

Susanna Constantine Robinson, & her servant Mary Blundell

Susanna was born in 1791 in Chatburn, near Clitheroe, the daughter of Josias Robinson [ph1] and Susanna Dixon. Susanna was a spinster who made a comfortable living from the proceeds of invested inheritance in the large house just below Fern Hill at the top of Constitution Hill. If she had married, all Susanna's wealth would have then become her husband's property which may have been a deterrent for her. She was in good company - there were several wealthy spinsters in Settle such as *Margaret Bolland* and the *Jarry sisters*.



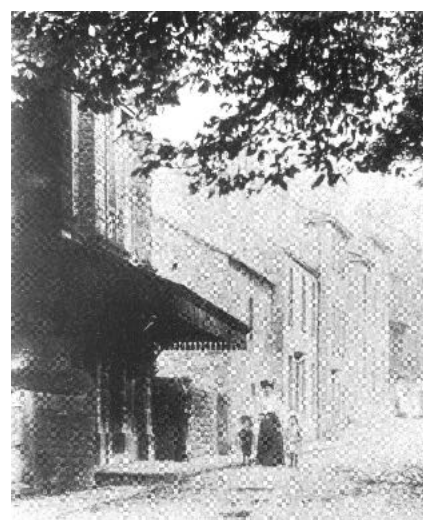
MIR. WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Robinsons were a well known and successful Settle family. Most of the sons went to Oxbridge. Susanna's brother **William Robinson** [ph1] was a JP for North Yorkshire and a banker in Settle. William had married **Jane Peart**, whose father Robert built Cragdale, which later became the police station on Duke Street.

Their son, the **Reverend John Robinson** appreciated fine music. In order to have a suitable and large performance venue for Settle Choral Society, William and John undertook the building of the Music Hall (now Victoria Hall) on Kirkgate in 1853. It was built on the site of the old National

School, so John also financed the building of the school in Upper Settle as a replacement.

The Music Hall [ph2] was opened with a suitable pomp and celebration of course [1].



OPENING OF THE MUSIC HALL, SETTLE.

In the early part of last week, this interesting building, which promises to contribute so much to the instruction and entertainment of the inhabitants of Settle and its neighbourhood, was formally opened and dedicated to public use. The occasion was celebrated by the performance, on Monday evening, of the sacred oratorio of "The Creation," by the members of the Settle Choral Society, assisted by the principal members, vocal and instrumental, of the Leeds Choral Society, and by several distinguished vocalists whose services had been specially engaged for the occasion; and on Tuesday evening by a concert of miscellaneous music. Before, however, we speak of these performances, it may be well to say a word in regard to the building which has been thus auspiciously inaugurated. A want has long been felt of some appropriate building in which the various requirements of a locality, possessing a population such as that of Settle and its neighbourhood for all purposes of public assemblage—such as lectures, concerts, and public meetings—could be conveniently and sufficiently provided for; and the successful establishment of a Choral Society in the town within the last few years has tended to cause this want to be still more seriously felt. In the absence of any public attempt to supply this deficiency, necessarily involving a considerable expenditure with no prospect of adequate return, this

Music Hall has been erected at the sole cost of the Rev. J. Robinson, who has, in a spirit of praiseworthy liberality, provided not only that the building should be such as to answer all the purposes of public instruction and entertainment, but also be a handsome architectural ornament to his native town. The structure is designed in the Italian style, and contains a handsome music room, 50 feet long and 30 feet wide and of good height; fitted up with a spacious orchestra, rising floor, and convenient waiting and refreshment rooms; and capable of affording accommodation to an audience of about 400 persons. The architectural ornaments are simple and appropriate, and the hall possesses exactly that degree of resonance, the absence or excess of which is alike embarrassing to the singer or lecturer; and the precise amount of which in our public buildings it appears to be so difficult to attain. The work appears to be executed in a solid and substantial manner, and the arrangement of the attendant apartments seems to be very convenient. The building was designed and completed under the superintendence of Mr. E. G. Paley, of Lancaster. The same spirit which dictated its construction presided over its inauguration, and no expense seems to have been spared to render its opening worthy of the occasion.

Initially the Music Hall provided for the elite of the town, but after financial difficulties became apparent began to offer performances which were 'more likely than previously to attract the middle and lower classes' [2].

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On Monday evening the music room was well filled, but not crowded—the audience was composed of the *elite* of the town and district, and several families from Skipton, Gargrave, Lancaster, and the neighbourhood, who had been invited to partake of the hospitalities of their Craven friends, were also amongst the company—everybody appeared highly delighted, and at the close of the performance nothing was to be heard but congratulatory remarks upon the auspicious opening, and expressions of bright expectations as to the future advantages to be derived from the provision of a Music Hall, at Settle.

ANOTHER CONCERT. — A vocal concert is announced to be given, in Settle Music Hall, on Tuesday. Miss Whitham, Mrs. Sanderson, Mr. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Newsome, and Mr. Calvert, will be the principal singers; and last, but not least, the prices of admission will be such as are more likely than previously to attract the middle and lower classes. This is worthy of notice these hard times.

Mary Lambert also descended from the Pearts - she became the first wife of *Rev Hogarth John Swale*.

Susanna's brother **Dixon Robinson** was a solicitor was appointed by Lord Montague as the 'Gentleman Steward of the Honor of Clitheroe', a position whose residence and office was Clitheroe Castle. Dixon was known as a generous man, supporting the development

of local infrastructure and welfare services — he paid for Chatburn church, and was a founding trustee for Blackburn Dispensary and Infirmary, Blackburn Police Force, Blackburn Gasworks and was the solicitor for the Bolton, Darwen, Blackburn and West Yorkshire Railway. Dixon famously 'donated 5 tons of best Clitheroe lime to Blackburn Council for whitewashing the dwellings of the poor & narrow alleys....to prevent the plague of epidemic disease'. During the cotton riots Dixon was a clerk to the magistrates, actively involved with keeping the peace, physically arresting rioters.

The Robinson siblings each have a memorial window dedicated to them in Chatburn Church. It is perhaps surprising that Susanna was buried here at Holy Ascension church.

Here lie the remains of Susanna Constantine Robinson only daughter of Josias and Susanna Robinson of Chatburn who died 19th Decr 1862 aged (71) years, E20

Susanna's servants were widow **Mary Maria Blundell** and her daughter **Harriet** who was born in Spain. Spain was in turmoil in the early 1800s, occupied by Napoleon until 1814, and then afflicted by numerous civil wars eventually bringing about the end of the monarchy. Mary Maria's husband Thomas died in those wars. No wonder Settle seemed an attractive place.

M (Mary Maria) Blundell. Ob Nov 29, AD 1849, Age 66, B28

The design of Mary's gravestone is similar to that of Susanna's - it's likely that Susanna paid for Mary's gravestone. Harriet continued to work for Susanna Constantine Robinson after her mum died. After Susanna died in 1862, Harriet, perhaps with a legacy from her generous employer, moved to Darwen, Blackburn. When Harriet died in 1878 she left her estate to the local hospital [3].



BEQUEST TO THE BLACKBURN AND EAST-LANCASHIRE INFIRMARY.—The executors of the late Harriet Blundell, of Darwen, have this week, through their solicitors, Messrs. Robinson, Sons, and Gill, placed to the credit of the endowment fund of the Infirmary the sum of £450, being a bequest by the deceased, who left the whole of her estate to the Infirmary. There will still be a small balance to payover on the completion of the winding-up of the estate.

Stephen Robinson, carrier

In memory of Stephen Robinson, carrier of Settle who died December 1st 1856 aged 59 years. Also of Elizabeth his wife who died April 21st 1859 aged 62 years, B7

Stephen was born in Rathmell in 1797. In 1820 he married **Elizabeth Gill** who came from Airton near Malham. Elizabeth could be a sister to *Joseph Gill (Gifford)* in the adjacent grave B6. Stephen worked as a carrier all his life, living in the Back Stables, behind the Golden Lion. Carriers drove horse-drawn carts to transport goods, often employed by inns and the railway companies for local deliveries and collections of goods and parcels. This is not an occupation which would usually provide sufficient finances for a gravestone.



They had three daughters and a son who all moved to Lancashire towns to find work and have families after their death. Son John worked as a house painter. Daughter **Nancy** married **John**

Mason, a saw machinist. Daughter **Jane** married **Francis Street** who also worked as a carrier and then a cotton weaver.

Daughter **Mary** chose an exceptionally successful husband, **James Walton** who would definitely have been able to pay for Stephen's gravestone. They married in 1850 in Colne and had at least nine children. The report of Mary's funeral in 1901 gave us a hint of their achievements and character [3].

DEATH OF MRS. WALTON.
FUNERAL ON WEDNESDAY.
A week ago we announced that Mrs. Walton, the widow of the late Mr. James Walton, was seriously ill. We regret to say she died last Saturday evening at her residence at Thornleigh. Mrs. Walton had been at one time a well-known person in the Burnley Lane district as she and her husband were in business as grocers at the corner of Lee-street for many years. Mr. Walton founded the extensive cotton business of James Walton and Sons. Mrs. Walton, up till comparatively recently, enjoyed very good health, but some

large family of sons and daughters. She and her husband were regular worshippers at Sion Baptist Church, in Yorkshire-street, and as long as she was able Mrs. Walton journeyed thither every Sunday. In character Mrs. Walton belonged to the old race of determined workers who have done so much to make Burnley what it is. She and her husband, without much assistance from educational facilities or inheritance, contrived by hard work, thrift and enterprise to build up a large business and rear a family who have all done well in the world. At the same time Mr. and Mrs. Walton won the esteem of all their acquaintances by their cheery good nature, and their sterling worth. In the family circle Mrs. Walton was the true mother and the centre of the domestic happiness, and she will be very much missed by her sons and daughters and her grandchildren.

James was the eldest of at least ten children of **John Walton**, a millwright. After working as a millwright, during the 1860s James 'founded the extensive cotton business of James Walton and sons'. In fact James initially set up business with a younger brother **Joshua Walton** in Nelson. At the time of the 1861 census both James and Joshua were described as cotton manufacturers employing 78 weavers and 16 spinners. Joshua and his family lived next door to James and Mary.

James Walton	Son	Mar	41	Walton, James & Sons
Mary	Wife	Mar	30	Employing 78 weavers & 16 spinners
Elyabeth	Son		9	Scholar
Henry	Son		7	Scholar
Ann	Son		5	do
William	Son		1	
Joshua Walton	Son	Mar	37	Manufacture etc

By 1863 they were able to distribute dividends to shareholders [4]. It was a family business - brothers **Luke**, **Mark** and **Ingham** worked as overlookers (floor managers) at the mills, and brother-in-law **Samuel Clegg** worked as a book keeper for them.

Records show that the Walton brothers ran several mills: Victoria Mills and Albert Mills in the centre of Nelson, Windlehurst Mill in Stockport, Summerville New Mill in Oldham and Barley Green Mill on the flanks of Pendle Hill. James had bought Barley Green Mill in 1872 when the previous owner went bankrupt. Unfortunately the mill suffered both a flood in 1880 and a fire. In 1883 James's business was liquidated and he had to sell up [3]. The sale details give an indication of the size of this mill.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Trustees under the Assignment dated the 6th day of October, 1863, made by JAMES WALTON and JOSHUA WALTON, both of Nelson, in the Township of Little Marsden, in the county of Lancaster, Cotton Manufacturers, for the equal benefit of their Creditors intend on the 6th day of April, 1864, to declare a dividend thereunder. Any Creditors whose claims have not been already admitted must send particulars thereof before that date to
POTTER & WOOD,
Solicitors to the Trustees.
19, Princess-st., Manchester.

As it transpired, the site was bought by a representative of the local council - the mill had been powered by water from Ogden Clough. The Ogden Clough Reservoir soon occupied the site, providing water for the local area. Coincidentally, the descendants of *Henry Duncan Robinson* also ran mills in the Barley area.

James was 65, but the liquidation didn't seem to be too much of a problem for James - he will have had contacts fingers in many pies.

In 1897, a partnership between James, Joseph and another brother John was dissolved [3]. James died in 1900, aged 81, just a year before Mary. Their son Albert carried on the business.

SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY AT BARLEY AND NELSON.
RE JAMES WALTON, IN LIQUIDATION.
TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. MATTHEW WATSON, at the NELSON INN, Nelson, in the County of Lancaster, on THURSDAY, 26th April, 1883, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to such conditions as will be then produced,—
Lot 1.—All that First-class WEAVING SHED, capable of holding 300 Looms, known by the name of "Barley Green Mill," situate at Barley, in the Forest of Pendle, in the County of Lancaster, together with the Warehouse, Engine, and Boiler Houses, containing Condensing Engine, Water Wheel, and Two Boilers, and the Reservoir with the appurtenances thereto belonging, and formerly in the occupation of the said James Walton.
And all the modern MACHINERY therein, consisting of 50 Looms by Butterworth and Dickinson; 148 Looms by Harling and Todd, and 16 Looms by various makers. Also a Tape Machine, Two new Beaming Frames, and One new Winding Engine, all by Howard and Bullough.
The whole of this machinery is new and in good working condition.

James's brother Joshua had a fabulous family tomb and gravestone [ph1].

PARTNERSHIPS.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **PARTNERSHIP** heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned **JOSEPH WALTON, JAMES WALTON** and **JOHN WALTON** at **Bridge Mill, Leeds-road, Nelson, in the County of Lancaster, as Cotton Manufacturers, under the style of firm of "J., J. and J. WALTON"** was on the **Twenty-second day of April, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, DIS-SOLVED BY MUTUAL CONSENT.**
Dated the eighth day of September, 1897.
JOSEPH WALTON,
JAMES WALTON,
JOHN WALTON.
Witness to the signatures
of all the parties,
A. R. BALDWIN, Solicitor,
6, Hibson-road, Nelson.



It wasn't all good news for this family. Brother **Ingham Walton** had a few problems. He had an unsuccessful marriage and tried and failed at weaving. Then he tried and failed at innkeeping. Whilst working as an innkeeper he was fined five shillings for being drunk and disorderly. In 1869 he was declared bankrupt. He found employment in Liverpool police force, but was attacked by a gardener who accused Ingham of starting the fight. Perhaps it's not surprising that he emigrated to Boston, USA, followed by brother Luke.

— THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1861.
— IN THE MATTER OF —
In the COUNTY COURT of LANCASHIRE, holden at COLNE.
IN THE MATTER OF INGHAM WALTON, of Colne-road, Nelson, in the County of Lancaster, power loom weaver, late of Bradley Row, and formerly of the Royal Oak, both in Nelson aforesaid, beerhouse keeper, adjudged bankrupt on the tenth day of March, 1869.



Settle Graveyard Project



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk, 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Leeds Intelligencer, 2 – Lancaster Gazette, 3 – Burnley Express, 4 – Burnley Advertiser

ph1 – photo credited to the descendants of the family, ph2 – with kind permission of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society