

Charles Duckett, of the King William beerhouse

The local Ducketts have been traced back to the 16th century when John Duckit married Elizabeth Carr in Long Preston. Several generations of Ducketts lived at Wigglesworth Hall. In the Graveyard Project we have researched accounts of cousins, both called Charles Duckett, both of whom died in 1858 but had very different lives.

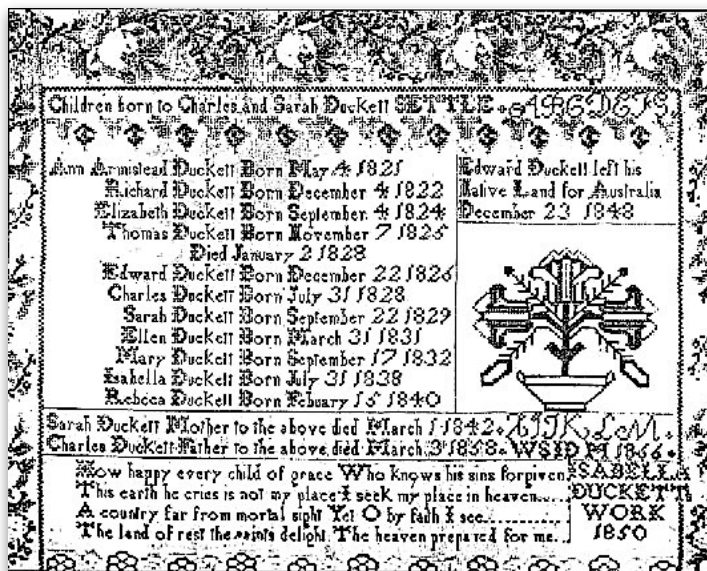


One of Settle's best known Ducketts was Charles Duckett [ph1] who ran the King William IV beerhouse on High Street in Settle for decades. He was a good, hardworking man. Charles was born on 2 May 1801 in Gargrave, the eighth child of Thomas Duckett and his wife Ann Thompson who died soon after his birth. In a Christmas wedding in Giggleswick, on 27 December 1820, Charles married Sarah Armistead when they were both just 19. This may have been because Sarah was four months pregnant with their first child, Ann Armistead Duckett. Charles had been living in Padiham, however they made their home in Settle. Charles began his working life as a joiner but in 1831 became a beerhouse keeper and was registered in the electoral register of 1832 at his property – the King William beerhouse. Only one in 14 men were wealthy enough to be included on the electoral register in Settle, so Charles and Sarah must have run a successful business.

Beerhouses were permitted following the 1830 Beerhouse Act which deregulated beerselling to encourage the public away from the temptation of strong spirits, particularly gin [ph2]. Even the early Temperance movement supported the calls to reform of the licensed trade to encourage 'more healthy' beer drinking. Beerhouse opening hours were 'restricted' to between 4am and 10pm whereas the inns could stay open until 12.30am.

Beerhouses were incredibly popular and by 1836 there were nearly as many beer houses as fully licensed inns across the country. Even here in Settle the 1834 trade directory listed five beerhouses including Charles'. By the 1850s Obadiah Baynes ran another successful beerhouse in the Market Place. In 1869, beer houses were brought back under the control of local justices with increased license fees and so many closed.

As beautifully illustrated in a family sampler by 12 year old daughter, Isabella Duckett, Charles and Sarah had eleven children but poor Sarah died in 1842, aged 41, a year after the birth of the youngest, Rebecca Duckett. She must have been worn out. Fortunately, the elder siblings helped Charles to run the beerhouse and bring up the younger ones. Only one child, son Thomas Duckett, died in infancy [ph1].



In December 1852, PC Cockshott took Charles to court for 'keeping a disorderly house' despite the fact he had sent for the assistance of four constables. The case was dismissed [1]. In August 1853 Charles decided to pay the extra licence money to sell spirits [1] – perhaps he could sense that the days of beerhouses were numbered?

BREACH OF LICENSE.—Mr. Charles Duckett, of Settle, beerhouse-keeper, was summoned upon the complaint of Mr. Cockshutt, the superintendent constable, for keeping a disorderly house on the 1st inst. Mr. Wilson, for Mr. Robinson, appeared for the defendant, and produced witnesses who proved that the defendant had used all his influence to prevent a disturbance, and that he had sent four different times to the constables for their assistance, before one of them arrived, and that on account of the non-attendance of the officers of peace, the disorderly conduct could not be prevented. The magistrates dismissed the information upon the defendant paying 5s. 6d. costs, which was immediately paid.

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In August 1855 Charles 'of the Royal William Hotel' built a very wide 'most excellent path' outside the inn [SC]. The surveyor had also been busy repairing a road by the Town Hall and the road beside Castlekell Wells, the small row of houses beside the wells next to the Folly. Improvements continued. Two years later Charles was in a 'most harmonious' meeting to re-appoint Mr Bentley as the town surveyor and gave examples of improvements which were needed, including the wall opposite John Kemp's house on Victoria Street [SC].

IMPROVEMENTS.—The Surveyor during the month has made several very great improvements in the streets; he has filled up a very awkward channel which has long been dangerous to gig and carriage springs below the cross, and has taken the channel up straight by the end of the Shambles, to the corner of the late Mrs. Rogers's front, thereby widening the street above a yard opposite Mrs. Furness's corner. He has also repaired the road to "Castlekell" Wells, and made a good channel for the water, whereby the road will be easier kept in repair, as formerly the surplus water used to flow down and cut up the middle of the road. Mr. Duckett of the Royal William Hotel determined not to be behindhand in the march of improvement has laid down a new causeway in front of his house, and made a most excellent path. We could have wished he had given a portion of it to the road, as it is much wider than the portion of causeway immediately adjoining. His example ought to be followed by all the owners of property near to public causeways.

On October 22nd 1856 Charles married the much younger Sarah Barrow, a cabinet maker's daughter who had been working as a midwife [SC]. Charles died two years later in March 1858, aged 56. He was buried with his first wife Sarah and their infant son Thomas at Giggleswick graveyard with an exquisitely carved gravestone.



I.H.S. In memory of Charles Duckett of Settle who died March III MDCCCLVIII aged LVI years. Also of Sarah wife of the above who died March I MDCCCXLII in the XLI year of her age. Also of Thomas, II years, B7/39

Three months later the 'Inn Wm IV' was put up for sale with a reserved bid of £500 closing the proceedings [SC]. The article made a point of saying that 'bowls of punch at sales of property belong to a past age and have certainly no effect in inducing purchasers!' However, Sarah was still running the inn at the time of the next census return, looking after one of Charles' grandchildren. In 1868 Sarah married James Matthews, a retired shipwright and property investor in Liverpool, and they moved away.

What happened to Charles and Sarah's children?

After an education at the National School, Edward became apprenticed to blacksmith Luke Ralph. Edward's apprenticeship finished in 1848 and, when Luke died soon after, Edward may have had the option of continuing Luke's business but, along with around twenty other young men of Settle at that time, decided to see what the world had to offer instead. He set off for Australia on December 23rd 1848, the day after his 21st birthday. It's incredible to think that young men would take the risk of travelling to a completely unknown life on the opposite side of the world, with hardly any communication, in the hope of making a fortune. Many would never have travelled further than Skipton or Lancaster before. However, this was an era of political unrest and an assisted emigration scheme aiming to 'expand the Empire' offered tickets to Australia for just a £5 deposit and this may have helped them to make the decision too.

AUSTRALIA.—During the month accounts have arrived of the welfare of several of the young emigrants from Settle, Mr. Henry Walker, Shoemaker, has remitted his mother a sum of money. It speaks well for children when so far from home they shew such substantial remembrances of their parents. Most of the young emigrants from Settle are doing well, and we hope in future numbers to have to record many gratifying instances of filial gratitude.

Edward was a pioneer at the very beginning of the Australian Gold Rush. The first 'official' discovery of gold was in March 1851 in the state of Victoria. Between then and 1861 lucky entrepreneurs, including Edward, made a fortune and the Australian population tripled within the space of ten years, with a seven fold increase in Victoria. In 1852, Edward sent a letter to his brother Richard Duckett about life in Australia [2]. He was 'doing very well' and 'worth about £2000' but was looking forward to the arrival of a pot of butter from home! Henry Septimus Hartley mentioned in the article was the youngest child of widow Isabella Hartley, the innkeeper at the Golden Lion inn in Settle for decades. How she must have worried!

A couple of weeks later, Edward sent a banker's draft for £300 to his father [1]. In August 1854 Charles Duckett hosted a display of Gold Nuggets from Australia.

AN EMIGRANT'S LETTER FROM MELBOURNE IN AUSTRALIA.—The following is a copy of a letter, with a phraseology slightly altered and two or three unimportant sentences omitted, which has been received within the last few days, by Mr R. Duckett, Innkeeper, Wigglesworth. The writer is a blacksmith, a native of Settle, and a son of Mr Charles Duckett of the same town:—

“Melbourne, November 20th, 1852.

“Dear brother,—I received your letter, dated August 16th, by the Great Britain, and likewise a newspaper.

“I have not seen Henry Hartley yet. I have had Wm Atkinson stopping with me a bit; he has gone down to Geelong. I have seen a great many people from that quarter, but I am so busy now that I have scarcely got time to talk to them. I have got six men at work, and pay them each £6 per week wages; they wanted £7 but I would not give it. There are a great many people coming here now, which will make wages come down very much before long I am afraid. Accounts from the diggings are not very favourable at present. I have nothing particularly fresh at present, except that I have bought myself a house, which cost me about £400; we are now living in it. Rents are very high. I could let my house for £3 per week. I can scarcely tell you what things will come to yet, but they cannot long remain as they are. Provisions are very dear. I am doing well at present. I don't think much of making £50 per week. I am making that now. I am worth about £2,000; I have got land and property that cost me 12 or 13 hundred pounds.

“Brother Charles and sister Sarah and her husband are at the diggings, but doing nothing of any moment. We are all very well at present, thank God for it, and hope you are the same. I shall be very glad when I get your pot of butter, which I shall think more of than the value of it. I am very sorry now that you did not come visit me, for if you had I know you would have done well; I have not the least doubt but you would have been worth your thousands. But I don't like to persuade any one to emigrate: I say let all persons please themselves, for a volunteer is worth 20 press-men. Let things be ever as had here, when once you get established in business it is far better here than in England. Give my kind love to father who I hope will keep his health. You can let him see this letter, and tell him I received all his newspapers, but have scarcely had time to read them. I will send you newspapers with this letter; one for you and one for father. You must excuse my saying more, and except our kind love.

“Your affectionate brother and sister,
“EDWARD AND ELLEN DUCKETT.”

We should have mentioned that the writer emigrated about 4 years ago. His relatives and friends have had several letters from him, no less favourable than the one we now publish.

GOLD NUGGETS.—Mr. Simpson, of Steeton, who has been on a visit at Mr. Charles Duckett's, King William the Fourth Hotel, has kindly permitted two Nuggets of Gold to be inspected by several parties in the town. They were brought by him from the Diggings in Australia, and appear to be of very pure gold. One weighed 14 ounces troy, and the other 11½ ounces, and were worth about £110.

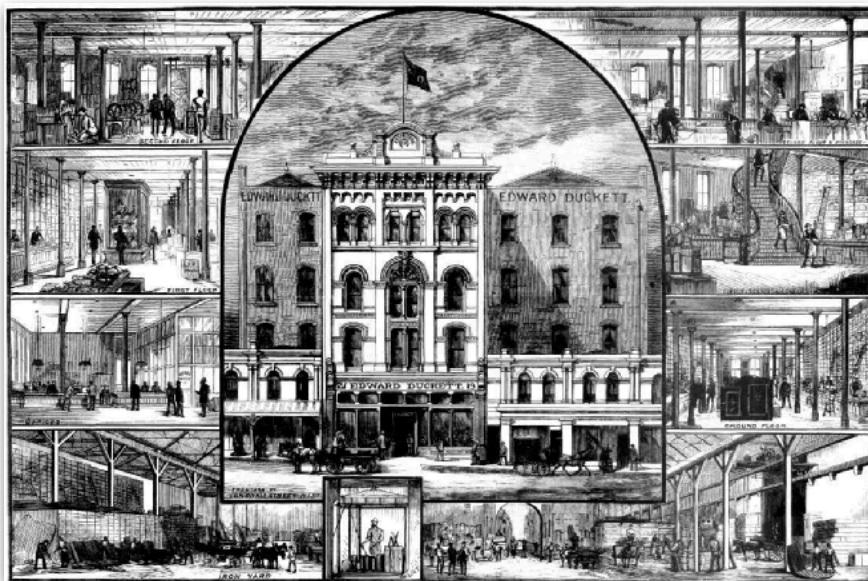
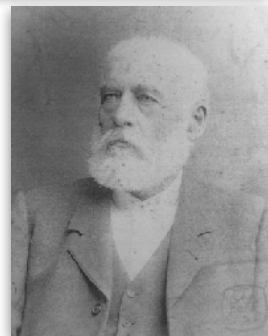
Before emigrating, Edward had married Ellen Gill from Broughton at Skipton Zion Chapel.

Incredibly, Ellen gave birth to three daughters and ten sons although four died in infancy and childhood. When he died in 1902, aged 76, Edward's obituary explains that on his arrival Edward [ph3] set up as a farrier and built the first hansom cab ever seen in the streets of Melbourne [T1, ph4]. In 1856 he founded 'Edward Duckett and Sons, The Golden Horseshoe', general ironmongers.

One newspaper dedicated a full page to an illustration of the Edward Duckett works [T2], wow! Another report [T3] tells us that his family home was called 'Castleberg', a permanent reminder of home. When he died in 1902, aged 76, Edward's obituary made a point of saying how he 'exemplified the very best characteristics of the British Stock.' He left an estate worth the equivalent of £25 million, today's value, to his wife and five of the thirteen children who survived him.

Successful though Edward's business definitely was, his personal life may not have been so. By 1881, ten years

after giving birth to the last of her 13 children, Ellen returned to England with youngest and only surviving daughter, **Emily Maud Mary Duckett**, describing herself as the wife of an Australian merchant. She is pictured with son Edward, displaying a look of Queen Victoria [ph3].



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Emily Maud Mary had a 'very good' marriage to **John Wilkinson-Newsholme** [ph3], the son of another **John Wilkinson-Newsholme** who had inherited the Hellifield Green estate as part of an incredible rags to riches story. Husband John worked for Edward Duckett running the London Office in Fenchurch Street near the Tower of London. A Duckett Street survives to this day not far away in Mile End. John



described himself as an ironmonger and oil merchant with a glass and china depot. They also had a residence in Windermere. John and Emily had five daughters and a son, **John Duckett Newsholme**. Ellen Duckett lived with John and Emily Maud Mary Wilkinson-Newsholme until she died in 1910, aged 84. Edward and Ellen's other sons remained in Australia running the family business.



Ellen was buried in Long Preston churchyard with a fine memorial stone and three generations of female descendants.

In Affectionate Remembrance of Ellen, widow of Edward Duckett who died Feby 21st 1910, aged 84 years. Also of the above Edward Duckett who died Sept 19th 1902, aged 75 years and whose remains are interred in Melbourne, Australia. Also daughter Freda Wilkinson-Newsholme born 1897, died 1984. Also of a dearly loved mother Emily, widow of John Wilkinson-Newsholme and daughter of Edward and Ellen Duckett who died 31st Jany 1952



Meanwhile, Charles and Sarah Duckett's children Charles, Sarah, Mary and Isabella joined Edward and had their own families in Australia. Mary worked as a dressmaker at Rock House cottage on Castle Hill in Settle [SC] before marrying plumber **John Wood** and then emigrating.



Meanwhile, back in Settle, Charles and Sarah's eldest daughter **Ann Armistead Duckett** married book binder **John Hayton** but died, aged 37, at the birth of their seventh child **Isabella**, who also died. They are buried in the Ancient graveyard B8. Their son Henry also had a tragic end to his life.

In memory of Ann Armistead Hayton wife of John Hayton, died March 4th 1859, aged 37 years. Also to the above John Hayton died May 27th 1878 aged 68 years. Jane Hayton, daughter of the above, died July 17th 1852 aged 2 years and 4 months. Isabella Hayton daughter of the above died June 5th 1859 aged 14 weeks. Thomas Hayton, son of the above, died Feby 13th 1872 aged 26 years. Henry Hayton son of the above died May 27th 1897 aged 40 years, B8



Daughter **Elizabeth Duckett** married **John Kendall**, a shoemaker and they lived in Chapel Street, Settle. Elizabeth died, aged 39, soon after the birth of her sixth child, **Sarah Rebecca Isabella Kendall**. The Kendalls are buried in an unmarked grave in the Ancient graveyard. Their son **William Henry Kendall** and his wife's illegitimate son **George Whaites Kendall** (probably fathered by George Whaites), born after William Henry's death, are buried in the unmarked Old AX30.

Richard Duckett was the only son of Charles and Sarah to stay in England. He became the innkeeper of the Plough Inn at Wigglesworth for around 25 years. He also ran the King William Inn with his step-mother for a short while after his father's death. It was Richard who received the letters from his brother Edward in Australia and later became an international agent for

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Edward's ironmongery business. Richard reached the age of 75 and is buried with his family at Long Preston with a fine gravestone. Richard has his own account.

Richard Duckett, born Dec 4th 1822, died March 21st 1897

What happened to the Beerhouse?

When Charles' widow Sarah married her second husband **James Matthews**, the inn passed on to **John Sanderson** who, during his time in charge was accused of adulterating gin and also ordered to provide stables and urinals [1]. Irishman **James Kelly** and son-in-law **John Wain** took over and gave it a make over in 1900. They stayed at the King William until around 1940.

The Inns of Victorian Settle:

NI – New Inn on 'New Road'

JA – Joiner's Arms / Commercial Inn

GL, ONM, RO, TA – Golden Lion, (Old) Naked Man and Royal Oak, Talbot Arms as now

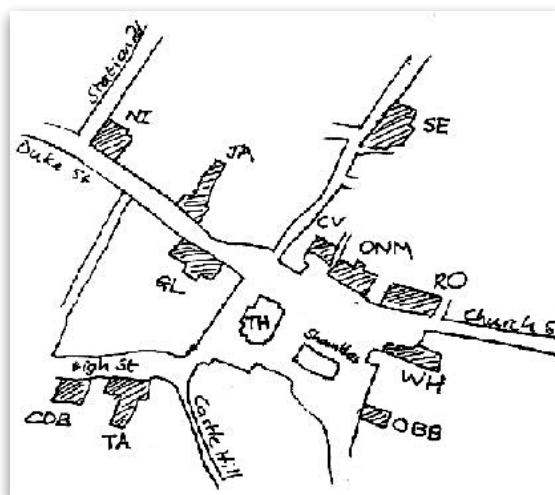
SE – Spread Eagle Inn on Kirkgate

CV – Crown Inn/Vaults

WH – White Horse

OBB – Obadiah Bayne's Beerhouse - the tiny house

CDB – Charles Duckett's beerhouse, now the King William guesthouse.



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.

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 lives of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project

ph1 – photo of sampler from descendants via ancestry.co.uk, username chrisorpen, ph2 – credited to londonagora.blogspot.com, ph3 – from descendants via ancestry.co.uk, username william chalk, ph4 – credited to Wikipedia, ph5 – credited to The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick, published by Giggleswick School and Settle and District Civil Society.

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

T1 – The Argus, Melbourne, T2 – The Australasian Sketcher, T3 – The Age, Melbourne via trove.nla.gov.au, T4 – Sydney Truth

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

Some of the material in this account has been published by YDMT in the book 'Meandering down the Ribble, Born and Bred in the Long Preston Floodplain' who have given permission for it to be included in this account