

Joseph Jackson, a plumber and explorer

Joseph Jackson and *Michael Horner* are two of our best known residents of Castle Hill in Settle as they discovered Victoria Cave in the hills in 1837. Joseph owned the land. Michael Horner's grandson Tanny Jerome described, 'I have often heard my aunt tell the story of how her father and two other men went rabbiting above Langcliffe one Spring morning in 1838*. They went to the Fox Holes. They had a dog that went into one hole and came out another. Michael Horner squeezed himself through the hole which was only the size of a horse collar; he found a cave. For the next few weeks he explored the cave, finding, with other things, a bone brooch. He gave these to Joseph Jackson for whom he worked and told him about the cave and where it was.' [A] (*Now thought to be 1837, the year Queen Victoria was crowned, hence the name!) [B]

from the scar. Between 1838 and 1868, Jackson worked the Romano-British and earlier levels of the cave, and when, in 1869, the Settle Cave Committee was formed and began to work the cave in conjunction with the British Association, Jackson was appointed manager.

Joseph, aged 22, took the very first early photographs of the cave and its findings. (In the 1830s photography was in its infancy, with Michael's nephews being pioneers of photography in Settle.) Armed with these photos as evidence, Joseph obtained permission to explore further. As a result Joseph was the first man to enter the back chamber of the cave. More importantly, Joseph realised the cave's archaeological significance. In 1840 Joseph wrote to Mr Charles Roach Smith who was a leading specialist and founding member of the British Archaeological Association [ph1]. Eventually part of Joseph's collection was sold to the British Museum and the rest retained by his son-in-law John Knowles. It became a life's work for Joseph [LSA].

Joseph [ph4] was born in 1816 in Melling, near Hornby, the son of Christopher Jackson, a maltster and his second wife Elizabeth Thompson. Christopher died when Joseph was just ten, but there were sufficient funds for Joseph to serve an apprenticeship with his future uncle-in-law *Richard Harger* whose successful plumbing business was on Castle Hill. Richard died before the end of the apprenticeship, but Joseph's mum Elizabeth was able to buy the business for him, even though he was only 17. The business was ideally located – Castle Hill was the hub of skilled tradesmen. Joseph lived at what is now number 4 Castle Hill, using the yard behind for his workshop and stores. His neighbours were fellow explorer Michael Horner, the Handbys and fellow plumber, Thomas Holmes.

Joseph supplemented his income by letting people view his caving discoveries and being a 'site superintendent'. In 1864, Joseph hosted 'a most

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"Sir,

"Settle, April 4th, 1840.

"The caves, in which were found the various articles sent for your investigation, are situated in a long ridge of limestone rock about two miles north-east of Settle, from whence the ground gradually rises.

"When you come to the foot of the rock, you have to climb about fifty yards, among loose stones and rubbish, which have fallen from above.

"The rock rises (from the entrance of the caves) perpendicularly, to the height of 250 feet; and the general aspect of the country immediately around it is precipitous and barren, and the view from the cave circumscribed by the surrounding hills.

"The entrance was nearly filled up with rubbish and overgrown with nettles. After removing the obstruction, I was obliged to lie down at full length to get in. The first appearance that struck me on entering was the large quantity of clay and earth, which seem as if washed in from without, and present to the view round pieces like balls of different sizes. Of this clay there must be several hundred waggon loads, but abounding more in the first than in the branch caves. In some parts a stalagmitic crust has formed, mixed with bones, broken pots, &c. It was on this crust I found the principal part of the coins, the other articles being mostly embedded or trodden in the clay, i. e. in the apartment marked A in the plan. In the other caves very little has been found. When we get through the clay, which is very stiff and deep, we generally find the rock covered with bones, all broken, and presenting the appearance of having been gnawed.

"The entrance into the inner cave had been walled at the sides, and two upright stones also, all embedded with clay. In the inside were several large stones lying near the hole, any one of which would have completely blocked it up by merely turning the stone over. I pulled the wall down, and the aperture is now about a yard wide and two feet high. On digging up the clay, at about nine or ten inches deep, I found the original floor; it was hard and gravelly, and strewed with bones, broken pots, and several of the articles herewith forwarded.

"The roof of the cave was beautifully hung with stalactites in various fantastic forms and as white as snow. I have sent several small pieces of different kinds of pots, of which I possess larger specimens, some of them slightly marked, but not one perfect.

"I have visited ten other caves within a mile of the one described above; these are 150 to 200 yards long, and which I have no doubt, if properly examined, would be found to contain similar remains.

"The larger brooch I found nearly at the entrance of the second cave embedded about eight inches in the clay. The pin was sticking out, and seemed as if it had been wrapped in a quantity of hair, or something of the sort.

"I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

"JOSEPH JACKSON."

TO MR. CHARLES ROACH SMITH,
London.

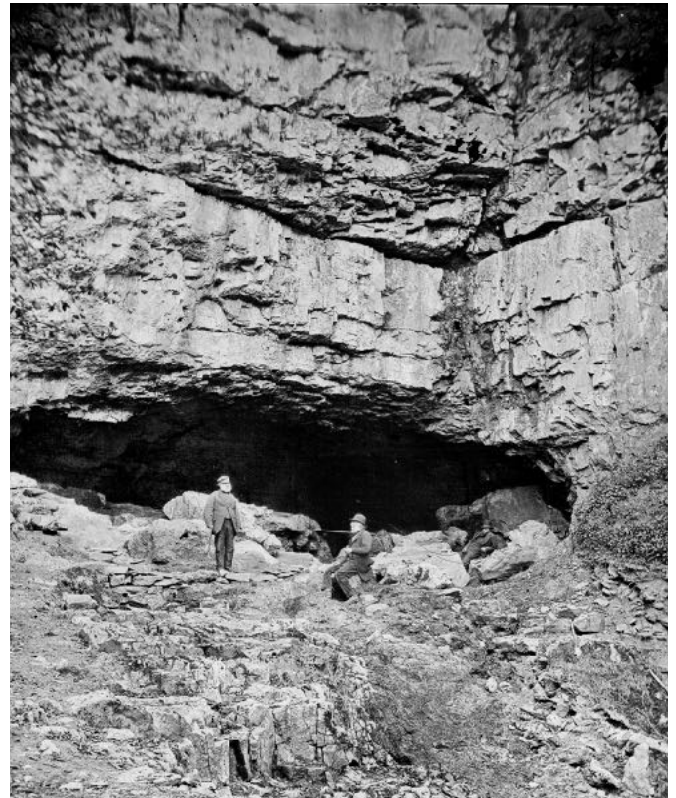
Mr Jackson, of Settle, in the most courteous manner submitted his fine collection of cave relics, collected in the neighbourhood, to the inspection of the visitors. They are chiefly of the Romano-British period, and are in fine preservation. Mr J H Burrow, B.A., also rendered most valuable services to the excursionists, not only by the facilities which he afforded for the inspection of his collection of limestone fossils, but by the indefatigable and cordial manner in which he ministered to every intellectual want and personal comfort of his fellow students in geological science and their literary and other friends.—*Preston Guardian*.

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delightful and instructive' meeting of geologists from Yorkshire and Lancashire [SC]. Brother-in-law **Lawrence Hodgson** and surgeon **John Holme Burrow** shared Joseph's interest in the caves [ph5] and worked with him.



Portrait Gent, photograph by the Horner Studio.
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Victoria Cave 1, photograph by the Horner Studio.
Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Joseph and **Thomas Holmes** were directors of the Settle Mining Company which was set up in 1856 to try and find local coal, unsuccessfully [SC]. However, Joseph was also a Trustee of the Craven Savings Bank, a far more productive enterprise. Joseph gave an apprenticeship to a young **John Handby** and later went into business with him. Joseph was the manager of Settle Gas Company for nearly 20 years and John Handby took over from him.

SETTLE MINING COMPANY, LIMITED
Capital 1000 Shares of £1 each.
This Company has been formed for the purpose of searching for coal in the neighbourhood of Settle. A shaft is now (Dec. 1868) being sunk near Wigglesworth with good prospect of success. The whole of the shares are taken up and a first call of 3s. has been paid. The Directors are Messrs. W. Howarth, T. A. Harvey, John Winskill, Thomas Holmes, and Joseph Jackson, Secretary, Mr. J. Cowburn, Treasurer Mr Jos. Harger. The Offices of the Company are in the Mechanics' Hall.

In 1843 Joseph married **Maria Harger** the daughter of Richard's brother **Robert Harger**. Joseph and Maria had three children, **George, Eleanor** and **Agnes Annie**. Maria died in 1867, aged 51, and is buried in the Ancient graveyard with son George who died, aged just 29, in 1874. Despite his young age George died of morbid cordis – heart disease. George had been to Giggleswick School and then worked as a plumber and glazier. **Thomas Harger** was in attendance.



In memory of Maria, the beloved wife of Joseph Jackson, of Settle, who died on 25th of April, 1867, aged 51 years. Also George Jackson who died Sep 3rd 1874 aged 29 years, Anc E11

Hand September 1874 Settle	George Jackson	Male	29 years	Plumber and Glazier	Morbid Cordis Centipid	Thomas Harger In Attendance Settle	Written September 1874	Richard Howarth Registrar
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Joseph died suddenly in 1886, aged 69, also of heart disease, whilst walking along the highway to Langcliffe with his daughter Eleanor [ph2]. He was attended by *Dr James Walker Edgar*. 'The deceased gentleman had lived a quiet unobtrusive life and by his death Settle loses one of its most highly respected individuals.' Joseph would not have been allowed to be buried with his wife as the Ancient graveyard had been declared full in 1882, so he was one of the first people buried in Old graveyard A13. This gravestone commemorates their daughters Eleanor and Agnes Annie (Knowles) and Maria and George, again.

SETTLE.
DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN INHABITANT.—On Thursday morning, while Mr Joseph Jackson, of Settle, a retired plumber, was on the highway leading from Settle to the village of Langcliffe, accompanied by Miss Jackson, his daughter, he died suddenly. Dr Edgar, who happened to be in the vicinity, was present at his death. The deceased gentleman had lived a quiet, unobtrusive life, and by his death Settle loses one of its most highly respected inhabitants. Mr Jackson was the discover of the Victoria Cave, near Settle. The immediate cause of death was heart disease.



In loving memory of Joseph Jackson who entered into rest Dec 9th 1886 aged 70 years. Also Maria his wife died April 25th 1867 aged 51 years. George son of the above who departed this life Sept 3rd 1875 aged 29 years. Eleanor their daughter entered into rest Oct 6th 1895 aged 48 years. Agnes Annie Knowles interred at Grange Oct 11th 1932 aged 75 years, Old A13

Agnes Annie Jackson had married **John Knowles**, a furniture dealer from Caton. It was John who retained much of Joseph's collection after his death but it's not obvious where it ended up! After Joseph died John, Agnes Annie and their three children lived in Carnforth with sister Eleanor. When she died, Eleanor was brought back to Settle for burial, but Agnes Annie's body remained in Lancashire.



John Jackson, solicitor

John was born in Austwick, in 1807, to **Robert Jackson** and his wife **Alice**. Robert was the son of another **Robert Jackson** born in 1767 in 'Owstwick'. John was just four when his father, who was probably a farmer, had a terrible fatal accident on Swarth Moor above Helwith Bridge [1]. This may have worked in John's favour — he would have now been more likely to get an endowment funded place at Giggleswick School. He was definitely educated as he became a solicitor, working for *Henry Robinson*.

Robert the son of Robt Jackson of Owstwick & Sarah his wife, was Born 12th of 9th Month 1767

On the 4th ult Robert Jackson, of Wharfe, near Austwick, was unfortunately killed, by the overturning of his cart, on Swarth Moor, on his return from Settle market.

John's status was confirmed when he married **Margaret Procter** in 1833, aged 26. Margaret was one of eight children of **William** and **Mary Procter** of Close House, Giggleswick and descended from wealthy **Lister** and **Frankland** families. This was even stated on her gravestone inscription:

Sacred to the memory of Margaret, wife of John Jackson, solicitor, Settle and third daughter of William and Mary Procter of Close-House in the parish of Giggleswick who departed this life June 4th 1839 age 29 years. Also Margaret, daughter of the above who died 6th January 1858 age 18 years. Also of the above named John Jackson who died 17th day of January 1875 age 67 years, D1



Mary's parents and siblings are commemorated on a huge tall stone inside the porch of Giggleswick church. Out of Margaret's seven siblings only one other, **Thomas Procter**, married and had children.

Margaret's younger sister, **Alice Procter**, was killed, aged 46, when caught by a train at Long Preston platform before crossing the line. She was returning to Giggleswick after visiting her nephew with elder sister, Elizabeth and they were late for the train [3]. Reports suggested this was an accident waiting to happen with poor lighting and inadequate fences. A further report [4] indicated she was an active supporter of the British and Foreign Bible Society and, on the day of her death, had been discussing plans to form an auxiliary society in Long Preston. In a 'rather singular coincidence' and a cruel twist of fate, their brother, **John Procter**, also died in at Long Preston station after visiting friends, aged 65. He was waiting for the train to take him home when he suffered an apoplectic fit – heart attack or stroke [1].



crossing Miss Elizabeth Procter and the servant went first, the latter calling out to the deceased lady "Do be quick, Miss Alice," as the train was just at hand. Miss Alice, however, while just about stepping upon the platform, was knocked down on the rails, some portions of her dress having, as is supposed, first been caught by the buffer or connecting rods of the engine attached to the train, which turned out to be an express luggage train travelling at the rate of twenty to twenty-five miles per hour, without stopping at the Long Preston station. As soon as the train had passed Miss Alice disappeared, and, the assistance of the station-master having been procured she was immediately discovered lying on the rails quite dead. From the injuries received death must have been instantaneous. An official from Derby was

THE LATE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—We learn that the deceased lady, Miss Alice Procter, whose death by accident at the Long Preston station we recorded last week, was an active and liberal supporter of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and that on the very day that her earthly existence was so suddenly and lamentably brought to a close, she had (though on a bridal visit) been exerting her influence amongst her friends with the view of forming an auxiliary society at Long Preston. This was alluded to in an account of deceased's life read by the Rev. T. D. Baynes at the close of a sermon, appropriate to the solemn event, preached by him to a crowded and attentive congregation in the Wesleyan Chapel, Settle, on last Sunday evening. The deceased had been for 20 years a member of the Wesleyan Society.

Margaret died at the birth of her fourth child, a daughter, also **Margaret Jackson**, when she was just 29 in 1839. Margaret was the third burial in the Graveyard after that of solicitor **Christopher Edmundson** and infant **James Clemmy**.

SUDDEN DEATH AT LONG PRESTON STATION.—On Wednesday evening, Mr. John Procter, of Close House, near Settle, an elderly gentleman, died very suddenly at the Long Preston Station, whilst waiting the arrival of a train to take him home. He had been to Long Preston to see some friends and relatives there, and appeared quite well up to within a few minutes of his death, which happened in the Waiting-room at the station. There it was observed that his neck became suddenly swollen, and he expired almost immediately afterwards, the cause of death being an apoplectic fit. It is rather a singular coincidence that a few years ago Mr. Procter's sister, Miss Alice Procter, met with her death at the same station under somewhat similar circumstances. She had been paying a visit to a newly-married couple at Long Preston and whilst hurriedly crossing the line to catch a luggage train, which she had mistaken for the one which was to have taken her to Settle, she was knocked down by it and killed on the spot.

In 1836 John and Margaret's daughter **Alice Jackson** had died in infancy and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard. John raised the other three children, **Margaret, John and Mary** with the help of servants of course, living in Bond End, just below Victoria Hall on Kirkgate (formerly Spread Eagle Street).

John was a manager of the Craven Savings Bank, along with several other 'worthies' in Settle including **Joseph Jackson**, above [2]. He was also the auditor for the Settle Union which coordinated support for the poor [WSA].



Daughter Margaret died, aged just 18, in 1858, and this may have been when their gravestone was erected. This may explain why their stone faces west, whereas other gravestones erected during the ministry of the first vicar (1838–1848) faced east.

The building of the railway through John's land probably provided compensatory funds for his move to the Market Place by the time

SETTLE UNION.
This Union comprises 31 Townships, which elect 33 Guardians, who meet every Tuesday, at eleven o'clock, A.M., at the Board Room, Settle; and six ex-officio Guardians.
Chairman—John Birkbeck, Esq.
Vice Chairman—Mr. A. Stackhouse.
Mr. Dudgeon, Clerk to the Board.
Mr. Jackson, Auditor.

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of the 1871 census. John died 1875, aged 67.

Daughter **Mary Jackson** married **Thomas Procter**, her second cousin and they lived back at Close House, the Procter home. John and Margaret's son **John Jackson**, a bank manager, married **Isabella Blades**, the daughter of **Isaac Blades** a horse breeder/trainer at Spigot Lodge racecourse at Middleham. John and Isabella brought up their family in Ulverston, Lancashire.



There are several other Jackson families buried in this graveyard. See also the unfortunate life of **Isabella Jackson** – see **Butterfield**



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'.

A – Langcliffe, Glimpses of a Dales Village by Langcliffe Millennium Group, original source Craven Herald. B – Yorkshire Caves and Potholes, North Ribblesdale, Albert Mitchell

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Yorkshire Post, 3 – Hampshire Independent, 4 – Lancaster Guardian

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

ph1 – photo with the permission of Tom Lord, ph2 – photo credited to DalesCommunityArchives.org.uk, Brayshaw collection, ph3 – credited to the Back in Settle facebook site, posted by Ben Mackenzie, ph4 – with the kind permission of John Reid, ph4 – Image 2022.1.53.1, ph5 – Image 2022.1.61.7 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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

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Settle Graveyard Project



LUNESDALE

Naturalists' Field Club.

The Committee have decided that this long talked of Excursion will take place on THURSDAY, the 4th SEPTEMBER, or, if wet, the day following, to

SETTLE AND THE BONE CAVE:

Leaving Green Area Station at 11-23 a.m.; the party will arrive at Settle Station at 12-30 p.m., and a very pleasant walk of about a mile brings them to the interesting old town of Settle, nestled snugly under the almost over-hanging Cliff of Castlebar.

The summit of the latter is now very pleasantly laid out with walks. Specimens from the bone cave will be kindly shown by Mr. Jackson, and the members are requested not to handle them.

Tea will be provided at the "Lion" Hotel, at 5-30 p.m.

The subject of a future Excursion to Ulverston and the Exhibition there may be discussed.

Tickets 3s. 6d. each, including Tea.

30 MARCH, 1870.

1870
Victoria Cave Exploration

Monday 21st March, Commenced excavation this day with 3 Men, at the outside of the cave 20 feet from the entrance, a parallel line having been drawn 40 feet long (incl), a datum line on the same level was placed at right angles, at 28.0 ft right to the left. excavated this day 3.6 feet right & 1.6 feet left of datum line & 8 feet forward to a depth of 4 feet, at 2 feet deep found numerous bones in a very decayed condition, teeth of the hog, horse & sheep, (incl), fragment of pottery (earthenware), galena, iron nails, pieces of pig stone, bone, charcoal