

# THE DIMMEY FAMILY

Researching lives in St Mary Bishophill Junior parish in York reveals the Dimmeys, who were joiners, cabinet makers and builders. Six generations were Freeman of York. Prior to 1835 in York, in keeping with other towns and cities, a man was required to be a Freeman before being allowed to trade and become a member of his trade guild (of which there were as many as 80 in York). The guilds controlled the admission of craftsmen and merchants and approved the standards and quality of merchandise of their members, with fines imposed on those not meeting the required standard. They also set out the terms of apprenticeship and tested those wishing to enter a trade. Entry was either by serving an Apprenticeship with a Freeman Master Craftsman, or by birthright if the father or grandfather was a Freeman. Freedom could also be bought or gifted, referred to as 'by order.'

In earlier family records the surname was spelt in several ways, starting with Dimier, also Deme/Demy/Demmy, until it settles down to Dimmey in the line followed. For simplicity the surname has been omitted.

Conveniently most generations only had one son who survived to adulthood and had children, so it was quite easy to follow the family line. The main people followed below appear in **BOLD**:

**THOMAS DIMIER / DIMIEA** of Savoy, France only appears in one record, the burial of a grandchild (Elizabeth) in 1781.

**CLAUDIO** aka Claude, Cloudy was 40, of Escrick when he married Mary Simpson, age 23, on 28 December 1771 at St. Mary Bishophill Senior. Baptism records of two of his grandsons in 1804/5 note he was from Parlington, West Riding and was a man's cook. In 1806 and 1808 baptism registers he was a cook at Bilton Hall, a large country house near Knaresborough (Wikipedia). In 1805 he lived in Peasholme Green in York, and in 1812 in the parish of St. Michael-le-Belfrey, where he died on 27 July 1814.

**CLAUDIO** and Mary had seven children:

1. Mary born about 1772, married Thomas Carter in 1793 at St. Saviour, they had 8 children.
2. Elizabeth (1) born 1774, died 1781 and was buried in Holy Trinity Micklegate.
3. Hannah, born between 1776 & 1779 ( different ages in censuses ) married William Dobson 16 October 1801 at St Mary Bishophill Senior, by licence. Hannah was from St. Michael Spurriergate. William was a brewer. They had nine children;
  - Jonas Snr. born 12 January, bapt. 7 February 1802, All Saint's North Street. In 1817 he was apprenticed to his uncle **THOMAS SNR.** and in 1830 he applies to be a Freeman. He married for the second time on 23 November 1842 to Mary Anderson, at St. Michael Spurriergate.
    1. Jonas Jnr. became a freeman in 1858
  - John, bapt. 16 May 1804 All Saints North Street, died 25 August, bur. 27 August 1809 at St. Mary Bishophill Snr.
  - Mary, born 1 Mar 1806, bapt. 9 March, died (of decline) 24 June, bur. 27 June 1810 at St. Mary Bishophill Snr. of Skeldergate
  - James, born 2 October 1808, bapt. 9 October St. Mary Bishophill Snr.
  - Elizabeth, born 14 April 1811, bapt. 21 April at St. Mary Bishophill Snr.

- William, born 7 August 1813, bapt. 11 August, bur. 23 September (age 6 weeks) at St. Mary Castlegate, of Far Water Lane
- William, born 21 February 1815, bapt 4 March St. Mary Castlegate. Died 26 Oct 1827
- John, born 18 November 1820 bapt. 20 November at St. Mary Castlegate, of Far Water Lane
- James, born 29 November 1821, bapt. 2 December at St. Mary Castlegate, of Far Water Lane (entry crossed out)

1841 census Hannah 65, John 20, waterman, William Jnr. 15, Jonas 14 and Jane 12 were living in Friargate, (their ages suggest they might be grandchildren). William Snr. was not named

1851 census Hannah 72, pauper, next door were William 23, waterman, wife Frances 23 and visitor Hannah Bielby 8 in Friargate.

1858, 4 October, Jonas Jnr. applied to be a Freeman, he was a coal dealer of Walmgate.

4. **THOMAS SNR.** born 1778 and it's his line I'll be following further.
5. John Snr. born 1780 married Elizabeth Horsman 28 September 1803 at St. Olave. He was a flax dresser and they had 4 children
  - 1: Thomas (1) born & bapt. 25 January, died 24 March and buried 27 March 1804, both at St. Sampson's. The family were living in Swinegate
  - 2: Thomas (2) born 29 April, bapt. 2 May 1805 at St. Sampson's. He died 5 May 1809 of smallpox and buried at St. Margaret's
  - 3: Ann born 15 Mar. bapt. 22 March 1812 at St. Margaret's. She married William Wrightson 1828 in Fulford with parents' consent. They had 7 children
  - 4: John bapt. 19 October 1814 and bur. 29 December 1818 at St. Margaret's

In 1824 John Snr. bought or was gifted his Freedom of York.  
His wife Elizabeth was bur. 29 May 1828 at St. Margaret's.  
In 1823 he was a hop bag & sacking manufacturer in Walmgate (Baines History, Directory & Gazetteer of Yorkshire) and in 1830 he was at 133 Walmgate, a sacking, hop-bag and wool-sheet manufacturer (Leeds & Clothing District Directory)  
In the 1841 census he was living in Fossgate with seven other elderly people, so probably an Almshouse and in 1851 (3 March) he was at Merchants Hall Trinity Hospital. He died 24 April 1851 at Winterscale's Hospital, Walmgate and was buried at St. Margaret's.
6. Another Elizabeth (2) was bapt. 6 May 1787, and married John Bollans 26 February 1817 at St. Michael Spurriergate. They had 6 children and lived in Shambles ( no. 47 in 1830, Baines ) and King's Court ( no. 5 in 1843 ), John was a tinner & brazier, and was made a Freeman in 1816. After his death in 1861 Elizabeth was living at Lady Ann Middleton's Hospital for Freeman widows with her daughter, also Elizabeth. She died 20 September 1863
7. Ann bapt. 11 November 1790, married Samuel James 15 March 1812 at St. Michael Le Belfrey. They had 2 sons and emigrated to Canada in 1832

Elizabeth (1) and Thomas were baptised Roman Catholic at St. Wilfrid's, Little Blake Street, now Duncombe Place. John, Elizabeth (2) and Ann were baptised Roman Catholic at Micklegate Bar Chapel, possibly the Bar Convent. Between 1754 and 1837 Catholics had to marry in a Church of England but it appears the family didn't continue to follow the Catholic faith as the next generation were baptised in Anglican churches.

**THOMAS SNR.** was born 11 March 1778 in York.

On 3 November 1794 he was apprenticed to George Newlove, of the Hamlet of Minster Yard, joiner. He married Mary Pearson in 1804 at St. Mary Bishophill Snr. and in 1814 they both were named in a document where they were leasing or selling a parcel of land on Baggergate Lane (now Nunnery Lane ) upon which Thomas had built two houses. The location has yet to be identified.



In 1816 he was made a Freeman by order which implies he bought his Freedom, probably because his Master might not have been a Freeman.

- In 1805 their first daughter, Alice was born and baptised at St. Crux, they were living in the Shambles.

In 1828 she married Peacock Weatherill but he died in 1830. In 1839 she remarries, to John Robinson. In 1841 they were living in Albion Street, St. Mary Bishophill Senior, he was also a joiner. By 1843 they had moved to Swann Street ( no. 21, York directory ) where they remained.

In 1846 White's directory there is a listing in Dale Street for Robinson & Dimmey, joiners but this could either be father-in-law **THOMAS SNR.** or brother-in-law **THOMAS JNR.** or both.

In 1872 John is listed as an undertaker ( Johnson & Tesseyman Directory of the City of York ), an occupation also carried out by some of the Dimmeys. He died 1 May 1876, 25 Swann Street

In 1881 Alice was living at 30 Swan Street a retired dressmaker. They don't appear to have had any children and she died in 1884.

- Two sons, William who was born in 1807 and **THOMAS JNR.** in 1809, were baptised at St. Mary Bishophill Snr. and lived in Skeldergate. In 1820 they were both apprenticed to their father.  
William died 4 years later, Thomas was made a Freeman in 1830 by virtue of Indenture.
- Their second daughter, Sarah was born 1811, married Benjamin Mitchell in 1849 and had a son, Thomas, born in 1853. Sarah and Benjamin have a bit of a story which is added separately at the end.
- Their third daughter, Mary Ann was born in 1824 and married Thomas Fawbert in 1848. He was an engine smith at the York & N Mid. Railway. They had three children, Henry

born 1850, Thomas Dimmey born 1858 and died 1865, and Mary Jane born 1860. They lived in Dale Street (no. 10 in 1885), Thomas died in 1885 and Mary Ann in 1893.

In the 1820 Poll Book **THOMAS**, a joiner was living in Skeldergate, and by 1828 in Dale Street. (Pigot & Co, National Commercial Directory 1829 – 9), no 14 in 1830, (Baines). They would have been amongst the first occupants of the newly built street.

In the 1841 census both father and son appeared to be living next door to each other in Dale Street, both were listed as joiners. **THOMAS JNR.** was by then married to Mary Wing with a son **WILLIAM** born in December the same year. In 1843 one of them was at no. 15 (York directory).

In 1851 Mary the wife of **THOMAS SNR.** died and was buried at St. Mary Bishophill Jnr. **THOMAS** was still in Dale Street, now the owner of several houses. Living with him was his daughter Sarah and son-in-law Benjamin Mitchell, a gardener.

**THOMAS SNR.** died in Jan 1856 and was buried in the York Cemetery, Cemetery Road.



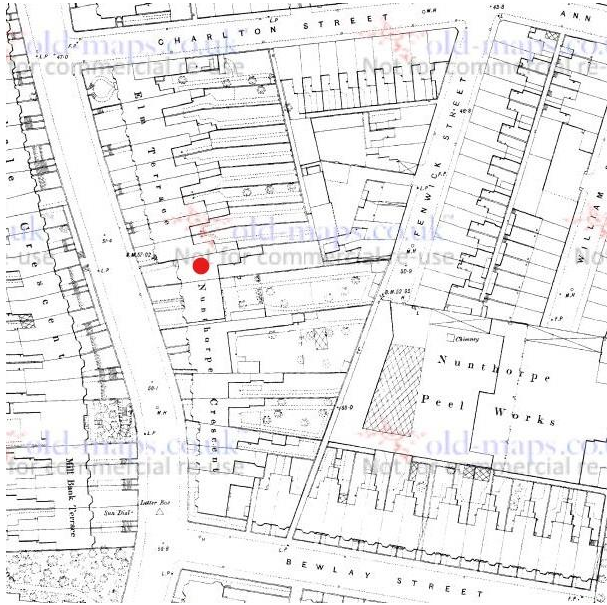
**THOMAS JNR.** & Mary Wing married in 1840 at Sheffield Cathedral and had three children: **WILLIAM**, Hannah Mary and Thomas Pearson. The family stayed in Dale Street (no. 17 in 1872 & 1885). In 1859 Mr. Dimmey had a house to rent in Nunnery Lane at £12 a year (an article in the Yorkshire Gazette 19 March refers to unpaid rent by his tenant).

In 1861 he was recorded as a Master Joiner and by 1871 was employing 3 men & 1 boy. In 1872 he is also listed as a builder (Johnson & Tesseyman Directory of the City of York).

In 1877 he advertised: *To let, together or separately, Joiner's Shop, with Shed underneath, and 3-stalled Stable and Harness-room, with a good hay-chamber in Fenwick Street, Bishopthorpe Road.* ( York Herald 5 November)

And in 1883: *To be sold or let. Hillsbro' House, Bishopthorpe Road, containing nine rooms, W.C. &c.; Front and back gardens. Also for sale with the above if required, three-stalled stable, joiner's shop and yard. - Thomas Dimmey, Dale Street. (Yorkshire Gazette 28 April).*

Hillsbro' House is at 72 Bishopthorpe Road and still has its name on the front. It may not have been sold as his daughter Edith Alice and husband Charles Hansell were living there in 1924, and daughter Hannah with her husband between 1925 - 37. The map suggests the premises in Fenwick Street premises adjoined the back garden. 1891 map courtesy of [www.old-maps.co](http://www.old-maps.co).



**THOMAS** was still working in 1881 but then only employed 2 men.

There is an interesting article in an old newspaper in 1884 about the bad state of the drains. Mr. Dimmey Jnr. mentions the family has had typhoid fever and believed the smell from the street gratings was a source. (York Herald 17 October).

**THOMAS JNR.** died 20 Dec 1885 at 17 Dale Street and was buried on 23 Dec 1885 with his parents. The informant was Edwin Oulds, joiner, Nunnery Lane who was the brother-in-law of his son William.

**THOMAS JNR.** & Mary's children were:

1. **WILLIAM** born 1840
2. Hannah Mary born 1855 married Frederick Creaser in 1881 at the Peckitt Street Chapel 1891 – 1911 they lived in London, he was a teacher, they didn't have any children. Between 1925–1937 they lived at 72 Bishopthorpe Road ( Electoral registers ) then by 1939 they were living at The Cottage, Strensall. It is believed she died in 1940 and he died in 1945.
3. Thomas Pearson born 1857 made a claim to be a Freeman by birthright 30 Dec 1878 or 9 Jan 1879, he was a railway clerk. He died 21 Jan 1886 at 17 Dale Street, and left £102 4s. 9d.

Mary, widow of **THOMAS JNR.**, builder, died 24 March 1898, aged 79, at the residence of her son-in-law Mr F Creaser, London. She was interred in York Cemetery with her husband.

**WILLIAM** born 1840 was admitted as a Freeman by birthright in 1862, a joiner. In 1868 he married Ann Oulds at St. Mary Bishophill Jnr. Ann's father, Henry, was a cabinet maker and her brother Edwin was a joiner.

In 1871 & 1881 they were at 7 Victoria Street, **WILLIAM** still a joiner. By 1891 they were living at 10 Scarcroft Road, where they remained. **WILLIAM** was also an undertaker but in 1911 he was just a joiner again. Dimmeys were undertakers at York Cemetery from 1840 – 1927 with 880 signed funerals in the register, mainly by T & Wm. In the 1885 Directory of York Dinney was listed as an undertaker at 58 Walmgate (also a tobacconist) and in 1895 White's Directory of York **WILLIAM DIMMEY** was listed as a grocer at 25 Dale Street possibly with Wm. Fothergill, greengrocer, and in a separate entry, joiner, builder & undertaker at Dale Street, house at 10 Scarcroft Road. Edwin Oulds lived at no. 20.

They had children:

1. Laura Mary, born 1869, died 1880.
2. **THOMAS HENRY** born 1872.
3. William Edwin, born 1871, died 1878.
4. Edith Alice born 1877 married Charles Hansell in 1901 and had two daughters, Marie born 1903 and Norah Dimmey born 1907. In 1911 they were living at 5 Millbank Terrace and Charles was a commercial traveller in the timber trade.  
At some point they moved to Buxton where Charles died in 1934 at Netherdale, Green Lane (now a hotel). Probate was granted to his brother, Frederick John, Effects £2792. In 1939 Edith Alice and Marie were living in a flat at 76 Bootham, York, Edith was still there in 1955 ( Marie having died in 1940 ) but she died at 294 Burton Road, Derby in 1969. She left £9300.
5. Rose was born and died 1883 age 2 days.
6. Ethel was born and died 1884 age 1 hour.

1922 Ann died, of 10 Scarcroft Road, probate to husband **WILLIAM** Dimmey, joiner & Charles Hansell, timber importer's manager. Effects £437 12s. 4d.

1933 **WILLIAM** died 1 Feb. of Netherdale, Green Lane, Buxton. Probate 30 Mar to Charles Hansell timber merchant's manager (probably his son-in-law) and Victor Oulds plumbing contractor, (Frank Victor, son of Ann's brother Edwin) Effects £1534 19s. 10d. He was buried in York Cemetery with his wife and grand-daughter Marie Hansell.

**THOMAS HENRY** born 1872 was a joiner's apprentice in 1891 and admitted as a Freeman in 1893, by birthright, joiner. In 1896, a joiner & builder, he was living at 10 Scarcroft Road when he married Annie Elizabeth Dennison 4 April at St. Mary Bishophill Sen. (in the Yorkshire Gazette 11 April it said they were married by licence at St. Clement's Church, she was of Kelsitt Grange, Huby). They only had one child, **JOHN WILLIAM** who was born in 1897.

In 1901 they were living in Huby with Annie's father John, a farmer. **THOMAS'S** occupation wasn't clear but in 1911 he was a farmer at Demesne Farm, Shipton with his wife and son, as well as one domestic servant and three farm servants.

On 28 October 1918 the farm was put up for auction. *Lot 6. All that valuable FREEHOLD FARM known as Demesne Farm, situate near to the Blue Bridge, on the high road from Easingwold to York, in the Parish of Easingwold, now in the occupation of Mr. HENRY Dimmey, whose tenancy expires on the 6<sup>th</sup> April next, comprising farmhouse and farm buildings, and about 75a. 3r. 14p. of grass land, and about 114a. 3r. 16p. of arable land.*

*The farmstead consists of substantially built farmhouse, wash-house, coach-house, and harness-room, blacksmith's shop, stables, cow-house, loose boxes, calf-house, cart shed, barn, granary, horse race and implement house, and covered foldyard.* (Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 12 October).

The farm, spelt Demensne, is still there, off the A19.

Exactly a month later **THOMAS HENRY** died 28 November 1918 and was buried in York Cemetery. He left £386 to Annie.

In 1931 Annie was living at 7 Bootham Terrace and died 1933 at the County Hospital, York.

**JOHN WILLIAM** was born in 1897 and baptised at the New Street Chapel, York. In 1922/3 he made a claim to be a Freeman by birthright, living at Sykes Farm, Nunburnholme (nr. Pocklington), a farmer.

In 1933 he married Grace Lily Robinson and they had two children:

1. Ann D born 1938, married Richard C Hopkinson in 1962. They had four children, Charles H 1963, John R 1964, Sarah Jane M 1968, Robert William 1971
2. **FRANK H** born 1941, married Judith N Raines in 1974 then Ann B Barker in 1978.

No children with the parents Dimmey & Raines or Barker could be found in the birth indexes up to 1988, however in an Electoral Register in 2008 at Croft House, Amotherby, Malton were **FRANK H**, Anne B, Rachel J and Claire L. Looking again at the birth indexes there was Rachel ( 1980 ) and Claire ( 1983 ) who's mother's maiden name was Burrows.

**FRANCIS HENRY** of Beech Brow, York Road, Malton, Auctioneer & valuer was admitted as Freeman in 1968

In 1939 **JOHN W**, poultry farmer, Grace L and child were at Dybelands Whenly, Easingwold. Grace Lillie died at Beech Brow, York Road, Malton, in 1976, leaving £2817, **JOHN WILLIAM** died there in 1988.

## APPENDICES:

By 1872 there were three dwellings in Swann Street known as Dimmey's Buildings at the southern end of the street (since demolished). (Johnson & Tesseyman Directory of the City of York, 1881 census, and Directory of York 1885). 1891 map courtesy of old-maps.co.uk



1895 Auction, Hessay, near York. Per instructions from Mr. W Dimmey. Brown pony, 4 beasts, 6 pigs, 40 couple poultry, hay, implements, dairy utensils &c. (York Herald 12 March).

1898 Mrs Dimmey, Kelsitt Grange, Huby, Easingwold advertised for a *clean, respectable girl, about 16, for farm house. Another kept.* (Yorkshire Evening Press 26 December)

1911; *To let, part of garden, well stocked with fruit trees. - apply Dimier House, Dringhouses.* (Yorkshire Evening Press 18 February).

1915; *For sale by auction. Lot 2. The Freehold semi-detached dwelling-house known as "Dimier House" situate in the Main Road at Dringhouses (adjoining Lot 1), together with the palisaded front garden, and large kitchen garden behind, now in the occupation of Mr. Richard Boyes. The house contains: tiled entrance with vestibule door, two sitting rooms, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, w.c., bathroom with lavatory, and outside there is a conservatory, small lawn, wash house with copper and sink: good stable and other outbuildings: also an excellent greenhouse with heating apparatus, boiler house and potting shed. The frontage is about 33 feet and depth from the Main Road is about 145 yards. The property is pleasantly situated in the healthy suburb of*



*Dringhouses, just outside the City, is exceptionally well built, and within five minutes' walk of the York electric cars, with good service to the station and centre of City. York gas and water are laid on, and the drainage is connected with the public sewerage system of Dringhouses. The gardens are well stocked and very productive. For permission to view apply to Mr. Thos. Mitchell, "Derwent House" (adjoining Lot 1). (Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 2 October).*

Also for sale was the next door house 'Woodville.

(Thomas Mitchell was the grandson of **THOMAS DIMMEY**).

Dimier House is now 108 Tadcaster Road and is the end of a short terrace of three houses.

Going by the name they may have been built by one of the Dimmeys. Dimier House is the house on the left, Woodville is now 106 and Derwent House 104.



(map courtesy of National Library of Scotland, dated 1892 – 1914  
<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side> )



1921 *For sale, Dairy well-cooled Milk, 25-35 gallons daily – apply Dimmey, Burnby, Pocklington.*  
( Hull Daily Mail 3 August ).

1926 J W Dimmey selling live and dead farm stock, Burnby. (Driffield Times 27 February)

1943 At a meeting of the North Riding Farmer's Union, Mr Dimmey of Sheriff Hutton was mentioned in a question about ploughing up Strensall golf course. (The Yorkshire Evening Post 2 March).

### **FREEMEN – year of admission**

1 Thomas Dimmey Snr. 1816

2 Thomas Dimmey Jnr. (son of Thomas Snr.) 1830

2 Jonas Dobson Snr. (nephew of Thomas Snr.) 1830

3 Jonas Dobson Jnr. 1858

1 John Bollans (brother-in-law of Thomas Snr.) 1816

3 Thomas Pearson Dimmey (grandson of Thomas Snr.) 1878

3 William Dimmey (grandson of Thomas Snr.) 1862

4 Thomas Henry Dimmey (gt. grandson of Thomas Snr.) 1893

5 John William Dimmey (gt. gt. Grandson of Thomas Snr) 1923

6 Francis Henry Dimmey (3 x gt. Grandson of Thomas Snr.) 1968

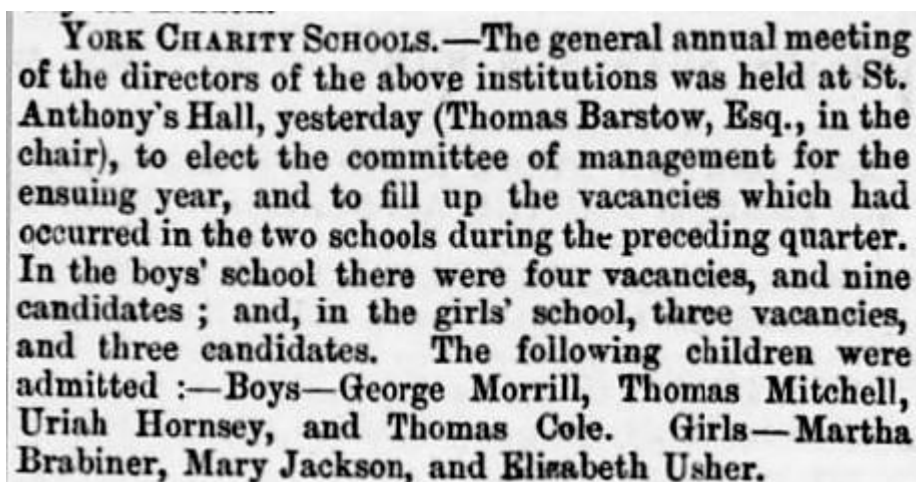
**SARAH & BENJAMIN MITCHELL'S STORY** – gleaned from newspaper articles and the census. Benjamin appeared to be a bit of a 'wrong 'un' and we debated the ethics of including his story but all the information is in the public realm.

**THOMAS SNR.** & Mary's second daughter was Sarah born 14 Mar 1811.

Aged 38 in 1849 she married Benjamin Mitchell and in 1851 they lived with her father in Dale Street, Benjamin (46) was a gardener. In 1853 their only child Thomas was born (Sarah would have been 42).

In 1861 they were living in Dale Street, three doors away from her brother **THOMAS JNR.** Benjamin (54) was listed as a Proprietor of houses.

In 1859 Thomas may have been admitted to the Blue Coat School, however he was with his parents in 1861. (York Herald 8 October, image from the British Newspaper archive).



**YORK CHARITY SCHOOLS.**—The general annual meeting of the directors of the above institutions was held at St. Anthony's Hall, yesterday (Thomas Barstow, Esq., in the chair), to elect the committee of management for the ensuing year, and to fill up the vacancies which had occurred in the two schools during the preceding quarter. In the boys' school there were four vacancies, and nine candidates ; and, in the girls' school, three vacancies, and three candidates. The following children were admitted :—Boys—George Morrill, Thomas Mitchell, Uriah Hornsey, and Thomas Cole. Girls—Martha Brabiner, Mary Jackson, and Elizabeth Usher.

Over the next few years Benjamin appeared several times in the newspaper, sometimes as the defendant, other time as the complainant, but usually involving assault, fighting or abusive language.

In 1862 Benjamin was charged with assaulting his wife and sister-in-law, Mary. (henceforth names underlined in brackets are added for clarity which aren't in the original.):

*“ Family quarrels – Benjamin Mitchell was charged with assaulting Mary Dimmey (nee Wing), the wife of a joiner residing in Dale Street, Nunnery Lane. It seems that Mitchell's wife ( Sarah ) is sister to the complainant's husband ( THOMAS JNR. ), and for some time past anything but an amicable feeling has existed between the defendant (Benjamin) and her husband ( THOMAS JNR. ), in consequence of the former's ill-treatment of his wife. On Friday last a neighbour having informed Mrs. Dimmey (Mary) that Mitchell was assaulting his wife, she proceeded to his house, and arrived as he was in the act of striking her. Observing the complainant however, he desisted, and taking Mrs. Dimmey (Mary) by the shoulders, struck her two violent blows. This was the assault complained of, and the magistrates believe the charge to be substantiated, fined the defendant 5s. and costs.”* (Yorkshire Gazette 25 October).

In 1863 there were seven incidents:

*“ Using threatening language - Benjamin Mitchell, of Nunnery Lane, was summoned for having, on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst., used violent and threatening language towards a neighbour named John Robinson (the husband of his sister-in-law, Alice nee Dimmey). The facts were not gone into, Mitchell voluntarily apologising for his offence, paying the costs, and consenting to be bound in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for six months “.* (York Herald 28 March).

*“ Domestic troubles - Benjamin Mitchell was summoned by his wife, Sarah Mitchell, for assaulting her on Scarcroft. It seems that the above parties, who are separated, met accidentally on Good Friday, on Scarcroft. The defendant endeavoured to persuade his wife to return and live with him, but having been ill-treated by him previously she declined, whereupon the defendant used violent means to take her with him. The magistrates bound him over to keep the peace. (York Herald 11 Apr).*

However four months later he was in court again - 15 Aug 1863 *“ Using threatening language – Benjamin Mitchell, of Nunnery Lane, was summoned for using abusive language to William Harrison, of the same street. This was a “ neighbourly quarrel “, and the defendant, through his attorney (Mr. Grayston, jun.), elected to be bound in his own recognizance of £10, to keep the peace for twelve months “.* The same incident reported in the York Herald added that *“ Benjamin Mitchell ..... who, within the last twelve months, has several times appeared before the bench, was charged with threatening to “ clash out the brains “ of his neighbour, W. Harrison, with a stone. (Yorkshire Gazette).*

*“ Assault in Clarence Street - Wm. Burrell was charged with assaulting Benjamin Mitchell, on the previous Tuesday. The parties are cab drivers in the service of Mr. Thackray, and on the day in question they were in the stable for horse cabs belonging to their master. Some sharp words ensued between them and the defendant pushed the complainant violently against the wall two or three times and struck him once. In defence Burrell alleged that Mitchell was about to attack him with a dung fork, and he merely pushed him away in self-defence. He, however, had no witnesses to substantiate his statement, and the Bench therefore decided against him, fining him 5s. and costs. Yorkshire Gazette 24 Oct.*

On the same date a notice appeared in the York Herald - *“ Take notice that I, Benjamin Mitchell, of Dale Street, Nunnery Lane, will not be responsible for any debt wife Sarah Mitchell (daughter of the late Thomas Dimmey, deceased, Dale Street), may contract after this notice, she having left me and turned her back on their only son. “* A similar notice appears again in the Yorkshire Gazette on 28 May 1864.

*“ Wilful damage - William Rowland was charged with damaging, to the amount of 2s. 6d., a coat belonging to Benjamin Mitchell. Both men are cab drivers for Mr. Thackray, and the coat was torn in “ settling “ a little differences by fighting. Rowland was ordered to pay 1s. 6d. and costs. (Yorkshire Gazette 14 Nov).*

*“ Assault at the railway station – John Mintoft, a bus driver, was charged with assaulting Benjamin Mitchell, better known by the cognomen of “ Johnny Lump”, a cab-driver, at the railway station, on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Mr. Grayston was for the complainant. It was alleged that on the day stated the defendant used abusive language to the complainant, and referring to some previous misunderstanding, repeatedly exclaimed, “ I want to know thy statement, Lump.” The complainant told him that he wanted to have nothing to say to him, upon which Mintoft struck him on the side of the head and knocked off his hat. He also made another similar attack on Mitchell in meeting him on the railway platform. Mintoft, in his defence, accused Mitchell of being abusive, and said he was “ such an eccentric character that he would make a pig laugh.” (Laughter). He*

denied entirely that he assaulted Mitchell, or interfered with him in any way on the day in question, and he called a witness to corroborate his statement. - The magistrates dismissed the case. Yorkshire Gazette 21 Nov.

There is a similar write up in the York Herald, an extract " On the day in question Mitchell was in the employ of Mr. Thackray as a cab driver ... According to the complainant's account, the defendant began to annoy him by following him up and down, stroking his face and saying " I want your statement, Mr. Lump". He went to the office to Mr. Thackray to complain of the conduct of Mintoft. ....Mintoft in answer to the charge, observed that he had constantly protected the complainant, and he declared he had neither struck him nor laid hands upon him in any way, although he (Mitchell) had made use of very bad and abusive language. In this Mintoft was fully corroborated...."

1865 " Extraordinary conduct - Benjamin Mitchell, of Price Street, Nunnery Lane, was summoned for being disorderly in Swann Street, on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. Mr. Holtby was for the complainant, and Mr. Grayston, jun., for the defendant. From Mr Holtby's statement it appears that the defendant (who has frequently appeared before the Bench for his eccentric conduct) is not at present living with his wife, she having separated from him. The complainant is his sister-in-law, and previous to the day in question a son of the defendant's, about ten years old, went to the house of the complainant in Swann Street for protection. In consequence of this, Mitchell went down to the house in question about eleven o'clock, and knocked on the door in a very alarming manner, alleging that the two men who were with him were policeman, sent there by order of Mr. Haley, the chief constable. Mrs. Robinson remonstrated with Mitchell upon his outrageous conduct, and also told the men (who represented themselves as policemen) that she was sure they did not know the character of the man whom they were with, or they would not talk so. They all then threatened to break the door open. After a considerable display of violent conduct on the part of Mitchell, he went away, alleging that he was going for a search warrant. Mr. Holtby, under these circumstances, urged that the defendant ought to be bound over to keep the peace, - In defence, the two policemen who were present, Todd and Potter, were called to give their version of the affair, from which it appeared that Mitchell met Potter about half-past ten o'clock, told him that he was about to fetch his boy from a house in Swann Street, and added, would he (the policeman) go with him to preserve the peace. The officer agreed, and meeting with Todd, the latter also went with them. Mitchell rapped in the usual manner at Robinson's house and demanded his boy, but was refused by those within. Mitchell then said if they did not give him his son he would burst the door open, but Todd interfered and said he would not allow such a proceeding to take place; but that if he liked he could go to the police office and see the inspector. Mitchell then, accompanied by Todd, proceeded to the police office, leaving Potter in the street. The latter officer denied that there was any disturbance such as would warrant him in locking any man up. He said, however, that a woman named McCornick (one of the complainant's witness) had made such a noise and was so disorderly that he threatened to take her in to custody. - Mr. Holtby, in reply, urged that the two policemen had lent themselves to Mitchell for the purpose of his case. He said the defendant was a very violent person, and he trusted they would bind him over to keep the peace. - The Bench said there could be no doubt that the defendant had been very disorderly, and he was therefore fined 5s. and costs. (Yorkshire Gazette 19 Aug)

At some point between Oct 1862 and Mar 1863 Sarah left Benjamin. Press reports suggest she left Thomas with his father. However in 1871 it appears Thomas was back with his mother. They

might have been living or staying at 5 Hope Terrace, Ruswarp (near Whitby). Sarah 60, wife, annuitant, Thomas 17, cabinet maker, both born in York. Benjamin (62) was living alone at 8 Victoria Place, Price Street. He was then an agricultural labourer.

In 1877 Benjamin Mitchell was charged with assaulting Isabella Ridsdale. He was fined 5s. and costs. (*Yorkshire Gazette*, 18 August)

In 1881 Benjamin was living at 7 Victoria Place, of independent means. Sarah, an annuitant, was at 15 Dale Street with son Thomas, a cabinet maker. Sarah died on 1 April 1890 at 14 ½ Dale Street, leaving £1 17s,. Her son Thomas was Executor.

In 1891 Benjamin lived at 2 Victoria Place, on his own means, and dies there on 23 Apr 1891, listed a Gentleman on the Probate index. He left £26 16s 9d, his son Thomas was Executor. Benjamin had a varied life, a gardener, proprietor of house, horse cab driver, agricultural labourer, of independent means and finally a gentleman, though apparently not a very rich one!

In 1890 Thomas married Mary Winterburn and in 1891 they were at 14 Dale Street, Thomas was a cabinet maker. In 1901 living on own means at Dimier House, Main Street Dringhouses, and in 1911 they were next door at Derwent House, an Income Tax Collector. He died in 1938 at the Purey Cust Nursing Home, York and left £1565 17s. 2d. to his widow, Mary. She was living at 104 Tadcaster Road in 1939, they don't appear to have had any children.

### SOME OF THE PLACES THE DIMMEYS LIVED:

**Dale Street**

- No. 10 Mary Ann ( nee Dimmey ) & Thomas Fawbert 1872, 1885
- No. 14 / 15 Thomas Dimmey 1830, 1841, 1843.
- No. ? Thomas Snr, Sarah ( nee Dimmey ) & Benjamin Mitchell 1851
- No. 14 ? Sarah Mitchell 1861
- No. 14 1/2 Sarah 1890
- No. 14 Thomas & Mary Mitchell 1891
- No. 15 Sarah & son, Thomas Mitchell 1881
- No. 17 Thomas Jnr. 1872, 1885 & Thomas Pearson Dimmey 1886
- No. 25 William Dimmey ( house at 10 Scarcroft Rd. ) 1895

**Swann Street**

- No. 21 Alice ( nee Dimmey ) & John Robinson 1843
- No. 25 Alice & John Robinson 1872, 1876
- No. 30 Alice Robinson 1881

**Victoria Place**

- No. 2 Benjamin Mitchell 1891
- No. 7 Benjamin Mitchell 1881
- No. 8 Benjamin Mitchell 1871

**Victoria Street**

- No. 7 William & Ann ( nee Oulds ) Dimmey 1871, 1881

1781	Holy Trinity, Micklegate	Burial of Elizabeth Dimmey
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1793	St. Saviour	Marriage of Mary Dimmey & Thomas Carter
1801	St. Michael Spurriergate	Residence of Hannah Dimmey
1801	St. Mary Bishophill Snr.	Marriage of Hannah Dimmey to William Dobson
1803	St. Olave	Marriage of John Dimmey & Elizabeth Horseman
1804	St. Sampson's / Swinegate	Baptism & Burial of Thomas (1) son of John Dimmey
1804	St. Mary Bishophill Snr.	Marriage of Thomas Dimmey Snr. to Mary Pearson
1805	St. Sampson's	Baptism of Thomas (2) son of John Dimmey
1805	St. Crux	Baptism of Alice Dimmey
1805	Shambles	Residence of Thomas, Mary, Alice Dimmey
1805	Peasholme Green	Residence of Claudio Dimmey
1806	St. Mary Bishophill Snr.	Baptism of Mary Dimmey
1807 - 9	Skeldergate	Residence of Thomas Dimmey Snr. at baptisms of William & Thomas Jnr.
1809	St. Margaret's, Walmgate	Burial of Thomas Dimmey (2)
1812	St. Michael Le Belfrey	Marriage of Ann Dimier to Samuel James
1812	St. Margaret's, Walmgate	Baptism of Ann Dimier
1812 - 14	St. Michael Le Belfrey	Residence of Claudio Dimmey
1814	St. Margaret's, Walmgate	Baptism of John Dimier Jnr.
1817	St. Michael Spurriergate	Marriage of Elizabeth Dimier to John Bollans
1818	St. Margaret's, Walmgate	Burial of John Dimier Jnr.
1820	Skeldergate	Residence of Thomas Dimmey
1823	Walmgate	Residence of John Demier Snr.
1828	St. Margaret's, Walmgate	Burial of Elizabeth Dimier (nee Horseman)
1830	Shambles	Residence of Elizabeth & John Bollans
1830	133 Walmgate	Residence of John Dimier Snr.
1841	Fossgate	Residence of John Dimier Snr.
1841	Albion Street	Residence of Alice (nee Dimmey) & John Robinson
1841 + 1851	Friargate	Residence of Hannah Dobson (nee Dimmey)
1843	King's Court	Residence of Elizabeth & John Bollans
1851	Winterscale's Hospital	Death of John Dimier Snr.
1851	Merchants Hall Trinity Hospital	Residence of John Dimier Snr.
1861	Lady Ann Middleton's	Residence of Elizabeth Bollans (nee Dimier)
1881	Peckitt Street Chapel	Marriage of Hannah Mary Dimmey & Frederick Creaser
1885	58 Walmgate	William Dimmey, Undertaker

1891 – 1922	10 Scarcroft Road	Residence of William Dimmey & family
1897	New Street Chapel	Baptism of John William Dimmey
1924	72 Bishopthorpe Road	Residence of Charles Hansell (husband of Edith Alice Dimmey)
1925 – 1937	72 Bishopthorpe Road	Residence of Hannah Mary & Frederic Creaser

Research carried out by Catherine Sotheran, Clements Hall Local History Group.