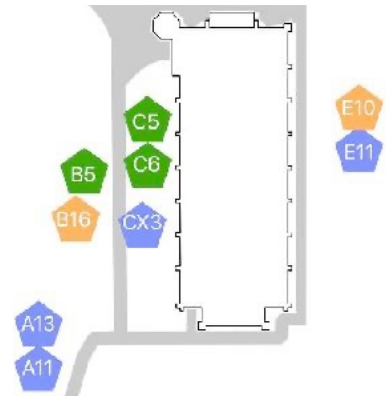


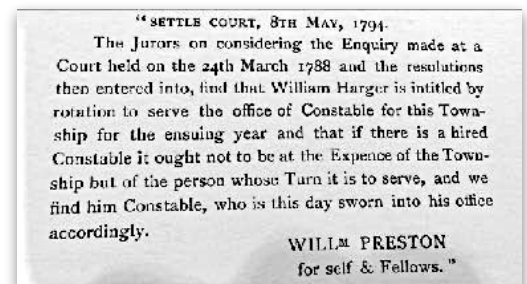
The Harger family, incredibly successful traders

Joseph Harger and Agnes Peel had six sons and two daughters and five of the sons were particularly successful in thriving Settle of the 18th and early 19th centuries: **William, Robert, Joseph, Eli and Richard Harger**. It could be argued that the brothers and their descendants were the backbone of Settle life for decades. The Hargers account for at least eight of the graves in the Ancient graveyard, numerous others in the Old and New graveyards with more in Giggleswick graveyard. They are so interesting that several descendants have their own life stories provided separately and so this is an overview.



1. William Harger, a farmer

William Harger, born in 1771, was a successful farmer who married **Mary Holden**, 15 years his junior. They lived at the southern edge of Settle on Duke Street just up from the old Post Office, around the site of Ellis' garage today. In 1794, William was elected to serve as 'Constable for the Town' in the days well before Police Forces were even thought of [ph1]. Town constables were selected from physically fit, often tall and well respected men who were wealthy enough to be rate payers. Those eligible were obliged to take the role in rotation to oversee matters of crime, at their own expense! After William died in 1854, aged 82, Mary lived with youngest daughter **Agnes Jane Harger** until she died in 1878, aged a remarkable 91!

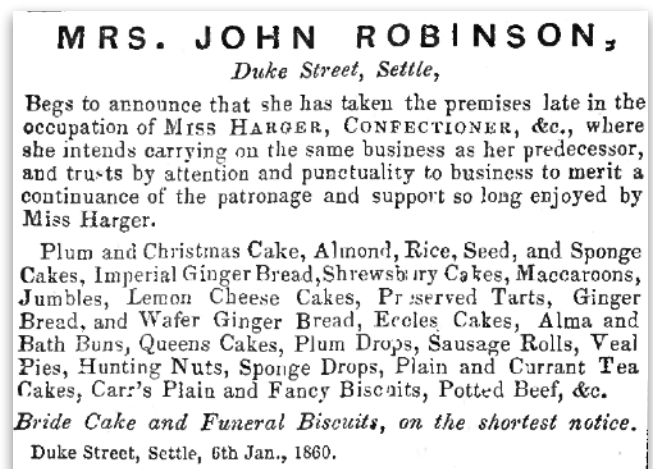


William and Mary had seven daughters and no sons. Eldest daughter **Agnes Harger** died in 1829, aged 19 and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard as Settle graveyard didn't exist at that point. However, she was remembered on her parents' memorial stone which is of excellent quality and has been well preserved.



In memory of William Harger who departed this life Jan'y 27th 1854 aged 82 years. Also of Agnes his daughter who died April 2nd 1829 aged 19 and who was interred at Giggleswick. Also of Mary widow of the above who died July 19th 1878 aged 91 years, Anc B16.

William and Mary's second daughter **Elizabeth Harger** ran a confectionery business in Duke Street, just down the road from her parents, selling some delicious sounding goods! [SC] Obviously this came to an abrupt end when, aged 46, she married a farmer and landowner **Thomas Wetherall**. They lived at Hurries Farm near Otterburn. They didn't have children but had several servants. They were buried in unmarked graves in Long Preston graveyard. William and Mary's third daughter **Ellen Harger** and fifth daughter **Maria Harger** married brothers **John** and **William Armistead** who have their own life story provided separately. John is buried in grave **AncE10** with a memorial stone that remembers his wife Ellen and daughter Annie.



William and Mary's fourth daughter **Mary Harger** became the second wife of **Thomas Nellist** who was the bookkeeper at Kirkstall Steam Corn Mills. There had been numerous water mills in the Kirkstall valley, but this was one of the early steam powered ones, and is now the site of a (rather good) leisure centre. Eight years after the marriage, Thomas went missing while he was meant to be taking a train from Kirkstall to Settle. [1]. This was soon after the birth of a son, **William Harger Nellist**, which may have been a factor in his 'great mental depression'. Thomas must have turned up again as he was still working in the corn mill in the next census.

LEEDS, SATURDAY, SEPT. 6TH, 1862.
MAN MISSING.—On Friday morning last Mr. Thomas Nellist, of Kirkstall, left his home, taking a ticket at Kirkstall station for Settle, and has not since been heard of. He was at the time labouring under great mental depression. Any information respecting him will be received with gratitude by his friends. —Kirkstall, Sep. 5th, 1862.

William and Mary's sixth daughter **Isabella Harger** married **Robert Slinger**, a farmer. They are buried in the plot **OldE64**. Their daughter **Eleanor (Slinger) Smith** is buried with them – she died, aged 50, a year after becoming the second wife of **Tom Smith** who was a chauffeur in Stainforth. Robert and Isabella's son **William Slinger**, an extraordinary mechanic and entrepreneur, married **Jessie Ellis**, the daughter of bank manager **Francis Ellis**. William was buried with Isabella and Robert and they also have a fascinating life story, provided separately.

William and Mary's seventh daughter **Agnes Jane Harger** was born two years after her elder sister Agnes had died and so was named after her. After looking after her widowed mother Agnes Jane remained a spinster, living in the same house, with a servant, until she died in 1895, aged 63 leaving a very generous estate to her brother-in-law Robert Slinger. She is buried in the Old graveyard **D75**.



In Memory of Agnes Jane Harger of Settle who died July 10th 1895 aged 63 years

2. Robert Harger, a joiner

Robert Harger, born in 1775, married **Agnes Hallpike** [ph3] in 1801. A beautiful family sampler shows they had at least ten children [ph2] with just two sons, one of whom died in infancy. Robert was the instigator of the '**Harger Brothers North Craven Saw Mill and Furnishers**' on Station Road – the business allegedly started 'at the time of the **Battle of Trafalgar**' in 1805 [LSA]. Considering this advert was placed over 100 years later it shows how values have society's values have changed – can you imagine a business these days saying 'established at the time of the Falklands War', for



ESTABLISHED AT THE TIME OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

STATION RD.,
 SETTLE
 Phone: 2533

Harger Bros.
 FURNISHERS

Children born to Robert and Agnes Harger

Nancy Harger	Born	April 12 1802
Elizabeth Harger	Born	February 7 1804
Mary Harger	Born	August 24 1806
Agnes Harger	Born	February 17 1807
Ann Harger	Born	January 15 1809
Joseph Harger	Born	December 19 1809
E. H.	Born	April 2 1811
E. H.	Born	April 28 1811
E. H.	Born	November 28 1812
M. H.	Born	May 10 1815
W. H.	Born	May 18 1819
	Born	April 18 1819

1833
 477 No. Birkbeck.
 To Robt Harger, at S D
 Work done at Towns Hall
 Aug 27th 45 d. of tin lid for Biltons Shop Shutters - 9 4 3
 Nails & Making, fitting - 4 3
 2 Bolts for do - 1 0
 4 Shutters as above for Browns Shop - 15 3 7
 29 Settled (Robert Harger) £ 1 10 7

example? Agnes' dad, **Vincent Hallpike**, ran a successful furniture business in Settle Market Place, next to the White Horse Hotel and Robert had been apprenticed to him in 1792, in good time to set up his own business in 1805.

In 1833 Robert provided materials and fitted shutters for **Mr Bilton** and **Mr Brown** at the newly built Town Hall. Robert charged Thomas Birkbeck £1 10s 7d for the work [ph2].

Robert and Agnes are buried in Giggleswick graveyard, and their stone commemorates the death of several of their ten children, two of whom died in infancy, and some grandchildren.

In memory of Robert Harger of Settle who died Sep'r 15th 1848 aged 72 years. Also of Agnes his wife who died June 25th 1855 aged 81 years.

Also children of the above, viz. Ellen who died Augst 28th 1811 aged 4 months, Vincent who died April 18th 1819 aged 1 month, Mary who died June 15th 1840 aged 34 years, Ellen who died July 24th 1844 aged 31 years.

On the reverse: Nancy daughter of the above died Sep. 24th 1849 aged 47 years.

Maria April 25th 1867 aged 51 years. Cathrine May 9th 1867 aged 63 years. Ann July

7th 1869 aged 60 years. Children of Margaret & Joseph Harger died: Margaret Agnes Feb. 11th 1846 aged 4 years, Ann Agnes Oct. 11th 1858 5 years, Joseph William April 4th 1870 20 years.



Robert and Agnes' children? Their first daughter **Nancy** married the stonemason **Thomas Bateson** from Thornton in Lonsdale and had ten children. Thomas was the stonemason employed to build Holy Ascension Church in Settle during the late 1830s and Robert Harger was appointed to obtain timber and do the carpentry with sureties from his brother William Harger. Tragically, both Nancy and Thomas Bateson died of typhoid in 1849 and their youngest son **Joseph Harger Bateson** died with them. They are buried in unmarked grave Anc CX3. The other nine children all survived, miraculously, looked after by a variety of relatives. The bad luck of Thomas and Nancy was completely overturned by the success of their children. Robert and Agnes' second daughter, **Catherine Harger** was the first wife of another stonemason, **Lawrence Hodgson** who built the Settle savings bank. Youngest daughter **Maria Harger** married the talented plumber, gas works manager and cave explorer **Joseph Jackson**. Robert and Agnes' son **Joseph Harger**, born in 1809, continued the family business. All four of these children have stories provided separately.

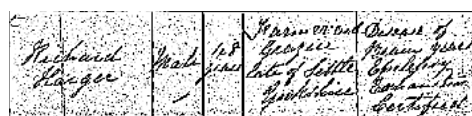
3. Joseph Harger, the innkeeper of the Royal Oak

Joseph Harger, baptised in 1780, married **Ellen Holden**, the sister of **Mary Holden** who married Joseph's brother, farmer **William Harger** (above). Joseph and Ellen had at least nine children, four of whom are mentioned on their memorial stone. Little Eli died before the Settle graveyard opened and so was buried in Giggleswick. Joseph was the innkeeper of the **Royal Oak**, renting from **George Dudgeon Hartley** who lived at 'Whitefriars' next door. Four of their unmarried children, **Joseph**, a Cheshire wine merchant, **John**, a farmer, **Nancy** and **Sarah** are buried next to them, with the stone now doing battle with a tree.

In memory of Joseph Harger of Settle, who died 10th June 1848 aged 68 and of Ellen his wife who died 23 Jany 1863 aged 78 years. Also their children viz, Eli who died 26th May 1834 aged 5 years. William who died 4th Octr 1851 aged 40 years. Mary who died 24th Octr 1864 aged 50 years, Richard who died 19 Decr 1866 aged 48 years, C6.



Poor Richard started life as a farmer in Settle but spent his last 18 years in Fairford asylum, a private institution in Gloucestershire. The asylum had been founded in 1822 and a report of 1850 found it was an 'admirably conducted establishment for the reception and cure of persons affected with nervous or mental diseases; and the management of the cases of this



description is conducted with the first rate skills, and upon the most approved systems applicable to the respective patients'. This may explain why Richard was sent so far away for his care. Richard's death certificate explains he was suffering from a disease of the brain, emphysema, epilepsy and exhaustion which sounds awful.

In memory of Joseph Harger of Oxton, Cheshire, eldest son of Joseph and Ellen Harger of Settle, who died 30 Nov 1869 aged 61 years. Also John who died 5th Dec 1872 aged 48 years. Nancy their daughter who died 19th May 1883 aged 67 years. Sarah who died 29th Feb 1896 aged 74 years, C5.



Joseph and Ellen's daughter **Mary Harger** married entrepreneur **John Johnson Hartley** in 1839. They are buried in grave *AncB5* but Mary was also remembered on her parents' stone. Their account is provided separately. Joseph and Ellen's son **Robert Harger** and his wife **Mary Ann Preston** lived in the Wirral. Their daughter **Sarah Ellen Rosa Harger** married **John Ellis**, the brother of **Jessie Ellis** who we have already met. She was the daughter-in-law of **Isabella Harger**, one of **William Harger's** daughters. **John Ellis** was a solicitor and a pioneer of the use of Esperanto language in Britain.

4. Eli Harger, the innkeeper of the Naked Man

Eli was the innkeeper at the Old Naked Man next door to brother Joseph at the Royal Oak. He married **Mary Johnson** of Giggleswick in 1808 but they were predeceased by all of their five children. Deaf and dumb daughter **Agnes Harger** died in May 1822 [WLP]. The last of Eli's children to die was **Elizabeth Harger**, aged 32, after a series of strokes, on October 4th 1844 [WLP]. On the same day the unfortunate **Edward Thomas Foster**, a tea dealer who lived on Constitution Hill broke his thigh and some ribs. **William Lodge Paley's** diaries describe that Eli was 'addicted to liquor' and perhaps he had more reason than most. Eli is buried at Giggleswick his poor widow **Mary**, who died in 1869 in Pateley Bridge, aged 84. Their memorial stone tells the sad story of their children and remembers Eli's poor widow, **Mary**, who died at Pateley Bridge in 1869, aged 84.

May 21.—Eli Hargers buried eldest girl Agnes, who was deaf and dumb.

Oct. 4.—Eli Harger's daughter died of a series of strokes and E. T. Foster broke his thigh and some ribs, falling out of hayloft.

Sacred to the memory of Joseph son of Eli and Mary Harger at Settle who died Jan'y 15th 1809 aged 29 weeks. Also Agnes their daughter who died May 18th 1822 in her 13th year. Also Ann their daughter who died April 24th 1830 in her 20th year. Also Mary their daughter who died Dec'r 29th 1834 in her 14th year.

Reverse:

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth daughter of Eli and Mary Harger of Settle who died Oct'r 4th 1844 in her 32nd year. Also of Eli Harger father of the above mentioned children, who died July 12th 1845 aged 68 years, and Mary his wife who died at Pateley Bridge March 6th 1869 aged 84 years.



5. Richard Harger, plumber and property owner

Brother **Richard Harger** was a successful plumber and glazier who ran his business on Castle Hill in Settle. In 1806 he married **Isabella Lister** of Horton-in-Ribblesdale whose father, **William Lister**, ran **Gearstones Inn** up at Ribbleshead, well before the Settle to Carlisle Railway was even dreamt of [2]. Richard and **Isabella** didn't have children. It seems that, like his nephew, **Richard** spent time in an asylum in 1821, not for the first time, and was still 'rather flighty' and 'very fat' in 1822 [WLP].

TO BE LET, BY TICKET,
FOR A TERM OF YEARS,
At the house of Mr. WILLIAM LISTER, at Gearstones, on TUESDAY the 15th day of August, 1815 (subject to such conditions as will be there produced)

Feb. 8.—Called on Mrs. R. Harger whose husband is in the Asylum at York again. Mr. Clapham informed me that

March 28.—Smoked a pipe with Richd. Harger at night. He talked very rationally some time, but thought him rather flighty e'er I came away. He's very fat. Scott was quite my h'ndle

Settle Graveyard Project

Richard gave an apprenticeship to the equally successful **Joseph Jackson**, who later married Richard's niece, **Maria Harger**. Richard died in 1833, aged 51, before Joseph's apprenticeship was complete. Fortunately Joseph's mother was able to buy out the business and Joseph seemed to manage very well! Richard's widow Isabella ran his numerous properties and businesses until she died in 1843. Richard and Isabella are buried in Giggleswick graveyard in plots close to the other Harger graves, in prime position in front of the church. Their Castle Hill properties stayed in the family, owned by **Hugh Armistead** from 1912-1921, a descendant of William Armistead and Maria Harger, another of Richard's nieces.



Sacred to the memory of Richard Harger of Settle who died Dec'r 4th 1833 aged 51 years. Also of Isabella wife of the above named Richard Harger who died Feb'y 22nd 1843 aged 68 years.



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'.

With thanks to Allan Gould, a Harger descendant for his help with the compilation of this account.

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

ph1 – credited to The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick - Brayshaw and Robinson, ph2 – thanks to Ben McKenzie, posted on the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph3 – with thanks to descendant Allan Gould

Giggleswick memorial stone inscriptions credited to Nigel Mussett's 'An Illustrated Directory of Memorials and Inscriptions'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Leeds Times, 2 – Lancaster Gazette