

David Hall Dale, the farmer taking on the railways

Skipton born David Hall Dale married Isabella Green in 1830, and began their family of ten. David farmed at Paley Green until 1842 and then moved to Cleatop Farm just outside Settle. This was a large farm of 370 acres, all rented from Reverend Hogarth Swale of Holy Ascension. David won many awards in numerous livestock categories at the Agricultural Shows. David was a manager of the Craven Savings Bank in 1871 along with several other men of Settle who are buried nearby [1].

The rate of interest allowed to depositors in this bank is 3 per cent. The following are the Trustees, managers and officers of the bank. Trustees: Josias Atkinson, John Birbeck, Rev. W. T. Pierson, William Robinson, Thomas Stackhouse, and Rev. H. J. Swale. Managers: Joseph Birbeck, John Cowgill, D. H. Dale, William Hartley, James Hartley, Edward Hartley, John Jackson, Joseph Jackson, T. G. Metcalfe, William Procter, John Preston, Mearbeck House, and John Tatham. Actuary: Joseph Tatham, Treasurer: Ellwood Brockbank. Auditor, John Lister.

The Leeds to Lancaster line and, later, the very start of the Settle to Carlisle line ran through David's farm. Reverend Swale may have invested in these railways and so would have received compensation for the use of his land. David may not have been quite as enthusiastic - the building of the railway would have been incredibly disruptive to his farming business. Obviously, the stations would assist in taking produce to the market in the end.

In 1848, David took action against the North Western Railway who were building the Leeds to Lancaster line. He claimed the fence they used was insufficient to contain his sheep and cows. The court agreed with him and made the railway build a new fence within a month! - a very expensive case for the railway [2].

Esq., of Lancaster, on behalf of the Railway Company.—David Hall Dale, being sworn, said that the fence was post and wire, the small posts being about three yards from each other, and the main ones about 148 yards. The horizontal wires were about eight inches apart, and are very elastic. Has had sheep gone through many times, and cows over. The top wire is sufficiently

It's no surprise that David was well respected by colleagues. In 1866, he was the chair of a ratepayers' meeting to tackle Cattle Plague which eventually killed 260 cattle in the area [3]. This was a difficult but important job. Just as now, the strategy to eliminate Cattle Plague was to kill all the animals in infected areas, and farmers received some compensation when animals died. There were numerous court cases against farmers flouting the rules.

hundred landowners in Scotland have this fence. After a lengthy deliberation the magistrates decided that it was not a sufficient fence; and the order of the court was, that a wood fence of 4 feet 6 in. high, and five bars 6 in. apart, be erected by the company, and completed within a month. This decision will be seriously felt by the railway company, as it is understood they have provided material for fencing the whole of their line. It is estimated that their loss in consequence will not be less than eight or ten thousand pounds.—*Lancaster Guardian*.

C22 In loving remembrance of David Hall Dale of Cleatop born at Skipton Sep 9th 1802 died Dec 24th 1871. Isabella Dale widow of the above born March 2nd 1805 died January 11th 1876. Charles Dale MB their son born March 1st 1845 died at Keighley Dec 4th 1869

David's intricately carved gravestone was inscribed by the talented stonemason Kildwick Robert Tillotson, and is positioned in a prime spot in the graveyard, behind the altar. Son Charles had just qualified as a doctor when he was killed by a fever, aged just 24 in 1869 [1]. Medical qualifications didn't help in this case.

SETTLE.—At a meeting of ratepayers held at Settle, on Friday, Mr. David Hall Dale in the chair, to select a resident ratepayer to be recommended to the Court of Quarter Sessions for appointment as cattle valuer for the township, Mr. John Parker, of Upper Settle, was unanimously agreed upon.



Keighley.—On the 4th inst., deeply and sincerely regretted, Charles Dale, Esq., M.B.C.M. He had just commenced practice as surgeon, in Keighley when he was seized with a fever prevailing in that town, and at the early of 24 was called to his rest.

Settle Graveyard Project

Two of David and Isabella's other sons had slightly underwhelming careers as travelling drapers. Others became a lead merchant, a coal merchant, a bookkeeper and son Edward emigrated to Argentina. Just one son, Thomas, remained in farming but died aged 35. Daughter Isabella remained single, and Margaret married a lead merchant. Son John Henry, the coal merchant, sold the property in 1876 [CH].



CLEATOP, SETTLE.
Mr. John Cowburn
Has received instructions from Mr. J. H. Dale, to
SELL BY AUCTION, on the premises as above,
on Thursday, 26th October inst.,
THE whole of his Valuable Stock of **CATTLE**
and **SHEEP**, consisting of 22 fat cows and
heifers, one fat Scot, 2 three-year-old bullocks, 11
heifers, 1½, 2, and 3-years-old, eight Scots, seven
gilt cows full of milk, four one-year-old calves,
three calving heifers, 64 fat wethers, 16 fat lambs,
nine half-bred ewes, 46 ewes, two and three shears;
two excellent rams, one thorough-bred gimmer
lamb, one 2-year-old filly by "Lord Hastings,"
one chestnut pony, two-year-old; one flock of
geese, and the winter estate of the whole farm
until the 26th day of April, 1877: also about 1000
yards of excellent hay to be eaten on the premises.
Luncheon on the Tables at 10 a.m.
Sale to commence at Eleven a.m.
Cleatop is distant from Settle Junction Station
about half a mile, Long Preston Station two miles,
and Settle two miles, all on the Midland line.
Auctioneer's Office, New-street, Settle, 12th
October, 1876.

This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project. The project has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.com includes all the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing, and always welcomes queries, information and family knowledge on setteresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page Settle Graveyard Project.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Blackburn Standard, 3 – Leeds Mercury

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