

Ann Jane Allen (nee Redhead) (1830-1878)

Part of the history of the Allen family of Lindale is recounted in the article 'The Tale of Peter Allen' in the CPLHS research section for Lindale. This article tells us more about Robert and William Allen, sons of Peter Allen who was the Innkeeper at the Commercial Inn in the 19th century, through the history of Anne Jane Redhead researched and written by Richard Owen, a descendent.

My mother always knew that our family had a connection to the Redheads in Cartmel but it was only when I decided to look into it that we discovered the details.



I think that this photo of Anne as a younger woman is something to do with her mother's death in 1879.

Anne Jane Redhead - my second great grandmother was born in Cartmel in 1830, the youngest daughter of John (surgeon) and Anne Redhead of Cartmel Churchtown. She married Robert Allen, also a surgeon, in 1852. He was the son of Peter Allen of Lindale and had qualified in London in 1846 and had returned to Cartmel to work with her father, John.



This brooch is owned by a family member. Could it be a picture of Robert Allen?

Robert died after a short illness in May 1854, only 2 years after they married and the house, on Barn Garth, Cartmel, that Ann Jane had lived in with her parents, then her husband, was offered to let. Sometime after he died in 1854 it looks like she went to Liverpool and either married (but no marriage has been identified) or had a relationship with William Allen, sea captain of Lindale, brother of her deceased husband Robert, and had a child, Anne, on 2 March

1858. Anne's birth certificate shows William Allen as father and Anne Jane Allen formerly Redhead as mother although she was of course an Allen by her marriage to Robert. William had qualified as Master Mariner in 1854 but his record suggests that he did not go to sea after that date. It records four voyages between June 1845 and October 1852 when he was described as mate or 2nd mate and the sailings were on boats from Liverpool, Stockton and London.s Liverpool Lunatic Asylum records show he was admitted there on 7 June 1859 and discharged on 10 March 1860. The 1861 census entry records that William was living with his parents at the Commercial Inn, Lindale and he was described as married. William had been taken back to Cartmel by his father but was violent towards the family so ended up back in the asylum. A record shows that in April 1863 he was readmitted to the Asylum and discharged again in July 1864 in the care of his father.

I have been able to obtain the records of his time at Lancaster Asylum. He was admitted on 22 February 1869 aged 40 and described as a pauper patient. It records him as single, tall and strong, of sanguine nature and reports he has a good appetite. On being committed his mother reported that he was living with a friend and threatened to injure him and imagined they wanted to poison him. He was sometimes violent and has delusions. He talked very foolishly and took no interest in any kind of work. His record were updated periodically and detailed mental and health issues. He remained at Lancaster Asylum until his death there in 1896 aged 73.

A family story that we had a sea captain in our family and he was buried at sea has thus been partly proved, but he is, in fact, buried in an unmarked grave in consecrated ground near the asylum. My guess is that Anne Jane made up this story for her daughter Anne to cover up the fact that William was in the asylum.

Anne Jane and Anne can be found on the 1861 census records together in Grange Village where she is also described as married. Anne Jane then had a

relationship with Peter Allen, Robert and William's nephew, the son of their brother John! Ann Jane, Anne and Peter Allan described as married are living at Wray St, Wray with Botton, Lunesdale, Lancs in the 1871 census. They married on 9 July 1867 at St Peter's in Leeds. On the marriage certificate she was recorded as Jane Redhead, aged 29, spinster of Morecambe Bay, daughter of John Redhead, surgeon. Why did she lie that she was a spinster?

Anne Jane died in Stockport in 1879 and probate was initially granted in June 1879 to Matthew Redhead of Kendal, her brother, who claimed she had died intestate. Whether he didn't know of the existence of Anne Jane's daughter or not I don't know but in September Anne had produced her mother's will and contested probate, which was then granted to her. When she made her will in September 1877 Anne Jane was living in Stockport and described herself as a

widow. This was technically true as she was the widow of Robert Allen but her current husband, Peter Allen, was still alive. Was this lie to ensure her daughter inherited her estate?

Included in Anne Jane's will was a portrait of Dr John Redhead, her father, which he left to her in his will. This picture of my grandfather (Joseph Worrall) as a young man shows him sat in front of this portrait.

Many years later my mother asked Joseph's sister Annie



what happened to the portrait. Auntie Annie said that she had some visitors one day, no idea who, and they said that the picture on the wall wasn't the original and that they had it and obviously a dispute occurred. Auntie Annie said that when they had left she was so upset that she took the picture out into the garden and burnt it! It was only after discovering the trail of wills that we realised that the portrait was probably the real one. What a shame not to have still had it whether or not it was actually worth anything.

My mother does however possess a brooch that is dedicated to two of John and Anne Redhead's children, Anne Jane's younger siblings Robert and Frances both of whom died as small children. The brooch is inscribed with the dates of their deaths and contains their hair. Anne Allen is wearing it in this photo of her as an older lady. It is very strange that the brooch possibly contains strands of hair that belong to two children who are in the grave in Cartmel Church.



A close up view of the brooch.



Frances Redhead d 25 Dec^r 1823 2 yrs old

Robert Redhead d 17 July 1828 9 yrs old

It means that the brooch could be 192 years old but we are not sure who had it made. Was it the children's mother but why does it not mention their third child, also named Robert who died aged 5 months in 1817? Perhaps she only had hair belonging to the two older children. Anne Jane could have inherited it from her mother or had it made herself after her mother's death. Another mystery that we will never solve.

Richard Owen May 2020

Addition notes by Pat Rowland

In the tale of Peter Allen

Peter Allen married and had a son also named Peter in 1886. It was this young Peter who drowned in Windermere.