

## William Peterkin, schoolmaster at the National School

William was born in 1797 in Bulmer, a small village between York and Malton, East Yorkshire. His father, another **William**, died, aged 34, when William was just four. His mother **Rachel**, who was 35 remarried an agricultural labourer called **Thomas Sherwood** who was just 19. This was quite scandalous in those days - younger wives were quite acceptable but not older ones. The marriage must have been good for Rachel as she lived until she was 88, although was blind for her last ten years.

In the meantime, in 1830, William, aged 33, married local girl **Susan Tomlinson** and they had three children named **William**, **Hutchinson** and **Mary**. They lived in the delightful village of Hackness, just inland from Scarborough, where William worked as a schoolmaster - he must have received an education.

By 1842, the family had travelled all the way from Hackness to Settle where William worked at the National School (when it was at the site of the Victoria Hall, before moving to Upper Settle), taking over from *James Metcalfe*. William could afford to send sons Hutchinson and William to Giggleswick School. By the time of the 1851 census they had moved to Long Preston where William worked at the Endowed School. William's body was brought back to Settle for burial upon his death in 1860, aged 63 [SC].

On the 24th ult., at Long Preston, aged 63 years, Mr. William Peterkin. The deceased was for several years Master of the National School at Settle, and afterwards of the Endowed School at Long Preston, and was much respected as a diligent and conscientious Master.

When William died, widow Susannah moved to Altrincham to live with her daughter Mary who had married **James Butterworth** a 'grey cloth draper'. When Susannah died, aged 76, she was brought back to Settle to be buried with husband William.

*In memory William Peterkin who died April 24th 1860. Aged 63 years. Also Susannah wife of the above who died June 29th 1875 aged 76 years, D23*

Son William found employment as a banker's clerk in Skipton before promotion to the manager of the Craven Bank in Clitheroe, a post he held for 40 years [1].

Interments: Mrs. Isabella Peterkin, (78), widow of Mr. William Peterkin who for 40 years was manager of the Clitheroe branch of the Craven Bank; Mrs. Warner, widow of Mr. Thomas Warner, grocer, Corporation-street.

Wonderfully named son **Hutchinson Tomlinson Peterkin** left Giggleswick School to take up an apprenticeship in drapery on Briggate in Leeds. Hutchinson became a carpet merchant and worked in a variety of partnerships around Lancashire. One partnership was with **William Henry Peterkin**, his nephew, son of brother William. Hutchinson retired in 1887, aged 52 and moved back to Scarborough with his second wife Mary, but still continued to invest in cloth manufacturers including 'Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd floorcloth manufacturers in Kirkcaldy.' Hutchinson died a very wealthy man, leaving nearly half a million pounds in today's value. With no children of his own, William Henry Peterkin, nephew, was the executor.



## *Settle Graveyard Project*

*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](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk), 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto: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*

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

*Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Clitheroe Advertiser and Times*