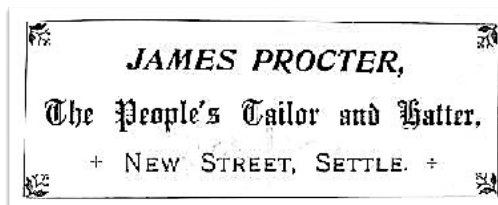


James Procter, the People's Tailor with two extraordinary children

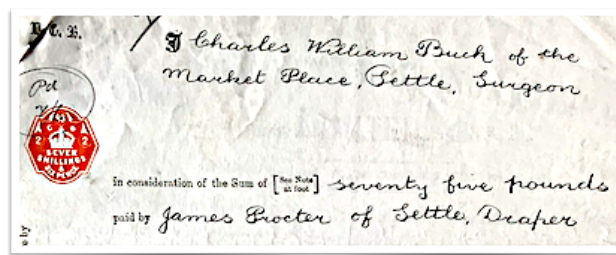
James, born in 1853, was the eldest of six children of **Matthew Procter**, a Stainforth gardener, and **Margaret Metcalfe**. Matthew died in 1871, aged 49, and Margaret took the younger children to live in Barnoldswick. James was the only child to stay in this area although sister **Agnes** was working as a servant to **Thomas Brayshaw** at Queen's Rock, Giggleswick at the time of the 1891 census. On subsequent census returns she was described as an 'imbecile' and was institution bound until her death in 1935.

James became a tailor, '*The People's Tailor and Hatter*' and moved to Settle for work, initially lodging in Kirkgate with **Edward and Ellen Turner** - see **Johnson Turner**. Aged 28, in 1882, James married **Mary Ann Close** from Low Bentham. They had two sons and four daughters but second daughter **Mabel** died an infant. Initially they lived on Constitution Hill and then moved to

New Street, now Station Road [LSA] and then Undercliffe, opposite the Post Office. James is remembered sitting on the floor cross legged to do his work, the norm for tailors in those days. James had apprentices including **James Fletcher** – see **Gifford Gill** and also employed some of the Belgian refugees of the First World War.



In 1893 James invested in the Settle Market Buildings Company who ran the Shambles, buying twelve shares of £10 from **Dr Buck** [ph4]. Mary Ann died in February 1917, aged 66, unaware of the misfortune her family would suffer, but more on her later. At the time of the 1939 pre-war census James lived at Undercliffe opposite the (current) Post Office on Duke Street with three unmarried children.



Eldest **Maud Beatrice** worked as an assistant elementary school teacher. She had volunteered at Langcliffe School and then, in the absence of affordable teaching training, worked through exams with the help of Settle teacher **Margaret Mary Brennand**. Once qualified Maud worked in Barnoldswick and then at Settle National School. She served there for 33 years and 5 months, retiring on 31 March 1943. The vocar, John Moore and WW Thornber, school managers paid tributes to her. Next daughter **Florence** ran a confectioner's shop on the corner of Station Road and Duke Street. The building had previously been the New Inn. It was a large building with many rooms and so, for a while, Florence ran it as a Temperance Hotel for business travellers coming and going from the nearby station. Maud and Florence both performed with the Settle Amateur Operatic Society.

April 31st Miss M. B. Procter retired today after 33 years 5 months service in the school. At a little presentation held in the school, tribute was paid to Miss Procter by the Rev. Galloway, Messrs Moore and Thornber (School Managers)

Eldest son **Herbert Close Procter** [ph1] worked as a saddler and boot repairer for **William Fowler Gilchrist** in 'Cragdale Lodge', Duke street (the Little House restaurant next to the Cragdale apartments). Herbert, aged 18, signed up to join the 3rd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment in 1908



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and his contract was completed in March 1914. Lucky? Herbert came back to set up his own saddlery business initially at the Town Hall [LSA] and then at Undercliffe. He remained a bachelor.

The youngest two children, **Sidney James** and **Doris Jane Procter**, also signed up to serve their country in WW1. At the time of the 1911 census Sidney James, aged 16, was described as a plumber's apprentice. He joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in the 'Hawke' battalion in 1915, aged 20 [ph2]. The battalion joined the British Expeditionary Force in 1916 having fought at Gallipoli before then. Sidney was invalided to the UK in March 1918. Once recovered he joined the Reserve when tragedy struck. He was killed on the Western Front during the 100 days offensive by the allies which eventually broke the Hindenburg line. Sidney James died of wounds on 3rd September 1918. Sidney's life is commemorated in Boyelles Communal Cemetery, France alongside at least two other men from his division.



The Settle Division of St John's Ambulance had been formed in 1904. They had a rather primitive cycle ambulance service [LSA]. After a few years of solely male members a women's nursing division was added. By 1915 there were 29 female officers and nursing sisters including Mary Ann, who became the Divisional Lady Superintendent [LSA], and daughter Doris Jane. When Mary Ann died her coffin was borne by members of the St John's Ambulance Brigade.



SETTLE NURSING DIVISION.

Divisional Lady Superintendent—Mrs. M. A. Procter, Duke Street, Settle.
Hon. Secretary—Mrs. I. Wilson, Halsteads, Settle.

During the 12 months ending September 30th, 1915, 7 cases have been rendered "First Aid," and 14 removals on the wheel litter and cycle ambulance carriage from and to the railway station and patients' homes have been carried out.

Any removals of injured or suffering patients can have the services of Brigade men and the use of the Ambulance Litter and Stretcher on due notice being given to the Superintendent or other members of the Division.

The **ANNUAL SOCIAL and DANCE** will be held on or about the last Friday in January, 1916.



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Part of Mary Ann's Superintendency role was to encourage young girls, including Doris Jane, to volunteer for the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Oh dear. Did she realise the possible consequences of this? The photo of the team [ph4] was taken in the early 1900s. In her spare time, daughter Doris Jane enjoyed performing for the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, here (centre) with **Lucy Hoyle** and **Florence Gilchrist** (daughter of William Gilchrist, Herbert's employer) [ph4].



From November 1915 Doris [ph2] was part of the VAD with the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester. Locals remember she picked up septicaemia from nursing a soldier in France. She was brought back to Birmingham and died of pneumonia on 17 December 1918.

The Five Sisters' Window, in York Minster, over 16 metres high, is dedicated as a war memorial to the women of the British Empire who lost their lives, 1914-1918. The original window had been removed to protect it from attack during Zeppelin raids. The rebuild cost £3500 which was raised by subscription within weeks. It was 'opened' by the Duchess of York in June 1925 in the presence of 800 relatives of the women it commemorates – perhaps James was invited to attend? Doris Jane was one of 1,513 women commemorated by name and service on oak screens St Nicholas' Chapel in the North Transept of the Minster. She is also remembered on a stunning memorial at the National Arboretum.



Back in Settle church, a beautiful stained glass window was designed to commemorate the lives of Sidney James and Doris Jane. The window illustrates Elizabeth of Hungary, a princess who was married at the age of 14, widowed at 20 and died at the age of 24. She was canonised four years later, in 1235 and became a symbol of Christian charity, bakers and nursing services, amongst others. At the bottom of the window it reads:

*In memory of Sidney James Procter, Hawke Batt RND
3rd Sept MCMXV111 and Doris Jane Procter his sister Nurse VAD 17th Dec
MCMXV111 who died in the service of their country.*

Within 2 years James had lost his wife, in February 1917, his son Sidney James, in September 1918 and daughter Doris Jane in December 1918. How did he cope with that? James died in 1940, aged 86. James, Mary Ann and Doris Jane are buried together in the Old graveyard with an infant daughter Mabel. They have quite an understated gravestone but in a prime position just inside the church gate to the left of the path.



*In loving memory of Mabel Procter 1886 - 1887.
Maryann Procter 1856 - 1917. Sidney James Procter
1894 - 1918. Doris Jane Procter 1892 - 1918. James Procter 1854 - 1940, A6*



The other three siblings are buried together in the New graveyard with a matching stone:

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In loving memory of Florence Procter 1888 - 1965. Maud Procter 1883 - 1968. Herbert Close Procter 1890 - 1970, D31

James' maternal grandmother, **Elizabeth Metcalfe**, uncle **William Metcalfe** and aunts **Alice** and **Barbara Metcalfe** are commemorated in the *OldC74*.

James's father, Matthew, had a younger sister, **Mary Procter**, also born in Stainforth. Mary, as expected, began her working life in service, working for **Alice Ingleby** at Lawkland alongside groom **William Grime**. Less expected was the arrival of a daughter **Sarah Procter** in 1854. Sarah, James' cousin, was brought up by her grandparents William and Margaret Procter. Mary continued in domestic service moving to Anley in Settle to work for **John Birbeck**, also with William Grime. Daughter Sarah [ph3] followed in her mother's footsteps and had a son **Jack** in 1879. Two years later she became the second wife of **John Kitchener** whose first wife had died soon after their marriage. John and his brother Stephen came to Settle from Berkshire during the 1870s probably to find work on the railways and have an incredible story to enrich our graveyard.

John and Sarah Kitchener lived in Stainforth with seven half siblings for Jack. John worked at the quarries and Sarah's mother Mary lived with them. In 1901 Sarah's son Jack married **Amy Bullock** from the huge Settle Bullock family and they had many children. They lived in Upper Settle and John drove steam roller engines. Their son **Jack** and daughter **Amy** died in infancy in 1903 and 1909 and are buried together in the unmarked *Old grave EX7*. Their first son **Frederick** had also died in infancy in 1901 but there are no burial records for him, worryingly. Jack and Amy [ph3] stayed in Upper Settle for the rest of their lives – perhaps their cremated remains joined their children in *Old EX7*.



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. 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'.

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

Thanks to John Diggles and Settle Stories' Bill Mitchell interviews for helpful information in this account.

School log book thanks to Settle Primary School

ph1 – credited to the Facebook Back in Settle page, ph2 – photo credited to 'Craven's Part in the Great War', ph3 – credited to the descendants of the family on ancestry.co.uk, username

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Darrel_Oldfield, ph4 – with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph4 – with the kind permission of John Reid of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society

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