

The Stained Glass Windows in Church of St Alkelda, Giggleswick

Robinson family

Window photographs © Christine Chandler

W9 ROBINSON WINDOW PLAQUE

To the Glory of God and the revered memory of their father William Robinson of Settle, Banker, this window is set up by his two sons William and John. AD MDCCCLXXII

The three light window depicts biblical scenes representing the cardinal Christian virtues of justice, mercy and humility recalling the words of the prophet Micah "To do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God".

The window was designed by F Hendren of the firm John Hardman in Birmingham and cost £64 2s 6d [about £4,015 at 2017 values]



W10 ROBINSON WINDOW PLAQUE

To the Glory of God and to the dear memory of Jane, wife of William Robinson of Settle, Banker, this window is set up by her husband and her two sons William and John. AD MDCCLVIII

The three light window portrays incidents from the New Testament on the theme of caring for others. Jesus saying "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not" [Luke 18.16]; the Good Samaritan [Luke 10.30-35]; and Shewing the coats and garments Dorcas made, Dorcas being renowned for her good works [Acts 9.39].

This is the first of the new 19th century windows installed at St Alkelda's. Designed at the firm of John Hardman in Birmingham.



William Robinson Senior

William Snr (1789-1872) was born in **Chatburn**, Lancashire, the eldest son of five children of Josias and Susannah (nee Dixon) Robinson. William became an **Articled Clerk** in 1805 at the age of 16 under William Benson of Knaresborough, an Attorney of the King's Bench Westminster and, signed off six years later in 1812 at his chambers in Otley. He **married Jane Peart** in 1819.

Jane Peart (1786-1843) was born in Giggleswick, the eldest of John and Ellin Peart's four children. Her father was of an old Grassington family and came to practise as a solicitor in Settle. John Peart was an original partner in the **Craven Bank** in 1792. He built his house, **Cragdale** on Duke Street, Settle (until recently the Police Station and court) and passed it to his daughter after his death in 1835 while his interest in the bank descended to his son-in-law, William Robinson Snr.

William Snr and Jane had **two sons, William Jnr** (1823) and **John** (1825). William Snr was a solicitor and banker and served as a local magistrate. In 1838, along with others, William and Jane became subscribers for a **new church to be built in Settle** as St Alkeda's Church, Giggleswick was no longer big enough for the congregation of Giggleswick and Settle. William Snr was also one of the investors in the **North Western Railway** [Skipton to Lancaster] in 1857. They lived at Cragdale for many years, living to the ripe old age of 82. He is buried in a chest tomb at St Alkeda's with his wife.

An obituary in the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer stated that he died on 17 February in the 83rd year of his age,a retired **solicitor** and **banker**, having been a **West Riding magistrate** for more than twenty years, and a **commissioner of income-tax** from its beginning in 1842.

William Robinson Jnr was at Giggleswick School in 1838 and then attended **Oriel College, Oxford** and gained a BA 2nd class in Classics in 1845. He was **called to the bar**, Middle Temple, and followed in his father's footsteps and became a solicitor and banker and served as local **magistrate**. In 1855 he moved to Burnley to manage that branch of the **Craven Bank**.

He **married Elizabeth Allen**, a vicar's daughter born in Essex in 1857 whose father was Vicar of St. Michael's, Clitheroe. They had moved to Ashfield House (now demolished) in Burnley by 1861. They moved to **Reedley Bank**, later Reedley Hall, to the north of Burnley by 1871. They would have 4 sons and 4 daughters, although a son and a daughter didn't reach adulthood. They appear to have lived in great style, the 1871 Census shows they had a staff of ten house servants plus a father and son gardening family living in a cottage on the estate.

William Jnr was admitted to the **Manchester Royal Hospital for the Insane** in Cheadle on 14 January 1881 and died shortly afterwards at the age of 58.

See surrounding sheets about aspects of William Jnr's life

William Robinson senior 1789-1872



William Robinson Senior.
1789 - 1872

William Robinson junior 1823 - 1881



John Robinson 1825 – 1886

See also

Slater, M.J., 2010. The changing fortunes of charities in the ancient parish of Giggleswick. North Craven Heritage Trust Journal, pp.3-6.

Slater, M.J., 2014. Rev. John Robinson and Alphonsine Sarah Jarry Charities. North Craven Heritage Trust Journal, pp.3-4.

John Robinson was at Giggleswick School in 1840, attended Oriel College, Oxford in 1843 gaining a BA in 1846 and an MA in 1853. He was ordained deacon in 1848 by the Bishop of Ripon and became curate of Wortley, Leeds. Later he became Vicar of Langcliffe but resigned owing to ill health after a short period. From 1857 to 1867 he was Chaplain to Settle Union. In later life he aided local clergy on a voluntary basis.

He married Catherine Harrison daughter of a banker, Thomas Harrison, from North Stainley near Ripon in 1860. The couple lived at Cragdale with his father in 1861. John was a generous supporter of every kind of local institution including the North Craven Horticultural Society and Settle Choral Society for which he built the Music Hall (now Victoria Hall) on the site of the old National School and also built the new National School above Albert Hill, both in 1853. He was very fond of music and edited the Parochial Psalter and Hymn Book in 1860.

By 1871 they had moved to Rose Bank, Sidmouth, Devon due to his ill health. John and Catherine appear to have been childless. Catherine died in 1878. He died at Sidmouth, Devon on 11 Jan 1886. According to a report in the local newspaper he had been out for a drive and shortly after "was attacked by apoplexy [stroke], and succumbed almost immediately"

Catherine's sister Temperance Caroline, a spinster, lived with them in Devon and was still living at Rose Bank when she died in 1922.

In his will he included bequests to 14 different charitable bodies plus subscriptions to Settle and Giggleswick churches and money to be held in trust for almshouses, or otherwise, for the benefit of the aged and infirm in Giggleswick.

Western Times - Saturday 08 May 1886

THE WILL OF THE LATE REV. J. ROBINSON OF SIDMOUTH

The will of the Rev. John Roberson late of Rose Bank, Sidmouth, who died on the 11th of January, has been proved at Exeter by George Roberson, Henry John Roberson and Temperance Caroline Roberson the executors, to whom administration was granted. The net amount of the personal estate was £101,807. The testator gives the following pecuniary legacies, which he expressly directed should be paid out of such part of his personal estate only as can by law be devoted to such purposes, free of legacy duty. To the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the National Society for the Education of the Poor (on the principles of the Church of England), the Incorporated Church Building Society, the Incumbents' Augmentation Society, the Curates' Augmentation Society, and the Additional Curates' Society, £500 each. To the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, the Poor Clergy Relief Society, the Friend of the Clergy Society, the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, the Governesses' Benevolent Institution, the Clergy Orphan Corporation, and the St. John's Foundation School, each £300. To the London City Mission, the Lord's-day Rest Association, the Albert Orphan Asylum, the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, the Church of England Temperance Society, and the Church Defence Institution (London), each £200. To the trustees of Settle Church, for increasing the endowment fund of that church, £500, and in or towards the restoration and improvement of Giggleswick Parish Church, £200. The testator directs that the last-mentioned sum shall be laid out and applied by his executors at such time within twenty-one years of his death towards such restoration and improvement as they shall deem best, and meantime shall be set apart by his executors, immediately after his decease, and invested by them in such manner as they shall think advisable, and the income thereof accumulated and added to and applied along with the principal sum. He also gives to his friends John Birkbeck, jun., William George Perfect, and Charles Henry Charlesworth, and his nephew, John Georges Roberson, the sum of £5,000, free of legacy duty, to be by them held upon trust for the endowment of almshouses, or otherwise, for the benefit of the aged and infirm poor in the parish of Giggleswick.

Rev John Robinson

The Music Hall and the new National School

Reverend John Robinson was responsible for building the Music Hall (now Victoria Hall) and the new National School in **1853**.

The site of the Victoria Hall was once the first "National School" in Settle, built around 1816, on a plot of yard and garden originally attached to the Spread Eagle Inn. From the day it was built the school provided not just education but a large venue suitable for a variety of meetings for the community.

The school provided the largest meeting place in Settle, and in 1850 the massive support for the newly formed choral society raised questions about a larger venue. [Lancaster Gazette 1850]

In 1853 the National School was moved to a new building above Albert Hill, Upper Settle. For a short while students were educated at the Folly whilst the building was finished.

The old site was significantly upgraded to the Music Hall. The elaborate conversion was paid for by Reverend John Robinson, who also paid for the new school. It was renamed the Victoria Hall in the 1890s.

The new school provided a second public venue for meetings, and once it had been built, many Temperance and church meetings took place in the new school hall, rather than the new Music Hall.

On 10 October 1853, the official opening of the new Music Hall was marked by a performance of Handel's Creation and then, on the 11th, a Grand Dress Concert, Leeds Intelligencer

<p>MMUSICAL FESTIVAL, AT THE OPENING OF THE MUSIC HALL, SETTLE. ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, will be performed Haydn's Oratorio, "THE CREATION." ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, a GRAND DRESS CONCERT. PRINCIPAL VOCALISTS. Madame WEISS, Miss SENIOR, Mr. PERRING, Mr. WEISS, Mr. HINCHCLIFFE. The Members of the Settle Choral Society will be assisted by an Efficient BAND from the Leeds Concerts. LEADER Mr. BARNETT. PRINCIPAL 1ST VIOLIN..... Mr. G. HADDOCK. FLUTE Mr. S. SAYNOR. &c. &c. Tickets—Ara, Reserved Seats, 5s.; Second Seats, 3s. 6d.; Gallery, 2s. 6d.; may be had of Mrs. HARTLEY, Lion Hotel, or Mr. J. WILDMAN, Bookseller. Settle, 22nd September, 1853.</p>	906
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THE ROBINSONS AND BANKING IN BURNLEY
Extract from an article in the Burnley Express 2013

In Burnley, Holgate's Bank was quickly replaced (not taken over) by Alcocks, Birkbeck & Co. This was in 1824 but the bank had been founded in Settle in 1791 by William and John Birkbeck of Settle, John Alcock of Skipton, John Peart of Grassington, Joseph Smith of Giggleswick and William Lawson, also of Giggleswick. In 1826 the bank absorbed Chippendale, Netherwood & Carr of Skipton and the firm moved its head office to that town.

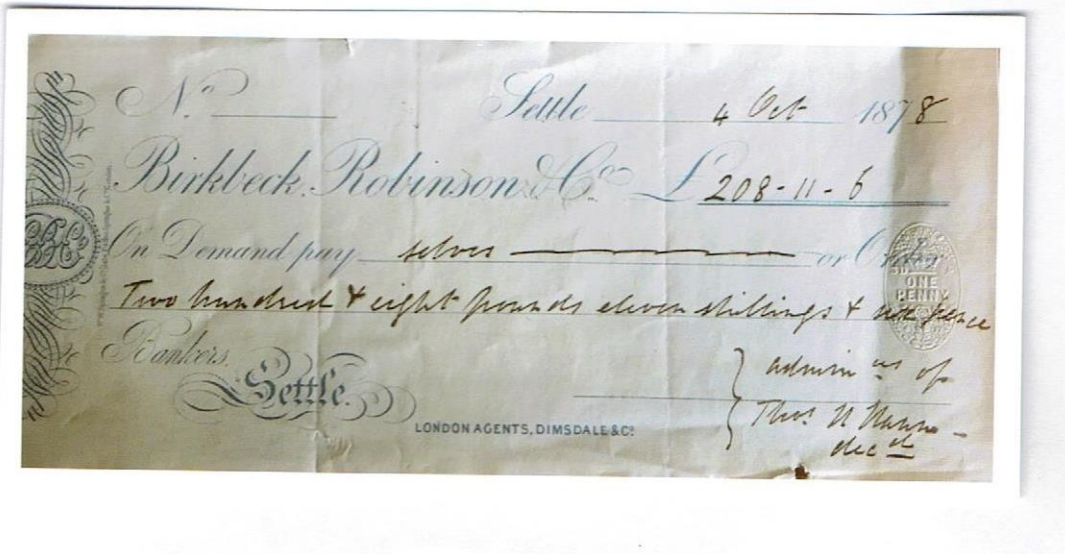
A significant event happened in 1835 when the partnership, then known as Birkbeck's, Alcock's & Birkbeck, was joined by William Robinson of Settle. This had a direct influence on Burnley as William's son, also called William, came to Burnley in 1855 as manager of the bank here. On his father's death the younger William became a partner in the firm.

William Robinson played an important role in the history of Victorian Burnley. He became a magistrate, an ex-officio Guardian and was founder of the new Workhouse, now the General Hospital. More important than these, he put his financial knowledge at the disposal of the new Burnley Council and took the chair of the finance committee for many years. He was Burnley's third mayor (1864-6) and served again in that role from 1877-9. Mr Robinson lived in great style at Reedley Bank. He died in April 1881 and is buried, as was said at the time, in a "quiet corner" of Briercliffe churchyard.

The bank he helped to run so well changed its name in 1880 to that of the Craven Bank Ltd, but it was absorbed by the Bank of Liverpool in 1906 which, in 1918, amalgamated with the London-based Martin's Bank to become the Bank of Liverpool and Martin's. Eventually, the bank became known as Martin's and this explains the survival of a coat of arms on a building at the corner of Red Lion Street and Manchester Road, Burnley. The coat of arms is distinguished by a prominent grass hopper, the sign of Martin's Bank.

There is another survival of the Craven Bank in Burnley but it is not a bank building. Near the hospital you will find Peart Street. You will recall a John Peart was one of the founders of the original bank in 1792. The Robinsons were related to the Pearts and William Robinson of Burnley gave his son the middle name of Peart and the family was involved in choosing that name for the street.

Source: <https://www.burnleyexpress.net/news/opinion/peek-into-the-past-the-fall-of-burnley-s-bank-1-5542511>
02 April 2013



HOW WEALTHY WERE THEY REALLY?*

	Date of death	Probate Value	2017 value
William Robinson Senior	1872	£45,000	£2,817,405
William Robinson Junior	1881	£233,265	£15,438,610
Elizabeth Robinson (Allen)	1882	£3,335	£220,772
John Robinson, Reverend	1886	£108,912	£8,936,210
Catherine Robinson (Harrison)	1878	£2,154	£142,561

*Information on probate values taken from
 England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995
 and converted to 2017 values using the National Archives Currency converter: 1270-2017