

The Clarks, an integral part of Settle's backbone (part 2)

Thomas Clark, the Settle shopkeeper at the corner of Cheapside was the youngest son of **Robert Clarke** and **Agnes Leeming**. He also had some influential siblings. Eldest brother **John Clark**, born in 1818, followed his father to become a joiner. In 1840 he married **Margaret Mason** from Clapham which is where they lived to bring up five sons. Margaret died after the birth of the fifth, **Thomas**, in Clapham. A few years later John married **Elizabeth Quick** from Devon. She had moved north to find work in domestic service with the Dawson family (who also owned the Folly in Settle) at Hornby castle. John worked as a timber and coal merchant in Lancaster before returning to Settle to work as a builder. Together with son **Robert**, John built the first seven houses of Ribble Terrace [ph2].



DEATH OF MR. JOHN CLARK.—We regret to have to record the death of Mr. John Clark, of Bridge End, Settle, which took place at Arnside, near Carnforth, on Sunday morning, after a short and very sudden attack. Mr. Clark had proceeded to the above place on the preceding Thursday in company with Messrs. Leeming and Dawson, of Settle, to transact some business connected with the North Craven Building Society. After the business had been completed and whilst being engaged at dinner the deceased gentleman suddenly complained of a severe pain in his head and said he would lie down and see if it would go away. He however immediately began to breathe heavily and soon became unconscious, in which state he remained up to the time of his death. Dr. Hall, of Lancaster, was in attendance

John died in 1883 after collapsing on a business trip to Arncliffe with **Thomas Leeming** and **William Dawson** [1]. This was during the years when Settle graveyard was closed and so is buried in Giggleswick with Elizabeth. Their gravestone is somewhat overgrown at the time of writing.

In affectionate remembrance of John Clark of Ribble Terrace, Settle, who died August 26th 1883 in his 65th year. Also Elizabeth widow of (the late) John Clark who died July 11th 1887 in her 68th year. B8/49



John's son **Robert** stayed in Ribble Terrace and worked as a limestone quarry manager. He married his step-cousin **Emma Quick**. Even though Settle graveyard was open when they died, they chose to be buried near their father in Giggleswick graveyard and had a very impressive stone.

In loving memory of Robert Clark who departed this life March 31st 1905 in his 65th year. Also of Emma widow of the above who departed this life May 23rd 1906 in her 66th year. Also Ann Quick sister of the above, Crediton, Devon, in her 75th year. Repose in peace. B8/98



Emma's spinster sister **Ann Quick** is buried with them. In the small world of Settle, Emma and Ann's cousin **Henry James Quick** married **Martha Ann Scott**, the niece of John Smith, schoolmaster of Giggleswick National School and his wife **Caroline Smith**. Robert and Emma's daughter **Margaret Ann** married into the **Graham** family.

John and Margaret's sons **William** and **Charles** worked as clerks and emigrated to the States with their families. Youngest son **Thomas** was a civil engineer and became a project manager in Derbyshire.

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Son **George** was the only other son to stay in the area. He also worked as a clerk and then became a book keeper at the lime works. He was a director at Settle Market Buildings Company which had built the second storey of the Shambles and then managed the whole building, together with Hector Christie and the talented **William Slinger** [ph8]. George had two marriages, the first to **Isabella Parker** from Slaidburn with whom he had a son.

The second was to **Mary Agnes Procter**, an excellent music teacher [4]. She had recently inherited a significant sum from the widow of the Crimean war hero **Robert Chapman** for whom she had been a companion. Soon afterwards she inadvertently found herself running Langcliffe School after the sudden death of the headteacher, 59 year old **Samuel Woolstencroft**, of pneumonia [A].

Settle Market Buildings Company LIMITED.

THE 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DEC. 21st, 1914.

DIRECTORS:
HECTOR CHRISTIE, GEORGE CLARK, WILLIAM SLINGER.

REPORT of the DIRECTORS to be submitted to the MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS to be held at the Secretary's Office, Station Road, Settle, on Monday, December 21st, 1914, at 7-30 P.M.

31st Master absent from duties, reason
Feb. 7th I Mary Agnes Procter took temporary
charge of this school. The Master,
James Samuel Woolstencroft died on
Sunday evening Feb. 6th from
pneumonia. The school the previous
week had been in charge of the
Assistant Mistress.
1st Prof. Perfect visited the school.
2nd School closed as it was the day
appointed for the funeral of the
Master. Notice could not possibly be
given to H. M. S. as it was only
decided to do so the evening of the
6th Feb.

MUSICAL HONOURS.—At the Christmas examination in connection with Trinity College, London, Miss Ethel Dibb Greenwood, and Miss Hannah Butler, pupils of Miss M. A. Procter, obtained junior pass certificates, being placed (with 89 marks each out of a possible hundred) at the head of the candidates for the Leeds centre.



George and Mary Agnes married a year later. It would be great if Mary Agnes had continued teaching music, but unlikely. George and both wives are buried in the grave Old D59.

In Memory of Isabella the beloved wife of George Clark who died February 12th 1898 in her 52nd year. Also of the above George Clark who died February 11th 1916 in his 72 year. Also of Mary Agnes Clark who died June 16th 1929 aged 65 years, Old D59

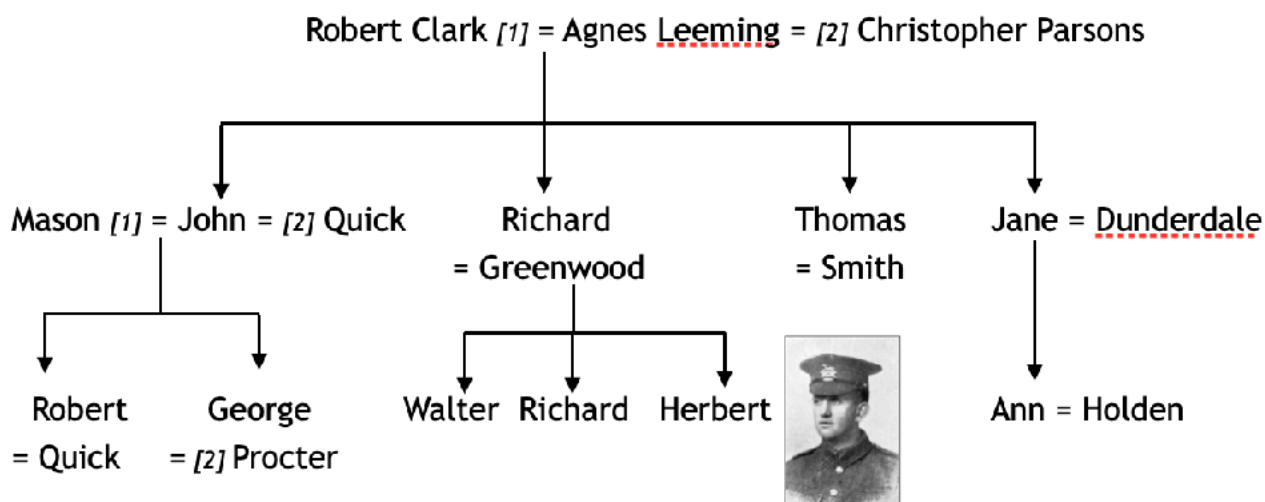


Meanwhile Thomas and John's middle brother **Richard Clark**, born in 1822, began life as a joiner but later took to farming. He married **Ellen Greenwood**, the sister of **Richard Greenwood** the ironmonger who, in partnership with **Thomas A Harvey**, ran the ironmonger's shop between the Naked Man and the Royal Oak. Richard and Ellen settled at High Pyethorns, a farm of 150 acres in Wigglesworth with their six children. At the time of the 1911 census Richard had a servant, **Walter Limmer**, who was killed in the war.

This wonderful photo] shows Richard (left) and Ellen with someone who looks incredibly similar, yet younger, so possibly brother Thomas. Incredibly, Richard was 91 when he died and Ellen was 68.



The Clark family



Richard and Ellen's son **Walter Clark**, born in 1859, worked as a butcher until he inherited his father's farm. Walter married **Eleanor Nelson**, daughter of **Titus Nelson** and they had four children. Their only son **Walter Nelson Clark** was the third generation to work Pyethorns with his wife **Hilda Mellin** and large family [ph10]. Upon Walter (Snr)'s death Pyethorns was sold to split the estate between siblings. Walter Nelson and Hilda and family moved to Mount Pleasant Farm in Bentham which came with the modern facilities of gas lighting and water closets! Their eldest son **Leonard Clark** [ph10] retained the bearded tradition! Leonard was a Cambridge graduate and history and classics teacher and took advantage of the '10 pound pom' ocean passage taking his family to Australia. He had a successful career teaching in Adelaide.



Richard and Ellen's daughter **Agnes Clark**, born 1853, married **John Mansergh**, son of **James Mansergh**, the well known sawyer in Rathmell and his wife **Mary Fletcher** – see **Dickinson**.

Richard and Ellen's son **Richard Clark**, born 1850 became a grocer and baker and ran a business from the Town Hall, next to the Talbot Inn and then opposite the Golden Lion [LSA, B]. He married **Mary Capstick** from Dent and they had seven children. Their eldest son **Tom** died aged just three in



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1882 during the years when Settle graveyard was closed so is buried at Giggleswick. Tom has a small gravestone of his own.

In loving remembrance of Tom son of Richard & Mary Clark of Settle who died May 18th 1882 aged 3 years. B8/45



Richard and Mary's son **Herbert** worked for the Post Office, delivering to Airton and Malham before he enlisted with the Leeds Pals, the 15th West Yorkshire Regiment. He was killed on 14 July 1916, aged 24, in the battle of the Somme [ph7]. Herbert's life was commemorated on his parents' stone and also in the Memorial Books of the Post Office.

In loving memory of Mary wife of Richard Clark died Jan 16th 1918 aged 67 years also of Richard Clark died June 6th 1927 aged 76 years. Also of Herbert their son killed in action July 14th 1916 aged 24 years, Old H49



Richard and Mary's daughter **Betty** married **Walter Robson Exley**, a railway worker from Yeadon. Richard and Mary are buried with Betty in grave *Old H49*. After Betty died in 1939 Walter stayed in Settle. When he died Walter was buried in the unmarked grave *New GX21*.

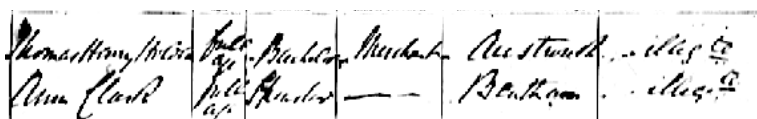
Robert and Agnes' only daughter, **Jane Clark** had quite a different life. She started off her adult life as a weaver. When she was 29 she gave birth to a daughter, **Ann** and then another daughter **Margaret (Maggie)** four years later. When she was 44 Jane married 61 year old widow **Christopher Dunderdale** who had spent his whole career being the 'turnpike gate keeper' in Bentham. Young Ann lived with them at the time of one census, described as a 'niece' – Christopher was himself illegitimate but such was the stigma in those days.

In 1884 Jane gave evidence at the inquest into the death of **Henry Procter Duckett** who died after his horse kicked him [1]. Henry was the nephew of **Charles Duckett**, the farmer who lived at The Folly in Settle and had a most eventful life. Henry's brother, **William Duckett**, was the last landlord of the Spread Eagle Inn in Kirkgate Settle. Incredibly Christopher was 83 when he died in 1887 so they had over 20 years together. Jane died in 1892, aged 71 spending her last years with her daughter Maggie (Walling) in St Helen's.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A FARMER.

Jane [Dunderdale], wife of [Christopher] [Dunderdale], of Holmes Gate, Bentham, said: On Thursday evening, about half-past six, I was returning from Low Bentham to my house when deceased overtook me. He was on horseback and going at a smart walking pace. He walked his horse along by my side till I got near my home, and then he went forward. He appeared quite sober to me. He would have about a mile to go after he left me, before reaching his own house.

On 9 May 1881 Jane's other daughter, Ann Clark married Thomas Henry Holden in Bentham. The vicar, Rev

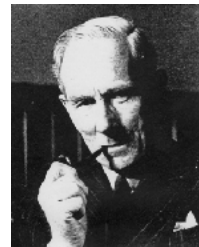


Edgar Sherlock, filling in the marriage documentation, left no doubt that they were both illegitimate! Thomas Henry and Ann Holden ran a glass, china and earthenware shop at the top of Kirkgate in Settle, known as Tom Holden's Pot Shop [ph4]. They had three children. Thomas and Ann's youngest son **Harold Henry Holden** [p2], was a talented artist and teacher. His Wikipedia page tells us that during his lifetime he was Principal of the Leeds School of Art and then Birmingham School of Art. He was president of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, a member of the Royal Watercolour Society and an Associate of the Royal College of Arts. What an incredible man! He married **Elizabeth Corney**, the eldest daughter of **John James Corney** who

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Tom Holdens Pot Shop



was a partner in Brassington's Timber Works in Settle. Harold didn't forget his Craven roots – he designed the carved oak panelling in the chancel of Rathmell church.

Ann Holden died in 1911, aged 61, and was buried in Settle in *Old G43*.

Annie Holden beloved wife of Thomas Henry Holden died April 17th 1911. Also Thomas Henry Holden died at Palmerston North NZ Dec'r 31st 1926.

After Ann's death Thomas Henry emigrated to Palmerstone, New Zealand with his daughter Maggie to join an uncle, **Thomas Holden**. Thomas Henry died, aged 85 and was buried out there – the inscription on his stone remembers Ann



THOMAS HENRY HOLDEN died 31st December 1926 aged 85;
and his wife **ANNE** died at Settle, Yorkshire 17th April 1911.



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'.

Thanks to descendant Lyn Clark for her help with the compilation of this account.

ph1 with the kind permission with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph3 – credited to descendants on ancestry.co.uk, johnburgess198, ph4 – with the kind permission of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, ph6 – credited to ssmaritime.com, ph7 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph8 – thanks to John Reid, from dalescommunityarchives.org.uk, ph10 – kindly provided by Lyn Clark

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

B – By River, Through Valleys and Dales, Alan Duckworth and Jim Halsall, thanks to John Reid

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Preston Herald, 3 – Driffield Times, 4 – Lancaster Guardian, 5 – Leeds Mercury

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