

Coal and land owners -

The Fletcher family of Brigham Hill



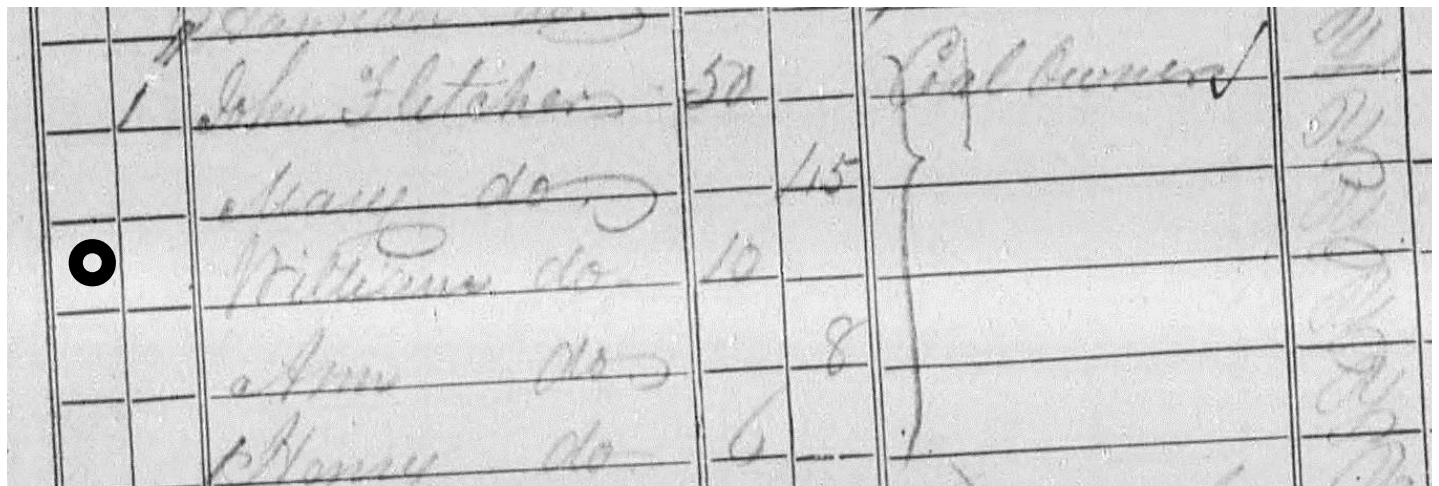
In contrast to many families in Brigham, the family of William Fletcher, lived in very comfortable surroundings in the second half of the 19th century at a mansion called Brigham Hill.

The Mansion, which is most conveniently arranged, contains Vestibule and good Hall, Dining Room, 25 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft., Drawing Room, 25 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in., Morning Room, 23 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft., Library, 18 ft. 6 in. by 12 ft. 6 in., Billiard Room, 27 ft. by 17 ft. Smoking Room, Lavatory, Butler's Pantry, Storeroom, Servants' Hall, Kitchen, Scullery, Pantry and Larder, on the Ground Floor. Cellars, also Wash-house, Laundry, and Servants' Offices in spacious outside yard.

On the First Floor, three Bedrooms with Dressing Rooms, six other Bedrooms, three Bath Rooms, two W.C.'s, Housemaids' Pantry, Schoolroom, and Nursery.

On the Second Floor, three good Servants' Bedrooms and Box-room.

The Victorian census returns record the Fletcher family, who had made their wealth from owning coal and land.



A handwritten Victorian census return for the Fletcher family, 1841. The table has columns for name, age, sex, and occupation. The family members listed are John Fletcher (50, Head), Mary do (15, Wife), William do (10, Son), Ann do (8, Daughter), and Henry do (6, Son). The occupation is listed as Coal Miner. A black dot is visible on the left side of the table.

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation
John Fletcher	50	M	Coal Miner
Mary do	15	F	
William do	10	M	
Ann do	8	F	
Henry do	6	M	

Head of the household throughout the late 19th century was **William Fletcher**.

We see him on the 1841 census (above) for Brigham as a 10 year old boy, living with parents **John** and **Mary**, and younger siblings **Ann** and **Henry**.

Brigham Hill: 1871 census

NAME OF HOUSE	DATE	REMARKS
and No. of NAME of HOUSE		Describe the Hall

[illegible]

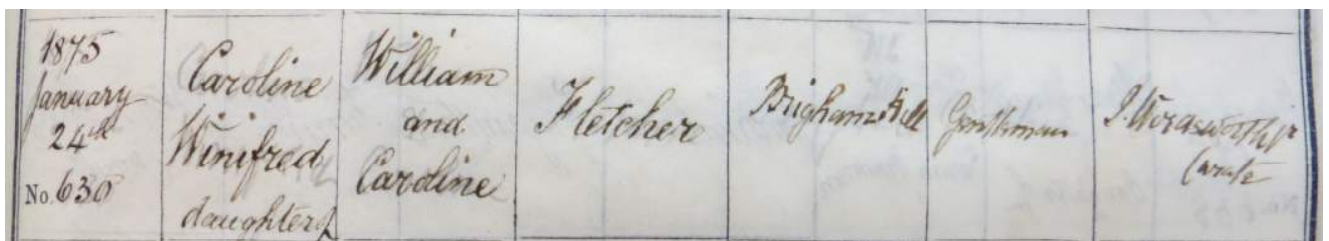
by 1871 **William Fletcher**, from Greysouthen (in the parish of Brigham) was head of household in his own right, described as a Coal Owner, Iron Master, and landowner.

He lived with wife Caroline, 4 young children, and 5 servants. None of the servants were from Brigham.

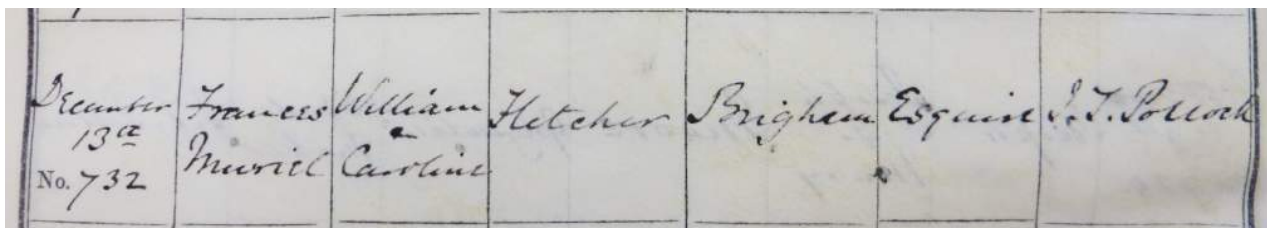
Although William and Caroline had a growing family, the baptism registers from Brigham only record some of these.

Perhaps the older children were baptised nearer Caroline's home in Middlesex?

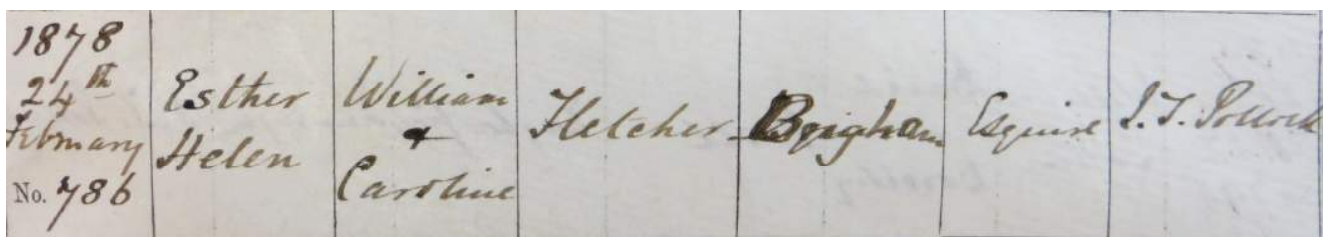
In the 1870s, Brigham's baptism registers record the christenings of three of their baby girls:



24 Jan 1875 - Caroline Winifred (service conducted by J Wordsworth Jr)



13 Nov 1876 - Frances Muriel



24 Feb 1878 - Esther Helen

Brigham Hill: 1881 census

William Walker	Govt	Nov	50
Eusebio D.	Govt	Mar	41
Annie M. D.	Serv	Jun	10
Mabel D.	d	"	9
William D.	Govt	"	7
Caroline D.	Serv	"	6
Frances M. D.	d	"	4
Esther B. D.	Serv	"	3
Ramona Wright	Serv	Jan	48
Anna Bradley	Serv	Jan	53
Gene Dwyer	Serv	Feb	41
George Watkins	Serv	Mar	54
Mary A. D.	Serv	Mar	58
Margaret Walter	Serv	Mar	44
Elizabeth Gosh	Serv	Apr	44
Elizabeth D.	Serv	Apr	44

William and Caroline Fletcher's family had grown

William was also now described as a 'JP' (Justice of the Peace, with

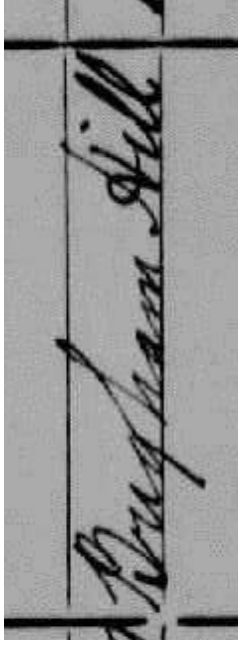
magistrates' duties). The elder children were no longer at home, leaving six under 10s with their parents.

They now had 8 servants living in, including a governess.

Brigham Hill: 1891 census

[illegible]

With children in their teens and twenties, the Fletchers Brigham Hill was no doubt a lively place to live. On census night, a student from college was visiting, presumably a friend of daughter Annie Maud.



Brigham Hill: 1901 census

Caroline Fletcher	Head	Wid	61	Living on own Means	-	-	Middlesex Staines	-
Priscilla Do	Serv	S	35	Living on own Means	-	-	London Saddington	-
Caroline W Do	Serv	S	26	Living on own Means	-	-	Cumberland Brigham	-
Esther E Do	Serv	S	23	Living on own Means	-	-	Do Do	-
Aggie Brigham	Serv	S	22	Coloured Maid - Domestic	-	-	Cumberland Broughton	-
Elizabeth Madeline	Serv	S	19	Housemaid - Domestic	-	-	Do Do	-
Marie Blund	Serv	S	18	Col. - Domestic	-	-	Cumberland Cleator Moor	-

William Fletcher was buried on 9 August 1900, aged 69. His burial was recorded in this church's burial register.

As the 21st century started, at the time of the 1901 census, Caroline Fletcher was now widowed and living at home with 3 spinster daughters and 3 servants.

Shortly after, in July 1901, the Brigham Hill Estate was sold at auction and Caroline moved to Kensington, London.