

Who were the other Trustees of the new PM Chapel?

The Trustees oversaw the fundraising and building of the 'new' Primitive Methodist Chapel. Some of Trustees names are inscribed on the stones at the front of the Chapel.

The indenture was signed by *Henry Philip Dawson, Rev John William Lancaster and the Trustees were George Yeomans, John Hardy, Christopher Pratt, Abner Bennett, Joseph Smales, Tom Oakden, Thomas Henry Heelis, Richard Mason.*

Name	Indenture 1902	Charity 1909	Foundation Stones
George Yeomans	1	1	1
Christopher Pratt	1		1
Joseph Smales	1	1	
Thomas Oakden	1	1	1
Robert Atkinson		1	
Henry Wright		1	
Alfred/Albert Edward Cracknell		1	
John Hardy	1	1	
Abner Bennett	1	1	1
Richard Mason	1	1	
Thomas Henry Heelis	1	1	
Robert Bulcock		1	
Charles Frederick Robinson		1	
Mrs Wycherley			1
Thomas Fletcher			1
Richard Fletcher			1
Alderman Brearley			1
Mrs Calvert			1
Elsie Brock			(1)

The Charity Commission submission was signed by *George Yeomans, Joseph Smales, Abner Bennett, Richard Mason, Tom Oakden, John Hardy* and some new Trustees, *Robert Atkinson, Albert Edward Cracknell, Henry Wright, Robert Bulcock, Thomas Henry Heelis, Charles Frederick Robinson*

The Foundation Stones at the front of the church are dedicated to *T Fletcher Esq, Miss Wycherley for sewing committee, Miss Pratt for family, R Fletcher Esq, Mrs T Oakden for family, Doris Bennett for family, Ald Brearley, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Yeomans, Mrs Calvert.*

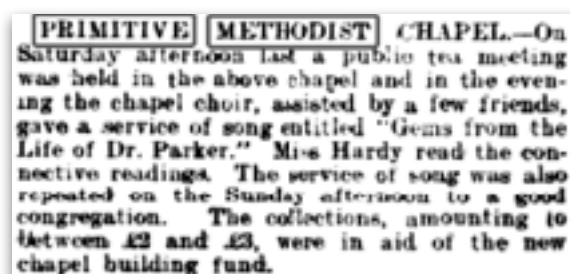
In this last account we discovered the Trustees who were limestone quarrymen. This account looks at the other Trustees.

John Hardy, builder

John Hardy, a Trustee throughout, also built the new Church with Henry Brassington. He was from a long line of stonemasons, originally from Derbyshire. This John's father, another **John Hardy** [ph4] brought the family to Settle for work on the Settle to Carlisle Railway, where stonemasons were in great demand and paid good salaries. He lived at Craven Cottages and Craven Terrace. It seems the whole family were involved in the the Primitive Methodist faith — In 1901 one of his daughters gave readings at a public tea meeting to raise money for the new Chapel, of between £2 and £3.



John Hardy, photograph by the Horner Studio.
Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)



Trustee John ran his business on Banks View, Church Street, living next door [LSA] — his business property was replaced by modern housing in 2002. He produced beautiful, intricately designed memorial stones, including that of his parents. As well as being a stonemason John took on a number of substantial building projects, including regular contracts with the Dawsons at Langcliffe Hall (yes, other members of the Dawson family owned that too!) The family were buried in Settle churchyard.



In loving remembrance of Elizabeth Ann wife of John Hardy died Dec 22 1905 aged 72 years, also the above John Hardy died Dec 1922 aged 81 years. Also John their son Died Dec 27th 1936 aged 69 years Also Ellen his wife Died Sep 3rd 1955 aged 86 years. Also their grandson John Died Feb 20th 1975 aged 80, also Elsie Hardy died 20th October 1984 aged 88 years, Old F16



Abner Bennett, draper

Abner was born in Ripon, the youngest son of a Primitive Methodist Minister, **William Bennett** so it's no surprise he followed the faith. The name Abner is unusual and is of Hebrew origin, meaning 'father of light'. It could also have been chosen because William's five youngest children all had names beginning with 'A'. Abner was apprenticed to a draper and made a career of it. When he was 28, Abner married **Annie Hobkinson** of Harrogate. By 1899 Abner and Annie had moved to Settle for the birth of their second of three daughters, **Nora Bennett**. They lived at Crag View, at the junction of Commercial

Street and The Green, close to the old Primitive Methodist Chapel and **Rev Richard Wycherley's** home. By the time of the 1911 census the family lived at the new houses at Higher Halsteads, opposite the new Primitive Methodist Chapel. Electoral records show Abner had left Settle by 1913, leaving Annie and three daughters behind, running a shop and living in Chapel Street. Annie had disappeared by 1914 too. This is probably because the family emigrated to New Zealand, although eldest daughter, **Doris Bennett**, may have stayed for a while longer before joining her family. She paid for an inscription on one of the Foundation Stones, '*Doris Bennett for family*'.



Richard Mason, grocer

Richard Mason lived and worked in the centre of Skipton all his life. Richard was a grocer who married his wife **Ann (Platt) Mason**, a coachman's daughter in 1891. Fifteen years later, they had a daughter, **Dorothy Mason**, who remained a spinster and continued the business in the same property after they had died. Richard '*had been predominantly identified with the Gargrave Road Methodist Church*' for over half a century [3]. How did Richard know about Settle's new Primitive Methodist Chapel? Obviously Settle and Skipton were in the same circuit of visiting preachers so word will have got about!



Thomas Henry Heelis, insurance agent

Thomas Henry Heelis of Skipton will probably have known fellow Trustee Richard Mason. The Heelis family came from Long Preston and elderly members of the family spent many years in almshouses in both Long Preston and Settle. Thomas Henry began his career serving an apprenticeship as a tailor to **Robinson James Turner** in Barnoldswick. It was here he met and married **Margaret Dugdale**, a weaver's daughter and they had four sons. As well as Barnoldswick they lived at Oakworth, near Howarth, then Heaton in Bradford before settling in Skipton. Thomas Henry worked as a tailor, a Co-op salesman and then an insurance agent with the Refuge Assurance Company.

So, what were Thomas' links with Settle? From the 1890s, Thomas' brother, **Richard Heelis**, started his career working in service for the elderly **Susanna Tatham** [ph4], the widow of **John Tatham** who established the Tatham department store in Cheapside [ph5]. That's where he met his wife **Mary Ann Masters**, who was from Leicestershire and had come to Settle to work as a housemaid for four elderly sisters in Stackhouse before serving Susanna Tatham.



After marrying, Richard worked as a limestone quarryman and they lived in the tiny cottages in

Mrs Tatham, photograph by the Horner Studio.
Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Bowskills Yard with seven children — that's quite a crowded house. Richard and Mary Ann were very unlucky because four of their children died as infants during the 1890s. This may have contributed to the death of their 21 year old daughter, **Grace Ethel Heelis**, who took her own life on 20 March 1907. Ethel, aged 21, went missing after visiting her parents and nearly four weeks later her body was found some four miles away *'in the River Ribble in Wigglesworth too badly decomposed to tell whether there were any marks of violence'* [5]. Grace Ethel had recently been diagnosed as anaemic and suffering from *'sleeplessness and hysteria'*. That poor girl. Obviously, there was no provision for mental health care in those days — a stiff upper lip was expected.



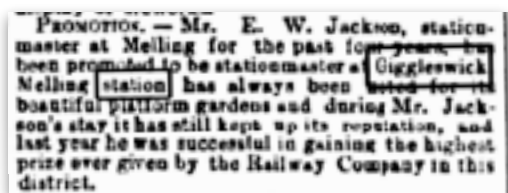
Robert Bulcock, engineer

Robert was one of ten children of **William Bulcock** and **Rebecca Knowles**, both, unusually for this account, Settle born and bred. William had a career as an overlooker (foreman) at King's Mill and so lived there as well with his wife and children, who also worked at the mill. Most of the children remained single and lived with their parents, and then, when William and Rebecca died, continued to live together. Robert became an engineer at King's Mill and then, by 1921 had become the engine foreman at Craven Limeworks.

At the opening ceremony of the new Church Robert was the conductor of the musical sections. After the new Church was built they moved to live at 10 Halstead Cottages, just round the corner. When he died in 1926, aged 65, Robert's estate was worth just £68.

Charles Frederick Robinson

Charles was the illegitimate son of **Eliza Robinson**, born in Bedfordshire. By the time he was 21, Charles Frederick had found a post in Cononley working as a railway porter and married **Emily Smith**, a joiner's daughter. Careers with the railways often started at the bottom and worked their way up and Charles was no exception. By the time he was 32 Charles was the signalman at Giggleswick Station and by 1901 had become the stationmaster at Syston, Leicestershire. By 1909 he returned to Giggleswick as stationmaster, living at the station house — that's as high as you can go! However, he was replaced in 1911 by **Mr E W Jackson** who was promoted from the position of stationmaster at Melling [6]. To add insult to injury, Charles was sent to Melling — a demotion. In the previous year Mr Jackson *'was successful in gaining the highest prize ever given by the Railway Company in this district'*. Perhaps Charles just liked a quieter life or maybe there were some competence or personality issues? Charles and Emily didn't have any children and retired to live in Market Harborough.



It wasn't just Trustees who got their names on the foundation stones — there were a few others too.

T Fletcher, Esq, R Fletcher, Esq

Thomas and **Richard Fletcher** were the sons of **James Fletcher** and **Margaret (Fell) Fletcher** who were farmers in Clapham and had many siblings. Thomas was lucky enough to be apprenticed to **John Snell**, a tailor who was based in the shop



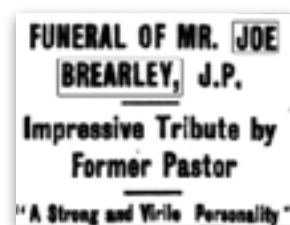
opposite the Folly at the bottom of Victoria Street. This set Thomas up for life as he ran his own tailoring business, living in Tatham's Yard, a neighbour to Trustee Henry Wright. Thomas was a fertile man. He had seven children with his first wife, **Sarah (Gill) Fletcher** who died, aged 36, perhaps with childbirth issues? and then had another ten children, including a pair of non-identical twins with his much younger second wife, **Mary (Knowles) Fletcher**. Sadly, one of the twins, **Kenneth**

5. Harvest Festival at St. John's Church, Langcliffe. — Accident to a child named Kenneth Fletcher, son of Mr. Thomas Fletcher, of Settle, who fell from a wall at the bottom of School Hill and alighted on his head. He was removed to Leeds Infirmary but died two days later.

Fetch, died after falling from a wall, aged just four [LSA]. Thomas died in 1915, aged 73. The most likely candidate for R Fletcher, Esq is Thomas' younger brother, **Richard Fletcher**. Richard was apprenticed to Rathmell's successful joiner, **James Mansergh**, who had married Thomas and Richard's older sister, **Mary Fletcher**, a few years before. Richard set up his own joinery business in Silverdale with his wife and seven children. He died in 1917, aged 72. The Primitive Methodist Magazine of 1910 reminded us that *'generous help was provided by R & T Fletcher and J Brearley:*

Ald. Brearley Esq

Alderman Brearley was actually **Joe Brearley**, a well-respected and successful boot manufacturer from Halifax. He was a Liberal and was elected Alderman by the residents of Halifax, serving between 1898-1913. When he died in 1934, aged 80, there were numerous impressive obituaries in which he came across as a *'strong and virile personality'*. [6] His wife died later in the same year and her obituaries, instead of talking about business and political success, emphasised the couple's allegiance to the Primitive Methodist cause. *'Along with her husband, Mrs Brearley had been a staunch worker for the Old Primitive Methodist Church in Halifax and in her youth she was a pupil and teacher in Ebenezer PM School where Mr Brearley was also an active worker.'* [7] The link with our Chapel is established!



1934. Along with her husband, Mrs. Brearley had been a staunch worker for the old Primitive Methodist Church in Halifax and in her youth she was a scholar and teacher in Ebenezer P.M. School, where Mr. Brearley was also an active worker. Until 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Brearley were associated with Queen's-road P.M. Church, but later they rejoined Ebenezer, on changing their residence.



Mrs Calvert

In 1903, **Mary Matilda Furniss** of Slaithwaite married **William Calvert**, a Chemist of Settle in a grand wedding and so became Mrs Calvert [ph6, LSA]. William's shop was at the top of Kirkgate.



On William's left was his mother, **Susannah Harwood** who was remembered by descendants as, '*a formidable person. Stout, well corseted, dressed in magnificent dresses, black trimmed with beads. She wore a fancy lace hat on top of her hair in the house. She had a maid called Rosie who was at her beck and call, did all the work, and slept in the same room on a small bed*'[A]. The servant was **Rose Mary Pratt**, the daughter of Trustee Christopher Pratt.

William's father, **Henry Calvert**, had been the innkeeper of the Naked Man, before it became the Old Naked Man, but died of cirrhosis of the liver, aged 53. Susannah ran the inn for a few years before marrying **John Harwood**, a railway inspector but that marriage didn't work out and they separated. Because of this, descendants believe that she didn't like using her surname, 'Harwood' and reverted to Calvert. If this is true it could be Susannah whose name is on the Primitive Methodist Church Foundation Stone, but, if not, it would have been her daughter-in-law, Mary Matilda.



The Calverts' descendants have done extensive research and, by doing so, have addressed the question of the date of the Foundation Stones. A concern is that Abner Bennett's daughter, Doris Bennett would only have been 13 when the stones were laid which seems strange — she lived with her parents so why didn't they have their names on the stone? The Calvert descendants scrutinised the records at North Yorkshire Archives and found two incredible bits of information. Firstly, minutes of a Trustees meeting on 1 October 1908 recorded that the stone laying ceremony was as early as Saturday 17 October 1908 and that monies were paid to the Church on that date — Mrs Calvert paid £5 5s.0d. Secondly, the names intended for the inscriptions were slightly different to those that finally materialised. Originally **Miss J Walker** and **Elsie Brock** were meant to have their names recoded but were, instead replaced by **Alderman Brearley** and **Doris Bennett**.

Accounts

*Income Primitive Meth Church
Oct 17th 1908 Stones Mrs Calvert £5. 5s.0d
(North Yorks County Archives, Northallerton)*

Minutes of Trustees Meeting Oct 1st 1908:

1. Fix stone laying ceremony for Sat 17th October 1908
2. That the stone layers names be recorded as
*R Fletcher, J Fletcher, Mrs Calvert, Mrs Yeomans, Mrs Wycherley, Wm Robinson
Smaller Stones – Miss Pratt, Miss Elsie Brock,
Miss J Walker Miss Oakdene*

What happened to Miss J Walker and Elsie Brock? We haven't found Miss J Walker — it's a very common name and there was no-one by that name in Settle/Giggleswick. Some readers will recognise the name Brock — **F H Brock** presided over the meeting at the opening of the new Church. Who was he?

Frederick Herbert Brock [ph7] was born in Cornwall, the son of a Primitive Methodist preacher and, as such, spent his childhood living across England, Wales and Scotland. He married and became a journalist in Derbyshire and Leicestershire and worked his way up to becoming the Manager and Editor of the Melton Mowbray Times, a post which he held for over 20 years. He doesn't appear to have lived in Settle but had clear connections with the Primitive Methodists through his father and his son, **Frederick Albert Brock**, who also became a Primitive Methodist preacher. His only daughter, **Elsie Brock** [ph8] remained a spinster and worked as a bookkeeper. By the time of the 1911 census the family were in Buxton and so, perhaps, lost links with Settle Primitive Methodist Church.



Presumably Alderman Brearley and Doris Pratt's names were added at a slightly later date. Alderman Brearley ceased being an Alderman in 1913 and, by then, Doris's father had left for New Zealand and she would have been a little older.

William Robinson was the intended name on one of the stones, replaced by **Mrs Robinson**, presumably a widow, when the stones were inscribed. Unfortunately, this is such a common name, and they didn't live locally so we are none the wiser.



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.

With thanks to Settle Christian Fellowship for their generosity in sharing archives

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1,3,4 – Lancaster Standard, 2 – Wandsworth Borough News, 3, 5 – Leeds Mercury, 6 – Lancaster Guardian, 6,7 – Halifax Daily Courier

Settle Graveyard Project

ph1 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph2,5 – Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Mick Harrison, ph3 – from the diaries of Charles Green with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph4,5 – from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, John Hardy, Image 2022.1.68.6, Susanna Tatham – Image 2022.1.8.54, `



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ph6 – with thanks to descendant Mary Robinson, ph7,8 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username rachybadger, ph9 – image and inscription credited to findagrave.com

A – thanks to descendant Mary Robinson for her information, photos and her book 'UnSettling Influences: The Calverts 1688-2004'

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