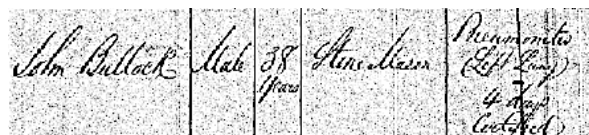


## Two Stonemasons called John Bullock

Born in 1814, our first **John Bullock** was the eldest of seven children of **William Bullock** and his second wife **Ellen Carr**. This was a working class family with most working in farming or at the mills and so John did well to become a stonemason, a highly skilled tradesman. Both of John's parents had died by 1841, so John became the head of the household and looked after his remaining siblings, living in Upper Settle near Twisleton's Yard. John's youngest three sisters, **Margaret, Ellen and Catherine**, had died in infancy. In 1838 John had married **Elizabeth Sleddding** from the Forest of Bowland, and they had seven children. John was just 38 when he died of pneumonitis in his left lung. Pneumonitis is a general term for inflammation of lung tissue caused by irritants so the occupational stone dusts probably the cause. (Regular pneumonia is caused by a bacterial or viral infection.) John is remembered on his memorial stone with three of their children, **Ellen, Robert and Elizabeth**, who died in their early years.



Six years later Elizabeth married **Thomas Bordley** who worked as a weaver and then quarryman who helped to bring up the rest of the Bullock children. Thomas was the cousin of another **Thomas Bordley**, also buried in this churchyard, who spent his life as a letter carrier (postman) delivering to all the villages between Settle and Horton every day. Thomas and Elizabeth are buried with John Bullock. Or are they? Many memorial stones were not inscribed until the man of the house died, or when the last of a generation died. By then, memories of dates and ages could be slightly confused. Illiteracy was common, and this included the stonemasons. The memorial stone, *Ancient E4*, reads:



*In affectionate remembrance of John Bullock of Settle, died March 27th 1854 aged 40 years - John was only 39, and was not buried in E3 but in plot AX7 with a niece and two nephews*

*Elizabeth, widow of the above, died April 10th 1877, aged 60 years – correct!*

*Ellen their daughter, died Jan 13th 1841, aged 5 years. Robert their son, died Jan 12th 1846 aged 5 years. Ellen and Robert both died just before their 4th birthdays and are buried at St Alkelda's, Giggleswick*

*Elizabeth their daughter, died July 29th 1852 aged 5 years. Elizabeth was nearly 4 and her body is in AX17*

*Also of Thomas Bordley, second husband of the above who died Jan 17th 1875 aged 64 years – correct!*

So, the only people actually buried in this grave seem to be John's widow Elizabeth with her second husband, Thomas Bordley and was probably erected upon Elizabeth's death. It is not uncommon for the residents in the grave to be different to those commemorated on the stone. In the Ancient graveyard this occurs in 10% of the memorial stones!

**Marriages.**  
August 8th, at the Independent Chapel, Settle, by the Rev S Compston, father of the bridegroom. Mr Sam Compston of the Woolwich Homœopathic Dispensary, London, to Mary Ann, youngest daughter of the late Mr John Bullock of Settle:

John and Elizabeth's daughter **Mary Ann Bullock** hit the jackpot when she married **Samuel Compston**, son of the Minister of the Zion Chapel, also **Samuel Compston**, who served from 1855-1867. Samuel (Snr) performed the ceremony [1]. In a report of the wedding, it transpired that

later removed to Radcliffe. The bride was the daughter of an expert stone cutter, who had done much of the carving of the arched doorway through which Mr. Compston, junr., had so often passed in entering and leaving the now "old" Grammar School at Giggleswick, where he spent two short years prior to beginning to add something to the limited family income.

## Settle Graveyard Project

John Bullock, 'an expert stone cutter had done much of the carving of the arched doorway through which Mr Compston (Jnr) had so often passed in entering and leaving the now 'old' Grammar School at Giggleswick [ph1].

Samuel (Snr) revitalised the life of the Zion Chapel. He eliminated the last standing debt, a choir was formed, a harmonium and pipe organ were bought and number of mid-week activities were established. The interior of the chapel was completely refitted in the 1870s and a schoolroom was built at the back which also served as an entertainment venue. On Sundays two separate Sunday schools and three services were held!

Meanwhile, Samuel (Jnr), with Mary Ann's help, ran a lucrative medical business in London and then Burnley, specialising in homeopathic pharmacy. Samuel and Mary Ann were life abstainers (of alcohol) and non-smokers. Impressively, Samuel was a chief magistrate and Councillor/Alderman with continuous service for 42 years. He was a elected Mayor in 1906. Unlike other mayors, Samuel didn't earn his position of Mayor by his wealth but 'the honour was offered and accepted for faithful service rendered'. He was remembered affectionately as the 'father of Rawtenstall council', with liberal politics [2]. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1916 [ph2] and invited 'over 100 friends, including several Corporation United representatives and temperance worthies. The pastor of the church bespoke the kindly affection and esteem in which the host and hostess are regarded through the district.' They survived into their 80s to celebrate their diamond wedding too! The 'Compston Cross'[ph3] was erected on the moors behind Rawtenstall in Samuel's honour.



As a girl from working class roots Mary Ann did very well – they may well have paid for her parents' memorial stone back in Settle (and forgotten some of the details). Samuel, aged an impressive 91 and Mary Ann, aged 81 were buried with their daughter Lizzie in the Providence Free United Methodist graveyard at Crayshawbooth [ph4].



*In loving memory of Lizzie, the beloved wife of J C Smith and daughter of S and MA Compston who died May 13th 1912, aged 32 years. Also her parents Mary Ann Compston died Sept 6th 1927, aged 81 years and Samuel Compston JP, freeman and ex-mayor of Rawtenstall, died Nov 13th 1933, aged 91 years.*

Their daughter **Lizzie Compston** had married **John Charles Smith** of Derbyshire who was a mechanical engineer working for a calico printing company in Rawtenstall. Unfortunately she died four years after their wedding. Samuel and Mary Ann's daughter, **Emily Compston**, married **William Edward Walker** who was an electrical engineer, also working at the calico printing company. Samuel and Mary Ann had a son, **Edmund Leach Compston**, who was a physician and became the Commandant of the Military Hospital in Rawtenstall.

Meanwhile, back in Settle, several of the younger generations of men in the Bullock family were also stonemasons. One of these was John and Elizabeth's son, **William Bullock**, who married **Ellen Broughton** from Thorton-in-Lonsdale. They had two sons, **Edgar** and **John**, who both died in infancy/childhood and a daughter **Betsey Bullock**. In July 1889, William came fourth (and last) in a swimming competition. It was held over 100 yards in the River Ribble above the

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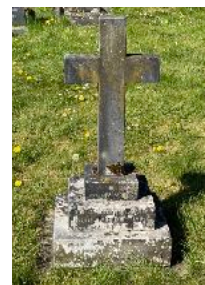
Langcliffe top mill, then a paper mill. There were 200 spectators [CH]. Three local men raced against SS Burlington who must have been a 'professional'. Fastest 'local' was James Allan Braithwaite, a grocer's assistant from Middlesborough boarding with *John Bordley* in Settle, second was Henry Stirk, a builder from Skipton, third *Louis William Hansbrow* from Lancashire and last was William Bullock. The timekeeper was *Israel Jackson*.



**SWIMMING CONTEST.**—Considerable interest was excited in Settle and Langcliffe by the announcement that a swimming race would take place on Friday evening, July 26th, open to amateurs residing within a radius of six miles of Settle. On account of the unsettled weather the event was postponed until Monday the 29th, when the evening was all that could be desired. The place selected for the race was the reach in the river Ribbles above the Paper Mill Wear, which, when the water is full to the brink, as it was on this occasion, affords a splendid straight course for a hundred yards race, the only drawback being that unless artificial means are resorted to the competitors are not able to dive in for a start. Three small prizes amounting in value to about 13s were given. It is estimated that about 200 spectators were present. The

After William died in 1891, aged 51, Ellen and Betsey went back to live in Thornton-in-Lonsdale but ten years later when she died aged 56, Ellen was brought back to Settle for burial with William in *Old D49*. Their memorial stone remembers their two sons. Edgar was buried in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully with their grandmother, Elizabeth in *AncE4*, but there is no burial record for infant John, worryingly. Their daughter Betsey married Sep Marsden, a cotton spinner, originally from Settle and they lived in Nelson.

*In Loving Memory of William Bullock born June 19th 1840 died March 24th 1891  
Also of Ellen his wife born December 6th 1845 died April 7th 1901 Thy Will Be Done  
Also of their son John born June 2nd 1877 died Novr 8th 1877 Also their son  
Edgar born Febry 10th 1876 died March 7th 1883, Old D49*



John and Elizabeth's daughter **Sarah Bullock** married farmer **Thomas Atkinson** from Crawshawbooth near Rawtenstall and they lived close to Mary Ann and Samuel Compston.



The other **John Bullock**, also a stonemason, was probably related – the fertile Bullock families all seemed to originate in Gisburn. The John was the youngest of at least seven children born to **John Bullock**, a stonemason and mother **Mary Hall**. Only one of the other children survived infancy and childhood – his sister, **Jane Bullock**, married a tallow chandler (candle seller) called **Dawson Eglin** and they lived in the Folly after all their children had died. Other cousins were **Jane (Bullock) Ingham**, a widow who became one of Settle's female bread bakers (also based at the Folly with Jane Eglin, using the bread oven which still exists), and **Alice Bullock** who married the shoemaker **Titus Nelson** whose business still runs in Settle today.

This John Bullock was born in 1796 as a Quaker in Settle, but married **Fanny Sanderson** from Richmond in Giggleswick church in 1832. They lived near the Golden Lion, possibly on Cheapside and had three children, but John and **William** died in infancy. Dad John was just 53 when he died (although the gravestone says 51) and is buried with his two sons. This gravestone was photographed using RTI technology, and the inscription can now be read more clearly.

*Sacred to the memory of John Bullock who died December the 12th 1840 aged 5 years. Also William Bullock who died Jan 3rd 1841 aged 1 year and 6 months. Also of John Bullock the father of Settle stonemason who died April the 28th 1848 aged 51 years. The mother to perpetuate the memory of her children. Husband caused this to be rais'd. Also of the mother herself who died September the 18th 1880 aged 85 years, D21.*



Fanny took their only surviving child, **Mary Ann Bullock**, back to her roots in Richmond where she worked as a schoolmistress. Mary Ann married a draper, **Edward Hardman**, and then an

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engine fitter, **James Bryan**, ending up in Burnley and taking her mother with her. Fanny is buried in Burnley but is remembered as *'the mother herself'* on John's memorial stone. There are several spelling mistakes on the gravestone – perhaps neither Fanny, daughter Mary Ann nor the stonemason were very literate.



*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.*

*Life stories 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](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon.*

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*ph1 - 4 – credited to descendant Lesa Compston Booth, via Findagrave.com*

*CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer*