



## **The Parkinson, Singleton and Hoyle Families**

by Honor Smethurst

I started my research in 1990 whilst my mother was still alive and we began by visiting Old Hive in Chipping, where her great-grandmother Elizabeth Parkinson had been born. Elizabeth was the only child of James Parkinson, a cordwainer, who married Hannah Singleton in 1840. Elizabeth married John Wilson who was christened at Bleasdale. John was the illegitimate son of Thomas Rhodes and Annis Wilson from Bashall Eaves. Annis was quite young and had probably worked on a Bleasdale farm. Elizabeth was 13 when her mother Hannah died in 1853 and her father then married John Wilson's mother, Annis, in 1854. [A similar situation had arisen in the previous generation, when widower Ralph Parkinson had married Annis Wilson's mother Alice in 1818. Annis was illegitimate too, her father being identified on her marriage certificate as Richard Walker – a complicated scenario!]

I found James Parkinson, Hannah Singleton, her father William, with his third wife Jane plus Elizabeth Hoyle's parents, James and Mary, all living at Old Hive in the 1841 Census. A significant link amongst them was James's uncle, Josiah Hoyle, a shoemaker, who lived with James for several decades, according to the 1841-1871 censuses. Ralph Parkinson's parents appear to be James Parkinson and Mary Procter and Ralph was a witness at his sister's wedding

Most of the families left the area and moved to Low Moor at Clitheroe to work at the mill. The photograph is of the Golden Wedding celebration of John Wilson and Elizabeth Parkinson. One of them I remember was Great Aunt Hannah. My grandfather, John Coates, was the eldest son of their eldest daughter, Margaret Ann. He was manager at the mill in Low Moor before it closed in the 1930s. Ralph and Alice Parkinson's son Edmund had a son called Ralph, who married my grandmother's aunt Elizabeth A. Riding.