

FINE GOLD FROM YORKSHIRE

Faith Cook



EP BOOKS

1st Floor Venture House, 6 Silver Court, Watchmead, Welwyn Garden
City, UK, AL7 1TS

<http://www.epbooks.org>

admin@epbooks.org

EP Books are distributed in the USA by:

JPL Distribution

3741 Linden Avenue Southeast

Grand Rapids, MI 49548

orders@jplbooks.com

© Faith Cook 2017. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available

ISBN 978-1-78397-194-7

Contents

Foreword	7
Titus Salt of Saltaire: a lasting legacy	11
Anne Brontë: Yorkshire's got talent	18
Kit Calvert: Wensleydale Cheese	29
John Nelson: the stonemason preacher	36
Samuel Marsden: apostle to the Maori	43
Hudson Taylor: for the love of Christ and China	52
Fred Mitchell: climbing on track	57
Praying Johnny: and what happened in Filey	65
Benjamin Ingham: Yorkshire's first apostle	71
John Wycliffe: father of the English Reformation	78
Ruth Clark: a servant girl	84
William Wilberforce: setting the captives free	90
John Fawcett: binding hearts together	100
Robert Arthington: the generous recluse	107
Ezekiel Rogers: God's exile	113
Joseph Milner: when Hull became 'a garden of the Lord'	116
Miles Coverdale: the first English Bible	121
William Grimshaw: a mighty evangelist	126
William Scoresby: when God interrupts	133

Richard Conyers: Rector of Helmsley	137
Bishop Robert Ferrar: a Yorkshire martyr	140
Time would fail me to tell of ... Benjamin Waugh, George Perfect, John Henry Jowett, Herbert Silverwood, Leonard Ravenhill, James Berry, Smith Wigglesworth, John Harrison, William Bradford and Thomas Langton	144

Foreword

Perhaps you have to be born in Yorkshire to realise how much this county means to us, and how bewildering it is when others don't quite understand our love of all things Yorkshire.

We know we are a county of characters, but we don't mind that. We are characterised by grit. We don't even mind people smirking at us. We're proud of Yorkshire sports people, entertainers, artists, scientists, inventors, writers and even some politicians, though probably our most famous political activist was Guy Fawkes! We love the fact that we chat with those whom we sit next to on a bus, meet at a local 'chippy', on a train, in a coffee shop, or standing in a queue.

We are famed for our Yorkshire Pudding, fish and chips, Yorkshire Parkin, Wensleydale cheese, rhubarb and liquorice, as well as Rowntree's chocolate and Yorkshire Tea. We have more dry stone walling than any other place in the UK (thousands of miles of it) and England's longest waterfall. And who doesn't love the Yorkshire terrier? The spring-loaded mousetrap, the hansom cab, cat's eyes, the kilner jar, the glider-type aircraft, the Bailey bridge, the crow's nest and Sheffield steel were all invented by Yorkshiremen. Marks and Spencer didn't start in just any county, but in Yorkshire!

We have our Dales (thirty-eight of them), the Three Peaks, the Moors and coastline, with its twelve lighthouses. Our cathedrals (eight of them) and abbeys (ten of them, Whitby's dating back to

Foreword

657AD) enrich the county. It's not too long ago that our skylines had dark symbols of the coal mines underneath (there were fifty in Yorkshire). We are known for our wool and textile industry, and our blunt speaking. We have produced two of the UK's most well-known furniture makers—Thomas Chippendale of Otley and Robert Thompson of Kilburn, 'the Mouseman'—and are known for our wool and textile industries.

Famous for its cricket, Yorkshire was home to some of the all-time greats. Herbert Sutcliffe (who scored 38,558 runs in his career), Freddy Trueman, George Hirst and Geoffrey Boycott. Len Hutton said, 'In an England cricket eleven, the flesh may be of the South, but the bone is of the North, and the backbone is Yorkshire.' Lord's Cricket Ground in London was founded by Thomas Lord who was born in Thirsk. As well, Yorkshire is the birthplace of both rugby league and quaits. Olympians Alistair and Jonny Brownlee of Horsforth have made the triathlon look a walkover!

But for me, the most interesting aspect of Yorkshire is its great Christian heritage. There are Christians from the county who have taken the gospel to the furthest corners of the world, whilst others have worked and ministered nearer to home. They have left an indelible impact on history and society. Faith Cook, biographer par excellence, has presented us with a magnificent smörgåsbord of the lives of some of history's most well-known Yorkshire Christians. Of course, there are numerous unsung heroes who also experienced the transforming power of God to forgive them, change them and use them to be of benefit to others through their talents and service. But it is this transformation that brings together such a variety of characters. Their abilities are very different, but their common faith in Jesus is the thread which unites them. They are remembered in history books by their achievements, but to really understand each of them, one has to look beyond their works to their trust in Jesus Christ. Each came to the definite point in their lives when they turned from their

Foreword

own ways and submitted to the Lordship of Christ. They each believed that when Jesus was crucified, he was taking on himself their sin, so that he was dying in their place, paying the price of their wrong. They trusted the risen, living Jesus to forgive them and take over their lives as they became his followers. Each of them had a Christian conversion.

Sadly, today in Yorkshire there are comparatively few who follow Christ. Whereas once it seemed that every estate and village had its chapel and church, today they have closed and Jesus has been marginalised by many. Most would probably agree that everyone is guilty of sinning against God in one way or another. But the Christian believes that all wrong is serious. It is only through Jesus who loves us, died for us, rose again and commands that we should turn from our self-centred, godless living that we may receive the new life which he freely offers. As one enters into a relationship with God, he makes all things new. This book is testimony to that. And the God who did amazing things in history is still at work in lives today.

Roger Carswell

1. Titus Salt of Saltaire: a lasting legacy

A tall young man, dark haired and with a fresh-looking face, was walking slowly through downtown Liverpool. With quick sharp eyes he was taking in all he saw as he passed to left and right. Titus Salt, in business with his father Daniel Salt, was a wool-stapler—a term now fallen into disuse. Essentially his task was to buy raw wool from the producers, sort and grade it and then sell it on to the manufacturers to be woven into a wide variety of woollen items. Described as ‘every inch a man’, Titus missed little as he walked through Liverpool that day. And as he passed a rundown looking warehouse of a firm of Liverpool brokers on the docks he noticed a number of dirty looking bales stacked out in the open. One or two were torn in places and some type of wool bulged out. Wool? This might be a new sort that he and his father could use in their business, Daniel Salt and Son, Wool-staplers of Bradford. Approaching the bales Titus pulled a few strands from one tear in the sacking and twisted it between his fingers, testing the length of the fibres. He decided to take it home to experiment further.

Titus Salt had a burning ambition to succeed. He was what we today would call an entrepreneur—one who was willing to venture, take risks, experiment and refuse to give in. Born in 1803 in Morley, West Yorkshire, then a village of little more than two thousand, Titus was the oldest of a family of seven, although two had died in infancy. Morley was a place that John Wesley frequently visited on his travels up and down the country, and

Titus Salt of Saltaire

here religious convictions ran deep. His parents, Daniel and Grace Salt, were Bible loving people and from early days Grace taught her young son to cherish the Bible, to pray and to serve and follow God. A well-worn Bible, given to him by his mother, accompanied him throughout life, the inscription on the fly leaf read:

May this blest volume ever lie
Close to thy heart and near thine eye;
Till life's last hour thy soul engage,
And be thy chosen heritage.

Although Titus Salt was interested in the wool he had seen in Liverpool, he was wary. Once before he had experimented with a new type of wool and the firm had hovered on the brink of disaster as a result. Donskoi wool, a product of sheep from Russia was a coarse and somewhat tangled fibre and not obviously well adapted for the fine fabrics in demand particularly in the worsted industry. Titus had bought a large quantity and tried to sell it to the manufacturers, but no one would take the risk of buying it from him.

As a result, the days were bleak for the firm, but Titus was not one to give in easily. He still thought there was potential in Donskoi wool. If he could not sell it, he decided, he would spin it into yarn and weave it himself. So he bought a disused mill, fitted it up with the necessary machinery and began the process of weaving the Donskoi wool. To the astonishment of all the other manufacturers, it turned into the most beautiful fabric. This single product shot the ailing Daniel Salt firm to success. Soon two more Bradford mills were purchased to cope with the increasing demand.

Now in a better financial position Titus also had other matters in mind besides buying wool. On a business trip to Grimsby he had found time to pay a visit to a farmer with a numerous family. Rumour had it that among his children were some very beautiful