

John Henry Ransome

John Henry Ransome was born in Manchester on 19th September 1828, the second son (he had four sisters) of John Atkinson Ransome and his second wife Susanna, nee Hoyle. John Atkinson Ransome was a celebrated surgeon who had been elected to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1806, and was one of the team of four medical men who attempted, unsuccessfully, to save the life of William Huskisson M.P. following the accident which occurred during the opening ceremonials of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1830.

John Henry Ransome attended a school for the sons of gentlemen started by John Jackson, the vicar of Over, near Winsford in Cheshire. Following the death of his father in 1837, his education was stalled; his younger sister Susan recalled in her Ransome biographical notes that he joined his elder brother Thomas in a business as chemist in Princess Street, Manchester and “the knowledge he got there served him in good stead in after years, when he was Doctor as well as Priest in his country parishes.”¹ Eventually he was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, at the age of 24, on 12th May 1853, gaining a B.A. degree in 1857. In the same year he was ordained by the Bishop of Manchester, and appointed Curate of Warton and Freckleton in Lancashire.² The following year, on 22nd September 1858, he married his cousin Emily Binyon at the Priory Church in Cartmel.³ Emily was the second daughter of Alfred Binyon who had built Merlewood at Grange following his retirement from the firm of Thomas Hoyle and Sons, calico printers in Manchester. Emily’s brother Frederick, later vicar of Burton-in-Lonsdale, had been a contemporary of her future husband at Trinity College.

In 1860, John Henry Ransome was licensed by the Bishop of Carlisle as Perpetual Curate of Lindale in Cartmel, on the nomination of the Duke of Devonshire.⁴ Through the donations of relatives and friends, assisted by Queen Anne's Bounty, he enlarged the vicarage,⁵



and in the 1861 census the household consisted of John Henry, his wife Emily, their son Henry Alfred, later to become Vicar of Field Broughton (see below and separate entry), aged 8 months, and a cook, housemaid and nurse.

In 1864 he applied for and was granted a faculty by the Carlisle Consistory Court to add a chancel to the church built in 1828, designed by George Webster, and create space for 50 additional sittings.⁶ The reading desk and east window of the chancel, executed by Mr T. Barrow of Sandside, were given by the Revd J. H. Ransome and his family,⁷ and the pulpit was given by the Revd Dr Whewell of Trinity College, Cambridge.⁸

John Henry Ransome remained at Lindale until 1877, when he was appointed Vicar of Kirkoswald,⁹ between Penrith and Carlisle, and subsequently an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral in August 1879.¹⁰ He joined the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society in 1878¹¹ and in May 1892 he assisted in laying the foundation stone of a new church at Field Broughton where his eldest son Henry Alfred Ransome was the incumbent. He had, however, been in failing health for some time and had been to the south of France after an attack of influenza and bronchitis in the spring.¹² He died on 7th June 1892 and was buried at Lindale in a grave adjacent to that of his father-in-law Alfred Binyon.¹³

John Beckett June 2017

¹ Ransome, S. Ransome biographical notes. In: *Atkinson of Roxby and Thorne and Dearman of Braithwaite*, by H.W. Atkinson, p.298.

² *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, part II, vol.5, p.246.

³ *Westmorland Gazette*, 25 September 1858, p.5.

⁴ *Westmorland Gazette*, 16 June 1860, p.4.

⁵ Kirby, R.H., ed. 1892. *The rural deanery of Cartmel in the diocese of Carlisle: its churches and endowments*. Ulverston: Atkinson, p.71.

⁶ *Westmorland Gazette*, 11 June 1864, p.5.

⁷ *St Paul's Church Lindale Minute Book*. Cumbria Record Office, Kendal WPR 99/V/1.

⁸ *Westmorland Gazette*, 3 December 1864, p.5.

⁹ *Bury and Norwich Post and Suffolk Herald*, 25 December 1877, p.2.

¹⁰ *Crockford's clerical directory 1883*.

¹¹ *Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*. 1884. *List of members*. p.339.

¹² *Westmorland Gazette*, 11 June 1892.

¹³ Andrews, J. 2002. *Arthur Ransome's family 1649-1975*. p.46.