

William Bindloss



Born: 23 October 1800

Died: 8 January 1872

SILK MANUFACTURER



William Bindloss 1800 - 1872

The combination of a large private vault in the churchyard at the eastern end and an unusual surname is sure to arouse some curiosity. And this is certainly the case with William Bindloss. The surname actually has a strong resonance in Cumbria.



The evidence has shown that there have been three generations of the Bindloss family in the Eccles area. And all connected with the silk industry.

In the book *THE SILK INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM: Its Origin and Development.* by Sir FRANK WARNER, K.B.E., he wrote:

Cotton may actually be junior to silk in Manchester in point of years, as it manifestly is in England generally, and this now dominant industry was of small importance in the 18th century. Cotton was not

spun by machinery until a later date than silk was so spun. Lombe brought his throwing machine to practical success in 1718, but it was not until 1767 that the jenny was invented by Hargreaves, and 1785 before Arkwright patented the mule. Not until 1781 was the first cotton mill erected in Manchester. ...

A momentous change then in progress facilitated the introduction of silk-weaving. Cottons were being produced by power-looms in place of hand-looms, and as a result a great number of trained weavers found their labour superfluous. Some of the dispossessed cotton-weavers turned their hands to a "reed of coarse silk shot with worsted"; a description not incompatible with an assumption that spun waste silk was used in Manchester for warps, as later it was in Bradford. ...

The hand-loom weavers inhabited a number of out districts, of which some were wide of Manchester: — Gorton, Newton Heath, Harpurhey, Middleton, Stand, Radcliffe, Pendlebury, Worsley, Eccles and West Leigh. ...

Research in 1832 showed that there were about 8,700 looms in Manchester and its environs of which not quite 6,000 were employed in the "neat silk trade," (Cope to Parliament in 1832).

Taking the average of three years 1815-17 as a base it appears that in 1818-20 the increase in the cotton trade was 22% and in silk 31%, and in 1824-25 it was 83% and 156%.

The name **Bindloss** came to be well-known throughout Manchester during the nineteenth century as a silk manufacturer and a silk throwster. There were partnerships with other gentlemen - hence Norbury & Bindloss, and Bindloss & Preston. Some places and buildings came to bear the name, such as Bindloss Avenue, Eccles, and Bindloss Chambers in Chapel Walks, off King Street, Manchester. Bindloss Avenue was named after **William Bindloss**, a Victorian silk merchant whose mill was in Silk Street in Eccles. Here, in its own grounds, stood the imposing 14 bedroom mansion that Bindloss built around **1840** for use when visiting the city on business. Sadly, it has fallen into a state of disrepair.

Club houses could also be found on Cheapside, which is the street connecting King Street to Chapel Walks. This was the location of the Princes' Club, which opened in 1863, in **Bindloss Chambers**, a building formerly used as a warehouse for the Manchester silk brokers, Bindloss & Preston. Clubland in the northern provincial city was a social, political and commercial playground for the Victorian middle-class man.

*James son of Tho^r and Elizabeth Taylor
23 William son of James Backhouse and Mary Bindloss
24 Elizabeth Da^ug^{hter} of Thomas and Sarah Bindloss*

Baptised 23 October 1800 at St. Ann's Manchester. To James Backhouse and Mary Bindloss.

James Backhouse Bindloss married Mary Gardner at Manchester Collegiate Church on 6 January 1800. They had 9 children, 6 sons (**William** b.1800, James b.1802, Robert b.1803, Thomas Gardner b.1804, George b.1806, Backhouse b.1808 and Henry b.1814) and 3 daughters (Mary Eleanor b.1810 and Mabel Louisa b.1812 and Mary b.1815). James came from Heversham, Westmorland, where he was baptised in June 1772. His father Richard

No. 20 } *James Backhouse Bindloss* of this Parish & Town of Manchest^r
Merch^{ant} and Mary Gardner of Manchest^r Spinster were
Married in this Church by *Lieut^{enant} Ric^h M^r Brookes* Surv^{eyor}
of this *Parish* Day of *Jan^y* in the Year One Thousand eight Hundred
and *00* By me *Jos. Brookes*
This Marriage was solemnized between Us { *James Backhouse Bindloss*
Mary Gardner
in the Presence of { *Ann Bennick*
Rich^d Bindloss

had married Ellen Backhouse on 8 November 1755 at Crosthwaite and this helps to explain the presence of the name Backhouse within a few generations of the family. James was buried at St. Mary's, Manchester, on 30 January 1828, aged 55, and his abode was Adelphi, Salford. His will, written on 7 June 1827, and lodged at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, was five pages long, and written in Old English Text, but he described himself as a silk merchant. Mary herself died on 18 February 1859 at her abode at 43 Buile Hill, Salford, where she was living with her son Backhouse. Like her husband, she was buried at St. Mary's, Manchester, aged 80.

In the census of 1841, Mary was living at Adelphi Terrace, Salford, aged 65, together with Backhouse, 29, and Henry, 20, and 3 servants. [Ages given in the 1841 census were never accurate. For adults, they were frequently rounded down to a factor of 5; and often people seemed unsure of how old they truly were!! Ed.]

The silk business was taken on by several members of the family, notably **William**. He had married Ann Lees, by licence, at St. John's, Manchester, on 30 October 1828.

They were to have 4 children. Louisa Ann b.1830, Mary Emily b.1833, William Robert b.1836 and James Backhouse b.1840, all of whom were baptised at St. Mary's, Manchester.

No. 38.
William Bindloss of this Parish
and Township of Salford *Silk Merchant*
and *Ann Lees* of same Parish
and Place Spinster
were married in this Church by *licence* with Consent of
this *Parish* Day of
October in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *twenty eight*
By me *Rob Dallas*
This Marriage was solemnized between us { *W Bindloss*
Ann Lees
In the Presence of { *Geo Bindloss*
Maria Lees
No. 39.

They were to have 4 children. Louisa Ann b.1830, Mary Emily b.1833, William Robert b.1836 and James Backhouse b.1840, all of whom were baptised at St. Mary's, Manchester.

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At the time of the **1841** census, the young family was living at Gilda Brook, Eccles. William (40); Ann (40); Louisa (10); William (5); James (1); plus 2 servants. Mary Emily had died at age 1. William's occupation was Silk Manufacturer.

In a trade directory of **1831**, the company of Bindloss & Preston, silk throwsters, Bentcliffe, was mentioned. And in the directory of Pigot & Co. in 1837, under the heading SILKMEN (See also Manufacturers of Silk), appeared the business of Bindloss and Preston, 6 Cheapside.

Bentcliffe probably referred to Bentcliffe Mill which was the first to be constructed in Eccles, possibly pre-1800, and its extensive reservoir, which originally stretched north about a mile, strongly suggests that it was originally water-powered. Ainsworth, Bentley & Fogg occupied the mill up to 1829. Then it was leased, (from the Trustees of Thomas Watkins of Ardwick between 1836 and 1842), by the silk throwsters Bindloss and Pearson. 'Throwsting' was the equivalent of cotton spinning, and involved unwinding the silk thread from the cocoon, cleaning and polishing it. Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania, vol. 4,(1829), states: '*It might, by a more intelligible expression, be called twisted silk*', this as opposed to thrown silk (or raw silk).

The Manchester Music Festival Fancy Dress Ball took place in September **1836** and several hundred local businessmen and officials all attended a grand gala on Mosley Street, Manchester, held throughout several connected buildings. Mr. William Bindloss of Yew Tree Cottage appeared in a modern court dress. This was not the first occasion that he had attended this function.

The London Gazette then printed this notice:

*Take notice, that the partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned, **William Bindloss** and Edward Preston, of Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, as Silk Merchants and Brokers under the firm of Bindloss and Preston, has been dissolved, the said William Bindloss retiring from the concern. All debts will be received and paid by the said Edward Preston, at the counting-house of the late partnership, in Cheapside, Manchester. - Dated this 15th day of April **1847**.*

W. Bindloss

Edwd. Preston

The **1851** census then gave us the following information. The family was living at Elm Bank, Gilda Brook Road, Eccles. William was now a Retired Silk Merchant. He was 50 and with him were Ann (50); Louisa Ann (20); William Robert (14); James B. (10); plus 2 servants. Ten years later, very little has changed. The **1861** census showed: Elm Bank, Eccles. William (60); Ann (61); William Robert (24); James Backhouse (20); plus 2 servants. By the time of the **1871** census, there were some changes. The address was now Bindloss Avenue, Eccles, and, of the family, only William and Ann were resident. The census showed William (70); Ann (71); Retired Silk Merchant. With Lucy Morris, Companion, and 2 servants.

WILL. The Will with a Codicil of William Bindloss late of Eccles in the County of Lancaster Esquire who died 8 January **1872** at Eccles was proved on 20 July 1872 at Manchester by William Robert Bindloss of The Laurels, Pendleton, in the said County, Merchant; and James Backhouse Bindloss of The Larches, Eccles, Merchant, the Sons; Thomas Doughty Pritchard of Lawnfield, near Eccles, Iron Merchant; and William Eckersley Guest of Foster's Wood, Pendleton, and of Manchester in the said County, Calico Printer; four of the Executors. Effects at under £80,000. [This would equate to over £9m today].

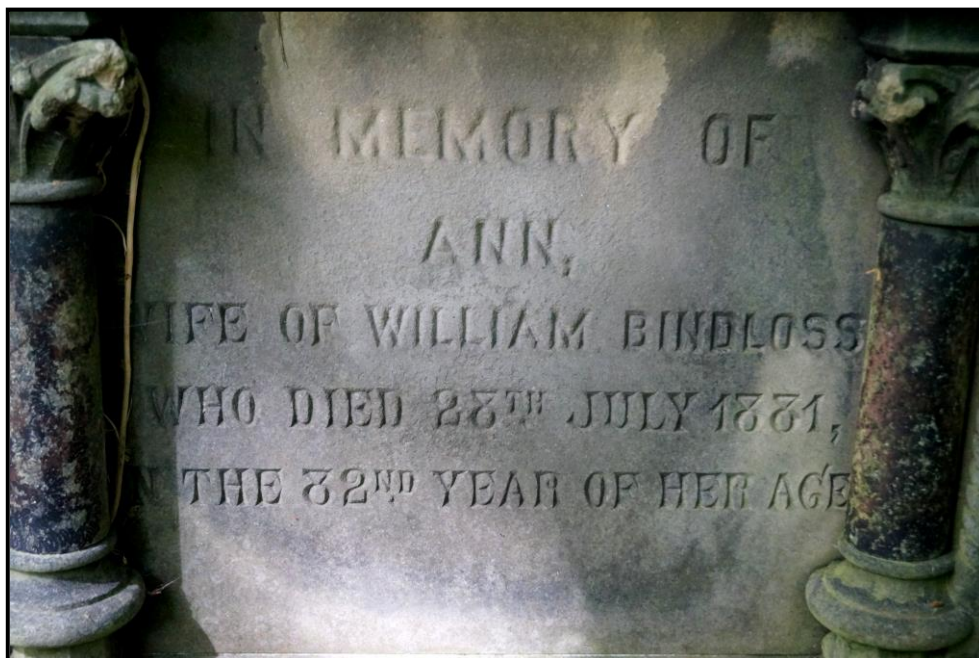
Other members of the Bindloss buried in the churchyard are:

William Robert Bindloss - Age: 40 yrs. Abode: Pendleton. Buried 4 October 1876

Ann Bindloss - Age: 81 yrs. Abode: Eccles. Buried 3 August 1881

Bertha Bindloss - Age: 44 yrs. Abode: Eccles. Buried 18 February 1885
 Ethel Louise Bindloss - Age: 70 years. Abode: 19 Half Edge Lane, Eccles. Buried 22 August 1950
 John Kenworthy Bindloss - Age: 76. Abode: 19 Half Edge Lane, Eccles. Buried 9 November 1955
 James B. Bindloss - Age: 84. Abode: 19 Half Edge Lane, Eccles. Buried 14 April 1988
 Edith Bindloss - Age: 86. Abode: Ellesmere House, 1 Sandwich Road, Eccles. Buried 7 January 1993

William's widow, Ann, died on 28 July **1881** and was buried in the family vault in St. Mark's churchyard on 3 August 1881.



<i>Ann Bindloss</i>	<i>Eccles</i>	<i>August 3rd 81</i>	<i>William H. Baynes</i>	<i>In Vault</i>
No. 1026		<i>4 years</i>		

[St. Mark's Burial Registers]

It is an interesting feature of the life of William Bindloss that the name Backhouse features so frequently as a middle name, as does the surname Kenworthy in a later generation. Furthermore, that the full name James Backhouse Bindloss appears through several generations.

William's own father was the first to have that full name, James Backhouse Bindloss (born 1772). William himself named his second son (and fourth child) in exactly the same form (born 1840); and he too named a son (born 1875) James Backhouse Bindloss (died 1932). So, this name existed effectively for 160 years. Another boy was born on 31 March 1904 to John Kenworthy Bindloss, stockbroker, of Half Edge Lane, Eccles - and he too was given the same full name! And he was buried in the churchyard in 1988, thereby extending the range of this name to 216 years!!

No. 595.						
2 July Born 30 May	James William Backhouse Son of Ann	William & Ann	Bindloss	Eccles	Silk man	J. Hasper
No. 596.						

Manchester, St. Mary's. 2 July 1840

22 June	William Robert son of	William & Ann	Bindloss	Eccles	Silk Merchant	H. K. Keeling
No. 511.						

Manchester, St. Mary's. 22 June 1836

1871 census. Bindloss Avenue, Eccles.

William (70); Ann (71); Retired Silk Merchant. With Lucy Morris, Companion, and 2 servants.

1861 census. Elm Bank, Eccles. William (60); Ann (61); William Robert (24); James Backhouse (20); plus 2 servants.

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1841 census. Gilda Brook, Eccles. William (40); Ann (40); Louisa (10); William (5); James (1); plus 2 servants.

Bindloss Avenue, named after **William Bindloss**, a Victorian silk merchant whose mill was in Silk Street in Eccles. Here, in its own grounds, is the imposing 14 bedroom mansion that Bindloss built around **1840** for use when visiting the city on business.

Bindloss & Preston, silk throwsters, Bentcliffe
Bindloss William, silkman, house Yew-tree cottage

SILKMEN.

(See also Manufacturers of Silk.)

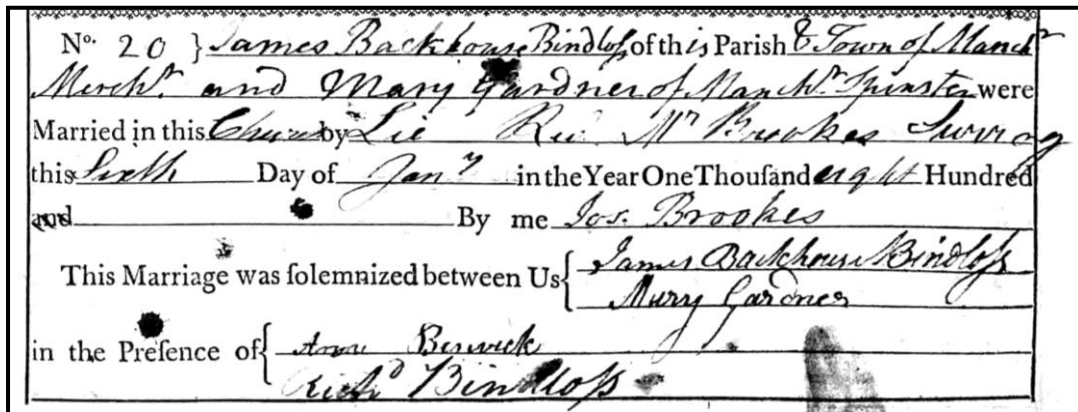
Bindloss and Preston, 6 Cheapside (1837 Pigot & Co.)

Bindloss and Ash, 30 Spring gardens (manufacturers of silk) This was George!!

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24	Elizabeth Daughter of Thomas and Sarah Bindloss

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Bindloss Chambers, 4 Chapel Walks, Manchester



12 September 1828 - will of James Backhouse Bindloss.

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Edwd. Preston

1831

William Bindloss, silkman, Yew Tree Cottage
Bindloss & Preston silk throwsters, Bentcliffe

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v. The Guardian 3 March 1847, page 8

