

## Charles Robinson

(before 29<sup>th</sup> October 1797 – 6<sup>th</sup> February 1861)

Charles Robinson was the youngest of the six sons of John and Hannah Robinson. Like his brothers he was baptised at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1797. His father had founded the card making, currier and wire drawing business John Robinson & Sons. But Charles was not involved because he was a surgeon. And there he is listed after his father and elder brother in the Hipperholme section of **History, Directory & Gazetteer of Yorkshire, Vol. I: West Riding, 1822**

**Robinson John & Sons, card makers,  
curriers and wire drawers  
Robinson Thomas, card maker, cur-  
rier and wire drawer  
Robinson Charles, surgeon**

He was almost certainly the "Mr. Robinson, the surgeon and apothecary" referred to in the Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1823 diary entry recorded by Anne Lister of Shibden Hall. A young boy had drowned after slipping off a bridge widened by Charles's brother George Robinson and Mr Robinson's assistant had been sent for.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1824 Charles Robinson married Mary Lees of Manchester at St. John's Church, Manchester also know has St. John's Deansgate. They returned to live at Hipperholme perhaps with or next door to his parents at Southedge House. This was their abode when they baptised four children at St. Matthew's Church Lightcliffe. Mary Lees Robinson was born on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1826 and baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1826. John Lees Robinson followed on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1827 and was baptised on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1827. But he died soon after on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1827 and was buried in the first of the four adjacent Robinson plots U\*1 on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1827.

Charlotte was born on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1828 and baptised on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1828. Another daughter Hannah Margaret followed but she does not appear to have been baptised before she too died on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1830 aged 11 weeks. She was buried with little John Lees in plot U\*1 on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1830. A fourth daughter Frances Wrigley Robinson was born on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1831 and baptised on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1831.

Charles Robinson was listed in *Leeds & Clothing District Directory, 1830* as a surgeon but he does not appear in *Pigot & Co.'s Directory of Yorks, Leics ... , 1841*. In that directory one of the Hipperholme surgeons was James Bates. In the 1841 census James Bates was living with Charles's brother Thomas and his family. And then James went on to marry Thomas's youngest daughter, Mary Robinson.

It is unlikely that James Bates was Charles's assistant as by then Charles and Mary and their three daughters had moved to Runcorn in Cheshire which was where they were on census night 6<sup>th</sup> June 1841.

1841 census

Charles Robinson	40	Surgeon
Mary Robinson	35	
Mary Robinson	14	
Charlotte Robinson	12	
Frances Robinson	11	
Mary Fletcher	25	F.S
Eliz Thompson	15	F.S

Address Runcorn, Cheshire

Fourteen-year-old Frances Wrigley Robinson died at Runcorn on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1845. Then her mother passed away aged 45 years on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1848 at Altrincham. Both were brought back to Lightcliffe for burial. Frances was buried on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1845 in plot U\*1 with the baby siblings that she had never known. Her mother was buried next to them in plot V\*1 on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1848.

Father Charles and sister Mary Lees Robinson witnessed a happier event on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1849 when Charlotte Robinson of Altrincham married William Wrigley Widdop of Brighouse. Both William Wrigley – that middle name again coincidence or not? - and his father William Widdop were card makers and so presumably knew the card making Robinsons.

The Widdops returned to live in Brighouse which was where we find Charles and his unmarried daughter Mary Lees in 1851.

1851 census

William W Widdop	Head	26	Card manufacturer employing 12 hands
Charlotte Widdop	Wife	23	
Charles Robinson	Father in law	53	Surgeon & GP
Mary L Robinson	Sister in law	24	
Francis Cartright	Servant	24	
Ann Myers	Servant	19	

Address **Brighouse**

It looks as if Charles continued in general practice and as a surgeon in Altrincham most likely with his daughter Mary Lees Robinson living with him. In Balshaw's *Guide & Directory to Altrincham, 1855* there is an entry for "Charles Robinson, surgeon, Church Street". Charles Robinson died in Altrincham on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1861. He was brought back to St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe where he had been baptised, for burial on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1861. He was laid to rest with his wife Mary in plot V\*1 next to their children's plot. The ledger stones with their inscriptions to his parents, his brothers, sisters in law, nieces and nephews are also close by.

The Will of Charles Robinson late of Altrincham in the County of Chester Surgeon deceased who died 6 February 1861 at Altrincham aforesaid was proved at Chester by the oath of Mary Lees Robinson of Altrincham aforesaid Spinster the Daughter and the sole Executrix. Effects under £600



**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARY THE WIFE OF**

**CHARLES ROBINSON SURGEON**

**WHO DIED AT ALTRINCHAM CHESHIRE JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> 1848**

**AGED 45 YEARS**

**ALSO THE ABOVE CHARLES ROBINSON**

**WHO DIED AT ALTRINCHAM ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEB<sup>Y</sup> 1860**

**AGED 63 YEARS**

**I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH**

Having recently lost her father Mary Lees Robinson seems to have stayed with another surgeon's family at Stamford St., Altrincham which was where she was for the 1861 census. At the same time married sister Charlotte Widdop and her family were in Clifton Bridge. The whereabouts of the sisters and Charlotte's family can be worked out from the information in the next three censuses.

1861 census

William Wrigley Widdop Head 36 Iron Master  
Charlotte Widdop Wife 33  
Charlotte Widdop Dau 8  
William Widdop Son 6 Scholar  
Charles Widdop Son 4 Scholar  
Henry Widdop Son 3  
Fanny Widdop Dau 8/12  
Emma Shaw Servant 26 Cook  
Sarah Clapham Servant 22 Housemaid  
Sarah Ellen Truelove Servant 17 Nurse  
Address

**Clifton Bridge Hipperholme cum Brighthouse**

1861 census

Thomas Blease Head 37 Surgeon  
Mary Barton Blease Dau 29  
and other family  
Mary Robinson Visitor 34  
Servants  
Address **Stamford St., Altrincham**

1881 census

William W. Widdop Head 56 Iron Merchant  
Henry Widdop Son 23 ditto  
Fanny Widdop Dau 20  
Mary Widdop Dau 17  
Louisa Leeming Serv 27 Cook  
Nellie Higgins Serv 23 Housemaid  
Address **Daisy Hill, Rawdon**

1881 census

Frederick J. Thairlwall Head 39 Solicitor  
Charlotte Thairlwall Wife 28  
Frederick Thairlwall Dau 1  
Charlotte Widdop Mother in law 50  
Iron Merchant's Wife  
Edith Widdop Sister in law 8 Scholar  
Clara Coulson Serv 21 Cook  
Mary E. Jinks Serv 15 Housemaid  
Address

**169 Gloucester Rd., Regent's Park, London**

1871 census

William W Widdop Head 46 Iron Merchant  
Charlotte Widdop Wife 43  
Henry Widdop Son 13 Scholar  
Fanny Widdop Dau 10 ditto  
Mary Widdop Dau 7 ditto  
Mary A Tetley Serv 25 Domestic Servant  
Elizabeth A King Serv 20 ditto  
Address **11 Wakefield Rd Hipperholme  
(Wilkin Royd House)**

1871 census

George Turner Birch 41 Clergyman  
Mary Barton Birch Wife 38  
and family  
Mary Lees Robinson Boarder 44  
Servants  
Address **9 Addison St., Nottingham**

1881 census

William Widdop Head 26 Iron Merchant  
Emily A. Widdop Wife 25  
Emma Sykes Serv 24 Domestic Servant  
M.A. Aspinall Serv 22 ditto  
Address

**Bramley Lane, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse**

1881 census

George T. Birch Head 50 Clerk in Holy orders  
Mary B. Birch Wife 48  
and family  
Mary L. Robinson Visitor 54  
Servants  
Address

**Abbottsfield, Wrexham Regis, Wales**

In all three censuses Mary Lees Robinson was in the same household as Mary Barton Birch nee Blease, a fellow surgeon's daughter from Altrincham and so presumably a close friend. Mary Lees Robinson's probate indicates that she had resided permanently for a time in Nottingham presumably with the Birches.

William Widdop had married Emily Ann Sowden on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1878 in Brighthouse.

In 1886 Mary Lees Robinson's brother in law William Wrigley Widdop died as detailed in his probate record which states that his son William lived at Perth House Lightcliffe.

The Will of William Wrigley Widdop late of Daisy Hill Rawdon in the County of York Iron Merchant who died 13 February 1886 at Daisy Hill was proved at the Principle Registry by Charlotte Widdop of Daisy Hill Widow the Relict and William Widdop of Perth House Lightcliffe in the said County Iron Merchant and Henry Widdop of Daisy Hill Iron Merchant the Sons the surviving Executors. Personal Estate £7,730 18s 5d

His widow Charlotte must have then moved to Ilkley to a house named Belmont which was where her sister Mary Lees Robinson died on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1887. She too was brought back to Lightcliffe for burial on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1887 with her siblings in plot U\*1.



Notice the misspelling of Frances' middle name Rigley not Wrigley!

IN MEMORY OF JOHN LEES THE SON OF  
CHARLES AND MARY ROBINSON OF THE SOUTHEDGE HALIFAX

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 1827 AGED 6 WEEKS.

ALSO OF HANNAH MARGARET DAUGHTER OF  
THE ABOVE CHARLES AND MARY ROBINSON

WHO DIED MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> 1830 AGED 11 WEEKS

ALSO OF FRANCES RIGLEY DAUGHTER OF  
THE ABOVE CHARLES AND MARY ROBINSON

WHO DIED JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> 1845 AGED 14 YEARS

ALSO OF MARY LEES DAUGHTER OF  
THE ABOVE CHARLES AND MARY ROBINSON

WHO DIED MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 1887 AGED 60 YEARS

The Will with Codicil of Mary Lees Robinson formerly of Nottingham in the County of Nottingham but late of Ilkley in the County of York Spinster who died 16 May 1887 at Ilkley was proved at the Principal Registry by William Widdop of Perth House Lightcliffe in the County of York and Henry Widdop of Belmont Ilkley Iron Merchants the Nephews the Executors. Personal Estate £1,670 12s 7d

Again, nephew William Widdop's address was Perth House Lightcliffe and Henry's was Belmont Ilkley presumably having moved there from Daisy Hill Rawdon with his mother. This was Henry's address when he married Mary Louisa Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1888 at St. Augustine's parish church, Halifax.

To complete the story of surgeon Charles Robinson's family his daughter and grandsons have been tracked in the next three censuses. None of the Widdops would appear to have had any further connections with Lightcliffe.

If you have not previously read his father's and brothers' back stories, they can be found under the headings

**John Robinson and Sons**

**Thomas Robinson Card Marker, Currier and Wire Drawer**

**George Robinson of Lower Brear on the Shibden Hall estate**

**Dan Robinson Chemist and Druggist**

**William Robinson Ironmonger**

1891 census

Charlotte Widdop Head 63  
Living on own means  
Fanny Widdop Dau 30  
Mary Widdop Dau 27  
Edith Widdop Dau 18  
Annie E Render Serv 26 General Servant  
Domestic  
Address **Belmont, Queen's Rd, Ilkley**

1891 census

William Widdop Head 36 Iron Merchant  
Emily Ann Widdop Wife 35  
Nancy Henrietta Haigh Visitor 30 Living on  
own means  
Harriet Alice Robinson Serv 31 Cook  
Sarah Amelia Robinson Serv 22 Housemaid  
Address  
**Perth House, Hipperholme cum Brighouse**

1891 census

Henry Widdop Head 33 Iron Merchant  
Mary Louisa Widdop Wife 24  
Clara Burton Servant 22 Cook  
Address **The Hurst, Shipley**

1901 census

Charlotte Widdop Head 73  
Living on own means  
Mary Widdop Dau 37  
Edith Widdop Dau 28  
Pollie P Thornton Serv 25  
Address **Lynton, Ilkley**

1901 census

Wm Widdop Head 46  
Iron & Steel Merchant  
Emily Widdop Wife 45  
Louisa Rase Serv 23 Housemaid  
Julia Rainforth Serv 32 Cook  
Address **62 York Place, Harrogate**

1901 census

Henry Widdop Head 43  
Iron & Steel Merchant  
Mary Louisa Widdop Wife 34  
Sophia Sanderson Serv 22 General Servant  
Address **Willow Dene Park Grove Bradford**

1911 census

Charlotte Widdop Head 83  
Mary Widdop Dau 47  
Edith Widdop Dau 38  
Irene Alice Boddy Serv 22 General (domestic)  
Address **Lynton, South Parade, Ilkley**

1911 census

Henry Widdop Head 53  
Iron & Steel Merchant  
Mary Louisa Widdop Wife 44  
Martha Fanny Waller Hall Niece 16  
William Lawes Crossley Nephew 5  
Violet Berins Servant 16 General Servant  
Address **6 Willow Dene Park Grove  
Frizinghall Bradford**

Grandson William Widdop who had lived at Perth House, Lightcliffe, died in 1903, his mother Charlotte Widdop nee Robinson in Ilkley in 1918 and finally her other son Henry Widdop in Scarborough in 1933. The probate records give further details.

WIDDOP William of 3 Queen's-villas Harrogate and of the union-workhouse Bradford iron-merchant died 14 February 1903 at 3 Queen's-villas Probate London 20 March to Emily Ann Widdop widow. Effects £2874 8s 1d.

WIDDOP Charlotte of Lynton South-parade Ilkley Yorkshire widow died 17 November 1918 Probate London 25 March [1919] to Henry Widdop steelmerchant. Effects £1215 7s 5d

WIDDOP Henry of 2 Albion-road Scarborough died 27 October 1933 at Belvedere Nursing Home Belvedere-road Scarborough Probate London 19 December to Mary Louisa Widdop widow. Effects £33, 179 2s 8d

D.M.Barker  
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