

Misses Auerbach and Pickard, schoolmistresses

The private Overdale Girls' School opened in 1897 at the top of Duke Street [LSA]. It provided 'Thorough Education in the Bracing Air of the

OVERDALE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SETTLE
Principals, Miss E. M. PICKARD, M.A. (Newnham College),
and Miss AUERBACH.
'Thorough Education in the Bracing Air of the Craven Highlands.
Highest references.'

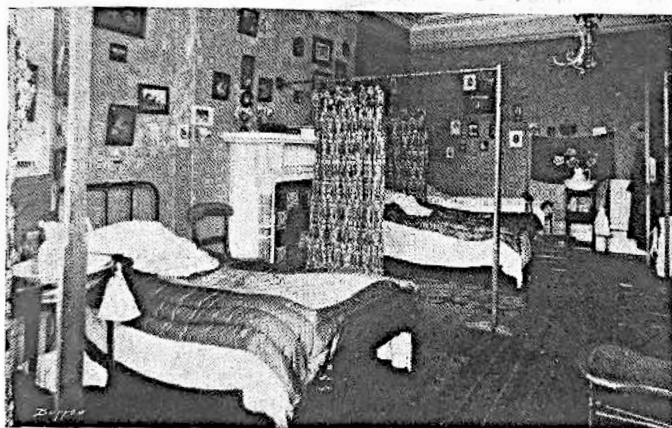
Craven Highlands'![6] The enormous building of 18 rooms provided a 'Good Classical and Modern Education' and cost 2 guineas per term with girls boarding in houses 'under the supervision of the Governors'. 'The sanitary arrangements are perfect and up-to-date.' Students received individual coaching in preparation for Oxbridge and several hours were set aside each day for outdoor life; Swedish drill, games, gardening and Natural History expeditions. The school stood for 'Truth, Trust and Unity'. The joint Principals were close friends **Miss Esther Maria Pickard** and **Miss Marie Auerbach** and they ran the school with four other teachers and five servants. The 22 student boarders at the time of the 1901 census were from France, Canada, India, Scotland, Ireland and even Blackburn, Lancashire! **Louisa Heelis** worked as a housemaid at the school.



The sanitary arrangements are perfect and up-to-date.

The regular School course includes Holy Scripture, Writing, Reading, English Literature, Grammar and Composition, Geography, History, Latin, Greek, French, German, Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, and Higher Mathematics, Science or Nature Study, Drawing, Class Singing and Needlework.

The health of the pupils and the household arrangements are under the special care of Miss AUERBACH, who has had wide practical experience, both in England and abroad.



So, who were Miss Auerbach and Miss Pickard??

Marie Auerbach, born in 1859, was one of at least six children of **Max Auerbach** and his wife **Agathe** who were from Prussia but had moved to Calais after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 in which France attempted to re-assert its dominance in Europe. By 1871 the family were living in Dover, Max describing himself as a 'merchant from Calais'. By 1891 they lived in a large red brick house in Patrick Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham[ph5]. Max was an international agent for the lace trade so will have spent time on both sides of the Channel and the Atlantic. Lace had been made in Nottingham since the late 18th century and by the 1840s was an international business, the heart of



the world's lace industry in the days of the British Empire. Nottingham still has the historic 'Lace Market' area today. Max would have been doing well. The family helped to run the business. Marie organised the work-girls and helped to look after a disabled sister. A brother, another **Max Auerbach**, died in 1887, aged 13, in Holland during a tour abroad.

Mum Agathe died in 1900, aged 61 and records for Max stop around that time too. Marie's obituary [3] described that she began teaching in a boarding school in Epsom and was well regarded despite having no formal training. From there she met Esther Mary Pickard and they ran Overdale School together from 1897. In 1912, aged 53, with cataracts in both eyes, Marie's health failed. She moved to live in 'a small house' — Highfield, next door to the school. (It's really not small at all.) Marie died in 1914, aged 55 leaving an estate of £14,000, a considerable amount, to Miss Pickard.

In Loving Memory of Marie Auerbach of Overdale School. Born April 9th 1859. Died May 3rd 1914. The greatest of these is charity.

The Auerbachs lived on both sides of the Channel and so records for them are sparse. However, we do know something of Marie's elder brother, **Hugo Auerbach**, who continued the family business in Nottingham. He lived in Mapperly Hall Drive, a very leafy road of exclusive houses north of the city.

On 10 March 1887 Hugo obtained his 'naturalisation certificate' which helpfully described that he was 29, a lace merchant and was married but with no children. It's not clear who his wife was however she had a few problems. **Mr and Mrs Zierenberg** ran 'St James' Home for Inebriates' in Kennington, South London and in April 1891 the Zierenbergs were taken to court for various irregular practices, one involving Hugo's wife. Mrs Auerbach had been attending for six weeks suffering from the effects of alcohol poisoning — Hugo saw an advert for their treatment in 'Titbits' periodical (which caused some amusement at court!)[1]. **Dr Appleby Stevenson** was the family surgeon. In the midst of a very long court case it transpired that when attempting to visit Mrs Auerbach Dr Stevenson was refused entry because 'there was an insinuation that improper relations had taken place between Mrs Auerbach and Dr Stevenson'. In fact, the residents had been treated as prisoners, ill-treated and made to work as laundresses which is why visitors were not allowed. The Zierenbergs, who came to England as paupers, amassed thousands of pounds worth of property and lived a life of luxury. The case was later referred to as a 'giant swindle.'[2] The Zierenbergs had to give up everything and disappeared into obscurity.

Unsurprisingly Hugo's wife was no better after her stay and she went to America two years later in 1893. It's impossible to find out what happened to her but, in 1897, Hugo married **Ada Constance Haynes** from Calais who had been in England working as a governess. They seemed to live comfortably and happily ever after in Nottingham.

A WELL-KNOWN SETTLE SCHOOLMISTRESS.
The death occurred on Sunday of Miss Marie Auerbach, who for the past seventeen years has been connected with the Overdale School for Girls, Settle. She was born in Leipzig in 1859, and immediately after the Franco-German War her family removed to Calais. Although only 15 years of age, Miss Auerbach had to take up serious responsibilities for her



Cross-examined.—Witness wrote to the Tit-Bits inquiry office as to a home for his wife (laughter). They recommended the St. James's Home. Witness wrote there and got a circular. That was how he came to send his wife there. There was no permanent cure in the case of his wife. She went to America in February, 1893.

remember the libel action brought against this paper in 1893 by Mr. and Mrs. Zierenberg, the proprietors of a gigantic swindle in the shape of a "home" for female inebriates in Kennington. After a trial extending at

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On 14 June 1902 Marie's sister **Alice Charlotte Auerbach** married **Leopold Hypolyt C. Von Koschembahr** in Nottingham. A school magazine records that pupils at Overdale were given a day's holiday in celebration. Unfortunately, Leopold died in 1908, aged 46. Despite WW1, Alice and her daughter **Eleanor Marguerite** lived in both London and Berlin. Alice gained exemption from internment during WW2 — perhaps being 65 and stating she had no wish to return to Germany helped.

Meanwhile, **Esther Maria Pickard**, born in 1869, was one of five children of **Daniel Pickard**, a Leeds draper and his wife **Lucy Ann Smith** who were Quakers. Their successful business was on Briggate, one of the main shopping streets of the city centre [4]. They were able to live in the up and coming areas of Leeds near what is now the University (founded in 1904). Daniel was also a minister for the Quakers and led worship all over England and Scotland [5].

DIED - 27-3-44
FEMALE ENEMY ALIEN EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT-REFUGEE

(1) Surname (block capitals) KOSCHEMBAHR
 Pseudonyms Alice von
 Alias.....
 (2) Date and place of birth 9/9/73 Calais
 (3) Nationality German
 (4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 544664 Home Office reference, if known.....
 Special Procedure Card Number, if known.....
 (5) Address 4, Accl Road, N.W.6

NO. 30, BRIGGATE, LEEDS.

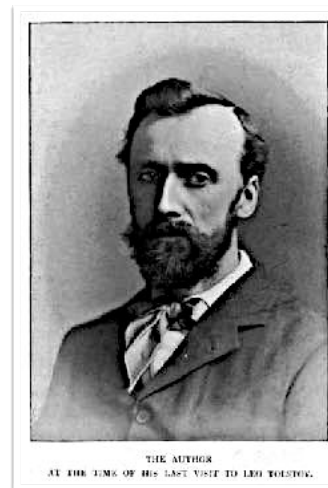
DANIEL PICKARD (late **D. Pickard** and Co.,) respectfully informs his friends and the public generally that his Stock is now unusually well supplied in all the departments, and that, in addition to a constantly changing and

LARGE SELECTION OF SILKS, SHAWLS, FRENCH MERINOS, ALPACAS, and other DRESS GOODS,
 ESPECIAL CARE IS TAKEN TO HAVE ALWAYS ON HAND a good assortment of the various fabrics required for domestic use.

Cloth Blankets.	Furniture Prints.	Linen and Cotton Sheetings.	Huckabacks and Towels.
Raised do.	Ginghams.	White & Col'd Counterpanes.	Medical Rubbers.
Half-raised do.	Checks and Stripes.	Toilet Quilts and Covers.	Bird's Eye Diapers.
Home-made Flannels.	4-4, 5-4, 6-4 Brown Hollands.	Table Linens and Cloths.	Nursery Diapers.
Lancashire do.	" " " Undressed do.	Worsted Table Covers.	Scotch & Lancashire Muslins.
Woolseys.	Window Hollands.	Irish Linens, Lawns, &c.	Muslin and Lace Curtains.
Fast Coloured Prints.	Satteens, Jeans, &c.	Yorkshire and Scotch Linens.	Silesias, Crinolines, &c.
White and Grey Calicoes, of superior makes and in great variety.			Charities and Public Institutions supplied on liberal terms.

None of the siblings had children of their own and all except Esther Maria stayed in Leeds. Daniel and Lucy's son, **Edward Smith Pickard**, worked as a bookkeeper and sister **Catherine Pickard** was his housekeeper. They lived in their parents' house for much of the time after their deaths. Son **Joseph Fry Pickard** continued working as a draper and lived nearer Headingley on Richmond Avenue. In those days it was a well regarded area but is now the home of thousands of students. Joseph had two wives, **Sarah Simkin Pickering** and **Lizzie Pickering** who were half sisters. They were the children of **Guy Pickering**, a Nottinghamshire joiner, and his two wives **Mary Simkins** and **Lydia Simkins** who were also sisters. In 1907 it became legal to marry the sister of your deceased wife so Joseph Fry Pickard's second marriage was legal but Guy Pickering's second marriage was illegal.

Esther Maria's eldest sister **Eliza Pickard** remained with her parents until she met **John Coleman Kenworthy**. The son of a master mariner from Everton, John Kenworthy joined Liverpool's early socialist movement and associated with Ruskin and William Morris. He became a religious activist and was arrested and imprisoned on several occasions. He was a prolific writer who wrote extensively about Tolstoy. Tolstoy's works, such as *War and Peace* conveyed Russian society during his lifetime and 'describe the chasm between landowners and peasants with irony and provocation'. After communicating with Tolstoy, John Kenworthy was under the impression that Tolstoy had promised him exclusive rights to



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one or more of his texts. Tolstoy contested this and Kenworthy never received any rights. However, along the same principles of Christian socialism, brotherly love, pacifism and the simple life, John Kenworthy founded and ran several co-operative communities. *'The Brotherhood Church, a Christian anarchist and pacifist organization intended to replace the cruel, competitive system that caused so much pain and misery.'* Whilst in Leeds he met Eliza Pickard. In 1897 they set up *The Leeds Brotherhood Workshop* at 6 Victoria Road in Hyde Park, just round the corner from the Pickards. At one point they advertised *'At present the efforts of the comrades are mostly centred in the making of bicycles and various electrical apparatus. One comrade makes the clothing that is needed by the others, whilst another mends their boots and soon hopes to be making them. Comrades wanting anything in the shape of bikes etc should make an enquiry'*

All the communities that John Kenworthy founded failed, ironically as a result of his autocratic behaviour. The frustration of this led to his first of many admissions into asylums in 1909. John had married in 1883 but this didn't stop his friendship with Eliza developing into something more. Eliza was known to support John faithfully both in and out of his stays in asylums. Although they never married, upon Eliza's death in 1942, aged 84, she was identified at probate as, *Eliza Pickard or Kenworthy*. John Kenworthy died in 1948, aged 86.

PICKARD Eliza or KENWORTHY Eliza Pickard of 57 Richmond-avenue Headingley Leeds spinster died 30 August 1942 Administration (with Will) Llandudno 6 February to Lizzie Pickard widow. Effects £520 16s, 11d.

So, this was the background of Esther Maria Pickard who set up Overdale with Marie Auerbach in the same year that sister Eliza set up the Leeds Brotherhood with John Kenworthy. Esther Maria had picked up an MA from Cambridge which was in the early days of female graduation, Newnham being established in 1871 by suffragist campaigner **Millicent Garrett Fawcett** amongst others. In 1902 a photo was taken of Miss Auerbach, centre left and Miss Pickard, centre right and their pupils [ph3].



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After Marie died in 1914 Esther kept the school running with the help of other teachers and servants, of course [LSA]. Young **Richard Monk** worked for Miss Pickard at Overdale School before he enlisted. He was killed in action on the Western Front 11 April 1917, aged 18.



"Overdale" School for Girls, SETTLE.

Head Mistress: Miss E. M. PICKARD,
*Late of Leeds High School and Scholar of Newnham College, Cambridge
(Classical Tripos).*

On Empire Day (May 24th) in 1921 Esther treated the girls to a trip to Malham, Malham Cove and Malham Tarn House 'and the great precipice which forms the cove'. They were taken in four wagonettes pulled by eight horses, driven by **Mr Heelis**. **Mr Robert Battersby**, Mr Walter Morrison's coachman let them go down to the tarn [ph2].

Also in 1921, after 24 years at the school, Esther was 'suddenly confronted with the choice either to buy the premises in Settle or to find others' [ph2]. As a result the school magazine of Summer 1921 [ph2] provided the exciting news 'that the School was going to remove during the summer holidays to Farley Hall, near Oakamoor, Staffordshire.' which is now very close to Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire. Sure enough all the staff and 32 of the 35 girls started the next term in Staffordshire in the new 'Overdale'. Esther's brother Edward Smith Pickard lived nearby and worked as her bursar. She appointed **Miss Marie Zanazzi** as a matron-housekeeper. This story throws up some brilliant names, doesn't it? Marie's father, **Charles Frederick Zanazzi**, was 'a steward in the mercantile marine'. Marie's mother, **Jane Bownass** divorced him in 1909 on the ground of cruelty and adultery — he had 'given way to drink and misconducted himself with a servant girl' [3]. Oops.

Esther retired back to live in Raisgill in Settle, just down the road from Overdale, until she died in 1931, aged 62. She was buried in the same grave as Marie Auerbach but her name was not recorded on the gravestone.

We cannot leave this tale without celebrating the life of a very special Overdale pupil. **Martha Johanna Hildegard (Hilda) Muller** was born in Dresden, Germany and brought over to England in 1902 by Miss Auerbach, aged only three, to be brought up at Overdale — Hilda sat between Miss

photos were taken of him. Presently Malham Tarn showed itself in the distance shining in front of us. We were fortunate in being driven by Mr. Heelis, who has permission to take parties through the private grounds of Malham Tarn House. While the horses rested and got a much needed drink, Mr. Battersby, Mr. Morrison's coachman, let us go down to the shores of the tarn; we threw stones in and took many photos. Then on again

DEAR OVERDALIANS,

Since the last Magazine was published, very much, as you all know, has happened. Last September I was suddenly confronted with the choice either to buy the premises at Settle or to find others. I soon came to the

SUMMER TERM, 1921.

May 3rd. Term began. New girls: Eunice Cockshott, London; Lysbeth Hutton, Bradford; Muriel Townend, Bradford (at half-term).

May 10th. Interesting lecture by Captain Lassen on the League of Nations, in the High School.

May 11th. School's Birthday. At last we managed to reach the top of Whelpstone Crag. This day was the more exciting because on it was born Hilda Lord's (Muller) little son.

May 24th. Empire day. Grand excursion by wagonettes to Malham.

May 27th. Miss Pickard told us the exciting news that the School was going to remove during the Summer holidays to Farley Hall, nr. Oakamoor, Staffs.

June 7th. We went to a service in Church, at which the Bishop gave his blessing to the Lady Pilgrims who were visiting various parishes to stir up interest in Missionary work.

June 8th & 9th. Two of the Pilgrims, Miss Falconer and Mrs. Firth, came to the School and talked to us

June 19th. Rennie Stuart Lord was christened at Settle Church. We all went to the service. Dr. Hyslop was godfather, Miss Pickard godmother.

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Auerbach and Miss Pickard in the school photo. The exact circumstances of her move to England are unknown.

On 14 July 1920 Hilda, aged 21 married **Edward (Ted) Lord**, aged 42 and photos were taken outside Overdale. **Rev Walter Linney** was in attendance — his daughter **Kathleen Mary Linney** had been a pupil at Overdale. Ted was a talented, intelligent man who worked as a solicitor's clerk to **George Kenneth Charlesworth**, **George Marshall Robinson** and also **Alan Hyslop** who took over the Robinson's practice. Edward also worked as the private secretary to a Liberal MP, **William Clough**. He was the clerk to Settle Parish Council, secretary of the Castleberg Lodge of Freemasons and an agent for Halifax Building Society. He was a founder member of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society and took several leading parts with his fine baritone voice. Singing even led Edward to the offer of a professional post in London but he preferred to live in Craven. Edward was an outdoor man and enjoyed shooting and fishing. He was the secretary of the Coronation Committee in 1937 too. Impressive! He couldn't have done all that without the support of a good wife!



Ted and Hilda lived nextdoor to Overdale at Highfield and had three children. The 1921 School magazine (above) celebrated the birth of their first child, **Rennie Stuart Lord** on May 11, and his christening on 19 June — his godparents were Dr Hyslop and Miss Pickard, of course.

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The gardens and gymnasium at Overdale [ph5]



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](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 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.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Westminster Gazette, 2 — Truth, 3 — Yorkshire Post, 4 — Leeds Times, 5 — Ayr Observer, 6 — Yorkshire Post

ph1 — photo credited to "The author at the time of his last visit to Leo Tolstoy" from Tolstoy: his life and works, ph2 — With thanks to Mike Howarth via the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph3 — With thanks to descendant Sue Needham via the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph4 — google earth, ph5 — With thanks to Ben McKenzie via the Back in Settle Facebook site

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