

Warnes and Littleprouds, talented Norfolk folk

In loving memory of Phyllis Winifred Warnes of Barrow-in-Furness born 27th September 1906, died 7th April 1908, Old G33

Little Phyllis died at her grandparents' house, 2 Mains View in Settle. As a stark reminder of the times, according to *Dr Lovegrove* she died of '*Rachitis Asthmia*', an asthma attack brought on by complications arising from rickets, caused by a deficiency of Vitamin D. Phyllis was buried with her grandparents, **John William Warnes** and **Maria Littleproud**.



The Warnes and Littleproud families were some of the hundreds of people who left Norfolk during the East Anglian agricultural depression in the second half of the 19th century. Industrialisation had significantly reduced the need for agricultural labourers. Meanwhile, in Settle the cotton mills went out of business during the 1850s because they had not been industrialised and became less competitive than the large Lancashire mills. In 1860 there were 2650 cotton mills in Lancashire employing 440 thousand people and producing half the world's cotton. Hundreds of Langcliffe and Settle workers moved to Lancashire, particularly the Accrington district and the population of Settle dropped by a quarter from nearly 2000 to just over 1500. So, when Hector Christie reopened the mills he needed workers and, sensibly, recruited from East Anglia, hence the influx of workers from that area.

John William Warnes' parents, **William Warnes**, a labourer and **Susannah Briggs** had at least eight children. They all came up to live at Ellwood Cottages in Langcliffe during the 1870s. Most of the children later married and started their own lives in Lancashire. Meanwhile, Maria Littleproud's father, **John Littleproud** [ph1], a gardener, brought the family to live in Langcliffe, close to Langcliffe Hall, after the death of his wife, **Maria Brewster** in 1863. She died, aged 41, a couple of years after the birth of her 12th child, **Horace Littleproud**. The older Littleproud children all found work in the mill and that is probably what attracted the family to the area. When he died in 1874, aged 58, John Littleproud was buried in Langcliffe graveyard with a fine stone.



In affectionate remembrance of John Littleproud of Langcliffe who died December 20th 1874 aged 59 years.

John William Warnes and Maria Littleproud married in 1877 and Maria's sister, **Eliza Littleproud** and youngest brother **Horace Littleproud** were witnesses. Unfortunately, Horace, a carpenter died in 1888, aged 27, leaving a widow, **Emma (Hill) Littleproud** and two daughters, **Fanny** and **Mary Lavinia Littleproud**. Emma, Fanny and Mary Lavinia lived together in Lancashire for the rest of their lives, the daughters remaining spinsters. By the time of the 1881 census John William had obtained the responsible post of 'Overlooker' (foreman/superintendent) at the mill, a position he held until his death. John William and Maria



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had three children, **John William (Jnr)**, **Elizabeth Ann** and youngest **Ada Warnes**. The children were pictured with Maria and little Fanny Littleproud, front centre [ph1].

John William and Maria also adopted **Sydney Arthur Herbert Rutt** who was known by the surname Warnes. Sydney was pictured front centre with his new family [ph1]. Sydney was one of two sons of **Horace George Charles Alexander Rutt**, a French polisher and his wife **Sarah Clara Mary Page**. Horace's father, **Henry John Rutt** was a military man, a member of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers involved in both the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny during the 1850s and, as a result, Horace George Charles Alexander Rutt was born in the Cawnpore in the 'East Indies'. Sarah died when son Sydney was just one year old in 1893 and Horace died a year later. Sydney's elder brother, another **Henry John Rutt**, was brought up by his Page grandparents. He worked as a gas fitter in London and had two children with his wife **Florence Cocksedge** before he died in 1933, aged 42.



Meanwhile, Sydney was adopted by John William and Maria. Adoption was unregulated at that point and it's likely a charity organisation was involved as there don't seem to be any family connections. Sydney went to Giggleswick School and learned to play the organ. He was a talented musician and, under the name 'Sydney Rutt Warnes' took up a post in Closeburn, Ayrshire as an organist and choir master and also as a music teacher at Wallacehall Academy. There he married **Helen Arthur Hogg**, the daughter of a Church of Scotland minister, in 1914. With war looming Sydney volunteered to sign up for service. On 13 January 1915 Minister **J C B Geddes** provided a reference in which he found him to be a 'very good organist'.

Place Settle
 Date 13th Jan 1915
 I certify that I have tested Recruit S.H. Warnes
 and find him to be a Very Good Organist
 Signature of Civilian Tradesman Minister J.C.B. Geddes
 Address St John's Mansel Lane

SETTLE, YORKSHIRE.
 I have known Private Sydney Warnes (No 70735) for about ten years. He is a highly strung nervous man & in my opinion is not fit to be a soldier in any capacity.
 A.C.A. Longman
 April 5th 1915

When he enlisted to the Royal Engineers, signal division, on 16 February 1915, Sydney's war records described he was 5 feet 5 ¼ inches tall with scars on his left cheek and right knee. However, Sydney's records also show that on 3 April he was suffering from severe nerves and was given 14 days' leave. His illness became worse during this leave and **Doctor Lovegrove**, in Settle, wrote to say that he had known Private Sydney Warnes for ten years. 'He is a highly strung nervous man and, in my opinion is not fit to be a soldier in any capacity.'

He was discharged on 17 May 1915 'not being likely to become an efficient soldier.' He was described as suffering from 'Neurasthenia bordering on melancholia.'

Discharged not being likely to become an efficient soldier. Para 592 III C.E. 1013.	17.5.15
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Flat foot very exaggerated on left foot. So, he never saw active service.

From there, Sydney studied at Glasgow University and was ordained with a long career in the Church of Scotland. In 1934 he moved to serve in Partick in East Glasgow, a challenging area. Known as the 'Gangster's Minister' Mr Warnes was 'constitutionally incapable of taking things easy. He left a comfortable congregation to take up a cause in the east end of Glasgow. There he struck out on new lines, dealing with the problems of masterless men and lads, which the long periods of unemployment had created.' He willingly gave his services as a musician and speaker too willingly for his own health[1]. In 1937 Rev Sydney Warnes (in the middle at the back), as a joint secretary of the movement working to restore the herring fishing industry, wrote to the Prime Minister to ask for his help[2]. Despite his nervous disposition Sydney was a chaplain in the Black Watch, an infantry battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, which served in France in WW2. Sydney lived to the age of 84.

SCOTS "GANGSTERS" MINISTER

Rev. Sydney Warnes Takes Over New Charge

Rev. Alexander M'Kenzie, Glasgow, introducing Rev. Sydney Warnes, Glasgow, known as the "Gangsters Minister," to his new charge, Buckie South Church, yesterday, said Mr Warnes was constitutionally incapable of taking things easy.

He left a comfortable congregation in the west end of Glasgow, St Mary's, to take up a cause in the east end of Glasgow. There he struck out on new lines, dealing with the problems of masterless men and lads, which the long period of unemployment had created.

In addition he willingly gave his services to many causes, outside his own immediate work, as musician and speaker too willingly for his own health.

HERRING INDUSTRY: MINISTERS APPEAL TO PREMIER



Left to right: the Rev. J. Greenlaw, Buckie; the Rev. J. L. Symington, Rathven; the Rev. S. Warnes, Buckie; the Rev. H. Thompson, Portessie; and the Rev. H. Henderson, Buckie, who are organising a campaign in support of assistance for the herring fishing industry.

THE Rev. Sydney Warnes and the Rev. Harold Thompson, joint secretaries of the movement for the restoration of the herring fishing industry, sent a letter to the Prime Minister yesterday which read as follows:—

Sydney's adoptive parents John William and Maria Warnes moved from Langcliffe to Settle during the 1890s, living in the Market Place and then the newly built 2 Mains View. By 1921 they lived on 'North Field Road' (many years before the estate was built). After Maria died in 1925, aged 74, John William moved to live with youngest daughter Ada Warnes, in Church Street, until he died in 1932, aged 75. John William and Maria joined their granddaughter Phyllis Winfred Warnes in plot *OldG33* but were not mentioned on the gravestone.

John William and Maria's three biological children didn't travel quite as far as Sydney. Daughter **Ada Warnes** remained a spinster and set up a wool/ haberdashery shop in Church Street, now a pizza shop. Behind the quiet facade of her wool shop Ada had a passion for the suffragette cause. The Pankhursts and their associates, including Settle's **Charlotte Robinson** and her niece **Elsbeth McClelland**, are well known for their civil disobedience and law breaking in Manchester and London. However, up in the more rural locations of the north of England there was a more measured approach. As early as 1897, nurse **Effie Anderson** read a paper for the Settle

23. A Paper on "Woman's Suffrage" was read before the Settle Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Society, Miss Anderson.

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Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Society [LSA] . Poor Effie died a year later, aged 38. In the early 1900s women's suffrage was discussed at several meetings of the Women's Liberal Association. There were several pageants and fancy dress balls in support of women's suffrage in which local women were invited to join organised groups to dress up as historical women of influence including Boudicca, Britannia, Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. Ada joined at least one of these [ph3] middle row, second right.



Obviously, some people didn't agree with women's suffrage. In 1909 a large majority of members of the Conservative Club voted against women's suffrage after 'a warm discussion' [LSA]

The provocative and controversial vicar of Giggleswick, **Rev Theodore Percy Brocklehurst**, wrote in The Giggleswick Parish Magazine of 1906, 'Our sympathies fully go out with those public men who have had such lively experiences with screeching suffragettes. The gyrations of these eccentric huffees are very droll. These weaker (?) sexites would be more dignifiedly employed in not neglecting their households in the shape of husband (feeding the brutes!) and children, or even of poodles and pussies, than in pirouetting in front of the public for their own vanity and self-effulgency (the quality of being radiant), degrading earth's noblest creation — a woman perfected. . . A woman who affects masculine ways and forgets what is becoming in her sex, has no right to complain if men do not show her the respect which a womanly woman is always able to command.'

[ph5] Ada and her contemporaries would have been relieved (and yet frustrated) that, after the

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (continued.)

15. A Public Debate on "Woman's Suffrage," at Settle Conservative Club, when a paper in favour of the cause was read by Mrs. Mott, of Giggleswick, and Mr. W. Simpson, of Catteral Hall, opposed. A warm discussion followed, and, on a vote being taken at the close, there was a large majority against granting the Franchise to Women.

tions of these eccentric huffees are very droll. These weaker (?) sexites would be more dignifiedly employed in not neglecting their households in the shape of husbands (feeding the brutes!) and children, or even of poodles and pussies, than in pirouetting in front of the public for their own vanity and self-effulgency, degrading earth's noblest creation—a woman perfected. The family is the proper province for womanly women to shine in, and by serving they rule; women's work is the greatest and most lasting where it is most womanly. A female who affects masculine ways and forgets what is becoming in her sex, has no right to complain if men do not show her the respect which a womanly woman is always able to command.

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contribution of women in the war, 8.4 million women over the age of 30 were enfranchised in 1918, and also women were allowed to be elected to Parliament during the General election of December 1918. In 1928 women received the vote on the same terms as men.

Ada retired to the almshouses in Long Preston where she died in 1964, aged 79.

Meanwhile, in 1907 John William and Maria's daughter **Elizabeth Ann Warnes**, known as Eliza, married **Richard Potts**, a railway platelayer from Northumberland who had moved to Skipton with his widowed mother. Richard and Elizabeth Ann settled in Horton-in-Ribblesdale with their family of three — **Ada Teasdale Potts**, **Stanley Richard Potts** and **Frank Potts**. In 1929 Ada Teasdale Potts [ph4] married **Norman Lindsay Boase**, [ph4] the son of a Keighley postal clerk. Norman and Ada did some missionary work [ph3] — front row right and the tallest man on the back row!



Ada and Norman's eldest child, **Eileen L Boase**, was born in Ada Warnes's house and, at the time of the 1939 register, Norman and Ada lived with Aunt Ada Warnes in Church Street and the first four of their six children. Norman worked as a petrol pump fitter. Ada played the organ at Eastbrook Hall, Bradford in her later years.

Richard and Eliza's son **Stanley Richard Potts** worked in the lime kilns in Horton before having his family. He was buried at Langcliffe. **Frank Potts** became the Postmaster in Long Preston so was near Aunt Ada Warnes when she retired to the Long Preston almshouses. Richard and Eliza Potts were buried at Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

John William and Maria's son **John William Warnes (Jnr)** was photographed, aged two, by Settle photographer **John Bordley**. John William (Jnr) was awarded a prize for regular attendance at the Langcliffe Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School of which his father became a trustee. The prize was a book, *'The Star Reciter, a collection of prose and poetical gems, grave and gay'* purchased from **George Horner** in Church Street, Settle. Coincidentally George Horner's shop was right next door to Ada Warnes' wool shop. As John William Warnes (Jnr) grew up it became apparent he was also a talented musician to the extent he became a protege to **Dr Charles William Buck** and played the violin in one of his orchestras. He may have met Dr Buck's friend, the composer **Edward Elgar**. Dr Buck was so impressed that he arranged for him to have an audition with the Halle orchestra. John William (Jnr) was offered an apprenticeship with the orchestra but his parents were unwilling to finance it.



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So, John William (Jnr) left home and found work in Lancashire. Whilst working as a grocer in Colne he met the choirmaster, organist and composer **Francis Duckworth** who composed the hymn tune *Rimington*. From there John William (Jnr) moved to Barrow-in-Furness to work as a clerk in Broadley's engineering firm. In the second half of the 19th century Barrow's industries significantly expanded due to the discovery of iron ore and the associated shipyards.

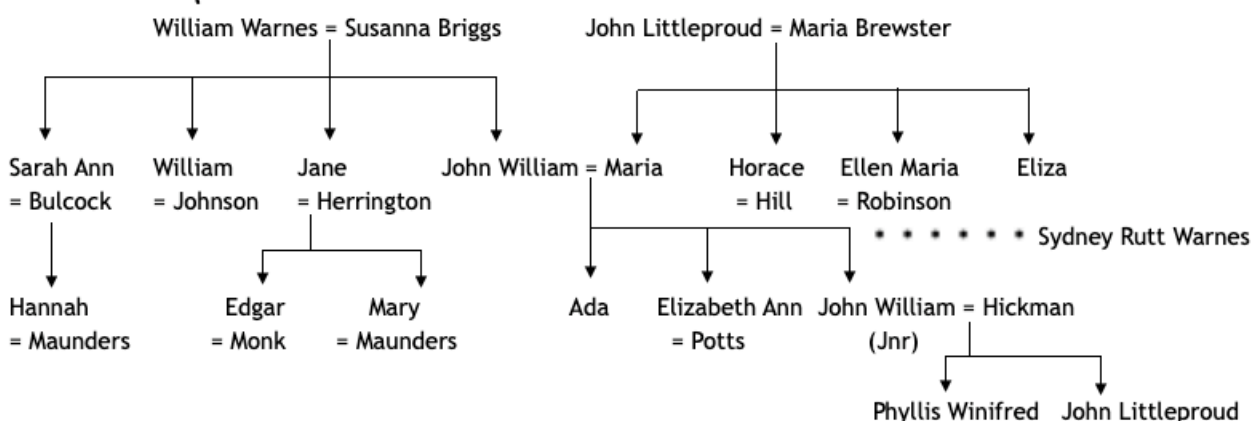
According to his diary on 1 January 1901 John William (Jnr) met **Annie Jane Hickman**, also an amateur violinist, at a Wesleyan Methodist function. Her family had also moved to Barrow for work from the Black Country. Just weeks later, on 24 January 1901, John William (Jnr) proposed to Annie during an outing to Furness Abbey. What a romantic! Soon after he took employment at Vickers shipyard in Barrow, then operating at its prime, and stayed there for the rest of his life. John William (Jnr) and Annie Jane married on 15 November 1902 [ph1] and had a daughter and a son, the eldest being Phyllis Winfred Warnes who died an infant at her grandparents' house in Settle. John William (Jnr) died in 1937, aged 57.



John William (Jnr) and Annie's son **John Littleproud Warnes** was pictured, front and centre, with his grandparents and cousins Ada Teasdale Potts and Stanley Richard Potts. He trained as a minister for the Methodist Church and was ordained in 1939 [ph1]. He served in the north of England and Cornwall with his wife and two sons before retiring to Chester.



Warnes & Littleproud families



Other Settle burials

Going back a generation, just a couple of William and Susannah Warnes' children stayed in Settle. **Sarah Ann Warnes** married **John Tempest Bulcock** in 1888. On 11 February 1881 John had signed up for the Police and began training in Wakefield. He was described as 5 feet 1½ inches tall with a fresh complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. He had been working as a labourer for the Settle

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builder **John Winskill**. Unfortunately, on 21 April 1881 John Tempest Bullock was dismissed. The most common reason for dismissal from the police force was being drunk — Police officers were meant to live a respectable temperate life as an example to the community. However, as a result he came back to Settle, married Sarah Ann Warnes and worked in the quarry. John, Sarah and their two sons, infants **James Henry Bulcock** and **William Bulcock** are buried in the unmarked *Old BX7*. Their daughter **Hannah Bulcock** married quarryman **Walter Percival Maunders** and they were buried in the unmarked *New HX38*.

William and Susannah's son **William Arthur Warnes** worked as a fish and tripe dealer in Langcliffe [LSA]. He married **Jane Johnson** and they had three children but little **Ivy Warnes** died a toddler. Later they moved to Pateley Bridge and then Rotherham.



William and Susanna's daughter **Jane Warnes** married **Charles Herrington** whose family had come to Settle from the Harrogate area to find work in the mills. They had at least six children. Charles worked as an overlooker for the Brassingtons firm at the Bridge End Mill. They are buried in *Old H21* with their son **Arthur Herrington**, aged 10 and daughter **Mabel Herrington**, aged 91!



Jane Herrington died 19.11.1946 aged 78 years, Charles Herrington died 24.6.1938 aged 68 years, Arthur Herrington died 21.7.1919 aged 10 years, Mabel Herrington died 23.8.1991 aged 91 years

Jane and Charles' son, **Edgar Herrington**, who worked in the mills married his widowed first cousin **Lily (Watson) Monk**. She was the daughter of **Margaret Warnes** and her husband **Thomas Watson**, a stationary engine driver in Lazonby. Lily's first husband was **Tommy Monk**, a Settle quarryman, who was killed on the Western Front on 15 September 1915, aged 29, just weeks after their wedding. **Lance Corporal Thomas Monk [ph2]** had been in the Settle territorials and joined the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. *'He was killed on the night of the 15th as we were coming into the trenches. He was hit in the head by shrapnel and was killed instantly. He was an excellent NCO and a very good fellow indeed, being extremely popular, and his death is a great loss to the Company.'* Edgar, Lily, their spinster daughter Lily and Lily's mother Margaret Watson were buried in the unmarked *New LX26*.



When she was 56, in 1954, Charles and Jane's daughter **Mary Herrington** became the second wife of 69 year old **Joseph Maunders**, the uncle of Walter Percival Maunders (above). They had six years together before Joseph died. They were buried in the unmarked *New FX25* with Joseph's first wife **Ethel Phillipson** who had died in 1949.

Charles' spinster sisters Mary Jane and Hannah were buried together in *Old F64*.

In Loving Memory of Mary Jane Herrington who died Sept 18th 1903 aged 39. "Her end was peace" Also of Hannah Herrington who died at Kendal September 22nd 1946 aged 73 years.



Maria Littleproud's sister **Ellen Maria Littleproud** married a Settle labourer,

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William Robinson. Their only child **Margaret Ann Robinson** died in 1878, aged seven. She was buried in the unmarked plot CX1 in the Ancient graveyard. After her death Ellen Maria and William moved to Blackburn. Maria Littleproud's sister **Eliza**, the witness at their wedding, had a life in domestic service in Kirkby Stephen but appears to have been buried back in Langcliffe, perhaps with her dad.



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 many thanks to descendants Rev David Warnes, Kim Miller and Liz Griggs for help, information and photos in this account.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Leeds Mercury, 2 — The Scotsman

ph1 — photos kindly provided by descendant Rev David Warnes, ph2 — credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph3 — photos kindly provided by descendant Liz Griggs, and the Museum of North Craven Life for the suffragettes photo. ph4 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Amanda Brennan, ph5 — The Brayshaw records with thanks to Giggleswick Parish Church

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life