

The Thistlethwaite ancestral home is at Harborgill in Dentdale, and their family history is well documented; by no means unusual with large, extended Quaker families. Jeremiah and Rachel Thistlethwaite came to Great Ayton in 1857. Although Jeremiah is usually associated with his grocery shop on Station Road (now Tally's Bistro), he had a range of other business interests.

Jeremiah Thistlethwaite's grocery, drapery and clothing business delivered to customers over a wide area of the moors. His money was behind some of the property development in the expanding part of the village known as California. He invested heavily in the Gribdale whinstone quarry, through a partnership with his fellow-Quaker George Dixon junior. However, Jeremiah and George fell out, resulting in an acrimonious arbitration hearing in 1904, which found in Jeremiah's favour, although he lost a considerable amount of money through the venture.

Jeremiah and Rachel had four daughters and one son. One of their daughters, Mary Margaret, married Samuel Newton, who was the brother-in-law of George Dixon junior. Another daughter, Rose Hannah, married Charles Frank Dodsworth of the rival Dodsworth grocery business on High Green.

Jeremiah and Rachel's only son, William Henry, married Alice Dixon. She was one of the daughters of Ralph Dixon, who was the second superintendent of the Quaker School in Ayton and a son of the first superintendent, George Dixon senior. William Henry and Alice had two children, Helen and Bernard. It was Bernard who compiled the comprehensive genealogical study of the Thistlethwaite family, published in 1910.

In 1886 William Henry suffered a severe attack of appendicitis in 1895. Through the Dixon family's connections, he was treated by Frederick Treves, who was later knighted for successfully operating on the future King Edward VII's appendix.

William Henry took over his father's business interests and also pursued his hobby of photography, leaving a large collection of glass photographic plates, some of which survive. He kept a diary and this formed the basis for a six-part supplement about his life which appeared in the Middlesbrough Evening Gazette.

The Thistlethwaite grocery business was sold to the Cockerells in 1923.

Relevant articles and references to the Thistlethwaites appear elsewhere in the website:

- Family connections with the Dixon family
- History of the Thistlethwaite/Cockerell grocery shop