



Rev David Brook M.A., D.C.L. was born in Elland in 1854. He was ordained in the 1880s and became Professor of church history in Manchester. In 1900 he became the President of the Methodist Free Church and President of the Free Church Council in 1908. He was Principal of the United Methodist Colleges for Students Training for the Ministry.

His elder sister, Martha, married Thomas Wood in Halifax Parish Church in 1872. She was born in America during the family's brief residence over there. At the time of the stone-laying, they lived in John Street, Elland. Thomas was a coal merchant's assistant.

Rev David Brook was distantly related to Irene Iredale. His donation was £10 (equivalent to about £900 today) plus £16 that he had collected elsewhere. He had been present at the stone-laying of the school building in 1891, when he was minister of Todmorden. He was highly thought of in the area: in 1908, in connection with the Bradford & District Free Church Federation, he was given a civic welcome during his visit to Elland.

At the time of the stone-laying he and his second wife were living in Southport.