

## Walter Winson

Walter Winson lived in Allithwaite during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He lived there from 1868 to 1882, and he made a significant contribution during the formative years of the ecclesiastical parish.

Walter Winson, the son of Joseph and Ann, was born in Bakewell, Derbyshire in 1841 [1]. When he was about 12 years old he suffered a nasty accident. 'He was sent to the cotton Mill for sawdust'. 'He began to help himself and on having loaded his basket he was in the act of lifting it to his head when his arm was caught in the circular saw which in an instant nearly severed it' (between the wrist and elbow) [2]. He was later educated in Lichfield, where he held the position of chief chorister at the Cathedral. Subsequently, Walter became the schoolmaster and resided at the Union Workhouse, Bakewell [3]. In his early twenties he was the leader of the Bakewell Church Choir [4] [5]. He subsequently moved to Dewsbury, where he met his future wife Elizabeth, and there supervised St John's Church choir [1]. At that time he also appeared as the guest Principal Vocalist in a concert in Bakewell [6].

Walter started as the schoolmaster in Allithwaite on 13 January 1868 [7] and for the next 15 years he became a significant figure in the development of Allithwaite. He married Elizabeth Atkinson in the second quarter of 1868 in Bradford. He was the schoolmaster at Allithwaite living at Lambert House (later called The School House) in 1871 [8], with his wife and daughter Edith who had been born in 1869 in Allithwaite (baptised on 12 December 1869 in St Mary's Church) [9] and their servant Annie Gregory from Derbyshire. By 1881 [10], his wife Elizabeth had taken on the role of school mistress and four more children had been born. Carrie Beatrice arrived in 1871, Effie Bertha in 1873, Laura Annie in 1875 and Florence Mabel in 1878.

Also living with them then was their eldest child, and only son, Harry [10] who was born in Bradford in the third quarter of 1868 [11]. Elizabeth's sister Sarah Atkinson, a dressmaker, was also living with the large family in 1881 [10]. All the children were educated in the school in Allithwaite [7].

Mr Winson was very involved in running the church as choir master and he worked with other choirs in the district, and was featured in many of the district concerts as an acclaimed tenor. Notably on three recorded occasions he performed with Mr William Lamb, the organist of Cartmel Priory [12], and who was to succeed him as Choirmaster and School Master in Allithwaite in 1882 [13]. Together Walter and William organised a School Festival in Allithwaite, and for the occasion Walter composed the anthems [12]. He composed many pieces of music during his lifetime including the hymn 'Forgive them, oh, my Father' which was sung in Flookburgh Church on the Sunday after the interment of the Late Lord Frederick Cavendish' [1]. The carols composed by Walter were 'largely used' and sung in Christmas 1881 at Bakewell Wesleyan Reform Chapel [1], which incidentally was erected by his father Joseph Winson [14]

Despite his disability, he was a very keen cricketer and played cricket in Allithwaite, Grange and Cartmel. He was thought to be the founder of the Allithwaite and Grange clubs [15], and it is said that he had the best batting average for Allithwaite in one season [1] (see Appendix 1). Playing for several clubs was not unusual in those days, as the term club in some instances, was a misnomer as they were little more than a one-day team [15].

Soon after his arrival in Allithwaite, he was instrumental in establishing a reading room in the Institute, and was the honorary Secretary during his period in Allithwaite

[1]. In recognition of his 'long and valuable service', the members of the Allithwaite Reading room gave him a 'handsome' walnut writing desk soon after his departure [16].

In 1882 Walter moved back to Bakewell to help his father Joseph run Matlock Gas Works [1]. His father died very soon after in July 1882 whilst convalescing in the Isle of Man, and William, living in Stanage House, Bakewell became the proprietor. He continued to run the gas works for a few years and in 1886 the Winson's Trustees were noted as the owner's [17]. It was probably soon after that the Gas Works was sold to the Council [1]. His interest in cricket continued as in 1884 he was the Secretary of the Bakewell Cricket Club [18]. Sometime later, Walter retired into private life and went to live with his wife and family near Stockport [1].

The 1891 census records him as a lodger (probably at the New Inn) in Horninglow

near Burton-on-Trent [19]. His wife, sister-in-law and 3 of his daughters lived in Ashton-under-Lyne at that time [19] and where the family continued to live [20] [21]. He died in 1899 after a 'lingering illness'. His body was interred in the family vault in Bakewell Cemetery [1]. The evidence suggests that he may have been estranged from Elizabeth after he left Allithwaite, as neither Elizabeth nor her sister Sarah appeared to attend Walter's funeral, and Elizabeth was described as the head of the household in 1891 [19].

Elizabeth continued to live in Ashton-under-Lyne until her death in 1923. Harry, Edith (m. Henry Bilbie), Carrie (m. George Hossack) and Effie all married. Effie married her cousin Wilburn Scott and they named their children Wilburn, after father, and Joseph Winson, after great-grandfather. Laura and Florence lived to a ripe old age and died in the early 1960's.

*Phil & Pat Rowland v2 April 2016*

## Appendix 1

1871: Holker 19, Allithwaite 66 [22], Cartmel 111, Allithwaite 75 [23]

1873: Dalton 24 Allithwaite 94 [24] (played at Holker)

1881: Allithwaite & Holker 50, Grange & Cartmel 38 [25]

## References

- [1] *Derbyshire Times*, 20 May 1899.  
[2] *Morning Post*, 26 Mar 1853.  
[3] "1861 Census".  
[4] *Sheffield Independent*, 5 Apr 1862.  
[5] *Sheffield Independent*, 8 Jan 1862.  
[6] *Dewsbury Advertiser and Journal*, 3 Jan 1868.  
[7] "Allithwaite School Register".  
[8] "1871 Census".  
[9] "Allithwaite Baptism Register," WPR97 Held at the Kendal Archive.  
[10] "1881 Census".  
[11] "Births Marriages & Deaths Register".  
[12] Mrs Lamb's Scrapbook.  
[13] P. Rowland, "The Incredible Mr Lamb,"  
www.cplhs.wordpress.com.  
[14] *Derbyshire Times*, 29 Jul 1882.  
[15] J. Glaister, *Twixt Cock & Fairy*, 1992.  
[16] *Derbyshire Times*, 28 Oct 1882.  
[17] *Derbyshire Times*, 3 Apr 1886.  
[18] *Derbyshire Times*, 15 Mar 1884.  
[19] "1891 Census".  
[20] "1901 Census".  
[21] "1911 Census".  
[22] *Westmorland Gazette*, 3 July 1871.  
[23] *Westmorland Gazette*, 8 Jul 1871.  
[24] "William Field Logbook".  
[25] *Lancaster Gazette*, 28 May 1881.