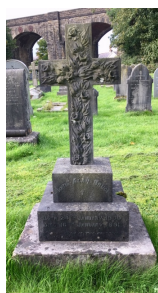


John Alan Bruce



John Alan Bruce born 24th January 1890 died 16th January 1891. For of such is the kingdom of heaven, B33

Little John Alan Bruce was the only son of **John Eddy Bruce** and his wife **Fanny Gowing**. They lived in the Yorkshire Bank in Settle for about five years while John worked as the manager of the Yorkshire Bank which explains how such a grand gravestone was afforded.



John, born in South Cave, west of Hull, worked in Ripon and Headingley, Leeds, before moving to Settle. Afterwards he worked in Otley and then York. When John died in 1919, aged 61, his obituary explained he was a prominent freemason and a staunch Churchman [1].

John and Fanny had three daughters. **Mary Waltham Bruce** married a Scottish scientist **John McCrae** and they lived in Johannesburg. **Dorothy Elsie Bruce** married Irishman **Sydney Herbert Stelfox**, an engineer, who later became a school inspector. Daughter **Gladys Bruce** married a Scottish GP, **Donald McLeod Gray**.

John's parents **William Thomas Bruce** and **Ann Eddy** lived in South Cave all their lives. William was a schoolmaster and later a surveyor. William's brother **Thomas Bruce** was also a bank manager and brother **Robert Bruce** (yes, there had to be a Robert) was a land agent and surveyor. Robert's wife gave him 14 children. Intriguingly when he died, Robert's will included instructions that his diaries must be burnt, unopened, in the copper fire [2]. I wonder what they might have told us?

The funeral of the late Mr. John Eddy Bruce, of Clifton Green, York, branch manager of the London City and Midland Bank, took place yesterday at Otley Cemetery. Mr. Bruce, who was 61 years of age, went to Otley from Settle, in 1898, as manager of the local branch of the Yorkshire Banking Company (now amalgamated with the London City and Midland). He left Otley, in 1907, to take up a similar appointment at York. He was a prominent Freemason, and a staunch Churchman, filling the office of churchwarden at Otley Parish Church, and also at St. Philip's and St. James's Church, York. The interment was preceded by a choral service in the Otley Parish Church, con-

DIARIES FOR COPPER FIRE.

The will of Mr. Robert Bruce, of Wraylands, South Cave, land agent and surveyor, reads:

"My dairies tied up and sealed, now in my bureau, if I have not already destroyed them, I direct shall not be unloosed nor the seals broken, but that as soon as possible after my decease shall be destroyed in the presence of two of my trustees by placing them in the copper fire or in the fire under the kitchen oven. I may say they do not contain anything of any value, or anything of any interest to any one."



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 settlerearch@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.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Yorkshire Post, 2 – Hull Daily Mail