

Isabella Stubbs, a young governess with an incredible family

Isabella, born in 1832 in Knaresborough, was a daughter of attorney, **William Morley Stubbs** and **Mary Ann Henlock**. William Morley Stubbs came from a long line of yeomen, cultivating small estates in Nidderdale since the 14th century. However his father, **Thomas Stubbs** had shrewdly set up a business in Boroughbridge as a grocer, tea dealer and wine and spirit merchant. Boroughbridge was a prosperous market town due to its passing trade on the Great North Road and on the Scottish droving routes. It was also an inland port, being at the top of the River Ure. Thomas traded with the local gentry, boatmen, farmers, townsfolk, agricultural labourers and even the travelling militia. Mary Ann Henlock's family had also made the move from rural yeomen to business with a wine business in Knaresborough and an apothecary in York. William and Mary Ann had a bright future, however Boroughbridge was to be badly affected by the new railway trade.

William married Mary Ann in 1824 and they had four daughters and two sons. They lived *'in a small house in the High Street, which is still standing, next but one to the Bank. The house is built over an archway through which there is access to the back and to a garden stretching some way behind the houses [A].* However William died in 1842 in Ripon, aged just 42, having recently been declared bankrupt. This left Mary Ann in severe financial challenges if she was to survive, never mind to maintain the lifestyle to which she and the children had become accustomed.

The Henlock family had numerous links with families in Settle. Mary Ann's aunt **Mary Henlock** had married Settle's **Giles Redmayne**, a linen and woollen draper and they lived at Fern Hill on Constitution Hill. In 1846 Mary Ann's spinster sister, **Isabella Henlock**, announced that she would be opening an *'establishment for the board and education of young ladies'* in one of the large houses of the Terrace on Duke Street in Settle. It would be *'her earnest endeavour to unite sound Religious principles with a useful and elegant Education, and as far as possible combine the comforts of home with the duties and discipline of School'* [4]. Widowed Mary Ann (Henlock) Stubbs may well have been a partner in this venture. This was an acceptable occupation for educated middle class women when circumstances necessitated. Isabella's credentials were enhanced by reference to **Thomas Redmayne** of Taitlands, Stainforth, a well respected man, for reasons which will become apparent. When the school opened in January 1847 Isabella placed another advert [4], highlighting family values as three nieces (Mary Ann's daughters, including Isabella) resided with her.

At the time of the 1851 census Isabella, Mary Ann, Mary Ann's daughter **Frances Stubbs** and a nephew were at the school together with several boarders including boys who attended Giggleswick grammar school. Their boarders were from Leeds, Colne, Jamaica (West Indies) and one from Long Preston. At that time daughter Isabella Stubbs worked as a governess for **Henry Alcock**, an attorney and banker of the Craven Bank. They lived at Aireville House in Skipton, now

THE TERRACE, SETTLE.—Miss HENLOCK purposes to OPEN an ESTABLISHMENT for the Board and Education of Young Ladies, in Settle, upon the commencement of the next Year. Miss Henlock begs to say it will be her earnest endeavour to unite sound Religious Principles with a useful and elegant Education, and as far as possible combine the comforts of home with the duties and discipline of School. Most unexceptionable references can be given if required. Terms may be had on application to THOMAS REDMAYNE, Esq., Taitlands, Settle. [261]

THE TERRACE, SETTLE.—MISS HENLOCK would be happy to receive into her Family after the Christmas Vacation, a limited Number of Young Ladies to be Educated along with Three of her own Nieces who reside with her, and thus to combine the care and comforts of Home with the duties and discipline of School. Miss H. would desire to impart to her Pupils a sound and liberal Education, based on the highest Religious Principles. Terms and further Particulars may be had on Application, and the most unexceptionable References given if required. Miss H. would be happy to receive a Young Lady as Parlour Boarder. School will commence on the 20th of JANUARY. [61]





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Skipton Academy. Isabella died in June 1852, aged just 20.

Here lyeth waiting for the Lord the body of Isabella Stubbs who lived faithfully 20 years, C18

Mary Ann (Henlock) Stubbs' sister Isabella Henlock died in Settle in August 1860 leaving an estate worth 'under £2000', worth over £260,000 in today's value. Her nephew **William Stubbs** was an executor for her will. The family gifted a beautiful stained glass window to the church dedicated to Isabella. Isabella Henlock may be buried with Isabella Stubbs although there is no inscription to this effect.



In 1856 'Mrs Henlock, Ouseburn' was amongst the wealthy benefactors to contribute towards the building of the Holy Ascension parsonage on Station Road in 1856 [SC]. This was **Ellen (Thornber) Henlock** who had married **William Henlock**, Mary Ann Henlock's cousin. William was a farmer in Great Ouseburn and Ellen was the daughter of **James Thornber** who had run Bridge End Cotton Mill. James had died in 1810, aged 49, so his widow **Alice (Ellison) Thornber** managed the family finances. At the time of the 1844 Tithe survey she still owned Bridge End Mill and a tannery on Victoria Street. Currier cottage still stands on the site today. Alice also owned several other properties in Upper Settle, a property behind the market square and part-owned land up behind the Lodge Farm. Alice died in 1847 and Ellen, with her inheritance, married William Henlock in 1849, aged 41. Perhaps Ellen didn't feel able, or 'wasn't allowed' to leave her ageing mother to marry William before this. William and Ellen's marriage would have been regarded as a good one, socially and financially. Upon Ellen's death, in 1886, she left a considerable sum to be distributed to the poor of Settle Parish [2]. The portrait was by Mr Howell in 1862 [A].

SETTLE PARSONAGE.			
THE following Subscriptions have been already received towards the purchase of a site, and building of a Parsonage House for this town. The amount subscribed is still below the estimated cost, and further subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Churchwardens, Mr. Richard Greenwood, and Mr. Thomas Stackhouse, or at the Craven Bank.			
	£		£
The Craven Bank	100	Miss Robinson	10
Wm. Robinson, Esq.	100	Rev. J. Robinson	10
John Birkbeck, Esq.	100	Miss Bolland	10
Rev. W. F. Pierson	200	S. Hargraves, Esq.	10
Miss Lambert	50	Mrs. Henlock, Ousburn	10
John Preston, Esq.	40	F. Dawson, Esq.	10
Thomas Birkbeck, Esq.	30	Rev. H. Dawson	10
Thomas Clapham, Esq.	25	A. Stackhouse, Esq.,	
Miss Dawson	20	(Stainforth)	10
George Hartley, Esq.	20	Anonymous	5
Wm. Robinson, Junior,		Mr. Geo. Wilkinson	1
Esq.	20	Rev. R. Procter	1

By the will of the late Mrs. Henlock, of Great Ouseburn (formerly Miss Thornber, of Runley Bridge, near Settle), the sum of £250 is directed to be invested in 3 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, the income arising therefrom to be paid to the Vicar and churchwardens for the time being of the ecclesiastical parish of Settle, to be by them distributed at their discretion amongst such poor inhabitants of that parish as they shall select.



Cousin William Henlock had a sister **Jane Henlock** who had become the third wife of **Thomas Redmayne** who was, coincidentally, the nephew of Giles Redmayne, above. Thomas was a landed proprietor at Taitlands, Stainforth having built it during the 1830s and invested successfully during 'Railway Mania'. As a result Thomas and Jane had a comfortable life and a large household of family, relations, visitors and servants, of course. Together with widowed Aunt Mary Redmayne being at Fern Hill, Thomas and Jane's societal position and lifestyle probably contributed to members of the Henlock and Stubbs families moving to this area from Knaresborough. Several family members were found

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visiting Taitlands on subsequent census returns. One diary entry describes living in style, going shooting, visiting friends, having tea and having a little dance. Thomas and Jane died within a week of each other in 1862 aged 65 and 52 respectively [3]. Taitlands was eventually bought by family friend Thomas Stackhouse.



REDMAYNE.—On the 23rd inst., aged 65, Thomas Redmayne, Esq., of Taitlands, Settle, Yorkshire, and five days' previously, Jane, his wife, aged 52.

William Henlock and Jane (Henlock) Remyne had a sister **Mary Henlock** who married **Thomas Stubbs**, a grocer in Boroughbridge and the brother of William Morley Stubbs. Confusing huh? Thomas had taken over the business from his father. They had six children and also ran a large household with family, guests and business associates.

Young Isabella Stubbs' older brother **William Stubbs** was an intensely academic man. He studied at Ripon grammar school where he was taught by Charles Longley, the Bishop of Ripon who would have been a significant influence. His father having died, William went to Christ Church, Oxford University as a 'servitor', essentially a poor student and then, due to his exceptional ability and potential, became a fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. He was a scholar, clergyman, Regius Professor of History at Oxford and was laden with public honours and highly regarded internationally. He was ordained a priest in 1850 and served in Navestock, Essex. He married **Catherine Dellar**, a local schoolmistress and they had at least eight sons and three daughters, although three sons and two daughters died in infancy.

'Society' did not appeal to William. He disliked the traditional expectations of dinner-parties, smoking, late hours, and committees. His was at home in his study and in the libraries. William was a prolific writer. His most famous work was the 'Constitutional History of England' which traces medieval constitutional change until 1485. Apparently this is still the most reliable single book on the subject. William was an elite academic to the extent that his work was occasionally regarded as inaccessible by some of his peers. Similarly his sermons were regarded as 'exceedingly weighty'.

In 1884 William became the Bishop of Chester and then also in 1888 Bishop of Oxford. William was frail in his later years but was able to attend and preach at Queen Victoria's funeral in February 1901. William's obituary upon his death in April 1901, aged 75, gives an indication of his academic rigour [1]. He was dubbed *'the most learned man in Britain (and, perhaps, in Europe)*. It also adds, *'in character Bishop Stubbs was modest, kind and sympathetic, ever ready to help and encourage serious students, generous in his judgement of works of others, a most cheery companion, full of wit and humour. His wit was often used as a weapon of defence, for he did not suffer fools gladly.'*

"THE MOST LEARNED MAN IN ENGLAND."

Dr. [Stubbs] nomination in 1884 to the episcopal bench, remarks the London "Times" in a special memoir of the late prelate, was one of those foregone conclusions which arise from doubtful premises. He was the most learned man in England (and, perhaps, in Europe) in a branch of learning which was not then represented among the Bishops. He had been a member of the Royal Commission of 1882 on the Ecclesiastical Courts, and his historical appendix to the report of the Commission became a recognised locus on the relationship between Church and State. He had spent 16 years at Nave-

quenched the spirit. Few who did not know him suspected that he was among the raciest humorists of his time. His quaint simplicity and almost rustic homeliness contrasted oddly and piquantly with his position as a Lord Spiritual and Chancellor of the Order of the Garter. He loved jokes, even small jokes, and could not always keep them back when to more conventional minds they seemed inappropriate.

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Despite any perceived weaknesses, William's rise from 'a poor student' to the high office of Bishop was, rightly, the pride of the family. William [ph1] has a portrait by Hubert von Kerkoner in the National Portrait Gallery – a fine looking chap. He was buried in Headington, Oxford and is now commemorated with a very modern gravestone.

William and Catherine's surviving sons were all educated at Oxford. Youngest son **Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs** was a British colonial governor, the Governor of Ceylon and later the Governor of Hong Kong. Sons **Lawrence Morley Stubbs** and **William Walter Stubbs** were also Colonial servants in Africa. Lawrence wrote a book 'A Monograph on Ivory Carving in the Northwestern Provinces and Oudh'. Son **Launcelot Henlock Ayscough Stubbs** was a barrister.

Isabella and William Stubbs' sister **Frances Stubbs** was mentioned in the diaries of cousin **John Richard Stubbs [A]**. In 1856 he 'drove Fanny Stubbs . . . in the Phaeton' and 'drove the ladies to the Terrace to tea. After tea we all walked to Castleberg. Fanny told me of her smash with George Robinson and she also told me of Mary Anne's Engagement with Walter Alfred Hills Esq'. It appears that Fanny may have had an unsuccessful engagement to **George Robinson**, an up and coming young banker, son of Dixon Robinson and nephew of Susannah Constantine Robinson. George later married **Mary Perfect**, daughter of **William Mosley Perfect** and **Jane Bolland**. Fanny died in 1877, unmarried, aged 41. Sister **Mary Ann** married **Walter Alfred Hills**, a lawyer and they had five children.

Sister **Eliza Stubbs** married a curate **Thomas Gwynne** from Shropshire. Their brother **Thomas** was just 12 when he died. Widow Mary Ann lived to see son William become the Bishop of Chester, dying in 1884, aged 80, although she had to endure the deaths of five of her six children before her own.

William Morley Stubbs could be related to Annie Morley, the unfortunate wife of **William Knott Stephenson** who came from the same area although that remains to be proved.



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, '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'.

With grateful thanks to Alice Barrigan and Catherine Vaughan-Williams for their help in the compilation of this account. Alice's blog northyorkshirehistoryblogspot.com is a mine of fascinating information.

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The full biography of William Stubbs is at [en.wikisource.org/wiki/Stubbs, William \(DNB12\)](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Stubbs,_William_(DNB12))

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

[A] – northyorkshirehistory.blogspot.com

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

ph1 – photo of portrait credited to the descendants of the family via ancestry.co.uk, username Chris Ledger, photo of drawing – BeccyBlake

