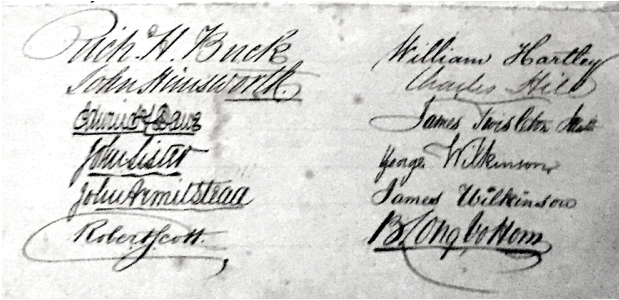


John Himsworth, solicitor's clerk

Alice Bowskill, born in 1817, was the youngest of eight children and the sister of William Bowskill, the blacksmith who built Bowskill's Yard on Castle Hill. In 1840, Alice married John Himsworth, a solicitor's clerk and the son of a Wakefield farmer who had come to Settle to work for the Hartley firm of solicitors. Alice promptly set about a production line of nine children, one every two years while they lived on Belle Hill in Giggleswick. In the early 1850s, John was one of several solicitor's clerks appealing to their employers to be given time off on a Saturday [ph1]. Other clerks included with James Twisleton, John Armitstead, John Lister and Richard Hardacre Buck. John's is the second signature on the left hand side.



Perhaps things were not going so well for John. In 1858, John moved from Belle Hill to a much smaller residence 'behind the Shambles' [SC].

Then, in 1860 John drowned in a moment of 'temporary insanity' which is the usual verdict for a suspected suicide. This left poor Alice with the nine children. The youngest, William was just two [SC]. Imagine that.

John left Alice £200, not a bad sum. Saving money, Alice moved to Howson's Yard behind the church side of the Settle Market Place and then Victoria Road in Upper Settle which was probably even cheaper. Little William died aged four. Daughter Eliza was described as an 'imbecile' – a term which described many mental health and learning difficulties at that time. Eliza spent her last 20 years in Giggleswick workhouse which was the only medical provision available, especially for the poor. She died aged 50. William and Eliza are buried in unmarked graves in the Ancient graveyard. The other children had successful lives, several moving to the south coast of Cumbria to work in the new iron industry. Well done Alice. Their daughter Alice married William Thistlethwaite from Austwick and they also moved to the south coast of Cumbria. The *Thistlethwaites* tell an incredible story (in the Old Graveyard)

And what about poor Alice? Mental health issues may have featured in both sides of this family as Alice died in an asylum in York in 1879, having been a widow for nearly 30 years.

Walter Himsworth, from the same town as John Himsworth, and possibly related, later married Grace Buck, niece to *Anthony Buck* in the Old graveyard

MAY DAY.—The changes of residence have been rather numerous this year. The following are some of the principal: Mr. Sanderson has entered upon the Naked Man, Inn; Mr. John King having gone to the house of the late Matthias Wildman; Mr. Oving, Tailor, has gone to Mr. Whitam's house, in Duke Street; Mr. Procter and Sisters have left the town and gone back to Close House, and Mrs. Parker has gone to theirs; Mr. John Hardacre has left Chapel Hill, and come down to the late Guardians' Room and premises thereto attached; Mr. Himsworth has come to the house formerly occupied by Mr. Tennant, behind the Shambles; and Mrs. Stackhouse, relict of the late Wm. Stackhouse, Esq., of the Grammar School, returns to her former residence in Belle Hill, Giggleswick, besides several other minor changes.

SUICIDE.—Mr. John Himsworth, who for a period of 24 years has creditably held an important situation as clerk in the office of Messrs G. and W. Hartley of this town, solicitors, was found drowned in the river Ribble on Saturday morning, April 21st. The deceased had left his home as it was thought to take a walk on the preceding afternoon. For a few days before the deceased appeared to be in a rather low state of mind. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity." Deceased, who was 43 years of age, and from his position was well known and respected, has left a widow and nine children.



Settle Graveyard Project

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.co.uk includes all the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing, and always welcomes queries, information and family knowledge on settleresearch@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 project.

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of Pamela Jordan

SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust