IDA MAY HAIGH

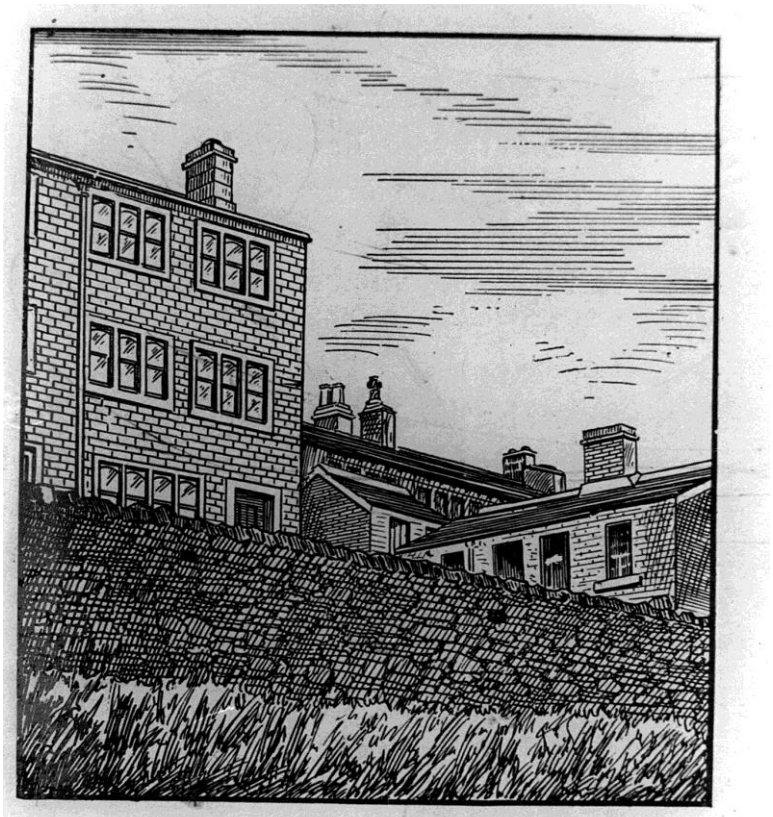
The Child Vocalist of Golcar

1892 – 1904

During her short life, Ida May gave pleasure to thousands of people with her magnificent soprano voice. According to John Griffiths, Headmaster of Knowl Bank School where Ida was a pupil, her voice was like that of a mature adult and not that of a child. Loved by all who met her, she was in constant demand as a soloist all over this area of Yorkshire & Lancashire. At 5pm on September 22nd 1904, Ida May died from a brain haemorrage ; she was only 12 years old.

After a moving funeral at Providence Chapel, crowds of people lined the streets as the mournful cortege made its way to the hillside churchyard at Wellhouse.

Hers is a very short story.



Ida's Home at Taylor Row.
Drawn from Photo. by F. Sandford.

Ida May was born in this house in Taylor Row, on May 26th 1892. She was the seventh child of James & Alice Haigh.

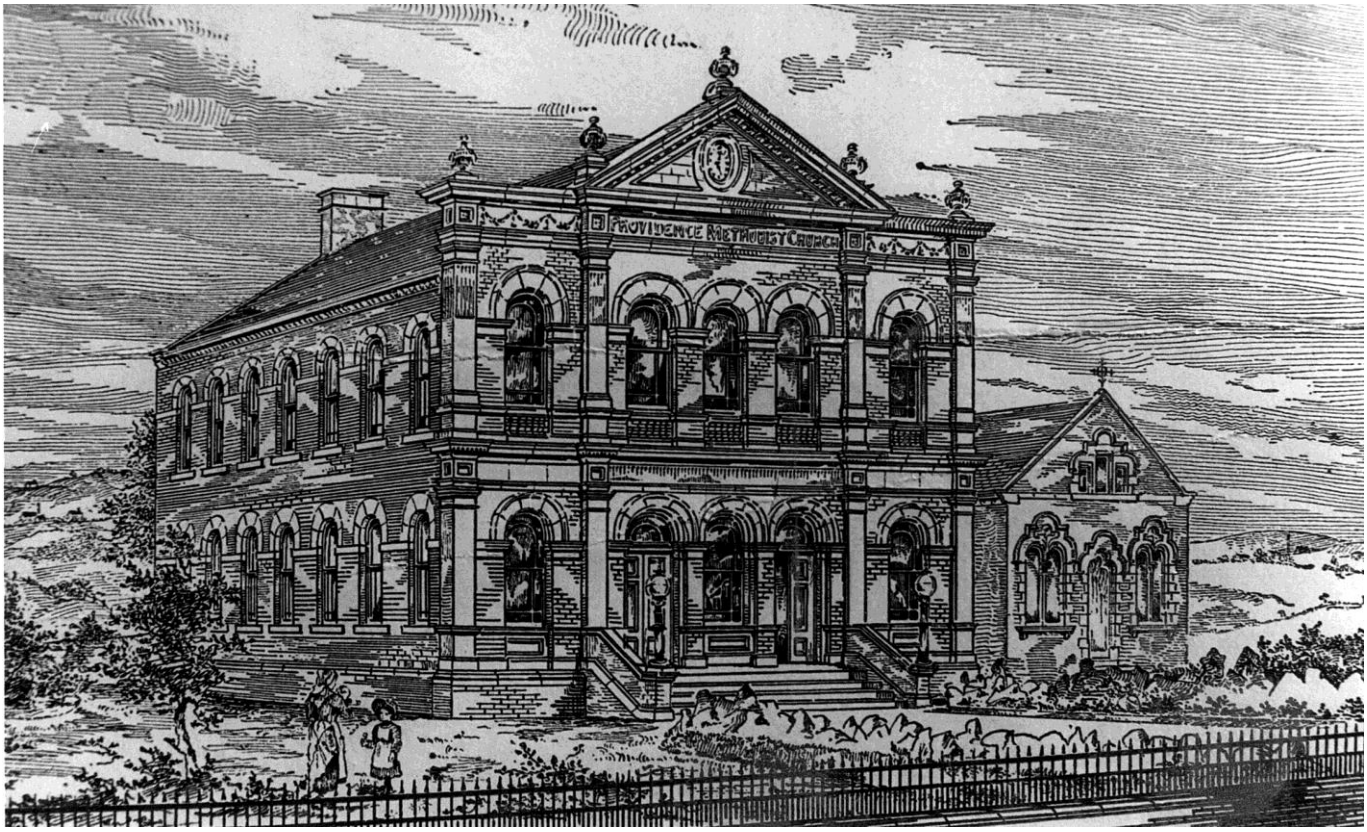
Sadly, only three of them survived childhood.

H. Bowker, Brook Lane.

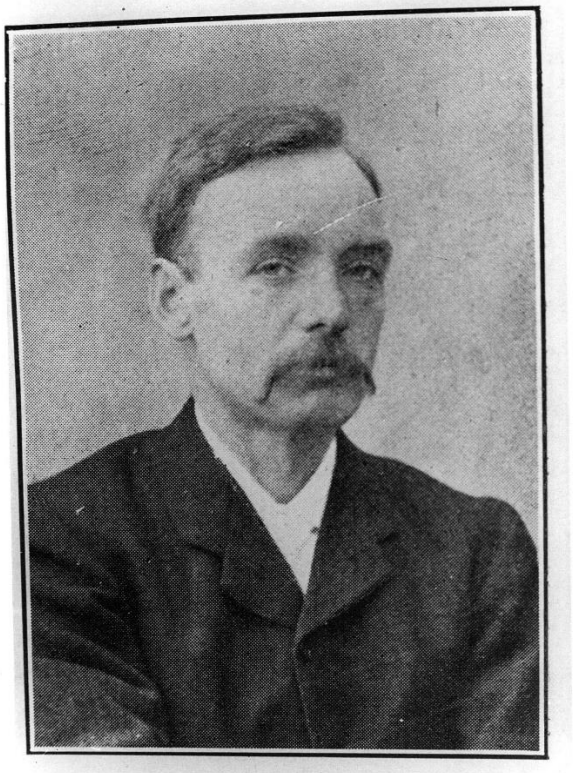
This is Mr W H Bowker, one of the Sunday School superintendents at Providence, who read the appreciations of Ida at her memorial service om Sunday October 2nd, 1904.

Of Ida, he said:

"The school has lost its brightest scholar, the choir its sweetest singer, the village its future star...knowing Ida, we were obliged to love her, the sweetness of her character, the gentleness of her nature, and the beautiful spirit she displayed in all of her dealings with all people who came into contact with her, drew us irresistibly towards her, and now that she is not there, is an aching void in all our lives'.



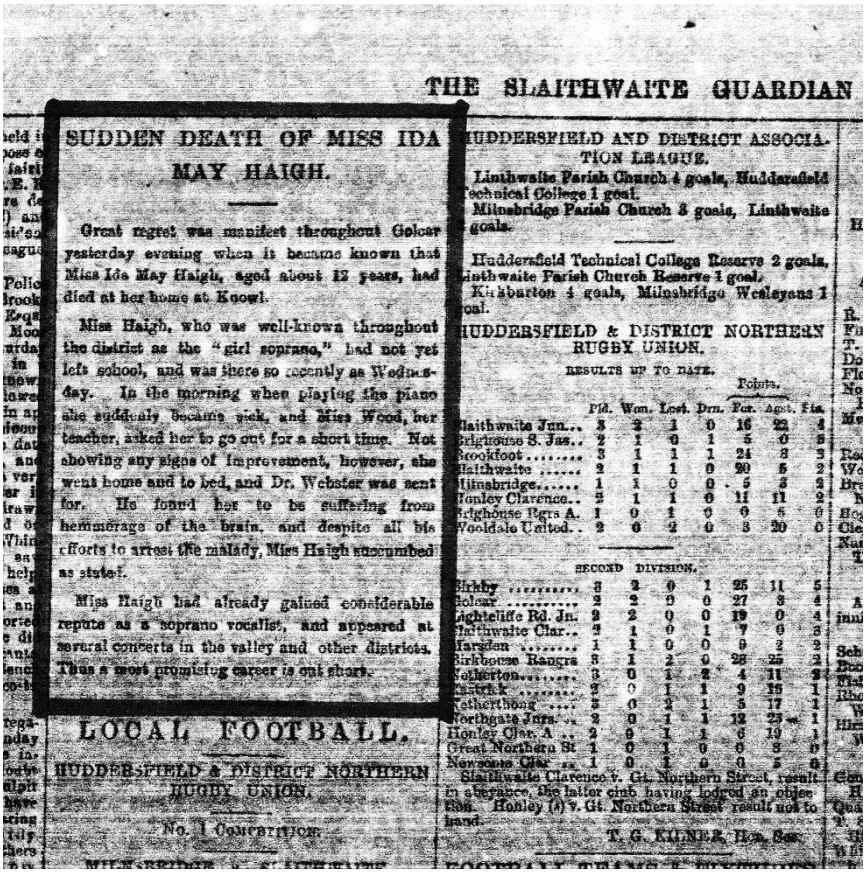
Providence Methodist New Connexion Church and Sunday School, where Ida May was a member of both the Sunday School and the choir.



Mr. F. Sandford.

Mr F. Sandford, organist at Providence, and Ida's piano & singing teacher.

Ida May Haigh, at age 11



THE SLAITHWAITE GUARDIAN

SUDDEN DEATH OF MISS IDA MAY HAIGH.

Great regret was manifest throughout Golcar yesterday evening when it became known that Miss Ida May Haigh, aged about 12 years, had died at her home at Knowl.

Miss Haigh, who was well-known throughout the district as the "girl soprano," had not yet left school, and was there so recently as Wednesday. In the morning when playing the piano she suddenly became sick, and Miss Wood, her teacher, asked her to go out for a short time. Not showing any signs of improvement, however, she went home and to bed, and Dr. Webster was sent for. He found her to be suffering from hemmorage of the brain, and despite all his efforts to arrest the malady, Miss Haigh succumbed as stated.

Miss Haigh had already gained considerable repute as a soprano vocalist, and appeared at several concerts in the valley and other districts. Thus a most promising career is cut short.

LOCAL FOOTBALL.

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT NORTHERN RUGBY UNION.

No. 1 Competition.

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION LEAGUE.

Linthwaite Parish Church 4 goals, Huddersfield Technical College 1 goal.

Milnsbridge Parish Church 3 goals, Linthwaite 2 goals.

Huddersfield Technical College Reserve 2 goals, Linthwaite Parish Church Reserve 1 goal.

Kirkburton 4 goals, Milnsbridge Wesleyans 1 goal.

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT NORTHERN RUGBY UNION.

RESULTS UP TO DATE.

	Pld.	Won.	Lost.	Drn.	Points For.	Points Agst.	Pts.
Slaithwaite Jun...	3	2	1	0	16	22	4
Brighouse S. Jas..	2	1	0	1	5	0	3
Brookfoot.....	3	1	1	1	24	3	3
Slaithwaite	2	1	1	0	20	5	2
Milnsbridge.....	1	1	0	0	5	2	2
Honley Clarence..	2	1	1	0	11	11	2
Brighouse Rgrs A.	1	0	1	0	0	5	0
Woodsome United..	2	0	2	0	3	20	0

SECOND DIVISION.

Birkby	3	2	0	1	25	11	5
Golcar	2	2	0	0	27	3	4
Lightcliffe Rd. Jn.	2	2	0	0	19	0	4
Slaithwaite Clar..	2	1	0	1	7	0	3
Marsden	1	1	0	0	9	2	2
Birkhouse Rangrs	3	1	2	0	28	25	2
Golcar Utd.....	3	0	1	2	4	11	2
Cartwick	2	0	1	1	9	16	1
Netherthong	3	0	2	1	5	17	1
Northgate Juns..	2	0	1	1	12	23	1
Honley Clar. A ..	2	0	1	1	6	19	1
Great Northern St	1	0	1	0	0	3	0
Newsome Clar	1	0	1	0	0	5	0

Slaithwaite Clarence v. Gt. Northern Street, result in abeyance, the latter club having lodged an objection. Honley (A) v. Gt. Northern Street result not to hand.

T. G. KILNER, Hon. Sec.

The announcement of Ida May's death in the Slaithwaite Guardian.

The full press account of Ida May's funeral

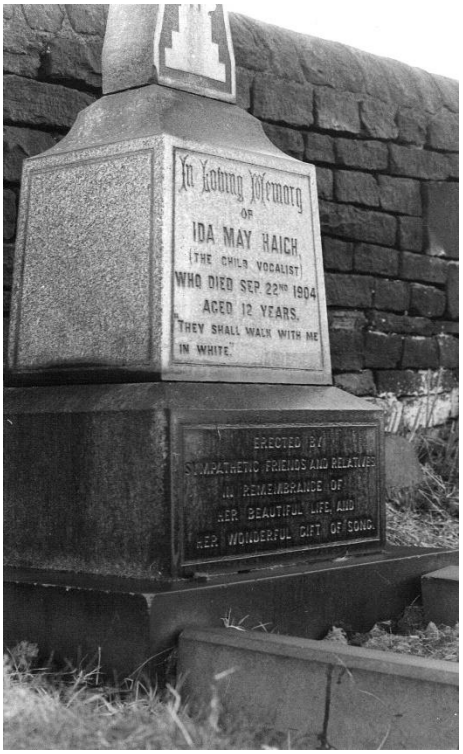
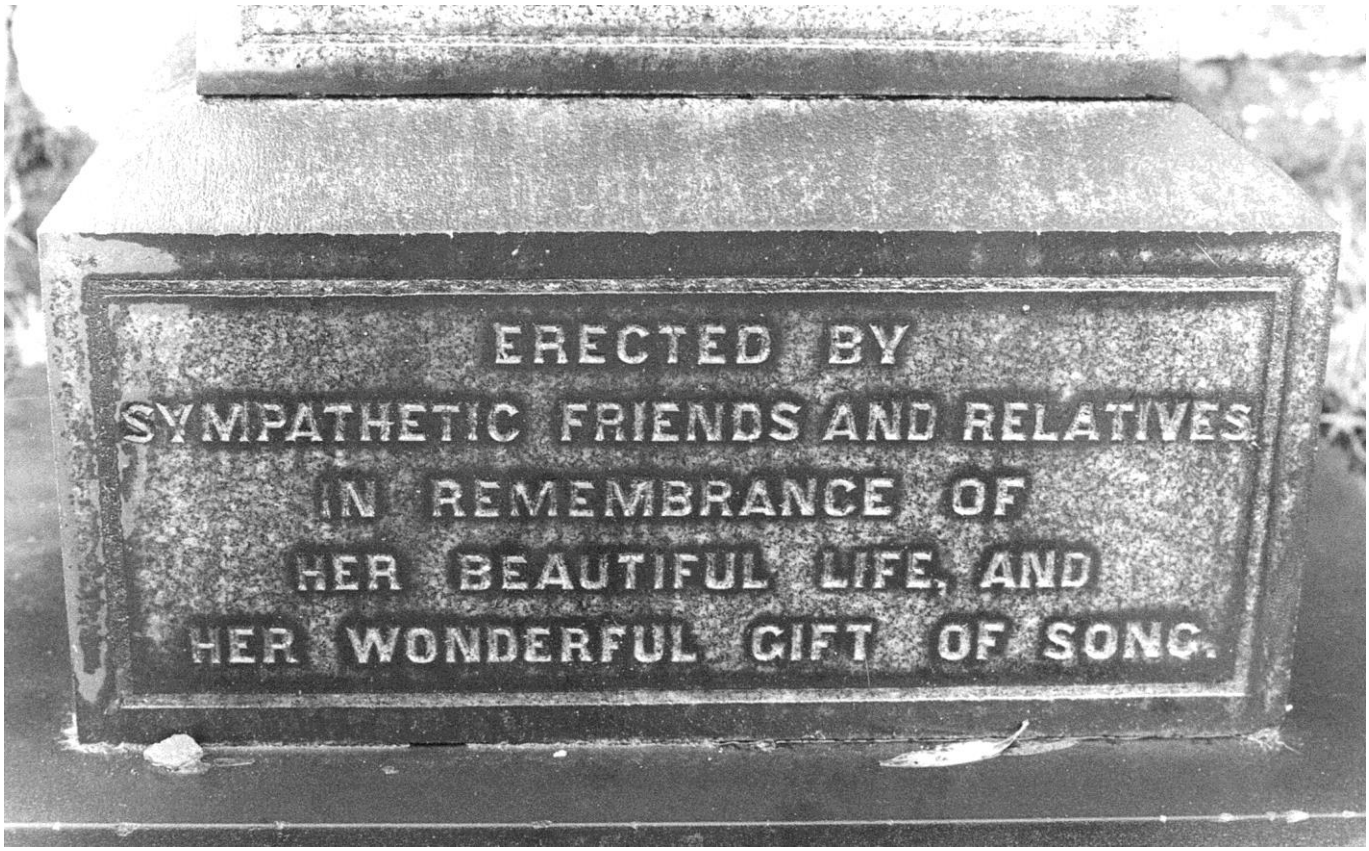
GOLCAR.

LONG LIZA washes everything. 1½l.

CAPTAIN LLOYD AT WESTWOOD.—The friends at the Westwood Mission Church had a welcome visit from their old friend, Captain Lloyd (now stationed at Leicester) on the occasion of the harvest festival which was held last Sunday. The Captain had endeared himself to all hearts whilst at Golcar, and it was no surprise to find large congregations assembled at all the three services, chiefly in the morning, when the attendance constituted a record. The morning and evening services were conducted by Captain Lloyd, while in the afternoon Captain Tarplee was the preacher. The church was very tastefully decorated, and presented a beautiful appearance. In the afternoon the choir sang the anthem "God said" (Macfarren), and in the evening "Great and marvellous" (Turner.) In the latter the duet was exceedingly well rendered by Miss Alice M. Sykes and Mr. J. W. Taylor. Mr. Joe Hoyle conducted as usual, and Mr. Elon Crowther presided at the organ. The collections also were the largest on record, and amounted to £10 13s. 9d.

YOUNG VOCALIST'S FUNERAL.—The remains of the late Miss Ida May Haigh, the popular young vocalist, whose painfully sudden death we recorded last week, were laid to rest in the graveyard attached to the Wellhouse Methodist New Connexion Church, on Saturday afternoon last amidst many manifestations of regret. The cortège left the house at two o'clock, and proceeded to the Providence Methodist Church, where a most impressive service was held. As the mourners entered the church the organist, Mr. Fred Sanford, played "O rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn). The officiating ministers were the Rev. J. Fleming, superintendent of the High Street circuit, and the Rev. J. Hibbert, of Shipley. The chapel was crowded with people, and scarcely a face was dry, as the ministers referred to the short, but sweet life of the one who had gone before. When the service was concluded, the organist played the "Dead March" in Saul. The mournful procession was then re-formed, and proceeded to Wellhouse. First there came large numbers of the members and friends from the Providence Chapel. Then in succession the members of Miss Haigh's Sunday School class, attired in white dresses, and each carrying a beautiful bouquet of white flowers, together with their teachers—Misses A. K. Taylor and Louisa Taylor; the teachers from the Knowl Bank Provided School (at which the deceased was, up to the previous Wednesday, a scholar); the Providence choir (of which Miss Haigh had been a member for some time); next came the hearse containing the coffin, following which were the members of the family, relatives, and friends. The male members of the choir acted as bearers. The streets were thickly lined with people, and blinds were drawn along the route of the procession. On arrival at Wellhouse another short service was held, appropriate music being discoursed on the organ by Mr. Fred Gledhill. The coffin containing the remains was then borne to its last resting-place. Many floral tributes were placed upon the grave—another sad testimony to the esteem in which the popular little girl was held. One of these was sent by the Knowl Bank teachers, and another by the Providence choir. The latter bore the following verse in addition to an appropriate inscription:—

"In the bright and golden legend,
With its pearly gates so fair,
She is singing with the angels,
E'en more sweetly than down here,
Yes, there's room."

Only three weeks before Miss Haigh sang the hymn, of which the above verse is a portion, in the Sunday School, with perfect sweetness, and now she is gone. At the Sunday School on Sunday morning sympathetic reference was made to the sad event by Mr. B. Collinson (president), and the superintendents—Messrs. W. H. Taylor and W. H. Bowker. It has been arranged to hold a memorial service on Sunday afternoon next. Last Sunday a pathetic incident occurred. Miss Haigh's seat was vacant in the choir pews, and another little girl—Miss Collinson—from whom Miss Haigh had been inseparable, could not on any account be persuaded to move up in her place. The little girl has taken the loss to heart as greatly as anyone.

The re-discovery of Ida May's grave, at Wellhouse, by Malcolm Fairless