

Thomas Robinson

(before 12th November 1786 – before 23rd June 1869)

Thomas Robinson was the eldest of the six sons of John and Hannah Robinson. He was listed separately as a card maker, currier and wire drawer in the *History, Directory & Gazetteer of Yorkshire, Vol. I: West Riding, 1822*. He lived in Hipperholme with his wife Frances nee Pearson. They had married on 5th February 1806 at St. John's Church, Halifax when Thomas was 19 and Frances just 17 years of age. She was the daughter of a John Pearson, most probably the John Pearson of Sutcliffe Wood Bottom on the Shibden Hall estate. Witnesses to their marriage were Martha Pearson and Thomas Pearson. This could well be her mother Martha and her brother Thomas. The ages, baptism dates and burial dates not forgetting the very useful memorial inscriptions all fit to suggest that Frances and Thomas along with at least two other siblings Elizabeth and Hannah who died in infancy were the children of John and Martha Pearson. If this conjecture is correct, then she too was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on Christmas Day 1788. More research into this Pearson family will have to wait but they may prove to be the Pearson tenants on the Shibden Hall estate mentioned in Anne Lister's diaries.

Thomas and Frances Robinson had five children. Their eldest son John was baptised on 6th June 1806 in Halifax. Then followed Thomas who was baptised at St. Matthew's Church on 10th December 1809 but then buried there on 8th July 1810 in plot V*1. St. John's Church Coley was where Martha on 21st May 1815 and then Charles on 28th June 1818 were baptised. The youngest daughter Mary was born about 1826 but no baptism record has been found.

Daughter Martha died on 20th September 1839 and was buried in plot W*1 at Lightcliffe on 26th September 1839. There was a happier event for the family on 18th January 1840 when Charles Robinson married 19-year-old Mary Ann Midgley in Halifax. Another John Robinson was born on 23rd September 1840. And so, for the 1841 census the various Thomas Robinson family households looked like this.

1841 census

Thos Robinson 50 Card Maker

Frances Robinson 50

John Robinson 30

Mary Robinson 15

Eliz Rogerson 15 F.S

James Bates 25 Surgeon

Harriet Gurney 30

Wm Gurney 40 Clerk

Albert Morris 10 Scholar

Address **Hipperholme**

1841 census

Charles Robinson 20 School master?

Mary Robinson 20

Jno Robinson 8 Mo

Address **Carr House Lane, Northowram**

It is interesting to see who else was at the Hipperholme address, namely William and Harriet Gurney and a young surgeon. The Reverend William Gurney was the incumbent at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe from 1840 until his death in 1869. In those days there was no vicarage for the curate to reside in. William and Harriet, neither of whom were born in Yorkshire, seemed to live in various lodgings in the district.

Charles and Mary Ann had a daughter Martha on 8th January 1842 and baptised her at St. John's Coley on 1st July 1842, but she died a few weeks later on 1st September. She was buried at Lightcliffe in plot W*1 where her grandparents had buried two of their children. Her uncle John Robinson died aged 37 years on the 29th December 1843. He was buried in a new but adjacent plot X*1 on New Year's Day 1844.

The lodger surgeon James Bates married the Robinson's youngest daughter Mary on 19th February 1845 at St. John's Coley. No subsequent records have been found for these two.

Later that year 5-year-old John Robinson died on 21st December 1845. He too was buried in plot W*1 on 26th December 1845. Grandmother Frances died on 18th December 1847. She was buried with her son John in plot X*1 on 24th December 1847.

Having already lost two children Charles Robinson's young wife Mary Ann died on 7th October 1848, she was just 27. She too was buried in plot X*1 on 13th October 1848. Just a few months later, on 11th January 1849, widower Charles Robinson married Rhoda Hartley. Rhoda was the daughter of Thomas and Martha Hartley who when they baptised her at Lightcliffe on 24th June 1827 gave their abode as Hipperholme and his occupation as 'Cloth Dresser'. At the time of the 1841 census he was a licensed victualler at the Hare & Hounds, Hipperholme.

1841 census

Thomas Hartley 50 Licensed Victual
Martha Hartley 46
Rhoda Hartley 14
Thomas Hartley 11
Address **Hare & Hounds, Hipperholme**

Their first child Fanny was born early 1850 and baptised at Coley on 13th February 1850 to give this three generation Robinson household on census night 1851.

1851 census

Charles Robinson Head 33 Master Card Maker employing 2 men
Rhoda Robinson Wife 23
Fanny Robinson Dau 1
Thomas Robinson Father 64 Card Maker
Address **Hipperholme cum Brighouse**

Charles and Rhoda baptised two more children at Coley, Charles Thomas born 18th March 1852 on 21st April 1852 and Emma Martha on 11th October 1854. Father Charles's occupation was the usual 'Card Maker' in 1852 but he was recorded as a 'Publican' in 1854. Perhaps he took over or helped at the Hare & Hounds. His father in law, Thomas Hartley, had died on 6th June 1848. He was buried in St. Matthew's churchyard in plot T*14. It looks as if his widow may have continued as 'Inn keeper' at the Hare & Hounds. The 1851 census does not give specific addresses.

1851 census

Martha Hartley Head 56 Inn Keeper
Nanny Nicholson Serv 18 General Servant
Address **Hipperholme**

Paternal Grandfather Thomas Robinson was on his own by the time of the 1861 census. But maternal grandmother Martha Hartley had Fanny Robinson with her in Halifax where she was living with an unmarried son who had a grocery business. Charles and Rhoda had had more children – thank fully giving them middle names! - but they were not baptised until much later, on 5th Mary 1867, at St. Matthew’s Church by the Rev. William Gurney. John William was born in 1857, Mary Frances in 1860 and finally James Ambrose in 1863. When they were ‘batch’ baptised together at Lightcliffe father Charles was a ‘Card maker’ and their abode was ‘Whitehall’.

1861 census

Charles Robinson Head 44 Card Manufacturer
 Rhoda Robinson Wife 33
 Charles Thomas Robinson Son 9
 Emma Martha Robinson Dau 6
 John William Robinson Son 3
 Mary Robinson Dau 6/12
 Address **Whitehall, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse**

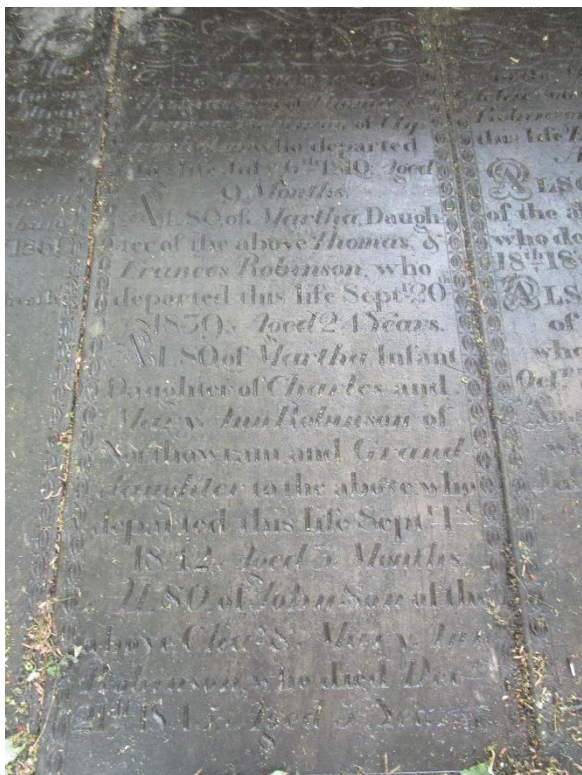
1861 census

Thomas Robinson Widow 74
 Card Manufacturer
 Address **Whitehall, Hipperholme with Brighthouse**

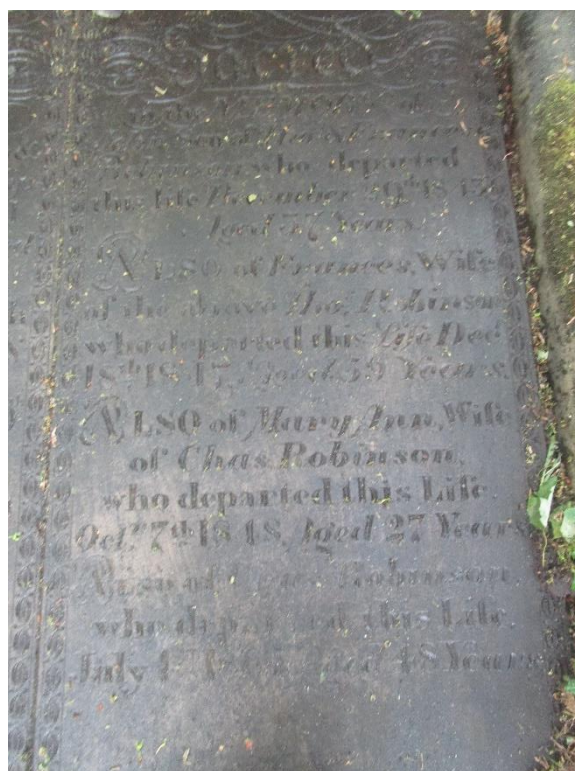
1861 census

Martha Hartley Head 66 ????
 William Hartley Son 30
 Woolsale[sic] Grocer employing 3 men
 Fanny Robinson Gddau 11 Scholar
 Address **2 Wade St, Halifax**

Forty-eight-year-old Charles died before his father on 1st July 1865. He was buried on 4th July 1865 in plot X*1 along with his brother, mother and first wife. The burial records do not record the plot that 82-year-old Thomas Robinson was buried in on 23rd June 1869. Indeed, it seems strange that his death is not recorded on either of the two side by side ledger stones for his immediate family.



Plot W*1



Plot X*1

**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
THOMAS THE SON OF THOMAS
AND FRANCES ROBINSON OF
HIPPERHOLME WHO DEPARTED
THIS LIFE JULY 6TH 1810
AGED 9 MONTHS**

**ALSO OF MARTHA THE
DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
THOMAS AND FRANCES WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE SEPTEMBER
20TH 1839 AGED 24 YEARS.**

**ALSO OF MARTHA INFANT
DAUGHTER OF CHARLES AND
MARY ANN ROBINSON OF
NORTHOWRAM AND
GRANDDAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
SEPTEMBER 1ST 1842
AGED 3 MONTHS**

**ALSO OF JOHN SON OF THE
ABOVE CHARLES AND MARY
ANN ROBINSON WHO DEPARTED
THIS LIFE DECEMBER 21ST 1845
AGED 5 YEARS.**

**SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN THE SON OF THOMAS AND
FRANCES ROBINSON WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE DECEMBER
29TH 1843 AGED 37 YEARS**

**ALSO OF FRANCES WIFE OF THE
ABOVE THOMAS ROBINSON
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
DECEMBER 18TH 1847
AGED 59 YEARS**

**ALSO OF MARY THE WIFE OF
CHARLES ROBINSON WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE OCTOBER 7TH
1848 AGED 27 YEARS**

**ALSO OF CHARLES ROBINSON
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE JULY 1ST
1865 AGED 48 YEARS**

Perhaps father Thomas Robinson was buried in plot X*1 but there was no one left in 1869 to add his name to the family's ledger stones.

Thomas Robinson's granddaughter Fanny married Charles Edward Cone, a Bookkeeper originally from Sussex later in 1869. Their son Ernest Edward Cone was born early in 1870.

1871 census

Rhoda Robinson	Head	43	Grocer
Charles Thomas Robinson	Son	19	Dyer
Emma Martha Robinson	Dau	16	Carpet Fitter
James Ambrose Robinson	Son	7	Scholar
Mary Frances Robinson	Dau	10	Scholar
Martha Hartley	Mother	76	
			Formerly Inn Keeper

Address

Whitehall, Hipperholme cum Brighthouse

1871 census

Charles E Cone	Head	23	Bookkeeper
Fanny Cone	Wife	22	
Ernest E Cone	Son	1	

Address **1 St. Thomas St., Northowram**

Twelve-year-old Mary Frances Robinson died on 18th September 1873 and was buried on 21st September 1873 in plot C79 of St. Matthew's churchyard owned by her mother. A few months later on 25th January 1874 Rhoda Robinson lost her own mother. Seventy-nine-year-old Martha Hartley was buried in the Hartley plot T*14 with her husband, Thomas. Five young Hartley children, Rhoda's siblings, are remembered on the memorial inscription including a 4-year-old Ambrose.

The 1870s also saw three family weddings. Emma Martha Robinson married Smith Hopkinson, a 'Twister' from Shelf, on Christmas Eve 1873 at St. John's Church, Coley where their son Joseph was baptised on 19th December 1875. When twenty-eight-year-old Smith Hopkinson died at Baillffe Bridge he left a young widow and a young son. He was buried at Coley on 15th April 1879.

Charles Thomas Robinson married Mary Jane Greenough in 1875. Their daughter Lucy Victoria Robinson was born on 9th August 1879, her birth being registered in Bradford.

On 25th September 1880 John William Robinson of Whitehall married Ada Normanton of Lane Ends, Hipperholme. He was a 23-year-old 'Grocer'. She was the 21-year-old daughter of Thomas Normanton. Herbert Charles Robinson was born in early 1881.

The various households looked like this on census night, 3rd April 1881.

1881 census

John W. Robinson Head 23 Cabinet Maker
 Ada Robinson Wife 22
 Herbert C. Robinson Son
 Rhoda Robinson Mother 53
 Emma M. Hopkinson Sister 26 Carpet Setter
 James A. Robinson Brother 17 Brass Moulder App
 Joseph Hopkinson Nephew 5
 Address **31 Godley Rd., Northowram**

1881 census

Charles T. Robinson Head 29 Grocer
 Mary Jane Robinson Wife 26
 Lucy Victoria Robinson Dau 1
 Mary Greenhough Mother in law 62
 Address **Lightcliffe**

Edith Orril/Oriel Hopkinson was born on 29th April 1881 and baptised two years later at St. John's Coley on 23rd May 1883. Her uncle James Ambrose Robinson married Emily Noble on 24th December 1887.

1891 census

Rhoda Robinson Head 63
 Retired Grocer
 Emma M Robinson Dau 36
 Plain worsted weaver
 Joseph Hopkinson GdSon 15 Silk Filler
 Edith O Hopkinson GdDau 9 Scholar
 Address **31 Godley Rd., Northowram**

1891 census

Charles T Robinson Head 39
 Grocer & Worsted Dyer
 Mary J Robinson Wife 36 Grocer
 Lucy Victoria Robinson Dau 11
 Elizabeth H Watson Serv 18
 General Servant Domestic
 Address
Grocer's Shop, Halifax & Wakefield Rd

1891 census

James A Robinson Head 28 Brass Moulder
 Emily ditto Wife 28
 George ditto Son 6/12
 Mary ditto Lodger 21 C??ling Mender
 Address **33 Conway St., Halifax**

George Robinson, James and Emily's son, was born in 1890. Mary the lodger may or may not have been a Robinson.

Ida Marian Robinson, Charles Thomas and Mary Jane Robinson's second daughter was born just after the 1891 census, but she died before her third birthday on 27th June 1894. She was buried in a new Robinson plot, I11, in the middle section of St. Matthew's churchyard on 30th June 1894 with an elaborate cross on the headstone.

The 1911 census indicates that James Ambrose and Emily Robinson had another child probably in the decade before the turn of the century but that the child also died. It is difficult to work out who exactly this might have been.

1901 census

Charles T Robinson Head 48
Textile Stuff finisher
Mary Jane Robinson Wife 45 Grocer
Lucy V Robinson Dau 21 Milliner
Elizabeth A Watson Serv 28
Grocer Assistant

Address **Whitehall, Hipperholme cum
Brighthouse**

1901 census

Rhoda Robinson Head 73
Baker & Sweet Shop Keeper
Emma M Hopkinson Dau 46 Weaver
Edith O Hopkinson Gr Dau 19 ditto
Address **17 Godley Rd., Halifax**

1901 census

James A Robinson Head 38 Brass Moulder
Emily Robinson Wife 38
George Robinson Son 10
Address **22 Thornton Rd., Halifax**

Over forty years after being widowed Rhoda Robinson nee Hartley died on 17th January 1907. Two days later she was buried at Lightcliffe in plot C79 where her daughter Mary Frances Robinson had been interred over thirty years before. Her granddaughter Lucy Victoria Robinson married journalist Lionel Arthur White in the current St. Matthew's Church on 4th September 1907. By 1911 all Thomas Robinson's descendants appeared to be residing in Halifax rather than Hipperholme.

1911 census

Charles Thomas Robinson Head 59
Textile Piece Finisher
Mary Jane Robinson Wife 56
Address **19 Emscott Place, Halifax**

1911 census

James A Robinson Head 47 Brass Moulder
Emily Robinson Wife 46
Address **35 Chatham st., Halifax**

1911 census

Lionel Arthur White Head 31
Journalist Sub Editor
Lucy Victoria White Wife 31
Mary Edith White Dau 2
Geoffrey Charles Norman White 1/12
Horence Edith Armstrong Sister 33
Cecil Augustus White Brother 27
Advertising manager
Address **22 Woodbine Terrace, Halifax**

Mary Jane Robinson and her husband Charles Thomas would return to Lightcliffe for burial in St. Matthew's churchyard on 4th September 1912 and 21st March 1914 respectively. They joined their young daughter Ida Marion in plot I11.

It was Thomas Robinson's great granddaughter Ida Marion Robinson who was the fifth generation of this Robinson family interred in the churchyard.



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF IDA MARION
THE BELOVED CHILD OF CHARLES T AND MARY JANE ROBINSON OF
HIPPERHOLME WHO DIED JUNE 27TH 1894 AGED 2 YEARS AND 11 MONTHS.
ALSO OF MARY JANE THE BELOVED WIFE OF CHARLES T ROBINSON
BORN JULY 16TH 1854 DIED SEPTEMBER 11TH 1912
ALSO OF THE ABOVE CHARLES THOMAS ROBINSON
BORN MARCH 18TH 1852 DIED 19TH MARCH 1914**

Next read

George Robinson of Lower Brear on the Shibden Hall estate

Dan Robinson Chemist and Druggist

William Robinson Ironmonger

Charles Robinson Surgeon

And if you have not already read it

John Robinson and Sons

D.M.Barker

June 2020