

Brennands and Tomlinsons, the tale of two sisters

John Bentham, a farmer, was born in 1809 in Selside, just beyond Horton-in-Ribblesdale. In 1834 he married **Hannah Lund** from Clapham who already had a son, **William Lund**, and they started their own family of another son and three daughters with John continuing to farm, still in Selside. By the time of the 1851 census the family were living in Langcliffe Place Lodge with John working as a 'gentleman's servant' to the Clayton family who were the mill owners. The mill owners were declared bankrupt around this time and moved away. The mill was shut down and this brought about the movement of hundreds of workers to the mills of Lancashire, with many re-settling in Accrington. John and Hannah stayed put in Settle. The 1850s brought more bad news for John – step-son William Lund died in 1853, aged 24 and Hannah died in 1856, aged 51.

In 1858 John married **Ann Marsden** and moved to Chapel Street in Settle. They had another son, **William Bentham**. John died in 1883, aged 75. John and Hannah are buried at Giggleswick with their daughter **Alice (Bentham) Taylor** who died within months of marrying a local farmer **John Taylor**, and son **John Bentham** who died, unmarried, aged 35. As was custom and practice, the stone was not erected until the man of the family had passed away.

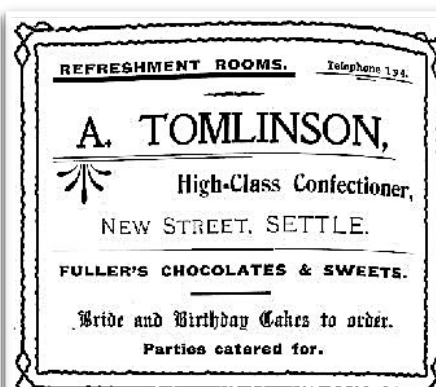
In loving memory of John Bentham of Settle who died March 15th 1883 aged 75 years. Also Hannah his wife who died May 26th 1856 aged 51 years. Also Alice their daughter who died Sep'br 4th 1860 aged 22 years. Also John their son who died Nov'br 28th 1876 aged 35 years B8/59



Youngest son William became an ironmonger in Leeds and took his mother Ann with him. The two other daughters remained close. **Jane Bentham** married **Thomas Tomlinson** and **Ann Bentham** married **James Brennand**. The two families lived together on Constitution Hill for several years. What happened to them?

Daughter Jane Bentham, aged 34 married 23 year old **Thomas Tomlinson**, one of many children of **William Tomlinson**, a grocer from Wigglesworth and his wife **Elizabeth Silverwood**. When Thomas and Jane married she was a few months pregnant with **Gertrude Tomlinson**, the first of three daughters and a son. Thomas started his working life as a joiner and cabinet maker, but, by the time of the 1911 census was working as the manager of the 'The Craven Stationery Company' on the corner of Duke Street and Station Road. **John Moore**, an immensely successful draper, was a good friend of the family and had a business interest in the Tomlinson's stationery business.

Thomas often placed adverts which were printed alongside those of **Annie Tomlinson**, a high-class confectioner, also on New Street (Station Road). Annie was unrelated, certainly going back three generations. She was the daughter of **William Tomlinson**, a coachman at Townhead and his wife **Ann Mason** –see *Davis Dickenson*.



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Thomas and Jane's son, **John William Tomlinson** began his working life as a 'draper's cashier' working for family friend John Moore. In 1916 he emigrated to Australia and signed up to the 28th (Infantry) Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces. The Battalion fought in the final stages of Gallipoli and then on the Western Front. John William had a long service record in France with a serious leg injury in 1917. John William was discharged in 1919 but it's not clear what happened to him next, nor where in the world he settled. With a war like that, anything could have happened.

Since he was reported Convalescent in September last - previously reported, admitted to the 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol, England, suffering from gunshot wound right leg, severe - no further information has been received in respect of No.5655 Private J. Tomlinson, 28th Battalion.

Thomas and Jane Tomlinson's two eldest daughters, Gertrude and Hannah, stayed at home and helped with the business. After Thomas and Jane died they continued the business successfully for over 30 years until their deaths. They are buried together in *New D7* with the most fabulous gravestone. They were comfortably wealthy women, both choosing Alan Hyslop as the executor of their wills.

In Loving Memory of Hannah Tomlinson died Dec. 17th 1959 Aged 77 Years, and Gertrude Tomlinson died April 18th 1965 aged 84 years

Thomas and Jane's youngest daughter **Lizzie Tomlinson** performed in the Settle Amateur Operatic Society [ph1]. She took this seriously – at the time of the 1911 census Lizzie was found in London, describing herself as a stage professional. Unfortunately, she died less than a year later, aged 23.



Thomas and Jane were buried in *Old D32* in the grave next to Jane's sister Ann (Bentham) Brennand and her husband in *Old D31* although they were all commemorated on the same stone.

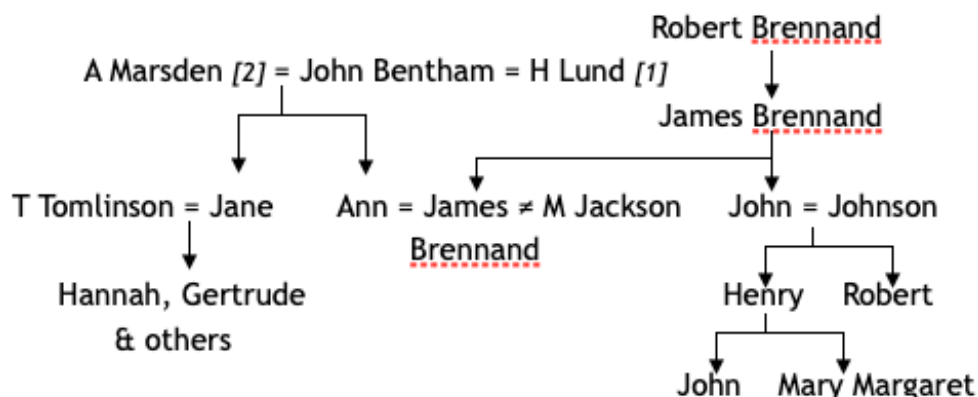
In Loving Memory of James Brennand born April 11th 1830 died Feby 22nd 1897 also of Ann wife of the above born Nov 18th 1836 died Jany 10th 1911 also Lizzie daughter of Thomas and Jane Tomlinson died Jany 1st 1912 aged 23 years also Jane Tomlinson died Jany 12th 1919 aged 70 years also Thomas Tomlinson died May 28th 1933 aged 76 years. In thy presence in fullness of joy, Old D31

Talking of the Brennands, Ann Bentham's husband, **James Brennand**, came from a long established Settle family. His grandfather **Robert Brennand** had worked the Runley Mill cotton mill in the early 1800s, at one stage in partnership with **James Thornber** [1]. James Brennand's father, another **James Brennand (Snr)**, was a house painter and son **James (Jnr)** followed suit [5C]. The family lived in Duke Street and Kirkgate in the centre of Settle. James (Jnr) was one of ten siblings but, tragically,

—James Thornber, of Settle, and Robert Brennand, of Runley-bridge, Settle, York, cotton-spinners—Stephen and John Shel-

JAMES BRENNAND
PAINTER, AND PAPER HANGER,
KIRKGATE, SETTLE,
DEGS to inform his friends and the public that he has just received an extensive assortment of the newest patterns of
PAPER HANGINGS,
And that he has a large Stock on hand from 6d. per dozen upwards, to which he invites attention.

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Bentham Tomlinson ~~Brennan~~ Family Tree



five of these died in infancy. James Brennand (Snr) and his wife Ann (Tarn) Brennand are buried in the graveyard at Giggleswick A1d/6 with a fallen flat stone memorial which commemorates spinster daughter Ann and the five infants.

In memory of James Brennand of Settle who died June 29th 1861 aged 65 years. Also of Ann Brennand wife of the above who died March 28th 1870 aged 75 years. Also of 5 children who died in infancy. Also of Ann Brennand who died Dec'r 20th 1861 aged 35 years. A1d/5



One daughter, Mary Brennand, married Samuel Gibbons, a builder from Liverpool and they emigrated to Michigan, USA. Spinster daughter Jane Brennand was buried in the newer section of Giggleswick graveyard B8/67 when she died and has a stone being ravaged by ivy.

In loving memory of Jane Brennand of Settle who died Dec. 26th 1884 aged 56 years. B8/67

When he was 21, James (Jnr) was scheduled to marry Miss Margaret Jackson. The announcement was even placed in local papers [2], however church records show the wedding never took place – someone got cold feet. It's not even clear who Margaret was. It was another 12 years before James plucked up the courage to marry again, this time to Ann Bentham. They didn't have children but helped with sister Jane's family.

Settle.—On Tuesday last, at Ascension Church, Settle, by the Rev. W. F. Pierson, Mr. James Brennand, junr., painter, to Miss Margaret Jackson, both of Settle.

JOHN BRENNAND,
 HOUSE DECORATOR, PAINTER & GILDER,
 KIRKGATE,
 Returns his sincere thanks to the gentry and the public for the liberal support he has received since his father's death. He trusts for a continuance of the same which it will be his earnest endeavour to merit.
 J. B. solicits a visit to his Show Room, in which all the newest designs in Papers, Panel Decorations, and Painting are now on view.

James' eldest brother John Brennand was another house painter running his business from Kirkgate [SC, LSA]. John and his wife Mary (Johnson) Brennand spent their whole lives in Settle. After John died, aged 56, Mary continued the business with the help of her two sons, Robert Brennand and Henry Brennand. Decorating was not usually a women's business but as a widow this was

The two classrooms at the South end of the School were built in 1882 at a cost of £318. The masonry and brick laying was carried out by J. Winskill & Son for £150. J. Grisodale had the joinery contract for £91. Metcalfe and Stirk were paid £57 for slating whilst Holmes Bros. did the plumbing, etc. for £11 : 10 : 0d. The painting was carried out by the firm of Mary Brennand for £3 : 10 : 0d.

BRENNAND,
 Painter, House Decorator, &c.,
 — KIRKGATE, SETTLE. —
 STOCK OF PAPER-HANGINGS,
 Of upwards of 4000 pieces, from the best London, Glasgow, and Leeds houses.
 — Frames Re gilt in Mat and Varnish. —
 Paintings, Engravings, & Memorial Carls neatly Framed at moderate prices.
SHOW ROOM.
 All the newest London and Parisian Designs to be seen on self Roll Screens: A special Pattern Book only sent to the first houses in the trade.
BRENNAND, Painter, &c., Kirkgate, SETTLE.

Settle Graveyard Project

regarded as acceptable. In 1882 Mary won the contract to paint the two new classroom at the National School in Upper Settle, charging £8 10s 0d. **John Winskill, James Grisedale** and **Thomas Holmes** had also done work on the classroom. John and Mary Brennand were buried at Rathmell with Mary's parents.

In affectionate remembrance of John Brennand of Settle who died May 7th 1877, aged 56 years. Also of Mary, his wife, who died Aug 15th 1889, aged 78 years.

John and Mary's son Robert Brennand, another housepainter, remained unmarried until he was 52 but then young **Rose Elizabeth Matthews** from Hull caught his eye – she was 25. They married in 1916 but Robert died eight years later after the birth of a daughter, **Ruth Brennand**. Rose and Ruth moved back to Hull but the remains of Ruth and her husband **John Dennis Sewell** are buried back in Settle with Robert, *Old J34*.

In Loving Memory of Robert Brennand died 1924 and his daughter Ruth Sewell died 1995 and her loving husband John Dennis Sewell died 2007 Resting in Peace



John and Mary's son Henry Brennand was also a decorator in Kirkgate and advertised in 1916 '*Established a Century*' [LSA]. He had two sons with his wife **Barbara Parrington** who came from Dent but had come to Settle to work in domestic service for the **Birkbeck family** at Anley, Settle. Henry and Barbara's son **John Brennand** also enjoyed performing in the Settle Amateur Operatic Society [ph1] before marrying **Eliza Ellison**, the daughter of **Robert Ellison**, a farmer at the Folly, and working as a bricklayer in Rathmell.

Henry and Barbara's daughter, **Mary Margaret Brennand**, worked as a schoolteacher at Langcliffe School, appointed on 1st May 1905, earning £80 a year. She began with class 1 of the infants but, upon the appointment of **Claude Bennett**, took over responsibility for the junior girls on alternate days with **Miss Yeadon**. She remained there for over 40 years. During the war Claude Bennett signed up to become a Captain in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Mary Margaret was appointed temporary headteacher in his absence. During her tenure Mary Margaret had to deal with outbreaks of measles (during which one four year old boy died), diphtheria (in which one girl died), Spanish Flu and '*vermin and dirty heads*'. School was shut and the buildings and contents disinfected,

discipline is exceedingly good.
Salary sheet received. Particulars

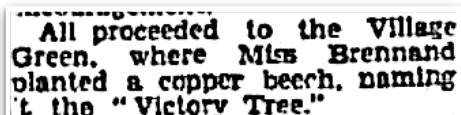
Mary M. Brennand	C.A. £80 (-44)	£6.9.4
Annie Yeadon	U.A. £60	£5.
Florence M. Graham	U.A. £45	£3.15
C. Bennett	H.T. £120 (-5.10)	£9.10.2
Mary E. Monk	Cookhouse £12	£1.

Received Circular of E (Teachers in Charge at Recreation)
Following organisation arranged:
 Infants: Miss Graham every day
 Girls: Miss Brennand & Miss Yeadon in charge alternate days
 Boys: Head whenever possible

cleaned or burnt on these occasions [A]. Unfortunately, Claude Bennett was killed by an enemy sniper at Lagnicourt in France in July 1917 so Mary Margaret remained in charge until the school appointed his permanent replacement, **Graham Vevers**, in 1920. Equal opportunities employment law was not in place in those days and a male headteacher was probably regarded as a much better choice, even if Mary Margaret had done an excellent job in the headmaster's absence. Outbreaks of diphtheria and scarlet fever continued with victims taken by horse to the Fever isolation Hospital at Harden Bridge. By the 1930s pupils were given vaccinations by the school nurse and also daily milk and cod liver oil to help prevent disease.

In the absence of affordable teacher training, especially during the war years, **Maud Beatrice Procter** came to help voluntarily at Langcliffe School. She was the eldest daughter of **Joseph Procter**, a tailor. Mary Margaret trained Maud to become an assistant elementary school teacher and saw her through exams. Maud Beatrice didn't marry so was able to have a career in teaching, working for some time in Barnoldswick. Maud Beatrice's sister and brother were both killed in the war and have a stained glass window dedicated to them in the church.

Mary Margaret retired in 1946 and was given a good send off by school staff and pupils. Six months later she was asked to plant the copper beech 'Victory Tree' in Langcliffe and present awards to school children [3].



Mary Margaret was buried with her parents in the *New graveyard L41*. Unfortunately, Mary Margaret spent her last days at Harden Bridge isolation hospital too.

In Memoream [sic] Henry Brennand died October 27th 1929 aged 71 years. Barbara his wife died January 26th 1937 aged 82 years. John only son died January 6th 1929 aged 41 years. Mary Margaret Brennand only daughter born 4 March 1885 died 30th January 1969, New L41.



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'.

A – *The Bell Rings Across the Green, a History of Langcliffe School*

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

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ph1 – photo with the kind permission of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, thanks to John Reid, ph2 – photo with the kind permission of Mike Howarth from a school centenary leaflet

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