

William Butterfield, an unlucky gardener

William Butterfield was a gardener from Shipley. 23 year old William found his way to Settle where, in 1807, he married **Ann Dibb**, aged 29, who was also from Shipley. It seems he may have been married previously. They had three sons and two daughters and lived on Kirkgate in Settle. Tragically, daughters **Rebecca** and **Mary** died, aged five and one, presumably of a shared infectious disease and were buried in an unmarked grave in Giggleswick churchyard – this was before Settle graveyard had opened. Son **William** soon joined them – he died in 1821, aged 11. Sons **John** and **James** survived.

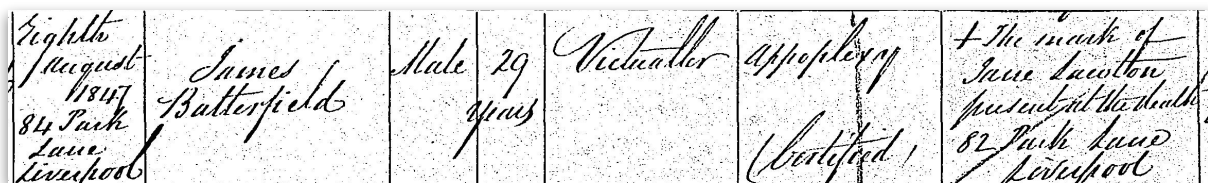
William was the first sexton at the new Settle church from 1838, maintaining the church buildings and grounds, digging graves and ensuring congregations were well behaved! William earned a salary of £5 per half year. The early vestry records tell us that the man appointed ‘*is to have the yearly salary of five pounds for attendance on Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day. He will be in attendance during Divine Service to see that all be kept orderly and quiet and persons properly seated in their pews. He is to attend to the warming apparatus and lighting of the church and keep it clean and in good order*’.

Just five years later, in November 1843 William, aged 59 resigned this post. Retirement just wasn’t an option in those days and you worked as long as you were able, so there must have been exceptional circumstances, which there were. Firstly, his wife Ann died in July 1843, aged 65, which may be linked to the second reason which was son James’ accidental transgression a month earlier. The diaries of **William Lodge Paley** [WLP] tell us that son James accidentally shot 46 year old **William Hargreaves** in the shoulder while they were shooting sparrows and, on June 2nd 1843, he died. William was a labourer who had married **Abigail Baldwin** and had three sons. Amazingly there are no records of a coroner’s inquest – did James just run away? He wouldn’t be the first. Before the organisation of a nationwide police system in the 1870s, it was possible to escape justice by moving to a new county, or if the case was severe, by emigrating to the States or Australia.

June 2.—Wm. Hargreaves, who was accidentally shot in the shoulder by James Butterfield, died to-day; they were shooting sparrows.

In James’ case Liverpool provided a fresh start. Why Liverpool? James’ brother, **John Butterfield** left home for Liverpool, aged 21, and found work as a merchant’s clerk. John married **Mary Yeadon**, who had come to Liverpool from Giggleswick after the death of her parents, and they had a son **Thomas Butterfield**. It would make sense to move to be near your brother. In addition, Liverpool was the largest port in the world at that time, with the transatlantic cotton trade at its peak. The opportunities for work saw an influx of Irish immigrants affected by the potato famine and those displaced by the mechanisation of agriculture, and entrepreneurs and those looking for a fresh start. The population of Liverpool multiplied by a factor of ten during the 19th century. This enormous population needed to live somewhere and rapidly constructed buildings became overcrowded and unsanitary so, unfortunately, mortality from disease was rife.

Anyway, back to James, four years after the shooting, in Liverpool, on 11 April 1847, James married **Isabella Jackson** who was the illegitimate daughter of **Elizabeth Jackson**, a domestic servant from Caton. Did Isabella know anything about the shooting? In another awful twist of fate and just 15 weeks after their marriage, in Liverpool, James died of apoplexy, working as a victualler (innkeeper).



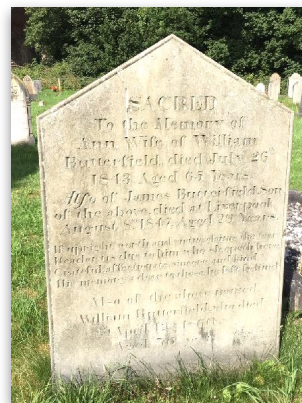
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William went to the expense of bringing James' body back to Settle for burial and also paid for a notable inscription, perhaps feeling the need to reinforce James' good character?

Sacred to the memory of Ann wife of William Butterfield died July 26th 1843 aged 65 years. Also of James Butterfield, son of the above died at Liverpool August 8th 1847 aged 29 years.

If upright worth and virtue claims the tears, reader tis due to him who sleepeth here. Grateful, affectionate, sincere and kind. His memory's dear to those he left behind.

Also of the above named William Butterfield who died April 12th 1860 aged 76, B9



At the time of the following census return William was also in Liverpool visiting son John, his wife Mary and son Thomas. John was running an inn in the heart of Liverpool, perhaps having taken over from brother James? Unfortunately John's wife died soon after the census return and John also died in 1854, aged 38. Their son, Thomas Butterfield, then went to live with his uncle Thomas Butterfield who worked in the Post Office in Blackburn. Presumably uncle Thomas Butterfield was William's son by a first marriage? William died in 1860, aged 76, back in Settle, having outlived his wife and all his and Ann's children – how sad.

What happened to James' widow Isabella? Isabella and her mum, Elizabeth Jackson, moved to Settle and worked as servants at Stackhouse. Nine years after James' death Isabella, aged 42, married John Laytham, who worked as a 'druggist'. John was the son of Christopher Laytham and he was the illegitimate son of Alice Laytham from the Wigglesworth. Christopher, based in Upper Settle, described himself as a 'cow leech doctor', one who 'heals diseases of cows', and also a horse-breaker. Later, Christopher described himself as a veterinary surgeon. There were no formal veterinary qualifications or accountability until an Act in 1881.

In 1824 Christopher married Ann Clark who was 14 years his senior and so may have been married before. They moved to Settle in the 1830s with their two children. Christopher got himself into a spot of trouble with an assault of Richard Coates in 1852, for which he was fined 10 shillings even though he was provoked into it [1]. He had an unusual problem in 1853 when finding a shoemaker's awl, four inches in length embedded in the lower jaw of a cow. [1].

ASSAULT.—Mr. Christopher Laytham, of Settle, horse breaker, was summoned before the magistrates on Tuesday, for assaulting and beating Richard Coates. The assault was admitted, but it was contended that the defendant was provoked to it. Mr. Cowburn appeared for the complainant, and Mr. H. Robinson for defendant. Fined 10s. and costs.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—Mr. Christopher Laytham, cattle doctor, Settle, has communicated to us a somewhat singular circumstance connected with the ailment of a cow, which came professionally under his notice a short time since. The cow (belonging to Mr. Jas. Johnson, of Huntworth, near Settle) had been laboring under excessive pain. After a careful examination of the beast's mouth, Mr. Laytham perceived what he thought to be an abscess in the centre of the lower jaw. He then made an incision into the enlargement, and found, to his great astonishment, a shoemaker's awl, measuring in length four inches. He, of course, extracted it, and his patient is now progressing favorably.

Christopher's son and Isabella's new husband, John Laytham, died just four years after their marriage and six months after the death of both his parents, – another infectious disease? Isabella really didn't have much luck with husbands. She continued to run a tobacconist shop in Chapel Street which had been part of John's business [SC]. Ten years later Isabella and her mum died within a week of each other and they are both buried with the Laythams.

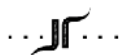
PIPES! PIPES!! PIPES!!!
Mrs. LAYTHAM,
CHAPEL STREET,
Has in stock the following assortment of PIPES, viz.,—
Meerschaums from 5s. to 20s., Briarwood from 6d. to 2s. 6d.
Swanbone (in cases) 3s. Plain and Ornamental Clay, 4d. to 1s. 6d. Churchwardens 4d. and 6d. per dozen. Southern's Patent Broseley's, 2s. per doz.
Cigar Holders in Meerschaum and Briarwood 4d. to 1s. 6d.
Cigar Cases, 1s. to 4s. 6d. Indian Rubber Tobacco Pouches, 1s. to 2s. Tobacco and Snuff Boxes, 3d. to 1s.
TOBACCO,

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In memory of John Laytham of Settle who died December 11th 1860 aged 36 years. Also of Christopher Laytham, father of the above who died June 1st 1861 aged 61 years. Also of Ann wife of the above who died June 18th 1861 aged 75 years. Also of Elizabeth Jackson of Settle who died Decr 6th 1870 aged 78 years. Also Isabella wife of the above named John Laytham and daughter of the above named Elizabeth Jackson who died Decr 13th 1870 (aged) 56 years B3



Christopher Laytham's cousin **Joseph Laytham** also moved to Settle and worked as a farmer, living in Upper Settle. He had three wives and died in 1870, aged 67. Joseph, his second wife **Ann (Smith) Laytham**, and his father **Richard Laytham** were all buried in unmarked graves, hopefully together. They all died during the years when the burial plan was not updated, so we do not know where exactly they are.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on 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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SC – Settle Chronicle, with kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*