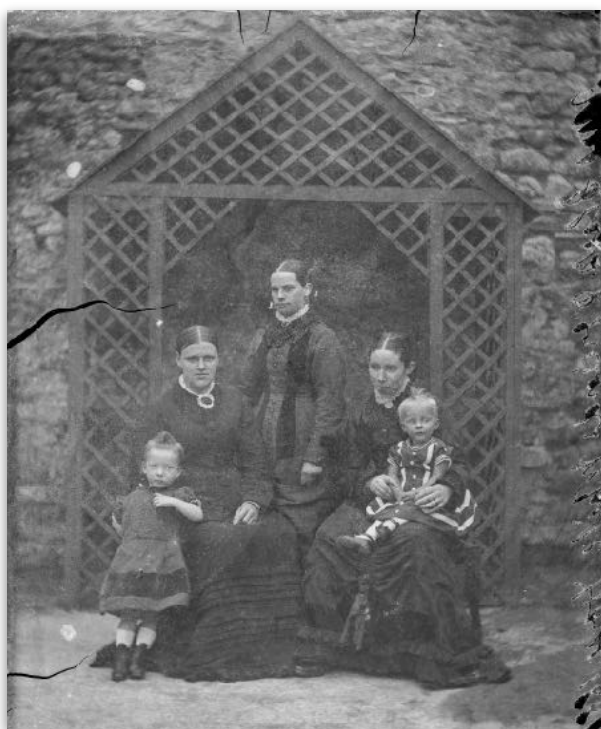


Mrs Clarke's family



Mrs Clarke and friends, White Horse, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)



Mr Clarke's children , photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

These photos [ph1,2] of the Clarke family from the Horner collection at the Museum of North Craven Life were taken three years apart in 1880 and 1883. The family is staged in front of a lattice archway. An impromptu swing has been strung up for the baby in the second photo. Perhaps this archway was outside the back of the Horner studio? Obviously, the family are wearing their smart clothes. Although the archway isn't featured in any other photos in the existing Horner collection it has been used in copies of Horner photos obtained from descendants, including **William Field Hook** [ph3] and **William Towler**, the missionary [ph4]. The Horner collection records tell us that this is the Clarke family, so who were they?



It transpires that most records for this family are spelt Clark. **William Clark** was the son of **John Clark**, a Wigglesworth labourer and his wife **Annis Bank** although William was born at Bracewell near Barnoldswick. We don't know much more about the family – the name Clark in the Wigglesworth area is extremely common. William travelled around the area getting work where he could, working as a labourer, an ale porter and in Lancaster, a ship's labourer. By 1876 William was in Settle working as the innkeeper at the White Horse Inn. A year later he married

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Mary Jane Cleminson, the youngest of six children of an agricultural labourer, **Thomas Cleminson** and his wife **Ellen Stirrup** in Lancaster. Thomas and Ellen had twin daughters soon after they married called **Jane Elizabeth** and **Mary Jane Cleminson**. Sadly, both girls died in infancy but they had three more daughters and a son. Their youngest daughter was also named **Mary Jane Cleminson** and it was her that married William Clark.

The Cleminsons had a quiet life in Tunstall, south of Kirkby Lonsdale in Lancashire. There would have been great excitement in the Cleminson household in 1864 when Thomas Cleminson was called as witness in the trial of 17 year old, **John Kellett** who was accused of '*wilfully and maliciously*' committing to damage (defacing) six prayer books belonging to **Edward Matthew Fenwick** to the value of £1 10s. Mr Fenwick had put them in a drawer in the family pew of Tunstall church. John's choice of owner was a bad one – Mr Fenwick lived at Burrow Hall and was a very wealthy landowner and a barrister. Thomas Cleminson was employed by Mr Fenwick as an agricultural labourer and, it transpired, was also the church sexton— gravedigger[1]. The trial lasted 11 hours but, in the end, John Kellett was found not guilty. Mr Fenwick would not have been happy.

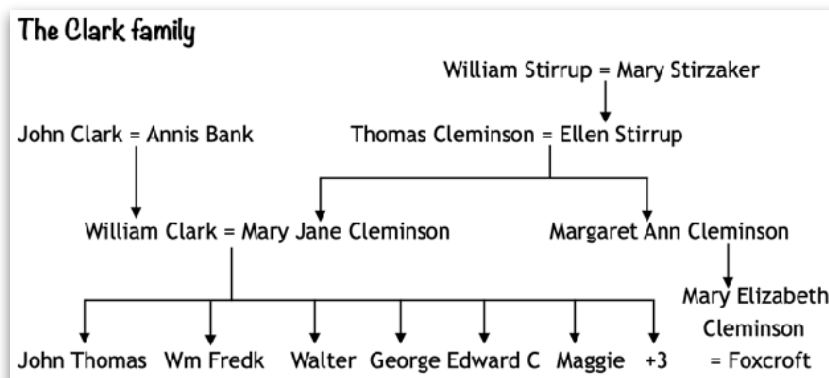
John Kellet, a youth of 17 years of age, of Whittington, in the county of Lancaster, gardener, was summoned for wilfully and maliciously committing on the 10th of July, damage, injury, and spoil to certain books, to wit, six prayer-books and church services the property of Edward Matthew Fenwick, then being in the Parish Church of Tunstall, in the same county, doing damage and injury to the said Edward Matthew Fenwick, to the sum of £1 10s.

Thomas Cleminson examined: I am the sexton of Tunstall, and work for Mr Fenwick. I have been fourteen or fifteen weeks in his employ. On Sunday, the

Meanwhile Mary Jane's mother, Ellen Stirrup, was the eldest daughter of **William Stirrup**, a Lancaster police constable, and his first wife, **Mary Storzaker** – what a great name! William was the illegitimate son of Ellen Stirrup, hence his eldest daughter's name. To say William was unlucky in family matters is an understatement. Five out of seven of William and Mary's children died in infancy. After Mary passed away, William's second wife, widow **Margaret Collinson**, died 18 months after their wedding and he married his third wife, widow **Mary Fitton**, a year later. William was a busy police constable. In 1836 William was assaulted by **George Faar** whilst trying to stop a fight. George had to spent 14 days in Lancaster Gaol as he had no assets to pay the 5 shilling fine [2]. Ten years later William apprehended **Peter Wilberforce** who was caught red-handed as he was running away after stealing two hats and two caps from a shop in Lancaster. For this, Peter Wilberforce was '*sentenced to 10 years transportation beyond the seas, this being the third time that he has been convicted of felony*' [3]. That's Victorian justice!

TOWN HALL.—YESTERDAY.
(Before the Mayor and E. Dawson, Esq.)
George Faar, formerly of this town, hairdresser, and now of Preston, was charged with an assault on William Stirrup, constable, in the execution of his duty, on the night of the 24th of April last. It ap-

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to 10 years transportation beyond the seas, this being the third time that he has been convicted of felony.



Once married William and Mary Jane Clark had nine children over the following 17 years. Impressive work Mary Jane! Just two daughters died in infancy. Third daughter, **Agnes Clark**, died of '*suffocation of the glands*' in 1888 aged one and was buried in an unmarked grave in Settle churchyard. Their second daughter, **Ellen Clark**, died of kidney disease in 1890, aged five. Surgeon **James Walker Edgar** certified their deaths and **William Field Hook**, who also had his photo taken by the Horners, was the Registrar.

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When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Distinction, and Residence of Informant.
Settle May 1888 Settle N.S.A.	Agnes Clark	Female	1 year	Daughter of William Clark a General Labourer	Supplicator of Graves Certified by James W. Egan M.D.	William Clark Father Resident at Settle

At the time of the 1881 census business at the White Horse seemed to be going well. William and Mary Jane lived with their first three children, **John Thomas Clark**, **William Frederick Clark** and **Eliza Clark** with two servants and five boarders and visitors. One of the boarders was a grocer called **Matthias Nowell**, who we will meet later. The servants included Mary Jane's 11 year old niece, **Mary Elizabeth Cleminson**, who helped with the baby. As the illegitimate daughter of Mary Jane's sister, **Margaret Ann Cleminson**, little Mary Elizabeth was initially brought up by her Cleminson grandparents while her mother worked in domestic service to pay for her keep. Margaret Ann remained a spinster and continued to work in service for the rest of her life. When Mary Elizabeth's grandfather, Thomas Cleminson, died in 1877, she was eight years old and so then she joined her aunt Mary Jane Clark and family – not unusual for a girl in this situation.

Less than a year after the census return William gave up the tenancy at the inn and it was transferred to **Henry Wilson** [4]. William worked as an ostler at the White Horse looking after the horses for a few years and then, by the time of the 1891 census, the family had moved to live in the Zion Chapel Yard with William working as a labourer at the '*Ale and Porter Vaults*' at the Town Hall. He will have worked with **Robert Corney** and **Storer Clement Peberdy** while Mary Jane had more children.

TRANSFER.—Mr. W. A. Robinson applied on behalf of Henry Wilson for a transfer of the license of the White Horse Inn from William Clark. The application was granted

The year before the 1881 census return the first Horner photo, '*Mrs Clarke with friends*' was taken – unfortunately time has taken its toll and the glass slide is damaged. There are two married women on seats and Mary Jane is probably on the right with the younger child on her knee. William and Mary Jane's eldest sons, **John Thomas Clark** is standing and the younger **William Frederick Clark**, is sitting on Mary Jane's knee. The sons are wearing the 'dresses' which were worn by all babies, regardless of gender as they were more practical for nappies etc. and could be handed down to the next child, no questions asked. Standing behind them is a young woman who definitely bears a resemblance to Mary Jane's friend on the left and so could be her daughter.

Three years later, in 1883, another lovely photo was taken of '*Mr Clarke's children*'. The children, left to right are **William Frederick**, now old enough for trousers, baby **Walter Clark** in the swing, **John Thomas** and **Eliza Clark**. 13 year old niece, Mary Elizabeth Cleminson, was standing behind the swing.

By 1900 the family had moved to live in Beetham, Milnthorpe which is where, out of the blue, William signed up for the Scots Greys Cavalry in London. It's not clear whether he saw any action but by the time of the 1901 census the family were in Lancaster with Mary Jane's 83 year old mother, Ellen (Stirrup) Cleminson. After Ellen died in 1904 they moved again, this time to Halifax. William was the innkeeper of the *King of Prussia Inn* which was patriotically renamed the *King of Belgium* at the start of WW1. The inn closed in 1928 and the building has since been demolished. William died of prostate cancer in 1912, aged 65 and was brought back to Settle for burial. Mary Jane and the younger children moved back to live in the new houses in High Hill Grove in Settle. Mary Jane died of a stroke on her 76th birthday. They are buried with their infant daughters in *Old A32* with a beautifully engraved stone featuring lilies to reflect piety.

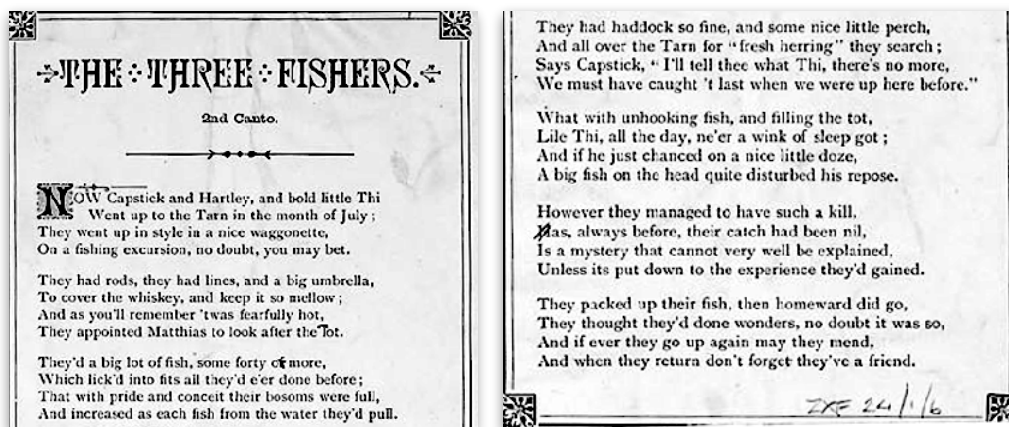
In loving memory of William Clark died Oct 25th 1912 aged 65 yrs. Also of Mary Jane wife of the above died Dec 28th 1929 aged 76 years. Also Ellen their daughter died April 6th 1890 aged 5 years. Also Agnes their daughter died May 4th 1888 aged 15 months, Old A32



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During the 19th century, most families settled in a town, unless there was a good reason to move. This family definitely seemed unsettled. One reason for the move from Settle could have been a bit of scandal. During the 1890s William is credited with being the most likely candidate, along with local grocer, **Thomas Altham**, of writing a satirical poem about three local fishermen including former tenant **Matthias Nowell**, blacksmith **William Capstick** and **James Hartley**, coal merchant. It included the verses [ph5]:

'Now a bottle they's got, full of whisky they'd thought, As Nowell remarked, "good as ever was bought". When Capstick sings out, and Jim says, "What's matter", "I'm dinged if they haven't put up mineral water".'



"That's intended for me" says lile Thi with a smile, "But it's rather too much to bring it six mile, So we'll take it back home for I call it a sin, To drink mineral water unless mixed with a gin"

This seemed to backfire as not everyone appreciated the joke. Friends of the fishermen issued a leaflet attacking the authors:

'There's two men in Settle who sit at their ease, to scandalise people just as they please, They walk up and down and call themselves mashers, they can't leave alone Three Poor Little Fishers.'

The men became local celebrities and even had a photo taken [ph6], most likely another Horner photo, Matthias Nowell, left, William Capstick, centre, James Hartley, right. As well as William Clark, Thomas Altham had also moved away from Settle by the time of the following census return.



What happened to William and Mary Jane's children, especially those in the photo?

Eldest son, **John Thomas Clark**, followed his father in working at a variety of jobs in several different locations. He also tried his hand as an innkeeper at the Queen's Arms, Cartmel, Lancashire. He began his working life as a *'Mess Hall Messenger'* at Whittingham Lunatic Asylum. In the kitchens of the asylum **Louisa Blakey** worked as a servant and they married in 1902. Once married, John Thomas became a farm labourer and they had three children before Louisa died, aged just 27, six months after the birth of their youngest daughter, **Ellen Clark**. John Thomas remarried, this time to **Harriet Taylor** and became a miner in Leeds. During the war, in 1916, John Thomas enlisted in the 5th Battalion Duke of Wellington West Yorkshire Regiment — he was 39. Eventually, John Thomas and Harriet retired to Bolton-by-Bowland.

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William and Mary Jane's second and third sons **William Frederick Clark** and **Walter Clark** are thought to have worked for Walter Morrison at Malham Tarn House as footmen. Following this they later ran successful trading companies exporting to the west coast of South Africa, perhaps with a helping hand from the benevolent Walter Morrison and spent most of their lives abroad. William Frederick became a Colonel [ph7]. In some documentation Walter specialised in being a dealer of films as well as import/export and also spent most of his life abroad. Unfortunately, it's not known what happened to William and Mary Jane's eldest daughter, **Eliza Clark**, who was in the photo.



We can only imagine the appearance of William and Mary Jane's fourth son, **George Clark**, who began his working life as a chauffeur, living in High Hill Grove with his widowed mum. In the war, in September 1914, he signed up for the West Riding Regiment but was discharged two weeks later as he was medically unfit and '*not likely to become an efficient soldier*'. Undeterred, George must have gone on a supreme fitness regime as, in December that year, George enlisted with the Army Service Corps, Mechanical Transport Division and rose to the rank of Sergeant before leaving for France. Unfortunately, he was forced to revert back to a Corporal after a misconduct charge in January 1917. In July 1917 George was again discharged on medical grounds. He had Raynauds Disease, which is an autoimmune disease causing lack of blood flow to fingers and toes, aggravated by the cold active service conditions. He was discharged with '*very good conduct*' and was described as '*a reliable and intelligent motor driver*'. After the war he moved to Whitby where he worked as a '*traffic regulator*' – a traffic warden.

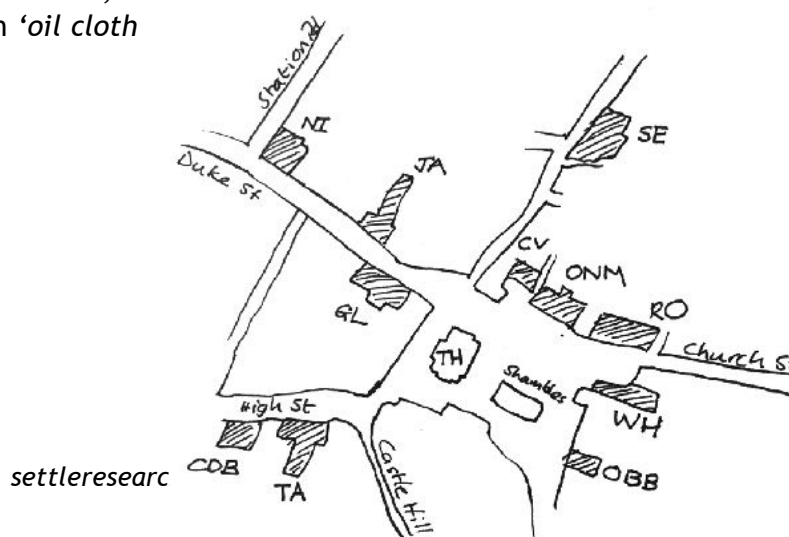
William and Mary Jane's fifth son and youngest child was **Edward Cleminson Clark**. Unfortunately, at the time of the 1939 register, Edward found himself in Friern Hospital in Middlesex, photographed in 2017 [ph8]. This was a psychiatric hospital which housed 2500 patients at its peak and had the longest corridor in Britain! Apparently it would take a visitor more than two hours to walk the wards. It is unclear whether Edward was there as a psychiatric patient or as a casualty of war. The hospital was converted into luxury apartments in 1995. There were 256 apartments, a gym and swimming pool in 30 acres of parkland. very nice. According to Wikipedia, residents have included members of the boy band One Direction, girl bands Girls Aloud and the Sugababes, along with other pop stars and footballers!



William and Mary Jane's fourth daughter, **Maggie Clark** married **Harold Knowles**, a hairdresser from Halifax, three weeks before her father died in 1912. They retired to Heysham.

What about niece Mary Elizabeth Cleminson? She married **Walter Foxcroft** who could be related to other Foxcrofts in this graveyard. They lived in Lancaster and had four sons. Walter described his occupation as a '*table baize press man*', a first for this project! and later as an '*oil cloth labourer*'.

WH – The White Horse Inn in Settle



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.

Life stories 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 settlerearch@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 descendant Mike Clark for his help with this account.

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ph1,2 – Image 2022.1.68.119, Image 2022.1.68.130 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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ph3 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username davidJM2018, ph4 – descendant Andrew Green, ph5,6 – with kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph7 – kindly provided by descendant Mike Clark, ph8 – credited to Wikipedia, submitted by Philafrenzy under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).