

The Millingtons providing a wide range of services

Thomas Charles Millington was born in 1854 in Windermere, one of six sons and two daughters of **Thomas Millington** and his wife **Ann Chesworth**. The Chesworth name would continue through future generations. Thomas and Ann Millington were from Chester but Thomas's work took them to Windermere – he was a butler and hotel waiter. After all the children were born Thomas and Ann moved to work at another beautiful place, the Grange Hotel in Grange-over-Sands [ph4] before moving to Lancaster. At the time of the 1881 census Thomas and Ann had two boarders, one of whom was **Charles Edwin Towler**, a draper's assistant from Settle, son of **William Towler** the corn merchant. Perhaps this is how the family were introduced to the wonderful town of Settle?



THE ASSISTANT CLERKSHIP AT THE COUNTY ASYLUM.—The vacancy in the office of assistant clerkship and deputy steward at the County Asylum, caused by the appointment of Mr. W. Barker to the North Wales Asylum, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Albert Millington, of the Midland goods department. There were a large number of applicants.—On

Thomas' siblings stayed in Lancashire except for youngest brother **Albert Millington** who spent his life working as the clerk to the newly built Rubery Lunatic Asylum in Kings Norton, Birmingham [1, ph4]. Albert retired to Surrey with his wife **Dorothy Warbrick** living in a house they named 'Rubery'. They obviously had happy times there.



Thomas Charles Millington started his working life in Lancaster as an apprentice joiner. When he was 21, in 1875, he married **Dinah Maria Simpson**, the daughter of a Lancaster cabinet maker who became the mother of their son and two daughters. By the time of the next census Thomas and Dinah were living in Duke Street in Settle with Thomas working as a 'sanitary inspector' – a public health inspector. His post had become available thanks to recent government acts.

Even in rural Settle, at the beginning of the 19th century more than one in five babies died before the age of five and a sixth of all deaths were due to infectious disease. The



growth of towns and cities through the nineteenth century exceeded the provision for water supply and the removal of waste and this, amongst other things, led to increased transmission of disease. In 1855

NUISANCES³

Removal Act for England, 1855.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

That the Guardians of the Poor of the Settle Union are, by virtue of the 23 and 24 Vict. cap. 77, the local authority for putting the above Act into force in the several townships or places comprised in the said Union.

They have full powers in all cases of unwholesome or crowded dwellings, unfit or unwholesome food, bad drainage, offensive accumulations, foul ditches, drains, or sewers, and all other things of like nature.

NOTICE OF A NUISANCE, may be given to the local authority by any of the following persons;

Any person aggrieved thereby. The sanitary inspector or any paid officer under the said local authority. Two or more inhabitant householders of the township or place to which the notice relates. The relieving officers of the Union. Any constable or any officer of the constabulary or police force of the district or place. And in case the premises be a common lodging house, any person appointed for the inspection of common lodging houses.

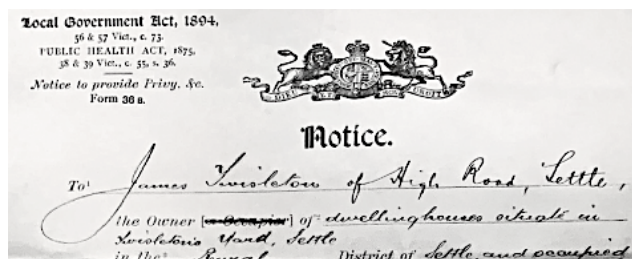
Mr. W. H. Cockshott, of Settle, Superintendent of police for the division of Staineliffe West, and Mr. William Exton, of Ingleton, Superintendent of police for the Ewecross division, are appointed Inspectors of Nuisances; and forms for the entry of complaints, or calling attention to anything needing inspection may be had on application to me at the Board Room in Settle.

By order of the board,
JOHN LISTER, Union Clerk.

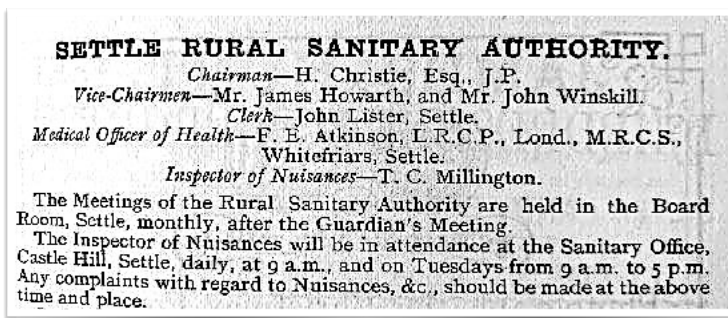
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the government passed a 'Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act' which required local authorities to employ a 'sanitary inspector'. Settle asked **PC Cockshott** to do this as part of his work [SC]. As disease outbreaks continued across the country there were further acts in 1866 and 1875 to tighten up procedure. The discrete role of sanitary inspector was therefore established and Thomas was the man for the job. Unfortunately, these measures didn't make a huge difference to infant mortality – a better understanding of disease transmission began much later in the century and training and regulation of midwifery practises only began when necessitated by the horrendous death toll of WW1.

These things take time to have an impact. As late as February 1902 Settle Council issued **James Twisleton** with a 'Notice to provide Privy' [ph5], formally warning him that the eight houses he rented to residents in Upper Settle were 'without sufficient water closet and ash pit accommodation'. He was given 28 days to install 'water closets with separate service or flushing cisterns and three ashpits furnished with proper doors and coverings.'



Thomas Charles Millington would have reported to the local Rural Sanitary Authority who met fortnightly in the Town Hall. Thomas would have worked closely with the Medical Officer **Dr Francis Edward Atkinson**, and also with **Hector Christie**, Chair, **John Winskill**, the vice chair of the Sanitary Authority and **John Lister**, the clerk [LSA]. Thomas was 'in attendance' at his office at the bottom of Castle Hill daily



at 9am and all day Tuesday to hear any complaints from the public. What a good idea! Thomas would have been involved in the discussions with **Rev Jackson Mason** about providing new burial space for the graveyard in the mid 1880s as the Ancient graveyard was dangerously full and a health hazard.

Unfortunately, Thomas died in 1893, aged just 39, hopefully not due to anything work-related. He was replaced as Sanitary Inspector by **Thomas Armistead Foxcroft**. Widow Dinah moved to Leigh and initially lived with **Catherine Stephens**. Why? Catherine was the mother-in-law of Dinah's sister **Alice Rose Simpson**. After Catherine died in 1909 Dinah stayed in Leigh running a confectionery business with her two spinster daughters **Amy** and **Lucy**. After Dinah died in 1927 the sisters transferred their business to Morecambe. Dinah, Amy and Lucy were brought back to Settle for burial. Dinah and Amy joined Thomas and a grandchild **Edith**, daughter of son **Robert Chesworth Millington** in grave plot **Old C68**.



In Loving Memory of Thomas Charles Millington who died July 15th 1893 aged 38 years. Also Dinah Maria wife of the above who died Feb. 25th 1927 aged 71 years. Also Edith their granddaughter who died May 29th 1937 aged 35 years. Also Amy their beloved daughter who died Dec. 6th 1962 aged 79 years. Until the day dawns, and the shadows flee, Old C68

Thomas Chesworth and Dinah's son **Robert Chesworth Millington** stayed in Settle. He gained an apprenticeship in plumbing with **John Handby** on Castle Hill. In 1899, when he was 23, Robert married **Alice Vine King**. Alice was the illegitimate daughter of **Mary Ann King** from Ixworth, Suffolk and perhaps her father's surname was Vine? A year after Alice's birth, now in Langcliffe, Mary Ann married **Robert Limmer**, a brickmaker from Norfolk. They lived for many years in

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Langcliffe before moving to Grassington and had five half siblings for Alice. Robert Limmer died in 1914, aged 67 and then the cruel fate of war would take more of the family.

Second son Sergeant **John Thomas Limmer** [ph1, left] was killed in action in France in July 1916, aged 32. Three years earlier John Thomas had married **Rose Potts** and she had a son **John Eric Limmer** who had a career with the Royal Military Police in new Zealand.



Youngest son Private **Walter Limmer** [ph1 right] started his life as a servant for farmer **Richard Clark** in Wigglesworth. In the war he signed up for the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was killed, aged 22, in September 1918, just a couple of months after marrying **Alice Wade**. He is buried near Venice in Italy.

Third son **Alfred Limmer** [ph2] survived the war but died in 1925, aged 40, leaving his wife **Alice Halstead** and daughter **Julia Margaret**. Alfred had married Alice in a Quaker wedding in 1910. The widows of John Thomas, Walter and Alfred all remarried.

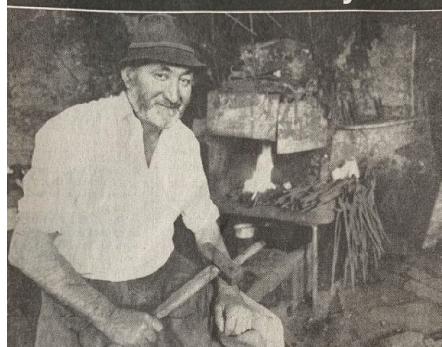


Poor mum **Mary Ann (King) Limmer** died, heartbroken in 1928 after her husband and three sons had died within a period of 11 years.

Alice Vine (King) Limmer wasn't the only illegitimate child in this family. The only surviving and eldest son **William Frederick Limmer** married **Mary Elizabeth Patrick** whose family had also come up to the area from Norfolk. William Frederick worked in the quarries and on the roads. They had a daughter **Emma Limmer**. She worked as a servant at Cowside Farm behind Langcliffe. In 1930, when she was 19, Emma gave birth to a son **Alf Limmer** [ph5]. Alf was to become a popular and well known blacksmith in Settle initially apprenticed to the **Hodgson family** at the Castle Hill smithy and eventually taking over the business. He retired after 49 years at the smithy having started working at the age of 14. As the number of horses declined Alf turned his hand to a variety of iron works. Alf was known to tell the tale that he was commissioned by **Bob Leakey** to make a trap to capture the Loch Ness Monster! Alf, a large, strong man, was a keen rugby and cricket player and served as a duty man and selector for North Ribblesdale Rugby Club. Alf married **Audrey Wilkinson**, a nurse from Keighley and they had two sons while living at 1 Goldielands just below the station. In 1963 they moved to Craglands, behind Ellis' garage on High Hill Grove Street, where examples of his ironwork are still on display. Alf died in 2009. Audrey became one of the local district nurses going round the local schools conducting children's hair, eye and hearing assessments. She died in 2008.



Alf retires after 49 years



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In 1940 Emma Limmer later married **George Symonds**, the eldest son of another **George (Snr) Symonds**, a labourer, also from Norfolk. George (Snr) Symonds had married **Fanny Cockshott**, the daughter of naughty **John (Maccomo) Cockshott**, who had four illegitimate children of her own before marrying George. William Frederick Limmer and his wife and Mary Elizabeth are buried with son-in-law George Symonds in the unmarked *New HX19*. Emma died, aged 92 in 2003 and is somewhere else in the graveyard.

Meanwhile, back with the Millington family, Robert Chesworth Millington and Alice lived in Bowskills Yard close to John Handby who was his employer now. Robert continued to work as a plumber after John died staying in Bowskills Yard and then what is now Attermire House on Castle Hill until 1936. They had two children, **Thomas Chesworth Millington** and **Edith Millington**. (It was Edith who was buried with her grandparents when she died, aged 35.) Unfortunately, in 1936 Robert got into financial difficulty [2] and this prompted a move to Zion Chapel Cottages where he continued to work as a plumber. Robert died in Settle in 1952, aged 77. Alice died in 1959, aged 81. Robert and Alice were buried with his other sister Lucy in *New J36*.

A receiving order was made at Bradford yesterday, on debtor's petition, against Robert Chesworth Millington, plumber Castle Hill, Settle.



In loving memory of Robert Chesworth Millington died Oct 7th 1952 aged 77 years Also Alice his wife died March 23rd 1959 aged 81 years. Also Lucy, his sister, died Jan 12th 1966 aged 83 years, New J36

Robert and Alice's son Thomas Chesworth Millington was also a plumber living on Constitution Hill in Settle. He had two children with his wife **Mary Jane Fryett**. They were buried together in *New K46*

In loving memory of Thomas Charles Millington 1895-1971 and Mary Jane his wife 1892-1958, New K46



Thomas and Mary Jane's daughter **Joyce Valentine Millington** married **Alfred Grey** and moved to Newcastle. Guess when her birthday was?! Their son **Kenneth Chesworth Millington** married **Rosaleen McKenna** and they are buried in the most recent council section of the graveyard.

In loving memory of a dear husband, dad, grandad and great grandad Ken Millington who died 12th Nov 2000 aged 76 years. Also his dear wife Rosaleen a much loved mother, gran and great gran who died 5th Feb 2019 aged 93 years. RIP.



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 Reid for his help with the compilation of this account. Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

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Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Yorkshire Post

ph1 – created to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph2 – credited to descendant via ancestry.co.uk, username mickryan166, ph3 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, submitted by Ben Mackenzie, ph4 – credited to Wikipedia, ph5 – kindly provided by John Reid, Alf Limmer newspaper photos originally in the Craven Herald

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