

The Armisteads of Robert Hall, Bentham

John Armistead was born in 1734 at the monastery in Sawley if the details he provided at his wedding were correct. In 1761 he married **Grace Baldwin**. From this union several branches of the family named generations of girls 'Grace Baldwin Armistead'. John and Grace took over Robert Hall [ph8], an impressive 17th century manor house near Low Bentham with over 300 acres of land. In 1515, Robert Cansfield inherited the Hall when he was three years old, hence the name and the property bears the Cansfield coat of arms. A Catholic descendant of Robert allegedly saved the lives King Charles and his son by a decisive charge at the second battle of Newbury on 10 October 1644, for which he was knighted. Appropriately, Robert Hall has a priest hole! Obviously, the building was later confiscated by parliament.

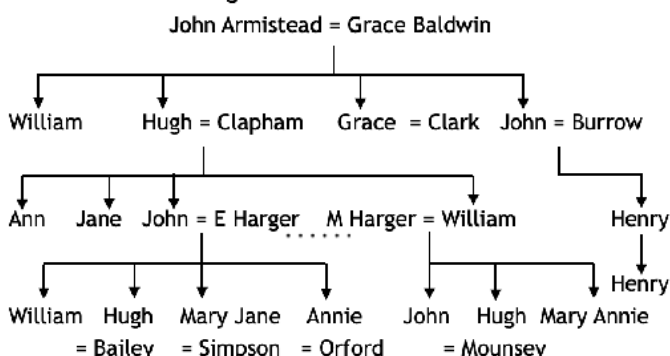


The drawing [ph9] dated 1856 indicates that the building today is relatively unspoilt since that time. John and Grace owned the building in the later 18th century. Their four sons were respected tradesmen in the area. John and Grace's son, **William Armistead**, remained a bachelor and accrued a substantial estate. His will was very helpful in detailing family relationships.



John and Grace's youngest son, **Hugh Armistead**, and his wife **Jenny Clapham** took over Robert Hall with his brothers William and Anthony, describing themselves as 'landed proprietors'. Hugh and Jenny had six daughters and two sons, **John** and **William Armistead**. Hugh and Jenny both died in 1853 and have an impressive family tomb in Bentham graveyard. They are buried with their spinster daughters, **Ann Armistead** and **Jane Armistead**, and Hugh's bachelor brother **William Armistead**.

The Armistead family



John and William found their way to Settle where, funnily enough, other residents of Settle graveyard have links to Robert Hall. After Hugh and Jenny's death the Hall was taken over by **John Hodgson**. He employed a farm servant called **Robert Poole** and, on one occasion, Robert won second prize, worth 7 shillings and sixpence in Bentham Prize ploughing competition. His descendants are in Settle graveyard.



Hugh and Jenny's eldest son, **John Armistead** [ph1], became a draper and ran his business on the site now occupied by 'Practically Everything' next to the Coop in the Market Place in Settle [sc]. He also became a Director of the Settle Gas Company. In 1841, John married **Ellen Harger**, the third of seven daughters of **William Harger**, a successful farmer and his wife **Mary Holden** who lived in a house on Duke Street in Settle, the site now occupied by Ellis' garage. John and



SPRING & SUMMER FASHIONS.
JOHN ARMISTEAD,
Wholesale and Retail Draper,
SILK MERCER, &c.,
 Begs to announce that his Stock is now replete with every novelty for the Season in
SHAWLS, MANTLES, DRESS MATERIALS,
 and every description of Fancy Goods. His extensive Stock of
WOOLLEN CLOTHS,
 has been replenished with the newest and cheapest Goods the Market can offer.
 The remainder of last Summer's Stock of SHAWLS, FANCY DRESSES, MUSLINS, DE LAINES, PRINTS, LIGHT TROUSERINGS, and VESTINGS, &c., is now being sold off at about ONE HALF their original price.
MARKET PLACE, SETTLE.

Ellen had a comfortable lifestyle, later taking up residence in Duke Street, adjacent to The Terrace, close to Ellen's widowed mother. Their four children were privately educated and they had several servants attending to their needs in each census return. John died, aged just 45, leaving an estate of well over £1million in today's value. Ellen was well provided for.



In memory of John Armistead of Settle born January 28th 1819, died March 7th 1864. Also Ellen, wife of the above born Aug 7th, 1816, died Dec 28th 1885 laid to rest at Shelford. Also Annie Elizabeth Orford their daughter died at Bloemfontein, South Africa, July 5th 1897, aged 45 years. RIP. E10

John is alone in the grave as Ellen died, aged 69, in Cambridgeshire near her daughter Annie. Both of John and Ellen's daughters married very suitable Cambridge graduates:

Mary Jane Armistead married **Rev William Simpson Bamber**, the son of an inland revenue officer. Rev Bamber was born and spent part of his childhood in Settle, attending Giggleswick School while his father worked in Settle. William Simpson Bamber's youngest sister **Elizabeth Simpson Bamber** died in infancy and is also buried in the Ancient Graveyard in plot *BX17*. William graduated from Cambridge and became a successful cleric. After marrying Mary Jane he became the Headmaster at Appleby Grammar School in Leicestershire, a post he held for nearly 20 years[1]. He died in 1891, aged just 46, from an attack of the 'all prevailing epidemic, influenza which was followed by acute pneumonia'...'The sad tidings were received with intense regret throughout the village, all persons bearing testimony to the spotless character and inestimable qualities of the deceased gentleman.' They knew how to write obituaries in those days! After William died Mary Jane emigrated to South Africa to live with her sister Annie Elizabeth and stayed there until she died, aged 80.

THE LATE REV. W. S. BAMBER.
We regret to announce the death of the Rev. W. S. Bamber, head-master of Appleby Grammar School, which took place at three o'clock on Friday morning at his residence. The deceased gentleman had suffered from an attack of the all-prevailing epidemic, influenza, which was followed by acute pneumonia, and, notwithstanding the skill and attention of four medical gentlemen who attended him, he quietly passed away at the above-mentioned hour. The sad tidings were received with intense regret throughout the village, all persons bearing testimony to the spotless character and inestimable qualities of the deceased gentleman, Mr. Bamber

John and Ellen's daughter **Annie Elizabeth Armistead** [ph2] married **Horace William Orford** who, for three years, was working as second master at Appleby Grammar School at the same time as her brother-in-law William Simpson Bamber. Horace was another Cambridge graduate and cleric. Horace and Annie Elizabeth had at least eight children. After several years in Peterborough, Annie and Horace moved to Bloemfontein, South Africa where Horace took up a post as 'Principal of St Andrew's College and Canon at the Cathedral'. In 1897 Annie became one of thousands who died of typhoid. In the Boer War, the college was converted to a hospital with 620 beds, with Horace on ambulance duty. Horace is known for praying for peace and blaming the Dutch Reformed Church for the war. He lived until he was 89 [2].



John and Ellen's son **William Armistead** worked as a medical officer in Cambridgeshire. John and Ellen's son **Hugh Armistead** appears to have been a military man. He had two daughters with his wife **Eliza Ellen Bailey**, one of whom was brought up by grandmother Ellen. His daughter Mary Alice worked as a 'gold embroideress', a very specialised occupation.

Peterborough people will realise the fratricidal nature of the Transvaal war by a circumstance relating to a former well-known and much esteemed resident in the city. The Rev. Horace Orford was for many years one of the most popular and energetic clergymen attached to St. Mark's Church, Peterborough. He left England some few years ago and became the president of a large educational establishment in Bloemfontein, where he and his family now reside. His son has now been commandeered by the Boers to fight on their side. Of course, there are many similar instances, which practically makes it to some extent a civil war, but when it comes to Peterborough men being pitted against Peterborough men, for with our Peterborough reserves there it amounts to that, the fact is brought home to us with startling reality.

Going back a generation, Hugh and Jenny's second son, **William Armistead**, along with **William Shepherd**, was apprenticed to druggist and grocer, **John Hayhurst**, who worked in Settle Town Hall [ph6]. John Hayhurst died in 1843, and the two William's continued his business at the Town

Settle Graveyard Project

Hall as '*Armistead and Shepherd*' [LSA], and **James Hunt**'s hairdressing business moved next door. William married **Maria Harger**, the younger sister of John's wife Ellen Harger in 1848. William and Maria left Settle and moved to Kendal, still trading as '*Armistead and Shepherd*'. While William worked, Maria brought up three children. William died in 1862, aged just 38, and their only daughter **Mary Annie** died a year later aged just seven. Maria was well provided for in William's will and spent her remaining 33 years alone in 'Castle Villa' in Kendal. She died aged 82.



Settle Market (Sheep Market), photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

William and Maria's sons **John** and **Hugh Armistead** were also chemists and worked in partnership in Dalton in Furness. Hugh was recorded as the owner of '*houses in Castle Hill*' in Settle from 1912 until his death in 1921. His listing on the register coincides with the death of his mother. These houses had originally been the property of **Isabella Harger**, the widow of **Richard Harger**, so it seems the Castle Hill houses stayed in the family. John and Hugh were both confirmed bachelors, although after brother John died, 62 year old Hugh eventually married his housekeeper **Eleanora Mounsey**, a 37 year old mason's daughter. When Hugh died five years later Eleanor was the beneficiary of this branch of the Armistead estate, lucky girl!

John and Grace's daughter **Bridget Armistead** married **Henry Clark**, the owner of Millgate House in Rathmell. They had six daughters, each of whom married and have interesting stories. Their granddaughter **Bridget Holden** married **Anthony Beverley**, who, together with his brother, **Christopher Lodge Beverley**, set up the award winning Beverley Brewery [ph7] in Wakefield which operated until 1967 when it was taken over by Watney Mann. Christopher Lodge Beverley died in 1887. His family contributed money for one of the eight new bells at Holy Ascension church and paid for an inscription on the tenor bell. Part of the inscription reads:



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*When the priest's voice silent falls
Loudly mine his people calls
Him of pious name I sing, Christopher Lodge Beverley*

John and Grace's son eldest son John had a grandson **Henry Armistead** who also found himself in Settle, running the Golden Lion Hotel. He was so interesting that he has his own account



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.

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

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