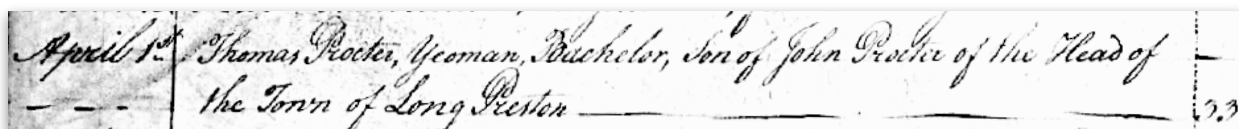


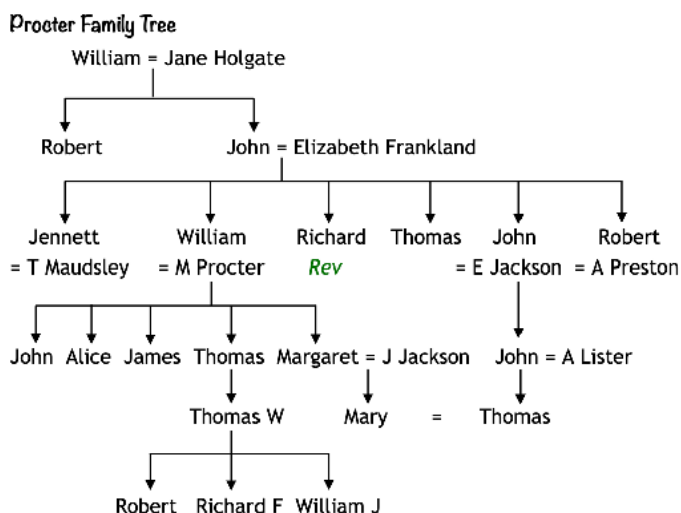
The Proctor/Procters of Town Head, Long Preston

As early as 1753 the wealthy Proctor/Procter family owned Town Head and its associated land in Long Preston. The spelling of the surname seemed to change with the wind and for the sake of simplicity we'll stick to Procter, except for gravestone inscriptions where appropriate. Before the new turnpike road (in the 1750s) took traffic along the valley, Town Head was the last house in the town and so was literally at the head of the town, recorded in the burial register of 1803 for **Thomas Procter**, aged 33.



Descendants, many of whom remained unmarried, expanded their portfolio to build and take over some of the more substantial properties in the north end of the town, such as Cromwell House, Prospect House, Kirkmangate and The Heath. The Procter families occupy many graves in Long Preston graveyard, with almost 100 buried before the year 1800, and some in Giggleswick graveyard too.

During the 18th century **John Procter** and **Elizabeth Frankland** had five children at Town Head. Elizabeth was a relation of **Richard Frankland** of Rathmell Academy fame. Her unmarried siblings farmed Close House near Giggleswick. Thomas and Elizabeth are buried in an unmarked grave in Giggleswick graveyard. John and Elizabeth's son, **Thomas Procter**, was the one to die at 'the Head of Town' and their daughter Elizabeth Procter died, aged 44.



Sacred to the Memory of Thomas Procter, son of John & Elizabeth Procter Senior, of Long Preston, who departed this life 29 of March 1803 aged 33 years. Also Elizabeth Procter the wife of John Procter Senior who departed this life 18 of December 1809, aged 78 years. Also Elizabeth Procter, daughter of John & Elizabeth Procter who departed this life on the 10 day of June in the year of our Lord 1812 aged 44 years. Also John Procter Senior who departed this life on the 10 day of February in the year of our Lord 1814 aged 78 years.



John and Elizabeth's daughter, **Jennett Procter**, married the successful local farmer **Thomas Maudsley** and they became the grandparents of **Henry Maudsley**,^[ph1] a celebrated and progressive mental health expert who used his substantial income from private work to fund half the cost of the Maudsley Psychiatric Hospital in London. A condition of the donation was that the aftercare of patients should be a priority. John and Elizabeth's son, **Richard Procter**, spent his career as the vicar of Laxton in the Sherwood Forest area of Nottinghamshire. Their son **Robert Procter** lived by himself at Kirkmangate in Long Preston. The Giggleswick schoolmaster, diarist and bookseller, **William Lodge Paley**, reported that, in 1822, Robert seemed lonely following the loss of his housekeeper. William's fear was that



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March 16.—Dined with old friend R. Procter, L. Preston, who seems lonely for the loss of his housekeeper. Fear he will leave L. P. soon and then it will lose one of its best men and I one of my best customers.

Oct. 5.—Took magazines for Mr. Garstang and walked with R. Wildman to L. Preston. Mr. Procter seems very lonely so advised him to marry and recommended two pious sisters to choose from and he seemed to relish the idea pretty well.

April 22.—My old friend R. Procter married here to-day to Miss Agnes Preston, Meerbeck. They dined at her mother's in Settle. Went with Mr.



Robert would leave Long Preston and he would lose one of his best customers!

By October William was advising 'him to

marry and recommended two pious sisters to choose from and he seemed to relish the idea pretty well'[WLP]. You will be glad to know that on 22 April 1824

Robert, aged 54, married 34 year old **Agnes Preston** who could have been one of the two pious sisters! Agnes wasted no time in making improvements to the house — she arranged for decorators and a new road so that carriages could ride to the door. Agnes was one of five daughters of **John Preston** and his wife **Jane Hartley**, the very wealthy farmer based at Mearbeck. A photo of Agnes' sister, **Elizabeth Preston**, [ph4] gives a wonderful example of the fashions of this social class during the 1860s. The remaining spinsters, and some spinster nieces, lived together at Undercliffe, opposite the current Post Office, in Settle. Unfortunately for William Lodge Paley, he received no more orders for books after Robert's marriage! Robert died 25 years later, aged 79 and was joined 22 years later by Agnes. They are buried in a quiet corner of the graveyard.



In Memory of Robert Procter of Long Preston who departed this life on the 23rd of February 1849 aged 79 years also Agnes relict of the above who died Jan 16th 1871 aged 84 years.

In 1801 John and Elizabeth's eldest son, **William Procter**, married **Mary Procter**, the daughter of **Thomas Procter** of Ilkley who was probably a relation. Four years later William and Mary moved to the ancestral home at Close House where the last seven of their nine children were born. William Lodge Paley regularly visited them, to have 'tea, a glass and a pipe' on one occasion in 1821 to avoid the chaos at his 'house' due to a cock fight! As a respectable bachelor, rather than having to look after himself, William was a long term lodger at the Black Horse Inn in Giggleswick and there would probably have been extra guests for the cock fight. In 1824 William Procter had consulted William Lodge Paley on 'how to express an inscription' for a gravestone for his Frankland aunts and uncles, including a reference to their son **Richard Frankland Procter**, who died in infancy. This stone is on the floor of the church porch — without doubt, everyone visiting the church would see it and pay their respects!

on the 12th. Taught all day to keep scholars from cock fight and self out of such ey. as attend ym. and frequent our house much. Went to Mr. Procters Close House to keep out of such ey. as mentioned and had a glass and a pipe.

April 8.—Mr. Procter consulted me how to express an inscription which he wish to have put in Church Porch to the memory of Franklands and took 2 papers home to draw one out.

In memory of Richard Frankland of Close House in this parish who died April 23rd 1803 aged 70 years. Also John Frankland his brother who died April 26th 1804 aged 65 years. Also Isabella Frankland, their sister who died Dec 23rd 1811 aged 71 years. Likewise in memory of R. F. Procter son of W. Procter of Close House, nephew of the aforesaid Franklands by Mary his wife, who died an infant Feb'y 17th 1817.

Out of the remaining eight children only son **Thomas Procter** and daughter **Margaret Procter** married. William, aged 77 and Mary, aged 76 were buried with their unmarried children and have a huge, floor to ceiling memorial stone on the side of the porch of Giggleswick church, just above the Frankland memorial stone.

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Sacred to the memory of William Procter of Close House who died April 24th 1840, aged 77 years. And Mary his wife who died July 12th 1850, aged 76 years. Also Mary their second daughter who died July 1st 1841, age 33 years. Also Alice their youngest daughter who died October 17th 1860, aged 46 years. Also Elizabeth their eldest daughter who died April 18th 1865, aged 59 years. Also John their eldest son who died February 20th 1867, aged 64 years. Also William their third son who died Jan'y 3rd 1876, aged 64 years. Also James their youngest son who died June 14th 1878, aged 60 years.



William and Mary's daughter, **Margaret Procter**, married **John Jackson** who was from 'Owstwick' (Austwick). John was just four when his father, **Robert Jackson**, was 'unfortunately killed by the overturning of his cart on Swarth Moor on his return from Settle' [1]. Despite this, John had a good education to become a solicitor working for **Henry Robinson**, one of Settle's finest. John's status as a gentleman was confirmed when he married Margaret Procter and they lived at Bond End in Kirkgate. John was a manager of the Craven Savings Bank, along with several other 'worthies' in Settle and was the auditor for the Settle Union which coordinated support for the poor. In 1853 the Victoria Hall was built right next to their property, on the site of the old National School. Even worse, in the early 1870s the viaduct of the Settle and Carlisle Railway was built on the other side of the property which prompted a move to the Market Place, in the large bank/solicitor premises at the end of Cheapside. However, before all that, Margaret died, aged 29, at the birth of her fourth child, a daughter, also named **Margaret Jackson** and is buried in Settle graveyard with a high quality gravestone. Margaret was the third burial in the graveyard after it opened just months before.

*Robert the son of Robt. Jackson of Owstwick
& Sarah his wife. Was born 12th of 3rd Month 1767*

On the 4th ult Robert Jackson, of Wharfe, near Austwick, was unfortunately killed, by the overturning of his cart, on Swarth Moor, on his return from Settle market.

Sacred to the memory of Margaret, wife of John Jackson, solicitor, Settle and third daughter of William and Mary Procter of Close-House in the parish of Giggleswick who departed this life June 4th 1839 age 29 years. Also Margaret, daughter of the above who died 6th January 1858 age 18 years. Also of the above named John Jackson who died 17th day of January 1875 age 67 years.



In 1873, John and Margaret's daughter, **Mary Jackson**, became the first wife of **Thomas Procter**, her second cousin and grandson of William Procter's brother **John Procter**. Thomas and Mary lived back at Close House, the Procter/Frankland home. In 1882 Thomas was praised for his 'Seasonable Generosity — We are pleased to note that for the third year in succession Thomas Procter, Esq., Close House, Settle, has distributed 30 cart loads of coal among the deserving poor of Long Preston, his native village, and we are also glad to hear that there is a probability of this benevolent act being emulated by others shortly.' [2]

After Mary died in 1891 Thomas married widow **Harriet Eaton (Dodgson) Pain** and they, moved to Crowell House, just below Town Head in Long Preston. Other members of the Procter family moved into Close House. Mary, Thomas, 'of Cromwell House' and his second wife are buried in adjacent graves immediately in front of the church gate (with the cross) — now that's a prominent location! He liked his surname spelt with two letter 'o's.



In Memory of Mary wife of Thomas Procter of Long Preston died November 21st 1891 age 56 years.

In Loving Memory of Thomas Procter of Cromwell House who passed away in 1923 in his 78th year also of Harriott Eaton his wife who died December 15th 1925 aged 88 years, 'Rest in the Lord'



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John and Margaret Jackson's son, **John Jackson**, a bank manager, married **Isabella Blades**, the daughter of **Isaac Blades**, a horse breeder/trainer at Spigot Lodge racecourse at Middleham. John and Isabella brought up their family in Ulverston, Lancashire.

Going back a generation, William and Mary's children **John**, **William**, **Elizabeth** and **Alice Proctor** kept the farm going at Close House. Youngest son, **James Proctor**, worked in the woollen trade in Bradford and made a fortune. When he died in 1878 his estate was worth £78,000, at least £10 million at today's value.

The Leeds to Lancaster railway line was completed in 1849, just before mother Mary (Procter) Procter died. Close House is just a short walk from the 'new' station, originally called 'Settle Station' but renamed 'Giggleswick Station' after the Settle to Carlisle Railway was built. It was suddenly an easy ride for the Proctors to travel to Long Preston and much quicker than walking or riding into Giggleswick or Settle. In October 1860 youngest daughter, **Alice Procter**, aged 46, and her sister, **Elizabeth Procter**, aged 54, went to Long Preston Station to catch the 7.33pm train back to Giggleswick after visiting their newly married nephew, **Thomas William Procter**. We'll come back to him in a moment. They hurried across the line to get to the platform and their servant called out, '*Do be quick Miss Alice*'. Alice's dress, being fashionably voluminous with crinoline hoops, was caught by the buffer of '*an express luggage train travelling at twenty-five miles per hour*' which was passing through ahead of their scheduled passenger train [3]. She would have died immediately. For some reason, the driver of the luggage train didn't blow the whistle as he approached the station. Members of the jury suggested this was an accident waiting to happen due to steep embankments and inadequate fences. A few days later another report indicated that Alice was an active supporter of the British and Foreign Bible Society and, on the day of her death, had been discussing plans to form an auxiliary society in Long Preston.

In crossing, Miss Elizabeth Procter and the servant went first, the latter calling out to the deceased lady, "Do be quick, Miss Alice," as the train was just at hand. Miss Alice, however, whilst just about stepping upon the platform, was knocked down on the rails, some portion of her dress having, as is supposed, first been caught by the buffer or the connecting rods of the engine attached to the train, which turned out to be an express luggage train, travelling at the rate of 20 to 25 miles per hour, without stopping at the Long Preston Station. As soon as the train had passed, Miss Alice was found missing, and the assistance of the station-master having been procured, she was immediately discovered lying on the rails quite dead. From the injuries received death must have been instantaneous.—The inquest was held on

In what was described as a '*rather singular coincidence*' and a cruel twist of fate, Alice's eldest brother, John Procter, also died at Long Preston station seven years later [1]. He was 65 and had been visiting friends in Long Preston. He was sitting in the Waiting Room when he suffered an apoplectic fit, '*his neck became suddenly swollen*' [1]. In 1823 John had been described by **William Lodge Paley** '*he is modest and diffident and wants bringing out.*'

SUDDEN DEATH AT LONG PRESTON STATION.—On Wednesday evening, Mr. John Procter, of Close House, near Settle, an elderly gentleman, died very suddenly at the Long Preston Station, whilst waiting the arrival of a train to take him home. He had been to Long Preston to see some friends and relatives there, and appeared quite well up to within a few minutes of his death, which happened in the Waiting-room at the station. There it was observed that his neck became suddenly swollen, and he expired almost immediately afterwards, the cause of death being an apoplectic fit. It is rather a singular coincidence that a few years ago

Oct. 11. Had tea at Close House and young John Procter set me home—he is modest and diffident and wants bringing out.

This wasn't the end of the bad luck in this family, as we shall see. After William and Mary moved to Close House, Town Head in Long Preston was run by his brother **John Procter**. However, during the 1820s William and Mary's second son, **Thomas Procter**, took over and census returns tell us Thomas farmed 227 acres with the help of three labourers. Thomas married **Alice Armistead** from Clapham and they had one son, **Thomas William Procter**, who also farmed Town Head. It was

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soon after Thomas William Procter married **Mary Mount** in 1860 that aunt Alice Procter made the fatal trip to see them. Wife Mary died in 1879, Thomas William found himself in court more often than is seemly for a man of his status. In 1884 he received a *'heavy penalty for reckless driving'*, £5 plus a further 16 shillings costs[4]. He overtook **John Peel** on the wrong side, claiming his horse *'was a spirited one'*. The fine would have been a reflection of both his recklessness and wealth. As time went by there were numerous other court appearances for damaging property, poor driving and failing to keep animals under control. On one occasion he was taken to court by his second cousin, Thomas Procter, at Close House, for damage to his property[2]. Quite an excitable character! Thomas William could probably afford the hefty fines — as time went by the family wealth was used for lucrative business purposes and it was Thomas William Procter who partnered **William Armistead** to invest in the purchase of the land upon which to build Queen's Arcade in Leeds. Unfortunately, Thomas William Procter died, aged 49, before it was built, but still left an estate worth around £2 million at today's value. Thomas William Procter and his wife were buried close to his parents and grandparents.

In Memory of Thomas Procter of Town Head Long Preston who died 1873 aged 70 years also of Alice relict of the above who died 1883 aged 76 years.

In Affectionate Remembrance of Thomas William Procter of Town Head, Long Preston who died July 12th 1887 aged 49 years also of Mary his wife who died November 14th 1879 aged 40 years.

SETTLE — HEAVY PENALTY FOR RECKLESS DRIVING.—At the Settle Petty Sessions on Tuesday—before the Rev. H. J. Swale (chairman) and Mr H. Christie—a gentleman named Thomas William Procter,

ALLEGED MALICIOUS INJURY AT LONGPRESTON.

Mr T. W. Procter, of Longpreston, was summoned by Mr Thomas Procter, of Close House, Settle, under the 25th section of the Malicious Injury to Properties Act for unlawfully, and maliciously throwing down and destroying part of a fence wall



When Town Head and its farms were sold on in 1897 it was described as standing in *'an unequalled situation commanding an extensive South West View over the valley.'* It had a coachhouse, stables, garden, orchard, bathroom with hot and cold water. Its proximity to the railway station was also mentioned [5]. The Town Head farms still had over 220 acres of land attached. Very nice.

TOWN HEAD HOUSE stands in an unequalled situation commanding an extensive South West View over the valley. It has very good accommodation including Coachhouse, Stables, Garden, Orchard, Bath Room, with hot and cold water; Dining and Drawing Rooms, &c., and is ten minutes walk from Long Preston Station, on the main line of the Midland Railway.

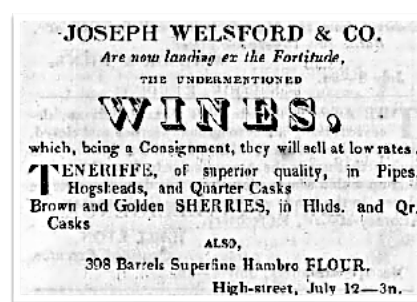
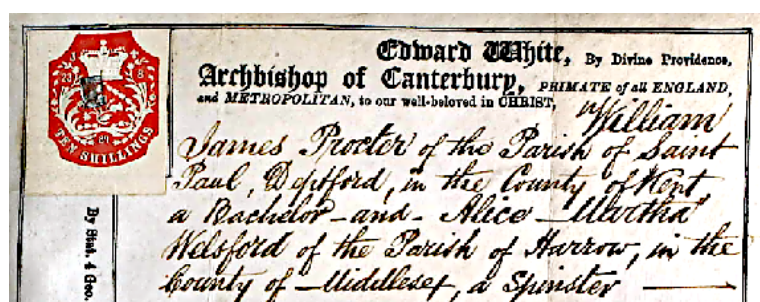
Thomas William and Mary had four sons who were educated in Knaresborough. Youngest son **Robert Procter**, a solicitor, was 24 when he went shooting on *'the Ings'* below Long Preston. On the way back the party called in at The Eagle, now The Maypole and Robert placed his loaded gun on the table. Oh dear, that doesn't sound good. **William Yates**, a fruit dealer from Barnoldswick, placed a duck (which had been shot) on the table and this caused the gun to go off, *'the contents of one barrel lodging in the upper third of the right thigh of Mr Procter, causing a serious wound, from the effects of which he died on Monday afternoon'* [6]. The inquest was held at the Boars Head and the foreman of the jury was none other than fellow investor **William Armistead**. The paper lamented the number of fatalities and accidents caused by fools, jokers and bunglers using guns, especially those leaving guns loaded. Ouch! Two years earlier Robert had

FATAL TERMINATION OF A GUN ACCIDENT.—On Friday last, as Mr. Robert Procter was on his way home from shooting in the Ings, having called to shelter from the rain at the Eagle Hotel, and placed his loaded gun upon the table, a man named William Yates picked up a duck, and upon laying it down again upon the table the gun went off, the contents of one barrel lodging in the upper third of the right thigh of Mr. Procter, causing a serious wound, from the effects of which he died on Monday afternoon. An inquest was held at the Boar's Head Inn, before Mr. E. Wood, Deputy-Coroner, on

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married **Lucy Ann Foster** and they had two children who were brought up by her second husband, **Cecil Herbert Harrison Taylor**, a 'Professor of Dance' from Leeds.

Thomas William and Mary's son, **Richard Frankland Procter**, another one, became a civil engineer and lived in Kensington, London. However, when he was 28, he returned to Long Preston to marry **Annie Turner**, the daughter of **John Turner** and **Elizabeth Towler**, innkeepers at the Boar's Head. Richard and Annie lived in Great Bookham, Surrey, working a farm and then emigrated to San Francisco. Thomas William and Mary's son **William James Procter** became a medical practitioner in London and lived next door to brother Richard in both Kensington and Surrey, with six servants. He married **Alice Martha Welsford** at St Paul's, Deptford by licence. The licence was issued under the official authority of **Rev Edward White Benson**, the Archbishop of Canterbury! [ph2]



Alice Martha Welsford had a fascinating background. The transcript of her birth registration in Brooklyn, New York describes her race as 'black' although census records don't agree with this. She was the youngest of many children of Joseph Welsford [ph3], a wealthy international merchant from Devon and his second wife **Annie Thomson Elder** from Banff, Scotland. Joseph traded in whatever the ships brought in from across the water. This included wines, sheries, flour, shoes, hats, clothes and fancy goods [7]. The family retired back to Bristol in England in the 1870s. Alice's sister **Annie Josephine Welsford** married **Hosea Ballou Morse** who was selected from a number of candidates at Harvard to work for the Shanghai maritime customs office. He was awarded the Order of the Double Dragon for his work on a peace treaty between France and China. Goodness! To say this was a wealthy family is an understatement. Joseph died on the Isle of Wight and then widow Annie lived with her daughter Alice and William James Procter until she died. Her estate was worth over £10 million at today's value!



Going back a generation, William Procter's brother **John Procter** and his wife, **Elizabeth Jackson**, and their unmarried children moved from Town Head to live at The Heath and Cromwell House while William was in Close House. Only two children, **John Procter** and **Margaret Procter**, married and their spouses were also siblings, **Ann Lister** and **Thomas Lister**, the children of **Thomas Lister**, a tallow chandler from Addingham. Thomas Lister and Margaret (Procter) Lister married first, in January 1842. In June that year William Lodge Paley heard Thomas preach at the Methodist Church. After the birth of two sons, **Thomas Procter Lister** and **John Procter Lister**, the family emigrated to New South Wales, Australia where Thomas became a successful auctioneer, establishing 'Lister and Son Auctioneers' and held 'in much repute as a wielder of the hammer'. For some reason, by 1860 Margaret had come back to back to Long Preston to live with her spinster sisters. Thomas died in 1869, aged

June 26.—Was at Settle Church—a collection for national distress, amounted to £7 and £20 at G-k. At Meth: Ch. Mr. Lister, who married Miss Margt. Procter, of L/Preston, preached.

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65 and their two sons stayed in New South Wales to continue the business. Unfortunately son Thomas was declared bankrupt in 1900 [T]. Meanwhile John and Ann (Lister) Procter married in 1843 and lived off the family wealth in Long Preston. It was their son, **Thomas Procter**, who married his second cousin Mary Jackson. John and Elizabeth's daughter, **Alice Procter**, lived to the age of 91, still at Cromwell House. Alice was blind for her last ten years and cared for by a servant, **Ellen Clark**, for her last 40 years. Alice probably left Ellen some of her estate as she was 'living on own means' at the time of the next census.

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales. (10,409)
IN INSOLVENCY.
In the Insolvent Estate of Thomas Procter Lister, of Pitt-street,
Sydney, late auctioneer, now out of business.



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'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Craven Herald and Wensleydale Standard, 3 – Leeds Mercury, 4 – Yorkshire Post, 5 – Craven Herald, 6 – Lancs Guardian, 7 – Barbadian,

T – credited to Trove.nla.gov.au, New South Wales government Gazette

ph1 – Wikipedia, submitted by G Jerrard, ph2 – Journals.sagepub.com, ph3 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username cecowan_1, ph4 – username jules 1080

WLP – the diaries of William Lodge Paley with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life

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The material in this account has been published by YDMT in the book 'Meandering down the Ribble, Born and Bred in the Long Preston Floodplain' who have given permission for it to be included in this account