

Reading the small print

A key information source for local and family historians, has to be the 10-year British Library newspaper archive project. A collaboration between the British Library and the genealogy company *Find My Past*, the aim is to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from year 1700 onwards. For a fee one can browse, read, save and download references to people, places and events – and this is what we've been doing for the Fishergate area, starting with Grange Street. Obviously the creation of the street dates from the 19th C. so press reports are in that time frame and the clarity of the printed text is variable.

**GATE FULFORD.
GRANGE CRESCENT AND GRANGE STREET,
NEAR YORK.**

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr. THOMAS WALKER, at his AUCTION MART, in New-street, York, THIS DAY, THURSDAY, the 13th day of August, at SIX o'clock for HALF-PAST in the Evening, subject to the Conditions of Sale to be then produced,

**LOT 6.
GRANGE CRESCENT.**

All those Two FREEHOLD MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, with the Yards, Gardens, and Outbuildings thereto adjoining and belonging, situate in Grange Crescent, near the City of York, but in the Township of Gate Fulford, in the East Riding of the County of York, now in the occupation of Mr. Rayson and Mr. Benjamin Widdison.

**LOT 7.
GRANGE STREET.**

Also all those Four FREEHOLD MESSUAGES or DWELLING HOUSES, with the Yards, Gardens, and Outbuildings thereto adjoining and belonging, situate in Grange-street, near the City of York, but in the said Township of Gate Fulford, now in the occupation of Mr. Quarton and others.

The whole of the above Property is of recent erection, and presents an eligible investment to purchasers.

For further particulars apply to
Mr. WILLIAM WALKER, Solicitor,
August 7th, 1874. 18, Lendal, York.

Who lived where?

Left: cutting from the York Herald, 13th August 1874.

Pinpointing previous occupants of Grange Street and how the street developed is tricky. The mixture of architectural styles shows how the land was built upon in stages and, confusingly, the street numbering system changed as new properties were constructed. The usual sources of census, electoral registers and so on provide a wealth of information but reports in the newspapers of the past enable us to glimpse actual events in people's lives.

In the advert, Grange Crescent was the previous name for the curved part of Fulford Road stretching from Grange St to approximately The Light Horseman.

The York Ground

We were intrigued by newspaper sports reports of Rugby matches being played at "the York ground, Grange Street". Right: a cutting from the Yorkshire Post & Leeds Intelligencer of Monday 23rd February 1885 and below, one from the York Herald, 29th December 1884.

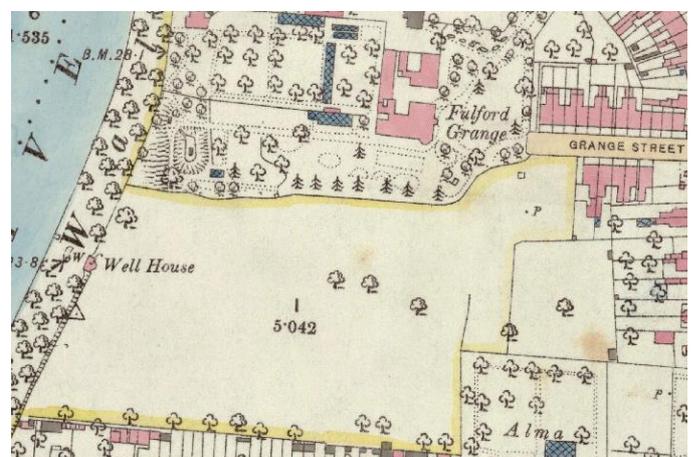
YORK v. HUDDERSFIELD.

The return match between these teams was played on the York ground, Grange Street, in the presence of the largest assemblage of spectators of any match during the season. York kicked off against a strong wind and a slightly rising ground, and soon after scrimmages were

MR. WOOD'S v. YORK "A" TEAM.

A match was played on the York Ground, Grange-street, Fulford-road, between York (A team) and a fifteen selected by Mr. C. Wood, the old county half-back, the proceeds being devoted to the York County Hospital. The weather was frosty but favourable, and

So, where was this ground? It seems that as sections of land were sold off for housing, Mr Isaac Poad of The Grange estate, allowed the unused "Poad's Fields" situated between what is now Rosedale Street, Grange Garth and the river, to be a temporary home for the York rugby club. One report refers to the "Melbourne Club". No doubt the club holds records of the transaction. The map section shows what we assume is the area of Poad's Fields in 1892.



FRIDAY NEXT.
GRANGE STREET, FULFORD ROAD.

MR. THOS. WALKER is instructed by Mrs. M. A. Baker to **SELL BY AUCTION**, on the premises, as above, on **FRIDAY** next, the 17th day of **SEPTEMBER, 1880**, the whole of the **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** and **EFFECTS**, comprising Mahogany Sideboard, Two Mahogany Sofas, Mahogany Easy Chair, Six Single Mahogany Chairs, Derby Chair, Mahogany Folding Table, Square Dining Table, Oak Table, Oval Mahogany Table with fall leaves, Cane-seated Chairs, Eight Days' Clock in oak case, Round Table, Kidderminster and other Carpets, Hearthrugs, Skin Mats, Cocoa Mats, Oil Cloth, Stairs Carpets and Brass Rods, Two Mahogany Tudor Bedsteads and Drapery, Folding Iron Bedstead and Mattress, Commode, Feather Beds, Bolsters, and Pillows; Straw, Flock, and Hair Mattresses; Oak and Painted Chests of Drawers, Painted Dressing Tables and Washstands, Mahogany Toilet Glasses, Dinner and Tea Services, Glass; Sitting, Bed Room, and Kitchen Fenders and Fire Irons; Coal Vases, Hassocks, Wire Plant Stand, Scales and Weights, &c.; together with the whole of the Culinary Utensils.

Sale at **ONE o'Clock**.
 On View from **TEN o'Clock** on Morning of Sale.

Households

Classified adverts provide an insight into the circumstances of 19th C. households. Left: this For Sale advert from The Yorkshire Gazette, **11th September 1880** shows an extensive list of items from a single small household. Unfortunately, we don't have a record of which house Mrs M.A. Baker lived in.

Advertisements for staff were often featured. York Evening Press of **28th March 1894**:

WANTED a Clean Respectable Girl, about 16 years, as **GENERAL SERVANT**.—Apply 11, Grange-street, Fulford-road.

As were those re. accommodation: YEP, **27th May 1896**:

A PARTMENTS.—Comfortable Bedroom and Sitting-Room to **LET**.—Apply 7, Grange-street, Fulford-road, York.

V.C. FOR YORK MAN.

Lance-Corporal H. B. Wood, 2nd Scots Guards who has been awarded the Victoria Cross, and is the first York man to win the honour in the war is the son of Mr and Mrs J. Wood, of Grange Street, Fulford, York. Mrs Wood has received a telegram of congratulation from the Lord Mayor (Sir Forster Todd) who expresses the hope of offering him a public reception at the Mansion House on his return.

The honour was awarded for conspicuous gallantry at St. Python, France, on October 13th, 1918, when he took command of a platoon after his sergeant was killed, and "his gallant conduct and initiative shown contributed largely to the success of the day's operations." Lance-Sergeant Wood was born at Newton-on-Derwent, near York. He already holds the Military Medal.

Some times there might be cause for celebration: *left* - the Newcastle Journal, **18th December 1918**

NOT AT ALL EXACTING.

THE MALTON GUARDIANS RECEIVE A CURIOUS LETTER.

At the Malton Board of Guardians, this morning, the following curious letter was read:

Grange Street, Fulford, York.

Gentlemen,—I read this week that you seem to have a few children in the Union, and, feeling lonely, I would like to come across a little girl without friends to claim her again. Fair, small, regular features, small well-shaped head, large eyes and expressive countenance, small mouth, nice shaped nose, small ears, dimple chin, lovable disposition, tall and thin, deserted, curly hair, flaxen, age from one year to three or four. Like means and clothes with it if you can, take without if you can't. Loving home, every care; also would like middle-age lady in the Union without friends, like maintenance and clothes. Give companionship, Like two little girls with money—one if nothing. Good board. Would send down. Lady, refined, seen better days.

A. Cummidge.

(Laughter.)
 Mr. Preston said no mention was made of the size of her feet.
 The matter then dropped.

CHILD VICTIMS.

Betty Thewlis (6), of Wenlock Terrace, Fulford, was knocked down and killed by a motor-'bus while crossing the road at the end of Grange Street, York, yesterday. Her four-year-old brother, Frank, was hit by the 'bus, but fell between the front wheels and was unhurt.

Above: at other times it was sad news that reached the papers. York Press and Leeds Intelligencer, **12th September 1930**

By Glennis Whyte, January 2020

Above: York Evening Press, **24th August 1912**. This would be Miss Lavinia Maud Cammidge (not Cummidge) who lived with her brother at what is now No. 9 Grange St. Was it really necessary for the Malton Guardians and the reporter to make her heartfelt letter public and present her as an object of fun?