

William Moorby & sons, extraordinary pioneering teachers

William Moorby, born in 1815, was the son of a Tatham labourer. In Settle in 1838 he married Elizabeth Boothman, a weaver's daughter from Long Preston. A year later Elizabeth gave birth to the first of an amazing nine sons and five daughters over 23 years – yes, 14 children: Margaret, Ann, Fanny, Thomas, John, Sarah Mary, William, Mary Ann, Cleopas, James Boothman, Robert, Joseph Benjamin, Arthur Bradley and Christopher Charles Allen Moorby. Just three died in infancy, and sons Cleopas and James Boothman Moorby were buried in the *Ancient grave CX2*. Eldest daughter Margaret died aged 18 months, but there are no burial records for her. This is sad but not uncommon. William and Margaret had little income at that stage and a burial, albeit for an infant, was expensive. She may have been buried 'unofficially' with someone else. Elizabeth was already pregnant with her next daughter, Ann.

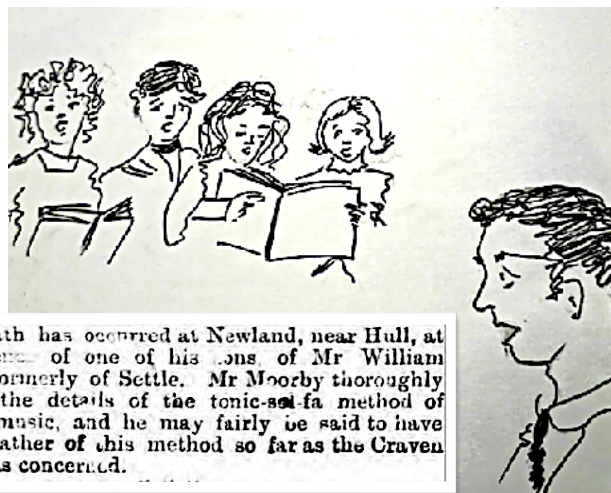
With all these mouths to feed, William needed money. He found a job at the church; Vestry records for 1843 say he was asked to *'to keep the whole of the church well swept and the pews and choir washed out once a month or so as often as occasion shall require at the yearly salary of five pounds.'* Later he became the church clerk and choirmaster earning £7 per year, a good sum.

Somehow, William managed to become an infant schoolteacher and, by all accounts, was quite a good one, especially in music. Upon his death it emerged that he pioneered the use of the 'tonic sol-fa' teaching method in Craven, more familiarly known to us as Julie Andrews' 'Do-re-mi' song in the film 'The Sound of Music'[2]. William's son, Thomas, in his old age, reminisced *'at the age of 10 (as far back as 1854) he was leading choir boy at Settle Church and "was often taken by my father to adjacent village churches where he introduced the Tonic Sol Fa system to show how easy it was to read the ordinary music . . . which he had learnt direct from Rev John Curwen whilst at the Home and Colonial College in London."* [3]

William and Elizabeth lived in Upper Settle, a cheaper part of town, and later on Castle Hill. William was the secretary of Settle Co-op in its early days, with *James Twisleton* taking over from him in 1864 [1].

William and Elizabeth retired back to her roots in Long Preston. After Elizabeth died William moved to Hull where, for some reason, most of his surviving children had moved. Most families who left Settle moved west for work in the industrial towns and cities.

William died in Hull but was brought back to Settle for burial in *Old A28*, to be near Elizabeth and unmarried children John, aged 28 and Fanny, 32.



The death has occurred at Newland, near Hull, at the residence of one of his sons of Mr William Moorby, formerly of Settle. Mr Moorby thoroughly mastered the details of the tonic-sol-fa method of teaching music, and he may fairly be said to have been the father of this method so far as the Craven district was concerned.

A VETERAN CHORISTER'S TRIBUTE.

The subscriptions to hand for the Doh Church Fund have reached £502. Last acknowledged to-day include one of £10 from Mr. Darryl B. Wilson, of Seared Hall, Leeds, and one of 5s. from Mr. Thomas Moorby, of Spring Bank, Hull.

In a covering letter Mr. Moorby recalled that at the age of 10 (as far back as 1854) he was leading choir-boy at Settle Church and "was often taken by my father to adjacent village churches where he introduced the Tonic Sol Fa system—to show how easy it was to read the ordinary music by the movable Doh method—which system he had learnt direct from John Curwen whilst at the Home and Colonial College in London.

"I have (Mr. Moorby adds) been connected with Church music ever since, and although now 82½ years of age am still a chorister at Holy Trinity Church, Hull, and choir librarian."

non-members. Mr. James Twisleton was appointed secretary in the place of Mr. Moorby, who resigned a short time ago. After the usual business of the society had been concluded it was resolved to give, on an early day, an open air tea party on the Green in Upper Settle, with the view of giving an impetus to the society's operations and promoting conviviality amongst the members and their families. The proposal was very

Settle Graveyard Project

Erected by their surviving children to the memory of William and Elizabeth Moorby. The former died March 16th 1895 aged 80 years. The latter Oct 27th 1888 aged 71 yrs. Also the following children of the above. John died Feb 14th 1874 aged 28yrs. Fanny died Feb 4th 1870 aged 32 yrs. Also 3 others who died in infancy, Old A28.

John and Fanny and the three infants are commemorated on this stone. However, the children were buried in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully together. William's death merited a mention in *Lambert's Settle Almanac* indicating that he was a respected man, even though they got his name wrong.

16. Mr. Thomas Moorby, an old native of Settle, died at Hull, in the 81st year of his age. He was for many years school-master at Settle, and choir-master of Ascension Church.



What happened to the other children? Well, they did rather well, some remaining in education.

Eldest son **Thomas Moorby**, born in 1844, was treated to an education at Giggleswick School for two years. Perhaps Thomas was awarded a subsidised place as money would have been tight with nine other siblings by then. Initially, Thomas worked with his father as a schoolmaster but by 1865 had moved to Hull with four of his siblings, Ann, William, Robert and Arthur Bradley Moorby. Siblings Joseph Benjamin and Christopher Charles Allen and Mary Ann Moorby followed later. It's no surprise that the siblings were all musical and active members of the church. The brothers were keen cricketers. In 1865 Thomas started teaching at the newly established Newlands School, in north Hull, and then worked as a shipping clerk. His career was to change again when he met widow **Annie (Read) Mullin**, the daughter of an 'Inspector of Slaughterhouses' from Liverpool who was almost ten years his senior. After the death of her husband **George Mullin**, a plumber, at the age of 31,

Annie made her way to Hull and took a post as 'Senior Mistress' at the 'Seamens Spring Bank Asylum and Orphanage' known as the 'Newland Homes'



This charitable organisation had been established as an alternative to the workhouses in 1853. Spring Bank was a four storey red brick building was opened in 1866 with running costs paid by subscriptions from local businessmen, wills and legacies [ph1]. It provided a home, education and family support for up to 60 orphans of seamen in the area. In 1885 it was extended to include a reading room, bathroom, kitchen and a steam heating system! It operated until 1920 when it moved to new, more modern premises in nearby Hessle.

After their marriage Annie took over the running of the orphanage and Thomas joined her, working as a secretary and accountant. Annie must have been a strong woman, even listing herself as the

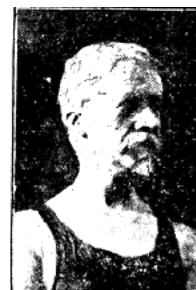
Annie Moorby	Head	Mar	40	Matron of Orphanage
Thomas do	Husband	Mar	36	Secretary & Accountant
Mary Jane do	Serv	1	6	Settler
Elizabeth Ellet do	Serv	1	3	

Head of Household in census returns – most unusual. Thomas died aged 91 and Annie lived to the age of 96!

Annie's son by her first marriage, **George Frederick Mullin**, also followed her lead becoming the an officer and first schoolmaster at the huge Worsley Industrial School in West Manchester [ph2]. This had been set up to provide a home and education for over 1000 neglected, orphaned and abandoned children between the ages of 7 and 14. It aimed to reduce problems of vagrancy and better prepare children for a working life. The 1857 Industrial Schools Act allowed magistrates to send disorderly children to these schools. Charles Dickens visited the Worsley school and wrote, 'The stranger gazing upon the splendid brick edifice, with its surrounding territory, is surprised when he is told that it is not the seat of an ancient dukedom; but that it is a modern palace for pauper children.' Some of these children were sent to Canada for adoption. George Frederick later came over to Hull to become a headteacher for the East Riding Education Authority.



Upon his death in 1935, aged 91 [2,5] it was revealed that Thomas was an 'all-the-year-round swimmer, mainly at the Victoria Dock basin on 7,777 consecutive mornings' which is over 23 years. During the process he narrowly escaped drowning in a stormy sea at Aberystwyth in 1914 and had also had three serious accidents on land. It also said that he had not worn a hat for many years and was a well regarded amateur photographer and cyclist. What an interesting man.



DEATH OF MR. T. MOORBY.

All-the-Year-Round Swimmer Who Lived to 91.

Mr. **Thomas Moorby**, Spring Street, Hull, who died yesterday, was 91. He was born at **Settle** and educated at Giggleswick Grammar School. He was the first certificated head master appointed to the Newland Church of England School, Hull.

He received the appointment 70 years ago, and later he became associated with the Seamen's and General Orphanage. He was a member of Holy Trinity Church Choir for about 40 years.

He was an all-the-year-round swimmer, and bathed in the open air, mainly at the entrance to Victoria Dock basin, on 7,777 consecutive mornings. He had not worn a hat for many years. He enjoyed a wide reputation as an amateur photographer.

It has taken Mr **Thomas Moorby**, of Spring-street, Hull, 23 years of patient persistent effort to pile up the above unique record under many adverse circumstances and in all kinds of weather. A native of **Settle**, he learnt to swim at York, and came to Hull 53 years ago, and commenced open air bathing in 1895. One of the seven runs of consecutive baths covered nine and a quarter years (3,375 days). He narrowly escaped drowning in a stormy sea at Aberystwyth in 1914, and has had three serious accidents on land. He is well known in musical and photographic circles, and is not without idiosyncracies; never dries his hair after a bath, never shivers even when he has had to break the ice, dispenses with the hat, and scouts pants and singlets. He is an abstainer and non-smoker, and belies his age (74) by many years, and is an experienced cyclist. He married a Liverpool lady, who was then matron of the Spring-bank Orphanage, with which institution he has been associated 42 years as assistant secretary.

Thomas and Annie's daughter, **Elizabeth Ethel Moorby**, became a teacher of art. In 1901 Elizabeth Ethel married **Charles Grange Lowther**, an artist. Charles had won awards for his art and design, this on in 1898 [2]. Unfortunately, these two artistic temperaments didn't work well together. In March 1912, Ethel had found Charles in Buckinghamshire 'with a lady living in a kind of bungalow. It was a wooden structure with one room and she belied it had been a hen-coop'[6,7] Charles refused to return to Elizabeth Ethel and so the divorce was finalised in June

Two silver and two bronze medals have been awarded Mr **Charles Grange Lowther**, of the Hull Municipal School of Art, in the National Competition (South Kensington) for design and decorative painting, in addition to a prize for a modelled design for a book-cover.

PROMOTION OF A HEN-COOP.

In the Divorce Court to-day a decree nisi was granted, with costs, to Mrs. Ethel Elizabeth Lowther, who sought a divorce from her husband, Mr. Charles Grange Lowther, described as an artist, on the ground of his alleged desertion and misconduct. During the hearing of the case a witness for the petitioner told the Court that she went to Bourne End and saw the respondent with a lady living in a kind of bungalow. It was a wooden structure with one room, and she believed it had been a hen-coop.

LIVED IN A HEN HOUSE:

Remarkable Story in the Divorce Court.



1912 on the grounds of Charles' adultery with Alice Richardson, desertion and failure to comply with a decree of restitution of conjugal rights.

adultery coupled with desertion of the Petitioner he having failed to comply with a decree of restitution of conjugal rights dated 24th June 1912.

It transpired that Elizabeth may not have known the half of it. At the same time, Charles was involved in another divorce hearing – he was named as the co-conspirator in the case between John Sibley Richardson, and electrical engineer, and his wife Alice Ella Burton Richardson. Charles had been living in London under the name of Carlos Lowther when he began his affair with Alice. Their divorce was eventually finalised in July 1913. In September 1912 Charles (Carlos) was found on board the ship 'Tunisian' heading for Canada with a 'wife' Alice and there are no further records for them. Elizabeth Ellen remarried in 1919 but her second husband, Richard Nicholls, a paper bag manufacturer, died two years later. She was an unlucky woman.

Thomas and Annie's daughter Mary Jane Moorby became a teacher of dance and then married an engineer, Maurice Carroll Sullivan. Their daughter, Margaret Mary (Nora) Sullivan had a daughter, Miriam Sullivan, before marrying Kair Ahmed from Saudi Arabia in 1939, three years after he was given citizenship of the UK. Daughter Miriam married Kair's son, another Kair Ahmed and they lived in the heart of Hull in a relatively mixed race area, unusual for the time. Most of these families were working on the docks of the thriving port which was badly damaged during the war. Miriam and Kair moved to Cardiff and had a son, yet another Kair Ahmed, born in 1965. This Kair had a tragic end at the age of 25. He had been a 'promising jockey' and had spent four seasons in India riding for a Sikh millionaire. A year before his death Kair had been found guilty of stabbing and killing a friend of the family after an argument and was sent to prison but, within weeks was transferred to a mental health hospital. Upon his release Kair moved back with his parents but went missing. Two weeks later his body was found at the bottom of a 100ft cliff in a quarry. His mother 'Mrs Miriam Ahmed said, 'if he had been a real killer do you think 700 people would have turned up for his funeral?'[8]

The 'killer' tag that haunted young jockey

Quarry-plunge victim's tragic final months

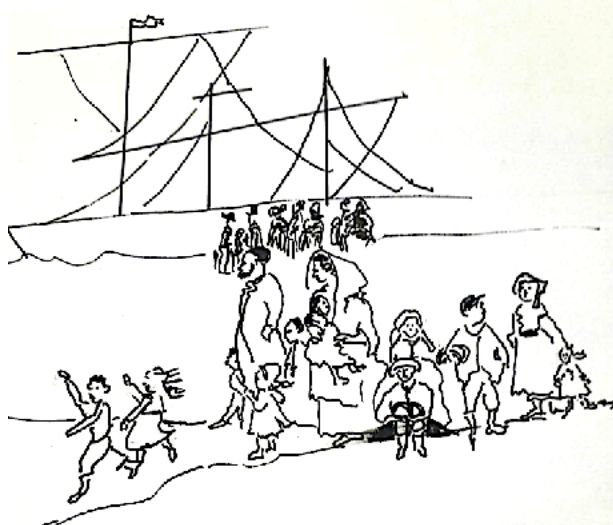
HORSE-MAD [Ahmed] Kair would, as a child, spend all his spare time practising riding in the fields of Wemoe.



Going back a couple of generations William and Elizabeth's son Robert Moorby, aged 15, lived with his brother Thomas in Hull working as a telegraph clerk. Robert worked his way up in the shipping business as a clerk, then a shipping manager and then a coal exporter at the new docks at Hull and Immingham, near Grimsby. Robert was a Liberal member, and for

several years, the Chair of Cottingham Urban District Council. He married **Margaret Adelaide Mackenzie** from Ireland. They didn't have children and were joined by Robert's sister Ann, a schoolteacher, in later years.

Robert's younger brother **Joseph Benjamin Moorby** followed his siblings to Hull and began work as a clerk to a wine and spirit merchant. He soon took a qualification in book-keeping and joined Robert to become a clerk to a ship owner and eventually a shipowner's manager. Joseph was a member of the Masons at the Rose of Hull Lodge alongside his musical and church interests. In 1888, when he was 31, Joseph Benjamin married **Fanny Elizabeth Mary Cooksey**. Fanny was the eldest of 11 children of **Thomas and Deborah Cooksey** from Staffordshire. Thomas variously described himself as an auctioneer, land and mineral surveyor and mining engineer. In 1888, soon after Fanny's wedding, Thomas and Dorothy took their remaining children to Massachusetts, USA. After Thomas died in 1907, Dorothy returned to England and lived with a daughter **Emily Ada** in Hull, not far from Fanny and Joseph Benjamin Moorby. For some reason, between the time of the pre-war census in September 1939 and September 1940 Fanny's sister Emily Ada came to Settle and here she died and is buried in the same grave as William and Elizabeth in C28. Why she was in Settle remains a mystery.



William and Elizabeth's sons **William, Arthur Bradley and Christopher Charles Allen Moorby** all become schoolmasters and all, at some time, worked in the Newlands School where eldest brother Thomas had begun his career. William took over as headmaster in 1870. William didn't marry and died in 1910, aged 61, having served the school, with the help of sister Ann for 40 years [2].

Mr Edwin Corris, late H.M. Inspector, spoke to the great work the late Mr William Moorby had done during his 40 years of office.

Mr Thomas Moorby, who was headmaster of the school previously to his late brother accepting that position, also spoke a few words.

The portrait is framed in oak, and bears the inscription:—"In affectionate remembrance of William Moorby, 40 years headmaster. Presented to the Newland School by his old scholars, 1910."



Mr. Christopher Charles Allen Moorby, headmaster of the Newland School, Sculcoates, Hull, died on Saturday at Cottingham, in his 52nd year. His first appointment was in Manchester, and after being Principal of St. Mary's School, Sculcoates, he succeeded his brother as headmaster at Newland. For 51 years Newland has had a Moorby as headmaster three members of the family having filled the position. Mr. Moorby's father was the late Mr. William Moorby who was a schoolmaster at Settle, and was one of the first teachers to introduce the tonic sol-fa in Yorkshire.

Youngest brother **Christopher Charles Allen Moorby** took over as headmaster at Newlands from William but died six years later, aged 55 [4]. The brothers had run the school for 55 years.

Arthur Bradley Moorby was a pupil teacher at Newlands School. In 1885 he became the headmaster of Cottingham Board School in

settlers



DEATH OF MR A. B. MOORBY. PASSING OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' CHAMPION.

We regret to announce the death early on Thursday morning of Mr Arthur B. Moorby, of Cottingham, at the age of 64. Mr Moorby, who was a native of Settle, came to the East Riding over 50 years ago to act as pupil teacher in the Newland Church School. In 1885 he was appointed headmaster of the Cottingham Board School, a position he retained until his retirement last September.

He was for many years a member of the Executive Council of the N.U.T. as a representative of Yorkshire, and was largely instru-

the north-west of Hull, a post he held for nearly 40 years. His wife, **Annie Kirkham**, also taught at the school. Arthur's glowing obituary explained he was a member of the Executive of the National Union of Teachers representing Yorkshire [2]. He was also secretary of the Cottingham reading room, Captain of the Cricket Club, President of the Horticultural Society and a member of the central Hull Conservative Bicycle and Motor Club.

William and Elizabeth's daughter **Sarah Mary Moorby** chose not to live in Hull. She married **Thomas Andrews** and they ran a grocery business together in Burley, Leeds. Daughter **Mary Ann Moorby** had a life in domestic service in Lancashire but spent her last days in Hull.



Another William Moorby had quite a different life. Born in 1853, William was the eldest child of stonemason **George Moorby**, from Long Preston and his wife **Jane Gawith**. The Gawith family moved to this area from Westmorland where dad Joseph ran the Wenning Bridge beerhouse. Jane's sister **Mary Gawith** married **George Huthersall** who ran a number of local hostelrys including the Talbot Inn. George and Jane had seven children in the Wray/Newby areas before Jane died in 1867 at the birth of young Anthony. George moved the family back to Settle to work at King's Mill but died in 1876 when Anthony was nine.

William married **Elizabeth Bulcock**, the daughter of an overlooker (foreman), **William Bulcock**, also at King's Mill. Over the next 22 years Elizabeth had ten children, including twins **Rose** and **Daisy**. Unfortunately Daisy died, aged eight.



William and Elizabeth spent their whole lives living in the 2-up, 2-down houses on Proctor's Row in Settle. William found labouring work on the new Settle and Carlisle Railway and later in the quarries. William had a couple of 'petty' misdemeanours in his twenties [1], stealing potatoes from the Royal Oak Inn and being drunk and disorderly for which he was fined £1 8s.

STEALING POTATOES.—William Moorby, a labourer, residing in Settle, was brought up in custody on Monday last, before J. Birkbeck, Esq. and the Rev. H. J. Swale, charged with stealing potatoes from the Royal Oak Inn, on Saturday night, the property of William Stobart, an employe on the Settle and Carlisle Railway, and residing at Langcliffe. On the application of Mr. J. M. Robinson, who appeared on behalf of Moorby, the case was remanded until Tuesday, the 14th inst.

William and Elizabeth both died in 1918 in their early sixties and are buried with young Daisy and spinster daughter **Rachel** in *Old C9*.

Daisy Moorby aged 8 years who died July 31st 1893. William Moorby died July 14th 1918 aged 63 years. Elizabeth his wife died Jan 11th 1918 aged 62 years. Rachel Moorby who died Sept 20th 1916 aged 26 years, Old C9.

Son **John**, his wife, **Jane Ann (Harrison)** and son **Edward** are buried in the unmarked New KX43. Daughters **Nellie**, **Lettice** and **Annie (Moorby) Simpson** are buried together in the unmarked New IX16. Annie had married **Holburn Simpson** who was the landlord of the Talbot Inn during the 1940s. Daughter **Mary Jane** and her husband **Thomas Eastwood Riddiough** lived in Barnoldswick but were buried



Settle Graveyard Project

6 January 1870 – Letter from the education department: I am directed to state that if Mr Moorby does not intend to enter a training school he must return and complete his apprenticeship in your school and pass the examination fixed for the end of the 5th year. Upon receiving that examination report Their Lordships will decide if they can grant a nominal statement.

I am directed to state that if Mr Moorby does not intend to enter a Training School, he must return and complete his apprenticeship in your School and pass the examinations fixed for the end of the 5th year at the time and place

10 Jan 1870 'Mr Moorby has gone to Hull'

1870
Jan 10th

Commenced school this morning after 3 weeks holidays. Mr Moorby has gone to Hull. Mrs Newhouse assisted in the school. Mr. Mason has commenced his duties as pupil teacher - rather than school

However William was recorded as a pupil teacher back in Settle at the time of the 1871 census but was a schoolmaster out of employment at the time of the 1881 census.