

Deaths caused by disease, 1869 - 72, in chronological order

Harry Gifford, blacksmith's apprentice, died November 1869

There is no direct evidence that Harry was working on the railway when he died, but it's quite likely as he was a blacksmith's apprentice. He may have been apprentice to *William Capstick* or his uncle *Thomas Gifford*. In 1851 there were 10 blacksmiths working in Settle Town, but at least 22 at the time of the 1871 census during the building of the railway.

The Gifford family had lived in Settle for generations, serving the people of Settle as butchers based in the Shambles. Harry was the youngest of seven children of **William Gifford** and **Margaret Taylor** and their story is documented as part of the Graveyard Project. There were five daughters and just two sons.

Henry died on the 8th November 1869 when he was just 17 of Scarletina – scarlet fever, one of the seven infectious diseases which were responsible for a third of all deaths in the 19th century. Chances of infection were much higher in crowded areas of poor sanitation. Communities of railway workers provided ideal conditions for transmission.

31	Eighth November 1869 Settle	Harry Gifford	male	17 years	Blacksmith's Apprentice	Scarletina Idios certified	The mark of Nanny Wilcock in attendance Settle	Eighth November 1869	Wm. Wilcock Registrar
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Harry's death was registered by **Nanny Wilcock**, the wife of *James Wilcock*, an ostler and labourer. They had lived next to the Giffords in the Shambles for many years. They are buried in the Old Graveyard and have an interesting tale to tell!

Harry's dad, William Gifford, worked as a butcher until he died in 1863, aged 50 and was buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the Ancient graveyard. Perhaps Harry was buried with him. Margaret outlived him by 30 years and retired to Blackpool.



Richard Cartmell, railway labourer, died February 1871

Richard was born in July 1847 in Goosnargh, a small village just north of Preston. He was the eldest of four children of **William Cartmell** and **Alice Sellers**, who made a living from 'power loom weaving' which had replaced the traditional hand loom weaving in the north west of England.

This was a working class family and Richard's brothers were also labourers. The railways provided a potentially good income, despite the dangers. Richard died on 25th February 1872, aged 23, of 'continued fever' from which he had suffered for 18 days [1].

Settle.—On the 25th ult., Mr. Richard Cartmell, railway laborer, aged 23 years.

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No.	When Died	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Cause of Death	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar
201	Twenty fifth February 1871 Settle	Richard Courtwell	Male	23 Years	Railway Labourer	Continued fever 18 days Purpura Haemorrhagica Hædæ continued	M. Gifford Present at the death Settle	Twenty eighth February 1871	John Cowburn Registrar

His death was registered by M Gifford which can only be **Margaret Gifford**, the widow of **William Gifford** who lived in the Shambles. Margaret's son **Harry Gifford**, (above) a blacksmith's labourer, had died in 1869, perhaps linked to work on the railways and his account is provided separately. This would suggest that Richard had found accommodation in the centre of Settle, perhaps even lodging with widow Margaret, as a way of helping her ends meet.



James Burkinsher, railway labourer, died May 1871

James, born in 1843, was the son of an agricultural labourer **William Burkinsher/ Burkinshaw/ Brukinshear** and his wife **Harriet Tuman**. They lived in Mattersey which is technically in Nottinghamshire but is just a few miles east of Sheffield and Rotherham. James' mum Harriet had three marriages. Her first husband **George Simpson** committed suicide just after their marriage. William was her second husband who died aged 60 after 20 years of marriage (when James was 13) and her third husband **Matthew Doncaster** died ten years after their marriage. Such was Victorian life – in the 19th century the average marriage lasted 14 years before the death of one spouse.

The Burkinshaw family had lived in Mattersey for generations farming small plots of land in the grounds of Mattersey Hall, with this advert from 1833 [2].

Lot 4.—All that TENEMENT or DWELLING-HOUSE, situate next to and adjoining Lot 3; together with the Garden and Paddock, containing One Acre, thereto adjoining, and also Nine Acres of rich Meadow LAND, at a convenient distance from the House, in the occupation of Mr. Burkinshaw.

By the time of the 1861 census, James, along with many of Nottinghamshire's young men, was working as a miner. This would have provided ideal experience for work on the railways as a tunneller. James does not appear on the 1871 census returns, just six weeks before his death. He may well have been underground or working out in the field on an unsociable shift or perhaps gave a false name.

James died on 20th May 1871, aged 28, of 'continued fever' from which he had suffered for a month and someone paid to register his death in the papers [1]. James is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the Ancient Graveyard.

Settle.—On the 20th inst., Mr. James Burkinsher, railway laborer, aged 28 years.

No.	When Died	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Cause of Death	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar
224	Twentieth May 1871 Settle	James Burkinsher	Male	28 Years	Railway Labourer	Simple continued fever 1 month continued	John Cook In Attendance Settle	Twenty second May 1871	John Cowburn Registrar

The person 'in attendance' at his death was **John Cook**, a carpenter who lived in Duke Street in Settle. Perhaps he was a neighbour or a work colleague? John also worked on the railways. John's story is documented as part of the Project, suffice to say that he had a falling out with his foreman, the fraudulent **Worrell Kellam**, and lost his job.



James Todd, apprentice tinner, died November 1871

John worked as an apprentice tinner and brazier so we cannot prove his death was connected to the railways. James will have been apprenticed either to *Michael Horner* or *Darius Ineson*.

James was the sixth out of seven children of **Henry Todd** [ph1] and his wife **Sarah Harrison**. Sarah died at the birth of the next child, Robert, so James would have been brought up by Henry and older siblings. Henry worked as the gardener for the Townhead estate for 53 years and the family lived in a cottage at the top of Castle Hill.



James died on 25 November 1871 of phthisis (tuberculosis) with his father present at the death.

1871. DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	
<i>County Settle November 1871 Settle</i>	<i>James Todd</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>21 years</i>	<i>Tinner and Brazier (apprentice)</i>	<i>Phthisis 1 year certified</i>	<i>Henry Todd Present at the death Settle</i>	<i>County Settle November 1871</i>	<i>John Corbridge Registrar</i>	

James is buried with his parents in the graveyard. The graveyard is in the midst of the deathly families who owned Townhead over the years and they may well have paid for the stone.

In affectionate remembrance of Henry Todd, for 53 years the faithful servant and friend of the family at Townhead, Settle, died 25th March 1892 aged 85 years. Also of Sarah his wife died 1st May 1854, aged 44 years. And of James their son died 25th November 1871 aged 21 years, E18



Joseph Smith, railway labourer, died 9 May 1872

Joseph Smith is another common name. However, we know that this Joseph, born in approximately 1808, was from Preston and unmarried. At the time of the 1871 census, aged 63, he worked as a railway labourer, lodging in one of the 15 navy huts at 'Elworth Bridge'. There were four railway workers in the hut, called 'Wood Hut' on the census, lodging with the family of **Christopher Knowles**, a waller from Malham and his family.

Labouring on the railway was a tough physical job. Most navvies were in their 20s or 30s so Joseph must have been a strong man, or desperate. Joseph died on 9 May 1872, aged 64, 'in Settle', rather than at 'Elworth Bridge', aged 64, from heart disease.

1872. DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
<i>356</i>	<i>County Settle May 1872 Settle</i>	<i>Joseph Smith</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>64 years</i>	<i>Railway labourer</i>	<i>Heart disease certified</i>	<i>The Rev. of Henry Ralph Present at the death Settle</i>	<i>County Settle May 1872</i>	<i>John Corbridge Registrar</i>

Perhaps something contributed to Joseph's heart attack?

Settle.—On the 9th inst., Mr. Joseph Smith, railway laborer, aged 64 years.

On the 21st March Joseph went to the Golden Lion at Horton in Ribblesdale just a couple of miles up the Valley. Joseph separated a fight between fellow navy John Smith (no relation), and 'Harry the carpenter'. Afterwards John Smith stole £15 in silver from Joseph. There was a local hearing on the case. The newspaper report suggests that in a swift sleight of the hand, John took the money from Joseph's waistcoat whilst commenting on his buttons and then fled with the proceeds to Batty Green [1].

INGLETON.

ROBBERY.—John Smith, a navy, was brought up under remand, before the Rev. Richard Denny, at the Court House, on the 28th ult., and charged with robbing Joseph Smith, on the 21st ult., at the Golden Lion Inn, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, of 15 sovereigns. The facts of the case were these: Joseph Smith, of Helwith Bridge, laborer, went to the Golden Lion on the 20th ult. rather fresh, between 7 and 8 o'clock p.m. He gave to Mr. Hazledon, the landlord, 16 sovereigns to take care of for him. Next morning he requested that £1 might be returned to him in silver, and in the afternoon he desired that the remainder, viz., £15, might be returned to him, and this was done. After this, it appears that a quarrel arose between John Smith, and Harry, the carpenter, and that the said Joseph Smith stood between them to prevent a fight. John Smith then remarked that the buttons of Joseph Smith's waistcoat were off, and that he (Joseph Smith) pulled open the said waistcoat, and immediately left the house. Joseph Smith then, on examining his pocket, found that his money was gone. The prisoner was traced to the house of Thomas Pearson, innkeeper, Horton, when, after spending between three and four pounds in clothes, &c., he asked Mrs. Pearson to save 10s. for him. She, however, returned it to him at his request the same evening. He remained there all night, but left next morning. P.C. Walker having received information of the robbery, went in pursuit of the prisoner, and found him at Batty Green, and charged him with the robbery. The hearing was long and tedious, the result being that the prisoner was committed to the sessions for trial.



The hearing was 'long and tedious' and John Smith was committed for trial. Unfortunately Joseph had died just six weeks later and so perhaps the trial never happened? There are no further reports about it.

Joseph's death was registered by a Mary Ralph who was present at the death. There were three Mary Ralphs in Settle at the time. One was Mary (Dale) the wife of Robert Ralph, the stonemason included in this study. Both Mary and Robert died in Spring 1874. Another is Mary Ralph, Robert Ralph's sister (who registered his death) who married Aaron Sewell, a stonemason, a few years later.

However, the most likely choice is Mary (Lord) the wife of William Ralph. William was an incredibly successful quarry owner and blue flag merchant [LSA]. Whilst William was running that business, wife Mary ran a common lodging house business in their large property in Victoria Street. These lodging houses provided the cheap accommodation for working class people, just one step up from the workhouse. They were cramped and generally unpleasant and had a

reputation as a hotbed of crime, disease and prostitution. 'Guests' paid a few pence for their accommodation on a daily basis and were expected to leave the property during the day to encourage them to work.

If Joseph had been unwell and unable to work on the railway it is likely that he would have left the navy hut and returned to cheaper accommodation in Settle. If he was staying at Mary's lodging house, this would explain why she registered his death [1].

Joseph is buried in an unmarked grave in the Ancient graveyard.

WM. RALPH & SON,
BLUE FLAG MERCHANTS,
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 * HEADSTONES, FOUNTAINS, AND TABLETS. *

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All Letters addressed—Victoria Street, Settle.



Joseph Uttley, railway labourer, died 23 May 1872

Joseph was born in 1830 in Coverdale which runs between Middleham and Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales. His father, **John Uttley**, was a farm labourer and Joseph followed his lead. In Settle, in 1866, Joseph married **Alice Bentham** from Arncliffe who had worked as a servant in the Queen's Arms Inn in Littondale. From the births of their three children, **Sarah Ann**, **Thomas** and **Martha Elizabeth** we know they lived at Langcliffe.

The railways provided a new employment opportunity for Joseph. By the time of the 1871 census Joseph was employed as a railway labourer and they lived in Twisleton's Yard in Upper Settle.

Joseph died of heart disease on 23 May 1872, aged 41 and Alice was with him when he died. By then they were living back in Langcliffe.

1872. DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
No.	When Died	Name and Surname	Sex	Age	Rank or Profession	Cause of Death	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Signature of Registrar
343	<i>Twenty third May 1872</i>	<i>Joseph Uttley</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>41 years</i>	<i>Railway labourer</i>	<i>Heart disease certified</i>	<i>Alice Uttley In Attendance Langcliffe</i>	<i>Twenty fifth May 1872</i>	<i>John Bentham Registrar</i>

Alice was a fertile woman. Before she married Joseph, she had given birth to two sons **Miles** and **John** who lived with the Uttley family once Alice had married Joseph. Alice had Miles when she was just 17. Some 15 months after Joseph had died, Alice had another child, **Isabella**.

By 1877, Alice had moved to Barnoldswick where she married widow **Richard Slater**, a carter, and she had another two daughters. All the children stayed in Barnoldswick establishing their own families and working in the mills. The fertility continued. This is a photo of the family of Joseph and Alice's son **Thomas Uttley** taken around the time of a family wedding [ph2]. Thomas is third from the right on the back row.

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 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.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Hull Packet

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of Algy Metcalfe, ph2 – photo credited to the descendants of the family on ancestry.co.uk, user [ljelondon](#)

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