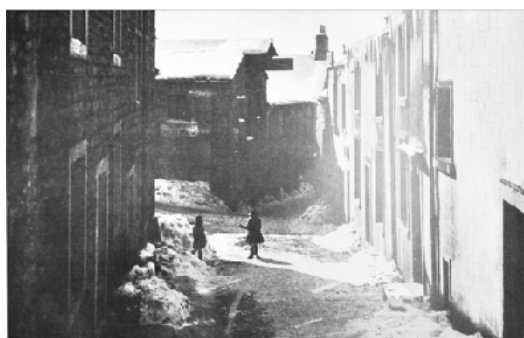


Robert Brown, a 'very fiery and excitable' shoemaker

Thomas Brown and his sons were the blacksmiths in Clapham just as the Capsticks were the blacksmithing family in Austwick. Thomas and his wife Catherine Jackson had five sons and two daughters.

Third son Robert Brown, born in 1825, decided to break the mould and became a shoemaker. He moved to Settle to set up his business. When he was 37 he married 22 year old Elizabeth Leak/Lake who was one of the many girls who had come to the area from Norfolk. The mechanisation of farming caused the agricultural depression in East Anglia so the rejuvenated Langcliffe cotton mills in Settle provided new opportunities for many Norfolk folk.

Robert and Elizabeth lived on Castle Hill, nestled below Bowskills Yard, at the bottom of the row of three houses which were demolished in the 1960s [ph1,2]. With no children they had a relatively quiet life but had some company and a little bit of income from subletting a room. At the time of the 1891 census their lodger was John Lambert, a tailor and brother of Settle's famous printer James Wilcock Lambert.



Robert was remembered as quite a character, 'Old Bobby was a very fiery and excitable man – a keen teetotaller, and the butt of the Settle boys, but his chief notoriety lay in a wonderful ode' – *Ode to a glass of water*'[CH].

The ode ran to about 50 lines of 'unheard of gibberish' which caused convulsions of laughter when he read it out at a Blue Ribbon meeting of the Temperance Society. Apparently, Bobby retaliated with a storm of abuse and stormed out the room and 'washed his hands of the whole lot'. Oh dear. Here is the Ode to a Glass of Water so you can judge for yourself:

Before I conclude I should like to mention Old Robert Brown, cobbler, of Castle Hill, and his immortal "Ode to a Glass of Water." Old Bobby was a very fiery and excitable man—a keen teetotaller, and the butt of the Settle boys, but his chief notoriety lay in a wonderful ode which he published on the aforesaid beverage, a presentation copy of which lies before me, and from which I venture to make a few quotations.

"Come here, come here, thou sweet little dear
Thou looks so beautiful, bright and clear,
And I love thee far more dear,
Than ever I loved rum, gin, brandy or
home-brewed beer;
Because after taking thee I do not seem so
simple, foolish and queer,
By partaking of thee I am not inclined to
go on the spree.

So here's a health to brothers and sisters
round
And wishing these Blue Ribbon and Temperance
contests both far and wide their
borders may extend;
And may this raging current of intemperance
soon be brought to an end;
And may we all with hand and heart and
voice in kind affection blend;
And when your boots and shoes get out of
repair please send part for me to mend;
And by so doing a helping hand to me you'll
lend.

Thou strengtheneth my nerves, thou purifies
my stomach,
Thou cools and renovates my blood when
within thy bounds I keep.
But thou does me far more harm than good
when I do drink too deep.

If you want real good water to drink,
Go and drink at the well that ebbs and
flows ;
It is located right at the bottom of Giggles-
wick Rocks ;
And if you drink until your stomach is
full hard as a block
It will neither make you drunk nor crazy
So that you be sent to prison or put in the
stocks.
And I believe the first of the Quakers they
called him George Fox :
This is really an end of my poetry, it is,
by Jooks."



Despite locals mocking Bobby the poem was recorded and here it is, 150 years later! Bobby would probably have been incredibly proud and amazed. He died in 1897, aged 71 and is buried in the unmarked grave *Old CX56*, all by himself. Widow Elizabeth moved away.

Robert's eldest brother **John Brown**, born in 1821, took his blacksmithing business to Giggleswick and spent his whole life at the Smithy on Belle Hill, now 'Smithy Cottage'. An axe, engraved with '*John Brown*' is still at the property today [ph3]. John married **Ann Grime**, also from Clapham. Her parents were **Robert Grime** and **Agnes Kidd** who ran a large farm at Lane Ends at Lawkland. Ann's cousins included **William Grime**, servant to the **Birkbeck** family.



In 1853 John was engaged by **Stephen Parker** to make a ton of iron into horseshoes, for Australia. So far John had made 1016 shoes from 12 cwt of iron and the rest to be finished in time for the steam ship *Great Britain* to sail [4]. Several young men of Settle, including **Edward Duckett**, the son of beerhouse keeper **Charles Duckett**, emigrated to Australia in 1848-50. Edward set up his ironmongery business, '*The Golden Horseshoe*', and it's quite possible/likely Stephen was working with him.

THE DIGGINGS.—Mr **Stephen Parker**, of Lodge, near Settle, has engaged Mr **John Brown**, of Giggleswick, blacksmith, and Mr **Wm. Lee**, of Stainforth, to make a ton of iron into horse-shoes, for Australia. Mr **Brown** has manufactured upwards of 12 cwt. of the iron into 1016 shoes, and the other will be finished in time for the sailing of the *Great Britain*, which, we hope, will be as fortunate with the shoes, as she has been with her cargo from other ports.

By the way, the *SS Great Britain* was designed by **Isambard Kingdom Brunel**, initially as a passenger ship, the largest ship in the world at the time. However, at the time of the Australian Gold Rush, she took on a new route from Liverpool to Melbourne, carrying emigrants (and the first English cricket team to tour Australia in 1861) and some cargo, including Stephen's horseshoes. The journey took around 64 days. The ship carried gold back to England on the return journey. The



ship's final voyage was in 1886 when a fire broke out en route from Penarth, South Wales to Panama, transporting coal. She limped to the Falkland Islands where she was found to be damaged beyond economic repair. In 1970 the wreck was brought back to Bristol by pontoon to be restored and can now be visited at Bristol dry dock [ph4].

This wasn't John's only connection with Stephen Parker – Stephen also sublet some of the land associated with the Lodge, 'Far Lodge', to John between 1861 and 1866. John paid rent to Stephen but Stephen paid him 4 shillings a week to do maintenance work on the land. In 1866 Stephen gave John notice to quit as he was behind with his rent to the sum of £11. However, a year later John took Stephen to court for failing to pay £29 expenses for repairs to fences, manure etc. The judge dismissed the case, saying it was an afterthought and 'had no foundations whatsoever'[1]. John had to pay costs. It's shame when relationships break down like that, isn't it?

His Honor observed that it was clear this demand was an afterthought and never intended to be made until August last, and that it had no foundation whatever. Plaintiff was nonsuited with costs.

In 1883, when he was 62, John's door was damaged by five young lads throwing stones at it with damages estimated at 1 shilling. One of the lads, Robert Bullock, was one of brother Robert Brown's neighbours on Castle Hill. Perhaps this is why Robert, being 'fiery and excitable' and fed up of being 'the butt of Settle boys' took the boys to court to repay the damage on his brother's property [1]. One of the boys, William Foster, a butcher's son, had a terrible marriage to naughty Thomasina Bennetts in Canada, but that's a story for another day.

DAMAGE BY BOYS.—At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before J. Birkbeck, Esq. (chairman), C. Ingleby, and J. Birkbeck, junr., Esq., five boys named William Foster (8), James Carrodice (14), Robert Bullock (11), James Harrison (9), and Charles Bulcock (12), were summoned by Robert Brown, of Settle, shoemaker, for wilfully damaging a door, the property of John Brown, of Giggleswick. The damage, which was estimated at 1s, was caused by stones being thrown at the door. The charges against Bullock and Harrison were dismissed. Foster, Bulcock, and Carrodice were found guilty, and the cases against them were adjourned for a fortnight to enable their parents to make arrangements with the complainant.

John and Ann had two children. Son William Kidd Brown took over the Grime family farm at Lawkland but died, aged just 25, leaving his wife Isabella Cornthwaite to bring up three daughters. William is buried in Giggleswick graveyard. The grave has a metal plaque attached to iron railings, the only one of this type of this memorial in the churchyard.



In affectionate remembrance of William Kidd Brown of Lane End who died January 17th 1879 aged 25 years.

Isabella took the daughters back to be with her parents in Wray and remarried. John and Ann Brown are also buried in Giggleswick graveyard but not commemorated on a stone. Perhaps they are in the same plot.

John and Ann's daughter Elizabeth Ann Brown married William Edward Cook, a joiner, who was her second cousin and son of John Cook and Elizabeth Grime. William Edward Cook and his dad John Cook got into a couple of scrapes with fellow navy Worrell Kellam who was accused of fraud and stealing wood (on multiple occasions). Worrell had sacked John Cook from his team and so John decided to report him to the authorities [3]. William Edward's 13 year old brother, John Cook, a choirboy, drowned in the Ribble at 'Birkbeck Weir' by Anley in 1886 [2].

prisoner's apprehension.—William Edward Cook, son of John-Cook, had been employed at the same place, and had seen the wood lying about. One of the men had been in the habit of putting pieces of wood under his own bench, and then taking them away. Witness saw the pumle-box in May last. He declined to say whether he had taken wood away himself.—The learned counsel for

FATAL BATHING ACCIDENTS.

Yesterday afternoon the dead body of a boy named John Cook, the son of a joiner in Settle, was discovered in the River Ribble at a part called Birkbeck Weir, near Settle, which is a favourite resort for bathers. No one appears to have been with the boy when he was bathing. He was a member of the choir of the Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle, and his death called forth many expressions of regret.

Settle Graveyard Project

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](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'.

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 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Leeds Mercury, 3 – Manchester Evening News, 4 – Kendal Mercury

ph1 – painting by Gertrude Brodie credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, posted by Richard Fattorini, ph2 – credited to 'The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick' by Thomas Brayshaw, ph3 – kindly provided by Jennifer Scholey, ph4 – credited to Wikipedia, the Lordprice collection,

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