

Joseph Whipp, the appropriately named gamekeeper

Some have said that the most interesting of Settle's ancestors were buried with commemorative gravestones. It's not true. Joseph Whipp is a wonderful example of a real character who was buried in an unmarked grave.

Joseph Whipp [ph3], born in 1848 in Bolton By Bowland, followed his father **Richard Whipp** to become a gamekeeper, but not just any gamekeeper. For most of his life Joseph worked at the Lodge at the end of Watery Lane towards Cleatop and was the head gamekeeper for *John Birkbeck* and, later, for *Reverend Hogarth Swale* as the property changed hands. As part of his work Joseph bred dogs and frequently won awards at the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Shows.

Joseph was the prime witness in numerous charges against locals for poaching and illegal shooting. This case in 1873 involved *Barnabus Foster* and *Thomas Marsden* trespassing in pursuit of game on *John Winskill's* land [4].

When he was 24, in 1871, Joseph married **Margaret Ann Life**, also from Bolton by Bowland. While Joseph was working Margaret Ann produced an incredible twelve children including a pair of twins who both died when they were just a few days old.

James F Riley describes, '*Old Man Whipp was the organising spirit of the Sunday fox hunts...to reduce the number of foxes after the war. We would hear him tooting his horn and see him, in full hunting pink, heading what looked like the 'Peasants Revolt' pouring down Victoria Street on Sunday night. Behind their leader the first row of followers would be swinging three or four sandy corpses that only a few hours before had been roaming the fells.*' [A]

In 1921, when Joseph was aged 72, a report of a local hunt gave an indication of his energy and skills [5]. He was a veteran gamekeeper who was '*generally accepted as knowing every inch of the ground.*' Nephew **Francis James Kelly** was in charge of the beaters.

Joseph and Margaret spent their last years at Prospect Terrace with three of their unmarried sons. Margaret died in 1916, aged 67 and Joseph in 1929, aged an impressive 81. They are buried in the surprisingly unmarked grave *Old AX71* with adult children **Donald** and **William Holm Whipp**, a stone quarryman. Donald Whipp died in 1918 having served in the 6th West Riding Regiment



Trespass.—**Barnabus Foster**, and **Thomas Marsden**, both residing at **Settle**, were charged, on the information of **Joseph Whipp**, gamekeeper, with having, on Sunday last, trespassed with a dog in pursuit of game on land belonging to **Mr. John Winskill**. **Marsden** pleaded guilty. **Foster**, however, denied having been on the lands in question, and called evidence to support it. The defendants were also charged with having committed a similar offence on lands occupied by **Mr. Preston**, of **Mearbeck**. Both defendants pleaded guilty to this latter charge, and the Bench fined them in each case £1 and costs, 8s. 6d., or in default two months imprisonment.

shot. To-day thirty-seven guns and ninety-seven beaters assembled on the scene of operations, which was the high country to the east of **Settle**. **Mr. F. J. Kelly** was in charge of the beaters, and the general scheme and the direction of the guns were again in the hands of **Mr. Joseph Whipp**, a veteran gamekeeper, who is generally accepted as knowing every inch of the ground, and who, despite his seventy-two years, displays remarkable endurance. Yesterday week he was shooting, on the Sunday he spent eight hours conducting the fox hunt, and on the following day he walked over to **Malham Tarn** spent the day shooting, and walked back to **Settle** at night. His enthusiasm for the present fox hunts—the first large hunts in which he has participated for thirty years—is unbounded. At a modest average he must have tramped quite thirty-five miles to-day, and after eight hours of it he was quite prepared to lead those who were not too tired to continue the chase.

after a spell in the Volunteer Force. The first burial in the grave was **Margaret Lund**, the mother of John Lund - see *Haining*. She was buried 30 years before the first of the Whipps and is no relation. There are five adults in this grave – quite a squash! Children **George Edwin**, **Sarah** and the twins, **Kathleen** and ‘unbaptised’ son, are in the grave AX70 next to them.

Only three of the 12 children married. **John Thomas** married **Agnes Machell** and worked as a mason’s labourer in Lancaster. Agnes’ father **Edward Machell** was a tenant farmer on the Holker Hall estate near Cartmel. The wooded part of Edward’s land was used for the Holker Hall hunt and so the Machell family were involved in this prestigious event. In 1896 Joseph Whipp, as gamekeeper, was asked to support his employer at the hunt and brought 19 year old John Thomas, with him. This was the start of a beautiful relationship and John Thomas and Agnes married in August 1898 in Cartmel church. They set up home in Lancaster and John Thomas worked as a stonemason, taking advantage of the work from the rapidly expanding building projects including the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Lancaster Town Hall, Ripley School, Storey & Lansil Mills. By the time of the photograph in 1910 they had four children: Sarah 11, Annie 8, John Edward 6, and Marjorie 3yrs. They later moved to Morecambe which is a lovely place to retire.



At the time of the 1891 census John Thomas’ elder brother **Richard Henry Whipp** lived at the Tollgate cottage, just below the Lodge with his aged, widowed grandfather Richard Whipp. After John Thomas’ marriage to Agnes Machell, Richard got to know Agnes’s younger sister Margaret and they married in 1901. Richard worked as a handyman and they lived in Settle on Station Road. They are buried together in *New GX22*.

Daughter **Kezia Louisa** married stonebreaker **George Syers**. Their daughter **Edith** performed with the Settle Amateur Operatic Society [ph2] and then married blacksmith and Rugby Club stalwart **Reginald Hodgson**. Their descendants are still in the area.



After Joseph and Margaret Whipp died Kezia and George lived with three of her brothers, including **Frederick Ethelbert Whipp** [ph4a], a shepherd, and **Charles Reginald Whipp**, a farmer, on Constitution Hill. Charles signed up

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DEATH OF SETTLE BLACKSMITH

Was Rugby stalwart

One of the best known and highly respected figures in Settle, Mr. Reginald Hodgson, of Castleberg Lane, died on Saturday, at the age of 56.

Mr. Hodgson was a member of a family who have been blacksmiths for generations. Members of the Hodgson family have been smiths at Dent, Kirkby Lonsdale, Wennington and Settle. On his mother’s side Mr. Hodgson was also descended from a line of blacksmiths—the Taylors, of Green Smithy, Bentham.

To meet the changed needs of the mid-20th century, Mr. Hodgson had become an expert in general agricultural engineering, oxy-acetylene welding, electric-arc welding and the like. A versatile craftsman, he had also turned out some choice ornamental work.

The death of Mr. Hodgson will be a tragic loss to North Ribblesdale Rugby Union Football Club, for he had been one of the stalwarts of the club for many years. A keen sportsman, his career as a player was ended by a knee injury, but for over 30 years he did a good job as fixture secretary, an office he relinquished only a year ago, and he also was a trustee of the club.

The funeral, on Wednesday, was largely attended.

to serve in the war but was discharged 'not being likely to become an efficient soldier (on medical grounds)'. His medical report suggested he had an injury to his right ankle and a depressed scar on his right tibia, so this may be why. He also had wax in his right ear.

Discharged, not being likely to become an efficient Soldier, (on Medical Grounds) under Para. 392 G.I.I K.R.



George and Kezia Syers were buried in the unmarked NewEX27. Reginald and Edith Hodgson are buried in the grave NewD9.

In memory of Reginald Hodgson, 1902–1962, and his wife Edith Hodgson, 1905–1972

James Riley remembers, 'Two of the sons of Old Man Whipp seemed to lurk permanently in a sinister looking barn at the foot of Banks Lane, just below Townhead, and whose sole aim in life that I could ever discover was to engage in gossip anyone so foolish as to linger nearby. Each trifling scrap of conversation would be savoured and digested; a casual remark about the weather and a detailed appraisal of clouds, cattle, midges and train echo would follow. Try to escape and they would nail you every time ... There was a Whipp sister as well, one Keziah or 'Kezzie', who lived up Constitution Hill. Thinking I was unobserved I took a snapshot behind her cottage and was duly asked next day by the Whipp brothers how it had come out.' [A]

The other siblings are buried in unmarked graves. Sarah Alice and George Edwin are buried in Old AX70 next to their parents with infant twin siblings called Kathleen and an unnamed boy who died aged just 4 days and 2 days respectively. Joseph Swindlehurst Whipp, another farmer, Frederick and Charles Reginald, are buried together in New GX28. An unrelated John Robert Whipp is buried alone in New IX38.

Joseph Whipp had a sister Mary who married James Kelly.



James Kelly, tailor

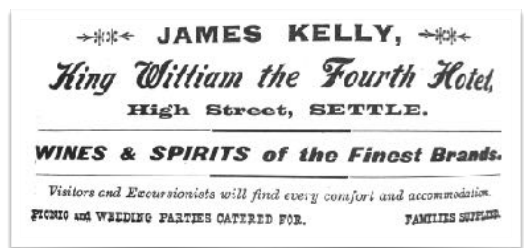
James was born in 1845 in Derry, Ireland. By 1868 he had found his way to Settle and married Mary Whipp. James was a Catholic and for at least 20 years James and Mary lived right next door to the newly built Catholic Chapel on Albert Hill. Mary gave James seven sons and two daughters.

For the majority of their lives James worked as a tailor but by the 1890s spent a few years as the innkeeper at the King William Hotel on High Street [LSA]. In 1903 John Wain (see Huthersall) took over the Inn and James went back to tailoring living on Commercial Street.

James won numerous awards for the quality of vegetables in the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Shows. The '20 Brussel Sprouts' was his most successful category. Mary died in 1912 aged 66 and James followed in 1918 aged 73. They are buried in Giggleswick graveyard.

Eldest son Paul Ignatius Kelly started working life as a postman. However his outlook changed in 1895 when he

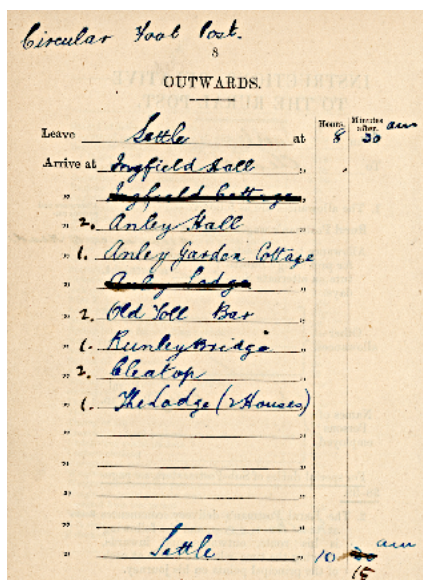
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married **Margaret Ann Chapman**, the eldest daughter of Kit Chapman, a successful carrier and Temperance Hotel keeper in Grassington (see *Horners*). Paul joined the family firm for a while [ph1] until they emigrated to Canada with their expanding family.

Sons **Thomas** and **Francis James** were also postmen. Francis' records show his round went from Infield (now Falcon Manor) to Anley and up to The Lodge (taking 1 hour and 45 minutes!) and later Settle to Rathmell and Tosside [ph4]. He married **Rose Martha Lord**, daughter of Thomas Lord and Jane Hardacre and they lived at 3 Greenhead. Francis and Rose Martha are buried in the unmarked grave **New LX19**. Thomas is buried in the unmarked **New KX28** with second wife **Lizzie Patrickson**.



In his youth, son **Theodore** enjoyed performing for the Settle Amateur Operatic Society [ph2]. Theodore was a gardener and moved to Staffordshire with his wife **Alice Wall** from Ilkley. Son **Henry** was a grocers assistant in Settle. He is buried in the unmarked **NewFX6** with his second wife Ada.

Youngest child **Agnes Theresa** married **Edgar William Embley**, a carter of wines and spirits. After Edgar died, aged just 46, Agnes moved to Bradford with one of their children and lived to the age of 93. Edgar is buried in the unmarked **New KX21**. Obviously the graveyard commemorates the lives of Settle residents of Catholic and Methodist faiths as well as those of the established church.

James and Mary's son **George Frederick Augustus Kelly** married **Florence Mary Lynn**, the daughter of Anthony and Georgina Lynn.



Anthony Lynn, railway carriage inspector

Anthony Lynn, born in 1854 in 'Ireland', found his way to Settle by 1879 when he married **Georgina Joy**, the daughter of **Edward Joy**, a gas fitter and his wife **Elizabeth Jackson** from Liverpool. Over the next seven years they had three daughters and twins **Albert Edward** and **Thomas Joseph**. Unfortunately the twins died aged two and 14. Their grave has a beautifully carved gravestone which must have been expensive.

Faith Hope Charity. Of your charity pray for the repose of the soul of Anthony

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Lynn died Feb 25th 1890 aged 39 years. Also Georgina widow of the above (and beloved wife of Rowland Richards). Died March 12th 1923 aged 66 years R.I.P. ever remembered. Also of their twin sons Edward Albert died Nov 8th 1888 aged 2 years and Thomas Joseph died June 12th 1901 aged 14 years. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God, Old A66

Anthony was a railway carriage inspector and so will have arrived in Settle with work. The family lived at 22 Craven Cottages. After Anthony's death in 1890, aged just 36, Georgina and her four young children stayed in the house earning an income as grocers. By the time of the 1901 census Georgina was running 19 Craven Cottages as a boarding house. The boarders were a stonemason and two bricklayers including **Rowland Richards** from Shropshire. They married two years later. Richard could look after himself – he had previously had to pay a fine of 10 shillings for assaulting George Evans [1]. Georgina died, aged 66 and Rowland died in 1938, aged 74. Rowland is buried in the graveyard in the unmarked grave *New 101*.

Rowland Richards, of Pulley, bricklayer, was charged by George Evans, of Stapleton, labourer, with assaulting him on the 19th June, at Welbatch. — Fined 10s. and costs.

Anthony and Georgina Lynn's daughter **Lucy Teresa** remained single, working as a housekeeper in Clitheroe. Daughter **Florence Mary** married **George Frederick Augustus Kelly**, the son of the Irish tailor **James Kelly** (above). George was a butcher and then jobbing gardener living in Commercial Street. They are buried in the graveyard in the unmarked plot *New FX5* with the cremated remains of their daughter **Marie Teresa**.

By the time of the 1891 census Anthony and Georgina's eldest daughter **Elizabeth Alice**, aged 20, was living in Southport with her aged great aunt (Jackson) and uncle. Next door lived **John Corcoran**, a seedsman from Roscommon in the West of Ireland with his large family. Eight years later Elizabeth's aged aunt and uncle had both died leaving her in the region of £1200 – a fortune! Perhaps Elizabeth's inheritance paid for the exquisite gravestone? Later that year Elizabeth married **Cuthbert Corcoran**, John's son and a nurseryman who thought his luck was in and that he would be 'a gentleman for life'.

Cuthbert's own father, John, had also died in 1908. Cuthbert bought his father's business from his mother, paying back the debt over time. Whether his business sense was lacking or he was unlucky, he struggled to pay off the debt and eventually used up all of Elizabeth Alice's inheritance, denying money had been spent on gambling [2]. He was declared bankrupt in 1914. Oops.

"A GENTLEMAN FOR LIFE."
BIRKDALE MAN WHO MARRIED WIFE
WITH £1,200.
At the Liverpool Bankruptcy Court, on Monday, before Mr. Registrar Cooper, a young man named **Cuthbert Corcoran**, who was described as a nurseryman carrying on business in Church-road Birkdale, Southport, appeared for his public examination, and was represented by Mr. A. J. Mawdley. The liabilities were stated at £1,347, and free assets £18 13s. 2d.

further claim upon his estate. To assist him in his various monetary obligations his wife had spent the whole of her money and now stood as only third mortgagee in the property. He denied that he had lost money by betting or card playing, but admitted that ever since he took over the property it had yielded a "hand to mouth" existence.

FRENCH MEDAL FOR SOUTHPORT BOY.

At St. Teresa's Schools, Southport, yesterday, the Mayor of Southport (Councillor Aveling) presented on behalf of the French Government a handsome bronze medal to **Cuthbert Corcoran**, a scholar attending that school. Last summer a party of boys from the Southport schools visited France, and on their return wrote essays on their impressions, the Mayor giving the prize. This was won by **Corcoran**, and the medal sent by the French Government supplements the prize already given.

Cuthbert and Elizabeth Alice had five sons and a daughter, **Eileen Cecilia**, who died in infancy. Eldest son **Cuthbert** won a 'handsome bronze medal' for an essay he wrote on his impressions of France in 1924 [3]. He became a laboratory assistant.

Son Basil Patrick trained in plumbing but joined the forces and was a successful boxer [3]. He became a professional boxer in 1947 but was knocked out after one fight and didn't box any more after that.

"FRIARY" BOY'S SUCCESS

A member of the "Friary" A.B.C., Liverpool, before the war, now L./Bombardier Basil Corcoran, R.A., stationed in Scotland, has won the bantamweight title in the Army area individual boxing championship, held in Glasgow. He scored a technical knockout over Lance-Corporal Pauly, R.A.S.C., in the second round. Pauly was the winner of last year's Scottish Command championship and runner-up in the All-Army Championship. Corcoran is a Southport boy.

PARODY ON "JOHN PEEL."

*Dedicated to Mr. J. Whipp,
Leader of the Settle Fox Hunts.*

Do you ken Joe Whipp, with his coat so grey,
Who went a fox-hunting upon a summer's day;
That he's keen on the chase, none can gainsay,
When he starts for the hunt in the morning.

CHORUS.

"Twas the sound of his horn brought me from my bed:
And the cry of his men he had oft-times led;
For Whipp's "view halloa," it was often said,
Would wake the fox from his lair in the morning.

Yes, I've followed Joe Whipp both near and far,
O'er hill and dale and over gate and bar;
From Kirkby Fell to Park Wood Scour,
Where we caught a fine fox that morning.

But time passes on with the fox laid low:
With the head in his hands, pleased, stands old Joe;
No tongue can tell, nor can pen portray,
What passed through his mind that morning.

Farewell! cunning fox, your race is run:
No more will you face either dog or gun;
Nevermore will you see the setting sun,
Or hear the sound of the horn in the morning.

No more will you bask 'neath the sun's rosy beam;
Nevermore will you cross o'er wild wood and stream;
No more will you dwell on the days that have been,
For you paid with your life that morning.

You came from your lair, and you met your fate,
And you looked at your captors with dying hate;
As you breathed your last, there was still your mate,
Who heard the sound of the horn that morning.

But not for long will your mate lie low,
For Joe knows its lair and will deal a death blow;
We can sleep in our beds, for then we shall know
That the horn will be silent in the morning.

Be warned, sly foxes from Kettlewell side;
Come not near Kirkby Fell yourselves for to hide;
For if you do you will not long abide,
When Joe blows his horn in the morning.

When the last fox is killed the cocks will crow,
And hens will lay that have ne'er laid before;
Yes, eggs will be cheap, and nevermore soar
To the price I had to pay this morning.

Then here's to Joe Whipp, may no harm befall:
May he live to a hundred ere he gets his "roll call;"
And we'll follow his lead, through fair and through foul,
At the sound of his horn in the morning.

*This song may be sung in any Public Hall, but the Author requests that
it be not sung in the Public Streets to the annoyance of any person.*

*Composed by JAMES AIREY,
December 21st, 1921.*



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.

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

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Wellington Journal, 2 – Ormskirk Advertiser, 3 – Liverpool Echo, 4 – Lancaster Gazette, 5 – Yorkshire Post

ph1 – kindly donated by Chris Binns, ph2 – photo courtesy of John Reid, SAOS, ph3 – photo courtesy of Paul Cochrane, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle facebook site, ph4a – credited to the Back in Settle facebook site, contributed by relation Julie Broderick, ph5 – kindly provided by descendant Terry Wain,

A – Listening and Remembering, Memoirs of a Settle Boy by James F Riley