

## The unlucky Kidd family

**Christopher Kidd** was a grocer and farmer. On 13 September 1824 he married **Elizabeth Leak** and they had at least seven children together. They lived at Green Close, a couple of miles west of Clapham, towards Newby. Christopher was a wealthy chap, contributing to landowner's meetings about rates for local services. The family were members of the Sandemanian Chapel at Wenning Bank close to Clapham Station, Christopher's mother having 'taught him and other children to go to no other place of worship than the Sandemanian Chapel' [1]. This religion originated from a Scotsman **Robert Sandeman** and his father-in-law **John Glas**, formerly a Presbyterian minister for the Church of Scotland. Unhappy with the established Church's take on salvation and church government they set up their own church which was popular in the North, London and in America but the last chapel disappeared in 1890. The Kidds were in good company — the scientist **Michael Faraday** allegedly said, 'I am of a very small and despised sect of Christians known, if at all, as Sandemanians, and our hope is founded on the faith that is in Christ.' Michael's parents were known to worship at Wenning Bank too. Michael's father **Robert Faraday** managed a small estate in the area. In 1873 Elizabeth died, aged 69 and Christopher retired to Morecambe where, five years later, he married **Nancy Robinson** and they had four years together before Christopher died, aged 78.

The late Mr. Kidd, already mentioned, told me that his mother taught him and her other children to go to no other place of worship than the Sandemanian Chapel.

Our local interest is with Christopher and Elizabeth's sixth child and second son, **William Kidd**. William worked as a carter for a farmer on Malham Moor until, on 7 February 1870, in Morecambe, he married **Elizabeth Wildman** of Gressingham, just down the road from Ingleton. Elizabeth had been working in service for **James Farrer**, the Clapham based Member of Parliament. By now William was working as a butcher. The writing is unclear but it seems William was a widower which is possible as he was 29. William's sister, **Alice Kidd**, was a witness to the wedding.

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1870. Marriage solemnized at <u>Wenning</u> in the <u>Chapelry</u> of <u>Wenning</u> in the County of <u>LANCASHIRE</u>								
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.
149	Feb 7 <sup>th</sup>	William Kidd Elizabeth Wildman	29 21	Widower Single	Butcher —	Clapham Wenning	Christopher Kidd William Wildman	Farmer Labourer
Married in the <u>Wenning Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <u>License</u> by me, <u>R. E. M. [unclear]</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<u>William Kidd</u> <u>Elizabeth Wildman</u>	in the Presence of us,		<u>Richard [unclear]</u> <u>Alice Kidd</u>			

At the time of the next census return, William and Elizabeth lived in Newby with son **John Kidd**, the first of six children, who was born a respectable nine months after their wedding.

All went well until 8 July 1879. After a busy day at Settle Market William took his horse and trap for a drink at the Royal Oak in Settle and then to the Hart's Head in Giggleswick. From there William offered to give a lift home to friends and cattle dealers **John Whinray** of Austwick and **Henry Johnson** [ph1] who was visiting his parents at Low Paley Green. Henry got out on the way and John continued with William to Crow's Nest (now the cheese shop). William told John he was returning to the Hart's Head and that was the last time he was seen as he 'met an untimely



death whilst returning home'[2]. Just after 8am the next morning, **John Towler** of Bank End farm in Lawkland found William dead on the road lying face down with his horse and cart nearby. Did he overbalance, did he have a heart attack, was the horse spooked? He had recently complained about pain in his lower back. The coroner's inquest concluded that he was 'accidentally killed by a fall from the conveyance whilst drunk' and this was copied onto his death certificate. Later there was quite a debate as to whether William was drunk or not and charges brought



**A QUESTION OF SOBRIETY.**—John Wray, innkeeper, Giggleswick, was summoned by the police for having, on Tuesday evening, the 8th inst., supplied two glasses of whisky to **William Kidd**, of **Clapham**, who, it was alleged, was not sober at the time, and who on the night in question met an untimely death whilst returning home.—The Superintendent having briefly stated the nature of the charge, called **John Whirray**, farmer's son, of **Little Waters**, **Clapham**, who said he remembered being at Wray's on the occasion in question, and he, along with **Henry Johnson**, had a glass of beer, **Kidd** having a glass of whisky, for all of which **Johnson** paid. After having another glass each, they all left in **Kidd's** trap, **Johnson** going as far as his house, and he (witness) getting out at **Crow Nest**, as **Kidd** said he was going back to **Wray's**. He did not see **Kidd** again. He did not consider **Kidd** was sober, judging from his talk.—For the defendant, who was unrepresented, **Henry Johnson** and **Tennant Allen** were called. The evidence of the former corroborated

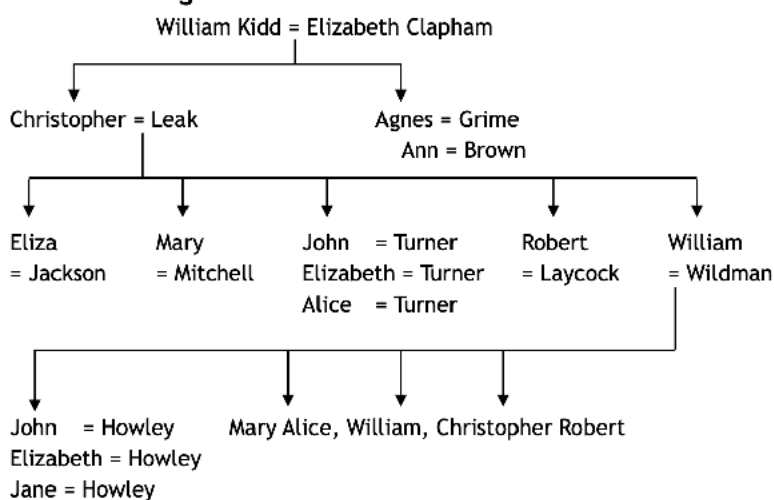
in the main that of **Whirray**, but he said he did not consider **Kidd** drunk, he had often seen him worse, and he did not think a stranger would have detected anything in deceased's manner or driving. **Kidd** drove them very carefully.—Cross-examined by **Mr Croft**: He (witness) had had five glasses of beer and one of sherry, but no spirits, and was quite capable of judging **Kidd's** state at the time.—**Tennant Allen**, ostler at the **Royal Oak**, **Settle**, proved having seen **Kidd** come to **Settle** in the afternoon, hearing him complain of rheumatism, and that he saw him off at night. He had not to help him into his trap, nor did he consider deceased was drunk; he might have had something.—**Defendant**, who had pleaded not guilty, then made his own defence. He denied the conversation he had with the deceased, and said that **Kidd** complained of a pain in his back. He had many times refused to supply deceased when he had called, and was always careful not to fill for any one about whose sobriety at the time he had the slightest doubt.—The magistrates, after some deliberation, intimated that the case would be dismissed.

against the landlord, **John Wray**, for serving William whilst drunk, were dismissed. William, aged 38, was buried in **Clapham** graveyard and would never have met his unborn youngest son, **Christopher Robert Kidd** who died when he was just 7 months old. Hopefully little **Christopher Robert** was buried with William. Despite his unexpected death William had written a will, leaving around £100 to his widow. The good news is that the local community, led by several local men including **George Beardall** and **John Richards**, rallied round to help and a collection raised £42 [1]. Poor widow **Elizabeth** had five other children to bring up and, despite this donation she still needed **Parish Relief** at the time of the next census return. She died in 1904, aged 65.

**SETTLE.**  
**SUBSCRIPTION.**—A subscription was raised at **Settle** in aid of the widow and children of the late **William Kidd**, who was killed some time ago between **Settle** and **Clapham**. We are glad to announce that the amount collected by **Messrs. G. Beardall, J. Richards, and M. Batty, Settle; J. Metcalfe, Cross Streets; T. Dugdale, Austwick; and W. Scott, Clapham**, exceeds £42, and will be paid out to the best advantage.

What happened to William and Elizabeth's children? Sadly, a son, **William (Jnr)**, died aged 15 and daughter **Mary Alice** died when she was 25. The three remaining children, eldest **John**, **Elizabeth** and youngest **Jane Kidd** married siblings of the **Howley** family who arrived in England from **Bohola Parish, County Mayo** on the west of Ireland. Eldest **Mary Ann Howley** was born in the **Walsall** area but **James** and **Thomas Howley** were born back in **County Mayo**. **Mary Ann** was thought to have come up to **Austwick** to work in service at the **Cross**

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Streets pub when she married John Kidd in Austwick in 1893 and they moved to live in Barnsley where John found work in the mines. Elizabeth Kidd started her life working in service for **Joseph Gibson**, a Wesleyan Minister living at 1 Penyghent View in Settle. However, through her sister she met and married James Howley, in Barnsley, in 1901 and then Jane Kidd married Thomas Howley in 1903, also in Barnsley. Like John Kidd, James and Thomas Howley worked as miners and had their families in the Barnsley area. Once widowed the Howley's mother, Mary (Laffey) Howley gave up their home and spent her last few years lodging her children in Barnsley. Apparently she was '*an old besom*' (awkward/surly) and everyone was glad to be shot of her until it was their turn again! Aside from mum Mary Howley, their lives were not as simple as they could have been.

In 1898, before marrying Elizabeth Kidd, James Howley was fined 2s and 6d for drunkenness and disorderly conduct[6]. Then, in 1903 James found himself in court again on a charge of having assaulted **John Caulfield**, another miner at Barnsley Main Colliery. James had been discharged from work and, as a result of this, held a grudge against Mr Caulfield and, when he saw Caulfield and his wife in Barnsley, threatened to kill him and the deputies at the colliery. Then, as Caulfield was walking along the canal to work, James '*crouched down under the hedge in waiting, jumped up and struck him in the face, threw him to the ground and kicked him many times*' before running off [6]. Caulfield was so seriously injured that he had to have ten days off work, unpaid of course. '*The bench considered it a very savage assault*' and fined James 40 shillings plus another 10 shillings costs to be paid to Caulfield.

Sunday night, as complainant was going along the canal bank to his work, defendant, who had been crouched down under the hedge in waiting, jumped up and struck him in the face, threw him to the ground, and kicked him many times. Then, seeing some miners coming along, he ran off. So serious were complainant's injuries that he had to be attended by Dr. Shine, and he had been off work ten days.— Complainant bore out his advocate's

James and Elizabeth's eldest surviving son, **Thomas Howley** worked as a railway porter when, in 1936, aged 30, he was awarded the Royal Humane Society's certificate for gallantry after saving the life of seven year old **Mary Richardson** when she fell into a 14 foot deep reservoir at Cudworth[7]. An hour of artificial resuscitation, under the supervision of Dr Elliott, was required before her breathing was restored. No wonder he won the award. Perhaps inspired by this, Thomas [ph2] joined the army and served in India between the wars. Tragically, just a few years later Thomas was '*accidentally killed*' on 24 April 1941 in Sussex, serving as a Lance Bombardier for the Royal Artillery. He had been on leave and was returning to Uckfield via London, having to hide in shelters when the sirens sounded in London. Once back in Uckfield Thomas was involved in a motor accident and died at the scene. He is remembered on a commonwealth war grave back home in Monk's Bretton in the north east of Barnsley.



### MAGISTRATE'S TRIBUTE

#### GALLANT CUDWORTH RESCUE

**Thomas Howley** (30), a railway porter, of Hope Street, Monk Bretton, was last week presented with the Royal Humane Society's certificate for saving a child from drowning. The presentation was made at the West Riding Court by the Chairman, Mr. G. H. Norton.



As reported in this paper at the time, two Cudworth children, Mary Richardson (7) and Joan Waddington (9), on July 8th last climbed a fence round a reservoir near Cudworth railway station, and Mary slipped into the water.

Joan's screams for help were heard by porters at the station and they rushed to Mary's help.

**Howley** who was one of them, ran sixty yards and dived into the reservoir, which was about 14 feet deep.

Accidentally Killed.

Royal Artillery.			
814667 /Ys	ADAMS	L/Sjt. S.M.	51 Med. Regt.
791620 174.	HOWLEY	L/Br. T.	18 Fd. Regt.
			26. 4.41.
			24. 4.41.



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Meanwhile in 1905, two years after marrying Jane Kidd, Thomas Howley was fined 10s and costs for having used abusive and indecent language towards **Kate Kalvehenn**, a married woman [6].

And that leaves John Kidd and Mary Ann Howley — did they fare any better? Absolutely not! In 1910 they were both taken to court and generated a headline of *'Monk Bretton Couple's Disgraceful Behaviour'* [6].

They came into the Court House railway Station already drunk and *'began causing bother with some people there'*. They refused to leave and the police were called. PC Strickland *'said the woman was very excited and behaved like a tiger when taken into custody.'* She also spat on PC Birch's face and tunic and insisted she was not guilty, despite John confessing. They were each fined 10 shillings and costs. Mary Ann later complained that the police had ruined her hat! Following that incident, in 1915, John Kidd fined was 12 shillings for striking **Clara Shirt** with a poker [8]. Oh dear, oh dear.

**MONK BRETTON COUPLE'S DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOUR.** — **John Kidd**, miner, Monk Bretton, and his wife, **Mary Ann Kidd**, were charged with having been drunk at the Court House Railway Station on Saturday

P.C. Strickland, who was called to the station, said the woman was very excited, and behaved like a tiger when taken into custody. — P.C. Binch, who helped to lock the couple up, said the woman spat in his face and all over his tunic. — The male defendant pleaded guilty, but the female defendant said she was not guilty; the officers pulled her about something shameful. — They were each fined 10s. and costs.

This family certainly demonstrates it could really be a rough and tumble life in those days, no doubt increased with the influence of alcohol.

William Kidd was unfortunate enough to die aged just 38 but his siblings also had their own misfortunes. On 11 October 1851 William's eldest sister, **Eliza Kidd** married **John Jackson** who was from Lancaster but had been working as a woollen manufacturer's clerk in Hawes. There was so much for this marriage. But just 18 months later Eliza died at the birth of their first child, **John Christopher Jackson**. Nine months after that John also died leaving John Christopher an orphan. They were buried in Hawes graveyard with an impressive stone. As the man of the house John's name was inscribed first even though he died after Eliza, as was the custom.



*Erected in memory of John Jackson of Hawes who departed this life March 10th 1853, aged 37 years. Also of Eliza Jackson who departed this life July 6th 1852, aged 27 years.*

What happened to little John Christopher? He was brought up by grandparents Christopher and Elizabeth Kidd in Clapham and then found work as a railway porter in Helmschore near Haslingden. When he was 41 John Christopher married **Hannah Warburton** and they had four children before John Christopher died in his early fifties.

Just like William's own children, three of William's siblings married members of Clapham's Turner family who were farmers. **John Kidd**, who became a stationmaster and then bookkeeper in Haslingden, married **Mary Ann Turner**, daughter of **Edward Turner** and **Isabella Grime** in 1850. It was probably John who recommended nephew John Christopher Jackson for his post as a railway porter. In 1852 **Elizabeth Kidd** married **John Turner**, Mary Ann's brother and they moved to Morecambe where John worked as a stonemason. **Alice Kidd**, the witness at William's wedding was 37 when, on Christmas Eve 1874, she married 45 year old widower **John Hopwood Turner** a Clapham shoemaker and a first cousin to John and Mary Ann Turner. John Hopwood Turner seemed to have lived apart from his wife and children for several years before she died in 1874 and the younger children were sent to be brought up by aunts and uncles. Two years after his wedding

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to Alice, John Hopwood Turner died, aged 47 and so poor old Alice spent the rest of her life working as a housekeeper in Ingleton.

In 1854 William's sister **Mary Kidd** married **Jonathan Mitchell**, a woolsorter and they set up home in Alston, near Penrith. They had a son, **John Mitchell** but then records for all of them stop. Perhaps they went abroad, died or changed their name, for some reason. William's younger brother **Robert Kidd** married **Hannah Laycock** of Middleham in 1866. He became a gamekeeper in Derbyshire and had a family of four children before he died, aged just 33.

William's father, Christopher Kidd had a sister, **Agnes Kidd**, who married **Robert Grime**, a wealthy Lawkland farmer who just happened to be the brother of **Isabella (Grime) Turner** (above). They had two daughters. **Ann Grime** married **John Brown**, who was a Clapham blacksmith who took his blacksmithing to the Smithy on Belle Hill, Giggleswick, now 'Smithy Cottage'. Their account is provided separately, however it's worth mentioning that John and Ann's son, named **William Kidd Brown**, took over the Grime family farm at Lawkland but died, aged just 25, leaving his wife **Isabella (Cornthwaite) Brown** to bring up three daughters. William is buried in Giggleswick graveyard. The grave has a metal plaque attached to iron railings, the only one of this type of this memorial in the churchyard.



*In affectionate remembrance of William Kidd Brown of Lane End who died January 17th 1879 aged 25 years.*

William's parents, John and Ann Brown are also buried in Giggleswick graveyard but not commemorated on a stone. It would be nice to think they are in the same plot. Isabella took the daughters back to be with her parents in Wray and remarried.

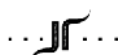
William Kidd had a second cousin, **John Allen Kidd**, who moved from Hawes to Bentham to work as the Manager of Bentham Cooperative Stores for around 30 years. He had nine children with his wife **Elizabeth Kendall** of Eldroth. They are buried with a fabulous stone in Bentham graveyard. This project has met the Kendall family before. Elizabeth's sister, **Margaret Kendall**, was the unfortunate wife of **Charles Tennant**. Theoretically this was an excellent marriage — the Tennants were wealthy landowners at The Riddings farm outside Long Preston. After their marriage in December 1855 Charles and Margaret began their life at Arnford near Long Preston and, after a few months, Margaret became pregnant. Less than a year later, disaster struck. On Saturday 22nd November 1856, Charles spent the afternoon at a farm auction, a quarter of a mile from his home. *'He got too much liquor and was taken home at about six in the evening.'* He had a hearty meal and went to bed to be woken by the screams of Margaret who was close to the birth of their first child. Charles, being a good husband, immediately left his home in Wigglesworth at 10.30pm to fetch someone from Wigglesworth Hall to tend to his wife. It was very dark and he never returned. The river was searched without success. The family put out a description of Charles, *'about 5 feet, 6 or 7 inches height, of proportionate make, light complexion, light curly hair and whiskers, and was dressed in a dark brown cloth shooting coat, a pair of grey mixture cloth trousers, with a dark stripe down the sides, a white cotton shirt with*



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*a red and black spotted front.* That seems a very progressive fashion for 1856! . . . *'a pair of Blucher shoes, with three holes on each side, a formal dress shoe',* not ideal for hiking across fields *'and a grey mixture cloth cap. Had with him a common stable lantern with horn lights.'* A *'handsome reward'* was offered for information given to **PC Cockshott** [2]. On 1st December, eight days later later Charles' body was found in the Ribble *'having unfortunately missed his way and walked right into the river.'* The alcohol probably didn't help.

Can you imagine what Margaret must have been going through? While Charles was missing Margaret gave birth to a son, **John William Tennant**. In 1865 she moved to Bentham, near her sister, and became the second wife of a wealthy Bentham farmer, **Richard Butterfield**, and had many more children. John William Tennant died in 1880, aged 23, and has a most elaborate gravestone at Bentham. Margaret died in 1884, aged 41 and was hopefully buried with him.



*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](http://Ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*With thanks to descendant Patricia Heath for her help in the compilation of this account, and to Teresa Gordon for the sketch.*

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