

Charlotte Garnett, with a fatal case of scarlet fever

The Reverend **Richard Craven Garnett** was the fourth vicar at Holy Ascension church, taking over after the death of **Jackson Mason**. As was usual for 19th century clergy, Richard was born in 1843 into a wealthy family. His grandparents **John Jasper Garnett** and **Elizabeth Craven** inherited from land owning families and lived at Stoke Hall in Cheshire [ph1]. John and Elizabeth had at least eight children but six of them died in their 20s.



Richard's father, another **John Jasper Garnett**, married **Ann Acton** of Bunbury Hall, Nantwich [ph1]. John and his uncle **George Garnett** ran a cheesemaking business together. Unfortunately, in 1826 they went bankrupt and so did grandfather John Jasper, a banker. John Jasper (Snr)'s residence and numerous other properties had to be sold off and the auction details give us an indication of the lifestyle to which they were accustomed [1].

However, life went on and there was still money in the family; when John Jasper Garnett (Snr) died in 1840, widow Elizabeth became a 'landed proprietor'. John Jasper (Jnr) and Ann had three children. The children all had an excellent education, with Richard Craven Garnett going to Rugby and then to Trinity College, Cambridge.

Richard's sister **Elizabeth** married a clergyman, **John Bell Butler**, suitably respectable. Richard's brother **George Garnett** was a military man who married and had two daughters. He had served with the West Middlesex 57th Foot Rifles which had served in the Crimean War, India, New Zealand and South Africa. However, George spent the last 25 years of his life living in Brighton with a girl 30 years his junior, the daughter of a cowman, unfortunately called **Sarah Hoare**, while his wife lived on Jersey with the two daughters. The hidden consequences of war?

Richard married **Charlotte Isabel Leach**, daughter of the vicar at Thornton-in-Lonsdale. Richard began working as a curate in Cheshire and soon became the vicar of Delamere. Here, Charlotte gave birth to ten children, although the eldest, another **John Jasper Garnett**, died aged six.

After 15 years in Delamere, in April 1889, Richard was the successful applicant for the incumbency in Settle, being known as a 'good preacher and energetic worker' with 'credentials of a high order'. He 'embraced the name of **Bishop Stubbs**' the brother of **Isabella Stubbs** buried in Holy Ascension graveyard. He earned a salary of £200, living in the vicarage [2] which is quite an increase in salary compared to the previous incumbent Jackson Mason. Appointed just six years before Jackson earned a salary described as 'not a lucrative one, only amounting to £174'.

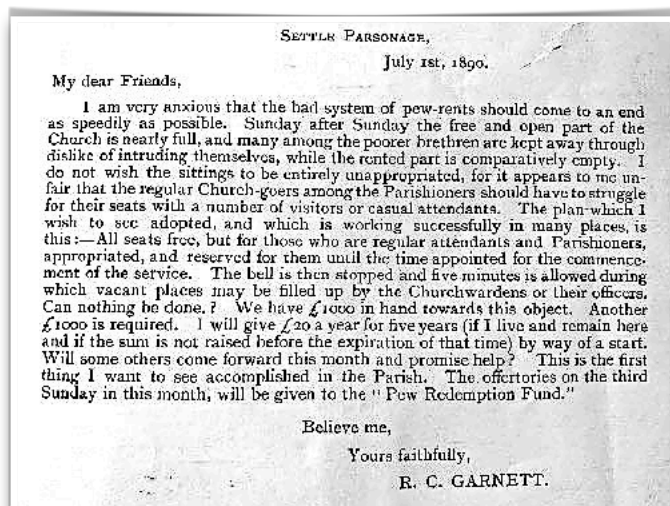
Soon after his arrival in Settle, Richard became the next vicar to lament the system of pew rents which provided pews for those who could afford them, thus discriminating against the poor. Just 1/3 of pews

Lot 1. **A**LL that commodious and substantially built Residence, situate in the Welch-row, in Nantwich, containing a spacious vestibule, large dining, drawing and breakfast-rooms, study, butler's and housekeeper's pantries, china and glass closets, with capital wine and beer cellars, numerous large bed-rooms, with dressing-rooms adjoining, improved water-closet, good attics; likewise a convenient kitchen, servants-hall, larder, milk and brew-houses, laundry, scullery, &c. &c. all attached, two excellent stables with five stalls and rooms over, coach-house; extensive walled and kitchen garden, and orchard well stocked with choice fruit trees, green-house, ornamental lawn, pasture and mowing Lands adjoining, containing in the whole in statute measure 7a. 0r. 30p.

THE LIVING OF SETTLE—Yesterday the trustees of the Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle, elected a successor to the late Rev. Jackson Mason, M.A., whose death in November last rendered the living vacant. The appointment was given to the Rev. **Richard Craven Garnett**, who for the last 15 years has been rector of Delamere, Cheshire. The perpetual curacy of Settle is of the value of £200 per annum, with parsonage house. The newly-appointed vicar received his education at Rugby, and is an M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge. He is a good preacher and energetic worker, being now 46 years of age. His credentials are of a high order, embracing the names of Bishop Stubbs, the Council of Trinity College, the Attorney-General, and others. There were a number of applicants for the Settle living.

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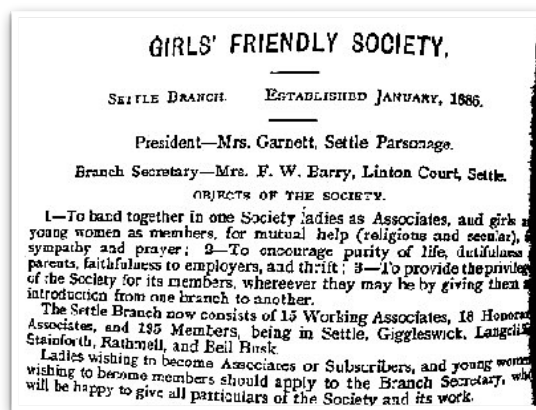
were free for the working classes. The non-conformist churches provided free worship and so, unsurprisingly, were becoming increasingly popular. The 1851 religious census criticised the church for its high pew rents – £80 per year plus weekly contributions. It also commented ‘*the patrons of this church are unwilling to reduce these fees.*’ The second vicar, **William Frederick Pierson**, had started an endowment scheme to raise funds in 1865 but with little response. Through the Parish Magazine Richard offered to contribute £20 of his own money each year for five years to add to the £100 already raised but by the next month had only raised a further £25, concluding ‘*the process will be a slow one!*’. Pew rents were not eliminated until 1908!



In October 1892 Settle became a Parish of its own, no longer under the Giggleswick umbrella. By a statute passed in 1853 this was not possible until the death of the vicar at Giggleswick which transpired to be nearly 40 years later.

Wife Charlotte took on the presidency of the Girls' Friendly Society, formed in 1886 to encourage young ladies to be pure, dutiful and faithful [LSA].

In the 19th century a third of all deaths were due to infectious disease. In 1893 an epidemic of scarlet fever struck Settle and Richard's wife and children were among those affected. They were sent to the isolation hospital, a separate wing of Giggleswick workhouse/hospital. In the early 1900s a new isolation hospital was built at Harden Bridge, about half a mile from Austwick, far more suitable for 'isolation'. In the Parish Magazine Richard wrote, "*I have to thank you for your kind sympathy with us in our troubles. My children will soon be about again, and although my wife is in a feeble state yet, I hope she has now taken a turn for the better and will regain her health by the mercy of God.*" Unfortunately, he had to add a post script, "*My wife passed away very suddenly this morning and I feel sure I may count on your sympathy and prayers in a time of such trouble and loss.*"



Charlotte Isabel Garnett born Nov 13th 1849 died April 6th 1893. The dear wife of a vicar of Settle, Old C31

Soon after Charlotte's death Richard worked with a committee led by **Hector Christie** to contribute to arrangements to celebrate the Prince George, Duke of York's wedding to Princess Mary of Teck in July 1893. Princess Mary had previously been



engaged to George's elder brother but he died before the marriage took place. George V and Mary reigned from 1910 - 1936. Vestry records tell us that 90 'old people' and 400 children were entertained at tea and an evening of sports took place with over 700 entries for the different events.

Later in 1893 Richard acquired the use of the central part of the Folly as a 'Church House'. It was used for meetings, entertainment and lectures, the first of which was entitled 'The Glaciers of Switzerland'. In 1901 the Church House changed location to a room in Commercial Yard, a property of *Thomas Clarke* the churchwarden.

During the early 1890s the church congregation and associated offertories increased considerably because Giggleswick church was closed for extensive renovations. In July 1895 Richard buried and mourned the loss of *William Henry Barnett* who had been the church organist for nearly 50 years.

In 1895 the rise in non conformism Wales and tension between Anglican landlords and non conformist tenants led to the Welsh Bill being raised in Parliament to disestablish the Church of England in Wales. This caused outrage and led to rumours of cathedrals being turned into museums with money going to 'labourer's allotments and village wash-houses' [4]. Rev Garnett chaired a meeting about the issue and a working party of five ladies and five gentlemen was elected to discuss it further. The Church of England ceased to be the established church in Wales from 1920, replaced by the Church in Wales which has much looser links to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On 1 February 1900, aged 57, Richard married Lucy Bryans, another vicar's daughter, from Epsom who was 20 years his junior. Lucy's maternal grandfather was John Lonsdale, the 90th Bishop of Lichfield so she had excellent credentials. Richard and Lucy received a pedestal clock from the day school and a silver communion service from parishioners to celebrate the occasion [LSA]. Upon their return from honeymoon Richard and Lucy were welcomed by scholars, parents and guests of the National School in Upper Settle and *Dr Edgar* 'hoped Mrs Garnett would take as great an interest in the children as her husband did' [5].

Perhaps Lucy wasn't too keen about living in the North? In August 1901, vestry records tell us that Richard 'accepted the living of Salwarpe in Worcestershire as he was feeling his age and felt he could not manage the work in Settle by himself anymore.' Richard's departure coincided with the Harvest Festival [6]. He had served for 12 years and was presented with a handsome tea and coffee service.

CHURCH DEFENCE.—A meeting was held in the Church House on Friday for the purpose of organising a parochial committee, whose object will be to oppose by all lawful means the disestablishment of the Church of England.—The Vicar of Settle (Rev. R. C. Garnett, M.A.) presided, and in opening the proceedings said that it would be a bad day for England when religion was not officially recognised by the State.—Colonel Harvey, of London, attended as the deputation, and gave an address, explaining the main provisions of the Welsh Bill. To churchmen it could not fail to be revolting that their cathedrals were, under this Bill, to be turned into national museums

9. Confirmation Service by the Bishop of Richmond at the Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle.—The Rev. R. C. Garnett, of Settle, was, on the occasion of his marriage, presented with a Silver Communion Service, subscribed for by many parishioners, as a mark of their esteem.

23. The Rev. R. C. Garnett was presented with a Pedestal Clock by the teachers and scholars of the day school at Settle, on the occasion of his marriage.

PRESENTATION TO THE VICAR.
On Friday last a crowded meeting, consisting of scholars, parents, and invited guests, assembled in the National School to receive the Rev. R. C. and Mrs. Garnett, who had just returned from their honeymoon. Dr. Edgar, the senior manager of the school, took the chair, and then the Vicar introduced Mrs. Garnett to the assembly. The Chairman, in a hearty manner, welcomed Mrs. Garnett to the schools, and on behalf of his co-managers hoped she would take as great an interest in the children as her husband did.

THE VICAR'S FAREWELL.—On Sunday last, at the Church of Holy Ascension, the Vicar, the Rev. R. C. Garnett, M.A., conducted his farewell services, the occasion also being the harvest festival. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Garnett said he had laboured in the parish for a period of twelve years, and during that time had seen many changes. He remembered when he came among them asking them to be considerate with him, for no doubt he would make mistakes; and now, looking back upon the time, he felt that he had come far short of that ideal which he had set up for himself. He had striven to do his best, and to live peaceably with all men. He asked the congregation

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At the time of the following census Richard lived with a few daughters at Salwarp whereas Lucy was living as a boarder in Northamptonshire. Perhaps things didn't work out quite as well as hoped.

Richard died in Winchester in 1926, aged 83, which is some achievement considering his gene pool. His widow Lucy retired to Torquay and died 40 years later. Most of Richard and Charlotte's children remained single. Their sons attended Giggleswick school as day students. Son **Craven Garnett** served in the Royal Engineers during the war and then worked as an engineer on Canadian railways, joining his brothers **Hubert** and **Acton** who had business careers out there. Craven and his wife **Winifred Harry** returned to England. They lived in Long Preston at the time of the 1939 census and retired to live in Fern Hill on Constitution Hill in Settle. They died within a couple of months of each other in 1955, their two sons pre-deceasing them. Craven and Winifred were not buried in Settle – it would be nice to think they were cremated with their ashes distributed near Charlotte? Son **Lieutenant George Edmund Garnett** died in 1912, aged 31, after a military career in Hong Kong. Richard and Charlotte's daughters stayed in the south of England working as teachers, except **Isabel** who became a nun in Massachusetts.

Walter Edward Linney became the next vicar at Holy Ascension church.



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

Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Chester Courant, 2 – Wigton Advertiser, 3 – Yorkshire Post, 4 – Nelson Chronicle, 5 – Lancaster Gazette, 6 – Lancaster Standard

ph1 – credited to Wikipedia

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

Vestry Records with the kind permission of the church