

Mrs Helm

This photo from the Horner collection at the Museum of Craven Life [ph1] shows a more elderly lady, with a younger-looking smiley face, in fine clothes, standing behind a chair draped in a luxurious material which may match the curtain behind. She is wearing a wedding ring. Who was this well-to-do lady?

The Horner collection records tell us that this is Mrs Helm and the photo was taken in 1883 in Bentham.

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



This lady came into this world as **Ann Hardacre**, the eldest of six children of **Henry Hardacre**, a farmer and cooper and his wife **Jane Bentham**. Henry came from Long Preston and that's where five of his children were born but, after his father died in 1840, the family moved to Rathmell and then Horton-in-Ribblesdale. In their sixties,

Henry and Jane took over the tenancy of the Craven Heifer Inn at Stainforth and remained there until their deaths in 1864. They were buried back in Long Preston with their youngest son, **Robert Hardacre** who had worked as a draper in Carnforth. They have a fabulous memorial stone.



In Memory of Henry Hardacre of Stainforth, who died December 20th 1864, aged 70 years. Also Jane Hardacre wife of the above who died July 2nd 1864, aged 66 years. Also Robert Hardacre, son of the above, died at Carnforth Aug 23 1896, aged 56 years. SM D53

Meanwhile, our Ann Hardacre worked as a milliner in Settle until, in 1857, aged 37, she married 28 year old farmer **Alexander Dinsdale**, from one of the many Dinsdale families originating in the Horton-in-Ribblesdale area. He was born at Thorns which was a village that thrived during the years of the droving trade but became deserted once the new Settle to Carlisle Railway replaced that business. If Ann thought her younger husband would live long enough to look after her as she grew older she was mistaken. At the time of the 1871 census on 2 April, Ann and Alexander were in Burnley and 42 year old Alexander described himself as a 'retired agricultural labourer, invalid'. Unfortunately, he died, weeks later on 25 May of phthisis larynges, which is an ulcerated voice box due to a tuberculosis infection. His death certificate indicates that he had been suffering for two

Twenty fifth May 1871 Habergham Habergham baird	Alexander Dinsdale	male	42 years	Farmer Labourer	Phthisis Larynges 2 years Certified	Adam Whalley present at death Habergham Habergham Coates
---	-----------------------	------	-------------	--------------------	--	---

Settle Graveyard Project

years, typical for tuberculosis, knowing he was going to die before too long. A neighbour was with him when he died. His newspaper death notice was minimal, lumped in with those of 11 others [1].

BURNLEY.—Mary Jane Hoigate, Burnley-lane, aged 19 years; Sarah Walton, Milton-street, 70; John Cook, Wood-top, 61; Jane Beatley, Waterloo-road, 65; Alexander Dinsdale, Habergham, 42; Elizabeth Tattersall, Rakehead, 29;

Ann's luck was to improve. She returned to Settle where, seven years later, aged 58, she married a wealthy widower, **Robert Helm**, aged 70. Robert came from Wigglesworth and, coincidentally was the cousin of **Obadiah Baynes** who ran the beerhouse in Settle Market Place, in the building which is now the Field to Home shop. Robert's first wife was **Jane Towler** also from Wigglesworth. Robert and Jane didn't have children but brought up one of Jane's nieces. Robert and Jane established themselves at Swainstead Farm, north-west of Rathmell and it was there that Robert made his fortune. This was despite the devastating cattle plague infection of 1866. Many farmers in the area lost a significant proportion of their herds. Robert was lucky, with just one of his cattle becoming infected and dying [SC]. 314 cattle in the area were infected and 260 died. The cattle plague was declared 'globally eradicated' in 2011 after spending \$5 billion in the process.

CATTLE PLAGUE.				
The following is a general summary of cases of "Rinderpest" in this neighbourhood up to February 28th, 1866.				
Name.	No. attack- ed.	No. died	No. recov- ered.	No. remain- ing.
Adam Walker, Bookelber	1	1	0	0
Stephen Robinson, Green	33	30	3	0
John Johnson, Gildersleat	21	15	6	0
Anthony Bentley, Copyhouse	1	1	0	0
David Dale, Cleatop	12	10	2	0
John Lister, Rathmell	8	7	1	0
Richard Towler, Hollar Hall	1	1	0	0
John Preston, Mearbeck	29	23	6	0
William Heaton, Hiles	32	31	1	0
Joseph Wood, Pyecross	7	5	2	0
Richard Throup, Long Preston	3	3	0	0
Wm. Parsons, Winersgill Bank	7	5	2	0
Thomas Wigglesworth, Higer Sheepwash	17	14	3	0
Henry Briggs, Hellifield	5	5	0	0
John Pell, Craven Ridge	22	16	6	0
Farrand Kayley, Hellifield	3	2	1	0
Hannah Barnes, Hellifield	17	13	4	0
Stephen Dawson, Wham	22	12	10	0
Robert Helm, Swainstead	1	1	0	0
Rd. Hardacre, Hellifield House	3	3	0	0
Jane Todd, Todmanhaw	2	1	1	0
Thomas Moon, Halton West	13	11	2	0
Henry Dean, Hellifield	5	5	0	0
Thomas Taylor, Moss	14	13	1	0
Richard Newhouse, Lower Sheep Wash	12	10	2	0
John Bradley, Field Gate	17	16	1	0
Thos. Parker, Wigglesworth Row	6	6	0	0
314	260	54	0	

By the slaughter of 8 cows at Field Gate yesterday, under the New Act, the Cattle Plague has been for the present exterminated in this district.

After wife Jane died in 1874, 69 year old Robert invested in the purchase of a retirement home — Salt Pie cottage on the Green in Upper Settle and Ann (Hardacre) Dinsdale joined him there when they married in 1878. Robert died just three years later on 27 December 1881, aged 73 and was buried with his first wife in Rathmell graveyard. He left an enormous estate of over £1200 and, having had no children, Ann probably benefited considerably from this. A couple of years later, 63 year old Ann had her photo taken at the Horner studios. By then she wasn't expected to wear mourning clothes anymore. Ann earned an income from renting out Salt Pie and moved to Bentham to be near her youngest sister **Tabitha Hardacre**. Ann died late in 1891, aged 72 and her relations sold the Salt Pie property. She was buried with second husband Robert and his first wife.

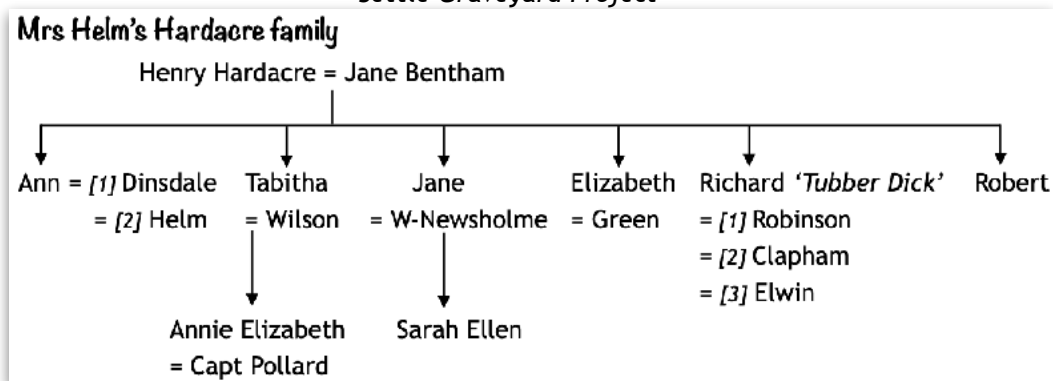


In loving remembrance of the Late Robert Helm of Greenfoot Cottage, Settle, late of Swainstead, who died Nov 15th 1881 aged 73 years. In Memory of Jane, wife of Robert Helm of Swainstead who died Nov 30th 1874 Aged 71 years. Also of Ann, his second wife, who died Nov 17th 1891 aged 72 years.

Ann didn't have any children and people with no descendants tend to get lost from history, unless there are some stunning achievements or misdemeanours, so it's particularly good that we have a photo of her.

So, what happened to Ann's siblings? Henry and Jane would have been very pleased with their children's lives, all living in the circles of skilled tradesmen and professionals. In 1851 younger sister Tabitha Hardacre married **John Wilson** who had come from Middlesborough to teach at Rathmell School, lodging at the Cross Keys Inn. They moved to live at Mount Pleasant, Bentham

Settle Graveyard Project



and John became the headmaster of the Grammar School, a post he held for 16 years until he died [2]. At the time of the 1871 census the Wilsons had several scholars boarding with them, including **William Henry Pollard** from Wigan. When the school shut due to John Wilson's death in 1874 William Henry was sent to King William's College on the Isle of Man where he developed a desire to work on the sea. He was apprenticed with Messrs T&J Harrison, ship owners in Liverpool and obtained a master's certificate when he was just 24 years of age. Two years later, in 1886, William Henry married **Annie Elizabeth Wilson**, Tabitha and John's youngest daughter. As William Henry was away at sea for most of the time Annie Elizabeth lived with her mum in Bentham, without any children to bring up.

As war approached Sea Captain Pollard was essential to the war effort. At one point his ship, SS *Steelville*, became icebound at Archangel in north-west Russia for the best part of 12 months but then sailed round North Africa and India as part of a convoy. Unfortunately, Sea Captain Pollard became ill and died of dysentery on 9 October 1917 and was, appropriately, buried at sea — he was 57 and had spent over 35 years on the seas. At his death the newspapers reported *'He was of a quiet disposition and respected by all who knew him.'*[CH] His life is commemorated on the Bentham war memorial. Annie died in 1940, aged 78, the last of the siblings to pass away [3].

The death has occurred at Nurse Kirkpatrick's private Nursing Home, Caton, of Mrs. Annie Pollard, widow of Sea Captain William Pollard, in her seventy-eighth year. Mrs. Pollard was a native of Bentham, where she had resided at Winstay, and Ashville. She was the only surviving member of the family of the late Mr John Wilson, who was head master of Bentham, Grammar School, when it was situated at the School Hill. He resided at Mount Pleasant and held that position for 16 years. His elder daughter, Miss Amelia Wilson, kept a private school for girls for many years at the Friends Schoolroom.

Ann's sister **Jane Hardacre**, moved to Settle to work as a milliner's assistant to **Mary Wildman** on Duke Street with her sister **Elizabeth Hardacre**. Perhaps Ann had worked with Mrs Wildman too? Jane fell on her feet when she married **George Wilkinson-Newsholme**, the son of a Settle cabinet maker but whose elder brother inherited the enormous Hellifield Green estate and so had a very generous existence. George [ph2] had a *'spinal injury from childhood'* but this didn't stop him having a successful life. He worked as a bookkeeper and they lived on High Street, next to the Talbot Inn. They had a daughter **Sarah Ellen Wilkinson-Newsholme** who continued book keeping in the same house until she also died, aged 86. As they chose not to inscribe the gravestone with details, I can tell you that George died in 1893, aged 62, and Jane died in 1899 aged 77.



In loving memory of George Wilkinson Newsholme. Jane Wilkinson Newsholme wife of the above. Their end was peace. S. E. Wilkinson Newsholme died April 30th 1950, Old C13

Ann's sister, **Elizabeth Bentham Hardacre**, married **Thomas Green**. Thomas was the son of a straw hat maker from Gargrave but, for some reason, was brought up by his Green grandparents in Rathmell at Lumb, the farm next door to Robert Helm in Rathmell. Perhaps Thomas' parents had died as they cannot be found at the time of writing. Thomas was apprenticed to tailor **Henry Snell** in Settle and, when he married Elizabeth in 1860, they moved to Stainforth. They took over the running of the Craven Heifer Inn when Elizabeth's father, Henry Hardacre retired just before he died in 1864. While they were there **William Parker**, an 'artful dodger' of Bolton-by-Bowland, stole Henry's coat and put it in the safekeeping of **Oliver Carr**, landlord of the Naked Man in Settle. William left the Naked Man without paying and had also asked **John Overing**, Settle tailor, to make him a pair of wedding trousers but also refused to pay for them. William Parker had been due to marry his sweetheart in a few days' time, lucky woman! *'The inhabitants of this neighbourhood rejoice that the prisoner, for his cheaterly, has at last received the punishment he deserves and that the sentence of six calendar months hard labour, instead of spending a honeymoon with his bride will lead him to shape his future course in what is honest and honourable'*[4]. Later Thomas and Elizabeth and family moved to Lancaster, making a living from tailoring.

AN ARTFUL DODGER CAUGHT AT LAST.—LARCENY AT STAINFORTH, NEAR SETTLE.—On Friday, the 2nd of

this neighbourhood rejoice that the prisoner, for his cheaterly, has at last received the punishment he deserves, and that the sentence of six calendar months hard labour, instead of spending an honeymoon with his bride, will on his release from prison lead him to shape his future course in what is honest and honourable.

Ann's brother, **Richard Hardacre**, began his working life in domestic service for **John Hartley** of the Giggleswick solicitors' firm. However, Richard changed his mind and became a cooper, making and repairing vessels, casks, barrels and tubs, usually for breweries, hence his nickname '*Tubber Dick*'. Richard lived in a house opposite what is now the Post Office on Duke Street but his business was in the basement of the Shambles, underneath all those smelly and messy butchers' shops[CH]. His neighbours were clogger **John Taylor** and tinner **Anthony (Tant) Rowlandson** who '*made the welkin ring*' (made a very loud noise).

I recall the quaint little workshops in the basement of The Shambles. There was John Taylor's clog shop, which did a flourishing trade when clogs were a more common foot-gear than they are to-day. The boys and girls of my day nearly all wore clogs, and we often paid visits to the clog shop. Next came Richard Hardacre (more familiarly known as "Tubber Dick"), who had a cooper's shop, and Tant Rowlandson, who made the welkin ring in his tinner's shop.

Richard's first wife was **Margaret Robinson**, a farmer's daughter from Rathmell but she died at the birth of their first child, a daughter **Elizabeth Ann Hardacre**, who also died. A year later Richard married **Mary Clapham** from Lawkland, the eldest child of farmer **Lawrence Clapham** and **Sarah Wilson**. Mary brought her widowed dad with her to the marital home. Lawrence lived with Richard and Mary for at least 41 years describing himself in each census return as '*formerly farmer*'. Richard must have been a patient man, especially as Lawrence seemed to be a bit of a liability. In 1854, in a somewhat complicated case, it seems Lawrence had become insolvent and then slandered someone to whom he was indebted [5]. **PC Thomas Blanshard** also accused him of hiding his furniture with his children to avoid it being taken away. After all this it's perhaps no surprise that in 1856 Lawrence was fined 5 shillings for being drunk [6].

SETTLE.
SETTLE PETTY SESSIONS.—On Tuesday last, Lawrence Clapham was fined 5s. and costs, for being drunk. This,

Despite her father's antics Mary gave birth to five children but died in 1884, aged 54, six years before her father, Lawrence. Not a man to live on his own, a year later, Richard, aged 61, married 51 year old spinster, **Eleanor Elwin**, a gardener's daughter from Gargrave. Eleanor had spent her adult life working in domestic service for **Jane Sutcliffe** in the large house at the top of Belle Hill.

Settle Graveyard Project

Richard died six years later, in the same year as Lawrence Clapham. Richard was buried in the *Old graveyard B12* with all three wives and a son. Lawrence spent his last days in the workhouse, the only medical provision available for the poor. He was 85 when he died and was buried back in Clapham with his wife.



Richard Hardacre of Settle who died Feb 18th 1890 aged 66 years. Also Margaret his wife who died July 20th 1856 aged 33 years. Also Mary his second wife who died March 10th 1884 aged 54 years. Also Richard son of Rd & Mary Hardacre who died Dec 15th 1874 aged 8 years. Also Eleanor widow of the above who departed this life Feb 12th 1917 aged 83 years, Old B12.



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](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 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.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Preston Herald, 2,3 – Morecambe Guardian, 4 – Kendal Mercury, 5 – York Herald, 6 – Lancaster Gazette,

ph1 – Image 2022.1.68.23 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph2 – with thanks to family descendant Paul Wiltshire



Images from the Horner Collection are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life

Death certificate provided by the General Records Office, Crown Copyright