

Part 3: Abraham Schofield Turner (1861 - 1915)

Abraham Schofield Turner was the seventh of thirteen children born to **George Turner** and **Elizabeth Ann Thomas**. He was born 23 March 1861 in Hipperholme and baptised 10 August 1864 at Coley Chapelry, along with four siblings. Like many of his siblings he had some schooling, then aged about nine started off working in the local mill, as a spinner. He later moved into the stone quarrying business, working his way up to be a foreman. Like his brothers, he became eligible to vote around the turn of the twentieth century.

He married twice and tragically both wives died young, possibly connected to child birth. His first wife was **Annie Royals** (c1863 - 1889). Annie had been born in the Halifax area, the daughter of **Michael Royals** (c1814 - 1899) and **Susannah Hall** (c1824 - 1894). Annie was pregnant when she and Abraham married 07 March 1889 at St John the Baptist Parish Church and they lived with Abraham's parents. Annie died 27 October that same year at her parents' home in the nearby hill-top village of Northowram. Her daughter Annie Elsie would likely have only been a couple of months old at the time.

Abraham stayed living at 3 Lane End's Terrace after the death of his parents. His second wife was **Annie Smith** (c1865 - 1905). They married 27 July 1898 at St John the Baptist Parish Church. Annie had an illegitimate daughter, **Amelia Smith** (1884 - 1964), who lived with her maternal grandparents. Amelia felt the stigma of illegitimacy keenly and decided she could never marry, dedicating her life to nursing.

Abraham and Annie had two children: Josephine (Josie) and Sidney. Annie died a month after Sidney's birth in 1905. The decision was made for Annie's brother Joah Smith and his wife Emma to adopt Sidney, but Josie continued to live with her father for a time. In 1908 Abraham and Josie moved into 5 Gaythorn Terrace, Hipperholme, where Abraham died 05 April 1915 of an infection caused by tuberculosis, aged 54. He was buried in Ambler Thorn Chapel.

Annie Elsie (1889 - 1912) was born a few months after her parents' marriage. She married **Luke Lawrence Robinson** (1888 - 1949) 08 November 1910 at Coley Parish Church. Luke was a chemist's assistant and they moved to Bradford, only to move back to the Hipperholme area within about a year. Annie contracted tuberculosis and after four months, died 27 April 1912, aged just 22. She was buried three days later at the same church where she had been married only 18 months earlier. She died childless. Luke died 01 May 1949 and was buried three days later in St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, in grave plot F82.

This appears to be another example of someone buried in a grave previously used for the internment of others. The married couple Hezekial and May Ann Baldwin were buried in plot F82 on 6th July 1923 and then 11th October 1923 resided. On 2nd April 1911 they resided with their family in Huddersfield when he was "Jam and Preserver Boiler. "He had previously moved around the country from Gloucestershire to London presumably via Alston, Cumberland where she was born. But it is not immediately obvious as to why they ended up being buried at Lightcliffe and why Luke Lawrence Robinson was buried with them 26 years later.

He was born at Hove Edge and baptised at St. Matthews Church, Lightcliffe on 21st October 1888. His parents William and Sarah Jane Robinson had previously baptised another son there, John Edward Robinson, on 19th September 1886. Both William and Sarah Jane Robinson were buried at Lightcliffe in plot G81 on 26th January 1927 and 29th March 1921 respectively. Is this the clue to why their son Luke Lawrence Robinson was buried in plot F82? Did he purchase a slot in a grave with spare capacity – I know that sounds a bit macabre! – that was near his parents’ grave? As his young wife Annie Elsie Robinson nee Turner had died years before and was buried at St. John’s Coley did he simply want to be buried close to his parents? We will never know.

The practice of burying people with other unrelated individuals was not uncommon. Young children, in particular, were often interred in a conveniently open plot. Hence many of their burial details say “unknown, within middle ground” .

D.M.Barker

Josephine (Josie) (1900 - 1982) spent many years in the Belgian Congo as a missionary and married Harold Womersley (1902 - 1986). More information about their life can be found in their son David Womersley's book 'The House that God Built' (CAM International, 2015).

Sidney (1905 - 1968) married Constance Lister (1905 - 1989) but they later divorced, and he married Amie 'Sallie' Sara Longthorne (1917 - 2015).

Shivaun Tijou

The Friends of St. Matthew’s churchyard are very grateful to Shivaun for allowing us to publish her research into this Turner family.

Turner Family History Part 1 **John Turner (c1797 – 1857)** and Part 2 **George Turner (1827 – 1896)** are also on our website.

More information about families related to the Turners but not connected with St. Matthew’s churchyard can be found at the website :-

<http://johnsmithfamilytree.co.uk>