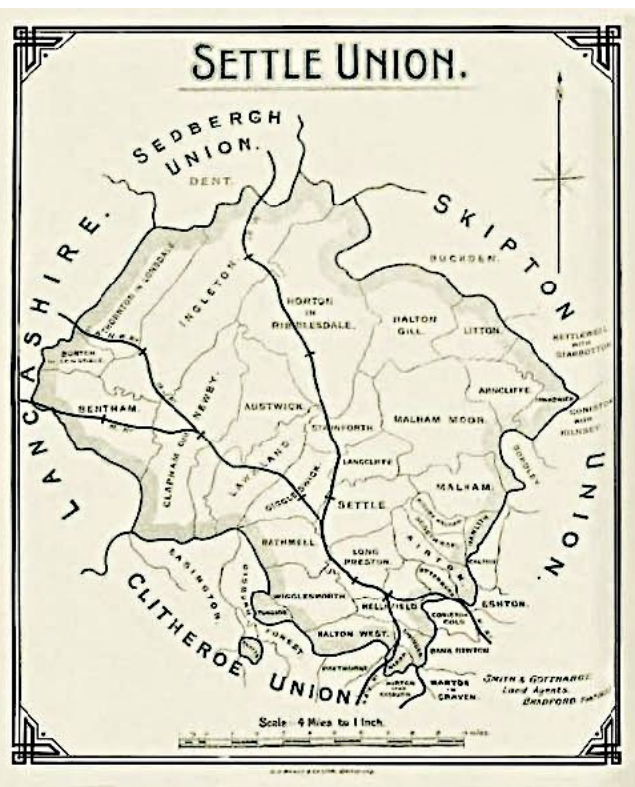


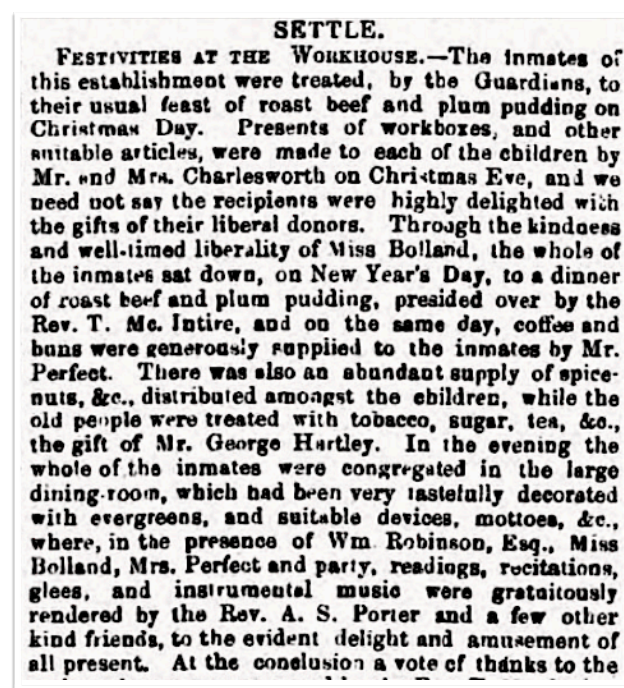
John Lister, Clerk to the Settle Union for 35 years

Up until the 19th century the poor were supported (or not) at the discretion of landowners and churches. It was a real postcode lottery. Locally, there was a 'poor-house' at the top of the hill in Upper Settle and others in Langcliffe and Lawkland. The Poor Law of 1834 attempted to provide a more consistent system and decreed that workhouses should be established and run as a deterrent to the poor. As a result, by 1837, the workhouse was built on Brackenber Lane, Giggleswick to provide for the poor of the 'Settle Union' of seven local districts including Littondale, Malham, Clapham, Butrton-in-Lonsdale, Hellifield, Tosside, Stainforth and Bentham [ph1]. The workhouse was designed to hold 150 inmates and cost £2550. More than half of the early inmates were workers who had been made redundant following the mechanisation of cotton mills. The closure of the Langcliffe cotton mills in the early 1850s will have boosted numbers too. Inmates helped with growing vegetables and chopped wood for firewood to be sold to the community. When needed, they helped clearing snow from roads in bad weather – no-one else wanted to do it.



It was left to the wealthy benefactors to run the workhouse. They gave treats to the poor for special events such as the Queen's jubilee and at Christmas in 1867 [1]. Inmates were treated to roast beef and plum pudding and presents 'and were highly delighted with the gifts of their liberal donors' who included the Charlesworths, Miss Bolland, Mrs Perfect, George Hartley and William Robinson. Children had coffee and buns and spice nuts as a treat which would have made them quite hyperactive. 'The old people were treated with tobacco, sugar tea etc.' In the evening in the decorated dining room the inmates listened to readings, recitations, and instrumental music 'to the evident delight and amusement of all present'.

The Trustees of the Settle Union appointed a 'Clerk to the Union' to manage the workhouse and other relief for the poor and this is where we meet John Lister. John [ph2], born in 1830, came from humble roots, his dad, William Lister, being an ostler, 'Hostler', who looked after visitors' horses at hostleries. Generations earlier, a Mary Lister, a cousin of the Vicar of Giggleswick, married into the Salisbury family who built Marshfield House in Kirkgate, Settle



during the 1850s. The Salisbury descendants include the Queen! Descendants wonder if Mary could be one of John's relations?

John was educated and found work as a solicitor's clerk with Mr **William Foster** of Bowerley, living in one of Mr Foster's properties on 'Back Lane', now known as Castle Hill/Castleberg Lane. In 1852 John was elected 'without opposition' as Registrar of births, marriages and deaths for the Settle Union, taking over from the late surgeon **Thomas Robinson** [4]. William Foster recommended John saying 'a master could not have a more truthful and valuable servant', and John demonstrated 'how integrity and diligence raise a man to earn the respect and admiration of fellow men.'



In 1855, John married **Isabella Robinson**, a farmer's daughter from Langcliffe and the Guardians of the Poor marked the occasion by presenting him with a 'very handsome teapot and sugar tongs'. In 1855 John was appointed 'Assistant Clerk to the Settle Union'[4] and, in 1859, was given the full responsibility, taking over from his employer, William Foster, who had recently died. Coincidentally, John bought the house in Back Lane from William Foster's estate. Later the family moved to live in Duke Street.

One of John's first responsibilities was to appoint a porter for the workhouse, at a salary of £20 per year. 'A person who is by trade a Tailor will be preferred.' Not your average porter's responsibilities! Applications had to be in their own handwriting, complete with references and employment history. Candidates could not attend when the decision was made and no travelling or other expenses were allowed [2]. Harsh!

As Clerk to the Union, John's adverts, such as this one in 1877 [2], give a fascinating insight into life at the workhouse [2]. John ordered plenty of cheap cuts of meat, cheese, sugar, split peas, rice, tea, gin, rum and brandy (some for medicinal use), candles, coal and coffins and shrouds suitable for infants, children and adults. The master and matron's table had their own meat, of course. Other orders request oat for making oatcakes, rather than bread. Oatcakes were cheaper and could be made without an oven. There is a conspicuous lack of vegetables ordered.

John's responsibilities included many aspects of health and safety and provision for the poor. During the building of the Settle and Carlisle Railway between 1869 and 1876 John had to liaise with the Midland Railway company about medical provision. In 1871 there was an

SETTLE UNION.—ELECTION OF REGISTRAR.—The election of registrar, of births and deaths (in the room of Mr. **Thomas Robinson**, deceased,) for the **Settle** district, in this union, took place on Wednesday last, when Mr. **John Lister**, of **Settle**, clerk with Mr. Foster, solicitor, was elected by the guardians, without opposition. "The district

A person who is by trade a Tailor will be preferred. Applications, in the Candidate's own handwriting, stating age and previous occupation, accompanied by recent Testimonials as to character and competency, must be received by me on or before the 10th day of April next, and the appointment will take place that day fortnight. No Candidate is to attend on the day of election, or at any other time, unless officially written to for that purpose, and no travelling or other expenses can be allowed. By order of the Board. **JOHN LISTER,** Clerk to the Guardians.

SETTLE UNION.
CONTRACTS FOR PROVISIONS, &c.
THE Guardians of the above Union are desirous of contracting with one or more person or persons for the supply of the undermentioned articles for the use and consumption of the inmates of the Workhouse at Giggleswick, for the next Six Months, commencing on the 2nd day of October next:—
Good Beef, sound and sweet, in equal proportion of Brisket, Thick Flanks, and Veiny pieces, the whole not to contain more than 10lbs. of bone for every 112lbs. supplied per lb.
Meat for the Master's and Matron's Table:—
Beef per lb.
Mutton per lb.
Australian Beef and Mutton, in Tins of 4 and 6lb. each.
Flour per peck of 240lbs.
Good House Coal, well riddled, and Slack per ton.
Separate Tenders will be required for the delivery of the Coal and Slack at the Workhouse, or at the Station.
Coffins, including Shrouds, and dues for Paupers dying in all or any of the Townships comprised in the Union, (including the Workhouse),
For persons under 4 years old.
For persons under 10 do.
For persons under 16 do.
For persons 16 years old and upwards.
The coffins must be three-quarters of an inch thick and the material perfectly dry.

outbreak of smallpox at Batty Green navy huts, by the Ribbleshead viaduct which was estimated to kill over 80 navvies and their family members. With no concept of social distancing and no sickness pay infection was rife. Initially there was just one navy hut assigned as an isolation hospital which was just not enough, and insufficient staff. It was thought that the smallpox was introduced by navvies travelling from other parts of the country so, working with the railway's surgeon, *Edwin Septimus Green*, John Lister asked the Midland Railway to contribute to the cost of a 'Smallpox and Fever Hospital' – they contributed £100. Then it needed staffing so John advertised for a married couple to manage and nurse it. He offered a salary of £2 per week, the same as a railway tunneller, and rations [5]. A married couple was preferable to single women as they were regarded as 'a distraction' for navvies!

SETTLE UNION.

WANTED immediately, by the Guardians of the above Union, a respectable Married Couple without encumbrance, to take the Management of and act as NURSES in a Small-pox and Fever Hospital, situate at Batty Green, near Ingleton, Yorkshire. Salary £2 per Week and Rations.—Applications, stating age and previous occupations, accompanied by testimonials of recent date as to Character and Fitness, must be sent to JOHN LISTER, Union Clerk, Settle.—Settle, Feb. 29th, 1872.

The Guardians also invite tenders for the under-mentioned articles in the quantities hereinafter specified, and to be delivered at the Workhouse within a reasonable time after the Tenders are accepted:—

Chocolate 20lbs.; Coffee 15lbs.; Moist Sugar 3cwt.; Loaf Sugar 60lbs.; Split Peas 2cwt.; Black Pepper 4lbs.; Rice 2cwt.; Salt 3cwt.; Black Tea 65lbs.; Yellow Soap 2cwt.; Dipped Candles per lb.; Soda 1cwt.; Gin, Rum, Brandy, and Wine, each per gallon.

Cash will be paid for these articles on the Board day next following the delivery thereof.

Sealed tenders (free of expense) must be delivered at the Clerk's Office, in Settle, on MONDAY, the 1st day of October next, before Twelve o'clock at Noon, with the samples of such articles as will admit thereof, after which time no Tenders will be received.

The persons whose Tenders may be accepted will be required to enter into bonds (with a surety or sureties if deemed necessary) for the due performance of their respective contracts, and the articles contracted for will be required to be of good qualities, and must be delivered at the Workhouse free of carriage.

By Order of the Board,

JOHN LISTER, Union Clerk.

Settle, September 18th, 1877.

[1041]

As part of his role, John was also the clerk to the Rural Sanitary Authority and oversaw the appointment of Settle's first 'Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor' and the development of sewerage works, both in 1879.

Aside from work, John was a manager of Settle National School for nearly 20 years, the Treasurer of the Church of England Temperance Society and a churchwarden at St Alkelda's Church in Giggleswick for nearly 20 years. He was the auditor of the Craven Savings Bank and a member (and treasurer) of the Settle and District Conservative Club. John was also a fine cricketer during the 1850s and 60s. He died in 1893 aged 64, having served the Board of Guardians faithfully for over 35 years. *Charles*

Bygrave (see *Armistead*) took over his position at the Settle Union and remained in post for 23 years. John's obituary confirms that he was 'well known and highly respected'[2]. John and Isabella had four daughters, the youngest being *Emily Lister* who was buried with them when she died, aged 17.

In loving memory of Emily Lizrr (Lister) died Oct 15th 1880, age 17 years. Isabella, beloved wife of John Lister died Nov 15th 1893 age 64 years. John Lister, for 35 years clerk to the Settle Union. Died June 27th 1894, aged 64 years. Rest in the Lord, D7.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN LISTER.—We regret to announce that on Wednesday afternoon last Mr. John Lister, Clerk to the Settle Board of Guardians, died at his residence, Duke-street, Settle. The deceased gentleman has held the appointment of Clerk to the Settle Board of Guardians for the long period of 35 years, having been elected to the office on the 3rd of April, 1859. Although his health had been failing for upwards of a year Mr. Lister continued to discharge the duties of Clerk up to the time of his demise. He was a Manager of the Settle National School, and for nearly 20 years was a Churchwarden at the Parish Church, Giggleswick. He was widely known and highly respected. In politics Mr. Lister was an ardent Conservative. He had reached the age of 64 years.



Settle Graveyard Project

In 1892 daughter **Mary Annie** married surgeon **Oliver Scattergood**, a surgeon from Leeds. They may have met through the Settle Amateur Operatic Society. They both received praise for their performances in HMS Pinafore in which Mary Annie played the lead female and Oliver conducted the orchestra [CH].

ance." Who that saw the admirable production of "Pinafore" will forget the singing and acting of Miss Annie Lister as "Josephine," and Miss Polly Benson as "Little Buttercup," or the masterly "Sir

It was a wonderful performance, and reflected great credit on Dr. Scattergood, the conductor.

Oliver was the son of surgeon **Thomas Scattergood**, an obstetrician and pioneer of forensic medicine, especially related to poisons and particularly strychnine. Thomas was a consultant on cases all over the country and was the first Dean of Leeds Medical School. Oliver didn't achieve the eminence of his dad. Oliver moved to Settle to work as a surgeon, lodging with **Annie Hayton**. After marrying Mary Annie, they moved to Leeds. In 1895 Oliver received criticism in the press for his idea that rabies could only be transmitted by abrasions of the skin and so could be eliminated by ensuring that all dogs were muzzled for six months. He had a point! Perhaps this may have been one reason that Oliver spent his last 20 years working as a clerk at a woollen mill? Mary Annie's sister, **Amy Elizabeth Lister**, remained a spinster and lived much of her life with Mary Annie and Oliver.

John and Elizabeth's daughter **Isabella Lister** married **Charles Glover Ratcliffe** in 1881 with a glorious celebration [1]. She wore a dress of ruby velvet trimmed with satin. Charles ran the firm of 'CG Ratcliffe cotton and art silk manufacturers' and was also a one of the first Justices of the Peace for Colne, serving for 37 years before he died. He could be related to our other **Charles Ratcliffe**, also a cotton manufacturer from Colne. Isabella had been a teacher at the Church Sunday School for many years and 'it is not too much to say that her loss will be keenly felt'.

SETTLE.

MARRIAGE OF MISS LISTER.—The marriage of Miss Isabella Lister, of Settle, to Mr. Charles Glover Ratcliffe, manufacturer, of Colne, was celebrated on Wednesday last, at the Church of the Holy Ascension, the ceremony which was performed by the Vicar (Rev. W. F. Pierson), being witnessed by a considerable number of interested personages. The bride, who is the daughter of our well-known and highly respected townsman, Mr. John Lister, was attired in a dress of Ruby velvet trimmed with satin. Her two sisters (Miss Amy and Miss Annie Lister) were the bridesmaids, and wore cream coloured cashmere dresses trimmed with lace and bonnets to match. The bride's father gave her away. For many years Miss Lister has been a teacher at the Church Sunday School, and it is not too much to say that her loss will be keenly felt.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM LISTER.—Many were the expressions of regret when the news reached Ambleside on Tuesday morning that Mr. W. Lister, manager for the Bank of Liverpool, at Ambleside, had died the previous night at the residence of his brother at Settle, whither he had gone but little over a week before in the hope of recruiting his health. Mr. Lister had partially recovered from a somewhat severe attack of influenza, but after reaching Settle he was taken seriously ill. On Monday he became unconscious and died about 11 o'clock at night. His life has been one of usefulness and activity, and he will be greatly missed. He was a native of Settle and was educated at Giggleswick Grammar School. He entered the Kendal Bank in 1859 and in 1871 was appointed to the management of the Ambleside branch. During his 12 years residence in Kendal Mr. Lister made many intimate friends, identifying himself with the work carried on at the Mechanics' Institute. He was a very prominent member of the debating society held there. He was also a keen cricketer, belonging to the Kendal team for whom he rendered useful service. At Ambleside he was closely connected with the church and schools, filling the office of churchwarden for many years. He was a staunch Conservative in politics.

John's brother, **William Lister**, was a bank manager for the Kendal Bank, based in Ambleside, but died in 1898 after an attack of flu when visiting John in Settle 'in the hope of recruiting his health' after a severe attack of influenza [3]. 'His life has been one of usefulness and activity.' After William's death, widow **Ann (Bateson) Lister** and daughter **Agnes** moved to Ilkley where son **William** was a banker's clerk. Despite never living in Settle after childhood, William, his wife Ann and their unmarried children, William, aged 68 and Agnes, aged 82, are buried in the *Old grave EX73*, surprisingly unmarked.

And the workhouse? John had overseen the maintenance and development of the workhouse, including significant alterations and extensions in 1865 and 1879 to provide hospital facilities, a



block for *'mental defectives'* and a new lodge for the porter. As a result there were plenty of space in the workhouse and money was needed to maintain such a large building [ph3]. After John's death, the Board of Guardians decided on a radical change in policy. Settle Union routinely paid other Unions to care for displaced paupers from the Settle area and realised this was a way to boost their own income.

In 1901, they came to an arrangement with Bradford Union to take some of their *'non-able-bodied'* inmates and the initial group contained 14 women aged between 61 and 77. This seemed to work well and so, a couple of years later, the Board of Guardians decided to try and expand this scheme. In 1904 Settle Union asked Bradford to increase the number of paupers sent *'as they were anxious to utilise certain unused portions of their workhouse.'*

Settle agreed that, for 7 shillings a week, they would provide food and clothing for up to 40 inmates but, as the local graveyards were quite full, burials had to be back in Bradford [2]. They decided to try and recruit a further 100 paupers from other Unions. This hit the national headlines especially as someone *'humorously advocated advertisements at the principal railway stations – "Paupers wanted at Settle"'*[6]. Newspapers across the country raised their eyebrows at this and who knows what the locals thought?

PAUPER FUNERALS.
BRADFORD POOR TO BE BROUGHT HOME FOR INTERMENT.
NO ROOM AT SETTLE.

"PAUPERS WANTED AT SETTLE."
At a meeting of the Settle Board of Guardians a member called attention to the large portion of the workhouse buildings that remained unused. Whereupon another member humorously advocated advertisements at the principal railway stations—**"Paupers wanted at Settle."**

Leeds Union snapped up 45 of these extra places as they were overwhelmed. Their workhouse maximum capacity was 500 but with the expansion of the population they had 834 inmates (567 men, 252 women and 15 children) and they had to sleep on mattresses on the floor in worksheds, an old joiner's shop, an old boiler house and a coal shed. Some *'Able bodied inmates'* at Leeds workhouse were photographed in 1911 [ph4]. Newspapers report that several Leeds

Settle Graveyard Project

inmates discharged themselves from Settle workhouse to try and start a new life in Settle – you can't blame them!



As a result of all this, at the time of the 1911 census a significant proportion of inmates at Settle workhouse were from other Unions. In 1899 there were 163 inmates in the workhouse, *'including lunatics'*. Two-thirds of the inmates were vagrants. By 1905 the number of inmates was reported to have risen to 289. **Dr James Walker Edgar** was the medical consultant for the Union and, with the increase in numbers, he asked for a pay increase for treating inmates from other Unions. Settle Union asked the other Unions to pay him by private arrangement but they refused. In the end, Settle Union increased the amount they charged other Unions and gave Dr Edgar a gratuity.

The arrangement of taking on other Unions's paupers continued until an allegation from Bradford of inadequate support for *'mentally defective'* children from Bradford in 1924. In 1922 the Board of Guardians had received a *'most unfavourable'* letter from the Ministry of Health and the Board of Control for Mental Defectives so Bradford Union may have had a point. Settle Union decided to terminate the arrangement two years later in 1926. In 1930 the workhouse was passed to West Riding County Council and it became a *'mental deficiency colony'*. It evolved to become Castleberg Hospital in 1948 under the new NHS.

In 1901 there was a question as to whether officials should be able to continue to drink beer and spirits provided by the workhouse. A motion proposed that no beer or spirits should enter the workhouse except by order of the medical officer but it was lost by 18 votes to nine! In the same year there was a report that a pauper's coffin was so thin that the body could be seen from the outside – perhaps that was something to do with all the beer and spirits? Around this time, following numerous outbreaks of scarlet fever and other infectious diseases, the *'isolation'* wing of the workhouse was replaced by a new isolation hospital at Harden Bridge, about half a mile from Austwick, far more suitable for proper *'isolation'*.



To find out more about the history of this and other workhouses see the excellent resources on Peter Higginbotham's website workhouses.org.uk

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

settleresearch@gmail.com

Settle Graveyard Project

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.

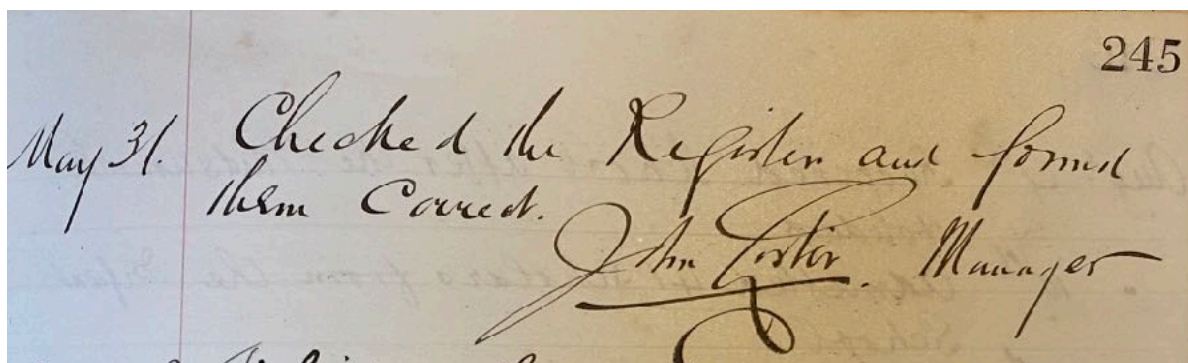
The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the 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'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Lancaster Guardian, 3 – Westmorland Gazette, 4 – Blackburn Standard, 5 – Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 6 – Daily Mirror

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

ph1 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Mick Harrison, ph2 – photo with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph3 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Helen Atkinson, ph4 – credited to St James' Hospital via Facebook site Yorkshire and Northern England Heritage, submitted by Roderick Watt

Visit to the school May 31st 1886



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May 31. Checked the Register and found them correct.
J. H. Foster. Manager