

## Robert Chapman, a war hero, his mum and a lucky lodger



*In remembrance of Elizabeth, relict of the late Thomas Chapman of Kirkby-in-Ashfield born April 11th 1806, died February 4th 1881. RIP, D22*

This is an exquisitely carved gravestone, so this family had money somewhere. Frustratingly, Elizabeth was not once found on a census return. She was born **Elizabeth Beighton/Britain** in 1806 to an agricultural labourer near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. At the age of 16 and seven months pregnant she married **Thomas Chapman**, an equally elusive young chap who worked as a framework knitter, using machinery to make lace and hosiery – a real Nottinghamshire trade. Thomas died in 1843. They lived near Sutton-in-Ashfield and had four children. Both daughters were called Rebecca as the first one died aged 4, and second died when just 12. Sons **John** and **Robert** survived.

John and Robert lived with aunts and uncles, even when they were young children, so obviously things weren't quite right at home. By the late 1870s Robert, his wife **Louisa Smith** and his mum Elizabeth had moved to 'Crag View' at the top of Commercial Street in Upper Settle. Here Robert worked as a baker but had previously worked as a salesman and a servant. Louisa came from Barnoldswick so this may be why they moved north. Elizabeth died in April 1881, aged 75.

Robert died in 1884, aged just 51. This was during the years when Holy Ascension graveyard was closed. The Ancient graveyard was 'dangerously full' but the church had not yet purchased land for the Old graveyard. This may explain why Robert is buried at Giggleswick rather than with his mum.

The news reports of his death and detailed gravestone inscription explain his life and how he could afford such a beautiful gravestone for his mum and also for himself and Louisa at Giggleswick Church [1].

*In loving memory of Robert Chapman of Settle born May 26th 1832 died Aug. 11th 1884, late of the 8th Royal Irish Hussars. He was one of the survivors of the memorable Battle of Balaclava. He served through the whole of the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, for which he received medals and clasps, viz. Sebastopol, Inkerman, Balaklava, Alma and Central India. He was a general favourite in his Regiment and after retiring from the ranks led a civilian's life for some years. He quietly passed away deservedly lamented by his friends.*

*Also of Louisa relict of the above named Robert Chapman born February 8th 1830 died January 27th 1898.*



Robert had was one of the Gallant 600 in the Balaclava Charge of 1854, otherwise known as the Charge of the Light Brigade. The Light Brigade included the 8th Hussars Cavalry, armed only with lances and sabres so they could move quickly in a reconnaissance charge. However, a series of blunders meant they were completely outmanoeuvred by heavy artillery. There were nearly 300 human British casualties and 335 horses slain. With this service, Robert will have had a good pension. The well known paintings of William Simpson and Richard Caton Woodville(Jnr) portray the charge into the 'Valley of Death' [ph1].

**DEATH OF ONE OF THE "SIX HUNDRED."**

On Wednesday afternoon the interment took place at the Parish Church, Giggleswick, of the remains of Robert Chapman, 52, of Settle, who died on Monday. Deceased was an ex-corporal of the 8th Hussars, with which regiment he served in the Crimean War, and was one of the few remaining survivors of the "Six Hundred." In addition to being present at the engagements of Sebastopol, Inkermann, Balaclava, and Alma, deceased served during the Indian Mutiny. The funeral was of a military character. A number of members of the local volunteer force marched with arms reversed. The Burial Service was performed by the Rev. C. Routh, and at its close three volleys were fired over the grave by a firing party of 16.

## Settle Graveyard Project



Tennyson's famous poignant poem captured the rhythm of the galloping horses perfectly, even though he had never been in a military setting, growing up in a Lincolnshire rectory.

*Half a league, half a league, Half a league onward, All in the valley of Death, Rode the six hundred. "Forward, the Light Brigade! Charge for the guns!" he said. Into the valley of Death, Rode the six hundred.*

*"Forward, the Light Brigade!" Was there a man dismayed? Not though the soldier knew, Someone had blundered. Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die. Into the valley of Death, Rode the six hundred.*

*Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon in front of them, Volleyed and thundered; Stormed at with shot and shell, Boldly they rode and well, Into the jaws of Death, Into the mouth of hell, Rode the six hundred.*

*Flashed all their sabres bare, Flashed as they turned in air, Sabring the gunners there, Charging an army, while All the world wondered. Plunged in the battery-smoke, Right through the line they broke, Cossack and Russian Reeled from the sabre stroke, Shattered and sundered. Then they rode back, but not, Not the six hundred.*

*Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon behind them, Volleyed and thundered; Stormed at with shot and shell, While horse and hero fell. They that had fought so well Came through the jaws of Death, Back from the mouth of hell, All that was left of them, Left of six hundred.*

*When can their glory fade? O the wild charge they made! All the world wondered. Honour the charge they made! Honour the Light Brigade, Noble six hundred!*

Robert's wife Louisa outlived him by 14 years and continued his aerated water business from Crag View, Upper Settle [LSA]. When Louisa died, she left her quite substantial estate to her 33 year old boarder, **Mary Agnes Procter**, a music teacher [2]. Lucky Mary Agnes.

**MUSICAL HONOURS.**—At the Christmas examination in connection with Trinity College, London, Miss Ethel Dibb Greenwood, and Miss Hannah Butler, pupils of Miss M. A. Procter, obtained junior pass certificates, being placed (with 89 marks each out of a possible hundred) at the head of the candidates for the Leeds centre.

Mary Agnes was the only daughter of **William Procter** and his wife **Margaret Edmondson** who ran the Royal Oak Inn at Hornby for many years. Both William and Margaret died within a couple of

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**Craven Aerated Water Works,**  
THE GREEN, SETTLE.

**MRS. CHAPMAN**

WEGS to return sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Settle and the surrounding neighbourhood for their kind support to her late husband (ROBERT CHAPMAN), and also wishes to inform them that she intends carrying on the above business in all its various branches, for which she solicits a share of the public patronage.

**All kinds of Aerated Water**  
Made to order on the shortest notice.

**ALL WATER FILTERED.**

**Oat-cake, Muffins, and Crumpets**  
FRESH TWICE A WEEK.

All orders entrusted to her will have prompt attention.

**MRS. CHAPMAN,**  
Aerated Water Manufacturer,  
THE GREEN, SETTLE.



### Settle Graveyard Project

months of each other in 1871 when Mary Agnes was just six. *John Clark* of Giggleswick was the executor of William's will although he seems to be unrelated.

Somehow, Mary Agnes and her younger brother **Richard** found themselves in Settle living with Robert and Louisa at the time of the following census. The Chapmans were unrelated but were a childless couple and were obviously happy to offer the children a home. Mary Agnes described herself as a music teacher at the age of 16 so must have received an education from somewhere.

Mary Agnes also worked as a teacher at Langcliffe school under the direction of headteacher Samuel Woolstencroft. These were turbulent times at Langcliffe school. As hundreds of workers moved into Langcliffe from all over the country to work in the rejuvenated mill, admissions to the school, from the age of three to fourteen, rocketed. In 1876 there were 97 pupils in the tiny school [A]. Inspections criticised the facilities, heating and the quality of teaching of arithmetic. As time went by there were disputes, court appearances and even a lock-in after disagreements between the governors and the vicar, Rev Samuel Sandberg. Inspectors suggested that the headmaster should be '*relieved of the instruction of infants*' and to '*attempt fewer subjects. Discipline is only fair. The infants are much neglected and in a backward condition*'. There were floods and outbreaks of measles and scarlet fever. Desperate pupil teachers were caught giving '*surreptitious aid*' to children in exams.



31<sup>st</sup> Master absent from duties, suffering  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup> I Mary Agnes Procter took temporary charge of this school. The Master James Samuel Woolstencroft died on Sunday evening Feb 6<sup>th</sup> from pneumonia. The school the previous week had been in charge of the Assistant Mistress.  
1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Perfect visited the school.  
2<sup>nd</sup> School closed as it was the day appointed for the funeral of the Master. Notice could not possibly be given to H. M. S. as it had only decided to do so the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Louisa Chapman had died on January 28th 1898. Just three days later the headmaster of Langcliffe school, 59 year old Samuel Woolstencroft, wrote in his log book, '*Master absent from duties, suffering*'. Just a week later, Samuel died of pneumonia and 33 year old Mary Agnes inadvertently found herself running the School [A]. '*I Mary Agnes Procter took temporary charge of this school. The master James Samuel Woolstencroft died on Sunday evening Feb 6th from pneumonia. The school the previous week had been in the charge of the assistant mistress.*' Two days later the school closed for the funeral of the headmaster.

It's not clear how long Mary Agnes was in charge but the death prompted the governors to appoint a new headmaster, two extra mistresses and made improvements to the building. They even bought a piano. The inspectors reported '*a very marked and gratifying improvement.*'

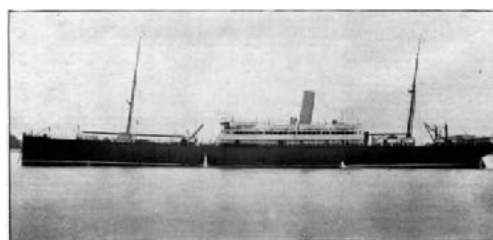
The following year, on 4th November 1899, Mary Agnes married **George Clark**, who had recently been widowed. George worked as a clerk and book keeper at the limeworks and was the son of **John Clark** who had built the first seven houses on Ribble Terrace alongside the river in Settle and had been the executor of William Procter's will. George was also the nephew of the respected Settle grocer *Thomas Clark*. George and Mary Agnes had two children to add to the two from George's first marriage and lived at 9 Craven Terrace in Settle.

Mary Agnes and *George Clark* are buried in the *Old D59* together with George's first wife Isabella Parker.

## Settle Graveyard Project

*In Memory of Isabella the beloved wife of George Clark who died February 12th 1898 in her 52nd year. Also of the above George Clark who died February 11th 1916 in his 72 year Also of Mary Agnes Clark who died June 16th 1929 aged 65 years, Old D59*

Mary Agnes' younger brother Richard died, aged 20 in Settle and was buried with his parents in Hornby. Her elder brothers, **Thomas** and **William**, were joiners who started working life in Barrowford near Nelson, Lancashire. William stayed there, married and had at least 12 children. Thomas married **Emily Hartley** and they had five children. At the time of the 1901 census Emily was bringing up the children single handed. In 1902 Thomas jumped on the steamship SS Paparoa [ph2] bound for South Africa and he didn't come back. There he found the comfort of **Mary Ellen Bates**, originally from Nelson and they had many children. Naughty Thomas!



...JR...

*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'.*

*Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 2 – Lancaster Guardian*

*LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*

*ph1 – credited to Wikipedia, public domain, ph2 – credited to descendants via [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk), username stewart081279*

*A – credited to The Bell Rings Across the Green, a History of Langcliffe School, a fabulous little book, thanks to John and Helen Reid*

