

The founder of Dysons of Stannington

JOHN DYSON (1777-1851)

J and J Dysons was founded during the early 1800s in Stannington by John Dyson. At that time the village of Stannington was fairly remote as it lay 4-5 miles west of the city of Sheffield. Wide tracts of rural land separated it from other villages and the city. Stannington was originally within the Chapelry of Bradfield which was within the Bishopric of Ecclesfield and only became a separate parish in 1846. Prior to that date it is very difficult to ascertain where exactly people were born, with no parish church of their own the people from Stannington had to travel to surrounding churches in Bradfield, Rotherham and Sheffield.

Early Life

John Dyson was born in 1777, the eldest son of John Dyson and his wife Hannah. He was baptised on 28th May 1777 at St. Peter's Cathedral, Sheffield. On the same day and at the same church his father's brother George married Martha Pitchford. It would appear that John was close to his uncle George as in 1833 when he died he was living at Clay House with John. George's wife Martha died in 1815. Also baptised at St. Peter's Cathedral were John's brothers and sisters:

Hannah - 17th April 1775

Thomas - 13th October 1779

Elizabeth - 8th June 1781

William - 12th April 1784

Marriage

On the 18th May 1802, at Rotherham, John married Charlotte Barrott, the daughter of Edward Barrott and Ann Parkin. They were married by banns by Thomas Bayliffe and their witnesses were William Jepson and George Stannard. John and Charlotte had at least eight children. It is known that 5 reached adulthood - as to the others it is not clear.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Husband:	John Dyson	Wife:	Charlotte Barrott
Born:	1777	Born:	1781
Baptised:	28 th May 1777, St Peter's, Sheffield	Bapt:	:25 th November 1781, St Nicholas'
Married:	18 th May 1802	Married:	18 th May 1802
Died:	24 th December 1851	Died:	21 st August 1841
Buried:	Plot 1 Christ Church, Stannington	Buried:	Plot 1 Christ Church, Stannington
Parents:	John Dyson and Hannah	Parents:	Edward Barrott and Ann Parkin,

1. Annis Dyson

Born:	1802	Bapt:	1 August 1802, St. Nicholas', Bradfield
Died:	Not known - but possibly in infancy.		

2. Hannah Dyson

Born:	1802	Bapt:	31 st October 1802, St. Nicholas', Brad.
Died:	After 1856 in Wadsley Bridge		
Married:	Jonathan Tingle (b 1801)	Date:	2 nd May 1826 in Rotherham
Children:	Charlotte (1826-1876), Mary Jane (b.1830), Jonathan (b.1833) and William (b.1835).		

3. John Dyson

Born:	1805	Bapt:	6 th October 1805, St. Nicholas', Bradfield
Died:	31 st March 1868 at The Griffs	Buried:	Plot 1, Christ Church, Stannington

4: Ann Dyson

Born:	1807	Bapt:	20 th July 1807, St. Nicholas', Bradfield
Died:	Not known		

5: Jonathan Dyson

Born:	11 December 1807 in Dungworth	Bapt:	17 th January 1808, St. Nicholas', Brad.
Died:	13 th July 1869 in Stannington,	Buried:	Plot 1, Christ Church, Stannington
Married #1:	Mary Pitchford	Date:	11 th March 1833 at St Nicholas'
Children:	John (1834-1888), William (b.1837, d. infancy) and Mary Ann (b.1839, d. infancy)		
Married #2:	Mary Ann Nichols (1828-1871),	Date:	Unknown
Children:	Charlotte Ann (b.1855), Walter (b.1855), Martha Ann (1858-1938), Lucy Hannah (1864-1895) and Florence Nichols (b.1867)		

6: Martha Dyson

Born:	1809	Bapt:	28 th January 1810, St. Nicholas', Brad.
Died:	December 1873 in Sheffield	Buried:	Wardsend Cemetery, Sheffield
Married:	George Parvin (1799-1874)	Date:	17 th March 1830 at Rotherham
Children:	George (1833-1860), Charlotte Ann (b.1835), Martha (b.1837), John (1840-1841), Jonathan (b.1841), Thomas (b.1842), Elizabeth (b.1844), John (b.1846) and Esther (Feb-Sep. 1851).		

7: Joshua Dyson

Born:	1811 in Bradfield Chapelry	Bapt:	31 st October 1811, St. Nicholas', Bradfield
Died:	Not known		

8: George Dyson

Born:	9 November 1812	Bapt:	23 rd December 1812, St. Nicholas', Brad.
Died:	14 April 1890 in Stannington	Buried:	Plot 1, Christ Church, Stannington
Married:	Mary Creswick (1815-1878)	Date:	Unknown
Children:	Charlotte (b.1834), John (1836-1877), George Henry (b.1838), Esther (b.1840), Jonathan (1843-1921), Hannah (b.1845), Vincent Walter (1847-1865), Edward Barrott (1849-1851), Sarah Ann (b.1852), Levi (1855-1863) and Mary Ann (b.1858).		

Charlotte's parents were married on the 25th October 1773 at St. Nicholas' at Bradfield, where on the 25th November 1781 Charlotte was baptised. Her older brother, Edward, was baptised at St. Nicholas' on 17 August 1777 as was her sister, Hannah, on the 24th October 1779.

Employment

Like most people at that time, John was originally a farmer. Farming had always been the main occupation in Britain until the early nineteenth century when the Industrial Revolution changed many people's lives and occupations. Increased exploitation of existing materials and discoveries of many new materials, coupled with advances in technology, chemistry and the use of machines enabled many new enterprises to be developed.

Like many young farmers John diversified from solely agriculture into clay mining and the manufacturing of bricks. He was probably spurred on by the fact that Stannington was not a particularly good place for a farming community as it lies on the brow of a hill almost 1,000 feet above sea level. In most places the soil is heavy and clay is often found only 2 inches below the surface. Throughout his working life John successfully maintained both of his occupations as farmer and brick merchant.

John Dyson - Brick Maker, Stannington

John began mining clay and making bricks in the early 1800s and from its inception the business prospered. The 1834 Sheffield trade directory lists - "John Dyson - Brick Maker, Stannington" which indicates that he ran the business on his own. However, by 1838 the business was listed as "John Dyson and Son - Black clay miners and firebrick manufacturers, Griffs House, Stannington. The son referred to was John his eldest son born in 1805.

John's (snr) second eldest son, Jonathon, in 1833 had married Mary Pitchford and it would appear that they moved away from Stannington as in 1834 their eldest son, John was born in Cawthorne, near Barnsley. According to the 1841 census, Jonathan, along with his son John, was back in Stannington with his mother and father at Clay House. His wife Mary was not on the census so it

could be presumed that she had died about 1839/40 along with their two youngest children - William and Mary Ann. The 1841 census did not list a person's marital status but the 1851 census did and Jonathan was listed as a widower.

1841 Census

It would appear that between 1837 and 1840 Jonathan had lost his wife, Mary, and their two youngest children in infancy leaving him alone with their only surviving child, John. Faced with this he returned home to his parents.

The 1841 census lists John and Charlotte Dyson and their family as living at Clay House. The household comprised of 16 people: John and Charlotte; their sons John and Jonathon; grandchildren John Dyson (b.1834), John Dyson (b.1836), Charlotte Tingle and Charlotte Parvin; two apprentices and six servants.

Death of his wife

Shortly after the census was taken, on the 21st August 1841 Charlotte, John's wife of nearly forty years, died aged 60. She was laid to rest on the 25th August 1841 in plot 1 in the graveyard at Christ Church, Stannington.

Origins of 'J and J Dysons'

John (snr) went into retirement in the 1840s and handed over the running of his business to his two eldest sons - John and Jonathan. It was during this time that the business started trading under the name of "J and J Dysons - Brick Merchants, Griffs, Stannington". Clay products have been manufactured at Griffs, under the name of J and J Dyson since that time - for over 160 years.

1851 Census

By 1851 it was noted in local records that it was only the three brick merchants in the village who owned large amounts of land. The census for that year shows that all of the brick merchants still carried on running farms as well. The Dysons ran their brick merchanting business which employed six labourers and also farmed "39 acres employing one man". Next door to them at

Clay House was the largest employer in the village, Jonathon Goodison "farmer of 45 acres" who employed 11 labourers. (*Source: Norma E Reaney, Stannington in 1851, 1993.*)

The 1851 census shows that the Dyson family now lived at 'The Griffs' which was, and still is, a substantial dwelling house to the rear of the existing Dyson's refractory on Stannington Road. It is accessed by a road to the side of the old schoolhouse. The census listed 'The Griffs' household as being: John Dyson (snr), head of household and a retired farmer; his son John Dyson (jnr), an unmarried 45 year old who gave his occupation as "a farmer of 39 acres employing 1 man and brick merchant employing 6 labourers"; his other son Jonathan aged 43 years who was also a farmer and brick merchant; two grandsons aged 17 and 14 both also called John; a granddaughter Mary Jane Tingle a 20 year old spinster who acted as housekeeper, a female house servant (Jane Loy) and two servants described as farm labourers (John Ibbotson and James Thompson). His granddaughter was his daughter Hannah's daughter and his grandsons were John Dyson, born 1834 the eldest son of Jonathan, and John Dyson, born 1836 the eldest son of George. (That meant that there was four John Dysons in a household of seven men!)

John Dyson's will

John Dyson the founder of the Dysons died ,aged 74, on Christmas Eve 1851. In his will, (*Source: Norma E Reaney, Stannington in 1851, 1993*), which he made on the 5th March 1850, his son John, who was sole executor, was to receive The Griffs farmhouse and the 39 acres of land. If John (jnr) then died without issue the property was to pass to the eldest son of John snr's other two sons Jonathan and George (i.e. Jonathan's son John Dyson b. 1834). Jonathan was to receive "... half part of my leasehold property in Matthew Street in Sheffield comprising five dwelling houses, shops, stable and other buildings..." and half a share in "... stock, plant and the like of whatever description which may be upon my farm at The Griffs or used in the making of bricks including the clay necessary for the said brick making there and which trade is now carried on by my said sons John and Jonathan Dyson..." the other half share was to go to John together with "...all my household furniture, money and securities for money debts due and owing to me and all other my personal estate..."

John's other son George was to receive the other half share of the Matthew Street property plus six cottages and a plantation on Stannington Road near Griffs. George was also to receive £8 each year from John and Jonathan's brickworks.

A codicil dated the 8th October 1851 directed that his sons "... John and Jonathan shall have and be considered as having lease to them as Tenants in Common and to their respective Executors Administrators and Assigns of my farm and lands and the Griffs for the purpose of making bricks thereon ... for the term of thirty years next after my decease ...". George was to receive £100 and Jonathan £200. He also released "...John and Jonathan from the sum of £280 12s 4d which was owing by them to me on account of rent and arrears for the brick yard and premises on the sixth day of April 1848..." The rent since that date had to be paid to John (Snr) in his lifetime, then to George. The property in Matthew Street was to go to his daughter Martha, wife of George Parvin of Sheffield, with £200 a year from its rents to go to his son George.

In a second codicil, made only nine days before his death, it was stated that if any of his children should try to make a claim for debts owing to them by John Dyson (snr) he or she shall forfeit any benefit from his will. If John tried to make such a claim the farm and lands were to go to the eldest son of Jonathan and George.

Probate stated his estate did not amount to £600. Unfortunately no inventory was made of the property, as this would have proved invaluable in showing the contents of the farm and brickyard and their value.

The property, near Griffs, which was left to his son George was called Broad Oaks and the farmhouse still stands opposite the Griffs refractory. The property at 17 Matthew Street (in Sheffield city) which John left to his daughter Martha was already being used, according to the Sheffield Trade Directory of 1841, by her husband, George Parvin, who was carrying out trade as carpenter, joiner, blacksmith and wheelwright.

As already mentioned John and Jonathan Dyson had already taken over the running of J and J Dyson prior to the death of John (snr). John (jnr) was a bachelor and in accordance with John's (snr) will if John (jnr) died without children then the property should go to Jonathan and George's

eldest son who was John Dyson (Jonathan's son born 1834). He and John Dyson (George's son born 1836) were both already working for J and J Dyson when John (snr) died.

John's children

John and Charlotte had eight children and it is known what happened to Hannah, John, Jonathan, Martha and George. However, the fate of the remaining three - Annis, Ann and Joshua is not known. It could be presumed that they all died in infancy. Annis was baptised three months before Hannah - were they twins and Annis died shortly after birth and that is why she was baptised then and Hannah not until later? Ann may have married, the parish records for Bradfield show a marriage between an Ann Dyson and John Monks on the 27th December 1831 at Bradfield - could it be John's daughter Ann or another Ann Dyson? There is no mention of Joshua even on the 1841 census for Stannington - did he die or did he move away?

Death of John Dyson

John Dyson died on the 24th December 1851 and was laid to rest on the 28th December in plot 1 of Christ Church cemetery where his wife Charlotte had been laid to rest some ten years previously. The inscription on John and Charlotte's headstone reads:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
CHARLOTTE
WIFE OF
JOHN DYSON
WHO DIED
AUGUST 21st 1841 AGED 60 YEARS
*FOR THOU WORD ART GOOD AND HEAD TO FORGIVE
THEN CAME SHE AND WORSHIPPED HIM SAYING LORD HELP ME
THEN JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HER
WOMAN GREAT IS THY FAITH CHERISH IT UNTO THEE
EVEN AS THOU WILTS.*
ALSO THE ABOVE NAMED

JOHN DYSON

WHO DIED

DECEMBER 24th 1851 AGED 74 YEARS

HE WAITED PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD.