

The Abbotsons, wealthy folk

There were several branches of the wealthy Abbotson family in the area, one of whom farmed Wigglesworth Hall for several generations until 1841^[ph1]. It was the largest farm in the locality at around 600 acres. The Abbotson ancestral home was Arncliffe.



Robert Abbotson and his wife **Elizabeth Taylor** were there in the early 18th century and then son **Charles Abbotson** took over with his wife **Jennet Serjeantson**. Unfortunately, Christopher was only

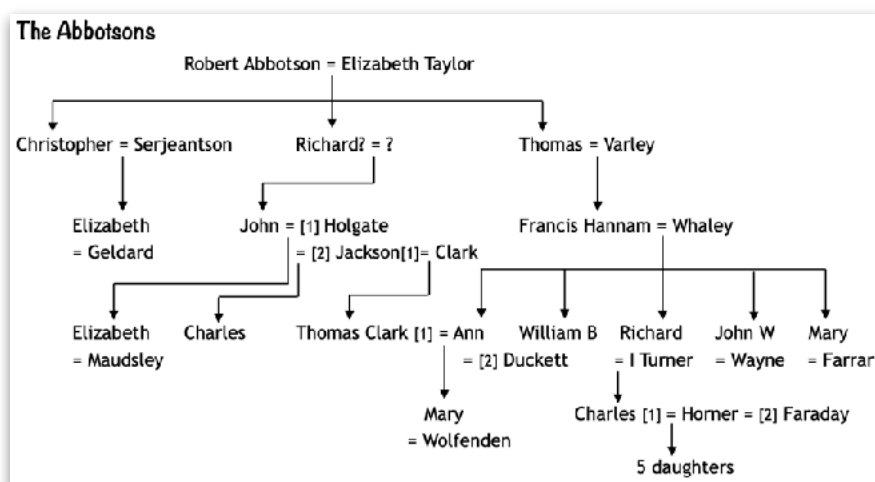
32 when he died. Robert and Elizabeth were buried in unmarked graves at Long Preston, as was the fashion before the late 18th century, and Christopher and Jennet were one of the first to have a memorial stone in the graveyard.

To the Memory of Christopher Abbotson of Wigglesworth Hall who departed this life on 5th May 1788, aged 32 years. Also Jennet his wife who died on the 27th of November 1819 aged 61 years.



As an indication of the respect earned by the Abbotsons, Christopher and Jennet's daughter **Elizabeth Abbotson** married **John Geldard** of Cappelside, the largest manor in Rathmell. Christopher and Jennet didn't have a surviving son to take over Wigglesworth Hall so Christopher's nephew, possibly via his brother **Richard Abbotson** came to the rescue. This was **John Abbotson** who ran the hall with his first wife **Betty Holgate**. They had two daughters. Daughter **Ellen Abbotson** remained a spinster and **Elizabeth Abbotson** married into the successful **Maudsley** family of farmers. Betty died in January 1832 and five months later John married widow **Agnes (Jackson) Clark**. Agnes was ten years younger than John and so was able to have a son, **Charles Abbotson** when she was 45. Agnes had already given birth to five children with her first husband, **Leonard Clark**, who was the innkeeper of the Plough Inn at Wigglesworth until he died in 1831. Leonard and Agnes' son, another **Leonard Clark** was also a publican in Barnoldswick until he died, aged just 20.

In Memory of Leonard Clark of Wigglesworth who died May 11th 1831 aged 55 years. Also of Margaret his daughter died November 19th 1834 aged 10 years and Leonard his son died January 1st 1842 aged 20 years.



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By the 1840s John Abbotson was in his sixties and so they moved to Long Preston village, living off investments and this marked the end of the Abbotsons at Wigglesworth Hall. John died in 1859, aged 80 and Agnes followed in 1862, aged 74. Agnes' splendid gravestone also commemorates the lives of their son Charles Abbotson, Charles' wife, **Margaret (Moon) Abbotson** and two children. Charles worked as a clerk at a brewery in Burton-upon-Trent before he died, aged 46 and then Margaret moved to Skipton and Liverpool. Despite never having lived in Long Preston they were buried there with Charles' parents. For some reason, John didn't get a mention on the gravestone.

Sacred to the Memory of Agnes, relict of John Abbotson, who died May 9th 1862 aged 74 years. Also of John William son of Charles and Margaret Abbotson who died April 23rd 1863 aged two years and three months. "Of such is the kingdom of God". Also of the above named Charles Abbotson who departed this life March 18th 1879 aged 46 years. Annie Agnes daughter of the above, born March 5th 1864 died January 1st 1888. "May they rest in peace and awake with joy" Margaret wife of the above Charles Abbotson died May 31st 1897, aged 63 years.



Agnes and Leonard's second son, **Thomas Clark**, took over at the Plough Inn when Agnes remarried. In the small world of Wigglesworth, in February 1839 Thomas married **Ann Abbotson**, the daughter of **Francis Hannam Abbotson** and his wife **Mary Whaley**. Francis was the first cousin of John Abbotson who was at Wigglesworth Hall. Ann had three daughters over the next three years, although two, **Agnes** and **Ann Agnes Clark**, died in infancy. Daughter **Mary Abbotson Clark** survived. Thomas died in 1845, aged just 32. The Clark genes were not too strong! Widow Ann continued to run the Plough Inn — it was completely acceptable for an innkeeper's widow to do this. However, three years later Ann's prospects would improve considerably. In 1848, Ann married **Richard Duckett**, 12 years her junior and the son of **Charles Duckett**, the Settle beerhouse keeper. She had three sons with him. The Duckett family had farmed Wigglesworth Hall for generations before the Abbotsons!

In marriage documentation Richard [A] described his occupation as a 'common carrier,' an 1840s 'man with a van'! He joined Ann to run the Plough Inn and farm 200 acres while raising their three sons and Ann's surviving daughter, Mary Abbotson Clark. They had to cope with all the usual drunk and disorderlies and hosted meetings of the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Association and local hunting groups [ph2]. Three weeks before their wedding, Richard's brother, **Edward Duckett**, set off for Australia and established an immensely successful business, *The Golden Horseshoe*, providing ironmongery and horseshoes for the exploding population due to the Gold Rush. It was so successful that it was able to go international and, during the 1860s, Richard became involved in managing the English side of the business. He will have been a busy man. Richard was well rewarded with a salary of £100. By 1885 he was dealing with 149 ships and 579 suppliers generating £53,600. If you look carefully at Richard's photo you may be able to see a golden horseshoe as his tie pin. The full account of the Ducketts [A] and of the Plough Inn [B] is provided separately.



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In 1866 Ann's daughter Mary Abbotson Clark married the wonderfully named **Pickles Wolfenden** and in 1869 Richard and Ann handed over the running of the Plough Inn to them. Richard and Ann moved a few doors away and concentrated on his other business concerns. Richard was the land agent for the owners of the Wigglesworth Estate and had several dealings with joiner **James Mansergh**.

Richard, Ann, their son **Charles Frederick Duckett** and family, including seven year old Teddie, were buried with good quality, well preserved memorial stones in Long Preston graveyard. Ann's brother, bachelor **William Beecroft Abbotson** was also buried alongside them.

In loving memory of Teddie, our dear son of Chas F and Ann Duckett, born 10th June 1877, died 26th September 1884. Also of Charles Francis Duckett born 1st March 1853, died 16th Aug 1894. Also of the above Ann Duckett, born 12th October 1856, died 7th January 1911.

In loving memory of Ann Duckett born July 2nd 1809, died Feb 3rd 1891

In loving memory of William Abbotson, died January 14th 1895, aged 80 years

In loving memory of Richard Duckett born Dec 4th 1822, died March 21st 1897



As we know, Ann was the daughter of Francis Hannam Abbotson who had at least six children with his wife Mary Whaley living in Cantsfield, west of Ingleton. They married in 1800. In 1816 Francis appeared to have some financial difficulties[1]. Francis was a farmer and yeoman — the owner of a small farm. 'Abbotson Farm' off the A687 in Cantsfield is now a large dairy farm. Francis died in 1826, aged 55 and Mary died in 1858, aged 82.

Francis and Mary's youngest daughter, **Mary Abbotson** married **Richard Farrar** who was a draper trading from Covent Garden and they had at least seven children. Francis and Mary's second son, **John Whaley Abbotson**, was a solicitor in Kirkby Lonsdale who died, aged 38, just a year after marrying widow **Catherine (Wayne) Thompson**, who was 15 years his senior. Catherine retired to Silverdale with two daughters from her first marriage.

Francis and Mary's eldest son, **Richard Abbotson**, stayed in farming and became a 'farmer of 130 acres and landed proprietor' at Hipping Hall at Cowan Bridge, now an exclusive hotel. When he was 39 Richard married 24 year old **Isabella Turner** of Slaidburn and, 12 years later, they had a son, **Charles Abbotson**. Unfortunately, Richard died in 1867, aged 66 when young Charles was just 15 and Isabella died three years later. Richard spent the end of his life at Gildersleets near Settle which is where his brother, William Beecroft Abbotson lived, farmed and ran his cattle dealing business. This is the same William that was buried next to sister Ann Duckett in Long Preston. William was also the executor of his generous £2000 estate. Widow Isabella died three years later, aged 54, also at Gildersleets, and left her estate to William Abbotson, as a guardian of son Charles.

So, what happened to the orphaned Charles and his healthy inheritance, which included farmland and the Red Lion Inn at Horton-in-Ribblesdale? At the time of the following census, 19 year old Charles was found at Gildersleets with his uncle William Beecroft Abbotson. Their house servant was 21 year old **Jane Gornall** from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Charles had had a difficult time but was now running a decent sized farm! Almost exactly a year after the census return, Jane Gornall gave birth to a daughter, **Isabella Gornall** and the inadvertently mistaken entry in her baptism records by the vicar in Horton-in-Ribblesdale tell us that Charles was the father.

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1870 No. 58	Isabella Jane	Charles Abbottson	see No. 60 Gilbertson near Settle	Land Surveyor	A. M. Abbottson
1872 No. 59	John Agnes	Thomas Abbottson	Golden Lion Inn	Iron-keeper	A. M. Abbottson
1872 No. 60	Isabella Jane	Gornall	Stiofold	Iron-keeper	A. M. Abbottson

For whatever reason Charles turned his back on Jane and Isabella - it wouldn't be surprising if he felt she was beneath him as a lowly servant? After Isabella's birth Jane was employed by **George Spencer** who also employed Isabella when she was older. Incredibly, when he died, George gave Jane and Isabella his house and furnishings, so they did alright, despite Charles. Three years later, in 1875, Charles married **Elizabeth Horner**, the daughter of a landowner at Conistone and she started on the production of five daughters! They moved to Rathmell, next door to Butterfield House. Charles was a successful farmer and cattle dealer winning numerous awards for his 'fat heifers' and was on the committee for Bentham Agricultural Association.

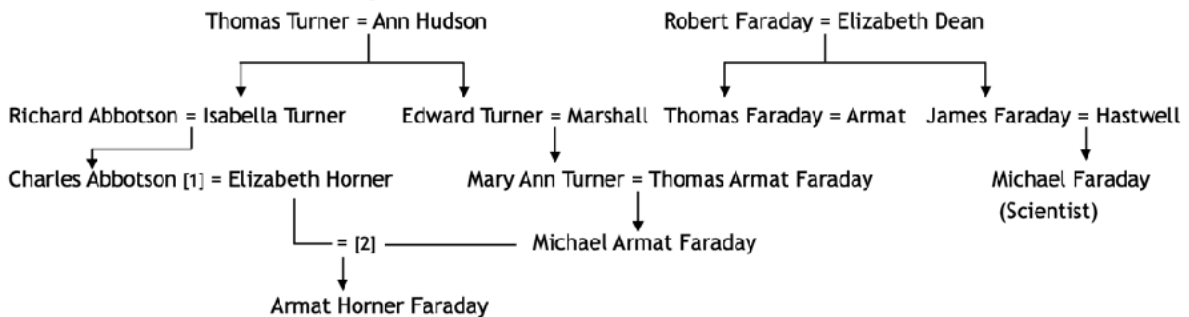
All was going well until 1879 Charles, 'by some means at present unexplained, slipped between the carriages and the platform and received slight injuries to his head' at Bentham Station [1]. This may have contributed to Charles'

like object in view. When the train drew up in the station, and before it came to a standstill, Mr. Abbottson, by some means at present unexplained, slipped between the carriages and the platform, and received slight injuries about the head. As the train stopped immediately afterwards he was speedily extricated and removed to the Royal hotel, and the services of



death of a 'Ruption of blood vessel,' four years later, while staying at the Midland Hotel in Buxton, a well known health and spa destination in Derbyshire. He was just 31. His death certificate mentions that the informant was **Michael Faraday**, his cousin. He was actually Charles' first maternal cousin 1x removed.

Charles Abbottson and the Faradays



Charles was buried with two infant daughters in Rathmell graveyard and has a most impressive tomb just inside the church gate, lying below an upright memorial stone for two infant daughters.

In loving memory of Charles Abbottson born Feb 11, 1852, died Sep 6 1883. In loving memory of Rebecca, infant daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Abbottson, born Feb 5 1876, died Feb 9, 1876. Elizabeth daughter of the above, born July 2, 1882, died July 12 1883.



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Poor widow Elizabeth was only 29 when she lost Charles and daughter Elizabeth, within a couple of months of each other in 1883. However, she inherited an impressive estate for such a young husband and, three years later, she remarried. Her new husband was none other than Michael Faraday, Charles' cousin, ten years her junior! Michael, a grocer/merchant, Elizabeth and the three remaining daughters moved to Lancashire and were joined, temporarily by a son, **Armat Horner Faraday** who sadly died of influenza, aged 4. Little Armat had his own memorial stone at Didsbury.



In loving memory of Armat Horner, son of Michael and Elizabeth Faraday of Didsbury who died 19 May 1891, aged 4 years.

Elizabeth and Michael appeared to separate after this. Elizabeth lived with her daughter **Isabella (Horner) Tetley** and family. Elizabeth died in 1920 and was buried with her parents back in Conistone. Michael ran a coal merchant business in Hellifield and, when he was 68, Michael married again. He died three years later and was buried with his parents at Clapham. When he died a newspaper report described that he was *'the last surviving direct male descendant of Michael Faraday, the distinguished chemist'*^[2], however that's not strictly true! The scientist, who discovered the principles of electromagnetism amongst other things, was born in 1791 in Surrey although his ancestors lived in Clapham. Elizabeth's husband, Michael Armat Faraday (his grandmother's maiden name was Armat) was born in Clapham in 1863. After much research we find they were first cousins 1x removed, so Elisabeth's husband was not a direct descendant, but why let the truth get in the way of a good story!

A DESCENDANT OF FARADAY

The remains of the late Mr. Michael Faraday (72), of Bentham, Yorkshire, the last surviving direct male descendant of Michael Faraday, the distinguished chemist, were yesterday interred in the cemetery at Clapham, Yorkshire.

So, what happened to Charles and Elisabeth's three daughters? Isabella Abbotson married **Harry Tetley**, a good Yorkshire name, although Harry did not descend from **Joshua Tetley**, the founder of the Leeds Tetley Brewery! Harry was a Bradford wool merchant and they had two sons, the youngest of whom, **William Abbotson Tetley** was killed in Belgium in WW2, serving in the RAF. Charles and Elizabeth's daughter **Mary Abbotson** married **Edward Derham**, a banker's clerk in Manchester, Liverpool and District Bank and they had their family living in Morecambe. They named their home *'Conistone'*.

Charles and Elisabeth's daughter **Eleanor 'Nellie' Abbotson** had a far more exotic life. Firstly, when she was 18, Nellie had her photo taken at the Horner studios ^[ph3]. In 1906, aged 27 she married **Charles Edward Hart** who had been working as an electrical engineer in Belfast. He was born in Lima, Peru as he was the son of **Thomas Hart**, a hydraulic engineer who had spent much of his waking life in Lima, Peru before settling in his hometown of Ardrossan, Ayrshire. Once married Charles and Nellie immediately emigrated for a life overseas, spending some time in Kentucky USA.



Miss Nellie Abbotson photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Settle Graveyard Project

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. 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 — The Golden Horseshoe, Edward Duckett and sons, a Victorian Pioneer Hardware Firm, thanks to North Craven Heritage Trust with permissions from descendant John Maidment

B — Meandering down the Ribble, born and bred in the Long Preston Floodplain by Sarah Lister'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Lancaster Gazette, 2 — Knaresborough Post

ph1 — photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, the Ben McKenzie collection, ph2 — with thanks to the



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Plough Inn, ph3 — Image 2022.1.68.63 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph4 — credited to Wikipedia, public domain, author unknown

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Some of 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