

John Robinson

(before 17th September 1761 – 3rd April 1836)

The surname Robinson is not an uncommon one. There are well over a hundred Robinsons interred in the churchyard. But when these four ledger stones, in plots now coded U*1, V*1, W*1 and X*1, with the same engravings and type face were spotted next to one another by the western wall this was a clue that these Robinsons were related. Research revealed that at least five generations of this Robinson family were buried in Lightcliffe, some being brought back from where they died in Leeds and Altrincham, Cheshire to be buried with other members of their family at Lightcliffe.



There are several John Robinsons, Charles Robinsons as well as Mary Robinsons and many of the other Mrs Robinsons had the first name Hannah, so I hope that things do not get too confusing. Some of these Robinsons lived on the Walkers' Crow Nest estate, others were tenants of the Listers of Shibden Hall.

The first John Robinson that we can be certain about was baptised at Eastfield Chapel on 17th September 1761. His father was another John Robinson, but it is difficult to work out just who he was. Young John Robinson reputedly worked as a boy for the Walkers at Crow Nest. Later he went to Liverpool and embarked on what was a slave ship. He married a Hannah, although her surname and when and where the marriage took place is unknown. John and Hannah Robinson baptised six sons at the newly built St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe, namely Thomas on 12th November 1786,

George on 28th December 1788, Dan on 27th February 1791, John on 2nd February 1794, William on 27th December 1795 and finally Charles on 29th October 1797.

By 1818 John and Hannah Robinson were living at Southedge House Hipperholme. The business John Robinson & Sons of Hipperholme has been found listed as card makers, curriers and wire drawers in various trade directories in 1822, 1828/9 and 1830. Some of the sons have separate entries in these directories as shown below.

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

Hannah Robinson of Southedge, the 72-year-old wife of John Robinson, died on 7th May 1833 and was buried in plot Z*3 of St. Matthew's churchyard on the 11th May 1833. Three years later on 7th April 1836 74-year-old John Robinson joined her. Their memorial inscription reads:-

IN MEMORY OF HANNAH

WIFE OF JOHN ROBINSON OF SOUTHEDGE HOUSE

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 7TH DAY OF MAY 1833

AGED 72 YEARS.

ALSO OF THE ABOVE JOHN ROBINSON

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE THIRD DAY OF APRIL 1836

AGED 74 YEARS

The memorial inscription goes on to detail their son William and his wife, another Hannah, but we shall look at five of the six sons separately. No records have been found for the fourth Robinson son, John, as an adult. He may well have been the "Jno" Robinson "son of Jno" who was buried in an unknown grave within the closed churchyard on 14th May 1795.

Now read about the five adult sons

Thomas Robinson Card Maker, Currier and Wire Drawer

George Robinson of Lower Brear on the Shibden Hall estate

Dan Robinson Chemist and Druggist

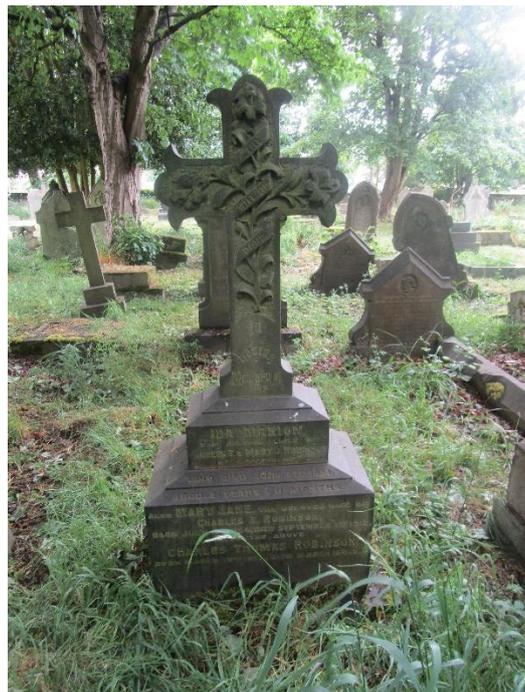
William Robinson Ironmonger

Charles Robinson Surgeon

Six ledger stones for this Robinson family can be found close to one another as highlighted in the photograph below. There are five in the red ellipse, four right by the western wall and one diagonally in front of them. Then another in the green ellipse.



A seventh family Robinson plot is in the middle section of the churchyard with this cross. The first name on the memorial is a toddler, a fifth generation Robinson.



More John Robinsons

The above Robinson family may or may not be related / connected – the dates do not fit well enough for them to be direct ancestors - to another John Robinson who baptised yet another John Robinson in what was then Eastfield Chapel Lightcliffe on 20th February 1736. Was the father the John Robinson who was buried in an unknown grave in the churchyard on 9th August 1772? A John Robinson of Hipperholme who died on 30th December 1805 was buried in plot B*58 on 3rd January 1806. He was 71 years old or in his 71st year making that baptism date a possibility if not a perfect fit.

What is certain is that Martha was this John Robinson's wife. On April 1772 a Martha Oates had married John Robinson at St. John's Church Halifax. She was buried in the same plot on 12th December 1811 aged 77. The memorial inscription reads:-

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN ROBINSON OF HIPPERHOLME
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE DECEMBER 30TH 1805 AGED 71 YEARS
ALSO OF MARTHA RELICT OF THE ABOVE SAID JOHN ROBINSON
WHO DIED DECEMBER 7TH 1811 AGED 77 YEARS**

D.M.Barker

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