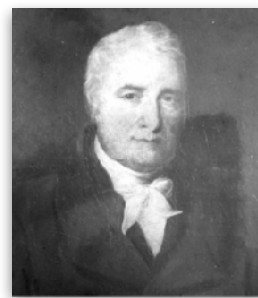


The Robinsons, aristocrats

Josias Robinson [ph1], born in 1749 in Grassington, descended from the Dawson family who owned Langcliffe Hall [ph7] and numerous other properties and land in the area. They were incredibly wealthy and in those days, before inheritance taxes, good investments ensured future generations remained wealthy. Josias married Susanna Dixon in 1788 and they had several children who made significant contributions to life in Settle and their family tree is below.



Each of Josias and Susanna's children have a memorial window dedicated to them in Chatburn Church, near Clitheroe, but were well known and successful in Settle. Spinster daughter Susanna Constantine Robinson, born in 1791 in Chatburn, made a comfortable living from the proceeds of invested inheritance. She lived in the large house just below Fern Hill on Constitution Hill in Settle. If she had married, 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 at that time such as *Margaret Bolland* (a distant relation) and the *Jarry sisters*. Susanna is buried in the



Ancient graveyard. Susannah's servant was *Mary Maria Blundell* and Susanna may well have paid for her matching gravestone.



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, Anc E20



MR. WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Josias and Susanna's sons were Oxbridge educated, of course. Son William Robinson [ph1,9] was a JP for North Yorkshire and a banker in Settle. William had married Jane Peart from another successful local banking family. Jane's father Robert Peart built Cragdale, which later became the police station on Duke Street. Jane Peart's niece, Mary Peart, became the first wife of the vicar of Settle Parish Church, *Rev Hogarth John Swale*.

William and Jane had two influential sons. 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. Thousands of people have enjoyed performances in that building since. Originally the building had two

OPENING OF THE MUSIC HALL, SETTLE.

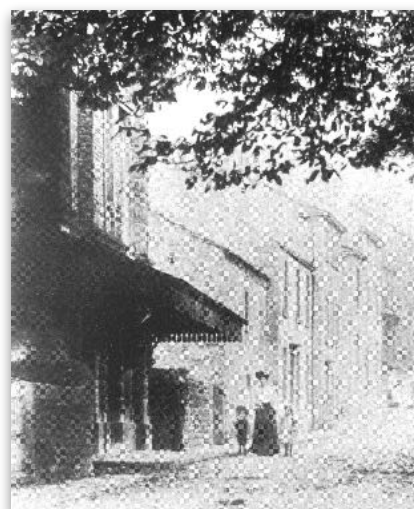
In the early part of last week, this interesting building, which promises to contribute so much to the instruction and entertainment of the inhabitants of Settle and its neighbourhood, was formally opened and dedicated to public use. The occasion was celebrated by the performance, on Monday evening, 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

balconies! It was built on the site of the old National School which had been there since 1816, so John also financed the building of the school in Upper Settle as a replacement.

The Music Hall [ph2] was opened with suitable pomp and celebration of course [ph4, 1]. Initially the Music Hall provided for the elite of

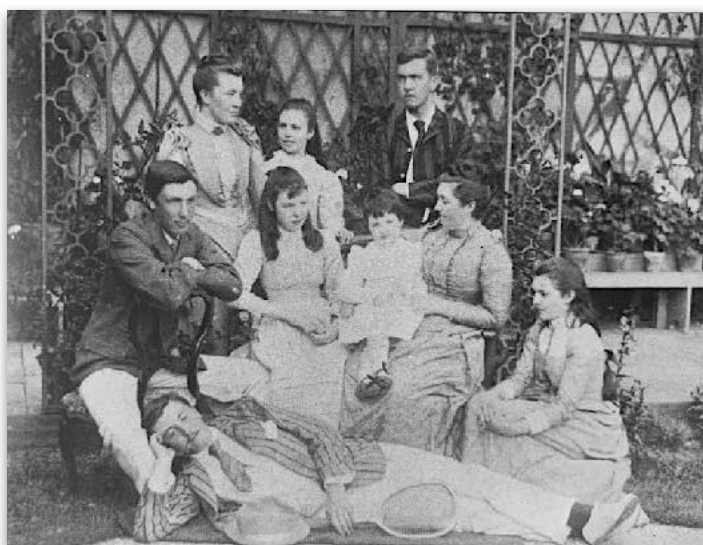
Music Hall has been erected at the sole cost of the Rev. J. Robinson, who has, in a spirit of praiseworthy liberality, provided not only that the building should be such as to answer all the purposes of public instruction and entertainment, but also be a handsome architectural ornament to his native 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.

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.



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].

William and Jane's son, another **William Robinson**, was a banker, Alderman and JP at Reedley Hallows, Pendle. He married **Elizabeth Allen** and they had seven children. One of these was **John Gorges Robinson** who spent his life living on 'independent means' in Settle [ph7], Liverpool and London. He became a Justice of the Peace for Yorkshire. He retained links with Settle, checking on the family's investment in the Music Hall. He retired to Cragdale on Duke Street. John Gorges Robinson had married **Ellen Cochrane Drysdale** and they had four daughters. Two of these, **Cecil Maude** and **Beatrice Mercy** died in infancy and are buried with John, who died in 1919, aged 52, in the Old graveyard. John's widow Ellen lived until the age of 96 and died in Devon.



Settle Graveyard Project

Cecile Maud Robinson born August 1 1893 died January 5 1894 Beatrice Mercy Robinson born July 28 1895 died April 20 1896. John 'Gorges' Robinson of Cragdale Born June 29 1866 died June 3 1919, Old C64



Going back a generation, Josias and Susanna Robinson had a son **Dixon Robinson** who was a solicitor appointed by Lord Montague as the 'Gentleman Steward of the Honor of Clitheroe', a position with a residence and office of Clitheroe Castle, another impressive residence. 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.

In 1845 Dixon recruited Settle's **William Mosley Perfect**, a solicitor, to work for him in Blackburn in the firm of Robinson, Perfect and Robinson Solicitors. William worked '*obtaining the acts of Parliament for the construction of the railways from Blackburn to Bolton and Clitheroe*' [3].

of 1845, since which time he has resided here, and assisted in carrying into effect many measures important to the town, particularly in obtaining the acts of parliament for the construction of the railways from Blackburn to Bolton and Clitheroe respectively. He was one of the first chosen aldermen of Blackburn, and retired about two years since from the corporation,—

Dixon had married **Matilda Ingram** [ph1] and they had at least eight children. Their son **Arthur Ingram Robinson** took over the solicitor's company and Clitheroe Castle when his father died. Arthur [ph1, back left of photo] married **Rosanna Chambers** and had a photo taken at a family gathering. Their son **Dixon (jnr)** married his second cousin **Mary Adelaide Robinson** in 1895.



Dixon and Mary Adelaide's infant son **Dixon Allen Robinson** died in 1899 and is buried in the family plots **Old D60**. Mary Adelaide joined him when she died in 1933. The burial records give their address as 'Skipton Castle' although they were living in the 16th century Habberley Hall in Shropshire [ph6] at the time of the 1911 census – also very nice.

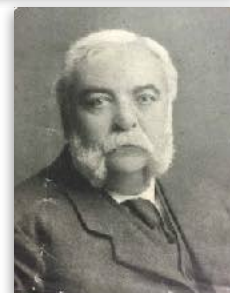
Dixon Allen Robinson born March 5 1899 died May 30 1899 Mary Adelaide Robinson wife of Dixon Robinson died 11th Nov 1933 in her 64th year Old D60



Dixon and Matilda's daughter **Susannah Catherine Robinson** married **William Edward Musson**, a highly qualified and respected surgeon, and they had 11 children [ph1]. They lived in Clitheroe and William became known as 'the Grand Old Man of Clitheroe' having served as a magistrate, a police surgeon, and as the medical officer for the Post Office and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. Their children all had successful careers. Unable to be a medical practitioner, as a woman, daughter **Ellen Mary Musson** trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's (Barts) and had a long career. She spent two decades working to improve the status of nursing as a founder member of (what would become) the Royal College of Nursing. She joined the Territorial Force Nursing Service and was a Principal Matron during WW1. She received an Honorary degree from Leeds University in 1932 and in 1939 the International Florence Nightingale Medal of the International Red Cross Society for outstanding service to nursing. Already holding the CBE since 1928 she was appointed a Dame of the British Empire in the King's New Year's Honours list of 1939. She retired to Eastbourne, living with siblings, until she died, aged 93!



Dixon and Matilda's son **George Robinson**, [front centre of the family gathering, ph5], born in 1836, started his career in banking, of course and became managing director of the Craven Bank in Skipton. Later George described his occupation as 'Managing Director of Shares'. An obituary mentioned, 'George Robinson, with mutton-chop whiskers and heavy tweed cape and deerstalker hat, was a familiar and revered figure in the town.'



George appeared to have an unsuccessful engagement with **Frances (Fanny) Stubbs** the daughter of a Knaresborough attorney. In 1856, when George and Fanny were both just 20, her cousin **John Richard Stubbs** recorded in his diary [A] 'drove Fanny Stubbs . . . in the Phaeton' and 'drove the ladies to the Terrace to tea. After tea we all walked to Castleberg. Fanny told me of her smash with George Robinson and she also told me of Mary Anne's Engagement with Walter Alfred Hills Esq'.



Much later, in 1873, George married **Mary Perfect**, a distant relation and the daughter of Dixon's employee **William Mosley Perfect** and **Jane Bolland**. Mary had lived at Langcliffe Hall. George and Mary lived in Skipton and had five children. Mary died in 1903, aged 55, followed by George in 1907, aged 71. They are buried in the family vault with toddler **Donald Ingram Robinson**.

Donald Ingram Robinson born 19 November 1888, died 29 April 1891. **Mary Robinson** born 20 December 1847, died 18 February 1903. **George Robinson of Overdales, Skipton**, born 11 August 1835, died 8 September 1907, Old B64

George and Mary's daughter **Mary Kathleen Robinson**



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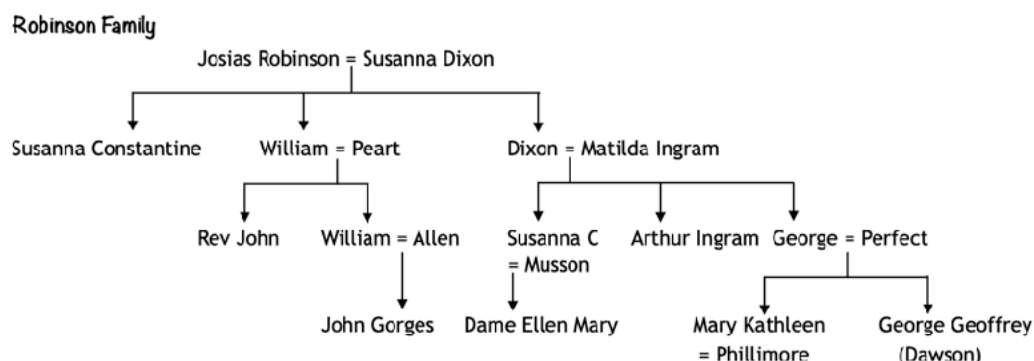
married **Captain Valentine Egerton Bagot Phillimore** in 1908. He was the son of **Sir Admiral Augustus Phillimore** and was born on Valentine's Day, unsurprisingly. Valentine had a long, active career in the Navy from the age of 14 and was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1913. After the war he worked for the Naval Intelligence Division. In early 1921, he was sent to Constantinople 'until ratification of the Peace with Turkey' but was brought back after a few months and retired at his own request in 1922. He retired to the Isle of Wight. He was awarded an OBE and a DSO (Distinguished Service Order) for his contribution to the Boer Wars.

Unfortunately, just a year after the wedding, wife **Mary Kathleen** died at the birth of a daughter **Mary Eleanor Phillimore** who also died. Mother and daughter are buried in the family vault. The gravestone also commemorates the life of Mary's brother who died, aged 20, in Brazil.



Mary Kathleen Phillimore only daughter of George and Mary Robinson and wife of Commander V.L. Phillimore D.S.O. Born Nov 3 1875 died March 23 1909, Mary Eleanor Phillimore their infant daughter born March 22 Died March 23 1909, To the Memory of Francis Bertram Robinson born March 13th. 1880 Died at Para in Brazil Sep 28 1910, B63

All three of these graves are located together. The graves of the Phillimores and of George and Mary Robinson are in a walled vault with the graves of Dixon Allen Robinson and his mum just behind.



George and Mary's son **George Geoffrey Robinson**, born in 1874, achieved considerable fame and fortune. Locally, due to ancestry of the Dawsons of Langcliffe Hall on both sides of the family, those named Robinson and Perfect were permitted by Queen Victoria to take on the name of Dawson and bear the arms of Dawson. Their cousin, **Elizabeth Hutton Dawson** had decreed that this should be the case in her will of 1866. In May 1930 Geoffrey, now living at Langcliffe Hall provided a new flag pole for Castleberg, which he also owned, in time for Empire Day commemorations [6].

Castleberg, the rock which overlooks Settle, lost its flagpole in a storm four years ago. A new pole has now been provided by Mr. Geoffrey Dawson, of Langcliffe Hall, the owner of the rock, and it was brought into use on Saturday, when the Union Jack was hoisted in commemoration of Empire Day.

George Geoffrey Robinson, now known as Geoffrey Dawson, married **Margaret Cecilia Lawley** from York, the daughter of Arthur Lawley, the sixth Lord Wenlock and Captain of the 10th Royal Hussars. They had a son and two daughters. Geoffrey died, aged 70 in 1945. His obituary [7] tells us he was educated at Eton and then Magdalen, Oxford. He was elected to All Souls Fellowship which is an elite fellowship for graduates with careers in public life. He became a Colonial Secretary in South Africa.



Geoffrey went into journalism, beginning with the

editorship of the Johannesburg Star. He became a correspondent and then, with good connections, [ph1-right] became the editor of the Times from 1912 - 1919 and 1923 - 41. Upon his first appointment circulation rose dramatically from 47,000 in August 1912, to an average 145,000 by the spring of 1914.



In 1938, Settle Rural District Council were discussing the possibility of a 'Settle Bypass' from Anley to the top of Belle Hill. Geoffrey wrote to a local paper saying it was '*ill conceived, short-sighted and wasteful*' and didn't avoid '*the notorious obstacle of Buckhaw Brow*' [B]. Instead he proposed a road from Mearbeck to Cross Streets (near Austwick). It took nearly half a century for a bypass of 6.7km to materialise from Cleatop to Rawlinshaw (by Courtyard Dairy). Geoffrey [6] was known to have '*an immense capacity for work and a distaste for personal publicity*'. He died in 1944, aged 70 and was buried in Langcliffe with a particularly understated gravestone.

After Geoffrey's death in the early 1950s, a biography was written which was, in parts, critical of his politics and style. He was known to have sympathies with the Nazis and encouraged peaceful negotiation with them. He was also criticised for breaking the news about the relationship between Wallis Simpson and Edward VIII leading to his abdication [8]. In turn, many criticised the author of the biography for raising these issues after Geoffrey had died, unable to respond.

"The Times," of course, is an independent newspaper, but it is close to the country's most intimate councils.
It may speak, or it may choose not to speak. But, one feels, it knows. And when it does speak—as it did so influentially through Geoffrey Dawson at the time of the abdication of King Edward VIII—it speaks for a powerful section of society and with a powerful voice.

That he had his part in bringing Lloyd George to power at the decisive stage of the first World War; that he helped to make possible the formation of the National Government in 1931; that he was a close counsellor and confidant of Baldwin; that he influenced the course of events which led up to the abdication of Edward VIII; that he sympathised with and understood the appeasement policy of Baldwin and Chamberlain—all this is clear. But all



And in total contrast to the aristocrats . . .

Thomas Robinson, agricultural labourer

Thomas Robinson, born in 1839, was the son of George Robinson and Mary Rayner. George worked in the Bradford woollen mills. Thomas chose the life of an agricultural labourer and found work all over the north of England. Whilst in Ulverston, he met and married Dorothy Johnson, a farm labourer's daughter.



They had at least six children and spent many years working on farms between Grassington and Skipton. By the time of the 1891 census they were in 20 Craven Cottages in Settle. Daughter Mary died, aged 18, in 1891 and then Dorothy died in 1893 so Thomas moved to Skipton with the rest of the family and, in 1897, married a widow Mary Holdsworth who helped with the rest of the childrearing.

Mary's maiden name was Rayner and she was Thomas' second maternal cousin. She had previously married Wilkinson Holdsworth, a cabinet maker and the son of a Skipton church sexton. At the time of the 1871 census Wilkinson was described as 'unemployed cabinet maker' so in 1877 Wilkinson and Mary

settleresearch@gmail.com

THE CROSS KEYS INN,
NEWMARKET STREET, SKIPTON.

WILKINSON HOLDSWORTH,
Desires to inform his friends and the public generally that he has taken the above-named Hostelry, and hopes by strict attention to business, and due regard for the comfort of his customers, to merit a share of public patronage.

ALE and PORTER of the best Brewings, from Messrs. Scott and Robinson.

SPIRITS OF THE CHOICEST QUALITY.
PRIME CIGARS.

Settle Graveyard Project



took over the Cross Keys Inn [CH] which was at 14 Newmarket Street in Skipton, now replaced by shops. By the time of the 1881 census Wilkinson was back to working as a cabinet maker. Wilkinson died in 1893. Son Thomas Johnson Robinson worked in Skipton as a shoemaker, and Allan Robinson [ph5] was a stonemason. Thomas was brought back to Settle for burial with Dorothy and Mary.

In loving memory of Mary daughter of Thomas and Dorothy Robinson died May 11th 1891 aged 18 years. Also of the above Dorothy Robinson died Feb 9th 1893 aged 56 years. Also of the above Thomas Robinson died Jan 29th 1927 in his 88th year, Old B28



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://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'.

Thanks to David McKinlay for his help with this account. Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Leeds Mercury, 3 – Yorkshire Post, 4 – Pall Mall Gazette, 5 – Edinburgh News, 6 – Yorkshire Post, 7 – Birmingham Daily Post, 8 – Coventry Evening Telegraph

ph1 – credited to the descendants of the family via ancestry.co.uk, username Roger_Sharland, mikeandanne164 and Georgiana Bell, ph2 – photo with the kind permission of Mike Howarth, ph3 – credit the Back in Settle Facebook page, ph4 – photo with the kind permission of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, ph5 – credited to the descendants of the family via ancestry.co.uk, user jpeasnell, ph6 – credited to Wikipedia, ph7 – The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick, thanks to John Reid, ph8 – created to How they lived in Old Settle by Bill Mitchell, ph9 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, from the Ben Mackenzie collection.

A – northyorkshirehistory.blogspot.com, B – credited to Bill Mitchells' book Gossip from Giggleswick

CH – with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

A detailed history of the Peart and Robinson families is provided on www.turtlebunbury.com.