

George Bowness, a Lake District cobbler

George Bowness was born at Elterwater in Langdale at the heart of the Lake District, the son of a wood sawyer. When he was 22 he married 18 year old **Jane Wilson**, a blacksmith's daughter from Windermere, and they quickly began their family of at least five sons and a daughter. They lived in the village of Crook, just outside Kendal and George had a career as a cordwainer/shoemaker. Unfortunately, Jane died in June 1902, aged 51, when their youngest child, **Hannah Bowness**, was fourteen.

It was three years before George remarried. His second wife **Mary (Nicholson) Patrickson** had also been widowed. Mary was from Cartmel in the south Lakes and was the daughter of a woodcutter, **Thomas Nicholson** and his wife, widow **Mary (Atkinson) Wilson** [ph1]. George was 56 and Mary was 34. When she was 21, in 1891, Mary had married 36 year old **Jonathan Patrickson**, a most interesting character. He was a farmer's son from St Bees who lived the full country life. Upon marrying



he seems to have taken employment with **Myles Woodburn** as his gamekeeper at his residence of Kirklands, Daltongate a most desirable and valuable estate on the outskirts of Ulverston. This was an excellent appointment for Jonathan — Myles' obituary later described, *'No truer lover of the legitimate English sport ever lived than the late Mr Myles Woodburn and few could vie with him in the use of gun, rod or the handling of a pack of hounds. His pack of beagles are said to be the best packs that ever hunted.'* Jonathan, as gamekeeper, was in charge of the beagles. There are numerous reports of hunts naming Jonathan in charge of the beagles [1], even hunting a family of otters on one occasion.

MR. WOODBURN'S BEAGLES AT ENNERDALE.
Last week Mr Woodburn's famous beagles hunted in the Ennerdale district by invitation. On Wednesday hares kept being put up. However, the hunt was much enjoyed, several expressing the opinion that it was one of the best ever held in West Cumberland.

Jonathan's services were called upon to capture *'The Wild Dog of Ennerdale'* which had been terrorising local farms and destroyed 300 sheep and lambs in the previous five months. After seeing the beast in a corn field Jonathan demonstrated his local dialect, *'Aa'l let ta lig thee a bit, me lad, but aa'l want to see the just noo'* [2]— answers on a post card please. Jonathan gathered his men around the field and then shot the dog in the hind quarters. *'After many a kick at the dead brute, the carcass was carried in triumph to the inn at Ennerdale Bridge, and the cheering and rejoicing there was so great that it was many days ere the shepherd inhabitants of the valley settled to their usual pursuits.'* The carcass weighed eight stones. It was stuffed and exhibited in a museum in Keswick with a collar around its neck inscribed with a description of the animals it had killed. Lovely.

On September the twelfth, a certain Jonathan Patrickson saw him enter a field of corn, and saying "Aa'l let ta lig thee a bit, me lad, but aa'l want to see the just noo," he gathered a number of men together who surrounded the field, and Patrickson got a shot at him, wounding him in the hinder quarters. Followed by

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Jonathan won numerous awards at Agricultural Shows and was awarded a purse of money as 'a recognition of the satisfactory manner he carried out his duties last season'[3].

Unfortunately, this lifestyle was not to last as Myles Woodburn died of heart problems in 1894. He died without any heirs and generously left bequests to several of his staff including £50 to Jonathan [4]. It's not clear where Jonathan worked after that, but he remained the chief huntsman to the Furness Beagles.

Perhaps Jonathan couldn't cope after Myles' death as, newspapers report, he began drinking heavily. On 26 March 1901 he took his own life by taking a dose of strychnine out of a teacup—the details were quite shocking. In those days journalists didn't hold back but Jonathan has clearly planned it well ahead. Poor Mary found him 15 minutes before he died. The newspaper reported that he 'leaves a widow and a large family' [5] but didn't report that Mary was six months pregnant with their sixth child. For some reason Mary took the children to live in Osmotherley, near Northallerton for a while before returning to Ulverston.

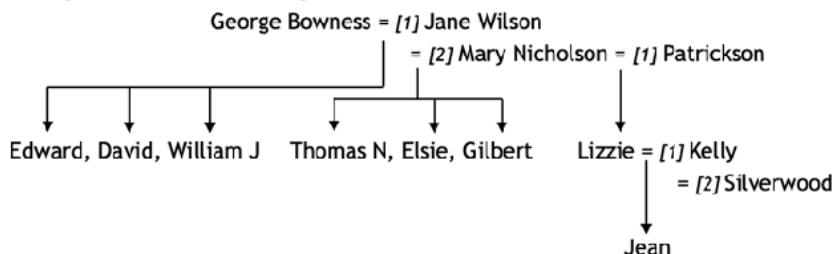
TESTIMONIAL.--In connection with Mr. Myles Woodburne's hounds a few of those who hunt regularly with the pack resolved themselves into a committee for the purpose of presenting the huntsman, Mr. Jonathan Patrickson with a recognition of the satisfactory manner he carried out his duties last season, and they have presented him with a sum of £4 5s. 6d.

The will, dated June 24th, 1895, has been proved of Mr. Myles Woodburne, of Kirklands, Ulverston Lancashire, who died on October 17th last. The executors are his wife, Mrs. Mary Eleanor Woodburne, Mr. James Park, jun., of Ulverston, solicitor, and Mr. William Isaac Barratt, of Broughton-in-Furness, mine owner. Mr. Woodburne bequeaths to his huntsman, Jonathan Patrickson, £50; to a maidservant, £50; and to each other servant of five years' service, £50. He

A HUNTSMAN'S SUICIDE.

On Tuesday afternoon Jonathan Patrickson, huntsman to the Furness and District Beagles, committed suicide at his residence, Moorside-cottage, near Ulverston, by taking a dose of strychnine. He was about 50 years of age, and was well known in hunting and sporting circles, and had been chief huntsman to the Furness Beagles for a number of years. He leaves a widow and a large family.

George Bowness and family



So, in 1904 Mary married George Bowness, 23 years her senior. They both had six children but, fortunately, George's children were old enough to live their own lives so didn't have to add to the food bill. George and Jane's sons **David Bowness** and **William Jameson Bowness** (given George's mum's maiden name) both had careers as police constables in Lancashire. Unfortunately, a cruel twist of fate brought about the death of George and Jane's eldest son, **Edward Bowness**. *The Field* newspaper, which reports on hunting groups around the country, reported that Edward, 'while returning home after being out with the hounds, was run over and killed' [6]. This was just a couple of months before George's first wife Jane died, and could be related? Coincidentally it was just a year after the death of Jonathan Patrickson too.

with the inevitable shaking. The CONISTON, however, have to lament the death of one of their followers, for last week Mr Edward Bowness, of Crook, while returning home after being out with the hounds, was run over and killed. The Cirencester division

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George and Mary continued to live in Crook with Mary's younger Patrickson children and then three more of their own. They were still living in Crook at the time of the 1921 census but had moved to Settle for George's death in 1928. Why did they move to Settle?



The answer lies with Jonathan and Mary's daughter **Lizzie Patrickson** who married a Settle lad in 1921 when she was 24. Her husband was **Thomas Kelly**, a postman, 15 years her senior. It's not clear how they met, and Thomas may have been married before — there is a burial in Giggleswick graveyard for **Ann Kelly**, wife of Thomas in 1919 but no further records can be found. Thomas and Lizzie lived in Scaleber Villas back in Settle and had a daughter, **Jean Kelly** [2]. George and Mary

joined them there. Unfortunately, Thomas died in 1937, aged 56. In 1940, now aged 43, Lizzie married widow **William Mitton Silverwood**, photographed with his first wife, **Edith Emily Swain**, who had died in 1938, aged 51 [ph2]



The Silverwoods were a long established Settle family. William Mitton Silverwood's father, another **William Silverwood** was a joiner who worked at the Harger's timber works. In February 1886 he lost two fingers to the steam driven circular saw while at work — well before the days of health and safety [LSA]. William Mitton Silverwood's grandfather, **Robert Silverwood** and his brothers were stonemasons and plumbers. One of them was contracted to do the plumbing work in the building of the new Holy Ascension Church in 1838.

18—Serious accident at the workshop of Messrs. Harger Bros.; Wm. Silverwood had two fingers taken off by the steam-driven circular saw.

When she died, at the ripe old age of 95, Lizzie was buried with her first husband Tom Kelly in New K28.

In memory of a loving father Tom Kelly, 1880 - 1937. Also a dear mother Lizzie, 1897 - 1993

Meanwhile widowed Mary Bowness lived with her daughter **Elsie Bowness** who had married a gardener, **John Sturdy Marsden**. They lived in High Street. George and Mary's son, **Thomas Nicholson Bowness** emigrated to Australia for a life in farming. Their son **Gilbert Bowness** became a butcher's assistant in Settle. George and Mary Bowness were buried together in *Old L26* with a memorial stone which read

In memory of Mary wife of George Bowness died Feb.. 1947 aged 76 years. Also the above George Bowness died May 1st 1928 aged 80 years. At rest.



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. 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.

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

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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 – Whitehaven News, 2 – Manchester Evening News, 3 – Soulsby's Ulverston Advertiser, 4 – South Eastern Advertiser, 5 – Liverpool Weekly Courier, 6 – Field

ph1 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username saraheskdale, ph2 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Ken Silverwood

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust