female servants. Two years later, Anne Elizabeth, the eldest daughter became the second wife of Joseph Sykes of Raywell at a ceremony at Kirk Ella church on 16th March 1853. He was 14 years her senior and there were no children from the marriage when Joseph died in 1857 at the age of 61.

John Bourryeau Broadley, who joined the military, was the last to marry and he became the husband of Eleanor Sarah Lane on 22nd June 1854. He attained the rank of Captain in the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons (Lancers) in April 1841,

although he had retired from military service by the time of his marriage when he was described as being 'of Kirk Ella'. He died, childless, on 29 June 1867.



Memorial to John Broadley and his wife, Anne Elizabeth Broadley in Kirk Ella churchyard.

John Broadley's wife, Anne Elizabeth, had witnessed the marriages of four of her children, the other two remaining unmarried. She would, no doubt, have been happy to see them settled and, in her sixties, contented to be looked after by Henrietta and Charlotte at the house in Church Lane. All were very much involved in the life of the church across the road and were part of the social life of the village. In her 73rd year, Anne Elizabeth died on the 9th November 1858. After a funeral service at St. Andrew's Church she was laid to rest alongside her husband in the churchyard, within sight of the family home in Church Lane where she had lived for so many years. The epitaph on her gravestone reads, '*Patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer*', this, perhaps, recalling the difficult years leading up to her husband's death some twenty-five years earlier.

Following their mother's death, Henrietta and Charlotte made plans to leave Kirk Ella and three years later, in 1861, we find them living together at Michael's Nook in Grasmere. Exactly when they had removed to the Lake District or whether they had any previous connection with the area is not known but they had chosen a pleasant spot to spend their later years. Michael's Nook was a large mansion, said to have been built in 1859. Therefore, the Broadley sisters may have been the first residents and, indeed, the house may have been built to their specification. The house, which still stands today, takes its name from Wordsworth's "Michael", a shepherd who earned a humble living among the fells around Grasmere.



Michael's Nook, Grasmere.

The two sisters were still in Grasmere at the time of the 1871 census but by then had moved to Butharlp How⁶, a large, secluded mansion on the outskirts of the village.

⁶ Alternatively written as Butterlip How.

Sometime during the previous decade, they had been joined by their widowed sister, Anne Elizabeth Sykes, who, after living for a while in a property known as Allan Bank, was now listed as the head of the household at Butharlyp How.

By the autumn of 1870, Henrietta had fallen ill. A letter from a family friend, Anna Richardson, tells us that she was....

“.....much grieved to hear Miss Broadley has not responded better to Dr. Burrow’s treatment. Her own kind letter to me a few weeks ago was very cheerful, I thought, and gave me a more hopeful account of her bodily strength. I trust that she will take great care not to tax it before the winter begins, for weakness of any kind is so hard to make up in cold and depressing weather.”

Henrietta survived the winter but a few weeks after being recorded in the 1871 census, she died in her 59th year, on 26th April, and was buried in the churchyard at Grasmere. Her epitaph reads, *‘Fervent in spirit, serving the Lord’*. Her grave was described as being near ‘one of Wordsworth’s yews.’

Shortly after Henrietta’s death, Anna Richardson, wrote again,

“I have just been to see dear Charlotte Broadley. She bears her heavy bereavement with wonderful submission and courage and it is beautiful to see these qualities united, neither perfect without the other.”

She goes on to give a short description of the garden at Butharlyp:

“Her garden was a blaze of splendid colour. I never saw such hollyhocks, phloxes and gladioli. The petunias, too, were profuse.”

Perhaps John Broadley’s daughters had inherited his eye for gardening.

The year after Henrietta died, Ann Elizabeth Sykes made a substantial contribution towards the running of the Royal Albert Asylum in Lancaster, maybe in memory of her younger sister.

Towards the close of the 1870s Anne Elizabeth’s health was deteriorating and on 1st May 1878, we read of her death at the age of 68 after suffering “hideously from an internal tumour”. She was laid to rest alongside her sister in Grasmere churchyard. Her inscription reads, *‘Blessed are those servants whom the Lord, when he comes, shall find watching’*.

This left Charlotte Broadley alone and she moved from Butharlyp How, perhaps because of the recent, sad memories it held, returning to Michael's Nook, which is where she died on 26th October 1879. She was buried alongside her sisters in the churchyard of St. Oswald's Church, Grasmere – *'Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation.'*

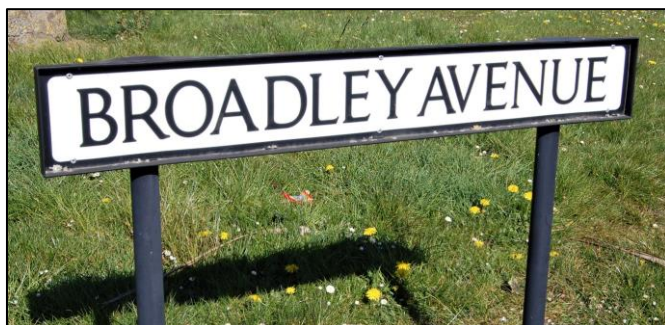


St. Oswald's Church, Grasmere

Charlotte's will was proved at Carlisle by her sister, Mary Smith, 'wife of Henry Etherington Smith, of Norris Hill, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in the County of Leicestershire'. The house at Butharlyp How eventually passed to their eldest son, John Henry Etherington Smith. He later became a trustee of Dove Cottage, the former home of William Wordsworth in Grasmere.

Mary Smith lived on until 8th December 1893 when she died at 2 Bathwick Villas, Bath, at the age of 82 years, just nine months before her husband. She was laid to rest at Smallcombe Cemetery in Bath. Mary was the last surviving member of the family with memories of living at Mount Ella.

What memories she and her sisters had of living at Mount Ella we can only surmise. Maybe the passage of half a lifetime and a move to the idyllic surroundings of the Lake District (or rural Leicestershire in the case of Mary) had erased the sad memories of their father's downfall all those years ago. Maybe, only the good times and the recollection of happy friendships in Kirk Ella and Hull came to mind.



Broadley Avenue crosses the eastern end of the former South Ella estate and is a present-day reminder of one of the former occupants of the now-demolished mansion

Thanks go to many others, both members of AWAKE U3A and others, in helping to gather information for this episode in the life of Mount Ella/aka South Ella. Special thanks are reserved for Christine Gibbs who researched and provided most of the genealogical information.

Francis Davies
June 2020