

The Giffords, a family of butchers

Around 40% of the gravestones in the Ancient graveyard were for families who had been in Settle all their lives. Some, such as the Giffords, occupy numerous burial plots, and the wealthiest could afford gravestones.

William Gifford, born in 1770, came to Settle from Bowland and married **Ellen Coates** born in 1776. They were the parents of generations of butchers and other tradesmen in Settle's Market Place throughout the Victorian Era. After William died in 1832, Ellen kept the butchery business alive in their shop opposite the back of the Shambles, with the help of her sons and son-in-laws. Ellen, who lived to the age of 83, and William are buried in Giggleswick graveyard.

William and Ellen's eldest child **Agnes (Gifford) Wilman**

Agnes, born in 1798, married **William Wilman**, the son of another William Wilman who had been the innkeeper at the Joiner's Arms. William (jnr) worked as a butcher [1] in the Market Place with Ellen and her sons behind the Shambles. Their son John continued the family business. Agnes and William are buried at Giggleswick with the Wilman family. Son John, his wife Elizabeth (Cornthwaite) and two of their infant children, Ellen and Jane are buried in unmarked graves somewhere in the Ancient Graveyard.

PRIME GRASS MUTTON.—Mr William Wilman, butcher, of Settle, killed a half-bred ewe, which was fed by Mr Cuthbert Parker, of Giggleswick, that weighed 17 lb. per quarter. She has fed a lamb which was sold off her on the 12th of March last, for £1 12s. The price of the ewe is £1 10s., which makes, in all, £3 8s. Wonderful, so early in the year!

William and Ellen's 2nd child **Catherine (Gifford) Gill**

In affectionate remembrance of Joseph Gill of Settle who died Sept 14th 1874, aged 67 years. Also of Thomas, son of the above who died Mar 7th 1845. Also Catherine Gill wife of the above who died Nov 26 1885 aged 84 years. Thy will be done. Also Sarah their daughter who died July 11th 1880 aged 37 years, B5



At the age of 30, daughter Catherine, born in 1802, gave birth to a son William before marrying **Joseph Gill**, a stonemason, from Pateley Bridge two years later. They lived in one of the eight houses in Chapel Square. Joseph and Catherine had a further five children although daughter Ellen died in infancy and Thomas died aged 7. Ellen is buried in the infants section of the graveyard in the unmarked EX27.

After Joseph died in 1874, Catherine lived with her first son **William** who had become a registrar for Births, Marriages and Deaths in Long Preston. He was appointed an assistant overseer of the poor for the Settle Union, (often a related role) in 1869 [1].

William arranged for fireworks in 1874 [1]. William died aged just 50, his obituary mentioning 'his every movement tended to the benefit and advancement of his fellow townsmen'. He was also a correspondent for the Craven Herald newspaper and worked for the Mechanics' Institute. Good man. William was buried with his wife and niece in

SETTLE.
APPOINTMENT.—At the fortnightly meeting of the guardians of the union, held on Tuesday last, Mr. William Gifford, of Long Preston, was unanimously appointed to the office of assistant overseer for that district.

PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY LAST.—Before the Rev. H. J. Swale, (Chairman), C. Ingloby, T. E. Yorke, and H. Christie, Esqrs.—Fireworks Licenses.—Applications were made to sell fireworks by Mr. William Wildman, and Mr. D. Ineson at Settle, and Mr. William Gifford, Long Preston, which were granted.—Caution



Long Preston. Catherine died three years later and was brought back to Settle for burial with Joseph.

Daughter Sarah married a tailor **Thomas Fletcher** and they lived next door to Joseph and Catherine in Chapel Square with their seven children before Sarah died, aged 37. Thomas was a fertile chap, having another six children with his second wife, **Mary Knowles**. Mary was the daughter of **Esther Gifford**, Catherine Gill's youngest sister (below).

Gravestone B7, next to Joseph and Catherine's is that of **Stephen Robinson**, a carrier and his wife **Elizabeth Gill**. Elizabeth Gill came from Airtton. It's tantalisingly tempting to think that Joseph and Elizabeth Gill were siblings, but as yet, no proof is available.

William and Ellen's 3rd child **James Gifford**, butcher

James, born in 1804, followed his father into the butchery trade in the Shambles and married **Jane Thompson**. Both are buried in the Ancient graveyard, aged 66 and 62, possibly with brother John Gifford (see below). They had four children, three of whom emigrated to the States.

Son William, also a butcher was apparently an excellent sheep dresser in 1853 [2]. In 1856, he was appointed to the West Riding Police force which had only just been formed [1]. William was very tall – especially by 19th century standards, with a florid complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair. Many of the first recruits were physically strong working class men, as in those days, keeping order was a very physical job. They were attracted to the force as it paid better than average working class rates. A report [5C] said 'they were a very fine lot and we have no doubt they will make useful Policemen.' Unfortunately this wasn't the case with William - he was dismissed on 27 May 1857 for 'irregularity'. Police were expected to be a role model and on duty at all times, so, unsurprisingly, the majority of dismissals were for being drunk.

Interestingly, one of the five William Giffords of Settle of an appropriate age was found guilty of assaulting a police constable in 1855 [3].

SHEEP DRESSING EXTRAORDINARY.—During the fair at Settle last Monday, a Blackburn butcher, and Mr Wm. Gifford (son of James,) a Settle butcher, were backed against each other for a sovereign a-side to dress a sheep—the man who performed the work in the least time, and with the most credit to his profession, to be considered the winner. The Blackburn butchers were quite sanguine as to the result—their favorite being, as was asserted, unequalled in their town in that particular branch of his trade, and they freely offered to bet even 5 to 1 on him. To their astonishment, however, he met with more than his match at Settle—the task in this instance having occupied only 6 minutes and 5 seconds, whilst the Lancashire redoubtable took 8 minutes and 28 seconds for the job, and performed it in a very indifferent manner too, compared with Gifford's workmanship.

WEST RIDING POLICE.—On Saturday last, Lieutenant Colonel Cobbe, the chief constable recently appointed for the West Riding, visited Settle for the purpose of receiving and considering the various applications for appointments in the force. After an interview with the magistrates, the following persons were selected for police constables, viz: James Charnley, shoemaker, Stainforth; William Gifford, butcher, Settle; John Cockshott, labourer, Settle; Thomas Burnison, butcher, Langeliffe; Thomas English, railway labourer, Long Preston; and John Throup, gamekeeper, Long Preston.

JAS. CHARNLEY, J. THROUP, T. ENGLISH, and THOS. BURNISON. They were a very fine lot and we have no doubt they will make useful Policemen. The Colonel met the Ewecross division

REMARKS
Promoted for irregularity

William Gifford
25 1/2 yrs
6 ft 10 in
Florid
Gay
Mr. Brown
Scar on left temple

Wakefield. Mr. Thomas Booth, of Austwick, constable, charged Wm. Gifford, of Settle, with assaulting him whilst in the execution of his duty at Austwick fair. He was fined £2 and costs, or two months' imprisonment in Wakefield house of correction.

It's not clear what happened to William and Ellen's 4th child, **Jane** born in 1807.

William and Ellen's 5th child **John Gifford** - innkeeper

John, born in 1808 married **Margaret King** who was from Dent. Margaret's father had been the innkeeper at the New Inn in the 1830s before retiring to Langcliffe. In 1841 they were the innkeepers at the **Joiner's Arms** (opposite the Golden Lion) with 5 children. Margaret's father William had a codicil to his will of 1844 that John and Margaret should have the occupancy and tenancy of the Joiner's Arms until 1860 at the existing rent of £68 per year. Unfortunately, John died in 1846 aged just 38. Whilst running the inns, Margaret also produced five children.

In memory of John Gifford of Settle who departed this life on the 7th January AD 1846 aged 38 years, D18.

Widow Margaret moved to the New Inn (at the junction of Station Road and Duke Street), taking over from **Henry Ayrton** in 1848. Later, she moved to another inn in Liverpool. Margaret's sister Nancy married **William Bilton**, the saddler at the Town Hall.



John is the only named person on the gravestone - are his children in there? Unlikely! John's 3 sons moved to Liverpool with mum and then to the United States, and daughter Mary may well have joined them. However, other family members who we know are buried in the Ancient graveyard could be with him: John's brother William, and his son Harry, brother James and his wife Jane, brother Thomas and Thomas' wife Margaret and Edith Gifford, the illegitimate daughter of Thomas's daughter Ellen.

William and Ellen's 6th child **Thomas Gifford**, blacksmith

Thomas, born in 1812 became a blacksmith. He married **Margaret Brown**, who already had a son William, and they had more 4 children who all moved away. Thomas and Margaret are buried somewhere in the ancient graveyard, possibly with brother John.

William and Ellen's 7th child **William Gifford**, butcher

William, born in 1812 was another butcher in the Shambles who married **Margaret Taylor**. She already had a daughter of her own, called Jane. They went on to have five more daughters and two sons. Unfortunately both sons died; **John Gifford**, aged two, buried in BX1 and **Harry Gifford**, aged 17, who could be buried with his uncle John. All the daughters married and moved away. William is buried somewhere in the Ancient graveyard, and Margaret is buried in Fylde, her retirement home.

Margaret Taylor's illegitimate daughter **Jane Taylor**, born in 1834 has an interesting story to tell. Illegitimacy may not have been embraced by Margaret's husband William Gifford as Jane was brought up by her grandparents John and Jane Taylor, albeit next door. She caught the eye of **Henry Charles Berkley Esquire** [ph1] from London who described himself as a gentleman, inferring that he was so wealthy that he didn't need to work. However his father was a commercial traveller (salesman) so this is unlikely. He later described himself as a solicitor's clerk. Either way he had plenty of money.



When they married in 1852, Jane gave her surname as Gifford. They married on the same day as William Gifford, Jane's cousin, and the son of James Gifford [1].

Jane gave Henry seven children, the first, **Henry Charles Berkely Taylor** being born just before their wedding. After a few years in Settle, they moved to Morecambe. In 1858, Daniel Speight got himself into trouble using offensive language to Jane [1]. Daniel was the sexton of Heysham church. This incident may

Jane Greaves, Gawthwaite.
At the parish church, Giggleswick, on the 15th inst., Mr Wm. Giffard, butcher, to Miss Maria Wilson, dress-maker, both of Settle.
Same place, on the 16th inst., Henry Charles Berkley, Esq., to Miss Jane Giffard, both of Settle.

**MR. HENRY CHARLES BERKLEY,
OF MORECAMBE,**
HAVING caused proceedings to be instituted against me, in consequence of me having used offensive language to Mrs. Berkley, and having assaulted her, I beg to express regret for having used the offensive language, and having committed the assault upon her, and on my expressing my regret and paying the costs, Mr. Berkley has kindly consented to discontinue the proceedings.
I authorize Mr. Berkley to publish this statement at my expence in the Lancaster newspapers.
Dated this 3rd day of July, 1858.
DANIEL SPEIGHT,
Of Heysham.

have prompted their move to Kentish Town where they lived in a massive house on Bartholomew Road, which they called Castleberg Villa. Henry worked as an estate agent. Jane died aged 35 [1]. One of her daughters, **Annie Berkley** died as an infant and is buried with her uncle John Gifford in BX1

of Bolton-le-Moors.
London.—On the 20th instant, at Castleberg Villa, Bartholomew Road, Kentish Town, aged 36, Jane, the beloved wife of Henry Charles Berkley, Esq., formerly of Settle and Morecambe.

William and Ellen's 8th child **Ellen (Gifford) Chippendale**

Ellen, born in 1815 married stonemason **Thomas Chippendale**. The famous Chippendale furniture business originated in Otley, and it's just possible that Thomas descended from them. Thomas was born in 1810, the son of a stonemason in Skipton. Both his parents had died by the time he was 14. Thomas and Ellen married in 1841 and lived with Ellen's mum at the back of the Shambles.

After the death of an infant son Thomas in 1843, buried in the infants' section EX18, the family moved to Skipton. Ellen gave Thomas a further three sons and a daughter before he died in 1849, aged just 39 - male Chippendales tended to die at an early age, and that included their unmarried sons. They had another son called Thomas. Their youngest child Ellen was born just about 9 months after Thomas' death.

In 1852, Ellen married a labourer **William Broadley** and they had many more children.

William and Ellen's 9th child **Esther (Gifford) Knowles**

Esther, born in 1817, married **William Knowles**, a labourer from a well established Settle family. They had five sons and four daughters. Three of the sons were called William, the first two dying in infancy and both buried in BX5. They were buried with their aunt Jane (Knowles) Clough who died at the birth of twin daughters, her sixth pregnancy - the twin daughters Rachel and Rebecca survived.

Their daughter **Mary Knowles** became the second wife of the tailor **Thomas Fletcher** who had previously married Sarah Gill, the daughter of Esther's sister Catherine. Mary's youngest child was little **Kenneth** who died, aged four, in 1900 after falling from a wall. Kenneth was Thomas' 13th child [LSA].

9. Harvest Festival at St. John's Church, Langcliffe.—
Accident to a child named Kenneth Fletcher, son of Mr Thomas Fletcher, of Settle, who fell from a wall at the bottom of School Hill and alighted on his head. He was removed to Leeds Infirmary but died two days later.

Settle Graveyard Project

Thomas's first wife was **Sarah Gill**, the daughter of Esther's eldest sister Catherine Gifford. Thomas and Mary are buried in the Old graveyard in plot H31 with their son Joseph and married daughter Catherine Gill Robinson, whose body appears to have been brought back from the States - she was buried on 29th April after dying on March 26th.



In Loving Memory of Thomas Fletcher of Settle who entered into rest November 17th 1915 In his 73rd year R.I.P. Also of Mary, Beloved wife of the above died July 15th 1925 Aged 67 years. 'for thine is the kingdom'. Also of Joseph their son died February 13th 1930 aged 63 years. Also of Catherine G Robinson. Died in New York March 26th 1931 Aged 53 years.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on 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'.

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

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LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – photo credited to the descendants of the family

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

