



"I feel somewhat on my defence today and I hope you will forget and forgive. It is true I have done it alone but I find the best and most unanimous committee is a committee of one ... I had no wish to monopolise the honour of paying homage to Mrs Gaskell..."

'Whether it was ever known or not, he had a half-brother, apparently fathered by a respectable town citizen – quite a revelation yet hardly surprising as bastardy (to use the technical term) tended to run merrily in many a lesser English family despite the cultural stigma'

'It's not difficult to imagine what happened between the lone bachelor from Manchester and his fertile maid servant in the wintry wilds of Cumberland towards Christmas 1841 – though who seduced who might be a good question'

'Peosner 1971 - the maddest sequence of villas in all England – Legh Road'

'It seems as though Richard Watt sorted through a pile of bits of old carved stone, a job lot or salvaged windows and some doors and flooring, musing "What can I make out of this lot?"

"Dicky'll lose every penny he has if he goes on building places like this" one was saying. From behind him Watt spoke up. "In the first place, don't call me Dicky. Call me by my proper name, Richard. And secondly, I'll tell you this. Cheshire's got some of the finest and strongest cart horses in the country. You fetch six of 'em and harness 'em up and they'll not be able to cart away my hard cash!"

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Like Father, Like Son - The fateful travails in England and Australia of Richard Harding Hethorn and Richard Harding Watt by Rod Fisher

Published posthumously, this new book evolved from Rod's examination of a series of sketches undertaken by a young Englishman during his 1860s sojourn in Brisbane, the seat of government of the newly created Colony of Queensland. Initial research revealed a somewhat hazy outline of his ancestry and early life, until an independent researcher in the UK, preparing a photographic study of his subsequent built legacy, discovered a key piece of the jigsaw.

This book is the culmination of Rod's subsequent research, carried out in three corners of the globe, which now shines a definitive light on the lineage of Richard Harding Watt. He was a wealthy business man and developer of a number of distinctive heritage listed buildings in Knutsford, perhaps best known as the model for Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Cranford*

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