

Peter RASBOTHAM



Baptised: 6 November 1808

Died: 8 March 1871

*LIFE ASSURANCE AGENT
PRIVATE SECRETARY to LORD ELLESMERE*



PETER RASBOTHAM (1809-1871)

A stained-glass window stands in the south-west corner of the church, facing westwards. A brass plaque can be seen on the inside wall beneath the window, bearing the surname Rasbotham, although the reference in the magazine to his death refers to the family as Ramsbottom.

The *Parish Magazine* of May **1888** described the installation of the window in this way:



The new stained glass window has been as a happy coincidence put into its place, and will thus be remembered in connection with the Dedication Festival of 1888. We cannot speak too highly of the window. At first sight it is a great contrast to the rich deep colour of the east window; but the clearness of the figures, and the chaste effect of it as a whole, makes it a beautiful addition to a beautiful House of God. The brass at the base bears the inscription:- "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Peter and Rebecca Ramsbottom, this window is placed by their children in thankful remembrance of a happy childhood. A.D. 1888". The subject of the window is of Christ blessing little children.

*Sacred to the memory of
PETER RASBOTHAM of Worsley
who died 8th March 1871 aged 62 yrs
Also of **REBECCA**
wife of **PETER RASBOTHAM**
who died 31st July 1887 aged 75 yrs
Also of **PETER**
eldest son of **PETER & REBECCA RASBOTHAM**
who died 2nd February 1864 aged 23 yrs
Also of **LEVER** their son
who died 22nd April 1866 aged 16 yrs
'The memory of the just is blessed' (j 1212).*

Peter Rasbotham was baptised at Standon on 6 November **1808**, the son of Peter and Dorothy Rasbotham. [His birthplace is stated in the census of 1851].

Peter Rasbotham married **Rebecca Yates** on 18 August **1836** at St.John's, Manchester, and later had 6 children. The marriage was by licence, with **Peter** being of the parish of St. James, Westminster, and **Rebecca** being of Salford. He was private secretary and comptroller to the Earls of Ellesmere.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of St John's Manchester
in the County of Lancaster in the Year 1836

Peter Rasbotham of this Parish
of St James in the City of Westminster
and Rebecca Tate of this Parish
of the Township of Salford, Spenshaw
were married in this Church by Lewney with Consent of
this Eighteenth Day of
August in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Thirty Six

By me James Lingard, M.A. Curate of the Chapel of St. Peter
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Peter Rasbotham
Rebecca Tate

In the Presence of { W. J. Tate
Sammy Rasbotham

No. 91.

1841 census: Brompton Square, Kensington.

Peter Rasbotham 32 Clerk
Rebecca 28
Peter 8 mo.
+ 5 servants.

1851 census: Liscard, Cheshire.

Samuel Morgan Head M 27 House Proprietor b. Winstanton
Martha Wife M 26 b. Shawbury
+ 1 servant

Peter Rasbotham Lodger M 42 Private Secretary and Comptroller b. Standon, Staffs.
to the Earl of Ellesmere.

Rebecca Wife M 38 b. Salford
[Dorning Rasbotham – 9 – Scholar at Weybridge]
Mary Daur. 3 b. Cobham, Surrey
Lever Son 1 b. Eccles
+ 1 nurse

1861 census: Mill Brow, Worsley.

Peter Rasbotham Head M 52 Private Secretary & Life Assurance Agent
Rebecca Wife M 48
Peter Son S 20 Solicitor's Articled Clerk b. Brompton
Dorning Son S 19 Commission Merchant's Clerk b. Brompton
Mary Daur. 14 Scholar b. Cobham
Lever Son 11 Scholar b. Worsley
Lucy Daur. 8 Scholar b. Walton, Surrey
+ 3 servants.

Their children.

Peter, born on 26 September 1840 and baptised at St. George, Hulme, on 20 November 1840.
Dorning, born 12 January 1842 and baptised on 20 May 1842 at Holy Trinity, Brompton.

Mary, though born in Surrey, was baptised at the Chapelry of St. Mark on 14 June **1847**.

Lever was baptised at St. Mark's on 25 October **1849** by B. W. Johnstone.

Annie was baptised at St. Mark's on New Year's Day **1852**.

Lucy Dora was baptised on 15 June **1853** at St. Mark's.

A number of their family were buried at St. Mark's. Young **Peter** died on 2 February **1864**, aged 23 years, and was buried on 6 February **1864**, having drowned on 2 February at the Queen's Landing. He had become a Solicitor. Letters of Administration were granted to his father, with effects under £600.

Lever was buried on 27 April **1866**, aged 16.

In July **1849**, a young 16-year old boy came to Worsley, having moved in those years from the north-east, to London, and thence to Newton-le-Willows with his sickly father. He had already shown an inclination to painting and had followed courses during his time in London. His father having returned to London for hospital treatment, the young boy stayed in Manchester, and on 2nd August wrote to his father that he intended to come to Worsley

"I intend to go down to Worsley in the course of two or three days with my drawing of the church. I hope that I may see the Earl or the Rector."

MANCHESTER, November 18th, **1849**.

*MY DEAR FATHER, It is the old prologue "I went to Worsley" again, but I am happy to be able to add that the performances on this occasion were of a very novel kind. Upon my arrival at the hall, I enquired for the steward, **Mr. Rasbotham**, and was informed that he had gone to his own house in the village. I immediately repaired thither. He was at dinner. The servant undertook to announce my name, and returned with the kind answer that I was to have something to eat and drink, and that he (**Mr. Rasbotham**) would see me afterwards. I had a capital dinner (at tea-time) of roast beef, boiled salary, bread, potatoes, &c. The servant then told me that **Mr. Rasbotham** was waiting for me...*

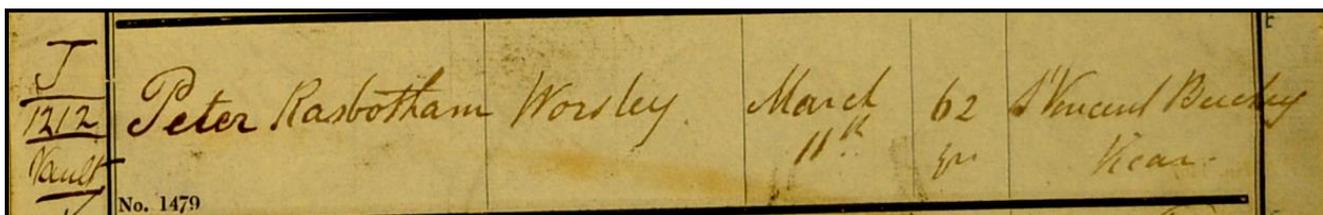
*This (sketch of Shakespeare), together with a portrait and some smaller drawings, I took with me to show him. He took them into the dining-room to let the company see them, and asked me what would be the price of a copy of the Shakespeare. I scarce knew what to ask but at last I said ten shillings, which I did not consider too much, as there is four good days' work on it, besides materials. He said he would see about it. He then said that the Earl did not see how he could be of any assistance to me with regard to a situation, but he would consider the matter. In the meantime his lordship wishes me to do a drawing of the Church for him in pencil. Now for the grand climax, the last scene of all. **Mr. Rasbotham** put his hand into his pocket and asked if a trifle would be of any service to me, at the same time putting into my hand half a sovereign. I thanked him almost with tears in my eyes, so kindly and considerately was the action performed, took my leave and walked home praising God for His great goodness in having found me at least a temporary friend.*

Then, on 27th November, he wrote again to his father, whose illness was now incurable.

*"I went to the Hall yesterday, the day appointed. I was shown in to **Mr. Rasbotham**, whom I found seated at his desk writing. Upon my entrance he rose, and bade me good morning. I returned his salutation. We then proceeded to business. He seemed to like the view of the Church very well and took it in to show his lordship. He returned with the gracious information that his lordship was very well pleased with it, and that I was to execute two more views of the hall, to be sent down to the house in London, 10 Belgrave Square, where they intend proceeding on Friday. He then gave me 2 for the view of the Church, and I consider that I was exceedingly well paid. I am glad that I left the Shakespeare with **Mr. Rasbotham**, this time he told me he should consider the ten shillings he gave me as an equivalent for it. I gratefully acceded."*

This young man's name was **Frederick James Shields** (1833-1911), who became a well-known British artist, illustrator and designer, and who was deeply impressed by pictures in the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition of **1857**. He became closely associated with the Pre-Raphaelites through Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Ford Madox-Brown. The rector mentioned above must have been Charles Cameron. For the two drawings, the Earl of Ellesmere paid the boy the (then) fabulous sum of five pounds, and he also drew the portraits of several of the servants at the Hall for five shillings a head. After this, his career developed immeasurably. More can be learnt of him in *The Life and Letters of Frederic Shields* by Ernestine Mills.

1871: Peter Rasbotham died on 8 March **1871**, aged 62 and was buried at St.Mark's on 11 March. He was formerly of Brompton Square, London. His wife, Rebecca Tate, died on 31 July **1887** at Birkdale and was buried, also at St.Mark's, on 3 August **1887**, aged 75 yrs.



RASBOTHAM Peter. 12 April. The Will of Peter Rasbotham formerly of Brompton-square in the County of Middlesex but late of Worsley in the County of **Lancaster** Gentleman who died 8 March 1871 at Worsley was proved at **Manchester** by Rebecca Rasbotham of Worsley Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.

Effects under £8,000.

1871 census: Hill Top, Worsley.

Rebecca Rasbotham	Head	W	58
Lucy D.	Daur.	S	18
Margaret Tate	Sister	S	62
Beatrice Beever	Vis.	S	18

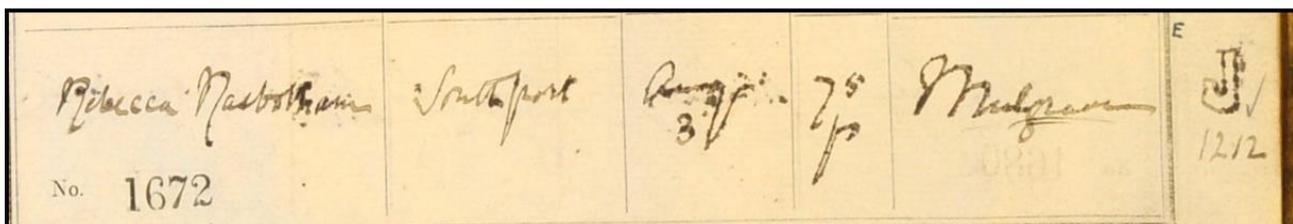
+ 3 servants.

1881 census: The Cottage, Worsley.

Mary B. Knott	Head	W	33	Reliever of Dividends
Rebecca Rasbotham	Mother	W	68	Annuitant

+ 3 servants.

1887: Rebecca Rasbotham died on 31 July **1887** and was buried at St. Mark's on 3 August 1887, aged 75 years.



RASBOTHAM Rebecca.

Personal Estate £2,015 19s. 5d.

22 May. Administration (with the Will) of the Personal Estate of Rebecca Rasbotham formerly of Worsley but late of Aughton - road Birkdale both in the County of Lancaster Widow who died 31 July 1887 at Aughton-road was granted at Liverpool to Lucy Dora Spencer (Wife of Alfred Spencer) of 47 Aughton-road the Daughter the Residuary Legatee.

