

Samuel Lord Watkinson
(27th January 1874 – 31st March 1915)



Samuel Lord Watkinson and his wife Annie nee Charteris lived at The Grange, Lightcliffe and were both buried in plot F10 in St. Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe, on 3rd April 1915 and 23rd July 1923 respectively.



The Grange Lightcliffe

After Samuel Lord Watkinson's death on 31st March 1915 the following obituary appeared in the Brighouse Echo on Friday, 2nd April 1915.

Lightcliffe Gentleman's Death

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

S. L. WATKINSON

Residents of Hipperholme and Lightcliffe learned with very deep regret of the death of Mr Samuel Lord Watkinson, of the Grange which took place early on Wednesday morning. The deceased gentleman was only in his 42nd year. For some years he had not enjoyed robust health, and during the last five weeks he has been confined to his room, suffering from influenza. Death was due to heart failure following his indisposition.

Mr. S.L.Watkinson, son of the late Mr. George Watkinson, The Grange, Lightcliffe, was born at Newchurch, Rossendale, Jan 27th, 1874. When he was of school age, the family having come to live at The Grange, he went to Hipperholme Grammar School. Following that he attended Sedburgh Grammar School, passing to Trinity College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1897. While at Sedburgh, in 1893, he established the record for the public schools' mile race, running the distance in 4 min 39 sec.

At St.Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, he held office as vicar's warden for a considerable number of years, and up to the time of his death. He associated himself with all the church auxiliaries, including the Church Council. He also helped liberally, his gifts been quietly administered. In this way, too, he assisted all organisations in the district, and in this respect alone he will be much missed. He was proud to be a governor of Hipperholme Grammar School, of which he was an old boy. He generally helped at the annual school sports and provided prizes both for prowess in the field and in the school. His generosity was also shown by his gift of 100 guineas to Halifax Tradesmen's Benevolent Institution a few years ago, when a like sum was also given by his brother (Rev. Geo. Watkinson). His father also gave 200 guineas to the institution. Mr Watkinson took a great

interest in the society, and for two or three years served on the committee. Another instance of his generosity was his gift of £3,500 for building the tower of St. Matthew's Northowram, and putting in a peal of bells. Thus, he shares with his brother, who built the structure, in providing that magnificent and stately edifice. When the scheme was completed he had the honour of opening the tower, and first ringing the bells.

Mr Watkinson was a keen sportsman, being a good shot, and no mean golfer; in fact, in former years he was one of the foremost golfers of Halifax Golf Club, of which he was at one time president. Of Lightcliffe Golf Club he was a member and director. He was a member of the Halifax Club, and president of Lightcliffe Choral Society. At the County Council election, March 1910, when Conservatives throughout the Riding endeavoured to wrest seats from the Liberals, he was induced to accept nomination. The contest, keenly fought, but without any personal bitterness, resulted in Mr. Watkinson's election by 917 votes to 756. Unfortunately, ill-health interfered with his attendance, although on that body he earned the esteem of all parties.

He held a director's interest in Messrs. Geo Watkinson & Sons, Ltd., The Bradford Brick and Tile Co., and the Stone Bank Brick and Tile Co.

Mr Watkinson was of quiet unobtrusive disposition, generous and sympathetic, and his loss will be keenly felt. He married, in 1909, Annie, second daughter of Dr Charteris, Hipperholme, who survives him. There is one son. In addition to his brother, Rev George Watkinson (vicar of Northowram) there are two sisters, Mrs Whittington (wife of the vicar of Brighouse), and Mrs Coutts (wife of Dr. Coutts, Manchester).

The funeral will take place tomorrow (Saturday) morning at Lightcliffe Church.

Samuel Lord Watkinson was a member of the Watkinson family many of whom lived in and around Hipperholme. The Watkinson family stories and their connections with St. Matthew's Church and the area can be found on the website as can that of **The Charteris family**. This write up will concentrate on the immediate family.

Thirty-eight-year-old Annie Charteris of Amisfield House, Hipperholme married thirty-five-year-old Samuel Lord Watkinson, of The Grange, Lightcliffe on 22nd July 1909 at St. Matthew's Church Lightcliffe. The service was conducted by Samuel's older brother Reverend George Watkinson and the witnesses included Annie's siblings William and Ethel Weymess Charteris and Samuel's sister, Ethel Mary Whittington wife of the Lightcliffe curate Reverend Richard Piers Whittington.

Although the obituary notice only mentions "one son" – for obvious reasons - three children were actually born to Samuel Lord and Annie Watkinson. The eldest son William Edward Charteris Watkinson (known as Ted) was born on 31st May 1910 in Harrogate according to the 1911 census when the family resided at The Grange. His birth was registered in the Knaresborough district. Their second son, David, only survived for seven hours after he was born on 1st September 1911. He was buried the next day in plot R33 in St Matthew's churchyard. This was the plot his maternal grandfather Dr William Charteris owned which had already received two other young babies, William's own eight-month-old daughter Jessie Maclaurin Charteris, who died on 16th October 1870, and his granddaughter - and therefore David's cousin, - six-month-old Alison Catherine Davidson who died on 29th October 1899. Dr William Charteris, as Annie's father, probably attended the birth of this grandson, presumably at The Grange, Lightcliffe and then organised his infant burial.

And then on 22nd April 1915, just days after her father had died, Violet Corrie Watkinson was born again at The Grange, Lightcliffe.

There are two probate records for Samuel Lord Watkinson.

WATKINSON Samuel Lord of the Grange Lightcliffe Yorkshire died 31 March 1915 Probate London 17 August to reverend George Watkinson clerk Herbert Watkinson esquire John Lister Walsh solicitor and Annie Watkinson widow. Effects £222 139 11s 10d.

WATKINSON Samuel Lord [466] 21 October Samuel Lord Watkinson late of The Grange Lightcliffe York who died 31 March 1915 Probate granted at London the 17 August 1915 to Reverend George Watkinson Herbert Watkinson John L Walshe and Annie Watkinson the Widow. Resealed at Dublin Effects in Ireland £275

After Samuel Lord Watkinson's death and perhaps the death of her father in 1917 Annie and her two young children appear to have moved to Great Malvern, Worcestershire possibly with her younger spinster sister Ethel Weymess Charteris. She was there when she died on 20 July 1923. Her probate reads:-

WATKINSON Annie of St. Mary's Mount Great Malvern Worcestershire widow died 20 July 1923 probate London 13 October to the National Provincial and Union Bank of England limited and Ethel Wemyss Charteris spinster. Effects £13 351 8s 7d

Youngsters Ted and Violet Watkinson were then orphans. Were they looked after by their spinster aunt Ethel Weymss Charteris at St. Mary's Mount? Ted was certainly there with her in 1939 when he was recorded as being a "Dairy Farmer". Violet was not there as the previous year she had married Rodney Francis Turner.

During the 1930s dairy farmer W E C Watkinson seems to have been a rally driver. Below are some extracts from an internet article that can be found at:

<http://triple-mregister.org/bulletinpdf/pdf/December%202014%20digital.pdf>



Above:MG Midget ND/NE Special ABY 253. Photo courtesy of Bonhams

'ABY 253' is one of only 24 ND Midgets built out of a total of 738 N-types (excluding the racing NE). Records held by the MG Car Club's MMM register show that 'ABY 253' was first owned by **W E C Watkinson**, who was a recognised MG 'works' driver and had the factory fit an NE-specification racing engine, Watkinson is believed to have raced this car at Brooklands and elsewhere pre-War.

Accompanying documentation includes a copy of MG's original invoice to **W E C Watkinson** showing that the car was supplied with the NE specification engine (with the addition of a supercharger), plus others for work done by the factory for Watkinson in the 1930s. There are many letters on file written by Graham confirming the history as detailed above, and the car also comes with an old-style logbook and V5 registration document. Boasting an NE-specification engine and a genuine NE body, 'ABY 253', although a 'special', is about as close to team car specification as it is possible to get, but at a fraction of the cost of one of the originals.

This was in January 1937, and Mr. Watkinson owned the car from that date until late in 1959, when he sold it to Kjell Qvale. Mr. Watkinson had the car detuned and fitted with a two-seater touring body, which work was not completed until September 1938. The Midget in its new guise was used for only a year before war broke out, and it was then put into storage. In 1953 it was completely overhauled at Abingdon, but still it was not used. And for the whole of this time—incredible as it may seem—the original racing body had also been retained.

In 1942 William E C Watkinson married Florence A Farmer in the Horsham district, county Sussex. Then in 1954 Violet Corrie Turner passed away.

TURNER Violet Corrie of Oddo House Winter Derbyshire (wife of Rodney Francis Turner) died on 7 January 1954 Administration Wakefield 21 May to the said Rodney Francis Turner company director and William Edward Charteris Watkinson farmer Effects £ 25 509 13s 10d.

After his interest in racing cars W E C (Ted) Watkinson seems to have turned his attention (and money) to preserving steam locomotives. From an article on the Preserved British Steam Locomotives website

<https://preservedbritishsteamlocomotives.com/45025-lms-45025-br-45025/>



45025 was withdrawn from service in August 1968 at the end of steam operations on BR.

The locomotive was purchased by Scottish railway heritage pioneer, **Ted Watkinson**, in the late 1960s for the proposed preserved railway between Aviemore and Grantown-on-Spey which was to become known as the Strathspey Railway. For a railway in the Highlands, the obvious locomotive was a Stanier-designed black five. Many of these operated out of Inverness shed in LMS and British Railways days from 1934 to 1960. They were affectionately known as Hikers by Highland railwaymen in recognition of their capability on steeper gradients.

The locomotive eventually selected was British Railways 45025 which had worked on the Highland main line during its first year. As the Strathspey Railway was not ready to utilise 45025 it was loaned to the Worth Valley Railway (Later the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**). It was overhauled by the Hunslet Engine Company in 1969 and then went to Haworth for running in on the Worth Valley Railway and operated there until 1974.

It then went for an overhaul at Andrew Barclay's works in Kilmarnock in May 1975 before running between Aviemore and Boat of Garten started in August 1975. It served on the Strathspey Railway and mail line tours until 1994 when it had to be taken out of service for major repair and restoration work.

The owner (Ted Watkinson) died in 1981 and in 1999 the WEC Watkinson Memorial Trust was created in his memory.

WATKINSON William Edward Charteris of Tyre Hill House Hanley Swan Worcs died 29 October 1981 Probate Winchester 10 May [1982] £ 1 226 616

Notes about the WEC Watkinson Trust on their website

The WEC Watkinson Trust was set up as a charitable trust registered in Scotland in 1999 in line with the wishes of Scottish railway preservation pioneer, Mr Ted Watkinson.

Its prime mission is to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the railways of the Highlands through preservation and operation of this LMS Steam locomotive, No 5025, along with its LMS and Highland carriages. The locomotive and carriages are to be operated and maintained on the Strathspey Railway.

Ted Watkinson was born in Yorkshire in 1910 where his father was a director of the family firm of wool merchants in Halifax. The family also owned property in Leeds and had coal mining interests in Wales. In August 1926 Ted journeyed by train to Nairn for a family holiday. It was the beginning of a lifelong interest in the Highland Railway and eventually his vital support for the setting up and operation of the Strathspey Railway. Ted died in Boat of Garten in 1981 after one of his many days on the Strathspey line.

This concludes the story of the immediate family of Samuel Lord and Annie Watkinson who were buried in plot F in St. Matthew's churchyard with the following inscription.



Remember to check out

The Charteris family

George Watkinson and Sons

George Watkinson the Younger

John Watkinson Colliery Owner

Samuel Watkinson of Shelf Hall

Emma Watkinson of Longlands

Fanny Watkinson and the Stone Trough Brewery

D.M.Barker
October 2018