

Mrs Shepherd and her little boy

This lovely Horner photo [ph1] shows a woman holding a child sitting astride a rocking horse. This is the only Horner photo in which a rocking horse was used as a prop and it must have taken some getting into the studio! Perhaps it was the only prop that the child would be comfortable and settle on?!

The mother (presumably) is wearing a voluminous skirt, typical of the late 1860s/70s, which is all black, suggesting she is in mourning. In those days women were expected to wear mourning clothes for up to two years, depending on how close she was to the relation who had died.

The child is wearing a smart jacket and some sort of skirt. In those days infants of both sexes wore similar clothes which were practical for the trials and tribulations of the infant years and also had the advantage that they could be worn by several children over the years, regardless of sex. To the left of the rocking horse, hiding in the curtains we see a small girl too! The backdrop is plain with a sweeping curtain which is typical of most photos of this era but there is a carpet which doesn't!



Mrs Shepherd and her little boy 1872 , photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

In the Horner collection records this photo is entitled 'Mrs Shepherd and her little boy, 1872'. Mrs Shepherd had been born **Mary Slinger**, the youngest daughter of **John Slinger** and **Mary (Lawson) Slinger** who were farmers and landed proprietors of over 200 acres at Studfold on the way to Horton-in-Ribblesdale. The Slingers are so interesting that have their own account within this project. Mary's cousin, **William Slinger**, was a successful chemist in York.

In 1853, when Mary was 25, she married **William Shepherd** whose had father died when he was 14. However, there was sufficient money in the pot for William to be apprenticed to **John Hayhurst**, a chemist and druggist who was based in Settle Town Hall. William's fellow apprentice was **William Armistead**. Unfortunately, John Hayhurst died of typhoid in May 1843, aged just 25 — that's very young to be a master chemist! A month later, John's brother, **George Hayhurst**, put the business up for sale [1]. Incredibly, the purchasers were young William Shepherd, aged just 18, probably using what was left of the Shepherd inheritance, and William Armistead, aged 19. William

TO CHEMISTS, DRUGGISTS, GROCERS, &c.
TO be LET, with immediate possession, in consequence of the death of Mr. John Hayhurst, the owner, all that well Established DRUG and GROCERY Business, very eligibly situated in the Market-place of Settle, in the West Riding of the county of York. The STOCK is all new and well-selected, and the situation is very desirable. For particulars apply to Mr. GEO. HAYHURST, Settle.

ARMISTEAD & SHEPHERD,
Wholesale and Retail
**Chemists, Druggists, Grocers, Tea
Dealers, Oil Merchants, &c.,**
Beg to inform the Gentry and Public generally of Settle and neighbourhood, that in addition to every article in Drugs, Chemicals, and Groceries of first quality, they have always in Stock a great variety of
FAMILY ARTICLES,
Consisting of Clothes, Hair, Nail, Tooth, and Plate Brushes, Shell Side and Dressing Combs, Perfumery, Fancy Soaps, Pickles, Spices, Sauces, Vinegars, &c., &c.
SUPERIOR COFFEES,
Always fresh being roasted on the premises.
FINE FLAVOURED TEAS,
From 3s. per lb. and upwards.
N. B. A reduction of 8d. per lb. on taking 6 lbs.
MARKET PLACE, SETTLE.

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Armistead's parents were wealthy landowners, based at Robert Hall, Bentham and had recently died leaving him an inheritance too. The business [SC], which was also a grocers, tea dealer and oil merchant, was a success! — you can see the business signs on the central section of the Town Hall, with the Hunt business to the left. The Shepherd family could afford to live in the large houses at The Terrace on Duke Street, with servants and apprentices, of course.



Settle Market (Sheep Market), photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)



For whatever reason, William Armistead soon set up a business in Kendal but died in 1862, aged just 38. Meanwhile, back in Settle, William Shepherd [ph3] was a busy man. Aside from his business, William delivered lectures at the Mechanics Institute, became a director of Settle Gas Company and was an active member of the Temperance Society. He was a Sunday School teacher and churchwarden at Settle Church. All of these will have been with the support of Mary and family. William died 1871, aged just 46, of 'congestion of the liver' from which he had been suffering for four weeks and was probably brought about by heart disease. 'Mr Shepherd's varied knowledge of scientific and medical subjects, which he was always ready to impart to every inquirer made his advice very much sought after. His loss will be very deeply regretted, as he was held in very great esteem by all classes'[2]. He left an estate worth over half a million pounds today's value, and so, unsurprisingly, William's well preserved, high quality, memorial stone is amidst those of the most wealthy in the south east corner of the church.

DEATH OF MR. W. SHEPHERD. — In our obituary of to-day, we record the death of Mr. W. Shepherd, druggist and grocer, of this town. Deceased had been upwards of 30 years a Sunday School teacher in the Settle Sunday School; he had also taken an active part in the proceedings of the Settle Temperance Society for many years, besides being closely connected with most of the institutions of the town. His funeral took place on Wednesday last, and as a mark of respect to his memory the shops and places of business were closed during the passing through the streets of the funeral cortege. The principal officers and members of the Temperance Society and many of the inhabitants joined the mournful procession. Mr. Shepherd's varied

knowledge of scientific and medical subjects, which he was always ready to impart to every inquirer made his advice very much sought after. His loss will be very deeply regretted, as he was held in very great esteem by all classes.

In memory of William Shepherd of Settle, who died February 5th 1871 aged 46 years. Also Mary Shepherd, who died 27th April 1915 aged 87 years. Also children of the above, Elizabeth Eleanor Shepherd who died January 24th 1863, aged 5 years. Francis Slinger Shepherd who died February 4th 1863 aged 11 days. Edith Alice Slinger Shepherd who died February 13th 1871 aged 4 years. Ernest Shepherd who died at Bloemfontein January 24th 1897 aged 26 years. Anc E22



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Mary was also very busy as she had eight daughters and two sons although a son and two daughters died in infancy and are buried with William and Mary. Daughter **Edith Alice Shepherd** died just a week after her dad, aged four. Poor Mary. William's death provides some answers to the questions about the Horner photo. It was taken in 1872, just a year after William's death, often a time when the remaining family decide to have a photograph taken, if they could afford it. Mary, as the grieving widow, would have been wearing full mourning clothes. The boy and the girl were their two youngest children, **Lilian** and **Ernest**.

After William's death Mary continued to run the business with the help of the business apprentice, **William Walker**, until her son, **John William Shepherd** [ph4] qualified as a pharmacist in 1880. John transferred the business premises to the corner of the Market Square in 1893, now occupied by Boots' chemist [ph5], and went into partnership with William Walker. The business stayed in the Shepherd/Walker families until 1978!



John William Shepherd was the only one of the ten children to marry and he married twice. His first wife, **Eliza Julian**, died two years after the birth of their son, another **William Shepherd**. Despite living in Settle, young William boarded at Giggleswick school and then went into banking, eventually becoming a bank manager in Bath. John William's second wife was **Mary Ellis**, daughter of the banker **Frank Ellis**. Like his father, John William actively contributed to the community. He was a JP, a poor law Guardian and a fellow of the meteorological society. He was a bellringer at Settle church and replaced **John Handby** as churchwarden in 1918. He was the Chair of Settle Gas Works in 1906 and Vice President of the cricket club. John William and his spinster sisters lived extraordinarily long lives and spent their retirement back at Studfold, their ancestral home. John William and both wives are buried in *Old grave C76*. Clearly, the family were not disposed to heartfelt memorial inscriptions.



Eliza Shepherd born March 2nd 1864 died April 21st 1891. Mary Shepherd born June 13th 1858 died Dec 24th 1953. John William Shepherd born Sep 2nd 1855 died April 6th 1945, Old C76

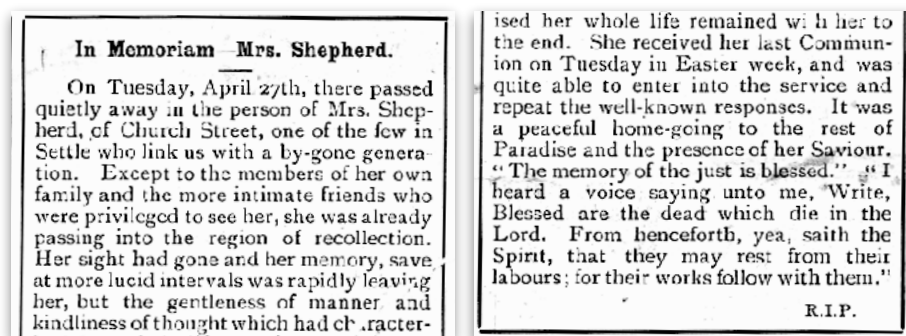
What happened to the two children in the photo? Lilian, the youngest daughter, remained a spinster and lived with her brother John William Shepherd and his wives, occasionally working as a nurse. After his death, Lilian moved to Somerset to be near her sisters **Clara Jane Shepherd** and **Helena Frances Shepherd** who had set up a school and retired down there. Lilian was 78 when she died.

Youngest son, Ernest Shepherd, went to Giggleswick School with his brother and then qualified as a doctor. Unfortunately, he died in Bloemfontein, aged 27, after being advised to go there on account of his health [LSA]

24. Death of Mr. Ernest Shepherd (youngest son of the late William Shepherd, The Terrace, Settle), at Bloemfontein, Orange Free State. He had been advised, on account of his health, to go to the Cape.

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What happened to Mary? Mary outlived William by some 45 years. When she died in 1915, aged an impressive 87, her sight and memory had been fading for a while [ph6]. She was 'one of the few in Settle who link us with a by-gone generation', — a very nice way to say she was elderly!



This account has been compiled 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.

Life stories 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'. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

ph1, 2 – Images from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, Mary Shepherd Image 2022.1.57.9, Market Place Image 2022.1.68.26,



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ph3 – with thanks to Tom Lord, ph4, 6 – with thanks to Mike Howarth, ph5 – with thanks to John Reid

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LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, SC – Settle Chronicle, WLP – the diaries of William Lodge Paley with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life