

The Bordley family, pillars of the community

The working classes made up 80% of the Victorian population but only 15% of our gravestones. Burials were expensive and gravestones cost even more. The working classes often subscribed to insurance schemes to afford a burial. Women often shared the expensive black mourning clothes that they were expected to wear for up to two years. Of course, these were the lucky ones – several poor people, especially infants, had deaths certified in Settle but didn't appear in any local burial records.... The fertile Bordley family became pillars of Settle community.

Thomas Bordley, a popular Settle postie

D19 In loving memory of Thomas Bordley died October 2nd 1878 in his 71st year. Sarah his wife died November 14th 1870 in her 64th year.



Dad Francis Bordley was born in 1781 in Tosside into a Quaker family. He was a corn dealer and lived in Castle Hill/Bowskills Yard. He died in 1854, aged a respectable 74 and is buried in this grave. Both his wives are buried in Giggleswick.

Thomas Bordley, born in 1807, was the third of six children of Francis' first wife, Ann Faraday and began his working life as a house painter. Thomas married Sarah Thompson in 1828 and they had six children. The new 'Penny Post' in 1840 meant that anyone could send a letter to anywhere in Britain for a penny so there was suddenly a need for more postmen and post boxes. Thomas became a letter carrier with his daily round going through the villages all the way to Horton. In 1860, his retirement was celebrated by the good folks on his round with a new suit! [1]

Thomas took up the slightly less energetic occupation of house-painting again. He had been a teetotaler for 40 years but met a sudden death in 1878 [1]. Sarah had died in 1870. Sons Francis, aged 12, and James, aged 25, are probably buried with them.

CONSIDERATE.—Some of the good folks of the villages of Langeliffe, Stainforth, and Horton-in-Ribblesdale, have recently testified their approval of the manner in which Mr. Thomas Bordley has discharged his duties as Settle carrier to those places by presenting him with a new and superior suit of clothes in which he made his first appearance on Tuesday last, 1st May. The suit was selected by Bordley himself at the request of his friends who did not impose any restrictions as to price or quality. We may well suggest the example as one worth imitating.

painting. He left home in moderately good health on Monday last for a weeks painting at Austwick, and on Wednesday morning he rose and had his breakfast early with his landlord who went to his work and left Bordley sitting before a fire, where he was found dead about an hour afterwards by the landlady on coming down stairs. There is no doubt that the sudden death was caused by heart disease, for which the deceased had been under the doctor hands some time ago. Bordley had been a teetotaler for upwards of 40 years.

Thomas's daughter Ann married Charles Gibbins, the son of Thomas' boss, the postmaster John Gibbins. By anyone's reckoning, this had to be a 'very good marriage' for Ann.



John Gibbins, postmaster and bank manager

John Gibbins, occasionally Gibbons, born in 1803 in York, married Elizabeth Powell from Leeds in 1824. They moved straight to Settle after the marriage with John working as a clerk to John Hartley solicitors.

In October 1828 Robert Scott, the Settle Post Master, died aged 37. The diaries of William Lodge Paley describe a rather convoluted selection procedure for his replacement. Straight away Robert's widow sent a 'memorial' listing

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Nov. 11.—Mrs. Scott has sent a memorial with many respectable names to the General Post Office and Mr. Howsons was among them as I had declined. Mr. Gibbons has been recommended by Messrs. Hartley, Dudgeon and Carr for the same.

Nov. 21.—Mrs. Scott has got Post Office but Mr. Gibbons came soliciting signatures afresh saying that she has resigned it, but had given private information to Mr. T. Hardacre who got signatures from most of the leading gentlemen before Gibbons was aware.

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several 'respectable names' to support her application to take over from her husband – William Lodge Paley had declined to support her. John Gibbins had also applied for the post after getting the nod from several worthy gentlemen. However, it seems that Mrs Scott may have slightly bent the rules. After some delay, possibly for the benefit of widow Scott, John Gibbins was eventually appointed on December the 18th. He was 'well pleased, also the Mrs'! Trade directories gave an indication of his workload using horse drawn mail gigs as well as a foot post using post men such as *Thomas Bordley* and *Thomas Oates*.

Nov 28.—Saw Mr. Gibbons at Settle who had got no news about Post Office.

Dec. 11.—Saw Mr. Gibbon about P. Office and all are surprized it is not yet declared. Mr. H. professes in his application that 'tis for the benefit of the widow.

Dec. 18.—Mr. Gibbins is to have the Post Office and he is well pleased, also the Mrs.

POST OFFICE:—Mr. John Gibbins is the postmaster. Letters are despatched by the mail-gig to London, Leeds, Westmorland, &c., at 4 afternoon, and received at 7 morning. A foot-post to Clapham, with letters for Bentham, & Lancashire, departs at 7 morning, and returns at 2 afternoon.

In 1836 John resigned his position as solicitor's clerk to become manager of the newly opened Settle branch of the Yorkshire Bank. He was based at the 'Bank Buildings' on High Street opposite the Talbot which are still named today. (In 1870, the Yorkshire Bank moved to the grand bank building in the Market Place.) At the time of the 1844 tithe survey John lived at the bank, but also rented a house opposite the Duke Street Post Office from the Dawsons (who owned the Folly, Langcliffe Hall and others).

John's workload at the Post Office will have increased considerably with the introduction of the 1840 Penny Post system, allowing a letter to be sent to anywhere in the UK for just one penny, if paid in advance. To prove payment, the sender would attach a postal stamp - the Penny Black, featuring the Queen's Head [ph1]. The thought of the Queen being 'beheaded' on the stamp caused a certain amount of consternation initially. The scheme was well ahead of its time in promoting equality as even the poorer classes could afford to send letters to loved ones. Penny post also promoted literacy and the concept of a 'united nation'.



John mixed with the local gentry. In 1850 he attended the funeral of spinster *Mary Long Dawson* of the aristocratic land owning family. She owned many properties in Settle with her sister *Elizabeth Hutton Dawson*. At the funeral John travelled in a phaeton (open topped horse drawn carriage) with *John Jackson*, solicitor, behind those of the Dawsons, Robinsons and *Birkbecks*. The newspaper report gives a wonderful flavour of the Upper Class life in 1850s Settle [1].

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MISS DAWSON.—The remains of the late lamented Miss Dawson, of Audley Sidmouth and Marshfield, Settle, consueo Pudsey Dawson, Esq., of Hornby Castle, were interred in the family vault, Giggleswick, on the 21st inst. The funeral service was performed by the Rev. Rowland Ingram, the vicar. The mournful procession proceeded to the church in the following order:—

Tenants, two abreast.
Undertakers, Mr. Hardacre, of Settle, and Mr. Pritt, of Lancaster.
Two Mutes, with Wands.
THE HEARSE,
Drawn by Four Horses, on either side of which walked Four Underbearers, in Cloaks and Silk Scarfs.
Mourning Coach, drawn by Four Horses, containing Pudsey Dawson, Esq., Rev. Willoughby Rooke, and Thos. Clarke, Esq.
The late Miss Dawson's Carriage—Empty.
Pudsey Dawson's Carriage—Empty.
William Robinson's Carriage, containing William Robinson, Esq., Dixon Robinson, Esq., and Rev. Mr. Jones.

Thos. Birkbeck's Carriage, containing Thos. Birkbeck, Esq. and Rev. Mr. Jones.
Phaeton, containing John Gibbins, Esq. and John Jackson, Esq.

R. Carr's Carriage, containing R. Carr, Esq.
On arriving at the Church, the following gentlemen took up their position as pall bearers:—

Wm. Robinson, Esq., Settle. Dixon Robinson, Esq. Clitheroe Castle.

Richard Carr, Esq., Stackhouse. George Hartley, Esq. Settle.

Rev. Thos. Staniforth, Bolton. Thomas Birkbeck Esq. Settle.

Henry Littledale, Esq., Bolton Hall. Reverend Willoughby Rooke, Beetham.

The funeral was conducted by Mr. Hardacre, of Settle, in a manner satisfactory to all parties.

THE BODY.

The

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Victorians, especially Queen Victoria, took mourning very seriously. From the moment of death normal life ceased – clocks were stopped, mirrors and windows were covered. Corpses were kept at home until the burial, often laid out in the living room in a coffin. Mary Long Dawson's was typical of a gentry funeral. It was an extravagant and male event, with horses and hearses leading a huge procession. Sometimes professional mourners were hired to add to the procession. The diaries of William Lodge Paley relate several funerals, and describe how, even for middling classes such as him, black mourning clothes were quickly shared with those of similar size and status for a funeral. The poor were known to pawn household items against funeral wear.

In 1851 John wrote to the editor of the *Leeds Intelligencer* expressing his disgust at the admission that 50 letters had been stolen from Leeds Post Office over the previous 12 months. How does that compare with today?!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE INTELLIGENCER.

Settle, Nov. 20, 1851.

Sir,—Allow me to call your attention to the extraordinary admission made by the Leeds postmaster in giving his evidence on the occasion of Gairdner's examination before the magistrates at the Leeds Court House, on Tuesday last, that at least 50 letters had been lost or stolen from the Post-office at Leeds during the last twelve months. How many more Mr. Anderson did not say, but he admitted that number at least. It is to be hoped that this fact will arouse the attention of the Post-office authorities to the matter, as it is a pretty clear indication that there must be "some thing rotten in the state of Denmark."

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
JOHN GIBBINS, Postmaster.

Unfortunately, John's personal life was not as successful as his career. His wife Elizabeth gave birth to eight children before she died in 1846. Four of the children predeceased her in infancy or as children. The children are buried together in the graveyard at Giggleswick – Settle church had not been consecrated in those days. They have a flat gravestone nestled beside the church and their parents were buried next to them later.



In memory of Robert Dawson Gibbins died 7th May 1826 aged 7 months. Also Caroline Gibbins died 30th May 1836 aged 1 year & 2 months. John Gibbins died on the 26th day of March 1840 aged 11 years. Elizabeth died on the 20th day of April 1842 aged 9 years, A1/g2.

Two years after Elizabeth's death John married the much younger Annie Latherington from Malton, North Yorkshire. She also died, childless, in 1855, after five years of marriage.

This left John with sons Charles and Henry and daughters Mary Eliza and Matilda. The girls ran an 'establishment for young ladies' under the age of 12 providing education and board. They studied reading, writing and arithmetic, history and geography, needlework, and with the option of music, French and drawing. They were provided with a silver fork and spoon, sheets, pillow cases and towels [SC].

THE
Misses Gibbin's and Wilson's
ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES,
SETTLE.

T E R M S . = =

Board and Instruction in English Grammar, Reading, History, Geography, Needlework, Writing and Arithmetic, for Young Ladies under 12 years of age...	20	guineas per annum.
Above 12 do.	25	11
Dry Boarders ...	15	11
Dry Pupils under 10 years of age ...	2	11
do. above 10 do.	4	11
Weekly Boarders under 12 years of age ...	16	11
do. above 12 do.	18	11
Washing ...	3	11
Music ...	4	11
French ...	4	11
Drawing ...	4	11

Each Young Lady to be provided with a Silver Fork and Spoon, Sheets, Pillow Cases, and Towels.

Even this was cut short. Matilda died in 1854, aged 23, after a lingering and painful illness. She was buried at Giggleswick but there is no commemoration to her.

Same day, aged 23, after a lingering and painful illness, Matilda, second daughter of John Gibbins, Esq., of Settle, bank manager and postmaster

John had a life full of personal tragedy but professional success. In those days there was no discrimination between classes. John died in 1858, aged 54, [2] a wealthy and respected man, as indicated upon the sale of his furnishings upon his death [1].

John owned 'handsome mahogany' furnishings, oil paintings in fine gilt frames, soft furnishings and a share in the literary society. The executor of John's will was *Edward Thomas Foster*. The house sale took place some four years after John's death.

DEATH OF MR. GIBBINS, POSTMASTER OF SETTLE.
 We regret to have to record the death, at his residence, Settle, on Tuesday the 13th inst., of Mr. John Gibbins, postmaster and manager of the Yorkshire Banking Company's Branch at Settle. Mr. Gibbins was a native of York, and had resided in Settle for upwards of 30 years. He first went to that town as engrossing clerk in the office of John Hartley, Esq., solicitor, and soon after obtained the office of postmaster. He left Mr. Hartley's office on his appointment as manager of the then Yorkshire Banking Company. He leaves three children and a numerous circle of friends to regret his loss. He was a great sufferer the last few years of his life, but bore all his illnesses without murmuring. He was a man of a generous disposition, staunch to his friends, particular and exact in all his dealings, and of a forgiving disposition.

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR SALE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
 BY MR. J. MORPHET,
 For Ready Money (by order of Mr. E. T. Foster, the Administrator of the Estate and effects of the late Mr. John Gibbins,) in the large room at the Naked Man Inn, at Settle, on **THURSDAY, April 10th, 1862,** the Sale to commence at 1 o'clock.
A QUANTITY OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND OTHER EFFECTS,
COMPRISING:— Handsome Rosewood Chiffonier, Mahogany Tudor Bedstead, Mahogany four-post Bedstead, and 2 other Bedsteads, Feather Beds and Bedding, Hair and other Mattresses, Handsome Mahogany Book Case with Secretaire and Drawers attached, Mahogany Sofa with Hair Cushions, several Mahogany and other Chests of Drawers, Pier Glass and Mantle Glass in Gilt Frame, Looking Glasses, 2 Easy Chairs, Shower Bath, Eight Days Clock in Mahogany Case, Wash-hand Stand and Dressing Tables, 1 American Clock, Set of Papier Maché Trays, Weather Glass, Oak Wardrobe, a Mahogany Bagatelle Board, Mahogany Bookcase, a number of Oil Paintings and Engravings in handsome Gilt Frames, a quantity of Books, and a variety of other Household and Kitchen Utensils.
 Also will be sold at the same time and place, **ONE SHARE** in the **SETTLE LITERARY SOCIETY.**

John's gravestone inscription proudly celebrates his achievements.



Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Gibbins of Settle who departed this life on the 11 of August 1846 aged 46 years. Also John Gibbins, Post Master and Manager of the Yorkshire Banking Company's Bank at Settle from its commencement, who died July 13th 1858 aged 55 years.

Peace to thy name and hallowed rest, sacred to those who knew thee best, A1/g1

Son Henry died four months after John in Manchester, aged 21, with his burial records suggesting he died of 'brain fever' which was often used for patients with mental illness.

A year before John's death daughter Mary Eliza had married her first cousin **Thomas Gibbins**, a railway clerk from York. Thomas' father (and John's brother), another Thomas, was a cordwainer/shoemaker and was the secretary of the local shoemaker's society. In 1843 he was taken to court for assaulting George Patrick who wanted to see the books [3]. It sounded like a clash of personalities and magistrates ordered them to settle the matter amicably. Thomas (Snr) died in 1850.

Mary Eliza died in 1864, aged 37, having been admitted to an asylum in Wakefield the previous year. It would not be surprising if the tragedy in her family contributed to this.

Therefore, the youngest and only remaining child was son Charles who would have now been the main beneficiary to his father's estate.

Charles didn't inherit quite the same business acumen as his father. He worked as a commercial traveller and then a grocer in Leeds. His first

THURSDAY, Feb. 2.
Present—The Lord Mayor and T. Laycock, Esq.
CHARGE OF ASSAULT.—Thomas Gibbins was charged with having assaulted Geo. Patrick. It appeared from the statement of the complainant that the defendant was the secretary of the shoemakers' society assembling at the Britannia public-house, Walmgate, of which club he was also a member. At one of their meetings about three weeks ago he requested Gibbins to give up the trade's books, as the complainant alleged he had given no account of their transactions for eighteen months. The defendant jumped up in a violent rage, made use of some improper language, and said he should not rest till he had got his revenge. His conduct was violent afterwards. On Monday evening last another meeting was held at which Gibbins produced a letter he had received reflecting upon Patrick's character, and the latter put it into his pocket. The defendant seized the complainant by the arm, shook him several times, and struck him over the head and face. One of the company interposed and said that he ought not to strike a man in his chair. The defendant remarked that Patrick's statement was altogether incorrect, and said that he could call seven out of the nine persons who were in the room to prove that he never struck him, or made use of the expressions alluded to. The complainant was a stranger, and he (the defendant) had behaved like a brother to him since he had come to York. The magistrates recommended them to settle the matter amicably, which after some delay was agreed to, the parties paying an equal proportion of the costs, viz. 2s. each.

wife, **Martha Holden**, had three sons and a daughter but sons **Charles** and **Albert** died in infancy. In 1871, three years after John's death, Charles married **Ann Bordley**, daughter of postman **Thomas Bordley**, above. Charles had lived in Leeds but obviously kept in touch with Settle folk. They had a daughter **Sarah Elizabeth**. Ann died in Leeds in 1901, aged 57 and Charles died three years later. Their daughter Sarah Elizabeth had a family with **Leonard Jefferson**, a clerk at a Leeds ale brewery.



John Bordley, painter and Temperance pioneer

John was half brother of Thomas Bordley and the only surviving son of Francis Bordley and his second, much younger wife **Jane Newhouse**. John made his living as a successful portrait, landscape and house painter [LSA].

John was a prominent and active figure in the Primitive Methodists and the Temperance movement and several articles describe his active role. He married **Esther Wellock**, the daughter of an agricultural labourer from Long Preston who had worked as a servant at the Folly. John and Esther lived in the Spread Eagle Temperance Hotel in Kirkgate [1] which had originally been the Spread Eagle Inn, and run by **Robert Atkinson** until 1850.

John and Esther had a son David who followed his father's path to become a photographic artist in Staffordshire. David was also a fine cricketer [1].

Tragically Esther died in 1862, aged just 37 and she is buried in an unmarked grave in Holy Ascension Ancient graveyard. John remarried **Alice Walkden** and continued to be an active member of the Methodist and Temperance movement. They continued to live in the same building, but didn't run it as a Temperance Hotel which suggests that this was Esther's business and Alice may not have been interested in it.

In 1883 John was a speaker for the Settle Temperance Mission [1], extolling the virtues of an alcohol free life to the unabated enthusiasm of visitors who had travelled a long way to get there. During the 1870s, John worked closely with Ellwood Brockbank in running 'Adult Sabbath Classes' with much success. On New Year's Day 1885, John presented a magic lantern exhibition (early slide show) in the Wesleyan School Room about the

JOHN · BORDLEY,
Portrait and Landscape Photographer,
KIRK GATE, SETTLE.

<p><i>Photography in every style, from Carte-de-Visite to Life size.</i></p> <p><i>Instantaneous Photographs of Children and Animals.</i></p> <p><i>Miniatures for Lockets, or Painted upon Ivory.</i></p> <p><i>Permanent Portraits Printed and Painted upon Porcelain.</i></p>	<p><i>Enlarged Pictures up to Life size finished by the New Permanent Process, or Painted in Water or Oil Colours, from 1 to 20 Guineas.</i></p> <p><i>Views, Mansions, Wedding and other Groups Photographed by appointment.</i></p> <p><i>Transparencies for the Lantern.</i></p>
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A GOOD PORTRAIT, 12 by 10 ins., in sunk mount and gilt frame, 21 by 17 ins., only 12/6.

VIEWS of SETTLE and DISTRICT.

Lantern Entertainments, Public or Private. Pictures Framed to order.

RECHABITES FESTIVAL.—On Saturday last, the members of the Castlebergh Rook Tent at Settle, celebrated their annual Festival. The members with their wives sat down in the evening to an excellent supper provided for them by Mr. and Mrs. Bordley, of the Temperance hotel, at the Mechanics' Hall. After the cloth had been removed, the evening was spent in a very agreeable manner by the singing of Temperance melodies, speechifying and the like, the band of Messrs. Guyers, Peacock and Knowles being present to enliven the proceedings.

A CRICKETER'S ITEM.—It may interest cricketers in this locality to learn that Mr. D. Bordley, a former member of our own club, has been elected captain of the Stafford Cricket Club for the ensuing season.

SETTLE.

WESLEYAN BAND OF HOPE.—On New Year's Day Mr. John Bordley gave a magic lantern exhibition of Mr. Melton Prior's views of the Soudan war in the Wesleyan School-room, to a good audience. Connective readings were given by Mr. T. Harger. Mr. John Brown occupied the chair.

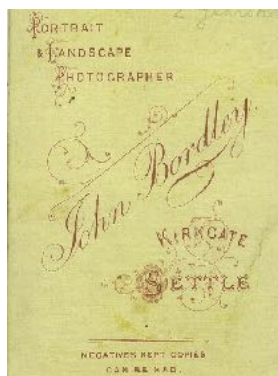
SETTLE.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE MISSION.—The Saturday evening Blue Ribbon meetings have been sustained with great interest. The Music Hall has been filled weekly with an audience numbering generally over 100 and the enthusiasm is unabated. Many pledges have been taken, and not unfrequently the converts have walked long distances to be present. Mr. Herbert Bradford, was the chief speaker on Saturday last, and short addresses were also delivered by Mr. R. (the charman), Mr. Camm, and Mr. John Bordley. Songs were sung with taste by Mr. W. Overing.

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Sudan War [1]. This was a long British colonial war between Egypt and Sudan 1881 - 1899.

John Bordley and his second wife Alice had a daughter **Ada Bordley** when Alice was 41. In turn, aged 41, Ada became the unmarried mother of **John Bordley**, a well-known character on Kirkgate and Duke Street in the 1960s [ph2]. John and Alice had both died by the time Ada gave birth and are buried in the Quaker graveyard.



Thomas and John's cousins **Margaret, Ann** (Hargreaves) and **John Bordley** are buried in unmarked *grave AX2*, with their niece **Mary Pratt**, and Thomas' grandson **Francis James Bordley** who was the son of daughter **Ellen**. Their cousin **Thomas Bordley** is with his wife Elizabeth in *grave E3*, (see *Bullock*)



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on Ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

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LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, SC – Settle Chronicle and the diaries of William Lodge Paley with kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – photo credited to Wikipedia, public domain, ph2 – with thanks to the Museum of North Craven Life from the diaries of Charles Green