

Thomas Holland BROCKBANK



Born: 1851

Died: 14 January 1926

IRON MONGER



THOMAS HOLLAND BROCKBANK

A gentle stroll around the church yard at St. Mark's will quickly reveal the large number of different gravestones, or grave markers, available and most will likely reflect the era in which they were erected. Styles, materials, colours all reflect the individual choices made by families to honour the names of those buried here. Indeed, it is quite rare to find two which are identical. And where they do exist, they have probably been set up by members of the one same family.

Sadly, some areas of the churchyard were landscaped half a century ago, to help make management of the site easier, particularly to the south side of the church. The graveyard to the east, between the church and the motorway, has not been touched, and one can see rows of gravestones covering the history of the parish.

The vast majority of the grave markers are **Upright** (or Vertical) headstones, bearing inscriptions which offer a brief résumé of a person's life and death. Essentially, this would cover a full name, date of death, occasionally date of birth, age, abode, and where possible, relationships to others buried within the same site. Some form of affection would also be expressed, with occasional biblical verses.

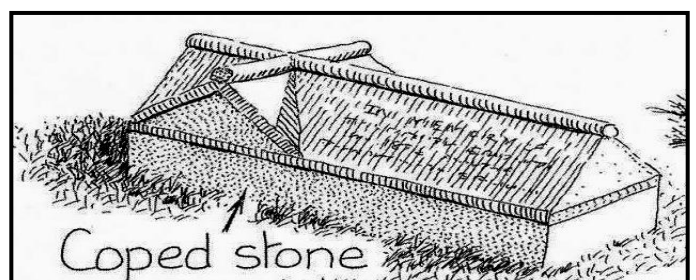
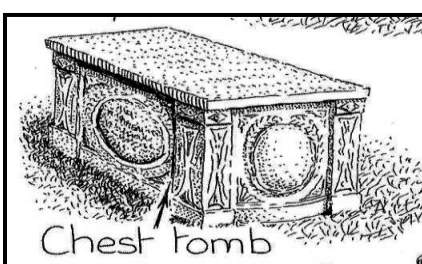
A few stones are **Flat** (or Slab) stones. These can be quite large in extent. Some still show traces of a small railing which would have surrounded the site. From a distance, it is easy to recognise the location of some of the **Commonwealth War Graves** in the church yard, with their familiar style, colour, size and material. The tradition has been to place the casket/shroud-covered body in the grave with the head to the **west**. At the same time, the feet are to the **east**. The body would be placed face up.

The materials are also quite different. Many are carved from **stone**. A few are of **limestone** (or Portland Stone) and a fair number are made from **granite** - pink, grey, white or black. These tended to reflect a person's wealth. **Marble** is also used.

Styles, though, can vary enormously. Probably the most common is the **Gothic Pointed arch** (or Lancet). These coped stones were common in the British cemetery tradition from the eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries and reflected the changes in church architecture in the early Victorian years. A simple **Cross** is also another popular form of marker. This too can be seen widely throughout the churchyard. The majority are vertical, though there is the occasional one that is lying on the grave. An **Obelisk** is a rare feature in the churchyard. However, there are two memorials which are strongly reminiscent of this. Another rare feature is the **Slab** (or Flat grave markers). These obviously tend to be much larger in area.



A **Gothic Revival** monument was also a popular form of marker in the later Victorian years. There would appear to be only two in the churchyard, though modest in design and size. Another form of monument was the **Coped Stone**, of which there are a few examples present. These are all of marble or granite and can be found in close proximity to the graves of other family members. However, of the Victorian types, probably the most prevalent is the **Box** (or Chest) tomb. These can be seen often with several names chiselled into the sides.



Thomas Holland Brockbank was born in the third quarter (July-September) of **1851** in the registration district of Barton-upon-Irwell. Sadly, no evidence has as yet been found of a Baptism taking place. His parents were William Brockbank and Elizabeth Holland. They were married at the

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1841. Marriage solemnized at St. Mary's Parish Church in the Parish of Manchester in the County of Sunderland

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
9	November 7 th 1841	William Brockbank Elizabeth Holland	full Minor	Bachelor Spinster	Cooper	23 Bk King-street 5 Davies street Salford	Isaac Brockbank Thomas Holland	Sail maker Writing clerk

Married in the above Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after Banns by me, W. G. Johnson

This Marriage was solemnized between us, William Brockbank in the Presence of us, Mark of Elizabeth Holland James Holland Mark of Mary Holland

Collegiate Church of Manchester, today's Cathedral, on 7 November **1841**. Interestingly, William's parents had also been married there. **Isaac** Brockbank (1784-1851) married Margaret Layland (widow, formerly Parr) at the Collegiate Church of Manchester on 15 January **1815**. Both were 'of this parish'. Beyond that, the Brockbank family had originated from Cumberland. However, on 25 July **1798**, at the age of 14, **Isaac** had been inducted for a term of 7 years as an apprentice sail maker for Francis Egerton, the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater. They appear to have had 6 children - 5 sons and 1 daughter - of whom **William** was the fifth. Margaret died in Worsley on 13 May **1849** and **Isaac** on 29 December **1851**. Both were buried at St. Mary the Virgin, Eccles. Margaret was 68 years old and **Isaac** was aged 67.

Isaac Brockbank Bachelor of this Parish
and Town of Manchester Sail maker
and Margaret Layland of this Parish
and Town of Worsley Widow
were married in this Church by James Holland with Consent of
to and this 15th Day of
January in the Year One thousand eight hundred and 15
By me James Holland
This Marriage was solemnized between us Isaac Brockbank
Mark of Margaret Layland
In the Presence of Ray Ball
No. 96

Certainly by the time of the baptism of their first son, Samuel, in **1815**, they were already living in Worsley.

In **1841**, their address was simply Alder Forest, Worsley, but **Isaac** was a Sail Maker and **William** was a Cooper, aged 19.

In the **1851** census, taken just a few months before the birth of **Thomas Holland**, the record shows:

Isaac Brockbank	Head	W	67	Sailmaker	b. Whitehaven
William	Son	M	29	Millwright	b. Worsley
Elizabeth	Wife	M	29		b. Worsley
Isaac	Son		9		
Margaret	Daur		3		

Moving forward ten years to **1861**, we find the following record in the census:

1861 census Alder Forest, Worsley					
William Brockbank	Head	M	39	Millwright	b. Worsley
Elizabeth	Wife	M	39		b. Worsley
Isaac	Son	U	19	Mechanic	b. Worsley
Margaret	Daur	U	13	Scholar	b. Barton
Thomas Holland	Son	U	9	Scholar	b. Worsley

This is the first record showing **Thomas Holland**, and it confirms that the family was still residing in Alder Forest.

Again, ten years further on, very little seems to have changed. The family address was now given as 14 Alder Forest, Worsley, but curiously Elizabeth seemed to be on her own with some of the family, and was registered as a Widow. However, further research found William, aged 49, a Millwright, born Worsley, and the Head of a family not shown there, living at 16 Furlong Street, Liverpool!

1871 census 14 Alder Forest

Elizabeth	Head	W	49		
Thomas	Son	U	19	Joiner	
William J.	Gson		5	Scholar	
James Whittaker	Son in law	M	22	Labourer for Plasterers	b. Tyldesley
Margaret	Daur	M	22		
William	Head	M	49	Millwright At 16 Furlong Street, Liverpool	

In the years between this census and the next (1881), William Brockbank died on 16 June **1877** and was buried at St. Mark's three days later. A small will was left to Elizabeth his relict. The gravestone which marks his burial place and that of three later family members is rather unique in design and, consequently, quickly recognisable. It is an obelisk in design and is made of black and grey marble. It bears the surname **BROCKBANK**, chiselled in capital letters at its base, reminiscent of many gravestones in America.



The inscriptions on the memorial in full read:

*In loving memory of **THOMAS HOLLAND BROCKBANK** who died January 14th 1926, aged 75 yrs.*

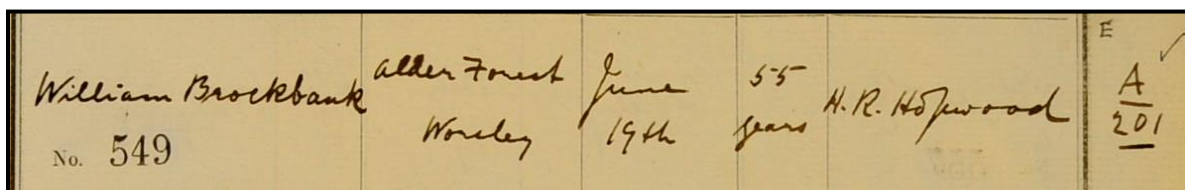
*Also of **ADAH** the beloved wife of **THOMAS HOLLAND BROCKBANK** of Patricroft wd November 8th 1910 in her 60th yr.*

*In loving memory of **WILLIAM BROCKBANK** of Worsley, who died June 16th 1877 in his 56th yr.*

*Also of **ELIZABETH** the beloved wife of **WILLIAM BROCKBANK** who ded January 8th 1907 in her 86th yr.*

'The Lord knoweth the days of the upright and their inheritance shall be for ever'. [From Psalm 37:18]

The plots are a201. a202.



Just a couple of years before his father's death, **Thomas Holland** married **Adah** Tonge (daughter of Charles and Ann, née Valentine), of 64 Green Lane, in the third quarter of **1875** at Barton upon Irwell Register Office.

The census of **1881** brought a change of address and a change of occupation.

1881 census 228 Liverpool Road, Barton, Eccles
Thomas H. Brockbank Head M 29 Ironmonger
 Ada Wife M 30

Thomas remained an Ironmonger until his death. The following censuses of **1891** and **1901** add very little further information, save for a change of address. It is clear that Thomas and Adah did not have any children. But notice the presence of Alice Pickup. No occupation was given for her.

1891 census 220 Liverpool Road, Barton, Eccles
 Thomas H Head M 39 Ironmonger
 Ada Wife M 40 b. Barton

1901 census 4 Hampden Grove, Patricroft
 Thomas H. Brockbank Head M 49 Tinsman & Ironmonger b. Worsley
 Ada Wife M 50 b. Winton
 Alice Pickup Niece S 17

UK County Directories recorded his occupation and addresses. In Kelly's Directory, **1895**, **Thomas Holland Brockbank** was living at Morningside, Hampden Grove, Patricroft. Slater's Directory for **1909** showed him residing at Morningside, 4 Hampden Grove, Patricroft. And Slater's Directory of **1911** recorded **Thomas Holland Brockbank**, Ironmonger, 220 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, with his residence at Morning Side, Hampden Grove, Patricroft.

His mother Elizabeth Brockbank (1822-1907), of 16 Byron Street, Patricroft, died on 8 January **1907**. A small will was left to **Thomas Holland Brockbank**, Ironmonger.

A 201 /	Elizabeth Brockbank	16 Byron Street Patricroft.	January 11 th	85 years	c.w.m. Bromley	E A 201
No. 1386						

Thomas's wife, Adah, died on 8 November **1910**, aged 59. The National probate Calendar shows that she was living at 'Morningside', Hampden Grove, Patricroft. Administration was granted to **Thomas Holland Brockbank**, Ironmonger, (about £180,000 today).

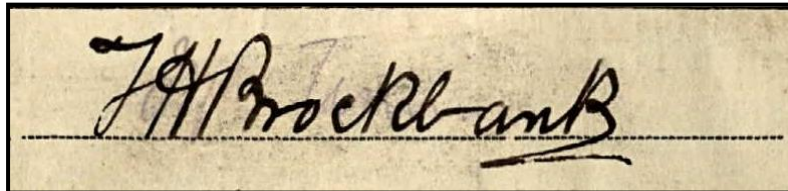
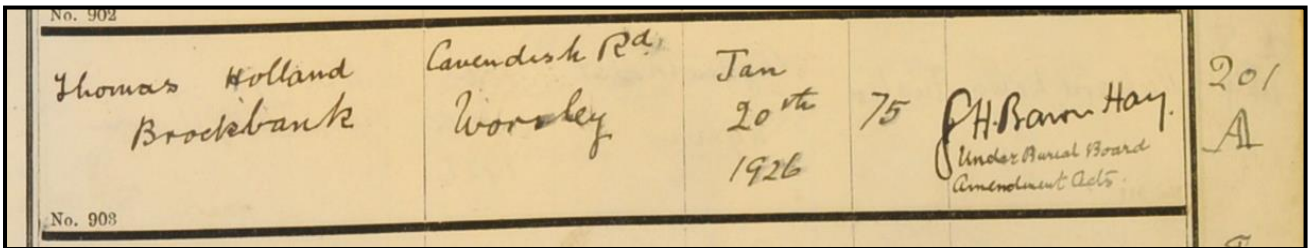
Name.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
A 201 /	Adah Brockbank	4 Hampden Grove Patricroft	Nov: 12 th	59 yrs. c.w.m. Bromley

The final available census, for **1911**, recorded:

1911 census 4 Hampden Grove
Thomas Holland Brockbank Head Wdr 59 Ironmonger
 Alice Pickup Niece S 27 House keeper

Alice Pickup was still living at the family residence, as House Keeper. However, the will of Thomas Holland painted a final twist in his life story. For Probate was granted to Alice Brockbank, his widow,

Harold Brockbank and Harry Holland, Commercial Travellers. In fact, **Thomas Holland** married Alice Pickup in the first quarter (Jan - Mar) of 1913 at Barton Register Office. The value of his estate was £19,361 (approx £1.2m. today). At his death, he was living at Batanga House, Cavendish Road, Worsley. He died on 14 January 1926, aged 75.



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A second monument, or Obelisk, stands in the north-west section of the graveyard. In appearance, it resembles a Celtic Cross and is the only one of this style in the churchyard. The inscriptions read:

*In loving memory of THOMAS BROCKBANK died February 12th 1938 on his 71st birthday
 MARY beloved wife of THOMAS BROCKBANK died April 26th 1934 in her 66th yr
 Also WALTER the beloved son of THOMAS & MARY BROCKBANK died May 1st 1924 in his 31st yr*

'Stronger than death is love For love through death kindles a larger life when life expires'.

This BROCKBANK. (d178) was in fact a nephew of **Thomas Holland Brockbank**. At his death in 1938, this Thomas Brockbank was living at 4 Hampden Grove, Patricroft! Probate was granted to Albert Edward Brockbank, Pork Butcher and Adah Bull, widow. The value of his estate was just over £10,000. Thomas himself had been a Master Pork Butcher. He had earlier been living in Church Street, Eccles. The son Walter mentioned above had also been a Pork Butcher. It seems unlikely that Adah Bull was the widow of Thomas; more likely it seems unlikely that Adah Bull was the widow of Thomas; more likely she was the widow of Henry Bull.

