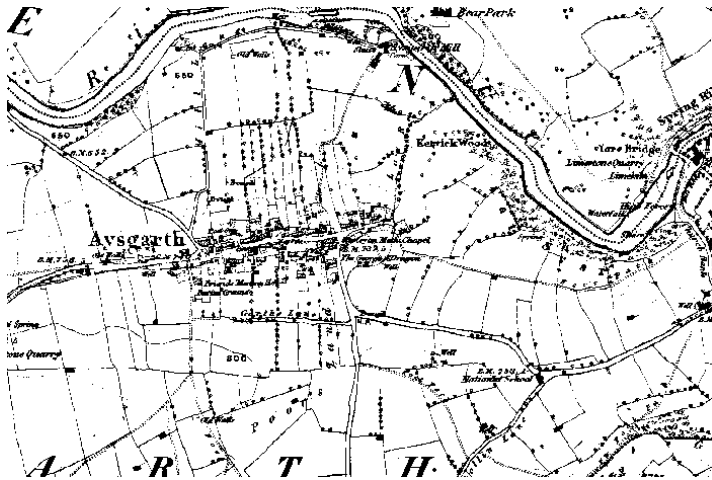


## Silvester Whitehead of Aysgarth



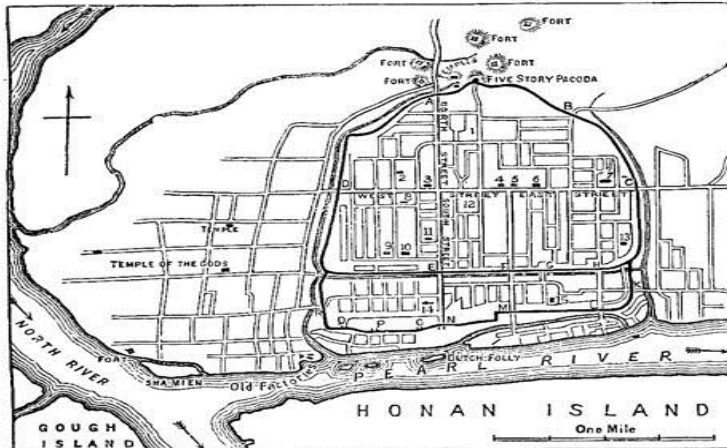
1841 census transcription details for: Aysgarth, Aysgarth  
WHITEHEAD, Henry 30 1811 Yorkshire  
WHITEHEAD, Bettey 25 1816 Yorkshire  
**WHITEHEAD, Silvester 1 months 1841 Yorkshire**  
LISTER, Ellen 20 1821 Yorkshire  
TOMLINSON, William 15 1826 Yorkshire

1851 census transcription details for: Aysgarth  
WHITEHEAD, Henry Head Widower 41 1810 Carpenter Burton  
**WHITEHEAD, Silvester Son 9 1842 Scholar born Aysgarth**  
WHITEHEAD, Elizabeth Daughter 7 1844 Scholar Aysgarth  
WHITEHEAD, George Son 4 1847 Scholar Aysgarth  
SAVELL, Eliza Servant Unmarried 19 1832 House Keeper West Witton  
MASON, John Apprentice Unmarried 18 1833 Redmire

1861 census transcription details for: Aysgarth,  
WHITEHEAD, Ann Wife Married 45 1816 Carpenters Wife Dishforth  
**WHITEHEAD, Silvester Son Unmarried 19 1842 Com Miller Clerk & Local  
Methodist Preacher born Aysgarth**  
WHITEHEAD, George Son Unmarried 14 1847 Scholar Aysgarth

Father Henry Whitehead was in Newbiggin in Richmond on the census night.

In 1866 Silvester Whitehead went to Canton in China as a missionary.



Plan of Canton.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parade Ground.</li> <li>2. Pagoda.</li> <li>3. British Consulate.</li> <li>4. Prefect's Yamun.</li> <li>5. Treasurer's Yamun.</li> <li>6. City Temple.</li> <li>7. Confucian College.</li> <li>8. Mosque.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Governor's Yamun.</li> <li>10. Temple of the Five Genii.</li> <li>11. Confucian College.</li> <li>12. Rice Controller's Yamun.</li> <li>13. Examination Hall.</li> <li>14. Cathedral.</li> <li>15. Emperor's Temple.</li> </ol> |
|--|---|
- A to R, Gates.

from [www.1902encyclopedia.com/C/CAN/canton.html](http://www.1902encyclopedia.com/C/CAN/canton.html)

Canton is now called Guangzhou [pronounced Kwang-chow-foo] and is on the banks of the Pearl River. Canton was important to the tea trade, and had been occupied by British forces, under the Command of Sir Charles Straubenzee, son of Major Thomas van Straubenzee of Spennithorne Hall, between 1856 and 1861.

In the 1871 census Silvester was in China  
 In 1881 Silvester's family was in Scarborough

1881 census transcription details for 12, Albermarle Cres, Scarborough  
 WHITEHEAD, Isabella Head Married 31 1850 Ministers Wife born Pateley Bridge  
 WHITEHEAD, Florence E Daughter Single 10 1871 Scholar born Canton (British Subject) China  
 WHITEHEAD, Annie I Daughter Single 8 1873 Scholar born Canton (British Subject) China  
 FOSTER, Jesse Sister Single 17 1864 Annuitant born Pateley Bridge  
 LANGLIN, Mary J Servant Single 21 1860 Domestic Servant born Flixton

Silvester was at Brayton near Selby, a visitor in the household of solicitor John Luke Haigh. No doubt on a preaching tour.

In 1891 he was in Southport.

1891 census transcription details for: 74, Park Road, North Meols, Southport

**WHITEHEAD, Silvester Head Married 49 1842 Wesleyan Minister born Aysgarth**

WHITEHEAD, Frances Wife Married 35 1856 born Bishopthorpe Yorkshire

WHITEHEAD, Florence E Daughter Single 20 1871 born Canton China British Subject

WHITEHEAD, Annie J Daughter Single 18 1873 born Canton China British Subject

WHITEHEAD, Norman Craven Son Single 1 1890 born Southport Lancashire

CRAVEN, Sarah M Mother In Law Widow 60 1831 born Mirfield Yorkshire

RAWLINGS, Rachel H Servant Single 28 1863 Cook Domestic Servant Headingley Yorkshire

NORGROVE, Louisa Servant Single 19 1872 Housemaid Domestic Servant born Ditton Priors Shropshire

Methodist Ministers moved around all the time -  
In 1901 Silvester was in Shipley near Bradford.

1901 census transcription details for: 73, Manor Lane, Shipley

WHITEHEAD, Silvester Head Married 59 1842 Wesleyan Minister born Aysgarth Yorkshire

WHITEHEAD, Frances Wife Married 45 1856 born Bishopthorpe

WHITEHEAD, Norman C Son 11 1890 born Southport Lancashire

WHITEHEAD, Kenneth S Son 9 1892 born Southport Lancashire

CRAVEN, Sarah M Mother-In-Law Widow 70 1831 born Mirfield

RAWLING, Rachel H Servant Single F 38 1863 Cook born Leeds

MARSHALL, Louisa Servant Single F 28 1873 Housemaid born Leeds

In 1911 he was in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, visiting Richard Ledger. whilst Frances and her mother were in Bradford.

Silvester Whitehead was a Methodist Minister from 1863 until 1917.

He went to China in 1866 and was there for eleven years, returning to take up circuit appointments. Just before he set off for Canton in 1866 he took the Chapel Anniversary at Preston under Scar. On his return in 1877 he was sent to be a minister in Darlington, but regularly attended and spoke at the national meetings of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

On behalf of the Missionary Society he went to preach in Belfast in 1879 at the University Road Church. He became noted as an eloquent speaker and preacher, addressing harvest festivals, anniversaries, missionary meetings and Bible Societies around the country. But in October 1879 he was in Masham, where a special service was held and he delivered his lecture on the "Religions in China". In the same month in York he addressed the Juvenile Missionary Association, strongly denouncing the shocking traffic in opium.

In 1880 he was appointed to the Scarborough Circuit. Silvester kept in contact with the dales as in August 1882 he came back to preach at the opening of East Witton Methodist Chapel. A few weeks later he addressed Missionary meetings in York and then Boroughbridge. In April 1883 he was preaching at a meeting in Bodmin, Cornwall. At the 1883 Methodist Conference Silvester was stationed at Cheetham Hill, Manchester. On 17<sup>th</sup> April 1884 Silvester sailed out of Liverpool for a visit to America and Canada .

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1884 The New York Times reported -  
The Methodist preachers met yesterday morning at St Paul's Church, Twenty-second street and Fourth-avenue, to greet the delegates from the Wesleyan Conference of England, who have been attending the General Conference of the Methodist church at Philadelphia. The delegates are the Rev. Robert Newton Young, secretary of the British Wesleyan Conference and Classical Tutor of the Wesleyan Training College at Birmingham , and the Rev Sylvester Whitehead, Superintendent of the Cheetham Hill Circuit, of Manchester , England, and for a number of years a missionary in China.... the two Reverends from England then addressed their brothers and sisters, both speaking against Catholic doctrine .

In June 1886 he was part of a distinguished line up of Methodist Reverends who spoke at the opening of a new Methodist Chapel in Douglas, Isle of Man. Then in 1887 he went back to preach at Darlington at the re-opening of Bondgate Chapel after alterations. By 1887 Silvester was ministering in Southport and by 1890 was the superintendent of the Circuit. In 1891 he was appointed to take a post at the Wesleyan Mission House in addition to circuit work. By 1892 he was in the Manchester District, at Eccles. But in May 1893 came back to Redmire to open a new Sunday School. In August 1895 the Methodists in the dales all gathered together at Aysgarth to celebrate the centenary of the Middleham Methodist Circuit , with Rev Silvester Whitehead of Eccles as the preacher .

In 1895 Silvester was sent to minister at Clifton in the Bristol and Bath District. But then in 1897 he was appointed to be the Chair of the Halifax and Bradford district and also minister of Mannigham church. In 1900 Silvester was in Truro speaking at the annual meeting of the Wesleyan Foreign Missions.

In the year 1904 -1905 he was President of the Methodist Conference. He then was a governor and tutor at Handsworth College, Birmingham. In 1908 he was Chairman of the Birmingham and Shrewbury Methodist District.

The Times reported his death in the edition of 8<sup>th</sup> January 1917. Born in Aysgarth in Wensleydale, his life was truly that of an "Itinerant Preacher", always on the move, in great demand the length and breadth of the country and abroad.

Silvester had married twice, his first wife, Isabella Foster from Pateley Bridge, died in Newcastle on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1881. He then married Frances Craven in 1887. Three children had been born in China to his first wife, Florence Elizabeth in 1870, Annie Isabella in 1872 and Sylvester Foster in 1874. By his second wife there were two sons, Norman Craven in 1889 and Kenneth Silvester in 1891.