

## The Zwingers

This is definitely not a local name and not a typical Settle story! **Anthony John Zwinger** was from Switzerland, born in the 1780s. He worked as a merchant on either side of the English Channel. In 1815 he married most respectably, his wife being **Margaret Browne**, daughter of **James Browne** of the Brighton Union Bank. In a wonderful illustration of the times, in February 1812 James' bank was the victim of an 'atrocious highway robbery' in which hundreds of bank notes, including £50, £30, £10 and £5 notes and 831 £1 notes, were stolen from a Blue Coach on the road from London to Brighton. The individual numbers of the missing notes were reported in the papers. They put up a reward of 100 guineas for the apprehension and conviction of the thieves [1, ph1] and the reward was still advertised over a year later, so it seems the perpetrators were never caught.

In 1819 Anthony John Zwinger was given the Freedom of the City of London, having paid 46 shillings and 8 pence for the privilege. This was a wealthy man's business but it opened doors for him.

*Attest in presence of*  
*Tuesday the 12 October 1819*  
*and in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of George*  
*the third of the united Kingdom of Great*  
*Britain and Ireland King & —*  
*Thursday the 10th of October having passed under the*  
*seal of John Anthony Zwinger*

Anthony John and Margaret had an exceedingly prosperous life moving in incredibly wealthy circles and had several children born in London. They were involved at the heart of the City's mercantile life with fingers in numerous lucrative, albeit risky pies, including the East India Company. In 1831 Anthony John was declared bankrupt but this didn't appear to cause any problems as there were several sons whose names he could trade under.

Daughter **Mary Ann Zwinger** became the first wife of **John Fisher Miller**, a Scottish barrister who was appointed Chief Registrar overseeing the bankruptcy court in London. Unfortunately, Mary Ann died, aged just 24 at the birth of a son, **Henry Brougham Miller**. John Fisher Miller had two more younger wives and a daughter, **Adele Whitehead Miller**, who died aged 11 and a son, **Walter Miller**, who may have been killed as an officer in WW1.

settleresearch@g

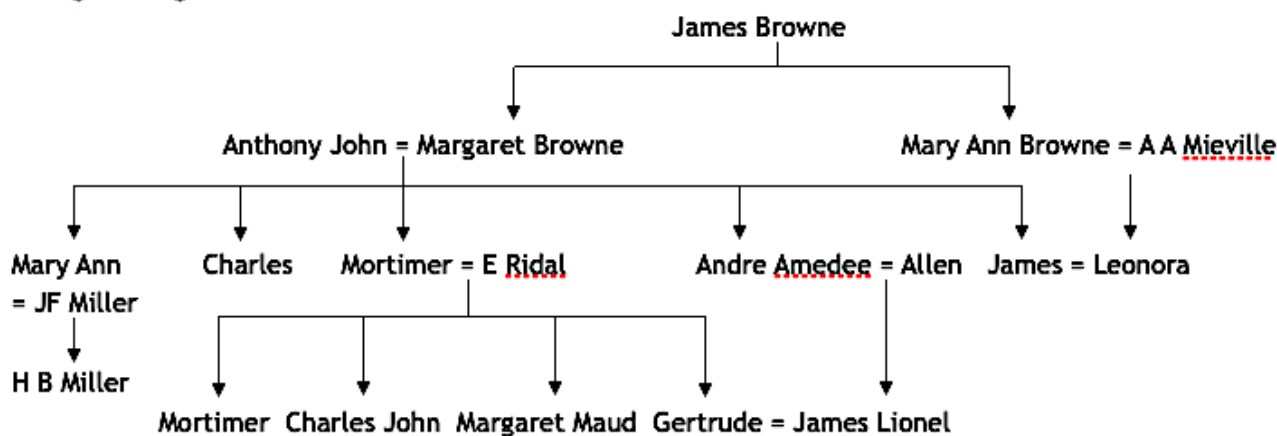
*Brighton Union Bank Notes Stolen.*  
**100 GUINEAS REWARD.**  
**T**O Bankers, Lottery Office Keepers, and  
 others. February 10, 1812.  
**STOLEN,**  
 On Wednesday morning last, the 5th of February, 1812, out of a box in the Blue Coach, on the road from London to Brighton, through Mitcham and Sutton, a PARCEL, containing various Notes, all of the Brighton Union Bank, sent from the Bank of Messrs. Weston, Pinhorn and Co. in the Borough. The Number of each and every Note is carefully taken in the Bankers' Books,

**Reward & Caution.**  
 100 GUINEAS REWARD  
 WILL BE PAID BY  
**MESSRS. BROWNE, HALL, & CO.**  
 OF THE  
*Brighton Union Bank,*  
 FOR THE  
**APPREHENSION AND CONVICTION**  
 OF  
 One or more of the Persons,  
 WHOSE NAMES ARE  
**R O B B E R Y**  
 OF  
 THE UNION BANK NOTES  
 IN THE  
**BLUE COACH,**  
 On the Fifth of FEBRUARY last.  
 MESSRS. BROWNE, HALL, and CO.  
 Beg to caution all Persons from receiving in payment any of the NOTES of the  
 OLD IMPRESSION,  
 Which are particularly distinguished,  
 By their being all dated prior to the present Year, 1812:—  
 And further distinguished,  
 BY BEING TOTALLY DEFACED  
 From the Notes of the New Impression,  
 BROWNE and CO. are now issuing.  
 FLEET, PRINTERS, BRIGHTON.

**RE HENRY BROUGHAM MILLER.**  
 A meeting was also held for the proof of debts and the appointment of a trustee under the bankruptcy of **Henry Brougham Miller**, a son of the late and present pensioned Chief Registrar, described as of Curmistor-street, barrister-at-law. He was adjudicated bankrupt on the 28th ult. upon the petition of Mr. J. H. Smallpage, tailor, of No. 48, Maddox-street.

Like his father, son Henry Brougham Miller was also appointed as a barrister and senior registrar for bankruptcy but, rather embarrassingly, went bankrupt himself in 1872 just six years before John Fisher Miller died. Oops. [2]

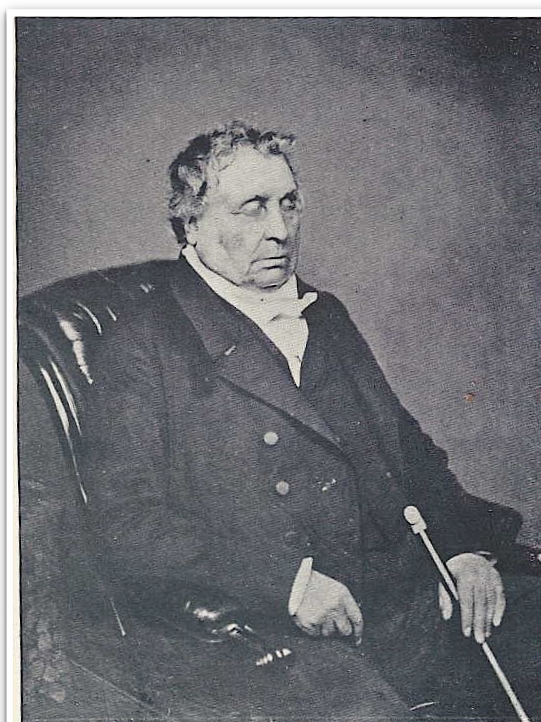
### Zwinger Family Tree



Anthony John and Margaret's sons all had fabulous careers in the city and across the channel. Son **Charles Zwinger** lived in Paris and married **Eliza Broomhead**, a merchant's daughter, in the English Episcopal church in Paris. They retired to Sussex with two spinster daughters and a very comfortable lifestyle, thank you very much. Son **James Zwinger** landed on his feet even more firmly when he married **Leonora Mieville**, the daughter of **Andre Amedee Mieville**, also from Switzerland. Andre had married **Mary Ann Browne**, the sister of Margaret Browne who had married John Anthony Zwinger. As a result, James had married his first cousin. Andre made a fortune from stocks and shares and was on the committee of the East India Company despite being blind for nearly fifty years [ph2]. This may be why James and Leonora lived with her parents. James remained with Andre after both wife Leonora and mother-in-law Mary Ann died in the 1850s. Andre died in 1865, aged 80, a multimillionaire, leaving a good chunk to James.

James Zwinger had a lucrative high profile post in his own right being the 'Clerk in the Crown Office in Chancery' serving the House of Lords. His duties included the legal formalities for opening and closing Parliament [3].

The Royal proclamation dissolving the present Parliament reached the Crown Office at the House of Lords at a quarter-past five on Wednesday afternoon. Immediately on receipt of the proclamation Mr. **Zwinger**, the Chief Clerk of the Crown Office despatched the writs by post for the provinces; and Mr. Davis, the Messenger of the Great Seal, took the writs for delivery to the returning officers of the metropolitan constituencies.



ANDRÉ AMÉDÉE MIÉVILLE

1784-1865.

[HE WAS BLIND FOR NEARLY FIFTY YEARS.]



After Andre died, James married again, this time to **Mary Matilda Bates** who was much younger than him. They retired to Brighton. When he died in 1899, aged 77, James left an incredible £38,527, worth over £5 million today's value to a nephew, **James Lionel Zwinger**, who we will meet shortly.

Anthony John and Margaret's son **Mortimer Zwinger** made his money as a broker for the Cunard steam-shipping business, at one time promoting the Beaver line ships, with their distinctive black funnel with the two white stripes [4] He lived in Liverpool, Le Havre in France and London.



**"BEAVER" LINE.**  
**CANADA SHIPPING COMPANY, LIMITED.**  
**LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK DIRECT.**  
 The fast and powerful Clyde-built Iron  
**SCREW-STEAMERS**  
 Of this Line will be despatched as under:—  
**LAKE HURON** .....Tuesday, Jan. 26  
 And fortnightly thereafter.

Passengers booked to all parts of Canada and the United States.  
 Surgeon and Stewardess carried on each steamer.  
 Having been built specially for the Canadian trade, these steamers afford every advantage and accommodation to shippers and passengers.

For terms of freight or passage apply, in Rotterdam and Amsterdam, to P. van Ommeren; in Antwerp, to H. J. A. Telghuys; in Bordeaux, to Charles Kohler; in Havre, to **Mortimer Zwinger**; in Queensdown to N. G. Seymour and Co.; in London, to R. Montgomerie and Co., 82, Mark-lane; and in Glasgow to Peter Rintoul, Son, and Co., 28, Hope-street; or to  
**R. W. ROBERTS, Manager,**  
**82, Drury-buildings, 21, Water-street, Liverpool.**

In 1857 he married **Eliza Ridal**, the daughter of **Charles Ridal** of Sheffield [5]. Charles Ridal started life as a linen draper, working in partnership with several others over the years. Funnily enough, after Mortimer and Eliza's wedding Charles begin to trade internationally and lived in Le Havre as well as Sheffield. Unsurprisingly, his estate went to Mortimer when he died. Mortimer and Eliza had two sons and two daughters. Unfortunately, son **Mortimer (Jnr)** died in infancy. Son **Charles John Zwinger** died at the age of 21 (in France) and it seems Mortimer never recovered from the shock. Mortimer died in Le Havre two years later, aged 62. *'Mr Zwinger was noted for his geniality of disposition'*[6]

**THE LATE MR. ZWINGER.**—We much regret to announce the sudden death, through heart disease, of Mr. Mortimer Zwinger, which took place at Havre. The deceased gentleman, who was well-known in shipping circles, was for some time connected with the agency for Messrs. MacIver at Havre, afterwards removing to the headquarters at Liverpool, where he was associated with the management of steamers calling at the port mentioned. Upon his resignation in 1882 he returned to Havre and started business there as a shipping and forwarding agent, but retired into private life two or three years ago. Mr. Zwinger was noted for his geniality of disposition, and his death will be mourned by a large circle of friends. He has passed away at the age of sixty-two, leaving two daughters to mourn his loss. Mr. Zwinger's only son died suddenly a short time ago, and he never recovered from the shock.

Eliza and her daughters remained in Liverpool for many years. Daughter **Margaret Maud Zwinger** ran a shop in Lancashire but died, aged 61, in a Lancashire lunatic asylum. On Valentine's day 1893 daughter **Gertrude Zwinger** became the second wife of her first cousin, **James Lionel Zwinger**, the son of Anthony John Zwinger's brother **Andre Amedee Zwinger** and his wife **Susannah Allen**. This provided an opportunity for a most unusual wedding announcement *'Zwinger-Zwinger'*[7]. Anthony was a clerk in the Bank of England, as were

**ZWINGER—ZWINGER**—Feb. 19, at the Parish Church, West Derby, by the Rev. John Sheepshanks, vicar of St. Margaret's, Anfield, James Lionel, third son of the late Amedee Zwinger, of Brandon-lodge, Ilford, Essex, to Gertrude, younger daughter of the late **Mortimer Zwinger**, of Havre and Liverpool.

Expert evidence only was given yesterday. Mr. Thomas **Zwinger**, of the Accountants' Bank Note Office of the Bank of England, said that all the notes were forgeries.

Mr. Humphreys (for the prosecution): Can you give me any idea as to how they are done?

Mr. **Zwinger**: They are done by hand. That is to say they are drawings or tracings. There are evidences that they are traced. The paper is not the paper of the Bank of England, and they are not produced from a Bank of England plate.

several sons and sons-in-law. Andre Amedie and Susannah's son, **Thomas Zwinger**, worked for the Accountant's Bank Note Office and was often used as an expert witness in forgery cases [8]. With the surname Zwinger he was the last person listed in the 1919 Kelly's Directory! [9]

Andre and Susannah's son Anthony Zwinger (Jnr) was a purser for the Peninsula & Oriental Steam Navigation Company (which later became P&O ferries we know today), working on their steam ship *Hindustan*. While they were at Mazagon, on the South coast of Spain near Seville, Anthony was taken to court for a 'Criminal Breach of Trust' by the ship's cashier for alleged abuse of petty cash [10]. The case was eventually dropped.

Andre and Susannah's son, James Lionel Zwinger was also a banker's clerk with international dealings and was 43 when he married Gertrude, his two sons from his first marriage to **Emma Kibbler** having left home for careers in accounting. James Lionel and Gertrude had another four children. James Lionel was the Chair of the Hoylake Sailing Club. Very nice!

James Lionel must have been travelling abroad around the time of the 1911 census. For some reason, which seems completely out of place, Gertrude, her mum Eliza and the four children were found in the Market Place in Settle (currently the bank) 'living on their own means' with a couple of servants. It's possible they had been friends with the Crone family, originally sugar refiners in Liverpool, who lived at the Market Place property from 1893 until 1909. At some point in the next two years the Zwingers moved to live in one of the large houses of 'The Terrace' on Duke Street. It was here that Eliza died, aged 81, her death notice still referring to her father. Her estate was worth the best part of half a million pounds at today's value [11].

Eliza was buried in Settle graveyard in *Old F56*. The gravestone, now sadly broken, also commemorates the life of daughter Margaret Maud Zwinger, the daughter who died in the asylum, although she was not buried in the graveyard.

*In Loving Memory of Eliza Zwinger who died on the 6th of April 1913 aged 81 years. Also of Margaret Maud Zwinger elder daughter of the above named who died on the 20th of August 1922 aged 62 years.*

After James Lionel Zwinger died in London in 1930, aged 80, Gertrude moved to Canada to join several of her children. She died there in 1948, aged 78.

**Interesting Facts and Figures About London in the 1919 Kelly.**

It takes nearly 70 of the big pages of Kelly's Post Office London Directory for 1919 to give an alphabetical list of "persons holding situations under the Crown, in the Bank of England, the various law, City, municipal, and other public offices." And the names of female clerks are not included in this particular list of 19,000. The first and last names respectively are that of Mr. A-Ababrelton, in the Correspondence Department of the India Office, and that of Mr. Thomas Zwinger, jun., who is in the Accountants' Bank Note Office of the Bank of England.

**CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST.**—Mr. Lewis Coyle, cashier to the P. and O. S. N. Company at their Dockyard at Mazagon, appeared on Saturday last before the Senior Magistrate, and charged Anthony Zwinger, purser's clerk, also in the employ of the same Company on board their steam-ship *Hindustan*, with criminal breach of trust in respect of the sum of Rs. 903-5-4, which had been entrusted to him for the purpose of paying sundry officers on board the said ship, and prayed that a warrant might be issued for his apprehension, and that he may be dealt with according to law. His Worship granted the application.

**Mrs. Eliza Zwinger, of The Terrace, Settle, Yorkshire, daughter of the late Mr. Charles Ridal of York House, Sheffield, left an estate of the gross value of £3,798.**



## 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.*

*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](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kentish Gazette, 2 – Clerkenwell News, 3 – Ulverston Mirror, 4 – Journal of Commerce, 5 – Evening Mail, 6 – Liverpool Daily Post, 7 – Liverpool Weekly Courier, 8 – Yorkshire Post, 9 – London Daily News, 10 – Indian Statesman, 11 – Sheffield Daily Telegraph*

*ph1 – [britishmuseum.org](http://britishmuseum.org), ph2 – credited to family descendants via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk), username [genbancroft78](#)*