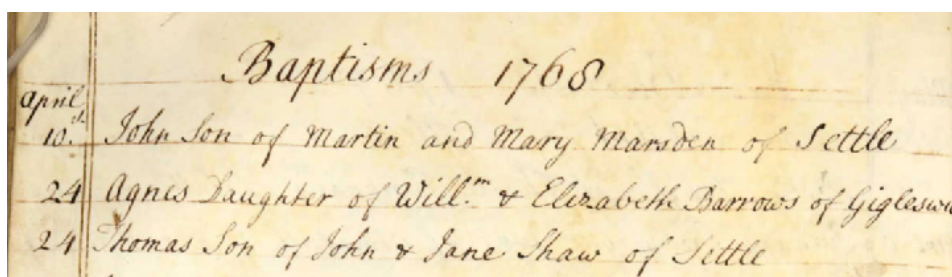


The mystery of Thomas Shaw, of Giggleswick graveyard

At the time of the 1841 census Thomas and his wife Margaret lived on Castle Hill in Settle with three children, **Margaret, Jonathan** and **James**. The 1841 census does not provide accurate ages but Thomas and Margaret were elderly and wife Margaret was at least ten years younger than Thomas. Thomas, a labourer and the children were listed as born in the home county of Yorkshire although Margaret was born outside the county. Everything we have found out about the Shaws suggests they were a working class family living close to the breadline.

Thomas Shaw	78	Labourer	4
Margaret do	68		8
Margaret do	19	Washer	8
Jonathan do	15	Collier	4
James do	13	Collier	4

On 3 February 1848 Thomas was buried in an unmarked grave in Giggleswick graveyard. The burial records state that he was 78 although he was actually 79, baptised in April 1768, the son of **John Shaw** and **Jane Armistead**, both of the Parish of Giggleswick. Thomas was buried in Giggleswick



graveyard even though he lived in Settle because that's where his parents were buried, also in an unmarked grave, well before Settle graveyard was established. Thomas had an older brother, **Jonathan Shaw** who remained in Giggleswick until he died in 1815, aged 49, also buried in Giggleswick graveyard. Thomas and Jonathan may have had several older siblings as their parents married in 1751, seventeen years before Jonathan's birth. John died in 1777, aged 50, when Thomas was just three and mum Jane died in 1789, aged 62 when Thomas was 21. Giggleswick burial records tell us that Thomas and Margaret had a daughter, **Ellen Shaw** who had died in 1838, aged 27.

The question is, what happened to the rest of the family after Thomas died? The story was unlocked by following the fortunes of daughter **Margaret Shaw**. On 19 July 1845 she married **John Marchbank** who was a cotton stripper — he worked in the cotton mills, cleaning leftover debris from carding machines, a horrible job. John came from Bell Busk, Gargrave although his ancestors

1845. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Giggleswick in the County of York								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
224	July 19th	John Marchbank	Fullage	Bachelor	Stripper	Bell Busk in the Parish of Gargrave	Adam Marchbank	Stripper
		Margaret Shaw	Fullage	Single	Washer	Settle	Thomas Shaw	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Canon me, R. W. Smith

This Marriage was solemnized between us, John Marchbank in the Presence of us, Francis Marchbank & John Shaw

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were from Askrigg in Wensleydale. One of the witnesses to the wedding was **Ann Shaw**, suggesting Margaret may have had a sister called Ann.

John Marchbank	Head	Mar	29	(Eliza) (Wife)	Proper	No. 1041	Workhouse	Aug. 19. Inf.
Margaret	Wife	Mar	29	Scholar	at home	No. 1042	Workhouse	Sept. 19. Inf.
Thomas	Son	U	2			No. 1043	Askrigg	Oct. 8. Inf.
Anthony	Son	U	2			No. 1044	Shaw Cote	Oct. 10. Inf.

At the time of the 1851 census the Marchbanks lived at Townhead, at the top of Castle Hill, with John described as a 'pauper cotton dresser'. They listed two children, **Thomas** and **Anthony Marchbank** although they also had another son, **John Marchbank**, who was not mentioned for some reason, and could perhaps have been staying with his grandmother Shaw, who in untraceable, unfortunately.

John Son of John Margaret Marchbank	Workhouse	Aug. 19. Inf.
Mary Ann Dan. of James & Mary Whitton	Workhouse	Sept. 19. Inf.
John Son of William & Margaret Langdale	Askrigg	Oct. 8. Inf.
Elizabeth Nat. Dan. of Alice Dinsdale	Shaw Cote	Oct. 10. Inf.
Margaret Wife of John Marchbank	Workhouse	Oct. 15. 29

Tragically, by August 1851 son John and Margaret Marchbank were found in Askrigg workhouse where they died within a couple of months of each other. Husband John died soon after in January 1852. Margaret died Margaret died of consumption (TB) which is infectious and so it's likely that's what killed four year old son

Eleventh October 1851 Workhouse Bairstbridge	Margaret Marchbank	Female	29 years	Wife of John Marchbank	Consumption Not certified
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John and husband John. TB was a common killer amongst the working classes as it was so hard to live a hygienic lifestyle in crowded insanitary houses. The workhouse was the only medical care available for the working classes in those days. Why Askrigg? The family could have moved to Askrigg for work, or to be near Marchbank relations. Alternatively the authorities insisted they went back to John's ancestral home to enter the workhouse so that the Askrigg authorities would have to pay for their care in the workhouse. This was just the way it worked in those days.

This left two orphaned sons, Thomas and Anthony Marchbank. Helpfully, at the time of the following (1861) census Thomas was being looked after by an uncle **William Shaw**, aged 56, an outdoor labourer and his wife **Ann Duckworth** and a couple of grown up children. They were living in Frederick Row in Blackburn. Also present in the house was Margaret, Thomas' widow, aged 78. Margaret died in Blackburn in the summer of 1867, aged a very good 85!

William Shaw	Head	Mar	56	Labourer out door	Whittle	No.
Ann	Wife	Mar	62	" "	Blackburn	No.
Margaret	Daughter	Mar	25	Cotton Winder	" "	No.
Eliza	Daughter	Mar	22	" "	" "	No.
Margaret	Mother	Wid	78	" "	Blackburn	No.
Thomas Marchbank	Nephew	Mar	15	Cotton Weaver	Little	Blackburn

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William and Ann remained in Blackburn but he was unemployed at the time of the next census return. In 1875 Thomas Marchbank married **Sarah Moon** who already had a son of her own and they lived with Thomas' Shaw cousins, working as weavers. They had two sons, although eldest **John William Marchbank** died in infancy. Things didn't work out for Thomas and Sarah. Sarah disappeared from records and Thomas, described as 'married', lived with his cousin **Margaret Shaw** bringing up their son, another **Anthony Marchbank**.

Meanwhile Thomas' brother, orphaned **Anthony Marchbank**, was helpfully being looked after by another uncle, **John Shaw**, a 59 year old agricultural labourer and his wife **Charlotte Swallow** who lived in Egerton, a small village just north of Bolton.

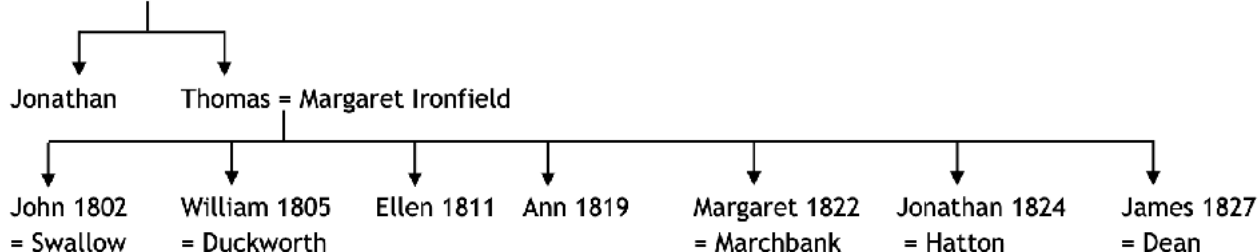
John Shaw	Head	Mar	59	Agricultural Labourer	White Hill
Charlotte do	Wife	Mar	59		Yorkshire, Tockwith
Ann do	Daughter	Mar	38	Factory Worker	Lancashire, Bolton
Thomas do	Son	Mar	15	Factory Worker	"
Anthony Marchbank	Grandson			Schooler	Yorkshire, Settle

Anthony stayed with Uncle John until, in 1873, he married **Mary Ann Russell** but they didn't have children. At the time of one census Mary Ann was looking after a 'nurse child' suggesting she may have had, and lost, a child of her own and therefore nursed someone else's child whose own mother may have died or was unable to breast feed. Anthony found work in the Bolton bleachworks, another revolting job.

These census returns provide us with much more information about Thomas Shaw and his wife Margaret. Thomas was from Giggleswick but in Preston, on 28 November 1801, he married **Margaret (Peggy) Ironfield** who came from Hoghton, a small village between Preston and Blackburn. Thomas was 33 and Margaret was 18. It's likely Thomas had been married before and may have had children from that marriage. We know of seven children but it's likely they had more. From the birth places of the children we know the family lived in and around Preston and Blackburn, most likely trying to find work, until they moved to Settle in the mid 1820s, with youngest son **James Shaw** being the only child to be born in Giggleswick. As Thomas and Margaret's elder children lived in the Preston area it is no surprise that Margaret returned there after Thomas' death.

The Shaws

John Shaw = Jane Amistead



What happened to all the children?

John Shaw, born in Preston in 1802, married **Charlotte Swallow** in Clitheroe in 1827 and they had at least six children, probably more. John worked as a labourer. It was John and Charlotte that brought up nephew Anthony Marchbank. After Charlotte died in 1873, John also found work in the

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bleachworks, along with nephew Anthony. Unfortunately John ended his days in a workhouse too, and was 85 when he died in 1887.

Thomas and Margaret's son **William Shaw** was born in Whittle/Brindle, just south of his mother's birthplace in 1805. In 1835, in Blackburn, 29 year old William married 36 year old **Ann Duckworth** and, despite her age, Ann still gave birth to three children. William worked as a labourer, when he could find work. It was William and Ann that brought up nephew Thomas Marchbank. William died in 1871, aged 66, a year before his wife.

There were probably other children born before daughter **Ellen Shaw** was born in 1811, when the family were living in Great Harwood, just outside Blackburn. Ellen died in 1838, aged 27 when the family had moved to Settle. She was buried in Giggleswick graveyard.

Daughter **Ann Shaw** was born in 1819 in Walton-le-Dale in Preston. Ann was likely to have been the witness at her sister Margaret's wedding to John Marchbank. At the time of the 1851 census she was working as a house servant for the widow **Mary Ann Tennant** at The Riddings, the enormous, successful farm between Settle and Long Preston. Widow Tennant died in 1860 and it's not clear what happened to Ann after that.

The next child we know about was **Margaret Shaw**, born in 1822 in Preston and we already know the tragedy of her life after her marriage to John Marchbank.

In June 1824 Thomas and Margaret's son **Jonathan Shaw** was baptised in Leyland, south of Preston and moved to Settle with his parents. On 16 April 1848, in Deane in Bolton, 23 year old Jonathan married 28 year old **Mary Hatton** from Chorley who already had an 11 year old son, **James Hatton**, who was brought up with the family and changed his name to **James Shaw**. They had a daughter of their own, **Ellen Shaw**, perhaps named after Jonathan's deceased sister. At the time of the 1851 census Jonathan, Mary and son James all worked in the cotton mills and they had lodgers living with them who just happened to be Mary's brother and his family. After this the whole family disappear from records which could be due to a number of reasons including death of the children or death of one or both parents with children adopted under a different name, emigration or the need for a fresh start with a new name!

Thomas and Margaret's youngest child was **James Shaw**, baptised in Giggleswick church on 2 September 1827. When he was 29, on 10 August 1856 at the church in Deane, Bolton (the same church used by brother Jonathan), James married 23 year old **Mary Dean** who was Irish. They had three sons born in the Bolton area while James worked as a servant and later moved to Liverpool where James found labouring work. He died in 1892, aged 65 and was buried with his wife, who had died in 1886, in Liverpool Catholic graveyard, having converted since their wedding in the established church.

I have no doubt they would be delighted that the Shaw family would be delighted that their descendants are showing an interest in their life.



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](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'.

Birth and death certificates provided by the General Records Office, Crown Copyright

Census returns and baptism, marriage and burial documentation via ancestry.co.uk, courtesy of The National Archives.