

The Green brothers, surgeons to the Settle to Carlisle Railway

19th century Settle was privileged to be served by several physicians who qualified in Edinburgh, reputed to provide the very best training of the day. The Green brothers were two of them.

Edwin Septimus Green, born in November 1843, was one of eight children of **Joseph Septimus Green**, a surgeon in County Durham. In 1867, after qualifying as a surgeon, Edwin married **Harriet Anderson** from South Shields and they moved straight to Settle, living in Linton Court, the large house opposite the Golden Lion. Harriet's recently widowed mum, **Harriet (Oyston) Anderson** lived with them too. Edwin and Harriet had three daughters. Edwin took over the practice and house from Dr Robert Simpson, another Scottish surgeon.

As well as providing for regular private patients Edwin was appointed '*Surgeon to the Settle and Carlisle Railway*'. His district included everywhere up the line from Settle to the Ingleton Fells and Batty Green, the home of thousands of

navvies building the railway. Edwin's work was difficult and gruesome and he had minimal facilities and staff. In January 1871 Edwin and **James Hartley** had to amputate the lower leg of the unfortunate **Alfred Johnson**, a railway tunneller. There had been a fall of earth at the '*Elworth bridge cutting*' in which his foot '*was nearly torn off*. He was immediately after the

occurrence, conveyed to the Hospital, a temporary wooden erection provided by the contractor, Mr Ashwell'[1]. Alfred would have been transferred to the hospital in a horse drawn covered wagon. Let's hope they had some laudanum. Incredibly he appeared to survive!

With no sick pay and overcrowded navy huts, disease was rife. A third of all deaths in the 19th century were from disease but, up at Ribbleshead, because of the conditions, almost half the navvies died of infectious disease and another third died of non-infectious disease, such as heart disease. In 1871 an outbreak of smallpox at Batty Green caused 30 deaths. It was

thought that the smallpox was introduced by navvies travelling from other parts of the country (very likely) and so, working with **John Lister**, the clerk to Settle Union, Edwin asked the Midland Railway to contribute to the cost of a '*Smallpox and Fever Hospital*'. Edwin and John were successful — the railway contributed £100. The new 'hospital' was another temporary wooden hut which housed 10 patients a bit further away. A 'respectable married couple' were recruited to staff it and it 'operated' from June 1871. It was full within a fortnight of its opening and so Edwin

ACCIDENT.—Alfred Johnson, an excavator, employed in the construction of the new Settle and Carlisle Railway, met with an accident on the 6th inst., whilst at work in the "eleventh bridge cutting." The accident was caused by a fall of earth by which the foot of the poor fellow was nearly torn off. He was, immediately after the occurrence, conveyed to the Hospital, a temporary wooden erection, provided by Mr. Ashwell, the contractor, and Drs. Green and Hartley were sent for who found it necessary to amputate the injured limb below the knee, which was accordingly done. We understand the man is progressing favourably.



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acquired a further hospital hut and an additional male nurse funded by the Settle Union. Of the 35 cases admitted in the first month, 19 were 'cured' and discharged.

A navy, **Thomas Burton**, was killed in June 1872 at Helwith Bridge when he was '*Accidentally crushed and mortally injured between two wagons, survived 3 days.*' At the inquest the jury had to inspect his body but it was very warm weather. The report concluded, '*The body of Thomas Burton, 26 hours after death being in an advanced state of decomposition, the effluvia offensive and sickening to the jury, cannot but be detrimental to the health of the patients confined in the Hospital, and the master and matron of the establishment, and during the hot weather is likely to be a prolific source of disease in the locality; and the jury therefore urgently recommended the erection of a dead house detached from the hospital as a means of remedying the present unsatisfactory state of things.*' Following this, Edwin successfully applied for the dead house and a washhouse.

Edwin also served as medical officer for the Settle Union Workhouse in Giggleswick, another charitable contribution with little financial reward compared to his usual private patients. He was a good man with a promising future

Edwin was only 27 when he died under tragic circumstances, being dragged by his horse for nearly a mile [1]. Edwin had gone to see some haymakers at Swarthmoor, just beside Helwith Bridge quarry. He got his legs entangled in a rope attached to his horse when it suddenly started off at a full gallop down towards Knight Stainforth. He was given 'a full choral service in respect to his memory'. Even though he was only in Settle for four years before he died, perhaps the manner of his death contributed to the decision to dedicate a beautiful church window to him in Settle Church? The window has the phrase 'He went about doing good'.



SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—An accident of a serious nature happened to Mr. E. S. Green, surgeon, of this town, on Tuesday last. Mr. Green had ridden his horse to Swarthmoor, which is distant a few miles from Settle, and where he had some haymakers at work who were leading hay. The horse Mr. Green had ridden was being fastened to the hay cart, to be used as a trace-horse, when, before it got properly yoked, it suddenly started off at full gallop, Mr. Green having his legs entangled in a rope attached to the horse and was dragged along the road a considerable distance—nearly a mile—towards Little Stainforth, where, fortunately, the runaway was stopped by Mr. E. Johnson, who was coming along the road in his conveyance which he pulled across the road, and succeeded in stopping the horse. Mr. Green was found to be very much bruised and lacerated, his clothes were literally worn through with being dragged and coming in contact with the road, and the flesh was torn from him in a frightful manner. Mr. Green was able to be removed to his residence the same evening, and medical aid was promptly in attendance. At the time of writing (Thursday) we understand Mr. Green to be in a very critical state.

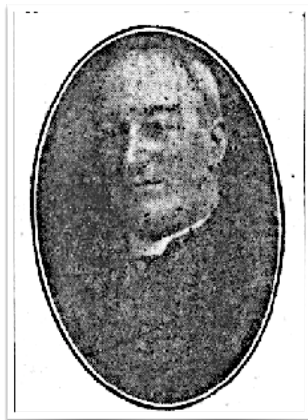
Widow Harriet, her mum and their daughters moved to Portsmouth. When they died the bodies of Harriet and her mum were brought back to Settle for burial. Harriet's mum died, aged 92, making her one of the oldest people buried in the graveyard.

In loving Remembrance of Edwin Septimus Green, surgeon, born at Houghton-le-spring, Co Durham, Nov 13, 1843, died at Settle Aug 3 1871. Also of Harriet his wife who died June 22nd 1899, and of Harriet Anderson, her mother who died March 22, 1904, age 92, D2



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Unsurprisingly, Edwin and Harriet's three daughters married wealthy professionals. In 1896 daughter **Emily Anderson Green** married **Reverend Thomas Beedham Charlesworth**, a son of a Settle solicitor. Thomas took the Holy Orders after an education in Sedbergh and Cambridge and served in London, Long Eaton in Nottinghamshire, and Wirksworth in Derbyshire. Thomas Charlesworth died suddenly aged 51 and had a glowing obituary in the paper describing him as *'an example of the very best type of English clergyman. Into his upright, sincere and courteous nature entered not an atom of pettiness'* [2]. Thomas and Emily had a son and two daughters. After



WORTH.
Mr. Charlesworth will be very deeply regretted and missed the most so by those who know him best. He may be described as an example of the very best type of English clergyman, and perhaps it may be said of north countryman. Into his upright, sincere, and courteous nature entered not an atom of pettiness. He was ever kindly and willing to help, any assistance given by him having been always thoroughly done. He was an excellent musician, and was devoted to outdoor life, deriving considerable enjoyment alike from shooting, fishing, and gardening. When the first shock of Wirksworth's loss has passed there will arise a poignant realisation of the great gap which remains; to-day everyone is stunned by the heavy blow which has fallen.

John's. After the war, he spent some time in the East, and then entered Cambridge to pursue his scientific studies, taking as his special work anthropology, for which he had a particular bent and special knowledge, so much so that in a comparatively short time he was given a Research Scholarship which in the early part of 1930 took him to Tanganyika, in East Africa. Unfortunately he contracted the dread disease known as blackwater fever, and it was on his way home, before reaching Genoa, that he passed away and was buried at sea.

Thomas died Emily lived with daughter **Mary Charlesworth** who had married a motor mechanic, **Robert Gillies Michell**, and lived in Dorset. Daughter **Ruth Charlesworth** married **Douglas Edwin Elford**, an Army Major. Son **John Needham Charlesworth** had a good life ahead of him after a Research Scholarship in anthropology from Cambridge University. Tragically, he contracted blackwater fever in Tanganyika which is now part of Tanzania, East Africa. He died on the ship home and was buried at sea [3]. Emily was buried with the Charlesworths, *Old grave E12/13*.

In Loving Memory of Thomas Beedham Charlesworth, priest vicar and rural dean of Wirksworth Derbyshire who entered into the fuller life June 9th 1917 in his 52nd year. "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God R I P" And of his wife Emily Anderson Charlesworth died 26th April 1948, aged 77. May light perpetual shine upon them. And of the only son John Beedham Charlesworth Died at sea March 11th 1932, aged 34 RIP. With loving kindness have I drawn thee



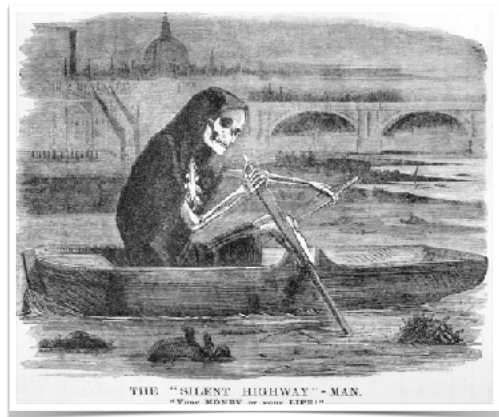
Edwin and Harriet's daughter **Mabel Conyers Anderson** married **Frederick William Dobson McGachen**, an interesting chap from Selby. He was 15 years older than Mabel. He qualified as a doctor in Cambridge and London in 1880 but then joined the police force in Melbourne, Australia. He returned to England to marry Mabel in 1895 on the Isle of Wight and worked as a *'Doctor of Medicine'* in London until his death in 1911, aged 54. He left Mabel a substantial estate and she lived with her daughters in Bedfordshire until her death in 1952, aged 80!

Edwin and Harriet's daughter Julia Loetitia Anderson married an outstanding civil engineer, **Kenneth Phipson Hawksley** [ph1] also on the Isle of Wight. Kenneth followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps earning an



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excellent reputation as a specialist in water supply and management. With so much disease spread through dirty water, lack of hygiene and contamination, improvements to water systems was life changing, despite arguments that it was too costly. Cartoons read, *'The Silent Highway Man — Your Money or Your Life!'* [ph3]. Today's proposals to improve ventilation systems in buildings to reduce transmission of Covid face similar opposition. Kenneth's grandfather was the chief consultant during the building of Fewston Reservoir and many others. Kenneth regularly gave advice to Parliamentary committees on matters related to water usage. During the War he acted as Consulting Engineer for water supply to the Ministry of Munitions so that explosives could be safely manufactured.



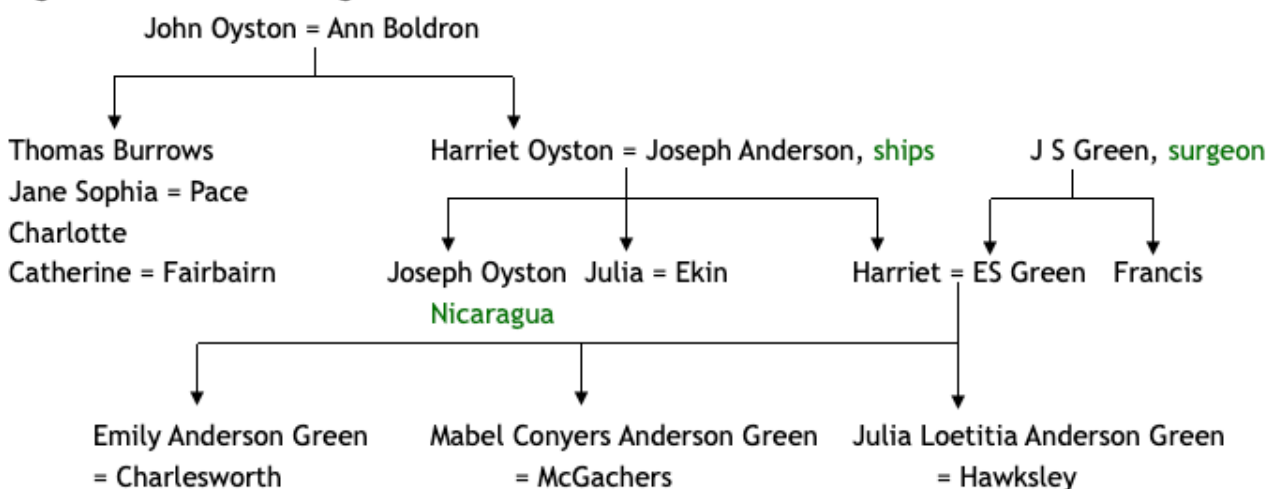
Kenneth and Julia had five children. As well as a residence in Bayswater in London they also owned the stunning 13th century Thorpe Hall, Barnard Castle with 85 acres of land [ph2] and Julia stayed there after Kenneth died in 1924, aged 54. When Julia died in 1948, aged 75 the property fell into disrepair — *'an absolute wreck'*. Fortunately it was restored and in 2018 was on the market for a staggering £6 million. Wow!

It transpired that this residence was not just the product of a successful career. The 1857 trade directory lists 'private residents' **Mrs Harriet Anderson** and **Thomas Burrows Oyston** living at Thorpe Hall. This was Edwin's mother, Harriet (Oyston) Anderson and her

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.
Anderson Mrs. Harriet, Thorpe hall
Brown Mrs. Ann, Thorpe hall
Glyn Rev. Charles Thomas, Rectory
Oyston Thomas Borrows, esq. Thorpe hall

brother Thomas. The Oyston family came from Durham where they had many links to the shipping industry, several of Harriet's nine siblings being or marrying ship brokers. This was a lucrative profession, negotiating deals between ship buyers and sellers of vessels and between shipowners

Oyston and Green Family Tree



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and charterers, for a slice of commission of course. The Oystons made a fortune at home and abroad and died as millionaires.

Harriet's father, **John Oyston**, had a London based career, probably related to shipping, but retired to run the *Golden Lion Inn and Post House* in South Shields, the town's premier coaching inn. This is where ship auctions took place, such as that of the *Norfolk* in 1825 [4]. The *Norfolk* had already brought 500 loads of timber from America. John will have earned his slice from these auctions as well.

At the house of Mr. JOHN OYSTON, GOLDEN LION INN, King-street, South Shields, On THURSDAY, the 24th Instant, at Five, (Unless previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which notice will be given); ALL that good and well known E. 1. British-built Ship, called the NORFOLK, of the burthen of 335 45.94ths tons, register admeasurement, now lying off the lower part of Cookson's Quay, South Shields; will carry 26 keels of coals, and two keels of glass, at a moderate draught of water, and has brought upwards of 500 loads of timber from America. This vessel has had great repairs in her hull (£1168 having been expended thereon, in Straker and Barras's Dock, in the year 1823); is a remarkably good second class vessel, fit to take on board and convey dry and stowage cargoes to and from any port; sails fast, and is well found in stores.

Harriet married **Joseph Anderson** who was also a master mariner and a ship keeper/broker. Several of Harriet's siblings ended their days in Scarborough and were buried in the delightful Dean Road and Manor Road cemetery. Harriet's sisters **Jane Sophia (Oyston) Pace** and spinster **Charlotte Oyston** were probably buried together in a spectacular tomb. Part of the inscription is lost but it also remembers their nephew Joseph Oyston Anderson, Joseph and Harriet's son who was probably involved in the shipping business when he died in Nicaragua [ph4].

. . . . Also of **Joseph Oyston Anderson, nephew of the above who died of fever at Nicaragua, April 4th 1868, aged 27. He is not dead but sleepeth**



They were joined in the graveyard by Harriet's sister **Catherine Boldron Oyston** who married **William Harrison Fairbairn**, another ship's broker [ph4]. Most of Harriet's siblings remained childless and so her descendants were often beneficiaries.



In loving memory of William Harrison Fairbairn of Cloughton Hall, died Jan 9th 1880 aged 73. Also of Catherine Boldron Fairbairn, wife of the above, born Jan 15th 1810, died May 18th 1903.

Harriet and Joseph Anderson's other daughter, **Julia Anderson** married **Augustus Goodman Ekin**, a successful brewer. He was so successful that he became a JP, a director of Cambridge Waterworks Company (perhaps acquainted with the Hawksleys?), Chair of the Brewers Society and the local Conservative Club. This was a really successful family.

This was not the end of the Greens' story in Settle. After Edwin's death in August 1871, his brother, **Francis Green**, took over 'medical officer for the district of Settle, Horton in Ribblesdale and Ingleton Fells; also to the smallpox and fever hospital at Betty Green within

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—At the fortnightly meeting of the Guardians of this union, held in the Board-room, on Tuesday last, Mr. Francis Green, in succession to his brother, the late Mr. E. S. Green, was appointed medical officer for the district of Settle, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, and Ingleton Fells; also to the small-pox and fever hospital at Betty Green within the above union.

the above union' having worked in Durham for several years [1]. Francis was involved in the New Year Treat of 1872, distributing 'a bountiful supply of oranges and figs to the inmates and distributing the presents provided by the ladies of the neighbourhood, including Miss Bolland. In

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previous years Edwin and Harriet had provided 'a handsome and well furnished Christmas Tree' and so, in his memory 'it was determined not to have a Christmas Tree on the present occasion.' [1] Is that what Edwin would have wanted?

memory of Mr. E. Green, the former surgeon of the Workhouse, who along with Mrs. Green and others exerted themselves no little in providing a handsome and well furnished Christmas Tree, and otherwise took such a prominent part in the proceedings last year, it was determined not to have a Christmas Tree on the present occasion. The large dining-room was taste-

NEW YEAR'S TREAT AT THE WORKHOUSE.—On Monday last the whole of the inmates of this establishment were provided, through the liberality of Miss Bolland, with a substantial dinner of roast beef, &c. They afterwards sat down to an excellent tea, the gift of Mrs. Perfect; after which the children gave several recitations. Songs, glees, &c., were given by Messrs. E. Handby, Newby, and Newhouse, which added much to the enjoyment of the evening. The ladies of the neighbourhood had also provided each of the inmates with a suitable present, which were distributed by Dr. Green, assisted by some of the kind donors and their friends, who, notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, were in attendance, and throughout the evening took an active part in the proceedings. A bountiful supply of oranges, figs and nuts were supplied to the inmates by Dr. Green, much to the their enjoyment, especially the younger children. Mrs. George

Francis soon established himself in Settle Cricket Club working alongside the secretary **George Marshall Robinson.** [1]

SETTLE.
CRICKET CLUB.—A general meeting of the members of this club was held at the Ashfield Hotel on Tuesday evening last, Dr. Green presiding. A long report by

Amongst many others Francis certified the deaths of Settle navy **James Harry Smith** who died of tuberculosis and pneumonia in March 1874, aged 40 and **Robert Ralph** who died of tuberculosis in May 1874, aged 40. Up at Ribbleshead, Francis certified the deaths at least two navvies who both died in January 1875. **James Northey** died of tuberculosis, aged 48 and **Joseph Wrench** who died on bronchitis, aged 59.

OBITUARY.
We have to announce the death of Mr. Francis Green, M.D., L.R.C.P., which occurred on Monday, at the White Horse Hotel, Settle. After acquiring considerable experience as a practitioner at Newcastle, Dr. Green went to Settle about 20 years ago, and his reputation and skill speedily brought him a large and lucrative practice. His health had been failing for the last two or three years.

As was the norm for professional bachelors, Francis resided at the inns. At the time of the 1881 census he was at the Commercial Hotel and died in August 1890 at the White Horse Hotel. He is buried in grave *Old B13*. His obituary describes 'His reputation and skill speedily brought him a large and lucrative practice' [1].



In loving memory of Francis Green, Surgeon of Settle who died Aug 25 1890 aged 53. Jesu. Mercy, OLD B13



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'.

Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

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