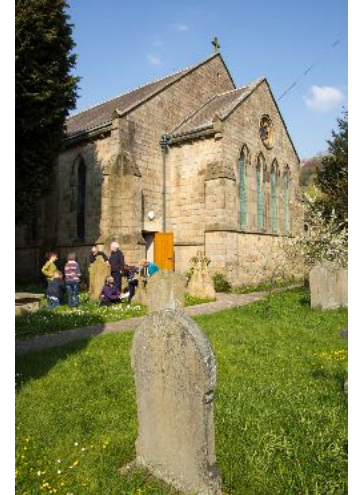


SETTLE GRAVEYARD PROJECT

Celebrating the lives of Settle's ancestors

Every gravestone rests upon a life story waiting to be told. So every grave provides a little slice of history. What better way to discover Settle's heritage than to check out the folks buried in the graveyard? That's what this project is about.

Settle is a quiet, unspoilt market town in North Yorkshire. If its nineteenth century residents came back today, they would still recognise much of the town. Settle was (and still is) a real community, but in those days many more families were related through marriage. The graveyard gives us a colourful mix of Settle's aristocracy, professionals, tradesmen, innkeepers, farmers, the working classes and some incredible women. These people tell us how the mills and railways changed Settle and how some clever folk made a real difference - not just to Settle but to the country too. We also discover how a twist of fate can change lives, for better or for worse, and how some resilient and inspirational folk thrived against the odds, despite the incredible events that life threw at them.



IT ALL STARTED A LONG TIME AGO

Settle's Holy Ascension was the first of several local churches built as part of the Parish of Giggleswick to provide for the expected increase in population, which didn't really happen and for predicted shortages in graveyard space, which did. Holy Ascension was consecrated in 1838, Stainforth in 1842, then Rathmell in 1843 and Langcliffe in 1851. The vicar of Giggleswick raised subscriptions and had Holy Ascension Church built on part of William Bolland's Townhead estate. It was optimistically designed to seat 600, with another 200 in the gallery. Since then, numerous baptisms, marriages and burials have marked the passage of time.

180 years later in June 2018, as part of the church's anniversary celebrations, the Settle District U3A Family History Group decided to record the inscriptions on the gravestones in the churchyard, to preserve them for future generations. Unfortunately several gravestones were already showing signs of lamination and erosion. The St Mary's Embsay Churchyard survey project shared their expertise on RTI imaging which helped!

But as we were recording inscriptions, we couldn't help but wonder who were these people? What did they do? How did they make Settle the town it is today? This was an irresistible challenge for me. I began to research the burials and from this new chapters of Settle's history began to emerge. It has been a full time occupation ever since.



This project is a celebration of the lives of Settle's ancestors, warts and all. So if you are sitting comfortably, let us begin.

Spare a thought for Luke Ralph, a blacksmith who died in 1849 aged 49, buried in plot C9 with his wives **Agnes Harrison**, aged 29, and **Elizabeth Capstick**, aged 74, sons James, aged 5, and William, aged 10, and a grandson William Ralph Briscoe, aged 6.

*My sledge and hammer both declined,
My bellows they have lost the wind,
My fire extinct, my forge decayed,
and in the dust my vice is laid.
My coals have spent, My iron gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done.*



THE ANCIENT, OLD AND NEW GRAVEYARDS

Transcriptions and research are progressing through the more recent sections of the graveyard and the website will be updated with information as it becomes available. The project always welcomes queries, information, corrections and family knowledge on settleresearch@gmail.com. Details of the latest exhibitions, talks and graveyard tours are on the Settle Graveyard Project Facebook Page.



AUTHOR'S NOTE:

I am not a historian, nor an academic, but I do have a passionate interest in local and family history. I have had the pleasure of researching Settle's ancestors for many years and they have never ceased to amaze and inspire me. I hope this collection of real life stories helps you, the reader, appreciate the wonder and importance of these people and that it will be an inspiration to others to research their local ancestors.

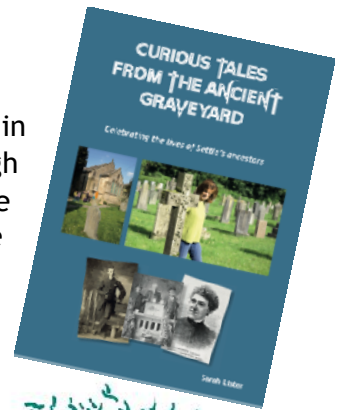
The accounts have been written using historical fact from publicly available documentation and resources. They are written in good faith, with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrected and additional information.

Sarah Lister



Celebrating the lives of Settle's Ancestors

This book accompanying this project was generously funded by Stories in Stone, a scheme of conservation and community projects in the Ingleborough area. The scheme was developed by the Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership led by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Contact www.storiesinstone.org.uk.



The project is extremely grateful for the friendship and generous support from Stories in Stone and numerous other community groups including Settle District U3A, the North Craven Building Preservation Trust at the Folly, and of course Holy Ascension Church.

Holy Ascension Church currently has a rolling display of the latest research. The church also hosts summer Graveyard Tours on a variety of themes. There have been numerous tailored talks for community groups, including Heritage and Archaeology groups, Women's Institutes and other social groups. Eventually, we hope all the findings will be available at the church as well as online. Inscriptions and stories are also being uploaded to the 'Old Settle' family tree in ancestry.co.uk.

