

Thomas Marsden, mill manager and Wesleyan Preacher

Thomas, born in 1847, was the sixth out of eight children of **Richard Marsden**, [ph1] a shoemaker from Austwick and **Elizabeth Wilcock**. Thomas' brother, **James Marsden**, was born and died in 1841 and is buried in the infants' corner of the Ancient graveyard in *Ancient EX23*. The family lived in Langcliffe but Thomas' parents and siblings all moved to Lancashire during the 1870s, several working as tailors or salesmen.



At the time of the 1871 census, aged 24, Thomas lived with his parents and was a cashier at the cotton mill and a local Wesleyan preacher. In 1873 Thomas married **Mary Mclver**, one of eight children of an agricultural labourer, **Kenneth Mclver** from Penrith. Despite the ring of possible Irish descent, this branch of Mclvers had been in Yorkshire for generations. Perhaps Mary had come to Settle to find work at Hector Christie's mill in Langcliffe? Most of Mary's siblings moved to Liverpool for work in skilled trades, several being tailors too.

Thomas and Mary lived at 15 Craven Terrace in Settle, handy for the mills, where they brought up a daughter and eight sons. The youngest was called **Lorenzo Marsden**, presumably a nod to the original owner of the Langcliffe mills, **Lorenzo Christie**, Hector Christie's dad. By the time of the 1891 census Thomas had worked his way up to the position of manager of the mill and was still preaching. Thomas died suddenly in February 1899, aged 53, having served Hector Christie at the mill for 30 years, since the age of 22. He'd also been a Wesleyan Methodist Lay Preacher for 33 years, since the age of just 19 [1]. Little Lorenzo was just three when his dad died.

Mr. Thomas Marsden, mill manager, died very suddenly at Craven Terrace, Settle, on Thursday evening. He had been in the service of Mr. Hector Christie, at Langcliffe Mills, near Settle, for 30 years. He was well known and highly respected in the district. He was in his 53rd year.

Thomas left a very generous estate to Mary, the equivalent of £300,000 in today's value. In 1908, widow Mary took the money and emigrated to Quebec in Canada with five of their children and another two followed. This was a very brave thing for a widow to do – she didn't appear to have any relations who had emigrated but there were several intercontinental travellers from Settle (see *Close, Woolgar*) and perhaps she was friends with some of them? Son **Richard Walter Marsden** had taken over **Thomas Dawson's** grocery business in 1903 [LSA] but obviously decided Canada had better prospects. Of the children that emigrated it seems only their daughter and one son married and almost all worked as farmers. **Kenneth George Marsden**, aged 24 started working as a Research Chemist for the Ceylon Rubber Planters' Association but joined the family in Canada in 1920, still working as an analytical chemist.

Mr. K. G. Marsden (formerly of Settle) sailed for Ceylon, on the P. and O. "Simla," to take up the duties of Research Chemist to the Ceylon Rubber Planters' Association.

WALTER MARSDEN
(late T. DAWSON).
Family Grocer &c
Provision Dealer,
Duke Street, SETTLE.

TEAS from 1/4 to 3/- per lb.
Samples submitted.
REDUCTION ON QUANTITIES.

Prime Hams & Bacon
SMOKED BACON AND HAMS,
At lowest possible Market Prices.

Lancashire, Wensleydale & American Cheese
GOOD HOUSEHOLD FLOUR.
Agent for HOVIS FLOUR for Brown Bread.
FRESH YEAST TWICE A WEEK.
SAUSAGES, POLONY, &c., fresh every Saturday.
PATENT MEDICINES at reduced prices.

AND A TRIAL ORDER RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

Settle Graveyard Project

This left son **Lancelot Coates Marsden** behind. Lancelot had moved to Manchester to live with his spinster aunt **Elizabeth Marsden**. There he married **Susie Ramsden**, the youngest of seven daughters of builder **William Ramsden**. Perhaps Susie was not keen on the idea of emigrating? Lancelot and Susie lived in Manchester and had two children while he worked as an auctioneer's clerk. Several of Lancelot's brothers sailed back to the UK to visit Lancelot, presumably, during the 1920s. For some reason in 1932, Lancelot travelled from Manchester to Stainforth Foss and took his own life '*in a fit of depression*' [1]. He was 51. Lancelot had served in the war with the Royal Army Medical Corps – maybe this had something to do with it?

At an inquest at Settle yesterday on Lancelot Coates Marsden (51), of Slade Grove, Longsight, Manchester, whose body was found in the River Ribble at Stainforth Foss, a verdict was returned that he drowned himself during a fit of depression.

Susie stayed in Manchester bringing up the children. At the time of the 1939 pre-war register daughter **Susie Millicent Marsden** worked as an engineer's shorthand typist and son **Lancelot William Marsden** was an assistant advertising manager for an engineer. Susie Millicent remained unmarried and died, aged 95, in Stockport. Son Lancelot William Marsden died during WWII in Abadan Khorramshahr in Iran aged just 32, two years after getting married.

Sacred to the Memory of Thomas Marsden born July 3rd 1846 Died Feby 23rd 1899. For 33 years a Wesleyan Methodist Lay Preacher in the Settle circuit (and for some years Manager of Langcliffe Mills) and he being dead yet speaketh. Also Mary McIver Marsden widow of the above who died at Munson Alberta Canada July 19th 1921 aged 70 years. At Rest. Also Lancelot Coates their son and beloved husband of Susie Marsden died Dec 19th 1932 aged 51 years, Old E29



On the grave inscription, Thomas's wife is remembered with her maiden name which may seem very progressive, especially for an agricultural labourer's daughter, but it is the standard form for burials on the far side of the Atlantic. Disturbingly, out of the 14 death by suicide discovered in our graveyard, five are from families of vicars or ministers.



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 settlresearch@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 – Yorkshire Post

ph1 – photo credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username SallyMcG12

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