

Mary Cardus and her boarder with limited benefits

Mary Cardus, born in 1840, was the youngest of two daughters of Ellen Knowles, from Settle, and her husband Christopher Carradice/Cardus. Christopher was a woodcutter and they lived in Mansergh, beyond Kirkby Lonsdale. Christopher died in 1851, aged 45 and Ellen brought her daughters to Settle to live with her widowed father. Ellen and her father died in the 1860s.



There were not many options for working class young women without family in the 1850s. Elder sister Margaret spent her life in domestic service for wealthy widow Ellen Tatham and then her two spinster daughters Catherine and Dora at the grand Lowfield House near Burton-in-Lonsdale [ph1]. Margaret died aged just 47.

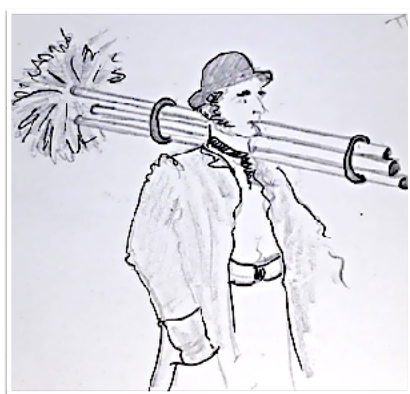
It's possible that Mary also started work in domestic service but, if she had, would have lost her job when she became pregnant in 1863 with a daughter Ellen Cardus. In the 19th century a quarter of women were pregnant when they married but Ellen's father, whoever he was, was not forthcoming with a marriage proposal. Little Ellen died in infancy and is buried in the Ancient graveyard.



By the time of the 1871 census Mary was working as a dressmaker in Chapel Square with two sons. She had a boarder, local lad Thomas Ralph, a joiner and cabinet maker. Thomas' older brother Robert Ralph, a stonemason, was one of the railway navvies who died during the building of the Settle and Carlisle Railway. Both he and his wife Mary Dale died of tuberculosis within two weeks of each other in May 1874, leaving two orphaned daughters.

In addition to the two sons Thomas was to become the father of another four of Mary's children. The children were registered with 'Ralph' as a middle name, indicating Thomas Ralph was the father. Two daughters died in infancy: Mary Ellen is buried in the Ancient graveyard and Annie is in Giggleswick graveyard as she died while the Settle graveyard was shut.

For some reason known only to them, Thomas and Mary never married – sometimes it just doesn't work out. This was scandalous in the 19th century and meant the woman had little security if things went wrong, which they did. Thomas, perhaps still affected by his brother's death, decided to emigrate to America in 1882 soon after the birth of their last child, a son, Thomas Ralph Cardus. Thomas said he was a chimney sweep.



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United States of America.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States,
within and for the District of Massachusetts.

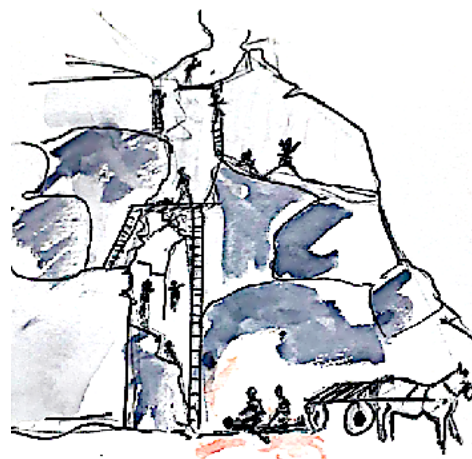
RESPECTFULLY represents *Thomas Ralph* _____
of *Hyde Park* in said District, occupation, *Chimney Sweeper*
an alien and a free white person, that he was born in *Settle,*
Yorkshire, England _____
on or about
the *thirteenth* day of *November* in the year of our
Lord eighteen hundred and *forty* _____ and is now about *47*
years of age; that he arrived at *New York* _____ in the
District of *New York* _____ in the United States of America,
on or about the *twenty first* day of *December* _____ in
the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and *eighty two* _____; that

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As they were unmarried, Mary would have not been eligible for any support from the authorities. Rather than being treated as a victim, Mary would have been regarded as one of the 'underserving poor', in some way responsible for the situation in which she found herself. She tried to make ends meet as a dressmaker. Mary died in 1888, aged 48.

Fortunately, Thomas did the right thing and came back to bring up the younger children. Mary may have been interested to know that Thomas had a sudden death in 1902 after an accident at the Mr Delaney's quarry and lime works at Horton-in-Ribblesdale [2]. In the days before health and safety regulations, Thomas was doing some repairs when his trousers became entangled in a shaft, injuring his leg. His injuries were probably made worse when he was conveyed to Settle (in a cart behind a horse) to be seen by *Dr Buck*, and then taken to Leeds Infirmary for the leg to be amputated. It seems infection set in and he died – an 'accidental death' according to the coroner. Fellow workmate Dixon Baldwin had married *Jane Cox*.

QUARRY ACCIDENT.—On Thursday last, a most regrettable accident occurred at Mr. Delaney's Quarries and Limeworks, at Horton-in-Ribblesdale. It seems that a carpenter named **Thomas Ralph** was doing some repairs, when by some means his trousers became entangled in a shaft. The trousers were torn down to the bottom seam, but held there, and **Ralph's** leg was badly injured. He was conveyed with all speed to Settle, where he was seen by **Dr. Buck**, who ordered his removal to Leeds Infirmary. On arriving there his leg was amputated just below the hip, and he was thought to be going on nicely, but other symptoms afterwards set in with a fatal result on Saturday morning.—On Monday, at Leeds, an inquest was held when in reply to question, **Dickson Baldwin**, a fellow workman said he thought deceased must have been skipping over the shaft when it caught him. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

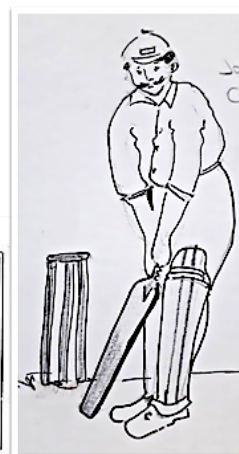


Fortunately Thomas and Mary's children were all in their twenties by the time of his death so could lead their own lives. Mary may also have been glad to know that she and Thomas Ralph were together in the end, buried together in an unmarked grave *Old AX34* with their daughter *Margaret* who died just four months after her marriage to *John Turner*, a labourer from Kendal. Intriguingly, John's mother was *Mary Jane Carradice* so may have been distantly related. John moved to Clitheroe and remarried.

Thomas and Mary's son *Joseph Ralph Cardus* was a keen cricketer. Aged 25 Joseph was awarded a bat by the Cricket Club for the best batting averages in the second eleven [1]. Joseph worked as a joiner and had his workshop in Chapel Square [LSA].

SETTLE CRICKET CLUB.—At the annual general meeting of the members of this club, Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., was re-elected president; Mr. F. C. Stanley was re-elected hon. secretary and captain; Mr. H. V. Walker being re-elected treasurer. The club awarded bats to Mr. H. V. Walker and Mr. Charles Baldwin for the best batting and bowling averages in the 1st eleven, and to Mr. Joseph Ralph Cardus and Mr. Ernest Parker for similar accomplishments on behalf of the 2nd eleven. For the feat of taking three

<p>FRENCH POLISHING.</p> <p>Old Furniture Repaired and Restored.</p>	<p>J. R. CARDUS, JOINER, CABINET-MAKER, and UPHOLSTERER. <i>Chapel Square, SETTLE.</i></p>
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Settle Graveyard Project

Joseph lived with his wife **Jane Graham** near the Zion Chapel. Jane descended from the well known family of Settle grocers. Joseph and Jane are buried together with Joseph's brother **James Ralph Cardus** in the unmarked *New LX1*. James remained a bachelor and lived with Joseph and Jane, working as a railway storekeeper.

Joseph and Jane's son **John Thomas (Jack) Cardus** worked in the Langcliffe Mills until he signed up for service in the 6th battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment. His records tell us that he was 5 foot 3 inches tall with fair hair. He was pictured with others from the 'lucky 13' on the bottom row, third from the left. The photo was taken in October 1914, and the men are thought to be from Settle Cricket Club. Incredibly, a cricket match took place between Settle and Skipton in June 1915 at the Western Front. Tragically five of these men didn't return and Jack was lucky to come home.



Jack served from September 1914 until the end of the war.

In May 1918, thought to be on his way home from France he received a gun shot wound in his side and hip recorded as 'GSW back'. He had an operation in Royal Victoria Hospital in Folkestone and then spent four months in Woldingham Convalescent Hospital in Surrey before another operation at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. He suffered long term back and hip problems, assessed by the military as '20% disabled' and relations say he was never the same person afterwards. Upon his return, Jack worked in the quarries, probably in a lot of pain. He is buried with his wife **Eleanor Williamson** and son **Joseph** in *New F34*. Their stone was erected by Joseph's son.

Joseph and Jane's son **Gordon Cardus**, an overlooker at the mill, is buried in *New I8* with his wife **Evelyn Mary Fletcher** and her half brother **James Fletcher**. James and Evelyn Fletcher were two of the 14 children of Thomas Fletcher - see *Gifford* and *Sturdy*.



In loving memory of John T Cardus 1886-1954 Eleanor Cardus 1894-1979 Also their son Joseph Cardus 1931-2010. Beloved Father and Grandfather, New F34

In Loving Memory of Gordon Cardus died June 3 1957 aged 69 years also Evelyn Mary his wife died Sep 13 1944 aged 51 years, New I8

Mary Cardus and Thomas Ralph's youngest son **Thomas Ralph Cardus** worked as a tailor. Before he left Settle to work in Nelson Thomas performed with Settle Operatic Society [ph3].



Mr. T. Cardus.

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. 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](http://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'.

Thanks to descendant Mik Cardus for his help with the compilation of this account. Illustrations by Teresa Gordon. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

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

ph1 – credited to geograph.org.uk, ph2 – kindly provided by descendant Mik Cardus, ph2 – with the kind permission of John Reid and the Settle Amateur Operatic Society.