

The Smith brothers, schoolmasters, Giggleswick School

In Memory of Stephen Pellatt Smith eldest son of Stephen and Mary Sophia Smith: born August 17 1848 died December 22 1905. 'Keep innocence and take heed unto the thing that is right. For that shall bring a man peace at the last.' E58

This unusual stone and distinctive inscription commemorates the life of a single 57 year old man from Kent who was a modern languages schoolmaster at Giggleswick School. After he retired he lived at The Ashfield Hotel in Settle, now the social club but a Temperance Hotel in those days – bachelors of a certain class often lived at hotels and inns and Stephen was definitely of that class. Stephen died of a stroke with his brother **Douglas Rucker Smith** by his side. His death was certified by **Dr Lovegrove** and the registrar was **James Parker**. Stephen left a very generous estate to his brother Douglas. That could be the end of a very short story if it weren't for his incredible family.

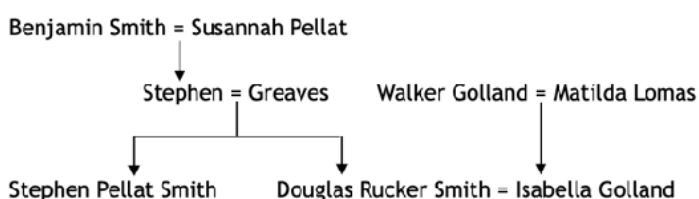


The brothers' grandfather, **Benjamin Smith**, was born in Birmingham, in 1764. He began his career as a button and shoe fastener manufacturer. In 1802 he moved to Lincoln's Inn, London and set up a silversmith business. Here he married **Susannah Pellat** in 1817. Biographies explain *'His reputation as a master silversmith secured some important commissions, including commemorative pieces for Wellington – a presentation plate, a huge pair of candelabra, and the Wellington Shield with myriad figures in relief.'* He also excelled at working on a smaller scale: silver salvers, trays, Grecian sugar bowls or elegant tea sets, and dealt in diamonds and other precious stones. Some of his antique pieces are still on sale today worth over £30,000!! [ph1].



Unfortunately, the end of his life was a disaster. At the Bankruptcy court in March 1850 *'the principal topic of conversation among commercial circles was the extensive failure of Mr Benjamin Smith, the wholesale silversmith of Duke Stet, Lincoln's Inn.'* [1] Benjamin had debts of £100,000 and assets of only £21,000 and died just a month later. Oh dear.

The Smith brothers



COURT OF BANKRUPTCY.

There were fifteen meetings to-day, before the presiding Commissioners Goulburn and Evans, but the majority of them, being merely audit and dividend meetings, were devoid of any feature of public interest. The principal topic of conversation among commercial circles, was the extensive failure of Mr. Benjamin Smith, the wholesale silversmith of Duke-street, Lincoln's-lun-fields. Mr.

By June 1850 Benjamin's son, **Stephen Smith**, had taken over the business in partnership with **William Nicholson**, a senior employee in the company[2]. Obviously, they took advantage of the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace of 1851 to showcase their excellent craftsmanship. The quality of work was obviously maintained as there are numerous reports of Lord Mayors and dignitaries presented with Smith and Nicholson silverware to celebrate promotions or retirement [3].

INTERESTING TESTIMONIAL.—The *employés* and others connected with the execution of the works on the Shrewsbury and Hereford Railway, presented to Wm. Field, Esq., a handsome piece of plate, in testimony of their respect and esteem, at a public dinner at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, on the 2nd inst. It was manufactured by Messrs. Smith, Nicholson, and Co., the eminent silversmiths, of London, and forms a centre piece of unique design, standing 38 inches high, weighing 350 ounces, and valued at £300.

Stephen had a lead role in the Silver Trade Pension Society which provided relief for distressed members and their widows [4]. William Nicholson retired in 1864 and Stephen continued with his

eldest son, our Stephen Pellat Smith. They had premises in King Street, Covent Garden and in Oxford Street.

Stephen (Snr) had married **Mary Sophia Greaves** who came from Warwickshire, the daughter of a banker. She came with outstanding credentials (and a healthy dowry). Sophia's sister **Celina** married **Edward Fordham Flower** [ph4] who founded the Flowers' brewery in Stratford-upon-Avon. Edward was also an author who successfully campaigned for a Shakespeare memorial theatre to mark the tercentenary of his birth in 1864. Sophia's brother **John Whitehead Greaves** was a pioneer in the slate industry in Wales, winning a 'Class 1 Prize' in the 1851 Great Exhibition. As treasurer and chairman for the Ffestiniog Railway, John travelled on the first train in 1836. Sophia's younger sister **Rebecca Mary** became the mother of **Sir Michael Henry Larkin**, a cement manufacturer and the first of the Larkin Baronets. That's quite a talented family!



So, this was the background of Stephen Pellat Smith's ancestors – no pressure then! Stephen was the eldest of Stephen and Sophia Mary's three sons and six daughters. The silversmith business had been international – descendants have passports to show that Stephen and his father travelled to Europe, Egypt and Russia so Stephen must have been fluent in languages in order to do his business. While Stephen was helping with the business, his youngest brother, **Douglas Rucker Smith**, was studying Classics at Oxford. When their father died, Stephen decided to use his knowledge of languages in a different way and sold the business to Mappin and Webb. In 1887 Stephen went to work with his brother, Douglas, at Giggleswick School as a teacher of modern languages, replacing **Archibald William Hyde**, below. The brothers had both been appointed by **Rev George Style** who had a 'most necessary quality in a Headmaster, the power of choosing the right Assistant Masters' including our brothers who were 'only a few among the many who helped him with every quality they possessed.' [A] Since his own appointment in 1869 Rev Style had transformed the school, increasing standards and pupil numbers to make it one of the best schools in the country. What a privilege to work there at that time. The 1891 census records them at Giggleswick School together with **John Rosindale Wynne-Edwards**, a Mathematics and Science master.

the most important thing in life. Thirdly he had another most necessary quality in a Headmaster, the power of choosing the right Assistant Masters. Dr. Marshall Watts, G. B. Mannock, Douglas R. Smith, S. P. Smith, C. F. Hyde, Rev. J. W. Chippett, A. W. Reith, are only a few among the many who helped him with every quality they possessed.

In July 1881 there was massive storm in the Ribblesdale valley. Such was the ferocity of the water that the topsoil on PenYgent was washed off and the characteristic stepped rakes were revealed, now being the defining feature of the hill. In 1887 Douglas Rucker Smith and John Rosindale Wynne-Edwards were, allegedly, the first men to tackle the circuit of the Yorkshire Dales' Three Peaks, completing it in less than 10 hours. There were none of the slabbed footpaths we walk on today so that's really not a bad time.

THE YORKSHIRE

THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

was created in 1887 when local school teachers J.R. Wynne-Edwards and D.R. Smith set out one morning from the village of Horton-in-Ribblesdale with the aim of summiting Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough in a single walk. They returned 10 hours later, sparking a huge surge of interest in the challenge that continues to increase in popularity with each passing year.

John Rosindale Wynne-Edwards [5] was a talented man who was, unsurprisingly, Welsh born and a scholar at Giggleswick before becoming a schoolmaster. He left in 1895, married and took up a post in Cheltenham. Aged just 37, John became the Headmaster at Leeds Grammar School where he stayed for 20 years. He was involved in the discussions about the formation of Leeds University. He retired to Austwick and is buried in the graveyard there with his wife.



Canon Wynne-Edwards



In 1895, Douglas Rucker Smith also left Giggleswick to become the headmaster of Richmond Grammar School. His descendants have a silver (obviously) tray, tea pot and jug with the inscription, '*From past and present members of Giggleswick School, Yorkshire, DR Smith Esq MA July 1895*'. No guesses who the silversmith would have been!

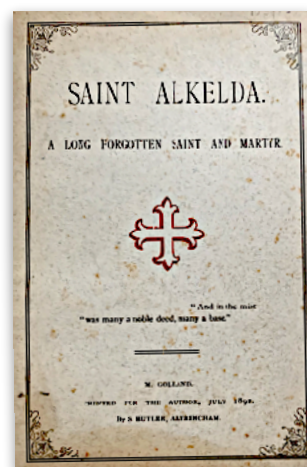
Two years after leaving Giggleswick, in 1897, Douglas, aged 37, married 33 year old Miss **Isabella Golland** with brother Stephen as a witness. A year before Isabella had her photo taken with her dog at the Horner Studios [ph7]. Isabella had previously donated prizes to encourage Giggleswick folk to develop window gardens, along with **Mrs Crofton** of Linton Court on Duke Street, Settle [ph6]. She had also been



Miss I Golland and dog, Beck House 1896, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)



a 'a lady organist' at Giggleswick church with **Miss Stansfeld**. In 1889 she was presented with a candelabra, obtained from **Robert Grime** inscribed '*Presented to Miss I Golland by the Giggleswick Church Choir, March 1889*' [8]. In 1892 Matilda wrote a booklet about the origins of St Alkelda '*a long forgotten saint and martyr*' [ph4]. Isabella lived with her widowed mother, **Matilda (Lomas) Golland** at the grand Beck House in Giggleswick until she married Douglas. Douglas and Isabella didn't have children. Douglas became an inspector of schools in Peterborough and later they retired to Malvern, Worcestershire.



Isabella's father, **Walker Golland**, had died, aged 52, before she was one year old. Walker was a highly respected surgeon in Manchester who also worked as surgeon to the Board of Guardians [6] and, for 15 years, at Belle Vue Prison in the centre of Manchester [7]. He was remembered for his '*ability, zeal and humanity exhibited in the discharge of his duties*' Matilda and the children lived off dividends which were sufficient to pay for a life-time companion and servants. They moved to Settle during the 1890s. Isabella's brother, **Alfred Golland**, was also a surgeon, a prison surgeon and Mayor of Altrincham. Her sister **Mabel**, aged 46, became the third wife of 67 year old **William Allan Jamieson**, a Scottish physician and academic author. A year after their wedding William was knighted.

Matilda died in 1903 and is buried in Settle's Old graveyard D58 with a magnificent gravestone. Living in Beck House, Giggleswick, here must be some reason that she was buried in Settle graveyard rather than at Giggleswick? Stephen died nearly two years later and is buried in the grave directly behind her. They are both alone in their graves.

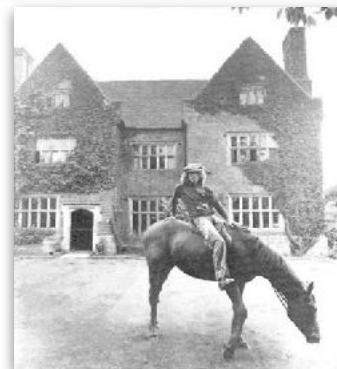


In Loving Memory of Matilda Golland of Beck House Giggleswick. Fell asleep Feb 9th 1903 aged 79 years Lead Kindly Light, D58

What happened to Stephen's other siblings? Well they all did rather well. Stephen (Snr) left his property to his sons and money to his daughters. Four spinster daughters had a comfortable life. According to the family, **Laura Smith** and **Bertha Smith** took their money to run 'Birklands' finishing school in St Albans. They valued physical exercise and so provided tennis courts, hockey pitches, a cricket pitch, gymnasium and a 9 hole golf course [ph3]. They made '*an indecent sum of money for a woman*' and retired to Malvern.



Stephen's sister **Janet Smith** moved to Switzerland to paint water colours and her mother, Mary Sophia joined her. They died in Switzerland within a year of each other. Sister **Elizabeth Emily Smith** remained a spinster and settled in Buxton. Sister **Sophia Constance** married **Chas Walker**, a horse breeder and gentleman. They lived at the impressive Holmshurt Manor, a Jacobean country house 'with 20 rooms, 12 stone fireplaces and stained-glass windows built by the pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones near Burwash, Sussex. The manor was more recently owned by Roger Daltrey [ph2].



Daughter **Margaret** married a vicar, **William Llewellyn Herford**, and spent her last days in South Africa. Son **Gerard Henry Smith** was a surgeon who decided to pursue homeopathy and became a lead consultant, his work taking him around the world with expeditions in Africa and Tasmania [ph5]. He was even appointed surgeon to King Edward VII. Gerald had experimented with early forms of X Ray without knowing of the dangers and eventually died of facial cancer. He had reached the age of 76, however.

Who were the other notable Assistant Masters appointed by George Style to help him '*with every quality they possessed*'?

Charles Frederick Hyde was elder son of the **Reverend Charles Frederick Hyde**, vicar of Milton Marsh, Wiltshire. Charles (Jnr) trained at St Michael's College, Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire and then obtained a 'non-collegiate' matriculation at Oxford, without belonging to any traditional residential college or hall. Charles was a bit of a pioneer – this was in the very early days of non-collegiate matriculation. This system allowed students from less wealthy backgrounds to pursue an Oxford degree at a lower cost and students lived in licensed lodgings in the city rather than college dormitories.

Hyde, Charles Frederick, born at Gillingham, Dorset, 1855; 1s. Charles Frederick, cler. NON-COLLEGIATE, matric. 21 Jan., 82, aged 27, from St. Michael's coll., Tenbury; died 17 March, 93.

Charles Frederick was appointed by Rev Style to become a teacher of music at Giggleswick School and this is where he was found at the time of the 1891 census. Unfortunately, Charles died 'suddenly' two years later, aged 38. The cause of death was tonsillitis, another 19th century fatal disease which is almost unheard of with 21st century medicine. His death was certified by **Dr Frederick Moritz Sykes** (from Manchester!) and **William Field Hook** was the registrar. Appropriately, Rev Style officiated at the funeral service and Charles was buried in the churchyard at Giggleswick.

I.H.S. In loving memory of Charles Frederick Hyde who fell asleep March 17th 1893 aged 38. He being made perfect in a short time fulfilled a long time for his soul pleased the Lord, therefore hastened he to take him away. B8/82

Charles' father had also passed away at a relatively early age of 52. Charles' brother **Edward Hyde** had a son, born in 1901, who he named **Charles Frederick Hyde** after his father and brother. Unfortunately, this Charles Frederick also had an early demise, being killed during WW2, in Hong Kong, aged 42.

Meanwhile, back at Giggleswick School, **Rev John William Chippett** had been born in Hackney, London, one of the sons of **John Chippett**, a harness maker/saddler and his wife **Charlotte (Bottle) Chippett**. John William was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge and subsequently, in 1878, appointed as a mathematics master at Giggleswick School. He was, unsurprisingly known as '*Chippy*' by his pupils! With his experience at Giggleswick School as a springboard, in 1888 he moved to Devonshire House School in Harrogate as Headmaster. This move coincided with his marriage to **Clara Lizzie Joyce**, a merchant's daughter. In 1895 John William bought and ran Riber Castle School in Derbyshire for around 20 pupils until he retired in 1924.

He retired to live at Matlock's Rockside Hydro until war broke out and then he moved back up north to live at the Ashfield Hotel in Settle, just like Stephen Pellat Smith. He died there at the age of 90. Amongst the beneficiaries of his will were two staff who had been employed at Riber Castle and then the majority his estate was left to Giggleswick School. His wife had died in 1916, aged 57 and they didn't have children.

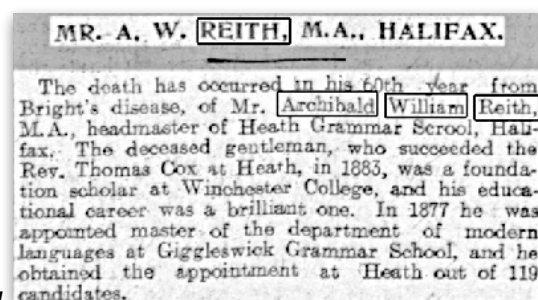
Rev Archibald William Reith was the son of a linen draper, born in Salisbury. He was educated at Winchester College and then New College Oxford. He obtained a second class degree in Classics during which he went to Russia as tutor the children of **Colonel Paschkoff** and then to the children of the British Ambassador, **Lord Augustus Loftus**, in St Petersburg. When he returned to England, he had temporary appointments at Ely Cathedral School and Reading School before, in 1877, being appointed by Rev Style as a modern foreign language teacher at Giggleswick School. Pupils referred to him as '*Jimmie*', for some reason [ph8]. He was the founding Editor of The Chronicle, the official Giggleswick School magazine.



In 1887, Rev Reith left Giggleswick and would have been replaced by Stephen Pellat Smith, above. Archibald became Headmaster of the 16th century Heath Grammar School, Halifax, which later became the exceedingly impressive and imposing Crossley Heath Grammar School which is still going strong today [ph9]. The school had been completely rebuilt in 1879 in ambitious project providing sixteen classrooms, art and science rooms, a library and a gym with the potential to accommodate 250 day boys, but

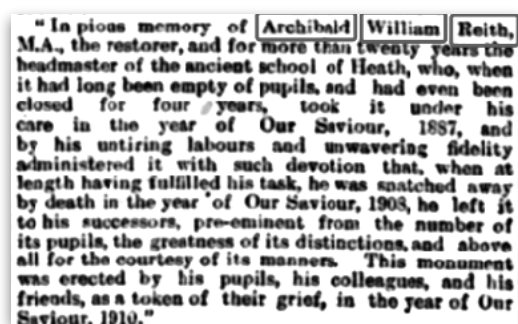


none boarding. Despite this, the school went 'hopelessly insolvent' and closed but, four years later, reopened under the capable leadership of Rev Reith in 1887 at an annual salary of £400 and some 80 to 90 pupils. He obtained his appointment as the successful candidate out of 1779 applications and stayed for 21 years. Archibald [ph10] led a gradual and sustained gain in academic success and popularity. Archibald died in 1908 when



he was 59 when he died of Brights disease – an old medical term for kidney inflammation[9]. Four years before his death, aged 55, Archibald married 39 year old Lucy Cooke, a merchant's daughter. After Archibald's death she returned to live with her mum in Ilkley.

Two years after his death, a memorial to Archibald was unveiled in Halifax Parish Church, 'to the left of the north door, a rectangular alabaster tablet of classic or Roman form.' It read, 'In pious memory of Archibald William Reith MA, the restorer, and for more than twenty years the headmaster of the ancient school of Heath, who, when it had long been empty of pupils, and had even been closed for four years, took it under his care in 1887, and by his untiring labours and unwavering fidelity administered it with such devotion that, when at length, having fulfilled his task, he was snatched away by death in 1908, he left it to his successors, pre-eminent from the number of its pupils, the greatness of its distinctions, and above all for the courtesy of its manners.' [10]. That's an incredibly long sentence of 104 words – typical of the joys of Edwardian newspaper reporting!



This account has been compiled 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 settlerearch@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.

A – The History of Giggleswick School, AE Bell (1912)

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lloyd's weekly newspaper, 2 – the Sun London), 3 – Worcester Journal, 4 – Morning Post, 5 – Yorkshire Evening Post, 6 – Manchester Courier, 7 – Liverpool Mail, 8 – Craven Herald, 9 – Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 10 – Halifax Evening Courier

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of descendants of the family (Ancestry fentiger43), ph2 – credited to backtothesixties.com, ph3 – credited to hertfordshire-genealogy.com, ph4 – credited to Wikipedia, ph4 – with the kind permission of Giggleswick church archives, ph5 – credited to the descendants of the family on ancestry.co.uk, username fentiger43, ph6 – credited to the Back in settle Facebook site, submitted by Ben McKenzie, ph7 – Image 2022.1.68.101 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph8 – credited to the descendants of the family on ancestry.co.uk, username otmooron, ph9 – photo credited to halifaxpeople.com, ph10 – credited to crossleyheath.co.uk



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