

## Henry Todd, Townhead gardener

19th century houses didn't have domestic gardens as such; 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 gravestones show, despite being in service to someone else, this was a lucrative occupation. Henry was the gardener at Townhead estate for 53 years.



Henry [ph1] was born in 1806 just south of Kendal, the son of a farmer. In 1839 he was in Settle working as a footman when he met and married servant Sarah Harrison from Ingleton. Her father, Richard, worked in the coal pits as an 'overlooker' - manager. Henry's descendants explain that he left home to help with haymaking and never came back.

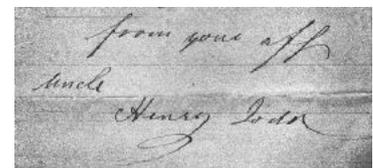
Henry and Sarah had six children while Henry was at Townhead, working as the gardener for Margaret Bolland. When he wasn't 'living in', he resided at Townhead Cottage at the top end of Bowskills Yard, also owned by Townhead. Sarah died, aged 44, giving birth to their last child, Robert, so



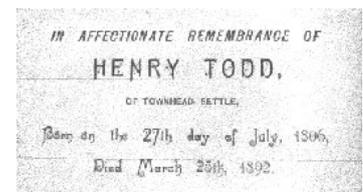
THE WEATHER.—The weather during the month has been unusually mild for the season of the year. The early part was fine, dry, sunshiny, and warm, and resembled more the latter end of April and May, than bleak November. Vegetation was unchecked. The Field Daisy was in full flower in many places, and Mr. 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

Henry brought up the children with the help of his eldest daughter Ann. He was awarded prizes in numerous produce categories at the local Agricultural Show [SC].

In 1874, Henry wrote to a niece, Sarah Ann, sending condolences on the death of a relation William Todd [ph1]. Henry was literate, but didn't spell very well!



Henry was aged a magnificent 85 when he died [ph1], having 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, an apprentice tinner and brazier (in all probability working for Michael Horner or Darius Ineson) who 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 gravestone is exquisitely carved. Townhead's owner, then Susannah Edgar, Margaret Bolland's niece probably contributed to the cost of his gravestone – it's in the midst of their family graves E16, 17, 21. They may well have arranged to have his photo taken too.

Henry's daughter Jane, and sons William Henry, John and Robert moved away and had their own families. Daughter Ann spent most of her life bringing up children, initially her siblings and then her illegitimate daughter Sarah Ann. She had twin daughters with her first husband Thomas Waterhouse who was a butler to banker William Robinson, sister of Susanna Constantine Robinson. Then Ann had five children from her second marriage to John Dickinson.

## Settle Graveyard Project

John Dickinson was the ideal son-in-law for Henry, being the son of estate gardener *Elias Dickinson* (old graveyard) 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 a very elderly (86 year old) clogger in Duke Street. John and Margaret had a joint wedding with Margaret's sister Mary in 1852 [1]. Mary married *James Mansergh* who ran the Rathmell sawmill for decades and gave him seven children. Poor Margaret died four years after their wedding. It was another ten years before John married Ann. In the meantime he worked as a servant for George Dudgeon Hartley at Whitefriars in Church Street - perhaps he did a bit of gardening there?

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 his six children and extended family including Sarah's children and grandchildren from 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 in the same grave as both his wives on the back wall of the churchyard.

*E2 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.*

Ann's illegitimate daughter Sarah Ann died giving birth to her own illegitimate son **James Cleave Todd**, who was brought up by half-aunt Martha (Waterhouse) Wooler. James was killed in action in France in September 1918. His body was never found [ph2].



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, six years after marrying *Martha Poole*. Sarah Ann and half siblings Mary Annie Dickenson and John Henry Dickenson, are in an unmarked *Old grave CX45*.



Settle Graveyard Project



*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. Life stories can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk), 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

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

*The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.*

*ph1 – photo with the kind permission of Algy Metcalfe, ph 2 – photo credited to 'Craven's Part in the Great War' by the Craven Community Projects Group 2006.*

*SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kendal Mercury.*