

The Millers, innkeepers

In 1810 **William Dodd** married **Alice Theobald** in Kirkby Lonsdale. In 1814 they had a son called **William Theobald Dodd** who became known as 'Tibbles Dodd'. Tibbles, a stonemason working in Hornby, enjoyed his alcohol and that caused him a few problems as there were numerous reports of court cases for drunkenness [1]. In 1838 he was fined 20 shillings for '*cruelly beating his mother*' who died three years later [2]. In 1840 he was taken to court by his employers for being late to work but he managed to talk his way out of sanctions [2].

Theobald Dodd, of Hornby, stonemason, also pleaded guilty to a similar charge; and having been previously convicted of drunkenness was ordered to find sureties for his good behaviour, which was accordingly done.

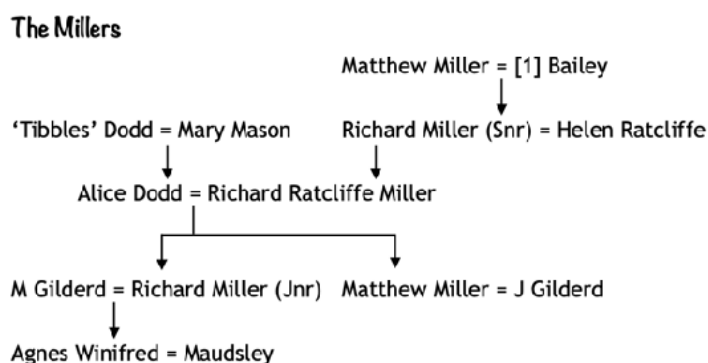
Eastwood, Esq.)—William Theobald Dodd was brought up to answer the complaint of Mr Charles Ritson, stone-mason, of the firm of Taylor, Ritson, and Slinger, which charged him with having broken a written contract, in refusing to enter upon his work at the time therein specified. Dodd plead-

Perhaps Tibbles' life may have settled down when, in January 1840, he married **Mary Mason**, the daughter of a highway inspector? They lived in Hornby and had five daughters and one son. Unfortunately, at the time of the 1851 census Mary and their first four daughters were living with Mary's widowed father. What had happened to Tibbles? William had continued to drink and to attend court, '*and annoying (PC) Bull with reflections on the place of his birth (the land of potatoes), and also disturbing the slumbers of the peaceful inhabitants of Hornby.*' [2] He even attended his court hearings '*three sheets in the wind*' and so the case was '*adjourned for a fortnight to give him time to get sober*' [2]. On another occasion Mr Dodd '*was so deaf and had indulged so freely in his potations that the magistrates could make nothing of him*' [2]. The references to potatoes and potations suggest he was drinking vodka. He was described as deaf in 1853 but lived another 23 years. Poor wife Mary moved back in with him but the children very quickly left home for domestic service or labouring work. After Tibbles died Mary made a living as a laundress, still in Hornby. Tibbles' drinking problems did not put off his children – son **Richard Dodd** worked as an innkeeper at the Grove Arms in Torrisholme, Morecambe and daughter **Agnes Dodd** ran the Slip Inn in Lancaster with her husband **John Robinson**.

and costs 11s.—William Theobald Dodd, an old offender, was also summoned for a like offence, but when he made his appearance before the bench he was three sheets in the wind. The magistrates adjourned the case for a fortnight, in order to give him time to get sober.—John Lund, inn-

Eldest daughter **Alice Dodd**, born in September 1840, worked as a dairymaid at Casterton, near Carnforth, before meeting **Richard Ratcliffe Miller**, a farrier and 'veterinary surgeon'. Most nineteenth century 'vets' were blacksmiths or farriers (who specialised in shoeing horses) who tended to ailments whilst changing horseshoes. Formal training in the veterinary profession became more commonplace much later in the century but was still a respected occupation. This was a 'good marriage' for the daughter of an alcoholic stonemason.

Richard was from a long line of long-lived farmers from Goosnargh near Preston. Richard's grandfather, **Matthew Miller** lived until the age of 90 although the papers reckoned 89 [3]. A disadvantage of a lengthy life is that a spouse may have died a long time ago. Matthew's wife **Alice Bailey**, the mother of Richard's father, died in 1826, aged 65 and in 1827 Matthew, aged 68, (although only admitting to the age of 62 on documentation) married **Margaret Dickinson** who was 28. Margaret had three sons before



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dying, aged 38, so Matthew, now in his 70s, had three young boys to bring up. When Matthew died the boys' widowed grandmother Dickinson appreciated their help on her farm.

Richard Ratcliffe Miller's father was **Richard (Snr) Miller** and he married **Ellen Ratcliffe** in 1821. They had seven children. Richard Ratcliffe Miller was born two and a half years before the marriage and was baptised in September 1818 as *'the son of Helen Ratcliffe and Matthew Miller'*.

Before marrying, Richard Ratcliffe Miller seemed to be an active member of the Hornby community. In 1851, Richard fractured his leg whilst *'larking'* with a *'person from Preston'* who fought a dirty fight. *'In Lunesdale we do not appreciate the 'purring' system of self-defence we say if you will fight, follow the system of John Bull, that is "a fair stand-up fight"'*[4]. In 1852 Richard took part in a *'foot race'* which involved a race of 100 yards against John Turner, from Tunstall who raced 50 yards with *'something like 16 stone on his back, in the shape of a good looking well-to-do landlord'*. It was a close finish but Richard was judged to have lost. It was described as *'one of the best races ever run in the neighbourhood of Hornby'*[4]. How strange!

ACCIDENT.—On Saturday evening Mr. Richard Miller had his leg fractured in two places whilst "larking" with a person from Preston, named Layfield, the latter gave him what he called the Bolton tip, when instanter poor Dick fell. In Lunesdale we do not appreciate the "purring" system of self-defence: we say if you will fight, follow the system of John Bull, that is "a fair stand-up fight."

lebrity, the wager was ten to one, Miller to run one hundred yards, and Turner fifty yards with something like 16 stone on his back, in the shape of a good-looking well-to-do landlord, the keeper of a head inn, not a hundred miles from Hornby.

When they married in 1863, Richard Ratcliffe Miller was 45 and Alice was 23 and four months pregnant with their first child, another **Richard Miller (Jnr)**. Richard Ratcliffe Miller and Alice Dodd had four daughters and four sons while Richard continued to work as a farrier and vet in Hornby. Unfortunately, Richard Ratcliffe Miller's life ended prematurely due to an accident when he was thrown off his conveyance sustaining fatal head injuries [4]. The coroner assigned no blame and gave a verdict of *'accidental death'*. He left an estate of £404 4s 2d and was buried with an impressive stone at Hornby church.



After Richard Ratcliffe Miller's death the rest of the family stayed together in Hornby and, with income reduced, the family took over the tenancy of the Royal Oak Inn in Hornby. As eldest son, Richard (Jnr)'s name was on the tenancy agreement but he also followed in his father's footsteps to become a veterinary surgeon. In 1889 Richard, *'veterinary surgeon and innkeeper'*, took farmer Thomas Hall to court over failing to deliver cattle [4]. By the time of the next census second son **Matthew Miller** was running the Royal Oak, no doubt with some help from his mother while Richard worked as a vet. The sisters and younger brother, **Thomas**, worked as servants and dressmakers.

On 24 March 1893 the tenancy of the Royal Oak in Hornby was advertised To Let [5]. Matthew had taken over the tenancy of the White Horse Inn in the Market Place in Settle from **Henry Wilson**. Matthew ran it with the help of his mother Alice [ph1]. The inn had a mounting block in those days, on the right. In 1894 Matthew, with the help of PC Ogden, took two vagrants, **Patrick Bowman** and **William Dean**, to court for theft, being drunk and disorderly and assault. Both were imprisoned. [6].



THEFT.—Patrick Bowman, of no fixed place of abode, was charged with stealing a pair of shoes belonging to Matthew Miller, landlord of the White Horse Hotel, Settle, on the 20th inst. After hearing the evidence of P.C. Ogden and several other witnesses the magistrates committed the prisoner for 14 days with hard labour.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.—William Dean, of no fixed place of abode was charged with being drunk and disorderly, refusing to quit the White Horse Hotel, Settle, and assaulting P.C. Ogden on the 20th inst. For being drunk and disorderly the defendant was committed to prison for seven days' hard labour, and sentenced to a similar term of imprisonment for the assault.—P.C.'s Ewart and Ogden proved the charges.

In 1909 Matthew, 42 married **Jane Gilderd**, aged 36, the daughter of a Blackburn calico machine printer **James Gilderd** and his wife **Sarah Heywood**. Sarah's parents ran *'Abraham Heywood and Co Calico printers'*[10]. Matthew

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and Jane are pictured with nephew Lionel [ph3]. In the second photo Matthew's brother, Richard Miller (Jnr), is with his wife, Jane's sister, **Margaret Gilderd** who he had married four years before Matthew and Jane [ph3]. Jane and Margaret's sister **Ellen Gilderd** married **Herbert Wilkinson**, a firewood manufacturer. They spent some years in Argentina. When Ellen died in 1927, aged 60, she was buried in the City of London Crematorium. Jane and Margaret did not attend the funeral and received a letter from Herbert expressing his disappointment.

Matthew's mum Alice (Dodd) Miller died in 1914, aged 73. Matthew continued to run the White Horse in Settle until his retirement in 1936 having worked there for '44 years' (probably 43) [7]. He bought Marshfield Bungalow for his retirement but died three years later in 1939, aged 73. He was a member of Settle Conservative Club and Settle Bowling Club. The White Horse Inn was then run by **Fred Atkinson** for three years. In 1940 it was sold to the Birkbeck family who, being strict Quakers, ran it as a Temperance Hotel for a while before it became a regular commercial establishment [5].

Dales Licensee's Death.
The funeral will take place at Settle to-day of Mr. Matthew Miller, of Church Street, who for 44 years was licensee of the White Horse Hotel, Settle. Before that he was for six years "mine host" of the Royal Oak, Hornby, and he had thus completed half a century as a licence holder when he retired in 1936.
Aged 73, Mr. Miller was a well-known figure in North Ribblesdale. He was an honorary life member of the Skipton Licensed Victuallers' Association, and for many years was a member of the Settle Conservative Club and the Settle Bowling Club.

A CLITHEROE VETERINARY SURGEON FOR THE FRONT.
On Tuesday night, Mr. Richard Miller, (Veterinary Surgeon) left Clitheroe for Alderobot by the 9-6 train, from which place he will shortly leave for South Africa with a number of horses.
Mr. Miller has volunteered for service as a veterinary surgeon in the army, and takes the rank of lieutenant. A large number of friends witnessed his departure. We understand that his business will be carried on by his brother until he returns.

MR. RICHARD MILLER.
The interment took place on Friday at Settle, following a service in the Parish Church, conducted by the Rev. J. G. Hathaway (Vicar), of Mr. Richard Miller, of Marshfield Bungalow, Settle. Mr. Miller, aged 82, who died on New Year's Day, was the surviving brother of the late Mr. Matthew Miller, a former well-known licensee in the town. He was a native of Hornby, and formerly practised as a veterinary surgeon in Lancaster, and later in Clitheroe, retiring in 1930. During the Boer War he held a commission and was responsible for the safe transportation of several hundreds of horses to South Africa. Mr. Miller leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

After Matthew's death, widow Jane lived with her sister Margaret who had married Matthew's brother Richard Miller (Jnr). Richard worked as a vet in Lancaster and then Clitheroe. Between 1899 and 1919 newspapers report that Richard was a witness in numerous court cases regarding animal cruelty, often declaring his qualification, MRCVS – Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons [8]. In 1900 Richard volunteered to be a veterinary surgeon in the Boer Wars taking hundreds of horses out to the front [9]. His younger brother, **Thomas Miller**, also a vet, took over the business while Richard was away. Thomas later ran his own veterinary business in Easingwold, Lincolnshire.

After their three children, Lionel, Cecil and Phyllis had grown up, Richard, aged 60, retired and moved back to Settle with Margaret. They lived at Matthew's Marshfield Bungalow with Matthew's widow, Jane. Richard died in 1946, aged 82 [6]. Alice, Richard, Matthew and his wife Jane, who died, aged 79, are buried together in the old graveyard G49 with a stone matching that of Richard Ratcliffe Miller in Hornby [ph3].

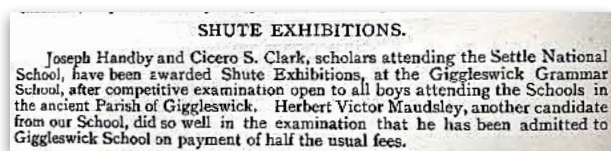
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In loving memory of Alice Miller born Sep 18th 1840 died Feb 13th 1914. Richard Miller born May 25th 1863 died Jan 1st 1946. Also Matthew, her son, died April 18th 1939 age 75 years. Also Jane his wife died Oct 20th 1952 aged 79 years.



Margaret died in July 1951, aged 80 – as the Settle grave was full, she was buried with her parents, grandparents and uncle in the very impressive family tomb at Clayton-le-Moors near Blackburn [ph3].

Richard Ratcliffe Miller and Alice's youngest daughter, **Agnes Winifred Miller**, married Settle's **Herbert Victor Maudsley**. Herbert was a bright lad having won an award for half price education at Giggleswick School [PM]. Herbert was the son of **John Maudsley**, a draper at Bank Buildings in Settle, and his wife **Ellen Harrison**. Herbert worked as an insurance broker. They had a son, **Norman**, who spent much of his life in the States and died in 2003 at Long Beach, Los Angeles. Herbert and Agnes are buried in the New graveyard plot L11.



In Loving Memory of Herbert Victor Maudsley died July 25th 1930, aged 51 years. Agnes Winifred Maudsley died Dec 18th 1961 aged 84 years.



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 settlersresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

With thanks to the descendants of the Miller family for their help with this account

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Westmorland Gazette, 2 – Kendal Mercury, 3 – Blackburn Standard, 4 – Lancaster Gazette, 5 – Yorkshire Post, 6 – Lancaster Guardian, 7 – Bradford Observer, 8 – Burnley Express, 9 – Clitheroe Advertiser, 10 – Manchester Evening News

ph1 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page – posted by Ben Mackenzie, and Paul Hammond, ph2 – with the kind permission of John Reid, ph3 – original gravestone photo kindly provided by the Miller family

PM - Parish Magazine with kind permission of Mike Howarth