

There are over 50 people with the surname Towler buried in the graveyard. Many of these descend from families in Rathmell, including this man, William Towler.

William Towler, his rather attractive governess and the White Horse

William Towler was born in 1829 to **George Towler** and **Agnes Wolfenden**, Rathmell farmers. His elder brother, John, was a self-proclaimed Professor of Languages who travelled Europe and the States, had three marriages (including two at the same time in different continents) and numerous children.

In 1854 William was a coin dealer at Hollin Hall, near Rathmell and married **Alice Holden**, the daughter of Thomas Holden, a Rathmell land owner. Alice gave him six children, but little Mary died at one day old. In 1856, William took over the licence of the **White Horse** from **William Cork**. By 1864 William had sufficient funds to move the family into Rock House on Castle Hill. William worked as a corn merchant, storing grain in the barn next door. He must have done well - William could afford to educate his sons at Giggleswick School. Alice died in 1864, at the birth of their daughter Emily Alice who also died. So at the time of the 1871 census William was a widower with three sons and a daughter, helped by a young Scottish governess **Elizabeth Manson**.

In January 1869 there was a fire at **Ellen Skirrow's** tallow chandler's premises next to Rock House. The fire was discovered by **Stephen Dawson** who was William Towler's brother-in-law, having married William's sister Ann Towler. Stephen was working as a servant to William after his own farming business went bust due to the impact of the 1860s cattle plague.

By the time of the 1881 next census, William was still a corn merchant at Rock House, but had a further three sons with his new wife Elizabeth, who had been the governess. William died, in 1887, after fathering yet another son. He is buried in Settle churchyard with his first wife Alice and the two daughters who died in infancy.

In remembrance of Alice, wife of William Towler, Rock House, Settle who died Decr 23rd 1864, aged 32 years. Also 2 of their children Mary Towler died June 30th 1857 aged 1 day. Emily Alice Towler died August 5th 1864 aged 6 months. Also of the above William Towler who died... April 1887 aged 59 years E23

William left a sizeable estate which may explain how the family could afford the grand gravestone amidst the other wealthy folk. The estate is likely to have gone to William's children, leaving widow Elizabeth with relatively little. Elizabeth took her remaining sons to Lancashire where she made a living as a music teacher. A daughter **Jessie Elizabeth Manson** lived with them — she was born in Stockport 18 months before Elizabeth married William and was brought up by a couple in Stockport (probably to avoid gossip in Settle).

TRANSFERS OF LICENSES.—On Tuesday last, the 13th instant, at the Court House, Settle, the licenses of three of the public houses at that place were transferred as follows, viz.:—The "Talbot" from Mr. William Leach, to Mr. William Cork; the "Naked Man" from Mr. W. Cork to Mr. John King; and the "White Horse" from Mr. John King to Mr. William Towler, of Long Preston.—At the same time the license of the "Hart's Head" at Giggleswick, was transferred from Mr. Christopher Brown to Mr. Michael Wray.

FIRE.—On Sunday morning, about seven o'clock, a fire was found to have broken out on the premises occupied by Messrs Skirrow and Son, tallow chandler, in Back-lane, but for the timely discovery of which the consequences might have been very disastrous indeed to other buildings in the same street. As it was the damage done to stock-in-trade on the premises must amount at least to £100, and the building is supposed to have sustained about half that amount of damage. Both were insured in the Liverpool and London and Globe Office. The fire was first discovered by Mr. Stephen Dawson, who quickly roused the neighbours, and as there was fortunately plenty of water at hand, the fire was extinguished in the course of an hour or so. How it originated is a mystery, all having been left apparently safe when the premises were locked up on Saturday night.



William's sons kept the corn business going together before going their separate ways [LSA].

In 1880 William and Alice's eldest son, Joseph Towler had a bit of a lucky escape [1]. He used his expensive education to become landlord of the Hart's Head in Giggleswick. He was described as an 'Innkeeper and coindealer' and advertised in *The Ribble-land*. Later he became a hotel manager in Leeds.

Accident.—An accident occurred to Joseph Towler, son of Mr. William Towler, of Rock House, Settle, on Tuesday morning last, which might very easily have proved fatal. It seems that whilst the unfortunate young man was driving a horse and cart between Langcliffe and Settle, the horse, which is a young one, took fright at a railway engine, and ran away. Towler was in some way or other thrown from the cart into the road, and one of the wheels passed over his chest. We believe he is now progressing favourably.

TOWLER BROTHERS,
DEALERS IN
LINSEED CAKE,
FLOUR, MALT,
HORSE CORN,
AND
POTATOES,
CASTLE + HILL, + SETTLE.

HART'S HEAD HOTEL,
— GIGGLESWICK, SETTLE. —
BEAUTIFULLY SITUATED
SPLENDID DRIVES
... CHARMING COUNTRY.
Posting Attached. Hot and Cold Baths.
SPECIAL TARIFF FOR LENGTHENED PERIODS.
Good Accommodation for Tourists and Visitors.
JOSEPH * TOWLER, * Proprietor.

William's second son, Charles Edward Towler, tried his hand at several jobs including a draper and an auctioneer/innkeeper at the Craven Inn [LSA] He lived at The Talbot Inn before marrying Mary Hodgson, the landlord's daughter. In 1896 Charles went bankrupt, so left for Morecambe which appears to have been a destination for several of Settle's bankrupts.

CHAS. E. TOWLER,
Dresser and Draper,
DURR STREET, SETTLE.
ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

CHARLES EDWARD TOWLER,
Auctioneer and Valuer,
Craven Inn, Giggleswick Station, nr. Settle.
Sales of Live Stock, Household Furniture, and other
Commissions carefully conducted.
Valuations for Probate, Transfer &c.
PROBATE & TRANSFER.
READABLE TERMS - IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENTS.
Craven Inn, Giggleswick Station.
One minute from the Midland Station, on the Leeds and Lancaster
branch. Conveniently situated in the midst of Charming Scenery.
COMFORTABLE APARTMENTS.
+ HOT AND COLD BATHS. +
Charles Edward Towler, Proprietor.
Good Stabling.

William's third son was Edwin Holden Towler, who stayed with the corn business [ph1]. Edwin married Annie Huthersall, whose parents had also previously run The Talbot Inn. They had a son William Edwin who died in infancy, two daughters who became governesses and a further son, Edwin Holden Towler (Jnr). Unfortunately, both Edwin (Snr) and Annie died in their mid 30s and are buried with infant William Edwin in the *Old grave A74*, next to Annie's parents. Young Edwin was brought up by his Huthersall grandmother, married and worked as a clerk in Doncaster. The next residents of Rock House were *Robert Turner* (see *Johnson*) and his wife Elizabeth, nee Huthersall - she was Annie's sister.

CASTLE HILL,
Settle, 1897
Hartley Baldwinsley
Bought of **EDWIN H. TOWLER.**
H. & E. ALBERTS' BASIC PHOSPHATE POWDER.

In Loving Memory of William Edwin son of Edwin and Annie Towler. Born August 31st 1887 died June 14th 1888. Also of the above Edwin Holden Towler Died July 25th 1897 aged 35 years. Also of Annie wife of the above who died January 7th 1901 aged 36 years. Peace Perfect Peace, Old A74

During the 1880s and 1890s, William's nephew, George Towler, ran a clothing business in the Market Place [LSA].

WATERPROOFS
SHOOTING COATS,
FISHING COATS,
DRIVING COATS,
WALKING COATS,
IN ALL THE NEWEST ORIGINS.
Each garment is specially cut, warranted to fit,
and thoroughly waterproof.
SAMPLES ON VIEW AT
GEORGE TOWLER'S,
MARKET PLACE, SETTLE.

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, '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 settlresearch@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.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette,

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

ph1 – credit to Back in Settle facebook site