

Geoffrey DAWSON



Born: 4 February 1782

Died: 10 April 1858

WEAVER
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

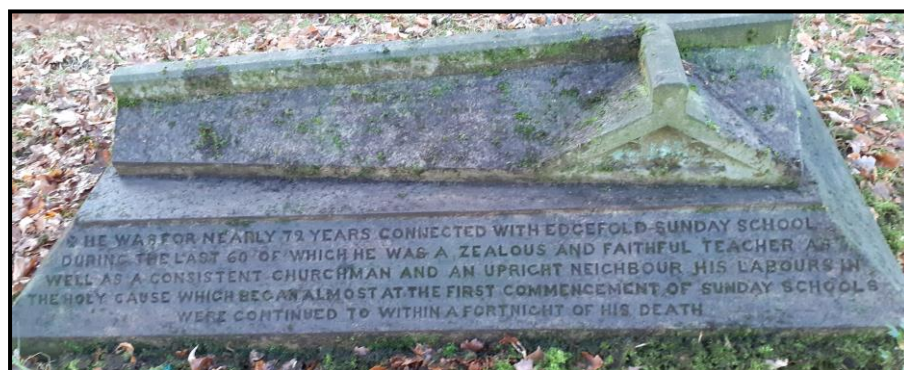


Geoffrey DAWSON



This is a lovely tribute in memory of man who became a dedicated and distinguished servant of the Sunday School at Edgefold for, apparently, a period of 60 years, and a man of whom so little is known. The coping stone lies to the north of the vestry door, leading up to the perimeter fence.

GEOFFREY DAWSON born February 4th 1782 and died April 10th 1858. // This stone has been erected to his memory by the Patrons, Ministers, Teachers and Scholars of the Edgefold Sunday School. **MARY** wife of **GEOFFREY DAWSON** born May 3rd 1784 died April 19th 1856. // 'Feed My Lambs,' John 21.15. 'Whosoever therefore will humble himself as this little child the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven and who so shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me,' Matt.18 4,5. // He was for nearly 72yrs connected with Edgefold Sunday School during the last 60 of which he was a zealous and faithful teacher as a consistent churchman and an upright neighbour. His labours in the holy cause which began almost at the first commencement of Sunday Schools were continued to within a fortnight of his death. (a526)



The inscription around the stone tells us almost as much as we know about this man. The two national censuses, of 1841 and 1851, tell us a little more about him and his family, but it is the inscription which has most value. Variations on the spelling of his first name have been observed.

Geoffrey Dawson was baptised on 17 March 1782 Peel Chapel, Little Hulton, the son of William Dawson and Betty. They lived in Worsley and William was a Weaver. Peel Chapel was later to become the parish of St. Paul, Peel, when a new church was opened on that site in 1876.

<i>Geoffrey Dawson</i>	of <i>this</i> Parish
<i>aged 34 years</i>	
and <i>Mary Norton</i>	of <i>this</i> Parish
<i>aged 33 years</i>	
were married in this <i>Church</i>	by <i>Banns</i> with Consent of
	this <i>Fourth</i> Day of
<i>January</i>	in the Year One thousand eight hundred and <i>Eighteen</i>
By me <i>John Colwell Vicar</i>	
This Marriage was solemnized between us	{ <i>Geoffrey x Dawson's mark</i> <i>Mary x Norton's mark</i>
In the Presence of	{ <i>W B Guest</i> <i>Thos Turner</i>
No. 3.	

The earliest direct reference to **Geoffrey Dawson** is a copy of the marriage entry at St. Mary the Virgin church in Eccles for 4 January 1818.

This simply states that both he and his wife were 'of this parish,' which at that time encompassed Worsley. Their ages are clearly stated (34 and 33 years respectively) and they were married by Banns. In both cases, neither could write their names, since only their mark (X) was given.

The next official document which refers to them was the census of 1841.

1841 census: Shaving Lane, Worsley.

Jeffery Dawson	55	Weaver
Mary	56	
Betty	22	
Geoffrey	5	

This at least tells us that **Geoffrey Dawson** (or Jeffery) was, like his father, a Weaver, and that the family lived at that time at Shaving Lane, Worsley. It also shows that there were two children - Betty (22) and Geoffrey (5).

Baptism: 29 March 1818 Peel Chapel, Little Hulton.

Elizabeth Dawson - Daughter of Jeffery Dawson & Mary

Abode: Worsley

Occupation: Weaver

There is also a Baptism record at Peel Chapel for a Jeffrey (sic) Dawson on 27 December 1835. However, whether this is the same son of Geoffrey Dawson is difficult to say, because, although his abode was Worsley, the mother's name was entered as Betty Dawson. It seems most likely that this entry was correct for the son, (correct age, correct abode, consistent age) but that an error occurred in entering the mother's name. Betty was his sister.

Baptism: 27 December **1835** Peel Chapel, Little Hulton.

Jeffrey Dawson - Son of Betty Dawson

Abode: Worsley

Baptised by: T. Airey P. C.

The next census for **1851** indicates that there were other members of the family.

1851 census: Shaving Lane, Worsley.

Jeffrey Dawson	Head	M	69	Weaver
Mary	Wife	M	66	Weaver
Betty	Daur	S	33	Weaver
Mary	Daur	S	27	Weaver
Jeffrey	Son	S	15	Coal Miner
James	Son		7	Scholar
+ 1 lodger				

All members of this family were born in Worsley. Mary did not appear in the earlier census, but her Baptism record exists. There is also an entry for another daughter. Jane.

Baptism: 27 April **1823** Peel Chapel, Little Hulton.

Mary Dawson - Daughter of **Jeffrey Dawson** & Mary

Abode: Worsley

Occupation: Weaver

Baptism: 15 April **1821** Peel Chapel, Little Hulton.

Jane Dawson - Daughter of **Geoffry** (sic) **Dawson** & Mary

Abode: Worsley

Occupation: Weaver

Another curious entry exists for James. Again, most information for his Baptism is consistent, but once more the mother's name appears to be incorrect. In this instance, Jane was his sister.

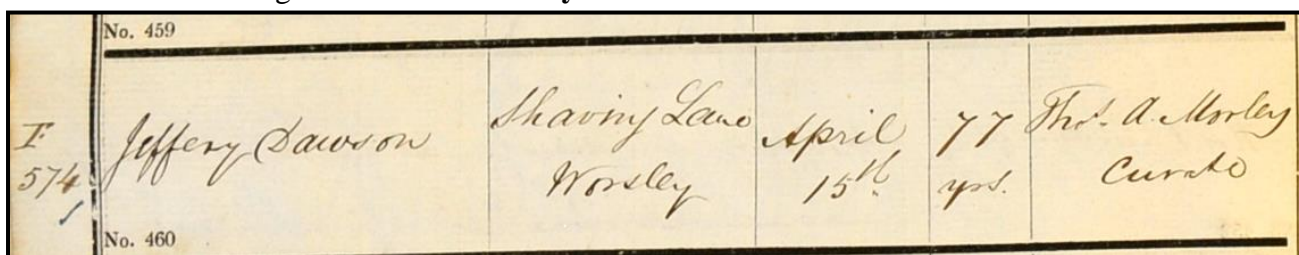
Baptism: 7 Jan **1844** Peel Chapel, Little Hulton, Lancashire, England

James Dawson - Son of Jane Dawson

Abode: Worsley

Baptised by: T. Airey P. C.

The church Burial register records **Geoffrey's** burial in **1858**.



Geoffrey's wife, Mary, predeceased him on 19 April **1856**.

Burial: 23 Apr 1856 St Mark, Worsley, Lancs.

Mary Dawson -

Age: 72 yrs

Abode: Shaving Lane, Wy.

Buried by: S. Vincent Beechey

