

The Grisedales, the furnishers at The Folly

Many people will be familiar with the Grisedale's furnishing business which operated successfully from The Folly in Settle for about 80 years [ph4]. Who were this family?



James Grisedale, a Clapham agricultural labourer, married Grace Bowker and had four daughters and then a son. Between the 1840s and 1860 James supplemented his income with an annual salary of five shillings serving as a Parish Constable [1]. This was in the days before the West Riding Constabulary was established and so tall, strong, clean living men were selected, on a yearly basis, to help keep the peace in the community. In 1850 he had to sort out an *'infestation of mischievous persons who have amused themselves by prowling up and down the streets, throwing doors open, breaking rails and playing various other pranks.'*[1] There was a warning that *'As Mr James Grisedale ... is on the look out it would be as well if those delinquents would abandon their idle practices and devote their leisure hours to some better and more useful employment.'*

CLAPHAM.—On Wednesday last, a meeting of the rate-payers of the township of Clapham-sum-Newby was held in the Vestry, for the purpose of making out a list of eight competent persons qualified and liable to serve the office of constable for the ensuing year, when the following persons were nominated, viz.:—Mr Francis Grime, labourer, of Clapham, at a yearly salary of £1 5s.; Mr Christopher Foster, schoolmaster, of Newby, 10s.; and Mr James Grisedale, of Clapham, 5s.; also, Mr Wm. Cornthwaite,

CLAPHAM.—Of late the quiet village of Clapham has been infested by a gang of mischievous persons, who have amused themselves at nights by prowling up and down the streets, throwing doors open, breaking rails, and playing various other pranks. As Mr James Grisedale, the active constable of Clapham, is on the look out, it would be as well if those delinquents would abandon their idle practices and devote their leisure hours to some better and more useful employment.

In their later lives James and Grace were looked after by their widowed daughter Martha (Grisedale) Boyes whose son-in law Robert McConchie was one of the first police detectives. Grace and James are buried at Clapham with their spinster daughter Mary Ann Grisedale who spent her life in domestic service, her last 20 years working for Richard Copley



Christie who was a JP for three counties, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester and the brother of Hector Christie who owned the Langcliffe Mills.

In affectionate remembrance of James Grisedale of Clapham who died Nov 16th 1891 in his 90th year. Also of his wife Grace, the beloved wife of the above who died May 11th 1881 in her 78th year. Also of Mary Ann, eldest daughter of the above, died at Ribsden Windlesham, Surrey, Oct 11th 1897, aged 62 years.



James and Grace's son John Grisedale, born in 1839, became a joiner and cabinet maker in Settle [LSA]. He married Mary Ann Winskill, a stonemason's daughter from Kirkby Lonsdale and the first cousin of Settle's successful builder John Winskill. John and Mary Ann had six children and at the time of the 1881 census lived in the School House attached to the school in Upper Settle. Their lodger was schoolmaster Frank Charles Stanley who was a co-founder of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society (see Atkinson). Later they lived on Castle Hill.

John's business went well. He provided a wide range of services including antique furniture, bell hanging, funerals and picture framing [LSA]. John was a clean living man, being on the committee of the Church of England Temperance Society in 1885. Mary Ann died in October 1897, aged 57, followed by John in June 1898 aged 58. They are buried in the unmarked grave Old CX69 with their infant grandson Frederick Grisedale, the eldest child of son James. This was a close-knit family. Most of the siblings lived close together after their parents had died.

JOHN GRISEDALE,
Joiner, + Cabinet + Maker,
AND
DEALER IN ANTIQUE FURNITURE
VICTORIA STREET, SETTLE.

BEGS TO RETURN HIS SINCERE THANKS TO THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR SUPPORT, AND WISHES TO INTIMATE THAT, AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, MAY BE SEEN A GREAT VARIETY OF

NEW AND ANTIQUE FURNITURE

COMPRISING:
*Carved Oak Chests, Wardrobes,
Clocks in Oak Cases, Chairs, and
Cabinets, &c..*

ALSO A QUANTITY OF OLD CHINA.

Dining-room, Drawing-room, Bedroom, Cottage, and other Furniture; also Stair and other Carpets, Oilcloths, Linoleum, Coors and other Matings, Door Mats, Hearth-rugs; Iron and Brass Bedsteads in great variety; Feather and Flock Beds at the lowest possible prices; Venetian Blinds made and re-layed; Washing and Wringing Machines, also new Rollers supplied to old Machines.

Furniture Valued, Bought, or Sold for Parties on Commission.
HOUSE JOBBING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

FUNERALS COMPLETELY FURNISHED
on the shortest notice.
A CALL IS SOLICITED.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—
VICTORIA STREET, SETTLE.

Sons James and Frederick were keen cricketers with James being particularly talented. In 1905 Settle's performance was 'strengthened by the return of James Grisedale' [3] and in 1930 Settle won the Ribblesdale League [3]. The team were pictured in 1905 with James and Frederick in the middle row, Frederick far right and James second left [ph1]. The eldest two sons James Grisedale and

RIBBLESDALE LEAGUE.
Settle obtained their third success in the Ribblesdale League on Saturday against Barrow; though they only compiled 88, they were 20 ahead at the finish. Settle were strengthened by the return of J. Grisedale. He made 28 and was top scorer. For Bar



PRESENTATION AT SETTLE.
In the Victoria Hall, Settle, on Friday evening, the members of the Settle First XI, who have this year succeeded in winning the Ribblesdale League Cup, were presented with beautifully designed gold medals. The recipients were Messrs. C. A. L. Swale (captain), R. Rawdwin, C. A. Milford, T. Hayton, J. Grisedale, F. Grisedale, A. Parker

Thomas Winskill Grisedale continued the family business. Thomas' business was in Victoria Street probably using the same premises as his father. Thomas married Rose Mary Morphet and moved to the newly built row of three houses called The Ings by



High Hill Grove, although keeping the business on Victoria Street. Thomas and his siblings occupied all three houses and it's possible they had the row built for them. Next door was sister Annie Grisedale and husband, Frederick Bullock, coal agent, who stayed in the property until they died and are buried in the grave New G15.



In loving memory of Frederick Bullock died Nov 27th 1943. Also Annie his wife died May 3rd 1945

THOS. W. GRISEDALE,
Cabinet-maker & General House Furnisher,
Victoria Street, SETTLE.

A choice selection of FURNITURE always in stock.

CHAMP LINES IN SATIN WALNUT, AMERICAN WALNUT, and PAINTED BEDROOM SUITES.

SOLID WALNUT SIDEBOARDS IN ALL THE LATEST FINISHES. Flock, Wool, & Feather Bedding. Hair, Wool & Woven-wire Mattresses. SITTING ROOM SUITES.

Agent for CYCLOPS SEWING MACHINES.

Brass Curbs and Borders. Oilcloth, Linoleum, and Brass and Iron Bedsteads. * Stair Carpet.

SPECIAL CHEAP LINES IN ROUND WASHERS. WEAVING MACHINES (New and Second-hand).

SECOND-HAND FURNITURE bought in large & small quantities for Cash. WEAVING MACHINE ROLLERS RE-FINISHED. All Sales Afterdod.

Note the only Address—VICTORIA STREET, SETTLE

Thomas' neighbour on the other side was brother John Grisedale who had become a law clerk and married Letty Morphet, the sister of Thomas' wife. Rose Mary and Letty's mother was Alice Cockshott, sister of the errant John (Maccomo) Cockshott. Later John and Letty moved to Accrington where John worked as a solicitor's clerk. Thomas and Rose Mary couldn't settle in Settle either and moved to Darwen.

Brother Frederick Grisedale worked as a clerk for both the Settle Rural District Council and the Board of Guardians taking over from Charles Edward Bygrave, who, coincidentally was also co-founder of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society (see Armistead). Frederick was presented with a 'suitably inscribed' oak writing table when he married Florence Laycock, the daughter of Henry Laycock, a watchmaker and jeweller in 1914. Frederick took a post of Clerk to the Doncaster Board of Guardians. Two years later he applied to be the Registrar in Mexborough, near Doncaster [5] but his appointment caused controversy as it bypassed local recruitment policy. It was not advertised and there were no other applicants. There was a rule that such posts should be given to Doncaster born residents as a priority and Frederick's secretive appointment instigated the passions of a few irate local men. However, he was appointed and that is where they settled.

between England and Germany.—Mr. F. Grisedale, Assistant Clerk to the Settle Rural District Council, was presented with an oak writing table, suitably inscribed, to mark the occasion of his marriage. The present was subscribed for by the Union and Council Officials.

(To the Chairman and Members of the Doncaster Board of Guardians).
Ladies and Gentlemen,—
I respectfully beg to apply for the position of Registrar of Births and Deaths for the Barmbrough Sub-District of the Doncaster Registration District, rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. F. T. Stevens.

Years later, after Frederick and Florence's death, their daughter Mary Grisedale, returned to Settle in the 1959 with her husband Harold Ian Milnthorpe and two daughters, Judith and Jennifer. Mary inherited the jewellery business from her grandfather, Henry Laycock. (It had been rented out to John and Stanley Wallace since Henry died.) She traded as 'Mary Milnthorpe and daughters' in the Market Place and ran it with her daughters until January 2009. In the meantime, Harold was remembered as a university lecturer who also ran an Antiques business on Station Road and then next door to Mary's shop on Kirkgate [ph3].



So, what happened to the eldest brother James Grisedale?

In 1892 James married **Elizabeth Fothergill** from Hawes and they had two sons and two daughters. In 1909 they moved to live and work in the Folly [LSA]. Eldest son **Frederick** died an infant and was buried with his grandparents. Elizabeth was pictured outside the Folly with two of her children [ph1]. James followed his father on the committee of the Church of England Temperance Society.

James and Elizabeth's daughter **Clara Grace Grisedale** married **Arthur Graham**, who ran the chain of cinemas in the Craven District including Settle's Kirkgate Kinema. Clara is buried in the unmarked *NewCX40*. James and Elizabeth's daughter **Mary Ann Grisedale** married farmer's son **Richard Titterington Redmayne** who came from Eldroth. Richard and Mary Ann worked with the Grahams running a cinema in Darfield, near Barnsley, before retiring to The Mains in Giggleswick. James died in 1939, aged 71. Elizabeth spent the rest of her life living with daughter Clara Grace and family in the Ingfield estate.

Meanwhile James and Elizabeth's son **Herbert Grisedale** had initially worked as a telegraph messenger but, upon his father's death, took over the furniture business in the Folly. In 1922 he married **Agnes Close** – now there's a fascinating story.

Herbert is remembered as a good character. He always wore a hat, thought to be a deerstalker or a trilby, on the back of his head. He had a Morris Oxford car which he used as his delivery van. In 1966, Herbert, a tall man had to deliver a carpet to the Royal Oak for a refurbishment. He took his assistant **Harry Cox**, a much shorter man, and arrived with the carpet across the roof and bonnet of the car attached to both bumpers. Herbert was also known as a bad driver, seemingly manoeuvring a supertanker.

Herbert enjoyed amateur dramatics. He played the double bass in the Orchestras of Settle Amateur Operatic Society Orchestra and Settle and District Light Opera Company in no less than 16 shows between 1825 and 1951. He was pictured at the showing of the *Gondoliers* in 1949 [ph3]. He also performed on stage in five shows between 1933 and 1938. In 1937 he played a 'chief part' in Settle Light Opera Company's production of 'Katinka, a comic operetta set in Istanbul before the start of WW1 [2].



Herbert and Agnes had a son **James Anthony (Tony) Grisedale**. Tony became a vet and operated from Howson's Yard. Herbert and Agnes died in the 1970s and may have been cremated. Their son Tony was buried with his grandparents in grave *New L40*.

JAS. GRISEDALE,



**Practical Joiner,
Cabinet-Maker,
Upholsterer,**
Antique and Modern
Furniture Dealer & Restorer,
House Furnisher, &c.,
The Folly, SETTLE.

A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF
New and Second-Hand FURNITURE



"KATINKA" PERFORMED AT SETTLE

Successful Opening of the Season

The Settle Light Opera Company, the first of the Craven operatic societies to give a performance this season, last night, before a large audience, gave the first of a series of presentations of the musical comedy "Katinka" in the Victoria Hall, Settle.

The company, which has only been in existence for a few years, has established a well-deserved reputation, which it upheld last night. Its members are enthusiastic and talented, and the leading parts were well filled.

The chief comedy part was taken by Richard Moore, who fooled deliciously. Sarah A. Spencer was a delightful "Katinka," and sang her various numbers well. George S. Brown was a success as "Ivan," her lover, while George Woolerton filled satisfactorily the part of "Boris Strogoff." Florence M. Bradley was a capital Helen Hopper, and other chief parts were taken by Ada Bradley, Herbert Grisedale, Giles Spencer and Alice Maunders.

In Loving Memory of James Grisedale died April 10th 1939 aged 71 years. Also Elizabeth his wife died May 23rd 1950 aged 82 years. J.A. (Tony) Grisedale M.R.C.V.D.V.S.M son of Herbert and Agnes born 7.8.1926-died 22.8.1997



So, this is a family who had a successful life at the heart of the community thanks to a good, clean living honest life, isn't it? Well almost.

We go all the way back to James Grisedale, the agricultural labourer and local constable in Clapham who had married Grace Bowker. James had a sister, **Martha Grisedale**, who married Grace's brother, **Peter Bowker**, a hawker, in 1840 when she was 36. Peter's first wife, **Ann Townsend**, had died a few months before whilst giving birth to their second son, **Oliver Bowker**. Peter and Martha brought up the two sons, without any more children, but struggled, recorded as 'paupers' at the time of the 1851 census. Despite this Peter's son **John Bowker** had a respectable career as a schoolmaster in Gorton, Manchester. Son **Oliver Bowker** became a

CLAPHAM.
Highway Robbery.—A robbery of the most heart-
less kind was committed on Mr **Oliver Bowker**, of
Clapham, one day last week, near Leeds. He was
walking on the road between the hours of nine and ten
o'clock towards that town, when he was met by two
men, who took ten sovereigns and a silver watch of the
value of £1 from his person. Mr **Bowker** lay for some
time insensible, and the villains effected their escape.

A year later in 1863 Oliver married **Margaret Walker** who had taken over from her parents as the Post Mistress in Bentham. The lure of employment opportunities provided by the building of the Settle and Carlisle railway was irresistible for a saddler and at the time of the 1871 Oliver was found at the Batty Wife navy huts at Ribbleshead working with his brothers-in-law. Margaret was back at Bentham Post Office with mother-in-law Martha (Grisedale) Bowker and a son **Frederick John Bowker**. Peter Bowker had died the year before. A daughter **Clara Jane Bowker** had previously died in infancy but another, **Edith Ellen Bowker**, would follow.

Martha died in 1878, aged 74 which may have been a blessing in disguise. In 1879 Oliver and Margaret made national headlines. At Leeds assizes they were found guilty on six counts of embezzling money, obtained under false pretences to the value of £160. Oliver had failed in some 'reckless speculations'[6]. The Post Office ran a savings bank. It seems Margaret and Oliver took in savings from six illiterate customers but, knowing they couldn't read, didn't give them any paperwork and pocketed the money. When one of them asked to withdraw money she was found out. Oliver maintained he was guilty without Margaret's knowledge but the jury, without retiring, found them both guilty and sentenced them both to five years imprisonment with hard labour [7]. The

ALLEGED FRAUDS BY A POST-MASTER.

Yesterday, at Ingleton, **Oliver Bowker**, post-master at Bentham, and **Margaret**, his wife, were charged on remand with frauds imposed upon the Post Office Savings Bank Department. Evidence relating to six separate acts of embezzlement of moneys entrusted to them by country depositors, amounting to nearly £100, was completed, and showed that the frauds had been of a most systematic character. The total defalcations are about £160. It has been ascertained that the male prisoner had been engaged for the last two or three years in reckless speculations in the share market, and to that circumstance his defalcations are mainly attributed. The prisoners, who reserved their defence, were committed for trial at the Leeds Assizes.

THE EMBEZZLEMENT AT BENTHAM POST-OFFICE.

At the Leeds Assizes on Thursday before Mr. Justice Lopes, **Oliver Bowker** (39), and **Margaret Bowker** (40), his wife, were indicted for feloniously embezzling and stealing several sums of money, the property of the Postmaster General, at Bentham, in the months of February, 1876, and September, 1878. The male prisoner pleaded guilty and the female not guilty. Mr. Campbell Foster and Mr. Greenhow ap-

The jury, without retiring, found the female prisoner guilty.

His Lordship having remarked that the offence was a very serious one, and had no mitigating circumstances in it, sentenced her and her husband, **Oliver Bowker**, to five years' penal servitude each.

severity of the punishment reflects the perceived gravity of a crime against one of Her Majesty's Institutions.

Court records state that Oliver was a Quaker. 40 year old Oliver was 5 foot 7 inches tall, with blue eyes, grey hair and a long face. He had a scar on his forehead, which could have been from the assault in Leeds, and varicose veins on both shins. His penal records tell us that he was moved from Leeds Prison to Pentonville, Islington where prisoners were kept in total isolation at all times, wearing brown head masks when exercising in silent rows. Unsurprisingly, Pentonville was known for its high number of mental health problems and suicides. From Pentonville Oliver was transferred to Parkhurst top security prison on the Isle of Wight and then to Dartmoor.



At the time of the 1881 census Oliver was one of around 850 men imprisoned in Dartmoor Gaol. Dartmoor Prison has a chequered history including a massacre of prisoners in 1815 and a mutiny in 1932. The prison was established in 1809 and accommodated up to 10,000 American and French prisoners of the Napoleonic wars, guarded by 500 soldiers. By 1850 it was used as a replacement for prisoners who would previously have faced transportation and for prisoners held on convict prison ships on the Thames, many disabled or invalided, who would benefit from the fresh air. Cast-iron cells arranged back to back were constructed by artisan convicts under the supervision of contractors. Whilst the Victorians originally intended to provide some reformation for prisoners, by the time Oliver arrived at Dartmoor, the prison had a reputation for being occupied by the worst criminals in the land, with particularly hard punitive labour including stone breaking.

Oliver's occupations were listed as '*plattig yarn*' and '*shoemaking*'. Generally his conduct was '*good*' and he was '*never in hospital*' which may explain his release '*under license*' after four years in 1883. His license stipulated he should not habitually associate with notoriously bad character, such as reputed Thieves and Prostitutes, nor lead an idle and dissolute life without visible means of obtaining an honest Livelihood. His behaviour record stated that he was caught '*passing potatoes under his door to prisoner Thomas Jones*' and also '*talking in the tailor's shop*'. Oliver was allowed to write to his wife once every three months.

2. He shall abstain from any violation of the Law.
3. He shall not habitually associate with notoriously bad Characters, such as reputed Thieves and Prostitutes.
4. He shall not lead an idle and dissolute Life without visible means of obtaining an honest Livelihood.

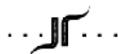
17. Passing potatoes under his door to that of F. J. Thomas Jones.

Meanwhile wife Margaret's record tells us that she was 5 foot 3 inches tall, with dark brown hair and eyes, a mole on her left neck and two upper front teeth missing. At the time of the 1881 census Margaret was one of 250 women at Fulham Prison and was sent from there to Russell House Refuge in Westminster. This refuge was known to assist Protestant women in organising emigration to the United States. During the 1890s Russell House became a refuge for reformed prostitutes run by Roman Catholic Sisters. Margaret was released after just three years and escorted to Liverpool, perhaps to live with her brother or perhaps to sail to the States? There are no further records for her in the UK.

What about their children? At the time of the 1881 census, son Frederick John Bowker was found in the Isolation Hospital attached to Giggleswick workhouse and records end for him there, which doesn't sound good. Daughter Edith Ellen Bowker was brought up by her uncle James Walker and his wife Alice in Liverpool.

Settle Graveyard Project

What about Oliver? There is just one more record for him, entering Tower Hamlets Workhouse in 1889. Oh dear. We can only speculate what uncle James Grisedale, the local constable, may have thought about this?



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister 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 John Reid for his help with the compilation of this story. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kendal Mercury, 2 – Yorkshire Post, 3 – Morecambe Guardian, 4 – South Yorkshire Times, 5 – Lancaster Guardian, 6 – Edinburgh Evening News, 7 – Lancaster Gazette

ph1 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, Ben Mackenzie collection, ph2 – kindly provided by the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph3 – kindly provided by John Reid, ph4 – kindly provided by Roger Taylor

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