

The Jackson Family grave in Darwen Old Cemetery commemorates five members of the Jackson family: Daniel (74), his wife Elizabeth (66) and their three daughters Lily (51), Lizzie (56) and Ruth (1)



Jackson family: from left to right Elizabeth Jackson (nee Rainford), Robert, Lizzie (seated), James, Lily, Mona (seated) and Daniel

Daniel and Elizabeth Jackson came to Darwen from Lancaster in 1894 with their children Lily aged 6, Robert aged 4 and Lizzie aged 2 and the family lived at 7 Hollins Row.

Daniel had worked as a colour mixer at the Williamsons' Lino Company in Lancaster. A new product anaglypta similar to lincrusta, (but a cheaper wall covering made of paper and cotton fibre) was patented by Thomas J Palmer and this process was bought by C J Potter of Darwen. Queen Street Mill in the Hollins area was built for the manufacture of anaglypta and 15 key workers were brought from Lancaster to Darwen in 1894 to make the heavily embossed wallpaper. Daniel Jackson was one of these key workers.

Daniel and his brother William had been born in Lancaster and orphaned at an early age when their mother died in childbirth and then two years later their father was killed in an accident at the Phoenix Iron Works. Daniel and William were brought up by their maternal grandfather Daniel Bell, a fisherman at Poulton-le-Fylde (now Morecambe). They were educated by the Ripley Hospital charitable foundation for orphans and both boys went on to serve apprenticeships at the Phoenix Iron Works. It was said that the two brothers walked from Poulton-le-Fylde to Lancaster every day to attend school.

Daniel's brother William became a well known figure in Lancaster as the Beadle and Macebearer to the Mayors of Lancaster and served for over 40 years. As part of his duties he attended two coronations with the Mayor of Lancaster. He retired in 1929 and there is a very interesting article in the Lancaster Guardian (June 8, 1929 p7).

Whilst living at Hollins Row in Darwen in 1896 Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter called Ruth. Sadly she died in July 1897 aged 17 months of enteritis and was buried in Darwen Old Cemetery. A year later in 1898 James was born in Darwen (my family's ancestor). The family then moved back to Lancaster for a while and their last child Mona who was born there in 1901. She was brought up in Darwen and later married William Holden, from the Belgrave area, in 1921 in a double wedding ceremony with her brother James who married May Jukes from Blackburn. One of Mona's two daughters emigrated to America where there are now quite a few of her descendents living in Texas.

The family remained in the Hollins area and the children of the family went to St Cuthbert's National School in Hollins Grove Street and attended St Cuthbert's Church. The family moved to 48 Lynwood Avenue and Daniel's profession was said to be a house decorator on the Census but on other records he is still working as a colour mixer. The family finally moved to 15 Falcon Ave, Darwen (a house Daniel eventually owned) which was very close to one of the entrances into Sunnyside Woods which was opened in 1908. The park had been acquired by public subscription in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII.

Robert, the eldest son, worked mostly as a labourer. He enlisted in the army in World War 1 aged 23 but was discharged after just a couple of months. Family folklore had him as the black sheep of the family.

In 1915 Daniel's son James Jackson enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery and served as a Gunner in World War 1. He gave his date of birth as 1896 so would have only just been 17 when he joined the army but was a very tall young man so would have looked 18. He served until 1920 and was awarded the Victoria Medal and British War Medal in 1919.

After the war James married May Jukes and they had a son Leonard. Leonard was looked after by his grandparents, Daniel and Elizabeth at Falcon Avenue while his parents worked as weavers in the local cotton mill. Later in life James also became a painter and decorator as did his son Leonard.

Daniel and Elizabeth's older daughters, Lily and Lizzie never married and remained at home with their parents. It is said that they were very close and that Lily had contracted polio and that Lizzie felt she needed to take care of her. In the 1901 Census Lily, aged 12, is noted as suffering from paralysis. As an adult she did manage to work as a cleaner and domestic. Lizzie worked as a weaver in the mill.

Daniel's wife, Elizabeth Ann Jackson (nee Rainford) died in August 1934 aged 66. Daniel Jackson died five months later in January 1935 aged 74. Their daughters Lily and Lizzie both died at relatively young ages. Lily died in hospital and was still living at the family home in Falcon Avenue in 1939, aged 51. Elizabeth Jane (Lizzie) died nearly ten years later in 1948 aged 56 and by then she was living in Pilkington Street, Darwen.

Daniel and Elizabeth's son, Robert died in 1961, he had had two wives but as far as we know no children. Their other son James lived in Darwen until his death in 1966 and his son Leonard had three children and his descendents live in Darwen, Yorkshire, Wiltshire and Australia.



Jackson grave in the 1930s



Jackson grave in 2009



Jackson grave April 2010

The Jackson grave in Darwen Old Cemetery is the last resting place of Daniel, Elizabeth and their three daughters Lily, Lizzie and Ruth. It is a focal point for our family when we lose other family members and then we put flowers on the grave. We have now had the grave restored (see above) without the edging to aid easier maintenance. We hope this will be the start of improving this section of the cemetery and help with the work of the Friends of Darwen Cemetery to promote the cemetery as a place of heritage and learning as well as being a peaceful place for quiet reflection.

Rosemary Jackson
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