

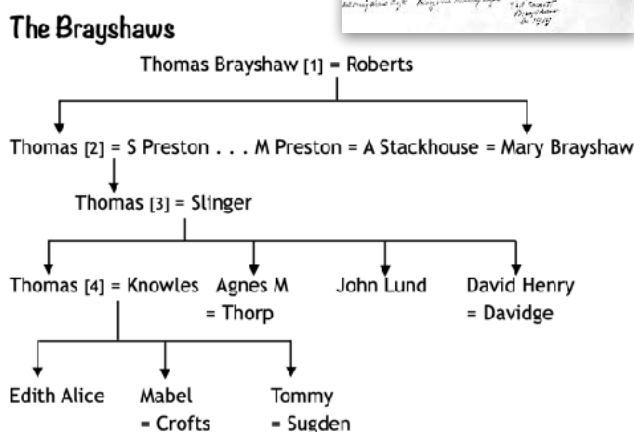
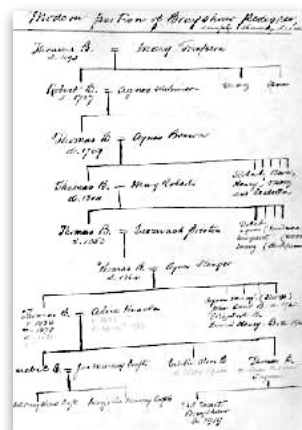
The mystery of Thomas Brayshaw's gravestone

In loving remembrance of Edith Alice Brayshaw daughter of Thomas and Alice Brayshaw who died 4th May 1926, also of the above Thomas Brayshaw who died April 4th 1931 aged 74 years, also of the above Alice Brayshaw who died April 17th 1932 aged 77 years. Old H59



Thomas Brayshaw, solicitor and archivist, is one of Giggleswick's best known and highly regarded men. His Giggleswick ancestors are thought to go back as far as Henricus de Braychawe in 1379 who was buried in Giggleswick graveyard. So, why was Thomas Brayshaw buried in a secluded corner of Settle graveyard?

Helpfully Thomas left us his family tree [A] which demonstrates that the Brayshaws had been moving in elite circles for well over a century. Thomas's great-grandfather **Thomas Brayshaw** [1], a successful tallow chandler (candle maker) and land owner, born in 1734, married **Mary Roberts**. Their youngest daughter **Mary Brayshaw** married **Anthony Stackhouse** of Taitlands, Stainforth [ph1]. Mary died after the birth of two children and Anthony remarried, this time to **Mary Preston** [ph1] of the wealthy farming family at Mearbeck, just outside Settle. Mary Preston's sister **Susannah Preston** married Thomas and Mary's son, another **Thomas Brayshaw** [2], a 'landed proprietor'.



Unfortunately Susannah died in 1838, four years after the birth of their only child, another **Thomas Brayshaw** [3]. This son, also a 'landed proprietor', was the father of our archivist **Thomas Brayshaw** and had four other children with his wife **Agnes Slinger**. Thomas [3] died, aged just 30, after the birth of his youngest child. Widow Agnes spent the rest of her life living in very desirable residences at Bankwell, Queen's Rock and then at Halsteads in Settle. Agnes was 73 when she died in 1905.

Thomas [3] and Agnes' daughter **Elizabeth Brayshaw** died in infancy. Their daughter **Agnes Margaret Brayshaw** married the wonderfully named **Titus Thorp**, a Preston accountant who worked in a very successful partnership with **William Houghton Ainsworth** presiding over numerous high profile cases. Titus was also a director of the Collin Green Colliery Company and of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation and a JP for Lancashire, Garstang Division. He was particularly concerned with protection of children from ill treatment 'and was in the forefront of the battle which eventually placed on a firm foundation the National Society for the Prevention of

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Cruelty to Children and so will have crossed paths with Settle's **Benjamin Waugh**. In later years archivist Thomas Brayshaw became the District Correspondent for the Settle Centre of the NSPCC.

In private life his personal charm and the keen interest he took in everything that tended to the well-being of his fellows made him greatly esteemed and respected. His charitable instincts, though wide, were chiefly centred in objects devoted to the alleviation of distress and protection of children from ill-treatment. He was in the forefront of the battle which eventually placed on a firm foundation the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Thomas and Agnes' three sons, **Thomas Brayshaw** [4], **John Lund Brayshaw** and **David Henry Brayshaw** were a force to be reckoned with and made an enormous contribution to life in Settle. So much so that, together with the family's accrued social status, they were all included in a photo, demonstrating the area's most respected businessmen, when **Edward Duckett** (front centre) visited from Australia, having made a fortune after emigrating at the beginning of the Australian Gold Rush. His ironmongery business was called '*The Golden Horseshoe*'. The brothers are on the back row — David Henry Brayshaw second left behind the shorter, bearded **Dr Charles William Buck**, with bearded John Lund Brayshaw next to him. Next is **Edmund Handby** one of the founders of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society followed by **Thomas Bradshaw** [4], holding the horseshoe. The brothers may have assisted Edward Duckett in his business.



John Lund Brayshaw was a solicitor who remained a bachelor and lived at Halsteads with his widowed mum, Agnes. He remained there, lodging with Mary Annie Wilson, the daughter of the incorrigible **Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson**, until he died. David Henry Brayshaw started off as a civil engineer but then lived on his 'own means' with his wife **Kate Eugenie Davidge**. They didn't have children and lived at Rallin Brow in Giggleswick. The brothers were both pillars of the community. John Lund Brayshaw was the secretary to the Tennis Club, which also hosted popular croquet matches. John Lund and David Henry were Vice Presidents of the Cricket Club. John Lund was a patron of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society and on the committee of the Golf Club. David Henry and Thomas were also Vice Presidents of the Football Club.

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Thomas' [ph4] obituary [2], although glowing, doesn't do him justice and neither can this account. The obituary explains that, like his brothers, he was a solicitor in Settle. It also says was a former member of the Settle Board of Guardians and of the Rural District Council. He was a magistrate and Chair of the Settle Bench. Thomas was Chair of the first Giggleswick Parish Council. Thomas replaced **Walter Morrison** as the clerk to the Governors of Giggleswick School from 1901 - 1928 and, on the occasion of their golden wedding on 29 July 1929, Thomas and his wife **Alice Knowles** were presented with a picture of Whernside by Governors of the school as a token of appreciation and celebration of his 60 years connection with the school, having been a pupil there too. Upon his death in 1931 Thomas was the sole surviving founder of Castleberg Lodge of Freemasons.

Mr. Thos. Brayshaw, J.P., gave one of his interesting lectures, entitled "Disconnected Notes on the History of Settle," at the Craven Assembly Room, Settle, under the auspices of the above School.

Towards the end of the obituary, *'he was also an unofficial historian of the North Ribblesdale district and a keen antiquary'* actively collating *'scraps of information relative to the past history of Settle and Giggleswick.'* He often gave talks about his collections [LSA]. This aspect of his life is the most incredible — The book *'A history of the Ancient Parish of Giggleswick'*, which Thomas co-wrote with **Ralph Mosley Robinson** (whose brother **George Geoffrey Robinson/Dawson** resided at Langcliffe Hall), and his substantial collection of documentation and paperwork is now the standard authority on the history of the area and cherished by all local historians. As a solicitor Thomas [ph2] had access to the deeds of local properties so was in an excellent position to write it. Giggleswick School houses the Brayshaw Library which includes four large volumes of about 400 pages each entitled *'On foot round Settle, Brown'*. These volumes contain printed pages taken from *George H. Brown's* book of 1896 to which have been added a large number of items of relevance — newspaper cuttings, photographs, postcards, maps, records of church events, voting papers, subscription appeals, school and education items, caving literature, etc. Many of these are available to enjoy on the DalesCommunityArchives website.

Thomas contributed in other ways too. In 1890 Thomas was the honorary secretary for the Giggleswick church restoration fund, raising £5000 for renovation and repair [ph6]. He was a churchwarden and owned Pew 40 in Giggleswick church around that time too. Thomas was a liberal by politics. Together with his brother John Lund, Thomas was a Trustee of

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MR. T. BRAYSHAW, SETTLE.

The death has occurred of Mr. Thomas Brayshaw, of Banks View, Settle, who figured prominently in the public and literary life of North Ribblesdale for half a century.

After being educated at Giggleswick School, Mr. Brayshaw was articled to Mr. Edwin Andrew, Town Clerk of Salford, and for many years practised in Settle, retiring about seven years ago. He was a former member of the Settle Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, and since 1910 had been a West Riding magistrate, and for some years chairman of the Settle Bench. He was clerk to the Governors of Giggleswick School from 1901 until 1922, when he himself became a governor on the death of Mr. Walter Morrison. He was also chairman of the first Giggleswick Parish Council.

Mr. Brayshaw was the sole surviving founder of the Castleberg Lodge of Freemasons, and the oldest member of the Craven (810) Lodge, Skipton. He was the unofficial historian of the North Ribblesdale district and a keen antiquary. He is survived by a widow, one son, and one daughter.

WANTED BY 

THOS. BRAYSHAW, Solicitor,
SETTLE, Yorkshire,

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, PRINTS, VIEWS, &c., RELATING TO SETTLE OR GIGGLESWICK, OR PRINTED AT SETTLE, OR WRITTEN BY LOCAL AUTHORS.

PORTRAITS AND AUTOGRAPHS OF LOCAL WORTHIES.

SETTLE 17TH CENT. TOKENS.

OLD LOCAL HANDBILLS, PROGRAMMES, SOCIETY AND CLUB RULES, MAGAZINES, SERIALS, NEWSPAPERS, CATALOGUES, LEAFLETS, POEMS, ADVERTISEMENTS, CIRCULARS, SERMONS, ALMANACS, GUIDES, AND SKETCHES.

Mr. Brayshaw will be very grateful to any person supplying him with Scraps of Information relative to the past history of Settle and Giggleswick, or any local customs, traditions, institutions, worthies, &c.



CRAVEN SAVINGS BANK,
SETTLE.

Trustees:

THOS. BRAYSHAW, SETTLE	J. PROCTER, LONG PRESTON
J. L. BRAYSHAW, SETTLE	J. G. ROBINSON, CRAIGDALE
K. H. BUCK, SETTLE	J. W. SHEPHERD, SETTLE

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the Craven Savings Bank [LSA] which was located at the High Street corner of the Market Place. The Savings bank was built in 1865 by Lawrence Hodgson on the site of **Benjamin Waugh's** birthplace. It was highly appropriate that Thomas organised for, and officially unveiled the plaque to commemorate the life of Benjamin Waugh on the side of the building [ph3]. Thomas also took an active role in organising the celebrations and commemorations for servicemen through and after the war and this important documentation is also on the DalesCommunityArchives website.

By the time of Thomas' marriage to Alice Knowles, a landowner's daughter from Kirkby Malham, in 1879, he was living at Stackhouse. In the following years they had two daughters and a son and lived at the grand Queen's Rock, pictured, and then PenYGHent View in Settle. Thomas was 74 when he died in 1931 and Alice died a year later. They were buried in Settle graveyard with their daughter Edith Alice who died aged 34. Mrs Brayshaw couldn't attend her husbands' funeral because of her own ill health.



Thomas' life as a 'naturalist and antiquarian' was commemorated on the 'Plague Stone' opposite the Craven Arms near the A65. Whether it was a plague stone or not remains open to debate but is a good story.



Thomas' brothers, sister, parents, grandparents and great grandparents were all buried/commemorated in the prime positions right by the door of the church. Next to the tomb and the upright stone is an enormous stone, embedded into the path. There are several memorials to them all inside the church. One stone is extremely large and is now embedded into a footway. and Thomas and Alice are remembered on it too, 'interred at Settle'.



Upright stone: **Thomas Brayshaw, Jan'ry IVth MDCCCIV aged LXIX** (January 4th 1804, aged 69) **Mary his wife died July XXIIInd MDCCCXXVIII aged LXXXIII** (July 22nd 1828 aged 83)

Tomb: *Thomas Brayshaw died May XXth MDCCCLIII aged LXVIII* (May 20th 1853 aged 68) *Susannah his wife died July XXVth MDCCCXXXVIII aged XXXIX* (July 25th 1838 aged 39)

Flag stone: *In memory of Elizabeth Brayshaw who died January 4th 1862 aged 5 months. Also of Thomas Brayshaw of Giggleswick, father of the above, who died 16th February 1864 aged 30 years. Also of Agnes widow of the above named Thomas Brayshaw who died at Giggleswick on April 13th 1905 aged 73 years. Also of John Lund Brayshaw second son of the above named Thomas and Agnes Brayshaw who died on February 9th 1921 aged 61 years. Also of David Henry Brayshaw third son of Thomas and Agnes Brayshaw who died on May 12th 1921 aged 58 years and was interred at Felpham. Also of Thomas Brayshaw eldest son of Thomas and Agnes Brayshaw who died April 4th 1931 aged 74 years and was interred at Settle. Also of Alice widow of the above named Thomas Brayshaw who died April 17th 1932 aged 77 years and was interred at Settle.*

The Brayshaws were Giggleswick born and bred and Thomas made significant contributions to the church over the years so why wasn't he buried there? To be such a successful archivist you must be organised, meticulous, scrupulous and attentive. Thomas was not afraid to challenge the smallest detail and so, at times, could be accused of pedantry, if not leading to fully blown arguments. He was once described as *'sober minded and methodical.'* Thomas' response to *William Joseph Gomersall's* criticism of some of his work is typical! [A].

Mr Gomersall is indulging in a little poetic licence as regards the well, and as he mentions my name in connection with it, I feel bound to send a line of friendly correction.

In the first place I don't believe there ever was such a person as St. Alkelda, and am convinced that such word was not originally derived from a personal name, although in the course of time the prefix of "saint" was attached to it. And in the second place the Ebbing and Flowing Well was not the local well which was known by the name of the reputed saint. In the old bye-laws of Giggleswick (A. D. 1602) it is provided "That none shall lye any fish or flesh or any other Hurtfull thing to steepe in St Awkeld well," under a penalty of 4d (see my "Local Archives," p. 14), and I think it is pretty certain that this "St Awkeld Well" is the one which stood near "Holy-well Toft," the residence of the headmaster of Giggleswick School.

This connection of the Ebbing and Flowing Well with the mythical saint is a brand-new legend, and is as devoid of foundation as is the recent innovation in some quarters of trying to change the name of the village to "Giggleswick-in-Craven," as though the quaint old name was not good enough. There is one "Giggleswick" and one only.

I am, yours truly,
THOS. BRAYSHAW.
Settle, July 12th, 1910.

The arrival of the new vicar of Giggleswick, *Rev Theodore Percy Brocklehurst*, in 1901 caused new tensions and was the final straw. Theodore was a rather eccentric, controversial and divisive figure who seemed to enjoy wading into arguments with numerous parishioners and authorities from the moment of his arrival. Theodore lived at Well House very close to Brayshaw's Queen's Rock. Over many years Thomas criticised almost every aspect of Brocklehurst's ministry, sending letters to local papers and keeping personal records, getting more personal as the years went by.

'Mr Brocklehurst has recently adopted the title of 'Rector' — he has not the slightest right to this as he owns no rectoral tithe.'

Thomas compiled a 'Specimen of Brocklehurst's' which were *'deliberate falsifications to bolster up his newly invented style of 'Giggleswick-in-Craven'.*

'The leaflet issued by Brocklehurst under the title 'A walk around the church' is a bare and dishonourable literary theft of which only a dishonourable cad would be guilty. It is obviously intended to convey the impression that he compiled the leaflet'. Brayshaw had compiled a

"Rector."

Mr Brocklehurst has recently adopted the title of "Rector". He has not the slightest right to this (see letter of the Diocesan Registrar of 14th March 1916). He owns no rectoral tithe, an account

"Specimen of Brocklehurst's deliberate falsifications to bolster-up his newly-invented style of 'Giggleswick-in-Craven'."

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similar 8 page booklet a few years previously and wrote pages of embittered anger and annoyance about this.

'A most glaring thing is that an article purports to be written from the British Expeditionary Force, France. As a matter of fact, Brocklehurst did not go to France for some time after the article was written.'

Ultimately, and almost inevitably, this feud caused so much tension that Thomas refused to have any more to do with Giggleswick church. This explains why he moved to live in Settle and is buried in Settle graveyard.

What happened to Thomas and Alice's children? Thomas' gravestone tells us their daughter, **Edith Alice Brayshaw**, predeceased them — she was 43. Thomas and Alice's daughter **Mabel Brayshaw** married **James Murray Crofts** [LSA, ph4] who had

19. Marriage of Miss Mabel Brayshaw, elder daughter of Mr. Thos. Brayshaw, Solicitor, Settle, to Mr. James Murray Crofts, M.A., B.Sc. (London), and formerly master at Giggleswick School.—The 2nd West Riding of Yorkshire Royal

previously been a schoolmaster at Giggleswick School. **Dora Mannock Watts**, the daughter of a fellow schoolmaster played the organ at their wedding. By the time they married in 1902 James was the organising secretary for the inspection and examination of schools within the Joint Matriculation Board of Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield. Later he spent five years as the headmaster of Johannesburg College. This is likely to be one reason that Thomas Brayshaw took on the responsibility of secretary for the Settle and District Transvaal war relief fund. James wrote a book *'Secondary School Examination Statistics'* in 1928, which is sadly now out of print. James was awarded a CBE in 1942, a year after he retired.

Meanwhile Thomas and Alice's son, yet another **Thomas Brayshaw** [5], known as **Tommy**, emigrated to Vancouver, Canada and served in the forces out there. He married a solicitor's daughter, **Edith Rebecca Sugden** and they had one son. Articles about Tommy explain that *'he was truly an angler first, but also a very accomplished artist. His illustrations graced the pages of Roderick L Haig-Browns Western Angler and his hand carved 3D salmon and trout breathed life. The carvings are so amazingly detailed and perhaps some of the best of their kind ever made.'* [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.



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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. 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'.

A — with grateful thanks to the Church for access to 'Brayshaw's red book' and the Giggleswick Church Archives

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Lancashire Evening Post 2 — Yorkshire Post

ph1 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username jules1080, ph2 — credited to the DalesCommunityArchives website, ph3 — credited to the Back in Settle website, submitted by James Harrison, ph4 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username 1-neil575, ph5 — credited to canadianvintagefishingtackleweekly.com, ph6 — with thanks to Giggleswich church archives

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