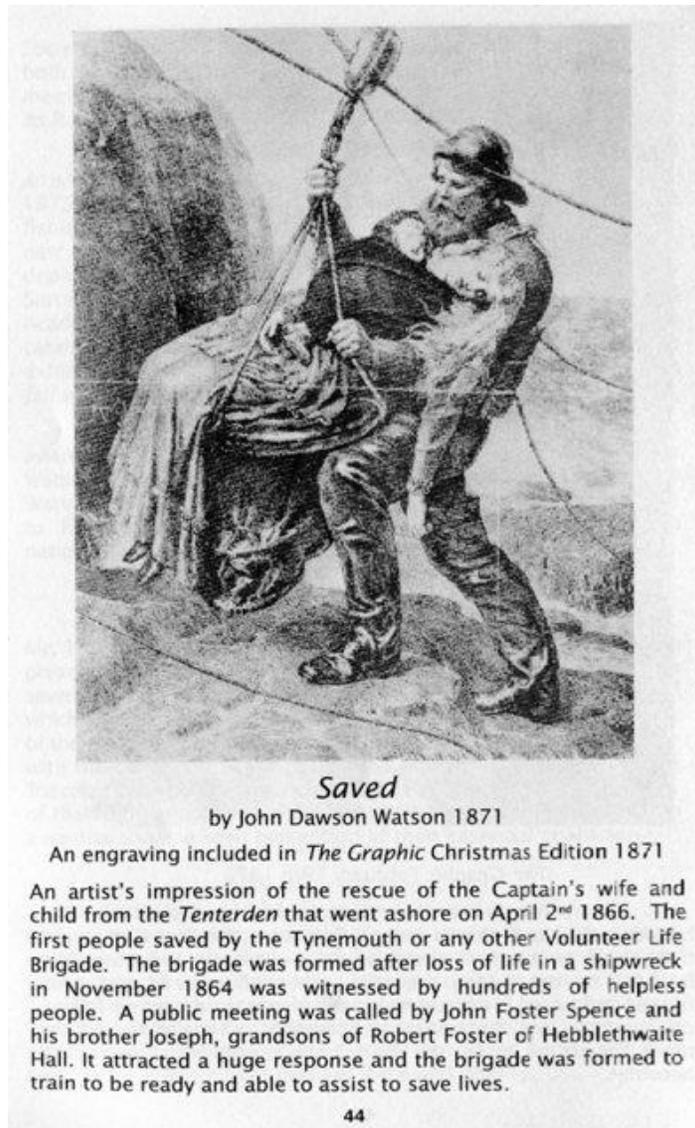


Dawson-Watson writes in his memoirs, “Then my father painted a picture called ‘Saved’ and made a black and white of it which was published in The Graphic as a supplement, and hundreds of prints of it were done specially and were distributed the world over. It was a large canvas, about six by four feet, on which was represented a half-drowned woman with a baby tied to her breast by a shawl, her body thrust thru the three ropes of a breeches-buoy and lashed to them. Back of this, and holding the buoy and the ropes with his powerful hands, was Joe Cook pushing them in front of him as he came on and up a mass of foam-lashed rocks, and behind all this, a leaden sky and storm-lashed sea. It was sketched from an actual incident when the buoy got foul of the guide-line and jammed in a crevice in the rocks below the edge of the cliff on which the life-saving crew stood. Joe Cook, not knowing and not caring whether the line would hold the extra weight or not, went over the edge of the cliff and down the rope hand over hand, cleared the line and gave the signal to hoist the whole mass up; he using his heavily booted feet whenever he could get toe hold on the face of the cliff to ease the strain on the ropes and get back to safety. Some man, he was! Yet, he was eventually drowned, his fishing boat being capsized in a squall!”

Dawson-Watson, Dawson, Manuscript Memoir, Dawson-Watson family archives.



John Dawson Watson RWS RBA RCA A Sedbergh Artist and His Circle.

Sedbergh, Cumbria, UK: Sedbergh and District History Society, 2012.