

Henry Todd, Townhead gardener

19th century houses didn't have domestic gardens as we know them today; most families kept pigs and wildfowl in back yards for a bit of extra food. 'Gardeners' worked in the grounds of the large estates – think Capability Brown in Settle. As several well-preserved, high quality memorial stones demonstrate, despite being in service to someone else, this was a lucrative occupation. Henry was the gardener for **Margaret Bolland** and her family at Townhead estate for 53 years.

Henry was born in 1806 in Heversham, between Levens Hall and Milnthorpe on route to Kendal. In this incredible photo [ph1] Henry is wearing a smart jacket and is sitting by a table in front of a plain background – it could well have been taken by Settle's **Horner** photography business. Henry looks rather weary which is not surprising as he was 85 when he died, having worked at Townhead until the day he died! Henry outlived all his five siblings by several years. Henry was from a line of a farmers and gardeners and his father, **John Todd**, was '*much and deservedly respected*' [1]. This is a rare article about the Todds as they were ordinary, good, hard working folk who kept themselves out of the headlines. As a deservedly respected man, John was buried with his wife and two sons at St Peter's Church, Heversham and has a fine memorial stone.



At Halforth, near Milnthorpe, on the 27th ult., Mr **John Todd**, farmer, aged 83 years—much and deservedly respected.

In memory of John Todd of Waterside in the Parish who died June 27th 1858 aged 85 years. Also of Ann his wife who died August 8th 1857 aged 75 years. Also of William their third son who died May 22nd 1837 aged 28 years. Also of Thomas their fourth son who died Nov 9th 1870 aged 56 years.



Generally the Todd family didn't move far – Henry's parents and siblings lived in adjacent farms, close to Heversham, for decades. Henry was the exception as, in 1839, Henry was in Settle working as a footman. Descendants suggest that he left home to help with haymaking and never came back. In Settle he met and married a servant, **Sarah Harrison**, from Ingleton. It's possible they had both been working at Townhead. Sarah was one of five daughters of **Richard Harrison** who worked in the coal pits as an 'overlooker' – the foreman/manager.

Henry and Sarah had six children, the eldest, **Ann Todd**, being born three months after their wedding. When he wasn't 'living in' at Townhead, Henry lived with the family at Townhead Cottage at the top end of Bowskills Yard, which was also owned by Townhead. Sarah died in 1854, aged 44, giving birth to their last child, **Robert Todd**, who survived and Henry brought up the children with the help of his eldest daughter **Ann Todd** who was 15 by then.

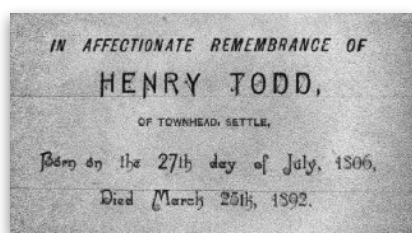
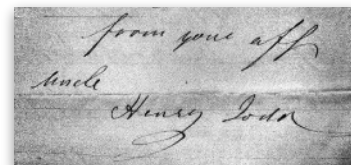


Henry was awarded prizes in numerous produce and livestock categories at the local Agricultural Show, as was Margaret Bolland, unsurprisingly [SC]. In 1854 Henry was elected onto the committee of the Horticultural Society.

THE WEATHER.—The weather during the month has been unusually mild for the season of the year. The early part was fine, dry, sunshiny, and warm, and resembled more the latter end of April and May, than bleak November. Vegetation was unchecked. The Field Daisy was in full flower in many places, and Mr. Henry Todd showed us a bunch of ripe Strawberries and some Raspberries which he had pulled in the open garden belonging to Miss Bolland. We learn also

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In 1874, Henry wrote to a niece [ph2], **Sarah Ann Todd**, daughter of his brother **James Todd**, with condolences on the death of a relation **William Todd**, possibly the son of his brother **Thomas Todd**. Henry was literate, but didn't spell very well!



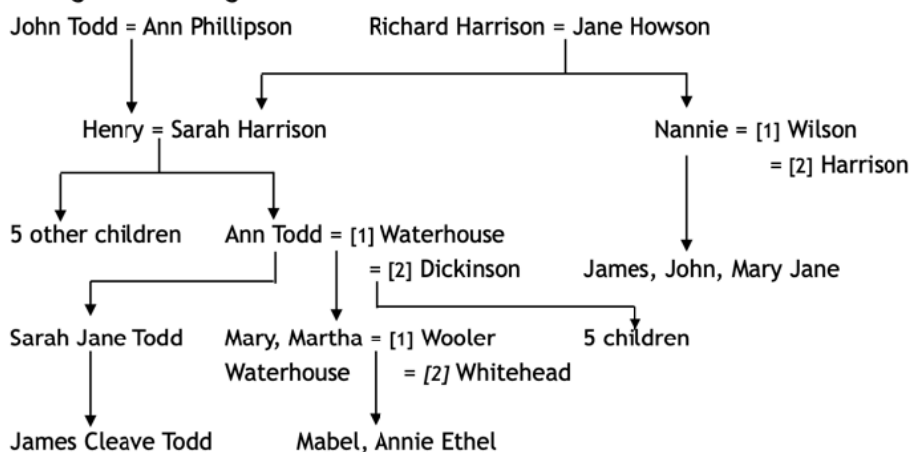
When Henry died in his 85th year [ph3], he had served at Townhead for 53 years. He must have been a good gardener and companion to the family. Henry is buried with Sarah and 21 year old son **James Todd**, an apprentice tinner and brazier, probably working for **Michael Horner** or **Darius Ineson**. James died, aged 21, of tuberculosis during the building of the Settle to Carlisle Railway.

In affectionate remembrance of Henry Todd, for 53 years the faithful servant and friend of the family at Townhead, Settle, died 25th March 1892 aged 85 years. Also of Sarah his wife died 1st May 1854, aged 44 years. And of James their son died 25th November 1871 aged 21 years, E18

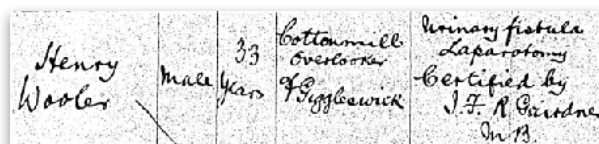


Henry's memorial stone is exquisitely carved. Townhead's owner, then **Susannah Edgar**, Margaret Bolland's niece, probably contributed to the cost of it as, appropriately, Henry's plot is in the midst of the Bolland family graves. They Bolland family may have paid to have the photo taken too.

Henry Todd's family



Henry and Sarah's daughter **Jane**, and sons **William Henry**, **John** and **Robert** moved away with their own families and respectable occupations. Their eldest daughter **Ann Todd** spent most of her life bringing up children, initially her siblings and then her illegitimate daughter **Sarah Jane Todd**. Then Ann had twin daughters a couple of months after her wedding to her first husband **Thomas Waterhouse** who had worked as a butler to banker **William Robinson**, brother of **Susanna Constantine Robinson**. Unfortunately, Thomas died of phthisis/tuberculosis just a year after their wedding, aged just 23. Tuberculosis is a progressive disease, often referred to as the 'slow death' so Thomas and Ann would have known what was coming and could prepare for it. He had suffered for six months and Henry was present at his death. One year old twin **Mary Waterhouse** died six months later, perhaps having contracted the illness too? Thomas and Mary are buried in unmarked graves in the Ancient graveyard. Thomas and Ann's other twin daughter, **Martha Waterhouse**, survived and married **Harry (Henry) Wooler**, an overlooker (foreman/manger) at one of the local cotton mills. He fathered three daughters before he also died at a young age, just 33. His cause of death was a 'urinary fistula laparotomy' – a urinary fistula is when the bladder unusually opens into another



part of the body, such as the bowel. The laparotomy is a surgical procedure accessing the abdomen to treat the condition. We can only assume the laparotomy went wrong and poor Harry died in Leeds Infirmary. He was buried in an unmarked grave at Giggleswick. When she was 47, Martha married again, this time to **William Whitehead**, a mason's labourer. This is such an unlucky family, and there is more. In July 1917, one of Harry and Martha's daughters,



Mabel Wooler, married **William Metcalfe** [ph5, right] from Long Preston who was remembered as a good athletics runner. William died just six months later in the war.

Mabel remarried in 1923, this time to **Edward Foster**, a widowed farmer. Meanwhile, Harry and Martha's daughter, **Annie Ethel Wooler**, married **William Henry Metcalfe** [ph4, left] of Thoraby, near Aysgarth. He worked as a goods porter on the railway at Long Preston. His grandson, **Algy Metcalfe** remembers, 'My grandad William Henry (Harry) Metcalfe who served in the Army service corps working on horse transport. He went to Le Havre, France in December 1914. He served all the war in France and was one of the lucky ones. A great grandad.'



After Thomas Waterhouse's death Ann (Todd) Waterhouse had five children in her second marriage to **John Dickinson**. John Dickinson was the ideal son-in-law for Henry, being the son of estate gardener **Elias Dickinson** of Stackhouse. John was perfectly experienced to take over gardening duties at Townhead when Henry died. John Dickinson had previously been married to **Margaret Fletcher**, a farmer's daughter from Clapham. She had been working in Settle as a housekeeper to **John Reed**, an 86 year old, clogger in Duke Street. John and Margaret had a joint wedding with Margaret's sister Mary Fletcher in 1852 [2]. Mary married **James Mansergh** who ran the Rathmell sawmill for decades and they had seven children. Poor Margaret died four years after her wedding to John, perhaps with issues related childbirth. It was another ten years before John married Ann. In the meantime he worked as a servant/gardener for **George Dudgeon Hartley** at Whitefriars in Church Street.

On Saturday last, by the Rev. T. Haswell, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Settle, Mr John Dickenson, of Stainforth, to Miss Margaret Fletcher, dressmaker, of Settle; and at the same time and place, Mr James Mansergh, of Rathmell, joiner, to Miss Mary Fletcher, of Settle. The brides are sisters, and the two marriages being the first solemnized in the above chapel, each party was presented with a copy of the Scriptures and a Wesleyan Hymn Book.

John was a good man – when wife Ann died, aged 48, John continued to bring up their six children and extended family including Sarah's children and grandchildren, even those from her previous relationships. Amongst other things, John was the groundsman for Settle Tennis Club, but resigned in 1900, aged 75, because of 'poor health'. He died in 1902 and is buried with both his wives and their memorial stone is on the back wall of the churchyard.



In loving memory of Margaret, wife of John Dickenson who died Oct 5th 1856 aged 32 years. Also of Ann, his second wife who died Sept 19th 1887, aged 48 years. Also of the above John Dickenson who died June 4th 1902 aged 77 years, Anc E2

Ann's children? Ann's illegitimate daughter Sarah Jane Todd worked in service for the **Tottie family** at Coniston Hall but died giving birth to her own illegitimate son **James Cleave Todd**, when she was 38. Perhaps the father was a Mr Cleave? Little James was brought up by half-aunt Martha (Waterhouse) Wooler. He was apprenticed to **Mr Willan** of Skipton as a bootmaker but that transpired to be in vain as he was killed, aged 20, in Trescault, France while serving with the Royal Fusilliers in September 1918. His body was never found [ph6].



John and Ann's daughter **Mary Annie Dickenson**, a spinster, lived to the age of 76. Son **John Henry Dickenson** worked as a clerk to solicitor **William Hartley**. He died, aged 48. At the age of 66, their youngest son, **Charles William Todd Dickinson**, a
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grocer, married **Ethel Elizabeth Haygarth**, daughter of entrepreneur and cycle expert **Robert Haygarth**. Sarah Ann and half siblings Mary Annie Dickenson and John Henry Dickenson, are in an unmarked *Old grave CX45*.

Going back a generation, Henry's wife, Sarah (Sally) Harrison was the third of five daughters of **Richard Harrison**, an Ingleton coal mine foreman and his wife **Jane (Howson) Harrison**. The eldest daughter, **Mary Todd**, died in infancy and so the second daughter was named Mary Todd as well. With such a common name it's hard to find out what happened to the other sisters, except for Sarah's younger sister, **Nannie Harrison**, who had a rather unconventional life. When she was 21 she gave birth to a son, **James Harrison**, followed eight years later by another son, **John Harrison** and then seven years after that, a daughter **Mary Jane Harrison**. James was brought up by his grandparents, Richard and Jane Harrison, before being apprenticed to **Thomas Walker**, the Settle draper at the foot of Constitution Hill. From there he ran his own tailoring business in Settle with the help of his wife, **Catherine Hartley**, and six children. At the time of the 1851 census Nannie was described as a '*pauper servant*' working for **Elizabeth Johnson**, an elderly spinster, in Main Street in Ingleton while her son John Harrison, aged eight and daughter Mary Jane, aged just two, lived a few doors away in Main Street, Ingleton, hopefully being looked after by a couple of elderly male lodgers, a Chelsea pensioner and a labourer.

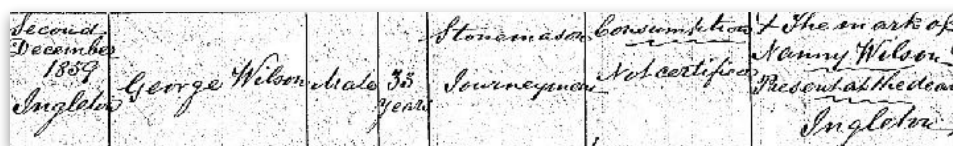
For some reason John was born in Ireby north of Keswick in the Lake District and this fact was helpful in tracing him in later years. He was also apprenticed to Thomas Walker, the Settle draper. He worked as a tailor when he married **Nancy Blezard** from Bentham. She was also an illegitimate child and they married in Morecambe, both falsifying paternal details on their wedding documentation to avoid '*the shame of illegitimacy*'. They settled in Burton-in-Lonsdale combining tailoring with running a grocery and the Post Office while Nancy gave birth to 16 children! Sadly eight of those died in infancy. They had their photo taken with seven of their children – still a large family! [ph7]



Nannie's daughter Mary Jane Harrison married **George Teal**, a Bradford draper and Nannie spent the last years of her life living with the Teal family. What had happened to Nannie in the meantime?

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When she was 46, on 31 October 1859 Nannie married **George Wilson**, an Ingleton stonemason who was 13 years her junior. Tragically, just a month later, on 2 December, George died, aged just 33. His death certificate tells us he also died of consumption, another name for tuberculosis and Nannie was present at his death. George and Nannie must have known he was going to die when they married which raises a few questions!



After George's death, Nannie ran a lodging house with her daughter to raise some income. Then, when she was 54, in 1867, she became the second wife of **Christopher Harrison** who was an Ingleton toll road collector, just as his father had been. Christopher's first wife, 13 years his senior, had died the year before.

A couple of years earlier, in 1864, Christopher had been taken to court by an irate **Robert Leak**, the 'watcher employed by Mr Hall' for attempting to take fish from part of the River Greeta owned by Mr Hall. Mr Leak insisted on pleading his own case but that resulted in him becoming a laughing stock. Due to a technicality about whether the court could hear cases related to fishing rights the case was dismissed, much to Mr Leak's disgust! [3]

Christopher Harrison, the younger, tollbar keeper, Ingleton, was charged by Robert Leak, watcher, with attempting to take certain fish—to wit, trout, in the part of the river Greeta, belonging to Mr. William Thos. Hall, on the 12th ult. The complainant begged to plead his own cause, which the Bench graciously assented to, and the defendant was represented by Mr. Pearson.

Robert Leak, who was exceedingly loquacious, then narrated his story. He stated that he was the watcher

The Chairman. —We dismiss the case on technical grounds.

The complainant then inquired if anybody could now fish on Mr. Hall's liberty.

The Chairman replied that the Bench gave no opinion upon that point.

Christopher was 13 years older than Nannie and could have been related to her. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, he died of natural causes two years later. Nannie moved in with her daughter and family in Bradford and died when she was 72.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

With thanks to Algy Metcalfe and Mike Howarth, descendants, for their help in the compilation of this account.

ph1,2,3,4 – photo with the kind permission of Algy Metcalfe, ph5,6 – photo credited to 'Craven's Part in the Great War' by the Craven Community Projects Group 2006, ph7 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username ejorr58

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