

The Peel Moorbys, soldiering on

Richard Peel was born in 1794 in Rathmell and, in 1820 married **Ann Moorby** who was an illegitimate daughter of **Margaret Moorby** of Giggleswick. After Richard's parents died Richard and Ann moved to live at Bridge End in Settle to bring up their nine children and they stayed there for the rest of their lives. Richard worked as a labourer and agricultural labourer. Times will have been tough with all those mouths to feed. Despite this, Richard lived to the age of 79 and Ann until she was 84. Richard was buried in Giggleswick graveyard with two of their children. Most of their other children moved to Lancashire and that's where Ann went after Richard died.

Their son **James Peel**, born in 1830, was an unusual chap. In 1857 he met (unrelated) **Jane Moorby**, a stonemason's daughter and she became pregnant. Their son **Robert Peel Moorby** was born on 20 October 1857 and James 'did the right thing' as they married on 26 December 1857 in Giggleswick church. Unfortunately, this marriage didn't work out as James and Jane continued to live with their respective parents for the rest of their lives. Once James's mum Ann moved to Pendleton near Clitheroe, records for him fizzle out. 'Wife' Jane moved to Accrington, Lancashire after her father died but was brought back to Settle when she died, aged 41, for burial with family members in unmarked graves in the Ancient graveyard.

Once Jane had moved to Accrington son Robert Peel Moorby lived with his aunt **Ann (Moorby) Cokell** and her husband, shoemaker **Adam Cokell**. Robert sometimes gave himself (and wife and children) the surname Peel or Moorby or both. At the time of the 1871 census, aged 13 Robert described himself as a 'railway nipper' — doing odd jobs and carrying things around for the railway. At the age of 19 he was formally appointed by the Midland Railway as a lamp-man for which he earned 17 shillings. He was described as 5 foot 10 inches tall — very tall for those days. However, by the time he married **Sophia Allen** in 1877 he was working as a carter. By the time of the 1891 census Robert worked for the railways as a drayman but this was brought to an end in 1893 when he was accused of embezzling £3 15s [3]. Several witnesses gave evidence including **William Henry Lambert**. The case was dismissed but by the time of the next census he was working in the quarries.

MIDLAND RAILWAY PROSECUTION.—Robert Peel, drayman, Settle, was charged with embezzling the sum of £3 15s. belonging to the Midland Railway Company, and alleged to be paid to him at the Hostel, Giggleswick, on the 21st of April. Mr. Turner, of the firm of Messrs. Beale and Co., prosecuted. After hearing the evidence of William Brown, Mary Jackson, Isabella Egglestone, and Anna Muskett, who are employed at the Hostel, and William Henry Lambert, goods clerk at Settle station, the magistrates (Messrs. H. Christie and J. A. Farrer) decided to dismiss the charge.

Robert's wife, Sophia Allen was the illegitimate daughter of Eliza Allen from Attleborough in Norfolk who came to Settle to work in the mills. Once married Robert and Sophia had four sons and two daughters. She died in 1915, aged 59 and was buried in the unmarked EX36 and was joined in 1932 by husband Robert who was 75.

The first person in the grave was their second son **Thomas William Peel Moorby** who tragically died, aged 19 on 20 March 1900, 'By misadventure, killed by a passenger engine of the Midland Railway'. [LSA]

20. Fatal accident to a young man named William Peel Moorby, at Settle, who, when returning home from work, was caught by an express train and killed instantly.—Mr.

19. By misadventure killed by a Passenger Engine on the Midland Railway

The family had much to thank Hector Christie for. As well as giving Sophia her job, eldest son **John Francis Moorby Peel** started working at the mill at the age of 11 and worked his way up to become the manager of the mill at Langcliffe Place. He had two children with wife **Annie Elizabeth Newhouse**, the daughter of the 'Loftman' at Langcliffe Paper mill. Their son **Frank Peel** took over as mill manager later. John Francis's daughter **Dorothy Peel** married **Edwin Butt** [ph1] who spent a



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lifetime working for Settle Rural District Council in its various forms. Edwin and Dorothy have a gravestone at Langcliffe church.

Fourth son **Arthur Peel** was a keen footballer and played for the (junior) Bluebottle Football Club, photographed 1905/6, [ph3, middle row, left] and also for Langcliffe AFC. Unfortunately in 1912, he 'had the misfortune to break his leg whilst playing football at Langcliffe' when he was 21 [LSA]. He married **Alice Newhouse**, the sister of **Annie Elizabeth Newhouse** who had married eldest brother John Francis Moorby Peel. The two families lived together in Langcliffe.



23. Mr. Arthur Peel, of Settle, had the misfortune to break his leg whilst playing football at Langcliffe.

Third son **George Allen Peel** worked as a railway porter in Bradford. Eldest daughter **Eliza Jane Peel** married the wonderfully named **Tom Tasker Giles**, a postman from York and they lived in Bolton. In 1912 youngest daughter **Lily Selina Peel** married another wonderfully named man, **Solomon Richard Webb** from Cambridgeshire who came to Settle to work on the railways. At the time of the 1911 census Solomon boarded with the Peel family. Solomon was one of 14 children of **Solomon Webb**, an agricultural labourer and **Rhoda Martha (Shorter) Webb**. After his father died in 1915, aged 61 Solomon's mother came to Settle and lived in The Shambles. She died in 1917 and is buried in the unmarked *Old HX36*. In 1918, in Settle, Solomon's sister, **Diana Louisa Webb** married **Herbert Everett Hudson** but they returned to Suffolk. The photo shows Solomon and Lily Selina (on the right), possibly with his mother and sister on the left [ph2].



Solomon Richard and Lily Webb had their family living at the top of Albert Hill, with Solomon still working on the railways. During WW1 Solomon Richard was recruited as one of Tunstill's men and marked the occasion with a photo taken with Lily Selina and their first two sons, **George Allen Webb** and **Arthur Webb** [ph5]. On 4 September 1914 local businessman **Harry Gilbert Tunstill** appealed to the men of Craven, via the Craven Herald, to join him in raising 100 men to form a local company of volunteers to fight. A couple of weeks later, on 21 September, 87 men left Settle Market Place at 7am. They served on the Western Front and then in Italy. A quarter of the men were killed, including Settle's **Private Robert William Bell**, and many others were discharged from the Army on grounds of wounds or ill health. (In 1931 Tunstill took his own life.) Solomon Richard made it home.



Solomon Richard and Lily's eldest son was **George Allen Webb**, named with grandmother Sophia's maiden name began his working life as a railway employee. George Allen was the centre forward for Settle United Football Team, pictured in 1934/5 in middle row, third from left with **Clifford Pullen** at the left of the front row [ph5]. In front of them are the Craven Cup, Craven League and Craven KO Cup — they only lost one match in the whole season.



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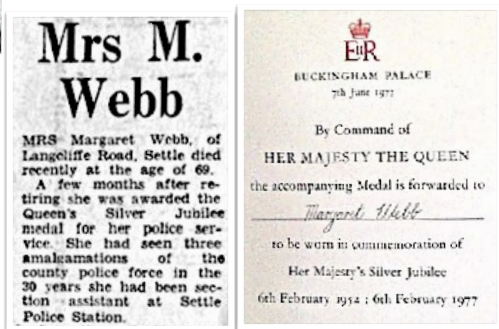
In 1936 at the Zion Chapel George Allen Webb married **Margaret (Peggy) Cowan** from Sherburn, Durham who had been working as a domestic servant at Giggleswick school house. They lived at Langcliffe Place where George Allen worked as a chauffeur and gardener for the mill manager **John Ingham**. George Allen signed up with the RAF on 16 August 1940 to become an aircraft hand/motor transport mechanic [ph5]. Over the next three years George Allen worked his way up to Sergeant and was transferred to the base at RAF Elvington. Wife Peggy had been able to live with George Allen at their base but, after the birth of their daughter, she returned to Settle, living at Bridge End. The exact circumstances of George Allen's tragic death on 28 June 1943 remain a mystery but had something to do with servicemen of the Canadian Squadron 66 and swimming at Brick Yard Pond which was half a mile outside the camp. George Allen couldn't swim and drowned and his colleagues were unable to save him. Unusually he had a death certificate 'for the purposes of widows' describing his cause of death as 'asphyxia from drowning, accidental'. Military records were changed from 'Accidentally drowned whilst bathing' to 'Died on Active service'. The death certificate describes an inquest by Colonel Innes Ware but there are no records of this. Either way he was given a full military funeral in Settle, attended by Canadian servicemen and he has the only Commonwealth War Gravestone for WW2 in the graveyard, *New G13*.



This Certificate is issued for the Purposes of <i>Widow's Pensions & D.A.P.</i> and for NO OTHER USE OR PURPOSES WHATEVER.				
<i>Twenty eighth June 1943</i>	<i>George Allen Webb</i>	<i>Male 30</i>	<i>of Bridge End Settle a Sergeant No. 1112510 of the Royal Air Force Stationed at Elvington</i>	<i>Asphyxia by drowning. Accidental.</i>
<i>Brickyard Pond Elvington R.D.</i>	<i>Allen Webb</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>1112510</i>	<i>Certificate received from James N. Ware Coroner for Saund District of Yorkshire</i>
				<i>Request held Secretary-much June 1943</i>

Accidentally Drowned whilst Bathing 28/6/43
Died on Active Service 28/6/43

Peggy received a war widow's pension. After George Allen's death she worked at Settle police station as 'section assistant' for 30 years. As such she was awarded a medal and certificate by Queen Elizabeth in 1977, as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations [ph5]. Peggy was cremated when she died in 1982, aged 69.



Solomon Richard and Lily's sons **William Francis Webb** and **Arthur Webb** also served in the army. It must have been incredibly stressful for the whole family. Solomon Richard and Lily Selina are buried in the New graveyard *D8* with sons **Arthur** and **Stanley** (although Stanley was not remembered on the stone). Their daughter **Dorothy (Webb) Bredikis**, her husband Augusts Bredikis (formerly a Latvian Prison of War) and Arthur's first wife **Annie Elizabeth (Brown) Webb** were buried together on *New F4*. Poor Annie [ph5] died, aged 35, after an accident cycling down Buck Haw Brow hill with friends.

1112510 Sergeant G A Webb Royal Air Force 28th June 1943 age 30

In Loving Memory of Solomon R. Webb died 16 Dec 1960 aged 73 years. Also his loving wife Lily S. Webb died 7th Aug. 1974 aged 84 years R.I.P. Also their dear son Arthur Webb died 31st July 1991 aged 77 years

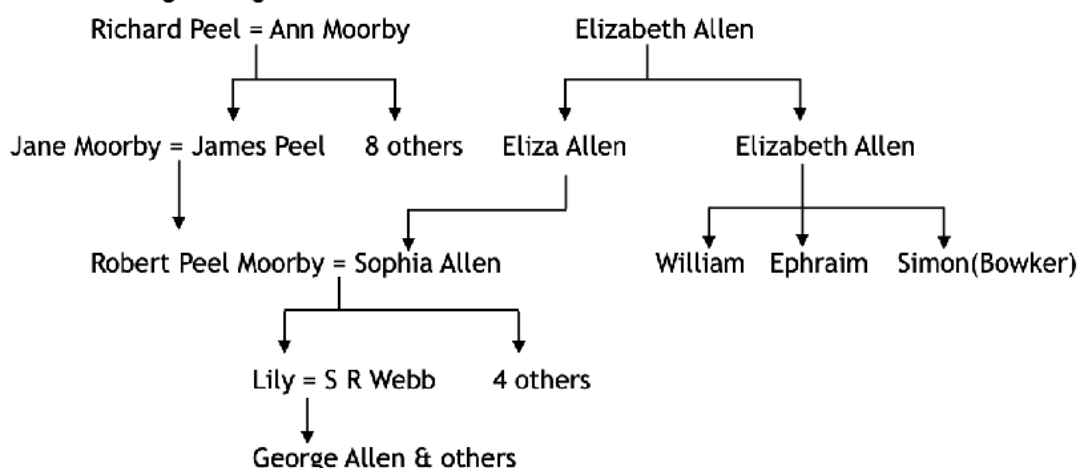
In loving memory of my dear husband Augusts Bredikis died 1st June 2002 aged 76 years. Also his loving wife Dorothy died 19th June 2008 aged 85 years. Sister-in-law of Annie Webb died 1945 aged 34 years. RIP



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Robert and Sophia deserve to be incredibly proud of their family.

Peel Moorby Family



Sophia Allen had an unusual and tough start in life. She was born in Attleborough, Norfolk, the illegitimate daughter of **Eliza Allen**. In turn Eliza was one of two illegitimate daughters of **Elizabeth Allen**, her sister also called **Elizabeth Allen**, confusingly. This younger Elizabeth Allen also had three illegitimate children, all sons, **Simon Bowker** (who didn't survive), fathered by **William Bowker**, a married agricultural labourer, **William Allen** and **Ephraim Allen**. During the East Anglian agricultural revolution, the mechanisation of farming equipment meant that many agricultural labourers, both men and women were made redundant and this is why Hector Christie, owner of the Langcliffe Mills, recruited so many workers from East Anglia, including Sophia Allen. Unmarried mums and illegitimate children had it particularly tough and, as a result, Elizabeth and daughters Eliza, Elizabeth and granddaughter Sophia were found in the workhouse at the time of most census returns. The original Elizabeth Allen died of 'fever' in the workhouse.

Elizabeth Allen(jnr)'s son William Allen signed up to the army in 1847 when he was 17. Gunner William Allen served until December 1863, including service in the Crimean War but, upon discharge was only given a pension for two years and 84 days due to 'bad conduct'! His records contain 31 entries in the 'defaulter's book'. He was tried

Defaulter's book "Bad"

and convicted by six courts. He was eventually discharged due to chronic bronchitis which may have been mutually beneficial! He served with the 4th Battalion Royal Foot Artillery.

Admitted about 1	Imprisoned 18 Nov: 1852	8 Dec: 1853	"	50
Admitted about 1	Imprisoned 28 July 1853	8 Sept: 53	"	48
Admitted about 1	Imprisoned 7 May 1854	8 July 1854	"	63
Had Service allowed to 30 April 1854				10 97

Clearly William just needed a good woman to sort him out and he found her in the form of **Emily Pooley Eagling**, 13 years his junior, and he married her in 1871. They lived in Besthorpe in Norfolk. They had five children, although one died in infancy, before William died in 1883, aged 54. Poor Emily had to bring up the children with parochial relief. When she died in 1915, aged 73 Emily's gravestone inscription included: **When the soft dews of kindly sleep my wearied eyelids gently steep, be my last thought how sweet to rest for ever on my Saviour's breast.** She had a tough life.



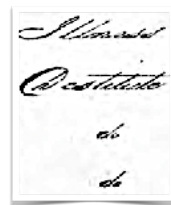
Meanwhile Elizabeth Allen's other illegitimate son, **Ephraim Allen** also had a military career. Having previously served on HMS Nankin, at the time of the 1861 census he was a Private on board the much larger HMS Aboukir. There were four ships named HMS Aboukir over the years, named after the site of the Battle of the Nile, Abu Qir Bay in Egypt. Ephraim's HMS Aboukir, the third, was built in 1848 with 90 guns on three gun decks. It was photographed in 1865 at



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Port Royal, Jamaica [ph4]. Another of our graveyard residents, **George Edward Turner** worked as a telegraph operator on HMS Hogue, the sister ship to the fourth HMS Aboukir. When HMS Aboukir was torpedoed by a German submarine HMS Hogue went in to assist and was also sunk, taking George Edward Turner with it. He was one of the first Settle casualties of WW1.

In 1862 Ephraim married **Mary Anne Smith** in Chatham, Kent and they had three children before Mary Anne died. A record of 4 March 1878 shows Ephraim and the three children being admitted into Medway Union workhouse. Ephraim was described as ill and the three children destitute. Ephraim died a couple of months later. It's not clear what happened to son **Charles Ernest Allen**. The daughters, **Harriet** and **Mary Anne** were moved to an orphanage and spent the rest of their lives in domestic service with an occasional visit to the workhouse.



Sophia made an excellent decision to take up Hector Christie's offer of a job at the Langcliffe mills and had an incredibly successful life. She will, no doubt, have spared a thought for the other women in her family.



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'.

With thanks to descendant Judith Webb and Eileen Bamford for their help with this account.

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

ph1 – photo kindly provided by John Reid, ph2 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Bruce Phillips, ph3 – credited to 'Settle United', photographic history of Association Football in Settle and District, thanks to Judith Webb, ph4 – credited to Wikipedia, photo by Captain F. L. Grundy of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Foot, ph5 – with thanks to Judith Webb

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