

The Lamberts, printers

Laurence Lambert was a well respected farmer who worked near Melling, west of Bentham, with his wife **Mary Wilcock**. This combination of genes would produce good, honest, hardworking tradesmen and professionals without a blemish on their characters, almost. Laurence must have been well respected as he was selected as an enumerator for the 1841 census.

Son **William Lambert**, born in 1815, initially farmed in nearby Wennington, close to Melling. In 1839 he married **Ellen (Eleanor) Shires**, the illegitimate daughter of **Elizabeth Shires** from Heysham who would live with them until she died. William and Ellen and their growing family of six sons and three daughters moved to the Settle area during the 1850s. The first of two daughters called **Elizabeth** died in infancy and records for the second Elizabeth stop after the she was aged five.

The North Ribblesdale Agricultural Show of 1859 awarded William Lambert first prize for great work in 'general improvement' at Mearbeck, *'it is seldom your Inspectors meet with a farm so improved during the short time he has occupied it'*[1]. By the time of the 1861 census William was the gamekeeper at the adjacent Lodge Farm with his family.

Ellen died in 1865, aged 48, just two years after her mother (who was buried with her parents, back in Melling) and four years after the birth of their youngest son, **Thomas**. William moved the children to Howson's Yard in the centre of Settle and spent his later years living with son **James Wilcock Lambert**. William died in 1894, aged 79, nearly 30 years after Ellen.

In loving memory of William Lambert of Settle, who died October 5th 1894, aged 79 years. And of Eleanor his wife who died October 17th 1865 aged 48 years. Also of Mary Ellen their daughter who died January 28th 1880 aged 36 years. Also John son of the above died May 20th 1906 aged 54 years, Old B45



Son **John** who was buried in this grave was a tailor. He didn't marry and boarded with families, including **Robert Brown**, in the Castle Hill and Bowskills Yard areas of Settle. Ellen and daughter **Mary Ellen** are commemorated on this stone but are buried in the Ancient graveyard.

Mary Ellen, born in 1843, was the eldest surviving daughter and took over housekeeping duties when her mother died. When she was 20, Mary Ellen had a son, **William Henry Lambert**, who was brought up by Mary Ellen and her siblings. William Henry worked on the railways and, in 1893 had to give evidence in court in a case against **Robert Peel** who was accused of embezzling £3 15s [3]. William Henry married **Maggie (Margaret) Cowburn** from another fascinating Settle family in 1886. They didn't have children of their own, but the church baptism records tell us that, four years after marrying, William Henry fathered **Frederick Bulcock** with **Frances Amelia Bulcock**. Oops. Frederick was brought up by Bulcock relations and worked as a railway labourer. William Henry and Maggie are buried in the grave *Old L31*. Frederick is buried in an unmarked grave *OldDX10* next to his mum.

For premiums No. 8, 9, and 10, GENERAL IMPROVEMENT,—There were 5 entries, the 1st prize we award to Mr. William Lambert, of Mearbeck, to whom every praise is due, and it is seldom your Inspectors meet with a farm so improved during the short time he has occupied it. The 2nd we award to Mr. Thomas Par-

MIDLAND RAILWAY PROSECUTION.—Robert Peel, drayman, Settle, was charged with embezzling the sum of £3 15s. belonging to the Midland Railway Company, and alleged to be paid to him at the Hostel, Giggleswick, on the 21st of April. Mr. Turner, of the firm of Messrs. Beale and Co., prosecuted. After hearing the evidence of William Brown, Mary Jackson, Isabella Egglestone, and Anna Muskett, who are employed at the Hostel, and William Henry Lambert, goods clerk at Settle Station, the magistrates (Messrs. H. Christie and J. A. Farrer) decided to dismiss the charge.

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Peace. In affectionate remembrance of Margaret beloved wife of William Henry Lambert who died February 12th 1928 aged 65 years. Also the above William Henry Lambert who died June 28th 1943 aged 79 years, Old L31

William and Ellen's other sons also had 'good' jobs with Laurence in joinery and Richard (Dick) as a solicitor's clerk. Dick worked for **George Marshall Robinson**, the solicitor with his office on the ground floor [CH]. Later Dick moved to Bradford. In 1872 Richard

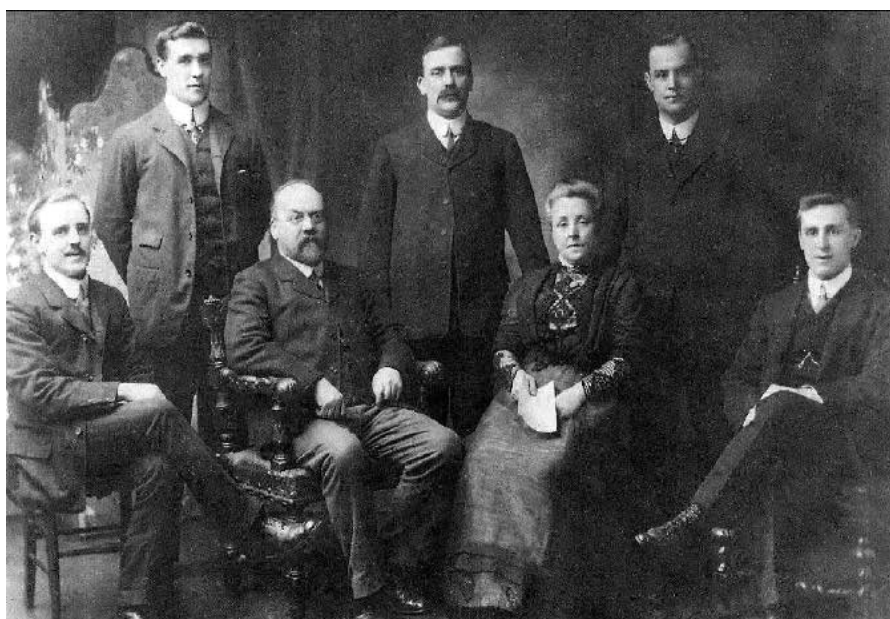
Passing from the sublime to the humorous, the mention of Messrs Robinson's office, reminds me of a visit I once paid to it. Dick Lambert was in the office on the ground floor and "G.M." in the upstairs room. It was a beautiful morning, and I suppose the fine weather had affected Lambert's spirits, for, as I walked in he was singing: "What are the wild waves saying," when there came a voice down the speaking-tube from "G.M." in the office above: "They're saying 'Lambert! it's time to get on with some work!'"

read 'Old Shunt' in a Lancashire Dialect at a Temperance Life Boat Crew fundraising entertainment and 'kept the audience convulsed with laughter, and was deservedly applauded' [1]. Youngest son Thomas became a grocer.

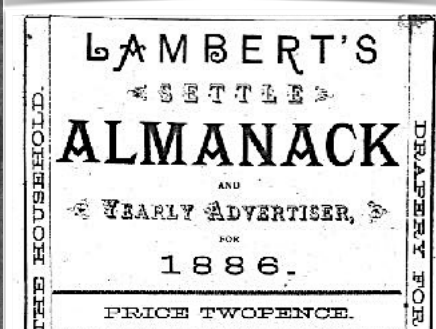
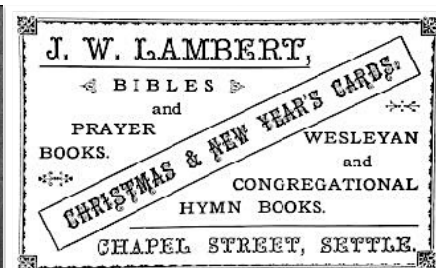
SETTLE.
TEMPERANCE LIFE BOAT CREW—The members and friends of the above society gave the first of their entertainments this season on Saturday evening last. Captain Phillipson in the chair. The Hall was well filled with a very enthusiastic audience. The programme, which comprised songs, readings, recitations, and dialogues, was gone through in a very creditable manner. The reading in the Lancashire dialect by Master R Lambert, entitled "Owd Shunt" kept the audience convulsed with laughter, and was deservedly applauded. The dialogues with the assistance of a few friends were very creditably rendered. Mr. John Owen very efficiently sung a Welsh song.

Fourth son, **James Wilcock Lambert**, born in 1854 stayed in Settle. Nine days after his twelfth birthday James entered into an eight year apprenticeship with **John** and son **William Wildman** printers, initially earning half a crown a week. As was the norm, he worked 7am until 6pm, Monday to Saturday and finishing even later as orders required. They were particularly busy on election days when 'state of the poll' updates were printed every half hour.

In 1878 James married **Mary Taylor** which was to be another successful pairing. Mary was the daughter of the clogger **John Taylor**, another well known and interesting Settle man. James and Mary had six sons and one daughter although the two youngest, **May** and **Harold**, died in infancy. A family photo is dated as 1909 but, looking at the age of youngest Victor, born in 1886 and other family information is more likely to have been taken a bit earlier [ph2].



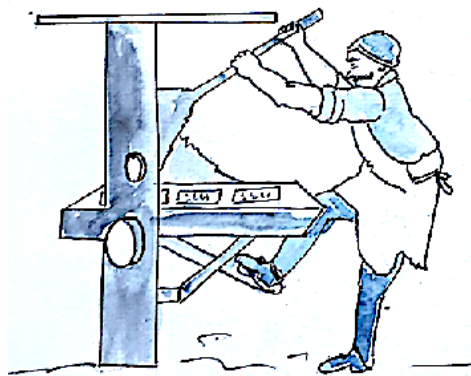
The James Wilcock Lambert family of Settle photographed in 1909. L to R: Victor (1886-1975), John (1893-1967), James Wilcock (1854-1927), William (1879-1933), Mary (1855-1930), Bertram (1881-1963) and Ernest (1894-1955).



In 1881 James decided to take the bull by the horns and set up his own business in a four roomed cottage of Well Hill, albeit with an old fashioned (even for those days) printing press and limited

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fonts and work space. He insisted on the high standards which were to become a trademark of this successful business. Soon more extensive premises were acquired in Chapel Street and then, in prime position in Cheapside. James producing the 'Lambert's Settle Almanac' every year from 1884 until 1916 [LSA]. The Almanacs are now proving to be a great source of local history. The Cheapside premises were purchased in 1892 and their successful family business ran from there for generations. The business name still exists although run by unrelated people.



James and his family were active members of the Zion church and he was elected Deacon for many years. James was good friends with minister **Rev George H Brown**. James supported the Total Abstinence cause to the extent of being a Trustee of the Rechabites. He was a keen cricketer, billiard player and a member of Settle Bowling Club. Upon his death he was the oldest member of the Liberal Club.

James and Mary [ph1] retired to High Hill Grove. James was 73 when he died, followed by Mary in 1938. James' obituaries and eulogy rightly portray an honest, hardworking and fair man, as a person and in business. One townsman said '*I have known James Wilcock Lambert all my life, it is men such as he who in their quiet steady way are the strength and backbone of England*'. Mary's obituary [2] described her as one of the oldest members of Settle Women's Liberal Association, having been vice president for many years. James and Mary are buried in the grave *Old A42* with their infant children Harold and May.



Mrs. M. Lambert, Settle

The interment took place at Settle on Friday of Mrs. Mary Lambert, of 4. High Hill Grove, Settle, who passed away on the previous Tuesday after a short illness. Mrs. Lambert, who was 83 years of age was a native of Settle, and the widow of Mr. James Wilcock Lambert, printer and stationer, of Cheapside, Settle. Mrs. Lambert was one of the oldest members of the Settle Women's Liberal Association, having been a vice-president for many years. She was also an interested member of the Settle Branch of the British Women's Total Abstinence Union, and of Zion Congregational Church, where a service was held prior to the interment. Four sons survive her.



In loving memory of James Wilcock Lambert who died Feb 24th 1927 in his 73rd year. Also Mary wife of the above died Jan 25th 1938 aged 83 years, Old A42

James and Mary's remaining five sons also had successful lives. The incredible achievements of third son **Bertram** are well documented with a full account by the North Craven Heritage Trust, amongst others. Born in 1881, Bertram showed promise from an early age. In 1894 he won a West Riding Technical Scholarship to attend Giggleswick School [2].

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A PROMISING YOUTH.—Bertram Lambert, a scholar attending Settle National School, has succeeded in gaining a County Council scholarship, tenable at Giggleswick Grammar School. He is a son of Mr. J. W. Lambert, printer.

The Goldsmiths' Company has awarded Senior Studentships for the encouragement of Research to Bertram Lambert, M.A., Merton College, and to Charles Stanley

G. B. Lambert, of Giggleswick School, son of Mr. J. W. Lambert, Printer, Settle, was awarded an Exhibition, value £60 a year, for Natural Science, at Merton College, Oxford. He also recently won a County Major Scholarship, value £60 a year, which he holds together with the above.

DEMONSTRATOR IN CHEMISTRY.

The appointment of Mr. Bertram Lambert, M.A., Fellow of Merton College, by the Board of the Faculty of Natural Science to the Aldrichian Demonstrator in Chemistry was approved. He will hold office for seven years.

From there he was awarded an exhibition to support his study at Merton College, Oxford reported in the Almanac, unsurprisingly. Bertam obtained first class Honours in Natural Science. The awards and promotions continued [3,4]. When war broke Bertram developed a Small Box Respirator to protect soldiers against the effects of the German's new weapon, gas attacks. It contained charcoal and other chemicals to absorb the gases and was the most effective of all the gas masks produced during the war. It became standard British Army issue. For this work Bertram received a huge £12000 and was awarded an OBE. After the war Bertram remained at Merton College and had lecturing, demonstrating, consulting and honorary appointments to a variety of universities and governments. He married Sylvia Dewe and had two children.



James and Mary's eldest son William and fourth son Ernest continued the family business. William was the printer and Ernest the bookbinder. William married **Mary Moore** and they stayed in Cheapside. They are buried in the grave New K15. William's son Harold, also a printer, is buried with his wife Kathleen Whitehead in New G55.

In 1909 son Ernest married Ada Annie Batty. The wonderful wedding photo, possibly in the grounds of the Ashfield Hotel, demonstrates the extraordinary fashion in hats at that time [ph1]. William and Ernest's wives were also members of the Zion church as were many others in the photo.



In dearest memory of William Lambert born May 31st 1879, died 21st Dec 1933 and Mary Lambert his wife, born September 3rd 1881, died Oct 8th 1971

In loving memory of Harold Lambert born Oct 24th 1907, died Sept 3rd 1983. Also his dear wife Kathleen Lambert, born 26th Oct 1911, died 7th Dec 1993, New G55



Ernest and Ada lived in High Hill Grove and are buried in the grave New F29

In loving memory of Ada Annie beloved wife of Ernest Lambert died March 20th 1950 aged 63 years. Also of Ernest Lambert died Oct 5th 1955 aged 71 years, New F29



Second son John didn't seem to like staying put. The family remembers he even ran away from school, much to the embarrassment of his father, a school governor. He trained as a bookbinder and worked in the family business for a few years but in 1903 managed to secure a post with the Crown Agents for the Colonies as a Foreman Bookbinder in the

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Government Printing Office in Ceylon. John may have known Robert William Sanderson, brother of Settle's *Annie (Sanderson) Twisleton* who also worked for the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Being so far away John rarely managed to visit his family in Settle. By 1914 he had not been home for four years so took some leave to do so. John booked onto one of the comfortable and reliable German steamboats, 'Zeiten', but war was declared a week into the voyage. After some weeks stranded in the Indian Ocean without fresh water and little food, John was eventually transferred to an English boat at Mozambique to get home. John wrote a fascinating and humorous account of the whole saga which took 73 days instead of the anticipated 24, published by Lamberts printers, of course [A].

At surprise we found we were sailing due East and, on making enquiries as to why we were sailing in the wrong direction, we were told for the first time that war had been declared between England and Germany, and that we were on our way to meet a German cruiser for orders. Arriving within sight of land in the afternoon, the cruiser not having put in an appearance, the "Zieten" cruised about, and at night-time orders were given for all the lights to be extinguished, which made it very awkward for walking about the decks of the ship, and laughable when retiring to the cabins for the night, as passengers frequently found themselves in the wrong cabin.

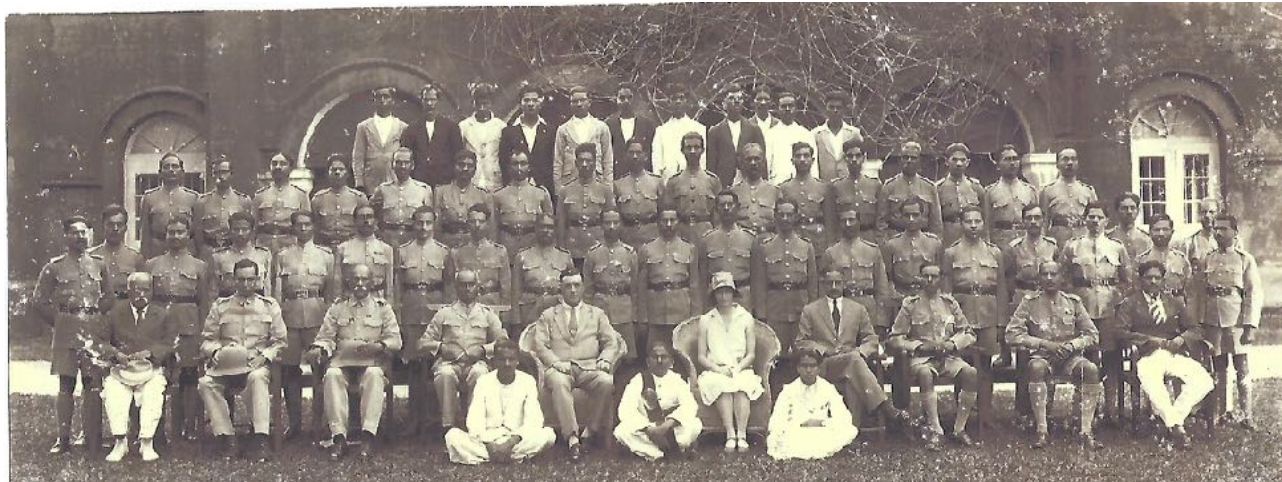
The fresh water had now run out and we had to wash and shave in sea water. Shaving with sea water is a very difficult task, and it was amusing to see the men running about the ship in the morning for a little condensed sea water which was supplied for drinking.

in hiding. Just after daybreak on the following morning we experienced a plague of insects, resembling in appearance a Mantis, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches in length, and said by one of the passengers, who seemed to know, and nobody doubted him, to be locusts. An American passenger remarked that it was more than likely they had been sent to us for a purpose, as there would no doubt be a scarcity of food if the vessel was to be many days at sea without putting into a port! About

In 1918 John left the Printing Office due to ill health and got a new post in the Ceylon Prison Service and rose to become Superintendent of Colombo Central Prison. He is pictured with his prison staff and wife [ph1]. In 1929 John had married **Leonora Travers**, a divorcee, producing another great photo [ph1]. Unfortunately, in 1944, John was awarded a divorce on the grounds of Leonora's 'malicious desertion'. It would be interesting to know in what way the desertion was 'malicious'.

John retired from the Prison Service in 1943 and went to live in Mallorca. Eventually he came back to Settle where he lived at 6 West View until his death in 1967. His ashes were scattered from the top of Castlebergh, together with a packet of wallflower seeds, by niece **May**

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(Lambert) Dugdale, Ernest's daughter. Wallflowers, also known as gilliflowers have been a feature on Castleberg for decades 'Winding walks lead to the summit of the rock, the face of the latter being the natural habitat of a species of yellow gillyflower, which found a precarious root-hold in every nook and cranny' [CH].

around, but no traces of
time-recorder now remain. In my younger
days a penny was charged for admission to
the grounds, the key being kept by John
Taylor, the clogger. There were swings,
a round-about, a saw-saw, and a skittle
alley, all of which gave the youth of the
town endless pleasure in those days. Wind-
ing walks lead to the summit of the rock,
the face of the latter being the natural
habitat of a species of yellow gilliflower,
which found a precarious root-hold in every
nook and cranny. At one time, too, a

With brothers like this, James and Mary's youngest son Victor, born in 1886, had four very hard acts to follow and was known by descendants as the black sheep of the family. Initially Victor worked in the family shop in Cheapside but 'had his fingers in the till'. This caused a deep rift in the family and Victor was 'banished' from Settle. When James died, Victor's proportion of the estate was 'less £120 owing to me' which is presumably the amount he stole. In 1908, aged 22, Victor married Sarah Ormerod in Leeds. At the time of the 1939 pre-war register they were living in Kent with Victor working in a newsagent's shop. Before that he had lived in Hull and died in Cambridge. Victor was obviously an unsettled man.



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.

Settle Graveyard Project

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'.

Many thanks to descendant Jeanne Carr for her help with the compilation of this account. Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

A – A Settle Man's Experience on Board a German Vessel by John Lambert, with the kind permission of Jeanne Carr

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Lancaster Guardian, 3 – Lancaster Standard

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

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

ph1 – with the kind permission of Jeanne Carr, ph2 – credited to the descendants of the family on ancestry.co.uk, Valerie Martin