

The Stained Glass Windows in Church of St Alkelda, Giggleswick

Rev. John Clapham

Window photograph © Christine Chandler

THE REVEREND JOHN CLAPHAM WINDOW 1879

The Reverend John Clapham

He was the vicar of St Alkelda's Church, Giggleswick, from 6th October, 1782 until his death on 21st May, 1839, aged 80, a total of 56 years.

Alice Atkinson was the lady who paid for the Clapham window.

The window has the inscription:

"In Memory of Rev'd John Clapham, for 56 years Vicar of Giggleswick, this window was erected at the request and expense of his friend Alice Atkinson, of Giggleswick, by her Executors. May A.D. 1879"



John Clapham 1759 - 1839.
From Giggleswick School Register
Son of Thomas Clapham, Stackhouse
Christ's Coll., Cambridge, July 1774 Scholar
May 1776 B.A.
M. A. 1782
Ordained Deacon, Peterborough June 1781
Priest York Oct 1782
Instituted to Vicarage of Giggleswick 6th Oct 1782
Died 21 May 1839 aged 80.
Vicar of St Alkelda's for 57 years.
Sounds like a distinguished career.

The register of Giggleswick School shows his entry as below:

Giggleswick School Register.

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Clapham, John, son of Thomas Clapham, Stackhouse; Christ's Coll., Cambridge, July, 1774; Scholar, May, 1776; B.A. (1st Sen. Opt.) 1779; M.A. 1782. Ordained Deacon, Peterborough, June, 1781; Priest, York, October, 1782. Instituted to Vicarage of Giggleswick, 6th October, 1782; collated by the Archbishop on a lapse. Died 21st May, 1839; aged 80. His tombstone is in the village Churchyard.

John Clapham

The Rev'd John Clapham's own marriage to Mary Bateman took place in Old Hutton, Kendal in 1785.

John Clapham		Tools
England Marriages, 1538-1973		
Name:	John Clapham	
Spouse's Name:	Mary Bateman	
Event Date:	28 Nov 1785	
Event Place:	Old Hutton, Kendal, Westmoreland, England	

John Clapham	
mentioned in the record of Thomas Clapham	
Name	John Clapham
gender	Male
Wife	Mary Bateman
Son	Thomas Clapham

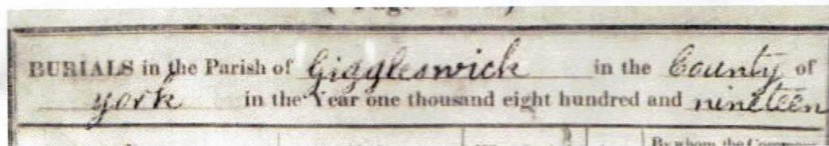
Other information in the record of Thomas Clapham	
from England Births and Christenings	
Name	Thomas Clapham
Gender	Male
Christening Date	25 Jul 1791
Christening Date (Original)	25 JUL 1791
Christening Place	GIGGLESWICK, YORK, ENGLAND
Father's Name	John Clapham
Mother's Name	Mary Bateman

There is only one child recorded of their marriage when they lived in Giggleswick – Thomas

They had another son, William, who left a considerable sum of money.

There is no record found of the death of John Clapham's wife, Mary.

Burial



The Reverend John Clapham M.A. 56 years vicar of this Parish Giggleswick May 25th 1839

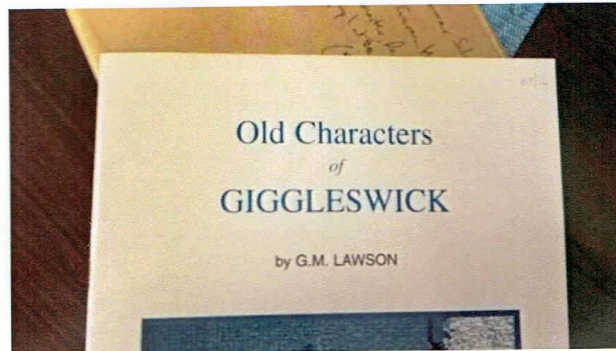
He died 21st May, 1839

ref General Record Office 1839 J Quarter SETTLE UNION Vol 23 page 416

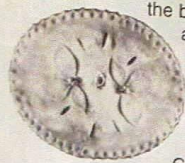
Prerogative & Exchequer Courts of York Probate Index,

There are a few local references to his life and work as Vicar of the Giggleswick Church.

There are entries in various documents held in the Parish Rooms of St Alkelda's relating to the Rev'd John Clapham. By all accounts he had a robust local accent and was somewhat of a difficult character to deal with at times.



The Reverend Clapham was noted for his eccentricity. There is a story that one Ash Wednesday he was about to conduct the service, when he discovered that there was only one person in the congregation - and she was stone deaf. He leaned over the three-decker pulpit and said to his clerk, "As there's nobbut me and thee and old Miss So-and-so, I think we'll e'an gang home and get t'beagles out. So tell her to fetch t'scholar-boys who hev a holiday." So they did, the reverend, his clerk, old Miss So-and-so, the boys and the beagles. They walked for some time when, on passing a farmhouse, they smelled cooking. The Reverend knocked on the door and asked what it was. "Taty-pie," the good lady replied. "Would you like some?" - Whereupon they all trooped into the farmhouse kitchen and sat round a large table. She gave them all a helping but when he tasted it, the Reverend Clapham said, "Where's t'meat?" To which she replied, "I said taty-pie, and taty-pie you've got!"



Alice Atkinson (1800 – 1879)

Alice Atkinson was the lady who paid for the Clapham window.

"In Memory of Rev'd John Clapham, for 56 years Vicar of Giggleswick, this window was erected at the request and expense of his friend Alice Atkinson, of Giggleswick, by her Executors. May A.D. 1879"

There is very little known of the person of Alice Atkinson.

1841 Census

This shows Alice age 40, named as Alice, living with her mother, Alice, aged 65, both independent women, with two servants.

1	Alice Atkinson	65	Indepndt	Yes
	Alice Atkinson	40	do	Yes
	Jane Carr	25	FS	Yes
	Ann Mackintosh	15	FS	Yes

She is recorded in a census as living in "Bankwell", the house, next to the Parish Rooms in Giggleswick.



There are a number of newspaper extracts that shed light on Alice's situation and money:

Illustrated London News 23 November 1878

An intimation has been received from the solicitor to the executors of the late Miss Alice Atkinson, of Giggleswick, near Settle, stating that she has bequeathed £100, free of duty, to the National Education Union.

Also in London

STANDARD, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1878.

NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION.—An intimation has been received from the solicitor to the executors of the late Miss Alice Atkinson, of Giggleswick, near Settle, stating that she has bequeathed 100*l.*, free of duty, to the above Union.

Probate

1878.

ATKINSON Alice.

Personal Estate under £2,000.

17 October. The Will (as contained in Writings marked A and B) with a Codicil of Alice Atkinson late of Giggleswick in the County of York Spinster who died 11 September 1878 at Giggleswick was proved at Wakefield by Warwick Pearson Boustead of Sedbergh in the said County Esquire and John Hartley of Clapham in the said County Land Agent the Executors.