

William Lodge Paley, schoolmaster and top diarist

Education was a privilege for the wealthy until the Church of England initiated their programme of 'National Schools' to provide a basic education and promote good Christian morals. William Lodge Paley was a schoolmaster at Giggleswick National School and at the Sunday School. Settle's National School was built on the site of Victoria Hall before moving to Upper Settle in 1853.



Here lie the remains of W L Paley who was Master of the National School Giggleswick for 27 years. He was born at Walden, Wensleydale on 13th Jan'y 1785, died at Settle Novr 16th 1847, aged 62 years 11 months E5

William's gravestone inscription gives little hint of the life of this rather eccentric man. However, William wrote a comprehensive diary which was found and transcribed by **Dr Charles William Buck** in the early 20th century. William's diaries tell us plenty about him and his attitudes to life. However, the real joy of the diaries is the wealth of social history and the fascinating picture of life in Settle and England the early 1800s [ph1]. This project is indebted to both William and Dr Buck.

William was born in 1785 to **John Paley** and **Annas Lodge** in Walden, a remote hamlet south of Aysgarth. William is related to the errant **Mark Beresford** through the marriage of a niece.

A VILLAGE "PEPYS"
AT
GIGGLESWICK OVER
100 YEARS AGO.
(By C. W. BUCK, SETTLE.)

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William Lodge Paley was born at Walden, Wensleydale, Jan 13th, 1785, and commenced teaching at Lodge, 1803, afterwards at Long Preston, and ultimately at Giggleswick National School 1812. He resigned in 1830 and set up at Settle as a bookseller in his private house, but returned to Giggleswick 1841 and died at Settle, 1847.

His tombstone is behind Settle Church (belfry end). He was not a very efficient teacher, and ludicrous stories were told of him. He left a voluminous Diary extending over many years and which is still in existence.

The boys nick-named him "Old Putty Legs," as he wore drab kerseymere small clothes, stockings, shoes with buckles, and a swallow-tailed blue coat with brass buttons.

He smoked a long clay pipe which he sucked long and loudly; wore a wig made by Sylvester Cork, of Settle, and was always very particular how he took off his hat in Church. He went to Skipton to study Dr. Bell's improved system of education (with sand trays), which he introduced at Giggleswick in 1814.

As our diarist died in 1847, very few people now alive will remember him but I have heard him described as a shy, serious simple-minded man. He acted as the local bookseller and accountant, preserving a copy of all his letters and business transactions.

'He smoked a long clay pipe which he sucked long and loudly; wore a (itchy) wig made by Sylvester Cork and was always very particular how he took off his hat in church.' [ph2] It seems William was not the best teacher, *'the boys nick-named him 'Old Putty Legs' as he wore drab kerseymere small clothes (underwear & knee breeches), stockings, shoes with buckles and a swallow tailed coat with brass buttons'.*



Later he gave up teaching and turned to selling books, travelling all around the region on foot – regularly walking to Halton Gill and back in a day for example.

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William didn't marry and so lived as a lodger, mostly at the Black Horse Inn in Giggleswick. In those days respectable bachelors couldn't possibly be expected to look after themselves. His diaries include frequent complaints about his school students and fellow guests, especially when he was forced to share a room with them which was not uncommon, especially on market days or when fairs or the military came to town.

Aug 19 - Took supper with 10 tanners and shoemakers from near Ulverstone who had come for the Settle leather fair. Mr Waller had only 6 of them staying so that I got to sleep in my own bed.

March 12 - Taught all day to prevent the scholars attending the cock fight, on the sinfulness of the practice and our weak natures. Was sorry some of them did from perversity. Was disturbed in bed by a rat and the noise 11 soldiers and 2 women made.

Sept 7 - Was surprised we had 91 scholars at Sunday school.

July 18 - Attended church twice and had an unpleasant altercation with (*scholar*) H Ingham after and thought myself obliged to whip him which his rebellion increased manyfold. (*Henry Ingham was a frequent offender and recipient of the cane. He was the naughty son of widow Jane Ingham, the bread baker who lived at The Folly.*)

March 13 - A fox hunt and much intoxication in the neighbourhood — sad proof of depravity.

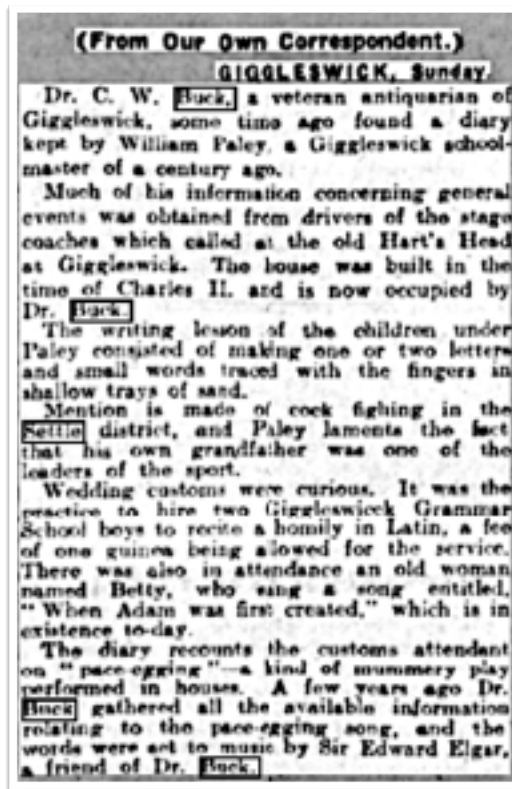
William's descriptions of 19th century medicines are quite graphic!

Oct 1 — Our British troops taken Washington in America, burnt the Public Buildings and taken 2500 cannon etc with less than 2,000 men opposed to 9,000 with small loss. Robert Lister, having long had a white swelling in his knee, his leg was amputated today by Drs Robinson, Anton, Wilson, Rogers, Bailey and Foster. (*This would have been performed in an 'Operating Theatre' with numerous spectators. Dr Buck pointed out that this would have been without anaesthetics! Incredibly Robert, a joiner, survived for another 22 years before he died, aged 54*)

Sep 27 - Pain very bad and met Dr Robinson on the road about having a tooth drawn. I had an instinctive fear of the operation. He could clearly see the farthest tooth was bad and it was painful as he had to go in my mouth so often. There was a hole down the middle and it bled till I went to bed, but I enjoyed a good night's repose. (*Doctors/surgeons were also dentists in those days*)

June 1 - Took down a list of about 90 scholars who have not had the small or cow pox; think they will be inoculated by subscription (*donations from the wealthy*). Mrs Bolland desired me to call on Dr Rogers to remunerate him.

June 9 - Went to Settle Fair after 3, was chiefly with Mr Broader who is nervous with smell of Small Pox as he is not certain he ever had (*it*) so intends being inoculated tomorrow. Hope he will be preserved from having them naturally as he is very fat and it might be dangerous.



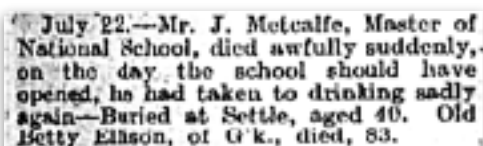
Our British troops taken Washington in America, burnt the Public Buildings and taken 205 cannon, etc., with less than 2,000 men opposed to near 9,000, with small loss. Robert Lister, having long had a white swelling in his knee, his leg was amputated to-day by Drs. Robinson, Anton, Wilson, Rogers, Bailey and Foster. [No anaesthetics at this date.—Ed.]

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Jul 15 - Drank sea water which acted well (*for constipation*). Coronation of George IV joined procession in Dalton Square where "God Save the King" was sung by children and the Corporation Band. Proceeded to the Market Place but the crowd was so immense could never see ½ of it, nor can I describe it. Bid all farewell and walked to Hornby Castle Inn but was much annoyed with the noise of drunken people and was awoke before daylight by awful storm and lightning. Was not so much afraid as I sometimes am.

1 June — Jane Waller was safely delivered of a daughter by Dr Harrison. (*This was Dr Edward Harrison, doctors were midwives too*)

William recorded many birth, marriages and deaths locally and abroad. He often related the cause of death, very helpful to local historians especially when they occurred before formal registration of deaths was compulsory. One example is the death of schoolmaster **James Metcalfe** in 1842, aged 40 'who had taken to drinking sadly again.'



July 22.—Mr. J. Metcalfe, Master of National School, died awfully suddenly, on the day the school should have opened, he had taken to drinking sadly again.—Buried at Settle, aged 40. Old Betty Elison, of G.K., died, 83.

Apr 22 — Dr John Bradley at Long Preston (my intimate friend) died yesterday at his father's in Newby. I hear he has fallen victim to intoxication and maybe a warning to us! Had a qt of ale at Hart's Head (!)

August 2 (1821) — The Queen died on the 7th at night of an inflammation in her bowels. Some disturbances and lives lost at the Queen's funeral through the mob forcing the procession and irritating the soldiers to fire at them; her party have always endeavoured to involve the country in mischief and now thought it was their last chance. (*Queen Caroline of Brunswick, estranged with of George IV [ph2,3]*)



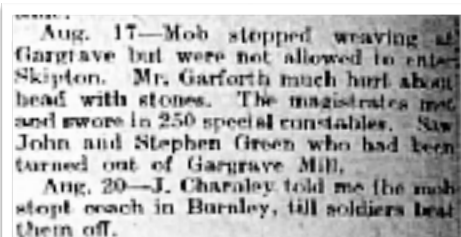
Aug 8 — Old Betty Hancock (*aged 74*) died today of a dropsical complaint, to whom I have often read. (*Dropsy is the swelling of tissues, probably caused by heart disease*)

Aug 15 — B Hancock's funeral, she was buried as soon as possible as they kept her too long and had died of dropsy, water came through the coffin.

Feb 26 - the remains of Rev W Peart were interred with great pomp — Pall and Supporters. The body in 3 coffins (?) upon a bier from Gisburn made for the late Lord Ribblesdale. No ladies in the procession (*obviously*).

The divide between rich and poor was huge and the first half of the 19th century was riddled with protests and campaigns for electoral right and rights for workers.

Aug 17 - Mob stopped weaving at Gargrave but were not allowed to enter Skipton. Mr Garforth much hurt about head with stones. The magistrates met and swore in 250 special constables. Saw John and Stephen Green who had been turned out of Gargrave Mill. (*The Luddite riots were protests against mechanisation in mills.*)

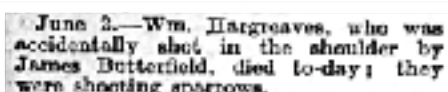


Aug. 17.—Mob stopped weaving at Gargrave but were not allowed to enter Skipton. Mr. Garforth much hurt about head with stones. The magistrates met and swore in 250 special constables. Saw John and Stephen Green who had been turned out of Gargrave Mill. Aug. 20.—J. Charnley told me the mob stopt coach in Burnley, till soldiers beat them off.

Aug 20 - J Charnley told me the mob stopt coach in Burnley, till soldiers beat them off.

William's diaries included valuable information about other locals which is not available from any other source.

Jun 2 (1843) — Wm Hargreaves, who was accidentally shot in the shoulder by **James Butterfield**, died today; they were shooting sparrows. (*Amazingly there are no records of*



June 2.—Wm. Hargreaves, who was accidentally shot in the shoulder by James Butterfield, died to-day; they were shooting sparrows.

a coroner's inquest but this explains James' sudden departure to Liverpool and the inscription on his father's gravestone – James died of apoplexy, probably due to heart problems, aged just 29)



James Butterfield, son of the above died at Liverpool August 8th 1847 aged 29 years. If upright worth and virtue claims the tears, reader tis due to him who sleepeth here. Grateful, affectionate, sincere and kind. His memory's dear to those he left behind.

Similarly, William explained why **Richard Bowskill** (of Bowskill's Yard) had to leave the area in 1842, also going to Liverpool. Despite being found not guilty of robbing old Henry Butler 'men will still form their opinion of him.'

June 3.—Am sorry to say H. News-holme, T. Bentley and R. Bowskill were sent to Wakefield yesterday for robbing old H. Butler, aged 80.

June 29.—Newsholme and Bentley sentenced to two years hard labour and Dick Bowskill came off, but men will still form their opinion of him.

April 1821 – Was shocked to hear that **Charles Duckett**, late of Folly, has cut his throat having betrayed M (Mary) Kayley's daughter and can't bear the reproach. (*Charles had recently farmed at the Folly, the largest farm in the area and so was a wealthy man. He got Nancy Kaley pregnant. She was a working class girl from Hellifield so it would be 'impossible' for a man of his status to marry her and Charles and couldn't live with the news. Charles, Nancy and the baby survived and had large families of their own.*)

—Was shocked to hear that Charles Duckett, late of Folly, has cut his throat, having betrayed M. Kayley's daughter, and can't bear the reproach. Oh! how weak is man.

Poor old **Eli Harger** was the innkeeper at the Naked man Inn. He was predeceased by all his five children who, according to William had some appalling deaths including 'a series of strokes'. Unsurprisingly William thought Eli 'addicted to liquor'.

Oct. 4.—Eli Harger's daughter died of a series of strokes and E. T. Foster broke his thigh and some ribs, falling out of hayloft.

We can only speculate what **Edward Thomas Foster**, who broke his thigh and some ribs falling out of hayloft, was doing up there but, soon afterwards, he got married.

May 21.—Eli Hargers buried eldest girl Agnes, who was deaf and dumb.

William could be accused of being a bit of a gossip, quite happy to include very personal opinions, reflecting the values of the day.

Sept 22 - Heard (*Rev'd*) Ingram and Thompson at G'k Church and Henley in Meth Ch at night. I liked him better than the first time.

April 11.—Met Phil Falshaw and went to Eli Hargers. Was rather sorry as I think him addicted to liquor and light discourse.

Feb 8 – Called on Mrs R Harger whose husband in in the asylum at York (*Richard Harger was the brother of Eli Harger above and his wife was Isabella Lister. York Asylum was shut down soon after Richard's stay because of the cruel treatment of patients*)

Feb. 8.—Called on Mrs. R. Harger whose husband is in the Asylum at York again. Mr. Clapham informed me that

Mar 28 – Smoked a pipe with Richd Harger at night. He talked rationally some time, but thought him very slightly e'er I came away. He's very fat.

March 28.—Smoked a pipe with Richd. Harger at night. He talked very rationally some time, but thought him rather flighty e'er I came away. He's very fat. Scott was quite my h'nfe

William was very fond of matters of the heart, both his own and others!

Jul 23 (1815) — Bonaparte has surrendered to Captain Maitland of the Bellerophon when he found there was no way of escaping our cruisers. What a lesson to vain man! Report says Dr Robinson is just married to Miss Marshall to whom he has been long attached. . . . Mrs R is a very stout

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woman. My intimate friends marry so fast, I must either seek a mate also or new intimates —
(William never married.)

July 23.—Bonaparte has surrendered to Captain Maitland of the Bellerophon when he found there was no way of escaping our cruisers. What a lesson to vain man!—Report says Dr. Robinson is just married to Miss Marshal to whom he has been long attached.—R. Mason's

called in an hand carriage. At Dr. R's had rum and tobacco and chat, what was agreeable. Mrs. R. is a very stout woman. My intimate friends marry so fast, I must either seek a mate also or new intimates.

In November 1828 **James Twisleton** (of Twisleton's Yard) married **Mary Lofthouse** from Cold Cotes near Ingleton. William tells us this was their third attempt at marrying. Indeed, banns had previously been read in November 1826 and in July 1827. This wedding was by licence rather than by banns, possibly to remove the three week window for one of them to change their minds.

Was glad he was sober tho' his daughter Lofthouse was married to-day to James Twisleton, who should have been twice before.

Mar 16 (1822) Dined with old friend **Robert Procter**, Long Preston, who seems lonely following the loss of his housekeeper. Fear he will leave Long Preston soon and then it will lose one of its best men and one of my best customers.

March 16.—Dined with old friend R. Procter, L. Preston, who seems lonely for the loss of his housekeeper. Fear he will leave L. P. soon and then it will lose one of its best men and I one of my best customers.

Oct 5 (1822) Mr Procter seems very lonely so advised him to marry and recommended two pious sisters to choose from and he seemed to relish the idea pretty well.

to L. Preston. Mr. Procter seems very lonely so advised him to marry and recommended two pious sisters to choose from and he seemed to relish the idea pretty well.

In April 1824 Robert Procter, 54, married Agnes Preston, 34 of Mearbeck who may have been one of the pious sisters — there were four spinsters in that family! Unfortunately William's plan backfired as Agnes immediately started on a comprehensive renovation of his property and, as a result:

June 18.—Went to Mr. R. Procters, Long Preston but have got no orders since his marriage, and then on to Hell-

June 18 (1825) — Went to R Procters, Long Preston but have no orders since his marriage.



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'.

Sketch kindly provided by Teresa Gordon.

ph1 — photo and diary entries with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph2 — credited to Wikipedia, artist James Hudson, ph3 — cartoon credited to Wikipedia, artist James Gilray

Article below from Yorkshire Dales Review, Spring 2001 kindly provided by David Spencer, a descendant.

Out and About with Mr. Paley

In 1815 William Lodge Paley, on holiday from his job as schoolmaster at Settle, walked up hill and down dale to look up his relatives in Wensleydale and Walden. To this Giggleswick schoolmaster, walking was as natural as breathing. William and Dorothy Wordsworth, who were contemporaries in the Lake District, thought nothing of plodding from Grasmere to look up their old friend Southey at Keswick.

Our Mr Paley, who was born in Walden in 1785, left a voluminous diary in which he noted that on May 13 he set out on foot by Stainforth to Foxup and dined at Cousin W Lodge's, then over Horse Head to Uncle Lodge at Scarhouse where I slept." On the following day he heard "Mr Lindley (Rev Thomas Lindley) preach at Hubberholme and afterwards Sacrament at Mr Slinger's - 10 communicants, mainly old."

Part of May 15 was devoted to walking over Walden Moor to Brother Robert's, where he drank tea. Thence to Brother Roger's, "who I fear is consumptive but hope he will obtain a manifestation of God's pardoning love ere he depart." They prayed together at bedtime. The restless feet of Paley now carried him to Burton, arriving at feast-time. "T Lawson sett me near to Thorsby where I slept at Brother John's..... Next day walked up to Wensleydale to sister's at Buttersett (sic)."

By this time he was ready to rest his limbs, which he did by catching the coach that ran from York to Lancaster "by means of 2 coaches which meet and change horses at Aysgarth 3 days a week." He was now on his way back to Giggleswick. On May 19, he set out from Hawes, "on new coach which set me down at Gearstones at 6." He walked through North Ribblesdale, arriving home three hours later.

Paley's sister writing in 1821 to tell him her husband was dangerously ill of rheumatic fever, the schoolmaster got special leave from school and rode William Wildman's pony to Gearstones feast of Ribbleshead where bait was obtained. Thence to Hawes, using a road that had been torn up by a recent storm. At Buttersett he found his brother-in-law, "better than expected, but sweats uncommonly." Paley "left him a bottle of Gin having received 2s from Sister towards it." He then returned to Giggleswick.

That year, he attended the Christmas Eve market at Hawes on his way to Buttersett. "Bro. Dinsdale

being ill with a fall, milked two cows for him." He was next in Hawes on New Year's Day, 1822. There had been heavy snow. He spent a night at the home of Cousin D Lodge and returned home on foot, through a snowstorm, his route being via Foxup and Stainforth. Back in his natal area in May, with a Mr B, he notes that they set out for home early on May 28, ascending the Rake and crossing the Moor to Walden, where he lunched at the home of his sister.

This walk took them up Bishopdale to the old house at Gray where his cousin, Ottewell Lodge, now lived. They had been so tired when walking over Horse Head Pass on the outward journey, the return was made by Greenfield. "The road is bad but got some good ale at Charley's which went down well in spite of aching teeth." Two tired walkers had tea at the Golden Lion at Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Home was reached soon after 10.

A break of two weeks from teaching at Christmas was occupied by a visit to his Dales' relatives who provided him with free board and lodgings. Horse Head Pass, on the 23rd, was lashed by rain and snow. He attended Church at Aysgarth, rode to Leyburn on his brother's pony. Another day, at Carperby, he found Mr Metcalfe of Carperby was "tipsy". Paley, who was also a bookseller, off-loaded a volume of sermons on Mr Metcalfe, who provided him with a bed for the night. During the return to Horton, he had the wind in his face.

He varied his holiday venue to the Lake District. But that's another story ...

W.R. Mitchell

NOBBUT' MIDLIN': LAUGH WITH THE DALESFOLK

BY W.R. MITCHELL,

published by Castleberg Press is the third part of Bill's humorous trilogy on the Dales, and costs £6.99. (Please add £1 for postage and packing per item). Bill's other two titles being **Summat and Nowt** and **Nowt's Same**. The books can be ordered direct from Castleberg Press, 18 Yealand Avenue, Giggleswick, near Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0AY. Cheques made out to Castleberg Press.