

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

THE FAMILY BUSINESS IN NORTH CRAVEN

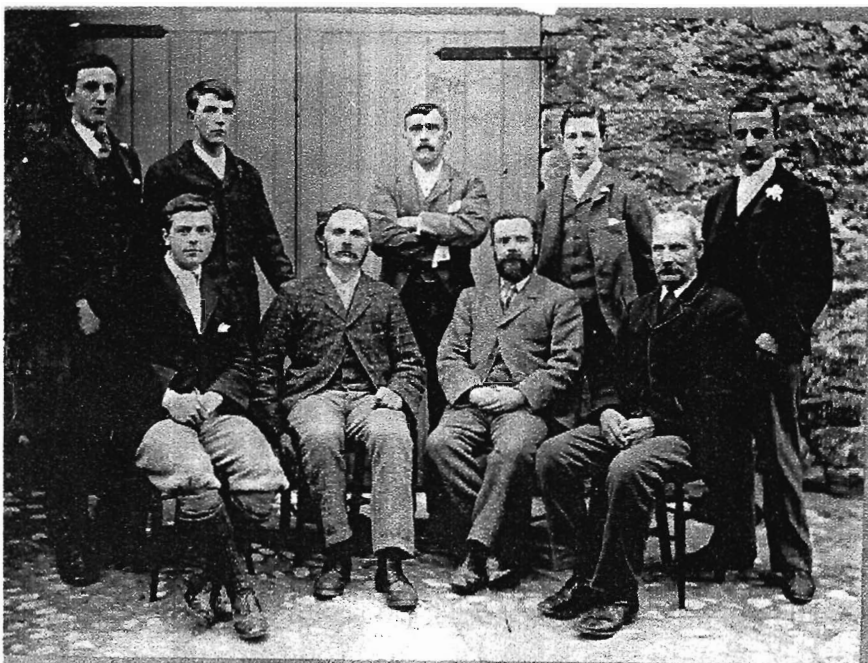
Exhibition at the Museum of North Craven Life
The Folly, Settle, North Yorkshire, 2004



Market Day, High Bentham Main Street, 1920s

SHEPHERD & WALKER: A HISTORY OF THE BUSINESS

John Hayhurst, trading as a druggist and grocer in the shop on the north side of Settle Town Hall died on 12 May, 1843, aged 25. His two apprentices were William Armistead and William Shepherd, who started trading as Armistead and Shepherd. In about 1851, Armistead went to Kendal and traded there under the same title until about 1890 when the Settle business changed to John William Shepherd, son of William Shepherd who died in 1871.



Staff of Shepherd & Walker c.1900

In 1851 a Bill was moved in the House of Commons to regulate pharmacy, so that 'no person would be admitted to the Register [of the Pharmaceutical Society] without first passing the Society's examination in Latin Language and Classical Knowledge, Botany, Materia Medica, Pharmaceutical and General Chemistry and Toxicology'.

William Walker started as an apprentice to William Shepherd in 1865 and, after one year at the South London School of Pharmacy, qualified in 1873 as a Chemist and Druggist and a Member of the Pharmaceutical Society. He returned to Settle to manage the business until the time when Shepherd's son qualified in 1880, having won a medal as the best student in his year.

In 1891, J.W. Shepherd bought the premises in which the pharmacy is today and moved there in 1893. In 1903, William Walker and his son, William Towler Walker, who qualified in 1900, formed a partnership with J.W. Shepherd as Shepherd & Walker. In 1908 Shepherd withdrew from the partnership and retired, but the title was retained.

The family connection continued when W.H. Walker qualified in 1938 and J.S. Walker qualified in 1940. After the Second World War, Shepherd & Walker discontinued the grocery section which had been a feature of the business since 1843. This allowed the pharmacy to expand, assisted by the purchase of adjacent premises. Finally in 1978, it was time to retire from pharmacy and Shepherd & Walker ceased business after a continuous history of 135 years.

[Photograph and notes reproduced by permission of Mr J.S. Walker]



Armistead & Shepherd, Town Hall, Settle, 1880s

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